

LINGUISTIC BILLBOARD

1. Apartheid continues to test the euphemistic skills of South African government spokesmen:

Mr Chris Heunis, addressing an American audience, stated that the government planned

to restructure the historically determined hierarchical system of apartheid into something based on the premise of divided power and joint structures in which discrimination - and this goes without saying - will have to go, but without jeopardizing the non-negotiables of the maintenance of group interests and aspirations within the wider context of security and stability.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, speaking in Washington:

Separateness is no longer recognized as the total answer to the problem of accommodating a multi-ethnic society; while separateness is recognized as still an essential ingredient, it is accepted that it should in many cases be combined with an inevitable measure of togetherness.

2. Air traffic control versus word control:

Speaking during a radio interview last year on changes in air traffic, the chief executive of the SAA Mr G D van der Veen made reference to 'traffic incoming-wise' and 'traffic outgoing-wise'. (All clear?)

3. Dangling Modifier of the Month

An article in the *Sunday Times Magazine* (6 March 1988, p. 48) tells of the enterprising Donald Trump who built a 68-storey tower of opulence on Fifth Avenue:

Filled with saw-toothed angles and soaring curtained walls, gleaming brass and a \$2-million indoor waterfall set in marble, the man stamped his character on America and became the legend that he is today.

Not surprising he's legendary, with such fabulous innards.