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(s.215(1)). This review must be conducted before 1 July 1997 and, until then, the channel may only be used on a temporary basis.

The ABA's Chairman, Brian Johns, recently encouraged community groups to seek access to cable as a delivery option. While this is meant to provide an alternative means of delivery prior to the television industry review, the danger is that the community service may be bundled up with pay TV services offered by the cable system operator (Telecom/News or OptusVision), who may attempt to exert editorial control over the community service. Furthermore, a service provided via cable is not required to meet the strict community service provisions of the BSA (see s.84) and the cable system operator is likely to itself be the licence holder, rather than the community group, which will merely become a program supplier.

The BSA

Many of the problems that have arisen during the more than two years of the ABA are more to do with the failures and inconsistencies of the BSA than successes or failures of the ABA. For example, continuing problems (inconsistencies) with cross-media rules have seen new alliances and new concentrations of control develop among the new technologies and services. The rules are also being tested in relation to existing media, ie commercial television and print. Given the inconsistencies and corporate structures that test definitions of 'control', it is difficult to see how the cross-media rules are working to effect one of the objects of the BSA 'to encourage diversity in control of the more influential broadcasting services'.

Another example of a shortcoming of the BSA - and of other relevant legislation such as the Telecommunications Act - is failure to take account of the convergence of technologies, services and corporate structures. Both Acts fail to recognise that in the near future it will be impossible to separate the means by which people get their information, entertainment and telephony. This is amply demonstrated by current regulatory and policy chaos over the question of access to the means of delivery of pay and broadband services.

The traditional separation of industry into distinct markets such as broadcasting, telecommunications, the print media and computing is no longer relevant. We can only hope that reviews such as the Telecommunications Policy Review and those conducted by the Broadband Services Expert Group and the Bureau of Transport and Communication Economics will encourage a consistent approach to the development of technologies and services in Australia and to their regulation. □

Sue Ferguson

CU FAREWELLS GIL APPLETON

Gil Appleton relinquishes the editorship of *CU* this month after six years in that demanding post.

Of the attributes to prize in any editor, love of words is first. Gil has always cared for correct and clear expression. She hates jargon, and was forced to swim through swamps of it in the communications field, especially when covering innumerable conferences. *CU* readers will always be grateful for her ability to locate the guts of a speaker's contribution and to report it succinctly.

Under Gil's editorship, *CU* was marked by its commitment to following through. If an issue was raised in one issue, readers could feel confident that *CU* would report major developments as they unfolded, even if several months intervened between developments. This is an underrated service, given the daily media's tendency to flit from one hot topic to another.

Gil's range of experience in cultural policy, and particularly her knowledge of and commitment to public broadcasting, gave *CU* coverage a perspective that is also lacking in most mainstream media.

Humour is under used - even under suspicion - in media policy circles. But Gil let *CU* have its share of fun.

She leaves the editorship to pursue other projects but will continue as a welcome occasional contributor to *CU*.

CU WELCOMES ELISABETH MEALEY

CU welcomes our new editor Elisabeth Mealey. For the past four and a half years Elisabeth has worked for Greenpeace's international media departments in London and Sydney. In Australia, Elisabeth concentrated on raising the profile of environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific region. As a journalist, she has worked for the Sydney Sun-Herald, the Canberra Times and freelanced for the London Guardian. Prior to her newspaper career, she was based in Canberra as press secretary to Senator Nick Bolkus.

