



THE ALL-WOMEN CREW of the Cape Town yacht *Sprinter*, who were responsible for the Cape-to-Rio race's first "SOS" message on Wednesday — asking for competing yachts to keep a watch for a pair of floral-patterned panties lost overboard after washing.

From left are Mary King (navigator), Sue Fielden, S. Baxter, Christine Warr and Molly Warr (skipper), shortly before the start of the race. 22-1-71

Rio race
'SOS' from
Molly:
Panties
overboard
21-1-71

By ROGER WILLIAMS
on board the guardship
Tafelberg

SOMEWHERE in the mid-Atlantic is something to distract the attention of even the most disciplined of Rio race crews—a pair of flower-patterned panties from *Sprinter*, the woman-crewed yacht skippered by Molly Warr of Cape Town.

Details of a brief interlude in mid-ocean were laughingly given by Molly during a radio chat with *Tafelberg*. She said that while the crew were laundering their undergarments the panties were lost overboard.

"We'd be glad if these are returned by anyone who might happen to find them in mid-ocean," she told *Tafelberg* in a feminine "SOS".

Earlier she sent a message to her husband Ken's yacht *Omuramba* that all on board *Sprinter* were in fine fettle.

LUMPY SEA

Two days of zephyr breezes and idyllic weather in the South Atlantic have made way for overcast skies, a lumpy sea and wind strength that should favour the bigger yachts as

they move steadily westward in the Cape-Rio race.

Tafelberg stopped during the night to allow some of the smaller yachts to pass by before resuming her zigzag course among the spread-out field of competitors.

While we were still in our bunks at 6 a.m. ship's time (7 a.m. S.A. time) we were told that the Zeekoevlei yacht *Applemist*, skippered by D. Jackson, was passing by on our port beam in a north-westerly direction.

Three hours later a SAAF Shackleton from Cape Town parachute-dropped two canisters containing mail and newspapers, including the *Cape Times*. These were picked up by the guardship's two inflatable motorboats before we got underway again.

The first yacht we came on was the Hong Kong sloop *Gaivota*, skippered by American Bob Lusher, who has in his crew two Australians, a New Zealander and South African navigator David Cauvin, of Cape Town.

The next yacht we encountered drew particular interest. She was the Australian yawl *Eclipse*, skippered by L. le Guay, which was scudding along smartly in a westerly direction in a 15-knot southeasterly wind about 550 miles from Cape Town.

BRIEF BIKINI

The reason for the special interest in this handsome yacht with her bright yellow mizzen staysail was the sight of former Australian model Susan Cooke, 19, sunning herself on deck in the briefest of bikinis.

The three male members of *Eclipse's* crew were able to divert their attention sufficiently long to acknowledge *Tafelberg's* siren salute as we overtook the yacht.

In my chat with Brian Lello yesterday he said that the Knysna yacht *Albatros II*, skippered by J. Goodwin, had covered 180 miles in 22 hours and that the boat was continuing at a fair clip.

Lello disclosed that there was a sewing machine on board and crew John Green was using it to mend a torn spinnaker.

As I send this we are overtaking the Durban-based yacht *Eshowe* on the starboard side.