

Yachting world in a tizz over tit of a *Sailing* cover

Graham Spence

IT's not being billed as a storm in a teacup — instead a gale in a cockpit.

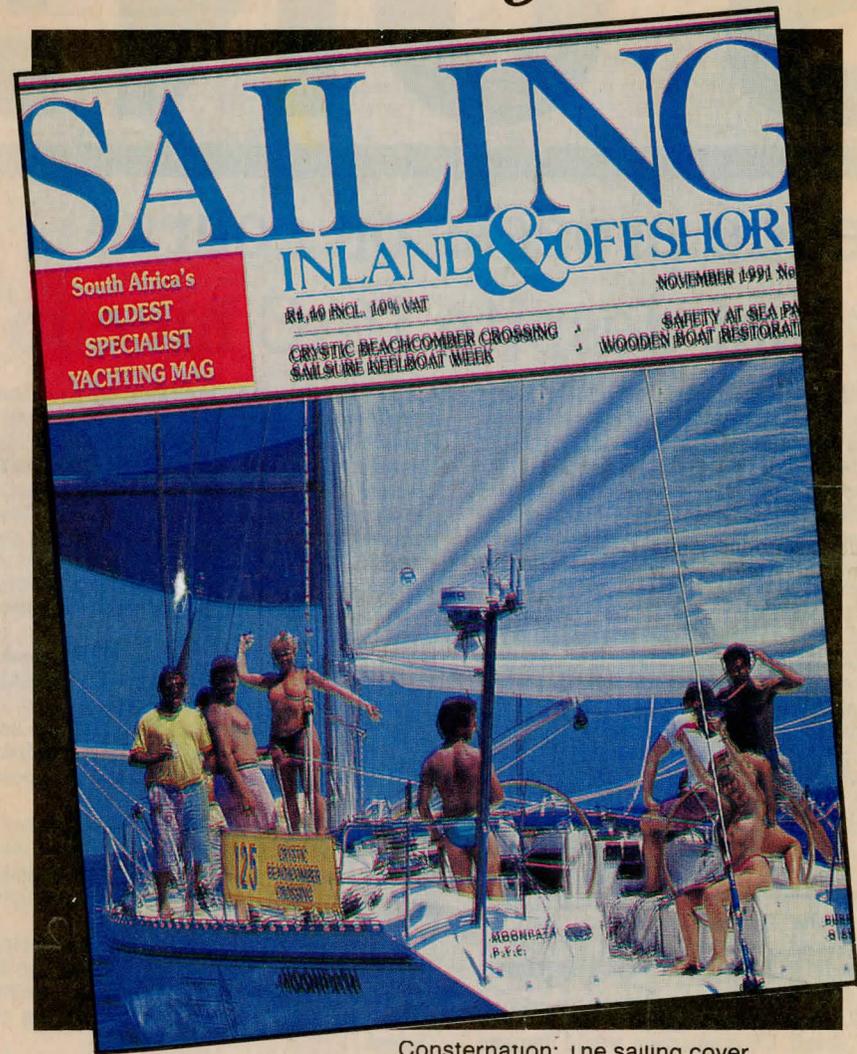
For the Durban-based sailing magazine *Sailing Inland and Offshore* could be the first yachting publication in publishing history to be banned.

The reason is a cover featuring topless women in Mauritius — similar to one published in the *Sunday Tribune* last month — during the Mauritius to Durban Crystic Beachcomber Crossing this year.

The yacht was *Moonpath* captained by one of the country's "rockstar" skippers Iain Park Ross who crossed the line second in the race. It was taken by *Sailing's* editor Richard Crockett, who has never been scared to cross swords with authority.

Says Crockett: "I have had scores of compliments and some complaints and I've been told we may even be banned — which is ridiculous for a sailing magazine. But that picture expresses the fun, and hard racing, in Mauritius at the time. I didn't only publish it for sensationalism, but because it is a good picture."

Yachtsmen have generally rallied around Crockett. Says Patrick Harris, one of the top helmsmen in the business: "It's harmless fun — and the best cover on



Consternation: The sailing cover that has the yachting world in a tizz.

any yachting magazine I've ever seen. We say right on!"

Nancy Pierce-Jones, director of Wilbur Ellis, Durban's largest yachting chandlers says she too thought the cover "great fun".

"It's only in South Africa that topless bathing is taboo. But there's no doubt it's the most risqué picture in a yachting magazine I've seen in any country." However, in yachting pubs, the

story in some circles in the "deep end" is different. Says one old salt who asked not to be named: "Women never even sailed when we raced. Now they're taking their tops off."