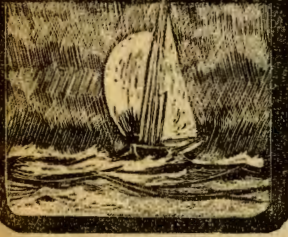


# Cape to Rio



## BURNING MIDNIGHT OIL OVER THE CHARTS

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Correspondent

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**CAPE TOWN.**  
DAVE ABROMOWITZ, 28-year-old skipper of the Cape Town syndicate's Van de Stadt-designed sloop, believes the race to Rio de Janeiro will be won on the strength of pre-race reckoning in navigation.

That is why his navigators — Mike Puttergill and John Newmarch — have been spending up to four hours a night at the charts. And they feel they will only just complete their background studies before the starting gun booms out over Table Bay in little more than six months from now.

Their boat is, in fact, not even in the water yet.

Fitting out in a darkened corner of a Cape Town Docks boatbuilding yard, the sloop (an anonymous "she" for want of a name) is the largest boat under construction in South Africa for the race. She will be launched in about six weeks,

by which time the syndicate should have decided on a name for her.

Sixteen metres (53ft) over all, she is designed to win — on handicap at least. A class 11 entry, the sloop is not expected to have the dash of, say international Ocean Racers' American Eagle or Windward Passage. But she will be able to lay on a feast of sail.

A boat of about 12m (40ft) normally sports a spinnaker of 74 sq. m (800 sq. ft.). Abromowitz and his crew of seven will set one of 214 q. m (2 300 sq. ft.).

There will be three spare

spinnakers, all American made and of the same size.

It will take a taut smat to support that much.

A British-made unit, 20m (66ft) tall, is due here early next month.

That is the picture topside, where a minimum of three crew members will do duty at any one time. The interior of the sloop, whose shell was built in Hamburg and measures 4.2 m. (14ft.) at maximum beam, is designed around the chartroom — and indication of its importance in the scheme of things.



TOP yachtsman Gordon Webb with his wife, Jennifer, who will be taking part in the Cape to Rio race. Jennifer will cook for the four men in the crew but will have to take her turn at the wheel too. She is an experienced deep-sea sailor.