

THE LENS

The Staff Newspaper for Independent Television News April Fool's Day Edition No. 27

The Times to reveal

ITN plans to move to Scottish highlands

The Lens can reveal that there are secret plans for ITN to be relocated in the Scottish highlands.

Details of the move will be printed in full in *The Times* tomorrow. The article will not contain a statement from David Nicholas but it is believed that he refused to dismiss the suggestion by *The Times* that a move is on the cards. "What plans ITN may or may not have, are for ITN to discuss within the building not in the pages of *The Times*," he is quoted as saying.

The article claims the idea to move out of London to a countryside location was first mooted when ITN began its association with CNN which is based in Atlanta. The American company is believed to have demonstrated to ITN the economic and social advantages of being based outside a major international city.

The Times claimed that Nicholas at first favoured a Welsh setting but was finally won over to the Scottish highlands because the location provides better satellite reception.

Satellite communication in fact forms the backbone to the proposition. Like many companies, ITN is questioning the need to be burdened with huge operational costs in London when modern technology allows organisations the freedom to be based almost anywhere where a satellite link is possible.

The site in Scotland is believed to be in a remote area, 20 miles from the nearest village. Not only is ITN planning a new HQ but it is also ready to construct thousands of homes for its staff. Secret statistics suggest even with this initial outlay,

ITN will more than halve its overheads.

The document containing the proposal was leaked to *The Times* by a disgruntled ITN Sassenach. The insider, who is not named, says in the article: "The plans are incredible. We will be stuck in the middle of nowhere in a tiny ITN village. Because of planning restrictions the cottages we will live in have to be built as 18th century replicas. There will be no hot water or electricity."

The mole also claimed that ITN management are eager to move as soon as possible and that a one week discussion period with unions will begin almost immediately.

Financial inducements to ease resistance to the relocation include a £2,000 discretionary transfer sum and an extra £5,000 per year plus one weekend in four in the capital.

The insider continued: "I can't see this scheme working especially as most cottages will not be ready when the first phase of the move is planned so that everyone will have to share accommodation."

Union reaction to the news was suitably cautious. "Until we are given a firm indication of what is happening by the management here we are not prepared to comment," said one official.

Although details are sketchy, it appears that the proposal does not include a transfer for senior management. They will instead form a nucleus in London.

The only other information available is that the transfer is expected to be completed a year from today. April 1, 1989.

Inside . . .

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PLUS . . . pictures, news and information

ITN says hello to new recruits to the company

Among the new recruits joining ITN over the past few months were, in the engineering department, **Michael Bonnick**, who took up a position as a senior MCR engineer in January and **John Elliott** who also became a senior engineer in January.

Another engineering appointment was **Trevor Turner** who took up a post as senior engineer in February while *Into the Night* also took on several engineers.

Appointments in the accountancy departments included **Atul Bouri** who took over as a management accounts assistant in February and **Jacqueline Durham** who also joined in February as an accounts clerk. Still in accounts, **Diane White** joined as a cashiers clerk at the beginning of the year. While WTN got a new personnel and pay roll administrator in March called **Susan Falcone**.

Journalist newcomers included **Martin Collier** who joined as a writer in February, **James Forlong** who joined at the beginning of the year and **Michele Romaine** who took up a position as journalist with ITN in January as did **Malcolm Shepherd** and **Charles Stewart-Smith**. Other new appointments include **Steven Walsh** and **Claire Duggan**.

Duggan joined the Channel Four News from *Tomorrow's World*. Other C4N journalists newly appointed include **Rob White**, formerly at *London Plus*, **Andrew Veitch**, who used to write for *The Guardian* on medical issues and now becomes C4N's science correspondent, **David Hannah**, who was copytaster on C4N and **Judy Aslett** a former ITN trainee.

Secretarial and PA appointments during the last few months include **Lesley Gardner** who has been a PA at the company since January, while **Susan Steer** joined at the end of last year as secretary to the manager of electronic newsgathering. Two additional January appointments as PAs were **Leah Puplett** and **Alison Ratcliffe**.

Robert Flint joined as a chargehand scenery supervisor and **Paula Thompson** as a sound technician, while **Tony Phillips** joined in January as a VTR operator.

Most of the *Into the Night* crew, pictured top right, also joined at the beginning of February.



The Into the Night team.

ITN bids farewell to leavers

During the past few months ITN has said goodbye to the following people: **Sharon O'Bray**, a WTN accounts assistant. **Mary Finn** who was secretary to WTN's senior vice president. **Sally Mercer**, a WTN bought ledger assistant. **Terry Corbyn** who was a supervisory engineer and **Doug Wilkins** who was the operational planning manager.

In January **Bill Campbell**, deputy chief sub, left as well as **Gary Lewis** graphic designer; **Kevin Marsh**, writer; **Paul Sherwin**, programmer; **Vanessa Gray**, Aston operator and **Kim Sabido**,

who was a reporter, also left the company.

In February **Maggie O'Leary**, secretary, and **Sarah Lee**, WTN secretary to the manager of Special News Services said goodbye to ITN. While in March it was the turn of **Anneke Tjoonk**, secretary; **Mary Leigh**, WTN journalist; **Shauna Turner**, WTN assistant accountant; **Joyce Gonzague**, also a WTN assistant accountant and **Heulwen Jones**, production assistant.

This month **John Draper**, a reporter, will be among those bidding adieu.

BP award

Stephen Phillips of Channel Four News received a commendation in the television category of the BP Arts Journalism Awards from **Jeremy Isaacs**. He was highly commended for his arts coverage. The category was won by a **Granada arts documentary** and in **Ulster television arts documentary**.



Sandy's honour

Sandy Gall is pictured outside Buckingham Palace in his top hat and tails after having been awarded his CBE from the Queen. The *ITN News at Ten* newscaster was made a CBE in the New Year's Honours list.

Gall said: "It is a great honour which I feel is not just for me but a tribute to the whole of ITN."





David Mannion, organiser of the ITN Christmas Appeal, handing over the money to Valerie Morton, fund raising co-ordinator for the NSPCC.

The ITN Christmas Appeal raised a grand total of £2,013.67 and as you can see from the picture the money has already been safely handed over to the NSPCC.

This year, for the first time, we asked you for hard cash. Everyone at ITN was asked to contribute £20.66. It might have seemed an odd amount, but there was a very good reason for asking you all for that particular

sum. £20.66 is what it costs the NSPCC to send out a case worker on a first visit, to a home in which a child has allegedly been abused. As always in ITN appeals what you give goes *directly* to help those in need.

So every £20.66 will be used for its intended purpose and those who gave will know they have directly helped to save a young child from a terrifying ordeal.

David Mannion

Intext, ITN's electronic noticeboard

by Ginny Borrow

At the press of a button, ITN staff can now find out the very latest information about what is happening within the company. You simply have to tap into our new electronic news service.

With ITN spread over several sites, communication between departments has become increasingly difficult and, before this service, there was always the possibility that vital information would be overlooked.

The press office and *Oracle* had the solution - *Intext*. Officially launched on February 15, it is ITN's own in-house teletext service. You'll find it on Channel 5 on the house TV system (Studio 1's channel) by pressing the *text* button on your keyboard. Start by dialling up page 100 where you'll find the index. Decide which story you'd like to read and dial up the appropriate

page number. Access is extremely rapid so you can read through several pages in a very short space of time.

The system is updated every day - with a variety of information from what's on offer in the canteen to the latest Editor's newsletter, from TV ratings to news about ITN and the staff. We're also hoping to have a regular section on clubs and societies - already there is an ITN club page, and the Sea Angling Club and the Angling Society were quick to grab pages of their own.

It's your service - please use it! Make a habit of looking at page 100 every day for the latest in-house information. And if there is anything you'd like to see 'on air' please contact the Press Office.

LEW GAESCHLIN DIES

Lew Gaeschlin died last month at the age of 77. He leaves a widow, Marjorie.

Lew was in charge of the news information section of ITN from the foundation of the company in 1955 until his retirement in 1975.

The funeral service was held at St. Andrew's Church, Fairlight Cove, near Hastings, on March 22.

Anyone who wishes can make a donation to the St Michael's Hospice, St Leonards, in Lew's memory.

ITN prepares to tackle smoking at work issue

ITN's health and safety committee has set up a working party to study the smoking at work issue.

The working party of Colin Clements, ACTT representative, Michael Green, NUJ representative, John Copleston, manager, Jackie Stone, from personnel and Derek Walker, staff controller and chair of both the committee and working party, will devise a detailed questionnaire to help ascertain the opinions of staff.

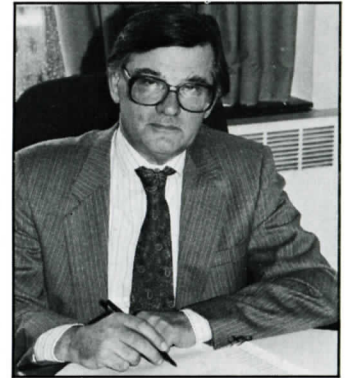
The survey, which will be anonymous, will ask questions such as age, sex, whether the respondent has ever smoked, and whether or not smoking should be banned or restricted in some form.

Michael Green said that several departments have carried out simple unofficial surveys. The one in the newsroom, for example, was in favour of some form of restriction.

The opinion poll will not be

ready for several weeks but once it has been completed, it will be used as the basis for statistics which will then be reported to the health and safety committee.

The report will be published in full but the final decision will rest with the committee. "It is a very emotive issue and we intend to make a fair and equitable decision," said Walker.



Walker: emotive issue.

The Lens would like your views on smoking. We would like to offer the pages of our magazine to provide a platform for both sides of the argument. Anyone who would like to volunteer to write a piece for or against smoking in the office, please contact Susan d'Arcy on Ext. 2475.

A not so foolish April Fool's joke

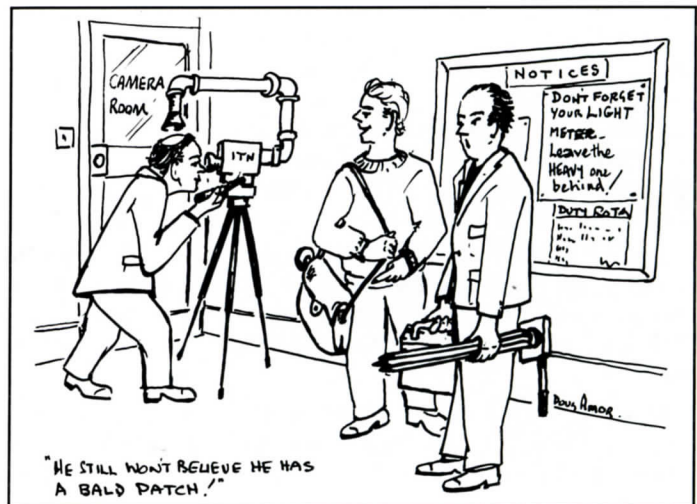
In Spain several years ago, a national newspaper ran an April Fool which claimed that the Kama Sutra would be published in Spanish for the first time.

Many people did not realise it was an April Fool and went to book stores asking for copies. As a result a publisher realised there

was a potential market and decided to print the book in Spanish.

The publisher thought it would be a nice touch to launch the title on the following April 1. However this time Spanish people, convinced that it was yet another April Fool, did not attempt to buy the book. It took days of publicity to convince them that there was no seasonal trick involved.

The book then sold out and has gone through its third print run.



The Commons touch

The managers manage, the engineers engineer and the journalists drink.
 HOWARD ANDERSON leads us through the corridors and Portakabins of power



The first meeting to set up *The Parliament Programme* could have had a sub-title: A Hundred And One Reasons Why It Will Never Work. – And Even If It Does It Can't Possibly Work This Way.

Several weeks into the run I can only say that the doubters were quite right. It is really silly. A half-hour programme, half of it at the moment without proper pictures, coming out of a neo-caravan in someone's back garden? Surely not. Half the time during the past few weeks it's been raining cats and dogs into the bargain. How many other ITN journalists have to take their umbrellas to vts? Wear wellies to the studio? Or dry out in the edit booth? (On second thoughts perhaps I could have expressed that one more felicitously).

It has certainly taught people new skills. Like the director doing the inserts, rehearsing and, in one case, handling a live debate on a major topic all at the same time. (Vision mixers do have four hands don't they?)

We've also had a variant on the old game of How Many People Can You Get Into A Telephone Booth? This one is How Many MPs Can You Get In A Portakabin? To be fair to the MPs, they've entered in the spirit of things with great gusto. We've wheeled them in, pushed them round, powdered their noses and wheeled them out in minutes and there hasn't been word of complaint. Apart from anything else they haven't had the time. They've been half way

back to the Commons before realising there's anything to complain about.

The House of Lords authorities have taken it all on the chin. They did keep quite straight-faced when we assured them we were only in Black Rod's Garden temporarily and asked for permission to double the office space, double the editing and enlarge the studio, all in the same breath.

Curiously their Lordships have come out of the whole business exceptionally well. They were afraid – and if we were honest we were too – that they would get steadily squeezed out as we did more and more Commons based items.

However the other side of the coin has been worth far more. The greater length of the programme has meant that when the Lords staged a major debate – and debates on South Africa and on anti-gay Clause 29 inside the Local Government Bill have been particularly fine – we've been able to let it rip.

To return to where we started. Like everything at ITN the initial idea was greeted with a sharp intake of breath. Well, more a small hurricane, really. But once the shock waves had subsided, the doubts turned into possibilities and the possibilities into enthusiasm.

Then ITN's extraordinary adaptability and capacity to improvise took over. The managers managed, the engineers engineered and the journalists drank . . . I mean they introduced themselves to each other. (Well half of them are freelance with little or no previous ITN connection.)

At the risk of ending with a big cliché, it's been a team effort. But that, like many clichés, is also true. Everybody has mucked in and there's been a great sense of Us Against The Lot Of You. I just hope we win.

A majority of 54 . . . none of us expected anything like that result in the Commons vote on televising on February 9. But the breakthrough has come, and now it is up to the broadcasters to make the most of it.

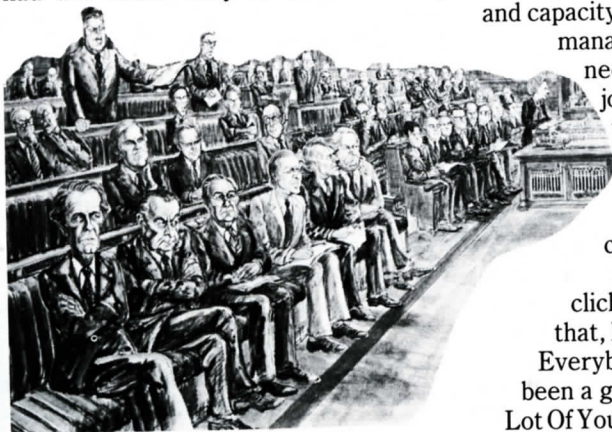
So what happens now? Well, it all depends on the Select Committee being set up to consider how the televising experiment should be carried out. The chairman is the Leader of the House, John Wakeham, who together with 20 other MPs will be deciding when the experiment should take place, how long it should be and what the rules governing the coverage should be.

It has been proposed that the experiment could begin with the next State Opening of Parliament, probably in November. There is no doubt that is a tight deadline both for the Select Committee and the broadcasters, but with sufficient political will it could be met.

What we are suggesting is that ITN and the BBC should jointly provide the signal from the Chamber with coverage by remote-control cameras. The aim would be to install the system during the summer recess, with sufficient time to ensure it all works properly before the experiment gets under way.

Both technically and editorially, it is going to be an enormous challenge . . . and very exciting.

Glyn Mathias



Glasnost!

Enter a Moscow frontman, armed with a string of one-liners, dressed in a Western suit and Florsheim shoes and with a taste for the good life.

Gennady Gerasimov is no ordinary Russian. When we held a lunch for him at The Reform Club, he sipped his drink and casually mingled with the membership like he had been born to it. The ultimate PR man, he handled every question with wit, easy confidence and, like a true politician, without answering it. One person asked him if, since he had not been to Britain for 20 years, he had noticed any changes. "There have been no changes at Claridges," he confirmed.

In the end I would have so say he came, he talked, we asked questions. He listened, he smiled, we watched, we asked questions. He replied and then he left and we still don't know who he is.

But in the beginning I have to say it was hard work! The visit stemmed from a casual remark made by Gerasimov to David Nicholas at the opening of our bureau in Moscow. Gerasimov said that he hadn't been to London for more than 20 years and David Nicholas therefore extended an invitation to him.

So in February, between the visits of Geoffrey Howe and George Shultz to the Soviet Union, Gennady Gerasimov came to London. It was a two-day visit with a difference. He stayed at Claridges rather than the Russian embassy. He was unaccompanied. And he appeared on ITN bulletins answering questions.

We had less than a week's notice to put an agenda together and the awesome responsibility of knowing this was a first of its kind for ITN. Nothing could be left to chance. And, somehow, people like Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, David Mellor, Bernard Ingham, John Whitney, handfuls of lords and Fleet Street editors re-arranged their diaries to be at the prestigious Gerasimov lunches.

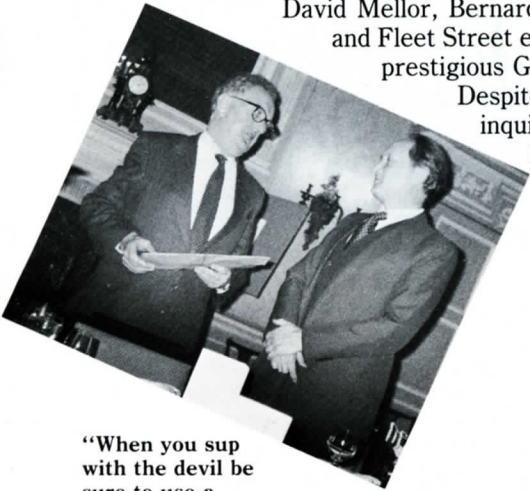
Despite the constant attention of queues of inquisitive Britons, Gerasimov found time for a bit of sightseeing and shopping. What did he want to buy? A very red silk tie for himself; a sweater and a skirt for his wife – the size always growing "just a



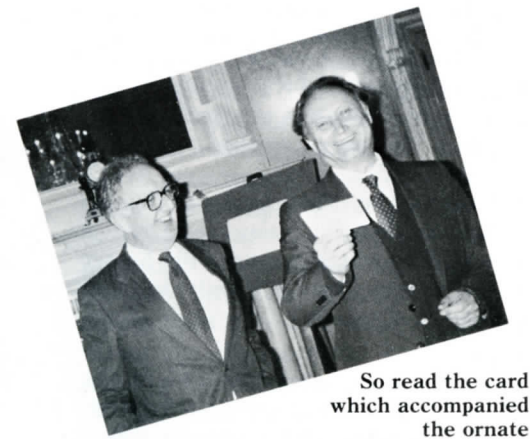
Gennady Gerasimov is the chief Soviet spokesman on Foreign Affairs. In February he visited ITN, the first visit of its kind to the company. GERALDINE SHARPE NEWTON tells us why he is the personification of glasnost

bit bigger I think" – and a pencil box with compartments for his eight-year-old daughter. He explained that another little girl at school had one. Boxes of sweets, some coffee and music videos. Where did we shop? Marks and Spencer and Harrods.

The thing that I will most remember, however, is that it just so happened that the day Gerasimov was to do our news bulletins was the day that the Prime Minister was coming to ITN for an interview with Alastair Burnet for *News at Ten* and then staying on for a private supper. There was a wonderful moment when the Editor leaned over to Gerasimov in the Green Room before his interview with Peter Sissons and said "The Prime Minister is arriving, do you want to say hello?" "But of course." So in front of our lifts the Prime Minister and Gennady Gerasimov chatted. David Nicholas quipped "I turned the Pope down – he wanted to come too." Just a normal day for ITN!



"When you sup with the devil be sure to use a long spoon."



So read the card which accompanied the ornate Victorian spoon given to Gerasimov.



He has a PhD in the knowing smile. He can make the unacceptable acceptable.



Why ITN remains the top dog with the man from Down Under

JOHN HARTLEY, an ITN pioneer who defected to the BBC, looks at ITN today

I feel that David Nicholas's invitation for me to write a piece for *The Lens* is something of a gesture of forgiveness to come back over the wall – or up from *Down Under* – after my virtual 'banishment' from ITN 27 years ago.

My brief visit to ITN at the end of 1987 while on holiday from Australia, awakened many old memories and I felt as proud as ever of having been ITN's first chief reporter, and first foreign editor. Of more interest to some – I

“Last year I watched elegant, balanced and immaculate bulletins and wondered where else could they go for honey”

found out somewhat deflatingly – was that I had once shared an office with Robin Day. It was even suggested I should write a book with that as the title.

My misdemeanour was to have been one of Sir Hugh Greene's first recruits to the BBC after he became its Director-General. He – and the BBC generally – admired ITN, and my joining the BBC at a time when he was out to transform its image, was really a tribute to ITN.

The ITV mandarins, however, saw this as a threat, and one to be discouraged. Although I had been on screen on the first night of commercial TV in England, and had been a pioneer of commercial television in the UK it was decided for tactical reasons that I should leave the building without delay with no official farewell, and (worse still!) no formal presentation.

Happily my ITN colleagues saw it differently and my unofficial farewell party at the pub round the corner left me with a wonderful affection for the ITN team, which I have never lost; and an enscribed writing pad which I still use and cherish at my home in the southern highlands of New South Wales (all ITN visitors welcome!).

On returning to England, I was intrigued to see that the competitive

business of staff exchanges between ITN and the BBC continues – and why not?

I was delighted that ITN still has the same hard edge and sparkle that earns it the respect of television organisations worldwide. I had personal misgivings, however. It seemed to be almost too smooth, too controlled.

ITN pioneered the form of television news that is now common around the world, and with nostalgia pressing hard upon me, I was looking for the excitement, and the unexpected items, which had been a feature of the early ITN days. Of course, almost everything we did then was being done for the first time and ITN had huge ratings. In the immortal words of Arthur Clifford the audience attitude was: “Turn on the telly Ma. Let's see what ITN is up to tonight.”

Last year I watched elegant, balanced and immaculate bulletins and wondered where else could they go for honey?

Then one evening ITN carried the unexpected: the Queen in Canada for the Commonwealth Conference walking inside a building being interviewed on the move by a television reporter with an English accent. The unthinkable had happened; the last bastion had fallen – and it was being shown on ITN! The Queen carried it off brilliantly, and it made memorable television.

I was slightly uneasy, nevertheless, and somewhat relieved to learn that it was not an ITN reporter. But whatever the background to the circumstance (about which I know nothing), two things interested me greatly.

Firstly, its surprise element was a characteristic of early ITN bulletins; and more significantly, it revealed the Queen's personality – her political acumen and ability to react spontaneously and effectively – which has rarely been seen in public.

Secondly, ITN pioneered the short-interview technique, designed to elicit in a snap moment not only information, but the personality behind the public face. To this extent the opportunistic interview with the Queen, conducted with taste and discretion, had a 'traditional ITN' feel about it. Its use again in the ITN documentary on the Royal Year in

1987 (which went down well in Australia), was especially effective.

It must, of course, have raised protocol questions for the future but ITN has always had a confident sureness of touch when leaning on the borders of the acceptable. There is a continuing need for television news services that have courage and also observe the fine lines of responsible balance and taste in the collection and presentation of news.

From what I saw ITN remains an

“The unthinkable had happened; the last bastion had fallen – and it was being shown on ITN”

example of integrity when news services internationally are under many pressures. This is of vital importance as satellite television news develops. Having been ITN's founder co-ordinator in setting up the European News Exchange, and having used communications satellites since they first became available, I was interested that ITN bulletins are now going into Europe by satellite. It is probably too much to expect that one day I will be able to press a button in Australia and proudly tell my friends, “I once worked for that organisation.”

The only identifiable evidence I've had so far was when Bill Haley died. Channel 9 in Sydney carried some ITN library film of an interview I had with him as he arrived in England at the start of the craze.

My daughter (who was two at the time) phoned my wife in great excitement, “I've just seen daddy on the telly,” she said, “*And he had dark hair!*”

The Lens welcomes all articles and suggestions for subjects readers think ought to be covered. If you are interested in writing, please contact Susan d'Arcy, editor, *The Lens*, on Ext. 2475.

If the earth hasn't moved for you lately, be grateful – it must be the only thing in ITN to remain static during the past few months!

"The worst thing," someone in the post room told me, "is when you go to deliver mail to where there was an office yesterday and suddenly there's nothing . . . no desk, no files, no forwarding address . . . It can take days to track people down – and then it's usually when you're looking for someone else".

In part the cause for the upheaval is ITN's glorious (ahem!), global, any-time-any-place, satellite/cable, you-name-it-we-do-it expansion. Never before in its illustrious history has the newsroom contained so many bodies panting for oxygen. The only solution (short of free oxygen cylinders on appointment) is to spread out.

The other moving force is a mercy bid to bring in the *Super Channel News* studio from out in the cold. Yes, the dear old Portakabin with all its al fresco charm is to go. By the summer, the whole of the fifth floor should have been transformed into an impressively designed new studio with en suite newsroom and facilities.

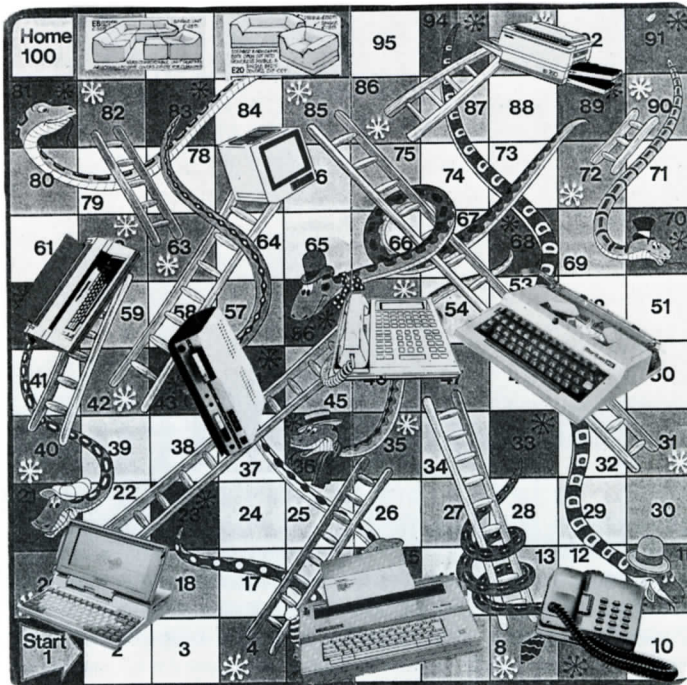
The necessary refurbishment has meant that all previous fifth floor-ites have been evicted to make way for the workmen. This includes the *Super Channel* team who are currently exercising squatters' rights in the *Into the Night's* newsroom on the eighth. Newcasters, too, have taken up residence in a penthouse suite . . . computer personnel had to make way for them by moving into the Directors' Office . . . which meant the directors had to move to the old Travel Office on the fourth . . . Geoff O'Brien and team, of course, having been relocated to Bourlet Close.

With me so far?

Paul Mathews and his secretary moved to the sixth floor displacing Jill Chisholm who, in turn, displaced Peter Cole who managed to displace Jon Snow and Anthony

Ex-site-ing developments

DEBBIE SCHOOLEY finds housing at ITN a truly moving experience



Carthew from their former pied à terre. Snow now joins the Specialists' Office and Carthew is rumoured to be of no fixed abode.

The domino effect is stunning and, if the trend continues, no-one is safe. Be warned! You could be next.

Already some have gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid the trauma of packing and transporting files, phone and memorabilia to a new location. Alastair Burnet and Sue Tinson invoked the slender excuse of some Antipodean party. Glyn Mathias hid at Westminster under the pretext of convincing all 650 members that their profiles were made for television.

This over-reaction to merely changing one's working environs is clearly unnecessary. The 3-men-and-a-wheelbarrow method of transportation has been thoroughly tried and tested.

I found that it gave a new meaning to "I'm sorry, I'm not at my desk at the moment . . ." To have added that my desk was actually down the road, in

another building, buried under several boxes would have been slightly excessive. It may have been chaos, but after half a dozen valium, my new abode took on a distinctly rosy glow. So did I.

ITN has been colonising 45 Mortimer Street since the Engineering Department moved into the fifth floor two years ago. For those of you yet to experience life in an outpost, it must be difficult to imagine the hardships. Murphy's Law dictates that someone from 48 Wells always calls to ask you over 'straight away' when you've just returned from one trip. 'Popping down to the studio' means traversing the notorious crossroads at risk of life and limb. Please can't we have an ITN crossing patrol during the rush-hour?

Life inside 45 also takes some getting used to. Members of the Production Unit are said still to queue ritualistically for the trolley each morning and afternoon. Alas, the trolley never comes. Maureen makes a gallant trek

across from the canteen with her shopping trolley of goodies but it's just not the same.

The new vending machines are stylish but have proved less than popular – an exclusive ITN/Mori poll of 45 Mortimer Street inhabitants revealed that between 50-70% of Kit-Kats jam in their dispensing slots rendering the entire machine useless. Few things are more frustrating than an empty vending machine. But a full one which refuses to yield its contents is one such thing.

Apart from gastronomic considerations and wet feet in winter, 45 Mortimer Street does have its charms. My boss has fondly christened it "The South Island" (as distinct from "The North Island" at 48 Wells). Most endearing, but geographically speaking, I'm not sure where this leaves 16 Mortimer Street and Bourlet Close!

As yet, ITN occupies only two of the five floors (another houses Basys) and sharing a building with 'outsiders' can prove enlightening. In spite of a keypad security system impenetrable to most ITN employees, strangers do find their way in. With new faces joining the company all the time, and no one sure of who lives where anymore, it can be difficult to tell who belongs and who doesn't.

One quiet lunchtime, alone in the office, I noticed a casually attired young man peering methodically into each room. He approached my door and asked, "Who do you work for?"

"Alastair Burnet," I answered naively.

"Who are they?"

I sensed a short circuit.

"What company are you looking for?" I asked.

"Apollo Fashions."

"Ah, you're in the wrong place. This is ITN."

"What you're the lot that make them computers?"

"No – ITN – we make television news programmes."

"Oh! (pause) Like the BBC?"

Such is the life of an outcast in the islands.

PHIL BYE writes: I'm proud of my award, and I'm proud of ITN's record in this competition. After all, ITN cameramen have won the Cameraman Of The Year award for the past four years.

But, when I went up to collect my plaque at the Dorchester the other night, I couldn't help feeling like the centre forward of the winning team at the Cup Final collecting the cup while my team mates were in the dressing-room. Two years ago, Nigel Thomson won the award with some of the best television news pictures I'd ever seen.

His coverage of the shooting of Sean Downes by the RUC in Belfast and the subsequent riot was superb and justifiably scooped the top award. However, those pictures would never have reached our screens had it not been for the man employed as electrician in the crew. Steve Padwick took on the role of messenger and, time and time again, literally fought his way through a very nasty riot, arguing his way through police road blocks to get to UTV with the tapes.

Part of my portfolio of three entries was the dramatic ending of the Air Afrique skyjacking at Geneva airport last July. We were lucky to get a good viewpoint near the airliner and, unusually, the police were forced, by unilateral passenger action, to storm the aircraft in broad daylight.

Really, since the whole thing happened right under our noses, all I had to do was switch on and hold the camera steady. The real heroes of the hour were Gary Mullins - the lighting man, acting as courier, whizzing to and fro to Geneva with the tapes as the story unfolded - and Patrick O'Ryan-Roeder, struggling manfully with two antique and idiosyncratic BVU 200 editing machines owned by Swiss TV. Somehow, Patrick managed to find the best pictures and assemble them in some sort of order in time for *News At One*, thereby beating the opposition who waited



The winning team with David Nicholas, Stewart Purvis and Mehdi Mehdi. From left to right, Phil Bye, Brent Sadler, Desmond Hamill, Jane Corbin and Lawrence McGinty.

ITN's RTS triumph

another five hours for their first pictures.

At some time in the future we shall split up, to work as "one-man-bands", one person operating lights, camera and sound. It'll come; economy dictates and the technol-

I "Our escape car raised dust in the distance as it sped off towards the city and safety. We watched, ten yards short of our meeting point"

ogy exists. But I hope when it happens that the opposition are similarly reduced, because I wouldn't relish competing with the sort of team that ITN fields now.

We are winners: not just because we're good individually, but because we're so good as a team. My thanks to everyone who played a part in winning my award.

BRENT SADLER writes: We left the Palestinian refugee camp as we'd entered it, under the cover of night. The dusk provided just the right amount of protection, light enough to pick our way through unfamiliar territory, dark enough to provide some mask against the Amal and Shi-ite fighters and their guns.

As we crawled towards the rendezvous point with our escape car we knew time was running out. The car, a dark green Mercedes, would wait for two minutes, and two minutes only.

We had left the camp

where we had filmed the scenes which would win the RTS award, in ample time. But our plans, sketched inside a small spiral notebook, relied on split second timing. And that timing had been thrown out of kilter by something we couldn't anticipate. Two Palestinian teenagers had tracked our footsteps in a bid to escape the camp. The time we spent warning them off cost us vital minutes.

Our escape car raised dust in the distance as it sped off towards the city and safety. We watched, ten yards short of our meeting point.

We were stranded, unable to return to the camp and in danger of being shot or arrested by the militia's forces all around us.

I sank back and waited for

my Lebanese associate Mehdi Mehdi to formulate a contingency plan. Every minute seemed like an hour.

We had already had our fair share of excitement getting into the camp. A few hours before we entered, a secret radio message had been relayed to Palestinians inside Bourj Al Barajneh to be on the look out for a British journalist. Their fighters had been warned not to open fire at two men running past their position at a certain time.

But as we picked our way through the rubble, cross fire broke out. We froze, fearing someone had seen us. Thankfully it was a false alarm.

But that was no consolation now as we sat and contemplated the consequences of discovery by the Amal troops.

Then Mehdi, whose bravery and commitment to ITN was always obvious, turned to me and said: "When I say, you count to twenty, then follow me across the road. We may be seen, we may not. If we are arrested it is the end for me, they could kill me."

"You are British and although you will live, you will lose your freedom. Let's go."

By the time I stood up Mehdi was on the far side of the road thumbing a lift. The

continued on page 14



The two

faces of Brazil



DESMOND HAMILL, the RTS television journalist of the year, writes about his experience in Brazil. His pictures show Carnival happiness and an Aids victim

Brazil has the eighth largest economy in the world and a population of 142 million. But it is saddled with enormous debts and spends less on health than some of the poorest African countries. Inject Aids into the scenario, and you have a time bomb ticking away.

That's what Gary Mitchell and I thought before we went to Brazil, but still we were numbed by what we saw.

First - Carnival in Rio, when the streets are flooded with an amazing, gaudy variety of colour, people, costumes and behaviour. "The worse the crisis becomes," said one organiser, "the more people throw themselves into Carnival." Thirty thousand foreigners flocked to join them, many on special "gay charters" from Europe and the States. It is this flow of travellers to and from the homosexual centres of America and Europe which has brought Aids to Brazil.

Official figure for Aids puts it at around three thousand. Unofficially, a million people are estimated to have the virus, and the figure will double each 10 months.

The frenetic gaiety of Carnival, the endless samba music, the acres of bare flesh presents one face of Brazil. The other, as we saw in some Aids wards, is very different. In Sao Paulo, one of the world's fastest growing cities, there are 100 new Aids cases each month. "And it's spreading from homosexual groups into other groups," said Dr. Galvao, who spearheads the anti-Aids campaign in the state. "What's more, we are losing our

young people, our manpower."

We met a twenty-four-year-old woman. A mother-of-three, her husband is a homosexual, and after her third child she went to hospital to be sterilised. She thinks she contracted Aids there, through contaminated blood. She is just one of thousands who have suffered from the scandal of blood supplies in Brazil. Eighty per cent of the supplies come from 160 private clinics. Little of this is tested, for Aids or anything else. One doctor told us of a patient who recently died of Chagga's disease - a common disease of Brazil. "Then we discovered," he said, "that this man had been selling his blood for the past twenty years."

Sao Paulo state is trying to clean up the commercial market in blood where the blood of the poor flows to the rich. It's hard work. The clinics are often controlled by the underworld. Brazil's 6,000 haemophiliacs have been tragically hit. Eighty per cent have the virus because of the commercial exploitation of blood with clinics touting for custom and offering competitive rates.

While we were immersed in this in Sao Paulo, the heavens opened in Rio, 400 miles to the north. Mud slides began to rip swathes through the shanty towns which cling to the mountains that rise above the apartment blocks of the rich. The streets were flooded, services came to a grinding halt, and we raced back, having done a voice piece for the Saturday afternoon bulletin. In Rio, we headed straight for a hospital which had lost an entire wing and countless

patients and staff. Within 30 seconds of arriving the first body to be brought out in daylight was carried past us. It was a quick into camera, slipping in the mud, knowing that if we weren't off the site in another five minutes we would never hit the satellite feed. The cameraman wanted to stay. We dragged him off and careered down the mountainside.

Next day the bulletins wanted more. We decided to go into a shanty town. At the bottom a mass was being said for victims. As we climbed up the steep, narrow steps - there were forty levels of houses and shacks above us - the rain came down again. Real, torrential rain, turning what passed for streets and steps into rivers. Halfway up we stepped onto the mudslide. People frantically working to keep the water moving, so that it wouldn't dam up and bring down another slide. By this time there was no way back out. A local bartender insisted we had a slug of some amazing fire-water. "We drink it to keep pneumonia away," she said. We didn't argue. We drove back through the flooded streets. These were the worst floods in over 20 years. More than 300 people were dead, most buried alive. The dash to the feed point was even more hectic, through one-way streets, overtaking traffic jams, ignoring red lights.

We changed into borrowed clothes, ours were taken away to be incinerated because of an outbreak of leptospirosis, a disease caused by rats' urine in flood water.

continued on page 14

TRAY

How Eddie Weismann and his staff on the seventh floor always



serve up a treat. ERIC MCINNES brings us a tasteful report

bien!

There's only one place in London where you can relax, overlooking a breathtaking view of the city, have a choice of excellent meals and crunchy fresh salads, indulge in a delightful dessert, or cheese and biscuits, and still have change from two pounds. I refer, of course, to our own canteen.

Years ago canteens were under the same banner as school dinners. And we can all remember those days of runny mince and lumpy potatoes one day, only to recognise them with a literally sinking stomach, resurrected as a shepherd's pie the next. Whilst closing your mind and tastebuds to speculation about the origins of the meat and potato pie the following lunchtime.

Today things are very different in the ITN canteen. And you won't find any ex-Army cooks doing a roaring trade in Eddie Weismann's kitchen.

Eddie is ITN's food chief and he has seen the changes in catering.

"Going back twenty years, canteen food used to be a roast, a pie and a sweet," he says. "That's what the average person would eat back then. But over the past few years, people's tastes have developed."

"That means," says Eddie, "traditional foods are eaten less. It's chips four

times a week not five."

Indian, Chinese and French cooking have become staple parts of our diets.

Eddie's policy is to reflect this trend and provide a more international selection of dishes. Curries, goulashes, moussaka and chilli con carne are regular favourites. But people want to eat healthily too (in many cases, catch the middle age spread before it requires planning permission) and so salads are always on offer as an alternative. By the way, it also helps to put those How to Live Healthily For a Long Time supplements in your filofax to good use.

The result of all this choice and expertise, you'd think, would be higher prices. Yet ITN has kept down charges. On an average day, a three course meal costs less than £1.50. The food is charged at cost and staff, facilities and bills are subsidised by the company. Eddie, as are all canteen staff, is employed by Compass Catering. The company has been serving up food to ITN workers for 11 years. They handle the contract, ITN handles the bill. It's an arrangement which means variety is not over balanced by cost.

"The menu is worked out every day," says Eddie. "You have to cater for different types. You have a heavy meal

for your big engineers and snacks for other people who just want to pop in for something quick."

But even if you can't get to the canteen, the staff come to you. There are eight trolleys and their drivers negotiate the nine floors of the Wells Street building.

Laura Greaves has been an ITN trolley driver for 18 years and is our most experienced operator. She's as cool as ice taking corners and has many tales to recount about her time on the trolleys.

Once she even lost her trolley. "I went into the studio to tell them I was there and when I came back it was gone," she explains. How did the pit crew take the news?

"I phoned the manager to tell him, but by that time my trolley was on the way up to the seventh floor. Someone was playing a trick on me."

You'll find Laura and her colleagues on the seventh floor and a more cheerful and helpful bunch you won't find anywhere.

Whether it's rain or shine, 200 people trying to fit into 84 seats or just the day to day pursuit of happiness through a cheese omelette, Eddie Weismann and his staff will take good care of you.

Broadcast News: reeling or rolling?

Hollywood's nominated it for seven Oscars, but many ITN staff who went along to a special free preview found it disappointing. DAVID AKERMAN gives us his view.



Broadcast News hails from the same Hollywood locker as the soppy *Terms of Endearment*, which won five Oscars. *Broadcast News* has been nominated for seven. It's a romantic comedy about three young television journalists.

Aaron is a respected and well-informed reporter with a personal problem: he lacks screen charm. Tom, on the other hand, is a perfectly-formed tailor's dummy. What he lacks in substance, he makes up for with his blond good looks and oodles of charisma in front of a camera. Jane is a hot-shot producer who worries about journalistic ethics. Who will make it to Successville USA? Who won't? Who will fall in love with whom? And why?

One thing's for certain: Jane does all the work. She edits fast, takes outrageous risks for quality, and never misses a deadline. She coaxes Aaron through a piece-to-camera when they come under fire in the Nicaraguan jungle. She blasts life-saving information into Tom's earpiece when he's given the prestigious job of presenting a live programme on a story about which he knows nothing.

All this tells us something about our three heroes. It also shows people who don't work in television a little of how it's done . . . well, in America anyway. But this is the work of a documentary. What about the story?

The news here is not so good. Aaron's in love with Jane, who's fallen for the tailor's dummy, who's having a passion-

ate affair with his autocue. Careers rise and fall, the network has a financial crisis and right bang in the middle is the big issue: what sort of person should be entrusted with the enormous power and prestige of presenting the nightly news on American television? No doubt this could make an interesting debate. I can't say it makes a great film.

Broadcast News is, however, quite funny. Not thigh-slappingly hilarious, but quite funny. It's also seriously mawkish. People may shout and cry and have emotional tizzies all they like: it doesn't mean anything especially romantic is going on.

This is not to disparage the performance. William Hurt is a fine Tom, but there's a limit to what even he can do with this unrelentingly bland RoboJourno. Albert Brooks is thoroughly credible as reliable old Aaron. But Holly Hunter's winning performance as Jane requires a mention because it is especially good. Perhaps she'll get an Oscar, who can say?

Sadly *Broadcast News* is not a wonderful film. Its plot, - I use the term loosely - is a slobbering beast accidentally strangled in the final scene by Hollywood's patron saint, sentiment. Frankly it's a blessed release.

Like its stablemate, *Terms of Endearment*, also written and directed by James L. Brooks, *Broadcast News* has a strong cast playing, for the most part, weakly-written characters. Unlike *Terms of*

Endearment it sets its sights beyond merely exploring human relationships. Whether it succeeds in saying anything new or serious about the ethics of television journalism is a matter of opinion. In my opinion it doesn't.

DAVID AKERMAN

REVIEW QUOTES

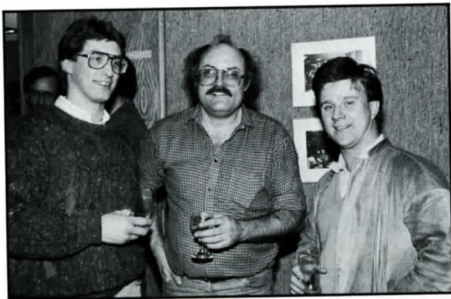
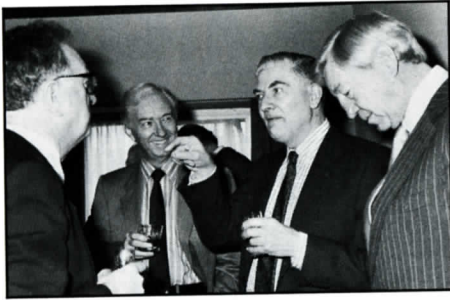
"Well worth the money." - **Carole Saunders**. The preview was free.

"Sentimental twaddle." - **Chris Long**.

"I think it missed the opportunity for something a bit more hard hitting." - **Judy Lustigman**.

"I'm not sure if people outside television will think it's interesting or really understand it." - **Caroline Burrell**.

David Akerman will be reviewing films for *The Lens* on a regular basis. *The Lens* welcomes all articles and suggestions for subjects readers think ought to be covered. If you are interested in writing, please contact Susan d'Arcy, editor, *The Lens*, on Ext. 2475.



ITN bade farewell to Doug Wilkins, top two photographs, with a special send off at the Cafe Royale. Celebrations of another kind were taking place in February. The above four pictures show Super Channel News staff celebrating the programme's first birthday. The party was held in the boardroom with plenty of champagne to help the party go with a swing. The RTS awards, below four pictures, was another night of celebration for ITN. It was the company's best year yet. Desmond Hamill was TV journalist of the year, Phil Bye, TV cameraman of the year, Brent Sadler took the international news award and *Channel Four News* won the home news award for reports by Lawrence McGinty and Jane Corbin.



MEDIA QUOTES

- "The crackdown on TV sex and violence promised by the Government is being held up because no-one can be found to take charge of it." – *Today* newspaper.
- "I read English at Merton, the same college as T. S. Eliot and Kris Kristofferson." – **Mark Thompson**, the new, and youngest ever, editor of the *Nine O'clock News*.
- "Gyngell thinks he is God. If he doesn't like his workers or agree with them he pretends they don't exist. He is always exhorting people to wear pink and tell each other they are full of love." – **Mike Hollingsworth**.
- "The nicest thing the Chancellor could do is make cigarettes so expensive that I have to stop smoking." – **Alastair Stewart**.
- "None of the five major ITV network companies will survive if the government presses ahead with plans to award franchises to the highest bidder." – **Christopher Bland**, LWT Holdings chairman.
- "After appointing Jackie Ashley, daughter of Labour MP Jack, as one of its reporters, the *Parliament Programme* has also enlisted the services of James Mates, son of Tory MP Michael.
I presume this enables the left hand to know what the right hand is doing." – *UK Press Gazette*.
- "Forget art. Think one minute 15." – Well known broadcaster.
- No-one could impugn Sandy Gall's pluck and determination in setting out, just short of his 59th birthday, on his third trek to Afghanistan." – **Johnathan Steele**, *The Guardian*.
- "I looked at kids in Soweto and I looked at their condition and it was not enormously different from the conditions in which I was brought up. But I was able to get out because I lived in a society which was free. I found it an earth-shaking experience." – **Trevor McDonald**.

Going through the right channels

ITN's *World News* for Super Channel was one year old in February. It was a birthday many thought the programme would never reach. A year on, who now watches it? Where does it get its material from? Its programme editor NIGEL DACRE supplies the answers to these and other questions.

Q: WHO WATCHES THE WORLD NEWS?

A: We've had letters from viewers in 26 countries. Most of these people see the programme when it is beamed down from the Super Channel satellite to European cable companies – but there are growing numbers of private receiving dishes, especially in East Europe and the holiday villa regions of Spain.

The programme is also sent via a chain of three satellites over America and the Pacific to the Far East. Viewers in Japan can see it with sub titles. Bermuda TV tunes into it every night. And we've had letters from places like Puerto Rico and California. The list doesn't stop there. Thanks to the hard work of David Roycroft the programme has just been slotted into the schedules of Gibraltar TV. And, of course, it is now replayed in Britain during the *ITN Morning News*.

Q: ARE THERE RECENT VIEWING FIGURES?

A: No. The research done last year is now badly out of date. New research is being carried out by Super Channel this spring for release in the summer. But we do know that the programme can now be seen in just over 10 million cable homes in Europe – that's more than doubled in the last year. So if you add together the Super Channel audience, the people who see the programme in places like Japan and Gibraltar, and those who watch it early in the morning on ITV, then you must be talking about a substantial number of viewers.

Q: IS IT THE SAME PROGRAMME THAT GOES OUT ON THE *ITN MORNING NEWS*?

A: When Stewart Purvis introduced the idea of including the *World News* in the early morning slot, it was decided we needed to adapt the programme for a British audience. So, we do the whole programme again! John Suchet speeds up his delivery. And we change the tense of



much of the writing – so we're not talking about today when we mean yesterday!

Q: WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR MATERIAL FROM NOW THAT YOU'VE LOST ACCESS TO EUROVISION PICTURES?

A: We still have access to a massive amount of pictures each day. We obviously transmit the many stories which ITN crews film abroad. We use pictures from the agency WTN, and from the American networks ABC and CBS. And we are building up agreements with a number of key European broadcasters to bring in news pictures outside the Eurovision system.

Q: DO YOU JUST TURN ROUND ITEMS FROM OTHER ITN PROGRAMMES?

A: Less than half of the reporter packages in a *World News* programme are turned around from other ITN programmes. The rest we package ourselves from pictures which come in from a variety of sources. It gives us great scope to put our own stamp on major stories.

Q: HAS THE PROGRAMME SUR-

VIVED THE CUTBACKS?

A: OK I'm biased on this one! But in my view, the programme is now looking in very good shape. One of the new features we introduced – the nightly Special Report – has gone down particularly well with many viewers.

Q: HAS THE AIM OF THE PROGRAMME REMAINED THE SAME DURING THE YEAR?

A: Yes, the aim has remained constant: that is, to cover the most important international stories of the day, and to do so in an interesting and highly visual manner. For European countries where the news is often presented in a domestic-orientated and dry way, this has proved to be a popular formula.

Q: WHERE CAN I SEE THE PROGRAMME?

A: If you are in the building at 9.00pm, you can see it live. It's replayed on the *Morning News* at 5am. And then at 11.15am on ITN's internal TV system. If you happen to be in Japan, you can watch it at 8am! Or give us a ring on ext 2327, and we can lend you a VHS copy. So there are no excuses for not watching!

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It was over dinner that evening that the news came through that a block of flats had collapsed and people were trapped. Before long we were slipping around in the mud in borrowed flip-flops, shoulder to shoulder with the rescue teams burrowing into the ruins of a three-storey apartment block. Suddenly, through the din came calls for silence. Incredibly, they found someone alive. Then came frantic shouts for oxygen and a stretcher. A child was pulled free. A few moments later a woman . . . a man

“Then came frantic shouts for oxygen and a stretcher. A child was pulled free”

with a badly gashed leg . . . Through the night it went on – somehow 15 people were brought out alive.

We up-dated the story for *Into the Night* with a phono (2am our time). A few hours later – at first light – we tried to get a helicopter up for the latest pictures for the 12.30 bulletin. Bad weather grounded the helicopter. We made do with ground shots. And scored a notable first by getting Globo TV to

satellite our story at the unheard of time of 9am.

By mid-day we had two crews out. One in the air getting dramatic pictures of the flood aftermath; one on the ground with the victims.

We put the story together. “It’s running as fourth story on *News at Ten*,” we were told. It went across on the satellite. Minutes later we were delighted to hear Nick Pollard had decided to make it lead story.

Next day the sun was shining. The beaches were crowded again. It was as if nothing had happened.

Just time for the final shoot on our Aids story. Then it was into one of those Brazilian Abbey cars . . . the airport . . . and home.

But the two faces of Brazil remain very clear; beaches in sunshine, mudslides in flood . . . the joy of carnival, the agony of Aids. The warning also remains clear. It came most starkly from Father Ed Leising, one-time representative for the Catholic Bishops in Latin America, he now runs a parish and a non-denominational charity to help those in the shanty towns. “Aids,” he said thoughtfully, “it’s like the Black Death . . . that’s what’s happening in Brazil now.”

continued from Brent Sadler, page 8

risks were enormous. Anyone seeing two men leaving the camps could alert the militias near by. If that happened, there could be no escape, no freedom, no story.

In fact our first lift nearly cost us our lives. The elderly man driving the battered old car seemed friendly but a couple of minutes casual conversation revealed he was pro Iranian.

I sat in the back, oblivious to the impending danger. But when Mehdi threw open the door at a traffic lights and made a run for it, I didn’t stop to ask questions.

For 10 more frantic minutes we ran to a safer area with Mehdi repeatedly warning me to hide my face in case pro Iranians spotted my white skin in their headlights.

The next lift came from a Sunni Moslem whose fast car made the city in less than 20 minutes. That night I promised Mehdi if our story was recognised as an outstanding piece of journalism my Lebanese aid would be in London to witness it.

A promise ITN helped to fulfil by flying Mehdi into Britain for the RTS awards evening.

OBITUARIES

Fred Partington

Fred joined ITN in July 1955 and was one of the company’s pioneers. Before coming to Wells Street he had worked for many years at Paramount News and had done a stint at Press Association.

He died in January and leaves a widow, Georgina, and a son and daughter.

He retired from ITN in the late seventies and during the following years travelled a couple of times to Canada where his daughter lives. He will be remembered by ITN old hands as a true professional and a tenacious one.

He was a stickler for detail and during his many years as assignments manager was loathe to let any news story get away.

One tale of his determination tells of him, back in the early sixties, going to the door of the Russian embassy and asking to speak to a senior security official who was visiting from

Russia. Although he managed to speak to the man involved, he couldn’t persuade him to hold a press conference.

The job of assignments manager in those days carried more day-to-day importance. Fred was virtually an extension of the news editor and it was far more difficult to persuade politicians and public figures to appear on screen.

Although he retired more than 12 years ago, he often returned to ITN to visit staff and attend retirement celebrations. He was cremated at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium at the end of January. Several ITN colleagues attended the ceremony.

Reg Spragg

Reg Spragg died in December 1987. He was instrumental, through his unparalleled art as a film editor in assisting, if not making, the careers of many

news and documentary film producers in television today. Reg joined ITN in the late fifties during the pioneering days of independent television. It was a somewhat unorthodox entry into the company as well.

Reg was walking along the Strand when he was approached by another ITN film editor, “Would you like to work for ITN for a couple of weeks, they are a bit short?” “Yes” was Reg’s reply even though he was merely on holiday leave with his present company. Reg was to stay with ITN for three decades. For many years Reg was the film editor on ITN’s weekly news documentary programme *Roving Report*. His expertise and technique was never surpassed during the time that the programme was on the air.

Film had been Reg’s first love from the very early days. When he was 14 years old and a keen amateur photographer

with a cine camera, not knowing how to splice the film together he had his mother do it for him on her sewing machine!

In later years he made a film on Brunel’s ship “The Great Eastern”.

This film comprising solely of animated stills was all done by Reg unaided on a rostrum camera. It has been shown twice on British television.


In his career with ITN Reg covered many stories in Europe, the Middle and Far East.

He was also the film editor on ITN’s prestigious 21st anniversary film which received great acclaim from the whole network.

In latter years Reg’s health was not the best. His contributions to ITN in both its early years and during the film era will be hard to match. We shall not see his like again. Reg is survived by his Norwegian wife, Berit, and daughters, Susan and Anna-Lise.

DO YOU KNOW THIS YOUNG MAN?

2 DESCRIPTION SIGNALEMENT		3	
Amended.			
BIT			
Bearer Titulaire		Spouse Epouse	
Occupation			
Profession			
Place of birth	London		
Lieu de naissance			
Date of birth	31 MAR 65		
Date de naissance			
Residence	21/6/10/12		
Residence			
Height	1.63		
Taille			
Distinguishing marks			
Signes particuliers			



Bearer Titulaire

Spouse Epouse

Photo

CHILDREN ENFANTS

Can you identify this top ITN star? Copy taken from current passport.

1 He is never off the air.

2 Contrary to popular belief his

mother does not have to travel with him.

3 Just say Tiffany and he's yours.

Answer at the bottom of the page.

New look for News at 5.45

by Derek Dowsett

From April 5, the News at 5.45 newscaster Alastair Stewart won't be able to wear grey suits - on screen that is - because that's the day that News at 5.45 gets a new look. And because the background has a predominantly grey theme, grey suits are out for the immaculate Mr Stewart because he would just merge into the background.

The design is mainly the work of two of ITN's graphic design team, Caroline Hendry and Lynn Wilson under the supervision of the head of graphics, Peter Atkinson and the director Munro Forbes. Their brief was to produce a new title and graphics which would take the News at 5.45 into the nineties.

The new titles will incorporate the blue and gold ITN logo and there will still be a sequence of headline pictures of the day but instead of the present quartered effect each sequence will now quantel off to the left of screen. New title music has been composed to give the programme a distinctive signature tune more suited to the upcoming nineties.

And the graphics will reflect that nineties theme with a gold and grey-green theme. Displays will have more of



No grey days for Stewart

a three-dimensional effect and pictures will be chromakeyed in a strip on the right of screen which should produce a clearer image.

It all adds up to a cleaner, brighter more modern looking News at 5.45 to meet the challenge of the BBC's Six O'Clock News.

McDonald receives an award

Trevor McDonald has won the Commonwealth Institute's first Annual Information award. He received his award at the end of March.

McDonald, who shared the top spot with MP Ivor Stanbrook, was nominated for his reporting of October's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Vancouver.

The award is symbolic and intended to recognise an outstanding contribution, by individuals or organisations, towards

raising awareness of the Commonwealth in a positive way throughout Britain.

At the award ceremony at the Commonwealth Institute, McDonald was presented with a commemorative prize by Lord Carlisle of Bucklow.

Stanbrook is the Conservative MP for Orpington. He has written books on extradition and the British nationality law and has a particular interest in Commonwealth affairs.

Answer: SIMON MARKS

Just one cornetto



Brent Sadler definitely has something to shout about after taking the International News award at the Royal Television Society's annual awards ceremony. Apparently he had something to sing about too.

Touching moment



Here are two ITN men who definitely would pay lip service to an RTS award.

LETTERS

What an excellent read in ITN's Top Ten in the last issue of The Lens. As I expect this is likely to be a regular yearly feature how about including a form in the last issue of 1988 so all the readers - inside and outside the building - can take part.

No longer connected with the news, my armchair view would put Zeebrugge at the top. Going to sea with the bow doors open and the loss of 188 lives out shocks any shock horror video though the Hungerford Massacre was, in a different way, another almost unbelievable story.

The Washington Summit? I was thankful when it was all over. I belong to the school who saw it, heard it, and read it as a joint US/ USSR well managed news event.

It was a far cry from one definition of news. It's about the little old lady in Birmingham who when she was asked: "What is news?" replied, "something that happened today and didn't happen yesterday."

I can't quite recall who told me that. It may have been Jones the Press.

Frank Duesbury

ITN's cricket team ready for another season

by Howard Anderson

Even as you read this, ITN's intrepid band of cricketing heroes is preparing to fight another campaign. The new season's fixtures include two West Country weekends, trial by too much lunch at Jesus College Cambridge, and an idyllic sojourn in sleepy Sussex. We also play in Southall and Wandsworth but we'll gloss over that.

The team is in fact the BBC News/ITN Cricket Club. That basically means most of us used to work for the Beeb but got over the fence – or else are nothing to do with news but did once share a flat with Andrew Tilley.

Last season's exploits included a record nine wins; fearless feats with the bat by Andrew Tilley, who scored umpteen fifties; 10 wickets in an innings by an ex-Beeb reporter John Hitchins against Kilmington and a Bothamesque slog by Jamie Donald which snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in Somerset (the opposition had drunk a lot



ITN and BBC team.

of cider but I'm assured this was irrelevant).

The close season was marked by a highly successful dinner dance in November where bottles were drunk, wives were bored with tales of heroism and Bill Frindall told some good stories. The only blot on the horizon was the performance of eight of the team's stalwarts during Bob Lermouth's indoor

competition in January. We swaggered in and crept out; the only win (against Les Girls) was achieved by braining key members of the opposition.

If anyone's daft enough, or drunk enough, to want to join this motley collection of sporting never-wozzers, do get in touch with Andy Tilley, Howard Anderson, Malcolm Balen or John Hunt – we'll get you certified later.

Plenty of cheer at Gun Club's Christmas Shoot

This year, the annual Christmas Shoot was held at Markyate in Bedfordshire and was well attended.

We were shooting for the John Holland Memorial Shield. The morning was taken up with clay shooting – a 50-target competition.

Caroline Yates took the women's honours and **Brian Foakes** the men's – still complaining that someone took the shot out of his cartridges, causing him to miss three targets!

Then it was time to retire to the club house for a fine lunch, the usual cheer and then onto pistol shooting. This turned out to be a well fought competition on both small-bore and full-bore pistols. **Audrey Mor-**

ison taking the women's honours and **Bruce Tugby** the men's.

The John Holland trophy went to **Mike Chandler** (pictured below) for the best combined score from clays and pistol. Well done Mike!



ITN takes up challenge

ITN and the BBC will be running against each other in Europe's largest organised road race this coming July.

There will be 27,000 fun runners including 14 conscripts from ITN and their guests, hopefully we will be first past the post when jogging with the Beeb and for a nominated charity!

The run starts at 10am Sunday, July 24 in the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. The route takes you through Gateshead, Heworth and on to the coast at South Shields.

The Great North Run has to be one of the most friendly 'fun runs' in Britain today. If you find yourself running out of steam then the Geordie spectators who cover the whole 13 miles will encourage you all the way by shouting "Ha'way pet not for now..."

The ITN team comprises:

Fiona Bradshaw and husband Bill, Michael Green, Steve Harrow, Richard Lambert and guests, Marcus Nason, Andrew Palmer, Vince Richardson and guests, Peter Robbertshaw, Steve Shipman, Jon Snow, Paula Wilkinson and Peter Yore

There should be two spare running places left if anyone would like to run with us.

What can our team expect at the end? Well the ubiquitous Great North Run T-shirt and medal! (and possibly that night, a function on a ship that will take us up and down the Tyne).

Cheers keep running!
Richard Lambert

All the dates are for our regular shooting ground at Markyate, near Luton. The ground has a fully equipped club house with food and drink. Clay pigeon shooting and pistol shooting will be available on the day.

New members are welcome. No shooting experience is needed as the Club has a fully qualified shooting coach on the strength. For further information any new members can contact me on ext. 2248.

The dates are: Friday, March 18; Friday, May 20; Friday, July 15; Friday, September 23; and Friday, December 16 (Christmas Shoot).