

# ITN THE LENS

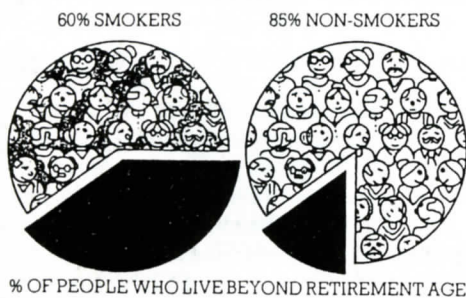
The Staff Newspaper for Independent Television News Autumn Edition

## ITN's health and safety committee introduces a voluntary smoking ban

The results of the smoking questionnaire, which were published in the last issue of *The Lens*, revealed that only a small percentage of the staff felt that unrestricted smoking should continue.

The health and safety committee set up a sub-committee (Derek Walker, Colin Clements, Jackie Stone) to consider these results. After considering the viability of options available, they concluded that voluntary "No Smoking" should be introduced into ITN with effect from January 1, 1989. A voluntary ban means there will be no fines for breaking it. A three-month transitional period started on October 1.

It is intended to provide counselling services to help staff who wish to stop smoking and details of this will be published on *Intext*. However, anyone who wishes further details should contact the personnel office.



We intend over the next few months to give further information on the dangers of smoking.

A video, the "Seven Ages of Moron", featuring Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones, produced by the Cancer Research Campaign, will be shown on the internal system towards the end of this month.

Given below are just a few of the many reasons why the health and safety committee feel that introducing this policy is for the benefit of all staff by minimising the risks to health and will help to improve the environment for everyone.

■ Not all smokers will suffer from one or more of the smoking related diseases. But they are at much

greater risk than non-smokers. For example, emphysema is rarely seen in non-smokers.

■ Death from a smoking related disease is more likely for a smoker than for non-smoker. Ninety per cent of all deaths from lung cancer and chronic bronchitis are smokers. A study of civil servants and coronary heart disease showed that the death rate for cigarette smokers from CHD was 64-75% higher than for non-smokers.

■ On average, a person who smokes 20 cigarettes a day shortens his or her life by five years.

■ Forty per cent of heavy smokers (over 20 cigarettes a day) die before retirement age compared with only 15% of non-smokers. Most smokers will tell you about the fit, elderly and heavy smokers they know. But this doesn't mean they too will be one of the lucky ones.

■ It is true that the effects of smoking are not always fatal. But most of the diseases related to smoking are either chronic or may lead to a diminished quality of life. For example, look at the lifestyle of a severely chronic bronchitic patient. He's on oxygen at home, is very ill each winter, needs help to cope with daily life and hardly ever leaves the house.



■ One of the dangers of cigarette smoking is that it produces a dependence on and addiction to nicotine. Remember, it is estimated that two out of every three smokers either want to give up but don't bring themselves to try, or have tried and failed. Because of the addictive effect of the nicotine in cigarettes the ex-smoker may suffer withdrawal symptoms at first. For example, depression, irritability, anxiety, tension, restlessness and lack of concentration. These symptoms may last for several weeks.

■ There are two types of smoke produced by a burning cigarette. One type, "mainstream smoke", is filtered by the cigarette and inhaled by the smoker. The other type, "sidestream smoke", goes directly into the air that others breathe. It is not filtered and so contains high concentrations of many of the substances which make cigarette smoking harmful. This makes it potentially dangerous to non-smokers.

■ Adults who are chronically exposed to sidestream smoke (passive smoking) may have a decreased lung function which can be as severe as that found in light smokers. They may have indications of small airways obstruction. Their blood COHb levels may also rise. This is potentially dangerous in people with lung or heart disease. Recent studies have shown that passive smoking may also increase the risk of lung cancer.

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### Inside . . .

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**PLUS . . .** pictures of ITN celebrations, news and information.

## First staff to be redeployed take their places

The first staff to be redeployed as part of the Into the Nineties plan have been appointed to their new jobs.

Last month, two members of the production sound department, Hilary Sames and John Arnold along with former rigger, Fred Rich and John McFaul of ENG Maintenance, were accepted to MCR.

At the same time, Bob Hutchinson moves out of MCR to become a station engineer. And there's an internal promotion as Dave Schoon gets the MCR supervisor's job.

In the station engineers' office, Alison Corfield of accounts and Fiona Jobling, secretary, become ITN's first circuits booking administrators.

Jenny Mazzezy, secretary to the head of operations is to become the administrator in the fourth floor operations office.

The new appointees take up their posts at various times over the next year, though Hilary Sames, John Arnold

and Fred Rich begin training straight-away, and Fiona Jobling is already at her new desk.

Other internal moves include Tom Evans's appointment to chief sub-editor of the Super Channel news bulletin (he takes over from Victor van Amerongen who has left to set up his own business) while Bert Clack is transferring from copytasting to overnight writing for the programme's new early morning bulletin for the next six months. Robin Gould takes over Clack's position in copytasting.

Libby Wiener has been appointed home affairs correspondent and Penny Marshall becomes the home affairs/media reporter.

On the foreign affairs side, Robert Moore has been appointed news co-ordinator to the Moscow bureau for an experimental period of six months and Michael Crick takes over as Washington correspondent on *Channel Four News*.

Another Into the Nineties leaver said

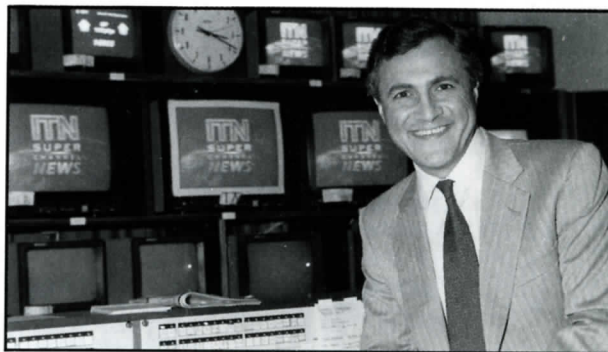
farewell this month, Keith Thompson, a scriptwriter, had been at ITN for 14 years.

People joining the staff included Graham Lovelace who has become newsdesk assistant on *News at One*. Lovelace, who has been freelancing at ITN for the last six months, was previously a reporter on Channel Four's *Education Extra* programme. He has also worked as a parliamentary reporter with the Press Association and before that on the Swindon *Evening Advertiser* as its local government correspondent.

The security department has three new faces: David Andrews, who used to work at the Jewel House in the Tower of London; Ian Jones, who moves from a similar position at the BBC and lists his hobbies as reading and marathon running; and John Stedmon, formerly a security officer at Norfolk House in St James's Square who also enjoys reading and jogging.

### Halfway House success for political correspondents

ITN has scored a new first - half of its six political correspondents are now women. That should please the 300 Group which has been campaigning for half of all MPs to be women. So far, they've only achieved 41 out of a total of 650 MPs. But ITN has now hit the fifty per cent mark. Correspondents Jackie Ashley and Julie Hall have joined the Channel 1 team and *Channel 4 News* has Elinor Goodman.



John Suchet created something of an ITN record during the summer when he presented no less than four different programmes in one day. He kicked off with the *10.25*, went on again for *News at One*, did his usual Super Channel bulletin and returned for a final appearance on *News at Ten*.

### ITN's News at Ten is Britain's top news programme

A new survey puts ITN's *News at Ten* at the top of the news programmes popularity stakes.

Top international advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi studied the audience viewing figures provided by the television industry's leading research organisation, BARB. They found that four out of five adults in Britain watch *News at Ten* each month, and it is the only weekday news programme regularly to reach the top ten in the weekly charts.

In the second quarter of 1988 *News at Ten* had over three quarters of a million more viewers per night than the BBC's *9 O'clock News*.

Monday August 15 saw *News at Ten* at No. 5 in the Top 10 with an audience of 11.7 million, beating *The Bill*, *Trading*

*Places* and *Chariots of Fire*.

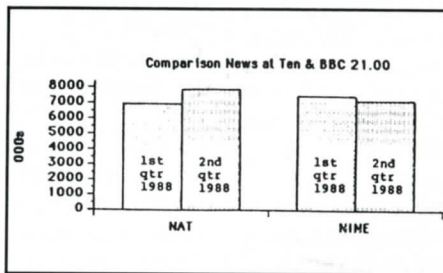
ITN's flagship programme has had a particularly good year with exclusive stories such as Colin Baker's revelations about SAS evidence in the Gibraltar hearings.

ITN's news-gathering teams have gone from strength to strength, picking up more prizes including RTS Television Journalist of the year to

Desmond Hamill for his "unfailing ability to provide lucid and revealing reports, however difficult the situation". RTS Television Cameraman of the Year to Philip Bye, RTS News International Award for coverage inside the Bourj Al-Barajneh Camps, BAFTA Award Best News or Outside Broadcast - Zeebrugge and RTS Home News Award for coverage of the King's Cross Fire.



The ITN Club is getting into the party mood; it will hold a Halloween Night extravaganza at the London Dungeon on October 28. Details from Mary Green on Ext 71249 or Laura Holding on Ext 71246. It is also planning the annual dinner/dance at the London Marriott Hotel on December 16. More details about tickets, etc, will be announced nearer the date on Intext.



# And the news is . . . there's a new game

A new board game has been designed to capture some of the excitement familiar to all those who work on *News at Ten*. It has been manufactured under licence from ITN by Paul Lamond Games Ltd, whose inventory includes such classics as *How to be a Complete Bastard*, Radio 1's *Give us a Break*, Keith Floyd's *Food Quiz* and *Give us a Clue*.

The game retails at £13.95 and was released last month with an eye on the Christmas market.

Paul Lamond Games contacted ITN in April to ask for ideas for a game to compete with the BBC's *News Quiz* which was known to be planned for an autumn release, retailing at around £27 and based on a news trivia format.

Although Paul Lamond Games are leaders in trivia-based games they believe that demand for the genre has now peaked and were looking for something different. The result was *News at Ten*, a game for 2 to 6 players, as the blurb has it *from kids to adults*. The aim is to be the first person to put together a running order by collecting a story in each of six categories, together with a *commercial break*. Players move pawns around a world map board with moves decided by a spin of the hands of Big Ben.

The six categories are: *Current Affairs Abroad*, *Current Affairs Home*, *Royal*, *Human Interest*, *Sports*, and . . . *And Finally*. To claim a story a player must collect a headline, picture and story



Carol and Zeinab get to grips with the game.

which he can convince the other players go together. Stories can be wrecked by other players producing *commercial break* or *Editor* cards at appropriate moments.

Ideal for unwinding after a tough day at ITN. Available, as they say, at all good toy and some book shops, not to

mention a few well known supermarkets.

**News at Ten-The Game. Manufactured in England by Paul Lamond Games Ltd, under licence from ITN. £13.95 inc VAT.**

## Tragic deaths

It is with great sadness that *The Lens* records that Frank Duesbury died of a heart attack in St Thomas's Hospital on October 21. He was 60 and leaves a widow, Janet.

Frank had been our press officer from 1970 until he became ill with heart trouble in 1983. He continued to contribute to *The Lens* until shortly before his death.

We also record with the deepest sorrow that Ken Smith, the copytaster, died on the same day. He had been seriously ill since the beginning of this year and had only survived until now through his own personal courage and tenacity. He was 64. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.

Ken joined the editorial department in 1968 as a scriptwriter and became a copytaster four years later. He remained in this position until ill-health stopped him working in January.

*The Lens* welcomes any ideas you have for features, articles or profiles which you think ought to be covered in the magazine. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to write an article or letter contact Susan d'Arcy on Ext. 2475.

## CAMERAS TURN ON ITN AS WE STAR IN TELEVISION SURVEY

ITN will be featured in a massive survey – One Day in the Life of Television – by the British Film Institute into how the public perceive the media.

On November 1, a film crew will spend the day at Wells Street recording how the company delivers the news to the public, following journalists, camera crews and news teams through the normal operations.

The footage, along with tapes from every television company and every programme transmitted on November 1, will be stored in the BFI archives as a snapshot of contemporary television.

As well as this, some of the film will be made into a two-hour documentary by Yorkshire Television which is expected to be screened across the network on November 1, 1989.

The BFI will also be asking for scripts, press releases and other information used by the companies in their day-to-

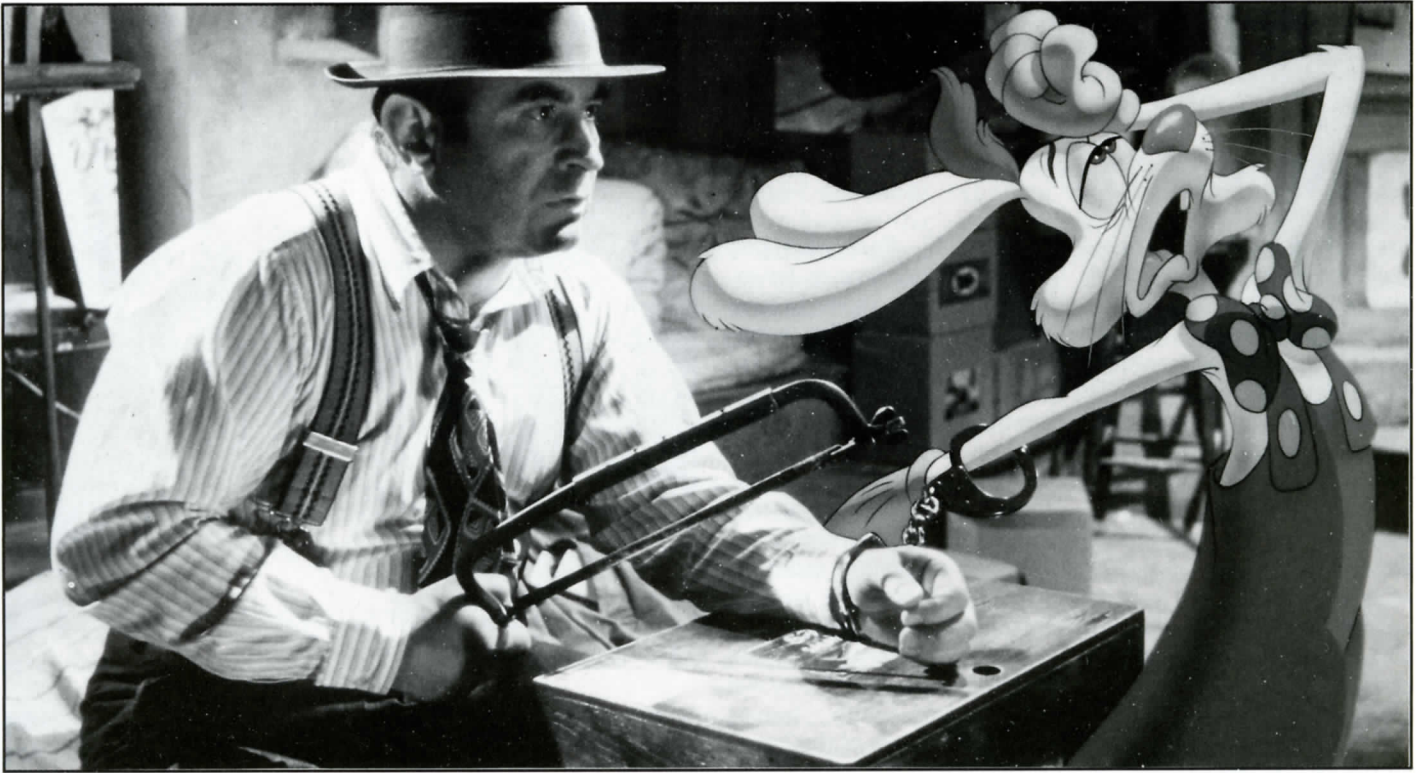
day tasks. The operation is being masterminded by Yorkshire TV's Clive Gordon who says: "We will be working with the BBC and all the ITV companies.

"It is the first time the BBC and ITV have worked together in this fashion. It should be very exciting.

We will have 33 film crews filming at various locations and we also hope to get footage from teams working abroad on foreign assignments."

The general public is also being asked to keep a diary of their day on November 1, noting what programmes they watched and how they felt about them. Many celebrities have also promised to keep diaries.

It will be the biggest-ever survey of television habits in the country. The BFI intends it to be a definitive snapshot of contemporary television. Sean Day Lewis will write a book of the day which will feature the diaries.



## A soaraway success?

**The technical wizardry involved in the film is definitely commendable, says DAVID AKERMAN, but the content marks it as one for the kids, while we go back to the newsroom for ITN's latest preview Switching Channels.**

Who Framed Roger Rabbit is one for the kiddies. It goes like this. Roger Rabbit is a Hollywood comedy star at the peak of his career whose performances are suffering because he doubts his wife, Jessica's, fidelity. Well might he worry. Jessica is a pouting starlet who makes Marilyn Monroe look like a flat-chested prude.

Things start moving when a boozy private eye by the name of Eddie Valiant is hired to track and photograph Jessica's illicit liaisons. Valiant delivers the pictures, Jessica's supposed paramour is murdered and Roger becomes the number one suspect. For reasons which it would be unsporting to reveal here, Roger and Eddie team up and get themselves into all sorts of adventures as they go on the run from the law, in the person of the sinister Judge Doon.

So what? . . . you might say, pretty run-of-the-mill knockabout stuff. Not quite. What makes this film different is that most of the players, including Roger Rabbit himself and his wife, Jessica, are cartoon characters, or "Toons" (as in "Looney Tunes") living in the lunatic world of "Toontown", where cartoon characters can walk off set at the end of day's shooting and carry on as if they were real actors: having affairs, throwing tantrums, getting mixed up in studio politics. The whole caboodle.

The point of the film, though, is its meshing into a seamless weave these cartoon creations with real actors: Bob Hoskins as the dyso detective, Valiant, Joanna Cassidy as his girlfriend, Dolores, Christopher Lloyd as Judge Doon, Stubby Kaye as Jessica's presumed, if unlikely, lover.

The obvious technical feats of Rabbit are formidable, but there are other good things here. The ingenuity of the straight cartoon sequences, notably the opening scene, in which a kitchen becomes a nightmarish danger zone for an inquiring infant, is classic Looney Tunes stuff of the Forties, marvellously re-worked by modern animators. Indeed the entire film is a triumph of inspired and painstaking animation, much of it done in Britain under the direction of Richard Williams.

There's credit, too, in the acting, especially when you consider that Hoskins and his co-stars must have been acting opposite thin air for most of the shooting. They judge it right, humouring the childish and erratic Toons, but never giving the slightest hint that the whole thing is patently absurd.

Who Framed Roger Rabbit is . . . fun. So if fun is your thing (and speaking personally one of the most miserable days of my life was a visit to Disneyland) I suggest you hasten to the nearest picture house. And don't forget to take those kiddies.

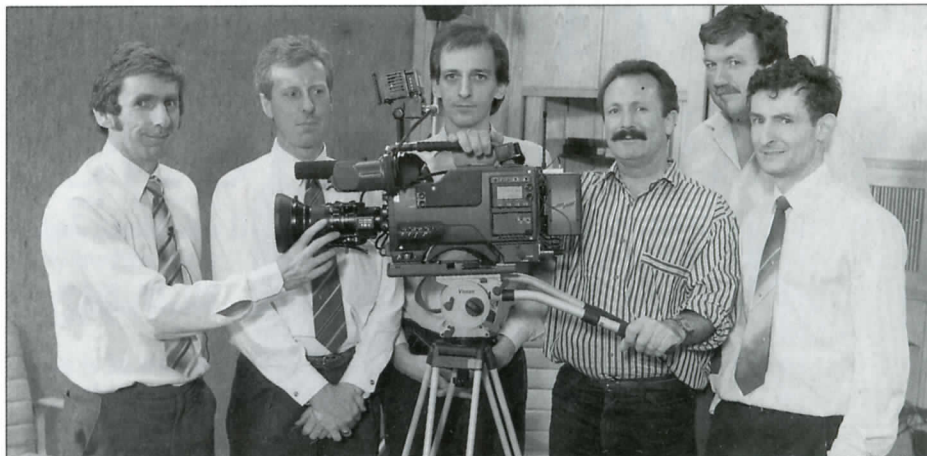
And finally, switching subjects, brings us to Switching Channels, the second picture about life in a television newsroom to cross the Atlantic this year. (It follows the loathsome Broadcast News, which I have scorned at length before.)

It's a light romantic comedy: Kathleen Turner plays a popular, thrusting presenter/reporter whose threat to leave the station throws her sloppy editor, and ex husband, Bert Reynolds, into a ratings panic. He plots to keep her at all costs, and a comic, if improbable, battle royal ensues between him and the new man in her life, the obscenely smooth Christopher Reeve.

Switching Channels is a potboiler, nicely performed and directed but it is in truth slight, a touch sentimental and only mildly funny. It is, however, considerably less irritating than Broadcast News: more sure-footed, more consistent, a thing of its genre and, most importantly, quite unpretentious.

# World first for ITN

**JOHN FLEWIN remembers  
the day that ITN made the  
news by filming it on new  
technology**



*Left to right: Sony's Ian Birkinshaw, Jon Hunt, Mike Coe, Alan Downes, Malcolm Hicks and Andy Tucker. Pat Hilliard and Gary Mullins, were absent.*

When Bradford councillor Eric Pickles woke up on the morning of October 11 at his hotel in Brighton where he was staying during the Conservative Party Conference, he didn't know he was about to make history. A few hours later he was the first person in the world to be interviewed by a television crew using a new generation of newsgathering cameras.

To the untrained eye, the scene of a TV news interview taking place in a corridor at a party conference might not have warranted a second glance. However, councillor Pickles was being interviewed for *Channel Four News* with chief cameraman Alan Downes manning a Sony BVW-200 one-piece Camcorder.

I first saw a mock-up of the camera in the office of ITN's deputy director of engineering Peter Marchant, nearly 18 months ago. Was I interested in a one-piece camcorder for newsgathering, I was asked – "Yes," was my eager reply.

The next pair of ITN eyes to fall on what had been labelled the "200" were those of deputy head of operations, Bill Reay, at NAB in Los Angeles. Within a week Bill had arranged for one of the three 200s at NAB to be at ITN House for engineering evaluation, and some "hands-on" feel from ENG crews. It seemed a winner.

A deal was soon struck with Sony by Peter Marchant that meant ITN would get the world's first 625 version of the camera. That was the camera councillor Pickles stood in front of on October 11.

Before Brighton, a technical committee of crew members, including Downes, fellow cameraman Malcolm Hicks, recordists Mike Coe and Jon Hunt and lighting assistants Pat Hilliard and Gary Mullins with Bill Reay and I, had put together a package of accessories for the BVW-200 kit which made it look a little different from the mode in which Sony had advertised it.

On the front was a Cannon 18:1 lens (more lens power for the cameraman), on top were a set of Anton Bauer camera

lights (low power, but giving excellent results), on the back was a large Anton Bauer battery (heavier, but punching a bigger voltage and giving enough power for the lights), and on the back a radio receiver, with ariel protruding above the battery (to provide a remote microphone or wireless link to the recordist, replacing the traditional cable link between crew members). As well as being equipped with a radio transmitter, the recordist carried a new mixer allowing two sound sources to be mixed.

Much of the package had been selected by the committee at Brighton a fortnight earlier, when the committee spent two days at the International Broadcasting Convention, held in the same hall as the Tory Conference.

Downes and Mike Coe first used the camera on October 10, to cover Mrs Thatcher's pre-conference visit to a Newhaven factory. Of course, the camera was not the only thing different about that shoot. Lights on the camera replacing the lighting assistant and a two-man crew operating without the cabled connection were also vivid evidence that change is here.

I waited eagerly at Brighton for the first cassette to arrive and an hour and a quarter before the 545, it came into the hands of journalist Joy Johnson. Soon it was part of the package put together by political correspondent Jackie Ashley which led the early evening news bulletin. If they had not been at Brighton, no one would have known that a new generation of newsgathering had been born.

The following day Downes and Coe covered conference arrivals, a Thatcher photocall, produced pictures of exhibition stands, and two other interviews as well as one with councillor Pickles. Then came the evening, and for the first time an ITN two-man crew set lights for a meeting – a fringe gathering of the Tory Reform Society. I busied myself trying to be a clumsy member of the public and

knock over the new Arri lights on their stands. I failed.

Soon after the meeting started, a Granada TV ENG crew turned up (a cameraman, recordist, a lighting foreman, and a lighting assistant!). Sitting close to them, I overheard their, "Gosh, that's the new Sony." "Hey, they've got a Cannon on the front." "Look, they're wireless linked." Anyway, after they had shot the meeting using our lights, the Granada electricians did eventually put on a headlamp for their final shots.

By Thursday, the 200 gear had been handed over to Malcolm Hicks and Jon Hunt and one of their first assignments was, appropriately, to cover a Bow Group meeting on the Future of Broadcasting, at which Michael Grade, in front of broadcasting minister Tim Renton, made an impassioned plea for the Government not to change ITN's remit in the coming White Paper.

On the final day of the conference, the 200 was assigned to Mrs Thatcher in the main hall. Being free of the umbilical cord link with his recordist, Hicks was able to get a better position for the Prime Minister's arrival on the platform, and in the "scrum" which followed as she left the hall. Hicks, always a winner in these situations, reckons the camera is a winner too.

During the whole week, the camera contributed to nearly every bulletin in one way or another. Problems? Yes, there were some. On the first day the batteries in the radio receiver went down, unnoticed, but a different way of powering it will solve that: with Mrs Thatcher in the viewfinder, the camera warning system gave just two seconds notice of the battery running out. That too, should be solvable.

And councillor Pickles' place in the history books? Well, the occasion may not be remembered for long. Pickles certainly did not know he was making history. And *Channel Four News* had too much material on board that night – the interview was dropped.

# TAKING SNAP DECISIONS

**JOHN SCHOFIELD** asks the man with a roll of film, **John Curtis**, about his role at ITN

"Why do we have a stills photographer?" Don't ask John Curtis that question, he's heard it before. When you've calmed him down and bought him a drink, he'll tell you that he's very busy - doing news photos, portrait shots, and background pictures.

At least 20 stills are used in each bulletin, many of them shot by John. His job is to take portraits, generic pictures [shots of pit heads for mining stories, electricity pylons for electricity stories] and of course news photos. When a big story breaks it helps to have an extra lens there. One of the most horrific pictures of the Hungerford massacre was taken by John. Jack Gibbs died in his own kitchen, blood everywhere and just a blanket covering him.

John started on a local paper, the *Stratford Express*. "It was a good training in all types of photography ... often you'd have to do six weddings a Saturday - trying for a different angle every time and getting more and more tipsy from the champagne." Most of his colleagues are now on Fleet Street but John didn't want to take that path himself. "I prefer a mix of features work and news - I spent some time on the *Sunday Mirror*, it was soul destroying, there were 30 to 40 staff photographers - often you'd never take a photo all day." He went to *Reveille*, the weekly paper. There it was anything from shots of Guy the Gorilla to haunted houses. His first brush with ITN came when he shot Reggie Bosanquet - relaxing over a game of bar billiards in Wolseys. When *Reveille* closed he

worked as a freelance before joining ITN in 1982.

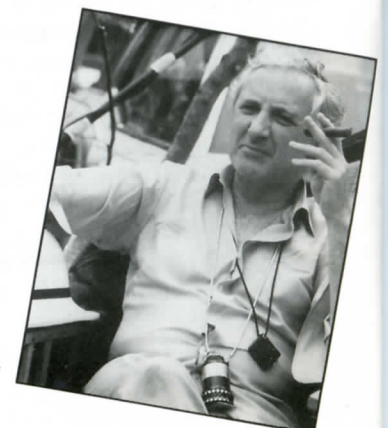
He says he prefers the mix of work he gets here. At this time of year he's at the party conferences - telephoto trained on the politicians though he says he doesn't wait until they sneeze or pick their noses. Then there are the sports photographs and of course news. John goes out on most major stories in London and the home counties. He spent a couple of days camped outside the Portland Hospital, waiting for the first pictures of Fergie and Beatrice [the long wait for her to go into hospital was entrusted to a freelance].

John got his photo in the end, with mum proudly beaming away.

Sports is another passion. He won a Nikon prize [a leading photographers' award] for a picture of Yannick Noah, dreadlocks flying, smashing a ball back at Wimbledon. His contacts with the other Wimbledon photographers are good too. When ITN wanted to find a photographer, because John was on the point of being chucked out for his embarrassing pictures of the tennis stars - John got him.

It may seem trivial but each agency picture used by ITN costs in the region of £35. Multiply that by six bulletins and the cost soon mounts up. As ITN syndicates most of its stills, a picture can often easily pay for itself. One picture can sometimes earn the company thousands in worldwide syndication. John looks wistful when talk is made of foreign trips. It would be "cost effective" for him to go too, he claims. Foreign desk please note.

**‘ I spent some time on the *Sunday Mirror* - it was soul destroying ’**



# JUMPIN JACK CASH!

**It was hard work just looking on, says MIKE CHANDLER, of the charity event to raise cash for The London Hospital's Children Appeal**

They were, of course, joking.

"You're doing what?"

"A sponsored leapfrog contest."

"What's that?"

"A team of six leapfrog over each other for half-an-hour."

"And where's all this going to happen?"

"Guildhall. October 5. Now, will you sponsor me?"

"Come on, be honest, this is an early April Fool's joke, isn't it?"

If it was, the joke was on me.

A leapfrog contest? At the Guildhall, of all places?

This I had to see.

There I was at 9:45 am on a windy, bright morning, walking into Guildhall Yard half expecting to find the place empty. Instead there were a lot of people in track suits waiting to jump over each other for money.

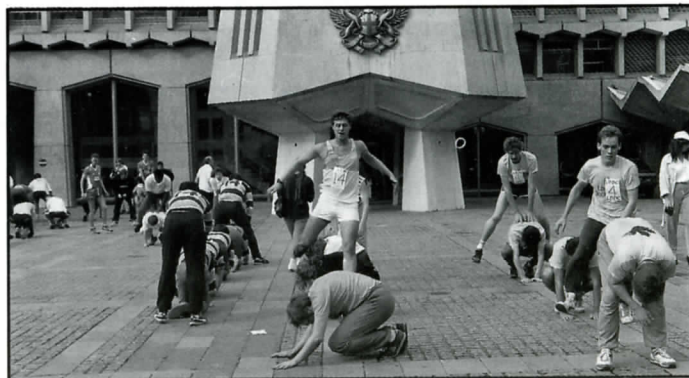
The ITN team consisted of Mary Green, Natalie Webb, Jacky Durham, Mike Green,

Don Spargo and Marrick Hola. Ina Mongia, Sonia Jonas and Tracy McGlouchlin were counting the jumps for the official score sheets.

There were 12 other teams taking part from such venerable institutions as the Bank of England and Rio-Tinto Zinc, London Docklands Development Corporation and Sainsbury's. A team of school children represented ILEA and both Millwall and Leyton Orient football clubs sent squads from their youth teams.

Just after 10 am the fun(?) began. As a spectator (thankfully!!!) I was breathless and exhausted after the first five minutes. If leapfrogging ever became an Olympic sport I don't think ITN's team would have earned a style mark of 9.5 from the West German judge, but it was certainly effective. At the end of a fast paced 30 minutes and without any pause, the team clocked up an admirable 1,860 jumps and left six hot but triumphant leapfroggers only too grateful for a rest.

The Leapfrog Shield for



the greatest number of jumps in 30 minutes was won by the Leyton Orient team, who must have been bionic. They clocked up a staggering 3,000 jumps in the allotted time and made me wonder if they had the same trainer as Ben Johnson.

However, the good news is that ITN is still in the running for the Richard Loving Cup, awarded to the team which can raise the most cash for the fund. On the day over £5,000 was promised to the appeal, and ITN was proud to have taken part.

## OBITUARY

### GERRY STONE

It was with stunned disbelief that friends at ITN greeted the news that Gerry Stone, who had worked in the security department for 15 years, died last month of a heart attack, aged 51. He leaves behind a wife, Mel, and a daughter Karen, who is in her twenties.

Gerry left ITN in August as one of the people taking advantage of the Into The Nineties plan to set up his own company. The Rolling Stone freight business showed all the signs of success and Gerry had only recently returned to ITN to show off his truck.

"He was very excited about the business," says security officer Peter Saunders, one of Gerry's best friends. "There was no doubt he was going to make a go of it. I think there is some

consolation for his wife in that at least he had achieved what he set out to do - get the firm on the road." His wife intends to carry on the company. She has experience in accounts and plans to hire a driver.

Gerry was a former secretary of the ITN coarse fishing club and the sea angling club. He was a keen photographer and regularly developed his own pictures in a dark room he had in his home.

He was a happy-go-lucky figure and very popular at ITN. "He was a real charmer and very carefree. He and his wife had just moved to Kent and everything was going his way," added Saunders.

Many ITN staff attended the funeral including Hugh Whitcomb, Mike Morris and Stewart Purvis.



# The courses to set us en route for the Nineties

One of the major aspects of Into the Nineties was retraining. RICHARD PATTERSON explains the reasons behind it and how it is happening

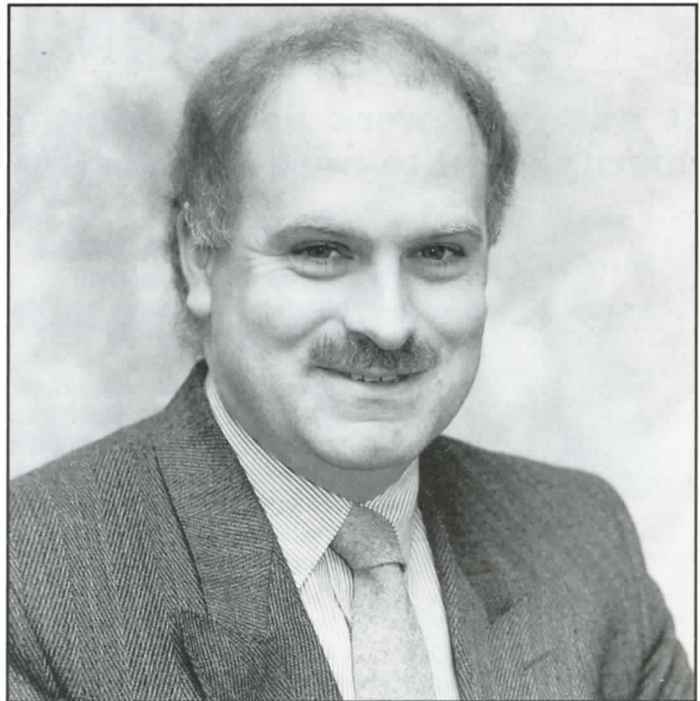
Before you go to sleep tonight, give thanks for the fact that Jack Tramiel does not own ITN. Tramiel is the man who bought the ailing Atari computer company four years ago and was recently quoted by *The Independent* as saying: "I love cutting waste, and if it's people who are waste, that's tough." Not bad for a man who survived Auschwitz by lying among the corpses. Jack's version of Into the Nineties saw 1,050 out of a total of 1,200 staff fired within days.

I quote these facts to illustrate the point that there is more than one way to effect change in organisations – and some of them do not involve extensive retraining and redeployment schemes of the kind which ITN has recently initiated. So for Jack, and anyone else who still has doubts about what we are doing, I shall try to explain the rationale.

From the outset it was obvious that even the best planned early retirement and voluntary severance scheme – and ours produced almost exactly the anticipated number of applications – would leave people in jobs which were no longer needed and vacancies with no one left to do the work. Matching the people to the vacancies wherever possible seemed a preferable alternative to any other option but required, above all else, faith – faith in the idea that people can be trained to do new jobs outside their previous experience, and faith in the notion that their new colleagues will be both accepting of this fact and

willing to see them succeed. Originally we envisaged the retraining process as consisting of three modules and this idea, at least, has survived. However, while we initially considered that Module 1 would be appropriate only to those staff with no previous front line technical experience, we subsequently came round to the idea that it would be relevant to the majority of redeployed employees.

Like all the other training courses which we shall be



means of exchanging ideas about training between staff and management. I am therefore pleased to record that the NUJ has recently agreed to send representatives to future meetings.

As I write, the first Module

best lecturers available for a course of this kind.

My one regret is the fact that we have been unable to harness the wealth of experience which will no longer be available to ITN as a result of Into the Nineties. All told, we will be losing well in excess of a thousand years' experience of ITN over the next 12 months. Sadly, however, the expressions of interest in acting as trainers on the part of staff who will be leaving the company were few in number and the concept was rejected by many as smacking of "amateurism". It seems strange that we regard ITN as a world leader yet perceive each other as "amateurs". Suffice it to say that one of the best received trainers on Duncan Enoch's team is an Editor with another ITV company!

We have asked Duncan to run Module 1 on a continuous assessment basis and thus part of the Friday of each of the three weeks is given over to the completion of a multiple choice questionnaire, already erroneously referred to as "The Test". In reality, this is intended, as much as anything else, to ensure that subjects are being adequately dealt with and to

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## ‘ Matching people to vacancies required above all else faith in the idea people can be trained to do jobs outside their previous experience ’

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mounting over the next few months, the syllabus for Module 1 – now also known as the Basic Principles of Television course – was agreed through the newly established Training Committee. This joint union/management committee has been meeting regularly over the last few months and has been an essential forum for discussing the training plans and ensuring that they are relevant, realistic and achievable. Our discussions with the representatives of the ACTT, BETA and the EETPU have never been less than constructive and I, for one, hope the committee survives the next 12 months of activity and becomes the permanent

1 course has just finished. We have concluded that there will have to be eight of these three-week, residential courses before the middle of next year and that Duncan Enoch and Associates should run at least the first four. Duncan is the former Head of Technical Training at the BBC's Evesham Training Centre – a familiar location to many ITN staff! And despite the reports on Intext which have suggested that the first course took place in a cross between Fawltly Towers and the Bates Motel, we are convinced that the form and content of the syllabus are broadly right, and that Duncan Enoch and his team represent some of the very

*continued on page 14*



# DESERT ISLAND MEMORIES

**NORMAN REES talks about some of the favourite memories he would take with him to a desert island**

## Teamwork in The Lebanon

In November 1983 I found myself huddled under a stairwell in an apartment block in Tripoli with David Nicholas sheltering from a heavy artillery bombardment. David had come to the Lebanon to see things for himself after a year in which ITN crew and reporters were permanently deployed there covering the troubles. On this particular day we had travelled from Beirut to Tripoli where Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, was under siege from a Syrian-backed PLO faction who were trying to dislodge him. After a quietish morning visiting the hospitals to get details of the latest casualties we had gone to Arafat's HQ to try for an interview. The rebels chose that moment to unleash one of their biggest artillery attacks ever. With shells still coming in we decided to make a bolt for it. Cameraman Mike Inglis, soundman Richard Gammon, David and myself were in the hands of our brave Lebanese driver who somehow managed to weave his way through the confusion to the city outskirts. ITN won the BAFTA award for our coverage of Lebanon that year thanks to the teamwork of a whole group of reporters, camera crews and editors.

## The Falklands War: covered from enemy territory

As soon as it became apparent in the April of 1982 that the invasion of the islands was imminent, I was sent off with a plane ticket to Port Stanley but by the time my flight touched down in Buenos Aires the invasion had already taken place and I was left reporting on the war for three months from enemy territory.

It was fascinating to be there and see the mood of elation turn to bitterness against Galtieri. The worst moment was the sinking of the Belgrano with the loss of Argentine life. I'll never forget having to go on the streets and ask people for their reactions. We feared for our safety and pretended to be Australian, I'm not sure if anyone was taken in but it made us feel safer.

## Launch of the American space shuttle

In April '81 we were producing a live programme of the shuttle lift-off fronted in London by Alastair Burnet. I was at the end of a live microphone at the Cape looking at a monitor, and giving the latest updates.

With about 30 seconds to go I realised that here I was in a Portakabin in a car park with no better view than anyone in Britain, so I abandoned the mike and ran the 50 yards to the public viewing gallery. As soon as I saw the shuttle safely disappear I dashed back.

## John Lennon's assassination

I was the Washington correspondent at the time, December 1980, and was up late watching television when the flash saying Lennon had been killed came on. I immediately rang the office and caught the overnight flight to New York.

When I got to the Dakota Mansions I was surprised at the upsurge of interest and dismay. Being a British correspondent it was extremely moving. People kept coming up to me saying "Please don't blame America for this."

What was amazing about this as well was that it brought home to me how small a global village the world had become in TV terms. I was fairly late back to CBS where I was sending my piece from. I got the package out for the 5.45 at about 5.40. Having done my piece I went into the next studio where the CNN presenter was just saying "And now we go to London to see how they are taking it" and Leonard Parkinson was introducing my piece. The package had been bounced to London and back to America within two minutes.

## The Cod War

In 1976 Britain was locked into a conflict with Iceland over its 200-mile territorial limit on fishing off its coast. This had important implications for fishing industries in places like Grimsby and Hull and the British government sent ships up to protect our fishing fleet which was being intimidated by Icelandic gun boats that were cutting British fishing nets.

We managed to get on board one of the gun boats just as Britain announced a temporary withdrawal of its frigates. We shot some exclusive pictures of a frigate flashing goodbye to our gun boat. But we were 20 miles off the northern

coast of Iceland so the problem was how we were going to file the film.

With the skipper's co-operation we got near enough to dry land to take a rubber dinghy to the coast where a policeman picked us up and drove us through the dark to where a private charter was being flown from the capital for us.

There was no real airstrip just a small field with four cars parked with their headlights on. I remember seeing the plane land and thinking we had to get on. But we got out, shipped the footage overnight and it made a nice little exclusive for ITN.

## John Stonehouse

I remember thinking that I hadn't had a Christmas off for seven or eight years when the call came from John Marney on the foreign desk about John Stonehouse.

On Christmas Eve, Stonehouse, the MP who faked his suicide on a Miami beach, had turned up in Australia. I just couldn't refuse to cover it.

I flew out on Christmas Eve and because of the time difference, missed Christmas Day, touching down in Melbourne on Boxing Day. The plane was full of Fleet Street journalists also going out to cover the story, we had a hilarious time and got off the plane just in time to get to the magistrates court for the hearing.

I went to Australia three times for the Stonehouse case and when he was flown back to Britain managed to get an exclusive interview with him on the flight. We jumped off at the first stop, Hong Kong, and had the interview ready to show by the time Stonehouse touched down in England. I also covered his trial - he never admitted to any wrong doing - and he signed his book *Death of an Idealist* for me.

## Watergate

Although my experience of this is no different to any reporter covering it, it was amazing. Nixon was the first American president to resign. It was an emotional occasion to be in the White House for his farewell and see him and his wife step out on to the White House grounds to board the helicopter to take them to California in disgrace. It was an amazing thing to witness.

I remember also a month later, driving down a Florida freeway - I had gone on holiday as soon as the whole thing was over - and being shocked to hear President Ford agree to pardon Nixon.

*continued on page 13*

# GOING UNDERGROUND

**Jim Green returns to one of his old army barracks that is now where ITN stores its tapes for safe-keeping.**

During the Second World War, Londoners around Tottenham Court Road would occasionally remark on the numbers of American troops around the area and wonder where they all went to. One minute they would be walking along the road, the next they would disappear from sight.

At the time, people had so much else to occupy their minds that they paid little attention. They didn't know that beneath their feet, dug deep into tunnels beneath Tottenham Court Road were secret bunkers that housed thousands of GIs and Eisenhower's British headquarters.

Those Americans didn't suddenly disappear, they used hidden passages and a special tube platform at Goodge Street station to enter their underground world which was fitted with kitchens, bathrooms and rest rooms. Originally built for the public by teams of miners, in the Forties the tunnels were taken over for military use. They lay fallow for some time after the war but then were used as an army assembly point for troops going overseas. It was during this period that, as a young corporal, News Information's Jim Green stayed here with the East Surrey Regiment, First Battalion in January 1952. Jim recalls, "Our barracks were in Canterbury and we were flying out to Tripoli from Stansted and so needed to come up to London so we could be in time for the early flight out to Libya.

"We were told we could go home till midnight so I got the tube to Morden where I was living at the time. We came

back for the midnight deadline and left at about 5 am." In Tripoli, the regiment had more salubrious accommodation: the barracks they stayed at in Bab Al-Aziziya are now Colonel Gaddafi's palace.

Last month Jim paid a nostalgic return visit to the tunnels which are now run as a storage centre by Security Archives and

are ones at Stockwell, Clapham and Camden. They were all built under Northern Line tube because this is the deepest line."

There are a mile and a half of tunnel under Goodge Street where the ITN tapes are stored along with Channel Four's and Thames', as well as countless computer companies' data,

precious manuscripts, Beatles' original tapes and an assortment of "Russian doll" bunkers - security within security-banking centres equipped with telephones and fax machines.

Known as the Eisenhower centre, it was once the American general's British base and you can still see where his bunker was and remnants of his stay such as the Lamson Communicator, an underground tube along which messages could be sent to Whitehall so that Eisenhower could keep in close contact with government officials.

The centre is only 40 per cent full, so Jim could walk along the lower section and see where he had spent the night more than 30 years ago. Soldiers' graffiti still cover the walls of the lower section. (Security Archives has spent £750,000 renovating the upper section, installing sensitive smoke detector alarms and heat sensors which keep the material at the optimum preservation temperature.) Jim found messages from people from his regiment also en route to Libya. On his first visit, Jim left no notes on the wall but this time he wrote "Jim Green, East Surrey Regiment - I came back."



*Upstairs, downstairs: the tapes are in the upper level but the lower is a reminder of its previous use.*

house ITN's tapes. Patrick O'Connor, Security Archives marketing director, explained: "After the tunnels stopped being used for military purposes, the Government decided to lease them out. There were plans to turn them into all sorts of things like night clubs or golf ranges but we eventually secured the leases for archive purposes. As well as this centre under Goodge Street, there



It seems nobody was bored testing out ITN's new board game – "News at Ten". ITN staff and press met up at the Groucho Club recently to test their powers of concentration and skill at quizzes. Pictured below, scenes of celebration at a recent party for *Super Channel News*.



## MEDIA QUOTES

- "Is the freedom of terrorist organisations to disseminate their propaganda through the media a price we must pay for the maintenance of democracy?" – **John Hermon, head of the RUC**
- "Poor George (Bush), he can't help it – he was born with a silver foot in his mouth." "The one bland Greek in the world and he's running for president . . . Zorba the Clerk." – **Quotes from ITN factbook**
- "I resigned a good job on *News at Ten* to follow the Peter Jay mission to explain and ended up with Roland Rat." – **Bob Hunter, managing director of Now BSB**
- "I truly believe in giving people what they want rather than what you think they ought to have. There has been an assumption that current affairs is a minority interest and if you try and branch out beyond that and try to become popular you undermine what current affairs is supposed to be doing." – **Jane Hewland, LWT**
- "Regionalism is going to become more important for ITV in the Nineties. We will become much sharper regionally. There will be more regional news." – **Greg Dyke**
- "We welcome unionisation. It will depend on three points: that there is a single union; no strikes agreement and total flexibility." – **Sky Channel**
- "We have got to split up the ownership of media outlets more than is now possible under the Monopolies and Mergers Act. There is far too much concentration. It is easier to prevent new acquisitions than split up old conglomerates so I would make new acquisitions very much more difficult." – **Roy Hattersley**
- "I must apologise to the deaf for the loss of sub titles." – **Angela Rippon**
- "Actors rest, journalists freelance and marketing men become consultants. Out-of-work television executives used to become independent producers but nowadays they get jobs in satellite television." – **Times diary**

## Fuming over the ban

Few issues these days are guaranteed to raise such fury as smoking. On most eight carriage commuter trains these days two are designated for smokers. Yet, non-smokers regularly intrude and announce that the carriage is "disgusting". But who asked them to get into a smoking carriage in the first place? At work the battle hots up throughout the country. ITN is poised to introduce a voluntary smoking ban (I will not volunteer).

Clearly, the subject is a serious one. Deaths from smoke-related diseases are not for casual discounting. But there is another aspect of the issue which I want to concentrate upon because I find it also serious. It is the level of intolerance towards smokers shown by the zealots in the anti-smoking lobby and their selective choices of what should and should not be banned. I smoke but do not drive a car yet I, and my two young children, am obliged to inhale significantly greater levels of toxic fumes than elsewhere because so many Libertarians choose to drive their cars in London rather than use public transport. I regularly have to sprint the buggy with younger child through clouds of exhaust fumes from lorries and walk along main roads where endless queues of cars sit in jams belching out steady streams of carbon monoxide.

As a parent with young children I have to operate like a minesweeper in steering them through streets littered with dog mess. Often I fail, especially when they run through public parks and commons and face the delightful prospect of removing this widespread 'product' of other people's lack of consideration.

I have also to confess that I am seriously more worried about my children being killed as a result of bad or drunken drivers than I am from passive smoking.

Yet how many of the zealots who impose their views upon me have dogs which they exercise in public places and drive cars? And how many of them have driven their cars with more than the legal maximum of alcohol inside them?

I have all these worries but I would not ban dogs from the street nor cars from the roads. Nor would I ban alcohol, although it is responsible for more

deaths than smoking.

At its most absurd level this zealous selectivity can be seen in the United States. There it is an inalienable right to own guns which can be bought over the counter or through the post, with the result that one President has been killed and another wounded in the last 25 years (not to mention the standard killing of ordinary citizens between 20,000 and 22,000 each year). Yet recently New York restaurants banned smoking on health grounds!

You will not succeed in eradicating smoking any more than Prohibition stopped drinking whilst such selective intolerance continues. Many smokers are less than happy with their habit and there has been a significant decline in our numbers (paralleled by a remarkable increase in the quantity of alcohol consumed). Yet we seem set on a path where the zealots would not blink an eyelid at people being denied their choice of employment because they smoke. The freedom they passionately assert for themselves is fast becoming the routine hounding of others. The compromises which all of us have to make with the owners of cars, dogs, Sony Walkmans, power drills, as well as *The Sun* readers, happen every day. There are no greater grounds for selectively pursuing smokers than for banning alcohol on the company's premises. I would not dream of advocating the latter course yet am the victim of the former. It is a sombre joke that smokers are a dying breed. It concerns me that some aspects of that necessary social compromise are dying with us.

Smoker

## Should alarm bells ring?

Is it only me who thinks that these internal security systems with their so-called secret entry code are in fact a bit of a joke?

Anybody visiting is immediately told the numbers that will gain them entry to, say, 45 Mortimer Street, and as there is no reception at No 45, they can do what they like once they have their foot in the door.

I have seen visitors wandering around unable to find the person they want but able to, if they chose to, enter quite a few unlocked and unattended offices. I have also encountered quite a few people who are not looking

for ITN personnel at all but have somehow got in.

Of course any would-be criminal or BBC mole could just wait outside one of the entry doors. Someone is bound to come along and nobody ever seems to question people who follow them in.

The only thing the entry

system does do is cause a lot of irritation for people with armsful of files. You have to put them all down, tap in the number and then pick them all up and get through the door before the buzzer stops. This is not always easy.

Couldn't we give them up as a bad lot, please?

## MAKE-UP ARTISTS



## Making faces

Pictured above is Clarice Tilling, who along with Joan Watson and Penny Marks, is responsible for making sure that ITN's on-screen reporters look their best. In their tiny make-up room, the trio take it in turn to do the 10-hour shift, always on call in case an interviewee arrives to make a recording during the day.

But as much of their job revolves around discretion as make-up skills. "It's like a confessional box in here," said one of the team. "It's the last place the presenter will go

before appearing on screen and we have to make sure they feel relaxed. Often we will chat about what's going on in their lives and you do find out quite a few things."

But the ladies would never dream of passing on any titbits, "It would destroy the trust they have in us - discretion is an important part of the job."

And what do the artists think of the general standard of make-up at ITN? They give it the thumbs up. "Most people don't wear a lot but they apply it well."

Brighton has recently played host to the 21st International Broadcasting Convention (IBC). This bi-annual event in the UK interleaves with its sister show held in Montreux Switzerland to provide an annual international showcase of new Television and Allied Products to the broadcasting industry. From the first convention held in 1967 the event has grown steadily to outstrip the facilities offered by earlier venues in London. With the move to Brighton came a greatly increased stand space and more easily secured hotel accommodation for the multitude of visitors.

IBC 88 has been no exception to this growth with over 200 exhibitors occupying more than 21,000 sq metres of stand space, shared between the Brighton Centre, Metropole and Grand hotels. Extra space had to be provided in a temporary pavilion at the end of the West Pier, and one must not forget the growing numbers of OB and satellite displays along the Esplanade. Demonstrations of various High Definition Television systems took place within the exhibition with additional presentations at the local Odeon cinema and at the sports centre of the University of Sussex.

It would seem, from speaking to exhibitors, that the number of overseas visitors has increased dramatically this year. Previously Europeans have preferred to attend the Montreux venue. This very success then must pose a threat to Brighton as once again the convention seems in danger of outgrowing the venue.

Turning then to the exhibition, the content of which has undergone many

## Brighton's IBC convention goes for growth

by Don Peers

changes over the years to meet the present trends in the industry. It is not simply the advancements in technology which have shaped the present form but rather the changes in working practice and the creative possibilities that have been opened up.

Traditionally products have been developed initially for the lucrative American market and only after a further period of development or modification are they offered elsewhere. Our television system is invariably more demanding of a design than that of the Americans. The European requirement too does not automatically parallel that of the US broadcaster. Astute manufacturers will often show a prototype so that the market potential may be further assessed. Prospective buyers are also given an opportunity to influence the features found in the final design.

In this highly competitive marketplace the rewards are high for those who get it right. Over the years though quite a few have fallen by the wayside or have diverted into other markets. For the broadcasters the task of selecting the right product is just as difficult, particularly if a number of manufacturers all offer a product which will, in principal, do the same job. Operational ease, features provided, quality of manufacture, techni-

cal specification, technical back-up, ease of getting spares and the availability of operational and maintenance training are just some of the points to be considered. Last but not least is of course the price.

Manufacturers time the release of new products for launch at IBC and orders taken during the show are highly prized. The ITN purchase of the Radamec EPO system which will allow comprehensive remote control of our cameras in the news studios was announced during the convention.

It is against this highly competitive back-drop that often sales get a detailed briefing on the eve of the show. The briefing will often introduce new jargon and even the product name or parts thereof may well be acronyms. This 'new language' soon comes into common useage within select groups of interested parties, leaving outsiders totally bewildered.

Many of us have been charged with looking at particular aspects of IBC and reporting our findings. Interesting items will form the basis of many a conversation in the coming weeks, but please be careful not to lose your listeners with the 'new language'.

This leads us on to a proposal by the editor of *The Lens* to produce a glossary of words and terms relating to new products and systems coming into use at ITN. The text for each entry will be written as a layman's guide, so it can be useful to us all. It is expected that the glossary will run to about 200 entries, so it will run over several issues. We hope to start the first glossary in the next issue.

## DESERT ISLAND MEMORIES

continued from page 9

### Inauguration of Reagan

The inauguration of Ronald Reagan in January 1981 was most unique. The whole nation was sweating on the announcement that the American hostages would be released - they had been in captivity for 444 days. Jimmy Carter had been negotiating with the Iranians for the release but they refused to allow the hostages off the tarmac until Reagan was sworn in.

They refused to let Carter face up to his demise as president with one moment of victory.

I remember watching the scenes of euphoria in the White House grounds as Reagan took office and seeing, on our monitors, Jimmy Carter leaving by a back entrance for a plane to Georgia. It was a poignant moment. Only after this did the Iranians allow the hostages' plane to fly off to Algiers.

I also covered the attempted assassination of Reagan.

I was in a cutting room when I got the call every foreign correspondent dreads. "Is it true?" I quickly hedged: 'I'm checking it out at my end. What have you heard?' "As far as we know Reagan's not dead but he is in a bad way." I told them to book the satellite and swiftly tuned into the network.

All the presenters were just repeating the news that Reagan had been shot but there were no pictures yet. I told my assistant Virginia Bailey to get over to ABC for some pictures; she used an old ABC badge to get in - you can imagine the chaos in the building.

She ran into the equivalent of the master control area and saw a dub 'I think that's for me,' she said, grabbed it and we fed it over with 30 seconds to spare. It was the lead for *News at Ten*.

Someone, somewhere at ABC must still be waiting for their pictures.

### Uganda

After Milton Obote took over from Idi Amin, opposition parties claimed that atrocities under him were even worse than under Amin. I was sent out to see if I could stand this up.

I arrived at Entebbe airport with a *Daily Telegraph* reporter and a press conference was immediately set up for us with Obote and his entire cabinet. We were told there was no truth in the accusations, they had nothing to hide and we had the run of the country.

Taking him at his word, always fatal, we went to the villages outside Kampala where villagers told us about killings by the army. We did our report and got back to Kampala to find the secret police waiting for us at the hotel reception.

We had five minutes to pack and were being escorted to the border with Kenya. The last words of the Ugandan officer to the Kenyan customs official were, "These people are very lucky. If it was left to me they would be shot."

continued from page 8

enable any area which is generally giving problems to be the subject of further revision. Contrary to popular belief, the results will not be kept on personal files and held against individuals for the rest of their careers!

The week following the Module 1 training course will normally be devoted to two further activities – a three day, in-house overview of the work of all the company's departments, known as Module 1A; and, debriefing interviews with either Bill Reay or Ted Taylor, intended to establish that the main elements of Module 1 have been assimilated before trainees move on to Module 2.

Module 2 represents the start of the job-specific element of the re-training scheme and, consequently, we have prepared a wide variety of courses to meet each particular need. Indeed, 15 separate courses are being organised, each in its way as important and detailed as Module 1. For some of these – including the ENG, MFT and VT operations courses – we are enlisting the services of Ravensbourne College. In the case of Graphics Technicians we are employing experts from many leading manufacturers, including Aston Electronics and Logica Communications, as well as the resources of Middlesex Polytechnic.

The 12-week Module 2 course for trainee programme directors will

possibly be one of the most ambitious ever mounted by an ITV Company and will involve us in taking over the studio at HTV Cardiff for two weeks. We shall be sending our own studio crew and director, tapes of 5.45 and *News at Ten* titles, previously recorded bulletins and all the relevant scripts and running orders. This will enable the trainees to direct 5.45 and *NAT* programmes in as realistic an environment as possible, but away from the critical and curious gaze of their colleagues at ITN!

Finally, redeployed staff will move on to Module 3, on-the-job training in their new section, this part of the process lasting until they are sufficiently competent to "fly solo".

Clearly, all this has required a substantial investment on ITN's part and has given the lie to the idea that this ITV company, at least, is not prepared to spend money on training. It also

**‘ Training is everything: the peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education ’**

represents, as I have said, a considerable act of faith. Nevertheless, as the first 10 trainees move through the training scheme, I would remind you of the words of Mark Twain – a rather more enlightened man than Jack Tramiel – who wrote: "Training is everything: the peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education." Time will tell, but I would suggest that the cauliflowers will be worth watching this year!

**RICHARD PATTERSON**

## Trainee programme directors' appointments

The following production staff have been appointed as trainee programme directors:

**Sue Caro** (Studio Cameras). Sue trained as a PA with ITN in 1979 and was promoted to principal PA in 1984. She has always shown a keen interest in the wider aspects of TV production and joined the first production trainee course run by ITN in 85/86.

On completion of this course Sue joined the studio camera section where she has worked in the studios, on the OB unit and in still store.

**Lesley Friend** (CH4 Graphics Supervisor). Lesley joined ITN in 1983 as a graphics artist to work on the then new *C4 News*.

Lesley has a BA(Hons) degree in Graphic Design and has also worked as a designer within the printing industry.

In 1984 Lesley was promoted to C4 graphics supervisor and played a major role in the design of the "new look" for *C4 News*.

**Stephen Rankin** (VTR Operator). Steve joined ITN in January 1987 as a VTR operator from the BBC where he had a number of years' experience in a wide range of VTR activities.

A graduate of UMIST, Steve has also spent some time as a freelance photographer including teaching of the subject, as well as producing and directing several short films and videos.

**Jane Thompson** (Production Assistant). Jane joined ITN from Thames TV in 1982 as a trainee PA. At Thames she gained considerable experience of studio, OB and location filming work covering a variety of programmes.

Jane was promoted to deputy shift leader in early '87 and has taken a keen interest in the training of new PAs.

The four appointees will commence their training programmes towards the end of October.



### LAST ISSUE'S WINNER

Winner of the caption competition from *The Lens* issue No 29, the picture is shown on the left, was Kim Lacey with "Don't be so hard on him Di! He's only a fxxxxxx trainee!"



### CAPTION COMPETITION

Can you think of a funny caption to go with this picture? If you can you could win a trip to the Bahamas, second prize is a bottle of wine. Entries to the press office no later than December 15.

Name.....Dept.....  
Caption.....  
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# ITN'S TOP TEN NEWS STORIES

Last year *The Lens* ran a survey among staff to find out ITN's top ten news stories for the year. We hope to repeat the study again this year. Apart from this form, other forms will be circulated around the building and we are hoping for an even bigger response than last year. The idea is to choose the ten best stories – not necessarily stories that you have worked on. Then place them, in order of priority, from one to ten. Listing the reasons why you have selected the stories. They can be British-based or international. You can choose any stories you like but, as a memory jogger, some that you might like to include are listed below.

The murder of the IRA team in Gibraltar; the postal dispute; the Ben Johnson scandal; the Sudan disaster; the birth of Princess Beatrice; the Bangladesh disaster; the Piper Alpha disaster; Aids; the IRA's European campaign; glasnost; the rise in interest rates; the American presidency; the crash of the Iranian airbus; General Zia's death; the nurses' dispute; the Mill Hill Barracks bombing; the arrest of Howard Marks; Kinnock's re-election.

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Person of the Year (and why) .....  
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Name: ..... Department: .....

To be returned to Susan d'Arcy, Press Office, by December 20

# Giving the BBC a run for their money



As we all know the team we sent up to Newcastle to take part in the Great North Run had an enjoyable time – but what we want to know is: Did they beat the BBC challenge? Unofficially Richard Lambert, who organised the ITN involvement in the race, suspected that we had triumphed over the Beeb. But the BBC refused to reveal their running times – preferring to wait for the event's organiser to announce

the official times. But the truth is finally out ITN did beat the BBC. The average ITN time was 20hr 43min 40sec against a BBC one of 21.24.25.

As well as fending off the BBC, the team was also raising funds for Cancer Research, collecting a total of £520. The team would like to thank all those who gave toward their funds and also the ITN Club for its support.

Pictured above are most of the team. From left to right, bottom row: Roger Davies, Peter Robertshaw, Richard Lambert, Andrew Palmer and Matthew Kemp. Top row, left to right: Paul, Paul Lambert, Paula Wilkinson, Marcus Mason, Peter Yore, Steve Shipman, Mike Inglis and Michael Green. Missing from the picture are Fiona McBeth and Bill Bradshaw.

## Vice-President's day

Thursday, August 18, 1988  
by Brian Pendry

Brian Edmonton's first vice-president's day was a great success.

Forty-six members and guests turned out on a sultry day which produced some good scores, particularly in the main competition.

The newly inscribed Vice-President's Cup, kindly presented to the society by Brian Edmonton, was won by Brian White with 37 pts. Second spot was fiercely contested between our old friend and associate George Thompson, and James Lancaster who made a rare appearance in an attempt to swing himself into the Nineties, with 35 pts.

The morning nine-hole competition saw those sporting giants Mark Austin and Geoff Moyses take the honours with 22 pts. and 20½ pts. respectively. Jim Mitchell and Dave Stuckey took the best

front and back nines and Steve Giedziun won the hidden holes competition.

## Golf

Reuters had gone to a great deal of trouble arranging this shoot. Sponsors had been found, detailed maps made, parking and transport arranged. The only thing they couldn't arrange was the weather.

A little after 8.30 am, it was almost impossible to see the clubhouse through the fog. The ITN team of Brian Foakes, John Sharman, Dave Peppal and Mike Chandler sat drinking coffee and wondering if the day was going to turn into a disaster.

We were one of the first teams away. With our usual logic we picked one of the stands in the middle of the course, Trench Warfare. All I can say is if I were shooting for food I'd have gone very hungry.

Then, at 2 pm, ITNGC paid the price for being so keen. We were "volun-

teered" to go first on what was called: *The Four Man Flurry*. What's that? That's exactly what we were wondering.

On the word of command half a dozen clays appeared. As soon as we fired we re-loaded only just in time for the next batch which seemed to come out of nowhere! In a frantic four minutes 100 clays were fired over our heads. I lost count of the number of cartridges I fired, but Brian shot over 40 rounds in that time! The only thing I know for sure was my shoulder ached and I wanted to do it all over again!

Our competition over, it was time to relax and await the scores. Apprehensively we watched the board fill. ITNGC came a creditable fourth with a score of 307 out of 500. This earned us a prize.

Although we all enjoyed ourselves, the reason for the day was to raise money for Help a London Child. ITN Club and the Gun Club made generous donations and helped towards the rough total of over £2,000 collected on the day.

Mike Chandler