ACTION BEGINS ON NORTH SEA

THOUSANDS of workers on North Sea oil platforms are threatened with massive redundancies and huge cuts to wages and conditions.

The employees organisation, has expressed its concern at the news that thousands of workers could be made redundant due to the economic downturn in the oil industry.

The Oil and Gas Union (OGU) said that the cuts were in response to the global financial crisis and the resulting fall in oil prices.

The cuts, which could affect up to 20,000 workers, are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

"This is a time of unprecedented uncertainty for workers in the oil industry," said OGU general secretary David O'Dell.

"We are seeing cuts across the board, and this is only the beginning. We are calling on the government to take action to support the industry and prevent further job losses."

The cuts come as oil prices continue to fall, with Brent crude now below $60 per barrel.

EVEN THE most optimistic of oil workers had reason to fear for their future when the price of oil dropped below $60 per barrel.

Workers on North Sea platforms have seen their wages and conditions cut as a result of the oil price collapse.

"It's a tough time for everyone," said one worker on a platform off the coast of Scotland.

"We're seeing cuts to our wages and conditions, but we're doing what we can to make ends meet."

As well as wage cuts, workers are facing redundancies as companies try to reduce costs in response to the falling oil prices.

"We're hearing that some companies are planning to make redundancies," said another worker on a platform off the coast of Scotland.

"It's a worrying time for everyone, and we're doing what we can to support each other."

The oil industry has been hit hard by the collapse of oil prices, with the price of Brent crude falling below $60 per barrel.

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EDITORIAL

NATIONALISATION?

WE ALL KNOW that it is unaffordable to say that anyone believes in nationalisation. Even realisation of companies recently privatised is considered by the Labour Party to be too expensive.

But the Transam affair surely must put that notion to the back of the queue. If Transam's allegations are substantiated - and there must be the fullest enquiry into them - then surely every company should consider leaving this national resource in the hands of the people.

We can understand the logic of sacking workers, cutting wages and destroying lives. After all, it's a way of life. But the actual substance of this experience and it's not only oil workers that have followed this kind of behaviour.

No one offshore will be unduly shocked at the idea that essential maintenance was delayed and lives put at risk because of a scam that went out of control. We've lived with death and injury on a massive scale on the North Sea for 26 years. But how would an incoming Labour Government feel about this strategically important industry run by people who were prepared to facilitate millions from the exchequer while a Tory government is in power. What hope for Labour?

ACCOUNTABILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY is a key word in what we are seeing. The big oil companies consider themselves accountable to no one. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, not the Secretary of State for Energy and certainly not the public.

The Timothee Williams inquiry should challenge that. They at least have to explain why someone died in their industry.

So it was sad to hear of the resignation of the chairman of which the relatives of the dead man felt they were being treated with the utmost contempt. They have had to wait for an unprecedented time to hear why Timothee died, only to discover that the most important distinction that the whole exercise was being staged for the benefit of the big business.

Of course the oil companies have never felt they had to tell anyone the truth about what goes on offshore. And this has been their argument to the Press. But it's a bit ironic to see the Glasgow Herald's so-called "quality" paper repeating what old terms of dis-information for the "showbiz" and challenge, meaning that it's being used in this enquiry.

And how to describe the Texas's press relations on the Colombian incident? Maybe a downright lie is just a little strong. But somebody must have told the story of the Glasgow Herald who said about the ship's staff "This kindly irascible liquid gas steamed into drilling equipment."

That hardly gives the impression of an event in which the case in the Occidental was uncontrolled and led to the destruction of the rig and the death of 13 of our colleagues.

CONTACT BLOWOUT

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FLARE OFF

YOUR LETTERS

EXPLOITED

ENOUGH

With reference to the letter from "a disgruntled worker" in Blowout 6.

Do the catering crew know that they have the power to get what they want, (or should I say need), from Universal. If a construction worker does not finish a job, then it will take longer to do and even more if everyone has to be paid. If it cost a lot then work will be delayed.

Cook  and steward's could be the most powerful union in the offshore industry. In fact they could bring the industry to a standstill just to get what they deserve. We have been working long hours all our lives in the same shoes as you. We think through Blowout we may have the chance to organise ourselves. We work just as hard as anyone else and in fact even harder. All we need is a bit of solidarity. I work all catering companies, be it fair, alright, one day we will bite back.

If the catering staff can put up with Universal, now we jack up old rig on orca, so join the catering company that will lose in the end. I can't see Shell company giving the contract to a catering company with a strike on their record. For example, look what happened to Thomsen Catering in Morayfield. They were on strike and they are no longer exist.

You love that kick on the cake long enough. We at boating point. You have exploited us long enough.

Remember, an off shore company is not a union man. We will have the power to get what we want.

A Really Pissed-Off Chef

NO FOOLS

With reference to your article, "Aimrod-The North Sea - Lobbies" in issue No 4 April 90.

What a great recruiting campaign for the "Offshore Cause"! One wonders if anyone except a few that have a vested interest in anything that has to do with the oil industry would believe that such a campaign is anything other than a money-making exercise.

There is no way that one can possibly believe that such an effort was made to get the Scottish Working People's Charter off the ground. Then again one wonders if the so-called "Working People's Charter" is anything other than a money-making exercise.

The second is that the badges on the cover sheet "commitment to safety" not "excellence in safety". In conclusion I would say that if you wish to get involved in the battle under one banner, do not single out individual groups of men for ridicule.

Mike Gordon

Lophord Brothers

Niscon South

MAKING AN EFFORT

I have worked in the offshore drilling industry for more than 20 years, and I would like to tell you about some of the experiences I have had in working in the industry.

I have been involved in a number of different projects over the years, most of which have been offshore projects. I have been fortunate enough to work on some of the most challenging projects, and I have learned a lot from the experience.

One of the most challenging projects I have been involved in was the installation of a new platform in the North Sea. This was a large project, and it required a lot of planning and coordination. I worked closely with the project team to ensure that the installation went smoothly.

Another project I have been involved in was the installation of a new pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico. This was a large project, and it required a lot of coordination with the project team. I worked closely with the team to ensure that the installation went smoothly.

I have also been involved in a number of smaller projects, such as the installation of new equipment on an existing platform. These projects were smaller in scale, but they were still challenging and required a lot of planning and coordination.

Working in the offshore drilling industry has been a rewarding experience. I have learned a lot from the experience, and I have enjoyed being a part of some of the most challenging projects. I would highly recommend working in this industry to anyone who is interested in the field.

Medic

THE DIET

I am employed by a service company as a Safety Technician mainly on drilling rigs, and I recently picked up a copy of Blowout while working on a Maersk rig. Your excellent publication certainly lives up to its reputation.

I first became aware of the OILC whilst working on the Torm Alpha hook-up, and I often heard Ronnie McDonald address meetings. We certainly is a gifted orator who not only knows his subject, but also passionately believes in its cause. It makes me good to see Ronnie, Frank Korn and Mike and offshore union leaders on the Katy keeping our end up.

I like many other service hands, am on a day-rate basis, which in effect means that we are no more casual than casual workers. We are offshore for weeks not knowing when we are getting home. When at home we don't know how long we will have with our families. No job security, no pension, no sick pay, no awareness of a minimum days offshore. If we do want to complain about conditions of employment we are put on "the diet".

For the benefit of the uninformed, "the diet" is the punishment dished out by the mudline service company managers, where you are left at home (without pay) for anything up to four months with the silent treatment. Dating one of these punishment periods on the beach, I was told that there was no work as business was slack; yet when I telephoned my workmates I discovered that everyone was offshore. The other common excuse is that we telephoned you but you were not in; or service hands must run a telephone answering machine.

I believe that what we have to do is, at the next general election, vote in a Labour government, to bring in legislation to protect service hands from the abuse of service company managers. We also need to try and win the support of the public, and educate the greedy, with the aim of getting union membership to over 90% of the workforce - only then will we have the chance of bringing about a safer, fairer, secure and more comprehensive working environment in the service industry, and bring some of the offshore oil and gas industry. It will not be easy, it will mean sacrifices of time, energy and resources, but that's the cause of the labour and make union movement.

Many of the young men now coming out of the industry were at primary school when Maggie rose to power. They haven't experienced the alternatives. I was lucky to be a trainee roundabout the other day. He was on one of the main government schemes, he earned £40 for 14 twelve hour shifts of dirty, dangerous, hard work, yet thought Thatcher was great. But wishes go all the way to the OILC and keep up the good work.

Name withheld

FOR AN OFF-SHORE UNION

You may already have seen the enclosed letter from the Ton OIM to his contract staff. The main statement in the press by Shell saying that the OILC is not affecting production on their platforms seems to be a rather false statement. It is obvious that the overtime ban is having some effect of the letter from the OIM is anything to go by. The point about the OILC not being a union really bothers me here. We would really like to see the OILC becoming a known face in the offshore union embracing all offshore workers. We know that this is something for the future, maybe after the Continental Shelf Agreement is in place. We feel that this must be the way forward as the track record of the established unions is criminal to say the least.

We hope you give this letter much consideration. Regards,

UK Offshore Industries Union
Ronnie McDonald
Keep up the good work

Tore Workforce

Christian Fellowship
North West Batton c/o Amore
Greenbrook Road
East Tullos
Aberdeen AB1 4HR

Dear Sir or Madam,

Through your excellent paper we would like to contact any persons involved in the offshore industry that have a Christian Fellowship interest in their employment.

Here on the N.W. Batton we have a fellowship that is growing in strength and numbers and would be very happy to reply to all letters to the above address.

God Bless all at Blowout and in the offshore industry.

Ron Stokes

60x10 Line
by Bob McNair

NOVEMBER 6, 1986, just a few miles off Sumburgh Airport in the Shetlands, 45 offshore workers died in what is still the world’s worst civilian helicopter accident.

The events surrounding the Chinook helicopter tragedy provoked great antagonism towards Shell from those working on the Brent, where the aircraft was on charter from British International Helicopters.

This was in response to Shell’s intention to fly 45 of their personnel to Sumburgh to full the requests to respond to the numerous and persistent safety concerns of the workforce.

Industrials relations offshore were already strained by the sackings and wage cutting in the wake of the oil price crisis. The Chinook crash came after five years of mounting safety concerns and brought the tension to a head on the Brent.

The events that surround the introduction and operation of this helicopter are of special interest. They reveal Shell’s callousness hidden behind its benign public image.

The cut throat competition that exists between helicopter operators is privately acknowledged by the Oil Companies.

In the North Sea the different types of helicopters are essentially fulfilling five different roles. These are inter-field movements, medical evacuation, firefighting support, and the emergency (SAR) flights. At 1989 level there are approximately 300 pilots rostered on to 120 helicopters and each aircraft is rostered in by, on average, about 4 technicians. Of the 11 different types of helicopter that have been used the Sikorsky SH-3 is the workhorse of the industry. In a year operations the helicopter can achieve in excess of 300 flying hours. Its range and capacity normally limits it to flying between Sumburgh and the Brent Field.

In the 1970’s the build up of offshore development was mirrored by the rapid increase in helicopter movements. By the time the real impact of the oil market began to reach the industry in 1986, the rise in offshore traffic at Aberdeen’s Dyce Helipad had been relentless. Thousands of flights were taking place every week. A million passengers had already been transported.

The organisation and administration involved in maintaining personnel on and offshore was enormous, particularly on the Brent, where passengers continued on to Aberdeen via fixed wing charter flights. The mounting congestion over the Shetlands even necessitated the intervention of NATO’s Saxa Fjord radar to temporarily alleviate the problem. The total exercise in moving personnel and equipment over 2,500 of vital equipment (tens of thousands) was becoming increasingly disproportionate to cost. The sensitivity of Sumburgh to become flogged only compounded the situation. Prolonged delays and crew change backlogs in all directions between Sumburgh and the Brent Field were a costly logistical nightmare.

The BV234R (Chinook) carried many thousands of passengers and at the accountant’s request, you can’t measure barrels of oil in men’s lives. Could you?

Logistics experts can offset against the profit and the UK’s aviation industry are estimated to the maximum. The cost of a chartered helicopter is only a small proportion of the overall expenditure when additional travel and hotel costs are, as are travel and hotel costs, at a local minimum. The cost of a chartered helicopter is only a small proportion of the overall expenditure when additional travel and hotel costs are when added to the costs of fixed wing charter rates and landing fees at Sumburgh, and in the guaranteed full complement of passengers Shell would also be able to increase such inefficiency’s cost-effectiveness still further. But perhaps most importantly, by-passing Sumburgh would significantly improve matters offshore, where, with the central man of the specialist a small component, could be delayed by 10s of days a Scan behind the scenes.

Although many helicopters could accommodate or be upgraded to cope with, the larger helicopters like the Sikorsky CH-54 Sea Stallions or the Antonov An-225, were not available. However there was a long range, high energy helicopter in the process of being constructed by the Vertoil Division of the Boeing Company in the U.S. This was the civilian version of the unmanned Rooftop Boeing VH-217 Chinook was evaluated in November 1976, British Airways Helicopters (BAH) purchased a version of the Bell 234R (long range) versions for use in the North Sea. After aviation authority approval was obtained in America and Britain in June 1981 the first BAH-Chinook flew to the Brent Field on charter to Shell on the 1st July 1981. The Chinook was handed to the Grangemouth Shell as the only new concept in civil helicopter travel. It is being used to ferry the people, fuel and supplies offshore.

The BV234R (Chinook) carries many thousands of passengers and in the accountant’s request, you can’t measure barrels of oil in men’s lives. Could you?

In this inaugural year the BV234R’s carried 42,000 passengers whilst on charter to Shell. A remarkable achievement considering the conceptual problems that had been with the project.

In 1982 the BV234R was converted to a flight test vehicle and was used for testing the helicopter’s systems and performance. The helicopter was equipped with a number of new avionics and systems, including a new fly-by-wire flight control system. The helicopter was also fitted with a number of new engines, including a new 2.5 MW turboshaft engine.

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The BV234R (Chinook) carried many thousands of passengers and in the accountant’s request, you can’t measure barrels of oil in men’s lives. Could you?

The Total Number of Passengers Carried per Year from Aberdeen’s Dyce Helipad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Passengers Carried</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>40,000 passengers/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>140,000 passengers/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>220,000 passengers/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Subsequently during the 1980s)</td>
<td>The numbers of passengers increased to over 500,000 passengers/year</td>
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The necessity of helicopter transport offshore is well understood by the 55,000 strong workforce. To operate without this type of aircraft would be extremely hazardous if not impossible. Respect for the pilots amongst the oil workers is very high and both groups share the risks as they ply their trades on North Sea.

Current salary is only £400 per week for a single person and £750 per week for a married couple.

Secondly, if you’re paying National Insurance Contributions at the full rate there’s the State Pension based on your earnings – the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme (SERPS).

Cautiously this will provide the average earner with only £40 a week.

The amount has been reduced recently for anyone retiring after the year 2000, and there’s every possibility that this will be reduced further in the future.

This hardly gives you a lot to look forward to when you retire.

Personal Pension Manager is the key to a secure and contented future. With one of our consultants and Personal Pension Manager behind you, you can well afford to look ahead.

Consultations representing Manulife Financial:
- David Fettes and Audrey Henderson (Members of the Audit Committee, 23 Carden Place, Aberdeen AB6 1UQ Tel: 0224 641164)
- U. N. C. S. (Chairman)
- S. C. (Chief Executive)
- Thirty Three
- Values
- Carr
- Fall as well as Rise

advertisements
CATERERS SUCCESS

Recently on the Brent Delta, the Catteries on board decided to work the "existing terms and conditions" of their contracts.

Over the past few trips we have been short-staffed and have been allowing workers from other companies to work extra days or extra weekends to cover the shortages. This has resulted in us keeping the otherwise unemployed people who are out of work.

In the long term, it is better for us to have our own staff doing the work, rather than relying on others.

After a few weeks, the workers were happy and the customers were satisfied. The staff were able to work towards their own goals and the business saw a significant increase in profits.

STEWARDESS SPEAKS OUT

I am writing this to say my piece about the service in the airline industry. As a stewardess for [company name], I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by our industry.

As the industry continues to struggle, we must work together to ensure the safety and comfort of our passengers. It is important to remember that our job is more than just serving food and drinks; it is about creating a positive experience for our passengers.

FIGHT ON

As an airline employee, I have witnessed some of the issues in the industry firsthand. Our current negotiations are crucial for the future of our industry.

The current negotiation is about the terms and conditions of our employment. It is important for our company to recognize the efforts we make and to provide fair compensation.

TRIDENT II

I am writing to you regarding the recent decision to cancel the Trident II missile program. As a member of the industry, I believe that it is crucial for our country to maintain a strong defense.

The decision to cancel the Trident II program is a missed opportunity for our industry. It is important for us to work together to ensure that our country remains strong.

BBC TUNE OUT

I am a member of the BBC workforce, and I have noticed a decrease in the quality of the programming. As a result, I decided to tune out and cut back on my BBC viewing.

I believe that the BBC should focus on providing high-quality programming that resonates with the audience. It is important for the BBC to stay relevant and to maintain its reputation as a trusted source of news and information.

MOBIL SUBSCRIBE

With the current economic situation, it is important for us to remain connected and informed. I encourage you to sign up for our newsletter and to provide feedback on our content.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sandra McLean

COMPETENT AND CONFIDENT

With regards to our recent article, "Don't Have A Ball," I would like to address some of the concerns raised. Our company has always been committed to providing the best service to our customers, and we take pride in our ability to adapt to changing conditions.

As a company, we have faced several challenges, but we have remained competitive and proactive. Our team has always been ready to adapt and to find new ways to serve our customers.

I would like to thank our staff for their hard work and dedication. Without their commitment, we would not be able to provide the highest level of service.

Sincerely,

P.S. Feel free to contact me with any feedback or suggestions. I always welcome your input.

Sandra McLean

P.S. I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter. It contains some valuable insights and tips that can help you improve your business.
WORLD CUP ITALIA '90

If Andy Roxburgh was asked to find a lasting peace formula for the Middle East he would probably find it easier than taking Scotland's World Cup squad to Italy with any chance of success.

Recent dismal performances against such luminaries as East Germany, Egypt and Poland have only underlined the task that faces the national coach.

Roxburgh is bidding to become the first man to lead a Scotland squad into the latter stages of a World Cup final series. He must be wishing, though, that God had provided him with a slightly more talented group of players than the honest tolters he currently has at his disposal.

Only Paul McStay and Maurice Johnston have the potential to play among Europe's soccer elite without looking out of place. And yet a nagging feeling persists that this squad of fairly lightweight players may achieve what was beyond previous, more gifted, Calendars.

What is in Scotland's favour is that 16 teams from the competing 24 will go through to the second round. That in turn means that two points will probably be enough to see Scotland through as one of the four best third-placed teams from the six pools.

I would expect, then, that if Scotland can defy Costa Rica in the opening game of their section they can book their new hotel accommodation in the second phase. Until very recently though, it had even suggested that the hapless Scots would encounter a great deal of difficulty overcoming those formidable Latin American Confederation groups that had emerged from South America about their abilites. Roxburgh though had the chance of an escape route for himself when the South American minnows played Wales in Cardiff on May 20th. What he saw must have delighted him, it certainly delighted me.

by Joseph McCabe

Walter Ormond, Ally McCoist and Alex Ferguson were the three men who had previously been charged with the responsibility of taking a Scotland squad into the uncharted territory of the World Cup finals second round. Each of their teams failed narrowly to qualify from their sections.

But there's no doubt that the squads that each of these great managers were in charge of would have found little difficulty qualifying from the section Scotland are currently facing, given the more lax qualifying requirements this time around.

Ed. Johnston's boss Willie Ormond must go down in history as the man who achieved most success at Scotland's helm in the World Cup.

In 1974 he had the task of steering his side through a pool comprising of Brazil, Yugoslavia and the unknown Africans from Zaire. A 2-0 win over Zaire set the Scots up for the stern tests on the Brazilians and Yugoslavians. If Scotland had lost both those matches no-one would have been too upset. We were all still stuccled with the fact that we had qualified in the first place.

It now seems incredible that Scotland outplayed Brazil on their way to a 0-0 draw and matched the silky smooth Yugoslavians in their final match before a Joe Jordan goal gave us a 1-0 draw. Four points out of six is an outstanding result for any World Cup side, but that all we achieved was the dubious distinction of being the only side in 1974 who returned from West Germany without a single defeat. That's rare, consisting of such as Billy Bremner, Jock Stein, Davie DalGLISH, Danny McGrain, David Hay, Jim Holton and Sandy Jardine we had no problem dealing with the likes of Sweden and Costa Rica.

If anything, the task facing Ally McCoist's side in 1978 was the easiest on paper. The hope-savers of Iran and the skill-and-gnashers of Argentina were the two sides that stood in our way, so the final game of the section: Holland were merciless.

But a combination of bad preparation and appalling hotel accommodation, internal strife, off-the-field disturbance and really naughty exploits oh yes and a missed penalty in Peru at 1-1 in our opening match which contributed to Scotland's downfall. Peru went on to win 3-1 and the shrunken Scots could manage only a pitiful 1-1 draw v Iran. A heroic 3-2 win v Holland wasn't enough to keep us from the exit from another World Cup on goal difference again.

In 1982 Jock Stein's squad had managed a sheet of three points from a section that also included Belgium, Brazil and West Germany.

Again goal difference was all that separated Scotland from a place in the last 16. Highlight of our stay in Spain was a 2-2 draw with Russia after we had dominated the powerful Soviets for long spells of the game. The defeat by West Germany meant they Ukrainians' two goals.

The task facing Alex Ferguson in Mexico four years ago was perhaps the most difficult encountered by a Scotland manager. West Germany; Denmark and Uruguay awaited us, all of whom entertained significant hopes of actually winning the World Cup for good fortune sake. Narrow defeats by the Germans and Denmark left Scotland requiring two points against the hard men of Uruguay. Early on though, it seemed that someone was looking bounteously upon us. The Uruguay assassin Batista was sent off for a shocking tackle on McCoist after only a minute. But Scotland couldn't capitalise on their advantage, and a forgettable 0-0 draw was the outcome.

Highlight of this campaign was the magical display by Charlie Nicholas against Denmark, before a brutal tackle in the game ended his World Cup there and then. Low point was Sway's astonishing miss in front of goal. That would have given the Scots the goal needed to defeat Uruguay.

This year Roxburgh can hardly be blamed if Scotland possesses a mere handful of players who actually display natural gifts. But he has made the most of what he has in getting to Italy at all. The Scotland coach has already kept to his side of the bargain. The preparation that has accompanied Scotland's bid for success has been meticulous. If a Brazilian player has used the quiet without Roxburgh knowing he probably isn't in the squad. The hotel accommodation Scotland will enjoy in Italy is thought to be the best of any of the competing nations with the exception perhaps of Italy themselves.

Roxburgh has also worked hard to foster a superb spirit of camaraderie among his players - that's been unsurpassed in the last 15 years. Already he's ensured none of the off-field problems that have afflicted previous World Cup campaigns will take place in Italy.

If his players can even match a fraction of Roxburgh's expertise in preparing for this event then a last 16 place is infinitely attainable.


BRYAN ROBBIN AND GARRY LINEKER - POSE FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

BLOW OUT
a voice for the offshore worker

"Brazil will challenge Italian Favourites - But England must be rated " - Says McEnroe

JOHN McENROE, the best tennis player in the world, is an oddity by North American standards.

He is a fanatical follower of Association Football, soccer if you like.

According to most Americans, a sport where you can't carry the ball or strike it with a bat or club isn't a sport at all.

That's why it has taken a century longer for other nations to appreciate the qualities of football. McEnroe has often been exasperated at his countrymen's lack of interest in, what he calls, the greatest and most popular in the world. At least that's what he told Blowout last week when he phoned our office to wish us all the best for our latest issue.

So the great American tennis player will be one of the watching billions as the World Cup unfolds before us from June 8th to July 8th.

It has been estimated that the viewing figures for the entire World Cup will exceed the equivalent of the world's population.

Most people know that the inaugural World Cup competition took place in 1930 in Argentina. But it wasn't until after the 1970 finals in Mexico that the competition could lay claim to the title of the Greatest Sporting Event in the World. That was the year when Brazil defeated Italy 4-1 in a glorious final in Mexico's magnificent Azteca stadium. It was also the year when Pele was finally confirmed as the greatest player in the world.

The Brazilians that year, played a brand of football that raised the sport to an art form. But it's also generally accepted that no World Cup finals series since then has ever come near to equalling the quality of football that was on display throughout the 1970 Mexico competition.

In 1974 the Dutch, led by Johan Cruyff, did it their best. But their European football had embarked on a downward spiral into general mediocrity, while South American football was at its lowest ebb for decades. Eventually the pedestrian Germans carried off the cup on their home territory. The 1978 competition in Argentina was an improvement. It was impossible though, to enjoy the spectacle to the full because there was always that nagging doubt that the Fascist regime of General Galtieri was using the whole affair as a public relations exercise.

At least the triumphant Argentinians, inspired by the wonderful Mario Kempes, won an exciting and skillful team to watch and deserved to win the trophy.

The 1982 finals in Spain maintained the quality shown in Argentina with the electric display in Mexico, 1970. Brazil and France excelled, but their commitment to attacking football earned scant reward and both succumbed to the more cynical Germans and Italians. Italy though, had at least made an effort to throw off the cloak of defensive football, which had shrouded their game for so long, and inspired by top scorer Paolo Rossi they eventually defeated West Germany 3-1 in the final.

1986 Mexico was finally dominated by Argentina, and in particular Diego Maradona. It had become clear that no European side were capable of playing football of sufficient quality to seriously win the World Cup. But Argentina had proved that with some of the most stunning goals ever seen together in a single finals series.

Personally, I thought the best of the lot was

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YOUR GUIDE TO WORLD CUP VIEWING

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<th>GROUP A</th>
<th>GROUP D</th>
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<td>West Germany v Yugoslavia</td>
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<td>Argentina v Cameroon</td>
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<td>Sweden v Scotland</td>
<td>Rep. of Ireland v Egypt</td>
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GAMES TO be shown on ITV are shown above marked by X. Those being shown by BBC are marked O. This can only be a rough guide as if missing any specific game will ruin your World Cup then double check these times.

Second round games will be played at the following times: Naples, June 25, 4pm.

Barcelona, June 23, 8pm. Turin, June 24, 4pm. Milan, June 24, 4pm. Genoa, June 24, 8pm. Rome, June 25, 8pm. Verona, June 26, 4pm. Bologna, June 26, 8pm.

Quarter Finals will be played: Florence, June 30, 4pm. Rome, June 30, 8pm. Milan, July, 4pm. Naples, July 4, 4pm.

Semi Finals: Naples, July 5, 7pm. Turin, July 5, 7pm. The game for third place will be played: Barcelona, July 7, 7pm.

WORLD CUP FINAL
ROME JULY 8 1990 7PM.
the “Hand of God” goal that helped defeat England in the quarter-finals. However, West Germany in the final means the South Americans will kick off this summer’s Italian extravaganza with an inglorious defeat against the Commies. Potentially, the 1990 World Cup can be the best since Mexico 20 years ago. Italy will start as favourites, playing in front of their own passionate fans. The Italians, under the tutelage of Angelico Vicini, have assembled one of the most exciting teams in years. With players like Giacinto Facchetti at the helm, alongside the world’s most expensive player—“Jupiter’s” splendid striker Dino Biasi of Di Napoli in midfield they will be formidable. That little lot will be backed up by the world’s greatest defender, Franco Baresi, captain of A.C. Milan.

Italy’s greatest challenge could come from Brazil, who have added some much-needed tactical awareness to their outrageous natural ability. They also have the added bonus of possessing several players who have been playing their trade in the Italian league recently, among them Carvalho of Napolis and Moreira of Braga. Much will depend on PSV’s Eindhoven’s brilliant little striker Romario, who tragically suffered a broken leg a few months ago while playing in the Dutch league. All the indications are that he will be fit for these finals. Because of this, my money is on Brazil to take the World Cup back to Rio for the fourth time.

As ever, West Germany pose a significant threat. They are never classed as bookies’ favourites before any finals, and are always ranked alongside England as the side everyone wants to beat. But their industrious professionalism and armoured, often seen the Germans thrust through technically better sides. Striker Jurgen Klinsmann will work and may find as the Germans personality player. He has just enjoyed a very successful first season in Italian football with Inter Milan, and along with Alfio, Brehme, Augenthaler and Lothar Matthaus, will ensure the Federal Republic qualify for the semi at least. Argentina will also be there or thereabouts. Diego Maradona is playing even better now, if that is possible, than he did four years ago. No matter how badly his team are playing; Maradona is capable of dragging them along by the heels to victory by pure genius alone. Beruchinga is still there from Mexico 1986, and team boss Carlos Bilardo has taken the unusual step of recalling the magnificent Jorge Valdano from premature injury retirement to help the cause. My friend is going out with a gorgeous Argentinean dame right now and she says Argentina will triumph. In deference to her and to keep alive any hopes I might have ofpooling in there while the man is on the field, I can’t really disagree. There’s also this Italian waitress down at the cafe.

Whether you like it or not, England are my favourite outside bet for World Cup glory. Much was written about their European championship failure two years ago but Robson’s men were not as bad as many thought, and gave Holland the fright of their lives before defensive errors gave Guille & Co the verdict. Captain Bryan Robson is one of the top ten players in the world in terms of value to his team, and they will have to sail him to the ground before he ever conceals defeat to anyone. The tragic Gary Lineker is poised to become the World Cup’s top scorer again, as he was in Mexico four years ago. Liverpool winger John Barnes must now begin to show the world that he can play as well for England as he does for Liverpool. If he does, England are quite capable of making the last four. Chris Waddle’s unorthodox skills have been refined even further by playing for French champions Marseille. He can also make a mark this summer. It’s in defence though, that England’s problems lie. The Rangers duo of Terry Butcher and Gary Stevens are particularly vulnerable, and manager Robson may have to look at the situation closely before deciding on a settled formation.

Holland are everyone’s favourite other team, and can be a joy to behold at the top of their form. Their European championship success may have been the peak of their collective talents, and I feel they will find it difficult to regain the same level of brilliance in Italy. Despite Guille’s awesome skills, even he will find it difficult to recapture his best form after such a long absence from injury. His A.C. Milan team mate, Marco Van Basten remains the most gifted and greatest striker in world football, and his finishing power could ensure that the Dutch reach the last eight at least.

It’s virtually impossible to see the eventual winners coming from outside those top six sides. Spain, Russia, Belgium, Uruguay and Yugoslavia will provide excellent entertainment but none possess the same pool strength and big occasion players of such Italy, Brazil, Argentina, West Germany, England and Holland. If pressed I might include Yugoslavia alongside England and Holland as having a slight chance of winning. Much of that though, is down to the fact that they have arguably the most gifted midfield in Europe appearing for them, the incomparable Dusan Stojkovic, recently transferred from Steaua Bucuresti to Marseille for £3 Million.

Kuwait are not a bad side, but the effect of that country’s bloody revolution and continuing political problems will have had an effect on the national side. Czechoslovakia will also need to watch but their present squad are still struggling to match the ability of the outfit that lifted the 1976 European Championships.

Scotland? I feel the best that our men, with such a mediocre squad can achieve, is a place in the last eight. To do that they would need to finish second in their section. If they can manage that then they would, almost certainly face either Austria or Czechoslovakia in the second round, both of whom are formidable by such as ourselves.

Jack Charlton’s Republic of Ireland squad have been riding on the crest of a wave after their special achievements in the European Championships, and in qualifying for the World Cup. I have a suspicion though, that the Elite bubble could finally burst in Italy. I honestly can’t see them getting past the sectional stage. I do hope they prove me wrong.

Of those called “hopeless of the Middle and Far East, keep an eye on Egypt’s performances. They showed in their 3-1 win against Scotland recently that they will give away little in terms of skill to anyone.
MUCH HAS been written about the 22 Scots chosen by Andy Roxburgh to pursue dreams of World Cup glory in sunny Italia this summer. You can almost feel the frustration of other football writers who would write nice things about our boys. They should be easier to convince, the ravening workers that it would be a great achievement to have qualified for the 1990 World Cup, than trying to tell us that the Scottish players are worthy of the many titles of brown-nosed gentry that’s written about them every week.

In this issue, BLOWOUT will try to redress the balance by telling you how our national 22 really rate as players.

GOALKEEPERS:
Jim Leighton. Jim is the living proof that when good Scots goalkeepers play in England, they simply cannot be faulted. He was undoubtedly one of Scotland’s greatest ever keepers during years of superb performances for Aberdeen. Twenty years ago he followed his mentor Ferguson to Manchester United — a move that has cost him his position as Scotland’s number one. He has had a remarkable season in that capacity, culminating in him being dropped for the English Cup Final replay after his shocking mistake in the first game’s defeat.

Andy Goram. A series of sound displays in the wake of a shaky Fifa defence this season, has seen him catapulted to the verge of World Cup glory, following Jim Leighton’s sad demise. Rangers want him to become their player after the World Cup, which will compensate his ‘bleeders’ heritage from Alan Miller. Even more upset though, will be the owners of Edinburgh’s winter sports club for whom the sight of the big centre-half keeper can mean the difference between profit and loss each week.

DEFENDERS:
Maurice Malpas. The Dundee United full back has a business degree from college and is in the squad so that he can negotiate his colleagues’ appearance money. (Malpas said bonus, but it’s Malpas, boasting, he said). Malpas has been described as ‘one of the biggest back passes in football’. No part of the playing field is considered too remote from his goal smell for the terrierish defender to attempt one of his famous back passes. A very popular player among the Scottish press corps after he urged his Dundee United team-mates to come to him in response to criticism of another being ‘femalooed’ down a drain against Hibs.

Richard Gough. Has an unfortunate background in that he is a bit of a snob and was brought up in South Africa, but he is undoubtedly one of the best players in the side, either right back or central defence. Don’t be surprised if his international career continues for Rangers next season. He has already stated a desire to move south and has been linked with a number of English clubs. And if he plays, he’s bound to impress.

Stewart McKinnie. Aberdeen’s useful right back has guaranteed his selection for the World Cup by seeing good football against Argentina in a warm-up game. The adulation that greeted that goal should have been tempered by the knowledge that it was the ex-Dundee defender’s 40th birthday five years ago — a record that will obviously wipe the respective goalkeepers of Brasil and England from the scales with ease.

Alex McLeish. It’s difficult not to be a bit sick. He’s been outstanding for the Dons during the past 13 years. Showed last season that he can also play without holding Willie Miller’s hand, with brilliant performances this season during Miller’s absence. Deservedly won the football writers’ player of the year award, and should be awarded another next year for his superb acceptance speech at the awards ceremony.

Roy Aitken. Despite what Gerry McGrory says, I think Roy should never be away from the Scotland team while he’s fit. Oh I know he isn’t the most skilful player around, but when he’s in the team no one will mess us around. Rumours that he was responsible for Gordon Strachan’s absence from the squad are entirely unfounded.

David McPherson. One of the peripheral players in Roxburgh’s squad after three brilliant seasons at Hearts. Not a big player but has a tendency to mimic a politician’s submarine when you give your opponent a free run at his back. An opponent, typically, tries to tackle him — he’s picked up no doubt, from his days at Thirds.

Craig Levein. Craig’s inclusion in the squad should be an inspiration to the unfortunate Ian Durrant who is presently recovering from a similar injury to the one that kept the Hearts player out of the side for over a year. One of Scotland’s best defenders in that his passes don’t turn brown whenever the ball arrives at his feet.

Gary Gillespie. No doubting the Hearts player’s ability. Perhaps, he might have strengthened his debt of duty to Scotland. He might have helped Scotland beat England in one of the games. He did the right thing, and it’s time he was played in midfield.

John Collins. The gifted Hearts player should have flourished in the full Scotland squad before now, but that’s what playing for Hearts does to you. Blowout will make a magnificent player. As it stands he’s a Hearts player and for that reason, he will still be considered his future. So there. This is the same Lothians player that was chosen as the best player of the season.

Paul McStay. Paul is simply a genius, and that’s about the long and short of it. Like most geniuses however, he is often misunderstood. Because of his outrageous ability he tends to get the blame whenever Scotland play badly, as though the magic is due to the deficiencies of those around him. Playing for Celtic he probably should have made a bigger impact by now, in my opinion. If he had a good World Cup, expect a quartet of tidy midfielders lining up with penalty-booking cheques at Celtic Park. Expect also, a queue of quality Celtic directors falling over themselves to be of him in the first for a fat cheque that would be better spent on four or five players like Tommy Coyne and Mike Gallacher.

Alex McLeish — a great after dinner speaker as well

Murdo MacLaren. The most persistent piper at his inclusion in the squad, apart from me, must be Murdo himself. A fact that he will be the only Roxburgh’s first choice midfielder, demonstrates the lack of real ability at the national coach’s disposal. Don’t get me wrong, Murdo has done more recently for himself since exchanging life in the Parkhead revelling bout for a berth in the luxury liner of Bonnivich and bunche Bonnivich. He’s in the international class though! No! So he should find himself back at home in the Scottish Squad.

Jim Bett. Along with McStay, Johnston and Gough, the Aberdonian player has the ability to make a name for himself in the World Cup. It’s “in” what he’s called by his teammates, so let’s hope he can “do up” Scotland’s midfield in Italy, as the Daily Record would say. You bet he will, as the Daily Record would also say (That’s exactly what I said Ed!)

John Collins. The gifted Hearts player should be allowed to flourish in the full Scotland squad before now, but that’s what playing for Hearts does to you. Blowout will make a magnificent player. As it stands he’s a Hearts player and for that reason, he will still be considered his future. So there. This is the same Lothians player that was chosen as the best player of the season.

Gary McAllister. Honestly I can’t see what all the fuss is about this player. Obviously he can play a bit. But having distinguished himself at Motherwell before transferring to the heights of the English second division in present glory with Leicester, he still has an amount to prove himself worthy of international recognition. Has looked overawed at times he’s played for Scotland. It’s a tragedy that a player like this is going to go to Italy while Sir Charlie Nicoll sits in a BCCI dinning room.

Stuart McCall. The Hearts player came to prominence by scoring two goals against Lithuania in the 1989 Scottish Cup Final. Since then he hasn’t looked back, as they say. One of the few new players to have distinguished himself in the Scottish jersey.

Maurice Johnston. “Superstar” as he’s known because Morrie is the star and he is occasionally super. Le Petit Monde aren’t known affectionately by Celtic fans after he made Judas

Alex McLeish.

Murdo MacLaren.

Maurice Johnston.

Maurice Johnston.
CHINOOK

NEITHER BRITISH AIRWAYS OR BBI COULD OBTAIN a PHOTOGRAPH OF A CHINOOK. BBH INSIST THAT THEY DON’T HAVE A PHOTO OF ONE IN BBH LIVERY, IF THEY DON’T Operate THEM ANYMORE. BBH PROVIDED THIS PHOTO OF THE SKORNYK 4131 THE UNFITTED WORLD HORSE OF THE NORTH SEA.

Incredibly the gearbox path that disintegrated on the Chinook that crashed could have been fitted with an “all-in-one” military version but financial costs were “PROHIBITIVE”.

After the tragedy, Shell took an immediate length of time to decide whether to continue to use the aircraft or not. But after oil production was threatened by the crash, the oil company was forced to give way to workforce demands against the Chinook’s return. Shell’s PR posture, hotspot all images in the media, was that the decision was a result of the crash, with the company recommending that all existing Chinooks be withdrawn from service.

That terrible day in November eventually ended the Chinook’s service in the British Sector of the North Sea, and despite continued safety efforts from their own BBH to encourage operational safety, they were forced to eventually sell off the remnants of their fleet to an American logging company in 1997.

THE FAMILIES OF ONE OF THE Chinook disaster victims have recently accepted a cheque of court settlement from Boeing. This brings home the unstoppable fact that over three and a half years after the world’s worst helicopter accident, those responsible are still denying the families the right to get on with the rest of their lives.

Helicopter transport is statistically 20 times more likely to have an accident than other types of aircraft, and in the North Sea special precautions are taken by way of survival clothing and evacuation techniques. Indeed the passengers on a North Sea chartered helicopter are required by certification to have undergone a specific helicopter survival course and the helicopters carry, as a legal pre-requisite for operation, additional de-icing and navigational aids.

A North Sea helicopter’s passengers are unlike their fare-paying counterparts on the commercial airlines on two accounts. They are far more technically aware of the safety parameters of their aircraft, and as captive passengers on a chartered aircraft they are limited in expressing their complaints.

**A QUIZ**
compiled by Martin Hind

(1) In which Shakespeare play do we get the song, "Who is sylvia?"
(2) What is the chemical element found in all proteins?
(3) After Ku Kluxers fell, which two names shared power in the USSR for a while?
(4) What does the acronym LASER stand for?
(5) Which three knights of The Arthurian legend achieved the Holy Grail?
(6) What is a transp in male cats?
(7) Why was the Kegum Cup not awarded for the season 1946-47?
(8) Which country administers the territory known as the Ross Dependency?
(9) After a funny alibi, was Winston Churchill in jail in 1973? What was he in jail for?
(10) Which pop singer appeared at the Old Vic in 1960 in Oliver Goldsmith’s play "The Spa Means To Conquer?"
(11) "Who was Scotland’s first ever "footballer of the year"?"
(12) When did Charles I of France walk in front of no one, was he the first person to reach the top of the Eiffel Tower?
(13) Which pop star appeared as an extra in "The Virgin Soldiers"?
(14) What is the longest river in Western Europe?
(15) What are the six categories of the Nobel Prize?
(16) What popular device did Eld Hatton, W. Shackley and W. Brantin invent in 1987?
(17) What is the unit of currency in Egypt, in Israel, and in Cyprus?
(18) What is the name of a fire alarm? "Safety Is Elsewhere in the World?"
(19) Which two companies, besides IBM and Exxon, produce ethylene in the UK?
(20) At what stage in oil refining is Paraffins produced?
(21) Who is reputed to have said, "Times in God but keep your powder dry?"
(22) Who was the father of John the Baptist?
(23) Why would an M4 apply first-aid training to the Children of the Poor?
(24) The "Trumfold", "San Antonio", "Genesia Victoria" and "Santiago" made the attack of which ship in 1559?
(25) What was British "fly" for scandal?
(26) If you landed at the following airports, in which country would you be? Barcelona, Spain, Lisbon, Portugal, Cyprus, Athens, Greece.
(27) What would you have if you suffered from xanthophobia, xilophobia, cephaphobia?
(29) Of the nine known planets, which are the only two that don’t have moons?
(30) Who was the last season in Scottish League Football that the Old Firm failed to win a single trophy? Who won, what trophy that season, the Scottish Cup, and the League Cup?

**Answers on Page 7**
SAFETY TRAINING UNDER SCRUTINY

TRAINING for safety reps has come under close scrutiny by offshore workers since the new safety legislation was implemented last year. A constant stream of complaints have been received by Aberdeen's Offshore Information Centre.

These have centred on the election and appointment of some of the committees and the lack of choice about training. It seems however that we're not only people to be happy with the way the whole thing is being handled.

From the Department of Energy, widely recognised in the industry as the oil companies' tame dog, has been of late forced into baring its teeth.

A circular from the D of E's Director of Safety, Jim Peters, to the operators on the continental shelf, has found its way onto Blower's desk. And it's a stunner.

The whole incident of the latter is extremely illusory. It seems that despite allowing the oil companies to operate for years, accustomed to the safety legislation applicable onboard, and then imposing on it a water down version that does not stipulate a role for the trade unions, this was still not enough for them.

"...it has already come to the attention of the Department that some operators are not adhering to all or even a few of these regulations with respect to the training of safety representatives", intones Mr Peters. He continues, "It seems that some companies are insisting that safety representatives employed by contractors must attend courses organised in a company basis at specified training centres for which they will pay and allow time off. However they are not prepared to allow time off or pay for attendances at any other centres chosen by the safety representatives."

No instructions are given to the employees of the contractors or the safety committees involved appears to have taken place before the adoption of these policies. It is difficult to imagine any other employment in which such a situation could exist.

Mr Peters' circular goes on to say that "This is a matter of grave concern to the Department. It would work against the purposes of the regulations. It may even be construed as a form of intimidation."

Indeed Mr Peters. It is business as usual as safety remains firmly in the hands of those who have in Piper Alpha, Ocean Driller, the NW Hutton and now the Buccaneer, and the Brent free pits. Perhaps the most fitting part of the whole letter is his opening sentence:

"As you will no doubt recall, the above regulations came into force on 18th September 1988." And yes Mr Peters. They indeed may have forgotten about the legislation. We however haven't. On 8th July 1988, the 187 deaths that were due to the negligence of those companies involved in the first place. Those names will always be remembered.

The responsibility for safety must be in the hands of those people who stand to lose their lives when it fails.

UNIONS CHALLENGE S.C.O.T.A.

IT LOOKS LIKE the unions are beginning to get together to come up with sensible training for safety personnel. After canceling a series of courses, due to take place in April and May, Ian Miller the STUC education officer recently announced a new initiative.

The first day course is to be a "tray" course to supplement the employees' courses being run by SCOTA and 'other various bodies, but an alternative has been fully set up by the STUC Safety Representatives and Safety Committees (Regulations) 1989, and will cover the full gamut of offshore safety experience." The cost to the employees to attend a course is £120, and safety committees are invited to consider reimbursing the employees that they use the course. But significant is the course to report also to other workers in the industry who may not have this time been accorded safety pay but who see the value in safety training. Towards lunching for these people, a number of scholarships are available, paid for by both the STUC and the individual offshore unions. Workers interested in these are advised to contact the STUC or their own union.

Most significantly, and most welcome from Blower's point of view, is that partners and children are also welcome. In fact a whole package is planned to make the week attractive to as many possible families that are still for over half the year as it is. This is an important first in the industry.

"THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, it is stated in our Guidance Notes to the Regulations, takes the view that companies should not only actively encourage company mix courses unless in any such courses include independent of the company on the representative role of the safety representatives."

Mr Peters, Director of Safety, Department of Energy.

AROUND THE OILFIELDS

- OCCIDENTAL SANITIZED

A MESSAGE from 'Europe's Largest Safety Organization' to Agricultural, Marine, Leisure, Occupational, Road and Water Safety and Safety Education, in conjunction with Kimberly-Clark Ltd. says Dulcie, "Safety conscious Occidental Petroleum Corporation is now a partner in back by Britain's Health and Safety watch-dog RoSPA and washroom products manufacturer Kimberly-Clark.

SIBERIA

An excellent report in May 23 Guardian from Jonathan Blowett documents the conditions endured by Siberian oil workers. Writing from Neftegaznya he describes the growing awareness and confidence of these workers.

"They quote union members in saying, 'If the centre uses your product to put pressure on Elektrotrans, who stops us from doing the same to the centre.'"

THE BBC TUNE OUT

PROMPTED by a letter, Blowett recently commercialized the BBC's one night. It is true that this year Radio 2 was not to be transmitted on FM in the north due to radio 2 and 3 commercial. The reason is it is a matter of the broadcast of the medium wave.

The two stations are being held off by the government in commercial radio.

It is likely that worker on the north sea will meet more of the more difficult to all at service stations. Scotts are good for range help to vary with weather.

Nobody bothered to take oil workers into consideration of the situation. As we know, maybe we should take this very much more seriously. Without the government, on the other hand, maybe we should look into the idea of a radio station to serve offshore oil workers.

- EIDER SMEAR

DESPITE the sapping of Occidental's sabotage war on the workforce on the Chayvoys, Ian Morrison (OB) to his credit is not convinced that his has got a sabotage on board. In a conversation as "All platform personnel" and dated May 14th, says "I have seen no indication that sabotage is any longer that it was."

Yesterday a funny link disappeared from a fire damper which was being repaired. All these incidents could possibly be explained by accidents or lack of understanding or workable gear, and I would suggest that this was related to the case. However the question is whether the work is not apparently and obviously extremely serious.

He goes on to threaten to bring in Shell security to see that everything gets done to be done. If not, he says, we will do something else.

If we are, any offshore worker finds himself confronted with a document or statement which he is unsure of, he should use this document as an example to expose it. If your document has any of the characteristics of this document then it is indeed a smear, and should be published as such.

- SABOTAGE

MAINTAINANCE foremen throughout the continental shelf below they may be facing a mass outbreak of sabotage. Severely long handed equipment, superclases and main devices are disappearing at an alarming rate and are not being replaced for the last 25 years. Investigations are to continue.

- PRESS URE

PRESS OFFSOREs employees on the Cormorant Alpha have registered a grievance under the Terms and Conditions improvised illegally by Press on the first of April. Their request to the company for a Continental Shelf Agreement: M & W Murray, Management Services Manager for Press has written a reply. In it he says amongst other things:

"Press Offshore have been working and wishing to offer a seating service, and that the employees are assumed to have accepted the contract on the Oct. 8th.

To this end, we feel that the present registration of a grievance is premature and could lead to a situation whereby the full benefits of the present improvements in wages, benefits and conditions can be appreciated by the workforce.

Such a situation is not a true one, because the majority of employees are well satisfied with their new term and conditions of engagement. It is that just bit more cunningly written. We see it.
REVIEWS

“WHEN HARRY MET SALLY” Directed by Bob Reiner. Starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan.

“The Abyss” Directed by James Cameron. Starring Ed Harris, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Michael Biehn.

Reviewed by George Whittaker.

ALBUMS

THE B52S Cosmic Thing Reprise Records UK: WX 283

Reviewed by John Rowlinson.

IF YOU WOULD STILL WEAR IT - REPAIR IT! A traditional start to winter: slide and shearling clothing Also comprehensive service to goods THE LEATHERY PAIR LTD (co-operative) T&G&W UNIT 8, FREDERICK STREET CENTRE ABERDEEN AB11 1AI Telephone: 0224 633 684

IF YOU’RE A Bossy Bitch like me you may be tempted to top up a pair of shades and sneak out the latest Andy Panda and Bill & Ben companionships – it could prove a wise move, after all, than attempting to sit through anything that sounds as bad as Mystic Pizza or Return of the Swamp Thing. Then again, you could do worse than try Eighties Out, the story of the Yowling” of the 1979 Boardwalk West Series. The Chicago White Sox, although you probably need to know something about the game to enjoy the film properly, especially since it lasts all two hours. You’ll be under ground with When Harry Met Sally, a watchful and intermittently amusing tale that follows the fortunes of a couple of smart New Yorkers as their paths cross and re-cross over a period of ten years. They first meet as students in the late seventies and although they hook at each other from the word go it’s clear.

Don’t let the blues you get down is returned dated to “Chained E” (pronounced ‘Zoo’, where the blues comes from living in a galleage-can world and love provides the only way out. Escapism? Damn Right! The other track is “Deadbeat Club”, following “Dry County”, and it is equally lyrically moreTitle and a listening delight: “We’re wild yeah walkin’ down the street, Wild girls and boys going out for a big time. Anyway we can. We’re all going to get something. We’ll dance in the garden. In town streets in the rain.”

Finally the album ends well. The lyric “Top Dog”, a tribute to the generous fatigue, is fantastically done creating a mood of suspense which the album’s closing track, the instrumental “Follow Your Bliss” allows you to savour.

No reservations then, this is a wonderful album. Me. I’m going to take it up in the car, in the kitchen, anywhere by ten six. I time, I shall set it in the album of the summer of 1990 and if you get it, I’m pretty confident it will become as well. Let the good times roll, let’s say and done. A west. 

QUIZ ANSWERS

GOODRICH - AN ODYSSEY ECHO?

DISTURBING reports were reaching Blowout as we went to press.

Thirty Two workers were evacuated from the Seni semi-submersible, Henry Goodrich, on Monday evening, 14 hours after the death of a drilling for Texaco had to be closed in.

The rig had been drilling the exploration well 2527/12-14 since early March in a high pressure/high temperature area very close to where the Ocean Odyssey had found 20 months ago killing radio历时 Timothy Williams.

The enquiry into Mr Williams death has just ended in the Summerhill disaster. One of the first to give evidence to the enquiry was a "drilling expert" Mr John Blanton.

He talked about the difficulties of drilling in such areas and the techniques available when normal "KILL" procedures were not appropriate. He specifically referred to "bullheading", a procedure where the influx is fed back into the formation. He pointed out to the enquiry that this was not a first option.

It seems however that it was the option finally used to kill the Goodrich well. Texaco's cryptic press release talks of, "the hydrogen carbon/alkyl" being "successfully pumped back into the formation."

The oil industry and the Department of Energy have always insisted that high pressure/high temperature wells can be drilled safely. Although the D of E did suspend operations in these areas temporarily after the Odyssey blowout.

See editorial Page 2

PIPER ALPHA - A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

ON THE FIRST anniversary of the disaster, workers on 41 North Sea installations stopped work in a day of remembrance.

Oil company management were on course earlier this week that work should carry on as usual. In addition to the customary heavy-handed approach to getting their way, a subtle form of moral blackmail was attempted.

"Wouldn't it be more sensible to work the day and donate your pay to the Land Rover Fund?" Just the kind of Mercenary attitude that has come to be expected in the industry where everything it seems, must be quizzed to pure monetary terms.

It is the intention to have an offshore day of remembrance every year in memory of our friends and colleagues who died that night, July 6 1988.

AROUND THE OILFIELDS

Continued from Page 6

- SEDCO GROVEL

EXPERIENCE now are deserting SEDCO's Section 701A Drills as the rig is believed by some, to be barely operable. The compartment is a fox of safety concern but by no means the only department experiencing problems. Some months ago this was the current general sentiment affecting the entire SEDCO Fleet. Further experience are certainly given weight by the appearance of stenosis D.G.Mandell207 and dave markey.

This combination of the memo is so embarrassing to reproduce in full, following, as it does, so closely upon its internal memo from the same Dave McLean, informing the workforce that they would get involved with the training for safety mps. (in clear contradiction of the legislation).

Given are the very confident of the earlier notice. "Due to the fact you cannot return the form for at least a few weeks, it will be impossible for us to have the notices in the first instance, in time."

The form mentioned being an incredible document, it is expected the SEDCO's publicity and maybe even the whole of the whole division.

The attached, "Requested Information Form" is a "top secret", "have caused concern", and as such SEDCO need their employees treat it with caution. "Due to our benefits which will be sent all employees who are considered "top secret".

The previous handling of some of the 15 topics "in order of preference, I believe most urgent, 2 important, 1 can wait.

"The topics are: 1) Salary Increase (anniversary). 2) Poverty Medical Plan RIPA etc. 3) 15 months pay over 12, 4) Improved Pension Plan. 6) Travel Allowance ( douche changes). 7) Student loans (for training courses). 8) Insurance. 9) Sick Pay Policy. 10) Accident Benefits. 11) Life Insurance. 12) Overseas Allowance (bush). 13) Introduction of Loyalty Bonus Scheme. 14) Improvements for services. 15) Other.

To SEDCO workers, - You'd better get strengthen organised and keep it that way because if SEDCO get the upper hand again then they'll be able to tell the people that they have suffered through writing all this stuff.

I particularly liked (11), (12) and (15), and would most urgently request reading the "comments optional" that are also asked for.

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- UNIVERSAL

THIS is a test of a document from Universal Catering Services Ltd. entitled "Conditions of Employment." You are hereby advised that it is a condition of your employment that you possess certificates indicating proof of successful attendance at Offshore Catering Survival/Firefighting Training Course as conducted by RGT or equivalent. It is therefore agreed and understood that attendance at any course will be in your own time and entirely at your own expense. Any experience acquired by Universal Catering Services Ltd. in this respect will be deducted from your pay.

- MAIL SHOT

PERSISTENT reports are reaching Blowout of management "hiring" Blowout on some units. A growing number of units are now taking out a subscription to the paper, but we have persisted with a mail shot to specific individuals. As the papers have been sent in unmarked envelopes, we had no doubt that they were reaching their destination via drilling contractor offices. What the individual who sent the papers does with them when they arrive, is of course entirely up to him.

However, we tooke the opportunity of contacting specific individuals onboard and seeing them that they were now receiving their unlabelled package of Blowout, open wrapped in the traditional newspaper way. And we asked that, as the contents were obviously Blowout, would they contact us and confirm that they actually arrived. We would ask other individuals who have previously received copies of the paper on their rig to please contact Blowout if there is any doubt about the arrival of the last issue.

- TARGET WHAT?

THROUGHOUT Shell accident statistics for 1989 show that 14 employees and 65 contract personnel died in 1989. Last time injury frequency rates were for above target.

These figures compare with 15 employees and 93 contractors during 1988. Shell employees and contractors need to thoroughly analyse the "Target Zero", or whatever Shell are now calling their safety target.

- KITIWKAKE

THE INSTALLATION of the 7500 tonne Kitiwake integrated deck structure is being handled by Shell as "one of the biggest lifts ever made in the history of the North Sea oil industry." It is expected to take several weeks.

Certainly if some North Sea records for immensity. If reports received by Blowout are correct then Kitiwake, a joint venture between the Dutch Haven and the, American McDermott, are employing Philippine labor on offer large DBR2 and are paying them as little as £9 or 8 a day for a minimum shift of 3 months.

According to the Dutch trade union, FVZ, PortMac are however going to get rid of their Philippine workers, some who have been with the company for two years and go back to hiring Spanish workers. It is believed that they will be hired through an Agency to circumvent Dutch employment regulations which control the wages and conditions of foreign workers.

We are all concerned with this important step.

- AOCI

AOCI INTERNATIONAL management visited the employees at the Chaynmore on Friday May 25. They were, said, out to ascertain where their employees stood with regard to the "working contract" that is operating across all the North Sea.

This amused some of the men who had already made a copy of a press release from the employees organisation OCU. That statement dated May 22 and signed by David Elding an AOCI boss contained the following passage:

"Member members of the Offshore Contractors' Council report that the majority of offshore employees are well satisfied with their terms and conditions of employment, but are being misled by "false statements" being circulated by a minority."

This was only case of second sight and readers should draw any conclusions about the falsity or otherwise of the OIC statement.

- BRENT

SHELL's problems with fire pumps on the Brent led to 92 men evacuated from the Bravo on the 10th of May. On the 17th of May fire pump problems on the Alpha saw 30 men evacuated and the closure of the FLAPS pipeline, stopping gas from 15 platforms going to St Fergus.

"The accidental release of hydrocarbons" on the Brent Spur caused 12 workers to be evacuated on May 21, we believe, caused when a pressure needle general at the end of a pipe.

What state are the Brent platforms in.