

OPEN FORUM '92

FEB

BBC OPEN UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION CENTRE

POST PRODUCTION TRANSCRIPT

PROGRAMME NO : 1/FOUF195X

SPOOL NO: HOU7186

DUR: 24'10"

OPEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

OPEN FORUM TV7

NOT TO BE TAKEN
FROM THE LIBRARY

Series Producer Jean Rowton
Assistant Producer Christine Palmer
Production Asst Julia Hickman
Presenter Howard Stableford

1st Transmission Sunday, 16th February 1992

OPENING TITLES

(Music specially composed
by Andrew Neve)

MUSIC

0'20

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Hello and welcome to a brand new series of Open Forum. Well today as you can see we're at Walton Hall in Milton Keynes. Now to many Open University students, Milton Keynes is just an address, but of course it's also home to a couple of thousand academics designing courses, administration staff and BBC Producers making programmes like this. Now as usual we'll be bringing you bang up to date with many of the exciting things happening at the Open University, as well as the big wide world of higher education. In fact this month's heralds a special landmark in programme making here. It's the 21st anniversary of Open University programmes and the first programme broadcast in 1971 was, Open Forum.

OPEN FORUM NO 1
1st TX 03/01/71
Spool No: OU164
Dur: 0'06

(Opening titles)

MUSIC

0'06

M332/001 Complex
Analysis.
1st TX 18/02/75
Spool No: HOU5287
Dur: 0'12

Well Paul Bachise was the author of unit 2 so lets get him to explain connectedness
PAUL
Well connectedness is to do with
properties of continuous functions....

Monet - A315/TV6
1st TX: 08/03/83
Spool No: HOU 3972
Dur: 0'16

This film shot in the 1920's shows Claude Monet painting in his garden at Giverny. What the film fails to show is his canvas.

MUSIC

Fires of Life
S102/TV22

The sun the power behind the biochemical factory. Once harnessed the enormous energy of sunlight drives a crucial reaction, one that turns carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrate and oxygen. 0'28

Bangkok- A City Speaks
U206/TV4
Spool No: HOU6534

(Japanese Teaching)

MUSIC

0'46

As in many other countries the rural areas cannot sustain all the population.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

That was part of a programme from the Environment course, Bangkok, A City Speaks which has just won a special award from the One World Broadcasting Trust. In fact a lot of these programmes have won awards and over the years you'll have noticed that they've changed quite a bit, not just from black and white to colour, but also in terms of style too. Now these cans all contain film but before the programmes are transmitted they're transferred onto video tape, which is over here. In fact all programmes these days are recorded directly onto video tape. Last year the BBC put out just under 1,700 hundred programmes for Open University students, that's 688 hours of teaching on the tele. These programmes are just a

minute fraction of what's been made over the last 21 years and some of earlier programmes are now in the national film archive. Well the man in charge of all the programmes here at Milton Keynes is Clive Holloway. Hi Clive. People still tend to take the mickey out of OU programmes don't they, they have an image of kipper ties and blackboards and programmes going out at 5 o'clock in the morning, does that worry you?

CLIVE HOLLOWAY

It doesn't really worry me, it annoys me slightly because it doesn't really represent the facts, we don't have many such programmes left, we did have them in the past and I think the memory lives on, it's a public joke but it doesn't bear any looking into really.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

So exactly what is the reality and how have programmes changed?

CLIVE HOLLOWAY

Well I think we have a greater variety of programming now for a number of reasons. For a start not all of our product is on broadcast some of it is on video. We tend to use more case study materials now so that we go and visit locations abroad or inside a factory. We have observational material, classroom observation animal observation which will be on a video that the students can study at home and repeat many times, and hence not quite so many programmes in which

presenters do appear to go back to your other question.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

What value do you think they have for students?

CLIVE HOLLOWAY

There's know simple answer because there are a number of values. Lets take a few, programmes can summarise a whole area of difficult work for the student, difficult reading exercises and then suddenly they're in a very concentrated form is an argument that sums everything up. Equally to introduce a difficult topic, beyond that we have case study material, so that in a sense we can take student places, which is they were in a conventional university they would go visit and the extreme of that is we can even go abroad and look at case studies over there. But there's an important educational reason if you like, higher education is about learning theory and see how well it applies to practice, so we need the written text and the thinking and we need to see what happens in the real world and test the theory, television and radio give you that trip to the real world.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Thanks Clive. Well talking of trips into reality one of the production teams is in India at the moment filming for two new courses, Third World Development and Learning Through Life and we thought you

might like to have a look at what's involved.

India Footage
Specially Shot

HOWARD STABLEFORD V/O

Mid morning in the hot dusty street of Kerala, the state which takes it's name from its coconut trees. The film crew 4 days into a tight schedule arrive at a health clinic in the small fishing community of Puntura.

The people here are very poor but healthy, the plan is to show how that happy result is achieved, but filming in India can be fraught with unexpected problems like no power points for the camera lights. A move to the veranda should solve the problem.

MEG SHEFFIELD V/O

We've come to explore the reasons why Kerala has such a good health record for such a poor country, the health statistics are almost as good as in the west, their infant mortality is very low and they now have small families on average, and a good life expectancy and the reason for this state of affairs seems to be something to do with women, women's education, women's literacy.

MEG SHEFFIELD

Dr Soman tell me about the health situation of the people of Kerala as compared with the rest of India.

CUT

HOWARD STABLEFORD V/O

On to another classroom in someones back yard, it's an adult literacy class, an important piece in the development jigsaw puzzle.

MEG SHEFFIELD

What we do through film and television is something quite different to what you can do through study materials that's merely print you see that there is an objective reality behind all the academic papers that the students will have reference to in the study guide and so forth that they've had to read about the same place, and I think more than that that you actually see how strongly the people themselves here feel about the various things we're asking them about, do you get a sort of sense of their own, their sense of importance of these issues, again that's hard to achieve just through academic papers so you learn a lot that you just can't learn through print.

How did she come to be interested to teach literacy?

HOWARD STABLEFORD V/O

Evening has come and the producer wants to capture the normal preparations for a nights fishing, a quiet card games, sorting the nets but even that can be a bit tricky.

MUSIC
CD KPM 159 DC TK 21 Palace of
the Winds by Andy Clarke

0'25

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Wonderful stuff and you can see the first programme about Kerala, Southern India, in September, on the series Third World Studies. Well right now I'd like to introduce you to another member of the team, Diane Kemp who will be reporting regularly for Open Forum. Diane this month I believe you've been to Germany.

DIANE KEMP

Absolutely, I went to report on people in the armed forces who are taking OU courses. More and more of them are concerned about their future careers and are anxious to get qualifications that might be for outside of Army life. Well it's all part of

Ex BBC News"
"Berlin Wall"

(The Berlin Radio Concert
Orchestra) **MUSIC**
0'19

the massive changes in Eastern Europe that started when the Berlin Wall came down.

Major Robin Riall
Royal Artillery

MAJOR ROBIN RIALL

Today's Army is filled with professional people who may decide to switch careers half way through. Either enforced by redundancy or voluntarily decide to change careers, and really I started my OU degree before redundancy was looming, not quite so closely on the horizon with a view to both sides of that question.

DIANE KEMP V/O

Gaining new qualifications that can help your career prospects has always been encouraged by the Forces. Each year both the Army and RAF fund three hundred new students and assist many more. With the withdrawal of troops from Germany and the treat of redundancies, long distance learning offers many opportunities. But being one of todays Professionals and studying for a degree course can cause difficulties.

MAJOR ROBIN RIALI V/O

Some of it's been easy and some of it has been excruciatingly difficult because of the pressure of work, family and Open University and fitting all three together particularly last year at the end of the, when operation Granby was impinging enormously on our life style in Germany and I was very busy with getting people to go to the dessert and trying to continue my open university at the same time.

CU

DIANE KEMP V/O

Jan Budd's husband is stationed at Hohne just down the road from the ranges, although she enjoys her part time job, she still finds it hard being an Army wife and pursuing a career of her own.

JAN BUDD V/O

There isn't an awful lot out here the majority of girls end up in some sort of clerical, secretarial jobs unless you have a

MCU

professional qualification such as teaching or nursing the majority of other jobs tend to be held by military personnel.

Being an army wife I've never had the opportunity, we've never been in the UK long enough to go into full time education. Open University really is the ideal situation for me.

When I first started I just wanted to study, I wanted to do something different, but now I actually would like to have a degree especially with the uncertainty of army life as it is at the moment, in 2 years time we may not be in the army and a degree would give me a good stepping stone to a career outside.

DIANE KEMP V/O

Jan pays for herself but she can make use of the Education facilities at Hohne as do other students with plans for the future.

MAJOR IAN GRIFFITHS

Major Ian Griffiths
Royal Artillery

When I leave the army eventually whenever that may be, I see the course that I'm doing the Open Business School course as something that will aid me move back into civilian life afterwards.

WARRANT OFFICER BOB SCHOFIELD

Warrant Officer
Bob Schofield
Royal Elec & Mech
Engineers

Probably the best thing that ever happened to me as a serving person is the fact that 1993 we are actually going to do teacher training by the long distance method, so that's going to suit me down to the ground, so all I've got to do now is get through

this year that I've just done which was part A and part B which I intend to start early part of next year and I'm going to pass that as well.

DIANE KEMP V/O

But what if exams are looming and, as like eighteen months ago, you're posted to the Gulf?

MAJOR CHRIS BRISTOW

Major Chris Bristow
Group Education Officer

We found when we were out there that there were a number of OU students and when they saw the RAEC cap badge and our role as military educators they immediately asked us if we could arrange to run exams for them, and I think there were about 8 students who sat their exams in the Gulf in some make shift rooms that we managed to find for them.

DIANE KEMP V/O

BERLIN

Two hundred miles away at the British Army base at Spandau historical sites are being reshaped and developed.

SGT DENNIS CARTER V/O

SGT Dennis Carter
Computer Studies
CU

The prison was actually destroyed and taken down and been buried all over Berlin. It is now been turned into a Britannia centre which has all the facilities for the British soldiers in Berlin, which is the main Naafi, the cinema, it holds the travel centres, the SSVC and the BFBS which is the broadcasting station.

DIANE KEMP V/O

The Education Centre is also at Spandau housed in an elegant nineteenth century building once the home of a German Calvary Regiment.

Each year Nigel Cutress from the Open University briefs Forces staff on their role as tutor counsellors.

One of the army counsellors, Major Dacre Holloway was once an OU student himself and is now the main co-ordinator between the forces and the University.

MAJOR DACRE HOLLOWAY V/O

CU
We are in a period of change in terms of run down of the army and obviously that puts strains on people and the uncertainty of the future, both personally obviously and as an organisation as a whole many people may be declared redundant in the next three or four years, possible 20, 30 thousand in the army as a whole and a large number of those will come from Germany and it's obviously a very unsettling time, but it can also be a challenge it's the half full empty syndrome of a pint, if you're positive, it's half full, if you're negative it's half empty.

MAJOR ROBIN RIALI V/O

MCU
I wasn't convinced that the army was going to be my career for ever and and a day, so I was looking to equip myself to move into the real world outside and there isn't too much scope for employing my talents as a gunnery officer.

(Opening Title Music)

MUSIC

Andrew Neve

NEWS UP DATE

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Stills (BBC C/Right)

What have Judi Dench, John Cole and Anthony

Dame Judi Dench (No 13) Clare in common?

John Cole (No 10)

They're all 1992 Honorary Graduates of the

Anthony Clare (C/R UPP) Open University.

Still Moscow

Due to popular demand OU. Business School

St Basils Cathedral

centres are being planned for Moscow and Athens.

Clothes

OU. student Gilly Reeves is this years

Bride of the Year

Clothes Show Bride of the Year - we'll be catching up with her in April after the big day.

0'31

The Stars No 6

A scientist who made a Nobel Prize winning discovery is the new Professor of Physics at the OU. In 1967 Jocelyn Bell Burnell spotted a Pulsar in space.

Ex: Channel Four

But what is a Pulsar?

PROFESSOR JOCELYN BELL BURNELL

An amazing kind of star, something that we've never dreamt of, it sends out radio waves which is how we detected it, and it's of a kind that had never been imagined before, most unusual.

DIANE KEMP

How different is it, what makes it different?

PROFESSOR JOCELYN BELL BURNELL

It's different primarily because it's a very large weight compressed into a very small area, so it's very high density. If you had that kind of volume of neutron star material it would weigh a hundred million tons, it's that dense, quite incredible, and like nothing here on earth. So it's an important laboratory in it's self for studying dense matter.

DIANE KEMP

The problem surely is with figures of that kind it's mind boggling and because mind boggling it's off putting, how do you get past that and get people involved in Science?

PROFESSOR JOCELYN BELL BURNELL

Well certainly astronomy is mind blowing and I think astronomers often stop thinking about the distances and the sizes and the ages and so on because you just can't comprehend it. On the bigger question of science and its accessibility yes it does have a barrier apparently to a number of people but I don't really see why it should be, I believe that with good teaching it's very accessible for anybody.

DIANE KEMP

The long distance learning obviously works in terms of English, you write an essay there's no problem there, but how do you do laboratory experiment from a long distance?

PROFESSOR JOCELYN BELL BURNELL

Certainly it's a bit more difficult with Science and when the Open University started with people you can never do it well, tens of thousands of students have proved that you can do it. There are very ingenious home experiment kits, really magnificent and all these weird things come through the post to the students and there are good instructions about how to set them up and how to supplement the kits with stuff from the home.

DIANE KEMP

You're one of only two professors of Physics in this country, why is it so few women get involved in science in the first place?

PROFESSOR JOCELYN BELL BURNELL

Well you have to say why do so few women in Britain get involved in Science, I know that in France and in Italy for example lots and lots of women do science even Physics and nobody thinks twice about it, so it's a British disease and how you solve it, well people like me perhaps, you can do it you do it and it' fun.

(Title Music Open Forum)

MUSIC

Andrew Neve

0'04

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Behind this door is the Disney land of television production somewhere very few people get to see, it's called visual effects and there extremely important in

quite a lot of the Open University programmes especially in Science and Mathematics, so let's go and have a look inside but I do warn you there are some very strange things happening in here. See what I mean

MUSIC
0'36

Denis people tend to think of visual effects as being the stuff of blockbuster movies, like Star Wars or Indiana Jones so why on earth does the Open University have a visual effects department?

DENIS GRANVILLE

Well one of the first things is that visual effects is not just about the explosions and space battles, a lot of visual effects is always unseen to the audience, it's reconstructional apparatus and dummies, replicas of items. I mean an example here is what we have is reproduction of Joules apparatus for the mechanical equivalent of heat and it was made for a science programme but it's interesting here in the concept because it's featuring a drama sequence with Joule actually operating the apparatus.

James Prescott Joule
S102/TV9 "Energy"

One of the things about special effects work, you don't necessarily use the right materials.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Now that's plastic isn't it?

DENIS GRANVILLE

Because people don't pick it up for real in a programme then we can add sound effects afterwards in post-production, but inside is the real working part of the apparatus. The difference here this is actually made of metal because it's the convenient to make this from but wherever you can you use cheaper materials and easier to operate materials.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Is this sort of thing typical of the types of things people ask you to make?

DENIS GRANVILLE

Not really because every job that will come to our department is totally different and we can be asked to do this one week, the following week it will be building mathematical models of dodecahedrons and tetrahedrons, then maybe another drama will want some fire or explosion effects, but we have to cover the complete range.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

This is a very complicated model, I know it took you weeks to make, what about some of the simpler ones?

DENIS GRANVILLE

We have some just over in this part of the workshop, this is a very heavy stage weight used for holding scenery up in a studio, cast iron ... sorry about that Howard

HOWARD STABLEFORD

Very funny, what's it made of?

DENIS GRANVILLE

It's polystyrene expanded polystyrene carved out of a cast with the letters in it, covered with muslin and then painted with latex.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

And its absolutely realistic, BBC TV brilliant. What else?

DENIS GRANVILLE

Bottles, the sort of bottle that you might want in a western saloon or a drama series or anything like that.

HOWARD STABLEFORD

And what's special about this?

DENIS GRANVILLE

Well you can hit me over the head and find out.

HOWARD

Hit you over the head?

DENIS

You can hit me with it, yes certainly..
Carry on

HOWARD

Well if you insist ..
Tremendous Denis is obviously a man with a
lot of bottle, thanks for showing me round
its been absolutely fascinating?
Well that's it for this time, thanks very
much for watching, but we'll be back next
month with another Open Forum, and until
then goodbye.. Cue the smoke.

MUSIC

END CREDITS

Music by
Andrew Neve

Presenters
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Howard Stableford

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Martin Tillman

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Videotape Editor
Andrew Cowin

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Christine Palmer

Producer
Jean Rowton

A Production for
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

BBC
c THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
MCMXCII

0'28