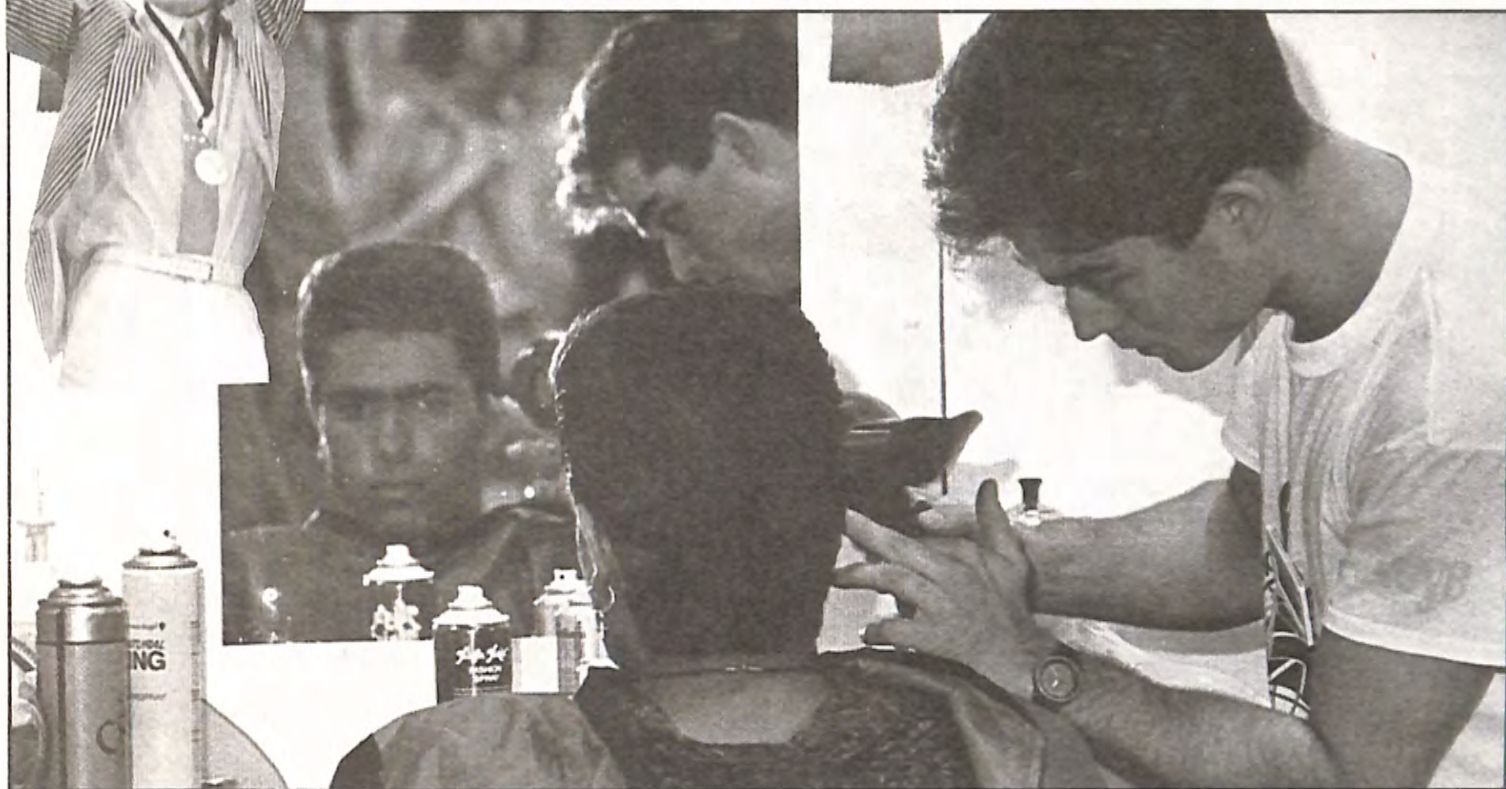
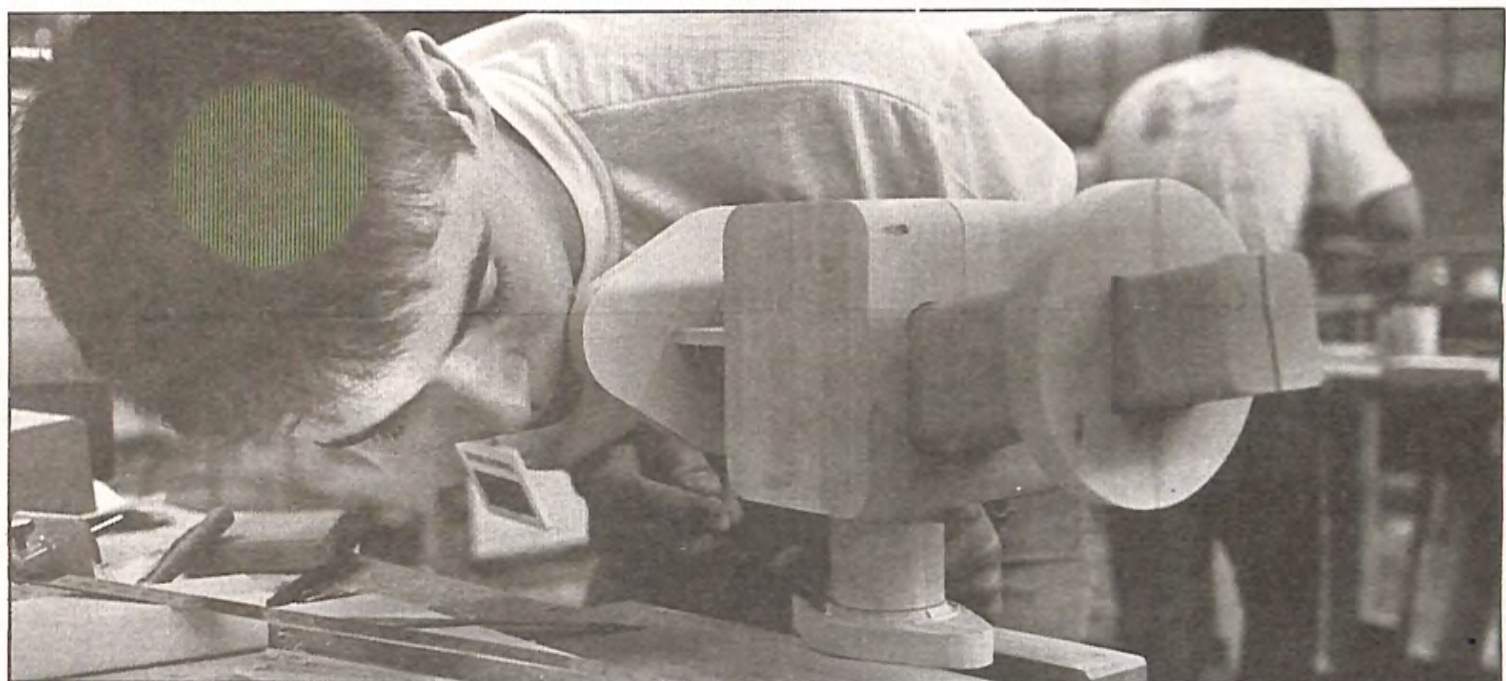


# GETTING A —



## SNIPPING

Going for gold, hairdresser Nicholas Williams-Cammack puts the finishing touches to the 24-carat hair-do that won a top medal for the UK.



## CHIPPING

Wood pattern maker Robert Davison, 20, perfecting the test piece which earned him a well deserved bronze medal.



## SIPPING

Same again? Home cooking isn't always best: UK's fricassé de volaille tasted no better than the other 14 versions.

**Bring 400 of the world's  
top trainees together  
and anything can happen**

THE FINAL 15 minutes were frenetic!

Enzo Montinari, Liechtenstein, with one eye on his *fricassée de volaille* and the other on the clock managed to produce three perfect heart-shaped croutons.

## Cacophonous

Yoshishige Yoshioika, Japan, ended three days of cacophonous carpentry with a tap of the mallet, sealing the final joint which converted a heap of timber into a work of art.

And, Nicholas Williams-Cammack, en route to the UK's only gold medal, jettisoned the contents of a can of hairspray over his model's shock of red (formerly black) hair.

Meanwhile 397 other competitors bashed, chinked, chipped, snipped, sewed, pounded and painted their way to the end of the 30th International Youth Skill Olympics, held at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, last month.

## Amazing

When the dust, shavings, hair and applause had settled, an amazing array of hand-crafted objects stood before an admiring audience.

Two days later, when the teams of international experts in each field had assembled their marks from tasting, amongst other things, 14 plates of sautéed button mushrooms, inspected 12 fully plumbed bathrooms, 11 brick walls and 11 hand-sewed ladies' suits and assorted pieces of jewellery, graphic design, wallpapering and wiring — the medals were awarded.

Top of the table came South Korea with 11 golds, two silver and three bronze. The UK came joint fifth with Australia and took one gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

As the competitors packed their tools, mementos and memories of three days of bidding for gold, silver and bronze medals in true olympian style most had begun the week as competitors and finished it as friends.

Nicholas Williams-Cammack clutching his gold medal for men's hairdressing had the shortest distance to travel home — back to Leamington Spa — occasionally looking over his shoulder, hoping not to see a man with bright red hair.

## FINAL RESULTS

| Country       | No of medals | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---------------|--------------|------|--------|--------|
| Korea         | 16           | 11   | 2      | 3      |
| Taiwan        | 14           | 7    | 4      | 3      |
| Austria       | 12           | 5    | 5      | 2      |
| Germany       | 12           | 3    | 3      | 6      |
| Japan         | 10           | 3    | 6      | 1      |
| Ireland       | 10           | 1    | 4      | 5      |
| Australia     | 9            | 2    | 4      | 3      |
| UK            | 9            | 1    | 4      | 4      |
| Switzerland   | 8            | 4    | 1      | 3      |
| France        | 5            | 2    | 3      | 0      |
| Netherlands   | 5            | 2    | 0      | 3      |
| New Zealand   | 2            | 0    | 1      | 1      |
| USA           | 1            | 0    | 1      | 0      |
| Brazil        | 1            | 0    | 1      | 0      |
| Liechtenstein | 1            | 0    | 0      | 1      |

Photos: JACKY CHAPMAN

# HEAD AT THE SKILL OLYMPICS



## COIFFURING

Nicola Heaven, UK team, shows off the haircut which divided the silver medal in ladies hairdressing.



## DRIPPING

Painter and decorator Jason Yates makes his mark for the UK team.



## SAWING

All the competitors showed a high level of skill and concentration.

## HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?

Continued from page 1

All parts of STA are being offered for sale as training businesses.

Those who receive the Information Memorandum will be invited to bid for all or part of STA. The STA is being offered for sale by private tender, and in line with the usual practice, the Information Memorandum itself will be sent only to serious potential bidders who sign a confidentiality undertaking.

★ ★ ★

□ The Skills Training Agency comprises 60 Skillcentres providing training in a range of craft, technical, and supervisory skills for private employers and within the Government's Employment Training programme.

□ In a statement to the House of Commons on March 13, the Secretary of State said:

● in the five years to 1987/88, STA had financially broken even only once;

● in 1988/89 STA is expected to make a loss of approaching £20m; and

● Government is interested in bids for training businesses.

□ A clause in the Employment Bill will ensure that all staff who transfer to the private sector are protected by the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981.



**CHIPPING AWAY:** Ernest carves the head of a rocking horse. The finished items, which take 80 hours of sculpting, are works of art as well as robust nursery toys.

# A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK!

**ERNEST DENT** may not be quite the fastest carver in the West, just yet, but he is certainly one of the most enthusiastic. At 52, Ernest of Pulruan, Cornwall, has embarked on a new career as a maker of rocking horses.

Three years in the Army, five years as a laboratory analyst for a plastics company, 13 years with a security firm culminating in the position of Regional Sales Manager, and six years running a business, provide an unlikely background for Ernest's new work.

"I've always enjoyed carpentry, so when the chance came up for Employment Training, I decided to go for it. I started in December last year. I was really thrown in at the deep end, as the Christmas rush was on."

### Deep end

The placement, which was organised by Cornwall Co-operative Training takes Ernest across the river Fowey every day, to a barn on a farm. It is there that five years ago Wood'n'Good Toys was started by Ernest's boss Kevin Evans with help from the Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

The two men spend their working days carving superb rocking horses and rocking lambs from walnut, yellow pine, elm and mahogany, finishing them with real horsehair or sheepskin.

"When I first got a chisel in my hand and started having a go at carving a sheep's head, I was terribly nervous. Now I'm a lot more confident. There's a lot to learn, but Kevin's very patient. It's a great thing when you get on well with your boss."

### Patient

"I would thoroughly recommend ET to anyone. It's not cheap labour as I've heard some people say. Some people take the wrong attitude — I'm one of those guys who hate being unemployed, and as far as I'm concerned, it's all an attitude of mind. At my age you've got to do a complete turnaround and face the facts."

The fact is that Ernest is thoroughly enjoying himself, making something that will last and be admired for generations to come.

## ERNIE CARVES OUT NEW JOB THANKS TO ET

## DISHING UP NEW SKILLS

THE media joke runs: "Question — What's the difference between satellite TV and the Loch Ness Monster? Answer — More people have seen the Loch Ness Monster!"

But as more and more buildings are sprouting white dishes and British Satellite Broadcasting are poised to launch their "Squarial" next spring, the joke is becoming outdated.

A new technology demands new skills and Employment Training is in the forefront of providing them. An £87,000 programme to train long-term unemployed people as satellite dish installers has recently been introduced.

Developed by the Skills Training Agency, Sky TV and BSB, it is being piloted in ten areas and will provide about 500 training places. Also taking part in the project are leading employers such as Dixons, Rumbelows, Comet,



Currys, DER and Granada.

The course consists of two weeks initial training in a Skillcentre followed by a further ten weeks with an employer involved in the programme. A new City and Guilds qualification has been designed for those who successfully complete the course.

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## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

| Date                       | Unemployment (UK)   |        |                | Vacancies (UK)         |                | Retail Prices Index (UK) |               | Whole economy average earnings, seasonally adjusted (Great Britain) |               |                      |      |    |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|------|----|
| (All figures in thousands) | Total               |        |                | Unfilled vacancies     |                |                          |               |                                                                     |               |                      |      |    |
|                            | Seasonally adjusted |        |                | notified to Jobcentres |                |                          |               |                                                                     |               |                      |      |    |
|                            | Total               | Number | Change         | Number                 | Change         | All items index          | Percentage    | Index                                                               | Percentage    | Estimated underlying |      |    |
|                            | (unadjusted)        |        | since previous |                        | since previous | Jan 1987=100             | increase over | 1985=100                                                            | increase over | percentage increase  |      |    |
|                            |                     |        | month          |                        | month          |                          | 12 months     |                                                                     | 12 months     | over 12 months†      |      |    |
| Apr 1988                   | 2,536               | 2,403  | -51            | 256                    | +7             | Apr 1988                 | 105.8         | 3.9                                                                 | Mar 1988      | 124.0                | 9.5  | 8½ |
| May                        | 2,427               | 2,364  | -39            | 254                    | -2             | May                      | 106.2         | 4.2                                                                 | Apr           | 124.4                | 8.9  | 8½ |
| June                       | 2,341               | 2,324  | -40            | 255                    | +1             | June                     | 106.6         | 4.6                                                                 | May           | 124.2                | 7.6  | 8½ |
| July                       | 2,327               | 2,267  | -57            | 250                    | -5             | July                     | 106.7         | 4.8                                                                 | June          | 125.1                | 8.1  | 8¾ |
| Aug                        | 2,291               | 2,226  | -42            | 243                    | -7             | Aug                      | 107.9         | 5.7                                                                 | July          | 126.9                | 8.5  | 9  |
| Sept                       | 2,311               | 2,192  | -34            | 240                    | -3             | Sept                     | 108.4         | 5.9                                                                 | Aug           | 126.6                | 8.1  | 9¼ |
| Oct                        | 2,119               | 2,158  | -34            | 251                    | +11            | Oct                      | 109.5         | 6.4                                                                 | Sept          | 127.6                | 8.7  | 9¼ |
| Nov                        | 2,067               | 2,105  | -53            | 245                    | -6             | Nov                      | 110.0         | 6.4                                                                 | Oct           | 129.5                | 9.0  | 9  |
| Dec                        | 2,047               | 2,037  | -68            | 238                    | -7             | Dec                      | 110.3         | 6.8                                                                 | Nov           | 130.7                | 8.7  | 8¾ |
| Jan 1989                   | 2,074               | 1,988  | -50            | 229                    | -9             | Jan 1989                 | 111.0         | 7.5                                                                 | Dec           | 134.3                | 11.0 | 8¾ |
| Feb                        | 2,018               | 1,949  | -39            | 228                    | -1             | Feb                      | 111.8         | 7.8                                                                 | Jan 1989      | 133.3                | 9.4  | 9* |
| Mar                        | 1,960               | 1,917  | -32            | 223                    | -5             | Mar                      | 112.3         | 7.9                                                                 | Feb           | 133.8                | 9.7  | 9¼ |
| Apr                        | 1,884               | 1,858  | -59            | 222                    | -1             | Apr                      | 114.3         | 8.0                                                                 | Mar           | 134.9                | 8.8  | 9¼ |
| May                        | 1,803               | 1,836  | -22            | 218                    | -4             | May                      | 115.0         | 8.3                                                                 | Apr           | 135.6                | 9.1  | 9¼ |
| Jun                        | 1,743               | 1,810  | -26            | 226                    | +8             | Jun                      | 115.4         | 8.3                                                                 | May           | 135.9                | 9.6  | 9¼ |
| July                       | 1,771               | 1,787  | -23            | 220                    | -7             | July                     | 115.5         | 8.2                                                                 | Jun           | 137.6                | 9.4  | 9  |
| Aug                        | 1,741               | 1,751  | -36            | 217                    | -3             | Aug                      | 115.8         | 7.3                                                                 | July          | 139.4*               | 8.7  | 9¼ |

(r) Revised  
\*Provisional

†Excluding temporary factors

(r) Revised  
\*Provisional

†Excluding temporary factors

## THE SALE launched press invit

When announced in the House of Commons in 1984, the Training Agency for Employment became a viable reality.

## HELP ON THE AIR

PEOPLE with literacy and numeracy difficulties will soon be able to get help over the airwaves.

A three year Basic Skills Accreditation Initiative (BSAI), which uses TV and radio, has been set-up to motivate people with basic skills problems.

Through BSAI students will be encouraged to work towards nationally recognised qualifications — including a new City and Guilds certificate in communication and numeracy.

Advice on training, including YTS and ET will be available through a referral programme associated with BBC TV programmes.

The project is a joint venture by the Employment Department's Training Agency, the Department of Education and Science and the BBC.

## been financial ward.

House of State centres to training for and employ good career work in it.

That the agency in the private successful move to the will provide a better the staff and a more effective contribution to our national training effort," he said.

## Bidders

Since then Deloitte Corporate Finance, sale advisers to the Secretary of State, has received more than 80 initial expressions of interest in STA, including one from a group of senior managers in STA who would like to mount a management buy-out.

The press advertisements provide opportunity for those who have not already done so to express their interest in bidding for STA, and signal the start of the sale process.

Continued on BACK page

## MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL

## FIND OUT WHO HAS A FLAIR FOR HAIR

SOME amazing things can be created when 400 of the world's most talented trainees, from 21 countries, are gathered together under one roof in order to put their skills to the test.

## Cream

Panning for gold, silver and bronze medals were the cream of Britain's own young trainees.

Skills put to the test ranged from bricklaying, cooking and motor mechanics through to hairdressing and jewellery-making.

To find out how all the teams fared...

See PAGES 10 & 11



**WHAT'S ON IN LONDON? See pages 5, 6, 7 & 8**