**F-News Bulletin**

**Characters:**

***Alistair Link and Fiona Speak:*** *Newscasters who constantly name check each other. Their forced seriousness in reporting ridiculous stories is only matched by the false chumminess with which they address each other.*

***Tony Telltales****: Reporter in Houston. Breathlessly excited all through his report.*

***Brenda Blather****: Garrulous cat-lover.*

***Detective Chief Inspector Hannah Cuffs****: Pompous and stilted delivery.*

***Eva Lying*** *(pronounced ‘Ever lying’): Earnest in manner.*

***Anon:*** *Over the top ‘South American’ accent.*

*(Introductory news music with screen background of @REAL NEWS. Lights up on two newscasters sitting at desk. Screen behind with running logo of Breaking News and continual loop of items: ‘Iceland melts; England beats Germany 12-0; First dog elected to parliament given a new post; National Geographic reports Rocky Mountains have gone soft; Exit poll general election results: Greenland gone red’)*

*Alistair*: Welcome to @REAL News, your premier station for real news and views! I’m Alistair Link

*Fiona*: And I’m Fiona Speak.

*Alistair*: The main news tonight: NASA scientists report evidence of life on Mars. We can go over live to Houston and Tony Telltales for an update on this breaking story...

*Tony (earpiece in ear; very excited):* Yes, Alistair: Nasa team members here confirm that the latest space probe has discovered definite traces of intelligent life near the summit of Alba Mons on Mars: there were no actual sightings of creatures but 3 empty coke cans, two discarded cheeseburger wrappings and a melted McFlurry suggested that we had only just missed them... As you can imagine, excitement here at Mission Control is intense!

*Fiona*: Wow! Yes, I can imagine. That’s pretty amazing, Alistair!

*Alistair*: Extraordinary, Fiona! I didn’t even realise that McDonalds delivered...

*Fiona (serious again):* Following the announcement that the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations is to be decided by lottery, the first winner has been announced – and she’s a Brit!: Mrs Brenda Blather of Hemel Hempstead! I believe we have an interview with the worthy winner, Alistair?

*Alistair*: So we have, Fiona. Many congratulations, Mrs Blather! Your reaction to being made leader of the world?

*Brenda*: Well obviously, I’m a bit surprised, Alistair! I always give the same numbers, you know, and the only thing I won before was a £5.00 gift voucher which I put towards a new hot water bottle from Argos!

*Alistair*: So how would you describe the main features of your policy for world peace?

*Brenda*: Well, to be honest, Alistair, I haven’t really had enough time to think about that, what with trying to make my Breezyjet booking to - where is it again? It is IN America isn’t it these United What-do-you-call-its? And then there’s Tiddles..Who’ll look after the cat while I’m at the General Assembly, Alistair?

*Alistair*: Thank you, Mrs Blather! We look forward to hearing your first speech…

*Fiona*: Yes, the world is bound to be safe in the hands of a cat lover…Police have confirmed that they are urgently trying to establish the cause of recent damage to trees in Kent Park. Deputy Chief Inspector Hannah Cuffs gave this interview to reporters late this afternoon:

*DCI Cuffs*: I can confirm that enquiries are continuing into possible criminal damage to oak trees in the vicinity of the afore-mentioned National Trust property. A large saucer-shaped object has been observed in the area and witnesses describe a short, green person with two heads at the scene of the alleged crime. The public are strongly advised not approach this individual as we believe that he or she may be armed - well, six-armed actually.

*Fiona*: Thank you Deputy Chief Inspector. And finally, Peru government sources, commenting on the huge explosion in the llama population, are accusing farmers there of woolly thinking. Our correspondent Eva Lying is on the line to us now. Eva - what news?

*Eva*: Well, Fiona, earlier today I interviewed this farmer who wished to remain anonymous. His voice has been disguised to protect his identity.

*Anon*: ‘Is not our fault! At same time llama population growing climate change means no so many they want jumpers and ear warmers! And anyway, ze government, she don’t train enough knitters, isn’t it? So how we ever goin’ to reduce the wool mountain, eh?’

*Eva*: Much unhappiness there, as you can gather, Fiona! Official sources in the Ministry for Llamas in Lima refused to be interviewed on camera but did not deny the widely circulated claim that scientists are urgently conducting gene therapy experiments to determine whether llamas could be bred with cotton and lycra coats. Back to you, Fiona!

*Fiona*: Thanks, Eva. An unravelling story there…

*Alistair (clutching his earpiece):* Breaking News! We’re getting reports from Palestine…

*Fiona (also excited):* What are you hearing, Alistair?

*Alistair*: I gather that local shepherds have reported bright lights and loud singing…

*Fiona (laughing):* Sounds like a Christmas party, Alistair! All that mulled wine!

*Alistair (deadly serious and intense*): No, no, Fiona! Reuters are describing three kings in the area..

*Fiona (interested again):* Kings?!

*Alistair*: child, Fiona! Yes! As I speak eye-witnesses are talking about stable...a baby…The kings are *bowing* to the baby!

*Fiona (looking at her laptop as a message flashes onto screen*): I’ve just received a tweet from the same location, Alistair: ‘Great Joy at the birth of the Saviour of the World’ *(looks up at the congregation, doubt crosses her face followed by a sceptical expression in place of excitement. She speaks slowly and deliberately…)* Hang on a minute, Alistair!

*Alistair (still* distractedly *listening to his earpiece):* What?!

*Fiona*: This is all a bit far-fetched! Shepherds? A stable? Kings? a baby Saviour? You know what this is, don’t you?

*Alistair (now irritated):* No! What? WHAT?

Fiona (triumphantly): It’s Fake News!

*(Lights out and breaking news music to fade out)*