

Whistleblower

A wry look at recent events in the accountancy world

Not so trivial pursuit

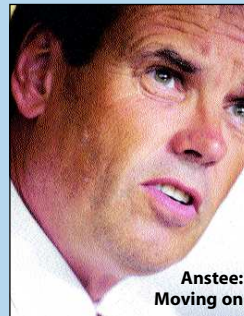
The spectacular bureaucratic nightmare of Whitehall's insistence that accountants up and down the land have to report every possible indication that points to the existence of money laundering or face prosecution themselves appears to have backfired. Now, almost buried under an avalanche of reports, we hear they have taken to pleading with accountants to stop sending in what they call the more trivial items. Accountants are ignoring this. The possibility of prosecution still worries them more than civil servants being unable to do their job.

A load of...

Most of us have come across embarrassing acronyms, but more often than not, they are avoided just in time. There was apparently an intention to change the name of the ACCA to the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, whose abbreviation would certainly look strange to the French. When the watchdog to regulate the electricity industry was established, it was to follow the pattern set by similar industry bodies such as Ofcom and Ofwat. At the last minute the seriousness of a body called Offel was cast into question and the name was modified to Offer. But what to make of the recent standard issued by the International Federation of Accountants. Was it sloppiness or a gloomy sense of realism on the part of the author that IES 8 was given the title *Competence Requirements for Audit Professionals?*

ICAS stumped again

Following last year's war of words over its plan for vocabular world domination by shortening its name to the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the ICAEW can't seem to stop putting its foot in it with the Scots institute. In June we reported how it accidentally deleted the ICAS representative from the seating plan at its annual dinner. But there was yet more inadvertent Scots-baiting last month as ICAS proudly revealed the name of its new chief executive, Anton Colella. Unwilling to yield the limelight, even for a day, the ICAEW overshadowed the announcement by revealing the resignation of Eric Anstee on the same morning.



Anstee: Moving on

Who needs friends?

Still on the subject, it seems Anstee is not universally popular south of the border either. When a gathering of members of the CIMA council first heard the news of his resignation there was an outbreak of cheering.

Noddy's accountant

Mr Tildesley and Mr Tonks the accountants got into their little car and drove into town to collect books from the butcher, the baker, and the man in the garage.

An extract from *Noddy in Toytown*, perhaps? No – everyday life in Wolverhampton.

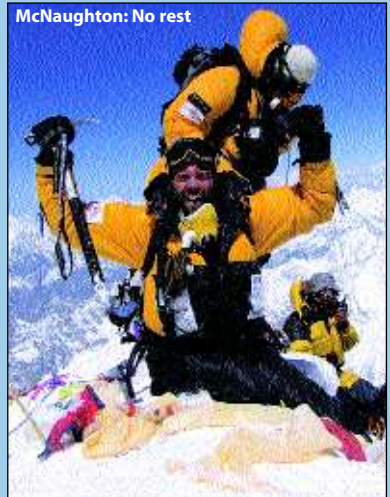
The firm of Tildesley & Tonks recently moved from its city centre base to a business park on the outskirts. Knowing it was harder for their clients to see them, the partners took delivery of a miniature 'Smart Car' adorned with the firm's logo and having agreed a date, pootled off to pick up accounts.

We just hope they don't get too enthusiastic: Mr Plod might book them for speeding.



A mountain of work

McNaughton: No rest



If BDO Stoy Hayward partner Scott McNaughton thought he'd be allowed to take things easy after climbing Mount Everest, he'd better think again.

McNaughton, 32, scaled the Himalayan peak after a long and arduous climb lasting two months, raising £21,000 for charity into the bargain.

That was not before knocking off a few practice runs like Anconcagua, only the highest mountain in the southern hemisphere at a mere 23,000 feet. So he could look forward to a well deserved rest on his return home? Well, not quite.

As BDO managing partner Jeremy Newman pointed out in this magazine last month: 'You can bet your bottom dollar that he will now work a shedload harder and be much more committed than would otherwise have been the case.'

No pressure, old son. They'll allow you to get your crampons off before you sit down.