Scriptwriting for TV News

The illustration below shows a computer program used to write TV news scripts. The various stories in the newscast are listed in the lower half of the screen and the corresponding script for each entry is displayed in the top section. The window in the top left lists the various news shows during the week.

TV Script Writing Vocabulary

4CG  Computer generated graphics (will be on different computer than the SS)
MAP WIPE Going to a shot of a map (probably a computer graphic) using a wipe effect.
PKG  Package – this is an entire news story that is pre-taped and includes all video and audio needed. It gives the crew a breather, like a commercial break.
TFXWALL Traffic wall – using chroma key screen with effects
REM-LIVE Remote shot done live
ROBOCAM Robotic camera shot (might be a camera mounted on a building)
SS  Still store – this is a computer that has a bank of still photos. No moving shots.
VO  Voice Over – anchor or reporter will continue to talk over b-roll
VO TOPS Instead of going to video of an anchor/reporter and then to the b-roll footage with voice over, we will go from the previous story directly to the b-roll with voice over (no anchor/reporter shot)
VO WIPE Voice Over using a wipe effect
WXWALL Weather wall – will use the chroma key screen with effects
AN UPDATE IN THE SEARCH FOR STACY PETERSON - THE ILLINOIS WOMAN MISSING FOR TWO WEEKS.
HE HUSBAND, POLICE SERGEANT DREW PETERSON IS NOW CONSIDERED A SUSPECT IN WHAT INVESTIGATORS HAVE UPGRADED FROM A MISSING PERSON CASE, TO A POSSIBLE MURDER.
NBC'S LEE COWAN REPORTS.

IT WAS ANOTHER LONG WEEKEND OF NO NEWS ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF STACY PETERSON -- MORE FLYERS DOT HER NEIGHBORHOOD -- AND HUNDREDS TURNED OUT TO SEARCH -- BUT SHE HASN'T BEEN SEEN OR HEARD FROM IN TWO WEEKS.
"WE'RE STILL TRYING TO REMAIN OPTIMISTIC."
THE SEARCH EVEN WENT HI-TECH -- WITH THOUSANDS OF HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES TAKEN FROM AN AIRPLANE.
"THEY'VE ASKED US TO LOOK AT SPECIFIC TARGETS AND LOOK FOR SPECIFIC OBJECTS. Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THOSE ARE? A: NOT YET."
FOR NOW, STACY'S HUSBAND DREW - REMAINS IN THE COUPLE'S HOME. HE TOLD FOX NEWS REPORTER GERALDO RIVERA THIS WEEKEND -- THAT THE FOCUS ON HIM - ESPECIALLY FROM THE MEDIA - IS GETTING TO HIM.
BUT NEIGHBORS SAY IT'S PETERSON'S BEHAVIOR THAT'S BOTHERING THEM - NOT THE MEDIA LINED UP AND DOWN THEIR STREET.
THIS WOMAN SAYS SHE FOUND PETERSON STARING IN HER DINING ROOM WINDOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LAST WEEK. SHE'S NOW STAYING AT A HOTEL.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER WILL BE ON CRUTCHES FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
SCHWARZENEGGER HAD SURGERY TO REMOVE A METAL PLATE AND CABLES FROM HIS LEG. THE HARDWARE WAS USED TO HELP HIS UPPER THIGH BONE HEAL AFTER HE BROKE IT SKIING NEARLY A YEAR AGO.
THE MINOR SURGERY TOOK ABOUT 20 MINUTES, AND SCHWARZENEGGER'S DOCTOR SAYS THERE WERE NO COMPLICATIONS.

HE IS BLAMED FOR GUNNING DOWN EIGHT PEOPLE IN A FINISH HIGH SCHOOL.
THIS AFTERNOON, FIND OUT WHY INVESTIGATORS THINK THE GUNMAN MAY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A TEEN RIGHT HERE IN THE U-S, WHO HAD HIS OWN PLANS OF VIOLENCE.
DIABETES IS A BIG DISEASE - SOME VERY SMALL CHILDREN HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
NEW AT NOON, IN TODAY'S HEALTHBEAT - HOW A MOM - SAW A NEED AND MOVED IN TO HELP HER YOUNG DAUGHTER, COPE.
BUT FIRST, HERE'S CHRIS.