



THE ANTARCTIC NITE TIMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 1 APRIL 1990
McMURDO STATION AND SCOTT BASE



FROM THE EDITOR

Hello All! For those of us who arrived in October, the season is almost half over. Can you believe it? I remember an old quip that goes, those things that hurt, instruct. Lets not fool ourselves; life in the Antarctic can hurt at times. Personally, I have been trying to remember that the most difficult things are often the most profitable. Wealth may be measured by many standards, but I believe peace of mind and self-esteem to be true wealth. I think we're all going to be very rich when we leave. Stay well, stay warm and enjoy this weeks issue.

STAFF

ADVISOR DOC HARFORD

EDITOR WARREN ROSS

WORLDNEWS J. JOHNSTON
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SPORTS NEWS D. KONTINOS
SAFETY BOB WARDEN

SCOTT BASE B. MCGREGOR

TYPIST ACTION JACKSON

ADS ISMAIL SAPIEN

WORLD NEWS

VILNIUS, Lithuania, U.S.S.R. - The Soviet Union has imposed stiff limits on foreigners traveling in Lithuania, including correspondent reporting on the Kremlin's crackdown in the rebellious Baltic republic. Soviet paratroopers dragged Lithuanian army deserters from a psychiatric hospital Tuesday and seized the headquarters of Lithuania's independent communists. Lithuania's government protested the Soviet actions as 'inexcusable aggression.'

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration muted an already cautious response to the conflict in Lithuania, taking pains to avoid provoking Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and risking damage to superpower relations. White House press secretary Martin Fitzwater declined Tuesday to criticize the latest show of Soviet force in Lithuania. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States would not 'comment on specific conflicts.'

McMURDO STATION ANTARCTICA - UFO sightings at the US outpost on Ross Island in Antarctica were confirmed today by unnamed NSF sources in Washington D.C. The sightings, initially reported by investigative reporter Geraldo Rivera, were denied by U.S. Navy spokesmen. Rivera stated that several unidentified craft had been observed on radar as well as visually by station personnel. Strangely enough this information has been kept from Ross Island residents to avoid unnecessary concern on their part.

WASHINGTON - The defense in John Poindexter's Iran-Contra trial rested its case without calling the accused former national security adviser to the stand, setting the stage for closing arguments and jury deliberations. U.S. District Judge Harold Greene ordered both sides to federal court on Wednesday for jury instructions and scheduled closing arguments for Friday.

WASHINGTON - The Senate has promised to act on clean air legislation next week, but before then, lawmakers face controversial amendments proposing to ease the economic impact of acid rain reduction requirements. Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine announced Tuesday a bipartisan agreement to vote on the bill by next Tuesday night.

BOISE, Idaho - Abortion rights advocates turned up the heat on Gov. Cecil Andrus, who weighed the consequences of signing the most restrictive abortion law in the nation and sparking a boycott of Idaho potatoes. The bill arrived on the governor's desk Tuesday as growing fears that the threatened potato boycott could be extended to tourism and other Idaho products if he signs it.

MANAGUA - The Sandinista government took a major step toward peacefully handing over power next month by agreeing to ban politics in the armed forces and to transfer the military to President-elect Violeta Chamorro's command. Control of Nicaragua's Popular Sandinista Army and Interior Ministry police force has been a central negotiating point in transition talks.



FEATURE INTERVIEW

by W. Ross

This week's interview features Craig Eeman, ANS/ASA construction electrician. This is one guy you'd just have to like. I didn't know Craig before the interview, but I walked away afterwards thinking, "here's a guy that anyone would like to have as a friend."

Enough fanfare, let me tell you a little about this fascinating fella. He's 28 married, and callsergus Falls, Minnesota his home. His last job was about as far from Antarctica as you could get - Saudi Arabia. There, he worked as an electrician, travelling from one irrigation site to another as troubleshooter. Craig has several hobbies, including art. Being modest, he reluctantly showed me his latest completed work. I have always liked pandas, but I think his was one of the best drawings of one I have yet to see. True, I'm no art critic, mostly because I still have trouble drawing stick men (you should see my handwriting), but Craig's talent for art would be appreciated by anyone. He is currently reading Wilbur Smith's "The Leopard Hunts In The Woods." Also, he plays volleyball with the Mac-town Maulers team. Go Maulers!

So how did Craig find himself in Antarctica? "I really didn't come here to conquer anything or climb any mountains," he said, "I just wanted to build a little nest egg. Also, I must admit I was curious about the Antarctic." He says the most enjoyable part of his job is, "...knowing that the work is done right and the satisfaction which follows afterwards..."

I asked Craig if he had any secrets for coping with difficulties. He said, "I try to maintain a positive attitude everyday. Sure, sometimes it's hard, but it gets easier everyday." Craig's advice for a successful season is to keep one's mind occupied. Personally I thought that sounded like pretty good medicine. I think he is one guy who could overcome anything - and be successful. If you wanted to leave one thought with the ice people after having left McMurdo, what would that be I asked. Craig's reply was, "I would really like to be remembered as a man of my word, a man of integrity, having pride in my work and one who was responsible." I think that with Craig's positive attitude, this thought or goal, will be easily achieved.

EARTH DAY

BY KRISTIN LARSON

IN THESE DAYS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES HAVE BEEN BROKEN DOWN: "GREENIES" JOIN FORCES WITH INDUSTRIALISTS TO DEVELOP RESOURCE-SAVING,

MONEY-MAKING RECYCLING SCHEMES, SO JOIN WITH EUROPEANS TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF ACID RAIN.

IT IS THEN NO SUPRISE THAT EARTH DAY 1990 WILL BE A WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION; A GLOBAL BIRTHDAY FOR MOTHER NATURE! ON APRIL 22, 1990, PEOPLE IN 120 COUNTRIES WILL OBSERVE THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST EARTH DAY. AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES INCLUDE TREE PLANTINGS, WILDERNESS FIELD TRIPS, SERMONS AND MUSIC FESTIVALS SOME OF WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN SUCH FAR FLUNG PLACES AS ZIMBABWE, CHILE, FINLAND AND INDIA.

IN THE TWENTY YEARS SINCE EARTH DAY 1970, THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT HAS EXPANDED FROM THE SOLE DOMAIN OF FRINGE LEFTISTS INTO THE ARENA OF HIGH POWERED POLITICIANS, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AS WELL AS CONCERNED CITIZENS. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS SUCH AS THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND OZONE DEPLETION HAVE SHED NEW LIGHT ON POLICY MAKING WHILE CUTTING ACROSS THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL FABRIC OF THE NATIONS.

THE PURPOSE OF EARTH DAY 1990 IS NOT ONLY TO RECOGNIZE THESE GRAVE THREATS, BUT ALSO TO CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY AND WONDER OF THIS AMAZING MARBLE THAT WE RESIDE ON. HERE IN ANTARCTICA WE HAVE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON SUBJECTS LIKE: WHAT THE #\$%*^@ AM I DOING HERE? AND WHAT IMPACT AM I HAVING ON THIS PLACE WHERE NO SANE HUMAN WOULD DARE VENTURE (MUCH LESS SPEND A WINTER !)? I THINK WE ALL REALIZE THAT ALTHOUGH ANTARCTICA IS A HARSH ENVIRONMENT IT IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST FRAGILE AS WELL.

ON APRIL 22, 1990, THE COMMUNITIES OF MCMURDO AND SCOTT BASE WILL JOIN WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD AND CELEBRATE EARTH DAY. A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED INCLUDING A HUGE PICNIC WITH INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS, A CONTEST FOR THE BEST "ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION" IDEA, A FLAG RAISING, SPECIAL T.V. PROGRAMMING AND MUCH MORE (SORRY FOLKS, NO TREE PLANTINGS!). WE ARE LOOKING FOR INPUT FROM EVERYBODY; A COMMITTEE IS STARTING TO FORM: CALL KRISTIN AT X 2342 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

LET'S TAKE THIS SPECIAL DAY TO CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF THE EARTH AND MAKE A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO HEIGHTENED AWARENESS.

News of Scott-

SBPA

"Well, what an experience! It's been a good six months, but when it happened the other night, all my old memories of it came flooding back to me."

Yep, you're on to it! The moon and the rest of the mighty cosmos have made a few dramatic appearances over the last few weeks. Just last weekend I found myself standing on the Ross Ice Shelf, miles from anywhere, not a sound to be heard, and looking skyward at an awesome sight. (Infinity is a big number, isn't it!) It was all pretty unreal really.

Then, while I was absorbing all that, an even more cosmic scene unfolded. The sky filled with long wispy white streaks of light, like radial spokes of an enormous wheel centred directly above. The wheel then turned, its spokes changing in intensity as it did. This, of course, was enough to blow me away completely.

The wheel was the great southern lights, Aurora Australis or Auzzy to his mates. Pretty amazing really! All this happened on one of the first clear nights we've seen this

Autumn. Maybe five months of darkness won't be such a bad thing after all!

The ice is now starting to get a grip on the water out in front of Scott Base. It had a bit of trouble settling in with the high surf we've had recently. On one occasion, even the shore-bound ice had a bit of trouble stayin' put. Greater than fifty knot winds rarked up waves that ripped into our beach front and even ripped off with a small section of our real estate. However, we shall not be moved!

That's all for now. Till next...

Cheers Bruce.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello all! Congratulations to the Rec Committee, whose April Fool's party was a smashing success. Everyone had a great time. Tim Hogan, Larry Cook and myself judged Greg Peterson to have the best fool's costume. What a drag! Greg won a \$25 gift certificate from the ship's store for his outlandish effort. This issue includes world and sport news, the continuing whodunit story of Pete the Penguin, Dear Mac, the premier advice columnist, and all the extras you have come to expect from the Nite Times. Remember, any ideas, articles or stories are most welcomed, so put your creative energy to work. Enjoy and have a great week.

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WORLD NEWS

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have agreed to hold their summit meeting in the United States from May 30 to June 3, it was announced Thursday. The summit is expected to take place mainly in Washington. A longer trip to the United States by Gorbachev had been contemplated, but a forthcoming meeting of the Communist Party Congress and the Baltic breakaway problems besetting Moscow apparently kept it shorter. The announcement was made in a one-paragraph written statement handed out to the press. No details were given on Gorbachev's time of arrival or whether the talks would be held entirely in Washington.

MOSCOW — Lithuania's permanent representative in Moscow said Thursday the republic is ready for compromise and he does not reject the possibility of a referendum on secession, the official Tass news agency said. Lithuania's parliament met Thursday to work on the final draft of a response to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's demand that it rescind the unilateral declaration of independence.

EAST BERLIN — East Germany's first freely elected parliament — and probably its last before German unification — convened Thursday for a historical session overshadowed by claims some deputies had been secret police informers.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Soldiers in the nominally independent black homeland of Venda seized power Thursday in a bloodless coup, the territory's radio announced. It was the second of the four independent homelands in South Africa to fall under military rule in the past two months.

NEW YORK — The Bush administration's effort in the last year to turn the tide in the war on drugs in the nation's capital has failed as the special federal initiative has not reduced the availability of narcotics or stemmed drug-related killings, the New York Times reported Thursday.

NEW YORK — Republican Party Chairman Lee Atwater's brain tumor is 'aggressive and dangerous,' and he will undergo chemotherapy as well as radiation treatments in an effort to attack it, his doctors said.

ROME — Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat began a two-day official visit Thursday to Italy to seek support for Arab-Israeli negotiations in a wide range of talks with political leaders and with Pope John Paul II.

LONDON — A pocket of hard-core prisoners defied pleas from negotiators Thursday to end their 5-day-old occupation of a crowded prison that has left scores wounded and at least one dead, officials said.



remoteness was also a factor." Now that Mark has fulfilled one of his dreams, he is thinking about pursuing an M.B.A. when he returns to the U.S. "Staying in touch with what's happening and keeping the lines of communication open are the most difficult parts of my job." He is a results oriented individual and says, "seeing the end result and project completion is the most enjoyable part of my job."

When not working he enjoys photography and scuba diving. It seems that Mark is a hands - off manager, but recognizes the need to stay fully informed and intercede when the need becomes obvious. I asked him what his major professional goal was. He said, "if everyone leaves here with a sense of accomplishment, has grown spiritually and professionally and has a sense of fulfillment, I will have succeeded here." When asked if he wanted to leave one final thought, he replied, "don't sweat the small stuff."

FEATURE INTERVIEW

BY WARREN ROSS

This week's issue includes the interview of Mark DeSimone, McMurdo Station resident manager. After completing reviewing the notes I took while we spoke, I was amazed by the breadth of knowledge and humor Mark has. It seems as if he has been to more countries than some people could name. Actually I asked few questions. I didn't really have the opportunity, as he began to recall the past and their effects on him.

Mark is originally from Boston/Newton, Mass. He worked his way through college as a plumber and roofer, earning a B.S. in mechanical engineering. After college, his first major job was with Schlumberger as a wire line engineer. While with Schlumberger, he worked overseas in France, Tunisia, and Saudi Arabia. He also has worked in the petroleum industry on oil rigs in China. Ask Mark to tell you some of his oil rig stories sometime; he'll have you sitting on the edge of your seat.

So what made you seek employ in the Antarctic, I said. "...basically I have had a lifelong dream to work here. Ever since I looked at the bottom of a globe I have wondered what it would be like. The challenge of the elements and the

...from Scott-

SBPA

Ye Ha! Fine weather at last. Bout bloody time too! I was loosing faith that there actually was a Sun to set. But, now that there is, it's been doin' a pretty choice job of getting up, and down. Awesome display! But how many more times can it achieve it? And just how many suns are there? An infinite number! Well I saw three at the same time this morning through the mist.

What happened to all the ocean? Where did Black Island go? Where did the second White Island come from? What was that massive cloud of snow and smoke we saw out beyond Willies Field last weekend? Mysterious place!

And what happened to March? If all the winter months are gonna' cruise by that fast then we want our money back. Na, seriously it wasn't a bad month, but, you start to see that if you don't get on with all those things you wanted to do over winter, it'll be too late. After all, it's only 'bout nineteen weeks to Winfly!

Hey, bet you don't know why the little knob of dirt Scott Base sits on is called Pram Point? I was just "interrupted" by one of our resident

historians (so he believes!), who reckons that Scott (he thinks it was Scott!) used to row round from Hut Point in a Pram Dingy, to get to the ice shelf, and got off on our knob! Fancy that!

Enough of the past, "back to future!" This month, we've got sunset, maybe a dip or two (Oooh, Err!!??), and Earth Day. The latter looks pretty choice. Like the newsletter from the McMurdo meeting says, "Twenty years ago, most people did not know what the word environment meant!" It's pretty cool that it's now something that's brought up whenever man wants to stuff around with what was natural.

On that natural note, here's part of a neat song, E Wharepapa, by this Kiwi bloke, Mike Lipscombe...

"There's a man pulling down a
protected species, on the edge of an
age old native forest.

I said what about natural
conservation?

And he said, "It's a free world, and
Who the hell cares?"

Well, I care...

E Wharepapa, I care."

Choice Eh?

Spot ya next week, Bruce.

Phone Calls Home - The Inside Story

Hi! Dave here. I thought I'd try and write a bit of an explanation of why you sometimes get a good quality phone line from Scott Base, and sometimes a poor one.

To make a call back to the U.S. (or any other country) we have to connect into the international phone network in New Zealand. We do this on a high frequency (HF) radio link. This differs from a satellite link such as McMurdo's Inmarsat, in that the radio waves we send bounce off the ionosphere, a layer of the earth's atmosphere which is about 500 kilometres above the surface.

shines steadily, the ionosphere is happy and our radio signals bounce off it and down to New Zealand.

The problem is that the sun has a pretty hot temper and it tends to flare up from time to time. Solar flares, x-ray bursts and magnetic storms upset the ionosphere, and so our radio wave propagation becomes unreliable or even non-existent.

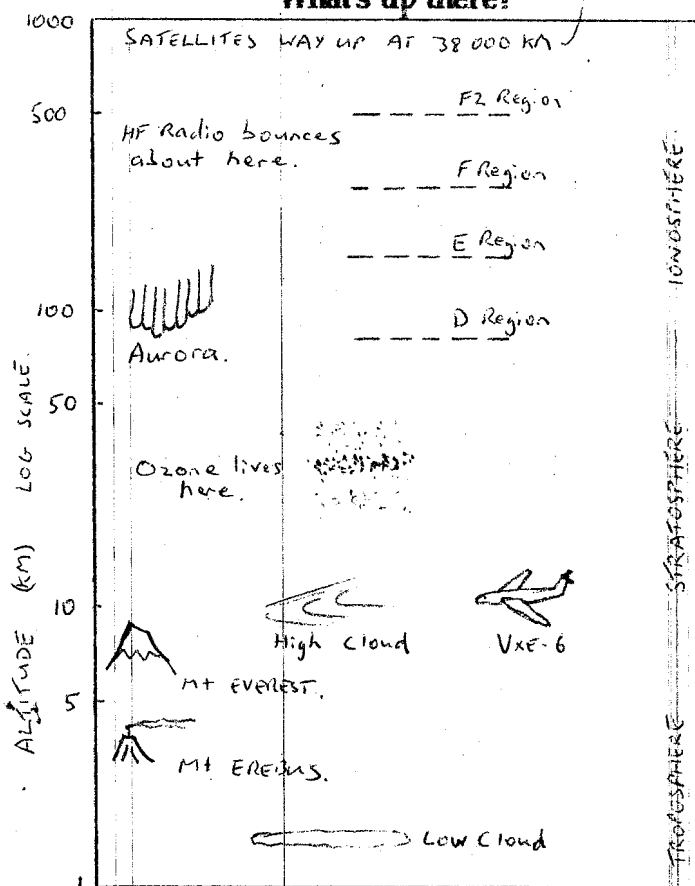
This year the sun is at the peak of the 11 year sunspot cycle, and so communications are very difficult. If you are told "comms are down today" that means that we are unable to establish contact with New Zealand because of the condition of the ionosphere.

Unfortunately the ionosphere is like the weather, it's impossible to predict what it will be doing tomorrow, or even an hour from now, so we take bookings for phone calls for each day, but due to the conditions some of them may not be able to be made. All we can do is book your call for another day and hope that communications will be better then.

Since satellites are not affected by the conditions that cause problems to HF radio, satellite communications are much more reliable, however there are only very limited satellite facilities available in Antarctica. This may change in the future but for now we just have to put up with the unpredictable nature of the ionosphere. As Tiddles the cat once remarked, "It's a harsh continent!"

Happy phone calls, -Dave.

What's up there?



The ionosphere depends on radiation from the sun for its existence, and as long as the sun

THE BACKBOARD

ADS AND PERSONNELS

WE APPRECIATE YOU:

I would like to express my appreciation to Sally. Sally is the only painter and wallpaper hanger in all of Mac town this winter. She has been working in building 55, where she is doing a wonderful job of painting and wallpapering the exits and entrances. Her hard work, dedication and pride are evident. In addition to painting and wallpapering, Sally is talented in carpentry. She owns her own business in her home town of Hamilton, Montana. Sally, I would like to thank you on behalf of all the residents in Mac town, especially those in building 155. Keep up the good work.

-Anon

BINGO! BINGO! BINGO!

On Sunday the 8th of April, at 1830 (630pm civilian time) your Recreation Committee will hold the first winter-over Bingo game at the Erebus Club. Ten varied Bingo games will be played with the tenth game being a Jack-Pot Black Out.

The Jack-pot black-out will have a limited amount of numbers starting with 52. Players must have a black-out by the 52nd number in order to win the jack-pot. If no one wins the jack-pot, the money will be carried over into the next Bingo session. The player who manages to have the first black-out after the 52nd number will win a consolation cash prize. During the next Bingo session, the Black-out number will be increased to 54, and so on until the Jack-pot is won. All cash prizes will be based on percentage of the total cash raised from the sales of Bingo cards. Here are the rest of the rules:

1. Players must purchase a packet of ten Bingo cards for \$10.00 in order to play the Jack-Pot Black Out. A ticket will be issued

to players purchasing the packet. This

ticket must be presented to claim the Jack-Pot cash prize.

2. Any player who purchases the \$10.00 packet may purchase other single bingo cards, including Jack-Pot.

3. Players who do not purchase the \$10.00 packet may still purchase as many single Bingo cards for any of the varied bingo games except they will not be permitted to purchase or play for the Jack-Pot.

Come and support your Recreation Committee. All money raised during Bingo will go towards the purchase of food and other items for upcoming social functions.

SCOTT BASE TELECOM

Telecom wishes to remind users of the service that payment for March is now due. Early settlement would be appreciated. As advised at the time of opening credit with Telecom, cash payments in either New Zealand or American currency is acceptable.

WANTED

Articles, drawings, cartoons for special Earth day section of The McMurdo Nite Times.

ATTENTION MASONS

Contact Paul Roberts ext 2524 or 2651 for information concerning the Antarctic circle Masonic club.

ATTENTION

Are you interested in Pictionary, chess, cribbage, backgammon, trivial pursuit, ect... If so, meeting Monday night 6 P.M. Bldg 155 in the lounge across from the T.V. station.