

The Symmes Antarctic Intelligencer

"There will be no gossiping." — Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd

INSIDE!!!

Scott Base Opens Store Branch at McMurdo ANG/ATS Team Up for Recycling Drive
Do You Have Enough Ice Time to Be Medevac'd?

Disposable GAs, DAs Introduced to Workforce

In a surprise declaration of previously unofficial practices, ASA announced Tuesday that General Assistants and Dining Attendants are to now be formally listed as disposable employees in all employee handbooks and job opportunity listings.

The change goes into effect immediately, though printed documents, expensive to reprint, will not show the change until the next fiscal year.

ASA spokesman Jack Armitage says the change is merely a legal technicality and will be unnoticeable to current employees.

"It's not like we're changing the contract or anything," says Armitage. "All eligible employees will still earn upwards of \$300 a week."

Under the new job descriptions, GAs and DAs will still perform random thankless duties, but will be replaced by newer, better workers when they drop to their knees in exhaustion.

"I like the new regulation. It allows me more freedom and happiness at my job," says a GA in an ASA press release.

Once the new practice is put into effect, GAs and DAs will perform similar duties as before but will be shoved into shallow ditches once their usefulness has been served.

"I like to work. I like shallow ditches. I wish I could be a GA every season," says another GA from an ASA press release.

Critics of the practice say that spent GAs and DAs should not be shoved in ditches and should instead be used to hold flags along various routes on the ice shelf, as bamboo is expensive and hard on the environment. ☺

Raytheon Proposes Added Surveillance, Prisons

Raytheon submitted its proposal to NSF Monday for changes it thinks will benefit the USAP.

"Some of the changes don't seem to make sense now," says Raytheon spokesman Jack Tankmissile, "but we're a company who isn't afraid to take risks and invest in the future. Our proposal is based on tried-and-true methods for consolidating power, money, and public opinion in one fell swoop. We know what we're doing."

Some of the more notable changes Raytheon hopes NSF will approve are:

- The addition of 74 surveillance cameras in various public spaces around McMurdo

"It is really just the most logical way to improve safety around town. If someone were to get hurt and be unable to get to a phone, or be unable to yell due to damaged vocal tissues, and managed to remain unseen by other residents, we would be able to identify that incident and react quickly due to our all-seeing web of surveillance," boasts Tankmissile.

- A prison complex

"In the '96-'97 season a violent incident occurred which would not have if a prison were built in McMurdo to act as a deterrent. Of course, we'd have to put some people in the prison for stealing in order to emphasize the deterrent, but after that we would have a very effective justice system." When suggesting to Tankmissile that there is little hooliganism to speak of in McMurdo he adds, "You never really know how much crime there is until you have a sleek prison on hand begging to be filled."

- 3,000 missiles

"Antarctica is the highest, driest, coldest, and most susceptible continent on this planet to invasion from small rogue nations. It is imperative that we protect our country's way of life." When suggesting to Tankmissile that the United States has made no claim on Antarctica he responds, "Yes, yes...of course."

- Newer, better TVs

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HR Helps Employee

In a baffling turn of events Thursday, Human Resources openly assisted an ASA employee, giving detailed information to the unnamed and fortunate recipient, and otherwise making obscure bureaucratic processes more accessible to common needs.

"I don't know what happened," said Jill Ferrar, FMC. "I was confused about a worker's comp issue and when I called Denver they gave me the information I needed. I know what I need to do next. It just doesn't feel right."

A spokeswoman from HR commented, "Usually our first tactic would be to confuse the employee by offering

ineffective avenues of action whereby the employee is told to call an office which doesn't know what the employee is talking about, yet collects various statements from the employee. Then we call every supervisor in the employee's local chain of command and verify the statements regardless of relevance. This creates what we call a Molehill-to-Mountain Incident, or MML. At this point the employee is hopefully in the position of defending herself against the paranoid speculations, misinterpretations, and outright fabrications of our crew. If this doesn't deter the employees from participating in decisions and processes that affect their lives, we can always delay them by various methods. As far as the comp case with Ferrar goes, I really don't know what happened. I guess the staff was feeling tired that day and helping her out seemed like the path of least resistance." ☺

Crary Road Closed, Grantees Lock Selves in with Guns

The road past Crary Lab down to the helo pad has been closed and grantees have been seen cautiously peering through newly shuttered Crary windows.

Crary officials claim business as usual, but some McMurdo residents think otherwise.

"I was just trying to pick up the Crary plastic bin," says Waste Technician Jack Drygalski, "when my forklift was suddenly surrounded by scientists wielding all manner of vial acids. One of them ripped open the door of the cab and menaced me with a blunt and heavy data management software manual."

Denying allegations that an ominous new faction is brewing in the lab, Crary manager Jill Bernacchi says, "It's just that we have, uh, sensitive, um, seismic equipment operating, and the, uh, bumping of the blue collar trucks ruins our work."

When questioned about the possibility of moving Crary to the top of Ob Hill, Bernacchi responded, "It sure would be quieter and more peaceful up there, but it would take a lot of work. The most efficient way to solve our current problems is to move the rest of the station a mile east." ☺

It is the belief of the Symmes Antarctic Intelligencer that freedom of expression is not just an American Constitutional Right (or "law") but a fundamental human principle we must encourage. Social satire is as old as the hills: from Mark Twain to Saturday Night Live. And it is not always pretty. Unfortunately for USAP workers, social criticism is circumstantially unilateral: it comes down from above in the form of orientations, videos, and mass e-mails, and frequently involves some sort of prohibition or desired amendment to your behavior. NSF, directly or indirectly, controls all information we receive. This is fine and good, except that there are many things people know that are not being said. The Symmes Antarctic Intelligencer in no way expects everyone to agree with, like, or even care about the subjects satirized here. However, we wish there were more papers with varied subjects and interests so that this one wouldn't seem so limited. Anyone can do a paper. It's not difficult.

Most names herein are alternating genders with Antarctic place names as the surname. Any association with real people is coincidental.

If you care to contribute, comment, or complain:
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Galley Waste Station Moved, Panic Ensues

In what appears to be an irreversible executive decision, the Food Waste, Burnables, and Aluminum receptacles were moved today from their regular station by the dish window to a location which is not by the dish window.

"It's too confusing," said one galley-goer. "Now I only eat on the O-side."

Critics complain that the receptacles are too far from the dish window.

"First I gotta walk over there, then I gotta walk over there," raves carpenter Jack Denison, "It's just not right."

Galley staff are working hard to alleviate public concern.

"Someone from NSF told us to move them, so we did," says galley spokesman Jill Vahsel. "But frankly, we're trying to convince NSF it's not working out." ☺

Defense Contractor, Nazi Party Vie for NSF Support Contract

In what has turned out to be a neck-in-neck race to win the favor of NSF, competing contractors Raytheon and the American Nazi Party are playing up their good sides and downplaying their bad.

"Both organizations are very strong contenders," says NSF spokesman Jack Filchner, "it's mainly a matter of cost at this point."

Raytheon is confident of its ability to handle the contract.

"We run a tight ship at Raytheon," says Jill Paulet. "There is no match for our expertise as a support contractor. We are globally positioned; we have decades of experience, and legions of expert management. We also make a mean exoatmospheric kill vehicle."

Spokesmen for the Nazi party are equally confident.

"Our main selling point is our cost-focused strategic approach and our commitment to customer service," says Chairman Alfred Krupp.

Denying allegations of Jewish slave laborers, Krupp continues, "We are goal-oriented, and the most qualified organization to carry out a logistics operation of this size."

NSF spokesmen refused to comment on their leanings, but stressed that both parties were qualified for the job.

"It's really a toss-up," says Filchner. "Both organizations have the kind of customer-oriented approach we're looking for. Both have very active ethics committees. As an organization who supports public television, we look very closely at these issues." ☺

NSF Declares Outdoors Off-Limits

NSF declared today that outside is a restricted area.

"It's too bad it had to come to this," says NSF rep Jill Sabine, "but it's just so much easier this way." ☺