

The Symmes Antarctic Intelligencer

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

INSIDE!!!

Navy Study Proves Trucks Are Female

"Crud" Virus Protected by Antarctic Treaty

Boondoggle Lottery Exposed!!!

Creepy Guy Rehired

Heavy Shop Secedes

Magic Elf Appears at Pole; NSF Refuses Shelter

A magic elf materialized at the South Pole on New Year's Eve and was denied shelter by wary NSF representatives.

The magic elf appeared in front of the dome and immediately began performing miraculous feats such as healing the injured and fashioning spare machine parts out of plain snow.

When ASA officials discovered the fairyland creature's disruptive presence and questioned the entity, the magic elf offered to reveal the secrets of time and dark matter, as well as refining our understanding of quantum mechanics and the global ecosystem, in exchange for a cup of cocoa and a cardboard box to sleep in for the night. The ASA officials took the elf's plea to an NSF rep, who asserted that the elf could have a cup of cocoa if he fixed it himself, but that after he had finished his rich and creamy chocolate beverage he must leave the world's most isolated human colony and shove off onto the relentless and unforgiving plateau to meet his icy fate.

"Once you shelter one magic elf, you gotta shelter 'em all," says NSF representative Jack Hjorth. "I've seen it before. Pretty soon all science comes to a standstill and you're runnin' a magic elf halfway house." ❀

Angry Mob Attacks Solar Panel

In an unexpected and apparently random act Tuesday, a mob of angry USAP budgeteers attacked and destroyed an innocent solar panel.

The solar panel, whose energy at the time was focused on recharging a small battery, did not notice the furious attackers until it was too late.

DV Demands Harem, Precious Jewels

After catering for a week to a U.S. House of Appropriations Committee staffer, NSF officials were surprised Tuesday when the previously polite Distinguished Visitor suddenly demanded a harem of "the finest ASA females and young hairless males" as well as "a heaping mound of precious gems and polished Martian meteorites."

The staffer demanded the jewels be delivered in an orange ECW bag to Bldg 125, where the staffer spends his time munching fresh New Zealand shrimp and carving up penguins until he "gets it just right," he says.

Conceding to ASA and NSF pleas, the staffer has agreed to give the quaking organizations two extra days to compile a "suitable staff of human resources".

While one NSF official admits frankly to being surprised by the unusual demands, she argues, "Considering his influence on our budget, we think we'll be able to work with him."

ASA officials have adapted to the situation quickly and professionally by sending Pole winter-overs to Bldg 125 for their R&R.

Upon hearing of ASA and NSF compliance with his requests the staffer issued a public statement: "Antarctica is a special place with special people. The pioneering spirit is evident in all the people who live and work here." ❀

Raytheon Hires ASA's Mom

After winning the NSF contract and hiring ex-ASA workers into their ranks, Raytheon delivered the coup de grace Tuesday by announcing it had hired ASA's mom.

Raytheon had already made a fine job in ASA's ribs by sending down an employee ASA had fired as well as other valued ex-ASA employees. By hiring ASA's own mother, Raytheon obliterated any possible self-worth the corporate subsidiary had mustered until now.

"It's really just a professional decision," says Raytheon spokeswoman Jill Lister, suppressing laughter giving her the nosesnorts. "Mrs. SA is simply the most qualified person for the job of removing any old dull ASA doorplaques and replacing them with shiny new Raytheon doorplaques. Rest assured our position on this is merely business-oriented," continues Lister, slapping her desk repeatedly, doubled over in howling laughter.

"I can't believe they hired my own mom," says ASA, reluctant tears welling in the creases of its innocent pleading eyes. "It's not right."

ASA's mother refused to comment, aside from saying that, due to their generous benefits package, Raytheon was like the son she never had. ❀

Armed with bamboo and breath reeking of fuel, the band of scoundrels beat the solar panel within an inch of its warranty, screaming slogans like, "Sunpower is weird!" and "Polar ain't solar!"

The work order for its repair has been "lost", so the solar panel remains in serious condition out on the cargo line. ❀

Texxon to Fund Drilling Projects

International Conglomerate Texxon Oil announced Tuesday that it will match any grant funding NSF puts toward drilling projects in Antarctica, thereby allowing twice as many projects to occur in more varied locations.

"We've always been interested in neutrinos and protons and stuff," says Texxon rep Jack Hogback. "And we've always agreed with the theory that the earth has history. That's why Texxon is doing our part to contribute to scientific progress."

Calling the proposal "a great advancement for science", NSF officials are eager to begin more projects that require digging deep below the surface of Antarctica with tremendous drills.

"Great reserves of undiscovered knowledge lie beneath the Antarctic surface just waiting to be tapped into," says Hogback. "And no matter how crude it sounds, we just have to go get them." *

South Pole Feudal Lord Loves Raytheon, Hates Free Speech

In an All-Hands Meeting near the beginning of summer '99 mainbody, the South Pole Feudal Lord warned the entire ASA contingent of South Pole Station: *"Anyone says anything bad about Raytheon, they're outta here."*

The Feudal Lord, clad in chain mail armor and carrying a crudely fashioned club, uttered the threat while feeding on the charred leg of a warthog. Between bites of flesh he drooled heavily and kept an eye on his grunting toadies who were just outside burning stacks of books. The sorcerers of NSF, who usually kept an eye on their jester, were preoccupied with a white magic called "science". They were so positive that this magic was "for the benefit of humanity" and "the progress of all" that, as they showered microbes with graceful caresses, the workers of the kingdom were locked in a valiant struggle against the bruish dark ways of a medieval clown engorged on warthog meat. The barbaric chimp, awed at the power of his own whims regardless of law or chivalry, had decided to tell the people in the kingdom *what they could and couldn't say amongst themselves.*

As the creamed regurgitation of warthog flesh oozed from the corners of his slightly grinning lips, his lurching thoughts reeled with promise: he could ban all speech about anything. Once he had stopped them from talking about Raytheon, he would stop them from talking about all companies. Then politics. Then religion, too. Of course, he would leave a few subjects open to discussion, so that his interests would be given room to blossom amongst the vermin. Like the Packers and the Steelers. Yes, all speech would now be about NFL teams. Yes, it's okay if they talk about that, he thought. Grunt. *

The Symmes Antarctic Intelligencer would like to remind you that freedom of expression is your birthright. Please enjoy it responsibly.

Contribute, comment, or complain:

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Disney Subcontracts Boondoggles

Raytheon announced Tuesday that the Walt Disney Corporation would soon be handling all boondoggles. "We are interested in providing our employees with the safe and convenient instant nostalgia they demand," said Jack Nimrod, Raytheon spokesman

Disney's Imagineers have designed a full array of typical adventure-type Antarctic experiences in their bid for this contract. Regardless of their geographically diverse themes, all boondoggles will actually happen within a few miles of McMurdo Station. Initially, only the South Pole Simulator, set up near "Snow-Mound City", featuring an authentic replica of the ceremonial south pole in a high-altitude hyperbaric chamber, and the Penguin Dude Ranch, a large, animal-research-friendly petting-zoo type facility, will be open for officially sanctioned fun.

But, in time, Disney hopes to have several options available, including The Ice Edge™, which will replace the existing bowling alley. In this virtual reality interactive eco-ride you will choose to experience either the whimsical magic of a silly penguin party on a carefree romp, or the predatory sensations of a pod of orcas in the throes of a penguin feeding frenzy. Other planned Antarctexhibits include an Epcot-like global village around the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station itself, and a large, tourist-oriented Erebus Volcano Hot-Water Theme Park. *

U.S. Begins Construction on Top of Scott Base

The United States began construction Tuesday on a new station which will sit directly on top of Scott Base.

"We are expanding the USAP," says State official Jill Newall. "With this new addition to the program, we look forward to continued peace and cooperation in Antarctica for generations to come."

The new station, which will increase hope and goodwill throughout the world, will use the tops of Scott Base buildings, as well as tons of concrete poured around the buildings, as a foundation.

New Zealand officials say the plan violates the Antarctic Treaty as well as plain common decency.

A U.S. State official responds to New Zealand critics saying, "In the spirit of non-ownership, cooperation, and peaceful scientific purposes, we don't recognize any Antarctic claim, nor do we make one. Antarctica is open to all nations willing to thrive in an atmosphere of unprecedented national nonpartisanship. We suggest bracing your ceilings." *

McMurdo Woman Appoints Self Dorm Leader

In a provocative unilateral decision made Tuesday, fastidious gal Jill Trafalgar appointed herself enforcer of all dorm rules, as well as rules she made up just because they seem right to her.

"I thought people like this just went to work in the HR department for doorknob manufacturers after getting their psychology degree," says one disgruntled neighbor. "I didn't realize I'd have to deal with them again after college." *