

Inside!!!

Support Group Attempts Unsupported Antarctic Crossing ANG OAE Stays Three Weeks

Galley Renamed "Galley" Ice Time Redeemable for Store Credits

NSF Seizes Unauthorized Shower Curtain

A specially trained agent of NSF Station Services invaded Hotel California Tuesday, apprehending and seizing an unauthorized shower curtain.

The shower curtain, which behaved in a hostile manner when questioned by authorities, had been menacing residents of the dorms for weeks.

"It got so bad I was scared to go to the bathroom," said one terrified resident. "I never knew what that shower curtain was doing there or where it had come from. It scared me. It just hung there like it owned the place. I'm glad it's all over now."

NSF officials, who had been searching for the shower curtain for questioning in its involvement with a string of vapor barrier related activities, refused to disclose the exact nature of the crimes committed by the crafty shower partition.

"We can't say what happened, or what was wrong with the shower curtain," said NSF rep Jack Bewsher. "But we can say it was our duty to apprehend the suspect before certain disaster struck. The NSF is committed to enhancing the quality of life for USAP participants."

McMurdo Closes Due to Safety Concerns

McMurdo Station will close Tuesday due to "safety concerns" and will not be reopened until the Earth is populated with cyborgs.

The decision to close McMurdo came right on the heels of an official landmark decision that McMurdo's popular "Day Bar" at Southern Exposure give up its tradition of cozy womblike darkness. Due to "safety concerns", the golems of Day Bar must drink with the lights on.

Realizing that the dangers of a dark room are nothing compared to the myriad of occupational hazards faced by McMurdo residents each day, NSF officials followed their own chain of logic to the realization that the station must be closed until humans with steel skin are bred in high-capacity mutant farms.

"This is not an arbitrary decision made by some spiteful raving paper-pusher," says NSF rep Jack McCarthy. "This is a calm, rational directive with a lengthy background of fastidious thought and careful deliberation. We simply cannot reopen the station in good conscience until we have evolved into bio-organic superbots with ultra-night vision."

USAP Furniture To Be Used For Inventory Purposes Only

An NSF rep announced Tuesday that USAP furniture is not to be used as furniture.

"The stacks of furniture must remain in the lounges," said NSF spokesman Grapesofwrath. "Those stacks of furniture are of major USAP budgetary importance in amortizing our assets. We cannot afford to treat them as mere furniture."

Raytheon, Legion of Doom Merger Approved by Federal Regulators

Raytheon Tuesday announced its buyout of all common stock of the hive of arch criminals The Legion of Doom (Nasdaq: I.GDM).

"We believe that the acquisition of the Legion of Doom will complement our business structure, providing us the additional resources we need to fight the Hall of Justice, reward investors, and support scientific progress in the Antarctic," says Raytheon spokeswoman Jill Patroclus.

"This merger is good for both of us," says Lex Luther, mastermind of the Legion of Doom's multiple venomous operations to achieve world dominance. "Of course Raytheon's weapons systems are cute, and their systems for identifying and tracking citizens — which they sell to any government who wants to buy them — are somewhat interesting, but mostly I am eager to inspect their greatest weapon ever, the most awesome and devious feat of logicless logic that was ever created, the most brilliantly engineered facade of charitable assistance ever created: the HR department. Threats with a smile. As a professional I really appreciate Raytheon's expertise."

"We're as pleased to acquire The Legion of Doom as we were to acquire Hughes and Texas Instruments," says Patroclus, offering a delectable caramel-coated third world baby leg from a pewter dish on her desk. "Soon no one will be able to stop us..." says Patroclus cackling fiendishly. "...stop us from promoting scientific progress and protecting American ideals, that is..." she continues, wiping the glistening drool from her mocking curled lips.

Aside from the HR snakepit Luther also mentions Raytheon's attempt to strongarm ISPs into providing information about their account holders, thwarting US arms-sales bans by working through their Canadian subsidiaries, and denial of accountability for hundreds of sick workers in Oregon as evidence of Raytheon's qualifications for the merger.

When asked for final comments, Patroclus concludes, "You are encouraged to join this very unique 21st century working adventure. We are anticipating that our expectations will become yours as well."

Galley Sneezeguard Breaks Off, Blocks Shipping Channel

A massive section of the Galley's hot line sneezeguard broke off Tuesday, threatening to block shipping lanes to McMurdo Station.

The original sneezeguard fragment has since broken into several smaller fragments, one of which — fragment SG4 — is large enough to disrupt USAP shipping operations.

The plastic sneeze protector crumbled under its own massive heaving weight and was then blown by unpredictable Antarctic winds out to sea.

"The sneezeguard was much larger than we anticipated," said emergency response coordinator Jill Harmsworth. "My God, we're all going to die."

The transparent and gargantuan sheet of sneeze-proof material that once blocked all access to soups and gravies now blocks McMurdo's access to food and fuel.

While community polls show that residents are no longer terrified by foods requiring a ladle, officials stress grave concern over the long-term consequences.

"The only thing employees like better than injuring themselves is sneezing in their own food," said Harmsworth. "Now they won't even have food to sneeze on. Oh, the horror...the horror..."

Mysterious Condition One Anomaly Discovered

Recent studies of Antarctic weather patterns in the McMurdo area have uncovered a bizarre and supernatural weather system that has shaken the international scientific community, and entirely buckled the national foundations of scientific thought.

"What we're seeing here is a completely uncategorizable weather anomaly that is way off the charts as far as anything we understand," says researcher Jack Alberich.

The rogue weather system begins as what appears, according to physically observable fact, to be a Condition One, then changes to a Condition Two at 7:25am, or at other "workflow-enhancing" times.

Condition One is a human-defined qualification determined by scientifically observable criteria such as wind speed, visibility, and temperature.

"It's a very difficult concept to explain to the average layperson," continues the spokesman for an organization devoted solely to scientific research, with science itself based on the unshakeable premise of a physically observable universe, "but I'll try my best. You see, when the Condition One continues for awhile during Winfly, and the weather gets worse and worse, it suddenly, at 7:25am isn't a Condition One anymore, it becomes a Condition Two. See?"

Studies show that workers who work in a Condition Two are much safer than workers who work in a Condition One.

When a Raytheon safety representative was asked to comment on the anomalous weather, he said, "Raytheon is 110% dedicated to safety. Remember to wash your hands. Safety is your responsibility."

Raytheon Names Passive-Aggressive Employee of the Month

Starting Tuesday, Raytheon will honor one employee each month who has been shown to reflect traits that maintain the manipulative atmosphere and arbitrary policy-making that a corporate workplace must have in order to succeed.

"We want employees who work well with others as long as others obey them, and we want to be confident that the moment that employee meets resistance he or she — unable to cope with any variation of direct interaction— comes running to us like a big crying baby, whereby we'll pull out the real leverage. That way we know everything is running smoothly until we hear of an incident, at which point we come in with the stick and threaten anyone who appears angry for being subjected to the treatment of our model employee."

Employees honored with the Employee of the Month award will receive an unmanifested plane flight, a trip home to pick up their suntan lotion for their stunning trip to fabulous New Zealand, and an audience with the very busy FBI.

NSF Covers-Up Abduction of Alien Abductee

NSF abducted a man from McMurdo Tuesday, saving him from imminent abduction by an alien mothership.

Since the mothership didn't arrive, NSF made the experience as close to an alien abduction as possible.

First corralling the alien enthusiast into a small medical facility where he was tested, NSF managers then went through the local hallways ripping down posters advertising the aliens' arrival. NSF SOP's describe this as a "cover-up". Anyone carrying alien paraphernalia was questioned during the purge.

Though no mothership was on hand, NSF recreated the experience by abducting him in some kind of aircraft bearing cryptic numerals, last seen heading toward New Zealand.

NSF officials stress that the incident is not targeted at irrationality, and that people are still free to believe in angels, devils, and gods without fear of being abducted.

"Flaming bushes and seven-headed beasts are fine," remarked a top NSF official, "but no aliens."

Hey Poles! Send your stories, tips, or observations to us to help SAI become less McMurdo-centric. Anonymity guaranteed. SAI treats all information as rumor until verified by several witnesses.

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

South Pole HR Opens Guard Mail

An HR administrator at Pole intercepted, opened, and confiscated the contents of Guard Mail sent to Pole from McMurdo at the end of Mainbody 1999-2000.

Symmes Antarctic Intelligencer sent an envelope containing fifty copies of its 2nd issue to a worker at Pole. The HR admin brought the worker into her office, opened the envelope in front of him, and told him the stack of newsletters "required pre-approval" by "management". When the worker protested that he had not even read the newsletter, the HR admin allowed him one copy to keep for himself.

How she came to know the contents of the package in the first place is uncertain, but given the fertile grapevine at Pole and that this worker had distributed the first issue of SAI, her conclusion that a thick envelope to this particular worker would harbor unauthorized comedy would appear to be a keen deduction. Touché. Despite that "rumors are not tolerated in Antarctica", it appears that HR is not above using the grapevine for its own ends. Only in a pinch, of course.

Fortunately, SAI is familiar with the sleazy tendencies of the local shepherders and had sent a separate pile of newsletters to a different worker so as to avoid any such corruption of our distribution channel.

This other batch was distributed promptly, while management was busy "pre-approving" the other, more stolen, batch of harmless wacky leaflets.

The reasons why South Pole's den mother would so wantonly act against good taste are more opaque. Since we at SAI believe firmly in the noble and patriotic character of USAP integrity, the only possible answer is that management was so eager to see the new issue of the satirical pamphlet that they just couldn't help themselves.

While we realize that control freaks with no self-awareness are the kind of passive-aggressive company modern science depends on these days, South Pole's self-appointed prison guard should at least be aware that many people in the neighborhood probably find opening other people's mail to be very poor etiquette, whether you call it "pre-approval" or not.

The snooping HR admin under ASA has been given a promotion this year under Raytheon.

It's easy to talk about how much we love "freedom", or "respect" the Constitution, or other tired sentiments of ideology that always live somewhere else, but it's harder to recognize when our own actions actually strangle the very ideals we routinely babble about.

To make it clear: satire does not require authorization.

"The tighter your grip, Governor, the more star systems will slip through your fingers."

— Princess Leia to Grand Moff Tarkin, evil Governor of the Empire

Contribute, comment, complain: antarcticsymmes@hotmail.com