



THE ANTARCTIC SOCIETY

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THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR OF OPP SPEAKS TO US ON THE FUTURE

Perspectives on the Future of the U.S. Antarctic Program

by

Dr. Cornelius W. Sullivan

Director, Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation

on

Thursday, June 5, 1997

7:30 PM

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington
Room 360

(Sign in at Security Desk!)

Light Refreshments

Dr. Sullivan heads the Office of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation, which directs scientific research and operations in both the Arctic and Antarctic. Dr. Sullivan, who has held the National Science Foundation position since 1993, is an oceanographer with a focus on the structure and function of ice-covered ocean ecosystems. His focus is interdisciplinary in nature, ranging from research on microbial ecology in sea ice to the interrelationship between biological and geophysical features of the Southern Ocean from space. Before joining the NSF, Dr. Sullivan was the director of the Hancock Institute of Marine Studies at the University of Southern California. He has served on a number of editorial boards of polar journals and advisory committees for polar research, and was a member of the Polar Research Board, National Academy of Sciences.

Read about Peter Wilkniss's new endeavors on page 5. He solicits the help of the ancient Greeks, arctic terns, orcas, and the King of England in 1670 to get airborne with his multinational company!

While strolling through The Baltimore Museum of Arts last fall I wandered into a room where a polar painting by the irascible Rockwell Kent, done on a Greenland scene, struck my fancy. Aside the painting was this notation by Rockwell from his book, *IN SALAMINA*, published in 1935, "In Greenland one discovers as though for the first time what beauty is. God must forgive me that I tried to paint it." This certainly could apply tenfold over relative to the Antarctic, although I don't recall any American artists in Antarctica feeling that its grandeur was beyond their capabilities.

A friend recently wrote and asked if I was related to the famed Scotsman, Alexander Dalrymple. I only wish that I were, because after Christie referred to him in his *THE ANTARCTIC PROBLEM* as "cantankerous," my imagination was piqued to learn more about him. This has been done very nicely in Alex Gurney's truly fantastic new Antarctic history, *BELOW THE CONVERGENCE, VOYAGES TOWARDS ANTARCTICA 1699-1839*. He wrote quite a bit about Dalrymple, so let me quote some of the best. "A portrait of Dalrymple in middle age shows him to be a corpulent figure with petulant lips, beefy face, and choleric eyes that glared accusingly at the viewer. This is a Scot with a grievance, and one who will nurse it to keep it warm. Dalrymple admitted to being 'priggishly precise' ... not one to smooth and lubricate the vagaries of personal relationships." God, I hope that I am related to old Alexander, as he sounds like truly a great man with just the proper attitude towards people, my kind of a man!!

Jackie Ronne will make two cruises on one of the giant Antarctic cruise ships, the MARCO POLO, this upcoming Antarctic austral summer, and will be taking her two grandchildren on one of them. - - - - Have a great summer, but please don't come to Maine. We already have too many cars on the road, and we Mainiacs are antisocial and would prefer less people to more people.

ANTARCTIC GEOPHYSICIST, NED OSTENSO, CONSUMMATE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRAT, SUCCUMBS SUDDENLY ON APRIL 13TH. For thirty years, Ned Ostenso walked the streets of Washington looking very much like a distinguished bureaucratic head that he was, bearing no physical relationship to the man who held for many, many years the record for the world's thickest ice sounding of 4,270 meters. In January 1996, Ned retired as the assistant administrator of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the research arm of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the U.S. Commerce Department. He served as NOAA's chief scientist from 1989 to 1990. Prior to coming to NOAA in 1977, he had served as deputy director and senior oceanographer in the Office of Naval Research. Between 1969 and 1970, he was an assistant presidential science advisor in the Office of Science and Technology of the Executive Office. But his longest tenure and his finest and unquestionable happiest hours were spent as the male member of the Ostenso Scientific Household. His dutiful wife, Grace, never upstaged him, but she herself had a distinguished career serving on the staff of Representative George Brown of California who was most prominent in the area of science and technology up on The Hill.

We could quote endless passages from obituaries on Ned, but when it came to coining a phrase, Ned was nonpareil, so we have dug into the past to let Ned tell about

his own career. Let's go back to NOAA Magazine of October 1978 and hear what Ned had to say. "To begin with, I had the good sense to be born at a time and in a place where the action was Mine has been a privileged life. Not by fortune of inheritance nor heritage, rather, luck and good timing When I was in college, my research grant constituted the use of my major professor's gasoline credit card, thanks to Dr. George Woollard's own munificence. It wasn't until the day before sailing for a year-and-a-half tour in Antarctica that I learned I was actually going to get paid. Not only had I taken the term "volunteering" literally, but having the opportunity to do research was generally regarded as a privilege and not a source of income. For the most part, the equipment we had was what we made ourselves, from seismometers to magnetometers. I am not saying that those are the good old days, albeit the memories are fond. Today's reasonable compensation to the researcher, plus his supporting infrastructure of technicians, laboratories, computers, etc., is the proper and necessary direction of social evolution reflecting society's expectations from the scientific milieu.

"Discovery that the Antarctic ice cap was kilometers thick, rather than tens or hundreds of meters as commonly believed, drastically revised concepts of the global water budget with profound environmental implications. I still proudly hold title to the world's thickest ice sounding of 4,270 meters. The discovery was sufficiently startling that when we finally arrived at Byrd Station and radioed our findings back to the Academy of Sciences, the message was believed to have been a garbled transmission."

Now let's turn to a letter of November 1986 to The Antarctic Society. "My introduction to Antarctica was both casual and traumatic. The casual part was a brief note from an unknown named Bert Crary with some terse instructions about a physical examination and reporting to Davisville. Upon investigation, I discovered that George Woollard had volunteered me for 2 years of Antarctic service. The fact that I had not been his graduate student since being given an irrefusable offer to serve my country in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, or that I was then happily engaged in the search for oil in the Gulf of Mexico, or that I may harbor some independent views about my future did not occur to George. By the same token, it never occurred to me that I should not go.

"The traumatic part was a little warm-up exercise in Greenland. Someone (to this day, I don't know who to blame) thought that we were entitled to a preview of coming attractions by driving across Greenland along the 80°N parallel to the region (pole of inaccessibility, if not undesirability) where an earlier British-French expedition had failed to get seismic reflections. Charlie Bentley, Hugh Bennett, and I were greeted in Thule by the Air Force Strategic Air Command with unlimited access to their junk yard and garbage heap, from which we finally assembled three working weasels and rations. We got there, and we got back. In between there was a lot of unpleasantness.

"On the JOSEPH F. MERRILL, we shared the number four hold with Mort Rubin, Mario Giovinetto and Vern Anderson for a 2-month cruise to the Bay of Whales. My first view of the Ross Ice Shelf under the Antarctic sun was the first of a long series of visual, emotional and intellectual experiences I was to have for the next 18 months of oversnow traverses and station life. I remember no hardships or privations, only beauty and excitement. But most of all, I remember people. Comrades are, after all, the heart of the Antarctic experience and the soul of the continent."

I should know enough to stop right there, because after those last few sentences, everything else is going to be anticlimactic. But we must mention that Ned was given the prestigious Waldo E. Smith Medal by the American Geophysical Union in 1996 for "extraordinary service to geophysics."

For a kid from Chippewa Falls, he did all right. He was involved in regional

gravity studies in Alaska, a seismic traverse across Greenland at 80°N, and he ran a line of absolute gravity pendulum stations the length of Africa. And, as you should know, Ned was an important member of the International Geophysical Year's scientific staff at Byrd Station in 1957-58, and was on the summer traverse which discovered all sorts of good stuff. Ned's work resulted in more than fifty scientific papers, including ones with Charlie Bentley that helped to establish the mass of the Antarctic ice sheet and the topographic discontinuity between East and West Antarctica.

The scientific community is sure going to miss Ned. He went quickly, dying from a sudden and massive coronary attack on April 13, 1997, following a healthy and fruitful sixty-six years of good living and high accomplishments.

EMPERORS CAN WEAR WHITE. Gerry Kooyman culminated thirty years of studying penguins by seeing the piece de resistance, an all-white penguin. He was scanning the penguin colony at Terra Nova Bay with his binoculars last December when he saw an Emperor which was white right down to the toenails and the bill. . But it was not an albino, since its eyes were brown. Kooyman said that this bird was just a genetic accident. He said that white Adelie penguins and pure black King penguins had been sighted, but he knew of no white Emperors.

The good news is that Kooyman saw it and photographed it; the bad news (for the penguin) is that he/she/it may be a short-timer. First, the survival rate for Emperor chicks is low, and second, a white bird would stand out in the water, and could be more vulnerable to leopard seals and fur seals. Kooyman said that the white color may be the ultimate flasher.

EMINENT WORLD CLIMATOLOGIST, AND FATHER OF AN ANTARCTIC SCIENTIST, RESPONDS TO REQUEST ON ANTARCTIC WARMING. The fact that the Planet Earth is warming in this century cannot be denied any more, and the contention that this warming is due to human activities is now generally accepted by the scientific community. It was just twenty years ago that my World Meteorological Organization's technical note was published on this subject, and last year the prestigious Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) weighed in with essentially the same message. After carefully reviewing all the evidence, the IPCC said, "Taken together, these results point towards a human influence on global climate."

Thus, if the world is warming up, so must the Antarctic. There is already good evidence that it is indeed warming, as evidenced by both the temperature record (which is unfortunately noisy and too short) and the behavior of the ice shelves around the continent. I think the most important next question has got to be: Is the Antarctic ice sheet growing or shrinking as a result of the warming? (I will not deal with the alarming suggestion that the West Antarctic ice sheet might suddenly slip into the ocean, which few responsible people, including Charlie Bentley, believe could happen in the next several centuries.)

The importance of this question obviously lies in the fact that if the ice sheets were to melt or slip into the ocean, it would raise sea level more than 60 meters; and those near sea level (like Florida) look upon this sort of change with considerable apprehension, of course.

One's first thought must be that a warming would result in a melting, and this would raise sea level. But, on second thought, consider that warmer air can hold more moisture, so there would be more snowfall on the ice sheet and it would grow. Interestingly enough, Capt Scott was one of the first to suggest the latter scenario, as pointed out to me by Norbert Untersteiner.

I wish I could tell you which of the two predictions was the more plausible, but

I cannot. For more than ten years a group of us (including the late Bill Campbell) has been urging NASA and the military satellite people to fly a series of satellites in high inclination orbits (to cover the poles) and equipped with either radar or infrared altimeters to accurately survey the height of the ice sheets. (We know this can be done, since Jay Zwally has published such satellite observations for the southern third of the Greenland ice sheet.) I hear rumors that such observations may be in the planning stage - let's hope so!

So there you have my thoughts, Paul, for what they're worth. I hope your readers will find them interesting, and just possibly someone in authority will give the satellite idea a push in the right direction. (William W. Kellogg)

WILKNISS'S INTERNATIONAL POLAR BUSINESSES - PKI AND TAAI. I have established two organizations in Alaska - Polar Kybernetes International (PKI, *kybernetes* - Greek for steersman, governor) and the Transnational Arctic and Antarctic Institute (TAAI) to engage in a variety of businesses in both polar regions.

VISION. Beginning with the ancient Greeks, the polar regions held mystery, wonder, and challenge, and fueled the desire to know the unknown. In these regions extraordinary forms of life defy incredibly harsh climates and have sustained equally defiant ancient civilizations in the Arctic. Last explored and conquered, involving human drama of epic proportions, the polar regions have waxed and waned in their importance in the political, economic, and strategic aspects of global significance

Today, using modern means of communications, transportation, and the ever increasing globalization of international business the polar regions offer unique opportunities to the entrepreneur willing to take advantage of the bipolar, i.e. Arctic and Antarctic historic, cultural, environmental, artistic, tourist, scientific, technical, educational, resource, and commercial aspects of business and trade.

Therefore, create PKI and TAAI as the foremost global organizations doing business in both polar regions. The inspiration for this is Hudson's Bay Company. This "Company of Adventurers" chartered for the lucrative fur trade by the King of England in May 1670 could be considered the first multinational company. Hudson's Bay Company in its prime, a century and a half ago, was an absolute commercial monopoly and the de facto government in northern and western Canada, as well as parts of Siberia and what would become the northwestern United States. Such reign over commercial activities, as that exerted by Hudson's Bay Co. in the Arctic regions, never existed in the Antarctic realm, where sealers and whalers operated the only commercial ventures. Today, seizing the exciting opportunities of the modern age the bipolar business approach is feasible, inviting and promising.

ORGANIZATION SYMBOLS. The symbols for these organizations are the Arctic tern and orca. The Arctic tern is a small, aggressive bird that follows the light as it migrates annually between the Arctic and Antarctic, while the orca is a magnificent, fierce marine mammal residing in both polar seas. These unique animals represent the bipolar nature of the Institute as well as the global, far-ranging, competitive and tenacious spirit of these organizations.

MISSION. To be the worldwide leader in promoting knowledge and understanding of the importance of the Arctic and Antarctic, and in providing the highest quality information, communication, products, services, and solutions for opportunities and problems in both polar regions on a for-profit and/or not-for-profit business basis. (Peter E. Wilkniss)

REVIEW OF ANTARCTICA - A LONELY PLANET TRAVEL SURVIVAL KIT BY JEFF RUBIN. (John Splettstoesser) Designed mainly for new travelers, the contents provide excellent background information, including a very thorough section on "Facts" (History &

Exploration, Geography, Geology, Climate, and so on), followed by practical information such as visas, customs, money, books, films, photography tips, and an interesting section on "Dangers and Annoyances," in which the casual comment is made that "If you fall overboard, you will die." Seawater at less than freezing point makes realistic the advice given for those who fall overboard—swim as hard as you can for the bottom, for drowning is thought preferable to freezing to death. I remember similar advice from a C-130 crew member on a flight from Christchurch to McMurdo many years ago—if we have to ditch at sea, chain yourself to a foot-locker and go down with the plane—it's quicker and less painful!

Not all Jeff's travel tips are as brutal, however. "Getting There" is covered thoroughly in a chapter on tourist groups and tour vessels, as well as yachts and air travel to the interior, which includes mountaineering expeditions, skiing, flights to the South Pole, and also visiting and camping in emperor penguin colonies. The Antarctic Tour Operators group known as IAATO is given praise for keeping the tour vessel community together and following environmental standards for visits. Contributing authors provided very useful chapters on wildlife, environmental issues, science and private expeditions. Antarctic gateway ports are reviewed to the degree that the reader is given lots of tips on where to stay and what to see in Cape Town, Christchurch, Hobart, Punta Arenas, Stanley, and Ushuaia, virtually all of the ports used nearly every season for tour vessels going to Antarctica.

The book then provides brief accounts about individual parts of itineraries in Antarctica, including the sub-Antarctic islands, Falkland Islands, and many of the commonly visited sites in the Antarctic Peninsula, Ross Sea sector, and even in East Antarctica (east longitude coastline), where tour ships are uncommon. In case you hop on a flight from Patriot Hills (SOS, 85W) in the interior to the geographic South Pole via small aircraft operated by Adventure Network International, the book has advice on what to do there, what to see, and things to buy. Yes, souvenir shopping has been in Antarctica for many years, even at the U.S.-operated South Pole Station. To complete the contents, the Antarctic Treaty is included in an Appendix, followed by a Glossary of tricky terms, and then an Index to lead to subject matter in the text.

For the price (\$17.95 U.S.) the book is a bargain, complete with many color photos taken by the author and others. As with virtually all other Lonely Planet Survival books, this one will need regular updates to keep the information current. The list and description of tour operators and ships, as an example, applies to the 1996-97 austral summer, for the most part, and succeeding seasons will differ in some respects, including new operators in IAATO, as well as new and different itineraries. The few glitches or gremlins I spotted in reading every word in the book, scrutinizing each map, and all other details were not surprising. None of those detracts from the book or its overall value, and presumably will be corrected in the next edition. Some errors are carryovers from earlier reference works, I suspect, as (p. 269) in Shackleton's men spending 105 days on Elephant Island following the shipwreck of the *ENDURANCE* in 1915-16. Reader's Digest *ANTARCTICA* has carried that mistake through two editions. On p. 302, the largest Adelie penguin colony in the world is at Hope Bay, whereas that claim more accurately applies to Cape Adare (with more than 270,000 breeding pairs, vs. 124,000 at Hope Bay). On p. 306, there is confusion about Waterboat Point (where Bagshawe and Lester spent the 1921 winter - the Chilean Videla Station is there now) and Almirante Brown, site of the present Argentinean station. And the map of Cape Town on p. 203 should have included the monument to R. F. Scott, just across the street from the tourist center—it's worth looking at if you're in the city.

The efforts put into the 362 pages are well worth it, and a treat to see a reputable book about Antarctica by someone who has been there several times and knows the subject well. Too many times the literary outcome is by someone who visits the place once, normally on a tour ship, becomes an "instant expert," and the product shows it. Jeff's book is a pleasing exception.

Kristin Larson's
PENGUIN PRATTLE

SAD REMINDER. We all know how remote Antarctica is. Whether we go there by ship or by plane, or even if we never get any closer than a perusal of a map, it is far away, and it is white. Kind of like the moon. And we intuitively know of the risks that we willingly expose ourselves to in traveling there...in fact, for some of us, those risks are an inherent part of the attraction. Yet in spite of this intuitive knowledge we are always pulled up short when we learn of the death of a fellow Antarctic sojourner.

Just last week (early May), a man who has been an integral part of the Antarctic fabric, died of heart failure in the midst of the Antarctic winter. The man was Charles "Chuck" Gallagher. Chuck has been a part of the program for as long as I remember, which means the better part of a decade. In the early years of my acquaintance with Chuck, he was "a green coat"...part of the Naval Support Force. He had an important role as Command Master Chief, a top-ranking position, charged with keeping young (and not so young) enlisted folks happy and motivated. He did his job well. Later, after Chuck retired from his distinguished 30-year naval career, he went to work for Antarctic Support Associates, the civilian contractor for the U.S. Antarctic Program. Chuck was wintering over in McMurdo Station when he became gravely ill. A C-141 medevac flight was enroute from Travis Air Force Base when he succumbed. What we sometimes forget while we are in Antarctica, surrounded by the trappings of modern living, is that the veil of life is thin indeed; and the nearest hospital is thousands of miles distant. Many are the amazing rescue missions, but this too is part of the Antarctic story.

U.S. INSTRUMENT GETS "DEPOSITED." Last month, the United States officially deposited their instrument of ratification for the 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. This leaves only two Treaty Parties who have yet to accede: Japan and the Russian Federation. Once all Parties have acceded, the Protocol will enter into force and provide important environmental protections to Antarctica. Many countries, including the U.S., have already incorporated the environmental protection requirements of the Protocol into their national programs, and thus will not need to make substantial adjustments to meet the Protocol's standards. One area of Antarctic activity that will experience some new duties, at least at the administrative level, will be non-governmental visitors to Antarctica, including the tour operators and private expeditions. These folks will now be assessing their own activities to ensure that they have considered their potential environmental impacts. To a visitor on a cruise, the changes will probably not be too noticeable, mainly because the tour operators are already keenly aware and take care to minimize their impacts.

The enacting legislation, signed last October, named the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the agency to provide oversight to the non-governmental activities in Antarctica. Part of EPA's charge is to develop guidelines for the tour operators and expeditions to use when assessing their potential environmental impact. Currently these guidelines, which take the form of an agency rule, have been published in *interim* form. This was done so that the U.S. could deposit the ratification instrument prior to the annual Antarctic Treaty meeting to be held later this month in Christchurch. It is hoped that the United States' action will prompt the remaining two Parties to do likewise and allow the Protocol to officially enter into force. In the meantime, EPA is developing a final rule in the usual federal manner which involves plenty of opportunities for public involvement. A public meeting focused on hearing people's ideas and concerns about tourism in Antarctica will take place on July 8th in the Arlington, Virginia area (probably very near to NSF). If

you want details on time and place, drop me a line at the Antarctic Society address or via e-mail, and I will provide information when it is known. Also, for you cybersurfers, the Interim Rule and its supporting Environmental Assessment (which yours truly had a hand in writing) can be viewed at EPA's World Wide Web site: <http://es.inel.gov/oeca/ofa/>.

ART-ANTICA. Currently the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum is running a show which includes 30 splendid photographs by Galen Rowell. The show's title is "Poles Apart, Parallel Visions of the Arctic and Antarctic," and it runs through August 4th. You may have seen Galen's large format book of the same title.

Ann Hawthorne, Society Vice President, has a number of her images posted on the World Wide Web at <http://www.discovery.com/area/eyeonroadmar/photogallery.html>. These images and others will make up a traveling exhibition that Ann is currently putting together.

A new book on Antarctica has just hit the racks. It is by Rebecca Johnson, an award-winning writer of books for young adults. She has previously written an excellent primer on ozone depletion after traveling to Antarctica, and her most recent oeuvre is about women! The book's title is *BRAVING THE FROZEN FRONTIER, WOMEN WORKING IN ANTARCTICA*, Lerner Publications, 1997. One enthusiastic reviewer had this to say about it: "And this one to the girls who love to question the rules and aren't afraid to compete with the boys - they have nothing to lose but the feeling in their fingers and toes!"

NIGHT SHIFT SCIENCE. For many Antarctic researchers these are the months to warm up, dig around in the garden, collate results, and (yee gadz) write proposals. However, for a small enclave of dedicated astrophysicists and upper atmospheric scientists, the Antarctic night provides a perfect palette. Currently wintering over at South Pole Station are eleven researchers. Dr. John Lynch, Program Manager for Antarctic Astrophysics and Aeronomy at NSF told me that only in the past couple of weeks has it become dark enough at the South Pole to turn on the huge telescopes and start making observations and measurements of such things as auroral spectra. There aren't any big celestial events expected, at least not on the same scale as the collision of comet Shoemaker-Levy with Jupiter, which the South Pole telescopes captured with amazing clarity. However, once the Hale-Bopp comet moves into the southern hemisphere it may provide some entertainment for the "Pole-cats." John also told me that four Automatic Geophysical Observatories, which record and transmit all types of atmospheric data from locations around the Polar Plateau, are in operation. I guess they qualify as part of the wintering science population too!

WAGGING TAIL. Well, the much anticipated report from the "External Panel" will be on the street any day now. Recall that the External Panel was a Senate-mandated group composed of highly distinguished scientists, administrators and industry professionals, and headed up by Mr. Norman Augustine, former CEO of Lockheed Martin. The Panel was charged with reviewing the entire U.S. Antarctic Program, and most particularly the concept of a replacement South Pole Station. Apparently the Panel's report provides strong and convincing endorsement for the new South Pole Station, and for the program as a whole. I was also informed that the House Authorizing Committee provided very positive language to NSF recently regarding their plans for the new South Pole Station, probably as a result of Mr. Augustine's testimony on that topic. We all know that talk is cheap, but a new station is looking brighter all the time!

In our next Newsletter we (will say farewell to POLAR DUKE and welcome to LAURENCE M. GOULD!