



THE ANTARCTICAN SOCIETY

905 NORTH JACKSONVILLE STREET
ARLINGTON., VIRGINIA 22205

HONORARY PRESIDENT — MRS. PAUL A. SIPLE

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Dr. Louis J. Lanzerotti, 1987
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Dr. Charles W. Swinbank, 1991
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Dr. Michele E. Raney, 1993
Dr. Doyle A. Harper, 1994
Dr. Edith L. Taylor, 1995
Dr. William J. L. Sladen, 1996

FROM THE NERVE CENTER.

This is a late-summer Newsletter telling you that we are still in business. I, Paul Dalrymple, resigned in all good faith and honesty last spring, submitted my resignation to our president for submission to the Board. But he never turned it in, and the Nominating Committee for our officers nominated me for your president for the next two years. In our last Newsletter last spring I pleaded with you folks to write the chairperson of the Nominating Committee and ask them to support Ruth Siple for president. And she received your wholehearted support and universal endorsement. But in their infinite wisdom, the Nominating Committee reached down to the bottom of the barrel and came up with my name. It just does not make any sense, reaffirming my previous thoughts on how committees function.

I have not officially accepted the presidency, but have temporarily agreed to work with Ruth Siple. Ruth and I have had a good relationship for many, many years, a relationship spawned by our mutual interests in Antarctica, one nurtured by the fact that we each had/have some spare time on our hands. Although I am willing to throw in the ice axe, the Society has become Ruth's life-support system. Your letters make her day.

Incidentally, our Society is moving, lock, stock, and barrel this fall, as Ruth is moving, somewhat reluctantly, but still willingly, into a grandmother's apartment being built over the attached garage of her granddaughter's house in nearby Fairfax County. Ruth is fully mobile, can take care of herself, is in good health now, but her family is looking ahead to the day when it might be good to have a family member in the same building with her. You folks will be given due notice when she will be moving, her new address, her telephone number. But for the time being, use her current address in Arlington.

MEMBERSHIP.

The Society has stabilized at about 550 members, which is approximately what we were a year ago. The whole system has worked real well with you people renewing for multiple years. This helps Ruth in her bookkeeping — this year she will have to send out only 210 notices for renewal. We are keeping the dues at the same low figures: single \$10 USA and Canada, husband/wife \$12, and overseas \$15. Members from BAE I, BAE II, and U.S. Antarctic Service Expedition get theirs gratis, as do the National Archives, Goldthwait Library, SPRI Library, Jim Caffin and Max Hamilton in New Zealand.

CALENDARS. Again we are going with Colin Monteath's splendid Hedgehog House Antarctic calendars, and, again, we are keeping them at the same low price of \$11 each. Betty Monteath, who fulfills many duties for husband Colin, assures us that this year's 1999 calendar is one of the very best. Our order is already on a ship somewhere in the South Pacific headed for Maine. Distribution will be made from Maine, although your order and check (\$11 each includes mailing) should be sent to Ruth. Incidentally we didn't buy as many as before, so with a reduced quantity, get your order in ASAP to assure some for your Christmas stockings.

THERE GOES ANOTHER BYRDER. Ervin Bramhall, physicist on the Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition, 1933-35, succumbed on July 3rd, leaving Alton Lindsey as the only surviving scientist from the first two Byrd expeditions. The immortal Norman Vaughan is the only living member from the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition, but there are several compatriots of Bramhall on BAE II who are still alive - the above-mentioned Al Lindsey, Steve Corey, Bill (Whirley Bird) McCormick, Joe Hill, Guy Hutcheson, and Olin Stancliff. Bramhall was in charge of the cosmic ray program, both shipboard and at Little America II. He and Gil Morgan led a four-man party up onto the polar plateau, running a seismic and magnetic survey, which, at that time, was the most ambitious research program ever conducted in the polar regions.

REUNIONS ARE IN. A grand total of 135 people attended the recent, 7-10 May 1998, reunion of Deep Freeze I and II in Denver, Colorado. Thirty-six were spouses, twenty-four were guests, including the son and daughter-in-law of the much-beloved leader at McMurdo in 1956, the late Dave Canham. Two of the original South Pole sitters in 1956-57, Cliff Dickey and Ken Waldron, were there. And an amazing number of sandcrabs showed up - in alphabetical order, Steve Barnes, John Behrendt, John Brown, Gil Dewart, Ralph Glasgal, Bill Littlewood, Fred Long, Mike Maish, Kim Malville, Hugo Neuberg, Don Skidmore, and John Weihaupt. Two of these, Dewart and Maish, were to later winter over with the Russians at Mirny. Two of them are authors of books about wintering over in Antarctica, Dewart and Behrendt. Two of these people spoke to the gathering about their experiences in Antarctica, Behrendt and Glasgal, although the keynote speaker was one who wintered over at 9 Brimmer Street in Boston, the eldest daughter of the late Admiral Richard E. Byrd, Boiling Byrd Clarke. Incidentally, Boiling was not named after Byrd's ship, ELEANOR BOLLING, which was dishonored with a well-merited verse which went something like "Eleanor Boiling, Ever Rolling!" Boiling is a family name.

Vice Admiral Lyle G. Bien, U.S. Navy, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Space Command, Colorado Springs, presented the Navy Commendation Medal to Doc Aldrich and George Moss, who were in attendance, and to Bill Hess and Charles Slaton, in absentia. Special presentations were made by John Rand and Jerry Marty of NSF, and Carleton Walker of the Antarctic Support Associates. And Dian Belanger, designated oral historian for these hearty warriors, was introduced to the gathering.

SOUTH POLE sitters of 1958 are planning to have their 40th reunion on the 25th and 26th of September 1998 at Skyland on Skyline Drive in Virginia. It's not going to be a big affair, as the station complement was only eighteen, and Vernon Houk, Palle Mogensen, and Steve Fazekas have all crossed the Great Divide. The Navy guys have all vanished to ports unknown. So that leaves Jim Burnham, Dee Baulch, Johnny Dawson, Mario Giovinetto, Charlie Greene, Kirby Hanson, Art Jorgensen, and myself as survivors. Now one of us eight is on the bubble until the departure day. When he wakes up he will make his decision. One part of his brain tells him he should come and join in the revelry, the other part tells him that it was the worst year of his life, and that he should stay home. Two of us have been battling Parkinson's for close to twenty years, one (the strongest of us all) suffered a heart attack a few years ago and is now a 255-pound weakling. One of us has implants and a bad knee.

So if we were to take a physical, only three of us could pass (and unfortunately, I am not one of the three!). The 40th reunion is really your last hurrah, as after that, groups begin to look like the survivors of the Bataan Death March.

OVER THE HORIZON. After 44 years, VXE-6 is going to be disestablished at 1100 hour (that is approximately 11 a.m.) on Saturday, the 27th of March 1999 in their hangar at NAWS, Point Mugu, California. We have no idea whatsoever what NAWS stands for, just another military acronym to confuse bewildered innocent civilians. An announcement says the formal disestablishment will be on the 27th, but goes on to say the squadron will be disestablished on Wednesday the 31st. Huey Buno 158288 may be flown in for a static display. Presume you VXE-6 guys/dolls know what the Huey Buno is and what a static display consists of, but we don't! Hey, why not dust off old Que Sera Sera, put old Gus Shinn on temporary duty for 48 hours, and have him fly that over from Pensacola. Make it historic, make it interesting. Seriously, the ceremonies and reunion are open to everybody, and if you want to follow developments, there is a web site link, <http://www.navy.mil/homepages/vxe6>, whose reunion page takes you to a directory questionnaire. We'll try to keep you updated here, toe

AND SIR ERNEST IS COMING TO TOWN. Yesiree, Sir Ernest Shackleton is making a big comeback, and the Big Apple itself will host an exhibition about Shackleton's ENDURANCE expedition at the Museum of Natural History in New York from April 11, 1999 to October 11, 1999. Sir Ernest, himself, is being detained in Grytviken, South Georgia, so won't be able to make this one, but his JAMES CAIRO will be there, along with his historic primus stove. This is the first legitimate reason since Babe Ruth played in Yankee Stadium for anyone to go to New York City, and we are even considering having our first-ever Antarctic Society function there at the time of the opening. There is a very strong rumor that Hollywood is going to make a movie about Shackleton, and that some kid by the name of Harrison Ford will be portraying Sir Ernest. If that comes to fruition, will anyone thereafter ever hear about Scott???

BOOKS AND THINGS WRITTEN. This Newsletter has a long-winded review of Huntford's latest polar biography, this one on Fridtjof Nansen, entitled "Nansen." Why Nansen in an Antarctic newsletter? Hey, Nansen was a man for all snow and ice areas, wherever. One might say he was Heir Apparent to being the first at the South Pole, as that was one of his strongest desires. But he was counselling Scott, Shackleton, and Amundsen, and thought they should be given the first opportunity. It's a GREAT BOOK, buy it!

Charles Swithinbank thanks those of you who heeded John Splett's advice and ordered his books directly from him. Charles says he has a *great deal* for those of you who haven't bought his most recent books, "An Alien In Antarctica" and "Forty Years On Ice." For 100 U.S. dollars, he will send you a copy of each book with his distinctive small autograph.

John Behrendt's forthcoming book, "Innocents On Ice," should be a dandy. It took over forty years for this book to come out, but anyone at all familiar with what happened at Ellsworth Station in 1957 will want to get the book. It will be published this fall by the University of Colorado Press.

Another Antarctic, Barry Lopez, has a relatively new book out, "About This Life." When it comes to Barry Lopez, it doesn't get any better, so this book which is selling for around \$24 should be a MUST BUY. It's not about Antarctica per se, as it is about life, but Antarctica has been a prominent part of Barry's life. We had the luxury and the pleasure of spending several hours at an NSF orientation six years or so ago in the company of Barry, Stuart Klipper, and Jody Forster, and it was sheer delight. Barry spoke about this book which was in his head, what he wanted it to be, and now it is here!

Occasionally one can get a good bargain. Rudi Honkala, who wintered over once at Wilkes, again at Casey, finally at Palmer (please note, he never left the Banana Belt) bought a copy of Matthew Henson's book, "A Negro Explorer At The North Pole," about thirty years ago for \$15. A recent polar catalogue is carrying the same book for something like \$960! I, myself, had a windfall back in 1958 when I bought mint-condition, first edition volumes of Scott, Shackleton, and Mawson at an auction in Wellington for a grand total of \$28. They are probably worth close to \$2000 now, especially considering that one set is personally gifted/inscribed to Lord Curzon by Kathleen Scott, Herself.

THE SEVENTH CONTINENT - GREAT READING. The Montreal Antarctic Society has a most unique and very interesting newsletter with all kinds of offbeat and upbeat articles on Antarctica which make it a sheer delight to read. No stuffiness there. The president and editor is Valmar Kuroi, and they are located at 4633 Harvard Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H4A 2X3 (e-mail: mtl.ant.soc@sympatico.ca). They even welcome the English, and Valmar is VERY cooperative. Issue No. 5, Spring 1998, has a great resume of "Antarctica Experienced Through Music," summarizing twenty-two CDs! It is the most definitive resume of Antarctic music I have ever seen, and he is to be congratulated for putting it all together. And he is just as good with up-to-date book reviews. Fauno Cordes will be happy to know that Valmar recognizes Antarctic fiction as a legitimate part of Antarctica.

"WINFLY" HERALDS BEGINNING OF ANTARCTIC RESEARCH SEASON (NSF). Beginning August 20, five flights of a U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter aircraft brought personnel and supplies from Christchurch, New Zealand to McMurdo Station in Antarctica, ending six months of isolation for the research station. The winter fly-in, or "Winfly," sets the stage each year for the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) austral summer research season.

Winfly flights were scheduled two days apart from August 20-28, leaving Christchurch at 5 a.m. and arriving at McMurdo at about 10:30 a.m. In the long twilight and brief daylight, crews spent several hours offloading equipment in frigid temperatures (near -40 degrees) before the aircraft headed north again. The flights brought in 217 people, and more than 100,000 pounds of cargo, including supplies, mail, and fresh fruits and vegetables to McMurdo Station.

The C-141 Starlifters are huge, four-engine jets with up to 11 crew members and the ability to carry up to 150 passengers. They are operated by the U.S. Air Forces's 62nd Airlift Wing, headquartered at McChord Air Force Base in Seattle, Washington. The planes landed on Pegasus Runway, a blue-ice runway on the Ross Ice Shelf that partially covers the Ross Sea. McMurdo-based crews had been busy preparing and testing the runway. They removed snow and, to ensure the runway was strong enough to hold the weight of a loaded airplane, dragged a "proof cart" over it to simulate the landing pressure of a fully loaded C-141 Starlifter. The steel cart was loaded with concrete blocks weighing 384,000 pounds, and rolled on eight actual C-141 tires.

This year's Winfly scientists include those who will study ozone and seals, as well as those who provide science support to prepare for the Cape Roberts Project. This effort includes researchers from the United States, New Zealand, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Australia to establish a drill rig on the sea ice and extract sediment cores from the sea floor. The cores will span a period of 25-70 million years

"Main Body" flights that mark the start of the research season will begin this year on Tuesday, September 29. The summer population at McMurdo will reach about 1,000 scientists and support staff until the end of the season in February 1999 when only about 150 people will remain for the winter.

FROM THE DESK OF JOHN LYNCH. The big news in the upcoming Antarctic season will be mostly operational. Some pretty big construction projects will dominate activities at the South Pole. The new large garage and shop facility will be built inside the oversized arch which was installed last summer. There will be a big jump in the total winter-over personnel numbers to 45 or so, in order to complete the garage interior (ed. note, they must be interior decorators). The nine 25,000-gallon bladders in which the fuel is stored will be replaced by forty-five 10,000-gallon steel tanks. This will be the last summer in which uniformed Naval personnel will be a part of the U.S. Antarctic Program. They will operate and maintain four LC-130s.

NANSEN, by Roland Huntford (published by Gerald Duckworth & Company, Ltd., London, 1997. 610 pages. ISBN 0-7156-2740-6. Price \$52.50 at Amazon. - There are 43 black-and-white photos.) (Reviewed by Paul Dalrymple). Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian, was a Man made for the Snow and Ice, a Man made for the Most Elite Damsels of Europe, a Man equally at home behind a microscope in a science laboratory as he was madly skiing in near darkness down an unknown precipitous mountain slope. He was a Man of Many Faces, and the one he wore at his death was that of a great humanitarian who served causes for the less fortunate souls of the world. Huntford's book about Nansen is really a two-volume book in one cover, with the first half about his great polar achievements, the second half about his diplomatic and humanitarian careers.

Nansen is really The Baseline for evaluating all polar explorers, the Fritz Klammer of explorers, leaving them all far behind. This book is a Glorification of Nansen, and indirectly a subtle denunciation of all the other so-called giants of the Heroic Age. When you say Nansen, you aren't just talking about the invention of some stately geographical society; you are talking about a self-made man of science nobility whose lust for a full life took him into the previously uncharted domains of the world. His nearest polar counterpart probably was the great Swedish scientist-explorer, Dr. Otto Nordenskjold. Roald Amundsen did great things, but wasn't he a one-dimensional, finely-tuned machine who could only execute to perfection?

Nansen is not portrayed as a great leader of men, and his saving grace may have been in having Otto Sverdrup as captain of the FRAM, plus the fact that Nansen (and Johansen) were off the ship by themselves for a year and a half. It appears that the crossing of Greenland had left Nansen as sort of an egotistical polar authority who wasn't prone to taking suggestions from his men. So Nansen never enjoyed the popularity of, shall we say, Shackleton. Nansen's only cardinal sin that affected his transit was a short lapse in winding his chronometer which resulted in uncertainties in calculating their longitudes. Certainly the biggest problem for the whole expedition was booze, but that was squelched very early on with strict restrictions on its availability.

Somehow or other Dame Fortune travels with a lot of polar people, and she certainly did with Nansen, as she did with Shackleton and Mawson, walking hand-in-hand. Probably never more so than the sheer luck in Nansen accidentally running into Frederick Jackson at Cape Flora - a culmination of a series of happenings which were strictly blind luck!

Three-fourths of the book is pure excitement, where you can't wait to read what is on the following page. Then when Nansen gets back home, and becomes more or less a puppet for the government, being sent on diplomatic missions here and there, often with a clandestine undertone, it becomes less exciting. However, the book is spiced up by revealing that Nansen had involvements with women everywhere, even being so reckless as to fall in love with a neighbor while he was still married. When his wife died, he eventually married her, but by then the frost was off the pumpkin.

Everyone seemed to love Nansen, and he tried with a great deal of success to reciprocate, so he was a very, very popular man in Europe. He was The Native Dancer on the

floor, could do any dance, and was never known to have sat out a dance. He went riding with the hounds, and the very first time out he astounded everyone, several hundreds, with his expertise in riding and taking jumps. Fantastic guy, very athletic, handsome debonair - he had everything all men wish they had. An early day Errol Flynn, perhaps

He shared himself with the high and mighty, being a treasured friend of the King of England, who constantly wanted his companionship. Kathleen Scott was one of his admirers, and this was not exactly a one-way street. When Captain Scott finally arrived at the South Pole, his wife and Nansen were rendezvousing for a week in Berlin. Keeping it all in the polar family, one might say. However, when Nansen's wife Eva died, Kathleen was said to have rejected Nansen's proposal to marry him.

But one must not think that Nansen was just an international playboy. These were just fringe benefits, as he was a key figure in Norway gaining its independence, and then serving not only his country but the whole world in various humanitarian causes at the League of Nations in Geneva. However, at the same time he continued his pursuit of sciences, particularly in oceanography - he had his own research yacht -and in geology. He even got into one of today's popular science themes, climate change. He was a very serious scientist, and published many books on his research. Nansen was something else.

He harbored a burning desire to be first at the South Pole, but he found himself so heavily committed to nationalistic causes that he had to sit by and be an armchair witness, as those he counseled and advised made repeated attempts. One of the tragedies of it all, according to the book, was that Cherry-Garrard harbored a guilt feeling during his life over his personal inadequacies on skis, and sought solace from Nansen in his failure to not go further in his searching mission for Scott's party. And Nansen, so it was said, could not give him reassurance that it was not his fault.

Huntford has changed one thing in his latest book; the references are now incorporated right into the text, so you no longer have to have that finger back in the references. It makes for much smoother reading. I have only two complaints with Huntford. He has a liking for profound or stilted words for someone who likes simple, one- and two-syllable words. If he had a choice of writing simply or complicatedly, he takes the low road! But those of you who are well-educated and well-versed in the English language will enthral with his word selection.

The other thing which bothered me was Huntford's reluctance to put the year after the month and date. Because Nansen was a man of action and movement, you were often left hanging-out-to-dry guessing the year. Like on the FRAM arctic trip which left home in mid-summer, returning some thirty-nine months later, covering four years; being two prongs (Nansen and Jacobsen, plus the ship), with the story going back and forth from one to the other. It all got somewhat confusing at times. Later on, in his diplomatic career, he was on a yo-yo between several homes in Norway, diplomatic stays in London, duties at the League in Geneva, missions to Russia and Greece, plus endless ongoing lecture tours. If each chapter had the year at its beginning, it would have helped those of us with Alzheimer's.

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING DIFFERENT. This year there is a group doing something which almost makes sense - sea kayaking around South Georgia. Of course, the weather will often be overcast, cloudy, rainy, windy. But every time they go ashore, they will be entering Heaven, with albatrosses providing air coverage, kings and macaronis monitoring the beaches. And what a backdrop should the sun ever shine!! If you people want to buy a truly great book, buy Tim and Pauline Carr's "Antarctic Oasis," published by W. W. Norton, available through Barnes and Noble, selling for \$40. Fantastic book by the island's only permanent inhabitants, who have lived on South Georgia for the past five years on their yacht, the CURLEW.

The Carr's are the curators of the fabulous South Georgia Museum. (Note that "Whaling" has been dropped from the name of the museum.)

PENGUIN PRATTLE by Kristin Larson

SUMMER PRATTLE. Summer (the boreal variety) is the planning season. While a few souls swoosh around on squeaky winter-over snow, keeping the hearth ablaze, the rest of us Antarciticans live by lists, sweltering over details, minds clogged with misty ice images of what we hope our plans will produce. We plan because the nearest supply depot will be 10,000 miles too far away, should we short-shrift the spade-work now. We plan so our budgets can sustain a glorious cruise through Neumayer Channel some windless day in January. We plan because we want to attain or exceed modern estimates of our life expectancy. Aside from travels into outer space, or to our highest peaks, no other destination causes a sojourner to so drill down, peeling back layers, revealing details of the details. Why? Duct tape and bailing wire can only do so much.

Technology has changed the planning equation, and some might even say reduced its role. Regular flights zip us that forgotten widget; satellite communications get us rapid answers to questions we forgot to ask; GPS always tells us where we are, even if it's lost. But in a place like Antarctica, technology rarely replaces planning; it merely expands our capacity for accomplishment, creating new bottle-necks of dependency, and upping the ante. So get back at it, and don't forget to factor for the coming solar max!

MERRY TIME. News of the shipworthy continues to dominate the Prattler's radar. As reported in our last installment, the R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER was just heading out for the depths of the winter ice-laden Ross Sea. The primary mission objective of this winter cruise was to analyze sea ice formation dynamics, and by all accounts was highly successful. Also along for the cruise was Dr. Gerry Kooyman, Emperor penguin biologist, who in his nearly 40 years of Antarctic research has never had the opportunity to venture into the bird's winter foraging grounds. Recall that male Emperors are the only warm-blooded Antarctic natives to endure the full force of the continent's winter conditions, all the while incubating eggs in the cradle of their upturned "toes." As the sun dips down, taking temperatures with it, the females head northward to socialize amongst the clouds of krill. During this recent cruise Dr. Kooyman tagged a number of birds. However, contrary to expectation, there were not many mature females among them; perhaps the gals are more domestic than we thought? Thus in the tradition of truly fine research, this experiment produced more puzzles than it solved!

The N. B. PALMER is now in a shipyard in Seattle, having new equipment installed, while her new sister ship R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD heads into the body shop for some time with a torch-wielding surgeon to correct her minor imperfections.

NOT SO MERRY TIME. Our Australian mates also sponsored a winter cruise this past July on the R/V AURORA AUSTRALIS. Destination: Mertz Glacier Polynya (about 110 miles from the French Dumont D'Urville Station). Mission: deciphering the role that the polynya ("sea lake") in the midst of the sea ice plays in driving the deep ocean currents and global climate. Unfortunately, within hours of initiating the first measurements, an engine-room fire abruptly changed science goals into survival goals. Happily the smaller backup engine was unharmed. After sussing out the melted wires and drifting in the pack for three days, the good ship limped home to

Hobart to get fitted out for another sally in the salt. A great, day-by-day account of this expedition by a former NSF-sponsored writer can be found on the Discovery ONLine Channel at: <http://discovery.com/exp/antarctica/dispatch1.html>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TROMSO. The Antarctic Treaty Meeting held in Norway earlier this summer produced many fine accomplishments. Highlights follow:

Bulgaria was welcomed as a new Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty, bringing the number of such parties to twenty-seven. In order to attain Consultative Party status with full voting rights, a nation must make a significant, ongoing investment in the advancement of Antarctic research. The last two Consultative Parties to be added were Ecuador and The Netherlands on 19 November 1990.

Work continued on the establishment of a permanent Treaty Secretariat, and received strong support from most Treaty Parties. Such an office would provide a "home" for Treaty matters, and facilitate the sharing of information. Several locations are currently under consideration, including Hobart, Australia (already the home for the Marine Living Resources Convention), and Buenos Aires, Argentina. As with most significant international decisions, this one appears to be temporarily snagged on some political thorns, but good progress is being made.

Recall that the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty entered into force this year on January 14th. This important event precipitated a flurry of working papers and new activities during this year's Treaty meeting. Australia proposed that January 14th herewith be recognized as "Antarctic Environment Day," a suggestion that was taken under advisement. The Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) was formed and initiated deliberations. Their first actions included adoption of Rules of Procedure and the election of Dr. Olav Orheim, (Director of the Norwegian Polar Institute) as chairperson for a two-year term. Several delegations emphasized that even though the CEP is the most important advisory committee (i.e., it does not have enforcement or decision-making authority), other scientific and managerial groups retain the ability to provide independent advice to the Consultative members. The CEP will meet each year in conjunction with the annual Treaty Meetings. Dr. Robert Hofman from the Marine Mammal Commission acted in the capacity of the U.S. representative for the convening of the CEP. The Department of State will remain as the point-of-contact for the CEP, and will likely name the CEP delegation on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

NEW DIRECTOR. In August 1998, Dr. Rita Colwell took up the reins as Director of the National Science Foundation. Immediately prior to becoming NSF Director, Dr. Colwell was President of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and Professor of Microbiology at the University. Dr. Colwell has served on important USAP oversight panels, and recently traveled to McMurdo Station and South Pole as a member of the External Panel chaired by Mr. Norm Augustine. NSF's Office of Polar Programs continues to operate under the able, but temporary guidance of Dr. John Hunt. Sources somewhere inside the Beltway claim that the search for a permanent Director for OPP may soon yield more reportable prattle.

DASH IN THE DARK. In early August a New Zealand Air Force C-130 Here plucked the McMurdo Station Winter Manager off the ice before his "hot" appendix got any hotter, and took him to a Christchurch hospital where it was safely removed. The wheeled aircraft made the 16-hour round-trip journey in the dark, landing on the Pegasus blue-ice runway near McMurdo. Normally the U.S. Air Force would provide this type of support, but no polar qualified aircrews were in the immediate areas, and time was of the essence. Good on ya, mates!