RT SPECIAL ISSUE

RT editors Beth Holmes, Karen Moody, and Eric Wright are on vacation this week. This special, jumbo Halloween edition is guest edited by Steve "Scoop" Kinsey and Steve "Scoop" Hawes.

EDITORS MESSAGE

The RT editors handed us the helm of this issue under two circumstances: that we get it out by Oct. 20, and that we keep self-serving, personal propaganda to a minimum. We accomplished neither. We would like to point out that articles within the RT do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, not even those articles written by us. We think you'll enjoy the lively, "reader-friendly" format, as well as the many extra-special features.

Disguised within this confusing matrix of college hijinks and madcap journalism is a sincere hope that the RT can become a powerful department-wide forum for communication. It is distributed to all Marine Science faculty, to Student Government officials, and circulates widely throughout the thought processes of the grad student population. Circulation is currently around 80 copies, bi-weekly. We see lots of potential in having a consistently circulated newsletter for the department. The only way to keep it growing is if everyone, faculty, staff, and students, contributes to its creation. There is a box for submissions in the mailroom. Otherwise, you run the risk of being subjected to yet another salvo of our caustic wit.

"Scoop"
"Scoop"
Guest editors

RECYCLING CZAR ISSUES DEMANDS

- HOLY WAR ON WASTE CONTINUES

The battle rages well thus far. The MSL Recycling Front-General Command (MSLRF-GC) has tried contacting BFI Waste Systems, since our allies at UNR recycle thru them. It would be very convenient for the BFI pipeline to take both of our paper waste stacks in one fell swoop (thus saving gasoline as well). They have not yet contacted our headquarters (MSLRF-GC HQ) like they said they would. Our strategy then is to stockpile. I urge all MSL citizens to continue saving compu waste and xerox paper until the Great Day of Reclamation. A few comments:

1) If anyone has ideas for an alternative to BFI, let me know. They seem indifferent and complacent. Perhaps another organization is more deserving of our efforts.

2) Aluminum cans. Benny takes them, so we have decided not to move in on his territory. Since he is a good ally, make things easy on him by depositing cans in the waste basket near the food machines.

3) How many of you would bring in newspapers if we started collecting them as well? Leave a note for me, Steve Hawes (nom de guerre "Abu Tidal") in my mailbox.

4) How many of you would consider using recycled paper for xeroxing needs? I will look into it if I get enough response.

5) Help cut down the waste stream by bringing your own mug/cup/vessel to TGIF. I intend to lobby the TGIF Committee to impose incentives and disincentives to curb the use of disposable cups.

- Abu Tidal, Recycling Czar, MSLRF-GC
ASK THE EDITORS

Q: How do fish breathe underwater?
- Butch, St. Pete

A: Fish do not in fact breathe at all. How they survive in their harsh, watery domain is a mystery.

Q: If you converted the entire national debt into pennies and stacked them up, how far would it go?

A: Only 103 kilometers, because at that point, the immense heat and pressure generated by the weight of the column itself would turn our debt into a molten copper slag.

Q: Are computers really smarter than humans?

A: Yes.

Q: Why don't marine scientists today live the swashbuckler's life of lore, fighting treacherous seas, engaging sharks in mortal combat, and maneuvering tiny inflatable dingys between whales and menacing harpoons?
- T.P. age 13, St. Pete

A: Wise up kid, we still do.

Q: Who was the greatest marine scientist of all time?
- S.K., Largo

A: Jacques Yves Cousteau, of course.

Q: What can be done to help protect the Manatee?
- S.K. age 12, Gulfport

A: They should not be protected. The Manatee is so evolutionarily ill-equipped to cope with the human menace that it should become extinct.

FISCAL OCEANOGRAPHY

The USF Foundation, an endowment which generates funds that pay for graduate student fellowships, recently received donations of $8000 from both the Marine Science Enrichment Fund and from St. Petersburg Progress. "Sweet" Pete Betzer SP Progress both deserve thanks.

THE HURRICANE CRUISE

- A poem by Shana Smith -

ARRRCH, ye 'lubbers - we be fresh from the high seas
And for the old Gulf of Mexico, they were high seas indeed.
The Bellows, she rocked and pitched both aft and for'ard,
And the wheelhouse, it looked like a hospital ward.
Despite some fine waves and the Hurricane Jerry,
We got all our work done in a good hurry.
Bob Byrne, Scott and Tonya did busted their ass
With some depth-defying Niskin bottle casts. And Steve Haas collected water to filter thru a column
(My Lord that guy belongs in an insane asylum).
Helen and Beth: the analysis team calibrated instruments while turning quite green.
And shark lady Karen Moody did jump and yell when Etmopterus emerged from the trawl.
I myself sought echinoderms
Aye, I did find some, but more I still yearn!
Bobby, Wally and Harry - as guys they're real trips,
But as crew for certain they really know their s__.
And so, like true sea scientists, we're back here on land
Awaiting the next time we go out again.
AVAST! Most have learned that next time they leave dock
Plenty of Dramamine in their bags they will stock.
THE MARINE SCIENCE MONITOR
by "Scoop" Hawes

MOTHER EARTH SCIENCE - In the 9/26 issue of EOS, NSF's M. Grant Gross documents the status of women in the ocean sciences in terms of raw numbers. The author (whose article does not betray his or her gender) finds that oceanography faculties tend to be about 8-10% women, and that women students received 20.7%, 32.4%, and 17.3% of the BS/BA, MS/MA, and PhD degrees, respectively, in ocean science between 1983-88. This compares to 4.3% (1/23) women on the faculty and 29.7% (22/74 as of Aug 88) women in the student body in USF's Marine Science Department.

The extremely low percentage of women on the faculty compared to the number of women students is a cause for concern. Gross points out that "the scarcity of women on oceanography faculties deprives female students of the opportunity to see female role models operating in dominantly male environments." Gross also points out that one cause of this problem is the simple fact that tenure track positions have been scarce in the 70's and 80's as women have been earning PhDs in ever greater numbers. Our department has been slated for growth by the University, and it would be nice to see a healthy female contingent in the pool of applicants for these new positions.

SLUDGE IS GOOD FOOD - from the 10/10 New York Times Science Times:

"Scientists have found a seabed teeming with tiny plants and animals, as richly populated as a tropical rainforest, at the very spot in the ocean where New York and New Jersey have been dumping their sewage sludge for more than two years. "Their discoveries of thriving life in an area some feared might be dead may raise questions about the wisdom of a national policy to ban, by the end of 1991, ocean dumping of sludge..."

ANARCHIC TREATY - On Oct. 21, the New York Times reports, the delegates representing the 39 signatory countries of the Antarctica Treaty of 1959 were unable to agree on measures to protect the continent's environment. France and Australia have refused to sign the 1988 Convention on the Regulation of Antarctica Activities, pushing instead for the creation of a "wilderness park." The U.S., Britain, and New Zealand support CRAMRA which, if ratified, would permit the party nations to declare whether a region can be opened for resource exploration.

Deborah Shapley, in a New York Times Op-Ed column, states that this divisive fight over CRAMRA could undermine the fragile diplomacy that presently smooths over the conflicts arising from long standing territorial claims, and that Antarctic science will be the biggest loser. She defends oil and mineral interests, claiming that "the rules [of CRAMRA] permit virtually any party to veto opening a region." Her position is that the international scientific cooperation in the Antarctic that is necessary to address critical questions about global climate change depends upon international legal cooperation. CRAMRA would complete the Antarctic treaty legal system, and is thus necessary to cool potential diplomatic upheavals. She suggests that a resource exploration ban should be tried for after the pact is in force.

In light of her authorship of a book entitled "The Seventh Continent: Antarctica in the Resource Age," and her refusal hold resource interests culpable ("An outright ban...is unlikely: Powerful oil and mineral interests would almost certainly block it," she writes, while concluding that "environmentalists...may doom the parties to further drawn out talks."), her musings about a future ban attempt seem weak, if not outright dishonest.

Meanwhile, fuel continues to leak out of the Bahia Paraiso, and McMurdo Station dumps its waste products of science, just like we do here at the lab.

CLASSIFIEDS

A bulletin board with a National Geographic map of the world on it was taken from the upstairs hallway near Dr. Sackett's lab. Since it belongs to me, I would appreciate its return.

- Rich Young
SEMINARS

TGIAF (4:00 pm, MSL Conf. Room) Oct. 27 Karen Smith discusses menopause in forams.
Nov. 3 Steve "Scoop" Kinsey will enlighten us about bioluminescence.
Nov. 10 Mike Tringali elucidates the population genetics of fish bait.

DEPARTMENT

Nov. 1 Ed Matheson whines about systematics problems in Mojarras.

ACTIVITIES

MSAC MEETING - Tuesday, October 31 at noon in the lounge - student computer needs will be discussed.

Party!!! - Jose & Linda Torres "Come as you aren't" All Hallows Eve Party, Saturday, Oct. 28 - see flyers in MSL for directions.

Superstars - Important dates:
Oct. 30 - Meeting at 5:00 pm in MSL auditorium for event assignments and instructions.
Nov. 3 - Humans needed in the afternoon to help set up the "Superstars site".

MARK TRAIL

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THE ENORMOUS SAWFISH IS NOT A FISH AT ALL!

IT IS ACTUALLY AN AIR-BREATHING MAMMAL LIKE YOU AND ME AND IT'S COUSIN THE MANATEE!

THEIR SAW IS USED FOR UPTAKE OF DCC THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF Nourishment. HOWEVER, IT IS THIS VALUABLE IVORY PROBOSCIS ...

... WHICH HAS CAUSED THEM TO BE HUNTED TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION...

by DODD & ELROD

THESE BENEFICIAL GIANTS ARE TIMID AND ARE OFTEN SEEN BURROWING INTO THE SEDIMENTS FOR SAFETY.

... GOTCHA! ... AS WELL AS PAYING THIS COMIC STRIP STAR'S SALARY FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS!!

WHUMP!!