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ZCZC 305 01621  
AAHQ16 FASE 011200  
SP 703

1990-08-04

S31/ 247

ATTENTION: SALIE DE MINNAAP

NEWSLETTER MAY 1990

PART ONE OF THREE PARTS...

HELLO AND GREETINGS FROM SANAE 31

THE END OF MAY FINDS US ALL FIT AND HEALTHY AND HOPING THE SAME FOR EVERYONE AT HOME. MAY 1ST DAWNED NOT SO BRIGHT BUT DECIDEDLY BREEZY WITH NO LET UP IN THE STRONG WIND THAT HAD BEEN BLOWING FOR OVER A WEEK. THE WORKERS HOLIDAY DIDNT REACH THIS FAR SOUTH SO IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL ON ALL FRONTS. THE DAILY SKIVVY PIETER G. HAD TO GO OUT AND FACE THE BLIZZARD TO FILL THE SNOW MELTER WHICH TAKES ABOUT A TON OF SNOW AND IS HEAVY P.T. EVEN IN GOOD WEATHER.

MAANS AND LAWRENCE, WHO HAD BEEN WAITING FOR SOME GOOD WEATHER IN ORDER TO GET THEIR OUTSIDE WORK FINISHED, COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER AND AT 1800 THEY STARTED UP THE CATS AND WITH THE HELP OF SCARRE AND PIETER G. THEY SPENT THE REST OF THE EVENING PULLING BURIED SLEDGES OUT OF THE SNOW AND REPACKING THEM WITH NEW MARKER POLES.

RENE WAS WOKEN UP AT 1800 BY PAULO AFTER SLEEPING THROUGH HIS ALARM AT 0700 SO HE THOUGHT PAULO HAD WOKEN HIM AN HOUR EARLY. IT WAS HIS TURN TO COOK AND HE COULDN'T BELIEVE HE WANTED HIM TO PREPARE SUPPER SO EARLY. AFTER A GOOD DEAL OF LEG PULLING BY THE REST OF THE TEAM HE FINALLY REALISED THAT AFTER HIS MAMMOTH SIESTA HE HAD 45 MINUTES IN WHICH TO MAKE SUPPER FOR TEN HUNGRY MOUTHS. HE DID SUCCEED BUT THOSE WERE THE FASTEST OMELETTES EVER SEEN AT SANAE. RENE IS STILL ON A ROTATIONAL DIET, EVERY TIME HE TURNS AROUND HE EATS. SERIOUSLY THOUGH WE ARE ALL PUTTING ON A LITTLE WEIGHT AND THE GYM IS FULLY BOOKED MOST NIGHTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FLAB. PIETER G. CAN BE FOUND THERE NEARLY EVERY DAY BUT IN THEIR CASE ITS MORE OF THE MUSCLE BUILDING WORKOUT THAN IT IS FOR THE REST OF US. ESPECIALLY DIRK WHO NEEDS ALL THE MUSCLES HE CAN GET TO PICK UP WAR AND PEACE WHICH HE HAS STARTED READING. EVEN MAANS HAS BEEN SEEN THERE STRUGGLING UNDER A FEW BENCH PRESSES. NOW IF WE CAN ONLY GET HIM TO CONSIDER GIVING UP HIS PASSION FOR GARLIC I FOR ONE WILL BREATHE EASIER.

BY THE 8TH THE WIND HAD DIED DOWN AND WE COULD GET ALL THE OUTSIDE WORK FINISHED. THE PRE-WINTER SKIVVY RUN WITH ALL OUR REFUSE WAS COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME, SKIDOO'S WERE BROUGHT INSIDE, EMPTY DRUMS WERE COLLECTED FROM THE DEPOT AND ALL SLEDGES WERE SECURELY PARKED AND MARKED. ON THE 9TH THE WIND PICKED UP FROM THE S.E. AND PUT AN END TO ANYMORE THOUGHT OF OUTSIDE ENDEAVOURS.

THE MAIN EVENT OF THE MONTH OF COURSE WAS THE FINAL SUNSET AND ON THE 21ST OLD SOL SLIPPED HIS RED FACE BELOW THE NORTHERN HORIZON FOR THE LAST TIME. WE WONT SEE HIM AGAIN FOR ABOUT SIXTY DAYS AND ALL OF US LOOK FORWARD TO HIS RETURN. SCARRE WAS COOK OF THE DAY AND WE CELEBRATED WITH A SEMI FORMAL CANDLELIT DINNER, SCARRE MAKING A SUPREME EFFORT WITH HIS CULINARY

SKILLS AND PRODUCING THE MEAL OF THE MONTH OF CHICKEN ASPARAGUS FOLLOWED BY BAKED ALASKA. EARLIER IN THE EVENING WE SANG HAPPY BIRTHDAY OVER THE RADIO TO ELIZABETH, ONE OF OUR GERMAN LADY NEIGHBOURS AT NEUMAYER.

AS WE RATTLE INTO OUR WINTER ROUTINE, LIFE IN THE LOUNGE AREA IS TAKING ON A DIFFERENT LOOK AS THE ICE PUSHES SLOWLY THROUGH THE ROOF AND MAANS AND LAWRENCE TRY TO HOLD IT BACK WITH STEEL PILLAR SUPPORTS.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE THE ISLETS OF LANGERHANS ARE? NOT IN ANTARCTICA YOU SAY. WELL THEY ARE YOU KNOW. AT LEAST THEY ARE INSIDE EVERYONE WHO IS HERE. WE FOUND OUT ALL ABOUT THE INTERESTING CELLS IN THE PANCREAS THAT PREDUCE INSULUN WHEN WE ATTENDED ONE OF DR. DE WETS NOW FAMOUS MEDICAL LECTURES IN THE DINING ROOM AND WHICH HAVE BECOME A REGULAR FEATURE OF LIFE 14 METRES BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE FIMBULSEN ICE SHELF. MANY HAPPY HOURS HAVE BEEN SPENT DISCUSSING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE ANATOMY AND THE FUNCTIONS THERE OF. IT ALMOST LOOKS AS IF DR. DE WET IS WORRIED WE WILL FORGET WHAT TO DO WHEN OUR NEXT BIG CHANCE COMES UP, BUT WITH HIS LECTURES AND A FEW WELL CHOSEN SCHNELLER MOVIES, I DONT THINK HE HAS ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

GREG AND PAULO ALSO GOT ONTO THE LECTURING CIRCUIT THIS MONTH. GREG LIKES HIS PYJAMAS AND HAS BEEN SEEN TO WEAR THEM RELIGIOUSLY FOR DAYS ON END. VERY COMFORTABLE HE TELLS US. NO DOUBT BUT TO SEE HIM STANDING AT THE BOARD, MARKER IN HAND, DELIVERING HIS TALK ON TURBO PASCAL IN THE MS DOS ENVIRONMENT HE LOOKS JUST LIKE A YOUTHFULL PAPPILLON ON ONE OF HIS WORSE DAYS ON DEVILS ISLAND. PAULO WHO HAILS FROM MADIERA HAS BEEN TEACHING US SPANISH. I WONDERED AT FIRST IF IT SHOULDN'T BE PORTUGESE AND THEN I REALISED

AS PAULO MUST ALSO HAVE DONE THAT THE VIRTUES OF A SUPERIOR LANGUAGE JUST CANT BE DENIED, OH LAY.

END OF PART ONE

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PART TWO OF THREE PARTS....

ON THE 9TH A NEW FACE APPEARED AMONGST US. THIS WAS FRANK WHO HAD ENOUGH OF PEELING A FROZEN BALACLAVA FROM HIS FURRY FACE AFTER EVERY TRIP OUTSIDE. THE BEARD MUST GO AND SO IT DID. FRANK EMERGED NOT SO MUCH LIKE A BUTTERFLY FROM THE COCOON AS A MAGGOT FROM A ROTTEN PEACH. AFTER SURVIVING THE FAUCOUS WELCOME BACK TO THE OLD FRANK,

HE HAD US WORRIED BY SAYING THERE WAS A BIG TEMPERATURE DROP IN HIS ROOM. TO STOP THE MAD EXIT OF ALL PRESENT TO CHECK IT OUT, HE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE HIS THERMOMETER HAD FALLEN

OF THE WALL.

MAY WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A MONTH OF PARTIES ALL OF THEM UN-PLANNED FOR AND ALL THE BETTER FOR THIS. AFTER ONE OF THEM I WENT INTO THE BATHROOM AND FOUND PIETER G. FAST ASLEEP ON THE FLOOR ON TOP OF HIS PILE OF DIRTY WASHING. OBVIOUSLY THE THOUGHT OF GETTING THE CLOTHES CLEAN WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM AND HE DECIDED

THEY WOULD MAKE A BETTER MATTRESS INSTEAD. OBLIVIOUS TO THE NOISE OF THE POWER SHACK NEXT DOOR HE WAS SLEEPING LIKE A BABY, WITH A RED PROTECTIVE HELMET ON HIS HEAD.

PIETER G. SPENT SOME TIME ON MARION ISLAND AND WHILE THERE HE PICKED UP SOME OF THE LOCAL SLANG. FOR INSTANCE, RICE ARE A GREAT PROBLEM IN THE BASE THERE BUT THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF ONE MARCEL KROESE OF DUBIOUS SCOTTISH ROOTS, THEY ARE KNOWN LOCALLY AS MOOSES. WHEN WE HAD A VISIT FROM THE NORWEGIANS A WHILE BACK PIET WAS HEARD TELLING THEM ENTHUSIASTICALLY ABOUT THE MOOSE PROBLEM ON MARION. YOU COULD SEE THE PUZZLED LOOKS ON NORWEGIAN FACES AS THEY TRIED TO FIGURE OUT HOW ON EARTH A MOOSE PROBLEM HAD ERUPTED IN SO UNLIKELY A SPOT AS MARION ISLAND. TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS TO THEIR MISUNDERSTANDING PIET CONFOUNDED THEM EVEN MORE BY TELLING OF THE TIME A MOOSE RAN INTO HIS BEDROOM AND KEPT HIM AWAKE ALL NIGHT AS IT CAMPAGED AROUND THERE. LAST MONTH SCARRE MOVED INTO THE OLD RHODES HUT UP ON THE SURFACE

AND PROMISED US A HOUSE WARMING PARTY AS SOON AS THE WEATHER CLEARED UP A BIT. END OF MAY AND WE ARE STILL WAITING. LOOKS LIKE WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE A COMBINED MID WINTER PARTY.

RENE ISNT THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE WHO CAN PERFORM SURGERY. IN MID MONTH I HEARD SCARRE TELL HIM HE WAS GOING TO REMOVE HIS C DRIVE, REFORMAT IT AND PUT IT BACK IN AGAIN. IT WAS HOPED THAT AFTER THIS RENES FLOPPIES WOULD BE A LITTLE FIRMER.

THERE WAS A BREAK THROUGH OF SORTS THIS MONTH AT SANAE IN THE FIELD OF DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING. GREG, PAULO, AND SCARRE GOT TOGETHER AND MANAGED TO SEND IMAGES OF THEIR FACES HOME VIA A HAM RADIO. THEY WERE ALSO ABLE TO PRODUCE IMAGES OF THEIR FACES ON COMPUTER SCREENS. AS WITH MOST OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY THIS WAS OPEN TO ABUSE AND IT WASNT LONG BEFORE PRINTED PICTURES OF GREGS FACE APPEARED PINNED TO THE DARTBOARD. WITH HIS MUGSHOT NEATLY SKEWERED WITH SEVERAL DOUBLE TOPS AND A FEW BULLS GREG HAS EVER SINCE BEEN COMPLAINING OF SEVERE HEADACHES. THE THREE SCIENTISTS ARE REFUSING TO DIVULGE THE SECRET OF THEIR SUCCESS IN THIS PROJECT AND WE ARE ALL WAITING EAGERLY TO SEE WHAT THEY WILL COME

UP WITH NEXT.

ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 24TH THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED DOWN TO MINUS

37C AND IT LOOKED LIKE THE TRADITIONAL STREAK WHICH TAKES PLACE AT THE FIRST MINUS FORTY WAS ON FOR THAT EVENING. ALL THE WOULD-BE

STREAKERS STARTED LIMBERING UP FOR THE MAD DASH FROM THE SCIENCE HATCH TO THE UPPER AIR BUILDING AND BACK, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 100 METRES. UNFORTUNATELY THE TEMPERATURE STARTED TO RISE AND THE STRE

AK WAS POSTPONED ON THIS OCCASSION. SOME OF THE STREAKERS WERE ACTUAL LY QUITE RELIEVED TO HAVE THIS REPRIEVE SO THEY COULD HAVE MORE TIME

TO PSYCHE THEMSELVES UP PROPERLY. WE HAVE SINCE HAD TWO MINUS FORTIES BUT NOT FOR LONG ENOUGH TO GET THE EVENT UNDER WAY. YOU'LL PROBABLY HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS NEXT MONTH.

A FANTASTIC AURORAL DISPLAY ON THE EVENING OF THE 26TH HAD NEARLY

EVERYONE UP ON THE SURFACE WITH CAMERAS CLICKING MADLY. IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO DESCRIBE THE SIGHT OF ONE OF THESE

AMAZING DISPLAYS OF THE SOUTHERN LIGHTS, BUT TRY TO IMAGINE HUGE SHEETS AND RIBBONS OF LUMINOUS GREEN AND RED FLOWING ACROSS THE SKY, CONSTANTLY MOVING, SWIRLING AND CHANGING SHAPE. MANY EXCELLENT PICTURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN ALREADY SO HOPEFULLY YOU WILL ALL SEE THESE AT LEAST. THE AURORA WAS STILL GOING THE NEXT MORNING AND AS

A RESULT WE COULD NOT GET GOOD COMMUNICATIONS SO ALL OUR TELEPHON E CALLS HAD TO BE CANCELLED FOR THAT DAY.

PREPARATIONS ARE WELL IN HAND FOR THE MID WINTER FESTIVITIES BUT YOU WILL HEAR ALL ABOUT THAT NEXT MONTH FROM RENE.

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PART THREE OF THREE PARTS...

AS A PARTING SHOT SEEING AS I HAVE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE SO TO SPEAK

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPURTUNITY TO GET MY REV ENGE FOR ALL THE CORNY IRISH JOKES IVE HAD TO SUFFER SINCE I CAME OVER FROM THE EMERALD ISLE. FIRST THOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN TO OUR OVERSEAS READERS, ESPECIALLY MOTHER UP THERE IN TROPICAL BELFAST, AND TO MR AND MRS CALDIERA IN MADIERA, WHO DONT ACTUALLY NEED IT, AND TO SALLY IN WALES, THAT VAN DER MERWE, PRONOUNCED MERVA, IS THE SAME AS SMITH, JONES OR PADDY BACK HOME AND HE BEARS THE BRUNT OF ALL THE LOCAL JOKES. ANYWAY VAN DER MERWE WENT TO THE ZOO AND GOT

INTO TROUBLE FOR FEEDING THE MONKEYS, NOT SO BAD YOU RECKON, BUT HE

WAS FEEDING THEM TO THE LIONS. THREE VAN DER MERVES FELL INTO A SNOW BANK BUT ONLY TWO GOT THEIR HAIR WET, HOW COME? THE OTHER ONE

WAS BAT .YOU THINK THAT WAS BAD, TAKE THIS .WHEN VAN DER MERWE WAS A KID HE ATE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND ENDED UP WITH TINSEL IT IS.

ANOTHER VAN DER MERWE DISAPPEARED ON SAFARI, ITS THOUGHT SOMETHING

HE DISAGREED WITH ATE HIM.

AND FINALLY VAN DER MERWE THINKS STREAKY BACON IS A PIG RUNNING AROUND WITH NO CLOTHES ON.

WELL I CERTAINLY FEEL A LOT BETTER AFTER GETTING RID OF THAT LOT,

ANY COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR BERNARD GAUM, P.BAG X 447

PRETORIA.

ANYWAY STAY WELL EVERYONE. KEEP THE LETTERS COMING AND HERE IS THE SIGNIFICANT WEATHER DATA FOR MAY FROM THE SUPERMETS AT 89001:

AVERAGE TEMP: -19.4 DEGREES CELSIUS  
HIGHEST TEMP: -6.5 DEGREES CELSIUS  
LOWEST TEMP: -40.5 DEGREES CELSIUS  
HIGHEST WIND SPEED: 76 KM/H  
TOTAL SUNSHINE FOR THE MONTH: 6.3 HOURS.

IVAN.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
20/6/7