

M47-305

1991-02-05

NEWSLETTER 10 OF MARION 47: JANUARY 1991

SINCE SANTA (WHOM YOU MAY HAVE HEARD LOOKED REMARKABLY LIKE CHRISTO ELS) LANDED HIS ELEPHANT SEAL-DRAWN WHEELBARROW ON THE ROOF WITH A THUD AND THE HALLS OF MARION HOUSE ECHOED WITH A 'YO HO HO' AND THE 'THUMP THUMPITY THUMP' OF HIS SIZE 13 AND A HALF GUMBOOTS IN THE TWILIGHT OF 1990, LIFE HERE HAS CHANGED BUT LITTLE... ANDRE FOURIE STILL FEEDS HIS METABOLIC WORM WITH COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF CALORIE-LADEN STUFF, JACHA AND DEON ARE STILL PLANNING TO VISIT KUWAIT WITH THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT MONIES AND ANDRE BOTHA IS STILL LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING HOME SOMETIME. SO MUCH SO IN FACT, THAT HE HAS RESORTED TO TAPING HIS FEET UP IN ELASTOPLAST SO AS TO INHIBIT THE FURTHER GROWTH OF CERTAIN 'GUMBOOT INDUCED GROWTHS' (FROM WHICH BY THE WAY, ALL FIELD ASSISTANTS SEEM TO SUFFER) ON HIS FEET. HE ALSO CONFIDED IN ME WHILE GAZING FORELORNLY OUT THE DOOR OF ROOKS' HUT THAT HE WOULD REALLY ENJOY SEEING A SHIP AGAIN - OR EVEN A LOW FLYING SPACE SHUTTLE.

AS FOR THE CAT SITUATION: IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE STABLE. IT WOULD BE MOST IMPOLITE NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT THE FIELD ASSISTANTS MANAGED TO GET ONLY ONE CAT DURING THE LAST SESSION (HUMILIATING MAY THE READER PLEASE NOTE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED). REFERENCE TO THE SITUATION AS 'STABLE' OR 'STABILIZING' OR AS 'HAVING STABILIZED' BEING GENERALLY REGARDED AS A FAR MORE ELOQUENT MANNER OF SPEECH IN THESE PARTS. BE THAT AS IT MAY, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS WE ARE WINNING AND SO CONTINUE TO BE OPTIMISTIC.

LOOKING BACK ON THE MONTH IT IS HARD TO REMEMBER ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT REALLY HAVING HAPPENED. IT HAS BEEN A MONTH CHARACTERIZED BY ITS ADHERENCE TO THE NORM, IF THERE IS SUCH HERE, WHICH IS DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE TO AN OUTSIDER. BRUCE PUT A FILLING IN GERHARD'S TOOTH FOR THE NTH TIME (THE SAME HOLE, PLEASE NOTE). GERARD SPOKE ON HIS RADIO THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS. ALTHOUGH I AM NOT SURE OF IT I STRONGLY SUSPECT ALBERT FELL OFF THE CATWALKS YET AGAIN AND GOT MORE STITCHES IN HIS KNEES.

THE KILLER WHALES NO LONGER PASS BY AS FREQUENTLY AS THEY DID LAST MONTH AND SO THE THEN FAMILIAR SIGHT OF ANDRE FOURIE SITTING ON THE POINT IN THE RAIN LOOKING LIKE A BEARDED RACINGBIKE-TUBE IN HIS WET-SUIT HAS BECOME SCARCE. PITY. WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 DAYS LEFT ON THE ISLAND IT WAS DECIDED BY OUR LOCAL CHEF/BAKER DELMAINE THAT THE CELEBRATION WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A ROMAN STYLE DINNER. TABLES WERE IMPROVISED, A MERE 12 INCHES OR SO HIGH, MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS WERE

ARRANGED AND TOGAS WERE DONNED. A 16MM FILM WERE SCREENED, A REEL AT A TIME BETWEEN COURSES, AND IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT THIS WAS A PRETTY NIFTY WAY TO EAT. BRUCE - QUOTE: I COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN A ROMAN... UNQUOTE. THE ONLY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENT PRESENT AT THE WHOLE AFFAIR WAS A CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL (EVEN HIS INTESTINAL WORM COULD NOT COPE WITH THE MASSIVE VOLUME OF FOOD AVAILABLE) WHO INSISTED ON PEEPING UNDER EVERYONE'S TOGA BY LYING INNOCENTLY ON HIS BACK PRETENDING TO SLEEP.

IAN PASSES THE TIME THESE DAYS PLAYING GUITAR. TO THOSE OF YOU THAT CLAIM TO KNOW THE MAN, IF HE COULD NOT PLAY WHEN YOU LAST SAW HIM AND THAT MAKES YOU WONDER, DON'T WORRY NOTHING'S CHANGED. A DILAPI= DATED GUITAR WAS SALVAGED FROM ITS PLACE OF REST ABOVE THE BAR, STRINGS WERE ATTACHED AND THE GUITAR WAS PLAYED.

IAN PASSES THE TIME THESE DAYS PLAYING GUITAR. TO THOSE OF YOU THAT CLAIM TO KNOW THE MAN, IF HE COULD NOT PLAY WHEN YOU LAST SAW HIM AND THAT MAKES YOU WONDER, DON'T WORRY NOTHING'S CHANGED. A DILAPI=DATED GUITAR WAS SALVAGED FROM ITS PLACE OF REST ABOVE THE BAR, STRINGS WERE ATTACHED AND THE LOUNGE NOW RESONATES TO THE TUNE OF A PIECE (COMPOSED, NATURALLY, BY THE MAESTRO HIMSELF) CALLED: 'O BABE'. IT IS A BLUES NUMBER OF WHICH THE TITLE CONSTITUTES THE SUM TOTAL OF WORDING IN ALL THE VERSES AS WELL AS THE CHORUS. IAN IS BLISFULLY IGNORANT OF THE THREAT HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED TALENT HAS TO HIS PHYSICAL WELL-BEING. YOU SEE, STEVE DOESN'T APPRECIATE 'GOOD' MUSIC.

AS FOR LIFE ITSELF HERE: THE PERSISTENTLY INESCAPEABLE REALISATION THAT OUR TIME HERE IS COMING TO A CLOSE SEEMS TO PERVADE THE ISLAND. WHEREVER ONE GOES, AND WHATEVER ONE SEES, A STRANGE MELANCHOLY, NOSTALGIA IF YOU LIKE, DOMINATES ONE'S MOOD AS YOU REALISE WE ARE ALL TO LEAVE OUR LITTLE BUBBLE OF SOLITUDE AND TRANQUILITY SOON, MANY OF US NEVER TO RETURN, AND THAT CHANGES THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THINGS, KNOWING THE TIME IS SHORT. THE SMELL OF GOODHOPE BAY'S PENGUINS AFTER THE RAIN, THE CONSTANT WIND: THEY BECOME PLEASANT. ONE IS TORN, ON THE ONE HAND BY A LONGING TO SEE HOME AND OUR PEOPLE AND ON THE OTHER BY A DESIRE TO STAY HERE FOREVER.

PS. CHRISTO SAYS SANTA'S BOOTS WEREN'T QUITE SIZE 13 AND A HALF.

WEATHER DATA FOR THIS MONTH:

AVERAGE PRESSURE: 1003.2 HPA
AVERAGE TEMPERATURE: 7.8 DEG CELSIUS
MINIMUM TEMPERATURE: 0.8 DEG CELSIUS
HIGHEST TEMPERATURE: 16.2 DEG CELSIUS
AVERAGE HUMIDITY: 79 PERSENT
RAINFALL: 149.9 MM
AVERAGE SUNSHINE PER DAY: 5.2 HOURS
HIGHEST WIND GUST: 126 KM/H
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH 1MM OR MORE RAIN: 22

Danie Ferreira
9/1/21/6

NEWSLETTER BY PAUL MUNTING
WEATHER DATA BY DANIE FERREIRA