

"The truth shall make ye free, but first it shall make ye miserable."
-Anon.

"Death is an acquired trait."
-Woody Allen

TRAINING DIVISION ANNOUNCES NEW COURSE SCHEDULE

Without much fanfare at a morning news conference yesterday, PMD's Training Division announced their FY86 training course schedule for Bank Staff. "We believe that this year's schedule accurately reflects our flexible approach to the changing needs of Bank executives," said Erik Eriksen, Chief of the Division. Courses include:

Stress Management for Executives: Learning to Handle Stress By Using Recreational Drugs. A complete guide to cocaine usage for the novice. Field trips include Bogota, Colombia, 9th and E Street, N.E., and Lorton Reformatory. Prerequisites: none.

Speed Reading. This course will gradually increase each student's reading speed until he can read the Personnel Manual in 15 minutes. The method used is to scan the page and eliminate everything except pronouns. After additional coursework, pronouns as well are eliminated. Gradually the student is encouraged to nap. The world turns. Days grow longer. Summer turns to fall. People marry and die.

Economics for New Staff. Co-sponsored by Foreign Automobile Dealer's Association of America, this course teaches staff how to develop that most valuable economic entity: your personal financial situation. Learn how to import European luxury cars, use them for two years, and then sell them at 200% of their value to unsuspecting Americans. Learn how to supplement your income by up to 25% via Pan Am's Frequent Flyer Program. And learn how to take your home leave on the French Riviera, no matter what nationality you are. Prerequisites: G-4 visa.

Job Grading and Vietnam: A Historical Comparison. This multi-media dramatic lecture series draws historical comparisons between America's most devious war and Job Grading. Watch Dan Ritchie dressed in jungle fatigues leave the roof of the I-building via helicopter as thousands of downgraded staff watch in panic. Prerequisite: less than 527 Hay points.

Office Technology and You. Let's face it. You are going to be replaced by a computer in less than two years. You'll be unemployed and unemployable. So, get used to it! This course offers preparation for the nervous staff member who doesn't feel he can just take it on the chin. Field trips to various places of potential employment for redundant staff, such as the shipping docks in Baltimore, Chi-Chi's in Springfield Plaza, and the PMI parking garage at 12th and Pennsylvania.

OUTBREAK OF INTEREST IN STAFF PROFILES REPORTED

An outbreak of interest in Staff Profiles has been reported to the Medical Department. MED would like to remind potential victims the means by which this insidious interest is transmitted, so that all staff may take necessary precautions:

Oral-Fecal Transmission: by far the most common agent of spreading interest in Staff Profiles, this process is easily controlled through hygiene and surgical removal of the voice box.

Happy Hour: MED is working closely with Maxime's to suppress Staff Profile outbreaks during two-for-one night.

Reproduction: although enjoyable, reproduction is not a major component of outbreaks in Staff Profile interest. Nonetheless, staff should exercise extreme caution in this area.

CONCERT DATE FORTHCOMING

Snowflake would like to remind readers that the World Bank Volunteer Services Unit is sponsoring a guitar music concert this evening. Ignacio Zjerko will play contemporary Patagonian Sheep music and other selections. The concert will take place at 8:00 pm in the H-building garage (level G2) this evening. Balo Macho!

S-BUILDING MOVE RESTRUCTURED

ADM has announced a minor restructuring of PMD and COM's planned move to the S-building after Jim Duvall's office was damaged by a small thermonuclear explosion. Much of Washington, Northern Virginia, and suburban Maryland was also damaged in the blast, an ADM spokesman reported

The problems and issues brought about by this type of inconvenience allowed a rare glimpse into the complicated and often political arena of contingency planning within the highest level of ADM's management structure. Although ADM moved quickly to downplay the situation, expert observers were skeptical. "They were caught with their pants down," mused one ADM-watcher.

In a hastily arranged news conference, Mr. Bill Cosgrove, ADM's Director, announced to a surprisingly small gathering of the Washington press community that the move will in fact occur, but at a different time to a different place. "We have located alternative quarters at 7th and K Streets, N.E.," said Cosgrove. "There used to be plenty of restaurants in the area, it was 14 blocks from Metro and only 80 minutes by car from Potomac, Maryland at rush-hour. We'll move [PMD and COM] in right behind the rat exterminators and the radiation decontamination experts." Cosgrove went on to say that although the loss of metropolitan D.C. could have some effect on services to the new building, basic needs such as yohgurt delivery and aerobic dance classes would be supported during this difficult period.

The planned move is now scheduled for the first Monday following World War III.

WORKSTATION PROJECT RESULTS ANNOUNCED

IRMD has announced the results of the workstation project, a decision that will impact Bank office technology procurement and use through the next decade. The vendor selected is Faber-Castell Stationery Company of Omaha, Nebraska.

"We were looking for flexibility, compatibility with existing systems, ergonomic design, superior word processing, and a healthy technological lifespan," said Mel Ray, IRMD's Director. "IBM and Apple had strong points, but nothing could match the Faber-Castell No. 2 lead pencil for overall performance. Furthermore, this workstation's capabilities can be expanded infinitely by adding peripherals, such as a yellow legal pad, an eraser, or glue and scissors."

The much-touted "April Decision" was met with tepid enthusiasm by the Bank's data processing and word processing community. "I guess I won't be pirating much software," said one observer from ERS. The news hit Wall Street like a ton of bricks, causing IBM stock to fall 13 points before the New York Stock Exchange suspended trading in the stock at 1:20 pm. Meanwhile, Faber-Castell closed with a 22 point gain.

In a related story, Mr. Ray was appointed to the position of Resident Representative to Berkner Island, Antarctica until his retirement in May, 1996.

CRACKDOWN ON ACRONYM USE ANNOUNCED

An IBRD/IFC-wide crackdown on acronyms was announced on Thursday. In a PMS issued by the VPA, the policy addresses abuses in PIP, TRS, and PSI. Full MC and PAC approval along with OSAG and IRAC was necessary. A new Acronym Crackdown Unit (PMDAC) associated with PMDDR, the ISP, and the OSP (along with VPCOF and SVPOP) will enforce the policy. The OMRG will convene to select a unit manager. Staff violating the policy are subject to delays in PPR, AER and PGP.

This action brings the IBRD/IFC policy in line with the IMF, UN, WHO, FAO, UNESCO and UNDP policies, which followed closely USCS guidelines for staff on GS-13 or above ratings. This OMB decision was issued in a GSA circular in 1974 and communicated by RCA, WUI and TRT telex or E-mail to each EMENA or IRM staff member who eats USDA prime meat while working on IDA projects.