

SNOWFLAKE

The Newsletter of PA's Complex
Vol. 3, No. 1 April 1, 1987

Vincit omnia veritas (truth conquers all)
-- Anon.

BANK REORGANIZATION TASK FORCES REORGANIZE

Disappointed with the past but with high hopes for the future, the Bank Reorganization Task Forces announced at a news conference yesterday that they would be unable to deliver their report to President Barber Conable on time due to managerial problems and that they themselves would undergo a reorganization to correct flaws in their organizational structure. "It became patently obvious that we had too many layers and poor accountability for our product," said the group's spokesman, Bill Cosgrove. "But after we interviewed ourselves extensively, we determined that our worst problem was staff morale caused by inefficiency." Cosgrove announced an aggressive campaign to streamline the Task Forces, stating that "firing of Task Force staff shall continue until morale improves." The Task Forces expect to meet their new deadline of September, 1987.

ZJERKO'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN

World-renowned songwriter and musician Ignacio Zjerko returns to the World Bank's I-building 4th floor balcony for the third consecutive year for one show only, Wednesday, April 1 at 3:20pm. Mr. Zjerko recently completed his "U.S. Tour, 1987" where he entertained dozens in such places as Quinnipiac College (Hamden, Conn.), Wickliffe (Utah) High School, and the Yankton (South Dakota) Arena. While Zjerko's art is still firmly rooted in the contemporary Patagonian Sheep music that made him famous, he has begun to incorporate outside influences, such as the Moravian mordent and the Big Diomed Island glockenspiel. Zjerko will play hits from his latest album, I'm So Miserable Without You, It's Almost Like Having You Here, such as "You Stole My Heart Then Hocked It At The Pawn Shop", "She Got The Gold Mine, I Got The Shaft", and "One Hundred Thousand Lemmings Can't Be Wrong". Zjerko will also lead his rendition of the Live Aid medley, "We Are The World Bank". Seating is limited to three people, so come early! Balo Macho!

NEW PRIVATE SECTOR EMPHASIS AT WORLD BANK

Announcing that they were sick and tired of the problems that have plagued the world's most prestigious international lending organization, the entire staff of the World Bank resigned today and immediately formed a consulting firm. firm, World Bank, Inc., will be located at 1818 H Street NW, in Washington, DC. A public offering of stock is expected in February, 1988.

D.C. OFFICE SPACE BOOM BRINGS MIXED RESULTS

The unprecedented boom in downtown Washington real estate prices has escalated the value of the World Bank's office space to the point that it has replaced human resources as the Bank's "Most Valuable Asset", according to a recent PMD/ITF study. "We knew we would reach this point when downtown rents hit \$42 per square foot," said Harinder Kohli, ITF's Director, "but the J-building put us over the top. Frankly, I foresee the day when we get out of the development business altogether to concentrate solely on our commercial office space portfolio." Kohli added that the Bank has a particular competitive advantage over other real estate development companies due to its tax-free status, and predicts aggressive procurement of additional buildings by the organization. "Veni, vidi, Visa' (I came, I saw, I bought) is our motto," said Kohli.

In a related development, the Professional and Technical Training Unit of PMD's Training Division announced a new course for Bank staff who wish to obtain a Realtor's license. Meanwhile, all courses in the areas of Lending Operations, Core Skills, Institutional Development, Finance, and Technical Assistance have been postponed until downtown rents fall below \$40 per square foot, according to Gerald Rooney, the Unit's Manager.

ANNUAL MEETING SITE SELECTED

The lucky winner of the World Bank's "Annual Meeting Lotto" was selected yesterday before a live television audience. The winner, Boise, Idaho, was chosen at random over nine other finalists in the competition including Santiago, Chile, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting is expected to bring several million dollars in tourism income to Boise, the self-proclaimed "Potato Capital of the World".

CORRECTION

Page 4 of Snowflake's April 1, 1986 edition contained a comic strip that implied that Mr. Dan Ritchie was demoted from Assistant Director, PMD, to a janitor as a result of his management of the 1985 Job Grading Exercise. In fact, Mr. Ritchie was demoted to Supervisor of the janitorial staff. The mistake resulted from an editing error. Snowflake deeply regrets any embarrassment sustained by Mr. Ritchie and his family, and hopes he withdraws his libel lawsuit.

NEW SWIMMING HOURS ANNOUNCED

All staff are advised that the Medical Department has accepted the policy recommendation of the Bank Reorganization Task Force to extend the hours of the Redundancy Pool during the next six months. No one will be admitted without a pink slip, and please remember: double-dipping in the shallow end is prohibited at all times.

BANK PIONEERS NEW SEPARATION MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE

The World Bank has pioneered new techniques in separation management, according to a recently published article in Human Resources Quarterly, a personnel trade journal. The article, written by Sylvia Ruggeri, the Bank's new Management Succession Planner, describes several methods used to expedite outplacement of senior staff. Frayed elevator cables, contaminated drinking water, poorly grounded office technology equipment, and Executive Dining Room food poisoning are just several of the methods described.

"At the World Bank, we are a typical large bureaucracy," writes Ruggeri. "With a low turnover rate, an aging staff, and a young, vibrant cadre of innovative, energetic middle managers, we are always looking for ways of making room at the top. While our new program has some disadvantages, it has all the ingredients of successful outplacement: quick, cheap, selective, and effective." Ruggeri is currently serving consecutive life sentences at Lorton Reformatory.

CRACKDOWN ON GRAMMATICAL ERRORS ANNOUNCED

PMD's Francesca Stone denounced the use of bad grammar at a news conference today. "PMD has an atrocious record," said Stone. "I have never experienced in my professional career anything like this, which has spanned two decades."

Apparently, the majority of PMD's writing has repetitions, redundancies, overuse of words or phrases that mean the same thing, redundancies, repetitions, unnecessary wording, and redundancies, as well as run-on sentences, which Stone believes are the worst aspect of writing in PMD for the most part, but not all of the time, usually. "The reason that PMD writes so poorly can be summed up in one word: bad grammar," stated Stone.

Stone cited dangling participles as one particularly prevalent occurrence in PMD writing. Such sentence construction is so frequent that Stone has decided to take matters into her own hands. "I will discuss with each PMD staff member individually how not to dangle participles in my office," Stone said. Stone had called the news conference after attending a seminar on how to write clearly in Boston on March 28.

CAFETERIA SPECIAL

Today at lunch in the E-building cafeteria, enjoy the dessert special, Management Layer Cake. This delicacy has been served continuously since the Bank's inception in 1946, but it is soon to disappear from Marriott's menu at the request of the Bank Reorganization Task Force. Cost: \$2.00 minus \$0.10 for each year of service. Free to Assistant Directors.

THE COMIC PAGE

