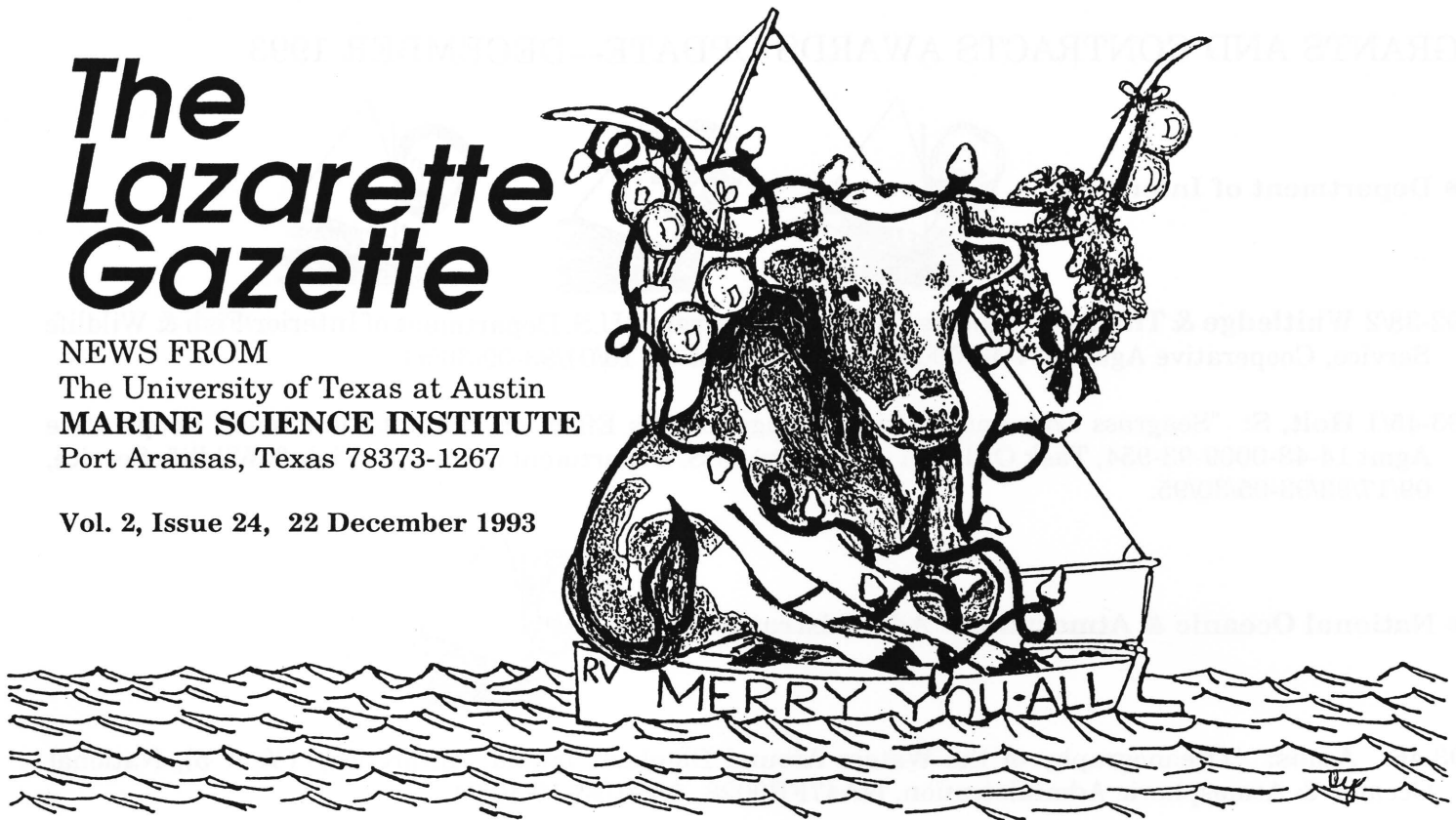


The Lazarette Gazette

NEWS FROM
The University of Texas at Austin
MARINE SCIENCE INSTITUTE
Port Aransas, Texas 78373-1267

Vol. 2, Issue 24, 22 December 1993



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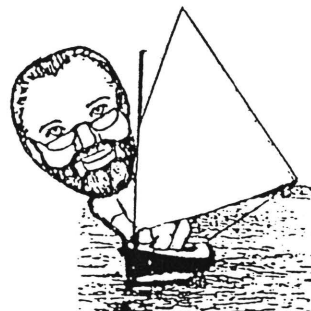
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Director's Report

The holiday season is upon us again. With all of the hustle and bustle that sweeps us along through the festive season, it is a great feeling to see the spirit of Christmas on people's faces. At this time of year, I find it difficult not to look back at Christmas in the past and remember the anticipation and excitement that I felt. I hope that all of our readers can give and receive a measure of that same holiday spirit.

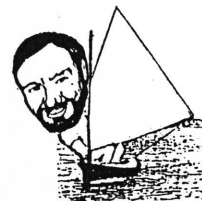
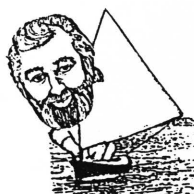
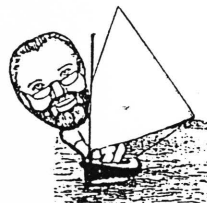
It is my pleasure to extend to all our readers best wishes for a joyous holiday season as well as for a happy and healthy New Year from all of us at UTMSI.

—Terry Whitledge



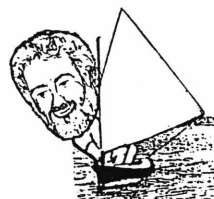
GRANTS AND CONTRACTS AWARDS UPDATE—DECEMBER 1993

■ Department of Interior



92-38/2 **Whitledge & Thomas:** "Marine Toxicology Program," U.S. Department of Interior/Fish & Wildlife Service, Cooperative Agmt #14-48-0009-93-926 (Yr 2 of 5), 10/01/93-09/30/94.

93-45/1 **Holt, S:** "Seagrass Loss and Species Change and Its Effect on Habitat Functions," Cooperative Agmt 14-48-0009-93-954, Task Order #1 (Yr 1 only), U.S. Department of Interior/Fish & Wildlife Service, 09/17/93/93-05/30/95.



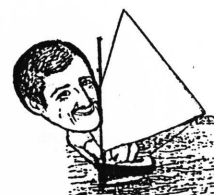
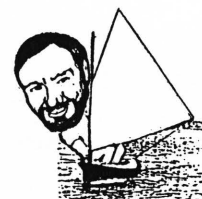
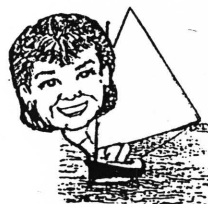
■ National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration:

93-46 **Amos:** "Oceanography of the Waters Around Elephant Island, Antarctica," (Year 5), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, NA47FR0028, 11/01/93-10/30/94.



■ National Science Foundation:

91-44/2 **Benner:** "Bacterial Carbon Metabolism in the Amazon River," University of Washington/National Science Foundation, Subcontract 519393 (Yr 2 of 2), 09/01/93-08/31/94.

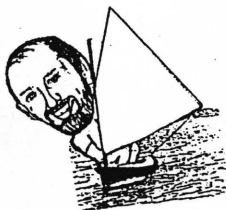


■ Texas Higher Education/Coordinating Board:

93-41 **Holt, J & Holt, S:** "Transport of Larval Fishes to Estuarine Nursery Areas: Do Otoliths Reveal Past History?" THE/CB-Advanced Research Program, Grant 003658-392, 01/01/94-12/31/95.

93-42 **Dunton:** "Photosynthesis and Light Relations in the Seagrass *Thalassia testudinum*: Application Towards Water Transparency Criteria," THE/CB-Advanced Research Program, Grant 003658-419, 01/01/94-12/31/95.

■ Texas Water Development Board:



93-43 **Montagna:** "Effect of Freshwater Inflow on Macrobenthos Productivity and Nitrogen Losses in Texas Estuaries," Texas Water Development Board, Contract 94-483-003, 09/01/93-08/31/94.

—Lynn Amos

Trip Reports & Travel

Travel ending between December 3 and December 22

→ *Rick Tinnin*, December 3—4, South Padre Island, to support Project Atmosphere Teacher Workshop.

→ *Terry Whittedge*, December 7, Houston, attend meeting of the Houston Ship Channel Study Oversight Committee.

→ *Terry Whittedge*, December 10—12, San Francisco, California, attend Ocean, Atmosphere, Ice Interactions Committee Meeting of Arctic Systems Science Program of the National Science Foundation.

→ *Paul Montagna*, December 14—15, New Orleans, Louisiana, present paper *GOOMEX meiofauna and infauna biological studies* at the Minerals Management Service Information Transfer Meeting and attend GOOMEX Scientific Review Board Meeting.

→ *Gregory Street*, December 14—15, New Orleans, Louisiana, present paper *Meiofauna genetic diversity* at the Minerals Management Service Information Transfer Meeting.

Egabrag Wocs

Fort Odum — The story of *Fort Odum* has long been top secret. Wartime files of Winston Churchill, assassination files of John F. Kennedy, and files on J. Edgar Hoover/drag queen have all been made public, so why not the files on *Fort Odum*. Like the Kennedy assassination, some aspects of coincidence regarding *Fort Odum* are so unlikely as to suggest conspiracy. How else can one explain my presence on the grassy knoll — I mean dorm porch — *several months before I was employed by MSI?*

H. T. Odum was the Director of the Marine Science Institute from 1956 through 1962. Large, redhead, brilliant—most of us liked and respected him. But some thought the MSI of old a bit strictly regimented. An annual order for rather large bakelite signs kept even the janitor's closet clearly labeled in case you forgot what it was or that **SAM GAMPERT** was in charge of the closet (one wag added underneath *knock before entering* and was seriously reprimanded for so doing). Little neat rows of white painted rocks indicated the proper route so you did not get lost walking from the classroom to the dorm. A few came to call MSI, *Fort Odum*.

In 1960 UT President Logan Wilson visited MSI. Dr. Odum and President Wilson made a voyage on the MSI's *R/V CIENCIA* (Carpenter/Captain Herman Moore commanding). The *CIENCIA* cruised out to the Gulf and returned; as it approached the MSI pier, those aboard noticed a large banner had been unfurled, not visible from land, but completely covering the seaward side of the pier laboratory building. President Wilson asked Captain Moore to circle for a closer view. The sign said "FORT ODUM". President Wilson thought it was *a great joke!* Dr. Odum did not.

I did witness the event from the dorm porch. At MSI to interview for the position of Administrative Assistant, I was told by Secretary Olive, *sorry, we liked someone who had an earlier appointment and hired them; besides, Dr. Odum is giving President Wilson a boat trip now.* She suggested I look around anyway. I wandered down by the dormitory and was hailed by a group on the porch and offered a coke. They seemed to be unusually congenial and in great spirits, but I was puzzled how they found so much amusement in just viewing a boat circling by a pier. Perhaps the memory of this friendly group played a part in my decision to reapply months later. (And AWOL Adm. Asst. Garner, Colonel USAF Ret., was replaced by Adm. Asst. Thompson, PFC USMCR.)
— John Thompson

Safety

MSDS Sheets — December 3—17

SUTTLE: Silver Wool, 99.9%.

THOMAS: Ethyl Alcohol 200 Proof USP, Sephacryl HR, Temed Electrophoresis Reagent, L-Asorbic Acid Free Acid Fine Crystals Approx 325 Mesh, Tungstosilicic Acid.

WHITLEDGE: Lubriseal.

MSI Employees complete basic radiological health training — Twenty-nine MSI employees completed an 8 hour course in basic radiological health taught November 8 and 9 and December 6 and 7 by Larry Hamlin of the UT Safety Office. The course covered radiation units, instrumentation, personnel monitoring, S.I. units, laboratory procedures, shielding, decay, emergency procedures, "Manual of Radiation Safety", and portions of the "Texas Regulations for control of radiation". Employees completing the course were: Hayden Abel, Rainer Amon, Bill Beasley, Susan Becker, Bopaiah Biddanda, Diane Breckenridge, Rini Budiantara, Robert Burgess, Amy Chan, Matt Cottrell, Hudson Deyoe, Jennifer Dicocco, Charles Laidley, Kun-Seop Lee, Shampa Ghosh, Don Gibson, Kim Jackson, Jim Kaldy, Rick Kalke, Woodie Lawson, Stephen Opsahl, Patti Pickering, Jonathon Pinter, Robert Rewolinski, Izhar Khan, Dean Stockwell, Lynn Tinnin, Terry Whitledge, Yong Zhu.

Hazardous materials finally depart MSI — Much credit needs to be given to the new folks at UT's Office of Environmental Health and Safety. William Fordyce and a team from the safety office together with a private contractor were in Port Aransas December 15, 16, and 17 to dispose of accumulated hazardous materials. Some of these materials had been around for years, and were not easy to handle (one of the contractor's people, appropriately dressed to handle some old ether, looked like he had just stepped out of the space program). This serious "hands on" help is greatly appreciated.

Maintenance request procedures for fume hoods — The maintenance staff has to be **certain** it is safe before they work on a fume hood. Requests for fume hood work need to include information concerning conditions which may be hazardous to those working on the hood. If it is safe, this should be stated in writing and signed by the senior scientist. If hazards exist and precautions need to be taken, these should be stated on the maintenance request.

Needles, razor blades, scalpels and any glass contaminated with infectious material all need to be disposed of in an iso-lizer. These units have been furnished to every laboratory. Additional ones are available when needed.

Irish Pennants

■ **My second sail** —I spend two hours in the channel fighting with a 78 mph current, which puts me in places I surely have no intention of going. My original plan is to spend a leisure hour out in the Gulf and return on the incoming tidal current. By the time I sail (drift) to the end of the jettys I am ready to make new plans. It's rough out there. Motoring back is slow, but all is well. That is until my motor jumps off. It happens something like this: bobbing up and down in the waves with the help of a passing shrimp boat, my motor is tiring and makes a leap for the cockpit. Missing the cockpit, it makes a lunge for the water, screaming all the way. Being the speedy, ever-ready, salty, sailor person I am, I reach out and grab that little sucker. Perfect timing and accuracy saves four hp worth of life saving equipment. Motor back in place, with life line, I happily tie up in my dock.

My third sail —I take a leisurely sail up the channel with my first mate Angela Piepmeier laying back with radio in hand. Now she "are" a sailor too. All is well.

My fourth sail —It is such a beautiful day, I decide to burn a few hours of comp. time on the water. My skills being perfected and usage of nautical terms gave me no second thoughts of venturing out into the open seas. By the way, I now can sail with two sails. Boat prepared for take off, I start the trusty little kicker motor. It goes into automatic "no run" condition. This was a feature I had no idea was built into such a small engine. I really got a bargain. An hour and a half later I find a way to by-pass the "no run" feature and ease out into the swift running current. One sail goes up. Most of the way. Corrections made, the sail fills and with the help of the motor I am sailing. The motor puffs smoke and is dead. Crank, crank, crank. C...! (*censored, hint: rhymes with wrap, ed.*) Second thoughts: can I make a landing somewhere? Where? FAML pier will stop me. By the time I reach Roberts Point, the motor is again running, but I want to go back. I have good wind, so I raise my jib. Whoa! That suckers big. A quick turn sends me heading back toward U.T. against the current. When I make the turn at Clines Point, the wind no longer blows right. The current also gets stronger there. A ships coming. Move! I cross to the other side and start the motor. It takes all four horses to get back after going sideways, back ways, front ways, every way. Safe again. See you next trip.

—Barnacle Bill

Christmas 1993

Santa! Santa!
Where can you be
Fill up your bags
And bring them to me

I sent you a list
It's been two weeks past
I want everything I told you
And I want it fast

I made a xerox copy
Be careful of what you do
If you don't give me everything
My lawyer will surely sue

Bring me lots of stuff
And throw it under the tree
Don't eat the cookies
They're all for me

—Bill Piepmeier

Santa visits MSI

When Santa was making his tour
He slowly descended on our town
He looked once, he looked twice
Wondering what he had found

He was tired and sweaty
for the temp was in the 80's
The jolly old man needed a shower
Before he met the ladies

He happened to make a visit
To the campus of UT
Looking into the dimly lit labs
What do you suppose he did see

Strangely dressed lads and lassies
Performing their daily chores
Hooked up to scopes and computers
Hiding behind closed doors

Santa begins making a list
Checking it two times or more
He sees what's going on
And promptly rolls on the floor

Peter Thomas didn't purchase a stamp
For his letter to Santa to send
So he just climbed up on Santas lap
Asking for Federal grants to no end

Terry Whitledge was totally heart broken
As Santa just passed him by
He slammed the door to his office
Outside, Kathy could hear him cry

John Thompson stumbled from his desk
Asking JoAnn what's all the commotion
She just looked up at him
Her eyes filled with Christmas emotion

John Yarbrough had a list for Santa to see
Which he placed in Santa's hand
Mowers, shovels, spades and rakes
And about 100 yards of sand

The entire crew from FAML
Refused to show their face
Connie Arnold had briefed them all
In Science, Santa has no place

Dolores! Dolores! Dolores!
Where is your faithful crew
Didn't you know Santa was here
He made a special trip just for you

He parked his faithful old Rudolf
For Charlie Hutchins to repair
His nose just faintly glowing
He had lost most of his hair

Charlie grabbed a replacement battery
And gently shoved it in place
Rudolf's nose lit up brightly
A smile was on his face

The whole campus was present
When Santa made his flight
A puzzled look was on his face
As he quickly flew out of sight

—Bill Piepmeier

Fiscal Office Facts...and foo-fa-raw

Save the receipt — Some companies no longer send copies of receipts of gas purchases. Please do not discard the customer copy of the signed receipt. We need it to check against gas bills. Please save it and turn it in to the fiscal office.

Use the right card — Diamond Shamrock will process about any credit card you hand them, but then we get a separate bill on a *new* account and with tax included when it should not be. Your *Accounting Trauma Center* has consulted with МЫ НЕ ЗНАЕМ about this problem, and he has come up with the following solution. According to МЫ НЕ ЗНАЕМ, most purveyors of gasoline will have a very large sign prominently displayed at their establishment, it is only necessary to check to see that the credit card you provide the attendant matches this sign! He guarantees this solution will work for everyone but Aggies!

Letters to the editor

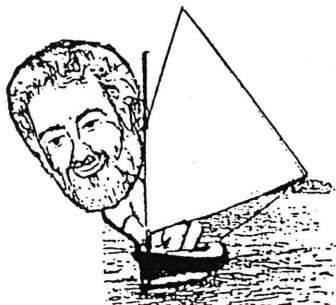
■ I am writing in reference to the Editor's note in the 19 November 1993 issue of The Lazarette Gazette concerning the term "Irish Pennants". Merriam Webster's 3rd Unabridged New International Dictionary, 1971 edition, defines "Irish Pennants" as **a loose untidy object about a ship or naval installation especially the end of a line left hanging loose or out of place**. It seems to me you've got the meaning exactly right and while I cannot claim to be a serious student of nautical lore, I can affirm your usage of this term. The terms "Lazarette" and "Egabrag Wocs" also stimulated my curiosity so I again consulted my dictionary. "Lazarette" has two nautically related meanings: (1) a building or ship used for detention or quarantine and (2) a space in-between the decks of a ship used for storage. Maybe you could clarify your sense in the use of this term? I couldn't find "Egabrag" but "Woc" is a person serving without compensation, i.e. a dollar a year man. I had no idea that all the MSI Directors were so wealthy that they didn't need a salary! Ha! Well, I finally figured it all out after reviewing the 4 June 93 issue. The LazGaz is a super newsletter. If you ever decide to get out of marine science, you could have a great career in journalism. (Troy L. Johnson, Editor of The Tattler — UT Physical Plant/Utilities Newsletter)

Editor: Troy, you asked if I would clarify my sense in the use of the term **Lazarette**. First, what I write does not necessarily have any sense, but in this instance I can quote the Editor's Note in the very first issue, ...I liked the word "Gazette". Combining that with "Lazarette" (a storeroom aboard ship) sounds nice and gives me a chance to exhibit my nautical erudition. Thank you for writing about **Irish Pennants**, thereby confirming my nautical erudition. You still have one more challenge: the identity of our Russian Correspondent, МЫ НЕ ЗНАЕМ. Neither Webster's 3rd New International Unabridged Dictionary nor your Cub Scout Secret Code can help you.

Tony's Tidings...

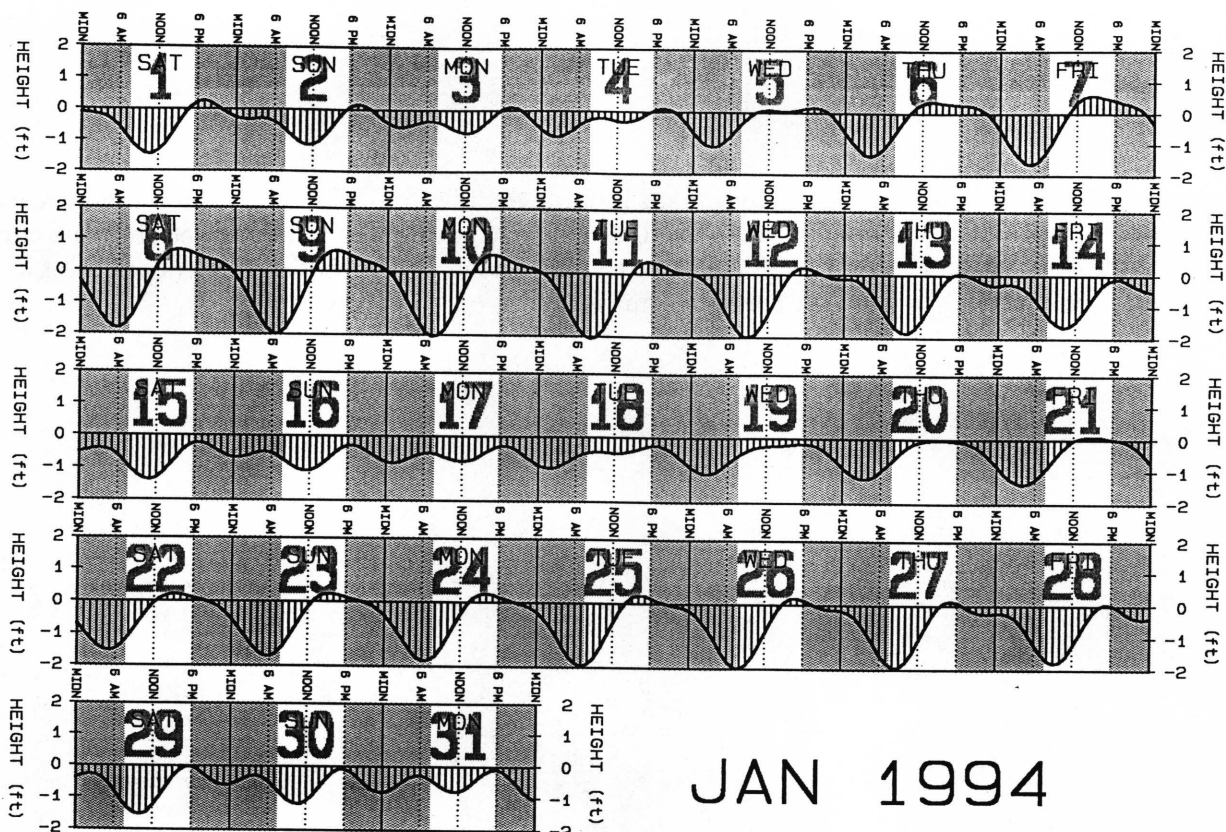
Weather Report—November 29—December 19

29 NOV - 5 DEC 1993									
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MEAN	
DATE	29	30	1	2	3	4	5		
AIR TEMP	HIGH	65.4	69.0	75.0	75.5	73.5	71.7	68.9	71.3
AIR TEMP	LOW	48.0	54.8	63.3	64.9	62.9	56.8	52.8	57.6
SEA TEMP	LOW	--	--	--	63.7	--	62.0	--	62.9
RAINFALL	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
6 - 12 DEC 1993									
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MEAN	
DATE	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
AIR TEMP	HIGH	67.1	71.7	71.6	72.5	77.3	68.0	71.0	71.3
AIR TEMP	LOW	60.2	63.1	64.9	64.7	64.9	59.0	61.3	62.6
SEA TEMP	LOW	63.1	--	64.2	--	66.8	--	63.6	64.4
RAINFALL	TOTAL	0	0	0.06	0	0	0	0	0.06
13 - 19 DEC 1993									
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MEAN	
DATE	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
AIR TEMP	HIGH	79.1	71.4	64.7	70.1	73.0	65.3	56.8	68.6
AIR TEMP	LOW	60.9	50.3	48.3	56.4	64.0	52.1	52.8	55.0
SEA TEMP	LOW	--	61.7	--	63.4	--	65.0	--	63.4
RAINFALL	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0.59	1.61	0.02	2.22



Tide Predictions for January (For tidal heights at the tide tower, South Jetty, the Aransas Pass. Heights are in feet above or below mean sea level. The shaded area is nighttime. Remember, this is tidal height, not tidal current. Slack water is when the wiggly line crosses the MSL line, not at peaks and valleys, where the tidal current will be a full flood or ebb.)

TIDES AT SOUTH JETTY



JAN 1994

Additional information on the "Amos" tide diagrams — Predictions are based on the astronomical data for the sun and moon and measurements made at the Army Corps of Engineers tide tower on the South Jetty (the concrete tower with a rickety wooden walkway and notices saying "Authorized Use Only" which everybody ignores, especially young people who climb to the top and jump into the channel and in the process damage the sensitive instruments which measure the tides). We request that any publication of them acknowledge the source as Tony Amos, The University of Texas at Austin, Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, Texas. Any comments you have on these charts, please send to me.

The charts show the height of the tide in feet above and below Mean Sea Level (MSL) at the south jetty of the Aransas Pass (the pass between Mustang Island and San Jose Island connecting the Gulf of Mexico to Corpus Christi Bay). The location is 27° 50.2'N, 97° 03.0'W. The predictions are based on the known features of the Moon's orbit around the Earth, the Earth/Moon System's orbit around the Sun, and certain peculiarities of the geographical location and the geography of the Gulf of Mexico. The charts cannot predict changes in water level caused by winds and storms and barometric pressure. These changes are often significant in this area and may make the charts seem inaccurate.

Each daily box shows the date, day of week and times of midnight, 6 am, noon, and 6 pm (dotted vertical lines). Dark shading shows the times when it is dark (i.e. it is night-time). In general, slack tide will be near the times when the wiggly curve showing the water level crosses the zero, or **Mean Sea Level** line. However, because sea level is low at certain times of the year (e.g. January) and high at other times (e.g. October), the time of slack tide will be approximately half way between the time of the high and the next low. When the curve peaks, the tide is in **Flood** ("coming in"), when it is at a minimum the tide is **Ebbing** ("going out").

—Tony Amos



Attaboys

■ On behalf of the second grade, the teachers, Mrs. Perabo and Mrs. Mullen, and the principal, Dr. Barrera, I would like to thank you for your presentation at St. Patrick School. We received good feedback from the students on all of the speakers. I got several reports at home from my daughter on things I certainly did not know anything about. Therefore, due to your efforts I have declared our Speakers Bureau 1993-94 Science Fair campaign a success. This was my first time to undertake this job and I was amazed at the cordial and enthusiastic response I received from the community of potential speakers. That made my job very enjoyable and I compliment you on your professionalism and courtesy. Now let's hope that in some classroom we have impacted a child with a dream to become a scientist. If we have done that, then we have been truly successful.

(To Rick Tinnin from Robert Rice, Speakers Bureau Chairman, Saint Patrick School)

Editor's Note

I suspect the story by *Barnacle Bill* may have been written by Bill Piepmeier, especially considering the evidence that the first mate on the third sail was Bill's young daughter Angela. Considering the success of the third sail as compared to his others (see last issue for his first sail), perhaps Bill should sign on Angela and her radio for all trips. You also have Bill to thank for his special poetry for 1993 and MSI, which saved the *LazGaz* from having to repeat last year's *Surfboard Santa*. Thanks for help with this issue also go to Terry Whitledge, Tony Amos, Andi Wickham, JoAnn Page, Kathy Quade, Patty Baker, Linda Yates, and Lynn Amos. In 1994 the MSI graduate students will begin to sail across the masthead of the *LazGaz*. It has always been our intention that all those receiving a graduate degree at MSI should be *immortalized* on our masthead. Linda Yates already has a start on the art work. No, Linda is not asking anyone to pose in their BVD's. She knows she can never surpass last issues EWB/BVD masthead.

—John Thompson

