



02-01

January 12, 2001

- ◆ Earlier this week, we learned of the passing of 56-year old Joe Smith on Monday, January 8. His wife Debbie and their two children survive him. A long-time figure in our industry, Joe was first involved with Hannah Marine in the mid-'70's, and founded the company Petro-Clean in the Chicago area (Petro-Clean was eventually sold to Heritage Environmental). In recent years, he'd been working in the Gulf area with Response Management Associates (Houston area). ***We would like to extend our condolences to Joe's friends and family.***
- ◆ The Texas A&M University System Engineering Extension Service, Center for Marine Training and Safety, is offering a 40-hour Coastal Oil Spill Control School in Fort Eustis, Virginia on May 21-25, 2001. The course is the same professional environmental protection training program offered at Texas A&M's Galveston, Texas campus, and meets the recommended Federal OPA '90 Oil Spill Responder Training guidelines. Course topics include a wide variety of response and recovery related issues, and half the course is dedicated to practical hands-on field exercises. The tuition is \$895 per student. For more information, contact Texas A&M's Craig Kartye at 1-409-740-4886.
- ◆ ***Congratulations!*** to SCAA member Crowley Marine Services, Inc., who announced recently that they would be purchasing Marine Transport Corp. for \$45.9 million in cash. Crowley and Marine Transport are two of the nation's oldest shipping companies. The deal is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2001. (Source: *JOC Week*)
- ◆ The Connecticut Maritime Association will host its "Shipping 2001: Cross Current" event on March 19-21, 2001 at the Westin Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut. Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities are available to interested parties. For more information, contact the CMA Conference Coordinator, Debra Wood, at International Marketing Strategies, 28 Southfield Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut, 06902, phone 1-203-406-0109, fax 1-203-406-0110, and e-mail conferences@intmarketingstrategies.com.
- ◆ The National Institute of Justice ("NIJ") now has published a "Guide for the Selection of Chemical Agent and Toxic Material Detection Equipment for Emergency First Responders", which is available on their web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/184449.htm>. The guide is printed in two volumes, both available in the Adobe Acrobat file format. (Source: *The Beacon*)
- ◆ ***The saga continues . . .*** In a 12-page statement issued last month, the Italian classification society Rina challenged the French Marine Accident Investigation Bureau in France on its

conclusions regarding the cause of the loss of the “Erika”, stating that the casualty could have been avoided if the vessel had been handled differently. While the classification society agrees that the casualty was the result of progressive structural collapse, Rina discounts the Bureau’s contention that the predominant explanation for the collapse was inadequate maintenance and the failure to address widespread corrosion. Rina’s criticisms were apparently directed to the vessel’s master, Panship Management, and to a lesser extent, TotalFina. They also question the decision to send the “Erika” to the River Loire port of Donges instead of Brest, which she could have reached more quickly. Rina also asserts in its statement that several other factors contributing to the casualty were not sufficiently taken into account by the Bureau. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*) **Editor’s Note:** *Looks like the finger pointing on this one will continue for some time . . .*

- ◆ Australia's Pacific 2002 International Maritime Exhibition will be held in Sydney, Australia January 29-February 1, 2002. The event will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Center Darling Harbour. For more information on the event, contact the Pacific 2000 staff at P.O. Box 975 Parramatta, NSW 2124, Australia, telephone+61-2-9806-9900, facsimile +61-2-9806-9922, e-mail pacific@maritime.net.au, or visit their web site at www.pacific2002.com.au.
- ◆ The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit recently upheld a citizens enforcement action brought against a San Diego shipyard under authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("FWPCA"). In the case, the shipyard was sued by the Natural Resources Defense Council and other environmental advocates after they notified the shipyard of their belief that that they had failed to prepare and implement adequate pollution prevention plans as required by the FWPCA. The Court ruled that the notice letter was sufficient to notify the shipyard of alleged violations, and upheld the trial court's civil penalty of \$799,000 and its required changes to the shipyard's pollution prevention plans and implementation program. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ **Imagine that . . .** In a recent report by the General Accounting Office, the agency concluded that the four federal agencies (namely the Occupational Health and Safety Administration; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Environmental Protection Agency; and the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board) responsible for protecting the safety and health of people who work around hazardous materials have overlapping responsibilities, resulting in "duplicative requirements" on employers. The report was prepared at the request of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, and the agency was tasked with looking into the regulations that govern workplaces that produce, store, or dispose of hazardous materials. A complete copy of the 52-page report, entitled "Worker Protection: Better Coordination Can Improve Safety at Hazardous Material Facilities (GAO-01-62)" is available from the GAO. Call them at 1-202-512-6000, or visit their web site at www.gao.gov. (Source: *HazMat Transport News*)
- ◆ **We could have guessed it . . .** Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") recently announced that the U.S. national temperature during the November through December two-month period was the coldest such period on record. The average temperature during this time frame was 33.8 degrees Fahrenheit. The only states recording "normal" temperatures during these two months were Nevada, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. The irony of the cold spell is that it came at the end of a year that began with the warmest winter on record in the U.S. From January through October 2000, above normal temperatures prevailed and made the 10-month period the warmest since national temperature records began in 1895. (Source: *U.S. Dept. of Commerce News*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** When you're feeling run down, try the following to improve your outlook: (1.) **Refuel** by snacking on fiber-rich foods, such as dried apricots, bananas, baby carrots, or rye wafers. (2.) **Breathe deeply** every 1-2 hours by spending five minutes deeply inhaling and exhaling. (3.) **Go on an "Imagi-Cation"** by closing your eyes and imagining a peaceful scene wherein you are relaxing – call it a "mental" vacation. (4.) **Call a confidante** to quickly unload and unwind. (5.) **Snap out of it** by splashing cold water on your face, snapping a rubber band on your wrist, or eating a breath mint (mint flavors are stimulating). (6.) **Take a good-news inventory** at the end of each day to recall everything that went right – it'll help energize you for the next day. (Source: *Top Health*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "The true teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence. He inspires self-trust. He guides their eyes from himself to the spirit that quickens him. He will have no disciple." – Amos Bronson Alcott (1799-1888), *Orphic Sayings. From The Dial [July 1840]. The Teacher*