

Class Afloat *Live!*

South Africa



Position: Feb. 10, 2000
29°53'S, 031°01'E



by Tyler King

After a long vacation filled with rest, family and fun, I am back in Durban,

South Africa and at my home away from home, the sailing vessel *Concordia*. I was excited to see my old ship-mates from last semester and to meet the new recruits who are now our fellow crewmembers. We are about to embark on a five-month adventure filled with sailing and visiting foreign lands.

Presently, the entire crew is participating in a rigorous, three-day sail-training program. It is designed to jog the memories of those of us who are returning from the first semester, and to teach the newcomers what sailing is all about.

The students are in high spirits, and we are anxious to begin our sail to Cape Town, South Africa. Our adjustment to ship life seems to be going smoothly, although life aboard *Concordia* definitely takes some getting used to. No more rolling out of my queen-size bed at eleven in the morning. I will sleep in my small bunk and wake up every morning at 7 a.m. for the next five months!

This semester, judging by our itinerary and our overall desire for success, will be as memorable and exciting as our last semester!

Tyler King is a Class Afloat student from New York, USA.

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Q. What skills are required to sail the ship?

Q&A

A. We need many strong personal qualities and physical skills to sail *Concordia*. We must be responsible, because we each have tasks for which we are accountable. If these tasks don't get completed, the ship will not sail smoothly. Determination is also important, because some of our tasks take hard work to accomplish. Honesty, tolerance, and a positive attitude are essential to working well together. An accurate memory and physical strength are also necessary to work the sails and move the lines efficiently.

*Answered by Jason Wiltfang
from aboard Concordia.*

Search the newspaper for articles about or ads for places you would like to visit. Write an itinerary for a five-month trip that includes your choices, and trace your route on a map. Research the places you want to visit.

KIDS
NEWS
EXPLORER

**Next Week...
Cape Town,
South Africa**



Class Afloat *Live!*

Cape Town, South Africa



Position: Feb. 22, 2000
29°04'S, 015°37'E



by **Steve Dilley**

This morning we boarded a ferry for Robben Island, located several

kilometers away from the mainland. The island hosts a prison, built in the 1960s, to hold South Africans who spoke out against apartheid, the official government policy that discriminated against black South Africans and others. This maximum-security prison was used to prevent anti-apartheid leaders from

having contact with and influence over their followers. It is a prison that many regard as the place where South African freedom was born.

The most well known prisoner of Robben Island is Nelson Mandela. He and other political prisoners were kept in strict solitary confinement. All of their outgoing and incoming mail was censored. Many of the prisoners developed serious health problems from spending long, hard days working in the island's limestone quarries. Mandela experienced lung problems from the limestone dust he inhaled at the quarry. Other prisoners developed eyesight problems and even blindness from the sun glaring off the light-colored limestone. Even with these harsh conditions, though, there was little the prison guards could do to break the prisoners' determination for freedom.

Steven Dilley is a Class Afloat student aboard Concordia.

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Conditions for many people under apartheid were very difficult and dangerous. Find a newspaper article that shows discrimination. What do you think should be done about the situation? Develop a solution.



**KIDS
NEWS
EXPLORER**

Q. Why are you on this trip?



Q&A

A. I joined Class Afloat and *Concordia* because I want to see the world and learn about and experience as much as I can about other cultures and peoples. I also want to learn how to sail. It is a great opportunity for me to travel, study and learn about myself all at the same time. The voyage is a big change from my old routine. The places that we visit this semester will show us many wonders of the world.

*Answered by Sarah Paradis
from aboard Concordia.*

Next Issue...
**Walvis Bay,
Namibia**



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Concordia Sails the World

Walvis Bay, Namibia



**Location: Enroute to
St. Helena Island**



by **Sarah
Paradis**

When we arrived in Namibia, the desert shore didn't appear impressive. We couldn't at first see the immensity of the desert or the beauty of the thousands of sand dunes. However, when I had my first close-up look at the ocean of sand, I felt at

peace. The miles of sand that surrounded me were awesome! Prior to this trip I had an idea of what a desert looked like, but to experience it firsthand really opened my eyes!

As we drove through the desert, my awareness of it was heightened. Even though we were a group of 42 students, I felt very isolated and small because the dunes were so overwhelmingly large. I found it surprising that people actually live in this incredible place. The sand dunes looked to me just like a big sandbox must look to a small child. We experienced a variety of activities that are unique to a desert including sandboarding and dune hiking. I never thought that a desert could be as inspiring as it was.

Sarah Paradis is a Class Afloat student aboard Concordia.

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**Q. Do the
east and west
coasts of Africa
look the same?**



A. Actually, the coasts of Africa look very different from each other because of the different climates. The east coast is generally more tropical since the water from the Indian Ocean is warm and yields rain. The west coast climate is very arid due to a cold water current that moves up the coast from near Antarctica. The Namibian coast, located on the west side of Africa, is covered in sand dunes. It looks like a beach that is 150 kilometers long and 300 kilometers wide!

*Answered by Steven Dilley
from aboard Concordia.*

Wind is a force of nature that moves the ship from port to port. Wind can be beneficial or harmful. Look through the newspaper for articles that refer to forces of nature (precipitation, volcanic eruptions, floods, etc.). What positive things can come out of destructive forces?

**KIDS
NEWS
EXPLORER**

**Next Issue...
St. Helena
Island**



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Concordia Sails the World

St. Helena



**Location: Enroute
to Natal, Brazil**



by Tyler King

It was a foggy, rainy day as we began our hike through the rolling hills of St. Helena. We hiked in an area that the local people call Fairyland. Students from the local high school served as our guides.

The landscape was beautiful and provided us with a feeling of serenity and awe. Throughout the

hike, our guides pointed out endemic plants that exist in no other place in the world except St. Helena. The trails were steep and muddy, and we laughed hard as we got dirty. We stopped for lunch at a peak overlooking the island's only sandy bay.

Toward the end of the long day's hike, we went on a tour of an old flax factory. Flax is a plant used to make rope, clothing and other items. Flax production once served as the island's chief industry.

We enjoyed the hike, and our guides provided much information about St. Helena. It gave us a great appreciation for the island. At the end of the day, we had feelings of accomplishment and, of course, fatigue. St. Helena is a unique island not visited by many people. We greatly enjoyed our visit.

*Tyler King is a Class Afloat
student aboard Concordia.*

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**Q. How do
you wash
your clothes?**

A. We have two washing machines aboard *Concordia* that are always in high demand. They are smaller than the machines we have at home. As we do not have clothes dryers, our only drying option is to hang our clothes up. When the weather is sunny and warm, our mizzen deck is decorated with the crew's wet clothing! When we are in port, the local laundromat becomes a popular place for Floaties and their bags of dirty laundry!

*Answered by Jane Godbold
from aboard Concordia.*

*Find an
article in
the paper that
shows people
from different countries
and/or cultures coming
together. Discuss the
social, cultural and political
challenges that they face
and the ways in which they
meet these challenges.*



**Next Issue...
Natal, Brazil**



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Concordia Sails the World

Natal, Brazil



**Location: Enroute
to Tobago**



**by Heather
Spurling**

A day in Natal:
Imagine jumping
into a dune
buggy and

having your Brazilian driver
take off! You roller-coaster
over white sandy hills with
your hands in the air. Sud-
denly, you come upon a
desert oasis where you
stop to enjoy fresh coconut
milk; then you jump back
in the buggy and you're on

your way again.

As you squeal to a
stop at the edge of the surf,
you hop out of the buggy
and head for a camel to
undertake the slowest ride
of your life!

Done with your camel
ride and back at the buggy,
you find yourself and your
buggy on a raft, being
poled across a river by a
local man. Waiting on the
other side is a harness and
zip line ready to zip you
down the side of a massive
dune and into a pool of
refreshing water!

Just when you think
you have had enough
excitement for one day,
you are whisked away to
a wonderful dinner and to
frolic in the surf. At the
end of the day you return
to *Concordia* to write yet
another unforgettable
journal entry. What a day!

*Heather Spurling is a teacher
aboard Concordia.*

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**Q. Where
do you dump
your waste?**

A. We divide our garbage
into plastics and non plas-
tics. When we are at sea,
we dump our non plastics
overboard and store the
plastics in trash cans at the
ship's stern. When we get
into port, we ask the per-
mission of the port authori-
ties to throw away our plas-
tic garbage. Some smaller
islands we have visited did
not allow us to dump our
trash simply because they
had nowhere to put it, so
we just kept it onboard until
the next port.

*Answered by Adam Hardinger
from aboard Concordia.*

*Find and
read an article
about a person
involved in making a deci-
sion. Identify the choices
available to them and what
factors affect their decision.
What choices would you
make in the same situation?
Compare your choices with
those of your classmates.*



**Next Issue...
Fernando de
Noronha,
Brazil**



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Fernando de Noronha



**Location: Pointe Pitre,
Guadeloupe**



by **Maddy
Eustis**

The island of Fernando de Noronha, Brazil is probably the most beautiful island that we have visited so far this year. We arrived just before sunset and caught a brief glimpse of powerful waves crashing under cliffs.

We visited the island at the height of its rainy season, and we experienced plenty

of rain during our two-day visit. On the first full day, we had a brief but torrential rain shower in the morning. However, the hot equatorial sun wasted no time in bringing the day to a boil by 9:30. As we cruised around in our buggies later in the morning, we all felt the full wrath of the sun.

The island's beaches were pristine and perfect, like the ones you see on TV or in a magazine. They stretched out, beige and beautiful, beneath steep rock cliffs. The big ocean waves provided hours of entertainment for us. The vegetation on the island was stunning as well. It was lush and full, covering every inch of land that had not been impacted by man.

It was a very beautiful place altogether—one that I will never forget.

*Maddy Eustis is a student
aboard Concordia.*

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**Q. How much
homework do
you have?**

Q&A

A. I have about three hours of homework each night. Math takes a good deal of my time, because I'm not very good at it. However, my hard work helps me pass my tests. I also get many assignments for my other classes. I usually go to bed at 11 p.m., and then I have nightwatch a couple of hours later. It's hard sometimes, because I can get discouraged with so much school and ship work, but it's all part of the program.

*Answered by Julia Fischer
from aboard Concordia.*

KIDS' NEWS EXPLORER

Find three pictures in the newspaper that show emotions. What are the emotions? How do the pictures make you feel?

Read the articles accompanying the pictures and write a paragraph explaining each picture. Read one paragraph aloud in class.

**Next Issue...
French
Guiana**



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Concordia Sails the World

French Guiana



Location:
St. Maarten



by **Margaret Hanrahan**

French Guiana was a beautiful country. The locals were

incredibly outgoing and friendly, and we gave them ship tours during our first full day. I've never seen so many people on *Concordia* before! It was definitely a positive experience as it allowed me to use my French skills—practice was long overdue!

Mapping the News

Find two articles with maps in today's paper. Read the article and refer to the map as you read. Why does the map accompany the article? What features are emphasized? Discuss the importance and features of maps with your class.



On April 17 we visited a local zoo. It was one of the most incredible zoos I've ever been to, because the animals were completely different from any of the species I've encountered in Canadian zoos. There were a number of large wildcats including ocelots and pumas.

The most exciting part of our visit was an hour-long hike into the depths of the Amazon. Signs warned us that if we continued on the trail, we were taking our lives into our own hands and that we should stay on the paths!

On April 18, we had the opportunity of a lifetime. We were all invited to the European Union's Space Station in Kourou to watch the launching of an Ariane 4 space rocket! It was absolutely incredible watching this massive rocket hurtling into outer space.

Margaret Hanrahan is a student aboard Concordia.

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Q. Was it worth leaving home to go on the ship?



A. Yes! I have always wanted to experience different cultures and see the world. I was able to embark on this journey thanks to a scholarship from my school and Class Afloat. It's been a dream come true for me and I have never once regretted it. There are times when I think about what I would be doing back home, but nothing can compare to the experience I am getting aboard *Concordia*. It was definitely worth leaving home!

Answered by Jason Wiltfang from aboard Concordia.

**Next Issue...
St. Lucia**



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Castries, St. Lucia



**Location: Enroute
to Bermuda**



by **Sarah
Abrams**

We arrived in
Castries, St.
Lucia after a
brief sail from

Grenada. The moment we
left the port area to explore
the city, lots of people came
up to us to ask if we needed
a taxi, to tell us where we
could find the best beaches,
and to direct us toward the
best places to eat.

Entertaining a Guest

*Pretend that
you have a guest visiting
you from another part of
the world. Look through
the entertainment section
of the paper and choose
the events you would take
your guest to that would
best represent "your world."*

**KIDS
NEWS
EXPLORER**

Several *Concordia* stu-
dents went to the beach,
where they bought ice cold
coconuts for a dollar. The
students drank the milk out
of a hole in the top of their
coconuts. Then, when they
were finished, the coconut
sellers cut the coconuts in
half with a machete. With
the coconuts opened up, the
students ate the delicious
jelly in the middle—all while
lying on the beach.

Instead of the beach,
some students went to the
St. Lucia Jazz Festival 2000
for some musical fun. Many
big-name musicians traveled
a long way to get to this
small island just to play at
the jazz festival. Even the
students who didn't go to
the concert could hear the
music wafting throughout
the city.

St. Lucia has been a
great port stop.

*Sarah Abrams is a student
aboard Concordia.*

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**Q. How is
it living so
close to your
teachers?**

Q&A

A. Although the idea may
sound a little frightening to
some, living with teachers
has more benefits than draw-
backs. The relationships we
have with our teachers allow
us to become very close to
them. I view my teachers on
Concordia as friends, which
is different than my view of
teachers in my old high
school. Here, they serve as
much more than just acade-
mic instructors, and students
feel comfortable going to
them with personal problems
about life and relationships
aboard *Concordia*.

*Answered by Tyler King
from aboard Concordia.*

**Next Issue...
Bermuda**



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St. Maarten/St. Martin



**Location: En Route to
Boston, Massachusetts**



by **Elissa
Reisman**

The island of St. Maarten is a small but beautiful island, measuring 15 by 13 kilometers. The Dutch occupy the south side of the island and the French occupy the north side. The border between the two runs east-west through the middle of the island, but there are no customs when you cross it. The

Dutch spell the island's name "Sint Maarten" while the French spell it "Saint Martin." Each side has its own capital—Marigot on the French side and Philipsburg on the Dutch side.

The island's main industry is tourism, and this can be seen right away. Both the Dutch and French sides are covered with extravagant hotels and resorts. The shopping is also very good. There are designer shops as well as little markets and souvenir shops. When you walk down the street, the majority of people you see are American and European tourists.

There are still remnants of the damage caused by Hurricane Louis when it swept through the island five years ago. Some hotels are still under renovation, and billions of dollars have been put towards restoring the island.

*Elissa Reisman is a student
aboard Concordia.*

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**Q. How do
you live with-
out playing your
favorite sport?**

A. Playing soccer is one of my favorite activities. In deciding to come on Class Afloat, I also had to make the difficult decision to give soccer up, if only temporarily.

I miss playing soccer every day. Yet, any loss I feel is compensated by the knowledge that this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The places I am seeing and people I am meeting will soon be only memories, whereas soccer will be waiting for me upon my return home.

*Answered by Jessica Koningisor
from aboard Concordia.*

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her crew at Boston's Fan
Pier from June 16–20, 2000!
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Classified News

How is the newspaper organized? What are the different sections, types of articles, and types of ads? Make a list of your newspaper's sections, then assemble a scrapbook that shows the different types of articles and ads within each section.



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Next Issue...Bermuda

Class Afloat Live!

Concordia Sails the World

Bermuda – Tall Ships 2000



**Location: Boston,
Massachusetts**



by **Kim
Thomas**

We could see the masts of tall ships over the hills of Bermuda

before we could see the harbor itself. As we motored into port we saw a few boats, but we were unprepared for the sight that greeted our eyes when we turned the corner in the harbor channel. Before our eyes was a fleet of tall ships, bigger and more mas-

sive than we ever expected. Ships were docked and anchored everywhere, and the view from the royal yard was spectacular.

In Bermuda, all the tall ships were open for tours each day. One morning there were inter-crew competitions with games like volleyball, soccer, basketball, and tug-of-war (in which our all-girls team took third place). There was also a parade and an awards ceremony for the leg of Tall Ships 2000 that ended in Bermuda.

Leaving Bermuda was the most breathtaking part of the whole visit. Every tall ship participated in a three-hour parade-of-sail, accompanied and surrounded by hundreds of small boats. As we sailed away from Bermuda, we watched the tall masts slowly blend into the horizon. We were sad to leave Bermuda's excitement behind us.

*Kim Thomas is a student
aboard Concordia.*

Find an article in the newspaper in which a person or group of people have reached a common goal. What steps have they taken to reach this goal? What obstacles did they face along the way? Were they successful? What is success?



Q. Do you ever feel that you would rather be at home? Why?

A. There are days when I ask myself what I am doing on this ship. No matter how lucky I am to be on *Concordia*, there are days when I feel sad and wish I were somewhere else. Sometimes I miss my parents, my friends, and my life at home. Personally, I try to remind myself of the opportunity that I have here and that one day this voyage will be finished. Then there will be plenty of time to be at home.

*Answered by Marie-Pier Germain
from aboard Concordia.*

This *Class Afloat Live!* update is the last in a series. To give feedback on this Boston Herald Newspaper in Education program, send your comments to ocean@sitalive.com.



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