

Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

France



Dournanez!

by Alan Rice

Douarnenez is a small fishing town on the west coast of France. It is a relatively large town of roughly 80,000 people. The town is mainly based on a fishing economy.

All the buildings in the center of town are all about the same height, standing approximately 3 to 4 stories high, and are all made of stone. There are no trees or grass growing in the city, although there is an occasional flower box. All of the buildings that were made of stone had a character

that is not found in buildings in America. The cathedral was the most memorable spot. Sitting within sight of an ancient graveyard only added to the Gothic feel of the building. The archway to the cathedral was made out of stone, with multiple arches combining into one keystone.

The people of Douarnenez were very interesting.

Naturally, they would come up to us and speak in French. Since I'm an American who doesn't speak French, I was instantly confused. I would then say that I did not speak French, and then they would speak to me in English.

One morning while I was standing the 5-8 watch at the gangway, a man came by and I talked with him for over an hour, mainly using gestures to communicate my ideas with him.

French food is everything that it is hyped up to be. Crepes have to be the best thing that I have tasted, but none were quite as appetizing as when we ate them at a reception thrown for us by the mayor of Douarnenez.

Alan Rice is from Olympia, WA.



Mr. Terry Davies
President
West Island College
Founder
Class Afloat

It is a pleasure for me to welcome the new Class Afloat students to our vessel. As President of West Island College and founder of the Class Afloat program, I am also thrilled that so many of you have the opportunity to follow our students as they journey around the world this year—our 15th year of operation. You will share in their life experiences, their sailing experiences and their classroom activities. Thanks for coming aboard!

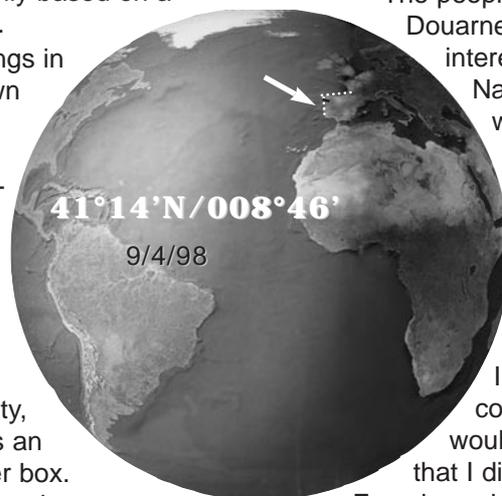
EXTRA ! EXTRA!

8/27 Set sail from Dublin

8/29 Arrived in France

9/1 Reception at mayor's office

9/3 Set sails for first time, many students seasick!



DAY 9
September 4, 1998

Time: 11:00 GMT
Pos: 41° 14' 55 N, 008° 46' 15 W
Speed 6.5 kts **Air temp:** 19°C
Miles sailed since Dublin: 888 nm
Nm from last port: 503 nm
Nm to next port: 10 nm
Wind: S 3 kts, fresh breeze
Seas: smooth
Weather: full coverage
Barometer: 1014



WORLD EXPLORERS!

The students aboard the *Concordia* have just begun an adventure aboard a tall ship. They will be sailing around the world for either a semester or a year. Search the paper for an article about a country other than your own that you would like to visit. Why is this country in the news? What does the article tell you about this country? Can you find another related article?

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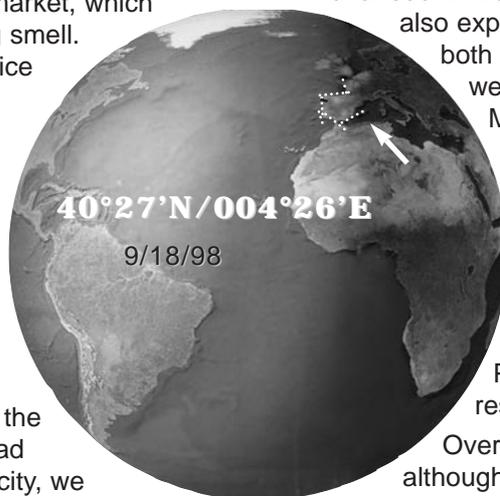
Portugal



Porto, Portugal!

by Brook Seacrest

When we first arrived in Porto many of us were discouraged. We had docked right next to a big pile of sawdust and the fishing market, which made everything smell. But some very nice shops, banks, restaurants, and cafes were within walking distance from the ship. Because we were actually docked in the port and not the city, we took a short taxi ride to the city. Once we had made it into the city, we saw the real beauty of Portugal.



While we were in Porto, we all got the chance to visit and tour the Sandeman Port Wine Distillery. There we were told of the history and process of making wine. We also visited some beautiful churches, saw magnificent scenery of the city, and saw some of the most beautiful architecture that I have ever seen. Many students also explored the city both nights that we were in port. Many found the closest McDonald's and were very happy, while others walked until they found a good Portuguese restaurant. Overall, Porto, although an old city, is a city with class, charm, and sophistication.

Brook Seacrest is from Lincoln, NE



DAY 23
Sept. 18, 1998

Time: 10:00 GMT
Pos: 40° 27' 60 N, 004° 26' 08 E
Speed 8 kts **Air temp:** 21°C
Miles sailed since Dublin: 2019 nm
Nm from last port 120 nm
Nm to next port: 150 nm
Wind: NNE 6 kts, fresh breeze
Seas: moderate
Weather: clear sky
Barometer: 1014
Next Port Stop: Cagliari, Italy

EXTRA ! EXTRA!

9/10 Free time in Malaga, Spain
9/11 Visited the cathedral in Granada where King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella are buried
9/12 Played ultimate frisbee, soccer and volleyball at beach
9/13 Chris Feffer turned 17
9/14 Students had a vote to select Watch Leaders
9/15 Arrived in Barcelona—students had free time in town

produced by Ocean Challenge, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts, USA

www.sitesalive.com



Q: How do you keep up with what is going on in the world?



A: Staying in touch with the outside world is difficult on the *Concordia*. We have no television, so we can't watch the news, and the radio can't

receive long range frequencies. Our only practical way to stay in touch is to buy a newspaper when we're in port. This seemingly simple task cannot always be achieved though! The *Concordia* travels to many different countries with different languages, and the newspapers at hand are not always in English. Fortunately, we can occasionally find an English newspaper. When this occurs, the paper is usually circulated around the ship.

answered by Dallas Bregg from Victoria, BC, Canada



Restaurant Review!

While the students were in Porto, Portugal, they got to experience the local cuisine. Some students chose to eat at McDonald's, while others tried Portuguese food at local restaurants. Search the newspaper to find out what kinds of restaurants advertise in your local paper. Are there any reviews of local restaurants? Do these appear on a special day or section of your paper? Investigate!

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Visiting Italy

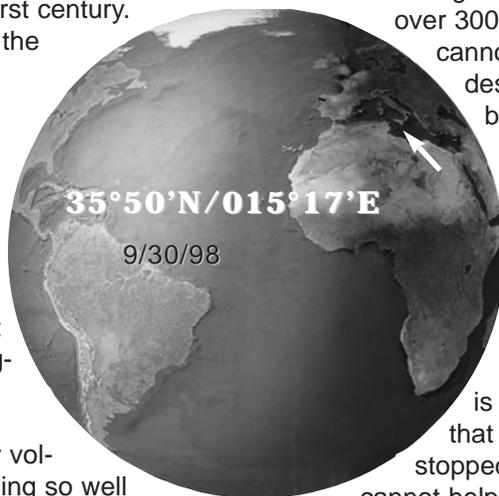


Napoli!

by Jeri Sieber

During our stay in Napoli, Italy we visited many wonderful areas in Italy. It is easy to travel from Napoli to such places as Pompeii, Mt. Vesuvius, and Rome.

Pompeii is a city that was covered by ash by an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in the first century. The city is still in the process of being excavated. We walked down the same streets people walked down two thousand years ago when the volcano erupted. It is difficult to imagine a whole city and all its people being covered by volcanic ash and being so well preserved.



From Pompeii we took a bus up to the top of Mt. Vesuvius. From there we hiked to the crater of the volcano. I can only imagine what it must have been like the day this natural wonder destroyed an entire civilization.

A few days later we took a train ride to the ancient city of Rome. This was an exciting experience for anyone who values history. We saw buildings which were built over 3000 years ago. I

cannot even describe the breathless feeling you get when you walk in to the Sistine Chapel and see its masterpiece. Overall, this is the best port that we have stopped in yet. You cannot help but be fascinated by the sights you see.

Jeri Sieber is from Norman, Oklahoma, USA

EXTRA ! EXTRA!

- 9/20 Arrived in Cagliari
- 9/21 Toured the city
- 9/23 Went on board the Canadian naval ship HMCS *St. John's*
- 9/25 Arrived in Napoli
- 9/26 Toured Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius and saw a great view
- 9/28 Visited Rome and the Vatican
- 9/30 Went through the Strait of Messina, saw Mt. Aetna

produced by Ocean Challenge, Inc.
Boston, Massachusetts, USA



Q: Has anyone aboard the ship seen a shark or other sea animal?

A: Aboard the *Concordia* we have many opportunities to see sea animals. At sea, many dolphins follow the ship, jump up in the air and make funny noises. Some of us saw sea turtles floating in the water of the Strait of Gibraltar. Some whales showed themselves from a safe distance and it was quite amazing to see big water fountains coming out of their heads. We haven't had the chance yet to see sharks because there are none in the areas where we have been. During the Atlantic crossing, I'm sure that we will see sharks and that everybody will take lots of pictures of them.

answered by Vanessa Bouwman
from Calgary, Alberta, Canada



DAY 35
Sept. 30, 1998

Time: 10:00 GMT
Pos: 35° 50' 60" N, 015° 17' 3" E
Speed 8.5 kts **Air temp:** 20°C
Miles sailed since Dublin: 2748 nm
Nm from last port 262 nm
Nm to next port: 58 nm
Wind: S-W 2 kts, light air
Seas: calm
Weather: clear sky
Barometer: 1013



Be a tourist!

The students are visiting many places as tourists. They eat local food, visit local sights, go to local events, see animals and plants native to local areas. Be a tourist in your own community using your newspaper as a guide. What might attract people to your community? What sights, events, and foods do tourists experience in your town or state? Create a brochure or a guide to your area using your newspaper.

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Malta



by Loren Chase

When we woke up the other morning we came up on deck and found ourselves coming into Valletta harbor, the capital city of Malta. It was an amazing way to start our day. The first things that we noticed as we came into the harbor were the fortress walls that surround the city. Malta has been completely fortified over the years to withstand the many attacks to which it has fallen victim, so most of the architecture is fortress-like and built with huge limestone blocks.



Valletta is a small but amazing city. It contains typical European domestic architecture, churches, restaurants and old sculptures and fountains. As I walked along the streets I could see people's laundry hanging out to dry, and I could hear their voices loft out of the windows, down onto the balconies, and into the streets.

There are three sandy beaches in all of Malta. The rest of the "beaches" are huge, long sheets of rock that have been worn away and shaped by many years of high tides (and beach goers).

It is the warmest water that we have experienced since joining up with the *Concordia*, and the sky is crystal clear. As the tide comes in and out, I can see the rocks and the sand shifting on the bottom as well as the fish darting under me as I float with the waves.

While it is breathtaking, Malta is not the typical island paradise; it is a real center of commerce. In Valletta it was impossible to avoid the shops. Clothing stores, music stores, jewelers, shoe stores, shopping malls and tourist traps line the streets. If you can manage to get around all of the distractions, it is an unforgettable place.

Loren Chase is from
Berkeley, California, USA



by Seren
Dagdeviren

Every second port or so there is a captain's inspection to put the ship in "ship shape." While the inspections may be a hassle, they help make the ship a healthy, liveable place.

First, the public areas are thoroughly cleaned, and that takes us about an hour. Then we move into our cabins and clean them up. Then comes the worst part—the galley and the mess room. These take a team effort. Everybody helps, and if we work well, we will be done in about an hour. The last time we had a captain's inspection, my friend Claire and I had to clean half the cabin roof with toothbrushes! So the captain's inspection takes about half a day's effort, and if we don't do a good enough job, we get to do the whole thing all over again! Yahoo!



DAY 47
October 12, 1998

Time: 1800 GMT
Pos: 36° 16'N, 016° 47'E
Course: 275 degrees
Speed 4.5 kts **Air temp:** 19°C
Miles since Dublin: 3818 nm
Nm from last port 503 nm (Iraklion)
Nm to next port: 316 nm (Tunis)
Wind: W 3 kts, fresh breeze
Seas: moderate WX: Clear skies
Barometer: 1014
Next Port Stop: Tunis, Tunisia



According to Loren Chase, Malta has been a place of international conflict. For the next two weeks, look through the international section of the newspaper and list all the conflicts you can find. Locate and mark these conflicts on a world map. Are they concentrated in certain areas? List the reason(s) for the conflicts. Are there similarities? Has the USA ever been involved in a conflict for similar reasons?

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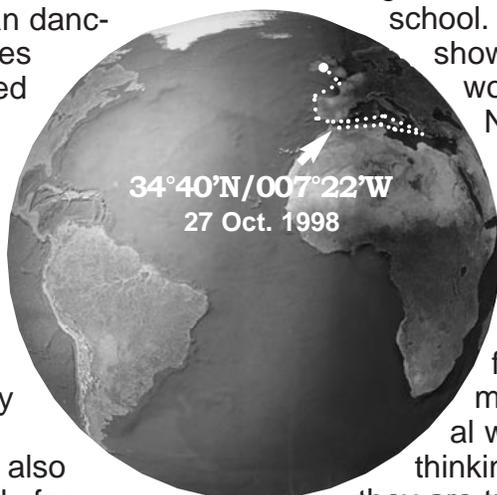
AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Tunisia



Tunisian Dancers
Meghan Richard

Tunisia was a very interesting port, and one of the events that stands out in my mind is the evening that we went to see Tunisian dancing. The dances were performed by a group of teenagers who were very close in age to the students on the ship. They go to school like any other normal teen, but they also train intensively for dance and performances in



their spare time.

The dance told a story about women in North Africa. The women began the dance wearing traditional Muslim dress, and their costumes slowly evolved throughout the show into clothing seen in the average North American school. The dance showed that women in North Africa and other Arab countries are just beginning to break free from older, more traditional ways of thinking, and that they are trying to promote more equality for women.

It was very interesting to see and spend time within a culture where women are treated so differently than we are treated in North America. It was definitely an eye opening experience that has changed the way that I view the world. Someday I hope the women here in North Africa get their wish.

Megan Richard is from Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Q: Do the students and teachers get along?

A: In my opinion, yes, we do. Because the teachers live with the students onboard the ship, we are together 24 hours a day. At times this can be hard, but it can be hard to live with anyone constantly. Being around the teachers all the time allows students to get extra help whenever the teacher is available.

Communication between the students and teachers is good. Sometimes a teacher acts like a second parent and offers help to a student in need. The fact that the teachers care for the students helps everyone get along.

*Answer by Brook Seacrest,
Class Afloat student from
Lincoln, Nebraska, USA*



DAY 62
October 27, 1998

Time: 0011 GMT
Pos: 34° 40'N, 007° 22'W
Course: 232 degrees
Speed 9.5 kts **Air temp:** 19°C
Miles since Dublin: 5073 nm
Nm from last port 105 nm
Nm to next port: 567 nm
Wind: NW 1-4 kts
Seas: calm; glassy **WX:** Clear skies
Barometer: 1025
Next Port Stop: Las Palmas, Spain



Cultures around the world have different ways of viewing people. In today's paper, find two articles that show how a culture treats members of its society. Is everyone treated equally? What differences are there? Why do you think this is so?

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Morocco

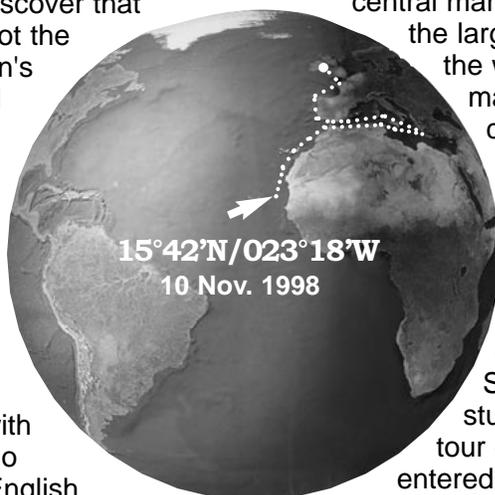


by **Francie Martin**

Upon arriving in Morocco I had visions of Aladdin and Arabian

Markets where everyone wore fez hats and funny shoes. I was a little disappointed when we arrived to discover that Morocco was not the vision of Aladdin's world that I had hoped for.

The best part of our Moroccan adventure was our overnight stay in Fez. To get to Fez required a five hour bus ride with a tour guide who spoke broken English. The bus ride was well worth it, because we got to stay in a



hotel. After being away from home for so long you start to miss little things like beds that don't rock back and forth, and actual baths, sinks and showers with water pressure.

The next morning we piled back into our bus and headed to the markets of Fez. The Medina, the central market of Fez, is the largest market in the world. The market is so complex that no one has ever been able to make a map of it. Foreigners must be guided through it. So naturally we stuck close to our tour guide and entered the market.

Once inside, many students learned the cardinal rule of bargaining: offer half of what is asked. Most students purchased authentic souvenirs such as Moroccan rugs, pottery, and drums. Some of us even sampled some exotic forms of Moroccan food. On our bus ride home we got to listen first-hand to the many drums that were purchased. All I can say is that we are not a very musically inclined group!

Morocco will always carry a special place in my heart—the food, our guide, and those fabulous, pushy Moroccan merchants.

Francie Martin is from Silverado, California, USA



Q&A

Q: What is it like going aloft?

A: Going aloft, climbing the mast to change to sails, is the very best! On your first time, it is normal being a little nervous because the mast is quite high (35 meters). When you start climbing up the mast, your knees are a little shaky and it is not unusual to feel yourself sweating. After reaching the first platform you become more stable and confident, and you just want to keep climbing. Then, the big moment comes when you reach the top and you can then enjoy the tremendous view. Sometimes, when the sea is rough it is not so great to go aloft. At these times it can be really scary, especially when it seems like the ship will tip over any minute.

Answer by Vanessa Bowman, Class Afloat student from Calgary, Alberta, Canada



DAY 76
Nov. 10, 1998

Time: 0110 GMT
Pos: 15° 42'N, 023° 18'W
Course: 182 degrees
Speed 5.5 kts **Air temp:** 24°C
Miles since Dublin: 6522 nm
Nm from last port 877 nm
Nm to next port: 35 nm
Wind: NE 1-4 kts
Seas: calm; rippled **WX:** Clear sky
Barometer: 1015
Next Port Stop: Cabo Verde

KIDS NEWS EXPLORER

It's an exciting challenge to visit a new country and to experience a new culture. Find an article in the paper that shows people from different countries and cultures coming together. Discuss the challenges that they face and the ways in which they meet these challenges.

Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Cabo Verde



by Alan Rice

Cape Verde (Cabo Verde in Portuguese) is a small cluster of

islands in the middle of the Atlantic, a crucial staging point for all Atlantic crossings. The time that we spent in Cape Verde was unfortunately brief. The only free day that we had was spent at the beach.

The small white sand beach was protected on both sides by large masses of rock. The afternoon passed away with people body surfing, swimming, and looking at the locals gutting the puffer fish that they had



caught.

On the morning of the day that we spent at the beach, Catherine Marchand and I went for a run. An hour into this humbling experience, we met a Cape Verdean who was also jogging. His blue sweat suit was faded, and it had the imprint of an oil company logo on the back. (There is a

petroleum plant in Praia and the runner's clothes smelled of gasoline.) His strides were twice as long as ours were. He ran up hills without strain. He could have easily left us in the dust if he had wanted to. Instead, he jogged beside us and listened as we tried to tell him about our ship in a language that he had no knowledge of. We finally managed to explain it to him by showing him a picture of the *Concordia* on the back on our crew shirt.

Cape Verde also presented us with our first real experience with poverty. We had seen it before, but never quite as up close as we saw it in Praia. Homes were dilapidated and children had bloated stomachs. Despite this, the people there were the most hospitable yet, making us feel more than welcome everywhere we went.

Alan Rice is from
Olympia, Washington, USA



DAY 86
Nov. 20, 1998

Time: 0000 GMT
Pos: 13° 15'N, 042° 24'W
Course: 264 degrees
Speed 7.7 kts **Air temp:** 27°C
Miles since Dublin: 7704 nm
Nm from last port 1130 nm
Nm to next port: 1070 nm
Wind: EbN, 22-27 kts
Seas: slight **WX:** Clear sky
Barometer: 1015 steady
Next Port Stop: Tobago



Q: Are you nervous about crossing the Atlantic?

A: As we have all been on the ship for almost three months now, we are used to living in very compact quarters. We know what it feels like to be on the ship out of sight of land for a long period of time.

However, several of the students, myself included, are apprehensive about the Atlantic crossing because we're nervous about having fourteen straight days of school. Also, we are worried about having to be around so few people for such a long time, but I am sure it will all work out. A lot of this has to do with finding a routine and getting used to it.

Other than that, there is nothing to worry about. The ship is very safe and has made this voyage before. We are all very excited to get to the Caribbean.

Answer by Megan Richard,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada



Poverty is a serious issue in today's world. Find an article in today's paper about poverty, underdeveloped nations or underprivileged people. What could you and your community do to help people in need?