

Class Afloat Live

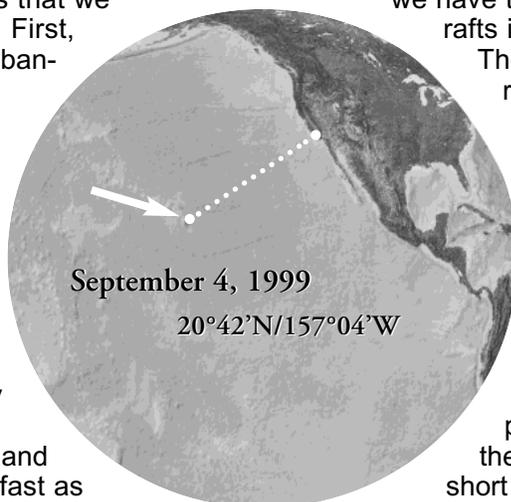
AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Staying Safe Aboard Concordia



by Shauntha Boyd

One of the most important things while sailing on *Concordia* is safety. During our first four days aboard the ship we did a lot of safety drills before we were allowed to set sail. There were three main drills that we had to practice. First, there was the abandon ship drill. This drill is signaled by eight short beeps then a long beep over the intercom. When we hear this signal, everyone knows that they need to put on their lifejackets and get on deck as fast as possible. Each person has



an assigned place to meet so that everyone can be accounted for during the drill or in a real emergency. We put on big immersion suits so that if we fall overboard we won't get hypothermia in the cold water. These immersion suits, also called survival suits, cover your whole body, and they are really hard to walk in. Next, we have to get our life rafts in the water.

The life rafts are really big and hold 10-16 people each. They even come with food, blankets and first aid supplies.

The second drill we practiced was the fire drill. Two short beeps and one long beep signal this drill. There are 20 fire extinguishers on board, and everyone knows their locations and how to operate them. The final drill we practiced was the emergency drill. This is signaled by two short beeps then two long beeps over the intercom. This drill could mean that there is a man overboard or another emergency. Although being onboard the *Concordia* is quite safe, it is important for us to practice these drills so that if an emergency arises, we will be prepared.

Shauntha Boyd is a
Class Afloat student
from Ontario, Canada

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Q: What kinds of things do you have to learn to sail the ship?

A: Aside from the educational aspect of participation on Class Afloat, it is also part of each student's responsibility to coordinate the maneuvers necessary in sailing a tall ship. Each student is first required to successfully perform a chin-up to climb aloft. The chin-up proves that the student has the strength to climb. Once this physical test is passed, the student is considered eligible to assist in going aloft and setting and dousing the many sails of the vessel.

The first four days at the San Diego, California port were spent performing extensive training in preparation for sailing at sea. When departure time came around, everyone had been semi-trained to set and douse the sails on the instruction of our experienced bosun. His name is Piotr, a very kind young man from Poland. We had to learn the many different terms aboard the vessel, including foremast, mainmast, mizzenmast, halyard, sheets, down haul, buntlines, and clew lines (all of which Piotr would holler to us from the bridge when the time came to set or douse the sails).

Answered by Seren Dagdeviren,
a Class Afloat student
from Quebec, Canada



DAY 17
September 4, 1999

Time: 10:11 GMT

Miles since San Diego: 2,331 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: 140 nm

Pos: 20°42'N, 157°04'W

Speed: 9.6 knots; motoring

Course: 298 degrees

Wind: variable, 1-3 kn, calm

Seas: smooth wavelets

Air/Sea temp: 27°C / 26°C

Barometer: 1017 mb

WX: clear sky

Next Port Stop: Marshall Islands

Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

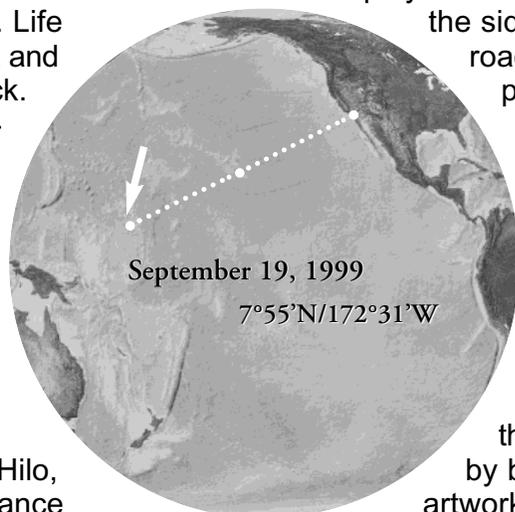
The Volcanoes of Hilo



by **Mark Gerelus**

Upon arrival in the port of Hilo, Hawaii, I looked out at one of the most beautiful landscapes my eyes have ever seen. The town of Hilo is small. Life there is quiet and very laid back. The countryside surrounding the town is absolutely gorgeous, with a wide variety of trees and flowers.

While in Hilo, we had a chance to learn a lot about



Hawaiian culture and the history of the island. The Hawaiian people have a very distinct culture, and a broad spectrum of legends and beliefs. They follow the life of their ancestors whenever possible. Art still plays a very big role. On

the sides of the roads, you find people carving statues out of Koa wood, and selling them to people passing by. Many students supported these people by buying their artwork, which I think is excellent.

A short distance from town is Hawaii's Volcano National Park. The park contains several dormant cinder cones and the crater where Pele, the goddess of fire, lives. One of the nights in Hilo we went to an actual active volcano. We had to walk for three hours over old lava flow to get to an active lava tube. This was one of the most drastic displays of nature that I've ever seen.

Mark Gerelus is a Class Afloat student from Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

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Q: Why are you on Class Afloat?

A: I am on Class Afloat because it is a dream come true. Ever since learning about the program 15 years ago, I have wanted to participate. The opportunity struck me as nothing short of amazing. How many people can say they went around the world in a year on a full functioning tall ship? It is simply not very common to meet someone who has done it. I was also very excited by the challenge of teaching and learning in this environment. It is quite a change from the typical classroom on land! Sixty people per year have this opportunity and I was very determined to be one of the lucky few. I can truly say that I am one of the luckiest people in the world.

Answered by Yvonne Leight, a teacher aboard Concordia.

SHIP'S LOG

DAY 32

Sept. 19, 1999

Time: 1202 GMT

Miles since San Diego: 4,294 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: 210 nm

Pos: 07°55 N, 172°31 W

Speed: 9 knots; motoring

Course: 243 degrees

Wind: variable, 1-3 kn, calm

Seas: calm

Air/Sea temp: 29°C / 27°C

Barometer: 1015 mb

WX: full cloud coverage

Next Port Stop: Kiribati



Food Critic

Sometimes

Concordia students seek out restaurants in foreign ports that serve the local cuisine. Search the newspaper to find restaurants ads, and pretend you are a food critic writing a review about your favorite restaurant. Write the article and include the name of the establishment, the type of cuisine served, and information about the food and atmosphere.

Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Marshallese Legends

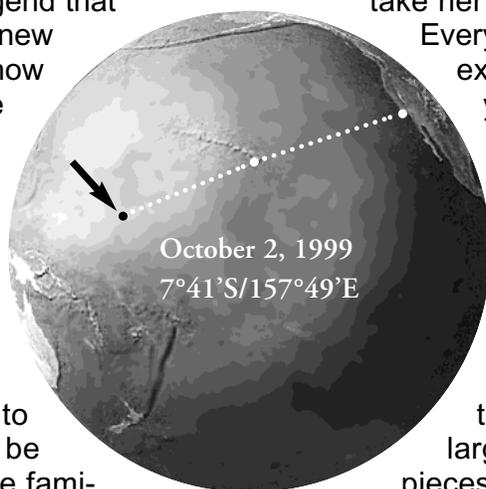


by **Catherine Mackie**

Oral traditions are very important to the Marshallese

people. One legend that gets passed to new generations is how the Marshallese came to use sails.

There once was a large family with ten brothers. The brothers wanted to have a contest to see who would be the leader of the family, so they held a boat race to the next island. This was at a time before sails were invented, so each boy pad-



dled his own boat. On the morning of the race, their mother came to see them. She had some large, heavy bundles with her and she asked each of her sons if he would take her with him.

Everyone refused except the youngest son. When the race began, he stayed on the beach with his mother. She opened her bundles to reveal large, strong pieces of fabric.

She called them sails and showed her son how to use them. Before long, he passed all of his brothers and won the race. And this is how the Marshallese learned to use sails.

This legend illustrates that sailing is a very important aspect of the culture in the Marshall Islands. It also shows that generosity is something the Marshallese value a lot. In the legend, the son who made the sacrifice to take his mother was rewarded.

Catherine Mackie is a Class Afloat student from Alberta, Canada.

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Q: What happens when someone gets homesick?

Q&A

A: We all get homesick at some point on the trip. For us, it tends not to hit as hard as it might because we have become a family on board. We support each other whatever happens. If someone misses something, we understand, respect that, and try to create a Class Afloat version of what the person is missing. Music is a big part of the ship and has increasingly become more of a group thing. We have a guitar on board, and at night people play many diverse tunes from back home. Computer games, board games, and homework all help us to alleviate homesickness. At homework time, we can work in the mess, which is a social place, so we can talk about any problems with friends.

Answered by Lauren Brunner, a Class Afloat student from Nevada, USA.

DAY 45

Oct. 2, 1999

Time: 1308 GMT

Miles since San Diego: 5,889 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: 231 nm

Pos: 07°41'S, 157°49'E

Speed: 8.7 kn

Course: 235 degrees

Wind: SSE, 1-3 kn, light air

Seas: smooth

Air/Sea temp: 30°C / 27°C

Barometer: 1011 mb

WX: half cloud coverage

Next Port Stop: Solomon Islands



Be A Tourist

The students are visiting many places as tourists. Be a tourist in your own community by using the newspaper as your guide. What might attract people to your community? What sights, events and foods do tourists experience in your town, state or province? Using information and pictures from the newspaper, create a brochure or tourism guide to your area.

KIDS NEWS EXPLORER

Class Afloat Live

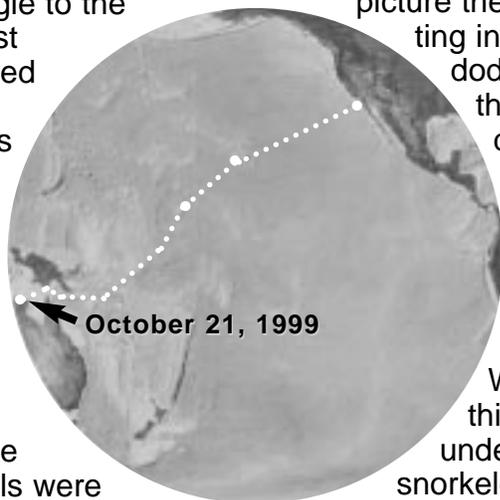
AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Solomon Islands



Relics of WWII by Jason Wiltfang

Today we explored Japanese World War II caves. It was an amazing experience. Our guide, a young native girl, led us on a hike through the dense jungle to the caves. The first cave we entered used to be a hospital. It was spooky to think people were operated on inside of this dark, muddy cave. On the other hand, it was amazing to see how many tools were still lying in the mud on the



cave floor, such as syringes in their cases and scalpels on a tray, ready for use.

The second cave was even more interesting, with helmets, saki bottles, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and even a machine gun leaning against the wall. I could picture the soldiers sitting in these caves dodging fire from the Allied soldiers who laid in wait for a glimpse of the enemy. Afterwards, we visited another WWII artifact, this one 30 feet underwater! We snorkeled over a Hellcat fighter plane that has sat there untouched since it was shot down in 1943.

The last stop of our outing was an offshore reef. This was one of the most beautiful reefs I have ever seen with so many tropical fish and such a colorful array of coral and seafans. The highlight was that I spotted five sharks: two black tips, two white tips and one silver tip!

*Jason Wiltfang is a
Class Afloat student from
Abacos, Bahamas.*

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Q: What are "sea legs"?

Q&A

A: When you are used to sailing and no longer feel sea sick at all, you have what are called "sea legs." This process can take days or weeks, or it may never happen. Most people spend the first few days ill and wobbly on their feet, but after that they usually feel much better. The amount you sail at home does not really affect your sea legs. There are some students that have sailed for ten or more years and they get sick along with all of us non-sailors. It totally depends on your body and how quickly it adapts. You can lose your sea legs, too. Even two days on land can cause a repeat of seasickness.

*Answered by Glynis Price,
a Class Afloat student from
Alberta, Canada.*



DAY 64
Oct. 21, 1999

Time: 12:00 GMT

Pos: 12°25'S / 130°50'E

Course: Docked in Darwin, Austral.

Speed: NA

Air Temp: 81°F / 27°C

Miles since San Diego: 7,766 nm

Nm from last port: 1606 nm

Nm to next port: 1320 nm

Wind: S @ 1 knot

Seas: NA **WX:** cloudy

Barometer: 1010 hPa

Next Port Stop: Bali, Indonesia

**KIDS
NEWS
EXPLORER**

Cultures around the world have different ways of viewing people. In today's paper, find two articles that show how the people within a culture view the members of their own society. How do men treat women? How do families treat children? Do they treat them well, poorly or both? Why do you think this is so?

Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Darwin, Australia



by **Catherine Mackie**

On Tuesday, October 19th, *Concordia* finally

arrived in the port of Darwin. At first, the Floaties were satisfied doing laundry and making phone calls home, but the thought of the real Australian outback lured us all.

Thursday morning, we went on a tour of Kakadu National Park. Of course, as soon as we sat down in the soft bus seats with the cool air conditioning, the entire group promptly fell asleep. John, the tour guide,

made sure we woke up regularly for stops along the way.

Ubirr, the last stop, was the most extraordinary. At this site, there were ancient aboriginal rock paintings—some dating as far back as 1500 years ago. The colors

were incredible:

browns, yellows, deep reds, and even whites were all set into the rock with deliberate precision. In

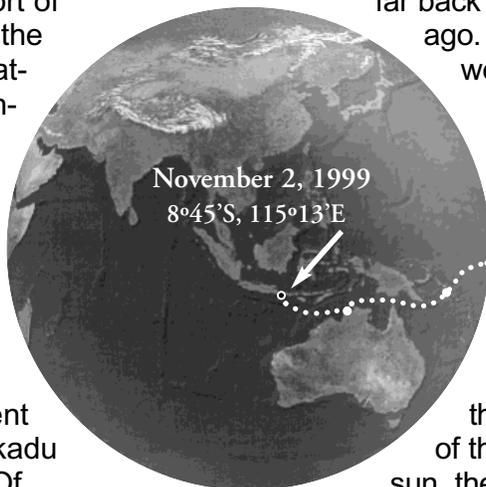
the searing heat of the Australian sun, the group was

awe-struck by the sacredness and wisdom of the aboriginal peoples. As one might sign his or her name to a painting, the aborigines left their hand-prints stenciled into the rock, a testament to the timelessness of their art. Animals, people, and spirits were painted together in harmony and delivered stories across the generations. It was definitely not a site that will soon be forgotten.

Catherine Mackie is a Class Afloat student from Alberta, Canada.

Nov. 2 We are preparing to leave Indonesia after a five-day stay.

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Q. What is it like to work high up in the sails?



A. The staff makes sure we always have our safety harnesses on before we climb up to the sails. Once we are up there, we don't have time to be scared because we have to work fast. There are also footropes to give us something to stand on.

At the end of the maneuvers, when you're waiting for others to go down, you have time to enjoy the spectacular view. It seems as though you can see forever. It is a favorite place to spot land from. It is so exhilarating to be so far above the deck. Your fear diminishes, and you're left feeling like a bird, free with the wind in your face. This is why everyone is always willing to climb.

Answered by Glynis Price and Suzanne Kaczmarek from aboard Concordia.



DAY 76

Nov. 2, 1999

Time: 1200 GMT

Miles since San Diego: 8,866 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: NA

Pos: Docked in Bali, Indonesia

Speed: NA

Course: NA

Wind: 0 knots

Air temp: 26°C

Barometer: 1007 mb

WX: Sunny

Next Port Stop: Christmas Island, Australia



Cultural Challenge

It's an exciting challenge to visit a new country and to experience a new culture. Read 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

The Wonders of Bali



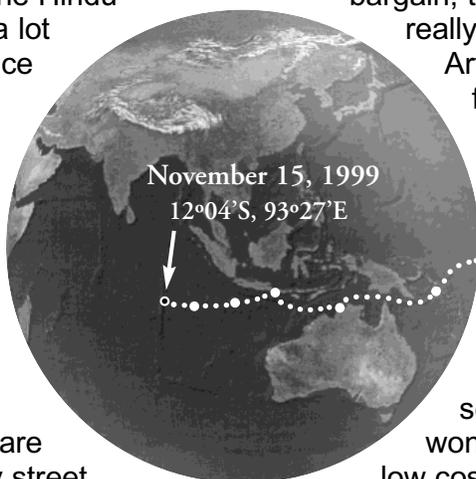
by **Suzanne Kaczmarek**

Bali is a beautiful island situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The Hindu religion reflects a lot on the appearance of the country. The architecture is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. The details and the time they put into a simple little house are amazing. There are statues on every street corner. The Balinese are meticulous when it comes to the outsides of the buildings. We visited a home that had a

fabulous outside, but once inside we were all astonished at how poor it looked.

It is a country where bargaining is necessary for everything, anywhere. If you do bargain, the prices are really inexpensive. Art is a big plus for Bali, too. Wherever you go, you see wood-carvings so fabulous they make you wonder how they can sell such a wonder at such low cost. We had so much fun in Bali. The sights and landscapes were very exotic for our North American eyes.

Suzanne Kaczmarek is a Class Afloat student aboard Concordia.



Q. Where do you get fresh water from? Rain?

A. On the *Concordia*, there are two large tanks, three levels below the main deck, which are used to store our fresh water. Usually, when we visit a developed country, we can buy fresh water for the ship at the dock. This is made possible by valves situated near the dock. The port officials open the valves for us, and, using our own hoses, we fill up the tanks and then pay the officials for whatever water we put in.

Sometimes, however, the ports we visit do not have fresh water available, and our water level gets low. In this case, the engineers start up the desalinator. This little gadget takes the water from the ocean and removes the salt, making it drinkable. We don't collect rainwater, although I'm sure we would if we had to.

Seren Dagdeviren is a Class Afloat student aboard Concordia.



DAY 89

Nov. 15, 1999

Time: 00:00 GMT

Miles since San Diego: 9,994 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: 139 nm

Pos: 12°04'S, 93°27'W

Speed: 4 knots

Course: 265 degrees

Wind: SE @ 4-6 knots

Air/Sea temp: 27°C/27°C

Barometer: 1015 mb

WX: cloud coverage

Next Port Stop:

Chagos Archipelago, UK



International Conflict

Find and read as many articles as you can that address conflict between countries or within a country. Make a list of all the conflicts and their locations, and put an "X" on a world map to locate them. Are the conflicts concentrated in certain parts of the world? List the reasons for the conflicts.

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Nov. 15 We passed the 10 thousand nautical mile mark early this morning! We set the sails, and we have 1300 nautical miles until we get to Chagos Archipelago.

Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

Adventure in Chagos

by **Stephanie Peters**

After our arrival in Chagos, some hardy souls decided not to let the exposed reef and the building storm clouds foil our plans to camp on an island. We got dropped off by the Zodiac on the reef and waded the last 200 meters onto the beach. We quickly had a roaring fire going.

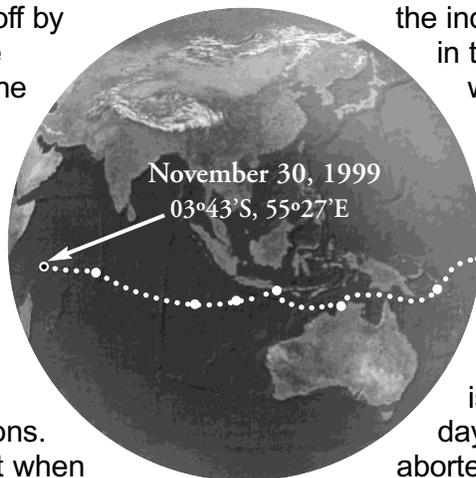
As people started to make their beds on the beach, we had a few ugly revelations. The first was that when the tide came in, we would be left with only about five feet of beach to sleep on. The second was that there were some

of the blackest clouds we'd ever seen coming. It turned into a long night made eventful by pouring rain. No matter, it's all about adventure, right?

When morning eventually came, we realized that the increased wind in the lagoon

was causing the ship to slip anchor. The *Concordia* was drifting away! Plans to stay on the island for the day were quickly

aborted and we did an emergency evacuation of the beach by Zodiac. Soon we set sail for the promised land of the Seychelles.



Q. What animals have you seen on your voyage?



A. On our first day out at sea, we saw a pack of dolphins. It was a nice and exciting way to begin our journey. While snorkeling, we have seen many beautiful tropical fish—some were striped, others were spotted, but all were colorful. We went on a river safari in Australia and saw lots of huge crocodiles. Their teeth were razor sharp and they ranged in length from four to seven feet. We have also seen many different species of birds, including wild hens, roosters, blue-footed and red-footed boobies, and frigate birds. For a short time we actually had some birds nesting on the foremast. Overall we have been lucky to view many different native animals and hopefully we will see many more.

*Answered by Alanna Deeken,
Class Afloat student
aboard Concordia.*



Nov. 25 Today is the American (U.S.) Thanksgiving holiday, and we will have a turkey and apple pie dinner tonight. Todd (our 2nd mate) gave a free seminar on celestial navigation last night.

Stephanie Peters is a Class Afloat student aboard Concordia.



DAY 104

Nov. 30, 1999

Time: 00:00 GMT

Miles since San Diego:
12,384 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: 151 nm

Pos: 03°43'S, 55°27'W

Speed: 4.5 knots

Course: 265 degrees

Wind: S @ 7–10 knots

Air temp: 27°C

Barometer: 1015 mb

WX: cloud coverage

Next Port Stop: Madagascar

Worldwide Weather

Go to the weather section of your newspaper. Find the listing for either national or international weather information. Get a national or world map and write the daily temperatures in the appropriate state or country. Once you have written in all the temperatures, examine them for patterns. Is it warmer or cooler in one area than in another?

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Class Afloat Live

AROUND THE WORLD IN 300 DAYS

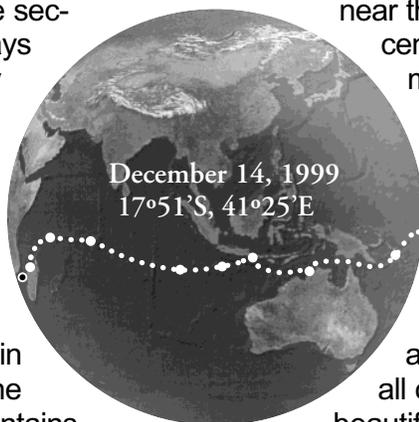
Seychelles Through My Eyes



by **Steve Holbrook**

Mahe was a beautiful island with many gorgeous sights.

The first day we were there was extremely hot with the temperature inching towards a solid 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit). The second and third days were also toasty warm, although not quite as hot as the previous day. The grass and trees were as green as any vegetation I have ever seen in my entire life. The lush, green mountains, high above civilization, were the ideal environment for many endemic animals. White, sandy



beaches covered the shores like a blanket of snow. The beaches were so white, in fact, that the atmosphere almost appeared surreal. The island was equipped with many beautiful gardens (spice and botanical), and we were fortunate to have visited two. For the most part, the town was located at sea level and

near the water. The city center was only a ten-minute walk from the port where our ship was docked, and almost everywhere else was a twenty-minute cab ride from the town.

Seychelles was a definite highlight for all of the students. The beautiful scenery and hot weather made us never want to leave. Seychelles was an awesome port because it felt like we were there for two weeks. Many activities were accomplished and much fun was had by all.

Steve Holbrook is a Class Afloat student aboard Concordia.



Q. Do you ever wish you had a more conventional classroom?

A. For the most part, no way. We would not give this chance up for the world. There are, however, some bad parts to class on a ship. The benches are really uncomfortable and there is very little leg room. When the waves are big, all of our stuff ends up flying across the room, even teachers have been known to fly across the room. When reading, the waves can make people queasy. It is worse than trying to read in a moving vehicle. We often get distracted during class by animals, land sightings, people on day-watch making faces at us through the portholes, and, of course, discussions about ports and interesting things that have occurred. However, we would never want to give this up for a conventional classroom. The problems simply add to the fun of our experience.

Answered by Glynis Price, Rob Crooks, Catherine Mackie, and Lauren Bruner, Class Afloat students aboard Concordia.



DAY 118

Dec. 14, 1999

Time: 00:00 GMT

Miles since San Diego:
13,676 nm

Nm over last 24 hours: 157 nm

Pos: 17°51'S, 41°25'E

Speed: 7.5 knots

Course: 228 degrees

Wind: variable @ <1 knot

Air/Sea temp: 24°C/24°C

Barometer: 1011 mb

WX: ¼ cloud coverage

Next Stop: Durban, South Africa



Time Zones

As Concordia sails from place to place it passes through many time zones. Search today's paper for news items from around the world. Locate the places on a map or globe. How many hours "ahead" or "behind" is each place relative to your time zone?

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Dec. 13 The outer jib ripped, and day watch is now sewing it back together. We are going at a steady speed of 11 knots under sail. Social studies final exam today.