

SNO-FOO AWARD



TO ERR IS HUMAN, TO FORGET IT WOULD BE DIVINE.

SNO FOO 2003—Miles Ecclestone

The Eastern Snow Conference annually bestows this award on some poor hapless snow and ice researcher, who, while striving to push back the frontiers of science, is overcome by a bout of “bone-headedness,” ill planning, or just plain bad luck. In military parlance, it is often referred to as SNAFU.

This year marked the first time that the recipient was “democratically” selected. Three anonymous nominations were read to the assembled horde. After the meal—i.e., after the wine was drunk—the highly sophisticated scientific technique known as AADL (Audience Applause Decibel Level) was used to choose a “winner.” Below, for the record, is the actual nomination read by the Program Chair to the masses that fateful June night in 2003. (The other two are still eligible and are being safely stored until the next meeting.)

This past spring, the nominee was playing, er, working in Canada’s high arctic. This person is a 20-year veteran of planning and carrying out field research projects, including buying, packing, and shipping supplies. While this person did successfully carry this task out, at the same time he forgot to bring all, that’s ALL, his personal luggage—not even a toothbrush!

Now, as we all know, this is not a serious problem; after all, who needs clean underwear when you are only in the field for three weeks or so? No, what clinched the nomination and subsequent “win” (at least that’s what the nominator told me) was the fact that in that personal luggage (for safekeeping) were all the research files, maps, field books, and manuals needed for a successful field season! Shock, Horror!

To this person’s credit, and through the modern miracles of telephone and airplance, he spent only three short days in the remote regions of Canada’s high arctic before all was delivered intact. And, for the record, this included a pair of ice skates, where, in all likelihood, our winner became the first person to ice skate north of 79°N latitude!

Good recovery, Miles, but not quite good enough, as your AADL reading of 72 (made up to be quantitative) squeaked out a win!

Nomination submitted by
Miles Ecclestone
(Thought I might as well get it over with before someone else
nominated me for a lot worse episodes)