

The New **GEARVAKf** **BULLETIN**

Volume 31 Number 1

Newsletter of GEARVAKf

April 1995

GEARVAKf Bulletin Returns by Unpopular Demand!

The world-renowned *GEARVAKf Bulletin*, a long-time leader among amateur radio newsletters, has returned to print after a four year hiatus. The *Bulletin's* rebirth was announced last Thursday by Dr. Lucida "Tenpitch" Bodoni, GEARVAKf's Director of Publications and Chairperson of the GEARVAKf Committee on Typesetting. At a special press conference held in the GEARVAKf Media Center, Dr. Bodoni said that the new *GEARVAKf Bulletin* would pretty much resemble the old one except that "it will be a lot different." She explained that the newsletter would "no longer contain the type of humorous or gratuitously tasteless, controversial articles that had drawn so much criticism in the past." Named as *Bulletin* Editor was "the same guy who did it the last time," Dr. Bodoni said. The GEARVAKf Trusteeship Council ordered that the first issue of the newsletter be distributed at the Dayton HamVention and the Annual GEARVAKf AmateuRadioVention, both of which will be held at the same time at the end of April. The first issue is expected to be available sometime today.

--K8DMZ

Hams to Pay Bill for FCC Cleanup of 2 Meter Band Explosion and 20 Meter Band Fire.

The Federal Communications Commission intends to collect money from hams to defray expenses incurred in cleaning up after the 20 meter band fire of 1979 and the massive explosion of 2 meters in 1989. According to FCC spokesman Ralph R. Spiffie, the cleanup of the two ham bands was "very expensive and led to a large deficit in the FCC budget." Spiffie told the *GEARVAKf Bulletin* that the cost of clearing debris from the damaged ham bands was in excess of \$630 million. "That means that each ham owes us at least \$1,000, and we intend to collect," he said. All licensed amateur radio operators are liable for the assessment. Bills will be sent out on December 25, 1995, and payment must be made by April 15, 1996. We asked Mr. Spiffie why the cost of the cleanup was so high. "We had to buy special RF resistant equipment to scoop up the damaged frequencies," he said. "Some of the shovels cost us \$3,000 apiece, so it's no wonder we had a big bill. Anyway, that's not too bad when you consider that the Air Force pays \$500 for a hammer and \$10,000 for a potty." According to the rule, hams who fail to pay the \$1,000 will be found guilty and imprisoned for 10 years without bail. There is no appeal.

--FCC

New GEARVAKf World Headquarters Building Dedicated

At a semi-informal ceremony conducted in January, GEARVAKf members dedicated a new headquarters building on the South Quadrangle. This newest addition to the GEARVAKf Management Complex was completed in the fall of 1994 and all facilities were up and running by the end of the year. The new building will be known as "Building 'D'."

--GEARVAKf Staff

