

al-Fahal

No. 209 May 1995

The monthly newspaper for Petroleum Development Oman staff and its Contractors

Temperature and accidents link

Beware of heat

STATISTICAL research into the timing of accidents involving PDO and its Contractors has revealed a strong link between the number of accidents and the time of year.

During the last five years there have consistently been about 25 per cent more accidents in the summer months than in the winter months.

There have been a total of 914 reported accidents during the summer months between March 31 1991 and April 1 1995 compared to 709 during the winter months.

"It is quite clear that there is a relationship between the frequency of accidents and the time of year. We suspect that this is due to the heat," commented Dick Twilhaar of the Safety department.

"We believe that the causes underlying this are obvious. Heat has to be a major factor which leads to fatigue and tiredness which are much more prevalent during hot periods, the body dehydrates much more quickly causing a decrease on reaction-time and a loss of concentration.

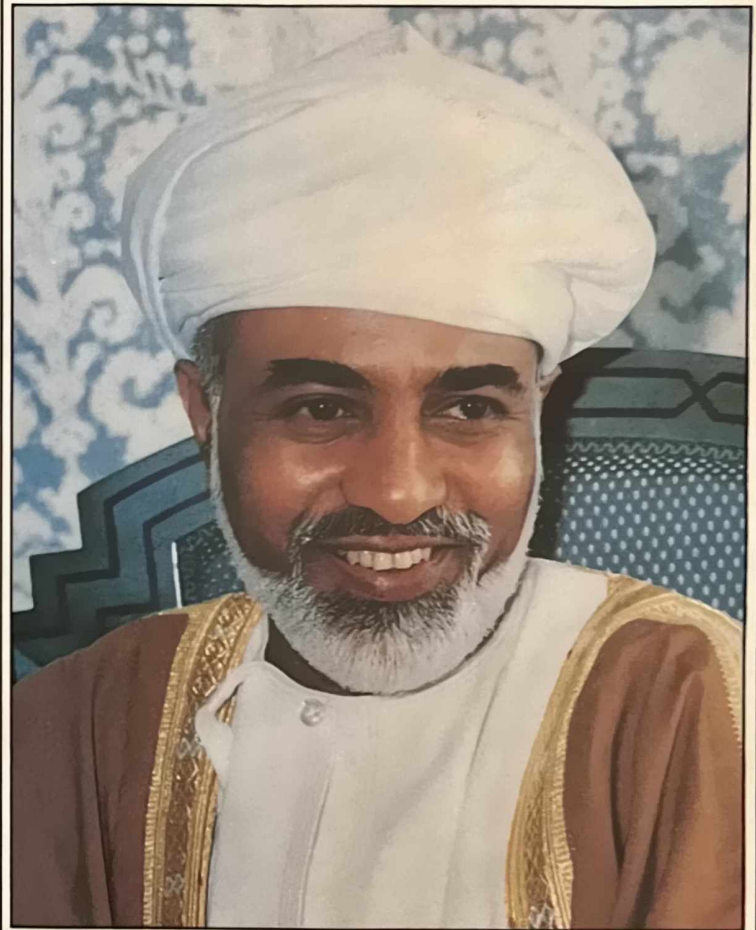
"What we have to do is educate staff on what to do to protect themselves from the effects of heat."

To this end, a note has been distributed to PDO and contractor supervisors detailing a number of things they should tell their staff to do. It says:

- Wear loose, lightweight clothing which allows circulation and releases heat (this does not include dish-dashes);
- Drink plenty of water to replenish the water you lose sweating. Drink more than you need to satisfy your thirst;
- Eat light meals and avoid heavy or hot foods that add heat to your body;
- Know the signs of heat stress and if they appear notify your supervisor and take action quickly;
- Avoid drinks containing caffeine

● Turn to Page 3

Eid al-Adh'ha Greetings



ON THE OCCASION of Eid al-Adh'ha, PDO Managing Director Brian Ward sent a message of congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said on behalf of the company and its staff.

This month...This month...This month

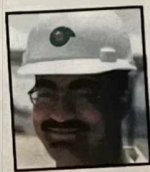
PDO's sci-fi king



Vincent Docherty (left) of Computing has organised the world's largest science fiction convention to be held in Glasgow later this year. He talks to *al-Fahal* about his hobby.

● Turn to Page 3

Southern projects



Wael al-Lawati (left) reports from Marmul on projects in Thuleilat and Marmul which may lead to higher recovery rates from both fields if they prove successful.

● Turn to Page 7

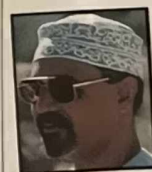
Trainee of the Year



Sameer Ahmed al-Zadjali (left) was awarded the coveted Trainee of the Year award last month for his "positive attitude to the job and well-being of other trainees".

● Turn to Page 10

Junior Staff Camp



al-Fahal paid a visit earlier this month to Abdullah Moh'd Khaftan, the MaF Junior Staff Camp supervisor, (left) to take a look behind the scenes at the 396-room camp.

● Turn to Page 12

In brief...

Production at 800,000 b/d

A NEW production record was achieved in mid April when the company produced an average of just over 800,000 barrels a day for a full week for the first time.

The milestone was achieved during the week ending April 17 and shows that the company is on course to reach the 800,000 barrels a day production level by the middle of the year as planned.

Marmul farm handed over

RESPONSIBILITY for the Desert Agricultural Project in Marmul has been handed over to BHR.

The farm used to be under the charge of the Safety and Environment department based on the Coast but was changed earlier this month so that the project can be locally managed.

Those who wish to deal with the farm should contact BHR/51M on 38-6207.

ROP change timings

THE ROYAL Oman Police have changed the timings at their licensing and registration office.

Private vehicles should be registered between 8 am and 2 pm, Saturday to Wednesday while licensing and commercial vehicle registration should be carried out between 2.30 pm and 7 pm.

DPU-A QISS continues

THE QUALITY Improvement Suggestion Scheme (QISS) attracted a total of 532 suggestions last year.

In the Interior, 445 suggestions were submitted of which 204 were implemented, 180 rejected and the rest are pending evaluation.

On the Coast, 87 suggestions were submitted with 44 implemented, eight rejected and 25 pending evaluation.

Book for food

STAFF who need lunch in DPU-A Interior messes should contact AOR/31X at least 24-hours in advance to make sure there is enough food prepared for their visit.

PDO employee organises world's largest sci-fi meet

Hometown venue for Vincent's show

TALES of vampires, aliens, space travel and dragons may not appeal to all of us, but they do to PDO's Vincent Docherty.

And he's not alone. For Vincent is one of the main organisers of the World Science Fiction Convention being held in his hometown Glasgow, Scotland, in August which will be attended by over 5,000 people from around the world.

The Glasgow convention, the largest of its kind anywhere in the world, will be the 53rd annual event and this year's happening will have visitors from over 20 countries including Japan, Eastern Europe and the United States as well as some of the genre's leading authors such as Arthur C. Clarke.

Vincent, a science fiction fan for as long as he can remember, has been hard at work organising the event since 1987, the last time it was held in Britain.

The first five of those years were spent simply preparing the bid to host the convention in Glasgow.

He beat Sydney, Australia, and the American city of Atlanta to host the event in an Olympic-style round of bidding.

"At the end of each convention, the members, or delegates, assess the bids to host the convention in three years time and then take a vote on where it should be.

"It's usually held in the US where most of the authors and fans are, this is only the fourth time in its history it's been held in Britain, so I'm delighted and proud that the members chose Glasgow as the venue.

"I was doubly pleased to have won the right to host the event during the convention in Orlando as it means our bid must have been extremely strong."

A convention of this size, Vincent says, takes more organising than you would imagine.

"I had to get support from the local authorities in Glasgow, check that there were enough hotel rooms available for all the visitors, lay on entertainment and spe-

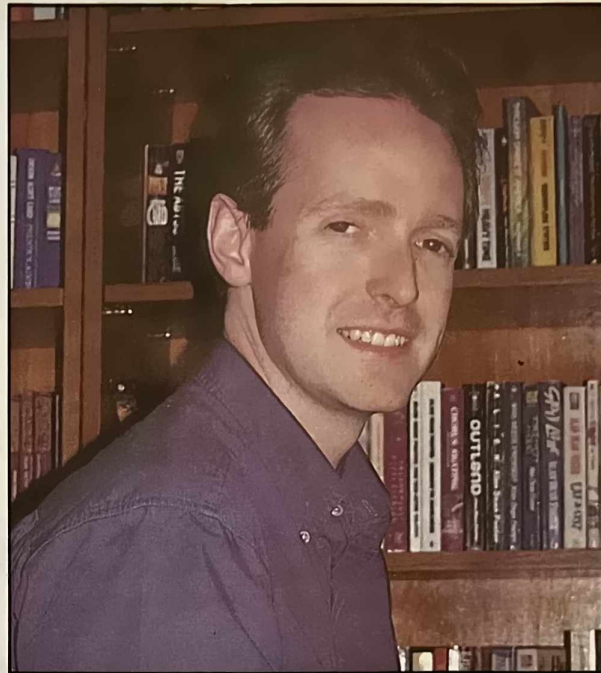


PHOTO COURTESY VINCENT DOCHERTY

FAMOUS FACE: Vincent (left) with science fiction legend Arthur C. Clarke

cial guests....the list goes on," Vincent, Computing department's Drilling Systems focal point, said.

The first world convention took place in 1938 and has been held every year since except during the Second

World War.

"It started as an informal get-together of fans and authors but has gradually grown into an enormous event.

The five-day conference will be made up of 15 parallel streams of programmes.

Talks, seminars and presentations with titles such as "The Monster Show? Why is Horror so Successful Today?" and "Re-inventing...Mars. The Revival of Mars Books" jockey for the attentions of the 5,000 attendees while a myriad of alternative entertainment, art shows and informal talks are also laid on.

On top of these attractions, Vincent has organised what have become known as Extravaganzas.

There will be the hotly-contested Hugo Awards which are the Oscars for Science Fiction writing as well as the Masquerade fancy dress party where prizes are awarded for the best costume.

On the serious side, the convention is particularly popular among publishers looking

● Turn to Page 4

If you can't stand the heat...

● From page 1

(eg coffee, tea or soft drinks) as they can dehydrate you.

"Another thing that staff should be aware of is the protection from the sun provided by the hard hat," Dick added.

