

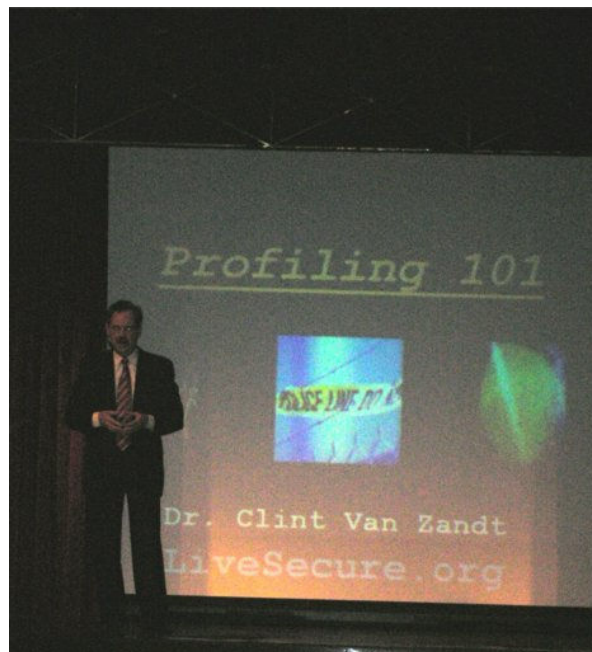
2/5/07 Day 22 – At Sea – Monday - We set the clocks back one hour again last night so we woke up early, about 5am. It was daylight and the seas were calm as we decided to start the day with some coffee and work on the blog input for yesterday.

**Easter Island Flashback:** In yesterday's blog we forgot to mention one tidbit of information from our Tahiti guide, Geraldo. He was very disparaging about Thor Heyerdahl and his theory that Polynesians on Easter Island came from South America. Geraldo had bought into the dominant theory that the Polynesians on these islands came from Southeast Asia about 5000 years ago. He showed us a wooden Moai that was a gift to the Tahiti Museum from the people of Easter Island.



Geraldo told us about a specific island in the group of Marquesas Islands northeast of Tahiti. On this particular island he claimed there was a rock outcropping that in its natural state resembled the Moai carvings of Easter Island. He said this was evidence that the early Easter Island settlers were Polynesians who came from that specific Marquesas Island and they carried the image of the Moai with them to Easter Island. We had never heard this theory before. On Easter Island the guide left the source of the Moai shape wrapped in mystery. Geraldo's story may be just more tour guide hot air but it provided a satisfying and logical explanation for the shape of the Moai on Easter Island. – **end of Easter Island Flashback.**

The first event that we attended today was a presentation by Clint van Zandt. Van Zandt is a prominent corporate lecturer and NBC consultant. His specialty is profiling criminals based on crime scene clues and other information about the perpetrator that can be teased out of the evidence surrounding a crime. The profiles created can be useful to law enforcement officers and the public in apprehending criminals. Most of the passengers recognized him because of his frequent appearance on NBC, CNN and



affiliated TV outlets. His first lecture was entitled Profiling 101.

Van Zandt gave a very animated lecture that held our attention as he described the profiling of Timothy McVeigh (Oklahoma City bomber) and Ted Kazinsky (Unabomber) among others. We are planning to attend his next lecture in a series of four.

Our table mates, Bob and Esther, had picked up a couple of bottles of wine when we visited Bora Bora so we all decided to get some snacks and help them drink it today. About 4pm we gathered in our room for a small party before dinner.



Left to right - Barbara, Bob, Roy, Esther and Gayle getting a jump on the dinner hour. We feel very fortunate that the six of us at the dinner table have been so compatible and interested in what the others have experienced or thought about.

While at dinner this evening we got into a conversation with the waiters who were concerned about the current disastrous flooding in Jakarta, Indonesia. They were carrying on with their work diligently in spite of concern for their families.

We got into a discussion about the nationality of the crew. It turns out that the makeup of the individual organization departments on the ship tend to be of one national origin. Here is a horseback opinion about the division of labor based strictly on casual observations. The people who take care of the cabins, serve the food, and do the deck work are primarily from Indonesia and the bar tenders are from the Philippines. Indonesians may avoid the bar tending because many are of the Muslim religion and cannot handle liquor. The security staff is primarily from India and many of the mid level service staff come from Czech, Slovakia, Croatia or other Balkan States in Europe. The top level ship's management comes mainly from The Netherlands or UK. The makeup of the 1300 passengers is mainly US citizens with a 5% or so representation from Canada. When we hear a foreign language spoken between passengers (maybe 2 to 3 percent) it usually sounds like some northern European – Germanic language.

We ended the day by going to the evening show in the Queens Lounge. Marty Hill, an Australian, who is a virtuoso in playing nearly all wind instruments, including the pan-flute, entertained us in great style.

2/6/07 Day 23 – At Sea – Tuesday: The day started with a 30 minute walk around the Promenade Deck to get the heart



pumping. That was followed by breakfast in the Lido Restaurant. We were joined by our UK friends, Paul and Maria.

It's always fun talking with Paul and Maria. We discussed the important issues of the day, like the pronunciation of the next port of call, Pago Pago. It is pronounced Pango Pango. Apparently the Polynesian language doesn't have a letter n but they still like the sound of it. We had heard of Pango Pango over the years but never had heard of Pago Pago until we saw it on the ship's itinerary. Now that we knew Pago Pago and Pango Pango are the same place we recognized another benefit of worldwide cruising.

Barbara was concerned about the length of her hair so had scheduled a hair trim appointment with Meghan in the Greenhouse Spa. Meghan had been recommended by Esther over dinner a few days ago. This was a little traumatic for Barbara since no one but Sherri back in Oak Ridge had cut her hair for years.

Meghen worked her magic with the scissors and a happy Barbara was ready to go for the next round of social engagements.

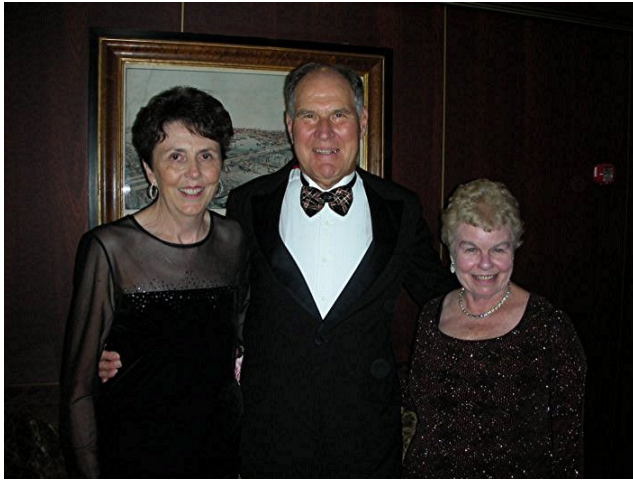
The speaker at the lecture series today was Dr. Denny Whitford who is a retired Navy Captain and expert in oceanography and meteorology. He was very energetic and did a good job of explaining the basics of how ocean waves formed and the danger of storms on the high seas. Of particular interest were some comments on using wave energy to produce electricity.

Whitford had a film clip that showed a prototype generator called the Pelamis

Wave Energy Converter off the coast of Spain or France. This concept might just work. He highly recommended the book, "The Perfect Storm" as realistic with regard to portrayal of how storms develop and the danger they bring to seafaring people. He had arranged for the movie, The Perfect Storm to be played in the ship's theater in the afternoon so we went to that. The movie was high in drama but it was hard to see any hard technical information about storms in the movie.

At 4:30 Marvin and Marilyn Onstott, the AAA representatives on board, held a cocktail party for people who had booked the tour through AAA. Since dinner tonight after cocktails was a formal occasion we all dressed up in our finest for the AAA gathering. This was the second of these festive events in the Crow's Nest Lounge and a good chance to just sit and chat with fellow AAA passengers.





During conversation we learned that many passengers have taken to referring to Marvin and Marilyn simply as M&M. They have office hours every day at a desk in the Explorer's Lounge area. They can usually be seen chatting with passengers at their desk.

At dinner time was made our way to the dining room for another enjoyable meal. We took advantage of the fact that we were all dressed up to take another picture of our assembled table.



We had the lobster thermidor for our dinner. Check out the presentation!!!

After dinner we went to the evening's entertainment which was a selection of Italian opera pieces. We sat near the back of the theater in the event that we wanted to leave early. The singing was a bit to high-

brow for Orlin so mercifully; we left early and called it a day.