



Iceberg Near Miss

A 300 000 000 tonne iceberg narrowly missed an oil drilling platform near St. John's, Newfoundland, this week. Norman Pike, rig manager for Global Marine Drilling, said he watched in amazement as the mountain of ice floated towards the rig, only to change direction at the last minute, saving the rig, and sparing the 35 crew members from an emergency evacuation.

The sea was calm that day and there was no wind, but the iceberg was moving quickly. "I was about to issue the evacuation call," said Pike, "when the iceberg started moving away from us. In all my years at sea, I have never seen anything like it!"

Most of the time icebergs do not come anywhere near the platform, Pike said. Instead ocean currents take them, far out,

INSTRUCTIONS

- Read this news story about a strange occurrence.
- There are spelling errors in this news story. Circle them, and write the correct spelling above.
- There are extra commas. Find and circle them.
- The underlined words are examples of poor word choice. Suggest better words to replace them above.
- There is a run-on sentence. Underline it, and correct it.
- The underlined sentence is awkwardly written. Rewrite it so that it is easier to understand.

LINE MASTER 7-3 ■ EDITING PRACTICE

continued

to the west where they eventually break up in the rough seas. On the rare occasion that they threaten boats or drilling platforms, tugboats are used, to change the iceberg's course. "This one seemed to come out of nowhere. The Coast Guard wasn't tracking this one, and was surprised to hear about it when we reported it," Pike added.

Rick Adams, shift foreman on the rig, claims to have an explanation for the iceberg's sudden change in course. "I thought I saw tugboats pulling the iceberg away. They were far off in the distance," Adams said. The Coast Guard has no reports of tugs being made to go out into the sea to find them.

Adrienne Fisher, a diver on the rig was sent out to photograph the iceberg as it floated away, taking this image from the water. She claims to have caught sight of five tugboats just before diving to take this picture when she returned to the surface the ships were nowhere to be seen. "It's as if they sank right into the water. No tugs I know can move that quickly," Fisher reported. No tugboats can be seen by anyone in the photo.

There is another explanation being gossiped about. These tugboats are ghost ships, crewed by the spirits of sailors who have lost their lives at sea. Their mission, is to help others in distress. Pike disagrees, "I'll have none of that hocus pocus. The matter is still under investigation with the Canadian Coast Guard."

