

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Leg 171B scientific party gratefully acknowledges the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of the ODP, Sedco, and Catermar shipboard staff. Their friendly and consistent support enabled us to have a productive and enjoyable cruise. We especially appreciate the great personal sacrifice of long periods of time away from friends and family that allows us to explore the Earth.

Our cruise would not have occurred without the advice and support of Lloyd Keigwin, who first proposed an ODP drilling Leg on the Blake Nose. Mark Leckie, Jan Backmann, and Peggy Delaney worked to push the drilling proposal through the ODP review process at an unusually rapid clip, with only 2.5 years elapsing from the time of initial submission to approval for drilling.

The drilling expertise of Ron Grout, Wayne Malone, core techs Bubba Attryde and Sam McLellan, and all of the Sedco drill floor hands got us everything the seafloor would let us have.

The shipboard Critical Boundary Curational Team of Lorraine Southey and Paula Weiss patiently, intelligently, and carefully archived and facilitated our sampling of the cores. This was not an easy job considering the rapid rate of core recovery and the recovery of the multitude of exciting “critical” intervals that required special handling. The ODP curator, John Firth, and the Bremen Core Repository (BCR) curators, Walter Hale and Alex Wuelbers, continued where the shipboard team left off and hosted a productive and enjoyable post-cruise sampling party at the BCR.

The ODP shipboard technical staff provided the critical scientific support we required and kept the laboratories functioning smoothly. The quality and clarity of this *Initial Reports* volume were greatly improved by the painstaking care and attention to detail of Michiko Hitchcox on the ship and the entire shore-based ODP publications group.

The co-chiefs and staff scientist also wish to express their thanks to the shipboard scientists who worked so hard to make the leg a scientific success. Their good sense of humor was a true pleasure.

We greatly appreciate all those who contributed to the great success of Leg 171B. Finally, we thank the K/T bolide—without it, life just wouldn’t be the same.