

scope, drawing researchers and visitors from around the world, he said. "The world is, frankly, our target."

Former Atlantan Jeffrey Swanagan, executive director and chief executive officer of the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, has been tapped to run the project. Swanagan spent 10 years as deputy director of Zoo Atlanta and was a protege of director Terry Maple.

Marcus first approached Gov. Roy Barnes about the project a year ago. The governor suggested Atlantic Station as a possible site. "Location was key," Marcus said. "In our minds it will become a destination to visitors."

Already the city has museums, art galleries and theater. What it doesn't have, Marcus said, is an aquarium.

Dan Graveline—executive director of the Georgia World Congress Center—said, "It will be a wonderful asset for the city. One of [the city's] biggest shortcomings is that convention[goers] lack things to do in downtown Atlanta."

The aquarium represents the largest donation to date from the Marcus Foundation and is a departure from previous endeavors, noted Harrison, the spokesman for Home Depot.

With the private funding, the Georgia aquarium will open with no debt. Other aquariums, typically funded by municipal bonds and saddled with enormous debt, have struggled to prosper. Many have had difficulty funding new exhibits critical to attracting repeat customers.

A notable exception is the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. The aquarium, which opened in October 1984, was privately financed with a \$55 million gift from David and Lucile Packard of the Hewlett-Packard fortune.

There were "no bonds and no debt," said Ken Peterson, a spokesman for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which attracts 1.8 million visitors annually and was expanded in 1996. "When you're paying a mortgage plus your operating expenses, it doesn't leave a lot of extra revenue for developing special exhibitions or new exhibit galleries."

Bob Masterson, president of Orlando-based Ripley Entertainment Inc., which operates aquariums in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Gatlinburg, Tenn., said the size of the Atlanta Facility will make it expensive to operate.

"We spend about \$30,000 a day to run the 1.3 million-gallon aquarium in Myrtle Beach and a little more than that in Gatlinburg," he said. "With a 5 million-gallon tank, I'd guess it would cost at least \$50,000 a day to operate. And if it fails, there is nothing else you can do with that building."

[From the Atlanta Journal-Constitution,
Nov. 20, 2001]

AN AQUARIUM FOR ATLANTA: GIANT FACILITY
WILL INCREASE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OCEANS
(By Charles Seabrook)

Call it the Atlanta Ocean.

A world-class aquarium in Atlanta will mean not only a place where people can marvel over ocean wonders, but also a place where scientists and students can unravel mysteries of the sea.

Understanding the oceans' workings is vital, scientists say, because the declining health of the world's seas has become a pressing public problem.

Dozens of ocean fish species are in peril because of overfishing, and marine biologists estimate that more than 25 percent of the coral reefs in the world's tropical oceans are sick or dying.

"If this aquarium is built the way it's envisioned, it will be wonderful not only for eco-

nomics development but also for basic science," said Mark Hay, professor of environmental biology at Georgia Tech. "It will be of immense importance for researchers."

The Georgia Aquarium that Bernard Marcus, chairman of Home Depot, says he wants to build—spending up to \$200 million—will hold more than 5 million gallons of water and encompass 250,000 square feet.

"People who may never travel to the coast will be able to come to Atlanta to learn the lessons of the sea," Hay said.

For scientists, the size and scope of the aquarium, scheduled for completion in 2005, means they may be able to conduct studies that cannot be done very well in laboratories.

"We can buy little tanks and put little creatures in them and observe them in our labs," Hay said.

But a large aquarium, he says, could accommodate complete ecosystems—such as a living coral reef—replete with large numbers of different creatures and plants and minerals.

Scientists say the ocean will never be fully understood until they understand how its ecosystems function.

The Georgia Aquarium will follow the lead of other major aquariums around the world. Scientific research is a basic mission at most of those institutions.

"We realize that health oceans are essential to our survival on Earth," says Ken Peterson of the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California.

"As an aquarium, we see our role as raising public awareness of the oceans and conducting research to help resolve the problems the oceans face."

He notes that half the Earth's oxygen comes from the sea, and the only protein for more than a billion people is provided by the ocean.

"We believe it is important that people know that and know how important the oceans are for their survival," he says.

Jeffrey Swanagan, who has been tapped as the executive director of the aquarium, says a theme has not been chosen. "But it will have a world focus, so that we can tell any freshwater or saltwater story," he says.

Swanagan, a Georgia Tech graduate who spent 10 years at Zoo Atlanta, said the "value of research and conservation is very strong in me."

Swanagan said he hopes the Georgia Aquarium will make people in Atlanta as familiar with the sea as they are with the Chattahoochee River.

"In Tampa, where I live now, kids take the sea for granted because it's all around them," he said. "They think nothing of driving over a causeway and seeing dolphins jumping out the water. We want the people in Atlanta to have similar experiences, albeit it will be an indoor one."

Swanagan, executive director of the Florida Aquarium, said he and his staff will be looking closely at aquariums all over the world to study their exhibits, planning and their public appeal.

Universities and other academic institutions in Georgia also are being asked for help in establishing a marine research program.

"We want an aquarium like no other," he says.

That means, he adds, that the aquarium might attempt to house sea creatures that have been heretofore difficult for other aquariums to maintain.

Some of those creatures, say marine biologists, include fish, squids and other animals that live deep in the ocean under tremendous

pressures—and which have never been seen alive on land.

For Hay and other scientists, the aquarium will be the chance of a lifetime.

Hay helped build the renowned living coral reef aquarium at the Smithsonian Institution 20 years ago.

Many scientists said that facility could not be done because of all the requirements needed to keep the reef animals alive and healthy.

"We did have to learn as we went along," he said.

For instance, one scientist argued that a machine was needed to create wave patterns in the aquarium, but others argued that it was unnecessary.

The researchers found, however, that wave action is vital to maintaining a health coral reef system.

"So, designing and building a new aquarium will further our knowledge even more," he says. ●

DEPARTING NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR:
DR. STEVEN E. HYMAN

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend Steven E. Hyman for his distinguished leadership at the National Institute of Mental Health at NIH for the past 5 years. Dr. Hyman will soon be turning his immense talents to his new duties as the Provost at Harvard University, and I wish him well in this new chapter of his outstanding career.

Steven Hyman was remarkably effective in bringing issues to the national agenda that for too long have met with shame and stigma. As a renowned neuroscientist, he used his considerable talent, reputation, and communication skills to demonstrate to the entire Nation the progress that is being made in understanding and healing mental illnesses. He worked closely with the Surgeon General in his efforts to bring this profoundly important message to the attention of the country.

It is because of efforts like these that we are closer than ever before to providing fair treatment for patients and their families, who have suffered from discrimination because mental illness for so long has been treated unfairly. Under Dr. Hyman's leadership, the NIMH has charted a bold course, initiating new clinical trials that will not exclude patients who are coping with difficulties so often associated with mental illness. He has insisted on including members of the public in the Institutes' research planning, including the groups reviewing grant applications. He has increased the Institute's research emphasis on areas of critical need, such as children and the elderly. He has worked skillfully to guarantee that greater effort is made to translate research into practice.

I know that the National Institute of Mental Health will miss Dr. Hyman's bold and brilliant presence, and so will the nation, as he takes up his eminent new position at Harvard I commend