

## Travel Reports From Our Readers: Part IV

### -- And Grand Cayman, Continued

No sooner had my story for the previous issue on Grand Cayman gone to bed, when I received the July 6 Daily Caymanian Compass. I had just written that the citizens of Grand Cayman come closer to the standard of "the friendliest people in the Caribbean," than those of most other islands. Then I read that Cayman's Director of Tourism, Eric Bergstrom, says "feelings have been expressed that the people in the islands have been so busy that they began to forget to be as friendly as they used to." That's a round about way of saying that some people on Cayman are curt, sharp and grouchy. That's not been my experience. Nonetheless, the government is going to hold motivational seminars for staffs of hotels, restaurants and stores, as well as for taxi drivers and immigrations and customs officers. They might want to toss in a couple of divemasters for good measure.

I won't belabor Cayman this issue, though it deserves more attention than most spots because of the heavy diver travel. But I will cite some preferences of our readers--and me. We wrote last issue of Soto's operation now owned by Ron Kipp. That's the fast food branch of the diving industry. Most discriminating divers seek a little different experience. Don Foster's operation (809/949-2636) at the Royal Palms Hotel (just the kind of commercial hotel I don't like in the tropics) is well regarded. Reader Anthony De Stefano's comments represent those of many of our readers: "Don Foster and his staff were just great; you received as much or as little service as you wanted," and another diver wrote "once they are satisfied that you are a diver who knows what you're doing, you can do your own dives."

Two other operations must be mentioned. Peter Milburn (809/947-4341) continues to give personalized service. No cattle boat operation is this. As B. Duval of Houma, LA writes: "taking Undercurrent's suggestion and diving with

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Peter Milburn was the best advice I've ever taken. He was great." Athlee Evan's Quabbin Divers (809/949-5597) also gets top reader recommendations. Writes Richard Weeks (Dickenson, TX): "The best of the best. Athlee Evans can't be beat as a divemaster. Chet and Robert are able assistants. Had the unfortunate experience of bringing in a body of a diver from another dive boat. Although he did not survive, he received top notch first aid and treatment from the Quabbin dive crew."

One advantage of Milburn and Evans, our readers claim, is that they seem to get their divers over to the Northwall more frequently than Soto, and the Northwall is why people come to Cayman. Spanish Cove sits on the Northwall, but its one time glory as the premier dive location seems to be fading with growth and expansion. Intimacy has given way to efficiency, personalized service to serving the greater good. Still, it's the preferred site of many readers, especially those who like beach dives and good eatin'. But beware of that pleasant telephone reservation staff. I sent a \$200 deposit for a stay in late March, then had to postpone due to illness. When I called back they said I could have a refund or get credit at the hotel. I hoped to get there so I opted for hotel credit. But I didn't get there, so called back for the refund. This time the answer was "No way, Jose." So why the first time and not the second?

Cayman, itself, has got something for everyone, although it didn't have a fin buckle to replace for one of my buddies ("no call for equipment such as that on the island," said the operation at Spanish Cove, which, translated, means "buy new flippers") and couldn't find a soul in four dive shops, including Fisheye, the photographic specialists, who could give me guide numbers for an Oceanic 2003 strobe. But Judy Billeter at Diver's World (Seven Mile Shopping Center) generously spent half an hour trying to help. So, it's not quite the 21st century in Cayman but it does have something for everyone and, if you haven't taken a bite of the Big Apple of sport diving, then give yourself a treat. With round trips out of Miami for less than \$100 and air service from Houston, it's almost impossible to keep away. If you still want to keep away, then consider these reader comments about other destinations.

Micronesia: Overlooked Palau in our last issue. Bar Sihimek, Canadian marine biologist says "the coral and fish diversity here is spectacular, reputed to be the best in the world and I believe it. Beats the hell out of Cozumel in every category save gorgonia. Best dives I've ever had and I've had more than 1,000." Most people speak in the same glowing terms but some don't find it worth the 24 hour one-way trip from the U.S. As Standish Forde Medina, Jr. (New York) says: "although diving is good it is not good enough to justify a special trip and expense from east coast of U.S. Boats are adequate but barely, time to dive sites far too long averages over one hour each way and boat divers are virtually useless in advising what to look for." Consider this a destination for the diver who's been everywhere and still wants more.

Papua, New Guinea: Ed Leiter, a staff scientist at The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, found the diving at Jans Aben Resort "superb." "The organization was efficient, the dives were hassle-free. The reef structure was exotic,

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blending a dazzling color array of hard corals, soft corals, crinoids, and large populations of all the common South Pacific reef tropicals as well as large numbers of pelagic species. The wall was festooned with multi-hued trees of soft corals including a huge white sea fan that seemed as big as a billboard. This photographer was torn between a choice of burying his camera in this beauty, or facing out into the blue where schools of barracuda, tuna, jacks, unicorn fish, leopard rays, and white tip reef sharks cavorted. Two 'wrecks' lie around the corner from each other: one a well-preserved Mitchell B-25 bomber shot down in 1943, the other, the 'Henry Leith,' a trawler purposefully sunk 5 years ago to provide a wreck dive. The peak of Planet Rock lay 30 feet below the surface; looking up from 90%, I saw 'clouds' of packed masses of herring which expanded and contracted as jacks, tuna, barracuda, and sharks cruised among them. In my 18 years of diving, I have never witnessed such a spectacle. Accommodations at Jans Aben were simple but spacious duplex units. My costs at the resort, with diving, lodging, and food, came to approximately \$100 per day. The nationals are friendly, softspoken people."

St. Lucia: A beautiful little hotel, the Anse Chastanet is as romantic a getaway as one might find. There's decent living off the beach--some of it quite interesting--and a relatively good dive operation. Yet we continue to get mixed reviews about the Anse Chastanet ranging from problems with the dive operation to over booking at the hotel, and a few people taking ill on the food or water. Frankly, I liked this spot years ago and still personally find it appealing, but problems seem to occur, according to our readers. It's too bad such a romantic little spa can't smooth out the wrinkles.

St. Vincent: Young Island, which lies 200 yards off the coast of St. Vincent, is a luxury resort frequented by people who can afford the tab. Across the way on the main island is Dive St. Vincent which picks up divers from Young Island and elsewhere. The diving is decent, the hotel lovely and the island itself much less touristy than most other Caribbean destinations. Reader Lgora Nir (New York) said "Young Island is a delight and the lovely hotel is very considerate of diving guests and accommodating in every way."

Seychelles: We hear little about this island group off the east coast of Africa so we appreciate words from James C. Baily, who writes "unfortunately, the diving in the Seychelles is only good. The islands are granitic and the coral is not as spectacular as in Cozumel or Bonaire. Fish and animals are quite different than in the Caribbean but there appears to be no effort in conservation outside the small underwater park. The only dive operation on the island is run by Andy Beauchamp, a PADI instructor at the Coral Strand Hotel on the island of Mahe."

Tonga: Ann Fielding, a marine biologist who organizes dive travel programs for the Waikiki Aquarium, has written us about Tonga, a South Pacific island which has few, if any, divers visiting it. There are her words. "South of Samoa and east of Fiji, Tonga consists of 3 major groups of islands. Vava'u group in the north is the place for diving. It offers a good variety of tropical Pacific reef diving, very reasonable prices, and a delightful cultural experience. Most of the diving is done within a large, open lagoon, peppered with lovely small islands, or on the outside on the westside of the lagoon. Most dives are done in 60' or less, 30-40' being the best depth on many dives. There are rich coral slopes, coral ridges dissected by sand channels, caves and tunnels. Not much in the way of wall diving, but there are two wrecks. Very little current and good visibility except during the rainy season, January to March. Water temperature is mid-70's. Vava'u has two compressors, one at the Paradise International Hotel and one at South Pacific Yacht Charters. There are a total of 11 tanks available for diving, which eliminates large groups. The most expensive way is to



charter a 44' sailboat from South Pacific Yacht Charters (P. O. Box 5, Smithfield, UT 84335). Be sure to get Safi for a skipper. The other way to dive is to stay on land at one of the hotels or guest houses and dive with Peter Goldstern at the Paradise International, the nicest looking hotel overlooking the water (but no beach). Rooms range between \$30-40. The Vava'u Guest House, across the street from the hotel, is \$4.50/person. Tongan Beach resort has \$25 rooms. No sea fans or tree-like soft corals but there was plenty of reef fish, hard and soft corals and invertebrates."

The Virgins: To experience the full range of undersea splendor of the British and American Virgins, join a live-aboard boat to get to the more remote sights where the coral remains virgin, fish wild, and the seas like they were centuries ago. Although a number of live-aboards now ply these waters, our readers mainly write to us about two. Several years ago we reviewed the Lammerlaw, a 90+ foot catamaran which provides unparalleled luxury accommodations. Although we received reports a couple of years ago from people who were somewhat dissatisfied with the structured diving and a caustic captain, things apparently have changed. Latest reports give the Lammerlaw (800/648-3393) glowing marks. As J. Bardach (Providence, RI) writes: "very comfortable and well organized diving; also some non-divers can be happy aboard with water skiing, wind surfing, swimming and snorkel. Crew and captain very pleasant. Beautiful unspoiled islands gave us shelter every night. Many jacks, barracuda, snappers, sharks, etc." . . . The MV Tropic Bird (800/526-1394; in New Jersey call 201/256-9115) gets high recommendations from our readers. The 98 foot Bird has 12 twin bunk air conditioned staterooms and plenty of amenities, such as stereo, VCR, etc. Captain Mike Bloss, the owner, gets rave reviews from Undercurrent readers and the unlimited diving, along with Mike's guided dives, provide the experienced diver with a top-rate trip. Even the food is good. As Jack Henry and Joan White write "after diving with 18 tropical dive operations in the Fijis to the Virgins over a period of 8 years, we have seen some of the best and unfortunately some fo the worst. Mike, the crew and Tropic Bird are among the best." . . . K. Lasley of Princeton Aqua Sports (Princeton, NJ) took a trip late last year on the Okeanos (See and Sea Travel, 800/348-9778; in California, 415/771-0077), a 120 foot dive boat out of St. Thomas which is managed by Armando Jenik. She says the craft is less a dive boat and "more an expedition ship," an adventure vessel with a first-rate crew, good Virgin Island diving and a cuisine unsurpassed by any of St. Thomas' first class restaurants. It is pricey (she paid \$1500 for a week but that included everything, even fancy drinks and fine wines).

St. Thomas diving is generally pleasant with no dramatic dropoffs or huge fish, but there's plenty of pretty coral, a lot of nice sights and a good range of tropicals. We received a number of reports from readers about various shops, but Chris Corder (Courtney, BC) sums it up pretty well: "Joe Vogel excellent operation, well organized, top beach dives; Caribbean Divers Dave Fredeebaugh very laid back but excellent; St. Thomas Dive Club's boat schedule not as advertised, complete chaos on dive, boat breakdown and disorganized. I would not dive with them again." We continually get mixed reviews about the St. Thomas Diving Clubs which operate out of a number of hotels, and generally find our readers prefer the consistency of other operations.

Vanuatu: Once New Hebrides, this destination has been discovered by the Australians--but by very few Americans. It's isolated and indeed distant but one reader (Ben Glick, Williamstown, MA) said "very fine diving, some of the most beautiful hard corals anywhere, interesting caves and tunnels, some deep diving and an excellent divemaster at the Hide-Away Island Hotel."



# PADI And U.S. Divers Sued By Instructors

## -- Charges Of Fraud, Mismanagement, Conflict Of Interest

Instructors, PADI, the Professional Association of Diving, and the U.S. Divers Corporation have been slapped with a multimillion dollar law suit brought by ten instructors and course directors, mainly from Texas. The suit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division.

The thrust of the suit is that PADI, being controlled by U.S. Divers corporation, has moved away from being a pure instructional agency to an organization more interested in promoting the sale of equipment. The plaintiffs, led by Don Dibble, the owner of a dive shop in San Marcos, Texas and a PADI course director, allege that PADI fails to have elections for members of the Board, operates illegally, and has drifted so far from its original purposes as to be operating as a profit making organization. The suit seeks to put PADI into the hands of a receivership to manage it until these complaints are resolved. In addition, millions of dollars are sought by the plaintiffs on the behalf of themselves and thousands of instructors who have allegedly been injured by the PADI/U.S. Divers relationship.

The Vice President of PADI, John Cronin, is also Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Divers. We made several calls to Cronin and to other people named in the suit, but none returned our calls. Other people in the industry were willing to talk with *Undercurrent*, but none wished to be quoted. As one person said, "there is not too much to be gained by talking about it; let's just wait to hear what the court has to say."

PADI has been under criticism during the past few years for shortening the training of divers so as to move more people into the sport, a move many people have criticized as a ploy to sell equipment. Many dive shops have supported the move, while many independent instructors have been critical of it. The suit addresses that issue, as well as a multitude of others. One person likened it to "shooting a shotgun, knowing there will be buckshot scattered all over the place but whether any single shot hits the target will be up to the judge."

Preliminary hearings are scheduled in early September. Rather than paraphrase key parts of the suit and risk inaccuracy, we have substantially edited the complaint and it is as follows.

6. . . . Plaintiffs are complaining herein that PADI, the non-profit corporation which they are members of, is being operated in a corrupt manner by persons in control of U.S.D. Corp. and by and through its Chief Executive Officer John Cronin. Plaintiffs further allege that none of the directors have any legal authority, they

are operating without any such authority and have done so for fifteen years. No PADI directors have ever been elected by a vote of the membership. No membership vote has ever been allowed. The current Board of Directors and U.S.D. Corp. have conspired to prevent a vote of the membership and have actively concealed the rights of the members. Defendants have engaged continuously in *ultra vires* activities for the benefit of Defendants, diving manufacturers and scuba equipment retailers. PADI should be operated for the benefit of the public and PADI's membership. Defendants have shown a total and consistent disregard for the rights of the membership, the laws of the United States, the States of Texas and California, and the laws of all other jurisdictions. It would thus be futile to attempt to get these Defendants to take any action because they have no authority to do so. In addition, notifying the Defendants in advance of the nature of this action could result in further unlawful activity and the destruction of records relative to the matters alleged herein. All of the Plaintiffs fairly and adequately represent the interests of the members of PADI in that they are all professional diving instructors similarly situated who desire to see PADI operated by management, duly elected by its members to carry out the purposes of the corporation as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation.

7. . . . PADI was and is incorporated as a California non-profit corporation known as a "public benefit corporation" under the laws of the State of California. Its purposes were and are as follows:

- a. To promote the instruction of skin and scuba diving to the public;
- b. To advance and standardize the instruction of skin and scuba diving;
- c. To advance and promote the sport of skin and scuba diving;
- d. To gather, correlate and dispense information regarding the underwater arts and sciences; and
- e. To gather, correlate and dispense information on the ecology of streams, rivers, lakes and oceans.

8. . . . PADI has not been operated for the purposes set forth in its Articles of Incorporation, and has never spent a dime on ecology. In fact it is being operated by U.S.D. Corp. and Cronin, with the probable aid of other equip-



ment managers and the Diving Equipment Manufacturer's Association ("DEMA") in an effort to increase the number of scuba divers and instructors, while lowering diving standards to sell more equipment and promote the interests of diving retailers. Everything PADI does is profit making, profit oriented, and profit motivated. This is contrary to the purposes of PADI and is damaging to the membership. This is the reason that none of the membership is allowed to vote for the Directors or on any other matter.

10. . . . PADI offices were established in 1971 in Santa Ana, California. U.S.D. Corp. sent to PADI Nick Ikorn, one of its employees who was skilled in diver and instructor training, and who had developed a diving instructor course. Ikorn left U.S.D. Corp., while remaining on U.S.D. Corp.'s insurance with a guaranteed salary, to develop PADI's training program. . . . When PADI was incorporated, it had no assets and very few members, and it was initially funded with donations from U.S.D. Corp. of office space, typewriters, office furniture, and, in fact, employees. It was further subsidized by U.S.D. Corp. which paid for the printing of all PADI materials until enough memberships could be sold to generate enough funds to give it some semblance of profitability.

14. . . . Cronin successfully lured Dennis Graver to PADI with promises that he would be given a free hand to educate divers, develop instructor training courses, and otherwise control the methods in which divers and instructors were trained and students were taught scuba lessons. Graver, being tremendously competent, developed groundwork from previous work by Nick Ikorn one of the most successful methods of training beginning divers available in the diving industry. . . . Cronin organized the Diving Equipment Manufacturers' Association ("DEMA"), a California non-profit corporation incorporated in 1976. Its Board of Directors consisted of highly placed executives from various equipment manufacturers, the largest being Dacor Corp., Scuba Pro, a division of Johnson & Johnson, and U.S.D. Corp. Upon information and belief, discovery will show that this operation is engaged in price fixing and unreasonable restraints of trade in violation of §1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act. Having organized other major equipment manufacturers, Cronin then had the idea of using all of their joint resources to fund PADI. Funds were paid from DEMA to PADI to develop and shorten the scuba course. In 1978 or 1979, Dennis Graver was given the job of coming up with a short course for beginning students which

could make them at least reasonably safe in the water in a much-shortened training period. At the time this project was undertaken, a beginning scuba course was probably a six-week course with emphasis on physics, physiology, rescue, swimming skills, technical knowledge of the equipment used, and related matters. The goal of DEMA, U.S.D. Corp., and Cronin was to sell equipment by coming up with a scuba course that deleted all except the absolute minimum of training that could put a diver in the water without his being in physical danger in spite of his inexperience. With DEMA's money and Cronin's dictates, Graver developed the PADI modular scuba course which consists of four classroom sessions of 2 to 3 hours each, four swimming pool sessions of approximately two hours each, consisting to approximately 1 to 1½ hours of training in a swimming pool, plus five short dives in an open water environment such as a lake, or the ocean. This course was developed, however, with Dennis Graver's stern warning that the course would only work if it were taught by extremely competent and highly trained instructors.

15. . . . In 1978, 1979 and 1980, and continuing on until approximately the end of 1981, Graver had developed along with Plaintiff Don A. Dibble III, and others similarly situated as district directors of PADI, an instructor training course which was difficult, thorough, and turned out a very high quality instructor. As a result, the PADI modular scuba course for beginning scuba divers was incredibly successful. . . .

16. . . . Cronin packed the PADI staff with marketing experts, retail salesmen, and just about any type of person other than instructor trainers or persons skilled in teaching diving education. Even "Regional Training Coordinators" are now retail salesmen. By 1983, the situation had become totally intolerable, and Dennis Graver had resigned, being replaced by persons directly controlled by Cronin who were interested solely in generating larger numbers of divers, larger numbers of instructors, and consequently greater equipment sales.

18. . . . After Dennis Graver was removed as a director, or in the alternative resigned under pressure from Cronin, Cronin began to become more blatant about his goals as to what he intended to do. By 1982, he had begun actively referring to PADI as "the world's largest, most prestigious diving retailer association." Such representations regularly appeared in publications that were purportedly sponsored by PADI which became higher quality in their nature and designed more and more to convert PADI into



an association of diving retailers to support equipment sales rather than a corporation organized for the non-profit purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

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*"More than eighty percent of all of the budget used for the development of new materials is used to develop new retail sales materials, as opposed to promoting diving education."*

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19. ... Upon information and belief, more than eighty percent of all of the budget used for the development of new materials is used to develop new retail sales materials, as opposed to promoting diving education. In addition, ... PADI is in the business of developing products and equipment as opposed to promoting diving, diver training, and ecology. .... In furtherance of the scheme to promote retail sales as opposed to diving training. Cronin, and the current control persons of PADI, are finding it necessary and have found it necessary to eliminate the true diving educators in the field. In order to reduce the prestige of the true diving educators, PADI has formed the PADI International College which is a purported college to train diving instructors and diving course directors, when in fact, it is, in addition, a huge retail sales training operation in which a substantial portion of all of the training is devoted to retail sales and diving retailing as opposed to the training of instructors, ecology, and similar scientific purposes. Upon information and belief, PADI International College is run for profit and generates more than \$1,000,000 in profits each year. .... Defendants intend to flood the market with instructor development courses run by PADI course directors trained at the PADI College who must function under the control of retail stores designated as "PADI Five Star Training Facilities." Thus the IDC/IEC removes from district course directors such as Plaintiff Dibble the power to certify any instructor, and places instructor certification in the hands of relative newcomers and persons controlled by Cronin at the PADI California offices. The purpose of this IDC/IEC arrangement is to drastically increase the number of new certifications of students by rapidly expanding the number of diving "instructors" who must now meet dramatically lower standards in order to be known as "instructors."

27. ... Among the discriminatory activity currently engaged in by PADI and its current

officers and directors and hidden from its members are the following activities and items designed to promote retail sales of equipment to the detriment of PADI membership:

a. Numerous requirements in the certification of diving instruction that are based primarily upon numbers of students certified, requiring that more and more students be certified in order to reach various and sundry levels of instructor certification;

b. Awards are given based upon numbers of students certified with no emphasis on quality of instruction;

c. The granting to retail dive stores the right to issue gold certification cards while discriminating against independent instructors by forcing them to issue their students less attractive blue certification cards; ....

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*"Allowing U.S. Divers Corp. to reap the benefit of extensive advertising exposure in all PADI materials and publications for virtually nothing."*

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e. Allowing U.S. Divers Corp. to reap the benefit of extensive advertising exposure in all PADI materials and publications for virtually nothing.

30. ... Although members of PADI have a right to vote to elect their Board of Directors, no vote of the PADI members has ever been held on any issue in its entire history. Thus all members of the Board of Directors, and all actions they have taken are without any legal authority. ....

32. ... Upon information and belief, PADI is engaging in extensive lobbying activities to prevent any legislation which could control, directly or indirectly, the diving industry, or which would cause the standards for diver training or instructor training to be above those which Cronin wishes to dictate in the context of his desire to sell more equipment. This type of activity is specifically prohibited by the PADI Articles of Incorporation.

34. ... Under California corporation law, and under the laws of the State of Texas, the members of PADI are entitled to elect their directors, have annual meetings of the members for such purposes, to have an accounting for all funds spent, and to enforce the rights of the corporation to be sure that its purposes are followed.

42. ... Plaintiffs allege that they are entitled to a complete accounting of the use and disbursement of funds. ....



44. . . . Plaintiffs and other diving instructors and assistant instructors are PADI members with voting rights. . . . The procedure outlined in PADI's By-Laws has never been followed, no election of the members has ever been held, and the Defendants have continually engaged in a conspiracy to defraud and cheat the members, and to prevent them from exercising their voting rights.

47.a. . . . In addition, the board must deliver an annual report to all members of the corporation, or in the alternative, it must be available on an annual basis to each member, describing all major transactions involving any director or control person. This has not been done.

b. A member has the right to inspect the articles and by-laws of the corporation and to inspect the account books and minutes of all proceedings of the members of the Board. This right is being continuously denied.

c. The officers and directors must deliver annual reports to the members, and failure to do so is a violation of § 6323 of the non-profit corporation action. . . .

48. . . . Under the California Non-Profit Corporation Act, §5227 provides that not more than 49% of the persons serving on a Board of Directors of any non-profit corporation may be interested persons, which are any persons compensated by the corporation in any manner, either directly or indirectly, except for reasonable compensation paid to a director for attending director's meetings. All of the PADI directors at all times have been interested persons, and therefore this provision has been and is continuing to be violated. . . . Upon information and belief, these activities include personal transactions by directors and employees, the authorization of personal payments to employees, as well as the directors, and perhaps to U.S.D. Corp., the unlawful distribution, and perhaps loan guaranties.

54. . . . Upon information and belief, the current insurance program by Centaur Insurance Company ("Centaur") has been a fraud on the membership. Upon information and belief, Centaur is an insolvent corporation, or in the alternative, is a corporation which has gone out of business due to huge losses, generated perhaps in part by large losses stemming from improper instructor training. In any event, the information Plaintiffs have is that Centaur is insolvent. . . .

62. . . . Members have paid dues, earned certification and paid for numerous required and voluntary items in reliance upon the false, fraudulent, and misleading representations of

Defendants herein. They have been defrauded because PADI has used their funds for purposes other than those contained in the Articles of Incorporation for the benefit of themselves, diving retailers, and U.S.D. Corp. All of such misused funds should be returned to PADI by these Defendants. . . .

#### **PADI Announces Another Record Year**

Undercurrent recently received this press release from PADI, date July 15, 1985.



For the third year in a row, PADI diver certifications have grown at a record rate. Figures released for the first half of 1985 show entry-level certifications up 34% over 1984. All totalled, 105,000 divers received PADI certifications during the first six months of 1985.

According to a PADI spokesman, "It is important divers understand the benefits of this growth. Having more divers attracts more investment capital to the diving industry. This money is used to develop better equipment and new diving boats and resorts. It means that as diving grows, today's divers will have more opportunity to enjoy diving."

65. . . . Pursuant to the provisions of the RICO statute, the California Non-Profit Corporation Act, the laws of the State of Texas, and the laws of numerous other states, dangerous and unlawful activities being engaged in as alleged. . . . herein by these Defendants should be enjoined immediately to prevent any further injury to PADI, to the membership, or to the public, and a receiver should be appointed to run PADI's affairs and to conduct a membership vote.

73. . . . a. Defendants have damaged Plaintiff Dibble both as to his reputation, ability to earn funds, and have caused him to devote a substantial portion of his life to PADI by consistently defrauding him as to PADI's purposes and goals and, as a result, he has been personally damaged.

b. Defendants have damaged Plaintiffs Hollobaugh and Graham, who were defrauded in the same manner as Dibble over a lesser period of time, and who, as course directors, were led to believe that they were to be able to certify instructors, but currently have no powers, in fact less powers than they had before becoming course directors. In the ever-shifting



sands of PADI's Standards and Procedures alterations for control purposes and to benefit retailers and Defendants, Plaintiffs Hollobaugh and Graham have been defrauded and damaged.

c. All of the other instructors have been similarly damaged by breaches of contract and fraud in that PADI has not been and is not what it is represented to be. . . . As a result, each of these Plaintiffs has been substantially

damaged in an amount to be determined.

74. . . . Because the fraud of these Defendants was and is malicious, intentional, done for their own personal benefit with callous disregard for the membership of PADI, the public and the governments of the United States, and the various States thereof, punitive damages should be awarded against each of these Defendants in a total appropriate amount of not less than \$30,000,000 to deter such conduct in the future.

## Teach A Four Year Old To Dive?

-- Why Not!

Children should not be taught to scuba dive. At least that's the rule in the United States.

Yet what is prohibited here is common practice in Tahiti, where a diving school for children was established in 1979 by Henri Pouliquen, Chairman of the Coral Club Sub Tahiti. The basis for his school was his experience in teaching his own 12 year old son to dive. Since his school has opened thousands of dives have been logged by children as young as four years old. Pouliquen's experience has been reported in the *CMAS Bulletin*, the *Journal of the South Pacific Underwater Medical Society*, and now *Undercurrent*.

### L'ENFANT ET LA PLONGEE

The idea to enable children to scuba dive came in 1975 when I saw the Tahiti Lagoon, square miles of water, depths of 2 to 4 metres, the water always warm, with marvellous corals and a constantly changing scene of multi-coloured fish. The first problem encountered were material ones as I needed

small air tanks and small mouth-pieces for the regulators. I chose aluminium tanks from a French manufacturer. These were usually bouyant so it was necessary to "weight" the children. Small diving masks were also necessary and these were obtained from the USA. Once the equipment was obtained the school started operating every day, even twice daily.

After six months the school had more than 70 graduates from 6 to 13 years old. As months went by, parents brought me younger and younger children. Now we have 4 and 5 year olds diving easily, admired by adult divers. For the child under 7 years old it is a game: the explanations before the first dive must be short, with appropriate and simple words. It is not necessary to speak of the possible problems as they do not dive in more than 1.5m deep water. It is important to choose a very clear water with a maximum of small fishes. From the very first dive the child has to be interested by the underwater fauna. During the whole first dive the child has to be supported by the tank while being free to move. Do not discourage the children by giving them heavy tanks, so put them on

TABLE I

*Criteria adopted by L'Ecole de Plongee pour enfants de Lagon de Tahiti*

AGE OF CHILD	MAXIMUM DEPTH	DURATION AT MAX. DEPTH (MINUTES)	DECOMPRESSION STOPS ON MAX. DEPTHS AT 3m	COMMENTS
2½ to 4 years	1m		-	Children supported throughout the dive.
4 to 5 years	3m	20 to 25	-	As a rule the dive is ended when children show "goose flesh." It is important to know that in Tahiti the water is often over 26°C.
6 to 8 years	4m	5	20 to 25 min	Often children wear a diving jacket so that dives can be lengthened on depths of less than 3m.
8 to 9 years	7m	7	20 to 25 min	
10 to 11 years	12m	12	20 to 25 min	
12 to 13 years	18m	15	20 to 25 min	
14 to 15 years	26m	20	20 to 25 min	



when the children are in the water. My boats are provided with short ropes from the sides and the tanks are hung in the water from the boats. The children cling to the ropes while the instructors dress them with the equipment, in the water. The little divers never experience the full weight of the tanks.

After 3 or 4 dives, all children over 7 years old are able to take off the mask and put it on again, and remove and replace the mouthpiece. This very soon becomes a game and they enjoy doing it. As far as the children between 4 and 7 years old are concerned, it is necessary to proceed more slowly, to choose well fitting masks so that no water can enter. The "very little ones" look at the older children and with a little bit of patience we achieve the same result.

It is very remarkable to observe the self-confidence that the young divers acquire. I have seen shy children, who after some dives, have changed their personality. Parents are amazed by the metamor-

phosis of their children. Sometimes improvements are noticeable at school, the young divers working better.

The children's improvement with breath-holding is spectacular. They quickly learn how to "equalise" their ears and then astonish their parents by their diving ability.

For each child a medical certificate, indicating absence of contraindications for diving, is required.

Statistics, after more than 7,000 children dives, are as follows: The physical development of children who have dived frequently is often spectacular. In no case has development been disturbed. There have been no incidents during the dives. This diving school, open every day throughout the year in a natural environment, is conducted at all times in strict accordance with the criteria listed.

For more information write: Tahiti Plongee, BP3506, Papeete, Tahiti. Telephone: 011-689-436251.

## Why Divers Die: Part III

### -- Problems With Hearts, Problems With Hamburger

This is the third and concluding part of the report of the National Underwater Accident Data Center on diving fatalities. Parts one and two may be found in the June and July issues.

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During 1982, the NUADC was able to verify autopsies on 85% of the nonoccupational diving fatalities. Eleven of the victims died due to barotrauma (i.e., embolism). If proper autopsy protocol had been followed in the 44 "drowning" cases, as many as ten more might have been determined.

Four male victims, respectively 41, 49, 51 and 61, died from cardiovascular problems. Three of the four were undergoing instruction at the time of

death. In the category "major hemorrhages/trauma," we have included two cases. In the first, a 43 year old male was diving in a heavily traveled waterway off the Massachusetts coast when he was struck by a 60 foot vessel as he surfaced. The victim had been diving from an inflatable boat which flew a divers' flag, but was more than 150 yards from the site of the accident. A 53 year old female victim said to have been very experienced was apparently struck by a propellor while diving from a friend's boat off the coast of Florida. Her body was recovered several hours later with a massive laceration of the forearm. She apparently bled to death before help arrived.

One victim was found to have aspirated a large chunk of hamburger. He apparently choked to death.

Table I. Nonoccupational Underwater Diving Fatalities, Results of Autopsies, Yearly, 1970-1982

Primary Complaint	Number of Autopsies													
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	
Asphyxiation or drowning	25	26	22	32	29	29	39	45	49	61	60	45	44	
Barotrauma/Embolism, etc.	9	12	9	8	14	12	10	16	12	17	12	13	11	
Injury to head (often plus "drowning")	5	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	3	2	0	0	
Cardiovascular syndrome	5	1	3	6	5	4	8	2	5	4	6	3	4	
Aspiration of stomach contents	3	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	1	
Acute decompression sickness	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Intestinal disorder	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bilateral ear rupture	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Gas contamination	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Major hemorrhages/body trauma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Total	47	42	40	48	53	57	65	65	70	89	80	61	62	



## Occupational Fatalities

There were eighteen occupational deaths in 1982, including five U.S. Navy divers who died in a single incident off the Philippines. Newspaper accounts intimated a decompression problem while working with a Navy submarine, but no further details are available.

One occupational victim was a 39 year old, well-trained diver who was operating on surface-supplied air in 40° water. His hoses apparently became severely entangled in wreckage and he was unable to free himself. Though he wore a bail-out bottle, he did not attempt to make the surface with this device. The owner of the salvage vessel for whom the victim was diving recognized the entanglement problem and donned a dry-suit in an effort to help. In his haste he broke the zipper. Tape was hurriedly put around the legs of the suit, but the rest of the jacket was left open. He then donned a scuba tank, jumped over the side and was never seen again. After two and one-half hours below, the first victim ballooned to the surface in an upside-down position, still entangled and trapped below the surface. The cause of death was determined to be acute decompression sickness.

One fatality was a 26 year old civilian diver working on a naval ship in Long Beach, California. On the first dive of the day, the victim experienced a regulator failure and had to buddy breathe to reach the surface. Apparently, the same thing happened on the second dive, but without a buddy nearby to assist him. This victim died of an air embolism.

Another fatality involved a 60 year old victim who had completed a scuba diving course a week before his death. This victim, along with his son, was trying to commercially harvest quahogs in Narragansett, Rhode Island. There was no witness to the actual death, but the body was found on the bottom about one hour after he was first missed.

Two separate fatalities occurred diving for gold in California rivers. In one incident, the victim had reportedly taped his tank to his wetsuit with a criss-cross pattern using fiberglass tape. This tape was also used to fasten some equipment to his weight belt. He apparently attempted to drop the belt, but it fell behind him, causing his feet to rise to the surface and leaving him without air. The body of this victim was not recovered until the following day.



In looking at the causes of diving deaths over the years, patterns emerge which the conscientious diver need be aware of if he is to dive safely. Nearly every death is preventable, and in nearly all cases the individual diver is in full control over his own fate. In considering one's own safety, keep these notions in mind.

## Panic:

Panic is no doubt both a cause of death and a precursor to death. The wise diver will recognize the signs and move to terminate the dive or terminate the panic. Panic may set in for no apparent reason or for plenty of good reasons – such as running out of air, getting lost in low visibility, or having a major equipment problem. In most cases, that kind of panic is preventable by making the right diving decisions.

### Sleight Of Hand?

Reader Carl Locker of Dallas had a problem. His pricey (\$250) Aqua Tech Vanguard bottom timer was on the fritz and the Aqua-Tech telephone in Ocalaco, Florida, was disconnected with no forwarding number. He was stuck, or so he thought, until he called us.

Finding Aqua-Tech was not easy, but thanks to DEMA Executive Director Bob Gray we made some headway and learned how to get faulty gauges repaired.

Aero-Precision, Inc., made parts for the Vanguard bottom timer, a spokesman there told us, so they are servicing those devices which are under warranty and others, as they can. As long as parts are available, they will continue such servicing.

Aero Precision can be called at 305/688-2565 or contacted at 1400 NW 19th Ave. Ocalaco, Florida 33054.

Curiously, that's the same address once-upon-a-time held by Aqua-Tech.

### Bad pre-dive decisions:

Many deaths are caused when one dives in lousy weather, when two divers go out in a boat and don't leave someone aboard, when inexperienced divers go cave diving, when divers struggle through high surf, or when one goes diving after a night of partying. Problems that occur are obviously avoidable.

### Bad pre-dive equipment decisions:

Many divers buy the wrong gear and many more fail to maintain it. The SOS decompression meter is virtually useless. Many regulators are ineffective below 100 feet at low tank pressure, especially if the diving conditions are difficult or a diver is working hard or panicking. An excess of equipment is no substitute for good diving skills.

Regardless of what equipment one has, it is not worth a nickel if not properly maintained. Divers have panicked and died because a worn fin strap or a worn mask strap has broken. BC hoses not checked



before the dive have come unfastened from the flotation devices, rendering the BC useless. Rusty regulators have failed to deliver air and rusty tanks have clogged the first stage. Uncalibrated depth gauges have led divers ten or more feet deeper their dive plan without their knowing it.

#### **Bad diving decisions:**

Decisions made in the course of a dive can mean life, death, or serious injury. Too many divers fail to know the tables and let someone else determine their bottom time. Divers exceed the dive plan, dropping down an extra twenty feet or perhaps making a dive to free the anchor although they have already reached the maximum table time.

Some divers proceed with a dive when the condi-

tions get rough and the dive should be cut short. Some divers defer to their buddy's judgment rather than let their own sensibilities and skills determine their own course of action. Some wear too much weight, while others, when in a difficult surface situation, fail to drop their weight belt, perhaps because they don't want to buy another -- or to admit to their peers they were in trouble.

#### **Conclusion:**

The causes of deaths range from the obvious and common to the unlikely and bizarre. Nearly all, if not all, can be prevented. To survive, one cannot respond to peer pressure or unwise buddy pressure. Safe diving is an individual matter.



For science fiction aficionados (see *Undercurrent*, January, 1985), Dr. Terry Brown adds this suggestion. "Retrograde Summer, by John Varley, appears in his 1978 book of short stories, *The Persistence of Vision*. The main characters, through surgery, are able to don skinsuits that allow them to dive in the molten oceans and rivers of Mercury; it's a particularly unique story that doesn't involve a single drop of seawater."

Sushi and ceviche lovers should know that some raw fish carry small parasites that can lodge in the stomach lining of the gourmet and cause severe nausea and pain about 12 hours after consumption. Only one case has been reported in the United States, but several cases have been reported in other countries. The offending parasites must be removed from the stomach lining with forceps.

The Underwater Medical Society recently reported the results of a year long search by a national gardening magazine to find a way to cut up onions without tears. Among the more than 400 suggestions were to chop onions while dangling a burnt match from your lips and to chop after placing a vacuum cleaner hose next to the chopping board to suck up noxious fumes. The winner? Well, why not simply wear a diving mask while you apply your scalpel to the

scallions? No doubt, you'll be able to shop for your next Scubapro silicone special in the culinary section of your neighborhood Macy's.

On just about every dive taken by every diver a subconscious desire surfaces to find something spectacular underwater to take home. We usually think of the obvious, such as treasure, bottles, or rare shells. Mona Delaney co-owner of the Scuba Den in Hernando Beach Florida though she was bringing up a pretty rock from the sandy bottom of the Withlacoochee River on a routine Sunday dive not long ago. Instead, it proved to be a 15 pound petrified tooth from a mastadon, a prehistoric animal similar to an elephant, but larger, which became extinct about 10,000 years ago. That's quite a find.

What to do in case of painful stings from lionfish, scorpion fish, stone fish or other members of the Scorpaenidae family of venomous bony fish? In a study of 51 cases, researchers found that immersion in hot water produced complete or moderate relief in 84 percent of the cases. Those findings were recently reported by Dr. Ken Kizer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

In 1969, scuba diver Frank Hoffman and a team of amateur divers raised a 125 year old wreck from the bottom of Lake Michigan. He towed it to Menominee, Michigan and tried to give the ship a second life as a tourist attraction. After investing \$300,000 during the past 15 years and failing to get tax breaks he sought for the ship as educational property, he gave up, deep in debt and in poor health. One night in June he torched the ship, keeping fire fighters away by brandishing a rifle. He was arraigned on one count of assault and one count of arson. Hoffman said "I figured if it were gone I could live a normal life."