
Random Scatterings

News on line and in letters

It's nice when we're listened to. While Ben Davison gave a glowing review to **Fiji's Loma Loma Resort**, he took them to task for having no cushions for the rough, butt-bruising rides to the reefs. Recently we received a fax from the resort manager informing us that, after reading our article, she decided on her birthday present for dive manager Dan Grenier: six custom-made boat cushions.

The **World Wide Fund for Nature** has declared that most marine life, from the great white shark to the tiny seahorse, should join tigers, rhinoceroses, and elephants as the most threatened species on the planet. Of the 152 fishes they studied, 131 face possible extinction; of these, 15 were critically endangered. The list is used by governments as a guide in determining environmental protection policies. The great white shark is protected by only three countries: Australia, South Africa, and the United States. Seahorses are vulnerable because of a rapidly growing demand in the Far East for traditional medicines.

If you get bored hanging for five at ten, you might consider playing catch with your buddy. A U.S. naval engineer has developed a foot-long, torpedo-shaped object that a 12-year-old can throw 30 feet underwater before it starts to sink. Looking like a German V-2 rocket, the **Toypedo** will soon be marketed by Swimways, a Virginia toy company. The inventor thinks he can eventually design one that a trained athlete could fling 100 yards underwater.

If you're a landlubber, save your change and buy **Laucala Island, Fiji**. Malcolm Forbes had recently put the island up for sale. I assume the dive resort goes with deal. . . . The airport at Cayos Cochinos has been closed down. No word as to why or how long yet. If you want to book **Plantation Beach Resort**, they are picking up passengers in their new boat at La Cieba, but trips are limited to Saturday-to-Saturday. . . . Don't try booking any trips with **Tropical Concepts**. Looks as though another dive travel agency has bitten the dust — all phone lines have been disconnected.

Kate

never-ending work that it took to create each issue of *In Depth*. You benefited greatly from her humor, bright mind, understanding of nature, and skill with words.

To me she was more than the co-founder of *In Depth*. She was my wife of 17 years, best friend, mother to our 8- and 15-year-old daughters, and partner in life's great adventures. I benefited the most.

On May 20, at age 41, with exemplary courage and calmness, Kate departed on a new adventure. Remembrance may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, 1 Pennsylvania Plaza, Suite 4900, New York, NY 10119, or Oceanica, 4067 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209.

J. Q.

To you, the readers of *In Depth*, she was anonymous, as required by the nature of the publication. However, her presence and influence were always there, from the conception of the publication to the

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