

bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

August 27, 2006

Recently there has been criticism in the *Bucket & Buoy* about my editorial comments and the blurring between reporting the news and offering my opinions. While I have no intention of ceasing my editorializing when I think things are wrong, I have listened to the comments and will try to separate the news from the comment.

I take events and facts very seriously and am always concerned about the credibility of the *Bucket & Buoy*. In fact in the many years I have been putting out the *Bucket & Buoy* I don't think there has been **one** factual inaccuracy anyone can point to. Facts are checked out several ways before I print them. I do not want that effort to be wasted by a perception that the facts are skewed by my opinion.

This will be a difficult process for me as I am used to writing a certain way and am not sure how I will make the change. However, with effort on my part and patience on yours I hope you will see a transformation that will be positive for all involved.

This week we are carrying a very scary article about the state of our oceans. Being someone who swims in them almost seven months a year I can't help hoping that the articles are wrong. In doing research, one thing I found out was that, because our world's industrial activity pumps massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the environment, more of the gas is now being absorbed by the oceans than ever before. As a result, seawater is becoming more acidic, threatening a variety of sea life.

This gas, entering the ocean at a rate of nearly 1 million tons per hour, (10 times the natural rate) has made the seas more acidic today than they have been in at least 650,000 years. At the current rate of increase, ocean acidity is expected, by the end of this century, to be 2 times what it was before the Industrial Revolution began 200 years ago. Such a change will devastate many species of fish and other animals that have thrived in chemically stable seawater for millions of years. How one can think that this won't affect the entire food chain is beyond me.

While there isn't much we can do immediately about this crisis, keep it in the back of your mind. It is getting more important every day to be thinking environmentally. When there's a choice between thinking "green" or not thinking, choose "green". After all it is your children who will inherit this mess.

That being said, we are taking a break from any local controversy this week. Let's focus on a global one during this brief respite.



Deb presenting the Jr LG's with a \$10,000 check from FPL

Advertisement * Advertisement * Advertisement * Advertisement * Advertisement
Wanted: Boys' Varsity Swim Coach @ Uniondale HS. Season from mid-November to early February. Pay is approximately \$6,000. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Brown (AD) at Telephone # (516)560-8855. Also, he is always looking for WSI's to teach elementary school children at \$30/hour.



Smiles on part of the WBHO weekday Crew (Photo by Donovan)

SWIM ACROSS AMERICA

By Chris Coffin

On August 19th, swimmers of all ages and abilities participated in 1, 3, and 6 mile open water swims in the waters off of Port Washington and Glen Cove to help fight cancer. I would like to take a moment to thank every one who made charitable donations to "Swim Across America" for cancer research. I received a number of checks for my swim from lifeguards at numerous fields and still water installations; some of whom I have never met. This out pouring of generosity makes me proud to be part of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps.

Next year, it would be spectacular to see more Jones Beach lifeguards get involved as a team and have a definitive presence at the event. It's not a race... just a swim and a great event for an excellent cause. Thank you again to every one who helped me to raise funds for the event.



Almost 200 years old and they still won the Kayak Relay (with, I must add, Scott beating out his son on the first leg)

DEEVOLUTION OF THE OCEAN

Excerpts from an article by Ken Weiss, Los Angeles Times

The fireweed in Moreton Bay began each spring as tufts of hairy growth and spread across the seafloor fast enough to cover a football field in an hour. When fishermen touched it, their skin broke out in searing welts. Their lips blistered and peeled. Their eyes burned and swelled shut. Water that splashed from their nets spread the inflammation to their legs and torsos.

"It comes up like little boils," said Randolph Van Dyk, a fisherman whose powerful legs are pocked with scars. "At nighttime, you can feel them burning. I tried everything to get rid of them. Nothing worked."

At first, authorities dismissed their complaints -- until a bucket

of the hairy weed made it to the University of Queensland's marine botany lab. Samples placed in a drying oven gave off fumes so strong that professors and students ran out of the building and into the street, choking and coughing.

Scientist Judith O'Neil put a tiny sample under a microscope and peered at the long black filaments. Consulting a botanical reference, she identified the weed as a strain of cyanobacteria, an ancestor of modern-day bacteria and algae that flourished 2.7 billion years ago.

O'Neil, a biological oceanographer, was familiar with these ancient life forms, but had never seen this particular kind before. What was it doing there? Why was it so toxic? Why was it growing so fast?

The venomous weed, known to scientists as "Lyngbya majuscula," has appeared in at least a dozen other places around the globe. It is one of many symptoms of a virulent pox on the world's oceans.

In many places -- the atolls of the Pacific, the shrimp beds of the Eastern Seaboard, the fjords of Norway -- some of the most advanced forms of ocean life are struggling to survive while the most primitive are thriving and spreading. Fish, corals and marine mammals are dying while algae, bacteria and jellyfish are growing unchecked.

Where this pattern is most pronounced, scientists evoke a scenario of evolution running in reverse, returning to the primeval seas of hundreds of millions of years ago.

Jeremy B.C. Jackson, a marine ecologist and paleontologist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, says we are witnessing "the rise of slime."

For many years, it was assumed that the oceans were too vast for humanity to damage in any lasting way. Even in modern times, when oil spills, chemical discharges and other industrial accidents heightened awareness of man's capacity to injure sea life, the damage was often regarded as temporary.

But over time, the accumulation of environmental pressures has altered the basic chemistry of the seas.

Industrial society is overdosing the oceans with basic nutrients -- the nitrogen, carbon, iron and phosphorous compounds that curl out of smokestacks and tailpipes, wash into the sea from fertilized lawns and cropland, seep out of septic tanks and gush from sewer pipes. These pollutants feed excessive growth of harmful algae and bacteria.

At the same time, overfishing and destruction of wetlands have diminished the competing sea life and natural buffers that once held the microbes and weeds in check. The oceans are also sucking up excessive carbon dioxide like a sponge.

Evidence is surfacing around the globe. Off the coast of Sweden each summer, blooms of cyanobacteria turn the Baltic Sea into a stinking, yellow-brown slush that locals call "rhubarb soup." Dead fish bob in the surf.

On the southern coast of the Hawaiian island of Maui, high tide leaves piles of green-brown algae that smell so foul condominium owners have hired a tractor driver to scrape them off the beach every morning.

On Florida's Gulf Coast, residents complain that harmful algae blooms have become bigger, more frequent and longer-lasting. Toxins from these red tides have killed hundreds of sea mammals and caused emergency rooms to fill up with coastal residents suffering respiratory distress.

Organisms such as the fireweed that torments the fishermen of Moreton Bay have been around for eons. They emerged from the primordial ooze and came to dominate ancient oceans that were mostly lifeless. Over time, higher forms of life gained supremacy.

"We're pushing the oceans back to the dawn of evolution," Jackson said, "a half-billion years ago when the oceans were ruled by jellyfish and bacteria."



The Kayakers get last minute instructions before the race

THE ANNUAL DENNIS ANGER-MAIER COBRA KAYAK CLASSIC
This Saturday, September 2 at 8:00 am at RM4 (permitting permitting)– Come see the hottest Kayak surfers on Long Island vying for a full year of bragging rights

INFO ON THE OCEAN

By Paul Franco

How much do we really know about the ocean? We sit atop life-guard stands poised for rescues, attentively watching the little kids on the inside shore break, keeping a sharp eye on the suck forming and reforming throughout the day for whole months at a time. But how much do really know about the element in which we work?

It is full of energy, mystery, danger and serenity; it can be a playground one second and the next, a formidable monster snatching lives without discretion. Mother ocean holds no prejudices, but does she hold memory?

So let's see how much we really don't know about Mother Ocean: Water weighs 0.022 percent of the earth's total weight. The weight of all the water in the sea is 1.2 quintillion (12 followed by 17 zeros) tons. Earth contains 350 million cubic miles of seawater, which contains 150 tons of minerals for every cubic mile. Ocean waters cover 70.92%, or 139,670,000 square miles, of the earth's total surface.

Melt all of the ice in the world, some 23 million cubic kilometers in all, and the oceans would rise 1.7% or about 180 ft. enough in NYC for 20 floors of the Empire State Bldg. to be underwater. All of the oceans in the world would provide over 100 billion gallons of water to each person if divided up equally. There are 46 elements in seawater. Ocean water is bluest where there is the least amount of sealife.

Mariner use these measurements for the sea: 6 ft = 1 fathom, 120 fathoms = 1 cable length, 7 1/2 cable lengths = 1 mile, 5,280 feet = 1 statute mile, 6,076.1 feet = 1 nautical mile, 880 fathoms = 1 mile, a ships cable = 120 fathoms or 720 feet, a hairsbreadth = 1/48 of a degree, a knot or nautical mile = 1/60 of a degree, 60 knots = 1 degree, 3 knots = a marine league.



Field 6 humbly accepting their victory at the Interbeach Races

INTERBEACH RACES 2007?

By Jim Dirico

First, congratulations to Field 6 on winning the lifeguard races. But, point of information, a new record has been set in the history of the races. The winning team in the Boat Race (Spence & Mall - RM2) set a record in that Spence is the oldest competitor to win the race! The talk at RM2 is that with Spence setting a new record, we the crew, under the leadership of team captains (Solnick and Scanlon) are going to take the Beach TITLE NEXT YEAR!

For complete 2006 Interbeach Races results, go to www.jblifeguard.com



See how much fun East Beaches have when they come to JB

THE COMICS

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Harley when he spotted a world-famous heart surgeon in his shop.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, look at this engine. I can open it up, take the valves out, fix 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish, this will work just like new. So how come I get a pittance and you get the really big money when we basically do the same work?"

The surgeon leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it while the engine is running."