

7 APR 1996

For Six Month Period Ending _____
(Insert date)

Name of Registrant: Aaron D. Cushman & Associates, Inc.
Registration No.: 2572

Business Address of Registrant: 35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60601

I-REGISTRANT

1. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:

- (1) Residence address Yes No
- (2) Citizenship Yes No
- (3) Occupation Yes No

(b) If an organization:

- (1) Name Yes No
- (2) Ownership or control Yes No
- (3) Branch offices Yes No

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2. Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in item 1.

Los Angeles office located at 2029 W. Century Park East closed March 31, 1996.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, and 5.

3. Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date Connection Ended
Elizabeth Wilson	Vice President	3/14/96
Miriam Trokan	Vice President	11/17/95
Steven Knipstein	Vice President	3/15/96

Relax in the splendor of the picturesque, calm Cayman Islands

Just 480 miles south of Miami, the Cayman Islands - Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman - are blessed with magnificent natural beauty and some of the best weather in the world.

Nestled in consistently calm western Caribbean waters, the islands' weather reports rarely change from day to day. Most daily newspapers describe conditions as having "no significant features." The average annual temperature is 80 degrees.

Grand Cayman, the largest island, is the center of trade and government in this tiny British Caribbean nation. In West Bay, the self-guided walking tour leads past traditional wattle-and-daub houses and gingerbread cottages that fill the streets with Caribbean flavor.

The Turtle Farm, the only one of its kind in the world, is home to thousands of turtles, from hatchlings weighing a few ounces to 600-pound adults more than 100 years old. The farm repopulates the waters with sea turtles that covered the shores in 1503 when Columbus discovered the islands and dubbed them "Las Tortugas" (The Turtles).

The road to Hell is also in West Bay. Named after unusual spiky rock formations more than one and a half million years old, Hell boasts gift shops and a post office.

In honor of a swashbuckling past, the peaceful islands celebrate Pirates Week during the last week of October. Cannons, rollicking music and a parade of costumed wenches and buccaneers build up to a mock invasion of George Town Harbour, where rowdy pirates arrest the Governor and his subjects. Underwater photo contests, golf and swim tournaments, treasure hunts and craft fairs offer much to see and do.

The Islands make up one of the top three dive destinations in the world. A flat terrain means no run-off, which

keeps the coral reef healthy and waters clear - with visibility often exceeding 100 feet.

Each of the more than 200 dive sites has its own name and unique characteristic. Glide through Trinity Caves and emerge on the vertical wall vividly decorated with huge sponges. Enter the underwater grotto - Bonnie's Arch - and greet a school of tarpon so large it sways like a giant silver curtain.

The most spectacular display of marine behavior in the Caribbean is found in Stingray City. In 12 feet of water, you can swim with the playful stingrays.

Above water, prevailing winds on Grand Cayman's East End provide near-perfect conditions for cutting through the clear blue waves. Jet and water skiing, parasailing and windsurfing are some of the watersports that await you.

Sail on an elegant glass-bottom catamaran or explore the unforgettable 800-foot sea world on an air-conditioned submarine voyage.

It's easy to work up an appetite. Try some of the freshest seafood you'll ever taste, Cayman-style - lightly sauteed with tomato, onion and pepper. Cayman conch is a Caribbean treat, delicious any way it's prepared.

Another island favorite is turtle steak, always tender and seasoned to perfection. Many visitors say the perfect end to an exquisite meal can be found in a smooth slice of rum cake made, of course, with Cayman Islands rum.

When dinner is done, enjoy the skies at an outdoor bar or be entertained at Harquail Theatre. Or do as many do: Turn in early and rise at dawn to enjoy the quiet Caribbean sunrise. There is no more peaceful way to start the day.

A representative from The Cayman Islands Department of Tourism will be happy to answer questions and provide more information at a special TravelVentures booth.

Deal puts twofer in Palm of your hand

JUNE JUREK

IN FLIGHT *84/50*

USAir and the Palm Beach County Convention and Visitors Bureau are offering a "companion couple at half-price" deal from April 15-Dec. 20.

When a party of two flies to Palm Beach International Airport in Florida aboard USAir, two more passengers can fly for half-price. Each of the first two tickets must cost at least \$200, with a minimum four-night stay, including a Saturday. The offer includes a coupon book with two-for-one and other discounts for scenic cruises, sports, attractions, dining and shopping. Although some blackout dates apply, restrictions are minimal. Call (800) 554-PALM.

Island retreat

Through April 25, the Cayman Islands and USAir vacations are offering two- to 14-night packages to Grand Cayman Island. Packages start at \$574 per person, double occupancy, including round-trip air fare from Boston, choice of hotel accommodations, airport transfers and on-island customer services. Also included are ferry excursions to points of interest and glass-bottom boat rides to Stingray City, where tame stingrays swim freely with snorkelers and divers. Diving excursions are priced separately, and certification is required.

Call (800) 453-0123.

Best-price guarantee

British Airways is introducing an opportunity for travel agents to get the airline's best prices for clients who purchase tickets to England 90 days or more in advance of departure.

The new "All Seasons APEX" fares will shave about \$100 off the current 21-day advance purchase fare. If a lower fare is published for flights and dates of travel already booked via "All Seasons," the airline guarantees a refund of the difference.

See your travel agent.

available or the service will write a check for the difference. Some restrictions apply. Call (800) 359-3727.

In June, American Trans Air will expand seating capacity and increase weekly flights from Logan to Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Orlando, Sarasota, St. Petersburg and West Palm Beach, Fla., as well as Nassau, Bahamas, and Las Vegas. Call (800) 225-2095.

A guide to business centers and clubs in 50 busy airports nationwide is available for business travelers. It lists available services and costs at each airport for conference rooms, faxes, computer and secretarial services, baggage storage, photocopy facilities, currency exchanges, overnight deliveries and notary publics. Copies of Air Travel Card's "Business Travel Airport Directory: A Guide to Airport Business Centers and Airport Clubs" are free while supplies last. Call (800) 222-4688. □

Winging it

Starting Saturday, Myrtle Beach Jet Express will begin daily non-stop jet service from Boston to Myrtle Beach, S.C., with non-refundable fares starting at \$79 each way based on availability. There will be no restrictions. Call (800) 386-2786.

Eastwind Airlines flies round trip to Trenton, N.J. (home of the Red Sox farm team) for \$129-\$169 and to West Palm Beach, Fla., for \$312-\$352. The low-fare jet service requires no tickets or boarding passes. Once a flight is booked, passengers show up at the gate, give a confirmation number or name identification and board the plane. Seating is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Call (800) 644-2392.

Last Minute Discount Travel Specialists says it can save you \$50-\$100 on your next flight. It guarantees that travelers will receive the lowest published fare.

I'm not sure if it is part of their religion, but Rastafarians have some real long hair. I'm talking the kind of hair that goes on and on like a slow train through a dark tunnel. We're talking long hair

... all braided up and sticking up in the air like big sunflowers pointing at the sun. Actually, it was some of the coolest hair I've ever seen on a human being. Shoot, if I had hair I'd put beads in it and make it stand up like that. I asked one young Jamaican girl in the city of Ocho Rios if she'd cornrow my hair and put beads in it and she told me I didn't have enough hair for one bead and half a row.

We listened to the reggae band a while and then went on a tour of a sugar cane and coconut plantation. They rode us all around the plantation in the back of a big mule cart that was pulled through the jungle by a Ford tractor.

One of the cadets who studied at the university beside the plantation climbed up a coconut tree by sliding up with just his hands and bare feet. It was quite a sight. When he came down, he split open the coconut and offered me chunk. Now normally, I don't care much for coconut, but I figured since I'd come all the way to Jamaica from Davidson County, the least I could do was try the coconut he'd climbed all the way up a tree to get. It tasted a whole lot like the coconut we buy around here. I gave mine to my wife when he wasn't looking.

We sailed from Jamaica to Grand Cayman Island, which is famous for its Seven Mile Beach and its world famous rum cake. We sampled both and bought a few things for the kids in Grand Cayman.

The final stop was in Cozumel, an island off the Yucatan Peninsula. Here, we visited Mayan ruins and experienced a tropical rainstorm. The wind blew so hard taxis were moving down the street sideways.

I'll leave you with what our waiter Zladka did for us on our last evening aboard ship. He set our dessert on fire. Flaming Babalou, he called it. He brought it to our table, set it before me, and said, "Some nice Flaming Babalou for you Mr. Gee Soup." I told him I thought Flaming Babalou was what the fit was called when Ricky got made at Lucy for wanting to be in his show down at the club. Boys, you haven't lived until you've eaten a dessert that is still smoking.

Dr. Lee Jessup is director of development for United Church Retirement Homes.

RAMBLINGS

Cruise provides diverse encounters



LEE
JESSUP

8459
One last column about the 25th anniversary cruise to the Caribbean my wife and I took a couple of weeks ago and I promise to climb down out of this palm tree of pompousness I've climbed up into.

Following a day of snorkeling and making excuses about how and

why I lost my mask and flippers, we set sail for the resplendent island of Jamaica, which is located a couple hundred miles south of Cuba.

Jamaica is a different kind of country, sort of wild and wide open, and yet everyone moves at a much slower pace than we do even in the South. When we arrived in Jamaica, we were met by a reggae band playing an eerie version of that old Janis Joplin standard "O Lord, Won't You Buy Me A Mercedes Benz," which is in and of itself walking on the psychotic side of life if you ask me.

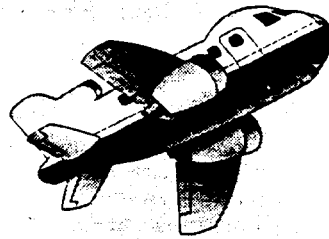
The lead singer for the band was, I found out by asking one of our crew members, a Rastafarian. Now boys, if you'd ever seen a Rastafarian, you'd have remembered it. A Rastafarian is a Jamaican dude who for whatever reason has embraced the rather curious religious conviction that states that the former emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Salassee, is God. Now I remember Haile Salassee, and he was a fine-looking potentate who wore some real nice white hats and all but proper headware does not make a man a god.

Tours & tips *8459*

■ **GRANDPARENTS' HOUSEPARTY** in Britain or Ireland from \$3,494 for a family of six — grandparents, their children and grandchildren, includes roundtrip air for all and use of three-bedroom cottage and minivan for one week. Extra person (up to 14 more, sharing a mansion) from \$549, including air; extra children under 12, from \$449; under 2, from \$98. Stay in the Lake District, where Peter Rabbit hopped; or near the woods of East Sussex, where Winnie-the-Pooh and his gang roamed. Grandparents must come; parents may. Call Country Cottages, (800) 674-8883.

■ **MARRIOTT TWO FOR BREAKFAST** weekend escape for the winter-weary, through May 19, \$69 per night Thursday through Sunday at more than 180 Marriott hotels, (daily at resorts and suites). Rate includes breakfast in restaurant or room service, 25 percent dinner discount for two in restaurant or room service, and 4 p.m. Sunday 'sleeps-in' check-out. (800) USA-WKND.

■ **OURS INN HANKYU**, minutes from Shinjuku station in the south of Tokyo, has 801 air-conditioned single rooms for 5,000 yen (about \$50) with color TV, alarm clock, toilet and washbasin. Top floor, overlooking all Tokyo; has two enormous communal baths — one for men,



one for women. Reservations: (03) 3775-6121; information: (212) 757-5640.

■ **TREASURE ISLAND Resort, Grand Cayman**, offers The Island Experience package, through April 8: \$555 per person/double occupancy, includes four-nights' lodgings; either one-day jeep rental or undersea journey aboard Atlantis Submarine; admission to Cayman Turtle Farm and to the National Museum; snorkel trip to Stingray City, transfers, breakfast, T-shirt and use of tennis courts. Airfare not included. (800) 203-0775.

■ **COSTA CRUISES and Perillo Tours** offer six-night land package to Italy and seven-night cruise aboard the CostaClassica to the Greek Islands, May 14-Oct. 22. Starting at \$3,259 per person/double occupancy, includes roundtrip air on TWA, two-night stay in Rome, three nights in Florence; stops in Bologna and Padua; land tours, breakfast and dinner. Board ship in Venice for cruise to Greek ports, includes all shipboard meals and entertainment. Overnight stay in Milan pre-return. (800) 431-1515.

FILM CLIPS / 'Valvano' takes downtown

Cole has better luck with 'Brady' perm

Gothic fans, unite! CBS yanked the show again this week after a failed attempt to boost ratings in a 10 p.m. Wednesday time slot. Don't worry, CBS said it eventually will air the rest of *American Gothic's* 22 episodes, or as one CBS spokesman said, "we'll burn them off." CBS will announce in May if *Gothic* gets to try again next season, but let's face the sad truth, folks. Sheriff Buck's days are numbered.

The sheriff left his post earlier this month and moved on to something bigger: *The Brady Bunch Movie II*, filming in L.A. Crews reworked *Gothic's* schedule so they could shoot all of Gary Cole's scenes before he left.

"We love Gary. We wanted to be able to get him to the movie," said *Gothic* publicist Neil Schubert. Yeah, Mr. Cole probably wanted to get to it, too. He looks so much better with the perm.

Gothic will wrap production for the season — and likely for good — in about two weeks.

Sorry, Andre. Your gal, Brooke Shields, is running off to the Cayman Islands with Rip Torn. At least that's what's up in a scene of *The Almost Perfect Bank Robbery*, a CBS movie filming here

Maile CARPENTER

this month.

Lucile McIntyre, a drama teacher at Hoggar High School, plays a travel agent in the scene, an agent who has no idea that her clients robbed a bank to finance their travels.

"I stay clueless," said Ms. McIntyre.

Crews for *The Jim Valvano Story* took over downtown last weekend, consuming Front Street for most of the day. Lucky for them, local traffic was dead. Unlucky for them, it was cold enough out there to freeze your face off. Later, they warmed up shooting a scene in The Front Street Brewery.

The Jim Valvano Story was shooting Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce, 505 Nutt St., home of our film commission. Guess the folks who bring all these shows to town got their own taste of movie madness when crews rolled in. They used

the chamber to shoot scenes of Jim Valvano's N.C. State University office.

TV movies slap on a new name all the time, so the film commission is trying its own, new and improved title. Now, the commission is calling itself "The Wilmington Regional Film Commission." That's the official way of saying that film commissioner Mark Stricklin can cover a lot of territory when he shows our stuff to potential movie makers. The area includes Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke, New Hanover, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland counties.

Wilmington's new casting company, Music City Casting, has been hired to cast television roles for Speer Communications, a division of Warner Brothers known as the founder of the Home Shopping Network. Send headshots to 1901 Kent St. Suite C, Wilmington, N.C. 28403-2311.

Maile Carpenter writes for the Morning Star and Sunday Star-News. Send tips, ideas, complaints to her at 343-2208 or write to her at Morning Star, P.O. Box 840, Wilmington, N.C. 28402.

MAKING CONTACT 8459 travel

Caribbean tourist offices

- Anguilla Tourist Information Office,** c/o Medhurst & Associates, 775 Park Ave., Suite 105, Huntington, N.Y. 11743; (800) 553-4939.
- Antigua, Barbuda:** Antigua and Barbuda Tourist Office, 25 SE 2nd Ave., Suite 300, Miami, Fla. 33131; (305) 381-6762.
- Aruba:** Aruba Tourism Authority, 2344 Salzedo St., Coral Gables, Fla. 33134; (305) 567-2720 or (800) TO-ARUBA.
- Bahamas:** Bahamas Tourist Office, 19495 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 809, Aventura, Fla. 33180; (305) 932-0051
- Barbados:** Barbados Board of Tourism, 800 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017; (800) 221-9831.
- Belize:** Belize Tourist Board, 421 Seventh Ave., No. 1110, New York, N.Y. 10001; (800) 624-0686.
- Bonaire:** Bonaire Government Tourist Information Office, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 9000, New York, N.Y. 10020; (800) 826-6247 or (212) 956-5911.
- British Virgin Islands:** British Virgin Islands Tourism Board, 370 Lexington Ave., Suite 313, New York, N.Y. 10017; (800) 835-8530.
- Cayman Islands:** Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, 6100 Blue Lagoon Dr., #150, Miami, Fla. 33126; (305) 266-2300.
- Curacao:** Curacao Tourist Board, 330 Biscayne Blvd., Suite 808, Miami, Fla. 33132; (800) 445-8266, (305) 374-5814.
- Dominica, Grenadines, Haiti, St. Vincent, Venezuela:** Caribbean Tourist Organization, 20 E. 46th St., Suite 400, New York, N.Y. 10017; (212) 682-0435.
- Dominican Republic:** Dominican Republic Tourist Office, 2355 Salzedo St., Suite 307, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134; (305) 444-4592.
- Grenada:** Grenada Tourist Office, 820 Second Ave., Suite 900-D, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 687-9554 or (800) 927-9554.
- Guadeloupe, St. Bartholomy and St. Martin:** French West Indies Tourist Board, 610 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020. For information, a toll number: (900) 990-0040.
- Jamaica:** Jamaica Tourist Board, 1320 S. Dixie Hwy., Suite 1100, Coral Gables, Fla. 33146; (305) 665-0557.
- Martinique:** Martinique Promotion Bureau, 444 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022; (800) 391-4909.
- Montserrat:** Montserrat Tourist Board, c/o Medhurst & Associates, 775 Park Ave., Huntington, N.Y. 11743; (516) 425-0901.
- Puerto Rico:** Puerto Rico Tourism Company, 901 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 604, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134; (305) 445-9112 or (800) 815-7391.
- Saba:** Saba Tourist Office, P.O. Box 6322, Boca Raton, Fla. 33427-6322; (800) 722-2394 or (407) 394-8580.
- St. Eustatius:** Medhurst and Associates Inc., 775 Park Ave., Huntington, N.Y. 11743; (516) 425-0900.
- St. Kitts, Nevis:** St. Kitts and Nevis Dept. of Tourism, 414 E. 75th St., New York, N.Y., 10021; (800) 582-6208 or (212) 535-1234.
- St. Lucia:** St. Lucia Tourist Board, 820 Second Ave., Suite 900-E, New York, N.Y. 10017; (212) 867-2950.
- St. Maarten:** St. Maarten Tourist Board, 675 3rd Ave., Suite 1806, New York, N.Y. 10017; (212) 953-2084.
- St. Martin:** St. Martin Tourist Office, c/o Marketing Challenges International, 10 E. 21st St., New York, N.Y. 10010; (212) 529-8484.
- St. Vincent:** St. Vincent and The Grenadines Tourist Office, 801 Second Ave., 21st Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017; (800) 729-1726.
- Trinidad, Tobago:** Trinidad and Tobago Consulate, 733 3rd Ave., Suite 1716, New York, N.Y. 10017-3204; (212) 682-7272.
- U.S. Virgin Islands:** U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Tourism, 2655 Le Jeune Rd., Suite 907, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134; 442-7200.

Underwater Adventure

3/15 by Jenny Davis, NF

With only 11ell Weekend and three mid-terns separating the September class from their hard-earned Spring Break, many students have already begun to plan their vacations. Though I've heard a few runblings about ski trips and golf bonanzas, most people seem to be setting their sites on the warm waters of the Caribbean. And the outdoor activity at the top of the list (besides vegging out on the beach) is scuba diving. Its warm clear waters, abundance of sea life, and variety of underwater terrain make the Caribbean one of the finest diving destinations in the world. Legends like Jacques Cousteau and James Bond have shown us the beauty of these waters on screen; HBSers are now ready to experience them firsthand.

Before plunging into the great below-first-time divers will need some professional instruction in the techniques and safety measures of scuba. The two best options for this are resort courses or full certification. Resort courses (so called because most of the big resorts in the Caribbean offer them) will teach beginners the fundamentals of scuba in one day. The morning is spent getting familiar with the equipment and practicing in the pool. The afternoon features an ocean dive with the instructor, either right off the hotel's beach or from a boat. Resort courses run about \$100 and do not qualify you to dive on your own.

To win your underwater freedom, you need to become certified through more extensive training. A full certification course involves classroom work, pool training, and

open water (ocean) dives, all of which take 3-5 days. However, if you don't want to spend your Spring Break in a classroom, you could do all of the classroom and pool work in Boston and leave only the open water dives for the Caribbean. The HHS Outdoors Club has arranged a great deal with a local dive shop - only \$130 vs. normal rates of \$225 - for the up-front training (if you're interested, contact Adriana Sanchez, ND). Once you've received your certification, you can head out to some of the most exciting dives in the Caribbean on your own.

Perhaps the most popular Caribbean diving destination is the Cayman Islands. Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac form the trio which makes up this island group. Grand Cayman is the largest and most developed of the islands, with more than enough dive shops to meet any diving need. The coral reefs encircling the island teem with tropical marine life and also offer some spectacular wall dives. A unique Grand Cayman experience is a dive with the stingrays in the shallows of North Sound. There you can hand feed these dangerous creatures, but be sure not to entangle them—they do sport pretty nasty barbs. For less crowded diving conditions you should head over to the smaller Caymans. The Bloody Bay Wall dive off of Cayman Brac has been rated as one of the top ten dive sites worldwide. Sea Fan Wall and Butterfly Reef off of Little Cayman are also worth the time.

The water temperature around the Caymans is usually 80° F with visibility of 80 to 200 feet.

Bonaire, a small island off the Venezuelan coast near Aruba, is another divers' paradise. With one of the richest reef communities in the West Indies, Bonaire formed the Bonaire Marine Park to protect its coral-reef ecosystem. Divers can enjoy plunging walls (some of which drop 130 feet underwater), unique coral formations, and varied marine life in crystal clear, warm waters. You can choose from over 40 dive sites on the leeward side of the island where the ocean is relatively calm. A site worth visiting is the wreck of "The Hooker," a drug-running vessel which sank off the coast in 1984, plus there are several other interesting shipwrecks in the area. Night diving is especially good in Bonaire and can be arranged through almost any of the dive companies. Water temperatures stay above 80° F year-round with 90-125 foot visibility.

One of the most offbeat diving experiences available in the Caribbean is a visit to the RMS Rhone, a 310 foot steel-hulled steamship which sank off the coast of Tortola (British Virgin Islands) in 1867. During this two tank dive, rated by Skin Diver as "the world's most fantastic shipwreck dive," you will spend time either at the bow of the sunken ship (a depth of 80 feet) or the stern (20 feet). In either case, you will combine exploring the wreckage with viewing the colorful coral formations and marine life which populate its surfaces. To get a sneak preview of your adventure, check out the film *The Deep*, which features the wreck in many of its underwater shots.

For people (like me) who want to see some marine life but do not do the full scuba thing, the Caribbean also offers fantastic snorkeling locations. Buck Island off the coast of St. Croix (USVI) has two underwater snorkeling trails maintained by the National Park Service. Informational signs under the water tell you what you're looking at as you float lazily on the surface of the ocean. Nearby St. John also features spectacular corals with an abundance of marine life within easy swimming distance of its white sand beaches. However, the best snorkeling waters are to be found near Curacao, the island in between Bonaire and Aruba. The Curacao Underwater Park, stretching 12-1/2 miles along the island's southern coastline, encompasses some of the brightest and most diverse marine life in the Caribbean and is well worth a visit.

Even if you don't want to get wet at all, you can still take a peek beneath the Caribbean waters by taking a submarine dive. Grand Cayman's Atlantis offers tourists the widest range of possibilities. The Reef Express dives go down to about 100 feet and explore the coral gardens surrounding the island. Deep sea divers take passengers past the Cayman Wall, the near vertical side wall of the mountain which forms Grand Cayman. During the 800-foot descent you will see how sea life changes at different depths and also visit the wreck of the Kirk Pride, a sunken cargo ship. Dives run both day and night and range in price from \$35-255. Another great submarine experience can be found on the island of Barbados.

Though the destinations I've described above are some of the best in the Caribbean, all of the islands offer scuba and snorkeling opportunities. Most hotels have water activities coordinators who will arrange courses or excursions for you, and local dive shops are another resource for planning underwater outings. So if you're sick of thinking about Finance and BQIE, start thinking about where to head this Spring Break. Believe me, it's much more fun.

FEB 7 1996

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We just had to wait to see what Punxatawney Phil's prediction would be before we started this column. Now we all know Friday was a gloomy, cloudy day filled with snow clouds and what did that old groundhog see? His shadow! (television camera lights, perhaps?) and the prediction of six more weeks of winter. No way!

We never could put much faith in an animal whose only seeming purpose in life around here was to destroy our summer tomato crop.

But it does remind us of the pet groundhog we once had. Yep, old "Wootsie" would burrow under our old coal cellar in the winter and came waddling up the driveway in early spring. Unfortunately, one day "Wootsie" wandered too close to a hunt-

ing dog's pen...

Welcome home to Emy Brezinski, president of the Concord Township Senior Citizens Club, who just returned from a family vacation to the Cayman Islands. You can bet she wasn't worrying about us folks and our cold weather woes up here.

Spring things will soon be happening at Elam United Methodist Church on Smithbridge Road in Concord. March 15 and 16 is their Children's Turn-around Sale, when you can get terrific bargains in hardy-used children's clothing for just pennies. Watch for further information.

You don't have to wait until Spring, you know to call Ferguson and Flynn at 388-3450 to discuss that remodeling job, big or small, you have been wanting to have done. These guys have 20 years' experience and will be glad to give you an estimate on basement finishing, a new deck, any renovation you want done.

At The Elam Love and Learn Center, grandparents of nursery school students enrolled there will be spending the day with their favorite grandchild. Director Kathy Ferrier said these special grandparents will be teaching these wee folks some crafts, in addition to sharing their love.

And don't forget, you only have five more days (til Feb. 11) to sign up for the \$25 "sweetheart" drawing at the Tattered Bookseller on Baltimore Pike, four doors from the Concordville Pharmacy. Look for the heart display in the store to register.

And if you really want to surprise your honey with a personal valentine, why not take advantage of the free photo enlargement offered by Best Photos Color Lab, with the processing of a roll of 35mm film. Best is right next to Lima Post Office on Route 452. Or you can get 50 per cent off color printing processing for 4X6 prints. Whatta deal! Call Peter or John 566-7332 for their professional help.

Thorbury Thoughts
Thorbury resident Bill Lovejoy, who handles pub-

lic relations for Delaware County was all over the national news this past week during the John du Pont siege in Newtown Square. Bill handled it all with his usual ease and grace.

The Thornton Post Office has that bulletin board all ready for the names and addresses of those service people you would like to see receive some welcome mail. And those lights are still in the window. We hear a copy of the *Thorbury Press* went to some service personnel showing them photos of the mountains of snow we had last month.

This is a column just for you readers out there and we'd love to hear your good news about anything. Please call us at 485-6428 to share your thoughts and ideas.

be glad to give you an estimate on basement remodeling, a new deck or any renovation you want done.

We took a peek at the Line Dancing classes this week in the Concord Elementary sponsored by the Garnet Valley Education Program and found 40 pairs of legs tapping toes, twirling and just plain moving! Even the few guys there seemed to know what they were doing under the direction of "Roberto." Regular adult education classes begin March 19. See today's ad for details and where you can pickup a brochure.

Toys for Tots this year seemed to benefit from all angles. The Dragon Gym students in West Chester went all out to support the drive for the Alfred I. du Pont Children's Hospital in Wilmington, Del. Martial Arts, says Instructor and Manager George Heath, begins within, learning to be loving, caring and compassionate of others. Congratulations all you martial artists, for demonstrating what you have learned.

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Agents Embark On A "Global Adventure" At Sunquest Vacations Launch

Sunquest Vacations recently launched its "Global Adventures" program with a trade show and presentation in Toronto. Pictured here are Sheryl Koni (l) of El Al, Irael Avines and Joy Brennen of Albion Tours.



All smiles are Jeff Israel (l) of Canaca 3000 and Giles Nguyen, director of Silver Star Travel in North York, Ont.



The Northern Ireland Tourist Board was well represented at the Sunquest show. On hand are Lisa McMurray (l) and Alison Metcalfe, manager for Canada.



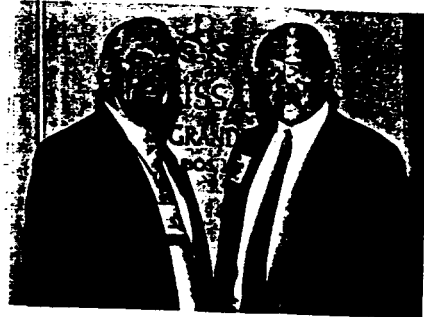
Grabbing a quick bite to eat are Paul Mourmas (l) and Katerina Harakibidi of the Greek National Tourist Organization.



IRISH TOURIST BOARD



Displaying the luck of the Irish are (l-r) Eddie Carroll, Sunquest's



Seen on the floor from top to bottom, at CHA '96 are:

San B. Smith, the Canadian manager of the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, chats with Erinque Hernandez, regional director marketing and sales Latin America, Caribbean for Renaissance Hotels International.

Canadians Mount Strong Presence At This Year's CHA Show In Cancun



This year's Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) Marketplace was held in Cancun, Mexico. The annual event attracted more than 1,700 participants. Hoteliers from throughout the Caribbean, as well as from Bermuda and the Bahamas took part in the show. Buyers from around the world had a chance to talk with the suppliers manning the 387 booths. In all, 49 Canadians attended the 1996 CHA show.

Conquest Tours' Len Nathan shares a joke with Steve Maestre, managing director of the Fort George Hotel in Belize City, Belize.



Susan Williams of Club Rookley in Barbados is ready to negotiate with Regent Holidays' vice-president product, Bob Sutherland.



Jerry Reid, director of sales for the Radisson Cable Beach Casino and Golf Resort, spends a few moments looking at Holiday House's brochure as Craig Carvin, director of Holiday House looks on.



8459
**GRAND CAYMAN: Cayman I.,
USAir Vacations offer '96 pkgs**

The Cayman Islands and USAir Vacations have teamed up to offer value packages to Grand Cayman in 1996. Prices start at \$574 (p.p.d.o.) for two nights, through April 25.

"The USAir Vacations packages make the Cayman Islands a very affordable warm-weather destination this winter. Visitors to Grand Cayman will find comfortable accommodations, dining options for every budget, and outdoor activities, which range from lounging on the white sands of spectacular Seven Mile Beach to strolling through the verdant Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park," says Hon. **Thomas Jefferson**, *minister of tourism, aviation and commerce*.

Available for two to 14 nights, the packages include roundtrip air on USAir; choice of hotel accommodations; transfers; on-island customer services; and value-added excursions, such as ferry rides to Rum Point and glass-bottom-boat rides to Stingray City, where tame stingrays swim freely with snorkelers and divers. In addition, discounts on sunset sails, snorkeling and shopping are included through Big Value Coupons.

"At USAir Vacations, we seek out the best attractions a destination has to offer and include them in our packages," says **Kevin Froemming**, *executive vice president and general manager* of USAir Vacations. "These value-added features, like the Stingray City inclusion, are offered at no additional cost to the customer."

Travelers have their choice of eight properties: *Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, Westin Casuarina Resort, Treasure Island Resort, Radisson Resort Grand Cayman, Holiday Inn Grand Cayman, Sunset House, Sleep Inn and Cayman Islander*.

Diving excursions, offered through **Parrots Landing Boat Dives**, are available for \$120 per person for two days, which includes two tanks daily, weights, and belts.

For more information, contact: USAIR VACATIONS, 800/455-0123. □

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Scuba Class Pays off During a Mexican Shark Dive!



Cayman

DISCOVER THE Cayman Islands

World Class Diving with First Class Service!

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

The diving in the Cayman Islands is so incredibly good that people come from all corners of the world to experience the beauty and thrills of this remarkable place. That is why the Caymans are so often described as having "world class diving." On any given day, you are likely to meet visiting scuba divers from France, Italy, Australia, the U.K., Japan, Germany or Canada. All have heard the wonderful stories of Stingray City, Molly the Manta, the North Wall or Bloody Bay Wall—and have come to see these stellar attractions for themselves.

Super clear visibility, warm water, healthy reefs, lush coral gardens, breathtaking vertical walls, shipwrecks, exciting marine life encounters, coral caves, tunnels and canyons are all part of the irresistible lure of the Cayman Islands. Few places on earth offer so much in such a compact area.

Why the Cayman Islands? These tiny Caribbean islands are a miracle of nature—sort of the Mount Everest of a tropical undersea world. The three tiny islands are actually the peaks of a submerged mountain known as the Cayman Ridge. It rises more than six miles from the ocean floor. Just a few miles south of the islands is the Cayman Trench, the deepest part of the Caribbean Sea—it is 24,720 feet beneath the surface!

In the center of the Western Caribbean, the Cayman Islands are surrounded by hundreds of miles of open ocean—untainted by industrial pollution or agricultural pesticides. The three islands are relatively flat and have no silt producing rivers. Instead, the island's quiet bays are filled with mangroves that provide a breeding area and safety zone for the beginning of life's food chain.

As a result of this unique combination, the Cayman Islands are surrounded by healthy, bountiful reefs and vertical walls that are cleansed and fed by oceanic currents. The great undersea mountain is a beacon for marine life—attracting pelagics and reef fish alike. Every dive is an adventure, for you are likely to encounter elegant Eagle Rays, stately Tarpon, great schools of jacks, friendly stingrays, gregarious

Doe Polson wreck, Grand Cayman

Skyriders' parasailing, Seven Mile Beach

Silversides in cave, Little Cayman

Purplemouth Moray, North Wall, Grand Cayman

Striped Grouper, Cayman Brac

Molly the Manta, Little Cayman



Stingray City, Grand Cayman



Angelfish Reef, Grand Cayman



Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman



Cayman Islands

dards for guides, boat operation and scuba safety. Almost every operator has a cadre of certified scuba instructors to operate the boats and serve as divemasters.

The keen competition between dive operators has elevated both the facilities and services to the highest possible level. Each operator strives to do a better job than his competitors—especially in the area of personalized service and friendly attitudes among the divemasters.

The dive boats of the Cayman Islands are some of the finest in the world. Many of them were specifically designed and built for diving. All of the boats are rigged with roofs for sun protection, vertical tank racks, dive platforms and ladders. Many of the boats also have freshwater showers and dip tanks for cameras and video housings. The size of these craft ranges from 23 feet to 65, depending on design and capacity. All of the boats are equipped with VHF radios, emergency oxygen and first aid kits.

One of the nice things about the Cayman Islands is the shortness of boat rides to the dive sites. Most trips range from 5 to 25 minutes. There are two reasons for this: the boats are very fast and most sites are close to the beach or dock.

Since much of the Cayman Islands' economy is dependent on the health and quality of its coral reefs, this island community has taken serious steps to protect and preserve its reefs. The government has established a Marine Park and laws governing the protection of its fish, seashells, corals, lobsters and other life.

Nearly 250 moorings have been placed at the popular sites in an effort to protect fragile coral reefs from anchor damage. Divemasters urge visitors to take special care not to damage the coral.

Wide Choice of Accommodations

The Cayman Islands offer an incredible selection of accommodations. There are more than 23 hotels and 50 condos and guesthouses. Facilities range from economy to world class super deluxe.

There is a hotel to suit just about everyone's needs and pocketbook. Economy hotels are budget priced and usually off the beach. There are large luxury beachfront hotels right on Seven Mile Beach. Dedicated dive resorts are at the water's edge, complete with boat docks and shorefront diving. Most of the hotels are air-conditioned and many offer satellite TV and telephones in the guestrooms.

The hotels are only half the story.

Cayman Islands

groupers, attentive morays, adorable angelfish and 100 other species.

Now, you might think that high quality diving means a remote location with limited services. The Cayman Islands, however, have become a tropical tourist Mecca with first class service in every category—hotels, dining, shopping, watersports and, of course, scuba services.

The Cayman Islands are only 480 miles south of Miami. Flight time is approximately one hour. This makes it easy to complete the journey in a single day, no matter where you live in the U.S. or Canada.

Airline service to the Cayman Islands is probably the best in the Caribbean. Five major airlines now offer nonstop jet service to Grand Cayman from the continental U.S.

Cayman Airways is the official flag carrier of the Cayman Islands and the airline that offers the greatest number of flights between Miami and Grand Cayman. These multiple flights make it easy to book convenient connecting flights from other parts of the U.S. Cayman Airways also flies to neighboring Cayman Brac.

Much of the inter-island flight service is offered by Island Air. This airline company utilizes small propeller type commuter aircraft to fly between Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

Even though the Cayman Islands are technically a foreign country, entry through Customs and Immigration is very easy. If you are a U.S. citizen, you don't need a passport; proof of U.S. citizenship (birth certificate or voter's registration card) will do just as well. You will be given an immigration entry form at the airline check-in counter or while enroute to the island. Take a few minutes to fill out this card. When you step up to the immigrations booth, present the filled out form plus your return airline ticket and proof of citizenship.

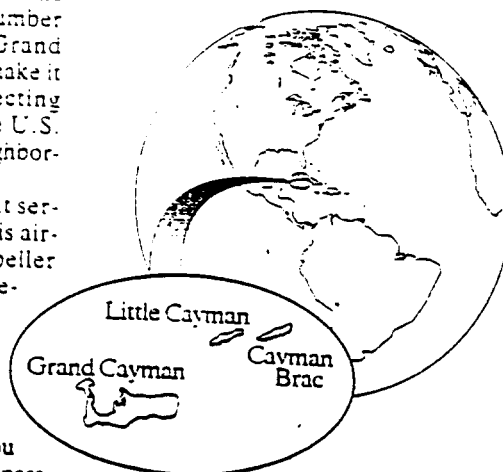
First time visitors are delighted to find that everyone speaks English. Because the Cayman Islands are a British colony, English is the primary language spoken and taught in school. Residents have a 98 percent literacy level and just about everyone is well informed about American sports, politics, music and movies. Satellite TV receivers have become a standard home appliance and everyone watches CNN.

The Cayman Islands continue to be the diver's number one choice because of their people. Caymanians enjoy making new friends and talking about their island. They are very proud of their heritage and have worked hard to make their economy one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean. Caymanians also have a wonderful sense of humor.

The most delightful thing about Caymanians is their attitude toward divers—they love them. Caymanians are a seafaring society—they love boats, fishing and all aspects of watersports. Many local Caymanians also dive and thus share a passion for the reefs and marine life.

The Cayman Islands are blessed with some of the finest weather in the Western Hemisphere. Sufficiently distant from the North American continent, they are not subjected to the turbulence of winter storms. The surrounding Caribbean ocean is a stabilizing force that maintains an even and constant balmy climate. Winter temperatures range from 70 to 80°F. Summer temperatures run from 80 to 90°F.

The Cayman Islands have installed a



modern telephone system that enables visitors to call anywhere among the three islands or put through an international call to almost anywhere. There is also direct dialing into all three islands from the U.S., Canada, U.K. and Europe. From the U.S. you can dial without going through an operator.

Although the Cayman Islands have their own currency system (C.I. dollars), you will find U.S. dollars and credit cards accepted everywhere.

First Class Dive Services

Because diving is such an important part of the islands' industry, it has become well organized and well run. Diving operators have formed their own association known as CIWOA—Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association. They have set high stan-

Cayman Islands

dards for guides, boat operation and scuba safety. Almost every operator has a cadre of certified scuba instructors to operate the boats and serve as divemasters.

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The hotels are only half the story.

Cayman Islands

There are condominium complexes that offer rental vacation villas of various sizes and configurations—one, two, three and four bedroom units. Many are right on the beach or shoreline. Vacation condos are especially appealing to families or small groups vacationing together.

Luxury Live-aboards

For those seeking the maximum dives per day and the convenience of having the dive sites beneath their bunks, the Cayman Islands offer two premier live-aboard dive boats.

The *Cayman Aggressor III* is a spacious 110 foot vessel that can carry up to 18 divers in fully air-conditioned cabins. Based in Grand Cayman, it departs weekly for six day cruises around Grand Cayman and neighboring Little Cayman. Weather permitting, the *Aggressor* makes the 73 mile crossing between the two islands during the night so guests won't miss any dives.

The *Little Cayman Diver II* is a 90 foot vessel that can accommodate up to ten divers in equally spacious air-conditioned cabins. Based in Cayman Brac, this vessel makes the short ten mile trip to neighboring Little Cayman and spends most of the week diving the walls and reefs off either the north or south sides—depending on wind direction.

Three Islands/Three Worlds

Although Grand Cayman is a compelling attraction in itself, it has two lovely sisters—Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Only 80 to 90 miles away, the short distance between the islands and inter-island air service make it possible for visitors to dive all three on the same trip.

Three islands—three choices. Which island is right for you? Each of the three Cayman Islands is distinctly different, offering a special island ambience, a slightly different diving routine and often distinctly different underwater attractions.

If you only have one week to spend diving, which would you choose? The answer to that question depends largely on your personal preferences. The trick here is selecting the right island to match your vacation dreams.

Grand Cayman

If you're the type of diver who seeks an all-star vacation with lots of excitement, recreational activities and night life, Grand Cayman is hard to beat. This island is a whirlwind of fun activities—

Cayman Islands

mostly outdoors because of the perpetually good weather.

Seven Mile Beach, on the island's west side, is the focal point of many activities. This wide strand of powder white sand is a magnet for sunbathers, swimmers and watersport lovers. You can rent Hobie Cats, Sunfish, waverunners, sailboards or one-half dozen other water toys. If you are feeling adventurous, you might wish to try the Skyriders parasail that cruises offshore, running parallel to the beach.

For the less athletically inclined, there are numerous spectator type activities. You can take a sunset sail on one of the many catamarans that ply the waters of Seven Mile Beach and North Sound. There are also daytime snorkel/picnic cruises and evening dinner cruises.

Back on shore, there are many island tours available for those who wish to know a little bit more about Grand Cayman and its history. You can visit the Turtle Farm, where they raise live turtles of many species, and tour the museum, which provides a complete natural history of this fascinating reptile.

One of the most unique rides offered is a trip aboard the *Atlantis*. This vessel takes passengers down to 120 feet while they view the reef through giant portholes. And, for the more adventurous, there are deep dives to 800 feet aboard a deep submersible, which carries two passengers plus a pilot.

When it comes to diving services, Grand Cayman offers the greatest selection in the world. No other island has so many different dive operators offering so many different kinds of experiences—Grand Cayman is a candy store for divers!

Several dedicated resorts have in-house dive operations and cater mostly to their own guests. There is also a handful of large independent dive operations, with large boat fleets, that have facilities at major resort hotels as well as their own independent shops.

Grand Cayman offers the greatest selection of shore diving facilities. Unique to Grand Cayman, these centers are at the water's edge and specialize in scuba training and shore diving. Healthy, live coral reefs lie 20 to 60 yards offshore—loaded with fish in visibility of 60 to 100 feet. Shore diving is an inexpensive supplement to daily boat trips.

WALL DIVING: Because of its shape and size, Grand Cayman offers three times more diving area than either of its

two sisters. An estimated 60 miles of drop-offs form a ring that encircles the island. There is plenty of room for divers to spread out along the many miles of reefs.

The West Wall offers the most convenient opportunity for wall diving because much of it is directly off Seven Mile Beach and close to the major beachfront hotels. Travel time to the best dive sites ranges from 5 to 20 minutes—a comparatively short boat trip for the quality of the diving available.

The West Wall also offers consistently good diving and calm seas because it lies in the protected lee of the island. The Caribbean trade winds generally blow from the north and northeast, which means the West Wall is flat calm 95 percent of the year.

The North Wall is traditionally a favorite for summer diving when the trade winds cease and the area becomes calm. This is when the North Wall is at its finest. More and more Grand Cayman dive boats are now making year-round excursions, operating out of North Sound rather than coming around Northwest Point. The North Wall offers an incredible array of wall dives that are nothing short of spectacular. This region is where you encounter the greatest number of Eagle Rays, schools of Horse-eye Jacks and an occasional shark. At several sites you'll find schools of Tarpon, giant stingrays dozing in the sand and awesome coral formations.

The South Wall is another vast stretch of vertical walls and the least explored area of Grand Cayman. It has traditionally been used as a favorite winter dive area when the winds are coming from the north. Exploration of the South Wall has already revealed many spectacular formations that are causing divers to come back to Grand Cayman three and four times. Monster coral pinnacle formations rise straight up from sandchutes like office buildings.

The East End of Grand Cayman is a giant horseshoe shaped barrier reef that reaches out into the open sea. Just beyond the barrier is a vertical wall that curves around the island—covering 15 miles of spectacular coral formations and majestic marine life. It is the undiscovered region of Grand Cayman.

The East End is regarded as a wild and woolly diving adventure. The seas are rougher because of the prevailing wind but the sites are phenomenal. Marine growth seems larger and more robust because of the oceanic currents that bring a constant supply of nutrients. It is here you find the most striking red sponges—there are many different hues, ranging from crimson to strawberry to pink or orange.

SHALLOW REEFS AND CAVERNS: The Cayman Islands are by no means limited

Cayman Islands

to wall diving but the magnificence of their walls tends to overshadow the extraordinary quality of their shallow reefs. All three Cayman Islands offer excellent shallow reef diving with depths ranging from 20 to 50 feet.

It is on these shallow reefs that visitors encounter the greatest numbers of fish—schools of grunts, Goattish, snappers and Horse-eye Jacks.

SHORE DIVING: Another wonderful asset of the Cayman Islands is the extraordinarily high quality shore diving available to visitors who want to make a few extra dives after the boat trip. These shore diving reefs are blessed with healthy coral life and loads of friendly fish. At many places around Grand Cayman there are shallow reefs (20 to 70 feet) that can be reached from shore.

CORAL CAVERNS: Many coral caverns and tunnels honeycomb certain shallow reef systems. Although a dive light is recommended, these shallow coral caves and tunnels are considered quite safe since sunlight illuminates most of them via cracks and holes in the ceilings. The caverns and tunnels are favorite hiding places for giant schools of Silversides trying to escape their natural predators. They are favorite haunts for giant Tarpon, Nassau Groupers, Tiger Groupers and Bar Jacks—all feeding on the Silversides.

WRECK DIVING: The Cayman Islands have their share of shipwrecks. At last count there were at least ten within safe diving depths—most of them marked by moorings. These wreck sites are a source of great enjoyment for visiting divers since the sunken hulks attract a large community of fish—much of it very friendly. Grand Cayman has the largest share of sunken wrecks—six—most of them on the West Side.

UNDERSEA WILDLIFE: While the Cayman Islands are blessed with an immense variety of undersea attractions, the most exciting and compelling reason to visit these wonderful islands is the remarkable concentration of wildlife. The following are just a few examples of the attractions you can enjoy:

DANCING STINGRAYS: On the North Side of Grand Cayman some 100 Southern Stingrays congregate in groups of 15 to 25 rays at dive sites such as Stingray City, Stingray Alley and Sandbar. The rays are exceptionally friendly and can be handfed by the divemasters. The rays swirl around the divers, nuz-

Cayman Islands

zling them for food and performing aquatic maneuvers. The conditions are generally ideal for U/W photography and divers come away with amazing photographs and videotapes.

ELEGANT EAGLE RAYS: One of the most beautiful sights for any diver is the appearance of a Spotted Eagle Ray gliding effortlessly along the edge of a vertical drop-off. These animals are incredibly graceful and stunning. Their tails are often three to four times the length of their bodies and their backs are covered with white spots.

Eagle Rays are seen along the drop-offs of all three islands. The most frequent encounters occur along the North Wall, where sightings are a daily occurrence.

SHIMMERING SILVERSIDES: During the spring and summer months Grand Cayman is inundated by huge schools of Silversides. These silvery baitfish travel in schools of 1,000 to 2,000, bunched tightly together. They swarm across the reefs with amazing grace, appearing much like a silvery river of mercury flowing in and out of the caves and crevices.

TAME TARPON: Encounters are rare in most places but off Grand Cayman they are common. Perhaps they are attracted by the abundance of their favorite food—Silversides.

Hanging motionless in the shade of one coral arch is a school of 20 to 40 giant Tarpon. Their large, silvery scales sparkle and reflect the sun's rays like a moving wall of mirrors.

AMIALE ANGELFISH: The angelfish are so tame they swim right up to your facemask! They are the darlings of just about every shallow coral reef, having been fed by hundreds of visitors. Their beauty and grace is unequalled by other coral reef residents and they are splendid subjects for U/W photography or video. Gray and French Angelfish are the most common varieties and also the friendliest.

Cayman Brac

Cayman Brac is a much smaller island, only 12 miles long and 2 miles wide. Shaped much like a stringbean, this remote piece of tropical real estate lies 86 miles northeast of Grand Cayman. It has a population of only 900 residents.

Cayman Brac is a neat, well kept island with many modern facilities but a

Cayman Islands

laidback lifestyle. The roads are well paved but there is no traffic. There is a modern jet airport terminal but only a few flights a week.

As for divers, Cayman Brac offers all of the amenities and services but on a reduced scale. There are two beachfront resort hotels—both dedicated dive resorts. More than 80 percent of their clientele is experienced divers. In addition to the two resort hotels, there are

three condominiums that cater to divers. Cayman Brac also has several private homes available for vacation rental.

Bicycle riding, beachcombing, hiking and tours comprise the island activities. Watersports activities include fishing, sailing, beachcombing and snorkeling. While the west end of the island is flat, a limestone ridge runs through the center of the island all the way to the eastern tip, where it forms a 140 foot high limestone bluff. Shopping on Cayman Brac consists mostly of handmade island crafts and Black Coral jewelry. The only other gift shopping is at the hotel boutiques.

Since Cayman Brac is shaped like a stringbean, it only has two shorelines (north and south). Drop-offs run parallel to both of these coasts. The diving is

superb, with vertical walls and spectacular visibility of 120 plus feet. There is an equal number of wall dives and shallow reef sites along both sides of the island. The walls begin at depths of 60 to 70 feet and plummet vertically to more than 1,000 feet.

Cayman Brac's walls are the least dived in the Cayman Islands because there are only three dive operators on the island. Some sites are only visited a few times per year, others are virgin. At present, most diving is at the west end. Marine life includes Tiger Groupers, stingrays and an occasional Jew fish.

There are excellent shallow reefs on both the north and south sides of the island, with high quality shore diving off the north shore.

Cayman Brac has the second largest collection of sunken wrecks and there are plans for more. Three on the north side include the *Cayman Mariner*, *Kissamee* and *Barbara Ann*.

Little Cayman

Little Cayman is a tropical island re-

fract for divers who enjoy solitude, closeness with nature and superb diving. Slightly smaller than Cayman Brac but with a similar shape, this piece of Caribbean wilderness remains largely undisturbed. Little Cayman's residents number about 50, mostly people who have built retirement homes. There is very little traffic and most of the residents arrive in four trucks or Jeeps.

While Little Cayman may be underdeveloped, with a small resident population, it is surprisingly well equipped for divers. There has been a great deal of development and growth over the last two years—specifically designed for divers. Little Cayman now has three small dive lodges, one larger dedicated dive resort and three condo villa developments designed for vacationing divers.

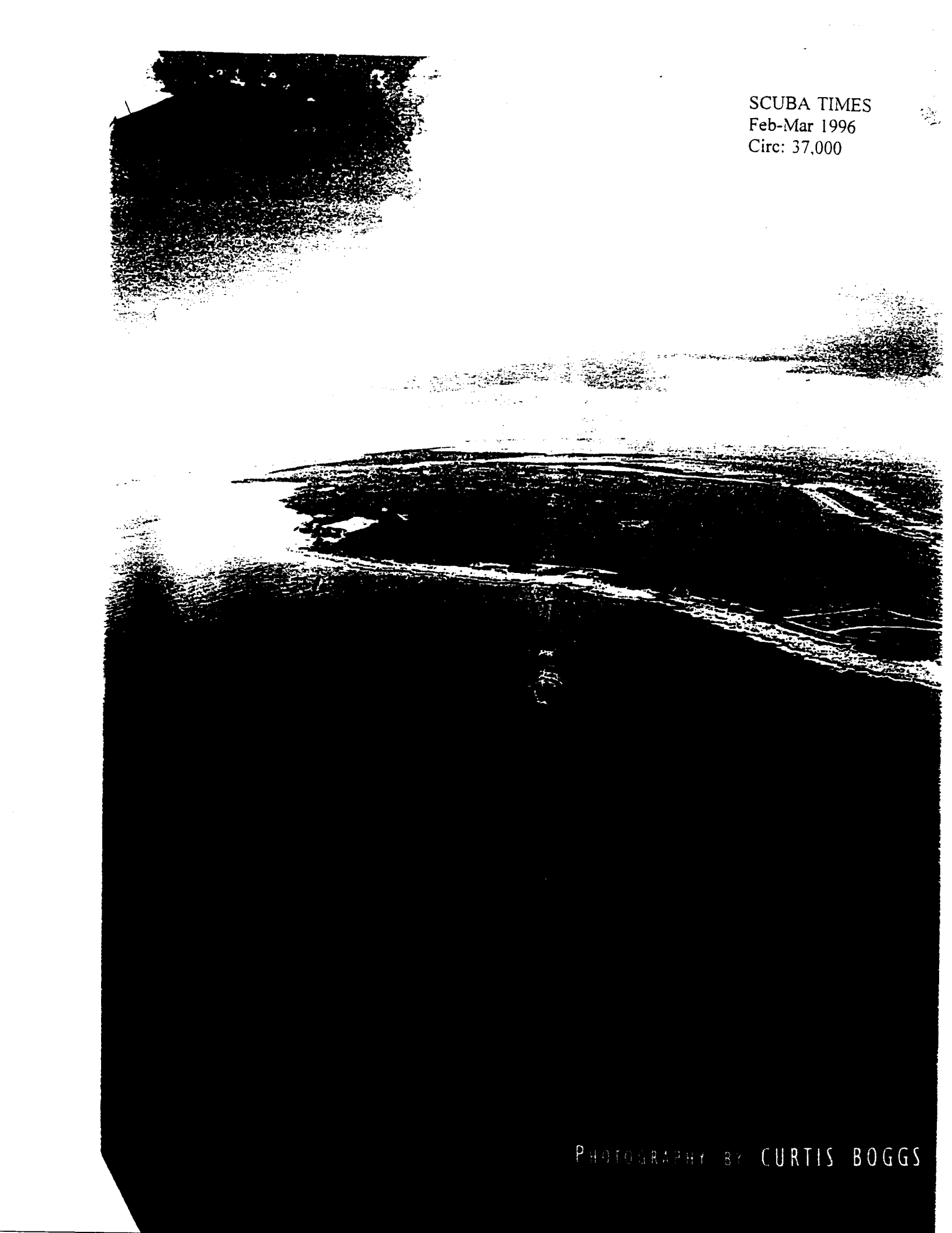
Each of the three lodges has its own dive operation. The new dedicated resort has both its own dive operation and a complete U/W photo video center. A new independent dive operator has been established to cater to the island's condo guests, as well as any overflow from the hotel or lodges. Aside from the natural environment and tranquility, Little Cayman's prime attraction is the fantastic wall that exists along its north coast. **Bloody Bay** is a stretch of spectacular coral wall that begins in 20 feet of water and drops to more than 1,000.

This wall is just a few hundred yards offshore, yet the visibility can range from 100 to 200 feet. It is by far the clearest and most awesome wall diving in the Caribbean. The upper edge is loaded with game fish, including Nassau Groupers, Horse-eye Jacks, Queen Triggerfish and dozens more. Nearby Jackson Wall is another reef system with an equally large assortment of terrific dives.

Little Cayman's most exciting attraction is a night dive with Molly the Manta—a very friendly Manta Ray that spends most of its time cruising along the island's north side. This impressive creature has an eight foot wingspan and is incredibly gentle. In the late afternoon, Molly often visits divers cruising along the drop-off but the most exciting encounters occur at night. Divers form a circle on the sand bottom, pointing their lights inward to attract plankton. Then, Molly performs a series of loops and turns within the circle, as she feeds upon the plankton.

Come Back Again

For the first time visitor, the Cayman Islands can be overwhelming. There is so much to do, so many places to dive, so much to see, so many activities to enjoy. Many return time and time again—experiencing a different adventure each time. Once you have been bitten by the Cayman Islands bug, I guarantee you will be back for another visit. ☞



SCUBA TIMES
Feb-Mar 1996
Circ: 37,000

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CURTIS BOGGS



With your head in the clouds, the

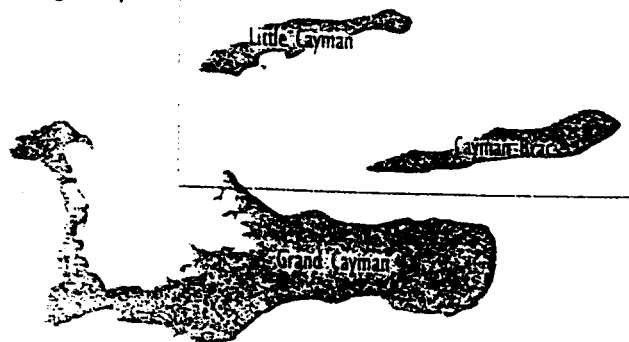
Cayman Islands look much like any other Caribbean paradise. Yet, a nose dive

80 feet under reveals a profusion of wall diving and sky-like visibility that will make even the barnacle-backed diver shudder.



It's this predictably perfect diving, as well as superlative, hometown-USA-like service, that keeps Cayman at the top o' the heap in most diver surveys — both

in "destinations visited" and "destinations planned to visit." In order to investigate this persistent popularity, we literally dive-bombed into the islands on a mission that only Americans can truly appreciate — to do eight top resorts in eight days.



Our research team consisted of two couples — Dan and Suzanne and Robert and Yvonne — conspicuously disguised as models in divesuits. The operation — to investigate eight resorts and unveil the Cayman Attracion — began on Grand Cayman at the famed Sunset House and moved through the *Cayman Aggressor III*, Indies Suites, Don Foster's Diving, Red Sail Sports, and Aqua'naut's Diving. The foursome then hopped to Little Cayman to "do" Paradise Villas and the Little Cayman Beach Resorts.

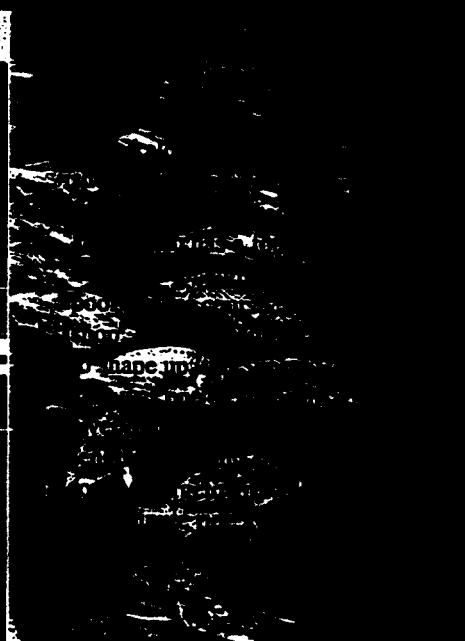
As the oldest dive resort in the Cayman Islands, Sunset House seemed a fitting place to begin the adventure. Located just south of Georgetown, the resort is a veritable diving compound. There's the famous Cathy Church Photo Centre on site for photo buffs. The resort boasts the four first-class dive vessels including the awesome 50-foot power catamaran, *Manta*, which blasts divers to the remote East End diving spots.

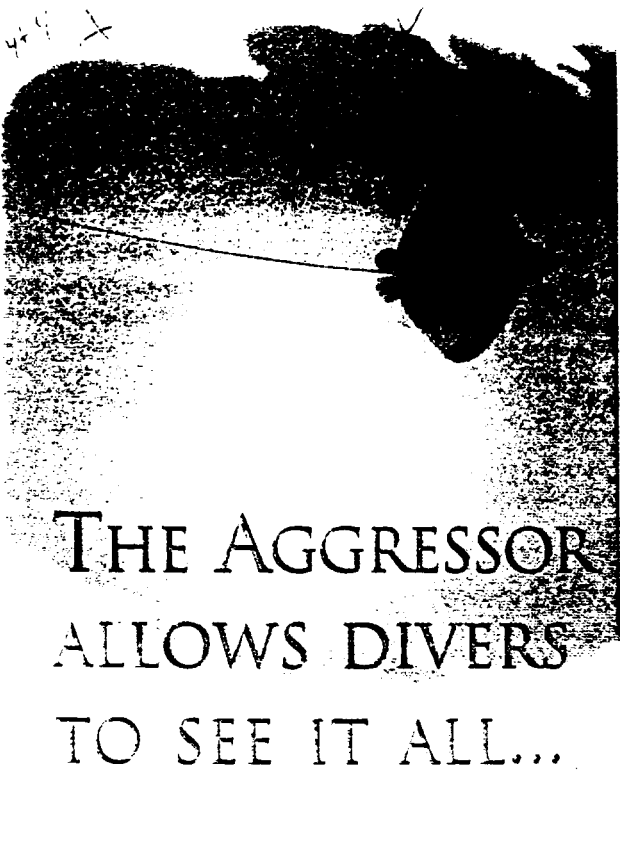
Yvonne and youngster lounge in the Sunset House pool wearing a purple and yellow WetKidz jumpsuit (\$69.00), while Yvonne's sporting a swimsuit from Wetware (\$49.00). Also poolside are the Beuchat Activa fins (\$121.00), Beuchat Maximo TriView mask (\$69.00) and Beuchat Voyager Purge snorkel (\$24.00).

Below: Suzanne relaxes on the stern of the Sunset House diveboat, *Stingray*.



...THE RESORT IS





THE AGGRESSOR ALLOWS DIVERS TO SEE IT ALL...



...ulling into Georgetown, one immediately notices the sleek 110-foot liveboard vessel, the *Cayman Aggressor III*. This is the first in a fleet of 10 boats which are now scattered all the way from Cayman to Costa Rica and from the Turks and Caicos to Truk Lagoon. The Cayman Convenience factor continued to surface aboard this luxury floating dive resort. With the ability to anchor directly over the dive site, divers maximize their bottom time and get three hot meals a day just 30-feet from the dive platform. Getting in four or five dives a day is not unusual. Yet, unlike shore-based operations, divers experience all three islands. The Aggressor allows divers to see it all, from the bathtub-like conditions of Grand Cayman's West Wall to the awesome inverted walls off Little Cayman's Bloody Bay Wall. Eight cabins take 16 divers on the magical tour of these islands. At night, if not diving, passengers have their choice of music or videos, or perhaps, a slide show from the on-board photo pro. In addition to overnight E-6 film processing, the Aggressor offers a full line of rental camera gear as well as professional instruction. After touring this Cayman mainstay, there was once again a feeling of extreme convenience. Liveboard diving is perfect simplicity, a characteristic that was beginning to seem like a trend in Cayman.



Opposite top: Yvonne and Robert take it all in on the bow of the Cayman Aggressor III wearing Diveskins by Oztex Back-Zip Diveskins III (\$260).

Opposite bottom: The couple takes a break on the sundeck making use of their pink Pelican 1150 durable hard case with foam (\$31.25).

Robert is seen with his Cochran hoseless computer, Nemesis II (\$850).

Software (\$250)

After the dive, Yvonne and Robert review the data on their UWATEC Aladin Air X (\$995). Software (\$150) and

Citizen Men's 200m Titanium watch (\$895) Yvonne's Body

Glove suit is a 1.5mm Pro Slant suit (\$144). Robert's

suit is a 2/1 Performance Spring suit (\$133). Masks, fins

and snorkels (\$35, \$35, \$20) are also by Body Glove.



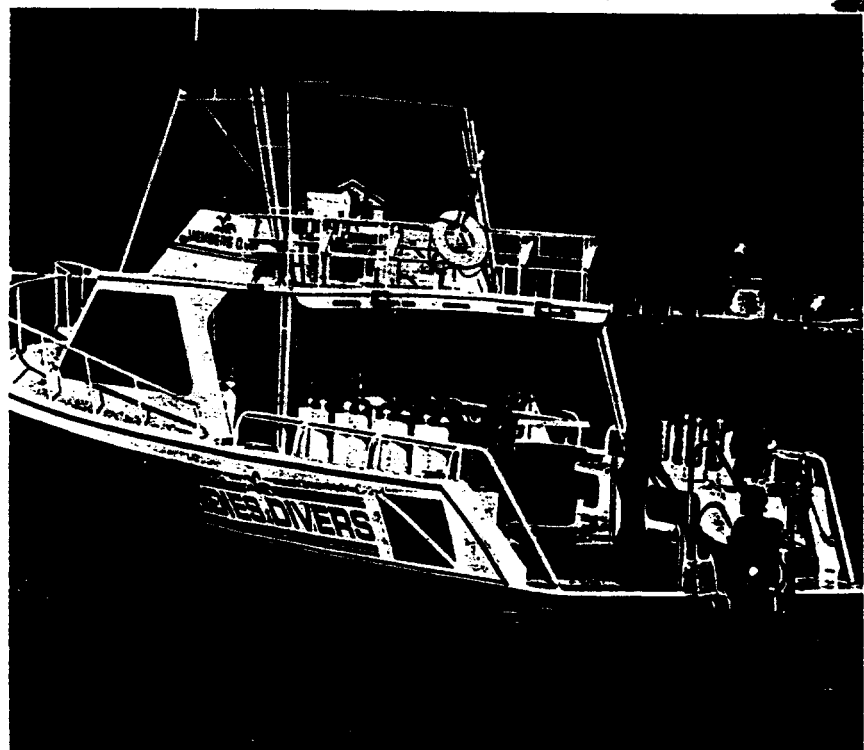
Yvonne and Robert work out their differences on a daytrip to Sandbar with Indies Divers. They are each wearing Bare Aqualite Spring suits (\$104.95). Yvonne makes her point with a green Ikelite Super C-Lite HX (\$45) while Robert hangs on to his IDI Seaquence mask and IDI Dry Pro-Flex snorkle (\$50/\$30). Below them are IDI Power Play fins (\$50). *Above opposite:* After a dive, Yvonne and Robert make their way back to the comfort of Indies Suites with some help from Shorty and some Black XX-Large StuffitBags (\$69.99), an O'Neil backpack (\$49.95) and a customizable Seaware camera case with neoprene liner (\$339.95). The couple is sporting apres dive gear by Deep Blue, a long sleeve Deep Blue T-Shirt (\$17.95) and Deep Blue Apparel Wind Zip jacket and pants (\$39.95, \$35.95). *Below opposite:* Our happy couple is helped aboard by Indies divemasters. Each is wearing a Seaquest 2mm shortie (\$105).

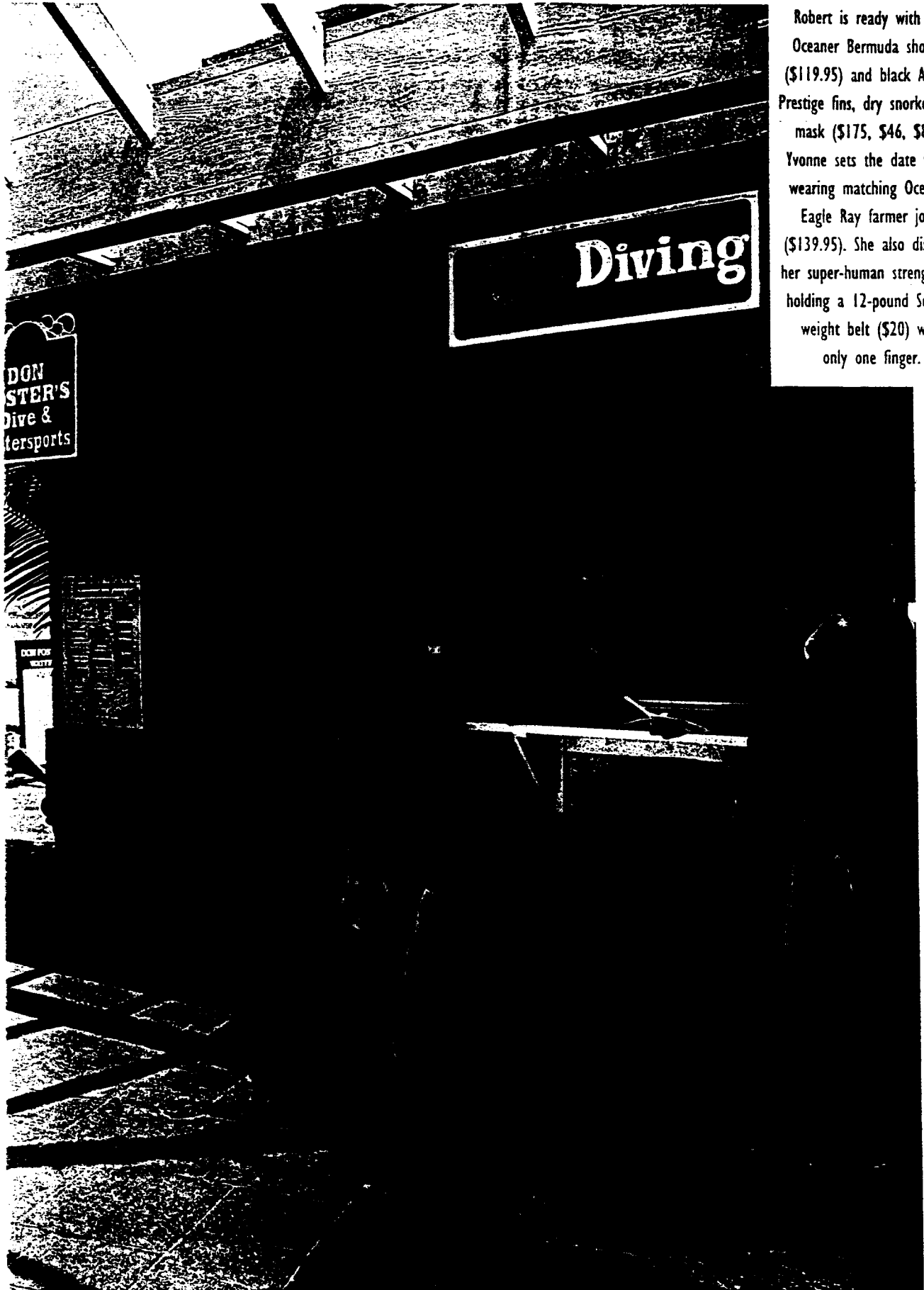


LIKE THEY SAY IN TEXAS "EVERYTHING IS BIGGER" AT INDIES

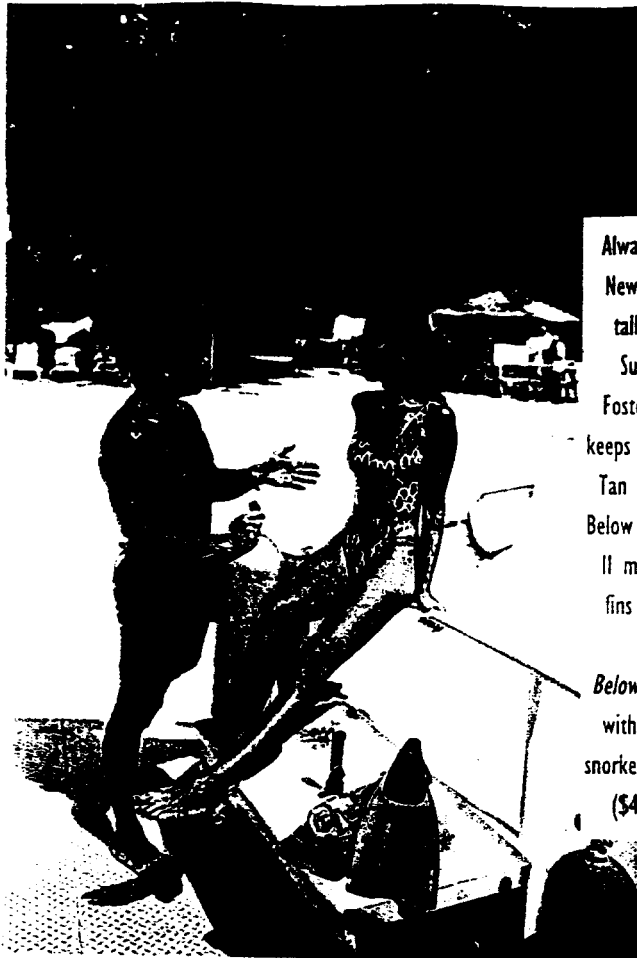
At Indies Suites, the scene takes a different turn. Located in a peaceful area north of town, the resort is removed from the bustle of Georgetown. That also places the all-suites hotel about a 30-second ride from North Sound, where divers visit the wildly celebrated Stingray City, as well as the exceptional North Wall. Indies has two Newton dive boats, which can handle large or small groups, one for the North Sound and Stingray City, the other for the Seven-Mile Beach area diving.

From the accommodations side, Indies Suites is total comfort. Each room, as the name so aptly indicates, is a suite, complete with kitchen and living room. It's like getting a condo at hotel prices. Like they say in Texas, "everything is bigger" at Indies Suites. Big rooms, big kitchens, big boats and a big public beach right across the street. Indies also includes a continental breakfast in their rate, which is reasonable. At Indies Suites, its upscale diving and accommodations at coach-class prices.





Yvonne and Robert sign-up for a dive with Don Fosters. Robert is ready with his Oceaner Bermuda shortie (\$119.95) and black Apollo Prestige fins, dry snorkel and mask (\$175, \$46, \$84). Yvonne sets the date while wearing matching Oceaner Eagle Ray farmer john (\$139.95). She also displays her super-human strength by holding a 12-pound Seasoft weight belt (\$20) with only one finger.



Don Foster's Diving is one of the oldest and most respected names in diving on Grand Cayman. With two Seven-Mile Beach locations

Always ready to espouse his New Jersey philosophy, Dan talks pasta and diving to Suzanne on one of Don Foster's dive boats. Suzanne keeps cool in a Solar Swimwear Tan Thru Monokini (\$39.75). Below her is a Scubapro Futura II mask (\$99), Veloce Club fins (\$89) and Mardis Gras pocket light (\$56). Below: Dan exits the diveboat with his Ocean Guide mask snorkeling fin and Delta snorkel (\$49.95, \$24.95, \$20.95)

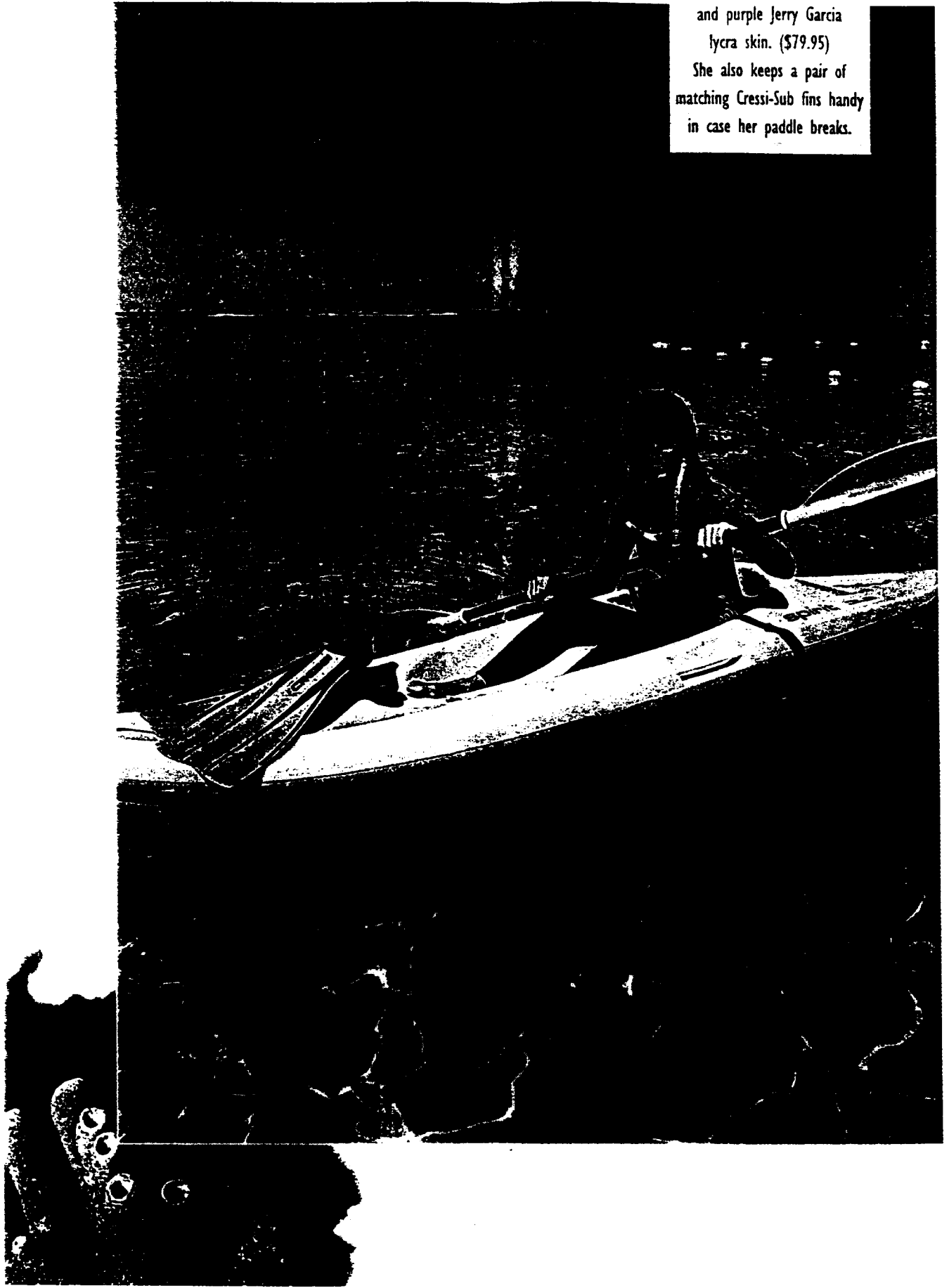
to accommodate divers from north to south. Foster's flagship hotel is the Radisson Resort. With five spacious, custom-built dive boats, Foster's hits dive sites anywhere on the island, including Stingray City on a daily basis. Don Foster's caters to both beginning and experienced divers and offers a variety of courses for those looking for specialty certifications. Foster provides a number of

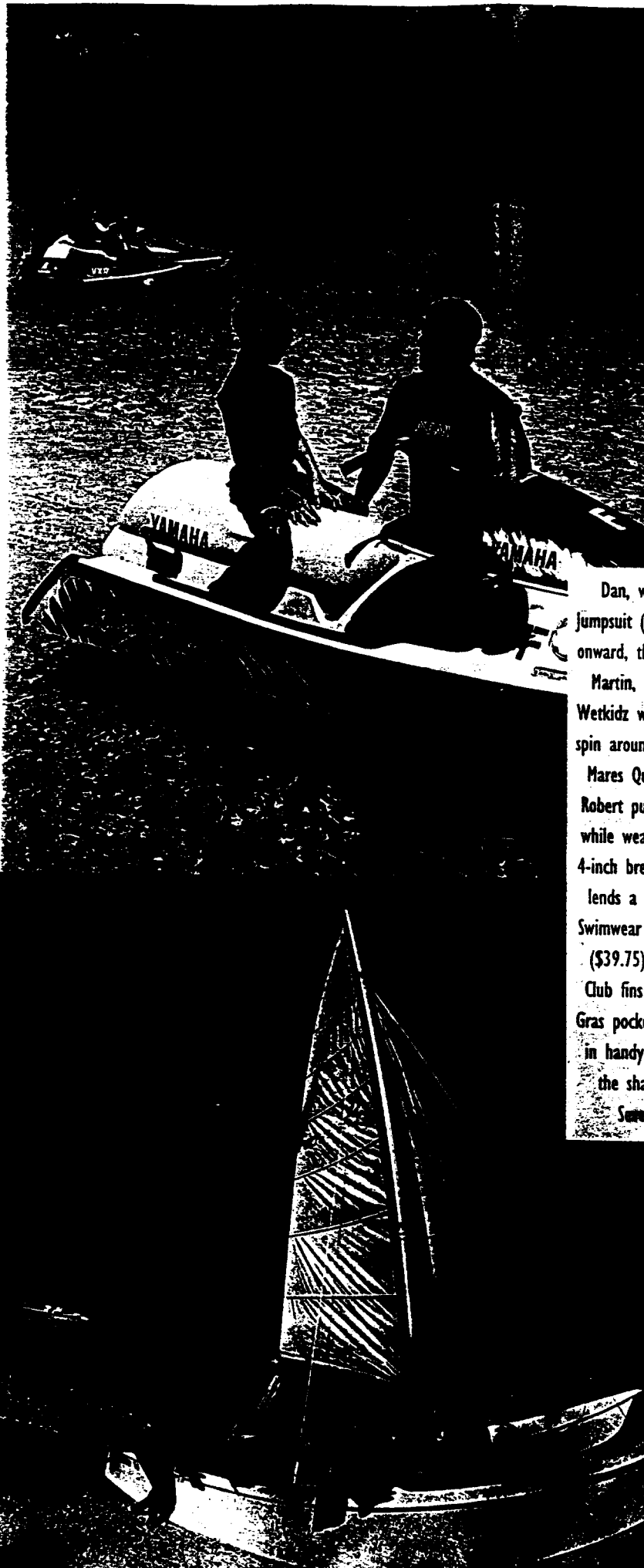
hotels and condos which offer on-site dive centers. Foster's offer free air fills and equipment maintenance. The

DON FOSTER'S CATERS TO BOTH



Yvonne tries out one of Red
Sail Sports kayaks while
sporting Henderson's black
and purple Jerry Garcia
lycra skin. (\$79.95)
She also keeps a pair of
matching Cressi-Sub fins handy
in case her paddle breaks.





Dan, wearing his Atlan jumpsuit (\$195), philosophises onward, this time with young Martin, who is donning a Wetkidz wetsuit (\$49) for his spin around Seven-Mile Beach. Mares Quattro fins (\$145). Robert puts his back into it while wearing a Solar men's 4-inch breif (\$23.75). Yvonne lends a hand in her Solar Swimwear Tan Thru Monokini (\$39.75). Scubapro Veloce Club fins (\$89) and Mardis Gras pocket light (\$59) come in handy for snorkeling on the shallow reefs along Seven-Mile Beach.

Also combing the Seven-Mile Beach area is Red Sail Sports, with a full compliment of watersports activities. A division of Hyatt Resorts, Red Sail Sports is conveniently located directly across from the Hyatt Britannia, probably the island's most luxurious resort hotel. You may have seen it in *The Firm*, during a scene in which Gene Hackman had a drink at the bar and flirted with the lovely

women. Of course, seeing it on the silver screen, is nothing like being there, playing the golf course and tasting your own pina colada. Back at the Red Sail Sports facility, you can have your pick of diving, windsurfing, jet skiing, sailing or just lounging on one of the world's most perfect beaches. If sailing the big boats cranks your wench, you can embark on the *Spirit of Palu*, a 65-foot sailing catamaran that specializes in sunset cruises and island rum punch. If the sunset doesn't perform, just have another punch. The sky will look pink soon enough.

YOU CAN
DIVE, WIND-
SURF, JET SKI
SAIL OR JUST
LOUNG ON
THE BEACH.



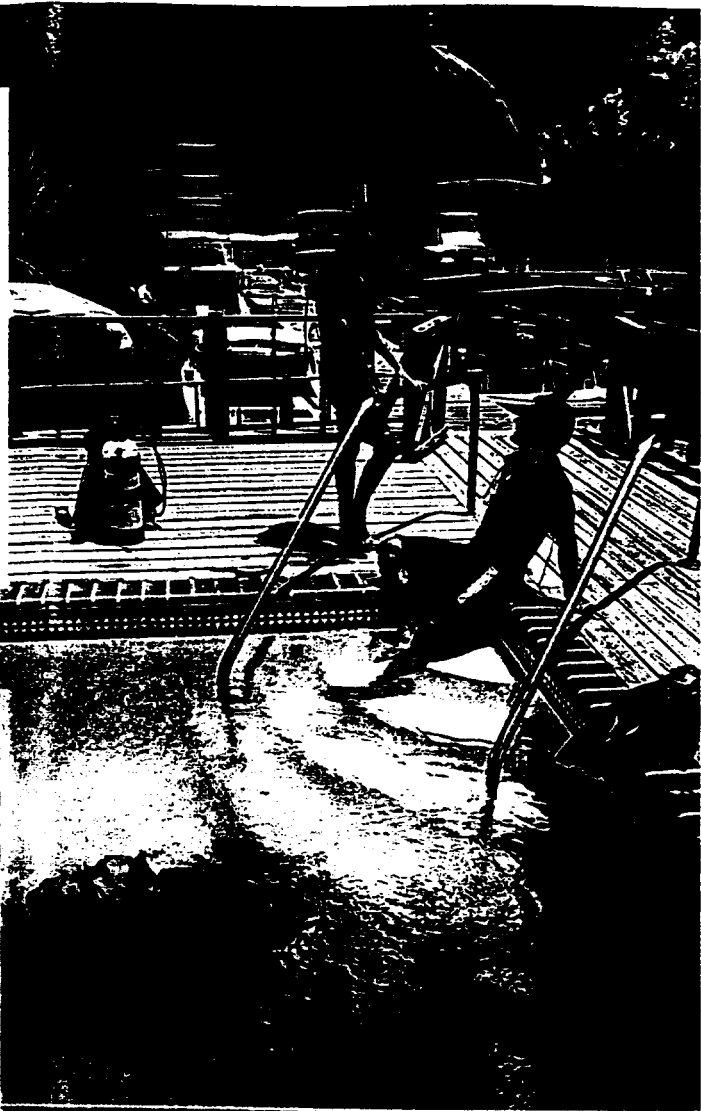
Robert has the time of his life feeding the stingrays in his Action Plus yellow and black neoprene shortie.

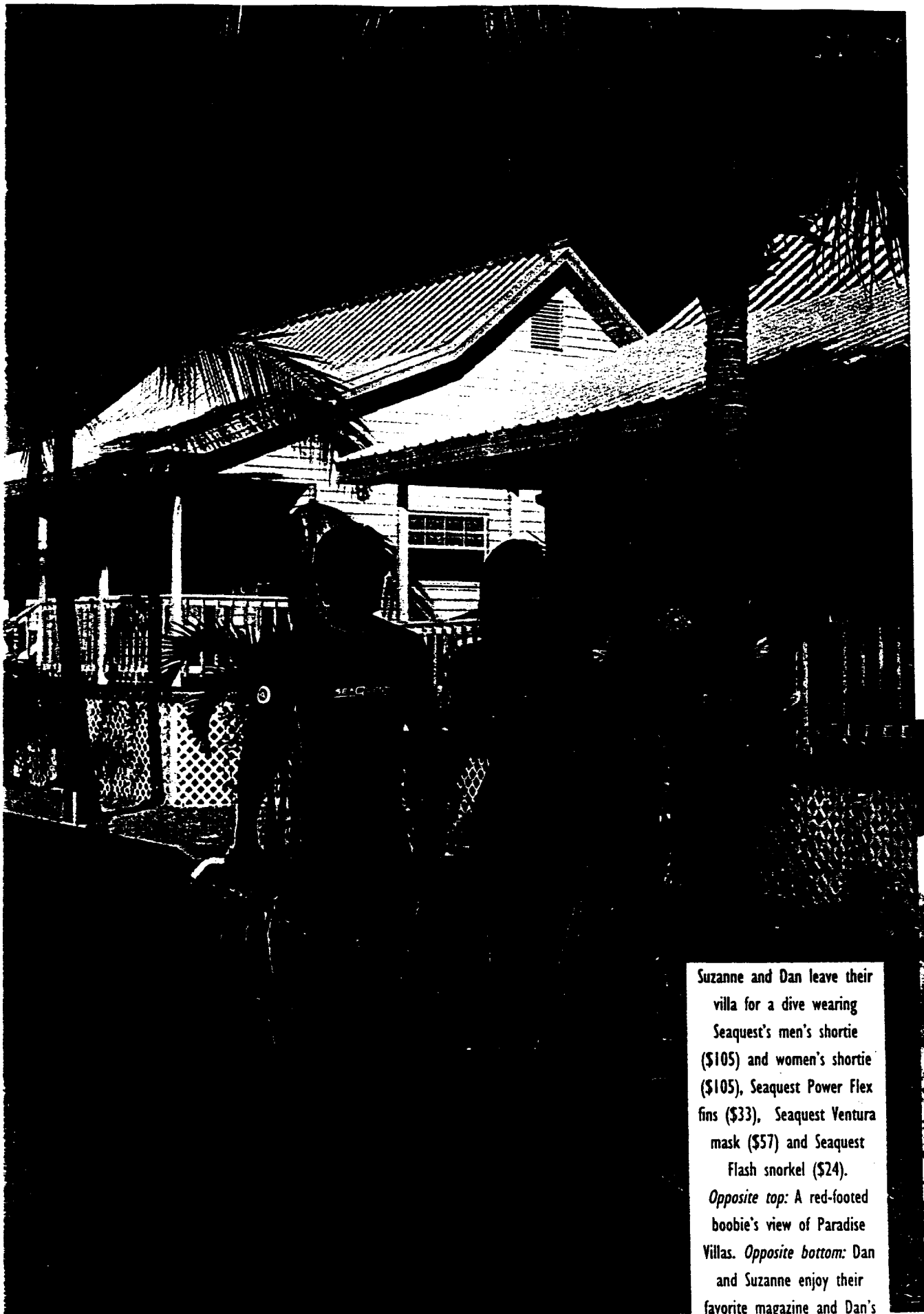
Suzanne and Dan prepare to join in the fun by donning their Connely Deep Heat matching shorties (\$129.95) and Akona Navigator Purge Mask, Akona Reef Pilot fins,

Akona Navigator Purge Snorkle and Akona Sidekick dive knife (\$45, \$36, \$20, \$59)

Like a number of other operators, Aqua'naut Diving will pick you up for a morning of diving right in front of your hotel or condo. There's that Convenience Factor again. Yet, Aqua'naut specializes in moderately sized groups to avoid the cattle boat analogy. Recently, Aqua'naut acquired a second full-service dive center in North Sound. This makes hopping off to Stingray City and the North Wall a breeze. The new location also includes a pool (without the rays) for training or testing gear, prior to embarking on the dive.

Dan and Suzanne lounge at the Aqua'naut pool wearing matching White's Breeze neoprene/nylon, back-zip shorties (\$179). Next to Dan are Dacor's Integra fins (\$119). Below: Suzanne holds onto her Beuchat Activa fins (\$121), Maximo Tri View mask (\$69) and Voyager purge snorkel (\$24) while big Dan dead lifts a few cylinders.





Suzanne and Dan leave their villa for a dive wearing Seaquest's men's shortie (\$105) and women's shortie (\$105), Seaquest Power Flex fins (\$33), Seaquest Ventura mask (\$57) and Seaquest Flash snorkel (\$24).

Opposite top: A red-footed boobie's view of Paradise Villas. *Opposite bottom:* Dan and Suzanne enjoy their favorite magazine and Dan's favorite activity at sunrise on the porch of their villa.

When the high activity and commotion of the West End/Seven Mile Beach area of Grand Cayman gets to be too much, some escape by simply driving east. However, for true deliverance into seclusion, the best route is a 30-minute flight to the sister islands of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. The Brac's swelling population (lookout China) reaches nearly 1,500 whereas Little Cayman boast a total of 50 permanent residents, barely enough for a good soccer game. While the Brac has several small resorts, it's Little Cayman that is experiencing growth (if you could call it that) in new resorts. In that past two years, two new resorts have come on line. Yet, in sum total, these resorts have added a capacity of less than 100 people. Newest of the two is Paradise Villas, a grouping of six beachfront cottages situated a short walk from Little Cayman's grass runway. Grass or not, the runway is long and wide and receives Island Air planes without a problem. The villas at Paradise are totally self-contained, with full kitchens, living room and large front porches overlooking the Caribbean.



PARADISE VILLAS OFFER THE SECLUSION AND COMFORT THAT LITTLE CAYMAN VISITORS COME FOR.



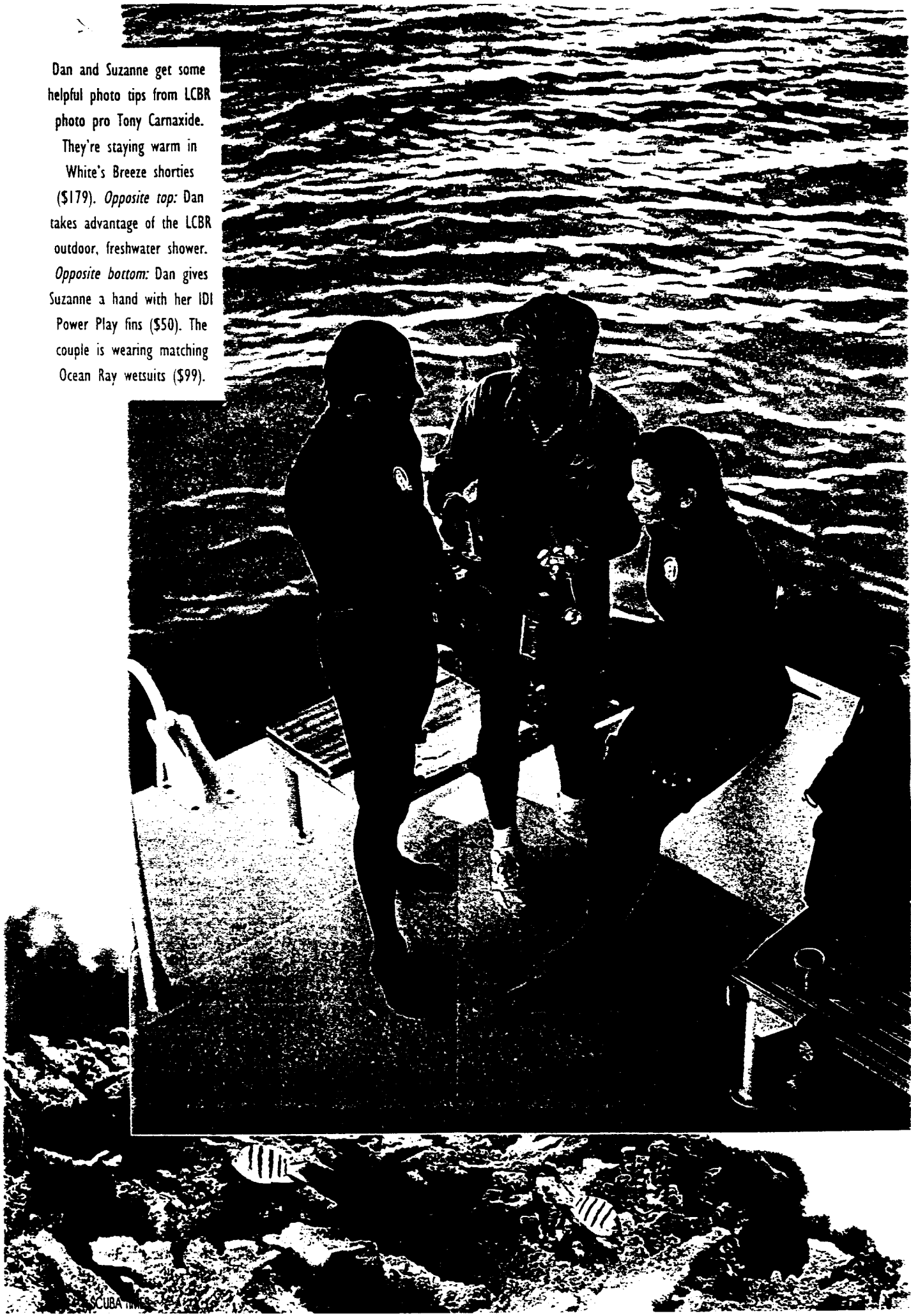
just a few feet away. The villas also include one essential ingredient, a hammock for afternoon naps. A boardwalk out of your front door, leads right to The Hungry Iguana, a favorite hangout of the tired and hungry masses. Adorned in decorative woodwork, the Hungry Iguana is airy and relaxing, and serves as both a restaurant and a bar.

While the Villas offer the seclusion and comfort that Little Cayman visitors come for, there's another reason divers make it to the island. It's a little place called Bloody Bay Wall, which has been described by more than one dive journalist as the best wall diving in the world. On the right (and it is most days), Bloody Bay Wall and it's neighboring Jackson Wall compare with the reefs of Palau in the Red Sea. It's just that good. Get there from Paradise Villas, or get there from Paradise Divers, which also has a fully-equipped retail dive store around the corner from the villas.

Dan and Suzanne get some helpful photo tips from LCBR photo pro Tony Carnaxide.

They're staying warm in White's Breeze shorties (\$179). *Opposite top:* Dan takes advantage of the LCBR outdoor, freshwater shower.

Opposite bottom: Dan gives Suzanne a hand with her IDI Power Play fins (\$50). The couple is wearing matching Ocean Ray wetsuits (\$99).





After the eight-day tour it became clear that there really is something to this Cayman Convenience. First, a profusion of direct flight make it easy to get there. Then, once in the country, it's as easy to navigate the islands as your hometown. From renting a car to ordering a pizza, Cayman is as close as it gets to home, with one notable exception — they drive on the left side of the road. Shopping is prolific, banks are plentiful, everything is air-conditioned, the water is excellent and there's Burger King and KFC in case of emergency. It's the convenience of home, yet the diving is superb. Not that six-foot vis and 60 degree water in a Kansas quarry isn't fun, but this is a bit kinder.

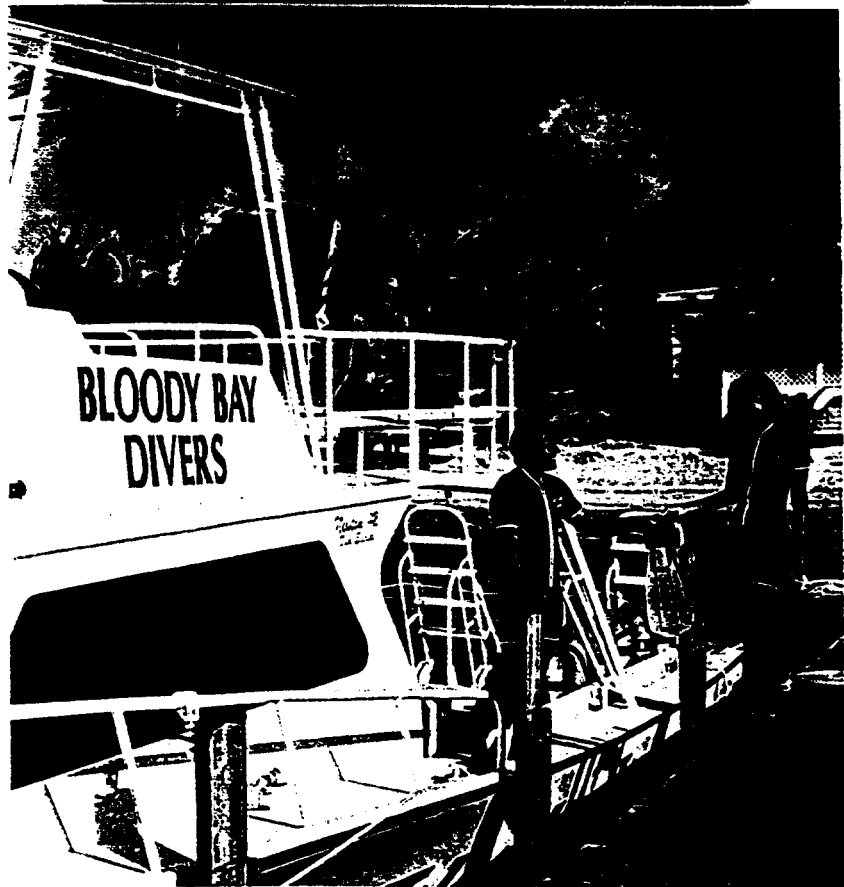
On the downside, Cayman is not the place for the road worn, budget traveler, who wants to jungle camp and commune with biting insects. For starters, Cayman can be pricey. But it's a price people gladly pay for a hassle-free, safe vacation. That's why they keep coming back. ▀



Just up the road from Paradise Villas is another paradise called the Little Cayman Beach Resort. Modeled after its sister property, the Brac Reef Beach Resort, on (you guessed it) Cayman Brac, this is one of the Caribbean's finest facilities. LCBR is somewhat like Sunset House in that it's an all-emcompassing resort. There's a first-class dive shop and photo center complete with resident photo pro, Tony Carnaxide, for still or video (and video editing). The dive boats are docked right off the beach. And, in the center of the two-story, U-shaped resort is a pool/hot tub/lounging area, which is just 10 steps or five stumbles from the palapa bar. The resort even has a tennis court for those who can't sweat enough in the scorching Caribbean sun. Finally, the buffet-style restaurant (most packages are all-inclusive), is guarantee to add body weight, so keep the extra lead handy. In short, the food borders on gourmet cooking.

LCBR seems to be a million miles away from the activity of Grand Cayman. Its seclusion is constant. If you can't relax here, see your doctor or therapist, you're too far gone. And, the dive operation is simply superb. Any of their dive boats make the daily 15-minute run around the western tip of the island to The Wall.

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By W. Lynn Seldon Jr.

DIVE TRAINING

Feb 1996

Circ: 65,000

GROUP DIVE TRAVEL

It's as close as your dive center.

⁸⁴⁵⁷
The first few dive trips Nancy and Bill Vogler took were organized through their local dive shop, and they had a blast. Then they struck out on their own and realized how much they missed the advantages of group travel. Now they are committed to the organized trips offered by their dive shop, Rohnert Park Dive Center in northern California.

Converts to diving in their 40s, the Voglers earmark their extra income for dive trips. Over the past four years, their travels have included Hawaii, the Bahamas, the Caymans, Cabo San Lucas, Roatan off the coast of Honduras, and Belize. Twice they traveled independently, six times with groups.

"You never really know what to expect when you travel, so I like knowing there's someone on the trip to take care of you," Nancy says. "With an organized trip, it's so easy. Everything's handled, and all you have to think about is your dive. Plus, the best part of diving with a group is that it's fun. There's just something about divers, I think. They're more fun than most people."

Fun is just one of the many reasons to join a group trip offered by your local dive shop. You can also save money, pursue specialty certifications, and develop new friendships. What you don't get are the hassles—that's the province of your group leader, who is usually an instructor with the dive shop.

"New travelers are extremely pleased because we run inclusive packages as much as possible," says Ed Whitt at Rohnert Park Dive Center. "All the arrangements are made. It's a worry-free vacation. You participate at your choice,



Half the fun of diving is what happens topside. Traveling with an organized group is not only less hassle than going it alone, it's more enjoyable, too.

too. There's plenty to do—we make everything available to our customers, but we let them enjoy themselves."

Dive stores also benefit from group travel by promoting the sport, keeping people diving and using their equipment, and upgrading the experience and education of their customers and their own instructors.

"If you only have that one vacation a year to go diving," says Peggy Szoke, group sales manager for Caradonna Caribbean Tours, "you're going to get the best diving for your dollar going through a specialist like your dive shop or dive wholesaler." Group trips provide security and are worry-free, says Szoke. "The group leader from the dive shop is handling everything, from the departure taxes to the boat times. The other big plus is their knowledge. There's security as well in knowing you're going someplace that someone else has already

checked out."

"What we do here is diving, and we want people to have the best diving trip possible," agrees Peter Miklatek, the travel coordinator for Pan Aqua Diving in New York City. Like many dive shops, Pan Aqua conducts pool classes, and then offers group trips on which students can get their Open Water certification. "People are always concerned that they don't have enough experience to join a trip, but we design these trips with them in mind," adds Miklatek.

Nancy Vogler was new to diving when she and Bill took their first group trip on the *Kona Aggressor* live-aboard in Hawaii. "Nobody put me down because I was a brand-new diver," she says. "It was a great way to start. Plus, if you use your local dive shop, you're traveling with people from your locale, and it's another way to make friends."

Group dive trips generally accommo-

date 12 to 20 people. Some dive shops offer pre- and post-trip parties to foster the fun. For single travelers, group trips are a way to avoid the supplemental charges that are often a part of traveling as a single diver. Dive shops can pair up dive buddies and ensure companionship on the trip.

Pan Aqua Diving is typical of many dive shops, offering at least one group trip a month. During holidays and other popular travel times, it often schedules two or three trips. Miklatek books the trips at least six to 12 months in advance, but finds that the slots do not fill up until three to four weeks before the trip is scheduled to go. The dive shop risks the penalties if the trips don't attract enough people, but so far that has not been a problem—Pan Aqua usually has to turn people away.

Group travel has really picked up over the last two years, says Jason Kuczek, a sales associate with Underwater Phantaseas in Denver. The shop offers two to three trips a month to destinations as varied as the Caymans, the Galapagos, and Norway.

You don't have to wait for your dive shop to put together a group trip. Many dive shops arrange trips for individuals and couples. In fact, many can arrange travel at prices that are close to group rates. They have the connections and experience that can make your dive vacation hassle-free and up to your expectations. If you are in a dive club or know enough enthusiasts to put together a trip yourself, you can still use your local dive shop as a great resource to develop your own group trip.

Either route you decide to take—participating in a group trip, going it alone or with a partner, or arranging a group trip for friends or your dive club—your local dive center can help you out.

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV CLIPS

DATE	February 15, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	6:00-8:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	33,000
STATION	KOTV-TV(CBS) Channel Six		
LOCATION	Tulsa, Okla.		
PROGRAM	Six in the Morning		

LESLEE TURNBULL, co-anchor:

It looks like a postcard. Rick is getting to see that in person. We're getting the next best thing though, and we have so much coming up from there. He actually did some work yesterday.

Rick, I've been looking at the rundown for the show, and--and you actually did some things yesterday, other than you--you know, lie at the pool and sip pina coladas.

RICK WELLS, co-anchor:

Hey, hey, hey, what--what--what day is today?

TURNBULL: Oh, it's Thursday. I know it's hard to keep your days straight on this tough assignment.

WELLS: Well, you just kind of lose track of time out here. But, as you--as you said, we did a lot of work yesterday, and the Caymans are the place. I mean, you--you kind of told me that before we got there, we've got, you know there are so many things to see and do there that it's worth going back to, even if you just go back there and stay there. But anyway, we'll talk about all of that later on.

Let's give you an update of where we are this morning. We're heading into Cozumel. I can't see it though. I guess--oh, it's--oh, back--well, it's around here somewhere. Anyway, we'll--we'll find it. (A map of the Cayman Islands and the surrounding area is shown.) But we'll a--we'll be there eventually. But our cruise update shows us where we've gone so far.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Footage is shown of some of the Cayman Island's many tourist attractions.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV
CLIPS

DATE February 15, 1996
TIME 9:00-9:30 AM
NETWORK All News Channel
PROGRAM News

ACCOUNT NUMBER 11/8459
NIELSEN AUDIENCE N/A

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

DINA FASSINO, anchor:

When you think about cruising the Caribbean, sand, sun and water first come to mind. But there's much more fun to be had. Just ask David Gee. He joins us now from the Caribbean.

Hi, David.

DAVID GEE reporting:

That's right, Dina. Welcome to the high seas again. We've got plenty of water right here for you, as you said. You know, one of my favorite spots in all of the Caribbean is the Cayman Islands--Grand Cayman, specifically. Only this time around we visited a place that I'd never been to before.

The Cayman Islands are about as close to heaven on earth as you can imagine. So it somehow doesn't seem quite fitting to begin our visit in Hell. That's exactly what we're doing and we should explain exactly why.

Unidentified Man: This what a lot of people think hell looks like. Where it got its name from, one of our first commissioners from England, Commissioner Gardiner--we went behind there and shot out a bird and missed it and said: Oh, hell. And our founders start calling it Hell.

GEE: And now? Now they just call it a tourist stop for multitudes of people who come to visit, be photographed and send a postcard back from Hell. Before we leave, here's another one-liner from our costumed character.

Man: A lot of people think work is hell, but I'm working in Hell and enjoying it.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Gee highlights the only commercial green sea turtle farm and Cayman's beaches.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

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(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV CLIPS

DATE	February 15, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	10:00-10:35 PM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	86.000
STATION	KOTV-TV(CBS) Channel Six		
LOCATION	Tulsa, Okla.		
PROGRAM	The News on 6, 10:00 Update		

ABRIDGED TRANSCRIPT

PAUL SERRELL, co-anchor:

The weather may be cooling down here in eastern Oklahoma, but Rick Wells doesn't have to worry about that. Rick has been basking in the sun all week in the Caribbean. He joins us now from his taxing assignment aboard the Love Boat. Rick:

RICK WELLS reporting:

Hey, hi, Paul.

* * *

WELLS: Well, you go to the beach, and you sit on the beach, and you slather on all that suntan stuff. And then you get in the water, and you look at some of the beautiful fish that are under the water in the Caribbean. Wonderful snorkeling and scuba diving opportunities in Cozumel and also in the Grand Cayman Island area, where we were yesterday.

* * *

(Please note: Portions of this broadcast perceived by our transcribing personnel to be less relevant to your keyword have been omitted where indicated by asterisks. For a full copy of the broadcast segment, please contact our Customer Service Department, 1 (800) 631-1160, within 30 days of air date.)

18 Clips

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TV CLIPS

DATE	February 5, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	7:00-9:00 AM	NIelsen AUDIENCE	112,000
STATION	KTTV-TV(Fox) Channel Eleven		
LOCATION	Los Angeles		
PROGRAM	Good Day LA		

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

STEVE EDWARDS, anchor:

There is a special place in the Grand Cayman Islands. It is called Stingray City. It's one of the few places in the world where you can actually swim with stingrays. Tom Holden is an underwater cameraman who recently visited the Cayman Islands and he has a special look at life under the sea.

TOM HOLDEN reporting:

My name is Tom Holden. I'm an underwater director of photography.

(Holden shows some photos under the sea.) Boy, the feeling you get when you're--you finally get everything together and you're underwater shooting the stuff, is a real mixture of emotions. The--the first and foremost one is, 'please Lord don't let anything go wrong.' You have electronics underwater so right away you--that's--you know the two just don't go together. So it--it keeps you always on your toes.

We shoot a lot of times in the Cayman Islands because of the--the wonderful clarity of the water, plus they have a rather unique situation there in that they have a place called Stingray City, which is a very shallow area, a sandbar really. And we were fortunate in that one of the models we had has been diving there for years, and she's named all of these various rays. So the minute her fins hit the water these rays know her and they just--they come in mass and it's spectacular.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Holden reports further on Stingray City in the Cayman Islands.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

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(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV
CLIPS

DATE	February 6, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	12:00 Noon-1:00 PM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	109,000
STATION	KTLA-TV(WB) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Los Angeles		
PROGRAM	KTLA Noon News		

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

RON OLSEN, anchor:

Well, you know our good friend Carlos Amezcua--you know from the--the morning news.

ROLAND GALVAN reporting:

Morning news.

OLSEN: Yeah. Well, you know he's been down in the Caribbean while we've been up here in the rain. Yes.

GALVAN: He's been calling...

OLSEN: Well, today we have more adventures with Carlos, and I know--I know you wanna stick around for this.

For several days now we've been showing you highlights of that Caribbean cruise. Today Carlos Amezcua brings us a very special attraction from the Cayman Islands, but you have to be careful you don't get stung.

CARLOS AMEZCUA reporting:

There's only one way to get out there, and that's by boat. It takes about half an hour to what's been dubbed Stingray City, without question the most unusual place in the Caribbean. A natural sandbar in the middle of the sea, swimming with friendly southern stingrays. Really, it's the only place in the world where you can literally swim with these strange-looking creatures.

I'm about six miles out in the middle of the north sound from Grand Cayman. Now I'm only in about five feet of water, and this is where these stingrays like to play and feed. But about 200 yards out from where I am is what they call the great wall, and it actually drops 4,000 feet to the bottom of the sea's surface.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Amezcua reports from Stingray City in the Cayman Islands.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV
CLIPS

DATE	February 2, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	7:00-9:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	288.000
STATION	KTLA-TV(WB) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Los Angeles		
PROGRAM	KTLA Morning News		

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

CARLOS AMEZCUA, co-anchor:

All right. As we continued our trip aboard the Crystal Harmony, we--we--the cruise ship left from Fort Lauderdale; went to--there you go--Playa del Carmen and Cozumel, and now we make our little--little jaunt over to the Grand Cayman. Isn't that neat?

SAM RUBIN reporting:

That's a nice effect.

MARK KRISKI reporting:

I love it.

AMEZCUA: This is the Grand Cayman Islands.

On this morning, the Crystal Harmony's tenders were waiting for us. It's a quick, seven-minute ferry trip to our next stop, Georgetown on Grand Cayman Island. The Cayman Islands are a British colony made up of three islands. Grand Cayman is the most populated and the center of resort and commercial life. Cars drive on the other side of the street--you know--like in England. Duty-free shopping and banking seem to be the most popular pastime in town, but I'm looking for some rest and relaxation, and Seven Mile Beach, I hear, is just the spot. Seven Mile Beach is actually only 5.6 miles, but what a beautiful stretch of white sandy beach, considered one of the finest in the Caribbean! This is a public beach where you can windsurf, boat, and enjoy the warm water.

Our stop wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Cayman Turtle Farm, the first to breed captive green sea turtles. Here, you learn about the endangered green sea turtles by getting up close. Our guide, Elsa, showed me the proper way to hold them.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Amezcua continues his report on the Cayman Islands.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV
CLIPS

DATE	February 5, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	7:00-9:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	288,000
STATION	KTLA-TV(WB) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Los Angeles		
PROGRAM	KTLA Morning News		

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

CARLOS AMEZCUA, co-anchor:

And right now we're gonna swim with some stingrays.

You know, we've been showing you highlights of my cruise through the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico aboard the Crystal Harmony, one of the most beautiful ships I've ever seen.

We started in Ft. Lauderdale. Let's go to the beautiful little boat. There it is. We started in Ft. Lauderdale. We went to Playa del Carmen and then to Cozumel, and now we're about to land in Grand Cayman. And I think for me, this was definitely the highlight of the trip.

When we first got there, I must admit I was a little bit nervous of going into the water and--and, boy-oh-boy, let me tell ya, you'll see why. Watch me.

There's only one way to get out there, and that's by boat. It takes about half an hour to what's been dubbed 'Stingray City,' without question the most unusual place in the Caribbean. A natural sandbar in the middle of the sea, swimming with friendly southern stingrays. Really. It's the only place in the world where you can literally swim with these strange-looking creatures.

I'm about six miles out in the middle of the North Sound from Grand Cayman. Now I'm only in about five feet of water, and this is where these stingray like to play and feed, but about 200 yards out from where I am is what they call the great wall.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Amezcua reports more on his cruise, stopping in the Cayman Islands.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

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TV
CLIPS

DATE	February 5, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	12:00 Noon-1:00 PM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	109,000
STATION	KTLA-TV(WB) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Los Angeles		
PROGRAM	KTLA Noon News		

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

MARTA WALLER, anchor:

And today we continue our cruise through the Caribbean. Our next stop, the Cayman Islands. Carlos Amezcua introduces us to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

CARLOS AMEZCUA reporting:

On this morning, the Crystal Harmony's tenders were waiting for us. It's a quick seven-minute ferry trip to our next stop, Georgetown on Grand Cayman Island.

The Cayman Islands are a British Colony made up of three islands. Grand Cayman is the most populated and the center of resort and commercial life. Cars drive on the other side of the street, you know like in England. Duty-free shopping and banking seem to be the most popular pastime in town, but I'm lookin' for some rest and relaxation, and Seven-Mile Beach, I hear, is just the spot.

Seven-Mile Beach is actually only 5.6 miles, but what a beautiful stretch of white sandy beach, considered one of the finest in the Caribbean. This is a public beach where you can wind surf, boat, and enjoy the warm water.

Our stop wouldn't be complete without a visit to the Cayman Turtle Farm, the first to breed captive green sea turtles. Here you learn about the endangered green sea turtles by getting up close. Our guide, Elsa, showed me the proper way to hold them.

ELSA: Sure, touch him. Yea--yeah just rub him.

AMEZCUA: Boy, he's strong.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Amezcua reports more on the Cayman Islands.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
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RADIO CLIPS

DATE February 6, 1996
TIME 9:05-10:00 PM
STATION WOR 710 AM
LOCATION New York City
PROGRAM Design for Living

ACCOUNT NUMBER 11/8459

ABRIDGED TRANSCRIPT

Dr. ROBERT ATKINS, host:

There's one other thing I want to bring out. I was just thinking about it. I'm having a cruise in the Caribbean and it's being widely advertised in Florida because it embarks from Miami, and it's on March 31st and it's going to last for a week, and I thought a lot of you--I mean, I'm sitting here, you're my friends, a lot of you would say this has got to be the most fun week of my life. To go--not on--let me tell you where it goes. It goes to the Cavman Islands, it goes to Montego Bay, it goes to Cosa Mel, Key West, and all the time you are at a buffet eating food that my own people have put together for the people who are on the Atkins' cruise and the whole thing costs generally less than a thousand dollars a person, once you--once you get down to Miami, and it's--March 31st is a Sunday and it goes for seven days and I think you're going to want to know about it.

So I want to give you the numbers. First of all, the number to access the Atkins Center to be a new patient (212) 758-2110. 758-2110. All right. The number to access the Atkins Center for information of this kind, how to get further information about the cruise, how to get information about the newsletter, how to get information about the vitamins, and all the other projects that we're doing and helping people with, and that's a very easy number. It's an 800 number, (800) 6-ATKINS. Write that down, (800) 6-ATKINS and call us tomorrow.

* * *

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TV CLIPS

DATE	February 14, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	8:00-9:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	68,000
STATION	WTVT-TV(Fox) Channel Thirteen		
LOCATION	Tampa, Fla.		
PROGRAM	Good Day Tampa Bay		

LESLIE SPENCER, co-host:

Our favorite Cupid, Good Day Tampa Bay's Russell Rhodes is enjoying his Valentine's Day aboard a cruise ship.

BILL MURPHY, co-host:

He had a tough job, but he joins us now from the Sun Princess Cruise Ship in Grand Cayman.

Mr. Rhodes, good morning to you. Hello, there. Ahoy.

RUSSELL RHODES reporting:

Hello. How are you folks doing today?

MURPHY: How are you?

SPENCER: Fine.

RHODES: We're--we're--Oh, good morning. We're coming into Grand Cayman. These are some other cruise ships. They're very small cruise ships, you know. The Sun Princess, the biggest, the best, the prettiest.

MURPHY: Yeah, we know that.

RHODES: They are a small cruise ship. Hey, we--we got a beauty shot we can take of Grand Cayman, because we arrived here just a short time ago. Let's look at this. Is this gorgeous or what? And we're going to be taking a little, short excursion out there this morning. I think Craig is going to do some diving. Right, Craig? Going to swim with the stingrays is the plan for later. We'll see how that goes. One of the things I've always wanted to do on the show is, like, one of the celebrity walk-ons and we've got one.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Rhodes continues his report from Grand Cayman. Rhodes interviews Gavin MacLeod, who is the official spokesperson for Princess Cruises. Rhodes interviews a diver who teaches people from the cruise to dive. Footage is shown from the ship of the view of Grand Cayman Island. Rhodes also shows footage from his excursion to Jamaica.)

25 Clips



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Transcript

DATE February 28, 1996
TIME 7:00-7:30 PM
STATION WCBS-TV(CBS) Channel Two
LOCATION New York City
PROGRAM Hard Copy (Synd.)

Barry Nolan, co-host:

Startling news in the Simpson case, tonight. Hard Copy has learned a settlement is in the works and that some members of the victims' families are ready to throw in the towel and drop their civil suit in exchange for cash. And, as if that isn't shocking, enough, we've also learned about what may be O.J.'s secret getaway plan to the Caribbean. Diane Dimond has the exclusive details.

Diane Dimond reporting:

The Caribbean, an exclusive paradise on earth. Islands such as Grand Cayman are home to the very rich and to those who don't want anyone to know they are very rich.

Mark Ebner (Journalist): The banking secrecy laws on Grand Cayman are so stringent that they put numbered accounts in Switzerland to shame.

Dimond: Mark Ebner is a journalist who writes for Spy magazine. He has close ties to Grand Cayman and his sources on the island say O.J. Simpson paid a secret visit there just last month. Ebner says the Juice is squirreling his money away in a network of banks and is also interested in purchasing a multi-million dollar home, there.

Ebner: Originally, this house was called and there was a sign out front that called it Angel by the Sea. Now, however, the locals down there are calling it Angel of Death.

Dimond: And O.J. could be in that Caribbean paradise soon. Back here on the home front, Hard Copy has learned that there is an out of court settlement in the works on that civil suit against O.J. Simpson. Now, believe it or not, it's not Simpson pushing for a settlement, it's two members of the families that originally brought the suit. (material omitted)

* * * * *

Now, back to the Caribbean. O.J. Simpson became a sports legend with his fancy moves. Could it be that he's planning one last run to out flank the attorneys who are hot on his tail? O.J. Simpson appeared today in Los Angeles for what's believed to be the last day of his deposition. Hard Copy has spoken directly with Fred Goldman and attorney Daniel Petracelli. They told us they steadfastly refuse to make any deal with O.J. Simpson that would end the legal process.

#

BURRELLE'S

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TV CLIPS

DATE	March 7, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	5:00-5:30 PM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	13.000
STATION	KGAN-TV(CBS) Channel Two		
LOCATION	Cedar Rapids, Iowa		
PROGRAM	First at Five 2		

ABRIDGED TRANSCRIPT

PAUL ANDERSON, co-anchor:

Business is booming tonight at local travel agencies as hundreds of people try to get in on the latest airfare wars.

AMY JOHNSON, co-anchor:

But, of course, good prices aren't the only incentive. Many people say they just want to get out of the bitter cold here in eastern Iowa.

ANDERSON: News Channel 2's Sandy Riesgraf went out today looking for soon-to-be travelers, and she joins us now live from our Cedar Rapids newsroom.

JOHNSON: And, Sandy, I can imagine that it--that at this time of year, potential travelers are not hard to find.

SANDY RIESGRAF reporting:

Well, that's right, Amy. Travel agents I talked to say business was nonstop today and probably will remain that way.

* * *

RIESGRAF: The agency was swamped with calls and customers. Why?

Unidentified Woman: The airfares are on sale. (A poster for the Cayman Islands is shown.)

RIESGRAF: Airfares are on sale, up to 50 percent off. But that's not the only reason these folks are flying.

* * *

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TV CLIPS

DATE March 1, 1996
TIME 7:00-9:00 AM
STATION KSAZ-TV(Fox) Channel Ten
LOCATION Phoenix
PROGRAM Channel 10 News

ACCOUNT NUMBER 11/8459
NIELSEN AUDIENCE 26,000

SUMMARIZED TRANSCRIPT

BRUCE DUNBAR, co-anchor:

Whether you're a newlywed or if you've been together for years, your relationship should be fun, romantic, and exciting. We all want that, but sometimes we need a little nudge in the right direction, don't we? Well, Linda found a romantic board game to spice up any couple's relationship.

This sounds like fun, Linda.

LINDA WILLIAMS, co-anchor:

It is fun, it really is, Bruce.

* * *

Mr. MICHAEL JONAS (Romantic Games Creator): Roll the dice, and as you move, pick a card. A card, for example, might say, 'You've just bought a bed, a flying bed, in a Persian market. Where would you like to fly to with your partner?' And I would, if I were answering this question, I would probably say to Barbara, 'I would like to fly to the Cayman Islands where our--our Persian bed would be underneath a palm tree, and some invisible hand would be serving us coco locos.'

WILLIAMS: OK. And--and you would say, 'What a lovely idea!'

Ms. BARBARA JONAS (Romantic Games Creator): I'm ready to go.

WILLIAMS: Is--is this geared more to get men--men to get their feelings out? I'm always picking on men and their feelings.

Ms. JONES: We've heard probably from over 30,000 couples who've played the game, and it isn't just men, but it's an opportunity for men and women to express things they normally don't talk about.

* * *

(SUMMARY: They continue to discuss their romantic board games.)

25 Clips

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
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TV
CLIPS

DATE	February 6, 1996	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	7:00-9:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	288,000
STATION	KTLA-TV(WB) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Los Angeles		
PROGRAM	KTLA Morning News		

ABRIDGED TRANSCRIPT

CARLOS AMEZCUA, co-anchor:

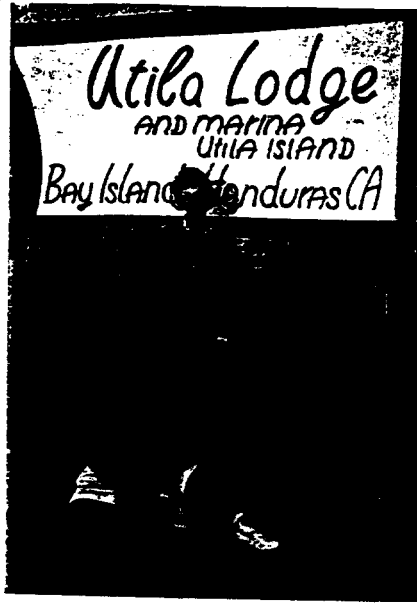
Well, we had a great time cruising on the Crystal Harmony through the Caribbean sea. And we've traveled now--let--let's get out our little map--there's the ship--from Ft. Lauderdale to Mexico to the Grand Cayman Islands to Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, and that's where we got off. Our next stop the rain forest. (A map is shown tracing the ship's travels from Ft. Lauderdale to Mexico to Grand Cayman and now Costa Rica.)

Costa Rica is a small, but extraordinary country. Miles of pristine coastline, lush mountain ranges, national parks, and dramatic volcanos--all framed by two oceans.

* * *

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15 Clips



UTILA

Bay Islands Resort Offers a Cornucopia of Marine Life

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK FREHSEE

There is a false impression that all of the great Caribbean diving areas have already been discovered and popularized. Enthusiasm will be hard to contain in this, our first report on Utila, a new and valid entry to the scene. One of the three major Bay Islands of Honduras (already popular are Roatan and Guanaja), less-populated Utila was slower to develop. The closer of the three islands to the mainland, it was sometimes assumed to have an inferior dive environment. Not true. It is the one island that sits upon the continental shelf and therein lies a most important clue to its unusual biological diversity.

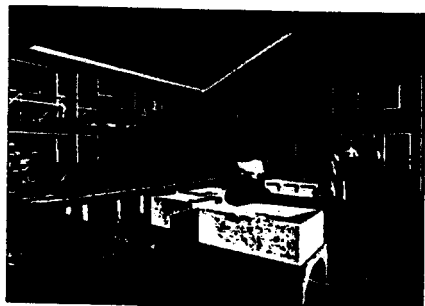
As one diver put it, "It's easier to list what's not here, than what is!"

An understanding of this island's unusual diversity begins with a consideration of its geography. That Central America is a land bridge between two major continents and therefore a meeting place for one of the largest numbers of flora and fauna in the hemisphere, is well known. There are more species of birds, orchids and butterflies in Honduras than in all of North America. It appears that the Great Western Barrier Reef, bordering the Caribbean coast from Mexico to Nicaragua, does the same. This, the longest and most continuous reef in the Western Hemisphere (Utila sits toward the south end of this reef at an approximate mid-point between North and South America), provides a natural transit for species travel. Also, the trade winds, always from the northeast or southeast, naturally "blow" larval and some adult species toward the western Caribbean.

Today, a visit to Utila will take you to an island that is much more wilderness than development; whose tallest structures are palm trees; where there are currently more churches than major resorts; and where you or your children can still walk anywhere day or night in safety. For divers, Utila is an island that will guarantee discovery. This is an underwater universe wider and more different than you ever anticipated; one filled with a marine richness as diverse as Purple Tunicates and Red-lipped Blennies, huge schools of jacks and some species far removed from their reported territories. From the largest fish in the oceans, the Whale Shark, to an unnamed nudibranch the size of your

finger nail, Utila provides abundant surprises. When and if marine scientists actually complete an island by island survey, Utila is apt to be identified as the most species-rich island in the Caribbean.

And, you can expect to find quite a few individual species of unusual origin, among them seahorses and Orange Frogfish, probably of South American origin; Big-eyed Toadfish; and the indigenous, Splendid Toadfish, formerly reported only from Cozumel and Yucatan. There's also the Northern Stargazer (*Astroscopus guttatus*) formerly unknown south of Palm Beach, Florida!



finger nail, Utila provides abundant surprises. When and if marine scientists actually complete an island by island survey, Utila is apt to be identified as the most species-rich island in the Caribbean.

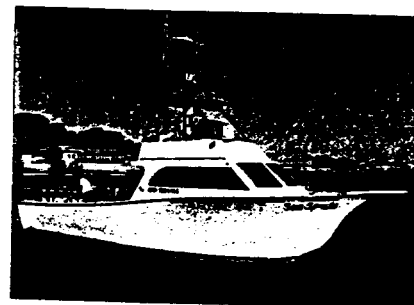
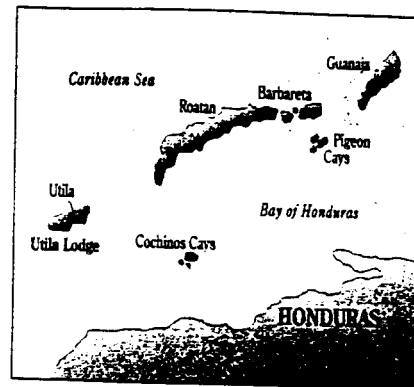
Top: Jim and Kisty Engle's personal touch makes the lodge more like a home. **Above:** This vine covered entrance to Brandon Hill Cave opens onto an extensive cave system beneath Utila. **Left:** Utila Lodge is built on stilts at the edge of the sea.

LODGE

Batfish, Flying Gurnards, Manta Rays and even a Blue Marlin have been encountered. Pods of Spinner Dolphins and Pilot Whales frequent the offshore corridors. Of course, you will never find all these species in one dive or even one visit, but the point is, they're here.

The big picture is equally unique. Quite surprising is the diversification of reef to-

pography and the variety of underwater habitats. Utila is a small island, three by eight miles, so a leeside is always possible. All quadrants support coral reefs. There are uncountable seamounts, huge reef projections rising from undivable depths to within 40 to 60 feet of the surface, shallow coral gardens perfect for day or night diving, patch reefs, fringing



Above: The 41 foot Sea Sprite, Utila Lodge's main dive boat, is well equipped for diver comfort. Left: Fields of beautiful Bluebell Tunicates (*Clavelina puertosecensis*) add a delicate hue to the seamount known as Janet's Bank.



Whale Sharks (*Rhinoceros*) gentle giants of the deep are attracted to the nutrient rich water surrounding Utila. Guests of the lodge often snorkel with them during surface intervals.

reefs, the northern barrier reef, complete with huge coral canyons and a lengthy vertical drop-off bordering the deep blue.

Specific examples of Utila's constantly changing reef topography can be seen at three spots closely aligned along the island's north facing drop-off. **Blackish Point** is a mini-wall formed by a wave notch along an ancient shoreline. A plateau with a continuous series of caverns provides niches for stingrays, Nurse Sharks, Eagle Rays, Barracuda and nudibranchs. **Willy's Hole**, named for a local fisherman, is a maze of coral canyons and pinnacles with Lettuce, Shingled Star and Starlet Corals sitting on the edge of the continental shelf. At **Pinnacles** I found another kind of drop-off, a vertical escarpment carpeted with a forest of gorgonians harboring schools of Blue Chromis and surgeonfish.

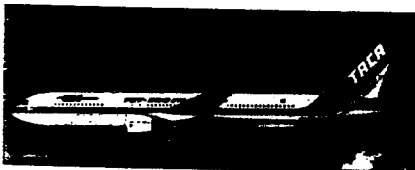
You will encounter neither the best nor the worst visibility in the Caribbean. Utila's role as a vital player in the food web, with constant nutrient upwellings and water rich in plankton, provides a variable visibility of 40 to 120 feet.

Photo/Jim Engle

Tunicates and some Orange Tunicates. Most dive sites are moored with permanent anchors (more than 20) and are dual sites, marking a left or right direction. Nearly all sites are 2 to 20 minutes from the resort dock.

Above water, Utila is a pretty and friendly place to visit. Utilans are proud, intelligent, English speaking people; many are descendants of Caribbean buccaneers and Cayman Islanders. The topography is mostly flat and tropical, the exceptions being Stuarts Hill and Pumpkin Hill. There is a wonderful sand and coconut palm trail faced by the sea and backed by a marsh lagoon just west of the Utila Lodge and a pleasant town walk to the east toward the bridge and airstrip. Signs in or near town inform the reader that "It's healthy to walk" or "Kindly keep out." My favorite is The Bucket of Blood Bar, where Hemingway is said to have hung out.

A ride via an all-terrain vehicle to Pumpkin Hill (usually pronounced Punk'n) provided further insight to the unusual geology of Utila. There we explored the opening to Brandon Hill Cave, 20 feet high, in the side of a pinnacle of limestone that juts through the landscape like an upthrust dagger. Behind the hill, at the beach, we found layer upon layer of igneous and limestone rock, sometimes mixed together. Pumpkin Hill was covered by the sea at least seven different times during its long, catastrophic evolution.



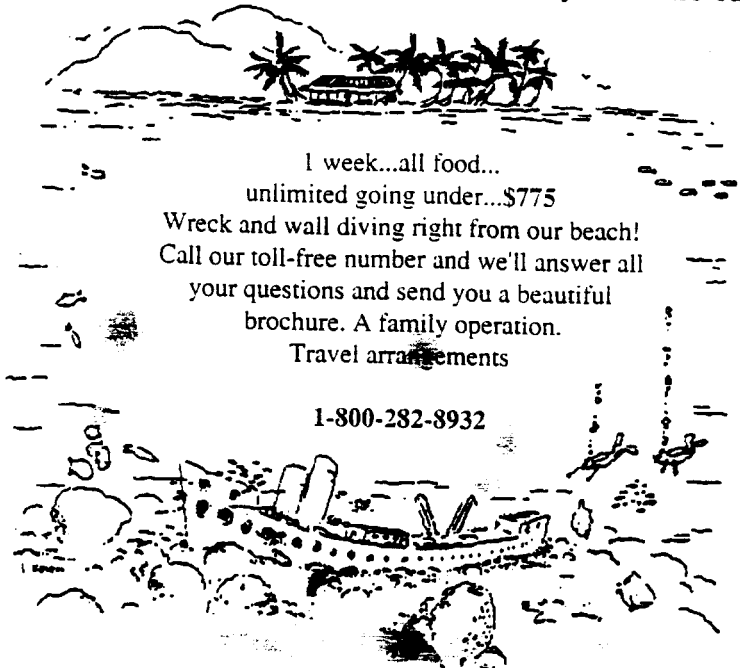
TACA International Airlines has modern 767 and 737 jet aircraft and offers convenient flight schedules from U.S. gateway cities to San Pedro Sula and Roatan.

Getting to Utila is no longer difficult. TACA's modern jets (737s and 767s) will get you from numerous U.S. gateways to San Pedro Sula or La Ceiba in Honduras or to Roatan Island. Caribbean Air, a new Roatan-based charter carrier, is connecting with many flights from the U.S. to Honduras. Bill Evans, the same man who built CoCo View Lodge (Roatan) and the Utila Lodge, owns Caribbean Air.

Jim and Kisty live on an island they now call home, a laidback little Caribbean island that Jim describes as "the center of a dream." Better hurry, there are only eight rooms, a few of which were empty during my visit. All the diving islands of the Caribbean must move over a notch—Utila has arrived!

For information and reservations call Roatan Charter, Inc., at (800) 282-8932.

Our front yard is a wreck, and a 110 foot wall, and a snorkel away from the bar



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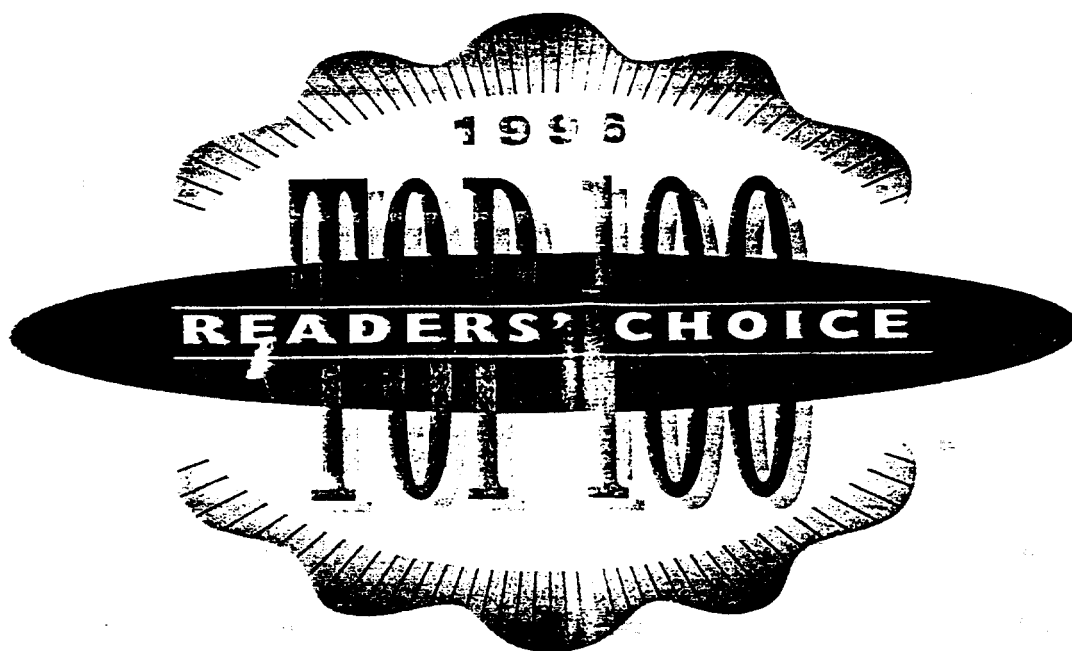
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UTILA LODGE



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8459

For the past three years we've asked you, our readers, to write and tell us your favorite dive destinations, resorts, operators and live-aboards. And every year we've reported the results in our annual Readers' Choice Awards. But this year, we—and you—took it a step further. Rather than simply voting on your favorites, we asked you to take out the white gloves and the magnifying glasses and take a hard look at the places you go and the people you dive with, and to rate nearly every aspect of your experience on a scale of 1 to 5—poor to excellent.

By the time we were finished counting, we had received more than 4,000 responses with more than 4,000 opinionated assessments of more than 4,000 dive trips. Beginning in this issue, we'll use these responses to give you the lowdown—good and bad—on resorts, operators and live-aboards in major dive destinations around the world, one destination at a time (see Bonaire Reader Ratings, page 57).

But first, we bring you the *crème de la crème*: The RSD Readers' Choice Top 100. This list presents the dive destinations, resorts, operators and live-aboards that received the highest average overall scores, regardless of their categories.

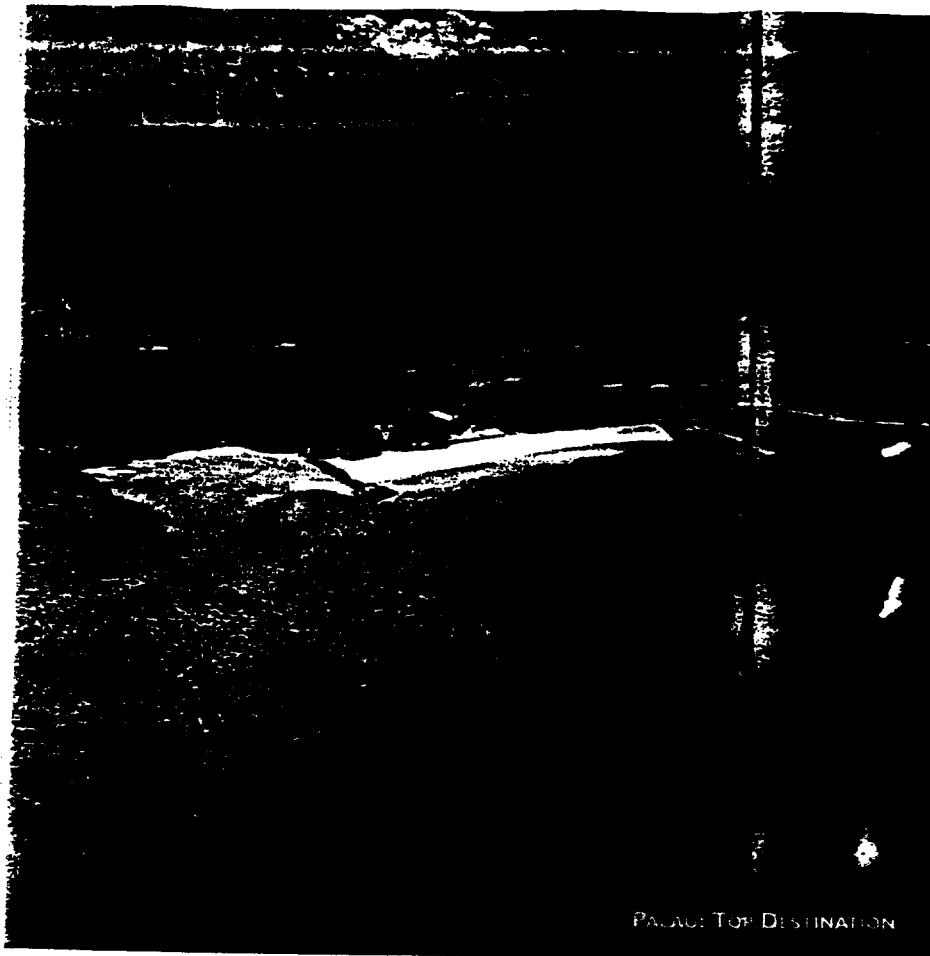
You want surprises? Start at the top of the list. The *M/V Caribbean Explorer*, a live-aboard dive boat that cruises the islands of the eastern Caribbean, not only topped every other live-aboard in the world, it got the top overall score for any entry in any category with a 4.93 average.

In general, dive destinations in the Pacific outscored destinations in the Caribbean—Palau, Cocos Island and the Galapagos Islands topped the list—but operators and resorts in the Caribbean scored higher than their Pacific counterparts. The top live-aboard, resort and operator each came from the Caribbean/Atlantic region.

Top 100 OVERALL

1. **M/V Caribbean Explorer** [4.93] Caribbean 🏴‍☠️
2. **Club Med/Columbus Isle** [4.92] San Salvador, Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
3. **Palau** [4.91] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
4. **Wave Dancer/Peter Hughes** [4.88] Belize 🏴‍☠️
5. **Cocos Island, Costa Rica** [4.87] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
6. **Truk Aggressor** [4.86] Truk 🏴‍☠️
Truth Aquatics [4.86] Santa Barbara, Calif. 🏴‍☠️
8. **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** [4.85] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
9. **Club Med/Columbus Isle** [4.83] San Salvador, Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
10. **CoCo View Resort** [4.79] Roatan, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
11. **Baskin in the Sun** [4.78] Tortola, BVI's 🏴‍☠️
Galapagos [4.78] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
13. **Sharm el Sheikh** [4.77] Egypt 🏔️
Cuan Law/Trimarine [4.77] USVIs/BVIs 🏴‍☠️
15. **CoCo View Resort** [4.76] Roatan, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
Truk [4.76] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
17. **Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures** [4.75] Maui, Hawaii 🏴‍☠️
Little Cayman Diver II [4.75] Cayman Islands 🏴‍☠️
Palau Aggressor [4.75] Palau 🏴‍☠️
SpoilSport/Mike Ball [4.75] Queensland, Australia 🏴‍☠️
21. **Posada del Sol** [4.73] Guanaja, Bay Islands 🏴‍☠️
22. **Cayman Aggressor** [4.72] Cayman Islands 🏴‍☠️
23. **Little Cayman** [4.71] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
24. **Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn** [4.70] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
25. **Brac Aquatics** [4.69] Cayman Brac 🏴‍☠️
Kona Coast Divers [4.69] Hawaii (Big Island) 🏴‍☠️
27. **Outer Banks, N.C.** [4.67] United States 🏔️
Papua New Guinea [4.67] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
SS Thorfinn [4.67] Truk 🏴‍☠️
V.I. Divers [4.67] St. Croix, USVIs 🏴‍☠️
31. **San Salvador, Bahamas** [4.66] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
32. **Costa Rica** [4.65] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
Sun Dancer/Peter Hughes [4.65] Palau 🏴‍☠️
34. **Utila Lodge Resort** [4.64] Utila, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
35. **Supersport/Mike Ball** [4.63] Queensland, Australia 🏴‍☠️
36. **Scuba Cozumel** [4.61] Cozumel 🏴‍☠️
37. **Bon Bini Divers Bonaire** [4.60] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
Hyatt Grand Cayman [4.60] Grand Cayman 🏴‍☠️
Queensland, Australia [4.60] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
Shear Water Excursions [4.60] Riviera Beach, Fla. 🏴‍☠️
Sipadan [4.60] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
42. **Bay Islands Aggressor** [4.58] Bay Islands, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
Cayman Brac [4.58] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
Jack's Diving Locker [4.58] Hawaii (Big Island) 🏴‍☠️
Puerto Rico [4.58] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
46. **Little Cayman Beach Resort** [4.57] Little Cayman 🏴‍☠️
Sand Dollar Dive & Photo [4.57] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
48. **Bonaire** [4.55] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
It's A Dive Watersports [4.55] Key Largo, Fla. 🏴‍☠️
Taveuni, Fiji [4.55] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
51. **Dive Dominica** [4.54] Dominica 🏴‍☠️
52. **Belize Aggressor** [4.53] Belize 🏴‍☠️
Peter Hughes Dive Tiara [4.53] Cayman Brac 🏴‍☠️
54. **Cozumel** [4.52] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
55. **Captain Don's Habitat** [4.50] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
Diving Safaris [4.50] Costa Rica 🏴‍☠️
Lighthouse Reef Resort [4.50] Belize 🏴‍☠️
Nassau Scuba Center [4.50] New Providence, Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
Scuba Bimini [4.50] Bimini, Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
Thailand [4.50] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
61. **Red Sail Sports, Grand Cayman** [4.47] Grand Cayman 🏴‍☠️
62. **Baja Expeditions** [4.45] La Paz, Mexico 🏴‍☠️
63. **Provo Turtle Divers** [4.44] Providenciales, Turks & Caicos 🏴‍☠️
Reef Divers at Little Cayman [4.44] Little Cayman 🏴‍☠️
65. **Beqa Island, Fiji** [4.43] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
Fiesta Americana [4.43] Cozumel 🏴‍☠️
Turks & Caicos Aggressor [4.43] Turks & Caicos 🏴‍☠️
68. **Nekton Pilot** [4.42] Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
Princess Divers/Peter Hughes Diving [4.42] Curaçao 🏴‍☠️
Sand Dollar Condominium Resort [4.42] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
71. **Castle Comfort Lodge** [4.40] Dominica 🏴‍☠️
72. **Romeo's Resort Dive** [4.38] Roatan, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
Silent World Dive Center [4.38] Key Largo, Fla. 🏴‍☠️
74. **Blackbeard's Cruises** [4.37] Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
Peter Hughes Dive Bonaire [4.37] Bonaire 🏴‍☠️
76. **Dive House** [4.36] Cozumel 🏴‍☠️
77. **Brac Reef Beach** [4.35] Cayman Brac 🏴‍☠️
Stuart Cove's Dive South Ocean [4.35] New Providence, Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
79. **Anthony's Key Resort** [4.34] Roatan, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
80. **Anthony's Key Resort** [4.33] Roatan, Honduras 🏴‍☠️
Dive Paradise [4.33] Cozumel 🏴‍☠️
82. **Dive Palancar** [4.32] Cozumel 🏴‍☠️
Galapago Inn [4.32] Cozumel 🏴‍☠️
84. **Bahama Divers** [4.30] New Providence, Bahamas 🏴‍☠️
California [4.30] United States 🏔️
Hydrospace Dive Shop [4.30] Panama City, Fla. 🏴‍☠️
Islamorada, Fla. Keys [4.30] United States 🏔️
88. **Dominica** [4.29] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
Seven-Mile Beach Resort [4.29] Grand Cayman 🏴‍☠️
Tortola, BVI's [4.29] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
91. **Fisheye of Cayman** [4.26] Grand Cayman 🏴‍☠️
Saba [4.26] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
Sunset Divers/Sunset House [4.26] Grand Cayman 🏴‍☠️
94. **Grand Cayman** [4.25] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
95. **Ambergris Caye, Belize** [4.23] Caribbean/Atlantic 🏔️
Channel Islands [4.23] United States 🏔️
Princess Beach Resort [4.23] Curaçao 🏴‍☠️
98. **Flower Garden Banks, Texas** [4.22] United States 🏔️
Hawaii (Big Island) [4.22] Indo-Pacific 🏔️
100. **Don Foster's Dive Cayman** [4.21] Grand Cayman 🏴‍☠️

KEY ▶ Destination 🏔️, Live-aboard 🏴‍☠️, Dive Operator 🏴‍☠️, Resort 🏴‍☠️



PALAU: TOP DESTINATION

THE SURVEY

Reader rating forms were included in seven issues of *Rodale's Scuba Diving* from April to December 1995, and were available to all readers, postage-paid. More than 4,000 responses were received. Readers were asked to judge individual destinations, dive operators, resorts and live-aheads on a scale from 1 to 5: poor (1); below average (2); good (3); above average (4); excellent (5). A minimum number of responses was required for a candidate to qualify for inclusion in the Top 100.

Most Big Animals DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. New Providence, Bahamas [3.87]
2. Grand Bahama, Bahamas [3.83]
3. San Salvador, Bahamas [3.79]
4. Little Cayman [3.60]
5. Ambergris Caye, Belize [3.43]
Elmimi, Bahamas [3.43]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Galapagos Islands, Ecuador [4.83]
2. Cocos Island, Costa Rica [4.80]
3. Palau [4.68]
4. Costa Rica [4.58]
5. Sipadan, Malaysia [4.40]

UNITED STATES

1. Outer Banks, N.C. [3.60]
2. Flower Garden Banks, Texas [3.43]
3. Channel Islands, Calif. [3.02]
4. Southeast Florida [3.00]
5. California [2.95]

Best Value for Diving Dollar DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. San Salvador, Bahamas [4.66]
2. Utila, Honduras [4.63]
3. Cozumel, Mexico [4.50]
4. Bonaire [4.49]
5. Little Cayman [4.46]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Cocos Island, Costa Rica [4.67]
2. Galapagos Islands, Ecuador [4.61]
3. Truk, FSM [4.55]
4. Beqa, Fiji [4.50]
Queensland, Australia [4.50]

UNITED STATES

1. Outer Banks, N.C. [4.53]
2. California [4.48]
3. Islamorada, Fla. Keys [4.48]
4. Channel Islands, Calif. [4.40]
5. Flower Garden Banks, Texas [4.39]

Best Fish Life DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. Little Cayman [4.44]
2. Cayman Brac [4.25]
Puerto Rico [4.25]
4. Bonaire [4.23]
Cozumel, Mexico [4.23]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt [4.86]
2. Palau [4.82]
3. Sipadan, Malaysia [4.80]
4. Cocos Island, Costa Rica [4.67]
5. Costa Rica [4.61]

UNITED STATES

1. Key Largo, Fla. Keys [4.39]
2. Outer Banks, N.C. [4.27]
3. Islamorada, Fla. Keys [4.13]
4. Looe Key, Fla. Keys [4.08]
5. Flower Garden Banks, Texas [4.04]

Healthiest Reefs DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. Little Cayman [4.71]
2. Bonaire [4.67]
3. Puerto Rico [4.60]
4. Dominica [4.58]
5. Cayman Brac [4.55]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Taveuni, Fiji [4.91]
2. Palau [4.81]
3. Papua New Guinea [4.75]
4. Beqa, Fiji [4.64]
5. Queensland, Australia [4.50]
Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt [4.50]

UNITED STATES

1. Looe Key, Fla. Keys [4.38]
2. Key Largo, Fla. Keys [3.98]
3. Flower Garden Banks, Texas [3.78]
Marathon, Fla. Keys [3.78]
5. Southeast Florida [3.77]

Top 10 DESTINATIONS BY REGION

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. Little Cayman [4.71]
2. San Salvador, Bahamas [4.66]
3. Cayman Brac [4.58]
Puerto Rico [4.58]
5. Bonaire [4.55]
6. Cozumel, Mexico [4.52]
7. Dominica [4.29]
8. Saba [4.26]
9. Grand Cayman [4.25]
10. Ambergris Caye, Belize [4.23]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Palau [4.91]
2. Cocos Island, Costa Rica [4.87]
3. Galapagos Islands, Ecuador [4.78]
4. Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt [4.77]
5. Truk, FSM [4.76]
6. Papua New Guinea [4.67]
7. Costa Rica [4.65]
8. Queensland, Australia [4.60]
Sipadan, Malaysia [4.60]
10. Taveuni, Fiji [4.55]

UNITED STATES

1. Outer Banks, N.C. [4.67]
2. California [4.30]
Islamorada, Fla. Keys [4.30]
4. Channel Islands, Calif. [4.23]
5. Flower Garden Banks, Texas [4.22]
6. Key Largo, Fla. Keys [4.13]
7. Southeast Florida [4.12]
8. Looe Key, Fla. Keys [4.08]
9. Marathon, Fla. Keys [4.06]
10. Catalina Island, Calif. [3.93]



Top 10 RESORTS

1. Club Med/Columbus Isle, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.83]
2. CoCo View Resort, Roatan, Honduras [4.76]
3. Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn, Bonaire [4.70]
4. Hyatt Grand Cayman, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands [4.60]
5. Little Cayman Beach Resort, Little Cayman, Cayman Islands [4.57]
6. Fiesta Americana, Cozumel, Mexico [4.43]
7. Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, Bonaire [4.42]
8. Castle Comfort Lodge, Dominica [4.40]
9. Brac Reef Beach Resort, Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands [4.35]
10. Anthony's Key Resort, Roatan, Honduras [4.33]

Best Wall Diving DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. Little Cayman [4.96]
2. Cayman Brac [4.68]
3. Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos [4.60]
4. Grand Cayman [4.56]
5. San Salvador, Bahamas [4.55]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt [4.32]
2. Sipadan, Malaysia [4.30]
3. Palau [4.75]
4. Papua New Guinea [4.67]
5. Queensland, Australia [3.91]

UNITED STATES

1. Catalina Island, Calif. [3.89]
2. California [3.69]
3. Channel Islands, Calif. [3.65]

Best Wreck Diving DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. Bermuda [4.24]
2. Aruba [4.21]
3. British Virgin Islands [4.08]
4. St. Thomas, USVI [4.05]
5. New Providence, Bahamas [3.67]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Truk, FSM [5.00]
2. Queensland, Australia [3.76]
3. Palau [3.56]
4. Oahu, Hawaii [3.50]
5. Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt [3.22]

UNITED STATES

1. Outer Banks, N.C. [4.37]
2. Panama City, Fla. [4.29]
3. Southeast Florida [3.36]
4. Islamorada, Fla. Keys [3.78]
5. Marathon, Fla. Keys [3.47]

Best Shore Diving DESTINATIONS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

1. Bonaire [4.79]
2. Curaçao [4.14]
3. St. Croix, USVI [4.03]
4. Puerto Rico [4.00]
5. St. Thomas, USVI [3.80]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Sipadan, Malaysia [4.67]
2. Maui, Hawaii [4.03]
3. Beqa, Fiji [3.90]
4. Kona, Hawaii [3.71]
5. Hawaii (Big Island) [3.63]

UNITED STATES

1. Catalina Island, Calif. [3.33]
2. Channel Islands, Calif. [3.22]
3. California [3.07]

Highest Overall Rating DIVE OPERATORS

CARIBBEAN/ATLANTIC

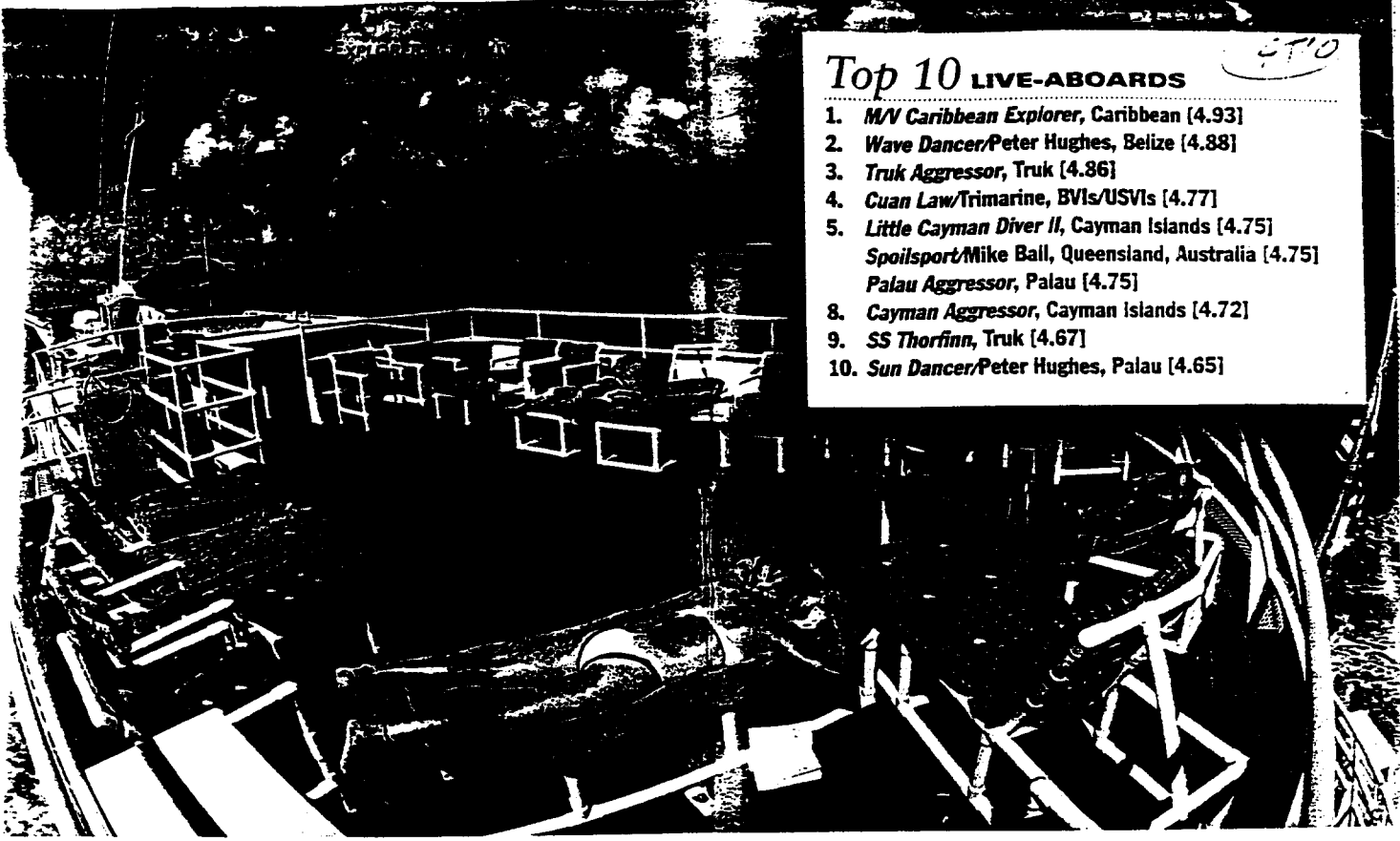
1. Club Med/Columbus Isle, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.92]
2. Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn, Bonaire [4.85]
3. CoCo View Resort, Roatan, Honduras [4.79]
4. Baskin in the Sun, Tortola, BVI [4.78]
5. Posada del Sol, Guanaja, Honduras [4.73]

INDO-PACIFIC

1. Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures, Maui, Hawaii [4.75]
2. Kona Coast Divers, Kona, Hawaii [4.69]
3. Jack's Diving Locker, Kona, Hawaii [4.58]
4. Diving Safaris, Playa Coco, Costa Rica [4.50]
5. Baja Expeditions, La Paz, Baja, Mexico [4.45]

UNITED STATES

1. Truth Aquatics, Santa Barbara, Calif. [4.86]
2. Shear Water Excursions/Gold Coast, Riviera Beach, Fla. [4.60]
3. It's A Dive Watersports, Key Largo, Fla. Keys [4.55]



Top 10 LIVE-ABOARDS

1. *M/V Caribbean Explorer*, Caribbean [4.93]
2. *Wave Dancer/Peter Hughes*, Belize [4.88]
3. *Truk Aggressor*, Truk [4.86]
4. *Cuan Law/Trimarine*, BVIs/USVIs [4.77]
5. *Little Cayman Diver II*, Cayman Islands [4.75]
Spoilsport/Mike Ball, Queensland, Australia [4.75]
Palau Aggressor, Palau [4.75]
8. *Cayman Aggressor*, Cayman Islands [4.72]
9. *SS Thorfinn*, Truk [4.67]
10. *Sun Dancer/Peter Hughes*, Palau [4.65]

4. Silent World Dive Center, Key Largo, Fla. Keys [4.38]
5. Hydrospace Dive Shop, Panama City, Fla. [4.30]

Best Dive Staff DIVE OPERATORS

1. Scuba Bimini, Bimini, Bahamas [4.86]
Truth Aquatics, Santa Barbara, Calif., U.S. [4.86]
3. Bon Bini Divers Bonaire, Bonaire [4.85]
Club Med/Columbus Isle, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.85]
5. Utila Lodge Resort, Utila, Honduras [4.82]
6. Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn, Bonaire [4.81]
7. Romeo's Resort, Roatan, Honduras [4.77]
8. Blue Lagoon Dive Shop, Truk, FSM [4.74]
Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures, Maui, Hawaii [4.74]
10. Brac Aquatics, Cayman Brac [4.73]
V.I. Divers, St. Croix, USVIs [4.73]

Best Day Boats DIVE OPERATORS

1. It's A Dive Watersports, Key Largo, Fla. Keys [4.76]
2. Club Med/Columbus Isle, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.69]
3. Peter Hughes Princess Diving, Curaçao [4.63]
4. Truth Aquatics, Santa Barbara, Calif., U.S. [4.52]
5. Provo Turtle Divers, Providenciales, Turks & Caicos [4.50]
6. Red Sail Sports, Grand Cayman [4.47]
Scuba Bimini, Bimini, Bahamas [4.47]
8. Dive House, Cozumel, Mexico [4.43]
9. Jack's Diving Locker, Hawaii [4.40]
Treasure Island Divers, Grand Cayman [4.40]

Best Value for Diving Dollar DIVE OPERATORS

1. Club Med/Columbus Isle, San Salvador, Bahamas [5.00]
2. Posada del Sol, Guanaja, Honduras [4.82]
3. Truth Aquatics, Santa Barbara, Calif., U.S. [4.79]
4. Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn, Bonaire [4.77]
5. Scuba Cozumel, Cozumel, Mexico [4.74]
6. CoCo View Resort, Roatan, Honduras [4.73]
Utila Lodge Resort, Honduras [4.73]
8. Bon Bini Divers Bonaire, Bonaire [4.70]
9. It's A Dive Watersports, Key Largo, Fla. Keys [4.64]
10. Brac Aquatics, Cayman Brac [4.62]
Romeo's Resort, Roatan, Honduras [4.62]

Best Dive Staff LIVE-ABOARDS

1. *Little Cayman Diver II*, Cayman Islands [4.96]
2. *Truk Aggressor*, Truk [4.91]
3. *Wave Dancer/Peter Hughes*, Belize [4.85]
4. *Turks & Caicos Aggressor*, Turks & Caicos [4.79]
5. *Bay Islands Aggressor*, Bay Islands [4.77]
6. *M/V Caribbean Explorer*, Caribbean [4.75]
7. *Spoilsport/Mike Ball*, Queensland, Australia [4.73]
8. *Cayman Aggressor*, Cayman Islands [4.71]
9. *SS Thorfinn*, Truk [4.70]
10. *Belize Aggressor*, Belize [4.67]

Best Boat LIVE-ABOARDS

1. *Wave Dancer/Peter Hughes*, Belize [4.87]
2. *Palau Aggressor*, Palau [4.77]
3. *Spoilsport/Mike Ball*, Queensland, Australia [4.70]
4. *Truk Aggressor*, Truk [4.67]
5. *Cuan Law/Trimarine*, BVIs/USVIs [4.64]
6. *Sun Dancer/Peter Hughes*, Palau [4.63]
7. *Cayman Aggressor*, Cayman Islands [4.61]
8. *Bay Islands Aggressor*, Belize [4.59]
Belize Aggressor, Belize [4.59]
Supersport/Mike Ball, Queensland, Australia [4.59]
Nepton Pilot, Bahamas [4.59]

Best Value for Diving Dollar LIVE-ABOARDS

1. *Wave Dancer/Peter Hughes*, Belize [4.80]
2. *Truk Aggressor*, Truk [4.79]
3. *SS Thorfinn*, Truk [4.75]
M/V Caribbean Explorer, Caribbean [4.75]
Little Cayman Diver II, Cayman Islands [4.75]
6. *Palau Aggressor*, Palau [4.72]
7. *Blackbeard's Cruises*, Bahamas [4.58]
8. *Belize Aggressor*, Belize [4.56]
9. *Cuan Law/Trimarine*, BVIs/USVIs [4.54]
10. *Supersport/Mike Ball*, Queensland, Australia [4.44]

Best Restaurant RESORTS

1. *Little Cayman Beach Resort*, Little Cayman [4.67]
2. *Fantasy Island Resort*, Roatan, Honduras [4.60]
3. *CoCo View Resort*, Roatan, Honduras [4.57]
4. *Hyatt Grand Cayman*, Grand Cayman [4.40]
5. *Club Med/Columbus Isle*, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.38]
6. *Seaview Hotel*, Grand Cayman [4.07]
7. *Brac Reef Beach Resort*, Cayman Brac [3.89]
8. *Castle Comfort Lodge*, Dominica [3.88]
9. *Galapago Inn*, Cozumel, Mexico [3.83]
10. *Green Parrot, Sand Dollar Condominium Resort*, Bonaire [3.80]

Best Staff RESORTS

1. *Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn*, Bonaire [4.70]
Hyatt Grand Cayman, Grand Cayman [4.70]
3. *Club Med/Columbus Isle*, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.63]
4. *CoCo View Resort*, Roatan, Honduras [4.56]
5. *Fiesta Americana*, Cozumel, Mexico [4.55]
6. *Castle Comfort Lodge*, Dominica [4.45]
7. *Anthony's Key Resort*, Roatan, Honduras [4.39]
Little Cayman Beach Resort, Little Cayman [4.39]
9. *Anse Chastenet*, St. Lucia [4.30]
Diva Tiara Beach Resort, Cayman Brac [4.30]

Best Value for Diving Dollar RESORTS

1. *Bruce Bowker's Carib Inn*, Bonaire [4.90]
2. *CoCo View Resort*, Roatan, Honduras [4.88]
3. *Club Med/Columbus Isle*, San Salvador, Bahamas [4.67]
4. *Hotel Barracuda*, Cozumel, Mexico [4.60]
5. *Anthony's Key Resort*, Roatan, Honduras [4.56]
6. *Diamond Resort*, Cozumel, Mexico [4.50]
7. *Galapago Inn*, Cozumel, Mexico [4.47]
8. *Sand Dollar Condominium Resort*, Bonaire [4.41]
9. *Little Cayman Beach Resort*, Little Cayman [4.36]
10. *Fiesta Americana*, Cozumel, Mexico [4.30]
Castle Comfort Lodge, Dominica [4.30]
Brac Reef Beach Resort, Cayman Brac [4.30]

1995

Nikonos Shootout WINNERS

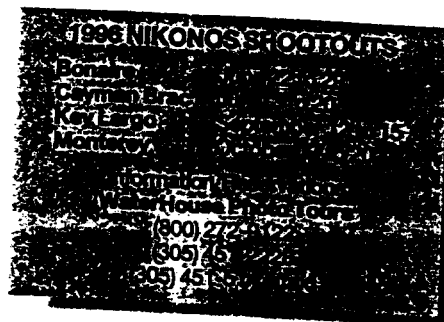


Grand Prize and Bonaire Macro/Philip Moon

BY TAMARA L. COLLINS

8459
Capturing the different elements of the underwater realm on film is a favorite activity for divers all over the world. Many divers spend their vacations in pursuit of the elusive images that will epitomize the reef's beauty. The Nikonos Shootouts give amateur photographers the opportunity to vacation near some of the most photogenic reefs in the world and be awarded prizes for their imagery.

The photographers represented on these pages traveled to Bonaire, Cayman Brac, Key Largo and Monterey in pursuit of fun, camaraderie, education and incredible prizes. The photo competition, which includes parties, lectures, special events and advice from some of the top



photographers in the field, is free; the only expenses are travel, accommodations and film processing. The competition is standardized with the designation of a lens and film for each day, giving everyone an

equal footing. The photographers compete in five categories: macro/close-up, open, standard, wide angle and SLR.

Philip Moon captured the Grand Prize in Bonaire this year with his macro shot of a lizardfish's gaping jaws. He and a friend will be spending a week in Palau aboard Peter Hughes' *Sun Dancer* with new Nikonos underwater photo equipment, a Sea Quest dive computer, Henderson wetsuit and Rolex Tudor watch.

Your opportunity to experience the fun of friendly competition (and the chance to win fabulous prizes) is coming up soon. You'll find the locations and dates of the 1996 Nikonos Shootouts in our sidebar.

Does Diving Harm Health?

BY E.R. CROSS



Often I have been asked, "Is diving detrimental to health?" The tentative, qualified answer is "Possibly yes, and probably no," depending upon the facts and circumstances of the dive.

To put the answers in proper perspective it is first necessary to sort out the kind of divers. A rather broad division would be commercial, specialty (technical) and recreational. Diving is possibly detrimental to the long-term health of commercial and technical divers. Because the depth and time of their dives are dictated by circumstances, they cannot or do not always want to keep within the range of minimum risk. On the other hand, recreational divers can and do regulate the depth and time of their dives. Recreational diving, conducted along recommended guidelines, is probably not injurious to health.

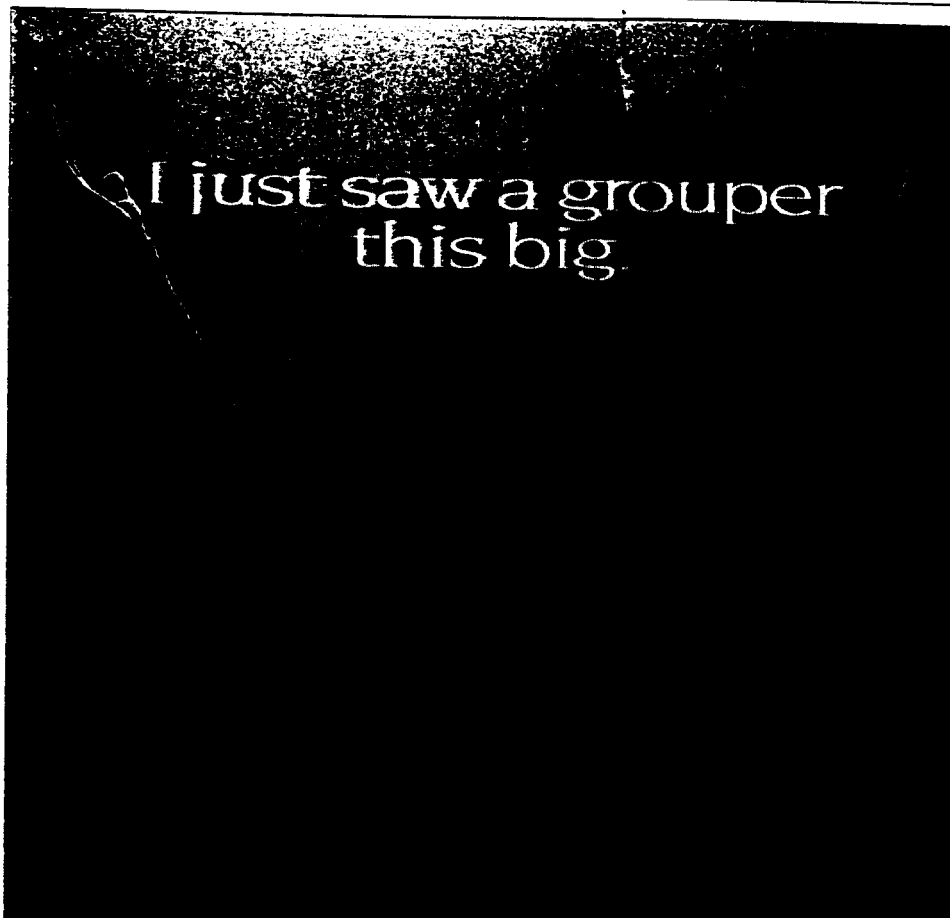
Physiology pertains to the various parts and functions of living organisms. Owing to the scope and complexity of the science, several branches or specialties exist. Some normal physiological processes become even more intricate when subjected to the several kinds of stresses in diving. It's important divers realize the very delicate balance that exists in the life processes may be changed during diving. It does seem possible that long term, poor diving habits could be detrimental to any diver's health.

The problem is that the human body functions optimally only at one atmosphere of normal air pressure. The body does not adapt well to the drastic changes in pressure to which divers sometimes subject themselves. We must observe fairly strict limits in the composition of the breathing gases we use. If the

percentage of oxygen is changed, absolute partial pressure must be adjusted so it is nearly the same as normal partial pressure at sea level. For deep diving, nitrogen must be diluted or replaced with either helium or, occasionally hydrogen or other gases, to reduce the effect of the diluent gas on the nervous systems. Also, we must limit time and depth of dive to avoid both physical and physiological problems. An excessive partial pressure of any of the gases can affect dive safety.

The body has been aptly described as a flameless furnace. The energy in food is converted by oxidative processes and made available as energy through absorption within all cells. It is, of course, not that simple. Acid molecules, enzymes, oxidation, the tearing up of hydrogen molecules and glucose are all involved. The result is the development of

(Continued on Page 50)



I just saw a grouper
this big.

We believe. Because diving Key Largo is more than a superb variety of marine life. It's the miraculous visibility of North America's only living coral reef.

Of course, the clear waters also help you explore our many wrecks and artificial reefs. Which reinforces that Key Largo is the diving capital of the world. And that's not just our word. It's gospel.

Call your travel agent today. For more information call 1-800-822-1088.

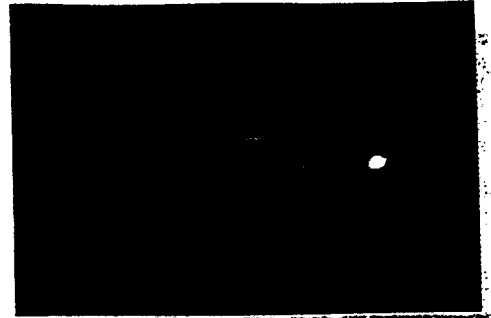
D I V E
KEY LARGO

Stay down longer in The Florida Keys

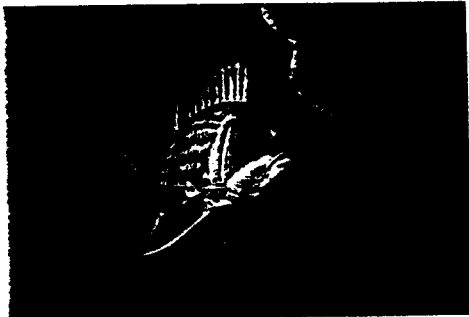


Monterey Open/Ryan Boerema

Cayman Brac Standard/
Robin Gruters



Cayman Brac Wide Angle/Rod Soja



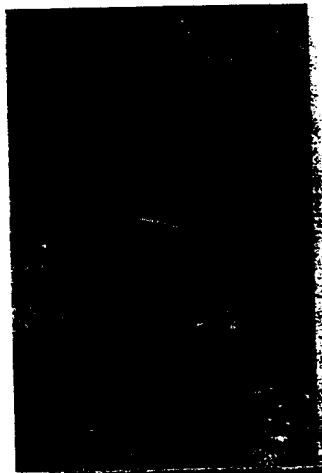
Cayman Brac Macro/Craig Farmer



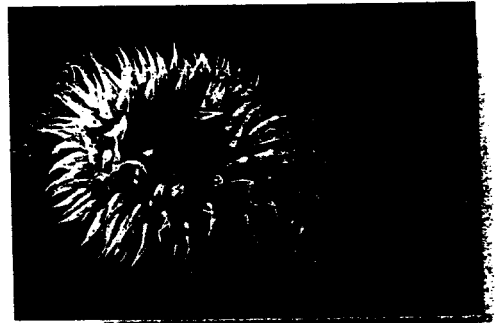
Key Largo Macro/Jan McGarva



Bonaire Standard/Joe Stianchi



Key Largo Open/Susan Mears



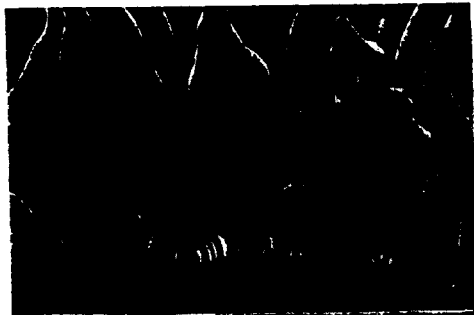
Monterey SLR/Andrew Sailman



Bonaire Open/Lisa Scoble



Key Largo SLR/Ron DeAmorim



Monterey Macro/Luz Martinez



Cayman Brac Open/Tony Gramer



Bonaire Wide Angle/Mike Kidd

Pony Bottle Naivete

I really enjoyed your panel discussion of back-up air systems (Equipment Review, October 95) and the panelists' emphasis on use of pony bottles and true redundant regulators.

As a frequent travelling diver, however, I want to mention that in many places appearing on a dive boat with a pony bottle will get you puzzlement at best and hostility at worst from operators, captains and divemasters. On a recent dive in Grand Cayman I had a genuinely hard time convincing the boat captain that just because I had brought a pony bottle and a technical BC it did not automatically mean I planned to violate depth or time limits!

I suggest that if you want to use a pony (and I think everyone should) one should try and dive with boats and operators that have some experience with technical diving. If that is not possible — and it isn't in most of the Caribbean — I suggest telling the dive operator in advance that you will be bringing redundant gear and that you are practiced in its use. 8459


Charles A. Schaffer
St. Paul, MN

BOB SOTO'S DIVING LTD.

Bob Soto's Diving Limited has recently retained the services of Linda Landua as U.S. marketing representative. Linda is based in Texas and will be responsible for the coordination of special group dive packages and individual air-land-dive packages through dive shops and travel agents.

Linda has been a marketing representative for SKIN DIVER Magazine and the special markets coordinator for the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism and Cayman Airways. She was one of the original organizers of the Cayman Island Watersports Operators Association (CIWOA) and was the DEMA coordinator for the Department of Tourism and Cayman Airways on behalf of the CIWOA. In addition, she was responsible for opening offices in Houston, Texas for the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism and Cayman Airways.

Since 1994, Linda has been the primary manager responsible for coordinating all activities associated with Bob Soto's very successful Cayman Madness program. Cayman Madness is offered for seven weeks in September and October. It features diving and a full program of social events and activities. In addition, Linda was responsible for a recent trip involving a group of Japanese visitors to the Cayman Islands, Go Cayman Go Crazy—another winner!

For assistance with Bob Soto's Diving Group Packages, contact Linda at P.O. Box 2296, Brenham, Texas 77834 or call (800) BOB-SOTO, (409) 836-4142. 

8454


SCUBA SENSATIONS

Soto
Peter Milburn, owner of Dive Cayman Ltd., along with Ron and Kathie Kipp, owners of Bob Soto's Diving Ltd., are proud to announce the formation of Scuba Sensations Ltd., Grand Cayman's newest watersports operation.

Scuba Sensations is the designated watersports operator for Treasure Island Resort, currently with limited retail goods. Major remodeling is scheduled for early 1996, with a state of the art, full service retail dive center to open June 1.

Peter Milburn brings 28 years of diving experience to the project. He is well known for introducing the concept of personalized diving on Grand Cayman and his fabulous night dives.

Ron and Kathie Kipp bring more than 15 years of operational and marketing experience to the new company. As Grand Cayman's only PADI Five Star Development Center, Bob Soto's Diving plans to extend its dive programs to Scuba Sensations.

Scuba Sensations will offer air/land/dive packages featuring Treasure Island Resort, Cayman Airways and Northwest Airlines for the summer of 1996. Call (800) 767-0445 for reservations and general information regarding these packages and Scuba Sensations. 



RIP TIDE



Test diving the LAR V military rebreather by Drager

Normally, when I write this column during this time of year, I'm discussing the thrills and chills of our annual Divesuit Shoot. Then, as predictably as the currents in Cozumel, the letters from angry women (and some angry men) begin to arrive. I've never fully understand the logic of this assault because most women's magazines, such as *Elle* or *Cosmopolitan*, are far racier than any of our fashion layouts. Still, I can't expect to understand everything so I've stopped trying. Instead, we've been beaten into politically correct submission and have moved to safer ground, where men and women are depicted equally — as they should be. Marjorie Banks, God rest her soul, would be proud.

Beyond the potential controversy, this year's shoot in the Cayman Islands proceeded without a hitch. Our divesuit team, led by the Napoleon of diving himself, David Benz, visited eight of the top resorts in just over a week.

Of course, our crew slowed down long enough for photographer Curtis Boggs, who was on his second consecutive divesuit tour, to capture the elegant beauty Cayman offers — from Stingray City to Seven Mile Beach to Bloody Bay Wall. My thanks to him and to the dauntless models for persevering tropical sun while enveloped in tight-fitting neoprene. Kudos also to Art Director Scott Bieberich for a bang-up layout. Finally, thanks to the resorts and kind people of Cayman for the hospitality extended to our bedraggled crew. After four or five days, with eight adults and a load of gear crammed into a bread-box-sized Daihatsu mini van, the group could have easily passed for Chevy Chase's next movie family — the Griswald's go to Cayman — in the fun-filled movie, *Tropical Vacation*.

While the divesuit team exposed Cayman's charm, I was hot on the technology trail, further investigating the buzz about rebreathers. At least five companies are blasting down the rebreather road, trying to bring products to market for recreational divers. Some have arrived and have rebreathers ready to sell, others are on the brink of final development. Last year, we devoted an entire *Advanced Diving Journal* to rebreathers and because it continues to move at a rapid pace, we're doing the same once again in this issue.

In my search, I ran across Russ Orlovsky, who develops rebreathers for military use — both here and overseas. Russ is fully American, as far as I could tell (he lives in Pittsburgh, anyway) but he works with Drager, the German conglomerate with perhaps the world's longest track record in rebreather research and development. Russ brought his pride and joy to Pensacola for some test diving. It's the LAR V MOD UBA or simply, the Mk25 MOD 1 UBA in Navy speak. I could tell you what all that means, but then, Russ might have to kill me. In layman's terms, the LAR V is a fully-closed, 100-percent oxygen rebreather designed, as Russ would say, for VSW MCM Ops (very shallow water, mine counter measures operations). The LAR V is not really practical for recreational diving, in that it has a depth limit of about 30 feet (due to oxygen toxicity concerns). But, it was fun taking it for a test spin. First of all, there are no bubbles, which is cool. Secondly, it's front mounted so there was nothing on my back — also cool. Additionally, it's non-magnetic, which comes in handy if you're affixing explosives to ship's hulls. We didn't have that much fun, we just dove around some jetties and snuck up on unsuspecting fish. While the LAR V is only about 30 total pounds (BC, regulator and cylinder), wearing it on my belly for a few minutes gave me a new appreciation for my very pregnant wife. My back muscles have yet to recover. Thankfully, I only had to haul that thing around for five minutes. She on the other hand...

At this point in the rebreather time line, the LAR V falls under the Munitions Control Act so Drager limits their sale to government agencies. Oh, you can still buy one, provided you own your own country or plan to own one in the near future. If so, call Russ. If not, just keep an eye on diving companies like Cochran Consulting, UWATEC, Oceanic and RBC. Some of these guys already have semi-closed units available and they're moving fast to develop affordable closed-circuit rebreathers for recreational divers. It won't be long before those units will be on the streets and we can all be proud NERDs (newly educated rebreather divers). 3

That's it from here. Enjoy. ■

Jed D. Ganth

SCUBA TIMES
Feb-Mar 1996
Circ: 37,000

The Westin Casuarina Resort on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach, is the first Westin hotel in the Caribbean. It occupies more than 700 feet of beachfront and offers over 5000 square feet of pool and deck area shaded with hundreds of date and coconut palms. A complete

The Aggressor

In A Class By Itself!

BY BONNIE J. CARDONE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WAYNE HASSON

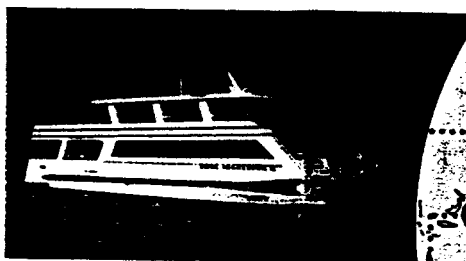
So many boats, so many fabulous destinations, so many wonderful programs—so little time! If only I didn't have to work for a living!

The Aggressor Fleet currently has ten vessels (the *Belize Aggressor III* will soon replace the *Belize Aggressor II* and number 11, the *World Aggressor*, will make her maiden voyage in 1998), strategically deployed in the very best diving areas around the globe: the Bay Islands, Belize, the Cayman Islands, the Galapagos Islands, Hawaii's Kona Coast, Cocos Island, Costa Rica, Palau, Truk Lagoon and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition, Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team offer special programs on nine vessels; Jim Church and Stan Waterman teach underwater photo courses on five of the boats.

All in all, the Aggressor Fleet offers a lifetime of diving adventures, unduplicated and unprecedented among live-aboards. Although each of the vessels has its own crew and special area—thus its own personality—all adhere to the same standards. The motto of the fleet is "Eat, Sleep, Dive." And, when you book an Aggressor Fleet trip you can be assured of a quality dive vacation. You know the food will be plentiful and expertly prepared; the boat will be clean, well maintained and well appointed; there will be plenty of fresh water; the crew will be very competent, friendly, helpful and knowledgeable about the diving conditions and sites. (The crews are all trained especially for Aggressor Fleet operations and adhere to standard operating procedures.)

Most of the boats are similar in design and layout. You can count on there being a spacious, comfortable air-conditioned lounge/dining area; a bar/sundeck; wide dive platform with freshwater shower; individual storage areas for personal gear; racks for hanging divesuits between dives; freshwater rinse barrels for cameras and regulators; and carpeted, luxurious air-conditioned staterooms.

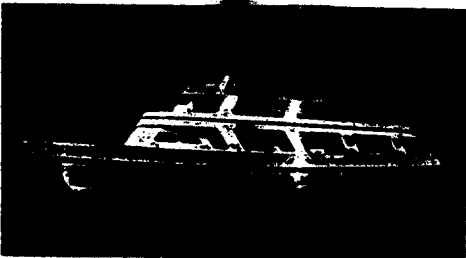
Since the Aggressor Fleet caters to



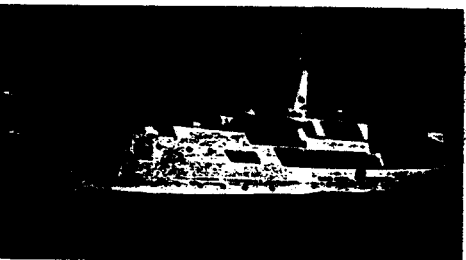
Kona Aggressor II



Palau Aggressor II

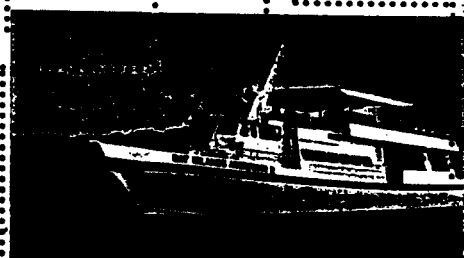


Truk Aggressor II



Okeanos Aggressor

photographers, you can be sure there will be 110 volt charging stations for strobes and lights; an on-deck camera table; daily E-6 film processing; a light table and TV/VCR for viewing slides and videos; a photo pro able to make minor equipment repairs and rent you a camera/lens/strobe/accessory. The photo pro also teaches classes resulting in PADI or NAUI specialty certification. Several other spe-



Bay Islands Aggressor II

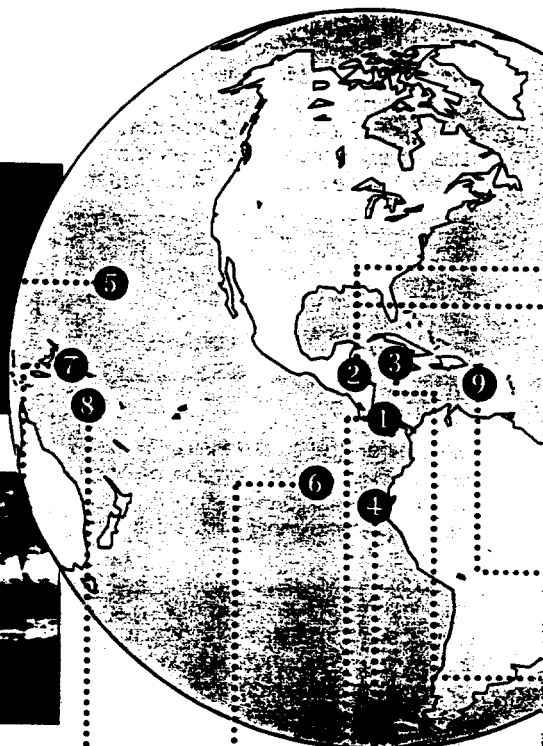


Galapagos Aggressor I and II

cialty courses are offered, check with the Aggressor Fleet when you book your trip. Each Aggressor carries several full sets of scuba gear for rental. Want to try scuba travel without all that equipment—here is your opportunity!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

This article contains a photograph of each boat and a chart listing its operating



53

Gayman
RSVP
#51

RESORT REPORT

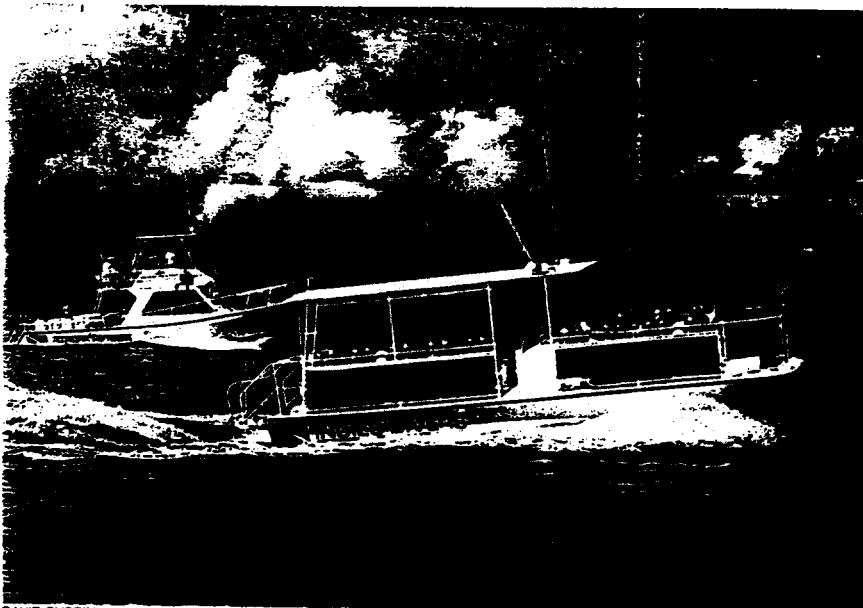
ADVERTISEMENT

SPORT DIVER MAGAZINE

March 1996

Circ: 105,000

INDIES SUITES GRAND CAYMAN DIVES BOTH COASTS!



DAVID CUBBIN

Grand Cayman is a diver's dream location. Most every type of diving including some of the most spectacular wall diving in the world is available to divers, literally just minutes away.

Once back on shore, the smartest divers are lounging in their full sized suite with all the comforts of home.

Located one block from Seven Mile Beach is the island's only all-suites dive hotel. Indies Suites started in 1990, yet it just got better. A new custom designed dive boat has just joined Indies Divers.

Who now boasts being able to dive both coasts. "Members Only" designed for the island's North Wall & Stingray City, and our

newest boat "Members Too" outfitted for beach access and to handle the west side reefs and wrecks. The firm policy of only 12 divers per trip ensures the comfort



and safety that Indies Divers is known for island - wide.

Lots has been written about the diving on this island, but for accommodations, the repeat visitors know Indies Suites is the only choice. The 975 sq ft suites



are fully equipped with Cable T.V., microwave, utensils for four persons, and king size beds.

Complimentary daily continental breakfast and individual dive lockers are all included for the same cost as most hotel rooms. Poolside BBQs, Happy Hours with live music, and a complimentary Sunset Cruise each Tuesday with Rum/Fruit Punch and snacks, make for unforgettable evenings.

The Flying Bridge Pool Bar is lively with discussion of the day's diving and creatures encountered.

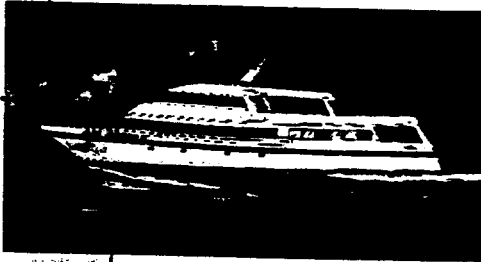
The number of repeat guests alone should speak volumes about this hotel and dive operation. Video from the days dives are always on channel 20 so don't miss the show!

**INDIES SUITES/INDIES
DIVERS
P.O. BOX 2070 GRAND
CAYMAN
CAYMAN ISLANDS,
B.W.I.
1-800-654-3130
(809) 947-5025**

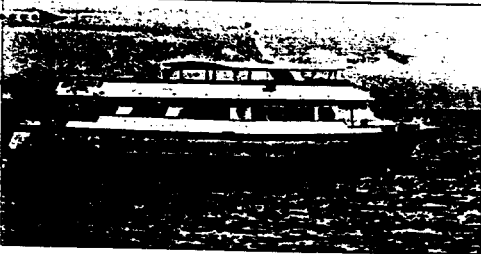
Fleet



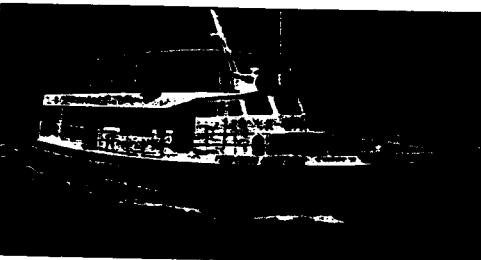
photo/Geri Murphy



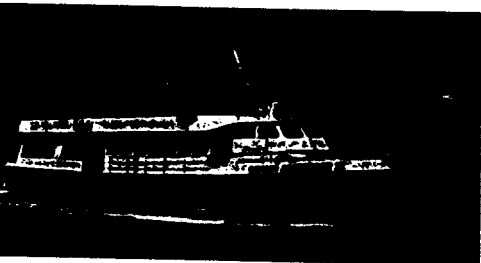
Belize Aggressor III



Belize Aggressor II



Turks & Caicos Islands Aggressor



Cayman Aggressor III

area and other pertinent specifications, including a list of marine life you can expect to see. Thus, I am not going to discuss each boat separately. Instead, I'd like to tell you about the unique special programs the Aggressor Fleet offers. There are, for instance, the Jim Church photo courses. No matter what your skill level, your photographs/videos will improve after a week with Jim and you'll have a great time.

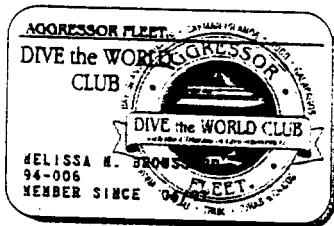
AGGRESSOR FLEET VESSELS

Vessel	Length	Capacity	Photo Services	Number of Crew	Area Dived	Life Usually Seen	Life Sometimes Seen
Bay Islands Aggressor II Roatan, Honduras	110'	17	All	6	Roatan, Guanaja, Utila, Cayos Cochinos	Corals, sponges, tropicals, pelagics, Toadfish	Whale Sharks
Belize Aggressor II/III Belize City, Belize	110'	17	All	6	Lighthouse Reef, Turneffe Islands	Eagle Rays, pelagics, Tarpon	Mantas, dolphins
Cayman Aggressor III Grand Cayman, BWI	110'	17	All	6	Grand Cayman and Little Cayman	Stingrays, Squid, Barracuda, reef tropicals, macro critters	Mantas, Frogfish, Flashlight Fish
Galapagos Aggressors I/II San Cristobal, Ecuador	80'	14	All	7	Floreana, Marchena, Bartholoma, Isabela, North Seymour, Baltra Islands	Sea turtles, sharks, sealions, penguins, marine iguanas, Batfish, mantas	Hammerheads, whales, dolphins, Whale Sharks
Kona Aggressor II Kailua-Kona, Hawaii	80'	10	All	5	Hawaii's Kona Coast	Hard corals, reef tropicals, sea turtles, macro critters	Whales, mantas, dolphins, Whale Sharks
Obanor Aggressor Puntarenas, Costa Rica	120'	20	All	8	Cocos Island	Hammerheads, Whitetips, mantas, large schools of fish	Whale Sharks, whales, Mantas, Galapagos
Palau Aggressor Koror, Palau				6	Palau	Sea Corals, sponges, tropicals, pelagics, macro critters	Mantas, schooling barracudas
Truk Aggressor Truk Lagoon, FSM				6	Truk	Sea Corals, sponges, tropicals, pelagics, macro critters	Mantas, schooling barracudas
Turks & Caicos Aggressor Figueroa, Turks and Caicos				6	French Cay, Grand Ill	reef tropicals, Barracuda, turtles	Eagle Rays

research of a film production. Jean-Michel's film team leads some of these trips; he participates personally on others. If you've ever dreamed of diving with one of scuba's heroes, this is a chance to make your dreams come true.

DIVE THE WORLD CLUB

Last year Aggressor Fleet instituted its own version of a frequent diver plan, called the Dive The World Club. Membership is open to anyone with at least one Aggressor live-aboard vacation under his/her weightbelt. Join the club and



you'll get a ten percent discount on all future Aggressor on-board services and other valuable benefits. Your name will also be entered in an annual Grand Drawing, the prizes of which are trips on various Aggressor Fleet vessels.

THE DIVING

No matter how luxurious the boat, competent the crew or wonderful the programs, the heart of any live-aboard is the diving. That is why Aggressor vessels ply the waters they do. It's also what makes each member of the fleet unique. In **Palau** you'll dive with big animals (turtles, Gray Reef and Reef Whitetip Sharks and Napoleon Wrasse are almost guaranteed) along walls covered with colorful soft corals. In **Truk Lagoon** you'll visit ships and planes sunk in WW II. Here, instruments of war have been transformed into artificial reefs teeming with marine life. **Hawaii's Kona Coast** is famous for its turtles, incredible macro creatures and chance of diving with Whale Sharks, mantas and dolphins. The **Galapagos Islands** offer so many opportunities that it is the one destination with two Aggressors. Here, the diving with marine iguanas, pinnipeds and sharks shares equal billing with shore excursions to see animals found nowhere else in the world.

The *Okeanos Aggressor* visits Costa Rica's **Cocos Island**. A friend of mine was there two months ago and he's still talking about it. It seems the diving with Hammerhead Sharks, turtles and immense clouds of fish was incredibly exciting. He's got the photos to prove it—say the word and he'll show them to you!

In **Belize** you'll dive colorful walls and marine life laden shallows. You'll probably see Southern Stingrays and Spotted Eagle Rays and without a doubt there'll

(Continued on Page 128)

AGGRESSOR FLEET

(Continued from Page 81)

be huge groupers under the boat at almost every site. If you're lucky, Honey, the Bottlenose Dolphin, will come to play when the boat anchors off **Lighthouse Reef**.

In the **Cayman Islands** you'll probably dive with Southern Stingrays, experience wonderful **Bloody Bay Wall** and perhaps watch Molly the Manta gorge herself on plankton attracted by divers' lights.

The walls in the **Bay Islands** start shallow and drop below sport diving depths. Divers may see anything from tiny nudibranchs and Bluebell Tunicates to squid, octopus and larger pelagic life. There's even a shipwreck or two to explore.

The **Turks and Caicos Islands** are renowned for their colorful wilderness walls, which can drop into the abyss. Divers may see squadrons of Spotted Eagle Rays and, at certain times of the year, schools of Nurse Sharks and perhaps even a migrating Humpback.

THE WORLD AGGRESSOR

Expected to be launched in the summer of 1998, the *World Aggressor* will carry Jean-Michel Cousteau and his team around the globe on filming expeditions. It will rendezvous with other *Aggressors* in their respective locations, giving passengers of those ships opportunities to watch Jean-Michel at work. *World Aggressor* will be a floating global monitoring station and communications center, connected by satellite to other *Aggressors*, major news networks, environmental organizations and governmental agencies.

CONCLUSION

Yes, there are so many boats, so many fabulous destinations, so many special programs! Don't delay any longer, book an Aggressor Fleet vacation today. For more information or reservations, contact the Aggressor Fleet Ltd., P.O. Drawer K, Morgan City, LA 70381; (800) 348-2628, (504) 385-2628 or-fax (504) 384-0817. 🐟

Peter Hughes is recognized as one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the dive industry today. His company, Peter Hughes Diving, operates the famed Dancer Fleet of live-aboard dive boats, including the *Sea Dancer* in the Turks and Caicos, the *Wave Dancer* in Belize, the *Wind Dancer* in the Bay Islands of Honduras and the *Sun Dancer* in Palau. Peter also operates Princess Divers, the land-based dive operation at the Princess Beach Resort and Casino on Curacao. In addition, Peter serves as a consultant to dive operations at Divi Resorts. He visits both the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort and Casino on Bonaire and the Divi Tiara Beach Resort on Cayman Brac several times each year to give the benefit of his long years of experience and commitment to quality dive operations. In order to set the background on his special offer to divers commemorating his 20th anniversary in the diving business, we interviewed Peter during a recent live-aboard trip.

SDM: Peter, I've known you for at least 15 years and I've always wondered what brought you to the dive business in the first place.

HUGHES: Like most things, one thing led to another. I was born in Scotland but my family moved to Trinidad when I was four. So, even though I now live in Miami with my wife Alice, I guess I've always been a bit of an island boy. When I was growing up, I was always around the ocean and learned to dive at 10 years old, probably a bit younger than I should have. My folks recognized my affinity for the sea and enrolled me in a camp in Tobago that had a heavy emphasis on marine activities—diving, snorkeling, sailing and the like. Eventually, I was hired as the watersports supervisor.

By 1968, I was teaching diving to other teenagers. I was having fun, logging plenty of dives and basically enjoying this introduction to the dive business but I was still a little restless. In 1971, I had a chance to move to Roatan in the Bay Islands of Honduras. Then, as now, I was always game to try diving someplace new. There was really very little recreational diving being done at the time, so we were discovering new sites and working out the operation procedures for that time and place. I find it especially fascinating to be diving those same waters today and discovering new dive sites even better than the ones we explored way back then. Of course, we didn't have a live-aboard at the time.

SDM: So, it seems you've really been in the dive business for 28 years. How is it that this is your 20th anniversary?

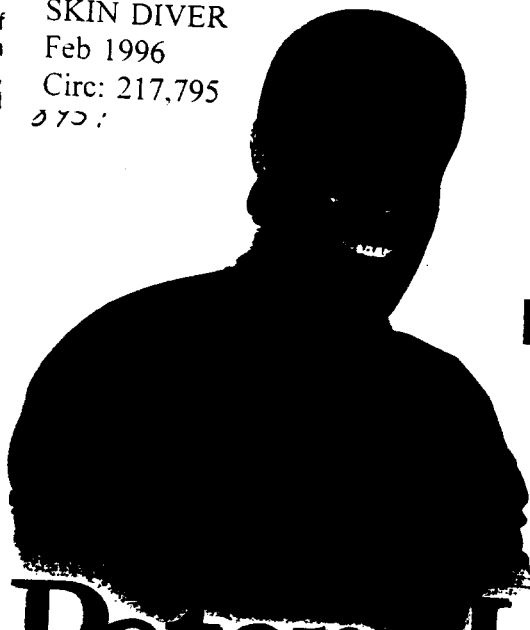
HUGHES: I felt those early years were like an apprenticeship for me. I was working for others, learning as I went

SKIN DIVER

Feb 1996

Circ: 217,795

0707



Peter Hughes

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY STEPHEN FRIN

20th
Anniversary
Sparks a New
Frequent Diver
Program

and, hopefully, growing in experience. By 1971, I was in Bonaire working as the vice president of a company called Teach/Tour Diving but they weren't doing too well financially. I knew I wanted to have my own dive business some day and, when Teach/Tour folded, I bought the assets at public auction and formed Dive Bonaire, NV. This was 1976 and for me it was the beginning of my real career in dive operations. That makes 1996 my 20 year anniversary.

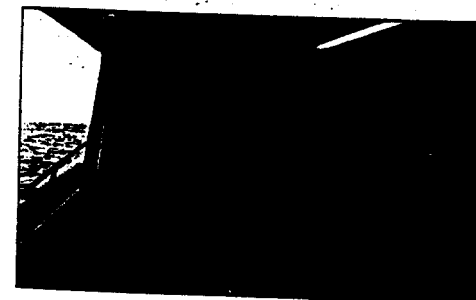
SDM: Much of what happened during your early years on Bonaire has become the stuff of dive legend. What do you remember most from those times?

HUGHES: Alice and I really worked hard schlepping tanks down to the dock in a wheelbarrow and keeping those first boats running. Every time I got a little money ahead I invested in new equipment, which I still do today. I've always wanted to have the very best boats and dive infrastructure for my guests and I'm proud to say the Dancer Fleet is the ultimate refinement of that desire.

I have always looked for a way to make the dive experience easier and more enjoyable for my guests. That's why we were the first to use sign-up boards so guests could choose where they wanted to go for the day's dive. That's why I have always invested in massive airfill systems with multiple redundancy so I would never have to worry about a single lost dive owing to a breakdown or inadequate capacity. And, this is why I installed one of the first dedicated underwater photo centers anywhere in the Caribbean. I saw my



Above: Cutting edge equipment and photographic services are available on every boat.



Above middle: Every meal aboard *Wave Dancer* is a gourmet adventure with fine china and linen. Above: Picture windows and plush, terry robes are standard aboard Dancer live-aboards.

clientele becoming interested in underwater photography and I wanted to make it easy for them by offering E-6 film processing, camera repairs and photo instruction. But, perhaps more than any of that, what I'm most proud of is the commitment Peter Hughes Diving has made toward marine ecology and conservation over the past 20 years.

As far back as 1975, I saw the first permanent mooring system. It had been installed in Bonaire by Captain Don Stewart. I saw this as a wonderful way to keep us from damaging the reefs by dropping our anchors where they might drag into coral. Dive Bonaire enthusiastically cooperated in the emerging reef preservation program in Bonaire. These conservation measures were very revolutionary for their time. Now, 20 years later, I see

has already installed 18 permanent moorings in the Bay Islands and its surrounding seamounts.

It takes time and considerable expense (more than \$100,000) to install and maintain this system of mooring buoys but I feel it is something I am doing special for the coral reefs that have been so good to me. Our boats use these buoys, of course, but as importantly, our buoys are always available for use by other dive operators. In fact, we strongly encourage their use, for it's clear that we all must work together to protect the marine environment. It is good business but, more than that, it is our duty.

SDM: The past 20 years have been pretty eventful for Peter Hughes Diving. What do divers have to look forward to in the near future?

HUGHES: I am proud to say that we have an incredibly high level of repeat business and, gratefully, many of our former guests have sampled all of the boats in the fleet. Some of the things we'd like to do to support our loyal clientele is expressed in a new program called Nature's

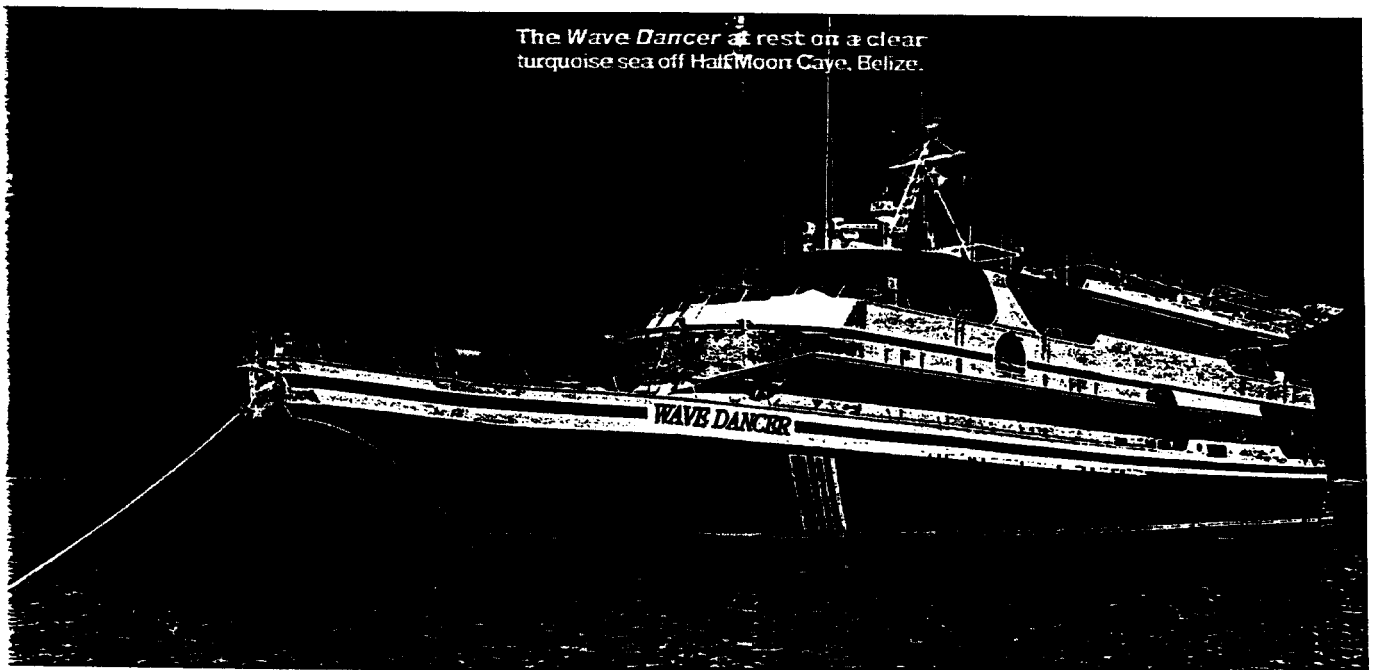
Diving

Peter Hughes spends considerable time installing mooring buoys, ensuring the delicate reef system remains undamaged.



photo/Courtesy Peter Hughes Diving

The *Wave Dancer* at rest on a clear turquoise sea off Half Moon Caye, Belize.



photo/Bill Harrigan

with ever greater clarity the need to safeguard the marine environment with mooring buoys. This is why we have gone to great lengths and expense to install them wherever the Dancer Fleet flies its flag.

The *Sea Dancer* was our first live-aboard and we soon had 14 permanent moorings installed in the Turks and Caicos. When the *Wave Dancer* began operating in Belize, we installed 12 moorings around **Lighthouse Reef** and the **Turneffe Islands**. In Palau, the *Sun Dancer* crew has installed 15 mooring buoys. The *Wind Dancer* (although new)

Beauty Beneath the Sea. Essentially, it is a three-tiered Frequent Dancer Diver Program structured something like this:

Upon checkout from one of our live-aboards all guests receive a Dancer card. For Tier 1, one-half of the card is filled out and left on the boat to be entered in a monthly drawing among all of the boats for a chance to win a complimentary trip for two. In Tier 2, one-half of the card is filled out with the established Dancer Diver's name, address, trip dates and the names and addresses of three friends who dive. Points are awarded ac-

ording to the destination booked; discounts on future travel are awarded according to point accumulation. For example: every trip on *Sea Dancer*, *Wave Dancer* or *Wind Dancer* earns 10 points; every trip on *Sun Dancer* earns 20 points; and every trip to Curacao to dive with Princess Divers earns 10 points.

Yet not only are our clients awarded points for new travel, we credit them for trips they might have made in the past, from 1991 through 1995. As in a frequent flier program, our Dancer Divers can cash (Continued on Page 147)

PETER HUGHES DIVING

(Continued from Page 17)

in the points at specific award levels or continue to accumulate them as they travel: 40 points provide a 5 percent discount; 50 points, 10 percent; 60 points, 15 percent; 70 points, 20 percent; 80 points, 25 percent; 90 points, 30 percent; 100 points, 35 percent; 110 points, 40 percent; 120 points, 45 percent; and a maximum of 130 points receives a full 50 percent discount.

Everyone on our mailing list can re-

PETER HUGHES DIVING SHARK PROMO

To be entered in a drawing for a free trip for two aboard one of the exciting Dancer Fleet live-aboards just forward your name, address and phone number (including the word "shark") to Peter Hughes Diving at 6851 Yumuri Street, Suite 10, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Only one entry per person please and all entries must be received by March 2, 1996. The lucky winner will be notified on April 1—and this is no April Fool's Day joke! Instead, this is one more chance to win in Peter Hughes Diving's Nature's Beauty Beneath the Sea promotions.

spond with his/her trip date history and we will make sure they are registered for this exciting new program and properly credited for past travel. There are some minor details, such as points accumulated during 1991 through 1995 must be cashed in by the end of 1997 and, beginning in 1996, new points can be held only for five years. Basically, it is a very easy way to benefit from diving with us in the past and a profitable way to dive with us again in the future!

There is a Tier 3 as well and this one yields immediate rewards for anyone who dives with us in the future. Any Dancer Diver who sends us the names of three friends who dive will receive a \$100 Dancer Note, redeemable on any of our live-aboards for such things as boutique items or film processing.

Obviously, these programs are intended to reward those who have dived with Peter Hughes Diving in the past and pay tribute to their loyalty. I know I couldn't have stayed in business for 20 years without their support and this is a chance for me to show my appreciation.

CONCLUSION

For more information about the Nature's Beauty of the Sea and Frequent Dancer Diver Programs or information or reservations on any of the Peter Hughes Diving live-aboards or land-based resorts, please call (800) 9-DANCER or (305) 669-9391 or fax (305) 669-9475. ➤

Charting the Ocean's Liveboards 1996

8459
This year we can sum up The Fifth Annual Liveboard Chart (pages 44-46) in a word — "downsizing." Since its dawn on the diving industry in the early '80s, the liveboard experience has boomed. Yet, this year marks an interesting trend as competition has edged out several boats. Our list dropped from 112 to under 100. But, while some boats fell off the list, new boats climbed on board, keeping this industry dynamic. You'll also see remote locations like Venezuela pop up, and domestic dive destinations like the California Channel Islands and the Texas Flowers Gardens grow with the addition of liveboards in those areas.

The decrease in absolute numbers may have some of you wondering if the liveboard experience is becoming an outdated fad. Quite the contrary, because less may sometimes mean more. More for you, the diving enthusiast, as the competition of these floating hotels forces them to beef up itineraries, offer more amenities, and provide adventure. Specialty trips include manta, shark and whale encounters. Plus, liveboard leaders have added incentives like the Aggressor's "Sail With Jean-Michel Cousteau" program.

As you plan your liveboard excursion, remember that this list includes information gathered directly from the boat owners and wholesalers. It serves to provide you with a sketch of possibilities for your next dive vacation, but it's up to you to shop around and color in the details. Contact the representatives, ask questions, request referrals. With the expansion of the world wide web, a host of liveboard information has also emerged online. See & Sea Travel Service's web site allows internet surfers to preview their boats and ask questions. Also, take a peek at *Scuba Times Online* which features several liveboard updates. Check it out at: <http://www.scubatimes.com>

—Melinda Moore



THE TEXAS FLOWER GARDENS

(National Marine Sanctuary)

Ree
SCUBA TIMES
Mar-Apr 1996
Circ: 37,000

Located 100 miles off the Coast of Freeport and 50 feet down are the spectacular Texas Flower Gardens. The Flower Gardens are the northern most coral reef on the Continental Shelf. These Gardens are home to 250 invertebrates and more than 175 fish species. Southern Brazoria County is home to 3 LIVE ABOARDS ranging in size from 95' to 100' in length, carrying up to 20 passengers. Amenities include all meals and snacks, tanks furnished, 100' visibility, skilled crews, and 2 to 5 day trips.



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Southern Brazoria County Visitor's & Convention Bureau

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Fantasea *

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Truk Aggressor II *

TURKS & CAICOS

Sea Dancer *

Turks & Caicos Aggressor *

VENEZUELA

Antares III *

Average Retail Price
in US Dollars/No. of
Diving Days

Boat Length

No. of Tender Boats

No. of Crew

No. of Passengers

No. of Cabins with
Private Heads

No. of Cabins with
Shared Heads

Total No. of Cabins

No. of Heads for
Passengers

Certification Course

U/W Photo
Instruction

35 mm Camera
Rental

U/W Video
Instruction

Video Camera Rental

Video Edit.
Equipment

E-6 Film Processing

Shore Excursions

Bar (alcohol)

Free Snacks/Drinks

TV in Salon

VCR in Salon

A/C in Cabins

A/C in Salon

	0	7	0	7	0	7	16	8	2	115	\$3,500/10 days
	9	8	0	8	0	8	16	5	2	82	\$1,395/7 days
	7	6	0	6	0	6	12	5	2	82	\$1,395/7 days
	6	6	0	6	0	6	12	5	1	82	\$1,350/7 days
	7	7	0	7	0	7	14	5	1	92	\$1,495/7 days
	8	8	0	8	0	8	16	5	1	80	\$1,495/7 days
	6	6	0	6	0	6	12	4	1	77	\$1,175/7 days
	4	8	8	0	16	7	1	106			\$1,095/7 days
	10	10	0	10	0	10	20	12	2	125	\$2,960/10 days
	6	5	0	5	0	5	10	6	1	70	\$1,890/7 days
	4	13	6	7	26	12	2	125			\$2,960/10 days
	3	7	0	0	34	6	1	100			\$275/2 days
	3	6	0	0	16	6	1	90			\$300/5 days
	3	5	0	0	34	6	1	100			\$275/2 days
	4	4	4	0	8	6	1	63			\$500/3 days
	2	7	7	0	15	5	2	100			\$1,460/7 days
	2	4	0	0	8	6	1	70			\$1,795/7 days
	5	13	0	3	26	20	4	170			\$1,700/7 days
	8	7	10	10	14	6	1	110			\$1,895/5 days
	9	9	2	7	18	6	1	110			\$1,495/7 days
	2	7	7	0	16	5	1	100			\$1,495/7 days
	6	6	0	6	12	4	1	85			\$1,375/7 days

Please note that much of the information in the live-aboard chart was given by boat owners or representatives. While Scuba Times Magazine staffers have made every effort to assure that the chart is accurate, some inconsistencies may occur. Contact boat representatives directly, if you have any questions or would like further information.

Cayman Islands
RSVP
#57

RESORT REPORT
ADVERTISEMENT

SPORT DIVER MAGAZINE
March 1996
Circ: 105,000

AQUA'NAUTS DIVING



Beach, which serves as its reservations center and from which West Wall dives depart, while the new Morgan's Harbour location allows easy access to the North Wall and Stingray City via the beautiful North Sound. Their fleet of customized dive boats playfully named *Nautcracker* (42ft. max 16 per), *Coconaut* (34ft. max 16 per), *Walnaut* (32ft. max 12 per), and *Peanaut* (25ft. max 8 per) will whisk you to your dive sites in style and comfort. To complement its diving services Aqua'nauts, at Morgan's Harbour, offers a full range of boating services complete with jet boat rentals, fishing charters and water sport equipment rentals, to mention a few.

This winning combination of dive staff and range of services will allow you to make the most of your diving vacation, complete with your own private video to show your friends and family back home what a great time you had. So, when planning to dive the Caymans choose Aqua'nauts as your premier dive operation... "for the Fun of diving".

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The company was founded in 1991 by brother and sister, Richard and Catherine Delapenha, whose philosophy of 'diving strictly for fun' has permeated their entire operation. An experienced...

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SKIN DIVER
March 1996
Circ: 217.795

7 Great Wreck Dives in the Caribbean

Exploring Haunted Houses Under the Sea

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

There is nothing more mysterious or intriguing as exploring a sunken ship. History comes alive as you glide along passageways, cruise over silent decks and peer into shadowy compartments. Apparitions appear out of the misty depths but they are more likely to be fish than ghosts from the past.

If you are looking for the best wreck dives in the Caribbean, try some of these:

1 RMS RHONE/BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS: Considered the most beautiful shipwreck in the Caribbean, the *Rhone* is five miles from Tortola. A 310 foot steel hulled steamer that sank in a 1867 hurricane, she lies on a sloping reef with depths ranging from 20 to 80 feet. The forward half of the ship is still intact and the past 129 years of submersion have been kind to her. She is covered with a festive array of sponges, seafans and heavy marine growth—including virtual walls of bright Orange Cup Corals. The wreck is loaded with fish and considered one of the best night dives in the world.

2 BIANCA C/GRENADA: Unquestionably the largest intact, divisible shipwreck in the Caribbean, this 593 foot luxury cruise liner burned and sank off Grenada in 1961. When fire fighting and salvage attempts failed, the massive ship plunged to the bottom in 160 feet of water. The wreck lies one mile offshore, sitting upright with a list to starboard. Although the keel is at depths beyond safe recreational diving limits, visitors can reach her decks at 110 feet. The wreck is inhabited by a wide variety of marine life, including large groupers, turtles and occasionally, Jewfish. This wreck is reserved for experienced divers, as strong currents frequently sweep across the mammoth hulk.

3 STAVRONIKITA/BARBADOS: Another biggie among Caribbean shipwrecks is the 356 foot Greek freighter *Stavronikita*. Deliberately sunk in 1978 as an artificial reef, this Goliath lies one-quarter mile off the west side of Barbados. She sits upright in 130 feet of water, looking much like a ghost ship still underway. The immense wreck is the equivalent of a

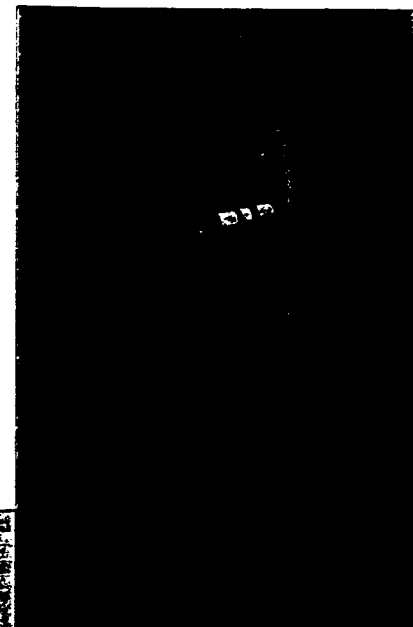
35 story skyscraper lying on the bottom. The great wreck attracts schools of Silversides and jacks, Barracuda, groupers and many other forms of marine life.

4 SUPERIOR PRODUCER/CURACAO: Still another intact shipwreck is a 200 foot steel freighter that operated between Curacao and Venezuela. She sank in 1977 while carrying a general cargo of clothing, perfume, luggage, wallets and liquor. The wreck lies in 100 feet of water, at the base of a steep coral slope just outside Willemstad Harbor. It is only 65 feet to the top of the wreck and visibility often exceeds 100 feet. Like many warm water wrecks, the *Superior Producer* is covered with encrusting corals and sponges in crimsons, vivid oranges and pastel pinks.



5 HILMA HOOKER/BONAIRE: Apprehended as a drug smuggler, this 236 foot steel hulled cargo ship was transformed into Bonaire's first artificial reef. She was deliberately sunk in 90 feet of water close to a dive site known as *Angel City*. Today, the wreck remains totally intact, providing an interesting opportunity for exploration and photography.

6 PRINCE ALBERT/ROATAN: One of the nicest shipwrecks in the Bay Islands is a small 144 foot steel hulled Panamanian freighter donated by Roatan entrepreneur Albert Jackson and converted into an artificial reef. She was sunk in 1985, just off CoCo View Resort, on the south side of Roatan. Because the vessel sits in the middle of a natural coral channel, she attracts numerous pelagics as



Wreck diving in the Caribbean is a feast for the senses. You can explore now silent decks and passageways and photo opportunities are abundant

well as Barracuda, jacks and a school of Creole Wrasse.

7 ORO VERDE/GRAND CAYMAN: Of the five wrecks scattered around Grand Cayman, the 178 foot steel hulled *Oro Verde* is undoubtedly the most popular. She lies one mile directly off Seven Mile Beach's Holiday Inn. The sister ship of the U.S.S. *Pueblo*, the *O.V.* served in WW II and was subsequently converted to an inter-island cargo ship. Deliberately sunk in 50 feet as an artificial reef, she is haven for a wide variety of tropical fish.

For more information about warm water wreck exploration in the Caribbean consult your favorite dive travel specialist or contact those resort dive operators and live-aboards advertising in this issue. 🐟



Discover The Cathy Church Super Course

Learn More, Learn Faster, Get
Great Pictures While Having Fun!

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY



If you want to take great pictures and have more fun with underwater photography than you ever thought possible, enroll in this summer's Cathy Church Super Course. The entertainment value alone is worth the price of admission! Cathy keeps the students laughing while she makes f/stops and shutter speeds come alive. The program is an interactive workshop where everyone participates and the students go home with wonderful pictures. This is why Cathy's programs are always sold out and graduates rave about her techniques.

Many attributes distinguish Cathy Church from other underwater photo instructors:

1. She has California teaching credentials and the experience to go with them.
2. She has a degree in marine biology and is thoroughly familiar with the animals she photographs.
3. She is one of the world's most eminent underwater photographers, with the hottest selling photography.
4. An early pioneer in underwater photography, she has co-authored four books, more than 230 articles and has a popular instructional video on underwater photography.
5. She has one of the best undersea photo studios (a coral reef) at her doorstep, where students practice what they learn.
6. She has developed a unique, full immersion program, where students learn faster and learn more than in any other program available.

FULL SERVICE PHOTO CENTER

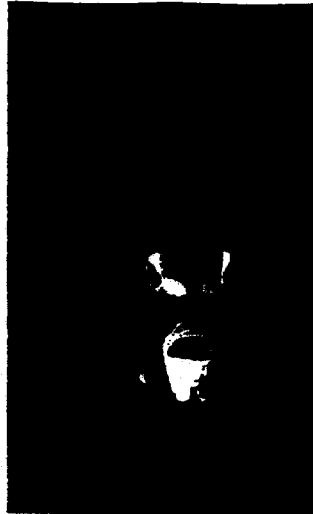
Cathy's classroom is unlike any school you have ever attended. The Sunset Underwater Photo Centre and Gallery is at Sunset House, Grand Cayman's

photo/Cathy Church

Left: "Devil's Grotto," from the Cathy Church Collection, is this famous underwater photographer's signature print.



photo/Cathy Church



photo/Herb Rafael

Cathy helps students set up photos of two angelfish (left) and an angelfish face (above). Below: Cathy and Herb Rafael with photographs for sale from the Cathy Church Collection.



longest established and most successful dedicated dive resort. This resort was designed especially for divers and has complete facilities for both shore diving (which is excellent) and boat diving.

The Photo Centre is the largest underwater photo facility in the world. In the lower level of the Sunset House main building, it is an underwater photographer's dream come true. As you descend the stairway and open the door, your eyes are greeted by a dazzling array of underwater camera equipment, photo accessories, photo books and underwater photo enlargements. It is a veritable candy store for underwater photo buffs.

At the Photo Centre Cathy Church and her husband Herb Rafael offer myriad services and educational programs. You can enjoy an afternoon class and qualify for the PADI Photo Specialty or get an easy mini lesson when you rent

Nikonos V, Sea & Sea Motor Marine II or an underwater video camera system. The Photo Centre has the largest inventory of Nikonos equipment in the world at low prices.

On Grand Cayman, a camera flooding doesn't necessarily mean you will be leaving the island without pictures. The Photo Centre offers fast, reliable Nikonos camera repairs on a daily basis. It maintains a complete stock of Nikonos V parts and has the facilities for thoroughly testing every repaired camera. Cathy and Herb also maintain an inventory of hard to get underwater light meters, extension tubes, strobe arms, film, batteries and other supplies.

The Photo Centre processes E-6 slide film every day, twice a day if you need faster service. Using advanced chemical monitoring techniques, Cathy produces professional quality film processing.

The attitude of the Photo Centre staff members is refreshing. They present the material just as Cathy would—even the jokes are the same! When asked about the fake foot protruding from under the photo cabinet, Cathy will tell you it's just there to keep a smile on your face.

At the Photo Centre, Cathy wants every visitor to have the best time possible. If you miss a dive and can't use the camera you rented, you don't have to pay for it. Cathy's attitude is that it's bad enough you couldn't dive, you shouldn't lose money on an unused rental, too.

CATHY CHURCH COLLECTION

When it comes to underwater photography, Cathy Church is exceptionally well versed. Every wall of the Photo Centre is covered with underwater photos. These spectacular images are indeed an inspiration to any budding photographer.

Her gallery offers more than 50 different underwater images—most of them available in six different sizes and up to four different frames, with a choice of dozens of different colored mats. This incredible collection draws shoppers from all over Grand Cayman—even nondivers. Most of them buy the pictures right on the spot; for customer convenience Cathy can have them shipped to any address in the U.S. or Canada at no extra charge.

All of the photo enlargements are printed on Fuji Super High Gloss printing material, double matted, mounted, framed and hand signed. Unlike normal color prints, these pictures will last a lifetime, with virtually no fading. The photo enlargements are produced in sizes ranging from 11 by 14 inches to a giant 30 by 40 inch super print. These breathtaking pictures are offered at amazingly affordable prices. Cathy and Herb have also produced a color brochure illustrating the Cathy Church Collection. You can obtain a copy by calling (800) 934-3661.

For seven weeks this summer, the gallery will be moved out and the Super Course moved in. Counter space that held stacks of prints will become individual work areas for 16 enthusiastic underwater photographers.

SUPER COURSES

There are three elements to these great courses—structured learning, superb service and lots of good humor. The courses start on arrival day; cameras are checked out and the basic talk starts with: "This is the front of the camera and this...." Topics quickly advance to the basics of composition and the subtleties of previsualizing a scene to get the best possible photograph. Throughout the week Cathy uses lectures, critiques and lots of individual help above and below

(Continued on Page 50)

CATHY CHURCH SUPER COURSE

(Continued from Page 9)

the water in a systematic approach to ensure everyone realizes his/her best potential. In logical fashion she covers ambient light, flash fill, close-up, wide angle, multiple strobes and, of course, buoyancy and balance underwater with a camera. In addition to students using Nikonos cameras I thru V, Cathy also teaches those with the Nikonos RS, Sea & Sea systems and housed cameras.

The service is incredible—your scuba

gear is carried to and from the boat for you. During the daily three hour dive you simply swim to the stern of the boat, where a dry photo instructor will change film, lens or batteries while two other instructors change your tank and offer you marvelous snacks of fruit, candy, cookies and soft drinks. Cathy and another instructor are in the water with the group, helping with camera settings, critters, posing or whatever is needed.

On close-up day Herb brings his tame angelfish right into your Close-up Outfit frame for a stunning portrait. On the grotto dive, Cathy takes you to the

very same light beam that is the topic of her signature print "Devil's Grotto." On the wall dive they will help you with many subjects that Cathy herself has immortalized.

And, at just the right moment, in between all the serious stuff, you'll find yourself enjoying a laugh. Don't worry if Herb sets you up with some strange creatures for your class portrait or if you're caught napping on the boat after a long dive. It all comes out in the fun on graduation night, following a beautiful student slide show. Cathy balances the emphasis on learning more and getting great photos with having a wonderful vacation.

WHY TAKE A PHOTO COURSE?

There are plenty of reasons for taking a Cathy Church course but the most obvious is that it is the fastest and easiest way to become a good underwater photographer. You can learn from Cathy's 30 years of experience and avoid much of the frustration and expense of trial and error learning.

The biggest reason for Cathy's high repeat rate is this style of diving allows photographers an unprecedented freedom to spend literally hours contemplating their pictures without the worry of rushing back to the boat. With no limit on the number of tanks you can use, even fast breathers get plenty of bottom time.

MULTI-LEVEL TRAINING

Amazing as it may sound, the courses are designed for any level of interest, you need only be a certified diver. Time is devoted to each group: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Each person sets his/her own goals. A beginner may be happy just bringing the camera back without losing it; the advanced photographer will want to take the finest photo ever seen! Each level is respected and encouraged. There are no demands on the students except that they have a good time.

Each day starts with critiques and equipment set up. At 10:00 am the Sunset Divers' boat leaves right from the nearby slipway for a short trip to the dive site. Divers step into the water, their cameras are handed to them and they drop to the reef below—no long swims, strong currents or wild surge, just quiet, warm water and few distractions to disturb the creative process.

After a long dive, a short boat ride and a good lunch, the afternoon lecture and slide show cover the topics for the next day of diving. The schedule includes two free afternoons, a night dive, two wall dives and, of course, **Stingray City**.

WORLDWIDE PHOTO TRIPS

The Super Course is not the only way Cathy can help you have fun with underwater photography. Cathy and husband

CATHY CHURCH SUPER COURSE

Herb can escort you to exotic destinations in the South Pacific, too. They do all the planning and keep you smiling as well. You can join them in the Solomon Islands on the *Bilikiki* April 2 to 13, 1996. Don't worry if you can't make this trip, these trips have been so successful more have already been scheduled for 1997. There are also Fiji trips on the *Matagi Princess* from April 11 to 25 and April 20 to May 2. Cathy and Herb also have two Truk trips and two Palau trips from mid October through mid November 1996.

Cathy and Herb enjoy traveling with people who are fun to be with, so all friendly people, photographers and non-photographers, are welcome to join them.

Cathy helps everyone during her trips with everything from emergency repairs to exposure questions. Underwater, she will even put her own camera aside to make sure everyone gets a good opportunity to see and photograph any special creatures found. On the *Bilikiki* tours she gives a free five day photo course that includes daily lectures, critiques and help in the water. Herb manages all the travel arrangements, baggage and, of course, the social calendar. Herb and Cathy think nothing of taking the entire group out for dinner and drinks. They do lots of the little things that make a trip special, such as giving T-shirts to the guests and the crew, bringing party favors for birthdays and sending out group photos after the trip. No one makes being a tour leader such a complete profession.

HOW TO GET THERE

As for traveling to Grand Cayman, this charming resort Mecca offers incredibly easy access from the U.S. A number of well known airlines offer nonstop flights to Grand Cayman from such U.S. gateway cities as Miami, Tampa, Orlando, Atlanta and Houston. For more information about specific flights and seat availability call Cayman Airways at (800) 422-9626.

For more information about this year's photo courses, contact Cathy Church, Sunset Underwater Photo Centre, P.O. Box 479, Grand Cayman, BWI or call (809) 949-7415 or (809) 949-9770 (fax).

SKIN DIVER
 March 1996
 Circ: 217,795

Bob Soto's Seven Mile Beach Barbados

The Crown Jewel of the Grenadine Islands



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEM MURPHY

It's rare to find spectacular diving and decent to luxury hotels, dining and shopping. Grand Cayman just happens to be one of those rarities.

At Seven Mile Beach, you can enjoy spectacular diving adventures within sight of your hotel or condo. Dive boat rides are short 10 to 20 minute commutes. You can spend the morning enjoying a breathtaking 100 foot wall, followed by a shallow reef dive and be back on the beach for an early lunch. Your afternoon can be devoted to sailing, windsurfing, parasailing, surfing or more scuba diving if you prefer.

The combination of world class diving, luxury living and fabulous water sports makes Seven Mile Beach just about the best place in the Caribbean — especially among divers.

WHY IS IT SO GOOD?

Grand Cayman is blessed with the most unique geographic and geological circumstances. Seven Mile Beach is on the West Side of Grand Cayman, fully protected from the prevailing winds. As a result, the east is sheltered

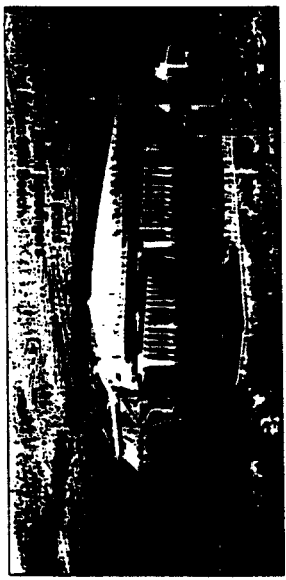
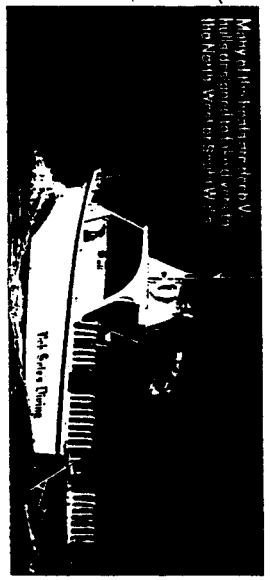
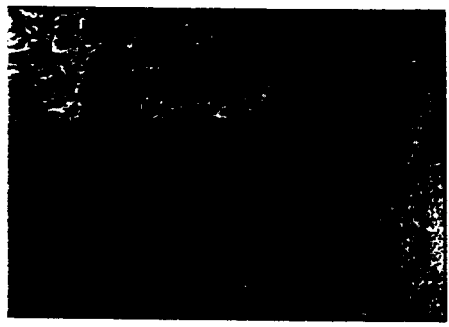
often glassy calm in the morning and rarely has any significant waves or chop year round. The perfect for calm, comfortable boat diving.

Turning parallel to Seven Mile Beach, about one quarter to one half mile offshore, is Grand Cayman's West Wall — one of the most prolific and beautiful drop offs in the Caribbean. Beginning at an average depth of 50 feet, the wall drops vertically to depths of 1,000 to 2,000 feet.

Since Grand Cayman is virtually a mountain peak surrounded by open ocean, her waters are crystal clear. Typical underwater visibility on the drop off is 100 feet - 150 feet on a good day. The shallow has no waves for runoff and the Seven Mile Beach area has no bay, so no mangrove estuaries that are flushed with the outgoing tide.

About 110 yards offshore from the edge of the drop off is a chain of shallow coral reefs ranging in depth from 20 to 60 feet. Each of these formations is populated with flourishing corals, a wide variety of reef fish and many other life watching phenomena.

Above: Kaitie Kipp approaches an exquisite Nassau Grouper (*Egglestichius striatus*) at the Oro Verde. Below: Kaitie explores the vertical drop-off and colorful sponges at Trinity Caves.



Many of the beachfront hotels have been converted to Grand Cayman's 'The Key' - West to South West.

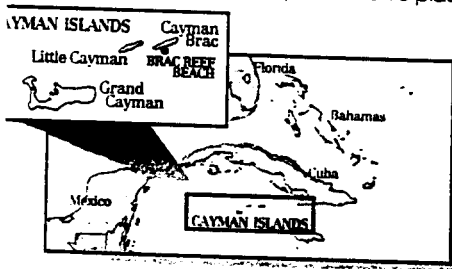
U/W video systems. Ed is on hand to lend his expertise for photography, videography and to shoot a personalized video of your underwater vacation. The video, free with Brac Reef's seven night dive package, can be copied to 8mm, Hi-8 or VHS tape.

After checking in with the dive center, each guest is provided a numbered mesh bag for dive equipment. Simply stuff it with your gear, place it outside your room and one of the staff will take it to the gear storage room until your first dive. From that point on it is automatically picked up and delivered to and from the boat.

Once guests have done their initial gear setup, the crew will take over the task for the remainder of the visit. Feel free to do last minute adjustments or double check gear before entering the water.

Of course, Reef Divers prowls the waters of Cayman Brac in a modern fleet of dive boats. This includes one Pro 42 jet boat called the *Manta* and a 42 foot Newton Dive Special named *Little Sister*. A second Newton 42 will most likely be added well before this issue hits the press.

The most impressive of the two boats, the Newton 42, is powered by twin 3116 Caterpillar diesels, providing a quick cruising speed of 22 knots (even with a full load of guests and dive gear). The aft deck area is roomy and unobstructed, with tank storage along the sides. The boat can easily handle 30 divers but typically runs with 12 to 17. Other amenities include a full width, step down dive plat-



form with dual ladders, head, shower, dry storage, cold drinking water and a cooler stocked with a variety of snacks. There's also a carpeted camera table with storage shelf below.

In addition to the on-board amenities, I liked the way Reef Divers treats its guests. After the dive briefing and suiting up, a crew member brings you a tank while you wait on the swim platform. Following the dive, the tank is changed and your setup placed in its rack. Experienced divers (in buddy teams) are basically given the opportunity to dive the way they wish, as long as it is within the guidelines set by the Cayman Islands Watersport Operators Association — 110 feet maximum depth with computers (all others 100 feet), nodecompressors (Continued on Page 130)

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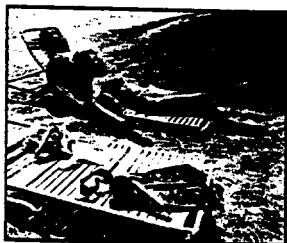
STUART COVE'S





At Bahama Divers, we blend the attractions of the vast marine world of Nassau with the renowned resort pleasures of Paradise Island.

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sharks, grouper, jacks and some of the largest, friendliest angelfish anywhere. After diving this oceanic wonder, you'll understand why we like to call it our circular wall.

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Bahama DIVERS

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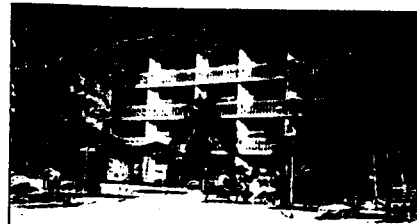
800-398-DIVE(3483)

In Nassau 809-393-5644

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BOB SOTO'S SEVEN MILE BEACH

Diving along the West Wall and Seven Mile Beach seems to be getting better and better each year. The fish have



Holiday Inn on the Beach is a luxury resort right in the middle of Seven Mile Beach.



Plantation Village is a luxury condominium resort right on Seven Mile Beach.



Treasure Island Resort is a mid-priced resort at the south end of Seven Mile Beach.

adapted to the daily appearance of divers and the Cayman Islands government has wisely adopted marine conservation laws that protect these animals from spearfishing. It is not unusual for a Tarpon or turtle to swim right up to you.

Because Seven Mile Beach is the most beautiful and best protected beach on Grand Cayman, it has become the central core of the island's tourism industry. The shoreline is populated by some 15 hotels and 20 to 30 condominiums.

In turn, the hotels and condos have attracted a wide variety of support businesses that include restaurants, comedy shows, nightclubs, shopping malls and ice cream and yogurt shops.

Add to this vacation wonderland an excellent assortment of watersport operators that offer all sorts of activities from sunset cruises to parasailing. When it comes to fun and excitement, Seven Mile Beach has it all!

WORLD CLASS DIVING

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length are 44 boat moorings, marking the location of some of Grand Cayman's best dives. Seven Mile Beach not only offers calm seas and crystal clear water—it also possesses tremendous variety in its undersea attractions.

About one-half of all the West Side moorings are spectacular dives along the vertical drop-off. Each site is distinctly different and intricately shaped. They include such intriguing names as **Trinity Caves**, **Orange Canyon**, **Sentinel Rock**, **Big Dipper**, **Wall Street** and **Sand Chute**.

Among the remaining sites there are equally fascinating shallow reefs such as **Spanish Anchor**, **Mitch Miller Reef**, **Jax Dax**, **Paradise** and **Peter's Reef**.

The Seven Mile Beach region is also home for many wreck dives such as **Oro Verde**, **Balboa**, **Doc Polson** and the **Cali**. Each wreck is a natural congregation area for all sorts of marine life.

Add to this magnificent collection still another group of dive sites that offers coral grotto, cave and tunnel exploration: **Soto's North**, **Soto's Central**, **Soto's South Fish Pot** and **Pagent Reef**.

When it comes to marine life encounters, few places can rival the variety of animals. Great silvery Tarpon float among coral canyons at **Big Tunnels**.

**BOB SOTO'S DIVING LIMITED
INFORMATION/RESERVATIONS**

IN THE U.S.

Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd.
(800) BOB-SOTO (toll-free)
(800) 262-7686 (toll-free)
(404) 497-8311 (GA)
(404) 497-8494 (fax)

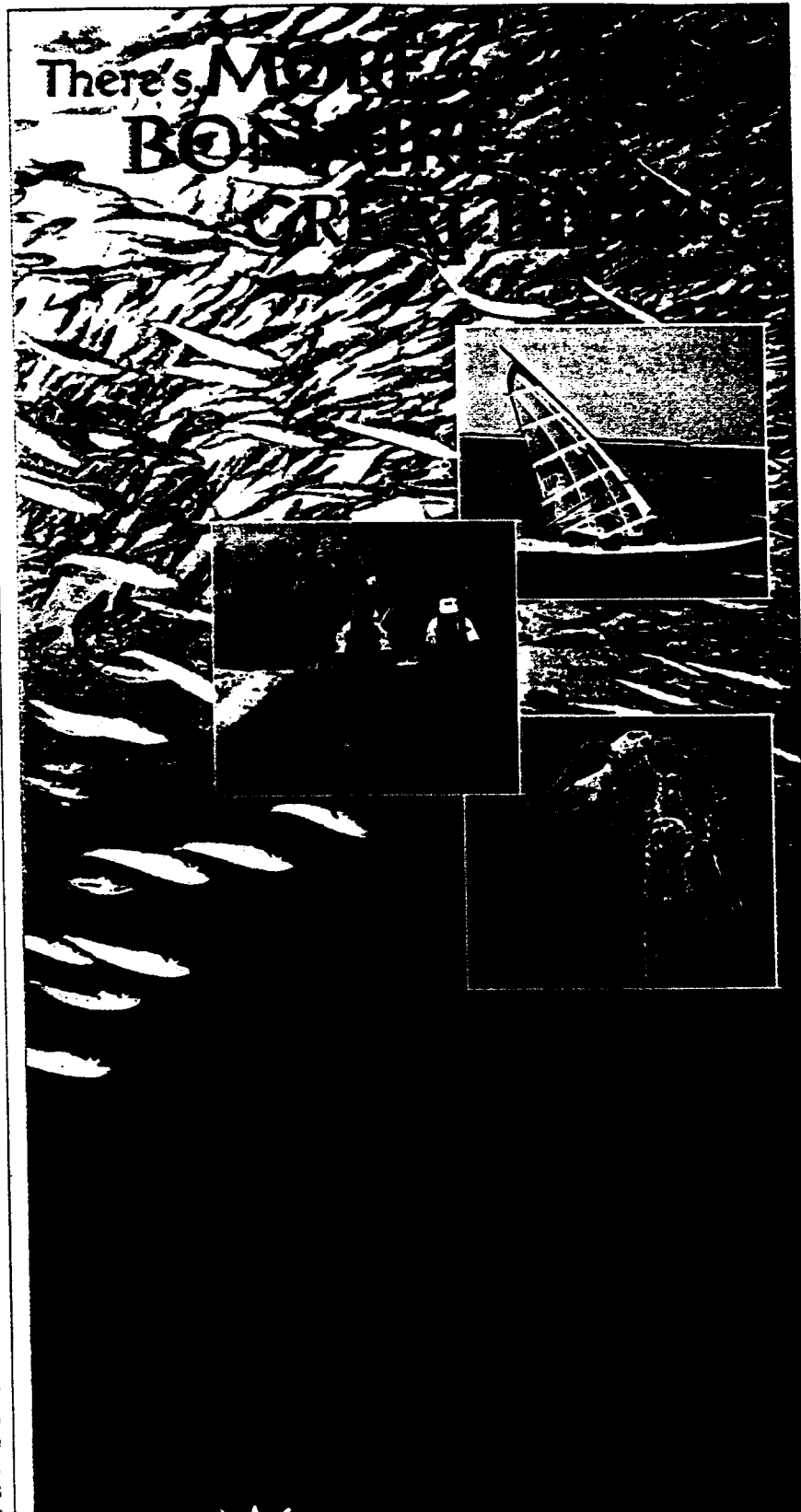
ON GRAND CAYMAN

Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd.
P.O. Box 1801
Grand Cayman, BWI
(809) 949-2022
(809) 949-8731 (fax)

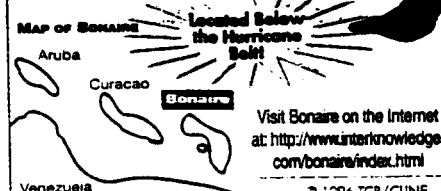
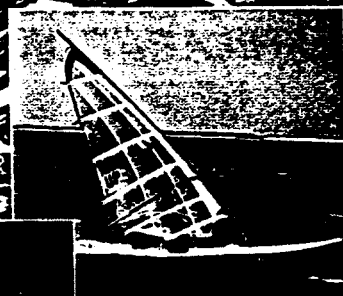
**Scuba Sensations
at Treasure Island Resort**
P.O. Box 30188-SMB
Grand Cayman, BWI
(809) 949-2871
(809) 949-8731 (fax)

You may also see Tarpon feeding on Silversides in the caves at **Soto's North** or **Pagent Reef**. Tame Green Sea Turtles can be seen all along the West Wall or feeding in the shallows of the beach area. Graceful Spotted Eagle Rays glide along the outer edge of the West Wall. Large schools of grunts and snappers hang suspended over shallow corals at **Wildlife** and **Rhapsody Reefs**.

Delicate but friendly Gray and French Angelfish come right up to your face-mask at **Angelfish City**, **Aquarium** and many other sites. A Green Moray lives on the **Oro Verde**. At **Bonnie's Arch**, a school of Horse-eye Jacks snoozes un-



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BOB SOTO'S SEVEN MILE BEACH

Nder the coral archway. **Royal Palms Ledge** is a fantastic night dive where you can observe the rare Orange Ball Anemones.

DIVE SERVICES

When the original Bob Soto opened his first dive center in 1957, it is no surprise he selected Seven Mile Beach for his headquarters. Even then, it was obvious this strand of pure white sand would some day be a major vacation playground. It had everything: a calm sea, warm water, beautiful beach, spectacular sunsets and great diving.

And, 39 years later, Seven Mile Beach continues to be the main headquarters for Bob Soto's Diving Limited. Although Bob himself has since retired, Ron and Kathie Kipp continue the Bob Soto's tradition.

The company has flourished under their guidance and today Bob Soto's is one of the Caribbean's largest and longest established diving operations—with 46 employees, 9 dive boats, 5 buses, 4 retail stores and a shore diving based scuba school. All of these facilities are spread out along the length of Seven Mile Beach, from the Holiday Inn (north) to the Scuba Centre (south).

Priding themselves on customer service, the Bob Soto's dive boat crews and scuba instructors are some of the friendliest on the island. They go out of their way to make your vacation a memorable event. As a result, many customers come back year after year.

As part of its motto, "the customer is king," Bob Soto's Diving offers the longest and most comprehensive menu of diving activities and experiences—a total of 11 different kinds of dive boat trips, nine different levels of diving instruction and three types of snorkeling trips.

No matter what your diving interest or scuba skill level, Bob Soto's can offer a variety of options. It operates a standard morning two tank trip consisting of a wall dive to 100 feet followed by a shallow reef dive to 50 feet. There are also one tank afternoon dives, one tank night dives, two tank double wall dives and three tank dives.

With a fleet of boats at its disposal, Bob Soto's takes its diving customers to all four sides of Grand Cayman. While the West Wall is the most popular destination, dive trips are also conducted on the North Wall, South Wall and even a Scuba Safari to the East End. Among the specialty dives, it runs trips to various shipwrecks as well as tours to world famous **Stingray City**.

As for dive training, you can enroll in a wide range of courses from a beginner's

resort course to a repeat resort, a PADI open water scuba course, advanced open water scuba or any specialty course in night, wreck or deep diving.

Another customer service at Bob Soto's is the underwater photography department, which offers Sea & Sea 35mm camera rentals, video buddy services or private videos.

HOTELS AND CONDOS

Bob Soto's doesn't stop at just the diving. Over the years it has developed a menu of vacation packages with some of Grand Cayman's top hotels and condos. Once again, it has remained faithful to its basic philosophy, "Seven Mile Beach is the best there is."

All Soto's vacation packages are with hotels and condos on Seven Mile Beach, with easy access to the Caribbean.

HOLIDAY INN ON THE BEACH is a luxury resort with full services and lively entertainment. It is right at the center of Seven Mile Beach, with the *Oro Verde* straight out from the hotel. This mid-size resort has 231 rooms, two bars, a freeform swimming pool, outdoor candlelight dining by the pool, numerous stores and services. Evening entertainment includes a Comedy Club and live entertainment, dancing with Barefoot and his band. The Holiday Inn is the headquarters of Bob Soto's Dive Centre and the departure point for many boat trips.

TREASURE ISLAND is a moderately priced full service resort at the south end of Seven Mile Beach. Its sprawling facilities include 290 rooms, three bars, two restaurants, two swimming pools, a hot-tub, a shopping arcade and a huge open air lobby. This resort is the home of Scuba Sensations, a new dive operation that utilizes Bob Soto's Diving and Peter Milburn's Dive Cayman for daily trips.

CORAL CAYMANIAN HOTEL is a budget beachfront hotel that offers limited services and very modest prices. It has 11 apartments with assorted one, two or three bedrooms. There are no dining facilities but restaurants and bars are nearby. All of the rooms are air-conditioned and have a phone and TV. Bob Soto's Diving provides daily five minute bus service to its boats, as well as the return trip to the hotel.

PLANTATION VILLAGE is a luxury condominium beach resort near the south end of Seven Mile Beach, close to town. This upscale facility offers fully equipped apartments with elegant furnishings. The facilities consist of 70 two bedroom/two bathroom air-conditioned suites, complete with a full kitchen, dining area, living room and screened in balcony (or patio). There are two freshwater swimming pools, a hottub, lighted tennis courts and a children's playground. This resort is ideal for families and an abso-

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PROGRESS REPORT

CLIENT: SUPERCLUBS SUPER-INCLUSIVE RESORTS
Mr. John Issa
Ms. Zein Issa

REPORTED BY: Aaron D. Cushman and Assoc.

RE: April 9, 1996

The following report highlights and summarizes activities conducted or planned and counsel provided on behalf of SuperClubs Super-Inclusive Resorts during January and February, 1996.

I. WORK ACCOMPLISHED

A. MEDIA RELEASES

Distributed the following releases to target markets:

- "Boscobel Beach Baby Break" Vacations Provide Free Stays For Preschoolers And Free Night For Early Birds"
- "SuperClubs Extends SuperSurprise For Travel All Year"
- "Winning SuperClubs Travel Agent Contest Is A Breeze"
- "SuperClubs Bookings Spell Fun In The Sun For Travel Agents"
- "SuperClubs Officially Opens New Breezes Bahamas"
- "SuperClubs Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary With A Special Romance Package for Guests"
- "SuperClubs Keeps The Surprise Gifts Coming Even After The Holidays"
- "Early Booking Bonus Introduced At SuperClubs Super-Inclusive Resorts"
- "SuperClubs Sends Three Dade County Families to Jamaica" release for the Dade County promotion GAT marketing organized.
- Distributed a photo release to trade publications on Grand Lido's anniversary celebration.

chicago: 35 east wacker drive, suite 850 • chicago, illinois 60601 • (312) 263-2500 • fax (312) 263-1197

st. louis: 7777 bonhomme, suite 900 • st. louis, missouri 63105 • (314) 725-0400 • fax (314) 725-0432

los angeles: 2029 century park east, suite 1010 • los angeles, california 90067 • (310) 551-2877 • fax (310) 551-2875

B. MEDIA RELATIONS

- Liaised with Zein Issa, Breezes Runaway Bay and Breezes Montego Bay about the Perfetto sisters. Requested photographs of the sisters enjoying SuperClubs for a photo release.
- Pitched *Family Magazine* on Boscobel Beach and the Baby Break Promotion. Supplied editor, Patricia Fiore, with a complete press kit and slides of the property. Information will be featured in the April issue.
- Supplied *McCall's* magazine with facts and background information on Boscobel Beach for inclusion in the June issue. Pitched the travel editor on including information about "Boscobel Beach Baby Break." Supplied the magazine with a selection of slides.
- Provided video footage to the Richard Bey show for his "Deal or Date" segment. The segment was originally set up by GAT Marketing.
- Arranged and confirmed John Issa's interview with *Lloyds of London*.
- Fact-checked Breezes copy for *The New Yorker's* travel newsletter, *At Large*, to appear in the Spring '96 issue.
- Fact-checked information on Grand Lido for the June/July issue of *Bride's Magazine*.
- Provided Thomas Davies, Thomas Davies Associates, with John Issa's Biography and SuperClubs press kit.
- Liaised with Peter Martin Associates and Sue McManus on the "All My Children" segment shot at Grand Lido. Sent slides and copy for the credit line.
- Sent *Bridal Guide* information on SuperClubs for inclusion in their "Jamaica Honeymoon Guide" appearing in the July/August issue.
- Provided background information on the Breezes properties to *New York* magazine.
- Provided background information on the Breezes line to Vacation Store and supplied copy points on Breezes for their use. Also sent a complete SuperClubs press kit for their perusal.
- Provided *Baby Talk* magazine with information on Boscobel Beach for inclusion in the May issue.
- Arranged for an interview between John Issa and Peggy Cope of *Travel Counselor*, the journal for the Institute of Certified Travel Counselors, for an article on all-inclusive hotels. Sent a complete press kit to *Travel Counselor* and supplied a list of preliminary questions to John Issa. Liaised with Randy Russell to provide demographics on the resorts, upcoming travel agent education programs and names of larger agencies selling SuperClubs vacations.
- Fact-checked an article on "SuperClubs 20th Anniversary Celebration" for inclusion in the April issue of *Caribbean Travel & Life*. Provided the magazine with Grand Lido and Sans Souci Lido slides.
- Coordinated a phone interview with Stephen Ford and *Travel Agent* magazine.
- Sent freelancer Lisa Skriloff an updated press kit.

- Liaised with Karen Jones to set up a "mock" dinner and interviews with the general manager and chef for Robin Leach's "Best of Modern Cuisine" food show. Ensured that credit would be given to Grand Lido and SuperClubs and that SuperClubs 800 number would be shown. Sent Victoria Alexandria a SuperClubs press kit and logos for use during the show.
- Provided SuperTravel with SuperClubs press release for inclusion in the *Houston Chronicle* special section promoting the 1996 Vacation & Leisure show.
- Sent IPTI five SuperClubs press kits.
- Provided Adventure Tours with Breezes Runaway Bay information.
- Provided detailed information on Breezes to freelancer Amy Riccardi for the upcoming *Travel Weekly's Jamaica Sales Guide*.
- Provided Evonne Coutros information on the "Ultimate Men of Hedonism II" calendar's New Jersey winners for the *Hackensack Record*.
- Sent press kit and slides of Breezes Bahamas to *Ocean Drive* magazine for inclusion in the February issue.
- Provided freelancer Cynthia Penney information on Breezes for her article "10 Fantastic Honeymoons faro under \$2000" slated to appear in the June/July issue of *Bride's Magazine*.
- Provided Tropical Publications with an updated SuperClubs press kit.
- Provided information to Marshall Whitfield for *Honeymoon Magazine's* Tropical Resort Recommendations.
- Sent a press kit and SuperClubs logo to Bob Bond & Others for upcoming incentive group traveling to SuperClubs.
- Sent Angi Schmidt, Stinnes Marketing Consulting, a SuperClubs press kit.

C. PLANNING/LIAISON/ADMINISTRATION

- Liaison with SuperClubs Executives and individual properties.
- Provided Breezes Runaway Bay and Grand Lido with the "Cupid Turns Twenty", \$10,000 package release.
- Edited Sans Souci Lido's newsletter.
- Supplied Breezes Montego Bay with details and copies of all public relations and promotional activities conducted on behalf of the property.
- Created a contact list for the Top 50 travel agencies in the United States for future SuperClubs mailings.
- Researched economical costs of shipping press kit covers to the Bahamas.
- Liaised with Hedonism II regarding their oldest guest and first funeral.
- Liaised with Boscobel Beach on their participation in the Family Show at the Garden State Exhibit Center.
- Liaised with Cameron Burnett and advised of billing queries.
- Developed and submitted the 1996 public relations program and budget for SuperClubs' approval.
- Liaised with Zein Issa and the Caribbean Hotel Association on the CHIC environmental award.
- Liaised with GAT marketing on upcoming promotions and Breezes Bahamas opening.