

1992

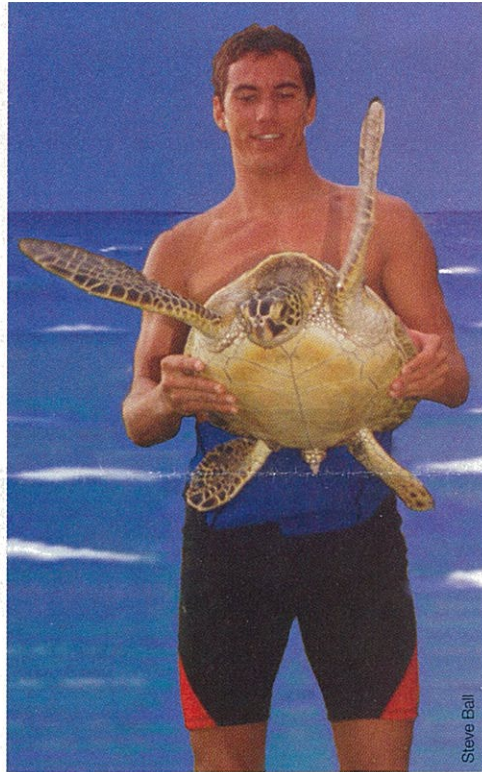
NATURE

## Turtle Beach

If you look closely, you can see them off the waters of Waikīkī Beach — swimming, sunning, eating, sleeping. The Hawaiian green sea turtle has been on the endangered species list since 1978, but in the past three to five years, it has been seen more and more frequently in Waikīkī. Who says Waikīkī is only for tourists?

Last year, University of Hawai'i graduate student Russell Miya and National Marine Fisheries Service biologist George Balazs completed a 10-month study of the turtles. They tagged 15 turtles, ranging in weight from 17 to 180 pounds, observing their growth and their eating and sleeping habits. They discovered that the turtles forage for limu near the old sea wall fronting the Sheraton Waikīkī (the "Turtle Restaurant") and nap in caves and reef outcroppings near the Kapahulu sea wall (the "Turtle Hotel"). Best times for sightings near the Sheraton are in the late afternoon and early evening, and during high tide.

Although legally protected from harassment, killing or capture, the turtles still run the risk of injury by spear guns and drowning in gill nets. Protection agencies also warn divers that riding turtles is illegal and, not surprisingly, gives the turtles stress. Balazs



Steve Ball

and Miya didn't come across any turtle riders, but they did discover some problems with gill nets and helped get rid of an illegal mooring that was bringing boats dangerously close to the turtles.

Balazs and Miya also gathered data on a tumor disease, fibropapilloma, that is threatening the turtle population around the state. Balazs will add the results of the project to his ongoing study of the green sea turtle. Meanwhile, the turtles—and the tourists—continue to cruise the world's most famous beach, swimming, sunning, eating, sleeping.

BEVERLY FUJITA

## One Argument in Favor of Television

It sounds like a guerrilla videographer's pipe dream: Somebody gives you \$5,000 and a video camera, tells you to produce your masterpiece and they'll show it on TV. 'Ōlelo, a non-commercial organization promoting community television, has just announced its second round of grants. It's looking for creative people with projects they'd like to see aired on community access cablevision.

'Ōlelo's mission is to provide diverse and innovative artistic and educational

programming. Since the grants were first offered in 1990, they have made possible some three dozen projects



Rudolf Helder

including a modern dance performance filmed on a roof in downtown Honolulu, a piece on endemic Hawaiian plants, an Afro-American talk show, computer animation

shorts, a series profiling local artists, and programs on AIDS and Alzheimer's Disease. The maximum grant: \$5,000. And that cannot be used to have a meeting with your crew at your favorite restaurant.

'Ōlelo trains grant recipients to use the organization's video cameras and editing machines, and allows the use of that equipment to produce their projects. Grant workshops are being held this month. Application deadline is Aug. 1. Contact 'Ōlelo at 960 Māpunapuna St., Honolulu 96819. Or phone 834-0007.

## Designated Coffee

Milla Handley of California's Alexander Valley is an up-and-coming young winemaker, but it may be her coffee that puts her on the map.

Last year Handley began to worry about visitors on the winding mountain roads to and from her Handley Cellars tasting room. So in addition to wine, she began to offer coffee. Not any coffee would do for a woman whose chardonnay had won gold medals. She ordered coffee beans direct from Big Island producer Kona Kava Coffee, and had them roasted to her specifications. Why Kona? "It's very nice coffee, strong without being bitter, and the aromas seem to fit our tasting room," says Handley, who figures perhaps a third of her guests have a cup of coffee. She does not limit the coffee to "designated drivers," but she thinks she has added to her visitors' safety consciousness. And there's been one other result: She's gotten so many requests to buy the pure Kona beans that her coffee sales now support the whole program.

THE BABY BOOM PETERS OUT The number of youth in Hawai'i age 14 to 17 fell by 14 percent from 1980 to 1990.



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