

Forum

Student Opinion Matters

Crocodile Hunter suffers rare death that stuns world

KATE TOLAN AND CALLEY LATHROP
Staff Reporter

The world lost a passionate and loving conservationist on Sept. 4. Steve Irwin, the

famous crocodile hunter, died from a highly rare stingray attack while filming his latest undersea series in the Great Barrier Reef. Swimming face down near the bottom of the

ocean, Irwin, 44, was stabbed in the chest by a threatened stingray.

The grief we experience has been small in comparison to the sorrow that his family

and friends have felt. He is survived by his wife, Terri (originally from Eugene, Oregon), his daughter Bindi, 8, and his son Bob, 2. Irwin also left behind his father, Bob (his mother Lyn passed away in 2000). His parents introduced Irwin to crocodiles and wildlife at a very young age.

Irwin's entire life was dedicated to his family and awareness of wildlife. In 1991, he took over his family's Australian zoo. He then began taping his famous television show "The Crocodile Hunter" in 1992. As his popularity grew, he used his fame and voice to save and preserve animals on land and in the water. He also starred in a film called *The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course* in 2002. His catchy phrase "crikey" made him extremely lovable and easy to remember. From there he produced more crocodile shows and appearances on all the news talk shows (including Oprah Winfrey)

while staying devoted to his family.

The irony of his death was the fact that stingrays were one of the less dangerous creatures with which he worked. Although venomous, stingrays, which are large flat fish that have long barbed tails, are usually passive and docile. There are only 17 previous fatal stingray attacks recorded worldwide. Like all wild animals, stingrays will take action to keep themselves safe when they feel vulnerable. "It probably felt threatened because Steve was alongside and there was the cameraman ahead, and it felt there was danger and it balked," Ben Cropp, a documentary filmmaker, said.

Until his end, Irwin's life was consumed with protecting animals. From his lovable smile, to his ever present khaki outfit and hiking boots, Irwin is a man who will be missed. Hopefully, his dedication and life's work will be remembered.



Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin tempted fate every day by working with wild animals.

September 11, 2001 transforms lives forever

JAIMIE LORENZINI

A morning, bitten by the chill of early fall, unfolds before an unsuspecting New York. Children were breathless with excitement as parents frantically shuttled them to school; just another date to mark off the calendar. Unfortunately, this day, Sept. 11, 2001, would be a day that forever changed their lives. At 8:46 a.m. Flight 11 crashed

into the North World Trade Center. A second airplane crash was soon to follow.

Five years later, the dust has settled leaving the image of twisted metal and debris in our minds like an old faded photograph. Because of the distance between Oregon and New York, it's all too easy to overlook its problems. On the fifth 9/11 anniversary, the media gave us a window to see back into the heart of

New York's tragedy. What I saw through my television shocked me back into reality. Why hasn't an official monument already been built? The government made our nation a promise to create a monument in honor of the casualties of 9/11. Finally, after waiting half a decade, we are beginning to see the results of that promise.

Earlier this month plans to build three grand towers

on Ground Zero's eastern side were introduced to the public. These buildings will include areas for retail, office spaces, and a transportation hub. This dream would not be possible without Daniel Libeskind, the man who designed the towers.

Our government has deemed the completion date for sometime in 2012. In the end, the formal monument promised so long ago will

have taken over a decade to take form.

The delay of creating a monument has left me with mixed feelings. Yes, rebuilding New York is a wonderful idea, but the monument should have been constructed years ago. The fact that the government is taking so long to fulfill its promise to us makes me wonder about

9/11 Retrospect

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Amplifier

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FRESHMEN

SPEAK OUT

What were the challenges of your first week in high school?

Emily Ostbo



"I've had to run to class almost every day. It's hard to get to class on time."

Callan Gray



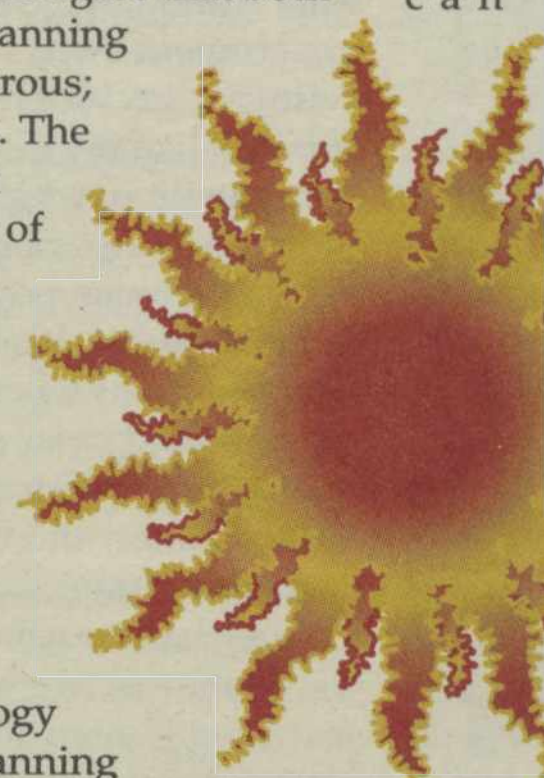
"I had trouble getting lost and found myself walking in circles."

Tanning: good for c

NICOLE HUTCHINSON
Staff Reporter

I tan, and I'm not alone. I am one of the many teenage girls (as well as teenage guys, grandmothers, etc.) who has jumped the bandwagon. Tanning is a growing trend in the United States, coming to the aid of those ghostly pale girls and boys who desire a golden glow.

Many people use natural sunlight in the months of May-August, and tanning beds during the rest of the year. But members of the Food and Drug Administration, American Medical Association and Web MD all agree that both forms of tanning are dangerous; I disagree. The American Academy of



Dermatology deemed tanning in natural sunlight medically safer when used with precautions than tanning in a bed.

The most dangerous part about tanning in a bed, as well as in the sun, are the UV Rays. Ultraviolet A (UVA) and Ultraviolet B (UVB) are the rays that penetrate the skin and cause the tan. UVA rays are known for deep penetration of the skin which is what makes you tan. UVB are known for causing sunburns, since they only tan the top layer of skin.

New research now proves that there is a link between UVA rays and malignant melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Nearly 8,000 people in the U.S. die each year from this

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