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## My Faults, My Sweets - WTF is wrong w/ ppl?!?

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WTF is wrong w/ ppl?!?

[Nov. 2nd, 2006|**05:45 pm**]
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okay, so i heard that evryone like blew up 2day or sum shit about the description of the rb thing that went in. other than grammatical errors, there was the fact that "Rebecca and her team" was mentioned repeatedly or that it seems like evryone's working for me or something and no one was getting any or little credit but me. so... i went and actually read it myself ((cuz it was changed 4m what i had seen last time))

read it and tell me if it sounds the same way to you. i highlighted everytime it said my name, and the core team. also tell me if maybe i misssd anothr mention of me sumwhere.

**“The quality of the world’s ocean systems is declining. Scientists have documented this in the chemical and biological makeup of the sea and its inhabitants. One of the most visible indicators of the decline is the loss of reefs which are disappearing and supporting fewer and fewer species. New reefs, or restorations of dying reefs, are needed to relieve the pressure on existing natural reefs. There are a variety of reasons for this loss of habitat: fertilizer runoff, industrial by-products, inadequate sewage treatment, overfishing, dynamite and cyanide fishing, excessive diving, and careless anchoring of boats. Other problems are due to natural causes such as hurricanes, or periods of extended temperatures unsuitable for corals. Fortunately, reefs have a tremendous ability to revive themselves – but only if we turn the tide”** *Reefball Foundation*

About three years ago, Rebecca Schultz completed her Open Water Scuba certification.

As she began to experience her underwater hobby, she noticed the coral reefs she was visiting were showing serious signs of stress. As a Girl Scout and student at South Plantation High School Environmental Science Magnet program she has been acutely aware of the necessity to promote environmental awareness and recognize the value in

preserving our resources. She became very concerned with the deterioration of natural reefs along our coastal waterways. To address this problem, Rebecca envisioned this project and worked toward her goal to deploy man-made artificial reefs to help restore the ailing natural coral reefs and marine life.

This project began as a small idea – to provide a small but sustainable and stable habitat in the waterway adjacent to Oleta River state park. It seemed easy enough. People had made artificial reefs out of so many objects; old ships, concrete blocks, left over building materials, even an old pick-up truck! As the project continued it “blossomed”, or more appropriately, exploded.

It was quickly apparent that this was a huge undertaking. Rebecca went to her fellow Girl Scouts and students to see if others would like to participate. Several young women, Sara Yinger, Jasmine Jeffers, and Veronica LaFranchise became the **CORE team** working to construct and deploy the artificial reefs. Rebecca and her team worked with the project sponsors, Allan Phipps and Elena Schultz, to create this very successful project. It is with some insightful guidance from these mentors and other experts that the project was manageable.

Rebecca researched and found an environmentally sound method to construct the artificial reef – Reefballs. Under the direction of the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), Reef Innovations, and Oleta River State Recreation Area the project begins with the construction and deployment of over 30 Reef balls. A Reef Ball is a specially designed artificial reef that looks similar to a whiffle ball cut in half. They are made of a special, marine friendly, concrete, are designed to mimic natural reef systems. Reefballs are used around the world to create habitats for fish and other marine and freshwater species. ([www.reefball.com/whatsball.htm](http://www.reefball.com/whatsball.htm)) Reefballs for this restoration project range in size from 2 foot to 4 foot and weigh 300 to 1800 lbs each. Two sites were selected: intracoastal site - Biscayne Bay at Oleta River State park and off shore site about 1 ½ miles east of Haulover Inlet. Both sites are in Miami-Dade county.

Dredging in the inlet at Oleta River State Park had destroyed all plant and animal life on the bottom of the inlet. Seagrass and coral formations were erased from the ocean floor. The fish and invertebrates soon went the way of the seagrass and corals, as water quality in the area rapidly deteriorated. The elimination of seagrass and coral led to erosion of the sand of the inlet's bottom, and increased visibility to less than 1 foot. Water quality in the area has also suffered. In the absence of corals, sponges, seagrasses and other organisms,

pollution from the surrounding areas has built up in the water. The surrounding residential and commercial zones have released chemicals that have changed the pH of the area, as well as contributing harmful organic substances.

Offshore, the site is located in areas that were formerly trafficked heavily by boats. These boaters engaged in many harmful practices, such as anchoring on reefs, that destroyed the coral. Boaters also illegally released excess oil and sewage into the area, contaminating the water. The site is located off of Golden Beach, a heavily populated area that has contributed polluted runoff to the precarious ecological mix.

### **Monitoring and Maintenance**

Following the deployment of the artificial reefs, SCUBA certified members of the **CORE team** maintain and monitor the status of the artificial reef sites. Data is being collected to determine the efficacy of reefballs and deployment configurations as means of artificial reef construction and habitat restoration. The reefballs are constructed using three different configurations: an “X” shape, a “V” shape, and a randomly shaped deployment. The configurations are studied to determine the stability in the varying current flows and environmental conditions. In addition, measurements of benthic resources (such as growth of hard corals, sponges, macroalgae and seagrasses), which reflect the progression of the reefballs as stable habitats. Water quality measurements will track the increasingly pristine state of the burgeoning reef. Monthly counts and diversity mapping of populations of fish, invertebrates and other organisms will provide a way to accurately track the increase of biodiversity in the area. The **CORE team** developed the monitoring regimen and organize the community boaters for the dive trips.

### **Community Awareness**

In Disney/Pixar’s movie “Finding Nemo,” Nemo escaped the Dentist’s office by listening to the older, wiser Gill say that “all drains lead to the ocean.” Our waterways and canals are the “drains” of South Florida. As community members of South Florida, we are literally surrounded by water that leads both to the Everglades and to our oceans. We rely on our canals to “flush” excess water out to sea. Any fertilizer runoff, industrial runoff, inadequate sewage treatment, litter, and so on may end up compromising the health of our waterways as well as the surrounding coastal ecosystems and coral reefs so vitally important to South Florida’s ecology and economy. Our land-based actions are causing ecosystem decline and we are losing our coral reefs.

The **CORE team** now focuses on the second major goal of this project – community

awareness and education. The team has become “Environmental Ambassadors” to better educate the public as to the importance of the effective management of our actions on land and their effects on our waterways. The need for environmental education and awareness is paramount to the survival of our waterways, oceans, and their inhabitants like Nemo and his friends. Perhaps we may turn the tide of coral degradation through our project.

The **CORE team** meets weekly to develop and evaluate their educational program - currently being presented to middle school students, community groups, and Girl Scouts of varying age levels. So far, we’ve directly educated over 200 students, of ages ranging from elementary school to high school. The program is modeled after the “edu-tainment” form of educational program. Edu-tainment is used to present educational concepts (such as science and math) using innovative and interactive methods. Participants learn how waterway habitats are affected by human interaction and design an artificial reef to provide protection and stability for marine life. The program presents a hands-on environmental experience that strengthens outdoor skills (orienteeing, GPS Mapping, and water safety) while participating in a habitat restoration Service – Learning project.. Participants learn that what they do on the land affects the waterways that we depend on.

Programs utilize technology, ex. PowerPoint, video clips, and electronic polling methods. The programs include several hands-based activities, in a module-based format.. Participants make edible coral polyps, interact with marine creatures in ‘petting zoo’ format, test water samples they collected themselves and learn about the importance of the ocean and clean water. The program also includes several projects directly at Oleta River State Recreational Area. The closest set of reefballs are within swimming distance of shore; stronger swimmers snorkel to the reef sites in order to view the reef balls. We also take advantage of the estuaries in the area to conduct tours of Florida’s ecosystems and show children the unique creatures of the area.

The **CORE team** is currently preparing educational booklets and curriculum guides for distribution to teachers and Girl Scout leaders all over the South Florida area. Teachers and troop leaders can conduct hands-on activities with their kids in order to teach them about the importance of coral reef ecosystems. The activities are planned to be inexpensive and easy to replicate. The **CORE team** is presenting teacher in-service opportunities to introduce the program components. The booklet materials will be

posted on the websites will be available for anyone. The hands-on activities will hopefully inspire others to look in their own communities for unique opportunities to make a difference in their environment..

### **Community Partnerships**

When the project began, many community members and businesses expressed their concern for the loss of habitat. Unfortunately, they do not know what they can do to help. This project gives them an opportunity to be a part of an important Environmental service project. The community at large is encouraged to become involved. Building an artificial reef is not something that just anyone could undertake, but given the opportunity several companies jumped at the chance to be involved. The more the project is mentioned, the more people want to become involved – somehow – some way.

The direct partnership of South Plantation High School, Girl Scouts of Broward County, DERM and Oleta State Recreation area have contributed greatly to the success of the project. The **CORE team** have been diligent in securing donations and grants to help fund the various aspects of the project. To date they have been able to secure over \$30,000 toward the project. They have received grants from Reef Ball Foundation, Girl Scouts of the USA/Elliott Wildlife Values Project, Florida Department of Education Learn and Serve, kynamatrixResearchNetwork, World Wildlife Fund and Target Tiger Woods Start Something program. The CORE team has also worked to secure donations from many community partners: DERM – permits and technical expertise; Oleta River State park – facilities, personnel. and supplies; SuperMix concrete – donated all the specialized concrete necessary to complete the 30+ reefballs, Reef Innovations – training and expertise in constructing and deploying the reefballs, Florida Atlantic University – discounted fees for the use of their boat with a crane to place the reef balls, Publix Grocery and Home Depot, Lake Wales High School, Sea Scouts Venture Crew, Brownies dive shop – dive supplies, and numerous community boat owners – transportation to the offshore reef site. For small expenses, the **CORE team** has even baked and sold cookies to raise the necessary funds.

One of the advantages of working with these partner agencies is the prospect of **thousands of other people** being able to learn and benefit from the project. The partner agencies are very interested in viewing and recording the project results. Web pages for DERM, Girl Scouts of Broward, South Plantation High School, Reefball Foundation, Reef Innovations, and kynamatrixResearchNetwork will reflect various aspects of the

project. A video describing the reefball construction and deployment are in development for the presentation program and made available to those interested. Brochures describing the project along with activity pages will be available at Oleta River State Recreation Area. Interpretive signage is being developed for placement at Oleta describing the project and its benefits to the ecosystem

The partnerships developed during the project are not limited. Each organization has committed to maintaining the relationships and continuing the project objectives. For example: The collaboration between Girl Scouts and South Plantation High School will continue with SPHS and its associated university contacts taking on the responsibility of monitoring and maintaining the artificial reef. SPHS will also continue to present programs to elementary and middle school students through their ER Ambassadors cascade learning program (high school students present to elementary and middle school students throughout the county). As many Girl Scouts are interested in the environment, (they seem to go hand in hand don't they) it is expected that the collaboration with the SPHS Environmental Science magnet program will encourage girls to study the sciences.

The benefits of this project to the community and the nation's water resources are far reaching. Educational programs can be used to heighten community awareness to the importance of preserving our ocean ecosystems. Community agencies and organizations are brought together with the common goal of improving the environment. Oleta River State Recreation area and the offshore site benefits with clearer and more healthy waterways. The park will experience an increase in fish population and thus increased fishing. Students and community members participating in the program also benefit by an increased understanding of human impact on the environment through various activities and experiments. They learn about artificial reefs, why they are important, and how they are designed. Participants can strengthen outdoor skills such as orienteering, GPS navigation, swimming and snorkeling. Older students are be introduced to waterway legislation and learn about environmentally responsible diving and boating. They learn about the various career opportunities relating to the environment.. The project provides opportunities for ongoing learning experiences and service opportunities at no or very low cost to the participants.

**Reefs do have a tremendous ability to revive themselves – but only if we help.**

Through this project we can continue “Turn the tide” on coral reef and waterway damage. The efforts of the **CORE team** have worked to help restore valuable habitat while

educating the community to reduce our human influence.

So unless I'm wrong, I'm only mentioned personally on the 1st page, in the 1st, 3rd, and 4th paragraph. Each one that said my name did have something that I did, before this project became into what it is now.

- 1) scuba certification
- 2) envisioned this project
- 3) went to fellow scouts
- 4) researched and found Reef balls.

Only one of those referencing "Rebecca and her team". Okay, so that sentence could've been put as "They" but does it really matter that much? "Rebecca and her team worked with the project sponsors, Allan Phipps and Elena Schultz, to create this very successful project."

The rest of them say "**the CORE team**". and it's written like that ALL THROUGH OUT the paper.

**Please, check again if I'm wrong.**

either way, i'm surprised we haven't killed each other yet. we're working on it tho.

speaking of killing each other, two other times 2day hav i seen ppl, NO WAIT, **GIRLS** bitching & yelling at each other.

1) in Chorus class where the officers and the alto 2's ((excluding me, cuz i sit w/ Kim or Brittany, soprano/alto1)) got into a fight. this then got Mrs. Toeller in the room & all hell went loose. not very pretty. Toeller & the officers obviously won, but that girl really wants to quit chorus. not that i care tho. she doesn't sing at all or well in the 1st place.

2) in Leadership during lunch. Julia & Mary just started yelling at each other about stuff for Key Club. Collins took them in the back & we could hear her yelling at them, but no one knows the full story behind that one.

WTF?!?

2day sucks ass. and it was going so well too besides the bitching in the classes & afterschool. whatever...

@-;--

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Comments:



From: [batman\\_is\\_cool](#)

2006-11-03 01:37 am (UTC)

[\(Link\)](#)

That's what I was trying to explain to you.

It was the notice of "rebecca and HER team" that brought up the thought (a thought that has been had before) that you hold all of the authority over us. Yes, the rest of the paper referred to us as "the CORE team" which is how it should be. Yes, we (and when I say we, I'm referring to me Ron and Jaz) are in full comprehension of the FACT that YOU started this. But, since then, we have all become vital parts of this project.

It's not that we aren't fully grateful and completely understanding of the things that Phipps and your mom have done for us. Without

them, this project would be dead.

It's just things like "rebecca and her team" that make us feel like we're working for you. It was a minor error.

We weren't "bitching at phipps" this afternoon. We asked him what the paper was for, since none of us knew. If it was something that was to be submitted on a later date (which is what I originally thought) then it needed to be corrected. Not only did we feel that rebecca and her team needed to be changed, but numerous punctuation/grammatical errors were found. I myself was willing to correct those if it was something for future submittal.

Another issue was that (and not just in this last paper) we as individuals on this team don't get enough recognition.

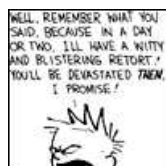
Rebecca - nothing personal, but its true - you get your own name on practically everything simply because you started the project. Us three only get mention as being part of the team. I'm not saying that you shouldnt be recognized. You should be. But so should we. We are vital to this project, and are every bit as important as you are. I know you never said differently, I wasn't implying that. And I know that there's no control over what goes in the newspaper, but it needs to be more firmly established that we all work together, and none of us do anymore than the others.

We all know that we've been at each others throats for months over this. It needs to stop, and there's only one way that it's gonna be solved. At our next meeting, we need to sit down and work this out. I've talked to Ron, and she completely agrees.

It's been coming for a long time, so we need to sit our asses down and clear the air before someone really breaks.

I think I've listed about everything I can think of for now. So, next meeting, or ASAP, we need to sit down and work all of this out.

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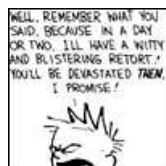


**From:** [magenta\\_markers](#)  
2006-11-03 04:09 am (UTC)

([Link](#))

i agree.

([Reply to this](#))([Parent](#))



**From:** [magenta\\_markers](#)  
2006-11-03 04:38 am (UTC)

([Link](#))

and we weren't bitching at phipps, if anything phipps was being nosy because we never said a word to him about anything.

([Reply to this](#))([Parent](#))



**From:** [acid\\_green](#)  
2006-11-03 04:52 am (UTC)

([Link](#))

Exactly what she said. But, I'd also like to add that:

you said:

*Only one of those referencing "Rebecca and her team". Okay, so that sentence could've been put as "They" but does it really matter that much? "Rebecca and her team worked with the project sponsors, Allan Phipps and Elena Schultz, to create this*

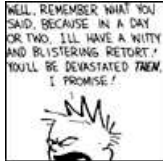


*very successful project."*

How about you answer the same question from my position? Would it bother you? As Jasmine and Sara both said, it does bother us. Not only that, but this isn't the first time it's happened. And we're all just fed up with it.

Sara and Jasmine covered everything pretty well. I agree with most of it. However, besides the above mentioned, I don't have the energy or the time to spend on explaining to you why I don't appreciate being shit on by your mom after school after she gossiped with Mr.Phipps.

([Reply to this](#))(Parent)



**From:**

 **magenta\_markers**

2006-11-03 04:25 am (UTC)

([Link](#))

i personally feel really aggravated that i spent a lot of time working on that award paper and my name is mentioned exactly once and there is not a single picture of me on it.

i realize i can't dive and the stuff i do for the project can't always be summed up in cool flashy pictures and such. but i feel like because i can't dive i'm treated as marginal on the team, even though i do lots of other things that are just as important and i put a lot of time into these things.

yes, your name is only mentioned in the 1st, 3rd and 4th paragraph. and yes, it is true that you did do that stuff. but think about the fact that you have 3 paragraphs talking about what you did. for the rest of us, we get one mention. and those introductory paragraphs set the tone for the rest of the paper. although it says 'the core team', the first few paragraphs imply for the rest of the paper that 'the core team'='rebecca and her team'.

no one is disputing that you started the project, or that you've put a lot of time into it. but i think the rest of us are getting aggravated because we're putting in a lot of time and aren't really getting any recognition for it. it's 'rebecca and her team' a lot of the time, and we aren't getting told about things or recognized for what we are doing.

i'm sure you can agree that this project is exhausting. trying to spend lots of time on this senior project in addition to my schoolwork, college admissions, and my other ECs has left me burned out and frazzled. i'd just like to see some recognition that i'm part of the team, and not feel like no one cares about the time we've spent on this and that no one is listening to what the rest of us have to say and our ideas.

i think a lot of this have had the same qualms regarding this project for a long time (in addition for calls for more transparency....knowing about what exactly we're doing and what it's for). We're all super stressed right now, with our various commitments. and these past few weeks, we've been asked to put in a lot of time on this project, between the presentation last saturday and all this tweaking for the presentation next saturday. we're all

just worn thin.

so if you want to know wtf is wrong with us, it's that we're all tired,  
stressed and not very happy about this.

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