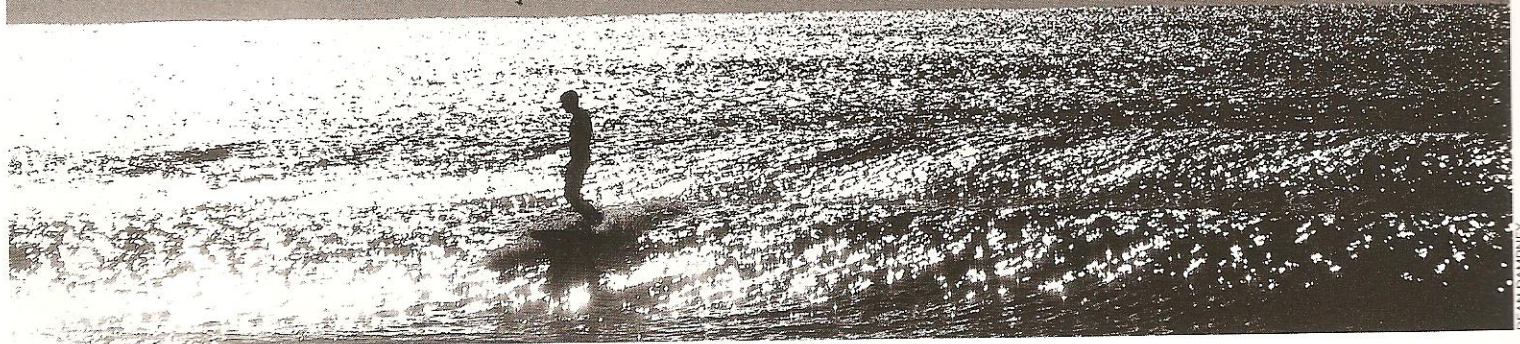


A human, freeloading on the energy of the Sun for fun – aka a surfer.



DEAN DAMPHREY

I am a surfer. Who am I?

BY MARTIN DOREY

I am a surfer. I have power, passion and positivity. I get up early and ride the waves, locking in, taking the falls, enjoying the glide. I am man in harmony with nature, taking nothing, leaving nothing, expecting nothing. I am a crusader, leading the way, exploring new places, heading off, looking for new and better ways to scare myself. I am an Earth lover, ocean dweller, tribesman, as one. I supported the cause from the beginning, changed a few minds, cleaned up a few beaches. I helped give it back. I cared. Didn't I? I sat on planes and taunted the crazy bemo boys. Go faster! Go faster! I rode tuk tuks, speedboats, jetskis. I went down the highway a few times. Then a few times more. I lived my life quietly, doing my thing, taking a few drops, stealing a couple of bombs from the locals, sharing my clothes on departure.

A few drops of Arak, a couple of pints of cider, a dawnie, a flight home and back up the motorway for work on Monday. Brilliant. No harm done.

I rode twinnies and singles. A beautiful 6'11" pin from Oz. Dinged that bad at Mundaka. I rode a 6'3" from SA. A lot of people rode 6'3"s from SA, brought in on planes by mates. I busted boards too. Snapped a 10' single in the shorey at the local. I glassed my Wrong Eyed Jesus in the shed. Wow! The fumes, the chemicals, the dust. I was high for a week. Now my shape's being ridden all over the world by people just like me. It's everyone's shape now. Guaranteed rocker, solid rails, proven at Pipe, every one the same. Brought to all of us with a little help from the fossils. I kept warm with rubber made from more unspeakable chemicals. And I still do. It comes on a ship, then a truck, then a van, I think. Keeps me warm, keeps me having fun, keeps me in

stoke. Stoke is all that matters. But, really. What have I done? Seriously. What have I done for pleasure?

I am anti-corporate, anti-global, pro-recycling, organic and locally grown. No dog shit on my beach. Where do I go from here?

I am a surfer. Who Am I?

When he was young Martin Dorey just wanted to travel the world and help old people, but now he's had a little look around the planet he's looking forward to paddling out with his kids when he's old. He is a freelance writer and makes enough from his business to keep him living just a hop, skip and a jump from a bunch of his favourite reefs somewhere in North Devon, UK.

Check out the beach clean and recycling project he's organising with his local primary school on www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7247388277



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY? SEND US YOUR OPINIONATED ANGLE ON SURFING (800 WORDS MAX) WHETHER WE AGREE OR NOT, IF IT GETS PUBLISHED WE'LL HOOK YOU UP WITH A PAIR OF 'TOE FOO GREEN TOE' FLIP FLOPS FROM SIMPLE.