

Killer sea monster still at large

By WILLIAM DICK

A HUGE sea monster which killed three scuba divers should be hunted down, but officials of the tourist-hungry state of Florida are covering up the existence of the killer serpent, says an anguished mom whose son survived the vicious attack.

"They won't admit the beast is there. They are afraid that tourists will be scared away," Mrs. Grace McCleary, of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, told the Examiner.

"The incident happened and three young men were killed by a savage monster. We can't just ignore it. Something should be done. The beast must be found."

The savage attack took place in the Gulf of Mexico five miles off Pensacola, on Florida's North West Coast.

Survivor's mom: Tourist-hungry Florida hiding grisly secret

Local newspapers reported that three young Fort Walton Beach men, Eric Ruyle, Bradford Rice, and Larry Bill, drowned when a freak wave overturned their scuba diving boat.

Survivor Edward Brian McCleary, 16, initially seemed to confirm this. But under doctor supervised hypnosis, he told a frightening tale of horror.

"The silence was broken by something out of the fog. I can only describe it as a high pitched whine. We smelled a sickening odor. Then we saw a 10-foot pole-like object coming at us out of the water. It had the head of a turtle and green eyes with oval pupils. There were patches of

brown, crusty slime on the water.

"We panicked. All of us put on our fins and went into the water."

McCleary never saw his companions alive again. Occasionally he heard screams in the darkness. The next day he floated ashore, uninjured.

"It is a nightmare Brian has lived with ever since," said his mother. "A terrible experience, made worse by the skepticism he has had to face."

McCleary, now a hospital official in Jacksonville, Florida, said he no longer discusses the incident. "It brings back such terrifying memories," explained Mrs. McCle-

ary.

Details of the monster attack were uncovered when the McCleary family sought hypnotic medical help for Brian a few weeks after the terrifying offshore tragedy struck the divers' families.

"He was really ill.

"At night he would let out terrible screams. We couldn't understand it," said his mother.

The monster report was ignored for years until it was again mentioned in a recent display at the Palm Beach County Science Museum in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Dr. Ed Sobey, museum director, who organized the exhibits, said: "I am personally convinced there are sea monsters we have not yet discovered."

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