

4/10/07

Responsible Cruising in Alaska

Contact: Gershon Cohen 766-3005, or Joe Geldhof 586-8193

For Immediate Release:

## CRUISE SHIP DRUGS, DRINKING, AND DUMPING

Cruise industry representatives and their campaign contribution-backed Legislators are attempting to undermine the wastewater protection and oversight portions of Alaska's new cruise ship law. They claim Alaska's new cruise law is unnecessary, dumping incidents have ceased (at least in Alaska,) and a new, more responsible corporate ethic is in force throughout the industry. Responsible Cruising in Alaska, the sponsor of Alaska's new cruise ship rules, and the majority of Alaskans that passed the new law in August 2006, remain unconvinced. The attached 10-minute DVD contains two stories that ran recently on Seven TV Network in Australia, and substantiates the need for strict oversight of this industry by our State and federal governments.

The first story documents drug use, underage drinking, and public lewdness being condoned by staff on the P&O Pacific Star cruise ship (owned by Carnival Cruise Lines.)

The second story documents the illegal dumping of ~100,000 gallons of oil sludge on the South Pacific island of Vanuatu in November 2006 by the Pacific Star. Vanuatu officials were furious over the environmental vandalism documented in this news story, and local taxicabs and busses have been refusing to pick up passengers from the ship. According to the report by Channel Seven News, Vanuatu officials are still investigating the dumping in an area the size of a football field, where holes in the volcanic island were filled with oil sludge and raw sewage. A river below the dump site is used by locals for drinking, washing, and recreation.

The private investigator hired by Channel Seven News to film the events had copies of his tapes vanish from his cabin and was forced to leave the ship. According to the investigator, a crewman on the Pacific Star admitted to dumping ~300,000 gallons of waste engine oil unlawfully five times in 2006. According to the aired TV news report, the Pacific Star paid a local man ~\$200 to pick up the waste oil in Vanuatu in a septage hauling truck and illegally dump the oil in the pits. Legal disposal in Australia would have cost the cruise line ~\$30,000. Carnival Corporation's net profit for 2006 was \$2.28 billion.

In a separate report, an Australian newspaper, the Sunshine Coast Daily, reported that a former Pacific Star employee alleged witnessing oil being dumped at sea, leaving an oil slick 2 miles long in 2005. The employee said it was done in a casual manner that suggested oil dumping was not uncommon.

Investigator Col Chapman may be reached in Australia at:

[natcolshell@telestra.com](mailto:natcolshell@telestra.com)

+61400158837

+61417778569

Channel Seven Brisbane

GPO Box 604

MOUNT COOT-THA QLD 4001

Switchboard: (07) 3369 7777

General fax (07) 3368 2970

[pmeakin@seven.com.au](mailto:pmeakin@seven.com.au)