

TAY VAUGHAN

The creator of the Bay Area Marine Institute left a Ph.D. in medicine for a career with boats and kids.

You might not have heard about the Bay Area Marine Institute of San Francisco. However, if Tay Vaughan, its innovative president has anything to do with it, you will and soon.

The non-profit organization that was formed in 1976 to provide educational and vocational training is beginning to gain recognition, not least of all from the Mayor's Office in San Francisco, who recently awarded BAMI a small private grant.

The Institute started as a rehabilitation concept, i.e. helping young offenders adjust to society by using the oceans.

A Training Ground

"The seas provide a good training ground for kids with problems of self image... we think of the oceans as a tremendous place to straighten people out in terms of courage and self reliance. Take someone who is super macho and put him out in a boat in a Force 6 wind with a building sea. Suddenly the patina of bravado that you find in the inner city kid falls away. You get to the basics of real courage, the ability to cope with the natural environment and challenge," said Vaughan.

However, the creators of the Institute discovered that there wasn't money available for helping inner city youth by taking them out on yachts. During this time, Vaughan was running his own boat survey business. International Marine Surveyors, and became aware of the need for skilled workers in marine construction and repair.

"You think classically that in a small boatyard, people are out there caulking seams with the old-timers, but the state of the art has changed. We're dealing with a

fairly high technology, plastics, metals, electrical systems and aluminum masts. There's a complexity in the industry now and there's been a lag in training to cope with it.

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"We decided we would match the industries need for craftsmen with our ability to provide training. Jobs, we felt, were really the bottom line. Income and pride of craftsmanship were an important part of the creation of problems as anything else." Vaughan said.

Mayor's Office Grant

Although BAMI struggled along for the past two years on a budget so tight it squeaked, they did manage to develop a curriculum and establish a line between industry and training. A financial break came this summer when they were highly recommended by the Mayor's Office staff and received a grant of \$28,000 for a summer program.

The funding is for a pre-apprenticeship program for eight San Francisco youths from 17 to 21 years old. For 16 weeks, half of the group will learn boat maintenance skills and the other half will take part in a commercial fishing project. The groups will be rotated on a weekly basis so that each participant gets a chance to line fish off the Golden Gate and learn how to keep a boat shipshape and in Bristol fashion.

The students, who are recommended for the program by San Francisco community groups, will also be paid.

Other Projects

Besides the pre-apprenticeship program, BAMI holds continuing adult education classes including naval architecture to Third World

Maritime History; has put together a crew to race a Peterson 34 outfitted, gratis, by Sperry Top Siders; and developed an apprenticeship program based on standards developed by the small craft industry and the US Department of Labor.

Another project worthy of mention is a fund raiser called the Fillmore Boards. A friend of the Institute gave BAMI the entire dance floor from Fillmore West. The Institute has, in turn, converted the 15,000 board teet of hard rock maple into attractive and sturdy cutting boards, and they are on sale for \$22.50 plus \$11.50 postage. For more information contact BAMI, Pier 66, San Francisco, CA 94107 (415) 552-4500.

Tay Vaughan

The impetus behind the Bay Area Marine Institute is Tay Vaughan, 34. An articulate, well-educated man, Vaughan was three years into a doctoral program at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, when he decided to make a drastic change in his life. "I had most of my dissertation assembled and I was living in Bolinas. It really got to me and I burned by dissertation and all my notes in a 55-gallon drum and started building an ocean going sailboat. I really wanted to work with my hands, be a carpenter and teach. I didn't want to sit around

for the rest of my life in a tweed suit, smoking a pipe and teaching the same rhetoric to the next generation."

His boat *Great Bear*, took two years to complete. During that time, he served an apprenticeship as a master cabinetmaker journeyman carpenter, and designed and constructed homes in Mill Valley.

Intrepid

After launching his boat and sailing it to San Diego in 1973, he met the Driscolls, owners of the 12 meter *Intrepid*.

"I went in and talked with them, and walked out the other door with a roll of Sparkman and Stephens plans under my arm. Suddenly, I was the master carpenter in the refit of *Intrepid*. I spent four months in San Diego laying a new deck and reshaping the underbody, it was more damn fun." recalled Vaughan.

Since that stint in San Diego, Vaughan has sailed through the Panama Canal to Newport, Rhode Island, delivered a yacht to the Virgin Islands, was Dean of the Chapman School of Seamanship in Stuart, FL and finally came back to the Bay area as Western Regional Director of the Oceanic Society.

Vaughan's plans don't stop with a local institute. He wants to expand BAMI to a national scale. That's an ambitious plan, of course, but if you're as hardworking as the folks at BAMI are, it's not an impossible one.

G. G. Carroll