

## Black, John - SOL

---

**From:** Padgett, Lara - OSHA  
**Sent:** Monday, August 01, 2011 5:54 AM  
**To:** Black, John - SOL; Howard-Fishburne, Tremelle - ATL - SOL  
**Subject:** FW: EXHIBIT: Potentially new information regarding Keltie Byrne's death at SeaLand

Ex: 5 Attorney Client/Attorney Work Product

Lara

---

**From:** Jeffrey Ventre [mailto:[Ex 7\(C\) Privacy](#)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 01, 2011 8:33 AM  
**To:** Padgett, Lara - OSHA; Black, John - SOL  
**Cc:** [Ex 7\(C\) Privacy](#)  
**Subject:** EXHIBIT: Potentially new information regarding Keltie Byrne's death at SeaLand

Ms Lara Padgett OSHA  
John Black, Sr Trial Attorney, OSHA

Lara and John,

David Kirby, an investigative journalist writing a book about SeaWorld, suggested that I forward this to Ms Padgett. Please contact David directly for more information, including access to this "new" witness.

Jeffrey Ventre MD  
Former trainer

cc: [Ex 7\(C\) Privacy](#)  
cc: [Ex 7\(C\) Privacy](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** <[Ex 7\(C\) Privacy](#)>  
**Date:** Sun, Jul 31, 2011 at 10:49 PM  
**Subject:** SeaLand witness  
**To:** [Ex 7\(C\) Privacy](#)

Hey Jeff, please do not share this with anyone just yet, except maybe LP. I have shared with Naomi but no one else.

I spent 30 minutes on the phone tonite with the eyewitness who was at SeaLand when Keltie Byrne was killed

Her story was quite something: The attack was, essentially, all Tilikum all the time.

And Keltie did not "fall" into the pool. Tilikum yanked her in

The witness was six feet away from Keltie when it happened. Keltie was walking along the very narrow deck when she slipped and lost her balance just a bit. Her foot dipped down and broke the surface of the water. Just as she was regaining her balance and pulling her foot up, Tilikum came racing over, grabbed her foot and pulled her into the water. The witness told me "it was the really big whale with the fin that had completely flopped over," without my prompting.

She was there with her sister and her friend from college and I am going to corroborate their accounts.

They watched for about 20 minutes. Tilikum would bat Keltie around with his nostrum and he pushed her around the pool as she screamed - there were only 2 or 3 other trainers there and they were very young. The more they slapped the water, the more agitated all three whales became, especially Tilikum

Keltie then somehow got onto Tilikum's back (hence the AP account of her "riding him") and he would go around in circles, preventing her from grabbing a shepherd's hook that the other kids were holding out. Tilikum would dunk Keltie in the water as she rode him, pulling her down with the sheer force of suction

Toward the end, the other two whales took part and they passed Keltie around like a toy, then they all submerged and stayed down there for several minutes - that's when the guests were ushered out

When the witness heard about Dawn, in 2010, it sounded exactly the same as with Keltie. I am passing this on to you in confidence, in case you want to share it with a certain federal official. I can give you the contact info, if LP wants it. Otherwise, I'd like to keep this quiet for now, so please do not share beyond that. But it's quite a bombshell and I am so glad I found this witness.

I love my job

:)

dk