

By Daniel Baxter

### ***Living and Diving***

Surrounded by increased barometric pressure  
Would you dare to search for hidden treasure  
Where SCUBA divers breathe compressed air  
Risking sensory impairment and tight Speedo underwear

Gas filled cavities must communicate  
Otherwise the pain from eardrums won't dissipate  
Avoid compression on descent  
Otherwise 'the squeeze' will not relent

If you don't believe me then listen to Jacques Cousteau  
He said equalise slowly to outside pressure especially 'dans l'eau'  
When executing a Valsalva manoeuvre you must 'pincer votre nez'  
If not one risks a pneumothorax 'pendant la montee'

Rapid ascent produces man GI irritations  
Eructation and fatal gaseous embolizations  
Poorly soluble N<sub>2</sub> comes out of solution  
Not to mention flatulence and water pollution

Hyperbarometric chambers ease reckless divers from their troubles  
'The bends' and 'the chokes' arise due to the formation of N<sub>2</sub> bubbles  
One could substitute He for N<sub>2</sub> in gas tanks but that is not cheap  
Without nitrogen narcosis there would be no 'raptures of the deep'

Chest wall elastic recoil decrease with immersion up to your neck  
FRC is lowered as though lying horizontally on the deck  
Abdominal venous pooling decreases to our elation  
Such immersion also contributes to frequent urination

**The New York Times proclaims Daniel Baxter as the ultimate writer of doggerel. His work is noted for its bathos, repetitive rhythms, poor scansion, and ludicrous effect**