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For Immediate Release

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**Kelly Slater and Bob McKnight co-chair
Reef Rescue 2004 Benefit for the Reef Check Foundation**

**Fundraiser Honors Nick Lachey and Kelly Hu and
Features Sharon Lawrence and John Rhys-Davies**

Los Angeles, CA (*August 23, 2004*) - Six-time world surfing champion Kelly Slater is teaming up with Bob McKnight, CEO of board-riding apparel company Quiksilver to co-chair **Reef Rescue 2004**, a benefit event for the Reef Check Foundation of Los Angeles. Reef Check is a non-profit organization with volunteer teams in over 70 countries working to save coral reefs from destructive fishing and pollution. The gala event features a VIP party with some of Hollywood's hottest young entertainers, dinner, auctions, and a variety of live music.

"Coral reefs, the first gathering place in our food chain, are suffering," says Slater. I am truly in awe every time I see what the world under the waves has to offer us. We can and must make a difference."

Reef Rescue 2004 takes place on **Thursday, September 30**, at the Victorian in Santa Monica. The night kicks off with a VIP party at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, auction and award ceremony. The live auction features celebrity auctioneer **John Rhys-Davies** (*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Princess Diaries 2*.)

Sharon Lawrence (*NYPD Blue*, *Little Black Book*) will present Reef Check Environmental Awards to **Nick Lachey** of MTV's *The Newlyweds* and **Kelly Hu** of *X-2* and *Scorpion King*. Both are vocal advocates of coral reef conservation. Other celebrities lending their support include Ed Begley, Jr., Colleen Camp, Leonardo DiCaprio, Gale Anne Hurd, Alexander Gould, and Daryl Hannah.

"We are proud to have the opportunity to contribute to the research efforts of Reef Check and to be a part of a star-studded event that will inspire people to protect our precious ocean and its resources," said Bob McKnight, president and CEO of Quiksilver Inc.

Tickets for the dinner are \$250. Entry to the dinner and VIP party is \$500. All proceeds will benefit the Reef Check Foundation and the new Reef Check California program.

"Reefs are currently experiencing an unprecedented crisis that could have devastating effects on all of us," said Gregor Hodgson, who founded the Reef Check program in 1996. "The loss of coral reefs would mean that the raw materials used as the source of thousands of potential life-saving drugs will be gone. The good news is that we now know how to take care of the remaining pristine reefs and to repair those that have been damaged."

For more information about Reef Rescue 2004 and to purchase tickets for the event, please call (310) 794-4985 or email rcheck2@ucla.edu.

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