



BETH M. HOWARD

Teen People

celeb
pool
party

hot stars show off the
coolest summer fashion

suicide
nightmare

why one young couple
decided to die for love

BEST new
beauty looks
and how to get them

sex on the job
a shocking report about
teens and harassment

"get past my color!"
multiracial teens speak out

drew
barrymore

She may be on her own now, but the *Never
Been Kissed* star says she's never been better

MAY 1999

US \$2.99/CAN \$3.99



@ AOL KEYWORD: TEEN PEOPLE

curl girl

Holly Beck is ripping her way to the top of the surfing world—one wave at a time

BY BETH M. HOWARD

Surfing sensation Holly Beck carves up and down the face of a wave, working hard to make her ride as technical and stylish as possible. When it's over, the 18-year-old paddles in, tucks her board under her arm and jogs up the beach—just in time to hear that she's won yet again, this time in the women's division of a National Scholastic Surfing Association competition in Newport Beach,

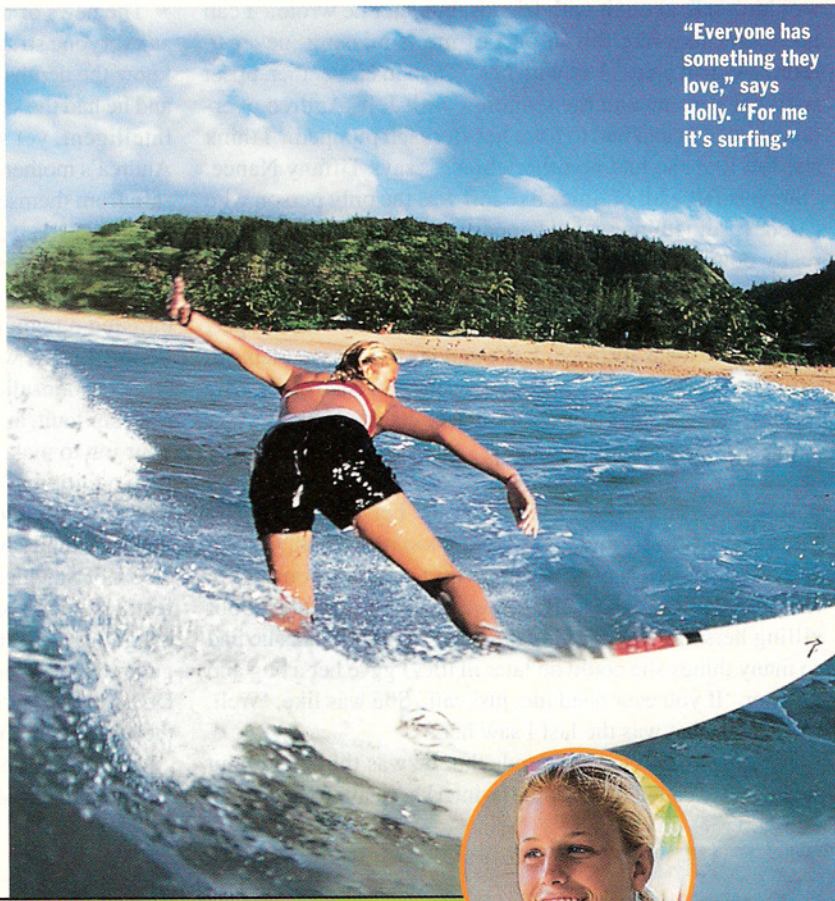
**"SHE'LL
[BE] ONE
OF THE
BEST
WOMEN
SURFERS
IN THE
WORLD"**

—Michael Marckx

Calif. Unzipping her wet suit and flashing a bright smile, Holly says, "My mom wanted me to be a ballerina. I'd tell her I was going surfing and she would say, 'But you just went yesterday.'" It's no surprise that her mom, Debbie, a dance teacher, has become a lot more supportive in the four years since Holly first started surfing—especially now that her daughter is one of the top-ranked amateur competitors in the country.

"Her surfing career is so new, but she's made tremendous leaps and bounds," says Michael Marckx, associate publisher of *Surfing Girl* magazine, which recently featured an article that Holly wrote about her obsession with surfing. "By working her way up the ranks, she'll [be] one of the best women surfers in the world when she decides to turn pro."

Although she grew up near the beaches of California's Palos Verdes Peninsula, dominating the surf world was never Holly's goal—well, not at first. A graceful and athletic little girl, her talents initially surfaced on the stage. "I got my first tutu and ballet shoes when I was three," she says. Since the fifth grade, she toured such



"Everyone has something they love," says Holly. "For me it's surfing."



surfing slang

kook:	a clumsy or obnoxious surfer
tube:	a hollow wave (also called a barrel)
rails:	the sides of the surfboard
set:	a grouping of waves (usually three in a row)
skeg:	the surfboard fin
lineup:	where surfers wait to catch waves

cities as New York and Paris, singing, dancing and acting with a performance group called the Rising Stars.

While Holly's path to fame seemed set, it changed course suddenly in 1995, when her uncle loaned her his old '60s surfboard. She instantly became "an addict," using baby-sitting money to buy her own board at a garage sale—a neon-pink and yellow model that cost her \$25.

Soon after, she traded her tutu and tights for board shorts and a bikini top. But Holly says those years of pointe class

weren't a waste: "Dancing taught me flexibility and coordination, which helps my surfing."

If surfing is Holly's passion, school has become her labor of love. A management sciences major at the University of California at San Diego, she works just as hard keeping her grades up as she does competing on the college's surf team. "Surfing can't go on forever," she says. "I want to have something to fall back on."

For now, she's got the best of both worlds: This self-described "computer nerd" is sponsored by Body Glove and Rusty, a surfboard and clothing company, which pay for all her equipment and contest entrance fees. "School is the most important thing," says Holly, "[but] surfing gives you such a rush."