

## LIFESAVERS

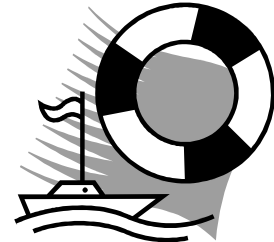
A life vest like the one to the right reminds me of my boyhood days on an occasional ski or finish trip. Wearing a flotation device seemed like such a hassle at the time; but on occasion, the value and purpose would be brought to my attention.



When you were young, water wings was the equipment of choice; supplemented by a float of some kind...usually with a theme or favorite character. Anyway, the wings usually kept you afloat and gave you a sense of security beyond or outstretched arms or careful watch. I remember a few times when Brian scared both himself and us with his “float-free” bouts with the deep. For sometime after that, he was very careful and even somewhat skittish.

By the name “Life-saver”, this equipment can make the difference between drowning and surviving – even when one is weak or near unconsciousness. A light-weight device has the buoyancy or floating ability to keep much human and other physical weight afloat – thanks in part to the fact that being submerged in water makes one appear lighter than our normal weight.

Why does one seem lighter in the water; or for that matter, why can we float when we hold air in our lungs, tread with our hands and feet, and add a flotation device as a helper? Simply because air, composed of oxygen and a few other elements, is lighter than water; therefore, air bubbles and other stuff filled with air, rise in the water. Boats and ships float for the same reason: the gross weight of both the vessel and the contents {including air} is lighter than the water it displaces; but should the vessel and contents become heavier than the water, than *man the lifeboats* and prepare to disembark or evacuate. Nature has rules or principles; the rule described above is called Archimedes Principle – which is named after the historical founder or discoverer of this principle.



A principle or fact helps explain a phenomena or mystery; thereby, setting in place certain or understood cause-and-effect relationships; but a principle can also be defined as a code of conduct or standard for our lifestyle. In both definitions, the word provides an ironic sense of freedom. Yes, Archimedes Principle explains the reason for our sinking in water; but also prepares us for the action and equipment needed to stay afloat. Likewise, a principle for our lifestyle may limit our friends, our forms of entertainment, and other aspects of daily or frequent routine; but such guidelines and even rules may protect us from damaging ourselves and hurting others – both types of principles can be lifesavers!

In a

WORD

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