

## The Cutting Edge: Tranquility Bay

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**Disturbing look at the booming tough-love industry in the United States.**

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Talk about tough love gone mad. Here's a disturbing look at the murky world of the World Wide Association of Specialty Programs (WWASP), America's leading provider of so-called behaviour modification programs for wayward teens.



A view of Tranquility Bay

Photo: [www.tranquilitybay.org](http://www.tranquilitybay.org)

Don't be fooled by exotic names such as Tranquility Bay and Paradise Cove in locations including Jamaica, Fiji and Western Samoa. The methods used by these camp schools to "help change wayward adolescents' inappropriate attitudes and behaviour" amount to abuse, physical and psychological. Some foreign governments have been concerned enough to shut the camps down. Some of the claims are shocking and the interviews with clearly damaged teens suggest that something terribly wrong has been going on. One mother's attempt to rescue her daughter is heart-breaking.

With the tough-love industry in the US booming (what is wrong with these people?) WWASP founder Robert Browning Lichfield has done extremely well, with buckets of money going to Mormon ministries and the Republican Party. It's a one-sided account, but makes for scary viewing.

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