



Flotsam & Jetsam

ARTFUL PENETRATION? In 1991, diver Henri Cosquer penetrated a Mediterranean cave near Marseilles that opened at 100 feet. At the end of a long, dry tunnel, he found a priceless collection of finger tracings, painted handprints, and painted and engraved animals, which have since been dated as ancient as 27,000 years. The French government installed a bolted steel gate across the entrance, but recently Cosquer discovered that several diving intruders had forced their way in, somehow moving a stack of concrete blocks, each weighing more than half a ton. Cosquer worried that people willing to do that kind of hard work must be up to no good, but apparently they were only art lovers. There was no damage. (I wonder if those trespassers will show up on the next Cousteau special?)

I'M A SWIMMER. Reason number 211 to take up scuba diving: *Psychology Today* surveyed 160 swimmers and found that those 60 and over had sex nearly as often as the average 40-year-old nonswimmer. While swimming is a far better exercise than diving, hell, if we even gain a year or two we're ahead of the game.

ANOTHER SANGALAKKI RUMOR. It may be back. Borneo Divers' Pt. Sangalakki Resort, which had to be closed due to "very complex but technical reasons" by the Indonesian government, could be reopening. The rumor is that one of the former Indonesian employees has obtained all the necessary permits. Previously, Borneo Divers had flown in an amphibious cargo plane and scooped up the Sangalakki Resort to move it to a new location, rumored to be near Manado. What I heard was that Borneo Divers was not impressed

enough with the diving in Manado to follow through with the plan. The diving is good, but not as spectacular as Sipadan or Sangalakki. Stay tuned to find out what happens in the Sangalakki saga.

STRING 'IM UP, THEY CRIED. The cry went out to execute a dolphin that killed a Brazilian swimmer in December, but conservationists prevailed. Tiao, a 10-foot-long, 550-pound male bottle-nosed dolphin, butted two swimmers, one of whom died from internal bleeding. On days following, he rammed seven others, injuring one seriously. Fearing the attacks could drive tourists away, some businessmen demanded Tiao be removed. But witnesses said the swimmers were mistreating the dolphin before the attacks. [*Editor's note: I heard something about sticking an ice cream cone in the dolphin's blowhole.*] So the mayor opted to warn swimmers not to approach the dolphin. "He's been with us for 5 months and the town does not want him to go," said an official of Caragatatuba on the São Paulo coast. "He could become quite a tourist attraction. He's normally very gentle."

BRAZIL UNDER ATTACK. If it's not the dolphins, it's the sharks. Surfing has been banned at a popular beach resort in northeastern Brazil because of sharks. There have been 11 shark attacks in the area in the past year. Another surfer just died from an attack in December.

Scientists believe one or two sharks are responsible for the attacks, possibly tiger or "lixa" sharks. During the summer, they swim closer to shore to give birth.

In Depth is the consumer newsletter for sport divers that reviews scuba destinations and equipment. We accept no advertising.

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