



Flotsam & Jetsam

ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE A DIVEMASTER. The trade journal *Dive Report* included a news bite in its August issue about career programs offered by Mike Ball Expeditions. It listed the minimum requirements for entry into the first level of professional diving — dive-master — as 60 logged dives and a minimum age of 128. As soon as I'm old enough I'm going to do it.

SHARKSKIN SUIT. Nassau Scuba Centre offers you a chance to dive with sharks, wearing your own personal stainless-steel shark suit. The Shark Suit Adventure includes Shark Suit training dive, shark dive, survivor certificate, and a custom video of your dive for \$265. You must have special qualifying skills to participate. I can only speculate: Shaking a shark loose from your arm? Free ascent in a steel suit? Contact 809-362-1964.

REBREATHING WITH SHARKS AND WHALES. Photographer Amos Nachoum was offering an expedition to Norway in October using rebreathers to dive with killer whales. Unfortunately, the trip has been canceled. Some spots on the boat might still be available through International Diving Expeditions (714-897-3770).

THE HOLIDAY OF YOUR HALF-LIFE. The French have suggested that, after their nuclear bomb tests have been conducted there in May 1996, the South Pacific atoll of Mururoa could be turned into a resort. The Aussies, who are not especially pleased with the idea of having nuclear tests in their back yard, have floated a few suggestions for advertising the new resort: "For the tan that radiates"; "Bomb voyage"; "After seven days you won't recognize yourself"; "The

holiday in the Tropic of Cancer"; "Radiant smiles, glowing hospitality"; "Club Dead"; "Ill Paradiso"; and "Mururoa Atoll Resort, for the holiday that you'll never remember."

GRUNTS & GROANS IN THE DEEP. A mini-submarine, hunting for the Loch Ness monster in the murky depths of the Scottish lake with the same equipment used to pick up communications between whales and dolphins, recorded mysterious grunts and groans coming from 500 feet deep.

The researchers, who have often heard recordings of dolphins and whales, said the Loch Ness calls sounded quite different. "It certainly poses a few very interesting questions, does it not?"

DIVING WITH THE DEAD. Jerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead once said that diving had taken the place of psychedelic drugs used to have in his life. A posting on the Internet from someone who had been diving in Kona, Hawaii with Jerry revealed some interesting details. The diver was clueless as to who Jerry was but impressed when he was the last one to return from the dive, after 109 minutes of bottom time.

"What were you doing down there so long?" he asked Jerry.

"I like to sing underwater."

"How can you sing underwater with the regulator in your mouth? How can you move your lips?"

"I don't know, but I can hear myself. I like to float around neutrally buoyant, sometimes upside down, and make up songs."

After his death last month from a heart attack, his ashes were scattered at sea.

In Depth is the consumer newsletter for sport divers that reviews scuba destinations and equipment. We accept no advertising. Subscriptions are \$60 a year (addresses in Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, add \$15; other foreign addresses, add \$30).

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