



Photo by Jason Bleibtreu, News-Press intern

DR. JOHN C. LILLY, with sculpture of a dolphin's head done by local artist Bud Bottoms, envisions a place where

man and dolphin can communicate. The language between man and mammal, he says, is psychic.

New-Age spa: Talk to dolphins

By Hillary Hauser
News-Press Staff Writer

It is the ultimate in spas. In a sunny Mexican coastal town near Puerto Vallarta, you can swim, snorkel, sit on the beach, and regenerate soul and body. And, as part of a New-Age stimulation, you can communicate with dolphins.

Communicate with dolphins?

Yes, according to Dr. John Lilly, noted scientist who has been working with dolphins for years to establish some line of communication with the mammals — and about whom two major movies were made ("Day of the Dolphin" and "Altered States").

Through his Human Dolphin Foundation in Malibu he is building such a spa in Costa Careyes, Mexico, so the average person can have the type of human-dolphin experience he has been having for years.

Lilly and his wife, Antoinette, recently came to Santa Barbara to visit artist Bud Bottoms, who has done a number of dolphin sculptures to benefit the foundation. They talked about the Mexican project and about their work with dolphins.

"You get a perspective on awareness that you can't get from just talking to other humans," said Mrs. Lilly, who is chairman of the Human Dolphin Foundation board. "You begin to understand your own humanness."

Mrs. Lilly said the idea behind the dolphin spa (tentatively called Delphi) is not only to create a place where people can come and detoxify, but also to get dolphins and humans together. The most important thing, she said, is to get dolphins and children together. Children are able to communicate,



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pick up new languages, said Mrs. Lilly, whereas adults are programmed.

"Have you seen E.T.?" she asked. "That is exactly the kind of thing we're talking about."

The idea of the Mexican project is that dolphins will swim into the Costa Careyes cove from the wild and mingle with human beings. The Lillys even envision underwater birthing taking place in the cove, with dolphins involved in the birthing process. The idea is that the best time of communication between dolphin and man is at the moment of birth, or at least when a child is very young — before the limitations of adulthood enter in.

Lilly, who has written a number of best-selling books about his work with dolphins, believes that when man communicates successfully with these mammals he learns something about his own origins.

He described his program, called

Jenus, in which dolphin language is deciphered underwater and in air. This work formed the basis of the movie "Day of the Dolphin," but Lilly said the movie was not indicative of how dolphins behave and in fact "downgraded" them.

He said that dolphin communication was more on the level of the popular movie "E.T.," in which extraterrestrials communicate to children through inner feelings.

"The talk is more of an appeal to pain or happiness, more body language," said Dr. Lilly. "It's psychic."

Mrs. Lilly said the "time was right" for the human-dolphin community in Mexico, because people were ready to accept "more spiritual concepts." The people pledging money to the project, she said, are heads of large corporations. A major mover in the project, she said, is Maria Niarchos, of the Niarchos shipping family and a trustee

of the Human Dolphin Foundation. Also involved is the Italian family Brignone, who owns the Hotel Careyes and is allowing the Lillys to work in one of the coves in Costa Careyes.

Mrs. Lilly said their project will have a significant impact on science. Where science is often predetermined by the design of the experiment, in Costa Careyes the design of the experiment will not predetermine the results, because of its free-flow nature, she said.

"My husband is not a normal scientist," said Mrs. Lilly.

Another of Lilly's inventions, the isolation tank — a sort of coffin filled with body-temperature water in which people can float and seal themselves from outside stimuli — inspired the movie "Altered States." Lilly said the tank is a way of "getting inside one-

Dolphins communicate

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Asked if he uses it regularly, Lilly said he does nothing systematically — "in food, sleep, you name it."

Lilly, whose books include the best-sellers "Lilly on Dolphins — Humans of the Sea" and "The Deep Self," described another book he is working on, called "From Here to Allternity."

"It's a manual on how to amuse God," said Lilly. "It will be out one year from now. The theme? At any given instant, you have all possibilities open to you — including communications with dolphins. You must keep those possibilities open."

Lilly recalled the "most exciting

day" of his scientific work.

"It was the day when I realized that Elvar (a dolphin) was a human," he said. "It was a sudden intuitional flash, a feeling of weirdness. There was a being on the other side of the (Jenus) screen. He was reacting toward us as hard as we reached toward him."

As the Lillys meet with the financial backers of the Mexican project, the sculptures by Bottoms will be for sale — sculptures of dolphin figures in wood, stone and metals.

Lilly said art is one way of communication, the sort of inner talk that dolphins engage in.

"Art is always in the forefront of science," he said,