You can find an iceberg in Florida

By BOB POMERANTZ

behold, thar she sits. slab, in the shape of a camel's hump. Go ahead: touch it, test its in a wrap-around multiauthenticity. Better still, screened theatre, the try figuring out what movie is only one of many business an oversized you'll see, as you make Popsicle has living in sun- your way through the baked Miami.

Give up? Well, the areas. iceberg - Florida's only - and some 100 other curiosities are the business of Planet Ocean, through water - these a remarkable marine are just a sampling of the science museum, dedicated to exploring the explained, as you listen, mysteries of the world's feel and push-button your oceans. It's truly worth way along the mostly forgoing an afternoon of electronic exhibits and tanning to experience the learning panels. site's seemingly endless Pick up a telephone and displays, films and multi- Herbert Von Duck - of media presentations.

sprawling, \$6 million action of the dipping facility (which opened in duck, spin a Zoetrope and Dec., 1975) visitors are see how the Gulf Stream

quarters of which is evaporation. covered by water. Shown museum's various theme

Why the ocean is blue, why does your hand melt ice, does electricity travel questions put forward and

the Evaporation Institute

On entering the - will elucidate on the

fun to speculate what

From there, there is a

fresh fruits of the sea

A flight to Cancun is the

travelling to Isla Mujeres

mainland port of Punta

Mexico and Aerovias

as is scuba and skin-

Here's the place for your escape

ISLA MUJERES - If approaching in the night, you are seeking a casual and it was probably a resort on a tropical island lookout against enemy to get away from it all, try ships planning an attack this palm-covered isle. on the mainland. The j is pronounced as Whatever it may have an h.) This escapist's been used for, this one paradise offers beautiful, room edifice was most sandy beaches, extensive certainly dedicated to the coral reefs, calm blue gods as a temple and it is lagoons and sun.

Isla Mujeres, a tiny may have taken place Caribbean island one mile there 1000 years ago. wide and five miles long, A small number of is situated six miles off hotels offer varying the coast of Mexico's degrees of comfort and Yucatan peninsula. It is price. Two excellent part of the duty-free state resort hotels at the north of Quintana Roo. About end of Mujeres go at 4,000 people live and work general American rates. on the island. Three industries good range downward to

provide employment for budget priced acthe residents. Isla commodation. Mujeres is the largest Many hotels and commercial fishing restaurants offer plain centre in the state and one food well prepared. Local can always see fishing seafood is outstanding. fleets anchored in the Visitors should take the harbor or riding out to opportunity to eat the

A large related industry when they are staying in a is fish packing, which also fishing port. Turtle is the employs many of the island specialty. islanders. And tourism - Night life of the island that ever expanding in- is generally informal and

dustry - is growing by frequently lasts until leaps and bounds and dawn. Night clubs and requiring more and more bars offer floor shows. people to staff hotels, live music and nightly restaurants and related dancing.

A Mexican naval base first leg of the journey to is also situated on the the island. The most protected leeward side of pleasurable means of the island.

Three especially is by state-operated car beautiful beaches offer ferry, which leaves everything that a beach regularly from the

person could desire. El Garrafon beach, at Sam, a few kilometers the south end of Mujeres north of Cancun. The 45on the west side facing the minute trip by water is mainland, has a narrow, inexpensive and pleasant. white sand beach that There is an airport in gives way to a coral reef the centre of the island, which is teeming with which is serviced by Aero

beautiful tropical fish. The water is always Caribe. crystal clear and some Fishing boats and maintain no better place equipment are available can be found in the world for hire at standard rates, for skin diving.

Coco beach runs diving equipment. across the north end of Mujeres. This wide, sandy beach is lined with sheltering palms and its gentle slope and usual calm make it a perfect place for swimming, sunbathing or just building sand castles.

Pancholo beach is located on the Caribbean side of Mujeres. A rugged coast, a pounding surf and treacherous currents rule out swimming, but the sight of the sea in the sunlight and the sound of the surf as it slams into the shore creates a mood of romance — for lovers, poets, artists, or anyone who comes to see and hear.

Isla Mujeres was discovered in 1517 by Francisco de Cordoba, who named it Island of Women - perhaps because of many small statues of women he found on the island, or perhaps because of the small sanctuary of Ix-Chel, the Mayan goddess of fertility.

The ruins of this small Mayan building stand on a cliff at the southern tip of the island. It is believed that the structure was an observatory, because of its location and because of the tremendous interest of the Mayans in astronomy

The building may also have been an adoratory for the Goddess of Fer-

tility. Because the Mayans were a practical people, it is believed that this multipurpose structure was used as a lighthouse or warning signal to ships

encouraged to view The moves into the Gulf of Colorful sea monsters your chagrin - that MIAMI, Fla. - About Unlikely Planet, a sort of Mexico, play question and beckon you over to the lobsters, those delicious. the last thing you'd ex- oceanographic orient- answer with a giant Ships up through the Ages overpriced creatures are pect to find here is an ation film. It illustrates, globe, and set a pile of display, TV screens offer in fact, 79 per cent water. iceberg. But lo and among other things, why ping-pong balls in motion adventurers diving for Planet Ocean is a fitting to learn about con- lost Caribbean treasure, dered what it's like to be A seven-foot frozen title for our world, three- densation and and a Properties of Living hit by a hurricane, step

TRAVELCHAT

By Anne Wanstall Travel Editor

Travel agents report that only a few holidaymakers suggested cancelling Jamaica vacations after reports of political unrest on the island.

Knowing full well that if there was to be any inconvenience to travellers it would be minor (there were reports that buses were delayed on their route from airports to resorts), wholesalers refused to allow any more than the return of 50 per cent of the total cost of the cancelled vacations.

From everything this reporter has heard, the Jamaican storm in a teacup would cause about as much vacation disruption as a sharp shower in your rum punch.

Most of the trouble was in a district of Kingston - and who would cancel a shopping trip to downtown Toronto because of a mugging in Pickering?

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Don Mills is offering ski club day trips on weekends to non-members. Fees are \$10. For information on events call Bev Ohashi at 751-8299 or Randy Sakauye at 278-4514.

You've heard of the travelling salesman? Now there's a travel salesman who will come to home or office to help plan your vacation.

Homestyle Travel Limited in Mississauga offers the service. There's no added cost to the vacationer.

VIA Rail has weekend ski packages to Holiday Inn Hidden Valley in Huntsville. The package includes round trip rail transportation and transfers, two nights accommodation and four meals, apres-ski dance, entertainment, and full use of tows and lifts by downhill skiers.

Cost is \$105 for downhill and \$90 for crosscountry. Reservations are a must and can be made by calling 367-4300.

Things panel notes — to right this way into the world's first indoor hurricane. Emergency weather warnings flash on while slides and radarscopes signal the hurricane's approach to Miami. Then enter a tunnel with reinforced plate glass windows and gaze out onto a horrific scene of palm trees being uprooted, window

shutters flapping wildly chaos being unleashed. Rain pelts the windows, winds sweep the cham-

... it's quite a relief to step out of the havoc and successfully complete a Planet Ocean, a noninto the "safety" of a Trans-Atlantic voyage profit attraction, located theatre, where you learn This six-foot mini-craft at 3979 Rickenbacker how winds are set in logged 4,600 nautical Causeway, Miami, in the motion and what man is miles before sailing into Key Biscayne area, is doing to control the Casablanca, Morocco. elements.

about a journey "through mini-hovercraft over a under Phone 305-361-9455. the eye of a microscope' (done nicely with the aid of fish-eye lenses) where a moving walk-way carries you into a weird world of giant plankton and other microscopic meanies.

Or encounter a manmade rainstorm as you move past a three-part exhibit extraordinaire: ponds come alive with eerie underwater activity, mists engulf you, and ultimately, clouds release rain upon mockup mountains and rivers. Films accompany the live action, guiding you through the wonders of 'nature."

Working with - and against - the elements, over the years man has been able to come up with



Climb inside one that set designs were a flop, a deep-sea diving record especially by today's

ber, the floor vibrates April Fool boat, the mysteries of the deep smallest ship on record to come alive for the visitor.

tiny offshore oil field. Or booth.

standards.

of under- and over-sea fell short (he did well in vessels that will be used other areas) the Interin future decades to ex- national Oceanographic plore new aquatic Foundation, who operate the museum, have suc-Another marvel is the ceeded in making the

elements, however, have proven fruitful. Leonardo Da Vinci, for instance, who talks to you at the underwater diving

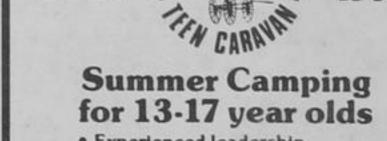
Then look at prototypes Still where Leonardo

If you feel like getting 6. Admission is \$3.50 for Having survived in on the nautical action adults, \$1.75 for children Hurricane Alma, how yourself, try docking a - free to kids six and

practise sending out Morse code from a twoway communications

Not all of man's attempts at conquering the a few wonders of his showcase, is the first to own. Like the submarine. admit that his scuba gear

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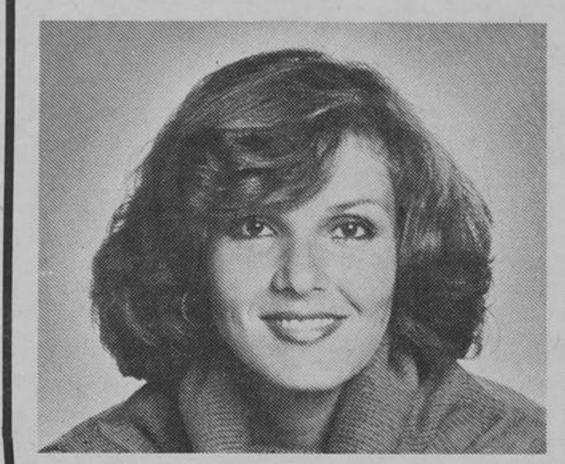
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