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CAVORTING WITH STRANGERS

Great Ideas and their Champions



— Paris —

FROM THE TEXT

“I could try sensationalizing things a bit, by going the media route. After all, sex sells. Perhaps I could focus on Cousteau’s personal life, pick up on the adulterous affair with the Air France flight attendant, for example, and his two illegitimate children by her while having fathered two sons by his wife, Simone, who found out about his double life three days before she died. But, according to relatives, Cousteau’s quest for fame was his fatal flaw. He was, they said, a producer and filmmaker, not a scientist, so above all, perhaps, he was a great PR man: the Calypso, red knit caps, cute sea lions (two of which died in captivity), and all great entertainment, most likely containing fake undersea footage of shark attacks and the like. Or maybe even throw in a Cousteau contemporary such as Charles Lindbergh. Hm. Both the Europeans and Americans would like that, since it was still fresh in the newspapers. Could test one’s tolerance for moral turpitude, however. Lindbergh was no doubt a titan in many ways, but the Associated Press and German news magazine Focus had recently reported that, during the same years of Cousteau’s fame, Lindbergh was involved with a Ms Brigitte Hesshaimer, a Munich hat maker, by whom he had three illegitimate children; but he supposedly also had affairs with her older sister, Marietta, and his personal secretary, Valeska, that produced two children each.”



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