

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. Original material not otherwise noted is copyright to the SAG RAG. Such material may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside of the caving community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication any time to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Road, Yreka, CA 96097. Material intended for the next newsletter is due by the 10th of the even month.

EDITORIAL: Obviously the SAG RAG is threatening to evolve into a monthly. By not publishing the June meeting, we are committed to a May issue. Last call for cave poetry. So far we have two poems ready for the next issue or so. Regarding the COVER, the art work was done by Becky Broeckel, using one of those squiggly pens. Good job Becky! The secret caver segment was encoded on Melanie Jackson's computer using a code named "wing dings". No one is really left out here, because you can read the whole thing in plain English in the minutes on page 3. These are the regular minutes, too, no joke or anything. The Newsletter Review by Dick LaForge is also the actual item. Dick writes about the upcoming meeting at his house in Maya little bit, so it needed to go out in this issue. However, the material submitted for reprinting will have to wait a month or two so that we have space for all of these really important cartoons. Some of them have been waiting in the RAG files for years. Jim Wolff has submitted many of the clipped toons as potential filler. Some of the material is home grown, and we have Liz Wolff, Judy Broeckel, Melanie Jackson, Dick LaForge, and Jim Kottinger to blame, as each of them contributed to this collection at least in some small way. Please allow this one limerick to set the tone and perhaps inspire some of you caving poets out there to sculpt some verbiage for our poetry issue.

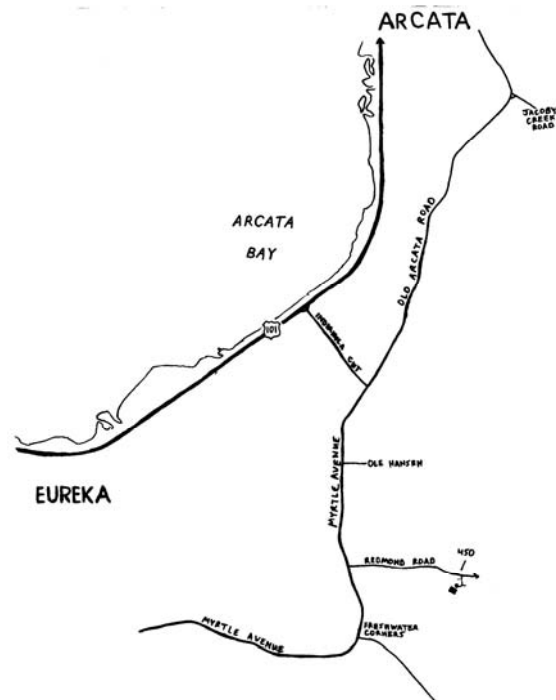
There once was a caver named Neils
 He liked to go caving by feels
 Says Neils, "Give me night
 And caves without light
 So I don't have to look at George Reels."

Gotcha George! Say, I hope you all enjoy the cartoons anyway. **BB**

CALENDAR

May 4, 1996 Gaping Holes. Call Ernie Coffman at (541) 471-1202 or Bill Broeckel (916) 842-3917 for more information on this attempted through trip starting at the Mossy Carpet Entrance.

May 11, 1996 Saturday. SAG meeting in the evening at LaForge's house at 450 Redmond Road, about a mile up from Myrtle Avenue. If lost, call (707) 443-2626. If not lost, call anyway. If map doesn't work, blame Evan LaForge.



SHASTA AREA GROTTTO MEETING APRIL 12, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM. at the Jackson home in Yreka.

Present were: Ray Miller, Liz and Jim Wolff, Melanie Jackson, Bill Kenney, Robert Nixon, and Bill Broeckel.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: The March balance was \$550.19. There were \$14.71 of income and \$3.00 of expenses. The April balance is \$561.90. Bill Broeckel submitted 2 bills for the SAG RAG.

Correspondence: Bill Broeckel received a letter from Dr. Mosberg regarding and interest in starting a medical section of the NSS. We have a brochure from the Ozark Mountain Adventure Outfitters in Missouri. They offer among other things caving trips for hire. They claim to have and emphasis on cave conservation and safety. They give safety classes before their trips. Bill Broeckel will be working on an all cartoon SAG RAG issue.

Old Business: Regarding the Chippy Spur Timber Sale, Bill Broeckel thinks we should send the Forest Service copies of the maps for Railroad Ballast Cave and Four Balcony Pit Cave. We should also send them recommendations about not allowing any debris in sink holes and having buffer zones from the trenches to the caves, etc. There was also talk of inventorying and nominating Four Balcony Pit Cave for protection and notifying Bruce Rogers and John Tinsley of this for their input. Jim Wolff would like to have some training sessions after meetings for mapping and vertical techniques for both old and new members.

New Business: Jim Wolff is interested in finding out what the SAG members want from the Grotto. He was thinking that a questionnaire survey should be sent to all the members (especially those who are normally not in attendance) to get more people to attend the meetings. Barring the difficulties of distance and work what would make the meetings more interesting. e.g. programs, speakers, themes, and workshops etc. The Forest Service will be issuing a supplement to the existing Memorandum of Understanding that they have with Shascade Grotto. SAG will be added to this supplement regarding our work project at Bat Cave. The Forest Service will call a meeting for us to attend. It would behoove us to be both cooperative and cautious in this regard. In August the NSS Convention will be asking for issues and concerns to be presented at the Congress of Grottos. SAG has 3 votes allotted to us. We will need to decide who our delegates will be.

Meetings: May 11th (Sat.) at Dick LaForge's at the coast;
June 14 either at J. Kottinger's or J. Wolff's to be announced;
July 12 at the McCoy Reservoir with Neils Smith (map will be available).

Trip Reports: Chip Chatter Trip March 29-30. There were four grottos represented even though the turnout was small. SAG, SOG, WVG, & SCS. Some small caves were entered. A survey was done of Snail Shell Cave. Some bats were observed that were thought to be little Browns (*Myotis*). Riley's cave was visited and a rappel in was done (some have climbed down in the past). And a working mini mag lite was found. Was a 2 1/2 mile hike through poison oak to get to the caves.

Future Trips: CRF Memorial Day Weekend at Lava Beds National Monument;
May 4th Ernie Coffman has a trip to Gaping Holes (beginner trip);
Diablo Grotto will be doing Gaping Holes April 27-28.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

A video was shown after the meeting on "Exploration in the Sierra Juarez." Matt Oliphant narrated the presentation.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Jackson



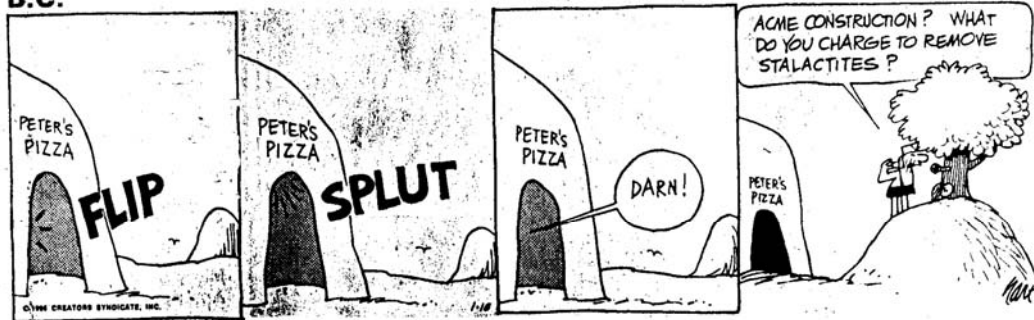
"... I wanna see the Bottomless pit" you said! "Don't forget to tie the rope off" I said! "Where's your sense of daring" you said!

By Jim and Liz Wolff



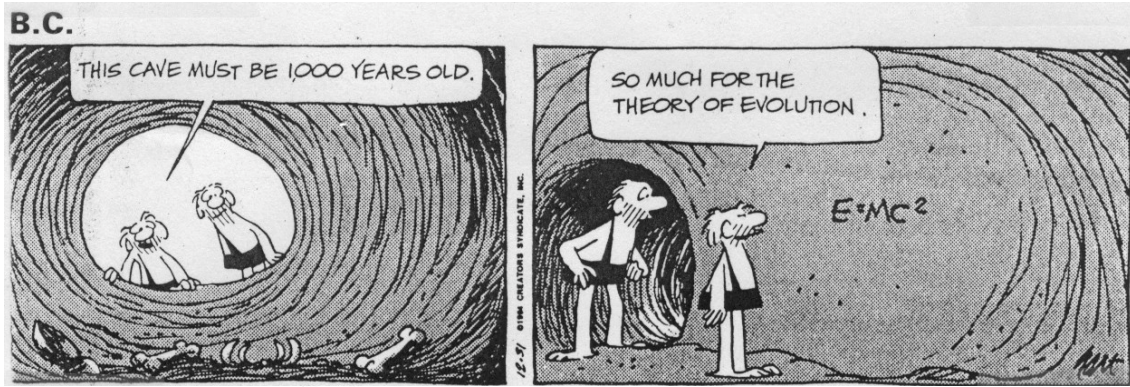
Did Mr. Schultz have the NSS in mind here? I don't think so, so it is an accidental cave cartoon.

B.C.

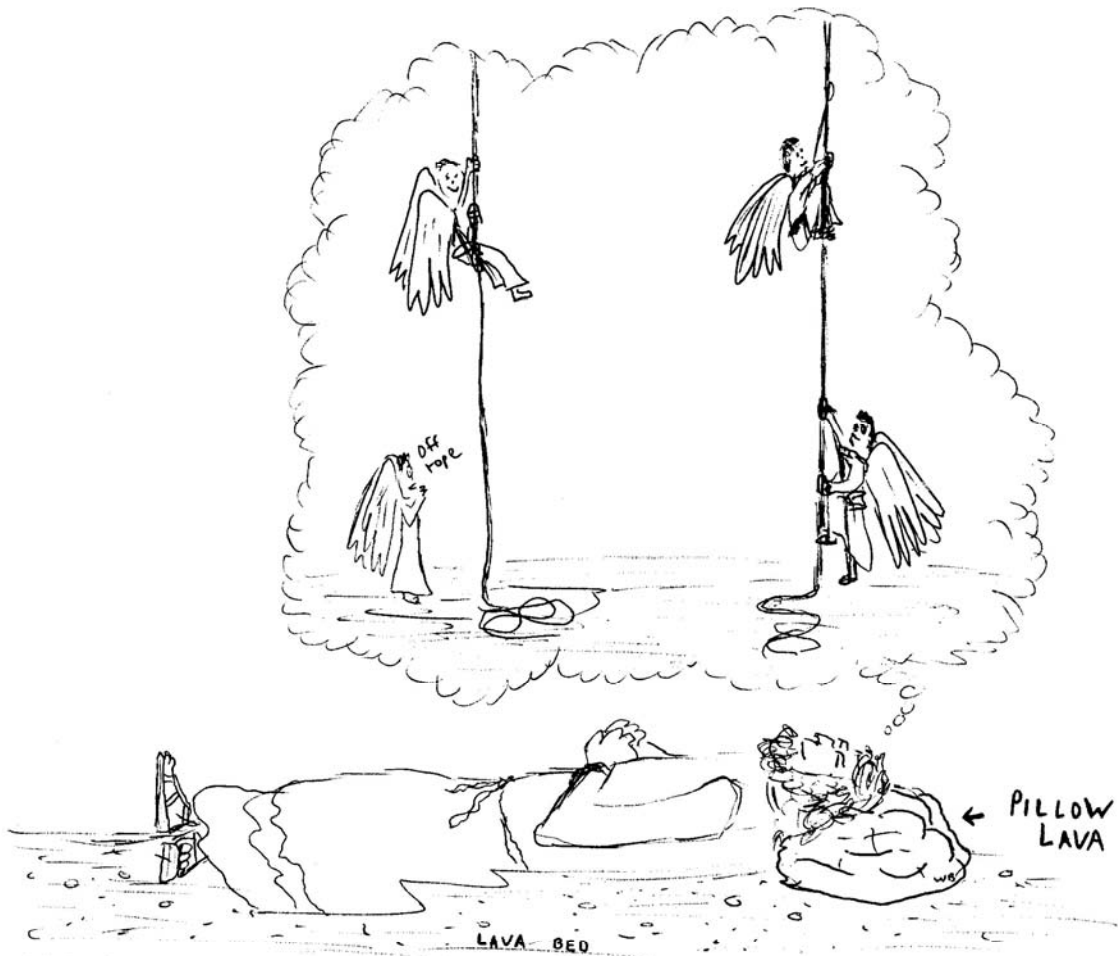


Peter's Pizza is now known as Brunos Pizza.

Religion page



B.C. in support of Creationism



The Story of JACOB'S DREAM , From one of
the more modern versions of the Bible .

(Hey, Bible Passages for Cavers! Look up Genesis 28:11-12.)

Concepts in Bat Biology

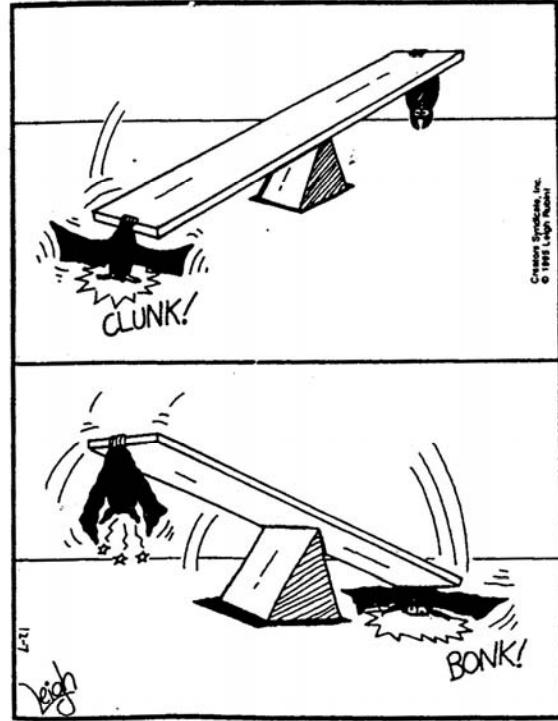
THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



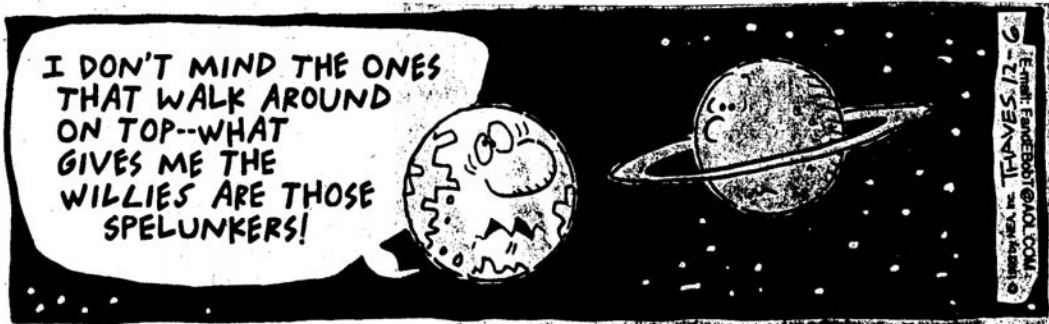
"Aaaaaaa! I can see! I can see! Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Rubes



Why bats and teeter-totter never caught on

Frank & Ernest

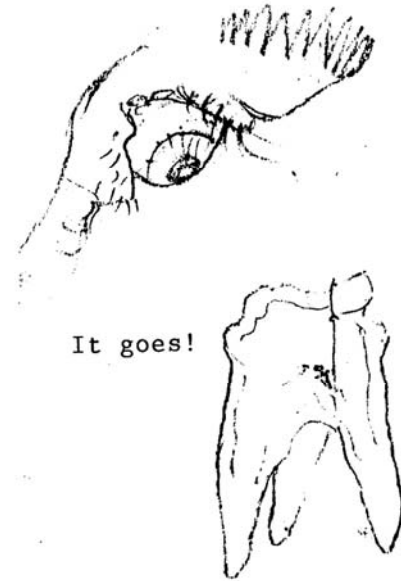


This one is really good!

Sick Mind Department

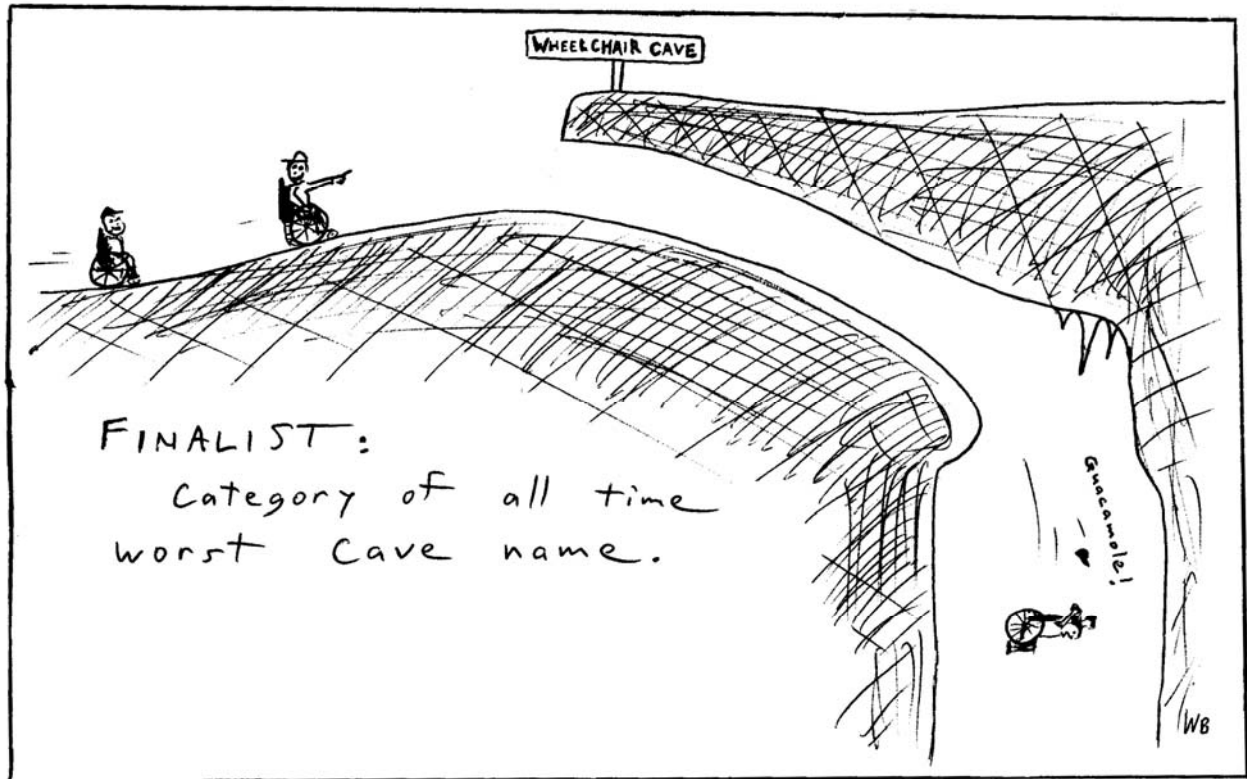


From the Magic Schoolbus philosophy of learning.



Speleodentistry - Checking leads in the oral cavity.

Drawn by Liz Wolff
Inspired by Dick LaForge

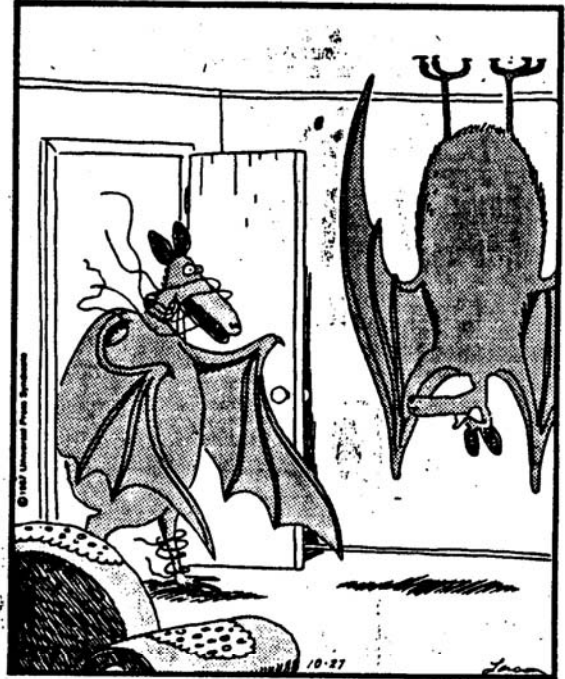


More Bats



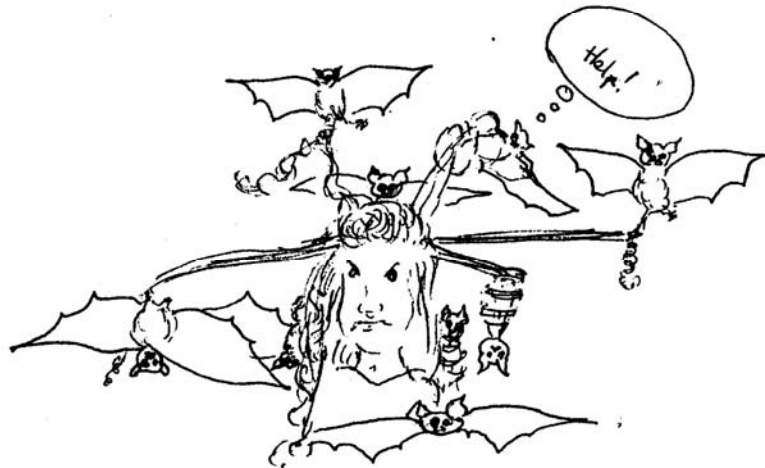
"C'mon, Arlene. Just a few feet in, and then we can stand."

The Far Side



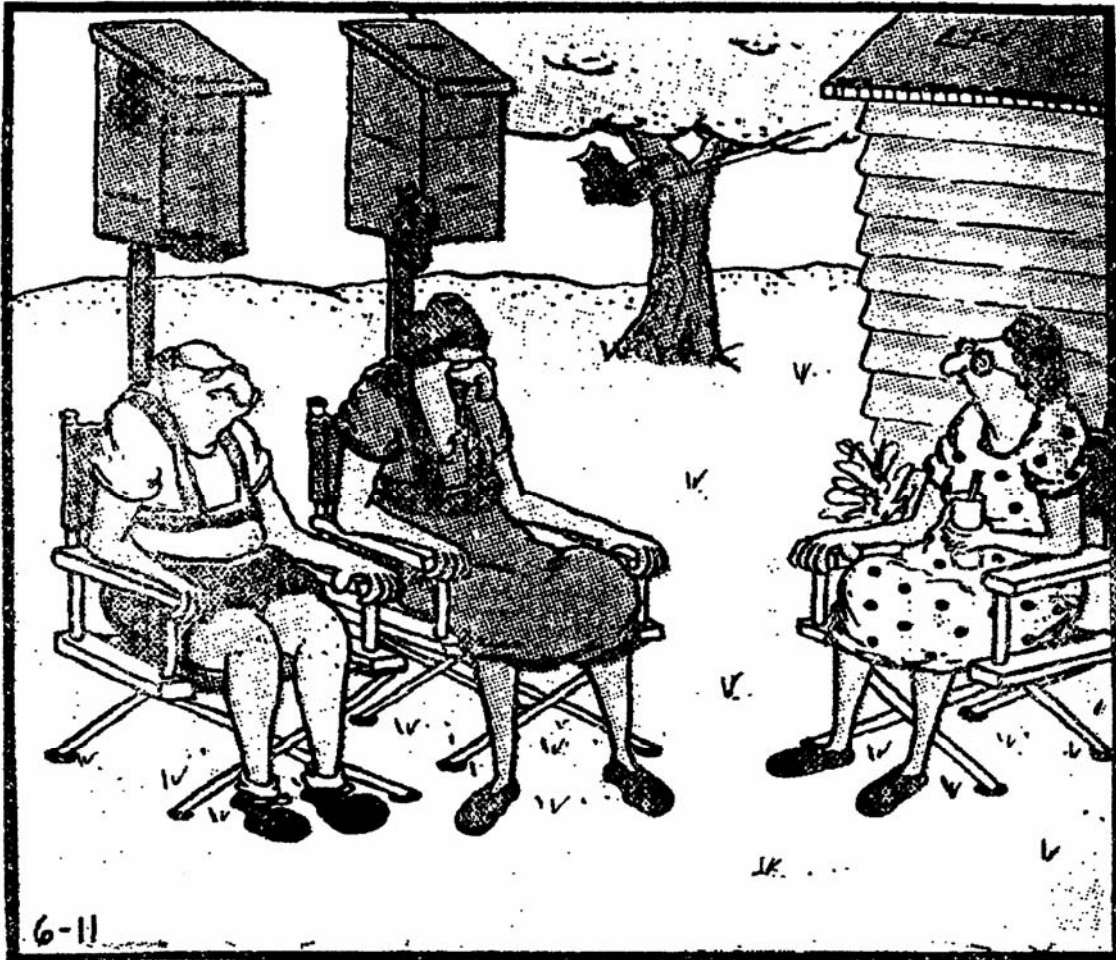
"Crimony! ... I must've been tangled in some bimbo's hair for more than two hours!"

(What is all this about bats and people's hair?)



Melanie has a bat hair day

Idea by Melanie Jackson, drawn by Judy Broeckel



6-11
 "Hal and I used to get devoured by mosquitoes, but since we started wearing the bat houses, we haven't had a single bite."

(Can't have a RAG without borrowing from other Grottos)

SHOE

by Jeff MacNeely



This one is subtle, but certainly fits the season.

NEWSLETTER REVIEW
March-April 1996
By Dick LaForge

I have no recent personal caving experiences to tell of, nor any rants or opinions to bore you with, so will go directly to the newsletters, which have been quite interesting lately.

There is a terrific series of stories in the *San Francisco Bay Chapter Newsletter* by Bonnie Crystal about her three-week trip to Mexspeleo (Mudxspeleo) over Christmas-New Year. It is in the Feb, March, and April 96 issues and will be continued (same bat time, same bat channel). Bonnie's writing is very good and the trip itself a caver's dream. It is the best yet description of Mexican cave-bopping, as opposed to the serious expeditioning described by Nancy Pistole in the March 96 Sag Rag. It is way too long to swipe en total, so I highly recommend you truck on over to Wolff's and look it up in the Library. I may pick out a small part to reprint. Bonnie frequently mentions taking video both in and outside of the caves, and I hope that you and I get to see the results sometime!

To reprint is a short article also by Bonnie from the Feb. issue, concerning some animal tracks in mud deep in Cueva del Arroyo in central Mexico. The article is not so much for the tracks, which you are unlikely to go and see, but also for the mention of Dave Bunnell and Djuna Bewley's Web site where pictures of the tracks (and much more concerning caves) can be seen. The *Cavers Digest* e-mail site is also mentioned.

From the March *SFBC Newsletter* is a short note about *The International Caver*, which is published in England. The Grotto might want to subscribe it and loan it out to members. Also there is a notice that Gail McCoy (SFBC member) has written a Master's Thesis titled "Analysis of Fractures and Speleogenesis at Lilburn Cave, Tulare County, California." You Lilburnophiles may buy a copy from her for \$20.

The *SOG LOG*, our Newsletter to the North, is back in publication! Bill Fitzpatrick edited monthly issues from January to June 1995, notable for their high-quality cover photos. He burned out, due to lack of help, but now Bill Kenney has produced this March 1996 issue. It does feature an "Editor Needed" paragraph, so we wish them luck. A *SOG* membership list is included, with 16 members.

The Valley Cover, Spring 1996, is as usual filled with interesting and well-written articles. First is a description by Bill Papke of an Easter egg hunt they (the Mother Lode Grotto) had in and on the cliff face around Rippled Cave. These people know how to have fun! Also there is a review of Trapped! The Story of Floyd Collins, by Roger Brucker and Robert Murray. The review is the latest in the series of Armchair Caver Book Reviews by Matt Leissring. These are reviews of the classic (meaning older) caving books. They (the reviews) feature excellent summaries which are worthwhile if you don't have the book. Every caver should know the basics of the Floyd Collins story, so here it is. Did you know that Our Hero was a speleothem collector and seller? Not mentioned in the review is the fact that Floyd was trapped in a passage that he had just opened with dynamite. This accounts for its instability. Trapped may be in the SAG library for you to borrow. It is, by the way, still listed in the *Speleobooks* catalog.

The Devil's Advocate (Diablo Grotto), April 96, has a nifty account by Chuck Chavdarian of a caving trip he took to England Dec. 95 to Jan 96 (while Bonnie Crystal et al were adventuring in Mexico). It turns out he went to the Mendip Hills which is a major cave area west of London. He stayed in one of the caver cabins which are owned and run by cavers, quite civilized. The caves themselves are not, as they are wet and muddy, but it is nice to have a warm shower close by after, plus congenial company. Any of you planning to cave in England will want to read this article.

This reminds me of when I was bicycling through these same hills, in 1967, and down the Cheddar Gorge which is the site of several commercial caves. At one of them I was told of a caver cabin back up the hill (of course), so I went, hoping to meet some Real British Cavers and possibly stay the night, as I was without plans and rain threatened. I did find the cabin but no cavers, so spent the night in the sleeping bag under the eaves outside the building. But not before a trip to the local pub where a local family mistook me for a local boy and bought me two Guinnesses (full British pints, of course) before discovering the error, and by then of course the error no longer mattered.

In *The Dweller* (Shascade Grotto), January 1996, there is a letter by Dave Pryor entitled, "Opposition to Bat Study Proposal." He may have sent it to *The Rag* already. The basic idea is that it is best, particularly in small caves, to leave bats strictly alone during their maternity period. Studying them (or doing anything else in their vicinity) during this time is the same as harassment from their point of view. I agree with this as a general approach, and in fact many caves containing bats are closed to caving during the maternity period.

Surely an expert on bats could say how strictly this applies to *Plecotus townsendii*, the bat in question, and specifically how to avoid disturbing its maternity colonies. Dave does not say if his letter is aimed at any particular bat study proposals. Are there specific proposals with which he disagrees?

From *The Explorer*, March 96: "During the first week-of October, Level 1 and 2 of the NCRC training course will be offered in Sequoia NP. This is another great opportunity for California cavers to receive the training locally." The Western Region Cave Rescue Operations and Management Course will be held Sept. 28 through Oct. 6. (I think this is different than Levels 1 and 2.) Call Lynn Fielding at (310) 533-8627 for more info.

For definite reprint, because it is so close to home and in a familiar cave, is Steve Knutson's "How I Spent my Summer Vacation: Activity at Oregon Caves, 1995." Steve describes a push and map 124 feet upstream from the highest previously mapped point where the River Styx first appears in the cave. This is, he says, the first new (and not all of it was new) passage found there since 1961.

That's it for now! Don't forget the SAG meeting here on the coast on May 11. We will have photos of Hurricane Crawl, maybe some in 3-D.

Cavingly, Dick



Almost a cave related cartoon. Psycho-illumination: underutilized light source.

Well, if you "got" all of those jokes, then you get an A+ for sense of humour. If you did not like this issue, don't worry, we won't have that many cartoons again for a long time.

LATE ENTRY: This was not mentioned in the minutes, but Jim Wolff reported heavy vandalism of two of the SAG cave registers. Jim needs help to get these registers back into good functional condition. Let's get this done in May. Please call Jim at (916) 964-3123 to coordinate efforts.

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SAG RAG
524 Annie Street
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

APRIL CAVE-TOON ISSUE

TO:

