



UBSS

NEWSLETTER VOL. 3 NO. 3

EDITORIAL

All opinions in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent those of the committee.

It has been decided to include the editor of Proceedings in the committee of the UBSS. This has not been the case up till recently as the editor had always held another position within club.

A list of meets for 1987 / 1988 is given below - these may however change due to unforeseen circumstances. Up to date information can be gained at our regular tuesday meet (now held from 21.30 on at the Pumphouse, Hotwells), or by telephoning Steve - (0272) 735486.

1987

1st - 2nd October Faffy in the union

2nd October halls of residence bar crawl in caving gear (courtesy of "The Stallion"

3rd - 4th October Freshers Mendip weekend. Leaving the Union at 09.00 on Saturday. The minibus will return on the saturday evening for those who wish. Alternatively accomodation at the recently decorated hut will be provided.

17th and/or 18th October Freshers trip to South Wales

28th October sessional meet by Andy Current - " Chewed bones at Cheddar "

7th November caving in Mendip, followed by the Bonfire party at the hut.

21th - 22th November caving in South Wales

2nd December sessional meet by Marco Paganuzzi - Caving in Tresviso, Spain

4th - 6th December caving in Yorkshire

1988

3rd February sessional meet by Jill Cooke - Archaeaeological

12th March AGM followed by a talk on Madagascar, hopefully by Phil Chapman. This will be followed by the annual diner at Pudseys Resturant, Clifton starting at about 20.30 - 21.00 hrs. Cost will be about 9.00 per person.

4th May sessional meet China Caves 87

All sessional meets will take place on a wednesday evening in the society's rooms on the second floor of the Union building, and will start at 20.00 hrs. If anyone has any suggestions for future meets please let the secretaries know.

Evening trips to the Mendips will take place as and when there is demand - come along to the Pumphouse to arrange a trip.

Please send any articles for the Newsletter to :

The Secretary
University of Bristol Spelaeological Society,
University Union
Queens Road
BS8 1LN

Treasurer's Report

Graham Mullan

As the attached accounts show, 1986-87 was quite successful financially. This does not allow us to be complacent, however. This good year merely re-dresses the balance after the previous poor year, and for similar unrepeatable reasons. 1987-88 should show us breaking even as, despite the ever increasing cost of 'Proceedings' and the spiralling cost of our insurances, we have once again blessed with a generous series of grants and donations. If any member knows of new sources of these for future years, your committee will welcome the information.

As usual there are still several unpaid subscriptions outstanding. Will these people please pay promptly. If any of you have difficulty in remembering such things, I will gladly supply Banker's Order forms.

G.B. Notes

Graham Mullan

According to the guidebooks, the cave discovered by the Society in 1923 at Tynings Farm Swallet, which collapsed shortly after, was about 200 feet long. Those of us with a continued interest in the area have found great difficulty in fitting this amount of cave between the sink and the boulder chamber in G.B. Recently Tony Boycott found a copy of a letter from Trat which refers to only 40 feet of cave here, much more likely. Does any member have any information heresay or otherwise, that might throw more light on this subject?

In 1949, Prof. Leo Palmer undertook one of his Georesistivity surveys across G.B. He never published the results as, apparently, he found an anomaly, seemingly an 'echo' of G.B. Main Chamber, for which he could find no theoretical justification. With the discovery of Charterhouse Cave in 1983, it was assumed that it was the large chamber of this that caused the result. However, Tony has recently discovered the exact line of Palmer's traverse, along the southern boundary of Gruffy Field, well south of Charterhouse. If anyone knows any details of this part of Leo's work, again we would be very grateful to hear from them.

PROCEEDINGS — THE SECRETARIES' REPORT

You will notice that the Secretaries' Report in Proceedings this year is a much expanded affair, with ego-boosting statements about the work and achievements of individual members. It is reminiscent in that way of a school magazine, and the idea behind it is not all that different either. For it is a quite deliberate change, initiated by the Editorial Committee and approved by the President before publication.

The purpose is not publicity for the individuals mentioned but to emphasize the status and achievements of the Society. As University funding diminishes and publication costs increase we are more and more dependent on, and successful in obtaining, other grants and donations. So the image that the Society projects is all-important. Not only must the papers themselves be good — they always have been — but the other activities of the Society and the achievements of its members need to be reported. As with job-hunting, if you don't make the most of your merits, no-one will know how good you are.

The gift of a copy of Proceedings to a selected individual or a grant-giving body is not just a kind thought; it is also to convince them that we are worth supporting, and that we do contribute to spelaeology at all levels, as well as enjoying ourselves.

Inevitably, in this first year of the enlarged Secretaries' Report, there must be many individual achievements unreported because neither the Secretaries nor the Editor were aware of them. So, please, if you have published, discovered, translated, researched, lectured, or what-not at an appropriate level (or you know of some other member who has) please let the Editor of Proceedings know as soon as possible and in any case by the end of April 1987. (Dr Trevor Shaw, Old Rectory, Shoscombe, Bath BA2 8NB).

TRS

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY 1987

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>INCOME</u>	
	£	£	£
Publications:			
Proc. 17:3	2,942.12	Publications:	
Postage 17:3	<u>149.28</u>	Grant from Univ. of Bristol	850.00
		Other receipts	<u>814.05</u>
Sessional meetings			1,664.05
		Members' Subscriptions	860.00
Tools and Equipment:		Student Members' Subscriptions	55.20
Capital	472.22		
Current	<u>11.90</u>	Union Grants: Capital	
		Current	576.94
Library			<u>550.00</u>
			1,126.94
Museum		Interest on Investments: Bank	252.46
Photography		P.O.	<u>61.05</u>
Postages (not Proc.)			313.51
Hon. Secretaries' Petty Cash		Sales of Publications (not C. of C. Clare)	1,047.64
Stationery and Duplicating			
Rates and Taxes		Donations	231.90
Insurances: Third Party	166.20		
Property	<u>147.20</u>	Tax Refunds on Covenants	195.66
Subscriptions and Licence			
M.R.O. Donation		Tratman Fund	1,300.00
Travel Money			
Tratman Fund			
Freshers' Squash			
Excess of income over Expenditure			<u>6,794.90</u>

'CAVES OF COUNTY CLARE' PUBLISHING ACCOUNT 1986/87

Balance at 1st February 1986		Sales of 'Caves of County Clare'	571.31
	4,023.97	Debit Balance at 31.1.87	<u>3,452.66</u>
	<u>4,023.97</u>		<u>4,023.97</u>

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL, SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st JANUARY 1987

	£	£		£	£
<u>Hut Fund</u>			<u>Investments</u>		
Balance at 31.1.86	201.91		Deposit a/c		4,000.00
Less net expenditure	61.73	140.18	P.O. Invest. a/c		576.46
					<u>4,576.46</u>
<u>Printed Publications Fund</u>			<u>Current a/c</u>		582.55
Balance at 31.1.86	280.00				
Add transfer from income and expend. a/c	500.00	780.00	<u>Cash in Hand</u>		
<u>Library Fund</u>			Hon. Secretaries'	11.16	
Balance at 31.1.86		119.00	Hon. Treasurers	<u>54.08</u>	65.24
<u>G.B. Cave Capital Fund</u>					
Balance at 31.1.86	45.76				
Add net income	<u>2.89</u>	48.65			
<u>Caves of County Clare a/c</u>					
Advance for Publications	7,000.00				
Less net expenditure not yet recovered	<u>3,452.66</u>	3,547.34			
<u>Income and Expenditure a/c</u>					
Balance at 31.1.86	284.49				
Add net income for year	<u>804.59</u>				
	1,089.08				
Less transfer Printed Publications Fund	<u>500.00</u>	589.08			
		<u>5,224.25</u>			<u>5,224.25</u>

HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT: I have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.1.1987, and the attached Balance Sheet as at that date. I confirm that they are in accordance with the books and records of the Society and the explanations given to me by the Hon. Treasurer.

.....
J.A. GINN, B.A., F.C.A.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE THERMAL WATERS OF BATH

held at the Royal Society, London, March 23-24 1987

In 1978 a pathogenic amoeba was identified in the waters of the Hot Baths of Bath, which were at once condemned as dangerous. It seemed the final nail in the coffin of moribund Bath Spa, but in fact it sparked off an intensive search for a source of "bug-free" thermal water. Eight years later this objective had been achieved, and the symposium, sponsored by the Royal Society of Arts, the Royal Society of Medicine, the Geological Society and Bath City Council, was held to bring together and report on the wealth of new knowledge that had accrued. Speakers on the first day dealt with medical aspects, and on the second day with geological aspects, of the waters.

The introductory address was by Cllr. Jenkins, Leader of the City Council. Sipping from a flagon of Bath water, he explained the importance of the Hot Springs to the city, both as a tourist attraction (Bath is England's second most popular tourist spot) and as the basis for a rejuvenated Spa.

Dr. Kellaway, consultant geologist to Bath City Council, described early research at the Hot Springs by William Smith (1769-1839) who earned the title "Father of English Geology" by his pioneer studies of the strata in the hills around Bath. "Strata Smith" effectively dealt with leakage problems at the Hetling Spring, and with a massive outpouring of tepid water from a trial shaft for coal at Batheaston which, although 4 km distant from the Hot Springs, noticeably reduced their output.

Drs. Warhurst and Kilvington have now identified several species of the amoeba Naegleria in the Hot Springs. Not all are pathogenic. If the spring waters are breathed in, or reach the inner nasal passages by sneezing while drinking, pathogenic amoebae can penetrate the mucous membranes and enter the brain, where they multiply fast. Symptoms of amoebic meningitis develop after 3 days, and death normally ensues a few days later.

The rise and fall of radium hydrotherapy at Bath, following the discovery that the thermal waters were mildly radioactive, was charted by Dr. McNulty. Among the methods by which patients were exposed to maximum radiation levels was the spraying of spring water up the nose! If sudden death was a feature of this treatment the records have not survived.

Dr. O'Hare is studying the physiological effects of sitting volunteers up to the neck in hot water for hours at a time, as was normal spa treatment in the

past. He has observed a two-fold increase in Na, K and urine excretion, an improvement in cardiac output and the stimulation of hormone production creating a feeling of wellbeing. Water just below body temperature was most effective, which may explain the reputation of the Cross Bath waters (41° C) as being more curative than those of the King's Spring (45° C). Heated tap water proved to be no less effective than true spa water. Spa treatment often did wonders for cirrhosis cases - one chronic sufferer was so improved that he resumed heavy drinking, with fatal results.

Spa treatment of that scourge of our ancestors, lead poisoning, was usually successful, though it sometimes lasted up to 2 years. Dr. Audrey Heywood finds that up-to-the-neck immersion in warm thermal water promotes a four-fold increase in excretion of Pb and urates. Lead, used as a preservative and sweetener in cider and port, was a cause of gout, which also responded well to spa therapy.

Dr. Rolls ended the first day with a witty, if cynical, account of the quest for that "quintessence" which gave the Bath waters their superior curative powers. He concluded that the supposed existence of this elusive principle, which required on-the-spot treatment in Bath, owed much to the desire of Bath practitioners to achieve healthy profits as well as healthy patients.

Professor Cunliffe began the second day with a concise archaeological history of the Hot Springs, working back from 1870. The earliest known human appreciation of the warm waters was Mesolithic (c. 4000 BC). Iron Age settlers built a gravel track through swampy ground to the springs, but the great works of enclosure, protection and exploitation of Aquae Sulis were carried out by Roman engineers.

In his second paper Dr. Kellaway dealt with recent geological investigation of the thermal source by boreholes drilled for Bath City Council. The first group of shallow holes discovered a mass of gravel plugging a deep bedrock funnel beneath the King's Spring. The next two deep holes, sunk by Wessex Water, proved the long-predicted existence of Carboniferous Limestone under Bath. Large volumes of artesian hot water flowed from fissures and caves in the limestone and in Dolomitic Conglomerate. When it was established that the water was "bug-free" the Council constructed two production boreholes, one beneath the King's Spring and the other under the Cross Bath.

Dr. Stanton described historical thermal water occurrences in and near Bath, and the flow tests and flow, pressure and temperature monitoring carried out by Wessex Water. Any attempt to extract more thermal water than naturally flows from the 3 springs will fail in the long term because, as heat output is constant at c. 5.5 billion calories per day, the water temperature will fall proportionately. If the thermal circulation is driven by high water tables in

the Mendips, there must be precise monitoring of heat output at Bath to give early warning of deterioration caused by sub-water-table quarrying.

The next two papers, by Drs. Edmunds and Andrews, traced the history of the waters on the premise that water acquires the characteristics of the rock it passes through. Dealing respectively with trace elements and stable isotopes, and with radioelements, they deduced that the thermal water has spent at least 3000 years in a Carboniferous Limestone aquifer, had fallen as rain, probably on the Mendips, in a climate like today's, and in travelling to Bath had reached a depth of 3.5 km under the Radstock coalfield where rock temperatures exceed 60° C. Rising towards the resurgences at Bath it mixed with some local cold water.

Dr. Hawkins then told of the exploitation of the small 24° C Hotwells Spring, that rises between low and high water marks in the Avon Gorge at Bristol, over 300 years to c. 1800. It was claimed that 2 other springs in the vicinity were thermal, but the evidence is inconclusive and they have now disappeared. The Hotwells thermal establishment was demolished when the first road, forerunner of the Portway, was driven along the river bank through the gorge.

The last paper, by Dr. Burgess, examined the practicality of the "Mendip source" hypothesis by analytical modelling. The hypothesis passed the test, with reservations regarding possible slow leakage into and out of the system through the confining Coal Measures.

The symposium ended with a wide-ranging general discussion on the age and origin of the Avon Valley thermal waters. Kellaway proposed that the springs first appeared when the River Avon cut down to present levels in the late Devensian. He doubted that all or even most of the water came from the Mendips, and suggested the limestone rim of the North Bristol Coalfield as an alternative source. Stanton disputed this because quarry pumping in North Avon demonstrates relatively low permeabilities in the limestone. Kellaway replied that the coalfield is traversed by exceptionally strong north-south fissuring. Stanton argued that volumetric considerations, i.e. the need to find space in the Carboniferous Limestone between the Mendips and Bath to store 1500 m³ of water for every day of travel, made the proposed travel time of several thousand years unlikely. A few hundred years was more probable. Edmunds, Andrews and Burgess disagreed, proposing that storage was available in buried paleokarst or by dilation of cavities under hydrostatic pressure. Temporal considerations, rather than lack of inspiration, closed the discussion.

Papers presented at the symposium are to be published in 1987 or 1988.

DUNKLEY, John R. and BRUSH, John B. eds.

Caves of north-west Thailand. Report of the Australian Speleological Expeditions, 1983-1986.

Sydney, Speleological Research Council Ltd. 1986. 62pp. ISBN 0 9589253 2 1

Price A\$4.50

from: Speleological Research Council Ltd.,

P.O.Box 183, Broadway, NSW 2007.

If, like me, you are a tropical karst addict, then this lean volume is an absolute must for your library. If, however, tropical karst does nothing for you then this book will not move you at all. It is a very readable account of six expeditions spanning four years to an area in the extreme north east of Thailand but is best summarised as being more text book than expedition report. Obviously the two major finds of these expeditions, Tham Nam Mae Lana, a 8,390 metre through trip and Tham Nam Lang at 8,350 metres long and still going must have been exciting finds. This book does not convey that excitement but just describes the caves in ~~xxxxxxx~~ much the same way as any regional cave guidebook. Numerous other caves are described in like fashion and these cave descriptions are supplemented by chapters on the geographical environment, karst development and the prehistoric caves of the area, many of which have been used as tribal burial grounds. Included are chapters on the karst of southern Thailand and caves of the Phangnga area which are a little out of context with the title of the book but which I would consider to be a bonus. A checklist of 107 caves concludes this well documented report and I am delighted to add that the maps, photographs and surveys make it a pleasure to read and use.

(reviewed by R.W.Mansfield)

THE CAVES OF NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND - VOLUME THREE

OR "WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS"

Graham Mullan & Linda Wilson

HEPBURN CRAG CAVES - NRG NU074247 (Near Chillingham)

On a pleasant amble around a Forestry Commission way-marked walk, we temporarily mislaid the orange way-markers which until then had been most prolific and decided to spend a few minutes reading the walk description, this didn't help much, but we eventually regained the correct route and discovered it lead past some "caves of unknown origin" on Hepburn Crag. These turned out to be small mass-movement fissures in a slumped cliff-face, sometimes providing a home for sheep and rabbits. (The former was evident by a thick layer of droppings and the latter by the reaction of both our dogs, who attempted to drag us in). On close examination it appeared that the largest of the caves might show some evidence of water action as well. Photographs were taken and will be handed around for an opinion sometime.

CATERAN HOLE - NRG NU104236 (Near Chillingham)

Following a description in a book of local walks, from the comfort of an armchair, we came across a reference to this cave with the usual note saying that strange happenings had befallen those entering it. The passage was rumoured to connect to the Hen Hole, a gully on Cheviot over 10 miles away.

The description in the book wasn't much help, the hole was said to be "somewhere to the right" of the track over CATERAN Hill. After a false start on the wrong hillside, we finally located the cave to within a half mile square of boggy featureless hillside. We were not hopeful and ended up quartering the whole North West slope of the hill and examining every obvious and several non-obvious features. The entrance was of course finally discovered in a 5 meter diameter depression in the last patch of ground we examined.

A flight of six roughly hewn stone steps led down to an entrance, 3 meters high by 0.8 meters wide, overhung with long grass and bilberry bushes. A single walking sized passage headed due West for about 18 meters gently sloping. The roof level then dipped sharply towards calf deep water. The passage appeared to continue beyond an unpleasant looking duck. Someone would need to get wet. Showing a pronounced lack of common-sense the female member of the expedition volunteered to get soaking wet, in the erroneous belief that she had a spare shirt in the ruck-sack outside.

The duck was approximately 1 meter long, with about 0.4 meters of airspace and led to a muddy chamber 2-2.5 meters long x 1.5-2 meters wide x 3 meters high, ending in a breakdown. The slit in the chamber gave off a faintly nasty smell when the water was disturbed.

The chamber appeared to have flooded frequently as the passage obviously takes a fair amount of water flow from the moor above.

The cave has a total length of approximately 25 meters, heading in a straight line, possibly along a fault. There are no discernible signs of it being man-made.

A rock sample taken from Row^tin Lynn Cave (newsletter Volume 2 No 6) has been indentified by our emminent president as carboniferous sandstone and is quite soft with no calcerious content. Both Hepburn Crag Caves and CATERAN Hole are in the same rock, which spreads in a crescent from Killoe in the North to near Otterburn in the South West. Further investigation is intended.

Extracts from the minute book : No. 42

THE MINUTES OF THE UBSS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE 1987 IN THE SPELAE0 ROOMS

Present were:-

Committee - Steve Hobbs, Ian hedgecock, Stephen Green, Joe Oates, Paul Harvey,
Ed Coombs, Linda Wilson, Graham Mullan, Marco Pagannuzi,
Desmond Donovan

Others - Tony Boycott, Tervor Shaw, Fiona Whittaker, Charlie Self

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one correction, Joe Oates was present at the meeting although not included in the minutes.

Matters Arising

- Lifelines Paul reported that these still had not been returned. Marco admitted he had the missing items and will return them.

Any Other Business

- Faffy Steve Hobbs will book tables and make the arrangements.
- Faffy Handbook This will be dealt with by Steve and Linda.
- Bar Pot Linda reported on recent planning application to use Bar Pot for purposes of "adventure caving" and to erect underground scaffolding. This proposal was discussed and it was agreed that a letter of objection on behalf of the UBSS would be sent to the National Parks Authority.
- Committee Posts Marco Pagannuzi resigned, Fiona Whittaker was elected to replace him. Desmond suggested that the Editor should be made a committee post, this was agreed. A motion will be put to the next AGM as this will require a constitutional amendment.
- Sessional Meetings These will be arranged. Graham and Steve will liase on this.
- Tackle Boys - Marco wanted to take some to Spain. It was agreed he would be given some old ones which Paul had no use for.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Thursday 15th October 1987 at 9 0'clock pm in the Spelaeo Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Coldger's Corners

with
Doodle Mc Doughnut

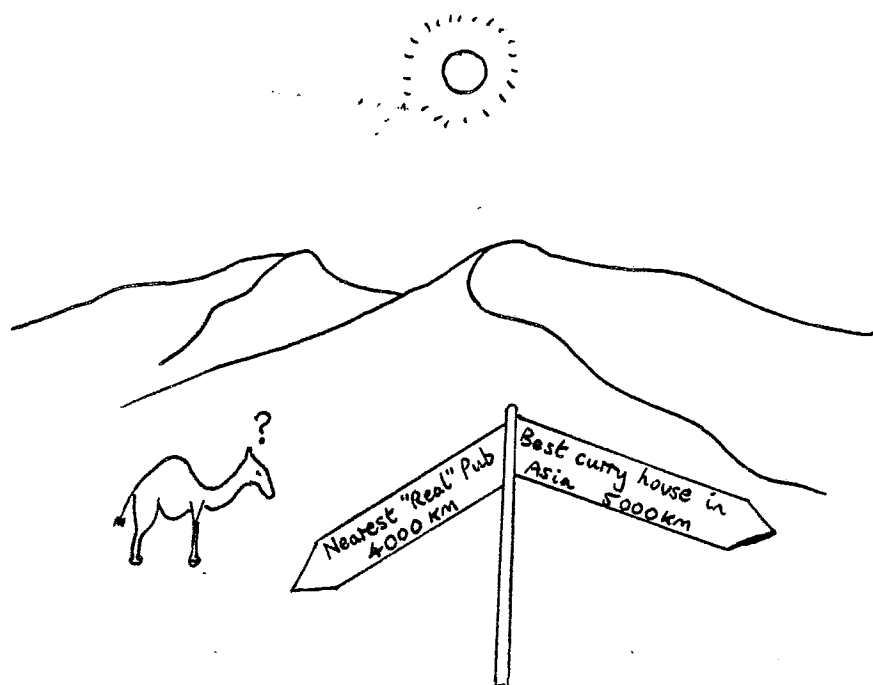
RECIPE FOR SOUP, AS SERVED AT NEW YEAR DINNER IN 1955

Dispatch President Tratman to his butcher for enough marrow bones to fill the two large cauldrons. Cover with water or snow. Cook for several days on the hut fire. Remove bones, skim stock and cool. Should form a good rich jelly. Season to taste. Add packets of soup mix or chopped vegetables, brought by members as a contribution to festivities. Reheat until everything is cooked. Just before serving add a dash of sherry to each bowl.

Note : I do not know where the bones went but maybe they will be dug up in years to come to give food for archaeological thought. In which case the recipe will prove a valuable clue.

Presented by Rosemary Balister
Charlottesville
Virginia

All memorabilia
gratefully received



Having a lovely ~~lovely~~ HORRIBLE
time. Wish you were
here. **INSTEAD OF ME**

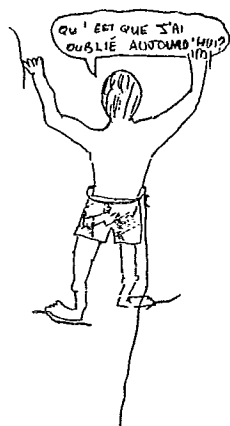
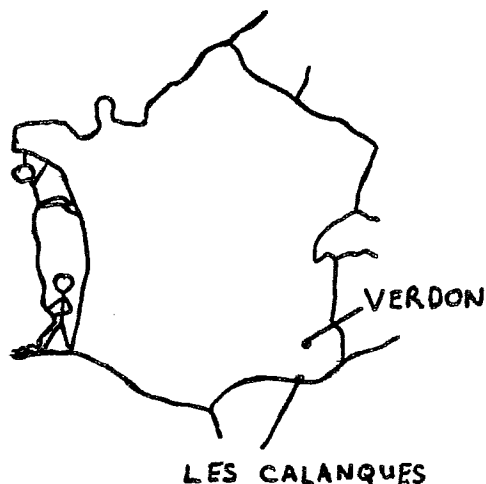
luv Ken xx

P.S. I really hate
the Arabs!

POSTCARD FROM THE SAUDI ARABIAN OILFIELDS

VII

LES UBSS FONT L'ESCALADE EN FRANCE



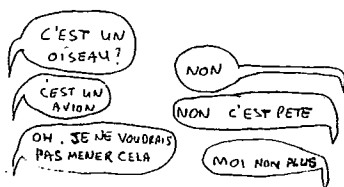
PRENEZ TOUJOURS TOUT VOTRE
HARNAIS D'ESCALADE



ATTENTION AU MISTRAL
QUAND VOUS N'AVEZ QUE
QUARANTE KILOGRAMS



NE METTEZ JAMAIS TOUTS
VOS ESPIRS À VOS COPAINS



Quelque il ne faut pas oublier quand on est
à Vacances en France.



DEFENSE DES BOUMES
DANS LES CABINES
TELEPHONQUES. NE
FAIS PAS PIP! NON
PLUS.



REGLE NUMERO UN.
PAS DE BRUIT APRES
VINGT DEUX HEURES

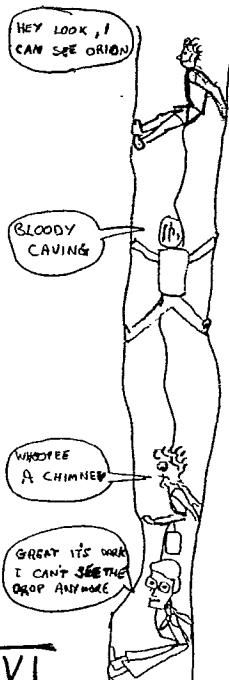


LA CALCAIRE EST TRES
UTILE QUAND IL FAIT
DU SOLEIL.

ANY RESEMBLANCE TO MEMBERS
OF THE UBSS, PARTICULARLY
CHARLIE, JOE, TREVOR, AND
PETE (UBMC), IS ENTIRELY
COINCIDENTAL.



PAS DE NATATION A POILE
QUAND LA MER EST FROID.
OU CHAUDE QUAND ON
N'A QU'UN PETIT
RICHARD



NE PAS MONTEZ LES GRANDS VOIES
DANS UNE CORDE DE QUATRE.

NE PAS ESSAYEZ LES CHEMINÉES DE
CINQ CENTES METRES. LA NUIT
QUAND VOUS N'ÊTES PAS UN
SPELEO

NE PAS ESSAYEZ LES VOIES DE CINQ
CENT METRES QUAND ELLES SONT PLUS
DIFFICILES QUE CELLES. QUE VOUS
ÊTES DEJA MONTÉ.

LES CHEMINÉES SALES SONT
PLUS FACILES AU CLAIR DE LA
LUNE.

UBSS ANNUAL DINNER SONG

Father Abraham had seven sons
Seven sons had Father Abraham
And they couldn't read
And they couldn't sing
All they did was shout rude words

Seven sons of Abraham
Posing for their pic's
One thought he was a girl
Then there were six

Six sons of Abraham
Accused of throwing knives
But the knife was just a daffodil
Then there were five

Five sons of Abraham
But one could take no more
The singing was embarrassing
Then there were four

Four sons of Abraham
One went for a pee
He threw up down the toilet bowl
Then there were three

Three sons of Abraham
They'd drunk more than a few
They rubbed fresh cream in the little one's ears
Then there were two

Two sons of Abraham
Having lots of fun
The manager said "Calm it down"
Then there was one

One son of Abraham
At drinking he had won
But he couldn't face next morning
Then there were none

Martin Warren et al were in fine form

Songbooks are wasted on the students - they
can't follow the words after two pints. Tunes
have traditionally been a mystery to the UBSS

Simon Shaw on camera
Marco Paganuzzi wearing a dress

Complaint from a nearby table
Charlie Self swapped to the quieter "old lags"
table

Paul Harvey also swapped tables

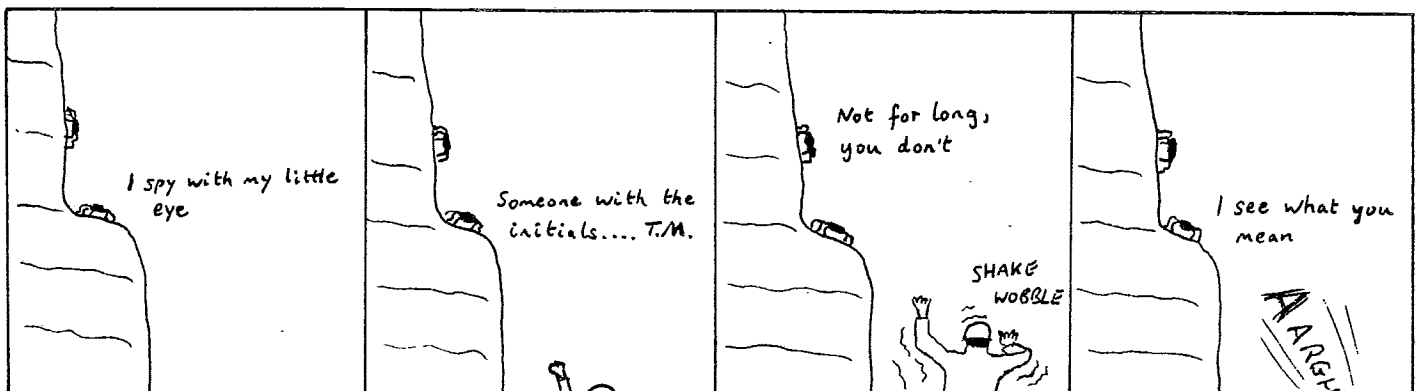
Paul Harvey again

Mic Seavers came off worst

Mostly at the expense of the other guests
in the restaurant
Steve Hobbs was told we'd be thrown out
early if we didn't behave

Steve McArdle won the hangover contest

Troglobite



The race is on for the Golden Steering Wheel award at the next Annual Dinner. Joe Oates and Alison Newey are early contestants but the big surprise is the absence of Manuel, whose car has simply died on him. Still, there is plenty of time left between now and March to get it running again.

I have been asked if Gavin can be considered, for writing off his brand new Audi Quattro, but he is not a UBSS member so the answer is no ... unless he comes to the Dinner as a guest.

A big lead has been opened up in the Wimp of the Year category by C.A. Self, veteran of disasters around the world, who met a BBC Radio Scotland reporter in France where the Following conversation was recorded:

"You've been climbing in Verdon? What was it like?" "Frightening!"

"Will you come back here next year?"

"Definitely not!"

An interesting comparison of styles between a girl caver and a girl friend of a caver. Kirsten locks herself out of her flat, kicks the door down and then asks Charlie to use his building skills to put it back again. Lynne locks herself out of her flat and asks Charlie to climb in through an open upstairs window. Both on the same night.

In the good old/ bad old days when cavers all had beards and even the women were expected to grow a moustache, cave divers used to kit up with one bottle, one valve and one (air) pressure guage. When your pressure guage showed two thirds full it was time to turn back so as to leave a one third safety margin.

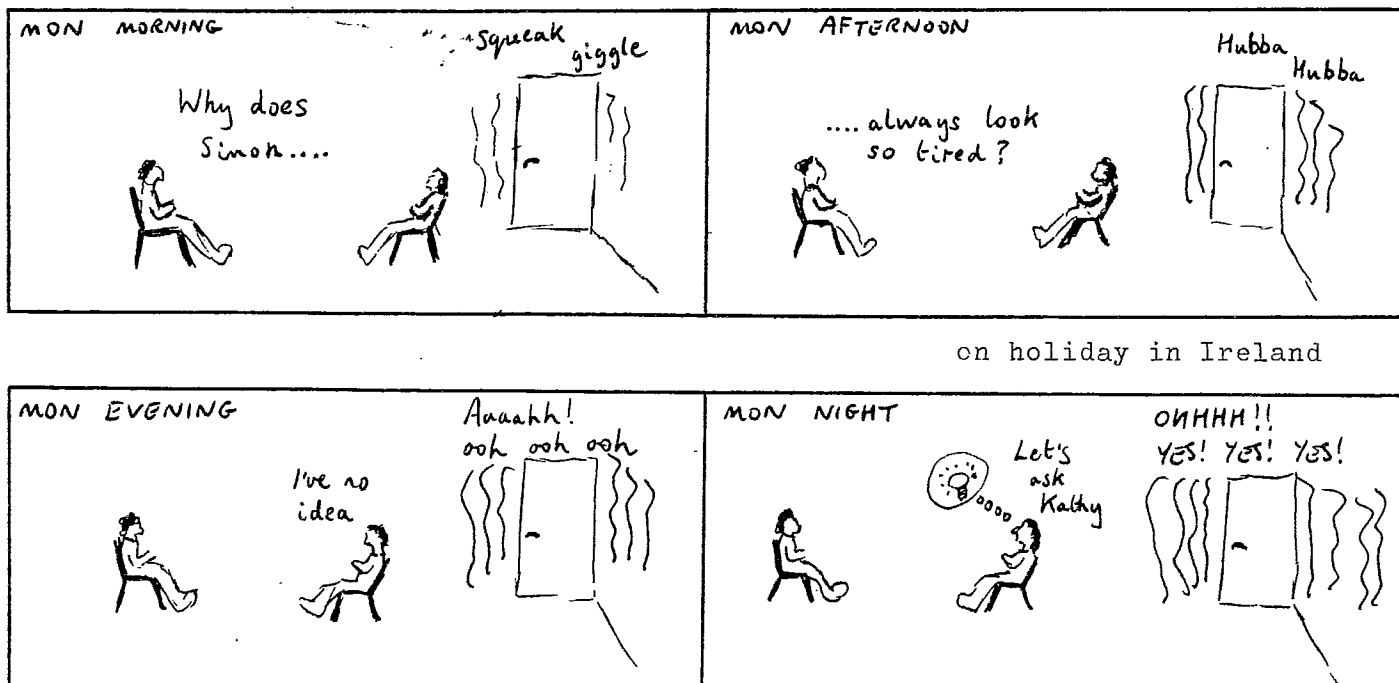
Modern cave divers tend to have two or more of everything - except on Blue Holes expeditions where the bottle supply is limited. So if you are diving a Blue Hole with two valves and two guages attached to only one bottle and both your guages show one third full you should be out of the water, not at the far point of your dive.

Geography Department lecturers, please note.

Dr Alison on the prowl is an unforgettable sight. She wrestles her victim to the ground, through rather than round the furniture, then entices him home with promises of medical treatment. Latest victims: Rob Palmer and Gavin's glass table.

Old UBSS mafia habits die hard. When the guests at a nearby table refused to pay their bill (because their meal had been spoiled by the hooliganism of the UBSS Annual Dinner) Julian Walford offered to call the police. When this was declined, he offered a more personal service.

THE PEACOCKS



Disturbing news from Germany where my old friend Clive Owen is stationed. He was caught reading the Guardian in the mess and now has quite a serious image problem in that his brother officers all think that he is a communist. He tried to rectify matters by dressing up in a dinner jacket for last year's Christmas dinner at home with Wanda, and drawing back the curtains so that all the world could see that he really was a gentleman and made of the "right stuff". Perhaps he overdid it. They now think that he is a cunning communist.

Congratulations to Phil Buckberry whose phantom pregnancy of the last x years has at last borne fruit. He now has a baby daughter. The question on everyone's lips is : will he lose some weight, or is he planning a large family?

A new image and a new nickname for "Manuel" Paganuzzi, breakfast waiter at the Dragonara Hotel.

Promotion within caving mafia circles for Sam Moore. He now collects insurance monies for the BCRA.

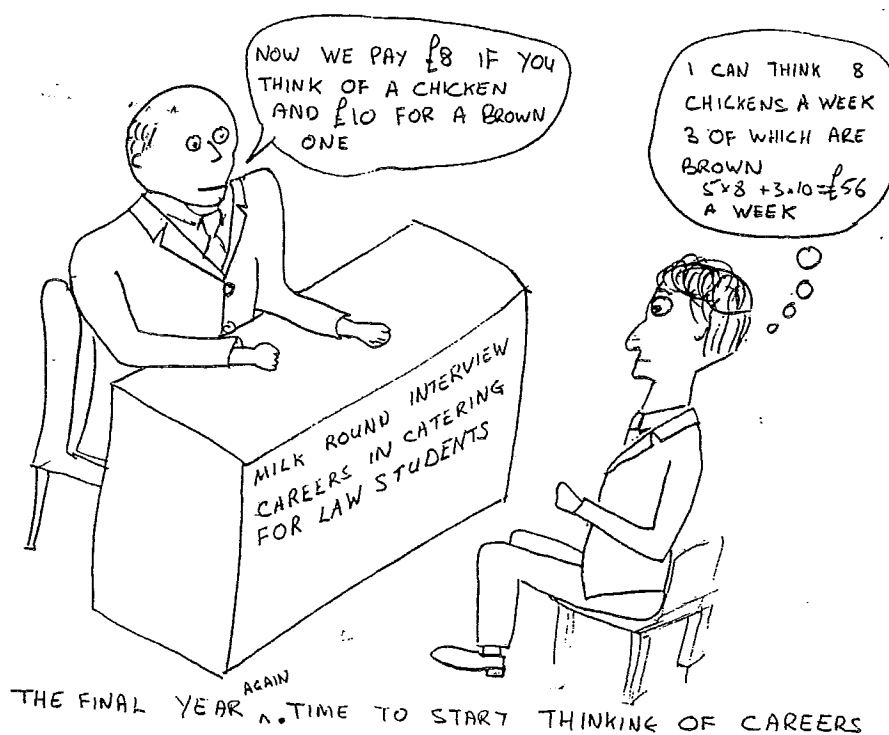
Evidence at last that PC Chris Shirt is not only pretty but is also an object of physical desire. It must be the new uniform.

Wedding Conversation (1)
 "There's going to be a wedding", Adrian Wilkins. "Oh? Whose?", Graham Mullan. "Mine, of course!" AGW

Wedding Conversation (2)
 "I'm getting married", Michael Martin. "Shotgun job?", Martin Warren. "No!" MM

Wedding Conversation (3)
 "Lynne and I have just got married", Nick Patrick. "We thought you were already", Everybody.

Mark "I always forget something"
 Owen never has any laces for his boots, so it was quite a surprise when he prepared for a caving trip by buying new laces and a pair of Wellingtons. However, by the time he reached the Belfry he had managed to misplace both his boots and his Wellingtons, and so had to borrow a pair of boots.... but they didn't have laces!



Maxim

Applications are invited for the post of bosun's mate of my vessel Privateer. Previous experience of maintaining discipline in an unruly crew is not essential, but the successful candidate must bring his own instruments of torture as the ship's equipment mysteriously disappeared overboard one night, along with the previous bosun's mate (RIP).

An essential condition of this appointment is the ability to sing and the candidate must be able to memorise the words of at least two songs. During the probationary period the boson's mate will be expected to teach the crew the concept "tuneful", preferably by force. Special favour will be shown to applicants with the ability to survive the midnight watch on dark nights.

R. Matey
pp Capt. Maxim
"Nightingales"
Berkeley Square
LONDON W1

Eat your hearts out, all you hardmen. Graham Mullan has got a picture of himself on the front cover of Descent magazine. Don't you know that more glory rubs off from cultivating cave photographers than cave divers!

Success at last for Charlie Self. With the help of several co-authors he has written a paper on Weil's Disease that is too long and boring even for Proceedings. It is to be published by Cave Science.

STOP PRESS : Bob Churcher is about to be reduced from Major to Captain. Judith wants him to buy a yacht!



Gravel

What an extraordinary coincidence : Private Eye describes the modern telephone box as a plate glass pissoir (issue 672, Dear Bill letters) and two days later Joe and Trevor are arrested in France on suspicion of pissing in a telephone box (they had sprayed the interior with French beer when, very drunk, they had tried to open a well shaken bottle with a corkscrew).

I have at last found out why Kirsten Hopkins' new nickname is "head-butt". When she goes too long between hairdressers appointments her hair goes peculiarly flat on top.

Ian Hedgehog has requested that there be no stories of transvestitism in this issue of Privateer. However the editor has been known to be occasionally indiscrete when he has had a few beers, particularly free beers.

It comes as no surprise that Marco Paganuzzi has been told by the army to come back in a year's time with bigger muscles. If Alison Newey can beat him at arm wrestling just what would a team of Soviet Pioneer Corps women do to him?

CAVE NOTES : SWILDONS HOLE

"If you can get toothpaste out of a tube you can get Bob Churcher through the Lavatory Pan", Oliver Lloyd 1980.

"I seem to have expanded. I don't fit through Birthday Squeeze anymore" Bob Churcher 1987.

PRIVATEER

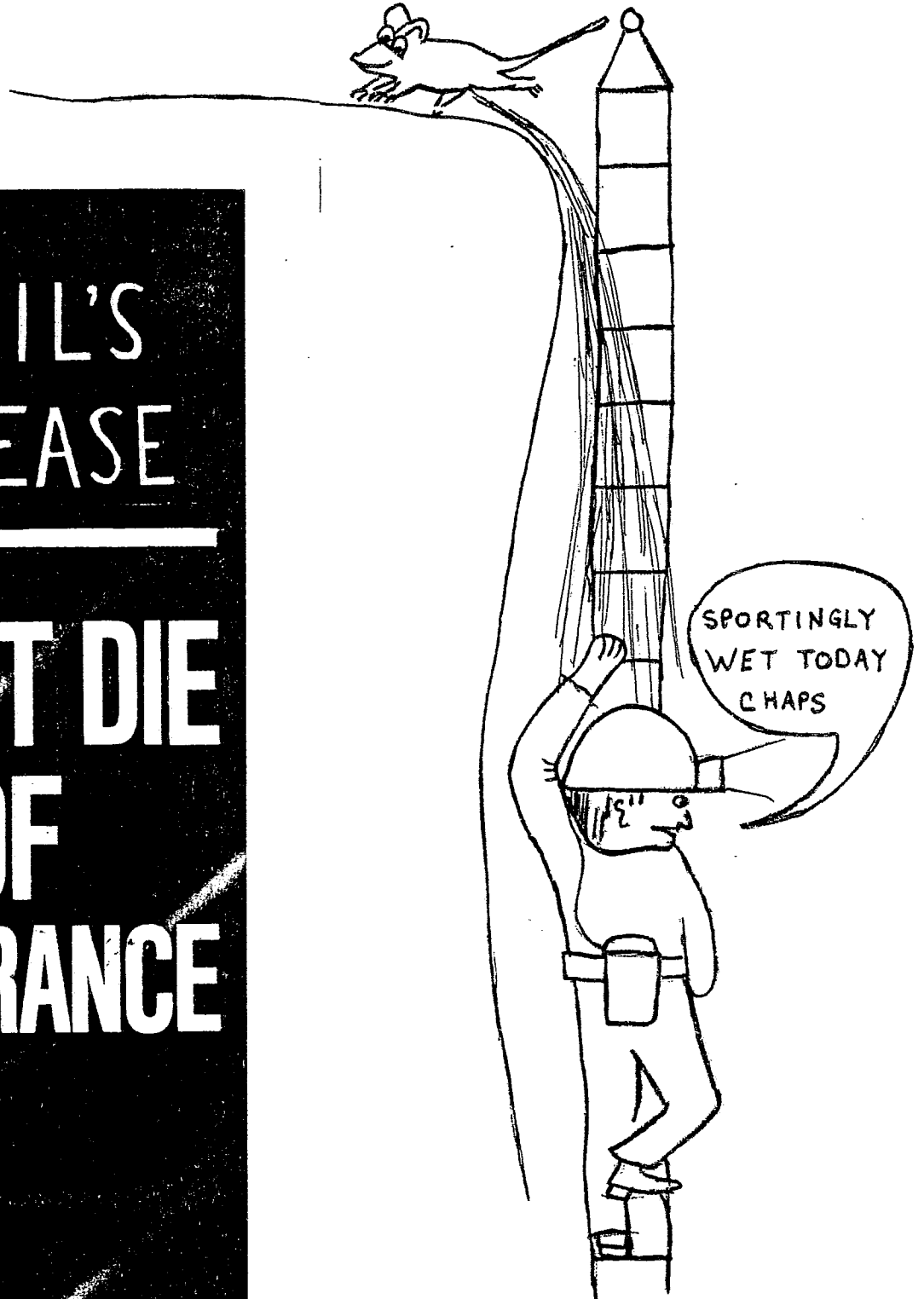
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