

# *The Tech Troglodyteasaurus*



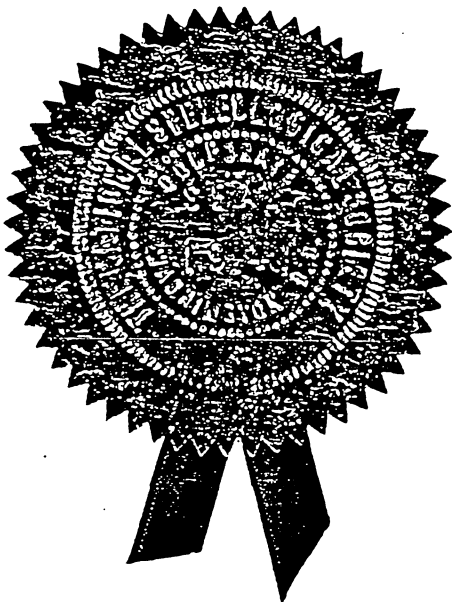
*Fall 1992*

# The National Speleological Society

This is to certify that

The V.P.I. CAVE CLUB STUDENT GROTTTO

*having fully complied with all the requirements established by the Board of Governors, and having accepted the responsibility which such status entails, is hereby chartered in the National Speleological Society, and is entitled to all due rights and privileges: in testimony whereof the President and the Chairman of the Internal Organizations Committee have hereunto set their hands and the Seal of the Society, this 8th day of January, 1943.*



John A. Stillman  
PRESIDENT

Jeanne Gurnee  
INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
**Jeanne Gurnee**

# THE TECH TROGLODYTE

A JOURNAL OF THE VIRGINIA TECH GROTTO OF THE  
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Fall Semester, 1992

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Vice President	Adam Hungerford
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The Tech Troglodyte is published biannually by the VPI Cave Club, a student grotto of the NSS. All Submissions, subscriptions, inquiries and comments should be sent to: Trog Editor, PO Box 558, Blacksburg, VA 24063-0558.

## Letter from Mom

Dear Cave Club,

This has been a fairly action packed semester. First of all, the new constitution was passed after almost a year's worth of work. I'd like to thank everyone that helped with the comments, suggestions and proofreading. You might find a copy of it in this Trog (maybe you will, and maybe you won't; but you'll never know, will you?--ed.) and I encourage everyone to read it thoroughly. Secondly, we were banned from using the bridge for our Friday afternoon training sessions. This was not due to anything the Cave Club did or did not do, but was due to a university wide policy that prohibits it. (the 1972 letter giving us permission had expired!) We are currently involved in negotiations with the administration and it looks like this won't be resolved until after Christmas. In the meantime we are having a hard time training new people so any suggestions for places to practice vertical work would be appreciated (how about the ROTC tower? I'll bring the munitions...---ed.). Thirdly, signout was moved from Cecil's house to the Green Street Apartments. It's a convenient set-up, with club gear (most o' it) carbide and the signout sheet all in one easy-to-access location. Thanks to everyone who helped put it together, thanks to residents there who volunteered to keep an eye on the sign-in times (suckers) and thanks to Cecil for all the years of putting up with us at the old signout.

Well, no new members were voted in this semester (lame-os), but we have a great crop of trainees that are making good progress towards next semester. (hey, what the @#\$\$ happened to all of their @#\$\$ing articles? we for some, would like to know. Humphf---ed.) We have a practice rescue planned for December sixth in Starnes, and a possible vertical practice rescue in the spring. Ko (sucker) has volunteered to do a couple of programs leading up to vertical practice rescue so maybe this one will happen! Until then, let's see some more trainee trips and more new people involved in surveying. If everyone gives a little, the club can get a lot (heh heh). Speleo-seminar Hardy you cave slaves!

Mom

## Veep's View

Another semester & year is coming to an end. While everyone is stressing out over finals & whether or not they will pass we should look to the spring & the caving opportunities still out there. Many of the new prospective members will be ready for membership. We will also be on our annual spring break TAG trip. If you're a prospective member you should get your full membership before then ( more incentive to get membership ). It's a lot of fun ( and quite a bit of bitching, too---ed. ) & you will definitely see a different cave environment.

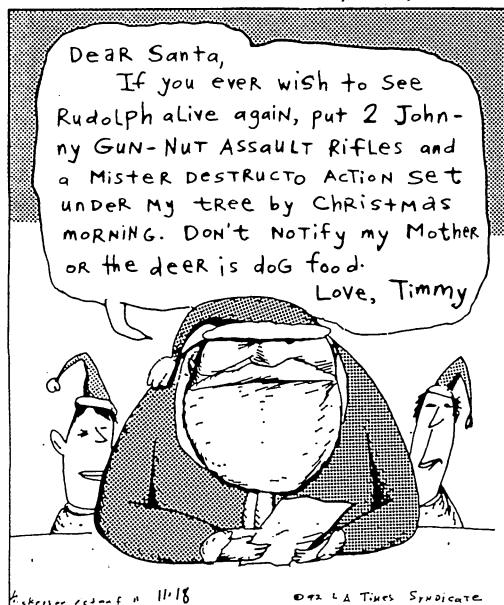
Hopefully!!! ... we will also regain our privilege of using the bridge for Friday bridge sessions. But...who knows...this could become a generational movement in which your grandchild could hear about the tragic day in October of '92 when the bridge was taken away and of the ongoing fight to regain it. Until then Steve and I have found an interesting rappelling spot out in Newport. We will probably be going there every other weekend starting next semester. We will continue to help everyone with knots & caving information at the Friday Night Speleo-seminars, so if you want to learn any of this you need to show up. Remember, none of us ever stops learning.

Let's keep up the momentum. Thanks to all of the members for taking trips & helping at the bridge. You know who you are. Extra kudos to Bob for the now regular Thursday night trips. Who knows, maybe I'll be crazy enough to go with you sometime.

I WANT TO SEE MANY NEW MEMBERS NEXT SEMESTER

### THE QUIGMANS

by Buddy Hickerson



Adam Hungerford

EDITERS PAGE

NO, HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED  
AT YOUR HANDS? I MEAN, REALLY  
LOOKED AT THEM?

NO SCOTT. BUT THIS  
SURE BRINGS BACK  
MEMORIES.



**John Starnes Penley**  
**Buddy**  
**May 25, 1910 - October 23, 1992**

Buddy Penley was a member of the NSS and a Fellow of the VPI Cave Club.

Buddy Penley has been a generous friend of the VPI Cave Club for many years. Controlling access to much of Skydusky Hollow Buddy met most of us throughout the years. Caving in Newberry's, Buddy Penley's and Paul Penley's were started in the early 1950s and continues today. Buddy looked forward to Saturday mornings when cavers would arrive. He would invite everyone inside to visit awhile before going underground. I can remember some rainy afternoons that we never made it into the caves, we just sat for hours sharing stories with Buddy. On numerous occasions cavers would help him with farm chores. These always turned into an enjoyable activity of learning from and sharing with Buddy's life time of experiences.

Buddy referred to us as his children from VPI. He looked forward to attending the yearly VPI banquet where he was always an honored guest. In the spring he would invite us out to his farm for a spring picnic. An event that started as a Saturday afternoon and evening affair soon evolved into a weekend campout with families welcome. Mr. Penley thought there was no better place for us, or our children, than running around his fields.

Buddy Penley was a unique person and a special friend. He will be fondly remembered for offering long nights of caving and leisurely afternoon visits, for hard work and mostly good conversation, for storytelling and:

HELL PECKER DAMN

Carol Zokaite

## Prunes and Grape Jelly

Well, I'm afraid this year the vineyard fairy didn't leave anything under my door, so ya'll are gonna have to settle for me a-writing a piece here in the space reserved in yer usual Trog for the Grapevine. As I see it, there are only a couple of important things that need mentioning, so here goes.

Someone many of us hold dear in their hearts passed away this year. Buddy Penley, a man who has given us many hours of stories, laughs, and good times died October 23, 1992 at the age of 82. I remember the first time I went to Newberry's; it was pouring down raining and I was but a lowly worm among greatness...one of 15 cavers converging upon the cave to finish some survey work. Among the participants were Carol and Joe, Doug, Jerry, Ko, Phillip, Paul, Berta...and me. It was my third caving experience and I was filled with apprehension, that is until I was introduced to Buddy. How this wizened old character could have a smile and jovial expression on this grim day made me wonder in amazement, and his kind words and friendly nature helped disperse the butterflies I felt. That was Buddy, smiles and warm handshakes around, especially for the ladies. Buddy, we'll all miss you. Take care.

Banquet. Yes, we are supposed to have one. Yes, it is supposed to be at Custom Caterers off North Main. Yes, it is going to be in February. No, I don't know the exact date. Probably the 13th or the 20th. Ask Chummer.

The Constipation has finally passed. After a lot of work, lots of methyl alcohol, and 5 minutes of rigged voting it went through like Montezuma's Revenge. A grim analogy to be sure, but appropriate. A big ol' warm fuzzy (McGeehan, you should get that joke, you too French---ed.) to all those involved and they deserve it. After all, it is not an easy task to assemble something that looks all the world to be a bill from Congress. If you don't believe me, just look at it - it's in here somewhere. Hopefully, this will be the last time something like this has to be done, at least the last time for the current President, right? I thought so.

Well, that's about it as I see it. Perhaps next time ya'll will get what ya were lookin' for, I dunno. Perhaps we'll just have to wait and see, eh?

yers in editorship

Spotty Dog

Scotty Boy

just plain Spot



# Seven Year Itch

Whoa, check it out. I finally got around to drawing this map up. Hmm, here's what I remember (hey kids, check out the dates).

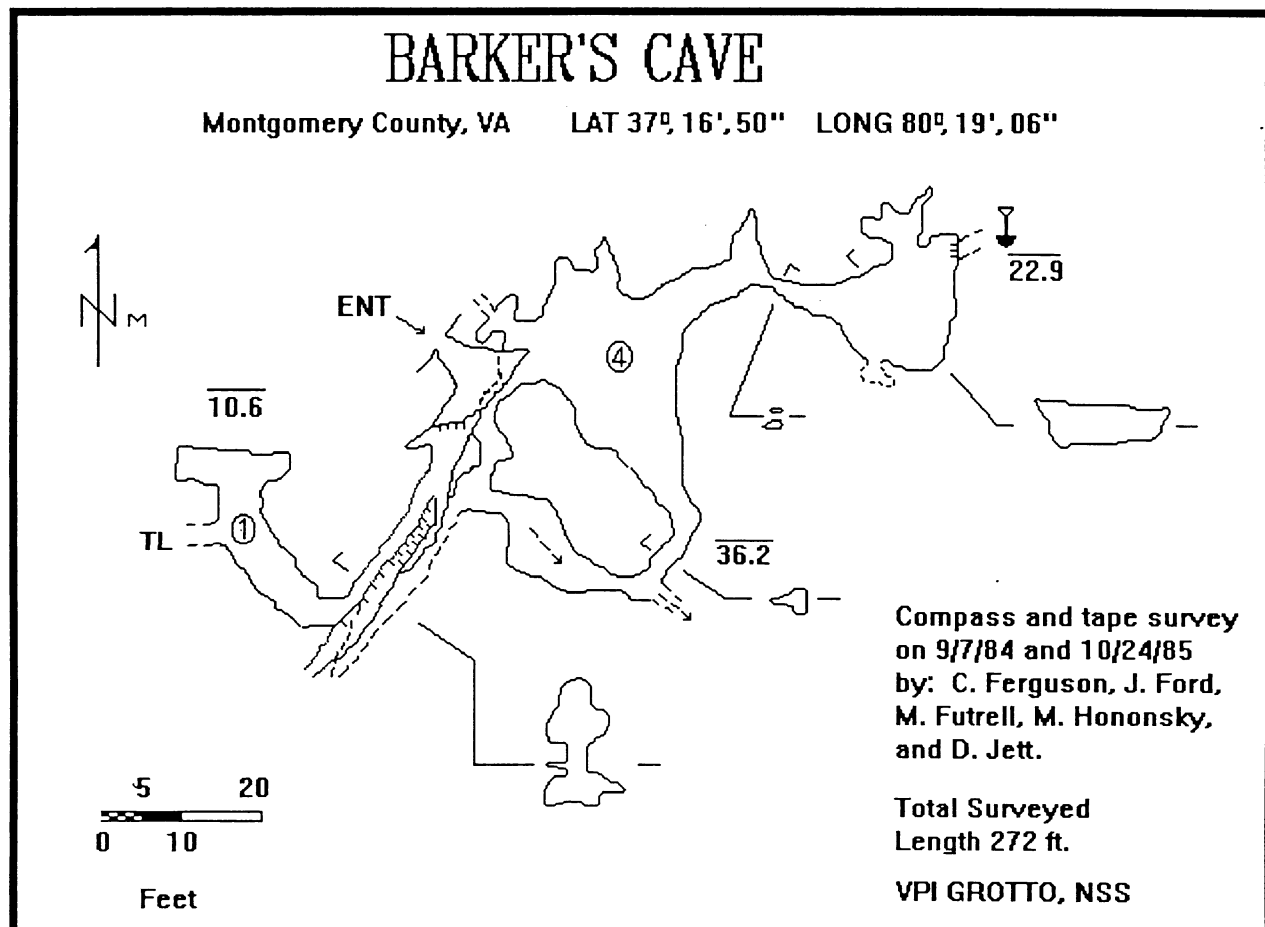
The entrance is in a stream bed. Don't go if it's been raining, or you will not find the entrance--don't go if it's gonna rain or no one will find you (except possibly in Old Mill). No kidding, this cave is equivalent to the pipe leading from your toilet. Go after it has been flushed, but before the bowl fills. More advice: don't touch the ceiling or dirt and leaves will rain down on you.

I apologize for the lack of detail in the map, but there's nothing in there, and besides, it really doesn't matter -- the lower portion of this cave is as dynamic as a Tasmanian Devil on PCP.

If You Choose to Cave.....

....CAVE Responsibly,

Craig Ferguson



## Kable Ladder Karma

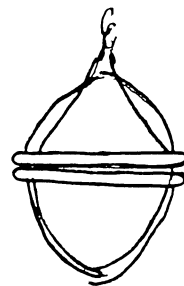
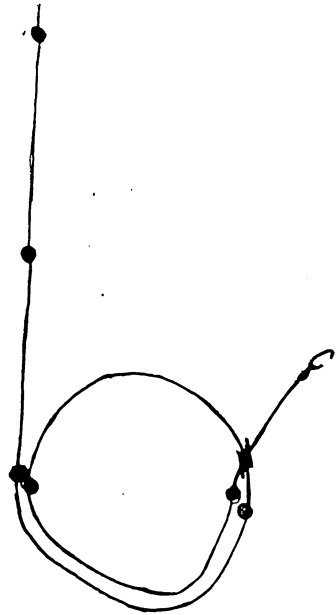
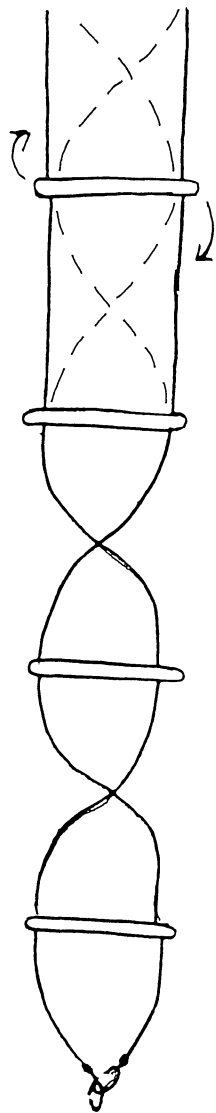
One of the great mysteries of caving for me since I started has been how do I roll a cable ladder. Since I have recently taken partial charge of the gear at signout it has become apparent to me that this is one of the great mysteries for many of you as well.

I remember when I was a lowly trainee how I would be handed a ladder on a trip or at the bridge and told to roll it. I would respectfully and humbly ask one of the eminent members how I would go about turning this mass of cable and tubing into a nice compact little ball. The answer usually came in a resounding "Just roll it up." Upon my own membership I found out why this was so, and when I used a ladder on my trainee trips I found myself giving it to some poor, unsuspecting bastard to roll.

Soon I found myself on trips where members would find themselves without anyone on which to dump this task. Occasionally there would be one brave or ignorant soul who would actually volunteer. Occasionally the ladder would actually be rolled in a way it wouldn't fall apart. In my "short" tenure here at Tech I've seen many ways (sometimes very original and artistic), and I've tried to copy the ways that worked before. However, these previous rolls were obviously the work of someone involved with the occult. I personally have no desire to drag a live chicken through the cave just so that I can roll a stupid ladder. On a recent trip to Spring Hollow the karma of the ladder was revealed to me. Actually I'd seen it done this way before, but I've always been blowing the karma (now you can look at the picture).

Wind to rungs for every revolution of the roll bunching the rungs on either side. Twist the ladder once between every rung as you roll the ladder. At first, place the latest rung just past the group; as the roll gets larger this will not be possible and the rungs will go just behind the preceding. The links at the end of the ladder should come in between the cables and act as a guide. Always put the point where the cables cross just past where the links come out. As the roll gets larger the whole conglomeration will become flatter, and rolling becomes more difficult toward the end. Use a biner to secure the outside end of the ladder to the roll. As long as the whole thing is kept pretty tight as it is rolled this process is very repeatable.

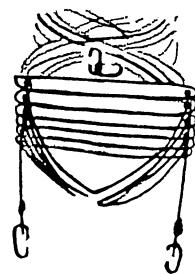
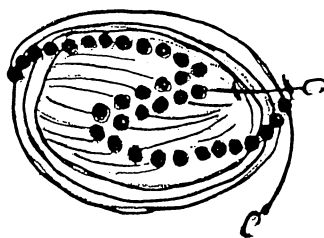
Mark Eisenbies



The Winding Continues

The Rungs form this Pattern

Twist at every Rung



Secure with a Biner

# The Frog Ascending Deal

When I first came to Tech and started caving with the club, vertical techniques were taught much as they are today. During the years the "Young Republicans" were around, there was a lot of interest in non-traditional (for North American types) ascending and rappelling methods. The standard ascending methods were prussiks, rope-walkers, and a few Texas rigs, with some combinations and bastardizations of the aforementioned styles. Since I graduated, it seems that these styles dominate the club once again. After sensing interest in learning how to create the French ascending rig known as a frog, I figured I'd write this deal. I've also received comments about my "sketchy" techniques by people who don't know squat about anything outside the VPI Cave Club. Sue Setzler and Doug Bruce kicked major butt at convention on a hyped-out version of this rig.

The frog utilizes two ascenders attached to the rope with one attached at your harness and one higher attached to a footloop and your harness (look at the bitchin' drawing). This arrangement results in a sit-stand motion for ascent, and a very flexible rig for any type of pitch, no matter how convoluted. After one half-assed pseudo-frog using a Gibbs with no spring as the top piece (whoa nelly, it slipped) and a Petzl Jammer at my waist, I bought a Petzl Croll and came up with a reasonable, safe rig. The Croll is designed to be used at the waist, and the Jammer as the top piece.

My current rig consists of a Petzl Croll and Jammer (no handle), two Maillon Rapides (medium steel oval and large aluminum triangle), approximately 7 ft of 9mm cord, approx. 5 ft of 5-6mm cord, 6 ft of bungi cord (1/4"), and a loop of 1" webbing. The 9mm cord is used to tie a cow-tail: one end attached to your harness; the other attached to the Jammer via the oval Maillon Rapide. This should be tied such that the Jammer is not beyond your reach with your weight on it. The 6mm cord should be tied in a loop at one end, big enough to serve as a prussik on the cow-tail. Use a true prussik with about three full wraps and make it tighter than if you were using it on the standing line for ascent, removing any slip potential. This is to be the attachment of the foot loop to the cow-tail. The prussik knot will allow adjustment for differing situations, or to adjust for other people. The other end should be tied to the loop of webbing. Make this loop big enough for both feet to be easily inserted and removed without using your hands. Some people like separate loops for each foot on separate lines to the cow-tail. This is excessive in most cases. The Croll is to be attached as low as possible to your harness; I use the triangle. Attach the bungi cord to the top hole, go

over both shoulders and attach to the back of your harness. When standing straight up with both feet in the footloop, the Jammer should rest on top of the Croll. When hanging on the rope via the Croll, slide the Jammer up as far as possible. You should be able to put your feet in the footloop. If the loop is too high, slide the prussik down. My footloop and prussik cord are about the same length as the cow-tail. As with all systems, the fit to each person is an iterative process. Start with more than you need in length and reduce until it feels correct. Don't cut the excess too soon.

The person who showed me this rig, Alejandro Villagomez, uses an inflated bicycle tube over his shoulders for comfort, instead of the bungi cord. He also uses a Kong-Bonatti handled ascender for his top piece. I have found the handle-less Jammer to be more compact and comfortable than any other handled ascender. The standard set-up as marketed by Petzl requires a chest harness. For "shorter" pitches, this can be omitted and bungi cord can be used. A chest harness definitely improves the efficiency of the system. The length of the cow-tail can be increased beyond easy reach for more distance with each cycle. One can move the footloop down on the cow-tail and step up to the upper ascender should the need arise. This should be experimented with by the individual before getting into too much trouble. Like all other systems, the basic concept of the frog is open to improvisation in tune with your specific needs. The whole thing is adjustable, and can be torn down into constituent parts for emergencies, though your knots may not necessarily agree.

There was a lot of controversy in the club about this system. People bitched about the two points of contact on the rope, including my caving buddy and fellow gear geek Craig Roberts. I was the only one besides Alejandro using the system and began a quest of opening minds. Soon Mr. Roberts saw the light and we began rigging all sorts of crazed rope obstacles together, testing our abilities to overcome any and all weird atrocities of knot-work under the bridge by Smythe, challenging others to try with their rigs. A number of new trainees/members soon created their own frog design. The frog demands some physical conditioning which is not really needed for the ropewalker. After using the frog on 500+ ft. pits in Mexico and Fern in Alabama, I decided ropewalkers have their place on long straightforward pitches. There has been discussion about the bounce on the rope. Rope abrasion is something that definitely needs to be addressed with this system. The rope should always hang as free as possible. European cavers use large scale bolting as a means of conquering rope abrasion, not necessarily appropriate by our conservation standards. I don't think that frogging bounces the rope any more than using knots as far as intensity, though the frequency achieved is higher.

The benefits of the frog are apparent to those that have ever gotten to the knot at the end of the rope and found their feet still in the air. Changeovers are a breeze, down to up or up to down; even with a figure eight. Passing knots, evil lips, and especially rebelay is not as big of a deal as with other systems. The whole rig remains attached to your harness at all times; when you put on your harness to abseil (oooh weird word) you are automatically set up for ascent. In a Mexican cave called Rio Choi (sp?) Jerry Redder challenged me to rappel, changeover, and ascend the approximately 200 ft pitch in under twenty minutes, for a beer. I did it in seven (maybe less but my mind is going).

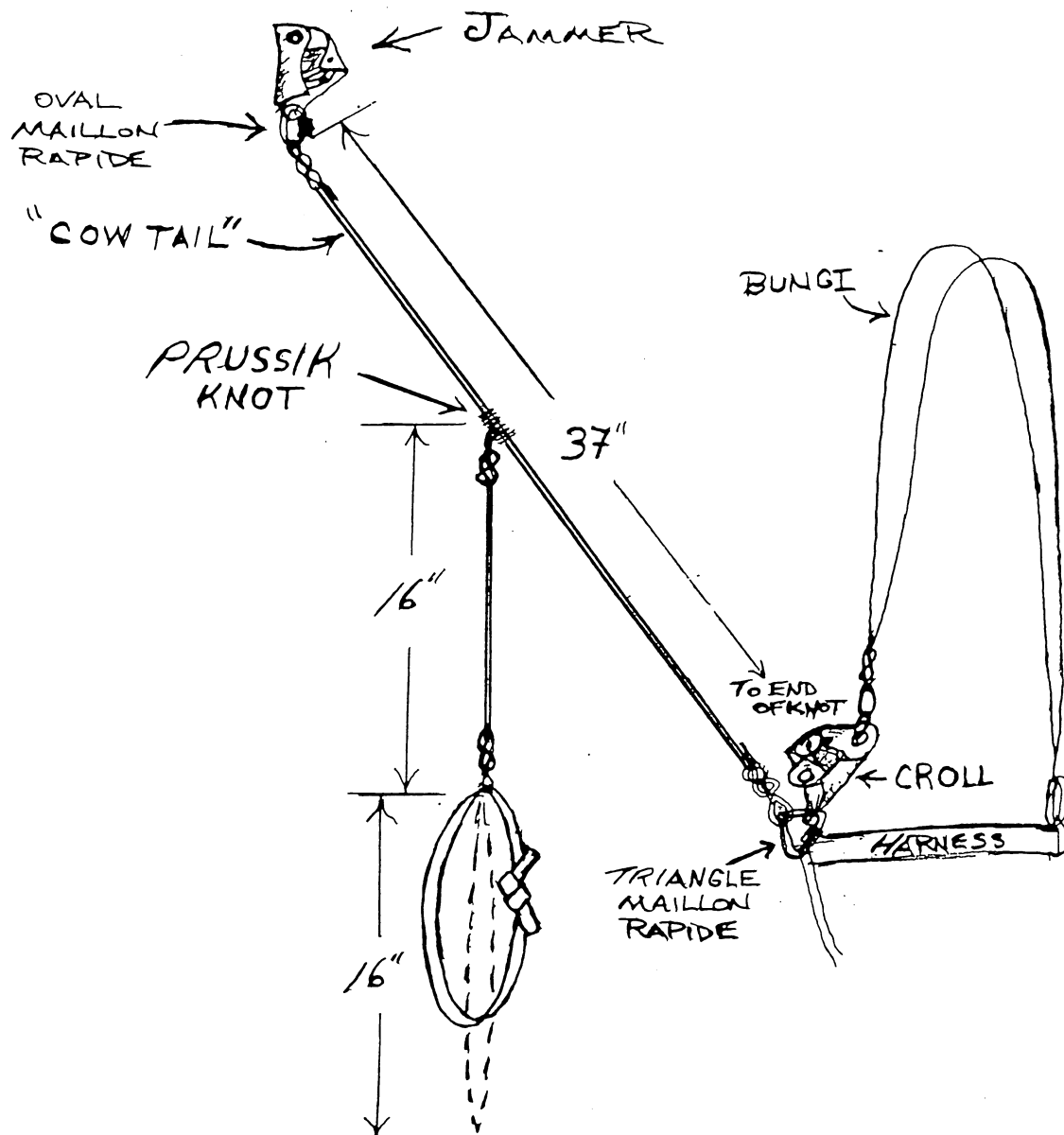
"On Rope", the current vertical techniques tome published by the NSS, has this to say in summary about the frog:

"Even though the system is heavy, bulky and relatively slow, it is an essential part of the European style of ropework and has become the dominant climbing system used by an entire continent."

Standing offer: whoever agrees with the heavy, bulky, slow part of the above, let's compare rigs. There must be some reason an "entire continent" uses it. Elvis would have used a frog.

#### ZIPPY BILL GRIFFITH





MEASUREMENTS ARE FROM MY SYSTEM  
AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, THIS IS ALMOST TO SCALE.



ELVIS PRACTICING HIS  
FRENCH TECHNIQUES

CONSTITUTION OF THE VPI CAVE CLUB  
STUDENT GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

November, 1992

**Article  
Name**

The name of this organization shall be the VPI Cave Club, Student Grotto of the National Speleological Society (VPI is an acronym for Virginia Polytechnic Institute.)

**Article II  
Purpose**

The purpose of this club shall be to promote interest in, and to advance the science of speleology; to promote conservation of caves and safety in their exploration; and to encourage fellowship among those interested in caving.

**Article III  
Membership**

**Section 1:**

There shall be three classes of dues paying members: full, associate, and prospective. There shall be two qualifiers, inactive and life, as described in the By-Laws.

A. Full membership shall be restricted to students, faculty, or staff of VPI&SU who have completed membership requirements as stated in the By-Laws. Full members shall have access to club records and files and may use club equipment

- B. 1. Associate membership shall be reserved for those who have completed requirements for full membership but are not students, faculty or staff of VPI&SU. Associate members have all privileges of full membership except for the holding of an elected office and voting.
2. Faculty or staff who are full members may for any semester for which dues have been paid choose associate membership. Full membership may be reinstated upon written notification of the club treasurer during the first two weeks of any subsequent semester.
3. Students who are full members and who anticipate being absent from campus for a semester may choose associate membership for that semester.
- C. Any individual may be invited verbally by the president and vice-president to become a prospective member upon recommendation of a full or associate member. The prospective member must be willing to uphold the purposes and policies of the club. A prospective member may attend and address meetings, but may not vote or hold elected office.

**Section 2:**

Honorary members may be recognized at the discretion of the club for their outstanding achievements or contributions to the club or the interests of the club. Honorary membership is a ceremonial title and holds no bearing on actual membership status.

**Section 3:**

Dues shall be paid in a timely manner in an amount as stated in by-laws.

**Section 4:**

Any prospective, associate, or full member may face disciplinary action, including possible loss of membership privileges, as defined in the By-Laws.

**Article IV  
Officers**

**Section 1:**

The elected officers of this club shall be: president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Election procedures are defined in the By-Laws.

**Section 2:**

All elected officers must be full members and currently enrolled full-time students at VPI&SU, at the time of the election and throughout the duration of their term. If an officer is not an NSS member, membership must be applied for, within one month of the election.

**Article V  
Committees**

**Section 1:**

Standing committees shall be: the Equipment Committee, Safety and Techniques Committee, Publicity Committee, Project and Program Committee, Conservation Committee, Supplies Committee and Executive Committee.

**Section 2:**

Special and ad hoc committees may be established by the President or by action of the club by simple majority vote.

**Article VI  
Amendments**

**Section 1:**

Amendments to this Constitution may be submitted by motion of any full member and then tabled after passing with a simple majority of votes from full membership.

**Section 2:**

An amendment must be voted on no later than three meetings subsequent to its proposal, and the full and associate members of the club must be specifically notified of the date of the vote and the nature of the amendment, in writing.

**Section 3:**

A 3/4 majority vote of the full membership shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

**Article VII  
By-Laws**

**Section 1:**

The club shall establish a set of By-Laws for the purpose of amplifying and explaining in detail certain sections of the Constitution.

**Section 2:**

The By-Laws may be amended as follows:

- A. A motion to amend the By-Laws may be introduced by any full or associate member.
- B. If the motion is "seconded" it is automatically tabled.
- C. The secretary must notify the members of the amendment in writing.
- D. Final action shall be taken at the next meeting by a 2/3 vote of the full membership.

**By-Laws  
Safety Code**

**Section 1:**

General Safety:

- A. Never cave alone. It is recommended that at least three people be on any caving trip; at least one full or associate member on horizontal trips and at least two full or associate members on vertical trips.
- B. Everyone participating in a trip should be physically and mentally capable of caving on that type of trip. Mind altering substances will not be used immediately prior to or during a cave trip.
- C. No one should exert themselves or be forced to exert themselves beyond their limit of endurance.
- D. If all lights fail, wait in place.
- E. Avoid jumping.
- F. All equipment should be in working order and pass inspection before entering the cave.

**Section 2:**

Equipment

- A. General equipment per person.
1. Hard hats with suspension, chin-straps, and a mounted light source are mandatory while caving.
  2. At least three(3) sources of light, each providing sufficient light to exit the cave under reasonable circumstances.
  3. Supplies for light sources.
  4. Heat source.
  5. Trash bag or space blanket.
  6. Energy ration (candy bar, etc.)
  7. Gloves, heavy boots or shoes, heavy clothing, or cave specific clothing are advisable.
- B. Appropriate type and quantity of equipment shall be taken on all caving trips.

**Section 3:  
Procedure**

- A. Always inform someone of the whereabouts of the caving trip, the expected time of return and appropriate phone numbers.
- B. Observe surroundings: respect landowners' wishes and be considerate of their property.
- C. If possible, consult someone who is familiar with the cave.
- D. All rigging is to be checked by a full or associate member. Ropes should be protected from fraying. All group members should be satisfied with rigging before it is used.
- E. Never leave a prospective member or other inexperienced caver alone.
- F. A belay should be used on every person on a ladder. No belay shall be used when ascending a rope. Prospective members or other inexperienced cavers must accept a belay when requested to by a full or associate member. Anyone desiring a belay shall have one. The first person to descend a rope shall ensure that those following have a belay. The order of ascent and descent shall be determined by a full or associate member on the trip.
- G. An appropriate loop knot should be tied in the lower end of any rope used for rappelling.

**Membership**

**Section 1:**

Qualifiers:

- A. The qualifier "inactive" applied to any of the membership categories shall



denote that said individual has not paid current dues and therefore retains only the privilege of attending and addressing regular meetings. Payment of dues shall result in automatic reinstatement of the membership previously held and all privileges thereof.

- B. The qualifier "life" shall be applied to any full or associate member of the VPI Cave Club upon receipt of life membership dues. Life members shall have all membership privileges of the membership category which they had previously earned. Note: life members are exempt from yearly membership dues.

#### Section 2:

##### Training Program:

To be qualified as a full or associate member of the club, a prospective member must:

- Read and understand the constitution and by-laws of the Cave Club.
- Remain a prospective member for at least 10 weeks during which time he/she spends 40 hours underground on at least 6 trips on which at least one full or associate member is present.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of a carbide lamp.
- Demonstrate elementary climbing skills in a cave.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of belaying methods.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of changeover from descending to ascending and ascending to descending.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of rappelling and prussiking, with knots, in a cave.
- Know how to tie and explain the uses of: bowline, mountaineering bowline (double bowline), bowline on a bight, bowline on a coil, figure of "8", figure of "8" on a bight, butterfly, square, overhand, double-tuck sheet bend, water knot, helical, prussik, double fisherman's. (Knot names taken from *On Rope* by Alan Padgett)
- Complete satisfactorily a comprehensive general information quiz.
- Be endorsed by a full or associate member in good standing.
- Write a trip report for publication in *The Tech Troglodyte*.
- Be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the full membership.

### Disciplinary Action

#### Section 1:

Any prospective, associate, or full member who has allegedly committed an infraction of the VPI Cave Club Constitution, or by-laws, or upon recommendation of the Safety and Techniques Committee, may face possible disciplinary action in the form of a reprimand, suspension, or expulsion, as defined below.

#### Section 2:

##### A. Levels of disciplinary action:

- Reprimand: A reprimand shall be the lowest level of disciplinary action and shall be noted in the minutes.
- Suspension: A suspension is the intermediate level of disciplinary action. A suspension shall be reduction of an associate or full member's rights to those equivalent to prospective member status. A prospective member cannot complete any membership requirements while on suspension. The time period for a suspension shall be fifteen (15) weeks after which time the previous membership status is reinstated.

- Expulsion: An expulsion is the highest and most severe level of disciplinary action. An expelled person is ejected from the club and all club functions and current dues are returned. Previously completed membership requirements are null and void. A person expelled from the club can only rejoin the club by being allowed to restart the training program by 2/3 majority vote by secret ballot.

#### B. Procedure:

- A member of any class may bring a complaint for disciplinary action to the president.
- The president shall convene the Executive Committee to evaluate the complaint.
- Upon review, the Executive Committee shall bring the complaint to the club, within two regular meetings of the receipt of the complaint, with a recommendation for action.
- The Executive Committee's recommendation shall constitute a motion.
- If the motion is to dismiss the complaint, upon a second it may be voted on at the current meeting and requires 2/3 majority vote to pass.
- If the motion is for a level of disciplinary action, as defined above, upon a second the motion will be tabled until the next regular meeting.
- The accused shall be given notice of the tabled motion, at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting in which the final vote is to be taken and shall be given ample opportunity to present a defense before the club.
- At the meeting following the tabled motion a discussion on the accused's infractions will occur. At the close of the discussion a secret ballot shall be taken to determine whether or not action will be taken on the disciplinary measure.
- A vote to take action must be passed by 2/3 majority of full members.

### Officers

#### Section 1:

The officers of the club shall be elected by ballot from candidates nominated from the floor. The order of election shall be president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. To be nominated, a member must meet the qualifications of Article IV, Section 2 of the constitution. A separate ballot shall be voted for each office. A simple majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. In case there is no majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped and a re-vote for the remaining candidates shall be taken. The election shall be held at the tenth regular meeting of the spring semester. The officers elected shall assume their duties at the end of the meeting during which elections were held and hold office until the elections of the following spring. A 2/3 vote of full members shall be necessary to invalidate the election.

#### Section 2:

If the president and vice-president are absent during the summer, the president shall appoint a president pro tem from among the full members available.

#### Section 3:

In event of the resignation or release from office of an officer, a special election shall be held at the next regular meeting to elect a member to the office for the completion of the term of office.

#### Section 4:

The duties of the President shall be:

- To preside at all meetings and call special meetings.
- To act as an ex-officio member of all committees.

- To represent the club officially in all matters except those which require the cooperation of the treasurer.

- To make appointments to special committees unless provision is made otherwise in the resolution establishing the committee with the approval of the majority of the committee members.

- To make appointments to standing committees and to appoint committee chairmen and to remove appointees.

- To make arrangements for the meeting room.

- To appoint an editor for club publications.

- To appoint a club parliamentarian.

#### Section 5:

The duties of the Vice-President shall be:

- To assume the president's duties during the president's absence.
- To assist the president as the president shall require.
- To countersign as authorizing officer, vouchers for the expenditures that have been authorized by the club.
- To be an active participant in the safety committee as director of the new member training program.

#### Section 6:

The duties of the Treasurer shall be:

- To have charge of the finances of the club.
- To keep an accurate record of the finances of the club, including balancing records weekly.
- To collect any and all dues and fees which the club shall authorize.
- To give a complete report on the financial status of the club at every regular meeting.
- To keep a list of the club members and their status, and to make this available to all members, faculty advisors, and at all club meetings.
- To make disbursements when authorized by motions passed by the club and only when so authorized.
- To comply with regulations of the VPI Office of Student Affairs pertaining to finances.
- To allow no transactions to occur without proper receipts.

#### Section 7:

The duties of the Secretary shall be:

- To keep a record of all club proceedings of all meetings of the club and place a copy in the club files, within two academic weeks.
- To keep a phone list of the members of the club and to make this available to all members and faculty advisors.
- To conduct correspondence for the club as directed by the president.
- To notify the NSS of changes in officers and other pertinent information.
- To notify faculty advisors of proposed amendments to the Constitution or the By-Laws.
- To make note of proxy votes.
- To provide timely notification to club members of issues as specified by the constitution or by-laws.

#### Section 8:

- An officer may be impeached for specific and willful infractions of the Constitution, the By-Laws, or the policies of the club.

- B. 1. A motion to impeach stating specific infractions shall be made by a member, committee, or other officer.
2. The motion shall be automatically tabled upon a "second" to the next regular meeting.
3. The officer shall be given notice of the motion at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting in which the vote is to be taken, and be given ample opportunity to present a defense before the club.
4. Final action shall be by secret written ballot and will require a 2/3 majority vote of the full membership for removal from office.

#### Advisor

If desired, any person may be elected as an advisor to the club by a simple majority of votes from full membership.

#### Meeting and Quorum

##### Section 1:

- A. To constitute a meeting for the transaction of business, a quorum shall constitute one half (1/2) of the full membership either in person or represented by proxy.
- B. The secretary shall be notified of each proxy before a vote. Blanket or continuous proxies shall not be held.
- C. Meetings shall be held Fridays at 7:00 p.m. during the academic year.
- D. Meetings shall comply with Robert's Rules of Order.

#### Dues

Dues for prospective members, full members and associate members shall be seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per semester. Life membership shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00), payable in installments, to be paid in full within one year of the first installment.

#### Committees

##### Section 1:

It shall be the duty of the Safety and Techniques Committee to:

- A. Supervise the new member training program.
- B. Encourage safe caving practices and recommend disciplinary action where necessary.
- C. Present periodic programs on current safety practices.
- D. Submit a written report to the president upon request.
- E. Oversee maintenance and inventory of club rescue gear.
- F. The Safety and Techniques Committee shall consist of the safety chairman, the president, the vice-president, former safety chairmen, former presidents and vice presidents, and anyone that the president or safety chairman deems necessary.

##### Section 2:

It shall be the duty of the Publicity Committee to:

- A. Communicate with incoming freshman and the student body on the availability and activities of the club.

- B. Submit articles to the school newspaper, etc., on the club's activities.
- C. Publicize any activities which may be open to other groups.
- D. Submit to the files such material that may be printed by or about the club.
- E. Submit a written report to the president upon request.

##### Section 3:

It shall be the duty of the Conservation Committee:

- A. The chairman of the conservation committee shall be a member of the National Conservation Committee of the NSS.
- B. Encourage projects and better practices in cave conservation.
- C. Instruct new members on the principles of cave conservation.
- D. To bring to the attention of the club any violation of the club's policy of conservation.
- E. To scrutinize the mailbag for any material related to cave conservation.
- F. Submit a written report to the president upon request.

##### Section 4:

It shall be the duty of the Project and Program Committee to:

- A. Plan and coordinate club projects, special activities, and social functions.
- B. Plan and make arrangements for programs to be presented periodically at the regular meetings.
- C. Submit a written report to the president upon request.

##### Section 5:

It shall be the duty of the Supplies Committee to:

- A. Buy equipment for sale to the club members and prospective members out of a special revolving fund established for this purpose.
- B. Make equipment available for sale at all meetings to all dues paying individuals.
- C. The fund shall be increased by semestery appropriations until such time that it becomes self-sustaining. The fund shall be allowed to draw upon the club treasury in the form of loans when additional funds become necessary.
- D. The Supplies Committee shall notify the treasurer of all transactions, and shall submit a report to him upon request.

##### Section 6:

It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to:

- A. Preside over disciplinary proceedings.
- B. Act for the club in emergency situations when it is not feasible for the club to meet.
- C. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the head of the Safety and Techniques Committee and other person(s) appointed by the president.

#### Club Files

##### Section 1:

Maintenance: The president shall appoint a person to keep and maintain the files.

##### Section 2:

Substance: The club files shall consist of cave maps, trip reports, meeting minutes, cave related publications, membership

related material, and historical material.

##### Section 3:

The file chairman shall submit a written report to the president upon request.

#### Club Trips

Club trips are caving trips which are recognized by the VPI Cave Club and which follow the spirit and intent of its constitution and by-laws. A caving trip is recognized if it has at least one full or associate member on it and it is properly signed out. (See By-Laws, Safety Code, Section 3.A for definition of a properly signed out trip.)

#### Club Savings

##### Section 1:

The club shall establish a savings fund to be placed in an interest drawing savings account.

##### Section 2:

The savings fund shall be drawn upon only for investments of long range importance to the club.

##### Section 3:

The savings fund shall be increased by semestery appropriations when possible.

#### Club Publications

##### Section 1:

The grotto shall publish a periodic journal to advertise grotto projects, trips, and other activities. It shall further contain material of scientific and technical interest to the caving world.

##### Section 2:

The title of this publication shall be: The Tech Troglodyte.

##### Section 3:

The format and journalistic style shall be set by the editor.

##### Section 4:

The circulation of this publication shall be to all members and prospective members who have paid current dues. In addition, the NSS library and all other grottoes which offer their publication in exchange shall receive this publication. An exchange editor will be appointed by the president for these duties, and he/she will cooperate with the mailbag person to keep an updated exchange file.

# V.P.I. Cave Club

Financial Report for the Period  
March 1, 1991 to February 28, 1992

Opening Balance (checking)	\$3406.25
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## EXPENDITURES

Halloween	\$ 48.84
Trog Printing/Supplies/Postage	\$ 381.84
Postage/Phone calls	\$ 105.79
Prospective Member info/fliers/phone lists	\$ 190.71
Banquet '92	\$1430.71
Picnic '91	\$ 616.56
Club Store	\$3361.14
P.O. Box fees	\$ 35.00
Seminar Supplies	\$ 36.52
T-shirts '91	\$ 427.35
Service Charges	\$ 6.00
Club Gear/Carbide	\$ 240.00
NSS Dues (Buddy Penley, Trainee of the Year)	\$ 61.00
Banquet Photo	\$ 357.03

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7298.49
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## RECEIPTS

Dues	\$ 807.50
Club Store	\$2747.40
Banquet '92	\$1542.00
Picnic '91	\$ 387.00
T-shirts '91	\$ 764.00
Donations	\$ 198.86
Interest on Checking Account	\$ 79.57
Banquet Photo	\$ 338.00
Interest on Stocks	\$ 606.86

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7470.29
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NET GAIN	\$ 171.80
Closing Balance (Checking)	\$3668.05

Respectfully Submitted,  
Richard Simpson  
Treasurer 91-92

## VPI Cave Club "Bridge Session Policy"

### I. Purpose of "Bridge Sessions"

- A. To introduce interested persons or parties to the basics of rappelling in a safe and controlled way.
- B. To introduce prospective members to the skill of rappelling, for general education into descending & ascending a rope before Prospective Members do so underground, and for advanced training in Single Rope Techniques (SRT): belaying, changeovers, hauling systems, cable ladders, etc. in a safe and controlled environment.
- C. To complete membership requirements that are prescribed in the VPI Cave Club Constitution and By-Laws.
- D. Refreshment of techniques to train for vertical rescue capabilities. Our being able to train at a very accessible, safe environment leaves a very efficient practice.

### II. Persons in charge at a "Bridge Sessions"

- A. At any given "Bridge Session" of The VPI Cave Club there is a minimum of 3 Full Members or Associate Members in attendance.
- B. The Member-In-Charge is The Vice-President of The VPI Cave Club. The Vice-President is also in charge of the Training Program of The VPI Cave Club and a member of The Safety & Techniques Committee.
- C. The Vice-President will have at least 2 other Members present to supervise at a "Bridge Session". These members will be under The Vice-President's Authority. They are to assist in the training process and to ensure a safe environment for all the participants.
- D. In the event that the Vice-President cannot be in attendance he/she will appoint a responsible and knowledgeable replacement to act as A Member-In-Charge.

### III. Definitions

- A. A "Changeover" is the act of switching from descending gear to ascending gear (or vice versa) while still attached to the rope. The VPI Cave Club requires a minimum of three points of contact (attachments) to the rope at all times while doing a changeover.
- B. A belay is any method of stopping a rappeller on rope or catching fall of someone who is climbing a ladder or wall.  
  
Bottom Belay: A person is positioned at the bottom of a rappell, out of the rockfall zone, who will hold the end of the rope securely in hand. When the rappeller yells "falling", the belayer sees the rappeller fall, or any other dangerous situation is encountered the belayer pulls tight the rope. This action will stop the rappeller instantly.

Top Belay: A person is positioned securely above a vertical drop in which a cable ladder is used. The belayer is usually in a sitting position with the rope running from a rig point, through one hand, around the belayer's back, through the second hand, and down to the climbers seat or waist. If at any time the climber falls or experiences trouble the belayer can stop the climbers fall by wrapping the rope around the front of himself. This belay is controlled by the amount of friction created between the belayer and the rope.

C. A "Rockfall Zone" is a potentially dangerous area at the bottom of a vertical drop or wall. The Zone extends horizontally outward from the base of the drop a distance of 15' (at the bridge). The higher the drop is the larger the Rockfall Zone (in a cave we generally use 25'-30'). When a person is inside this zone he/she is at risk from falling objects or from objects being knocked over the drop.

D. A "Member" is any dues paying member of The VPI Cave Club who has passed the training program requirements (pgs 11-12) outlined in The VPI Club Constitution and By-Laws and has been voted in by The VPI Cave Club Members. This is further broken down into two categories: Full Members (Students, Faculty, Staff, & Tech Employees) and Associate Members (have passed training requirements but are not associated with Virginia Tech).

E. A "Prospective Member" is any person that has been invited by The VPI Cave Club to enter the training program and become a Member of The Club.

### IV. Equipment Used at a "Bridge Session"

#### A. Helmets

- 1. All participants descending & ascending shall wear ANSI approved headgear, with a chinstrap, to protect against head injuries due to falling objects, falls while on rope, or any other unforeseen hazard.
- 2. All participants at the base of the bridge within a 15' rockfall zone (measured horizontally along the ground from a line projecting down from the edge of the bridge) shall wear ANSI approved headgear with chinstrap to protect against falling objects.
- 3. All other participants are to stay out of these areas completely if they are not wearing proper headgear.

#### B. Gear Placement at the bridge

- 1. All gear is to stay organized at the bridge and not present a hazard to pedestrians, bystanders, participants, or anyone else in close proximity.
- 2. Large sacks, packs, or bulky gear is to remain off the bridge surface, off campus walkways, and clear of any rockfall zones.
- 3. Any other gear pertinent to rappellers on top of the bridge is to be compact, neatly organized, on one side of the bridge only (so as not to hamper pedestrian flow), and secured as to eliminate hazard to persons below.

### C. Seats, Harnesses, Etc.

1. All seats and harnesses are to be tied as directed in the VPI Cave Club New Member Issue using 1" tubular webbing (as a minimum size) having a tensile strength of 4000 lb or greater.
2. Sewn or purchased climbing harnesses are also acceptable. This type of seat shall have redundancy in case of failure and withstand an UIAA rated fall. The seat is also to be approved by The Member-In-Charge.
3. Before anyone other than a Member goes up or down a rope their seat is to be inspected by a Member to ensure that it is tied or put on correctly.

### D. Vertical Gear

1. Carabiners: shall have a tensile strength of 1500 lb or greater. Locking carabiners shall be used at all times unless otherwise specified by The Member-In-Charge.
2. Descenders: "Eights" & "Racks" are standard rappelling devices to be used. Any other device must be approved by The Member-In-Charge.
3. Ascenders: are to be of "knot", "prussik", or "mechanical" type approved by The Member-In-Charge.
4. Ropes:
  - a. All ropes to be used at the bridge are to be "Goldline" laid rope or an approved static rope made for rappelling. The static kernmantle ropes must have a minimum tensile strength of 5000 lb.
  - b. Any webbing used at the bridge shall be 1" tubular or 2" flat (as a minimum) and have a minimum tensile strength of 3500 lb.
  - c. Any cable ladders used at the bridge must at the least have a tensile strength of 500 lbs. It will generally be made of two stainless steel cables with aluminum rungs.
  - d. To prevent a possible failure of the rigging none of the ropes, cable ladders, or other riggings will be rigged to a defective or worn part of the bridge.
  - d. Only knots shown in our New Member Issue or "On Rope" by Allen Padgett are to be used in rigging a rope.
  - e. All ropes are to be "padded" from the bridge surface to prevent rope wear and possible failure.
  - f. All rigging is to include friction wraps (or equivalent) to ensure that knot used in rigging is not unduly loaded.
  - g. All final rigging is to be approved by The Member-In-Charge and if necessary, any Members in attendance.
5. Gloves: are to be worn by all participants ascending or rappelling, cable ladder belaying, or at any other times when necessary to protect an individual's hands.

### V. Rappelling Standards

A. When people arrive at the bridge they are collectively told of the process of how the "Bridge Sessions" are operated. The Member-In-Charge is pointed out along with the other Members.

1. They are shown how to tie a seat for rappelling. We show how the seat works and its safety features. All of the individual knots needed to tie a seat are introduced to them so they can begin to learn them.

2. The participants are given a locking carabiner which will connect the rappelling device to their seat. We also give them a descending device (usually an eight because of its simple operation and high safety factor) and show them how it is used.

3. The participants are told how all of the gear is used at the bridge, the strengths of the gear, the safety factors built into the gear, and any added safety features (such as a bottom belay). The techniques used at the bridge are also demonstrated.

4. We then have them put on a helmet and gloves.

5. We then describe & illustrate a system of called commands that are used when rappelling or ascending. These calls are outlined for you on page 10. These commands ensure the safety of the participants. Everyone is required to go through these commands every time they ascend or descend. The bottom belay is required for all participants.

6. A Member is then situated at the bottom of the bridge (out of rockfall zone) to supervise all of the belayers. The belayer will stop the rappeller on rope (by pulling the rope taught) if there are any problems. They will also make sure everyone at the bottom of the bridge is out of the rockfall zone and if someone needs to be in it they will wear proper headgear.

7. Another Member is stationed at the top of the bridge to ensure that all participants rig into the rope correctly, that all Non-Members have tied their seats properly, that helmets & gloves are worn by all participants, and the proper call commands are used by all participants. The Member will also observe the rappeller on his/her descent to provide any necessary instruction or assistance.

8. The Member-In-Charge is to ensure that the above conditions are met, supervise cable ladder belays, the bridge surface is kept clear of hazards, and the area is clean & undamaged after the "Bridge Session".

9. General: No "bouncing" while on rope is permitted due to the possible damage to and failure of the rope. The actual process of rappelling down the rope may vary due to the type of descending equipment used.

## VI. Rappelling Process

- A. Once a participant acquires a helmet, gloves, and a rappel device they may rig onto a vacant rope.
- B. Any Non-Member's attachment must be inspected by A Member before they are allowed to begin the act of descending the rope.
- C. Any first time participant or anyone needing instruction is assisted by A Member:
  - 1. The rigging of the rope is explained.
  - 2. The rigging, operation, and behavior specific to their rappell device is explained and/or demonstrated.
  - 3. The system of Call Commands (pg 10) is explained.
  - 4. If necessary the participant is talked through the rappell.
- D. Once a participant has rigged onto the rope and is ready to ascend they must complete the required exchange of commands (pg 10) to ensure they are receiving a belay while descending the rope.
- E. The participant performs the rappel. Anyone having difficulty is assisted by A Member and/or a belay is applied.
- F. Upon completing the rappel the participant derigs, finishes the required call commands (pg 10) and exits the rockfall zone.
- G. a participant's rappell may be critiqued at his time if any incorrect practices were observed:
  - 1. bouncing
  - 2. speed
  - 3. hand placement
  - 4. use of calls
  - 5. stepping on rope
  - 6. etc.

## VII. Ascending Standards (climbing up rope)

- A. A Member shall be at the bottom of the bridge to teach persons how to tie and use the various ascending systems, assure the system is put on right, assure it is attached to the rope correctly, assure that the proper call commands are used, and to provide any necessary assistance. The Member will also observe and assist the climber as he/she is ascending.
- B. A Member is to be stationed at the top of the bridge to assist the climber in getting over the railing safely, making sure the pads are set properly for the next climber, and any other assistance needed.
- C. General: The actual process of ascending up the rope may vary due to the type of equipment used. A minimum of three points of contact are to be made with the rope at all times while ascending a rope. "Changeovers" are to be supervised by The Member at the bottom of the bridge.

## VIII. Ascending Standards (Cable Ladders)

- A. A cable ladder shall be rigged using the same procedures as for rigging a rope. The Member-In-Charge shall approve the final rigging before it is used.

- B. All participants are to wear appropriate headgear and gloves.

- C. The Call Commands for Climbing (page 10) shall be used by all participants.

- D. A Member is to be stationed at the top of the bridge to ensure that a proper top belay is to be provided, the belayer is set securely on the bridge, that the proper call commands are used, that a top belay is maintained while the climber is "on belay", that the climber is safely secured to the belay line (if starting from the top), and that the climber safely unhooks him/herself from the belay line when the climber is up at the top of the bridge.

- E. A Member is to be stationed at the bottom of the bridge to define an appropriate "rockfall zone" and ensure it is maintained, that the climber is securely attached to the belay rope (if the climber is starting at the bottom), to provide general climbing technique information to the climber (if the climber starts at the bottom), and that proper equipment is worn by the climber.

## IX. Ascending Process (Rope and Cable Ladder)

- A. Once a participant acquires a helmet, gloves, and an ascending system they may rig onto a vacant rope after yelling "on rope".
- B. Any Non-Member's attachment must be inspected by A Member before they are allowed to begin the act of ascending the rope.
- C. Any first time participant or anyone needing instruction is assisted by A Member:
  - 1. The rigging of the rope is explained.
  - 2. The rigging, operation, and behavior specific to their knots or ascending device is explained and/or demonstrated.
  - 3. The system of Call Commands (pg 10) is explained.
  - 4. If necessary the participant is talked through the climb.
- E. The participant performs the climb. Anyone having difficulty is assisted by A Member.
- F. Upon completing the climb the participant derigs, finishes the required call commands (pg 10) and moves away from the drop.
- G. A participant's climb may be critiqued at his time if any incorrect practices were observed:
  - 1. technique of climb
  - 2. hand placement
  - 3. use of calls
  - 4. etc.

## X. General

- A. 1-2 Members at the top and 1-2 Members at the bottom of the bridge can satisfactorily ensure all of the above requirements are followed.

B. Generally, 2-3 ropes are rigged for rappellers and 2-3 ropes are rigged for ascending (the rappelling ropes are opposite the ascending ropes on the bridge so as to group the similar activities).

C. Weather: "Bridge Sessions" are safely held in most weather conditions (cold, rain, snow, sleet, wind). We will not hold a bridge session in hazardous weather (lightning storm, tornado, hurricane, or any other condition which would put participants at risk).

D. "Bridge Session" times have generally been every Friday afternoon while school is in session. We have started around 2pm and end 7pm (at dark in the Fall and Winter).

E. None of the participants will be allowed to climb on any of the nearby structures (buildings, bridge columns, etc.).

F. Any Member or Perspective Member of The VPI Cave Club that does not abide by these policies or any other policy outlined in The VPI Cave Club Constitution and By-Laws will be disciplined according to The VPI Cave Club Constitution and By-Laws. Any other participant at the bridge not yet affiliated with The VPI Cave Club will be asked to leave the bridge and not to return if any infraction of this policy takes place.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

A. The Vice-President of The VPI Cave Club is elected every spring by the voting members of the VPI Cave Club. All voting members passed the Membership Requirements set by The Club. The Vice-President historically has been someone who the Club feels can safely & properly train new individuals and introduce them to caving. This person does not necessarily know everything about vertical techniques but has a competent knowledge, constructive attitude, and can effectively show & teach by providing a safe learning environment, proper techniques, and proper equipment.

B. The Training Program that prepares persons for Full Membership in The Club is founded on the use of a vertical practice area. We feel that The Bridge offers the best educational possibilities: controlled working environment, ease of access to top & bottom of structure, ease for talking to sometimes large-groups of people who need to observe as well as actively take part, it allows for a great number of ropes to be rigged at one time to facilitate efficiency and great activity, and lastly (but importantly) allows us to be visible to the students on campus. We estimate that 50%-70% of all the new Cave Club Members find out about us by seeing us there.

C. We realize how much Virginia Tech has attributed to the growth and success of The VPI Cave Club since its conception as a Charter Member of The National Speological Association in 1942. While we were allowed to use the bridge we presented a safe, clean, and positive image for Virginia Tech which we feel would continue if allowed once again to use the bridge.

## BELAY CALLS

When tossing a rope down a drop:

Rope	(wait for answer)
Clear	(People below are out of way and rope may be tossed)

Rappelling:

Ready to Rappel	(rappeller ready to start rappel)
Belay On	(belayer is <u>ready</u> for rappeler to start)
Rappelling	(rappeler is starting rappel)
Rappel Away	(belayer understands rappeler has started)

Down	(rappeler is on bottom and belay is off)
Off Rope	(rappeler is no longer on rope, <u>he or she is out of rock fall zone</u> , and next person may rig in)

Prussiking:

Off Rope	(prussiker has reached top, <u>he or she is away from edge of drop</u> , and next person may rig in)
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Climbing: (CABLE LADDER OR ROCKFACE)

Ready to Climb	(climber is ready to start ascent or descent)
Belay On	(belayer is <u>ready</u> to belay the climber)
Climbing	(climber is starting climb)
Climb Away	(final confirmation by belayer)

Tension	(climber wants support of rope for a maneuver where he thinks he might fall or there is too much slack)
Slack	(climber wants some slack in the rope)
Falling	(climber has fallen)

Off Belay	(climber no longer needs belay)
Belay Off	(belayer no longer assumes responsibility for climber)
Off Rope	(climber is no longer rigged into rope and <u>is away from edge of drop</u> )

Others:

Rock	(A <u>rock or other object</u> has been dropped or kicked loose down a drop)
Equipment	(equipment will be sent down the drop. One should wait for a reply of Clear before sending it down.)

All other talking, by both the climbers and the rest of the party, should be kept at a minimum; especially where echo of sound absorption by mud, etc., makes communication difficult.

## Trip Report: New Starnes

On Saturday, November 21, 1992, Dave Colatosti, Kirk Digby, Doug Bruce, Sue Setzler, Paul Gillis, and myself went surveying in New Starnes. It was a good way to start Thanksgiving break. I thought it was pretty fun. I thought I'd write about it. I've got nothing better to do.

The trip began for me the night before, when Kirk and myself were sitting around after the party trying to convince each other not to caving tomorrow: "If you wimp out, I'll back you up!"

Unfortunately, suffering that morning from that judgment impairment that affects people when they have not had enough sleep, or when they've just smoked enough dope to get the entire population of Africa uncontrollably laughing, we decided to go caving. So, we packed our crap, and in true expeditious form, we arrived at signout 20 minutes after our "proposed" meeting time. Fortunately, Kirk and myself were not alone in our lethargic style - we were the first people there from our trip. I love it when everyone is operating on "Caver 'Standard Time'!"

After some early morning cholesterol at Hardee's, and changing clothes in the rain, we finally made it underground! Soon thereafter, we got a little "warm-up exercise" in the two hour Humble Pie crawl. The crawl is not that bad anymore, after some larger cavers went through it with excavating equipment. However, it still is "fun".

One of the first features you see upon entering the New Section is some lovely looking breakdown and mud, set against a flowstone wall waterfall. At this point, called "Andrew's Dice and Clay", we split up into two survey crews. Doug, Sue, and Kirk headed to the passage on top of the waterfall. Dave, Paul, and myself set out surveying down through the mud and rock breakdown pile, which seems to be a lot more mud than rock. Needless to say, once we passed down through this breakdown pile drop, known as "Kirk's Chasm", we were slimed!

However, going through Kirk's Chasm was worthwhile. At the bottom is a large room, with a fast flowing stream. We followed the stream a little ways through a 20' crawl that left nothing but our torsos dry (but at least washed the mud off us), and then entered this beautiful, large trunk passage. The passage is tall and narrow, with lots of mud covered chert on the sides, and the stream on the bottom. Paul named the place "Chert River Canyon". Unfortunately for Paul and myself, Dave and Kirk had



scooped this passage a year earlier, but it was close enough to virgin for me.

Several hours, several survey stations, and several hundred feet later, we reached the end the canyon: a sump. No one felt like pushing the sump, so we turned around and went back. Back up to the top of Kirk's Chasm (and once again slimed!), I (the official trip wimp) prodded us to leave the cave instead of scoopin' some booty. After we got out, as I stood by Dave's car, admiring the silhouette of the hillsides against the night sky, and drinking the world's best beer - beer someone else bought, I was proud to be the trip wimp!

Dave Warren

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## The Pusher

"Hey Patty, we have tight lead we want you to check out." Those words provoke the same sort of fevered addiction that a \$500,000,000.00 lottery would. (yeah, right--ed) Until the lead fizzles out or until the numbers are drawn there is always the hope of hitting the jackpot and finding the gold mine. It's amazing what some people will go through ( no pun intended) to find virgin passage. (you mean, like, a virgin?--ed) "If only I could (pant, pant) move forward another two inches (grunt, grunt) I could see around this next bend."

One beautiful, sunny, warm summer day, Dave Colatosti, Mike Mike Mike, and I decided to head out towards Newcastle and explore several small caves, one of which had a tight lead in it. As we were ridedriving along Dave kept sighing and saying things like "Gee, it sure is a shame to spend a sunny day like this underground." or "Hey, I just got my rock climbing shoes fixed. We could stop by Fool's Face on the way." Of course, Mike Mike Mike and I knew not to give Dave the slightest bit of encouragement and eventually we pulled into Mr. Sizer's yard. After chatting for a while, Mr Sizer's son, Andy, decided to join us while we poked into a few holes.

First, we went to a fairly small cave with a rat shit dig at the end of it. It didn't seem to be blowing any air and we could hear Mr. Sizer on his tractor mowing hay above us. We backed out of it and after emptying rat pellets from our shirts we proceeded to "The Hole That Opened Up A Few Years Back". After climbing down between roots with dirt clods still hanging to them I could see the entrance. It reminded me of Floyd Collins' story. There was one big rock hanging over the entrance sort of wedged in place with a couple of smaller rocks. It looked as though the wind could blow it down. Dave assured us it was okay as long as we didn't touch it! So we slithered into the cave one by one, trying to ignore the hairy, mushy, dead smelling stuff we had to crawl through to avoid touching the entrance rock.

Just inside the entrance was standing room and I looked in awe at the roots. They came straight down from the ceiling to the floor like the poles on a merry-go-round. I had this (almost) irresistible urge to reach out and thunk one of them with my finger. They had the same sort of fatal attraction that a "wet paint" sign has. I shook myself from my reverie and moved into a more stable part of the cave. We crawled and duck-walked through most of the cave. Towards one end of it I saw something I've never seen in the short time I've been caving. There was a pretty section with some

formations, but the entire area looked like it was covered with a swarm of snakes! Long brown snakes were coiled around the formations and entangled with each other. After looking closer I realized they were just roots. It's too bad Fifi wasn't on this trip.

After looking at some very discouraging high leads it was time to get down to business: the tight lead. It was long and narrow with several S-shaped curves in it, and about 10 to 15 feet ahead it curved out of sight to the left. It was blowing a good bit of air, and it was heading towards a very well-known, very vertical cave in the area. The fever was beginning to come upon us. The first curve was the trickiest, and after we all tried it, Dave found a position that seemed to work. (Patty, were we supposed to put a comment about your cute ass here? I can never remember where the cute ass comments are supposed to go.--ed) So after taking off all my clothes, in Dave went. It was a very tricky section and I knew Dave better remember exactly how he got in there or I'd never get him out. ooopppps! Wrong Story. Sorry Folks. ...And now back to our regularly scheduled article... So after taking off my shoes and my jacket, in I went. It was a very tricky section and I knew I had to remember exactly how I got into it or I would never get out. Those of you who have pushed tight leads know what it's like. Part of your mind is concentrating on what you're doing as you move inch by inch, and the other part of your mind is thinking of what would have to be done to get you out if you got stuck. It is usually more of an emotional, rather than physical, drain.

Finally I was almost to the bend at the end. In my mind I could see huge walking passage leading to a 100 foot virgin pit. I got to a place where I could stand and slowly peeked around the corner. The passage closed into a rabbit hole, not much bigger than a basketball. Sigghhhh... I crawled back out of the squeeze, getting stuck at the end till Mike started to sweat and then we left the cave.

Why do we keep pushing tight leads when they don't usually go? I suppose it's for the same reason that people keep buying lottery tickets when they don't usually win. Though the odds are slim, it's not impossible and I figure it's almost my turn to win. Next time it'll go, I can feel it.

Pusher

## What kind of caver are you?

Have you ever wondered, "Just what kind of caver am I?" If you have, chances are that you were under the influence of some strong hallucinogen. That aside, I was bothered by this question, and spent several intense seconds in deep thought on this subject.

Hence I have come up with a simple quiz designed to answer the question. "What kind of caver are you?":

- A. You usually go caving...
  - 1. about once a week.
  - 2. about once a year.
  - 3. at gunpoint.
- B. Your favorite cave..
  - 1. is sufficiently challenging to keep most "nerd cavers" away.
  - 2. is easy to get around in, but not a "tourist cave".
  - 3. serves beer.
- C. Which source of light do you most frequently use when caving?
  - 1. Carbide or Electric Head Lamp
  - 2. Matches
  - 3. Television
- D. Which of the following rappel devices do you use most frequently?
  - 1. Rappel Rack
  - 2. Figure Eight
  - 3. La-Z-Boy recliner
- E. The average challenging passage you encounter involves...
  - 1. exposure, tightness, and/or tough climbing.
  - 2. crawling.
  - 3. a bar door.
- F. In your opinion, the most important equipment to bring with you when caving is...
  - 1. at least three sources of light.
  - 2. a short, easy cave.
  - 3. an excuse to stay above ground.
- G. The last time you surveyed "virgin passage" was...
  - 1. less than a year ago.
  - 2. more than a year ago.
  - 3. the night you, in a drunken stupor, had an encounter with a girl in junior high school.

H. The last time you explored a tight cave passage was...

1. less than a year ago.
2. more than a year ago.
3. at birth.

I. In your opinion, a good cave entrance is...

1. Located fairly far away from parking, so as not to be found by many "nard cavers". However, more importantly, so you can do things such as go on an 126 hour stream-crawl dig trip and come out to find out that 74 inches of snow has fallen while you were underground and the outside temperature has dropped to 38.5 degrees below zero, which caused all your wet clothes to instantly become sheets of solid ice, lowering your body temperature to 32 degrees, which caused all your limbs to become immobile, so that you had no choice but to roll on the ground back to your car, which would not have not been so bad if you were not blind due to the snow and rolled of a 30' cliff, which also would not have been so bad if you did not have time to cross the farmer's bull field, where you were gored several times by what appeared to be musk oxen in heat, and then of course your battery was dead and you had to rip down a local power line with your teeth to jump start your car.... (Dave apparently has a death wish--ed.
2. Located fairly close to parking and easy to get to, so as to avoid any male musk oxen in heat, if nothing else.
3. Filled in with concrete.

J. A cave trip you take should be...

1. challenging and exciting.
2. enjoyable and relaxing.
- 3 a figment of your imagination.

Now add up your score.

If your score is

10-15  
15-25  
25-30  
above 30

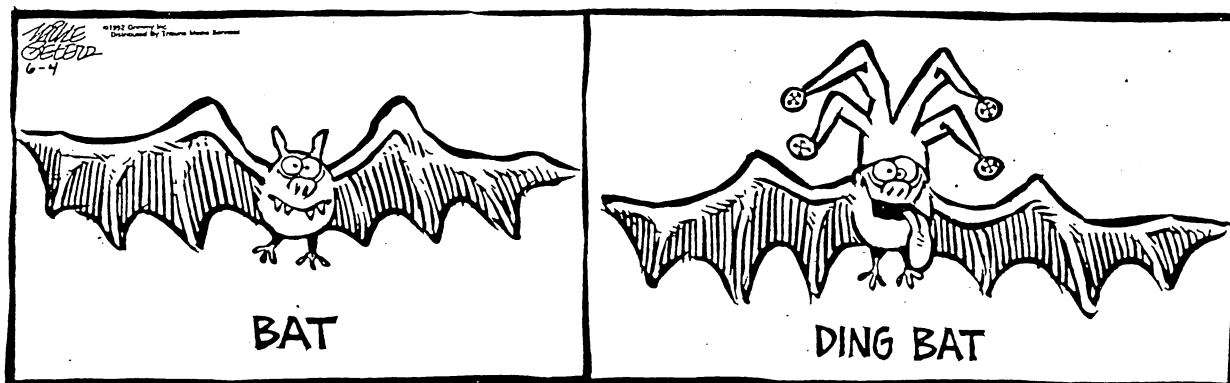
You are

Lying  
A boring person  
Legally dead  
A moron

Unless you are a moron, you're a good caver. If you are a moron, you would not be able to find a cave anyway.

Dave Warren

## MOTHER GOOSE and GRIMM



## "Quotable" Quotes

L.B. Roomnnnaaaalllddd Aaannnnnn...RONALD ANN!!!!

E.L. to  
Everyone Everybody is so used to the penis floating around that it's not a big deal anymore.

S.R. to K.T. Wonder whose? She's not been ribbed for mine in a while.

K.D. to S.R. She thinks you're a bad influence on me.

B.B. hyuuu hyuuyyyuh huuuyyyy huh.

D.C. I have no money, I have no license; why should I fix it?

E.C. Does this mean we're not watching the program?

D.C. My transmission is making this funny noise...what do you think it could be?

B.A. to  
K.D. & R.T. I'm taking 2 guys home tomorrow and they're paying me 20 bucks a pop.

K.P. to K.T. I'm ribbed for his pleasure.

M.F. Guess how much my phone bill was? He'd better be worth it.

Everyone to M.H. Are you back in school again?

J.M. Scott...could you give me a little light down here...

C.Z. I turned in my mommyhood for the night.

P.B. Rinka rinka rriinnnnkkkkkaa rinkarinkarinkarinkarinkarinka

## From the Sign-Out

VPI Cave Club logged 2069 caver-hours between 9-9-92 to 11-15-92.

Clover Hollow	K. Digby, S. Rapier, J. Maynard B. Penhallegon	Stimpy you idiot! You are standing in rock fall!
Spring Hollow	M. Fisher, M. Eisenbies, P. Kirchman, J. Savage, C. (J.) Brown	Little furry bats with whipped cream hats.
Grimrock	S. Setzler, D. Bruce, K. Takamizawa	Grim... Very grim.
Banes	E. Fortney, P. Kitchin, G. Maals, B. Huppert, M. Torrence	Banes Addiction (Great trip. They're hooked.)
Starnes	K. Digby, C. (not Jake) Brown, D. Colatosti	You can't imagine what kind of trip it wasn't.
Rt. 604 cleaning and caving	Many	The cave whipped out our brain.
Clover Hollow	C. Zokaite, K. Digby, A. Stirgwolt, B. Cosby	(All cable ladders) Cable ladders: Not just for breakfast anymore.
Tawneys and Links	S. Wells, K. Smith, J. Pugh 12 Scouts	Scouts and more. None died; or did they?

**VPI Cave Club**  
**P.O. Box 558**  
**Blacksburg, VA 24063-0558**