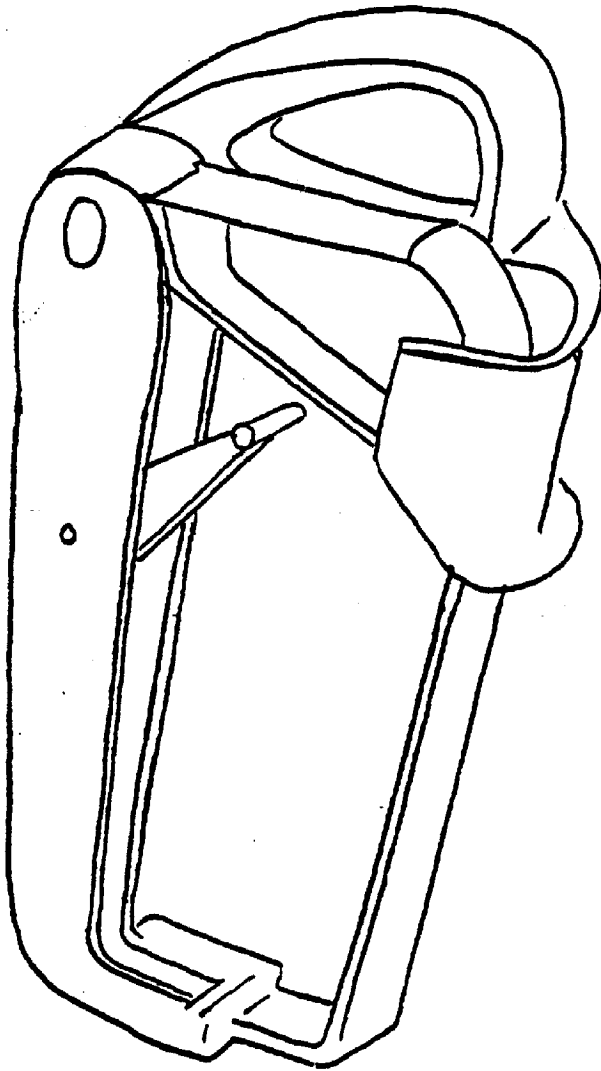
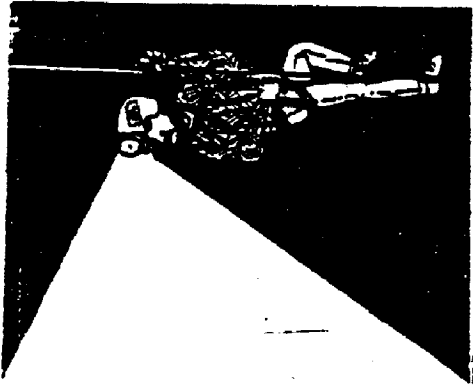


# BIRMINGHAM GROTTO NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

April 1983



Jumar  
/'jü-mär' n

The act of tarnishing the  
good name of a person or  
the Jewish faith

the 5th and 6th months  
Muhamadan year

The Birmingham Grotto Newsletter is published approximately twelve times a year by the Birmingham Grotto of the National Speleological Society.

Subscription and Membership fees are now due. Annual subscription rates are included in the \$4 membership fee. Outside of the Birmingham area, the subscription rate is only \$2. All are prorated from October.

Editors: Lynn McGill & Nancy Boice  
P.O. Box 55102  
Birmingham, Al. 35255

The officers for the 1982-83 year:

President - Mike McEachern

Vice Pres. - Jay Clark

Secretary - Nancy Boice

Treasurer - Edna Caudle

The grotto meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Avondale Library.

The meeting after the meeting is at Burly Earl's around 9:00.

\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*\*

All Grotto and ACS mail should be sent to our new P.O. Box 55102

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Calendar :

May 21 - B'ham Grotto 25th Anniversary party. Contact Gary Barnes 956-0806

May 6-8 - CAVES 83. Contact Bill Bussey, P.O. Box 311, Stanley, NC 28164.

June 27-July 1 - NSS Convention, Elkins, W. Va.

Aug. 5-7 - SERA Cave Carnival. Contact Jeanne Fridmore at 205-852-9549 or the NSS Office at 205-852-1300

Minutes of March 7, 1983

Mike McEachern began the meeting with a welcome to guests; Mike Hendrick and Ed O'Connor. There were 31 grotto members present.

Edna gave the treasures report. The grotto has \$1133.69 in savings and \$205.62 in checking.

Old Business:

Gary Barnes filled us in on plans for the 25th Anniversary party. A date was tentatively set for Saturday May 21 at 6 pm. It will be held at either the Elks Club or the Jewish Community Center. A tentative price for the meal plus beer has been set for \$5.00. Committees were set up as follows:

- 1) FOOD-Milo Washington, David Wright, Frank Piazza, Margaret and Frank Ray, Donna Matthews
- 2) PUBLICATION-Jay Clark, Joe Domnonovich, Nancy Boice
- 3) ANNOUNCEMENT-Gary Barnes, Eric Scheidenhelm, James Kimbrell, Dave Caudle, Nancy Boice
- 4) T-SHIRT- Greg and Lynn McGill, Les Stubbs, Alfred Smith, Dottie Alexander, Les Buryn
- 5) FINANCE- Edna Caudle, John Hart
- 6) PROGRAM- Jay Clark, Joe Domnonovich

New Business:

Mike Announced a caver get-together in North Carolina May 7-8.

Greg announced the ACS meeting is set for Sunday March 20 at the Anniston Museum of Natural History.

Lynn announced that the newsletter once again needs articles.

Frank asked if anyone knew of a cave off of Shelby County 91

Les Buryn wants to get together an order of topo maps.

The Huntsville Cave Carnival will be held the weekend of Aug 6-7.

Trip Reports:

Les Buryn reported on the grotto trip to Ledbedder's Cave.

Jay and Walter went to Maxwell Mt. and found a new pit measuring 101' deep, Jaw Cave.

Frank Piazza reported on Bootleggers.

Alfred Smith reported on a trip to his favorite cave, Guess Creek.

Milo reported on a trip to look for a cave beyond Anderson's. However, no cave was found.

Grotto Trip:

Dave Howell will lead a ridgeway in the Paint Rock Valley Sat. March 26. Leaves the Krystal at 6 am.

No program was given due to the length of the business meeting.

*Nancy Boice*

BUSINESS

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The Alabama Cave Survey held it's annual meeting March 20th at the Anniston Museum of Natural History. Map Updates through ACS # 2258 were handed out at the meeting. All paid up '83 members who didn't make the meeting will receive theirs' by mail. Three Executive Committe members were rotated with Steve Attaway, Bill Torode, and David Teal filling the offices. The main topic of discussion centered around producing an optional location guide by latitude and longitude.

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The 1983 SERA Winter Business Meeting was held March 26th at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Officers for the 1983 calendar year are: Gerald Moni, President Charles Clark is Executive Vice President, Jeanne Pridmore is Secretary/ Treasurer and Jeff Sims is the SERA Correspondent. Dan Twilley gave a slide show on last summer's Mt. Thor expedition. Charles Faulkner of the University of Tennessee Dept. of Archeology spoke on the recent discoveries of historic cave drawings in an eastern Tennessee cave.

---

lman

The Birmingham Chapter of the Alabama Conservancy sponsors its Annual Cahaba Rally at Oak Mountain State Park on Sunday, June 12, 1983, featuring local country/western and bluegrass music, with traditional buck dancing. The gate opens at 11:00 a.m. and the entertainment begins at 1:00 p.m. Admission into the Cahaba Rally is \$3.00 for adults; children under twelve will be admitted free.

Yvonne Braswell  
324-5089

Debra Gordon-Hellman  
871-0389

Cissy Bennett  
879-6368

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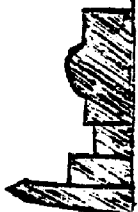
*The Grotto trip for April will be to Eudy Cave in the Newsome Sinks area. Meet at the Krystal in Tarrant at 7:00 on Sun. April 17<sup>th</sup>.*

A Tale of Intrigue  
And Espionage

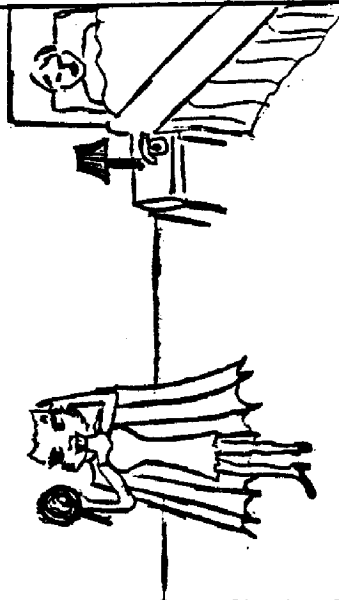
STARRING



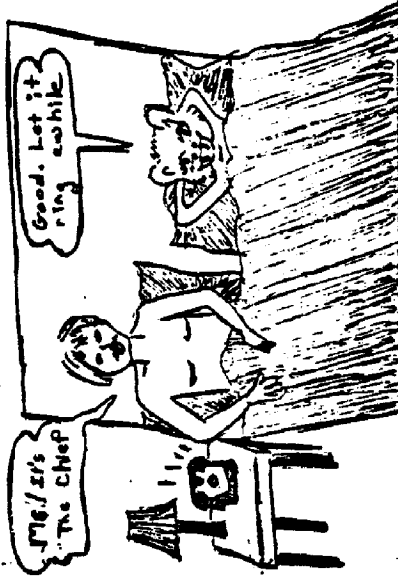
Bertha  
Bat



Must be Importantly Hewants me at  
the White House now.



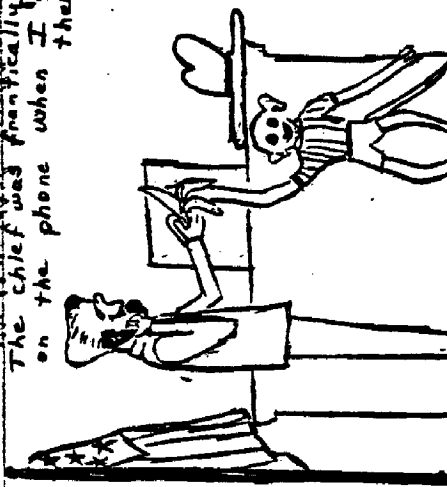
I was in bed when the Red Phone rang.  
My Secretary jumped in a-larm.



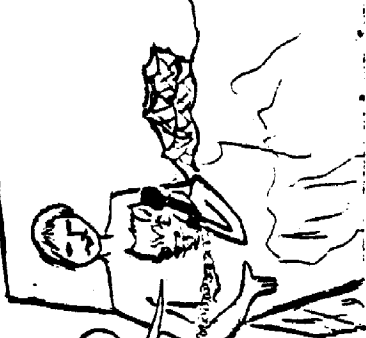
Mr. /s's  
The chief

Good. Let it  
ring awhile

The chief was practically walking  
on the phone when I got  
there.



Bertha  
Bat, Here



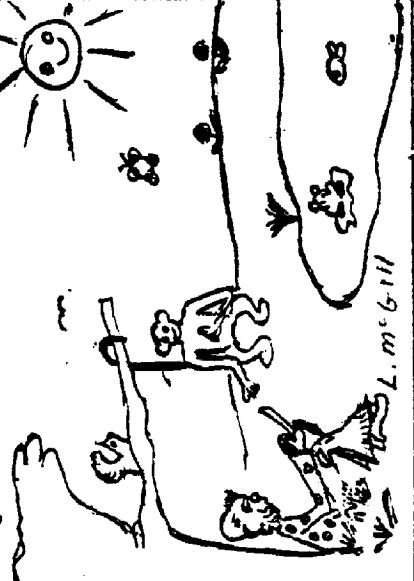
Bertha Bat, Thank God you made  
it. The ENEMY is striking from  
within our very own borders!



My sonar led me directly to a large cave system...

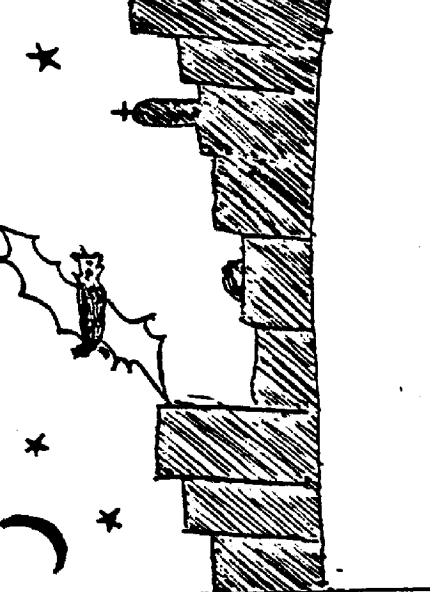


And once again, a singular event changes the course of history.



L. M. '611

I began searching for their chemistry lab.



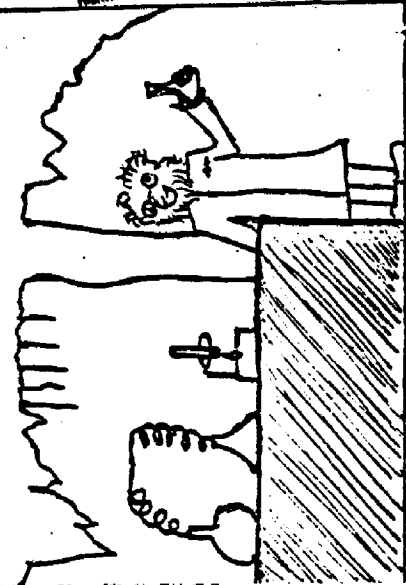
I was moments too late. A bus load was headed for the city water supply.



They are planning to slip a mind altering drug into the water supply. We would have a whole nation of peace loving hippies!



Just as I suspected, the chemistry lab was deep within the cave.



Bat of the Month  
by John Marshall

Homerunus baseballii: St. Louis slugger bat

**Description:** Forearm 950-1000mm: wingspread, 0mm. Tough skin that can withstand being hit by hard projectiles hurled at speeds in excess of 90 mph. Color varies from off-white to black. All individuals display a circular spot in the middle of the body known by the technical name of the "trademark" (Ruth, 1932).

This is one of two known species of wingless bat. The other species is the cricket bat (Crickettus britannicus) which is native to the British Isles and was introduced to many former British colonies (Mantle, 1957).

**Distribution:** H. baseballii is found throughout Alabama and actually ranges over most of the western hemisphere. It has also been introduced to Japan (McArthur, 1945). It is a spring and summer resident in Alabama (Winches, 1980).

**Habitat:** Summer habitat of the St. Louis slugger bat is quite varied. They can be found frequently at empty lots, city parks, and even large stadiums (Di Maggio, 1948). During winter they usually hibernate alone or in small colonies in locker rooms, hall closets, and the stockrooms of sporting goods stores (Aaron, 1972).

**Remarks:** The St. Louis slugger is one of the few species of bats to be domesticated (the other being its wingless cousin, C. britannicus). (Steinbrenner, 1979). The results have not always been positive.

Although this is generally a playful species which can be handled easily by a child, they can be dangerous. Unscrupulous individuals often train these bats as dangerous "attack bats", which are used to help perpetrate muggings and assaults (Baxley, 1974). When apprehended, the owner is only arrested while the unfortunate bat is destroyed.

Even when playing, these bats, due to their extremely tough skin, can be dangerous if they hit someone. Most owners wear hard plastic helmets when playing with their bats (Mays, 1968).

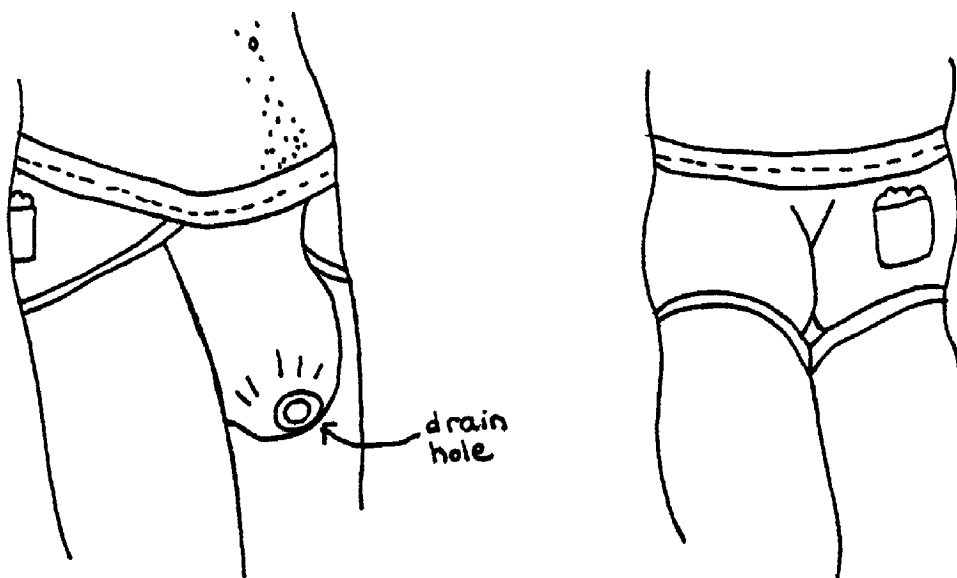
If one is attacked by an attack bat, here are steps to follow as recommended by authorities on H. baseballii behaviour and biology:

- 1) Run like hell.
- 2) Cover your head with your arms and pray someone rescues you before you are killed.
- 3) Scream bloody murder and pray someone hears you and rescues you before you are killed.
- 4) If you have a weapon (knife, gun, brick, tire iron, etc.), use it to kill the owner, as a St. Louis slugger bat is harmless without its master's control.

You've seen the speleo-brassiere for women, now comes the all new SPELEO JOCK BRIEF for the macho male caver.

front view

back view



HIGH FASHION EQUIPMENT FOR MEN IN CAVING

- Solid support, tested to 2,000 lb.
- Snug comfy fit, keeps out dirt and grime
- Padded to add that extra attractive bulge
- D rings for dangles
- Pocket for extra toilet paper
- Drain hole for rhythmic rope emission

THE SPELEO JOCK-BRIEF

Know Your Terminology  
Professor Emeritus, Lee Stubbs

ascender

- the south end of a north-bound mule.
- to rise from a lower level or degree

pack

- to carry a gun (packin' iron)
- something you have to do in order to move
- a full set of playing cards
- a group of cub scouts, or animals that run together
- to compress
- what the dentist does to your mouth
- depart

traverse

- the opposite of reverse, perverse
- a formal denial of a matter of fact alledged by the opposite part of a legal pleading
- a gallery or loft of communication from side to side in a large building
- zig-zag course of a sail ship in contrary winds
- go against or act in opposition to
- a perverse trans sexual

repel

- to resist or drive back (fight off)
- to cause aversion (disgust)
- to turn away

formations

- the act of giving shape or taking form (development)
- arrangement of a body or group of people (marching in formation; flying in formation)
- any igneous, sedimentary, or metamorphic rock represented as a unit

knots

- any of several sand pipers that breed in the Arctic and winter in parts of the old or new World.
- a tight constriction of sense of constriction (knot in stomach)
- a bond of union, esp. the marriage bond
- one nautical mile
- the base of a branch enclose in the stem from which it rises

lip

- either of two fleshy folds that surround the mouth
- back talk - sass
- labium
- the slanted upper edge of the mouth of an organ flue pipe
- short spout on a pitcher
- sharp cutting edge on the end of a auger

chicken straps

- straps used to tie chickens down with

sling

- to hurl using a sweeping motion
- instrument for throwing rocks
- a triangular bandage used to support a broken limb
- a leather strap used to carry a rifle
- an alcoholic drink made of whisky, brandy, or especially gin.

rope

- the act of lassoing a cow
- a hangmans noose
- special techniques or procedures (showing him the ropes)
- to cordon off an area

passage

- the act of moving from one place to another, especially by sea or air
- dying
- to enact a legislative measure
- short section of a musical composition
- a bowel movement

pit

- the hard thing at the center of a peach
- scar left by acne
- a type of bulldog bred for fighting
- place for race cars to gas up
- large open grill for bar-b-qing

rack

- medieval torture device
- accute suffering ie (racked with pain)
- a pair of antlers
- to set up balls on a billard table
- part of a steering gear (rack & pinion)
- the gait of a horse
- forequarter of mutton (rack of lamb)

carabiner

- soldier armed with a carbine
- a native of one of hundreds of islands in the Caribbean Sea

box

- to crate or pack in a box
- a method of fist fighting using gloves
- to mix by pouring back and forth between two containers
- an evergreen schrub
- small compartment for spectators (ballgame theatre)

light

- not heavy
- what Hank Williams saw
- a beer with 1/3 less calories

jumar

- the act of tarnishing the good name of a person of the Jewish faith
- the 5th. and 6th mos. of the Muhammadan year.

# The Heavenly Times

Issue 23

November, 1982

Throughout the millennia of galaxies the struggle between good and evil goes on. But whenever the night seems darkest, a ray of light always breaks through....



Spread out and search the words and caves! Find him or our heads will forfeit!



I hope they don't find me under this bush!



THERE HE IS! GET HIM!

Faster, Thras! Faster!

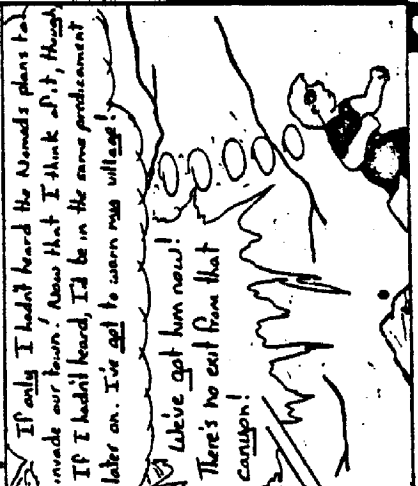


FASTER! GET THAT NANNINI!

They're getting closer! I have to hide!

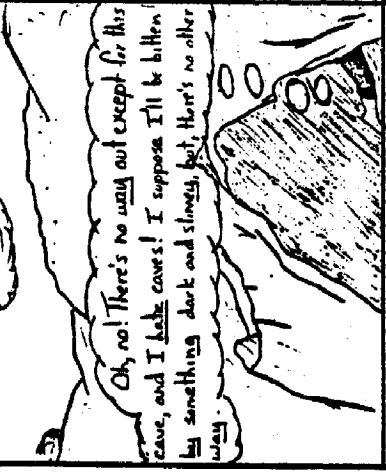


Gulp! I think they found me!



If only I hadn't heard the Nomads plans to invade our town! Now that I think of it, though if I hadn't heard, it'd be in the same predicament later on. I've got to warn my village!

We've got him now! There's no exit from that canyon!

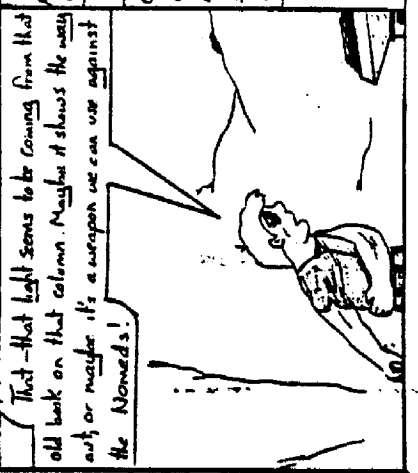


Oh, no! There's no way out except for this cave, and I hate caves! I suppose I'll be bitten by something dark and slinky, but, there's no other way.



Down, down, Thras goes, until finally...

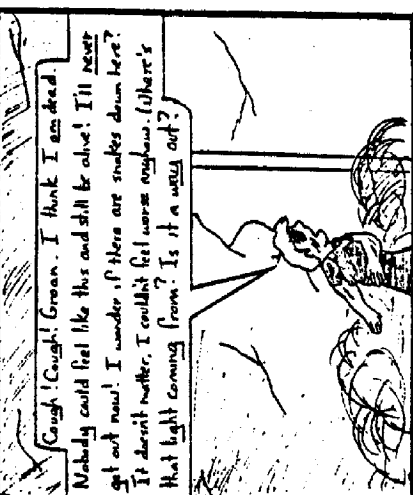
Wump! Am I dead?



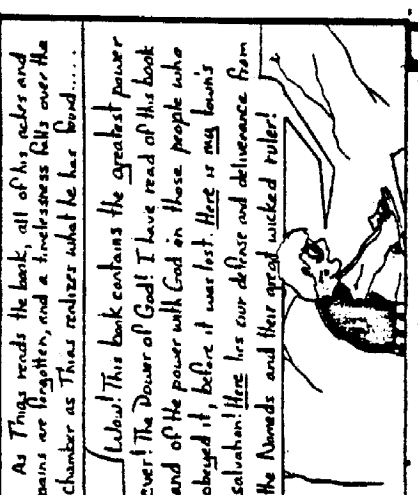
That - that light seems to be coming from that old book on that column. Maybe it shows the way out, or maybe it's a weapon we can use against the Nomads!



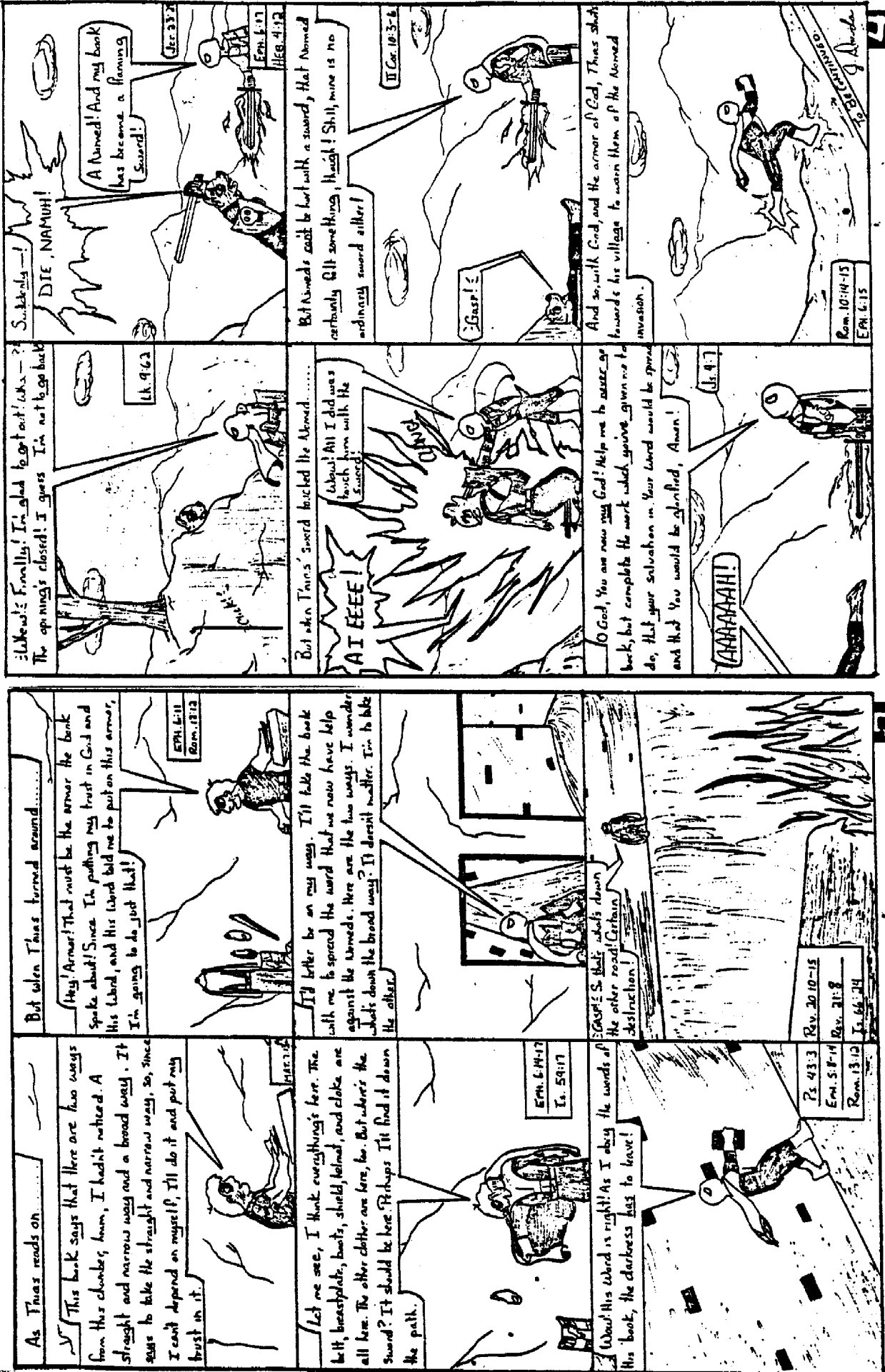
Rats! I can't see! Thras, old boy, I do believe you're lost! I'll never get to my village in time now! WAAAA! PPS!



Caught! Caught! Green. I think I am dead. Nobody could feel like this and still be alive! I'll never get out now! I wonder if there are snakes down here? It doesn't matter, I couldn't feel warm anymore. (There's that light coming from? Is it a way out?)



As Thras reads the book, all of his aches and pains are forgotten, and a kindness falls over the chamber as Thras realizes what he has found... (Below! This book contains the greatest power ever! The Power of God! I have read of this book and of the power with God in those people who obeyed it, before it was lost. Here is my town's salvation! Here lies our deliverance and deliverance from the Nomads and their great wicked ruler!



As Thas reads on.....

This book says that there are two ways from this clutter, hum, I hadn't noticed. A straight and narrow way and a broad way. It says to take the straight and narrow way, so since I can't depend on myself, I'll do it and put my trust in it.

Let me see, I think everything's here. The belt, breastplate, boots, shield, helmet, and cloak are all here. The other clutter are here, too. But where's the sword? It should be here. Perhaps I'll find it down the path.

But when Thas turned around.....  
"Hey! Armor! That must be the armor the book spoke about! Since I'm putting my trust in God and His Word, and His Word told me to put on this armor, I'm going to do just that!"

But when Thas' sword braced the Nomed.....  
"Aieee!"  
"About! All I did was touch him with the sword!"

But when Thas' sword braced the Nomed.....  
"O God, You are now my God! Help me to never go back, but complete the work which you've given me to do, that your salvation in Your Word would be spread and that You would be glorified, Amen!"

And so, with God, and the armor of God, Thas strove forward to his village to warn them of the Nomed invasion.

Subtly...!  
DIE, NAMUH!

A Nomed! And my book has become a flaming sword!

But Nomed's can't be hurt with a sword, that Nomed certainly got something, though! Still, mine is no ordinary sword either!

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P.O. 55102  
Birmingham, Alabama 35255

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Dave & Edna Caudle  
Rt. 1 714 Millcreek Rd.  
Warrior, AL. 35173

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PLEASE PAY DUES.