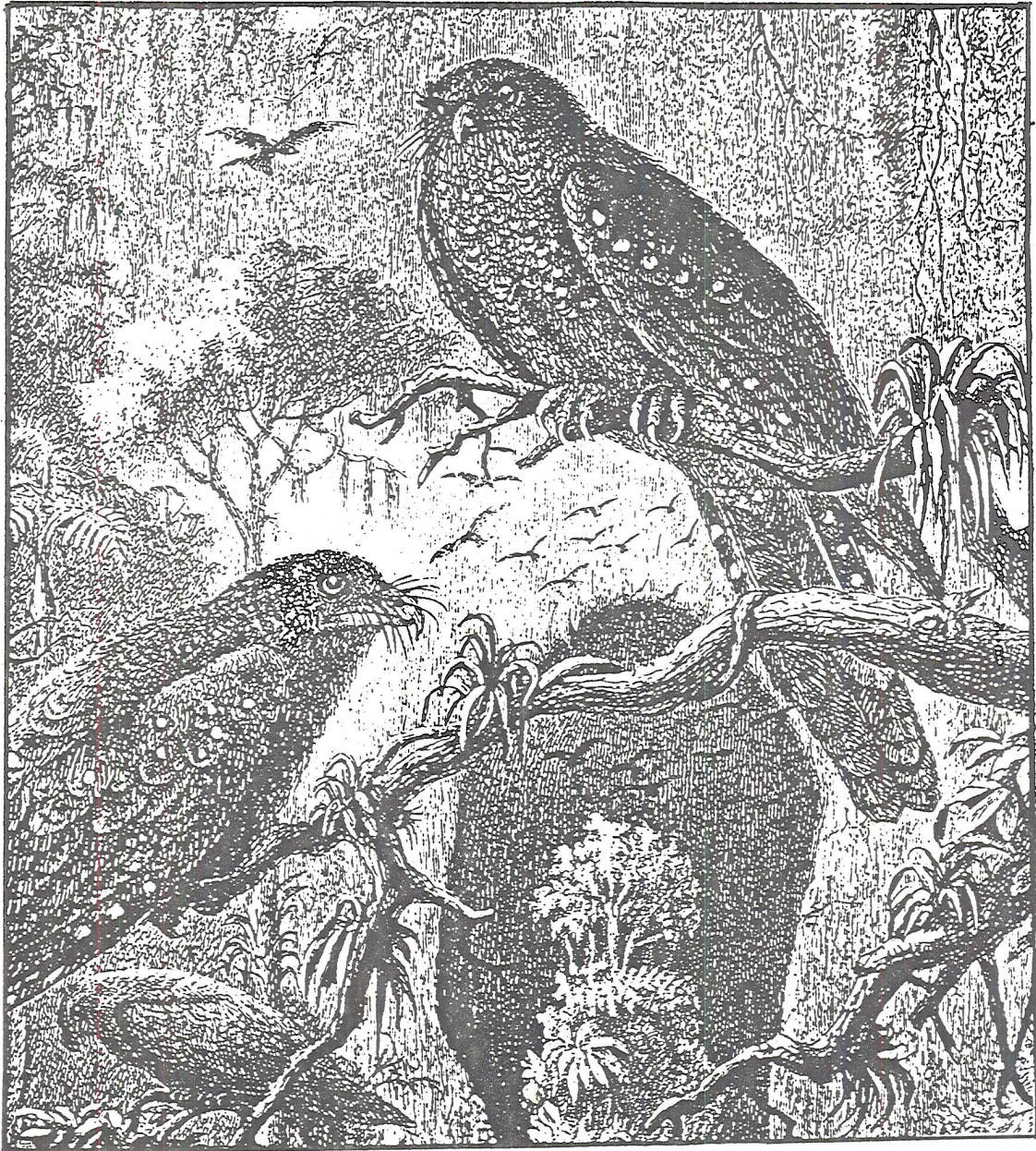


# IMPERIAL COLLEGE CAVING CLUB



## NEWSLETTER

No. 3/May '84.

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I.C. CAVING CLUB COMMITTEE 1983/84

President: Clive Orrock  
 Treasurer: Jennie Gilbert  
 Secretary: Debbie Armstrong  
 Tackle Officers: Steve Lane  
                   Mark Bown  
 Transport Officer:

WEEKLY MEETINGS are held on Wednesdays at 1.00pm. in the Union Lower Lounge, Imperial College Union, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB, (Telephone: 01-589-5111)

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1984 SUMMER TERM CAVING MEETS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Hut</u>	<u>Special Permits, etc.</u>
May 11-13	Yorkshire	Northern Pennine Club	Annual Dinner Meet
June 22-24	Mendips	Belfry (B.E.C.)	Otter Hole permit
July 1-15	Vercors(France)	Camping	
July 18 - Sept 18 (approx.)		I.C. Caving Club Expedition to Peru	

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Cover picture:

One of the few birds that can navigate in the dark by echo-location is the Guácharo or oilbird. The size of a crow with a wingspan of over a metre the guácharo, often erroneously called an owl ("lechusa") is found in Trinidad, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru. To help prevent their youngsters being enjoyed as a delicacy by Peruvians, oilbirds nest high on ledges in caves in lowland Peru such as La Cueva de las Lechusas near Tingo Maria (see article on Cavernas del Peru, page 12).

Picture from the South American Explorer, Number 10, June 1983.

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MENDIP (13th-15th January, 1984)by Neill Pattinson

## Members present:

Charlie, Chris Birk., Debbie, Steve, Mark, Chris C., Nigel, Helen, Dave Warrington, Malcolm, Cathy, Neill, Harry and Clog.

We waved goodbye to Clive around 6.00pm. We picked Malcolm up on the way to Bristol, where we tried a different chippie, the verdict - little or no improvement on the other place. Arrived at the Belfry with plenty of time for a few in the Hunters.

After breakfast Steve and a few passengers left for Bristol to pick up Chris and Helen. Chris had just arrived but Helen was nowhere to be seen. We wandered off into Bristol for an hour and picked Helen up on our return. Due to exceedingly heavy traffic on the way out of Bristol, the journey back to the Belfry took half an hour longer than usual.

Two trips were organised, Charlie, Helen, Malcolm, Harry and Dave down Longwood. The party walked and crawled down to the point at which the stream divides before beginning the trip back to the surface. On the way out Charlie and Malcolm, 'just for a little sport', went up and down the (very) wet chimney before returning to the surface and the five mile walk back to the van.

The remaining nine went on the Swildon's short round trip. Despite the high water, no problems were encountered until the fourth duck, where airspace was limited to a couple of centimetres. Debbie led the way, followed by Chris C., who had an interesting technique which involved holding his breath and then kicking and splashing until through. Cathy provided Debbie with a few anxious moments when she just vanished under water. The duck was then bailed and everyone else got through with no problem.

Above the 20' pitch Neill managed to get separated from the party and couldn't get out. Fifteen minutes later Debbie found him waiting at the junction between the wet and dry ways out. Twenty minutes later, everyone in the party was back at the van, just as the Longwood party arrived after their five mile walk.

After pushing the van backwards up a hill (due to a sudden fall of snow) from the chippie everyone settled into the Hunters for the evening.

Next morning few people felt like caving. Charlie and Dave went off to Swildons and went down to sump II and back; while Malcolm, Harry and Nigel walked to Eastwater and had a quick trip down to the bottom of the

pitch below the chimney. Most of the others went for a walk in the snow, by good fortune arriving at the Hunters in time for lunch. Over which there was a lively discussion on the taste of Tetley's Bitter.

As both caving trips were back at the Belfry early we left for London before dark and arrived at 7.00pm.

YORKSHIRE (26th-28th January, 1984)

by Dave Warrington

Wimpsoc's 2nd trip took us to the snow-bound wasteland of North Yorkshire. Since originality is not always our strongest point, we somehow managed to end up in Inglesports on Saturday morning, where beer money supplies were severely reduced.

Three trips were botched together in Kingsdale - King, Crescent and Bull. Steve 'I can get the van anywhere' Lane insisted on driving up a snow covered field to the farm to get permission for King and duly got the van stuck so person power was employed to escape the clutches of the ravaging snow drifts.

The 3 parties took their respective routes up the hillside, only to be confronted with various forms of inaccessible entrances. King and Bull were instantly given up in favour of a walk round Ingleton and a trip to Bernies - after a quick game of 'kiddies' in the snow. Meanwhile, back at Crescent the MEN were in action. Mark pointed to a seemingly random spot and said 'dig', so with bare hands and Simon's helmet we dug (and dug and dug....). 12ft later the Do It Yourself snow cave had to be abandoned to ensure a good nights drinking.

A very merry evening was to be had in the Marton Arms with many pints consumed. The entertainment consisted of drinking, dominoes, darts, drinking, pool and yet more drinking, with the odd pint available for anyone feeling thirsty. The van back to the NPC contained two distinct groups - those very pissed and attempting to sing, and those not so very pissed laughing at the rest of us.

Neill attempted to kill his last remaining brain cell through exposure by burying his head in an ice-filled puddle in the NPC car park. He was foiled by some heroes who rescued him (stupid buggers!) and propped him up over the sink, where an evenings drinks were duly returned to the outside world. We were all left with one unsolved mystery - did the chippie sell diced carrots?

Sunday saw a very apathetic bunch of cavers not knowing what to do.

We were leaderless since El Presidente was sitting half way up Cairngorm pondering over the delights of eating Chris Birkhead for his Sunday dinner. Eventually Uncle Charlie assumed command and led an oversized group of 8 down Longchurn and Alum. The remainder headed skywards to the slopes of Ingleborough for a session of polybagging, and got thoroughly soaked in doing so. The Alum party, due to size, didn't finish 'til after dark so the return to London was very late.

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SOUTH WALES (10th-12th February, 1984)

by Charlie Cawthorne

The ~~XXXXX~~ (deleted - may be associated with army types) clan gathered again to tackle the caves of S. Wales. The clan size meant that a hire car was required in addition to the van which Kath (J) had the dubious honour of driving. Having fought off the mass of bodies clammering to get the two remaining places in the car, Kath departed at speed with Mark, Dave Warrington and myself. All the way down the M4, the speedo sat at between 80 and 90 with the car sometimes taking Kath along instead of the other way around. Made it to Whitewalls in record time (at around 21.15), booked our bunks and descended to 'Bridge' to join the others who had left London sometime after us.

An early start on Saturday saw us on the way to Penwyllt at 8.00am. Three trips were sorted - the pre-arranged visit to DYO, a trip to Smith's Armoury and Top Entrance to Cwm Dwr. The Dan-y trip rapidly became an OFD I trip when an intermittent spout of water in DYO was conveniently mistaken as a "no go - its going to flood" signal by the over-cautious leader. However, the trip into OFD I made a reasonable substitute. The Top Entrance to Cwm Dwr trip was straightforward apart from the descent of the 35' climb into Maypole inlet - in the wrong place. The potholes in the main OFD streamway provided the usual amusement. The group going to Smith's progressed steadily before being forced to retreat at a waterfall near the Maypole Bridge. Retired to the Bridge End Inn for the remainder of Saturday evening expecting to find Clog but he was not there. Eventually found him sleeping off the dinner time alcohol when we returned to Whitewalls.

Later on Saturday night Clive Gardner (C.S.S.) suggested that we tried a 'Martyn Farr' type climb in Shattered Passage of Aggie. Some of us did with mixed results - see below.

Sunday saw the birth of the L.N.R.C. appreciation society (chaired by S. Seward - see him for membership) following Simon's trip down that cave.

5.

Harry, who had been down before, led the three man party (Spike made up that number) using an "Oh, I recognise that bit" after he had past it approach. Simon sang the praises of L.N.R.C. for the rest of the day. Chris B. and Chris B. led another trip from Top Entrance to Cwm Dwr and a trip to recover Deb's boot(s) from the S.W.C.C. The third trip was to the climb in Aggie. The journey to N.W. Junction and up Turkey Streamway was just as exciting as always. Shattered Passage itself was a bit more interesting with some climbs and traversing and eventually the tricky climb (complete with handline) was reached. Clog went up first, tackling the lower part easily. However, there was thrashing a-plenty as he struggled up the awkward, vertical thrutch of about 15'. I went next, when the top was reached by Clog, but after several attempts it beat me and I had to concede defeat. Derision poured from above like a roaring waterfall and a duly red faced caver and the rest of the group made their way out of Aggie.

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DERBYSHIRE (24th-26th February, 1984)

by Harry Lock

Assembled ourselves and some caving gear outside the Union on the Friday evening, and set off to sample some Derbyshire holes. Unfortunately, several members were already feeling in bad shape, a forecast of the illness that was to pervade the weekend, helped along by the fish eaten en route. We reached the 'Jug and Glass' without incident, and stopped for a couple of drinks before exploring various farm tracks, finally reaching the O.C.C. before midnight.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny - unfortunately this condition was not shared by the Mint Imperials. We collected the Cawthorne contingent in Buxton, and took the opportunity for a statutory trip to Caving Supplies. We arrived in the caving area after mid-day, having by this time been joined by Clog. Five set off to do the Oxlow/Giants Connection (two G→O, three O→G), the remainder doing SRT down Eldon Hole. Enjoyable trips were had by all, the Connectioners having some interesting experiences in the duck section, and the SRT men having a fairly straightforward trip (see log book). We returned, via a Buxton 'chippie', to the 'Jug and Glass', where a quiet evening was had as members dropped into slumber.

Early on Sunday, Tony drove Mark to Chesterfield for the Ghar Parau interview. Only one caving trip was organised - three down the Connection. This party encountered no real difficulties, most of the water having

been swallowed by the previous day's parties. The non-cavers walked from Mam Tor to Losehill, investigated the Odin Mine, and had afternoon tea in Castleton before collecting Mark from Chesterfield.

The Connection party was picked up, and back at the O.C.C. we packed up the van and set off to London, stopping at the same chippie again. Thanks to Tony for ferrying people between London, Chesterfield, Buxton and Castleton.

Overall a good, straightforward weekend.

YORKSHIRE (9th-11th March, 1984)

by Simon Seward

Debbie Armstrong	Chris Backhouse	Julie Backhouse	Chris Birkhead
Helen Cawthorne	Richard Colcott	Steve Lane	Harry Lock
Clive Orrock	Simon Seward	Dave Warrington	

Once again ... troops mustered ... gallant heros ... union bar ...  
M1 ... frozen north ... mythical land of holes ... Tetleys ... Bryans ...  
etc.

- Note
- 1). We always pick up the same blonde in Leeds city square;
  - 2). Low cunning exhibited by those who visit fish shop after closing time, therefore drinking more;
  - 3). Low intelligence of above who were in one of Joshua Tetley's hostelries;
  - 4). Generalissimo Orrock's roving eyes in trendy pub (other more world-wisely members not impressed with local talent).

Made very welcome at N.P.C. by Gellert and his man, and awoke the following morning to a delicious grease-norished breakfast partly cooked by Julie's Domestic Help. After a quick visit to Shirty's shop to lighten our pockets we headed for the caves - caves?

Dave lost his eardrum on a hard pushing trip down Sunset Hole (anyone finding this please return <sup>c</sup>/o I.C.C.C.); and Chris x 2 ripped down Black Shiver, and left the tackle bags at the bottom. Meregill was descended to half its depth and after a few adventures the party returned to find the others firmly established in the pub (shock, horror).

On return to N.P.C. Dave passed out (due to medical reasons - we understand), and helpfully provided a suitable dummy (ho ho ho) for first-aid practice and was swiftly and efficiently (?) manoeuvred into the 'thou shalt not choke on thine own puke position'.

The next day Stephen brought his new friends (from Whernside) to play

and we all gayly skipped off (?) to Kingsdale. Some going down Rowten, some going down Bull, and some not doing any at all. Then we all went home.

P.S. At Leicester Forest we remembered the County Pot permit!

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'NOEUDS AMORTISSEURS' - SHOCK ABSORBING KNOTS

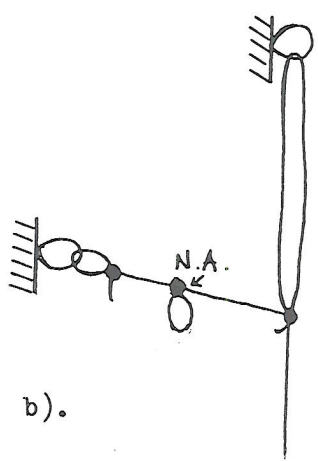
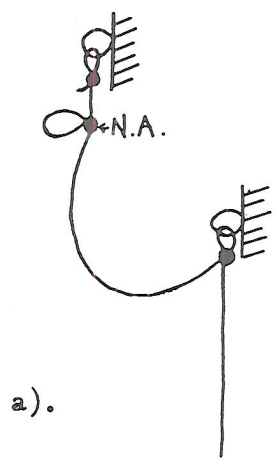
by Steve Gill

Whilst descending d'Engins (in France last year) which had been rigged by the French, I wondered what on earth these little loops at the top of the pitches could be. At first I tried clipping my long cowstail into them for safety, but then I found I couldn't get onto the pitch so I gave them up as a bad job, but at last the riddle of these loops has been solved.

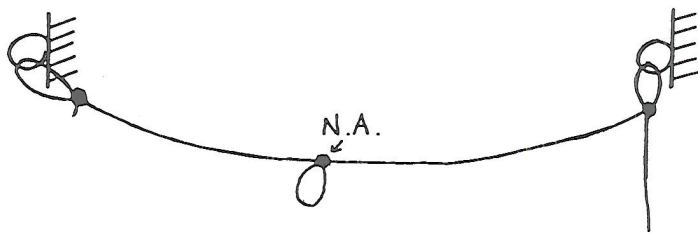
At the top of a pitch one may have the situation that if the primary belay was to fail the second belay would receive a shock loading. By using a noeud amortisseur (N.A.) the resultant shock will hopefully be absorbed thus preventing your ascenders cutting through the rope.

The N.A. is a loop tied in the rope using either an Alpine butterfly or, preferably, an overhand knot, the idea being that when the main belay fails the N.A. will tighten and then slip so absorbing the shock.

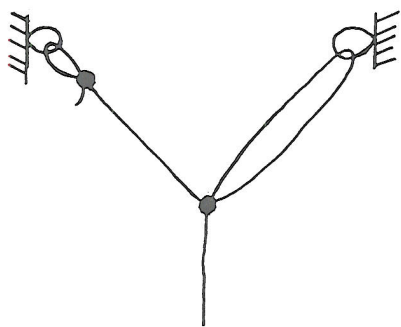
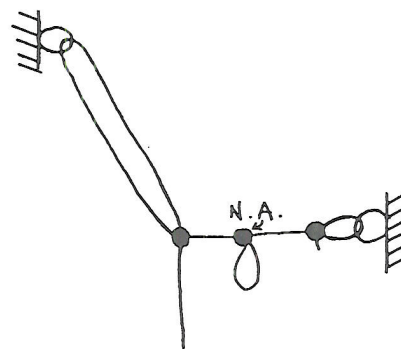
Shown below are some examples of the N.A. in use:-







c). Traverse line

d). Symmetrical 'Y' belay  
(N.A. not useful)

e). Asymmetrical 'Y' belay

## Reference:

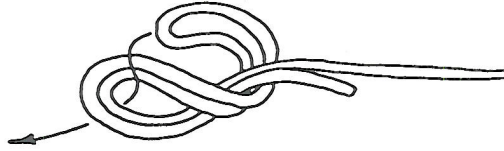
Marbach, G., and Rocourt, J.L., Techniques de la Speleologie Alpine.

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9.  
USEFUL KNOTS TO KNOW.

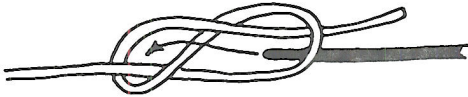
1. Figure of Eight.

Without doubt the most important knot used in caving - most situations can be dealt with using the figure of eight:



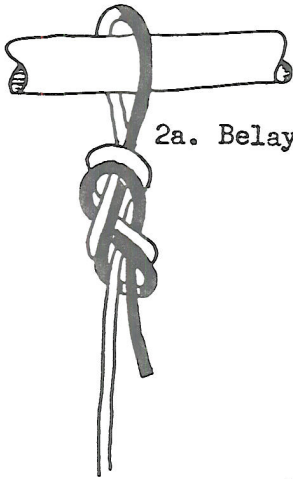
..... or one of its derivatives:

2. Figure of Eight Bend.



..... formed by chasing end through single knot.

Two main applications:

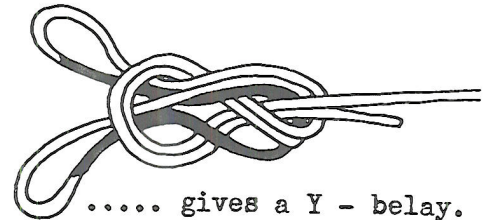
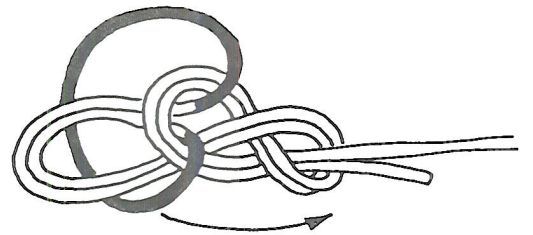
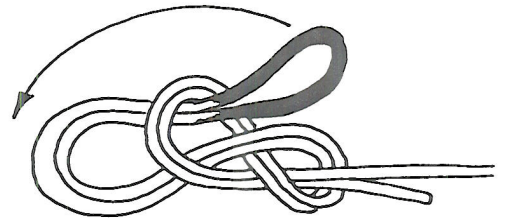


2a. Belay to thread etc.

2b. Joining two ropes. A fig 8 is tied in end of upper rope to assist changeovers.



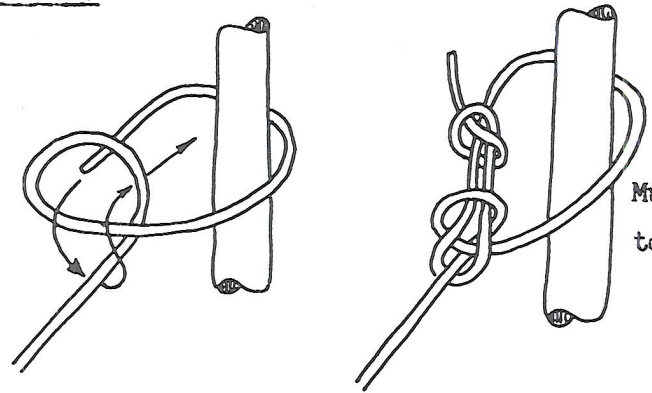
3. Figure of Eight on the Bight.



..... gives a Y - belay.  
The two loops of the knot can be adjusted independently.

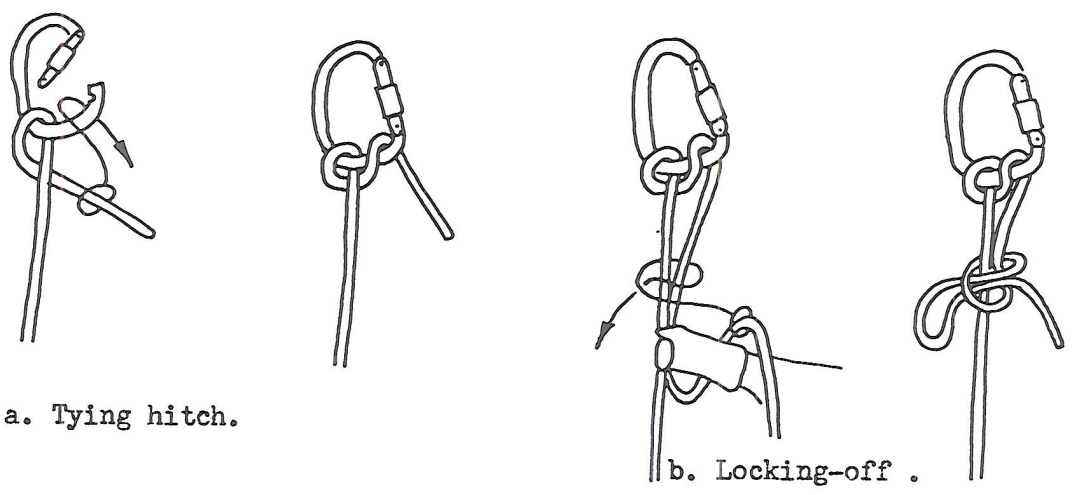
Other Knots:

4. Bowline.



Must be used with a thumb knot to prevent slipping.

5. Italian Hitch. - for life-lining:

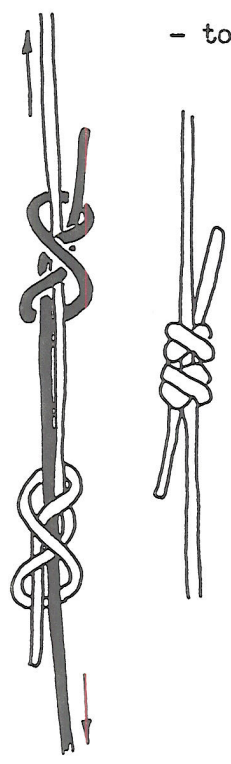


a. Tying hitch.

b. Locking-off .

6. Double Fishermans.

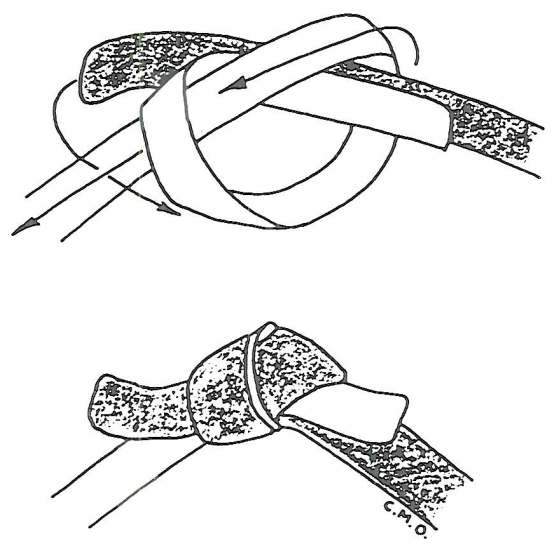
- to join two ropes.



A Fig 8 knot can be put in the trailing end of the top rope to assist change-overs.

7. Overhand Knot.

With rope there is no application for the overhand knot. It is used for joining tape as the Tape or Water Knot.



C.P.O.

"THAT WOULD MAKE A GOOD PICTURE"

by Chris Backhouse

The problem with capturing many exciting caving scenes lies in our own eyes. The eye accomodates the minute quantities of light available, the brain adjusts for any motion, concentrates on items of interest and retains the feel of all in the wide angle viewed by the eye.

When you whip out your camera, clip on the flash, and point it at the 1000' pitch / gour pools / your mates / shiny stalactites and press the shutter the results rarely capture the moment as you hope - although its worth a try if the subject is a suitable distance away for your flash, and the air isn't full of water vapour.

Photography is about causing light sensitive reactions on a bit of coated plastic. In cave photography it is especially worth while thinking about where that light is coming from. Perhaps the simplest basic step in cave photography is getting that flash gun off your camera! Using indirect lighting heightens the depth of the photo by creating shadows, and reduces the mist around the subject caused by the flash light bouncing off the vapour in the air directly back to the camera.

To produce a picture with even lighting overall it is often necessary to use multiple flash guns or to fire the same one more than once to fill in the whole area. To be able to do this you really need a camera with a manual 'B' shutter control so that the shutter may be opened for a number of seconds. It must be remembered that any movement will be recorded as the flashes are not simultaneous, this can apparently turn SRT into DRT or even TRT! Electronic slave units can save you having to stumble around in the dark between flashes, or having a gang of helpers. Some flashes, however, cannot in my experience be relied on to be 100% reliable.

Indirect lighting can also be provided by daylight if there is any to hand, or from a caplamp, remembering that light from tungsten or carbide lamps appears orange/red on many colour films. These colours can be used to great effect, but may also distract from some pictures. Daylight, "structured" and reflecting in cave entrances can give exciting photos, but care is required as even indirect daylight is much more intense than artificial light over a time exposure, so a picture containing both may well turn out just black and white as correct exposure of both sections is difficult.

Judging the exposure of multiple flash shots can also be very tricky as so many factors are involved. A great deal of luck is required! One tip is to filter the direct light from the flash with a frosted reflector to diffuse the light. This tends to even out the photo even though some light

is lost.

Holding the camera steady for the timed exposure is easy with a tripod, but what if you haven't dragged one through those squeezes? Holding a camera steady by hand for more than 1/30 th of a second isn't worth trying. Often it is possible to support the camera on a rock, against a wall, or with a lump of mud!

Cave photography can add an extra interest to many trips; it can even make the Mendips more exciting. You might not make 'Caves & Caving' but you'll have something to show your Mum apart from a muddy furry suit!

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**"Take Nothing but Photographs  
Leave Nothing but Footprints"**



(From *My Daddy was a Caver*)

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CAVERNAS DEL PERÚ

by Clive Orrock

Geological maps of Peru agree on few points but all show the country to have enormous areas of karst amongst which must be some of the highest in the world. Much of the country is unmapped and the fact that Peru's deepest cave is just 407m deep is probably a reflection of lack of caving activity rather than any dearth of cave systems. At present there seems to be no active Peruvian cavers and few foreign expeditions have visited the country.

In 1965 G. Rosell produced a long inventory of the caves in Peru based largely on various reports of locals and travellers over the last 200 years (1). Most sites mentioned are of archaeological, rather than

speleological interest and it is difficult to distinguish rock shelters from true caves. However, many of the reports indicate that the caves were not explored very far because of the darkness or because of local fears that there is no oxygen in caves.

One of the major caves mentioned by Rosell is La Cueva de Huagapo, an impressive 20x10m cave entrance and a big local tourist attraction being situated near La Oroya. This was partially explored by a Peruvian team in 1969, and this appears to be the only Peruvian caving trip (2). The cave was finally explored to a sump in 1972 by a Polish expedition and in the same year by a team from Imperial College, who explored and surveyed it to a passage length of 1,698m (3). Behind Huagapo cave is a deep gorge, Quebrada de Ushto, in the floor of which is La Sima de Milpo, a narrow (usually partially blocked) rift entrance. The entrance series was entered by the Polish expedition and later bottomed by Imperial College at a depth of 407m which made it the deepest cave in South America - this record still standing today.

The area was next visited in 1976 by a French expedition who passed the final 2m sump in Huagapo and another immediately afterwards of 8m and thereby extended the cave to 1,780m (4). The water flowing out of Huagapo is thought to be that which sinks in Milpo 3km away, but the vertical distance separating the caves is only 7m so the possibility of extending the depth of Milpo or connecting the caves is slight, unless a fossil, high level connection were to be found.

The 1972 Imperial College expedition also reconnoitred the area around Tingo Maria. They entered La Cueva de las Lechusas, Peru's nearest approximation to a show cave, whose large entrance allows light and rich Peruvian tourists to penetrate about half the caves 250m length. The cave is also inhabited by the rare guácharo bird, and the resulting guano floor is alive with cockroaches, millipedes and other nasties.

An expedition from Southampton University in 1982 visited the area around Huagapo and then moved on the Tingo Maria (5). About 100m from La Cueva de las Lechusas they dived a resurgence estimated as flowing at about one cumec. The sump was about 2m long and led through a deep water chamber to an unpleasant duck with limited airspace. The cave was not pushed further than this point, about 20m from the entrance, but the considerable flow, coldness of the water and wide underwater passage surely indicates some good caving somewhere behind, but maybe only for cave divers. Locals think that the nearby Lechusas cave leads to a large underground river, and that this resurgence water comes from a large river sink several kilometers away, but all this is only speculation.

Fig 1. Sketch map of Perú.

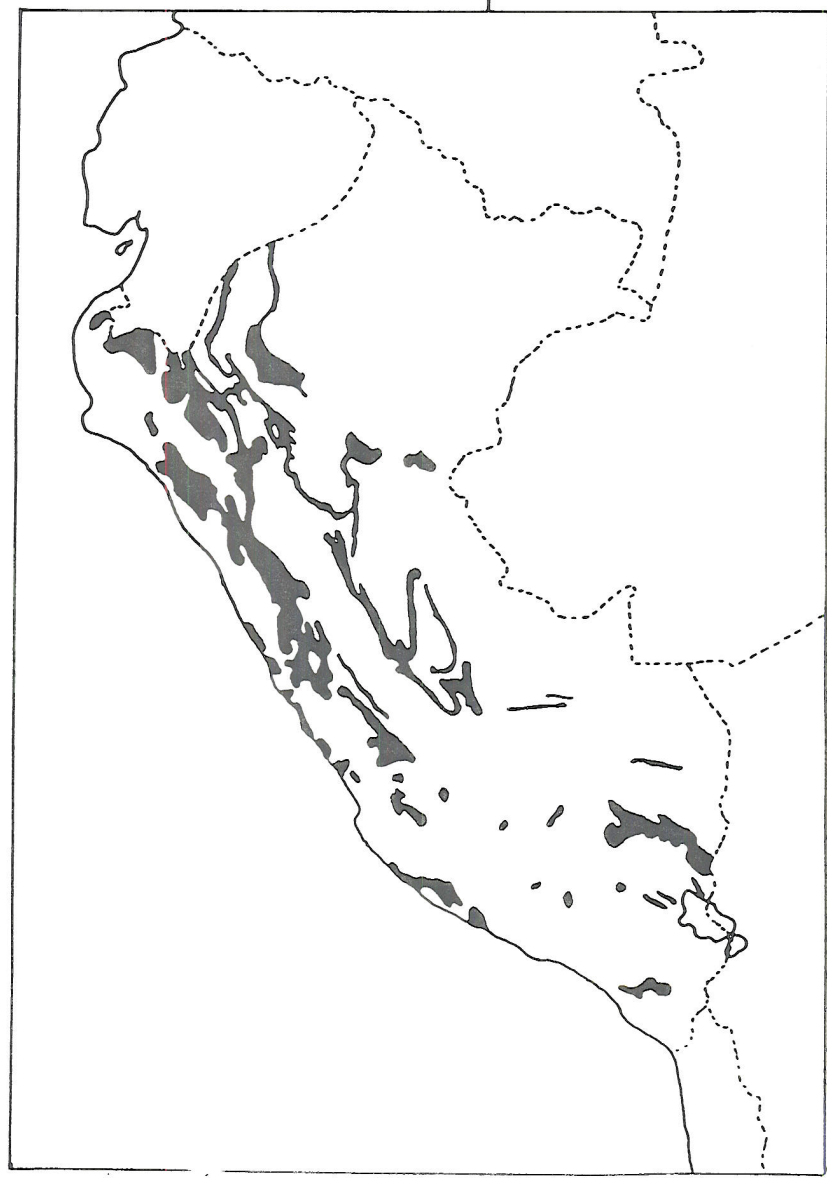
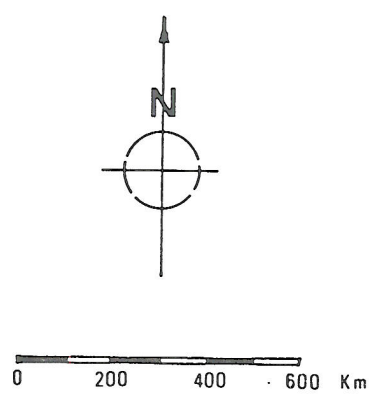
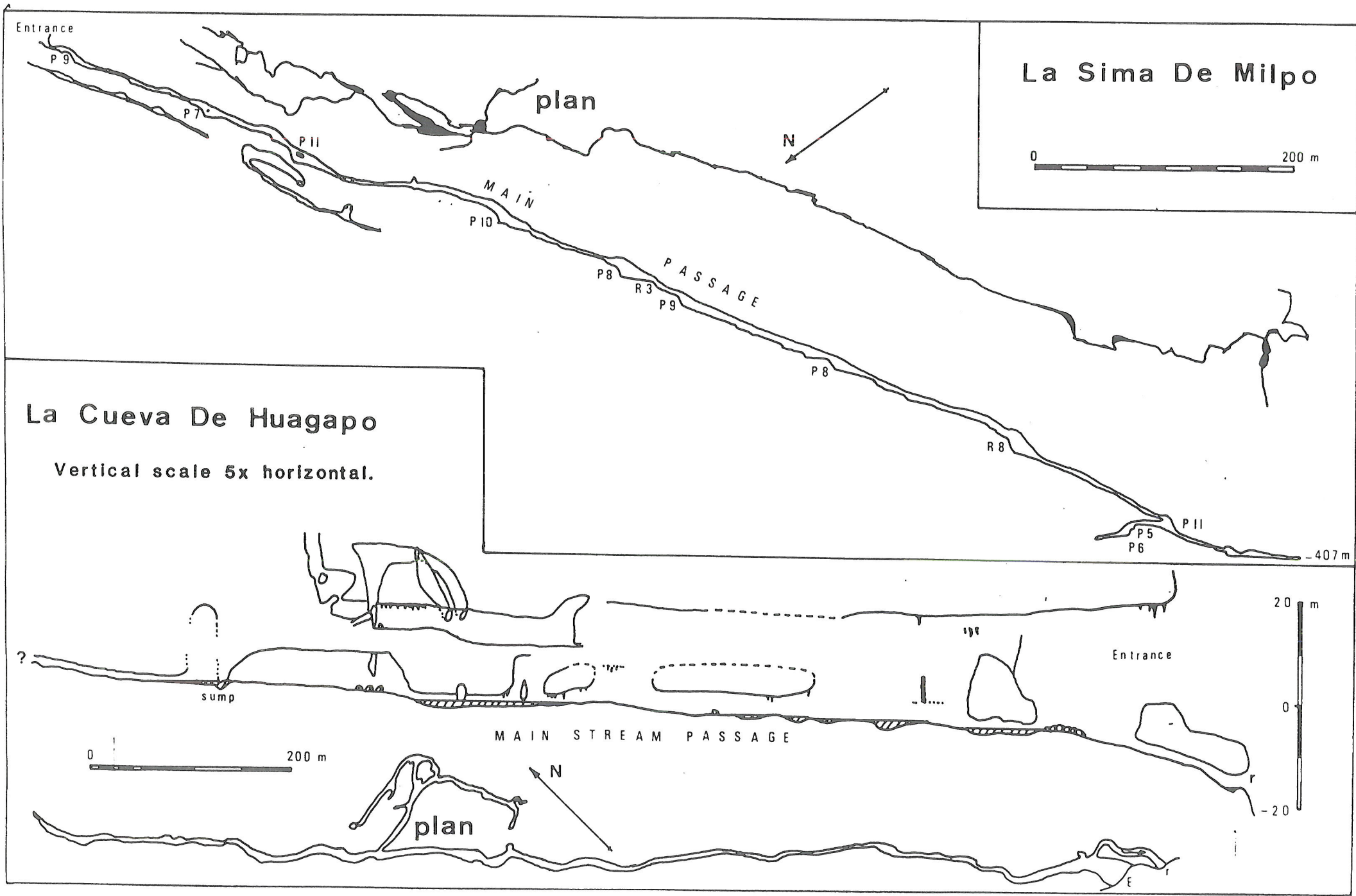


Fig 2. Approximate distribution of Peruvian karst.

From:  
 Atlas Historico, Geografico y  
 de Paisajes Peruanos. (1969)  
 Instituto Nacional de  
 Planificación, Lima, Perú.





Several other significant caves were explored in the area and there are probably many more awaiting discovery, but the heat and dense jungle do not make for easy exploration. In addition the caves are often inhabited by vampire bats and always contain guano, exploration being likened to wading thigh-deep through a bat infested septic tank!

Apart from an Italian expedition who found a few small caves near Nasca in 1979 (6) there have been no other significant expeditions to the country, and we have to return to Rosell's book for further information. As well as the caves of Huagapo and Lechusas, Rosell notes two other caves of particular interest:-

- (1) La Grunta de Huarari in the neighbourhood of Livitaca. The cave was visited by Antonio Raimondi, a famous Italian geographer, who in the nineteenth century explored much of Peru and noted many of its caves. He thought Huarari a beautiful work of nature; "the entrance", he said, "is fairly low and once inside large stalactites hang down forcing one to proceed bent double. The cave then widens out and divides into two branches. The gallery on the right appears to go on, but becomes narrow ...."
- (2) La Grunta de Uscopisco which lies about 50km NW of Cajamarca. This oilbird cave was briefly investigated by the explorer Humboldt, in 1802, when he penetrated through three chambers, but because of shortage of time left the continuing cave unexplored. The cave was next visited in 1868 by Raimondi. After the third chamber he continued down a short pitch, the bottom of which is crossed by a small stream. This chamber is about 40m wide by 10m high. Raimondi followed the stream past large boulders along a steeply inclined floor until it cascaded down a second pitch about 7-8m deep. He noted in his diary that the underground stream could be more than 5km long, but it is not recorded what made him suspect this.

Rosell mentions other caves in the Cajamarca region and Southampton University report being shown maps of the limestone uplands irrigated by numerous rivers sinking into the karst. Clearly this area has potential and definitely warrants a closer look. Thus it is to this area that an expedition is being mounted for two months in the coming summer. It is of course essentially a reconnaissance expedition, but it is to be hoped we'll get some good caving in as well.

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- 6). Tavagautti, M. (1979)  
Speleologia: Revista della Societa Speleologia Italiana. 2, 28-29.

\* \* \* \* STOP PRESS \* \* \* \*

After writing the above I was lent a book by Tony Jarratt (B.E.C.) - "Cuevas Exoticas" published in 1983 by one Juan Ullastre of the Club Muntanyec Barcelones in Spain, who in 1973 appears to have visited the areas near La Oroya, Tingo Maria and Cajamarca when he explored the river cave of UscoPisco. The text is in Spanish and I do not as yet know the exact extent of his explorations but it does appear that the UscoPisco cave is quite interesting. Although this particular cave is now partially explored the area as a whole is still largely untouched and promising.

Clive Orrock.

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"IT LOOKS A BIT DESPERATE"

by Harry Lock

The following is a short guide for the bewildered fresher to some of the words and phrases used by I.C.C.C. cavers, and it explains some of their hidden meanings.

Before any caving begins, consultation of the relevant guidebook may describe a particular section of passage as:

- having "a fair degree of exposure" = 400' drop if you miss your footing
- being "rather steep" = an overhang
- or as "interesting" = scary

If a stream passage is described as "sporting", then you should really beware (= only a lunatic with a life-jacket would attempt this) and a "sporting wet chimney" = you will drown.

Once down the cave, your leader may be heard to mumble comments such as:

"You'll enjoy this next bit" = nothing in your whole life will be worse than the next few minutes.

"Now I remember this bit" = We're lost!

He may suddenly halt and declare that:

"It looks a bit tight" = Helmets and wetsuit tops off, and has anyone ever been through a mangle?

"It looks a bit desperate" = Not only is it tight (see above), but the passage takes a waterfall and is partially sumped.

Cavers may insult other non-cavers as:

"wimps", "hambies" = sane, normal human beings who, quite reasonably, do not wish to spend their weekends living a troglodytic existence, crawling through slimy mud and putrid water in tiny subterranean passages.

At the completion of a caving weekend, the log-book may describe it as:

- "straightforward" = NO 1). Road accidents, van rolling or other such incidents;
- 2). Members lost down caves;
- 3). Drunken brawls on Saturday night.

I hope this article will be of some use in future.

Adapted from C & R, Vol XXII, No. 2.

DEBBIE'S TIT-BITS

Well, we are coming to the end of what has been another successful year for I.C. caving club. So much for the pessimists at the end of last year who said we wouldn't get enough new members to keep the club going - instead we have been inundated with lots of keen novices, most of whom have stayed on and have managed to attain a really high standard of caving in a very short length of time. This newsletter is a testament to the keenness of the new members - no fewer than 5 articles have been contributed by people new to the club this year. I am really pleased that the newsletter has proved so successful this year and hope we can keep it going next year. The only complaint I have is that the more articles there are the more typing there is!

Even though we are coming to the end of the academic year and exams are looming large in most people's minds the club has still got trips organised.

The first event is I.C. caving club's annual dinner meet which I hope will be well attended (and don't let the proximity to exams put you off - if you don't know the stuff by the dinner meet weekend then one weekend won't make any difference, and it provides a well-earned rest from the boring routine of revision!).

As well as going caving, getting drunk (no doubt I.C. Chunder Club will be well represented with Dave W., Neill & Co.), eating a lot and generally having a good time, the dinner meet also provides an opportunity to get club members together and enables the election of next year's committee - So start thinking about who you would like to nominate and vote for and about whether you would be prepared to stand for a post bearing in mind the work involved.

Just to help you along here is a brief description of what each post involves:-

President - attends R.C.C. committee meetings, oversees the smooth running of the club (Ha, ha), etc, etc, etc.

A quote from Clive, 'The buck stops here'.

Anyway, do you think you have leadership qualities like Clive?!

Treasurer - responsible for club finances in general - involves attending R.C.C. treasurer meetings, working out expenditure and costs for caving trips, collecting membership fees - ie., keeping the club solvent.

Main criterion - must have a calculator.

Secretary - responsible for booking accommodation for caving trips, writing off for any special caving permits required and carrying out any other correspondence as necessary.

Warning - you have to have a close relationship with the President.

Tackle Officer - maintains and acquires club caving equipment - work includes charging and servicing lamps, checking and cleaning ropes, ladders, belays, etc. This is a very important responsibility and shouldn't be entered into lightly.

Transport Officer - responsible for booking vans for caving trips, attends R.C.C. transport meetings on behalf of the club.

After the dinner meet we have a bit of a break but in June there will be a trip to do Otter Hole Cave. Unfortunately numbers are limited for this trip but it will be combined with a Mendip's weekend so everyone will get the chance to go caving somewhere.

Then there is a two week caving holiday to the Vercors area of France. Which, if last year is anything to go by, should be really good - the details

of this trip will be finalised soon.

Finally, of course, there is the Peru expedition. All that remains is for us to thank Clive for the excellent job he has done as President this year and to wish the members of the Peru expedition (Clive, Steve, Kathy, Spike, Chris Birk., Simon and John) good luck - and lets hope its another record for I.C.C.C. !

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#### News of Members

The caving club would like to congratulate Charlie Cawthorne on the successful completion of his PhD (don't ask me what the title is - all I know is that he is now Dr. Cawthorne to us plebs) - could this be a caving club first I ask myself knowing the usual academic record we have?!

We also hope that his career with British Aerospace is as successful as his career with the caving club has been!

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#### Watch out Steve!

Rumour has it that the Gouffre de la Fromagère has finally been connected to the Berger. So who knows, when Steve gets down the Berger with Whernside, this summer, he may find us waiting for him at the bottom!?

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American Caving Accidents, 1982: "... while preparing to ascend the 70 foot pitch, the caver was nearly struck by a falling opossum ...."

from National Speleological Society News.

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#### Dinner Meet Arrangements

The caving club annual dinner will be held in the Hill Inn on Saturday, 12th May, at 7.30 for 8.00pm. The menu will be as follows:

soup & croutons

fish course

main course - roast turkey, etc.

sweet

coffee

cheese & biscuits

..... and BOOZE!

(lots of)

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