

ROMAN SANDLE 49.



THE JOURNAL OF THE BEARLY MADE IT SKYDIVE SQUAD, THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER AND SISTERHOOD OF PARACHUTING FAUNA AND THE U.K. TED DEVILS. POLITICALLY INCORRECT, BUT THEN YOU KNEW THAT, ARGUABLY THE MOST PHOTOCOPIED PIECE OF CRAP IN KITING TODAY, BUT WE DONT CARE, THERE AGAIN DID WE EVER?

SAD PARTING FOR THE TEDS



Bears pause for a final

farewell before they are sold

QUITE A FEW TEARS WERE SHED RECENTLY AT A SAD BEACH PICNIC HELD IN BRIGHTON TO MARK THE BREAKUP OF A COLLECTION OF MORE THAN A DOZEN RARE TEDDY BEARS. The Bears are to star in a top London auction following

the closure of the Museum of Childhood in the Lanes. The Teddy Bears Picnic was their last visit to Brighton Seafront before being whisked away by Bonhams, the Auctioneers.

Leigh Gotch of Bonhams Toy department, said: "We are here so the Bears can say their farewells to Brighton, but I'm sure they will all find good new homes. Its a real shame that the Museum has had to close. The Bears will be split up. It will be quite a rare and impressive sale, particularly strong on English Bears, because the Bears are so individual"

The Bears are estimated to fetch up to £65,000 at the auction in London later this year. Among the collection is at least one early Steiff Bear, Boris who was made in 1909. He is estimated to sell for at least £4,000, though we guess he would go for a lot more if he was equipped with a genuine 1909 Parachute.

We have heard on the Grapevine, that the South Coast Slapper was set to Gatecrash the Beach Picnic, but due to the shock of hearing that the collection was being broken she went on a huge Bender and completely missed the whole event. Oakie One has his doubts about that as the S.C.S. does'nt need any excuse for hitting the Barley Pop.

Staff at the Museum of Childhood, housed inside Bears and Friends shop in Meeting House Lane claim that Brighton Council sank the museum that attracted more than 1000,000 visitors in less than four years, however a spokesperson said that the Council had advertised the museum for free in various Tourist publications but that they could not spend public monies advertising private business.



The bears in blue, a cuddly arm of the law

BIRMINGHAM POLICE HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH A VERY UNUSUAL PIECE OF NEW EQUIPMENT..... FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF 'VARIOUS Police Forces around the World, The Salvation Army has presented them with 100 Teddy Bears to comfort children when they pick them up in their cars.

It gives a whole new meaning to Police Panda patrols. These Cuddly Cops will soon star in in two new T.V. series... Ted Cars and Softly Softly.

Police Teddy Bears must meet a minimum height requirement and have an unblemished record. Several famous Bears have failed these tests. Mr Winnie T Pooh was rejected after admitting several youthful thefts of honey from his neighbours. And before becoming a childrens entertainer, Mr Paddington Bear was dismissed from the service for failing to disclose his Peruvian citizenship.

Potential recruits are assessed by their performance in games of Cubs and wait for it Robbears. They are then assigned to a toy Tiger who shows them how to follow a tail, whilst those who fancy becoming Dog Handlers take a short course with Gromit.

Teddies with swivelling head are especially valued for surveillance duties, whilst those with rotating arms are assigned to Traffid duties. Apart from their work on Patrol, Teds are often called upon to make up the standard police interrogation team of Hard Cop and Soft Cop. Moreover as all parents know, Teddy Bears often obtain confessions to misdemeaners when conventional methods fail.

Unfortunately Teddy Bears are of little use in the Fingerprint Division. However new recruits are always needed as many Ted leave for the private sector. where they are highly valued as Bodyguards against things that go Bump in the Night. when the light switch seems impossibly far away, an ex police Teddy Bear is more than a match for any monster lurking under the bed.

Police forces in other areas shouldfollow the example of the Birmingham Bears. They have an obvious and immediate value for child victims of crime in shock or distress. If the idea of child curfews catches on, the police may find themselves picking up, questioning and returning many more young children. Teddy Bears could make these contacts less frightening for the children and less confrontational for the police.

Thre is, of course, a risk that children would enjoy the Bears so much, that they would stay out late just to get a ride home with their new friend. If that happens, the Bear must be assigned to a new beat. He or she might be replaced with a toy which would embarrass childre, such as a long forgotten Ninja Turtle.

Police might have a role to play with children accused of crime, especially if the age of criminal responsibility is reduced. Such children may not be interviewed except in the presence of an appropriate adult, It would be simple to add a require ment for an appropriate bear. Just by being there, a Teddy Bear can remind a suspect of the right to silence.....

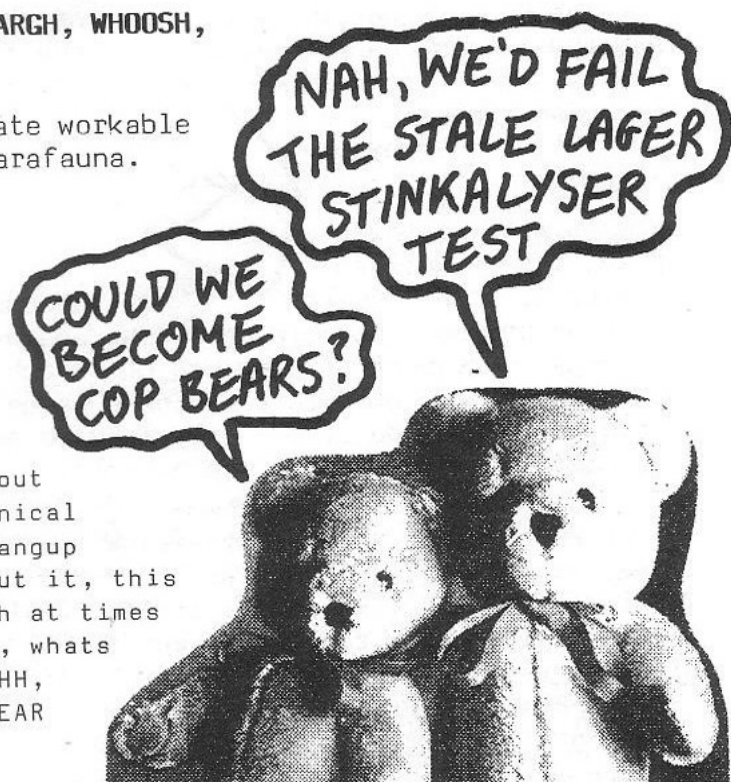
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HI-HO H.A.L.O. A BOMBING WE WILL GO, AARGH, WHOOSH, THUD.....(GHASTLY SILENCE)....GORDON BENNET.

The search continues apace for the ultimate workable HALO(High Altitude,Low Opening) system for Parafauna.

A Front runner in this quest is Dropnik Billings, whose quest has long been punctuated by a seemingly unending litany of the above mentioned screams, whooshes,thuds and ghastly silences.

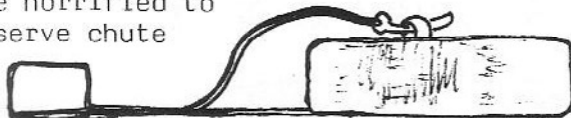
However bee that as it may, progress is being somewhat painfully made. At Swindon earlier this year Dropnik Billings got it about 99.9% right, apart that is from a minor technical hitch, whereby one of the Fauna did a HALO hangup and the other one bit the dust. No doubt about it, this is a spectacular way of bombing fauna, though at times rather messy. Right, the fauna are at 450ft, whats the release line length? 451ft.....AAAARGHHH, WHOOSHHHH,THUD.....KINAIDA,DONT THAT BEAR BOUNCE WELL.....



BIG FAT REPACK MK II

THEODORE EDWARD O'HOWS YER FARVA, THE BROTH OF A BEAR FROM NEW JERSEY SENT US AN ARTICLE, FIRST PUBLISHED IN SKYWINGS THE HANG GLIDING MAGAZINE, ENTITLED AS ABOVE "BIG FAT REPACK II.

'twould seem that Parafauna are not the only things falling from the Sky to suffer numerous cockups or go-wrong with their Parachuting equipment. The Thames Valley Hanggliders were concerned about the levels of efficiency in operations of their members safety equipment, and after the first Big Fat Repack, a Chute repacking seminar, the Thames valley mob were horrified to discover that one in three of every reserve chute systems failed completely.



What was frightening that a large percentage of these failures was due to webbing tape/pin cord incompatible design faults. wow, you expect to have large amounts of operator errors in use of such safety gear, but its alarming to think that due to design faults, your parachute would not deploy at all. Yes, we as Parafauna can laugh as we bounce, then get up and walk away, however, with Humes it does'nt always work like that.

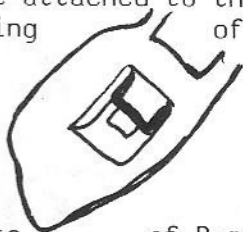
The BFR II, noted amongst a myriad of potential go wrongs, stuffing of the Jolly old Rag. For perfect deployment, the canopy must be carefully inserted into the pack in Concertina fashion with the risers or shrouds neatly folded beneath. Another common fault was to have the tape from the Ripcord or static line in our case, of incorrect lenth in relation to the release handle, or in our case, the suspension strap. in which case, no amount of tugging of the release handle, or in our case, dangling from the dropper will enable the chute to deploy.



end of release pin wrapped with tape

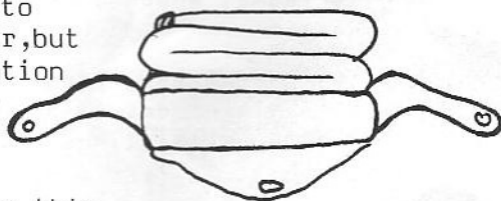
Another thing noted was the overuse of velcro in full size Parachute Pack closures, not a thing common on Parafauna gear, but nethertheless it was noted that velcro after being locked up for some considerable time, shows a marked reluctance to come apart.

The BFR II, noted a wide range of repack errors, including one where the Hume had the release handle attached to the risers or shrouds, another common fault, coming under the heading of inappropriate modifications was the habit wrapping Tape around Pack release Pin tip (to stop the pin falling out ?) thereby making it very iffy to pull the Pin out in an emergency.



heavy use of velcro can make deployment almost impossible with some packs

As with anything else, its as well to master all the aspects of Parachute packing and repacking over a period of time as the failure to do so can and has led to tradegy in respect of Hume use of Parachute gear, but even in respect of Parafauna Chute usage, attention paid to how you do it can only lead to a higher percentage of successful deployments.



At the Big Fat Repack Mk2 seminar held earlier this year, 73 reserve chute systems for hanggliders were examined, here are some of the Stats. Complete failure, 25%, Design fault, 23%, Equipment related problems 33%, velcro problems, 7%, inappropriate Modifications, 8%, Murphys or Sods Law 10%, yes, where Humes interfere or insert their sticky fingers, things are bound to go pear shaped. These statistics could equally apply to the world of Bombing Fauna from Kites, whereof course none of the Parachutists could pay the ultimate price.

canopy must be concertina folded into pack.....

LOST IN SPACE, OR SHOULD THAT BE TECHNOBABBLE?.....

AS WELL AS SENDING US THE INFO ON THE PARACHUTE RE-PACKING SEMINAR, THEODORE EDWARD O'BEAR ALSO INCLUDED AN ADVERT FOR A PARACHUTE FROM TREKKING UK (FOR HANGLIDERS, NATCH) WHICH IS CLAIMED TO BE loades with many features that are completely beyond our ken, or sid or chas for that matter,

This chute, which Trekking UK claims is one of the few chutes on the Market world wide that actually matches the latest BHPA guidelines on chute size. This chute comes in six sizes, each of which it is claimed will give astable descent rate of four metres per second???

Trekking say these figures were confirmed during AFNOR testing at roquebrune whatever that is. The Parachute is made from high quality low porosity nylon for low opening shock, has fully taped seams for strength, and V tabs (whatever they are) to prevent Peel Back (whatever that is) The unique feature of this chute is the AIR POCKET system which is small pockets around the hem which is claimed to decrease the opening time by 30%, wow. talk about gobsmacked, still if anybody understands all this and adapts any of the above to Chutes suitable for Parafauna, our dough is on Arfur.

AYE LAD, TROUBLE AT T'MILL, OR ITS GORN A BIT PEAR SHAPED HARRY...

ITS VERY SAD TO SEE A KITE AND PARAFUNA JUNKIE SUFFERING WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS, ALL TOGETHER NOW, AAHHHH, BUT IT HAS GONE DECIDEDLY pearshaped at BOF Towers of late, so much so that the poor old sod does'nt know whether its Shrove Tuesday or Sheffield Wednesday.

Its all down to the new job, which as you know involves shiftwork the first that the poor old git has ever done. This coupled with the fact that now his weekends can and do occur on every day of the week has led toa severe curtailment of his Kite and Faunabombing activities. The score this year so far is one Kitefest, i.e. severe cold turkey.

Its very sad to see him moping about that is when hes not kipping, hes even half heartedly thrown a couple of us down the stairwell, but its not the same. The sad old fart says Bus driving per se is no problem, even if at times its like the social services , what with carting the sleeping drunks on complete round trips, so that theyend up back where they started, then telling them that yes this was the last bus. Its even very intresting to Fire a CODE RED at 4am so you can watch the boys in blue go into action with their side handle batons on a few more products of the care in the community program. And no, none of them can run faster than a Plaxton Bodied, Dennis Dart, when you see a drunken mob at a Bus stop, and think, sod that for a game of Tin Soldiers, and go howling past.

What with all that and the Hookey Bus Passes and the hoards of TWIRLIES (10 minutes to 9am, Am I too early mate from holders of certain bus passes that are only valid from that time) and not a Teddy Bear, Parachute or kite for that matter in sight, is it any wonder that its a stressfull job. Ah well its regular, theres very little chance of being made redundant, due to the phenominal turnover of staff and it pulls in a few (with the emphasis on few) notes, but somehow we dont think its going to be a long term proposition.....

Well as usual we've managed to cobble up another smattering of the usual mindless drivel, thanks to Oakie 1, Julie White, Steve B and others who know who they are. So as ever, its the usual to the usual, The Teddytorial, c/o the Boring Old Fart 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton, Middx, UB7. 7TY. U.K.

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P.S. Heard the latest ? Teddy Bears to used as part of a new Church of Fengland funeral service for the millenium, which will be put to the general synod later this year.

The new rite is based on advice from bereavement counsellors about how people react to death. It will have more use of symbolism, orreminders of the deceaseds life.....

