

ROMAN CANDLE 54.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad, The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Has been going down the Pan since Issue No.1. But most of you were aware of that, so who gives a Toss?

PARACHUTISTS who jump to raise money for charity are costing the National Health Service almost £14 for every £1 they gain in sponsorship because of injuries, according to new research.

Doctors in Scotland have found that each casualty ran up an average NHS bill of £3,751. This works out to £400 for every charity jump made, yet each parachutist raised on average only £30 after expenses had been deducted.

Chris Lee, an orthopaedic surgeon who led the five-year study, is calling for tougher vetting of participants and longer training. He said the cost of jumping for charity was prohibitive and ridiculous.

"I would rather pay them not to jump," he said. "The cost of treating the 11 per cent who are injured is far more than any money raised by the rest."

"I would never do it. I considered it once, looked at the figures and said 'No way'."

He studied 174 parachutists who were admitted to the orthopaedic unit in Perth, which is near two parachute drop centres. Of these, 94 per cent were injured during their first charity jump.

The research, to be published in the journal *Injury* is titled, *Parachuting for Charity: is it worth the money?*

Mr Lee, a specialist registrar at Whittington Hospital in north London, said: "We were trying to work out whether the cost outweighed anything they raised. The results showed that it was ridiculous."

"Injuries range from ankle sprains to really ghastly fractures, where people will not walk properly afterwards. We would advise people not to do it — for their own health and ours."

He said the taller and fatter a person was, the greater the risk of injury. "An overweight businessman going up for his once-in-a-lifetime jump to raise money for a children's kidney unit is not the same as a fit paratrooper who has gone through rigorous training," he said.

"The injury rate of charity jumpers is double that of US Rangers in the Gulf war, and

Parachuting for charity costs NHS an arm and a leg

freefall: beginners can jump in tandem with an instructor.



‘The injury rate of charity jumpers is double that of US Rangers in the Gulf war, and they were landing in full kit’

they were landing in full kit on to concrete runways."

Mr Lee is not calling for a ban on parachuting, but would like to see more stringent selection procedures and better training. "We don't think six hours' training is enough," he said.

One charity jumper, Jenny Graham, 20, a trainee nursery nurse from Middlesbrough, decided to raise money for children with leukaemia, and was pledged

£130 sponsorship. However, when she made the jump, she was caught by a gust of wind and landed badly, suffering nine fractures to her right leg. She spent five days in hospital, had a cast up to her thigh and had to return to hospital every three weeks for six months.

Ten months on, she still has a limp. She acknowledges that the money she raised was little compared to the amount she has cost the NHS, and agrees with Mr Lee that the training should be longer.

"I'll be doing sponsored silences in future," Miss Graham said.

However, Tony Butler, the technical officer for the British Parachute Association, said the report was misleading because people did not jump to raise money — they parachuted first and decided to raise money as an afterthought.

This meant that injuries would occur irrespective of fund-raising — so any money raised for charity was a plus.

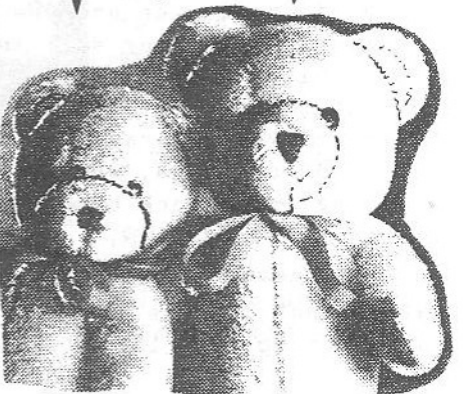
Mr Butler added that out of 250,000 jumps a year there were only 80 to 100 broken legs which the association classed as serious injuries.

Another charity parachutist, Frank Barrett, a photographer who raised £700 for the maternity unit at Queen Mary's Hospital, in Sidcup, Kent, said he would do it again.

"I jumped with a big group of people and we raised a lot of money, that has to be worth something."



Jenny Graham: fund-raising resulted in nine fractures



WEIRD S**T CONTINUES TO HAPPEN..ANOTHER BLACK HOLE...OR THE TWILIGHT ZONE AGAIN.....

Theres probably a perfectly simple innocent answer to the question posed in the pic below, sent in by Dropnik Huges and pinched from the Camping Clubs Magazine.

Its a pound to a penny that the 4x4 full of Teds is probably owned by a Teddy Bear retailer on thier way to some Emporium of the Furry wotsis. Maybe its even a 4x4 full of Tombola prizes of to raise money for a good cause.The list of possible entirely innocuous explanations of what is going on are endless.



Bearly overloaded

Spotting in a motorway service station recently, heading north on the M6, was this four-wheel drive vehicle stuffed with teddy bears.

We'd love to know the story behind it. Can anybody help?

What, however if its something altogether more sinister..... Holy Zarquon.....are our Furry chums being Bearnapped? Could it be that the Twilight Zone has struck again? does Ye Olde Weird S**T continues to happen.

Even more peculiar, and here the mind does really start to Boggle, What if these Bears have Hi-jacked the 4x4 and are heading for Cuba.

Nope all bets are off, this is obviously one of those "How many Teds can we get into a 4x4" contest. or is it..... Hmm,could it be a 4x4 load of provisional Driving License holding Teddy Bears on a cheapo practical driving Course, and if thats the answer what are the little Sods doing on the Motorway without a qualified Driver,doing the Driving?

Hows this for an even stranger scenario, what we seing here is the return leg of a Teddy Bear Jolly Boys Outing. You know the sort of thing, a day out, usually at the seaside. these days out normally start with everybody seated and in good order, but as with every good old fashioned Jolly Boys outing the trip to wherever they are going to , involves stopping at pretty well every Boozer on the way and getting very Ratfaced, then when they arrive at where they are going they visit every Boozer in the locality, and attempt to drink it dry.

Of course, the return trip in usually not in such good order, with everybody being crammed into the coach, prior to visiting every Loo or Layby on the return journey. Yep, thats what I reckon this Photo is all about.

AND HOWS THIS FOR A PRETTY NIFTY IDEA (only for WEIRD fauna who like having a bath)

Not all of you maybe able to get your heads around this one, but we include it for what its worth.....

If, and its abig if, if your Dropnik goes Barmy and decides that its high time you had a bath due to the ferocious pong of stale beer and general filth emanating from your good selves. then its no more being hung from the clothesline with a noose around your neck, Nope a roony, the freshly de-contaminated Fauna can relax in style in one of those ever so Twee Fauna type Hammocks that they sell in all the best Gift Shops,

Of course that would be just the job for your average Louche, Laid back type of fauna, who owns an equally Louche, Laid back type of Dropnik with money to burn,



"DRYING IN STYLE"

But never dispair, even if your Dropnik is of the more usual Turd Skinner varety, then all is not lost as one of these Hammock thingys could be knocked up from say a Fruit Net or a string bag, the possibilitys for making a cheapo version are endless.....

WIDE EYED AND LUGLESS MAKES A CHANGE FROM WIDE EYED AND LEGLESS.....

Whatever happened to these two we're not sure of but it certainly gives you a shock. where did the Lugholes go to?, The after effects of a really long free fall? or worse maybe those old wives tales about excessive consumption of Beer really were true.

Shock, Horror, does Legless really mean Lugless? Think about it , perhaps one brain cell does'nt die for every foaming Pint , maybe its an Ear cell. Whatever it the cause. they certainly aint no Oil paintings, only their Mums could love 'em.

Ther is another thinking about, are the dreaded

Has some crazy to dispense to increase of our

If this it all end? write to be way? Up ing

As said demand

should dly doubt



theory that does not bear these two the results of GENETIC MODIFICATION!!!!

Dropnik out there decided with the Lugholes in order the freefall Descent speeds furry friends?

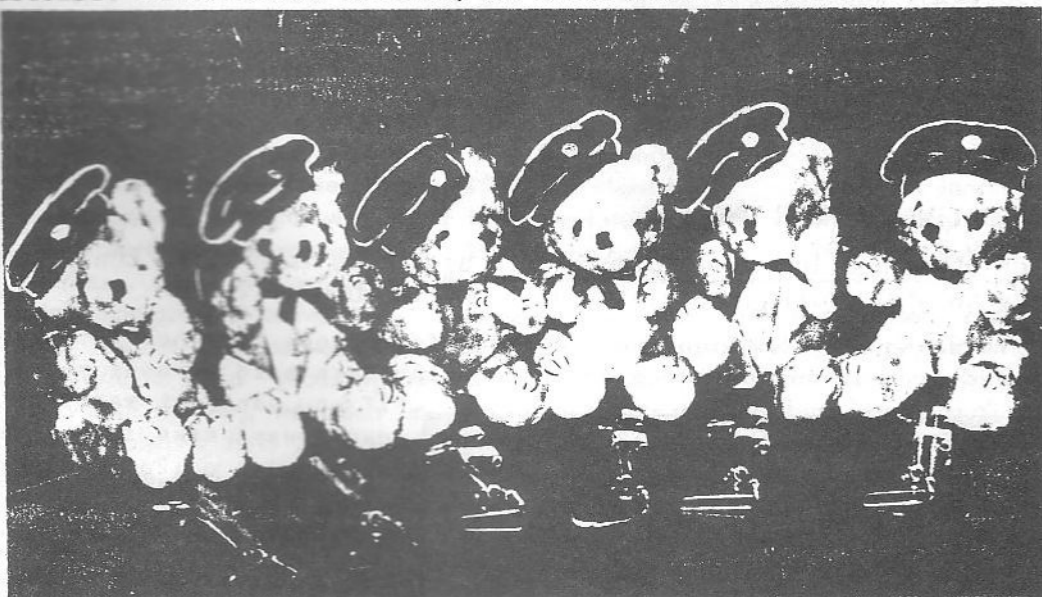
Is really the case, where will do we really want our Favo-furry friends who are fun with, mucked about in this No! we must make a stand.. with this we are not putt- no way, never notno how.

the immortal Vroomfondel many Moons ago, "We rigidly defined areas of what a Teddy Bear be as well as rigi- defined areas of and uncertainty"



.. RETURN FIRE, INCOMING, READERS WRITE, OR WHINGE CORNER.....

Dear Sir, Once again we have to play second fiddle to a bunch of ego maniacs who seem to think that they are the be all and end all of Levitating Teddy Bears. Your rather smudgy, indistinct, faint and quite frankly Ghastly photo of the recent Levitation attempt. concentrates entirely on those HOOMES, whereas we should have had a Photo which



concentrated on the Bears, without whom after all, there would have been no ceremony, let alone an attempt on the present record.

Maybe from now on your rag will get back to what it set out to be, a journal for and by Parafaune and Levitators; which does't pander to the somewhat overbearing Humess.....

Name and adress supplied.

Gordon Bennet, someones getting their Knickers in a twist, Still to keep name and adress supplied's and any other whinging so and so' Knickers twist free we print.....

ITS ENOUGH TO MELTCH A BRAIN, SO IT RUNS OUTCHA NOSE...AAAAAAHHSHOOOO !

A question which crops up from time to time from non Dropnik (Blessed be their names) Kitefliers, is ,what is the fascination with dropping Parachuting Fauna from Kites ? (Its not fascination, its a sadistic desire to inflict Pain and Indignity on us Fauna)

At this point most Dropniks uaually mutter "SOD OFF", under their breath,maintaining all the while, a subtle combination of Bonhomie and Pity for the poor creature who dares to have a different perspective of Kiting than their own. (All Dropniks are Nutters)

The reply to this question can take many forms, and the favourite reply from the one and only 22 carat Wilf (Shh,you know who.) is ASTRONOMY (YOO WOT) Yup ASTRONOMY, yes folks you did read it right and I know what you are thinking, Whats that got to do with Parachuting Fauna from Kites?(not a lot) Anyway, to continue, the Superwilf will say that the whole study of ASTRONOMY can simply be split into two halves.

The first half is the study of just one interstellar object, i.e. the Crab Nebula, and the second half is the study of everything else. So it is with Kites, according to the average Dropnik the whole of Kiting can be divided into two quite easily.

If it dont or wont lift a Bear or whatever, to a Dropnik, that Kite is NAFF. Those Kiteers who dont drop fauna (the nice ones) may wax lyrical about their favourite Aerdynes looks,colours,aesthetic appeal etc,whilst any old load of Big Fertiliser Bags and sticks, which somehow manages to lurch into the sky, but nethertheless can loft 20 Fauna is the only type of Kite that will send a Dropnik into transports of delight.

Whilst we are on the subject of old Rubbish and Fertiliser Bag type Kites, I am trying to persuade the cardboard cutout (the BOF) to give some of his Kites the Stergene treatment, cos they are beginning to resemble the aforesaid Fertiliser Bags.

O.K. folks, you've managed to plough through this brain softening load of Garbage up to here and the question now is obviously "What do you think of it so far?".....RUBBISH!

THE PIECE ABOVE WAS STOLEN FROM SOME CRAP PUBLICATION OF ABOUT FIFTY YEARS AGO, ITS VAGUELY ABOUT KITES AND PARAFUNA SO THERE.

FAT, LAZY, threadbare, broke and disgusting old teddybear, cruising skipper - WLTM youngish, independent, intelligent, beautiful, solvent angel to corrupt. Photo appreciated. Box 0783.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH.... This Advertwas seen in the EYE LOVE section of the classified Ads in PRIVATE EYE.

OK,OK, I know what all you un-repentant 70's Spartists are thinking, "the geezers barmy" well yes, I am and I like to read a Rag which is perpetually engaged in partaking of the urine of our supposed leaders and betters nethertheless, read the Ad, dont that just about say it all.

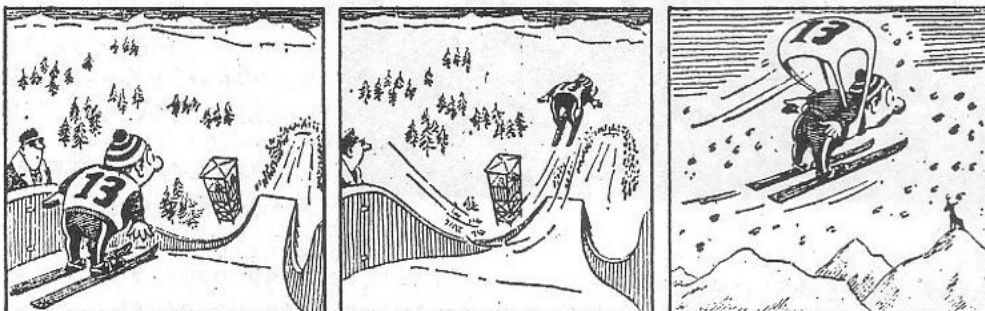
One thing is for certain, whoever placed this Ad, is probably being entirely honest and would never fall foul of the Trades Description Act.

So, if anyone out there wishes to reply to this Ad, dont send your replies to us, (we have enough crap come through our Letter Box) please send to PRIVATE EYE.

COR, SODDING HELL, THAT WAS A NEAR ONE.....

In common with a lot of other publications,Roman Candle always is in a "Crap Challenged" situation i.e. contrary to what think, there aint a lot of it about.....

We always say that we've managed to huff and puff another four pages together in every issue. We are even minded of what one of our staunchest supporters told us many moons ago



"If you aint got material,you can always make it up" Well, we have'nt quite reached th- at point yet.....

Almost, but not quite.....

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, in what forever will be ENGLAND.