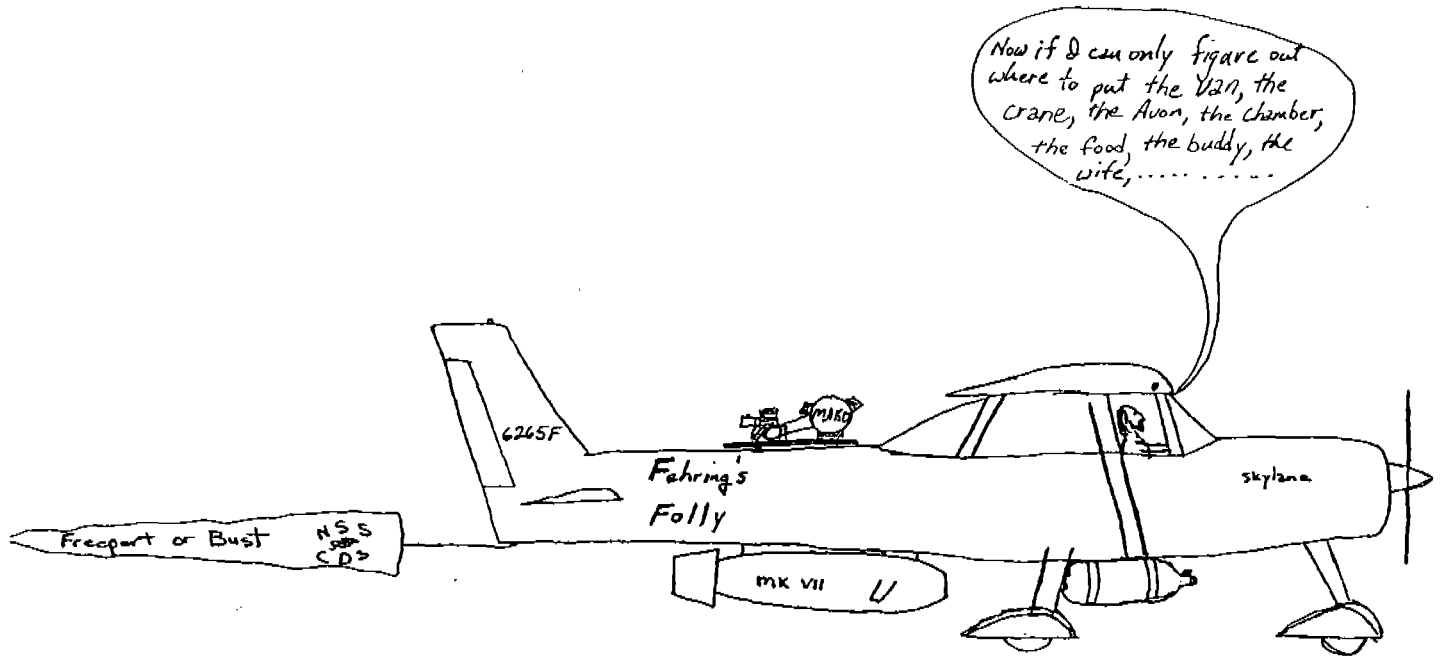




UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4



Art by Bill Fehring

SANTA FE PROTECTED

On June 13 Bill Fehring represented the Section before the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission during a hearing on designating the Santa Fe River system as an Outstanding Florida Water. Such designation, which was requested by the Suwannee River Coalition, prohibits any discharge which would lower the ambient water quality of the river and will greatly assist in limiting industrial or residential development along the river which would interfere with its recreational use.

The state study of the river which was prepared to support the designation cited the importance of the area for diving and the biological life which exists in the area caves. These discussions were based on

previous letters by Bill and other Section members such as Judy Bauer.

During the public hearing Bill supported the position of the Coalition that the New River be included in the designation, even though it is presently somewhat degraded. While this particular change was not adopted, the Coalition was appreciative of the Section's support. This could be important in the future, for support of the Coalition could be very instrumental in public acquisition of areas such as Peacock.

At the conclusion of the Hearing the ERC adopted a rule designating the Santa Fe River, the Ichetucknee River, the Little Santa Fe River, Lake Santa Fe, Olustee Creek, and the Santa Fe Swamp as Outstanding Florida Waters.

* * *

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Abe Davis Award.....Mark Leonard

Section membership, which includes a subscription to Underwater Speleology, is open to all members in good standing of the National Speleological Society at \$5.00 per year. Subscriptions for non-members are \$7.00 per year. When making application for membership or requesting subscription information contact:

Sandy Fehring
3508 Hollow Oak Place
Brandon, FL 33511

Make checks payable to the "NSS Cave Diving Section."

(This "interim" issue printed by the Publications Committee.)

6-21-84

New DECALS now available @ \$1.00. Red and black on clear plastic with back adhesive. Printing, stalagmites and stalactites - red. "NSS," diver, and outline - black. Ordering information on page 4. (Patches are also available again now.)

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Recently an NSS and Section member who had not received formal cave-diving training from any organization, met a tragic and fatal end in a cave-diving accident (refer to NSS News, June 1984). It is sadly ironic for the educational and training work of the Section to apparently be reaching the general diving public (as diminishing accident tolls hopefully indicate), and have a fellow caver die so foolishly.

There are many possible analyses of why this particular accident occurred. One very classic case study seems to fit this incident: "A long time (caving and cave-diving) enthusiast, through association with other enthusiasts and trial and error, becomes seeming proficient in his ventures. Meanwhile additional techniques and equipment are developed to make the sport safer. The time, trouble, and expense of learning and procuring these skills and equipment is judged not essential by this individual. As long as others will participate with this individual, he will continue until he or others with him are involved in a mishap."

(Continued on page 5)



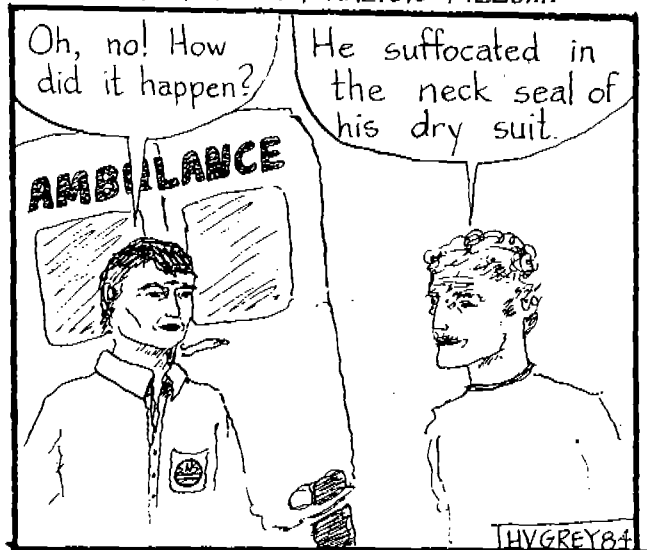
ATTENTION: RECOVERY DIVERS!

Henry Nicholson says, politely but very firmly, that he must INSIST that all members of the Cave Diving Recovery Team notify the NCIC within 24 hrs. of any change of address or telephone numbers. Otherwise, the Recovery Team stands to lose its effectiveness and credibility.

The NCIC (National Crime Information Center) telephone number is:

(904) 633-4159

FROM THE ACCIDENT ANALYSIS FILES...



"ISSUE PAPERS"

still requested by Danny Brass, on all controversial, current topics in cave diving. Please use a separate page(s) for each subject, and mail to:

DANNY BRASS
Dept. of Anatomy
College of Vet. Medicine
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Ames, Iowa 50011

* * *

WATER-CONDITION REPORT: J.T. of the Branford Dive Center reports that the rivers are still dropping and should be normal within a couple of weeks. Visibility in Peacock & Little River - 50-60', but with some particulate. Both Little River & Madison experiencing very strong flow. Vis. in Bonnet - 50'. Peacock III - "divable." Devil's Eye - the well completely clear.

NACD TO OFFER ANOTHER CAVERN WORKSHOP FOR OPEN-WATER INSTRUCTORS

The NACD will be conducting another Cave and Cavern Diving Orientation Course for basic and advanced open-water instructors, assistant instructors, and divemasters, on October 27-28 at Manatee Springs State Park, near Chiefland, FL.

The purpose is to acquaint basic scuba instructors with the special training and equipment requirements of the "overhead environment" so that they can speak intelligently to their students. The Workshop is appropriately entitled "A Need for Better Understanding."

There will be a \$45 fee for those registering before Oct. 15, and \$60 thereafter. Participants will receive the NACD Cavern Diver Certification.

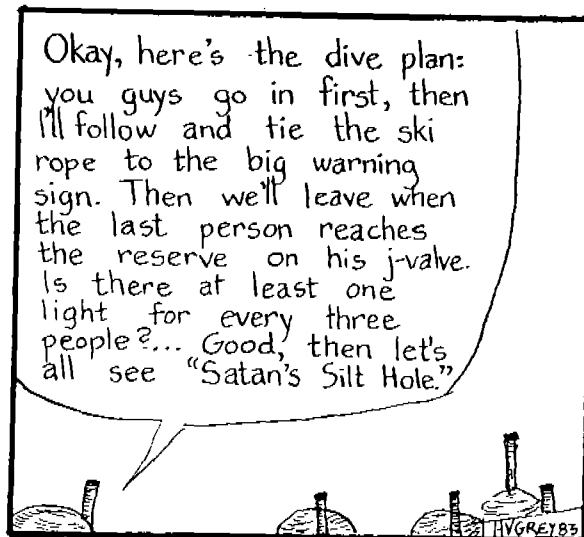
For registration or more information contact either the NACD General Manager, POB 14492, Gainesville, FL 32604; or the Workshop Chairman, Steve Gerrard, 5714 Ed White Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301, (904) 656-1223.

* * *

The NACD OWI Cavern Orientation Course held April 14-15 at Manatee Springs and Blue Grotto was considered a great success. It was well attended and the OW instructors were treated to lectures by several of the finest cave divers in the business, including NSS-CDS guest speakers Steve Ormeroid and Wayne Marshall. (Continued on page 5)

* * *

The Open-Water Certification Dive...



PUBLICATIONS

NSS Cave Diving Manual (eds. Sheck Exley & India Fuller), 291 pp.

1-4 copies @ \$10.95 (add 5% post/hand, minimum of \$1)

5-29 copies @ \$7.50 (add 5% post/hand)

30 or more @ \$7.00 (no post/hand)

Basic Cave Diving - A Blueprint for Survival, by Sheck Exley, 46 pp.

1-9 copies @ \$2.50 (NSS members)
@ \$2.95 (non-members)

10 or more @ \$1.75 (NSS members)
@ \$2.95 (non-members)

(NOTE: We have just completed a new printing, which contains an updated instructor list. Thank you, Sheck, for supervising that!)

T-Shirts - \$7.00 (add \$1 per shirt for p/h)

Men's style (CDS logo on front pocket, scenic design on back) S, M, L, XL.
Navy, tan, gold, orange. (All colors are not available in all sizes, so please list several color choices when ordering.)

Ladies' style (scoop neck, scenic design on front) XL in light blue only

Collared Men's Shirts (pullover with buttons and collar, logo on front pocket; no design on back) - \$12.00 (add \$1 per shirt p/h) M, L, XL. Colors: Navy, White.

Bumper Stickers - \$2.00 (no post/hand)

"I support safe cave diving" (dayglow orange)
" " (yellow vinyl)
"Scuba karst" (black on white)
"Cave diving is sumphing else" "
"Cavers get flow stoned" "
"The topography of heaven is karst" "

Post cards - Peacock Springs Cave System
Map - 10¢ (no post/hand)

Pamphlet - "Using Cave Maps for Safety" (by Sheck Exley) - 25¢ (no post/hand)

FREE brochure - "Cave Diving Safety"

Patches - \$3 Decals - \$1 (plus 20¢ p/h per order)

* * *

Remittance must accompany all orders. Please make check or money order payable to "NSS Cave Diving Section," and send to:

H.V. GREY, NSS-CDS Publications
P.O. Box 575
Venice, FT 34284-0575

MAPS - \$5.00 (per map, includes post/hand, & a "Using Cave Maps for Safety" pamphlet with each order)

- Peacock Springs
- Madison Blue Springs
- Green Sink

Send check or money order made out to the Section and a copy of your cave certification to:

Marvin Von Almen
1083 Brown St.
Jacksonville, FL 32205

* * *

Open Letter defining map policy approved unanimously at the April 14th B.O.D. meeting at Manatee Springs:

RE: Distribution of NSS-CDS underwater cave system maps

To whom it may concern:

After much delay and considerable controversy, maps of several Florida underwater cave systems are shortly to become available.

However, in the "wrong" hands--that is, in the hands of divers who are inexperienced or untrained specifically in the special techniques and hazards of cave diving, but who are nevertheless bound and determined to do it anyway--such maps are potentially very dangerous.

In accordance with the NSS Cave Diving Section's commitment to cave-diving safety, sale of the maps will be restricted to people who can give proof that they have attained a cave-diving certification from an accredited agency such as the NSS-CDS, NACD, YMCA, or NAUI. "Cavern" certification is not sufficient.

For those ordering maps by mail, a copy of (both sides of) an appropriate certification card, along with the name of the instructor and date of certification, will be sufficient.

H.V. GREY

March 19, 1984

Chair. of Public.

(NOTE: It was also decided at the April 14th Board of Directors meeting, that maps should be available only through the Section, and not resold through dive shops, etc. This in order to insure the map distribution policy.)

Additional maps donated by Wes Skiles will be available in the future. TBA

NACD OWI CAVERN WORKSHOP (Con't from p. 3)

It is a standing policy for the NACD (as well as official NSS-CDS policy) not to recruit or encourage divers into cave diving. The workshop for OW instructors is aimed at helping instructors effectively guide divers who are, by attitude or nature, "high risk" divers, away from cave diving; and to direct students who are genuinely interested, to qualified training courses. Whereas the April Workshop was a collaboration with NAUI, the October workshop is designed more to appeal to instructors of all agencies.

* * *

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (con't from page 2)

How many of us know someone who might match this example? Not just a diver turned cave diver, but a caver who's learned to dive in order to sump dive. Or worse yet, never enrolling in formal dive lessons, but still sump diving.

As our membership expands through the cavers of the world, let us all share the knowledge gained through the hard work of the cave-diving community. As our cavern and cave-diving instructors teach (and preach), you should never stop learning how to cave dive.

Since the time of the Section's origin, most all of the techniques in cave diving have been developed in north Florida. As our trained cave-diving membership grows geographically, many new types of cave-diving environments are being explored. I wish to place with all Section members the responsibility of reporting new or different cave-diving situations to the Training Director and Safety Coordinator. Your responsive actions may help prevent someone's accident.

It is my belief that the Section's policy of diligently working to educate the still growing numbers of open-water divers traveling to north Florida, should continue and expand. I also feel that this policy has developed and is stable enough in its present state for the Section to start devoting more of its efforts back towards our parent organization. Much of this direction has already started. Several of our members are suffering symptoms of "dry-caving mania." Along with that, many of the devotions of dry cavers are influencing cave-diving activities: biology, geology, vertical, etc.

Let's continue with education, training, and safety within the NSS and all of its internal organizations. We can all share and learn so much from our spelean world.

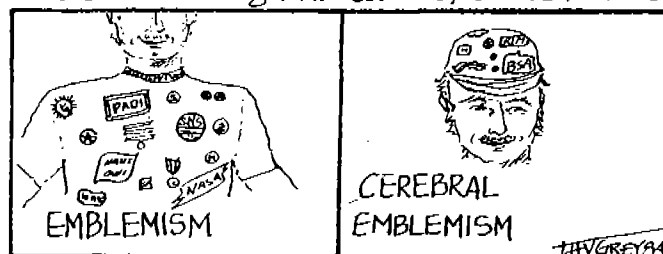
- Steve Ormeroid

ABE DAVIS AWARD

Cave divers who have logged 100 or more safe dives are eligible to receive recognition from the Section in the form of the Abe Davis Safety Award. For information on how to apply, contact:

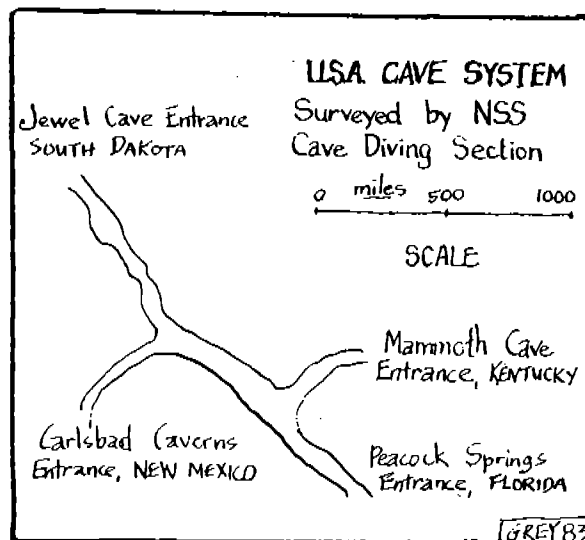
Mark Leonard
Rt. 14, Box 136
Lake City, FL 32055

Beware these diving maladies! by Dennis Williams

**THANK YOU**

On behalf of the Cave Diving Section, the Chairman of Publications would like to express most ardent thanks to the following individuals for their assistance and cooperation: Gene Melton, for overseeing the purchase of 288 shirts over a period of a year--and getting it all right; Sheck Exley, for handling the reprinting of Basic Cave Diving and making like a storage company for all the hundreds of extra manuals and books; Sheck, and Wes Skiles, both, for contributing maps to the Section for publication; and a very special thanks to MARVIN VON ALMEN, who redrafted and copied all the maps.

Sheck has...ahem, surveyed a new cave; think you could draft it up for us, Marvin?



Courtesy of Sheck Exley

A PHILOSOPHY OF EXPLORATION

by DANNY BRASS

A variety of obstacles beset the explorer journeying through the wilderness environment. The success with which these obstacles are overcome, however, is dependent upon more than just the technical skill and fortitude displayed by individual members of an expeditionary team. It does not suffice to merely pass through an hitherto unknown world and return alive. In the negotiation of each hazard, the responsible wilderness traveler must measure success with reference to the adequacy of the safety margin by which a maximal probability of survival is insured.

A priority for survival is a safety ethic subscribed to by every rational explorer. The boundaries of the ethic, however, are somewhat nebulous. There are, for example, times when a greater element of risk is deemed appropriate to make unconventional progress. Similarly, we must all regularly reach beyond previous limits if we are to augment our own technical competence.

Though we all have preconceived perceptions of what constitutes safe wilderness travel, we run into difficulty when we try to apply our own standards of safety throughout the community of wilderness travelers. I believe the difficulty lies in our inability to reconcile the relationship between experience and apparent degree of risk that will hold for all concerned. The validity of our judgements, in this regard, extends no further than our own prejudices. To be sure, the phrase maximizing survival potential must have more than just lip service meaning. But, in judging the relative safety of any given excursion, it is imperative that we consider both our own limitations, as well as the freedom of expression that we have come to recognize as being so integral a part of the wilderness experience.

In this light, a dichotomy of thought has evolved, each embracing opposite extremes. At one end of this spectrum are those who would severely restrict the justifiable extent of exploration in order to maximize safety of team members. At the other extreme are those intent on following a path to its destination, continually adapting available safety technology to provide the safest means of traveling to journey's end. At times, however, this requires that certain concepts of safety be shed, while others be stretched to paper thinness. But, it allows the frontiers of discovery to advance ever further.

There are no moral judgements to be made regarding these opposing viewpoints. There are justifiable reasons for adhering to a belief in either. As is the case more often than not, it is, perhaps, wiser to tread a middle ground, recognizing that certain forms of diving are more appropriate for some individuals than for others. It merely remains for each of us to decide what form of exploration is most appropriate for us. Thus, there should be no shame in restricting our dives to traveling over territory that has been well-explored by previous generations of divers. That it be a voyage of self-discovery should, in itself, suffice and this should be reflected in peer acceptance. We are, on the other hand, to be proud of attempts to push back the known limits of exploration through well-planned reaches beyond old barriers.

It has, in the past, been difficult for these divergent factions to live comfortably with each other. The determined adherence of individuals to their own high standards, right or wrong, has prevented development of a proper respect for differing viewpoints. Middle of the road ideas have been of limited value in fostering exchange of information or initiation of cooperative ventures. As in all human endeavors, the cave diving community must strike a balance on these issues if it is to insure continued and steady progress in both exploratory and service activities. It is, therefore, imperative that each of us fully understand the motivations that underlie the assemblage of beliefs advocated by the many members of the cave diving community.

In this regard, we must all recognize and accept the high ideal of the explorer and the human drive to push through the unknown. These motivations serve, at least on one level, as a fundamental inquiry into the nature of who we are and what our proper place in the natural scheme of things might be. We must, however, never lose sight of the value of human life, nor the effects of tragedy upon the public, fellow wilderness travelers, friends and family. We owe to these many people the responsibility of tempering our quests of discovery by insuring a safe return from every trip. Safety, therefore, must always be in the forefront of our minds.

-- Danny Brass, Ames, Iowa 1984

Clean-Up '84

by GEORGE BORTNYK

We as divers and NSS-CDS members are usually supportive of the environment when issues arise which are specifically related to the quality of our diving waters. Of course, most of us are not active environmentalists, however, we do tend to be sensitive to environmental quality because of our underlying appreciation for the outdoors and natural beauty. In this vein, CLEAN-UP '84 is an environmental issue of which all divers should be aware and support.

CLEAN-UP '84 is a "grass roots" petition drive whose end objective is to add an environmental rights amendment to the Florida constitution. The amendment would provide for the following:

- The right to a healthful environment
- The right to know of exposure to toxic substances
- The declaration of natural resources as public resources
- Legal standing for enforcement

The CLEAN-UP '84 Amendment drive, supported by environmentalists state-wide, needs 300,000 signed and verified petitions by early August in order to include the issue on the general election ballot in November '84. It is believed that the voters will overwhelmingly approve this amendment once presented on the ballot.

As of mid-May about 160,000 signed and verified petitions had been collected. A petition form has been printed below for use by Florida registered voters (this has to be verified in order for the petition to be counted as valid). You are encouraged to xerox the form for use by family members and friends who are qualified to petition.

CLEAN-UP '84 is requesting a \$1 donation to offset the costs of petition verification and data keeping, but don't hesitate to ignore the \$1 donation; your signed petition is far more urgently needed.

(Continued on page 8)

Constitutional Amendment Petition Form

I am a registered voter of Florida and hereby petition the Secretary of State to place the following amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in the general election to be held more than ninety days after this petition is filed.

Ballot Title and Summary.

Environmental Rights

Establishes a right to a healthful environment and the right to know if that healthful environment has been endangered. Establishes natural water, air and wildlife as a public trust. Grants standing in legal proceedings for enforcement of these rights.

The following new section is added to Article I of the Florida Constitution

Section 24. Environmental Rights

(a) Each person has a right to a healthful environment and a duty to provide and to maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations. Each person has a right to know, and the duty to give notice as shall be provided by law, if a healthful environment has been or may be endangered by toxic or other potentially hazardous substances.

(b) The natural waters, air and wildlife in the state are public resources that shall be managed as a public trust for the use and benefit of all the people of this and future generations and for the maintenance of the natural ecosystems. Each person as beneficiary of this trust has a right to have the trust purposes fulfilled.

(c) Each person, governmental or private, shall have standing to enforce the rights granted by this section against all other persons through legal proceedings.

Signature _____
(Please sign name as it appears on voting roll.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

County _____

Precinct _____

Congressional District _____

Date Signed _____

Note: 104 185 (Election Code) It is unlawful to knowingly sign a petition more than one time.

Phone _____

Optional

Paid Political Advertisement - Paid for by and return to
CLEAN-UP '84 - P.O. Box 22626 - Tampa, Florida 33622
George Bortnyk, Treasurer

(CLEAN-UP '84 con't)

Right to a Healthful Environment: Many environmental diseases (e.g. cancer, birth defects, declining fertility) can be attributed to the massive quantities of toxic, carcinogenic and mutagenic substances introduced into the environment each year. Yet the public has little knowledge of it, and individuals, little recourse when their health is endangered by hazardous substances.

CLEAN-UP '84 proposes a constitutionally guaranteed right to a healthful environment, as well as a duty to preserve it for future generations.

Right to be Informed: There have been countless instances of citizens being exposed unknowingly to toxic substances--pesticide contamination of drinking water, uninformed workers poisoned by unknown substances, and industrial discharge into streams and rivers. Without the knowledge of danger, people cannot act to protect themselves. C-U '84 proposes a constitutional right to be informed if a healthful environment is threatened by hazardous substances.

Natural Resources as Public Resources: The water along Florida coastlines, in bays, estuaries, rivers, and underground reser-

voirs, knows no political or private-property boundaries. Although some efforts have been made recently to protect Florida's precious ground and surface water supplies, much more could be done if water were considered, as air and wildlife already are, a public resource.

Citizen Standing to Enforce a Clean Environment: The most common problem of environmentalists is getting into Florida courts. Cases are routinely dismissed for lack of "standing." The courts have historically required the complainant to show that "special damages" have been suffered. The C-U '84 amendment would allow individuals to assert claims for public environmental wrongs.

* * *

For answers to specific questions about the amendment or for printed information and petition forms or for information on how to volunteer work to the CLEAN-UP '84 effort, contact and MAIL PETITION FORMS to:

George P. Bortnyk
13938 85th Terrace N.
Seminole, FL 33542
(813) 391-9077

NSS Cave Diving Section
c/o Sandra Fehring
3508 Hollow Oak Place
Brandon, FL 33511