

EXTRA! QUAKE! EXTRA!

THE EMPTY NEST NEWSLETTER

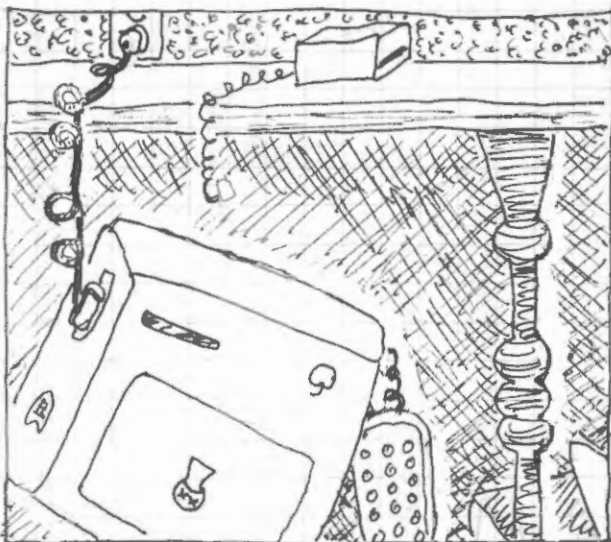
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"Yet once a little while and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land." -- Haggai 2:6

HANGS BY CHORD

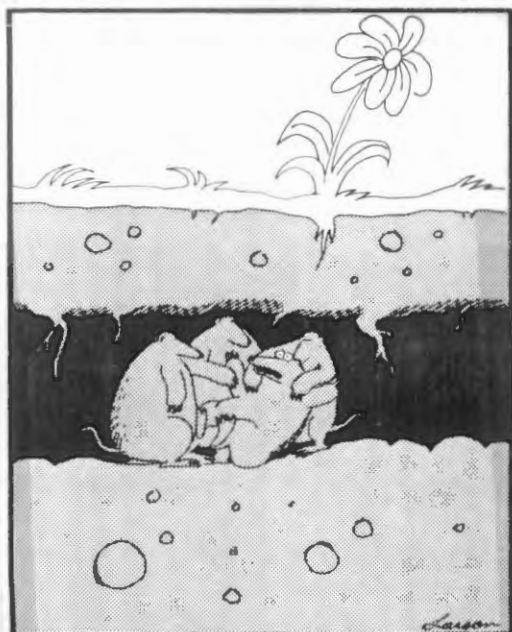
"I THOUGHT I'D NEVER TAKE ANOTHER BYTE," SAYS SURVIVOR

Santa Cruz "My pixels were scrambled!" says Mac II of 131 Cedar St. #6, in an exclusive interview with the Empty Nest Newsletter. "There was this awful jolt and there I was, off my stand, and hanging by my chord. Only a little wire and rubber were between me and my colors ran together, my hard disk went soft, my circuits were spinning. The stereo did hit the floor. In the kitchen, the stove, frij, drawing table and kitchen table all danced into the center of the room and crashed into each other. Everything off shelves, dishes broken, the newly painted walls with cracks in the plaster. And there we all waited, for Megan to come home and take care of us. I feel pretty good now; when the chips were down, my resistors kicked in, and I made it through the Great Quake!"



MEGAN AT EPICENTER

Santa Cruz (Exclusive to Empty Nest) Megan got word to Ellie, abt 2 hrs. after the quake, that she was OK, but no details have come till last night. Her story: "I was waiting for the bus in Scott's valley (closer to the epicenter than downtown S. Cruz) when the ground felt like there was a big bus going by, but there was no bus, and it would've had to be a HUGE GIANT bus -- a sort of rolling, but a big giant roll -- then big jolts, BIG JOLTS! One man was thrown to the ground, I realized what was happening, looked up, saw power lines, and yelled for everyone to run out from under, & we ran! By then, it was pretty much over -- some aftershocks, but these could've been our jello legs -- it was like running on the middle part of a rubber dinghy. All the cars were pulling over, thinking their axels were broken. Someone picked us up & we drove into Santa Cruz -- huge traffic jam -- a rock slide on the highway we had to creep around. We didn't realize how serious the quake was till we saw the damage to the older bldgs in S. Cruz -- plate glass out of stores, beams fallen within. I spotted a fire that could've been my house, but it was 2 bl. away. The house across the street from me looked like a house



"It's OK! It's OK! The tunnel was closing in on me there for a while, but I'm all right now."

of cards that someone had blown on. I went in my house, picked up the stereo & computer, saw everything smashed -- I couldn't believe it! Then I ran to the fire. The quake was at 5:04, I was home by 5:30, and that house was completely demolished -- it had been a fireball. Everyone was out on the street, standing, walking -- one woman ran by clutching photograph albums. I ran to Barkers [Barb Lewis & Jess Barker, Megan's close friends] and they were OK, but their chimney was down, & the neighbor's chimney ^{had} to take their car.

EMILY AT GARDEN CITY MALL: BALLET

However: when the quake hit, Emily Barker, 6, was downtown taking her ballet lesson, on the Mall! Barb grabbed Audrey & they leapt in the other car & peeled out to downtown. Robert Lewis came out of his room in the backyard, saw the chimney in the drive where Audrey plays, the car speeding away, & thought they were rushing Audrey to the hospital. When Jess could drive no further, he tore thru an alley, Barb followed, barefoot in all the glass & debris, carrying Audrey. A woman tried to stop her, "I have to get my daughter!" Barb cried. "But the downtown's demolished!" the woman said. Meanwhile, at the ballet class -- when the quake hit, the teacher said, "Let's all get outside, children," and they hurried to the



Megan's Story, Continued.

Stairway. Emily, scrambling downstairs, clutching the banister to keep her footing, saw through the open door the building across the street collapse. (Says Megan, "One of the five of us has been wearing Emily at all times, ever since!") Jess got Emily and ran back with her in his arms, while bricks were still raining down. Someone snapped his picture leaping debris to get TO Emily, & it had 1/4 the front page Thursday. (ENNL will run it when we get a copy.) At present, the Barkers are sleeping in a tent in the yard, Megan is in the back hall (of Barkers) right by the open door. No water, gas, ~~lights~~. People are barbecuing in their yards. The first night, Megan, Barb, Jess, Walden & Robert Lewis, ate sandwiches, talked, & held Emily. OTHER STORIES:

<p>BARE NAKED A friend of Robt & Waldens was in the tub, the water splashed half way up the wall on the other side. He grabbed a hand towel & ran outside. Another friend, on the Mall, going upstairs & hanging on banister to keep from being tossed down, saw the wall right in front of his face vanish & he was looking at thin air. He turned & went DOWN!</p>	<p>AIRBORNE A man on Hwy 17 had the pavement buckle before his car. The car left the freeway, airborne. When it landed, it crunched so hard there was no car left to drive. The man skidded into the median, got out, dazed but unhurt, & the people behind dragged him into their car. (Megan saw.)</p>	<p>DWARF HOUSE A house near Megan fell into its basement, now the door is dwarf-sized, & the windows are on ground level.</p> <p>TWO DAYS It's taken two days to get one woman, who was killed, out of the rubble, says Megan.</p>
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Megan says it's been hard to sleep because the aftershocks wake you up. She went back to her house on Thursday, put on gloves, started picking things up, sweeping, vacuuming. She said she felt peculiar: partly anxious, partly depressed, and very much alone. On Weds., she and a few others went to work. Every room had everything off the shelves and file drawers open with contents spilled & mixed up on the floor. Megan spent 3 or 4 hrs. cleaning up the kitchen, and starting on her own area. Helicopters have been going over at night, huge army & navy ones, & shining lights down. Eerie the first night, when there were no lights. The Red Cross has set up an emergency service kitchy-corner from her apt. A couple visiting from France asked M. if anything was open: they hadn't eaten since before the quake. M offered to feed them, peanut butter sandwiches. They started to come in, but found she couldn't make coffee. So they opted for the Red Cross, which had coffee. And a final tidbit, till the ENNL Ed gets more news: a neighbor of one of the Barkers' nurses had her grand piano flipped onto its back, legs in air.

ALISON THOUGHT IT WAS THE BIG ONE!
S.F. After the first 5 seconds, that is, when everything was tumbling down around her. She'd just got home, was feeding Charcoal when it struck. She thought at first it was you ordinary garden variety tremor, till it kept on, & the front of the condo sounded like it was tearing off. But she was in luck: there was no structural damage. (She stood under the K. door frame: a d. frame is supposedly the safest spot.) Most frightening was being alone, cut off, in the dark, no phone. She listened to the car radio till people were told to go inside (if they could) on acct of looters. Paul Sackett says to tell ENNL readers that S.F. fans are cheered off at TV anchors who come in their stretch limos (filled with food) and stand in front of a pile of rubble with their ties off, as if they've been dragging the bodies out! Alison could see the big five from her balcony, & the eerie dark city.

ANNABELLE MISSES QUAKE, WAS LARKING AT TAHOE
S. Cruz ENNL reader Annabelle Dirks, visiting [from overseas] daughter & son-in-law, left SC Tues aft & didn't know abt the quake till Tahoe motel - they couldn't find out much, S.F. took the lime/light. Couldn't call in to home, nos pebil - frustrating! & scary, as the news reports got worse. Couldn't get into town till Thurs. M. The house seems OK. VCR, stereo, glass, china hurled to floor, & smashed, all books lined up one behind the other, pointing toward the door, as if to say, "Let's get outa here!" At the hosp., they're feeding people & have fixed up dorms. 10,000 are homeless. Stores are sending in stuff. 150 loaves of bread, etc. Volunteers are those making sandwiches, etc. All town day care aren't functioning so they've set up day care for their employees. They're treating many injured! Some [homeless?] employees are packing their bags & moving to safer climes. Annabelle says what's heartening has been how outgoing, helpful, sisterly/brotherly, everyone is being in this disaster.