

DAD!
IT'S A RATTLER!
SHOULDN'T WE KILL IT?

NO SON. RATTLESNAKES ARE PART
OF NATURE AND SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR AS LONG AS
WE KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE.



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Leave wild animals alone. Fifty to seventy percent of reptile bites managed by the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center were provoked by the person who was bitten - that is, by someone trying to kill, capture or harass the animal.

WHY DO SNAKES
HAVE TO
EAT PACK RATS?
I LIKE PACK RATS.

ALL PLANTS AND ANIMALS NEED EACH OTHER.
WITHOUT PREDATORS LIKE THIS GOPHER SNAKE,
THE PACK RATS WOULD SUFFER FROM
DISEASE AND STARVATION.

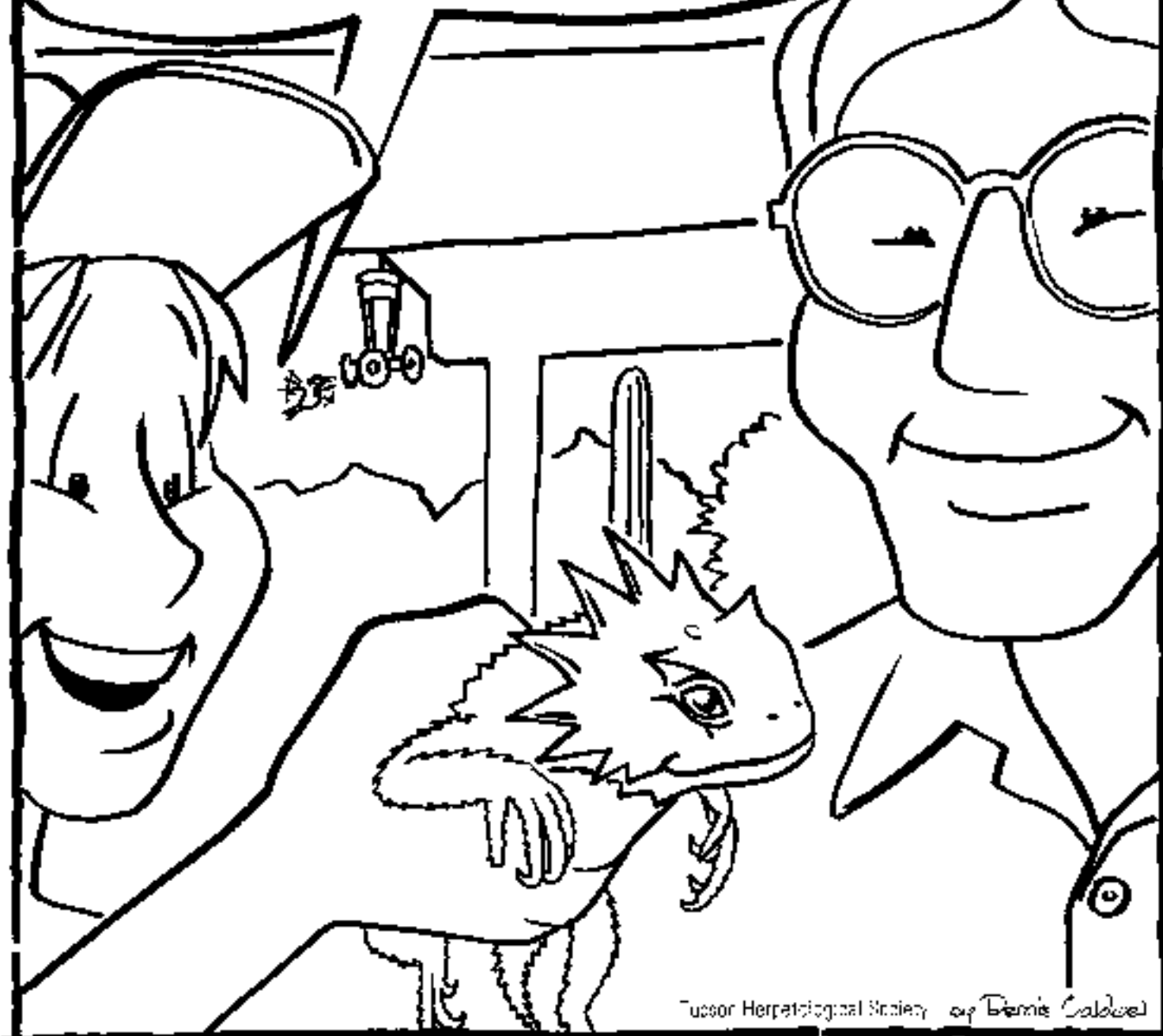


ISSN: Herpetological Society by Dennis Coakwell

The Food Chain.

All snakes are predators. Predators are a very important part of the intricate web of life. They ensure a balance in nature by controlling populations of prey animals. This helps stop the spread of disease and the destruction of plant life.

DAD, I FOUND THIS HORNED LIZARD IN THE BACKYARD. I'M GOING TO PUT IT OVER THE FENCE SO THE DOG DOESN'T GET IT.



Tussock Herpetological Society of Dennis Caldwell

The horned lizard is commonly found near houses and in alleyways, where they feed on ants. Their docile nature makes them irresistible to children who want to keep them as pets. Unfortunately they never live long once they've been removed from the wild. Horned lizards are often run over by cars and killed by dogs and cats. You can help horned lizards by leaving them in the wild and watching out for their safety.

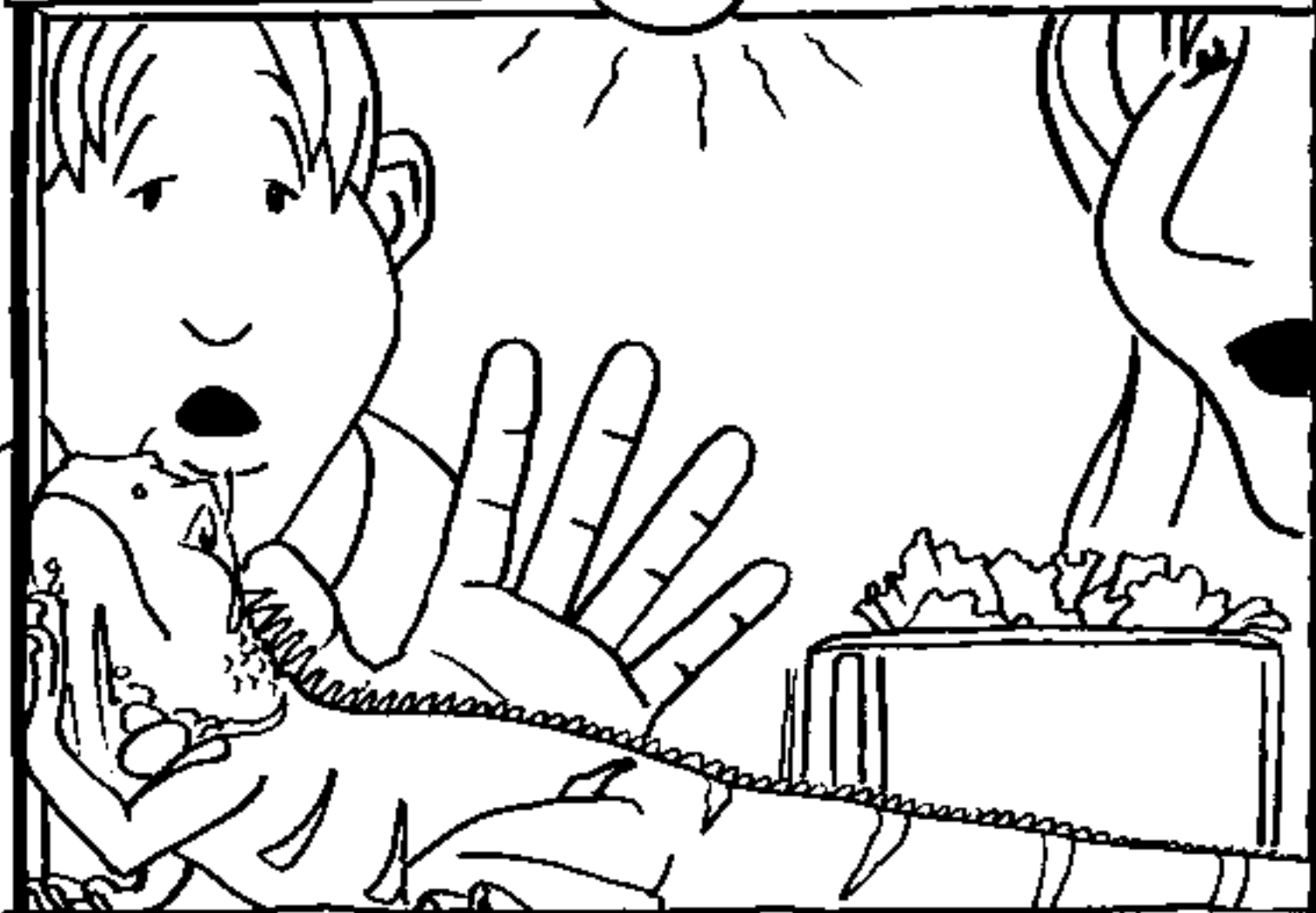


Tucson Herpetological Society by Dennis Caldwell

Despite the Gila Monster's ferocious name and the fact that it is venomous, the Gila Monster is actually very slow moving and docile when left alone and never a threat to humans. Every year as urban development encroaches on the desert, more of these rare and legally protected animals are buried alive by bulldozers and run over by cars on our busy roads. You can help Gila Monsters from being run over by helping your parents watch the road when driving through desert areas.

MOM, I FEEL SORRY
FOR MY IGUANA.
I WANT TO SET IT
FREE.

THAT'S A BAD IDEA SON.
IGUANAS CAN'T LIVE IN THE
DESERT.

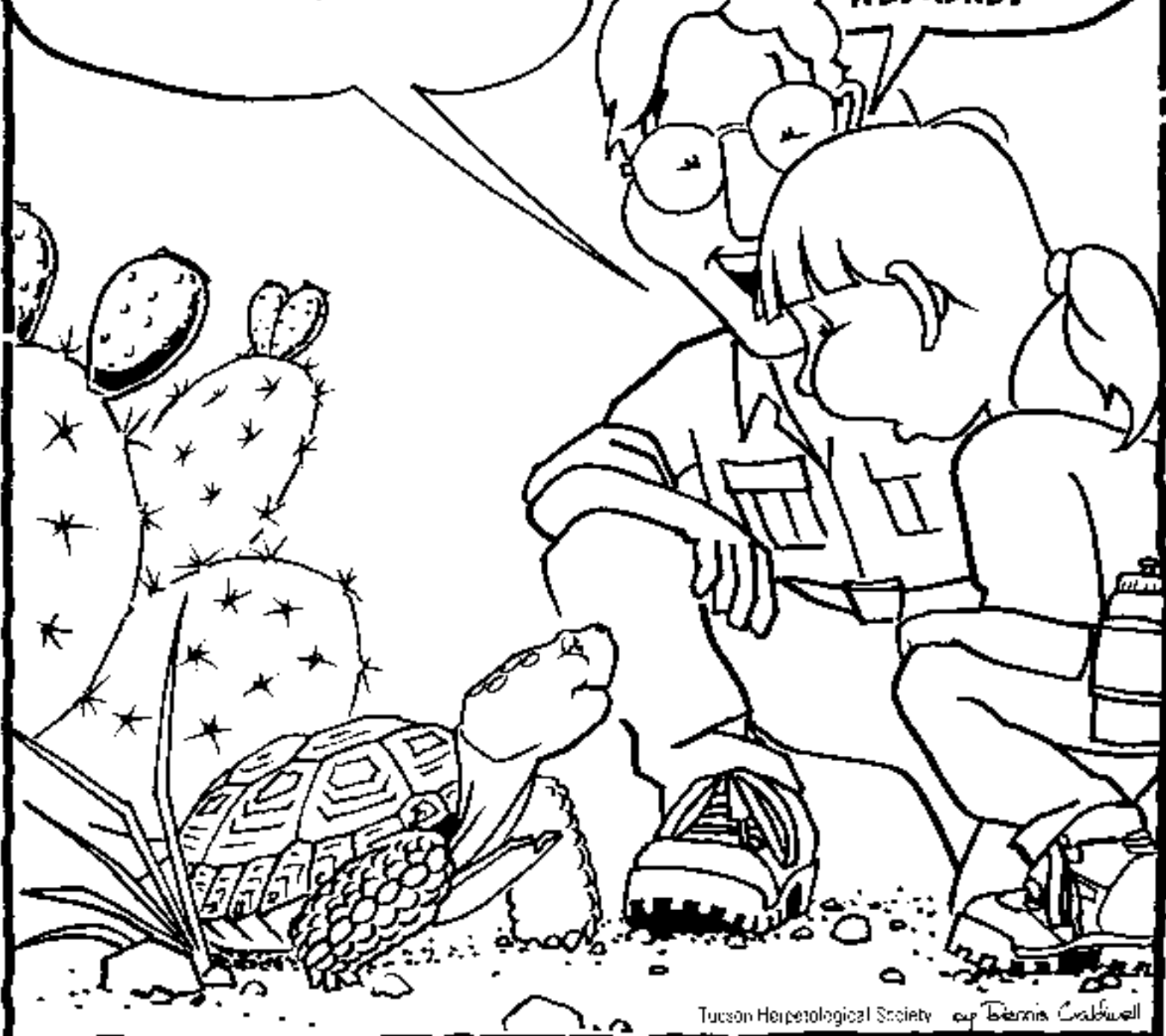


Fraser Herpetological Society by Dennis Colucci

Never release pets into the wild. Besides being illegal in most states, captive animals carry diseases and parasites that may be fatal in wild animal populations. Most pets have lost their instincts for survival and soon die of thirst, starvation or predation. If any do survive, they may become a pest or out compete native wildlife, endangering sensitive species.

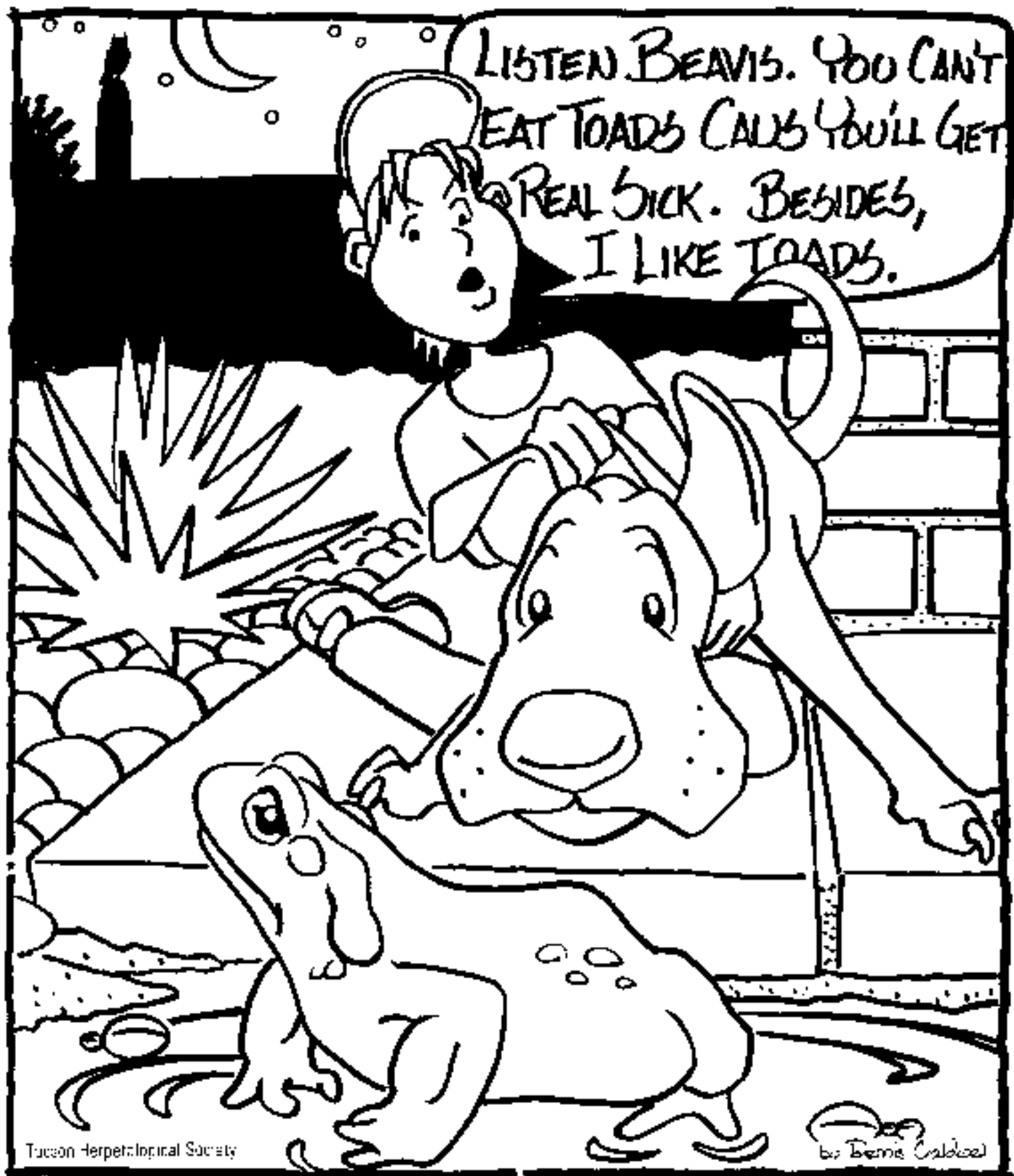
DAD, A DESERT TORTOISE!
MY FRIEND SUSAN HAS ONE
FOR A PET.
CAN WE BRING HIM HOME?

NO PATTI, IT'S AGAINST THE LAW.
BESIDES, IF WE DON'T DISTURB HIM,
MAYBE WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN NEXT
WEEKEND.



Tucson Herpetological Society by Dennis Caldwell

Never bring a tortoise home as a pet. In Arizona it's illegal to remove a tortoise from the wild and illegal to release any animal back into the wild. Relocated tortoises will not survive in unfamiliar surroundings and may carry disease that could spread to wild tortoises. Never pick up a tortoise. As a natural defense it will urinate when molested. This is water that the tortoise has stored. In the desert this tortoise could die of thirst before his next drink.



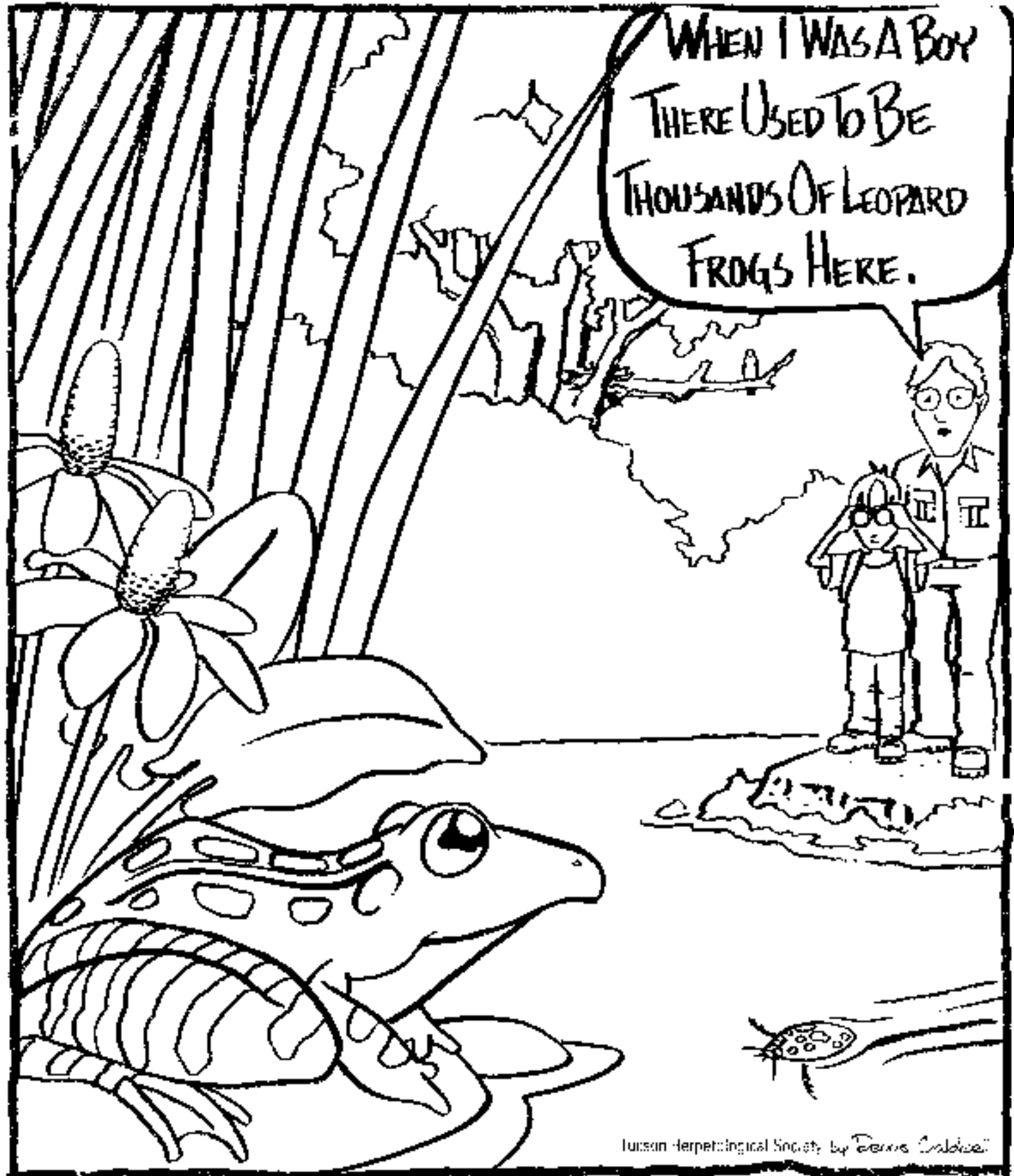
The Sonoran Desert Toad, also known as the Colorado River Toad, can be poisonous to animals that try to eat it. If kept away from pets, all toads can be very beneficial around your yard. Toads eat many kinds of pests including cockroaches, crickets, and termites. Toads can be handled safely by humans but always wash your hands after touching any kind of toad.



As the popularity of reptile skin products and rattlesnake roundups increases, some populations of reptiles are disappearing at an alarming rate. No one knows how much pressure these animals can take or what impact this will have on the surrounding ecosystems. You can help reptiles by not buying or wearing reptile skin products and by not going to rattlesnake roundups.



Riparian areas are home to lots of rare amphibians and reptiles. You can help protect these sensitive areas by cleaning up trash and watching out for hazardous waste (cleaning products, paint, pesticides, auto fluids, batteries, solvents, fertilizers and pool chemicals). **NEVER GO NEAR HAZARDOUS WASTES!** Report suspected hazardous waste to your State Department of Environmental Quality.



With only 10% of its former habitat left, whole populations of Leopard Frogs in the Southwest are continuing to disappear. Because of threats like heavy metal poisoning, acid rain, and introduced non-native species including bullfrogs, sportfish, and crayfish, Leopard Frogs are in danger of extinction. It's up to us to eliminate these threats and to protect these fragile riparian areas.

Teacher's Guide

The pages in this collection are intended as both entertainment and environmental education. To be most effective in this capacity, they need to be presented to children in a form with which the children can interact. Here are a couple of possibilities - others may be added to this list in the future.

By the way, we request that the images be printed on recycled paper. You may copy and distribute the images for free, but may not sell them for a profit. In any use or distribution of the images, proper credit must be given to Tucson Herpetological Society and artist Dennis Caldwell as sources of the images.

Coloring the Printed Page

These images have been sized and presented in a form that should print well on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Teachers or parents may print copies directly off the web browser. In most cases, this is done by clicking on the **file** menu at the top left corner of the browser window, and selecting the **Print** command. It is also possible to download the image by right-clicking on it, and selecting **Save image as...** from the menu that appears. Save the image to the directory of your choice, open it in another image-processing program, and print it from there.

Computer Coloring the Images

The setup for this will require image processing software and some knowledge of image files and file conversions. However, it is not overly difficult, and may help children develop new computer skills.

There may be many different ways to prepare the images for computer coloring. Here's an example of one way:

The first step in this process is to download an image in the manner described in the section above. Open it in an image-processing program that allows you to increase the color palette (the one used here is Paint Shop Pro abbreviated here as PSP). The images have been presented on the web page as two-color GIF files (black and white). To allow them to accept other colors, they need to have the palette increased. In PSP this can be done by clicking on the **Colors** menu, and selecting **Increase Color Depth...** On the sub-menu that appears, select the highest color depth available. Then save the image as a BMP file (one of the options available when you click on the **File** menu and select **Save as...**).

Close the PSP program, and move on to the second step of the process. Open up a paint program (if you have Windows '95, there is a simple program called **Paint** on the accessories menu). From within this program, open the BMP version of the image you

had downloaded. From here, coloring the image is a simple matter of using the colors and tools that appear in the program window, generally on the left and bottom of the window. *Note:* If you had only increased the color depth of the image to 256 colors, the paint program would work, but only in shades of gray.

Final step: Print the finished product. As described above, this can be done from the **File** menu, **Print** command. Color images will print in shades of gray on a black and white printer.