

A Chair, a Chair; Our Kingdom for a Chair

By Howard Carper

Somewhere between the categories of the quick and the dead there is an army of husbands, significant others and male friends who have not retained fleetness of foot or soundness of limb which would enable them either to keep pace with or to have endurance to match that of their shopping partners. Their plight screams for respite.

With profit being the true bottom line, it is not difficult to understand why customer creature comfort concerns might slip by under the radars of many store managers. Perhaps too involved with projects deemed more critical to boosting sales, one retailer provides little relief for the weary, a meager two-chair accommodation. This arrangement makes slight concession to the discomfort of a demographic component which by its very presence shows that it is an appreciable portion of the customer base.

For almost every casually dressed man in the store there will be a very deliberate shopping companion afoot and energized by the special force that drives her through a sale-inspired marathon of getting and spending. Caps or jackets very likely identify

these men as veterans of military service but, vets or not, all look at one another with a countenance of sympathetic understanding as they push patience to higher and higher levels and long to be seated at any level. One may wonder just what an acceptable chair per acre ratio may be, but with a sales floor that has acreage dimensions, two chairs are surely not sufficient to meet the needs of an uncomfortable throng.

Reflect for a moment on the continuous reality show we stage as we live out our everyday existences. A hip and knee inventory would reveal the skeletal status of they who stand and wait. Joint by joint, this group of similarly situated citizens grows and hopes for a means by which relief may be sought. No matter what the somatotype, the gaunt and the portly, lank or lardy, clutched in Earth's gravitational field and immersed in the ambient boredom of their nonparticipation in the ongoing purchasing frenzy, are subject to the fatigue thus sponsored.

Beyond the humanitarian aspects of the matter, corporate management should recognize the need to take action in its own interest. With the ready availability

of inexpensive, light-weight three-legged folding stools, resourceful sufferers may soon be seated randomly throughout a store, adding to the clutter of crowded aisles and causing problems in foot traffic flow. One may imagine a kinder, gentler time when an opportunity to be seated near the main entrance would be more than a chance to cast crime-does-not-pay admonitions on the hapless who innocently set off the security alarm as they make their exit and to fantasize strip searches of select subjects detained for scrutiny.

Let the mind picture a cluster of chairs, preferably upholstered, flanking the main entrance, three or four on each side. Picture patient, friendly fellows comfortable in their chairs, swapping tales, generating small talk and commiserating in general, semi-oblivious to the background of charge cards being plied to temperature levels just short of their melting points. Let the cashless commerce wage on, the weight-relieved waiting is no longer unbearable. Friendships are being established and there may be facetious suggestions about scheduling a reunion and, most fancifully, envisioning an appropriately mature USO Dolly strolling amongst the group dealing gratis decaf and donuts. The group is self-policed and views the placement of parcels on chairs as a sacrilege.

To relieve the fore stated circumstances, it is urged that altruistically motivated efforts

on the part of civic, fraternal, and retailer organizations be mounted to provide for the establishment of an endowed chairs program. Let the goal be to bring about the change which, upon completion, will offer the invitation: Gentlemen, be seated.

Town's Website

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does just that, tells people how to do something they are trying to do, as well as a "Notify Me" section where users can enter their email address in order to receive specific information as it becomes available. Graphics have been added so that town departments can show what they do as well as tell about it. If you want to make a tax payment, you can do that on line through the site, with a fee attached. Through the website you can also tap into MapQuest and get a print of a

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Located in the heart of Beacons Reach



105 McGinnis Drive

The perfect place to read or watch the birds - cozy and comfy, fully heated and air conditioned sunroom overlooking lagoon. Immaculate and well maintained home; 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths with solar lights, fireplace and dry bar with refrigerator. \$440,000



140 Oakleaf Drive

One of a kind spacious home in Pine Knoll Shores. You not only have a view of Bogue Sound but also a view overlooking the golf course. Double enjoyment!! This home has many features for entertaining and year round living. Elevator, screened porches, deck, sunroom and much more. Call Teddy Wimberley for a showing. \$775,000



B3 Maritime West

If you want to be able to sit on the porch and watch your kids in the pool, this is the place. Beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bath oceanfront condo in exclusive Beacons Reach. This oceanfront property is ocean front with wonderful views of the ocean. Selling completely furnished excepting personal items. All for only \$610,000. Priced to sell.



135 Oakleaf Drive

Great contemporary on 1/2+/- acres on the 18th fairway of the exclusive Country Club of the Crystal Coast. Spacious, open floor plan perfect for entertaining. Large, bright living room with fireplace, master bedroom with loft and bath with jacuzzi and deck, all overlooking the golf course. Easy walking distance to private ocean access and sound front parks with ramp for boat. Many more extras. \$498,000



J3 West Port

Sit on your porch and enjoy the sunset over the Bogue Sound. Conveys furnished with some exceptions. Formal dining room, sunken living room with fireplace, All amenities of Beacon's Reach apply. Marina on site. \$625,000



E1 Ocean Grove

Unusual Opportunity. Just listed 1/2 of E-1 Ocean Grove for \$360,000. 4 bedroom, 4 bath ocean-side condo in beautiful Beacon's Reach.



32 Ocean Glen

Beautiful, unit at Ocean Glen available for \$499,000. Rare enclosed porch with oceanview. 3 bedroom, furnished with some exception. A must see.



A-4 Maritime West

Three bedroom, three bath OCEANFRONT condo in Maritime West, one of the most popular complexes in Beacons Reach. This unit is absolutely immaculate and will sell furnished with only a few exceptions. You must see this condo to appreciate it. Priced to sell at \$625,000



108 Cedar Road

Special attention was given to this lovely home. Remote fireplace opens into LR and DR. Sunny bonus room, screened porch, and fenced yard. Spacious open kitchen w/wood laminate floors and 2 pantries. Handicapped accessible. Short walk to ocean and sound. More extras. \$450,000



J4 Westport

If you love the peace and quiet of sound side living, you cannot beat Westport in Beacons Reach. Westport has one of the most popular floor plans with the master bedroom on the first level. Separate dining area, 2 1/5 bath and screened in porch. Selling mostly furnished at \$633,000.



B4 Ocean Grove

This is a wonderful oceanfront condo, 4 bedroom, 3 bath. Conveying furnished with exceptions. All amenities of Beacon's Reach. \$690,000.

Properties of Distinction

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