

## Getaways

# Pier fishing is fun, but don't expect a large catch

By LORRIE DOUGLAS

Fall break may be the last time to head toward the beach before the winter weather sets in. Even if the beaches may be too chilly the fishing piers can offer a relaxing weekend outdoors.

As the morning sun cast a blinding glare over the steel-gray Atlantic bordering Yaupon Beach, North Carolina, a fisherman with tanned and leathery skin stopped me from throwing his fish, a brown flounder, back in the water. He had been away from it only for a moment, but it was long enough for me to think that the fish had been abandoned.

He told me that the fish was his only catch in about three hours. As if on cue, the fish began to flop wildly, making me jump away, startled. He seemed amused.

Gene Burns was his name, a long-time resident of

Yaupon Beach. I watched him cast his line over the edge of the pier.

"Fishing was pretty good up until that storm," he said. He was talking about Hurricane Dennis which struck off of the North Carolina coast in mid-August. He said that the storm brought in fresh water from the Cape Fear River, forcing fish farther offshore. The water was also too muddy as a result of the storm, he added, peering down. He said that normally the water is so clear that a person can look down and see to the bottom.

Silently he stared out to sea. Nothing was biting. We listened to the soft roll of the waves and screaming of the gulls. The water was dotted with balloon-like medusa jellyfish as far as the eye could see. A huge white factory rose above the coastline in the distance. Burns informed me that it was Carolina Power and Light Company's nuclear Brunswick Plant. I recalled that another fisherman, Howard Auman of High Point, had speculated that the plant may have an effect on the

fishing, but Burns never elaborated about the plant, and I did not press him.

About thirty minutes had passed since I had been watching Burns, and he still had not had a bite. With a sigh he said he was going to give up for the day shortly. I was disappointed that I had not witnessed the excitement of a fighting fish's survival instincts at the end of a line, but at least he still had his only catch of the day.

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If you are going . . . Take Hwy. 54 east to Hwy. 55 east to 401 south, which leads straight to Wilmington. Once in Wilmington, get on 133 south. This highway will lead you straight to the Southport-Long Beach - Yaupon Beach area. The roads are mostly one-lane, but well-maintained, and make for a pleasant drive. Approximate mileage: 180 miles. Approximate time: 3 hours. ☐

Lorrie Douglas is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

LEUTZE from page 3

Shortly after their marriage in 1960, the couple moved to Denver where Leutze was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base, where he said his first job was to inventory the Officer's Club, "counting the number of bottles of booze."

Before he left Lowry, though, Leutze had his own squadron—in a position that had formerly been occupied by a major.

Leutze's impressive characteristics followed him to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he took an evening graduate course. "Being young and naive," he said, "I decided I would like to work in the Senate. One day I walked into Sen. (Hubert H.) Humphrey's office and said 'I'd like a job.' Well, he hired me."

Leutze described the year he worked for Humphrey as a very interesting part of his life.

"This was during when Kennedy was alive and Washington was an exciting place—you felt like you could really change things," he said, his voice enthusiastic.

His tone softened.

"But then 15 years later you look back and see things still haven't changed that much."

Leutze said he benefited a great deal from his year in Washington.

"Having been involved in the active world, I am aware of the luxury people in the academic world have of being able to be objective about things in the world," he said.

Again a part of that academic world, Leutze came to the University in 1968 after receiving his doctorate from Duke University. He began serving as chairman of the curriculum in peace, war and defense in 1979.

One of Leutze's teaching assistants, Connie Lael, knows Leutze as tough to work for because of the responsibility he places with his proctors.

"But in some cases, it isn't like work at all," Lael said.

A former proctor for Leutze, Neil Pennywitt described the professor as "demanding, but fair to students." "He is receptive to any kind of input," Pennywitt said. "He's very popular with that."

Leutze makes sure that at least one time during each semester his students can get acquainted with him and others in the class by hosting a beer party and softball game for his students.

"It serves the purpose of trying to break the anonymity of being in a big class," he said.

A special feature of Leutze's history 76 class is a four-day tour of Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

"I want to encourage people to learn after they leave my class," he said. "This trip is an icebreaker for future (historical) touring."

Helen Wilson, his secretary, described Leutze's qualities as "sterling." But the recent Bowman Gray Professorship recipient said describing himself is difficult.

"This may sound odd, being a professor of military history, but the quality that I hold in esteem is the idea of gentleness—of concern for other people. You know, all those old 19th century ideas about behavior."

"I try to teach military history, not just guns and boats, but I hope that the fact

that I enjoy teaching and students, and that I am interested in students as individuals, is helpful. If I take it seriously, I think the students do."

Leutze, himself an author of two books and several articles, holds as his favorite book Spanish philosopher Ortega Y. Gasset's "The Tragic Sense of Life."

"His (Gasset's) main idea is that one has to come to grips with the profound contradiction that every day you are living, you are dying," said Leutze.

Even though he realizes the truth in Gasset's philosophy, Leutze said he is one that does not look forward to old age.

"I swear that I'm not going to live to be older than 55," he said, grinning. ☐

Ann Murphy is a contributor to *Spotlight*.

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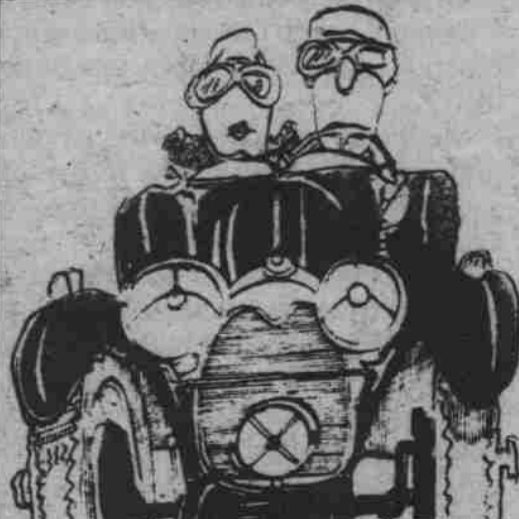
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