

The 'Enforcer' At Sunset Beach

BY SUSAN USHER

Leash or no leash, dogs aren't welcome on the strand at Sunset Beach between 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at least not until after Labor Day.

Surfers are welcome, as long as they stay at least 100 feet away from the pier and its bevy of fishing lines, and keep their board on a six-foot or longer leash.

So who's keeping tabs?

Lonzy Gore, that's who. The name tag attached to his "uniform"—shorts and no shirt—identifies him as code enforcement officer for the Town of Sunset Beach.

Welcome to the beach and please follow the rules.

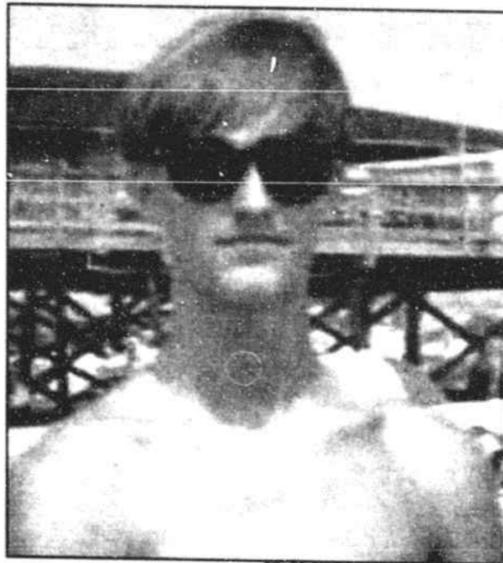
The 18-year-old June graduate of Conway (S.C.) High School started work June 22 after a quick review of the town ordinances he's charged with enforcing. For him it promises to be a "definitely different" summer outdoors after spending past summer vacations working inside.

In addition to people-watching—"they do all kinds of different odds and ends things, especially when they think no one is looking," he says—the enforcer expects to get plenty of exercise before the end of the season, when he anticipates enrolling at an area community college.

Gore, along with a second officer the town had plans in June to hire, is responsible for the entire strand from Mad Inlet to Tubbs Inlet.

Equipped with clipboard, book of tickets in triplicate, walkie-talkie, a cooler and a hat "with a full brim" to don as the sun climbs, Gore works his way from one end of the beach to the other.

"I get my jogging in in the morning," he says. "Then in the middle of the day I'll switch to a bicycle." Each day begins with



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

LONZY GORE keeps an eye out for dogs, litterbugs and dune disturbers as he walks, jogs and bikes the strand of Sunset Beach.

end-to-end circuits of the strand, then he works the beach by sections in the heat of the day.

As Gore cruises the strand, his job is to politely single out and cite people who are violating town ordinances.

Along with rules about dogs and surf leashes, Gore keeps an eye out for litterbugs and for people playing or walking on the dunes.

"Keeping people off of the dunes is important," he said. "in case another Hurricane Hugo comes along."

Fireworks are another no-no. It may be legal to purchase some fireworks in North (See, TOUGH JOB, Page 57)

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