

# Straps Could Save Lives, Money

A two-for-one bargain. A real deal. Double-good protection.

Not chewing gum, or certain other items, but tie-downs to reduce earthquake damage.

A grant awarded earlier this year to the Brunswick County Schools through the state Division of Emergency Management will do just that, providing about \$10,000 to buy strapping or bolts to secure items likely to come loose during a seismic event and increase the possibility of injury and/or property damage.

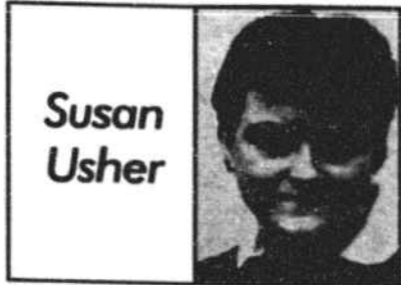
"Well, what a waste of money," you may be thinking. "We don't need that. We're not in an earthquake zone."

Maybe we aren't and maybe we are; it's like reading opposite versions of your fortune in two newspapers on the same day. Consider:

1. Quite a few years back one fellow caused a stir in these parts with research that suggested Carolina Power and Light's Brunswick Nuclear Plant in Southport was resting directly over a fault line and therefore should be shut down for safety reasons.

2. Brunswick County residents felt the effects of the Great Charleston Earthquake that rocked the city on Aug. 31, 1886 around 10 p.m., according to accounts of the era, with plates falling off of shelves and minor structural damage to some types of buildings.

(Local residents also felt ground movement when a 4.0 to 4.9 earthquake occurred in Onslow County near Jacksonville, but I'm not cer-



Susan Usher

tain of the date on that one. I do notice on maps, however, that a reasonably straight line from Charleston to Jacksonville crosses coastal Brunswick County. Just coincidence, I'm sure.)

The Charleston earthquake deserved the title "Great," with extensive property damage and at least 60 people left dead in its wake. It was calculated later to have had a magnitude of 7 on the Richter scale, which provides information on the inherent strength of an earthquake based on the energy it releases.

(Another scale, Mercalli, describes the intensity of a quake, the degree to which it is felt in a given area. An earthquake's magnitude, like a radio signal, is the same no matter where you are. Its intensity varies depending on your distance from the epicenter (the above-ground point equivalent to the radio signal's transmitter site).

A magnitude 7 earthquake is capable of widespread, heavy damage.

Chris Powell of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has charge of a program that monitors seismic activity in the Tar Heel state.

She says there are "many, many" faults across the state.

"You'd probably find one anywhere you drilled," she said in a recent telephone conversation. "As far as we know they are not seismically active, but you don't want to locate directly over one."

With Charleston less than 200 miles away, some maps show our area in the Charleston earthquake zone and some don't, she said.

"If there were another very large earthquake in Charleston you could sustain some property damage," said Powell.

The maps used by the U.S. Geological Survey put us in the zone, which is why Brunswick County Schools received its grant. That map showed a squiggle running right along the coast from the state line at Calabash into Southport. The lay of that line is why Union and Southport Elementary schools were chosen to receive the funds.

The straps would come in handy then, serving a purpose similar to that of the so-called "earthquake bolts" that help stabilize the emergency generator building at CP&L, as required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for safety reasons.

The bolts are there, just in case. We don't expect an earthquake but the odds are, there will eventually be one. How soon? No one's really sure when or where the next big quake in the United States will happen.

The U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information

Center in Denver, Colo., estimates the likelihood of a damaging quake striking the central or eastern United States during the next three decades as between 40 percent and 60 percent.

Powell said researchers go back and look for evidence in the geology, but that it's a "very speculative" science at best.

As Charleston has already experienced several times in recent years, less-damaging tremors occur more frequently than the big ones. Typically a fault like Charleston's could expect to experience major activity at intervals of between 250 year to 560 or 600 years.

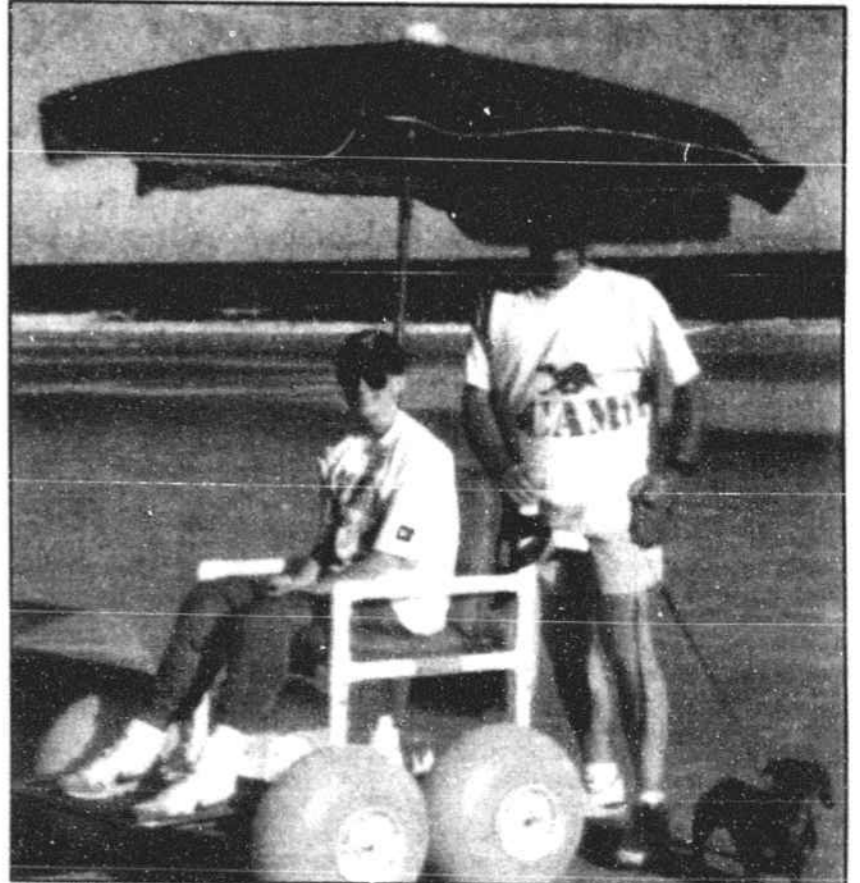
With that news I wasn't quite ready to rush out and buy straps and bolts. And, I reflected, my insurance agent hasn't been pushing premium reductions for that type of home equipment.

Then Powell told me we should consider the earthquake strappings and bolts to be purchased by the school system as a good investment regardless.

"These straps will help with all types of natural disasters, not just earthquakes," she said. "You can't go wrong there. Those straps are golden."

H-m-m. As when one of Hazel's or Andrew's cousins come calling on the South Brunswick Islands.

Maybe Chris Powell's on to something. Too bad those earthquake damage risk reduction grants aren't available to private individuals.



GARRETT WADE enjoys the Surf Chair, accompanied by his dad and his dog.

## Thanks For New Surf Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was addressed to Holden Beach Mayor Gay Atkins and was shared with the Beacon for use as a letter to the editor. The club referred to in the letter would be the Pilot Club, which donated Surf Chairs to all three South Brunswick Islands beach towns.

Garrett has always loved running, swimming surfing and fishing at Holden Beach. In November 1993 Garrett was paralyzed from his waist down from the chemotherapy he was given. You see, Garrett is battling acute lymphocytic leukemia for the third time—first at the age of 5, second at 16 and third at 19.

Dear Ms Gay Atkins,

Enclosed is a picture of Christopher Garrett Wade, his dad Lee Wade and his dog Zack at Holden Beach during Memorial Day weekend.

Garrett certainly did enjoy being able to return to Holden Beach. Garrett and his family have been enjoying Holden Beach since he was born. My parents, L. Worth Currie and Elizabeth C. Currie have a cottage on Dolphin Drive. We have been coming to Holden Beach since the late 1960s.

Garrett is now 20. We plan to return to Holden Beach this July 4 weekend. This will be our last vacation prior to entering Duke Medical Center in July for a bone marrow transplant. We are hoping to again use your wonderful Surf Chair.

Again, thank you so very much and extend our thanks to the club or organization that provided the beach with this chair. I know that once others read or hear about it, you will have a waiting list of those wanting to use it.

Barbara C. Wade  
Henderson

### MORE LETTERS

## Moderates Disgusted With 'Radical Right'

To the editor:

Would you believe that William Bennett, drug czar and secretary of education under George Bush and a failure at both, has criticized his Radical Right buddy, Jerry Falwell? It took a Falwell-produced video accusing President Clinton of murders in Arkansas in the past and still being carried out. This is a moment in history, but I'm sure Bennett and Falwell will kiss and make up before the elections, as both of them have sick propaganda to spew on the public.

When things were looking too good for President Clinton, they dug up Paula Jones. When that looked like it may not fly, they came along with "Murders in Arkansas."

The moderate Democrats, Independents and Republicans are embarrassed and disgusted with the Radical Right flying the flag of their tax-free, money-making "religion." Jim Bakker was just released from prison and must do community work for the Salvation Army, a very reputable organization. My advice to the Salvation Army is for them to hold on to their wallets.

I was drafted and served my country in World War II. We had what I would call cowardly draft dodgers, in and out of the military, who knew somebody to keep them out, or to get stateside duty. Vietnam was never a declared war, but a disgraceful blight on our country and not a threat to our national security. Just study history and you will learn that it was a war crimes act, perpetrated by our government and the special interests who made a fortune off the blood of the poor heroic soldiers who had the misfortune to go there. Those who died and were injured for our government's crime were heroes, just as those who refused to go and demonstrated

against the crime.

...We have many good Democrats and Republicans in our government, and that is why I have become an Independent. I try to vote for the best of each who are moderate and objective. I will not vote for a Republican unless he or she repudiates the Radical Right and invites them to take their venom elsewhere.

I was raised as a very poor child during the Great Depression. My mother, with the help of Roosevelt's programs, was able to put food on the table and keep a roof over our heads. Unfortunately, too many people want to forget their roots and who gave them a start in life after World War II.

Raymond L. Ratigan  
Calabash

### Shine A Blue Light

To the editor:

I would like to share a notice with you that I saw in a local out-of-town newspaper while on business. Hopefully it will pull on your heart strings like it did mine.

"I would like to ask those interested in joining with the Bluelights Campaign in showing your love and support for those dealing with AIDS/HIV and the continued search for a cure by shining a blue light from your windows at night as a beacon of love, hope and understanding.

"Someday we will defeat this disease and live in a world without AIDS. Until then, we must do our small parts in continuing the struggle for ourselves as well as for those we have already lost to the struggle. We do not struggle in vain.

"Thank you for taking part in helping spread the word. The Bluelights Campaign is a community-based AIDS awareness program

that continues to grow larger each year."

Mari Joy Morrison  
Boiling Spring Lakes

### Supports Vendors

To the editor:

Regarding your editorial on sidewalk vendors in Shallotte:

You claim these people selling their wares cause accidents. Where is your proof? You also claim large companies don't relocate in Shallotte because of those vendors. Isn't that a rather silly idea? No proof again.

Families wishing to save money depend on these vendors for inexpensive clothing and toys.

The gardener who produces more than he himself can use sells his extra vegetables to the public who are happy to be able to buy home-grown produce. You want to eliminate these vendors also.

Granted having a tent set up to sell furniture should not be allowed but you don't throw the baby out with the bath water.

The sidewalk vendors spend their money in Shallotte eating breakfast, lunch and shop in the local stores bringing business to the area as well as selling their wares.

Charles and Katherine Rajsky  
Calabash

### Strident Views?

To the editor:

It's interesting reading the contrasting editorial content of the two Carisons every week. While I thoroughly enjoy the style and context of Lynn I can no longer without commenting on some of Eric's strident views.

I'm writing to take exception to his advocacy of freedom—i.e. the freedom to bicycle/motorcycle with-

out a helmet. I totally agree with his wish to be free to go without a helmet, as long as he has a disclaimer tattooed on that same head stating, if he, heaven forbid, suffers catastrophic injuries as a result of that exercise of freedom, he will release any insurance company, and by extension all of us who contribute to the insurance pool, from paying for any extraordinary expenses necessitated by his care.

Needless to say this would preclude him becoming a "ward of the state" when his personal/private funds were exhausted. That way those of with a sense of personal and civic responsibility can exercise our freedom not to have to bear the brunt of his civic irresponsibility.

Lorraine Hiester  
Ocean Isle Beach

**SUNSHINE BUILDERS**

CUSTOM BUILT HOMES  
Decks, Gazebos,  
Utility Buildings,  
Remodeling & More

ALL WORK GUARANTEED  
FREE ESTIMATES  
REFERENCES

LICENSED BUILDER/BILLY STREET  
**(910)754-8746**

**For the times of your life:**

A growing family...a home mortgage...children's education...retirement. As the various stages of your life change, so do your financial needs.

Nationwide's Life Needs Analysis is a free review designed to identify your financial protection needs (today's and tomorrow's) so that you can decide how best to use your resources for financial security. Call us today.

**Phillip W. Cheers**  
4700 Main St.,  
Shallotte  
754-4366

**NATIONWIDE INSURANCE**  
Nationwide is on your side

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies  
Home Office: One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, OH 43216  
Nationwide is a registered federal service mark of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

**South Brunswick Medical Group**

**Gary D. Ross, M.D.**  
Board Certified in Internal Medicine

**Samuel W. Kirtley, M.D.**  
Board Certified in Family Practice

**For complete outpatient medical care and routine health maintenance**  
*Walk-in service and extended office hours convenient for working families.*

Adult, Pediatrics and Women's Medical  
Concerns • Laboratory and X-Ray  
Facilities • Complete Minor  
Emergency Care

**Express CARE**

Located off Hwy. 17  
at Union School Road  
**Open Mon-Fri 9-6 pm**  
**Saturday 10-2 pm**  
**579-9955/579-0800**

STOP

SPRINKLER RUST STAINING

Sprinkler System Treatment For Rust

RG-200 Rust Remover

Eliminates existing rust residues or deposits.

RG-100 Plus Heavy Rust Solution

Rust stain preventative solution.

- ✓ Safe
- ✓ Effective
- ✓ Economical

Rust Prevention

MILLIKEN HOME CENTER

The Shallotte Electric Stores, Bus. Hwy. 17, Shallotte • 754-6000

ROBERTO'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA

Ocean Isle & Holden Beach

Eat In - Take Out - Delivery

SPECIALS

MONDAY NIGHT

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti

Sauce & Garlic Bread.....\$3.99

Meatballs & Garlic Bread.....\$4.99

TUESDAY NIGHT

All-You-Can-Eat Baked Italian Chicken

with pasta & Garlic Bread.....\$5.99

Serving you the best  
green-hatted pizza in town!

New Hours! Tues.-Thurs. 11-9; Fri.-Sat. 11-10  
Sun.-Mon. 4-9

Ocean Isle Beach 579-4999    Holden Beach 842-4909