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You'll read no finer feature this year than the magnificently illustrated story on North Carolina's Outer Banks, in the September issue of National Geographic magazine.

Borrow a copy from a friend, if you can't find one on the newsstand, but rest assured he'll expect its return. You'll find the issue also at the Regional Library here, but not to be checked out of the building.

The lengthy article, staff written, is supplemented with numerous excellent color photographs. No word short of spectacular or astounding is a fit adjective to describe the best of the lot, a NASA view snapped by Apollo 9 from 130 miles up.

Shame on you, as a resident of the Coast Country, if you let anything stop you from seeing and reading this superb feature. Don't pass judgement on our all-out enthusiasm and limitless praise until you've done just that.

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It appears that few New Bernians believe the inquest at Edgartown will uncover the full facts. Just as the slaying of his brother, John, in Dallas left many questions unanswered, no ture or false detailing of what Senator Edward M. Kennedy did or didn't do on the most eventful night of his life is going to satisfy a doubting public.

Granting that newspapers can be brutal in their coverage, factual revelations by the press are usually less damaging than unconfirmed rumors and wild speculation resulting from a story's suppression. Besides, gossip not only travels fast and far, but lingers longer in memory than the printed page.

Reporters, as a rule, aren't weighted down by brilliance, but they learn early that it is disastrous to accept any rumor or face value and publicize what is supposedly reliable information. The mere fact that a story is "all over town" by no means indicates its accuracy. A total stranger can impart a falsehood to a pedestrian on Middle street, and within minutes dozens of people will have heard it and passed it along as the truth to hundreds.

This isn't just typical of New Bern, but typical of every place on earth. Naturally, if mortals ever inhabit the moon it will be typical there too. In the Ted Kennedy case, the public deprived of facts about an honest to goodness tragedy, dramatically involving a national figure, did what it always will. It manufactured its own "facts" and may forever believe them.

Sad but true, humans get a lot more kick out of gossiping about bad things than good things. Before you condemn the press for placing emphasis on destructive events, rather than constructive ones, and heaven knows the press is guilty, admit to yourself that this is what catches and holds you attention in a newspaper.

Morbid curiosity is, to our way of thinking a trait no mortal can be proud of. However, all of us are cursed with the quirk in varying degrees. Be thankful if your leanings along this line aren't of extreme proportions.

For example, you're one

(Continued on page 8)



LOUD AND LOVELY — New Bern High school's varsity cheerleaders smile their prettiest for the Mirror. Top row standing, left to right, you'll recognize Carol Myrick, Connie Sawyer, Anna K. Mason, Margaret Beaman and Beth Corning. Seated are Sande Wil-

liams, Nan Griffin, Cinda Kellum, Debbie Whitehurst, Sandy Howard, Trish Menius, Dona Lichtenwaiter, and Lisa Gelter. They'll be whooping it up for the Bears against West Carteret tonight.—Photo by Chick Natella.



THEY CAN YELL TOO — Don't underestimate the lung power of New Bern High school's junior varsity cheerleaders. The adage that young people should be seen and not heard could never apply to them. Included in the group are Elizabeth Watts, Sara

Jane Finch, Hope Beaman, Cherri Piland, Mimi Whiteside, Karen Stocks, Sandy Morris, Doris Taylor, Lauralyn Bunn, Dot Hughes, Nancy Barker, Debby Crayton, and Maryann Barden.—Photo by Chick Natella.