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Thursday, March 31, 1988

'Speak Up For America,' Urges Commentator

To the editor: Now that many Canadian tourists are beginning their annual trek to our local beaches, I think it is only proper to let them know how we appreciate their return (not to mention the tourist dollars boosting the local economy).

John Nash Supply

BY GORDON SINCLAIR This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth.

I was there. I saw it. When distant cities are hit by earthquakes, it is the United States that hurries in to help... This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles.

Eliminate The Plastic, Eliminate The Problem

A committee of the state's Coastal Resource Commission wants the General Assembly to ban plastic six-packs in North Carolina.

While the beverage industry may like this idea about as much as another piece of needed legislation, the so-called "bottle bill," coastal residents and coastal visitors especially need to unite behind such a bill.

While fishing, swimming and playing along the oceans and rivers, we see the damage caused when birds, turtles, fish and other marine life become entangled in the plastic rings.

This legislation is a small step that could save thousands of creatures annually, while only inconveniencing the humans who create the danger when they dispose of litter carelessly.

While efforts to educate the public continue, in the absence of their awakened conscience eliminating the plastic appears to be the only way to eliminate the problem.

Robert's Rules— Try Them Sometime

Parliamentary procedure is the kind of thing we tend to take for granted, as well as the kind of thing we usually rely on someone else to take care of.

Susan Usher



you've attended in the past: 1) A frenzy in which everybody speaks and no one is heard; or 2) A ritual in which everybody finds themselves accepting, whether they like it or not, the dictates of a few.

As responsible members of an organization, we all need to know the basics of parliamentary procedure—at least the most frequently used motions and essentials such as how to hold elections and follow an agenda.

When Gen. Henry Martyn Robert devised his handbook, the intent was to develop a consistent way of conducting deliberative business, so people would know what the rules were regardless of where they moved to or lived.

These rules were based on fairness and good faith, on the idea that while a minority, especially a large one, had a right to be heard and have its ideas considered, it was the majority that had the right to decide the will of the assembly.

That's good. But with a growing familiarity with Robert's Rules, I'm learning that they are just as often abused as used properly.

At the GOP convention, I had to sit in frustration and watch as one actor's contortions threw Robert's right out the window. He used the language, tossing around "amend," "move," "point of order" and "nominate."

Without parliamentary procedure, says a South Carolina parliamentarian, Dena Citron Bank, we usually end up with meetings that fall into one of two categories.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Volunteers Are Professionals

To the editor: My wife and I are New Yorkers who retired and moved to the Calabash area two years ago to buy a home.

We were amazed at the excellent and quick response and service of our distinguished Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad. Under the command of Chief Linda Angstadt, these men and women are not volunteers, they are professionals in their vital duty of protecting life.

I had two occasions to call on these people for transportation in emergencies to two hospitals. They

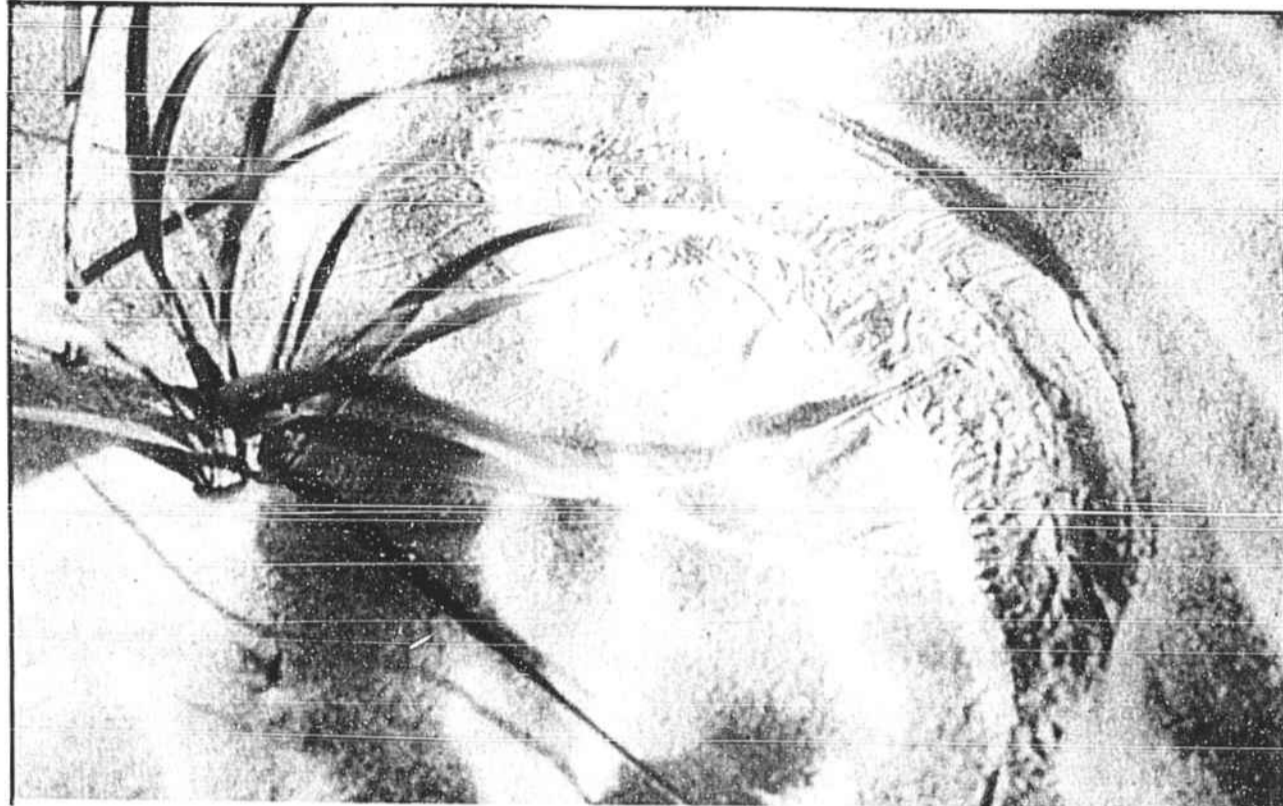
(three females and a male driver) responded almost immediately and were met at my home by two more Calabash volunteers who assisted.

Their skill, kindness, consideration and professional know-how are unmatched anywhere.

My hat's off to these real people who are a credit to their profession and a credit to our community. I hope the entire area gets in back of this elite corps and helps it in its endeavors.

Douglas R. Wildey Shallotte

The following editorial was broadcast some time ago by Gordon Sinclair, radio and TV commentator in Toronto, Canada. It has been widely reproduced and I am sure the Omaha World-Herald newspaper I clipped it from will allow the Beacon



THOUGH WE CAN SEE change along the shore like this windblown beach grass, there are many changes so slow we cannot perceive them.

Shifting Plates

BY BILL FAVER

Anyone who spends much time along the beaches of Brunswick County has surely heard the distant rumblings, or loud booms, out there somewhere over the water.

In "Planet Earth," author Jonathon Weiner reminds us that geological science views the Earth as a living, moving, changing mass rather than a fixed sphere with its air, water and land stable.

As evidence, he explains the shifting of the continents over millions of years so that there is water between Africa and South America. When they were joined, they apparently split along a fault, and were moved apart due to the action of lava on the ocean floor that come in to cover the fault.

It's that time of year again. The fanatical and hopelessly devoted group of people we laymen call fishermen are about to bask in the limelight.

Local pier fishermen have been spotted walking the weatherbeaten planks and gazing into the vast blue ocean. No doubt they have dreamed of landing something this season which can be stuffed and mounted and displayed for the whole world to view.

Some have already been out there trying to give the season a little boost. Why, sources at Sunset Beach have informed me that one lucky devil has already pulled in a few sea trout.

And sportfishermen have come out of hibernation to begin cleaning and waxing their boats. Just think, boys, those king mackerel tournaments are only three months away.

So, you might ask, what does all that mess have to do with this mild-mannered reporter?

Yes, folks, with Easter Sunday just around the corner, it's time to start gearing up for another glorious year of writing the fishing report and writing about any other little tidbits from the wide world of angling.

The determined masses of fishermen at the local piers can once again look forward to seeing the depressed smirk on my face every time I casually walk the entire length of the pier, slowing down as I approach each person and moving on when all I see is the bottom of their

As the lava increased, the plates were pushed farther apart. The action is still happening. Interestingly, scientists have discovered as more evidence of the split that mountain ranges, plains and ancient fern fossils are exact matches when the continents are placed together.

No one of us can live long enough to notice much of a change. Unless there is a catastrophic phenomenon, like Mt. St. Helens, these long range changes take place without much of our knowledge.

At this Eastertime when we can view the evidences of change in the seasons, we can be reminded as well of the almost imperceptible changes occurring in our planet—changes which have been happening since the beginning of time and will continue far beyond our days on Planet Earth.

It's Time To Think About Fishing

Doug Rutter



two runs of spot. I didn't see too many people enjoying much success. At times, it was enough to make me consider jumping overboard.

But that was last year. I plan to keep a positive attitude about fishing this year. Who knows, maybe it will rub off on some of the fish.

If the Right Honorable Brotherhood of Fishermen can consider accepting the opinion of a semi-seasoned fishing reporter, I think this year will be great.

According to preliminary commercial statistics from the state Division of Marine Fisheries, there were more than 19,000 pounds of croaker, 20,000 pounds of king mackerel and 4,500 pounds of spot pulled in last April in our four-county district alone.

If you still haven't grabbed your pole, please be informed that commercial fishermen landed more than \$ million pounds of fish in North Carolina last April.

Then get out there on those piers and start those motorboats and catch something of which you will be proud.

I need some record catches to write about and some nice fish to photograph this season. So do both of us a favor and get busy.

Point Worth Arguing About

To the editor: The Town of Holden Beach has passed Resolution No. 6-87 for the paving of Tarpon Drive and has assessed all land owners there their fair share of the cost with the town paying the full share of all land determined to be unsuitable for development.

The assessment was very reasonable and should improve property value, except for one thing.

A good deal of the land on Tarpon Drive consists of lots that, at this point in time, cannot be built upon. Septic permits are being denied due to sewage draining into the canals.

We, and many others are left with land that can neither be built upon or sold. I would certainly call this land unsuitable for development. Since the resolution passed by the Town of Holden Beach states they will pay for the paving cost along all land unsuitable for development, I wonder if they plan to stand behind this resolution and pay this cost.

Since we have already been assessed for our amount to pay, we will ultimately have to probably pay for this paving ourselves, but I feel it is certainly a point worth arguing about and bringing to the attention of other lot owners.

I feel the above paragraphs would be of interest to many lot and cottage owners in the Holden Beach area and if possible would like to see this published in your paper.

Mary Griffith Westerville, Ohio

Squads Do Fantastic Job

To the editor: I would like to clarify an error that was made, perhaps unknowingly, by the Wilmington Star-News last week. I made a statement to the county fire and rescue association meeting concerning why we need the 911 system as our first step to more efficient emergency care.

My statement to him and the association concerned two types of patients. One, being very severe trauma patients, the other were patients needing advance life support such as CPR. That the majority of them were losing. That we wanted to give these people a chance to get well and go home. That we would like to win one every now and then. And we do like to win, as many as possible.

Putting it in these terms I felt like people might see the more human part of our job. That, of course, money is needed to put the system to work but we must not lose sight of why it's needed.

The paper left out the two types of (See SQUAD, Page 5-A)