## THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Edward	M. Sweatt and Carolyn H. Sweatt Publisher.
	M. SweattEdito
Susan I	sherNews Editor
Rahn A	dams & Doug RutterStaff Writer
Johnny	CraigSports Editor
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Tammie	Galloway & Dorothy Brennan
Robert	WilliamsPressmar
Brenda	ClemmonsPhoto Technician
Lonnie	SprinkleAssistant Pressmar
	nd Mattie Stout, Phoebe ClemmonsCirculation

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Thursday, March 31, 1988

### 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. After all, following Robert's Rules is just for nit-picky kinds of people, isn't it?

However, a recent experience drove home how essential a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure can be-not just for the leader or parliamentarian named by an organization, but for all of its members as well. You need to know how to protect yourself and your group from people with bad intentions.

That experience was the Brunswick County Republican Convention, which I recently covered fresh after completing a course in good old Robert's Rules.

A typical GOP convention rally" affair designed to make party members feel good about themselves. Any business that's transacted is usually straight forward

However, not this year, not with the Pat Robertson forces out. The convention was a parliamentary fiasco that dragged on forever, in very unorderly fashion. In the end, the majority probably had its way. Those sames ends could have been achieved without causing ill will among group members or embarrassing the party leadership.

Our society runs on deliberation: we spend a lot of time in meetings, making one decision after another. People who know how to communicate in meetings have the advantage of influencing decisisons.

Groups that adopt a parliamentary authority such as "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" learn quickly that parliamentary law has a language and ritual of its own that members transact business-controversial or otherwise-quickly and efficiently, while protecting the rights of all.

Without parliamentary procedure, says a South Carolina parliamentarian, Dena Citron Bank, we usually end up with meetings that fall into one of two categories. You'll probably recognize these from meetings





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

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

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." But that was the problem-he was just tossing them around, not using them as they were intended to be used. Still, it was enough to cause a lot of confusion and embarrassment. And that, I think, was the intent as Robertson's forces took over the convention.

But, hey, folks, there's a better way to get things done in meetings. That's Robert's way.

Try it sometime; you'll like it.

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

# '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).

Not only are they our northern neighbors and allies, but the Canadians have always stood behind our country in troubled times (remember the Iran hostage affair at the U.S. Embassy?)

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

so slow we cannot perceive them.

BY BILL FAVER

Anyone who spends much time along the beaches

In "Planet Earth," author Jonathon Weiner

As evidence, he explains the shifting of the con-

reminds us that geological science views the Earth as a

living, moving, changing mass rather than a fixed

tinents over millions of years so that there is water bet-

ween Africa and South America. When they were join-

ed, they apparently split along a fault, and were moved

apart due to the action of lava on the ocean floor that

sphere with its air, water and land stable.

of Brunswick County has surely

heard the distant rumblings, or

loud booms, out there somewhere

over the water. Various explana-

tions are offered, from sonic

booms from supersonic jets, to the

'Guns of Navaree," to the break-

ing apart of the continental shelf.

Whatever it is, it reminds us that

there are always changes taking

place out there, though some of

to reprint it.

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.

Germany, Japan and, to a lesser day paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

swindled on the streets of Paris.

extent, Brittain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is to-

When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and

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.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions upon billions of dollars into distressed countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

Come on, let's hear it!

Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing jumbo jet, the Lockheed Tristar or the Douglas 10?

If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the international lines except Russia fly American planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or

talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon-not once but several

woman on the moon?

times-and safely home again.

You talk about Japanese

technocracy, and you get radios. You

You talk about scandals and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look

Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them-unless they are breaking Canadian laws-are getting American dollars from Ma and Pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, German and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in

I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbors have faced it alone. and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them kicked around.

They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles.

I hope Canada is not one of these.

### 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. In our case a subsequent engineering survey has eliminated even an alternate septic system.

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 we 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 possi-

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)

It's Time To Think About Fishing

THOUGH WE CAN SEE change along the shore like this windblown beach grass, there are many changes

**Shifting Plates** 

It's that time of year again.

come in to cover the fault.

them are exceedingly slow.

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. (Well, at least something which will serve as a substantial midnight

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

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 mildmannered 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

Doug Rutter

nice white bucket

And operators of our local marine centers won't have long to wait before they can once again resume the pleasurable task of spelling the name and providing the hometown for every individual who lands a fish within a 50-mile radius of Shallotte.

Entering my second season as designated fishing editor, I hope to please the fishermen and others who just enjoy reading about fishing.

But I've also set two major ground rules for myself this year because, let's face it, my sanity is important to

First of all, I have taken a vow not to jump up and down every time somebody catches a small whiting or every time I see the waves pull on someone's fishing line.

Also new in 1988, I promised myself that I would not wait at any one fishing pier for more than seven consecutive hours unless I had a darned good reason. Laugh if you must, but it sometimes took what seemed like seven hours to snap a picture of someone with a freshly-caught, coldblooded aquatic craniate vertebrate.

Granted, I'm no expert, but the pier season last year seemed a tad depressing. With the exception of some nice king mackerel and one or 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

As the lava increased, the plates were pushed far-

ther 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. The same is true of our own Appalachian

Mountains. One mountain chain appears to exist

through Nova Scotia and Scotland when these coun-

tries are matched together. No wonder so many Scots

liked the terrain and climate of Nova Scotia and the

a change. Unless there is a catastrophic phenomenon,

like Mt. St. Helens, these long range changes take

place without much of our knowledge. But the hot,

molten mass at the center of the Earth is still boiling

and releasing pressure periodically as earthquakes

of change in the seasons, we can be reminded as well of

the almost imperceptible changes occuring in our

planet-changes which have been happening since the

beginning of time and will continue far beyond our

At this Eastertime when we can view the evidences

No one of us can live long enough to notice much of

southern mountains.

and volcanoes.

days on Planet Earth.

rub off on some of the fish. If the Right Honorable Brotherhood of Fishermen can consider accepting the opinion of a semiseasoned fishing reporter, I think this year will be great. (I guess I should mention that your news link to the fishing world is a person who had

this year. Who knows, maybe it will

even a spot, seven months ago.) I'm not just going by the feeling in my left tibia (shin bone) either. Just check out these numbers.

never heard of spottailed drum, or

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 8 million pounds of fish in North Carolina last April.

Has your mouth started to water yet. Good!

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

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.