

Letters

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anyway and give us benefits.
We are not able to work other jobs outside the school system because of the hours we obligate to driving our children back and forth to school.

Wilma I. Robinson
Route 2, Supply

Police Are Welcome Sight

To the editor:
I would like to express my appreciation to the Shallotte Police Department for their help in easing the traffic situation at the Shallotte Middle School.

With it being the point of entry involving four directions of traffic, it can be a dangerous area to navigate, especially since many are inexperienced young drivers who come to transport family members and friends.

The direction of the police is desperately needed to prevent the chaos and risk that is present when the intersection is left unattended.

It is a welcome sight of relief to see the members of our department working to help ensure our family's safety and to know that the traffic problem at the middle school is being recognized without waiting until someone is injured.

Perhaps with their help, we can continue to have a safe year.

Kathy White
Shallotte

War Not About Kuwait Freedom

To the editor:
President Bush is spilling American blood to restore a repressive dictator to his princely throne in Kuwait. The Emir may have ruled with religious overtones, but his suppression of basic human rights is undeniable.

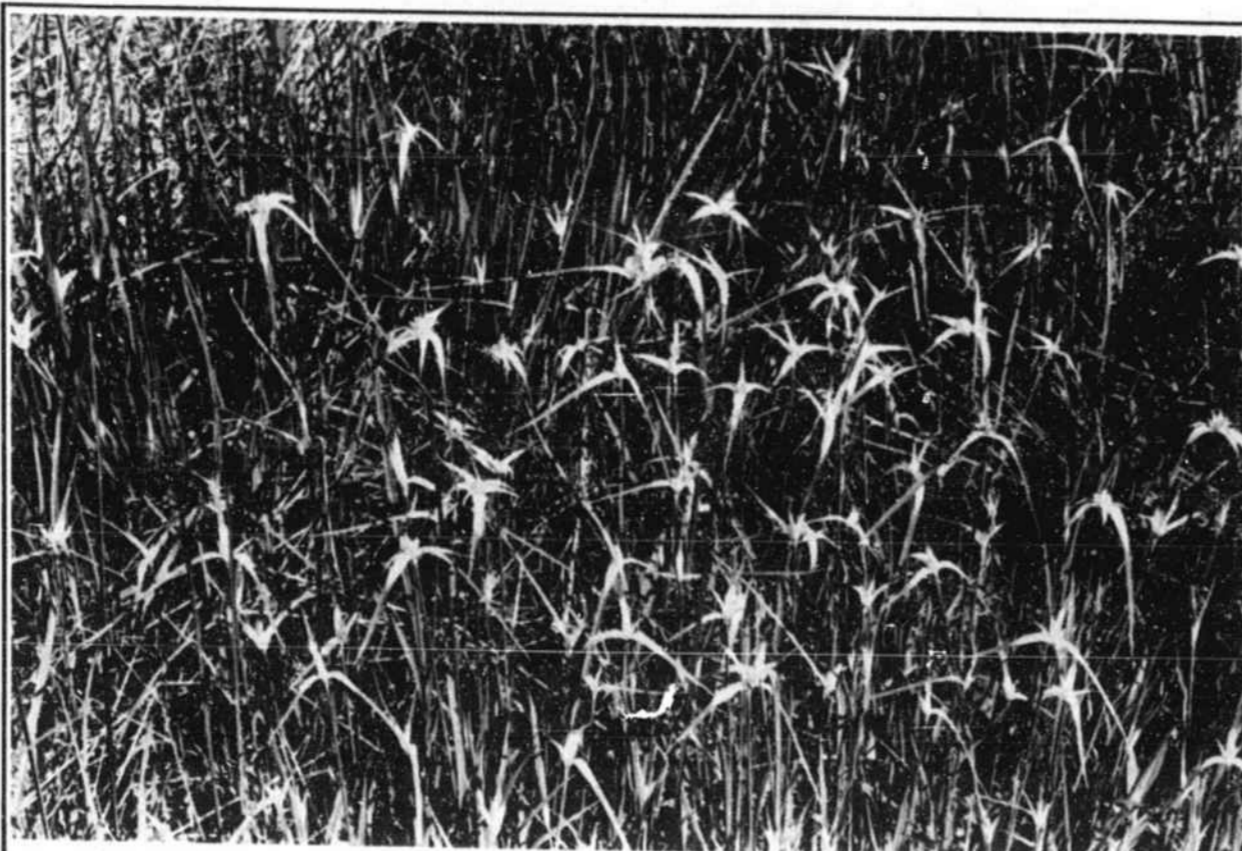
According to the local John Birch Society, the State Department's "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989" says, "non-Kuwaitis cannot own property or majority interests in large businesses. Tight government censorship prevails and government permission must be formally obtained for any political gathering of more than three persons. Women can't vote; Kuwaiti males are restricted from marrying foreigners; non-Moslems cannot become citizens; and no one but a member of the ruling al-Sabah family is eligible to become Emir.

When Kuwait became independent in 1961, its constitution called for an elected National Assembly and a free press. In 1986 criticism of the cabinet ministers by the press and the elected members of parliament led to a severe government crackdown. Whatever political freedom existed was destroyed.

Kuwaiti police then used tear gas, water cannons and stun-grenades in January 1990 to disperse peaceful pro-democracy protesters. In response to pressure from Kuwait's citizens, the Emir announced a new national council, but it had no legislative powers whatsoever.

This is the nation that President Bush is committed to defend. The whole business is bizarre and our media ought to be telling the American people that it is. Anyone who thinks that freedom for Kuwait has anything to do with this war has been grossly misled. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is being used by advocates of world government to work for their evil goal.

Catherine Moore
Burgaw



RAIN MAKES THE DIFFERENCE for plants and animals on land and in the sea. PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

Rain Makes The Difference

BY BILL FAVER

A part of the Voyager probe to Uranus several years ago emphasized again for us the uniqueness of our Planet Earth as the only life-sustaining planet in our solar system. At least, all the others appear to have adverse conditions for life forms similar to those we know on Earth.

Scientists tell us that rain makes the difference. When our sun "exploded" to hurl planet-sized masses of molten matter into orbit, the Earth and the other planets began their processes of development. Over thousand of years, probably, the boiling and cooling took place, hardening the surface and causing eruptions from the interior heat. As gases from the interior escaped, clouds were formed overhead. These clouds moved higher in the sky until the cooler atmospheric conditions brought condensation and a deluge of rain.

It must have rained for days and days, or perhaps, years. Water shaped the land, eroding away the softer materials, and forming the seas. Two-thirds of the surface of the new planet became covered with water. The seas were set in motion by the pull of the sun and

the moon and the spinning of the Earth. That motion spawned air currents and winds. The winds moved clouds and fronts and weather came to be.

We don't know why other planets had no rain, or if they did, why it didn't collect in seas. Perhaps the distance from the sun was such that a different reaction happened with the escaping gases or a quicker cooling of the masses took place. Or perhaps life was brief and ceased to be years before life even began on Earth.

As the life we know evolved, water has become one of the basic ingredients. We are told the first life forms were in the seas and one day a creature crawled onto the land and started depending on oxygen from the air rather than from the water. Our own blood is very similar to seawater and many people see this as evidence of our dependence upon the sea. Water is needed by plants for growth and development. We know most of us can live weeks without food but that we quickly dehydrate and will die soon without water. That so many of us want to be close to the ocean, or to rivers and lakes, or have a swimming pool is more evidence of the importance of water.

So next time it rains on you, think about the importance of that rain to nourishing life, cleaning the air, and replenishing the seas. Rain makes the difference on Planet Earth.



FAVER

February Was Warm And Dry

Southeastern North Carolina residents experienced a warmer and drier February than normal, according to the monthly report from the National Weather Service in Wilmington.

The average temperature for the month was 51.4 degrees, which was 4 degrees above normal for February. One record high temperature was set during the month.

The mercury climbed to 81 degrees Feb. 20. That broke the old record high temperature for that date, which was not available.

At the other end of the scale, the temperature dipped to 32 degrees or lower only seven days during February. It normally drops to the freezing mark 11.5 days during the month.

The weather service recorded 382 heating degree days during the month, which was 116 below normal. Cooling degree day units for February totaled 7, which was 2 above normal.

Precipitation for the month totaled 1.65 inches, which was less than half of the 3.44-inch average for February.

The weather service measured precipitation 11 days out of the month, with traces of snow observed Feb. 15 and 21.

The average wind speed for February was 8 mph, which is 1.9 mph below normal. A peak wind gust of 43 mph from the northwest was recorded Feb. 15 during an afternoon snow shower.

The area received 56 percent of the possible sunshine during the month, which was 3 percent less than normal. There were 14 cloudy days, 10 clear days and four partly cloudy days.

So far, the winter of 1990-91 has been warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature for the months of December, January and

February was 51.4 degrees, which was 4.4 degrees above normal.

Precipitation in the three-month period has totaled 14.52 inches, which is 4.01 inches above normal. That makes the winter of 1990-91 the 10th wettest since the weather service started keeping records in 1871.

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Hearing On Redistricting Set March 15 At UNC-Wilmington

The State Senate Committee on Redistricting will hold a public hearing on legislative and congressional redistricting Friday, March 15, at 8:30 a.m. in the Student Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The session will be the last in a series of five such hearings held statewide to allow individuals and groups an opportunity to express their views on redistricting.

Using 1990 U.S. Census figures, the 1991 state General Assembly is required by law to redraw the districts from which these officials are elected: all members of the state Senate and state House of Representatives and North Carolina's members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sen. Dennis J. Winner is chairman of the Senate Committee on Redistricting, which will make its recommendations to the full Senate.

Sen. Russell G. Walker chairs the Subcommittee on Congressional

Redistricting, of which Sen. R.C. Soles is a member. Sen. Joseph E. Johnson is chairman of the Subcommittee on Legislative Redistricting.

The committee is particularly interested in hearing views concerning the criteria that should be used in drawing the redistricting plans; the ethnic, geographic, economic or other communities of interest that exist within the districts that should be considered; or specific proposals related to the redrawing of particular districts or the entire state.

Those attending the hearing are invited to make a brief oral summary supported by a written statement.

Later in the process of redistricting an additional public hearing will be held to receive public comments on drafts of the proposed plans.

Anyone with questions about the hearing next week is asked to write Sen. Dennis J. Winner, Room 207, State Legislative Building, 16 West Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27603-5925 or to call (919) 733-5658.

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