

**MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# Way Government Spends Is No Joke

To the editor:  
One of the real tragedies of the Persian Gulf war will soon be realized by many of us. It is time to pay for the war. And who is going to pay? For the most part it is going to come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of this country.

Iraq is already being excused for some of the debts. Other nations are hedging on their part of the debt. Some are refusing to pay any or more of the cost. Who is left? The United States taxpayers! Couple the new debts with our national deficit; many of those unable to pay will be hurt the most.

Who is going to help? No one. Don't depend on your congressman or senator. Don't depend on the administration because the one and only chore of a government entity is to spend money. Don't take this wrong; in some areas the government should be applauded because it takes experts to carry out some of the chores of this country.

For instance last year \$107,000 was awarded to study sex habits of the Japanese quail. The project concluded that the rooster preferred to have sex with the hen rather than another male or even a female duck. This is such an important project another \$100,000 has been approved for this year.

Our congressmen keep us abreast of many subjects. They authorized \$84,000 for a study of why people fall in love; a measly \$2,500 to find why people are rude and will cheat on a tennis court. All you cooks listen up, they spent \$46,000 for a study on how long it takes to cook an egg for breakfast.

The taxpayer should feel proud because a billion dollars have been spent on the following subjects: Is it possible to reduce stress levels of pregnant pigs by having them jog? Do sunfish that drink tequila sunrises display more aggressive behavior than those given gin and tonic? Why do monkeys, rats, and humans clench their jaws and gnash their teeth? Do pigeons understand economic principles?

Let's don't forget that the President authorized extra money to a \$241,764 computer project to assist lost travelers who refuse to use a map. One of the President's projects may have been worthwhile.

The administration spent \$86,160 to send officials to Disney World to study mass transit. Oh yes, the Air Force spent \$226,800 to fly 21 members of congress and 80 wives, staff, and friends to the Paris Air Show.

Your safety is of utmost importance to congress. \$19 million dollars has been set aside to study the effects of methane emissions from the flatulence of cows. As an old farm boy I had rather take my chances with methane emissions from cows in the pasture than with over 500 legislators on Capitol Hill.

The \$84,000 last year was not enough. We still don't know why people fall in love. I have a suggestion, let's ask the dadblamed Japanese quail rooster. That old boy evidently knows his mind.

About that breakfast egg, you will be amazed to know that a three-minute egg won't cook in three minutes unless you start the timer after the water begins to boil. Did you know that if you put that thing in cool water it just flat won't cook?

Why do monkeys, rats, and humans clench their jaws and gnash their teeth? Still no definitive answer. I am going to help on that one. I can't speak for the monkeys or rats, but government spending my money in such manner really jacks my jaws. If it wasn't so serious, our government officials would be hilarious. As a matter of fact I think I will laugh when I hear names like Charlie, Jesse, Terry and George.

Jess Parker  
Supply

## Placing Flags On Veterans' Graves Was Thoughtful

To the editor:

Thanks to Dicky Powell and his staff at Brunswick Funeral Service for placing flags on the graves of the veterans at Brunswick Memorial Gardens for Memorial Day. I counted almost 80 flags.

I am grateful for their thoughtfulness in remembering our loved ones.

Trudy Gore-Freeman  
Rt. 9, Shallotte



BIRDS AND CRABS and shrimp and fish and many more forms of life depend upon what is happening on the mud flats.

PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

## What's Happening On The Mud Flats?

BY BILL FAVER

At low tide, the wide expanses of exposed mud flats appear barren

of life and of little benefit in the scheme of things along the shore. These broad expanses of land are covered by shallow water at high tide and are exposed to the drying effects of the sun and air when the tide is out. These areas develop in relatively quiet water in our sounds and rivers where suspended particles of mud or sand can be deposited on the bottom.

Organisms adapt to living in the sand or mud and seem to thrive on the rich nutrients found there. Often adjacent to marshes, these flats get fed from the detritus and minerals washed out of the marshes and made available to the plants and animals of the flats.

Though the flats seem devoid of life and activity there are many things happening there. Few organisms remain on the exposed flats at low tide but burrow down into the sand or mud or retreat into their tubes or move with the tide into deeper water. Many of the worms and mollusks have special mechanisms to rid their systems of the silt that would suffocate them otherwise. Some creatures use special appendages to paddle water through their tubes so they can feed on the phytoplankton and rid themselves of wastes. Some snails burrow into the sand or gather in

small pools of water to keep from drying out.

Many of the filter-feeding animals are waiting under the mud and sand for the tide to start in, bringing nutrients for their feeding.

Oysters pile on top of each other and other attaching-forms of life seek any empty shell, piece of lumber, old tire, or other debris that promises a fixed location. Many organisms gather around blades of grass where they find some protective cover. Many of the burrowing mollusks have long siphons so they can stay well beneath the surface and yet reach the water above for food and oxygen. Clams are good examples of these animals. Many of the animals found on the flats are the young of larger species, such as the whelks.

Some of the mollusks common to the mud flats are augers, moon snails, mud snails, sunray venus, bay scallops, razor clams, pen shells, arks, and disk shells. Squid, parchment worms, plumed worms, lug-worms, clam worms, and thread worms are common. Many shrimp also frequent the flats when the tide is in. Crabs are common and one of the best locations for crabbing is a mud flat pool at low tide.

These are just a few of the critters and just a sample at what is happening on the mud flats. Next time you look out at low tide to see the barren mud flats where nothing seems to be happening, remember that birds and crabs and shrimp and fish and a million more life forms are waiting for the tide to come in to continue their cycles of living along the edge of the sea.



FAVER

## Next Medifast Classes Start July 9

Call today to sign up.

Marilyn J. Boehm, M.D., Ph.D.  
Village Pines, Shallotte
919-754-5581  
919-754-9949

## Callahan's Calabash Nautical Gifts welcomes

Artist Ray Day  
Fri., June 21  
11 am 'til 2 pm

Bring in and/or purchase your favorite pieces and Ray will sign them for you.

**FREE** limited edition, signed, numbered "Honeysuckle and Roses" print (retail value \$30) with each \$100 purchase of Lilliput Lane collectibles.

Refreshments will be served

Rt. 179, Calabash
579-2611

### The Discount Merchant

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Adults-Children's Clothing

Jeans • Slacks  
Skirt Sets • Shorts  
Tank Tops • Plain & Printed Tee Shirts & More!

Limited quantities & sizes on some items

Open Mon-Thurs 10-5,  
Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5

Hwy. 17 N., Business Shallotte  
(1 mile N. Jones Ford)

## Star-Spangled SAVINGS

<b>Firm II Inner Springs</b> 2 Yr. Warranty Twin Set *89** Full Set *101** Queen Set *129**	<b>Extra Firm 312 Coil</b> 10 Yr. Warranty Twin Set *119** Full Set *139** Queen Set *169** King Set *239**	<b>Back Comfort Supreme</b> 20 Yr. Warranty Twin Set *139** Full Set *175** Queen Set *209** King Set *329**	<b>Golden Sleep Imperial</b> 20 Yr. Warranty Twin Set *169** Full Set *205** Queen Set *239** King Set *359**
---	--	---	--

Pieces also Sold Separately  
YOUR CHOICE WITH \$150 BED PURCHASE  
FREE BEDFRAME  
FREE PILLOW  
FREE CITY DELIVERY

\*COD's Welcome • Layaways • Day Beds  
Custom Mattress Sizes Available  
5% Senior Citizens Discount

Formerly R&R MATTRESS OUTLET  
HWY. 17, SHALLOTTE  
SHALLOTTE PLAZA  
754-5727

17th & Market St., Wilmington  
762-7331  
Mon.-Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-4  
OPEN WEDNESDAYS

# MEDEIROS FURNITURE SHOWPLACE

## INVENTORY LIQUIDATION SALE

\*Thurs-Fri-Sat.  
\*50% to 70% OFF Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price  
\*On All In-Stock Furniture, Bedding, Lamps, Accessories  
\*All Sales Final • As Is • No Refunds • No Exchanges  
\*No Holds • Free Local Delivery With \$500 Purchase  
\*We must Make Room For New Arrivals

### Medeiros Furniture Showplace

RESORT FURNISHINGS • DESIGN SERVICE • CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS • CARPET

N.C. HIGHWAY 179 AT THE S.C. STATE LINE  
CALABASH, N.C.

"We Ship Nationwide" (919) 579-7994 M-F 9-5, Sat. 10-5 At the S.C. State Line

### For all your life insurance needs, call:

Phillip Cheers  
4920-A Main St., Shallotte  
754-4366

**NATIONWIDE INSURANCE**  
Nationwide is on your side

### Make your pool ready when they are.

Open your pool the right way and it will be ready for fun all season long. As a BioGuard® dealer, we have the knowledge you need to make your pool more fun and less work. Relax. Bring your pool to BioGuard.

Three steps to easy pool care.

1. Stingy Stick®
2. Bum Out®
3. Back Up®

### PROFESSIONAL POOL MAINTENANCE

Island Village Specialty Shops  
Hwy. 179, Ocean Isle Beach  
(Behind IGA) Open Monday-Saturday

579-8828

Daily Maintenance  
Chemicals, Accessories & Equipment

## The CHRISTMAS PELICAN

5821 E. Oak Island Dr.  
Long Beach, NC 28465

278-7627

Open 9-9 M-Sat.  
12:30-9 Sun.

### Come see our Collectibles Lines

Americana Village  
Byers' Choice Carolers  
Fontanini Nativities  
Annalee Dolls  
Cat's Meow Village  
Enesco Music Boxes  
Old World Glass Ornaments  
Largest Selection of Christmas trees in the area.  
We ship anywhere!

### PELICAN STATION

CARDS & GIFTS

THE ENESCO  
**PRECIOUS MOMENTS**  
COLLECTION  
Authorized Dealer

*Carlton*

Largest selection of cards in the area!

5825 E. Oak Island Dr.  
Long Beach, NC 28465  
278-7627  
Open 9-9 M-Sat.  
12:30-9 Sun.