



BOYS PLAYING ON THE SHORE may lead to a life-long interest in the oceans and the truths they hold. PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

Like A Boy On The Seashore

BY BILL FAVER

One of the interesting experiences for me at the beach is to watch a young child become interested in a shell or egg case or a piece of driftwood. It is amazing how the boy or girl can become so completely engrossed in the moment and seem almost unaware of what is happening close by.

You wonder if this might be the beginning of a life-long interest in the seashore and maybe the beginning of a quest for some answers to the many questions still out there in the vast oceans. My thoughts go back 2000 years to the Elder Pliny, who is recorded as being the first to observe the effects of the moon on the sea-tides. Or, maybe we think of Sir Isaac Newton, whose explorations of gravitational pull were sparked by the famous apple falling on his head. His theories explained gravitational pull on the ocean and the tides.

The famous English mathematician and natural philosopher was a very knowledgeable man, yet Sir Isaac Newton has been quoted, saying:

I do not know what I may appear to the world; but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.

It is to Sir Isaac's credit that, as famous and knowledgeable as he was, he apparently was well aware of what he did not know. Perhaps by using the example of the boy on the seashore he was telling us he had lived similar experiences to the boys and girls we see on the beach. And, perhaps their fun time on the beach will be the beginning of an exploration of the "great undiscovered ocean of truth" before them.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let Your Officials Hear From You

To the editor:

Now folks, you've got me madder than an old settin' hen, but at the same time I am so excited that if I don't watch out it's going to be too wet to plow.

Mad! You people know how to get a man all riled up by making outrageous statements that the United States Senate took more than a \$20,000 pay raise. All of us should know that it was a pay adjustment to bring the Senate in line with the House. And the House was just adjusting government officials' pay to a competitive level. Surely there was no intent to take a pay raise because it is an honor to serve their constituents.

Seriously, that pay adjustment will only cause a slight raise in taxes—no, no, here I am sounding like you. Our revenue enhancement programs only have to generate another \$12 to \$13 million to make the scale more competitive for those poor hard-working senators and congressmen—not to mention the judges and president.

And look at what we get for a piddly \$13 million. They have promised that from now on they will not be crooked anymore. That they will be honest and better able to serve their districts and states. Just think—a whole bunch of politicians who are as pure as the driven snow.

Don't that make you feel better? Aren't you sorry for your critical comments? Now we have honesty in government. They are the best that money can buy! How do we know? Shucks, that bunch of newly-honest politicians told us that from now on they will not be crooked anymore. I believe them. L...shucks, do I have to wait for

proof?

Remember that \$107,000 study on the Japanese quail? We found that the rooster preferred to have sex with the hen rather than another rooster or even a female duck. Excitement, folks, excitement. Congress has funded another \$100,000 to study the "sexual looking, conditioning of sexual arousal, and improvement of copulatory performance with practice" of the Japanese quail.

No, dad-blame it, I am mad again. That is out-and-out racism. What's wrong with sharing with the old Southern bob-white? Why should that Japanese boy get all the attention? I am confused—just had a thought about a bob-white snuggling up to a duck. If I laugh or deny that possibility I am going to be charged with sexism. No wonder those honest politicians needed another \$20,000. Look at the decisions they have to make.

One last thought. This time I am a Southern Baptist rabble-rouser. We Baptists are often called rabble-rousers, and since church people in general are considered by many as rabble—so be it. Now all you preachers, from all denominations, gather your rabble and tell them that their tax money paid for the art exhibit, "Bible Burn."

This exhibit funded by the National Endowment for the Arts included "large sexually-explicit props covered with a generous layer of Bibles. These were used in a variety of unholy rituals and then burned."

Over the years many of you have asked me for help in writing letters and articles. Suggestion: make copies of this one for Charlie, Jesse, Terry, George and any others. In

your own words let them know that you look forward to them not being crooked anymore, how interested you are in the sex life of the Japanese quail, and how proud you are to help fund an art exhibit such as "Bible Burn." I am sure they would like to hear from you.

Jess Parker
Supply

Check Them Out

To the editor:

I have obtained the most recent Medicaid/Medicare surveys for eight (nursing home) facilities in this area.

No one should enter a nursing home without checking with state and local officials to see if the home is in compliance with applicable laws. Greater private involvement in the enforcement process can perhaps help to resolve some of the deficiencies that continue to exist.

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Hurricane Bob Served As Good Wake-Up Call

How many of you were ready for Hurricane Bob?

How many of you had full tanks of gas, bottled water, flashlights, canned food and other necessary supplies on hand as Bob chugged toward the North Carolina coast last week?

If you're like most people, Hurricane Bob probably caught you somewhat off guard. If you're like most people, you probably let out a long sigh of relief when Bob veered north.

Personally, I was not ready for the first hurricane of the season.

As usual, I was running my car on gas fumes, and I didn't have a drop of bottled water in the house. I would have been fortunate to find a battery in my home that wasn't dead.

Of course, I did have plenty of canned food on hand. But that's only because I don't know how to cook anything else.

If you ask me, Bob was a sneaky sort of hurricane.

Most tropical storms form way out in the Atlantic Ocean and slowly pick up strength as they spin toward the East Coast.

Hurricane Bob formed off the

Doug
Rutter



Bahamas one day and was practically in our front yard the next day. He didn't give us much warning or time to prepare.

Hurricane Bob was like that second cousin of yours who always shows up unannounced on Thanksgiving Day with a plaid suitcase in one hand and a fruit cake in the other.

Of course, your cousin usually hangs around for a week, just long enough to polish off the leftover turkey. Hurricane Bob didn't even stick around for dessert.

The Brunswick County beaches were very fortunate that Bob didn't come our way. For one thing, the dunes in many places are still recovering from the beating they took during Hurricane Hugo two years ago.

With the exception of Sunset Beach, I don't think our coast could take even a minimal hurricane without significant property damage.

Also, the beach houses are pretty full of vacationers these days. I can't imagine having to evacuate an island full of tourists.

Since witnessing the damage caused by Hugo, I don't take hurricanes, tropical storms or any other forces of nature lightly.

Mother Nature can stir up a pretty mean brew when she puts her mind to it. I don't need to be convinced of that ever again.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady had some sound advice for area residents on the passing of Hurricane Bob.

(Incidentally, there's usually more tropical storm activity in September and early October than August, so don't think the worst is behind us.)

Canady said people should use their experience with Bob to evaluate how prepared they are for the rest of the season.

"I hope they don't think this the cry of a wolf," he said. "Where we live sooner or later it will be our turn. We need not take it lightly."

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