

# Perspectives

## Playing the hand life deals you

### THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Common sense approach can quiet hunting growls

I feel like a hound dog after listening to the callers, visitors and people on the street who chose to share with me their feelings about hunting with dogs over the past few days.

I'm sure you know what is coming next is my own position on this issue and what I think we should do about it. If you don't agree with me, that's fine. Just remember, I had the guts to print my feelings with my name attached.

This problem is not new. Let's be honest. We know that hunters and property owners have had some run-ins in the past. The first thing we must do is not pretend that this is a totally new problem surfacing for the first time.

Julian Eure and I have worked different angles of this story while researching this situation together. I've talked to at least 70 people. While I agree that a dispute over a road may have been the straw that broke the camel's back, it is not the main problem here. The second thing we must do is not get caught up in a road dispute and miss the important issues.

The real issue here is...some people don't know how to act. Whether you're a hunter or a non-hunter, whether you're for or against hunting with deer dogs, whether you're a property owner or not, you all know it's true. If every hunter respected the property of others and observed strict safety rules, hunting with deer dogs wouldn't be an issue here.

You hunters know yourselves that there are a few of you who tear up people's property. Some of you get so excited when you see a deer that you seem to lose your minds. Some of you hunt from the roads and the rights-of-way. Some of you park on the sides of the road where it is dangerous and it tears yards up when it's wet (see mine for an example). Some of you shoot too near homes and toward highways.

We can assume that these people who are not following proper hunting safety rules and etiquette are the minority, not the majority. But this minority has certainly caused a problem for you good hunters out there. I think there may be some ways you can help keep your hunting rights. Some of them may not make you popular with the bad guy hunters. But why in the Sam Hill would you care? You may have no choice but to take a firm stand if you want to keep your rights to hunt with dogs.

1. Don't warn each other when "the man" is coming. If you're really a safe hunter and you're not doing anything wrong, you shouldn't care who's coming to check on you. If you do care, you shouldn't hunt. When you get on that CB radio to warn your friend who hunts safely that the game warden is on his way, you're also letting those fools who are handling their guns like maniacs know where the law is.

2. Police yourselves. If there's someone in your hunt club you know is one of these unsafe hunters, kick him out!

**Ramblin' with Susan**  
Susan Harris  
Editor

Why in the world would you want to put your life into someone's hands who is unsafe?

3. Quit tearing up dirt and rock roads and paths. I don't care if you've got permission to drive on them or not. You certainly don't say too much for yourself when you tear them up just because you can get away with it.

4. Report unsafe hunters to the law. If you know someone shoots too close to homes or toward the highway, report him. You don't want to say anything. You don't want to get anybody in trouble. Let's hope it's not your wife or child or mother who gets hit with a stray bullet one of these nincompoops shoots.

5. Don't let so many dogs run that you can't keep up with them. A lot of dogs are let loose in my neighborhood, but I have to say they haven't caused me any trouble. They could be troublesome to others. I know most of you would walk over hot coals for your dogs, so try to keep up with them a little closer. Some folks don't like your pride and joy.

6. Don't be ugly to land owners who come to you hunters with concerns. Yes, I know hunt clubs pay to rent some land and heaven forbid the poor soul who chooses to walk on it (even if he owns it!) during hunting season. And don't run people off of land unless you're absolutely sure they don't belong there. Come on, guys, there are plenty of deer out there to go around.

I promise you good guys and bad guys one thing right now: I will be out with camera in hand next deer season. And no, I will not accept any invitations to ride with a certain group. That gives that group an unfair advantage. I will not allow any specific group to put on a show for me while taking me to see the antics of another unsuspecting group. We're all going to play by the same rules. I will also take hints from homeowners who have had problems.

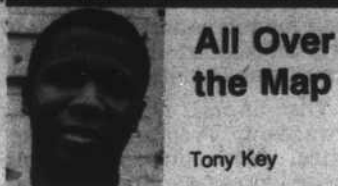
Nothing may come of this petition to ban hunting with dogs. But something does need to come of the genuine concern some people in this county have about unsafe hunters...before someone gets hurt.

Two trials will soon begin in the California courts. Jury selection is already well underway. The four Los Angeles police officers who were acquitted of using excessive force in arresting Rodney King will be tried again, this time in federal court, charged this time with violating King's civil rights.

And in another courtroom, the men charged with the attack on truck driver Reginald Dennis go on trial. Some Los Angeles residents have already speculated about what might happen should the new jury not reach the 'right' verdict in the Rodney King case this time. And though many Angelenos have expressed sympathy for Reginald Dennis and their disgust at the vicious attack on him during the riots, some say that if the police officers "get off," then so should those accused of beating Dennis.

People say and do a lot of stupid things when they allow their emotions to govern their actions. We should all hope and pray that, no matter the outcome of either trial, the people of L.A., of the whole country, might keep their cool. But who knows? The verdict reached in the first trial struck many as a throwback to earlier times, times when there was no videotaped evidence, only the sworn testimonies of witnesses at the scene.

Juries heard vivid accounts of brutalities against Black citizens at the hands of the police and others. Those juries listened dutifully then mostly found those accused 'Not Guilty,' over and over again. Even in the face of evidence as conclusive as the tape (and I've seen every bit



All Over the Map  
Tony Key

of it that was presented in court), the jury decided that the officers were justified.

I remember how I felt when my friend John told me the verdict. I was speechless for a few moments. (Yeah, I bet a lot of you would've liked to have been around for that!) Then I found my voice. And the more I talked, the madder I got. We couldn't believe it!

The folks in L.A. couldn't either. Those touched by the rioting that followed will attest to that. Bubba and I argued about the verdict for weeks. The jury spoke and that was that. Bubba declared. They were a bunch of idiots. I screamed. We did agree about Reginald Dennis. The people who attacked him, when found, should be given a fair trial and if found guilty, be put under the jailhouse! But there's even more trouble on the horizon...the second trial, the federal one.

It's a bad idea. If Rodney King wants to sue those cops and throw in the whole L.A. police department for good measure, fine and dandy. But the present course of action looks bad, as if federal authorities were giving in to the blood-lust of the mob. And I can't envision any juror on this case honestly saying he or she could vote "Not Guilty" with the threat of more violence hanging

in the air. A fair trial for those accused is nearly impossible.

The Dennis trial must go forth; justice demands it. But that presents problems, too. The ones who beat Reginald Dennis might not be as conclusively identified as those uniformed officers in the King case. Everybody on that corner, seemed to be taking potshots at the helpless truck driver. Were the men really responsible apprehended? What happens if they're found guilty? What if they're acquitted?

Reggie Dennis had the right idea. In interview after interview, he professes no malice for attackers. He says he understood how they must have felt and it was just bad luck that he happened to be an available target on which to vent their rage. He's a more forgiving man than I am. I still boil every time I see him being set upon by those thugs. It would be hard for me to be so full of Christian charity. But Reginald may be onto something.

The rule of law says that his attackers must be brought to justice, not only for his sake, but for the sake of society as a whole. But Reginald Dennis doesn't waste time seeking revenge. He just picks up the cards that life dealt him and plays them as best he can.

We could all learn a lesson from that.  
On The Lighter Side  
And now for last week's answers:

1. Bill Cosby's 'profession' on "I Spy"? No, not spy, that would be too obvious. He and Robert Culp worked undercover as

tennis players.

2. *Good Times* was a spin-off of *Maude* which was a spin-off of *All In The Family*.

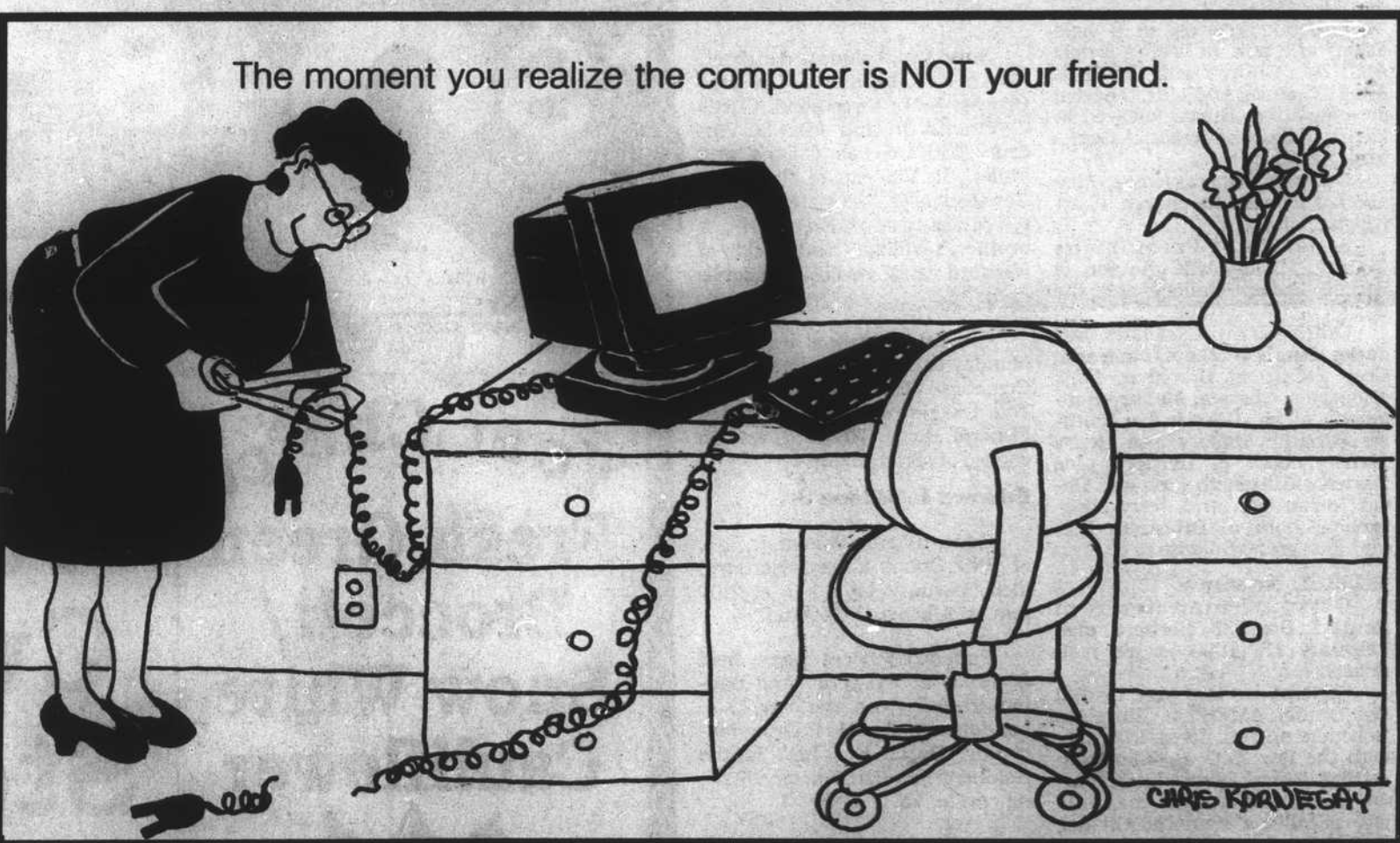
3. "Fish don't fry in the kitchen, beans don't burn on the grill" are lyrics from *The Jeffersons* (as if you didn't know!).

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Maybe you haven't noticed but, *The Bibliopath*, H.L. and Linda Wilson's used bookstore, has finally opened downtown in the old Eagles department store building. They're only opening on Tuesdays right now, so get there early and stay all day. A couple of Tuesdays ago, I stopped in after lunch for a quick browse, and stayed for a couple of hours! I also bought a book titled, *What Is The Name Of This Book?* by Raymond Smullyan, a book full of logical puzzles, and I thought I'd share a couple of them with you.

1. A man was looking at a portrait. Someone asked him, "Whose picture are you looking at?" He replied, "Brothers and sisters have I none, but this man's father is my father's son." (This man's father means, of course, the father of the man in the picture.)

Whose picture was the man looking at?

2. A certain street contains 100 buildings. A sign-maker is called to number the houses from 1 to 100. He has to order numerals to do the job. Without using pencil and paper, can you figure out in your head how many 9's he will need?



## Little sprouts spout

From the mouths of little sprouts comes most anything. Entirely right is an old English proverb which proclaims: "Children pick up words as pigeons peas, and utter them again as God shall please." Here are some updated examples:

In an area where little snow occurs, there was a fluffy, new-fallen coating of it on the ground when one five-year-old little girl got out of bed one morning. Calling to her mother to inspect it too, she announced, "Mom, it looks just like the clouds fell down!"

Mrs. Brown struck up a conversation with the small son of her new neighbor. "I understand," she said, "that you have two sets of twins at your house. That's wonderful. Are you one of the twins?" "No, ma'am," was the gloomy response. "I'm just a spare."

Daughter Melissa brought her second-grade report card home with all B's. Thinking she could do better, her mother promised, "If you make straight A's, I'll give you \$5." The child disappeared into her room only to emerge shortly after and proudly hand her mother a sheet of paper on which she'd written

several big A's. "Mom," Melissa quizzed her mother expectantly, "are these straight enough?" "Mama," Chuck age seven at the time, wanted to know after he'd been rehearsing for the church's Christmas program, "did the shepherds have a pan?" That puzzled his mother. Then Chuck explained, "I was just wondering, because we were singing about the shepherds as they washed their socks at night."

"I'm in a tough spot," the small boy said to his mother. "The teacher said I must write more legibly, but if I do, she's going to find out that I can't spell."

Another little boy came home dejected from his first day at school. "Ain't goin' tomorrow," he said. "Why not, dear?" asked his mother. "Well," the child replied, "I can't read 'n I can't write 'n they won't let me talk, so what's the use?"

One couple's son always wanted a brother. One day, when he was small, his mother read him a billboard promoting a motel's special rate. "Kids are free," the mother noted to him outloud from the advertisement. The child's face brightened. "Oh, Mom," he chirped, "can we stop by there and get one?"

A woman had two peach pies in the oven, and her mother-in-law was on her way over for dinner. Nervously, she kept pulling the pies out of the oven to check on them. It wasn't long before she'd punched several holes in the crusts with her thumb, and the pies were looking pretty messy. What to do? Thinking quickly, she stirred the pies well, poured them into an oblong dish, and finished baking them. Her "peach cobbler" turned out to be a big hit, and the day was saved. Next morning, her three-year-old son innocently asked her, "Mommy, when are you gonna clobber another pie?"

Four-year-old, Bobby, was stroking his cat before the fireplace in perfect content. The cat, also happy, began to purr loudly. Bobby gazed at her for a while, then suddenly seized her by the tail and dragged her

roughly away from the hearth. His mother said, "You must not hurt your kitty, Bobby." "I'm not," said Bobby. "But I've got to get her away from the fire. She's beginning to boil."

The little boy's mother had called him and four of his friends in from the backyard where they were playing. She seated them around the kitchen table and proceeded to open a large bottle of one-calorie diet cola. One of the little fellows watched carefully as she filled each of the five glasses. Then he said, "I wonder which one of us got the calorie."

And here's a young girl who is destined to succeed in life. She visited a farm one day and wanted to buy a large watermelon. "That's three dollars," said the farmer, pointing to a large one. "I've only got thirty cents," replied the young girl. The farmer pointed out a very small watermelon in the field and said, "How about that one?" "Okay, I'll take it," said the little girl, "but leave it on the vine. I'll be back for it in a month."

## Letters welcome

The Perquimans Weekly welcomes the opinions of its readers. We print letters to the editor on subjects of local, state, national and international interest.

Letters should be limited to 300-350 words and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the writer. Only the name and address will be published with the letter.

Letters not containing this information will not be printed.

The subject matter should be of interest to the community, not a personal grievance. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

Limitations.

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