

NOVEMBER... UH... THE FIFTEENTH? SIXTEENTH? LEMME CHECK THE CALENDAR...

## Conservation Conversation



with Brylcreme McMustache

Man, what a week.

Along with covering the town council beat and being the Gazette's theatre critic, my day job is working for a local development company.

We've been trying to put together a little deal over in that swamp in the Miasma Creek area. You'd think that would be a no-brainer - drain the swamp and put in a few nice houses, with good vinyl siding and not that cheap aluminum stuff.

Well. It seems that good Americans can't just drain a swamp anymore. No, it seems they're called 'wetlands' now and they are 'protected' by the 'government.' What is this, Russia?

Seriously, how can a group with the name of 'EPA' actually tell a busi-

# FAMOUS CONSERVATIONIST RESCUES RACCOON

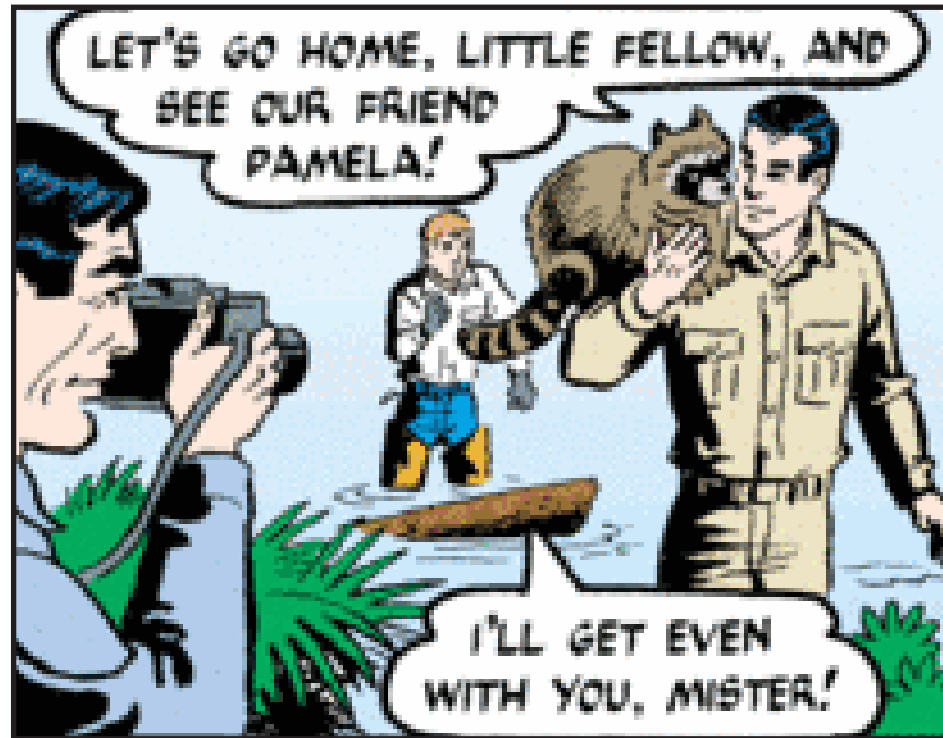
Slowest news day in memory puts this story on the front page.

Noted conservation guy Mark Trial waded into a coon chaining down in the Miasma Swamp area the other day and carried off the star, although not without incident.

Trial claimed that the coon was a pet of a friend of his, despite any proof. The guy running the chaining, known locally as 'Rabbit,' tried to prevent Trial from taking the raccoon and ended up in a brief fist fight with the coon taker.

Although no one actually saw Trial's fist hit Rabbit, he fell over like a rotten tree. A soaked Rabbit swore to "get even with (him)."

Attempts to get a statement from Trial were not successful. However, if Trial lives up to his name, he may soon be



Artist's rendering of photograph by Daily Gazette editorial cartoonist / circulation manager Jackelrod

on 'trial' for busting up the coon chaining, which had been advertised at the local post office and has been the center of the Miasma Swamp social

season ever since the end of the War Between The States, when 'coon chaining' in its original form became outlawed during the Carpetbagger Era

(a.k.a. reconstruction).

Funds from the coon chaining were to be used to sponsor the West Side Jaycees Annual 'Cock-fight for Cancer.'

## NEWBORN NAMED AFTER FAVORITE PICK-UP

Everett Mason is a proud a papa as there ever was. He was so moved by the birth of his first son that he wanted

called "Durango Hemi Mason" along with his sister "Ford F150 Mason" and half-brother "Silverado 4x4 Mason."

## GREENVILLE MAN GROWS EARNHARDT-SHAPED GOURD

Bobby Starnes has been growing gourds and pumpkins by the nuclear power plant for years and has the burns to prove it.

not only look like the legendary driver, but all the leaves on the vine are shaped like the number "3." The gourd is black

## Mysterious 'Rabbit' Unrepentant, Soggy



BY CUBBIE REPORTEUR

The man they call 'Rabbit' was still emptying out his waders when I caught up with him yesterday.

Rabbit (whose real name, Dale Lee Helms, is being withheld for this story) was still angry about his run-in with a guy who took a swing at him and then made off with a legally trapped raccoon.

"Doesn't he know how much money a coon chaining puts into the local economy?" he asked. "Hotels, restaurants, shopping... the economic impact is palpable!"

Rabbit produced a study, damp but readable, by the University