

Brevard: All sprawled out

by Lange Eve Staff Writer

More so now than ever, it seems that Brevard is caving in to the pressures of urban sprawl. For land developers, our charming little town is a great big flashing sign of opportunity. As our neighbors, Hendersonville and Asheville, continue to increase in size and population, Brevard is a project waiting to emerge.

In only three years, Brevard has amassed new shopping centers, a Sonic, a Super Ingles, an allyou-can-eat China Palace, Straus Park, condominiums, several new banks, a Lowes Home Improvement Center—and the list goes on.

Now, don't get me wrong: I love sushi, and a few more dinning options could be especially beneficial. But it seems we are sacrificing a healthy, friendly, artistic community for a more populated, traffic-burdened, and polluted community.

Most of the Clarion's readers are college students; many are from various parts of the country and world, and some grew up just down the road. Regardless of any particular history and relationship with this particular city, we can all observe our community, and compare its growth patterns to those cities which have already experienced similar transitions.

Cookie cutter homes are built without utilizing any of nature's renewable power sources; corporate grocery stores are delivering food from everywhere but home; industries and factories are emerging in our backyards; McDonalds Restaurants are filling in any and every empty lot; stoplights and street lamps are keeping the plants awake all night. These are signs.

Because we are people, and it is in our nature to build, create, and evolve, we will not see a day go by when something is not being developed. But what we are developing, how we are designing and building it, and where we choose to place it are all very important details. Sincere consideration of these matters will be a very basic step toward penetrating the root of our environmental and consumerist dilemmas. These factors could help realign our society and lessen our impact on the earth, while creating more pleasant working and living environments. Our generation needs to make a valiant effort to break American society's bad habits.

Who knows where Brevard's city limits will have stretched in ten or twenty years? Sprawl is a dangerous and insatiable force, but there are plenty of realistic solutions to the problems it creates. Today, we need to continue researching alternative building methods and energy sources, and create business plans that take *all* costs—environmental, social, and monetary—into consideration.

Our society's relaxed attitudes might also need to evolve. Change is not always comfortable at first, but our community can smooth the transition if we are really dedicated to making it happen.

Matt's Take:

Adult Swim on the decline?

by Matt Rutherford Managing Editor



I discovered Adult Swim the Spring of 2003 at around midnight. On air at the time was Aqua Teen Hunger Force, one of many shows that have since been replaced on the Adult Swim lineup. Maybe it's the fact that I was gone for three months

and had no exposure to Cartoon Network's new lineup,—or maybe, I'm just getting old—but Adult Swim seems to be lacking in variety.

When I first saw a talking pack of fries, a meatball, and a milkshake, I had no idea what the hell I was watching. As odd as it was, the show had a plot and it was funny. These three "people" were usually accosted by some annoyance, be it Moth Monsterman or Romulon, which was closely followed by the blowing up of things and the removal of one of the said groups or both. This was a great plot until you began to notice that it is the *only* plot.

My other favorite Adult Swim oldie is Sealab 2021, a show based on the short-lived 1970's Hannah-Barbara cartoon, Sealab 2020, in which a multi-cultural crew lives in an underwater base complete with its own education system. Sealab 2021 took this and put a spin on it. It's about the slow insanity that eventually overcomes the crew. This show spawned some of the best phrases, which I will not utter here, ever.

I suppose my problem with the current Adult Swim lineup is the fact that none of the shows really make any sense or have any flow or continuity— with the exception of Venture Brothers and some anime. I was watching the Sunday segment, and I was just noticing how much humor is attributed to violence. Now, I realize that the aforementioned shows use violence as humor but, not exclusively. Other common themes are drug and sex abuse, robbery, hedonism, and religious parody. What happened to the variety of vile humor?! I say bring it back. Adult Swim isn't a place for weak, pure-minded, goody goodies.