

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Thursday, March 7, 1985

Anonymous Donor Gives College Needed Boost

Money may just be money when it routinely changes hands, but when it comes pouring in from an anonymous source it can often turn to gold.

Thanks to a mysterious donor, the Brunswick Technical College Foundation has received a much needed boost in collecting college classroom funds. In October, the foundation was formed to help raise more than \$750,000 needed to construct the first phase of its \$2.2 million classroom building. The school has since fallen way behind in its goal.

As of last Monday, only \$15,000 had been raised by the school, prompting the mysterious philanthropist to generously join the crusade. One telephone call to BTC President Joseph Carter Monday afternoon suddenly changed the entire outlook for both college officials and students.

The mysterious donor has agreed to match dollar for dollar all donations from people and agencies toward the building fund. His only request in return is that his name remain anonymous.

It was a bargain on the spot, a deal no one could pass up. The school already has a \$375,000 state grant to help in the construction, but the funds must be committed to the project before September 1985 or the state will withdraw it entirely.

If enough funds are on hand to employ the contractors for the project by September, BTC's hopes of one day having a permanent campus will be closer to reality. Yet time is running out.

Although his name will remain anonymous, the donor has created a renewed interest and has given a much needed boost to the foundation. For that, he cannot shun publicity entirely.

After all, there's nothing wrong with having a secret admirer. Such mysteries should make giving to the foundation fun.

Animal Thinking

For many years scientists have explained animal behavior in terms of instinct and stimulus-response. From Pavlov's dog experiments to the present most reputable scientists have accepted these theories without much question. While they affirm man's biological kinships with the animals, scientists have made the distinction that man's uniqueness is his ability to think—a trait animals are not supposed to possess.



Bill Faver

But now an article in Smithsonian Magazine reports on a new book by cognitive ethologist Donald Griffin of Rockefeller University. In his *Animal Thinking*, Griffin argues that consciousness is an evolved ability and that consciousness evolved because it is efficient for an animal to organize its behavior in terms of mental images and mental goals. He feels calling humans unique in their ability to think is conceited and he is being heard by his colleagues because he is well-recognized as a reputable scientist.

without regard to distance. A student looking out at the ocean could approach closer without alarming the birds than a student who was looking toward the nests. Apparently the birds can recognize and "reason" that someone looking at them is more of a threat than just a passerby.

Among the experiments mentioned in the article is one involving ringed plovers. With the approach of a predator, nesting plovers will leave their nests, feign injury by dragging a wing, and attempt to lure the predator away from the nest area. In this study, birds were observed to ignore students dressed in blue jeans and blue shirts as long as they stayed a specified distance from the nests, or otherwise alarm the birds. One student in a bathing suit walked toward the nests, alarming the birds and causing them to begin their diversionary display. Thereafter, when this student came on the beach wearing the bathing suit, the bird would become alarmed without regard to the distance. The nesting plovers recognized the danger, stored the "threat" in memory, and thereafter acted on that "knowledge". Other experiments showed that gazing toward the birds also proved a threat

Many studies of bees have proved how scouts are sent out from hives to find sources of nectar and return to do a dance telling the hive where the flowers are. Donald Griffin relates how a swarm of bees also send out several scouts to look for a new hive. The scouts will walk around the potential hive to measure its capacity to hold the bees, assess the protection from predators, and return to report to the swarm. With scout reports, several bees (committee?) visit the site, return and report, and the hive selects from the several alternatives the site it wants for a new hive. Griffin feels this is a cognitive act—thinking and reasoning.

Other experiments related deal with chimpanzees planning strategy to gain dominance as they lie to humans and to each other. Evidence for storing knowledge, planning strategy, and acting on alternatives closely resemble those used by humans.

Animal thinking is an interesting subject. My prediction is that some day we will realize man is not the only creature with a mind capable of thinking and reasoning and that we may gain some insights into living by thinking along with some of these "lesser beings".

Something Else Is Irking Those Folks

Just when I thought I'd named everything that could possibly be wrong with Calabash, in comes an anonymous letter pointing out yet another weakness. In my expose on Calabash two weeks ago, it seems I overlooked something so vital as license tags.



Terry Pope

Well, one thing the town council will be relieved to know is the anonymous letter did not mention quorums or the council's actions, which is exactly what my column addressed. But I guess that doesn't make any difference since a writer can have his own opinions covering any topic that's on his mind. The letter was titled, "What Is Wrong With Calabash."

According to the writer, who said he was in law enforcement for 15 years in North Carolina before leaving for personal reasons, the state is losing money by housing people with out-of-state license tags. Working in the heating and air conditioning business has taken him into the North Myrtle Beach area quite often, he

stated. "In North Myrtle Beach they have one officer that does nothing but enforce the motor vehicle laws that states if you are in South Carolina over ten days you have to get SC tags and drivers license," the letter stated.

Around Calabash, folks with South Carolina license tags are apparently crossing the state line for more than just dinner and a friendly round of Wacky Golf. It appears there are a number of Palmetto State license tags hanging around the Carolina Shores and Calabash areas, irking some natives and long-time residents.

"And living here in Calabash, N.C., I don't see why that this state is not enforcing the law that states that if you are in this state over thirty days, you have to list your car in this state," it stated. That sentence contains five forms of the word "state," which irks me. There is more.

"Look at the money that this state is losing (sic), while the state of South Carolina is getting rich over this. In that state if you don't register (sic) your cars in that state you are fine (sic) in the city court a fine of twenty five or thirty five dollars." it continues.

The writer also claims there are people in Carolina Shores that are from Ohio that have been there for two years and still have not changed their tags. And "you have people that are living here that have there (sic) cars listed in SC, and SC is getting all the money that should be coming to this county. Why is this state not enforcing (sic) this law, why is this county not getting the moneys (sic)

that SC is getting rich on. Don't this county need the revenue to spend on things that this county needs?"

It does need the revenues, but it may not need the hassles. The writer questions why the sheriff's department doesn't have one of its officers roam the Calabash area, in search for violators of the N.C. motor vehicle registration laws.

That part of the letter is unfair, since it is not the sheriff's department's responsibility to enforce highway regulations. It is the State Highway Patrol's duty to monitor the highways and motor vehicles.

But where should a person from Ohio register his car if he spends a majority of time in the Buckeye State, and part of the year in Carolina Shores? Even if it's just a few months out of the year?

Whatever the answer is, it has upset at least one person in Calabash. But I'm staying out of this one. I'm tired of finding out what's wrong with Calabash.



"NO! WE'VE BEEN GETTING ALONG MUCH BETTER WITHOUT YOU AROUND"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Take Pride In Town; Don't Litter

To the editor:
 I have traveled over a lot of eastern North Carolina covering a 100-mile area as far as Fayetteville and I can honestly say that I have not seen anything as bad as the litter situation that exists in our community.

Have you driven over Route 130 to Holden Beach lately? Or Grey Bridge Road between 130 and 1132 and, lastly, the road off of 179 going to Shallotte Point? Well, I have and it is a disgrace and a shame to see all the litter, rubbish and garbage being dumped along the right-of-way. In some spots it is almost solid with debris and trash.

We, the citizens, should take pride in our wonderful countryside and not turn it into a continuous dumping ground.

Friends of mine from up north visited us recently and commented on the litter and said they had never seen anything quite so bad.

I was ashamed and felt they were judging me because of the company I kept.

There is absolutely no excuse for this sorry state of affairs. Even an animal does not foul its own nest. Need we?

Why not use some of our prison inmates to clean up this mess and once it was cleaned it would be up to all of us to keep it that way?

Please don't think I am exaggerating. Look for yourself and please take a camera with you. A picture is worth 10,000 words.

Take pride in your town and don't litter.

Ted Coggeshall
 Shallotte

(Let There Be) Peace In Our Time

Last Friday morning I had the opportunity of joining other women of faith from throughout our community in a joint World Day of Prayer service at Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

The service, "Peace Through Prayer and Action," was prepared by Christian women in India for use by women of all nationalities and languages on that day. Its intent was to encourage each of us—through individual and joint action and prayer—to work toward peace with justice. For each to try to help alleviate suffering and exploitation, hatred and war; to end our careless despoiling of a beautiful creation to promote our own selfish ends.

The idea of women everywhere sharing such a program left me a little breathless, awed by the potential power it represented. And also wondering how many of us really meant the words that slipped so easily from our tongues, the commitments we prayed; how many life-changing pledges had actually been made.

Our service began with silent

Susan Usher



reflection on the symbolism of the lotus, the national flower of India. It grows in still waters, rooted in mud, its long stalk stretching above water for sun and air. The mud at the bottom, the program said, denotes suffering, pain and injustice and peacelessness in our societies. The still waters depict apparent calm in a world of tension and turmoil and apathy to realities. The emerging flower symbolizes the struggle of people who through prayer and action strive for peace within themselves and in the society.

It progressed, developed through poetry, Scripture reading, song, prayer and litany. We were reminded of the cross and the challenge to take

risks in our quest for peace and justice. The program touched on harsh realities that seemed thousands of miles away from the warmth of the sanctuary, but really weren't far away at all. There is suffering, hardship, disenfranchisement right here to which our response is not adequate.

Can there be peace, the readers of the program asked, when:

- We work against rather than for peace through individual acts—careless words and actions, unsympathetic attitudes and selfishness;

- We engulf ourselves in the things of the world and forget basic human values; when we are apathetic toward problems of loneliness, alienation, drug and alcohol abuse; child and spouse battering.

- We support basic injustices—lack of basic necessities, basic empowerment—because of the unequal exchange and distribution of economic and human resources and an imbalance of political power.

- We fail or refuse to realize the world does stand on the brink of total annihilation by the threat of nuclear war. When we hurt people by the reallocation of resources from human needs to support a growing arms industry, to increase our ability to make war.

The answer to the question, of course, was "No."

And as the service closed, the women joined in a prayer of commitment to work and pray for peace,

beginning with the small changes each of us could make. All of us—with comfortable or even abundant lifestyles that require little self-sacrifice—pledged "to live simply so that others may simply live."

We committed our lives to ways of peace and to making decisions based on that commitment.

If hundreds of thousands of women across the world actually live up to that commitment, our world cannot help but improve.

But I wonder: How many of us actually paid attention to the pledge we made? How many of us plan to abide by it? Or was it an empty gesture by well-meaning people?

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Established Nov. 1, 1962

Telephone 754-6890

Published Every Thursday

At Main Street

Shallotte, N. C. 28459

Subscription Rates

IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

One Year \$5.23

Six Months \$3.14

ELSEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA

One Year \$7.32

Six Months \$4.18

ELSEWHERE IN U.S.A.

One Year \$10.00

Six Months \$6.00

Second class postage paid at the Post Office in Shallotte, N. C. 28459. USPS 777-780.

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THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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 SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459

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