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Thursday, May 23, 1985

New Hours Help Solve Some Trash Problems

Brunswick County residents should can their complaints regarding trash disposal, now that the sanitary landfill department is stretching its hours for the weekend busybody.

Starting Saturday, all three Brunswick County solid waste transfer stations and the central landfill in Supply will be open seven days a week. Hours will be from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday at the landfill and at transfer stations in Leland, Ocean Isle Beach and Southport.

In the past, the sanitary landfill department has locked its public facilities during weekends, prompting complaints from county residents who could never find time to dump during weekdays. Those worries appear to be over, as well as those messes often left next to roadside greenboxes during the

While everyone will agree the new hours are a good idea, it also leaves one wondering why it took so long to see the changes when the problems were so obvious. Instead of complaining though, residents should contact their county commissioners to let them know how much the new hours are a convenience to everyone, now that next year's budget is being

Even non-resident property owners, such as those living along the beaches, should find the new hours a convenience during this extended Memorial Day weekend. Those garages and yards probably do need a little cleaning up, and now the excuses are getting fewer and fewer.

The argument, "I don't have anywhere to dump on weekends," is a thing of the past, once the wives find out.

Blackberries And Bushes

About this time of year we begin to find blackberries (and dewberries) in some of the vacant lots on the beaches and along the roadsides. So-meone asked me why the blackberry bushes seemed to be so abundant and I tried to recall some of the stages of field succession where berries were able to flourish.

Perhaps one of the reasons these plants do so well on the beaches is the delaying action of wind and salt spray on the process of succession. Normally a plowed field or a piece of bare ground will begin to get a few broad-leaf plant species such as dandelion, plantain, and others. Then some of the grasses appear and not long afterward, blackberry vines take hold. Berry seed may be dropped by birds or brought in by small animals such as rabbits

After several years the usual process would mean the berry vines would be crowded out by broomsedge, sumac, pines and similar sun-loving plants and shrubs The pines would grow tall enough to offer shelter for hardwoods such as maple, oaks, hickory, beech, etc. where the pines would be deprived of the sunlight needed for growing. Pines would give way to hardwoods



Faver

Bill

to form the "climax forest"-taking perhaps 50-75 years from bare ground.

This process can be altered along the way by fire, storms, cutting, and by other natural factors, such as wind and salt spray. The same sculpturing done by the wind and salt spray may be keeping the berry bushes alive by pruning out the larger plants and shrubs. At least, wind and salt spray are delaying the natural processes we would expect in an area where conditions were different.

So, while you pick a blackberry or two, think about the stages of field succession that take a plot of land from bare field to mature woodland. And think about the natural elements along the edge of the sea keeping the berry bushes from being crowded out by larger plants.

School Bus Issue: Can Students Drive?

Perhaps it is time to carefully examine our school transportation system, to push for any measures that would offer even the slightest help in improving the safety of our children. But I'm not so sure all of the problems will be solved by eliminating 16- or 17-year-old

I drove a school bus for two years as a junior and senior at North Brunswick High School, driving for elementary students, for then Lincoln Primary School Principal James Clemmons, and for high school students as well.

Now Clemmons is a member of the Brunswick County Board of Education, where he has raised concerns about school bus safety several times

WHAT WILL ITBE?

SCHOOL BUSING-OR-



Terry Pope

since being elected to the board in November.

He would instruct students on my own bus, while standing in the stairwell by the door, about the importance of following safety rules while riding the bus. The students would always listen.

I don't doubt his concern for the students-you could just see it on his face seven years ago, every afternoon as he directed buses from the school ground and waved them out to

I still see that look on his face today, every time he raises a concern about school bus safety at a school board meeting. I'm starting to see the same look written on other faces, the faces of parents, teachers and community leaders.

When Clemmons retired as Lincoln Primary's principal to join the school board last December, he left behind a group of all-adult bus drivers. At his retirement dinner, his thoughts even turned to his bus drivers as he praised them for doing an excellent job.

Driving a bus was not easy as a high school student. Now, after seven years, I'm sure it would still be a difficult job. But would driving a bus now be any safer, now that I've aged seven years?

A bill before the House Highway Safety Committee introduced by State Rep. Alex Hall of New Hanover County would prohibit schools from hiring people younger than 18 as school bus drivers.

There are very few high school students who are 18 or older prior to their senior year. In effect, the bill would eliminate high school drivers.

While it sounds like a safe gesture and a means of putting more mature drivers behind the wheel of a bus loaded with 40 to 60 students, it may also require the funds for putting such a program into practice.

Brunswick County School Transportation Supervisor Bill Turner believes the bill will initially create a hardship in finding adult drivers who are willing to work for just several hours a day on a school bus. The salary is a big question mark.

Turner and members of the Union Primary School PTO organization gathered last Thursday morning at the school to honor the school bus drivers at a breakfast. Union Primary has 13 bus drivers, nine of whom are adults.

The PTO officers had decided to honor the bus drivers for doing their jobs, for driving school buses all year. There were no super heros in the cafeteria, no special competition for Bus Driver of the Year, etc.

There was no mention of the recent school bus accident in which 17 Union Primary students were treated for injuries, an accident in which a student driver was charged.

But that serious look was there. It's starting to spread.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

News From Brunswick Welcome In Malaysia

SCHOOL BUS-TING?

To the editor:

I am currently posted to the American Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and am receiving the Beacon as a gift from my family. When I receive the paper it is almost six weeks old, but is welcome news from Brunswick County (where my heart will always remain).

I read it from front to back, every word, advertisements and all. It is nice to see what so many of my friends are doing these days since I have sort of lost touch with most of them. I see where some of them have gone into local businesses and are doing very well.

It is also sad to read the area deaths and see so many people that I have known are no longer there. The most disturbing items are the ones where "former" friends and neighbors have been implicated in drug dealings. These people should be in Malaysia. The Malaysian authorities deal harshly with drugrelated offenses.
Since 1975, 30 people have been

hanged. Presently there are 37 others on death row awaiting outcome of their appeals. Just this week eight persons, one female and seven males, were sentenced to death under the Dangerous Drugs Act

which carries the mandatory death

Under the Dangerous Drugs Act anyone found in possession of 15 grams or more of heroin, morphine or a mixture of the two drugs, 200 grams or more of ganja (marijuana) and mixed ganja or 1,000 gm of raw or processed opium or a mixture of both are charged with trafficking.

Since 1975 over 500 persons have been arrested and are awaiting trial or the outcome of appeals. During the last ten years, 237 people (one American) have been sentenced to life imprisonment. Maybe we should give some sentences like these and not so many fines and suspended sentences.

On a lighter side of things: one of the marine security guards at the embassy was a participant in a local

marathon last month and came up with the idea of having employees sponsor him (so much per mile run). He wanted to donate the proceeds to the Ronald McDonald House in Durham.

When the notice came around I was pleasantly surprised to find two names on the board of directors that I knew; one was Harvey Russ and the other was Henderson Rourk. Corporal Mott ran the marathon and raised in excess of \$2,000. We were extremely proud of this young marine (and by the way he is not from North Carolina, he is from Georgia).

Again, thanks for the news (both good and bad) from home. Hope to see lots of you in June and July.

Pat Gupton Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Is This A Good Lesson To Teach Our Children?

Everywhere we turn lately we hear angry cries of child pornography, sexual abuse of children, etc. As a mother of three small children and a primary school teacher, these topics cause me great concern.

I cannot believe Brunswick County Pageant Association Inc. could sponsor a "Miss Bikini contest" with age categories of 2.5 6.9 10-13 14 a older. Isn't this teaching our childen impressionable minds. that it is perfectly alright to show off their bodies in front of anyone? If

they feel that this is acceptable, what will come next?

I am certainly not opposed to beauty pageants. However, this contest has no mention of talent, grace, poise or intelligence-only bodies. Is this what we want our children to be

Please stop and think about what

Gwen S. Davis Rt. 4, Leland

What Happens When Politicians Adopt Paternalistic Attitude

To the editor:

My Webster's New World Dictionary defines paternialism as; "the principle of governing or controlling a country, group of employees, etc. in tionship with his children". And all the while we thought it was a big

If Webster is correct, two significant facts emerge whenever policitians adopt a paternalistic attitude toward their constituents. One, they alone know what's best for them. Two. like children they must be con trolled, all for their own benefit of course.

I have a problem accepting that as the proper role for government. I am reminded of a recent news item relating to the two officers, forced to scramble to safety from their patrol car, after the government (E.P.A.) mandated catalytic converter ignited their vehicle

And then there is my own experience. My attempt to stretch that government (O.S.H.A.) mandated, two foot electric percolator cord an additional six inches after having rewired my house to accommodate the O.S.H.A. mandated electric plug. wrestling with the government approved top on my vitamin bottle (a twenty four inch pipe wrench works fine), sweating out those 18 wheelers careening around me when government (E.P.A.) gadgets stall my car in the middle of an expressway (emissions you know) and writing a check for mickey mouse repairs to the gloating (it ain't me, it's guvinment) auto safety inspector, Ad In-

Herbert Spencer once wisely observed; "The ultimate result of protecting a fool from his own folly, is to fill the world with fools". So true, and unfortunately, most apparently become politicians.

finitium.

Seat belts anyone? Lynn Batson Wilmington

Don't Torture Me Like This, Jane O'Reilly

Jane O'Reilly's done it again She's made me feel guilty: This time for not doing my own laundry-not at home, but at the neighborhood laundromat She thinks it is high time that I.

deprived of the sociability represented by launderette, relearn the thrill of beating someone else to the dryer. Jane believes America is ready for a symbolic return to the town pump,

to rediscover the joys of chatting while washing. We have too many private washing machines, she says. They're isolating the American housewife. washing Privately-owned

machines should be abolished for the good of democracy, she asserts, writing in "The Girl I Left Behind." She also suggests banning TV sets from laundromats and making it illegal to drop off your wash for someone else to do.

Fine, Jane. Give up your own washing machine. But don't make me give up the greatest luxury I've ever known.

Have you ever marveled at the thrill weekly sessions at the beauty parlor seem to give all the teachers you know?



Susan Usher

It's an end-of-the-week pampering I've come to understand There's nothing I like better, nowadays, than dropping off my single laundry basket come Friday afternoon or Saturday morning and escaping the laundromat. In exchange for a small check comes two to three hours to use exactly as I please, whether it's cleaning house or sunning at the beach.

There was a time when doing laundry at places where you drop in coins and wipe around the edges of the machines was fun. When a laundromat was built across the road from our old home on U.S. 17 my family had no choice but use it-it tapped the same source of water as our well. We could no longer pump enough water to run our own washing machine. Back then it felt grown up

By college, though, laundromats were a boring necessity, with one pleasant exception: those in certain shopping centers, at least, were great places to meet guys.

You see, Jane's right about most laundromats being sociable places. Once all the kittens need homes and roommates wanted signs have been read, laundromat-goers generally get around to talking. But it takes the right laundromat. Have you ever tried talking over the simultaneous bleep-beep-zap of game machines, a rapper on the radio, a TV soap opera and a crying infant? You have to really want to communicate.

Of course, Jane envisions building laundromats the way the Romans built baths: "There should be a central, preferably vaulted hall full of washers and dryers and ironing boards. Other halls should be equipped as nurseries, gymnasiums and pool halls. There could be bingo on Tuesdays and visits of political candidates on Thursdays. Perhaps even fish fries on Saturdays."

But let's face it, that's not the way it is, Jane.

While living in Toledo's West End

in 1976, going to the laundromat was an adventure in survival. Here was the laundromat we had studied in J-School and group dynamics classes: community gathering point for the urban poor-knives, dope, whores and half-empty bottles of Thunderbird included. Competition

for dryers was literally cut-throat. The West End was in transition. Our particular section was redlined by the banks; its residents came in three varieties: upward-bound young professionals trying to turn borderline "revitalized" property into "hot" chic; poor families of all colors, shapes and sizes not quite making ends meet: and students who were a little bit of both.

The first group had their own washing machines and sorted for delicate in private. The rest of us fought for dryers. It was rather daring to go to the corner laundromat on a Friday night with your life's savings in quarters (the change machine never worked) slung over your shoulder.

By the end of the year I was lighting candles at the Catholic church where I played bingo, praying for a \$20,000 a year job and a washing

machine of my own.

In Morganton, those first years on a regular payroll, I remained relatively poor, still using someone else's machine. But now Sweetpea came along to play with the laundromat owner's dachshund. Things were looking up. When finally lush enough for a washer of our own, occasionally we returned to the laundromat just to visit.

Raleigh was everything that Toledo dream envisioned-private washing machine in the condo (Jane calls it \$500 of inefficiently utilized machinery), followed by group aerobics at 9 a.m. with a bunch of housewives panting after Donahue between bridge lessons and Newcomers luncheons. Middle class was boring.

As far as I'm concerned you can keep both your private washing machines (treat yourself to a brownie if you can make the beds and start dinner between wash and dry) and do-it-yourself laundromats. I've got the better system.

Take away my garbage pickup, newspaper delivery and drive-in banking, but don't you dare touch my wash, fold and dry service.