

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Thursday, May 30, 1985

More Seniors Finding Futures Near 'Home'

Next week marks a special occasion for more than 500 Brunswick County high school seniors and their families as graduates receive diplomas in ceremonies at the three county high schools. Many of the seniors can be viewed in a special graduation supplement included in this week's Brunswick Beacon.

Each year, the same statement is sounded out and each year it holds true, "Today's graduates are tomorrow's leaders." For many of the high school seniors, the future may mean leaving the Brunswick shores in search of those leadership roles.

However, as more and more people decide to live in Brunswick County, the expansion of local businesses and Brunswick Technical College is helping to keep the cream of the crop from fleeing so rapidly.

Although venturing away from Brunswick County on one's own can be rewarding to many of today's seniors, it's nice to have opportunities available within the county for those who wish to stay.

With its beautiful South Brunswick Islands and coastal areas, it's no surprise that many seniors will stay close to home this year. It's also nice to have native residents for tomorrow's leaders.

Please, I Need Relief From These Fleas

Let's set the scene. There's a hint of lightning in the western sky; it's dark and breezy and the curtains are flapping wildly in the window.

The surf is pounding; it's stormy on Holden Beach tonight. Somehow you manage to fall asleep, but wait! You startle and rise. There's a "knock, knock, knock" on the floor at the foot of the bed.

The place is haunted—haunted with fleas as a cocker spaniel is viewed in the corner of the room rhythmically lifting up his hind paw and scratching against his front leg. Poor Poco's ghostly scratching and banging on the floor is keeping both of us awake, but we've tried almost everything in the book.

Poco has been powdered, dipped, sprayed, washed and fitted with collars twice this month. I have practiced extermination on my dog's back, but more fleas just keep popping in, like drifters in a soup line.

"Every year we seem to be getting more calls from people who are having problems getting rid of bothersome fleas," said Thomas Blum, director of the Brunswick County Health Department.

They're also becoming more difficult to control because flea-carrying animals, such as dogs and cats, live inside the home with their owners, Blum added. But with our hardwood floors, most of Poco's fleas appear to stay just on Poco, which eases my mind a little. I can't bear having to restrict him from the house completely since I'm away during the days.

Unlike other families, I'm really not too worried about a flea infestation since there are no rugs or carpets where flea eggs can become imbedded and hatch into numerous tiny fleas. What I'd really like is to just get the fleas off of Poco, and to keep them off.

Nolan Newton, a medical entomologist and head of the Vector Control Branch for the N.C. Division of Health Services, said researchers must continually develop new products to combat fleas since they tend to develop a resistance to certain pesticides.

Poco has been thoroughly dusted with five percent Sevin dust, "Happy Jack" dog and cat flea powder, bathed in "Sergeant's" flea and tick soap and dipped in "Sergeant's" flea and tick dip. The poor dog stinks like



Terry Pope

cough syrup, yet there are still fleas that want to invade his coat of blond fur.

I've watched fleas crawl across Poco's flea collar, on their way to another choice spot in his fur before my fingers could react fast enough to snatch the bloodsuckers off. There are numerous commercial products to help control or to kill fleas, Newton advised, but consumers should read the instructions carefully before buying or using the products.

"There are currently products on the market that kill both adult and pre-adult fleas," Newton said, "but before using any commercial flea killer in the home, people should thoroughly vacuum their floors, carpets, bedding and upholstered furniture. Immediately afterwards, seal the vacuum cleaner bag in a plastic container so fleas cannot escape, then carefully follow the directions on the product label."

Sometimes, a second home treatment may be necessary in about ten days or two weeks to kill additional fleas that might have hatched, he added.

I believe another problem may lie in the sandy soil at and around my home at Holden Beach. Poco must go for his daily walks along the beach or Intracoastal Waterway, where I'm sure fleas gather and lie in wait for an unsuspecting body. However, the home turf will get a good spraying, and Poco will get another good strong bath so we can both get some sleep at night.

It's becoming expensive fighting such tiny pests.

"Prices on commercial products as well as among professional exterminators will vary," Blum added, "so it's wise to do some comparative shopping. Be sure that the products you or the exterminator use will kill both adult and pre-adult fleas."

Maybe one day we'll find relief at the end of, Ouch! These fleas have got to go!

Write Us

The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Under no circumstances will unsigned letters be printed. Letters should be legible. The Beacon reserves the right to edit libelous comments. Address letters to The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 470, Shallotte, N.C. 28489.

Don't Like Seat Belts? Wear Them Anyway

So you don't want to wear your seat belt.

Why not? Don't want to get your clothes messed up? Afraid of getting trapped in a burning car? Or is it just too much of a bother?

Bull.

It's too bad you missed a recent speech at the Brunswick Toastmasters Club on the subject by American Red Cross Volunteer Ellen Dorsett. Chances are you wouldn't be waiting until October 1 (or worse yet, Jan. 1, 1987) to buckle up. You'd do it today and everyday.

North Carolina just passed a law making it the law to "fasten up for safety," basically because of heavy lobbying by the automobile industry. If enough states require the wearing of seat belts, the federal government won't require car-makers to install passive restraints like air bags starting in 1989.



Susan Usher

Our new state law is pretty watered down—it excludes back-seat passengers, people with certified "phobias" of being constrained, buses, farm and commercial vehicles, rural mail carriers and other kinds of delivery people.

A 15-month warning period begins Oct. 1. There's a real possibility the law could be repealed before the first actual tickets are issued starting January 1987.

Even if it's not repealed, the

penalties won't be great for those front-seat occupants who don't fasten up—a \$25 fee for an "infraction" that carries no court costs, criminal record or impact on insurance costs.

The worst thing that could happen is that the person who doesn't buckle up is more likely to get hurt in a collision. Seat belts, when worn, improve protection from death or injury by as much as 50 percent.

The state also passed a stronger child restraint law, effective July 1. It eliminates exemptions for children lying or standing in cars, but allows parents to free a child to tend to "personal needs." Most important, it increases the age for child restraints and requires child safety seats for children up to age 3. (Child safety seats are available for loan. Contact the county Volunteer & Information Center or health department for more information.)

The reasons for wearing a safety belt far outweigh those against it. Don't believe me—trust Sir Isaac Newton. Crash dynamics are a practical example of his laws of motion in action.

Crash dynamics are what happens to a vehicle and its contents in a collision—people, of course, being the most valuable of those contents.

Actually a crash involves two collisions—the first is when the car hits another object, whether a tree or a moving object such as another car, and comes to an abrupt halt. At 30 miles per hour, the first collision will stop the car in one-tenth of a second. Pretty quick, eh?

The second collision occurs one-fifth of a second later, when the contents of the car stop moving—that includes you.

Unbelted passengers fly toward the point of impact, colliding with anything in their path, including the dash, windshield, steering wheel. At 30 miles per hour, the passenger catapults into the dashboard with several thousand pounds of moving force—the exact force depending upon their weight.

Ellen suggested a walk through a junkyard. While the hulks of the cars may look awful, in most cases you'll find that the seats are still anchored firmly to the car frames.

When people use their safety belts, they also are anchored to the frames.

That's good, because the best place to be in a crash is inside the car. It's "murder" to be thrown clear. According to the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration (NHTSA), passengers thrown or "launched" from a car in a collision are 25 times more likely to die. Wow.

What about all the myths about getting trapped in a burning or submerged car, then?

Well, accidents involving fire or submersion make up less than one-half of one percent of all traffic accidents. That's less than one in 200.

Still the idea of getting trapped is pretty scary.

Look at the odds of getting out if you don't have a seat belt on. Assume you've not been thrown from the car. The only way to escape from a burning or sinking automobile, then, is to remain conscious, preferably with few or no broken bones and no heavy bleeding from gashes. How can you bolt from a burning car if you're lying on the floor, out cold?

Since seat belts keep you in your place in the car—attached to the car frame and several feet from the dash, you'd be much less likely to strike anything or suffer other injuries.

Still not convinced? Hey, I know, you're a safe driver, never had an accident in your life—not even a fender bender.

I'm glad you're a safe driver, but what about all those other guys on the road?

The statistics speak for themselves: Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for those under age 35. One of every 70 babies born today will die in a crash.

And most drivers buckle up in bad weather, at night and when driving high speeds. Most fatalities occur in dry, sunny weather, at speeds under 40 miles per hour, within 25 miles of home.

We all have a one in three chance of being in a serious accident during our lifetime—even if we are a safe driver. Remember those other guys on the road?

Safety belts are your best protection against drivers not in control of their vehicles—drivers who have drunk too much, not had enough sleep or whatever.

By the traffic administration's calculations, if all Americans routinely used seat belts, we'd see a reduction in deaths of more than 17,000 a year.

That's something to think about—especially when that person could be you or someone you love.

NEWS ITEM - UNIVERSITIES MUST TEACH VALUES



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It Was So Slick How 10 Acres Were Rezoned

To the editor:

I owe an apology to the citizens of Holden Beach. Last Thursday morning, May 23, I sat silent and unopposed as the Holden Beach Commissioners voted to rezone some 64 lots to "multi-family" use. I remained quiet while my town board voted to give away the largest jackpot ever given to a Holden Beach developer: the right to build condominiums or other multi-family structures over an area of some 10 acres on the east end of the island.

I was not alone in remaining silent. The two persons employed by the town board could hardly have spoken a word in protest. Three other citizen spectators also said not a word. I assume that they, like I, didn't understand what was happening.

What was a stake was this: the commissioners decided to rezone this tract at a time when there would be no opposition present, at a board meeting where the item had not been placed on the agenda in advance, and some three years after a public hear-

ing was held at which numerous citizens expressed loudly and clearly their unambiguous opposition to this rezoning. What was at stake was that our commissioners came together at this "public" meeting to formally ratify a decision that they had already made privately.

It was a slick maneuver! Jim Griffin, the commissioner whose development company benefitted from the rezoning, had done his homework. He came armed with a letter from the town attorney who stated that the procedure was legal: that the town board could call up and vote on a matter which it had tabled three years earlier. Even though Mr. Griffin excused himself from voting on the matter, his friends and colleagues on the board dispatched this little piece of business in record time: less than two minutes from beginning to end with only a single question of clarification and with absolutely no discussion taking place.

That is how it happened, friends. Holden Beach is now zoned to permit

some ten more acres of condominiums. Our commissioners have served notice that they will fearlessly make decisions out of the light of public scrutiny. They will cheerfully make decisions which are in their own interests. They will cynically make decisions which are opposed by the majority of the citizenry. And finally, they will not be reticent to do so again should it be to their advantage.

Once again the Golden Rule was acted out: he who has the Gold sets the Rule. At Holden Beach, developers who hold the political power on the town board set the rules.

So, again my friends, I sincerely apologize to my fellow citizens of Holden Beach. I thought I was attending the town board meeting to observe that your interests and mine were being served by our commissioners, but I failed. I sat there silently because what was done was so slick that I didn't even know what had happened until after it was over.

There was one other curious moment on Thursday morning. When the commissioners went into a working session to discuss next year's town budget, they came to the request made by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce for a \$1,000 appropriation to the Chamber, in recognition of the "services" it provides to the area.

Hal Stanley, a realtor and commissioner who had voted in favor of the multi-family rezoning only minutes earlier, made a strong declaration that as a commissioner he would have to oppose giving town money to the chamber of commerce because the vast majority of the citizens of Holden Beach whom he represents would not be in favor of such a gift.

But of course, there is a little difference between giving away \$1,000 of the town's money and giving permission to build ten acres of condominiums on Holden Beach.

Hugh Stohler
Holden Beach

Animal Welfare League Needed In Brunswick

To the editor:

The recent article about the formation of an animal rescue league for Brunswick County was the most welcome and refreshing one since we began our trial subscription. I have had very mixed feelings about vacationing in Ocean Isle since the article about the puppy that survived the carbon monoxide chamber.

As an extremely active volunteer in human society work, I know the ultimate responsibility we owe unwanted animals is a quick painless death that is not coupled with fear or anxiety.

Not all methods of euthanasia are acceptable, and anytime it is 45 minutes before a live animal is discovered, a shelter's method should be closely studied.

I hope and pray for the strength that the new members of the rescue league will need to overcome pet overpopulation and to improve the care and quality in which the

sheltered animals live and die.

We came close to cancelling our reservations and plans to invest in property in the Brunswick County area. We have grown to love Calabash and the islands, but did not wish to spend our money where animals were not cared for more at their point of death. Thank you for enabling us to look forward to visiting your beautiful area soon.

I hope the Beacon will support and facilitate the origin and growth of the animal welfare league. Please find enclosed our subscription renewal. We want to watch the growth of animal welfare in an area we care about.

Kay Petty
Shelbyville, Tennessee

Plans Vacation

To the editor and staff:

My family and I have visited Ocean Isle for the past two years and plan to

make it our yearly vacation place.

We were delighted to receive your paper to keep up with all the changes in the area. Thank you so much!

Mary Beth Salvia
Erie, Pennsylvania

ROTC Program Deserves Support

To the editor:

On Thursday night, May 22 I had the honor of presenting awards to three members of the Junior ROTC at West Brunswick High School on behalf of the American Legion Post 247, Shallotte. This was my first opportunity to be present at their annual awards ceremony. I was most impressed with the dedication, appearance and enthusiasm of the young men and women who were present. Having visited the unit several times during the year I was not surprised, as some who were present

were, that the outstanding marksman was a woman.

A total of 502 awards were given to about 50 members of the unit and promotions were made for the coming year. In every instance the promotions seemed well deserved. Of all the awards given only three were left to the judgement of Colonel Cockrell and Sergeant Major Williams; all the rest were based on written criteria which to me meant that goals were set before the members which said you can win this award if you want it badly enough.

This program deserves our support as it certainly builds character, leadership, determination and a pride of accomplishment. A large salute should also go to Colonel Cockrell and Sergeant Major Williams for their outstanding job of leadership.

Jim Buffaloe, Commander
American Legion Post 247
Shallotte