

Both Sides Of Barricade Issue At Beach Draw Comments:

Owners Need To Re-Examine Motives

To the editor:

Our family just returned from our vacation at Holden Beach. I have been spending part of my summers at Holden Beach off and on for over 30 years. Before that, my grandparents spent their summers at Holden Beach, traveling several days to reach the island, and then they would spend their days on the beach and their nights at the old Holden Beach Hotel.

Last week I took my family to the west end of the island to walk the tidal pools and to look for seashells like my grandmother had done 50 years ago. Instead of a lone sand dollar, we found a guarded gate. My son cried.

Apparently the new owners found the charm of the west end of the island to their liking and they decided to buy it, and keep it for themselves.

The question at hand regarding the west end of the island is not a legal one. The question is a moral one: Morally and ethically, who has the right to buy the

charm of a small island that has been enjoyed by so many for so many years, and then to selfishly lock it up for their own private use?

No matter how one looks at the issue—it stinks. The owners of the property on the west end of the island need to re-examine their motives and ethics, and come to grips with the fact that buying and locking up the island's west end charm is ethically and morally wrong.

The town of Holden Beach and the state of North Carolina need to work with the west end residents to bring the access road to state standard, and to develop a limited size parking area for those who wish to enjoy the west end of the island. Regulate the numbers of people, but don't cut the use of the end of the island off.

Everyone involved with the issue needs to be able to look at themselves and say, "We did the right thing."

Randall Shank
Aylett, Virginia

Road Just As Private As Driveway

To the editor:

Since I do not own oceanfront property, I have to rely on public accessways and permission to cross private property to get to a public beach. The vast majority of people in the world have to live under the same handicap. What property I do own is mine to do with as I see fit as long as I abide by the ordinances and restrictions pertaining to the property.

All of us at some time have used vacant property as a playground, parking lot, walkway or something else until the owner decided to use the property according to his desires. We may prefer to have the vacant property for our own selfish use, but it belongs to someone else.

As of this writing, Bill Canup of Coastal Retreat, along with others, is planning a demonstration against an owner who has decided to use the property he owns. How would Mr. Canup have felt if when he decided to use his lot in Coastal Retreat, his neighbors decided to

demonstrate against that usage because they wanted to continue to use it for a parking lot, ball field, picnic ground or trash pile.

The road that extends to the west end of Holden Beach is just as private as Mr. Canup's driveway and its owners are due the same rights as he or any other property owner.

Other demonstrations around the world have taken private property for "public" use, but what has been the cost to the "public" in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan, Cuba, and most of the rest of the world.

I, too, was sorry to see the enforcement of private property rights on the west end of Holden Beach as I was sorry to see a house being built on the vacant lot next to mine, but I hope I never see the day that we lose the right of private land ownership in this country.

Jack S. Scarborough
Holden Beach

Opinion Page

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Page 4-A

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Legal Questions Need Good, Quick Answers

Whether their earlier threats were real or not, 29 persons will take the closing of the west end of Holden Beach to court next month after trespassing charges were filed against them Sunday. But the judgment they are likely to face will not help settle the west end controversy.

Sunday's demonstration did little to help resolve differences that now exist between the developers of the west end and those seeking beach access there.

Participants must ask themselves now if crossing the barricade was worth it. The protesters made their point, but Holden Beach Enterprises Inc. also kept its word that it would file charges against those who violate the privacy of the west end. So no one wins.

One person was struck, but not injured, during Sunday's demonstration. The feud is likely to get even more out of hand if a mediator is not found soon. The court system may be the best alternative since the town's hands are legally tied as the dispute involves two private parties.

Perhaps the individuals involved should file suit, asking the courts to clarify whether the developers have the legal authority to close the road, or if the road should remain open under the "prescriptive easement" rule which has been tossed about by several leaders of the protest. It seems an authoritative viewpoint is needed at this time.

The legal questions that protesters have raised cannot be answered by parading down Ocean Boulevard and cluttering the courts with trespassing warrants. Several demonstrators have expressed the opinion that the "public vehicular" laws prohibit the closing to private interests of a road that has been used by the public for beach access over a number of years.

Some quick answers are needed for these difficult legal questions.

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, Charlotte, N.C. 28459.

I'm Leaving One Home For Another Again

I opened the post office box, pulled out another magazine subscription renewal and the 1985 edition of the Atlantic Telephone directory. The telephone directory!

Right on schedule, I thought to myself. Every time the new phone books arrive, it's time for me to move. It seems that way, but I don't ever plan it that way.

I flip through the white pages and there I am, on page 58. Terry Pope, Holden Beach. In the 1984 edition, I was listed on page 53. Terry Pope, Shallotte Point. Get the idea?

I spent close to a year stuck on page 53, listed as a resident of Shallotte Point while I was living at Holden Beach. Now I will spend another year listed as a resident of Holden Beach while living in Chapel Hill. In Chapel Hill, the new phone books arrived in spring, when the students would be leaving and the phones were being disconnected.

Such a trivial matter when you ac-



Terry Pope

tually think of it. I don't really use the arrival of the new phone books as a guide that it is time to move. And no, I do not think the white and yellow pages hold some secret message or control over me that forces me to start packing my bags.

But yes, the new phone books have arrived and I am moving, moving to Chapel Hill next week. Next week will be my last week as a staff writer with The Brunswick Beacon.

It has been close to two years since I joined the staff and started covering the South Brunswick Islands, county news and school board. As a



THE GREAT BLUE HERON can feed along with other species in the marsh without being in competition because each fills a particular niche.

PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

Sweetpea: The First N.C. Oyster Dog?

Sweetpea and I are getting ready for the first N.C. Oyster Festival dog show on Oct. 12. It's the chance of a lifetime for the apple of my eye.

Finally, someone else will get to see her as I do—beautiful, precocious, charming and even cute and adorable.

But don't think I'm pushing her—I'm not one of those show moms who thrives on trophies and writing checks to stylists, fashion consultants and show groomers. You'd better believe it—this was Sweetpea's idea. It's going to be a real sacrifice for us to enter her. I only—just barely—mentioned in passing that it would just be the thrill of Mother's life if Sweetpea were to win or even to enter that dog show. (Okay, so I know how much she hates to disappoint me. Still, it WAS her idea.)

It's exciting. Sweetpea's one of a new generation of dog show entrants. She's got more to offer than a cute



Susan Usher

ruff and a wagging tail—she's bright, obedient and talented. Have you seen how fast she can work her way through a window screen and how she dances on two legs when I come home? She's also great on the high wire, frequently taking flying leaps from the dining room table.

This new generation of contestants no longer see the show as the goal, but merely as a means to an end. They're not after the ribbons and trophies. They're after the exposure, the future career contacts—and most of all, the scholarship money.

Sweetpea, for instance, wants to return to school and train as a security/watchdog. Her friend Precious wants to start her own poodle grooming service, while Ferdinand up the street wants to enter the up-and-coming field of hearing-aid dogs. He figures he can find employment in his hometown of Morganton, location of the N.C. School for the Deaf.

In any event, I'm proud that Sweetpea's decided to enter the dog show. It will help develop her self-confidence—she's such a homebody.

She's also older than your typical contestant. Once that was a handicap, but I think in today's market the added maturity will help her win points with the judges. She knows what she wants in life and is going after with all the determination she can muster. That's saying something—you should have seen what she did to the rushing in the kitchen chair the other day just trying to reach the fried chicken. With that quiet assertiveness, she'll go far in life.

But she will have to work out a lot harder over the next month—she needs to lose about 10 pounds to show off her new custom-designed, rhinestone-studded blue nylon and tulle collar.

But leave that to Mom. She'll never notice when I cut back her portions and ditch her to that yummy peanut hull diet dogfood again.

Hum, do you think she needs to enter one of those vanity dog shows in Charlotte first—you know, for the experience? It will just cost a few hundred and I know a lot of our friends would chip in as sponsors...

Keep It Coming

To the editor:

I have a lot at Carolina Shores and I look forward to receiving the Beacon each week so I can keep up with the news in the area. I hope one of these days to retire to Carolina Shores. Keep the Beacon coming and keep up the good work.

Bernie Anderson
Scotch Plains, N.J.

Know Your Niche

Most of us like to know where we "fit in" in a community or a neighborhood or a social gathering. We feel a sense of security when we establish our "role" or determine



Bill Faver

what is expected of us. In the study of plants and animals the place in the system filled by a particular species is known as its niche.

One of the expectations in ecology is that there is no species in a community to fill a particular niche, another species will adapt itself over the years to fill that niche. Probably the best example of this has to do with "Darwin's finches" on the Galapagos Islands. Since there was apparently no woodpecker to extract the boring insects from trees and driftwood, a particular species of finch took over that role. Not by developing a woodpecker bill and a long tongue, but by learning to take a straw in its bill and probe the insect from its hole. While this is a very unusual example the idea is the same in almost every community of plants and animals.

Filling a niche usually means the animals are not in competition. Herons and egrets in a marsh can illustrate this idea. They each depend upon small crustacea and small fish for food, but their methods of feeding keep them from being competitors.

The night herons usually feed after dark when their daytime cousins are sleeping. The small Green Heron sits low in a shrub or a piece of driftwood waiting for a minnow to swim by and then quickly grabs its lunch. The white Snowy Egrets frantically run around in shallow water in pursuit of food. The Reddish Egret stirs up the shallow water to excite the fish, then extends its wings to cast a shadow where the confused fish run for cover. This egret then conveniently eats its fill! The longer-legged Great Blue Heron can wade out into deeper water for its seafood dinner and thus is not in competition. You seldom see herons and egrets fighting for food or vying for space in the marsh.

Another importance of niche is that a balance is created. The ecological "law of control" is that when any species develops beyond the capacity of a community to carry that number of individuals, the number will be reduced by famine, disease, or predation. It is a good thing, too, for we are told that if it were not for controls like these, the prolific house fly would breed enough offspring in just three months to cover the earth at the equator in a band 50 miles wide and a mile high. Niche is probably the most important element in maintaining the balance. If a species is eliminated and the niche remains unfilled, the organism on which that particular species fed will develop beyond limits.

What about man's niche? Man is not only controlled by his environment as are all other animals, but man is one of the few species who can consciously control his environment. More on that later. Man and the cockroach are about the only species who have extended their range world wide without much regard to niche. This should tell us something!...