

# Writer Responds To 'Ballistic' Feminists Who Criticized His Letter

To the editor:  
Nothing is more hilarious than the ballistic responses of feminists who have (finally) been challenged!  
The critic will have his motivations impugned, his character questioned and the substance of his remarks twisted out of shape or misrepresented.  
I would ask these angry feminists to note specifically that I did not make any negative remarks about Hope Harbor or Ms. Acton's role there except that she used the position as a propaganda platform, spewing forth a lot of feminist rantings that did not pertain to her job.  
One writer completely distorted my reference to the feminist control of public schools and the conse-

quences of the girl-boy differentials in mental development.  
She also demanded my reference to single-parent guidance. I did not infer that women are "often the sole means of support," etc. I was referring primarily to mothers whose support is the government.  
Isn't it amazing how some feminists can screech so loudly about things never mentioned and avoid the real issues?  
And the issue I brought forth is that a public position of service is not a proper platform to disseminate propaganda. And the propaganda lacks honesty and objectivity. And the feminist thrust and its language are prime causes of domestic strife.

I am sorry that the definition of a human being (according to those who responded to my letter) is limited to those who knuckle under to the feminists without a whimper. My mother (also a single parent for 8 years) didn't raise me (married for 47 years) that way!  
Karl E. Brandt  
Shallotte

## Not A Feminist, But Not In Agreement

To the editor:  
This is in response to the letter from Karl E. Brandt in the Jan. 14 issue. Is it just me or does it sound as if this man doesn't like women very well?

I am not a feminist, have never claimed to be one and frankly am not quite sure what one is or what feminists stand for. I know that they are pro-abortion. I'm more of the pro-life type.  
I am a woman and I enjoy all the privileges that come with being a lady, such as having a door opened for me or having my coat held while I put it on. But at no time have I been taught that it is right or proper to be physically, mentally, verbally or sexually abused.  
I read Eric Carlson's article and I don't think it was a "feminist propaganda festival." However, I don't care if there are any statistics saying domestic violence or rape is increasing or decreasing. The fact that it occurs is appalling.  
I had a father I thank God for. He was loving, encouraging and a disciplinarian. My mother is also a great role model. Unfortunately, others are not blessed. I am a preschool director and I have seen the atrocious effects of abuse on women and children.

I don't believe feminism has anything to do with helping women overcome the degradation of any kind of abuse. It seems to me it involves compassion and concern.

If Mr. Brandt's "manliness" is being challenged by a woman being a rape crisis counselor, let me offer him a suggestion to take his manly self down to Hope Harbor, volunteer his time and see first hand what victims of domestic violence and rape suffer. Then maybe he won't bluster in print all his "He-Man Woman-Haters" propaganda.

I don't believe Ms. Acton is presuming to do anything but give support and love. Mr. Brandt doesn't sound as if compassion, concern,

care or even love are part of his vocabulary. But anger, paranoia, hate and misunderstanding could be.  
Jennifer Garin  
Galloway, Ohio

## Residents In Similar Fix

To the editor:  
We and other people living in Sea Castle development can sympathize with the people living on Bear Branch Trail, Shingletree Acres and Deerfield Estates. We have been trying to get our road fixed for the four years that I have lived here, and to no avail.

Do as we have had to do and get an old bed spring, weigh it down and drag it several times across the road. It does help. Next, keep nagging, begging, complaining and calling every day, and maybe you will get farther than we have with this procedure.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Holshouser  
Supply

## National Guard Appreciates Support

To the editor:  
As the commander of Company E, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry (M) N.C. Army National Guard, I would like to express my appreciation for the businesses who supported us during this past weekend.

The Army National Guard is facing major cutbacks along with the rest of the American military branches as the nation starts downsizing its military forces. The cuts and potential job losses reach all the way to Shallotte.

Our unit has 75 positions, or slots, as we call them; three are full-time. Currently we have 68 soldiers assigned. We believe that it is critical

that this company be at 100 percent strength in the near future to avoid any future cuts. Of these 68 soldiers, 81 percent are residents of Brunswick County.

The annual payroll and budget for this unit is over \$2 million. As a local businessman myself, I realize what that kind of income means to this community and county, and I believe that this money is well spent.

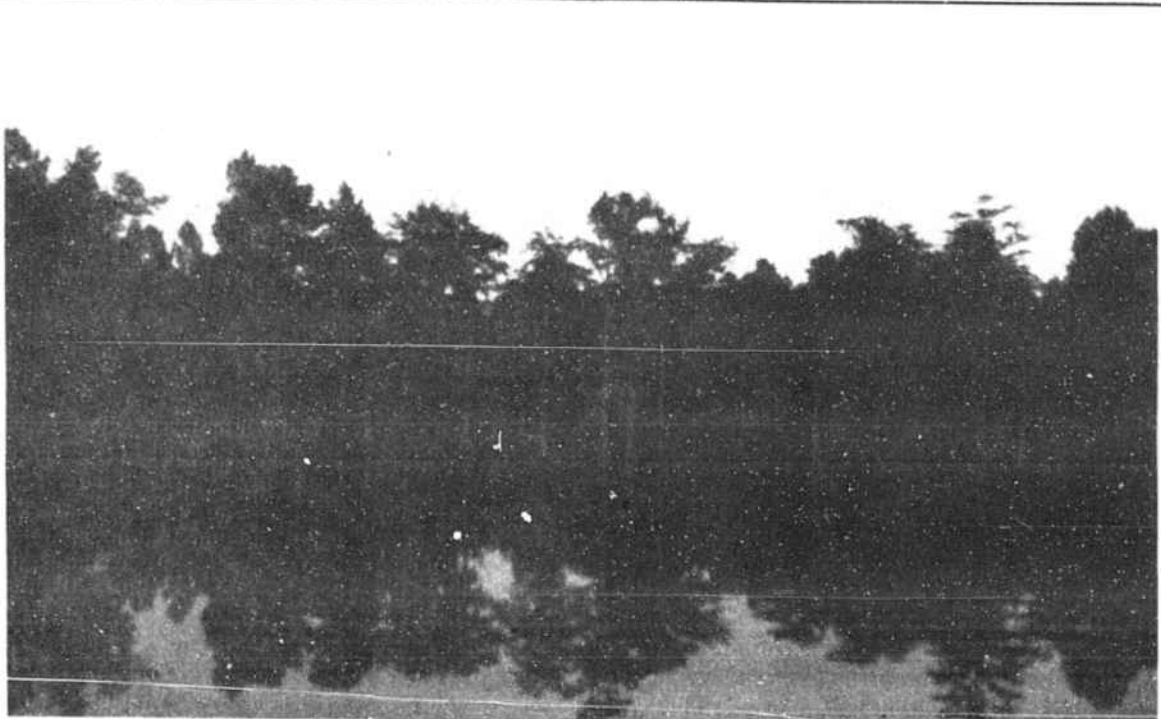
The Army National Guard has dual role or mission, first to the nation as part of our national defense, and second to the state of North Carolina as a rapidly deployable force for emergency and disaster relief.

The Army National Guard furnishes more "bang for the buck" than any other branch of military service. Far gone are the days and reputation that the National Guard once had in the '60s and '70s as being "weekend warriors." The men of this unit are highly trained, motivated professional soldiers and I am very proud to be assigned as their commander. Brunswick County can also be proud of the job these men do and service they will provide when we need it the most.

This National Guard unit has been a part of this community since 1949, and there are many charter members still living in the area. The armory has been used countless times over the years for emergency shelter and various other community activities.

I would also like to thank the soldiers of this unit for the co-workers, friends and family members canvassed as potential soldiers to fill our vacant slots and support this unit, the state of North Carolina and this nation.

William A. Milliken Jr.  
Shallotte



The full moon can remind us of the rhythms at work in our lives.

# The Rhythms Of Life

BY BILL FAVER

Most of us are familiar with some of the rhythms of life—like the seasons, life cycles of plants and animals, and phases of the moon.

We watch spring come and daffodils bloom and grass begin to grow and we are reminded how life "begins" or "awakens" again. Or, we gather thoughts of autumn as the time of year when life "ends" or "rests" again. Seldom do we think of the day-to-day processes happening all around us that also depend upon the rhythms of life.

Our life processes themselves are dependent upon rhythms—our breathing, our heartbeat, the processes of digestion, our eyesight, hearing, speech, sense of touch, rhythms of sexual fertility and reproduction. We share most of these rhythms with all animals.

More and more evidence is indicating we also have rhythms of thought and creativity which affect our en-

ergy and productivity.

Humans have the unique ability among animal life forms (so far as we know) to recognize and use rhythms to our advantage. We can go beyond the natural instincts for survival found in most of the animal rhythms.

Hal Borland, in *The Enduring Pattern*, warns us,

*Man has done some remarkable things, but he has never escaped his link with the basic rhythms. He never will. What he has accomplished has been within the framework of those natural laws, and his primary achievements have been in the study and use of those laws. And he still must live in the environment to which he was born—this planet, this earth.*

When we watch the waves washing the sandy shore at high tide or see the full moon rising over a cypress swamp we can appreciate the importance of rhythms in our natural world. We can also appreciate the value of the unseen rhythms at work in our lives to keep us healthy, creative, and productive as fellow inhabitants with all life sharing the earth with us.



FAVER

# Enjoy Honeymoon While It Lasts

Hers was just one of the "face in the crowd" interviews filling in the space between events, but she said more in a couple of seconds than most of the pundits who preceded or followed her on the six hours of videotape I recorded inauguration day.

"I'm a Watergate baby," she said. "I watched Nixon resign on television when I was ten years old, and this is the first time I've felt good about our government. It might only be for today, but today it's great."

I was a college student when Nixon resigned. I remember arriving at my folks' Holden Beach cottage on a September Friday afternoon just in time to watch Gerald Ford pardon him unconditionally.

I had just turned nine when Jack Kennedy was shot and the world stood still. There was no school, but we didn't go out to play. Our neighbors, the Butlers, drove to Washington to file past his body lying in state.

I was watching the 1968 Democratic Primary on TV the night Bobby Kennedy was shot. Later that summer, I watched police billy-clubbing kids outside the Democratic convention with the hearty blessing of Mayor Daley and many others.

Just a couple of months earlier, when Martin Luther King was assassinated, I had gotten in a fight with the boy next door who, probably parroting his parents, said something to the effect that the world was better off. He peppered his speech with racial epithets and bad grammar. We yelled and threw dirt clods at each other from one front yard to the other.

The next summer, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, Hurricane Camille ravaged the gulf, and Ted Kennedy went home to bed after Mary Jo Kopeckne drowned in his car.

The next May, four students were shot and killed at Kent State University by National Guardsmen during a protest against the Vietnam war. Then on Nov. 15, a quarter of a



Lynn Carlson

million people marched on Washington to protest the war. The next day, Americans learned about the massacre of hundreds of civilians at My Lai two years earlier.

In the summer of '71, when I was a rising senior in high school, the 26th amendment to the Constitution lowered the voting age to 18.

The young woman being interviewed on inauguration day was just a half a generation younger than me, but what a difference in the history and headlines of our formative years.

And between my generation and the one before there had loomed a chasm of mistrust, misunderstanding and polarized ideologies from which, thankfully, my young parents and I did not seem to suffer.

My mother once told me that when World War II ended—she was 12 at the time—she asked her own mom if there would still be a newspaper now that there was no longer a war. And, if so, what would be in it?

Now my son is 14, the age I was in '68. He has seen no war but Desert Storm. And like the boys who were my schoolmates, he'll have to register for the draft before he finishes high school. His first interest in politics and government was sparked by the unlikely combination of a sharp social studies teacher and the MTV "Rock the Vote" project. He's "stoked" about Clinton.

On Wednesday night I couldn't help feeling good myself about this bear-hugging, saxophone-playing president and this first lady who will finally, blessedly, redefine the role. As they danced at the MTV ball and presented their grinning daughter to the throng yelling "Chel-sea, Chel-sea," I had to smile. They looked so handsome, so eager—so like people I'd like to know better.

I've been around long enough to know it probably won't last but, for today, it feels pretty good.

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# Alderman Disagrees With Editorial

To the editor:  
I am just a country boy born and reared on the farm lands of Columbus County. I moved to Shallotte in 1954 to start my own business, and I have tried to contribute something back to the community in public service and civic activity. That is the reason I decided to run for the Board of Aldermen nine years ago.

Fortunately, I was reared in a family that taught me to be as fair as I knew how in my dealings with all people and expect them to do the same. I was naive enough to believe that government should operate in the same way.

However, some believe that what is fair to them is good for everyone. The premise here is that this line of thinking is that I want my way and to heck with you. I was not naive enough to believe that I would not be criticized. I thought the criticism would be an honest difference of opinion based on facts. Boy, was I ever wrong.

This letter is in reply to your very critical editorial in your paper of Jan. 14. You attacked the judgment, or lack of it, of the Board of Aldermen regarding the new trash policy for businesses in Shallotte.

A few things I learned on the farm have stayed with me over the years. If you step on a snake's tail, he will strike at what has stepped on him. The pig that was stuck will be the one to squeal. Horse manure does not smell too bad until you shovel it out of the stable.

You stated that certainly some more equitable and palatable plan could have been devised. I invite you to come up with such a plan. It would have been far more welcome than the unjustified criticism that we have received.

Please consider the following facts in devising your plan.

(1) *The Brunswick Beacon* paid \$1,167.56 in taxes in 1992. The town paid \$992.16 to pick up your trash. I am probably a typical homeowner in Shallotte. The town paid approximately \$71 to pick up my trash.

(2) Twenty-two businesses were pulled at random. Collectively they paid \$22,079.89 in taxes. To pick up their trash, the town paid \$22,488.96.

(3) Eighty-five percent of your taxes went to pick up your trash. Fourteen percent of my taxes was used to pick up my trash. Do you think that is fair?

(4) Four hundred seventeen residences and 110 business use the 90-gallon roll-out containers that cost the town approximately \$3,300 per month. The other businesses use 119 dumpsters at a cost to the town of approximately \$6,600 per month or approximately \$79,200 per year. We collect \$331,162 in ad valorem taxes; 23.9 per-

cent goes to pick up commercial trash. That amounts to 10 cents on the dollar of our tax valuation.

All the records and files are public records except personnel records. If you so desire, you may check the files and see who is paying the taxes and the cost of trash pickup and publish it.

(3) A thorough study was done when the town decided to go with a contract carrier for trash pickup. We had worn out and outdated equipment. There was no way we could provide the service as economically as a private contractor.

(4) The privately owned dumpsters you allude to in your editorial were bought by Chambers. It was not a total loss to business.

(5) Each business has the option of hauling his own trash if he can do it more economically.

(6) Shallotte was the only municipality in the area to provide commercial trash pickup with tax funds except Sunset Beach, which provides some commercial pickup, but much less than Shallotte.

(7) The taxpayers of Shallotte are under no obligation to dispose of trash from people outside the city limits.

(8) Trash pickup is not a mandated responsibility of town government. However, by working together, the city can provide this service more economically than individuals working alone.

(9) It is true that Chambers has been granted a monopoly. However, monopoly is not strange to government at any level. Electricity, telephones, cable television, water and sewer operate under a monopoly.

(10) You stated that businesses are having a tougher time making ends meet than government. That is about the most asinine statement I have ever read. I invite you to our next budget session and watch us struggle to provide the services that are requested with the funds that we have available. The only funds that we have are from taxes and payments from services rendered. These necessary services have been provided without a tax increase in four years.

I wish to take this opportunity to apologize to the homeowner. I am embarrassed to have been a party to such a disproportionate tax burden.

I would appreciate your printing this so that all the taxpayers in Shallotte can be properly informed. Fortunately, I have never had the opportunity to go to a school of journalism; I have never learned to tell half-truths and twist facts to my own advantage.

Wilton Harelson, Alderman  
Town of Shallotte

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