

The Sun Worshippers

BY BILL FAVER

We easily dismiss the ancient sun worshippers as being primitive and unenlightened.

We know about the seasons and the systems and what happens to the sun in winter and why some days are cloudy and the sun hides from us. Our understandings tell us why crops fail and storms occur; we don't blame it on the angry god.

We do practice sun worship in our own way, though. Our cult has its attire and vestments—skinny bikinis rather than coarsely woven cloth and animal skins. We have our anointing oils—sunscreen, baby oil, lotions and tanning compounds.

Our rituals and practices are different; our music even has some of the same rhythms and drumbeats of the ancients. We don't knowingly sacrifice our young men and maidens to gain favor with the gods. We know better. But many of our practices and lifestyles may have about the same effect as we strive for constant pleasure and youthfulness and excitement.

We differ from the ancient sun worshippers in another way, too. We don't chat at a Stonehenge at the Solstice and declare:

*Sun rules the skies.
Sun gives; Sun takes away;
Nothing that is
Is so by chance.*

Most of us don't even think about the sun, unless the clouds spoil a day at the beach or it rains on our parade. We could well re-

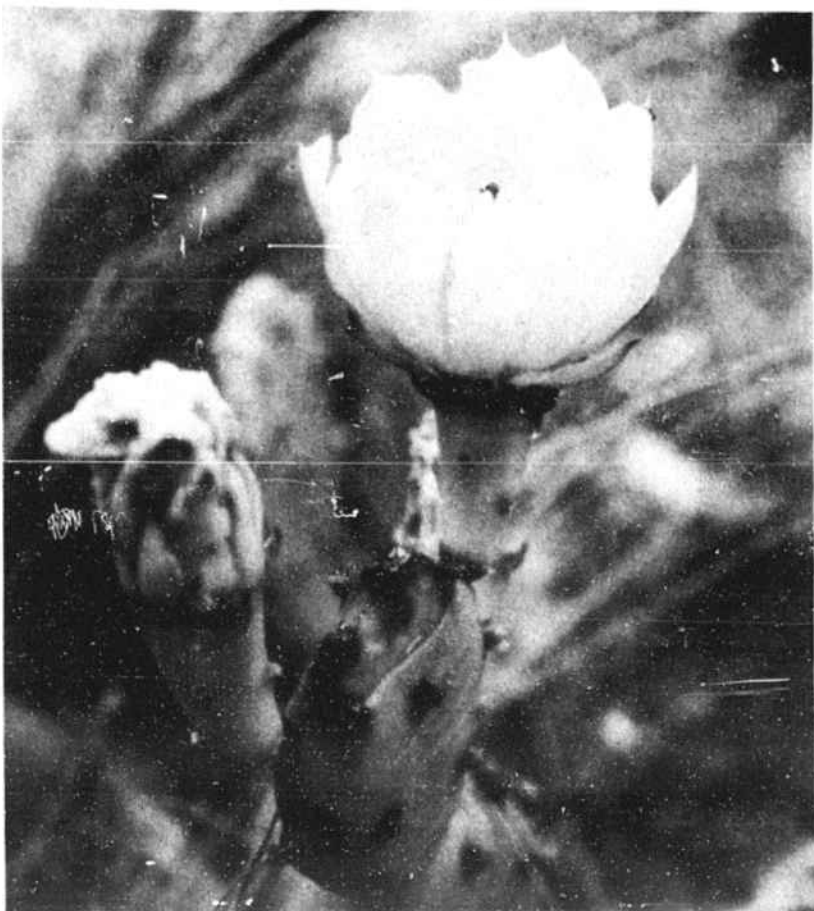


PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

ALL OF LIFE depends upon the sun.

mind ourselves of the importance of the sun to our world and to our lives.

The air we breathe, the waters, flowers, trees, birds, insects, animals, and everything else depends upon the delicate balance of where the Earth is positioned in relation to the sun.

Anything we do to upset that balance will impact upon our lives and our way of life.

The ancients knew it, but they thought the sun god unhappy and

worked to please their god. They may not have understood their role in the interrelationships and interdependencies, but they knew the importance of the sun to their way of life.

We have volumes and stacks of documentation and research about the sun and our roles and we seldom care. We don't worry about pleasing a sun god, but join the cult and spend money and time worshipping a sun we accept as always being there when we want it.

New Assistant Superintendent Could Begin Work Next Monday

BY SUSAN USHER

A new assistant superintendent for curriculum could begin work with the Brunswick County Schools as early as July 12, the day he meets the full board of education.

Jan E. Calhoun of Carrboro served two years as assistant superintendent for instructional services for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, a comparable post. He is expected to join the school system administrative team this month, as soon as he can find local housing.

"He'll begin work as soon as we can get him here," said Superintendent Ralph Johnston.

Calhoun was selected from a field of seven finalists that included two local candidates, Gloria Talley of Southport, director of staff development and public relations, and Ed Lemon of Shallotte, principal of West Brunswick High School.

"It was a tough decision," said Johnston. "We had some very strong candidates."

Calhoun resigned from his Chapel Hill post, effective June 25, having been hired in 1991 by a superintendent no longer employed by that school system, said Johnston. "It was a matter of allowing the new superintendent to choose his own team, not a situation where he hadn't been doing a good job."

Johnston said he thinks Calhoun has a combination of skills and experiences that are well-suited to the Brunswick County job—including experience leading the system's performance based accountability planning, working with and through principals in site-based management, and in providing services to a diverse population.

While Chapel Hill is thought of as having an enrollment that includes the children of UNC-Chapel Hill professors, it also has, said Johnston, "a population of kids that need a lot of help getting their achievement up.

He has worked to do that."

Johnston described Calhoun as "pro-active in restructuring," having been responsible for developing and implementing restructuring of the K-12 curriculum, instruction and assessment programs for the 6,900-student Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools, and as "believing in getting things done through principals."

Prior to his stint in Chapel Hill, Calhoun was employed by State College Area Schools, State College, Pa., as supervisor of curriculum and staff development from 1984 to 1991 and before that, as supervisor of elementary education from 1982 to 1984. Before that, he also served as elementary teacher, Chapter 1 reading specialist, elementary principal and an acting superintendent of schools for one year. He also coached football there from 1966 to 1973.

Calhoun has helped developed teacher training, able learner, staff development and other programs,

and supervised development of a long-range plan to purchase instructional technology and developed the plan for integrating use of technology in the classroom.

He has a bachelor of science in elementary education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's of education in elementary education from Clarion State College, Pa., administrative certification from Westminster College, Pa., and a doctor of education in curriculum planning and supervision from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has North Carolina certification as a superintendent, assistant superintendent and elementary principal.

As assistant superintendent he will have use of a school-system owned car and will earn a salary "in the mid to high 50's," consisting of his state salary plus a local supplement of \$6,336, the same supplement received by his predecessor, Mose Lewis, who retired at the end of the 1992-93 school year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teamwork Key To Goods' Recovery

To the editor:

The combined efforts of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and the Sunset Beach Police resulted in the recovery of the TV and paintings taken in a recent burglary at the Sea Trail Plantation Swim and Tennis Club. Recoveries of this type are difficult and require teamwork and much tedious effort on the part of the police officers involved.

We, the House Committee of the Sea Trail Plantation Swim and Tennis Club, wish to commend the joint effort of Detective Tom Hunter of the sheriff's department and Sgt. Lisa Massey of the police department for their excellent work in recovering the articles. We also commend Police Chief J.B. Buell and Sheriff John Carr Davis for establishing the non-bureaucratic cooperative environment which allows these officers to be so successful.

John Pointer
Sunset Beach

Likes Columns

To the editor:

Write Us

The *Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. Letters should be legible. We reserve the right to edit libelous comments. Address letters to *The Brunswick Beacon*, P. O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N. C. 28459.

My husband and I really enjoy reading the "Plant Doctor" and articles by Bill Faver. We have both learned a great deal about this area.

Thank you so much!
Henry and Beth Player
Ocean Isle Beach

Offended By Editorial

To the editor:

Thank you for (Eric Carlson's) column in the June 24 *Beacon*. I also was angered and offended by the *Wilmington Morning Star* editorial concerning the events surrounding the accident following theft of a car in Wilmington by two teens.

No one comments on the fact that the theft of that particular vehicle was made easier because the owner left her keys in the ignition, something that could happen to anyone, but still a careless act. I hasten to add that in no way do I blame the car owner for the subsequent behavior of the teens.

Alice E. Tew
Holden Beach

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