



PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

All creatures seem to be drawn to the edges for food and shelter.

Enjoying The Edges

BY BILL FAVER

Most creatures on Earth seem to prefer the edges, the place where field and forest come together or where land and sea meet. Even casual observation along one of these edges will reveal birds feeding on insects or small animals nibbling on plants. At the coast, the small shorebirds move constantly along the edge feeding on mole crabs and coquinas. These margins provide food and habitat for many of our creatures.

Humans, too, are fond of the edges. Often we climb high mountains to look down over the edges to a breath-taking panorama below. We flock to a lake shore to fish its banks or enjoy its scenery. And, of course, we are drawn to the sea-edge in a mystery we cannot fully comprehend. Some say it is because of the seawater-like blood in our veins or an ancestral longing to return "home" from where we came.

In an essay in Audubon Magazine some years ago, Peter Steinhart reminds us, "the edge dwellers are often our favorite creatures because they are creatures of opportunity. They choose between strategies of the moment and seem freer and more independent. They have a vision, a sense of the future that comes of living where the horizon is broad."

Edges can have some interesting effects on us. Edges seem to be where things are happening. There is constant activity and constant restlessness. Waves and wind are forever reshaping the shoreline, sending creatures scurrying for survival. There is movement and excitement. There is the need to strip away the cares and possessions of life for the freedom of movement. There is always the feeling of something about to happen, being "perched on the brink of a great moment".

The edges can also bring us satisfaction and fulfillment. The constancy reminds us of time before us and of other men's struggles. The broad expanse of horizon signals hope for the future.

Rachel Carson writes, "On all these shores there are echoes of past and future: of the flow of time, obliterating yet containing all that has gone before; of the earth's eternal rhythms...shaping, changing, dominating; of the stream of life, flowing...as any ocean current, from past to unknown future."

Our edges here in Brunswick County are unique in that we share them with other creatures in a relatively natural setting free from many of the man-caused "improvements" of our neighboring beaches. Perhaps one of the secrets of life and creative living is to find a place where we can turn our backs on the traffic and confusion of the market places and let the sea air blow in our faces and the smell of salt renew us.

Welcome to the edge where sand and sea and sky meet!



FAVER

MORE LETTERS

Safe, Legal Clinics Should Remain 'Haven' For Women

To the editor:

The plight of Ana Kosa Rodriguez depicted in the melodramatic flyer in last week's *Beacon* was undeniably tragic but certainly was not typical of case histories in legitimately operated abortion clinics.

It is unfortunate that the subject of abortion has to be addressed, but in our present society where one million teenage pregnancies are reported each year, something must be done.

Education, religion and parental guidance all help a little, but none of these are the answer to preventing the majority of the unwanted pregnancies. We refuse to recognize that we are dealing with erectile tissue and raging hormones, a formidable combination that cannot be reckoned with by telling teenagers to "just say no."

Until we have a form of birth control that is medically and socially acceptable, the numbers of unwanted pregnancies will continue to escalate. The French birth control pill RU 486 may provide the means to wipe out needless abortions.

Meanwhile, abortion clinics, legitimately and safely operated, must continue to be a haven for young women who should have the final say over their own bodies and their own destinies.

When the Right to Life radicals start taking care of the millions of already born tiny tots who lack food, medicine and two-parent homes, then I'll take their pleas for the unborn more seriously. They expound on the human rights of the unborn but fail to concede that these same rights extend to life after birth.

Pegge Jaynes
Supply

Protests Insert

To the editor:

One of the privileges of a newspaper subscriber is to take issue with the editor if the paper strays off the track.

This letter is in protest to the anti-Freedom of Choice Act insert that appeared in the last issue of your newspaper. It appears to me that the purpose of a newspaper is to present news and information in an unbiased way. While we all have the right to

our own personal views, I think that it is wrong to include extremist views, be they pro or con, such as the insert projected in graphic form.

I am surprised that you allowed this to happen. It can only push the parties with opposing views deeper into their respective corners.

Neill Key
Graham

Finally Moving Here

To the editor:

I will not be renewing my subscription to the *Beacon* at this time due to the fact that I just sold my home (hooray!) and will, at long last, be moving to Lockwood Folly by Holden Beach sometime in the next three months.

When my husband and I are settled in our new home, we will of course be renewing our subscription. We enjoy the *Beacon* very much. It has sustained us during a lengthy ride on the Northeastern real estate market.

Margaret Meinzer
St. James, NY

Maybe Son Saved

To the editor:

This is one mother's view of the shooting by Lt. Ron Hewett. I'm sure this would be a different letter had my son been in the truck that had its tire shot.

However, my son was on U.S. 17 working extra hard in heavy traffic

and extreme weather to do a service for folks of Brunswick County.

My son is trying to support his family and the families whose dads have abandoned them. He is paying taxes to support legislators who make laws favoring crooks. He is paying terrible insurance premiums because of crooks. He is paying the salary of court-appointed attorneys who get crooks off. He is supporting the district attorneys who reduce bail and plea bargain; also judges who give suspended sentences.

High-speed chases by police scare me because many times innocent people get hurt. However, this close-range shooting of a tire might have saved innocent lives down the road from a different wreck. Perhaps Lt. Hewett saved my son.

Joyce Simmons
Supply

Write Us

The *Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and telephone number. Under no circumstances will unsigned letters be printed. 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.

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Town of Holden Beach TOWN RECEPTION

The Town of Holden Beach will honor Hugh and Mabel Dutton with a reception at the Town Hall, July 16, 1993, at 4:00 p.m.

ALL RESIDENTS OF HOLDEN BEACH ARE INVITED.
(Please bring a covered dish.)

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