



FACING THE NEW YEAR gives us an opportunity to think about the quality of our natural environment. PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

## Time To Renew Our Concern

BY BILL FAVER



FAVER

It seems the older you get the faster the years seem to fly by. It only seems a few weeks ago we welcomed in 1993 and now we are bidding it adieu. Now the summarizers are recalling the events of 1993 and the prognosticators are speculating on what the new year might bring. The environmental magazines are doing their assessments of air and water quality and the conditions of habitats and endangered species. Some of these events make facing the new year an exciting adventure, for in many areas there is reason to be hopeful. It does seem to many people that there is an awakening of environmental awareness similar to that of the early seventies. Except this time there is more corporate awareness. It is true some of that is only a public relations effort, but many companies are much more sensitive to how their operations affect the air, water, and soil quality around them. Many companies are putting money into environ-

mental programs and supporting habitat acquisition to preserve space for wildlife and for humans. Of course, there is much still to be done. But maybe some of our concerns have been heard and people are beginning to realize "ecology" and "economics" come from the same root word, and the two have got to work together with mutual respect. After all, the quality of the environment is the state of the human environment as well as that of plants and animals. Pollution and over-development which affect plants and animals also will have some effect on human beings in the long run, if only in the quality of life. It may not kill us off, but it may make our life less than it should be. We have an opportunity in 1994 to renew our concern for a healthy environment and a healthy economy, by making sensible, well-thought-out decisions which will help to enrich the quality of life we have and make room for the plants and animals sharing this planet with us. Where better to have that opportunity than right here in Brunswick County, where we still have a healthy environment and a great place to live and work? When better to make that decision than when we are, facing a new year?

## Sliding And Sweating Into 1994

"I'm quitting everything," declared my friend Sandy when she called from Hooterville at 9:30 Christmas night. "Even bologna?" I asked, in response to which she fired off a string of expletives suggesting, among other things, that I am of canine extraction. It was all in fun. Everyone who knows Sandy understands that her exceptionally creative curses are really terms of endearment. And everyone who knows both Sandy and me would be ashamed if I let a little thing like Christmas keep me from taking advantage of an opportunity to jump on her case. "I'm getting a Nordic Trac," she continued. I laughed so hard I nearly choked to death. "Hey, Patrick," I called to my son. "Sandy's getting a Nordic Trac." He cracked up. "Hey, Eric," I yelled into the other room. "Sandy's getting a Nordic Trac." Identical reaction. Hold it, you may say to yourself. What kind of people offer their great friends sarcasm rather than sensitivity and support as they embark on a quest for middle-age fitness? Well, us, in this particular instance. The idea of Sandy living without cigarettes, adult beverages, bologna, Duke's mayonnaise and Butterfingers is as absurd as Seinfeld giving up cereal. As John Madden whispering, or Regis and Kathie Lee having an intelligent conversation. The mental image of Sandy sweating and sliding on a cross-country ski machine gives me pause to giggle, despite my grouchiness at having to write this column on a Sunday afternoon. "Well, now you'll have a place other than the bed and the floor to leave your dirty clothes," I told her. She countered by suggesting a few innovative, albeit uncomfortable, places where I might deposit my own laundry. Perhaps it would be easy to be sympathetic if she were fat instead of normal-sized, well-dressed, naturally



Lynn Carlson

blonde, brown-eyed, resembling Lindsay Wagner and younger-looking than the 40-something she is. And maybe there would be some chance I'd fall for this declaration if I didn't know how fine a cook her husband is (even though there's always the likelihood Sandy will pass on a gourmet meal and opt instead for the afore-mentioned bologna sandwich on white bread with extra

mayo). How can I pretend that I don't know the high point of her every vacation is ordering French toast in a different restaurant every day? Should I act as if she never made fun of Laura, her friend who always wears a leotard and sometimes can't resist the urge to do a few leg lifts, even at a dinner party? Dare I remind her that her traditionally preferred exercises, in order of aerobic value, have been turning pages, changing channels, throwing darts, rearranging furniture and wrestling the cats into the carrier for their trips to the vet? A part of me is curious about how long it will take this resolution to wear off. If it doesn't, the other part of me is afraid the world isn't ready for Sandy with muscles.

## Special D, Courtesy Of The Gremlin

What's a mind to do on the long trips to and from visiting kinfolk over the holidays.

Up to her earlobes in fudge, turkey, eggnog, peace and goodwill toward all, one of us spent the hours rolling along I-40 in intense, philosophical contemplation. That's evident from the following New Year's Wish List offered, without apology, to all those public figures who cried in disappointment over their Santa Claus loot Christmas morning, or should have.

The general public may not have heard of the The New Year's Day Gremlin, but those of us who watch lots of football know this impish fellow makes very special deliveries during the key plays of major bowl games.

Take heart. There's a second chance Saturday of getting what you deserve, oops, need:

**Superintendent of Schools Ralph Johnston:** A crystal ball and a Universal Qualified Minority Educator Recruiting Kit, with a three-year, money-back guarantee.  
**Brunswick County Commis-**



Susan Usher

**sioners:** A good topographical map of the county, a compass and a wind sock.

**CP&L:** A Roy Anderson clone. Second choice: A Roy Anderson clone.

**Brunswick County Attorney Mike Ramos:** a model suit-proof mining ordinance.

**Jim Brett:** More students, more Trojan football players and what else, a state 4-A championship.

**Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. CATV Division:** an additional telephone line and a doll with pins.

**Brunswick County Planning Board:** a reversible zoning ordinance with zip-out liner and matching hood.

**Brunswick County Board of Education:** claim to Blackbeard's lost hoard of gold, no groveling required.

**Shalotte Board of Aldermen:** a herd of mulch goats and a town administrator.

**Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. Directors:** a ground wire.

**Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association:** an invisible fence with radio control devices.

**Certain other Sunset Beach property owners:** a 60-foot-high rechargeable, inflatable puddle jumper.

**Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter:** a third ear and a rear-view mirror.

**Brunswick County Democratic Party:** a few less "good" Democrats.

**Brunswick County Republican Party:** a few less "good" Republicans.

**Rep. David Redwine, Rep. Dewey Hill and Sen. R.C. Soles Jr.:** a computer screen-saver that makes Brunswick County incorporation proposals vanish overnight or a magic wand, whichever works best.

### MORE LETTERS

## Issue Affects Whole County

To the editor:

I am a concerned citizen that has a concern for the present and future of Brunswick County, just not Southport. I am not against progress, but our county planning and economics boards have put our county in a bad position for considering and allowing a mining organization to come and destroy our fresh water supply.

When Martin Marietta starts pumping 10 million gallons of fresh water from our aquifer, it will hasten and add to our present water problem. The county already has salt intrusion at Carolina Shores, Long Beach and Southport. It will be just a matter of time before the entire county will be affected.

Just imagine that you cannot drink, water your garden or livestock from your own well. As of now, our salt water intrusion has been caused by our population explosion, so why allow a multi-million-dollar organization to come in and dump what is rightfully ours and our children's?

Charles Roof  
Southport

### Personal Interests

To the editor:

Anyone who attended the (Dec. 20) county commissioners' meeting saw a classic example of an attempt by a self-serving group to influence the county for their own personal interests, discarding the communities' well-being.

Chairman Don Warren's proposal to protect our "health and safety"...was attacked by an orchestrated group of self-interested people. These folks only saw financial gain from the Martin Marietta quarry. Never mind, they say, the loss of our

commercial fisheries, wetlands, roads and ground water for drinking from the aquifer due to salt water intrusion. Forget the threat to the county from the nuclear accident that could occur. CP&L has stated that the power lines needed to shut down the plant could be toppled into a Martin Marietta-created sinkhole.

Kerrie Watson  
Long Beach

### Endangers CP&L

To the editor:

CP&L's detailed analysis of possible damage to their transmission lines, railroad and to the nuclear plant itself by Martin Marietta's absurd proposal to put a quarry next door should get the attention of everyone in Brunswick County.

The CP&L plant is Brunswick County's largest taxpayer, accounting for more than 25 percent of the county's property taxes. Without the plant, everyone's tax rate goes up.

Without the plant, property values and real estate sales plummet. Without the plant, an army of highly paid employees and taxpayers are gone. Without the plant, the effects ripple through the county's economy.

The county commissioners are absolutely correct to protect the CP&L plant, because they cannot risk even a remote chance that Martin Marietta could endanger its continued operation.

M.L. Wehrle  
Southport

### Resources Defined

To the editor:

...Brunswick County cannot allow Martin Marietta to threaten the safety and welfare of its citizens and to squander our natural resources by

destroying our groundwaters, estuaries and wetlands. These are the very things that define Brunswick County, and their protection and wise use are in everyone's best interest.

Kathy Yax  
Long Beach

### A Bigger Lawsuit

To the editor:

...Martin Marietta claims to have a vested interest in their property. I feel that the vested interest of the citizens of our community outweighs that of Martin Marietta.

Furthermore, information regarding the possible detrimental effects on the county has been presented to our commissioners by many experts, including those working for CP&L. If, given this information, the commissioners fail to pass the ordinance banning this type of operation, they in turn could be subject to lawsuits from citizens for not protecting their interests, which in the event of a disaster will be considerably larger than the lawsuit threatened by Martin Marietta.

Ryan Boera  
Southport

### Write Us

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must include your address and telephone number. (This information is for verification purposes only; we will not publish your street/mailling address or phone number.) Letters must be typed or written legibly. Address letters to:

The Brunswick Beacon  
P.O. Box 2558  
Shalotte NC 28459  
Anonymous letters will not be published.

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Start the year right with a delicious prime rib dinner on New Year's Eve...  
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**A FRED MINTZ PHARMACY SINCE 1936**  
**January 1994**

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