

MORE LETTERS

Cottage Renter Dislikes New Reservation Fee, Says He's Through Visiting Here

To the editor:
I thought it would take longer to reach this lovely area than it has, but after attempting to make a vacation reservation with a local real estate agency, I found that it has arrived. What is it? Greed. Pure and simple greed.

I tried to make a reservation the other day for a two-week vacation in September. After being told what the cost of the two-week stay would be, including a 9-percent tax, I was informed that there would also be a \$20 reservation fee. For what? To write my name down in a book? Give me a break.

For years I have felt that the vacation renter gets the short end of the stick. There is no protection for the renter. When a renter makes a reservation, a 50-percent deposit must be sent in. The deposit goes into an interest-bearing account, but who receives the interest? Not the renter.

Even though the renter must sign a rental agreement which protects the agent to the hilt, there is not even a guarantee the house you have rented will be available upon arrival. All it takes is for the owner, who agreed to rent the house to you, to decide to use the house, and the renter is out of luck.

I've experienced the unpleasant circumstance of following an agent's advice on renting a certain unit that the agent says is "real nice." Upon arrival, I found that "real nice" really meant "real bad." The house I rented had linoleum floors that were worn to the plywood, furniture that looked and smelled as if it had sat out in the rain for a month, a picnic table with benches for a dining room table, and a refrigerator that had so much fungus and mold on the door that I was afraid to put my fishing bait inside.

It was my first time being able to afford to stay oceanfront. The final insult came when we went out on the beach to find more chunks of asphalt than sand.

And now, at least one rental agent at Ocean Isle Beach has decided to make a little extra off the vacation renter by charging a \$20 reservation fee. What's next? I'm sure that I already pay more in taxes on the two weeks I stay at Ocean Isle Beach than most property owners pay the entire year in Brunswick County.

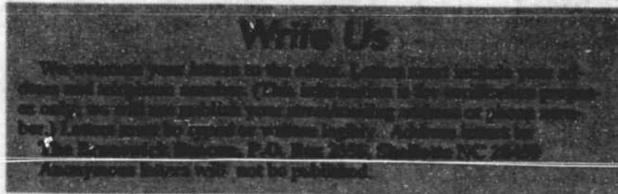
Thomas Baldwin
Sykesville, Md.

Spread Safety Word

To the editor:
June 5-11 is designated National Safe Boating Week. Since 1958, when Safe Boating Week was first started by an act of congress and Presidential proclamation, the number of recreational boats has grown from five million to 20 million nationwide. Over 70 million Americans will go boating in 1994.

As you know, there is lots of boating activity in Brunswick County—especially now through the end of the year.

Recreational boating is fun, but almost 900 people lose their lives every year in boating accidents. The number of boating fatalities exceeds the number of fatalities in airline accidents, commercial shipping acci-



Accidents have not been reported.

dents and rail accidents each year, according to National Transportation Safety Board figures.

Boat fires cause a lot of injuries and loss of property. Be sure to take all the precautions when fueling and operating your boat to prevent fires or explosions.

Because most accidents are the result of a capsizing, a fall overboard or collision in a small boat in inland waters, and only one or two people die at a time, boating accidents usually are overlooked by the media. The people who die are just out fishing, water skiing or cruising. We need to reach these people through the newspapers, radio and television. I ask your help in spreading this important message and helping to save lives.

Dewey Adams, Commander
Shalotte River Power Squadron

Finally Paved

To the editor:
It's happened. State Road 1323, now known as Ludlum Road NW, was paved May 23.

After 44 years of doing all the right things, paying taxes, working hard, maintaining integrity in our daily lives, paying taxes, giving contributions to politicians, baking cakes for fundraisers and paying taxes, we were always told we were on the list—we were next in line.

But then came Governor Hunt's appointee (to the N.C. Board of Transportation) Odell Williamson in 1993. He was aware of the situation with our road and, being a man of integrity, he did the decent thing and now, in one day, we have a paved road.

Wouldn't it be better if everyone would consider doing the decent thing? Mr. Odell, all the people who live on Ludlum Road thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Dorsey and Doris Smith
Ash

'Scum Of The Earth'

To the editor:
I can't imagine a human being, unless they are the "scum of the earth," putting five little kittens, about three weeks old, in a plastic bag and throwing them in a dump-

ster. That's exactly what they did last week.

A lady found them and called one of our members of the Brunswick Animal League. The member called me. We lost four of them that day. I took the other one and tried, but in vain, to save it the next day.

God put man in charge of all animals and my only hope is that this person will feel the same hunger pains in their belly as those little babes must have felt. Just hope the right one reads this letter. They are lower than any animal in my book.

Aima Tolson
Shalotte

Not 'Equality'

To the editor:
Alas our equality-minded liberals will further obfuscate educational sanity if they prevail.

The latest pitch is a lawsuit against the state to ensure equal funding to all schools per pupil, which is not the same as providing funds equally on a per-pupil basis to each school system.

The hitch is, local governments can add what they wish to the state's contribution.

Ergo, some districts can pay teachers a lot more than others and provide computers and equipment poor districts cannot, and that per se according to liberals is unfair.

With this kind of thinking we can manufacture the Communist state without violence: if the state must guarantee parity of expenditures, local governments won't add anything. And if the state must guarantee such parity, then federal government can disperse all the funds throughout the nation for the same equality reasons.

The criteria liberals use is an insult to the intelligence: Equality of teachers' pay or equipment does not convert automatically into equality of educational opportunity. Numerical equality of teachers' pay does not prove equal compensation from one school district to another. Living costs vary widely.

Computers do not contribute to good education in public schools where the criteria of training and discipline of the mind is to acquire

the basic elements of language, history, culture, manual dexterity, reasoning and ability to continue self-education after leaving school.

Fancy or highly technical equipment never substitutes for the skill of supervisors and teachers to teach basics, without which the fancy window dressing of technology is almost worthless.

Moreover, the quality of education cannot be measured by SAT scores. There are too many intangible aspects of mental growth and perspectives that contribute to any pupil's future successes or failures in life.

The criteria for ordering and judging education these days are seriously flawed and this "equality" posturing is the measure of bird brains.

Karl E. Brandt
Suaite

Great Concert

To the editor:
I just spent one of the most enjoyable evenings with West Brunswick High School Band and Choral Groups. They had their spring concert Tuesday evening at Odell Williamson Auditorium.

The entire program was excellent. If you missed it, your loss!

Thirty-five choral singers harmonized, danced and enchanted the audience. Next was 19 Harmony clowns singing, dancing and a little acrobatic maneuvers added to their performance. All the costumes and routines of both choral groups were as good as any Broadway productions.

The band was terrific also. We were entertained by piano solo, percussion ensemble and, last but not least, a jazz band. Bravo for all the students and instructors who participated and worked so long and hard to produce such a fine program.

What community wouldn't be proud of so many talented and outstanding young people?

Helen L. Nelson
Sunset Beach

Correction

The writer's name was inadvertently left off a letter to the editor in last week's edition.

A letter praising "Harmony," the West Brunswick High School show choir, was written by Teah Osborne of Ash.

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