

## MORE LETTERS

# No Excuse For Illegal Dumping; Keep Brunswick Clean

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the couple whose trash "has nowhere to run, nowhere to hide." How sad that while they're out illegally dumping their trash, people are dumping in their driveway.

The only "lurid and heinous" crime I see here is a couple who believes just because they recycle their grass clippings, it's okay to illegally dump their trash. Don't lay the blame on the tourists. If the residents of this county do it, why shouldn't they?

As for the disposition of the Oxpen site employees, they've always been friendly and helpful to me, assisting me in putting my trash in the dumpster.

Since the couple work 10 hours a day 7 days a week (during the site's open hours), the \$50 fine should be no problem for them. Perhaps, though, a more fitting punishment would be for both of them, in 95-degree heat with their "pink, potpourri-scented bag," to pick up other people's trash.

How ironic that they thanked the McPhail family for keeping Seashore Road so clean. I'm sure they appreciate people dumping their trash outside the fence.

Please, our county is already beautiful; let's keep it clean.

Eugene Bourne  
Supply

## Be Safe With RV's

To the editor:

A recent overnight trip in our 34-foot motorhome has prompted me to write this letter. The subject has been a matter of concern to my husband Otho and I since we began traveling this way in 1991. As I have talked with our fellow RV'ers, I've come to realize that we all have a common problem.

That problem? People in other types of motor vehicles who pull out in front of us on the streets and roads.

I expect you think when you see a

motorhome coming toward you that you don't need or want to get stuck behind "that big thing that thinks it owns the road."

Please consider this: Recreational vehicles, especially the larger motorhomes like ours and others even larger, cannot stop as quickly as you can in your car, truck, motorcycle or even bicycle. Many, like ourselves, have a "tow" behind us. Quite simply and truthfully, it takes time and distance to bring our big rigs to a full stop, even an emergency one.

Otho and I pride ourselves on obeying the traffic laws and speed limits wherever we may be as best we can. We try to drive defensively at all times. It is not our intention to delay anyone who wishes to pass us. Actually, we are delighted when you do so safely.

If we find we are holding up the free flow of traffic, such as in the mountains, etc., we gladly pull over at the first available safe place to do so. Then you may continue unhindered. We use bypasses as much as possible, rather than business routes, so as to avoid congested areas.

Would you pull from your driveway or a side road or street into the path of a log truck, an 18-wheeler, a Greyhound bus or a big gravel carrier? To do so would be unwise, unsafe, an endangerment to life and property and just plain stupid, to put it bluntly.

We RV'ers are a friendly bunch from all walks of life, all ages. We love to wave to you, stop for a chat, trade tales. We don't want to see our family or yours listed as tomorrow's statistic.

When you see us coming, take a moment to let us pass. We will extend the same courtesy to you.

Alice E. Tew  
Holden Beach

## A Good Friend Lost

To the editor:

On Friday, Sept. 9, Brunswick County and especially Sunset Beach lost a good friend. Warren "Bud"

**Write Us**

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters must have an original signature and 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, Shallotte NC 28459**  
Anonymous letters will not be published.

Knapp died.

Bud was a participant in his total community—in the protection of the island of Sunset Beach; in the evolution of the town of Calabash, where he lived; and in the issues of Brunswick County.

Bud was a tireless worker who devoted his efforts in an attempt to leave some of God's creation unspoiled for future generations. He was a founder of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association and led the fight against the high-rise bridge planned to replace the existing pontoon bridge to the island of Sunset Beach. He was an active member of the SBTB Board of Directors at the time of his death.

We extend our sympathy and love to his wife Jane, their sons and their sons' families. We will miss Bud. We will continue to carry on with ideals that he fostered. We are thankful for having had such a good friend.

Clete Waldmiller for  
SBTA Board, Membership

## Proposals Supported

To the editor:

I am head of the committee that has proposed the island of Sunset Beach pursue independent government. Mayor Mason Barber has attempted to ridicule this effort. Make no mistake, this proposal has the solid support of the substantial majority of permanent year-round island residents.

Let me explain our position. A building boom is being predicted for the Myrtle Beach area over the next several years that, according to the

Charlotte Observer, will extend from Georgetown, S.C., to Wilmington. We have no confidence in the current town government of Sunset Beach to guide us through this period of rapid development and at the same time preserve those qualities that have made the island of Sunset Beach unique among coastal communities.

What are our goals? Let's look at the recommendations of Gov. Jim Hunt's blue-ribbon Coastal Futures Committee, a group appointed by the governor to review North Carolina's coastal management program and recommend improvements. We were very encouraged to see that many of our goals for Sunset Beach island were precisely those things being recommended by the committee.

The committee's goals for the North Carolina coast include orderly growth emphasizing single-family dwellings in a low-density setting; special protection for barrier islands; preservation of marshes, wetlands and beaches; nature-based recreation and tourism; and special efforts to get nonresident property owners involved in land-use planning.

Senator R.C. Soles has been quoted as saying, "I think the best idea would be for island residents and those on the mainland to sit down and work out their differences." This is a thoughtful and reasonable response.

Unfortunately this was not Mayor Barber's response. He (was quoted as saying), "I got better sense than to listen to all that nonsense." His re-

sponse clearly demonstrates the problem. This town council is deaf to island voices and island concerns. Evidently, this council cannot be relied on to prudently govern and safeguard the future of Sunset Beach island.

We will continue to work to empower island residents to manage island affairs.

Ray Zetts  
Sunset Beach

## Set An Example

To the editor:

I have found myself at a point that every parent fears; your teenager is ready for a driver's license. You want to be sure that they will be safe drivers by obeying all traffic laws, and that they are prepared to respond properly and safely to the accident-causing practices of others. You first must set the example for them to follow.

Every school day as I drive her to school, I explain proper procedures and answer her questions. She is very much aware of the need to wear seat belts, but she is also a smart cookie. She knows that seat belts can only help to protect you if

or when an accident occurs. Unfortunately, little or no emphasis is conducted to prevent accidents from happening.

When is the last time you heard of someone getting a ticket for not stopping at a stop sign or light or not using turn signals at intersections or during lane changes?

We should set examples for our children. My 16-year-old and I see so many people using seat belts but not following any other traffic laws: that brand-new black Camaro dropping their son off at school, or that teacher with the red Mitsubishi, or how about that maroon Mustang coupe with the strange lights in front? How many accidents are they going to cause? How many of our children will be injured or even killed?

The next time you are at an intersection, compare how many people use turn signals or come to a complete stop to the ones who don't. If you are at a four-way intersection and the car in front of you isn't using any signals, which way is he going?

James F. Hendricks  
Ocean Isle Beach



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## GUEST COLUMN

# Misplaced 'Special Needs' Kids Usurp Teaching Time Of Others

BY DEBORA VICKERS-MAWJI

With everyone's eyes turned toward the Brunswick County School System, I would like to publicly address an issue that is not often discussed.

I have two children. My five-year-old daughter just entered kindergarten, and my son will follow in two years. My experience with the local school system is limited, so I do not profess to be an expert. But in two weeks' time I have discovered a major impediment to learning in the local classrooms.

Children with "special needs" are expected to work side-by-side with other children. Let's face it, crack babies, fetal alcohol syndrome kids and physically abused children have a set of problems that require "special" attention.

A teacher with 25 children cannot be expected to run up and down the halls of the school chasing these problem children about while the rest of the class loses two hours per day of instruction time. That's 10 hours a week, 40 hours a month, and 360 hours overall. That's a lot of time, and a lot of tax dollars.

Not only do these "special needs" kids rob your children of valuable instruction time, they also place them in real physical danger. My

daughter's first introduction to her kindergarten class was a sharp blow to her lower back by a young girl who has lots of "special needs." The blow was sharp enough to cause an injury (with a scar). Fortunately my daughter took it all in stride, and sternly advised the child, "You're not supposed to hit people."

On a daily basis wooden blocks are flying by heads, pencils and pencil boxes are thrust into faces, full-length mirrors are crashing, and spit (possibly infectious) is flying. The teacher and her aide are forced to spend huge blocks of time searching the school for this errant child while the rest of the class sits idly by.

My daughter's teacher has repeatedly tried to have this violent child removed from the classroom. The response from the principal's office has been mediocre at best. They have pulled together a special task force to evaluate the needs of this child. I do not know if they plan to address the needs of the other children in the class. Meanwhile angry parents are yanking their children out, left and right.

The question is, why should well-behaved children have to be removed from the class, while a "special needs" child continues to cause such chaos?

While the task force "studies the issue" (which could, incidentally, take several weeks) this "special needs" child continues to jump on the desks, scream, break things, hit, kick, bite and steal valuable instruction time from the other children.

Since there are teachers available for children with "special needs" and state law mandates that these problematic children should not interfere with the education of other children, it seems the solution should be simple. Get them out of the class, pronto.

If a child is notoriously violent, and capable of seriously injuring another child, who will be held responsible? It shouldn't be the teacher, who is desperate to have the child admitted to a "special needs" class. It should be the administration who has the ability, but for some odd reason, lacks the motivation, to act swiftly in the best interest of all the children.

Parents shouldn't sit by wringing their hands complaining how bad things are, when all they have to do is stand up and demand something better for their money.

The author is a resident of Sunset Beach, and is an active volunteer for the Brunswick County Guardian ad litem program.

Michael R. Ramos and Mark A. Lewis  
are pleased to announce that  
**PAULINE HANKINS**  
has become an associate  
in the general practice of law  
as of September 7, 1994.

**RAMOS AND LEWIS**  
Attorneys at Law

5101 Sellers Road, P.O. Box 2019  
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