

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two-Lane Bridge Would Make Island At Sunset 'Too Accessible'

To the editor:

My family and I have vacationed at Sunset Beach twice this year. In total, we have spent two or three hours waiting to cross Sunset's one-lane pontoon bridge. This could be looked upon as vacation time lost, sitting in our car waiting for a boat coming down the waterway or watching the other lane of vehicles pass us by.

But guess what? We love it! The slower pace and quiet family atmosphere is what drew us to Sunset Beach in the first place. We had grown tired of the noise, crowds and traffic at Myrtle Beach, finding ourselves still needing a vacation after leaving each time. A vacation should be relaxing, not hectic, and Sunset provides that relaxation.

The one-lane bridge at Sunset is the key to the island's pace and quiet atmosphere. Few cruising teenagers have the patience to wait at the bridge. The loud booming car stereo is rarely heard there. Those seeking a party environment know to go elsewhere.

A two-lane bridge would destroy the island's charm by making it too accessible. It would drive away families and many of its permanent residents. It would create traffic and sour the sweetness of a peaceful afternoon walk. The sounds of the seabirds would be replaced by the thump-thump of the latest rap song.

If greed and development are the death of Sunset, we won't be around to see it. There's bound to be another quiet beach somewhere.

Robert F. Abernethy
Lincolnton

Charges Against SBTA Feed Fires Of Dissent

To the editor:

The Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association is not trying to "usurp the public beach," as alleged by Carl Bazemore. The SBTA has never and does not now advocate the privatization of the island of Sunset Beach.

The bridge, causeway and Main Street on the island are state-owned and maintained roads. Sunset Beach cannot be a private beach with restricted access.

The SBTA went to court to force the return of then Lot 1-A (now the beachfront parking lot and gazebo) to public ownership, and then requested the town to accept it to assure that it would always remain public.

The SBTA has continually lobbied the town council of Sunset Beach to provide more public access on the island for boat launching and estuarial recreation. The town has ignored these efforts and has closed streets abutting estuarial waters.

Anyone who would spread such total misinformation is trying to feed a fire of dissension that has been kindled and fed by those in power who refuse to recognize simple, honest disagreements about the goals and direction of the island of Sunset Beach.

The membership of SBTA wishes to maintain and protect the island of Sunset Beach for the use and enjoyment of all visitors and area residents.

Minnie Hunt, Sunset Beach
Barry Lentz, Chapel Hill
Ray Zetts, Sunset Beach

Outside Forces Rule

To the editor:

More and more people are becoming concerned about American policies foreign and domestic. Our military forces no longer even pretend to be a force to defend America. They have become international aggressors that are going around the world forcing small nations to obey the United Nations, and all of this aggression committed by our mili-

tary is labeled "peace-keeping" in an effort to keep the sleeping people pacified. But what they are really being used for is to create a world environment that will be controlled by history's worst tyrants.

Here at home government agents are waging war on the people. Anyone they find to be politically incorrect can become a target. Many are being trained to fight domestic wars in case the people resist when they come to take away our firearms.

Two years ago I wrote a letter to this newspaper stating that our political leaders are controlled by an international group of elite super-rich that call themselves Bilderbergers. I quoted one of their own, Dr. Carroll Quigley.

Let's look at what happened in Haiti. Eighty percent of the American people are against it. About 75 percent of the House and Senate are against it. The House and Senate are the only people that can legally send our military into any combat situation. But did that make any difference? No.

If this is not proof that our country is being controlled by outside forces, then what will it take?

W.H. Stanley
Calabash

Hurt Loon Saved, But Kids In Trouble

To the editor:

Thanks to those at Holden Beach who helped me find proper care for a young injured loon on Saturday, Oct. 1. Fortunately, the loon may make it with the help of Wildlife Rehabilitation Specialist Cathy Creech and her daughter Sherry.

Unfortunately, the kids who were picking up and throwing down the bird—the same kids who were kicking the bird as it tried to get to the ocean—may not be as lucky. Wake up, mom and dad! If these are your children, they'll grow up one day. Abusive behavior patterns may continue as they get older.

How did they learn to mistreat animals anyway? Societal norms? TV? Peer group? Are they modeling behavior they see at home?

Good luck to the little loon on having a second chance at life. Let's hope those kids have a second chance too.

Kay Drake
Elon College

Commissioners Should Get Credit For Action

To the editor:

Two articles in your Sept. 29 issue point up significant relationships to our continued prosperity and well-being.

Your editorial on the appointment of David Redwine to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the dire need to protect our fishing industry in Brunswick County states the issue well.

On your front page you discuss a lawsuit brought by Martin Marietta against our county commissioners for putting in place an ordinance to prevent pumping down the fresh water in the Castle Hayne aquifer. This pumping would cause saltwater intrusion in the aquifer and leave thousands in the county without fresh water in their home wells. It would also change the water flow of the Walden Creek primary nursery and destroy the fish larvae that develop into a large part of the Atlantic Coast fish harvest and sportfishing in this area. In addition, Carolina Power and Light has gone on record to state this mine would jeopardize its nuclear regulatory license, as it would endanger the public by creating sinkholes.

While Mr. Redwine is going into a position to protect our county, you did not credit Don Warren, Tom

Rabon and Wayland Vereen with doing it. Thank the Lord they are on the commission.

Phyllis Menasco
Southport

Some Hanky-Panky?

To the editor:

I am involved in a situation with the North Carolina State Department of Transportation that warrants a bit of scrutiny into the integrity and justice of the DOT while providing its services to the taxpayers.

We have two streets in the same development, parallel to each other. They are both approximately 1,600 feet long and dead end. The names are Barracuda and Blue Marlin streets.

A while back the DOT started providing maintenance for Barracuda Street and gave it number 1801. A few months later the DOT picked up Blue Marlin Street and numbered it 1811. Barracuda Street has 12 permanent families, six houses, three doublewides and 15 mobile homes. Blue Marlin Street has five permanent families, one house and 10 mobile homes.

Today the DOT paved Blue Marlin Street. No matter what the criterion used, it is easy to see that there is some hanky-panky going on.

There is an old saying, "It's who you know" or "it's in the wallet." Could it be? I wonder.

Marvin K. Brown
Supply

Shallotte No Eyesore

To the editor:

I have lived in Shallotte all my life. I do not consider Shallotte an eyesore. It is supposed to be a small town. If you want to be regulated every move and told what you can and cannot do, then move to Russia.

I may never have a yard sale at my house. But I do not want to be told that I cannot. As far as yard sale items taking away from merchants, I don't know of any used items that they sell.

Some it might be that we have to go Wilmington, Whiteville or Myrtle Beach to yard sale. What freedom will we lose next?

Junk to one person could be another's treasure.

Cynthia King
Shallotte

Some Suggested Education Criteria

To the editor:

An extreme cynic once defined politics as the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them.

While this assessment has some small element of truth in all facets of acquiring or maintaining political power, it is unfortunately a rather large part of the practices of our educational establishments in this nation.

True, the professionals want more parental participation to coordinate parental activity with school activi-

ty, but they do not want parental involvement in the decisions about what to teach.

And in the past five decades they have acquired and practiced the mind set that if parents do not bother to come to them, parents don't care much about their children's education. The major error of this mind set is that there is no fundamental communication base that will give parents any focus to converse.

Parents get almost nothing in the way of reports from teachers or the schools about their children's progress or behavior unless it is so bad the schools cannot handle it. Teachers, instead, must fill out numerous reports for administration, the latter's observance deemed more important than parents'.

In setting themselves up as better judges of curriculum and finished product than parents, the professional educators have thusly produced poorer and poorer results.

As I have publicly stated before, the cure for this unwarranted political control over parents' children is to change the communication initiative: the educators should reach out to the parents by communication.

At the beginning of each school year teachers (not administrators) should author and send to parents a synopsis of the academic matter to be covered for that year, how much substance the student is expected to absorb, what intangible benefits or personal habits or viewpoints the

student is expected to acquire, and a list of reading or instructional materials to be used.

And parents should receive a copy of every report addressed to administration which concerns their children specifically.

And an adequate report card every six weeks which gives solid assessment about progress in regard to standards for the course(s) of instruction as well as with respect to the students' abilities; plus pertinent comments about behavior and attentiveness.

If these things were done, parents would have good reason to consult with and participate in dialogue concerning curriculum, and educators would get a better read on the efficacy of their programs instead of righteously defending every politically correct program or theoretic approach initiated by college doctors.

Due to government policy now in effect, the transition back to good educational policy will be slow, but small beginning steps can be taken at the local level...steps that require public school administrators and teachers to initiate communication and impart complete meaningful information to parents.

Now is the time to overtake a bad past: elect new school board members who will demand what I have herein stated is necessary.

Karl E. Brandt
Shallotte

(More Letters, Following Page)



Introducing A Used Car Loan That Thinks It's A New Car Loan.

Odd how everything about buying a used car makes great economical sense until it's time to get a loan.

You'd think it would be different. After all, used car owners are financially responsible. You understand how much value a new car loses in the first year. So why should lenders punish you for this insight?

Southern National thinks it's time that changed. That's why we're now offering used car loans at 8.2%, which is the same rate we offer on new car loans.

The way we see it, your used car purchase will be just as carefully considered as a new car purchase. So your loan shouldn't be any different, either.

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limited time, so come into Southern National soon to fill out an application.

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