

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Injured Worker Wants Scrutiny Of Compensation System

To the editor:
I would like to address an issue that concerns a great number of working people of North Carolina—that being the so-called worker's compensation system.

I suffered a back injury at work in March of this year. As with a lot of back injuries, it didn't seem serious to me at first. As time has passed, it has become very serious and I'm facing surgery now.

For three months I continued working with certain weight-lifting restrictions. During this time period, it got increasingly difficult for me to do my job within these guidelines. I informed my doctor and my employer, and their compensation carrier of these difficulties and was promptly fired from my job and denied any compensation benefits.

Although the insurance company has paid for my doctor and hospital costs for the testing, they still deny compensation. These tests have concluded that I must have a surgical procedure, which may or may not return me able to function normally.

So, after being out of work for 15 weeks with no income at all, I'm facing at least a two-month recovery time. Then I'm faced with finding another job, and when you have a recent history of serious back prob-

lems, that is no easy task. I've worked in industrial construction most of my life, and I know what happens to applications from 48-year-old men with recent back surgery.

I, like most workers, have worked all my life and never had a serious injury. But like most folks, I assumed that if I was unfortunate enough to be injured, I would not have to worry about losing everything that I've worked all my life to acquire.

Well, you say, get a lawyer and fight for your rights. Sure! First you get a lawyer and they correspond back and forth for several weeks with no results. Then your attorney files for a hearing with the industrial commission; that will take three to six months. Then when it goes to hearing, it takes about six months to get a ruling.

So for at least a year you have to fend for yourself and do the best you can. You either have to go on welfare or have enough money saved to live for a year. Is this how we are supposed to be treated? I don't think so!

There may be some hope, though. There is a group called the Clergy and Layman's Alliance for Justice. They are holding a pre-election

health care forum on Oct. 28, from 6-11 p.m. at the Brunswick Community College Odell Williamson Auditorium

If you have been injured on the job or know anyone who has been injured and denied benefits, please call Ella Gray at 842-6742. She will assist you with information. Everyone must band together and call this to the attention of our elected officials, in order to stop this mistreatment of injured workers.

Gerald Agner
Supply

Something Afoul?

To the editor:
Something is afoul in our community. Drugs and roadside litter are rampant. Where are the sheriff's deputies? I watch the police blotter in the *Beacon*—terrible, but not any litter arrests (even though we now have new signs saying littering is a \$1,000 violation of our rights to a clean county) and not many drug arrests either, just robberies and killings stemming from the drug traffic.

The Brown campaign tells me they have placed \$3,000 of signs in the county. I see only Hewett signs. No evidence but a lot of common sense tells me something is going on.

I am not into politics (a new resident) and not interested in a political future. I do desire clean roadways and a clean sweep on drug dealers so people will stop stealing to pay the "drug bill." Is that much to ask after a lifetime of work and tax payments?

Len Froehlich
Holden Beach

Friday Defended

To the editor:
I have known Jeanine Friday for seven years now, and what she has achieved by the giving of her time and talents, her knowledge and experience, her personal funds and most of all her "TLC" is miraculous.

Yes, her feline friends as well as the animals and the birds at the "reserve" are contained for their own safety and welfare as per Brunswick County law.

Teddi Neal's so-called pet felines roam freely around the wooded area near her home, as well as in the neighbors' yards. None wear collars or tags.

Although I question the validity and actual purpose of the Animal Welfare League per personal experience, I do commend them for coming to Jeanine's aid when she desperately needed help.

The only fault that Jeanine Friday might have is that her heart is too big and soft. She just couldn't say "no." When donations fell short, she used her own personal funds, and all of her animals received expert care and certainly lots of TLC.

I know that Jeanine is heartsick over the fact that she, healthwise, is unable to continue her "dream" of caring for these needy animals. I also know that anyone "touched" by Jeanine will never forget her nor her worthwhile efforts.

Ms. Neal would do well to research a subject before writing a column of "crazy notions."
Helen Hendricks
Bolivia

Criticism Undeserved

To the editor:
As an original founder of the Animal Welfare League, I take exception with Teddi Neal's letter of Oct. 6. I am appalled by her opinion, her purpose and her callous attitude toward "unwanted" animals.

The purpose of the League was, and should be, to encourage the spaying and neutering of animals and to help finance the cost of the aforementioned purpose. We also try to help place animals in caring homes whenever possible. I, for one, am very happy to see the great strides made by members under the leadership of Alma Tolson, Wallace Smith and Kathleen Thorne.

Besides caring for injured wildlife, Jeannine Friday has also been caring for and placing dogs and cats for adoption. She has large fenced-in areas for the dogs with shelters off the ground.

I am so impressed with Jeannine's love of animals that I have her take care of my puppy when we travel. Our Maggie was an unwanted 6-week-old dropped off in 10-degree weather. She is trying to fill the void left by our previous dog, who gave us 13 years of much love and some wonderful memories.

These dedicated people do not deserve criticism. We do need many more just like them.

Eileen Kellagher
Long Beach

Priorities Questioned

To the editor:
Recent media lead stories stated that the United States Naval Reserves (who have so often been called to active duty, i.e., Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, etc.) could not be paid due to a shortfall in funds. During the same time period, other media stories reported that Biliary was using defense department funds to feed and house unwanted aliens from Caribbean countries.

A question of priorities? Not really. These moves are just two more notches in the smoking gun that the cretin in the White House uses against the Armed Forces of the United States.

Together with his massive cuts in defense appropriations, base closings and love affair with homosexuals in the military, the cretin uses

new approaches constantly to downgrade our fighting troops in order to justify his own cowardice.

John McAleer
Calabash

Wants A High-Rise

To the editor:
I have written many letters along with some friends of mine since 1990 when the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association (SBTA) had already delayed a new high-rise bridge 10 years. The price keeps going up with each year. This insignificant ostrich-like group should take their heads out of the sand and face reality—that it is not their island, it is a barrier island and they should not be living on it. It was put there by God to protect the mainland.

I live on the mainland right across the street from the Intracoastal Waterway, a highway for boats. They have obstructed highway traffic long enough. Would you be able to obstruct traffic on Interstate 95?

Boats are held up for long periods. When they are finally let go they rush to make up time. They do not observe no-wake signs and damage boats and docks.

People are delayed for hours trying to get across. The ones on the island are trying to get to work, school, business, golf tee-off's, doctor or dentist appointments. People are tied up in their cars trying to get on the island with frozen food defrosting, melting ice cream, screaming cooped-up children, your bladder bursting, your patience gone. Business falls off on either side of the bridge when the traffic is at a standstill. The line of traffic backs up 4 miles or more.

I have been late for work or couldn't get home because the traffic was tied up. People have been stranded on the island sometimes for days because of freak high tides when the floating bridge did not meet at the exit for cars to go over.

Think of a fire on the island when this bridge is broken, or cannot meet for anything to cross over. A nice breeze from the ocean would set all the homes on fire like a tinder box. Don't try to get your valuables out, for they are gone.

What if our police department has a call for domestic violence on the beach? One officer goes, the situation gets out of hand and the officer

is stranded with no back-up because the bridge crank got stuck...a dead person and officer.

A drowning or choking person on the beach? Sorry, the tide is too low. The EMTs can't get there.

All this because they don't want a high-rise bridge? Will you be able to sleep knowing you caused a death because you wanted to keep the entrance to the island a secret?

Wake up. It's in Money magazine, New York papers, Southern Living and yes, we are almost over populated. But you must conform and go with the times. This area is no longer 50 residents and fishermen from the mountains coming down to fish. You moved here, didn't you? So now you own it?

I moved here along with hundreds after me all being told, "And you have Sunset Beach right here." We can't even get there at times, and 12 years ago I used to walk or ride my bike there over the bridge. We go to Ocean Isle to swim, as we know we will be able to get back home—today.

The SBTA has come up with more things to delay progress. They sued, made T-shirts, bumper stickers. People with those signs didn't even live here.

Ask Nivan Milliken, who was the first one over that pontoon bridge when it only went into dirt on the other side. He knows it is outdated. They think up more and more excuses why not conform to progress and enjoy it with the life we have left to live.

Let's try to be adult about this, take our heads out of the sand and look at what has happened over the years of putting this matter off—wasted time, money and effort. Think of all those island people trying to get off in an emergency and the bridge is broken. I hope I never see it. Those holding the new bridge up—I hope they are stranded there.

Mary L. Noorigian
Sunset Beach

(More Letters, Following Page)

**AT SHALLOTTE POINT
BRING HOME
THE BEACON**

On Sale At
VILLAGE MART

Whatever Happened To Lemon Ice Cream?

Have you ever had a food craving that just wouldn't go away? If so then you can relate to my dilemma.

I can't find lemon ice cream any more.

That's my punishment for taking the dream stuff for granted all these years.

Ice cream has always been one of my favorite comfort foods. It's a shared love, judging from the space grocery stores devote to ice cream products. But I must now be the only person in Brunswick County who craves lemon ice cream.

It's a craving developed while a freshman at the University of North Carolina, where Angel Flight members routinely served punch and cookies to Air Force ROTC cadets after every Tuesday drill. As a cadet, I was on the "receiving end" of the punch, but still took an interest in how it was made. Many weeks it started with a lemon base obtained from a dairy in Durham.

Ever since then, lemon ice cream has ranked right at the top, above peach and strawberry, chocolate mint, and cookies and cream. When indulging, that was first choice.

The grocery store that I counted on to always carry lemon ice cream it no longer does. It's been that way since early summer. At first I thought my husband was pulling the standard male "looks-straight-into-the-refrigerator-and-can't-see-it" routine at the grocery store. He would come home and claim, "They didn't have it, honey, so I got Rocky Road..." I would go three days later and voila, lemon ice cream, tubs of it. Then all of a sudden Don's lament gained credibility; I couldn't find it either, no matter what day of the week I showed up.

Management has said on several occasions they're having "delivery" problems with a certain dairy company, but that doesn't satisfactorily explain why the red and yellow "Pixie" boxes of Neapolitan, Orange-Pineapple and Raspberry flavors have doubled and lemon has disappeared.

The mystery remains unsolved. What happened to the lemon ice cream? Do they even make it anymore?

Maybe it's the name that turns people off, lemon pucker-upper. No, that doesn't figure. We go for lemon meringue pies, lemon ices and lemonade and they're all sweet and tangy too.

Unless you've been in lemon withdrawal or it's equivalent, you can't imagine what it's like to search grocery stores in strange towns.

I'm seriously considering making my own with the freezer my brother- and sister-in-law gave us for Christmas. All we need is a recipe.



Susan Usher

Flu Season Is Just Around The Corner... Don't let it catch you.

Dr. Kirk Steptoe is now administering the influenza vaccine in his office at the Doctor's Complex.

If you think you are considered a "high risk" individual and would benefit by the vaccine, call Dr. Steptoe today to see if this vaccine is recommended for you.

919-754-8990

These injections qualify for Medicare reimbursement.

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You're probably asking yourself, it's fall, why should I be worrying about spring-time? Well, April will be here before you know it. And you'll be wishing you'd made those home improvements, purchased that new car or paid for your child's education with a Home Equity Line of Credit from NationsBank. Because, as you probably already know, interest on home equity lines of credit is one of the few things that are still

tax-deductible. Of course, you should consult your tax advisor for complete details.

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