

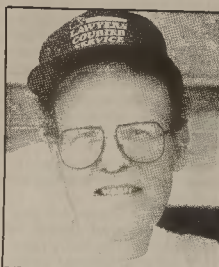
Our Neighbors Speak

Do you think the Federal Aviation Administration should set a minimum age for beginning pilots under the supervision of an instructor? If so, what should that age be?



**PATSY NEWKIRK
MORRISVILLE**

You should be able to fly if your instructor thinks you can do it and if your parents are confident that you can do it.



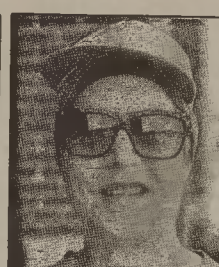
**GEORGE BROOKHYSER
PRESTON**

An overloaded aircraft caused the recent crash, but it's probably a good idea to set a minimum age of 12 to 14 years for student pilots.



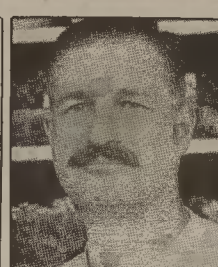
**ROBERT FERENZ
MORRISVILLE**

Yes, I think it's stupid to let little kids fly planes. The age should be at least 18 for responsibility.



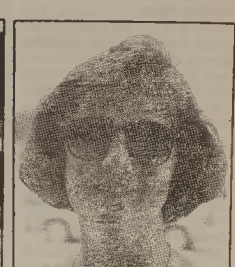
**TERRY CATANZARO
MORRISVILLE**

I think there should be an age limit of over 21 at least. They're too young to drive cars and flying a plane is even more dangerous.



**CHRIS HOINA
PRESTON**

Yes, I'd say age 21 because recent research says that in many cases adolescence will take a person all the way through that age.



**SHERRY MACKS
PRESTON**

Yes, I'd set it at 16. You can't operate a car prior to age 16. And I don't think they have the skills or maturity to operate a plane prior to that age.

Using town's name smart

We heard an interesting radio commercial the other day. The voice described a business that is located in Morrisville.

We knew its location even though the commercial never said the business was in Morrisville. Listeners could only figure that out if they had heard of this particular business.

The commercial did admit the location was between Cary and Research Triangle Park. And it did give one more clue by saying the facility was off Davis Drive.

But for some reason, the Morrisville address was avoided. And that's not the only case we've seen where our town was snubbed. A small number of businesses located within the Morrisville town limits rent post office boxes at Research Triangle Park to qualify for an RTP address.

As We See It

Is is snobbery or an inferiority complex? Is there concern that the word itself is not sophisticated enough? If not, should we eliminate Morris or ville or both? How about Mod City? Perhaps we should use the word Pine such as five North Carolina towns have already done? Pineland? Pineconia?

There is hope, however. A Montessori School planned for the town will be named Morrisville Academy.

One definition of academy is "an association of scholars." In other words, the folks who named Morrisville Academy ain't dumb.

As for the others, we expect this example will make them a little smarter.

Helping a friend in need

By Ron Page

Spring has its moments to remember. I helped a bird the other day, and truly feel it thanked me in its own way.

Zsa Zsa, our one-year-old ebony-colored cat, is a playful imp, with an uncontrollable urge to hunt whenever outdoors. She always seems to have a butterfly, a field mouse, even a mole in her grasp.

We try to free them all, but if you've ever had a cat that is a true hunter, you'll understand the difficulty of freeing prizes it has captured. Surprise is one of the few tools man has in such heroic efforts.

I heard the faint screech late one Sunday afternoon and spotted a tiny wren in Zsa Zsa's clutches. I bounded out the kitchen door, with a shout that would have brought accolades from native hunters in the bush country.

Zsa Zsa dropped the bird and I swooped in a hand, scooping it up as she made a valiant pounce to amend her error. The tiny bird

was unable to stand, its breast heaved heavily, yet its eyes were open wide. I doubt if it saw in me any relief from the fright Zsa Zsa gave it.

I recalled that a naturalist I knew in New Jersey, Daniel Rosar, told me the most feared danger a bird faces in such an aftermath is shock. So I placed it in a box on the quiet screened porch along with some water, bird seed and a few stale crumbs of bread. A few hours later, I was happy to find a tiny feathered creature, seemingly in robust health, flapping against the screening in an effort to fly away.

So, with the bird held gently in my hand, we walked to the edge of the woods out back and I unfolded my palm, wishing my friend well. But it didn't leave, instead just held fast to my pinky finger and cocked its head toward mine. It hopped two hops up my wrist, uttered just two peeps, then turned and fluttered away.

Few farewells have been as enriching.

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