

## Changing society for the better

By Roxanne Powers

I agree with those people who have recently been writing to Ann Landers, saying that our society doesn't give itself enough credit for the positive changes it has made. I've been arguing this point for decades.

There have been so many positive changes in the past quarter of a century, that I'm not going to offend your intelligence by deigning to attempt to list them all. But after watching my five-year-old son Jake's last soccer game of the season this past Saturday, I'd like to share a few that I have noticed.

Jake is one example. For instance, in today's times, he has the option of acting something like his mom and his dad. Of course, he will still get teased when he acts like his mom, but it won't be because he is labeled as having a lack of gender identification, which might have been the case 15 or 20 years ago.

At Jake's first soccer practice, his temper flared when "those bad kids" kicked the ball away when he was kicking the ball. He was ready to diss those kids for all eternity. Then with some heavy duty explaining on our part, Jake came around to the point where he is a strong soccer player in the first half of the game like his dad.

But somewhere around halftime, Jake "zones out" and needs some quiet time to just gaze off into like his mom.

This is when the coach wisely dispatches Jake to the position of goalie like his mom. Once there he usually busies himself with absent-mindedly poking his fingers through the net. This past Saturday, while engaging in this repetitious behavior, Jake managed to flip the goal over trapping himself in it. Again, like his mom.

The relationship in the work place has changed too. Women have not only learned the fine art of networking, we took the time to observe the guys long enough to learn how to best put our hormones to work. For instance, we women used to cry and bat our eyelashes, which only served to convince men that they could fix anything by allowing us purchase a box of Kleenex and new eye makeup.

I'm convinced that it was this behavior that begat Cleopatra, and I have to frequently remind myself that it was all that eye makeup that caused her to lose sight of what was important in life. I make it a point to remember this on those days when I find myself considering the possibility of permanent eye liner.

These tattoos, or permanent eye liner, which is after all, nothing more than a long skinny tattoo placed next to the eye lashes, is another example of how women have been allowed to step into the men's turf. These days it's rather common for women of all ages to get tattoos in various locations on their bodies. In fact, just a few weeks ago, a man from church was telling me about a television program that featured a woman whose entire body (including her now blue face) has been tattooed. Now, if men take offense to what I'm fixing to say, I'm truly sorry, but I have to say it: I thought most women were smart enough not to put themselves through any more pain than they already received on

a regular basis!

Women, I'm telling you, men have never thought this thing through! Those guys with tattoos didn't stop to think that their price, in the way of pain, is that they can be drafted against their will to fight wars in strange territories, and I'm not referring to those areas where you sport new tattoos! If you are planning to follow men into the tattoo arena, you aren't thinking about how your price-in-pain already involves the use of panty hose, make-up, and hormones! I'm telling you, women do NOT need any more pain!

Well, okay, I do, at times, consider getting a tattoo of a honey bee on my . . . um . . . discreet location. But, if the pain of the needles hadn't occurred to me, the pain of having another human being view me as a natural did. This thought, and the high price in dollars, are the only things standing between me and liposuction.

This brings to mind another thing the guys didn't think about! What happens if I get that honey bee tattooed on my . . . and I gain weight? Is it going to look like a bi-plane that crashed into the Rocky Mountains? As I age, which I am already doing at an alarming rate, will it pucker up until my dermatologist mistakes it for melanoma? Or, worse yet, because I've already aged, will the Tattoo Artist declare, "Ma'am, are you sure you wouldn't rather have a raisin?" Then I'll have to answer, "No, thank you, I've already had five of those, and now they think they are children."

Giving credit back to the men, I have to admit that as far as I know, they at least, were never crazy enough to torture themselves by wearing high heels. So, in this practice, women were smart to emulate men. Just look at what we have learned! In this decade alone, we have begun to wear chunkier shoes so that while we are pretending not to scratch, we can at least plant our feet firmly on the ground, and this act should prevent our knees from knocking. Because, you see, we finally came to realize that knocking knees could serve as a red flag to remind men that we are on shaky ground, recalling for them the sound of bongo drums; and that sound might put them on the defensive, and also recall for them a mode of transportation that involves pulling us across the street by the hair.

This, in turn, might remind us of the necessity of hair bobs, which would recall the talents of Elena Bobbit; and just the fact that we still remember her, might put men right back on the defensive, and cause them to make silly jokes about us.

Now, being the butt of men's jokes can make women a bit edgy, which causes our estrogen to work overtime. This is contradictory to how testosterone works, which puts women right back where we started: acting like Cleopatra who finds it necessary to wear too much make-up, and Elena Bobbit, who, in all likelihood, wishes that she could trade places even with Monica Lewinsky right about now, though her role tells us that maybe things haven't changed so much after all.

Roxanne Powers is a Morrisville resident. Her column appears in The Progress monthly.

## Town Board approves second tower

By Mary Beth Phillips  
Staff Writer

### Two additional police positions approved

Saying, "We've fought this as far as we can fight it," C.T. Moore made the motion to approve another telecommunications tower, but spoke in favor of a proposed ordinance for stricter regulations on future towers at the town board's Oct 22 meeting.

The plans for the SpectraSite Telecommunication Tower, being built for AT&T at the west side of Melsie Road, about three-quarters of a mile north of McCrimmon Parkway had been opposed at public hearings, along with another tower approved in September for BellSouth on the J.F. Wilkerson property off NC 54.

A public hearing was held at the meeting for the new ordinance, which would increase the distance between towers from 4,000 to 8,000 feet and restrict the towers to the town's industrial management zoning district. John Weldon, representing SpectraSite, spoke against the ordinance, saying Morrisville's ordinance for towers is already more restrictive than neighboring municipalities. The proposed ordinance will be considered by the Morrisville Planning Board on Nov.

12. The planning board will also consider an ordinance that will allow the town to use fees received from developers in lieu of donating recreation land for other recreation programs besides obtaining park land. This ordinance was drafted in response to the request by the Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources Department to use developer-donated money to erect a bubble over the town swimming pool.

The board then approved one rezoning but tabled another because the owner did not specify what would be built there.

Barbara King asked to rezone 8.49 acres on the east side of Chapel Hill Road, about a quarter mile south of Perimeter Park Drive from agricultural district to industrial management district. She said a site plan had already been submitted for an 82,000-square-foot flex/office building there. The board voted to approve the rezoning but specified that the site can only be used for flex space.

Joe Satterthwaite wanted to rezone his third-of-an-acre tract at the southwest corner of Page Street and

Morrisville-Carpenter Road diagonally across from the fire station from low density residential to village core. But he said he hoped to sell the land to a developer later, not knowing what the use would be. The board tabled the request to study what uses could be put there. Concern was also expressed about parking on such a small site.

The board on Sept. 28 approved plans for an industrial center on 68.2 acres off the proposed McCrimmon Parkway extension which will extend across Aviation Parkway adjacent to Evans Drive. The development will have access off of Southport Drive.

The initial plan included two 40,000 square foot warehouse buildings on 6 acres of the property. Site plans have not been submitted on the two other lots in the development.

### In other action during the month of October the board:

Set a public hearing for Nov. 9 for annexation of the 34.145-acre Cameron Chase Apartments on the east side of Chapel Hill Road across from Morrisville Parkway. The site

plan has already been approved.

Set a public hearing for Nov. 9 for annexation of 76.531 acres, part of Parkside development, located about 400 feet east of Chapel Hill Road south of the proposed outer loop.

Annexed 5.53 acres at 508 Church Street owned by Shemin Nurseries.

Annexed 51.16 acres owned by Weeks Lichten developers, part of Paramount Center development, located on the east side of Chapel Hill Road about half a mile north of Watkins Road.

Authorized two additional patrol officers in the Morrisville Police Department. Part of the salaries would be paid for the first three years through a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant of \$75,000.

Tabled plans for a warehouse at the end of Pheasantwood Court in Huntington Commercial Park after expressing concerns about industrial use next to Summit apartments. C.T. Moore originally voted to deny the request, but at developer Henry Hammond's request, amended his motion to table the request.

## Fire department makes upgrades, adds truck

Continued from page 1

engines, one tanker, two brush trucks and a smaller equipment truck. But at that time, the population was about a third of what it is now.

Last August, a state-of-the-art emergency truck was added to the fleet, custom designed for Morrisville's needs. The truck doubles as a mobile command unit, and includes high tech equipment, from medical supplies to portable air breathing systems, and a 15-foot telescoping light tower featuring 9,000 total watts of light. It holds up to seven ladders, and contains a 35-kilowatt generator.

But Chiotakis said adding trucks and fire stations brings no guarantee that the rating will go up.

"The rating schedule is extremely complicated," he said. "You can't look at it and say if you buy three trucks and build one station you can reduce your rating by three points. It has to do with response time, communications capability, equipment on trucks, training, personnel, how many you have on duty. . . The opti-

mum number for a structure fire is 18 people. We don't have that at the fire station ready to go. We have that in combination of full-time, part-time and volunteers."

The ISO office also looks at the service area and station locations. Each station should serve about a three-mile diameter. They also look at the town's water supply, including hydrant locations, sizes of water mains and storage capacity.

"The town's water supply is 60 percent of the grading factor," Chiotakis said. "They do a survey of your district to get a base fire flow. Then they look at the buildings and use a formula to determine what is needed."

Some of Morrisville's buildings require the maximum flow of 3,500 gallons per minute, so the town must prove it can meet that requirement. They also look at the sizes of the buildings—if the town has five or more three-story buildings, a ladder truck is required.

Staffing is another critical issue. This year, the town board has authorized paid firemen on a 24-hour,

seven day a week shifts, which should help with that aspect of the rating.

The training tower that had been proposed for the new fire station but was eliminated would have also helped the rating, but more importantly, it would have prevented firemen from leaving the district for training, Chiotakis said.

He said the goal of the department is to obtain a rating of one. Whether that was realistic or not, he declined to say.

"There are only about 20 or 25 departments in the United States that have a rating of one," he said. "Greensboro is the only one in North Carolina."

"Obviously it's beneficial for the town to obtain the lowest rating possible," Chiotakis said, "but the basic responsibility and important responsibility is that the fire department prepare itself to meet the fire protection needs that are in the community. To us the rating is secondary to that."

Chris Perry of the Wake County Fire Marshal's office said the differ-

ence in insurance premiums for a residential property will be negligible. "In June and July we called about 10 insurance companies," he said. "The rate gradually gets lower and lower until you get to a six, then it basically stays the same from six down to one."

He said the savings will be realized on the commercial and industrial side, but it's difficult to give an exact quote because so many factors are involved, including whether the company has its own sprinkler system, what material the building is made of, what type of business it is, and the size of the business.

"There will be some savings in all they'll tell us," Perry said.

Chiotakis expects to be notified by the Insurance Services Office in December, with the inspection to follow a few months later.

## Shiloh sewer lines finally connect to town's system

Continued from page 1

Railroad. The construction company, J. F. Wilkerson and Co., had to wait for railroad approval before they could bore under the tracks to take the line from along

54 up Barbee Road to the service area.

Construction cost was \$621,691, with \$100,000 of the cost paid by a Community Development Block Grant.

Thank you for reading our paper!

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November 7, Coats, NC  
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November 10, Dunn, NC  
17+/- acres, selling absolute  
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November 14, Kenly, NC  
Four industrial sites and an industrial facility

November 14, Wake Co., NC  
1376+/- sq. ft. farmhouse with approx. 1 ac.  
on Jordan Rd.

November 21, Johnston Co., NC  
70+/- acres divided into multiple tracts  
Farmhouse, Johnston Co. tobacco allotment

November 24, Aberdeen, NC  
51+/- acres, timber offered separate, selling absolute

December 5, Erwin, NC  
54+/- acres, selling absolute

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