

# OPINION

## Important first step

We are proud of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for hosting a conference of local government officials from this community last week and pleased that so many of them -- mayors, mayors pro-tem or designees -- took the opportunity to go. Out of the experience it seems there will grow a county conference that imagines and encourages dialog between municipal and county officials, and if that occurs, won't it be fine? A good deal of misapprehension over vital issues, such as zoning, can be avoided through contact and conversation. A countywide program to encourage this is a wonderful notion, and do-able.

Also out of the experience grew a greater understanding of what the university can, and wants to, mean to our various localities. A vital educational institution is one which develops and maintains contact with a constituency. UNCW wants to broaden its support in the localities and has wisely chosen to do so by extending its services. All winners here.

Moreover, our various community leaders got to know what the others look like. And perhaps talked. We hope something like that happened, and that on a community basis leaders will continue to meet to discuss what needs, cares, woes and wonders they share. We bet everybody would get along better if that happened.

## A Federal issue

The chance of something good happening on Bald Head's Federal Road seems remote after Saturday's village meetings. That is a shame, because the thoroughfare is a primary artery in the life of the island community, yet only the people seem to understand that.

The people said, "We need that road." They got a committee to study the matter, along with several other roadwork projects.

Vestige of the old Coast Guard supply line to Cape Fear Light, Federal Road is vital to life in the village for both safety and pleasure -- a link between Middle Island residents and the world; a way to popular east beach for countless island residents and visitors. Usually it is poorly maintained, and now that a water line has been installed in the right of way there is no surface at all.

A temptation on Bald Head is to look toward the developers, hoping one or both of them will do something with Federal Road, but the issue here is fundamental. Whose responsibility is a vital village thoroughfare if not the village itself?

Bald Head village has taken on some formidable tasks, with a remarkable success rate for such a young government. Beach renourishment was devised and accomplished. Fire-fighting water has now been piped throughout the community, and the village started that movement. The village has recently occupied new offices at the lighthouse. Major repaving a couple of summers ago was difficult and costly, yet done quickly and well.

One might expect that government would take care of its transportation responsibilities now.

It is precisely what the people of Bald Head Island expect.

## It's about time

We remember when Brunswick County schools used to be administered out of one room in the county courthouse here -- in fact the room in the Southport City Hall that is the city manager's office -- and so it is with nostalgia and wonder that we think now of the education offices moving to a \$1.2-million building on a four-acre site near Bolivia.

When most county offices moved to Bolivia in the 1970s, school administrators got only as far as the county home. A new county school complex was proposed, but it was deferred while classrooms were built first. In the interim our schools have been run from that rustic headquarters on Highway 87, and we're glad that finally the county commissioners have seen fit to invite the educators out to the complex. As with most other educational units, they deserved better than they got.

Hail and farewell, educators, and please leave a 457-number when you go.

MAYBE NOW THAT THE ELECTION'S OVER, WE WON'T FACE THAT CONSTANT BARRAGE OF OBNOXIOUS COMMERCIALS.



JINGLE JINGLE, SHOPPERS! COME IN FOR OUR STOREWIDE, PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE-A-BRATION! Ho! Ho! Ho!



## Not exactly news

Randy Travis, North Carolina's native country music man, was in Southport last Wednesday filming for an upcoming segment of "Matlock". The star of the show, Andy Griffith, also was here but by this time he is almost like a Southport native... Thursday night we watched the two-hour season premier of this popular lawyer-themed TV series on ABC, and we confess that throughout the performance we had an eye out for Southport scenes... There was one episode which had Orton mansion and grounds as its setting and that, too, was a matter of local pride.

Speaking of TV coverage, Southport fared well Thursday when Angela Sparrow, roving reporter for WWAY, did a comprehensive piece on the 200th anniversary live oak planting project. Mark Conner of DOT was the star of the show and John Stevens was the photographer. If all goes well, the tree-planting project will continue here this week... Last week a friend sent us a copy of the September, 1951, issue of *Popular Mechanics* which ran a lengthy, fully illustrated account of George Rappleyea's at-

tempt to convert a mixture of molasses and fuel oil into a paving compound. He called it "plasmofail". It failed to develop a commercial appeal and soon its inventor, a restless and imaginative spirit, transferred his interest to another project... Speaking of hauling coal to New-castle, one of the trees set out on the corner opposite Waterfront Park Saturday was a yaupon. There was this one difference: It was a "weeping yaupon", of which we had never heard.

They may be rushing the season a little but evergreen Christmas trees have gone on sale at many places this week. Buy now and you can take your pick... Something new has been added to the Doshier Memorial Hospital Flea Market in the Hood Building on Moore Street -- a fancy front door.

Our pecan trees bore bountifully last year but this fall we failed to salvage a single nut. We think the squirrels may have found a few, but so far as we are concerned this season has been a total bust... Florida State, N. C. State, Wake

Forest and North Carolina all have bowl bids safely in hand and Virginia still has an outside chance. That's a pretty good showing for the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Saturday afternoon we came upon an outdoor oyster roast, complete with a wood fire and an open pit. We were a little disappointed later to observe a spraying operation designed to control mosquitoes, which had shown up as uninvited guest. We thought the way you handled that problem was to stand downwind from the roasting pit and let the wood smoke control the mosquitoes.

Everybody who didn't go should have been there. We are referring to the Charter Tea held Sunday afternoon at the Community Building. Not only was there an interesting story told by Susie Carson about details leading to the founding of Smithville, there was enough food provided by Southport Woman's Club members to feed the 500, and only the 50 came. Club hostesses were dressed in period costumes.

## Public opinion

### Fire response

To the Editor:

The Boiling Spring Lakes VFD appreciates Mr. Pal's article highlighting the positive changes taking place in our department; however, I do wish to clarify one point and mention two others.

First, this department has no immediate plan to purchase a new pumper after the "hot water" we got ourselves into over a new \$135,000 pumper earlier this year. We are, however, actively seeking a reliable late-model pumper to strengthen our current pumping capacity, which is adequate at best, and also to fill the proposed joint fire and rescue station at Mirror Lake, which is a priority.

The department wants to state publicly its appreciation to city commissioner Tom Simmons. Mr. Simmons' grasp of the "bubble principle" that our fire and rescue units will someday have to deal with, and his frading the funds for this year's allocation of \$14,900, is most encouraging.

Regards to the city trying to hold the line on taxes which, as taxpayers all, we find admirable. The fire department, and I believe the rescue squad, will second this thought.

Every emergency rescue and fire call in this community affects our neighbors, friends or family. A well-funded and strong volunteer mem-

bership fire and rescue squad supported by the city and all members of this community is needed to ensure that we can continue to meet our commitment to our neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Bill Stephenson  
Interim board president

### Yaupon home

To the Editor:

Regarding the proposal of a business in a residential neighborhood we, the concerned citizens of Yaupon Beach, wish to express our heartfelt thanks to each of the planning board members.

They are Millie Murrow, Nancy Aman, David Lewis, Hugh Zachary, James Byrd, Buddy Rudd and Robert Harris. At a time when we were not sure anybody was listening to our pleas and concerns, you have restored our faith in democracy.

We now realize you looked at both

sides fairly, and we appreciate your professionalism. We commend the commissioners who wisely appointed you.

Once again, we thank you for taking time out of your busy lives, and for caring about the future of Yaupon beach and its people.

Sincerely,  
Helga Beacham  
Yaupon Beach

### County rumors

To the Editor:

Prior to election day and continuing even now are rumors that David Clegg will be replaced by Robert Howard as county manager and Wayne Long as county attorney, Regina Alexander will be restored to her position as board secretary and Pearly Vereen will be rehired for his former created position.

The only person elected to the

county board that I know is Mr. Wayland Vereen. I called him, hoping he would tell me that these rumors were merely campaign tactics.

I asked what grounds would be used to justify the firing of David Clegg. Mr. Vereen replied, "I'll have to investigate his record." When questioned about Howard and Long, Mr. Vereen said he doubted that one of them would take the job.

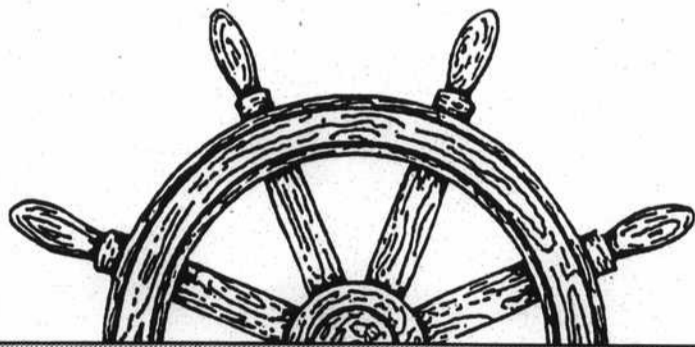
Mr. Vereen stated that Regina Alexander and Pearly Vereen had been improperly discharged, that he had written the rules for such action when he was on the county board in 1978-82.

Mr. Vereen added a name for rehiring that had not been in the rumors. He said, "The dog catcher will be rehired." I assume he was referring to Ms. Babson.

For the past four years Brunswick Countians have enjoyed a responsive, reliable and efficient government. Under the guidance of David Clegg, the board members no longer carry county credit cards, no trips to the West Coast or anywhere else.

If Mr. Rabon, Mr. Vereen and Mr. Warren want to establish themselves as trustworthy political leaders in Brunswick County, they are going at it the wrong way.

M. L. LaMar  
Yaupon Beach



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### To The Editor:

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