

# OPINION

## Peace on Earth

Yet again it is time for the ancient prayer for Peace on Earth, goodwill toward men.

So often we've had it on our lips before, when things we cherished were in danger, when loved ones were in jeopardy. Now though with little of ours at stake, with few of our own at risk, the words, the wish, the hope, the prayer still return because in this season, in this year, we realize there is no peace for us unless there is peace for all.

In a score of places, it seems, the world is ablaze, and we cannot put out the fires. And so where we cannot act, where we cannot touch, where we cannot work the miracle, yet we can hold forth the high hope of mankind. The promise of the age, it is the light to the future.

## Paving the way

The Bald Head village council did the right thing in incorporating plans for repaving Federal Road and the lighthouse access into its overall road working program last Saturday, adopting the sound concept of a "village road system".

Public statements as well as calls and letters persuaded a study committee that the "vast majority of people on Bald Head" wanted the two segments paved, paved well and paved now. The council responded as a public body responsible to its constituency should.

If all goes as projected the paving should be accomplished by Easter, though on Bald Head "done by Easter" has often proved an elusive goal.

Certainly there should be no problem with the contingency of "clear and unencumbered title" to the two segments that the committee called for. The financial backing the body contemplates for the work seems a little shaky, though. Money must be obtained from two developers, and apparently from the village chapel as well, and that way to completion of the three road projects -- North Bald Head Wynd is also included -- may turn out to be slow and thorny.

Still the council has acted to take over important transportation links for the public good, rather than waiting on agreement by two developers to serve the public. An essential duty of a municipality is to assure a good transportation system, and by taking in the two new segments the village comes closer to fulfilling a responsibility of government.

## A job well done

School bus driver Susan Gore deserves special commendation for the way she handled a dangerous situation last week involving a fire which destroyed her vehicle. What might have resulted in a tragedy of major proportions was resolved without injury to any of her 28 passengers. Testimony to the seriousness of the problem is that the bus was a total loss.

To recap: Last Tuesday afternoon when heading away from South Brunswick Middle School with a busload of boys and girls she detected smoke coming out of the dashboard. She pulled to the side of the road, cut off the motor then supervised the orderly unloading of the passengers. She led them along the shoulder of the highway and started walking the half-mile distance back to the school.

When they were only a short distance from the scene the bus burst into flames.

The rest of the story has to do with what-ifs. What if she had told the kids to sit still while she tried to contact someone at the school to find out what to do?

What if she had said to herself there's no way I'm going to try to herd that bunch down a busy highway and keep them from being run over?

What if she had decided to hang around the bus and wait for help to arrive?

None of these were her decisions. She reacted with intelligence and foresight, thereby helping prevent death or injury to her passengers.

Thanks to her intelligent handling of this dangerous situation, nothing happened to the school boys and girls under her watchcare. For that she deserves the appreciation of parents and school officials and recognition for a job well done.

## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE STAFF OF THE STATE PORT PILOT



## Not exactly news

We got our first preview of the coming attraction "Amos and Andrew", which was filmed here last summer and features Nicholas Cage, Danny Glover and Dabney Coleman. What caught our attention first was the name "Andrew Sterling", which the movie character shares with the son of local UCB vice-president Baxter Stirling and Bald Head Island real estate agent Brookie Stirling. ("Stirling" is the local spelling; we're not sure about the movie version.) The comedy opens in February at a theater near you... Kim Lynch, a Leland native, is among the stars at the Carolina Opry in Myrtle Beach. The opry's Christmas show, presented each night to a full house of 2,200, is considered by some locals to not be as good as the companion Dixie Jubilee but it's still worth the trip. The finale alone is worth the trip.

One of the tastiest local Christmas customs is that followed by Margaret Rudd, who each year dispenses packages of chocolate fudge to friends and associates. The candy is the product of the skills of husband Buddy Rudd, and he's good at

it... The most beautiful dogwood we have seen in color foliage this season is in the Old Smithville Burying Grounds on Rhett Street, and it is worth a trip to see while riding around looking for daytime Christmas decorations.

At night, a "must-see" location is at the corner of Burrington and Owens. We never saw so many colored lights in one area... Except maybe on the road from Mill Creek Baptist Church to Bolivia. Jerry Rivenbark started it several years ago and since then has been joined by several of his neighbors to make this the most colorful Christmas decorations concentration we ever have seen in a rural setting.

Winter solstice was on Monday, the shortest day of the year. It's been getting dark by 5 o'clock in the afternoon and wasn't light again until 7 a.m... Luminaries lined Bay Street along the Southport waterfront again Saturday and Sunday nights and it took a lot of volunteer labor to set them out, install candles, then retrieve them.

A few years ago Gil McGregor of Rowland

was a basketball star at Wake Forest. He was all-ACC performer and seemed a sure bet to make it in the NBA. That failed to develop, but he stayed with the cage sport in other connections and now is color man for broadcasts of Charlotte Hornets games which are occasionally telecast over WJKA in Wilmington. We heard him last week and he's good... Chucky Brown seems to have found a home with the New Jersey Nets. He is getting a lot of playing time from coach Chuck Daly and scored 19 points Sunday. Looks like he's off to a new start after being fired by Cleveland and spending most of last year on the bench for the Los Angeles Lakers.

We are pleased with the good start the UNCW Seahawks have had this season, including victories over N. C. State and Auburn. They would have been even better if Preston McGriff could have made the eligibility list this year... Last weekend seemed like Christmas but this week is the one that counts, so have a safe and happy holiday.

## Public opinion

### A 'Family man'

To the Editor:

As a person who plans to reside in Southport in the near future it startled me to read on the front page of the December 9 *State Port Pilot* remarks accounted to Southport alderman Bill Delaney saying he "would prefer a family man" for city manager.

Although I have no access to applications submitted for this position (which may be all from males) it astonishes me that alderman Delaney states this preference. It is against federal Equal Opportunity Employment laws to not equally consider a woman unless the city has received bona fide occupational qualification for this position (the burden of proof rests on the employer to prove that the BFOQ does exist and that all members of the affected class -- females in this case -- are incapable of performing the job).

It is unclear to me what Delaney means by a family man... but it is clear that he wants the manager to have "children in the school system." Surely this last remark reflects a measure of age discrimination (which is against the law), and fecundity (which is not public business). The remark also seems to

discriminate against single people who may have chosen to dedicate a life to work only and have forgone the pleasures of marriage, or a separated/divorced person who does not have physical custody of children.

Surely Mr. Delaney is familiar with restrictions guiding fair pre-employment inquiries...

It is my hope that alderman Delaney will rethink his preferences in the light of federal law and will open his mind and his heart without prejudice to a person who can effectively manage the city.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Wehlau  
Martinsville, Va.

### Choral society

To the Editor:

One of the remarkable assets to be enjoyed in our community is a

group of people known as the Sea Notes Choral Society. Last Thursday night, December 17, they presented their annual Christmas gift to the public, a truly magnificent rendering of Handel's "The Messiah".

It is surprising that a small community like ours can produce a choral group and a classical music event of this caliber. They not only always grace our Christmas season but enliven the Fourth of July celebration and entertain at other occasions here in Southport and Wilmington, and their concerts are always free to the public.

Cindy Sellers, the director, and the members of the Sea Notes Choral Society deserve accolades and support of everyone who lives in this area.  
Carol and Draden Moore  
Southport

### Warm feeling

To the Editor:

I shiver as I watch my son build a snowman outside. Despite the cold weather in Toledo, I have warm memories as I reflect on the past year, particularly a week spent on Oak Island -- the sunsets, the beaches, the ferry ride.

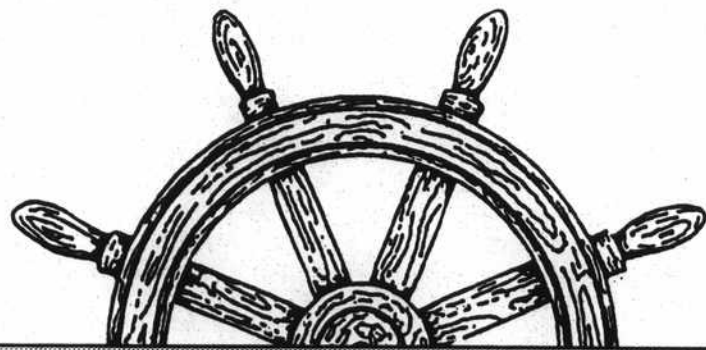
Our family vacation to the Southport-Oak Island area was the highlight of our year. Your beaches were so clean, unspoiled and uncrowded. We created rich memories for our children of a wholesome, natural environment and lifestyle. What a wonderful change of pace from the Florida beaches.

The people we met there were so warm and friendly. We experienced southern hospitality at its best. We are especially grateful for Midgett & Associates, who booked our trip. Oak Island was everything they promised it would be.

We look forward to next summer's vacation.

Sincerely,  
Donna Cottingham  
Sylvania, Ohio

More letters, next page



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