

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Single Out Judy Bryan?

To the editor:
It has taken me a few weeks to respond to recent articles and "the (editorial) cartoon" which appeared in *The Brunswick Beacon*.

Time has come to voice my opinion and let readers know some of the facts about the Judy Bryan that I know.

Quite frankly I never paid much attention to the issues confronting property owners of Holden Beach until I met Judy Bryan over two years ago. When Judy was campaigning for commissioner, she made every effort to let residents know how important she felt good, honest, representation was to the citizens of Holden Beach.

Presently not only is Judy under attack as a commissioner, but her integrity is being questioned as well. Judy has shared her talent, time, and materials to make cross-

ing the bridge to the beach more attractive—Valentine, Easter, and now beautiful seashells announce the seasons for all to see. In my opinion the idea and the art work are award winners and everyone should be proud of her efforts.

I found myself planting sea oats on Holden Beach along with Judy to help stop erosion; and let me say erosion is the biggest issue facing our beach community. I don't remember seeing too many people, other commissioners, real estate salesmen, developers planting sea oats that day.

Concerning recent articles/comments on the turtle program, no one has worked harder to protect the turtles than Judy—she diligently dug and moved nests and shepherded the babies to the ocean in all hours day and night. Maybe you think the

turtles can survive without help, and they could have—but putting fencing to stop erosion has robbed the turtles of normal beach nesting areas.

On the issue of the lights I find it difficult to comprehend the recent letters singling out Mrs. Bryan. The lighting issue was passed by a former board of commissioners (Judy was not a member) and upheld by three of the present five commissioners. Why single out Mrs. Bryan?

I found the "black-out" cartoon in poor taste in that it openly invites crime to Holden Beach. There is light on the beach, and those new lights give off lots of light and are pretty. I hope all the residents of Holden Beach will try to praise each other rather than voicing petty criticism.

Lillian Wolfe
Holly Springs

Can Fake Palm Trees Reforest The Desert?

BY BILL FAVER

Anyone who has visited New Hanover's new airport terminal could not have missed the large palm trees in the lobby. These are weather-proof, not just because they are inside under the roof, but because they are preserved and not subject to the conditions necessary for growing. Now someone has come up with a similar idea—planting palm trees in the desert.



FAVER

Nothing new in that, except that these are specially made plastic palm trees with honey-comb truss made to absorb water. The December issue of *Earthwatch* magazine reported that a Spanish inventor, Antonio Ibanez, conceived the plan as a way to reforest the deserts of the world. He envisioned covering the Sahara with "beautiful, lush, green palm trees." These plastic life-sized polyurethane palms provide shade so that real palms can be planted and given a chance to grow.

It will work like this: the plastic trees will absorb water vapor in their honeycomb trunks and the water will condense during the cold nights. During the heat of the following day, water is slowly released by controlled evaporation. This will cause the mid-day temperatures to be cooler and drop enough to produce rain. The rain will provide the moisture necessary for the real trees shaded by the plastic palms. If enough trees are planted there could be a climactic change for the entire region and within ten years the desert could be reforested.

Sound impossible? Like somebody's wild dream? Maybe not. The article reports the countries of Mauritania, Morocco, and Algeria have shown interest in the project. Libya has committed over \$1 billion to plant 40,000 plastic trees in that country's desert areas.

It will be interesting to follow developments with these plastic trees. Whether they work or not, this is a good example of the kind of creative solutions to some of the world's environmental and social problems that should be welcomed by all of us. Next time you see the New Hanover Airport palm forest, think about the Sahara and wish the plastic palms well.

Kindergarteners Invited To Lunch Next Week

Union Primary School wants its next class of kindergarteners to begin getting acquainted with the school early.

During kindergarten registration next week, parents are being encouraged to take their youngster on a tour of the school's facilities and to eat lunch in the school cafeteria, said Wendy Milligan, guidance counselor.

Registration is from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. However, the tours are available Monday through Thursday. Each tour begins at 9:30 a.m., with lunch at 10 a.m.—just ahead of the regular kindergarten lunch at 10:15 a.m. Parents are asked to sign up ahead if they plan to participate in the tour and/or lunch. Lunches are \$1.05 for students and \$1.75 for parents.

Also, parents of incoming kindergarteners are asked to bring their child's immunization record, certified birth certificate (not a hospital copy), Social Security card and record of the child's physical examination.

For more information or to sign up for a tour, contact the school.

Make Sure Children Come First

To the editor:

Being the mother of a young man who has been active in his education and sports, I can sympathize to some extent with what Ms. Simmons had to say in her letter in the May 9 issue.

However, there is something I'd like to share with her and other readers.

In the last nine years there has been a few occasions when there were late games that I felt should not have been. But, let me remind everyone, all of the coaches with the exception of the middle schools and up are volunteer. Most have children of their own and are well aware of the late game schedules.

These coaches have on several occasions tried to get the Parks and Recreation Department to let the children play and practice earlier in the evenings. Keep in mind these programs have been on the same schedule for the last nine years. The coaches are just as concerned with the education of the children as their parents and teachers.

The problem it seems is with the men's leagues. They seem to be taking precedence over our youths. The coaches have asked Parks and

Recreation on several occasions before the start of the schedules for the men's leagues to play or practice after the youth games, but for some reason unknown to me, this cannot and has not been accomplished.

I grew up in a sports-oriented family. I know the significance of how sports builds self esteem, character, self control, and being a part of a team that works, not just plays together. All these things are part of learning something you cannot learn from books. I have watched several of these young people grow along with my son. Some were very unruly at the early age and have changed to the most polite, decent young men I know. These youth coaches should be commended.

Education has always been first and foremost, but education and sports go hand-in-hand. I'd like to ask Ms. Simmons this question: Of all the youth ballplayers (football, soccer, basketball, baseball, etc.) that have stayed with sports, how many of them have you read about on the crime page, in the court docket or anything we as a community feel is detrimental? I dare say I cannot think of any. The only page I

see their names on are sports pages and the honor roll list as well rounded individuals.

Let's not try to blame the low level of education of the children here in Brunswick County on the late games. They are few and far between.

Every parent has the dream of having the next President, Congressman, O. J. Simpson, Billy Kilmmer, Reggie Jackson or Larry Byrd, but the point here is what they learn on the field as a team will continue into life in the real world when they have to work together as a team with their employer and other employees.

What every parent with youths in these sports should do is stand behind these coaches and contact the Parks and Recreation Department now, so next year and the years to come this will not happen. Let's make sure our children come first; the coaches have done their best and have by no means stopped trying. I'd sure hate to see our youth athletic program stopped because of grown men who have to work the next day.

Peggy Earwood
Shallotte

Find A Place In Paper For 'Events'

To the editor:

After reading the column last week written by Susan Usher entitled, "Why Not A 'Give Us A Break Day'?" I found myself rather perturbed; not by Ms. Usher wanting a break but by her asking the readers for it (most of whom, I might add have an interest in the very things she was putting down).

Inasmuch as my organization made a request of her for this type service, I am offended to know that the request was probably trashed. Her request for a break might be

more effective if sent to those congressmen she made mention of, but not her readers.

I understand that your paper cannot launch a publicity campaign for every day that has been claimed by an organization for national observance; therefore I am trying very hard to empathize.

However, when someone calls *The Brunswick Beacon* with a request for this very kind of publicity, they are told to speak with Ms. Usher. So to me it sounds as if Ms. Usher's entire column is nothing

more than a complaint about the duties included in her job description. I don't even know how she could have been allowed to print something that could be so offensive to the readers.

I appeal to you to try to find a place in your paper to accommodate such requests in the future. If Mrs. Usher has to "File 13" any of them, I then appeal to you to ask Ms. Usher to keep that bit of information to herself.

Percy R. Anderson
Supply

Letter Unfairly Criticized Commissioner

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the letter by Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch of Durham in which he praised Doug Rutter and unfairly criticized Mrs. Judy Bryan, a Holden Beach commissioner.

I can certainly understand why Mr. Kirsch feels the way he does if his only source of information is Doug Rutter's biased reports. Never once has Mr. Rutter explained that the lighting ordinance was passed long before Mrs. Bryan was elected. It is truly unfortunate that one of our own residents is allowed to consistently report half truths and biased views.

Mrs. Bryan valiantly served the residents of Holden Beach by getting a referendum to Raleigh that would allow residents to vote on annexation rather than allowing five commissioners to make this important decision. This was Mrs. Bryan's major goal when she was elected. I admire and commend her for her diligence and perseverance. How many politicians do you know who keep their campaign promises?

Mrs. Bryan has unselfishly served all who love Holden Beach. She is a very talented artist and could be working full time toward her own well being, but she has chosen to serve the community she loves so

deeply.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirsch, I hope someday you have the honor of meeting this truly great lady. Then you will realize how far off base your criticism was. If Judy Bryan is at fault, it is that she cares too much.

Karen Workman
Cadillac, Michigan
(The writer of this letter is Commissioner Judy Bryan's sister. Editor's note.)

Volunteers Made A Difference

To the editor:

Brunswick County Keep America Beautiful expresses great appreciation to all Brunswick County volunteers who have given of themselves, to make this county a beautiful place to live.

I would especially like to thank the Shallotte recyclers and the Inter-Church Council for understanding my inability to attend their appreciation service, due to an unavoidable occurrence.

Please know whether you volunteered at one of the county's eight recycling centers, adopted a highway, participated in Beach Sweep, assisted with educational programs, or planted a tree and shrub in your community, you have made a difference in and for this beautiful county of Brunswick.

Terry W. Munn
Executive Director
Brunswick Clean County,
Keep America Beautiful

You Should Be Proud Of Band

To the editor:

We had the privilege to chaper-

one the South Brunswick High School band to the Daytona Beach Festival of Music April 23-28.

We often hear all the negatives about the youth today. However, given the lack of financial and moral support they receive, the band was a credit to SBHS and Brunswick County. The students looked as good as possible in their uniforms and behaved in a fashion to make their home communities proud.

The 36 students had the opportunity to raise money through doughnut, pizza and "Cougar" license tag sales and McDonald's Band Day.

The Band Boosters also received donations from businesses which helped to offset expenses of the trip. We're proud of the South Brunswick High School Band and you should be too.

William T. and Carol U. Hardee
Winnabow

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Bill Would Set Up Schedule For Teacher Assistant Pay

Rep. E. David Redwine last week co-sponsored bills that would create a salary schedule for teacher assistants and increase protective services for children.

Redwine said H.B. 1251 would base teacher assistants' salaries on their years of experience. "Something needs to be done to remedy the inequity in these salaries," he wrote in his weekly report. "These employees are some of the lowest paid in state government and are entitled to some relief."

H.B. 1260 would establish the North Carolina Child Protection Act and appropriate funds to implement it. It would set up a "totality review team" to study the incidence and cause of childhood deaths and appropriate funds to strengthen and expand state and local services that protect children.

Also last week, Redwine supported two bills debated and passed by the House.

One, H.B. 300, would not penalize drivers with no prior moving traffic convictions or Safe Driver Incentive Plan points for a first offense of speeding less than 75 mph in a 65 mph zone. Redwine said the measure is fair and will save money on insurance premiums.

H.B. 843 would lower the blood alcohol level from 0.10 to 0.08 and increase the fines for those caught driving drunk. "We must be tough on those persons who continue to drink and drive," he said.

Proposals to do away with tenure for school teachers and administrators aren't advancing far in the House this session.

The House Education Committee considered—and defeated—a proposed substitute bill dealing with administrative tenure only. It would have grandfathered current administrators and made tenure a local board option.

The same committee has a bill which would eliminate teacher tenure. Redwine said the likelihood of this bill being considered is, "under the circumstances," very remote.

Redwine can be reached at 919-733-5787 or at Room 632, Legislative Office Building, Raleigh, N.C. 27603-5925.

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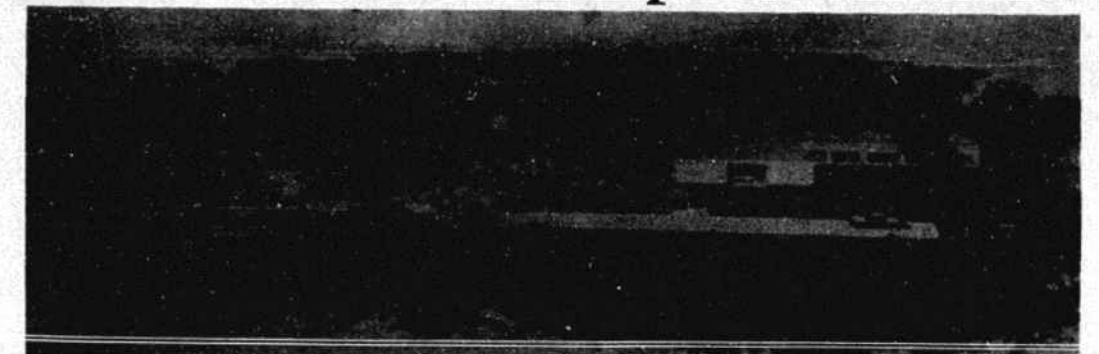
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