

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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## For Good Health, It's Time The County Acts

Board of Education member Doug Baxley recently threw the gauntlet at the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

Why, he asked, isn't the county leading the way in establishing smoke-free public buildings?

It's a good question. The Brunswick County Board of Education is to be applauded for having the guts to do the right thing—to eliminate smoking in school buildings by employees and the use of tobacco products by school employees at school functions.

The policy does several things: 1) intentionally or not, it enforces the sometimes forgotten responsibility of adults to serve as good role models for young people; 2) it reduces exposure of co-workers, and in some school buildings, students as well, to their smoke; and 3) it tells the public that the school system is concerned for the good health of its employees and its charges.

The county has indicated an interest in the public's health with its decision to fluoridate county water. Rules governing smoking are another logical step.

As with all rules, this one wouldn't be needed if smokers were more considerate of others.

As an attorney, Mr. Baxley spends time at the Brunswick County Courthouse. This building is a classic example of why a county smoking ordinance is needed. On court days visitors must struggle through a haze of thick smoke to get through the lobby and hall to an interior office.

For anyone with asthma, sinus trouble, allergies or simply a strong aversion to smoke, it can be a most uncomfortable journey.

The county needs to establish specific areas on the complex grounds or in those buildings where smoking is allowed by employees and/or visitors and ban it in general congregating areas such as the public assembly building and courthouse halls. Times have changed. There are many more non-smokers than there once were and more and more people are health-conscious.

The county could offer smoking cessation classes as an incentive for change. If so, it needs to be included in the budget for fiscal year 1991-92.

County commissioners took a first look at a proposed policy and sent it back to staff for more work.

It's time—now while the budget is being completed—to get the policy spruced up, off the desk and on the table for discussion, and positive action.

## Nobody Deserves Trophy More Than Michael

It's nice to know that people always get what they deserve. Michael Jordan, star of the NBA's Chicago Bulls, has finally earned the championship trophy that he deserves more than anyone else.

Jordan, who grew up in Wilmington, has been a phenomenon since he entered the National Basketball Association seven years ago.

People have always praised his physical talents—his quickness, leaping ability and agility. Fans have always marveled at his uncanny ability to hang in the air—as if his world was one without gravity—and create opportunities for himself.

Michael has always been recognized and idolized for the talents and abilities that nobody even dreamed about until he came along.

Now that the Chicago Bulls have won the NBA title, Michael can finally be recognized for the true champion he's always been.

It's a shame, but Michael Jordan never would have been considered one of the best basketball players in history if his team hadn't won a championship.

He never would have been talked about in the same breath as Magic Johnson or Larry Bird if he hadn't won a stupid ring.

That's because leading the league in individual scoring and leading a team to the top of the profession are two totally different things.

Anybody with talent can score 30 points a game. It takes somebody with guts and strong leadership qualities to bring out the best in his teammates.

That's just what Jordan has done. For the first few years of his career, Michael was the sole magic on the Bulls. He was the one who had to step up and score the big basket or make the big defensive play when it was needed.

Now that he has players like Scottie Pippen, Horace Grant and John Paxson as a supporting cast, Jordan's role has changed.

He still scores his 30 points a game and gets his share of assists and steals, but Jordan has become the glue that holds the Bulls together as a unit.

Over the last few years, while "sports heroes" like baseball's Pete Rose and football's Lawrence Taylor have been caught gambling or abusing drugs, Michael has kept his nose clean.

Jordan is filthy rich. There's no doubt about that. He makes pretty good money playing ball, and his sneaker and cereal endorsements are a gold mine.

It would be very easy for Michael Jordan to let drugs or other negative forces take control of his life. With his raw talent, he is under a tremendous amount of pressure to perform.

That's what makes Michael Jordan so special. He's got a good heart and it shows. Those of you who saw the locker room scene following the final game last Wednesday know what I'm talking about.

Whether he could dribble and dunk a basketball or not, Michael Jordan is the type of person who is worthy of admiration.

Doug Rutter



## Just A Happy Camper Among The Crawling

By the time you read this I'll probably be crawling.

I decided long ago that if chosen I would spend my summer vacation at referee's camp at UNC-Wilmington. That happens to be this week.

High school basketball teams from across the state will gather there for a week of summer camp instruction and workouts.

You don't have to be a sports enthusiast to know high school players and coaches attend summer camps. It's a chance for college personnel to make contact with area student-athletes and to spend a week doing what they love to do—teach game fundamentals and keys to success.

But few people actually realize that it is a camp for referees, too. That's the part of the camp I'll be attending. After all, someone has to officiate the volume of games that are played in a week's time, so it becomes a training camp for the guys in striped shirts.

It'll be my first in the three years that I've been with the Eastern Athletic Officials Association. So where does the crawling part come in?

Terry Pope



As I write this, I don't really know what I'm about to get into; however, inside I'm feeling like a kid who's waited all summer to go to Disney World and now the day is finally here.

A letter arrived last week that shed a little light on the subject. Twelve games a day are played and each official works in every other game. According to my math, that's six games a day for five days.

According to my calculations, I'll be crawling before the week is over while trying to keep pace with teenagers racing up and down the court. They'll be trying to imitate moves that Michael Jordan showed to the Los Angeles Lakers while enroute to his first NBA championship last week. I don't want to think

about that now.

While I'm paying good money to torture myself on the court this week, my parents are spending their vacation in the Great Smoky Mountains, as usual, cooling it and relaxing on their annual trip west. I try not to think about that either—the pool, the rocky streams, the cooler air in higher elevations, the sights.

Now that's a vacation, but I can't complain. I had a choice, too.

I've never been one for going to summer camps. I never did as a child. Nobody in Maco ever went to summer camp. Instead, I could always count on going to spend a week in the mountains with the family whenever the weather got really hot.

This summer will definitely be different. I'm not sure if I'll return to work refreshed and full of energy. My parents think I ought to go to the mountains and give up this foolish notion of becoming a happy camper.

I try to explain that you either love or hate athletics. Some people place sports in the wrong perspective and also give referees a bad name.

But for a high school player to give up a week at the beach with their friends to spend time focusing on their game and working to become a part of a team requires dedication and discipline. They'll be a much better person for the time they give to their coaches and teammates this week.

Most people also have no idea what it takes to be an official. Summer camp is one part of what it takes to improve and move up the totem pole in the level of games, but there are also six clinics, scrimmages, a state seminar and written examination required of each official every year.

At camp, we'll be graded by more experienced officials after each game. The best will advance to the final games starting Thursday. So competition does come into play, a little.

But that's the least of my worries right now. It takes a little more energy to race up and down a basketball court in mid-June than it does to type out this column.

My fingers stay in shape the entire year, but my legs are begging to have another summer off.



## Student Newspapers Offer Surprises

Doug, Terry and I spent a few days last week helping out with the North Carolina Scholastic Press Association newspaper contest. It was an eye-opening experience in several ways, mostly good.

Judging seemed like a way to show appreciation for the interest a few adult journalists had shown in our work as high school students as well as a refreshing change of pace. Hey, we only had to judge two categories. And the rules were simple. We were told to "retain your professional standards while you mentally regress and relive those glory days of high school journalism" as we waded through two one-foot tall stacks of entries.

Timberly Adams of the advertising department pitched in to help judge the advertising entries and we all began flipping pages. After each of us rated the entries, we tallied our totals. Surprisingly, given the difference in our backgrounds, training and experience, there was very little difference in our judgment calls.

It was fun, but harried. Another deadline to meet. We didn't have any spare time to simply sit back and read these student newspapers at leisure.

I can tell you this: there are some

Susan Usher



very good young journalists out there. These kids can do more than write well. They also know how to gather information from a variety of sources and how to conduct interviews. They take some great photographs. Their feature layouts look good, like those in a magazine. Some of them appear to know more about modern day newspaper technology than I do and are using far more advanced equipment than I learned the trade on. No upright Smith-Coronas and jars of white glue for these guys. They're whizzing along on Ventura Pagemaker and mouses.

What did disturb me greatly was the vast disparity in resources available to these student newspapers.

Some were obviously very well-funded by their school systems, in addition to any advertising revenues they might generate. Others were

selling a heck of a lot of ads and getting solid community support that way.

But some of the newspaper products we saw were pitiful. They looked like typed and mimeographed elementary school newsletters, not the stuff that generates school spirit and pride among either the people who put out the paper or those who read it. I wanted to give them an award for just trying.

For some reason the writing and editing and art in those publications were of similar caliber. Was this a reflection of the advisor's capabilities or those of the school's academic standards (or lack thereof)? I don't know.

I do know that school newspapers, when produced by talented students who take pride in their work and receive the basic resources with which to work, can be a real asset to a school and to its community.

In at least one instance, the school newspaper apparently IS the community's newspaper. I wish I could share a copy of the *Ocracoke Island News* with you. Judging from the staff box, it is produced by a group of about seven students at tiny Ocracoke School, which has 95 students in grades K-12.

To quote one student writer, "Ocracoke School doesn't have a drug or weapon problem... The school is very relaxed and the focus is more on learning rather than the additional rules and regulations necessary to maintain order at (another school)."

The newspaper must be the product of an unusual cooperative island-wide effort. The *News* circulates "to approximately 200 island subscribers, 31 states and 9 foreign countries..." Cost is \$5 for eight issues produced October through May. Mailing is under a non-profit organization permit.

The *News* features a full-color photo on the front. The April issue had 20 pages, including well-done articles by special correspondents in the community on subjects such as the impact of tourism on the Outer Banks island. Four pages were devoted to the school's own "Mini-Pages"—the writing and artwork of students in grades K-8.

It was a delightful newspaper—it shows the kind of results that are possible when a close school-community relationship is nurtured.

Had we not judged this contest, I would probably never have discovered the *Ocracoke Island News*. That would have been a shame.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Here's Proof The Democratic Process Works

To the editor:

The two corridors selected for the Wilmington-Leland Bypass (also known as the Outer Loop) are proof that the democratic process works when the people get involved and express their concerns.

Either of the two final corridors will serve southeastern North Carolina well. The rejected alternatives could have had devastating consequences for both Leland and Navassa.

Public hearings were well attended. Both the Brunswick County Commissioners and the Leland Town Council provided detailed critiques of the 26 proposed corridors. Leland not only called attention to

the harm some of the proposed routes would have caused, but also prepared a "20-year Economic Development Plan" and showed how it would be impacted by the various routes. Cynics told us we were wasting our time, that our efforts would make no difference. They were wrong.

I would like to express appreciation to all who helped Leland present its case to Greiner, Inc., the engineering firm that is conducting the environmental impact study. Especially deserving of credit are Brunswick County Planning Director John Harvey and Resources Development Commission Thomas Monks. I also wish to thank the good peo-

ple of Leland who recognized the danger and prayed. I am sure your prayers and your comments helped the council to bring out Leland's legitimate concerns in a convincing way. And finally, I want to thank the Greiner engineers for listening and responding to our concerns.

Russell Baldwin  
 Mayor, Town Of Leland

### Tired Argument

To the editor:

Replying to the remark made at the Sunset Beach Council meeting that "people who live away from the beach might not share the same concerns for the environment and

lifestyle," I have heard that tired argument too many times.

I did not build my home within a mile of Sunset Beach because I love the beautiful ocean, the pristine beach, the abundant birds and wildlife. I built here because I am anxious to trash the beach and build high-rises, water slides and pool halls!

Come on Clete—give us a break. People who live off the beach are every bit as concerned, environmentally aware and even as intelligent as those of you on the beach.

Marcia P. Warring  
 Sunset Beach  
 (Letters Continue Following Page)