

MORE LETTERS

Think Positively About Schools

To the editor:
This letter is in reference to the column on last week's editorial page by Mrs. Gurganus.

Did Mrs. Gurganus realize the event at Union (Storybook Dress-Up Day) was not created to celebrate Halloween, but to promote an interest in quality children's literature? It was in conjunction with the annual Book Fair.

I would think a newspaper would support an event that promotes literacy. Students and staff dress up as their favorite storybook character on this day. What a fun way to share books!

I suggest you visit a public library and ask someone to direct you to the children's section. (Remember, the students at Union are kindergarten through third grade.) Browse through a book or ask a child about their favorite book and you will un-

derstand why a "vampire costume" was not chosen.

Secondly, I take offense to the term "that principal." There is enough negative publicity about our schools without a newspaper staff contributing to it. Mrs. Gurganus, have you ever met Mrs. Grissett or any other staff member at Union?

In the future, if you wish to comment about a school condition or policy, why don't you count the number of students versus the supplies allotted per school. I doubt you could work under the same conditions.

Finally, please try to think positively about our schools as you write opinions in the future. Please support their efforts to make learning enjoyable. I challenge *The Brunswick Beacon* to become involved in our schools.

Sara Robinson
Rt. 1, Supply

Nothing Wrong With Celebration

To the editor:
I am writing this letter in response to Mrs. Gurganus' column (Nov. 14). I really enjoyed her words and felt exactly the way she does. So I am sort of writing an open letter to Brunswick County. Please print it. I think we need it.

I have lived in Brunswick County for 12 years. As you, I apparently worship Satan as well, I too recognize Halloween. My family and I painstakingly decorate the inside and outside of our home with ghosts, witches, pumpkins, skeletons, etc. My children dress up as storybook characters, super heroes, princesses, GI Joe, ballerinas and whatever notion may strike. We get into the day and we get excited.

I have baked cupcakes, for eight years for the library, day care, classroom, church, dance school Brownies and whatever organization my children are in. We put together a bag of treats for at least 30 children per year who come to our door; we enjoy every last detail. I take my children to only people and businesses I know and we have a wonderful time!

When I grew up Halloween was a night where kids went to parties and door-to-door. Also we always had a party at our church. I have been active in my community and my church for 10 years. We used to have Halloween parties and carnivals at our local church. Last year I was "politely asked" to have an "All Saints Day party." Fine. We did. The kids could not dress in scary costumes. The children didn't have the fun like they (and we) used to.

As a Christian and, yes I am a

Christian, I believe in All Saints Day. This year we had nothing at our church.

I have heard people say let's "uplift the Lord and not the devil." I'm sorry, I do not see the harm in taking my children out door-to-door for candy. We "uplift the Lord" every day of our lives. We are the house in the neighborhood which is all decked out for Christmas. We know that Christmas is Christ's birthday and we celebrate this most holy day.

Not many go to church on Christmas eve or Christmas day (unless it falls on a Sunday). We do go all year, not only on holidays. We believe in the Easter Bunny and tooth fairy as well. My children know why we celebrate Easter.

So as a Christian I do recognize the fact that everyone has their freedom to choose, but I resent it when my children are told by other children that we worship the devil when we celebrate Halloween. Simply not so. When I grew up we had Halloween parties in school. No more. I went to public and Christian schools.

So if some in the community feel that taking their children out of trick-or-treating is a form of devil worship, that's fine, but my family does not believe this and we are tired of it being forced down our throats. So please, quit pressuring everyone else into your thinking.

We will continue to celebrate Halloween, Christmas and Easter as always, and remembering to thank the Lord for our many blessings every day.

My children are taught to "uplift the Lord" every day.
Theresa Inman
Shallotte

There Will Be Changes Made

To the editor:
Ms. Gurganus asked (column in Nov. 14 issue) how a governmental institution could be influenced by a group of parents who think that Halloween is Satan worship.

My answer to her is this: the same way one woman (Madeleine Murray O'hare) was influential in having the Bible and prayer removed from the classrooms of our United States public schools.

This country—by the way—was founded on Christianity and its morals. Take a good look at the problems teachers are having with children now as compared with the problems before the Bible and prayer were removed. This would give you something worth researching and writing about.

It is the same way crosses are removed from public property because

it offends a few or the way nativity scenes are no longer allowed in public parks or schools. I could go on and on.

If you enjoy writing on such subjects from the side and view you have taken on this Halloween issue, then I suggest that you will in the future have many such issues to write about, for we who truly love the Lord are no longer going to stand by silently and watch our freedoms be taken from us. The Lord's army is on the march and there will be changes made in this country for the better, for a change.

Bravo for the parents who stood their ground. If we can't have our religious freedoms, then why should we allow others theirs?

M. R. Buckley
Calabash

Let's Not Wait For More To Die

To the editor:
I would like to voice my opinion for the overpass at the intersection of highway 17 and 130. I go through this intersection twice a day taking my children to the high school and middle school. Every time I pray I will get through without being hit.

The tragic accident that occurred there Nov. 1 could just as easily have been a school bus or even two buses. It will happen again and also at the intersection of Highway 17 and Old Shallotte Road. People do not seem to know what to do at this intersec-

tion. Surely there can be a safer way to manage this intersection.

When Highway 17 is four-laned to South Carolina there will be the same situation at 17 and 904, Grissettown. Hardly a weekend goes by without an accident there. As motorists on these busy roads we not only have to be watching ahead we have to be looking at our side and rear. Let's not wait for 11 innocent people to be killed before we improve our highways.

Mrs. Oneal Grissett
Rt. 7, Shallotte

Too Great A Price To Pay

(The following letter, written to Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson, is printed here at the request of the writer. Editor's note.)

On Nov. 6 at approximately 1:20 p.m. I was traveling north on Highway 17 bypass. As I was nearing the intersection at Highway 130, the traffic light changed from green to yellow to red and back to green in less than 5 seconds.

If I had not been aware of the fatal accident that occurred a few days before, I would not have been driving with extra caution and I would have been involved in what could have been another fatal wreck.

The traffic signal is defective and needs to be corrected immediately. It is impossible for traffic from two different directions to clear the intersection before the light changes at the times it is malfunctioning.

I beg you to correct this very dangerous problem before another life is lost.

As I am sure you are aware, this is one of the worst designed intersections in the state. I do not know what value the Department of Transportation places on human life, but I feel the two lives lost already were just too great a price to pay.

K. W. "Nick" Newton
Ocean Isle Beach

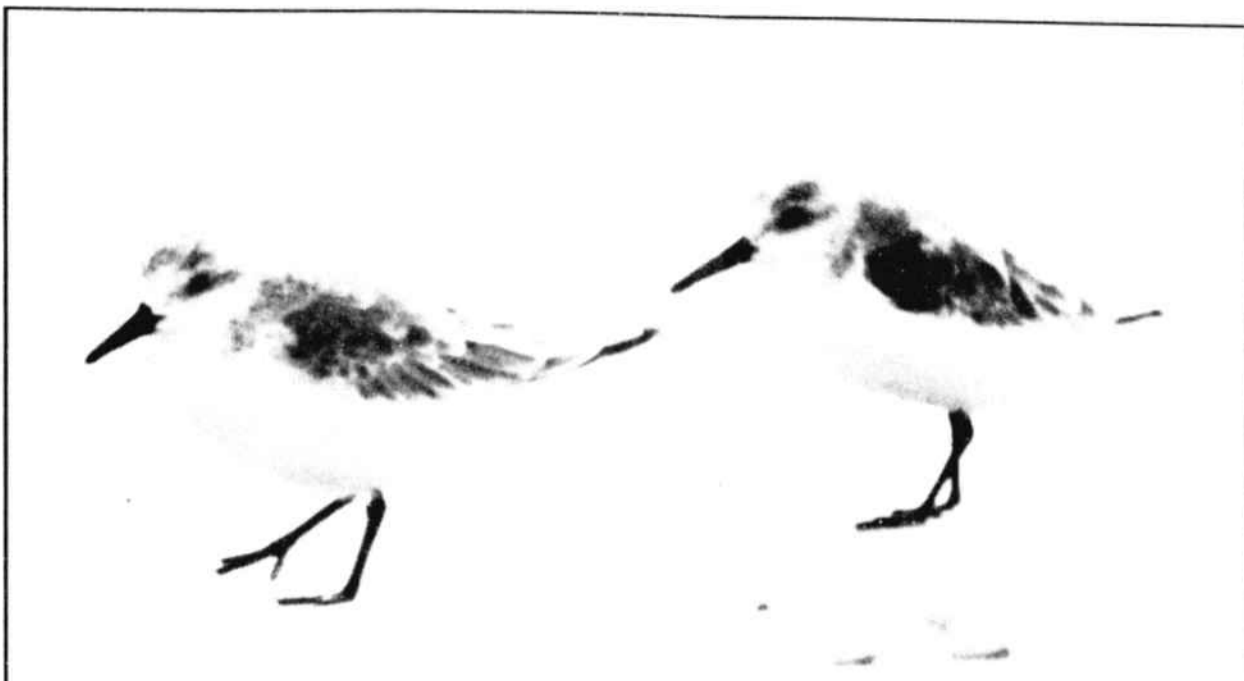


PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

SANDPIPERS OR SANDERLINGS? They are look alike in winter plumage and size is the best key to identifying them.

Some Small Sandpipers

BY BILL FAVER

Those little birds we see along the beach following the waves in and out are always interesting to me. They seem to keep just one step ahead of the incoming wave, yet seldom get their feet wet. The smallest of these sandpipers, or "peeps," are probably the Semi-palmated Sandpipers. Others very similar during the winter months are the Sanderlings and the Knots.

Semi-Palmated Sandpipers are small, about five to six inches, and have a sturdy, dark bill and black legs. These grayish birds prefer the sandy beach to feed on mole crabs and coquinas. These sandpipers are common along our beaches from September to May. The only other bird this small is the Least Sandpiper, which is about the same size, but can be brownish with a slimmer bill and yellow-green legs. The Least Sandpiper feeds by probing and picking and prefers mud flats in the marsh to the open beaches.

Sanderlings are a little larger than the Semi-

Palmateds, about 6 1/2 to 8 1/2 inches in size. In spring this grayish bird has buffy to bright rusty coloration, but is the whitest of sandpipers in the fall. Bill and legs are stout and black and there is a white stripe visible in the wing when they are in flight. These birds also feed along the water's edge on coquinas, mole crabs, and other crustacea.

The Knots usually feed in flocks and appear frequently from December until May. This 9 to 11-inch bird is a non-descript gray with a whitish breast in winter. In spring, the breast is pale robin-red and the back is mottled gray and black. The bill is chunky, dark, and rather short. Rump is whitish in spring and fall plumage. Knots also feed on the incoming wave for the same menu enjoyed by the other sandpipers.

Fall migration is a good time to look for the small sandpipers feeding along the water's edge. They are harder to identify in the fall, but the rewards are there for those who will take the time to look for them.

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