

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Year's Resolution Proposed

To the editor:
Finally, the Wall came tumbling down. Communism has crumbled. It wasn't Mr. Gorbachev who brought the wall down. It was people power and the unquenchable thirst for freedom. Whether Russia's Gorbachev stays the course or is followed by a string of successors, no one can put it back together again.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. I was a little tot, only ten years old, living in Lincoln County, N. C. My mother had sent me to the well to get a bucket of water, so she could empty it on our wood stove for heating hot water.

Her breakfast biscuits were cooked in this wood stove, along with fresh eggs laid by our hens on our farm. It was a cold day; we had our radio tuned to WBT in our log cabin. My sister and brothers were sitting at the kitchen table, enjoying our biscuits and jams when we heard on WBT that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor!

We got into our old car and went to visit our neighbors, John and Ethel Graham. There are many people who will never forget "the day that will live infamy." My daddy said, he'd never buy anything "made in Japan." The personal sacrifices of Americans are still remembered as if it were yesterday!

As we begin the second year of the new decade of the 1990s, won't you join me in this New Year's resolution? Politicians who represent us must vote for the long term healthy growth of our economy, the absolute equality of opportunity for all of our citizens, and the active nurturing of political, economic and religious freedom everywhere on earth.

Let us exercise the people power that was demonstrated so dramatically in Eastern Europe. Let us create an environment that enables our financial institutions to reflect the golden age that awaits us. Let us accept this responsibility now.

Bob L. Johnson
Ocean Isle Beach

Isle. It was a pleasant surprise to find a museum as nice as the Museum of Coastal Carolinas on the beach.

The quality of the museum is first class and educational. It had been several years since we had visited the island. We will return with our children and take our friends who vacation on Ocean Isle.

John and Anne Beard
Huntersville

total volume, remember that "every litter bit helps" and our future will be brighter, cleaner and less costly in the long run.

We should all rethink the many arguments in favor of such a law and encourage our legislators to associate it with solving the formidable solid waste/landfill problem.

Bob Kochersberger
Seatrail, Sunset Beach

Bottle Bill Needed

To the editor:

I read the excellent report by Terry Pope on the solid waste problem in our region. Leaders from N.C. and Virginia met and discussed most of the important aspects dealing with solid waste disposal and the costly problem of providing landfill facilities.

Unfortunately and almost unbelievably, they all ignored a major consideration tied in with solid waste management. I am referring to the near desperate need for a "bottle bill" or deposit law for glass, plastic and metal beverage containers.

Increasingly states are coming to realize the need to clean up the disgusting array of such containers on our streets, highways and parks. We now have another advantage to such a law, it will serve to reduce the total volume of garbage now overloading our landfills. While the containers involve a modest percentage of the

Paper Took Ten Days To Arrive

To the editor:

I have read many times in your newspaper about the late delivery of the *Beacon* to its subscribers.

It usually takes about seven days to reach me, but this week took the cake. Your paper was mailed on 11/20/91, and I received it on 11/30/91. I would say there is something definitely wrong with our postal service, wouldn't you?

I own a home in Brunswick County and like to keep up with what is going on, but when I get the news it is very old. I don't know if there is anything you can do about it; I hope you can. I am also writing a letter to the Shallotte Postmaster regarding this matter.

If you are paying for second-class postage, aren't you getting ripped off?

Gus Barbetta
Pitman, New Jersey

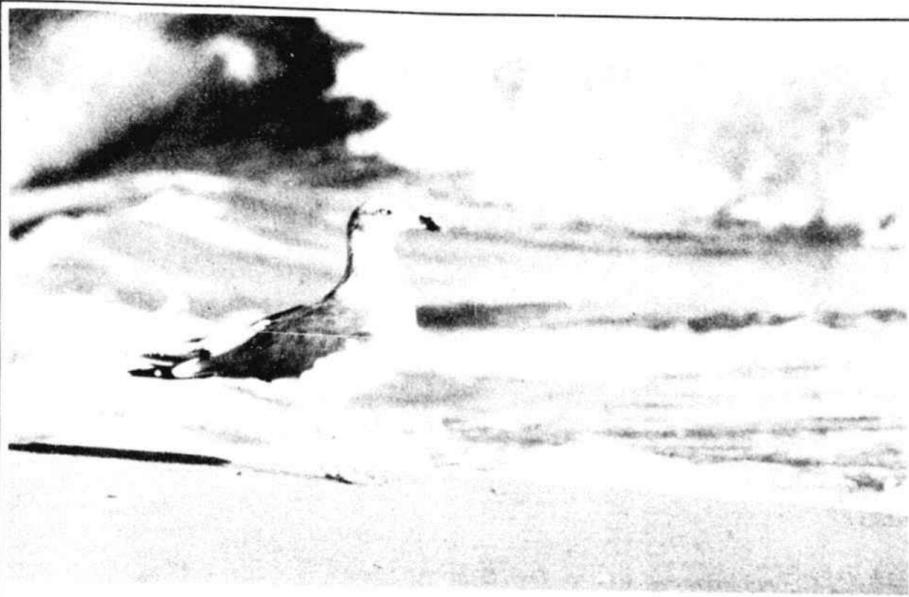


PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

WE DON'T KNOW much this gull can comprehend of the never ending sea-wash and what it means to the rhythms and cycles of the seasons.

The Sea-Wash Never Ends

BY BILL FAVER

This time of year we seem to notice the sea more than at other seasons. It may be because there is less on the beach to distract us. Not as many people are strolling along, not as many birds are feeding on each receding wave, not as many sea oats and other plants are waving in the breezes. We tend to "see" the ocean and to listen to the constancy we know is out there. The sea-wash never ends!



FAVER

Because the waves are continually washing the beach we can find excitement in the motion and the gifts brought up from the deep. We can appreciate the swash marks where waves leave markings on the sand, and we can marvel at the shells and sea critters left on the beach by the waves and tides. We can even become very aware of what man-made plastics and glass and metal containers are littering our beaches as the tide leaves them in the high tide line. Above all, we can know that the next day the processes

will continue!

One of the poems of Carl Sandburg speaks of the sea wash:

*The sea-wash never ends.
The sea-wash repeats, repeats.
Only old songs? Is that all the sea knows?
Only the old strong songs?
Is that all?*

The sea-wash repeats, repeats.

Like the birds and the other animals of the sea there is so much we do not know about the changes and the cycles and the constancy of the sea. We, too, can ask the same kinds of questions.

There is much, too, we have learned about the sea. We know the rhythms of the tides and the forces of the sun and moon. We have been to the depths and measured almost everything. We have marveled at the life forms and given praise to the Creator of such diverse and complex organisms. Perhaps during this Christmas season, we can find the time to spend some quiet and rewarding hours pondering the sea-wash. We may learn to slow down and listen to the "old strong songs" sung by the never-ending sea wash.

Transportation Secretary Responds To Letter

The following letter was written by Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson in response to a letter from Jamie Milliken of Shallotte. A copy of Mr. Milliken's letter appeared in the Nov. 7 issue.

Dear Jamie:

Thank you for your Nov. 4 letter. We are all shocked and dismayed at the tragic loss of life on the US 17 Bypass at NC 130.

Highway safety is dependent upon a number of factors, two of the major ones being safe roadways and safe drivers. All accidents are of grave concern to us, and safety of the driving public is a constant top priority in managing this state's road system. We do all that can be done within the limits of available funds using nationally adopted highway design and maintenance standards to make certain motorists are protected. It is emotionally wrenching when accidents still occur in spite of all precautions taken.

The US 17 Bypass/NC 130 intersection was designed with the best approaching road alignment possible and is controlled by the most advanced traffic signal system available. This intersection is safe by all design requirements for that type crossing. Yet, this tragic crash occurred. Individual driver attitude and conformance with vehicle laws, regrettably, is the one element over which we have little control.

A number of things are being done at this intersection to focus the driver's attention to safety and elevate awareness that it may be neces-

sary to stop for the red signal. We will continue to watch traffic operations at this intersection after these devices are in place to make certain we have done all we can.

There is no question that all highways would be safer if traffic conflict points such as grade crossing intersections were replaced with bridges and connecting ramps. It would be our preference to do this statewide. Regrettably, there is not enough money to do this, and it becomes a matter of what safety feature to address. US 17 was rebuilt to eliminate a dangerous, sub-standard two lane road that has, over time, injured and taken the lives of many people. Travelers would continue to be at risk as long as it remained unimproved. Adding bridges and ramps on this road and others like it across the state would delay the major objective of building separate lanes with a median to make these two-lane roads safer.

This intersection and similar ones where grade crossings are built on dual lane highways will continue to be monitored for safety and changing traffic conditions. Adding interchanges in the future will be the final phase of construction.

Thank you again for letting me know of your concern. We need to continue to hear from good citizens like you.

Thomas J. Harrelson, Secretary

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND? WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

State Of North Carolina
Department Of Transportation
Raleigh

First Class Museum

To the editor:
We recently vacationed at Ocean

rag-a-muffin

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