

**MORE LETTERS**

**Lower Ratio Students To Teachers**

To the editor:  
I followed the fortunes of the Trojan football team in your paper with much interest. You did a fine job of coverage. Congratulations to you, Coach Seay and his team.

And I agreed with your sports editor, Doug Rutter, in a recent piece wherein he ventured that our football team was not so much beaten in the 2A finals by Thomasville as it was "out-programmed."

Among other things, Mr. Rutter pointed out that Thomasville had 11 football coaches (could this have been a misprint?) to West Brunswick's 3. Assuming this to be true and assuming further that Thomasville dressed, say, 60 kids for the game, just flipping a couple of beads on my old 1961 model abacus tells me that this translates into a coach-to-player ratio of 1 to 5.5. Small wonder that we got beat. What's amazing is that we didn't get blown slam out of Kenan Stadium.

(By the way, I used an abacus in my calculations because they were standard issue in my high school's math department. No slide rules or fancy computers for us. All the supplement money went to hire football coaches.)

The clear implication from Mr. Rutter's column is that if Shallotte wants to compete with the likes of Thomasville, then a commitment needs to be made now towards raising our program at least to their level, i.e., hire more football coaches, lower the coach-player ratio, etc.

Fine. But while we're at it, couldn't we just expend a little effort in getting the teacher-to-student ratio down a bit? I'm not talking about something crazy here, like 1 to 5, or even 1 to 10. How about something well within reach, like 1 to 20? This alone would "out-program" most schools in North Carolina, not to mention the salutary effect it would have on average SAT scores.

And how about a Booster Club for the West Brunswick math department? No humor intended here. It wouldn't cost anything, and I could probably be induced to throw in my old abacus, just for starters.

Donnell S. Kelly  
Rt. 9, Shallotte

**County Veterans Deserve Office**

To the editor:  
Whoever wrote the editorial, "Does County Need Its Own Veterans' Office," no doubt has a short circuit in their calculator, for sure!

Granted \$1,000 per veteran is a lot to provide a service office, spokesperson, troubleshooters, etc. That would be, count your zeroes, six million dollars!

I'm the first to reduce taxes and cut spending. But when we can provide a service office for our 6,000 veterans in the county for \$10 each, I'm all for it. Our veterans deserve it, out of need and respect.

Lenny Dorn  
Bolivia

**Giving Surpassed All Previous Years**

To the editor:  
To all residents of Brierwood Estates and to other members of Brierwood Golf Club who reside elsewhere—you have done it again! You have surpassed all previous years in giving clothes, food (and toys) to the needy at Christmas time—truckload after truckload, and I thank you so very much for helping to make so many peoples Christmas a little happier and more enjoyable.

Special thanks also to my helpers, Morris Hall, Jack Causer, Bob Thompkins, Bill Strauss, Neal McCall and Stroud Mercker. You are all very wonderful and giving people, and your loving gifts of sharing are always to be remembered.

Jimmy Simpson  
Shallotte



**Keepers Of The Forests**

BY BILL FAVER

It is interesting to realize that the oldest of living things we have on the earth today are trees. We see so many trees and we tend to overlook them and the influences they have on our lives. We can learn to appreciate evidence of animals who lived long ago and are revealed in fossil records. We can understand petrified logs left from trees of a far different age. But most of us don't think much about how old a tree may be and what it has contributed to our environment through the years!

The scientists tell us some of the oldest living trees are very near us in the cypress swamps along the Black River. We know about the Bristlecone pines in the western states and enjoy seeing their gnarled trunks in photographs. We read about the spotted owl and the forests of the northwest and how environmentalists and loggers are pitted against each other in a fierce battle for old-growth timber, much of which is shipped to Japan and Korea for plywood production.

There are no easy solutions, it seems. We need the jobs, even in the short-run, although we are told all the timber will be cut in 15-20 years anyway. We also need to preserve habitat for the spotted owl, to preserve the variety of life forms and the role of that predator in the forest community. All the solutions by the politicians are short-run answers, since politics doesn't deal with the long-run.

In November, I heard a professor from the University of Wisconsin named Cal DeWitt talking about the solution used in the Swiss and German forests. It seems they have a "keeper of the forest" for each section of national forest land. It is his duty to plant trees and care for them and to selectively harvest them when they are ready for marketing. He takes pride in his work and in his forest. The forest thrives as a habitat for wildlife and the "keeper" sees the habitat is protected. Such a solution may not offer as many jobs as clearcutting old-growth forests for a few years, but the jobs as "keeper" would be a permanent, long-term solution.

Maybe in this new year we can learn to appreciate the oldest living things among us and show the trees we recognize the importance of their role in our environment.



FAVER

TREES are the oldest living things in our environment, giving us beauty, shelter, oxygen, fuel, and many other of our needs.

**Resolutions Varied, Hopeful For 1992**

BY DORI C. GURGANUS

The fruitcake and pumpkin pies have barely been forgotten, and it's already time to think about—and in some cases, forget—New Year's resolutions.

The *Beacon* asked a selection of area residents their personal hopes and resolutions for 1992.

Their varied responses often had to be coaxed from the average person on the street, but most locals have positive wishes and goals for the coming year.

From business owners to school children, most people's New Year's resolutions called for personal improvement as well as the ability to do some good for the community.

Kelly Jones, 14, of Shallotte is a freshman at West Brunswick High School, and resolves to make an "A" in her ELP (economic, legal and political systems) class.

In the coming year, she will also "spend more money" while making efforts not to send her parents to the poor house, she said.

Katy Jones, 6, a first-grader at Union Primary and Kelly's younger sister, will be trying to improve her skills this year. She vows to try to "do better at writing" and learn to play her new mermaid computer game.

Miss Jones also admits to having indulged too much in good holiday food recently, and resolves to "eat less."

Another first grade student at Waccamaw Elementary, Christopher Gore, 6, of Ash said he intends to learn to play his Nintendo Ninja Turtles game, as well as to "study harder" and improve his grades in math class.

Two postal clerks at the Shallotte post office made resolutions for themselves and their families.

Richard Laverdure of Wilmington said he will work on "becoming healthier" and "try to spend more time with my family."

Kathleen Heath of Shallotte resolves to stop chewing her fingernails and hopes that the Fayetteville

post office will go ahead and transfer her husband to Shallotte so she can see him more often.

David Clegg of Leland makes an all-encompassing wish for his own abilities to serve as Brunswick's county attorney and county manager.

His resolution, he says, is the same one he vows everyday:

"To do the best possible job for the people of Brunswick County that I can."

On another positive note, Frances Sweatt, circulation assistant for *The Beacon*, hopes "that everybody will stay well and happy and that there's peace in the world."

Mrs. Sweatt also she would get to take a long-awaited vacation to Hawaii in March. "I'm very excited about that," she said.

Joe Stanley, photographer and co-owner of a car repair/towing service in Shallotte, resolves that "I'm going to try to do a little better at everything I do."

Only one person responded in terms of their faith. Jane McManus, a teller at United Carolina Bank in Shallotte, says she

resolves "to be a better Christian" in 1992.

Of course, some Brunswick County residents don't feel the need to follow the old tradition of making a New Year's resolution.

"I gave up on them years ago," said Don Eggert, a county planner, "because I never ended up keeping them."

Making resolutions "just doesn't pay," says Doris Hewett, a service clerk at Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation. "People always end up forgetting them, and never doing what they said they would."

Of course, some people had to be reminded of the time-honored custom, like Cathy Hamilton, a deputy county sheriff.

"I haven't thought of one yet!" she answered. But eventually she replied, "Of course, I plan to exercise."

Well, don't we all?



CLEGG



EGGERT



JONES



JONES



GORE



STANLEY

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