

Conspicuous By Their Absence

(Continued From Preceding Page) sponsored, taxpayer-supported emergency ambulance service.

We are fortunate that since 1982 a number of dedicated volunteer medical technicians, dispatchers and managers have served our emergency medical needs. But they cannot finance the operation of three ambulances, a garage and all the equip-

ment necessary. They must rely on the residents and the business community.

I would only hope that those who chose not to donate will never need the service of the Calabash EMS, but if they do the response will be quick and professional.

Jack T. Brady
Carolina Shores

Don't Punish West Students

To the editor:

West Brunswick High students who left school to go to the Welcome Center dedication Friday should not be punished for what they did. They were exercising their freedom of speech.

I have children going to WBHS and a lot of people will probably say, why don't they ride the bus? What if one of those buses got rammed? A lot more than one or two could be killed then.

I'm sure most parents of students

at WBHS at one time or another have stood up for what they thought was right. That's just what these kids have done.

I praise them for it and it seems more adults should also say well done. If my two had participated and were punished there would be a few go-rounds.

The Welcome Center is nothing but a showplace. A home for unwanted or teenage pregnant girls would have served a better purpose.

Linda Anderson
Shallotte



SANDPIPERS seem to be "in tune" with their surroundings.

PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

Homes For Sandpipers

BY BILL FAVER

It is always interesting to me how the sandpipers seem to be forever at the water's edge. There are few days when some are not present feeding on the sea-offerings and amusing us with their swiftness and diligence where the land meets the sea.



FAVER

Sandpipers are more abundant in the spring and fall when the migrating species pause in their journeys to feed with us. Summer also gives us many sanderlings and semi-palmated sandpipers to move in and out with the waves. Only at high tide do they rest a while, sometimes tucking head under wing, but with a wary eye open for predators.

In his poem, *Sandpipers*, Carl Sandburg, wrote:

Ten miles of flat land along the sea.

Sandland where salt water kills the sweet potatoes.

Homes for sandpipers—

the script of their feet is on the sea shingles—

they write in the morning, it is gone at noon—

they write at noon, it is gone at night.

Pity the land, the sea, the ten mile flats,

pity anything but the sandpiper's wire legs and feet.

Sometimes we can see their writings on the sand, quickly to be erased by an incoming wave. Their movements are tied to the rhythm and movements of the waves. They are somehow in tune with their environment; they know their well-being and their survival depend upon their being "in tune." We watch their "wire legs and feet" and know that the only pity is for those of us who miss their understandings and their relationships and interdependencies with the natural environment.

Rep. Rose's Mobile Office Coming Here

Seventh District Congressman Charlie Rose's mobile office is coming to Shallotte next week.

A representative will be available at the Shallotte Post Office from 9 a. m. until noon, Wednesday, Feb. 26.

Anyone who has a problem with a federal agency or wants to get a message to Rep. Rose about federal legislation may stop by, a news release indicated. Rose can also be contacted by writing him at 2230 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

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Disabled Veterans Deserve Help

To the editor:

What is more shameful than disabled American veterans having to beg for assistance in any way? They answered the call to duty and took the consequences.

It is our duty and the duty of our constitutional republic to care for these unselfish, suffering victims of war.

If we can beat the drums, wave the flag and tie yellow ribbons on our fence posts today, how is it that

we can forget later on those whom we cheered for when they answered the call to duty?

Help those who find it difficult to help themselves and remember, "only for the grace of God it is not me or one of mine."

Thank God, four of mine came home for service overseas, two in Vietnam.

Earl L. Markland
Calabash

Put Seat Belts In School Buses

To the editor:

I feel the government should not have the right to make it mandatory for me to use a seat belt or to buckle down my grandchild or any child in my vehicle.

But the state says it's okay to put children of all ages (four and up) on school buses (the state's vehicles) where the driver isn't buckled up or, to make matters worse, the children aren't supplied with seat belts even if they wanted to buckle up.

I have followed school buses and observed the children standing, moving from seat to seat, and even "mooning" the driver behind the bus.

The state is pushing buckle up. Why don't they practice what they preach?

Why don't they use the money from tickets for not using seat belts to install seat belts on school buses?

Joanne Grice
Tabor City

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