

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We're Not Giving Up Fight For Life

To the editor:

I really appreciate the support the public has given us, the handful of West Brunswick High School students who demonstrated Feb. 14 concerning the overpass which we, the public, are asking for.

Yes, we made the newspapers and, yes, we made the news, but we still haven't received what we want, which is a verification that we will receive an overpass. So we would like to announce that we will not stop pressuring the officials that are able to help this matter until we get some answers.

I would like to challenge the citizens of this community and state to support us in any way that you can. Yes, some of you say that we're only kids, but think about it, we're people too, and we would like your support. And if you don't want your

children or relatives, or just a human life, lost because of the lack of support, tell someone. And let it be known that you are behind and willing to support the youth in your community.

Just out of lack of knowledge, I have a few questions I would like to ask the officials who are capable of doing something about our problem:

How many lives have to be lost before we receive an overpass?

Does someone close to your heart travel through this intersection at any time? And if so, what would you do if they received bodily harm from the malfunction of this intersection?

Does money take the place of life? And if so how much? Less than the cost of an overpass?

And of course, let's listen to Mr.

Harrelson (Secretary, State Department of Transportation) and let him put the blame on someone besides the state—the truck drivers. And yes, let's consider the truck drivers are the ones who are frustrated. Does Mr. Harrelson really think that this excuse he gave us is really going to satisfy our questions? I don't think so.

He said, "This is going to be a speed trap for unsafe drivers." Yes, you'll stop them when they go through the red light at the intersection of Hwy. 17 and 130, but what if they never make it through the intersection?

And finally, we're not giving up until we win our fight for life.

Jason Doshier,
Rt. 3, Supply
Senior
West Brunswick High

People Power Is At Election Polls

To the editor:

I called Allen Norwood of *The Charlotte Observer*, along with many other concerned citizens, requesting a copy of a petition that Billy J. Anderson is circulating.

Leonard Helton has become a "shining example" of voter discontent this election year. Why? Because Leonard Helton, the N.C. textile worker who was invited to testify before a congressional committee, was stood up when he got there!

Leonard Helton borrowed money from his mother for the nine-hour train ride to Washington, D.C. He spent five weeks writing his speech to the House Ways and Means Committee. Only one of the 36 members stuck around to hear it.

Billy Anderson of Stanley, a retired Air Force sergeant, has never met Leonard Helton. He read about Leonard's plight in *The Charlotte Observer*, and launched a petition

drive on Leonard's behalf:

We the undersigned feel that the rude behavior of the House Ways and Means Committee towards Leonard Helton was a clear indication of their lack of concern for the opinions of a taxpaying community. By inviting Mr. Helton to speak to the committee concerning the problems faced by 'the working man' in the present economic situation, then refusing to listen to him told all of us who work day in and day out just to survive, that we are no concern to them. We believe that Leonard Helton (as well as all taxpayers) deserve a public prime time apology from the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee and an improved attitude towards those of us who pay the taxes that fund their salaries.

"People are mad as I am over this thing," said Anderson, 70. "You want my opinion of those Washington guys? They're so damned

crooked they've got to screw their socks on!"

"It's unreal up there," Helton says. "They've got a maze of underground halls that they can go through without ever having to look at you."

People power is at the election polls. The deadline for the May 5 N.C. Primary is April 6. North Carolina's citizens can register to vote at Brunswick County's Government Center, or at the N.C. Dept. of Motor Vehicles offices (but only when you have other DMV business). In Brunswick County you can register to vote at the county's library branches.

Bob L. Johnson
Rt. 2 Ocean Isle

Paper Is Ray Of Sunshine

To the editor:

After reading Mrs. Neil D. Phipps' letter to the editor in the Feb. 13 *Beacon*, I actually stood amazed. This woman cancelled her *Beacon* subscription because her newspaper was arriving late.

It appears to me that she needs to check with the U.S. Postal Service. Yes, I know it's hard to believe, but sometimes the U.S. Postal Service can make a mistake. We tend to forget in our quest for prompt mail delivery that humans are fallible.

I now live in Ohio and receive the *Beacon* because my mother thought a subscription would be a nice Christmas present. Is it ever! It's like getting a letter from home. Our *Beacon* usually arrives four to seven days after it's published. (This also depends on how benevolent our mail carrier is feeling that week.)

Anyw...y, it definitely is a ray of sunshine in the cloudy, cold winter we've been experiencing.

My husband keeps hoping, now that I get the *Beacon*, the urge to call my mom so often will lessen. (He believes if we're going to give AT&T that much money there should be stock certificates involved.)

I still experience homesickness and my weekly dose of the *Beacon* helps ease that dreaded illness. I'm beginning to feel that my week is incomplete if I don't get to read Doris Cosgrove Gurganus' column.

Well, Mrs. Phipps, I guess you won't get to read this letter. What a pity that you not only closed your window to the world of Brunswick County, but you pulled down the shade, too.

As for me, keep those *Beacons* coming. Oh, and Mom—I love you and I'll call real soon. We can talk about what's happening down there.

Jennifer (Wood) Gartin
Galloway, Ohio

Noise Ordinance Needed

To the editor:

I wish to thank Terry Pope for his informative article (*Beacon*, Feb. 20) regarding the proposed county noise ordinance. Without his excellent reporting I would not be aware of the thinking of some of the members of the board of commissioners.

Without a noise ordinance the majority of the citizens of Brunswick County must continue to be hostage to the minority who do advocate large numbers of barking dogs, excessive use of chain saws, cars without mufflers and other noise nuisances as stated in the ordinance.

nance.

I made my views clear in a letter to Kelly Holden, chairman of the board. In this letter I cite the "barking dogs" problem I have encountered since moving to the village of Shallotte Point.

I sincerely hope that the board realizes the necessity of putting such an ordinance on the books to act as both a deterrent and as a legal means to bring about lawful solutions to noise related problems.

Betty Benfield
Rt. 6, Shallotte

Republicans Have Voting Edge

To the editor:

I've just had a long conversation with a very good friend who is active in the Democratic Party here in Brunswick County. I'm pretty sure that most people know that I'm an active Republican.

I have just learned why we Republicans have a voting edge in Brunswick County. The Democrats close their meetings against discussion of issues because they only permit elected district officers to enter into discussions about procedures to get people elected, while we Republicans welcome any points of view. We want to use the brainpower of

any of our members interested enough to come to our district meetings.

So, looks like we'll continue to get our people elected. Not being interested in member ideas will turn people off and, I expect, their votes, too.

Teddi Neal
Bolivia

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PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

MAN'S ACTION as determiner can alter the habitat of our fellow creatures on Earth or can preserve wild places they need for survival.

Man As The Determiner

BY BILL FAVER

The plains Indians of the midwest developed a unique relationship with nature over thousands of years. Their approach was to try to live in harmony with the seasons and cycles as did the rest of creation. Their success was based on a reverence for all of life and an understanding of the roles played by other forces and creatures sharing the environment with them.

They even seemed to understand that man is the determiner. Of all the earth's inhabitants, man (and woman, of course) appears to be the only creature who can readily determine how he will relate. Most other creatures act out of instinct or in search of food and shelter or the opportunity to mate. Very little of their activity seems based on real reasoning and evaluation of the effect of their behavior on other creatures and the environment. They are born, eat and try to escape predators, mate, and die, usually in a location they did not choose.

Their travels only take them in search of food and water and a place suitable for nesting. They have nothing to do with the "clothes" they wear, for their feathers or their fur is predetermined for them.

Not so with man. Man is the determiner. Not only can man determine his own desires and welfare, but he can determine the welfare and future of other creatures, their immediate environment, and the future of the planet. This freedom given to man also brings with it a great deal of responsibility. Man's ability to determine places him in a role as steward—as keeper of the creation.

Most of our actions have an effect on other creatures. Whether we cut down a tree or a forest, pollute a stream or an ocean, bomb a village or a continent, we destroy or alter the environment for everyone and everything. Each time another bird or animal or plant goes on the endangered list, man comes closer to putting himself on the list. The future appears bright only if man can view his role as determiner with a long range focus of enhancing the quality of life and living for all creatures of the Earth no matter how small and insignificant they may seem at the time.



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