

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Burdens Of A Small Business Owner

To the editor:  
The N.C. Small Business Administration names Brunswick County number one as a work surplus county. The N.C. government has beautification projects to help draw business to the area. This means that our representatives and commissioners want to create jobs for the county.

So maybe someone could explain to me why they stick it to the small businesses? I've spent the last three years building a business. When I say build, I mean I built it from the ground up. I work all of the hours myself.

Last year when the state put a heavy tax on beer and wine, I didn't complain. This year when it came time to renew my license, I find that the state raised them from \$20 each annually to \$100 each annually with no advance notification and 30 days to pay a bill that has not just doubled but more than quadrupled! This is in addition to a federal, county and a privilege license that also must be paid annually.

To a Food Lion, this is nothing. To a small business it is another nail in the coffin. Why would the same people who are trying to create busi-

ness in the area vote to pass a bill that hurts the small businesses? Where does all the money generated in this manner go? Perhaps it goes to unemployment, welfare or food stamps which, by the way, I would not be eligible for if I were to go out of business because I am a business owner.

If other businesses feel this way I urge you to contact your commissioner, Kelly Holden, or out of state representative, David Redwine.  
Robert W. McMahon  
Rt. 1, Ash

# Sympathy Is Expressed For Island And Owner

To the editor:  
As long time visitors and enthusiasts of Sunset Beach, we have been following your articles and editorial on the bridge problem and Bird Island with interest.

We are nature lovers and enjoy the nesting birds, pelicans and all the sea birds that live on the island. It would be a pity to develop Bird Island and lose these nesting grounds. But on the other hand, we sympathize with the owner very much. This is a problem we hope

can be resolved by the purchase of the land by Nature Conservatory, the state or some other group.

However, we firmly believe that the owner has rights too! It somehow does not seem right for outsiders to be able to tell her what she can or cannot do with and on her own property. This would surely be an infringement on property rights. We do not think this is the way to go about restrictions in this country.

It would be the same thing as if the town of Sunset Beach could tell

a property owner not to build a dock on the bay or canal, tie up a pleasure boat to the dock, or even erect a basketball backboard on their own property for their children to enjoy—or even build a bridge that the majority does not favor.

We sincerely hope the town council does nothing precipitous to infringe upon the rights of any property owner, and especially, that the matter can be settled amicably.

George J. Featherstone  
Bluefield, West Virginia

# Urges Others To Stand Up For Bird Island

To the editor:  
A few weeks ago I brought a special friend to Sunset Beach for her first time. I have been coming to Sunset for over 30 years and each time is unique and very special.

When we were there, we walked over across the western inlet to Bird

Island. It was so special and as pristine as always. When we walked back to Sunset, we were approached by some very concerned individuals who did not want the island to be subjected to commercial development. We both signed a petition to preserve this special place.

I would like this letter to add a special emphasis to my strong convictions that more people need to dig in their heels and prevent the destructive development of this valuable natural resource.

Tom Kip  
Elgin, S.C.

# Introduction to Island—'An Unforgettable One'

To the editor:  
Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of being introduced to a beautiful island on your coast.

I found Bird Island's beauty untouched by commercialism. I will always need a last resort for nourishing my physical, emotional and environmental appreciation.

What a refreshing island! What a

beauty in her small surface! What balance between God, mankind and nature!

I need to be able to visit "kindred spirit" and record my thoughts through the years. It's a natural way to be able to leave personal history behind and know that those who follow will have the same opportunity to record thoughts while viewing the

same beauty.  
I am strongly recommending that the commercial development of Bird Island not be allowed.

Jann Turbeville  
Columbia, S.C.

# Deputy's Widow Sues County

The widow of former Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Jimmy R. Bryant, who died in 1989, has filed a Superior Court lawsuit against Brunswick County.

Peggy G. Bryant of Route 3, Supply, claims Brunswick County officials misled her husband about retirement programs he could participate in as an employee.

As a result, his beneficiaries were deprived of payments upon his death, the complaint states.

Bryant was employed by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department as a jailer from Feb. 1, 1976, to May 20, 1977, and then became a sworn law enforcement officer.

As a deputy, he became eligible to enroll in the Law Enforcement Officer's Retirement System, with benefits that included a percentage of statewide court costs receipts and a supplemental retirement annuity fund.

However, from the date of his employment Bryant was coded as a general employee for retirement purposes. He died Jan. 14, 1989.

The lawsuit claims the county personnel and sheriff's departments "intentionally misrepresented" to Bryant

that there were no differences in the two retirement systems available to state employees. The complaint doesn't outline what the difference was in terms of available benefits.

It states the difference "was significant" in that Bryant would have obtained a share of court costs and annuity funds set up by employers for law officers. It was the employer's duty to inform Bryant whether annuity funds were available, the suit claims.

Bryant was not coded as a law enforcement officer with the State Retirement System until August 1988, it states. His retirement fund did receive a share of statewide court cost receipts from August 1988 to his death in 1989, but no annuity funds were contributed to his retirement, it states.

Failure to contribute annuity funds constituted a breach of Bryant's employment contract and caused damage to his beneficiaries, it claims.

The lawsuit filed by Raleigh attorney Theresa Marlowe asks for the correct amount of retirement benefits, a trial by jury and other relief the court rules equitable and just.



SOME BUTTERFLIES have spots near the trailing edge of the wings so birds pecking them there will do little harm.

# Evading Predators Is Interesting Subject

BY BILL FAVER  
We all know something about the food chain and survival of the fittest. We know that predation takes place in the natural environment and know that we are a part of that as well. We are a carnivore, we eat meat, and that is predation.

Many animals in the wild have evolved special features to help them evade predators. Some camouflaged animals, like quail and woodcock, stay very still until the last possible moment, and then burst forth with such noise and confusion the predator is almost stunned, giving the birds time to escape.

Many insects use the "look-like" approach, evolving features that resemble another insect undesirable to the predator. Some flies look almost like a yellow jacket. Some moths and butterflies look very much like others which are distasteful to the predator. Another example is the monarch butterfly. It is large and conspicuous and even gathers in large clusters. It would seem to be an easy prey for birds but does not suffer from heavy predation. Some monarchs have a chemical defense and some birds find them bad tast-

ing. Others do eat them, only to "get sick" and vomit a few minutes later. Experiments have shown birds can remember the experience and avoid eating monarchs in the future.

Other insects remain motionless on a tree trunk or twig and are passed over by a predator. Some even look like the twig itself. All are colored so that as long as they are motionless the predator can't tell them from the background. Some animals "play dead," knowing the predator will overlook them if they are "not alive."

Some moths and butterflies are brightly colored and very evident to predators. They usually have large spots and can flash them at the predator to startle them and remind them of cat or owl eyes. This few seconds gives them time to escape. Also, butterflies and moths are most vulnerable on their heads and thorax. These spots sometimes so resemble eyes, the predator bird will peck at the spots and do little harm to the insect.

Escaping predators is an interesting subject for us, but it is absolutely essential for survival of many animals. We can understand the complexities of their lives by learning about this relationship between predator and prey.



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