

**MORE LETTERS**

# County Board Chairman Says Criticism Factless, Unjust, Petty

To the editor:  
This is in response to the letter of Mr. "David Beecher" of Shallotte which appeared in the April 14 *Beacon*. I would have liked to have spoken to the gentleman personally, but having checked tax listings, public utilities and voter registration, was unable to determine whether he in fact exists.

First, (John) Harvey was not dismissed or forced to retire from his position by (Wyman) Yelton. On the contrary, Mr. Harvey has been a dedicated, loyal county employee for many years, and his record is spotless. My personal regard for and confidence in him are so high that he was chosen to be interim county manager after (David) Clegg's resignation.

Although under the law, I am restricted in divulging most information concerning a county employee, I can say that Mr. Harvey is scheduled to return to work full time, at regular salary, on Tuesday, April 19, 1994, pursuant to a mutually satisfactory employment arrangement that took into account his and the county's needs. This arrangement was negotiated following Mr. Harvey's wife's death, when Mr. Harvey no longer needed a leave of absence.

His desire for a leave of absence was, of course, understandable and appropriate, and he was accommodated. It did, however, leave a gap in county government that was unexpected and needed to be filled by someone as competent as Mr. Harvey. Wade Horne fit that description. He did not actively seek the position and certainly had no part in Mr. Harvey's decision to seek a leave of absence. Mr. "Beecher's" criticism of Mr. Horne is both unfair and incorrect.

Concerning what Mr. Clegg might have done, please be advised that it was Mr. Clegg's action which resulted in the lawsuit by Billy Ingram with the county having to pay a substantial sum of money.

I would like to finish by saying that I speak with Mr. Yelton by phone almost daily for the short lengths of time his very poor condition permits. At times his breathing is so labored he must stop. He is in constant, chronic pain.

He also is a dedicated, loyal county employee who acted in what he perceived to be the correct way—a way that sought to accommodate the wishes of Mr. Harvey for a leave of absence to be with his dying wife and the needs of the county for a competent planning director. Mr. "Beecher's" criticism of him—obviously without fact and motivated by some personal interest—while he is down, is pathetic and petty.

The continuing challenges of being a public servant are always difficult, especially making decisions on many-sided issues. One of those most important challenges is to see that the truth is told. Responding to "Mr. David Beecher's" factless, incorrect, totally unjust and false attack on Mr. Horne and Mr. Yelton, (is) a charge

that I take seriously as a commissioner, to set the record straight.

Don Warren, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners  
**A Message From Yelton**

To the editor:  
I have requested that my daughter, Stephanie Yelton, prepare a statement for me to my many friends and supporters.

While returning from western North Carolina on Sunday, April 3, my wife Kay and I were involved in an automobile accident which unfortunately resulted in the death of my wife and the other driver. I have received very severe injuries to my arms, shoulder, legs, knees, neck and ribs and was air-lifted to Duke Medical Center and remained in the intensive care unit until April 10.

Thanks to many prayers and excellent medical treatment provided to me by Duke Medical Center, my condition has improved and I am now off the critical list.

No one will know how many your prayers, cards, calls and visits have meant to my family and me.

As you might expect, it is difficult for the doctors to let me know when I will be released from Duke Medical Center or when my subsequent rehabilitation will permit me to return to Brunswick County as county manager. My doctors have assured me that I will be able to return to work, and with God's help and your continued prayers, this will occur within the next few months.

I am looking forward to continuing my warm association with the citizens of Brunswick County and working with the many fine Brunswick County employees. Again, please accept my thanks for the many cards of sympathy, expressions of concern, and especially your prayers.

W. Wyman Yelton  
Brunswick County Manager

**Column On Target**

To the editor:  
Many thanks for Susan Usher's excellent column, "Time to Strike a Balance" in *The Brunswick Beacon*.

It hits the nail on the head, and has been distributed to all members of the Coastal Futures Commission.

We hope you will continue to follow the progress of our committee.

Richardson Preyer  
Greensboro  
EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Preyer is chairman of the N.C. Coastal Futures Commission.

**SBTA Position Defended**

To the editor:  
This is in response to Carl Bazemore's letter to the editor on April 14, 1994.

As a board member of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, the organization representing the majority of the taxpayers of Sunset Beach, let me state that our interest—our only interest—is in what is best for the area's environment, coastal waters and the community as a whole.

The evidence on coastal water pollution is in. After years of scientific research and study, stormwater runoff (also known as nonpoint source pollution, often originating miles inland from the coast) has been found to be the major cause of coastal water pollution.

In 1990, with this evidence in hand, the federal government enacted the Coastal Nonpoint Program. Under this program the coastal states have until July 1995 to develop an effective and enforceable runoff control program. North Carolina is currently in the process of developing the required program.

If we push through an environmentally damaging sewer system without a stormwater management program before the new regulations are in place, we will not be excused from compliance. We will be required to take the necessary and potentially costly steps to achieve and protect water quality standards.

Stormwater runoff control is relatively cheap if done before development occurs. It is accomplished primarily through zoning controls, natural vegetation areas and buffer zones. It is much more expensive and not nearly as effective if approached through costly engineered solutions after development has occurred.

Right now most of the undeveloped land in Sunset Beach is zoned multifamily and commercial. Such zoning permits high-density development. Is this kind of development compatible with achieving and maintaining coastal water standards we will have to meet? We don't know, and neither does the town council.

An environmental impact statement, required by the N.C. Division of Environmental Management for projects with potential environmental impact, would provide the information we need to carefully evaluate the impact of development and identify the steps to take to avoid the negative impacts of development. The town council should take the lead in obtaining an environmental impact statement to ensure the \$35,000,000 they propose to spend on a sewer system will, in fact, achieve and not defeat our expressed purpose of cleaning up our coastal waters.

At the April 2, SBTA meeting, Mr. Bazemore had his say, at length. He argued for proceeding as rapidly as possible to put in a sewer system and looking at the issue of stormwater management later. Most members disagreed and voted overwhelmingly to support Dr. Barry Lenz's motion to "explore taking legal action to enjoin the town from participating in a sewer system that does not include a stormwater management system." Please, let's do it right the first time instead of trying to fix it later.

What we Sunset Beach property owners want is simple: a livable environment for the present and the future.

Minnie K. Hunt  
Sunset Beach

**Who Is Represented?**

To the editor:  
On April 12, the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Com-

missioners voted 3-2 to keep the planning board at three members here on the island. Six people in attendance spoke in favor of enlarging the board to five. None spoke up to keep it at three.

Who are the commissioners representing?  
E. Dale Powell  
Ocean Isle Beach

**Seeking A Response**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter was directed to the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Commissioners. A copy was furnished for use a letter to the editor:

Dear Commissioners:  
Why is this public hearing held at 8:30 a.m. on a Tuesday morning?

It seems to me that any town meeting or hearing would be more effective if it were held when the taxpayers, i.e., the electorate, could attend—say Tuesday evening at 8 p.m.

Where does the tax base begin and end?  
I don't believe that any elected official or any official should live outside the tax base borders.

I would also like to propose that three members of the planning board come from residents who are not involved, directly or indirectly, with the development of Ocean Isle.

Your response to these questions and points is appreciated.

Nick and Diane Nolan  
Ocean Isle Beach

**Tribute To Wally Ausley**

To the editor:  
(This is) a tribute to a real "Southern gentleman." Throughout the past few days, I've thought so much about you, dear friend Wally, and felt a compelling need to thank you for so many, many memories.

—For the many times we chanced upon each other on our beautiful beach and your interest in all of its glory;

—Your glee in seeing a baby pelican stray from the "V" to get a better view of below;

—Your continual show of genuine concern for our marine life and your dedication to its survival;

—Your shout of delight at seeing the first baby loggerhead poking through the sand at your nest;

—Your amazement at the fast-footed beach birds who always beat the tide and never get dunked;

—Your appreciation and knowledge of the beautiful shells that line our shore;

—Your genuine show of thankfulness when I painted and gave you the picture of the pelicans you wanted so much;

—Your ability to get adversaries to work together for the sake of accomplishment;

—Your ability to instill a sense of security in our community with just your presence at the helm.

Thank you, dear friend, for these and so many more memories. Now walk with God in peace through the heavens and bestow on those there as you have here, the power of your musical voice, the delight of your boyish grin, and the great sense of security your presence gives to all as the true Southern gentleman.

Judy Bryan  
Holden Beach

**GUEST COLUMN**

## Southerners Are Real Victims In Washington's War On Tobacco

BY J. STEPHEN WRAY

We have marked the passing of tobacco's financial peak, in all probability—the last year of billion-dollar-production each for North Carolina and Kentucky. A 10-percent quota cut is now official, and future cuts are certainly anticipated.

This product used by ancient chiefs in peace ceremonies is now at war, fighting for its survival, at least in the U.S. Its fate is probably as doomed by the great fathers in Washington as was the fate of those 17th- and 18th-century chiefs who puffed the aromatic leaves for peace.

It is under attack (now, for about 25 years) officially fired upon first by the surgeon general with warning labels, then harsher warning labels that until recently were not required on alcohol products. Next, cigarette ads were banned from TV, but not beer ads.

The tobacco industry has been attacked by all the major networks in documentaries against their product, but not against alcoholic drinks. As tobacco is banned from TV, the networks have nothing to lose. While beer continues to bring in the big bucks for TV, adverse media publicity against tobacco is almost a daily routine.

Now there is an adamant "Coalition Against Tobacco" determined to deliver tobacco users from their right to choose the product. The coalition wants the Clinton Administration to push for a \$2 per pack tax (\$20 per carton!). This would severely punish poor smokers and the economies of Kentucky and the Carolinas. Maybe merchants should move now!

Tobacco is now cited as a proposed source of major financing, via more taxes, for the nation's number-one priority, the national health care plan. It is ironic that the government chooses a source that it is simultaneously trying to eradicate. Is that hypocrisy, stupidity or what?

Why is Uncle Sam determined to put North Carolina and Kentucky into a great depression instead of requiring all 50 states to share the financial burden of the health care plan?

Tobacco must be Washington's favorite whipping boy. Its use must be the worst pursuit in the U.S. Its least-favored status is evidenced by the government's good-riddance program as more efforts go into fighting tobacco than any other product, with the possible exception of illegal drugs. It must be worse than TV violence, pornographic literature, salt, sugar, fat, nitrates, sodium, preservatives, caffeine, carbonated drinks, alcoholic drinks, X-rated videos, peep shows, strip joints,

bungee jumping and marijuana (if you don't inhale). Yet this product is used by choice.

You merchants are going to miss its power to produce money. You tax-gobblers in government are going to miss its multiplied revenues. But the victims of this war, by far, will be millions of Southerners.

The Carolinas, prior to 1994, have enjoyed an annual billion-dollar-plus economic boost immediately upon the sale of the raw product. Kentucky has been getting its billion. Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and the Virginias have been annually reaping hundreds of millions from the sale of tobacco. Now add to that the revenues, including taxes, received from the finished product, and those figures will form an economic mountain towering far above the raw product's revenue.

This government-cursed product employs hundreds of thousands. It provides for the sale of automobiles, trucks and tractors by the tens of thousands. It pays for the construction of houses, packing barns, curing barns, storage facilities, warehouses, factories, etc. It necessitates the repeat purchase of auto/truck and tractor parts, farm implements, tires, batteries, agri-chemicals, fertilizers, etc.

Its trade revenues help offset the huge, staggering U.S. trade deficits. Its tax revenues, pound for pound, out-perform product, poultry, eggs, meat and milk.

Many well-meaning advisors have suggested that farmers simply diversify to replace the revenue losses from tobacco sales. What should they grow—\$3 billion annually worth of more radishes, peaches, peppers, cucumbers, corn, wheat, milk, eggs?

Tobacco is certain to suffer with additional taxes and unfavorable regulations from the farms to the factories. Quotas are cut for 1994. Buying companies, citing uncertainties facing tobacco's future have projected a 39-percent decrease in demand for 1994. How much will it be cut in 1995, 1996?

What will the government find to tax five or ten years from now when tobacco products are drastically reduced or banned? The government's war on tobacco is persistently driving this industry overseas, where jobs and revenues are appreciated.

Is America debt-free? Have employment levels reached a surplus? Have Southern farmers, merchants and tobacco workers become so financially secure that they can easily weather another great depression when this industry is deported?

If the government continues to try to regulate every aspect of our personal lives and our industries, regulating them out of business, sending them overseas, perpetuating unemployment, enlarging welfare rolls, how long will it be before there is a major rebellion? We are told how to sit in our cars, when and where we can clear land, dig a ditch, building on land we pay taxes on. Now we are told where we can and cannot smoke. Apparently, we will be told if and when and what we can smoke.

When the government cannot get a handle on controlling crime and illegal drugs, it continues to look for whole new areas to subdue, oppress and harass, even at its own expense. Stephen Wray is a tobacco auctioneer who works the North Carolina and Kentucky markets. He lives in Shallotte.

**SOUTHPORT-OAK ISLAND FRIENDS OF SENATOR R.C. SOLES, JR.**

Cordially Invite You To Attend A

**Free Barbecue Dinner**

"Meet the Candidates"  
**Friday, April 22  
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Oak Island Moose Lodge  
Lang Beach Road, Southport, NC

Paid for by Linda Packer Phillips

# The House On The Left Cost \$111,663 More Than The House On The Right.

(Hint: It's not the wallpaper.)



[Exhibit A]



[Exhibit B]

In fact, these houses are remarkably similar, except for one important detail. The house on the right was refinanced with a 15-year Mortgage from NationsBank. When you refinance with a NationsBank 15-year Mortgage, you could save tens of thousands of dollars in interest while building equity faster than ever before. And, right now, NationsBank is offering low rates and low closing costs. So call or drop by a NationsBank banking center today for more information on our 15-year Mortgage or any other type of mortgage from NationsBank. And maybe you can save thousands of dollars on your house, too.

The NationsBank 15-YEAR REFINANCE MORTGAGE		
	30-Year Mortgage	15-Year Mortgage
Loan Amount	\$95,000	\$95,000
Monthly Payment	\$789.89	\$959.42
Annual Percentage Rate	9.37%	8.93%
Equity After 10 Years	\$9,585	\$49,184
Total Interest (Paid over life of loan)	\$189,357	\$77,694

Chart for example only. Rates may vary. Annual percentage rates available as of 4/19/94 for up to 90% financing. 30-year mortgage computations based on 360 monthly payments. 15-year mortgage computations based on 180 monthly payments.

**NationsBank**