

Posted on Sun, Nov. 27, 2005

Forum: Letters to the Editor

Developers pass along costs -- as they should

In response to "Impact fees will be passed to homebuyers" (Nov. 21 Forum): Timothy Jones seems to think less affluent home-buyers should be subsidized not just by other homebuyers but by *everybody* else.

Impact fees are a direct charge to those consumers causing an increase in the cost of society's spending for infrastructure, irrespective of their income.

Of course the developer passes on the cost. Every business needs to make a profit, and if costs go up, those costs are passed on to the final consumer. In *every* case.

Mark Selleck

Mineral Springs

Mortgage takes sting out of impact fees

It's true that impact fees are added to the cost of the house, but they become part of the mortgage. Thus, the buyer shells out only 20 percent or less up front.

Ask most buyers if they would prefer to pay a percentage of an impact fee and have services readily available after moving in, or not to pay impact fees and pay ever-increasing property taxes, having to wait as long as 20 years for services to catch up, if ever.

Carolyn Lawson

Huntersville

NPR is hardly big drain on our tax dollars

In response to "NPR tilts on stem cells, global warming, creation" (Nov. 22 Forum): Is Paul M. Booth aware what a tiny fraction of his tax dollars go to support National Public Radio?

He should pledge to his conservative radio station, where he can count on hearing his version of the truth.

Debra Dampier

Charlotte

Conservatives, too, share views on NPR

In response to "NPR: 'Political influence' permeates programming" (Nov. 18 Forum):

As an independent I appreciate NPR's airing the conservative intellectual views of William Kristol.

NPR has made me realize that not all conservatives are as narrow-minded and anti-intellectual as John Osmar appears to be.

Russ Le Donne

Charlotte

'Guaranteed seats'? Not in CMS system

In response to "This assignment season brings less paperwork" (Nov. 22): Ann Doss Helms characterizes CMS as emphasizing "simplicity for the thousands of kids who just want to claim their guaranteed seats in nearby schools."

The problem is, CMS doesn't guarantee those seats. Under recently changed attendance boundaries, starting next year many students will be bused to a school far from their "nearby" neighborhood school to achieve socioeconomic balancing.

Yet CMS wonders why the bonds were defeated. Here's the explanation: What good are new schools designed to relieve crowding without a guarantee neighborhood kids will get to attend them?

Scott MacLatchie

Charlotte

Closing 3rd Street will make park whole

In response to "Close 3rd Street? Hold it, city says" (Nov. 15):

Wayne Weston, county park and recreation director, said it all: "If it was appropriate [for the city] to consider closing Third Street for the arena and if it was appropriate to close it for a baseball stadium, it certainly ought to be appropriate to close it for a major park in that part of the city [Third Ward]."

Let's hope city officials will agree with county commissioners in approving a design that would close Third Street south of Graham. The resulting 8.5 acre park would be one contiguous tract, amidst tall buildings and asphalt, creating an oasis in center city.

Pepper Dowd

Charlotte

It's no mystery `How he's getting back in'

In response to "Accused driver has past charges" (Nov. 22): Although the U.S. has sent Jorge Hernandez-Soto back to Mexico 17 times, the assistant special agent in charge of North Carolina for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency says, "We have no idea how he's getting back in."

Here's how: If Hernandez-Soto is physically able, all he has to do is walk right back across our wide-open southern border.

Chris Moffatt

Charlotte

Driver, government should share blame

The tragic death of Min Chang has affected not only his family, but also the whole Korean community.

I don't know if the killer should take all the blame or share it with the government, which continues to allow such people into this nation.

If it were up to me, I'd build a fortified wall along our border with Mexico.

John Yi

Winston-Salem

N.C. farmers did fine without Mexicans

In response to "What's behind that stare?" (Nov. 17 Viewpoint): Hernan Mena should know families in this country have always raised crops without the help of Mexicans. Six years was the magic age when we were "allowed" to drop top dressing and bunch tobacco. Later we were "promoted" to planting, topping, priming, stringing and packing.

Want to talk about "12 hour shifts"? My grandfather awoke at 4:30 a.m. to hitch the mules. Tired? By 5:30 p.m., I'd say so. After dinner we cleaned up and went to bed around 8:30.

Never saw anyone drink a beer. There was too much to think about: taking care of the family, paying the taxes, saving the farm.

Who started this idea of Americans not wanting these jobs? American laborers work long and hard if they can find a job not filled by non-citizens.

Vicky Conrad

Davidson

Bush among few who tell us war's successes

In response to "The right course" (Nov. 22 editorial):

You argue that "Dwindling support for the war... is due to the president's inability to persuade the public that his policies are working."

In truth, President Bush is one of the few who tell us what we are *accomplishing* in Iraq -- a refreshing slant. Given the news media's daily focus on our casualties, how can we make logical judgments on our successes or failures in Iraq?

Paul B. Beck

Charlotte

View from Vietnam vet: We'll survive pullout

As a Vietnam veteran who was in the war zone during the fall of Saigon in 1975, I know the world won't come to an end if we pull our troops out of Iraq.

We have become a catalyst for violence. The longer we stay the more violent the civil war will become when we leave. To stay the course will only increase the deaths and injuries of our brave American soldiers.

Mark Creasser

Weddington