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Letters to the editor

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Daily News

The Naples Daily News welcomes letters of up to 250 words. We reserve the right to reject letters or edit for clarity, brevity, good taste and accuracy, and to prevent libel. No poetry, attacks on private individuals, or letter-writing campaigns, please. Writers should limit submissions to one letter every two weeks. Include a phone number and make certain you have signed your letter.



Letter of the Day — They scare me

Editor, Naples Daily News:

Last Friday night I went for a stroll on the Naples pier.

I was a little disturbed by scenes I witnessed as I reached the end.

There was a boy about 16 holding a shark and showing it off to his friends.

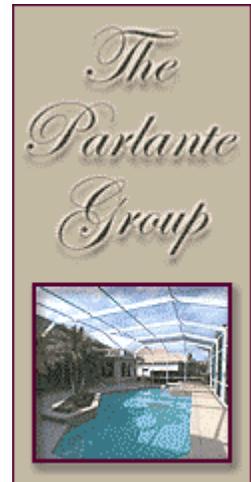
As I walked around to the other side of the pier, there were two boys, about 9 or 10, chopping up a similar shark on the deck. They threw it over the side as bait for more sharks.

While they were doing this, the other boy who had caught a shark set his on the deck under a bench. When the shark moved he said, "Stay still!" and kicked it a few times.

I do not like sharks. They scare me.

However, it is illegal to fish for them off of the pier. If you catch one by accident, I can understand showing it off to your friends and throwing it back. To leave it out of the water and to kick it is just cruel.

This wasn't the first time I have seen people catch sharks off of the pier



and I know it won't be my last.

What I would like to have done is to have a security guard of some sort just at that end to make sure that what happened on Friday does not occur as often as it does.

It was very disturbing to me to see two little boys chopping up a shark and another kicking one just for the fun of it.

Something needs to be done.

— Elizabeth Craighead/Naples

Better safe than sorry

Editor, Naples Daily News:

Re: letter writer Bill E. Branscum's question, "Why is a white, conservative Christian Republican suddenly wishing he were an ACLU attorney?"

I can't answer that question for you, Mr. Branscum, but I will express the sheriff's position on the Florida driver license sting operation and any other issue as it relates to domestic security.

On Sept. 11, 2001, our nation entered a new era. Local and state law enforcement are now on the front lines of homeland security. All crimes that breach domestic security are high priority for enforcement.

The acquisition of false driver licenses, especially those that permit the seemingly "legal" operation of commercial vehicles and the transport of hazardous materials, is of great concern.

Sheriff Don Hunter and Steve Lauer, chief of Florida's Domestic Security Initiatives, were crystal clear in their characterization of this particular operation. This case is a perfect example of law enforcement doing the right thing for the right reasons. This case is about the criminal activity of 20 people and their failure to overcome the partnerships that have been bridged in your community's law enforcement and government agencies.

Mr. Branscum, your comments defending these subjects is your right, but it is the sheriff's duty to enforce the law and close the gaps that may allow terrorist cells to operate within your community. You may believe the existence of a terrorist cell in your community is a civil right. Sheriff Don Hunter does not.

— Tina Osceola
Public Affairs supervisor, Collier County Sheriff's Office