

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial bordered on recklessness

Editor:

Your editorial, "Sewer Issue About Morality, not Money," on Aug. 24 lacks scientific facts supporting your assertions that septic tanks are leaking into the waters of Charlotte Harbor. Comparing Charlotte Harbor to Cape Cod Bay and drawing conclusions without scientific evidence borders on reckless journalism. Statements like, "fecal coliform bacteria and other nasty ingredients of wastewater have impacted both areas," without backup data is only your "opinion" and harms area homeowners.

People bought their homes in good faith with whatever septic system or sewers were present and approved for our area. It is a disservice for you to imply that homeowners with septic systems are morally responsible for polluting our waterways. The property values of area homeowners have already plummeted and it is immoral for you to further undermine the value of their property with unsubstantiated statements.

All septic tanks in our area are inspected and regulated to the standards of the Florida Department of Health. Anyone with evidence of a septic system that is improperly located or which could leak into any waterway should immediately report it to the Charlotte County Health Department.

I would hope that our local paper would represent us by advocating conservative solutions and help to dispel unfounded exaggerations. We should know more about the wastewater entering our canals through the myriad of storm drains in the area. We need to know the detailed contents of water pouring in from the Peace and Myakka rivers.

We all support a clean environment and want factual information on factors affecting our harbor. Your paper can help us with that.

William McCain
Port Charlotte