

# Thanks for being a pain in the neck

Some people are just a pain in the neck.

The editorial staff of the *Charlotte Sun Herald* would like Laurie Beth Spoon to know that she has been a real pain in the neck during the past few years.

And for that we would like to thank her.

Because of her relentless pursuit of change, more than a few eyes have been opened at this newspaper and throughout our community.

Spoon is leaving Charlotte County this week to take a job in Kansas City with the school board there.

We will miss her but feel that our community is a much better place because she lived in it for seven years.

For those who like labels, Laurie Spoon can best be described as an activist. Her involvement in our community has been political, educational and charitable.

She has worked hard for many political candidates here, worked hard to raise money for the Charlotte County United Way and worked even harder to make our local school system better and more innovative.

The past couple of years she has spearheaded the local drive to institute some form of "Choice" in our schools.

Choice in Education is a innovative method of arranging a school system where students and teachers get to choose their school, based on its specialty (arts, drama, science and so on). This system is being tried in many systems across the nation, including the Kansas City school system.

Spoon will now get a chance to work in a system she has been trying to get Charlotte County to try. It will be interesting to hear her report on its progress in the months ahead.