

*Other Voices*

**Shooting in the Dark**

Shooting in the dark is awkward, and it's dangerous.

That seems to be what the Jekyll Island Authority is doing as it goes about the task of "developing" Jekyll Island for the glory and use of Georgians.

By law, Jekyll is limited in the amount it can be developed. The Legislature put a limit of 35 percent development for the state owned coastal island.

And how much is Jekyll now developed? No one knows.

Authority director Horace Caldwell was quoted this week as not having an exact figure on how much of the island is presently develop. His guess was 20 percent.

Mr. Caldwell is somewhat limited by the Authority. Apparently the prestigious Authority has not itself decided what the Legislative intent of the word "development" is in this respect the Authority is shooting in the dark

If the Authority is unaware of the total development ratio, what other important

elements does the Authority not know about?

The question can come: Has the Authority already developed more than 35 percent of the island? Where do we stand today?

How else can the Authority protect the interest of the people of Georgia if it doesn't have defined for it the "development?" It has been suggested that a dump or borrow pit, or artificial lake is not "development" in the sense that the Legislature thought. Some have even gone as far as saying that a golf source should not be counted as part of the "development."

To these, we strongly object. Anything that takes away from what nature has put on the island, to our thinking is "development."

The Jekyll Island Authority needs to reach a consensus on defining "development." Unless the Authority makes this definition someday Georgians could wake up and find every inch of the island in its natural state—covered with golf courses.

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