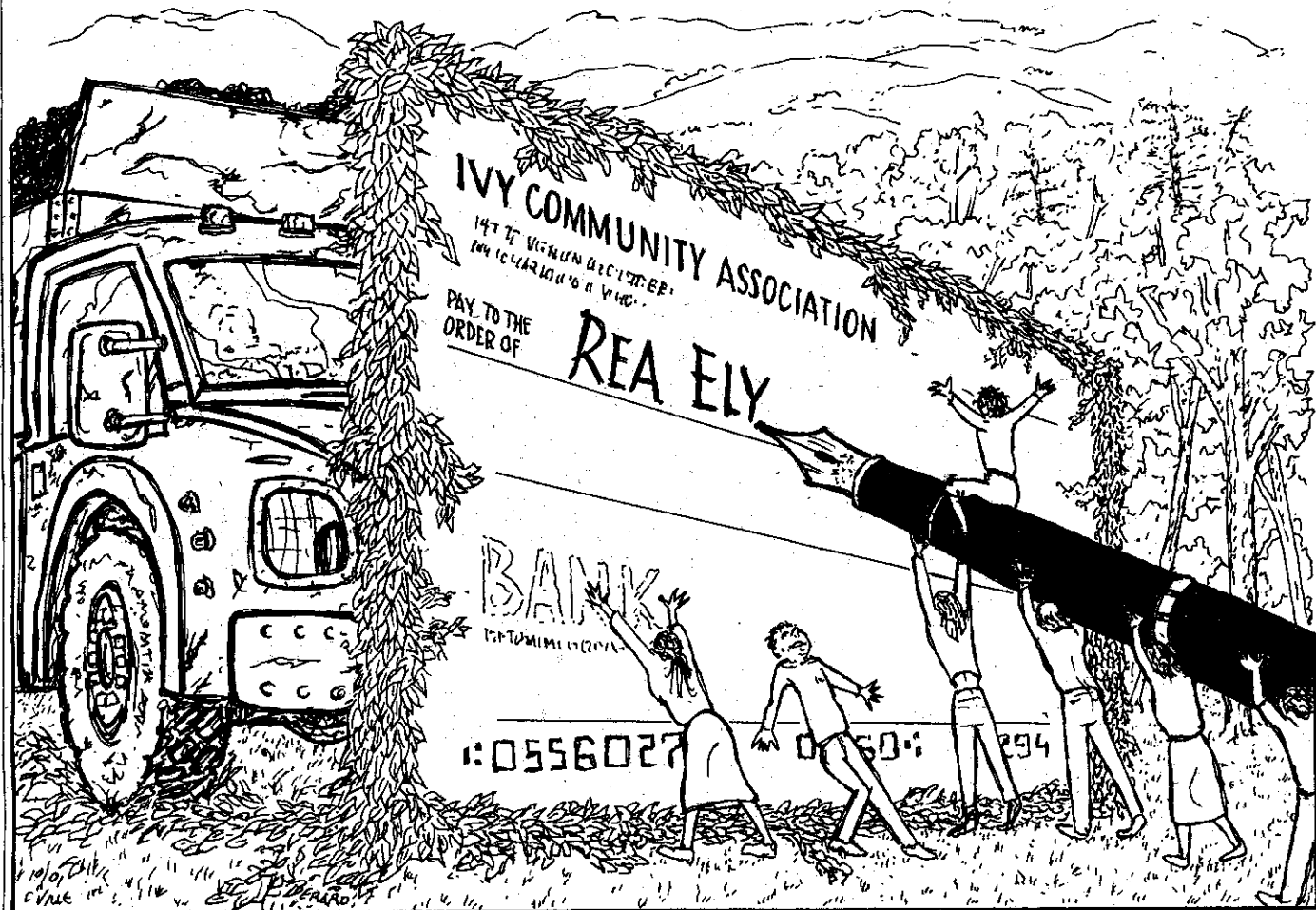


FISHBOWL

TALK OF THE TOWN

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BERARD



"Ivy is not Crozet"

A moneyed association is born

There's nothing like a common foe to bring people together.

In Ivy, the foe comes in the form of heavy machinery—specifically, Faulconer Construction Company.

Faulconer's plans to put an equipment storage yard and repair shop in the Ivy Industrial Park had already spurred neighbors to form the Morgantown Road Action Committee (MRAC). Now comes the Ivy Community Association—and checks are fluttering.

On October 3, about 40 Ivyites, including County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sally Thomas, gathered at Murray Elementary School to form a nonprofit association to more broadly represent the community's interests—and to raise money to pay an attorney to fight Faulconer's development of the company's 27-acre site.

"I'm sick of hearing the words 'by right,' as in, Faulconer can operate 'by right,'" said Brian Wheeler, who led the meeting and who publishes a newsletter called *Eyes on Ivy*.

"What about our rights to ensure the safety of our children?" asks Wheeler, whose daughter attends Murray Elementary, right down Morgantown

Road from the Faulconer site.

Tom Loach from the Crozet Community Association provided tips for dealing with development in a designated growth area.

"Ivy is not Crozet," announced the next speaker, Tom Hutchinson, who had warned that he was going to change the tone of the meeting.

"Ivy is not an industrial community," said Hutchinson. "We're not a growth community; we're a bedroom community. We're interested in peace and quiet and minimal traffic on 250."

The County, however, has determined that Faulconer's plans fit its light industrial zoning. Hutchinson recounted MRAC's September 11 appeal of that decision, which the Board of Zoning Appeals denied 3-2.

"Why didn't we have an attorney for this?" asked a blonde with a ponytail on the fourth row.

"We need \$30,000," replied Denise Hyland.

"I'll write a check for part of that," said the blonde, who slipped out of the meeting after quickly cutting a check for \$1,000.

A firebrand on the back row vowed to go door to door to raise money for an attorney. "It's life and death if you have

children here," he said.

And thus the fledgling Ivy Community Association hired attorney Rae Ely, a veteran of several high-profile land fights, including a legal battle against power plants, to battle Faulconer Construction.

Hutchinson's vivid descriptions of heavy equipment going "beep, beep, beep" and turning Route 250 into the "Faulconer industrial corridor" had affluent Ivyites scribbling checks all over the room.

At this point, Faulconer has withdrawn its original site plan and has not submitted a new one to the County. Neither Faulconer nor its lawyer returned C-VILLE's calls by presstime.

The Ivy Community Association meets again on October 24 to discuss traffic issues with VDOT and the County. And although a planned \$70,000 per member golf course at nearby Verulam farm was recently cancelled, the Association will be keeping an eye on Verulam and its many division rights to see if that, too, might merit attention.

"It takes a lot of energy to watchdog the County," said Wheeler. "We have to remind them that we have rights, too—not just developers or VDOT." —*Lisa Provence*