

Letters to the editor

Teenagers need examples

As I read of the controversy in the school system between concerned parents, and the city schools, and-or the Health Department about the teaching of sex in the schools; I wondered what the reaction of the average reader would be. Would we feel outrage, pity or concern? Would some of us feel culpability for the plight of these young people who are caught in the middle?

I am grateful to find that there are parents concerned enough to do something about the education of their young people. Concerned, not only, with their satisfaction today, but with the development of character, and their future happiness.

I can remember when parents, concerned that their children have strong, healthy bodies, taught them that they must eat their vegetables, meat and potatoes if they hoped for any dessert. I disliked okra, but I ate so many portions in anticipation of the chocolate cake, pie and ice cream, that I have grown to love it.

In like manner, children were taught that the erotic appetite must be controlled by self discipline until a person is mature enough to accept the responsibility, and the consequences of his-her actions. Responsible, not only, to themselves, but to the person with whom they choose to share a sexual relationship, and to society, as well.

At that time, schools respected the teachings of the home, and were grateful to those parents who instilled these moral concepts in their children.

While it is, well, known that all of us did not attain the ideal, we did at least, strive for it, and recognize our lack of self control as a

personal weakness, which we should try to strengthen, and in so-doing, build character and self-worth.

It is not surprising that many of our teenagers (adults as well) appease the erotic appetite as carelessly as they abuse the physical appetite. And, why not? Society has made Self-Gratification the God of The Times. To deny one's self of anything is unheard of. Self discipline is square, and guilt feelings about our actions send us flying to the nearest psychiatrist.

The nation was shocked at Watergate, and even more shocked at the cover-up, and yet, every day we teach our children, and each other, the art of cover-up

We do not give a loaded gun to an enraged individual, and advise him, politely, "Now. Here is a gun. It would be best for you to calm down and control your anger, but if you can't, and feel you must murder someone, please do it in a discreet manner. It would be terrible for you, and for society if you should get caught, and have to pay a price for indulging your feelings. However, should you get caught, do not worry. We will have a lawyer standing by to get you out of your trouble." Not yet we don't, anyway.

And yet, this is the same principle we offer the teenager. Just at the age when their sexual needs, and curiosity demand fulfillment, we say, "Now. It isn't right to have sexual relationships in a careless manner. You should learn to control these

natural urges and desires until you find someone with whom to share the responsibility of a home and family, but if you can't, and feel you must have sexual relations, please take the pill so that neither you or society will be stuck with your self-indulgence. However, if you do not take the pill, and find you are in trouble do not worry. We will get you an abortion."

It is unrealistic to say that we have no problem with teenage pregnancy. It is, even, more unrealistic to blame the teenager. Living in a culture which offers pregnancy pills, and post-pregnancy abortion, many of today's teenagers have no concept of a need for self discipline of sexual or any other desire.

And it is hardest of all on the parents who teach their children moral and spiritual principles. It is confusing to their children. Many times the difference between the teachings of the home, the teachings of society, and the conduct of their peers make their lives unbearable. Never-the-less, my hat's off to these parents, and the teenagers who consider the cost, and find self worth of value.

To seek a cure for the problem of teenage pregnancy is to be expected, but a cure for the cause is needed. And, this must begin, not with teenager, but with those whose example he-she follows.

CONNIE PUTNAM
Kings Mountain

Last giant is gone..



TOM
McINTYRE

The last of the giants is gone.

Cancer killed him at 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 11.

It would take some creepy, silent enemy to do it because mere mortals don't slay giants.

Bob Wisehart wrote in The Charlotte News Tues., June 12 that he saw John Wayne in "True Grit" and now he wishes he had stood up and cheered when his Rooster Cogburn heroically cut down bad guy Robert Duvall's gang in a stunning shootout.

The movie audience I saw "True Grit" with didn't exactly stand and cheer, but we did voice aloud our "Alright, big John!"

And the night Wayne was awarded the Oscar for his Cogburn role I did let out a warwhoop that had my family looking at me strangely.

And the night the news bulletin came on that Wayne had died I unashamedly shed a tear.

Like Wayne held that "My country, right or wrong," I held "My main man, right or wrong."

Like Wayne, I too felt as long as America was involved in that mess in Vietnam, we should have stomped the Vietcong into the ground. Did that make me a hawk? Or did it mean the same basic beliefs that Wayne, a midwesterner, grew up in were the same beliefs we, in the south, grew up in? The latter I think.

Personally, though, I was never really interested in The Duke's politics (no anyone else's). I went to his movies (and re-watch them on TV) for the same reason he made them. For entertainment.

The grunt and scratch actors bore me to tears. They did when they became the rage and they do now. With John Wayne you knew where he stood. He (on screen) never had to sell out like the rest of us in everyday life.

When someone shot him the bull he answered by saying "You're a liar!" We have to smile and politely say, I disagree with that. Wayne solved problems. We just prolong them.

How did Wayne become a giant in the film industry?

If we knew the answer to such questions in advance wouldn't we be the fortunate ones.

In looking back over Wayne's film career

it is amazing that he ever did. He started off in silent films in 1928 and when sound came in he made one cheapie western after another; films which probably never played any of the large American cities.

As a youngster, back in the 1940's, I used to hunker down with my bag of popcorn in the old Gem Theatre in Belmont and watch The Duke in those cheapie westerns. Of course, the theatre owner must have really been a cheapie himself, because those films were 10-13 years old when I saw them. I also saw Bob Steele, Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard and Tim McCoy films on succeeding Saturdays—all from the 1930s. But somehow, those heroes did not have the sustaining appeal that Wayne possessed. It wasn't until the late 1940s the Gem began showing Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, although both had been around for several years by then. I have never figured that one out. And the Gem never did run the Three Mesquiteer films that Wayne made for Republic during the 1940s. I saw those on TV later.

It is said and written that "Stagecoach" made Wayne a star. That in 1939. But it wasn't until about 10 years later that he really began to shine on the screen as far as stories and production were concerned. But it took Wayne and Bob Fellows, a partnership, in the early 1950s to really put Wayne squarely in the eye of the movie-going public. From that point on he really began growing into a giant in the entertainment field.

It is also strange that into the 1970s, when the moviegoers showed a decided preference for film heroes with hangups and monumental flaws, that Wayne as the untimidated hero, was still packing them in.

No typical abuser

By LINDA MILLER
Special to Mirror Herald

The female drug abuser? You may know her. She could be a co-worker, a neighbor, a friend. She could be your wife, your mother, your sister. She could be you.

Who is the typical female drug abuser? Drug treatment program staff members Christine Massey and Ajuba Joy can give you a variety of descriptions. They see all types at "Transition," a drug treatment program for women located in Wake County.

Actually, there is no "typical" female abuser, although many people think of the skid row junkie as typical—just like the image of the "typical" alcoholic.

What is becoming more prevalent today is the middle class female who abuses prescription drugs—tranquilizers such as Valium and Librium. She may get them from her doctor, a well meaning family member or a friend.

In a drug oriented society which encourages the use of tranquilizers, sedatives and pain killers to cope with life, Transition is a unique program. It meets the many needs of female drug abusers so they may live drug free lives.

Christine, coordinator of the program, explains, "drug abuse is one way of escaping, making it easier on yourself. We teach coping skills, ways to deal with life, instead of reinforcing escape."

Transition is located at 615 Peace Street in Raleigh. It provides many services and learning situations for women including counseling, graduate education degrees (G.E.D.) programs, and group classes in assertiveness training, values clarification and goal setting techniques.

Funded through the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and a matching grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, this free community service is offered through Drug Action of Wake County. Drug Action is a private, non-profit agency which provides treatment, education-prevention and outreach programs.

Programs such as Transition are funded by NIDA through the N.C. Department of

Human Resources, Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse. Competitive grants for local treatment, education and outreach programs are awarded to accredited public and private non-profit alcohol and drug agencies throughout North Carolina.

For further information on grants applications, contact: Joseph Tallent, Chief, Planning Branch, DHR, Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse. Competitive grants for local treatment, education and outreach programs are awarded to accredited public and private non-profit alcohol and drug agencies throughout North Carolina.

For further information on grants applications, contact: Joseph Tallent, Chief, Planning Branch, DHR, Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse, (919) 733-4506, 325 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN
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To The Editor:

I would like to let the citizens of Kings Mountain know the hassle they would have to go through to rent the K.M. Depot Center from Kenneth George. I talked with Mr. George around the first of May about renting the Depot Center for a birthday party for my daughter. He was hesitant about even talking to me, explaining that the depot was for the senior citizens, not for children's parties. When I told him it would be a 16th birthday party and around 80 teenagers would be there, he was even more hesitant. He gave me all kinds of excuses about how they would tear up the place and that he would have to get someone to come back that night and clean up after us. He even told me we could rent a room at the Community Center (which I did check in to and the room rents for \$75.00 - the depot for \$15.00). I informed him we would have competent chaperones and we would clean up after ourselves. I told him I was for the senior citizens 100 percent and I was proud the City

of Kings Mountain could have such a wonderful program for them, but the teenagers, also, needed a place to go where they could enjoy themselves.

Mr. George went on to explain to me that the Federal Government had given several thousand dollars worth of grants to the city for the senior citizens programs and those programs had to be carried out. I explained to him that several thousand dollars worth of taxpayers money also went in to the renovation of the depot.

On May 11, I offered Mr. George my check for \$15.00 for the rent on the building. He would not accept it saying he would have to clear it with the Mayor because we would be dancing at the party and he was not going to be responsible for the floors if we tore them up. I took my check directly to Commissioner Corbet Nicholson and told him the situation. He said he knew of more people who had tried to rent the depot from Mr. George but would not pursue the matter. Commissioner Nicholson, in turn, talked

with Mayor Moss.

Needless to say, we rented the Depot Center and had a wonderful time. After we cleaned up, I am sure Mr. George could not even tell we had been there.

The K.M. Depot Center is a beautiful building that any citizen can be proud of. A lot of hard work and money was put into it. The Depot Center is too pretty a building just to look at. It is a building that is to be used by the citizens of Kings Mountain.

To you, Mr. George, I would like to say that when you told me the building did not belong to you, I could not agree with you more. It belongs to the citizens of Kings Mountain, from the senior citizens on down to, yes, Mr. George, the teenagers of Kings Mountain.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Commissioner Corbet Nicholson and to Mayor John Henry Moss for their help on this matter. I am sure the teenagers, who were at the party, thank you also.

Mrs. Jerry White
Kings Mountain

Depot Center for everyone

Commissioners list support

To the editor,

We, as members of the Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners, would like to respond to the letter published by Rev. Kenneth George in last week's Mirror-Herald.

The following statistics show the approximate financial support rendered the Kings Mountain Aging Program since its inception in 1975.

The city has contributed two used cars (\$1,350), two new vans (\$13,000), office space (rent \$7,200), utilities (\$9,200), vehicle in-

urance (\$2,000), vehicle depreciation (\$7,200), salaries for director of 3 1/2 years, secretary for 2 years, two services aides, 1 & 2 years (\$110,000). All these figures total an approximate \$149,000 through the Community Block Grant and the Kings Mountain general fund.

Other monies contributed to the support of the aging program by federal grants under the city's sponsorship include Title 3 - \$45,576; and Title 5 - \$39,285, for a total of \$84,861. The grand total to date is \$234,811 for the aging program.

The above totals do not include the local match of funds contributed by the City of Kings Mountain in support of the Cleveland Food and Nutrition Program operating at the Depot Center, which is supervised by

Cleveland County Department of Social Services, and is a totally separate project from the Kings Mountain Aging Program, which is responsible only for transportation of senior citizens of our area to needed services.

In the four years the services to the elderly, the Kings Mountain Aging Program has reached approximately 200 elderly persons (out of a possible 3,500 within the city, and 11,000 in the county) with services.

JAMES CHILDERS
JAMES HOUSTON
CORBET NICHOLSON
NORMAN KING
WILLIAM GRISSOM
JAMES DICKEY
City Commissioners

Clear up few points

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the comments by Rev. Kenneth George which appeared in the June 12th edition of the Kings Mountain Mirror-Herald. I would like to take this opportunity to clear up a few points that he brought out because I feel that the letter was very misleading.

First, I feel that I must disagree with Rev. George on his statement that the open forum is the only method of communication with the mayor and commissioners. In the past I have always been available to Rev. George, whether by phone or in person, and will continue to be in the future.

Secondly, I feel that it should be pointed out that there is no intention on behalf of the

City of Kings Mountain to discontinue the Aging Program for the Senior Citizens of our community, and I for one have always supported this program. At no time, to my knowledge, has the Kings Mountain Aging program been included in the City budget, other than through the Community Development Block Grant, which no longer their project due to ineligibility. As noted in the statistical report, the city of Kings Mountain has been most generous to the Senior Citizens.

In closing I would like to again point out the fact that it is our intention to continue the Aging Program for our Senior Citizens.

Corbet H. Nicholson
Commissioner - District 3

Communication not lacking

To Kenneth George:

Indeed it is a sad commentary when one cannot communicate with the Elected Mayor and Commissioners. However this is not the case.

You have not called me at home or at my work. I am available before and after each scheduled and advertised meeting of the Board of Commissioners, every second and fourth Monday night, which you should attend. I have never refused to talk with anyone personally or on the telephone. All

messages are delivered and answered. I would have been glad to talk with you at any time if you had tried to talk with me.

I am definitely in favor of the Senior Citizen Program and will do all in my power to keep it going—under any circumstances.

I suggest all citizens read the report concerning the Aging Program that is appearing on this page.

JAMES J. DICKEY
Dist. 6 Commissioner
Kings Mountain

Appreciates improvements

To the Citizens of Kings Mountain:

I, Verlee Mask, employed by the City as Director of Davidson Pool, wish to thank the Public Works Dept. and City Officials for the improvement and beautification at Davidson Pool.

I can truly say that the City of Kings Mountain has really done a fine job with the improvements.

I am inviting all citizens of Kings Mountain to come and enjoy themselves this

summer at beautiful Davidson Pool.

All of us with the Parks and Recreation Department are striving to make your recreational facilities the finest in the area. The parks and facilities are yours to use, enjoy and be proud of. In return, your help in protecting these areas is needed and appreciated. Let's all work hard to keep the facilities in good shape.

VERLEE MASK
Director of Davidson Pool

What's your opinion?

We want to hear your opinion on things of interest to you. Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 782, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086. Be sure and sign proper name and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be published.

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