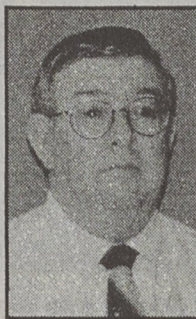


## Little red head just had to get in out of heat

I'd had my eye on his chubby red cheeks for several days. Each day the sun was bright and hot he got redder and redder. Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer. I had to rescue him and get him inside in the cool air.



**Gary Stewart**  
Editor

With a sharp knife I put him out of his misery. And into my tummy. Then destroyed the evidence so the wife would never know what I'd done.

One of the things I look forward to the most each summer is that first, home-grown, vine-ripe tomato sandwich. But for some reason, this year I had to wait much longer than in the past - perhaps because I planted later than usual and perhaps because the heavy rains made a lot of them rot before they got ripe (I'm not complaining about the rain, though, remembering last year's drought).

But, maybe the wait made it that much better.

There's not many things in this world better than a fresh juicy tomato, sliced and placed between two pieces of loaf bread and smothered with mayonnaise and black pepper. A little sprinkling of sugar doesn't hurt either. Like the old potato chip commercial used to say, betcha can't eat just one.

If you could only find those ice cold, six-ounce Coca Colas in real bottles to wash it down with it would be perfect.

I guess I inherited my love for tomato sandwiches from my mother, because since my earliest childhood I can remember her always looking forward to that first ripe tomato. Back in those days, when there wasn't that much pollution in the air and people didn't use pesticides on their garden, you thought nothing of picking a tomato right off the vine and eating it. Today, I wouldn't even think about it. I not only have to wash my hands and the tomato before I start peeling it, but wash the knife off several times during the process.

Now, thank goodness, the ripe tomatoes are coming quite frequently and hardly a day goes by that I can't eat one. When the garden goes by the wayside, though, I'll swear off them until next year.

Those store-bought tomatoes are just not the same.

## LOOKING BACK



The Kings Mountain 13-year-old Babe Ruth All-Stars went undefeated to win the District 4 championship in Monroe in 1974. Team members are front row, left to right, Preston Short, Bryon White, Craig Bell, David Robinson, Ronnie Wilson, Greg Huffstetler and Chris Barrett. Second row, David Scruggs, Jeff Steele, Mike Byers, Vincent Haynes, Tim Whitaker, Scott Yarboro and Mike Mitchell. Back row, coach Max Bolin, coach Jimmy White, David Cobb, Danny Bolin, coach Charles Wilson and coach Steve Wilson.

## Distance between here and China getting smaller



**Andie Brymer**  
Staff Writer

The distance between Kings Mountain and China got smaller Saturday afternoon. Film maker David Redmon's "Mardi Gras: Made in China" provided the bridge.

Joey and I saw the film while taking in a documentary matinee during the Cleveland County Arts Council's Real to Reel Film Fest. Shortly before the films were shown, I got a chance to talk with Redmon.

While shooting footage of Mardi Gras, the annual New Orleans pre-Lent free for all, he was struck by the multiple strands of plastic beads revelers wore around their necks. Redmon knew women and sometimes men, usually under the influence of alcohol, often exposed themselves for the beads. Others were purchased in stores along Bourbon Street.

The young film maker recognized that a deeper story lay beneath the alcohol, exhibitionism and cheap necklaces. Since by profession he teaches on globalization issues, Redmon wasn't surprised that the beads were produced somewhere besides America. Indeed, they come from half way around the world, from China.

Being very brave, Redmon soon booked a flight to China. He visited several factories asking permission to film. One man finally granted it. Redmon wouldn't tell us exactly what he said to be given entry, but I doubt the factory owner knew how the footage would be used.

Once inside the factory, Redmon interviews three young Chinese women. One woman was particularly eager to talk. Because the Chinese language is so unfamiliar to me, I cannot remember her name.

I had heard for years about the sweatshops across Asia where cheap and not so cheap trinkets, clothing and electronics equipment are made, mostly for the consumption of the western world. After seeing this woman's face, those workers stopped being a large group of underpaid people.

Now they are individual women. I can still see the 19-year-old woman's open, friendly face. She told Redmon she made around 10 cents an hour.

I know that 10 cents an hour means more in China than America but it's still 10 cents an hour compared to our \$5.15 an hour minimum wage. The factory owner reported making \$2 million a year. I don't know if hubris influenced the man to stretch his salary or if the number is

See Andie, 5A

## There are many lessons that we all have to learn



**Jim Heffner**  
Guest Column

I've said it before and I'll say it again. Anonymous letters should be tossed into a wastebasket unread.

We get plenty of them at the newspaper office, and most of them are never read. We figure anybody who doesn't have the guts to sign, deserves no response.

There have been many cases where people have lost their jobs because someone with an axe to grind wrote an anonymous letter to the boss.

In most cases where people are fired because of such a letter, the person or organization says no weight was given to the letter, but "an investigation was launched," and something turned up in a background check that caused the punitive action. It doesn't matter how old the information is or that the individual has been an exemplary employee.

What that means is that suspicions were aroused, and the employee was actually fired because of the letter.

That is so unfair, it's almost criminal.

I suspect that not very many people in the world have toed the line every minute of every day of their lives.

Anyone who fires a person because of an anonymous letter is just as cowardly, if not more so, than the letter writer.

**Watch your children** — Everyone who is against the death penalty, please take note.

Last week, an eleven-year-old girl was stalked and finally assaulted twice in a department store in S. Charleston, W. Va. The security camera pictures made all the national news shows.

The man posed as a security guard, and led the young girl, at knife-point, to another part of the store and raped her. This didn't seem to satisfy the pedophile, so he took her to another part of the store, and repeated the heinous act.

I would have no trouble pulling the switch on this guy. I can't help but wonder what makes a man a sub-human.

All children must be watched closely, even in a public place.

**Driving requires total concentration** — The elderly gentleman who plowed into a crowd, killing 10 and injuring 45 should have been taken off the road long ago. His family knew he was having problems keeping

See Jim, 5A

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER  
THE HERALD

## Should city council members serve two or four year terms?



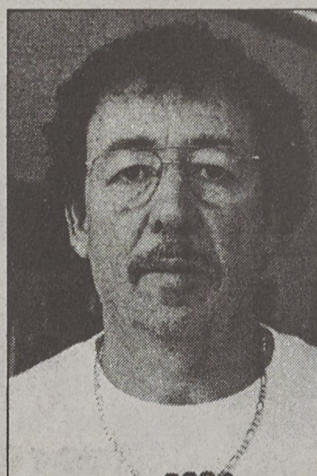
"Four years. You get used to the same person."

**Trish Ledford**  
Gastonia



"Four years. Give them long enough to get things situated."

**Steven Johnston**  
Kings Mountain



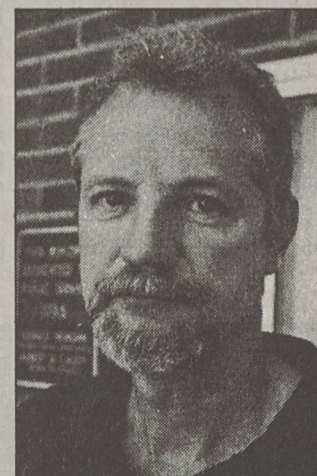
"One year because in two years time they can disappoint a lot of people."

**Rusty Padget**  
Kings Mountain



"Stay with the two year term."

**Ronnie Franks**  
Kings Mountain



"Stay at two years. If things are not going good, it can be corrected."

**James Anderson**  
Kings Mountain

## LOOK BACK

## Tornado did damage in KM in 1974

From the July 25, 1974 edition of the Kings Mountain Mirror:

Contending he was fired for "public relations reasons," Assistant Director of the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission John Hall attended the KMRC meeting to find out "what the real reasons were for my dismissal."

In their regular meeting Tuesday morning, members of the KMRC approved a resolution asking the Department of Housing and Urban Development to extend the budget for an additional two years.

Many Kings Mountain residents have asked what the "coal cost adjustment" line on their June utilities bill meant. According to City Clerk Joe McDaniel the coal cost adjustment charge is the cost per kilowatt hour charged the city by Duke Power Co.

Until the city board of commissioners pass a resolution calling for the election to change the name of John H. Moss Reservoir to Kings Mountain Lake, and submit it to the city election board in writing, no action can be taken by the election board.

Kings Mountain's 13-year-old Babe Ruth all-stars nipped Park Road of Charlotte 3-2 Sunday to win the District 4 Championship and advance to the state finals in Concord later this week. Tim Whitaker tripled and scored the winning run on a fielder's choice in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Kings Mountain High's footballers open pre-season practice Monday, August 5 in preparation for their 1974 opener August 30 against North Gaston.

Kings Mountain's Mickey Powers and Ray Adams of Fayetteville fired a 6-under-par 138 Saturday and Sunday to win the Kings Mountain Country Club Member-Guest Golf Tournament.

A flash tornado did considerable damage to boats and a house trailer on the Kings Mountain lake Saturday evening. A mobile home belonging to Hazel Sexton was picked up and totally demolished by the high wind. Tommy Brooks and Red Johnson and Johnson's two sons were attempting to dock their boat when the wind hit the craft and tore it up.