

# Woe is me, woe is me!

It's a terrible thing to reach my age and suddenly realize you have no sense of humor. That has just got to be my situation. How else can I explain the fact that "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" does absolutely nothing to stir even the slightest inkling of laughter from my body?

Woe is me, woe is me! I have read any number of articles about how marvelously and wildly hilarious Norman Lear's latest project is and how, as a syndicated show, MH, MH is knocking off competition in the ratings war.

Syndicated means the series is sold to individual stations rather than being presented nationally on any given night or in any specific time slot.

I even read in TV Guide where Norman Lear, who is the creative force behind such network shows as "All In The Family" and "Maude", was upset because individual stations were not using their noddles in scheduling the new comedy hit. Lear was also upset at the stupidity of the brass at the three networks for not picking up his show.

Bear in mind I read all of this stuff before I ever laid eyes on "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman."

Well, now I have laid eyes on MH, MH and I am wondering if my reaction doesn't indicate to me that I have completely lost my sense of humor.

I realize the show is supposed to be a "take-off" on all of the soap operas that have ever been unleashed against the world, but why is it the soap operas themselves are funnier than MH, MH?

Some people call MH, MH sophisticated. Some people call it black comedy. Others call it high comedy.

I call it boring. Oh, I can see great potential comedy sequences in the series, but the scenes are played so low key who cares?

How can I in all honesty generate guffaws looking at Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman, by that I mean Louise Lasser, Louise Lasser. She strikes me as a person who has an extreme case of gas. And anyone in such a miserable state I do not laugh at. I feel sorry

Bailey is funny then Laurel and Hardy were a couple of sanitation engineers.

But, you see I first began to have doubts about whether my sense of humor was gone when I came out of the movie earlier this summer wondering why I had paid six bucks to see Neil Simon's "Murder By Death."

Oh, there were a couple of pretty good laughs in that film as far as I was concerned, but the majority of the time I just sat there looking like Louise Lasser (remember, extreme gas?)

The conclusion of "Murder By Death" was supposed to be an hilarious rip-off of all those old grade B murder mysteries where all of the suspects are gathered in the library and after some wild speculation the detective-hero reveals the identity of the murderer. In this film the explanations were so confusing (to me) that not only did my expression make me look like I had gas, I actually had gas.

TOM McINTYRE



for such a person 'cause gas ain't funny. And another thing. Louise Lasser has the saddest eyes I have ever seen this side of a Bassett Hound. She has a big smile and shows more teeth than Jimmy Carter, but coupled with those great sad and pain-filled eyes, her face does not reflect anything to me except that she has an extreme case of gas.

I have no desire to be unduly cruel or critical of Ms Lasser or anyone else, but to me she ain't as funny as WSOX-TV's weatherman Bill Bailey, and friends, if Bill

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, September 9, 1976

### United Fund dollars mean great deal to all of us

Last year the Kings Mountain United Fund set a goal of \$36,000 and local business and professional people, individuals and industry responded by pledging almost \$50,000.

This year the goal is set for \$39,000. How will these same members of the community respond this time around? That is yet to be seen. However, we should bear in mind just how far this money goes in improving the human situation locally. The many agencies which will receive allocations from your donations deal in human beings. In the uplifting of human beings.

The Boy and Girl Scouts build character and moral attitudes in our young and that is most important because these young people provide the fiber and strength and hope for the future. The Cleveland County Association For Retarded Children works relentlessly with our young who will never have the same advantages in life as their peers. Although these youngsters can never perform at what is called the normal pace, they are taught to perform at peak capacity on an individual basis. United Fund donations help keep their programs functioning.

The county's drug abuse prevention center also needs our United Fund dollars to keep a continuing education program alive that will save the lives of countless human beings in the months and years to come.

And there is the vital work of the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the charitable programs of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association. All of these programs need our help.

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad, a strictly volunteer organization of men who spend hundreds of hours of their time learning methods of saving our lives in times of emergencies and many hundreds more hours actually performing the methods they have learned. They, too, need our United Fund dollars.

The Kings Mountain United Fund goal for this year is \$39,000 and better than 90 percent of that money remains in this community working for all of us.

Between now and October 1 United Fund workers will call on business and professional, civic and industrial concerns with information on the program and with pledge cards. On October 1 the KMUF will conduct a one-day campaign to raise the \$39,000 goal.

It would be nice to see that goal exceeded again this year. It means a great deal to our neighbors and to us.

## READER DIALOGUE

### They are leaving God out of plan

To the editor,

I was watching the Phil Donahue Show this morning on the unification Church, and the argument between people of different religions about what is the right or wrong belief.

Who is right and who is wrong? I am not knowledgeable on this subject, however I know the plan of salvation.

It amazes me that people are so busy arguing their belief and trying to tell another that they have to believe their way to be saved. They are leaving God out. God tells me I have to believe in him and his son alone to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. God is a great God. He is powerful enough to rule the Universe, yet small enough to live in my heart. He is a mighty God, but also an individual God. When I want an answer to a question I go to God in prayer. I am an individual with my God. What God might tell me to do may be wrong for you.

I go to the church of my choice to worship God because God has led me to do this. I don't go because someone has brain washed me, or forced me, or because I want to please, or be like everybody else. This includes both the old and young generation. If you want a question answered about what you should do, instead of asking another person, ask God. We each have our own prayer line. We would have less argument and more love and harmony if we spent more time on our knees talking to God and asking him to guide us instead of trying to do what others think should be right.

I have accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. He leads me, not my church, my pastor, or my best friend.

Matthew 10:32-33 and Romans 10:9-13 is the plan of salvation.

II Thissalonians 2:1-17 and II Timothy 3:1-17 tells about false prophets that confuse.

If you would talk to God in private you might see the light. Please don't leave God out!

ELAINE GUIN  
Kings Mountain

"Not here yet?  
I've had an  
appointment with  
Mr. Bloxam, your  
Public Works Director,  
for a month and you  
say he ain't come to  
work yet!...Maybe  
Black Leonard didn't  
have a string of degrees,  
but at least  
he was here!!!"



Ho. Mc  
MIRROR-HERALD

## LOOKING BACK

From the Sept. 9, 1949 Files of The Kings Mountain Herald

The second annual Bethware Community Fair will officially open next Thursday at 1 p. m. with a record number of entries anticipated for the many ribbons and prizes being offered. Opening Day ceremonies will be held at 1 p. m. next Thursday and the fair will continue through Saturday, Sept. 17.

Kings Mountain High School football warriors took a holiday Friday from the heavy drills of the past three weeks and started looking forward to polishing up work next week in readiness for the opening game in Hendersonville next Friday night at 8 p. m.

### SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Troy Carpenter are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Dorcas Aileen, to John Butler Plonk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence S. Plonk. A late Fall wedding is planned.

Mrs. Otis Falls and Miss Betty Falls entertained Friday night at the Woman's Club at a miscellaneous shower honoring Miss Delores Bridges, September bride-elect of Otis Falls, Jr.

Circle One of First Presbyterian Church met Monday night with the chairman, Mrs. Merle Beatty.

Mr. and Mrs. William Carl Biggers of Charlotte announce the engagement of their daughter, Marilyn Sue, to Henry Parks Neisler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Neisler. A late Fall wedding is planned.

## A duel ended life of former Governor

Richard Dobbs Speight Sr. was the only man to serve as Governor of North Carolina who was later killed in a duel.

He was also the senior half of the only father-son team to serve as Governor until the election of W. Kerr Scott's son, Robert, in 1968. Speight's son, R. D. Speight Jr., was elected Governor in 1836.

Speight Sr. served as chief executive in 1792-95.

He died in New Bern on the morning of September 6, 1802, from a bullet wound he had received the day before during a duel. Speight's opponent in the duel was John Stanley, his successor in Congress.

The two men were bitter political rivals. Stanley accused Speight of avoiding taking sides in important political issues. Speight responded heatedly and Stanley challenged him to a duel.

The duel was of an unusual nature. Considered at the time to be the honorable and gentlemanly way of settling a dispute, a pistol duel rarely ever went beyond two exchanges of fire. But Stanley and Speight were such bitter enemies they exchanged shots four times. On the fourth volley Speight was mortally wounded.

Speight had been one of North Carolina's most outstanding figures of public note. He signed the U. S. Constitution as one of North Carolina's delegates and was the first native born Governor of the state.

Following Speight's death the Legislature passed even stronger anti-dueling statutes. Stanley was never charged, tried or convicted in Speight's death. He was pardoned by Governor Benjamin Williams and was later elected to Congress.

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ED SMITH

the only two members of nobility to serve as Governor of the state. His brief term was marred by Indian uprisings and internal discord.

Hyde County was named in his honor. He died of yellow fever in Bertie County September 8, 1712

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On September 5, 1875, a Constitutional Congress was held in Raleigh and 80 amendments to the Constitution of 1865 were adopted.

The state's present Constitution was written and adopted in 1868. It had been sponsored by the state's new Republican Party during the bitter Reconstruction Period, however, and when the Democrat Party regained control in the 1870's they rushed to make wholesale changes in the machinery of government. Republicans charged that it was largely a power play with the Legislature assuming controls that had formerly rested with county governments. In many areas, as in the mountain counties, local government was controlled by the GOP. Republican leaders said the wholesale passage of amendments to the State Constitution was done to deny them local power.

Even today, a century later, the North Carolina State Legislature retains greater control over local affairs than is the case in many states.

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On September 6, 1875, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill reopened its doors. The university had been forced to cease operation in 1868 during the aftermath of The Civil War.

## KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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