

Opinions

OUR VIEW

Consider Lottery

Now that the election is over and all the state legislators are firmly ensconced in their cushy jobs, it's time to start relieving the taxpayer of some of his hard-earned money. How best to do it? Well, let's see now, we could create a state lottery and earmark the money for highways, but no that's still immoral. Say here's an idea, it's been two or three years since we've increased the gasoline tax. Let's hit 'em there again. And so it goes.

On February 21, a legislative study commission recommended a highway construction program that includes a five and one quarter cent hike in the price of gasoline, an act that would raise the tax that citizens pay to a little over 21 cents per gallon.

North Carolina lawmakers ought to sit back and take another look at this oppressive proposal. To raise the price of gasoline again is to raise the price of almost every consumable produce used by or produced by North Carolinians. Certainly an increase in the cost of gasoline would be reflected at the super market. Consequently, the people most affected would be the poor and those living on fixed incomes.

Governor Jim Martin and Lieutenant Governor Jim Gardner are in favor of the tax increase. Martin has spoken of the proposal in glowing terms, calling it "a phenomenal piece of work." This is the same Jim Martin that pushed a three cents per gallon gasoline tax through during his first term in office. This is the same Jim Martin who, claiming to be a conservative Republican, has used as a cornerstone for two campaigns, less taxes. Jim Gardner says "if you're going to have economic development you're going to need roads." This is the same Jim Gardner who has paraded around the state for some twenty years telling everyone he can collar that he is most assuredly against heavy taxation of the populace.

We know the state highway system is in need of improvement and repair and we know the funds have to come from somewhere. We suggest that our legislators take another and harder look at alternative income sources. There are two proposals before the legislature to establish a state lottery. Millions of dollars each week are being spent in neighboring states who already have lotteries. Why not keep that money at home?

A further tax on gasoline is not the answer. It is a temporary measure at best. They'll be back again in a few years with the same proposal. The state of Pennsylvania has earmarked all proceeds from their state lottery for the use of senior citizens. The state of North Carolina could do the same thing for the highway system and it would be an ongoing source of funds.

We see this as an opportunity to gain revenue from a source other than the taxpayer's pocketbook. We hope our elected officials will take the long view in this case.

Letter Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Wednesday's paper. We ask that you follow these guidelines when submitting letters:

Keep the letters brief and to the point. Type and double space them, if possible, but sign them in ink and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

The Herald reserves the right to edit the letters for spelling, good taste, libel, or any other reason, and reserves the right to reject letters for any reasons.

All letters must be mailed to Letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Under no circumstances will hand-delivered letters be published.

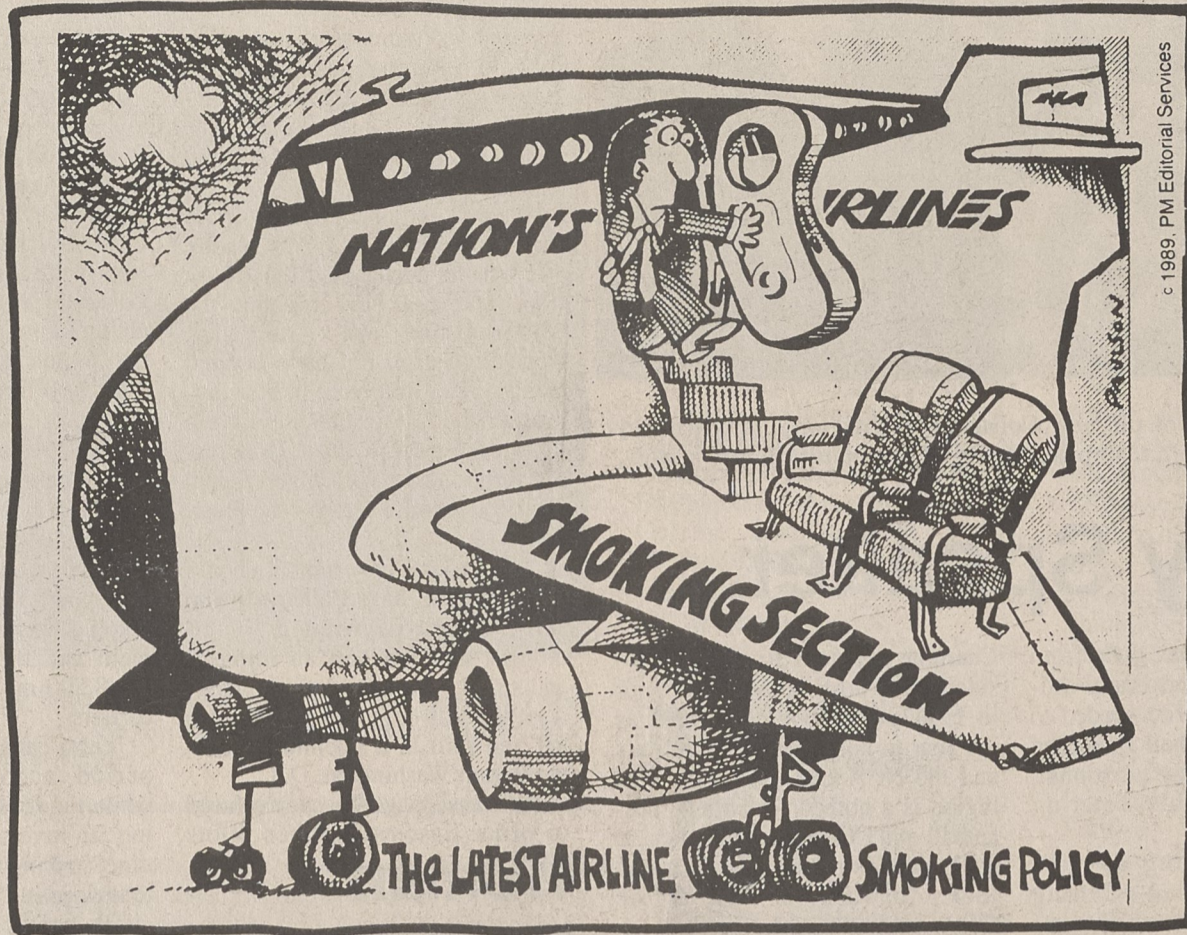
Bill 288 Would Provide Funds To Help Stop AIDS

By HELEN RHYNE MARVIN
N.C. State Senator

I have introduced Senate Bill 282 because I consider enactment of anti-discrimination legislation the most important thing that your General Assembly can do to stop the spread of AIDS. In conjunction with Senate Bill 288, which would provide funds for local health departments and other local agencies to develop and implement education and prevention programs, the anti-discrimination legislation will go a long way toward fulfilling this state's obligation to protect its citizens against the spread of AIDS.

With this disease, we have no cures and there is no vaccine. Neither is expected to be available for years,

Nostalgia Corner



Dean Aims Both Barrels At Governor Jim Martin

They say politicians are "fair game" and if that's the case, area teachers had all guns pointed toward Governor Jim Martin at Friday night's District 2 NCAE Legislative Rally at Kings Mountain's B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Keynote speaker, Dean Westmoreland, a former Kings Mountain High teacher and former State NCAE President, aimed the majority of his remarks at the Republican Governor. Many in attendance remarked that Westmoreland would make a great politician or, at least, a great speech writer.

Westmoreland said Martin would fail miserably if he had to undergo the same evaluation as the state's public school teachers. "Whether you're a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or whatever, you've had four years to study his record, and all you had to do was apply the level of questions on the teacher evaluation form, and his grade would be unsatisfactory."

Westmoreland said teachers are required to fill out a PDP (Professional Development Plan) each year. "That basically means that you have to do what you say you're going to do," Westmoreland said for the benefit of non-teachers in the audience. He said the governor has failed to do that.

The teachers criticized the governor for his campaign promises to bring North Carolina teacher salaries up to the national average, and then his decision not to "unthaw" the teacher freeze which was put into effect during Governor Jim Hunt's term in 1981.

"Then the governor said last week that he had looked at the salary schedule and hadn't realized what a mess it was in," Westmoreland said. "He should have known because he's the state's top budget officer."

Westmoreland, to the excited approval of the more than 600 educators from Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Rutherford and Polk Counties who attended the rally, added a lot of comedy to his talk.

"This whole election reminded me of some Elvis Presley songs," he noted. "Before the election, the governor was saying 'I want you, I need you, I love

if ever! We must reach people who are at risk and convince them to be tested, to become educated about AIDS, and to avoid becoming infected or spreading the infection further.

But people are afraid to be tested. They are even afraid to ask for information. They are afraid of discrimination, and for good reason. Many people have lost jobs and housing,



Gary Stewart

you' and 'love me tender' but the day after the election he was singing, 'see you later alligator.' And teachers have been in Heartbreak Hotel ever since."

Westmoreland, reacting to rumors that Martin may run for U.S. Senate against Terry Sanford in four years, said teachers have long memories and remember Sanford as an education governor. "Read my lips. Make my day," Westmoreland said. "Run for U.S. Senate against Terry Sanford. It's better to be 'terrorized' and 'Sanford-ized' any day than to be 'Martinized' on pay day."

Westmoreland didn't leave all of his critical remarks to Martin. He included some teachers as well.

"The governor campaigned across the state on an education platform and the public and many teachers believed him," Westmoreland said. "He was on TV promising the national average and teachers saw dollar signs and heard the cash register click. He was saying 'I've been a teacher' but I want you to know it's a long way from being a chemistry professor at Davidson College to a fourth grade teacher in a public school."

Westmoreland urged teachers to be active in the campaigns of candidates who stand for quality education and higher teacher salaries, and to stay in touch with area legislators and let them know of their needs.

"I have no quarrel with the General Assembly," he said. "In fact, they're our last great hope. I'm especially proud of our delegates from the area that covers NCAE District 2. We have some potent legislators and are very fortunate in that light."

or have been denied services, just because they were infected or were thought to be. As long as this continues, the very people that we should be testing and counseling will want to avoid testing. People who do have a positive test will be afraid to use the partner notification system to contact others that they might have infected for fear that they or their families will suffer harassment and discrimination.

We should be working to attract people to come into the health care system. Instead, we are scaring them away. By doing so, we guarantee that this deadly disease will spread even further. The only way we have of

See Marvin, 8-A

Your Right To Say It

A Great 'Sound'

DEAR SIR:

Three cheers to the Kings Mountain Little Theater's production of "The Sound Of Music!" This is one of the best performances they have ever produced.

I was fortunate enough to see the original production of "The Sound Of Music" on the Broadway stage, and this show was every bit professional as the original.

The staging was masterfully done, the costumes were authentic, and the casting was perfect. Judy Whisnant was masterful in her portrayal of "Maria," her voice and mannerisms reminding of the first "Maria," Mary Martin.

The children were perfect "little Austrians," rosey and vivacious.

The only regret I have is that more of our community was unable to enjoy this magnificent show, because of limited seating space.

Please accept my "Bouquet of Red Roses" to every person who worked so hard on "Our Sound Of Music." Sincerely,
Marilyn Neisler

Annex Spectrum

EDITOR:

I hope that you will print this letter. This letter is especially addressed to Mayor Smith and the council investigating the possibility of annexation for Spectrum Dyed Yarns into the City of Kings Mountain.

I am one of the 275 employees of Spectrum, and I firmly believe the annexation of Spectrum is important. In last weeks Herald, Mayor Smith said, "We need to determine what the financial picture will be."

I want to encourage the Mayor and the council to think seriously and with great consideration what could happen after April 1st if Spectrum is not annexed into the city.

I along with several employees could end up jobless. Spectrum may have to raise yarn prices to pay the water bills, this could cause the company serious financial problems.

So I plead with you and the council to make a very justified and reasonable decision. Please consider President Blanchard's request, and also keep in mind the people of Spectrum are the people of Kings Mountain, and the monies of the people are what keeps the economy flowing.

Thank you,
Joy Queen Jenkins
Spectrum Employee

Great 'Music'

Dear Editor:

I want to commend to your readers the efforts of the students and adults who presented The Music Man at our high school. It would be impossible for me to thank each of those people directly, therefore I would like to do that through this letter.

Such a production requires a tremendous output in time and energy. The play was a real treat. Every facet was handled with excellence, and the students were superb. It reminds me of the high level of talent that our young people possess, and obviously, as superintendent, makes me very proud.

While naming names is always risky, I do want to recognize the two teachers who took the lead in putting on the musical, Betsy Wells and Gene Bumgardner. Everyone who participated served a valuable role, but without the dedication of these two people the play would not have become reality.

I look forward to continued productions such as this in the year's ahead. For now it is sufficient to say a very big thank you to all involved in this year's effort and savor the moment.

Sincerely,
Bob McRae

Thanks

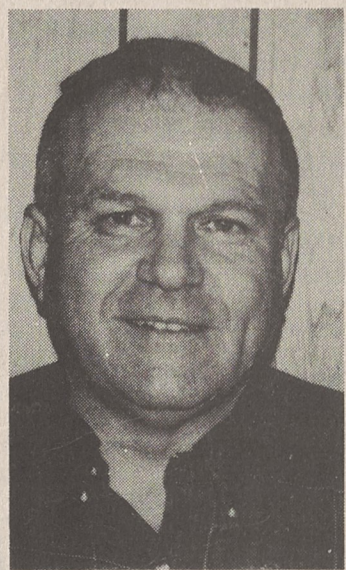
To the editor:

Thank you to the teachers at Kings Mountain High School for being dedicated to helping the cast have beautiful moments to treasure. "The Music Man" was fantastic.

Lynda and Mack Stewart
Kings Mountain

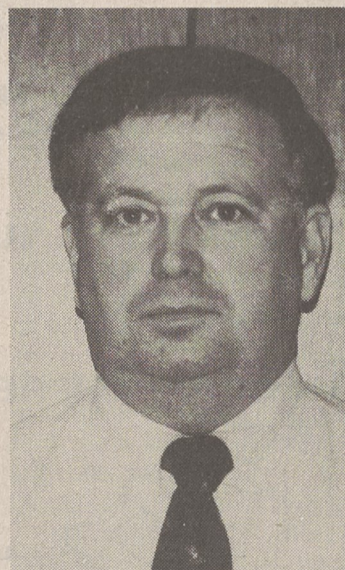
Survey

Is it good to have a large amount of insurance?



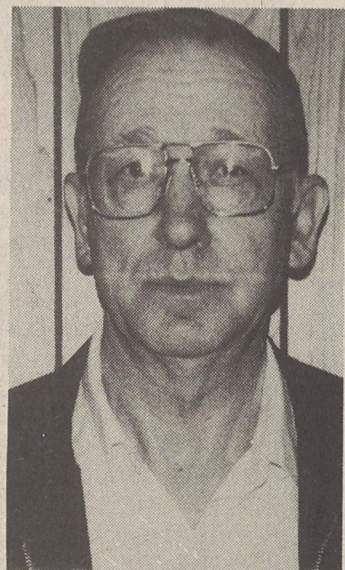
JAMES E. GARDNER
Trucker

No. Instead of buying insurance, families should put that money in savings accounts and after 10-15 years, they will be ahead of the game.



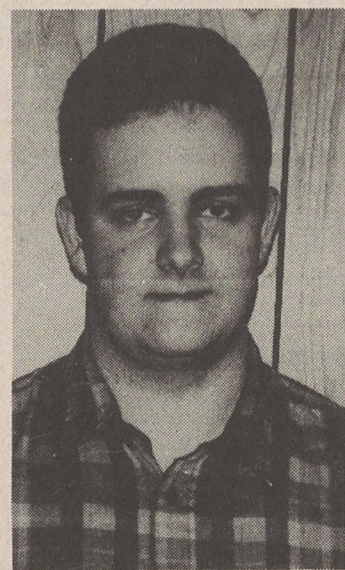
TOMMY KING
Magistrate

Yes. It's hard to pay on life insurance all those years knowing you are not going to use it. On the other hand, it is important if you have a family to support.



DICK BOLES
Minister

Yes. Nowadays, young couples have to have more for financial security. As they grow older, however, sometimes folks become "insurance poor." It's important to begin insurance programs at an early age.



RONNIE LONG
Barber

Yes. I think it's important for your family to have that to fall back on when you are no longer here.



TAMMY CABLE
Drug Store Clerk

Yes. It's important, especially if you have a family to take care of.

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