

# Opinions

## OUR VIEW

### Good Move

Kings Mountain City Council sent a message last week that could reflect a trend that we heartily applaud.

Kings Mountain last week became the first local government to approve drug screening of a new employee.

Under the new policy, finalists for any job will be required to provide a urine sample for testing. Current employees applying for promotions also will be required to undergo the screening as part of a pre-employment physical.

Applicants who refuse the test won't be considered for a job. If a current employee, who applies for a promotion, fails a drug test, the personnel director will refer the employee to appropriate counseling and substance abuse treatment services.

Initially the city policy targeted only pre-employment physical examinations for incoming employees. However, all North Carolina police departments are required to institute drug screenings by July 1 Personnel Director Charles Webber learned after he started researching the new policy. He found that city employees across the state who operate heavy equipment or work in critical job areas, may soon be required to take similar tests.

City Manager George Wood said the city stopped short of applying their new policy to all employees because of the "ambiguity of random drug testing."

The new policy will test for drugs ranging from cocaine to marijuana to barbiturates.

The benefits from this new policy should be tremendous for public safety and security while saving the city money in costly insurance or worker's compensation claims.

### Help Shriners Help Children

More than 800 thousand Shriners throughout North America each year work to provide the best hospitals possible for crippled and severely burned children at no cost to their parents. The Shriners of Oasis Temple, which include men of our community, have become a living symbol of hope for these children and their parents.

These men, accountants, clerks, doctors, educators, policemen, attorneys, just to name a few, for the 14th time this coming weekend take to the streets to tell their story. They do this with a tabloid size newspaper which tells of those who have been helped in North Carolina and how others may apply.

The newspaper is free, but funds raised from donations will go to 19 orthopedic hospitals and three burns institutes. Operation cost of these hospitals, along with capital improvements and research, is more than 267 million for 1989.

A new orthopedic hospital, to replace the one built in 1926, is expected to open in July to serve this area.

Begun in 1922, these hospitals have helped more than 300,000 youngsters and there are no cash registers, it's all free.

Oasis Temple, which our local Shriners belong to, has more than 14,000 men who are proud of their record of helping children in North Carolina.

Taking all facts in consideration, we think this program deserves our community's support.

### News Deadlines

The Herald welcomes your news for publication in each Wednesday's paper. We ask that you follow these guidelines and deadlines when submitting articles or information:

The deadline for receiving news for the Lifestyles Section (Section C) is 5 p.m. Friday. This includes women's news such as weddings, engagements, anniversaries, reunions, club news, parties, etc.; church news, including pastor's devotions and church activities, gospel singings, fund-raising events, etc.; community news, entertainment news, and birthdays. All articles will be published free of charge, but there is a \$4 preparation fee for birthday pictures and a \$5 preparation fee for wedding, engagement and anniversary pictures.

The deadline for receiving news for the Homefront Section (Section B) is 10 a.m. Monday. This includes school news, business news, feature stories about people, etc. There is no charge for publishing any of those type articles.

## Nostalgia Corner



**GROVER'S 1952-53 CHAMPS** - Grover High's 1952-53 girls basketball team posted the best record in the state, 33-0, and won the Cleveland County Conference and Valdese Gold Medal Tournament. In photo at left is Grover's Peggy Keeter who scored 1,301 points in the 33 games for a 39.4 per game average, and she averaged 56.2 in four games in the Valdese tournament. In photo at right, team members were, front row, left to right, Theo Huffstetler, Peggy Keeter, Rachel Hardin, Treva Ponder, Collean Reynolds, Sue Keeter and Coach Gene Turner. Back row, manager Ray Hambricht, Betty Watterson, Ann Davis, Mary Louise Ellis, Catherine Hambricht, Peggy Watterson, Annie Laura Huffstetler and manager Vardell Neal.

### Judges Can't Set Rights

We hear a lot about rights in this society. We talk about the right to work, the right to have a home, the right to ... well, you get the point. But to be throwing around such a word, we need to understand what it really means. Apparently the court system in the United States doesn't understand the word, and judges are spreading a little ignorance with many court decisions they make.

The word right, defined by Webster's dictionary means "a just claim; authority". In other words, a right is a concept meaning one has a just claim to an action or property. He has authority in that particular sphere.

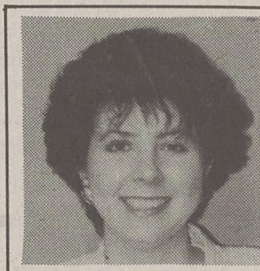
Recently, a federal judge decided that prisoners in Iowa have authority in a sphere heretofore unheard of. Judge Harold Viator has ruled that prison inmates in Iowa have a "right" to read pornography. He ruled that inmates in the Iowa Men's Reformatory are entitled to the same magazines available to everyone else. To comply with the judge's ruling, the prison has established a pornography reading room.

In this case, Judge Viator has created a right. Viator actually has no authority to hand out rights. Nor do any other judges within the court system of the United States who feel it is within their jurisdiction to do so.

But to make such a strong statement against the judicial system, it is important to understand exactly where rights come from. The answer is simple. In the United States, rights come from God and from the U.S. Bill of Rights.

I think we can safely assume that God has not given prisoners the right or authority to read pornography. Although He has provided us with the right to free choice, he does not give us the go-ahead to act in direct opposition to His Word.

As for the Bill of Rights, the rights of prisoners are clearly spelled out in Amendments five through eight. Criminals have a right to a speedy and public trial, an impartial jury, to counsel, and the right to not testify



**Marty Hohmann**

against oneself. Amendment Eight is the key here. It states: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

There is no mention of the "right to read pornography" while a prisoner, nor is that right inferred. The denial of pornographic materials clearly does not constitute denial of the necessities of life such as food, clothing, shelter and medical care. Nor would it be deemed cruel or unusual punishment which would shock the conscience of the civilized world. In fact, the judge's decision is in itself shocking to the conscience of the civilized world.

The founding fathers did not intend for judges to determine rights. Their job is to interpret the law. It is beyond me how Judge Viator determined prisoner's rights in this case. The fact is, this particular servant of the judiciary took it upon himself and his position to draw up his own bill of rights.

That, it seems, is the trend in America. Everyone is so busy yelling about what our rights are that we miss the true meaning and spirit of the word. Inventing rights on an individual basis can only create chaos and anarchy. After all, what one man may consider a right, another may deem a crime.

## Your Right To Say It

### Good Insert On Drugs

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you and your staff for the insert "A Message To Teenagers Who Drink", that was included in your Wednesday, April 26, edition of the Kings Mountain Herald. As you know, April is National Alcoholism Awareness Month, and has been designated so because of the public's awareness. The message of awareness has been brought to our attention in many ways and your insert will be an asset in aiding others to read and possibly more understand that alcoholism touches all of us and that alcoholism and chemical dependency can be effectively treated and people can, and do, recover.

Thank you so much for the extra copies you provided for our use. They will benefit and aid our program greatly. They were very informative and once again, you are to be commended for the interest you have taken in your community and surrounding area.

Very truly yours,  
David R. Swann, M.A., C.S.A.C.  
Director of Substance Abuse Services

To The Editor:

We really appreciate the copies of the insert you provided our facility that you used in your April 26, edition, "A Message To Teenagers Who Drink". The insert was loaded with information and problems that our staff touches base on every day. The insert will be placed in our day area so that anyone who enters will be able to make use of it. Not only will it aid our clients who are here specifically to get help, it will touch the eyes and mind of the public and make them more aware of the problems of alcoholism and chemical dependency.

In today's modern world, we are all touched by some form of alcoholism or chemical dependency, whether it be with our own addition, or that of a loved one. Educating our children and loved ones to the facts is the surest way to fight the problems caused by alcoholism and chemical dependency and your insert is a wonderful source of information for the public.

Sincerely,  
Steve Thomas  
Detox Manager

To The Editor:

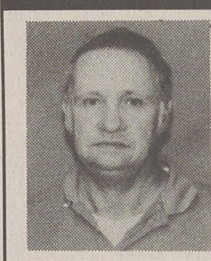
Upon calling your newspaper, I understand you are responsible for the insert "A Message To Teenagers Who Drink", that was an addition to your April 26, edition. Working in the field of substance abuse, I have seen many articles and short publications in the news concerning drugs and chemical dependency, however, your insert was the best I have seen. I touched all the problems that our youth are plagued with in the field of substance abuse and was very informative.

I truly believe we must educate our youth and teach them very early to say NO, but we also must inform every mother, father, sister and brother. Your article was colorful and immediately caught my eye so that I did not lay it aside with the sale papers. I immediately began to thumb through it and found it to be very informative. I teach the ADETS (Alcohol and Drug Education Traffic Schools) classes for Cleveland County so I must deal with everyone who gets a DWI. I truly believe education to the results of drinking is a must. There was a lot of information in your insert that I will be able to use in class, and I found it to be a terrific source of information.

Most of all, I want to thank you for showing concern enough to publish this information and see that it reaches the public. I understand that your company is responsible for five hometown papers in this area and that each location was provided with these inserts. Thank you for caring. Alcoholism and chemical dependency are like cancer and the best possible treatment comes with early detection and treatment and self-help programs using the 12 Steps of Recovery.

Linda H. Ramsey  
ADETS Instructor

### Berry Pickin' Wasn't All Bad



**Jim Heffner**

Now that I think about it, blackberry pickin' time wasn't too bad after all.

I remember Luther Castle. He was a neat, well dressed man who always wore a white hat. I don't know how old he was. It's hard to judge an adult's age when you are a child, but I remember passing him on the street—I'd always say, "hello Mr. Castle." He'd look straight ahead and say "how are you doing today, James?" He never stopped, just spoke in passing.

Luther had a large house just South of York. He had two brothers, Quay and Clyde, both of whom owned small neighborhood-type grocery stores. My Dad was a house painter in those days. I recall a time he was to do some work for Luther and he took me along. After he finished, Luther told him "come on up to Clyde's store tonight and I'll pay you. I went with him to Clyde Castle's store that night and when we got there, Clyde handed my Dad an envelope containing his pay. I thought that was a little unusual so after we left I asked my Dad, "why did you have to go to Clyde's store to get paid for the work you did at Luther's house?" And he told me, "Luther can't count his money, son, he's blind."

I had been knowing Luther Castle all my young life and that was the first I knew of his blindness. I wonder how he knew to call everybody by his first name when he passed them on the street?

I see where some Japanese firm has purchased the Ramada Inns hotel chain. Is nothing sacred anymore? Before you know it, American commerce will be controlled by everybody but Americans. I wonder what

kind of tax break a foreigner gets when he purchases a business in this country. I hope places such as McDonald's holds fast. I simply will not have sushi biscuits for breakfast.

The state legislature is considering naming the Plott Hound as the state dog. That's pretty silly. The last time those people in Raleigh got together they were going to designate a state insect. Remember that? I have two questions: How much money do we pay them to go down there and act like overgrown children? What in God's name is a Plott Hound?

Well it seems like the city of Charlotte is intent on spending gobs of money for what is loosely described as a piece of art for the new coliseum. They have two pieces under consideration. One of them looks like one of those stainless steel thermos bottles that got caught in a shredder and the other appears to be a small city park without swings or a sliding board. I guess one of these will probably be purchased as both are unrecognizable. The last piece they tried to force on the people of Charlotte was dubbed the "Headless Gummy." They are going to pay \$34,000 for whichever hunk of junk they choose. Oh well! I guess I'm not what you might call artsy.

How can you explain a thief? I saw an item in the Herald last week, under "Police Report," where a thief broke into the residence of Mr. Robert Dover, pilfered some pillow cases and damaged his lawn mower. Why pillow cases? I don't know Mr. Dover but I'd be willing to bet that, if said thief had really needed pillow cases, all he had to do was ask Mr. Dover for them and they would've been given to him. The only reason I can come up with for the damage to the lawn mower is that he obviously didn't like the pillow cases.

A personal note: this column will be published on a, more or less, regular basis. If you have interesting stories to tell—something like the blackberry pickin' I discuss above, a 4H project, or anything of interest, drop me a note here at the Herald. I'll bet there are plenty of interesting stories out there just begging to be told.

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