

Opinions

OUR VIEW

Congratulations To State Champs

Nothing, it seems, brings a small community together as much as its high school ball teams.

Whether it's football, basketball, or baseball, everyone in town who has any interest in sports loves to back a winner.

Last week, Kings Mountain High's baseball team played for--and won--the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A championship. The Mountaineers defeated Rockingham County 8-6 and 10-0 to sweep the best-of-three championship series at KM's Lancaster Field.

Not since the "Early days" of Kings Mountain baseball has the town been in such an uproar over the Mountaineers.

Old-timers have often recalled the exciting baseball days of the 1920's, 30's and 40's, when Kings Mountain turned out such talent as major leaguers Jake Early and George Wilson, Gene Goforth, Charlie Ballard and many, many others. They say baseball was so exciting here that the downtown merchants closed their doors when a ballgame was being played.

It's not likely a merchant would miss a sale these days to go to a ball game, but with most games being played at night the businessmen could tend to store duties during the day and cheer for the Mountaineers at night.

It's hard to imagine baseball being any more exciting than it was this year. The Mountaineers had a "Murderer's Row" in the hitting department, blasting a state record 51 home runs in 30 ballgames and featuring a junior first baseman (Paul Brannon) who set state records for most home runs in a season (20), most home runs in a career (25) and most consecutive games hitting a home run (7).

It was only fitting that the press voted Brannon the state tournament's most valuable player trophy. He clubbed three home runs in the two state finals games, played good defense at first base, and, even if he'd gone hitless, his mere presence in the lineup was enough to keep opposing pitchers pitching from behind. Congratulations to Paul Brannon, who could not have accomplished what he did without the support of Raymond Couch, Bryan Dellinger, Daniel Honeycutt, Keith Allen, Kevin Whittington, Eric Peppard, Shane Sessoms, Chris Henson, Chris Plonk, Todd McDaniel, Ken Crook, Chris Bullock, Chris Morris, Chip Cash, Toby Deaton, Stuart Spiers, Chad Plonk, Jon Reid, Dale Greene, and coaches Bruce Clark, Bud Bumgardner, Ronny Funderburke and Rusty Bumgardner.

We salute all of the players and coaches for their hard work and dedication this year. They won 23 of 30 ballgames and put the KMHS baseball program back on solid ground. And they conducted themselves like winners both on and off the playing field.

We salute the community for backing the team, especially in the playoffs. Almost a thousand fans turned out for the Mounties' first playoff game with Enka, and as the home team won each game, the attendance would grow the next game. Over 1,300 fans turned out in the rain for Thursday's state championship game.

Also to be commended are the dozens of people around town who volunteered their time and talents to work on the field, not only Thursday but throughout the season, man the concession stands, ticket booths and press box, and do any other chore they were called upon to do.

The excellent coaching, excellent playing and tremendous community support all had a hand in the team's success.

Keep up the good work!

Honor Roll

The Herald is accepting nominations for its second annual Old-Timers Honor Roll. To be eligible, one must be at least 85 years of age or older or must have held the same job or been self-employed for 40 years. Mail your nominations to Old-Timers Honor Roll, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.

I would like to nominate: _____

He/She is 85 years old: _____

He/She has held the same job or has been self-employed for 40 years or longer: _____

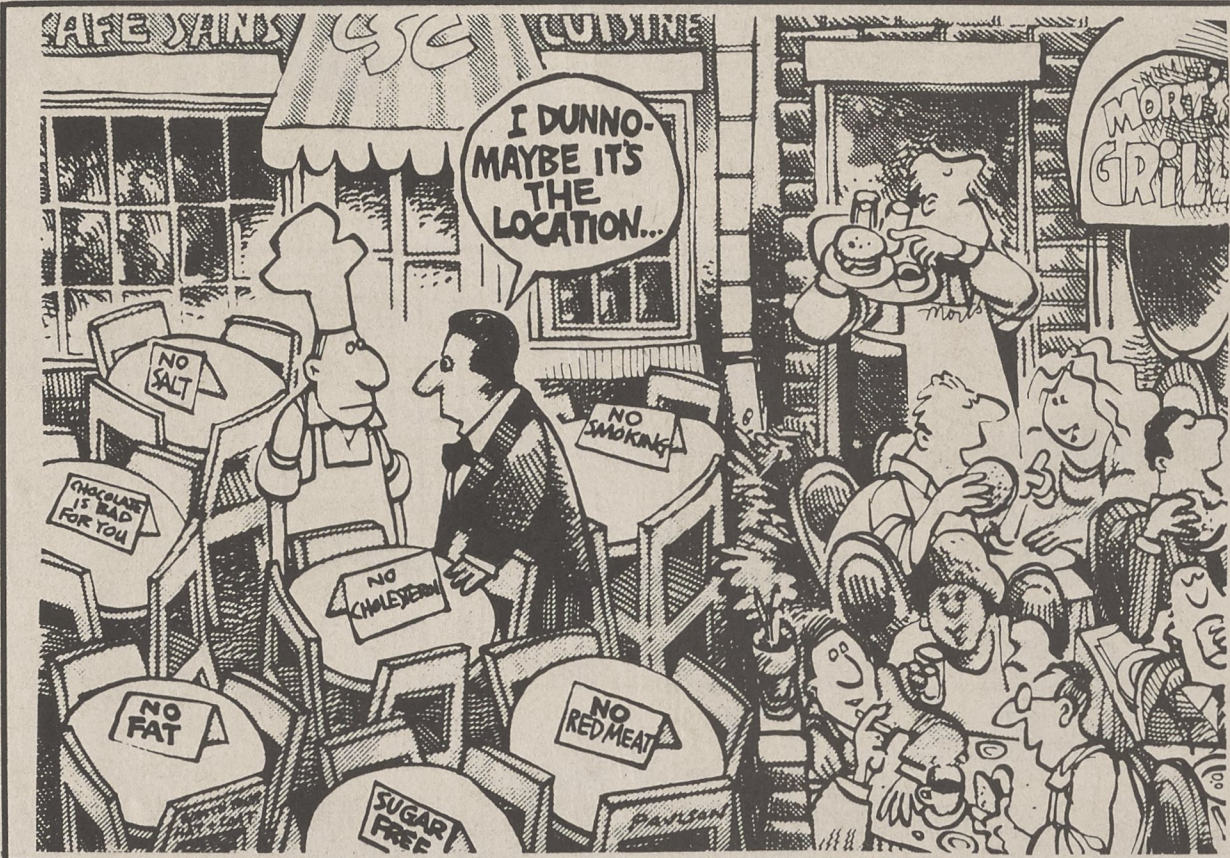
Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Nominated By: _____

Cartoonitorial



Snake Bite? The Knife Wound'll Kill You

My Uncle Amos Ramsey was a quiet man. When he had something to say, he meant it. All the kids in the neighborhood knew that, especially his own. Amos never had to tell his children anything more than once, but that's another story.

One day Amos' son, Jack, and I were sitting on his front porch playing with toy cars. We were about eight years old. Amos was sitting in the front porch swing reading a newspaper.

Their porch was one of those high ones with about twelve steps down to the ground. There were two shrubs in the front yard and a patch of woods about 75 yards away. A small creek meandered through the woods and we used to play there a lot.

"Jack!" said Amos. "Go into the house and get my rifle and that box of shell."

Jack hustled off to do his father's bidding and was soon back carrying a .22 rifle and a box of bullets.

Amos didn't say a word. He simply opened the box, loaded the rifle, brought it to his shoulder, aimed momentarily and fired toward one of the shrubs.

I jumped about 6 feet, thinking surely my uncle Amos had taken leave of his senses.

"Go out there," he told us, "and throw that copperhead in the trash, but be careful, sometimes they'll still bite after they're dead."

Wrapped around the base of one of the shrubs was a dead copperhead, but there was no danger of his biting us as his head was now smashed.

Amos returned to his newspaper.

Copperheads. We are told by those that supposedly know that the copperhead is the only poisonous snake in this part of the state. And yet, a few years ago, a man in Gastonia was plowing a field and found two rattlesnakes on opposite sides of that field. I'm not firmly convinced the area is completely devoid of water moccasins.

At any rate, I'm reminded of another incident involving a copperhead. My good friend, Albert Murdock of Marion, N.C., loved to fish. He and a buddy were sitting on a river bank fishing one balmy afternoon when Albert put his hand down right on top of a coiled copperhead. The snake bit him of course. It got him right between the thumb and forefinger. Albert, being somewhat of a woodsman, wasn't too concerned. But his pal got excited, pulled out his knife and cut an X on the bite mark. As he bent to attempt to suck the poison out Albert recoiled.

"Are you crazy?" he exclaimed.

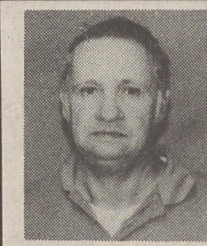
"That's what you have to do!" replied the other.

He was wrong and Albert knew it. The sucking out of the poison used to be an accepted emergency procedure until medical people realized that anyone with a decayed tooth or an open sore around the area of the mouth was endangering himself.

Albert calmly gathered his tackle and drove to his doctor's office.

"I'm not too worried about the snakebite," the doctor told him, "but that knife wound might kill you unless I get it sterilized."

Copperheads, in fact, kill very few people and those that do succumb are usually young children. Actually, more people are killed world-wide by honeybees than poisonous snakes each year. Don't misunderstand, all poisonous snakes are to be avoided. Snakes in this country are not aggressive. They will do anything to avoid humans, but, if they have no other choice, they will bite you. The only really aggressive snake I've ev-



Jim Heffner

er heard of is the black mamba of Africa. The mamba will actually chase human beings and will bite repeatedly.

Speaking of snake poisons, the venom of a king cobra is so deadly that one gram can kill 150 people. Just getting the substance on the skin can put a human being into a coma.

There are copperheads around here, so be careful, especially around old woodpiles. That's their favorite habitat.

TRUMP'S TRIPE - Billionaire Donald Trump says that successful people are born. "It's in the genes," he says. What a lot of hogwash. I suspect Trump equates success with riches. Most wealthy people get their money the old-fashioned way—they inherit it. But many millionaires have started with nothing and made their fortunes through hard work and enterprise. To be successful is not necessarily to be rich. A woman of modest means can be a very successful mother. A man can be a successful husband and father without a lot of money.

All people, men and women, have it within themselves to become successful, and yes, wealthy. The trick is not "genes." The trick is attitude, work and persistence. The most important of these is persistence.

CHINA SYNDROME - I don't know about you but I'm getting pretty tired of reading and hearing about China. The almost constant barrage of news stories did get me curious though, so I did a little research and found out some interesting things about that strange country.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Chinese took revenge on their enemies by lacing their food with finely chopped tiger whiskers. The barbs played havoc with the digestive tract, producing painful sores and infections.

Some of the guards on the Great Wall never set foot on the ground. Many of them were born on the wall, lived there, married and raised families there, died and were buried there.

In ancient China people committed suicide by eating a pound of salt.

The Chinese invented eyeglasses. Marco Polo reported seeing the Chinese wearing glasses in 1275, 500 years before lens grinding became an art in the West.

While researching China, I stumbled on the following unrelated item: In 1970, an Arizona attorney, Russel H. Tansie, filed a \$100,000 damage suit against God (I kid you not). It seems Lawyer Tansie's secretary, Betty Penrose, accused God of negligence when he allowed a lightning bolt to strike her home. Tansie won the case when the defendant failed to appear. There is no word on whether Miss Penrose collected.

ACCOLADES - Congratulations to the Mounties! These young men have accomplished something they will cherish for the rest of their lives. They are a credit to themselves and the community.

Your Right To Say It

Thanks For Support

To The Editor:
A very special word of thanks to each citizen of Cleveland County who continually supports the efforts locally of the American Cancer Society.

This year our public education efforts have already exceeded the goals set for our area. To date we have reached 12,515 adults with a yearly goal of 7,337. Numbers of youth reached year-to-date exceed 8, 534 with a yearly goal set of 6,846. Special programs such as Fresh Start, Taking Control, Breast-Self Exam, Testicular-Self Exam, and many, many others have proven vital in saving lives.

Please continue to support our efforts as we pull together to make 1989 the best year yet for sharing our life-saving message.

CINDY B. BORDERS
PUBLIC EDUCATION CHAIRMAN
CLEVELAND COUNTY UNIT
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Leave Guns Alone

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Jim Heffner's column on June 7 titled "You Don't Need A AK-47. I agree, I don't if the legislation proposed by Senator Metzenbaum only affected AK-47's I wouldn't be taking time to write this.

The Metzenbaum bill would outlaw the sale & possession of "any rifle, shotgun or pistol capable of accepting a twenty round magazine." One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that any gun that has a magazine is included in this bill, since the only limiting factor to the number of shots in a magazine is the height of the person shooting the gun. If you're 6 feet tall, you can have a 5-foot magazine made, for instance. As far as his assertion that semi-automatic weapons were designed for one thing - to kill people, so were match locks, flint locks percussion caps and revolvers. Knives, slingshots, and in the case of Caine and Able, rocks do a fine job, too. If given the choice of weapons knowing that I were going into combat situation, I would definitely take your shotgun over any AK-47 or similar weapon, a view shared by the US Army which has issued shotguns from the Winchester Model 13 in World War I to the Mossburg 500 in Vietnam. By the way, all shotguns except double barrels are on the banned list, also.

I, too, am not a hunter, and have never fired at gun at anyone and hope I never have to. I am a target shooter who uses a \$1000 custom made target pistol to punch holes in targets. My pistol is on the banned list also, simply because it takes a magazine that holds seven slots, but is capable of taking a larger one, even though no one makes such a magazine.

Mr. Heffner, the start of this gun ban was the Stockton, California School yard shooting, a heinous crime that should have never occurred. Patrick Purdy, the maniac who did the shooting, had been arrested seven times on felony charges that had been plea-bargained down to misdemeanors. His background check for a pistol he carried with him on that terrible day, if properly done by the police, would have revealed that he was a mental patient and a drug addict who was judged "a danger to himself & others" by the probation office. This would have been enough to enable the police to take his guns away before the shooting occurred.

Mr. Heffner, criminals are criminals because the don't follow the law. The won't turn in their guns when they get arrested because they're now felons.

The solution to crime is to make sure criminals stay in jail. The average "life sentence" is 15 years with good behavior. This is absurd. President Bush is on the right track with the mandatory jail term for using a firearm in certain crimes, but this in snout enough. Write your Congressman and tell them to get tough on crime and drugs. And if you value the rights that millions of Americans have died for, tell them to leave our guns alone.

Sincerely,
Rick McDaniel

Letter Policy

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

Letters should be brief and to the point. If possible, type and double space them, but sign them in ink and include your full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

We reserve the right to edit the letters for spelling, libel, and any other reason, and reserve the right to reject any letter for any reason. Under no circumstances will unsigned letters be published, and hand-delivered letters will not be published.

Mail all letters to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.

Being Father Hard Work, Good One Even Harder

Father's Day, unlike the immortalized day for mothers, is not shrouded in ceremony with children coming from far away to pay respect to their father.

As a matter of fact, if not reminded by the mothers of the world, fathers would probably be the first to forget Father's Day. It just shows how little attention it receives.

But fathers like that. They don't want to attract all the extra attention to themselves. So some just keep quiet and hope it goes quietly by.

Despite their desire, fathers deserve a day of their own. After all, they have to put up with a lot from their kids and are always the one who says "no." They need at least one day out of the year to call their own.

The idea for Father's Day was suggested 80 years ago by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd, who felt that men like her own father deserved a day of recognition. Her father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran, had been widowed when his daughter and five sons were very young. Realization of the difficulties he must have had raising his young motherless family on a farm in eastern Washington and appreciation for his constant devotion to his family, sparked Mrs. Dodd's desire to honor all fathers.

As a joint venture between Mrs. Dodd, the Spokane Ministerial Association, Spokane Ministers Alliance and city YMCA, the first Father's Day was observed in



Lib Stewart

Spokane on the third Sunday of June--the month of Dodd's birthday--in 1910. Among the first notables to endorse Mrs. Dodd's idea was the orator and political leader William Jennings Bryan. He complimented her on the inspiration of Father's Day and remarked that "too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the parent-child relationship."

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson took part in a Father's Day celebration by pressing a button in his Washington office that unfurled a flag in Spokane.

The observance of Father's Day did not spread rapidly. Congress did not give Father's Day national holiday status until 1972, when President Richard M. Nixon signed a congressional resolution establishing Father's Day as a national holiday to be celebrated on

the third Sunday in June each year. Father's Day is also celebrated in at least 20 foreign countries, although not necessarily on the same day as in the United States.

It takes a lot of hard work for a man to be a good father. He has to spend his time watching his sons and daughters fall, as toddlers, as beginning bike riders, as students and even as adults working at their careers. He is always close enough to make sure they don't get seriously hurt and yet far enough away so his children can learn.

Even though it hurts him to watch each time they fall, he knows many times it's the best way for them to learn.

But children are so busy growing up they rarely notice father anxiously watching from his vantage point. Even when a child takes his first step, father is there just far enough away to let him think he is on his own and yet close enough to pick him up if he falls.

Children grow up at their father's knee. It's one of the happiest places for a child.

Being a father is hard work but being a good father is even harder. Home is never the same after a child loses a father. The last day our father was at home was on Father's Day 1983. By Labor Day that year he had gone to heaven.

Make Father's Day a day to honor your father. Show him you appreciate him on Sunday.

Kings Mountain Herald

Established 1889

Published Wednesday
at East King Street at Canterbury Road,
Kings Mountain, North Carolina 28086, by
Republic Newspapers, Inc.

Darrell Austin
General Manager

Gary Stewart
Editor

Sarah Griffin
Bookkeeper

Elizabeth Stewart
Women's Editor

Jeff Grigg
Production Manager

Randall Barber
Pressroom Superintendent

Subscription Rates

	1 Year	6 Months
In County.....	\$14.50	\$7.25
Out-Of-County.....	\$15.55	\$7.80
Student Rates (9 Mos.).....	\$11.00	

(All prices include 5 percent sales tax.)