

Speak Out At Hearing

So often we fail to speak out when a public issue comes up but are quick to criticize decisions made by public officials.

Next Monday at 7:30 p.m. at East Elementary School, the Kings Mountain Board of Education will host a public hearing to give citizens a chance to state their opinions on the possible closing of East School and re-drawing of elementary school attendance lines.

There are pros and cons to any issue, but in this case, at least until someone brings to light something that has not yet been mentioned, it appears the disadvantages of keeping East open outweigh the advantages.

Persons who have good reasons to keep the school open need to make a special effort to attend, and speak out, at Monday's meeting. School officials need to have the reactions of all the people but especially those persons who live in the East community and have children attending that school.

The possibility of closing East arose several months ago when the school board began considering re-drawing attendance lines to create more racially-balanced schools. Fifty-six percent of the students now attending East are minority students, while averages at the other four elementary schools range from 14 percent at Bethware to 29 percent at Grover.

The high minority figure at East is not the only consideration, however.

Over the past several years, the total enrollment of East School has decreased drastically and school officials predict that if the current trend continues, the enrollment will fall below 200 students by 1992.

The school system is also in the early stages of a massive rebuilding and renovation program made possible by the passage of a recent bond referendum, and school officials are also faced with the question of whether or not it is wise to spend a lot of money at a school whose enrollment is steadily declining.

Some board members and school officials are also concerned that East is located between two major highways, the 74 Bypass and Highway 161, and the back part of the school property is divided by the city street which children have to cross to get to the playground. The school campus is also much smaller (8 acres) than the state recommendation for a school of its size (13 acres).

If the only issue facing the board was the issue of racial imbalance, its decision would be much easier. Attendance zones could be re-drawn and East could be left open. But, apparently, it's not that easy.

That's why the School Board needs public input. At an earlier public hearing to discuss these matters, only a handful of people showed up and only five spoke. The board is giving the community another chance. The people need to be heard and the board needs to weigh the pros and cons and make its decision soon.

We'll Miss McGinnis

The death at age 55 of Jim McGinnis saddened his many friends in the Kings Mountain area.

Jim grew up in the furniture business in a family of 13 children of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. Hinkle McGinnis. Even as a boy he worked in the family business. He was a popular salesman, even as a youth. He greeted the public with a big smile.

In 1962, he and his family moved back home from Concord and he became treasurer of the family corporation, McGinnis Furniture.

A familiar figure in the Kings Mountain business community, he was well liked and friendly. Playing golf was his hobby. Cheering Clemson Tigers football team was pure joy for him, his wife and three daughters. The McGinnises didn't miss many games at Clemson University.

His close friends and business partners say he told them at the hospital several weeks ago that he preferred memorials be made to his church, St. Matthew's Lutheran, or to Lutheridge. "Don't send any flowers. Give the money to people who need it," he was quoted.

Jim's wife of 32 years said Jim was always generous in his appreciation of others. He would want little said about him in the newspapers.

Jim McGinnis will be missed. The Herald joins with his friends in expressing Christian sympathy to the McGinnis family.

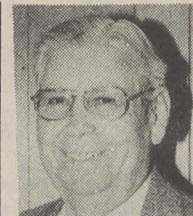
AT ISSUE

Should North Carolina Have A Lottery?

Helen Marvin is a former educator and represents the 25th District in the North Carolina Senate.



YES



Ollie Harris is the owner of Harris Funeral Home and represents the 25th District in the North Carolina Senate.

NO

I believe North Carolina should establish a lottery. Not because lottery is inherently good--for I do not see it as a morals issue--but because it is an economic option which could greatly benefit the people of North Carolina, and also because it is simply a matter of fairness.

As an economic option, it has a lot to commend it--conservatively 150 to 200 million dollars a year. This is just about the amount that we find ourselves short this year in order to provide for a 6% teacher and state employee pay increase, and to continue to fund the basic education program. If we had the lottery in place, we could have raised this amount without costing taxpayers one cent.

Twenty-two states now operate lotteries, including our neighbor, Virginia, where it has been estimated that a substantial percentage of the revenue they have thus far generated has come from North Carolinians. Why should we let Virginia get this revenue?

In every municipality there is ready access to clandestine lotteries, numbers games, etc., which are available to those who want to participate. Why should we allow these profiteers to feather their nests with money which could be used to provide for the state's educational needs?

With the enactment of the highway funding bill, we have raised gasoline taxes 5 1/4 cents, together with increases in vehicle use taxes. North Carolinians should not be forced to suffer another increase in taxes to provide needed services if there is another way to raise the revenue. The lottery is a viable alternative to another tax increase which will almost certainly be needed in the next biennium to fund ever-increasing costs of essential services.

A question of fairness: North Carolinians, like most other Americans, love games of chance. Witness the large number who play bingo, buy a raffle ticket, bet on ballgames, play the commodities and stock markets, play the games at casinos like Vegas and Atlantic City. Those who live at low and marginal income lev-

els do not have the surplus cash to take a flyer in the stock or commodity market, or fly out to Vegas for a weekend, but they can and do find a dollar here and a dollar there to buy a raffle or numbers ticket or to play a game of bingo. Why should they be denied the opportunity to dream big and the hope of making a fortune out of a small investment? A lottery would give them the chance to become a millionaire, albeit the odds may be only one in a million, or even to win a few thousand dollars to relieve the monotony and hopelessness of their poverty.

The lottery bill proposed by the Senate would transfer profits periodically to the Department of Public Instruction "for use in furthering public education in this state." It would prohibit these funds being used to supplant funds appropriated from the General Fund. This provision would insure against education being short changed as it is claimed happened in California when lottery money began to come into that state.

Colleagues of mine in Pennsylvania and other states with years of experience operating the lottery assure me that it is working well in their states with none of the problems with the Mafia or corruption which opponents use to argue against establishing a lottery in North Carolina.

If any and every kind of gambling could be prevented in North Carolina, I would not endorse a lottery. However, inasmuch as people are going to play these games of chance which are available in almost every mail and on almost every street corner, it seems to me irrational to oppose a state lottery simply because it is another game of chance.

The decision regarding a lottery in North Carolina should be made by the people of North Carolina. All opinion polls indicate the people want a lottery. Hundreds of my constituents tell me they want a lottery.

I believe the General Assembly should pass a bill to enable the people of this state to vote for or against this issue.

Meet My Friend Jim Knapik, The Adventurer

You have to know Jim Knapik (the first K is silent) to appreciate his problems. I don't know if problem is the correct term. Maybe adventure is a better word.

Jim has been a business associate for several years. A former school teacher who was born and reared in Cleveland, Ohio, he is likable, a hard worker and a good family man. Jim always displays a cheerful countenance and will go out of his way to help a fellow human being. But, for some unexplained reason, trouble follows him as surely as day follows night.

Remember that little guy in the Lil Abner comic strip that used to go around with a black cloud hanging over his head? I think his name was Joe Btzlpk, or something along those lines. That's Jim Knapik personified.

About two years ago, Jim was working in Dallas, Texas and he and a friend stopped at the Golden Arches for a quick lunch. The restaurant, in conjunction with a local TV station and a national soft drink firm, was conducting a contest, and when you purchased your food, you got a game card. The card had two blacked out areas. One of the areas, which had to be cleared with the edge of a coin, or some such object, contained a prize. The award could be a free sandwich, french fries, soft drinks or money--up to \$25,000, as I remember. The second blacked out area was some kind of security key with instructions that stated: if this block is uncovered the card is invalidated.

Jim, being new in town, knew nothing about the contest, so he asked his friend, "how does this work?"

The friend took the card and said, "here, I'll show you."

Whereupon he scraped the lack off the security box, then the prize box. The prize box contained the following: Instant winner \$5,000. Jim took the card to the manager and explained what had happened, but to no avail. He was out five grand.



Jim Heffner

Believe it or not, Jim still refers to the guy as his friend.

The last harsh winter we had in this area, the time when we had a lot of ice and snow, Jim decided he and his son would be good neighbors. There was an elderly couple who lived across the street, so he, in his own inimitable way, thought it would be nice to lend a hand since the gentleman of the house was in the hospital.

He and his son shoveled the snow and ice from the couple's driveway and steps, but they missed a small spot on the steps. Well, you can guess what happened next. The lady came out, slipped on the small patch of ice, fell and broke her knee. I don't remember whether she got an adjoining room with her husband or not.

Last summer, Jim watched his children riding their skateboards on the sidewalk in front of his house. He thought that looked like a lot of fun, so he decided to give it a try. Everything went along smoothly for a while, but eventually, he made a sharp turn he couldn't handle. Although the resulting crash didn't break any bones, Jim ended up with extensive bruises and contusions, that put him out of action for about a month.

Jim told me the other day he would never drive a red car. Even when goes out of town and finds it nec-

essary to rent a car, he will not take a red one. If the rental agency can't provide him with a car of another color, he goes to another agency. I guess he considers red cars bad luck. My question is: how could he have worse luck?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - I read somewhere that Reverend Billy Graham was just honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. That's a little unusual don't you think? Is Dr. Graham a minister or an entertainer?

Getting their stars, along with Reverend Graham were Charlie Tuna, a Los Angeles disc jockey and Cubby Broccoli, produce of the James Bond films.

Sounds like a full course meal to me--Tuna, Broccoli and Graham crackers.

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING - There was a report the other day about a Russian sailor who jumped ship in Rockaway Beach, Oregon and ran through the resort town naked, waving a small American flag in one hand and brandishing a knife in the other.

The Russian went on a rampage, breaking into a church and destroying equipment as well as smashing several windows as he tossed out a VCR and a computer system, among other items. He was arrested, of course.

"I wanted to try American," was his only explanation. Now what in the world does that mean?

At any rate the U.S. Immigration Service came to the rescue, granting the Bolshevik temporary asylum. Temporary asylum? This guy needs permanent asylum--in an insane asylum.

Don't we live in a wonderful country?

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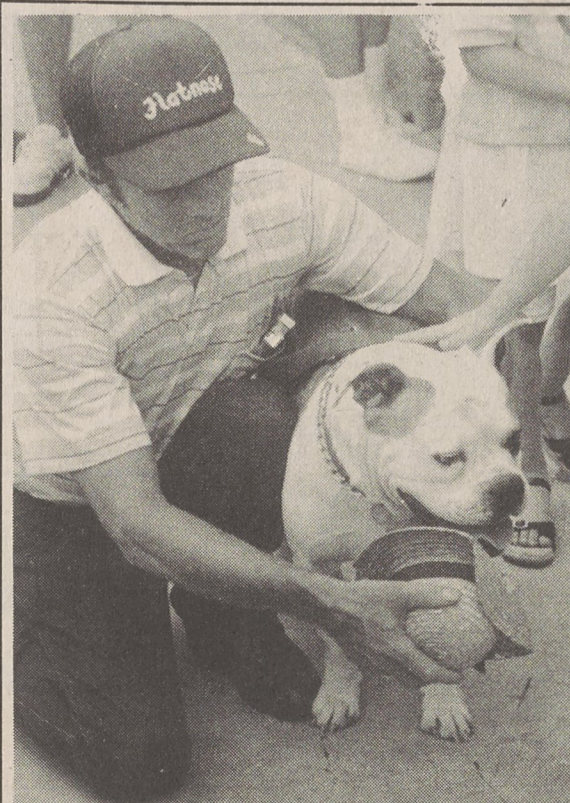
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BARNEY AND FLAT NOSE

Get Well Soon, Flat Nose!

When Kings Mountain's David Godbold first began trying to get a tree-climbing dog named Flat Nose booked for showings, many were the times he heard the loud banging of a phone being hung up.

"People thought we were crazy," he said.

Now, reporters and television crews from all over the United States are in Raleigh to see if the world-famous dog from Darlington, S.C., will be able to climb again.

Flat Nose, whose last public appearance was in downtown Kings Mountain in June, had a pacemaker surgically implanted Tuesday at the North Carolina State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Johnny Carson, on whose TV show Flat Nose appeared many times, sent roses.

Godbold, Flat Nose's talent manager, and Barney Odom, the dog's owner, first began noticing something wasn't right with Flat Nose when they brought him to Kings Mountain that Saturday in June. "We recognized he was a little sick but thought maybe he'd been tired from all the riding and flying he had been doing," Godbold said.

Since being signed by Godbold a couple years ago, Flat Nose has climbed over 2,000 times, including numerous times in front of television audiences and for



Gary Stewart

dog food commercials. He has made a tour of Japan and has climbed trees all over the United States, including appearances at halftime of the Citrus and Orange Bowls.

Flat Nose's tree-climbing ability apparently came naturally. Barney Odom, who owns seven other bulldog-terriers, was walking his dogs on his farm in Darlington County, S.C., one day about five years ago when Flat Nose climbed a tree.

"Barney grabbed a stick and started whipping him, trying to keep him from climbing," Godbold said.

One day not long afterward, Odom came home and found Barney high up in a tree. The thought came to

See Flat Nose, 5-A