

# Opinions

## OUR VIEW

### Lot Of Love For 3 1/2 Years

It was a sad day for Wanda Kyle at the People That Love Center Monday. She had to close the center down because donations had gone to almost zero over the past several months and they could no longer afford to help the thousands of needy people in the area who have fallen on hard times.

Mrs. Kyle and other volunteers at the Center gave freely of their time--and money--for 3 1/2 years to try to help needy people in the area obtain food, clothing, medicine, pay their bills, and have the other bare necessities that most of us take for granted.

The PTL began in 1986 by a small band of Christians who saw the need to take care of their neighbors 12 months a year rather than just at Christmas, when most of us think about giving a little to help someone else.

Mrs. Kyle left the Love Center with debts of about \$1,000, which she said she will pay herself rather than have the Love Center's creditors take the loss.

Many, many people in the area helped the Center during its brief period on Piedmont Avenue. One anonymous doctor in town treated persons referred by the Center at no charge. Many businessmen who wished to remain anonymous often gave money to help the Center tread water.

But, perhaps the most faithful contributor, other than Mrs. Kyle and Pandora Burris, who volunteered their time for the entire 3 1/2 year period, was a little old lady who cashed her social security check each month and came by the Love Center with a can of food. A widow's mite never went further.

Mrs. Kyle, who had been spending money out of her own pocket for months to keep the Center open and its services going, decided after learning last week that the Ministerial Association is planning a similar crisis ministry in town that it was time for her to step aside. The Love Center and the Crisis Center, which is planned for the Community Center, would be serving the same people and the Crisis Center, backed by the Ministerial Association, would be more able financially and personnel-wise to take care of the people's needs.

Still, the closing of the Love Center was a sad day. Mrs. Kyle, Mrs. Burris and several others worked long hours at no pay to help their fellow citizens, and often with little or no thanks.

Kings Mountain owes a great debt of gratitude to the People That Love Center, its volunteers and contributors, and especially to Wanda Kyle and Pandora Burris for the services rendered since April of 1986.

We also owe it to each other to support the Ministerial Association in its new endeavor and hope that its program will not meet the same end as the People That Love Center. Perhaps with the involvement of all the churches in the Ministerial Association, the new Crisis Center will have a happier story to tell.

## 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.

## PICTORIAL

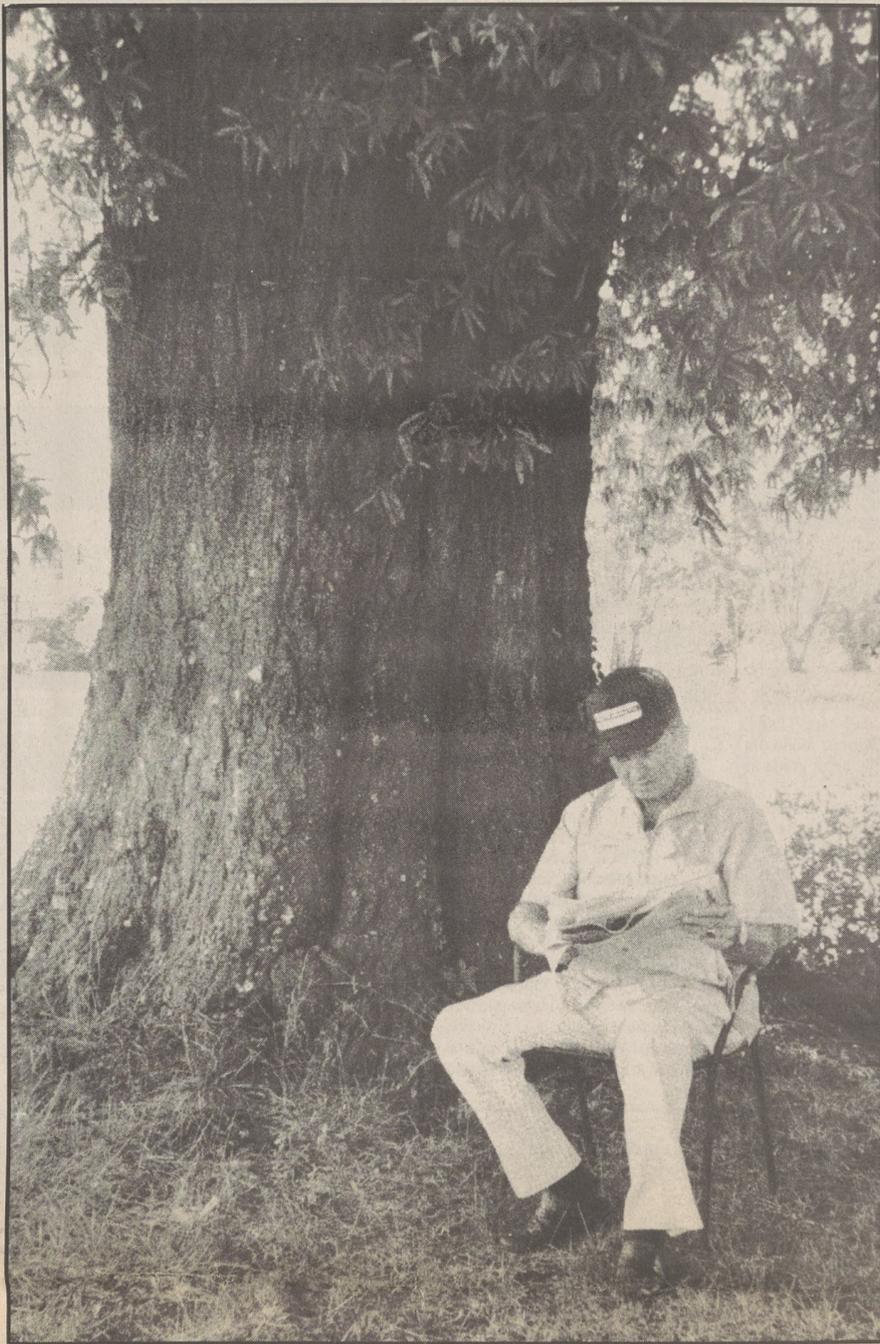


Photo by T.C. McKee

**HARD AT WORK ON LABOR DAY** - Kings Mountain barber Bill Bridges found the shade of this huge water oak tree near his shop on Walnut Street to be the perfect place for some Labor Day rest on Monday. Bridges read the newspaper as he cooled off under the shade. The water oak is believed to be the biggest tree in Kings Mountain. Its circumference at the base is 20 feet.

## Schools Off To Great Start

Our school year is off to a great start. I have really been enjoying visiting each of our schools. The students are working hard, and our employees are doing their usual excellent job.

A big thank you is due our community for the fantastic support given the Educational Foundation at our Kick-Off Reception and Banquet. We had large turnouts at both events. I have heard a great deal of positive reaction in the community to the concept of the Foundation. I think great things are ahead for our children and teachers as a result of this effort.

We have much to accomplish this year. Many new programs are in place. I will detail those for you in future columns. Today I want to mention two goals we have for this year which are very important.

One goal is to improve student achievement in our system. That sounds routine enough - such should always be a goal. This year we want to place special emphasis on the effort. Our Director of Instruction, Jane King, has appointed a system-wide Task Force to lead the effort. We hope to raise our test scores in many ar-

### Superintendent's Viewpoint

BOB McRAE



reas. It would be unfair, however, to say only that. Test scores are one indicator of how well a system is doing, but there are many factors which influence those scores. The school system has little control over some of the most significant ones.

What we really want to do is assure ourselves and our community that we are making a solid effort at providing instruction to all children in a way that helps them to reach their fullest potential. This work will de-

See McRae, 14-A

## Ah, Miami! Unless You Just Have To Go There, Don't

I just got back from Miami. What a city--hot, humid, sweltering Miami. An ethnic melting pot, where every other house has barred windows. Miami is a pulsating city, especially at night. Strangely, there are very few notable restaurants in that city. They have horse-racing, dog racing, jai alai, the Orange Bowl, and a huge drug market located on almost any corner.

Miami has a burgeoning crime rate and a police force that defies description. I will not paint the entire police department with the same brush. I will not paint the entire police department with the same brush. I'm sure there are many sharp, competent officers on the force, but it does seem they are constantly in hot water or getting negative publicity for one reason or another. It might just be that they are outmanned by the crooks. Certainly the drug dealers are better armed with their Uzis and AK-47's.

Over a span of two and a half years, 17 women died mysteriously in Miami. All were young, black women, most were prostitutes, all had traces of cocaine in their systems and all were found naked from the waist down in empty lots or abandoned buildings.

None of the bodies showed signs of violence--no bruises or internal injuries, nor were there any needle marks.

All the bodies were found in the northern half of the county.

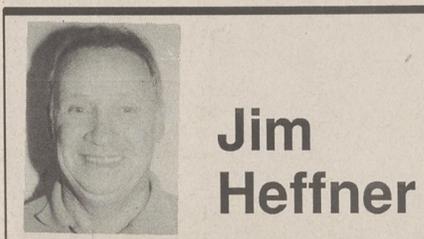
Admittedly, these are unusual cases. Authorities are unable to determine the cause of death in any of them. But never mind that mystery--no doubt that will be cleared up eventually. My question is: how can a large metropolitan police force, with all their equipment,

knowledge and experience go so long without realizing they have a serial killer on their hands, as they've recently decided?

The last time I was in Miami, back in July, a couple of orientals were going around robbing restaurants. The police had their descriptions and a make on the car. The last night I was in town, another restaurant was robbed. That same night a patrol car stopped an automobile with a burned out tail light. The occupants were two young vietnamese, and the car fit the description of that used by the robbers. Even though, the young men were stopped less than two blocks from the vietnamese, and the car fit the description of that used by the robbers. Even though, the young men were stopped less than two blocks from the victimized eating establishment, they were released.

Another policeman, the next day, put everything together and arrests were made.

My friend, Chuck Hildreth, was sitting in the Miami airport the other day and overheard two ladies dis-



Jim Heffner

cussing their recent problems with crime. One of the women allowed as how her house had been burglarized twice in the last six months. "You're lucky," replied the other. "They've hit us three times in the last month."

So when that guy on television says "come on down," think about it first.

**BIG BIRDS BIG BUCKS**

In an out of town newspaper the other day I happened upon a story about farmers out west. It seems due to sagging grain and pork markets, about 300 of these men of the soil have changed over to raising ostriches. That's right, ostriches. The meat of these nine-foot, 300 pound African birds is edible and the skin can be used as upholstery material.

A female ostrich lays about 35 to 100 eggs annually for 40 of their 70 year life span, and they'll eat anything. Most are raised on alfalfa pellets and grain with a little lettuce and cabbage thrown in.

Ostrich meat, popular in Europe, is a red meat that is one-third lower in fat and cholesterol than beef.

These unusual birds, which run up to 40 miles per hour, aren't cheap. An adult mating pair cost between \$35,000 and \$60,000, depending on their productivity. Their eggs aren't easy to retrieve from the pan either. They don't take to humans and it is said their kick can kill a man.

How does Mcostrich sound?

At any rate it makes me was poetic: The ostrich really makes me burn, Its kick will knock you flat, You cannot kick him in return, And that's not tit for tat.

## Your Right To Say It

### Thanks For Ink

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your generous support of the recent ISA National Softball Championship games. Your help with publicity on the tournament contributed significantly to its success.

As you know, Holy Angels will receive all proceeds of the tournament. Some current needs for the children are: a playground system specially designed for the handicapped; supplies and equipment for the new therapeutic and recreational horseback riding program; and a commercial, handicapped-equipped bus for field trips and other activities. Proceeds from the ISA games will be used wisely to help make some of these dreams a reality!

On behalf of the children at Holy Angels, we thank you for your generous help.

Sincerely,  
Regina Moody  
Holy Angels  
Executive Director

Carl Champion  
Art Shoemaker  
ISA Tournament  
Director

### Note To Notch Victims

Dear Fellow Notch Victim:

Robert Myers, Chairman of the Notch Study Panel of the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) and a strong, longtime opponent of Notch reform, advocates use of the Social Security "replacement Percentage Rate," rather than "dollars," in dealing with the Notch problem. Since Myers is not alone in his insistence on this point, as the enthusiastic support of his colleagues will reveal, the time has come, in my view, to address this subject openly and on an individual basis to establish if, in fact, "The replacement rate for a worker with average earnings is about 42%," as stated in the June 1987 issue of the Social Security Administration's pamphlet "Issues And Answers."

Having recently calculated my own "replacement rate" from the details given in the above Social Security publication, together with my "lifetime earnings history" acquired from our local Social Security office, it has occurred to me that many of you may wish to do the same thing out of curiosity and a profound personal interest in your own affairs. If so, just proceed as follows:

1. Obtain the following pamphlets from your local Social Security office"

(a) A copy of the June 1987 issue of Social Security's "Issues and Answers," on The Notch, and

(b) A copy of Social Security's "History of Social Security," which provides "Effective Earnings Base" information for the years 1937 through 1988.

2. Ask the Social Security people for a computer printout of your "lifetime earnings history," a document they gladly furnished in my case.

3. Use the following formula, which I derived from the information given under "Replacement Rates" in the pamphlet under 1(a) above. In words, this formula states that your replacement rate equals your monthly Social Security benefit divided by twice your average monthly earnings for the total number of years you received FICA earnings credit...this fraction, then, is multiplied by 100 to give a "Replacement Percentage Rate."

Stated mathematically, the formula under 3 above becomes: % RR = Monthly Benefit (100) 2 Ave. Monthly Earnings).

In my case, I calculated two replacement rates, one of 35.1% for a "lifetime maximum earnings history" dating from 1951 (the first year Social Security began to credit my "earnings") through May of 1982 (my last month worked), and another of 44.1% as a "Notch Baby," dating from 1951 through 1979, the year in which I reached 61 years of age, and after which, I, presumably, received no credit for additional earning recorded for some three years approximately thereafter.

The increase of 9 percentage points in my replacement rate as a Notch victim arises from a reduction in the denominator of the above formula due to the omission of earnings credited to my account after turning 61 years of age in 1979. A reduction in the denominator of this formula, of course, leads to an increase in the calculated "replacement percentage rate."

It should also be pointed out that the factor 2 in the denominator of the above formula arises from the fact that both you and your employer contributed identical amounts to your total monthly earnings.

Should any of you decide to tackle this sticky replacement rate problem, I'll be glad to help, if needed, with some of the details after you have obtained the Social Security information indicated under items 1 and 2 of this letter. I can be reached by phone by calling 484-8834.

HAROLD LOVELESS

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