

Opinions

OUR VIEW

Looking Back

Your Right To Say It



Gary Stewart

David Godbold Will Be Missed

Flat Nose, the world famous tree-climbing dog, will climb no more. At least not in public.

David Godbold, manager of Flat Nose and his owner Barney Odom, is leaving Kings Mountain to take a job as a talent coordinator for NBC. He'll train in Houston for six months and then begin selecting talent for such NBC shows as David Letterman and Johnny Carson.

Since Godbold is taking on these new duties he said it would be a conflict of interest for him to continue managing Flat Nose, and several other acts he has been managing, so he has resigned those duties as well as his job as Plant Manager at Elizabeth Weaving in Grover.

Godbold talked the matter over with Barney Odom recently and the two decided it would be best for Flat Nose to retire from climbing and spend the rest of his years touring schools with Barney to speak out against drugs.

Flat Nose hasn't climbed since having a heart pacemaker implanted in July at N.C. State University. But he has made several public appearances, including one in Kings Mountain a couple of weeks ago, and he will continue to do that.

You have to admire Barney Odom and Godbold for their stand against drugs and alcohol and if Barney can get his anti-drug message across by using Flat Nose, that's great.

Barney recently turned down a \$2 million offer from a beer company to use Flat Nose in a commercial. He said he isn't a beer drinker and he didn't believe in using animals to promote the use of alcohol.

Godbold, who first heard of Flat Nose through his cousin, an attorney in Rock Hill, S.C., credits the dog for putting him in a position to land his new job with NBC.

"The reason I got to know people in the entertainment business was through Flat Nose," he said. "I hate leaving this area but sometimes you just have to make this kind of a decision."

Godbold will be missed in the Kings Mountain area. He's not only brought happiness to many people through Flat Nose and some of his other clients, but he's helped a lot of people gain a high school diploma in an adult education program he persuaded Cleveland Community College to begin in Grover.

He was also instrumental in helping get the high school soccer program off the ground at Kings Mountain High School. He served as an assistant coach to Dan Potter and also helped get the team uniforms and other needed items.

He says his new job will put him "on the other side" of recognizing talent. Instead of trying to get his own clients booked for TV and other public appearances, he will now be trying to "recognize" outstanding talent and beating the other major networks to the punch.

"It's going to be a challenge," he said. "I'm really looking forward to it. But I'll really miss the people around here."

Vote Tuesday

Kings Mountain area citizens will go to the polls Tuesday to elect two city councilmen and three members to the Kings Mountain Board of Education.

In the council race, incumbent District 2 councilman Humes Houston is opposed by Elvin Greene and incumbent District 6 councilman Harold Phillips is opposed by Scott Neisler in run-offs.

In the school board race, incumbent Priscilla Mauney is challenged by Tom Bennett for an inside-city seat and incumbent Paul Hord Jr. faces five challengers for two outside-city seats. The challengers are Ronnie Hawkins, Billy Houze, Calvin Miller, Wanza Davis and Larry McDaniel.

The school board race is a "plurality" election, meaning that run-offs cannot be called. In the six-person battle for the two outside-city seats, the top two vote-getters are elected whether they receive 50 percent of the vote or not.

As stated in an editorial a couple of weeks ago, the Herald does not endorse local candidates. We feel like all the candidates, both in the city race and the school board race, are highly qualified and would make outstanding contributions to their respective boards.

Regardless of the outcome of next Tuesday's races, we would like to think that all of the candidates will be winners. Of course, they won't all be elected. But we hope those who are not elected will continue to do everything they can to make the city and schools run more effectively. Those who are not actually elected would be ideal for placement on city and school committees that work on certain projects and make recommendations to the elected boards.

And, we hope all citizens will make a special effort to get out and vote. Less than 30 percent of the registered voters participated in the recent City Council election. We need more people taking part in the election process.



KMPD 50 YEARS AGO - Pictured above is the Kings Mountain Police Force in 1939. The picture is owned by Verta Lublaneski of Kings Mountain, the daughter of Paul Short, the policeman on the left. Others, from left to right after Short, are Norman Pharr, Chief Jimmy Burns, Haywood Allen and Melvin Hoover.

Letting Off A Little Steam

I have several items on my mind this week. None of them are pleasant. Bear in mind that what you are about to read is laced with my personal opinions. You are welcome to yours.

THE NOVELIST AS SAVIOUR

Novelist Stephen King, who makes a rather good living writing about violence, recently made several rash, and in some cases, untrue statements.

"Violence is something that unites us," he says. "Even our taste in humor is violent. Think of the movie 'Caddyshack.' We love to see people fall down."

Funny, I don't remember "Caddyshack" as a violent movie. I thought it was a comedy, certainly nobody was maimed or murdered in that flick, which is more than I can say for all of King's works.

He goes on to say "I don't think that Woody Allen movies play much outside of the New York-Chicago-Atlanta-San Francisco circuit where the audience is urban and civilized."

Who's he kidding? Throw in Los Angeles and you've got a large percentage of the violent crimes committed in this country. A recent FBI report labels Atlanta the crime capitol of the USA. What King is really saying is that those who live in smaller cities or towns and those who don't like Woody Allen movies are ignorant.

Personally, I think Woody Allen was a wonderful comedian who should have stuck with comedy, because his movies stink. I guess that makes me uncivilized.

"What they like in the neighborhood theaters in the sticks are Burt Reynolds in fast cars, and The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," says King.

I gotta admit I liked Smokey And The Bandit if that's what he means. King should be aware there is a certain segment of society, mostly youngsters, who love horror movies. He's been responsible for several of them.

Says King: "What's the number one American sport? Stock car racing. The number one small business? The gun and weapon ship."

Both statements are way off base. The number one sport from a spectator point of view is baseball, followed closely by football. Number one from a participatory point of view is golf, and tennis is right up there. I don't have any idea of the number one small business, but I'd be willing to bet the farm is isn't guns and weapons. Those establishments are heavily regulated and hard to find in some towns and cities. How about gas stations, or food stores. Maybe someone out there can enlighten me.

Frankly, I think Stephen King was really taking cheap shots at the South. Living in Maine, I can understand his jealousy, but as Brother Dave Gardner used



Jim Heffner

to say, "have you ever heard of anybody retiring to the North?"

Case closed.

FLAG BURNING

I came across a wire report the other day about a Fayetteville, N.C. preacher, who conducted a flag-burning service in his church. The flag happened to be a Russian flag.

Clark led the Freedom Baptist Church congregation in the singing of the hymn "Victory in Jesus," after he had doused the Soviet flag with lighter fluid and set fire to it.

"When we lose our freedom to fight," he said, "we lose our freedom of religion."

I'm sorry, but that logic escapes me. Just as the logic that "The Supreme Court's decision to allow flag-burning shows they favor communism," escapes me.

Clark went on to say that the reason he committed the act was because he was a patriot and he hoped to bring America closer to God.

In my humble opinion, burning the flag of another country will bring nobody closer to God. The Reverend Clark is no better than the misguided zealots who burn the American flag. A true patriot respects the flags of all countries.

PAPA MICHAEL

Michael Jordan, former University of North Carolina basketball player and well-known multi-millionaire, recently took a wife.

It was later revealed that Jordan, and his new spouse, had produced a child some ten months earlier.

Another role model down the drain.

The sad part of this story is that nobody in this country seems to care that so many children are born out of wedlock. And when a man as popular as Michael Jordan fathers an illegitimate child, it sends the wrong message to kids, leaving the impression that illicit sex is perfectly OK. Well, it isn't.

There is a question in my mind whether children should idolize a Michael Jordan. Certainly, if I had small ones I would steer them away from that course.

9 Down, 27 More To Go

The first nine weeks of school is now over. If you child is having a problem at school and you have not been to talk with the teacher about it, let me encourage you to make an appointment now. Often, small problems become big ones when they are left unattended. Call your school for an appointment if you have such a need.

We were fortunate in our system to have suffered little damage due to Hurricane Hugo. We did miss one day of school. That day will be treated just like we treat a day missed due to snow. State law requires that we make up the first five days we miss due to inclement weather. The first make-up day in our calendar is Monday, June 4. The exception, I hope, will be the day missed on Monday, September 25 at North School due to the power failure. I have requested a waiver for that day since it affected only one school and am waiting to hear from that request.

Congratulations to our fall athletic teams and coaches. The season is rapidly drawing to a close. At the time I write this column, we have already won several championships. All teams, both at the high school and junior high school, have winning records. These coaches and players work very hard and deserve this success. I am proud not only of the winning records but also of the sportsmanlike way in which the teams have conducted themselves. This does not come by accident but is the result of good preparation by both the coaches and the parents of the players.

The Senior Class Play, *Fame*, will be presented next week. This annual event is always special to our seniors, and they deserve our support. Take the time to get out to Barnes Auditorium and see a performance.

Please remember to vote in the school board election on November 7. All eligible voters who reside in our school system can vote in this election. There are two outside seats and one inside seat on the ballot. You can vote on all three seats regardless of where you live in our school district. Support our kids with your vote.

Superintendent's Viewpoint

BOB McRAE



We have just replaced a large number of burned out light bulbs at our high school tennis courts. We are pleased to be able to offer this facility to our community for use outside of school hours but do need your help. If you play at night and are the last person to leave the courts, please remember to cut off the lights. This will enable us to stretch the life of some rather expensive bulbs. Thanks for your help in this matter.

On Monday, November 13 our ninth grade band, under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Cole, will perform at the North Carolina Music Educators Association Convention. The opportunity to play there is afforded bands with excellent records of performance over time.

Of course, Mrs. Cole was selected for two special awards last year in recognition of her leadership. Congratulations to our band program for yet another honor.

As we approach the holiday season, there will be many special programs conducted in our schools. There are important times for our students and families. I hope you will take the time to attend at least those that involve your own children. Such programs are opportunities for you to see the results of many weeks of work in our schools. Our kids do a terrific job and deserve our support. You'll find these programs to be very enjoyable, so take an evening to be a school booster.

Remember Those Killed By Drunks

To the editor:

The National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week is December 10-16. On Monday, December 11, Mothers Against Drunk Driving is joining the Governor's Highway Safety Program and Students Against Driving Drunk in a 3-D Day for North Carolina. We anticipate this being the biggest day promoting highway safety ever in North Carolina.

We have planned an awards luncheon at the Civic Center in Raleigh. Registration will begin at noon, followed by the luncheon at 1 and will continue with speakers and an awards ceremony. This important day will conclude with a candlelight vigil remembering the victims of impaired driving at the Capitol.

We would like to have a representative from each county who has been victimized by death or injury to participate in the vigil.

If any of your readers would be willing to come to Raleigh and represent their county, would they please call 1-800-248-6233? Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kimberly A. DiNubila
State Administrator
MADD, North Carolina

Tax Credit More Sensible

Congressional Democrats are arguing that President Bush has turned his back on the poor by vetoing legislation that would have raised the minimum wage. What they are not saying, though, is that their particular bill actually could have ended up hurting many low-income workers.

The Democratic measure would have raised the minimum wage by \$1.20 per hour, from \$3.35 to \$4.55 over three years and would have allowed employers to pay a lower training wage to new employees who have not worked more than 60 days. Granted, that sounds like a modest proposal. Even at \$4.55 per hour, a worker would have earned less than \$10,000 a year.

But as Mr. Bush pointed out in his veto message, an increase of that size would have stifled the creation of new job opportunities for those at the lowest rung of the economic ladder. White House policy analysts estimated the Democratic proposal would have resulted in the loss of as many as 400,000 jobs. That is no way to help the working poor.

The president is not opposed to a higher minimum wage. Indeed, in vetoing the Democrats' measure, he reiterated his support for an hourly minimum wage of \$4.25, coupled with a subminimum wage that employers would be able to pay all newly hired employees for six months. A subminimum wage of that duration would create jobs for unemployed young people.

Now that the Democrats have failed to override Mr. Bush's veto, they would do well to work with the president on expanding the earned income tax credit, an idea he has mentioned. That provision assists low-wage working families either by allowing them to pay less taxes throughout the year or by giving them a refund at the end of the year.

While an excessive increase in the minimum wage would lead to the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs and would help people who are not poor (such as middle-class teen-agers), an expanded earned income tax credit would target aid to those who truly need it. That would do far more for the working poor than what the Democrats had proposed.

-The Dallas Morning News-

Letter Policy

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

All letters must be brief and to the point. Type and double space them, if possible, but sign them in ink and include the entire name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.

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

Mail your letters to Letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086. Hand-delivered letters will not be published.

Kings Mountain Herald

Established 1889

Published Thursday

at East King Street at Canterbury Road,
Kings Mountain, North Carolina 28086,
USPS 931-040, by

Republic Newspapers, Inc.

Darrell Austin

General Manager

Gary Stewart

Editor

Elizabeth Stewart

Women's Editor

Sarah Griffin

Bookkeeper

Jeff Grigg

Production Manager

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To:
Kings Mountain Herald
P.O. Box 769
Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086

	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.)		