

Opinions

Cartoonitorial

Our View



It's a jungle out there

Every day a new monster rears its ugly head to threaten humanity. If it isn't global warming it's the depletion of the ozone layer. The world is fraught with danger at every turn. As Roseanne Roaseannadanna says, "It's always something."

The latest terror to descend and spread its chilling wrath is a water gun called "Supersoaker."

For those of you who aren't familiar with this new scourge, it's a squirt gun that holds a gallon or so of water. I bought my grandson Josh two of them for his birthday. That shows you how irresponsible I am.

The mayor of Boston, whose name I didn't get, has taken steps to have the toys removed from store shelves. It seems a group of teenagers were having a water fight, some using "Supersoakers," when one of the youngsters got angry, pulled a real pistol and shot one of the other boys.

Naturally the correct action to take here is to ban the squirt gun so as to prevent future murders. Never mind removing hand guns from the shelves.

One of the largest department stores in Boston has complied with the mayor's request. They will sell no more "Supersoakers" in the future. They will, however, continue to sell real firearms and ammunition.

Somehow that logic escapes me. Considering the caliber of politician that has come out of Boston in the past 30 years, I don't know why I'm surprised.

One question that comes to mind is, if the kids had been playing basketball when the shooting occurred, would the mayor have called for a ban on basketballs? I think not.

The next step, I suppose, is for the Boston City Council to issue an invitation to everyone to turn in their "Supersoakers," for which the city will pay them \$75 each. That's the way they do it these days isn't it?

I wonder if the smaller squirt guns will have to go too?

Probably not. I can see the Congress passing legislation governing the amount of water a water pistol can hold, maybe a half pint or less. That could bring down the wrath of the National Squirt Gun Association on their heads. The NSGA is a powerful Washington lobby, and insiders say they can make or break a president even.

I suppose this brings to a screeching halt the Army's plans to replace M-16 rifles with "Supersoakers." That means the next time the USA goes to war, they will again be forced to use real bullets instead of water. Such is progress I guess. Ah well, maybe they'll just go to plan B for international conflict—a bake off.

I would urge everyone to remember that "Supersoakers" don't soak people, people soak people.

THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT - The other day a friend told me about finding an old cemetery. That reminds me of Alonzo Hall of Burlington, N.C.

I'm fairly certain Mr. Hall has passed on, but he spent much of his life researching cemeteries and noting epitaphs. He wrote at least one book on the subject and maybe more.

Somewhere in England, Mr. Hall came across a tombstone with the following inscription:

*Come blooming youths as you pass by
And on these lines do cast an eye
As you are now, so once was I;
As I am now, so must you be;
Prepare for death and follow me.*

Someone had scratched this message below the epitaph:

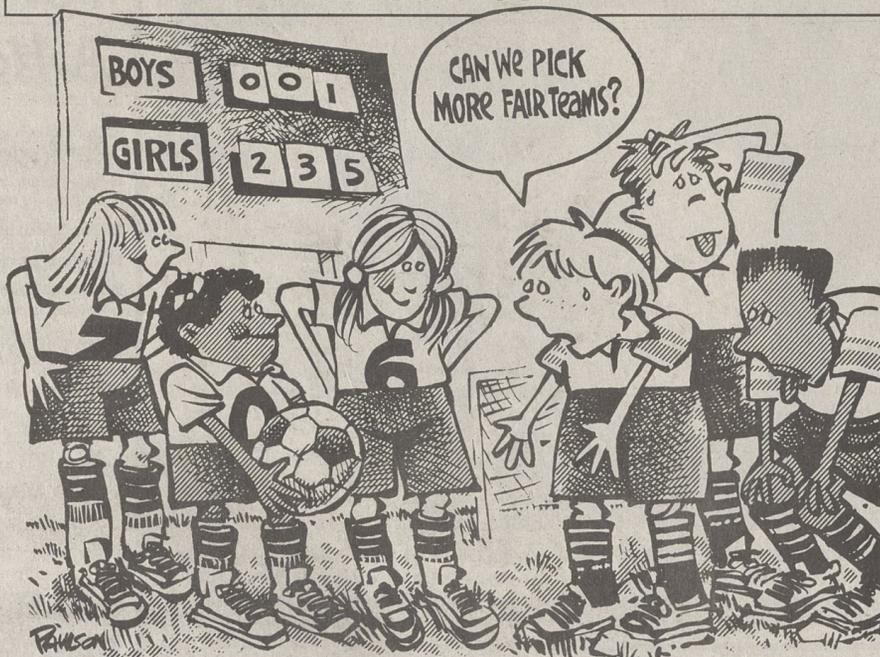
*To follow you I'm not content
Until I know which way you went.
Hall found this on a stone in Salisbury, N.C.:
He fought a good fight but his razor was dull
Another from London:*

*Here lies Ann Mann
Who lived an old maid
But died an old Mann
Dec. 8, 1767*

Here's one from a gravestone in Georgia:
I told you I was sick

This one from a cemetery in Enochburg, Vt. is my favorite:

*Here lies the body of our Anna
Done to death by a banana
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low
But the skin of the thing that made her go
On that note, I'll slip on out of here.*



Thanks for innocence

During the rains last week, I saw a lady coming out of a shop wearing one of those plastic rain hoods, the kind that come folded up like an accordion. I hadn't seen one of those since I was a child. My father's mother used to slip one in my purse every time I would go to visit her. I never used them, but I thought every dainty young lady carried one with her at all times.

That got me to thinking about some of the "traditions" I associated with going to visit the grandparents.

It never failed, granddad would always pull out the checkers board when conversation lulled. He always allowed me to beat him. I first realized that I wasn't that great of a checkers player when I was in the hospital about seven years ago and I was easily beaten by a young girl half my age.

Another ritual -- granddad had a growth scale, which was the edge of a door between the kitchen and the dining room. He would, with much ado, make each grandchild stand up tall-I-I-I in front of the edge and pencil a line even with the top of our heads. Those pencil marks stayed there throughout my childhood and into my adolescence when I was too old for that kind of thing.

And the food. Nobody could make Sunday dinner like grandmother. Roast, carrots, potatoes, onions, green beans. Mother always got a little jealous when my older brother and I would talk on the way to visit about what waited for us on the dining room table.

I don't know why, but ice cream always tasted better -- best -- at grandmother's. She always kept it wrapped in a brown paper bag in the freezer. I guess that was



the trick. But it was so soft and creamy.

Of course, I'll never forget her dried apple pies. Those pies are the best thing I've ever tasted. I've never heard of anyone else who makes them, and I wish I would've gotten the recipe before she went into a nursing home.

One tradition that has been passed down to my immediate family is that of loading up the visitor with things like toiletries, household products and food on the way out of the house. We never left the grandparents' house without toothpaste, toilet paper, whatever. And in the same way, when I lived alone and would visit my parents, they always had a care package to send home with me.

I don't mean to make my childhood sound like the Waltons.

But... Good night, granddad. Good night, grandmother. And thanks.

Your Right To Say It

Is this Dodge City?

To the Editor:
I am writing you about all the trouble that we are having on Bennett Drive. All this concern is about livestock, like horses, ponies, billy goats, and sheep. I know this is not Dodge City. The other residents of this street, plus Chestnut, find the odor very bad. We have called the Police but no help and also the Health Department, same way, no help, so tell me dear editor, is this Kings Mountain or Cattle Country or Dodge City?

Bobby Rathbone

Thanks for coverage

To the Editor:
At a time when most people are complaining about something, I would like to take this opportunity to praise the Kings Mountain Herald and its Sports Director Gary Stewart for the professionalism that they show in following Kings Mountain athletics.

Since taking over the baseball program at Kings Mountain High School, the coaches and players involved with baseball are amazed at the job that Mr. Stewart does for the school and community. It is truly amazing that one man can do the job he does in covering such a large number of sports both at the school and community level.

I grew up in a town a whole lot like Kings

Mountain, and they too had a hometown paper. After our state championship in 1989, I sent home several of the "baseball specials" that Mr. Stewart put together. They could not believe the coverage that The Herald gave to the athletes at Kings Mountain High. I honestly believe our newspaper in Kings Mountain is the best "small newspaper" in the country with regard to covering our athletic programs.

Once again, thank you Mr. Stewart and Darrell Austin for providing this town with such a fantastic newspaper. It is really fun to watch the impact that your paper gives these athletes in their endeavors to provide championships to this town.

Coach Funderburke, myself, and all the players on the 1992 Baseball Team say a big "thanks" and please continue to provide such a tremendous paper.

Bruce Clark
Head Baseball Coach
KMHS

Today's Bible Verse

Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

Romans 12:16-17

Accomplish more

Cap-and-gown season is upon us as more than 2.5 million students have graduated from high school this year and another million are receiving bachelor's degrees.

In Kings Mountain some 210 Kings Mountain High School seniors received diplomas recently signifying their completion of a dozen years of formal schooling.

Marriage is around the corner for many, income producing jobs for others, and college for some.

In the days before post World War II affluence, the great mass of college graduates did not consider college for the financing wasn't available. In some instances, parents stretched financial means tight to assure their children with school diplomas.

It's different today. But the students and the parents must have the will to try.

Colleges and universities are comparatively rich in scholarships and loans. Industry is requiring more knowledge and more skills and it is a trend certain to accelerate by the year 2000.

Perhaps the largest number of students ever are going to school on scholarships and loans and the recent Awards Day at Kings Mountain High School saw many area young people aided in their education with scholarships.

In congratulating the graduates on their educational accomplishments, a word should be added: accomplish some more.

Look at budget process

The North Carolina House of Representatives began working on the budget this week.

The budget? Didn't the legislature meet last summer and create a two-year budget that includes eight billion dollars in spending for the upcoming fiscal year that begins July 1?

That's true, but you have to understand the budget process.

First the North Carolina House will take the new budget and attempt to make changes that will shift scarce funds to the members' favorite projects, a new courthouse here, a remodeled school building there, etc.

Then they will try to get amendments passed that will tack more spending onto the already overblown package. The House plans, for example, to earmark about \$158 million in new spending that was not included in the budget that was drawn up last year.

Once that is approved the entire package will go to the Senate, which is already at work developing its own additions and maneuvers.

Then, a special committee will be appointed to negotiate the differences.

After negotiations are complete, the budget, already approved last year, will be ready to take effect. That is, if the governor doesn't come up with a pet project to be added.

What usually happens is that the budget that was approved a year ago is increased significantly.

The message here is that the budget process itself is one of the leading causes of inflation and capital shortfall in North Carolina

Younger Elvis

The Elvis Presley fans have spoken.

By a 3 to 1 margin, the country has voted for the younger swivel-hipped Presley to adorn the new commemorative stamp as opposed to the older, chubbier, used up Elvis.

The United States Postal Service has recently completed balloting that resulted in 1.1 million votes being cast at a cost of \$300,000 to the taxpayer.

Normally, we would disagree with such frivolous use of tax money, but we have an idea that this time it might be money well spent. Experts predict that enough of the stamps will be sold and no used to produce a profit of more than \$20 million.

The Postal Service will begin issuing the Elvis stamp on January 8 of next year at a small post office near Graceland, Memphis.

The issue date coincides with Presley's 58th birthday.

Herald Letter Policy

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

Keep your letters brief and to the point. The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for spelling, length, good taste, libel or slanderous statements, or any other reason; and reserves the right to reject any letter for any reason.

All letters must be signed in ink and include the full name, address and telephone number of the writer. If possible, type and double space the letters but always sign them in ink. Hand-written letters should be clearly legible.

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

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. 2nd Class postage paid in Kings Mountain

Darrell AustinPublisher
Gary StewartEditor
Elizabeth StewartNews Editor
Renee WalserReporter
Shirley AustinAdvertising Representative
Bill FultonAdvertising Representative
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In County: 1 Year \$14.50; 6 Months \$7.25. Out of County: 1 Year \$15.50; 6 Months \$7.80. Student Rate (9 Months) \$11.00.

REPUBLIC NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Postmaster: Send Address Changes To:
Kings Mountain Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Back issues, one month or older, when available, are 70¢ per copy.

Sidewalk Survey

What are your plans for the summer?

Laura Bridges Go to the beach for 9 days.	Lyndsey Edsall Go to the beach.	Carrie Brinkley Go swimming.	Kevin James Go to Florida.	Jimmy Boheler Go to the beach for a week.	Preston Cole Go to the beach and play tennis.