

Opinions

Our View

Your Right To Say It

JIM HEFFNER
Columnist



Clean up or shut up

I must be getting old, and what the youngsters call, "out of step."
The reason I say this is that, as I've said before, I don't think of "rap" as music, nor do I think some of the so-called lyrics associated with this trash, appropriate. Most of the words are downright filthy, and should be banned from the airwaves as insulting to the sensibilities as well as the intelligence.
Oh I know all the arguments about free speech and all that, but I just don't care. The supreme court has so twisted the constitution that it has little resemblance to the document created by the founding fathers.
If the first amendment allows the flag to be desecrated and obscenities to pour forth from the radios into our children's delicate ears, then we need to change that amendment. Call me un-American, but I'm saying this precisely because I love my country, and have concern for its children.

Some of the subjects covered by rappers these days are the killing of policemen, the sodomizing of children, illicit sex in all forms and random murder.
An enraged movie actor, Charlton Heston, recently read a rap lyric to the board of directors of Time-Warner Incorporated, publisher of the rap piece in question. The words were just plain nasty, that's all that can be said about them.
Time-Warner says they will do nothing, citing the first amendment. Maybe Time-Warner will change its tune when people boycott their products. It could happen. I might just compile a list of their products for my friends.

But it isn't just that company. There are many firms that produce records, tapes and CD's, and more that present TV shows and movies that are offensive.
Tim Jay, a linguist at North Adams State College in Massachusetts, has completed a study of profanity in films. Jay's study tells us that *Eddie Murphy: Delirious* contained an expletive every eight seconds; the Spike Lee film, *Do the Right Thing* has one every 17 seconds; *Scarface*, one every 34 seconds; *Lethal Weapon*, one every 44 seconds; *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, one every 79 seconds.

These are popular films, heavily promoted and viewed. Surprisingly, a hard-core porn film included in the study had one profanity every minute, 50 seconds.
The average number of profanities in hard-core films was 69. R-rated movies had 75 and PG-13 entries contained 37.
Interestingly, *Rebel Without a Cause*, produced during the mid-50's, had no curse words.

People are beginning to sit up and take notice, and some are trying to do something about it.
Last week a school principal in Florida took a stand when he began a program of visiting the parents of students attending his school because his teachers complained that most of them used vile language as a matter of course.
The principal, Dennis Reed of Tampa, Florida, believes society has an obligation to try to stop the use of profanity by children. "What will become of our kids if we allow the continued use of raw language without contesting it?" he said.

Reed is correct when he says that moral training begins at home. We need more people like him running our schools.
A Public Broadcasting System in North Dakota has taken a bold step by banning the "Masterpiece Theater" production of *Portrait of a Marriage*.
Larry White, manager of Prairie Public TV, said the decision came about because the show was laced with profane language and nudity that "violates community standards."

I stopped taking my children to high school football games years ago because it was impossible to walk to our seats without being subjected to foul language from students talking among themselves. My brother-in-law was attacked in a movie theater because he protested the use of reprehensible language by youngsters in the row behind he and his wife.
Television shows allow course language as part of the dialogue regularly. There is one radio station in Charlotte that permits its newsmen to use gutter language almost every day. Ironically, this newsmen is widely experienced and has no need to incorporate profanity into his reports. The FCC used to clamp down on stations like that, but they don't have the authority anymore because of the supreme court's interpretation of free speech.

I'm no prude. I've used profanity myself, and I've regretted it, but I certainly have made an effort to keep my language clean around women and children. My point is simply this: our children will be better citizens and morally straighter if we adults do our best to guard against the use of bad language and the influence of those who would teach them to hate and kill.



KM'S TOP LEGION WINNER - The Kings Mountain Post 155 American Legion baseball team this year became the town's first 20-game winner and the first Legion team since 1959 to play for the Area IV championship. This year's team won 21 games, topping the old mark of 18 victories set in 1959 and tied in 1969. Team members include, front row, left to right, Kevin Melton, Todd Ware, Mike Smith, Robert Wingo and TeeGee Goforth. Second row, Shane Webb, Doran Moore, Caja Ormand, Chris Rider, Rick Marr and Tommy Payne. Back row, Donald Bell, David C. Jenkins, David R. Jenkins, Damon Putnam, Stephen Fisher and athletic officer Jimmy Littlejohn.

Saluting Kings Mountain's top-winning Legion team

When Kings Mountain American Legion Post 155 reorganized its baseball program three years ago it drew opposition from some fans of other posts in Area IV.
Representatives from at least two neighboring posts opposed allowing Kings Mountain back in the league. A supporter of one post said Kings Mountain only wanted to play legion baseball to take advantage of the players from the 1989 Kings Mountain High School state championship team. A representative of another post, which would have to give up some of those players if Kings Mountain were allowed to play legion ball, said Post 155 would be drawing from just one high school - Kings Mountain - and could not compete against other posts drawing from three or more schools.

Kings Mountain has not only competed, but has competed quite well.
In the three years since reorganizing its program, Post 155 has been in the Area IV playoffs twice, and would have been in the other year but was disqualified for not getting paper work turned in to the commissioner's office by the deadline.
In 1990, Kings Mountain won its first round-playoff series with regular season champion Taylorsville, and later was eliminated by a Caldwell County team which went on to win the state championship and came within one run of winning the Southeast Regionals and qualifying for the American Legion World Series.

This summer, Post 155 went four rounds in the state playoffs, eliminating Forest City, Shelby and a powerful Pineville team before losing to Taylorsville in the Area IV championship series. By the time this season is over, Kings Mountain may be able to say it was eliminated by another state champion because Taylorsville has the talent to go all the way.
This year's team became only the second in history of Post 155 baseball to play for the Area IV championship. The last time KM had gone that far was in 1959 when Post 155 fell to Mount Holly-Paw Creek in seven games.
This year's team also won 21 games, three more than any other team ever. The '59 and '69 teams each won 18 games.

The success of Legion baseball here over the past three seasons has been due to hard work of Legionnaires, Coach Bruce Clark and his assistant coaches, outstanding fan support, and, above all, the talented young men who filled the uniforms.
Much has been said about accomplishing so much while drawing from only one high school. That's certainly true, but we also think the fact that Post 155 drew only from one high school was a key factor in the team's success. The young men who represented KMHS and Post 155 have been friends, neighbors and classmates for years and they have a team chemistry that is unmatched by teams which draw a few players from several different high schools.

The players and coaches are to be commended for their accomplishments. Win or lose, they always represented the community well. They played 58 baseball games during the high school and legion seasons combined, and they won 41 of them, giving them four 20-win seasons in four years under Coach Bruce Clark.
With 19 of them returning to the high school ranks next year, and 15 of them to legion ball, Kings Mountain fans can look forward to another year of success.

A dull race, or what?

We're beginning to get the idea that no one really gives a hoot about who wins and loses in the upcoming Presidential election.
Last week the Herald surveyed over 100 area citizens, asking them if the election were held today who would they vote for. To our astonishment, 49 percent of them said they were undecided - even if the election were held today - and many of them didn't even know who was running for president.
Nineteen percent said they would vote for President Bush, 18 percent said they would vote for Bill Clinton and 14 percent said they would not vote at all.
We hope that Kings Mountain people are weighing all the issues so they can make an intelligent choice in November. We fear, however, that voters everywhere have become so disgusted with elected officials that they will choose to stay at home on election day.

Finally, good news

Economically, it has been a long, dry spell. The experts keep saying better times are just over the horizon, but it seems someone keeps moving the horizon.
Although nothing earth-shaking, Kings Mountain has gotten some good economic news in the past couple of weeks.
Two weeks ago, Advance Auto Parts opened a new store in the old TG&Y building, providing jobs for Kings Mountain people and a valuable service to the citizens.
Also, Plonk Brothers announced that it was expanding its department store and will change its operation to a "General Store" concept, offering hardware and other items in addition to clothing needs.
Just today, it was announced that Firestone will move its Gastonia operation to a new 65-acre site purchased by the Suber Family of Kings Mountain near I-85 and Highway 161.
The Firestone operation could provide a number of jobs for Kings Mountain area citizens, and will add to the city's coffers through the purchase of utilities.
With a new Economic Development Committee in place in Cleveland County - representing the entire county - we can look forward to more development in the Kings Mountain-Grover area.

Bill Stone will be missed

The passing of Bill Stone Tuesday came as a shock to his Kings Mountain acquaintances who had not heard that he had been diagnosed with cancer just two months ago.
For over 30 years, Bill had been a permanent fixture at Harris-Teeter where he was a dedicated employee and friend to all co-workers and customers.
He was also a dedicated public servant, spending many valuable hours in volunteer service to Grace United Methodist Church, the Lions Club, and other organizations.
His pet project was the Lions Club White Cane drive, which benefits the blind. He recently raised over \$5,000 for that project.
His friendly personality and giving spirit will be missed in Kings Mountain.

Booster's Club needs members

To the Editor:
I would like to introduce the Kings Mountain High School Booster Club.
Everyone that I have invited to join the Booster Club asks, "What do you do?" It's time everyone found out.
The Booster Club has been in existence for at least 15 years, probably longer. At present our membership is low and we do need new members. Maybe this insight will help.
The primary focus of the boosters is to help all the athletic programs. There are many difference needs depending on the sport. In order to help these sports financially, we must organize fund raisers. Our fund raisers, to name a few, are beauty pageants, ads for the football programs, concession stands, parking stickers, cow patty bingo and raffles. At the meetings, a member may suggest anything that they feel is helpful and, of course, everyone is ready to discuss it. The time involved in being a member is very small and completely voluntary.

Most people who grew up here and graduated here are very proud of our school and its accomplishments. For example, look how many people follow our teams to far away places. How many 3-A schools have their football and baseball games on the radio?

Next time we play away, look at the home team's facilities. In most cases, you will then realize what we have here and just how very nice our facilities really are. Also, if you step back and look at all the different sports that KMHS offers, you will realize just how important these fund raisers are.

Some people would ask, "Why do we need all these sports?" The only obvious reason is, that our school and athletic leaders understand that everyone is not alike. Everyone does not want to play the traditional football, baseball and basketball. Therefore, Kings Mountain High School allows these students with broader interests to pursue their interests.

The boosters meet once a month on the first Monday of the month. Our next meeting is Monday, Aug. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at B.N. Barnes Auditorium. Please attend this meeting and be a booster. The kids need you.

Kim Peeler

Thanks, beach staff

To the editor:
I am writing to express my appreciation to the Moss Lake beach staff and a few kind people who helped with my son Chase after he stepped on a piece of glass on Saturday, July 11 at the swimming area.
Thanks to their help, I was able to quickly get him to the Gastonia Children's Clinic where he received five stitches in his foot. He's now doing fine.
Again, thanks to those who took the time to care.

Karen Roper

Kick 'em out

Letter to the Editor:
This letter is in response to a letter from Cleveland County Democratic Party Chairman Dean Westmoreland. In a letter that ran in the July 16, 1992 K.M. Herald, Westmoreland attempted to defend the record of our delegation to the North Carolina House of Representatives: Jack Hunt, Edith Lutz, and Bill Withrow, all democrats of course.
In the letter, Westmoreland attacked James Falls for a letter in which he had written citing a report from the North Carolina Taxpayers Union criticizing our three legislators. The North Carolina Taxpayers Union, which is a non-partisan group of community and business leaders who work to expose government waste and overtaxing, has received much attention and respect in recent years for being accurate and fair in their research. In their research they annually compose a ranking of North Carolina General Assembly members and their record on taxing and spending issues.

Our three state legislators all got extremely poor ratings. Why? Because they have consistently voted to increase our taxes at every opportunity. It is good that there are organizations that bring this to our attention. However, Mr. Westmoreland and the "good ole boy" Democratic party network that have ruled politics for so long in Cleveland County - and gotten us into the mess we are in today - don't want you and I to know these facts.

Congratulations to Mr. James Falls (who even stated that he was a Democrat) for writing a letter to tell us of this information. At least now the voters can be more informed when November comes. And considering the lousy job our legislators are doing, we should probably follow his advice and kick the bums out.

Regards, Kelly Ware

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Sidewalk Survey

What are the most important issues in the presidential campaign?

Abortion and prayer in the schools.	Think the economy needs to be set on the right track.	Crime and the economy.	The economy, health insurance and the budget.	Unemployment, health care and education.	Abortion.