

# Being a citizen in the world

A recent book entitled "Who Stole the News?" makes the point that newspapers and TV, in an effort to boost profits, are reporting less and less overseas news. The news media, it seems, follows the money. There's little desire to pay for news if the American consumer is not interested. So our newspapers provide us with a very restricted view of the wider world.

This fact is apparent to me every time I go abroad and sample the newspapers of other countries. There are exceptions, of course, but as a rule, foreign papers provide a much broader and deeper coverage of what is happening in the world than we get from the sound bites that are delivered to us. If you were able to keep up with what the leading South American dailies provide their readers in the way of news coverage, analysis, literary studies, book reviews and general reflection on the arts, you could become broadly educated person, well informed on a dozen fronts.

An even more telling contrast is revealed when you compare the BBC "news Desk" with the CBS "Evening News." The difference is so striking that you have to wonder if both are reporting from the same plant.

Earlier this year I made plans for a trip to Argentina. So for several months I scanned the papers and journals for news of that country. There was nothing. Now that I have been there, I realize that reporters are missing out on one of the most remarkable comeback stories of the last decade. A society that lived through nightmarish years of internal violence and run away inflation, has become stabilized. Confidence is being reborn and an economic recovery, though still tenuous, is under way.

In general, we are indifferent to what is happening in most of the rest of the world unless there is a catastrophe of some magnitude or unless something bears upon what we consider to be our national interest.

There are two segments of our society, however, which provide exceptions to that generalization. One of these is the investment sector which scans the globe for special opportunities or promising situations from a financial point of view. The recovery in Argentina has not escaped the attention of these investors.

## Chip Cash in critical but stable condition

Chip Cash, 23, has undergone five major operations since he suffered a fall from a tree stand on a November deer hunting trip. His grandmother, Mrs. Andy Huffstetler, said Chip appears to be slightly improved but he is listed in critical but stable condition in the

Trauma Intensive Care Unit of Carolinas Medical Center. "He moved his eyes and smiled but he has not been conscious. Doctors tell us to ask for prayer," said Huffstetler. Huffstetler said her daughter and son-in-law, Patti and Randy Cash,

have been at the hospital around-the-clock and are by Chip's bedside as often as doctors permit. Because of severe bleeding from the accident, Chip has required 45-50 blood transfusions, said the grandmother.

### REFLECTIONS on Religion and Life

**DONALD MITCHELL**  
Interim Pastor,  
First Presbyterian Church



which are keenly aware of conditions in a variety of overseas areas which rarely appear in the media. Their interest is related to their mission outreach and to the humanitarian projects which they support.

For instance, church sponsored work parties which go to Mexico or to Central American countries to find out first hand what life is like south of the Rio Grande. They certainly learn enough not to be taken in by the stereotypes projected by Ross Perot in his recent debate with Al Gore.

One congregation I am familiar with has become well informed about conditions in the African country of Malawi. Now that's a place that Dan Rather is unlikely to highlight on the "Evening News." But creative work is underway there in crop development, irrigation systems and soil conservation which could set a pattern for other African countries. Local church people know about these details because their gifts help to support these developments.

Even though they may never travel abroad, this is the kind of outreach that qualifies many Christian people as world citizens. Their faith, rightly understood, provides them with a global view which goes beyond rhetoric and self seeking. Their concern is not to make profits but to give skills and resources so that the needs of others may be met.

Through their involvement with this foreign country, they have discovered far more about conditions there than they could ever learn from the news media. Perhaps that is the best way to get the real news from abroad.

These are the best kind of citizens for our world today.

### LETTER

From Page 4-A

If there is any blame, blame the three with the motive, for they knew what they had in mind.

Kings Mountain, wake up! If every time something goes wrong, we're always blaming the police, you have to remember that police have hearts and family like everyone else.

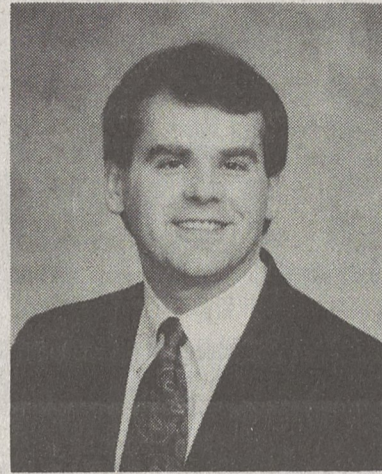
Have you ever stopped to think what it would be like to walk in their shoes? What would you have done any differently?

Don't get me wrong. I'm not meaning to be harsh, but you've got to stop and think.

Chief Goforth wasn't just looking out for the officers, he was trying to protect all.

What would you rather have read about, a hostage? Or even worse, a small child being held with a gun to its little head?

Dot Teseniar



### DANIEL R. WILLIAMS Williams joins Home Savings

Daniel R. Williams has been named Assistant Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer of Home Savings Bank in Kings Mountain, a subsidiary of Security Capital Bancorp of Salisbury.

Williams was formerly an Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager at Security Bank, another subsidiary of Security Capital. His new responsibilities include developing commercial loans and deposit relationships for the three Home Savings Bank branches in Kings Mountain, Gastonia and Bessemer City.

Williams, who joined Security Capital in 1990, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He is currently enrolled in a Certified Financial Planning program through the College of Financial Planning.

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#### FOR THE HOME

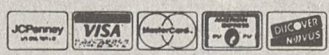
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