



KRISTEN LONG

Kristen Leigh Long is Wee Miss Gastonia

Kristen Leigh Long was recently crowned Wee Miss Gastonia at North Gaston High School. She also won Prettiest Eyes, Best Smile, Best Portfolio, Best Sportswear, and Best Swimwear. She will represent Gastonia in the Little Miss North Carolina Pageant in July.

Kristen is the daughter of Bryan and Leigh Ann Long of Cherryville. She is the granddaughter of Farchel and Juanita Blanton of Kings Mountain and Keith and Renna Long of Cherryville.

She attends First United Methodist Church Preschool.

Weekend activities at Crowders Mountain

Special events are planned for Saturday and Sunday at Crowders Mountain State Park.

A program on medicinal plants will be given Saturday at 2 p.m. at the park office. Many plans have documented medicinal uses and almost half of prescription drugs contain at least one ingredient from nature. Participants will find out about some of nature's natural remedies from pioneer times to present on a park walk with a ranger. Wear comfortable walking shoes. The walk will last about one hour.

A spring wildflower hike will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. at the park office. A ranger will lead a trail blaze through lush bottomland and rich woodlands in search of colorful, blooming wildflowers. Wear hiking boots and dress appropriately. The hike is limited to 30 people and will last about 90 minutes. Call the park office for reservations.

For more information on these and other activities, call the park office at 853-5375.

Moon watch set at KM State Park

Visitors of Kings Mountain State Park are invited to join members of the Have Telescope Will Travel Club as they examine some of the interesting features and folklore surrounding the moon.

The 90-minute program is scheduled for Friday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Living History Farm. Admission is free; however, advance registration is required by Thursday, April 14.

For more information or to register, call the park at (803) 222-3209.

Five hired at Cleveland

Cleveland Community College has announced the hiring of five new employees.

Sherri Jackson of Shelby has been hired as secretary in the Financial Aid Department; Tina Wiggins of Shelby has been hired as a receptionist; Karen Patterson

Spring should bring renewed faith

A field of daffodils on Phifer Road drenched in color. A pond full of frogs chirping in the twilight. Pear trees. Robin eggs. The dreaded daylight savings time. All the signs of renewal are beginning to speak to us. The earth is coming out of hibernation in full color. Spring is here.

For many of us, though, the most noticeable sign of spring happened on Monday. Because three days ago, the first pitch of the '94 baseball season blistered a catcher's mit. And when it did, millions of baseball lovers across this country cheered the return of our national pastime.

I realize that many of you are not so enthusiastic about its return. It will soon overrun the channels of our television sets and turn otherwise receptive conversation partners into statues of stone. I admit it. But those of us who love the game simply cannot restrain our joy. The game is too much fun.

With its return, baseball brings more than its present action, more than bats and gloves and balls. Baseball brings years of tradition and layers of memories as thick as molasses. And perhaps the greatest part of the tradition is the body of wisdom which has grown out of the game. Because as slow as baseball moves, watchers and players have a great deal of time to ponder life's deepest peculiarities.

Of all the commentators, my favorite is a man whom you probably love as well - Lawrence Peter "Yogi" Berra. And every spring the "Yogisms" creep from the back of our consciousness to the front of our mind (and the commentary of our newspaper!).

REFLECTIONS on Religion and Life

Rev. Dick Newsome
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church



"Slump? I ain't in no slump. I just ain't hitting. 'It ain't over till it's over.' My personal favorite is perhaps the most absurd of them all. 'You can't observe a lot by watching.'"

In applying Yogi's observation to the lives of contemporary Americans, we cannot help but recognize that many have followed in his footsteps with respect to their faith expression. For many, participation in a faith community has become a matter of observation only, a kind of away-from-the-home entertainment package. So unknowingly, Yogi has described more than the game.

With the newness of spring comes a chance for each of us to deepen our faith commitment through more than thoughts but action. With the newness of spring comes the invitation to express our beliefs through sincere works of goodness. It is a wonderful time to re-evaluate our lives and our faith. So why not take the opportunity to do a little spring soul-searching? Like the game of baseball, it will bring to mind years of accumulated wisdom. And like baseball, it will call you to limber up and get busy. Play ball!

I ain't smart no more

I have always thought I was at least as smart as most people who completed the fifth grade, but now I'm not too sure. Just when a person gets comfortable with his intellect or lack of it, along comes a politician or two to shake his or her confidence.

I'm talking about the special legislative session on crime and the Fuzzy and Hilary healthcare plan.

The special session in Raleigh came about largely because two policemen in Charlotte were shot to death.

As usual, the politicians, in an effort to curry favor with voters in upcoming elections, rushed down to Raleigh, spent \$50,000 a day of taxpayer's money and accomplished absolutely nothing.

I believe, in all honesty, every member of the state legislature ought to be removed from office. They've shown themselves to be almost totally irresponsible. I'll amend that statement to 99 percent of them. There were a few who wanted to close the session and go home.

One of the actions they took was to raise the prison cap. That will keep a few more criminals in jail a while longer. There are those who say the state should remove the cap. Where in the wide, wide world of sports would we put all those lawbreakers. Crime isn't decreasing in this state, it's on the increase.

What happens when every inch of jail space in the entire state is being used? Where do we put the prisoners then. I have two solutions, neither of which is palatable. All prisoners should be placed on an island somewhere, and left to fend for themselves, that's solution number one.

The second solution is to immediately shoot all felons. People who commit lesser crimes can be jailed, publicly whipped, placed in stocks in the public square, or chained to trees and telephone poles.

Those of you who disagree, come up with your own answers. The point is, there is no solution if we want to remain a humane society. Think about it.

As for the Clinton health care plan, how are we going to pay for it by adding a \$1.25 per pack cigarette tax? Hasn't it occurred to those imbeciles in Washington that most people who now smoke will have to stop. What happens to the tax revenue needed to fund the plan then?

The answer to the health care situation in this country is not to gouge the people for more money to pay

JIM HEFFNER
Columnist

for it, but to lower the cost of health care and health insurance.

Why should people be forced to pay \$4 for an aspirin in a hospital? Sometimes you can buy a bottle of 100 on sale for 59 cents.

Why should people have to give up over 50 percent of their income to pay for health insurance? You think that doesn't happen? It does, and I speak from personal experience.

Flags - Everybody, it seems, is intent on sticking a flag of some kind in the front yard. What's that all about?

Take a drive around town. You'll see flags everywhere. Some of them have something resembling a coat of arms, some have horses, birds or cows and some have flowers on them. What is the significance of those flags?

Most people refuse to fly U.S. flags on July fourth, but they'll hang a flag depicting a four wheel drive vehicle from their houses.

The other day I went home and Ann (my keeper) had placed a flag smack dab in the middle of a bed of daffodils. What was pictured on the spanking new Heffner flag? A display of tulips is what.

That entire exercise reminds me of pet rocks and all those little yellow triangular signs reading "baby on board" that people used to stick on their rear windshields.

I wonder if...nah, it couldn't be, could it? Is it possible the same guy came up with all these ideas?

Anyway, I've developed the ultimate status symbol, and I know it's going to sell like hot cakes. I've already ordered 10,000 units as a starter kit. I'm going to quit this job and sell little yellow flags for automobile antennas that say, "Pet Rock On Board."

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

| | March 30-April 5 | Year Ago |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Total precipitation | .10 | 1.64 |
| Maximum one day | .10 (5th) | .85 (5th) |
| Year to date | 15.94 | 23.23 |
| Minimum temperature | 32 (31st) | 29 (2nd) |
| Maximum temperature | 72 (2nd, 5th) | 80 (30th) |
| Average temperature | 55.9 | 54.9 |

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