

Opinions

Our View

Get out and enjoy spring

This is the time of the year when the office worker envies those fortunate souls who work outdoors. The winter long, snug at his desk, he may feel superior to them.

Come spring, the shoe is on the other foot. What a pleasant time those fellows who work for the park must have on these balmy days. Or consider the mail man, who it's obvious has a bounce to his step, as do even the meter readers, the delivery men - these and many more can put in long hours enjoying what the desk-bound can savor only fleetingly on the way to work.

It isn't that the average office worker would really like to chuck his job to do any of these things, understand.

But quite a few might like to give it a try for a couple of weeks in the spring.

Get serious, Council

For several years now City Council has raised water rates to customers while trying to establish and maintain a favorable climate for industry.

Industry, which has been in the news recently, says they don't deny that Kings Mountain is selling its water cheaper than municipalities in outlying areas but while selling water cheaper they have maxed out in rates charged for electricity and natural gas.

While it is true that few if any water systems in this area have ever reached the break-even point, industry claims that a close job of cost-accounting was not performed at the time the rates were put in and now they say that Kings Mountain is pricing them out by anticipated higher rates with the adoption of the 1994-95 budget.

Is it unreasonable for city fathers to look at a downward revision of the electrical and gas rates if, in fact, another hefty water rate is imposed?

All will be interested in the recommendations of Mayor Scott Neisler, Interim Manager Maxine Parsons and the seven-member City Council at the special meeting Sunday night on the proposed budget which, under law, must be out for public review by June 1 - nine working days from today.

The city wants to maintain sufficient revenue to bring water service as close to break-even point as possible - remembering all the while that the voters passed a \$9 million bond issue for utility improvements which reflect a big payment allocated in the budget.

It appears to us that it's time for the City Council to get serious and come up with some workable solutions.

Somewhere within these several desirables are the proper rate schedules.

Three good teachers

The deaths of three retired school teachers recently removed from the community three women who devoted all their lives to education.

Annie B. Roberts, 87, died April 17 after a bout with cancer. She had taught fourth grade for 43 years.

Helen Galloway Neal, 102, died May 9 after a lengthy illness. She had served the public school system well, and for many years in Bessemer City.

Dorcas Cline White's death May 8 at age 70 was a shock to a wide circle of friends, only a few of them knowing that her heart problems were more than minor. It was typical of her non-complaining and steadfast spirit as she sat at her husband's wheelchair and bedside at Kings Mountain Hospital for several years before his death six months ago.

Mrs. Neal also died in the Extended Care Unit at the hospital and had lived down the hall from former Senator Jack White for several years.

All three teachers exhibited a helpfulness and compassion of attitude which endeared them to all with whom they were associated and they were many.

Good news for KM

Expansion by existing industry is just as important as attracting new industry.

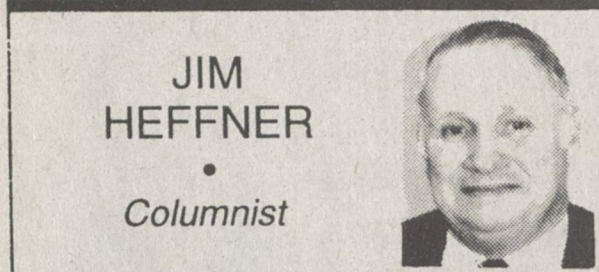
The announcement by CleveMont Mills last week that it will add 100-150 new jobs this summer is good news for the economy and for people who desperately need to work.

CleveMont is also raising the wages of its 650 employees by three percent.

This is certainly good news indeed for the community.



A PERFECT DAY FOR A WALK - Friday was a perfect day to get your walking shoes out and take a stroll around town. Senior citizens from The Depot, above, are accompanied by Police Chief Warren Goforth. Front row, from left, Goforth, Sue Henderson, Dennis Goforth, carrying the Senior Center banner, and Monty Thornburg, Aging Director; second row, Arthur Allen, Cloatill Tessner, Helen Lovelace and Sharon Eaker of the Center staff; third row, Martha Taylor, Mary Jamison, Annie Mitchem and Edna Smith; and back row, Pearl Pressley and Joe Smith.



Sexual harassment defined

Sexual Harassment, I don't know about you people but I'm tired of hearing about it.

To hear some people talk, if you even look at a beautiful woman, or tell any woman in the office she looks nice, you may be guilty of sexual harassment.

First there was Anita Hill trying to sink Clarence Thomas, now there's a woman named Paula Jones down in Arkansas trying to torpedo President Fuzzy.

Doesn't this guy have enough trouble? He supposedly told this woman she made his knees knock. So what? I've seen lots of women who made my knees knock. Of course that was back before arthritis set in and put a stop to that nonsense and before sexual harassment was a crime.

People are so transparent. The same feminists who rallied to Hill's side are keeping quiet on the subject of Paula Jones. The same people who were against Hill are for Jones. How do you figure that one?

The fact is, people don't necessarily have to support someone just because they yell sexual harassment. There is such a thing as evidence and recognizing right and wrong.

The evidence in the Hill case was flimsy, while the evidence in the Jones case seems to me to be just as flimsy.

A women's group known as N.C. Equity (everybody stand up who has ever heard of this group) wants North Carolina legislators to create a new sexual harassment law for the state.

I don't have a real problem with that, if the law spells out exactly what it takes to commit sexual harassment, and they don't get silly about it. By that I mean, if a person, male or female makes a civil comment such as "Good morning. You look very nice." He or she shouldn't have to fear for his or her job and worry about having to go to court. If a person invites a co-worker to lunch, he or she shouldn't have to worry about sexual harassment charges.

I can truthfully say that in 42 years on the job, I've never witnessed an act that could be construed as sexual harassment. I'm not saying it didn't or doesn't happen, I'm just saying I've never seen it.

There is one part of the proposal that needs to be junked. N.C. Equity wants the state to hire a team to teach public and private employees how to behave in the workplace.

Most of us had parents to teach us how to behave, and employers can tie a can to anybody who practices bad taste in the workplace. The next thing you know, somebody will be proposing an amendment to the law that will require a group of counselors to come in and meet with everyone in the plant if somebody is accused of sexual harassment. Counseling is the "in" thing these days. I got a speeding ticket last October, and I'm surprised the judge didn't order me to get some counseling, but that's another column.

Sexual harassment is not a clearly defined term. The U.S. Supreme Court, in their own inimitable way, ruled last year that workers suing their employers no longer have to prove they've been psychologically harmed by sexual harassment, just made uncomfortable. I wonder if the same rule would apply if the office air conditioner broke down?

Last week, at Myrtle Beach, a shapely lady in a pink thong bathing suit rode down Ocean Boulevard on the back of a motorcycle hanging on to her male companion. Every eye followed her as the cycle weaved in and out of the thick traffic. One kid almost fell from a balcony.

Being caught up in heavy traffic in a car, with your wife, when a half-naked woman is riding into the distance on a motorcycle, now that's what I call sexual harassment.

HERALD LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. We ask that you use the following guidelines:

Keep your letter brief and to the point. Type and double-space them, if possible; if not, write legibly. All letters must be signed in ink and include the full name, address and telephone number of the author for verification purposes.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, spelling, good taste, clarity, libel, slander or any other reason; and reserves the right to reject any letter for any reason.

Mail your letters to The Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086.

Your Right To Say It

Tour DuPont was very expensive for Cleveland County taxpayers

To the editor:

I would like to see the bottom line cost related to the Tour DuPont bicycle race through Cleveland County. If each of our 157 citizens had the police protection that the fellows on the bicycles had, we would never see crime in this county again. We paid for it, ladies and gentlemen, why can't we have it instead of foreigners and outsiders?

I would like to further extend the example of the cost that our community unknowingly took on. My example will be the Oak Grove Road in Kings Mountain. This road had 40 businesses located on the road and 39 paved side roads that feed onto the road that was blockaded. There is no count on how many businesses are located on the side roads. My very small business lost in excess of \$1,400 that we know of so far. A NASCAR race that I would like to see only cost \$50.

Having said all of this, it doesn't cover my main objection. The arrogance of the promoters and volunteers is really what needs to be considered.

Just a few points:

Someone sitting behind a desk at Medalists Sports, Inc. in Richmond, Va., making a lot of money from this, decided to shut us down without our input.

An arrogant volunteer woman on a motorcycle came by and ordered my son to hold a stray dog during the race.

Another arrogant volunteer, either from Medalist Sports or our local volunteer fire department, ordered my daughter-in-law to stop cutting grass about 25 minutes prior to the passing of the mighty cyclists, in fear of a stray rock being thrown from our brand new rear bagger mower.

And finally, ladies and gentlemen, I have it on video tape of one of the cyclists throwing trash into our nice community.

Shame on the arrogance of these clowns.

Sincerely,
William H. Stewart

Ax daytime meetings

To the editor:

At recent Board of Education meetings parents and concerned citizens voiced their deep concern and disapproval over the holding of extremely important school curriculum meetings during the day when many, many parents and concerned citizens of this community are at work, instead of holding them in the evening when most people are at home. How are those who work during the day going to gain knowledge and information about the things that our schools are teaching their children?

Superintendent Bob McRae stated at a recent School Board meeting that when the meetings are held, many parents don't come. Well, if you are holding these meetings when most people can't come, what other result can you expect? He also stated to me that the schools are not trying to hide anything, but when you hold very critical meetings when only a few people are able to attend, what is the community to think?

With such an important issue as the school curricu-

lum, it really surprises me that the only announcement for this meeting is a very, very tiny notice printed in the Kings Mountain Herald. It would seem to me, and many in this community, that if the school is not trying to hide something they would want as many people in the community to know what they're doing.

The following directive to the local school boards from the North Carolina Department of Education found on pages 42 and 43 of the current "Healthful Living" curriculum states:

"Prior to beginning, or prior to modifying an HIV/AIDS education program, all schools should conduct AIDS Awareness Parents Meetings as a public service to the community so that the parents will (1) be aware of what their children and learning and why, (2) be able to reinforce instruction at home, (3) have an opportunity to augment the school curriculum with home moral instruction as desired, and (4) be able to reduce their own vulnerability, if any, to HIV infection. During these meetings parents should be informed about HIV/AIDS, should have the opportunity to preview the methods, materials, and objectives to be used in teaching students about AIDS and should be involved in discussing ways of reinforcing and extending the student's education at home, particularly in regard to the moral aspects of sexuality and drug use.

Because of the seriousness of AIDS schools will, of course, want to involve as many parents as possible in AIDS Awareness Parents Meetings. Local media (newspapers, television and radio) are usually cooperative in announcing such meetings if schools provide the information to them in writing.

Prior to beginning, or prior to modifying an HIV/AIDS education program, schools should also conduct AIDS Awareness Meetings for other agencies and organizations in the community. Among these are the ministerial association, service clubs, social services, public health, mental health, police and/or sheriff's departments and juvenile court counselors. The format used for the AIDS Awareness Parents Meetings would also be appropriate for these meetings."

Folks, this is what our State education officials are telling the Boards of Educations to do. Then ask yourself, why is the Kings Mountain District Schools not doing this? Are they really not trying to hide something? Do they truly want the community to know what they are doing?

I believe the answers to these questions are obvious. What do you think? Why not call Health Coordinator Cindy Borders, the Superintendent of Education, the school Principals and each of the Board of Education members and insist that as taxpaying citizen of this community you have a right to have all this information shown to you as the State of North Carolina Department of Education has directed our School Board to do. The names of these officials, along with telephone numbers are available by calling 734-5637.

Tom Sees

(More letters on page 5-A)

Foxes want to stay in hen house

When asked if North Carolinians could expect a tax cut this year as the State's coffers are filled to overflowing with an excess \$1 billion in revenue, top Tarheel politicians say we need to "study these important issues," while they make plans to spend, spend, spend.

Recently, Governor Jim Hunt, House Speaker Dan Blue, and Senate Leader Marc Basnight all called for studies of various taxes and their impacts. Hunt wants to spend \$100k,000 on a study to determine if the Tarheel State's high corporate income tax rate and the intangibles tax make us less attractive than our lower tax neighbors. Any first semester economics 101 college student could tell him that businesses will go to areas where costs are lower and most would be willing to give him an answer for much less than \$100,000. Blue wants a broad study on tax fairness and equity. One can only guess where Dan is heading with that one. Basnight claims he wants to get rid of the food tax on the poor and calls for a study to determine how we might exempt poor families.

Don't expect any tax cuts this year. Hunt, Blue and Basnight have already said, "No." Even with an extra

GUEST COLUMN
THOMAS GOOLSBY
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Columns

billion dollars hanging around, the boys in Raleigh don't think it's reasonable for us taxpayers to expect a break. These actions strike a chord with the old saying about the fox guarding the hen house.

If there is one thing politicians love to do, it's spend our money. How quickly they forget past transgressions! Only three years ago, in 1991, North Carolina suffered a \$1.2 billion shortfall. The budget was cut while sales and corporate income tax rates were raised, but those hard times seem forgotten in the frenzy to "Spend it now!" Hunt has already come up with almost half a billion dollars in new spending on education alone.

Maybe it's just too much to ask for your politicians

to be fiscally responsible. What's so bad about eliminating the tax on food (which has its greatest impact on poor families), thereby saving taxpayers \$300 million a year? The Governor has apparently forgotten his past support for such a repeal. What's so bad about lowering our corporate income tax from 7.75 percent to its pre-1991 "budget crisis" rate of 7 percent? This would give North Carolina corporations an additional \$95 million a year to invest in employees, plants and equipment. What's so bad about abolishing the intangibles tax, which socks investors with an additional tax bill of 25 cents on every \$100 of stocks or bonds they own, thereby keeping them from calling North Carolina "home" and investing their money in local communities and our state's economy?

Perhaps our politicians have bought into the liberal fallacy that they can tax us into prosperity. They seem to believe that all we need to do is create more legislative study committees and task forces and, in the meantime, spend like crazy. What happens when these committees come back at some future date, when the covers are dry, and recommend tax cuts and reductions in government spending? Hey, don't bother today's politicians with tomorrow's problems - the fox is in the hen house and he's hungry for your wallet.

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