

Opinions

JIM HEFFNER

Columnist



The brave young men

What do you think about when you consider D-Day? I think about all those young men who lost their lives on the beaches at Normandy that bloody morning. I have no idea how many people were killed on June 6, 1944, but I know the number was significant. During the last week, there have been many TV programs depicting that fateful, and important day in this country's history. Those young men who survived are now 50 years older, and their stories are just as riveting today as they were then. Some of them, in fact, have kept their experiences to themselves all these years. I saw an elderly man on the news the other night who said, "the first and last time I ever cried was when we hit Omaha Beach and my best friend was blown away."

Many ex-soldiers, even this late in life, cannot discuss the event without choking up. I had an uncle in the Second Ranger Battalion who landed at one of the beaches, and he wouldn't discuss it for years. Just before he died, he poured out the story to me. "The landing for me," he said, "wasn't all that bad, although we took our share of casualties, but when we got inland it became a lot tougher. The Battle at St. Lo was the bloodiest I ever saw during the war, a nightmare. People were dropping like flies. You could hear the bullets whistling all around you, and all you could do was eat as much dirt as possible and fire back when you could."

During the landing, a flat silver dollar-sized stone somehow got into his boot. He kept it all his life. Think about their bravery. They advanced in the face of enemy fire so thick you could almost see the lead. The bomber and fighter plane pilots supporting the operation were no more than 22 and 23 years of age.

Do we still have people in this country that young with that kind of character?

Scanning the news - I want to know who is in charge of all the facts they collect in Washington.

Congressman Cass Ballenger of Hickory was in a helicopter that was forced to land because of a mechanical problem in Mexico the other day. He was on a fact-finding tour. Bianca Jagger was on the same flight. Was she on a fact-finding tour also? Were they trying to find the same facts, or are facts separated into different categories?

Every time a congressman or senator goes out of the country, they're on fact-finding tours. I'd like to get a look at some of the facts they find. I'd like to know which facts they do anything about and which they don't.

Do some of the facts they find turn out to be untrue, making them non-facts, or out and out lies? How do they know when a fact is really a fact? Do you need special training to find facts, or can anybody do it? Is fact-finding fun?

I have decided that my wife and I, on our next vacation, are going to Myrtle Beach on a fact-finding tour. What I need to know is where do we send the facts we find when we get back home?

Can anybody tell me what that whole deal with Coach K was about last week? I call him that because I can't spell his last name. It looks like an eye chart.

He called a news conference to tell everybody he wasn't going to quit his job. Was that a threat that he might consider quitting someday?

I wonder if I could get by with calling a news conference to tell the world I will not quit my job? I wonder if my boss would fire me if I did that? I wonder if that was a fact-finding news conference?

Drink green tea and don't get cancer of the esophagus. That's the latest medical story. My question is how many people get cancer of the esophagus in the first place?

What next?

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.

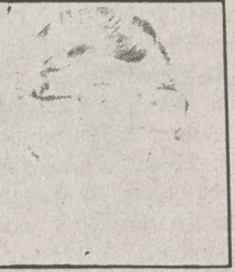
Nostalgia Corner



President Greeted Dixon
Kelly Dixon, of Kings Mountain, was greeted by President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House last week, as the Kings Mountain Congressional candidate joined 135 other Republican Congressional aspirants in a two-day conference to acquaint the candidates with GOP aims and policies. From the September 8th, 1960 issue of the Kings Mountain Herald.

GARY STEWART

Editor



Increase salaries, trim legislators

Just a few random thoughts:

It didn't take his cohorts in the General Assembly long to shoot down Kings Mountain Senator Ollie Harris' bill to increase legislators' salaries from thirteen to thirty thousand dollars a year.

With an election just around the corner, legislators no doubt felt it would be hard to get a ticket back to Raleigh if the voters felt another squeeze on their pocketbooks right now.

But, maybe the good ole boys in Raleigh shouldn't have been so quick on the trigger. Harris' plan did have some merit.

Harris said, and we agree, that it is almost impossible for the regular Joe to run for political office in North Carolina because of the low salaries in the House and Senate. Unless you're independently wealthy or retired you couldn't afford to quit your job and run for office.

Harris feels that by offering a bigger salary it would attract a good slate of candidates and result in a better political system in North Carolina.

We agree, and we have an idea how the General Assembly can increase those salaries and not cost the taxpayer one additional cent. Cut the number of legislators to one Representative and one Senator from each district, and the amount of money saved would allow the state to increase legislators' pay to a very attractive level.

Another Kings Mountain legislator is busy filing bills during the early stages of this session. John Weatherly's first bill this go-round is one we've agreed with from the first day we heard of it.

Late last year a bipartisan political watchdog group, North Carolina Taxpayers United, proposed a plan called the "Taxpayer Protection Act" which would require the state's future budgets to increase only by the rate of inflation.

When the General Assembly convened a couple of weeks ago, NCTU held a press conference on the steps of the Legislative Building to officially call for introduction of the bill.

Rep. Weatherly is cosponsoring the bill in the House.

"I strongly support this common sense legislation," Weatherly said. "The annual budget for North Carolina has grown from roughly \$1 billion in 1972 to more than \$9 billion today. The Taxpayer Protection Act will curb runaway state spending and help prevent additional state tax increases in the future."

"Government spending must be curtailed. The most effective way to do this is to have limitations required by law."

North Carolina now has the second highest state taxes in the Southeast.

Weatherly said the measure is receiving strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, and he looks forward to its passage.

The act would not only limit the future growth of spending to the rate of inflation with an adjustment for population growth but would ensure that when state revenues exceed expenditures that excess funds be placed into an "Emergency Trust Fund." The plan also would prevent the state government from imposing responsibility for new programs on local governments unless adequate funding is provided by the state.

I've figured out a way that the City of Kings Mountain can eliminate all of its financial woes.

A couple of weeks ago, some citizens from the Chestnut Ridge area requested city water and were told that the city would run water lines to their community for \$4,304 per lot.

Kings Mountain must have the best bad-gum water in the country! At that price it should be bottled and sold in grocery stores for about \$10 per gallon.

Lucille Williams recently left the Kings Mountain (now Cleveland County) Chamber of Commerce after 31 years of faithful service.

It seems her dedication was not enough to secure her job after Kings Mountain became a branch of the County C of C.

But, be assured, Lucille WAS the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce. She did a remarkable job and her valuable services to the community will be sorely missed.

Your Right To Say It

Teens want truth about sex

To the editor:

It truly amazes me how many parents, adults, educators, and others falsely assume that teens cannot control their sexual drives and are automatically going to have sex no matter what anybody says. Do we not give our young people the benefit of the doubt to acknowledge that when they are taught the proper moral values, that most will accept that guidance and act in a safe, moral and responsible manner? Children are not animals. We are talking about human sexuality, where people clearly have the capacity to make right moral decisions and abide by them.

In a 1986 Louis Harris poll, 87% of teens polled said they did not want comprehensive sex programs in their schools. Further, 60% did not even want such services in the vicinity of their schools. An Atlanta study revealed that 90% of girls under 16 wanted to learn how to say no to sexual pressure. The magazine "Family Planning Perspectives" reported in its January-February 1990 issue that a poll of 1,000 girls aged 16 and under found that 84% wanted their schools to teach them how to say no to sex. What this shows without question is that today's teens don't want to be shown how "to do it," they want to be shown "not how to do it." It is up to the adults in America today to give the proper signal to our teens - show them the right way - and chances are they will conduct themselves the right way.

When giving a lecture on the subject of AIDS to 800 sexologists at the World Congress on Sexology in Heidelberg, Germany on June 19, 1987 Dr. Theresa Crenshaw, past president of the American Association of Sex Education, Counselors and Therapists, said most of the 800 sexologists recommended condoms to their clients and students, but not even one said they would themselves use a condom for protection from the AIDS virus. Consider these facts about condoms:

Fact 1 - The AIDS virus is 450 times smaller than a microscopic-size sperm. So, if condoms fail on average 15% of the time in preventing pregnancy, just imagine what the failure rate is in preventing this tiny AIDS virus to infect your partner, obviously many, many times higher. What if the danger was twice as high? Would you really trust a condom knowing that maybe three chances in 10 you could die? Do you see the tremendous need to tell our teens that abstinence is the only true way to prevent infection from AIDS? All it takes is one small pinhole, or one little rip, slip or tear - and you've got AIDS.

Fact 2 - In a study of married couples, 30% of the people who relied on condoms for protection from their HIV positive partners caught the HIV virus.

Fact 3 - Nobody knows for sure exactly how deadly "safe sex" is but we do know that one in five adolescents using condoms is pregnant at the end of a year.

Fact 4 - A boy can only get a girl pregnant one week a month, but an HIV infected partner can give you the AIDS virus 365 days a year.

So think about it: Telling someone to put a mere balloon between their healthy body and a deadly disease is totally irresponsible. It's like telling someone who is driving drunk to simply use a seat belt.

Parents, citizens, churches, and educators must give teens the right message. At a meeting in April at Kings Mountain Middle School Health Education Coordinator Cindy Borders said that condoms were basically safe, and that most condom failure was caused by human error. This type of false message is what is causing the spread of this terrible disease and

ultimately the death of many students who trust what we adults tell them. Please think about it. For more information about teens, AIDS, sex, values, morals and family please write today to American Life League, Inc., PO Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22555.

Tom Sees

Organization needed

To the editor:

Concerning the Parks and Recreation Softball League of Kings Mountain:

As a player I am very disappointed in the way the league has been organized this year. The Kings Mountain League has had no organization all year.

As a player in the league for the past eight years this has to be the most dissatisfying season of all. This is the point of view of the majority of players.

The league has some teams playing twice in one night and other teams playing only once a week. The most upsetting day of this young season was this past Memorial Day. Games were scheduled and players made arrangements to cut their vacations short. When players arrived to play ball the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department had cancelled the games without notifying the teams in advance. I know that our company called the Parks and Recreation Department the week before to verify these games were still scheduled, and the Parks and Recreation Department verified we would play.

Our industries have sponsored the teams by paying entry fees to help out our Parks and Recreation Department. We want to keep a neat and nice park complex for all male and female sports enthusiasts. All we ask in return is some organization.

Duane Brown

Legislative privileges

To the editor:

It is interesting to note that the Florida Governor and former U.S. Senator, Lawton Chiles, a Democrat, has been an enthusiastic supporter and lobbyist for the Feinstein/Schumer semi-auto ban. He was recently embarrassed when the press reported that he owned one of the possibly soon to be banned firearms, a Ruger Mini-14 with a folded stock.

Governor Chiles told AP News that "I've supported a ban on assault weapons. It's not an assault weapon. It's a rifle I got for turkey hunting; it folds up." The man is either a fool for not realizing that "his rifle" would be banned, or a hypocrite, figuring to ban everybody else's guns while thinking that he wouldn't get caught with his.

Big government liberals have long been skilled at passing laws and regulations which oppress the general populace, yet conveniently exempting themselves from their odious decrees.

Isn't it nice to know that, once the semi-auto ban is finally passed, the criminals will stay at home and leave all of us conveniently disarmed sitting ducks alone? At the same time, I'm willing to bet that Lawton Chiles will still have his Mini-14. Rank and office to have their privileges.

Richmond C. Beecher

Killing split sentence hamstrings judges

Those wonderful political appointees at the all-powerful Parole Commission recently decided to erode public safety "just one more time." Now they are determined to strip the judiciary of its ability to sentence criminals to "split sentences." This type of sentencing is one of the few ways North Carolina judges have to guarantee that criminals will serve up to six months in jail. The tool that allows the Parole Commission the power to strip our judges of one of their last remaining powers is the prison cap law. This law, passed by the General Assembly in 1987, limits the number of criminals in our state's prisons to 25,000 inmates, no matter how much crime is committed. The blood of the innocent is apparently cheap in North Carolina - at least when the prisons are overcrowded.

In an internal memorandum from Lynn Phillips, Director of Prisons, our state's prison officials were instructed that "effective immediately, the Parole Commission will begin paroling and terminating inmates serving split sentences." Prior to this memo, judges in North Carolina could split a criminal's sentence by requiring that he serve up to six months of

GUEST COLUMN

THOMAS GOOLSBY
Carolina Syndicated
Columns



"active time" in prison and, thereby, allow the remainder of his sentence to be served on parole. Although this may at first sound as if a judge is going "easy" on a criminal, don't forget that the average criminal only serves one month of "active time" in prison for every year of his sentence. By giving criminals split sentences, judges could see to it that criminals served at least some time in prison. However, thanks to the Parole Commission, judges have now been stripped of their last remaining power to make criminals serve some definite amount of time in prison.

What about our "Tough-on-Crime" Attorney General, Mike Easley? Has anyone heard from our "Criminals-Will-Serve-Hard-Time" Governor Jim Hunt? Where is our "What - Me Worry?" General Assembly? Ask any of them and they will tell you they took care of the crime problem during the Spec. Session. Besides, they now have a \$1 billion windfall of our tax dollars that's just burning a hole in their pockets. Are any of them calling for spending some of the "windfall" on public safety? Of course not, they have their own pay raises and increased pensions to worry about!

What about us - the lonely and abused taxpaying victims who are simply looking for a safe and peaceful world in which to live? Apparently, we are not to question why. We are simply to pay our taxes and keep our mouths shut, along with our judges, who are also being effectively silenced and hamstrung by a criminal justice system that is anything but just. The politicians can pretend not to hear us, but the blood of the innocent will continue to cry out as our crime rates soar, justice, no peace.

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