

Opinions

JIM HEFFNER

Guest Columnist



A world gone nuts

Every time I think I've seen or heard it all, somebody comes along with something new.

The other day I got a flyer in the mail advertising a new book called Who's Who of Animals. The next day I picked up an out of town newspaper and saw a column on the same subject. The column was authored by Mary Layton, a Gastonia teacher.

The book, published in Durham, contains photographs and biographical sketches of pets. Anyone can have their lizard, dog, cat, snake or what have you included in the book for a \$15 charge. The book retails for \$69, and it is updated every year.

Some people in Durham publish the book, and before you question their sanity, it sells well.

I think I missed my calling, but maybe it's not too late. I've been watching a lot of those old Andy Griffith reruns. Otis, the town drunk, was one of the main characters in that show. I got to thinking about it, and maybe I could put out a book, something like Who's Who of town drunks. Are there any town drunks around anymore? I used to have a relative who was the assistant town drunk in York. I'll have to think about it.

Banking Chicago style - First Chicago, the 11th largest bank in the country, is set to charge customers who insist on dealing with a real live teller \$3 per transaction.

Leo Mullin, president of the financial institution, said, "This is the wave of the future."

Can you imagine that? If you use a teller machine, you have to pay a charge that is less than using a human being.

One area college professor said: "Is it fair for those of us who are ATM users to subsidize those who use tellers?" Is it fair to ask where this professor got his education?

I tried to get Mr. Mullin on the phone to ask if he was serious, but his secretary told me Leo was outside talking to a parking meter.

Mechanical banking may be the wave of the future, but if my bank goes that route, the only wave will be me saying bye bye.

O.J. update - I believe in the U.S. system of justice. I believe anyone is entitled to a fair trial, and I refuse to convict O.J. Simpson until all the evidence is in. I do, however wonder about his defense team, the Dream Team as they are called.

Blood from Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman was found on Simpson's socks, inside his house, and inside the famous Bronco, and blood that is likely Simpson's was found at the scene of the murders. Yet the former athlete's attorneys continue to insist the police planted the blood in an effort to frame their client. That's giving the L.A. police more credit than they deserve. Can you imagine what an effort it would take to get all that blood scattered around in just the right places?

It reminds me of the time a movie theater manager paid a pet supplier to provide 500 canaries for display at a special kiddie show on a Saturday morning in New York City.

Something happened to the air conditioning and all 500 birds died. To avoid liability, the manager insisted that 500 simultaneous heart attacks had taken place.

Fuzzy's folly - President Fuzzy hints the Oklahoma City tragedy was the result of hate spread by talk radio.

May I suggest that minds are more likely to be warped by liberal rhetoric from people like the president, and his step-and-fetch-it, Al Gore?

People such as Timothy McVeigh probably don't even listen to the radio, but you can just bet your bottom dollar they read newspapers and watch TV, and the pap they get from politicians and indoctrinated news anchors is enough to drive anybody off the deep end.

President Fuzzy is trying to backtrack on his accusations now. Seems they didn't go over too well with the public.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new.

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

"that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Cartoonitorial



Your Right To Say It

Thanks for supporting game

To the editor:

I would like to take this time and opportunity to thank all the players who made our first annual "Old Timers" baseball game a success. It means a lot to our Booster Club, and especially to those players who enjoyed themselves, which I think was everyone.

Also, a special thank you to those fans who supported these young-at-heart adults reliving great memories on the baseball field.

We hope to continue and also improve on this each year. Again, thanks to everyone involved.

Coach Tony Leigh

Missing Mama Millen

To the editor:

We miss Mama (Zettie) Millen since God has called her to a better place He has prepared for His own. Her life was a shining light to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.



ZETTIE MILLEN

They remember her grandmothers hug she loved to give each one.

She taught us many things: to read our Bible daily. It will help us learn anything we would ever need to know. To meet her families needs she was the first one to get up in the morning and the last one to go to bed at night. She taught us to love and help each other, to love our friends and neighbors as much as we did ourselves, to support the church and find our place in one. We were wealthy in the respect we had Christian parents to love and care for us.

We can think of Mama Millen and she is right beside us in our hearts. God blessed this world with many things but the most wonderful of all was when he blessed it with mothers. To each member of her family, "Precious Memories" are gifts from the heart.

(Signed by Ruth, Rosanel, Adam, Doris, Margaret, Willard, Charlie, Tom, 15 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren of Zettie Millen).

Lottery bad for N.C.

To the editor:

This letter is to voice my strong opposition to the proposal brought forth in the NC State legislature for a referendum which would allow citizens of North Carolina to decide whether or not to institute a state lottery.

Drunk gets nine months in violin case.
Survivor of Siamese Twins joins parents.
Farmer Bill dies in house.
Iraqi head seeks arms.
Prostitutes appeal to pope.
Panda mating fails; veterinarian takes over.
Soviet virgin lands short of goal again.
British left waffles on Falkland Islands.
Lung cancer in women mushrooms.
Eye drops off shelf.
Teacher strikes idle kids.
Squad helps dog bite victim.
Shot off woman's leg helps Nicklaus to 66.
Enraged cow injures farmer with ax.
Plane too close to ground, crash probe told.
Miners refuse to work after death.
Juvenile court to try shooting defendant.
Stolen painting found by tree.
Two Soviet ships collide, one dies.
2 sisters reunited after 18 years in checkout counter.

The lottery, or any other form of gambling, hits at the very moral fabric of our society, and its destructiveness causes havoc with the lives of its victims, many times those victims being wives and children.

Gambling of any kind is contrary to God's word, always leads to related kinds of gambling enterprises, opens the door for crime and corruption, excessively hurts the poor, the young, and the less educated segment of society, has been proven to hurt, not help the local economy, destroys the work ethic, has ruined marriages and families, and much more.

Suicide rates for spouses of compulsive gamblers is 150 times higher than the national average, 40% of white collar crime is committed by compulsive gamblers, and 20% of wife abuse cases involve compulsive gambling. With legalized gambling North Carolina would have over 100,000 new compulsive gamblers in just the next 10 years. Is this what you want for your state?

Legislators who want the people to decide this issue are in violation of NC State Law. The North Carolina State Constitution legally allows referendums on bonds and constitutional amendments only. Since our American government is a representative government we have elected legislators to pass the laws of our state, and it is their responsibility to stand firm against a state lottery.

I am writing to all NC state legislators to let them know that I will adamantly oppose the re-election of any legislator who supports the lottery. I hope you will do the same.

Tom Sees Sr.

Hunt strong leader

To the editor:

State Representative Jack Hunt (Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford) has once again exhibited his strong leadership in the state legislature. Concerned about University funding and the differences between Governor Hunt and President Spangler, president of the Board of Governors, he brought the two leaders together. Choosing his Raleigh home for a private breakfast prepared by his wife Ruby (well-known for her good cooking and hospitality), the opportunity was presented for a frank and full discussion of their views on the direction the state should take towards funding for higher education.

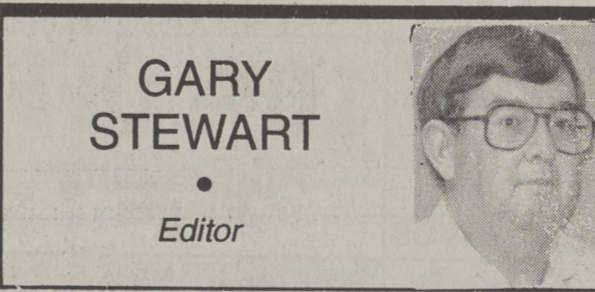
This breakfast meeting set the stage for a better understanding of their respective positions.

This typifies the leadership that Representative Hunt has exhibited over the years. I hope that your readers will have an opportunity to read the full account of this very important breakfast.

The people of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford Counties have a right to be proud of Representative Hunt.

Rep. George W. Miller Jr.
D - Durham

A few laughers to cheer you



GARY STEWART
Editor

Killer sentenced to die for second time in 10 years.
Drunken drivers paid \$1000 in '84.
War dims hope for peace.
If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while.
Cold wave linked to temperature.
Enfield couples slain; police suspect homicide.

And, another item which may lift your spirits is this entrance exam for college football players. The time limit to complete the exam is three weeks.

- 1 - What language is spoken in France?
- 2 - Give a dissertation on the ancient Babylonian Empire with particular reference to architecture, literature, law and social conditions; or, give the first name of Pierre Trudeau.
- 3 - Would you ask William Shakespeare to (a) build a bridge, (b) sail the ocean, (c) lead an army, or (d) WRITE A PLAY.
- 4 - What religion is the Pope? (a) Jewish (b) CATHOLIC (c) Hindu (d) Polish (e) agnostic.
- 5 - Metric conversion. How many feet is 0.0 meters?

REFLECTIONS

on Religion and Life

Rev. Dick Newsome
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church



A double tragedy

Oklahoma City.
Less than a month ago, that small pair of words would have been as benign to our ears as the name of any other mid-sized American city. Sacramento, Des Moines, Pensacola, Racine, Springfield. Oklahoma City. What about it?

But things have changed. The name is now more than a name but a symbol. And from a religious perspective, the question at hand is what kind of symbol it is.

Perhaps the place to begin in coming to grips with this symbol is the chair in front of our television sets. That is where most of us first received the news, and where most of us continue to watch with fascination and terror as rescue workers sift through the carnage. And even more importantly, that chair is where we sit quietly after the television set has been turned off. It is where we open our minds to issues and questions which come like a thief in the night. "What must it be like to be in the middle of such a catastrophe? What must it be like for parents who have lost children, children who have lost parents, men and women who have lost the person they promised to spend the rest of their lives with? Could any human being willingly inflict so much pain and hardship on other humans?" They are questions which come not voluntarily but involuntarily, like a nightmare we wouldn't begin to wish upon ourselves. They come from that part of the brain and soul which makes us ask such questions simply to survive.

As I have spoken with many of you about the incident, and have shared my feelings as well, I have come to believe that the events of Oklahoma City constitute a double-sided tragedy. We grieve the deaths of innocent people who were in the wrong place at the wrong time. But we also grieve the death of a dream. Most of us were raised to believe that if we worked hard, avoided trouble, and cared for others, life would turn out well. We were raised to live with an optimism about our capacity to take care of ourselves and our loved ones no matter the environment. And even though the passing years have chipped away at the dream with our move from childhood to adulthood, something of the simplicity and purity of it all has made us hold on.

Oklahoma City assaulted that dream.
Oklahoma City is a rude symbol of the vanity of that dream.

So we turn. In the face of such an unwelcome and unpleasant check on reality, we are driven once again to the faith that there is but one thing everlasting. Or to say it more correctly, there is but one Being who is everlasting. And though that realization doesn't erase the pain of those who experienced the tragedy firsthand, nor cause us to care for them any less, it offers the people of our nation a dream upon which we may depend.

May God bless the lives of those whose loss was tremendously real.

May God bless the lives of all of us who sit in the quietness of a television set now silent and search for better dreams.

Letter To The Editor

Thanks for supporting old-timers

To the editor:

The Kings Mountain High Booster's Club would like to thank everyone who made the old-timers baseball game a success. Special thanks go to the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad for standing by, to Monty Deaton and Bill Stepp for umpiring, to Perry Champion for his play by play, to Tony Leigh and Nelson Connor for their help in organizing the game, and to Gary Stewart for the newspaper coverage.

We are especially thankful to our hard-working club members who manned the concession stand.

Last, but not least, we thank the "baseball legends" who participated. Barry Gibson and David Heffner did a great job coaching. We couldn't have done it without you.

Ken Bridges, President

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