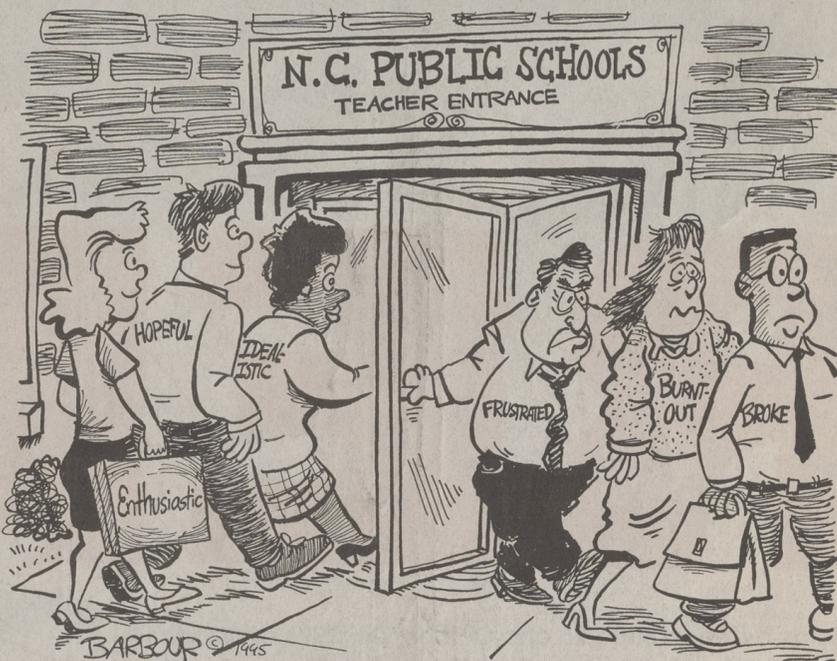


Opinions

Cartoonitorial



Bob McRae

Superintendent
Kings Mountain Schools



Communicate with schools

Today marks the end of the first nine weeks of the school year. Report cards will be issued soon. Parents are soon encouraged to check grades carefully and reinforce the need for a solid effort with their children. Elementary schools are conducting special conference days for parents. Our goal is to have face-to-face conferences with the parents of all elementary grades children during this time. There is no substitute for good home-school communications concerning the progress of our students. If you are not already aware of the schedule for parent conferences, call your school immediately to inquire.

A special reminder is needed for parents of high school students. We are now one-half way through the first semester. This means that your children are one-half way through the first four courses they will take this year under the new block scheduling concept. Please review your student's grades very carefully and contact appropriate teachers for a conference if you have concerns. This date is equivalent to what has usually taken place in mid-January. Don't neglect to remind your students of that fact.

Do not forget the emphasis on regular attendance for this year at all grades. Our teachers cannot be expected to successfully teach children who are irregular in attendance. Unless your child has had a serious illness, or she should not have missed more than a handful of days thus far. If this is becoming a problem, put an end to it now.

And by the way, high school parents, there is no such thing as a school approved senior skip day - never has been. This is a very juvenile practice that should never be condoned by a parent. If you support your child in such an activity, you are not only being unfair to the school, you are also making a clear statement to your child about the way you view the importance of his or her education. What kind of statement do you want your child to see from you?

Next week we will host our annual appreciation meal for PTO officers and Parent Advisory Council members. Each school has two representatives on our Parent Advisory Council. The group meets with me 2-3 times per year to help me gain parent's perspective on school system matters. If you do not know who represents your school(s) on the Council, the school office should be able to let you know. I am sure they would be glad to talk with you if you have matters you would like for them to place on our meeting agenda.

As winter approaches let me remind you of the need to be attentive to school schedules on days when we have inclement weather. While we are not usually bothered by snow and ice until after Christmas vacation, it is not too early to call your attention to our process of altering school schedules. We try to make a decision for delaying or canceling school no later than 6 a.m. on the day in question. While we put the announcements on a variety of radio and television stations, I always encourage our citizens to listen to WKMT, AM 1220, for accurate information. I usually talk directly with the radio station and find them to be the most accurate source of information to you.

Our current school calendar has already established make-up days for days missed due to bad weather. They are set in such a way that the last day of school, May 31, will not be changed. However, you should take note of the make-up days. Plans for trips and the like for those days should not be irreversible as we will have school should other days be canceled due to weather problems. Make-up days, in order of use, are scheduled for February 26, March 22, April 12, April 11, and April 10.

I am really pleased with the job our schools are doing this year. Our people can do incredible things if they have your support. Keep attuned to what is going on in the school(s), call your school(s) whenever you have a need, and help us keep moving forward. Excellence is no accident!

JIM HEFFNER
Guest Columnist



Spreading a little sunshine

It is truly written, you're never too old to learn. I just found out that radio and television stations must carry political advertising for people who are running for national office. It's the law. They do not, however have to run advertising for local and state elections, and some of them have chosen not to do so.

I was listening to a morning cultural radio program, "John Boy and Billy," on WRFX over in the world class city, and their commentator, Robert D. Raiford, talked about political advertising.

Raiford, who calls himself a curmudgeon at large, at least I think he still does, brought up several good points. One of them is that you can't really get much of a message across in 30 seconds.

But back to the federal law. Not only must stations accept political ads, but they must run them at the lowest rate. That's why some radio stations are refusing to carry advertising for local elections. It seems the lowest rate rule also applies to local ads.

Mr. Raiford came out against political advertising, but we part company on that score. I think we ought to encourage as many political ads as possible. That's the only way we can tell how ignorant the candidates are. Besides that, maybe they'll run out of money and quit.

I don't know about you but I can hardly wait until next year when the national elections get cranked up.

All the presidential candidates will be telling us how wonderful they are, and how, if elected, they will make our lives better, reduce the deficit, stop the spread of crime (except among themselves), do away with broccoli, provide a middle-income tax cut, eliminate burnt toast, fix our plumbing, groom our pets, patch our overalls, wash our windows, etc. Senatorial candidates will promise that and more. I guess you're beginning to see what fun we're all in for.

It really is amazing that a political candidate will spend millions on TV advertising to acquire a job that pays \$130,000. Somehow, all of that doesn't add up.

Stop and think about it. The only thing that can happen in a 30-second TV spot is the candidate can show his picture, usually standing in a field with his sleeves rolled up and his coat thrown across his back, talking to an actor posing as a farmer, or he can give you 30 seconds of swell about his opponent's deviant sexual habits, how he evades taxes or how he will surely do everything within his power to eliminate social security.

I guess about the dumbest political ad I ever saw was the one with Michael Dukakis riding in a tank wearing a helmet that appeared to be three sizes too large. That ad probably killed any chance Dukakis had of winning the presidency.

Another good advertising gimmick was the bottles of gold-colored water (called, What else? Goldwater) Barry Goldwater's people gave out when he ran against Lyndon Johnson in 1964. Goldwater's campaign slogan was, "In your heart, you know he's right."

The Democrats made hay with that one. They published ads about the gold-colored water with something like, "In your heart, you know it's ginger ale."

By the way, what is a middle-income taxpayer? When I was making very little money, the term applied to me, and when I finally began to make pretty good money, during the early '80s, I was still considered middle-income. I make less today than I made in the 80's, but somehow I'm still numbered among the middle income group. I want to get past that stumbling block. What is the next step?

Oh well, it's coming again in about a year, another national election. We'll all be tearing our hair out. The only people who are going to make out are the radio station owners who plan to turn down local ads, for the more profitable business ads.

Who can blame them?

HERALD LETTER POLICY

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

Keep the letters brief and to the point. Letters in excess of 600 words will not be accepted. Type and double space, if possible. If not, write legibly. Sign all letters and include full name, address, and telephone number for verification purposes.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for any reason and reserves the right to reject any letter for any reason.

Mail letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Mary Ann will always be special little girl

Grieving, shocked Kings Mountain parents are asking for prayer to help them strengthen their faith in the tragic death of their only child and second daughter to die in an automobile accident in the last five years.

Everette and Doris Hope Grigg said the sunshine went out of their lives Saturday morning when Mary Ann Grigg Long, 34, died of injuries sustained in an accident on I-77 near Paramount Carowinds.

The tragedy is the fourth death in the Grigg family from automobile accidents. Grigg's mother died in a tragic wreck some years ago that took four lives. The older daughter, Cindy Berry, died in 1990 in a head-on crash near her home in the Long Creek Community; and Doris Grigg's brother, Jerry Hope, also lost his life in a fatality.

"Mary Ann called me Wednesday and was sharing the good news that she would soon be helping open up a deli restaurant at Myrtle Beach, SC for River Rat Restaurant and was happy that she would be able to take her children on some of the trips," said Mrs. Grigg.

Long was already working two jobs at the South Carolina restaurant and had been working since July at a new deli opened by Ron Cauble, 28, of 3621 Union Road in Gastonia, on South Tryon Street in Charlotte. "She was excited," said Mrs. Grigg.

Mrs. Long moved to Lake Wylie over a year ago and was renting a mobile home a short distance from her job. Her family said she looked forward to weekends with her three boys on the lake.

But Mrs. Long and her employer Ron Cauble's dreams for the restaurant business ended Saturday when Cauble's Honda was apparently struck head-on by a driver going the wrong way on the interstate near Paramount Carowinds.

According to police, a car driven by Ronald Shannon Hough, 27, of Rock Hill, SC, struck Cauble's southbound Honda and sent it crashing into a delivery truck. Cauble died at the scene. Grigg died at Carolinas Medical Center. Hough is in intensive care unit at Carolinas Medical Center.

Everette Grigg, a longtime maintenance employee at Kings Mountain High School, recalled fond memories of his pretty daughter, a devoted mother to three small boys ages 4-8.



Lib Stewart
News Editor

"Mary Ann was the independent member of the family and she and her older sister, Cindy, were very close and Mary Ann loved Cindy's two boys and was so devoted to her own children," said Doris, who recalled many happy family times with both young families.

"It was such a shock and seems so unreal to us," said Mrs. Grigg.

Mary Ann's love for life and her outgoing personality made her popular with the customers at the South Carolina restaurant, said her family.

"She will always be our special little girl," said Grigg.

Mrs. Grigg says they don't question God but the continued support of the many friends means "the world to us."



EVERETTE, MARY ANN AND DORIS GRIGG

Your Right To Say It

First Church of Nazarene appreciates Pastor Bob

To The Editor:
We at the First Church of the Nazarene in Kings Mountain feel that our wonderful Lord really blessed us when we got our pastor Rev. Robert pulkinken and his family. We got a pastor and his wife Marge who plays the organ, and when needed the piano. She directs our choir. Marge has a beautiful singing voice and she blesses us with special songs. She also sings with the Ladies Trio.

They have a daughter Bethany, and she is also gifted with a beautiful voice. She attends Olivat Nazarene College. When she is at home for summer visits and holidays we have the pleasure of hearing her, too.

Pastor Bob, as he is affectionately called, is one of the most compassionate persons I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

Not only is he a wonderful shepherd to our flock, but when a special need arises, such as sickness or death, or problems, you can always know he will be there.

I have known of him visiting and spending hours in the hospital and homes with families who are not members of the Nazarene Church, but if he is aware of the need, he is always there. Now if that isn't love, and doing the will of God, then I do not know what is.

He prays for our needs and the needs of others. He also puts legs on his prayers.

Pastor Bob, we thank God for you and your wonderful family. May God continue to bless you and give you the strength to do the many things you do for our church and the community.

We love and appreciate you.

If anyone reads this, who does not have a church home, we would love for you to come and visit us at the First Church of the Nazarene, 405 South Cherokee St., Kings Mountain.

Dot Fletcher

Let God be captain of your soul

The captain of the ship looked into the dark night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message: "Alter your course to 10 degrees south."

Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north."

The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south - I am the captain!"

Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north - I am a seaman third class!"

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south - this is a battleship."

Then the reply came: "Alter your course 10 degrees north - this is a lighthouse."

I have both read this story and heard it sung to music, and its message is important for all of us: everyone needs a point of reference, and everyone needs to pay attention to those reference points.

Every human being desires to be captain of their

REFLECTIONS ON RELIGION AND LIFE
Rev. Harold Schwantes
Pastor
Central United Methodist Church
KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC



own soul. "I want to do what I want to do when I want to do it" is a human quality as any I know. Unfortunately, living with this attitude can put us on the rocks of the shore as quickly as anything I know. So much of the trouble in our society today revolves around this single issue.

Every human being needs to be brought to submission to basic reference points in life, lest they smash their lives (and others as well) on the rocky shores. And those reference points need to be established and

firm. Years ago, I had a farmer friend in Iowa who would plow fields all night long when the weather was right. I asked how he could keep his furrows straight in the dark. He said he would find a light on the horizon and use it to guide his tractor. That worked fine, except for the night he realized too late that the reference light he had chosen was a moving vehicle.

One of the teachings about the God of the Judeo-Christian faith is that God is a fixed point for life. There is a turning or change in who God is. Further, the word of our God stands forever. That is good news when we are looking for something in life that we can truly count on. It is only bad news when we want to be captain of our own souls and sail contrary to the reference points. E. Stanley Jones once said, "You cannot break the Ten Commandments. You can only break your life on them."

With dependable reference points and with hearts willing to follow their guidance, together we can steer a course to fulfillment in our own lives, in our families, and in our community.

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