

Opinion

Your Right To Say It

Thanks to McDonalds, people of Kings Mountain

To the editor:

I was visiting in your town and left my pocket book at McDonalds, by mistake.

I did not remember where I left it and traced all our steps all day. I called and visited each place. No one had seen the purse.

Our family prayed and asked God to find the purse.

We went back to McDonalds and asked again for my husband and I had decided we left it there. We left our name. At 10 o'clock that evening a call came from Julie Travis, store #4851, saying the purse was under the counter. She called me to identify it.

Nothing was missing. We had credit cards, but no money to speak of. We talked to Juanita Pruette, manager, the next day, and thanked the person who found the purse and put it under the counter. We gave a small donation for her kindness.

I really think God answered our prayer. We thanked Him, because one person said, "you are a lucky person because this doesn't happen very often in any town."

We enjoyed our stay in Kings Mountain. We are from Orange Park, Florida. We were visiting our son and his family who live in the Bethlehem Community. He is Tim McSwain.

Please print our thank you to all the people in the McDonalds, and all the fine people in your city.

Mrs. William E. McSwain
Orange Park, Florida

What's fair for one should be fair for all

To the editor:

On December 1, 1995 I experienced a situation in reference to two of our city department heads misusing city property and salaries. I felt this should be brought to the attention of our City Council. I spoke with six City Council members and our Mayor at which time I filed a formal complaint.

According to the City Personnel Policy adopted March 28, 1989:

1) Article IV page 9 - Conditions of Employment - Report to work on time and remain on the job until the end of the tour of duty.

2) Section II page 13 - Use of City Supplies and Equipment - Vehicles owned by the city shall be cared for by an employee in the same responsible way that he would care for his own. Such vehicles are to be used "Exclusively" for official city business except special approval by the Manager. No individual shall operate or ride in a city vehicle except as is required for the conduct of official city business.

3) Section 10 page 12 - Conduct - An employee is expected to conduct himself/herself both on and off the job so as to reflect credit on the city and on fellow employees.

The following are a few examples of unacceptable behavior:

A - Engaging in a scheme for personal profit in connection with official duty or city property.

B - Insufficient regard for work rules and regulations.

A city employee who is guilty of the above infractions may be reprimanded, demoted, suspended or dismissed depending upon the City Manager's judgment of the severity of the infraction. Department heads shall be responsible for counseling employees about their problems.

Excuse me. We have two department heads who have broken quite a few personnel policies. Who is going to counsel them? So far nothing has been done. Sure, this may have been mentioned but nothing has been written and put in their personnel files. If these policies are broken again, will there be another slap on the hand and "let's try not to do it again?" Who remembers? Nothing is in their files, and with the turnover this city has been known to have, who's going to know?

Another city employee broke the Personnel Policy on 1-6-96 (a non department head), and he was written up.

Should all employees not be treated fair? Are department heads above obeying City Personnel Policy? Does it depend on who you are and who you know? It appears there is no consistency within our city. I am tired of my money as well as the other tax paying citizens' money being misused, mismanaged or just thrown away. Broke, we must not be. We have money to be blown away.

We all know that the department heads, of all people, should obey the Personnel Policy to set an example to the city employees. If a city employee is seeing policy broken by a department head, then they feel like they can also do the same and it be ok. Not in this case.

Those two department heads should suffer the same punishment the non department head received, if not a stricter punishment. Of all people, they should definitely have known better.

City Manager, Personnel Director, Mayor Neisler and City Council, get with the program; fair for one is fair for all, regardless of what job or job title you may hold.

I am requesting a response to this letter from the City Council to what type of action will be taken. If no action is taken, please explain why.

Accept this as a formal complaint and I am requesting a demand for action to be taken.

Joe King
Kings Mountain

HERALD LETTER POLICY

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. Please observe the following guidelines:

Letters must be brief and to the point. Letters in excess of 600 words will not be published. Hand-delivered letters will not be accepted. Letters should be typed and double-spaced, if possible; if not, write legibly. All letters must be signed and include the full name, address and telephone number of the writer for verification purposes.

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

Cartoonitorial



JIM HEFFNER

Columnist



Gettin' introduced to society

This is the time of year when young ladies all over the country are "introduced to society." These girls are called debutantes.

I've always wondered about that ritual. You hear different people say, "well Sara Jean will be coming out this year."

Now what in the wide wide world of sports does that mean? Does it mean Sara Jean has been kept prisoner in her house all these years and she's finally being allowed out?

Webster's calls debutante a young woman making her debut in society. Society is defined as people working together for a common purpose, or companionship. So what we have here is a young woman making her debut into a group of people working together for a common cause. How that can be called "coming out" is beyond me.

The other day, I read an account about the coming out of debutantes in a small town. Each of them were accompanied by a marshal. The last time I saw anybody accompanied by a marshal was when my uncle was hustled off to the county lock-up by a marshal. He had just turned out a finger-lickin' batch of white lightnin'.

Boy you should have seen some of the snooty names of those marshals. Of course I can't mention them here, but they were on the order of Reginald Algernon Pomeroy III.

I'll just bet Reginald's father wasn't a telephone lineman or a ditch digger.

That's another thing, all the debutantes in the small town were the daughters of doctors or bankers. That makes me wonder if "coming out" is an activity reserved for the medical or banking communities in that little town.

Now you take the small S.C. town in which I was born and reared and that would have been a problem. We just had two doctors and one banker, so I guess the debutante's ball would have been a small affair.

We didn't have anybody, that I can recall, with snooty names either, unless you consider Johnny Mack Hinshaw snooty. I can just see a news account of the "coming out" of debutantes in my hometown. First off, everybody would have to attend some kind of class to find out what a debutante was.

The news story would probably read something like this: three young gals were presented to society at the first annual debutante ball at the Red Cow Dance Hall on route 29 the other night.

Essie May Scruggs, daughter of old Jubal Scruggs and that red haired woman he brought back from Montgomery, attends a beauty school in Aiken. Her marshal was Luther and Junie Lou Huskins' boy Esker, from over near Hog Farm Road. Essie May wore a beautiful dress her aunt Minnie stitched from cow feed sacks. It was blue with a little pink print flower on it. Essie May looked good enough to take to your favorite fishing hole. Esker was as polished as any corpse old Jonas Blunt ever had over at the funeral parlor.

Olga and Gaither Baliles' youngest daughter Pearlite Virgiline goes to business college over in Kensley Park. She's studying to do taxes. Her marshal was Jeter Kershaw, recently released on good behavior. Pearlite's dress was handed down from her sister Consuela, but still looked fine after all these years. It was lime green with purple bows on the hem. A pair of yellow knee-highs completed her ensemble. Jeter wore a white and black striped suit, a trendsetter every time out, Jeter is something of a fancy dan.

Ophelia Gertrude Hunsucker, daughter of Cassius and Fronia Sue Hunsucker, who have the Freezy ice cream store over on Highway 5, attends nurse's aide training at the veteran's hospital in Columbia. Her Marshal was Hoag Messer, who works as a trainee at the feed mill. Ophelia looked fetching in a black Chinese dress with a split up the side. Hoag wore a pair of freshly pressed coveralls.

After dancing to the strains of Joker Jackson's blue grass band, the participants took turns firing a .22 rifle at passing airliners, and a good time was had by all.

I need to go to one of those debutante balls. (Just kidding girls. All of you are beautiful)

(ED. NOTE - Opinions expressed in editorials, letters to the editor, columns, guest columns, cartoons, etc., are those of the writer and are not necessarily the views of the Kings Mountain Herald and other Republic Newspapers.)

Hayes making early push for governor

State Rep. Robin Hayes attacked Governor Jim Hunt's conservative credentials Tuesday night and says his campaign for governor falls right in line with the most conservative wing of his party.

The second term Republican from Cabarrus County and the majority whip in the state House is the first gubernatorial candidate to stump Cleveland County and made the remarks at Western Steer in Shelby as he pumped hands during a swing through the county.

Hayes has taken his campaign to 82 counties since September and expects to beat formidable candidates in his party's primary, Charlotte Mayor Richard Vinroot and Guilford County Commissioner Steve Arnold and if he does, then he plans to unseat Gov Jim Hunt, currently one of the most popular Democratic governors in the South.

Hayes owns Mount Pleasant Hosiery Mill in Mount Pleasant. He says he has talked with his own employees about issues, as well as other working class voters and is sensitive to the recent textile job losses in Cleveland County.

The local gathering was planned by his Cleveland County campaign manager Bud Wilson and vice-chairman Robert A. Williams.

There is another reason that Hayes and his wife of 28 years, Barbara, are hitting the campaign hard. He likes people. The folksy legislator is anything but pretentious as he talks of teaching abstinence in the public schools and of his opposition to abortion.

He's running as though the campaign were peaking now instead of spring and though the election is next week, not in November 1996.

"What the people want is a strong conservative," Hayes said. He believes he earned his conservative mantle with such measures as House Bill 834, the bill he sponsored mandating that an abstinence-until-marriage message be taught in the public schools.

Hayes voted to slash the Department of Education's Raleigh bureaucracy 40 percent and return the savings to the local schools with a requirement that core subjects, reading, writing and arithmetic, be the focus. He sponsored legislation to allow workplace drug testing, to repeal the prison cap, voted for concealed handgun permits and voted to require prison work programs to include restitution for victims.

He co-sponsored legislation requiring welfare recipients to work, to limit the time recipients receive benefits and eliminate programs that encourage dependence on welfare. He also co-sponsored bills to eliminate food stamp fraud and require community service for foodstamp recipients.

The largest personal income tax cut in North Carolina history was co-sponsored by Hayes, who also pushed through the state budget which was lower than the year before. Hayes proposes a budget that virtually eliminates the abortion fund by reducing the abortion

Lib Stewart
News Editor



budget from \$1.3 million to \$50,000. He shepherded a State House welfare reform pilot plan set to begin in Cabarrus County. The Senate has not acted on that plan.

He thinks prisons are focused on recreation - such as weightlifting and playing basketball - and not enough on work. Making convicts work would help to rehabilitate them, he said.

The Concord businessman, 50, was welcomed by Senator Dennis Davis of Lattimore and Republican House candidate Dean Allen of Rutherford County and about 25 supporters who asked questions on mostly local issues which Hayes said needed to be settled locally.

A former textile worker wanted to know if elected governor he could keep jobs from going out of Kings Mountain to Mexico, referring obviously to the recent closing of Clevevont Mills.

"Get rid of Bill Clinton. He sent troops to Bosnia and jobs to Mexico," said the candidate but he added that textiles, furniture and tobacco are the small businesses that are keys to the future but conservative leadership is needed to keep them.

"How would you protect the kids in Cleveland County when one of our agencies wasn't doing its job", asked one woman. Again, the candidate responded that block grants should be locally controlled, not state controlled, and as governor he would not manipulate.

In response to a question, he said he distinguishes himself from other candidates because he takes a stand on issues.

He said he is in favor of repealing the food tax because it punishes people who can least afford to pay. Revenue from the food tax increases the size and scope of government, he said, with more departments and employees and "a heck of a chunk of change."

"I don't hide what I say from my opponents or anyone else and I do away with politics as usual and substitute for common sense."

Some of the goals Hayes said he would champion are in Hunt's platform as well but of all these issues, Hayes charges Hunt is a reconstructed liberal masquerading in conservative garb.

"Until the Republicans took control of the House, none of the things he's taking credit for did he show any interest in," Hayes said.

Sidewalk Survey

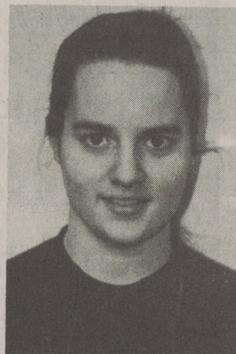
• By Elizabeth Stewart

What do you think of block scheduling at KMHS?



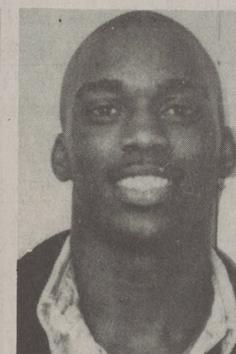
NICKI GLADDEN

I like block scheduling because we have more lab time for such classes as Chemistry. This is the end of the first semester and I can see some good improvements.



KAREN MABE

I like block scheduling. As a senior, it has given me a few more subjects to choose from this year and that's good.



CEDRIC SMITH

In a way I don't like the change to block scheduling. The periods are too long and if the classes aren't real exciting students can go to sleep.



CHARLETA PETTIS

I prefer the old way. In some classes that the teachers do all the talking and the whole 90 minutes.



CHRIS BURNS

I don't like block scheduling. It's hard to finish a subject in one semester. We are always straining to do so much in that short time.