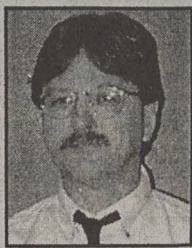


OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Editor: Gary Stewart 739-7496
May 18, 2000 Section A, Page 4

Most people's greatest influence was their mother



Alan Hodge
Staff Writer

As most of you know, Mother's Day was last Sunday. Over the last several weeks I've had the opportunity to interview several mothers and their children for Herald feature stories. Besides the facts and dates that go along with a story about a particular mom and her offspring, there are the interesting anecdotes that reveal how the mother's personality influenced the life of the child.

When my mom was born, they broke they mold. Weighing about 100 wiry pounds, she's not one of those types that can exactly smother you in her bosom, but she has always let us know she cared about us in her own way. I think one of the main reasons I have always sort of been a free-thinker or understood and enjoyed the gift of a fertile imagination is the fact that my mom is a bit on the eccentric side herself.

Nearly all of us carry certain images and memories of our mothers. A few of mine include mom riding on the back of my motorcycle as we raced around the yard- just before the crash. Another flashback is the time mom had on a wig at her job in a bindery, and when the wig got snatched off her head by a machine, a lady thought mom had been scalped and fainted. Yet another scenario was the time mammy drove us to the beach about 40 years ago, got lost in the wilds of South Carolina, and ended up in a sharecropper community where mules were pulling wagons loaded down with cotton. More than one person has compared my mother to Lucille Ball of the "I Love Lucy" TV show.

Creativity is a trait I can trace directly to my mother. She can take a bag of twigs and make something beautiful. When I was a little brat, mom always read books to me or sang tunes such as "Chabobba, Chabobba." I think this must have planted some sort of seed in me, because I read anything I can get my hands on and make up little songs about anything under the sun.

Most of us have a lot to thank our mothers for. Maybe life with them now or at some time in the past hasn't been a bowl of cherries, but rare indeed is the mother that doesn't do the best she can at any given time for her kids. If you didn't call your mom last Sunday, or send a card or something, then there's no time like right now to let the person who gave you life know that you care.

Some famous sayings that came from your mother



Gary Stewart

Sunday was Mother's Day, and if you're like me and have a good mother you know there is no greater blessing.

Good mothers not only give us love and guidance to last a lifetime, but they also have some famous sayings that stick with us.

Here are some of my mother's words of advice - and warning - that I recall off the top of my head. I bet they'll bring back a memory or two for you, too.

- Quit making those faces. What if your face freezes like that?
- Those ears are so dirty I'm surprised taters ain't growing out of them.
- Be home early. If you're out after midnight you're up to no good.
- Go ask your daddy. (Of course, daddy said "go ask your momma," and she probably knew all along that he would just so she could say no).
- If you can't say something good about someone, don't say anything at all.
- Before you say something about someone, ask yourself three questions: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?
- You'd better get a move on or you won't get there in time to hear the preacher say amen.
- If you get in trouble at school, you're really in for a whipping when you get home.
- Always wear clean underwear in case you're in a wreck.
- You do your part, and when the Good Lord's ready he'll do His part.
- A whistling woman and a crowing hen always come to some bad end.
- That beats a hen a pecking.
- I don't know what this younger generation's coming to.
- If you're mad get glad, or you'll be mad for a long time.
- Eat your vegetables. The little kids overseas are starving to death.
- Never put off til tomorrow what you can do today.
- Alcohol never did anyone any good.
- Hard work never hurt anybody.
- This room looks like a cyclone hit it.

See Gary, 5A

CARTOONITORIAL



Year-ending thoughts

A few thoughts as we close the school year:

-I miss my friend Joe Smith. Many of you knew Joe, who passed away a few weeks ago after a brave battle with cancer. I told his family that he is probably the only person I have known who regularly discussed the school system with me who never made a negative comment. I always looked forward to talking with Joe as he always made me feel good about what we were doing in our schools. He had the unique ability to look beyond little roadblocks to see the larger positives which are happening. We all, myself included, can learn a real lesson from his legacy.



Bob McRae
Superintendent
KM Schools

-The merger debate has caused many of us to place so much focus on it that we haven't had the opportunity to enjoy the positives in our school system. Recently, I attended our spring band concert. The entire band concert was first rate as usual, but I was particularly moved by the cooperative effort of our band and choral departments on one piece. That selection can stand up anywhere

against any public school performing effort. The next day I visited with some elementary students who were presenting research projects. They were excellent. Later that afternoon I attended our first Senior Project presentations at Kings Mountain High School. The students had done an impressive job. Both the elementary school students and the high school students went well beyond mere reports to present insightful, in depth research. All of these opportunities reminded me that many good things are happening here. We should be grateful and proud.

-We are getting the first wave of results from spring testing. What I am seeing indicates that our employees and students have been working hard on instruction again this year - working successfully as well. I think that is particularly encouraging given the attention which the merger debate could have taken from the classroom.

-I am certainly disappointed that Ron Massey is leaving us. During his five years here he has given great service to the school, the school system, and the community. He will be difficult to replace. As I write this column I have no way of knowing who his successor will be. I do know that Kings Mountain High School athletics will go forward and that this system

will continue to try to give our students the best possible sports program. This community expects an outstanding athletic program and deserves just that. I am confident that we can deliver.

-We have recently filled a number of administrative vacancies in the system. I am very pleased with the selections. Filling principalships, assistant principalships, and district office leadership positions is an extremely important process. The continuance of our strong academic record is directly related to our choices for these positions. When I can look at our selections and realize that all of them were chosen over a solid group of competitors, I think the future is bright for our schools.

-Tomorrow night brings the most important single event of the school year - KMHS graduation. That ceremony is literally what we are all about. I want to congratulate the Class of 2000. I appreciate the contributions they have made to us and wish each of them the very best in the future. I also challenge the Class of 2001 to eagerly assume the leadership role we need our seniors to accept.

I want to also challenge everyone who will be in John Gamble Stadium tomorrow

See McRae, 5A

OUR VIEW

Council pay hike should be considered for the future

Kings Mountain Councilman Clavon Kelly surprised most - if not all - of the people in attendance at last week's City Council meeting when, near the end of the session he made a motion to increase the salary of commissioners from \$300 to \$500 a month and the mayor's salary from \$600 to \$1,000 per month.

We won't argue with Mr. Kelly or any of the other councilmen who supported his motion on whether or not they deserve a raise. But a 67% increase is ridiculous.

Council and staff members estimated that it has probably been 25 years since Council salaries were increased. But that is no reason for such a drastic hike.

It should be pointed out that none of the present commissioners have been on Council for 25 years, and some of them just took office for the first time in December. All of them knew what the pay was before they ran.

We don't think the claim that the low salary discourages some people from running for office is a valid point. People should be running for office because they love the town and want to serve the people.

That's not to say that they don't deserve some remuneration for their services.

We like Councilman Gene White's idea that this matter should be put in the hands of the City Manager's office for inclusion in the next fiscal year budget, with any approved raise and policy concerning annual adjustments taking effect after next year's election.

It just does not look good for a City Council to raise its own pay.

Curbside pickup will pay off in the long run

We applaud the city staff and Council for its inclusion of curbside garbage pickup in the 2000-01 fiscal year budget.

Although the new procedure will cause some concerns by the elderly and physically challenged who may not be able to roll their trash containers to the curb, there are provisions that will be built into the curbside garbage ordinances to take care of them.

Many hassles and headaches involved in finding and retaining qualified sanitation personnel will be eliminated, or at least lessened, by going to a curbside program simply because it takes fewer people and will eliminate some of the positions which are almost impossible to fill. After an initial investment to purchase containers and equipment necessary for implementation of the new system, it is projected to save approximately \$180,000 a year.

Letters

We appreciate your letters to the editor and encourage you to write. Because we receive so many letters, however, we must impose guidelines to ensure that as many readers as possible are able to share their views. We therefore limit the number of letters that any one person may have published to one a month. Also, we ask that you keep your letters short, no more than two pages double-spaced or one page single-spaced. Handwritten letters are accepted, but must be legible.

We will not publish letters from anonymous writers; names, addresses, and phone numbers must be included. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation, clarity, brevity and content.

Letters must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday of the week they are to be published. Mail letters to The Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or fax them to (704) 739-0611.

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What is your most memorable event of this Kings Mountain High School year?



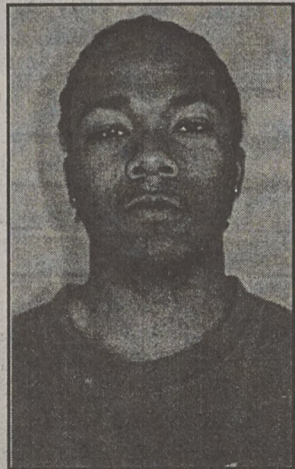
The day we brought a video camera to school and taped everything.

Brian Long
11th Grade



The water balloon fight last week

Matt Presnell
10th Grade



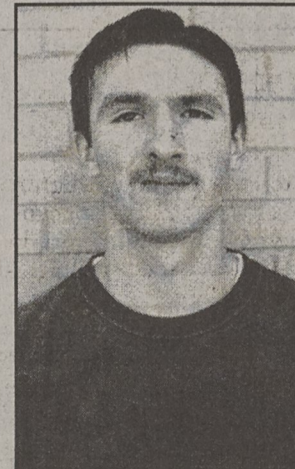
Finding out I was going to graduate.

Terrence Rainey
12th Grade



Taking part in the merger protest.

Elizabeth Logan
9th Grade



Pitching my best baseball game against Forestview.

Caleb Williams
9th Grade