

## YOUR OPINION

### United Way needs support of 'caretakers'

To the editor:

Do we ever really stop to think about how much our community means to us, how much we have to be thankful for each day? Community encompasses so much that we take for granted...food, electricity, shelter, clothing, jobs, church, neighbors, friends, family, co-workers. The list is endless. As I count my blessings, I also remind myself that we are all stewards of our communities, that we all have something worthwhile to contribute.

As Pacesetter Chair with United Way of Gaston County last year, I was delighted to see the tremendous stewardship of you, our Gaston County citizens, who raised over \$1 million through 23 Pacesetter organizations. Before the kickoff event, we raised a record amount to support the 31 local United Way agencies.

This year, our community needs your support more than ever to continue helping local people become more self-sufficient. As we face a great deal of economic and social change, local health and human services are more crucial than ever. After-school child care, adult day care for seniors, emergency help for housefire victims, tutors for the illiterate, food/clothing/shelter for the homeless, blood for emergencies and so many vital services are part of our community because you choose to give.

This year, as Pacesetter Chair of the 2000-2001 United Way of Gaston County campaign, I challenge you to partner with me again. We are caretakers of our community. We are a thriving, prosperous community because we give, because we care. Let's continue building a stronger, more self-sufficient Gaston County by choosing to give through United Way, the best way to help the most people.

Pam Massey

### Letters to the editor

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.

### Corrections & Clarifications

We will correct any substantial errors that appear in the newspaper or clarify any statements that are unclear.

To request a correction or clarification, call the editor at (704) 739-7469 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or fax (704) 739-0611.

## CARTOONITORIAL



## Thoughts on interim board

I have no problems with the people who were appointed by Cleveland County Commissioners Tuesday night to serve on the interim board of the merged Cleveland County School System.

I know personally - or know of - most of them and I think they will do what's best for all the children of Cleveland County.

However, I have a problem with the way Commissioners went about selecting them.

They announced last week that citizens could apply for appointment to the board through Monday noon at the office of the County Manager.

However, Tuesday several of the commissioners announced that they would also be considering other persons.

Why have a filing period at all? It sounds like they already knew what they were going to do.

If I didn't already think that, I would have been convinced after a telephone conversation I had with a Kings Mountain School Board member on Tuesday afternoon.

If you'll recall, several weeks ago I tried to predict who the commissioners would appoint to the interim board. As it turned out, I hit six of the nine.

But this School Board member - several hours before the official meeting of the County Commissioners - hit all nine of them.

I'm not going to invite her to pick against me on football games. I wouldn't stand a chance.

But getting back to the school board: It's makeup is interesting - eight of the nine are either residents of Shelby or have Shelby connections.

Dr. Jack Hamrick and Richard Hooker were the two members appointed from the Shelby

Board of Education. They obviously live in Shelby, and they also work there.

Kings Mountain's representatives are Dr. Larry Allen, a Shelby native, and Shearra Miller, who is employed by the Cleveland County Arts Council.

Cleveland County's representatives are Jo Boggs of Fallston, who as far as I know is self-employed and is not connected to Shelby, and Tommy Greene of Boiling Springs, who is employed by Cleveland Community College.

The three at-large representatives all have Shelby addresses, even though one of them doesn't live in the city limits. Dr. Steve Curtis is the former Superintendent of Cleveland County Schools and is the brother-in-law of County Commissioner Joe Cabaniss. Mary Evans is a retired Shelby teacher, and Dr. George Litton is a member of the Cleveland County Board of Education and the retired principal of Crest High School.

The fact that most of these folks have Shelby addresses or Shelby connections doesn't mean they won't represent the entire county. I have no doubt that they will.

Even though I'm convinced the commissioners' minds were made up in advance, I will say that they had a great list of candidates to choose from.

All of the appointees have experience either in education or on school boards, as did many of the folks who were passed over, including former Kings Mountain School Board members Priscilla Mauney, June Lee, Rev. Billy Houze and Kyle Smith and current School Board members Stella Putnam, Melony Bolin and Ronnie Hawkins.

I don't envy this interim board. They have a lot of hard work and headaches ahead of them. Hopefully, there's a judge somewhere who will take away all those pains.



Gary Stewart

## Scanty clothes cost a lot

Folks like rain forest natives who wear a shoestring for clothes don't know how good they have it. After all, not only do they avoid the hassle of going shopping for clothes at a mall, they also avoid the credit card bills associated with such forays into the world of fashion. If you think about it, wearing a piece of twine for trousers means you wouldn't even have a place to put a credit card in the first place.

Clothes cost too much money these days. Once upon a time, a chap might have had a pair of bib overalls and a khaki shirt for every-day attire, and a suit for Sunday, funerals and weddings. The overalls might have set a guy back about five bucks then, and a work shirt was only a few dollars more. To illustrate the new heights of absurdity that clothes prices have gone to, I saw a pair of "fashion" overalls a while back in a department store that had a price tag of \$100. Guess how much plowin' will be done in those things.

The price of clothes for women is too often nothing short of robbery. True, there are bargains to be had if you dig deep enough, but most things are overpriced and of a quality that was once known as "shoddy." Shoes top the list in my opinion as the greatest gouge in women's attire. How can any manufacturer honestly justify charging \$50 for a pair of shoes that have maybe a dollar's worth of leather in them. Some ladies avoid the shoe fashion trap and go their own way. I know one who sometimes wears what looks like RAF Spitfire flying boots and gets along fine.

The high cost of fashion is nothing new. Recently I read a reprint of an article that appeared in the "New York Times" in 1866 about how much it cost a lady of fashion to replace her wardrobe that had been destroyed in a fire. The bill was something like \$21,000. That is a lot today and was a fortune back then. Items on the list included things such as a white satin dress trimmed with "blonde and bugles" at \$2,500, a black Mantau velvet robe trimmed with seed pearls valued at \$500, and a white Swiss muslin skirt trimmed with "dogblo." I don't have any idea what "dogblo" is, but it must have been something special.

Anyway, that's my thoughts on clothing and their high costs. On the other hand, even if it does sometimes strain the budget to get outfitted, the expense required is still probably better than wearing a shoestring for a three piece suit.



Alan Hodge

Staff Writer

## The way we were in '85

The death of one of Kings Mountain's most illustrious athletes topped front page news for the June 6, 1985 edition of the Herald. One of the best major league baseball catchers ever, Jake Early was reported as having passed away at age 70 in Melbourne, Florida. During Early's career in pro baseball, he had played for teams such as the Washington Senators and Cleveland Browns.

Also on the front page of the June 6, 1985 Herald was graduation news from Kings Mountain High School. A total of 280 students received their diplomas at ceremonies held in John Gamble Memorial Stadium. It was reported that the ceremonies were barely over when a violent storm came up and knocked power off in some areas of town.

The June 6, 1985 editorial page in the Herald focused on the retirement of several long-term Kings Mountain area school teachers. In a tribute to the group, it was calculated that their total years of teaching came to 163. The new retirees included Donald Deal, Mattie Lowery, Julia Plonk, and Margaret Spratt.

Baseball and softball games topped sports news in Kings Mountain for the first week of June, 1985. In local games, Parker's Amoco ladies went undefeated by whipping all six of the teams they had faced. In T-ball action, BB&T ran their record to 11-0 by besting the Jim Testa Braves 13-12. In Legion play, Kings Mountain boasted a 4-2 record, Babe Ruth

## Looking Back



baseball in Kings Mountain was also in the news with one team besting Southern Excavating and the other falling to Belmont in a close 7-6 game.

Folks in the market for a house had plenty to choose from in the June 6, 1985 Herald. Several real estate firms were offering dream homes starting as low as \$8,500 for a four room frame on Clinton Street. Other mansions were going for between \$23,000 and \$30,000 for upscale digs. Apartment rents were a lot cheaper 15 years ago as well. Rent per month for a new flat in Kings Mountain was around \$150.

Social news in the Herald for the first week of June, 1985 announced that the Kings Mountain Rotary Club was going to have a special guest at their upcoming luncheon meeting. Slated to speak was none other than the up and coming Charlotte entrepreneur, George Shinn. It was reported that Shinn was trying to bring a pro basketball team to Charlotte. Also on the social calendar was the Kings Mountain High School class of 1975 reunion.

## SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE  
Kings Mountain Herald

Do you think that air quality is better or worse than five years ago?



It seems to be better than in the past.

Mark Ferretti  
Raleigh, NC



Air quality has gone down, but it's not all due to cars.

Tom Funderburk  
Kings Mountain



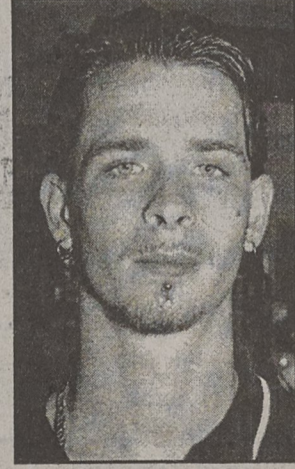
The air is worse. Car emissions are lower, but the population has increased.

Tonya Deaton  
Kings Mountain



I think the air is dirtier than it used to be.

Kassy Whetstine  
Kings Mountain



All the cars have made the air worse than it used to be.

Reginald Lovelace  
Kings Mountain