

Prayer decision absurd

To the editor:

The Supreme Court has made another absurd decision. In recent years, the court has made rulings with no regard for the principles of the American people. People have been praying in American schools for 450 years. This decision is ludicrous. The immoral depravity in this country defies logic or even common sense. Have we become so arrogant and prosperous in this country that we consciously defy the living God?

The Supreme Court is supposed to protect the Constitution. They simply ignore the Constitution. The Constitution means nothing any more.

Judges on the court are supposed to be the most intelligent scholars in the nation. It has been written "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."

The court was not established for judges to manipulate society as the Supreme Court decrees society ought to be.

The Constitution was written so the citizens could understand it. It means what it says - as written. The Constitution gives citizens the right to worship as one wishes, right of free speech, right to peaceably assemble and separation of powers.

The Constitution does not state a separation of church and state. The people are the church...and the state! Teachers and principals do not make the laws. The legislators of the states make the laws. As far as I know, no state has established a state church.

It is reprehensible the United States government protects homosexuals, abortionists, and pornographers, as they forbid prayer in school, leave our borders wide open for drugs and illegal aliens. Without regard for public safety, they put murderers, robbers, rapists and child molesters back on the street.

Bill Blackwelder
Mt. Pleasant

The poker bust heard 'round state

To the editor:

In my service of three terms in the North Carolina General Assembly, I've never witnessed such a timely, well-executed and cunning operation as was put forth by the Kings Mountain Police and Cleveland County Sheriff's Department this past week. I can honestly say that I've never been so proud of our law enforcement as I was watching the events of the video poker raids unfold.

Thumbs up to Captains Proctor and Benton and all of those in the two departments that played such a vital role in making state history. I am writing this letter in hopes that our folks here at home know that it was the work of these officers and their colleagues that led the State House to a stronger position against video poker. The many hours put in by these dedicated officers finally paid off with stronger penalties against those who break video poker laws.

A simple "thank you" is not enough for all the work that led to statewide media coverage and therefore an awakening of legislators that were making an attempt to let the issue sleep. I also commend the media that followed the operation as it developed. You gave us the ammunition we needed to make changes, before we became a South Carolina Video Hell.

Rep. Debbie Clary
NC General Assembly
Cleveland, Rutherford, Polk and Gaston counties



ALAN HODGE / THE HERALD
HOT JOB - Recent rains have put new life into weeds and grass, and the hot, humid days have made yard work almost unbearable. A good straw hat helped keep some of the sun off Ken Metcalf of Kings Mountain as he mowed his lawn Tuesday.

Legislators need to quit watering down state law

Some of our legislators are patting themselves on the back this week after passing a new video poker machine law prior to the end of their "short session" last week.

Although, by the written accounts I've seen, the law does appear tougher than it used to be by limiting the number of machines at any one location and requiring stricter rules of registration of machines and reporting of revenue and payout, in my opinion it doesn't go nearly far enough.

What started out as an effort to completely stop video poker in the state - just as South Carolina did on midnight June 30 - ended, as usual, with legislators cutting deals to keep it.

One thing that has always seemed unfair to me is that when business establishments are raided for illegal machines, it is always a low-paid employee that gets arrested, not the owner of the business and the owner of the illegal machines.

The way the laws are set up, police officers just can't randomly search businesses for illegal equipment. They must first send in an "undercover" officer to actually play the games and receive an illegal payment. Usually, the person making the payment is an employee who is just trying to make ends meet.

Laws should be strengthened to include charges and heavy penalties against the owners of the machines and businesses, and even owners of the buildings housing those machines. Sometimes, owners of machines are from out of state and owners of the buildings are prominent townspeople. They rarely are charged. Perhaps if violation of the law required that they also be arrested and their names published in the paper, and, if convicted that their buildings be sold at public auction, they would be more careful who they rent to.

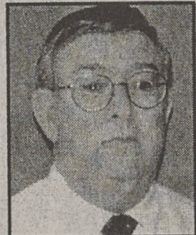
In my opinion, gambling is one of those things that have to be determined to be either legal or illegal, and our General Assembly did a very sorry job of that.

If it's legal, let individual cities, through their zoning ordinances, stipulate what areas of town those establishments may locate - away from residential areas, schools, churches, playgrounds, or in any business, including grocery and convenience stores, that are frequented by persons under the age of 18.

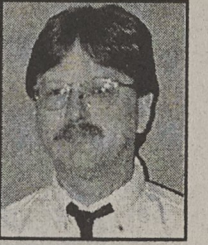
If it's illegal, let it be illegal everywhere, including the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

In my personal opinion, gambling should be illegal. To me, it's immoral and it takes food out of children's mouths and clothes off their backs. Others may say how they spend their hard-earned money is their business, and not mine.

Regardless, we need legislators who have the guts to enact laws without so many exceptions.



Gary Stewart



Alan Hodge

The hand that rocks the cradle can rock commissioners too

I have come to the conclusion that if men provide the muscle of the world, then it's women who supply the backbone. I'm still undecided about who chips in the brain.

Being an avid student of history, I have observed that pretty much since the dawn of time, the guys have gone out and done things like fight wars while the ladies stayed behind and kept society on an even and productive keel. Examples of this phenomenon are to be found in the farms that were tended, airplanes built, and children raised while the men folk were absent and the women were keeping the home fires burning.

Another thing that women do really well is keep men in line. Not every chap needs to be "guided" of course. Some are naturally domestic, while others need varying amounts of "training" to bend to the inexorable will of their wives or girlfriends. Even though most men fuss when given a feminine directive, later reflection on the situation usually proves the woman was right about whatever the issue happened to be.

Even when men get into so-called high positions such as general, admiral, corporate executive or, dare I say, county commissioner, they still need a woman or several women to make sure they don't do anything of a boyish (stupid) nature. As fate would have it, I know of at least four such principled ladies right here in Kings Mountain. Though I am feign to mention their names in this column, let me say that one is tall with short blonde hair, one is tall with short black hair, one just got a new hairdo, and the other has given more than one shall we say ringing oration against school merger.

These aforementioned ladies were at a recent county commissioners meeting, not to speak, but as they put it to "keep an eye on the commissioners." I can tell you now that if I was a person in power and had that quartet facing me from the audience listening to my every utterance, I'd be a nervous wreck. Being locked up in a chicken coop with four tigresses couldn't be any scarier.

So, here's a salute to all the women past and present who have helped save the world and save their men while they were at it. And here's to the Kings Mountain Gang of Four who, though they are every inch southern belles, have the backbone and courage to brook no foolishness from those who would attempt to rule by means other than the will of the governed.

War was raging July 23, 1942

The United States had only been at war for about eight months when the July 23, 1942 edition of the Herald hit the streets. War news from the world, nation, and city filled the front page as well as many columns within the body of the paper.

Local war news on the Herald's front page included a story announcing the arrival home on leave of several sailors from Kings Mountain. Seamen who were taking a break from their duties included Hobert Dye, Carroll Cranford, Clemonsee McDaniel, Gene McGinnis, Robert Lee Morrison and Pink Ware. Also listed on furlough in the July 23, 1942 Herald was Eugene Gibson who was stationed in the Canal Zone.

National news in the Herald for the third week of July, 1942 featured reports from the Navy announcing that a convoy of 2,400 ships had made the perilous Atlantic crossing with the loss of only eight vessels. The Navy also reported that a measure had been approved granting a 50 percent pay increase to officers and men who volunteered for the submarine service.

News on page 2A of the July 23, 1942 Herald was topped by a feature story urging all local ladies to save their cooking grease for the war effort. The story stated that Uncle Sam needed 500 million pounds of grease and animal fat to lube the gears of war. Other second page news urged area farmers to plant more legumes such as peas. The idea behind planting the legumes was to enrich the nitrogen content of the soil without using commercial fertilizers which were an ingredient in explosives.

The Neisler family was the subject of a short but interesting story in the July 23, 1942 Herald. A report from New Jersey said that two Guernsey cows owned by P.N. Neisler had recently set new records for milk production. One of the cows produced 1,064 pounds of milk and 572 pounds of butter. The other bovine record setter put out 8,801 pounds of milk and 494 pounds of butter.

Several interesting products were advertised in the the Herald during July, 1942. Selling for as little as 10 cents per tube, Yodora deodorant cream was guaranteed to keep PO (perspiration odor) away. It was also guaranteed not to rot cloth.

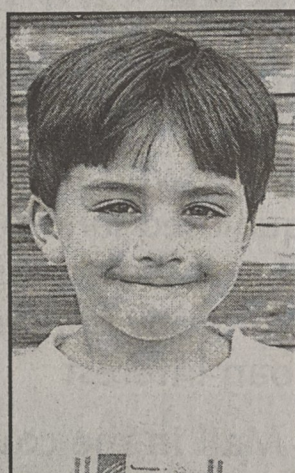
For aches and pains, Soretone creme was advertised as giving "happy relief." In addition to its soothing comfort, Soretone was said to cure athletes foot. To shine one's teeth just like a Hollywood star, another Herald ad urged folks to use Calox tooth powder. A photo of actress Olivia de Havilland displaying a beaming grin accompanied the ad. Kings Mountain Drug Co. also had an ad featuring Sal-Hepatica at 25 cents per bottle, a bottle of stockings for 50 cents, and Cardui Tonic at 89 cents.

Looking
Back
AT KINGS MOUNTAIN
By Alan Hodge

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?



When a man had a chainsaw in the haunted fire house last Halloween.

Christian Broome
Kings Mountain



The first time I saw a Copperhead snake in the woods.

Nicholas Broome
Kings Mountain



When I was 14-years-old and saw my uncle drown.

Bruce White
Kings Mountain



I got real scared when I went to Carowinds and got on Thunder Road.

Daniel McAbee
Kings Mountain



It scared me when I fell over a dirt pile and almost broke my arm.

Josh McAbee
Kings Mountain