

Stealing from grave saddens mom

To the editor:
I agree stealing from a grave is low, but even more sad. My son is buried in the Kings Mountain cemetery, and I visit his grave several times a week. I keep flowers and arrangements on his grave all the time.

I spend a lot of time making things for special occasions and each time something happens to them.

I am sad more times than not, when I go to his grave. Sometimes the things on his grave are destroyed or not there at all. This Christmas everything was taken from his grave.

I don't know who is doing this or why, but I wish it would stop. You can no longer do harm to my son but it breaks my heart. I don't know if someone thinks they are having fun or if they are singling my son's grave out.

I ask you please don't do this anymore. I go to my son's grave for peace, instead I find grief when his things are missing. My son is Christopher Brian Davison (C.B.) and as his mom I ask you to please stop.

Rebecca Chitwood
Kings Mountain

Stealing from the dead low as you can go

To the editor:
I can sympathize with the lady who wrote last week about the Nativity scenes being stolen from the grave at Mountain Rest Cemetery. In the years 1998 and 1999 the flowers I have placed in a vase at Easter and Christmas on my husband's grave have been stolen in a day or two after being placed there.

This past year at Christmas, due to medical problems, my money was short so I used an arrangement I had in the attic to put in the vase. It is still there. They are smart enough to only steal the newest and nicest flowers or other articles in the graveyards.

Anything a grieving family leaves on a grave has a meaning of love for the one there, and should be respected enough to be left alone.

In growing up over the years I've heard comments made about certain individuals that they were low down enough to steal the money off a dead person's eyes. I think the same would apply here. It seems to me, as many people that work in the cemetery, that this could be seen and reported. If they could be given a little jail time it would teach them to buy their own flowers or other articles and not steal from the dead.

Oveta Blanton
Kings Mountain

High gas cost puts burden on Ministry

To the editor:
Due to the overwhelming cost of gas, propane gas, and kerosene the Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry has experienced a sharp increase in our clients. We are asking the good people of Kings Mountain who have been blessed financially to help defray the cost of heating for some of their neighbors. Tax deductible contributions may be mailed to Kings Mountain Crisis Ministry, P.O. Box 1335, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Many people have lost jobs and experienced lay offs recently. The retired and disabled who are on fixed incomes are not able to absorb these high heating costs. You have always responded in the past, and I am counting on you to respond now to keep our citizens warm this winter.

We are not currently out of finances, nor do we want to deplete our funds and take a chance of having to refuse help. We are looking at two more months of very cold weather.

God bless you.

Becky Lineberger, Director,
KM Crisis Ministry

PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Two ducks make a rippling effect on the water and create a peaceful scene as they swim across Davidson Lake near Kings Mountain on a sunny Friday morning. A group of citizens who want to see Davidson and nearby City lakes turned into a passive recreational area was successful last week in persuading City Council to table the proposed sale of the property for residential development.

Allen an excellent choice for KM Superintendent

Three interesting decisions were made by local governing boards during the past week, and in my opinion a couple of them leave a few questions hanging.

First, the one decision that I don't have a problem with, even though some folks across the creek do:

The Kings Mountain Board of Education hired Dr. Larry Allen, its Board chairman, as Superintendent of Schools. Some observers felt the Board did a disservice to the taxpayers because they're going to pay Dr. Allen \$100,000 a year in state and local money for a three-year period when the merger issue is still up in the air.

The merger issue could be settled next week, or it could be years. If it's the latter, are they saying that Kings Mountain Schools could function during that time without a superintendent?

Kings Mountain has been put in a lot of difficult situations because former county commissioners made a political decision to benefit a few. Some things you can let slide, but a school system the quality of Kings Mountain's cannot function without a leader.

An interim appointment is fine, if you know the time period of the interim while you search for a permanent replacement. With the merger cloud hanging over us, people weren't exactly knocking down the doors to apply for the position.

Dr. Allen had almost 30 years experience as an educator and

administrator in Kings Mountain District Schools. During the latter part of his tenure he was Associate Superintendent who was well-respected throughout the state.

He knows the system, he knows the people of Kings Mountain and their wishes to remain a separate school system, he is an expert in school facility matters and KM is in the process of building a new 5-6 grade school; and above all, he's committed to quality education for all children.

Personally, Larry Allen probably would have been a lot better off if he hadn't taken this job. My guess is that he would not have even considered it if he were not totally committed to Kings Mountain Schools and their future.

Instead of criticizing members of the Board for this decision, all people of Cleveland County should be congratulating them for making an excellent choice.

Now, for a couple of decisions that leave some questions hanging:

I sat in on a couple meetings of the Board of Adjustments during the past month, including one marathon meeting last week when the Board turned down nine requests from video poker establishments for conditional use rezoning.

In most of those cases, my personal opinion is that they were not in compliance with the city's new zoning ordinance and probably could not come into compliance.

In a couple others, I'm not so sure that the video game owners didn't get a raw deal.

Specifically, the case of KM Games on E. King St. raises a

question.

It was pointed out by the City Codes Department that part of the Silver Express mall, in which KM Games is located, is zoned General Business and part is zoned Neighborhood Business. That whole scenario is confusing because no one knows how that came about. At one time that whole block of E. King between Cleveland Ave. and Deal St. had businesses on one end and homes on the other. I can only assume that it was zoned improperly by city error, or political favor. To date, city staff has not been able to pinpoint when the zoning mistake occurred.

Apparently, the Silver Express gas station is split by both zones, with one part of the business in GB and the other in NB. Businesses located on the Cleveland Ave. side are zoned GB and businesses on the Deal St. side are NB.

Don Johnson, owner of KM Games, said that when he has purchased permits for improvements to his game room he has always been told by the city that he is in GB.

During the hearing, it appeared to me that aside from moving machines from one spot in the building to another so they could be seen from the outside, the only things preventing KM Games from being in compliance were 1), that the property wasn't zoned properly and, 2) that Johnson never obtained a privilege license to operate a video game business.

My reaction is that, in both of those matters the fault should lie with the city and not with the business. It appears the improper zoning is the city's doing; and I assume the city has been collecting taxes and utility

See Gary, 5A

Fake survivor shows mock real life and death

If anything points out the fact that one person's reality is another one's fantasy, I guess it has to be the spate of new TV shows like "Survivor". This so-called "reality" TV has got to be one of the most contrived and shallow exhibitions of bush league voyeurism on the planet. The thing that amazes me is how many millions of folks have their eyeball to the keyhole.

Let me get this straight. You take a bunch of people, put them on a "deserted" island or in the Australian outback, or somewhere else full of nasty crawling things. Once there, they have to survive for several weeks all the while scheming against each other over who will be left and so become an instant millionaire. If this isn't a sign of our times I don't know what is.

These people are in no more real danger than a babe in its mother's arms. Oh sure, they get rained on, and don't get a hot shower every day, and there isn't a refrigerator handy, but the TV land suffering ends there. You can't tell me that if one of the so-called survivors got really sick or was actually starving that a helicopter or cooler full of snacks would not appear from behind the camera.

If it was a real life or death situation at stake, I'm willing to bet that there would be a vastly different type of behavior exhibited by folks struggling to survive with little or no hope of rescue. If your very life depended on finding something to eat or water to drink would you have time to hold torchlight "tribal councils" to determine who would have to retreat to the yacht anchored just offshore? I don't think so.

Because we live in a time when real danger is a rare thing, risk taking of the vicarious kind draws folks like a magnet. We want to go to car races and watch the drivers duel with death at 200 m.p.h. all the while thinking we could do that if only we had the chance. We watch TV shows where people are "stranded" on an island and know we could survive just as well - and win a million bucks to boot.

Thanks to shows like "Survivor", the gulf between reality and fantasy grows ever greater at the same time it seems to be shrinking. If you want to hear real stories of survival, talk to an ex-POW or someone who was in a Nazi concentration camp. I once knew a lady who still had the numbers tattooed on her arm from her stay at Auschwitz. To me, that's a survivor, not someone swinging in a hammock by a palm tree dreaming about what color Jag they're going to buy with their sack of cash.

Way we were February 7, 1980

A familiar face in Cleveland County today was also on the front page of the February 7, 1980 Herald. Topping the news from 21 years ago, it was announced that Ronnie Hawkins had been named manager of Harris Funeral Home. Also promoted was Dwight Tessner. A photo that ran with the story showed a youthful Hawkins and his look of serious determination.

Also on the front page of the February 7, 1980 Herald was a story based down in Grover. The report revealed that Grover businessman Hugh Ivester had been turned down by city council in his request for a beer and wine referendum. Other news from Grover's council meeting included the revelation that dogs had been knocking over a great deal of garbage cans.

Cultural news for the first week of February, 1980 gave notice that the Kings Mountain Little Theater was getting set to stage "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. The production was going to be put on at Park Grace Auditorium. Some of the players included Vivian Duncan, Jim Champion, Nan Jean Grant, and Janey Sims.

Wrestling was number one on the sports pages of the February 7, 1980 Herald. Ranked 20th in North Carolina, the Kings Mountain High School grapplers were set to make a trip to the N.C. High School Athletic Association tournament in Charlotte. The Mountaineer wrestlers had finished with a record of 9-1 for the regular season.

Darrell Austin's column in the February 7, 1980 paper told of a humorous incident at Rick's Ole Country Store. Seems a lady came in and told Rick Moore she wanted to buy a chicken. Rick reached in a barrel of ice and took out the last chicken. The lady said into wasn't big enough so he stuck the bird back down in the ice, felt around like he was getting another one, and pulled it back out again. The lady said "it's just a little bigger than the first one, so I'll take both of them."



SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ALAN HODGE
Kings Mountain Herald

What is it that other drivers do that irritates you the most?



Tailgaters irritate me the most.

Tanya Gilbert Shelby



Drivers who go 10 miles per hour under the speed limit.

Kristina Harrelson Kings Mountain



People who don't look until they get to the bottom of the interstate ramp.

Rob Bazzle Kings Mountain



Drivers who use the wrong side of the turning lane in the median.

Laura Jones Kings Mountain



Drivers who don't use a turn signal and suddenly jam on the brakes.

Lee Kersey Kings Mountain