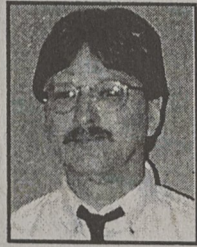


Give a good after-school day for good pay

As many of you'uns out there know, economic necessity makes an after school job a matter of fact for many. What with tennis shoes going for \$100 a pair, and togs as basic as jeans topping \$50, some means must be found to buy these items unless the parents are rolling in dough.



Alan Hodge

Guest Column

This ditty, therefore, is a look back at the after school job situation as I experienced it and as I am sure many of you parents once did. As for the youths who read the story, know that you're not the only ones who have ever had to sacrifice some part of your social life to that endeavor known as paying your own way in this old world.

As fate would have it, the first after school job I had was delivering newspapers. This was back in '65...no, not 1865 either thank you very much. I began this three month career in the dead of winter and had to deliver about 100 or so papers via bicycle. Brother, it was rough. Besides the cold rain and occasional snow, there was also the even more trying fact of unrestrained dogs.

I must have a bull's eye painted on my body visible only to dogs, for I have yet to meet one that didn't try to bite me then or now. Anyway, on my news route there was a certain German Shepherd who had terrorized lil' me for quite a while. One day my pal Brutus Casey decided he would come to my rescue. After Fritz attacked, the last thing I saw was the rear end of Brutus and his bike disappearing over the hill.

After the newspaper job, I went to work in a food store bagging groceries. Our boss would lock some of us in the store on Sunday morning to mop and wax the floor, then he would go home and continue sleeping off his hangover. Later he would come back and open the store for business.

Once locked inside, the feasting would begin. Each of us lads would take a couple of pieces of bread from a loaf then seal it back up. Next, ham, pickles, and other delicacies were similarly procured. Finally, champagne would be placed in the deep freeze in a mop bucket for chilling to perfection. One boy would even open up donut boxes and eat one from each container. Burp!

The last after school job I had was in a service station that did little to no business. Here again the perks more than made up for low pay. Again Brutus was in the picture. Once we took a blow torch and cut a hole in the back of the candy machine. All you had to do was reach in and get a bar. We also put Ripple wine in the drink machine to keep it cold. One day a lady came by and put a quarter in the slot. Out came the Ripple much to her delight and our chagrin.

For those of you who have after school jobs, let these examples reveal the way you should NOT act. If you work after school, give your employer a good day's labor for his pay. If you don't like the job, quit and get another one. Whatever your situation is, just remember, one day you will look back at your former after school jobs and either laugh or cry.

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.

OPINION

The Kings Mountain Herald

Editor: Gary Stewart 739-7496
September 6, 2001 Section A, Page 4

LOOKING BACK



This photo provided by Charlie Smith of Mountaineer Telephones shows the pre-game meeting between captains of two Kings Mountain midget football teams in the early 1960s. Players, left to right, are Rick Moore, Tommy Burns, Wayne Mullinax and Phillip Putnam. Back left is Charlie Smith, who was the coach. Back right is Mearl Valentine who was also active as a coach in the midget ranks, but, judging from the flag hanging from his back pocket, must have been the referee for this game.

Moss Lake made the news in 1983

Excerpts from the Thursday, August 25, 1983 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald:

- The proposed merger of Home Savings and Loan of Kings Mountain and North Carolina Federal Savings and Loan of Charlotte is officially off.

- For the second time this year, City Commissioners Monday night gave their approval to necessary repairs of the John H. Moss Lake Dam. The board accepted a bid of \$516,345 from Hickory Construction Company for repairs in phase one and three of the project. The total project cost after administrative and engineering will be \$577,000. The cost will be shared by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$385,000), the State of North Carolina (\$144,250) and the City of Kings Mountain (\$47,750).

- Bill McDaniel announced today that he will seek a second six-year term on the Kings Mountain Board of Education. McDaniel will run for one of the two outside city seats available in this year's race. The other outside seat, currently held by Paul Hord Jr., will be for the two years remaining on the term of Harold Lineberger, who resigned last spring. Hord was appointed to hold that seat until the November election.

- Kings Mountain's

Mountaineers will scrimmage 4A East Burke High School Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium, and then turn their attention to their regular season opener September 2 at Burns. New head coach Denny Hicks is working 29 hopefuls, and all are progressing well. The way the players perform in Thursday's scrimmage could go a long way in determining who will start at Burns.

- Bass fishing wasn't exactly red hot when anglers in the Carolina Division of the Red man Tournament Trail met on Santee-Cooper Lakes Aug. 14, but Eddie Herlong made it seem that way. The passage of a weather front through the area prior to the tournament time seemingly left a good number of Santee-Cooper bass reluctant. Herlong, however, thrashed up an impressive limit.

- Some property owners at Moss Lake have filed a suit against the City of Kings Mountain charging that they have been denied free access to the lake. The suit alleges that the property owners are forbidden to use a strip of land between their properties and the lake unless each leases his section of the strip for \$125 annually.

- A helping hand by Garland Atkins of the Herald Publishing House has started the company into a new venture: publishing books.

YOUR OPINION

I guess Davy Crockett was a felon too

To the editor:

First of all, I like animals, squirrels included (although I don't like them more than I like people).

This is about the 16-year-old boy in Gastonia who was charged with a felony for shooting two squirrels with a BB gun.

I realize that we live in a whole new world now, when immorality is not only right but

has to have special laws passed to ensure its peaceful existence; and when worshipping God is most definitely frowned upon, and downright illegal in many places; and when criminals - real ones, that is - can get off with a light sentence or maybe even completely by hiring a good lawyer; and when, if you shoot someone who is breaking into your house you're charged, not

the would-be burglar.

But, what kind of nutty society do we live in that charges a teenager with a felony for shooting two squirrels? I wonder how many boys have shot squirrels with BB guns in the last 50 years. They probably grew up to be fine, upstanding, well-adjusted citizens.

A felony charge will follow this young man all his life. The

bleeding-heart liberals just got their knickers in a twist because he used a you-know-what. You know, the "G" word - gun.

I guess in all honesty, I should turn myself in too. Some years back I, too, shot a few squirrels. Only I used an air rifle. They were destroying my garden.

Oh, and all our heroes of

yesteryear like Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone - I guess they should be considered felons too.

By the way, has anyone out there ever experienced the destruction that a squirrel has caused by chewing into their attic?

Elizabeth Champion
Kings Mountain

Family treasures sometimes at flea market

Labor Day is a time of rest, relaxation and a chance to take a last gasp before fall sets in.

That is usually true but I and some family members tend to take that expression with a little twist.

Every year for approximately the last 20, everybody

meets at my aunt and uncle's house north of Statesville, and then we finally get into the labor day experience, just not a conventional one.

On that Saturday morning some people will get into two cars and head to a gigantic flea market in Hillsville, Va., while some go to Hickory and Statesville for shopping.

I usually get in with the group going to the flea market.

Hillsville, which can be accessed from Interstate 77, is a small town just north of the Virginia border, but when the flea market is in town a visitor

to the market would never know.

The interstate, which starts to thin out from the Charlotte traffic in Yadkin County, starts to resemble rush hour traffic in most metropolitan areas.

Once you make it off the exit ramp, parking is scarce and our group usually finds a spot at a nearby house for a "low" fee, and then it's off to search for whatever you can get your hands on.

The flea market itself spans a few city blocks, so it's impossible to cover all the territory, so covering a separate corner of

the market every hour is usually the preferred option.

What's found at the flea market is nothing fancy or tremendously over priced, but usually stuff that's practical or practically junk.

But junk is a word whose definition varies according to who says it.

Sometimes I come back with a lot of stuff from the flea market, but more often I come back with just a little.

Regardless of the amount of stuff I come back with, I'm reminded that the best shopping trip is sometimes not the one

where the most money is spent.

• An August 23 Chicago Tribune column by Steve Chapman reported that Vanessa Leggett, a part-time writing instructor in Houston was jailed because she refused to turn over her notes the FBI requested for a murder investigation.

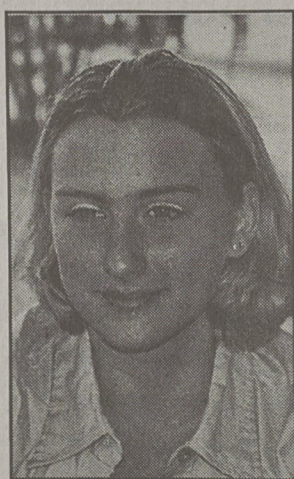
Although not published, Leggett wanted to eventually write a book, and had taken interest in a murder.

Does the federal government believe in a truly free press, or a free press as long as the newspaper or TV station has a potential to fight back?

SIDEWALK SURVEY

By BEN LEDBETTER
Kings Mountain Herald

What is your favorite activity for the Labor Day holiday?



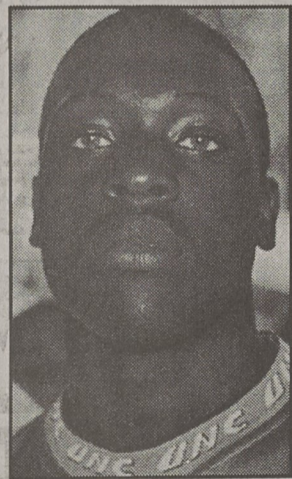
Just getting together with friends.

Kristin Wood
Kings Mountain



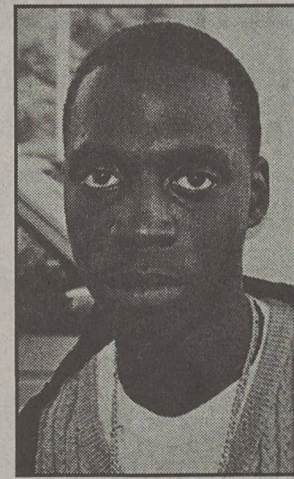
Go to Carowinds. I can stay as long as I want.

Kyona Wright
Kings Mountain



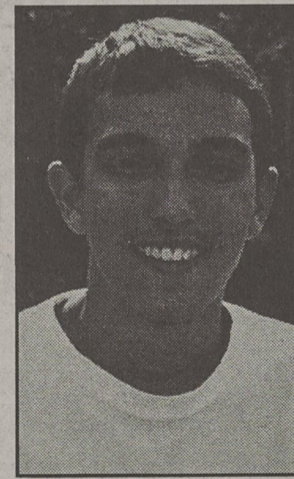
I might go to the beach. Girls and everybody are going to be there.

Shawn Byers
Kings Mountain



Cook out. The food is good.

Benjamin Clinton
Kings Mountain



I like to relax, lay around and be lazy.

Jon Wheeler
Kings Mountain