

LETTER

From 4A

lion from the private sector like they promised the public.

At the original meeting before the first contract the question was asked "What about people who can't afford Y fees?" The answer was "We never turn anyone away."

At present the Shelby Y is not accepting low income people. In the Y annual report for 2001, one of their accomplishments listed is the \$250,000 playground in KM. This is a false statement. The playground area is located beside the city owned building that the Y is using, on city property, paid for with city tax money.

Many private people gave their time in construction of the playground, including prisoners.

Y expansion was being planned during the time our mayor and city officials said all unnecessary spending must stop. Loss of plants in the city - one being the highest utility user - has caused concern because of loss of revenue. City employees lost their jobs, council raised

many rates, including water and sewer, in the new city budget. The city manager said city tax will be raised within two years.

The KM mayor, a professional salesman, talks from both sides of his mouth. He indicates no more unnecessary spending while endorsing the Y's \$4.5 million project at a chamber breakfast. The KM mayor and council are out of touch with reality. Apparently city officials assured the Y director KM would provide the \$2 million. When public announcement was made of the expansion it was also stated that bids would be put out on January 1 and construction would start in the spring. This clearly indicates projects are approved before city council votes.

The public has no voice in KM. People choose to live within the city and pay city tax to receive services they would not be entitled to outside the city. KM officials say they can't afford life-guards and insurance at Moss Lake, paid for and kept up by city tax money. A place the working poor could enjoy. How can they afford \$2 million for the Y?

Tax monies should be used for city residents, not to supplement the private YMCA. No project has ever been completed with private donations in KM. \$300,000 per year and the current city building is adequate for a population of 10,000. Let the Y build their own facility if they aren't happy with the present contract.

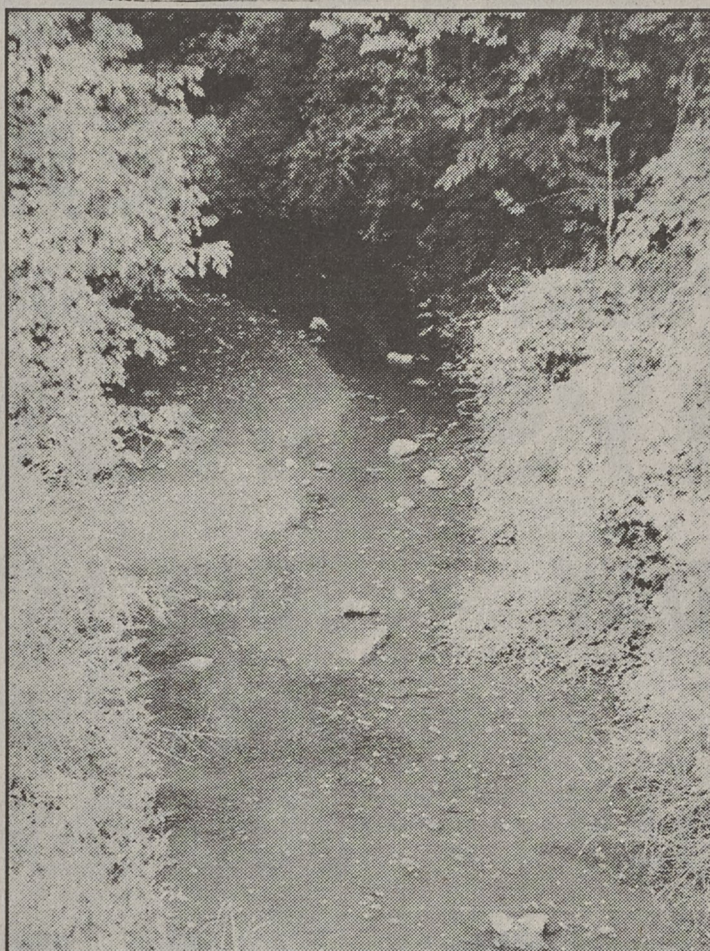
The economy of this area should be a main concern. Two city council members, Mr. Kelly and Mr. Guyton, had the courage and common sense to vote no to the Y proposal on June 6. The expansion of the city owned building is an unnecessary expense at present. A 21 year contract with the Y should not be considered. Location of the building is not suitable for expansion.

Why would the Y want to spend \$2 million on a city owned building unless they plan to own the property in the future? Recreation needs continuous change.

A copy of the 21 year contract can be found in the July 11 edition of The Herald.

Jane Martin
Kings Mountain

PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Many creeks and streams in the Kings Mountain area are drying up in the fifth year of a drought that has dropped the water table several feet. This is a picture of Kings Creek in the Dixon School Community, which has water standing only in the lower areas while the higher areas and sand bars are completely dry.

HERALD LETTER POLICY

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 third party letters, unsolicited poems, thank-you letters or 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.

GARY

From 4A

where we made several trips during the "old" days for drinking water or to keep something cool. I'd often heard my father say that spring has never been dry.

It was dry, and the branch too.

I drove down to Kings Creek, which I've often seen over its banks during big rains, but never dry. It wasn't dry, but it wasn't running either. And the only water standing was in the low spots and they were so narrow you could step across them. The higher

spots were so dry you could walk up the bed of the creek and not get wet or muddy. Some folks have said I'm not paying the preacher enough.

They may be right. Because on one recent trip home from work, water was standing in the roads all the way from Kings Mountain to Dixon School Road. When I turned left on Stewart Road you could tell the puddles were few and far between.

When I slowed down to turn in at my house, I could see that the water line where the rain had literally stopped at my driveway.

So it must be me.

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.

News Deadlines

Deadline for news items is 5 p.m. Tuesday. Information on Tuesday night activities will be taken until 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

BEN

From 4A

ish millionaires who care nothing about the game, it makes me swell with apathy.

If I were full of anger it would at least show that I cared.

But just watching these professional athletes grumble and argue about millions of dollars all these times, just makes me sigh and want to move on.

If the players do strike and come back to try and recapture the fans, I hope the game collapses and Barry Bonds is the first one to ask me if I want fries with my order.

ALAN

From 4A

what if you didn't like the clothing styles, and don't forget about knowing how to use the phone. Here's a big one - your credit card bill will still be due with 200 years of past due fees and interest.

Here's some more stuff that might be traumatic. Of course TV as we now know it probably won't exist. As history marches on, folks seem to get bigger. Even if you were six feet tall in 2002 when you passed away and were frozen, you might live 200 years from now in a world of 400 pound, eight feet tall giants. Also, what if the language had changed and you could not communicate your desire for a hamburger to anyone. Hey, what if there weren't any hamburgers?

Well, at first I wasn't

going to mention the spiritual situation since last time I shared my thoughts on that subject one or two folks got upset, but suppose, just suppose you were having a nice day in Heaven and your body was thawed out...would someone come tell you to scam and get back down on earth and start paying bills again? Or what if you were in the Other Place, suppose, just suppose, would you be invited to lay down your coal shovel and return to your former ways?

Some things are best left alone. It's OK to fix your teeth up and if you want plastic surgery to stay young looking that's no one's business but your own. But after a while every dog has had its day and it's time to move on to what awaits us, and hopefully that includes a little peace and rest.

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William M. Marcellino
Branch Manager

Abuse Prevention Council to receive \$4,000 grant

Attorney General Roy Cooper announced that domestic violence and sexual assault programs across North Carolina will receive \$360,000 in grants as the result of a consumer settlement with Nine West, a major manufacturer of women's shoes.

One of the center's receiving money is the Abuse Prevention Council based in Shelby, which will receive \$4,000.

Two centers in Hickory are the other Charlotte area places receiving money. "Thanks to domestic violence and sexual assault shelters, women in North Carolina who suffer from these terrible crimes have a safe place to go," said Cooper. "With this extra help, these programs will be able to help even more victims become survivors."

Grants averaging close to \$3,000 each will go to 112 community programs that serve victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in North Carolina. Cooper worked with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the N.C. Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and the N.C. Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission to identify the grant recipients.

"We are thankful for Attorney General Roy Cooper's continued commitment to ending violence against women. This unexpected funding during difficult financial times will help domestic violence programs continue their vital work," said Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell of the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. "This money will allow advocates to provide cloth-

ing, emergency housing and transportation for victims of sexual violence," said Monika Johnson Hostler who works with the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

The funds are the result of a multi-state antitrust settlement with Nine West. North Carolina and 55 other states and territories alleged that from January 1, 1988 through July 31, 1999, Nine West pressured retailers not to discount shoes it sold under the following brand names: Nine West, Enzo Angiolini, Easy Spirit, Bandolino, Calico, Capezio, Pappagallo, Evan-Picone, Joyce, Amalfi, 9 & Co, Selby, Westies and CK/Calvin Klein.

Nine West did not admit that it engaged in price fixing, but did agree to pay the states \$34 million on behalf of consumers who purchased Nine West shoes. According to the court-approved agreement, states must use the fund to benefit health, educational, vocational, and/or safety programs for women.

Nine West also agreed to abide by antitrust laws and to notify shoe stores that they are free to sell Nine West shoes at any price they choose, not just at the company's suggested retail price

NC writing scores are thrown out

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Although most of the state saw a decline in writing scores, Kings Mountain school officials said the district was still ahead of regional and state averages.

Fourth graders in Kings Mountain scored 60 percent, while seventh grade students were at 67 percent.

Last year, Kings Mountain 79.4 percent of Kings Mountain fourth graders were at or above grade level for writing.

The fourth grade score was 13 percent above the state average while the seventh grade average was seven percent above the state's average.

"We were ahead of the state average to start with," Kings Mountain District Schools Director of Curriculum and Instruction John Goforth said. "We're not pleased with it."

The prompt this year asked fourth grade students to write about a great day they had in school. Seventh graders were asked to write about a person they admired and their reasons why.

The fourth grade prompt may have presented problems for some students. Goforth said some students may not have had a great day at school.

During a recent meeting of the N.C. Board of Education, it said test results will not be used in the ABC school performance ratings for two years. It also agreed that the state needs to create another test. The board voted 9-1 to drop the test results during its meeting last Thursday in Raleigh.

While another test may be on the way, the state will be shifting to a new grading scale next year.

Instead of the current four-point system, the state plans to go to a 40-point system which is expected to be more objective and give better information about students strengths and weaknesses.

Currently, a 2.5 on the four-point scale is considered passing.

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At Kings Mountain Hospital, we believe in the power of positive change and in the health and well-being of you and your family, now and in the future.

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