

ALAN
From 4A

somewhat ruined by the race-car driver style sunglasses he sported.

Perhaps the most amazing sight at the fest was an individual who had all the makings of a really large woman dressed in a tiny animal skin, but with the added feature of a mustache and Foo Magoo goatee. The stir amongst the festival goers whenever she/he strolled by was akin to the ripples made in a pond should you drop a Sherman tank in its waters. I heard one person make a rather rude comment as the fur-clad being strolled by, to which a passing teen exclaimed "shut up, that's my wife."

Besides people watching, the Renfest had several interesting things you could pay a couple of bucks for and take part in. One was riding a camel. I have on one or two occasions smoked a camel, but never before ridden one.

Forget all thoughts of smoothly gliding across the desert sands. Though the ride was brief, it was unforgettable. With the help of the attendant, My wife went in front of the hump, and I stretched my legs as far apart as orthopedics would allow and took up place directly over the shaggy beast's pelvis. There were some little handlebars on the side to keep you from falling off and a dirty rug over the camel's hump as padding.

No sooner had Old Joe made his first steps, than there was a sensation of having been strapped across a 55-gallon barrel and being tossed into a raging sea. Not only did the camel's odiferous body move side to side in a violent swagging motion, but its hindquarters went side to side and up and down at the same time- in a fashion the third belly dancer would have done well to imitate. I know now why the Arabs wear those long robes. It is to hide their bow legs.

Next Year the Renaissance Festival will probably make a return appearance. It is worth seeing. The three-dollar camel ride is a once in a lifetime thing so try it out. I might see you there. Look for me in my new court jester hat with the bells on the end. Ting a ling!

OPINION
From 4A

On important stuff, Thompson says, where the special interests are really dug in, it's tough to get anything done.

Too bad a man so truthful is leaving government. His kind are exactly what the country needs, and exactly what the country isn't going to get as long as senators and representatives, once elected, spend the rest of their lengthy careers working on getting reelected instead of spending more time on the country's business, and as long as the electorate allows it to happen.

ABIGAIL
From 4A

Admirable though they are, their abusers often use this trait against them. Often abused women were raised in homes where abuse was common. They have never known any differently.

Historically, November 25 marks the day of the brutal murders of three sisters from the Dominican Republic by members of their government in 1960. The Mirabal sisters were leaders in the underground movement to overthrow the dictator of the Dominican Republic. Their story is fictionalized in the book, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, by Julia Alvarez.

The UN first recognized the November 25 as a day to eliminate violence towards women in 1999. Before this time, it was largely a Latin American observance. One way to honor November 25 is to wear a white ribbon. The white ribbon represents an intolerance of domestic violence for both men and women. For men, it also represents a pledge never to commit domestic violence.

I encourage the community to take a stand against domestic violence by wearing white ribbons on November 25. If people have the courage to wear the ribbon, maybe they will also have the courage to help in other ways, perhaps by donating clothing or food to the battered women's shelter in Cleveland County or by speaking to loved ones who may be in abusive relationships.

If you are in an abusive relationship, I encourage you to honor November 25 by getting help. The hotline/crisis number for the Cleveland County Abuse Prevention Council is 704-481-0043, or you can call the police.

OPINION

A fashion plate I am not

I've been wearing the same type and color of light jacket for over 20 years. It is blue with white stripes on the cuffs. When they wore out, I would buy another. I still have one in excellent condition, and only three years old. There's plenty of wear left in that windbreaker.

My wife, however, known in the family as "The Enforcer" had been railing more and more every time I wore the jacket, so I decided, for the sake of the marriage and my sanity, I would spring for a new jacket.

I guess I should say, up front, I have never been known as a fashion plate. My friend Morgan Whitener, son of the former congressman, the late Basil Whitener, once told me I looked like a giant lemon in my new yellow shirt. Morgan, it should be noted, dresses like a Pierce-Arrow (that's an automobile for you youngsters).

Anyway, I bought a new lightweight jacket. I was down in Gaffney, so while I was there I filled up the car with cheap gas, bought a Powerball ticket and the jacket, a Navy Members Only number. The gas was a good deal, the

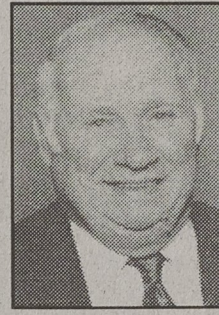
Powerball ticket was a loser and the jacket drew ridicule from my son and his wife.

"That's from the 70s," they said, as they laughed uproariously.

I know that isn't true. I know for a fact, they were popular in the 80s, but who cares? It's functional and it serves my purpose. Hamrick's was selling them hand over fist the day I was there, so I guess I'm not the only one out of style.

My son, Jeff, has never approved of my attire. He just doesn't picture me as a man of sartorial splendor.

Once I bought a PVC jacket. It cost me \$8, and it was warm. Jeff said it made me look like a used car salesman. What's wrong with that? That's an honorable profession. I recently took the PVC jacket to the Salvation Army who refused it. The nerve of some people.



JIM HEFFNER
Columnist

Just before W.T. Grant closed its doors in Gastonia, I bought an excellent baseball glove, and while I was there I spotted a pair of trousers which fit me perfectly so I bought them too. They were marked down to two dollars. I should say I was playing a lot of golf back then and that's the reason I bought those mustard colored pants. Jeff was mortified, and so was The Enforcer.

But that didn't stop me. I'll never forget the day I wore those pants to the golf course. A fat man ought never to wear mustard colored pants, an electric blue shirt and a red hat anywhere.

Two members of our foursome claimed their eyesight was damaged and the other claimed his hearing became impaired. Frankly, I think they exaggerated just a bit. I did play pretty well that day, so I continued to wear my mustard colored pants. Most of the other golfers stayed away from me in the clubhouse, though.

To this day, I don't know what happened to those yellow pants. They just disappeared.

I wonder how they would look with a Navy Members Only jacket?

DEATH

ROCKFORD H. WISE

ASHBURN, GA. - Rockford Henry Wise, 84, 310 Goss Drive, formerly of Kings Mountain, died November 19, 2002 at Tifton Regional Hospital, Tifton, GA.

He was a native of Cabarrus County, NC and son of the late Henry W. and Martha Patricia Sisk Wise. He was also predeceased by brothers J.C. Wise and Woodrow Wise, and sisters Blonnie Bradshaw and Thelma Wright.

He was a member of Temple Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, and retired from Margrace Mills, Kings Mountain. He was an active aviator.

He is survived by his daughter, Scotty W. Price and husband David of Ashburn, GA; and grandchildren, George Price of Atlanta, Jake Price and wife Kristie of Woodvine, GA, and Tucker Price of Georgetown, GA.

A graveside service will be conducted by the Rev. Robert Haynes at 11 a.m. Friday at El Bethel United Methodist Church cemetery. Visitation will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Friday at Harris Funeral Home.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

BRIEFS

Cooke joins Citizens South

Citizens South announced November 13 the hiring of Kimberly G. Cooke as Vice President/Loan Administration Manager. Her office will be located at the Downtown Office, 245 W. Main Avenue - Gastonia, with primary responsibility for management and quality control of the bank's loan administration area.

Cooke received her Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Gardner-Webb University in 1992 and went on to complete her Masters in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb in 1995. She is a former senior vice president of bank operations for First Gaston Bank. Previous experience also includes the position of loan officer for loan operations at Lincoln Bank of NC.

Extended benefits ending in State

A decrease in North Carolina's total unemployment rate will cause the current period of state extended

unemployment benefits to end Nov. 16, according to the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC).

Workers who filed a claim through the Extended Benefits (EB) program will no longer be eligible to receive Extended Benefits. The last payable week for EB will be the week ending Nov. 16. All affected claimants will be notified by the ESC this week.

Those workers who filed a claim through the second period of the Temporary

Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC-2) program will continue to receive benefits through the week ending Dec. 28. However, no new TEUC-2 claims will be established effective Nov. 24.

This second period of Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation was approved in October for unemployed workers who had exhausted both their regular benefits and the first federal extension of unemployment benefits on or after June 2. Workers who

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(By Kenneth Kitzmiller)

| | Nov. 13-19 | Year Ago |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Total precipitation | 1.88 | 0 |
| Maximum 1 day | 1.60 (16th) | 0 |
| Month to date | 5.31 | 0 |
| Year to date | 41.18 | 35.22 |
| Low temperature | 27 (17th) | 39 (13th) |
| High temperature | 60 (14th, 15th) | 75 (16th) |
| Average temperature | 47.8 | 56.6 |

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