

IN  
YOUR  
OPINION

Something rotten  
in Kings Mountain  
and it's the water

There's something rotten in Kings Mountain and everyone that lives in the water district that does not have a well don't have to be told what it is.

My question is this. Why are we suffering the foul smell of water that we don't want to drink, so we buy drinking water from the grocery store? We can't wash our clothes without going out of town to a laundry mat so our clothes don't smell like we have been wallowing in a bog! We can't shower and wash our hair for the same reason.

We are told that it will be August before the smell is going to dissipate. Not to mention that everyone will have to drain and flush out his or her water heater to get rid of the smell there when it does subside.

Meanwhile, back at the Council room the city commissioners raise the water and sewer rate about a dollar. Hmmmmm.

They could pay for the added expense that we poor citizens are incurring trying to have decent water to drink, cook and wash with. But nooooooo! Instead, they decide to give the Country Club a break on the rate they pay for water and sewer for the glory of the new golf course ground work.

There is something wrong with this picture. I have been called crazy most of my life but I am not stupid.

I have worked for the Gaston County Schools Maintenance Department for the past 25 years; maintaining intercoms and fire alarm systems, being involved with water and waste management because of expertise with controls. That also gave me a little education on how some of this stuff works.

Has the City quit using charcoal at the filtration plant? If not, then not enough?

We as citizens and taxpayers deserve the answer to that question. I have seen discolored water before, but never had the "boggy creek" odor. I have lived here 52 years and believe me, you would not forget that smell rising from your hot water and shower!

If the Country Club wants a break, then let them drill a well for irrigation if they can't afford the water from the City.

Start filtering the water and apologize to the citizens for thinking we are stupid. Repeal the break to the Country Club.

I also ask that all the citizens of Kings Mountain to be very vocal about this issue. Call the Mayor, City Manager and your commissioners and let them know how you feel.

Robert W. Hullender  
Kings Mountain

OPINION

LOOKING BACK



Southern Bell manager R.W. Fleming, left, and members of the Kings Mountain Centennial Commission are shown in this picture from the June 1974 Kings Mountain Herald. Also pictured are Charles Mauney, center, and Bill Brown, right. Seated is Mrs. Josephine Weir. The city, organized in 1874, celebrated its 100th birthday in 1974.

LOOK BACK

KM looking  
at budget  
hike in '74

From the Thursday, June 13, 1974 edition of the Kings Mountain Mirror:

Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain has been appointed Democratic Party Telethon Co-Chairman for the telethon that will be broadcast over CBS June 29-30.

City commissioners looked at the tentative 1974-75 budget Monday night and saw an increase of \$1.15 million over last year's budget. The tentative budget is \$5,103,668.52.

Two young male streakers interrupted a recent Babe Ruth baseball game at City Stadium.

Former race car driver Don Bumgardner of Kings Mountain has filed a \$370,000 law suit against Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., claiming a faulty tire caused a crash in Concord two years ago which ended his racing career.

The local NCAE met Thursday at Grover School for their annual luncheon and saw Edith Bridges win the KM Teacher of the Year Award.

ACT officers for 1974-75 are Virginia Raymer, president; Steve Wells, vice president; Gladys Jones, secretary; and Jeannette Surratte, treasurer. NCAE officers for the next school year are Myers Hambright, president; Mrs. Willie Marable, vice president; Betsy Wells, secretary; and Gary Shields, treasurer.

John H. Haskins was awarded the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Furniture Drafting and Design Technology from Catawba Valley Technical Institute, Hickory. Kenny Bell and Bruce Valentine won awards for athletic excellence at the annual Central Junior High awards day.

Becky Scruggs of Grover and Robin Dickey, Sharon Timms and Jodi Smith, all of Kings Mountain, were presented at Saturday's Debutante Ball.

John Henry Moss Reservoir officially opened to the boating and skiing public Saturday. It was a long awaited moment for many Kings Mountain and area residents.

Four local firemen attended a fire school in Shelby this week. They were Charles Peterson, Chief Gene Tignor, Bill Herndon and Frank Burns.

The leader of the  
band deserves a  
happy retirement



Abigail Wolford  
Staff Writer

Last weekend, I went home for my sister's high school graduation. I also got to see my father direct the band for the last time. For 31 years, my dad has been a high school band director at a little rural school in Ohio. When he first took the job, the band program was almost non-existent. During his time in the district, the band has grown to include approximately 80 students in the high school.

He has always worked hard. Even during the summer, he spends many days listening to marching band music and writing drills for the band. He is one of the few left in Ohio who still writes his own marching band drills. Most hire others to do that for them.

He always sacrificed so much time for his kids at school. He would give free private lessons to every kid in the band in the course of the school day, even though it meant that he would not get a lunch or conference period. He would simply eat his lunch while he listened to the kids play and then stay up late at night to do his lesson plans. Not many people would do that.

He spent most of his years teaching without a band room. He used the stage in the auditorium for band practice and stored the instruments and uniforms in the boiler room. The auditorium had no ventilation or air conditioning, so it was stifling during summer band practice.

As my dad enters into his retirement this week, I hope he realizes what a difference he has made in the lives of so many kids through the years. So many of those kids may not have ever had anyone care about them or would never have learned to love music if he had not been there to teach them.

Many fathers teach their children about many different things. My father taught me to love music. Although I did not study music in college as my sister will, the hair on my arms still goes up when I hear a moving song. I know that I will always love the music my father loves.

Several years ago, a singer named Dan Fogelburg wrote a song entitled, "Leader of the Band," for his own father, who was also a band director. Although my father is not as old as Mr. Fogelburg's father was when the song was written, the song always makes me think of my father.

I remember hearing the song for the first time while sit

See Abigail, 5A

Let's not get  
carried away  
with Rudolph



JIM HEFFNER  
Columnist

Eric Rudolph is no modern day Robin Hood. Those who say they wouldn't have turned him in haven't given it much thought.

The man allegedly killed two innocent people, one of them a police officer.

I'm sure there are people up in those mountains who helped Rudolph out on occasion, but I don't think I'd paint everyone in and around Murphy with the same broad brush. Most mountain folks are salt of the earth, and even though they might agree with Rudolph's stand on abortion and homosexuals, they are usually law-abiding. This is not to say some of them aren't clannish.

It stretches the imagination to think Rudolph roamed around those hills for over five years without some help. He was wearing new sneakers and had what was reported as a fresh haircut when caught.

He did have survival training, and he is obviously an intelligent man, so it is entirely possible he did it all on his own. Sometimes it's easier to hide in plain sight, and one of his camps was close to town.

Frankly, I thought he had left the area a long time ago. I thought he was probably lounging on a beach in South Florida with Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

Now there are some do-gooders who say the young police officer who took Rudolph into custody should get the \$1 million reward. That's ridiculous.

The policeman should get high marks for performing his job properly, but he has no right to the reward money, nor does he lay any claim to it.

What about all the other policemen who do their jobs every day?

Now I've got to say I wouldn't be a policeman. It takes a special kind of individual to do that kind of work. Think about it, every time a policeman makes a traffic stop or goes out on a domestic disturbance call, a drug raid, or chases an armed robber he puts his life at risk.

It's true they don't get paid enough for what they do, but reward money is another matter.

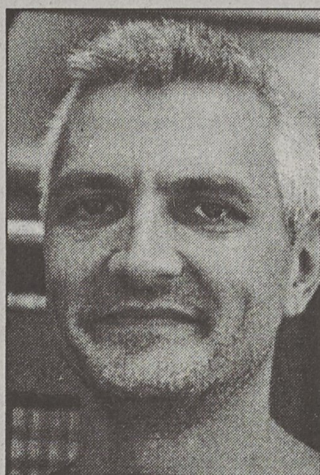
How much should a cop be paid for arresting a burglar, or a wife beater? Maybe we should just put them all on commission.

See Jim, 5A

SIDEWALK  
SURVEY

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD  
THE HERALD

Without the  
discovery of  
weapons  
of mass  
destruction,  
was the war  
against Iraq  
justified?



We jumped the gun. We bit off more than we could chew.

Keith Cole  
Kings Mountain



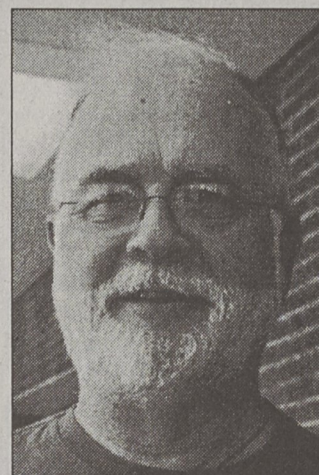
Even before the war, I felt like it was a grave mistake. At that time (Sept. 11) I felt the arms of the world open up to us as members of the same fraternity. That window of opportunity has slammed shut.

Laura Allred  
Charlotte



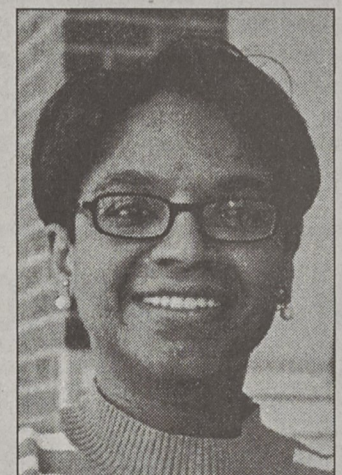
Yes. As an American, we need to take a stand against tyranny.

Sheila Bolin  
Kings Mountain



Absolutely not. I don't think the United States has any more right to invade their country than they do to invade our country.

Jim Zeunik  
Kings Mountain



It was justified. If we would have sat here and not went to war, we would have been lying in wait.

Jackie Woody  
Shelby