

Skateboarders can only dodge traffic in KM

Many kids and teens in our day and age who skate or ride BMX are all asking the same question. "Where can we go to let loose and not worry about cars or cops?"

The answer is nowhere! We aren't allowed to ride anywhere. The city ordinance even says that the only place bikers and skateboarders are allowed is in the street, and that trick riding is illegal.

Everybody has the wrong idea about bikers and skateboarders like us. They have the stereotype in their mind that many other people do; they think that we are vandalizing hoodlums who cause nothing but trouble. That isn't fair to say, though. That is like saying everybody who has a tattoo is gothic, or that everybody who drinks is an alcoholic.

We have been biking and skating for a little over a year and the worst injury we've ever had is a broken collar bone, and we haven't vandalized anything. We definitely don't do drugs, and don't plan on starting. The only reason we get into trouble is because people think we will destroy their property and they panic and call the cops on us. Just the other day we almost got arrested for riding to McDonalds. The truth is that biking keeps us out of trouble and leads us away from drugs and danger.

On June 2, my friend and I went to the police department to have an interview about the city ordinance on riding bikes and skateboarding. They said that the only place we are allowed to ride is in the streets. I always thought they wanted to keep kids off the street and provide a safe place for us, but I guess that isn't true. We have nowhere to go. We don't have access to any parks around here that are dedicated to our sport. They would rather us get hit by a car than to build us a safe environment to skate and ride in.

I don't see a difference between our sport and all the other ones, like baseball, basketball, football, soccer and golf. But the funny part is that they all have local courts, fields and courses to play their sport. Some even have two or three right here in Kings Mountain. All we have is the street.

The sad part is that the city doesn't want to do anything about it. I don't know if it's because of liability or what, but I think they could get in worse trouble from one of us getting hit by a car than falling in a skatepark. Because in a skatepark you have to sign a waiver, relieving them from any liability involving wrecks, See Letters, 5A

PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



ANDIE L. BRYMER / HERALD

Boaters at Kings Mountain's Moss Lake should be cautious. Because of recent heavy rains man trees and other debris have washed into the lake.

What not try new ideas concerning our healthcare?



Abigail Wolford
Staff Writer

The cost of healthcare in the United States is atrocious. Most people realize this, including our elected officials. However, no one has done anything. Do they not know what to do? I propose that we take a lesson from Europe and go to socialist medicine.

I do not understand why socialist medicine would not work in the United States. It seems to work well in Europe. When people are sick, they can simply go to the doctor, without worrying about the cost of the visit. When they need medicine, they simply go to the pharmacy and get their prescription, without having to pay for it up front. Healthcare is simply funded through a federal tax.

Those under socialist medicine also do not have to pay for insurance. The cost of health insurance in the United States is outlandish. It seems ridiculous that we should even have to pay for something to protect us "just in case" we do get sick. However, few could afford to take the risk of not having insurance.

Health insurance is ridiculous for those who are retired. My parents both recently retired, and their health insurance went up 13.5 times what they paid before they retired. How can anyone possibly justify something like that?

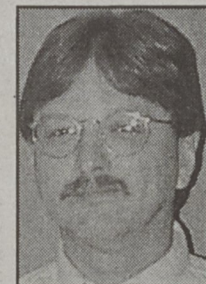
Every year, members of Congress argue about the proper way to have health care in the United States. Many use health care reform as their campaign platform, so they obviously acknowledge that it is a problem. However, after they are elected, they come to the people year after year with sorry excuses for health care bills. Every year, I wonder how on earth these people even got elected and why they are not being held accountable for their actions.

The cost of prescriptions for seniors urgently needs to be addressed. My grandmother's prescriptions each month cost almost more than she has to live on each month. How appalling that an 84-year-old woman has to pay so much for the medicine that keeps her healthy.

The current Congress and administration have done little to aid seniors. Whenever someone suggests something that would actually benefit the people, the majority of Congress members vote it down because of the cost.

See Abigail, 5A

There's something about a mule that just turns me on



ALAN HODGE
Columnist

There's something about a mule that turns me on.

I can't explain it exactly, but mules are some of my favorite people. Now I don't own a mule myself, but I've been around a few of them from time to time and they strike me as being inscrutable animals. The mule always seems to have something up its sleeve and a wry smile on its face to prove it. Look at a mule's face and think about it.

Though some folks might think they are common as dirt, a mule has a noble heart. I know of a guy in a Civil War reenactment cavalry unit who rides a mule instead of a horse. This mule is huge, steel-black in color and when he gets going he has a headstrong, get outta my way look about him that is decidedly fetching and grand.

I wrote a story a couple years ago about a guy who lives on Moss Lake named Ambrose Cline who had two gigantic yellow mules. He used them on occasion to plow a small garden. He gave me the chance to plow the garden. The mules took off and I plowed the garden with my knees and elbows before I could let go of the plow handles. Plowing is harder than it looks.

Last week was the GaribaldiFest in Belmont. There is a guy named Dale Ward who brings a couple of little mules and a wagon each year and gives rides. I petted the mules and they looked at me in a kindly way that would melt anyone's heart.

The way that mules come into this world is interesting. A mule is a cross between a horse and an ass. I forget which is supposed to be the man and which is supposed to be the woman, as some men think they are the former and many of both genders are the latter, but a mule is what happens after they hit and/or stumble around in the hay. A mule can't make another mule and there are and have been plenty of mules around so someone is having an interesting if somewhat odd time. If they went to a mule motel and didn't want to sign their names one could write Ima Ass on the register.

As long as I'm in the barnyard, I might also say that I am decidedly neutral about cows. I once knew a guy named Goober Carmichael who lived on a dairy farm in Huntersville. Goober and his brothers and pappy had about 200 cows so they weren't exactly on a first-name

See Alan, 5A

LOOK BACK

Boll weevil threatening cotton in '53

From the June 18, 1953 edition of the Herald:

Cleveland County cotton farmers were warned this week by Howard Clapp, county agent, that they stand a good chance of losing a cotton crop if they do not poison the boll weevil.

R.H. "Doc" Burton, former butcher at Plonk's Grocery, has purchased the interest of W.R. Peterson in Ware & Peterson Grocery.

Members of the Kings Mountain National Guard left Sunday for Fort McClellan, AL where they will undergo a two-week encampment.

North Carolina's burgeoning outdoor drama industry, including Kings Mountain's "Sword of Gideon," will be featured in the forthcoming Sunday edition of the Atlanta Journal.

Prepayments of 1953 city tax bills trickled in at a faster rate during the past week, and the total early Wednesday afternoon was \$3,370.68.

The first organizational meeting to form a Kings Mountain Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose will be held Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge.

Third baseman George Harris topped a 14-hit attack with 4-for-5, including a double and three runs batted in, to lead Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors to a 15-8 win over Morganton.

Dan Finger was presented the Kings Mountain Country Club handicap tournament championship trophy at a dinner at the club Wednesday.

Telesman Erwin N. Hughes, stationed with the navy at the Boston Naval Base, Boston, Mass., returned Tuesday after spending a 15-day leave here with his wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hughes.

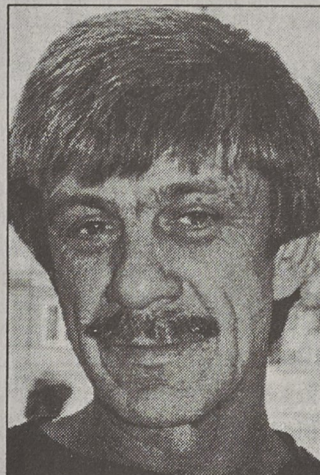
Good buys: Nylon cord suits were \$22.50 and sport shirts were \$2.98 at Keeter's...Box 620 cameras were \$15.95 and cuff links were \$1.75 at Dellinger's Jewel Shop...A recliner was only \$69.50 at Coopers.

Women's dresses were \$4.85 at Reba's Fashions, located between McCurdy Cleaners and Dixie-Home Store...Admission to two shows at Kings Mountain/Bessemer City Drive In was 40 cents (free if you were under 12 and accompanied by parents).

SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
& ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

How are you coping with the city's water problems?



"Just getting by. The kids don't like it."

Ray Hale
Kings Mountain



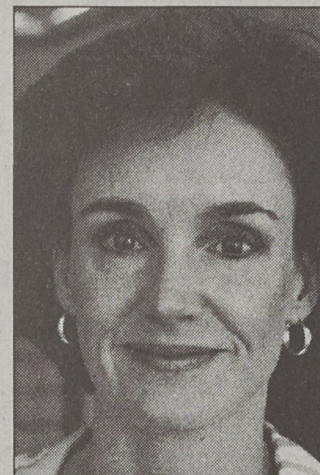
"Not good. I work at KFC. It's awful. We've had people to turn down our tea because of our water. We've had to give refunds."

Misty Cody
Kings Mountain



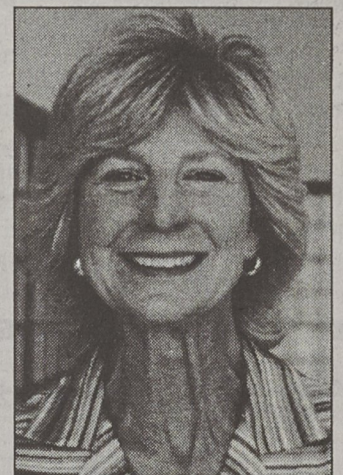
"Just praying and taking it one day at a time. You know it could be worse. We're just buying us some water to drink."

Mary J. Adams
Kings Mountain



"Buying bottled water. It is awful. I don't actually live here, but I work here."

Lisa Lacroix
Shelby



"I work at Summit Place, and I don't think we have a problem there. We haven't really had any complaints. Our water's been fine. Our residents have all been fine."

Tammy Roper
Kings Mountain