

LETTER

Who was looking out for us in realignment?

Just a few comments on the new North Carolina High School realignment proposal. Where were our Cleveland County school administrators when all of this politicking was going on? Who was looking after the best interest of Kings Mountain, Shelby and Burns?

The administrators of Gaston, Mecklenburg and Catawba County must have used their influence because they all got what they wanted and one school (Crest) in Cleveland County got what it wanted. Even one of our local coaches said "there was a lot of back-channel stuff going on all along."

Cleveland County supposedly has some of the best football in the state. When the realignment committee placed three of our schools - Kings Mountain, Shelby and Burns - in this split 2A/3A conference I think they are damaging that reputation and it will have an adverse effect on the revenue at each of these schools.

If the realignment committee was going to create a combination conference between Gaston and Cleveland County, it should have included all 3A and 4A schools in both counties, not just one (Crest) from Cleveland County.

All Cleveland County teams have got to be treated fairly and I hope that our school administrators would use their influence to keep all Cleveland County schools in the same conference.

The realignment committee has created other conferences with 8 or 9 teams in them and at one time even proposed putting Shelby in a 10 team conference.

If the realignment committee is going to allow Hunter Huss to play up, why not allow Shelby to play up and create a 10 team conference between Gaston County and Cleveland County teams. This would also be a good way to keep all these rivalries and to generate a lot of money for each program. This would also be better than having a 6 team conference and having to schedule 6 non-conference games.

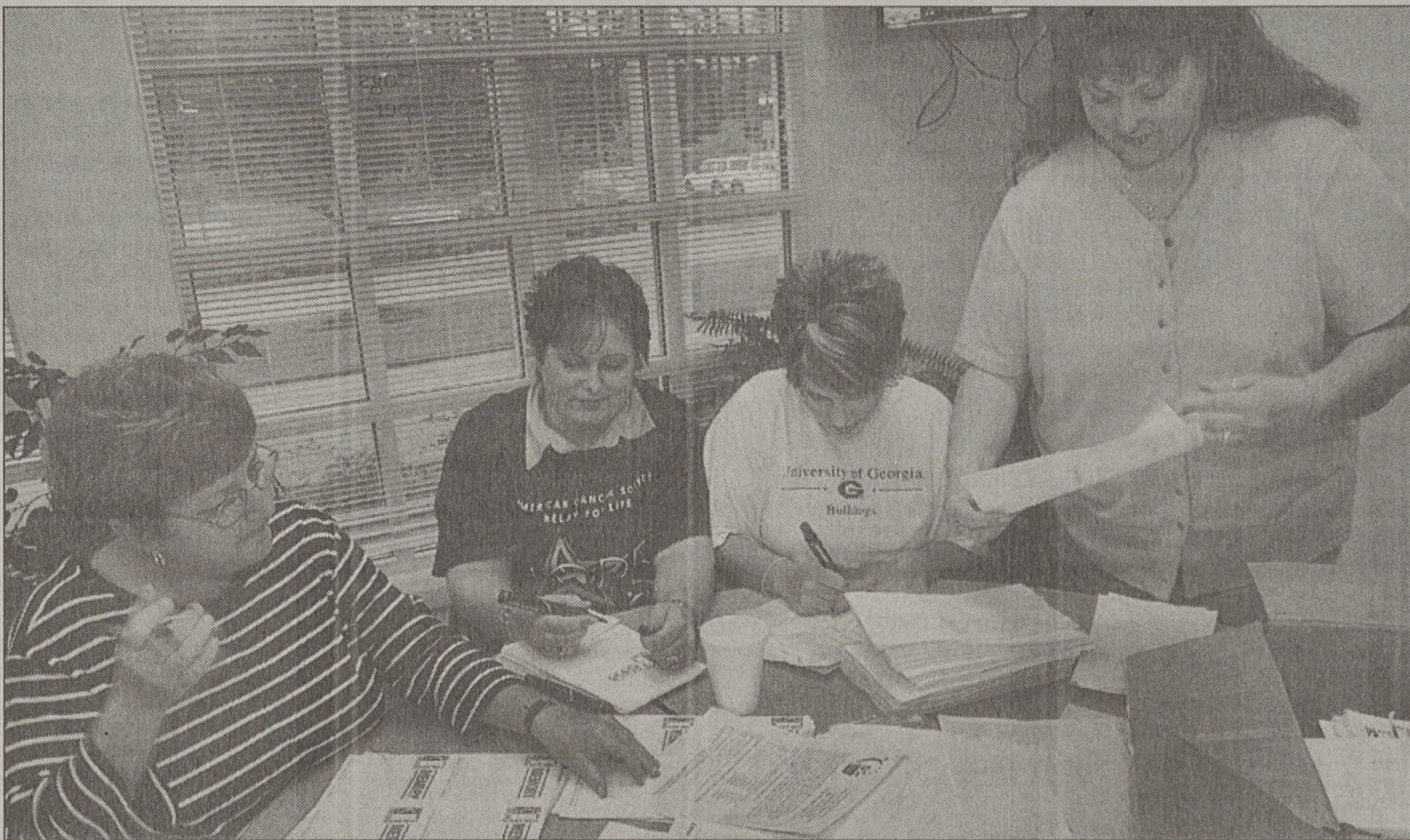
With the rich history of Cleveland County football, surely our school administrators and county leadership would have some influence on protecting our Cleveland County football tradition.

I don't mean for this to sound harsh, but I think it is our school administrators' responsibility to influence where our four high schools would like to be placed in this new realignment, not our coaches. It's got to be what's best for the whole

See Letter 5A

OPINION

HELPING HANDS



Mary Ann Gibson, Dena Blalock, Missy Bailey and Tracy Bledsoe fill out luminary bags which memorialize cancer victims in preparation for the Kings Mountain Relay for Life, which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Walking Track.

JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

How nice it would be to get all your goodies for free



Andie Brymer Staff Writer

It's spring budget season which means long meetings where department heads explain to various elected bodies how much money they'll need to operate during the coming fiscal year.

Watching all that has me wishing I could make a budget request. I'm not sure who I would ask for money from but I know what I want.

New furniture. The current brown easy chair, blue love seat and chest of drawers are cast offs from family. The rose-hued, flowered sofa comes from a thrift store. All new pieces in colors that actually work together would be nice. A chest with six functioning drawers would finish off that purchase request.

But while I'm at it, new paint on all the interior walls. I'll go with lavender and other light colors for spring and summer. Come winter, I want deeper, richer shades.

I know I'm just dreaming. My home is not a government agency and no one is going to write me a fat check to redo the thing but it's fun to wish.

While I'm in fantasy mode, what about a world that runs according to the library system. Imagine going to what looks like a clothing store. Try on all the new looks, find a few that flatter one's shape and take them to the counter. Instead of handing over hard earned money, just give the friendly person a card and borrow the garments.

Once the new wears off, get a whole different wardrobe for the following week. Classic fashions, sporty attire - we could change our whole persona a couple times a month.

Getting back and forth to the library of clothing would be fun since our vehicles would come from yet another library. My first pick would be a Volvo wagon. I've long wanted an older model in silver. Don't ask me to explain, I don't understand it either. Joey says the thing looks like a huge refrigerator box on wheels but I still want one.

Speaking of Joey, he would check out an old Land Rover and head over to the camera library. No more saving for the latest Nikon has to offer. He could have it right now.

I know, I need to wake up, have a cup of stiff coffee and reorient myself to reality. Come to think of it, the real world isn't quite so bad. There really are libraries full of books, music and videos. I can put on my less than perfect clothes, hop in my nine-year-old car and drive on over. I really can take home an arm load of goodies for free.

Where were the governors during Hunley ceremony?



Jim Heffner Columnist

Recently several thousand Civil War reenactors, tens of thousands of spectators and a scattering of descendants of the crew from the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley gathered in Charleston for the funeral of the 8-man crew.

The Hunley, of course was the first submarine to ever sink an enemy ship in battle.

The event was covered by news media from all over the world. National Geographic had a crew on hand, as they have followed the Hunley since it was found several years ago.

There was one group of people conspicuously absent from the solemn occasion.

None of the nation's governors attended the service. Count them, not one came by to pay respects. The governor of South Carolina, Mark Sanford, did not attend, nor did Mike Easley of North Carolina. Fourteen Southern governors were invited, but all were "too busy."

It seems all 14 had scheduling conflicts on that particular day at that particular time. What a mind-boggling coincidence. What are the odds of that ever happening again? I'd guess about the same percentage if any other activity involving the Confederacy occurs.

Their real problem is a lack of intestinal fortitude. They are afraid some civil rights activist or newspaper will call them racist or boycott one of their convenience stores.

I get so sick of these spineless blockheads I could throw up.

Political correctness dictates that anything Confederate never existed. There was no Confederate flag, and Robert E. Lee was a cracker.

Before we know it the PC police will be yelling about the separation of the Confederacy and the state, just as they talk about the separation of church and state.

There is no way to get around the fact that there was a Confederate States of America, and they did fly their own flag, or, I should say, we flew our own flag. They also produced a submarine which sank a Yankee ship. That might be a little tough to swallow for some of those smart-aleck Yankee snare drummers, but it happened.

Some of us may not always find it to our liking, but it is always history, and it's the one thing in life that can never be altered.

The head of the NAACP in South Carolina said it was a matter of personal preference whether Governor Sanford attended. "It's totally up to him," Joseph Darby said.

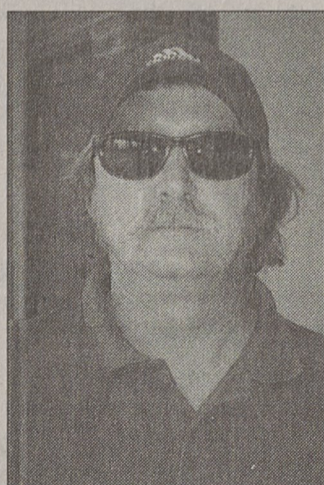
Sounds to me as though Darby was giving the governor

See Heffner, 5A

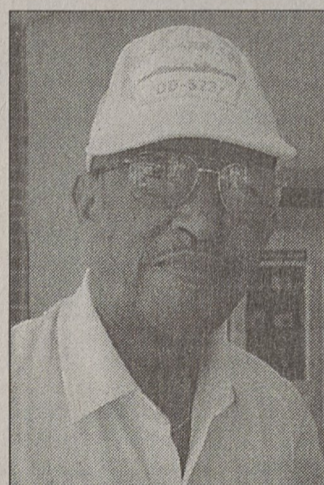
SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER HERALD

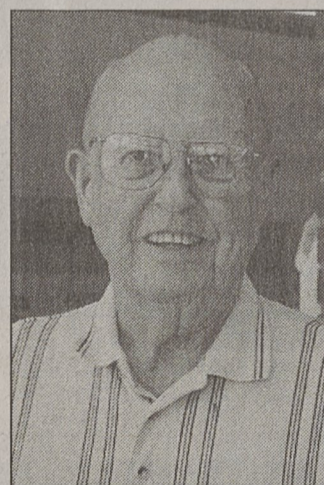
Who do you think presumptive Democrat presidential nominee John Kerry will select as a running mate?



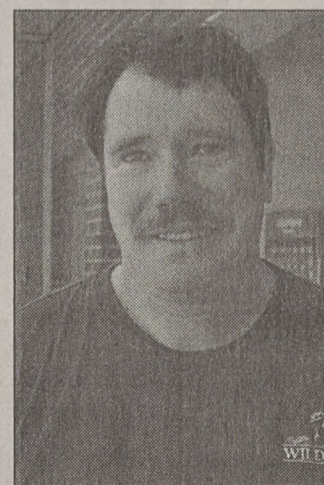
I think Edwards will be a good running mate for him.  
Randy Blanton  
Kings Mountain



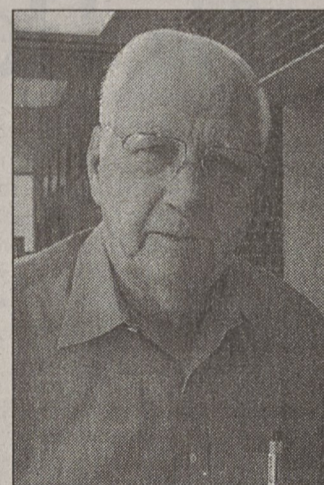
John Edwards I hope.  
Calvin C. Miller  
Kings Mountain



I think he'll wind up with Edwards.  
Gene Gladden  
Kings Mountain



I'd say he'll offer it to Hillary Clinton. She probably won't accept it.  
Max Phelps  
Kings Mountain



John Edwards. I'm a Republican. I don't like John Kerry.  
David Bayne  
Kings Mountain

LOOK BACK

\$1.1 million sewer project planned in '65

From the April 29, 1965 edition of the Herald:

Preliminary plans for a \$1.1 million addition and improvements to the city sewage disposal system will be delivered to the State Stream Sanitation committee Thursday.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education's new school pupil assignment plan has been approved by the NC Department of Public Instruction and has been forwarded to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Rita Kay Bell and Elizabeth Ann Alexander, rising high school seniors, will represent American Legion Post 155, the American Legion Auxiliary, at annual Tar Heel Girls' State in June.

Glenda Lynn has been named to attend the North Carolina Governor's School.

Phillip Bunch and Scott Cloninger will represent American Legion Post 155 at Boy's State this summer.

Boyce Memorial ARP Church will formally call Thomas L. Ritchie as is pastor when Mr. Ritchie completes Erskine College seminary and is ordained as a minister of the church.

Bill Mullinax pitched a two-hitter and struck out 10 and Claude Pearson slammed two doubles to lead Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 4-2 victory over East Rutherford Friday.

Seerley Lowery pitched a two-hitter and struck out eight as the Mountaineers shutout Cherryville 2-0 Tuesday.

Jacob E. Yarbro of Kings Mountain has been named foreman and service supervisor at the Charlotte service of Joseph T. Ryerson & Son.

Airman Apprentice Dale Allen, USN, was graduated March 19 from the Aviation Familiarization School of the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, TN.

The John Gamble Stadium Fund crept upward by \$900 during the past week, bringing the total to \$77,032.39, slightly less than \$3,000 within the \$80,000 goal.

Dr. George W. Plonk was nominated for president of the Kings Mountain Lions Club at Tuesday night's meeting.

James V. Pressley Jr. and Danny William Turner are recipients of Chambers scholarships from Foote Mineral Company.