

The King's kids should get along

By JOHN HOUZE

As we look at the fragmentation of society, the heightened threat of terrorist attacks, the demise of the values that has made this country so great, the almost forgotten meaning of "One Nation Under God," I ask myself the same question about the body of Christ.

People proudly display stickers that read "in God we trust," but do we? Or stickers which read "together we stand" but do we?

The words of Rodney King still haunt me. These words came from a man who had been brutally beaten so bad that it sparked riots in one of the nation's largest cities. When he saw the destruction that was going on, he put aside his indifference with the city and thought about the greater good of the whole. Maybe we could learn something from this man.

"Why can't we get along?" Some years ago I would listen to my grandfather Gainwell and his best friend Clyde debate over what they believed. They debated over power windows versus manual windows. One of them would say that the power windows might malfunction with the window rolled up or down and there you are stuck. The other would say "it doesn't make sense to stop your car and roll up a passenger window when you could press a button and keep going."

Well, each appeared to have a valid point. Even though they did not see eye to eye, they still walked hand in hand. They were just like very close brothers. I never knew of a time when one was in need that the other did not make himself available. I guess I owe these two old ministers a lot. They taught me that we can have different views but do not have to become indifferent.

I believe serving God is the same way, only from different points of view. I remember probably the last debate these two men had because they dragged me into it. Since I had been driving a few years, they must have figured that I was smart enough to make a rational decision (they really asked me). The debate was over which was better for a truck, an automatic or manual transmission?

I told them it really didn't make a difference to me just as long as I got to where I needed to be (bad mistake). Then I was accused of not wanting to make a decision.

See Houze, 5A



PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



Kings Mountain players and coaches grab a piece of the North Carolina State championship trophy after the Mountaineers defeated Rockingham County for the 1989 championship at Lancaster Field.

GARY STEWART / HERALD FILE

Why sleep in a tent when you have a house?

My husband wants to go camping but I refuse. When I was a child, I thought Golden Valley Girl Scout Camp and trips with my family to Green Mountain and the beach were fun.

I had not realized my perspective had changed so radically until early in our marriage Joey and I took off for the coast. We arrived at the Outer Banks around midnight.

The area was too crowded for us so we drove west for an hour and ended up at the entrance of Pettigrew State Park. The gates were locked so we slept as best we could in a car filled with a tent, gas stove, changes of clothes, food, cookware and camera equipment.

Shortly after daybreak a park ranger arrived and let us in. We set up our tent and finally stretched out for some real rest. Anyone that's ever been to eastern North Carolina in August is already laughing. The place is a sauna.

Normally people don't wish for rain during a vacation but we welcomed the showers which started about a day after we arrived. Between the swamps, forest, canals and frogs, the place was a rainforest.

At first it was charming but after a few days I began to feel like an amphibian. We made up songs about the roley poly bugs which had taken over the tent. Sand was everywhere - our clothes, our shoes, our car, our tent.

I tried to lighten the mood by preparing a nice dinner over the campfire. I placed a pot of water on the grate covering the fire pit. The distance between the flames and the pot meant the water was not going to boil. I dumped pasta in anyway, hoping for the best.

In another pot I mixed up a powdered alfredo sauce and veggies. After the noodles had soaked in what was essentially a warm bath for 30 minutes, I drained them and mixed with the alfredo.

It was one of the most disgusting things I have ever tasted. The pasta was a gunky mess. The sauce was lukewarm. Joey still occasionally asks me if we are having "pasta surprise."

Since that adventure, he has managed to retain the belief that camping is fun. I, however, have lost my enthusiasm.

Why would I want to live in a tent when I have a house? It's small but it has real walls, running water, a commode, air conditioning, an electric stove and refrigerator. No sand anywhere in the yard, only grass.

Call me lazy, call me old, call me boring, but I'll stay home any day.



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Send them to virgin territory

Batten down the hatches and put up the walls, here comes another load of junk from those disgruntled politicians who want to get rid of George Bush.

John Frank Kerry is beginning to talk about setting a date for removal of the troops from Iraq. It's deja vu all over again. Who can forget old George McGovern running around all over the country using those exact words during the fracas in Vietnam? All it got George was the state of Massachusetts in the general election.

Somebody ought to tell John Frank to go back to sleep, we'll wake him when it's time to go home to the catsup queen.

I'm so tired of these people who continue to spend all their waking hours trying to point out how bad this country is. I've seen those prison photos so much they're emblazoned in my alleged brain. Don't you get weary of hearing people talk about what monsters we are for that? They don't seem to remember Daniel Pearl and Nick Berg, nor do they remember the American bodies dragged through the streets or hanging from a bridge.

Where is the outrage from our so-called friends in the Middle East, such as the Saudis? I suspect they enjoyed the atrocities committed against Americans as much as anybody.

And don't you get tired of hearing about how there was no connection between Saddam Hussein and Al Quaida? Some of that terrorist organization's leaders have been in and out of Iraq for years, and everybody in the world knows it, but the argument from liberals persists that there was no connection. An Al Quaida cell was broken up in the Northern part of the country, but that fact has been ignored because that is Serb country.

The people who swear there was no connection say that because they want it to be true. Anybody who thinks there was no cooperation between Saddam Hussein and Al Quaida is either naive or dumb.

Have you noticed the talk about the absence of weapons of mass destruction has tapered off to nothing? Could it be because shells with traces of mustard gas and Sarin have been found?

Who cares about the international community? The UN is a talking organization, not an action organization. I've never heard of a war being won with vowels and consonants.

It's tragic when anyone is killed in any kind of war, but think about this. We've lost less than 900 troops in Iraq. Compare that with the 58,000 killed in Vietnam or the 400,000 lost in WWII. For that matter, bear in mind we lost 3,000 in the bombing of the World Trade Center.

Are we in a war against Muslims? I don't know. I suspect there are plenty of good Muslims in the world. I do know, however, that every terrorist act committed against the United States in the last 20 years was committed by Muslims.

We always had nuclear weapons to deter the Russians and others, but there is no deterrent for people who want to die, and who have absolutely no conscience at all. They'd just as soon dynamite babies as go to lunch. Life means nothing to them.

The only way to get rid of them is to hunt them down and dispatch each one to that meeting with the 70 virgins. Somebody has to do something about the Middle East and terrorism. We're already there, so it might as well be us.



Jim Heffner
Columnist

LOOK BACK

Mounties won State title in '89

From the June 15, 1989 edition of the Kings Mountain Herald: Kings Mountain's Mountaineers swept Rockingham County 8-6 and 10-0 Wednesday and Thursday night at Lancaster Field to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association baseball title. The victories gave the Mountaineers a final record of 23-7.

Six Mountaineers made the All-Southwestern Conference baseball team. They were pitchers Stuart Spires and Todd McDaniel, infielders Dale Greene and Paul Brannon, outfielder Toby Deaton, and designated hitter Chad Plonk. Bruce Clark was voted coach of the year.

The Dilling Street entrance to Mountain Rest Cemetery was damaged \$5,000 Tuesday morning when a Roadway Express truck failed to clear the canopy, pulling down the canopy, two large brick columns, and two antique street lights. The truck was making a delivery to the cemetery but the top section of the trailer couldn't clear the right side of the rainbow-shaped canopy.

Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce set the wheels in motion Tuesday at noon for hiring of an executive director.

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night approved a 180-day ban on new commercial off-premises signs. The Kings Mountain Planning and Zoning Board recommended the change last month and said the ban will permit some time to toughen the city's current ordinance.

Kings Mountain's property tax rate would be trimmed by one cent under the proposed \$17.2 million budget for 1989-90 which is about \$1 million or 1.0% more than last year and gives city employees a 3.5% cost-of-living increase.

Cleveland County Health Department is being flooded with calls from anxious mothers whose children may have been bitten by ticks. The concern is not so much over Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever as it is over Lyme disease, one of the newest communicable diseases to plague the population.

Barbara Woodward is Kings Mountain Aging Department's Volunteer of the Year.

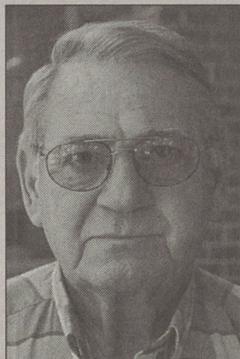
SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER
HERALD

What does your dad mean to you?



The world. I miss him. He lives in Florida.
Tabitha Whittaker
Kings Mountain
daughter of Darrell Carman



He always meant the world to me. He's dead and gone now.
Aaron Conner
Kings Mountain
son of Ralph Conner



Best dad in the world.
Susie Beard
Kings Mountain
daughter of Wilbur Morgan



My dad meant everything to me. I was his little girl.
Mona Nieves
Kings Mountain
daughter of Morris Berger



My mom is my dad. She's been the greatest mom and dad.
Shelby McDonald
Kings Mountain
daughter of Hazel Smith