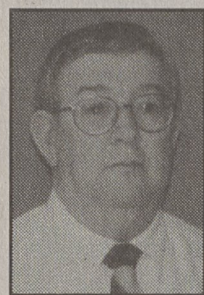


It's good election is over

Thank goodness, this election is over. Now the mail box will only contain bills and sale papers.



Gary Stewart
Editor

No more mailings from every politician in the area, and state and federal party organizations begging for

your vote on their behalf.

There will be a lot less e-mails. I've gotten them from George Bush, John Kerry, John Edwards, Bill and Hillary Clinton and one guy in Shelby who obviously has nothing better to do than sit at a computer all day firing off negative thoughts and re-prints of e-mails he's gotten about one of the presidential candidates. I've often thought about replying to him and telling him, "no disrespect intended, but would you please delete me from your address book!"

I finally got my name on the government's do not call list only to be bombarded with calls (most of them computer-generated) asking for votes.

I often wish my mind worked quicker when getting calls from telemarketers and politicians.

The other day I got a call on behalf of one of the state candidates and the man said something to the effect that, "I'm calling you to let you know that (John Doe) is the health care candidate." Well, in this profession I happen to have dealt with this politician in the past and he's the world's worst at returning phone calls and e-mails. Because of past experiences, my reply was "I won't be voting for (John Doe)," and proceeded to hang up the phone.

Almost as soon as I put the phone down, I wished I had replied, "well, let me speak to him."

I can imagine the reaction. "Oh, he's not here, I'm calling on his behalf."

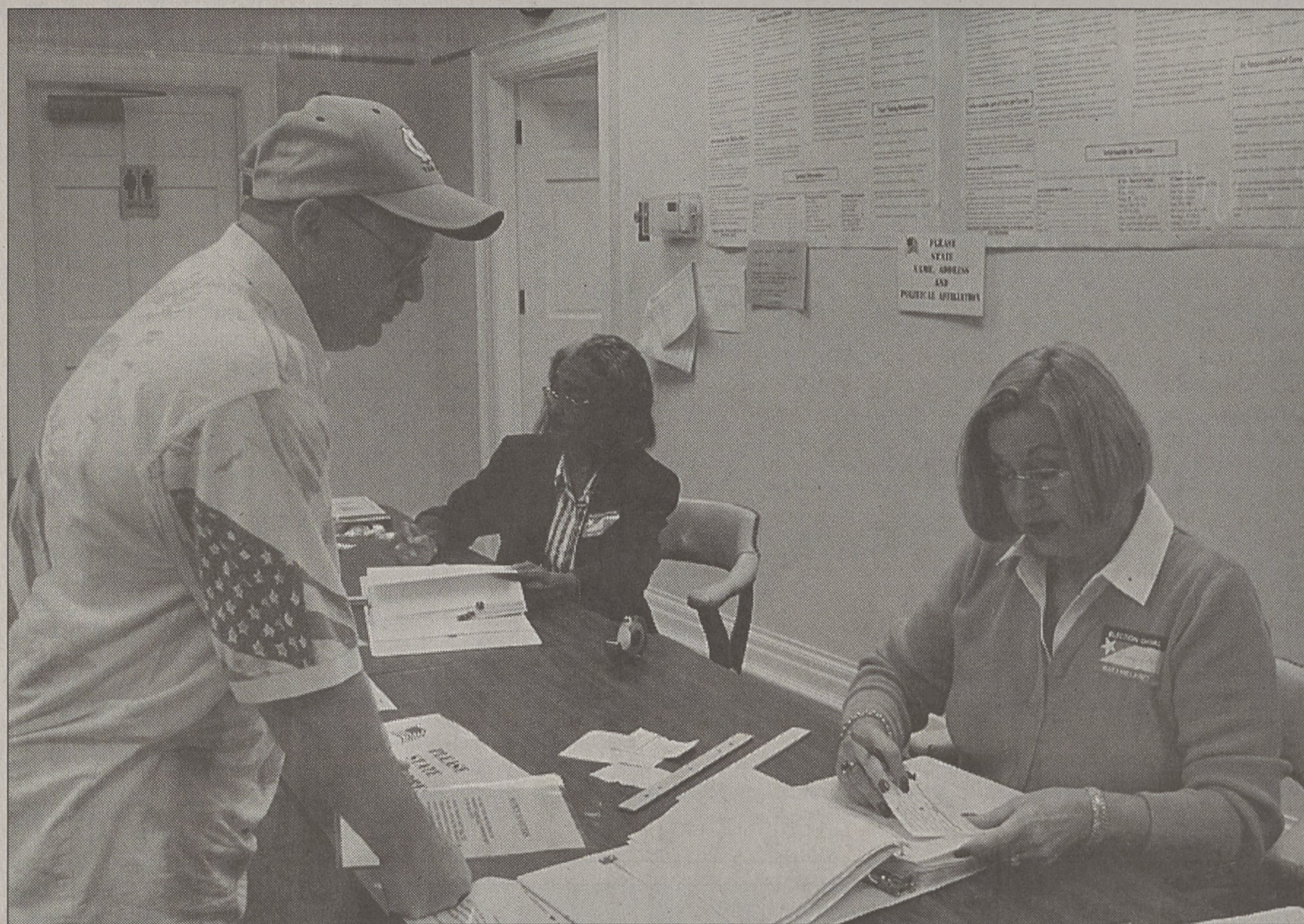
And my reply would be, "well, tell him to call me personally and ask for my vote." Then, I could've given him an ear full.

My mind raced back years to a time when a good friend of mine - whose mind was a lot quicker than mine in such cases - was a few sheets to the wind and watching a famous TV evangelist's telethon.

He, of course, was doing

See Gary, 5A

EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT



Voters wait their turn at the Second Baptist Church polling site Tuesday afternoon.

ANDIE L. BRYMER/HERALD

Action may be in violation of First Amendment



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Family lore has it my ancestor Hans Lieberman, a Mennonite minister, came to America in the mid-1700s. I'm guessing he immigrated for religious freedom. Many non-Catholics left continental Europe then because kings typically mandated loyalty to the Pope.

Amendment One to the U.S. Constitution specifically bars government from making "law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

This and the other nine amendments were ratified in 1791. This is what people like Hans were after, the chance to worship without fear of death, imprisonment or other interruption from the government.

Last week Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey declared Nov. 21 to 28 Bible Week. I believe his actions are in direct violation of the First Amendment. Mayor Murphrey is a Christian and has every right to practice his faith. However, he should not use his office as mayor to endorse the scriptures of a specific religion.

There is no reason for the city to be involved with Bible Week. This would be an appropriate role for churches. Murphrey could even speak at a church sponsored event for Bible Week but to declare the week from city hall chambers crosses the line.

The proclamation he issued reads "for 64 years men and women of many faiths have banded together with the National Bible Association to sponsor National Bible Week as a time to be reminded of the Bible's unique place in American life."

The NBA's website suggests scriptures for Bible Week from what are commonly known as the Old and New Testaments. This negates the proclamation's language which mentions people of "many faiths" banding together. No other faith than Christianity uses the New Testament.

The words "faith" and "religion" are often misused. The word people are often searching for is "denomination" which means a subgroup of a faith or religion. For example, Methodism is a denomination of Christianity.

By its nature Bible Week leaves out everyone but Christians. While the majority of Kings Mountain's residents consider themselves Christians, our Constitution

See Andie, 5A

Listen (to wife) and learn (when) to give opinion



Jim Heffner
Columnist

There are certain things a man doesn't say to his wife, and it doesn't take a new husband long to figure out what they are.

Everybody knows you never ask a woman her age, but I would say a woman's weight is the most sensitive area of her psyche, and should be avoided at all costs.

After our last child was born, I made the mistake of remarking that the weight my angel had gained was a little slow in going away.

That remark led to a bucket of tears and days of being ignored.

How dumb can you get? You can bet I never made that mistake again.

If your wife models a dress for you, and asks how it looks, the correct answer in each case is, "It looks absolutely stunning, darling."

My wife tries on at least three outfits before she goes anywhere, so I have to temper my comments. By that I mean she starts out looking great and progresses through wonderful and terrific before reaching stunning. She would never, ever wear the first outfit she tries on.

One day, her sister was sitting with me in the den when she started her how-does-this-look parade. The two of them were going to a church function.

I advised the sister to tell her when she came in that her outfit looked good, then increase the praise a little for the second one. The third ensemble would be the one she really wanted to wear and we should deal out the compliments effusively for that one.

"You're nuts," my sister-in-law (SIL) said.

"Just watch and follow my lead," I replied.

My mate came in, wearing a smart pants suit, and asked: "does this look all right?"

I nodded in the affirmative and said, "it looks good."

The SIL smiled and agreed. She thought her sister would return with her purse, ready to go.

Nay, not so. Five minutes later she returned wearing a lovely blue summer dress.

"You look good, hon," I said.

"The dress looks fine," SIL said. "I thought you were ready to go."

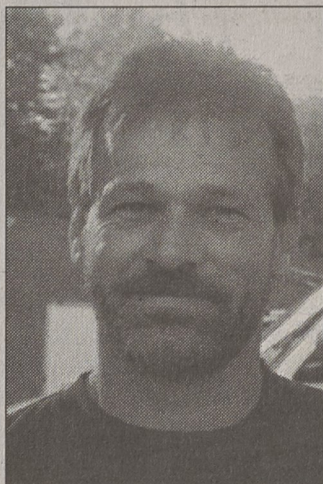
"I am, I'll be back in a few minutes," said my wife.

See Heffner, 5A

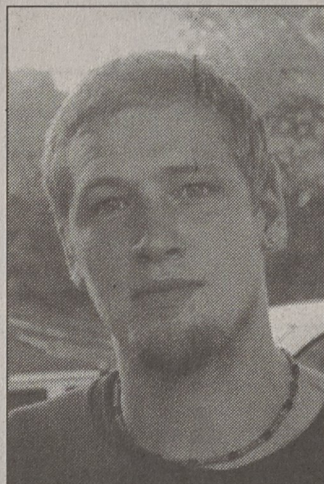
SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

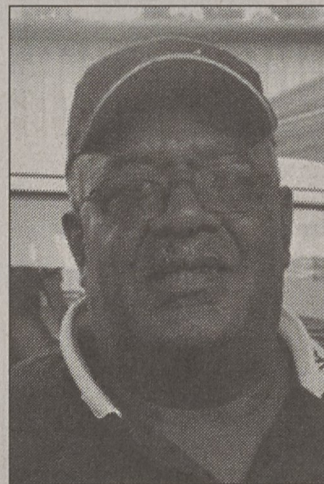
Do you think this year's political campaign has been characterized by negativity?



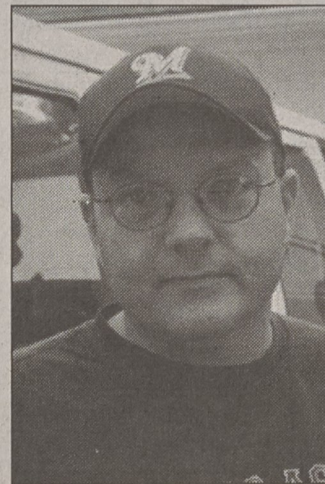
Yes. I think it's cheap, a cheap shot.
Steve Ramsey
Kings Mountain



Yea. It's kind of dirty. That's the way it's going.
Kenneth Johnson
Kings Mountain



Yea. I think so. I don't think it's necessary.
Frank Williams
Kings Mountain



There's too much. Seems like the country has to be divided every election.
David Brown
Kings Mountain



I do. People were eager to pull George Bush down for things not turning out in Iraq.
Donna Millwood
Kings Mountain

IN YOUR OPINION

Kitchen big help to area residents

To the editor:

A very special appreciation to the pastor, Ms. Janice Combs, and congregation of Central United Methodist Church, and the many volunteers that allow time for the community kitchen that began some two years ago.

I had an invitation to visit the community kitchen October 28 at Central United Methodist Church. It was my privilege to meet the pastor and John Mattox, coordinator of this great mission for the residents of Kings Mountain.

I have witnessed the volunteers each Monday as they deliver lunches to our seniors and homebound residents. They will begin to offer meals each Thursday at the church. Their service and lunches are no charge.

Good luck in your ministry.

Jerry Mullinax
Kings Mountain

Team appreciates Kiwanis Club

To the editor:

On behalf of the Kings Mountain men's varsity basketball team, I would like to give a special thanks to Scott Mayse and the Kiwanis Club for making us an invited guest to the Kiwanis Club meeting.

It was a great pleasure and an inspiration to the basketball team to hear Carl Hicks, assistant general manager of the Charlotte Bobcats, speak on Thursday, October 28.

Thanks a lot.

Danny McDowell
KMHS basketball coach

Opinion Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. Letters must be signed, and include the address and phone number. Mail your letter to Editor, The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; fax to (704) 739-0611; or e-mail to KMH Letters@kingsmountain-herald.com. Letters sent by fax and e-mail must also include name, mailing address and phone number for verification purposes.