

## Sing God's song, for this is a strange land

To the editor:

Israel was being led captive, slaves in a foreign/strange land. Their captors required of them a song of Zion, but they had hung up their instruments in despair. "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (Ps. 137:1-4).

America's Christians are faced with a similar dilemma. Increasingly, this nation, founded by Christians for the expressed purpose to worship Jesus Christ, is becoming a strange land. Any expression or acknowledgement of Jesus Christ is under massive assault, by determined people. Their aim is a thoroughly secular, (and as a result) pagan nation. The Freedom From Religion Foundation of Wisconsin is bringing law suits against any public agency that acknowledges Christ in Christmas, Ten Commandments displays or anything Christian. They claim "the constitution was conspicuously written as a godless document." Before you laugh, they have been tremendously successful in their law suits.

In California a school teacher is being forbidden to use the Declaration of Independence and writings of the founding fathers of the nation (Adams, Jefferson, Madison and George Washington, etc.) because they mention God. Doesn't this sound like a strange land?

Oh, but those battles are far away. Yes, but don't think for a moment those sentiments do not exist locally and North Carolina currently has its share of similar battles. It's only a matter of time before it closely affects us all.

This nation was founded a Christian nation and for two hundred years maintained that course. A place where one could believe or not believe, practice their religion or choose atheism, but a nation whose foundation and glue was Christianity. Whether you agree with me or not, you have to rewrite our history to make your point.

However, it does appear Christianity has lost the souls of academia, the courts, arts and entertainment, print and broadcast media and increasingly in society. With this juggernaut of misinformation, little wonder our youth are more and more numbed to all things Christian. Yes, I'm aware we are still a religious people, but a religion increasingly amalgamated with New Age and paganism, and as a consequence, devoid of any dynamism of the Holy Spirit. If every-

See Letter, 5A



Seven-year-old Brigitte Ellison tells Santa Claus what she wants for Christmas at last week's tree lighting ceremony at Mauney Memorial Library.

JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

## Good news that you don't look far to see



Andie Brymer  
Staff Writer

What's right with the world? A whole lot. There is plenty of bad too but since I've got the holiday spirit, I'll focus on the good this week. I know, some of you are already breathing a sigh of relief. Others are upset because they'll have nothing to get mad about this week.

Last year a group of concerned residents formed a group to raise scholarship money for local students. The Kings Mountain Student Scholarship Foundation hopes to raise \$100,000 this year. They're a determined bunch.

The Mauney Memorial Library has restarted its Friends of the Library organization. It's early and members haven't finished writing their goals but any group which supports reading and library use is on the right track.

My hometown holds its tree lighting and parade all on the same day. Kings Mountain sponsors two separate events doubling the fun. Last week Santa showed up to flip the switch on the tree. Saturday floats, beauty queens, horses and more including a contingent from the Herald will parade through the downtown streets.

The history museum has expanded its hours during the holiday toy train exhibit. Mickey Crowell and her volunteers stay busy creating new exhibits and offering them to the public at no charge. Take advantage of it.

Shirley Brutko and other history enthusiasts will don their old fashioned apparel before Saturday's parade and gather at the Barber Cabin. The volunteers will show us how our forefathers and mothers celebrated the holiday.

Churches and cultural organizations are offering plays and musicals filled with the Christmas spirit. The Costners have once again created a mini-McAdenville in their yard. Bethlehem community members are opening their homes in a holiday fund raising tour for the their fire department.

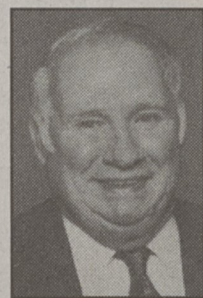
The Bethlehem fire department celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. The men and women who brave flames and smoke to keep us and our homes safe deserve some recognition.

The schools continue doing a great job. Local test scores are some of the best around. When I visit the campuses, I see teachers, administrators and other staff who are putting kids first. The work seems more difficult than when I was in school but the kids are enthused about it.

There really is plenty of good news and we don't have to look far to see it.

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## 10 reasons why John Kerry lost president's race



Jim Heffner  
Columnist

Could it be we're never going to hear the last of this election?

The Democrats, ably assisted by all the talking heads on the tube, seem to be searching for the reasons why they lost.

That's amazing to me. You'd think they would have figured it out by now. But I've heard several different scenarios they've come up with, all of which are incorrect.

The most popular belief is that they were beaten by a large turnout of evangelical Christians. They still don't get it. I've said before that God is a better draw than Bruce Springsteen.

I guess it's up to a small town hick like me to set them straight.

Here are the top ten reasons why George Bush beat John Frank Kerry, and it isn't one of those silly David Letterman top ten lists either. All these reasons carry identical weight.

1. Zell Miller damaged the Kerry campaign, not by speaking to the Republican convention, but by outlining Kerry's unwillingness to vote for any defense spending. Others said it, but people believed Miller.

2. The swift boat vets attack was a bolt from the blue. Nobody expected it. These guys were creditable, and when the Kerry people denied everything they said, the voters could tell the Democrats had been caught with their hands in the cookie jar. These were decorated veterans, not kooks and liars, and if their ads did nothing else it made people remember Kerry's mealy-mouthed testimony before the U.S. Senate in 1971.

3. Michael Moore. I am at a loss as to how anybody could put stock in anything this jerk says. Yet there he was at the Democrat's convention, perched like an overblown toad right beside another mealy-mouth, Jimmy Carter.

4. Teresa Kerry is a crude woman whose lack of intelligence is obvious. People don't want that kind of woman as first lady.

5. Kerry's dependence on his Viet Nam War service didn't wash, but he chose that path, so he was stuck with it. I'll bet he wishes he had eaten those medals.

6. John Edwards as VP? I don't think so. He was responsible for carrying no states in the election, not even his own. I shudder to think what might have happened had Kerry chosen Gephardt. He may have brought Missouri along with him, and his union ties could have gone a long way in Ohio.

See Heffner, 5A

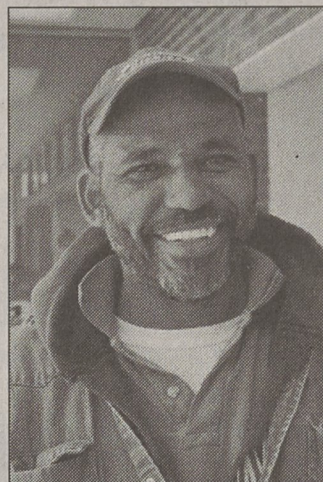
## SIDEWALK SURVEY

By ANDIE BRYMER  
HERALD

## Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?



No not really. I've been out of work.  
Cheryl Mercer  
Kings Mountain



Yes. I started the day after Thanksgiving.  
Cliff Thomas  
Kings Mountain



Yes. I started the first of November. Now I have to find where I hid them.  
June Phifer  
Kings Mountain



Yes, the day after Thanksgiving.  
Janet Sibley  
Gastonia



No I haven't.  
Pam Johnson  
Kings Mountain