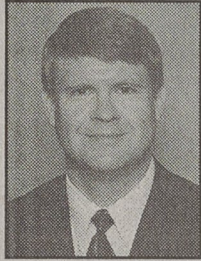


God is on top of things

Sometimes I have wondered about some of the things that we must endure in this life. Why did God create the world the way it is? I once heard about a man who wondered the same thing.

This man was walking down a country road admiring the beauty of the fields.



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

Deep in meditation, he paused by an old oak tree that happened to be near a patch of ripening pumpkins.

On the ground around that old tree were tiny acorns that had been blown off by the wind, and out in the nearby field were large, beautiful pumpkins. But the one thing that struck the man was the strange way God had chosen to design the acorn and the pumpkin.

"God surely made a mistake," he thought to himself. Why would he cause something as large as a pumpkin to have to grow on a small vine, while at the same time causing an acorn to grow on such a huge tree?

In his mind, it would have made more sense to let the large pumpkin grow on the strong tree and the tiny acorn grow on the weaker vine.

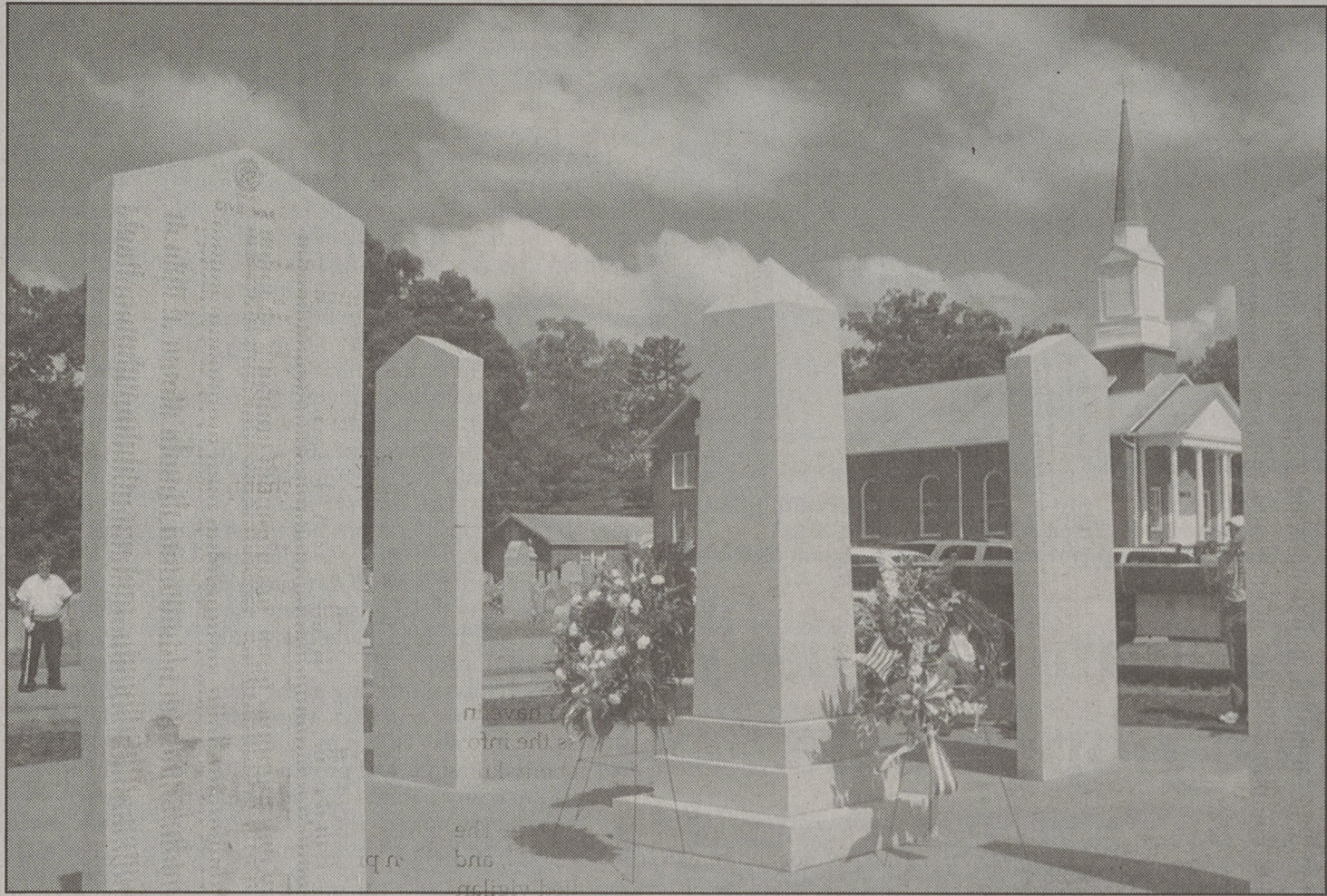
Just then, something happened that changed his mind. As he was standing under that great oak tree pondering the mysteries of life, a gentle breeze came along and caused one of those tiny acorns to fall and hit him on the head. He rubbed his head, picked up the acorn, looked out into the field at those large pumpkins, and said to himself, "Maybe God was on top of things, after all."

I have spent a large part of the past month wondering the kind of thing this man wondered. I wasn't wondering about pumpkins and acorns, but I was wondering why God allows things like Muscular Dystrophy. As my son was about to begin a fourth week in the hospital with complications from this terrible disease, I was wondering if God really was on top of things.

There are some believers who think it is a sin to wonder such things, but I suspect that is because they haven't read biblical books like Job. There is nothing wrong with wondering, and there is nothing wrong with having a long conversation with God about such matters, even if we might express some questions or misunderstanding in that conversation. I have to admit that there have been times when I've told God that I don't understand his

See Hensley, 5A

PICTORIAL EDITORIAL



Many Fallston area veterans found their names on the new granite monuments dedicated Saturday morning by the state's newest Legion post, W. R. Gary American Legion Post 527 in Fallston. Crowds gathered on the field across from Main Street to watch a procession of flags and wreaths by Boy Scout troop 413 of Belwood, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Fallston Woman's Club on Armed Forces Day.

Photo by Lib Stewart

Salary study by city is a good idea

The city is planning a salary study and I think that is a good idea.

According to City Manager Greg McGinnis, new hires after their six-months probation are making as much as folks who have been on the job a while. That's not fair.

City councilman Jerry Mullinax wants to raise lower paid workers to \$10 an hour. I would add that the federal minimum wage should be raised to at least \$10 an hour. The folks at the top need to share a little with the people who do the real work.

Kings Mountain needs a coffee shop. Right now we are stuck with what's brewed at the office or the java from fast food restaurants. Chaffin Rhyne's Fausto Coffee in Lincolnton has spoiled me. I want to start my morning with snickerdoodle or coconut creme coffee and a nice pastry or bagel.

It's almost summer so that means I need to start wearing winter clothes at least at The Herald office. I came in this morning and my office was cold enough to cure meat. Don't get me wrong, I like air conditioning but I don't enjoy wrapping up in a blanket to work.

Some smokers are polite but others don't have any manners. Joey and I were in a Lincolnton sandwich shop the other day. Two women were sharing a booth. One was puffing away and between tokes she would extend her cigarette-holding hand away from the table. That's great for her dinning companion but what about the rest of us who were getting the full force of her smoke. It seemed as if she only cared about not inconveniencing the person she was dining with but could care less about us.

Four-way stop intersections are interesting. I must turn left at one on my way to work. Years ago Bob Carpenter taught me in driver's education that the vehicle turning left must yield to everyone else. Most folks must have gotten that same instruction but occasionally there will be another driver who will sit and sit and sit. It's infuriating.

I'm convinced that just as soon as I do turn left in front of this driver immobilized by four-way-fear he or she will decide to finally accelerate making the bump-up my fault. So far it has not happened though.

Warning. If you are eating don't continue reading. The networks warn us before a show that has excessive violence, profanity or nudity but they never think to let us know something will be gross. During the Wendy's finger in the chili debacle Dan Rather and crew talked away during the dinner hour about the disgusting incident without giving us a chance to hit the mute button.



Andie Brymer
Staff Writer

Come on up! You have it made in U.S.

The illegal immigration problem is so out of hand it is causing deaths among American citizens, and it's time we stood as one nation and yelled loudly as possible: "NO MORE!"

Last week a Denver, Colorado police officer made a routine traffic stop. The man driving erratically was Raul Garcia Gomez, a Mexican citizen, in this country illegally. Gomez had been stopped and ticketed three times previously, and I guess, was getting tired of the inconvenience, so he pulls a pistol and blows the cop away.

His first three tickets were because he had no driver's license. On one occasion, Gomez showed his Mexican driver's license. One other item he did not possess was a green card.

The City of Denver is not interested in citizenship status. It is what has become known as a sanctuary city. Gomez was never asked his residence status, because the Denver Police Department doesn't allow its officers to arrest anyone in violation of U.S. Immigration laws. They're not even allowed to ask.

Does that make any sense to anybody? There are several cities who follow the same routine. San Francisco is one and Phoenix is another. They don't care. They don't want to be bothered with a problem so difficult to solve.

I don't know if the world class city considers itself a sanctuary city or not, but I do know a young girl was killed in a car crash, and the other driver, an illegal alien, was at fault. He was driving with a valid N.C. license, but was not legal.

North Carolina is one of those states where you can get a driver's license without a Social Security card.

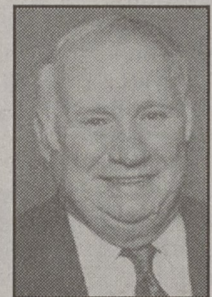
A local police chief in a small South Carolina town, during a routine traffic stop, found nine illegals riding in the back of a truck. He detained them and called the Immigration and Naturalization Service. They told him to turn them loose.

The illegals have it made. Some of them come here and do whatever they want, because they know they can go back across the border and become invisible.

Harold Hearne, a Lowell pharmacist was shot and killed by illegal aliens who quickly fled to Mexico, never to be seen again.

A woman from Charlotte was murdered and tossed into the river near Mount Holly a couple of years ago. When local police got hot on their trails they simply drifted

See Heffner, 5A



Jim Heffner
Columnist

YOUR OPINION

God should not be left out of graduation

To the editor:

The South is considered to be the Bible belt. Nonetheless, at our Kings Mountain High School graduation, (except for the pledge of allegiance) we left God completely out of the ceremony. No mention of God was made; in fact, there was not even a prayer offered. I am concerned that there was no minister nor prayer offered at a great moment in young adults' lives. It was a great concern to me personally.

I am concerned that our youth are taught Godly ways. The world we live in today is becoming worse and worse, and it takes all of us to make a difference. I pray that in the next graduation there will be a pastor present and prayer offered. If people have the idea that we (the public) are really not concerned... we, we are! I have heard so much about wanting to fight the war against drugs and gangs to protect Kings Mountain from this type of violence. The police do a great job, but if we leave God and prayer out, the job will not get done, and our police will not have all the protection they need.

On September 11, 2001 we were all asked to pray and ask God's help for our country. Let us not forget that time nor forsake God and prayer now!

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely yours,
Sally Kimbrell
Kings Mountain

Know the warning signs of stroke

To the editor:

Because stroke is the number 3 cause of American deaths, and is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability, it makes sense to learn all we can related to prevention.

Factors that increase risk of stroke include these: Those we can change, treat or control with a doctor's help, those we can modify by lifestyle changes, and those we cannot control.

Conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, artery disease, atrial fibrillation, high blood cholesterol, and certain blood disorders, are risk factors but they can sometimes be changed by working with our healthcare providers.

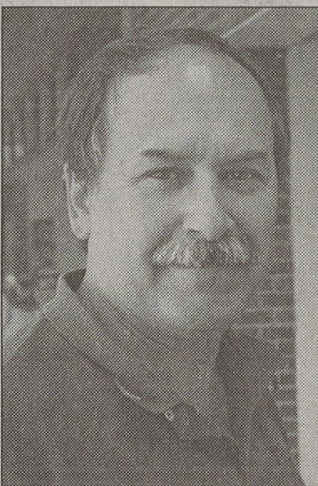
Risk factors we can change include tobacco use, physical inactivity, obesity, and use of alcohol and illegal drug use. The drug, cocaine, is some

See Letters, 5A

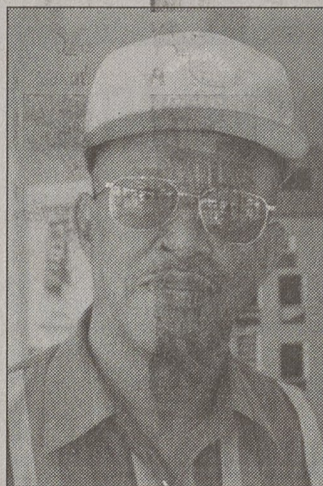
SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
THE HERALD

What does Memorial Day mean to you?



A day originally to honor Union war dead. What it means to me is I may or may not get a day off. Depends on who I'm working for.
Jim Moser
Kings Mountain



It means a lot to me. We pay tribute to those who have fought for the preservation of this country.
Rev. Calvin C. Miller
Kings Mountain



A day to honor those who defend our country and show how much we appreciate them. They sacrificed their lives.
Sarah Edmonson
Kings Mountain



Everyone should sit back and reflect on the people who have lost their lives protecting us.
Penny Shrewsbury
Kings Mountain



It's a time to show respect for those in any of the wars who fought for our freedom or other country's freedoms.
Brandy Greene
with Erika and Erin Grover