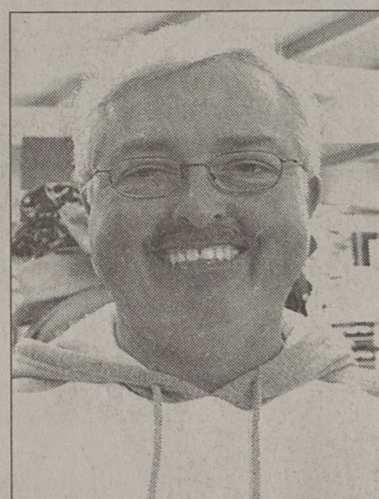


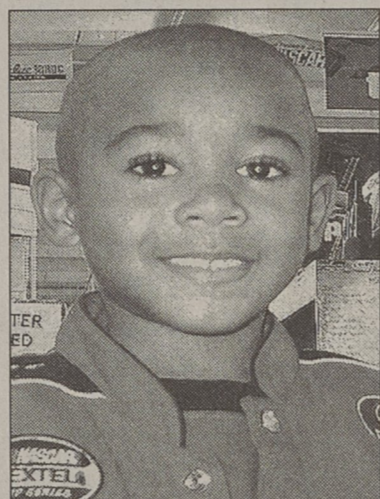
### SIDEWALK SURVEY

BY EMILY WEAVER  
THE HERALD

## What is your biggest wish for this new year?



Doug Lawing, Kings Mountain  
"To have a closeness of family."



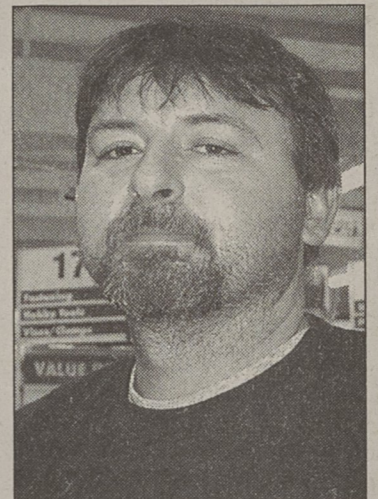
Zeyvion Ingram, Kings Mountain  
"I wish for Momma not to go to Iraq."



Sarah Tate, Kings Mountain  
"I wish for stability in Iraq."



William Coleman, Kings Mountain  
"I wish for everybody to come to know the love of Christ."

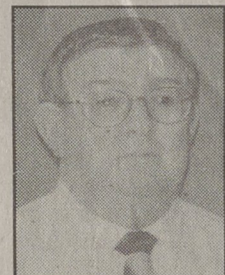


Scott Henson, Kings Mountain  
"I just wish to have a great next year."

### OUR OPINION

## Some '06 newsmakers

Let's break from tradition. For as long as I remember, the Herald, as most papers do, has either ended the old year or started the new year by listing the top stories of the year.



Gary Stewart  
Editor

Those stories seem to go on and on, and I suspect they're rather boring to the reader. Most residents can probably recall the top stories of the year such as the election winners and the major industrial announcements, so this year we're going to give a different twist to some of the stories that may not be as easily remembered:

#### Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time:

A man went into a local drug store, filled a shopping basket with goods and tried to bolt out the door. He got into a struggle with a store employee but got away. Well, not exactly! Parked in his personal car outside and seeing the whole thing was Kings Mountain Police Chief Melvin Proctor. Proctor can't make a vehicle stop in his own car, so he followed the suspects while talking on the radio to KMPD dispatch. After a short while, the suspect vehicle was pulled over by an on-duty officer, and the man and his driver were arrested.

#### Double dribble? Or correcting a wrong?

The newly-elected Kings Mountain City Council voted to rezone property on North Piedmont Avenue to residential after the previous board had rezoned it neighborhood business. The property owner later sued, asking the court to reverse the city's decision.

**Motion alive:**  
The new Grover Town Council voted 3-2 to call for a referendum on the on- and off-premise sale of beer and wine. It was brought before the previous city council but Councilor Jackie Bennett's motion died for lack of a second. The issue was dead again months later when Grover voters rejected both issues.

#### (Next time) I'm Walking to New Orleans:

Two inmates escaped from the Cleveland County Correctional Institute in Shelby and walked over 10 miles to Kings Mountain. While taking a break for food at the Waffle House on York Road, they were observed by a Kings Mountain police officer who arrested them and gave them a ride back to jail.

#### We're here to protect and serve:

Kings Mountain police officer Tim Adams received a call to a Northwoods residence one evening to find a woman in labor. He put his EMT training to work and delivered a healthy baby girl.

#### Team before self:

Kings Mountain's Michael Allen, a previous state champion, was one of the best swimmers in the state in many different events. Late in his senior season he found

out he had cancer and was not up to par after having his first chemotherapy treatment. Knowing he didn't have the energy to compete in every event in which he was eligible, he chose to deny himself a chance at an individual award and helped his 400-meter relay team win the state championship.

#### Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time, part two:

A man walked into a Kings Mountain pharmacy and demanded medication. The pharmacist refused and called police. The would-be robber left in a vehicle on US 74 Business. Officer K.L. Putnam was patrolling in the area, heard the dispatcher's description of the vehicle, pulled it over and made the arrest.

#### Coming soon to a place near you:

Businessman Mike Brown said his sign on his vacant lot on East King proclaiming "Coming Soon, Pink Pussycat Night Club" was not a joke or a protest against city hall, which has in the past turned down many of his rezoning requests. He said he fully intended to put a night club on the land. After several months, that sign gave way to the present sign that reads "Stadium Parking \$5.00," but most folks attending events at the nearby stadium park on the side of the street for free.

#### This ain't Lowes Motor Speedway, or is it?

Kings Mountain police officer K.L. Putnam attempted to stop a Toyota Tacoma on Shelby Road. When the driver wouldn't stop, he

began a chase that extended to I-85 through parts of Gaston and Mecklenburg counties and into Rock Hill, SC, with speeds reaching in excess of 100 miles per hour. The driver of the Toyota finally hit a light pole and he and a passenger hit the ground running. After a short foot chase they were apprehended.

#### Where's Clark Griswold's cousin Eddie when you need him?

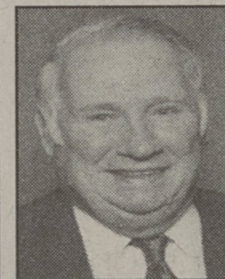
A squirrel ventured into the Duke Power electric substation on Gaston Street on one of the hottest days of the year, tip-toed across the lines and caused an arc which knocked out power to 80 percent of the town's customers. It took Duke Power about four hours to repair damaged insulators, but in the meantime the Kings Mountain Electrical Department put the new Margrace substation into operation and had most of the customers' power back on in less than an hour.

#### Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time, part three:

A man walked into a local bank, brandished a firearm and demanded money from the teller. He jumped over the counter and began emptying the cash drawers. When he came to the last cash drawer the bank security officer, who had been watching the whole thing on camera from the surveillance room, approached him and ordered him to get down on the floor. He was arrested and taken to jail under a \$100,000 bond.

## Jimmy Awards

News magazines, I'm afraid, are going the way of many newspapers. Print journalism continues to live



Jim Heffner  
Guest Column

a fragile existence with the Internet becoming more and more prevalent in people's lives. Instant information is the

plan of the day. There will probably always be a slot for newspapers and magazines, but nowhere near the size they once were.

Time, and some of the others, are fighting progress, or evolution or whatever you choose to call it. Time used to make everybody angry with its choice of Man of the Year, i.e.: Adolph Hitler, Ayatollah Khomeini, etc.

The last few years they've gone off the deep end, bowing to political correctness by selecting a Person of the Year. A choice a few years back was the Earth, which I guess makes it a Thing of the Year. That was a push for more environmental regulations.

This year, Time has chosen just plain old "You" as its person of the year. I guess that means you and I, and everyone else within hollering distance. That being the case, let me be the latest to congratulate you. I know it makes me happier than a hog eating a fresh bucket of slop.

This is the time of year when everybody is picking this or that of the year. I've got a few choice ones I'd like to add to the pile.

How about Britney Spears

for floozy of the year? After her bare-it-all escapade getting out of her limo. I can't think of a better description.

Pig of the year: Rosie O'Donnell. This one needs no explanation.

Loudmouth drunk of the year for the 20th year running is, of course, Ted Kennedy. Nobody comes close to Teddy in this category, not even Mel Gibson.

Person with the most gall this past year had to be O.J. Simpson. Simpson decided to write a book titled "How I did it, if I did it." He could have just shortened that to How I did it. Can you imagine somebody trying to make money on the double murders he committed and got away with? That's cheeky and tacky.

Publicity hound of the year award goes to Donald Trump. It seems to me that every time you turn on the tube Trump's face appears. Even though I like his evaluation of Rosie O'Donnell, a little bit of Trump goes a long way. Can anyone tell me why he is called "The Donald?" A more appropriate name would be "The Hairpiece."

Crybaby of the year is Bill Clinton, who tried his best to castigate Chris Wallace of the Fox News Channel for asking him a legitimate question about Osama bin Laden. Clinton accused Wallace, one of the most respected journalists in the business, as being a hit man for conservatives. Those who know Wallace will tell you he is not only not a hit man for conservatives, but he, himself, leans to the left.

Finally, the Jackass of the year award goes to Jimmy Carter who cannot get his fill of going around the world knocking his country.

## Opinion Page Policy

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. All letters must be signed, and for verification purposes include the address and phone number. Letters should be limited to 500 words.

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@kingsmountainherald.com. Letters sent by fax and e-mail must also include name, mailing address and phone number for verification purposes.

Letters may be edited. Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of the Kings Mountain Herald.

## Herald News Deadlines

We appreciate your news for publication in each week's Herald. We ask that you observe these deadlines: Deadline for lifestyles, community, church and school news is 12 noon Monday. Deadline for city news, county news and sports is 5 p.m. Tuesday. Tuesday night meetings and games will be accepted until 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

## SALE ITEMS

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