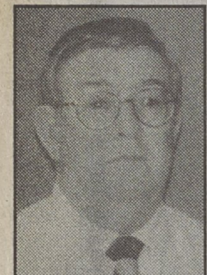


Some Emails good, but most just junk

We've all been familiar with junk mail for a long time. I usually throw it directly in the trash can.

Now that we're in the internet generation we're faced daily with junk Emails.

I enjoy getting Emails - at home and at work - from friends and others who send along inspirational stories, funny stories and good news about people with Kings Mountain ties.



Gary Stewart
Editor

But, this column is about some of the junk. Our well-meaning government officials who developed the do not call list for telephone customers should also come up with a do not Email law with a stiff penalty for persons who continue to send junk over the internet to people who don't want to receive it.

Closing in on 61 years old, I get a laugh (that's about all I can get out of it) from the Emails pushing medication and patches that are supposed to enhance your love life. They always begin with something I can't repeat here or lines such as "bring back some romantic moments that you lost" or "looking for something magic and mysterious that can help you attract women's attention?" I'm really not interested in attracting women's attention, unless they're waitresses in a good restaurant and I'm hungry. I don't know any magic except how to make money disappear, and I'm mysterious enough as it is.

There are Emails galore promising that you can be "slimmer and trimmer" in a week. I'd love to be slimmer and trimmer - and I could be if I had the will power to go on a diet. But, refer to the above paragraph and you'll know why that's not going to happen.

If the daily result of the NC Education Lottery isn't enough, there are numerous Emails from online casinos. I've never gambled on anything more than a half-and-half at a football game or an occasional lottery ticket or putting a dollar in a baseball pool. If I were to get into online or any other gambling of that magnitude I'd lose what little I have in a matter of minutes. To me a full house is when the family gets together for a reunion or Christmas, and a royal flush is when the king's commode works properly.

You can also lose your *!#!* if you bite on any of the Emails that want you to think they're your bank and there's a problem with your account. Those Emails that start out "your loan has been approved and we're ready to give you \$351,000" are sort of puzzling since I haven't applied for a loan.

People supposedly in foreign countries would love for you to believe that they have inherited millions of dollars but must have someone with a U.S. bank account to partner with them to get it. You're promised half the estate. You answer that one and you'll need a loan because your bank account will be cleaned out in a matter of minutes.

Many people tell you about the great stock tip they passed along to you last week and how much money it made for them, and that you should try it. The only stock I ever knew anything about were cows and chickens.

Now, I'm receiving invitations to "click here" to print out photos. I shudder to think what would appear on screen if I'd click. Besides, I print enough photos as it is.

With the new year I thought I'd finally landed on an Email that would be big news. It said it was from Elvis but if he's still alive he's not anywhere around here. It was written in a foreign language and I no speaky anything but southern redneck English.

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

The Herald welcomes your news for publication in each Thursday's paper.

We ask that you abide by the following deadlines:

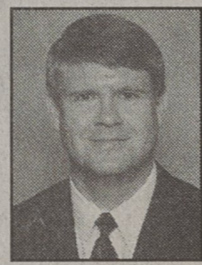
Deadline for lifestyles news is 12 noon Monday. That includes weddings, engagements, anniversaries, birthdays, club news, church news, school news and community news.

Deadline for all other news is 5 p.m. Tuesday. That includes city and county government news and sports. In cases of Tuesday night meetings and activities, items will be accepted until 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Items received after deadline will run if time and space permit. Otherwise, they will be withheld until the next week.

Give away your spiritual gifts

One evening a workman was wearily plodding home when he stopped by the side of the road to rest. Just then, a woman came by hauling a cart filled with flowers. The smell of those blossoms was



Jeff Hensley
Meditation

so sweet that it seemed to take away the man's weariness and lighten his spirit. "How much must I pay to have some of those flowers?" he asked the woman. "Good sir, please take what you wish," she replied. So the man filled his arms with blossoms and hastened home. His wife and children welcomed him home and, like him, were delighted by the sight and smell of those flowers. It was as if their

aroma refreshed the soul.

So as not to lose this treasure, the man took the flowers and planted them in a small plot of ground behind his house, and when the man's children went out to play, he cautioned them not to play close to the flowers, for they might be damaged. But the flowers remained hearty and strong so long as there was enough sun and moisture to nourish them.

Nowhere else could the man and his family find such remarkable aroma, comfort, and spiritual nourishment as those remarkable flowers provided. As the family grew and more children came to play at his house, the man became more concerned about his flowers. To protect them, he built a high wall around them, and in time he would only sparingly allow family members and others entrance to smell the flowers and then only with many

precautions.

As time passed, this began to cause unhappiness within the family. When the children would cause their father anguish, he would refuse them access to the garden and all its lovely blossoms. Eventually, he set up rules concerning who could enter and how they had to enter, and what they could do while they were there. For his own part, however, he continued to see that the flowers received enough water and sunlight to perform their wonderful magic.

As grandchildren began to appear, the man felt even greater need to protect his treasure. Now access to the garden became even more restricted and numerous requirements had to be met in order to receive a glimpse of the flowers. Offices were established to judge the worthiness of those who wanted to visit, and it became necessary

to have lawyers to defend, judges to weigh, guards to protect, and caretakers to upkeep. The man's family, however, saw less and less of the flowers and experienced less and less of their magical powers. Meanwhile, many of them went off by themselves to find and plant their own magical gardens.

All of us are blessed with certain gifts and treasures in this life, but God's blessings are never meant to be hoarded or held to ourselves. Indeed, God has given us our spiritual gifts so that we might give them away, for in giving them away God's blessings are extended to those around us.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church. His column appears each week in The Herald.

Just another day in show biz

The Hollywood celebrities are at it again.

The other night, they gathered in one of their endless awards shows to tell the public how wonderful they were, and before the night had ended their lack of



Jim Heffner
Guest Column

tact and manners took over.

This one was called the Golden Globe Awards. I couldn't watch more than a few minutes of it because I don't have the patience, but that was enough to make me gag.

Tom Hanks was on screen when I tuned in, and he was heaping accolades onto Warren Beatty, an aging womanizer. It wasn't long before Hank's speech devolved into little more than gutter tripe.

He led off the parade of people who insisted on talking about male body parts, which I won't get into here. Hanks is a foul-mouthed man who appears to be getting fat. Before long, he'll be as big as Fat Boy Redford.

After Hanks got offstage, a character named Sacha Baron Cohen continued the filth by describing his co-star's most private attributes. The co-star is also male. This guy starred in Borat, whatever that is. All I know is that several people are stung him over that so-called movie.

Leading up to curtain time, they always have a reporter or two outside on the red carpet. This night was no exception. All the Hollywood glamour girls came through wearing \$50,000 borrowed dresses and sporting gobs of jewelry, either fake or on loan from some Beverly Hills jewelry store. Don't any of these women have anything of their own?

I wonder when these scantily clad women will understand

that men prefer the less is more approach. We'd like to use our imaginations at least a little.

I don't know if Britney Spears was there or not, but you can bet that if she was, she wasn't wearing much, if anything.

At least I didn't hear any anti-American speeches while I was watching, even though George Clooney was there.

Clooney doesn't like the idea of a war in Iraq, and makes it his business to knock his country and the Bush administration every chance he gets. He does, however, want the country to go to war in Darfur. In other words, George wants to decide where we fight. If it is wrong to go to war in one country why is it right to fight in another?

I can't believe these people, but more than that, I can't believe the people who idolize them.

I read in the paper, that this awards show garnered high ratings, and I know that some of the movies the celebrities were in have been highly successful. I guess I'm getting a little too old to understand.

The other night, I read that child star Dakota Fanning had just finished a movie in which she was raped. This young girl is all of 12 years old at the most. She not only appears in the rape scene, but is seen in several more

shots with very little clothing on. Her mother was on the set when the filming was done, and she was all for it, telling people it might win the tyke an academy award.

Oh well, that's different. It's all right to despoil your child if

there's an award at stake.

The movie is being filmed in North Carolina, and I'd like to know where the local police are.

Oh well, life goes on I guess. Just another day in the world of show business.

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