

Letters To The Editor

Plea From A Former Student

Dear Editor:

To the people of Kings Mountain, students, parents, teachers, this letter may not mean much but please think about it! I'm writing to the people of Kings Mountain, both races, as citizens of Kings Mountain, as the people of this town. Why can't we get along as a peaceful town? Not being afraid to be out by yourself after dark. We should stand tall and high, proud to say to other towns, "Our town's not bothered with racial problems, it's a loving town, a happy town, one we're proud of and happy to live in. We're as one, we get along and are happy. We go to school for an education, we respect the person beside us no matter what color." Please let our town be peaceful, let us get along and be proud and happy! Let our school be respectable. Let students from other towns say, "I wish our school was like Kings Mountain High." Let's not have to say it about other schools! Let our school be called "Good Ole KMHS" again. Let it be loved. We're suppose to love our school, not hate it! I'm a 1971 graduate of Kings Mountain High, but after what's happened this month I'm ashamed for people to know. This problem didn't just start this year. It's been there for some time, it just now broke out. I was proud of this school when I first started here, but now I'm not.

Our school doesn't even have school spirit anymore. It was gone last year. Why don't you students make "Good Ole KMHS" come back again and love it like our older brothers and sisters did. Be proud of it, make it respectable and beautiful and a desirable school again. Please! Be proud to say you graduated from KMHS. Let the rising High School students have wonderful High School years, and you be proud you made them that way. Respect your teachers and they'll respect you. Do something now before KMHS is completely destroyed! Start now making it wonderful. It's not hard to get along with blacks or whites. If all of you'd just give a little effort you can be a loving school and student body, not a hating one. Parents, some of the real trouble may have started with you. White folks say to their children, "Stay away from the black children. Then black folks tell their children to stay away from the white children. So you see the children of both races are taught at their homes from their own parents to hate the opposite race. Then before the children have a chance to meet and make friends, they're automatically hated just because of their color. That's not right! God made us all equal, to be treated equal. Then trouble comes from white girls dating black boys. That I don't agree with, nor does most of the town. But what can we do about it? Work together, all of us to solve our problems.

At our high school, there are four main groups and they are bad white boys and girls, bad black boys and girls, good white boys and girls, good black boys and girls. I know that's the wrong way to class them, but that's how it really is. The bad whites and blacks work against the good whites and blacks. The good try to work together and solve problems. But the bad blacks work against the bad whites which causes a terrible problem. All groups should combine as one group and work together solving problems not fighting them out. Fighting never solved anything. The whole student body should work together to make the school a school not a playhouse. I'm sure you could do it! If you just wanted to. Give in a little and help, pray and be happy. Stop rioting, fighting, and hating. Start a new beginning at KMHS.

Please won't you try to make our school and town a proud one. Please do something now before God takes our town from us!

Thank you,
A 1971 graduate of KMHS

"A Child Shall Lead Them"

Dear Sir:

Having read the captions "Police Restore Order to Tense KMHS" of the Mirror's edition of March 1, 1972, on page one. Having also read "Students Comment on Racial Flare-Up", page three, "Kings Mountain High-Lights" by Meredith McGill Reading this student's and that's opinion in regards to an answer to the difficult problem which our local high school has been confronted with. In paragraph four, by a young sophomore, Miss Gail Hightower, in which she is to be commended in a great sense of the word, quote: "There's so much hate. I guess the answer is for everyone to realize that there is a God, and that we must count on Him to help solve our problems!" End quote. In this statement lies the whole essence of not only the school problems which confronts America. Yet the problem which lies within the hearts of the leadership of our great nation. Leadership failure to accept the truth. America is at the Cross Road's. Again may I commend the young sophomore's death of the problem. I do not think, out of all the Editorizing, could this question have been answered more properly.

Respectfully,
Everette H. Pearson

Best Of Press

Nothing?
Nothing opens a person's eyes quicker than falling blindly in love.
-Herald, Decatur.

Accurate
A school teacher's description of her class of first graders: "It's like trying to keep 35 corks underwater at once."
-Record, Columbia, S.C.

Progress
It's taken baseball only a hundred years to learn all those names to call the umpire.
-News, Chicago.

Growing
Teen-agers act so silly right after you cease to be one of them.
-Herald, Dubuque, Ia.

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NEWS VIEWS

J.D. Hodgson, Secretary of Labor, on dock strikes: "We must have modern tools to deal with these crises that damage our vital transportation system."

Pat Nixon, wife of the President, visiting commune children: "You can tell them hello from all the children in America."

Richard M. Scammon, former Census Director, on paying for votes: "That kind of voter would not do the country any good."

George McGovern, Senator (D-SD), listing contributors: "The American people deserve to know who is paying for presidential candidates."

reflections

by Rodney Dodson



a real adventure for them.

dualized education programs.

Speaking of Gaffney, I noticed in the Gaffney Ledger that an eighteen-year-old senior at Gaffney High is running for a seat on the Cherokee County School Board. He is the youngest person ever to run for any office in that county. Wyatt says he is running because he sees many things that need to be changed in the public school system in the county, among them the student-teacher ratio and the need for individualized education programs.

First Union National Bank's idea of giving a free tree to anyone wanting one next Thursday and Friday is one of the best I've heard of recently.

More than just a good ecological move, the satisfaction to be gained from planting a seedling and watching it grow into a tall tree places great value on the small gift.

Sunday School Lesson

Empowered By Spirit

International Sunday School Lesson for March 12, 1972. LESSON TEXT: Acts 1:1 to 2:42.

Continuing our studies in the unit "The Origin of the Church", we find there is some dissension as to when the Church actually came into existence.

Some people feel that the Pentecostal event related in Acts 2, was the time of its inception, while others argue that Christ's Last Supper and His commission to His disciples were acts which acknowledged an EXISTING Church.

Regardless of these differing viewpoints, our Lesson today will be directed towards helping the individual interpret the events of Pentecost and relate them to the church as we know it in our own times.

In our studies throughout the Bible, we cannot fail to have noticed that all great events were heralded by signs from heaven... fire, rushing winds, a mighty voice. It was no different on the occasion of Pentecost. Reference is made to the descent of the Holy Spirit on the assembly, furnishing both authority and ability to witness. The "gift of tongues" was especially impressive and attention-getting, for although many groups spoke in their own particular language, yet all were able to understand what was taking place!

What an exciting time for the Church that must have been! Christ was God's saving work, and through the Spirit's activity, many were led into the brave new faith that was becoming known as Christianity! Pentecost does, indeed, illustrate the importance of fellowship in prayer and love. Needless to say, these qualities are equally important to the Church and to the community at large today. All too often, we allow our church to fall into a "ho-hum" position, when it comes to making its existence felt beyond its walls. The necessary vision which is essential to its growth is, alas, too often lacking -- and we have nobody to blame but ourselves, it being an inescapable fact that it is the congregation which sets the pace for their church.

We need to be stimulated as the Disciples were stimulated... we need the sense of inner excitement that was theirs, the sense of urgency! God has supplied His House with the power of the Holy Ghost -- we must supply the impetus for its use, so that it will not be wasted. We must continually condition ourselves to be His runners-carrying His word into the hearts and homes of our fellow men.

An active church must participate in both community and world affairs, and these are fertile fields, indeed, today! We live in what are too often violent times these days; when one picks up a newspaper, or watches television, or listens to the radio, we are met on every side by aggression and conflict. The Church cannot afford to be uninvolved in these days when "involvement" seems to be a universal battlecry. BUT WE MUST BE INVOLVED ON GOD'S SIDE!

That this will take both perception and courage is obvious. It will also take temperance and patience... and hard work. And should we get discouraged or dismayed, we need only to hold to the thought that Christ was God's saving work; through the Spirit's activity in us we are brought in faith to Jesus, and through the Spirit's activity in us we bring others to Him!

The power to witness is dormant within every Christian... we must not waste this gift. (These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

GOLDEN GLEAMS

A little wind kindles, much puts out the fire.
-George Herbert.

No weather's ill
If the wind be still.
-Thomas Fuller.

O Wind, a-blowing all day long.
O wind, that sings so loud a song!
-R.L. Stevenson.

Frontier FOOD NOTES

By Gene Cox - Historian, Kings Mtn. Military Park

Privateering Was Popular

The Loyalists of the American Revolution aided the British in every conceivable way. The British had used privateering long before the American Revolution with success. This method included the arming of merchant ships and letting them prey on the ships of the enemy. The victor got the spoils of battle and often after the war the privateers continued as pirates. However, during the early days of the American Revolution privateering had been discouraged by the British government as long as there was any hope of conciliating the Colonists; but, when that hope was gone, ready sanction was given to any means of making war a greater curse.

Oddly enough, the women who were loyal to the crown became involved. Early in 1779, the newspaper announced that some of the principal ladies of New York proposed to subscribe money for fitting out a privateer to be called (appropriately enough) the "Fair American." The editors remarked that there was no doubt that this privateer would be "extremely well manned with gallant youths." One newspaper thought the rebels ought to be ashamed to have aroused the indignation of the fair sex, "whose natural characteristics are gentleness and benevolence."

Broadside urged prospective recruits to call at various rendezvous to learn the advantages of privateering. The privateering service was evidently popular, for the commanders of the British fleet began to complain that the manning of the privateers was done at their expense. The reason being the recruits were being paid three pounds above the Kings Bounty and many British sailors were deserting to become privateers.

Washington Report

By Congressman James T. Broyhill

Busing, The China Trip

Once again public attention was focused on the school busing problem as the Senate considered several amendments to the Higher Education Bill. The debate started when Senator Griffin of Michigan offered a strong anti-busing amendment which, if passed, would have limited the Federal Courts' jurisdiction to impose busing as a means of achieving desegregation of public schools. After numerous votes and parliamentary maneuvers, this amendment was rejected by the Senate.

In its final action the Senate accepted a weak substitute amendment which stated only that federal funds could not be used for busing except when requested for this purpose by local officials. This amendment's only effect on the court would be to delay court action if more than one school district is involved. It now appears the only course of action remaining to deal with this question is the adoption of a Constitutional amendment. However, the adoption of a constitutional amendment is a lengthy process and the present attitude of the Senate offers slim hope that we can expect a Congressional solution to this

problem in the near future. I favor strong congressional guidelines on what our national policy should be. By failing to face up to the issue, all Congress does is to give up jurisdiction to the courts. It is the legislative branch of government which is closest to the people and decisions which affect the people such as busing of school children should remain under the jurisdiction of the elected representatives.

THE CHINA TRIP

President Nixon has recently returned from one of the epic journeys of our time-- the journey to China. This trip has aroused much interest-- interest on the part of the Americans who had an unprecedented opportunity to view the movements of the Presidential party by way of satellite-television coverage, interest on the part of the Chinese who had never before seen such a large party of American diplomats and newsmen and interest on the part of the rest of the world which has much to gain from a relaxation of world tensions.

The joint communique that was issued at the end of this

