# 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 mat-ter 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, butafter 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,

Our school doesn't even have school spirit anymore. It was gone last year. Why don't you students make "Good Ole KM-HS" 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 stav 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 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 ork 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. Storrioting, 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"

Having read the captions "Police Restore Order to Tense KM-HS" of the Mirror's edition of March1, 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 voung sophomore's depth of the problem. I do not think, out of all the Editorializing, could this question have been answered more properly.

Everette H. Pearson

### **Best Of Press**

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

-Record, Columbia, S.C.

**Progress** It's taken baseball only a hundred vears to learn all those names to call the um-

-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

Pat Nixon, wife of the President, visiting commune children:

crises that damage our vital transportation system.'

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

George McGovern, Senator (D-SD), listing contribu-

The American people deserve to know who is paying for presidential candi-

# reflections

by Rodney Dodson

Kings Mountain police offi-cers recovered two youths, ages 14 and 15 from a freight train when it stopped here Monday morning.

It seems the boys were only wanting to run away from home, and had made it all the way from Spartanburg.

They reportedly were plan-ning to get off in Gaffney where their grandmother lives, but went to sleep on the train.

It seems a pity the boys couldn't have made it at least to D.C. or New York or some-where- then it could have been a real adventure for them.

Speaking of Gaffney, I not-iced 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 re-

More than just a good eco-logical 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.

# New Legislature To Have Big Turnover

The North Carolina legislature is going to have a dra-matic new look when it con-venes for business in January

of next year.
At least half the people who served in the State Senate last year, will not be back in 1973. The turnover in the State House won't be quite so drastic but it will be the heaviest it has been in many years. Secretary of State Thad

Eure is taking a reading of the politicians who are running for reelection to the legislature and those who are

Eure didn't want to reveal the results of his study when I talked with him this week, but he did say there might be 25 or more new faces in the State Senate.

"There will not be a majority of new faces in the House, I don't think," Eure said, "But the turnover there will still be very significant."

Some of the people not coming back to the State Senate were active leaders in the Upper Chamber. Among them, Skipper Bowles, John Burney, John T. Church, Jack Baugh, Jyles Coggins, Ruffin Bailey, Claude Currie, J. Ollie Harris, Dr. Carl Killian, Hector McGeachy, and George Wood.

This is by no means the entire list. But these men, in most instances, were legislative leaders.

Their reasons for not coming back differ -- some are running for another political office. But there seems to be a common denominator among most of them. The legislature

takes up too much time. Says Secretary of State re: "Many of these men Eure: just can't take the time away from making a living that it takes to serve in the legislature this day and time. The only ones you can really count on for are those who have been striken with the political bug and can't get shed of it." islature is a complete new ballgame. It used to be that a man serving in the legislature could go to Raleigh every other year for five months islature staved in session for seven months, and even at that it didn't get around to settling the controversial matter of no-fault insurance and a special session had to be called to restructure higher education.

The demands on a legislator's time don't stop there. In addition to being in session longer and longer, legislators are now called on to make more speaking engagements, to work more closely with their local governing bodies even when the legislature isn't in session, and matters pertaining to state government to their attention by mail or telephone almost

And then there's the matter of campaigning. Not long ago a person trying to win election to the legislature didn't have to spend a great deal of time on the campaign trail. Now, most face a stiff battle in the primary and in the general

A man running for a legislative position now must count on about five months of active campaigning and this means more time away from his bus-

"It also means more money to be spent getting elected," Eure says. "The cost of campaigning keeps going up, year after year. This is not only true for those seeking state office, but even for those who run for local offices. It costs too much money to run for political office and many men and women just can't afford it. And if they're elected, they have to sacrifice more time and money away from their business."

Many politicians believe the North Carolina legislature is going to have to go to annual sessions that adjourn after three months of work. This could be done, they contend, if the machinery of the legislature were put into motion and matters handled with

Some also believe that legislators are going to have to be paid more money, so they won't have to draw on personal funds while serving in Ral-

eigh. "But if salaries for legislators go up too high," Eure says, "the taypayers are going to howl."

There are no simple answers. But the fact that about half of the legislators who served in 1971 aren't returning for 1973, is a clear indication that reform is needed and quickly.

#### **Political** Notes

Labor Leader Wilbur Hobby, now a candidate for Governor, says if elected, he'll fire Elections Board Executive Secretary Alex Brock.

I asked Brock how he reacts to Hobby's blast. "I've been too busy to have any reaction," he said.

Another gubernatorial candidate, Dr. Reginald Hawkins, tells me he thinks Pat Taylor should resign as lieutenant governor and Hobby should resign as president of the North Carolina AFL-CIO if they are to stay in the race for

"I think both men have ser-

ious conflicts of interest at this time," Hawkins says.

Jim Vogler of Mecklenburg will be seeking his 15th term in the State House in this year's election... Jimmy Johnson, the Republican run-ning for the U.S. Senate, went to Fayetteville for a GOP rally. That's Jesse Helms Country. Says Johnson: got a great reception. I really

Johnson, by the way, will name an eight-man board of directors to direct his Senate

campaign. One of those to be named to the board is Jim Carson, a former member of the State House from Charlotte and a long-time friend of Carson.

You can look for Jim Gardner to pick up in his cam-paigning in coming days. Some Gardner people feel certain that Jim Holshouser is going to be extremely tough to beat and they want Gardner to quit worrying about the Democrats and start doing what it has to do to win the GOP primary.

Wade Smith, a former North Carolina football player, and now a Raleigh attorney, has announced as a Democratic candidate for the State House from Wake County. Smith was a member of the UNC team that beat Duke 50-0 in 1959. Smith is known in Raleigh

picker in town.

# **Washington Report**

By Congressman James T. Broyhill

#### Busing, The China Trip

problem in the near future.

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 antibusing amendment which, if 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 Sen-

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 pur-pose 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 lenghty pro-However, the cess and the present attitude of the Senate offers slim hope that we can expect a Con-gressional solution to this

I favor strong congressional guidelines on what our natonal 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 repre-

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-telecoverage, interest on the part of the Chinese who had never before seen such a large party of American dip lomats and newsmen and interest on the part of the rest of the world which has much to gain from a relaxation of



"Let's put in an order for some money."

visit sums up those areas in which both the Chinese and the Americans believe that progress can be made. Both sides agreed that countries, regardless of their social systems, should conduct their relations on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states. In addition, it was a-greed that a broadening of un-derstanding between these two great nations would be mu-tually beneficial. Bilateral trade was also discussed but no agreements were made. The two sides agreed that they will stay in contact with each other through various chan-nels, including the possibility of a roving representative who would travel to Peking from time to time for concrete consultation to further the normalization of relations and continue the exchange of views begun by President Nixon's

I believe that this attempt to normalize relations with Chinese is a worthwhile first step in the long road toward easing world tensions.

Last week the Transportation and Aeronautics sub-committee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee defeated by a narrow 6-5 vote a legislative proposal which should have extended the President's authority to deal with nationwide transportation strikes. I am indeed disappointed in this action, for I feel there is a legislation in this field which would give the President binding authority to take action to halt another serious transpears unlikely the Congress will move to accept its responsibility in this area during this session of Congress.

The President has indicated that we are now traveling down the long road toward improved relations with the Chin people and certainly this trip was a successful beginning.

## **Empowered By Spirit**

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

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

to 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 ack-nowledged an EXISTING

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 oc-casion of Pentecost. Reference is made to the descent of the Holy Spirit on the assemblage, furnishing both authority and ability to witness. "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 qual-ities 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" posi-

tion, 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. 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 runnerscarrying His word into the hearts and homes of our fel-

An active church must particinate in both community and world affairs, and these are fertile field, 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 disgression 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

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

(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 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 merchants ships and letting the 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 benevol-

Broadsides urged prospective recruits to call at various rendezovous to learn the advantages of privateering. The privat-eering 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.