

Letters to the editor

"Let sleeping dogs lie"

To the editor:

There is an old saying: "Let sleeping dogs lie." But there is one sleeping dog the concerned parents had better not let lie.

That is the sleeping dog of sex education which crept in our school system and wants to lie there undisturbed.

There is a move in this nation to break up the family and destroy morality, and the supporters of sex education are in the middle of the move if not pushing it.

We are told that the "law" mandates the teaching of sex education in the public school system. The law may be on the books, but if parents protest and sue the school board they can be made to take sex education out of the school system.

This was done in 1976 in the New Hartford School System in the State of New York by a vote of 6-1 of the school board.

The health department is pushing the teaching of sex education and involved in the program of contraceptives. On "Good

Morning America," (8-6-79) a prominent sociologist who made a study on the effectiveness of sex education program and the program to teach the use of contraceptives, said, this year there will be 1 million pregnant ten-aged girls. There will be 1 out of 4 over the age of 14 getting pregnant. He went on to say the program is a failure and the only thing that would stop it was a moral revolution in this nation. He said the attempts to withhold information from parents involving the sexual activity of their teenage children was an attempt to take the children away from the parents.

Sex education has been taught in the school system for the past 10 years and each year the rate of pregnancy for teenage girls increases.

We as parents had better not let that dog lie, we had better wake up if we want moral control of our children.

FLOYD N. SEAY
Kings Mountain

Welcome back kids

Dear Editor,

I thought the last day of school would never come (and when it did I thought it would never end). I was up to my scholarly eyebrows with paper grading, milk breaking, and bathroom taking. The year had been an exciting and busy one. Lots of positive events had taken place in my school and I was proud to be a part of them. However, by that last week I was ready for and needed a break.

The summer has been full of adventure. I have been just as busy as I ever thought about being last spring, but with different activities; activities that have given my mind and body a calming rest from the hustle and bustle of school events.

As I relax here in the sun, soaking in all of nature's cool breezes, fresh scents, and delightful warmth; I hear the playful cries of happy children somewhere in the distance. My pulse quickens and I strain to

hear the sounds that I had longed to forget just a few months earlier. Could it be that I was actually missing the sound of my name ringing through the air amid a background of small energetic voices? Or how about the time and effort it took to construct really effective lesson plans that would motivate children to learn? Was I missing that? Or what about the weekly fluoride rinse? Surely I couldn't be missing that!

I know. The necessary element in our school system, the whole reason for its existence; the unique and extraordinary children who hold it together, that's who I miss. The challenge of shaping young minds—that's what I miss.

The summer has been refreshing. Now I'm eager for a new beginning. So...Welcome Back Kids!

A Ready-To-Go-Again Teacher.

Name Withheld
By Request

Wilson said he remembered Mr. Page and confirmed that he was a literate man with a dry wit and the ability to laugh at himself.

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On the front page there is a boxed story that declares Kings Mountain is the largest town in Cleveland County...

"...According to the last census the population of Shelby is 3,600. The combined population of Kings Mountain and East Kings Mountain is given as 3,600. When we recently extended our limits we took in all these folks and about five hundred more and still left out the population of three mills, oh boy! So now we have the largest town in the county, and by all odds, the best one."

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Editor Page's lead story for this issue was

TOM MCINTYRE



Kings Mountain—the largest town in Cleveland County?

Once again we dip into the past via an ancient issue of The Kings Mountain Herald—this one courtesy of Wilson Griffin.

These yellowed and cracked four pages were published on Thurs., Feb. 22, 1923 and may be of interest to some of the older KMsers with strong memories.

G.G. Page was the editor, and in my opinion, he is one of the better hometown wits I have read while leafing through old newspapers.

on Attorney J.R. Davis. The headline stated: "Davis Doing Fine Work." The subhead stated: "J.R. Davis of Cleveland County is Pushing Constructive Measures in Legislature."

The story continues...

"...Following are some of the measures Mr. Davis has been active in and are of local import. Extending the limits of the town of Kings Mountain; authorizing the city council to call an election on the issuance of school bonds not to exceed \$80,000 making it unlawful to use profane or obscene language on the public highways of Cleveland County; to prohibit carnivals in Cleveland County. These measures are all thorough and are laws. He is also doing what he can to get the bill through to make the state laws conform to the Volstead Act. That bill has gone through the House and will be acted upon in the Senate this week. That looks like Davis is behaving himself pretty well at the state capital..."

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Turning to page two, the editorial page, we find that Editor Page was not remiss in pointing out how things were going in the community, and at the same time blowing his own horn about some things accomplished.

"...It is gratifying to see how the people have turned away from mail order houses and other towns and are spending their

money right here in Kings Mountain. Last May The Herald inaugurated a "Trade At Home" campaign that is to last through a whole year. We have tried every way we know how to get the people of our town and community to spend their money here where they earn it. The proportion has increased, we are sure, and we take credit for a part of it. Part of the credit goes to the merchants who have tried harder to keep what the folks want. They have not advertised in proportion to what merchants do in other towns but a good return has been gained on what has been done. We invite you to again read the names of those who are helping to put over this trade at home campaign. They appear on this page from week to week. Go trade and tell them that you are with them in their efforts to build a city here."

Griffin Drug Co. was one of the companies involved in the trade at home campaign. That was the late E.W. Griffin Sr.

Some things haven't changed all that much, because E.W. Griffin Jr. is in there pitching for a continual trade at home program just like his pop.

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One little tidbit in the old issue points up Editor Page's philosophical thinking... "It takes a truly brave man to sidetrack a fight when he knows he could lick the other fellow."

Don't go away—See North Carolina this year !

At a time when resort areas across the United States are closing their doors and going bankrupt from lack of business, North Carolina's tourism industry is rebounding with record crowds from perhaps the most disastrous summer in its history.

Struck hard by bad weather, multiple oil spills off its resort beaches, a series of dead fish dumpings, the gasoline shortage and economic uncertainties, North Carolina's attractions have used resourcefulness to reclaim a large share of lost business.

It has come back from an estimated 20 to 30 percent drop in visitation during May, June, and early July to pull almost even with last year's record-breaking numbers, according to the State's Division of Travel and Tourism.

"There's one thing for certain," says State Travel Director Bill Arnold. "North Carolina's travel industry isn't suffering from any lack of energy where it counts—there's no ingenuity crisis here."

Arnold says that if gains continue to accumulate at the pace shown since mid-July, the state's tourism revenues could very well be closed to the \$2 billion mark in 1979, as it was a year ago—despite the gasoline shortage and other problems.

"If what President Carter says is true—that the country is suffering a spiritual crisis and a lack of confidence—then, the nation

could learn a few things from North Carolina's tourist industry," Arnold says.

Chief example of the industry's approach to turning adversity into advantage, Arnold says, are the antics of Ermon Godwin, a respectable banker from Dunn who dons bib overalls and goes a little berserk every year as the guiding force behind the National Hollerin' Contest at Spivey's Corner.

"This year, the contest was hit with a torrential downpour, which wiped out most of its visitation. That probably hurt them more than the gasoline situation," Arnold says. "Because Spivey's Corner only has one service station. But Ermon brought national attention to Spivey's Corner by making a bid for the 1980 Olympics (which was turned down), offering the Shah of Iran asylum (which was ignored), and preparing for Skylab's landing at Spivey's Corner."

Godwin got three minutes on national network television news the day before Skylab fell, by placing a huge X on a field, assembling a crew of hollers, and con dogs to bay at the satellite, and offering to sell tickets and hard-hats to visitors who wanted to attend the grand crash.

Further evidence that Godwin's unusual approach to tourism is effective is the fact that Hollerin' Contest winners have been on the Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin, and Mike Douglas network shows countless times and Godwin himself has appeared on "To Tell The Truth" seventeen times.

Think that's strange? In the tiny seaport village of Beaufort, "The Annual Strange Seafood Spectacular" draws crowds every year who come to sample fried squid, stingray casserole, left-handed wheel chowder and the like; and then there's the annual "Mule Day" festival at the farming town of Benson every year which attracts thousands to honor that cantankerous animal, which, Arnold notes "doesn't run on gas and, sometimes, doesn't run at all."

The mountain resort city of Asheville, Arnold points out, has mounted a \$25,000 radio, tv and print campaign pushing its "Cool, Green" image, and has had amazing support from the entire business community. "Everybody from the motels, to moving and storage companies, to morticians have gotten into the act," Arnold says. "They're utilizing hot air balloons, stickers, buttons, and free vacation giveaways—and the results right now are that the place is booked solid. They're full-up."

At the nearby Boone and Blowing Rock areas, where there have been 24 consecutive weekends of precipitation—some of it snow—attractions have been doing television, pointing up the availability of gasoline. Crowds there, while not back to normal, have been inching up somewhat in the past few weeks, Arnold said. "And now they've got the world's largest windmill to promote—and they're doing it."

Similar programs have helped the Outer Banks come back from uncertain gasoline supplies and three separate unrelated oil spills since June. Radio, Television and print announcements—and carefully worked-out

agreements with local gasoline stations to remain open around the clock and on weekends—has begun to result in a new influx of visitors.

The South Brunswick Islands and Calabash resort areas, down by 25 percent several weeks ago, are now once again seeing crowds of Canadians, and out-of-state plates from the northeast and midwest, Arnold says.

something called "Den-tourism" in the area—whereby a visitor could visit golf courses, attractions, stay at first-class motels or hotels, and get a set of economical false teeth all for a package price."

Other signs of the comeback Arnold pointed to were unexpected massive crowds at the July Highland Games at Grandfather Mountain; an all-time high 182,000 visitors at the Charlotte Motor Speedway for the World

residents who, Arnold says "have been cooped up all summer, irritated over gasoline lines", who recently have seen those lines disappear.

"I think we'll get our share of them," Arnold says, "and somebody else's too, if we can."

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"Take My Vacation... Please."

The Wilmington, Topsail, Wrightsville Beach, and Atlantic Beach areas, which have been peppering the Piedmont area of the state and portions of South Carolina with frequent announcements have entertained record crowds in mid-summer, although they concede that some nearby attractions and restaurants have had a drop-off in the usual spill-over trade.

Arnold said he wasn't sure to what extent one seemingly off-the-wall promotion in the Wilmington area had affected the upswing in business, but said he had to admire the concept: "At one time they were selling

600; a healthy increase in visitation at the Carowinds Theme Park in Charlotte for the year; packed accommodations at Maggie Valley, and business-as-usual at the state's highly-respected Sandhills golf areas of Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

The Division of Travel and Tourism will launch an intensive media campaign in coming weeks, Arnold says, which should help. Public service radio, television, print and billboard messages will carry the intriguing notice to North Carolinians: "Don't Go Away. See North Carolina This Year." And out-of-state ads will be carried in metropolitan areas within a 200-mile radius of the state, aimed at luring those potential



SUMMER'S HOT TIME

Summer lights a starry sky
A full moon beaming down,
Katy-dids in every tree
is making the summer sound.
Birds sing from the treetops
birds fly overhead,
Raindrops jump up and down
their trampoline is a flower bed.

Summer sends warm messages
through her frequent heat waves,
Charms us with her pretty designs
then leaves us in a daze.
Butterflies make over the flowers
humming birds come to dine,
Moments of golden sunshine
I dare to claim as mine.

Summer cracks the lightning
to set ablaze the sky,
Then selects a favorite cloud
to shine in a rainbow tie,
The brook in the meadow murmurs
about the ocean's rising tide,
and reminds me not to mention
the sun is out to tan your hide.

VIVIAN S. BILTCLIFFE

What's your opinion?

We want to hear your opinion on things of interest to you. Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P.O. Box Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N.C., 28086. Be sure and sign proper name and include your address. Unsigned letters will not be published.