

Kings Mountain Herald

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EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Let's dig deeper, KM

Come on, Kings Mountain, let's all dig a little deeper.

The United Fund needs our support. The campaign at this point should be winding up but is almost \$20,000 short of its \$55,000 goal.

We know the economy is bad. There's talk of recession. All of us have to stretch our dollars to make ends meet.

But it is times such as these that we need to sacrifice a little more...dig a little deeper...do without that unnecessary carton of cigarettes or tank of gas and give those few extra dollars to someone who really needs them more than we.

Just a little sacrifice from all of us can go a long way.

Newspaper week

Honest newspapers—and Majority are—recognize as their duty the reporting of the news and particularly on public matters, the duty of interpreting the news via the editorial columns.

Once upon a time many newspapers took the position they were infallible and



GARY STEWART

If you see a young man going around town on weekends with an arm full of cameras and lenses, chances are it's Rick McDaniel.

Rick is a Kings Mountain man who is photo editor of Western Carolina University's student newspaper, the Western Carolinian.

Martin Harmon, the late editor of the Herald, used to say he had a "good ear for news." If every good newsman has to have a good ear for the news, I suppose every good photographer has to have a good eye for pictures.

Rick, who was home a couple of weekends ago covering the 199th celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain for the Western Carolinian, certainly has the knack of snapping good pictures, as evidenced by some of his work in the Carolinian.

He brought several copies by the office the other day to ask our opinion on the students' work, and I'd have to say it's excellent...especially the photography.

Rick does an outstanding job shooting Western Carolina football games, and has a super double-page photo spread in each issue.

He had a taste of the big time recently when the paper sent him to the South Carolina coast to cover Hurricane David. And he liked it. He's going to make some newspaper an excellent photographer.

-00-

Mike Nappi, supervisor of the KM Parks and Recreation Department, has been taking some good-natured ribbing lately.

Mike, a former high school coach, officiates football in his spare time and a couple weeks ago helped ref the Kings Mountain-Crest game.

The first call he had to make was an offensive interference call against the Mountaineers, which didn't exactly please the KM fans.

"Wouldn't you know, it would have to happen on my first whistle and right in front of the Kings Mountain bench," Mike said. "It was close, but it looked to me like the Kings Mountain boy hit the other boy on the shoulder."

It was a close call, but Mike called it the way he saw it without considering who was playing.

"You know, the last team I want to call is Kings Mountain," he said, "but it happened that week that one of the officials had an emergency and I was named to replace him."

a retraction of previous published fact was seldom seen.

Happily, this situation no longer exists, the newspaper realizing that perfection is yet to be attained by any mortal man.

Newspapering is as simple as this. The reporter is the representative of the people. His job is to attend the meetings, report the events that the man in the street is prevented by other duties from attending himself.

It's the job of the Kings Mountain Herald and all other newspapers worthy of the name.

On the occasion of National Newspaper Week, the Herald rededicates our statement of policy one aim, to present to the subscribers of the Kings Mountain Herald a gradually improving newspaper which will serve the interests of no particular groups of interests, unless that group or interest represents the will of all the people of this city and its environs.

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CONGRATULATIONS

The Herald adds its congratulations to the winners in last Tuesday's election and its commendations to the losers for their interest in giving the incumbents a race which brought 1,400 to the polls.

Tuesday's election is not the last for this season, for upcoming in the school board election, where three candidates - Paul Hord, Jr., Bill Moss and Harold Lineberger - are seating the outside district seat on the board of education now held by Alex Owens. And, in neighboring Grover citizens will be electing next month a mayor and five ward commissioners from 12 candidates.

It seems inconceivable that thinking citizens and the number would surprise would fail to take sufficient interest in such matters as going to the polls to vote.

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Congratulations to Melany Clark, KMSHS Carrousel Princess, who will represent the city in the annual Carolinas Carrousel Thanksgiving Day parade in Charlotte. Miss Clark is a pretty young lady and talented as well.

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Attend the Kings Mountain Exhibit now on display in the Community Room of the Cleveland County Historical Museum in the old Courthouse in Shelby. It's well worth the drive to the county seat to see this colorful display of our history during the early years.

-00-

The members of the Woman's Club are staging tomorrow (Wednesday) one of its "biggest and best ever" floral fairs at the Woman's Club. This annual event, which also features lunch and dinner, is always a popular one in Kings Mountain and attracts fair-goers from a large area who are eager to see exhibits in crafts, flowers, and hand made bazaar items.

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Hats off to Senator J. Ollie Harris, who has received the coveted Distinguished Service Award of the North Carolina Public Health Association, and to Bob Bridges, tapped as the new president of the North Carolina Automotive Wholesalers Association.

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The Herald adds its sympathy to the large family of the late Lafayette I. Eaker, 91. Mr. Eaker had called Kings Mountain home almost all his life, was a dedicated family man and churchman at El Bethel United Methodist Church, and a retired farmer. In eulogizing Mr. Eaker at funeral services Thursday his pastor paid high tribute to Mr. Eaker in comparing him to the example set by Job. "This was a good man."

Columns bringing bad luck...

I do not claim to be a soothsayer or even endowed with that female brand of the national common superstition known as "women's intuition" but it is quite possible that I should have seen Madame Zingha or some other visionary before I started writing columns for this page.

The last two column subjects have brought me nothing but bad luck.

A couple weeks ago I wrote a piece about quotes I had picked up from actual accident reports at the local police station over the past 20 years, the "excuses" drivers give to investigating officers after accidents, noting that people are the same the world over, in that respect.

The ink had hardly dried on that editorial page when I (and my old 1974 gold Buick) were victims of a hit and run driver on rain-slick Compact School Road. Thankfully, I was only "shook up" but the entire left side of "Lizzie" was damaged to the tune of \$1200. When I saw that the oncoming fast-moving vehicle was about to hit me head-on I held my breath and started praying. The driver whizzed by, didn't stop, but somewhere there is a car with gold paint on it's driver's side.

The late Editor Martin Harmon has told me more than once (and I should have listened); never play up accidents and safety records. He shuddered everytime the city passed a year without an accident and called for a picture citing the honor. Who knows when the shoe will be on the other foot?

Continuing with my bad luck story, last Tuesday this column subject was intended to officially open the month of October which is full of many observances, including National Newspaper Week and the headline writer entitled that piece, "Newspaper Typos Are Embarrassing To Reporters Also." I had mentioned that birth, marriage and death are three important events which our editors caution us to "get right in the paper."



Lib Stewart

Well, to make a long story short, the gremlins got in the typewriter again.

Regretfully, we omitted from the account of the funeral services of Dr. D.F. Hord his surviving sisters, Mrs. H. Tom Fulton and Mrs. George Moss, both of Kings Mountain, and honorary pallbearers, including Dan Finger, dental colleagues of Dr. Hord, members of the Kiwanis Club, the Men's Bible Class and Deacons of Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

Charlie Campbell, a longtime friend, brought his granddaughter's wedding picture by the Herald for last week's Thursday edition. We were happy to use the beautiful bride's picture but the story appeared in print that the bride, Barbara Williford (Mrs. Richard Barton Akin) was great-granddaughter of Charles B. Campbell and the late Mrs. Campbell.

"You moved me up another generation," Charlie kidded us.

Actually, Charlie doesn't have a great-granddaughter old enough to walk down the aisle as a bride. His only great-granddaughter, pictured in this column, is Heather Lynn Ferguson of Wilmington, Delaware, who celebrated her third birthday Sept. 27. She is granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Campbell, Jr. also of Wilmington, Del.



HEATHER FERGUSON

Typographical errors are indeed embarrassing. Ofttimes when we try to correct them, the worse they become.

A printer's simple typographical error got Kings Mountain nation-wide attention some years ago. A missing "g" in the headline on a ticket for a Saturday night "All Night Singing" changed the ticket to "All Night Sinning." By the time some imaginative publicity seekers and tongue-in-cheek newsmen finished with it, the All Night Singing was an advance sell-out, new tickets had to be printed, and news of the approaching sinning spree was spread to the four corners of the United States, at least.

I can't take blame for that mistake. I was working at The Herald at the time but our printshop didn't print the tickets. Thank goodness.

Tomorrow will be a better day.

Letters to the editor

Grateful for affection and respect...

To the editors,

We will always be grateful for the outpouring of affection and respect that we have felt during this trying time.

Many people have been so helpful and kind. We were truly overwhelmed with the way friends and relatives rallied around us. We also appreciate the work the city crew did around the Kings Mountain Baptist Church.

During the funeral procession, the policemen, as is their custom, removed their hats as we passed by and we were deeply touched.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

THE FAMILY OF DR. D.F. HORD

Service above self

To the editors,

I appreciate the review you gave to my address to the Kings Mountain Rotary Club in your September 18 issue.

I will appreciate it if you will allow me to correct your statement that Rotary's philosophy is "Service of Self" to read "Service Above Self." We believe that he profits most who serves others best.

Sincerely yours,

PETER H. GERNES, GOVERNOR
District 767
Rotary International

Salutes papers

To the editor:

I take my licks from the newspapers now and then, so it might surprise some people that I'm writing this letter to salute National Newspaper Week (Oct. 7-13).

But I recognize that the press is valuable precisely because it does make those of us in government uncomfortable sometimes. It keeps us on our toes, and it forces us to face up to our mistakes and shortcomings.

I think the scrutiny of the press has helped me be a better Governor. Newspapers frequently bring to my attention problems that I might not have known about otherwise. Sometimes they cause me to take a second look at a program or policy.

Good government is impossible without free and open debate. And free and open debate is impossible without good newspapers.

Throughout my administration, I have

held weekly press conferences in Raleigh—almost 150 of them so far. In addition, I meet with the local press whenever I travel around the state.

That is a means of making the Governor accountable to the people: I have to answer their questions about things that are important to individual citizens, and you can read my answers.

Those encounters with the press help me stay on top of what's happening. I know that, every week, I have to be prepared for the tough questions and the troublesome issues. I know my administration has benefitted from that.

Let us remember that there are no special "rights" for the press. Issues such as open meetings and access to public officials involve the fundamental rights of every person to know what is going on in government. By fighting for open meetings or open courtroom proceedings, the press is fighting for the rights of all of us.

What would it be like, in our country, if we could not know—from an objective and independent source—what is going on in our government?

I know what it would be like. I experienced that when I served as an economic adviser to the government of Nepal in Asia in the 1960s. Some days, you would look for the paper, and it wouldn't be there because the government had closed it down.

I learn a lot about what's happening across North Carolina from newspapers. That is why I read four or five every day, and whenever I'm in your area, I look for your local paper. A lot of times, I go back after reading them with a lot of questions for my Cabinet secretaries and other members of my administration.

It's so easy to get out of touch in Raleigh and to forget that what really matters is the impact state government is having in the thousands of neighborhoods and communities across North Carolina. Newspapers help keep us in touch.

So I invite all the readers of this newspaper to take a minute and think about what you would be missing if somebody did stop the presses.

Sincerely,

JAMES B. HUNT
Governor

Kennedy, repent!

To the editors,

Is Sen. Ted Kennedy running for president of the United States of America? Well, the news media already has proclaimed his candidacy: just the other week we heard on the air that Kennedy has gone too far in committing himself to his supporters, he

cannot step back any more. "Maiden Times" community newspaper in its last week's issue pronounced him the president on the second page of the newspaper. And his supporters, the democrats, so we hear and so we read, favor Ted Kennedy (or-the Kennedy myth) over Jimmy Carter.

True, the President's cabinet members are not, most of them, first rate economists, diplomats or even politicians. The President, obviously, has often been ill-advised, and his own statesmanship hasn't earned an "A", but then his presidency has fallen in hard times; if Ted Kennedy were the president, the nation would, probably-God forbid-be in shambles, looking like a disaster area "from sea to shining sea." But speaking realistically, where does the Ted Kennedy leadership show up? In a recent interview with the American Associated Press, he admitted that he had one of the best records in Congress for support of Carter's programs. Of course, as a politician of his kind he put a "but I think" in the next sentence. We know, what this country of ours needs if not the Ted Kennedy's type good talker (after all, his speeches are written by his staff) but a leader which can recognize proven realities and deal with them. Neither one of these two men are able to do that. And certainly Ted Kennedy with the "Chappaquiddick syndrome" when the drowning Mary Jo Kopechne was left to her fate and the "gentleman at the steering wheel" (Ted Kennedy) run away from the girl-victim and for some eight hours was trying to figure out "what to do" is a moral issue and, in addition, he proved his disability to act in crisis conditions. (Only Sen. Kennedy could get away with it, "an average person" would not have escaped punishment by the law).

President Carter did the right thing saying that in public just recently that he wouldn't have panicked in the crisis-as Kennedy did, he meant. (But was it only panic?) But Carter was wrong trying to water down his statement that Chappaquiddick would not be a campaign issue. It must be a campaign issue if Sen. Ted Kennedy becomes a candidate. In that case we can neither forgive nor forget him Chappaquiddick.

The Ted Kennedy for president promoters should better repent for his and their own sins, our nation under God has too much to risk going down with Ted Kennedy.

DR. VALDIS MEZEZERS
Iron Station

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, Kings Mountain 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.