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Letters to the editors Three cheers for North

Dear Editor,

After reading about concerns dealing with North School, I would like to share some positive thoughts.

Because of a temporary transfer from East School, I had the opportunity of teaching at North for the 1979-80 school year. During that time I became increasingly aware of a group of energetic, innovative teachers. And it didn't stop there! Working with teachers to motivate learning were

dedicated aides, lunchroom workers, secretaries, and a very efficient custodial staff. All of these people shared the responsibility of teaching our children. That's winning combination! I would be proud for my child to attend such a school.

So... Three cheers for Mr. Allison and the terrific faculty and staff of North School.

Sincerely,
Cindy Wood
East School

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS Your blood is needed

Each day of the year, nearly 26,000 units of whole blood or packed red cells are transfused to patients in the United States. This flow of life-giving substance has only one source: the individual blood donors. About 95 percent of all the blood made available for transfusions is donated by about 5 percent of the country's total population.

However, the small source dwindles even further as individual blood donors tend to take a holiday during this season when the need for blood actually

increases.

This is by way of a reminder from the Cleveland County American Red Cross Chapter to give a pint of blood. Mrs. Martha Scruggs, executive secretary, said that blood collections have been so low that the Charlotte regional office has notified all chapters to plan emergency visits. Mrs. Scruggs said that 992 pints of blood is required each day to fill the demand in this region yet only 200-400 pints per day is being donated.

Blood can be donated at the Red Cross office in Shelby, through community blood banks or at the local hospital.

Small voices count

THEY say you can't fight city hall. They're wrong.

Any observer of the local scene knows that when a group of citizens speaks to a city council or county commission, most of the time the politicians, being politicians, listen.

EXAMPLE: Although they cited reasons other than public displeasure with a newly instituted \$5 monthly garbage fee, Gastonia City councilmen did kill the thing following protests and rallies by put-upon taxpayers.

Example: Gaston County commissioners reversed a decision against supporting a regional library for blind and handicapped persons after a dozen or so blind persons made some phone calls and showed up at a recent commission meeting.

Example: Last year, commissioners voted twice to get rid of the dump box program only to reverse themselves on a third vote and keep the boxes. Commissioners had received many phone calls, letters and, in one case, some garbage on the front lawn.

Example: Commissioners ditched both a proposed zoning plan around Crowders Mountain State Park and a plan to create a sewer and water district south of Gastonia following large, negative responses at public hearings.

EXAMPLE: Gastonia's City Council reversed a decision of its planning and zoning board a few months ago by deciding not to build a public housing complex. Opposing neighbors had crammed City Hall.

The point here is that so often people complain of elected leaders doing as they please without regard for public sentiment. Sometimes they do. But more often, councilmen and commissioners are reluctant to brave the outrageous slings and arrows of civic criticism.

While it might seem that city and county officials raise taxes at every turn, their desire not to do so one year often results in a big jump the next.

IN CASE you hadn't noticed, and maybe it's only coincidence, Gaston commissioners raised county taxes a nickel last year when nobody was standing for re-election. This year, when your face voters — no tax increase.

Gastonia councilmen, facing election in just the opposite years, kept the lid on last year before municipal elections and blew it off in a big way this year, more than a year before they face voters again.

Probably just coincidence.

Of course there have been times when elected officials flew in the face of criticism. In December, commissioners unanimously voted to establish a New Generation child health care committee despite an overflow crowd of protesters. In that case, commissioners saw the issue as a political one: Fellow Democratic Gov. Jim Hunt's child health care plan vs. the mostly fundamentalist-Christian opposition.

If people only knew how much real power they can wield through a simple phone call or appearance before an elected board, they'd be amazed. Politicians don't like swimming against the current; that way lies election day drowning.

IF YOU still don't believe your small voice makes a difference, just look at John Jenkins. Almost singlehandedly, Jenkins has created more headlines and gotten more reaction from city and county officials than has the entire Republican Party.

With a little energy, and a little organization, you, too, can fight city hall.

The Gastonia Gazette

It's not the school, it's the principal of the thing...

School principals and administrators, like politicians and newspapermen, find it impossible to please everyone. There are usually two sides involved in any decisions they make, and their decisions will be criticized by one of those sides.

Margaret McCarter, a local teacher, passes along these thoughts by George C. Thawley on principals:

The school principal, like all other educators, should expect to please no one. All too often he is caught on the horns of a dilemma regardless of the action he takes, or fails to take.

If he reports to school early, he has insomnia; if he leaves school late, he is a slow worker.

If he attends sports events, he is overemphasizing athletics; if he misses an event, he has no school spirit.

If he corrects a teacher, he's always picking on someone; if he doesn't correct teachers, he's a weak administrator.

If he has a friendly personality, he's a showoff; if he's quiet, he is anti-social.

If he calls a meeting, he has no regard for teacher time; if he doesn't call meetings, he doesn't believe in democratic administration.

If he makes quick decisions and follows up, he is an autocrat, if he is slow in making a decision, he is indecisive.

If he visits a classroom, he is being nosy; if he doesn't visit the classroom, he doesn't care what's going on.

If he buys a new car, he must be overpaid; if he doesn't have a new car, he must be a miser.

If he speaks up for some new program, he's on the bandwagon; if he's cautious about change, he's living in the past.

If he suspends a student, he doesn't understand children; if he doesn't he's a weak disciplinarian.

If he uses the public address system, he likes to hear himself talk; if he doesn't he fails to keep his staff informed.

If he attends community affairs, he's a politician; if he doesn't he has poor public relations.

When he attends conferences of principals, he's goofing off; when he doesn't he's unprofessional.

If he checks with the superintendent, he hasn't a mind of his own; if he seldom checks, he's assuming too much authority.

If he regularly has a hot lunch, he's not watching his weight; if he seldom has a hot lunch, the school lunches aren't good enough for him.

If he phones there's no school on a snowy morning, why did he wait so long; if he doesn't call he must be driving a snow plow to school.

If he's young, he got a lot to learn; if he's old he just doesn't have it anymore.

But take heart, fellows. Keep giving your best, for no matter what you do there are those who will always say, "It isn't the school that's to blame, it's the principal of the thing."

And, while on the subject of education, and for all those out there who are statistical nuts, there are some interesting figures being compiled by the North Carolina Association of Educators on the number of black teachers and administrators in North Carolina public schools.

Educators from 17 states participated in a "Minority Teacher Displacement" symposium at the NEA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., two weeks ago. The two-day conference focused on problems surrounding the employment status of blacks and other minorities in formerly segregated school



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systems. The overall generalization of the conference was that "black educators and other minorities are retrogressing in their employment conditions as schools desegregate throughout the 17 states."

Here are some figures on North Carolina in 1964-65, the first year of desegregation, and 1979-80.

In 1964-65, there were 44,823 teachers, and 32,265 of them were white and 12,558 black. The white teachers represented 72 percent of the teaching force and the blacks represented 28 percent.

In 1979-80, there were 59,971 teachers, including 46,647 whites and 12,664 blacks. The white teachers represented 77.8 percent of the teaching force and 21.1 percent black.

The study concluded that although there were 106 more black teachers in 1979-80 than in 1964-65, the percentage of black teachers employed declined by 6.9 percent.

In 1964-65, there were 1,935 principals in the state and in 1979-80, there were 2,029. Of the above numbers, 1,413 principals in 1964-65 were white and 522 black. In 1979-80, 1,627 were white and 382 black. It was noted that in 1971 the number of black senior high principals dropped to eight.

In 1964-65, 27 percent of the state's principals were black and in 1979-80 the percentage was 18.8. There were no black assistant principals in 1964-65. There were 372 black assistant principals in 1979-80.

Dr. E.B. Palmer Sr., associate executive secretary of the NCAE, took part in the study and said that it is only the "beginning of a more comprehensive study that he will be conducting and reporting to the membership, Governor, General Assembly and the lay public in the very near future."

The City of Kings Mountain, and Mayor John Henry Moss, are well-known for their ability to secure federal grants.

Since the first Moss Administration took office in the mid-1960s, the city has received over \$20 million in federal funds.

Though that figure may seem huge to local citizens, it's only a drop in the bucket. The federal government dishes out grant support to some 500,000 towns and institutions at a rate of a whopping \$22.5 million every hour. So, we can say Kings Mountain has received about an hour's worth.

Kings Mountain will have an unusual fall season...

The cool temperatures (60 to 70 degrees) in Boston last week made us dream of Fall but from the heat of the past few days in Kings Mountain, it would appear that Summer may not be on its last legs, even though the calendar shows that Labor Day 1980 is past and that the nip and riotous coloring of Autumn are just around the corner.

Of course, Summer continues officially until Sept. 23 (or is it Sept. 21) when the sun gets even with the equator on its way to the South.

As further proof that Fall is just around the corner, the football season is upon us and Kings Mountain schools are opening for another term.

Kings Mountain will have an unusual Fall feature this season in the revival of the outdoor drama, "Then Conquer We Must", which has already excited many history minded citizens of the Piedmont Carolinas. Information and ticket requests for the show are coming in regularly, and if the weatherman cooperates, the drama at the Battleground should play to packed houses on each of its performances to be culminated during the exciting week celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain for which many events are being planned.

MORE LEGION CONVENTION NOTES

The oldest working garment at the Boston convention was a pair of hickory stripe wool and silk pants called "the world's wonder trousers" by their owner, Camillus M. Dancy of Norfolk, Va. Legionnaire Dancy, 84, bought the pants for \$30 in 1929 and has worn them 52 Easters and at 34 consecutive Legion conventions. Hickory stripes are morning pants, we were told, but it is permissible to wear them all day Sunday. Dancy's wife, Bantha, who has attended 27 consecutive conventions, says her husband is the best dressed man in Norfolk... they call him Mr. Esquire.

Secret servicemen closed down the hot dog stands for two hours before, during and after Ronald Reagan's speech because they didn't want stragglers outside Hines Auditorium during the speech.



Lib Stewart

Nevertheless the auditorium's five concession stands sold an average of 400 dogs at 75 cents apiece, 150 gallons of coffee and 15 dozen Danish before the final gavel.

Even though there were some folks glad to see the convention go, Boston welcomed the large crowd of visitors, especially the cab drivers, although they tried to kill us getting us to and from meeting places in a hurry to return and pick up other fares and it got worse the two days that President Carter ad former Governor Reagan came to town. Coffee was 75 cents a cup at the Auxiliary headquarters at Boston Park Plaza and Boston Baked Beans wasn't even on the menu. The best place we found to eat in the area of our hotel was the nearby Legal Seafood.

One of the most popular resolutions passed by the Legion was its decision to get solidly behind efforts to raise \$2.5 million to erect a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial for the 57,661 Americans who died in that war. A two-acre site near Lincoln Memorial, in Washington, D.C., has already been provided for the memorial which will contain the name of every American who died in Vietnam, U.S. Senators Barry Goldwater and George McGovern are members of the national sponsoring committee. Contributions can be sent to the non-profit Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Box 37240, Washington, D.C. 20013.



Poets Corner

What-so-ever Things Are Lovely

I would concentrate on lovely things
When all around is sinking sand,
And let the upper-most thought prevail
God is still in command.

Lovely things are answered prayer
sunshine after the rain,
Always sounding a note of praise
allowing hope to reign.

Lovely things like counting blessings
with a note of cheer,
Knowing God is not a-far
Knowing God is very near.

Lovely things making life sweeter
spending time with God,
Being aware of His mighty power
that glorifies the poorest sod.

Lovely things as flowers that blossom
Lovely things as birds that sing,
When passing through stages of winter
I would concentrate on spring.

Vivian S. Biltcliffe

LOOKING BACK

(From the Fri., Sept. 7, 1951 edition of The Kings Mountain Herald)

Dr. John C. McGill, of Williamston, S.C., has announced that he will come to Kings Mountain about mid-October to open offices for the general practice of medicine.

The congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church voted unanimously Sunday to construct a new church building.

Grady Howard, well known Kings Mountain man on active duty with the Marine Corps, has recently been promoted to Captain.

Social and Personal

A pretty wedding of the early Fall season was solemnized at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church on Sept. 1 and united Miss Ruby Lea Kiser of Kings Mountain and Jerry Leonard Simmons of Marion.

Members of the Ace of Clubs enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Jacob Cooper when she entertained at her home Thursday afternoon.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. St. Mark 14:38.