

Kings Mountain Herald

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GARY STEWART

Hey, How Ye Doing?

How're you doing?
 How many times a day are you asked that question?
 How many times have you wondered if the person asking it really cares, or if it's just a substitute for "good morning"?
 Wonder what reaction the asker would give, if you would really tell him how you're doing?
 In most cases, the how ye doing question comes in passing, usually on the street, and if you would really answer "I'm just not doing any good at all" the asker would probably say "that's nice" and keep walking.
 I've often thought about pulling such a trick so see what kind of reaction I'd really get. Would the person stop and show a little concern?
 Try to picture yourself walking into the Post Office early one morning. As you reach the door, an acquaintance is leaving:
Joe: How're you doing Jack? (Joe doesn't miss a stride.)
Jack: Just awful. My stomach's tore all to pieces, and I have this nagging cold...
Joe: (Who is now walking down Mountain Street). Glad to hear it. Tell your wife and kids I said hello...
Jack: (Who has now turned around and is following Joe). But, wait a minute, that's something else. My wife ran off with another man and took the kids with her. Joe?

Joe is now a half-block away and still walking at full stride.
Jack: Hey, Joe! Joe! Joe! I ain't through yet. I was cutting the grass the other day, and on this big hill behind my house I turned the lawn mower over and cut off the end of my big toe, and put a six-inch gash in my leg...
Joe is now reaching for the door of his car, and Jack's picking up speed:
Jack: And, Joe, you know I told you my wife ran off. Well, before she left she hocked half of our belongings and drained the savings account, and you know they had this big layoff down at the plant the other day, and my daddy's done told me the next time I got in a bind not to bother coming to him to bale me out, and, I was wondering if you might...
Joe cranks the car and pulls away, leaving Jack in the street, still talking...and Jim comes up:
Jim: How ye doing, Jack?
Jack: Ah, pretty good. How you?
Jim: Well, to tell you the truth...
Jack: That's nice.
 Such a story may be in leftfield, and it's not likely to ever happen, but it does show us that many of us aren't really concerned when we ask someone how're you doing.
 I know, because I do it often.
 But, I'm trying hard to say good morning more.

More Than Roses

We seldom remember in April how tall the grass at the roadside and in the meadows will be by June. Or that daisies will frost the fence row and buttercups fill the meadows. We forget, most of us, that June is other things than roses.

June is really a time of relative quiet serenity after the rush of sprouting and leafing and flowering and before the fierce heat. The aroma of wild strawberries and honeysuckle abound and the birds sing their best, and at our house are loudest in the early morning hours.

June is graduation time for many Kings Mountain citizens, some of whom are receiving their diplomas from kindergarten and day schools, others from high schools and colleges. It's a busy season for June brides and debutantes.



Lib Stewart

And since this is the only second day of the month, there are many things we'll remember about the month as it goes by. For June is peonies, as well as roses, June is the first early-kitchen garden produce as well as flower beds. And June is happy memory rediscovered and lived again.

Don't Ask Me About Old Age

How old is old? Don't ask me or any of my women friends because we don't know anything about it. We won't even let ourselves think about it — not any oftener than we can help anyway. Sometimes it's called to our attention much to our chagrin.
 Some kind soul who doesn't even know me called me up the other day to make a comment on something I had written. I was real pleased until she ended the conversation saying "you must be remarkable old woman." Dad-gum-it, why did she have to put that old in there; otherwise I would have been very flattered. That word old just ruined it all. I crept back to my easy chair to rest my old bones for a spell.
 I remember some years ago I was in the hospital and I heard a nurse say "will you please take this down to that sweet little old lady in room 304." It suddenly dawned on me that it was me in 304. Good grief, well she could have called me grumpy which is the way I felt.
 We know as time goes by our idea of middle age and old age changes as the years go by so fast. Shucks, I guess there was a time way back yonder when I would have had no idea I'd still be alive much less kicking at my age. Well, as Reagan says so often, here I am. Maybe eating all these gym drops is helping!
 As long as I can do all of my own housework, baby-sit once in awhile, go everywhere I'm invited, and am interested in any and everything, I won't pronounce myself old. I'm going to put that day off just as long as I can, believe you me. There's too much good and fun in this crazy world and I want to swim in the mainstream of life as long as there's an ounce of strength left in me.
 That woman that called me remarkable was right about one thing. It is remarkable I'm in as good shape as I'm in considering the



fact that I waited so long, almost too long, to start taking good care of myself. It's too bad but most of us have to have a warning of some sort on another before we start thinking about our health. If we are feeling good we just take in for granted and go on our merry way living it up any way we please.
 Some people don't even take a warning seriously. They just fool themselves into thinking that doctor is just trying to scare me and life's too short not to get all the pleasure I can out of it while I can. Too bad, they may not live to be sorry.
 Really, old age scares us. I know it does me. I do so like to do for myself and not be entirely dependent upon anyone. We all are

dependent on many, many people indirectly and that's for sure.
 I wish I wasn't too lazy to try to write a book on "How To Get By the Easy Way." I bet I've learned more tricks on how to manage pretty good with the least effort of most anybody you ever heard tell of.
 I'm not saying I'm going to invite you to eat off my floor because it's clean enough, although it is. I'm not going to ask you to eat any of my home cooking, period, because there "ain't" any to speak of. I lost my iron, or purpose, years ago. Good riddance!
 There are too many good and healthful things readily available today for me to spend time sweating over a hot stove. I served my line of duty in that department years ago. My kitchen is just a nice room to have around in case of a dire emergency!
 I could go on and on but I'll save my other tricks learned the hard way for my book. I guess I'd better hurry up and get started on it before I'm too old, or some nut thinks I am, to write one.
 I sure as heck am trying to think young. I really think there's nothing more pitiful than someone trying to fool others by using all kind of methods to look and act real young when they're not. They're just silly and wasting their time and efforts.
 No use just giving up and letting old age take over and obsess you to the point of being useless either. If and when I find out when old is old, I'll tell you know.
 Public Notice: I had not last birthday last June 17, 1980. It was a great day and a good year to stop while I was ahead. I've never mind admitting up to my age, but enough is enough already. Years may come and years may go, but to myself and anybody interested. I remain the same age, whatever that was, as of 1980.

Looking Up



By Tom Franks

Dr. Campbell Shares His Views On Education

(Second of four parts)

Looking up continues an interview with Dr. Dan Campbell, school psychologist and mental health therapist, who will share some of his views on "Accountability in Education."

Campbell: Before we begin, I should say that in my belief the difference between the words "wish" and "want" is in the willingness to work and/or the sacrifice to get things that we want.

Franks: Dr. Campbell, do you feel that there is a problem with accountability in the educational system?

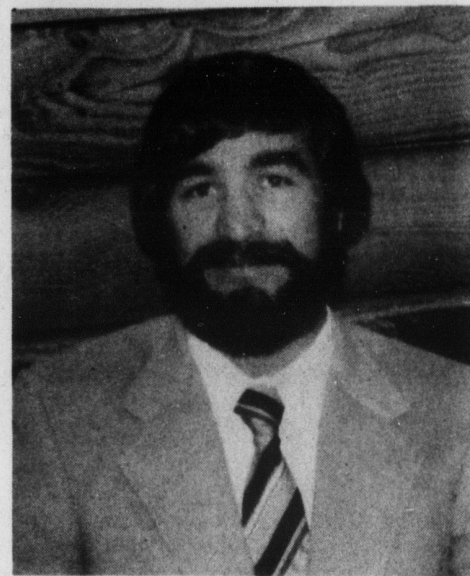
Campbell: I feel that we should all be held accountable to our employers for the things that we do. In education, as well as many other systems, the "consumers" are the children of the general public. On the part of many educators there seems to be a fear of accountability. I find this strongest in areas where union talk...excuse me, **association** talk is strongest. Many NEA members that I talk with sound like other union members, some of whom seem to claim that... "regardless of whether we put out a better product or service, there are a lot of us and for that reason we should be paid more." This has never made sense to me. I was associated with a steam fitting union in New York and being a member of the union implied that you had experienced a five-year apprenticeship, and due to this training you supposedly could be counted on to provide a level of competent service. If you did not or could not provide a competent level of service, the union could not afford to have you spoiling their reputation.

Franks: What evaluation efforts have been made to help improve the educational standards?

Campbell: Accountability in education is a very difficult and sensitive area, because there are a lot of theories about exactly what the "product" of public education should be. I feel that a great deal of progress has been made in the attempt at evaluation of successful programs of education. In my own opinion, the primary function of an educational association should be to devise a system to prove how competent the member teachers are. The competency testing program for holding students accountable for a minimum level of mastered material is not a perfect system, but it represents another step toward evaluation, which is necessary for accountability.

Franks: Do you feel that teachers try to avoid evaluation? Why?

Campbell: I have found it gratifying that many of the teachers I have associated with here in Kings Mountain are so secure in their abilities (and the only security an individual will ever have is ultimately in his or her ability to perform), to welcome evaluation, and many have even constructively suggested areas and methods for evaluation.



DR. DAN CAMPBELL

Franks: One question that comes up quite often, when a child fails a subject, is, "Who do we blame?"

Campbell: From the educator's point of view, there are a lot of factors that are involved in the academic progress of an individual student. This is the reason evaluation is not a simple matter. However this brings me to the crux of what I consider to be the problem with avoiding accountability. I do not consider evaluation a good or bad thing, in and of itself. There are a small percentage of educators who seem to say, "well, I can't take the blame because Johnny is repeating (did you ever notice that to some people evaluation always means blame?), because he came to me from a terrible background." But then these same educators are like peacocks at the end of the school year when their excellent students "responded to their expertise." What they apparently don't realize is that in order to avoid blame, you must also forego credit. After all, Mary might have learned so much due to her enriched background, rather than due to the teacher's ability. You see, we can't avoid the bad side accountability and still take the good. Both are flip sides of the same coin. That is why the NEA, or the school boards across the country must devise a measurable system of evaluating the goals for educators, so that we as educators can get credit for our areas of strengths and can strive to improve our areas of weakness. If accountability is welcomed, then we can all benefit, including the most important person...the student.

This concludes our session for this week. Stay with us for our discussion about "TV Addiction", a controversial as well as an educational subject. Your letters are welcomed. Have a great week.