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On our cluttered desk is a humorous piece written by Art Buchwald for the North Carolina Education magazine. Because parents as well as teachers will appreciate it, we're passing it along:

It is not too far-fetched to predict that in 10 or 20 years our children will be seated in teacherless classes, their work programmed for them by IBM cards, and scolded for sloppy work by closed television monitors 50 miles away.

But while there are great advantages to learning by machine, we should never lose sight of the human element. It is for this reason that we have perfected the Robot Teaching Machine, which will combine all the advantages of machine learning with those of being taught by a teacher in the room.

The Robot Teaching Machine would work as follows: each seat would be magnetized and there would be a small piece of metal sewn into the seat of the student's clothes. When the class is in session, the student would not be able to get out of his seat.

If a child had to go to the bathroom, he would push a button on his desk. The computer in front of the room would then break the field of magnetism and allow the child to go to the bathroom, providing there is only one pupil out of the room at the time.

If a child misbehaves in class, the computer would send out a slight shock which would be equivalent of a rapped knuckle. If the child still refuses to behave and the shock treatment is not punishment enough, he would be lifted out of his seat by a conveyor belt and carried to the principal's office.

There the principal computer would deal with the pupil. When the pupil arrived at the principal's office, the machine would automatically sound an alarm in the home of the pupil's parents, and one of them would have to come to school and discuss his child with the computer.

The principal computer would have stored in it several lectures on tape, and would play the one most suitable for the occasion.

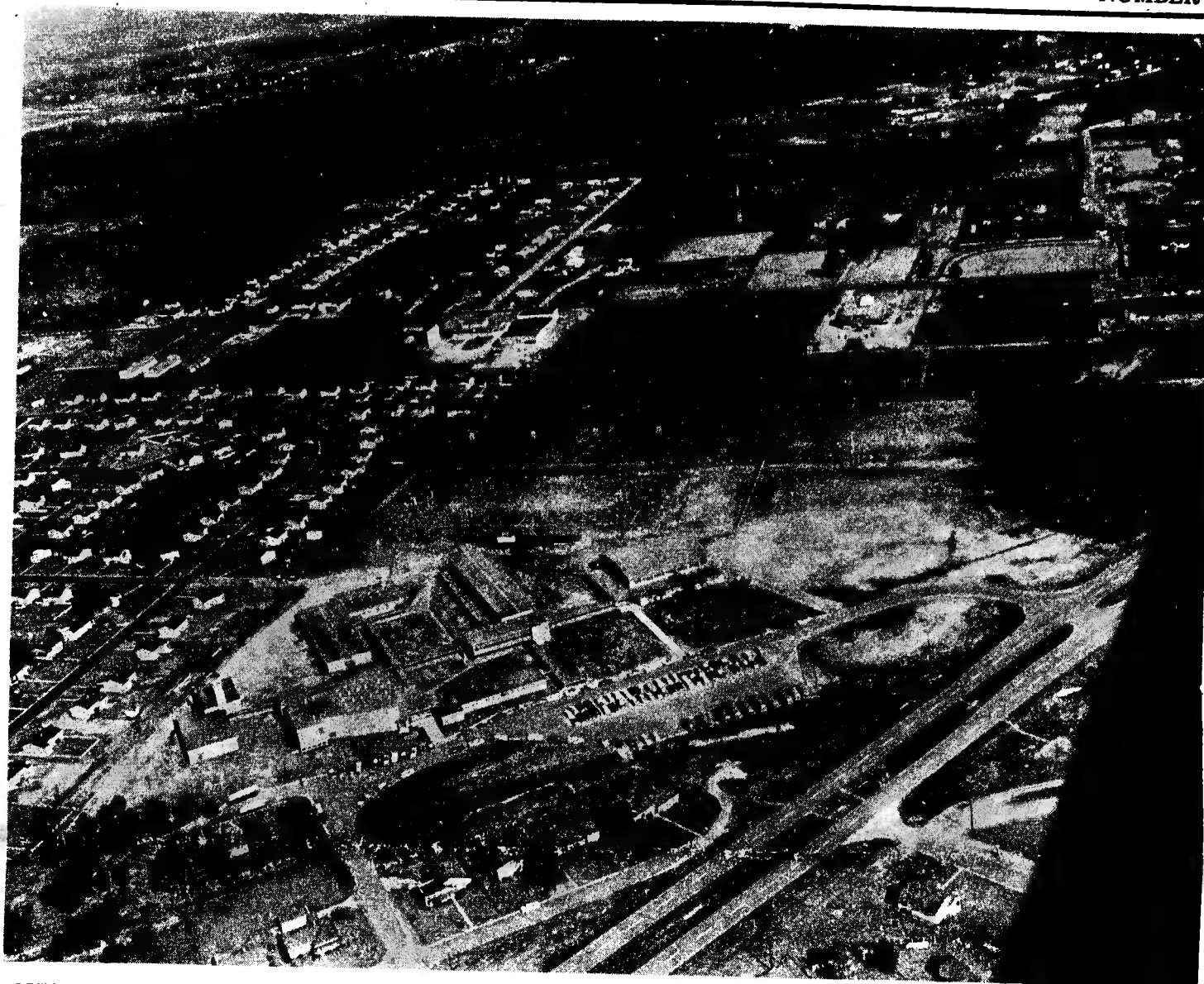
The Robot Teaching Machine would be as human as possible. If a little boy or little girl started to cry in class, the machine would start dispensing facial tissues. If the child continued to cry, there would be a portable lap on the side of the machine where the child could find comfort.

During lunch periods the computer would turn into a vending machine where the student could buy milk, sandwiches, hot soup, and candy bars. The profits from these would go into buying athletic machines for recreational purposes.

Now, someone is going to raise the question as how you can prevent cheating on tests without the teacher in the room. Quite simple. Before each child hands in his IBM paper, he will attach a blood pressure valve to his arm and take a lie detector test. If the graph shows he cheated, he gets three shocks and has to take the test over again.

The object of the machine is to make the child love and re-

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QUITE A CHANGE—Don't let anyone tell you that New Bern stands still. When Sarah Green snapped this photograph five years ago, the landscape in upper center and right included no Craven County Hospital, and numerous businesses hadn't built in the area. Still

more structures are being completed or are underway. Using New Bern High school in the foreground as your starting point, see if you can bring this picture up to date.



WINNING COMBINATION—Back in 1950, when there were many good basketball teams in this section, the New Bern high school sextet could more than hold its own against any opponent. Left to right are Ruth Murray, Frances Ruddock, Shirley Salter, Evelyn

Ipock and Eileen Edwards on the first row. The second row includes Manager Barbara Benninghoff, Dollie Bray Zilda Small, Jeanie Hancock, Emma Lou Harmon and Coach Hattie Ellice Lewis.