

# The News - Journal

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## Our Public Schools

### Only Answer For All People

Impassioned reaction to Hoke County Board of Education's recent decision to totally integrate grades six through 12 in the county this fall appears to have subsided somewhat, but a hard core of resistance can be expected to continue. Not, we hope, to the detriment of our public school system.

We have no argument with the several dozen Hoke citizens who are attempting to start a private school at Rockfish. The matter of educating one's children in the manner one can afford is a cherished American privilege which applies as much to the current situation as to sending one's older children away to college. For that reason, we hope these dissident citizens can establish and operate school facilities to their liking.

But the vast majority of our citizens are somewhat strained financially by the burden imposed by public school education and could not, if they wished to, pay tuition and other charges amounting to several hundred dollars per child per year. For that reason, among many others, we believe every citizen has an obligation to make the public school system work, no matter how sticky the situation may become.

The education of our children is far too important to be jeopardized by prejudices, traditions, whims and fancies. In considering the school system, we must consider the general good - that is, how much can be accomplished for the most people. That approach quite naturally aims at the average student, whose numbers are far greater than the exceptional pupils on one end of the scale and the misfits on the other. The result is mediocrity, as some people would have you believe, but effective teaching of the vast majority of our young people.

To be sure, there are exceptionally gifted students to whom the curriculum and methodology may be a bore. But the very fact that these students are exceptional is a sure guaranty that they will succeed in finding whatever knowledge they aspire to find, no matter what the level of teaching may be. The lackluster student will be little worse off studying at average student level, because he will absorb only as

much learning as his intelligence, ability and study permit.

We assume that the public schools here will, as they are doing elsewhere, make provisions for exceptionally adept students to take accelerated courses. We are informed, too, that our high school students will be able to "categorize" their curriculum along vocational, college preparatory or general lines. With this selectivity available, it seems that students will naturally be grouped according to interests, if not ability, so the students who plan to go to college but have no interest in the vocational fields, and vice versa, will not be retarded by exposure to subjects of no particular interest or benefit to them.

There are, of course, students whose needs will not be specifically filled by general education. There undoubtedly also are parents and students who anticipate social situations and other complications which they do not regard as wholesome for their children. If these people can find the social insulation they desire apart from the public school system, they are entitled to make it work for themselves - so long as it does not interfere with the public school system, which is the backbone of American education.

We sincerely believe the local school board acted in the interest of all the people of Hoke County when it obeyed a federal edict to do away with the dual school system here. We believe the great majority of our people fully understand that the action was inevitable and that much was gained in making the consolidation locally, rather than having some federal judge do it for us under court order.

We believe, also, that the vast majority of our citizens are determined our school system shall not be impaired by the revolutionary change, but shall, with understanding, patience, and guidance provide ample and highly satisfactory opportunity for every child in Hoke County to get the best in public school education.

At any rate, we have obeyed the law. To have done differently would have been a far more harmful teaching than integration of our public schools.

### Glad It's Over

The recent "Poor People's March" on Washington finally has ended and the campgrounds of Resurrection City returned to the people of the nation. The campaign was a colossal flop, but probably will add to the general welfare in that it should serve to discourage any more spectacles of that nature.

We share the nation's concern for our less fortunate citizens who, by federal definition, are classified as "poor." We agree that every American, regardless of the color of his skin, should have equal protection under the law and equal opportunity to share the blessings described by Thomas Jefferson as "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," but we object to raffish intimidating the federal government, which is nothing less than intimidation of the American people, and we long ago grew tired of one or two per cent of the population - including the most violent and militant segments of the black and white races - calling the shots for the entire nation.

We thought for a time that Dr. Ralph Abernathy and his followers (who didn't appear to be either halterbroken or housebroken) should have been denied the privilege of erecting "Resurrection City" on the public parkland of the capital city. If Boy Scouts are not permitted to camp there, neither should another group, and we don't think the government is obliged to

treat one citizen differently than another when they come to Washington. We also feel particularly strongly that no individual or group of citizens should be permitted to disrupt the orderly conduct of the nation's business, or the functions of a school, or the recruiting of soldiers or scientists. The constitution guarantees no man any right that infringes upon the rights of another - nor should the minority be coddled at the expense of the majority.

In the end, we came to regard the march as a good othing, primarily because it should serve to discourage similar spectacles in the future. We believe the American people are nearing the limit of their patience in permitting our cities to be burned, our colleges and universities to be disrupted, and our lives to be thrown into constant turmoil just because a few hundred; or even a few thousand rabble-rousers would use force, or the threat of force, to impose their will upon the people.

The time is approaching - indeed, may have arrived - when every man must stand up and be counted. Decent people - which, we believe, constitute 98 per cent of the population - must insist that the full rights and opportunities of citizenship be granted to every man, woman and child. Just as important, they must insist that the rights of the many must not be compromised to the few.

"It Does NOT Look Like Me"



By Jim Taylor

### Lay On, McDuff



Read a piece in the Fayetteville paper this week about a fellow who bought a 25-cent book on karate, practiced the art awhile, and then went forth to try it on a human opponent.

He chose a dark pathway and lay in wait for a victim. Finally, a drunk staggered by and the karate "expert" sprang upon him, yelling "karate! karate! karate!" with every chop.

The boozier slumped to the ground, apparently unconscious, and the karate practitioner went his way. He stopped by a bar to celebrate his mastery of the art and was sipping beer and chuckling to himself when the drunk, now revived, entered the barroom.

The toper slipped up behind the other fellow, took a tire tool from beneath his coat, started working the man over, and with every blow yelled: "Tire tool! Tire tool! Tire tool!"

Back home, there was a fellow several years ago who was a terror at fisticuffs. He was more than a match for any one man in the area, and more than once it took five or six policemen to subdue him when he was enraged.

The town cop in the village where this fellow lived tried to arrest him once, and was thoroughly shaken for his trouble. Finally, the roughneck became sorry for him, turned him loose, and voluntarily followed him to the pokey.

Next day, there was a story in the local newspaper about the officer being assaulted, but triumphing in the end. The reporter apparently asked the officer how he brought the ruffian under control and was told: "I subdued him with a jujitsu hold."

That was a fraction off the truth, and when the antagonist read the story in the paper, he went looking for the officer.

He found him performing a secondary duty - that of painting a white line in the middle of Main Street. The fighter promptly lowered the boom on the officer before he had time to straighten up from his task.

Again, there was a story about the assault in the newspaper. This time, the officer said he saw some object in the attacker's hand glint in the sunlight as he swung.

It was generally conceded that the officer did see something coming at him. Five knuckles.

I made my usual pilgrimage to my native soil during the Fourth holiday and renewed acquaintance with some old friends and kinfolk.

I learned that Dollar Bill Galloway is naming all his children after various pieces of coin and currency. There's a Dollar Bill, Junior; Penny; a Quarter; and Dime.

The next one may be named "Buffalo Nickel."

One of my aunts told me of a man up the road whose name is Stormy Weather Thunderbolt Zigar.

She said he has a brother named Lightning.

And close to home is a fellow named Lovely Scales.

And a woman named Blommer.

My brother-in-law told me about a colored fellow down near Madison who was walking up and down the porch one night while the doctor was helping his wife give birth to their first child.

At precisely the instant the

doctor spanked the newborn baby and it let out its first cry, the distant sky lighted up when the street lights were turned on in Madison.

The fellow ran into his wife's room and announced he had thought of a name for the baby.

"Lectric Lights Over Madison," he wanted to call the child.

Wonder whatever became of lightning rods and lightning rod salesmen?

They were perennial peddlers in the days of my youth, and few dwellings or other valuable buildings were without the protection of the steel antenna-like rods.

I have heard that the lightning rod salesman always was followed by another fellow selling batteries to keep the rods charged. Personally, I have never witnessed such a swindle, but it probably happened.

In the old days, there always was a boy in the community who sold "Grit," the nationally circulated weekly newspaper out of Williamsport, Pa.

And in the fall and winter, there were purveyors of Cloverine Salve (with a full-color picture of Christ in the Garden or the rear ends of two Percheron horses, take your pick, as a bonus). Rosebud Salve was another popular balm, but it offered no bonus.

The iceman came once a week in summertime. He chipped 100 pounds off a 300-pound block. It was wrapped in burlap bags, or an old bedquilt, and placed in the icebox, where it cooled (but hardly chilled) milk and other foodstuffs as it melted.

Sometimes - but not often -

Continued on Classified Page

CLIFF BLUE . . .

## People & Issues



LAW & ORDER - There has been a powerful resurgence of sentiment in behalf of "law and order" in the United States during the past few weeks, reaching into the White House itself.

When the late Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, law enforcement in the nation's capital city probably reached its lowest peak in history. Violence, rioting and looting reached its zenith with the law enforcement officers looking on almost as if their hands were tied behind them. But when the time came for Dr. Abernathy's "poor people" to break up and leave Washington some people feared that violence and looting might again get out of hand and dominate the nation's capital. But a decision had been made in Washington. The law enforcement people's hands were not tied and no rioting and looting took place!

TOUGH FIGHT - Bob Scott and Jim Gardner are both expected to put up tough fights for governor this fall.

Gardner's special stationery for the big \$1,000 contributors is expected to be a far greater issue than Jim would like to see it.

Scott's support of LBJ and HHH in 1964 is expected to be emphasized from Murphy to Manteo by Jim.

In the primary campaigns, Scott was very gentle toward his two opponents - Mel Broughton Jr. and Dr. Reginald Hawkins. Gardner was kind and gentle towards Jack Stickley - particularly in the closing days of the campaign.

In years gone by the hot fight in the gubernatorial race used to be in the Democratic primary. The election campaign was little more than a powder puff fight.

But 1968 has ushered in a new era and the fighting is expected to grow in intensity between now and November 5.

The Democrats will probably start out with watermelon slicing rather than barbecues as it appears that the pigs have about run their course in Tarheel politics.

SPOILERS - If George Wallace becomes the "spoiler" for Dick Nixon in the South, Gene McCarthy may become the "spoiler" for Hubert Humphrey in some other parts of the country this fall.

More and more it is beginning to appear that Senator McCarthy may not call off his 1968 presidential bid when the curtain falls on the

Chicago convention in August. SENATOR ERVIN - It will not surprise us to see Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. lead the Democratic ticket in North Carolina on November 5. He probably has less to worry about so far as reelection is concerned than any man or woman on the ticket.

BLACK VOTE - There will probably be around 150,000 Negroes voting in the November election. Neither Bob Scott or Jim Gardner have made any overtures to Dr. Hawkins. However, there are others in positions of leadership that will be contacted - Negro leaders like Felton Capel of Southern Pines and John Winter of Raleigh and others.

We note that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has called on Negroes and poor people to boycott the Hardee Hamburgers to point up their dislike for Jim Gardner. This boycott can work two ways.

JUDGE ARMSTRONG - Judge Frank Armstrong in a lengthy letter to the editor of The Montgomery Herald, taking exception to comments in a recent issue of this column concerning laymen judges had this to say: "Country editorial writers, when experienced and qualified to do so, have the right to express their opinions vitally affecting the people."

With some people, and we suspect the Troy judge could be one of them, a "qualified" editorial writer would likely be one with whom they agreed.

In the light of Judge Armstrong's statement we can all feel fortunate that Thomas Jefferson and the founding fathers saw fit to write into the U. S. Constitution the Bill of Rights which included the first amendment guaranteeing freedom of religion, speech, of the press and the right of petition.

The right of dissent and the right of dialogue are fundamental to Democracy and the American way of life.

Judge Armstrong never got down to the basic issue, whether he was proposing or opposing a basic change in our laws pertaining to eligibility requirements for judgeships.

The gist of our comments were that the eligibility requirements relating to judges should remain as now and have been so as to permit the public to continue to elect their best "qualified citizens to serve as judges on the bench.

### SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



WASHINGTON - The challenges to the free enterprise system run deep. It has become fashionable to charge that the needs of the American people cannot be met under this system and that the government should take over more and more individual responsibilities.

Such a suggestion now comes in a report recently released by the Transportation Department that a study be undertaken to see if the government should provide "free automobile repairs and free public transportation for poor people." While the report merely advocates a study, it does carry along a thought that we see constantly expressed in proposals for a guaranteed annual income and other concepts which strike at the foundations of the free enterprise system.

This is not to say that we do not have problems that need to be attended to, but it is important to remind ourselves that the free enterprise system is vitally important to every valid reason. The first settlers came to this country because they loved freedom and because they wanted a better life for themselves and their families. They were poor in material possessions, but they were strongly individualistic. They experimented with economic systems. The Pilgrims even tried a communistic system of equal sharing of the efforts of all. That system failed because the settlers found that man expected to be rewarded for their efforts and a few individuals were content to do nothing if they could get by

without work. So the settlers found out by experience that if the colonies were to prosper there had to be a competitive system whereby men could work in a free market and enjoy the fruits of their labors. Since they had come to this country to get away from governmental tyranny, the settlers learned that the free enterprise system was the only kind of non-compulsory system that would inspire men to produce goods and services for themselves and others. Simply put, the system permitted individuals to exert themselves to whatever extent they wished and be rewarded for their enterprise. Free men cannot be persuaded to produce things of value unless they are allowed to retain a fair share of the fruits of their labors. Those who have observed human nature can attest to the practicality of the "profit motive."

So the old issue of personal versus governmental responsibility comes before us almost constantly. The government is urged to provide everyone with a guaranteed income at a time when jobs have never been more plentiful. The paradox of this attitude is that if life teaches anything, it is that man is not born to be idle. Work fulfills not only economic needs, but mental and spiritual needs. Moreover, we should be wary of those who promise to aid the poor by guaranteeing that men shall not have to create or produce anything of value in this country. The lessons of history are abundantly clear that for everything the government gives it must confiscate in taxes enough to pay the bills.

### Puppy Creek Philosopher



Dear editor: I was out here yesterday morning studying about doing some farm work and wondering why it is people are always hijacking airplanes but nobody ever hijacks a tractor when a newspaper started blowing along the ground toward me and I watched it hoping it'd get near enough so I wouldn't have to get up and luck was with me and it fell right in my lap right side up, so I started reading. The tractor probably wouldn't have started anyway, maybe it will tomorrow, although I've never believed in putting off till tomorrow what you can put off till day after that, and I'm not prejudiced against next

week. A heading caught my attention! PARIS PEACE TALKS MAKING PROGRESS. It's about time, I said, and read that while nothing definite has been agreed upon and North Viet Nam was still saying the way to end the war is for us and South Viet Nam to surrender, still an atmosphere of cordiality is believed developing because the representatives are now taking longer coffee breaks together. Today's coffee break lasted 48 minutes," the report said, adding that this is interpreted as a good sign. This is a new wrinkle in international diplomacy and it

may have worldwide reverberations. I can see office workers in a thousand cities now, including maybe Raeford, stretching their coffee breaks out of 48 minutes and claiming they're doing it in the interest of international peace. With two of these breaks a day, you can see what a strong effort this will be toward settlement of international conflicts. There may be more peace workers in this world than anybody ever dreamed of. Of course it may cause business to go broke but you can't have everything. Yours faithfully, J.A.