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"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"

Rebuilding moral fiber

Surely it has occurred to many concerned individuals that if there were more simple honesty, more daily practice of the Golden Rule, more compassionate attention to modest justice among men, there would be less need for massive anti-crime legislation, less need to attempt to legislate morality among mankind.

But how does one begin strengthening society's moral fiber? How shall the slow decay, which so many preachers and even politicians have observed, be reversed? To many this is a call for a more genuine practice of religion, or for the more earnest observance of humanistic virtues. But how is reform initiated? Where does it begin?

Ask youth today - indeed ask many an older person - and the answer will be: Not by preaching but by practice, by example-setting, by the active living of a moral life.

We are familiar, almost ad nauseum, with the young folks' complaint that the oldsters have made a botch of things. Those on the other side of the alleged age gap answer: "No such thing. We have actually done better than many previous generations."

Yet it is not frankly true that a sizable part of the undermining of moral fiber today is due to the transgressions, conscious or very nearly unconscious, of the adult generations? Not in such great matters of courage as fighting Hitler.

Courage in Richmond

For years now, the opening of the school year in the South has meant new stories and pictures of violence - of governors interfering with court orders, or adults spitting on small children, of confrontations between white and blacks. The opening of this school year has been different and nothing tells the story better than that picture of Virginia's governor, Linwood Holton, walking with his daughter into her new school, a city school in Richmond with a substantial black majority.

The importance of the governor's action - in its impact both in Virginia and throughout the South - is hard to overstate. He is the chief executive of the lynchpin of the Old Confederacy, of the birthplace of massive resistance, of the state whose leaders were for years at the front of the battle against desegregation. Yet there he was, shaking hands with his daughter's new teacher and new principal - both black - and saying, "It's always hard for a child to change schools. They don't want to leave old friends. But my children go where they are assigned."

Contrast that, if you will, to a

But in the smaller, day - to - day practices of life, where it is "the little foxes, that spoil the vines."

One can easily list the petty dishonesties, the moral lapses, the modern indulgences, the compromises with conscience which, adding up, eat away at mankind's moral bastions:

The so - prevalent use of every kind of drug and tranquilizer by parents, a practice so closely watched by the kids. The petty cheating on income taxes and other obligations toward government and society. The gossip which destroys reputations and sours goodwill. The driving at 60 miles per hour in a 40-mile zone. The indulgent permissiveness which allows, even encourages, children to "go steady" at the age of 10 or 12. The missing of opportunities for an understanding dialogue with one's children or one's neighbors. The unwillingness to be "involved" when moral issues confront a community.

These are the small avoidances, the missed chances, that tear away at character and stability. But opportunities need not be forever lost. There is no time like the present to begin living the honest, courageous daily life. Strength comes to him who uses it. And the end result will be the resurgence of morality and, indeed, a happier, saner existence for the individual and for the community. -The Christian Science Monitor

governor of Arkansas calling out the National Guard to keep a handful of black children out of a white school, to a governor of Alabama standing in the door of a university, to a governor of Mississippi denying a Negro admission to a law school, to a senator from Virginia steadfastly supporting the Southern Manifesto.

The kind of leadership that Governor Holton demonstrated - and has demonstrated in other ways since he took the oath of office last winter - is the kind of leadership long needed in Virginia, across the South and in every area where desegregation is a problem. There may be difficulties of one kind or another in the two schools where Governor Holton's children were enrolled. There may be difficulties in other schools that were desegregated for the first time. But these are difficulties that must be faced before they can be overcome and men of courage and good will, like Governor Holton, are sorely needed if those problems are to be solved and if race relations in this country are ever to be set aright. -Washington Post

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

30 years ago

September 19, 1940
On Monday, September 16, Hoke County's 231 members of the 252d Coast Artillery were among 60,000 National Guardsmen entering Federal Service for one year. The local men will be on duty here for a week or two before being transferred to Fort Moultrie, S.C. and Fort Screven, Ga.

25 years ago

St. Sgt. Howard Pope, who has been a prisoner of the Japanese since 1942, has been returned to U.S. control, according to a telegram from the War Department received Saturday by his step-mother, Mrs. Lola Pope. The message also stated that he would be returned to the United States in the near future.

Lts. Sam and Spec Morris have arrived safely in Manila, P.I., according to a cablegram received by their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Morris.

T-5 James D. Stephens, who has been serving in Italy, arrived in the U.S. the first of the week and at Fort Bragg on Tuesday where he is awaiting discharges under the point system. He served in Curacao 27 months, and after returning to the U.S. was sent to Italy and served there with the 530th FA Bn.

Maj. Younger Sneed, for the past several years stationed in Trinidad, BWI, is now at home.
Capt. T.B. Lester arrived in Raeford last week from the ETO, and after a fifteen day leave will report to Fort Bliss, Texas.

Hoke County farmers should make plans now for seeding small grain, says A.S. Knowles, county farm agent.

Pfc. Clarence A. Burns, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Burns, was among the first American troops to be landed in Japan

after the surrender. A paratrooper, he is a member of the 187th Para - Glider Infantry.

15 years ago

Sept. 8, 1955
Two measures of far-reaching potential benefit to the people of the county were passed by the Hoke County board of commissioners at their monthly meeting Tuesday. The building of a modern county health center and the employment of three additional members of the agricultural extension service in the county were approved by the board.

Voters of the town turned out few in number Saturday for the Town's special bond election, but those who voted were more than 16 to one in favor of the \$60,000 bond issue for improvements to the town's water and sewer system.



'Who's there?'

Simple Items Actually Are Miracles In Disguise

By Laurie Telfair

The world is full of things I don't understand.

Like sewing machines. My husband contends that a little man who can tie knots quickly lives inside the machine and busily ties closed loop after loop as I press the switch that turns on the machine. Now I don't take much stock in that theory, but look at a line of stitching and you will see that each stitch is a closed loop within another loop. I really don't understand sewing machines.

A door knob is another incomprehensible gadget. It sets quietly in its place, calmly fastening and releasing the door on the proper signal and hardly ever breaking. As a matter of fact most common household articles are wonders of engineering magic. The things that operate with buttons and gears and various hoses aren't nearly as spectacular as the less dramatic items like a non-leaking water faucet because the fancy gizmos are expected to rear back and produce miracles. It's only when they don't that we even notice them at all.

Math is another subject that is an incomprehensible as the writings on an Egyptian temple. Math is definite, precise, either right or wrong and therefore strangely out of step in a world where there are few absolutes where most things cannot be said to be either right or wrong but instead fall into the vast, grey, fuzzy area between. There is room for speculation into, for example, the causes of urban alienation or the effects of maternal deprivation on children. As one of my professors reminded us at the beginning of an exam, "no matter how thin you carve the luncheon meat, it's still baloney," but the fact remains that baloney can take a student a long way in the academic world. Except in math. As a mathematic illiterate, I yearn to

be able to make the formula work, to know what numbers to substitute where in order to tell - just to give one example - what percentage a given number is of another given number. Math is full of formulas that yield the correct answer if one knows which formula to use in the first place and how to operate it in the second place.

I had a professor once, during my senior year of college when I was taking the freshman math I had delayed as long as possible in hope I would somehow be exempted from the requirement, who was one of the very few real teachers I ever encountered during my twelve years of grammar and high school and nearly nine years of college - I was a very slow student. For one brief summer session, this miracle worker led me through a mathematic maze and I understood. There is a feeling of sheer power at being able to say "I understand" where you once didn't understand at all. But the power vanished and the understanding was an illusion because soon after

completing the course, the knowledge evaporated, perhaps from disuse, and all that was left was a grade on my transcript and the memory that for five weeks I had understood something that had eluded me all the other days of my life.

There is a magic about things not understood, but probably, as long as things work right, we don't need to understand the hoard of things that shape our lives. After all, you plug the TV in the outlet, turn the switch and it begins in the news of riots in Omaha and of an old man who makes bricks by hand in Winston-Salem. And as long as the set works, what's to understand.

Wise men might counsel that we find out how something works before it breaks, but that somehow seems un-American. I can't, offhand think of a single thing we've ever solved before it became a crisis.

Incidentally, my sewing machine is broken. If anyone knows of any little men who tie knots quickly, let me know. I have a job for them.



STORIES BEHIND WORDS

by William S. Penfield

Ham

We call an amateur or bungling performer, especially one who overdoes his performance, a "ham". The expression comes from the theater.

During the latter part of the 19th century, comedians in industrial shows used ham fat to remove the burnt cork from their noses. They used ham fat because it was cheaper than cold cream.

Other actors contemptuously called any blackface minstrel a "hamfatter," a name that was shortened to "ham." The name was borrowed from theater parlance and put to general usage.

Puppy Philosopher



Dear editor:

I knew everything was going up, for example it used to be that one terrorist was worth say one hostage but now one is claimed to be worth around a hundred according to Arab mathematics, but it took a report by a bunch of economists to really underscore the notion.

According to an article I read last night in a Sunday newspaper which would have cost me a quarter if I'd gotten it off the newsstand in town instead of a fence out here, these economists have figured that if the present rate of annual rise in the cost of living index continues for the next 30 years, by the year 2,000 a \$3,500 car will cost \$17,000, a \$400 color TV will cost \$2,800, a \$20 bag of today's groceries will cost \$114, and a

\$25,000 home will cost \$147,000.

Now you understand that farmers have never been brought under the cost of living index, that is not completely, only half way - they pay more for what they buy all right just like everybody else but they don't get more for what they sell (cattle prices on the hoof are a little less now than they were, 15 years ago), so I have done a little figuring and find that while today for example it takes 11,666 dozen eggs to buy a \$3,500 car, 30 years from now it will take 56,666 dozen, which will certainly be a strain on chicken farmers and I won't even mention the fright of their chickens.

Or take wheat farmers. If it'll take 5 times as many

bushels of wheat to buy a car 30 years from now as it does today, what in the world are they going to do with all that wheat? I don't have the time or the head for it, but you figure up how many pounds of tobacco it'll take to buy a \$147,000 house. It staggers the imagination and strains an adding machine.

I don't know anything about how to control inflation and if anybody else does he hasn't shown up, but at least somebody had better start raising the price us farmers get if they don't want the country swamped up to its neck in cotton, grain, fruits, vegetables, eggs and chickens. Fifty-six thousand dozen eggs for one car is a lot of eggs.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Our old friend, the late John Bragaw, "enjoyed puns. We came across the following poem that a lady had given to him at one time and since the subject is so appropriate today, we pass it on to you.

Thought on Food -
It is the sad, unlucky fate
Of some to have to diet:
Each time they hear a
friend's lost weight
They ask him how, and try
it.

And yet, however fond and fair
Their hopes at the beginning,
They almost always find
that they're
More thinned against than
thinning.

Maybe you will enjoy this story we came across the other night.

Some years ago a tourist was traveling along the shores of Lake Como in Northern Italy. When he reached the castle, Villa Asconati, a friendly old gardener opened the gate and showed him the grounds. They were kept in perfect order. The tourist marveled at the neatness of everything and asked when the owner of the castle had been there last.

"Twelve years ago," the gardener replied.
"Does he write to you?"
"No, never."
"From whom do you get your instructions?"
"From his agent in Milan."
"Does he come?"

"Never."
"Who, then comes here?"
"I am almost always alone; just once in a while a tourist comes, like yourself, sir."
"But you keep this garden in as fine condition as though you expected your master to come tomorrow!"
The old gardener promptly replied: "Today, sir, today!"

Walter Hines Page is said to have had a greater love for his native state and county than almost any other North Carolinian. But what about Charles B. Aycock?

In an educational address made in Maine, he once said: "I love my home town better than any other town in Wayne County; I love Wayne County better than any other county in North Carolina; North Carolina better than any other state in the Union; the United States better than any other country in the world and I love this world better than the next."

There is an interesting bit of history connected with the French Broad River. It used to mark the boundary line between the English and the French possessions. The French had acquired by treaty all the territory in this region drained by waters running to the Mississippi.

This river was called the French Broad to distinguish it from the other "broad" rivers in the mountains.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

PRIVATE SCHOOLS - Private secondary schools are making such a headway in North Carolina and the South that Governor Scott feels that some future governor is going to have to concern himself with the issue of state support for the institutions. "But I don't think the state ought to get in it at this point," he said.

UPSETS - Many primaries and general elections bring out some rather startling upsets from what the politicians figured at the beginning of the campaign.

Down in Georgia last week peanut farmer Jimmy Carter who ran a poor third back in 1966 out - distanced former Gov. Carl F. Sanders with almost a majority in the first primary. Sanders had been heavily favored to win with the backing of the state's daily newspapers, bankers and lawyers.

Sanders, like Charlie Johnson here in North Carolina in 1948, probably had too many of the politicians and bankers on his side - enough to cause the people to become suspicious and vote the other way. From this vantage point in North Carolina the Georgia vote looks somewhat like a repeat of the 1948 contest between Charlie Johnson and Kerr Scott, except Johnson led Scott in the first primary whereas Carter has led Sanders in the first.

Lots of people made fun of Governor Lester Maddox who was unable to seek reelection in Georgia but instead, ran for lieutenant governor and won a majority over all opponents in the first primary. But the peppery little "axe-handle" governor seems to have gained a real foothold in Georgia.

In 1952 Governor Kerr Scott gave some consideration to running for lieutenant governor in North Carolina, he being unable to seek reelection, but decided against it.

Wonder if Governor Bob Scott will give thought to the idea here in North Carolina in 1972?

Another upset in last week's primaries took place in Arkansas where former Governor Orval E. Faubus was beaten for the Democratic nomination for governor by Dale Bumpers who emerged from the political obscurity of a country law practice. Faubus had led Bumpers in the first primary but lost in the run-off.

AGNEW - Vice President Agnew is certainly one of the nation's most popular officials and GOP leaders. The joke has been making the rounds that people writing for the top GOP speaker will say: "If you can't get Agnew, send Nixon."

But in many sections of the nation the people do not take to outsiders telling the people how to vote.

In 1938 President Franklin D. Roosevelt was a very popular man - having just been reelected for his second term in 1936 - carrying every state in the union except Maine and Vermont.

FDR didn't like the U.S. Senate bottling up his "Supreme Court packing bill" so he set out to defeat three Democratic U.S. Senators for renomination - Senator Walter F. George of Georgia; Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina; and Senator Millard Tydings of Maryland, three conservatives who would not bow to the White House pressure. In each state Roosevelt's candidate was defeated, a potent reason being that the people did not like someone coming in telling them how to vote.

The question is: In 1970 will the people resent Agnew's meddling in state races as they did Roosevelt's in 1938?

CONSTITUTION - The people of North Carolina will have before them on the election ballot November 3 some very important proposed amendments to the State Constitution. It is not too early to start studying these proposed changes. Oftentimes people go to the polls with scant knowledge of proposed constitutional changes on the ballot.

SPLIT - It appears that Governor Scott favors a split in the C&D Department with commerce and industry under one head and conservation under another. C&D Director Roy Sowers has come out strong against splitting up the C&D. Some might feel that this feeling on the part of the two might result in a split between the two. We doubt it. Scott and Sowers are close political friends, and only last week, Scott in discussing the matter said: "I hope that anyone who has any reasonable opposition to the proposed reorganization will express himself ... Let me assure you that I do not mind the expressions at all."

Two weeks vacation with pay - its something to look forward to, all right. But the North Carolina Heart Association warns, if you're going to be getting a lot of exercise during your vacation, work up to it gradually. Your best bet: see your doctor before you start your vacation. He can tell you what kind of exercise and how much of it is good for your heart.