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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1970

The Puritan Ethic

Virtually everything in and about the United States is under searching question today. There is hardly a traditional value, outlook, custom, or conclusion which is not being subjected to sometimes constructive sometimes destructive doubt and inquiry. While this present state of scrutiny has in some areas opened men's minds to look more deeply at man and his works, it has also sown widespread confusion and resulted in heightened social and political tension. In short, the American people are at one of those challenging turning-points where they must, for their own safety and progress, decide between those portions of history's legacy which are outgrown and must be reformed or discarded, and those which are fundamental and indispensable and must be more fully recognized and more sincerely practiced.

This weekend there begin in Massachusetts celebrations for the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, first at what is now Provincetown on Cape Cod, then shortly thereafter at Plymouth. And there could be no better time to look at certain of the questions being raised about the United States than during celebrations for an event which, perhaps more than any other, set the country upon the moral, political, intellectual, and economic paths which it has followed ever since.

We hear it increasingly stated, for example, that the America of today is turning away from one of its strongest traditional attitudes, something variously termed the Puritan or the Protestant Ethic. By this is generally meant (a) hard, unremitting toil is redemptive, and (b) an unusually narrow view on moral questions. Nor can there be much doubt but that in this age of material well-being, both of these restricted and limited interpretations of Puritanism and Protestantism are being either questioned or partially abandoned by certain circles and strata of American society.

It will be noted that we said "restricted

and limited interpretations." We do so because we do not believe that, examined in depth, either of the interpretations mentioned above is a true reading of the Puritan or Protestant Ethic. We believe that a far more fundamental, indeed the only correct interpretation of this ethic lies in the latter's conviction of the perfectability of man. This goes vastly beyond questions of how hard men should work or how stern their moral outlook should be, although these, particularly the latter, cannot be dissociated from man's determination to perfect himself.

When read in this simultaneously higher and deeper light, the Protestant or Puritan Ethic is found to be not only alive but thriving in modern-day America. As one writer put it, the youth of America is increasingly gripped in "a neo-Protestantism which holds that each man must justify his existence by forsaking personal gain and doing something socially constructive." It would be blindness, indeed, not to see in such an attitude a refining of Puritanism and an unquenchable yearning for the perfectability of both man and society.

No, the basic impulse of the Puritan Ethic is too soundly grounded in mankind's need, too firmly entrenched in American thinking, too applicable to that country's present need to work its way through monumental challenges, to be either outmoded or abandonable. Like all great historic truths, this ethic is not rigid, but is adaptable to men's necessities at whatever period they find themselves. Outward trappings may change, but inward power and effectiveness remain the same.

As the United States, along with Massachusetts, rethinks the lessons of the last three and a half centuries, its greatest need is to draw fresh strength from the humanly wise and divinely inspired foundations upon which America was established. It makes little difference by what name these are called so long as they remain green in men's hearts.

This latest climb was a masterful technical feat.

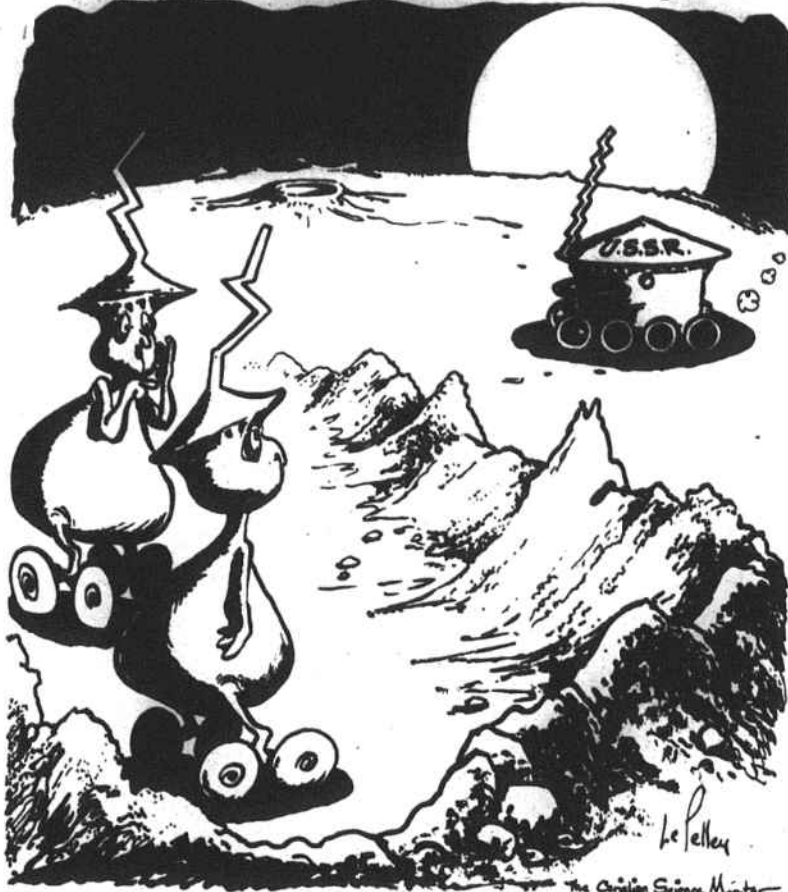
But still, as in all human accomplishments of the first order, it was essentially a mental victory, not a physical one. Intelligence, discipline, and steady courage, more than any sum of physical energy or endurance, got them to top.

At the two-thirds mark, it appeared to watchers that the climbers were stranded. A large-scale "rescue" operation was launched. But the climbers waved it off.

This makes one stop to think: How often, in whatever the difficult ascents of our lives, do we take refuge in plausible reasons for calling them off, thus never rising fully from the valleys of our mediocrity?

Editorials From The Christian Science Monitor

'At last . . . someone who's our kind of people'



The Christian Science Monitor

By LAURIE TELFAIR

Fans Are Hardy And Noble Breed

Loyal fans are a hardy and noble breed. They willingly and even enthusiastically endure discomforts, brave foul weather and drive long distances to watch the objects of their fancy in victory or defeat.

Football fans probably suffer the most, due to the cold weather and the fact that games are rarely cancelled because of poor weather.

However, I have known people who went to the winter Olympics when the games were held at Innsbruck, Austria several years ago. They paid large sums for tickets, hotel accommodations and food and then stood for hours in the snow on the side of a mountain until it seemed that one leg would be permanently shorter than the other from the steep slope if they didn't lose both limbs to frostbite first.

They didn't get frostbitten, and came home poorer but thrilled to have been able to spend a week or more standing in the Alps in the dead of winter watching someone else ski.

Fans of big-league baseball probably have it pretty soft. They can either watch the games on television or in a reasonably comfortable stadium.

But the followers of little league ball teams must be a hardy lot. The stadiums usually have the minimum of comforts, to begin with. And then the emotional wear and tear is considerable. Each play is an agony. Will he catch it or won't he? Will a pop fly become a home run as the ball is overthrown at first, retrieved and thrown away to third and finally thrown into the backstop at home? It's all possible in junior baseball.

When I was a child, my father coached boys' baseball teams for ten years or more. In addition to watching the two games a week his teams had to play, we had to keep an eye on

the opposition. We sometimes saw as many as fifteen ballgames during the week.

Once I saw a major league game played in Chicago and found it very boring. Where was the drama, when high fly balls were routinely caught and the first baseman never missed?

Vacations revolved around the baseball program for many families. We had to go out of town once when our team was playing in the city tournament and what agony it was to miss those crucial games. We telephoned back long distance each day, but by the time we returned, the team had been eliminated from the tournament.

Following a winning team brings its own exhilaration too that crases for a time the worries of the world. Perhaps there is a cyclone in Pakistan and new fighting in the Middle

East, but WE WON.

And losing the big one has its own special misery.

Some years back the college in our city had a particularly good basketball team--the first particularly good anything the college had ever had. They went to the National Invitational Tournament and Memphis followed them zealously on television. They came within two points of winning the thing too, but the game ended in controversy, a decision by the referee hotly contested, still when the shouting was over, our team had lost and, for the fans, the world stopped for a little while. There was a band and crowd to greet them at the airport at midnight when they came home from New York, which shows, I guess, that fans will remain loyal in defeat. But winning is more fun.



STORIES BEHIND WORDS

by William S. Penfield

BARMECIDE FEAST

A "Barmecide feast" means an illusion of plenty. The term came from a story in the "Arabian Nights."

A member of the wealthy Barmecide family invited a starving beggar to dinner. The beggar was seated at the table and empty dishes were set before him. The merchant prince, exercising his cruel sense of humor, started questioning the beggar.

"How is the soup?" he asked. "Excellent, sir," the beggar replied. Further questions about the imaginary meal brought nothing but praise from the beggar.

Finally, the beggar was offered some imaginary wine, but politely declined it, explaining that he was already drunk. Then, in his pretended drunken state, he knocked the Barmecide down. The Barmecide, recognizing the humor of the situation, treated the beggar to a sumptuous meal.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher



Dear editor:

You know, from time to time in between international crisis and on-the-farm obligations, like the time I rode my tractor eight hours straight without stopping trying to get a crop planted before it rained and made it, in fact, made it three months before it rained and the seeds never did sprout, anyway, in my spare time I have devoted a considerable amount of time to trying to figure out a way to play football with both teams winning every game.

What I'm doing is trying to preserve the sport. Like it is, with every game played, from junior high school through college to the professionals, unless it's a tie half the fans

always leave the stands disappointed if not heart-broken. The game is skating on thin ice, so to speak, like the coach who said they were trying to make a political football out of a basketball scandal.

Think, how long would Gun Smoke last if half its audience was always disappointed at the way it ended? Football is a great spectator sport, I follow it on television myself, but if they don't figure out some way to keep fans on both sides happy, it's in trouble.

Regretfully I have never been able to figure out how to change the game so everybody can always come away happy and victorious, both sides playing and everybody happy.

but I have now done the next best thing.

I have discovered the people who can.

They are the chairman of the Republican Party and the chairman of the Democratic Party.

I read in four different newspapers that each one of these men has claimed that his party won the November elections, and they've made such a good case that nobody in the country is sure which one is right. As a result, everybody thinks his side won, nobody lost, and everybody came away from the polls victorious.

I know when I'm out-classed. I turn my football problem over to them.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Scene: Balentine's Cafeteria in Raleigh.

Time: Lunch period. The place was rather crowded but we came to a table that had only one occupant. Nice looking gentleman.

"Mind if we sit here?"

"No."

(Business of having food removed from tray and placed on table.)

"You live in North Carolina?"

"No."

"What part of the country are you from?"

"North."

"What's your line of business?"

"Sales."

"What do you sell?"

"Goods."

And you know, from that moment on, there was absolute silence at that particular table until the gentleman from up North, a salesman who sold goods, got up and walked out.

We came across this sentence in our reading last night. It contains some excellent philosophy and is well worth remembering. Before remembering it, however, you've got to know how to say it. Read it over one time and then see if you can repeat it. Or, try it out on someone who is near you at this moment:

"What you do when you don't have to, determines what you will be when you can't help it."

An inferiority complex, says "The Messenger," is like wealth. It would be a blessing if the right people had it.

Have you ever noticed how often a sign painter misplaces an apostrophe when he is painting a sign? I read this little story the other day that I believe explains the mystery.

A man noticed a sign almost completed on a shop-window: "Ladie's and Gent's Restaurant," and the painter still at work on it.

The man must have had the same curiosity I possess, for he stopped and said to the artist: "Pardon my inquisitiveness, but why do you put the apostrophe before the S?"

"Put the what before the which?" asked the painter, courteously.

"That little curly-tailed mark after that E and that T. Some call it an apostrophe."

"Posserphe, is it? Well, young fellow, thank you! I seen and I make that dingus a hundred times, and I never knew it had a name! Posserphe! That's a good one, I'll have to spring it on the gang! Some painters always paints it after the S, but always puts it before the S, because I think it looks more artistic there. Except for that, it don't make no difference where you put it."

Over the massive stone fireplace in the living room of the late Henry Ford's estate on the River Rouge, near Dearborn, Michigan, is a motto carved in the heavy wooden mantelpiece, so I am told and it reads:

"Chop your own wood, and it will warm you twice."

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues

EVERY VOTE COUNTS -- That every vote counts can be attested to by the closeness of several contests in North Carolina in the November 3 general election.

In Columbus County Rep. Arthur W. Williamson was reelected by receiving two votes more than Thomas Harrelson his Republican opponent.

In Alamance County veteran State Senator Ralph Scott defeated his Republican opponent, Hubert Lowe by 13 votes.

Ralph Scott has been quoted as saying that he would hate to lose an election by 13 votes but that he was mighty happy to win by 13 votes.

Looking backward, no doubt but that Thomas Harrelson can think of plenty of places where he could have picked up three votes had he only known how close the election was going to be. And no doubt but that Hubert Lowe has thought of many places where he could have picked up 14 extra votes had he been able to know how close his race would be.

These two contests simply go to demonstrate that every vote counts. Had just one of Arthur Williamson's supporters switched their vote to Harrelson there would have been a tie between the two candidates for the house.

ADDISON HEWLETT -- Former House Speaker Addison Hewlett, Jr., prominent Wilmington attorney and member of the State Board of Higher Education is not a graduate of the University of North Carolina but of Wake Forest College, but he is one of the strongest advocates of the UNC in the old North State.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR -- Several prominent Democrats are said to be eying the lieutenant governor's job with a view towards running in 1972, among them being Senator Hector McGeachy of Fayetteville, former State Senator Voit Gilmore of Southern Pines and possibly C&D Director Roy Sowers, Jr. of Sanford. Since Bob Scott made it an easy stepping stone to the governor's mansion, the number two office is no longer regarded as a dead-end road in North Carolina politics. And the incumbent lieutenant governor is regarded as a likely contender for governor in the Democratic primary come the Ides of March 1972.

AHEAD -- Four years ago at this time George Romney, then

governor of Michigan was regarded as the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination just like Senator Huskie of Maine is now regarded as the front runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

There are advantages and disadvantages to being the front-runner, and most any candidate would prefer to be the front runner at all stages of the contest.

But Romney, like most presidential candidates, made a trip to Vietnam and he came back endorsing the Lyndon Johnson Administration policy towards Vietnam. Later, Romney saw that the Johnson Administration policy was not popular with lots of people and he wanted to move to the devious side and he made a statement in which he said that he had been "brainwashed" during his trip to Vietnam.

When Romney made the "brainwashing" statement his presidential stock started dropping and continued on the downward side until he withdrew as a candidate while in the midst of the campaign for votes in the New Hampshire presidential primary.

With Muskie out front in the Democratic contest, he will have to be very careful lest he make a bad slip like Romney did in 1968.

INTEREST -- Borrowing people, and most people are on the borrowing side, will be glad to note that the prime interest rate has been cut to 7 percent by Chase Manhattan and some of the other leading banks of the nation including at least three North Carolina banks. The high interest rates have proved to be a great deterrent to home building in North Carolina and the nation.

HONEYMOON -- President Nixon's honeymoon with Congress is over. In the recent campaign President Nixon went all out for his Republican candidates and did no better than break even at the best. With the Democrats having taken it on the chin during the recent campaign and come out pretty good, they will hardly be as easy to get along with as has been the case during the past two years.

JIM VOGLER -- Rep. Jim Vogler of Mecklenburg, first elected to the State House in 1936, will be dean of the house this year and will call the Democratic caucus together on Friday, December 11.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, November 29, 1945

At a general meeting of stockholders at the courthouse last night, the Hoke Freezer Locker Corporation, which had been formed to finance the building and operation of a freezer locker plant here, voted itself out of existence.

The Raeford Kiwanis Club will have as its guests at the regular weekly meeting next Thursday night December 6, all teachers of the white schools of Hoke County and their wives and husbands.

Statistics furnished by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce and received this week show that up to November 14, 1945, there were 6,660 bales of cotton ginned in Hoke County. Last year up to November there had been 13,709 bales ginned, over

Pfc Julian McKeithan, who has been in Japan, is expected home in a few days, having landed on the West Coast this week.

Lt. Bruce Morris, Jr. who has been in the Philippine Islands with the army, landed in San Francisco this week and is expected here in a few days.

Pfc Fred Cox, who has been in the Pacific theatre, was discharged from the army last week and is at home.

Captain Herbert McLean Jr., landed at San Francisco this week and is expected home shortly.

Lt. Jake Austin, of the Navy, was separated from the service this week and is spending his terminal leave with his mother here. He has recently returned from sea duty in the Pacific.

Major Malcolm D. Gillis has returned from fifteen months in Puerto Rico and has been

15 years ago

Thursday, November 24, 1955

The cotton gin of Dundarrach Trading Co., Inc. was completely destroyed by fire last Thursday afternoon, despite the efforts of firemen from five neighboring towns who responded to the company's call for help when the blaze was discovered.

The birth of Christ will be commemorated in Raeford this year with a parade at 7:00 o'clock Wednesday night, December 14.

Lacy Koonce, senior tackle on the 1955 Hoke County High School football team, was named a member of the second coaches all-conference team.

From Rockfish News: The Nail Keg game are now depending on the storekeepers to provide the other kind of seats, since the wooden nail kegs are out, and we are sure they will not be the variable