

**Established 1889**  
**The Kings Mountain Herald**  
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**MARTIN'S MEDICINE**  
 By MARTIN HARMON

The subject for today is school discipline... in the lighter vein.

**m-m**

Their elders won't admit it to their children but virtually all will recall that the pattern of today has not changed from yesterday. Students do not wait. They give the teacher an examination on the first day of school. The test is: who's gonna be boss, us or you. If the answer is "us" the teacher is headed for an unhappy, frustrating year in which he will impart little knowledge into the collective and individual crania of "us". Happily for both teachers and "us", teacher usually passes that first-day test.

**m-m**

B. N. Barnes, the former school superintendent, was graduated from Wake Forest College in 1926 and was tendered the principalship of a rural school in his home county of Robeson. There was a rather large joker in the deck. The school had been subject to the ministrations of no less than three principals the previous year. The first one lasted only a few weeks, and the second informed his superiors he would NOT repeat NOT be returning following the Christmas holidays. The third had more intestinal fortitude. He would complete the term but he would NOT repeat NOT be returning in the autumn of '26. Mr. Barnes related, "Don't guess I would have been offered the job except that the school committee was desperate and I was courted by the chairman's daughter. Well, I needed a job and accepted the offer."

**m-m**

Somebody erroneously spread the report that Bhanon Barnes had been a member of the Wake Forest boxing team. "I'd done a little intra-mural boxing," Mr. Barnes recalled with a chuckle, "but nothing akin to what is required to make the varsity." Even this help didn't save Mr. Barnes the test. In that day, a principal taught several classes in addition to attending to administrative duties. On the second day, the Principal was summoned out of class for a principal's chore. He returned to find the class in bedlam and an eraser war in progress. He picked out the lad he guessed to be the ring-leader, grabbed him by the scruff of the neck, acquired a paddle, spread the lad across the desk and made the boy's sitting arrangements painful for a few days. "You know," he said, "those boys got interested in cleaning up the school grounds for an athletic field, and they became my best friends." Mr. Barnes had passed the test.

**m-m**

Don Jones was talking Wednesday about the different methods of discipline. An Asheville teacher in his high school had a funny pupil. The boy, sitting on the back row, was play-acting a fisherman. The arm went back and the line was cast. Then, as the boy reeled in his imaginary catch, his right leg moved skyward. The teacher said nothing as he slowly meandered back to the fisherman. The lad cast again, reeled in, right leg chasing ozone, and landed his catch. Abreast the fisherman, the teacher grabbed the imaginary fish, unhooked it, and dropped the imaginary catch into his side pocket. The teacher had passed his test.

**m-m**

Don himself had a real problem. School books were purchased by the students and were resalable. Books began disappearing and it was discovered a young entrepreneur was stealing the books and selling them. With approval of superintendent and board of education, Don expelled the boy. Ten days later the boy was back, begging for readmittance with the pledges he would give no more trouble in any direction. "If I do," the boy said, "you won't see me except as I wave goodbye passing your room. Don, amid considerable criticism from his superiors, readmitted him. The boy was true to his word, graduated that year, went on to Western Carolina and made a fine record. His senior year he was president of the campus Young Democrats club, later became president of the state YDC. He worked for the state during the Sanford administration, today holds a highly responsible position with one of the state's largest banks.

**m-m**

There are a lot of methods. A piano teacher here some years ago was tough, when called for (non-practicing students) addressed them in language more commonly associated with the barnyard or barracks. At year's end her pupil list had dwindled to 15, which hardly produced an eating return. I attended her recital. The fifteen played, some brilliantly, everyone of them well.

**m-m**

Today, 27 years ago, I acquired the Herald. Naturally, I will celebrate the birthday in high fashion. I'm going to the dentist.

**Viewpoints of Other Editors**

**THE TIME OF PEACEMAKING**

President Nixon and his critics from the Democratic party are now vigorously engaged with each other where legitimate criticism ceases and aid to the enemy begins, and this is an argument we would prefer to keep out of because it is pure politics.

About all we really want to say on the politics of the matter is that the Democratic would be deprived of a useful political weapon if Mr. Nixon could persuade public opinion that it is reasonable to criticize his eight-point peace plan, and President Nixon would be deprived of a useful political weapon if the Democrats could persuade public opinion that he is not sincere in trying to make peace.

This is, on both sides, a matter of political weaponizing. The readiness of both to reach for blunt instruments is in itself evidence of how close the politicians seem to think the election may be. If Mr. Nixon were sure of an easy win he could afford to relax take the political highroad, and virtually eschew the treason weapon. If the Democrats were sure of an easy win they would avoid any implication that the president might be playing politics with peace. Obviously, neither side at this stage is confident enough to be willing to take a chance on high-level politics.

As for peace in Vietnam: it is highly doubtful that anything said in the political campaign in the United States is going to make any real difference to the potential leadership in Hanoi. Right now, the leaders there have only one preoccupation. They are launched on their biggest military effort in three years. Everything turns on how the battle goes. If it goes well for them, they may be able to get better terms out of Washington than Mr. Nixon has yet offered. If it goes badly, they may be very happy indeed to pick up the offer as it stand now. If it is a draw, they can always treat the Nixon offer for what it will be, an opening bid for a round of negotiation.

But not until the battle is over are the men of Hanoi likely to take a serious look at the Nixon offer. And that won't be until after he returns from Peking. By then the situation could be different. However, from their point of view, why do business with Mr. Nixon until they see how the election turns out? He might not be reelected. And there can be no major military change between April and December.

For them, the choice is fairly simple. They could, in theory, make peace with Mr. Nixon right away. But to do that would be to give up the possibility of winning all by dealing a shattering demoralizing defeat on the armies of South Vietnam. Why make peace now before they know how brittle, or tough, South Vietnam really is? Or they can put off peacemaking until next year. They have nothing to lose by waiting. Mr. Nixon's peace terms aren't going to be any tougher in 1973 than in 1972. They might gain by waiting.

In other words, if Mr. Nixon wants a negotiated peace this spring or summer, he is going to have to make his offer more tempting than anything yet proposed. Meanwhile, it is highly unlikely that anything said on the political hustings here is going to make much difference.—The Christian Science Monitor.

**KINGS MOUNTAIN Hospital Log**  
 VISITING HOURS  
 Daily 10:30 to 11:30 A.M.  
 3 to 4 P.M. and 7 to 8 P.M.

- Mrs. Thomas D. Bryant  
 Roman Byers  
 Millard B. Caldwell  
 Mrs. George Clary  
 Mrs. Hubert G. Clemmons  
 Rufus Foster  
 Annie Dulin  
 Mrs. L. J. Falls  
 Wilda Haskett  
 Fred C. Hughes  
 Verdie Kerns  
 Mrs. Arthur L. Montgomery  
 Walter Morehead  
 Mrs. Robert B. McClain  
 Mrs. Billy T. McMurry  
 Charlie Nicholson  
 Joan Parker  
 Raymond Roberts  
 George T. Runyans  
 Beatrice Sherrill  
 Mrs. Robert E. Thompson  
 Minnie Cobb  
 Arthur Williams  
 Wray A. Williams  
 Bessie Wood  
 Jesse H. Yarbro  
 Sara Alexander  
 Inez Fowler  
 Mrs. William H. Lewis  
 Shirley Moore  
 Elnora Ross  
 Pearl Stevens  
 Bobby Walker  
 Mrs. W. D. Byers  
 Warren Ellison  
 Arthur Lee Frye  
 Mrs. James E. Thornburg  
 Dan H. Boheler  
 Cecil Cole, Jr.  
 Clyde R. Goodson  
 Mrs. Jesse M. Rippy  
 Mrs. Lee R. Sellers  
 Mrs. Ben Short  
 Charles Childers  
 Mrs. Thomas B. Smith  
 Samuel P. Williams
- ADMITTED THURSDAY**  
 Mrs. Major Black, Route 1, Grover  
 James H. Fields, Matthews St., Clover, S. C.  
 Mrs. Earl M. Huffman, Route 2, Bessemer City  
 Thurman Long, Route 3, City  
 Horace Mathis, Route 1, Forest City  
 Mrs. Howard M. McCarter, Route 3, Clover, S. C.  
 Sandra Johnson, 5 Chesterfield Ct., City  
 Michael Eugene Weaver, Route 2, City
- ADMITTED FRIDAY**  
 David S. Adams, Route 2, Bessemer City  
 Mrs. John W. Murry, Route 2, Bessemer City  
 Anderson D. McCarter, Route 1, City  
 Boyce Pope, Route 2, Bessemer City

- Mrs. Garnett E. Smith, Cherryville  
 Mrs. Harold L. Alexander, 212 S. Gaston St., City  
**ADMITTED SATURDAY**  
 Mrs. Anzariah Jamerson, Route 3, City  
 William Queen, Bessemer City  
 Thomas Robert Foster, Route 3, City  
 Mrs. William W. Willis, Route 3, City
- ADMITTED SUNDAY**  
 Ruby Dingus, Grover, N. C.  
 Mrs. David Lee Dover, Bessemer City  
 John Robert Gordon, 111 Lackey St., City  
 Ivan Lawson, City  
 Ranson Pruitt, Route 2, Shelby  
 Mrs. Belvin Stroupe, 66 Trailer Park, Bessemer City  
 Robert Glenn Holt, Bessemer City  
 Mrs. Jerry D. Tucker, 117 Owens St., City  
 William Archie Johnston, Route 1, Bessemer City
- ADMITTED MONDAY**  
 Julia Eskew, 115 East Ohio Ave. Bessemer City  
 Rickey Feimster, 218 Walker St., City  
 Lesco Gardner, Route 1, City  
 Nell Ross Green, 506 Bridges Dr., Bessemer City  
 Thelma Carpenter, 210 Carpenter St., City  
 Felix Johnson, 207 Brice St., City  
 Amos McCluney, 442 Crocker Rd., City  
 Harris Oliver McConnell, 619
- Gastonia Hwy., Bessemer City  
 Mrs. Frankie Moore, 4400 Mar- grace Rd., City  
 Emma Ramsey, 114 Lackey St., City  
 William L. White, Route 2, Bessemer City
- ADMITTED TUESDAY**  
 George Rhea Barber, 715 Williams St., City  
 Jack Ann Clayton, Route 2, Bessemer City  
 Mrs. Jack C. Brown, Route 1, City  
 Dennis Lee Hope, 118 Wells St., City  
 Horace E. Kiser, 511 W. Mtn. St., City  
 Blanche Machowicz, 112 Castwood Rd., City  
 Johnny Nations, 1019 Linwood Dr., City  
 Mrs. Hubert R. Prince, Route 1, Gastonia  
 Bessie Ramseur, Route 2, Bessemer City  
 William Todd Rhodes, 317 Ellis St., City

**TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE**  
 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. Proverbs 15:1.

**Hairline of Difference**

How tough is too tough and how much bending is too much bending? The recent student battle at Kings Mountain High School poses the question of the hairline of difference — between the cruel martinet policy and the policy of license.

Students say the trouble was 90 percent racially inspired, a local civil war between the black man and the white man.

Principal causes of the racial origin:

- 1) Parental attitudes on race, expressed at the high school by their children of both races.
- 2) Inter-racial dating, generally colored boys dating white girls. The white boys don't like it, nor do the colored girls, breeding built-in emotional trouble—and a matter quite legitimate under federal law, without the province of school faculty and administration, a matter of parental menage initially, but finally and conclusively the province of the emotional tastes of the respective boys and girls.
- 3) Principal J. C. Atkinson, the consensus seems to be, has leaned too far to the easy side in what some interpret as a "peace-at-any-price" policy, so contented by students on both sides of the Atkinson equation, by some faculty members, and by Mrs. Martha H. Ware, a substitute teacher, who contends she was unsupported by Mr. Atkinson when she took the deck of cards of students gambling in her class. Mrs. Ware says she saw the players passing money and has been black-balled as a substitute teacher since she wrote a letter to the editor published in the Kings Mountain Mirror. There is a time and place for all recreations — or almost all — but the classroom is no place for card-playing, gambling or not.

Blame must accrue to Mr. Atkinson, if the charges are correct, and in turn to Superintendent of Schools Don Jones and finally rests with the board of education. A particular case in point was the action on the student protest of the playing of "Dixie" by the high school band. There was a student protest, too, against the non-playing of "Dixie". But the board of education honored the anti-"Dixie" group, largely Negro, when population of the school approximates 77 percent White and 23 percent Negro today and was similar when the "Dixie" business blew many months ago.

But the percentages are relatively unimportant. This was a matter of principle, and high time the board of education said, "Excuse me." The Herald position at the time: Play "Dixie", the folk tune embraced by the Civil War soldiers in gray, AND the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", the hymn embraced by Civil War soldiers in blue. Both songs predated the Civil War. "Dixie" was recently upheld for what it is by a federal court. While "Battle Hymn of the Republic" has not been tested in the courts, it is most reasonable to assume that the decision would be the same.

In view of the recent unpleasantness and the subsequent meeting of more than 200 concerned parents, the board of education would do well to hold a public hearing and invite any and all to air their thinking to solving a problem fired by prejudice and fanned by stupidity. The Herald likes the statement of the parent of a high schooler who said, "I love everybody."

Examination of history is worthwhile, not for the superfluous detail of dates of battles, political results and other agenda, but only if the history points a way to avoid the pitfalls of the past and to eliminate past mistakes today and tomorrow.

It is thus no time for recrimination about the past but high time for all citizens—black, white, red brown or yellow—to return to sanity. In the recent incident, Kings Mountain has been lucky. There were some painful injuries, but none sufficient to require more than first aid treatment. Somebody had been dead.

The "get tough" policy just inaugu-

**Not Signing**

The state's crop of new voters, in the 18 to 20 age group, are not rushing to register, at least not in this area of this state.

At last count, only about 250 had put their names on the books in Cleveland, and only about 400 in Gaston where, Mrs. Robert Query, secretary to the elections board, says the potential is 7000.

Mrs. Sam Hair, secretary to the Mecklenburg board, has reported the same seeming disinterest.

Of course, there's plenty of time until April 7.

Governor candidate Pat Taylor replied to a question on the subject here Wednesday: "It varies over the state. Where the registrars visit the high school, the youth registration is good. Where the registrars do not, the registration is poor."

Voting remains a right, a privilege, a prerogative. Indeed to cast or not to cast is the province of the eligible voter. But he isn't even eligible until he registers.

**The Nixon Trip**

What will be the result (s) of the Nixon trip to China, off-limits since 1949 and the Communist take-over, as the United States has been off-limits to citizens of mainland China, before Red China's admission to the United Nations last year.

The few tangles are mutual admission of athletic teams, newsmen, and limited travel between the two countries. Dropping of some trade barriers is indicated and to be further explored.

The Nixon contribution is the statement that the Nationalist Chinese and Red Chinese will be left to settle their own differences, which is earning the President the charge of "sell-out."

Further results must await the passage of time, as perhaps Mr. Nixon and Mr. Chou En Lai would say themselves, were complete frankness the order of the day.

On the matter of "sell-out", which to all intents and purposes it is, the Nixon policy is realistic. Chiang Kai-Shek's role as spokesman for China ended with the Red take-over in 1949. He has spoken for 12 million Chinese refugees on Taiwan, while the Red regime has spoken for the 700 to 800 million Chinese on the mainland.

The good offices of the United States, after World War II, were used in an effort to marry the two Chinese factions. General George Marshall tried and failed. General Albert Wedemeyer made the final effort, returned with the report: a pox on both their houses.

Nationalist China has been sustained monetarily by the United States ever since, and presumably the "sell-out" will not include a cut-off of the monetary aid the Taiwan Chinese receive.

Otherwise, President Nixon must be given credit for having mastered elemental addition and mathematical comparison.

Eight hundred million vs. a dozen million.

Who speaks for China?  
 Nothing of importance may be gained by the trek to the Orient, but there was not much to lose.

**Lalon Franks**

His many friends were shocked at the death, at 45, of Lalon Lee Franks, veteran postman.

Few knew that he suffered from emphysema, a severe and incurable respiratory illness.

Mr. Franks was unassuming, quietly friendly, a postal employee who knew what the "service" portion of postal service meant.

rated may have come late.

But it remains much better to be late than never to arrive.

There is no substitute for discipline.

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