

## Opinions and Editorials

# AIA Poses Real Threat To Academic Freedom

"Accuracy in Academia" was founded this fall by Reed Irvine. The goal of this organization is to force college professors to conform to one particular idea in their teaching. "Accuracy in Academia" claims that they are "combating the dissemination of misinformation" in college classrooms.

The people behind this organization have seemingly forgotten what education is. They are trying to tell professors what to teach their students, while the whole idea of education is to get students to hear and think about the different views that are available to them. "Accuracy in Academia" would like to force any professor who downgrades our national heritage to change his views so that they give a better image of our country. In doing this academic freedom is severely discouraged and the students are not allowed to think for themselves. This method of teaching would seem to border on both censorship and communism. If this organization becomes prominent then we are putting our education system back in time twenty years.

It was twenty years ago that the University of North Carolina was facing academic censure and the possible loss of accreditation because of the state's anti-communist speaker ban law.

This law limited the free speech of students, faculty members, and administrative speakers.

It seems that "Accuracy in Academia" should realize that everyone has a right to express their beliefs. The same right is given to the people who are listening. They do not have to agree with what is said; in fact, they should be encouraged to express their own views. Here "Accuracy in Academia" has its only valid point. Are there professors who force their own beliefs onto students? Even this supposition seems pretty shaky. We have never met a professor or anyone in the academic field who forced information on students and did not allow the students to give their own views. Maybe there are some professors who teach this way but their scarcity and their students' ability to recognize them as radical brainwashers would negate any influence they would have.

In the end it would be the students who would be hurt the most by "Accuracy in Academia." If professors were forced to follow guidelines then students would be deprived of some interesting views. They would also be fearful of expressing their own opinions, feeling their grade may suffer if they did not accept the professor's teaching. This lack of academic freedom can do nothing except hurt our education system.

# Sports Require Thought

Dear Editor:

Our class would like to respond to Dr. Navangul's article "Are Sports Intellectual?" in the Nov. 22 *Decree*.

We view the question from several perspectives: we unanimously agree that sport is an intellectual activity so long as process is emphasized rather than outcome. We also see a distinction between sport for the spectator and for the participant.

In support of our position that sport is an intellectual activity when process (play) is emphasized, we make the following points:

1. Knowledge of skills and rules are required for proper play and appreciation of the game for both spectator and participant.

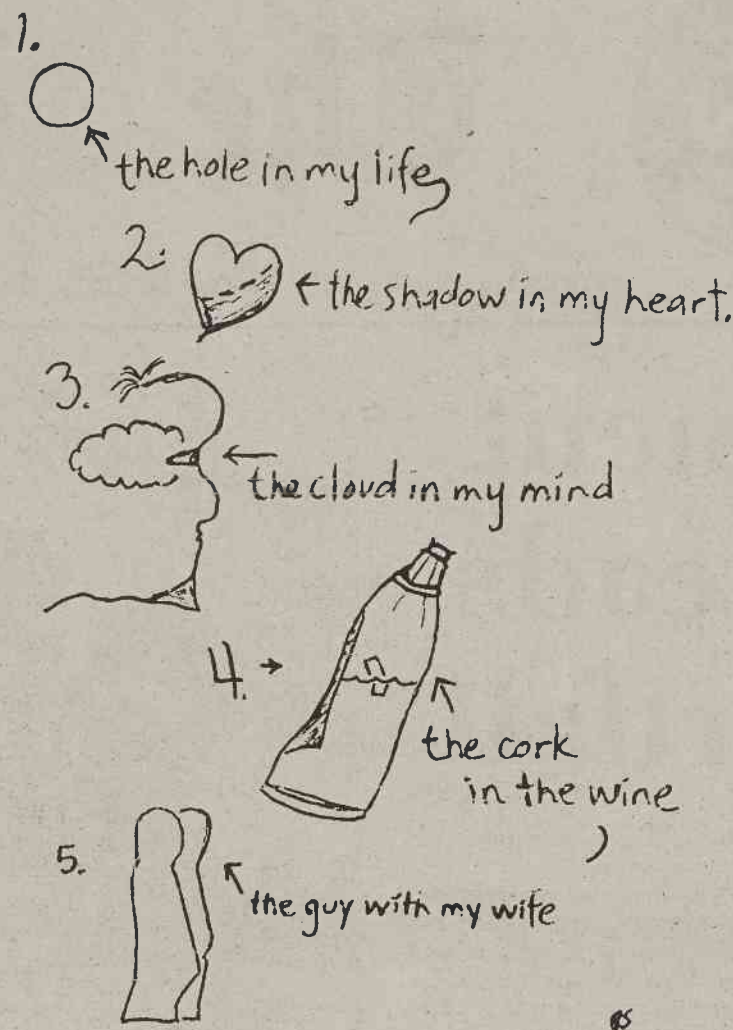
2. Sport is structured activity, which evidences cognition. (Some would say sport is a social institution.)

When outcome (winning) is emphasized rather than process, sport is precluded from being an intellectual activity in the following way:

Outcome is the end result of the play or process of the game. However, there are those who emphasize outcome *without regard* to process. When this occurs - direct effect on sport as an intellectual activity. Those spectators who view the outcome only are more likely to demand violence by participants in order to be entertained. This precludes attention on the playing field to rules and skills which are the intellectual aspects of sport.

It is also popularly believed that sport serves to drain off violent feelings in the spectator. Research we have studied suggests the opposite - that viewing violent sports increased violent feelings and actions. This, too, precludes sport being an intellectual activity.

Sociology of Sport & Leisure  
Rocky Mount Campus Class



# Sports Include Intellectual Role

Dear Editor:

Our class would like to respond to Dr. Navangul's letter in the Nov. 22 *Decree*.

We consider the question to be whether or not sport has an intellectual component. We are defining "intellectual" as having the capacity to think rationally based on acquired knowledge.

Out of a class of 15, 87 percent take the majority position that sport *does* have an intellectual component. In order to support this position, we offer the following thoughts:

1. Sport requires the use of deductive reasoning in order to make quick decisions on the playing field.

2. Mental discipline is also required (beyond hand-eye coordination).

3. In team efforts, players must integrate their position with others in the process of making the parts into a whole.

4. Last, repetition is required to refine skills into acquired knowledge.

5. When comparing these points to experience in music, art, literature and science, we find the same holds true.

Our minority position is that sport does *not* have an intellectual component because:

1. It doesn't take a great deal of intelligence to acquire the

knowledge required to play sport.

2. Any deductive reasoning that occurs is performed by the one in the role of educator/coach.

3. When comparing the intellectual component of sport to music, etc., we find no parallel: the knowledge which must be acquired in high culture is extensive and time-consuming. The knowledge which must be acquired in sport is limited and quickly gained.

Sociology of Sport & Leisure  
Raleigh Extension Class

### ACROSS

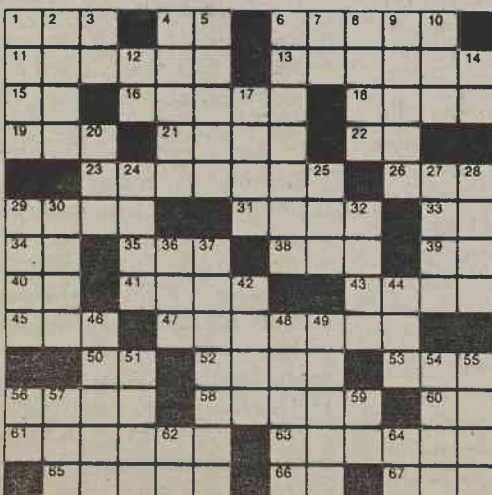
- 1 Simian
- 4 Saint: abbr.
- 6 Analyze, as sentence
- 11 Cylindrical
- 13 Beast
- 15 Symbol for tantalum
- 16 South American mammal
- 18 Peel
- 19 Rubber tree
- 21 Rockfish
- 22 Spanish article
- 23 Is present
- 26 Cover
- 29 Destiny
- 31 Scorch
- 33 Roman 1001
- 34 Hebrew month
- 35 River island
- 38 Music: as written
- 39 Forenoon
- 40 Negative prefix
- 41 Walk
- 43 Contest
- 45 Crimson
- 47 Struck
- 50 Spanish article
- 52 Unit of Italian currency
- 53 Click beetle
- 56 Egyptian singing bird
- 58 Muse of poetry
- 60 Concerning
- 61 Earlier
- 63 Center
- 65 Projecting teeth
- 66 Therefore
- 67 Lamprey

### DOWN

- 1 Aleutian island
- 2 Toll
- 3 Teutonic deity
- 4 Begin
- 5 Indian tent
- 6 Commemorative marches

## Crossword Puzzle

See Answers On Page 3



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## The Decree

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