

Hoya Champs Forever?

Recently we noted in this column that Georgetown University's basketball team and its eloquent coach, John Thompson, have been treated with undue and unfair criticism by the news media. Much of this negative press copy has arisen from the press' anger that coach Thompson is not accommodating in allowing the media free reign to interview his players, thus invading their privacy and disrupting their concentration on both their academic studies and basketball.

In addition, there is the specter of racism, not an allegation raised by us, but rather by the white news media. As Peter Axthel wrote in NEWSWEEK recently, a successful "...group of a dozen black kids with a black coach, a specter that, even in our enlightened times, may leave some viewers uneasy." In effect, coach John Thompson has reached a level of success on his own terms as a black man in a competitive world dominated by white people. He is, therefore, a threat in the narrow mindedness of some because he dared to win a national NCAA basketball championship without the misplaced values, the exploitation of his players and the placing basketball ahead of the primary purpose of Georgetown University, that is the education of its students.

Because John Thompson has succeeded in the manner that he has, many are now beginning to ask how and why, and the white news media has begun to exhibit a new sensitivity if not respect. First of all, America loves a winner and John Thompson was a winner in 1984. However, Mr. Thompson's winning was and is not rooted merely in his coaching talents. He is first and foremost a man with a philosophy, a set of values and a form of self-discipline that a lot more Americans, both black and

Own Beliefs

Significantly, too, and in his own modest way, coach Thompson would undoubtedly say that it is easy for him to be as he is because the Georgetown University environment in which he lives and works is characteristic of his own beliefs. For example, the foundation for developing a successful basketball program, in Thompson's way of thinking, is to let his players know that they are students first and athletes second, and that there is a great big, real

white, could well do with. world out there beyond basketball. It is for this reason that 42 of the 44 basketball players Thompson brought to Georgetown University have graduated with earned degrees. It was in the same context that one of the Georgetown players said after their NCAA championship win, "We don't know what the sports writers have said about us because we read the business section of the newspaper."

Colman McCarthy of the Washington Post said he is not surprised "...that coach Thompson, a man who thinks in terms of values and not success, has flourished at Georgetown. The university...is making some contributions that are as impressive as the rise to excellence of its basketball program."

Community Action

What Mr. McCarthy is referring to is what Georgetown calls its "Community Action Coalition." It is a social action-oriented group and is the largest student organization on the campus with over 500 members. The student members tutor refugees in the English language, work in medical clinics, aid the elderly, provide shelter for homeless women, assist in soup kitchens and raise money to aid and assist the poor. Thus, when coach Thompson tells his young players that there is a world out there beyond basketball, he's paralleling the university's broader philosophical view that there is a world out there beyond the wall of the academic classroom that has needs that must be addressed now.

It seems almost tragic that as a nation, we tend to wait for the successful exploits of a sports team - an NCAA basketball championship - before we are interested enough to inquire about the more relevant life-meaning aspects of Georgetown, or for that matter, any other university. Georgetown's Community Action Coalition and its philosophical foundation is undoubtedly something that needs to be repeated on other university campuses where in too many cases the only media attention received centers around the school's policies on who can drink beer and where.

Georgetown's basketball team may be a powerhouse for years to come in part because its players stay in school for four full years to earn degrees.

"IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE 20TH CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR OWN DOOM."



United Community Leadership...Needed Now

Letters To The Editor:



D.G. Martin Exemplifies Many Outstanding Qualities

1425 Scotland Ave. Charlotte, N.C. 28207 Tel. No. 374-0276

Dear Editor: Rarely in our lifetime have the Democrats in the 9th District had the opportunity to vote for a candidate with as many outstanding qualities as D. G. Martin exemplifies.

His intelligence, integrity, compassion and humility make him an extraordinary person. D.G. has unselfishly given so many hours through serving on

the Civil Service Board as chairman, Nature Museum Board, McCrory YMCA Board, United Way Board, as well as an elder in his church, St. Ignace Presbyterian. These are just a few of the many ways D.G. has tried to enhance the lives of all of us.

In addition to all of these qualities, D.G. is very responsible on issues of economics. While he has a genuine concern for the many problems our country faces, he also believes

that proposed solutions to those problems must be coupled with appropriate sources of revenue to fund them. He believes that our country must become more disciplined and adopt a "pay as you go" concept for all programs. In summary, he is a fiscal conservative with a social conscience.

We urge the Democratic voters in the 9th District to send D.G. to Congress. Sincerely, Katy & Raleigh Shoemaker

D.G. Martin Assumes Burden Of Public Service

April 17, 1984 Davidson, N.C.

Dear Editor: During the nearly 20 years of my residence in Germany and travels throughout Europe and much of the western world, it has become increasingly difficult not to share the dismay and growing fear my friends in politics and business and my colleagues in the arts express

concerning the quality of America's leadership and the selfishness and danger of her domestic and foreign policies.

It is a source of great pride and relief to know that there are still men and women of the calibre of D.G. Martin willing to assume the burden of public service.

Since we were boys together in Davidson, I have

never known him to be other than fair, honest, energetic, intelligent, and courageous. I fervently hope the people of this district will avail themselves of the opportunity to be led and served by so fine a man.

Sincerely, William Workman, Mus.D. Principal Lyric Baritone Frankfurt Opera West Germany

From Capitol Hill

Defunding Civil Rights Commission

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Just what happens to the Reagan Civil Rights Commission is a test of members of Congress' stamina to carry out the purpose for which the Commission was created or whether they will tuck their tails and bow to the misguided Commission agenda of the Reagan Administration. There certainly can't be any doubt - even in the minds of the most mediocre intelligence - in the nation that this present Civil Rights Commission has abrogated all of its intentions.

President Reagan's own words; "...that he was not getting any pleasure out of the original commission" and Ed Meese's saying the Commission's responsibility is to communicate the President's goals and objectives; reasons reported in the press for replacing Smith and Ruckelshaus, Linda Chavez's Commission agenda which follows the highly conservative Heritage Foundations' recommendations, all are proof of a Commission that is the Administration's mouthpiece.

Mr. Reagan has captured the Civil Rights Commission, changing it from a non-political independent agency, whom all forces respected for its impartial views in carrying out the purpose for which it was



Alfreda L. Madison created. The House Appropriations Committee has held hearings on whether or not to defund the Commission.

Representative Pat Schroeder, speaking for the Congressional Women's Caucus said it was a sad day because the Commission has changed its role from fact-finding to one of writing proposals based on philosophical views. The present Commission says it will view continuing disparities between racial and ethnic groups as not necessarily a result of philosophical perspective, thus recasting the Social Indicators Report in a new philosophical perspective on discrimination.

Ignoring the congressional purpose in creating the Commission, Clarence Pendleton, Commission Chairman, said, "I bring my own experience to the table." Being jubilant over

the newly constituted Commission, Pendleton continued, "We in the new Commission can do anything we want." The Washington Post reported Pendleton as saying "I think some of these people forget who won the fight." These statements of Mr. Pendleton reminds one of a child being jubilant over the fact that he has taken another's toy.

Staff Director Linda Chavez has said the her views are consistent with the "average American." It was pointed out at the hearings that Commission members were not elected either as delegates or trustees to represent the people's views, but they are mandated to finding facts and making recommendations.

A witness from the National Organization of Women stated that Pendleton and Chavez have said they are against ERA. This is Ronald Reagan's view also. Commissioners' personal ideas should not be injected into the Commission's mandates. In the State of Washington, the Courts awarded women back equal pay for comparable work to men. Linda Chavez refers to the comparable work issue as "a radical notion and dangerous."

It denounced use of affirmative action goals and timetables for the promo-

tion of blacks and women, cancelled a study on the effects of budget cuts on predominantly minority colleges, it will study adverse consequences of affirmative action on Americans of Eastern and Southern European descent, resolved that the new Commission is not bound by the policies of the old Commission, and that it will reassess the use of busing as a means of desegregating schools.

Always in the past, the Commission members have met and together they have set the agenda. This time staff director Chavez presented the agenda to the commissioners and the accepting vote was 6 to 2. Dissenting votes were the non-Reagan appointees.

For the 25 years of the Commission's existence, it has held hearings on issues. Chavez has announced that no Commission hearing will be held during 1984 and 1985. Instead, there will be consultations with people selected by and voted on by the Commission. The usual vote is 6 to 2. Witnesses said that views and complaints from the people can only be ascertained through open hearings.

This present Commission is following the Reagan efforts of overturning civil rights gains.



Sabrina Johnson's "Scope" will reappear next week.

Jackson Makes Point

Jesse Jackson has demonstrated clearly in this political season that black voters are just as intelligent - perhaps even more so - about going to the polls as whites, if they feel they have a genuine stake in the election process.

(With official returns finally in from Super Tuesday, blacks may have comprised as much as 50 percent of the total March 13 Democratic primary vote in Georgia, the secretary of state's office estimates. Only about 25 percent of the white vote turned out.)

In the Southern primaries and in Illinois, where there is a sizable black vote, Jackson inspired a record turnout, and many of those were brand-new voters.

Unhappily, Jackson has finally been lured into saying that whites will not support a black candidate, with the implication that blacks might as well stay home in November.



Jackson later told some close associates that he regretted making the racially polarizing statements and does not intend to venture into the quagmire again.

But the main lesson of the Jackson candidacy ought not to be lost on strategists in the Democratic Party.

And that is, the black vote can be motivated first to register and then cast ballots in the election. But they are no different from the rest of the electorate; they need a compelling reason to take the time and trouble to participate in an election.

It is clearly up to the Democrats to come up with that reason.

For the Democrats probably cannot win the election without a heavy black vote. Assuming that Jackson will not be on the Democratic ticket in November, the next question is, how does an orthodox Democratic ticket of two white males, one conservative and one moderate, motivate blacks to return to the polls in the same numbers that brought them out on Super Tuesday?

Will boring in on the fairness issue and the Reagan Administration's sorry record in civil rights be enough to turn out black voters again?

Probably not. Remember, the black voters who turned out on Super Tuesday didn't go to the polls - as many of us did - to vote against something or someone. Instead, they chose to vote, for the most part, for Jackson.

Even when Jackson's campaign has run its course, it is important that the Democrats keep him active on their behalf, stumping Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi and continuing to keep voter registrars busy in all three states.

But even that may not be enough. Jesse Jackson, the cheerleader, is not the same as Jesse Jackson, the Presidential candidate.

If the Democratic brain trust wanted to show some real imagination in striking out to retake the White House, it might consider taking the boldest stroke of all that would win an overwhelming black vote: Put a black candidate on the ticket as Vice President.

Jesse Jackson probably would not be acceptable for a couple of reasons, one being that his candidacy, whether by accident or design, does indeed tend to polarize voters along racial lines.

But what about Andy Young? He has made a superb mayor of Atlanta. His political support crosses racial lines. The fuss about some of his activities as the ambassador to the United Nations in the Carter Administration, has been eclipsed by his phenomenal performance as ambassador-mayor of Atlanta.

In addition, he is an intelligent and talented politician with a solid understanding of how Reagan has failed both domestic and foreign affairs.

Oh, I know, the wise men of the Democratic Party will guffaw at the absurdity of having an Andy Young as the Vice Presidential nominee, when everybody knows that what the Democrats need is a Southern white conservative, probably a U.S. senator, on the ticket. But will they be guffawing on the morning after the election when the headlines read: "Reagan wins second term?"

THE CHARLOTTE POST
 "THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER"
 Established 1918
 Published Every Thursday
 by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.
 Subscription Rate \$17.68 Per Year

Second Class Postage No. 965500
 Postmaster Send 3579s to:
 1531 Camden Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28203
 Telephone: 704-376-0496
 Circulation: 11,023

106 Years of Continuous Service

Bill Johnson Editor, Publisher
 Bernard Reeves General Manager
 Fran Farrar Advertising Director
 Dannette Galther Office Manager

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid at
 Charlotte, North Carolina
 Under the Act of March 3, 1878

Member, National Newspaper
 Publishers' Association

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

Deadline for all news copy and photos is
 5 p.m., Monday. All photos and copy
 submitted become the property of The Post
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National Advertising Representative
 Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.

2400 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60616 Columet 5-0200
 45 W. 45th St., Suite 1403 New York, New York 10036 212-488-1220