

# EDITORIALS

## Academics Versus Athletics?

Within the past week we have observed two power struggles at Division I Universities between the respective schools' administrations and their athletic programs come to a climactic ending. At one institution, the administration won the match, at the other, the athletic forces won. We are of course referring to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Clemson University.

Last Thursday, Clyde Walker resigned as athletic director at UNC-Charlotte after seven years, and undoubtedly with the bitter memories of the basketball team's three consecutive very bad losing seasons. In these years, under a coach hired by Walker, the basketball team's record was 8-20 in 1982-83, 9-19 in 1983-84, and 5-23 for the season just ending. The combined record was 22-62.

## Money-Making Sports

Walker, who was probably pressured into resigning, had reportedly become extremely frustrated over the meager athletic budget of approximately \$1,250,000 annually, a pittance compared to most other Sun Belt schools. In addition to the limited funds, Walker lost battle after battle with the school's administration over on-campus facilities — none for its basketball program. The small and inadequate gym where the team must practice has to be shared with others.

Five days later, the man Walker hired as basketball coach, Hal Wissel, resigned. Wissel had had 17 years of coaching experience before coming to UNCC. These years were climaxed in 1980-81 when Wissel's NCAA Division II school Florida Southern won the championship and he was honored as the nation's Division II Coach of the Year.

Following the double-barrelled resignation and the fall from its basketball — the only money-making sport — glory days of a 1977 trip to the NCAA Final Four championship series, UNCC was extremely anxious to quickly pick-up the pieces to get the program moving again hopefully in high gear.

Rumors had it that UNCC would recruit a "name" experienced athletic director/basketball coach and pay him an attractive salary. Unfortunately, we think, instead of taking some time to shop around for talent, the UNCC administration decided to hire Jeff Mullins as athletic director and basketball coach.

The 42 year old Mullins is a former all-American forward at Duke University (1962-64) and a 12-year NBA veteran. Except for two years (1976-1978) as an assistant athletic director at Duke, Mullins has had no experience for the difficult dual job he has been hired to fill.

For a university attempting to build some respectability in its basketball program after three disastrous years, we have to wonder if a man with 17 years of experience can't do it, how then can anyone

expect a new coach with no coaching experience to do it. Good luck Jeff you'll need it.

Flipping the coin, we find that at Clemson University athletic support is so strong that even the President of the University must go if he is in conflict with the athletic powers to be.

## Vote Of Confidence

Clemson University President Bill Atchley resigned when the University's Board of Trustees denied his request for a vote of confidence in the face of a power struggle with athletic director Bill McLellan.

In a prepared statement issued to the Trustees at the beginning of the board meeting, President Atchley said he would resign if they failed to affirm publicly their confidence in his administration. In the absence of that affirmation, the public would perceive Clemson as placing athletics above academics. In fact "... as far as almost everybody is concerned it's athletics versus academics."

The struggle between Atchley and McLellan came to a head two years ago when, as a result of a football recruiting violation, Atchley sought unsuccessfully to reorganize the athletic department in opposition to McLellan. Recently another controversy arose over the possible misuse of prescription drugs by student athletes. It was this conflict that led to Dr. Atchley's resignation.

Hidden from the spot light of the staff changes and power struggles at both universities is the hard fact of wanting winning athletic teams. Victories in sports especially with conference championship and high NCAA rating mean megabucks at the box office, from television exposure and highly supportive alumni. Winning teams also mean larger enrollments and bigger and better athletic departments at institutions in the business sports and academics in that order. Success in winning makes winning easier because recruiting is easier to attract the best athletes. Furthermore, coaches can get bigger salaries under better working conditions with increased job security.

All of this occurs in the name of entertainment and to serve as breeding grounds for the increasing young talent aspiring to be plucked up by the NFL or NBA where in actuality only a handful of youth reach the pro ranks usually for just a few years.

Somewhere, sometime very soon athletics must be put in proper perspective and in its proper place in our colleges and universities or academic excellence as we know that it should be will suffer and so will the quality of life.

It should not be academics versus athletics but academics and athletics and in that order pure and simple. To have it any other way will prostitute the very educational system that has helped make America what it is.

## From Capitol Hill

# Desegregation Benefits Both Whites And Blacks

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The Reagan Justice Department is taking a very activist role in overturning court mandatory reassignment school plans. It is really engaging in a resegregation method.

Jennifer Hochschild, assistant professor of politics and public policy in the Department of Politics at Princeton University has published an exhaustive study entitled, "Thirty Years After Brown." Some of Hochschild's provocative conclusions are: desegregation techniques that face the most resistance in the short run produce the best results in the long run. Less white flight takes place when there is a greater commitment of students and teachers to make the plan work, wider the area covered by the plan, more grades are desegregated at once, faster a plan is implemented and the stronger the impact on racial isolation. The study states that metropolitan areawide plans reduce racial isolation and white flight, improve minorities' academic achievement, speed up housing desegregation, increase educational options for students and enhance stability.

Hochschild states that the worst strategy for achieving desegregation is the Reagan Administration's actions. Once a plan has been in place along with all of the achievements, students show greater racial tolerance and engage in more interracial activities. By rescinding desegregation plans, the present Justice Department resurrects opposition to desegregation which has been declining, decreases racial tolerance and makes desegregation as difficult and unsuccessful as possible.



Alfreda

While the Administration emphasizes quality education, it has abolished the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA), which was the only federal program that aided voluntary quality education. Hochschild feels that there is some merit in the stand that some civil rights activists take in claiming that high-quality, Black-dominated schools are an attractive alternative to mandatory reassignment rather than a surrender to white resistance. She sees the Brown decision, not fundamentally, to improve education opportunity for Black children, but instead as a means to that end. Hochschild states that desegregation and quality education can be achieved together — that they can be a catalyst to improve education for both Blacks and whites. She says, "if ever there was an instance in which elected officials should lead rather than follow, this is it."

The study reveals that school desegregation met less resistance in the sixties because the country experienced a stronger national consensus on the morality of ending racism. By the seventies politicians

BE A PART OF THE NEW AWARENESS

MUTUAL AID  
COOPERATION  
SELF IMPROVEMENT

Pious

## In Search Of America's Excellence?

In search of America's excellence. Where can it be found? In the pentagon? America's churches and synagogues? The school system? Or possibly the nation's capital? Bluntly put—no. America's excellence dwells in the country's elderly people. These are the people who have helped shape this country and have preserved its right to be.

The elderly people in this nation face a plight that is too often the rule and not the exception. Due to limitless variables they are shut off from the world and their families. Too often it is believed that old age equals worthlessness and loss of desire to live in decency. Elderly abuse is one variable that separates the elderly from the moving world.

Elderly abuse or granny bashing has been discussed often, solutions discussed but no reconciliations made. More and more of this country's elderly find themselves at the mercy of their children, grandchildren and caretakers. Dependency sometimes breeds animosity and this is what those who care for elderly oftentimes feel.



Sabrina

The scenario is familiar. A person or couple retires, one or both become ill, one dies leaving the other to live alone and make ends meet, economic circumstances force the person to give up his or her home and move in with children or seek out a nursing home. Their income is fixed and those who care for them feel the elderly cannot handle financial situations—so pension checks or social security checks are surrendered in hopes of some easing of the financial burden. Americans lead such demanding lifestyles that caring for the young and old seems like tedious and point-

less work. Stress comes into play here.

The children of the elderly begin to use the parent as a scapegoat or sounding board for stressful situations that occur in the workplace. Verbal abuse begins with telling the parent he is no good, a burden or worthless because of (a) the parent's inability to perform certain tasks and (b) the child's inability to deal with his real problems.

The simplest way to deal with things in their eyes is through abuse.

The graying of America is a reality, people are living longer—some are independent, some are dependent. No matter they still are living longer lives. Those that are dependent are so due to a combination of medical problems and financial shortcomings. Severe medical problems do effect day to day tasks. Simply washing ones face may become impossible due to say arthritis in the arms and shoulders. Bare facts — some people cannot help themselves, thus it is the working society's responsibility to assure dignity and respect for this nation's elderly. Granny bashing should not be in epidemic form but extinct and-or nonexistent.

Grandma and Grandpa are the people who stood up against wrong, fought for peace and freedom — who got this country to where it is today. These people were and are the insurance policies of national peace and freedom. They are the excellence of the past and present. They are living proof that each individual's life has a purpose, great or small. The elderly are near perfect in each individual way.

Elderly abuse is disgraceful for American citizens to admit. The Constitution and amendments, laws and rulings, assure each person a fair existence, so how can beating an elderly parent or grandparent afford them a fair existence? Just take one thing into heart—each time a punch or slap is thrown or a harsh word is spoken, one day it could be you on the receiving end. Do you want to live your free life in fear of what can happen tomorrow and can one take it once more.

Try to make a conscious effort to salute the elderly — not condemn them. Recognize their goodness understand their shortcomings and add them all together and see how together they really are

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