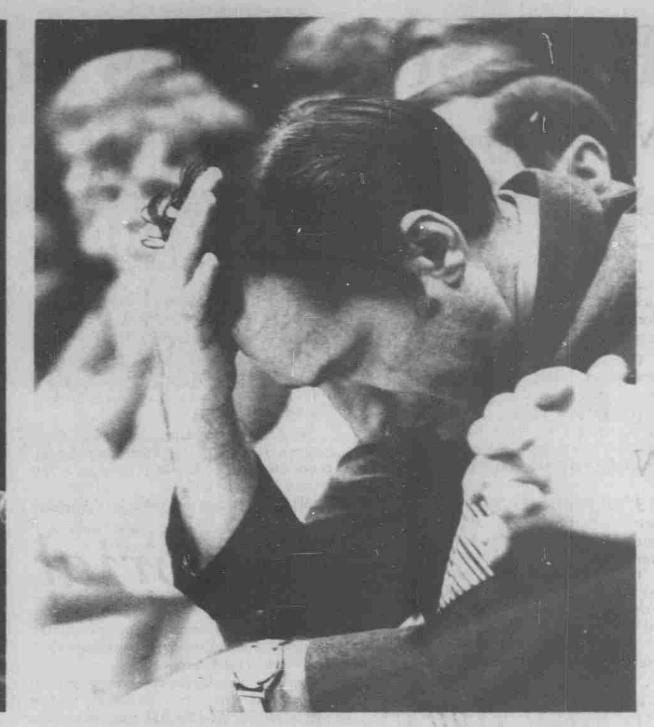




"Doing a little cheerleading," the Tar Heel coach applauds the effort of one of his players.



Polls often inaccurate

'Top 10' not necessarily best 10 Basketball's

By Lenox Rawlings

"Top 10" is a unique American vagary connoting organized analysis. Society rewards order and tidy categorization in business, finance and education. It is, therefore, no strange phenomenon that we attach some validity to anyone's "Top 10"

Given the choice between a significant, non-bestselling novel and a trite bestseller, we invariably choose the latter. We go to see the movie "Airport" and shun "Women In Love." And in the sports world, our organized minds collate each week's national wire

service basketball polls. The AP and UPI rankings are often inaccurate because they minimize schedules, injuries and homecourt advantages, but we believe in them. Who can forget Houston's 1968 Astrodome win over UCLA, which operated with

an injured Lew Alcindor? Houston was named the year's No. 1 team by AP, Elvin Hayes the top player, and Guy Lewis the best coach. Two months later UCLA ran Houston off the court and literally breezed to its

second consecutive national title the following night. Alcindor dimolished Hayes and quiet John Wooden returned to Westwood with another NCAA watch. AP now waits until season's end to distribute its spoils, but inaccuracy persists.

Notre Dame, every fan's alma mater, generally ranks higher than ability merits. Tradition also carries over from one year to the next; last year's best will certainly obtain prominent national ranking early regardless of experience or potential.

Ratings are merely another form of entertainment, evolving from an entertaining game. With a chuckle and a smile, we now look at the polls and the teams.

UCLA, USC imposing

UCLA (11-0), gunning for its fifth straight NCAA crown, rightfully tops both wire service polls. Sidney Wicks, perhaps the best college player anywhere, blends well with a superstar cast. Curtis Rowe, Henry Bibby and Steve Patterson are back, and the Bruins have improved a seemingly invincible defense.

But don't concede anthing yet. A team initialed USC, but based in Los Angeles and not Columbia, is pushing UCLA in the Pacific-Eight conference as well as nationally.

USE DTH Classifieds

CAMPUS PACS ARE HERE

For a Couple of Bits

Get A Couple of

For a Couple of Bits, Get a Couple of Bucks Worth of Fine Toiletries

AT YOUR COLLEGE STORE

Limited Quantity! Only enough for about half the students on campus.



"ON CAMPUS"

The Trojans, virtually unnoticed by some preseason forecasters, are undefeated. Paul Westphal and Dennis Layton form the best guard combination in the country, and Coach Bob Boyd's team has recorded single victories over the Bruins the past two seasons. The national championship may easily be decided before the NCAA playoffs

Marquette, led by Dean "The Dream" Meminger, captured the NIT last year and is undefeated this season. Coach Al McGuire scheduled three good teams-Notre Danie, Long Beach State and New Mexico State-along with 24 mediocre opponents. Meminger is very good, but Marquette should flop if it enters the postseason fight.

Penn, frequently underestimated because of its Ivy League status, is for real, All five starters are back plus some excellent sophomores. The Quakers are also undefeated, and should contend for the Eastern Regional crown.

Strength of the next three ranking teams is debatable. Western Kentucky, rated fifth, lost a narrow battle to South Carolina in the Holiday Festival Classic and barely nipped East Tennessee. Carolina fans who saw the Tar Heels demolish East Tennessee

have reason to question Western's prowess. South Carolina (sixth) and Jacksonville (seventh) are similarly unconvincing. The Gamecocks have suffered three straight losses, two of them prior to this week's polls.

Western Kentucky and Wake Forest whipped Jacksonville, and the Virgin Islands gave the Dolphins a brief scare before submitting. Kansas, Kentucky and Notre Dame, round out the "Top 10." All three should

advance to the NCAA playoffs, but Kansas stands the best chance of making the final round of four. In the last analysis, the polls are not a true indicator. The Atlantic Coast Conference champion should rank high nationally, but this year's infighting is furious and unpredictable, and the survivor will not emerge without several scars. Given the

conference's outstanding record against outside foes, the ACC tournament winner should be an influential force in the NCAA playoffs, although that team may easily be

Tar Babies ready for Richmond frosh

Sports Writer

The Carolina freshman basketball squad, fresh from last Friday's satisfying 73-64 revenge win over the Duke Blue Imps, goes after its sixth victory of the season tonight at 6:00 in Carmichael Auditorium as they play host to the freshmen of Richmond University.

The Tar Babies, whose only loss this season came at Duke, 68-65, received sparkling performances from forward John O'Donnell and center Bobby Jones in their triumph over the Blue Imps.

O'Donnell, a 6-6 190-pounder out of New York City, poured in a game-high 32 points against the Dukes before fouling out late in the ballgame, while Jones, a 6-9 pivotman from Charlotte, threw in 23 points and grabbed off 16 rebounds while leading a late Tar Baby surge with four crucial layups.

Freshman coach Bill Guthridge praised his Tar Babies for what he called a "determined team effort," but added that neither Carolina nor the Blue Imps played to their full potential in the contest, which was characterizied by occasional

ball-handling lapses. Guthridge singled out 5-11 guard Ray Hite, who chipped in with five points.

usual good games," he said, "while Hite played well on defense and in setting up our offense."

Hite, a hustler from Hyattsville, Md., has not received the attention that he deserves, although he currently ranks third among Tar Baby scorers with a 6.5

Jones and O'Donnell, who are most of the Tar Baby show, sport identical 26 point averages, while Jones holds a commanding lead in rebounding with an average of 17 takedowns per game, O'Donnell is second with a 6.0 rebounding average.

Teaming with O'Donnell and Jones on the front line tonight will be 6-3 forward Darrell Elston, who had his troubles in the Duke contest but made an impressive debut in the Tar Babies' 85-70 win over Gaston College after a long bout with

mononuecleosis. Fred Gianiny, a 6-0 guard who dropped in five points in the Duke contest, will probably join Hite in the backcourt to complete the Tar Baby starting lineup.

The Tar Babies, who have posted wins in their last four outings, have a 5-1 over-all record and are 2-1 in ACC play.

FOR SALE

CORVETTE (For More Information, Read Classifieds)

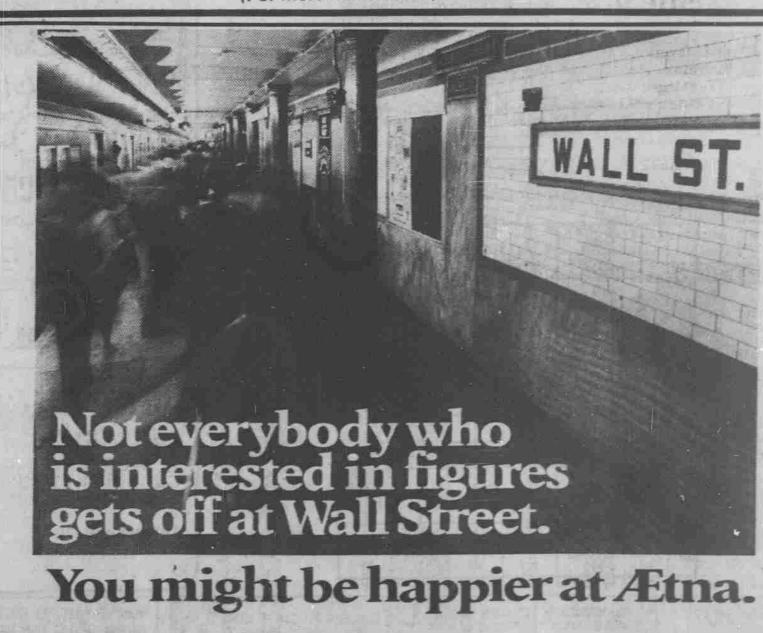
COUPE



RELAXED DURING EXAMS ILTON'S CLOTHING CUPBOARD

LEASE

FURNITURE



If you have a liking for figures, finance and money, Ætna Life & Casualty might be a way to both job satisfaction and success.

If you haven't thought about insurance, maybe that's because you haven't heard the whole truth about it.

For example, because our business has become so sophisticated, we have one of the largest computer installations in the country. And, if you think of insurance in terms of premiums and settlements. you'll be surprised at how deeply Ætna is involved with stocks and bonds, equities, and real estate.

If you're analytically-minded, there are

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and a JOBS-participating company.

many careers open to you. As an actuary, accountant, computer programmer or securities analyst, for example. In these positions and others you'll be helping 27 million people who depend on Ætna for security in a shaky world. We have a reputation for not letting them down.

A brochure called "The Whole Truth" spells out how Ætna works, and the many specific opportunities we have for people of all taients. It's an honest picture of an honest business.

Why not stop in at your placement

office soon and read it. You could do yourself-and many other people-a lot of good.



OUR CONCERN IS PEOPLE