

Commentary

Gender is not the issue for female sports reporters

By Jessica Johnson

Another controversial issue has evolved in the news of sports. No, it's not about raising salaries for the already overpaid NFL football players or the ethics of drug testing. It's a question of whether women sports reporters should be allowed into male locker rooms.

"All reporters should be able to report the news," said NCCU head football coach Hank Lattimore. "A female reporter is not different from a male reporter in terms of gathering news."

"Constitutionally, women have the same rights as men to be reporters," said NCCU head basketball coach Michael Bernard. "It's not unnatural for women to report on athletic events. A woman should have the same opportunities and privileges as a man."

While Bernard and Lattimore have reasonable views concerning women covering male dominated sports, some men feel that the woman's place is not in the locker room, even if it's her job. Victor Kiam, owner of the New England Patriots, defended Patriot tight end Zeke Mowatt for his alleged sexual harassment of

Boston Herald reporter Lisa Olson. Kiam blamed the paper for "daring" to assign a woman to cover football. Sam Wyche, head coach of the Cincinnati Bengals, refused to admit a female reporter to his team's locker room, violating NFL rules.

Granted, the locker room is not the most suitable place for a woman. A room full of men meandering back and forth nude and using language that would make their mothers weak at the knees is probably not the favorite pastime of any female journalist. But, the locker room is the only place where the most accurate quotes and reactions are given after the game. Therefore, the question should not be whether women should be allowed in the locker room, but how to make it more appropriate for them.

The problem could be solved if all NFL teams had a certain area sectioned off for all reporters. Reporting objectives could be met and the privacy of players would not be violated. An athlete with a towel on is probably just as uncomfortable taking to a male reporter. Lattimore opposes reporters rushing into the locker room after a game without



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giving players some time to get settled. "Players want to relax after a game," commented Lattimore. "Their privacy is invaded when they are not ready to give interviews."

Also, with the issue of women, the professionalism of athletes and coaches is imperative. Mowatt's alleged actions seemed more typical of an immature college athlete, and discrimination, as used by Wyche, should not be tolerated.

Chauvinism no longer has a place in sports. Whether men like it or not, female sports reporters are here to stay. Coaches and athletes must remove their biased feelings and not only open the locker room to women, but also unlock their minds as well.

Barry's criticism is unfair

By Vanessa R. Abernathy
Staff Writer

Marion Barry, mayor of Washington, D.C. was interviewed on the "Phil Donahue Show," Wednesday, Oct. 31, which was shown at the University of the District of Columbia. The spectator audience was about 70 percent black and 30 percent white respectively.

First of all, notice must be given to how often Barry has been asked to appear on television programs since the scandal. Before such time, he received little, if any, positive media coverage.

There were a few particulars within this broadcast that really annoyed me. For example, the blacks were so quick to desert Barry; yet, they did not question other white officials who were suspects of political or criminal offenses.

Secondly, the whites said, "This is not a racial issue." However, they are usually the first to defend this idea, whether it has been claimed or not. How many times in American history have we seen whites abandon a corrupt white official?

Many people spoke of the corruption in Washington, D.C., inferring that Mayor Barry condoned malicious activity in the city. However, not once did they mention that the homeless literally live in the "honorable" president's backyard. Neither did they mention the drug deals that go on just blocks from the White House. The entire situation is tired and sick to me. Citizens will not speak out against the Reagans, Norths, Bushes, or the Nixons of America's political history; instead, they will run this black man through the mill for being caught. Barry's having been caught is the basic difference between he and the others. Also, he admitted his wrong doing. The man is human and capable of "personal" mistakes. The important thing is that he did not abuse his political position or authority while in office. His crime was personal, and it must deal with as such.

No man has the right to judge Barry. His judgement will come from God and his conscience. For those of you who say, "He has let the black kids down," give the black youth of D.C. more credit than that. They are not strangers to reality. What he has done for them is to appear human, having made a mistake and gone on with his life.

NCCU students snubbed at Pre-Dawn Dance

By Llaakyitedide Adkins
Staff Writer

Ponder this: all of NCCU's fine women spending hours upon hours in the beauty salon or Kido Jones' room trying to look good for the electrifying Homecoming Pre-Dawn Dance. On the other hand, think about all of NCCU's fine men spending hours waiting to get the "fly" hair cut to accompany their jungle shirts and baggy jeans for this most unforgettable night on this campus. The only thing that matters to an NCCU student is getting to the pre-dawn dance and partying all night long; but, what if you can't get in, then what?

This actually happened to many NCCU students who bought tickets in advance for the pre-dawn dance this year. Occurrences such as this contribute to some students' beliefs that our Homecoming didn't have the special outcome that it had in the past. What are the causes for such feelings? Is Homecoming starting to lose its status as an occasion to look forward to? What can be done?

Homecoming began with a series of activities that had tremendous turn-outs. The choir ball, fashion show, movies, Blizzard of the Bucks and the step show were activities that indeed "pumped-up"

the student body for the pre-dawn dance, football game and concert festivities. However, the pre-dawn dance was a disaster. NCCU students weren't even allowed to enter the dance. This occurred because too many students from other colleges, high schools and people who are too old to even feel the desire to party with clean-cut Eagles were admitted. People shouldn't be able to walk on our campus and take over. Workers at the door should stop allowing outsiders in and start thinking about the people whom pre-dawn is actually supposed to be for.

High school students often come on campus to perpetrate being adults. I am happy that these individuals have the desire to become college students before their time; but, let's face the facts, they often violate campus rules. For these reasons, they shouldn't be allowed to campus affairs.

Admitting outsiders to the dance raises another question. What happens to student activity funds of those who weren't allowed to enter the dance? Many can't understand the logic behind the ticket booth not wanting to refund students' money. Individuals are aware

that it was just \$1, but it's the principle of the issue. If a ticket is bought in advance, then it should guarantee that a student enters the function. If the student can't get in due to uncontrollable circumstances, then a refund should be given immediately.

Also, when outsiders come on campus, it makes NCCU students vulnerable. For example, a NCCU student was beaten with a bat as he walked from McDougald Gym to Chidley Hall. His face was swollen badly and he suffered numerous cuts. All of the problems with Homecoming revolved around too much outside influence. Dean Bryant said, "If people can't enjoy the fruit we already have, we need to limit our activities to only our 5,500 students."

I agree with this statement. However, sometimes the administration doesn't realize that limitations they set on activities aren't always in the best interests of the students; indeed, they often penalize students. My suggestion is that some of these bad occurrences be taken under careful consideration, and after reviewing the pros and the cons, hopefully we can look for not just a better Homecoming but also an improved atmosphere at the institution as well.

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Youth of Today

By Beverly Knox

The Youth of Today are straying away. As I watch T.V. I can easily see, the youth of today are declining to be. The drugs, guns, killing and so much destruction, are hindering good causes to function. When it gets so bad you can't stand little ones out of sight, the fear begins to creep slowly into light. You just have to pray that they have the sense to stay away. I wish there were ways to help them understand, but it is hard with the devil ruling much of the land. Many friends I've known have gone on to that great cloud in the sky, I guess we need to ask ourselves if we're living a lie. The sign of the times are beginning to show, if we will last longer I wouldn't know. So, to the Youth of Today I just want to say, I hope the end of your future is far, far away.