

Butch Lewis: Old-fashioned but upright notions

NEW YORK -- There are currently three heavyweight champions of the world: Trevor Berbick of the World Boxing Council, Tim Witherspoon of the World Boxing Association, and Michael Spinks of the International Boxing Federation.

Spinks is the most popular of the three because of a pair of wins over Larry Holmes.

Soon there is to be one. Berbick will fight Mike Tyson on Nov. 22, then that winner will fight the winner of the Witherspoon-Tony Tubbs match. Finally, that WBC-WBA champion will fight IBF champion Michael Spinks for all of the championship marbles.

However, Butch Lewis, Michael Spinks' manager and the key to the fight-offs, is not content to just take his millions and

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run. He has some old-fashioned notions about right and wrong -- and, in this instance, freedom and apartheid.

"The government in South Africa carries out a policy that mimics the signs along its many beaches: 'No trash, no dogs, no blacks.' In effect, the most elemental human rights are denied to the majority of South Africans," Lewis says.

He has announced that he will not continue as co-promoter with Don King of any bout sanctioned by the WBA in the heavyweight unification series.

Lewis has tried since 1982 to change the WBA's relationship to South Africa, which Lewis says

"underwrites a great deal of the cost of the WBA."

The relationship is also incestuous: Some partners of the South Africa regime are also WBA kingpins. South Africa Supreme Court Judge H.W.O. Klopper has been a mainstay on the WBA Committee.

Unlike the IBF and the WBC, which steadfastly refuse any recognition of South Africa, the WBA presides at fights there and unashamedly sanctions those matches.

"Over the years, the WBA has misled me. As recently as June of this year, James J. Binns, the WBA's legal counsel and chairman of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission, and WBA President Gilberto Mendoza guaranteed me that the WBA would sever all ties with South

Africa," Lewis told a cynical white press corps in New York.

Instead of the evils of apartheid and boxing's role in perpetuating this human misery, Lewis' integrity became the issue.

The *Ring* magazine reporter even suggested that Lewis was a hypocrite because "discrimination does not exist in the South African boxing world."

Undaunted, Lewis (while Congress was giving President Reagan a moral and diplomatic wake-up call by overriding his veto on its sanctions of South Africa) outlined his role in the fight to pressure the racist white-minority government into giving basic human rights to the black majority.

"Specifically, I will neither
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Movement begun to rename UNC's Smith Center

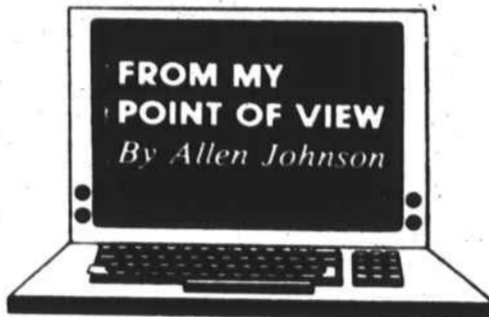
■ The writer is the executive editor of the Chronicle.

Special To The Chronicle

CHAPEL HILL -- The University of North Carolina's board of trustees met today to discuss renaming the 23,000-seat Dean E. Smith Student Activities Center.

The meeting was called after a group of alumni and former coaches circulated a petition calling the structure's current name "a lamentable and historical blunder."

"The new arena should not bear the name of only one coach,



no matter how many games he has won," the petition says. "It should honor all basketball coaches, and we are determined to correct this grievous error."

"All coaches have made sacrifices," the petition reads. "All coaches have to deal with

bad calls by referees and injuries to star players.

"Besides," the petition further contends, "Dean Smith had teams with Michael Jordan, Walter Davis, Bob McAdoo, Phil Ford, Charlie Scott, James Worthy, Mike O'Koren, Mitch Kupchak, Bobby Jones, Sam Perkins, Al Wood and Larry Miller and has only one national championship to show for all that talent. You call that coaching?"

If the arena should be named for any one person, the petition says, it should be named for former UNC Coach Frank

McGuire, "who won a national title with an undefeated team in 1957, beating Wilt Chamberlain and Kansas in the finals -- and doing it with no black players. Now that's an accomplishment."

Or the arena should be named for all Carolina fans, the petition says, who had to endure the collapse of last year's team, which fell from No. 1 in the nation to No. 3 in its own league.

In a related move, John F. Kennedy Stadium in Philadelphia has been renamed Presidents Stadium to honor all presidents.
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Mitchell

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the drink house after Wilson had left earlier that night.

"I heard Sammy ask (Wilson) to buy him and Darryl a drink," Bason said. "The man (Wilson) said no because he had already bought drinks for the house."

Ms. Williams said that Mitchell was upset because Wilson refused to buy drinks for him and Hunt. "That is all right. We will fix you," she quoted Mitchell as saying to Wilson.

Ms. Bason said she saw Mitchell with an ax handle and Hunt with a knife while they were in the drink house. The ax handle is believed by the prosecution to be the murder weapon.

However, Ms. Williams said that she did not see Mitchell with the ax handle. Both women said they had been drinking that night.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Laurel O. Boyles, Ms. Bason said she first talked to police about Wilson's murder in October 1983.

Ms. Bason said she did not tell police about Mitchell's involvement with Wilson's murder in 1983 because she was scared and nervous.

"I have had some run-ins with Mr. Mitchell before, and I was scared," she said. Mitchell later threatened Ms. Bason at her home about two months after Wilson was killed, she said.

Ms. Williams, who did not talk to police three years ago, said Mitchell threatened her when he returned to the drink house after Wilson was killed.

"He said if I said anything he would cut my damn throat," Ms. Williams said. "I was scared."

Under cross-examination, Ms. Bason said she first told police about Mitchell's involvement in Wilson's murder when officers came to her home in April 1986.

"You and your boyfriend were arguing over the reward money you would receive for testifying

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