

Editorials & Comments

Winning Versus Integrity

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Executive Editor

The late and highly successful football coach Vince Lombardi has been quoted often as having said, "Winning is the only thing."

The POST believes that underlying the recent disqualification of two Charlotte area high school teams from state championship playoff berths was the excessive quest for winning, and therefore, an indifference to the interpretation and enforcement of the N.C. High School Athletic Association's eligibility rules by both coaches, players and possibly school administrators.

We base our assumption on three points. First, while the pressure on high school athletic coaches to win is not as great as it is at the university level, pressure is nevertheless quite evident.

Secondly, because of this pressure and the superficial glory that goes to winners, coaches and possibly individual school administrators give largely lip-service to explaining the rules to prospective players. In our opinion, this was

quite evident in the case of the Garinger player whose parents reside in another state and in the case of the Harding player who violated the double participation rule.

Both of these players were supposedly given a copy of the NCHSAA brochure that clearly states the rules that they violated. It appears strange to us that the coaches apparently did not clearly explain and emphasize these rules to the players.

Thirdly, it appears strange to us also that the full burden for honesty or integrity is placed on the student-athlete when the schools are supposed to be providing the kind of education that should encourage integrity.

The POST believes that it is past time for competitive sports to regain its sanity. By this we mean that the order of priority in sports events, particularly school sports, should be character building, physical and mental development, and a competitive winning spirit. If winning occurs in accord with these properly ordered priorities then true victory has been achieved.

Good Faith or Status Quo

By Jacquie Levister
Post Staff Writer

The Charlotte City Council unanimously approved an affirmative action plan earlier this year. Was it a viable plan that was approved by Council or a vehicle for further victimizing the minority citizens of Charlotte?

At the time of approval, the City of Charlotte agreed in its plan to comply with the provisions of "affirmative action" by directing its efforts, "in good faith..."

Was the choosing of the source of data for comparison an example of good faith efforts?

Rather than calculate the underutilized portions of the population from the latest census report based on race and sex; rather than use census data based upon the labor force participation by race and sex; and rather than use census data categorized as labor force in Public Administration in the United States, the data compiled as Labor Force by Occupational Category in Charlotte was chosen.

As it happens, the particular census shows numbers and percentages of classes already existing in a category. Obviously, minorities are least represented in the top level jobs divisions because of historical hiring practices. Is it a coincidence that of all other data available for a base, the one chosen was the one from which minorities are least represented? Are we being told that

the City of Charlotte's affirmative action thrust is to "elevate" city minority ratios to that of private enterprise in Mecklenburg County?

Private enterprise's work force of administrators, professionals and technicians is comprised of 4 percent minority men. The City of Charlotte's existing work force employs in the same categories 11 percent minority men. Is Charlotte's affirmative action plan saying, "in good faith," it needs less minority males in its higher payroll bracket?

Is it a "good faith effort" that allocates 50 percent of the projected hires and promotions in the top three job classifications and leaves the remaining 50 percent uncommitted?

The Post believes the people of Charlotte need to know exactly what is a good faith effort. Surely it is not a justification for doing less, or is it? Hopefully it is not a way of getting around any real "affirmative" plan, or is it?

If an astute Council, with the strong encouragement of Councilman Harvey Gantt, approved this plan, surely there are advantages to be gained as a result of its approval. Maybe the first semi-annual report will give us some insight into the workings and results of a good faith effort. Alas, the prospect of that report covering goals "not obtained" may not be apropos to extracting any data pertinent to goals that have been met.

DEATH



THE DOPE TEMPTER

DRUNKENNESS OF DOPE IS A FLATTERING DEVIL, A SWEET POISON, A PLEASANT SIN, WHICH WHOSEVER HATH, HATH NOT HIMSELF WHICH WHOSEVER DOTTH COMMIT, DOTTH NOT COMMIT SIN, BUT HE HIMSELF IS WHOLLY SIN.

AUGUSTINE

Needed Now - An Aroused Black Community



OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

By D. Marie Washington

Violence In The Schools

Assaults on teachers, fights, destruction of school property and other aggressive acts by students make many teachers feel that they must administer corporal punishment in order to control violence and to protect themselves.

A large number of teachers feel, however, that harsh treatment or abusive punishment, whether physical or verbal, does more to cause violence in the schools rather than to cure it.

First, attacks lead to counter-attacks, and physical punishment does not necessarily improve students' behaviors, but frequently gives them a feeling of rage and the desire for revenge. Fighting other students, disrupting the class, giving insulting answers and defacing school property are just a few of the many ways by which students "get even." Even if adults make the punishment so stiff that students are afraid to make any counter-attack, the students usually turn their minds off and refuse to learn. Anything which results in the students not wanting to make the effort to learn is defeating and does more harm than good.

Secondly, there is the ques-

tion of whether violence by students is an attack or a counter-attack can become a little like

trying to determine whether the chicken or the egg came first, since corporal punishment is used most liberally in schools serving the poor and the powerless, and these schools also have a high rate of vandalism and violence.

Some light is shed on the program by the fact that there are teachers who work in very troubled schools who manage to run very orderly and peaceful classrooms without the use of physical punishment. These are also schools in very depressed neighborhoods where

violence and vandalism is almost nonexistent. This had led many educators to believe that hostile behavior by youngsters against the school may be partly a reflection of the attitudes and behaviors of the adults who are in charge of them.

As the principal of a New York high school commented, "Adults create the atmosphere within the school, and the students react or respond to whatever atmosphere has been created. A highly disciplined staff, and those adults who have the greatest control over themselves are the ones who are usually the most effective in disciplining others."

Schools throughout the country are instituting programs to re-train school personnel with the purpose of solving those problems caused by outmoded discipline practices, racial hostility and other factors which bring on conflicts between students and the school. This certainly appears to be a much saner approach to the problem than the call for more paddles and policemen.

TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

New Welfare System

President Carter fired the first shot of what will undoubtedly be a national debate on welfare policy when he unveiled the principles that would guide his Administration's welfare reform proposals recently.

One cause for concern is the President's indication that such a new system won't be in place until 1981. That's a long time, especially when the present welfare system is not meeting the basic needs of the poor.

There's also a disturbing implication in the President's statement that the ultimate program may feature a two-tier approach — one system that deals with those able to work, and another, an income maintenance system, that deals with those who cannot work. This could wind up contradicting the stated goal of simplifying the system and making it more efficient, since such categorization of those in need will wind up creating yet another bureaucracy to implement complicated regulations.

Work requirements should not be tied to welfare reform. HEW Secretary Califano recently revealed that of the 26 million poor people, only two percent are non-aged, non-disabled males who do not work. And most of those are over 62 years old, ill or looking for work.

Jobs should be made available to everyone able to work through a separate full employment program. Tying the job issue to welfare reform, especially through a strong work requirement, will only perpetuate stereotypes and myths, and shift the focus of reform to setting up complex, costly work and training programs for a client population unable to utilize them.

As the Administration frames its ultimate proposals, I'm hoping they'll come up with a universal, refundable income tax credit to replace the welfare system. That's the best means of resolving the dilemma of shaping an equitable income maintenance system.

By providing grants for all families, taxing the grants away from those who don't need them, while leaving reduced amounts in the hands of those who need some help, such a system would accomplish all of the President's goals.

The seeds of such a program can be found in one of the President's goals: the earned income tax credits for the working poor. Extending the concept of using the tax system and tax credits to be the transfer mechanism for a national income maintenance program would be wise.

It's important to remember that people are poor because they have been denied the education, skills or power to compete equally in our economy. Most poor people work. Most poor people are not on welfare. Most people on welfare want to work but cannot because of family responsibilities or poor health. Most people on welfare are white. Most people on welfare move off the rolls, to be replaced by others whose luck turns bad. Most people on welfare receive — even with food stamps — far less than poverty level payments.

How a nation treats its poor is a good indication of its moral fiber. So far, we haven't done well in this regard.

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the view from here

It Appears Carter's Honeymoon Is Over

By Gary Gregg

It seems the honeymoon is over.

From Charles Rangel of the Black Congressional Caucus to Vernon Jordan of the Urban League, nationally known blacks are beginning to take President Carter to task for what they're calling his neglect of the fact that black people provided Carter's margin of victory in several key states.

It seems that the President isn't moving fast enough or firm enough to deal with the major problems that drastically affect black people in this country.

But what really could be expected?

The U.S. President isn't a governmental genie who can make wishes materialize with the wave of a magic wand. And it is high time that black people as a whole understand that the solution to our problems aren't going to be found in the White House.

We've got to push up our sleeves, put our shoulders collectively to the wheel and do the job.

Of course, the first task is defining the job that is to be done.

Let's flash quickly to the

local scene for a few examples.

District Representation: We've got, but what are we going to do about it?

In District One, which includes Cherry, First, Second, Third and Fourth Wards, along with North Charlotte, Plaza-Midwood and Plaza Hills-Villa Heights, there are more blacks than there are whites. But fewer than 16 percent of those blacks are registered to vote.

So what will the black people of District One be doing come November: complaining still about an unresponsive city hall, or flocking to the polls to elect their representative? For that matter, what will blacks in District Two be doing? District Two includes most of Charlotte's predominantly black westside neighborhoods. But it also includes some very active white neighborhoods. There's work to be done.

Just as Carter isn't a governmental genie, neither are the local government officials. None of them can do for us those things we don't do for ourselves.

There are numerous examples of what we've got to do, right here in Charlotte, to get

our act together.

Unemployment.

How many of us diligently support hard working black businesses, who are fighting twin wars of survival? Do we support, even when we have to offer constructive criticism because a service wasn't just to our liking, or do we gripe and complain about how unsophisticated the brother or sister is and carry our bucks downtown?

Well certainly, you have a right to spend your money where you choose, but a major dent could be made in the black unemployment problem if black businesses had the support needed to provide more jobs for our people.

Of course, there's another side to the question: Those blacks who're working for black entrepreneurs should be conscientiously setting an example of hard work, diligent effort and dedication. In other words do a good job.

That's really the whole thing in a nutshell. That's the answer, the elusive answer to the pervasive problem that has been plaguing us for centuries: Do a good job.

Whether you are a janitor or the president of your own company, a secretary or a manager, be the best there is.

When we get to the point that we are proud of our self-sufficiency, but not too high-minded to seek help when needed, or provide it when asked, we would have taken a major step down the road to freedom in this country.

Then we won't need marriages of convenience that often turn into nightmarish honeymoons shortly after the ceremony.

It is imperative that we understand that the system that has for so long been

dedicated to our oppression if not our destruction, isn't going to suddenly turn around and finance our development. We have got to dig deep, come up with the price, work hard and do a good job.

Carolina Poll Shows

ERA Support Drops Slightly

By Sylvia Ingle
Special To The Post

CHAPEL HILL. — Half of the adults in North Carolina support the Equal Rights Amendment barring legal discrimination on the basis of sex, according to The Carolina Poll, a statewide telephone survey by the School of Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In response to the question "Do you support or oppose the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution?", 50 percent of the 476 adults randomly selected for interviews said they supported it; 34 percent opposed it; and 16 percent expressed no opinion.

A similar survey conducted by the journalism school last year showed 53 percent supported ERA and 21 percent opposed.

ERA was defeated this year

in the North Carolina Senate by two voters and will not be considered again until the 1979 legislative session. The March vote was the third time the amendment has been rejected by the General Assembly.

In the recent survey, more men than women said they supported the amendment. More than half (52 percent) of the men responded favorably, while less than half (48 percent) of the women gave favorable answers.

"Men and women are being paid the same so I think they should have equal rights," said a 40-year-old man from Wake County.

Some North Carolinians still felt that women were subject to discrimination. "I'm for the Equal Rights Amendment. There is too much discrimination against women, especially in business," said a

30-year-old woman from Greenville.

"I think ERA would put a little more pressure on employers to give men and women equal salaries," said a 50-year-old Raleigh woman.

However, some supporters expressed reservations about the consequences of the amendment, which states that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States of any state on account of sex."

"I think ERA is okay, but not to extremes. Women shouldn't go to war," replied a 40-year-old high school graduate from rural Cumberland County.

Some of the strongest opponents of ERA, members of both sexes, expressed the belief that women were inferior to men.