

Editorials & Comments

Integrity And Character in Sports

As basketball mania, better known as the NCAA Basketball Tournament and its counterpart, the National Invitation Tournament (NIT), grab the sports and news highlights in their annual March rituals, there are many lesser-known unfolding human stories that are affecting the lives and welfare of both the players and coaches who make these extravaganzas what they are.

Undoubtedly, the most visible of these human stories is in predominance of black players on the largely white college and university teams with white head coaches and maybe one black assistant. A second is the nearly consistent pattern of predominantly black schools being defeated in the first round NCAA Tournament play, and usually by big scores - N.C. A&T State lost by 30 points, Alcorn by a respectable 10 points. Consistent also is the very few appearances of traditionally black institutions in the NIT.

Other stories relate to allegations that relatively few black basketball players at the largely white schools are exploited for the playing talent but not adequately educated and graduated. Then too there are stories of recruiting violations under NCAA rules; the annual firing of coaches at the white institutions who don't win 20 or more games and make the play-off, while coaches at most black schools have fairly long tenure regardless of their win-loss records.

Black Players

Finally, there are stories about the personal tragedies confronting individual black players; and the resentment and bitterness that athletic directors, coaches, school administrators, alumni and students at some black schools may have toward the white schools for their successful use of black basketball player talent with few job opportunities at such institutions for black administrators, athletic directors and coaches are made available.

All these developments, which are rooted in the history and traditions of collegiate sports and racial policies and attitudes, are reinforced by the pressure to win and earn large sums of money for the schools in post-season tournament play. In the absence of this coaches are publicly fired and hired primarily at the large white schools.

For example, one human story tells us of the firing of head basketball coach Mike Pratt at UNCC. Pratt, after getting a one-year extension on his contract, started the 1981-82 season with an impressive 13-3 win-loss and 3-1 Sun Belt Conference re-

cord. The 49ers then fell apart losing six straight conference games and being eliminated in the Sun Belt Tournament in the first round. All this was reflected too in low fan support, this little money was earned for the school's athletic program.

Jungle Survival

In commenting on this John Kilgo wrote, "It is unfortunate... sports fans don't want just a winning record. They want all of the spoils of winning. Their lust for winning threatens the fiber of intercollegiate athletics. It drives some coaches to cheat... College administrators are comfortable (uttering) words about keeping athletics in perspective come without strain, living up to that principle makes hypocrites out of many of them." Speaking in the same context but specifically about coaches being fired, UNC's coach Dean Smith, (who is also president of the college coaches association), said "It is the law of jungle survival. I don't like it and wish I could do something about it. But that's the way it is."

Coach Abe Lemons of the University of Texas had a similar experience to that of UNCC's Mike Pratt. He started the season with 13 straight wins, fell flat after that and was fired. On the other hand James Madison University made it to the NCAA Tournament showcase. They beat Ohio State, then played UNC, the nation's number one team to the wire losing by only two points. While the James Madison fans returned home with pride, the coach, Lou Campanelli, sounded on television after coming within two points of the year's biggest as if he would need to be finding other employment.

Out of this environment of frustration and competitive pressure what too often is lost is the opportunity or the commitment, in the words of Johnson C. Smith's coach Bob Moore, "to turn out some kids with integrity and character." With that statement from a coach at a small school that can never hope for an NCAA invitation, we begin to see another dimension of the world of college basketball.

Next week we shall explain in depth something about these human stories hidden from the glitter and gold of NCAA and NIT tournament play and offer a perspective and philosophy that might benefit black youth who are so much a part of the passing screen in collegiate basketball. Among such youth may be your kid who you would hope might be taught to keep basketball in its proper perspective while developing "integrity and character."



Blacks Destiny In Own Hands



Tony Brown's Comments

Busing Hurts Blacks - Why We Need It?

On the same day, articles on busing appeared on the editorial pages of The Washington Post and the New York Times. Both were written by African-Americans and both analyzed the U.S. Senate's recent 57 to 37 vote which bars Federal Courts from using busing to achieve racial quotas.

William Raspberry correctly argued in The Washington Post that the issue that everyone misses in the argument for or against busing to mix the races is the education of Black children. In The Times, Jesse Jackson attempted to make a case in favor of transportation for racial assimilation.

Granted, there is scant evidence to support Jackson's position and granted the majority of Blacks and Whites oppose busing, Jackson's reasoning as a consequence opened up a new avenue of "logical" thought. And in doing so, he made a brilliant case against himself and busing.

His logic for busing: It will help Blacks, but it is not good for Blacks. Therefore, his argument concludes, any White who opposes busing does so for racist motives and anyone Black who opposes it, should do so because busing harms the Black community. If the ideas sound confusing, it's because they are.

And in support of this convoluted logic, he cited a study conducted by Dr. Nancy L. Arnez, Chairman of the Department of Educational Leadership and Community Services at

Howard University, which proves him wrong beyond a shadow of a doubt. In it, she documents the disastrous effects of so-called desegregation on the Black community:

1. The loss of teaching and administrative jobs by Blacks through dismissals and demotions.
2. The loss of millions of dollars in projected earned income.
3. The loss of racial role models, heroes and authority figures for Black children.
4. The loss by Black children of cherished school symbols, colors, emblems and names of schools when their schools are closed and they are shifted to White schools.
5. In the new setting, subject to desegregated classes and buses, and exclusion from extracurricular activities.
6. A disproportionate number of Black students suspended, expelled, and pushed out of school.
7. Exposure of Black children to hostile attitudes and behavior by White teachers and parents.
8. Forced one-way busing policies and the uprooting of Black children for placement in hostile school environments without any support systems.
9. Misclassification of Blacks into special education classes and tracking systems.
10. Unfair disciplinary practices and arbitrary school rules and regulations.
11. Ignorance of Black learning styles, culture, social, educational and

psychological needs.

The evidence Jackson presented for busing is irrefutable proof that busing has proven only that we have sacrificed a generation of Black children to the myth of integration.

Jackson's slogan: "It's Not The Bus. It's Us." has a deeper meaning than what he intended. It really means that the advocates of the "us"-of busing have confused being with White people with being free. They are only concerned about the 3.6 percent of students who are bused for racial mixing and have substituted the racial assimilation of African-descended children into European-clones with a quality education.

They have never offered any plan to educate the 96.4 percent of Black youth who remain in majority Black-non segregated schools.

"The civil rights leadership, for all its emphasis on desegregating schools has done very little to improve them," William Raspberry wrote in The Washington Post.

Dr. Chancellor Williams, wise-man author of "The Destruction of the Black Civilization," said that there are Blacks who believe "their very salvation depends upon being somewhere near White people, as though they were near the throne of God himself."

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, can be seen on public television, on Channel 42 at 8 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58, Tues. at 7:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk Your Talk



Sharing In Christ's Sufferings

As Christians we are to follow Christ and his example. But we too often overlook one aspect of following Christ: Following Him in His suffering.

The prophet Isaiah foretold of Jesus: "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows...he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Jesus' suffering was necessary to atone for the sins of this world. In Old Testament times, God's people had to sacrifice an animal on the temple altar to atone for their sins. But part of the animal was considered unfit to be burned upon the altar. This part had to be taken outside the city gates and burned there upon the garbage pit.

Hebrews 13:12 shows how Jesus' death fulfilled this Old Testament rite. "Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood." In being crucified, Jesus became God's sacrifice for our sins. He was also crucified outside the gates of the city as one considered unfit for the temple. By being rejected in this way and suffering outside the gates, Jesus identified Himself with the outcasts of society.

When we call ourselves "Christians" what we are doing is identifying ourselves with Christ. If we are to truly identify with Him, though, we must live as He did, be willing to suffer as He did, and place ourselves as He did on the side of society's outcasts--the poor and the oppressed.

"Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore." (Hebrew 13:13). We must begin by going outside the gates of our comfortable churches, bringing the good news and healing actions of Jesus Christ to those who dwell outside the gates of comfort and outside the knowledge of Christ. Our rituals and fellowship will not be pleasing to God without such actions. "...do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:16).

No one likes the idea of sacrifice or suffering. But we need to be willing to suffer for Christ. Otherwise, we will suffer without Christ. The problems that our society faces today are already bringing misery upon thousands of people. One reason the problems have become so huge is that too many Christian people have been unwilling to commit themselves to addressing the needs.

The problems we face today, especially in the black community, require a response by Christians who are willing to pay a cost of suffering for the sake of others. And when we suffer for others, we suffer for Christ.

If we commit ourselves to being truly His people, His suffering becomes our lot, but so does His joy and final victory.

"We are co-heirs with Christ if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." (Romans 8:17) We who love Jesus must make this sacrifice to follow Him, to forsake our own desires and preferences, and commit ourselves to struggling along side Him to bring justice and righteousness to this world.

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From Capitol Hill

Senate Takes Step To Return To Post Civil War Period

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

Media heralded the news that the United States senate passed an anti-busing bill. The vote was 52 to 37 with both Senator Howard Baker, Majority Leader and Robert Byrd, Minority Leader voting in the affirmative. Senate committee chairmen generally wield a lot of power. Those who voted for the amendment were: Strom Thurmond, Chairman of the Judiciary, Jesse Helms, Agriculture, Orren Hatch, Education and Human Resources, Robert Doles, Finance, John Towers, Armed Services, Jake Garns, Banking, Housing and Urban

Affairs, Pete Dominici, Budget and William Roth, Governmental Affairs.

While one is strained to find members of this group who show some inclination for support of any legislation that favors justice and equality for Blacks, certainly three of the greatest advocates against civil rights measures as Strom Thurmond, Jesse Helms and Orren Hatch. Besides taking stands against busing, they are pulling out



Alfreda L. Madison all stops against affirmative action and a strong Voting Rights Bill.

The Johnston-Helms anti-busing bill limits busing of school children to not more than a five-mile ride or 15 minutes past the nearest school and it would prevent the courts from ordering busing as an equal education remedy and it also requires school systems where integration is working advantageously and well to dismantle their busing. They completely disregarded the United States Supreme Court's decision in Swann vs. Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, that busing can be used as a remedy since the 14th Amendment re-

quires equal education opportunities for all citizens. The Courts have the duty to see that Constitutionally protective rights are not violated. Every single evidence in Mecklenburg County proves that school integration has improved the education in that county and that it is working well.

Many of those who voted for this bill appeared to have grave doubts that it would even pass the House or that the Supreme Court will rule in favor of it. It is highly likely that the proponents hope to get political mileage out of it and of course Blacks are used as their political football. They can return to their home communities, disregarding to inform their constituents of the time and waste of taxpayers' money spent on getting this highly doubtful bill passed, coupled with compensation to the most anti-Black elements in the nation. They can say, "I voted against busing. Therefore, return me to the Senate." They will leave unexplained their doubts about the bill's constitutionality. Senators DeConcini and

John Warner's offices informed me that they did have some trouble with the constitutionality of the bill, but that they would leave that matter to the Supreme Court. They were not elected to legislate matters and depend on the Courts to decide whether or not they are right.

Senator Specter, called the Senate's action, "nothing less than an assault on the Constitution. If Congress uses its power to remove the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, a precedent will be set up that whenever the majority is against an individual's legal rights, Court jurisdiction to enforce such basic rights as freedom of speech, press, religion, equal protection, due process and the entire Constitution itself may be removed."

Senator Dale Bumpers said the Senate's action represented the beginning of the end of Constitutional guarantees in this nation. He stated that many people do not favor busing, but that the "real issues of the Helms-Johnston Amendment, is not busing. It is the United States Constitution.

working well in Mecklenburg County and that the majority of Blacks are against busing. For proof of the Black sentiment he gave Sowell's opposition. What he fails to recognize is that Sowell is only one Black and there are around 30 million Blacks in the country. Sowell has no Black following. His followers are whites who are naive enough to believe that he speaks for all Blacks.

Some important Senate committee chairmen who voted against Helms-Johnston were: Mark Hatfield, Senate Appropriations; Charles Mathias, Rules and Administration; Charles Percy, Foreign Relations and Bob Packwood, Commerce, Science and Transportation. Mr. Packwood said recently, "The GOP has just about written off women in the market place, Blacks, Hispanics and Jews."

Senator Jesse Helms, one of the most outstanding opponents of justice and equality for Blacks, said he hopes if the bill comes before the Supreme Court, it will use the good sense to declare its Constitutionality. So Jesse Helms has become the great determiner of common sense. His Senator's office informed me that Senators often make judgments on a person's common sense. He said that busing is not

