

EDITORIALS & COMMENTS

The Roundball Finale

It's here again, the annual sports ritual and roundball finale with household names as well-known as the NCAA and NIT Basketball Tournaments.

As basketball, and even non-basketball buffs alike waited impatiently to hear what big time colleges and universities would earn or be selected for berths in these grandest of all collegiate sports extravaganzas, we witness many favorite sons receiving a temporary set-back as they become victims in their respective post-season basketball conference tournaments.

Branded as upset victims were such roundball powers as Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri, Syracuse, Kentucky, Maryland - to name just a few - but alas, to avoid losing such "glamour" universities and their talent-laden teams to arch rival NIT, the NCAA rules allow these non-conference winners to gain tournament berths based on the season long record in spite of a one-time late season loss.

The roundball finales are a time of year when men and women of all ages join college students and set aside - at least temporarily - their cares and concerns with the world about them and join in the hoopla and joy of basketball with its "joy of victory and the agony of defeat."

It is a time when we throw reason to the wind, engage in hero-worship, and let our emotions float with every roll, bounce and net pass-through of the cowhide covered, air-tight object a team possession called a basketball.

It is a time not to expect, but to joy in the kind of sport dramatics that allowed millions of ACC fans, sports writers and TV commentators to witness unranked N.C. State squeeze out a one point victory over Wake Forest University and then, on successive days, write a story-book Cinderella finish as they defeated top 10 and ACC arch rivals North Carolina and Virginia to win the ACC Tournament to gain an automatic NCAA Tournament spot.

It is a time for even non-Wolpack fans to applaud and congratulate coach Jim Valvano

Pay For Play?

As the somewhat ridiculous emotion and reaction to Herschel Walker's decision to play football for the New Jersey Generals for pay as opposed to the University of Georgia for one more year without pay, subsidies and gets lost in the seasonal post-season basketball tournaments, William Raspberry reminds us of an

for leading his team to a conference championship that has eluded N.C. State for eight years and has brought them from the shadows of Virginia and North Carolina as a team of destiny in its own right.

The NCAA and NIT grand finales are a time too, but least this year for ACC supporters and North Carolinians in particular, to be proud that Michael Jordan, Sam Perkins and Ralph Sampson were selected as UPI All-American team members. We can be equally proud that Sampson, Virginia's 7'4" center, has been selected for the third consecutive year as the "ACC Basketball Player of the Year" by the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Association.

These young men are just a few of our heroes for the moment. Joining these God-given talented youth are others we will include in our hero-worshipping such as N.C. State's Sidney Lowe, Virginia's Othel Wilson, Wake Forest's Anthony Teachey and Georgetown's Pat Ewing.

Yet, as some collegiate teams fall in the agony of defeat, and we move toward the NCAA "Final Four," our heroes begin to fade into the dust and the real world of study and grade, work or the struggle to find work, worry or apathy over nuclear war, inflation and a host of other day-to-day concerns reappear as the joy or task of living and surviving returns to center stage.

In all of this, let us hope and pray for the physical safety and emotional well-being of the American youth who make these sports spectaculars called the NCAA and NIT Tournaments possible. Let us pray, too, that players, coaches, sports writers, fans, university administrators and others keep in perspective what this often called sports mania is all about. It's about, or should be in the final analysis, character-building and the preparing of youth for survival in the real world.

Let us hope that the game of real life will be as sweet for many of these youths in later years as it is or will be during these days of excitement and tournament play.

increasingly important issue.

That issue, clear and simple, is the suggestion, as stated in proposed legislation in the State of Nebraska, that big-time college athletes be paid for their services to the universities where they "work" as basketball and football players for the substantial financial benefit of those universities.

"BLACKS' RETICENCE TO SEIZE THE INITIATIVE TO ORGANIZE THEIR COMMUNITIES" SAID DOUGLAS G. GLASGOW, DEAN OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, IS A MAJOR FACTOR AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES' UNDEVELOPED STATUS"

- POLITICAL BUSINESS MAN
- DOCTORS
- LAWYERS
- ARTISTS
- TEACHERS
- MINISTERS
- WORKERS
- COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
- SOCIAL WORKERS
- FRATERNAL GROUPS
- FINANCE
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- INSTITUTION ADMINISTRATION
- ENGINEERING
- PLANNING
- ARCHITECTURE
- BLACK PRESS



Letters To The Editor:



Moratorium Needed On Foreclosures

Dear Editor:

In January, National Urban League President John E. Jacob urged Congress to declare a state of national economic emergency and to enact a full employment jobs program.

He pointed out that economic conditions in the country are so bad for the overwhelming majority of the people that broad coalitions embracing poor and non-poor, farm and city dwellers, black and white, are now possible to mobilize in the streets and halls of Congress to make this a reality.

I believe the suffering people of our country need to spell out what we need and to make our demands known at all levels of government - local, state and national.

We need extension of unemployment benefits to cover all weeks without a paycheck. We need extension of these benefits to youthful first job-seekers - an application for a job should serve also as an application for unemployment compensation.

We need enactment of a \$100 billion federal construction project to rebuild the infrastructure of our crumbling cities. This will create unlimited demand for steel and construction materials and help revive Pennsylvania's depressed industries.

We need a moratorium on all home, farm and mortgage foreclosures and an end to all evictions (homeowners and renters), utility shutoffs and repossessions for families suf-

fering from unemployment. There is ample precedent for such moratoriums in the Depression of the 1930s.

We need a six-hour day with no cut in pay. This would create 33.3 million jobs (reducing the hours from 40 to 30 of a workforce of 100 million). Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.) has introduced such legislation.

Passage on a state level of the work-sharing plan (HB No. 1) supported by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO is a positive step toward a permanent shorter workweek. This plan would implement a four-day week, with the fifth day's pay coming from the unemployment compensation fund.

We need to stop plant closings and runaway shops through public takeover and nationalization of sick industries operating at less than 60 percent capacity.

In the immediate period before full employment could be implemented, we need restoration of full funding for all survival programs, such as food stamps, welfare, social security, nutrition, school lunch, education, Medicaid and other health programs. We need government-paid health coverage for all the unemployed and uninsured.

The above elements of an Economic Emergency Jobs Program could be funded by cancelling the Pentagon's blank check: by closing tax loopholes used by the rich to avoid paying their fair share;

and by declaring a moratorium on payment of interest on the national debt to banks and financial institutions - so long as millions of Americans are jobless, homeless, cold and hungry.

Should Youngest Students Bear The Burden?

Dear Sir: I cannot understand to save my life why some people applaud when the School Board decided not to close Northwest Junior High School. In this decision, in the same breath they (the School Board) closed University Park Elementary School.

Now to those who applauded, I want to remind you that University Park Elementary School is the last elementary school in our community. Should the youngest students bear the burden of being packed into smaller schools?

Given a choice of University Park Elementary School and Northwest Junior High School - I should think University Park Elementary School is the better facility.

We need to wake up and realize the difference between achieving a goal and having a cheap compromise thrust upon us. In a few years the Board probably will say the facilities of Northwest Junior High School needs condemnation and it, too, will close.

James E. Palmer, Pastor University Park Baptist

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON

SCOPE

Sabrina

Ms. Johnson's Column

Will Resume Next Week.

Economic Indicators Belie State Of Black America

By Honorable Gus Savage Member of Congress Special To The Post

As administration economists prepare to revise their slow-growth economic forecast for 1983, to take account of declining oil prices and signs of a stronger-than-expected recovery, black America is still grappling with the forces of recession reality.

The current slow-growth forecast, a one percent first quarter growth rate and a 3.1 percent annual rate, was one of the projections on which the budget for the fiscal year 1984 was based.

Now that administration officials foresee a "minimum three percent gain" in the composite index of economic indicators signaled by a sharp drop in world oil prices, inventory cuts and a 4.1 percent growth in real sales, the Commerce Department's chief economist, Undersecretary Robert Dederick, is predicting a five percent growth rate this year and a decline in the nation's unemployment to under 10 percent.

It seems ironic that such optimistic projections are being made at a time when black Americans are worse off today than they were a year ago.

According to the National Urban League's annual survey "The State of Black America" black unemployment was 15.5 percent at the end of 1981 but at 1982's end, it had climbed to a staggering 20 percent.

Urban League President John E. Jacob said 1982 "was not a good year, and of course, no year is, to be black and poor in America."

The report went on to point out that one in three black people live below the official government poverty line, compared with one in 10 whites. Here are some other statistics and major findings detailed in the survey:

-Black unemployment was 20 percent in October 1982, and among teenagers, 50 percent. Personal income was falling and living standards were declining. Black people generally earned about \$59 for

every \$100 that whites earned for jobs.

-Life expectancy for black people in 1979 was 68.3 years to 74.4 years for whites; high unemployment and poverty tended to create depression and low self-esteem, resulting in high rates of alcoholism, drug abuse, suicide, mental illness, child-and-wife abuse and crime. Five times as many black youths die from homicide per 100,000 population (42) as whites (8), and 46 percent of all people in prisons are blacks.

-About 42 percent of black households were female-headed in 1980, up from 30 percent in 1970. About 44 percent of black children under 18 lived in such families, double the 1970 figure.

-Black people are 12 percent of total population, but make up 33 percent of the Army, and within the Army have a high proportion of combat roles, where they learn few skills marketable in civilian life.

-In 1980 there were 927,700 black undergraduates in colleges, with 7 in non-black colleges, but recent cuts in educational aid made further growth difficult, especially in private colleges.

The Reagan Administration must bear much of the blame for our high unemployment and the hardships resulting from his administration's drastic cuts in domestic spending. I hope this is an economic lesson we learn well and remember in 1984.

Earn College Credit

More and more adults are continuing their education through television. Central Piedmont Community College will offer courses on WTVI, Channel 42 and Cablevision, Channel 3, in business, reading, psychology, health, political science and human services. Courses begin April 7. Registration begins March 3.

For your opportunity to return to school on a more flexible schedule, call FPCC at 373-6422. Ask for a complete telecourse schedule and registration information.

From Capitol Hill

President Reagan Administration Is Imposing Gag Rule

By Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post

The Office of Management and Budget, which hoped to make a catastrophic sneak attack on many of those who question the Administration, ended up by having its plan intercepted by a tremendous army. OMB has attempted to change circular A-122, which at present, contains allocation rules of cost items for non-profit organizations such as; travel costs, compensation, and depreciation. It assures that federal money is not used for lobbying purposes.

Under the new rule the interpretation of "political advocacy" prohibits an attempt to influence government decisions through attempting to affect the opinion of the general public or any segment, influencing government decisions through communications with any member or employee of a legislative body, or with any government official or employee who may participate in decision process, or contributing money, services, or anything of value to an organization that has political advocacy.

This revision of A-122 would prohibit even one telephone call to be made or one letter to be written to



Alfreda L. Madison

a member or employee of a legislative body. While organizations may be receiving some federal funds, officials of these funded organizations would be forbidden to communicate ideas and evaluations of their programs to legislative bodies. It even prohibits members of the organizations from communicating with each other concerning legislative matters. These organizations will not be allowed to lobby in defense of their own programs.

The House Committee on Government Operations, chaired by Representative Jack Brooks held hearings on the new OMB A-122 changes. Representatives of 31 organizations testified before a crowded room against the proposals, while numerous other groups submitted written opposing testimon-

ies.

Mr. Brooks said two years ago in Mr. Reagan's fund slashing he claimed, "Nobody really would be hurt by those budget cuts. The truly needy would still be taken care of by the Administration's safety net and that the gap left by federal cutbacks would be filled by local non-profit social service agencies. It appears now that the Administration would deny these groups the opportunity to comment on regulatory reforms and implementation of the grants and legislation that affect them." The chairman was vexed by David Stockman's failure to appear, himself, but instead he sent Joseph Wright, who admitted that he had no part in formulating the changes. It seems that Michael Horowitz of OMB and Phillips, editor of Conservative Digest were the chief architects.

All witnesses felt that the changes made by OMB represent a concerted effort to defund anyone who is likely to disagree with this Administration. They called the change a "gag rule."

servative ones, small businesses more than big businesses, and poor organizations more than rich ones. Organizations receiving any federal funds, whatsoever, are prohibited from using buildings, telephones, typewriters or any office equipment for contacting anybody in the government. Small businesses, and the poor can't afford separate accommodations for government official contact.

Catholic Charities said its ironic that this Administration which calls for a partnership with private voluntarism, would silence the voluntary sector from coming forth with a defense of its programs.

It was stated that A-122 changes were ill-advised because they strike at the heart of two basic concepts: (1) the right of the public, including non-profit organizations, to have full access to the governmental process, (2) the need of government officials for information on which to make sound decisions.

National Association of Manufacturers, as well as all others, agree that taxpayers' money should not be used for lobbying, but it stated that OMB's proposal will prove far worse than the disease. Wright showed that no widespread

abuse occurs.

Maudine Cooper, Vice President of National Urban League said, "We are baffled at the seeming contradiction between the Administration's professed desire to encourage the voluntary sector and this effort to thwart any capability we might have had to respond to that charge. Ms. Cooper said that small Urban League chapters will be hurt by the changes since they can't duplicate the facilities.

Ed Townes, a new Black Caucus member, said, "OMB has exceeded its power to adopt regulations to carry into effect the will of Congress as expressed by statute. The so-called mandate of 1980 did not give the Administration license to become a monarchy with no role for the legislative and judicial branches."

All witnesses and members of the bipartisan committee registered their disapproval of the circular changes; as denying First Amendment rights of free speech and prohibiting a two-way conversation between members of Congress and their constituents.

OMB was criticized for formulating this change without consulting anyone outside the executive

branch. Joe Wright was advised that the best way to establish credibility is for OMB to say, "We goofed." He was told that instead of revising A-122 to withdraw the proposal altogether.

Real Problem

To The Editor: Most people fail to realize that we all live in a competitive society which causes the average person to live to always manipulate and deceive, which explains why so many people fear truth and reality. That itself is really not the problem.

The problem with the average person is that such habit of always deceiving causes them to never make contact or they lose contact with reality until what is truthful, real and right appears to them as being strange, unreal, innocent, stupid and naive - especially in human attitudes, expressions and actions.

Paul Snyder

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