



# EDITORIALS

## Taxes: Nobody's Angel

During the last presidential election, Ronald Reagan was quite fond of saying in his often generalities about the programs and policies of his second term that "you ain't seen nothing yet." What few knew then and most know now is that Mr. Reagan was talking about the earth-shaking impact his federal budget policies would and are now having on the nation and its many local governmental units.

This is a new slogan, or little used thought about federal budget policies and programs that sounds something like "not mine but thine" that appears to echo how people from all walks of life feel about President Reagan's determined bid to reduce the federal deficit. Congressmen ask for cuts in the defense budget, but not if it means closing military bases in their respective states. Farmers, who voted for Reagan in big numbers, argue cut the national debt but not my farm subsidies. Corporations lobby for lower taxes but want to retain their huge welfare capitalism defense contract, high tariffs, and special tax preferences. Many, if not most middle-class college students oppose large government deficits but not if it means reducing government-guaranteed loans. And Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public want continued high levels of government services but don't want to pay the taxes required to have these services.

In these few words we have attempted to summarize the dilemma and the irrational thinking that we Americans do when it comes to the question of public service and related cost for such services. For exam-

ple, in our own community Mayor Harvey Gantt has often been illustrated in editorial cartoons as a man alone in his dynamic leadership in facing up to the hard reality that as federal and state funds for local needs are withdrawn, local taxes of some sort will be necessary to offset those losses.

Mayor Gantt has been viewed as the man alone because this is an election year in an era for almost blind demands for less government involvement at any level. Yet, as we return to the realities of the quality of life at the local level we must allow government to raise taxes in some form or be faced with the strong possibility of some major reductions in public services.

Each of the taxing proposals offered or debated—gasoline taxes, payroll taxes, income taxes, property taxes, bonds, or simply reduced services—each has its flaws that in one way or another is related to the issues of fairness or feasibility or both. Equally significant to many knowledgeable voters is the wisdom of large bond commitment to the new coliseum and talk of an uptown trolley system.

Whatever the eventual outcome of the tax or no tax issue they need to be preceded by a careful analysis of existing spending policies and priorities and the voters need to assess their present quality of life to determine what their priorities and therefore their desires might be. This appears to be the only rational and sensible way to determine what type and how much of a tax bite local government should take and in what form.

## Winning At Any Price

Again, the corrupt influences in collegiate athletics has reared its ugly head with the announcement that Tulane University has a major investigation going on involving point shaving and gambling that includes at least two star basketball players and their coaches.

As it usually does, such headlines send newspaper editors and writers looking for other questionable practices in the field. Among the findings this time are that Chris Washburn, a freshman at N.C. State, and a high school basketball star that over 200 universities sought to recruit, had a combined College Board score of 470, only 70 points above the lowest possible score on the test. Furthermore, Washburn's high school record was composed of mostly D's and F's in his first three years. It is obvious that these universities have two sets of academic standards — one for the general student population and one for athletes. Immediately, too, we see the exploitation that the student-athlete faces as Washburn's academic record is made public simply because he's an athlete.

Equally, if not more shocking, is that we learn too that only 30 percent of all athletes, and 20 percent of black athletes, who get athletic scholarships in a revenue-producing sport ever graduate. Yet, the universities earn literally millions from the

talents of these sports figures, get increased enrollments and considerable publicity.

Richard E. Lapchick put college sports in perspective when he wrote, "Eligibility is not the same as education. It is maintained by a system of cheating and cutting corners." Fortunately, some rays of hope and decency still exist. Villanova University, the 1985 NCAA Basketball Champions, set high academic standards as all 34 of the seniors under coach Rollie Massimino have graduated. Likewise, NCAA runner-up Georgetown's coach, John Thompson, and UNC's Dean Smith have nearly similar senior graduation records.

This simply reminds us again that collegiate sports need not be corrupt and exploitive if academics and sports are properly maintained in a proper relationship to each other. Let's do it for the kids if for no one else.

## Something On Your Mind?

Do you have something to say? Then do so for everyone to read. Letters should be addressed to:

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Charlotte, N.C. 28230

## From Capitol Hill

# Reagan Apologizes For South Africa's Killings

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

"I think it is also significant that on the officers' side, or the police's side, whichever, whether they were military police, I think they were police, it is significant that some of those enforcing the law and using the guns were also black policemen. I say that there has been increasing violence, and there is an element in South Africa that does not want a peaceful settlement of this, who want a violent settlement, who want trouble in the streets, and this is what's going on," said President Ronald Reagan, in his last press conference, responding to a question from ABC's Sam Donaldson on the killing of 17 blacks among a crowd who were attending a funeral, and were fired upon by police.

This statement by the President of the United States, shows either a complete lack of understanding or a careless inhumane consideration for blacks by Mr. Reagan. The President's carelessness, immediately, brought very strong reaction from black leaders. The Congressional Black Caucus, at once, called a press conference to denounce Reagan's actions. Representatives Mikey Leland, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, speaking

for the entire group, said, "For a long time now, many of us have realized the immorality of apartheid. However, last night many came to realize President Reagan's apparent sanctions of the actions and policies of the South African government. How could I feel proud of a man who stood before the nation as an apologist for the South African government? Last night, President Reagan tried to rationalize the actions of South Africa



without any real understanding of what actually transpired in Uitenhage."

Leland strongly criticized the President for inferring that blacks in South Africa wanted violence in the streets, and his saying that some of the police with guns were blacks. The congressman spoke of such racism as being incomprehensible. He denounced Reagan for having stood before the American people apparently blaming the blacks, without even having asked for any information about the killing.

Leland continued, "I am sick and tired of the selective morality of the Reagan Administration's foreign policy. While Reagan defends the Contras in Nicaragua, calls them freedom fighters, he absolutely disregards the freedom of black South Africans. Why is the freedom of the Contras in Nicaragua more precious than the freedom, the life of black South Africans? At a time when the President has stated his desire to appeal to black Americans, he blatantly denies the freedom and dignity of blacks in South Africa."

Leland condemned the President's claim that gains have been made by

BLACKS HAVE BEEN AWAKENED...?

IT IS UP TO US, BLACKS WHO CARE ABOUT THE BLACK FUTURE, TO IMPOSE ORDER WHERE NONE EXISTS TODAY.

WE HAVE TO DO IT BECAUSE WE CANNOT ASK OUR OLD PEOPLE TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PASSING THROUGH A GAUNTLET OF MUGGERS.

ORDE COMBS  
N.Y. MAGAZINE

## Tulane Scandal Is Cause For Alarm!

A few points of interest about collegiate sports corruption.

The Tulane basketball scandal shocked the country about the presence of point shaving in collegiate sports - especially basketball. Public opinion has it that the young men, coaches and recruiters were not doing anything unusual - they just got caught! But the question remains - are the players 100 percent responsible for partaking or are they just following a chain of events in their collegiate basketball career?

College sports are big business and gifted or talented players are their backbone. Just as other major money games, basketball starts at the high schools. Recruiters stalk talented players with scholarships, cars, vacations and money before the kid can get his cap and gown off. Many of these kids are from public high schools who are indifferent to academic quality. The incentive package sounds like the opportunity of a lifetime because only a few athletes are chosen for the NCAA teams and a small percentage cho-



Sabrina

sen for the big bucks of the NBA. They either make it in the gym or happy trails.

And given how much money basketball makes from everybody else - why should not the players share in the revenue? College athletes generate rather than consume those nice revenues - but they are merely thought of as raw meat on the hoof. In other words, indentured slaves for four years. Athletes are not primarily recruited for brains, but for ability. If he happens to be "a brain" fine, if not that's okay, too. Why would he need a brain to play great? He, the

athlete, was bought to play a sport, basketball. He knows also that if he does very well and plays by the rules, that he can graduate with a degree that he cannot read. And if he really plays right, the NBA will offer him a package.

Another point of interest - are college athletes amateurs or professionals? Taking into consideration that they are given free education in trade for sport participation would not that mean that they are "paid" for their talent, thus making them unofficial professionals? Corruption in smooth form.

The 1980's model for hypocrisy is recruiting. The scholarships, vacations, cars, cash, and fun jobs theoretically do not exist but realistically do. Top stars can and do graduate without the ability to read their degree. Athletic departments, bookies, television networks, and coaches benefit from the revenues - why shouldn't the athletes?

History tells us that the Olympic athletes of Greece allowed competitors to win for political reasons. Today, athletes are doing it for money and a chance. The defense of dishonesty is not the point, but public emotion is. Educational institutions are oftentimes at the mercy of sports. They lower academic standards for sports and cater to sports through being grooming farm clubs for pro teams. The question still remains, who is to blame - the inexperienced kids partaking in the sports or the adults who make their living at the expense of the kids? Maybe instead of fines and imprisonment the athletes caught should receive a bachelor of arts degree with special emphasis on learning by example.

The coach at Georgetown University - John Thompson - is doing all in his power to change the view of the "stars." His philosophy is that athletes can excel academically and athletically. The mix does make a super star. Recruiting is important in getting the talent - but what is done to cultivate and develop the person is more important. Academics and athletics do work well together. Now if only the other 99.9 percent of the coaches took that stand.

The Tulane scandal is cause for alarm for it is the manifestation of the practices of recruiting programs and sports programs in colleges for today and tomorrow.

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