

# The Charlotte Post

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## Editorials

### Belief Important To Success

By HOYLE H. MARTIN  
Editorial Writer

Those of you who watched Notre Dame retain its No. 1 football ranking, while claiming the mythical national championship, probably missed or were unaware of the real success story hidden behind the headlines of Tuesday morning's newspapers. That story centers around a man who overcame adversity and a whole state - nearly two million people - that revived a belief in itself. It is a story that confirms an editorial I wrote two months ago (Oct. 27, 1988) under the title "The Courage To Be Your Best."

Our story begins with an Associated Press report about a skinny little kid who at 12 years of age said he wanted to be the football coach at Notre Dame when he grew up. The very idea of such a lofty goal seemed simply impossible. Why? As a high school sophomore the kid was struggling to attain a weigh of 100 pounds. As the smallest player on the football team, even the smallest shoulder pads were too big, but he wore them with pride. The little fellow said too that "I never had a date with a girl until I was a sophomore in college and when the guys wanted to know what was going on socially, they never called me because I never knew anything." Even in adulthood, the kid who had reached a proud 152 pounds, appeared to be a person of low self-esteem. He said, "I'm not going to impress anybody. . . I'm not a very smart individual. I graduated (from high school) 234th in a class of 278." He recalled also that when he told his high school guidance counselor that he planned to attend Kent State University as opposed to going to work in a local steel mill as she partly had suggested, he quoted her as saying, "You don't have the academic background to succeed."

No, we are not talking about a black kid from the ghetto of one of our major cities,

we are talking about a still skinny eyeglasses wearing nerd-looking fellow from East Liverpool, Ohio, named Lou Holtz. Yes, the same Lou Holtz who this past Monday led the "Fighting Irish" of Notre Dame University to a national football championship in a 34 to 21 win over also unbeaten and untied with a similar 11-0 season records West Virginia University.

After serving as an assistant coach of five Division I schools, Holtz moved on to become head coach at five other Division I schools. The AP report notes here that, "At each stop, he (Holtz) inherited a losing program, but he took each team to a bowl game by his second year."

Lou Holtz is a man with a message. A man with a mission and one willing to reach beyond his inner self for the courage to be his level best.

West Virginia, is a little known, little talked about state surrounded by Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. With mining historically the chief industry of the state, and with the heavily declining demand for coal, its primary mining project, West Virginia has been in serious economic decline for many years. Therefore, with little to boast and feel good about, the sudden rise to football prominence of West Virginia University with an 11-0 season gave them a rally call for a new sense of pride. These fine "Mountain State" people were saying "we can compete with the best of them."

In the absence of any kind of professional sports team or other major university, West Virginia University became the pride and joy of the entire state. Forget that powerful Notre Dame spoiled an otherwise perfect season, our "Mountain State" cousins found a good reason to be feel good, to lift their heads up high, to bask in the glory of victory and to believe, in the words of Jesse Jackson, "I am somebody."

### It's Time To Reassess Our Values

In 1966 an authentic study of 83 percent of college freshmen said that "developing a meaningful philosophy of life" was listed as the most important aspect of college. Twenty-one years later, in 1987, being "very well off financially" had risen to the top as being of highly "essential or very important" reasoning for attending college. To "develop a meaningful philosophy of life" had fallen to the lowest point in the survey.

This latest survey of 290,000 freshmen in over 500 colleges and universities showed that 75.6 percent were primarily interested in earning a lot of money; only 39.4 listed philosophical concerns as most important.

A similar study of high school students in 1980 showed that of the very high number of high school students who worked part-time (63 percent), the vast majority used their income as a contribution to the family income. However, in 1987, 80 percent of 16,000 working high school seniors said they spend their earnings for their personal needs and interests only -- clothing, stereo equipment, records, video tapes, movies, etc. Only five percent said they use their income to augment the family income.

Thus, in the face of American youth having become overwhelmingly materialistic, it is refreshing to know of a youth who could very easily be materialistic by way of his personal success, but is not. We are referring to Malcolm - Jamal Warner or better known as Theo on the highly successful "Cosby Show." In a book entitled, Theo and

Me, young Warner says we are living in what is called the "Me" generation, that is, a preoccupation with "self" and no interest in the needs and concerns of others.

Theo says candidly as an 18-year-old "I certainly don't claim to have all the answers and I'm no sociologist, but I do know that we who are young have somehow lost track of our values, values that we are supposed to learn from our parents." Thus, possibly misplaced values among parents or failure to spend ample time with their kids may lead to involvement with drugs, street gangs and the "Me" attitude which can lead to crime growing out of selfishness. He notes the gap between an entertainer earning \$30,000 a week and a school teacher earning \$30,000 a year. Is there any wonder, Theo asks, "how can we blame a 17-year-old kid earning \$15,000 a week selling drugs when a college diploma cannot guarantee a job that pays even half as much?"

Instead of making a number of new year's resolutions that most of us forget as soon as we make them, we need to begin thinking seriously about Lou Holtz and the people of West Virginia who did not let adversity or the injustice in our society lead them to crime, drugs and worse. The people of courage reflect the kind of values that Theo is referring to in his book. His is a writing that we all, young and not so young, can learn much from. Think about it in this new year of 1989 and we may be here to say thank God at this time in 1990. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU.

### Maneuvering Through The Work Place Can Make Or Break A Budding Career

American work places have unique cultures. These cultures are fixed sets of rules and house jargon that everyone must adopt. The rate of one's upward mobility is dependent on how well one learns to maneuver in this work culture.

American universities are a classic case study to examine the impact of work cultures because they are proponents of the art of erudition. A new professor quickly learns that the top three things he must do to get promoted are: "Publish! Publish! Publish!"

On the other hand, if a new professor fails to publish, he seriously risks losing his job. This implies that teaching ability is a second tier requirement for success at America's universities. Nevertheless, some universities do grant limited promotions on outstanding teaching ability.

But publishing scholarly articles requires one to have both an appreciation of the universi-

ty's internal politics and the more of external financial backers. That is, one must write a proposal for a research project, get it funded, do the research, and then write the article to report his findings.

Although the above process appears simple, it is wrought with pitfalls for new professors. Let us look at this process through the eyes of a black professor who enters a predominantly white university. This person starts out without a mentor to guide him to credibility amongst his professional peers.

This black professor quickly learns that the clock is ticking on his career if publications do not start pouring forth. He finds he must write proposals that get funded. There is also an immediate need to know what foundations, government agencies, or private industries that are supportive of his research. Or he learns that his esoteric research is too limited for external fund-



By Sherman Miller

ing, so his fate falls to the mercy of the faculty senate for university dollars.

The picture we are painting of the black professor is similar to a black professional entering the mainstream work place. In light of the current cool reception to the super-liberal definition of affirmative action, we must look for alternative scenarios to help black professors in the current conservative nation-

### The Arrival of Pro Basketball

Sometime in the early eighties, I wrote an editorial dismissing the feasibility of having a professional team of any kind in Charlotte. At that time, Charlotte's Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was less than half a million people and the city was just not in a position to support professional sports.

What has happened in such a short time that has caused this city that I love dearly to be setting an attendance record for an expansion basketball team? I thought you would never ask.



with  
Gerald  
Johnson

As I See It

created a situation that allowed the aggressive North Carolina banks to acquire banks in other states. Consequently, the statewide banking firms of NCNB, Wachovia, and First Union grew from statewide banking powers with assets of \$5 to \$10 billion to super regional banks with assets of \$25 to \$50 billion. This phenomenal growth made it possible for these institutions to provide the necessary capital and assume more financial risk with supporting a lot of what has taken place.

One of the major happenings was the influx of northern carpetbagger (smile) to our fair city escaping the highly taxed, urban areas of the North. Major northern firms decided to relocate to the South and bring a lot of their employees with them. These people, generally, had easy access to major sporting events and had grown accustomed to them. Their arrival brought indirect pressure to look into major sports for our area. You see, professional sports is a drawing card for industries to relocate to an area just like quality of schools, roads and neighborhoods.

But long before the carpetbaggers arrived, some very key events took place that enhanced the feasibility of a professional team coming to Charlotte. Obviously, the new Coliseum was the major happening. Without the no-name Coliseum that seats 25,000, the NBA wouldn't have even looked in our direction.

But just as important as the new Coliseum but more subtle was the airport expansion. The ease of getting to and from Charlotte plays a big role in the type of support a team can expect. Would you fly to see your favorite team play if it required you to change flights several times?

Who would want to play a team that required you to change flights to get to the city? The airport expansion allowed Charlotte to get more direct flights in and out of Charlotte, thereby making the Queen City more accessible by air.

In this same light, accessibility by road was vastly improved. The completion of I-77 and I-85 in North and South Carolina in essence expanded Charlotte's MSA. In the early eighties, driving to Greensboro was a chore. You could drive to Salisbury on I-85, then you had to pick up Highway 29.

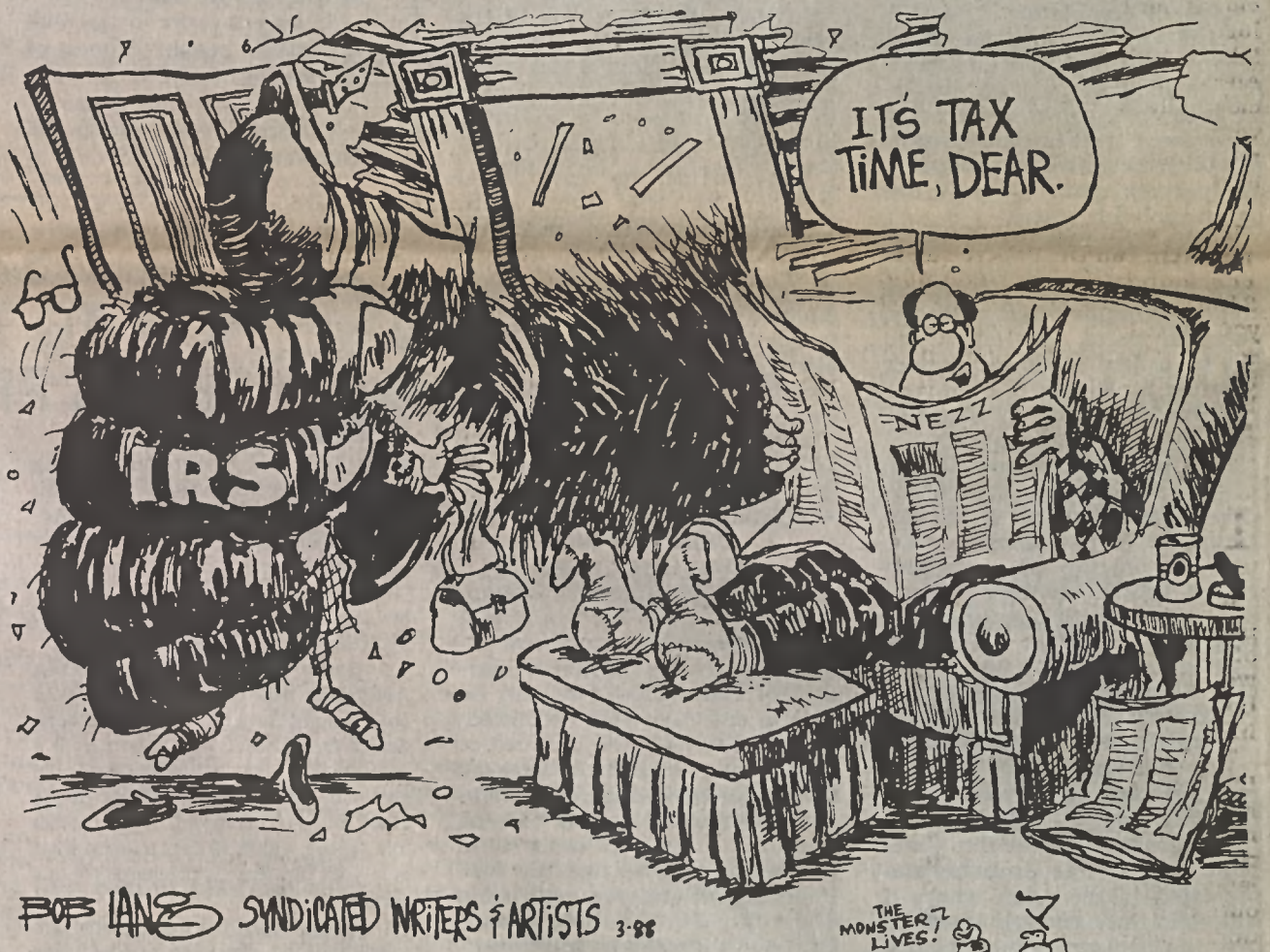
You picked up I-85 on the other side of High Point. Driving to Columbia, S.C., was even worse on I-77 to Rock Hill, then Highway 21 to Columbia. The completion of these interstate highways made Charlotte more accessible from all directions. Driving to Greensboro or Columbia takes just over an hour (if you don't get a ticket)--- a mere commute.

Another remarkable occurrence that indirectly benefited Charlotte's pro basketball acquisition was interstate banking. Congress changed the laws that restricted banks from doing business outside of their prescribed jurisdictions. This

Needless to say that without the visionary people like George Shinn and others, the team still would not have materialized. But bringing professional sports to Charlotte started long before Mr. Shinn's pursuits were made public. It materialized because of the hard work by a lot of people, a vision of what Charlotte could be, and a great deal of luck. Interestingly, professional sports was not the objective of most of the efforts, but a by-product of it. When you do the right things for good reasons, only good can come from it.

The eighties will go down as one of the best decades for Charlotte. All of us are fortunate enough to have witnessed the transformation from a small town to a major metropolis. Associated with this rapid growth is the significant responsibility of managing where we are, as well as where we are going. Moreover, growth management must be an inclusionary process of gathering input from all segments of this vibrant community.

If in going forward, we fail to capitalize on the significant achievements of the eighties, then a lot of good things would have been accomplished in vain.



BOB LANZ SYNDICATED WRITERS & ARTISTS 3-88

### What's On Your Mind?

Let us hear your comments, ideas and opinions. Write to:

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Please include name, address and phone number. We edit letters for clarity and grammar.

al psyche.

A brief discussion with Dr. Frank Dille, president of the University of Delaware Faculty Senate, offers some direction for predominantly white universities in their handling of the promotion of black professors. Dille sees the need for senior professors to become mentors for black junior professors.

These senior professors can teach black professors the art of the publication game. They can speak to such techniques as blindly submitting a proposal and praying that it gets seen; finding out what groups are funding and writing proposals around their interest; or getting to know people at the funding agencies and accepting their guidance in putting proposals together.

Senior professors might also publish jointly with blacks which will help new black professors to establish their credibility. The joint publications will open many doors at funding

institutions. This is not a novel idea because joint publications are common practice in the scholarly publications game. It is not uncommon to see several names on a publication.

Dille also sees the importance of the University of Delaware setting aside a portion of its research dollars for non-traditional research. This program would offer new professors an opportunity to get esoteric projects funded instead of their being killed off by persons who do not fully appreciate the value of the research.

Glover Jones, a black senior research chemist at the DuPont Company, says he has published jointly with professors at predominantly white universities. He has co-authored four publications with University of Delaware professors in the departments of Chemical Engineering, Physics & Astronomy, and Material Science. Jones welcomes the opportunity to do joint publications with black,

hard science professors. Perhaps other corporate black researchers are reticent to do joint publications with black professors.

I am told there is a group of black physicists organizing a national organization who will offer black professors an opportunity to gain international credibility through joint research efforts. I trust that other black, hard and social science groups are developing or have developed similar research network groups.

As a former member of the Board of Trustees of Delaware State College, I believe America's universities and colleges are supposed to foster the search for new frontiers, where a professor's thoughts are esoteric research today, but tomorrow they are the wave of the future. Will Dr. Dille's foresight on providing opportunity for non-traditional research become the pervasive mind-set at America's colleges and universities?