

Modern College Athletics: 2 Educational Cowards' Fault

The people who are to blame for the present condition of college athletics are either ignorant of their blame, proud of it, happy and flip-pant about it or too weak to change it.

They are the general public, the sportswriters of the nation's press, the coaches and the players and the educational institutions that tolerate, even add to, a false, golden haze built around big-time athletics—that allow the other elements of blame to push athletics out of their proper perspective. When that happens, education inevitably suffers.

It is suffering now.

The general public, sportswriters and players can't be blamed for everything. They are the result, not the cause, of the false, golden haze. They are entering a situation that has been built already for them.

In the same manner, we cannot condemn the coaches for taking what is offered them. A coach would lose his self-respect and his job if he were offered a job running a modern university athletics machine and turned it down on the grounds that it was over-professionalized.

He would be booed from the sidelines. He would be laughed at by other coaches. And he would be without a contract.

All these elements, however—the public, press, coaches and players—are at fault to some extent. We suppose it is foolishly idealistic to believe somewhere there are people who don't take what is offered to them. But every once in a while some of these people pop up. They, not the Atlantic Coast Conference or institutional rules, are the answer to the modern athletics problem.

Perhaps these people can cultivate in the public an interest in the educational aspects of an educational institution. Perhaps they are the ones who can excite people over a world-wide conference on gravitation, as well as a game between Carolina and Notre-Dame.

Perhaps these people can help the sportswriters of the nation to look again at college athletics and start writing stories that are as sensible as the one stories. Maybe they can learn to cut out the cute phrases, the hero's worshipping headlines that feed a hungry public what it does not deserve to eat.

If there were more integrity among coaches and players, too, it would help the situation quite a bit. But nowadays, a coach is not respected as a builder of men and character. He is a shrewd operator.

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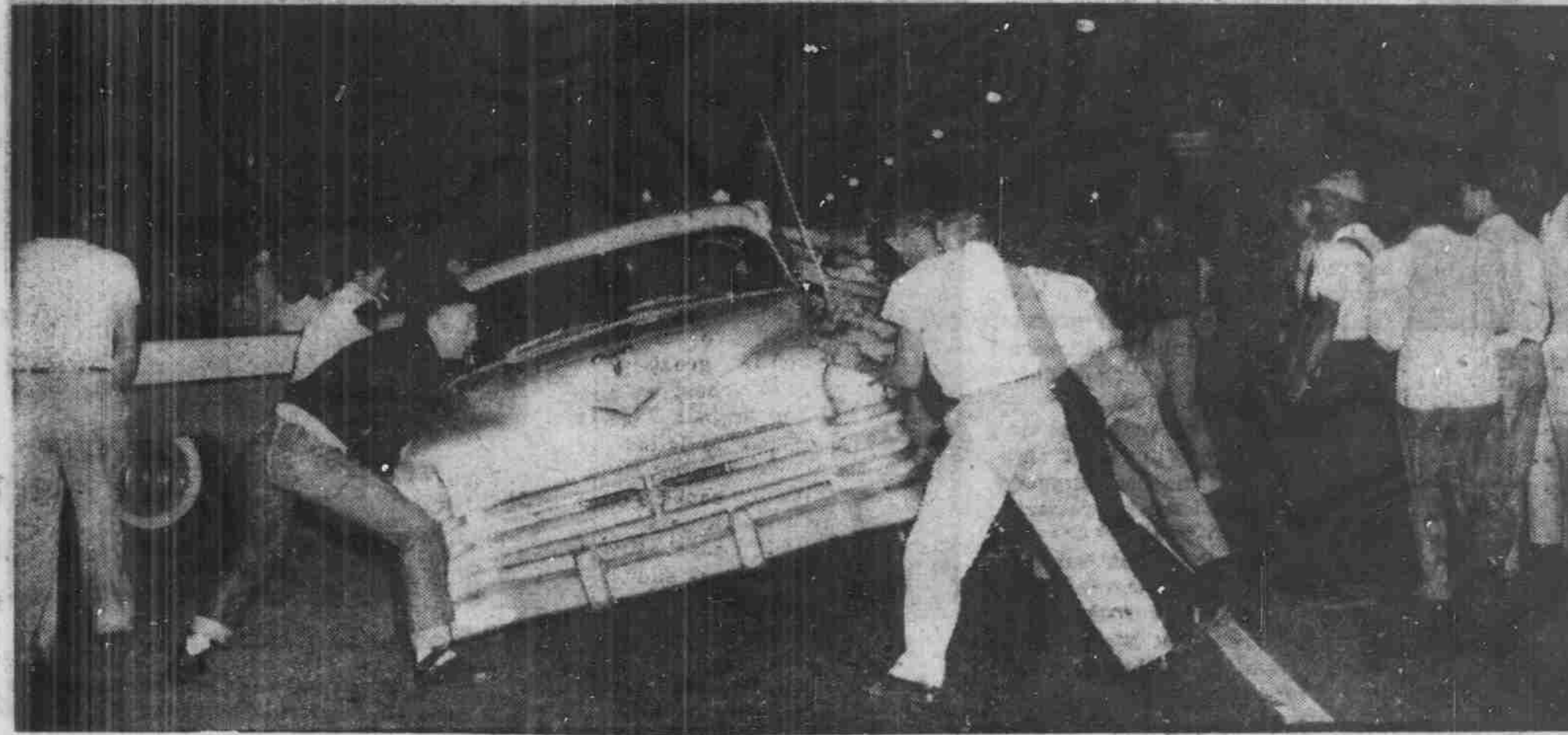
EVERYBODY'S TEST TUBE A Study In Desegregation: Clinton, Tenn., And John Kasper

Clinton, Tennessee, a small town community built around a courthouse in the eastern coal-mining hills of the state, seems in many respects more like a Northern town than a Southern one. There are, for instance, few Negroes on the streets; one sees whites at janitorial duties; and last November the most conspicuous political headquarters housed Republicans. Clinton has frequently elected Republicans to local offices and the state legislature.

Clinton's Negroes comprise less than five percent of the population, and according to the mayor's son, "These aren't like the Deep South Negroes. We haven't had integration, but they've never been like the bowing-down ones, always tipping their hats and stepping aside on the street corner. These are people who vote, who call us by our names, and who have self-respect."

Indeed, Clinton became the site for Tennessee's first state-supported desegregation because five years ago its Negroes decided they were tired of sending their children 20 miles away to a segregated high school in Knoxville. So they started a long course of litigation for admission to Clinton High, in the middle of which the Supreme Court handed down its school decision.

Federal Judge Robert L. Taylor then ordered integration of the high school to get under way in the fall of 1956.



CLINTON MOB ATTACKS NEGROES IN CAR after a segregationist delivered speech condemning NAACP

Associated Press Photo

Given the court order, Clinton prepared peacefully—if not voluntarily—to carry it out. The impact of the decision was discussed thoroughly, not only by the P.T.A., the civic clubs, and the local weekly, but in forums among the students themselves. "There's been no trouble here at all," high-school principal D. J. Brittain Jr. told me on the eve of registration. "The people may not like this by choice, but they realize it's a court order and it's what we have to do. I'm not expecting any trouble."

Looking back after four months, the principal's optimistic prediction has proved drastically wrong. Twice in that period Clinton has verged on the brink of a complete breakdown of law and order.

REASONS

There are several reasons for the breakdown: an outsider who came in to probe beneath the surface of calm until he touched the raw nerves of suppressed resentment; a subsequent split in the white community over an issue so fraught with emotion that almost everybody directly involved has guarded an uneasy silence about it; and finally the experimental nature of Clinton's desegregation—a case of great importance as a precedent to a number of interested parties.

Two forces with a good deal more at stake than the education of 600 white and Negro students have fought back and forth across the field of battle.

"People ask me why Clinton hasn't been able to solve its own problems," one city official said. "I'll tell you why—because no one wants us to, and no one will let us. We're everybody's test tube."

When he operated a Greenwich Village bookstore a few years ago, a young man named Frederick John Kasper liked to talk with his Negro friends about man's role in history. In each great man's life, he said, comes a moment when he seizes greatness.

"The strong Negroes must lead the weaker ones. If I were a Negro, I'd lead a march on Washington to get something done for my people." He told one Negro friend, an artist named Ted Joans: "Why don't you hang one of your paintings in the Museum of Modern Art? Everyone steals paintings, but no one hangs them. Think of the publicity you'll get. Joans never hung that painting, but on Aug. 25, 1956, the weekend before school started in Clinton, John Kasper, now executive secretary of the Seaboard White Citizens' Council of Washington, D. C., seized the moment he thought would bring his own moment of greatness.

Kasper came to Clinton announced, sleeping in his car the night before like a seedy traveling salesman. Then Saturday and Sunday he canvassed the town, looking for dissent.

No less an authority on Kasper than Kasper himself gave this account of his purpose: "I'm a rab-

ble rouser. The people of Clinton needed a leader, so I went there to lead them.

Leo Burnett, an accountant at the local Magnet Mills, was washing his car that Saturday afternoon when a tall young stranger cut through his back yard. Wit-out introducing himself, the

stranger asked Burnett what he thought about Negroes going to the high school.

"Well, I'm like most of the people here," Burnett answered. "I'm not for it, but my personal feelings don't enter into it. It's inevitable. The court ordered it."

WILL SUPREME

Then Kasper introduced himself and discussed his purpose. "You don't have to obey the law," he said. "The will of the people is supreme."

"Will your wife picket the high school Monday?" he went on. "I've talked to a lot of other people who said they would." Burnett said she wouldn't, and they argued about it for a while. "If our forefathers took your attitude," Kasper said, "we'd still be ruled by England."

"I'm not interested in starting a revolution," was Burnett's answer.

Kasper continued his house-to-house campaign, telling the people they didn't have to obey the law if they didn't want to. By the end of the week Clinton was a battleground.

There were riots, cars were rocked, citizens and travelers molested. The following Saturday, a week after Kasper's arrival, the mob seemed to take over, and only a hastily organized home guard of the town's leaders throwing tear gas could keep it down until 100 state troopers arrived, followed soon by 600 National Guardsmen, who had been ordered in by Governor Frank Clement.

An AP photographer, looking back on the riots, said "That was worse than Korea. In Korea we understood that there was a calculated risk, but we never knew what to expect here, and where to expect it from."

The sheriff of Anderson County said recently that if the troopers hadn't arrived just in time, at least three or four people would probably have been killed. On Aug. 31, Kasper was convicted of violating a Federal injunction against interfering with racial integration in the Clinton high school.

It is almost four months since the riots won, and the people of Clinton still cannot quite understand what happened to their peaceful little town.

Depressing Facts About Tar Heelia

Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell

This is the third installment of Dr. Gordon W. Blackwell's speech before the Adult Education Council of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The last installment appeared in Saturday morning's Daily Tar Heel.

Here one can only repeat some of the depressing facts which have been talked so much in recent years. Our net cash income per farm family in 1950 was \$1,304, placing us in 40th position among the states. Somewhat offsetting this low figure, however, is the fact that North Carolina farmers have a larger value of home consumption than do all of the 11 far western states combined.

Our farms are generally too small in size and our agricultural people are too often underemployed on these farms. This is one reason why three-fifths of our farmers engage in some off-farm employment.

Our average weekly earnings for non-agricultural workers in 1954 was \$54.54, much below the national average. In our urbanized crescent in the state, these figures were above the average for the rest of the state. Looking specifically at manufacturing, we find that only Mississippi has a lower wage level.

The fact is that the industries which we have generally pay low wages wherever they are located. Also, there are indications that our industries have not had the advantage of sufficient research facilities and technical personnel.

To sum up the income situation, we may rely upon per capita income. Here I may say that we have devoted considerable effort to checking the validity and accuracy of the figures. In general, these facts appear to be reliable. Any improvement in their accuracy could only slightly change North Carolina's relative rank among the states.

Our per capita income of \$1,236 in 1955 was below the nation's average of \$1,847. Only four states rank below us: Mississippi, Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama.

IS IT OUR GOAL?

But is a high per capita income our goal? This should be recognized as only one index of much more important conditions in the way of life of four million people. We are concerned with the extent to which our wealth and income enables us to support the basic institutional services demanded by North Carolinians at this mid-century point in the state's development.

Here I must be selective and shall concentrate on only three of our more crucial institutional services: Education, health and welfare.

As a state, we may have shown more concern for the health of our people. At any rate, on various statistical indices our ranking among the states is somewhat better. Generally we are not too far off the average for the country, either in public health, in hospital facilities, or in the increasingly crucial problem of mental health.

We still do not rank too well in infant mortality rate, perhaps the single most sensitive index of the level of development of a society. In 1953 North Carolina's rate of 32.7 deaths per 1,000 live births was noticeably above the nation's rate of 27.8. Only 10 states had a higher infant mortality rate. This problem, however, is largely confined to our Negro population.

In maternal mortality, too, only four states had a higher rate than North Carolina in 1953.

North Carolina has a long tradition in accepting its responsibility for welfare services. However, we are not doing as well as most other states either in proportion of our state budget which goes for public welfare or in the size of payments to needy individuals and families.

Other nearby Southern states are doing considerably better. For example, for a number of years we have ranked at the bottom in proportion of fiscal responsibility for the aid to dependent children program which our state supports.

In spite of capable administrative leadership in public welfare over two generations, the state still lags in the provision of adequate public welfare services. Again, our relatively low income level highlights this problem and at the same time partially explains our lag.

This is not to minimize the importance of support for other functions of government, for religion, the arts, and other facets of a well-rounded society.

Our situation in education is already well known to all of us. North Carolina ranks 48th in the proportion of our people who have completed high school, 29 per cent. In 1950 only 65 per cent of our youth between the ages of 16 and 17 were enrolled in school.

Our expenditures per public school pupil was \$141 as compared with the nation's \$209. Teachers' salaries continue to be shockingly low. Yet we are spending more of our total income in North Carolina for public education than is true of most of the so-called progressive states. Here our low income level offers the explanation.

HIGHER EDUCATION PROBLEM

The 900,000 children and youth in schools and colleges in the state in 1950 are expected to increase to 1,270,000 by 1970. This is part of the problem facing the State Board of Higher Education. New patterns of college education and advanced technical training will be needed by then if the needs are to be met with potentially available resources.

For example, a special committee recently reported that North Carolina industry will need 5,400 additional technicians each year for the next five years. Personnel and facilities for training people in these numbers are not presently available.

In spite of excellent professional leadership at the top, our educational programs have lagged far behind our needs and achievement levels of other states.

(To Be Continued)

L'il Abner



Pogo



By Walt Kelly

AFTER EXAMS: The situation at Carolina.