

BASKETBALL

An Open Letter to the Basketball Coach of Ball State University

Like so many weak people, you can dish it out but you can't take it. All week, preceding the game between your institution (Ball State) and UNLV, local Las Vegas newspapers published articles concerning your team. I suppose they followed the same theme found in other newspapers and sporting news sources of the "cinderella" year Ball State had experienced and its successes in the opening rounds of the NCAA Tournament. Among the deluge of basketball news there was one common thread which ran through those articles: McCurdy's penchant for taunting opposing players and your condoning his antics. Locally, most people had no problem with that. There are players on the Rebel squad who also like to "talk that talk." Actually, our newspapers and television stations were more accepting of that behavior from opposing teams than with our own. Perhaps that is a result of some innate tendency to be more critical of one's own than of others. I don't know.

In any case, throughout the game, McCurdy's mouth produced at a rate far exceeding his play on the court. "Go ahead, big fellow--sock it to 'em," you seemed to say. He did. He talked as much as your only alumnus

does on late night television and said just about as much. Well, when the final buzzer sounded and one of the UNLV players gave him a dose of his own medicine, neither he nor you could take it. "A bunch of thugs," you say. "Al Davis would have been proud of the play Johnson made." Indeed. McCurdy had been so busy running his mouth, he's forgotten how to run his feet. He slipped. Johnson did not touch him as you inferred. As a matter of fact, Johnson did all he could to avoid stepping on his mouth while the guy was on the floor. As a matter of fact, and if you look at the tape of the game/play you'll see that is so. Johnson was more concerned with not causing injury to McCurdy than he was with gaining control of the ball. Thugs? How did you like that hatchet job Thompson did to Butler after Butler intercepted the errant lob by Spicer in the final play of the game? I suppose that was ok. After all, your players all follow your saintly example.

Who was it who said, "You're a 'bleeping' embarrassment to the college game?" "Bleeping?" A "bleeping" embarrassment? It would seem to me that someone who would go national with language like that, especially someone who is a self-



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by Professor Roosevelt Fitzgerald

appointed keeper of standards, pillar of the community, and bestower of the ethical ideal of the western world, has forfeited the right to comment on the etiquette of the "college game."

When the game ended, in spite of your histrionics, players from both teams were talking and smiling and well at ease with each other. The game, as far as they were concerned, was over. One team had lost and one had won. Basketball games invariably end up that way. The mature can deal with winning and losing and the immature cannot. You know, by your own behavior, which group you fall within. I am not suggesting that one should be happy to lose. I've never been, but I've also, not since I was seven years old,

hung the blame for my having lost on whomever is in sight. Your team lost, according to your perception, because they played against thugs. Your team lost because the officiating was lousy. Your team lost because someone else is an embarrassment. Yeah. Your team lost because it was dark at night and the water was wet and the ice was cold and the inside was not outside. I would like to know the reasons that your team lost those other six games during the season. Is it possible that those same conditions existed six other times or is it possible that your team was simply outplayed in one or two of those contests? I wonder. UNLV, as of this writing--March 24--has lost five games during the season

and we lost them because we were outplayed--simple as that--no excuses.

Let's take a look at some of your other antics on the vining of the game which will undoubtedly bring more "class" to the game. At 14:39 of the first half, with the score UNLV 13 and Ball State 6, following the alley-oop from Hunt to Augmon which resulted in a slam-dunk, why didn't you give the referee the ball following the play? Why did you walk out of the coaching box and onto the court as you did? Did you think that was the behavior of a gentleman? When Hunt committed his third foul right in front of your bench, I thought for a moment, you would have a stroke. The referee called the foul. What did you want him to do--shoot Hunt? When your #33 grabbed Scurry's leg and held him underneath the Rebel basket, right in front of your bench when the score was 19-11, did you think that would have pleased Little Lord Fauntleroy or Sluggo? I'll bet you really like that mauling Kidd gave Anthony at 7:38, huh? I guess you didn't see Thompson stiff-arm Augmon out of the way in order to position himself for the left-handed tip-in when the score was 45-38 at 16:44 of the second half and, once again, this was right in front of your bench. If all of those things

seem reasonable to you, then I can only say that you have a "Bull Connor mentality"--it is ok for you and yours to do anything, but if the adversary tries that, then you cry foul.

Finally, and there's much more that I've omitted (the intentional foul when the score was 69-65, the traveling when the score was 69-67), what did you think of that "thug" Butler coming over to you at the end of the game and extending his hand to you? I can only imagine what you were thinking. What is Butler, 21/22 years old? What are you, 35 or so? Maybe by the time he gets to be your age he'll display a behavior similar to yours. Personally, I hope not, but if he does, I hope he goes to Muncie or to Montana where he can feel right at home. I was in Muncie once and in Montana. Neither are listed among the high points of my life. I'll go so far as to say that if Will Rogers had gone to Muncie during his lifetime, unless he were a Klansman, he would never have had to make a small change in his comment about having been around the world. You remember what he said, don't you? "I've never met a man I didn't like." If he were the good guy we've been led to believe he was, he would have had to add to that statement, "...except in Muncie."

Charles L. Broils Trial To Begin

The trial of Charles L. Broils is scheduled to begin in Department 2 of Justice Court on April 18 at 1:15 p.m.

Broils is accused of throwing a deadly missile in 1989 in an altercation between skin-heads, and members of the Jewish Defense League near one of the hotels during the time that the Imperial Palace was being picketed when it became known that its owner had a room in the hotel devoted to Nazi Memorabilia.

Broils has been accused by a police officer of hurling a rock toward the crowd. Broils denies that he threw the rock. According to Broils, he was manhandled by the police officer, handcuffed and taken to jail, where he remained for several hours.

A more indepth follow-up of this story will continue in next week's issue of the Sentinel-Voice.

WILLIS

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If the truth be known, all they have to do is to demonstrate "good faith" toward meeting an affirmative action quota. So the prospect of hiring a Two-For who earns double credit actually serves as an incentive to give employers more latitude to discriminate.

Anyone who has ever applied for a job knows that whoever controls the hiring process determines who gets the job.

To be hired, the successful candidate must possess the credentials the employer says are needed to competently perform the job. Under these conditions, what could be wrong with hiring a Two-For candidate over a Black male candidate?

Nothing. Nothing unless you take under consideration the eventual extinction of an entire race. For if equally

educated and competent Black men are purposely denied employment in favor of competent Black females based on a perception that Two-Fors are less aggressive and less threatening than their male counterparts, we all lose. It's frightening to think that America would sit idly by while the doors of opportunity are slammed hopelessly shut in the faces of Black men who are professionally prepared.

The Two-For problem is starting now to take its toll on Black women also. Like when Essence magazine devoted an article to a discussion of the difficulties Black women have finding equally successful Black men to date, and that they are turning more frequently to relationships with white men. The article in question focused almost entirely on the psychological adjustments Black women who date white men must make.

Two-For. It's such an innocuous little six-letter word. Hardly seems important enough of a term to ruffle any feathers. Even so, who would have thought Two-Fors could hold the key to the fate and ultimate destiny of a once-noble yet still proud race of people like us?

CHURCH

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Que dinners Saturday, April 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. And there will be a free Easter Egg Hunt at Doolittle Community Center for everyone. Tickets may be obtained from any member of the Sunday School Department. For more information call 648-6856. The Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ is pastored by Bishop E.N. Webb.

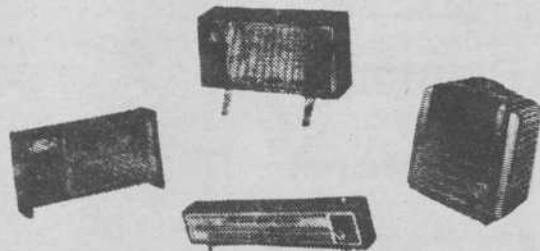
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