

# Editorial

## Sports stories should tell of victory, not abuse

Avid readers of the daily sports pages may have noticed a curious phenomenon developing during the last few years.

It seems that traditional sports stories detailing games and the exploits of athletes now rival for space with sporting news of a different kind.

Recruiting violations and athletes' altered academic credentials may make more popular reading currently and the repercussions are becoming more and more serious.

The latest violation scoop came just last week when the National Collegiate Athletic Association announced that University of Kansas running back Kerwin Bell will lose one year of football eligibility and will be suspended for three games this year. The NCAA said Bell's high school transcripts had been tampered with.

One of the gravest results of athletic shenanigans occurred this summer when the University of San Francisco announced it was discontinuing its high-power-

ed men's basketball program. USF president, the Rev. John Lo Schiavo, said the program was dropped because of misconduct on the part of its alumni boosters and some of the players.

The NCAA has been in charge of investigating charges and of stamping penalties on athletic programs.

Now, the NCAA has formed a committee to suggest solutions to some of the abuse problems in college athletic programs.

According to an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education, a 16-member committee was selected by the NCAA to suggest ways to end problems in the athletic system.

College presidents, coaches, athletic directors and faculty members compose the panel; it will meet four times, beginning in September, the article says.

One of those 16 committee members is UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney.

The Chronicle's article says the NCAA has stressed that the panel will have its own independence. That remains to be seen, but it is hoped the NCAA will heed the committee's advice.

Devaney should be able to add some useful suggestions. He may be the right man for the job because — although cynical students may sneer at it — UNL's athletic program has managed to stay clear of serious NCAA accusations. Even most anti-football fanatics here should admit that UNL must be doing something right in the fair-play sporting category.

Devaney may provide good information that will help some universities eliminate their unfair practices.

The whole project will seem worth it if someday sports-page readers can turn to a section filled with tales of victories, not violations.

Betsy Miller



## Mansion controversy raises pertinent questions

*So strong is the propensity of mankind to fall into mutual animosities that where no substantial occasion presents itself the most frivolous and fanciful distinctions have been sufficient to kindle their unfriendly passions and excite their most violent conflicts.*

—James Madison



**Jeff Allen**

The ongoing debate concerning the use of the Governor's Mansion for political fund-raising has not resulted in violent conflict. It has, however, "kindled some unfriendly passions."

The York News-Times described the skirmish as an example of "politics rearing its ugly head . . .," emphasizing what they believed to be the seamier side of political man in his embrace with the impertinent.

Perhaps the respective editor is right; as Madison said, "people . . . were liable to err . . . from fickleness and

passion."

Madison also recognized the importance of balancing factions that are inevitable in a world of varied opinions and that unbalanced factions presented a danger to the "public good" and "private rights."

Our greatest error, therefore, would be in not recognizing the potential of a proposal simply because of who presented it.

Indeed, the Democrats alleging impropriety in Gov. Charles Thone's political use of the mansion have indeed raised pertinent questions.

For example . . .

Department of Administrative Services Budget Division reports shows "food" expenditures for the governor's office have increased 138 percent from \$6,358.74 for fiscal year 1976-77 to \$15,106.91 for fiscal year 1981-82.

Certainly a portion of that increase is attributable to inflation and other variables. However, findings by the deputy director of the Legislative Fiscal Office (in a February 20, 1981, in-office report on the governor's office for the period of July 1, 1977, through June 30,

1980) produced what the deputy director described as "insufficient control over billings for goods purchased at (the) Governor's Mansion and used for non-state organization functions."

According to the fiscal office, accounting worksheets were not made available for "six of 21 functions held during 1978-80," and that it was therefore impossible "to determine how much was owed or expected as reimbursement for expenses associated with such functions."

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## Arafat's audacity overlooked by West

You have to hand it to Yasser Arafat, you really do. The guy possesses an abundance of *chutzpa* — the Yiddish word for incredible brazenness, effrontery and gall. As Leo Rosten defines it, *chutzpa* "is that quality enshrined



**Ross Mackenzie**

in a man who, having killed his mother and father, throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan." It also is enshrined in "the man who shouts 'Help! Help!' while beating you up."

Arafat's got it.

Here's a man whose life and organization have been spared by the Israelis, calling for renewed and heightened war against the Jewish people. Here's a man who has been snatched from death in large part by the good offices of

the United States, deploring the American-arranged agreement as devious and conniving — as further proof of a manipulative United States beneath every international mischief. Here's a man crushed, defeated and almost eviscerated — proclaiming a moral and diplomatic victory. And the gullible West, aided by its many agents of illusion, eagerly swallows it all.

Lest the truth about Arafat disappear down the Free World's memory hole, kindly review the record.

Since assuming control of the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1969, Arafat has been a diligent subcontractor to the Soviets. Between the summer of 1968 and January 1980, for instance, he made 14 publicly reported visits to Moscow. In October 1973, the Kremlin's news agency, Tass, quoted him as saying, "The people of Palestine regard the Soviet Union as their most staunch and sincere friend, an upholder of the freedom and independence of all peoples."

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