



Jeff Anderson/The Sower

bly a viable response in some schools," Corzine says about expulsions.

Wilson and Smith say they support Clark's ideas.

"Why be up in there causing problems when you don't have to be there," Smith says. "I'd kick them out, too."

**W**ilson says students who attend school for reasons other than learning should be expelled. She was academically strong at Muir, but admits that she might have been expelled if Muir had stricter rules.

But Wilson says her fighting problems were correctable. Students who come to school only to skip class, fight and take drugs, she says, are the ones who need to go.

"If you have one problem," Wilson says, "they should try to correct that problem . . ."

Christie says Americans shouldn't hold students responsible for inner-city school problems. They should blame the system, he says.

"As a kid, I didn't choose to go to that kind of school," Christie says. "Why blame me?"

The U.S. tax structure allows the rich to get richer, Christie says, and the poor to get poorer. It should share part of the blame, he says.

**C**orzine believes a new tax structure must be developed for inner-city schools to improve. He says white flight—the migration of whites to the suburbs during this century—left the inner-cities such as St. Louis with a large percentage of minorities.

"As a result," Corzine says, "what you find in the St. Louis metropolitan area is that suburban schools spend a lot more per pupil than city schools."

The poor, inner-city schools usually employ the worst teachers, he says, and occasionally don't have enough books for students.

When Corzine was doing research at McKinley, the school could afford only one book for an

algebra class. As a result, homework was not assigned and the amount of material covered was limited, he says.

A metropolitan-wide distribution of tax revenue would solve the funding problem, but it's unlikely, Corzine says. City governments have no jurisdiction in the suburbs within a metropolitan area. Thus, they have no power to tax, he says.

A state tax increase also is unlikely, Corzine says. Senators not representing areas with poor schools resist increases, he says.

"Political reality suggests that there's not going to be a lot of state funds channeled into these particular types of schools," Corzine says.

**T**he financial problems of many inner-city schools will continue to grow, Corzine says, unless such changes are made. But he fears that the drug and violence problems equated with these schools and the surrounding neighborhoods have gotten out of hand.

Fryar and Smith found a way out of the ghetto. Even when they attended high school, they could separate themselves from the drugs and the violence.

Smith, who was part of King's state-champion basketball team in 1986, said students respected him because he was a basketball player and gangs left him alone.

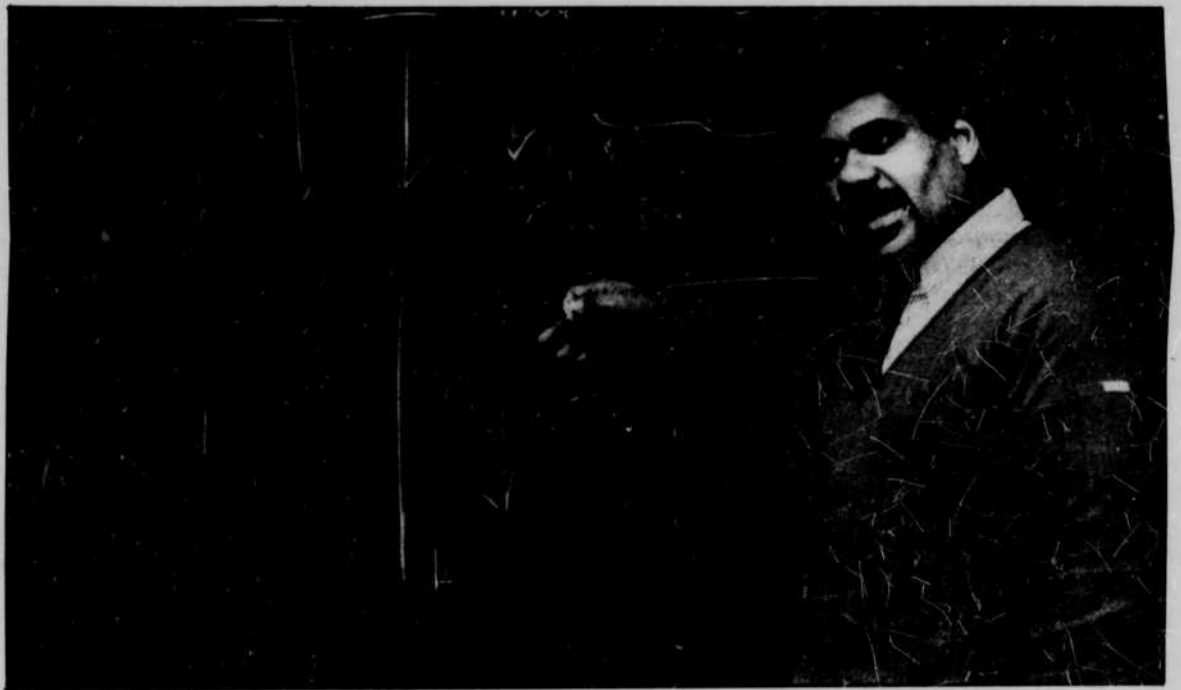
"If they find out you're serious about basketball and you're winning for that school, they're not going to bother you," he says.

Fryar, who participated in football, basketball and track, said students kept drugs away from him because they knew he was an athlete. Wilson said track helped her grades because she wanted to stay eligible to run.

Eventually, athletics provided a ticket to college for them, a final way out of the ghettos and the violence.

But for other inner-city high school students, there may be no way out.

—Ryan Steeves



Christie

“  
They'd fight over crap games in the bathroom, or somebody might have sold some tea instead of some reefer.

—Smith

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