

# **COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS REFORM: A TRILOGY**

**By Frank G. Splitt**

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*The NCAA's front business is amateurism. The whole operation—the rules and regulations, the investigations, the seminars on balancing academics and athletics, and the ludicrous term student-athlete—are designed to hide the real business the NCAA and their participating schools are engaged in: extortion. Viewed in the harshest—I would say "candid"—terms, they are extorting money from the (mostly poor and mostly black) kids who provide the raw material for the sports-entertainment business that generates billions of dollars for the NCAA and participating schools every year.*

—**Mark Yost**, From *VARSITY GREEN: A Behind the Scenes Look at Culture and Corruption in College Athletics*, Stanford University Press, 2010

*And sports, as my former fellow sports columnist at The Washington Star, David Israel says, is “an insular world that protects its own, and operates outside of societal norms as long as victories and cash continue to flow bountifully.” Penn State rakes in \$70 million a year from its football program.*

—**Maureen Dowd**, From "Personal Foul at Penn State," *New York Times*, November 9, 2011)

*The problem is the more powerful and revered the institution, the more difficult it becomes for anybody within it to expose the underbelly or report the sexual abuse and take action. And because it is such a powerful and revered institution, everybody here deferred to the institution to preserve its reputation, and forgot about the kids. And that is the problem in our most powerful and trusted institutions. The kids are at greatest peril, because the most powerful and trusted predators in those institutions are given the most protection.*

—**Jeff Anderson**, From the November 9, 2011, *PBS Newshour*

*A few millennia from now, when archaeologists from an ascendant Brazil or Turkey or wherever sift the shards of American civilization and find the ruins of the Big House in Ann Arbor, Mich., they will wonder why a 109,901-seat entertainment venue was attached to an institution of higher education. Today, the accelerating preposterousness of big-time college football is again provoking furrowed brows and pursed lips.... It is arguable, if not easily demonstrable, that universities' athletic successes cause increased student applications and alumni giving. Such giving matters increasingly as states' appropriations decrease. But even if true, this raises a question: Is the football industry as currently conducted an efficient way to do this? This is, in several senses, an academic question.... Today, the muscular interests around, and institutional momentum of, big-time football make it impervious to reform. Agitation, in several senses, will continue.*

—**George Will**, From “What it was, was football,” *Chicago Tribune*, November 10, 2011

# Collegiate Athletics Reform: What Now?

## *a College Athletics Clips Guest Commentary*

*Our guest author points out that despite the current media blitz concerning the negative impact of highly commercialized collegiate athletics on America's colleges and universities, there is still a lack of appropriate regulation and oversight of the NCAA and its member institutions by the federal government.*

*By Frank G. Splitt, 9-17-11*

**BACKGROUND** – At the height of the acrimonious debt-ceiling debate, Gerald Seib began his *Wall Street Journal* column stating, “The spectacle of a dysfunctional Washington, unable to tend to even its most basic task of protecting the nation's financial standing, may be appalling, it should not, however, be a surprise.”<sup>1</sup>

Seib's statement certainly came as no surprise to those advocating serious collegiate athletics reform. All have witnessed the continuing degradation of our nation's higher education system as many of its frontline colleges and universities have been prostituted in an often times fruitless effort to make money—held hostage by their big-time football and men's basketball businesses, athletics directors, coaches, and wealthy benefactors. Simply put, academics have become adrift in a sea of corrupt sports programs that tend to corrupt their sponsoring schools.<sup>2</sup> Some schools even seem willing to lower their standards a bit to stay competitive with the corrupt schools while hoping to limit the damage to a previously established image of integrity.<sup>3</sup>

One would think that stories keyed to the devastating impact of collateral damage to our nation's education system and its students would cause public outrage and thus go viral—not so in a culture that apparently values sports and entertainment above academics and learning. So what's up with collegiate athletics reform?

**WHAT'S GOING ON?** – More than eight years' worth of comprehensive documentation has painted an ugly, if not galling, portrait of an unfettered industry that has run amok—effectively operating without transparency, accountability, or oversight. Documentation in the form of TV Specials, books, essays, video documentaries, as well as newspaper and magazine stories have revealed pervasive and deep-rooted corruption in the collegiate college sports entertainment industry, as well as sports-related collateral damage.<sup>4</sup> Although telling the truth about college sports related collateral damage can have painful consequences, the press has responded with notable exceptions to the general rule of going along to get along.

It was thought that widespread attention to the totality of sports-related collateral damage could very well be generated if the story were amplified by the print media. To this end a media campaign was launched with the aim of expanding the American public's awareness of the negative impact of professionalized collegiate athletics on our nation's colleges and universities, as well as the pernicious exploitation of college athletes by the NCAA and its member institutions. Furthermore, it was thought that increased public awareness via a media blitz would enhance the likelihood of government intervention by either the U. S. Department of Education or the U. S. Congress.

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** – An endorsement of the awareness campaign by Education Secretary Arne Duncan was solicited with the hope his endorsement would stimulate further interest in the campaign and so enhance the likelihood of its success to the ultimate benefit of college athletes and the institutions they serve, as well as America's future well being. It could even prompt a demand for corrective action. What it did provide was a lesson learned.

Unfortunately, Department of Education officials have given every indication they prefer to look the other way—apparently unwilling to endorse such a media campaign. Ironically, Secretary Duncan was quick to applaud the unanimous vote by the NCAA presidents to raise the minimum Academic Progress Rate (APR) to 930 (from 900) and ban teams in all sports from participating in post-season tournaments and bowl games if their four-year APRs fall below 930.

The Secretary is seemingly unaware of the fact that NCAA's highly-touted APR is not a realistic measure of academic progress.<sup>5</sup> In light of the intrinsic defects of the APR and the historic failure of the APR process to promote academic reforms, as well as the lack of reform-leadership abilities of school presidents, it is almost beyond comprehension that Secretary Duncan was duped into saying, “College presidents have acted courageously.” The New York firemen who ascended the stairs of the melting World Trade Center acted courageously. There is absolutely nothing courageous about clustering college athletes in soft courses with easy graders and granting diploma-mill-like degrees to meet APR and

Graduation Rate requirements, especially when such chicanery continues to be hidden from public scrutiny by FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.<sup>6,7</sup> Also, the Secretary overlooked the fact that the presidents did not address the vexing financial issues outlined in the June 17, 2010, Knight Commission report, "Restoring the Balance: Dollars, Values and the Future of College Sports."

Secretary Duncan's "applause" of the college presidents' practically meaningless action and his unwillingness to endorse a media campaign that would expose the inherent hypocrisy in big-time collegiate athletics were not only disappointing, but also good examples of an out-of-touch, dysfunctional Washington. This does not bode well for the future well being of America in an ever more competitive global economy driven by highly educated citizens. One is led to ask: How can the U. S. Department of Education stand idle in the midst of a raging storm in intercollegiate athletics as evidenced by unprecedented news coverage?<sup>8</sup>

Department of Education officials have displayed a familiar blindness—one regularly demonstrated by politicians—that does not allow them to see the depth and breadth of the problems associated with professionalized collegiate athletics nor realize their significance. A lesson learned: *Reformers cannot take refuge in the illusion that the Department of Education will help resolve these problems.*

**THE MEDIA BLITZ GOES ON** – Subsequent to the above initiative at the Department of Education, newspaper stories<sup>9-14</sup>—prompted for the most part by the scandal at the University of Miami—have added to the unprecedented media coverage of the serious problems besetting the sports entertainment businesses at America's colleges and universities..

Hard-hitting stories were not all buried in the sports pages but have also appeared as editorials in the *Chicago Tribune*<sup>15</sup> and *Chicago Sun-Times*<sup>16</sup> and a *National Public Radio* program.<sup>17</sup> Not only that, but *The Atlantic Monthly* is publishing a veritable white paper, "The Shame of College Sports"<sup>18</sup> by Taylor Branch, that was the subject of another *National Public Radio* program.<sup>19</sup>

When coupled with all of the above, these stories should really pay off in terms of serious reform; however, one cannot bet on it. Exposing widespread corruption and misdeeds is one thing, but taking meaningful corrective action is quite another. As was pointed out in the *Chicago Tribune* editorial, former NCAA investigator J. Brent Clark has said, "The game is too popular and the money is too big." Here it is apropos to reiterate the concluding lines from an earlier commentary.<sup>20</sup>

Lest the reform-minded become overly excited by the advent of signs of hope and over confident by the rash of troubles besetting the NCAA as well as in the logic of their arguments, they must be realistic. What the higher education establishment seems to do best is resist change. The new NCAA president has not only surrounded his office with competent tax and antitrust attorneys to defend the status quo, but has the resources—both financial and political—to wage long and costly court battles to stifle legislative reform initiatives and to exhaustively appeal court rulings. However, the most difficult impediments to reform are deemed to be the American public's cultural propensity to value college sports entertainment no matter what the cost and the extraordinary amount of money lubricating the business at multiple levels. Why wake up and face reality? Given this circumstance, moving forward—while keeping reform alive and well—will require the utmost in patience and perseverance.

**The U. S. CONGRESS** -- Still it was hoped that all of the media coverage would lead to significant and enduring change in collegiate athletics and not be wasted as a mere chimera—a foolish fancy of what ought to happen. Put another way, it was hoped this coverage would not be the end all, i. e., as good as it gets.

This would certainly not be the end all if Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) would be able to renew his follow-up on the efforts of retired Congressman Bill Thomas, former chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means as he did when he was chair of the Senate Finance Committee.<sup>21</sup> Thomas' October 2, 2006, letter to the late Myles Brand, then president of the NCAA, challenged the justification of the NCAA's tax-exempt status that helps fuel the out-of-control college sports entertainment industry.<sup>22</sup>

*As long as there are large financial stakes involved, college presidents will put dollars before academic values, and continue to demonstrate that the term "higher education" increasingly is an oxymoron—there is less and less "higher" or "education" about it. These big scandals will never stop, partly because of the financial gains possible through cheating, but more understandably because of the inherent unfairness in the present rules.*

— **Richard Vedder**<sup>23</sup>

*Is there a death penalty for coaches, school presidents, athletic directors, fans who don't care, where they all have to quit or stay away from the game for a year? And if not, why not?— **Rick Telander**<sup>24</sup>*

Many of us in the faculty-driven college-sports-reform movement had hoped Senator Grassley would have received sought-after bipartisan support to continue his follow up. Political circumstances have thus far not permitted this follow up. This effort by Senator Grassley required a good deal of political courage. It could very well have led to the elimination of the prostitution of America's colleges and universities by the sports entertainment industry as well as a significant reduction in related corruption.

Notwithstanding, the intense media coverage, re-election considerations seem to outweigh all other issues, especially 'third-rail' issues that could be resolved by the courts, e.g., the Edward O'Bannon and Joseph Agnew cases.<sup>18</sup>

**WHAT NOW?** – Today, despite the obvious lack of appropriate federal regulation and oversight of the NCAA cartel, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Department of Education have avoided taking meaningful action. Members of Congress and officials at the Education Department appear to be ignoring the unprecedented number of revelatory stories about the long-term negative impact of highly commercialized collegiate athletics on America's colleges and universities.

However, there is a glimmer of hope in Congressman Bobby Rush (D-Illinois) who told the *Wall Street Journal* he believes the system is in need of "serious reform" and that he plans to convene a series of panels of current and former athletes, parents, journalists, coaches and compliance officials in October to discuss the situation. "Paying student athletes over and above the value they receive from athletic scholarships could be part of the remedy," Rush said in a statement.<sup>25</sup>

It is what it is. If Senator Grassley's and Congressman Bobby Rush's congressional colleagues continue to avoid the issues surrounding collegiate athletics, then the argument for reform and the need to look beyond Washington for solutions becomes ever more compelling.

**AFTERWORD** (Not included in the September 18, 2011, *CLIPS* posting)

Subsequent to the *CLIPS* posting, the *PBS Newshour* aired related segments on September 19 and 20. In the first of these segments, civil-rights historian Taylor Branch spoke with Hari Sreenivasan about his cover story in *The Atlantic* which calls for a complete overhaul of the way NCAA athletics works.<sup>26</sup> The second segment was in response to the interview with Taylor Branch about the idea of college students who play sports being paid.<sup>27</sup> The NCAA made available Joe Crowley, a historian, former member of NCAA committees and former president of the University of Nevada at Reno. He also spoke with Hari Sreenivasan.

The American public does not seem to care about the lack of government intervention so long as it is entertained 24/7. For the most part, the public has developed a belief system about collegiate athletics that does not square with the facts. The *Atlantic Monthly* essay by Taylor Branch<sup>17</sup> and the Frank Deford's remarks<sup>18</sup> go a long way toward laying out the facts that will hopefully precipitate corrective action that goes well beyond that covered Congressman Bobby Rush's series of panels.

No doubt, Taylor Branch's *Atlantic Monthly* essay as well as the transcripts of the *NPR* and *PBS* programs will be part of the staff briefing package for Congressman Rush's October panels. Also, Joe Crowley's remarks as to why college athletes should not be paid will likely be of interest to Senator Grassley from the point of view that the NCAA's claim that their athletes are not being paid—scholarships and expense payments notwithstanding—is simply an argument to protect the NCAA's tenuous tax-exempt status.

*September 22, 2011*

## NOTES

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# “Confidence Men”.... On Wall Street and College Campuses

## *a College Athletics Clips Book Review*

*Our guest author references the book Confidence Men and earlier documentaries about America's financial crises to point to another looming crisis in higher education that he sees mirroring the economic meltdowns.*

*By Frank G. Splitt, 10-5-11*

**Ron Suskind's recently published book, *Confidence Men***, is a brilliantly reported story.<sup>1</sup> The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist provides deep insights into how Wall Street strayed from long-standing principles of transparency, accountability, and fair dealing to generate stunning profits but only to fail just prior to the election to the presidency of a woefully inexperienced Barack Obama. Suskind exposes the principle players in this calamitous affair. His revelations should come as no surprise to those who have previously viewed the informative documentaries "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room"<sup>2</sup> and "Inside Job."<sup>3</sup>

"Enron," based on the book by *Fortune Magazine* reporters Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind,<sup>4</sup> provides a behind-the-scenes look at the powerful energy company whose downfall forever changed the landscape of the business world. "Inside Job" is based on producer/director Charles Ferguson's interviews with journalists, politicians, and financial insiders that revealed the true architects of the economic meltdown that hit America starting in 2008—exposing most of the same players named by Suskind.

Taken together, Suskind's book and the documentaries provide a telling lesson in the potential trappings of arrogance, dishonesty, incompetence (inexperience), greed, and unethical behavior plaguing, to varying degrees, not only corporate America, but our government as well.

We see from Suskind's book and the documentaries that a decade after the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center's twin towers, grievous harm to the U. S. and world economies has been achieved by Americans—this grievous harm was one of the key objectives of the 9/11 attack that failed in this regard. Devastating economic harm was not accomplished by a memorable catastrophic event, but over time via a combination of greed and arrogance, as well as a profound lack of appropriate regulation and oversight by U. S. governments led by ill-advised presidents who, in turn, exercised poor judgment.

Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda were held accountable for the 9/11 attack and duly punished. However, no one on Wall Street or in the White House has been sent to jail or otherwise held accountable for the economic crisis orchestrated by the confidence men on Wall Street and in the White House.

It is difficult to believe that still another unheralded crisis is brewing—mirroring the economic debacles in many ways. It involves one of America's biggest business sectors—higher education. Many of America's colleges and universities are experiencing serious troubles with proliferating scandals in their professional sports entertainment businesses that are led by their own brand of fat-cat confidence men—NCAA, BCS Conference, and school officials, as well as very wealthy boosters and trustees.

The schools have become academically adrift in a sea of sports—with graduates that have not developed the skills and knowledge they need to become our next generation of leaders and good citizens.<sup>5, 6</sup> Their graduates lack foundational knowledge in core subjects such as math, science & technology, economics, communications (written and verbal), civics, and history.

The schools' crowd-pleasing sports-entertainment businesses exhibit undisguised contempt of academic integrity and are not only accompanied by injustices to college athletes, but massive corruption as well.<sup>7-9</sup> Corruption has, over time, warped academic missions as athletics have been prioritized over academics with dire unintended consequences, to wit: the loss of economic competitiveness, deterioration of America's well being, as well as the erosion of its leadership position on the world stage. Nonetheless, as with AIG and the big banks, members of Congress and Administration officials—including those at the Department of Education—consider these businesses too big to fail and too popular with constituents (a political 'third rail'). As a consequence, they are reluctant to require corrective action, such as imposing requirements for transparency, accountability and oversight.

Unfortunately, the nation stands in denial. We have no one to blame but ourselves with our seeming addiction to 24/7 sports entertainment and tolerance of a political class that seemingly prioritizes re-election above all else. When will we ever earn?

*"The future of our country" was the kind of earnest topic they wouldn't or couldn't survey without a wry smile. But now I believe I see a deep yearning to help, to do the right thing, to be part of a rebuilding, and it is a yearning based in true and absolute anxiety that we may lose this wonderful thing we were born into, this America, this brilliant golden gift.—Peggy Noonan<sup>10</sup>*

Perhaps all of this will be the subject of a future Suskind book and truth-telling documentaries, possibly co-authored with fellow Pulitzer-Prize-winner Taylor Branch, author of the previously referenced cover story, "The Shame of College Sports," in the October 2011, issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Hopefully, the book and documentaries will not be histories of another calamity but rather a story about how we can resolve related problems and come back as the world leader we once were.<sup>11</sup>

## Notes

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*It was a wild night at Penn State as police clashed with disgruntled students after Football Coach Joe Paterno and university President Graham Spanier were fired. I wonder if universities with big-time football and basketball programs are pleased with what they've created. Driven by greed, they over-value their sport-entertainment businesses and protect them at all costs. Look at what they have produced...students who do the same. What a disgusting shame and a complete contradiction of the notion that universities are "the civilized, rational, ethical institutions of higher learning."*

—Kadence Otto, November 10, 2011



# Collegiate Athletics Reform: When will we ever learn?

## *a College Athletics CLIPS Guest Commentary*

*Our guest author asks a provocative question: In view of America's debt crisis, the tax-exempt status of the NCAA and its member institutions, and the public's nearly unquenchable appetite for 24/7 sports entertainment, why doesn't the government surtax all sports-related revenues associated with college/university and professional sports?*

*By Frank G. Splitt, 11-08-11*

**Notwithstanding** the NCAA Board's recent reform announcements, no doubt aimed at confidence-building, serious questions remain about the willingness and ability of the NCAA and conference officials to reform their operations. Why so? Simply stated, these officials have conflicting interests as promoters of their professional sports entertainment businesses and enforcers of rules that can curtail the viability of these businesses.

Besides, there is no meaningful oversight of the NCAA cartel (the NCAA and its member institutions) as it is not only self-reporting and self-regulating, but self-enforcing as well. Furthermore, the cheating and corruption that enables the cartel to maintain its tax-exempt status—while fielding professional teams with their conferences serving as the minor leagues for the NFL and NBA—are rooted in the same types of cronyism and cozy relationships that were instrumental in spawning today's worldwide financial crisis.

As with AIG and the big banks, government officials consider the NCAA cartel's businesses too big to fail and too popular with constituents (a political 'third rail'). Consequently, they have been reluctant to require corrective action, such as imposing requirements for transparency, accountability and oversight that would not only help assure compliance with federal conditions for the cartel's tax-exempt status, but expose its secretive operations to disinfecting sunshine as well. Recent calls for congressional activity to address the proliferation of scandals in collegiate athletics have been made by Congressmen Bobby Rush (D, IL) and John Conyers (D, MI).

Congressmen Rush's November 1, 2011, panel, "Hypocrisy or Hype?," provided a ray of sunshine and may very well lead to an exception to the long-standing general hands-off rule.<sup>1</sup> His panel discussion coupled with articles by Taylor Branch, Charles Pierce, and Allen Sanderson, as well the work of students at Kent State University,<sup>2-5</sup> add even more insights into the seamy side of collegiate athletics to those presented in previous commentaries.

This material also prompted a number of finance and tax-related questions as follows:

1. Why are federal and state politicians, who complain about debt and high-paid public employees, silent about the fact that, in most if not all states, the highest paid public employee is either a college football or basketball coach working in the school's non-profit sports entertainment business?
2. Why does the federal government allow the NCAA cartel (the NCAA and its member institutions) to operate as if its tax-exempt status is a well-deserved entitlement when its so-called amateur "student athletes" are not only paid via increasing grants-in-aid ("athletic scholarships"), but also compete on professional teams in conferences that serve as the minor leagues for the NFL and NBA?
3. If the primary purpose of America's schools is to educate its next generation of leaders and good citizens, why are they serving as cost-and-tax-free training grounds for the NFL and the NBA?
4. Why does the NCAA only limit the 120 teams in the Football Bowl Subdivision to 85 "scholarship" athletes each when the NFL limits active team rosters to no more than 53 players, especially when schools are experiencing severe financial problems?
5. Why do students who are not "student athletes" have to pay fees so that college athletes can attend school for free?

6. If subsidizing collegiate sports via favorable tax policies is such a good idea, why don't America's global competitors give lucrative grants-in-aid to their countries' best athletes?

7. In view of the above, America's debt crisis, and the public's nearly unquenchable thirst for 24/7 sports entertainment, why doesn't the government surtax all sports-related revenues associated with college/university and professional sports?

Recently, these questions were posed to key staff members of the Senate Finance Committee (SFC).<sup>6</sup> It was requested that each question be given thoughtful consideration, especially question # 7, in light of comments by The Drake Group on the draft of a Redesignated IRS Form 990,<sup>7</sup> a paper published in *The Montana Professor*,<sup>8</sup> Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's March 17, 2005, call for attention to work on collegiate athletics reform,<sup>9</sup> as well as two relevant quotes:

*Unfortunately, the nation stands in denial. We have no one to blame but ourselves with our seeming addiction to 24/7 sports entertainment and tolerance of a political class that seemingly prioritizes re-election above all else. When will we ever learn?*  
—Frank Splitt<sup>10</sup>

*Education is the engine of social mobility, and it's sputtering. Americans have two options: improve our schools or accept a lower standard of living.... Other countries have focused on math and science, while in America degrees have proliferated in "fields" like sports exercise and leisure studies.*  
—Fareed Zakaria<sup>11</sup>

It remains to be seen whether or not the SFC responds with potentially game changing taxation reform.

In the meantime, consider this: Although cheating, academic corruption, brain injuries, deaths, and cover-ups in collegiate athletics can have a disastrous impact on America's citizens, its educational institutions, and its long-term vital interests, they certainly don't generate the attention and headlines associated with sex related scandals. However, the current sex-abuse scandal at Penn State University is illustrative of the extent to which school officials will go to protect their sports entertainment businesses and coaches. The Penn State sex-abuse scandal also tells much about America's culture ...a culture that can possibly lead to its downfall as a world leader.

Some 80 years ago philosopher Alfred North Whitehead wrote that when one compares the importance of education with "the frivolous inertia with which it is treated," it is "difficult to restrain within oneself a savage rage"—an apt description of the feelings of those working in collegiate athletics reform who see athletics prioritized over academics at schools sponsoring big-time football and men's basketball programs....programs that are not only hugely popular with America's sports obsessed public, but are also government subsidized by virtue of favorable tax policies.

It's all about America's culture. It has been said that culture is the most important story of our times. When will we ever learn?

## NOTES

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4. Sanderson, Allen R., "Taxes and Touchdowns: Leveling the Playing Field in College Athletics, *Chicago Life*, Published online Oct. 1, 2011, [http://www.chicagolife.net/content/politics/Taxes\\_and\\_Touchdowns](http://www.chicagolife.net/content/politics/Taxes_and_Touchdowns)
5. Kent State University Journalism Students, "Examining the University Bill," <http://et.kent.edu/jmc40004/fees/>
6. The SFC is chaired by Senator Max Baucus, (D, MT) with Lily Batchelder serving as the Chief Democratic Tax Counsel. Orrin Hatch (R, UT) is the SFC's Ranking Republican member with Jim Lyons serving as the Chief Republican Tax Counsel.
7. Splitt, Frank G., "Comments by The Drake Group on the Draft of a Redesigned IRS Form 990," September 12, 2007, [http://thedrakegroup.org/Splitt\\_TDG\\_IRS\\_Commentary\\_091207.pdf](http://thedrakegroup.org/Splitt_TDG_IRS_Commentary_091207.pdf) This paper was written at the behest of Dean Zerbe, the Chief Republican Tax Counsel for the SFC when it was chaired by Senator Chuck Grassley. He resigned in 2007, shortly after the Republicans lost control of Senate committees after the 2006 elections, Theresa Pattara served as his replacement.
8. Splitt Frank G., "The U.S. Congress: New Hope for Constructive Engagement with the NCAA and Intercollegiate Athletics." *Montana Professor*, Spring 2007, <http://mtprof.msun.edu/Spr2007/splitt.html> .  
This paper—written at the invitation of the president of the University of Montana and the president of Montana State University—was distributed to all members of the SFC by Senator Baucus' staff.
9. "Why Congress Should Review Policies that Facilitate the Growth and Corruption of Big-Time College Sports, Extension of Remarks by Representative Janice D. Schakowsky" March 17, 2005, page 9 of Essays and Commentaries on College Sports Reform, [http://thedrakegroup.org/Splitt\\_Essays.pdf](http://thedrakegroup.org/Splitt_Essays.pdf)
10. Splitt, Frank G., Confidence Men .... On Wall Street and College Campuses," October 5, 2011, [http://www.thedrakegroup.org/Splitt\\_Confidence.pdf](http://www.thedrakegroup.org/Splitt_Confidence.pdf)
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## THE AUTHOR



**Frank G. Splitt** holds a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Northwestern University. He is a member of The Drake Group, a member of the College Sport Research Institute's Advisory Committee, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the former McCormick Faculty Fellow of Telecommunications, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Northwestern University, and a Vice President Emeritus of Educational and Environmental Initiatives, Nortel Networks.

As a Director of the International Engineering Consortium, he chaired the Consortium's Committee on the Future and its Fellow Awards Committee. He was also a member of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) inaugural Industry Advisory Council, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Educational Activities Board, and the IEEE Corporate Recognition's Committee.

His professional career covered research & development, marketing, administration, teaching, and public service. He has authored numerous technical papers, as well as articles on public affairs. He is a Fellow of the International Engineering Consortium, a Life Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, an Eminent Engineer of Tau Beta Pi, the recipient of *The Drake Group's 2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award*, and has been recognized by the state of Wisconsin for Outstanding Lake Stewardship.

His interests involve research and planning for the future of Engineering Education, environmental protection and conservation, and college sports reform. He and his wife Judy reside in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and in Star Lake, Wisconsin.

A complete listing of links to his essays and commentaries on college sports reform can be found at <http://thedrakegroup.org/splittessays.html>.

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