

REFLECTIONS, 2016-2019

A Sequel to AN ODYSSEY OF REFORM INITIATIVES, 1986-2015

Frank G. Splitt

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IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

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The author with his wife Judith after the *Odyssey* book presentation ceremony at Northwestern.
Photo by Anne Rassas.

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PREFACE

As the president-elect of The Drake Group, I came to find that Dr. Frank Splitt joined the Group in 2003, shortly before the publication of his brief “Reclaiming Academic Primacy in Higher Education.” Throughout his career, he has been a steady hand, a truth teller and chronicler of issues of concern related to the conduct intercollegiate athletics. Thus, it is appropriate during this, the 20th year of The Drake Group, that we post this collection of Dr. Splitt’s more recent commentaries, as a sequel to his 1986-2015 collection. Three years ago we were pleased to at least partially disaggregate the original collection so that his writings could be found via an issues search by topic.

His insight and prescience have been nothing short of incredible. Today we find ourselves on the cusp of Congressional intervention in the governance of intercollegiate athletics, an occurrence Splitt predicted in numerous writings.

He foresaw the inability of college presidents to control athletic programs on their own campuses. He recognized the same impotence of the NCAA to reign in the selfish power of the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) conference commissioners who arrogantly embraced commercialization and saw nothing wrong in championing professional football or basketball operations under the shield of a non-profit tax-exempt educational institution.

He identified the wrong turn at the crossroads - the inevitable result of the successful 1997 FBS threat to have their way. In that year, the FBS members threatened to leave the NCAA, which would have effectively pulled the Final Four financial rug out from under organization that was supporting the participation of 430,000 college athletes.

The FBS extortion worked. The FBS was given majority control of what is now the NCAA Board of Governors, the entity controlling distribution of NCAA national championship proceeds, and extorted the promise that 100% of the revenues of any NCAA national FBS football championship would go to FBS institutions alone. Over 1,100 other member institutions succumbed, beginning the slide down the slippery slope

Splitt accurately recognized that the 1997 vote was the death of any hope of the NCAA reforming from within. The one-member-one-vote check and balance system was gone and would never return under FBS control.

He began the drumbeat – only Congress had the power to overcome the FBS plutocracy. He applauded the House Ways and Means Committee in 2006 when they initiated an investigation into the tax-exempt status of the NCAA and again during the Obama administration in 2010, when then Secretary of Education Arne Duncan criticized the direction of intercollegiate athletics consistent with Splitt’s positions. He continues the theme of calling for Congressional intervention through today with The Drake Group enthusiastically embracing his baton.

Throughout his writings, Splitt’s moral compass was always front and center: college athletes were being exploited and the academic integrity of higher education dragged in the mud to appease the God of winning football and basketball games.

Coaches and athletics directors were protecting their unjust salary riches. The leadership of our colleges and universities was ignoring their fiduciary obligation to ensure responsible use of institutional assets, looking the other way as vast sums of money were being spent on lavish facilities inaccessible to non-athlete students and designed to impress 17 year-old recruits. Splitt wrote on.

Like The Drake Group, Frank Splitt continues to exhibit the keys to successful reform: persistence in the accurate expression of facts and data, a commitment to exposing corrupt actions and decisions and an unwavering insistence on academic and administrative integrity. The Drake Group is honored to follow his lead.

Donna Lopiano, Ph.D.
President, Sports Management Resources

FOREWORD

In my 17 years as editor of a subscription-based service about the business of college athletics, I have interacted with hundreds of people who cover a wide spectrum of opinions on the subject. If asked to describe Frank Splitt in two words, I would say “Renaissance Man.”

As reflected in his book, *Odyssey of Reform Initiatives*, Frank is an idealist in the sense that he advocates for optimum resolution of complex issues. His odyssey reveals a passionate champion of academic integrity and primacy, as well as transparency and accountability in all of the areas he addresses. Some might disagree with his opinions, but none can deny his perseverance, consistency and the compelling nature of his arguments.

As the reader will see, Splitt has continued with his intrepid style as he addresses an even wider spectrum of issues.

The first piece in this sequel is “An Odyssey of Reform Initiatives: The Back Story.” It’s based on my extensive conversations with Splitt prior to publishing the *Clips* review of his book.

As the reader will also see, Splitt reveals his signature style in “America’s Democracy: Eroding from within” summarizing the many issues and challenges faced by our American democracy with a focus on the negative impact of the sports-money problem in higher education.

His guest column for the *Daily Herald* newspaper headlined “Educational Opportunities Lost When Schools Ban Native American Symbols” provides insights into the controversy surrounding the use of Native American imagery in America's high schools and colleges, as well as how this imagery could have been, and can still be, used as a stepping stone to transformative education.

“How Colleges Cope with a Perfect Storm” reveals that among other things, schools must confront sports related academic corruption, sexual abuse and serious drinking problems. Splitt contends that schools will likely muddle on. He concludes “Perhaps that’s the best that can be expected from institutions fraught with human frailties that operate in a divided nation where its citizens are seemingly addicted to sports entertainment and gambling—prioritizing athletics over academics.”

In his last commentary, “Everyone Should Know the Brutal Truth About College Sports,” he argues that all schools cheat in some way or another, some better than others, and that deceit, deception, and exploitation are part and parcel of today's college-sports programs and still further that everyone knows, or at least should know.

The author’s letters to the editors of *The Daily Herald* and *The Wall Street Journal* cover a wide variety of subjects including the political and religious. His book reviews reveal his passion for baseball, his background in intelligence work, as well as deep respect for Native Americans. His high regard for the life work of his cousin General Andrew Goodpaster can be seen in the March 9, 2019 letter to the editor of the *Daily Herald* that was read into the Congressional Record.

Nick Infante
Editor College Athletics Clips

Here's the brutal truth: There is nothing more difficult and dangerous, or more doubtful of success, than an attempt introduce a new order of things in big-time , money-laden, politically-protected, collegiate athletics.

American culture is far from being self-correcting; change will require concerted political action, as well as a vision of a common future characterized by healing the divisions that have riven our nation. America's Democracy depends on it.

The Athletic Department in the modern university puts at risk the university's integrity, reputation, and academic priorities.

—James J. Duderstadt, President Emeritus and Professor of Science and Engineering, University of Michigan

All it takes is one booster; you're trying to build a \$50-million business school? Well, that donor sits up in that skybox every game. To say you don't want the \$50 million — you know, it's hard to say no to \$50 million.

—Fritz Polite, a past president of The Drake Group

INTRODUCTION

...there is nothing more difficult and dangerous, or more doubtful of success, than an attempt to introduce a new order of things... –**Niccolo Machiavelli**, 1513

It's been four years since the publication of the *Odyssey*. About a year or so ago, friends and family members who saw that I was still writing, began asking, "Why don't you write an addendum to your book?" The following collection of published and unpublished reflections is my answer,

These past four year still found me commenting about hot-button issues raised in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and my local newspaper, *The Daily Herald*. It was akin to taking another trip back in time—rekindling fond memories of friends and colleagues who provided motivation, guidance, and support along the way. Also rekindled were not so fond memories of the formidable challenges to change and the deceitful and deceptive tactics used by defenders of the status quo.

As noted in the *Odyssey*, early in 2003 my focus turned to collegiate athletics reform and its negative impact on our nation's education system at all levels – a major focus thereafter. It has been troubling to learn that officials at colleges and universities that support big-time sports programs have taken a lesson from the bank robber Willie Sutton. They too know where the big money is and woe be to those who attempt to keep them from it by exposing what amounts to a money-making racket based on deceit, deception, and the exploitation of the names, images, and likeness' of their school's so-called student-athletes.

It was also troubling to learn that even officials at world-class schools can misbehave under the corruptive influence of big money and the NCAA that exerts a stranglehold-like power over officials at its member schools. Sad to say, these school officials not only have the power to readily terminate untenured faculty, but also the inclination to do so if the faculty person jeopardizes the viability of their sports programs in any way whatsoever. Likewise, presidents can face a similar fate at the hands of booster-driven school boards. [The U. of Chicago Ditched Big-Time Football, Why Haven't More Colleges Followed Suit?, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Sept. 27, 2019].

As a consequence of focus on college sports and the work of The Drake Group's Dave Ridpath, Gerry Gurney, and Donna Lopiano, as well as Sonny Vaccaro, Ramogi Huma, and Kain Coulter, the amateur model of intercollegiate athletics touted by the NCAA cartel (National Collegiate Athletic Association and its member colleges and universities) is under a multiplicity of powerful assaults.

These assaults include, among others, state legislation with regard to athlete's names, images, and likeness' (NILs) that NCAA President Mark Emmett considers as an existential threat, educational initiatives in the U.S. Congress that may very well lead to legislation aimed at vastly improved transparency, accountability, and governance of college sports, as well as books such as *Indentured: The Battle to End the Exploitation of College Athletes*, by Joe Nocera and Ben Strauss that serve to illuminate the darker sides of collegiate athletics.

"The sand is shifting under the feet of the NCAA," so said Andy Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College and co-author with Gerry Gurney and Donna Lopiano of the 2017 book *Unwinding Madness: What Went Wrong with College Sports—and How to Fix It*.

However, here is the brutal truth, paraphrasing Machiavelli: *There is nothing more difficult and dangerous, or more doubtful of success, than an attempt to introduce a new order of things* in big-time, money-laden, politically-protected, collegiate athletics. Witness the fact that the NCAA cartel has yet to face whistleblower-driven litigation for violation of the federal False Claims Act based on the false claim by the members of the cartel that its so-called student-athletes are primarily students rather than primarily athletes in the world of commercialized college sports entertainment.

For example the NCAA cartel, when pressed in 2015 by the strong player unionization effort, found the cartel in the best of all defensive positions. As reported in the *Wall Street Journal*: "Mr. Schapiro, Northwestern's president, has said the university would appeal a loss in federal court and take the case to the Supreme Court if necessary ," ["Ruling Expected on College Athlete's Union Bid," U.S. News, July 31, 2015].

How fortuitous for the NCAA cartel that it had its world-class Northwestern University, most likely the least corrupt of NCAA schools supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs, doing its dirty work. Northwestern has been front and center defending the cartel's money-driven exploitation of college athletes as well as its corrupting influence on the academic integrity of many of its member schools that support big-time sports programs, cf. my review of Jay Smith's and Mary Willingham's book "*Cheated: A Tale of Profit at the Expense of Academic Integrity*," Part 15-3 of the *Odyssey*.

America is a sports-entertainment-and-gambling-loving nation. When it comes to college sports, the culturally-rooted behavior of its citizens is not only intensely tribal in nature, but also very difficult to change. As reformers must know, it's all about money along with its awesome power to influence people and events. Money certainly makes strange bedfellows. Unfortunately, government officials, university presidents and trustees, along with many others who should be awake at the switch are willfully asleep. To try to wake them is to jolt them into a reality they just don't want to face.

To continue muddling on, perhaps that's the best that can be expected from institutions fraught with human frailties that operate in a divided nation where its citizens are seemingly addicted to sports entertainment and gambling—prioritizing athletics over academics. Nonetheless, critics should not despair, but rather keep up their courageous fight to provide the sunshine that illuminates the dark corners of the battlefield.

It is my hope that this sequel to the *Odyssey* book will not only contribute to the ongoing process of knowledge creation and dissemination, but also provide lessons and insights into the difficulties associated with changing the order of things.

I still find Machiavelli to be dead right—working on reform initiatives, no matter what the area, is really not for the faint of heart. The formidable resistance to change demands no less than a formidable and coordinated response as well as able and respected leadership.

Frank G. Splitt
Former McCormick Faculty Fellow
McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science
Northwestern University
Evanston, Illinois

November 2, 2019

An Odyssey of Reform Initiatives: The Back Story

A College Athletics Clips Book Review, 5-1-17, 8-24-17, 9-27-19

The book provides readers and researchers with case-study material about the difficulties associated with changing the order of things in college athletics and beyond. This review updates the list of colleges and universities that have accepted the book for their library collections.

Frank Splitt's book, titled An Odyssey of Reform Initiatives, 1986-2015: From Engineering, K-12 and Higher: Education to the Environment, National Information Infrastructure, and Collegiate Athletics, (FutureVectors, Inc., 2015), is a collection of his writings and speeches covering a period of thirty years. It is expected to provide readers and researchers with case-study material as well as insights into the difficulties associated with changing the order of things in each of the areas specified in the book's title.

According to Splitt, the Odyssey was first cataloged by the Plum Lake Public Library in Sayner, Wisconsin where it was linked to Wisconsin's Merlin Catalog System. Thereafter, he created a CD that contains a PDF of the entire book as well as PDFs of each of its 15 parts and front end (Testimonials, Dedication, Table of Contents, Forewords, and Introduction).

Splitt notes that distribution of the book and CD has been restricted to gifting to public and university libraries as well as to selected individuals in the academy. However, he believes that the provision of free online access to on Engineering Education Reform, K-12 and Higher Education Reform, as well the material in the Odyssey book[1] will facilitate research as provide historical insights into concerns about our environment, the evolution of US Information Infrastructure, and Collegiate Athletics Reform.

The book features an impressive set of testimonials from Derek C. Bok, Stanton R. Cook, James J. Duderstadt, Jon L. Ericson, John R. Gerdy, John H. (Jack) Gibbons, Theodore M. Hesburgh, Nick Infante, Stanley N. Katz, Michael Mangan, Irene Peden, Manijeh Razeghi, Carol Simpson Stern, John P. (Sonny) Vaccaro, and Mary Willingham.

Descriptive book reviews written by John A. Prados and B. David Ridpath.[2, 3] were subsequently adapted to serve as the book's forewords. Also appended is a link to a related Daily Herald story[4] – a spinoff from Splitt's book presentation at Loyola U-Chicago on November 9, 2016. Again, according to Splitt, the story was based on copy submitted by the Mount Prospect Public Library where the book was first linked to WorldCat.

Splitt advises that there are a growing number of links to WorldCat from the following set of colleges and universities that have accepted the Odyssey for their library collections (with bold font indicating listing at WorldCat):

Benedictine U., U. of California-Berkeley, U. of Chicago, Clemson U., U. of Denver, DePaul U., Dominican U.-River Forest, Drake U., Drexel U., Edgewood College, Georgia Institute of Technology, U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Kansas U. at Lawrence, Lewis U., Loyola U.-Chicago, Luther College, Marquette U., U. of Michigan, North Central College, Montana State U., New Haven U., Northeastern U., Northern Arizona U., Northwestern U., U. of Notre Dame, Ohio U., Olivet Nazarene U., U. of Pennsylvania, Princeton U., Purdue U., Rutgers U., Saint Francis U., U. of South Carolina, U. of South Dakota, Stanford U., U. of Tennessee- Knoxville, Texas A&M U., Tufts U., U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Viterbo U., Washington U. in St. Louis, U. of Washington, Western Carolina U., and the U. of Wisconsin- Madison.

A copy of the book and the CD are now part of the Distinctive Collections at the Northwestern University Archives. A related photo from the April 19, 2017, ceremony celebrating the presentation of the Odyssey book to the Northwestern University Libraries, pictures (left to right): Judy Splitt, Manijeh Razeghi, McCormick

School Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the Center for Quantum Devices, Kevin Leonard, University Archivist, Frank Splitt, a former McCormick Faculty Fellow, and Carol Simpson Stern. School of Communications Professor of Performance Studies, a former dean of the Graduate School, and a past president of the American Association of University Professors.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Leonard

In his book review, John Prados concluded: "The Odyssey is destined to be a valuable reference for all those who have serious concerns about the future of education in America, and, as such, it would be a most worthy addition to public and university libraries." Donald Kayser, a 1952 graduating classmate of Frank Splitt at the Fournier Institute of Technology that was founded by Arthur J. Schmitt, made the following comment after reviewing the online text of the Odyssey: " Let's hope the book might motivate some leaders in academia to reassess the objectives of education and the distraction by the monetary influence of athletics." It seems fitting that the book and CD are being made part of the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation Archives at the John T. Richardson Library at DePaul University.

NOTES

1. <http://www.futurevectors.com>
2. Prados, John, "Frank Splitt's Odyssey: A worthy addition to public and university libraries" College Athletics Clips, Feb. 5, 2016. <https://collegeathleticsclips.com/news/franksplittsodysseyaworthyadditio...>
3. Ridpath, B. David, "A Decade of Efforts to Reform College Sports Can Largely be Traced to One Man's Passion," Forbes, Feb. 25, 2016, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/bdavidridpath/2016/02/25/a-decade-of-reform...>
4. Twohey, Norrine, "Mount Prospect scholar's writings recently published," Dec. 17, 2016, <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20161215/submitted/161219304/>

America's Democracy: Eroding from within

In his signature style, our guest author summarizes the many issues and challenges faced by our American democracy with a focus on the negative impact of the sports-money problem in higher education.

By Frank G. Splitt, 02-27-18, 03-24-18 (with Afterword)

Today's middle and lower-class Americans see affluent individuals and large corporations accumulating ever more wealth as they wield more power and face fewer regulations while the #MeToo movement has exposed the significant impact of male power over women in the workplace. On the other hand, millions of struggling Americans must reduce their already modest standards of living to survive with the escalating cost of healthcare.

Today's Americans also want news; however, the real news business is suffering, the victim of the dependence on, and, an almost insatiable appetite for, social media of all too many citizens on 'news' from Google and Facebook. Both organizations have been and still are susceptible to trolling—foreigners sowing discord on the internet via fake news aimed at confusing and dividing Americans. In the absence of real news businesses, wild rumors and conspiracy theories can abound at the local and national level.

Adding to the divisions among Americans are vexing issues surrounding nuclear weapons, gun violence & control, abortion, immigration, race & civil rights, climate change, the environment, a failing K-12 school system, and the opioid crisis. Radically polarized views and apocalyptic positions on these issues rule the day while a dysfunctional government and the lack of visionary leadership adds to the morass.

It is of interest that *Time* magazine commissioned veteran conflict photographer James Nachtwey to document the opioid crisis over the past year through the people living it every day.[1] The entire issue was devoted to "The Opioid Diaries," a riveting photo-story of the worst addiction epidemic in U.S. history—a representative national emergency demanding our urgent attention.

All of this presents a not too pretty a picture of life in America's democracy that appears to be eroding from within. As we will see, that's not all. There exists still another pernicious problem facing America; it's in higher education.

To begin, I found it more than ironic that the USPS delivered the "opioid issue" of *Time* on the same day that it delivered the February 23, 2018, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featuring the cover story, "Unrivaled Power." [2] The story takes the reader inside Auburn University's secret effort to advance an athletic-friendly curriculum. It tells the now all too familiar story of how colleges and universities, supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs, seek fame and fortune by corrupting their academic integrity so as to field competitive teams in what have become professionalized venues—conferences, tournaments, and the like.

What was striking about the Auburn story is that the institution was subjected to the scrutiny of similar violations in the mid-2000s. As a consequence of this scrutiny, Dr. James Gundlach, an Emeritus Professor of Sociology, was the recipient of The Drake Group's 2008 *Robert Maynard Hutchins Award*, recognized for exposing systemic academic improprieties at Auburn and standing up for academic integrity while the focus of vitriol by Auburn fans, faculty and the administration.[3]

The attention-grabbing Auburn story followed a recent surge of other stories, each with revealing headlines, related to cheating and corruption in college sports, to wit: stories by Christian Smith,[4] Paul Campos,[5] Eric Kelderman,[6] and Bonestee & Hobson[7] When taken together, these stories reveal a troubling money-addictive situation involving an obsession with sports success and its tight relationship with fundraising, a situation that generally leads to cheating and academic corruption.[8] Here again we see a compelling demand for our attention.

School administrators and governing boards usually share these sports-success obsessions. Sad to say, for all intents and purposes, school presidents and their governing boards have made a Faustian bargain to gain and retain their prestigious positions. For example, they look the other way when it comes to the negative impact of sports programs on academic integrity so long as the programs contribute to their schools fame and fortune. Hypocrisy abounds. Sadly, wealthy governing board members usually are sports boosters who possess few discernible qualifications for overseeing large research universities beyond their ability to make huge philanthropic donations to the schools—often to the athletic department.

The scandal at Auburn is just the latest in a veritable litany of schools with sports-related scandals. Here are just a few of the schools: Michigan State University, Baylor University, Notre Dame University, the University of Florida, and the University of North Carolina. Noteworthy is the fact that the 20-year “Paper-class” cheating scandal at North Carolina was the subject of a detailed analysis in a recent book.[9] These scandals provide a cautionary tale for the many institutions that resemble these schools both on and off the playing field.

In view of the discord and sharp divisions on the issues within the American public and within its government, as well as the still unaddressed urgent need to resolve critical issues, one is again led to consider the possibility of a predicted outcome often attributed to Alexander Fraser Tyler (1747 -- 1813). To wit: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy – always followed by a dictatorship."

This need not be so. Needless to say, difficult cultural changes would be required as would an electorate informed by real news and leaders who don't believe that money is everything. The *PBS* program “American Creed” reflects an effort to help meet these requirements by fostering a national conversation about America's ideals and identity.[10]

AFTERWORD

To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow. Hope is the door that opens onto the future. Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that with time, will develop into a large tree ... A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you.—Pope Francis, April 26, 2017

Previously, I wrote: “There exists still another pernicious problem facing America; it's in higher education. colleges and universities, supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs, seek fame and fortune by corrupting their academic integrity so as to field competitive teams in what have become professionalized venues—conferences, tournaments, and the like.” It's certainly reasonable to ask: What's the big deal? The answer can be found in the following excerpts from my 2005 essay on sports in America:[11]

America's love affair with big-time college-sports entertainment in combination with excessive cynicism, apathy (if not purposeful ignorance), and gambling, has been a recipe for growing commercialization at America's institutions of higher learning. Excessive commercialization has brought academic corruption, financial shenanigans, increasing expenditures on athletics, and money-focused presidents who view sports programs as an economic necessity and undergraduate education as an expensive nuisance. It is ironic that the government's subsidy of college sports via favorable tax policies is helping to fuel the destruction of what has been one of our nation's most precious resources.

Worse yet, greed, fanatic sports fans, an apathetic public and inconsistent government policies allow the commercially driven college-sports enterprise to grow unchecked, all but guaranteeing distracted, booster-beholden university administrators and an expanding set of fun-loving consumers for their entertainment business ... a business that has hijacked the academic mission of many universities. The rising costs of residential higher education and improved technology-driven competitive education delivery systems lead to the conclusion that America's higher education enterprise is rapidly becoming untenable – unable to survive, just as predicted by Peter Drucker back in 1997.

And the beat goes on. Recent pieces on college sports issues in *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* by Joseph Epstein,[12] William McGurn,[13] and Jason Gay[14] tell similar stories....stories that have been told and

retold for over the past 125 years. That is about the time since the Big-10 Conference was formed in 1895, perhaps even earlier. For more on the early history of corruption and how an athletic conference turned college football into big business, see Winton U. Solberg,[15]

From the very beginning, reformers have been faced with three brutal facts: There exists intense pressure on schools and their athletes to win at any cost (including cheating); Big money rules the day; Key academic leaders either feel no shame or simply suppress the feeling so as not to jeopardize their positions.

It was sad to see Notre Dame, a top college football program known for academic rigor and integrity, deal with a scandal involving players that cheated on class work. Although this scandal paled in comparison with the “Paper-class” scandal at the University of North Carolina mentioned earlier, it provided further evidence that college sports have likely passed a point of no return. Put another way: If it could happen at Notre Dame, it could happen anywhere. David J. Schmidly, a former president of Texas Tech, Oklahoma State and New Mexico, has said, “I don’t think any institution is immune.”[16] His statement had the same ring to it as then University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins’ claim, back in 1939, “They all cheat.”

The reformers are left to feel like bearers of unwelcome news, much like the feeling experienced by someone who, back in the day, suggested the use of Lifebuoy soap, in effect saying to the person that he has BO—a message no one really wants to hear.

When the Philadelphia Phillies played at the Baker Bowl during the 1920s, an outfield wall advertisement for Lifebuoy stated, “The Phillies use Lifebuoy” One night a vandal added, “And they still stink.” See Wikipedia.[17]

Epstein wrote: “The fount of much corruption in college basketball and football is the alumni demand for winning teams.” However, it’s not just the alumni and the public that can be blamed. Cheating and corruption are dependent on school administrators and governing boards that believe the end justifies the means—believing fame and fortune justify overlooking academic corruption and cheating in their sports programs

Is there any hope for corrective action? In an attempt to answer that question, we go back to the future, to the year 1776 to be precise. But first, it was with the future in mind that Jim Duderstadt, President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan, wrote in 2000: “I believe that if university presidents would take a stand together and call for de-emphasis of big-time college sports, they would likely be successful. However, I also suspect it will take a major stimulus, a cosmic event, to galvanize such a united front as college sports careen out of control towards the edge of the cliff. Perhaps such opportunities will arise in the not-too-distant future.”[18]

Indeed, cosmic events have occurred on an a regular basis in the ensuing 18 years ... scandalous events involving academic corruption and cheating, performance-enhancing drugs, athletes’ name and image issues, violent athletes, sexual harassment, concussions, death, and more. Sadly, no matter how appalling, none of these events, even when taken together, have yet stimulated school presidents to band together to reclaim academic primacy in higher education. Presidents are caught between a rock and a hard place, between a public that demands professional-level entertainment from their schools commercialized sports businesses, and their booster-packed governing boards that have the capacity and inclination to fire presidents who don’t go along with winning at any cost.

The Epilogue for the 2003 paperback edition of Duderstadt’s book on intercollegiate athletics began with an epigraph consisting of the following quote from Thomas Paine's 1776 "Common Sense" ... a quote that applies equally well to this and most other writings on college sports reform: *“Perhaps the sentiments contained in these pages are not yet sufficiently fashionable to procure them general favour; a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right, and raises at first a formidable defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason.”*

America is a sports-entertainment-and-gambling-loving nation. When it comes to college sports, the culturally-rooted behavior of its citizens is not only intensely tribal in nature, but also very difficult to change. This

circumstance is best described by Harvard socio-biologist E.O. Wilson in a section of a 2015 *PBS* Documentary that focused on the football fans at the University of Alabama.[19]

To be sure, the blatant hypocrisy, manifest in big-time college sports, is not lost on conscientious students, faculty members, and a portion of the general public. No wonder why so many are losing respect for academic leaders and their institutions that have been such a vital part of America's democracy.

Experience indicates that hope for tomorrow lies not with the executive and legislative branches of government, but rather with the judicial branch as well as with action-oriented citizens like those involved with the "American Creed," current and former college athletes that bring cases to court and/or seek to unionize, reform-minded faculty members and organizations such as The Drake Group, the College Sport Research Institute, the National Coalition Against Violent Athletes, and the College Athletes Players Association.

Hope also lies with journalists and other 'sunshine' writers who provide the light that illuminates the darkness surrounding big-time college sports. It is my hope that this light, coupled with the persevering work of all concerned parties, will, in time, reverse the erosion of our nation's institutions of higher education and so, in turn, help reverse the erosion of America's democracy.

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Educational Opportunities Lost When Schools Ban Native American Symbols

By Frank G. Splitt, Guest columnist

The Daily Herald

May 29, 2018

Have you ever wondered why Chief Illiniwek was banished as the symbol of the University of Illinois and why all the fuss about the Warrior Chief at Maine West High School? Following are insights into the controversy surrounding the use of Native American imagery in America's high schools and colleges, as well as how this imagery could have been, and can still be, used as a stepping stone to transformative education.

First some background, Chief Illiniwek was conceived in 1926 as a symbol of the University of Illinois -- representing the heroic spirit of Illinois Indians and the finest qualities of the people of the state. In an April 1991 letter conveyed to Morton W. Weir, then the university chancellor, Florence H. Dvorak said she was "appalled at the allegation that the appearance of the Chief with the University of Illinois Band was a racist exploitation of the Indian people." The Chief was not considered to be a mascot by the Chief's creator, her husband, the late Raymond F. Dvorak.

Nevertheless, beginning in 1989, anti-Chief protests led to a documentary that mischaracterized the Chief as a mascot. This divisive and polemical documentary contributed to a drive to retire the Chief. The NCAA effectively killed the Chief with its 2005 ban on post-season play by any of its member schools using unendorsed Native American imagery. The ban, coupled with continuing anti-Chief rhetoric and runaway political correctness, led to the Chief's official banishment by the university in 2007.

Controversies faced by our nation's educational institutions that have used or are still using Native American images as symbols are ongoing. Witness recent news stories, to wit: at Maine West High School, there is the May 2 Daily Herald story "Indian mascot out; reactions mixed," and at the University of Illinois, the May 18, Champaign News-Gazette story, "Supporters hope to keep 'Fighting Illini,' reinvent Chief Illiniwek."

Pejorative mascot labeling of imagery once applied and steadfastly reinforced is difficult to remove -- leading to the loss of educational opportunities over the years. Unfortunately, many have been blinded to this educational opportunity.

Today's challenge to reconcile conflicting views is rooted in the 19th-century era of Manifest Destiny when American settlers widely believed that they were destined to expand the country without regard for the natural land rights of Native Americans. This is the often untold dark side of American history of genocide by way of ethnic cleansing that took place along with broken treaties that left Native Americans bitter and distrustful -- creating a cultural divide, a deep wound that is still with us.

Schools utilizing Native American symbols should have felt an educational imperative to teach the meaning behind the use of these symbols at student orientations and in the programs for athletic events. This would not only have been a good start toward healing the wound of the cultural divide, but also a critical step toward a more unified American citizenry.

Where do we go from here?

There is still ample room for creativity and imagination about how we can transit from negative narratives to being positive with transformative education by means of the use of Native American imagery and history to

educate students, fans and the public. Working with the education arm of cognizant tribes would be a good first step toward covering the sacred nature of Native American imagery and its importance to the descendants of the survivors of ethnic cleansing.

To this end, a collaboration has been initiated with Charlene Teeters, the Academic Dean at the Institute of Indian Art. Also, it has been recommended that Wyoming's Sheridan College -- striving to make the school more welcoming to Native American students -- not only work with IAIA, but also work with the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.

The foundation advocates transforming communities via American native arts and cultures that inspire "creative solutions to some of our nation's most difficult collective challenges."

American culture is far from being self-correcting; change will require concerted political action, as well as a vision for a common future characterized by healing the divisions that have riven our nation. America's Democracy depends on it.

Frank G. Splitt, author of "An Odyssey of Reform Initiatives" and a former McCormick Faculty Fellow at Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, has family connections to Chief Illiniwek's creator Ray Dvorak and is active in a drive to have the University of Illinois honor the Chief as a noble symbol of the university and the finest qualities of the people of Illinois.

How Colleges Cope with a Perfect Storm

Among other things, schools must confront sports related academic corruption, sexual abuse and serious drinking problems.

By Frank G. Splitt, 10-01-18

Introduction – Though our nation's sports-and-money driven colleges and universities are still considered to be the envy of the world, this exalted stature raises a vexing question, to wit: How long can these schools be considered the envy of the world when weighted down by sports related academic corruption, sexual abuse and serious drinking problems, not to mention problems with grade inflation, unmotivated/coddled students, over reliance on adjuncts, persistent labeling as leftist, as well as free speech on campuses?¹ The answer will depend on how well school administrators deal with these complex and often interrelated problems.

The Setting – Our nation's academic institutions can now be likened to luxury-cruise ships attempting to stay afloat when encountering a perfect storm—academically adrift in a sea of sports, alcohol and sex abuse. This circumstance is not openly talked about and certainly not addressed in the annual ranking of our nation's colleges by *US News & World Report*. Here's what's going on in this secret battlefield in a divided America.²

On Sports – Back in 2011, some scholars questioned the gloomy picture of higher education outcomes in America painted by the authors of *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*.³ My response to these doubters was a March 8, 2011, letter to the editor of *The Chronicle*.⁴ that referenced Murray Sperber's book, *Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports Is Crippling Undergraduate Education*, wherein Sperber argued that colleges are substituting a party-like, "beer and circus" social environment for a meaningful education—an environment that serves to keep students happy, to marginalize faculty, and to maintain an ongoing flow of evermore tuition dollars.⁵

The “beer-and-circus” descriptor is the basis for the luxury-cruise-ship metaphor as well as an insight into the contribution of sports to the perfect storm. America cannot compete in the 21st-century global marketplace by being the least-educated industrial nation in the world ... a nation in which its colleges and universities serve as prostitutes for the sports entertainment industry—with many focusing resources on athletics at the expense of academics.

On Sexual Abuse – The extent of the sexual abuse crisis at our nation's colleges and campuses can be seen via a viewing of the *CNN* documentary “The Hunting Ground.”⁶ It's an exposé of rape crimes on U.S. college campuses, institutional cover-ups, and the devastating toll they take on students and their families. The documentary focuses on Annie E. Clark and Andrea Pino, two former University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill students who filed a Title IX complaint against UNC in response to their rapes while enrolled. They are now promoting their use of Title IX as a model for campus sexual assault cases at universities across the country.

On Alcohol – Alcohol contributes to the perfect storm as well. According to Robb Jones, senior vice president and general counsel for claims management at United Educators, “Alcohol is linked to violence and injuries on campus, including fights, sexual assault, hazing, slips and falls, and even fatalities. High-risk drinking also takes a financial toll by resulting in student attrition, emergency services, disciplinary actions, counseling services and property damage. One study of college insurance claims found that losses were 25% higher if a claim involved alcohol.”⁷

The Current Coping Strategy – Our nation's colleges and universities have responded to problems of sexual abuse and sports-related academic corruption by utilizing the cover-up playbook titled “See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” to bamboozle and/or stonewall the media and authorities so as to maintain the “life” of their institutions – looking the other way without regard to human costs and risk to the long-term viability of the entities they are trying to protect.

Potential Mitigation Strategies – So what can really be done to help right the institutional ship?

Commercialized college sports with attendant academic corruption, high-risk drinking, and sexual abuse among college students are complex problems with no easy solutions. Mitigating these problems requires a coordinated effort from all leadership at the schools. Insurance and risk management are a crucial part of that approach. So too would be the school's trustees, but therein lies still another problem.

It is ironic that trustees, who have the duty as well as the ultimate authority to ensure that all of their institutions programs are conducted ethically and responsibly, can be faulted for some of the problems in higher education. Unfortunately, many institutions offer no training for new board members. As a consequence, trustees are willing to accept the prestige and perks, but seem to believe that they are only expected to make substantial financial donations, provide political influence, and certainly not make waves by interfering with academic or athletic operations.

Therefore, it is no surprise that, for the most part, trustees stay behind the mask of institutional maintenance – fiduciary guardians and protectors of their school's reputation as well as its optics—embracing the cover-up play book as applied to campus sexual assaults as well as the loss of academic integrity at schools that strive to win at any cost. Examples can be found at Michigan State and Ohio State Universities.⁸

It would seem that a first order of business for schools that want to mitigate their problems would be the education of its trustees so they know that they are to serve as stewards of the professed mission and values of their institution as well as work to foster its long-term viability. In his related commentary, "It's Time for College Trustees to Get in the Game," Richard Chait goes so far as to say: "A respectable board would forensically investigate scandals retroactively and discipline perpetrators. The very best boards will act preventively."⁹

Educational Resources – To better understand what should be expected of them, trustees could become members of ACTA, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, that is committed to academic freedom, excellence, and accountability at America's colleges and universities.¹⁰

Board members, presidents, and other administrators, as well as faculty members could also profit from giving thoughtful consideration to the work of The Drake Group that has as its mission the defense of academic integrity in higher education from the corrosive aspects of commercialized college sports.¹¹ For example, in response to the recently released report by the Independent Commission on College Basketball chaired by Dr. Condoleezza Rice, the Drakes challenged the Commission that left the NCAA off the hook with the absence of recommendations that would break the NCAA's stranglehold on its member institutions. Also see the Arne Duncan and Carol Cartwright commentary, "The NCAA Is Too Far Gone for Incremental Reform."¹²

Furthermore, trustees should give consideration to the work of The National Coalition Against Violent Athletes (NCAVA) that is dedicated to empowering individuals affected by athlete violence through comprehensive services including advocacy, legal aid, education and counseling and also works to eliminate off-the-field violence by athletes.¹³ A trustee visit to the End Rape on Campus (EROC) website would be a learning experience—revealing additional resources.¹⁴

Outlook for the Future – The aforementioned educational resources will likely go unused since most, if not all schools are comfortable with the status quo because the very-well-paid powers that be at the schools apparently believe that alcohol and sexual abuse as well as sports-related academic corruption are simply the costs of doing business in the extremely competitive world of higher education. After all, this way of thinking is rooted in the chaotic history of higher education in America. Therefore, it would seem that coercion via government intervention is required, as painful and seemingly draconian as that may be.

College and university board members, presidents, and other administrators could be mandated to act by the U.S. Department of Education. Failure to comply with the mandate and a request for corrective action plans with timetables to address institutional issues of sports related academic corruption, sexual abuse, and binge drinking would lead to the loss of federal funding.

Admittedly, mandated action by the government is highly unlikely in today's political climate. A much better way to navigate the treacherous waters in higher education would be for the presidents of our nation's institutions of higher education to recognize the devastating long-term consequences of letting their problems go unresolved and then take corrective action on their own. They could do this by exploiting all available resources to educate their trustees and then unleash them to provide transformational leadership for institution-wide corrective action.

Is it likely that this will happen? Don't bet on it. America's institutions of higher education will probably muddle on as they have successfully done in the past by using their fixers, lawyers, and enormous power – both political and financial – to deal with Title IX-based lawsuits and other legal challenges brought forth by students, parents, and concerned citizens..

Final Words – Muddle on, perhaps that's the best that can be expected from institutions fraught with human frailties that operate in a divided nation where its citizens are seemingly addicted to sports entertainment and gambling—prioritizing athletics over academics. Nonetheless, critics should not despair, but rather keep up their courageous fight to provide the sunshine that illuminates the dark corners of the battlefield.

My deep gratitude for his encouraging words and many thoughtful comments goes to Sol Gittleman, a preeminent scholar who served twenty-one years as the Provost of Tufts University.

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*Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*

—William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming," 1919

Everyone Should Know the Brutal Truth About College Sports: Reflections by the Recipient of the Drake Group's 2006 Hutchins Award

"They all cheat" claimed University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins back in 1939 when terminating the school's Big-10 football program. Everyone knows, or at least should know, that all schools cheat in some way or another, some better than others, and that deceit, deception, and exploitation are part and parcel of today's college-sports programs.

By Frank G. Splitt. September 22, 2019 with Afterword

*Harper Lee had become transfixed by a scandal—a story rife with corruption, bias, rivalry, peculiarities of state politics, moral quandaries and a healthy dose of the absurd. This was the essence of college football captured in one neat letter.—Ben Cohen, *The Wall Street Journal*¹*

Introduction— The following remarks represent old news that could very well be new news even for members of The Drake Group that is working to defend academic integrity in higher education and to many others as well. The remarks illuminate lessons to be learned about the world of college sports via a seemingly unrelated story about the first and only McCormick Faculty Fellows at Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering.

Background – October 5, 2019 marks the 14th anniversary of the publication of my letter, "Who Wants to Tackle Biggest Man on Campus?"² In a way, the letter captured the essence of the world of college football in 2005 as Ben Cohen said of Harper Lee's August 1963 letter in the epigraph as well as in sportswriter Skip Rozin's September 15, 2005 column, "The Brutal Truth About College Sports"³ that concluded with the following paragraph:

Maybe it's time, suggests Drake Group Director David Ridpath, that the athletes themselves take control. How would it be at the start of the Orange Bowl if all the players refused to take the field? asks Mr. Ridpath, speaking with the heart of a reformer. They're saying: 'We're not getting an education and we're not getting taken care of. We're being exploited and we're not going to play.' A fantasy as interesting as it is unlikely, but it illustrates the frustration of those struggling to save college sports. Are they alone, or is the American public finally ready to listen?

Responding to Rozin's column were the Sept. 24, 2005, Letters to the Editor of the Journal titled "Can Colleges Control the NCAA Beast?"⁴ Legendary professor and former provost at Tufts University, Sol Gittleman's lead letter set the tone for others that were also hypercritical of the NCAA.

All of the above Journal comments inspired the writing of my letter that was apparently read with chagrin by NCAA officials in Indianapolis. Officials at Northwestern University, especially those at its Office of Media Relations in Evanston were really upset as well—prompting the need for swift tactical action. Ideally, this action would separate their school, a member of the Big Ten,⁵ from the author of what these NU officials must have surely considered to be a letter that disparaged the NCAA. As a member, the NCAA served as their money-making enabler.

The NU Statement – The tactic employed by NU's Office of Media Relations was to contrive a statement that not only aimed to put the legitimacy of the title McCormick Faculty Fellow in question, but also to demean its origin, to leave the impression that the title was not really official, and most important, disassociate the school from the author. And so it was by virtue of the following NU statement was provided by NU's Director of Media Relations, to the editor of *College Athletics Clips*:⁷

The title "Faculty Fellow" was held uniquely at Northwestern by Splitt. No one else in the entire University is so labeled. Though the title implied a kind of faculty status, "Faculty Fellow" was not an established faculty rank or position; and appointment as "Faculty Fellow" did not include review as is customary when academic appointments are made. The title was created and assigned to Splitt by a former dean of Engineering, without consultation with the Provost. The engineering school has been informed that the rank/position "Faculty Fellow" does not exist at the University and that individuals should not so identify themselves.

Unpacking the NU Statement – The NU statement was obviously contrived as it made absolutely no sense to anyone familiar with the McCormick Faculty Fellow designation. Here's the story:

In the early 1990s, the late Jerry Cohen, then dean of the McCormick School, worked with Arnold R. Weber, then president of Northwestern University, to establish a new designation to honor industry leaders who were working closely with McCormick to improve ties with industry and to have them advise the school on the development of research and educational programs.

As announced in the fall-1993 issue of the *McCormick Dimension*, Walter B. Herbst was named as the first McCormick Faculty Fellow in Industrial Design and I was named as the first McCormick Faculty Fellow in Telecommunications. So the McCormick Faculty Fellow title was certainly not uniquely held by me.

Clearly the "Faculty Fellow" designation was created as an honorary title, not as a faculty rank/position requiring review or consultation with the Provost when academic appointments are made. The honorary title was somewhat akin to an award. Dr. Herbst and I both used the title for twelve years before the NU statement was issued.

Sad to say, there was an attempt to have Dr. Herbst voluntarily relinquish the use of the title so as to support the false claims made in the NU statement's first two sentences. To wit: "The title "Faculty Fellow" was held uniquely at Northwestern by Splitt. No one else in the entire University is so labeled."

The above cover-up effort was apparently orchestrated by the Office of Media Relations that used the Office of the Provost to inform the Dean of the McCormick School "that the rank/position "Faculty Fellow" does not exist at the University and that individuals should not so identify themselves." What else was the newly appointed dean to do other than comply with directions stemming from the NU statement that now came from the Office of the Provost, the university's chief academic officer?

The congratulatory email that I received from President Weber upon being named a McCormick Faculty Fellow provided unquestionable evidence that the title was created by Dean Cohen with the approval of the university president. The email conveniently went missing from the McCormick Faculty Fellow file at the McCormick School prior to the issuance of the NU statement.

Appeals to Reconsider – Over the years, I came to understand that appeals to reconsider the action stemming from the NU statement were made at the time the NU statement was issued and even sometime thereafter. These appeals, made to responsible NU officials by prominent faculty members as well a prominent trustee and the executive director of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, were all to no avail—a salient example of the type of behavior that illuminates the stranglehold-like power that the NCAA exerts over officials at its member schools.

The 2006 Hutchins Award and Related Events – On January 31, 2006, The Drake Group announced via a press release that I was named to be the recipient of The Drake Group's *2006 Robert Maynard Hutchins Award*.⁷ The Award is "given annually to faculty or staff members who take a courageous stand to defend academic integrity at their institutions in response to institutional pressure related to special treatment of athletes, often risking job security in doing so."⁸ The Award's citation read "For His Courageous Defense of Academic Integrity in Collegiate Athletics."

Radio interviews by Paul Finebaum and Bob Gilbert soon followed the Drake Group's press release. Appearances on these radio programs provided opportunities to tell the brutal truth about college sports.

The Beta Tau Chapter of the Eta Kappa Nu engineering honor society, at the McCormick School's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, named me as a Notable Alumni at year-end 2005; and, at the recommendation of Jim Duderstadt, President Emeritus and University Professor of Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan, I received an invitation from the president of The University of Montana and the president of Montana State University to contribute a paper that would appear opposite that of

NCAA President Myles Brand in an upcoming issue of *The Montana Professor*. My paper, was titled “The U.S. Congress: New Hope for Constructive Engagement with the NCAA and Intercollegiate Athletics.”⁹ Copies of the Spring-2007 issue of *The Montana Professor* received widespread distribution in the U. S Congress thanks to Montana Senator Max Baucus.

In 2016, some ten years after receiving the Hutchins Award, it was certainly gratifying to see the bio-like commentary “A Decade of Reform Efforts in College Sports Can Largely be Traced to One Man’s Passion,” posted on *Forbes.com* by David Ridpath, the president of The Drake Group.¹¹ It is my understanding that it was Ridpath who nominated me for the Hutchins Award and posted his *Forbes*’ piece as a way of commemorating my 85th birthday.

Lessons Learned – It is all a matter of knowing that:

- 1) Officials at colleges and universities that support big-time sports programs have taken their own lesson from the bank robber Willie Sutton; they too know where the money is and woe be to those who attempt to keep them from it by exposing what amounts to a money-making racket based on deceit, deception, and the exploitation of the names, images, and likeness’ of their school’s so-called student-athletes who may not be students at all.
- 2) Officials at even world-class universities can misbehave under the corruptive influence of big money and the NCAA that exerts a stranglehold-like power over the officials at its member schools.
- 3) There is a good reason why it is so difficult to recruit even tenured faculty to join in the fight for academic integrity at NCAA member schools, especially those included in the Bowl Championship Series where really big money is involved.
- 4) Officials at schools supporting big-time sports programs not only have the power to terminate untenured faculty, but also the inclination to do so if the faculty person jeopardizes the viability of its sports programs in any way whatsoever.

Everyone should know the brutal truth about college sports. To learn more, see Branch,¹² Ericson,¹³ Nocera¹⁴ and Ridpath.¹⁵

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Appendix – An Excerpt from the author’s October 5, 2005, letter to the editor of The Wall Street Journal headlined "Who Wants to Tackle Biggest Man on Campus?"

The Sept. 24, Letters to the Editor in response to Skip Rosin’s superb Sept. 15, Leisure & Arts column, "The Brutal Truth About College Sports," were aptly headlined, "Can Colleges Control the NCAA Beast?" The answer, plain and simple, is no. Here’s why and what the Drake Group is doing about it.

Big-time (NCAA Div I-A) university and college presidents cannot advocate true reform without risking termination – cultivated by a storm of protest about fiscal irresponsibility and assorted emotional arguments by trustees/regents, boosters, alumni, and rabid fans. Untenured faculty are too busy getting tenure to work for reform, while tenured faculty are too busy doing research and/or just don’t want to get involved in controversial nonacademic affairs.

With the NCAA’s apparently successful co-option of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, there is no one charged with anything resembling responsibility for controlling the billion-dollar beast that has become expert at resisting true reform, exploited college athletes, provided weak rules enforcement, shown a lack of concern with regard to violence by college athletes and the connection of violence to the use of performance enhancing drugs, and shrouded its nefarious conduct in a veil of secrecy – protected by the Buckley Amendment to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. And in the midst of all this the NCAA maintains a nonprofit IRS status as an institution of higher education

Also, America’s love affair with sports, its high tolerance for misbehavior by its heroes, and really big money, has helped bring us today’s horrific mess in big-time, college sports ... a mess characterized by seemingly unrestrained growth in spending with a corresponding desperate need for additional revenues.

Over the past two years, members of the Drake Group [the organization’s Web site states that its “mission ... is to help faculty and staff defend academic integrity in the face of the burgeoning college sport industry”] have been working to provide the Group’s position on the above issues for easy availability to all concerned parties – especially to members of Congress where the Group is working a quid pro quo initiative on disclosure and the restoration of academic and financial integrity in our institutions of higher learning.

*Frank G. Splitt
McCormick Faculty Fellow
Northwestern University
Evanston, Ill.*

AFTERWORD

Northwestern University’s Office of Media Relations went on to work with the NCAA to block the unionization of the members of NU’s football team as discussed in my November 19, 2015, College Athletics Clips Commentary “University of Missouri Student Protests: Lesson Learned.” An extended excerpt follows:

So what is the overarching lesson to be learned from the threatened strike by the Missouri football team? It’s simply this: The mere threat of a strike by a revenue-producing college athletic team can not only bring about quick and decisive change, but also expose a school’s real values. Here, for example, money is king, the potential loss of football revenue must be avoided at all cost.

This disruptive change mechanism could very well be independent of the merit of the case for the strike, i.e., have a weak or questionable basis. Most importantly, it could prove much more effective than the usual change mechanisms such as legal action, appeals to government entities (Congress and the Department of Education), as well as persuasive arguments set forth in Knight Commission reports, Network Programs, op-eds, academic journals, books, letters, and the like.

Can you imagine the power that can be exercised by college athletes to break free of their exploitation by the NCAA cartel? But what forces would the athletes be up against?

These forces and related mind sets are illuminated by the story behind Northwestern football players’ unionizing effort in 2014 led by Ramogi Huma, president of the National College Players Association and Kain Colter, a former Northwestern quarterback, who spearheaded the effort. For background see the transcript and comments on the April 8, 2014 PBS Newshour program "Is 'student-athlete' a misnomer?" [5] My comment, "Kudos to the PBS Newshour" formed the basis for the College Athletics Clips Guest Commentary "NLRB Ruling on Northwestern Athletes: A Teaching Moment." [6]

The Northwestern players’ effort was rewarded with the approval to unionize by the regional director of the NLRB. The effort exposed the "big-lie"—the NCAA’s false claim that big-time college athletes are amateurs—first and foremost students. Simply stated, the intense professional level of practice and play required of these athletes to make the very best of them ready for the NFL or NBA leaves little time to study and renders them so tired that they miss classes or fall asleep during classes they do attend.

Nonetheless, the approval was rendered ineffective upon appeal by Northwestern. The regional ruling was not ratified by its Washington-based overseers who were, no doubt, subjected to intense lobbying pressure by representatives of the NCAA cartel since the case had the potential to break the NCAA’s stranglehold on colleges and universities supporting big-time football and men’s basketball programs by essentially classifying athletes more as employees rather than students.

How fortuitous for the cartel that it had world-class Northwestern doing its dirty work— defending the cartel's money-driven exploitation of college athletes as well as its corrupting influence on the academic integrity of many of its member schools. It should be clear that the unionization of college athletes was not about Northwestern University per se. It was about the NCAA cartel of which Northwestern is but one of many member institutions and a private one at that.

"We're glad the NLRB knew when to punt," opined the Wall Street Journal's editorial board, see my posted response, "The NCAA is even gladder." [7]

After the NLRB declined to ratify its regional office's ruling, Alan K. Cabbage, Northwestern's Vice President for University Relations, said the university is "pleased" by the board's decision and strongly believes "unionization and collective bargaining are not the appropriate methods to address the concerns raised by student-athletes."

Notwithstanding the weak nature of Northwestern's appeal, Cabbage's statement had a familiar NCAA ring to it. For insights on the weakness of the appeal see Pat Hruby's article "Appeal to Sanity." [8]

In view of the inordinate ability of the NCAA cartel to frustrate reform efforts as demonstrated in the Northwestern players' unionization effort, by virtue of its enormous legal, financial, and political resources, the following question looms large: Can college athletes rise up from seeming indentured servitude by exercising their civil right to strike so as to break the NCAA cartel's stranglehold with aims to not only bargain over issues such as medical care and practice times, but for equitable remuneration as well?

Only time will tell if such efforts can be mounted and then survive the countermeasures used to protect the ocean of money flowing to the NCAA cartel and the many others who benefit from the exploitation of college athletes.

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The NCAA is even gladder. The NCAA is free to continue its money-driven exploitation of college athletes as well as its corrupting influence on the academic integrity of many of its member schools.

The NCAA works hard to protect the current "order of things." It's all about money and its power to influence events and control college athletes. The NCAA had the big money as well as political power while the union seekers had neither. Only time will tell if the NCAA's big money and political power can influence the courts.

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On scandals and balance between academics and athletics

A comment on "Concerns About Sports, Backing for Obama: a Survey of Presidents," by Doug Lederman, Kevin Kiley and Scott Jaschik, *Inside Higher Ed*, March 8, 2012, <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/survey/concerns-about-sports-backing-obama-survey-presidents>

"About 7 in 10 college and university presidents believe that the past year's sports scandals have damaged all of higher education and that institutions spend way too much on intercollegiate athletics -- but barely a quarter say their own campuses are susceptible to such scandals or overspend on sports."

No surprise here. Presidents are appointed to serve at the pleasure of a school's governing board. And the pleasure of the most vocal and wealthiest of these board members at NCAA Div 1 schools usually involves winning football and basketball teams. If asked, these presidents would not only say they have a good balance between athletics and academics, but will say they don't cheat as well.

The balance is uneven—a mixed bag depending on the institution. It's also a function of time and a multitude of other variables some of which are external in nature, for example, reaction to exposure by whistle-blowers. My opinion on balance is grounded in Robert Maynard Hutchins' belief that "they all cheat." To that I would add: some more than others.

With that caveat in mind I would say relatively good balance is achieved at schools like Notre Dame, Duke, Stanford, Northwestern and Boston College while relatively poor balance is likely to be found at schools like Auburn, Alabama, Louisiana State, Oklahoma, Connecticut and Miami. To illustrate the point that even the best schools have troubling times, see *Under the Tarnished Dome: How Notre Dame betrayed its ideals for football glory* by Don Yaeger and Douglas Looney (Simon and Schuster, 1993).

No doubt, careful analysis would find a strong correlation between high national school rankings (BCS, March Madness Tournament, and conference) with an out-of-balance (athletics-over-academics) school ranking. As College Football Hall of Fame Coach Gil Dobie once quipped, "You can't win games with Phi Beta Kappas."

Frank G. Splitt, former McCormick Faculty Fellow, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science, Northwestern University

College Sports and the Federal False Claims Act: A Redux

By Frank G. Splitt

November 1, 2019

Back in 2015, the publication of Jay M. Smith's and Mary Willingham's book *Cheated*,¹ prompted another look at two circa 2006 *College Athletics Clips* commentaries^{2, 3} that were then appended as references to a further commentary on the False Claims Act as applied to the NCAA's false claim that big-time college athletes are primarily students.⁴

It was my belief that this well-documented book provided prima facie evidence that could prove to be the undoing of corrupted big-time college sports programs supported by the NCAA and its member institutions, aka the NCAA cartel^{5,6}. Although there was no undoing, there was an occasion that prompted still another look at the False Claims Act.

It was on the morning of Sunday, October 19, 2019, that I found my letter to the *Daily Herald* editor, headlined "Some schools cheat better than others," in print⁷ (also see copy on page 26). Subsequently, I began wondering about the ethical basis for the justification of cheating in college sports and returned to considering the possible remediation via the threat of litigation via the False Claims Act, so the redux.

Quoting from the *Daily Herald* letter: "Everyone knows, or at least should know, that all schools cheat in some way or another, some better than others, and that deceit, deception, and exploitation are part and parcel of today's college-sports programs." If that is indeed true, how can college and university presidents as well as the members of their governing boards justify support of the commercialized sports programs at their schools wherein many, if not most college athletes in big-time programs, are students in name only?

That big-time college athletes, so-called student-athletes, are primarily students, rather than employees, performers in the world of sports entertainment, is a claim made by members of the NCAA cartel, with no basis in fact.⁸ It's a myth writ large—as American as the flag and apple pie. Jon Ericson, one of The Drake Group founders, termed the myth "the big lie."

Sports fans and gamblers really don't care about lies because they want to believe what they are incessantly told by the NCAA and its member schools as well as what they see on TV and in the movies. It's hard not to believe what is seen on the screen with propaganda skillfully presented as entertainment in hit football-related movies such as *Knute Rockne, All American*; *Rudy*; and *The Blindside*.

Most likely, university presidents and members of their governing boards rationalize their support of commercialized sports programs with its related cheating via Machiavellian consequentialism. Thus, from their point of view the end justifies the means, so a morally right act is one that will produce a good outcome or consequence. For example, the \$50-million, or so, Big Ten schools receive from the Big Ten Network must be considered to be a good outcome.⁹ This manner of thinking ignores an

important fact, to wit: These presidents could be the target of qui tam (whistleblower) litigation for violation of the False Claims Act.¹⁰

We learn from Machiavelli that appearances are really what count.¹¹ Therefore, it is not surprising that the NCAA and its member schools make every effort and spare no expense to avoid litigation and make it appear that their athletes are really students. Here a veneer of truth goes a long way in this deceptive and illicit practice.

In light of the above, it is indeed puzzling to see parents caught up in *Operation Varsity Blues* facing additional criminal charges for participating in the nationwide college-admission cheating scheme. One could argue that the parents, just like school presidents who have yet to face criminal charges, were seeking to produce a good outcome.

The parents sought admission of their children to elite schools while the presidents sought, and still seek, fame and fortune for their schools by falsely claiming that its athletes are primarily students. Nonetheless, it has been reported in *The Wall Street Journal* that "Prosecutors have struggled to identify damages and victims in the case where some parents paid mastermind William "Rick" Singer to secure admission to elite schools by cheating on admissions tests or falsely claiming kids were recruited athletes"¹² "Colleges have portrayed themselves as hapless victims of Rick Singer, in reality they have no one to blame but themselves" said *The Chronicle's* Dan Golden.¹³

The government has been and is still being defrauded—cheated out of tax revenues from the NCAA cartel, donors, and others by virtue of the cartel's false claim that college athletes are primarily students and not primarily athletes. The fact-based narrative in *Cheated* could have formed a solid basis for a prima facie, false-claims case against the NCAA cartel in accordance with the False Claims Act.

As discussed in Reference 2, there is one thing you can be sure of, to wit: taking the NCAA cartel to court in accordance with the False Claims Act would not be an easy task as one might first think. Why so? It's because when evaluating the merit of a False Claims Act case, a potential whistleblower needs to consider a number of things that can represent formidable roadblocks to whistleblowers no matter how good the case appears from their perspective. The fear of retaliation and the potential of benefits a personal lawsuit and an out of court settlement are other considerations

Furthermore, the NCAA cartel will use all of its available political, financial, and legal resources to fight a false-claims case just as it fought against the NRLB Regional Office ruling in favor of the unionization effort by Northwestern football players wherein the players are to be considered the university's employee-athletes rather than student-athletes.

It is indeed ironic that the NCAA and its member schools violate the federal False Claims Act with their false claim that its athletes are primarily students while making an art form of misusing the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act¹⁴ to avoid disclosure of the academic performance of these so-called student athletes.

Finally, a vexing question remains: Who and where are the whistleblowers as well as members of the Administration and Congress who have the political courage to take justifiable action against the NCAA cartel to recover tax revenues lost by virtue of its false claim that college athletes are students first?

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 6. Gurney, Gerald, Lopiano, Donna A., and Zimbalist, Andrew, *Unwinding Madness: What Went Wrong with College Sports and How to Fix It*, Brookings, 2017.
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 8. The NCAA does not have access to tangible and verifiable evidence on the academic performance of athletes; it does not have the facts, as for example, on the courses taken by the athletes, the average grades for the athletes and the average grades for all students in those courses, the names of advisors and professors who teach those courses and whole-period class attendance by athletes. The simple truth is this: the NCAA does not have indisputable evidence that these athletes are really college students as opposed to school employees that have a full-time athletic job while participating in an alternative educational experience that is not part of the school's serious academic life, but rather a customized pseudo-academic experience engineered by academic support center staff members who work at the behest of the school's athletic department to maintain the eligibility of the school's athletes.
The NCAA must take the word of school administrators that athletes are really students on track to receive a bona fide, rather than a "pretend" college education. The fact that the NCAA has never endorsed proposals for academic disclosure by its member schools, seems to indicate that NCAA officials do not want to have public evidence that could prove embarrassing to their cartel's business interests. As far as the NCAA is concerned, its ignorance is bliss.
In many instances, some schools give every appearance of being secretive and untrustworthy in matters related to the eligibility of their athletes. Besides the potential loss of big-money, there is a compelling need for some schools to report very high graduation rates and passing Academic Progress Rates to justify/rationalize their high-profile programs and their extraordinary investments in academic support center staffs and facilities.
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 10. "The False Claims Act: A Primer," http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/civil/legacy/2011/04/22/C-FRAUDS_FCA_Primer.pdf
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 12. Korn, Melissa and Levitz, Jennifer, "College-Case Parents Face New Charges." *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 23, 2019.
 13. Golden, Daniel, "The Epitome of Sleaze," *The Chronicle Review*, Nov. 1, 2019
 14. Salzwedel, Matthew and Ericson, Jon, "Cleaning Up Buckley: How the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Shields Academic Corruption in College Athletics," *WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW*, Volume 2003, Number 6, 2004.
- NOTE: In the interest of transparency and disclosure, schools could, for example, publish aggregated (Buckley-compliant) attendance records and academic data, including grades, from cohorts of football and basketball team.

Daily Herald: Letters to the Editor

URLs

Russian interference in the 2016 election

Nov 16, 2017, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20171116/russian-interference-in-the-2016-election>

Passing GOP tax reforms a likely Pyrrhic victory

Dec 14, 2017, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20171214/passing-gop-tax-reforms-a-likely-pyrrhic-victory>

An unforgettable teacher

Jan 18, 2018, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20180118/an-unforgettable-teacher>

Pitchforks also out for Chief Illiniwek

Apr 24, 2018, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20180422/pitchforks-also-out-for-chief-illiniwek>

'Moral catastrophes' and college sports

Oct 23, 2018, <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20181018/moral-catastrophes-and-college-sports>

A wake-up call for us all

Nov 29, 2018, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20181129/a-wake-up-call-for-us-all>

Another wake-up call for all of us

Jan 9, 2019, <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20190107/another-wake-up-call-for-all-of-us>

An Illinoisan too important to ignore

Mar 8, 2019, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20190307/an-illinoisan-too-important-to-ignore>

The real scandal in college admissions is sports recruiting

Apr 5, 2019, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20190405/letter-to-the-editor-the-real-scandal-in-college-admissions-is-sports-recruiting>

Some Schools Cheat Better Than Others

October 19, 2019, at <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20191020/letter-some-schools-cheat-better-than-others>

Daily Herald: Letters to the Editor

Russian interference in the 2016 election

November 16, 2017 - The American public deserves to know the impact of what the Russians accomplished with their interference in the 2016 election.

For an example of this impact, one need look no further than John Podesta's hacked emails. Some of these leaked emails contained what can best be described as demeaning comments about Catholics. The publication of these emails, coupled with "messages" from single-issue (pro-life) minded bishops, enhanced by Russian social-media posts designed to polarize viewers, no doubt influenced a decisive anti-Hillary vote in previously Blue Midwest states

Hopefully, Catholic bishops have learned that it was a mistake to support a presidential candidate simply because he professed to be opposed to abortion. "Indeed, the pro-life cause, like the concern for religious liberty, will emerge bruised and battered from its having been associated with this man," writes Michael Sean Winters in "What should the Catholic Church have learned this year," *The National Catholic Reporter*, Nov. 8.

It was just another example of a predicted outcome often attributed to Alexander Fraser Tyler (1747 -- 1813), to wit: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy -- always followed by a dictatorship."

The Russians took advantage of the fact that people will vote for what they want for themselves and their narrow vision, although important on personal level, it misses the big picture -- thereby weakening our democracy in the process.

Passing GOP tax reforms a likely Pyrrhic victory

December 14, 2017 - President Trump, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and House Speaker Ryan have all but declared a major political victory with the passing of GOP tax reforms, but are now considering revisions, ("Sources: GOP leaders may shrink corporate tax cuts," *Business*, Dec. 7).

For all intents and purposes, as of today, the GOP reforms overwhelmingly help the wealthy and are most likely to prove a net negative for almost everyone else.

The \$1.5 trillion in the national debt over a decade due to the reforms' current tax cuts would no doubt be used as a rationale to make draconian cuts in investments in welfare, education, health care, and other popular social programs. Slashing these investments that primarily benefit the non-wealthy will weaken America's overall economy as well as stunt its future prosperity.

Unless substantial changes are made, passing the current widely unpopular tax reforms will bode for unprecedented voter backlash in upcoming elections, likely proving its passage to be a Pyrrhic victory

An unforgettable teacher

January 18, 2018 - With reference to Doug Graham's Jan. 12, tribute to Thomas Toman, "Longtime suburban youth sports official dies at 77," it is to be noted that Mr. Toman's earlier work as an inspirational gym teacher at Windsor School, District 25, in Arlington Heights left indelible positive impressions on seven children in my extended family and undoubtedly many more over the years. These impressions go well beyond physical education as they include mental and life lessons as well. Unforgettably fond memories of Tom Toman are treasured by all.

Pitchforks also out for Chief Illiniwek

April 24, 2018 - Karl Rove's April 5 Wall Street Journal opinion piece, "The Pitchforks Are Out For McKinley" exposes the harm being done in Arcata, California, via labeling and false narratives. Here's a salient example of harm that has already been done right here in Illinois.

Chief Illiniwek was conceived in 1926 as a sacred symbol of the University of Illinois -- representing the heroic spirit of Illinois Indians. Chief Illiniwek was never considered to be a mascot by the chief's creator, the late Raymond Dvorak, or by the 36 outstanding Illini students who were honored to be selected to portray the chief, nonetheless, false narratives labeling the chief as a mascot surfaced in recent years. Unfortunately, such labeling led to the chief's official banishment by the university in 2007.

The chief's banishment was aided and abetted by the NCAA that abused its power while serving its own self-interest by diverting attention away from heightened concerns over its exploitation of minority college athletes, by a divisive mischaracterization of Chief Illiniwek as a mascot in a one-sided documentary and by the related July 17, 2017, Huffington Post piece, "Twenty Years of Fighting Native American Mascots with "In Whose Honor?""

Chris Quintana's March 30, 2018, column in The Chronicle of Higher Education is representative of continuing chief-as-mascot propaganda, The column's title and subtitle set the stage for an unbalanced mascot-label-rich narrative, to wit: "The Mascot is Fiction, The War is Real." and "Why a made-up retired mascot still inspires pain and pride at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign."

Paraphrasing Rove, the anti-Chief Illiniwek rhetoric has been so unbalanced and warped that only willful ignorance and runaway political correctness explains their destructive action.

Moral Catastrophes and College Sports

October 18, 2017 - The sexual-abuse scandals and hierarchal coverups in the Catholic Church have torn at the faith of many devoted Catholics. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that this wrongdoing would eventually be described as a moral catastrophe. So it was when the Editor's Note in the Oct. 5, issue of The National Catholic Reporter focused on Georgetown University's Sept. 25, panel discussion "Confronting a Moral Catastrophe: Lay Leadership, Catholic Social Teaching, and the Sexual Abuse Crisis. The Editor's Note was aptly headlined "Church's 'moral catastrophe.'"

Here's another circumstance that somehow has escaped the same level of scrutiny and publicity as that afforded the Catholic Church. The moral wrongdoings associated with cover-ups of sports-related corruption, sexual abuse, and alcohol abuse in our nation's colleges and universities are of such a serious nature and wide-scale as to collectively qualify as a moral catastrophe somewhat on par with the sexual-abuse cover-ups in the Church.

What a dilemma that is for Catholic and other Christian colleges and universities that tend to claim the moral high ground in higher education. For more, see "How Colleges Cope with a Perfect Storm,"
<<https://thedrakegroup.org/2012/10/07/how-colleges-cope-with-a-perfect-storm/>>.

A wake-up call for us all

November 29, 2018 - We live in a time when it is easy to be discouraged with the news. All too many citizens are disheartened by today's political discourse that has not only become vulgar, but strongly polarized as well. It can be argued that, in large part, this situation is attributable to the leadership of a master showman who is skilled in the effective employment of the dark arts of lying, exaggeration, manipulation, hate-mongering and scapegoating.

In the eyes of his followers, he is a hardworking, super-alpha male getting things done very much to their liking -- no matter the increase to our nation's already vast debt as well as to the loss of its core values and reputation as a world leader.

Most troubling is the state of governmental affairs hallmarked by the apparently deliberate chaos, willful ignorance and strategic incompetence of an administration that literally dazzles the public and the media with an almost daily barrage of accounts of bizarre, if not outrageous, behavior that dominates the news cycle.

In the meantime, the structure of our federal government's institutions are being eroded or dismantled, while a distracted public sleeps and the media is played like a fiddle as it dances to the tunes of the showman.

Isn't it time for all Americans to take stock and come to understand that they have a responsibility as citizens to put aside their differences and wake up to what's really happening at the working levels of their government?

Another wake-up call for all of us

January 9, 2019 - On Jan. 2, President Trump boasted to reporters: "They say I am the most popular president in the history of the Republican Party."

In his Jan. 1 opinion piece "Trump's reckoning is under way," Eugene Robinson writes: "Anyone who thinks Trump is a master politician is wrong. He is a master illusionist Trump is talented at making it appear he has more than he really does -- more money, more respect, more support." This observation brought to mind Les Hinton's selection of Tom Bower's 1995 book, "Maxwell: The Final Verdict" as one of the five best books on giants of the press.

According to Bower, Robert Maxwell, who owned the New York Daily News, London Daily Mirror and much, much more, was a crook a blowhard and a boaster -- committing crimes even as many suspected there was something very fishy about him. Bower summed up his conclusion about Maxwell's success, a conclusion that is also applicable to the Maxwell-like giants in today's world of business and politics: "(He) prospered because hundreds of otherwise intelligent people willfully suspended any moral judgment and succumbed to their avarice and self-interest."

So what has been wrought by "hundreds of otherwise intelligent people" with the success of Donald Trump, the giant master showman and illusionist, who was elected to the presidency of the United States? Joan Chittister, O.S.B., a Benedictine nun, theologian and author, has an answer worth pondering in her Jan. 2, column in The National Catholic Reporter: "For the first time in modern American history, the presidency, the great stabilizer of American government, is being destabilized by the president himself." It appears to be another wake-up call for all of us.

NOTE: The letter below was read into the Congressional Record on March 21, 2019 by Congresswoman Janet Schakowsky (IL - 9th) as Follows:

"Madam Speaker I want to recognize the following letter submitted to the Daily Herald newspaper By my constituent Frank G. Splitt Mount Prospect, Illinois. Mr. Splitt rightly acknowledges the contributions to our nation made by General Andrew J. Goodpaster, who amongst other things, served as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and superintendent of West Point. I encourage all my colleagues to learn about the contributions made by this legendary general from Illinois."

An Illinoisan too important to ignore

3/8/2019 - In a recent Wall Street Journal column, "Five Best Books on American Generals" Winston Groom recommended works about military leaders. C. Richard Nelson's book, "The Life and Work of General Andrew J. Goodpaster," was conspicuous by virtue of its absence from Groom's list. So too was the absence of General Goodpaster from the Herald's March 3 supplement, "Illinois' Rich History, People Places & Things that Make Illinois Stand Out."

Readers of Nelson's biography will find that Goodpaster (1915-2005), born in Granite City, Illinois, graduated from West Point in 1939. He was a soldier, engineer and scholar who led and fought with uncommon valor in World War II, advised several presidents, most notably President Dwight D. Eisenhower and served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (1969-1974). He has been called the finest officer of our era.

Goodpaster was brought out of retirement in 1977 to serve as the superintendent of West Point as it was reeling from a cheating scandal. In his four-year tenure at the academy, he sought to substitute "positive leadership" for hazing and personal abuse.

Subsequent to Goodpaster's government service, among other things, he served as the Chairman of the George C. Marshall Foundation and as a senior fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Reagan in 1984, for "lifetime accomplishments that changed the face and soul of our country."

Goodpaster's approach to analysis and decision making provides valuable lessons for current and aspiring leaders. His life story should serve as an inspiration to others who are challenged with the task of resolving complex domestic and foreign policy issues. It has been said that General Goodpaster remains "too important to ignore."

Letter to the Editor: The real scandal in college admissions is sports recruiting

4/5/2019 - With reference to the widespread media coverage of the college-admissions scandal, the scandal comes as no surprise to those concerned with college sports reform.

Sports recruiting is the real college-admissions scandal, while special admissions has been called the 'original sin' of college sports.

Subsequent to committing this 'sin,' corruption, cheating, and cover-ups have become endemic at those schools seeking fame and fortune via sports entertainment businesses.

Colleges and universities supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs have developed methods of cheating, corruption and cover-ups to an art form, while school administrators and supporters live in a world of seemingly boundless hypocrisy.

The college admissions racket is only the tip of the iceberg of fraud at our nation's colleges and universities supporting these revenue-generating sports programs. Sad to say, it is expected that the flurry of reporting on this "tip" has been overshadowed by the NCAA's billion-dollar March Madness bracket racket.

Letter: Some schools cheat better than others

10/19/19 - S. C. Gwynne reviewed Lars Anderson's book, "Chasing the Bear," in the Fall Books section of the Sept. 28, 2019 issue of The Wall Street Journal. In his review, headlined "Even Better Than the Bear," he claimed to be seeking a "gaudy revelation" behind the success of Alabama football coach Nick Saban, but settled for "The answer may be that Mr. Saban's process can only be seen as a totality: Every piece of what he does is as important as every other piece ... And perhaps Nick Saban's "secret" is just that he does everything a little bit better than everyone else. Indeed, the University Alabama and Coach Saban likely do everything a little bit better than everyone else

To be sure, the "gaudy revelation" sought by Mr. Gwynne" won't be found in Anderson's book. The following may very well be the sought-after revelation: "They all cheat" as claimed University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins back in 1939 when terminating the school's Big-10 football program. Everyone knows, or at least should know, that all schools cheat in some way or another, some better than others, and that deceit, deception, and exploitation are part and parcel of today's college-sports programs.

The Wall Street Journal: Letters to the Editor

Frank G. Splitt

Mount Prospect, Ill.

College Athletes and the Big Lie

March 29, 2016 - Howard P. Chudacoff writes: "Yes, surveys show that most big-time athletes devote 40-60 hours a week practicing, playing and traveling for their sport, and some do help earn millions for their school....So perhaps the next best thing to being a millionaire is living like one—all while getting a free college education," ["Let's Not Pay College Athletes," Opinion, March 29].

Here's another manifestation of the "big lie" that college athletes at schools supporting big-time, football and mens' basketball programs are receiving a real "college education. Academically-under-prepared athletes who do not have the skills to do real college-level work, have to devote 40--60 hours a week to their sport, and are tired, if not exhausted, when they do come to class, cannot be expected to acquire anything close to what can be called a legitimate college education, no matter how skilled their tutors and how lavish their academic-eligibility-support facilities.

Blame Cheating by U.S. Universities on Money and American Sports Culture

June 24, 2016 - In her comment, headlined "Don't Blame Cheating on Chinese Culture," (Letters, June 24), Helen Qiang Raleigh brought deep insights beyond Prof. Carolyn's explanation that "what Americans perceive as cheating is perceived by Asians as a form of respect" while stating that Boiarsky was "just plain wrong."

Raleigh went on to say: "The only way forward for American universities is to address the academic-cheating issue head on with a zero-tolerance policy." However, the only credible way American universities supporting big-time football and mens' basketball programs would be to adopt a zero-tolerance policy directed toward the rampant academic-cheating that forms the basis for the money-and-culture-driven false claim that their athletes are students first.

The time has come for a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. A bill filed in Congress would do just that. It's H.R. 2731 that's all about transparency. The bill is now in the House Committee on Education and the Work Force with bipartisan support.

Let Campus Debates Begin

August 28, 2016 - Kudos to Robert Zimmer president of the University of Chicago (UC) for his forthright comments on the purpose of a university education based on rigorous debate and discussion of complex and possibly divisive issues, ["Free Speech Is the Basis of a True Education," Opinion, Aug. 26].

Also consider the view of the late Milton Friedman, a former UC professor, who said "Universities exist to transmit understanding, ideals, and values to students and to add to the body of intellectual knowledge not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes" and the view of a world renowned educator and a Zimmer predecessor, the late Robert Maynard Hutchins, who said, when he was terminating the school's football program in 1939, "To be successful, one must cheat. Everyone is cheating and I refuse to cheat."

Would that our colleges and universities that support big time football and men's basketball programs welcome campus debates on the efficacy of commercialized football and basketball programs that not only compromise the academic mission of their institutions, but also lead to the loss of academic integrity as well related cheating and corruption.

U. of Chicago Says 'No' to the Thought Police

“Universities exist to transmit understanding, ideals, and values to students and to add to the body of intellectual knowledge”

Aug. 29, 2016

Kudos to Robert J. Zimmer, president of the University of Chicago, for his forthright comments on the purpose of a university education based on rigorous debate and discussion of complex and possibly divisive issues (“Free Speech Is the Basis of a True Education,” op-ed, Aug. 26).

Also consider the view of the late Milton Friedman, a former UC professor, who said: “Universities exist to transmit knowledge and understanding of ideas and values to students not to provide entertainment for spectators or employment for athletes.”

Frank G. Splitt

Mount Prospect, Ill.

Opinion/Letters, August 30, 2016

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-of-chicago-says-no-to-the-thought-police-1472501288>

On the Contrary

October 30, 2016 - The editors write: “Among our favorites, because it speaks to us now, was Wolf’s last sentence in a 1989 piece that methodically took apart the U.S. “decline school,” which was popular then, as now. “The rhetoric of decline,” he concluded, “is wrong because it portrays a past that wasn’t, a present that isn’t, and a future that probably won’t be,”” [“Charles Wolf Jr., “Review & Outlook, Oct. 29-30].

On the contrary, the rhetoric of decline appears to be right because it portrays a past that was, a present that is, and a future that probably will be. One need look no further than the same-issue opinion pieces: “1776: Would You Like to Reconsider” by Andrew Roberts, and “The Great Disappointment of 2016” by Peggy Noonan. Better yet, take a look at the present-day school wars that do not bode well for the future of K-12 education in America.

Trump's Made-in-U.S.A. Pledge: A pig-in-a-poke

November 19, 2016 - Kathy Chu and Juro Osawa *are* spot on regarding President-elect Trump's pledge to bring manufacturing jobs home. [“Trump's Made-in-U.S.A. Snag: Asia,” Business & Finance, Nov. 17]. Even with the Asia factor aside, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for Trump to honor his pledge to the disaffected white blue-collar workers in the upper Midwest.

We now live in a digital world where past, current, and future advances in technology will present a huge impediment to manufacturing job creation. Eventually, the general public and politicians from both parties will have to contend with the end of work as we have known it. See Jeremy Rifkin's prescient book *The End of Work: The Decline of the Global Work Force and the Dawn of the Post Market Era*, (Putnam. 1995).

It appears that the disaffected blue-collar workers that helped Trump smash Clinton's blue wall were sold a "pig-in-a-poke."

An Excellent Example of Title IX Abuses

April 11, 2017 - In his April 11, op-ed "How to End a Campus Injustice With the Stroke of a Pen," Stuart Taylor Jr., calls attention to flagrant abuses of Title IX.

Northwestern Professor Laura Kipnis provides an excellent example of Title IX abuses in an excerpt from her new book, *Unwanted Advances: Sexual Paranoia Comes to Campus*. Titled "Eyewitness to a Title IX Witch Trial" the excerpt appeared in the April 7, 2017, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Kipnis states that the trial documents, related to the case of disgraced Northwestern philosophy professor Peter Ludlow, offer an unprecedented view of the incompetent, kangaroo-court system that reigns on campuses."

Practice makes perfect

May 14, 2017 - Kudos to John Taranto for his informative interview with 'Mindshift' author Barbara Oakley who said "One mistake we make in the school system is we emphasize understanding, [Opinion, May 13-14]. But if you don't build those neural circuits with practice, it'll all slip away. You can understand out the wazoo, but it'll just disappear if you're not practicing with it."

By virtue of the technology-driven, corporate assault on America's education system, there has been a loss of focus on an old adage: Practice makes perfect. This adage applies equally well to shaping and strengthening neural pathways in the brain as well as the neural pathways that are the basis for so called "muscle memory" in athletics.

The Catholic Vote for Trump

July 28, 2017 - Not mentioned by Daniel Henninger with his thoughtful insights as to why Hillary lost the 2016 election was the Catholic vote in the Midwest's deep-blue states that helped turned the tide toward Trump, ("The Post-Hillary Democrats," *OPINION*, July 27). Among the contributing factors for this Trump boost were backlash from the anti-Catholic tone revealed in some of John Podesta's hacked emails and messages to Catholic parishioners from single-issue minded Catholic bishops to vote for the anti-abortion candidate.

The Razzle-Dazzle Money Bowl

August 22, 2017 - Kudos to Jason Gay who tells truth to power – advising that big-time college sports programs are throwing millions at absurdly luxurious amenities as a diversion from the real issue: fair compensation for their school's athletic entertainers (*The Money Bowl*, *Review*, C1, Aug. 19-20). It's the quintessential "razzle-dazzle" diversion technique that was on full display in "Chicago," winner of the 2002 Academy Award for best picture. In the movie, Richard Gere gave a terrific razzle-dazzle performance as Billy Flynn, the town's slickest lawyer with a superb talent for turning notorious criminal defendants into local heroes. One could not ask for a better metaphor for the money-making powers behind professionalized college football and men's basketball programs.

The Catholic Vote

November 1, 2017 - The concluding paragraph of the Oct. 31, *Review & Outlook*, "The Manafort Indictment," begins with "Americans deserve to know how Russia interfered in the 2016 campaign...." One need look no further than John Podesta's leaked emails. Some of these Russian hacked emails contained what can best be described as demeaning comments about Catholics. The publication of these leaked emails, coupled with 'messages from single-issue (pro-life) minded bishops, enhanced by Russian social-media posts, no doubt influenced a decisive anti-Hillary vote in previously Blue mid-west states. That's just one piece of Russian interference.

Russian Interference in the 2016 Election

November 6, 2017 - Further to Jerry D. Palmer's comment, "You should have started and ended with noting that Americans deserve to know what the Russians did and how ..." ["Mueller Tax Indictment May Yield More Information," Letter to the editor, Nov. 16]:

One need look no further than John Podesta's Russian hacked emails. Some of these leaked emails contained what can best be described as demeaning comments about Catholics. The publication of these leaked emails, coupled with 'messages' from single-issue (pro-life) minded bishops, enhanced by Russian social-media posts, no doubt influenced a decisive anti-Hillary vote in previously Blue mid-west states.

It was just another example of a predicted outcome often attributed to Alexander Fraser Tyler (1747 – 1813), to wit: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy—always followed by a dictatorship."

The Russians took advantage of the fact that people will vote for what they want for themselves and their narrow vision, although important on personal level it misses the big picture—thereby weakening our democracy in the process.

U.S Catholic Bishops: A Contrarian Vote

November 15, 2017 - Authors Ian Lovett and Francis X. Rocca draw sharp attention to a contrarian vote for the chair of the committee on Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, ["Papal Agenda Meets Bishop's Resistance," U.S. News, Nov. 15]. The vote signals the U.S. bishops lack of support for Pope Francis by not voting for his proxy, Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich but rather for the more theologically conservative Kansas City Archbishop Joseph Naumann who was singled out for praise by the outgoing chair of the committee, New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan. In 2008, Naumann, following the lead of ultra conservative Los Angeles Cardinal Raymond Burke, told Gov. Kathleen Sebelius that she should not partake in Holy Communion because of her pro-choice position.

Pope Francis' pro-life position is based on the consistent ethic of life originally espoused by the late Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin in Dec. 1983. This ethic values the whole life of a person, not just the more narrow (single-minded) conservative view that focuses on life's beginning (abortion). It is somewhat ironic that, in a sense, the bishops voted against the ethic adopted by the U.S Bishops in their Revised Plan for Pro-Life Activities in November 1985.

No doubt, there will be political consequences related to the outcome of the bishops' vote.

Peggy Noonan's Uncharacteristic Partisan Bias

November 26, 2017 - With reference to the testimony of Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill at Thomas' 1991 Senate Confirmation Hearings, Peggy Noonan said: "In the end, I believed Mr. Thomas. But nobody knows, or rather only two people do," ("The Sexual-Harassment Racket is Over," OPINION, Nov. 25).

It would be interesting to know the basis for Noonan's belief as well as for her intense focus on the predatory conduct of Bill Clinton while passing over that of President Donald Trump—a glaring omission since he was accused of unwanted sexual contacts by some 15 or more women prior to the 2016 presidential election, admitting during a taped 2005 Access Hollywood television interview with Billy Bush that he groped women saying: "I don't even wait. And when you're a star, they let you do it, you can do anything... grab them by the p___y," but now, according to the New York Times, claiming the tape was fake.

Nonetheless, Noonan's opinion piece had the appearance of uncharacteristic partisan bias.

A Prescient Letter?

December 4, 2017 - Peggy Noonan quotes a twenty-some year old letter that's a great read, however, she fails to mention the traditional second-class treatment of women in the Catholic Church, ("John Paul II's Prescient 1995 Letter to Women," OPINION, Dec. 2-3).

Women seem to be an easy target for popes and bishops. For example, consider the recent persecution via investigation of American women religious by Pope Benedict XVI's inquisitor, Cardinal Gerhard Müller. Another case in point is BVM Sr. Helen Maher Garvey's futile appeal to then Pope John Paul II for the elevation of women's role in the church's hierarchy during his visit to the United States in 1987.

The quoted letter shows why we need pay heed to the cautionary adage "Watch what they do, not what they say."

Passing GOP Tax Reforms: A Likely Pyrrhic Victory

December 6, 2017 - President Trump, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and House Speaker Ryan have all but declared a major political victory with the passing of GOP tax reforms as they pivot to welfare, ("After Taxes, Republicans Pivot to Welfare." U.S. News, Dec. 6).

For all intents and purposes, the GOP reforms overwhelmingly help the wealthy and are most likely to prove a net negative for almost everyone else.

The \$1 trillion or more increase in the national debt due to the reform's tax cuts will no doubt be used as a rationale to substantially reduce investments in welfare, education, health care and worker training. Slashing these investments that primarily benefit the non-wealthy will weaken America's overall economy as well as stunt its future prosperity.

All of this may prove that passing the GOP tax reforms will likely be a pyrrhic victory as it bodes for unprecedented voter backlash in upcoming elections

Trump Made a Mountain Out of Mueller's Molehill

February 21, 2018 - Holman W Jenkins, Jr, the Journal's self-appointed intelligence expert, claims the "molehill" Special Counsel Robert Mueller focused on was Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, ("Mueller Focuses on Molehills," Opinion, Feb. 21). Jenkins wrote: "Let's be realistic: The Russian propaganda activities detailed in Robert Mueller's indictment last week had less impact on the election than 20 second of cable TV coverage (pick a channel) of any of Mr. Trump's rallies."

If nothing else, Mueller's focus on this molehill triggered an out-of-control weekend Twitter-storm by the president that prompted Jenkin's Journal colleague William A. Galston to write an adjacent opinion piece headlined "The Clear and Present Danger of Trump" in which he states: "In November 2016, 46% of the American people made a mistake, elevating to the highest office in the land a man incapable of discharging its duties. Now our country and our friends around the world are wrestling with the consequences,"

In his last paragraph, Jenkins writes:" the real struggle is yet to come. It will involve pulling teeth to get information from the FBI and CIA that they don't want us to know." How about the real struggle to reveal President Trump's tax returns that contain information he apparently does not want us to know about? Perhaps hard facts will emerge from the decade-ago admission by Donald Trump Jr. that many Trump family assets come from Russia. No doubt the facts will be all about money and the laundering thereof.

Hypocrisy Abounds

March 2, 2018 - Kudos to Jason Gay for going to the heart of past and present NCAA scandals, ["Secret Cash Isn't an NCAA scandal, Amateurism Is," SPORTS, Feb. 27].

A flurry of recent sports-news stories again reveal a pernicious problem in higher education. It's the troubling money-addictive obsession with sports success and its tight relationship with fundraising, a situation that generally leads to cheating and academic corruption.

School administrators and governing boards usually share these sports-success obsessions—making a Faustian bargain to gain and retain their prestigious positions. For example, they go along with the NCAA's amateur student-athlete myth and look the other way when it comes to the negative impact of sports programs on academic integrity so long as the programs contribute to their school's fame and fortune—hypocrisy abounds.

America Needs Media-literate Citizens

March 3, 2018 - Tech giant, Facebook, discounted the impact of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, ["Tone-Deaf: Facebook's Russia Bungle," A1, March 3]. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg stated in November 2016: "Personally I think the idea that fake news on Facebook...influenced the election in any way is a pretty crazy idea." Not crazy at all, Russian meddling on Facebook likely made a difference in the election. Here's why:

. When used to amplify prevailing political, economic, and religious divisions, interference in American elections is one of Russia's most powerful and easy to execute anti-democracy weapons

As a cradle Catholic, it was disheartening to find a salient example of exploitation of a division in my church. Thinly veiled pro-Trump "messages" from single-issue (pro-life) minded bishops were aided and abetted by the publication of the Russian hacked emails of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.

No doubt, Russian meddling, designed to polarize viewers, influenced what may have been a decisive pro-Trump Catholic vote in previously Blue Midwest states.

Unless and until its electorate consists of discerning and media literate citizens, America's democracy will continue to decline. A return to reading newspapers would be a good start.

College Sports Corruption: Also Look at Administrators and Governing Boards

March 16, 2018 - "The fount of much corruption in college basketball and football is the alumni demand for winning teams," says Joseph Epstein, ("I Loved College Basketball, but Now I Feel March Sadness," Opinion, Mar. 16).

Further to Epstein's elucidation of ever more blatant and uglier scandals besetting college sports: A pernicious problem in higher education is its money-addictive obsession with sports success and its tight relationship with fundraising. This obsession generally leads to cheating and academic corruption.

School administrators and governing boards operate with a simple philosophy: Money justifies overlooking academic corruption and cheating in their sports programs. To be sure their hypocrisy is not lost on conscientious students, faculty members, and the general public. Reformers are faced with the brutal facts that big money rules the day and key academic leaders feel no shame. No wonder why so many are losing respect for these leaders and their institutions.

We Live in an Era of Feelings

May 25, 2018 - "No matter what you do to try to appease unhappy progressives, you will be wrong," writes Henninger, ["Starbucks' Homeless Problem," Opinion, May 24]. Who would've thought this piece could be related to the 2007 retirement of Chief Illiniwek at the University of Illinois?

In 1989, anti-Chief protests led to a divisive and polemical documentary that characterized the Chief as a mascot. Efforts to appease the protestors went for naught as the documentary coupled with runaway political correctness, contributed to the Chief's official banishment by the university.

Paula Marantz Cohen captures the times in her essay "It's the Era of Feelings, and Not Necessarily Good Ones," [OPINION, .May, 5].

No Nobel Prize for Claude Shannon

October 2, 2018 - Kudos to James Hagerty for his superb and well-deserved tribute to Charles Kao, "Early Bet on Optical Fibers Yielded Pipes for Internet," Obituaries, Sept. 29-30. Not mentioned, was the fact that Claude Shannon, whose foundational 1948 paper on the mathematical theory of communication set the stage for the development of the Internet and wireless technology, also died of Alzheimer disease in 2001. Unfortunately, he was never awarded a Nobel Prize for his pioneering work.

A Moral Catastrophe

October 30, 2018 - As a cradle Catholic, I found it difficult to believe that Pope Francis actually repeated the warnings he has made in recent weeks against the "Great Accuser," or the devil; who seeks to soil the church, [Pope Assails Church's 'Persecution,' World News, Oct. 29]. It seems painfully obvious to all but the church's patriarchal hierarchy that it has been priestly sexual abuse and their own related cover-ups that have not only soiled the image of the church, but have also torn at the faith of all too many devoted Catholics. One need only look to the mandated rule of celibacy and the lack of women in its leadership positions to find the real "devil" that has led to a moral catastrophe.

A Failure to Communicate

November 16, 2018 - It appears that the US bishops were not able to convince Pope Francis that the sex-abuse scandal is a crisis of grave proportions—an existential threat to the Catholic Church in the United States that requires immediate corrective action (The Catholic Bishops Who Couldn't, House of Worship, Nov. 16).

It also seems that the bishops were not able to convince Pope Francis that the church is not being persecuted as he claimed in his remarks at the recent Synod of Bishops and reported by Francis Rocca, (Pope Assails Church's 'Persecution,' Oct. 29). A quote from the prison warden in the 1967 film "Cool Hand Luke," is applicable; it begins with "What we've got here is failure to communicate."

On a Slippery Slope

January 27, 2019 - Kudos to Alejandro Bermudez for his thoughtful comments on Notre Dame's disappointing cave to the extreme left, ["Catholics Against Columbus," House of Worship, Jan. 25]. The author raises a troubling question: "If murals that portray Columbus bringing the faith to this hemisphere are not welcome at a Catholic university, what part of Catholic identity is?"

Here's an even more troubling question: Is this another step on a slippery slope which, if followed to the end, will make us into devils where we wish to always see things worse than they really are?

It is ironic that the "Notable & Quotable" column in the next day's print issue was taken from C.S. Lewis's "Mere Christianity" published in 1952, wherein Lewis concludes by saying: "Finally, we shall insist on seeing everything—God and our friends and ourselves included—as bad, and not be able to stop doing it: we shall be fixed for ever in a universe of pure hatred." A prescient comment on current atonement declarations.

The College Admissions Racket

March 17, 2019 - With regard to your editorial, "The College Admissions Racket" (Mar. 14): Corruption, cheating, and cover-ups are widespread in our nation's colleges and universities that are beholden to wealthy donors, but are endemic to those schools seeking fame and fortune via football and men's basketball entertainment businesses.

Colleges and universities supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs have developed methods of cheating, corruption, and cover-ups to an art form while school administrators and supporters live in a world of seemingly boundless hypocrisy. The existence of a college admissions racket comes as no surprise to those concerned with college sports reform.

Scrutiny Warranted

March 17, 2019 - Congressional scrutiny is warranted since the scandal not only involved cheating to help children gain access to elite colleges and universities, but also involved getting a tax deduction for illicit payments. In addition to their focus on admission practices, House Democrats working on rewriting federal law governing higher education should also consider clarification of the rules for those who want to make legitimate charitable donations to colleges and universities.

Special admissions: The 'original sin' of college sports

March 18, 2019 - The admissions scandal comes as no surprise to those concerned with college sports reform ("Scandal Puts Focus on Athletes' Special Admissions," U.S. NEWS, Mar. 18). Sports recruiting is the real college admissions scandal while special admissions has been called the 'original sin' of college sports.

Subsequent to this 'sin', corruption, cheating, and cover-ups have become endemic to those schools seeking fame and fortune via football and men's basketball entertainment businesses.

Colleges and universities supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs have developed methods of cheating, corruption, and cover-ups to an art form while school administrators and supporters live in a world of seemingly boundless hypocrisy.

On Billion-Dollar 'Amateurs'

March 19, 2019 – William McGurn's opinion piece, "Billion-Dollar 'Amateurs'" takes the reader on a road well traveled by The Drake Group and other organizations dedicated to college-sports reform (Opinion, Mar. 19). It also brings to mind William Rhoden's 2006 book *Forty Million Dollar Slaves: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Black Athlete*.

Sad to say, Rhoden's prophetic book, along with many similar books, articles, and TV documentaries focused on college-sports reform, have yet to render significant corrective action to reign in the exploitation of black athletes as well free our nation's institutions of higher education that are held hostage by their sports entertainment businesses. Perhaps the recent exposure of the college admissions racket will provide impetus for requisite corrective action by the U.S. Congress and/or the federal courts.

Another unasked question

April 9, 2019 - Kudos to William McGurn for relating the Felicity Huffman SAT-cheating admissions scandal to Harvard's discrimination-in-admissions-court case, (Cheating on the SATs, OPINION, April 9).

Sports recruiting is also a college-admissions scandal with special admissions called the 'original sin' of college sports. Subsequent to committing this 'sin', corruption, cheating, and cover-ups, the 'sinful' 3Cs, have become endemic at those schools seeking fame and fortune via sports entertainment businesses.

Those watching the NCAA's March Madness title game saw the college entertainment business doing what it does best—making an ocean of money by exploiting black male athletes who, according to Kevin Blackstone, “are immensely under remunerated for their labor and whose well-being is not valued.”

Here’s another unasked question: How is what the college entertainment businesses do to make huge amounts of money morally different from the criminal charges against Felicity Huffman?

No Competent Generals Wanted

July 21, 2019 - Robert D. Kaplan's July 18 opinion piece "Why We Need Someone Like Ike" should give all Americans serious pause, especially members of Congress—even more so when coupled with the July 16 US News piece "Generals Fall Out of Favor With Trump."

These generals were long on discipline, integrity, and competence with regard to worldwide threats—attributes sadly lacking in Trump.

It may be recalled that Ike and his six presidential successors relied on General Andrew J. Goodpaster when challenged with the task of resolving complex domestic and foreign policy issues. Sad to say, even General Goodpaster would likely have no place in the present administration.

A Dual Obsession

August 8, 2019 - Kudos to Anthony Kronman for his well-written, spot-on piece, "The Downside of Diversity," (Review, C1, Aug. 3-4).

Our nation's colleges and universities, long obsessed with highly commercialized sports programs, have succumbed to still another obsession with politically correct diversity by also falsely claiming academic value.

This dual obsession is sowing the seeds of a suicide-like destruction of a precious resource, American higher education dedicated to excellence and truth.

Here's a Gaudy Revelation: Some Schools Cheat Better Than Others

October 2, 2019 - In his review of Lars Anderson's book, "Chasing the Bear," S. C. Gwynne, writes: "The answer may be that Mr. Saban’s process can only be seen as a totality: Every piece of what he does is as important as every other piece. And perhaps, in spite of my desire for gaudy revelations, that really is the message of Mr. Anderson’s book: Nick Saban’s “secret” is just that he does everything a little bit better than everyone else ["Even Better Than the Bear," Fall Books, Sept. 28-29],

The "gaudy revelation" sought by Mr. Gwynne" won't be found in Anderson's book. The following may very well be the sought-after revelation: "They all cheat" as claimed University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins back in 1939 when terminating the school's Big-10 football program. Everyone knows, or at least should know, that all schools cheat in some way or another, some better than others, and that deceit, deception, and exploitation are part and parcel of today's college-sports programs.

Book Reviews*

A Must-read Book on the Resolution of Domestic and International Conflicts

February 9, 2018 - Review of *A New Map for Relationships: Creating True Love at Home and Peace on the Planet* by Dorothea and Martin Hellman.

Living in today's real world, characterized by mind-boggling challenges, discontentment, and debilitating tensions, is disconcerting to say the very least. What is desperately needed are some signs of hope. As if on cue comes Dorothea and Martin Hellman's book and their new holistic way of thinking about interpersonal and international relationships.

The authors deftly apply the insights they gained, while successfully resolving issues in their marriage, to address and help resolve critical global issues—issues that put our planet and civilization at risk.

Consider, for example, our nation's seeming need to enter into needless conflicts and wars as well as its apparent need to rely on a defense strategy based on nuclear deterrence. Several such conflicts are included as case studies in the book. These studies, performed at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation, applied a risk-informed approach to our nation's nuclear strategy that focuses on conflicts that could escalate to nuclear threats.

The Hellman's well written book is a valuable contribution to the literature in the field of domestic as well as international relationships and very well worth the read. It is also well worth parents considering the book as a gift to their married or about to be married children.

Schreiber Tells It How It Really Is

February 11, 2018 - Review of *My Two Elaines: Coping and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*, by Martin Schreiber.

What better way to describe the journey of an Alzheimer's spouse and caregiver to others than by referring them to Martin Schreiber's book, *My Two Elaines*. Schreiber's last two lines just about say it all. "I still get to hold her hand every day. If Alzheimers is the worst thing that can happen to me, I've got the best of the worst." I would only add: We've had a wonderful life that's still wonderful in a different way.

The Cherokee Nation: A Story of Survival against All Odds

May 13, 2018 - Review of *Blood Moon: An American Epic of War and Splendor in the Cherokee Nation* by John Sedgwick.

This book is well worth the read for anyone who is not only interested in the impact of the Cherokee on the history and politics of early America, but the survival of the Cherokee Nation as well. I read it with the aim of learning as much as I could about the travails of Native American tribes that encountered and then interfaced with Old World explorers and settlers who believed they had found a New World. The book met my aim and then some. It's a well-researched tour de force of the historic plight of the Cherokee. The book certainly lived up to its subtitle as an American epic of war and splendor. The splendor comes through by virtue of insights on how the Cherokee people were able to survive as a nation—overcoming all odds to do so.

We learn that the Cherokee were an offshoot of the Iroquois people that migrated from the north, arriving in what would become the American Southeast sometime after the English established Jamestown in 1607. And

*Posted at Amazon.com

when the Cherokee reached their destination they took the land from its occupants by the same forceful means that the predominantly Scots-Irish white settlers would employ against them—a continuation of the tribal fighting that is a hallmark of human history.

In large part, Sedgwick centers this well illustrated book on two of the Cherokee's principle chiefs, John Ross and The Ridge (He Who Walks on Mountaintops). Each was of mixed blood, with The Ridge looking more like his Cherokee father than his Scots grandfather, and the much more white-looking Ross resembling seven of his white great-grandparents. For decades the two worked together fighting against and then collaborating with whites, and eventually fighting against each other for the future of the Cherokee nation.

The issue that finally drove Ross and The Ridge apart was either to retreat in the face of white settlement pressure, or stay and fight against overwhelming odds? According to Sedgwick, an 1826 census showed that the Cherokee population "had increased only slightly to just under 14,000, and they were surrounded by well over one-million whites," a population differential that among other things led to unrelenting pressure for removing the Cherokee people thus setting the stage for the subsequent struggle over the Cherokee lands.

Despite knowing that the chiefs in question did not have the authority to bind whole tribes because of the dispersed nature of tribal governance, the white federal and state governments bribed Indian leaders to sign treaties surrendering tribal lands. The 1828 discovery of gold in Georgia also doomed the Cherokee in their homeland. It intensified the pressure on the tribe dramatically. Sedgwick writes, "Once the gold appeared, the Cherokee hills of northern Georgia no longer belonged to the Cherokee; they belonged to just about anyone with a shovel. No law, no religion, no morality could ever hold back gold fever."

The U.S. government aided and abetted the taking of Cherokee lands when, in 1830, Congress approved and President Andrew Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act. Jackson cast the measure as a good thing, saying "To save him from this alternative, or perhaps utter annihilation, the general government kindly offers him a new home, and proposes to pay the whole expense of his removal and settlement." Yet the president made clear that the move wasn't optional. The Cherokee considered Jackson to be a hard man. Modern Cherokee understandably liken him to Hitler. But he and The Ridge were probably right in saying that the only hope for Cherokee survival was for them to get out of the way of the ever increasing onslaught of white settlers.

The Cherokee simply had to go. The Removal Act split the Cherokee. The one party followed John Ross and determined to hold the land, no matter the cost. The other party followed The Ridge, who reluctantly agreed with Jackson that staying in Georgia risked the annihilation of the tribe. And so began the trail of tears by land and by river. Eventually, the U.S. Army compelled all the Cherokee to leave. The removal was a humanitarian disaster. Of 15,000 Cherokee who embarked on the winter journey, some 4,000 died of disease, exposure and starvation—an American Holocaust. How could this be?

The 19th-century was an era of Manifest Destiny when white American settlers widely believed that they were destined to expand the country across North America without regard for the natural land rights of Native Americans. What might have been done differently that could have the situation much better? Given the imbalance in numbers and the context of the times, it is difficult to think of an alternative scenario. Nonetheless, this is the tragic—usually untold—dark side of American history of genocide by way of ethnic cleansing that took place during this era.

Along with broken treaties, these government actions not only runs counter to how most Americans like to think of themselves and the principles they and their country stand for, but it also left the Cherokee and other Native Americans bitter and distrustful—creating a cultural divide, a deep wound that I believe is still with us today

The Cherokee troubles didn't end with the forced march and relocation to the northeastern part of Oklahoma. Sedgwick's epic story goes on through the Civil War, which again split the Cherokee, with The Ridge's family members of the tribe fighting on the side of the Union.

In the end, the divided and decimated Cherokee rose from the ashes to make an almost unbelievable comeback in their new home centered in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Today the Cherokee Nation is comprised of close to 300-thousand citizens—that's a twenty-fold increase over the population at the time when the Removal Act was enforced. Sadly, the Cherokee still live with the inaccurate portrayal of history taught in Oklahoma schools that Columbus and Europeans were the first to “discover” the Americas. More on the current life of the Cherokee people can be found at the Cherokee Nation's website.

A provocative book that forces the reader to think

September 5, 2018 - Review of *The University We Need: Reforming American Higher Education* by Warren Treadgold.

I first became aware of Warren Treadgold's book "The University We Need." via John Leo's review, "Rethinking College" in the July 19, 2018, print edition of The Wall Street Journal. Reading the review prompted a question: Isn't it a wonder how so many things can be wrong with our American universities and still have them considered the best in the world?

Then came a letter-to-the-editor response to Leo's review in the July 27, 2018 issue of the Journal, "Rethinking the Best Universities in the World," by Emeritus Prof. Sol Gittleman (Tufts University) who wrote:

"In the 1930s we were a homogeneous faculty and student body, harmonious, agreeable, and mediocre. Now we have anarchy, are diverse in faculty and student body, with a million students from all over the world in our dreadful colleges and universities, with another million wishing they could get in. Perhaps 150 of our Nobel laureate's chose American universities for their research and emigrated. We have all of those terrible qualities that Messrs. Leo and Treadgold identify -- but could the Journal quietly tell its readers that we have the greatest higher education "anarchy" in the world? It is a mess, chaotic, sports-driven, with incompetent administrators trying to lead ungovernable faculty and students. Perhaps that's the price you pay for being the envy of the world."

After emailing Gittleman to tell him that I liked his letter but questioned how long can schools supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs be considered the "envy of the world" when weighted down by related academic corruption, not to mention the adjunct and unmotivated-student problems – commenting that I don't believe schools like MIT and Cal Tech should have a problem, so too with the professional schools within universities, such as medical, law, and those involving STEM and other professional disciplines. I also advised him that I ordered a copy of Treadgold's book to see firsthand what he really has to say with the intent of writing my own review of the book.

However, Joel Eissenberg's spot-on, critical AMAZON customer review of Treadgold's book spared me the task of writing a similar review since he noted essentially the same deficiencies in the book as I noted. Nevertheless, here are a few personal observations:

1. Rather than fault so-called leftist faculties and administrations I would fault college and university boards of trustees/regents for many of the problems cited by Treadgold. Who better to blame than stonewalling board members who hide behind the mask of institutional maintenance – fiduciary guardians and protectors of their school's reputation? These board members espouse the cover-up play book titled "See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" as applied to campus sexual assaults as well as the loss of academic integrity at most of our schools supporting big-time football and men's basketball programs that strive to win at any cost for fame and fortune.

2. It is also a wonder that college and university boards allow what Treadgold sees as an anti-conservative bent in today's colleges and universities when, for the most part, board members are active or retired bankers and/or corporate officers that are generally wealthy (read donors) and very conservative. Could they possibly be neutralized by lavish perks and awards?

3. On page 142, Treadgold writes "In theory, no doubt, enlightened trustees could try to choose a determined and forceful new president for an already distinguished University." He goes on to say: "Yet, I am not aware of any existing major university that has such enlightened trustees." One would think that the first order of business for our colleges and universities would be to educate their board members. Unfortunately, most schools offer no such education for new board members. To this end, see veteran board member Allen C. Guelzo's op-ed "Back-to-School Advice for College Trustees" in the Aug. 25, 2018, issue of the Journal.

4. Reading Treadgold's book would also be a worthwhile exercise for current and future board members. So too would becoming a member of ACTA, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, an independent, non-profit organization committed to academic freedom, excellence, and accountability at America's colleges and universities.

5. Board members, presidents, and other administrators, as well as faculty members could very well profit from viewing "The Hunting Ground," a CNN documentary/exposé that covers the campus rape epidemic at colleges across America. Thoughtful consideration should also be given to the work of The National Coalition Against Violent Athletes (NCAVA) that is dedicated to empowering individuals affected by athlete violence through comprehensive services including advocacy, legal aid, education and counseling and also works to eliminate off-the-field violence by athletes. Similarly, thoughtful consideration should be given to the work of The Drake Group that has as its mission the defense of academic integrity in higher education from the corrosive aspects of commercialized college sports.

6. The aforementioned educational resources will likely go unused since most, if not all colleges are comfortable with the status quo. It would seem that coercion via government intervention is required – painful as that may be. Rather than building and staffing a new university that we don't need, education of college and university board members, presidents, and other administrators could be mandated by the U.S. Department of Education. Failure to comply with the mandate and a request for corrective action plans to address issues of sports related academic corruption and sexual abuse will result in the loss of the school's tax-exempt status as well as the loss of federal funding.

7. Though written from a narrow perspective, this provocative book is considered to be a must read for anyone interested in reforming our nation's institutions of higher education. Why so? Because, despite the deficiencies cited by Eissenberg, the book forces the reader to think about alternative solutions to the formidable problems facing our nation's institutions of higher education.

The Fifth Risk: A wake-up call for all of us

December 3, 2018 - Review of *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis.

We live in a time when it is easy to be discouraged with the news from Washington. All too many citizens are disheartened by today's political discourse that has not only become vulgar, but strongly polarized as well. It can be argued that, in large part, this situation is attributable to the leadership of a president who appears to have little regard for science, scientists, and facts. This becomes all too evident in Michael Lewis' book, *The Fifth Risk*.

The reader learns that the fifth risk is the habit of responding to long-term risks with quick fixes, i.e., short-term solutions that stem from short-sighted program management. In a nutshell, it's the existential threat that you never see or even imagine as a risk. It's the innovation that never occurs, and the knowledge that is never created because you have ceased to lay the groundwork for it. It's what you never learned that might have saved you.

If you want to preserve a simplified instinct-level worldview, it really helps to gut science. The administration's budget, like the social forces behind it, is powered by a seeming perverse desire—to remain ignorant. The battle flag for the Trump administration ought to be emblazoned IGNORANCE IS BLISS. Why so?

If you don't understand what government institutions do and why they do it, you can never know the negative consequences of directed cutbacks and changes as well as of incompetent leadership and staffing at these institutions.

The author makes this abundantly clear when he begins his tale of woe at the get-go of the newly-elected administration. To the astonishment of the secretaries and staffers at the various departments of the government, no members of the new administration's transition team showed up to be briefed on their department's mission, financials, staffing, current issues, and other matters pertinent to the operation of the department. How could this be? The answer, plain and simple, was that there were no transition teams—the incoming administration was not prepared to run a federal government that was beyond its understanding.

The fact is that people don't notice when things are going right—these are the things the government does. It manages everything that underpins our lives, from funding free school meals, to policing rogue nuclear activity, to predicting extreme weather events. It steps in where private investment fears to tread, innovates and creates knowledge, as well as assesses extreme long-term risk.

The author reveals how our government is under attack by its own leaders. Willful ignorance fuels the destruction of our country's fabric. Exposing America and the world to the biggest risk of all: it's what you will never learn that might have saved you.

Lewis makes a case in point with the Department of Energy (DOE) that deals with complex technical problems including the two greatest risks to human existence: nuclear weapons and climate change. (The other risks involve North Korea, Iran, and the Electric grid.)

When they did arrive the administration's so-called "Beachhead Team" reflected a mind-set to the effect that "Everything the government does is stupid and bad and the people in it are stupid and bad." It is ironic that President Trump appointed Rick Perry as the secretary of the department. It was Perry that said he would eliminate the DOE if he were president—obviously not knowing that the DOE is responsible for the science that helps minimize threats to our nation from attack or natural disaster.

The author goes on to tell about similar fiascos at the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce. Along the way the reader will come to know what is really supposed to go on in these departments via the author's extended interviews with experts in related fields ranging from extreme-weather forecasting and wild fires to data science.

A thoughtful reading of this book may very well lead to a question: Isn't it time for all Americans to take stock and come to understand that they have a responsibility as citizens to put aside their differences and wake up to what's really happening at the working levels of their government? Reading this book would be a good first step in that process.

Hope for a viable future of America's democracy will rely on a well-informed electorate that can help place experienced as well as competent and trustworthy men and women at all levels of government no matter their political affiliation.

A Must-read Story of American Civilian Heroes

January 13, 2019 – Review of *A Brotherhood of Spies: The U-2 and the CIA's Secret War* by Monte Reel.

Monte Reel's *A Brotherhood of Spies* is a captivating tale of the intense American effort that brought US intelligence into the modern age of information technology and data analysis.

The author sets the stage in his prologue that takes the reader back to what was happening in America when on May 1, 1960 Francis Gary (Frank) Power's CIA-sponsored photographic-intelligence-gathering mission's U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union.

Reel then proceeds to tell the stories of a remarkably small group of four men who were vital to the success of a mission that would, over the years provide the US intelligence of immeasurable value. He investigates the most important milestones of the Cold War with a novelist's eye for detail that brings each of the stories to life---getting into the minds and personalities of the masterminds of the top-secret U-2 spy plane program, Polaroid's Edwin Land, Lockheed's Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, CIA's Richard Bissell, and CIA's Frank Powers.

At the book's core is Powers, the man who against all odds survived the Soviet S-75 Dvina missile attack on his U-2, was captured, tried, found guilty, imprisoned then released by the Soviets, and how he and his wife, Barbara coped in an international political chess game. Steven Spielberg's movie "Bridge of Spies" tells the story of his dramatic release.

Of particular interest to some could very well be the author's account of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. For those who viewed President Kennedy's October 22, Oval Office address outlining the crisis, these were worrisome days with Saturday, October 27, later described as "the most dangerous moment in human history."

The steady and patient leadership of Presidents Eisenhower, during the development of the U-2, and Kennedy, during the Cuban missile crisis, stands in sharp contrast to today's presidential chaos and scare-mongering with a patently made-up immigration crisis.

On a personal note, Reel's incredibly engaging story of the U-2 and the CIA's secret war brought back vivid memories of experience with high-pressure classified R&D programs for US Air Force Development and Intelligence Agencies in the overlapping 1956-1967 timeframe. Also, I was pleasantly surprised to find that my (second) cousin, Andrew Goodpaster was involved with the U-2 program in his capacity as President Eisenhower's Staff Secretary and Liaison to the Department of Defense. He went on to become NATO's Supreme Commander and the Superintendent of West Point.

This book is a must read for anyone interested in real non-military American heroes as well as the leadership and critical ingredients required for urgent large-scale product development.

Andrew Jackson Goodpaster: An unsung general too important to ignore

February 12, 2019 - Review of *The Life and Work of Andrew J. Goodpaster: Best Practices in National Security Affairs* by C. Richard Nelson.

Famous American author Winston Groom recently recommended works about leaders who took the nation's soldiers into battle ("Five Best Books on American Generals," The Wall Street Journal, Books, Feb. 9-10, 2019). C. Richard Nelson's book, *The Life and Work of General Andrew J. Goodpaster: Best Practices in National Security Affairs*, was conspicuous by virtue of its absence from Groom's list. Having read this superbly written book about General Goodpaster who has been called the finest officer of our era, this absence inspired the writing of this review.

We learn that General Andrew Jackson Goodpaster (1915-2005), was a soldier, engineer, and scholar who led and fought with uncommon valor in World War II, advised several presidents, most notably President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and served as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (1969-1974).

He was called out of retirement in 1977 to serve as the superintendent of West Point as it was reeling from a cheating scandal. In his four-year tenure at the academy, he sought to substitute "positive leadership" for hazing and personal abuse, to bolster courses in the humanities and public policy, as well as ease the admission of women.

Subsequent to General Goodpaster's government service, he served as the Chairman of the George C. Marshall Foundation, as a senior fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and as a founder and Chairman of the Eisenhower Institute that focused on national security issues. These and a number of other selected events appear in a chronology of Goodpaster's life with the year and his age at the time. Notable is that

Goodpaster was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Reagan in 1984, for "lifetime accomplishments that changed the face and soul of our country."

Also included is a chapter titled "The Goodpaster Legacies." It covers the lessons highlighted in the book that deal with the ideas and ideals that led Goodpaster to be repeatedly chosen by leaders to participate in national security affairs at the highest levels. A summary of his approach to analysis and decision making provides valuable lessons for current and aspiring leaders.

General Goodpaster was the personal hero of Brent Scowcroft, Lt. General (ret.); National Security Advisor for Presidents George H.W. Bush and Gerald R. Ford. It was Scowcroft who, in 2010, said General Goodpaster remains "too important to ignore."

Nelson's book reveals General Goodpaster as an example of a truly enlightened military intellectual, a soldier-scholar, who used his considerable talents in the service of his country. His life story should serve as an inspiration to others who are challenged with the task of resolving complex domestic and foreign policy issues

Tyler Kepner's K: A veritable time machine

May 1, 2019 - Review of *K: A History of Baseball in Ten Pitches* by Tyler Kepner.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to pitch a baseball in competition at any level should enjoy Tyler Kepner's inside view on the art of pitching. His book, *K: A History of Baseball in 10 Pitches*, covers various kinds of pitches, ball grip and release, finger pressure, and body mechanics, as well as the major-leaguers that mastered the art of delivering each of ten pitches. But that's not all.

Anecdotes from the great pitchers of the game, both past and present, spice-up the author's narrative making the book an enjoyable read from start to finish. It was hard to put down as it rekindled fond memories of wins, losses, championships, and friendships of long ago.

I had a baseball in hand as I read this well written book—learning the proper names for pitches I threw from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s without the help of any kind of pitching coach that proliferate in today's game.. For me, the book was a veritable time machine. It literally transported me back to the days of my youth and early adulthood when I had a tryout with the Chicago White Sox in 1950 at age 19. If I only knew then what I know now.

If you love baseball, you will enjoy this book while gaining a deeper understanding of the game and its players, as well as pitching strategy and tactics.

THE AUTHOR



Frank G. Splitt was born in Chicago Illinois where he graduated from Annunciation Grammar School in 1944 and from Saint Philip High School in 1948. After attending the city's Wright Junior College for two years, he was awarded an Arthur J. Schmitt academic scholarship to the Fournier Institute of Technology in Lemont Illinois, graduating with a BSEE in 1952.

He holds an MSEE (1957) and a Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering (1963) from Northwestern University where he served as the McCormick Faculty Fellow of Telecommunications at the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (1993-2005).

He is a member of The Drake Group, a member of the College Sport Research Institute's Advisory Committee, University of South Carolina, a member of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and was the Vice President Emeritus of Educational and Environmental Initiatives for NTI, the U.S. subsidiary of Nortel Networks, formerly known as Northern Telecom Limited.

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's 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* "for his courageous defense of academic integrity in collegiate sports," 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 Bio & CV along with links to his essays and commentaries on college sports reform can be found at <http://www.futurevectors.com>

Photo by Jennifer Heitz

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