

Priorities amongst colleges place athletics over ethics

College ads have mixed priorities: focus on sports and looks instead of on academics.

I'm not sure if anyone reading this has ever heard of Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., but just so you know, it's pretty much the only college in the area of my hometown.

I went home this past weekend to realize that



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old GWU is a campus racked with scandal. Allegedly the president of the college saw to it that a star basketball player's grade was changed so that said player would meet the NCAA standards for athletes to re-take classes. As could be expected, it didn't take long for this news to get out and for the past month or so NCAA officials, *Sports Illustrated* reporters and all kinds of media representatives have swarmed the campus. There's an ongoing investigation into the incident by the NCAA, three faculty members, including the head of the new law department, have resigned and there has been quite a student

outray, all because it seems that the university's board of trustees have decided to let the president go without punishment and to demote two of the deans (I guess to semi-deans or "Jimmy Deans").

Every day, the local newspaper's opinion column is literally nothing but letters to the editor calling for the president's resignation or for alumni to stop donating to the GWU's endowment. All this because a college that has just moved up into Division I of the NCAA, has essentially no national reputation (either academically or athletically), and that has now assured that it will never have one, at least a good one, wanted to make sure one of their basketball players could play.

I'm sure you're wondering why I've just related this rather long story to you. To put it simply, I'm showing that colleges just don't have their priorities straight anymore.

Take the commercials for three ACC schools, for a few less emphatic examples. Last year during the NCAA tournament, there was a Duke commercial that aired quite a few times that gave the impression that Duke is nothing but Cameron Indoor Stadium. It showed several Duke students, covered in blue paint and cheering on their team, freeze-framing each one and giving their future career accomplishments, i.e. "future senator" or "future 'Just Shoot Me' writer." Of course, the commercial implies, these young folks won't work or go through hardship to reach these positions of prestige - all they have to do is cheer and *dance like methadone addicts*.

There was another commercial during the tournament for the University of Maryland - I

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don't know if I saw it more than I did the Duke ad, but it aired quite a few times. Rather than implying that Maryland is nothing but basketball, the commercial actually made a few references to the university's academic credentials, none of which I can recall at the moment (that should tell you something about the most vivid parts of the ad). A graphical representation of each academic achievement mentioned appeared onscreen for a second or two, only to go into a receptacle in the middle of the screen. At the end of the commercial, the receptacle closed and turned out to be a basketball, which bounced away toward whatever was to the right of the screen. Thus, it would seem that Maryland enjoys keeping all its most prestigious intellectual work inside a giant piece of sporting equipment. The symbolism is incredible.

The third commercial of the group is one for this very college. The brand new Wake Forest ad, which I saw for the very first time during the football game on Saturday, surprisingly shows sports images only in quick snippets. However, there is something far more disconcerting about it. There are a number of long overhead shots

of the campus which show that Wake Forest is apparently *made of gold*. The whole thing has an eerie tint to it, a distracting one that seems to ensure that everything in the ad about small classes and diversity, or whatever the spokespeople in the thing say, is immediately forgotten. But I guess the whole gold campus thing is pretty appropriate, since a good portion of the student body is already made of money.

Now, I suppose I have to throw in one of my characteristic disclaimers here to avoid some kind of a random beating, so I'm going to make sure to say that I don't mean to criticize sports here. I enjoy college athletics, and even though it seems like I've really been putting it to basketball, I think basketball is probably the most entertaining college game there is. Athletics unquestionably have their place.

What I do mean to criticize is the fact that it seems that all colleges are known for anymore are their sports or their "pretty campuses." I hear all the time that "we have to pay so much attention (and in Gardner-Webb's case, go to unethical lengths) to athletics or to aesthetics because that's what is in the limelight, that's what makes the college prestigious." But MIT and Cal Tech are constantly considered to be in the Top 5 colleges in the country, solely based on their educational prowess. And so, my ultimate question is, could it be that these colleges that so desperately want to be prestigious are emphasizing the wrong thing after all?

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Liberals nationwide ignore laws to win seats

Democrats make their own rules when it comes to elections, campaigning.

We are finally out of the eight-year reign of the Clinton administration, an era full of scandal, corruption, lies and deceit, but unfortunately for the American people, our nation and its politics have not survived unscathed. The Democratic Party has adopted a new form of politics from its mighty leader, Bill Clinton, and fight daily for its perpetuation.

We first saw the puppets doing their master's bidding in November 2000. Through recount after illegal recount, Al Gore and fellow partisans continuously attempted to

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Seventy-eight-year-old Frank Lautenberg, former Democratic Senator from New Jersey will be Torricelli's apparent replacement.

In North Carolina, Democrats are just playing dirty politics. I am sure this may come as a surprise to some other columnists, but Elizabeth Dole, the Republican candidate for Senate, is a Salisbury, N.C., native who has conducted a clean campaign and has repeatedly called on her opponent, former Clinton Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, to sign a joint agreement to run issues-based campaigns. Bowles declined, and is currently running falsified, dirty campaign advertisements.

It makes perfect sense though - when Bowles's opponent discusses issues and shows a clear, concise plan for North Carolinians and leads a campaign about results, while he himself cannot provide any of the above nor a distinct argument as to why he should be elected, it would only be logical for him to follow in Democratic style and use name calling and mud-slinging to win votes.

Another crucial component to the continuation of Bill Clinton's corrupt liberalism is to spread a generally un-American spirit. Democratic Congressmen Jim McDermott of Washington, David Bonior of Michigan and Mike Thompson of California recently went to Iraq to placate Saddam Hussein. Instead of staying on American soil serving the people whom they represent and working with the Senate and the president, these Democrats decided to act in a treasonous manner and attempted to appease mass murderers and terrorists. Their traitorous actions cannot be tolerated.

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Americans need to get to the polls on Nov. 5 and take a stand. New Jerseyans need to make it abundantly clear that they will not allow criminals and morally corrupt politicians to decide who will win their Senate seat in some backroom wheeling and dealing. North Carolinians need to look beyond the sleazy campaign ads of Erskine Bowles and look toward a woman whose resume encompasses Duke University undergraduate, Harvard Law, service to five different American presidents and dedication to the American Red Cross as its president. Americans need to let these corrupt liberals know that they will be held accountable for their actions.

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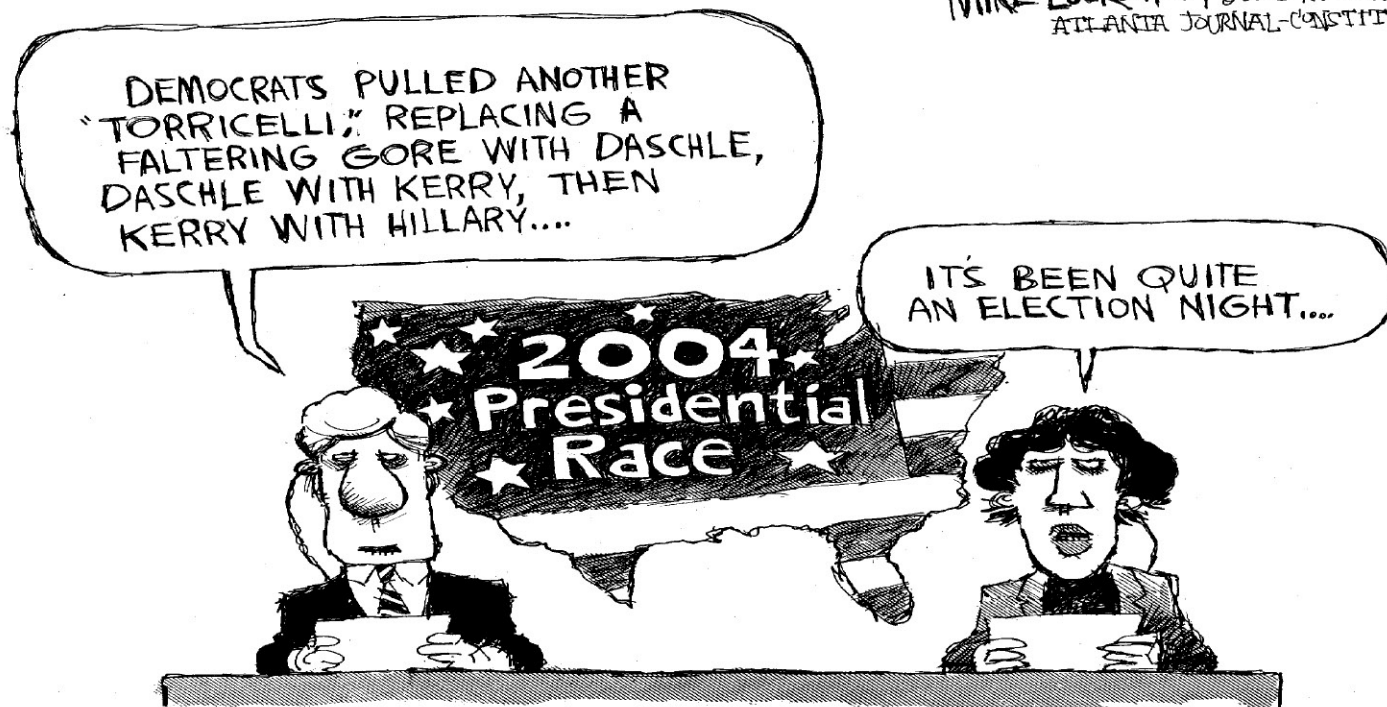
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disenfranchise military voters, discard Republican ballots and steal the American Presidency. Fortunately, despite an absurd Florida Supreme Court ruling in his favor, Al Gore lost the election - even after all the illegal recounts and numerous privately conducted recounts (including one by the liberally-biased *New York Times*) were completed.

The Democrats did not stop there, however, as we watch them cast illegitimacy on the 2003 midterm elections. In New Jersey, we have seen the corrupt, ethically unsound Sen. Robert Torricelli (D) and his liberal co-conspirators try to steal New Jersey's Senate seat and maintain Democratic control of the United States Senate. His career is marred by illegal campaign contributions, allegedly including more than \$50,000 in cash, an \$8,100 Rolex, a closet full of Italian suits, a grandfather clock and many other items. There are also videos showing Torricelli meeting with suspected mafia bosses.

Once additional evidence of these allegations was released, despite Torricelli's best efforts to keep these documents suppressed, his once 24-point lead over Republican candidate Doug Forrester disappeared, and Torricelli faced a 20 point deficit. After being contacted by the concerned Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD), Bill Clinton and N.J. Governor James McGreevey, the senator had his name illegally removed from New Jersey ballots only 34 days away from the election.

New Jersey election law clearly states that after 51 days from the election, a candidate can no longer be removed from or placed on the ballot. The Democrats rallied and won a N.J. Supreme Court ruling from a panel of justices, which consisted of an Independent, two extremely liberal Republicans and four Democrats, two of whom donated directly to Torricelli's campaign and did not recuse themselves from the case.



Safety, not politics, reason for action

Action against Iraq is a worldwide concern, not a domestic political ploy.

It is said that in times of crisis, true leaders are born. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger. The clichés are endless; euphemisms abound. But whichever one is chosen, its mantra was visibly on display the night of Oct. 7 in the demeanor, words and stature of



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President George W. Bush.

Not since President Roosevelt has a sitting president had to deal with the aftermath of a catastrophic attack on the United States geographical territory itself. Never before had the NATO countries invoked their call to arms, standing poised to retaliate for the horrific deeds of these terrorists. Never has the United Nations faced such pressure to act with the consequences of inaction so high.

Never before has the world faced a foe that "is harboring terrorists and the instruments of terror, the instruments of mass death and destruction" and is willing to use them "on more than 40 villages of his own country," not to mention the world. "By its past and present actions ... by the merciless nature of its regime, Iraq is unique," said the president several nights ago, in perhaps the biggest understatement of his presidency. In the solemnity fitting a funeral, but with the veracity of military leadership, Bush let America know of the threat it faces, and the perilous consequences of waiting any longer.

The facts and figures are staggering. A tyrant "addicted" to their use is stockpiling weapons of mass

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destruction - chemical, biological and perhaps nuclear. Violations of the truce that ended the Gulf War are never ending. Weapons research and development facilities continue their progress toward mass destruction capacity even after U.N. resolutions forbade such action; military maneuvers destroying such plants are merely obstacles in Iraq's path to develop such weaponry.

Iraq's citizens know nothing of the freedoms and democracy for which we purport to stand. They live in constant fear of dictatorial madness, though some actively support the regime through terror activities themselves. Those that do not publicly support the regime risk systematic torture, raping of their wives or death. A nation with such policies does not have the right to join the civilized world at the United Nations bargaining table. It has cast its lot far from us, and as leaders of the free world, it is our duty to make safe its territory for peace and the embrace of democracy.

President Bush laid clear the path for Saddam Hussein to follow. Unlike what many believe, the first possible option is not unilateral military action by the United States. The authorization bill currently before Congress gives the president the authority to invoke military action only if United Nations measures fail. Even then, the use of force would be implemented only through a coalition of nations dedicated to eradicating this force of evil and its operations of mass destruction.

Yet why does the world not see this evil as clearly as our president and many political leaders? Inaction breeds ignorance, and ignorance inevitably

breeds a false sense of security. Sept. 11, 2001, proved that the United States is not secure and that the threat of terror is omnipresent in the modern world. There are many who wish to destroy the very ideals our forefathers fought so desperately to gain. Our prior inaction has only brought our nation more hurt and sorrow, more attacks and rising hatred for our way of life. Waiting longer does nothing to stop the bleeding, nothing to mend the wounds. It only gives the enemy more time to restock their arsenals, to infect the wounds and spread its message of hate.

The cause against Iraq is not partisan or politically motivated. Those fighting for action strive only to act before our enemies attack again, using preemptive strikes to quell the possibility of future incidents. Our history shows that isolationism and ignorance only increase our vulnerability - Pearl Harbor seemed impossible to those wishing the oceans would separate us from the impending conflict. President Bush has learned from our mistakes and is willing to take the risks involved in crushing the destructive forces within our world. Ridding the world of evil is a far nobler goal than partisan quarrelling over a blue-ribbon panel investigating the latest terrorist incident.

President Bush realized that the task at hand is nothing new to international politics. Using the words of Democratic President John F. Kennedy, he clearly laid the dilemma before the American people: "Neither the United States of America nor the world community of nations can tolerate deliberate deception and offensive threats on the part of any nation, large or small," he said. "We no longer live in a world where only the actual firing of weapons represents a sufficient challenge to a nation's security to constitute maximum peril."

We as Americans must accept the reality that danger exists without the firing of a shot. It is our obligation to the world to stop this terror before more innocent lives are lost.

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