## SPORTS OPEN FORUM Thompson, Harmon, dean of students all draw comment from readers

department will be considered for publication provided they include the author's name, address and home phone number. Letters should be addressed to Sports. Open Forum, The Gazette, 500 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, 52406.

How long will the University of athletic department have to suffer for the greediness and stupidity of **Ronnie** Harmon?

Does the Dean of Students (Philip Jones) really expect the public and especially the thousands of intelligent Iowa contributors to believe his suspension of Ray Thompson from the NCAA tournament is not to make him look like he is doing his job after the Harmon controversy?

What a slap in the face to a great coach like Tom Davis and to the loyal fans and contributors.

If it wasn't against NCAA and Big Ten rules, then why now? Did his low grade average just show up two days before the tourna-

Letters to The Gazette sports has been offered as the explanation for declaring Thompson ineligible is true, then Job ain't got nothing on Dr. Tom!

An article in Sunday's Gazette said Thompson had failed to enroll in some "remedial courses" and therefore merited the axe. We have unswervingly been told the negative publicity generated by wear it has some pretty impres-Ronnie "Mr. Watercoloring" Harmon's recent testimony had nothing to do with Thompson's dismissal. Just a coincidence? Come on!

All students sign up for classes before the semester begins, so it is all but impossible his failure to sign up for certain "mandatory" classes would not have come to light until three months into the semester. Since Thompson's failure to take the requisite courses had occurred in January, why wasn't he booted from the team then? Why did they wait until the week of the NCAA tournament? A second reason given for the suspension was to "make sure they keep him for the full four years." As it turns out, Thompson cy Hauserman and the athletic missed less than one week of the academic advisory office of Fred basketball season. How much extra study time did the dismissal generate? Clearly not nearly as much as would have resulted had he been dropped from the team at the start of the semester.

Not coincidentally, Iowa's three winningest seasons ever were his last three seasons here. If number 23 isn't retired, the next man to sive statistics to shoot for!

W. WAYNE SAUR Oelwein, Iowa

#### Defends lowa

I am a black alumnus of the University of Iowa class of 1980. As an inner-city kid from Detroit, viewed football as my ticket to sanctuary.

Even though my perception of why I was at Iowa was myopic, the administrators at Iowa took a personal interest in making sure I understood the importance of academics and personal development. I will always cherish the efforts of Dean Zuber, professor Anthony Sinicropi, professor Nan-Mims.

to score more than 2,000 points, state of turmoil for the last 20 and is in the Top Ten in career years. It's regrettable that a wellscoring in the Big Ten. Roy also run school district has a board tied for first in career steals at that has been, and continues to be, easily influenced by the narrow-minded few. The problem is the girls' basketball program. Specifically, the retention, of its coaches.

> The life expectancy for a coaching position with the Alburnett Lady Pirates is fewer than three years. The reason for this letter is because the majority of the Alburnett School Board wouldn't listen to the program's overwhelming support of those most directly involved (the players, fans and parents). Through rumors, prejudice and pressure, they released another good coach, Mona Mossbarger. She was hired less than two years ago.

In spite of an important public meeting at which it was evident the coach had the support of the majority - plus two board meetings attended by most of the team,

terminate our coach.

The board was requested to explain its motives for termination. Board members were unable to satisfy those in attendance. I feel their decision was influenced by innuendos and a personality conflict. The only reason given was the won-lost record. If that is did), does that mean the Mets how they judge a coach, then they should not have gone to the are being extremely unfair. There playoffs? They would go because was no reasonable excuse for of the whole season, not just their actions.

I request the three board members who voted negatively --- Sue Boddicker, Terry Eldred and David Yeoman — submit their resignations. Their concern for the welfare of the student-athlete, and perhaps all students, is too easily swayed by a handful of malcontents.

LINDA GRUBBE Central City, Iowa

### Poor Mr. Knight!

Poor Bobby Knight. Talk about getting the dirty end of the stick. Here is a ballclub picked fifth in the Big Ten by most people at the him. beginning of the season, but instead won the whole thing.

What did they get? A second seed! Well, what did he expect when he lost two games to Illinois, then played his second team against

But, wait a minute. If the Cubs beat the Mets 8 of 12 games last year (which I don't think they because of eight games. And, was seeing things or did I see the Mets, Dodgers, and Oklahoma play some reserves the last few days of the season when they had their division wrapped up!

Do I like Bobby Knight? No. But, he can coach. And, he can get 120 percent out of his players.

Winning the Big Ten does not automatically get you a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. All this did was give Bobby something to tell his kids. I can hear him telling his kids how those dirty so-andsoes stuck one to us, so let's show them! I would hate to bet against

ment or was it overlooked the rest of the year? If it had been detected earlier and Thompson had been warned, perhaps he could have brought the grade average up.

Maybe when fewer contributions start coming, in the university will consider replacing the traitor — namely, the Dean of Students.

Why couldn't Bump Elliott override the decision to suspend? Do they realize the impact the decision had? How about a student protest?

#### VIRGINIA CONNELL Davenport, Iowa

#### **Restraint** applauded

**Congratulations to Coach Davis** and his team, with special regards to the most talented senior class we are ever likely to see at Iowa, not only for a very good season, but for the remarkable restraint they all showed after the heartbreaking loss in double overtime to North Carolina State.

Not even a whisper of "if only they had allowed Ray Thompson to play" was uttered by anyone. Coach Davis has been a class act all the way - ever cheerful and upbeat, with a smile and kind words for everyone - no matter how difficult or unpleasant the situation.

If the smattering of "facts" that

I'm a two-time **Iowa** graduate, and a letterman, and I don't want those diplomas or that ring to be criminal charges have been cheapened by the U of I's athletic brought against various sports program becoming nothing more agents for their duplicity and than a minor league team for the pros.

at the university. While I am totally behind stressing that academics must come first, it appears relatively inconsequential one until the Walters-Bloom trial. If that is the case, then Thompson, the three seniors, Coach Davis and in responsible journalism when it the rest of the team paid far too dear a price. For them to refuse to say so publicly speaks volumes about the high class program Dr. Davis runs.

As a closing thought, it seems a little strange that the topic of retiring Roy Marble's jersey has (apparently) not come up. Marble had over 300 more points than Greg Stokes, whose number was retired, is the only Hawkeye man

was not exactly the model student-athlete in that I was selfcentered, arrogant and immature. Even with my many undesirable sophomoric characteristics, I was not a pawn at this institution. It is my understanding that unethical methods in procuring contracts with athletes. I find this Interestingly enough, I believe form of pandering appalling, and I the record shows that student- hope these people are prosecuted athletes have a higher graduation to the full extent of the law. It rate than the non-athlete students brings me great sorrow to hear this fine institution is being bombarded with allegations of exploitation of black athletes in Ray Thompson's "problem" was a an effort to emancipate the bloodsucking agents.

> With these thoughts in mind, I hope your paper will participate covers the role the University of lowa plays in the development of its student-athletes.

LEVEN C. WEISS Southfield, Mich.

#### Narrow-mindedness

It's time for people to fight against subtle prejudices in our schools.

The Alburnett school athletic program has been in a constant

many parents and some interested community residents — the board, by a vote of 3-2, decided to

GARY BODDICKER Norway, Iowa



# Walters-Bloom trial becomes the hottest ticket in Chicago

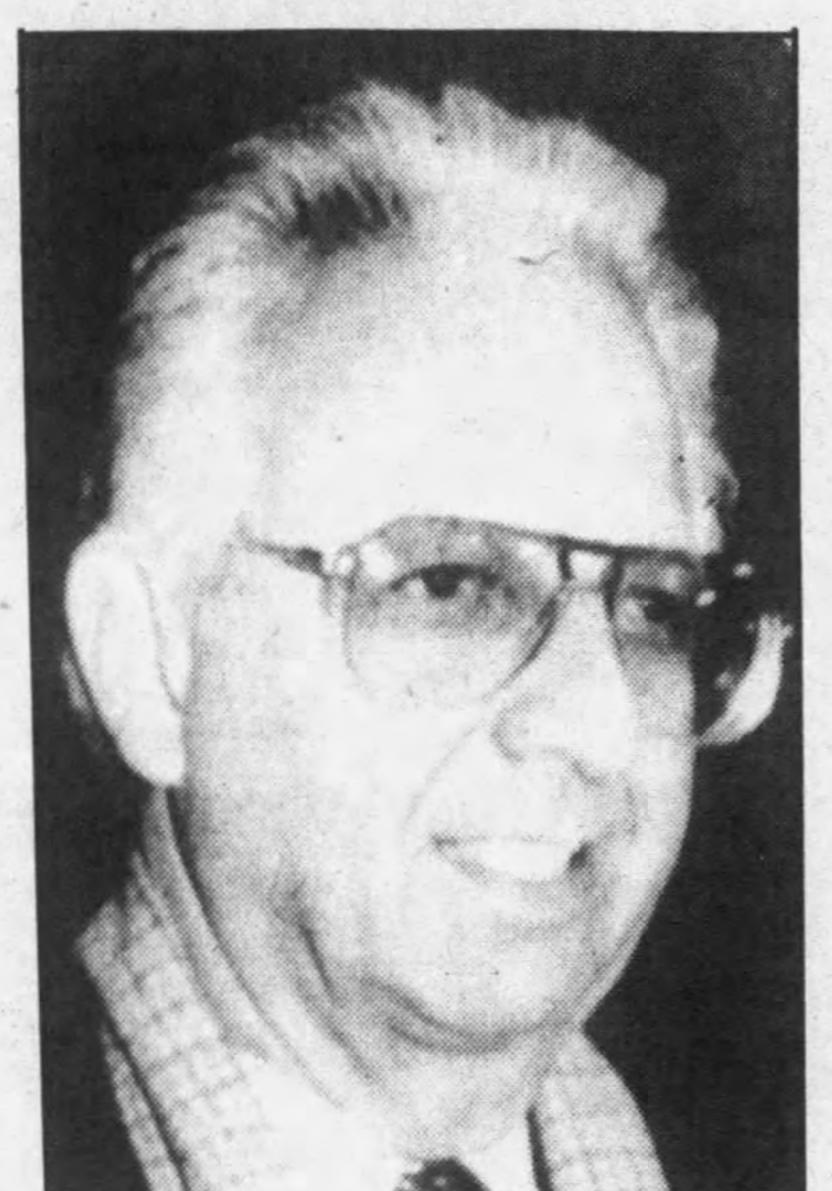
**New York Times** CHICAGO — Until "Les Miserables" opened here this past Saturday, the hottest ticket in town has been the federal trial of the sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, which enters its fourth week on Monday.

Chicago has a sizable core of courthouse devotees - they call themselves the Buffs — and they have been lining up early each morning outside Judge George N. Marovich's courtroom to ensure they will have seats to watch a cast of characters so diverse that even Victor Hugo would have trouble fitting them all into the same novel.

Consider three of the witnesses called by the government during the second week of the trial of Walters and Bloom, who are accused not of stealing a loaf of bread, but of mail fraud and racketeering in connection with their representation of several prominent athletes.

From Los Angeles came Ronald Weisner, manager of such music superstars as Paul McCartney and Steve Winwood. He was followed by Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, Notre Dame president emeritus,

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**Norby Walters** 

when Perryman, now with the New England Patriots, told the jury he had lied when Schembechler asked him if he, too, had signed early with the agents. Perryman explained that he lied

to the man who had recruited him

Bloom felt no obligation to make sure the students abided by National Collegiate Athletic Association regulations prohibiting such agreements.

The obligation of the universities — who have been painted by prosecutors as the victims of the agents' alleged fraud — to their student athletes has also been scrutinized.

In listening to university officials explain how athletes remain eligible to play football despite academic failure, accepting illegal perks from boosters, and felony convictions, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the schools feel their primary obligation is to make sure a student-athlete is an athlete first.

Joseph Marshall, a Temple University faculty athletic representative who is also a professor of law, seemed to sum things up when asked to explain the fact that a former Temple football star, Paul Palmer, failed or withdrew from every course he took his senior year.

Palmer never showed up for his

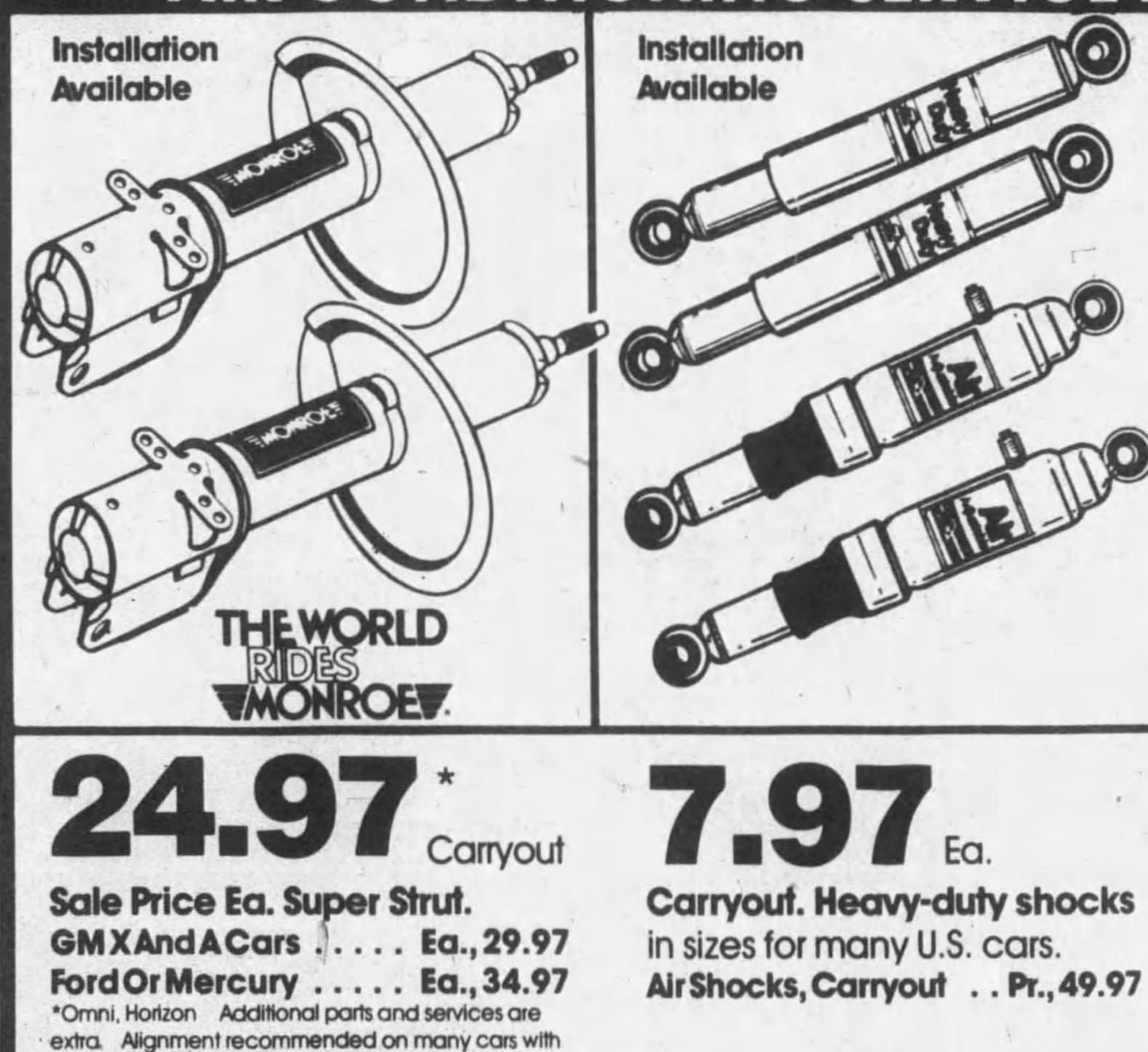
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