

Letters

Rebuttal

To the Editor:

Are we talking about the same thing?

Mr. Hundley compared Mr. Boyer's article on athletes taking drugs to Communism. Mr. Boyer's article can hardly be compared with the methods used by McCarthy in the '50's. Mr. Hundley said the reporting was "a style of which the principle elements were reckless accusations, and careless inaccuracy of statement." I find this statement to be a reckless accusation in itself.

Mr. Hundley contends that Mr. Boyer questioned just three or four members of the football team concerning the team's overall involvement with drugs. Mr. Boyer questioned 19 different athletes on the matter -- not just three or four. Dale McGriff said in his letter to the editor (2-24-77) that "numerous football players approached me very upset with the inaccuracies of the article." How many is "numerous" -- three or four?

I think the main objections to the article are quotes and the figures used. In his letter to the editor, Mr. McGriff said that he was badly misquoted. However, in his reply, he failed to correct the "bad" quote.

Another quote that I think upset Mr. Hundley was this one: "I'd say over 60 to 70 per cent of the players on this year's football

team ate pills before games at one time or another." It says "at one time or another."

I'm sure that most of us have gone a little faster than the speed limit allows at one time or another. Does this mean that we speed all the time? No, of course not.

Mr. Hundley compared Mr. Boyer's article to McCarthy's hunt for Communists. Does that mean the athletes who took pills are Communists? And since you are the coach, does that make you a Communist leader, Mr. Hundley? No, of course not. I don't think any of this could be compared to Communism whatsoever. So, Mr. Hundley, "show a little more class in the future before you go shooting off your mud-slinging pen. . .," before you start comparing football players to Communists.

I do not believe that Mr. Boyer wrote the article as an attack on the athletic program, but rather as investigative reporting. It is always difficult to get facts for stories, especially a story like this. During interviews people may try to hide their involvement with drugs, or they might take the other extreme and say that they themselves take drugs and they know a lot of other people who take them. It is hard to get people to tell the truth in situations like this.

Finally, we look at the quote that says 30 per cent of the basketball players take amphetamines, and we say that's a shame. But we fail to see the other side of the coin -- 70 per cent of the players didn't take amphetamines.

Paul Byers
Freshman - Business

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