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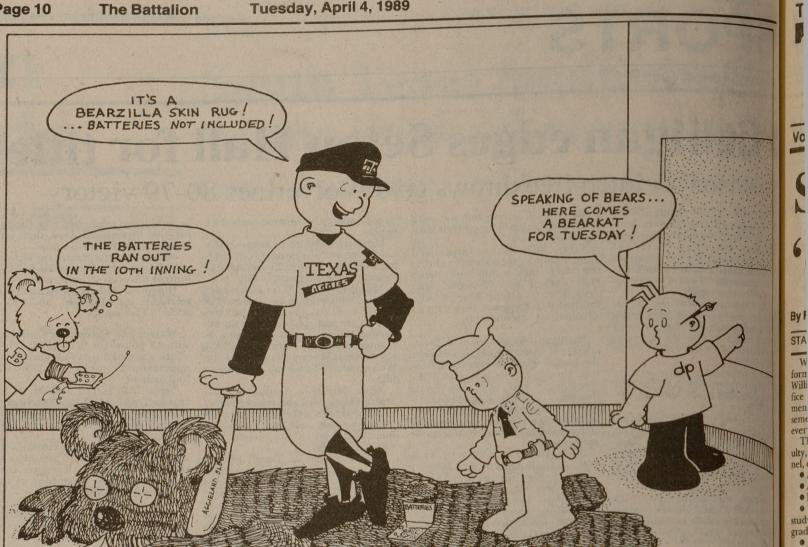
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Page 10 The Battalion



# Survey: top sports colleges lack integrity

widely doubt the integrity of the nation's top sports colleges, believing they commonly give secret payments and inflated grades to student ath-

A majority of respondents in a Media General-Associated Press namedia General-Associated Press national survey also suspected athletic booster clubs of making secret payments to players. And two-thirds said the colleges overemphasize sports and neglect academic standards for athletes.

Seventy-six percent said colleges should not be permitted to pay money to their student athletes. More than 55 percent believed schools and booster clubs commonly make payments under the table.

At the same time, 83 percent favored athletic scholarships. Among blacks, for whom scholarships often provide an escape route from poverty, support reached 92 percent.

The poll, conducted by telephone

among a random sample of 1,108 adults March 6-15, had a three-point

margin of sampling error.

Concern was undiminished among the 54 percent of respondents who called themselves college sports fans. They agreed in solid maorities that sports are overemphasized, academics neglected and improper payments common.

More than eight in 10 favored the provisions of the NCAA's Proposition 42, which would prohibit schools from giving athletic scholarships to freshmen unable to meet the NCAA's academic requirements.

Georgetown coach John Thompson staged a two-game protest strike this winter, arguing that the rule would disproportionately disqualify black athletes. The rule does not go into effect until 1990-91 and Thompson ended his walkout after the NCAA said it would reconsider

But 81 percent of the blacks

More than eight in 10 favored the provisions of the NCAA's Proposition 42, which would prohibit schools from giving athletic scholarships to freshmen unable to meet the NCAA's academic requirements.

- AP survey

polled favored the rule, as high a level of support as among whites. Moreover, eight in 10 of the supporters — blacks and whites alike —

said they would favor the rule even if it could disqualify many blacks and other minority athletes from scholarships Respondents aged 65 and over

were the least supportive of scholarships in general and the least satisfied with academic standards, while the youngest, ages 18-29, were the most supportive. Blacks, similarly, were less critical than whites of Division I programs.

For example, while 77 percent of the oldest respondents said the schools overemphasize sports, that fell to 61 percent of the youngest and 52 percent of blacks. While 39 percent of blacks said academic standards for athletes are high enough, that fell to 30 percent of the young-est group and 18 percent of the old-

All colleges can set their own grade requirements for student athletes, and standards vary. The NCAA has requirements for freshmen at Division I schools that call for

a "C" average in a core of 11 cours and a minimum of 700 on the Scho astic Aptitude Test or a 15 on the American College Test.

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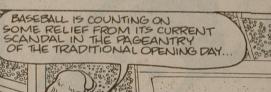
In the poll, nearly three-quarter said a "C" average should be required for a student to play spots and an additional 20 percent fa vored even higher grades

But there was a significant lack of faith in the grading process itse Half the respondents called it or mon practice for professors to g student athletes higher grades the they deserve so they can continue

The poll was conducted by the Al and Media General Inc., a communications company based in Ridmond, Va. It publishes the Ridmond Times-Dispatch, the Richmond News Leader, the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune and the Wissense (Fla.) Tribune and the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal, and operates To stations WXFL in Tampa, WCBD in Charleston, S.C., and WJKS in Jacksonville, Fla.

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

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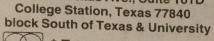
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