

LETTERS

Suspended ND players don't merit sympathy

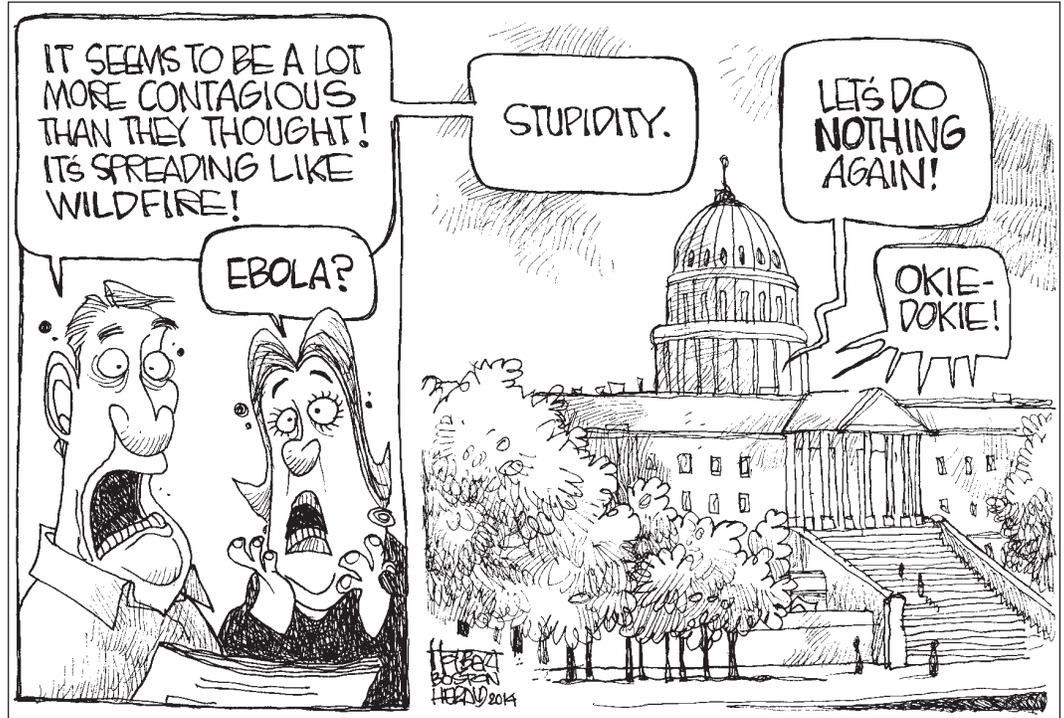
Editor,

It is alarming but so consistent with much of society's unwillingness to call "wrong" what it is, when you read what the Notre Dame football player, who wore a towel bearing the uniform numbers of "five players being withheld from games because of possible academic dishonesty," (Oct. 14 HP) is quoted as saying, "We obviously think it's really unfortunate what happened to them."

What is the "really unfortunate" thing – that they got caught? If the allegation is entirely false, why has it taken so long to make that determination? The coach said of the players who wore the towels on Saturday, "I think they're being good teammates and just recognizing their teammates in that situation."

I agree that student athletes at every level should be supported and encouraged ... to moral and honorable behavior; to face honestly the truth that wrongdoing is wrong and has consequences. It's embedded in the truth of the children's rhyme, paraphrased: "Three little kiddies jumping on the bed; one fell down and bumped his head. Mama called the doctor and the doctor said, 'That's what you get for jumping on the bed.'"

As long as wrongdoing is tolerated, excused or called by any other name than what it is, human nature will want to let it slip by. Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian, in their thoroughly researched book, "The System," write this thought-provoking conclusion in the final paragraph: "The vivid pageantry, collective excellence, communal celebration and fierce competition provided the grand spectacle only NCAA football played at its highest level can deliver. One could almost forget the unremitting pressure, the scandals haunting the sport – the bidding wars for top recruits; the booster payoffs; the horrific injuries; the academic cheating,



the rising tide of criminal acts ... "Almost."

**Gerald Schroer
Stevensville**

Only Democrats can offer change on Nov. 4

Editor,

As a senior citizen, a woman and member of the middle class, I will vote on Nov. 4 for change in the things I care about: protection of Social Security for seniors, equal pay for women and men doing the same work, more funding for education to prepare young people for the evolving job market, same sex marriage as a constitutional right, raising the minimum wage NOW so that in a 40-hour work week, a woman or man can support a family which in turn will help decrease crime, decisions by our leaders based on knowledge and proven scientific facts to protect our environment and justice and transparency in our legal system.

If you care about these same things, I urge you to vote for our Democratic candidates. They are qualified, dedicated and will not disappoint you if given the chance. Unfortunately, our

current elected officials have proven that they are not capable of effecting these changes.

We have a great opportunity now by voting Democratic on Nov. 4. Vote for change.

**Eileen Cropley
Benton Harbor**

Support Tomasini for LMC Board of Trustees

Editor,

We would like to encourage readers to join us in supporting Mary Jo Tomasini in her bid for re-election to the Board of Trustees at Lake Michigan College. In the past six years (her first term on the board) Mary Jo has been an active and enthusiastic participant in the accomplishments the board has brought about. Among those accomplishments are the completion of the new student housing and the new student life center. Mary Jo is also a member of the LMC Winner's Circle Executive Committee, through whose efforts a great deal of money has been raised to support student scholarships.

As a graduate of LMC, Mary Jo is well aware of the benefits of receiving a quality education

right in our own community. From the foundation she received from her time at LMC and with her excellent management and leadership skills, she has built a thriving business here in Southwest Michigan. Her very successful business has been recognized locally, statewide and nationally. Additionally, through the culture that Mary Jo has created within her own company, it has repeatedly been recognized as one of the top employers offering a positive and supportive work environment.

Professionally, Mary Jo is well connected with organizations around the country, which offers her the opportunity to see the types of educational preparation needed for employment in many types of businesses and service organizations. Bringing back this information to LMC leadership is valuable.

Mary Jo is a true LMC evangelist, and it is her personal talents and experience already attained as a board member that make her a perfect choice to be re-elected.

Join us in a vote for Mary Jo Tomasini on Nov. 4.

**Phyllis and Ren Baldwin
St. Joseph**

ANOTHER OPINION