

March 2, 1963

Dr. D. W. Colvard, President
Mississippi State University
State College, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Colvard;

I feel in a rut having to write letters every year at this time. I am very proud of Mississippi State's basketball team but the race mixers never miss a chance to use the success of our team to their advantage. Each year they work harder for our downfall.

I strongly urge you to keep our team from the NCAA games. We are a member of the all white S.E.C. Conference and winning that title is glory enough. I feel that the cheap publicity of going to the NCAA is too high a price for our self-respect and integrity. The ball game will be quickly forgotten but the fact we went will be heard forever. The Northern press and other race mixers will never let the world forget we will mix for a price. If it is the basketball team now, the football team next, then where will it end?

I am sure you know that no person has any respect for a person that has no self-respect. We of Mississippi State cannot keep our self-respect if we fail to stand on the principles taught us and preached by us all our lives.

As a father I must look ahead to the future for my son. I can see where a simple ball game can lead to great danger in the years to come. A small leak now can cause a flood in a few years.

My son has made application to Mississippi State for next fall. I hope and pray that his pride will not be lost on a ball game to satisfy a few kids and an ambitious coach.

I pointed out to McCarthy that he knew the rules when he came to State and if he is not satisfied he is free to leave. After all, basketball is not the real reason for having a fine University. It is a shame that our shining pride in State has to be tarnished each year with this same request by mixers, players and the coach.

In closing, I say again, winning ball games is no substitute for racial integrity and self-respect.

Sincerely yours,

Luther T. Newman

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P.S. I am an Alumnus of State and hope always to be proud of it.

*Rt 1, Box 45
Natchez, Miss.*