

Editorial

IT TAKES A VILLAGE ...

For those of you who don't read New York papers, I commend to you a recent *New York Post* article: [The horrid truths we gladly let slide about these NCAA 'heroes'](#). The article begins, "It takes a village to make an idiot." The idiot(s) referred to are college football players. The village is made up of the administrators, faculty, coaches and boosters who enable them. Among the stories recounted in the article:

Of Ohio State quarterback Cardale Jones, [Todd] Blackledge [ESPN broadcaster] told us that after high school, he attended Fork Union (Va.) Military Academy, where he gained maturity, discipline, improved his academics and, of course, played football.

Those who knew better know Fork Union as a finishing school for Division I prospects in dire need of finishing.

Thousands of viewers surely knew Jones, already at Ohio State, for his tweet: "Why should we have to go to class if we came here to play FOOTBALL, we ain't come to play SCHOOL classes are POINTLESS."

To that end, Blackledge should have praised Jones for his unfiltered honesty.

But the bigger the game, the greater the compromise. No college team plays in either Final Four without academic, social and financial fraud. So why not our compliance?ge

It takes a village to make an idiot.

As we are [well aware](#), "academic, social and financial fraud" has become an [increasingly](#) troubling [issue](#) in college sports. [University of North Carolina Chapel Hill](#) has acknowledged its role in creating paper classes which allowed so-called student athletes to maintain academic standing, without attending class or performing normal

student functions, so that they could play football. It's just what Cardale Jones said, "Why should we have to go to class if we came here to play FOOTBALL, we ain't come to play SCHOOL classes are POINTLESS."

More recently Southern Miss faces claims of a violation associated with its own "academically challenged" Prop 48 basketball players. According to the [Bleacher Report](#), the NCAA has announced that Southern Miss is under investigation for "... how tuition, living expenses and other fees were paid for "Prop 48" recruits who signed with the Golden Eagles but were academically ineligible out of high school or junior college."

Significantly, Southern Miss hired Donnie Tyndall to coach its basketball team after he "was slapped with two years' worth of probation in addition to sanctions in August of 2010 as the head coach at Morehead State after the [NCAA determined, among other infractions, that a booster had offered to pay one prospective student-athlete's tuition.](#)"

Sources continue to tell usmnews.net that while Southern Miss dreams of athletic relevance while wasting tens of millions of dollars every year, this infraction is likely only the tip of an iceberg of USM violations of NCAA. Many believe this scandal has the potential to dwarf the University of North Carolina academic scandal. Are USM's athletes "masquerading as students" while others write papers, take exams and they are steered to "no-show" classes." Is President Bennett playing a role in the Southern Miss village that recruits and retains, by any means necessary, students who are not academically qualified?