

Esquire
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Dear Phog:

Your letter would have made a dandy article for us of itself if it had come in sooner. The trouble is we're making up April now and are out of basketball, which we covered very weakly this year for lack of material. However I am trying to get Mr. Gingrich to run part of it in his *Sound and Fury*. You have the only good live basketball controversy that I know of now. Perhaps you noted in our poll that the public was for your idea.

We are still trying to put up the old battle on the sporting front here, and sometimes it seems to go good and other times bad. There are a lot of angles to the thing that aren't always apparent, and some that are clear enough are inexplicable.

I think it is healthy, however, generally speaking for new ideas to be bobbing up in sports. Out of them come improvements. Basketball was saved by the 3 and 10-second rules, and improved as a show by dropping the center jump. There's no reason why it shouldn't continue to improve. Football and baseball aren't the same games they were 20 years ago, and they're better. I wonder how it's going to be after the war. If we don't blow up economically, sports should boom with the returning vets, I believe.

Thanks a lot for all the good ideas expressed in your letter, and I'm hoping Gingrich will find a place to present them to the public.

Cordially,

Ralph

P.S. You might tell Dr. Swarthout when you see him that I ran across Prof. Seldomridge at a football dinner the other night. He was school speech man when we were at Millikan.