

ON BEING TASCO'D

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

"If the person smiles then I feel I've done my job." That's the philosophy of a Livonia resident who earns his living drawing caricatures. He's Irving Tasco of 19888 Weyher, Livonia. Tasco also maintains an office in Redford Township. Tasco's drawings have taken him throughout the country, and six months of the year he's based in Miami Beach, Fla.

TASCO RECENTLY SET UP shop during an art show at a shopping center and quickly drew a crowd of customers. That's usual, according to the artist.

The crowds are so common that Tasco's traveling exhibit includes a wrought iron, waist-high fence. "If I didn't have this, I wouldn't be able to draw," he says.

In the exhibit are framed caricatures he has done of political, show business and sports personalities. He says that he can set up the entire stand in "about 45 minutes."

Tasco holds the contract for caricatures of all the professional football and basketball players in the major leagues. Those pictures of the Tigers that were so popular last season are his work.

CARICATURE IS AN ART form that usually brings to mind political or social satire. The stories about the editorial cartoonists and their battles with the politicians are well known.



IRVING TASCO'S BOOTH features his display of the caricatures of the Tigers as well as Jackie Gleason and Don Rickles. He's caricaturing our entertainment editor, Sue Shaughnessy, in this shot.

There's a difference between the Herblock-type of caricature and Tasco's work. That goes back to the basic motive of the artist. A political cartoonist is often translating his anger or his impression of a current event or person onto paper. He often seeks action.

Tasco, on the other hand, wants people to smile. His drawings are humorous rather than angry.

How does he do it?

"My conception of a caricature is an exaggerated portrait," he says. "I pick out some outstanding feature of the person and work on that."

Tasco adds that "25 years of experience have taught me so that I can tell if a person is sensitive about some characteristic, and then I don't use it."

HE MUST BE RIGHT because he says that he has never had a customer refuse to buy the finished product.

"They might go home and tear it up, but I've never had anybody refuse to buy the picture or be angry about what I've drawn to my face," he concludes.

Tasco can complete a picture in about five minutes. While drawing, he chats with the subject to put him at ease and also to learn about his hobbies. He uses this information to picture the person engaged in his favorite hobby.

The artist operated an advertising agency and worked for a newspaper before he decided to spend his life "trying to make people laugh."

It's a happy thought that he's successful in his profession.



THE YOUNG AND not so young gather to watch Tasco at work. The young man here was watching while his kid sister was drawn. He eventually sat for the artist too. (Observer photo)



COMPARE THE REAL Sue Shaughnessy to the caricature in the other photo. (Observer photo)

Should We Curtail Prep Sports?

By W. W. EDGAR

Sitting high up in the University of Michigan stadium watching the men working in the bright summer sun preparing the surface for the installation of the new synthetic turf, Fritz Crisler, the retired athletic director who played a leading role in placing intercollegiate athletics on its present high plane of competition, confided that he is greatly concerned over the future of varsity competition.

As he sat there contemplating what is happening because of the various trends around the country he confided that the day may come when the larger universities may have both a professional and amateur sports program and that amateur sports in general may be allowed to grow in a haphazard fashion that could be a detriment.

Noting that the national trend of curtailing or eliminating the athletic program on the high school level, such as has happened in Plymouth when bond issues are defeated, he shook his head rather mournfully.

"This is a mistake—a serious mistake—" he said. "It might be better to curtail other activities and recognize the fact that athletics is our last bastion for self discipline. The young lads of today will accept discipline in sports and learn to work and play together."

"Don't misunderstand me," he cautioned, "I have no fear that athletics will fade out of the picture. We always will have games and athletic competition. The youngsters will find ways to engage in games. But what I do fear is the loss of supervision for an emotional outlet. And, you know, athletics, for the most part, are built on emotion."

THE FORMER Wolverine chief emphasized that in losing supervision a great deal would be lost. He claimed that the young people would grow up without regard for rules or laws because they never had been exposed to taking orders or fitting themselves into a program.

Crisler winced when he thought of what could happen. "Usually, when sports are dropped on the high school level," he said, "parents become a bit indignant. In some cases they want to underwrite the program. And that could be bad, too, because that would lead to a desire to participate in the administration."

He further pointed out that few, if any, schools ever dropped sports permanently.

"Even over at my old Alma Mater," he said, "the University of Chicago, football was dropped some years ago. But it is coming back this season. It may be in a small way—but it is coming back."

Scanning the sea of empty seats in the mammoth stadium where he rose to the heights as a coach and athletic director, he finally arose and turned toward the big new Special Events Building that is his pride and joy.

In a few moments he was seated in the quiet lounge of the \$7.5 million structure that is the culmination of his dreams.

AND SITTING THERE, he literally poured out his soul in discussing the prob-



FRITZ CRISLER contemplates the future of college athletics. (Observer photo)

lems he sees coming over the sports horizon.

Speaking with the calm precision of a master surgeon he said, "Our first real need is to somehow eliminate the heritage of the killer instinct. I don't mean that we should discourage the keen desire to win. That is most necessary in sport."

"But down through the years we have been engaging in wars and teaching the youth of our land to murder. We have been instilling the real killer instinct."

"With that cast aside we can go on and do the kind of a job that should be done in college sports, provided—"

Here he hesitated a bit and, reviewing his entire career from his playing days up through his coaching career and his tenure as an athletic director, he went on:

"In our present setup, things are out of balance and we've got to make some changes. Somehow, football must be relieved of carrying the entire load for a sports program."

"Things are getting costlier all around and the competition for talent is reaching a financial point where the schools will be bidding themselves out of business with their costly aid-to-athletes program."

HE REVEALED that this aid program—the last time he checked—reached the \$17 million mark across the country and that a half million of that sum had been spent at the University of Michigan.

"I am not opposed to aid to athletes," he

stated very emphatically. "If a young fellow needs financial help along the line, I think he should have it. But I am opposed to buying talent—and that's just what the recruiting programs are these days."

"If it keeps on at this rate," he continued, "you'll find that emphasis will be limited to football and basketball, and the other sports will be asked to get along as best they can. In other words, we will have a professional sports program and an amateur card at our top schools."

"I have no quarrel with pro football. There is room for both of us—but I don't think this recruiting in the universities and colleges should get to the point where we'd have pro teams."

Asked what he thought the solution would be, Fritz smiled and answered, "Take a look at the records before recruiting became so dominant. We were winning just as many games as we are now. And we were winning just as many 'key' games as we are now. So, really, nothing has changed except that recruiting has become too much of an activity."

HE EMPHASIZED that there were three points worth considering. First, football is carrying the entire load for college sports and should be relieved of much of the burden. It is too much to ask the boys on the team to take all that responsibility.

Secondly, recruiting has become too vicious, and he pointed out that it was disturbing what this is doing to the athletes. He called attention to the price some of these lads place on their services when they leave school.

And third, Fritz continued, is the fact that the aid program in many cases is no longer limited to needy athletes. It is giving the athletes the full ride.

He hinted that if and when the schools take over some of the financial burden for the sports program and when officials realize that all the aid spent in "buying talent" hasn't done much to change the records, things will get back to normal.

"Coaching isn't fun anymore," he sighed. "Not under prevailing conditions."

PEERING AROUND the palatial lounge he asked, "Do you know what I think caused it? It was the Russian Sputnik. When the Russians got the jump on us in the space program we rushed into research in an effort to catch up."

"New priorities were set and emphasis was turned to research. Our top professors got away from teaching, leaving the job to Fellows and graduate students working on degrees."

"The emphasis was placed on winning and prestige."

"That's what causes me to look upon the future of our athletic policy with great concern. There is no way of telling just where it is going with the present trends."

As he concluded, Fritz stood outside the Special Events Building, close by the mammoth stadium, and smiled the smile of a man who was proud of his achievements but wished that conditions were returned to normal as he knew them.

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