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## BOOK BRIEFS

**The Myth of Black Progress**, By Alphonso Pinkney. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1984. Pp. xi, 179. \$17.95

Listening to popular reports that have come out in recent years about the successes and accomplishments of Black Americans, one may get the impression that the racial problem in America has been resolved and that equality of opportunity is finally at hand. Taking the analysis one step further, conservatives and the New Right are now calling for an end to government assistance, affirmative action programs, open admissions policies, and other efforts that have been designed to counteract the effects of racism in America. These reports that "all is well" are dangerously false, according to Alphonso Pinkney. He is concerned that conservatives will use these falsities to dismantle civil rights gains and social programs that have been developed over the past three decades. In his recent book, *The Myth of Black Progress*, Pinkney asserts that available evidence directly contradicts any ideas that Blacks are substantially better off now than they have been in the past.

Pinkney presents a clear and concise analysis of the many studies and statistical data available which compare the status of Blacks and whites in the areas of income, employment, housing, occupation, education, lifestyle, and crime. Throughout the analysis he presents the argument that race (as opposed to economic class) has been and continues to be the dominant factor in determining both the opportunities and quality of life available to Black Americans. The author also points out that racism is much less pronounced and less vocal than it has been in the recent past, but that it remains an ever-present part of American life.

The book begins by providing a historical view of civil rights legislation over the past thirty years. Beginning with *Brown v. Board of Education*,<sup>1</sup> Black Americans had reason to hope that they would finally be free from oppression and that the ensuing legislation of the sixties would allow them to fully participate in American society. Yet, over a relatively short time span the national mood has shifted radically to the right and Black people have found themselves with fewer allies, and virtually no public support for Black progress. There were many reasons for this erosion of support. One reason was the constant barrage of negative and misleading reports of social scientists regarding the inferiority of Black people and the weakness of the Black family. As early as 1965, reports like of Daniel Moynihan's attempted to blame Blacks for the problems heaped upon them by a racist society.<sup>2</sup> Although these reports negatively influenced public opinion concerning Black people, they are not the only cause of the erosion of support.

A well-written chapter by Walter Stafford describes the process of economic decline and the rise of the new conservatism which has negatively affected Black Americans. During the 1970's, America faced a faltering

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1. 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

2. OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING AND RESEARCH, DEPT. OF LABOR, *THE NEGRO FAMILY: THE CASE FOR NATIONAL ACTION* (1965).

economy due to several factors, such as the OPEC oil embargo, and the need to fund the tremendous debt which resulted from the Vietnam War. This faltering economy led to a battle over scarce resources among groups that had once been traditional allies. These allies could no longer form coalitions and instead splintered into powerful single-issue groups. The new emphasis on economic resources placed many former liberal white allies of Blacks into direct conflict with them. In addition, the lack of confidence in government institutions that arose after Watergate, the new debate over morals, values, and sociopolitical rights has led to an era wherein the issues are much more complex than ever before. As a result, it has become much more difficult to analyze issues in terms of race alone.

Stafford points out that the events of the seventies gave rise to three types of conservatives that have manifested themselves in the eighties. These are the New Right, the Religious Right, and the Neo-Conservatives. The Neo-Conservatives provide the intellectual foundation for the other conservatives. These individuals saw the struggle over racial equality as a major class struggle and a social force being propelled by liberal intellectuals. Thus, equality took on a dangerous significance for them because it threatened to promote changes in every aspect of American life. Stafford sees the Religious Right primarily characterized as providing simplistic emotional solutions to complex problems. However, they are an important ally of the other conservatives and provide a base of support and funding. The New Right represents young white male politicians who borrowed single issue politics from the liberals. This group, through the use of PACs (Political Action Committees) is characterized by its attempts to use its influence to oust Black politicians and progressive liberal white politicians from office throughout the United States.

The rise of these three types of conservatives should not be overlooked by Black people, as these groups are extremely dangerous to the interests of Blacks. In particular, the groups seem to follow several well-thought-out strategies: (a) they use the media extensively and usually ignore Black issues; (b) they imply that family instability, and other problems faced by Blacks are caused by Blacks, rather than by decades of neglect and abuse; (c) they are adamantly opposed to social programs and affirmative action as a remedy to past discrimination; (d) they address their appeals to different economic classes of whites, but their basic message is the same.

Attempts to counter the efforts of the new conservatives have had little success. The traditional civil rights and social service organizations have attacked the Reagan Administration's policies, but they have not mounted strong challenges to the new ideologies espoused by the conservatives. But available evidence indicates that the nation has not turned conservative. Thus the challenge facing the traditional Black leadership is to arrive at alternative solutions for the demands for social, political, and economic change.

Pinkney spends some time analyzing the question of class versus race in America. As he aptly points out, Black Americans are subject to both racial oppression and economic exploitation. It is quite difficult—and perhaps pointless—to attempt to figure out which factor is dominant in impacting Black people. However, the author discusses several other authors, including Marx and Engels, and ultimately comes to the conclusion that race is by far the most significant factor that influences the oppression of Blacks in America.

Prejudiced attitudes that white people hold toward Blacks have declined significantly according to recent studies by such well-respected polling organizations as Louis Harris and Associates. However, Pinkney distinguishes prejudicial attitudes from discrimination and segregation. Thus, while outwardly expressed attitudes have moderated, discriminatory behavior still abounds. It is the behavior that negatively affects Black Americans, not the attitudes. The author then gives several examples of the prevalence of oppressive behavior by whites against Blacks. These examples include Klan activity in the South and in the military, housing discrimination in the northern states, police murders of Black people, and employment discrimination. Regardless of the economic status of a Black person, he or she is still subject to discrimination based upon skin color. In addition, the author points to the institutionalized nature of racism which allows the oppression to continue, while the accompanying individual attitudes are seemingly abolished.

The Black middle class has been the subject of much debate over the years. The controversy has two components. The first is the question of just what percentage of the Black population is considered to be middle class. The author compares studies which measure the relative economic status of Blacks by a variety of techniques. Some of these studies claim that a majority of Black Americans are now "middle class" while others state a substantially lower amount. Pinkney comes to the conclusion that approximately twenty to twenty-five percent of Black Americans can be considered middle class, if traditional standards are used. The second question is whether successful middle class Blacks have abandoned their less fortunate brothers and sisters, or even worse, have they become exploiters of the Black community? According to the author, the friction between the Black middle class and the Black lower class is overstated by the popular media. Black people are the subject of abuse in employment, housing and other areas because of the color of their skin, regardless of their economic standing. Thus the middle class has as much incentive to fight these problems as does the Black lower class. In addition, Black professionals have always been involved with traditional civil rights organizations in the struggle for equality. Pinkney does admit that there is a tendency of some middle class Blacks to isolate themselves from the Black masses, but he points out that this phenomenon is simply a manifestation of the "me generation" mentality that is also present in the larger society.

The author has provided a very concise and well-documented analysis of the plight of Black Americans and provides an effective counter to the conservative reports that there is no longer a racial problem in America. The book discusses virtually all aspects of the major issues of concern to Black people: employment, housing, education, affirmative action, police abuse, the judicial system, and politics. I recommend this book to anyone interested in these topics. However, one area of concern exists. This book, like many others, fails to offer *solutions* to the problems that Blacks face. Black leaders, including authors, should use their knowledge of the causes and history of our problems to face the challenge of finding new and innovative solutions that Black people can implement themselves to deliver ultimate liberation.

GEORGE H. BROWN

**Minority Report: What Has Happened To Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, And Other Minorities In The Eighties.** Edited By Leslie W. Dunbar. New York: Pantheon Books. 1984. Pp. xvii, 221. \$8.95

*Minority Report* is a compilation of seven essays written by various authors. This book is not a historical review of the experiences of Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians and other minorities, but rather an assessment of the current status of minorities. It concentrates on the realistic opportunities afforded racial minorities in today's American society. The first three essays focus on the extent of minority participation in political, economic, and educational systems. The essays which follow discuss some of the most destructive and persistent problems facing contemporary American society: urban poverty; rural poverty and the nexus between crime and the administration of criminal law. The book ends with a look toward the future and offers some possible solutions to the problems examined.

The first essay is written by Charles V. Hamilton and is entitled *Political Access, Minority Participation and the New Normalcy*. The focus of the essay is on the opportunities for, and limitations on, political participation of racial minorities beyond the act of periodically voting for candidates. The author begins by noting that there has been an American preference for minimal government that predates the current conservative mood. Although there have been some liberal reforms throughout American history, especially during times of economic crisis, the ethic of minimal government has basically remained intact. It is against this backdrop that today's racial minorities must work.

Hamilton compares present Black and Hispanic politicization with that of other ethnic groups in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Earlier ethnic groups arrived in America at a time of great industrial expansion and high demand for unskilled labor. These groups were mobilized into political machines, and votes were exchanged for favors. A mutually beneficial relationship was established, and ethnic groups were politicized in positive ways that led them to respect "politics." In contrast, Blacks and Hispanics have been alienated from the political system and politicized in a negative way. Much of their time and energy has been spent merely attempting to establish their claim to political citizenship. Although substantial gains have been made as far as voting and minority political representation are concerned, these gains are threatened by voting power dilution tactics such as: at-large elections, multi-member districts, and annexation.

Hamilton concludes that the needs of the newly politicized minorities are primarily economic; and vigorous governmental intervention in the economy is therefore necessary to satisfy those needs.

The second essay is entitled *Access to Economic Opportunity: Lessons Since Brown*, and written by William C. Taylor. Taylor suggests in his essay that all Supreme Court decisions and policies, since 1954, regarding race, are in essence applications of that year's ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.<sup>1</sup>

The essay begins by noting that the post-*Brown* era has brought genuine access to opportunity to large numbers of Black people. This civil rights

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1. 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

revolution was accentuated by affirmative action policies aimed at increasing minority participation in higher education and employment, and "Great Society" programs designed to upgrade the educational and job skills of the poor, especially minorities. These policies and programs have suffered the most under the Reagan Administration.

Although a significant segment of the Black population has made progress in the post-*Brown* era, a greater number find their situation unchanged or even worsened. Taylor believes that the reason for this is that policies focused on the amelioration of poverty are usually ineffective if they do not recognize the combined effects of racism and deprivation. Taylor offers solutions to the problem. He suggests that rather than investing in piecemeal workfare programs and short-term government efforts to help disadvantaged people acquire skills inadequate to serve present or future needs, there should be a social contract between the federal government, business, unions, and public school systems. Under this agreement, the business community would establish closer relationships with public school systems, point out their manpower needs, help to shape the educational curriculum to meet those needs, and motivate young people to fulfill those needs.

Understandably, Taylor also believes that policies and programs designed to provide access to opportunity for the poor require a larger share of the nation's wealth to be used to meet public needs. Finally, Taylor recommends an integration policy which would permit minorities to escape racial isolation before they have become affluent.

*Affirmative Action*, by Herman Schwartz, is the third essay. Schwartz begins by attacking the Reagan Administration and its assault on affirmative action, civil rights, and social programs. He states further, that since 1964, every administration has contributed in some way to exorcise the existence and effects of racism and sexism in our society. The Reagan Administration has broken with this tradition. In addition, it is unfathomable that any administration would actually believe that high unemployment, poverty, and infant mortality rates can actually be solved without some sort of affirmative action. However, the Reagan Administration asserts that it believes that a race- and gender-neutral society is possible against a background of segregation, racism, and sexism.

Schwartz then offers an eloquent defense of affirmative action and its undeniable successes. He acknowledges the fact that affirmative action has not always been completely effective, but he asserts that the positive aspects and the potential for even greater success outweigh any of its flaws.

The author concludes by suggesting that the sudden demand for color neutrality by the Reagan Administration is based upon a malicious agenda to prevent minorities from ever becoming truly equal.

*The Urban Underclass* is the title of the fourth essay, and it is written by William Julius Wilson. The author defines the urban underclass as a heterogeneous grouping of inner-city families and individuals who are outside the mainstream of the American occupational system. Included in this definition are persons who lack the training and skills to be gainfully employed, and who therefore either experience long-term unemployment or have dropped out of the labor force altogether.

The urban underclass has been plagued with the persistent problems of

joblessness and the related problems of crime, illegitimate births, single-parent homes, and welfare dependency. Thus far, these problems have been resistant to the usual policies and programs designed to combat them. Wilson argues that the usual policies cannot and will not work to alleviate the problems of the urban underclass. He reasons that these programs and policies focus on racism as the problem when the real problems are the shifting base of the American economy, from goods-manufacturing to service-producing industries, and changes in the urban minority age structure which result in population changes in the central city. As a result, the urban underclass has not benefited from race-specific policy programs such as affirmative action.

According to Wilson, the problems of the urban underclass require public policies that benefit all the poor, not just the minority poor. These policies will need to generate full employment, create effective welfare reform, and develop sustained and balanced urban economic growth.

Wilson ends the essay with the ominous assessment that unless there is a change in policy focus, there is little hope for the urban underclass.

The fifth essay is entitled, *Equal Protection, Unequal Justice*, by Diana R. Gordon. The basic theme of the essay is that minorities have been unable to receive even-handed justice in the United States.

Gordon states that there are certain contradictions in America which produce a tension between aspirations to equal protection and the reality of unequal justice. While the democratic principles of America purport that justice is an even-handed dispenser of protection and punishment, equal in process and effect; we live in a society with a tendency for official social control policies and mechanisms that reflect the underlying inequities of our society.

In great historical detail, the author traces the origins of the tension, its current patterns and possible future resolutions. Gordon suggests that there is a difference between equal protection and equal justice, and although we seem to have a dispassionate criminal justice process, the outcomes still reflect and reinforce inequalities in the larger society.

The author concludes that as long as we limit our standards of justice to the ideal of equal protection under the law, we have probably reached the limits of possible progress. She argues that a truly fair and effective system of police, courts, and correctional facilities depends on a kind of social commitment that must primarily be realized outside the administration of justice.

*Land and National Resources* is the title of the sixth essay, written by Vine DeLoria, Jr. This essay examines the plight of rural minorities who formerly owned and worked the land, but are now being rapidly displaced as large corporations purchase their land.

The author examines the rural roots of the nation's principal racial minorities—Blacks, Mexican-Americans, Indians, and Asians. They all share a common history which may be summarized in this way: all began their American experience as agrarian workers in the service of others; technology reduced the need for labor, and the land has become valuable for nonagricultural reasons; all were displaced by political and economic forces and were transformed from rural to urban poor.

The racial minorities in rural areas share a legacy of poverty and deprivation. This situation has resulted in a rising number of single-parent households, individuals on welfare or other subsistence programs, a rapidly

declining land base, and a lack of vocational and employment skills that would enable members to succeed in other settings. According to the author, these problems are resistant to traditional assistance programs because of institutional and cultural barriers. Traditional assistance programs assume that all people respond to the same motivations or embrace similar values, but rural groups have long been isolated from the values and institutions of mainstream America.

DeLoria suggests that changes in law and the administration of programs, in a way that is responsive to the special needs of their community, would do much to relieve the problems of rural minorities.

The final essay is entitled, *Government For All The People*, by Leslie W. Dunbar. Dunbar is successful in distilling the themes of all the essays into one theme: that the primary minority problem facing American government and society today is economic deprivation. He suggests that the problems of racial minorities can best be solved by the traditional American means of vesting in individuals the rights necessary to fulfill their needs and to provide them equality of opportunity. Dunbar correctly believes that in the future the United States will be forced to share its wealth not only with its own poor, but also with the impoverished of the world.

This book is a comprehensive, well-written report on the status of minorities in the eighties. It is an important contribution to Black studies literature. Lawyers, current event enthusiasts, students, scholars, and historians, as well as the general public, will enjoy this book. As expected there is some overlap in the essays and the reader must adjust to seven different writing styles, but these distractions are minor. This writer highly recommends *Minority Report*.

STANLEY EDWARD GERMANY



**Torts and Sports: Legal Liability in Professional and Amateur Athletics**, By Raymond Yasser. Westport: Greenwood Press. 1985. Pp. xii, 163.

The demise of the National Football League (NFL) looms on the horizon. Why? Because successful tort claims against football helmet manufacturers threaten to force the NFL out of business. This “frightening” proclamation is only one of many interesting ideas which Raymond Yasser discusses in *Torts and Sports*. Yasser’s book is specifically directed at attorneys involved in liability cases stemming from player-participation in professional and amateur sports. *Torts and Sports* covers the gamut of legal claims arising from various sports, including the most publicized cases. Yasser utilizes both his legal skills and sports-enthusiast viewpoint to present the material in a manner which is both enlightening and interesting.

The first legal problem which Yasser delves into is the potential tort liability of sports participants resulting from playing-field interaction. Participation in sports includes substantial risks of physical harm. While most injuries are considered “part of the game,” a select few lie outside this liability-free zone. In general, an athletic participant who is injured by another participant can bring suit based on three theories: intentional tort, negligence, and recklessness. While intentional tort and recklessness claims enjoy a high rate of success, negligence claims are less successful. The main obstacle to these negligence claims is the assumption of risk defense. Courts are unwilling to find liability in cases in which a sports participant is believed to assume the risks created by the negligence of a co-participant. Proving that the injury was intentional or due to recklessness can overcome the assumption of risk defense because courts are willing to protect players from other players with unsportsmanlike motivations. The law does not condone the behavior of those who use sports to carry out personal vendettas.

The sports employer is not exonerated from intentional or recklessness tort claims. Yasser points out that the modern court view holds an employer vicariously liable if the intentional or reckless tort is regarded as within the scope of a participant’s employment. Moreover, there is a newly emerging cause of action which holds an employer liable if he created an atmosphere which encouraged violence, and/or condoned tortious conduct. Despite the presumed higher probability of success of intentional or recklessness tort claims, Yasser suggests pleading a negligence cause of action because the ground rules in the former cases are not clear, and a persuasive argument in the latter case could be successful. Yasser’s best advice to a lawyer representing an injured sports participant is to plead all three aforementioned causes of action.

*Torts and Sports* focuses on the spectator as the injured individual in Chapter Two. Yasser covers a wide range of sports in which spectators are injured, including hockey, auto racing, golf, and wrestling. Despite this broad range, baseball leads all sports in the number of reported cases of spectators injury. The most frequent fact situation involves a fan who is hit by a ball that has left the playing field. Because it is impossible to completely protect fans from foul balls, home runs, and errant throws, without significantly altering the presentation of the game, courts deny recovery in such instances; this result is supported by the theory that a spectator assumes the risk of sitting in an

unprotected seat. In general, a spectator assumes the risks inherent in attending a sporting event and the owner of the sports facility is bound to use *reasonable care* in constructing and maintaining such facilities. In Chapter Three, Yasser discusses a cause of action which has, arguably, reached destructive heights in its frequency of occurrence: medical malpractice in athletics.

While the existence of medical malpractice lawsuits in sports seems conclusive, several issues remain unresolved. Although generally the reasonableness of medical care is based on the minimum skills of doctors in the locality in which the care is provided, the modern trend is to consider such as only one factor in the determination. Other factors to be considered are the unique skills of the doctor and the patient's knowledge of all potential consequences prior to consenting to treatment. Despite these factors, the duty of the doctor to the team and to the player is the critical factor in resolving a medical malpractice cause of action. Most often, the team doctor is in an unenviable position when a star player is injured. The doctor must balance the interests of the coaches with those of the player. In most cases, these are not one and the same. In some cases, the doctor's dilemma is particularly tough because the injured player wants to play so badly that he fails to admit the extent of his injury. The pressure to "activate" a player is especially acute when his salary is very high. Because of the doctor's status as a "team doctor," the issue of vicarious liability often arises in medical malpractice suits brought by an injured player. Resolution of this issue is based on whether the doctor is or is not an independent contractor or an employee of the team. Most often, absent a showing that a doctor is literally on the staff of the team, he is considered an independent contractor. Therefore, the team is relieved of any liability for the doctor's medical malpractice. Chapter Four explores another aspect of tort in sports: products liability for defective athletic equipment.

Given the increasing number of successful products liability judgments against football helmet manufacturers, and the resulting increased costs for the consumer, it is not preposterous to predict the demise of professional football. Most product defects involve design, marketing, or manufacturing flaws. In general, a person injured by an allegedly defective, commercially supplied product can file a suit based upon negligence, breach of implied warranty, breach of an express warranty, or strict liability in tort. The defendant can counter with contributory negligence, assumption of risk, and intervening acts of negligence as affirmative defenses. Under the theory of implied warranty, the Uniform Commercial Code avers that a warranty of merchantability accompanies the sale of goods by a merchant; but the assumption of risk and misuse of product defenses can defeat a claim based upon a breach of this warranty. It is of key importance that this warranty only extends the liability of the seller to the buyer, members of the buyer's family, and guests in the buyer's home. This protects the seller against unlimited liability. In suits involving a breach of an express warranty, the injured person must show a misrepresentation of material fact regarding the nature and quality of the product which causes the injury. Under the Uniform Commercial Code, the injured person need not have relied on the express warranty and the seller's liability is restricted to a specific class of persons. Under the Restatement (Second) of Torts, a seller is liable for injury to *anyone* who relied on the misrepresenta-

tion.<sup>1</sup> In a suit involving strict liability in tort, a seller is liable if he sells a defective product which is unreasonably dangerous to the user or consumer. This condition is determined by what a reasonable consumer would expect. When compared to contributory negligence and assumption of risk, the defense of intervening acts of negligence is relatively unused. Under a theory of intervening acts of negligence, the general rule is that such acts do not supersede the liability of the seller unless they are extremely negligent.<sup>2</sup> Defamation and the invasion of privacy are torts which have become more numerous in sports in recent years, and this is the topic of Yasser's discussion in Chapter Five.

The tort of defamation is essentially one of strict liability in which the only requirement is a false statement that injures a person's reputation. Libel, written or printed defamation, and slander, oral defamation, are the two forms of this tort. A libelous statement which is defamatory in itself is actionable *per se* while a libelous statement which is defamatory in light of extrinsic facts is actionable *per quod*. The phrase "actionable *per quod*" means that there is no presumption of general damage to reputation; therefore, the plaintiff has the burden of proving special damages.<sup>3</sup> The success of a defamation suit may depend on whether the allegedly injured person is considered a "public" or "private" figure.<sup>4</sup> Proving defamation of a "public" figure is more difficult than proving defamation of a "private" figure, and in most cases, modern sports celebrities are considered "public" figures in written and verbal accounts that focus on their performances.

Truth and privilege are the available defenses to defamation causes of action. While truth is self-explanatory, privilege is a complete defense if it can be proven that defendant acted in furtherance of a socially useful interest. Invasion of privacy is a cause of action when the defendant invades the plaintiff's right to privacy in a manner objectionable to a reasonably sensible man. This cause of action can involve intrusion, misappropriation, public disclosure of private facts, and false light invasion of privacy. Frequent defenses to invasion of privacy suits are the constitutional rights provided by the first and fourteenth amendments. Yasser explores worker's compensation laws and applicable torts in Chapter Six.

The key issue in this chapter is to determine whether an athlete is an "employee" for worker's compensation purposes. While a professional athlete is regarded as an "employee," the issue is unresolved involving individual performers such as promoters and, most notably, scholarship athletes. Yasser believes that any person rendering service for another, other than as an independent contractor, is presumed to be an employee. The key point is that the service must not be gratuitous. While a scholarship athlete fulfills the requirements of an employee under this standard, Yasser believes courts are unwilling to accept this honest appraisal because it is unsettling and uncomfortable. Such an appraisal would destroy the innocent spirit of college athletics. Yasser advocates an open move to the professionalization of college athletics

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1. R. YASSER, TORTS AND SPORTS: LEGAL LIABILITY IN PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR ATHLETICS, 66 (1985).

2. *Id.*

3. *Id.* at 88.

4. *Id.* at 101.

and the acknowledgment of scholarship athletes as "employees" in order to eradicate the rampant cheating in college athletics. Individuals with special talents in sports cause further problems because of their ability to change the athletic and financial success of a team. The demand for their services often results in interference with their present contracts. Yasser addresses this issue in Chapter Seven.

In a suit alleging intentional interference with an existing contract, the plaintiff must prove that the defendant intentionally interfered with a contract known to exist, and that such interference adversely affected the performance due under the contract. A common defense is that the right to compete with the plaintiff for an individual's services outweighs the plaintiff's interest in contractual stability; therefore, contractual interference is justified. This issue of interference has become acute in recent years due to the high premium on winning and the resulting financial rewards. Yasser believes that negotiating for future services is not tortious and that the resolution of most cases is dependent upon whether the conduct of the rival employer is considered proper or improper by the Court.

*Torts and Sports* is an enlightening book which meticulously analyzes an aspect of the law that is rapidly expanding with the increased growth of sports in our society. Yasser presents the subject in a readable manner and offers important information concerning legal tactics in liability cases arising from player participation in amateur and professional athletics. At the conclusion of each chapter, Yasser includes an extensive bibliography of additional reading material on the subject covered by that chapter. *Torts and Sports* is a practitioner's dream: concise, thorough, and enlightening.

RONALD O. SALLY