Dear Editors:

It is the classical American way of doing things. Jump on the bandwagon of success until its wheel falls off, just to jump aboard a better one as it passes by. Have you ever stopped to think that maybe there are circumstances beyond the control of the unsuccessful party?

To emphasize my point, I ask a question. Outside of the coaches and 17 players on the men's basketball roster, myself included, who really knew what was going on behind closed doors or inside the huddle? My guess is no one. Yet we can all sit back and criticize what is going on, acting like we have all knowledge on the subject. It really blows my mind.

I have been reading the last several editions of the Weather Vane, and whenever there is a story about Coach Baker, it seems to be largely biased in a negative way. The man has been here 11 years, yet we are so quick to criticize him? To be here 11 years, he had to have brought some good to the school. Maybe it was not always a winning season, or an excellent coaching career. Too often do we focus on the bad, and forget the good. I have only been here one year, and I have grown fond of Coach Baker. He was always considerate towards people, giving them a chance to voice their opinions and express their views. Coach Baker taught players self-discipline, hard work, and team concepts. At the time, players do not think of it, but as they go out into the world, they are glad that they learned these lessons. He brought much more to the game of basketball than a winning record, and we as Mennonites should not be so critical and fast to judge. I am all for a winning season, its much more fun, and being an athlete I know that it is critical and fast to judge. The weather Vane article was a poor synopsis of our experiences we had in Cuba, an overwhelming story was a poor synopsis of our stay to Cuba. During our 11-day trip, we spent time with two Cuban choirs, had the honor of performing a contemporary Cuban mass in the Basilica Cathedral in Old Havana, and participated in a service at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Havana. Our concerts were not merely music-making, but a serious statement for peace in the world.

In the future, we hope the Weather Vane will publish articles with balance and substance instead of resorting to inaccurate generalizations.

Sincerely,

Jared Stoltzfus

Correction:

Weather Vane was relieved to discover that, though we mistakenly included his name in last week’s ‘Faculty Farewell’ crossword puzzle, Dr. Carroll Yoder is not retiring at the end of this year. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

A few words from the editor:

Here is the truth. The only person that is not a believer in the saying: “There is no such thing as a free lunch” is an athlete. Things changed during the 2001-2002 season as well. Have you ever tried to run a team when key players are constantly sidelined? Size, and the fact that we had little of it, was a major factor in many of the games that were lost this year.

To conclude, I ask that the next time a situation arises, do not be so quick to judge. Get to know the other side of the story. As Christians we should not judge so harshly Coach Baker’s statistics here at EMU, but as the person he is. We should not look on the surface of a situation and judge it by just that, but by seeing the whole story. Let Momma’s words forever echo in your mind: “Don’t judge a book by its cover; it’s the content on the inside that matters.”

Sincerely,

Jensen Long

Letter to the Editors

Basketball Player Says: Look Deeper, Don't Blame Coach Baker!

Third are the players themselves, and the fact that we cannot recruit the best of the best. Did you happen to notice how small our team was the second semester, not to give an excuse, just presenting facts. It really helps to have a big guy, over 6’4”, when other teams have guys that are 6’7” and 6’8”. The team had a few guys with height, but due to uncontrollable circumstances, we could not keep them.

Have you ever stopped to think that there might have been circumstances outside of the control of Coach Baker?

First, there is the budget, which I do not believe played a major role in the losing season. There are many things we have that other schools do not, like a top notch facility.

Second is the fact that this is a Division III school, and we do not have the resources to scout for players, nor do we have the things it takes to get the greatest players to come here. When we do get great players to come here, a lot of the time they have to transfer out because of financial reasons.

More to the game of basketball than a winning record, and we as Mennonites should not be so quick to criticize him? To be here 11 years, he had to have brought some good to the school. Maybe it was not always a winning season, or an excellent coaching career. Too often do we focus on the bad, and forget the good. I have only been here one year, and I have grown fond of Coach Baker. He was always considerate towards people, giving them a chance to voice their opinions and express their views. Coach Baker taught players self-discipline, hard work, and team concepts. At the time, players do not think of it, but as they go out into the world, they are glad that they learned these lessons. He brought much more to the game of basketball than a winning record, and we as Mennonites should not be so critical and fast to judge.

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