

said he then heard two shots. The boyfriend has been charged with second-degree murder.

Anne, age 3. She died after being stabbed in the head. Her stepfather has been charged with first-degree murder in her death and attempted murder and second-degree assault in the stabbing of his wife. The details of her death are too gruesome to talk about on the floor of the Senate.

Mr. President, these are the recent cases of victims only in Minnesota, and only those that have been documented and well-publicized. Looking at the national statistics, I know there must be many more cases that go unreported.

An American Medical Association report cites some horrifying statistics: Nearly one quarter of the women in the United States of America—more than 12 million—will be abused by a current or former partner sometime during their lives—one quarter of the women in the United States of America; 47 percent of husbands who beat their wives do so three or more times a year; according to FBI statistics, at least 30 percent of murdered women are killed by their intimate male partner; every 13 seconds, a child in the United States of America is reported abused or neglected; and more than three children—more than three children—die each day in the United States as a result of abuse or neglect.

Mr. President, we can no longer stand by and say it is someone else's problem. What are we waiting for? Too many have spoken with their voices and with their lives, and this violence must end.

Last year, the Congress passed new laws to protect victims and to prevent violence. Senator BIDEN has taken a major leadership role in helping to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

The first comprehensive piece of legislation on the subject of violence against women was milestone legislation for this Congress and for this Nation. We all must continue to fight any efforts to weaken the crime bill, including efforts to scale back the Violence Against Women Act or the funding for it.

Mr. President, domestic violence is also a critical issue to me when we talk about reforming the welfare system.

I said on the floor before, it took Monica Seles 2 years to play tennis again after being stabbed. Can you imagine what it would be like if you were beaten over and over and over again?

We must make sure that States have the option to give exemptions to women who have been beaten or children who have experienced this. They may not be able to work in 2 years. The last thing you want to do is cut them off of assistance and give them no other choice but to go back into very dangerous homes.

There is much to be done. We must be a voice for the victims; the women, the men, and the children who live in fear every moment of their lives, never

knowing when the abuse will come or how lethal the next attack will be.

We must be unrelenting in our campaign to say as Senators what my wife Sheila says wherever she goes in Minnesota: We will not tolerate the violence; we will not ignore the violence; and we will no longer say it is someone else's responsibility.

I urge all of my colleagues to work with the survivors, the advocates, the medical professionals, the justice systems in our States, and to support full community funding and full community involvement in ending this violence. I urge my colleagues to work with passion and conviction to make this a priority of our work in the U.S. Senate. We must do everything we can to make homes the safest places that they can be.

I yield the floor. I thank my colleague from North Carolina for giving me this opportunity.

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1995

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2934 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2936

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, my staff is on the way with an amendment. Let me describe the amendment and tell you what it is and say why I think it is important we pass the amendment.

It is an amendment that in terms of philosophy I think my friend and colleague from North Carolina—and he is my friend—I think that in terms of philosophy he would agree to whether or not he agrees with this particular amendment.

I believe American citizens ought to have the freedom to travel wherever they want with no barrier from our Government unless an American citizen is at risk. That is a different situation than we face right now.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I call up amendment numbered 2934.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] proposes an amendment numbered 2934 to amendment No. 2936.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is located in the October 17, 1995, RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

AMENDMENT NO. 2934, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator wish to modify his amendment?

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the amendment with the modification I have at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert:

SEC. . TRAVEL TO CUBA.

(1) FREEDOM TO TRAVEL TO CUBA FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LEGAL RESIDENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall not restrict travel to Cuba by United States citizens or legal residents, except in the event that armed hostilities between Cuba and the United States are in progress, or where such travel presents an imminent danger to the public health or the physical safety of United States travelers.

(2) AMENDMENTS TO TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.—Section 5(b) of the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 5(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(5) The authority granted by the President in this section does not include the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly, any of the following transactions incident to travel to or from Cuba by individuals who are citizens or residents of the United States:

"(A) Any transactions ordinarily incident to travel to or from Cuba, including the importation into Cuba or the United States of accompanied baggage for personal use only.

"(B) Any transactions ordinarily incident to travel to or maintenance within Cuba, including the payment of living expenses and the acquisition of goods and services for personal use.

"(C) Any transactions ordinarily incident to the arrangement, promotion, or facilitation of travel to or within Cuba.

"(D) Any transactions ordinarily incident to non-scheduled air, sea, or land voyages, except that this subparagraph does not authorize the carriage of articles into Cuba except accompanied baggage.

"(E) Normal banking transactions incident to the foregoing, including the issuance, clearing, processing, or payment of checks, drafts, travelers checks, credit or debit card instruments, negotiable instruments, or similar instruments.

This paragraph does not authorize the importation into the United States of any goods for personal consumption acquired in Cuba other than those items described in paragraph (4)."

"(6) The authority granted to the President in this subsection does not include the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly, travel to Cuba incident to

"(A) activities of scholars;

"(B) other educational or academic activities;

"(C) exchanges in furtherance of any such activities;

"(D) cultural activities and exchanges; or

"(E) public exhibitions or performances by the nationals of one country in another country,

to the extent that any such activities, exchanges, exhibitions, or performances are not otherwise controlled for export under section 5 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 and to the extent that, with respect to such activities, exchanges, exhibitions, or performances, no acts are prohibited by chapter 37 of title 18, U.S. Code."

(3) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(a)) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

“(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the authority granted to the President in such paragraph does not include the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly, any activities or transactions which may not be regulated or prohibited under paragraph (5) or (6) of section 5(b) of the Trading With the Enemy Act.”

(4) APPLICABILITY.—The authorities conferred upon the President by section 5(b) of the Trading With the Enemy Act, which were being exercised with respect to a country on July 1, 1977, as a result of a national emergency declared by the President before such date, and are being exercised on the date of the enactment of this Act, do not include the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly, any activity which under section 5(b) (5) or (6) of the Trading With the Enemy Act (as added by this Act) may not be regulated or prohibited.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, as I indicated, I think part of free speech is that we do not just get the Government line on anything. I do not care what it is—popular, unpopular. That means that we ought to have the freedom to travel where there is no risk.

That includes unpopular countries. That includes China. I happen to be one of those, along with the Senator from North Carolina who is very critical of the human rights record of the Chinese Government, but I defend the right of American citizens to travel.

I defend the right of American citizens if there is no risk to travel to Iran or Iraq. It does not mean I approve of any of those governments. The same for Cuba.

The leader of Cuba has probably the worst human rights record of any leader in this hemisphere. There is no question about that.

There are two questions. One, do you change policy by restricting travel, or do you change policy by permitting travel? That is one question. The second question is, is this a first amendment right or is it in the spirit of the first amendment?

On the first question, whether it can change and modify the government there, I recognize that people who are sincere can disagree. We faced this same debate with the Soviet Union. There were those who for a time said Americans should not travel to the Soviet Union because you simply encourage that Government by giving them hard currency. Others said—and it turned out to be right—we ought to travel there so we can expose more people to our point of view.

Virtually every other government in the world—the British, the French, the Canadians—in fact, when I say “virtually,” I think we are alone and the Senator from North Carolina can correct me, I think we are alone among the nations of the world in not permitting travel to Cuba.

Israel was the only nation that voted with us in the United Nations but Israel is putting in investment in Cuba.

I just think our isolation here just does not make sense. The reality is,

American citizens do travel to Cuba today. Now, they go by way of Canada or Mexico, but not one American citizen has been arrested for it. Not one American citizen has been fined. Not one American citizen to my knowledge has had his or her passport taken away.

I think our policy just does not make sense. Americans ought to have the liberty, the freedom, to travel to Cuba unless there is a physical risk.

Now, if there is a danger that someone is going to be taken as a captive there, or something like that, that is different. The southern part of Lebanon, for example, would not be safe for Americans. I understand that. But I think we ought to be free to travel there, and that goes for any dictatorship anywhere. I think it is a way of promoting freedom. I think it is also a basic freedom that American citizens ought to have.

That is basically my argument. In terms of philosophy, my guess is the Senator from North Carolina would agree with me. In terms of its specific application to Cuba, he may not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before I make comments about the amendment of the Senator, let me ask if he is aware of the effort by the majority and minority leader to achieve a time for the Finance Committee to meet? There is an objection to the committee meeting while the Senate is in session.

Mr. SIMON. I am not trying to prolong that. I am willing to recess at this point. I was told by my staff what the majority leader preferred.

Mr. HELMS. I wanted to be sure that the Senator knew that. I do not want to interrupt the Senator's delivery or his argument at all.

Will the Senator be willing to enter into a time agreement for this afternoon, provided both sides have 10 minutes each in the morning?

Mr. SIMON. That will be perfectly acceptable to me.

Mr. HELMS. Very well, how much more time this afternoon?

Mr. SIMON. I, frankly, have presented the cause. It is not complicated. So I am willing to yield to my colleague. I probably would like 2 minutes to respond to whatever he might have to say, and then we could recess and each have 10 minutes tomorrow morning.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the distinguished Senator from Illinois, my friend and my neighbor in the Dirksen Building, is always cooperative. If I say anything to excite him about his amendment, he will be entitled to take as much time as he needs to reply to me.

I do not agree with the amendment, and I hope it will not be accepted. But let me say this, Mr. President, I never have any question about the good intent of the Senator from Illinois on any issue, including this one. He sincerely believes the flow of American

citizens to Cuba will promote positive change in Cuban society. But, in the context of Fidel Castro's regime, in my judgment, the belief that tourism will change Castro's tyranny cannot be supported by the facts. Here is why.

I say, with all friendliness, the loudest advocate of the Senator's amendment would be Fidel Castro, because he is trying to lure tourists into Cuba so they will bring hard cash which he could use to buy a little bit more time for his regime.

As a matter of fact, for years Mr. Castro has lured Europeans, Canadians, Mexicans, and others to Cuba. But from the beginning, Castro typically set up a structure to isolate foreign tourists and tourist facilities from the larger Cuban population. As a matter of fact, some of the major newspapers in this country and elsewhere refer to this system of Mr. Castro's as “tourist apartheid.”

What has been Mr. Castro's purpose in promoting tourism? It has not been to improve the lives or freedoms of the Cuban people. Tourists visiting Cuba have access to food, shelter, and recreation not available to the poor Cuban people themselves. But this does not bother Fidel Castro and his cronies. Mr. Castro tolerates the tourist trade because he needs, as I said earlier, the hard cash—the hard currency generated by tourism to subsidize his corrupt regime.

Even the employment generated by tourism supports the regime. Here is how that works. The Cuban Government, that is to say Castro's officials, decide who will work in the tourist resorts. Nobody else need apply. With the Cuban State economic sector collapsing, jobs are becoming more and more scarce in Cuba and working in a tourist area becomes leverage that Castro uses as people struggle to find work in order to feed and care for their families.

There is another tragic phenomenon that has emerged from Castro's efforts to attract foreign tourists. It is called sex tourism. More and more, Cuban women, some little girls as young as 14 years of age, are prostituting themselves because they cannot find any other way to feed themselves and their families. An Italian travel magazine recently identified Cuba as the “paradise of sexual tourism,” ranking it above Thailand and Brazil as the place to go for what the magazine called “erotic tourism.” This is just one of the perverted legacies of the Castro revolution.

The free flow of American citizens to Cuba would be no more effective in reforming Castro's regime than has been the flow of Canadian, European, and Latin American tourists up to now. And lifting the travel restrictions, I say to my friend with all due respect, will not—will not—expedite Castro's departure. Rather, it will help keep Castro in power by giving him badly needed hard currency.

The Treasury Department rules now allow for travel by journalists and by

people engaged in educational or religious activities, as well as travel for humanitarian reasons, including permission to travel for those accompanying humanitarian donations to the Cuban people and individuals traveling in connection with recognized human rights organizations.

Restrictions on the right to travel are within the bounds of the Constitution. Twice the United States Supreme Court has heard challenges to the rules governing travel to Cuba. Every time, the Court has upheld the regulations, holding that the right to international travel is not without limitations when the restrictions are connected with the national security interests of the United States. In the case of Cuba, it is in our national interest to deny Fidel Castro the hard currency that would be brought in by tourism.

If the amendment of my friend is approved, the result would be to limit the President's ability to restrict travel. There are, in my judgment—and I say this with respect to my friend—there are valid national security reasons why travel to Cuba should be regulated. Approval of this amendment will serve to give hope to Castro, and that is why I must oppose it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two articles from the Miami Herald, one on April 24, 1995, and one on February 28, 1995, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Miami Herald, Feb. 28, 1995]

ITALIAN MAGAZINE RANKS CUBA AS A SEXUAL PARADISE

The Italian travel magazine *Viaggiare* has named Cuba the "paradise of sexual tourism" after an informal survey of journalists, travelers and tour operators.

Cuba obtained 23 points out of a possible 30, higher than Thailand and Brazil, each of which scored 21 points, and the Dominican Republic, which had 20 points, the magazine said in a special section in its March edition devoted to "erotic tourism" worldwide.

"We suggest staying in the cottages of the Hotel Comodoro . . . where it will be much easier to retire in sweet company," the magazine says. It also suggests that readers walk along Fifth Street in Varadero beach, "where you can easily find jineteras, the local prostitutes."

Cuba, which has said tourism will soon surpass sugar exports as its largest source of hard currency, has its largest European clientele in Italy.

NEED FOR TOURISTS' DOLLARS FUELING CUBA PROSTITUTION

(By Lizette Alvarez)

The young woman takes a drag on her cigarette and slides off her slippers. The rickety wooden chair she sits on wobbles. A bare light bulb dangles above.

"Some I like, some I don't like," she said, a touch of regret frosting her words, "But I'm not with them for love. I'm with them out of necessity."

In Cuba, prostitution has become a tourist trade like any other, only it pays better. Young women cluster outside the Riviera Hotel, home to a trendy salsa club. They sit in fashionable restaurants. They amble down

the Malecon, flagging down tourist cars, advertising their availability with tight ultra-short skirts.

The Italian magazine *Viaggiare* recently raved about Cuba as a sexual playground for tourists. The island—which closely controls the spread of AIDS—ranked first in the magazine's sex-destination survey, surpassing even brothel hot spots like Thailand and Brazil.

For a country that took great pride in stamping out prostitution after the 1959 revolution, it's a distinction the government could do without.

Vilma Espin, head of the Cuban Federation of Women and estranged wife of Raul Castro, recently railed against prostitutes in Cuba, calling them a "great embarrassment" to the country. She blames a shortage of morals, not money, for the booming sex trade, as does her brother-in-law, President Fidel Castro.

Her speech, widely publicized in Cuba, did not sit well with the island's women, who skewered Espin for sidestepping reality. One Havana woman argued that prostitution in Cuba today is much more disturbing than it was prior to 1959 because it is more blatant.

"This prostitution did not exist before," said the Havana woman. "You didn't have professionals—engineers, architects—prostituting themselves . . . The revolution has created this. And now Vilma Espin stands on the stage with her Christian Dior dress."

A few days after the speech, the young hooker seated in this two-room apartment smirks at Espin's words. Nobody believes that a morality breakdown is driving Cuba's flourishing prostitution trade, she said.

Among most people here there is no rousing condemnation, only an implicit understanding. You do what you must.

"There are other ways to survive in this country," she admitted. "But they are too difficult. And I have my son and my mother to think about."

Prostitutes, who generally work for themselves, are routinely fined by police for "sexual contact" and are detained for a spell. But in reality, prostitution is a game, a nod, and a wink and a handshake—between client, hooker, and government workers.

Finding a hooker is not difficult. Hookers linger outside hotels and inside expensive restaurants. The clients wine and dine them and the women stay with them during the length of the trip, a week or so. When the men go home, they leave behind \$50 or \$100.

"Usually you don't ask for money up front," the young woman said. "It's up to them. Sometimes they don't leave you anything."

The whole arrangement is based on a series of bribes. To get a jinetera, as they are dubbed, up to a hotel room, a tourist slips \$20 to the guard on duty and another few dollars to the elevator operator, the two people who see everyone's comings and goings.

Some prostitutes fear their newfound international notoriety could trigger a crackdown. That is not likely to happen as long as the economic crisis shaking the country persists. Even tourism officials say there is not a lot that can be done.

"We have to find a way so that Cuban women can find other ways to live," said Orlando Rangel, a tourism official.

But for women along the Malecon that's wistful thinking.

"This isn't ever going to change," the prostitute said. "Since I was 14 I was told it was going to change, but every day the only thing I see more of is need."

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I will be very brief in response to my friend.

I could buy his arguments on assisting with hard cash if there was any consistency to our policy. We do not follow that in China. The Senator from North Carolina and I agree, we do not like the government that is in charge in China. We do not follow that in North Korea. We are in agreement, we do not like the Government of North Korea. You can list a number of nations and, in terms of security, frankly, Cuba is less of a long-term threat than China is, for example, in terms of security. So I think that argument simply is not valid.

The second basic thrust is, somehow we can isolate Castro. That has been our policy for the last few decades and, obviously, it has not worked.

I think it makes much more sense to try to open up Cuba and to also keep in mind that, if tomorrow Fidel Castro should die of a heart attack or something happen to him, we ought to be preparing the ground so the successor government is a free government, is a democracy. That is in our interest. That is in the interest of the people of Cuba.

Under the present law, theoretically—I say theoretically because any American who wants to get around this can do it very easily by giving some money to a Mexican airline or a Canadian airline, and a great many other countries. But you cannot travel directly from the United States to there, and people who have relatives cannot visit the relatives. And human rights organizations, like Amnesty International, which would go there and be critical of the Castro record on human rights—which is not a good record—are not permitted to do so.

I think we would be much better off if we said to Americans that—unless you have a physical threat—Americans can travel wherever they want so that we do not have to follow some Government line in terms of how we get information. I think it is a basic freedom that we ought to have as Americans.

I hope the amendment can be adopted. I do not want to prolong this. I know the Finance Committee wants to meet. I yield to my friend from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS addressed the Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, again, every time I get into a debate with Paul SIMON it is like a fraternity meeting. We are such close personal friends even though we frequently disagree.

I say to the Senator that the policy against Cuba is working. Castro is on the ropes. And he wants the hard currency that tourism brings in because that will give him a few more days, and a few more weeks, or whatever. As far as a heart attack that he may have, I will not say that I want anybody to have a heart attack. But I want him to get off the backs of the Cuban people as quickly as possible, and I know the Senator from Illinois does, too.

The infusion of hard currency is the only thing that is going to save Castro

now. He needs that money, and that is the reason he is selling off real estate which does not belong to Castro's government any more than that table does. But he is selling this property off nevertheless. He is frantic to get hard currency. That is the reason he wants very much to have the tourism.

And the proximity of Cuba—how many times have we said this Communist country is 90 miles off our shore? That is precisely the point. You cannot make a case about China and North Korea because they are so far away that the number of United States tourists are relatively minimal because many Americans cannot afford to travel there.

I say to the Senator with all due respect that I just cannot agree with the amendment. That is my last word.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, believe it or not, I will take just 1 more minute. When you say Castro is on his last ropes, I heard that 5 years ago. I heard that 10 years ago. I heard that 15 years ago. I heard it 20 years ago, and so forth.

Mr. HELMS. If the Senator will yield.

Mr. SIMON. I yield.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Senator. I have already violated my last word stipulation. But back then they had an infusion of cash from the Soviet Union which no longer exists.

Mr. SIMON. That is true. But today they have an infusion of British, French, and other investments that they did not have then.

Let me just say—because the Senator mentioned North Korea—that the place in the world today where you have more troops facing each other across a border where there is no contact with the other side is Korea. I do not remember the number, but I think we have about 140,000 troops in South Korea; American troops. I think you could use the argument we should not be propping this Government that might be a threat to American troops. But we do not, and we believe—and I think this is correct—maybe we can have an influence on that Government of North Korea which, believe it or not, is even harsher than the government of Castro.

But I respect my colleague from North Carolina. This is an area where we simply have a disagreement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that prior to the vote on the Simon amendment tomorrow there be 20 minutes equally divided between the two sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I say that the Senate will recess shortly—within 5 minutes.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

SAMMY HOWARD, MAYOR OF PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Sammy Howard for his recent election as the new mayor of Phenix City, Alabama, a vibrant community in the east-central part of the State. Still widely called "Coach" Howard since he was a high school football coach for so many years, Sammy most recently was a highly successful banker in Phenix City. As a coach, he led his teams to 113 victories out of a total of 140 games.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of an article which appeared in the Columbus, GA, Ledger-Enquirer on the life and career of Sammy Howard be printed in the RECORD after my remarks. It tells about his odyssey from student athlete to coach to banker to mayor.

I wish "Coach" Howard all the best as he takes over the reins of government in Phenix City.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Columbus (GA), Ledger-Enquirer, Sept. 11, 1995]

PHENIX CITY MAYOR-ELECT NOT IN GAME FOR SELF

(By Richard Hyatt)

Nina Jo Keel had her rules. You made a speech in class or you failed. But there was something about that shy kid who nervously told her he would have to take an "F," that he couldn't get up in front of his friends and do that. Bending her own rule, she let him make his speech in private so he could escape with a "D."

Forty years after she taught speech at Central High School, she would watch the 6 o'clock news and mentally get out her red pencil. Her health wasn't good and the boys she taught had turned into men, but in her heart, they were still her students and she was still their teacher. That's why she picked up the telephone and called that 10th-grader who had become a successful Phenix City banker.

"She finally taught me how to say amphitheater," Sammy Howard said.

She died several months ago, so Nina Jo Keel never got to see that frightened high school kid become Mayor-elect of Phenix City. He couldn't make a speech in class, but next month he will become the spokesman for the community in which he grew up.

Never did anyone forecast that Curtis Samuel Howard Jr. would ever be called mayor. He was a football player, then a coach, and in a universe the size of Phenix City, there are no higher callings. It's been 17 years since he blew a whistle or covered a blackboard in X's and O's and yet he can't escape the game that paid for his education.

"Some people still look at me as coach," Howard said. "I saw a former player in the bank the other day and he called me Coach Howard. They don't call me mister and they can't bring themselves to call me Sammy. I'll always be the coach."

The traits of a player and coach are as close to him as debits and credits. He has used them to build a banking career and he talks about the need for teamwork in making the city operate effectively. There are a few football trappings in his office, including a mint-condition ticket to the 1951 Auburn-Alabama game, the season the two schools renewed their rivalry.

Growing up, some of those traits were not so attractive.

"I've always been driven by a desire to win," Howard said. "That almost got me barred from Little League. I'd get mad at the other kids if they made an error. Chuck Roberts, with the Housing Authority, was my coach. He talked to me and said I couldn't chase the other players around the field when I got mad."

Red Howard, his late father, was also a competitor. In 1919, he scored Auburn's only touchdown in a victory over Georgia. He was the manager of the Frederick Douglas housing complex in Phenix City. He also had a temper.

"Sammy and I were double-dating one time and we borrowed Mr. Howard's 1953 Pontiac couple. We had a flat tire and we jacked up the fender instead of the bumper. Mr. Howard had some choice words for us," said Pat Thornton, a Central High classmate who is plant manager of Brumlow Mills in Calhoun, Ga.

The Howard family lived on Dillingham Street, not far from the bridge into Columbus and not far from many of the gambling joints that—like it or not—are so much a part of the community's history.

"We were just a few blocks away, but you know, we never felt scared. We never even locked our doors," Howard said.

But when he started playing football, he soon learned that being from Phenix City was a stigma in the eyes of God-fearing people who had heard the Sin City reputation.

"This is still an issue. This problem won't go away in my lifetime. We still have that reputation," Howard said.

The Central team he played on was a talented group. They went 6-1-3, including a victory over Sidney Lanier, ending that Montgomery school's 19-game victory streak. Howard ran back a kickoff 95 yards. But his classmates talk about one he didn't score. That one came with 20 seconds to play against Columbus High. Central was seeking a third straight Bi-City championship. Howard had scored twice and apparently scored a third touchdown that would have meant a victory.

It was called back because of a penalty.

"It was better to complain about the call because if you admitted the call was right people would want to know who was guilty. They would have run him out of town," Howard said.

He was captain of the football team, vice president of the senior class and an All-Bi-City player. He was even voted the cutest male graduate. Only he wasn't cute enough to get a college football scholarship.

"Bill Bush and I went 400 miles for a try-out at Southwest Mississippi Junior College in Summit, Mississippi. We had to make it. We didn't have the money to get back home," he said.

In his second year, he was an All-American halfback on a team that was undefeated. He even married the homecoming queen.

Those two years were important to Howard. He was away from home. He found there was more to life than football. That was a painful lesson. He had to overcome two concussions and a broken nose his first year in Mississippi.

His play grabbed the attention of major college coaches. Even though he had grown up as one of the few confessed Auburn fans in