



THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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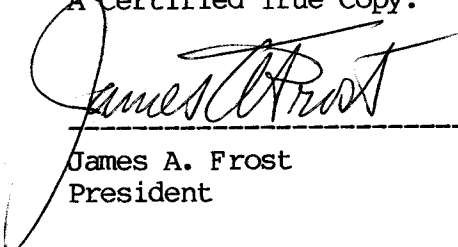
Office of the President

RESOLUTION
concerning
PROFESSOR ABIE GROSSFELD
at
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

September 7, 1984

- WHEREAS, Professor Abie Grossfeld has served Southern Connecticut State University as a teacher and coach for more than twenty years, and
- WHEREAS, During that time he has given unstintingly of himself in the service of his students and the University, developing the skills of many world class gymnasts, and
- WHEREAS, Professor Grossfeld coached the United States Men's Gymnastics Team which won the gold medal for men's team gymnastics at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games held in Los Angeles, defeating, among others, the world champion team from China, and
- WHEREAS, The Trustees for the Connecticut State University wish to acknowledge Professor Grossfeld's contribution to Southern Connecticut State University and to the United States Olympic Team, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Trustees express their appreciation to Professor Abie Grossfeld for his distinguished contributions to the Connecticut State University, to Southern Connecticut State University and to the United States Olympic Team, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That, in honor of Professor Abie Grossfeld, the roadway leading to the James W. Moore Fieldhouse on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University be and hereby is named the "Abie Grossfeld Circle."

A Certified True Copy:


James A. Frost
President

Board
Pending

U.S. gymnasts at new heights

RECEIVED

AUG 7 1984

THE CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The surging strength that has come to signify the new beginning of American gymnastics must be measured in values even brighter than gold.

Julianne McNamara calls it "a milestone in our history," and Peter Vidmar tosses around such descriptors as "the greatest thing that happened to U.S. gymnastics."

Taking their turns on alternate days, the United States men and women have been soaring into unexplored heights, reaching goals that once represented only distant dreams.

It was the turn of the men Thursday night, and while the gold escaped by the slimmest of fractions, the United States still placed all three of its entries among the top six in the all-around competition.

Vidmar earned the silver, placing a mere 25-thousandths of a point behind Koji Gushiken of Japan in the closest all-around competition in Olympic history. Mitch Gaylord was fifth and Bart Conner, a veteran of three Olympic teams, was sixth.

The top seven scorers were separated by 0.475 of one point and Gushiken won the gold medal with a score of 118.7 of a possible 120 points.

"This is just amazing," Conner gushed minutes after the results became official. "For a gymnast the all-around is like the Heisman Trophy. It's the biggie, and for three of us to be that high is fantastic."

So fantastic was the sense of euphoria that Vidmar couldn't even work up an iota of disap-

pointment over losing the gold. Instead, he dwelled on the success of the United States men Tuesday night in capturing their first gold ever in the team competition.

"If I think about that 25-thousandth of a point I would go mad," Vidmar said. "I'm not going to think about it. That kind of thing can eat away at you. Half a hop here, half a step there, it makes such a difference."

"But I never even expected to be here. I wanted to make the (U.S. Olympic) team and do the best I could. I guess my realistic goal was to break into the top six, and I guess I did better than that. I wouldn't trade in the gold medal in the team competition for anything."

"The greatest thing that happened for U.S. gymnastics was to win the team gold."

The man who led the Americans to their great achievement is Olympic coach Abie Grossfeld, who is the head gymnastics coach at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Conn.

Even though those in attendance at Pauley Pavilion on the UCLA campus, and the millions more viewing on television, were aware of the close drama developing in the medal chase, Vidmar contends he didn't know where he stood until the very end.

"I had no idea of the standing," said Vidmar, who averaged 9.9 for the competition, his best showing ever. "There was nothing I could do about my competitors and what they were doing. I just had to do my routines. I guess the coaches knew, but if they had told me I might have gotten nervous and made a mistake."

NEW HAVEN REGISTER, SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 1984

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THURSDAY,
AUGUST 2, 1984

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AUG 6 1984

THE CONNECTICUT
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“In one word, it was unbelievable. It was a dream come true for me, I'm still floating upward.”

Abie Grossfeld

Gold Catapults Six to Stardom

By PETER MAY
Courant Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — The day after, they dealt with being heroes.

A week ago, their names were known only to the people who knew that all vaults are not in banks and that a pommel horse never needs to be shoed.

But a night of excellence in front of a giddy gathering at Pauley Pavilion and a national television audience gave the American men's gymnasts the gold. And the glitter.

They woke up the morning after to find at least 50 congratulatory telegrams waiting for them, mostly from average Americans, one or two from large corporations, none from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

“We haven't heard from Ronnie yet,” joked Tim Daggett of West Springfield, Mass., one of three to earn a perfect score in Tuesday night's optionals, which secured the gold.

Three of them went on ABC in the morning to reconstruct the memories of their stunning performance.

They watched highlights of their performances, including some unabashed weeping on the victory stand. They signed autographs while meeting the press, again, to explain the unexplainable.

The U.S. men's gymnastics team had won the overall Olympic title.

No American gymnastics team, men's or women's, had ever done that. They had arrived here optimistically talking of a silver and probably would not have been chagrined with a bronze. And they walked away with the gold.

“In one word, it was unbelievable. It was a dream come true for me,

I'm still floating upward,” said Abie Grossfeld, the team's coach, who has been head gymnastics coach at Southern Connecticut State University for 21 years.

“I've worked with these guys for four years and I had every confidence in them. I knew they could do it. And they did.”

And they did it in style. They beat the world champion Chinese and the always tough Japanese. And they also delivered the gymnastic equivalent of “in your face” to the boycotting Soviets, who had they chose to be there probably would have had to watch the celebration along with everyone else.

The United States had not only smoked the defending world champs (who had smoked the Soviets to attain that distinction), but also had compiled a team score of two points more than the Russians had in 1980, a whopping difference in a sport where coaches and athletes plead for tenths of a point.

And — this cannot be understated — they did it in a sport that seems to spawn made-for-television heroes and heroines every four years. Gymnastics is good theater. It would be hard to envision such a national glow if the U.S. men's handball team had won the gold medal.

But audiences eagerly embrace gymnastics, and this team was hungry to be honored and accepted. They had held a team meeting after the worlds last year in Budapest, where they had finished fourth, and, in Mitch Gaylord's words, “There was no way were going to leave LA without a medal.” Pretty heady stuff

See Gold, Page B5

1 of 3



THE SUMMER GAMES



The U.S. gymnastics team celebrates, above, its gold medal Tuesday night. Mitch Gaylord, performing on the parallel bars, scored a perfect 10 on the rings, helping the U.S. team to their gold medal.

United Press

Gold Catapults Six to Stardom

Continued From Page B1

in that there was no hint that the Soviets would be no-shows.

But the United States has done a lot of catching up in the past several years, and much of the reason is that they've stayed together as a team and had the same national coach.

Grossfeld coached the men's team in 1972, had been an assistant in two other Olympics and a competitor in the still two more. He coached them in the world championships in 1981 and 1983. He knows them as well as any part-time (as in unsalaried) coach can know them. And that is why this achievement is as precious to him as it is to the gymnasts.

"I compared this to the U.S. hockey team beating the Russians and the reason is because it's so hard to upset a team in our sport," Grossfeld said. "It's really difficult. Maybe we had a better chance against China than they did against the Russians. But in a game situation, it's a little more unpredictable than in a sport like ours. That's what makes it so hard."

And so rewarding. Grossfeld and the gymnasts knew the gold was attainable after winning the compulsories Sunday night. It would have been unprecedented and unthinkable for them not to have won it after taking the compulsories.

"After the compulsories, we felt just about the same as we did last night," Grossfeld said. The coach gave his players sheets of paper and asked them to tell him what they thought the order should be in each event for the determining optionals. All the players said they didn't care, that they were ready in any order in any event.

A third of the way through the optionals, the U.S. lead had been cut by 60 percent. But Grossfeld wasn't concerned. He told some of his troops to go all out, giving Gaylord the go-ahead for the risky Gaylord II on the high bar. He told others to avoid the unnecessary. And he remained unruffled, at least on the outside, while all the history and emotions were unfolding around him.

"He had us in the right frame of mind," Daggett said. "He was real calm, although I don't think he really was, but he acted that way. You need to see strength and calmness in a coach and he had that. And that was good."

And so what happens now? In the next few days, there still are the individual competitions, but the team honor is the one that carries the most prestige, and some of the Americans may still be reeling from Tuesday night.

"Anything else will be frosting," Gaylord said.

Down the road, Grossfeld thinks this can't help but give the sport a boost.

"It's gonna help. We hero-worship an awful lot," he said.

And, for the first time, the heroes have pronounceable names and understandable accents.

"The greatest thing now," said Peter Vidmar, the overall leader entering tonight's all-around finals, "is that we don't have just one hero, we have six. And they all are Americans."

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Hartford Courant



(See Caption Page 1)

8-2-74

3 of 3

The tears flowed like wine for golden U.S. gymnasts

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1984, JOURNAL-COURIER SPORTS 23

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AUG 6 1984

THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



UPI Telephoto

The gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic men's gymnastics team watches a replay of its stunning effort Tuesday night. From left, at table, are: Scott Johnson, Peter Vidmar, Tim Daggett and Bart Conner. Standing are: Mitch Gaylord, coach Abie Grossfeld, head coach at Southern Connecticut State University, and Jim Hartung.

By WILL GRIMSLEY
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It was a night that they wrenched another emotional tear from Uncle Sam.

"We looked out at the crowd and everybody was screaming and crying," said gymnast Mitch Gaylord. "I can't describe the feeling we got from the fans. I was proud to be an American."

Gaylord was one of the half-dozen young precisionists of the bars, rings and artificial horses who scored an upset over China's world champions for the Olympic gold medal in men's team gymnastic competition Tuesday and set off a wave of screaming, flag-waving hys-

teria — national patriotism and pride matched only by the young U.S. ice hockey team's conquest of the powerful Soviets at Lake Placid in 1980.

"I must tell you fellows," cooed TV broadcaster Ann Simon of ABC shortly after gold medals were draped around six Yankee necks, "You have all America in tears."

It was a time one could be maudlin without embarrassment. It was fashionable to be slobbery. Cliches were back in style.

"The Miracle of '84," bellowed the newspaper headlines.

"Unbelievable, fantastic, a dream come true," said Abie Grossfeld, the team's head coach from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Conn.

"Greatest moment for all of us," gushed Bert Conner, of Norman, Okla., at 26 the senior member of the team and a third-time Olympian. "I would have died if I had been in the stands."

On the victory stand, he kept brushing tears from his eyes.

Peter Vidmar, who with Gaylord and Tim Daggett form UCLA's "Three Musketeers" on the squad, also choked up momentarily but regained his composure before facing the press.

1 of 2

N. H. Journal-Courier

"This proves we have the ability to be a world power," he said.

It was the first men's gymnastic gold medal in 52 years for the United States. In a primitive version of the event here in 1932, an American team won by doing such odd things as climbing rope, tumbling and tossing Indian clubs.

Until recent years, there had been little national interest in the sport, popularized by Russia's charming Olga Korbut in 1972 and Romania's sullen Nadia Comaneci in 1976, and most of the medals had gone to the Soviet bloc or to Japan.

Tuesday's dramatic upset victory by the men has ignited new interest.

Grossfeld insisted that the absence of the Soviet Union and its satellites did not diminish the significance of the feat.

"In the gymnastics world, no one ever thought we would beat the Chinese except our own people," he said. "The Chinese beat the Russians last October in the world championships. We know we can beat the Russians."

The Chinese accepted the defeat stoically.

Asked to analyze both his and America's team, coach Zhang Jian said only, "We felt both the U.S. and China would do well from a scoring point of view." He acknowledged the crowd was "very enthusiastic" and added, "Our performance was somewhat impaired."

It was a wild, bull-ring crowd of 9,356, crammed into the Pauley Pavilion, where UCLA's basketball team earned some of its 10 national championships between 1964 and 1975. The fans were constantly on their feet, waving flags, yelling and occasionally chanting "U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A!"

"I've never seen it rock like this, not even in our best basketball years," said Donald Rosen, student news director of UCLA's radio station.

Tension built when the American team, fourth in the world championships behind China, the Soviet Union and Japan, gained a surprising 1.05 lead over China in the compulsory exercises.

Four teams — the United States, China, Japan and West Germany — had gained the finals, but everyone

knew it was a showdown between the two leaders.

"We knew we were underdogs," said Conner. "But we kept telling ourselves, 'We can do it. We can do it.'"

It's a complicated show, with all four teams on the floor at the same time, each spinning, whirling and somersaulting on a series of six different disciplines — horse vault, side horse, rings, horizontal and parallel bars and floor exercises.

The Chinese cut into the U.S. lead when Tong Fei and Li Ning scored consecutive perfect 10s on the rings and Lu Yun duplicated the feat on the horse vault.

But the plucky Americans battled back. Gaylord earned a 10 on the horse vault, Conner another on the parallel bars and Daggett a knock-out third — making it three 10s each — in the final rotation exercise, the horizontal bar. That's when Gaylord dared his risky "Gaylord Flip" for a 9.95 and Vidmar matched the mark in the final effort of the night.

August 2, 1984

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

Sample

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NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT 06050

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RESOLUTION

IN RECOGNITION OF

PROFESSOR ABIE GROSSFELD
of
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

March 5, 1982

- WHEREAS, Abie Grossfeld, Professor of Physical Education and Coach of Gymnastics at Southern Connecticut State College, has achieved great personal distinction as an athlete on United States Olympic Teams and other United States Teams engaged in international competition winning eight gold medals, and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Grossfeld has received numerous awards as a Coach of Gymnastics at Southern Connecticut State College, including the Eastern Coach of the Year and National Coach of the Year Awards, and
- WHEREAS, Athletes whom Mr. Grossfeld has coached have attained great successes including Olympic medals, and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Grossfeld on January 17, 1982, was presented with the Gold Key Award of the Connecticut Sports Writers' Alliance, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Trustees of the Connecticut State Colleges extend their congratulations to Mr. Grossfeld on the receipt of the Gold Key Award and express their esteem and appreciation for the continuing excellence of his work as professor and coach.

A Certified True Copy:

James A. Frost

James A. Frost
Executive Director

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645
01PM

Western
Union Mailgram



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Fyl*

THIS IS A CONFIRMATION COPY OF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

ABIE GROSSFELD, CARE OF OLYMPIC VILLAGE RPT DLY MGM, DLR
USA GYMNASTICS TEAM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES CAMPUS
LOS ANGELES CA 90024
AMERICA AND SOUTHERN ARE PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR GYMNASTS,
CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY.
MIKE ADANTI PRESIDENT

19:43 EST

MGMCOMP

5241 (R 7/82)

appendix
book
27 Aug 84

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AUG 27 1984

THE CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

SPORTS

NEW HAVEN REGISTER, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1984

Grossfeld returns with golden glow

By Tony Doris
Staff Reporter

The victorious head coach of the U.S. men's gymnastics team, just back from the 1984 Olympics, said Tuesday night that he'll keep on pushing for victories.

Abie Grossfeld, who arrived at Tweed-New Haven Airport after a week of parades and celebrations, said he'll coach at Southern Connecticut State University as usual this fall. His gold medal, he said, will not substantially change his life.

The team gold and individual medals won by U.S. gymnasts this year were the latest achievements in Grossfeld's more than two decades of coaching. An Olympic gymnast himself, he was inducted into the Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1979.

He has led the Owls to the head of the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastics League nine years in a row, among other honors.

He is to receive a hero's welcome Sept. 10 when city and state officials honor Grossfeld during a ceremony at SCSU, a university spokesman said.

What goal does a man strive for after achieving so much?

"Do it again," said Grossfeld, peering out from under a white cowboy's hat. "You enjoy what you're doing and you do it. You don't say, 'Well, that's it.'"

Despite his latest achievement, Grossfeld said he hasn't thought about the possibility of coaching at another university, even though he wishes Southern offered athletic scholarships. Nor has he thought about coaching

internationally or taking on any other assignment.

The Olympic victory probably helps his chances of being re-elected coach of the National team, but some of those voting may feel he's had the job long enough, he added.

Grossfeld said the spirit and excitement of the Los Angeles crowds made this Olympics more thrilling than others he participated in. The American fans cheered wildly and spurred the team on to success, he said.

The absence of Eastern bloc teams was unfortunate but beyond the athletes' control, he said. Grossfeld also mentioned that the Soviets would have won medals, but there were indications the U.S. team would have won overall even against the Soviets. The U.S., after all, had defeated China, who upset the Soviet Union in the World Championships last October, this year.

Grossfeld said the American victory won't change him.

"(Peter) Kormann won in '76 and that didn't change me," he said, referring to the gymnast whom he coached to the first U.S. Olympics medal in gymnastics in 44 years. "I do hope it changes things in terms of money."

Grossfeld is a native of New York City and attended the University of Illinois. He competed in the 1956 and 1960 Olympics and became head coach at Southern in 1963.

With Grossfeld as head coach for the 1972 Olympics, the U.S. team finished 10th. He also was assistant men's coach in 1964 and assistant women's coach in 1968.



Staff photo by Stephanie Gay
Abie Grossfeld sports a cowboy hat as he arrives at Tweed-New Haven Airport.

Grossfeld's back — with Olympic gold

By TONY DORIS
Staff Reporter

The man who led the U.S. men's gymnastic team to Olympic gold strode off a NewAir plane into the Tweed-New Haven terminal Tuesday night. A cowboy hat atop his head, a tired smile on his face, Abie Grossfeld greeted a handful of friends, answered a reporter's questions and headed home.

Behind him was the exuberant applause the 100,000 fans who cheered his men's gymnastic team to glory. Behind him was the four-city victory tour, the ticker tape, the White House handshakes.

What goal does a man strive for after he's won virtually every honor in his field? "Do it again," said Grossfeld, 50, head gymnastics coach at Southern Connecticut State University since 1963.

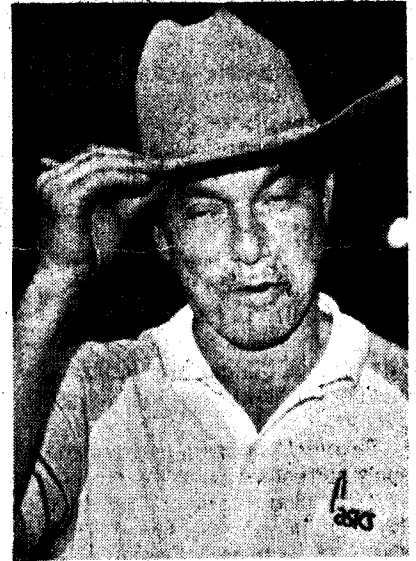
"You enjoy what you're doing and you do it," he added. "You don't say, 'Well, that's it.'"

Grossfeld, who competed in the 1956 and 1960 Olympics and coached the U.S. men's team in 1972, is to be honored by city and state officials Sept. 10 at Southern, a university spokesman said. Three days later he hits the road again on a post-Olympics tour.

Grossfeld said the spirit and excitement of the Los Angeles crowds made this Olympics more thrilling than the others. Competing in his own country and hearing the U.S. fans cheer was overwhelming, he said.

Asked how he felt about the East Bloc boycott of the 1984 games, Grossfeld said that was beyond the athletes' control. The Soviets would have won medals, but there were indications the U.S. team would have won overall even if the Soviets competed, he said. The U.S. this year beat China, which upset the Soviet Union in the World Championships last October in Budapest, he noted.

Grossfeld said the American victory won't change him in any way. "Kormann won in '76 and that didn't change me," he said, referring to Peter Kormann, whom he coached to the first U.S. Olympic



Staff Photo by STEPHANIE GAY

Abie Grossfeld tips his hat at Tweed New Haven Airport Tuesday.

medal in gymnastics in 44 years. "I do hope it changes things in terms of money."

The victory probably helps his chances of being re-elected coach of the National team, he said. Some of those voting, however, may feel he's had the job long enough, he added.

Grossfeld said he hadn't thought about the possibility of taking a job with another university or taking on an international coaching assignment.

He will continue to teach gymnastics this year at Southern, where he has a reputation of making stars out of available talent. He seldom recruits, because Southern can't offer scholarships that other universities can, a colleague said.

Nonetheless, he has led Southern's team to the head of its league, the Eastern Intercollegiate Gymnastic League, nine years in a row, and won several NCAA Division II national championships.

In addition to the men's team gold, the U.S. men and women gymnasts this year won 14 medals, he said.

Grossfeld is a native of New York and attended the University of Illinois.

Journal-Courier

August 22, 1984

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AUG 13 1984

THE CONNECTICUT
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OPINION PAGE

Adanti deserves chance

In 1981, former Ansonia Mayor Michael J. Adanti served a six-month stint as acting President of Southern Connecticut State University.

In the opinion of many instructors, professors, students and administrators, he did an outstanding job. But when it came time to select a permanent president, he was passed over. Or to be more accurate, he was never even considered.

One factor in that decision was the matter of "credentials." Adanti has a Masters Degree but not a doctorate.

Thus, E. Frank Harrison was selected for the \$68,500 a year job.

Harrison resigned recently under a cloud of his own making. He was involved in an ongoing set of difficulties that made his continued tenure impossible.

Harrison has a doctorate.

The lesson here is—or should be—clear. Dr. Harrison had the "credentials" but was not able to do the job.

Adanti, without a Ph.D., did a fine job when he had it on a temporary basis.

Now that Southern is a university instead of a college, there is talk a search committee is again interested in finding a president with a doctorate. We hope the 16-member Connecticut State University board of trustees will realize this time around that performance under actual job conditions is something for which there is no substitute.

Adanti has been named president of Southern—once again—until a "permanent" top dog can be found after a

series of interviews and screenings expected to last six to eight months.

If the Ansonia resident and Derby native does the job as well as he did the first time around, he will be in good shape to become Southern's permanent president. That is, if the trustees can overcome their need for a chief executive who can call himself doctor.

In Shelton recently, a search committee spent months interviewing superintendent of schools candidates.

Assistant Superintendent Anthony Pagliaro, because of his on the job experience and knowledge of the school system, was the odds-on choice for the job. He too had been passed over once before.

But the school board took great pains to point out that because of affirmative action regulations, among many other factors, plus the business of fairness, they would have to give any candidate full and equal consideration.

Pagliaro got the job, as he should have. And we believe the same situation exists at Southern.

Adanti was a good mayor. He will make an even better university president if Southern gives him the chance.

And if the trustees will just weigh his job performance, day by day, and stop being dazzled by that word "credentials" he should get it in the near future.

Southern made a mistake three years ago.

They should not make the same one twice.