

Reaganism: Preparing only the few

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in English literature while on a federal education grant.

Now Chavez claims that "the government policy to provide student aid on the basis of need ... is not a civil right."

Her political backwardness extends into primary education as well, since her vocal opposition to public school desegregation and affirmative action hiring policies for school teachers and administrators elevated her into her current position.

If, indeed, the decline of black colleges was the product of accelerated desegregation of formerly all-white institutions, one might be less concerned. Ironically, however, the collapse of black schools and cutbacks in tenure-stream positions for young black faculty are occurring precisely at a time when white colleges are reducing their overall numbers of black professors and administrators.

At Princeton University, for

instance, officials asserted recently that they have made "a vigorous effort to recruit black faculty members." In 1974, however, the number of black Princeton professors was 10, and today the figure has dropped to nine.

By way of contrast, the number of women faculty at Princeton in the past decade has increased from 54 to 101.

Similar statistics can be cited across the country.

At Harvard University in 1980, there were 34 black professors out of 1,746 faculty; in the spring of 1984, the number of black professors had declined to 24, about 1.4 percent of the total faculty.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the black faculty total only 2 percent; Cornell University, 1.7 percent; Stanford University, 1.6 percent.

White administrators are quick to justify these small numbers of Afro-American faculty as a product of the

relatively small pool of blacks who earn advanced degrees. But since 1974, the overall proportion of blacks receiving doctorates has risen from 3.7 to 4.4 percent.

In 1982, the proportion of all minorities receiving doctorates in the field of psychology was 8 percent; mathematics, 9 percent; education, 14.5 percent; economics, 13.4 percent; political science, 12 percent; and sociology, 10.7 percent.

Even after factoring out Hispanics, Asians and other people of color, these figures indicate that the majority of white universities are making few sincere efforts to hire black graduates.

Consequently, the survival of traditional black colleges is of paramount importance to thousands of young black teachers and administrators who have few avenues of employment outside these institutions.

The proverbial bottom line

of the Reaganites' educational policies is simply this: Higher education is not a democratic right for the poor, blacks, Latinos and other historically oppressed groups. This political message is translated by many white universities into a silent repudiation of affirmative action hiring policies.

Both the current administration and many white college presidents might do well to reconsider the observations of black scholar W.E.B. Du Bois: "Human culture in its broadest and finest sense can never be wholly the product of a few. There is not a natural aristocracy of man. A system, therefore, of national education which tries to confine its benefits to preparing the few for the life of the few, dies of starvation."

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Letters

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moves on (as they say at funerals) to a better life up there. But New England's gain is our loss. I will truly miss him.

In the *Chronicle* article, his association with numerous civic and political organizations was mentioned. However, I would like to also credit him with his membership in the Triad United Nations Association.

I have served as program committee chairman for our local UNA chapter and owe a great deal to Cliff for his assistance and insight. His involvement contributed much to this new UNA chapter.

Knowing Cliff, one can sense a worldly mind guiding his community involvement. We're going to miss you, Clifton, but we're happy for the example and inspiration you have left with us.

Clark Harper
Triad UNA-USA
Winston-Salem

A note of thanks

To The Editor:

To the *Winston-Salem Chronicle*, thank you very much for your endorsement in my bid to become a Democratic nominee for county commissioner. To the citizens of Forsyth County, thank you for your vote of confidence in the May 8 primary.

Mose' Belton Brown
Winston-Salem

Food Lion

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Hairston said he also wants to rally the support of black ministers before proceeding with a boycott.

"Because the (Baptist) Ministers Conference (And Associates) is on vacation, I'm meeting with them one by one to get their support," Hairston said. "The black minister has the largest audience and he can make a great impact if he educates his congregation about the facts."

According to a study prepared for the NAACP by the L.R. Byrd Consulting Co. of Greenville, S.C., only three of the 211 Food Lion stores have black managers, among them the store located at the East Winston Shopping Center. Because blacks make up 10 percent of the stores' shoppers, the NAACP contends, their fair share of store managers is 21 percent.

The report, which Food Lion officials termed erroneous and "one-sided," also criticizes the firm for not providing black contractors with major contracts, not purchasing any "appreciable" amount of products from black vendors and not using black-owned banks.

Last November, the talk of boycotting Food Lion stores surfaced, but the threat of a boycott ended after Ben Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, began intensive talks with Food Lion's management in an effort to work out a fair share agreement.

But last week, after Food Lion returned a proposal to the NAACP, the 75-year-old organization renewed calls for a boycott.

"The NAACP's decision to boycott Food Lion is hard to understand," said McKinley, reading from an official company statement. "We estimate 10 percent of our customers are black. This means black customers save at least \$6 million a year shopping at Food Lion."

"If (the boycott is) successful, the black community loses at least \$6 million a year. Such a boycott hardly seems in the best interest of the black community, NAACP or anyone else."

Because of Food Lion's policy of giving customers the lowest prices possible and its competitive bidding process, McKinley said, it cannot choose one group of vendors or suppliers based on race alone.

"We feel it isn't right to prefer any single group over all other groups in doing business or in employment," McKinley said.

Nevertheless, Hairston said, the NAACP's executive committee has voted to boycott and the local board will follow suit. If a local boycott is called, Hairston said, he will get 100 percent support.

Local black ministers express-

ed concern last year when a possible boycott was mentioned at the prospect of having to boycott the store in the East Winston Shopping Center. Still, Hairston said, he thinks black clergy will cooperate.

"I think I could close down the East Winston and Waughtown stores easily," Hairston said. "In fact, I'm sure we could close down the whole East Winston Shopping Center, but I would hate to close the whole shopping center."

Crosswinds

From Page A4

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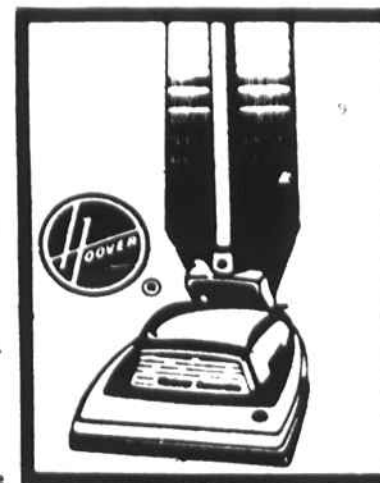


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