

# Editorials & Comments

## Reverse Discrimination, Never!

By Hoyle H. Martin Sr.  
Post Executive Editor

It appears inconceivable that 112 years after the ending of institutionalized slavery, 111 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, 23 years after the Brown decision ended school segregation, and 13 years after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, many Americans are still debating the merits of equal opportunity, justice and equality for black people.

The debate is currently centered around the furor involved in the alleged "reverse discrimination" in the Allan Bakke case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Five years ago, at the age of 32, Allan Bakke applied for admission to the University of California's medical school on the Davis campus. On two occasions Bakke was rejected in spite of the fact that his college grades and aptitude test scores ranked him above many of the students who had been admitted. He learned that among the reasons for his rejection was that 16 of the approximately 100 places in the entering medical program had been reserved for minority candidates selected by a special admissions committee.

Bakke filed a lawsuit charging that the university had discriminated against him, in direct violation of the equal-protection clause of the 14th Amendment, because he is white. While most of these developments have been widely noted by the news media, little attention has been given to the fact that Bakke had been rejected by several other medical schools, 34 of the whites admitted at Davis had lower entrance test scores than he had, and only three of the 16 minority vacancies were given to black students.

### Final Analysis

In the final analysis, the Bakke case will probably provide at least a partial answer to the emotionally charged socio-economic and philosophical concerns carried under the broad heading of "affirmative action" or sometimes thought of in terms of goals and quotas. "The conflict is legally complex," NEWSWEEK writes, economically pervasive and politically explosive. It feeds on emotional backlash from threatened white males. It angers minorities who believe they are still denied their fair share of the American dream. Federally enforced equal-opportunity regulations touch the livelihood of at least 25 million American workers from steel to mills to corporate boardrooms. They affect admissions procedures for hundreds of colleges and professional schools.

In spite of all the rhetoric and the justifiable concerns that blacks have about the outcome of the Bakke case, the POST does not agree with those who contend that if the court

upholds Bakke's suit the civil rights movement will be setback 50 to 100 years. As significant as the Bakke Case is to the struggle for equality and justice, it will be (hopefully) nevertheless just one of the numerous court decisions, Executive Orders and laws that have been handed down to aid the quest for equality.

### Unemployment Rate

However, in spite of all of these orders, decisions and laws black people must continue their never-ending struggle in a quest for a share of the American dream. Our point is clearly demonstrated in a number of recent developments. First, a Presidential Civil Rights Task Force on civil rights reorganization told Mr. Carter last week, "It should come as no surprise...that discrimination in employment...is still a pervasive phenomenon in American life." The seriousness of the problem led the Task Force to recommend the creation of single super agency to enforce equal employment laws and regulations. Secondly, the Task Force's finding are supported by the continued 14 unemployment rate among blacks, twice that of whites.

Thirdly, recent findings indicate that many minority business firms have been systematically denied even a fair opportunity to bid on contracts involving federal expenditures.

Lastly, Mecklenburg County Commissioner Bob Walton charged last week that the county government's personnel office is failing to seek and hire more blacks through its presumed affirmative action program.

We have made these observations simply to remind blacks that heightened expectations with regard to the Bakke case can be dangerous. Blacks must hope for the best but be prepared to carry on the struggle for equality regardless of the Bakke case decision because the problem of racism in America will not disappear over night or in the foreseeable future.

It is for this very reason - continued racism - that allegations of reverse discrimination are totally false and unwarranted. Reverse discrimination has and will never occur by reason of the fact that white males control and dominate American society. The argument against so-called reverse discrimination is really an argument for continued discrimination against blacks and women and the white man's way of saying, "I don't intend to share in the burden of such discrimination."

Tragically and significantly, if we awake tomorrow to find ourselves all with green skin, would racial discrimination cease? Yes it would, but then we'd pick on the bald or short or fat persons so as to discriminate against someone.

Let's at least try to end the racial part now.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Young Republicans Oppose Succession Amendment

Dear Sir:  
The North Carolina Federation of Young Republicans has gone on record as opposing gubernatorial succession. "The basic issue is clean government," said YR Chairman Richard Levy of Greensboro. "We have never had scandals here like those in Maryland and Illinois. What do you tell your children about government when they ask why Gov. Mandel is going to jail?"

"What amazes me," Levy continued, "is that in an era of excessive government power, we would be thinking about giving our governor or anyone more power."

Levy stated that the YRs were influenced by a variety of factors in coming out against succession despite the support of former Gov. Jim Houshouser. Among these factors are:  
-The possibility of corrupt political machines. Eight years of one governor would give him a chance to learn to use government for his own benefit rather than for the state.  
-The end to citizen-governors and their replacement by professional politicians. "Eight years as lieutenant governor and eight years as governor is a career, not a service," Levy asserted. "Then the guy would probably top it off by wanting a huge pension."  
-Consolidation of power.  
-Demagoguery aimed simply at getting re-elected rather than serving the state.  
-Dirtier campaigns due to be higher.  
-Widespread political patronage throughout state government, leading to more inefficiency and chaos.

Capricious use of the bureaucracy to get back at political opponents. "This amendment would make a Watergate possible in North Carolina," said Levy.  
"Why anyone would want to change our state is beyond me. If they think another state has better government, let them move to Maryland or New York."

Levy also stated his skepticism about arguments advanced by supporters of succession. "You can use all of their own arguments against them," he said.

### Getting Things In Perspective

Dear Sir:  
Everyone has had their say about the high Divorce Rate. In my opinion: No one has really hit on the cause. I am not against women working, but women should learn to work. But do not let your white friends instill in your mind that you belong to a different society from the man that get his hands dirty. Such as The White Collar worker.  
If you don't wear a suit and carry a briefcase, you don't count in the White Collar class. When you go out with your friend or husband he must not say that he works getting his hands dirty. You must say that you are a supervisor or what-not on your job. You must spend your hard earned money, being a big shot, pay a big price for a big class apt., a new car every year.

Our governor ought to be spending his time running North Carolina, not running for most popular governor."  
As for the argument that those who have served in government are in favor of succession, Levy scoffed. "Of course they are. They want to perpetuate themselves in office. They could care less about what the people really want."

Levy said that the YRs, who have 50 clubs statewide, will be glad to pass out literature on election day for any anti-succession group. "Republicans are overwhelmingly against this amendment. Many Democrats join them. Together, we can keep government in North Carolina clean." -Jim Busick

that work have little problems in this matter. Unless one of them tries to be young again. Which happens to the man most of the time. When in Africa in 1943, I heard a African tell a Black from America that he was not part of them. Because he was too white orientated. And it is becoming more and more today. The blacks can not be blacks, within their own mind. The blacks of today are so mixed-up in their mind and ways until their own representative can not represent them. Blacks should learn about each other before they even think about being in a mixed school. Those that live together learn to understand and love together. Pinkney has been builded up, brain washed, until he don't know what goes on around him.

Henry Williams

## TO BE EQUAL



Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

### BAKKE Case Up For Decision

If there's any single fact about America's history that is beyond dispute it is that blacks and other minorities have been the victims of pervasive, unrelenting discrimination.

So there's something strange about claims that affirmative action programs designed to remedy the effects of discrimination are actually instances of "reverse discrimination" that limit the aspirations of white males.

Yet the Alice-in-Wonderland argument is behind the Bakke Case, now being considered by the Supreme Court. A decision is expected in several months and it could have a strong effect on black and minority access to universities and jobs.

The Bakke Case, for all its complexity, boils down to one basic question the Court will have to answer: It is constitutionally permissible for a university to use race as a criterion for admissions?

Bakke says the Fourteenth Amendment, which grants equal protection of the laws to all, means that institutions must be "color blind" and that race is not an acceptable or constitutionally valid factor in a university's admissions policy.

But previous Court decisions have established the constitutional principle that race may indeed be a factor in institutional policies if the intent is to redress the effects of past negative discrimination that excluded minorities.

It is inconceivable that the Court will readily abandon that principle, thus raising the fiction of a "color blind" society to the level of constitutional law.

Discrimination against minorities still exists, still penetrates every sector of our society, still operates to exclude blacks from their fair share of the rewards and responsibilities of our society. If Bakke actually lost his chance to enter medical school because a mere 16 places had been set aside for minority entrants - and that's doubtful since he'd been rejected by 11 other medical schools as well - then the damage done him has to be weighed against the benefits to society of increasing the numbers of minority doctors.

And Bakke's whole case rests on the fact that his test scores were higher than those of minorities admitted to the University. But since when have test scores been the only determinants? Here we run smack up against the myth of the merit system, a fictional device many Americans believe exists.

There is no merit system, and there never has been. Criteria other than test scores have always been used. Money, influence, political connections, geography, excellence in sports, and many other factors have resulted in people being admitted to universities while those with higher test scores have been rejected.

Those who worship at the altar of "Qualifications" have to realize their idol has feet of clay. Qualifications have never been objective and unchanging. Even those tests so many people place such faith in change from year to year, becoming more or less difficult depending on circumstance - whether the university wants to include more students, or exclude them.

## as i see it

### Black Football - A Thing Of The Past?

By Gerald O. Johnson

It is a known fact that time changes everything. With the passing of time those who are able to adapt survive, those who aren't able to adapt fall by the wayside.

One need only look at a few examples to elucidate the point. Cowboys used to drive cattle cross country to be marketed for the rest of the U.S.A. The railroad came into existence and eventually the cattle were shipped cross country by train. Consequently, the cowboys became extinct as far as cattle driving was concerned. As time marched on the railroads were replaced by airplanes. Though the railroads are fighting for their lives during this current era, it is definite that they will become extinct within the next 2 decades. Without a doubt time will replace the airplane with something.

Time has seen us go through a period when news was unheard of unless it happened to you up to the newspaper and pony express. These things became obsolete as the railroad served as a communication lines from coast to coast. The railroads became obsolete to the radio and now television can bring you news

from anywhere in the world almost as soon as it happens.

With this it is easily seen that time waits for no man. Those cowboys with a little foresight used the changing times to their advantage instead of trying to fight the change. They became millionaires. If railroad people had been concerned with transportation in general instead of the railroad in particular then they would have been in with the development of the airplanes instead of being opposed to it.

Most companies today try not to tie down their businesses with specific commodities or services. This affords them the opportunity to expand and diversify as the time dictates. Most companies learned this at the expense of the railroads.

So we have a classic analogy that can be related to sports in black colleges. Coach Eddie Robinson and Coach John Merritt of Grambling and Tennessee State, two of the winningest coaches in football, both spelled out the trials and tribulations facing an athletic program at a black institution. They both realized that rising cost and integration plague the black institutions. Both men are trying to combat



By Gerald O. Johnson

the problems. However, the needs of the institutions outweigh the income the athletic program can muster up and the vicious cycle continues.

In hindsight, which is always 20-20, black institutions should have realized in 1954 after the Swann Vs. Brownsville decision was made that the current collision course was inevitable. It was then that the right steps should have been made to insure that the equity of these institutions would remain in tact. Today, however, whatever direction is taken to keep equity will only be like healing first degree burns with a band aid.

Obviously what should have taken place is of no help now. What is of help will be some direction for black institutions to go in order to make the best of an impossible situation.

The first problem is integration. The better athletes are being wined and dined, carried and monied right into the white schools. To this end black schools can not compete. As Coach Robinson said "The white schools spend more recruiting one athlete than we have in our whole operating budget." But I feel black schools aren't doing with what they have. It reminds me of the joke of the man telling his girlfriend that he wished he was an octopus so he could have eight arms to squeeze her tight. His girlfriend said "you are lying." When the man replied why she called him a lie, she said, "you aren't even using the two you got."

Because the athletes are inferior is no reason for having a poor team or a poor turnout to a game. Winston-Salem State University has one of the finest football teams I have seen in a good many years. Their athletes come from the same places all other black schools get their athletes from. It is really a treat to see the Rams play. However, there are only a few people that know how great this team is. Winston-Salem is not publicizing this team as they should.

It appears that Winston-Salem and South Carolina State will meet in the Gold Bowl in Richmond on December 3. Neither conference has gone out of its way to publicize this fact.

With the proper selling of the black institutions, the rising cost will take care of itself. People can only get excited about your program if you have a program and if you tell them about the program. The ACC used to be a run of the mill conference until they hired a managerial firm to handle promotion. The ACC is considered to be the finest conference in basketball and rapidly gaining in football. Think back to 1960 thru 1965 and tell me about the ACC. You can't because there isn't that much to tell. You didn't hear that much about them. But look at them now!

Most black conferences and black institutions do not understand the promotion aspect of the institutions. Consequently, most public relations offices are improperly man-

aged and staff.

In conclusion what can a black institution offer a athlete? This has to be studied carefully. Why should a boy come to your school to play a sport and receive work aid compensation for it. He could get money from work aid without getting his head torn off every week. Give him something. Find some money some where.

What time has really done in essence is expose black institutions to the inadequacies of poor management. What has happened is the guarantees have gone and we are left with our ability or inability whatever the case might be.

Before integration no one really cared that much about black institutions. What you did, when you did it, and how you did it was of no concern to anybody. Black students were forced to go to the black institutions. Because the cream of the crop was forced into predominately black institutions inadequate or non-existing programs sufficed to get the job done.

But now that government plays a major role in funding black institutions and because the elite of the black society are shuffled off to white schools, accountability is the rule instead of the exception.

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