

Weber Loses

[Continued From Page 1] discrimination and violation of the Civil Rights Acts, Kaiser, with the approval of United Steelworkers Union, started a program that would increase the number of blacks in skilled craft areas. Kaiser, in its program, stipulated that at least fifty per cent of the participants would be black, and the criteria would include seniority as a determinant of participants. Weber charged that he was excluded from the program while two blacks with less seniority were admitted.

Judge William Brennan's majority opinion said that the Civil Rights

Act which forbids racial discrimination in employment was never intended to outlaw voluntary affirmative action programs, but rather was intended to assist minority groups who had been victims of discrimination in the past. Brennan hinted that some preferential treatment could be given minorities, at least until the percentages on the job equaled the percentage of minorities in the workforce.

In bitter dissent, Justices Berger and Rhenquist charged that the decision violates the plain words and intent of the civil rights law ban on racial discrimination in employment.

The Court's decision was met with guarded op-

timism, but was applauded by labor leaders and civil rights advocates.

At a New York press conference, Vernon Jordan said, "It offers a ray of hope that affirmative action will become an important tool to forge racial equality in America."

Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP, called the Weber case one of the most important of the decade and that the decision by the court dealt with the fundamental right of labor and companies together, to adopt voluntary affirmative action plans that would lead this country forward.

Other responses from labor and civil rights advocates included responses such as "The decision has

put the civil rights train back on track," and "It's a victory for labor and affirmative action advocates."

The head of the government's arm that is responsible for the enforcement of equal employment opportunities, Mrs. Eleanor Holmes Norton, responded to the Weber decision saying "Employers and unions no longer need fear that conscientious efforts to open job opportunities will be subjected to legal challenge. To the extent that there may be employers who may fear that the Kaiser case presented a true threat to voluntary affirmative action, we believe now that there is no room for such doubt." Mrs. Norton, the chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity

Adults Needed to Help Clean-Up Squad

By Marilyn Roof

The West End Clean-Up Squad began its second summer of operation Monday. The group is comprised of mostly eight to thirteen-year olds who live in the West End Community of Durham. They spend each morning sweeping the streets and

Commission, said that employers should be reinforced now that voluntary affirmative action is a far safer course than to wait to be sued, and feels that the court in a single decision, appears to have done away with reverse discrimination in employment discrimination law.

picking up trash. In the afternoons they relax with arts and crafts, swimming, and educational activities. There is no charge to participate; in fact the children are due to receive small stipends for their work. The stipends will be provided by area businesses and churches, which the squad will include on its clean up agenda.

The Clean-up Squad is the brainchild of Brother Yusef Salim. He wanted a project organized for the children who gathered around the Sallam Cultural Center, of which he is part owner. He put in many patient hours with

the children on last year's squad, and praised the young veterans at the first meeting this summer for their improved discipline and sense of community pride.

This year, however, Brother Yusef is being pulled in many directions — operating his increased talent with and encouraging other jazz musicians in the area and working with community groups. His concern for the children is not diminished, but his energy is. No funds were obtained to hire adult supervision for the Clean-Up Squad, although Operation Breakthrough

has helped with a grant for equipment and outings. Four local teenagers in the CETA Program will be working with the children part of the time. A couple of adults have offered services for a day a week or for a special project. More volunteers are needed, however, to give Brother Yusef a break and to expose the children to diverse experiences. The children have been asking Brother Yusef all year when the squad would start, and they are infused with energy for a busy summer. The group could almost get along on their enthusiasm alone, but

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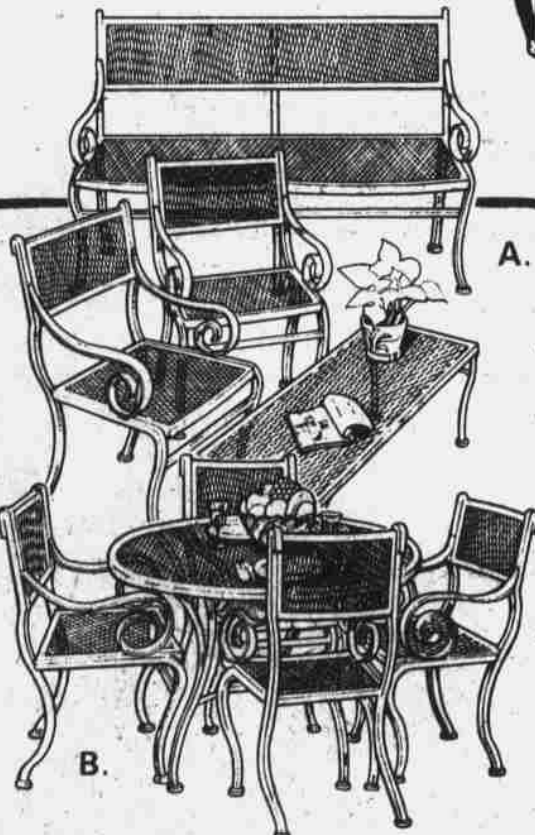
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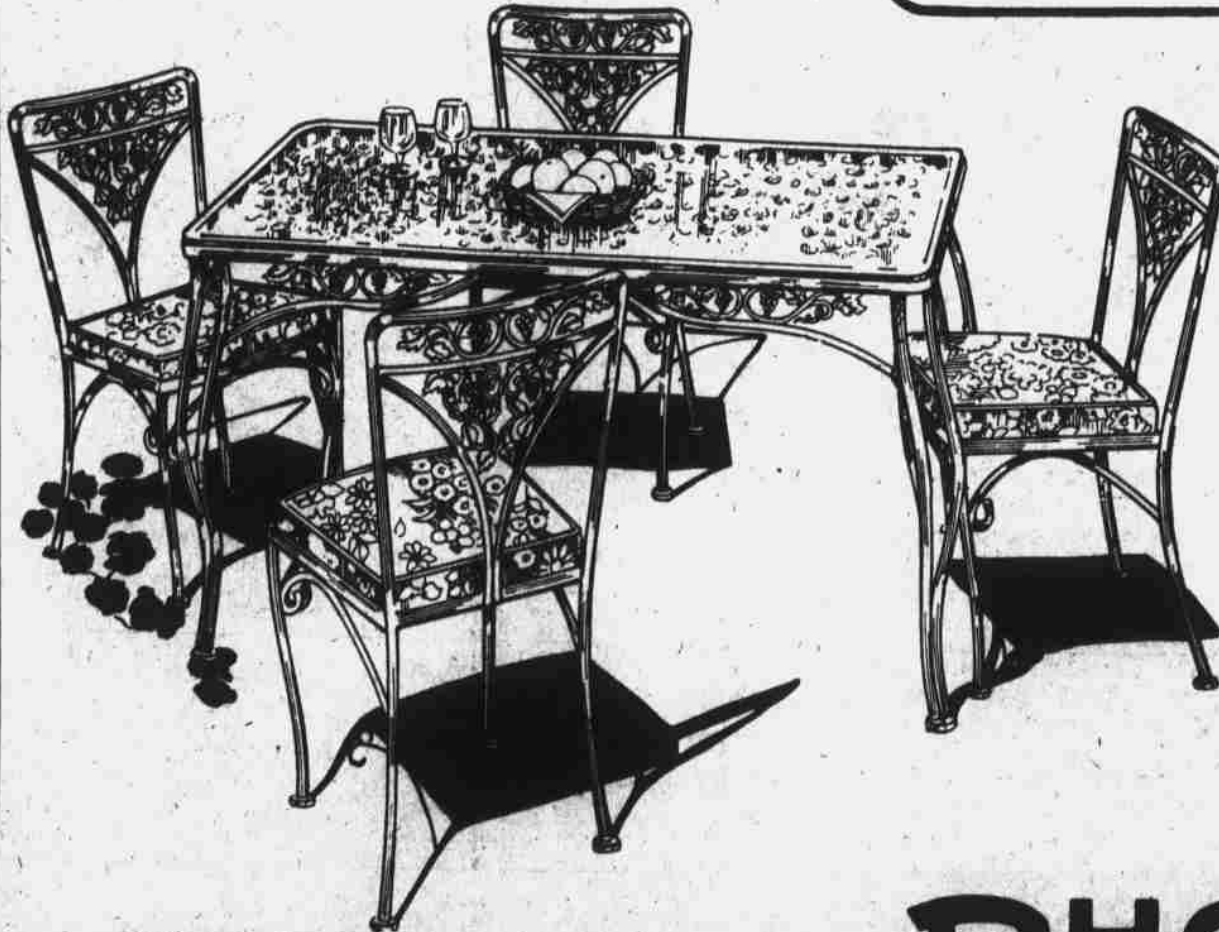


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