

# NCAA proposal passes, angering black schools

From Staff and Wire Reports

NEW ORLEANS — The National Collegiate Athletic Association, a stone's throw from altering its requirements for freshman eligibility in athletics, pelted many black colleges with the final adoption of rigid Proposition 48.

Charges ranging from insensitivity to racism were being hurled at the NCAA this week following

predominantly white governing body of college athletics. Black educators insisted the requirements were inherently biased.

Passage of Proposition 48, which followed the rejection of two other black school-sponsored proposals, could clear Division I (I-A and I-AA in football) benches of thousands of incoming freshmen, who would be ruled ineligible because of less-than-sufficient high school grades and scores on achievement tests.

Division II schools like Winston-Salem State are not directly affected by adoption of

Proposition 48, which will take effect in August. But Division I schools like Howard and A&T will be.

"I don't understand academicians being that asinine, insipid and bucolic," Eddie Jones, the faculty representative at Grambling State University, railed after the NCAA rejected, by votes of 47-248 and 66-233, black-sponsored proposals to eliminate Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

scores as measures for athletic eligibility. Then, by a 206-94 margin, they approved the proposal that links high school performance with college eligibility. "Frederick Douglass said that absolute power concedes nothing; it never has and it never will," Jones said. "And that's exactly what they've shown us today — that they don't have to concede anything they don't want to concede."

Before the vote, Joseph Johnson, Grambling's president, said he believed there was "a hidden agenda at this convention, and that was to eliminate the

number of black athletes on college campuses."

Small "schools, including historically black schools like Grambling and A&T, who play in Division I conferences, figure to suffer the most from Proposition 48. Administrators at these schools were most upset about the inclusion of the SAT-ACT standard. College achievement tests have been proven to be biased against black students.

Division I schools) to withdraw and retreat to Division II, to join the NAIA (another governing body for small schools) or to go independent," said C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines, athletic director at Winston-Salem State.

Jim Frank, the first black to be NCAA president and now commissioner of the predominantly black Southwestern Athletic Conference, said, "A great deal of insensitivity has been shown to a small but loyal segment of this association."

One common thread running through many of the black

educators' comments was that it would be better to permit the eligibility of a marginal student who might later fail or leave school rather than to keep out marginal ones who, if given the chance, might succeed.

In a sense, Proposition 48 is drawing a bolder line between the NCAA's larger and smaller schools, Gaines said. It may force smaller colleges to change divi-

"In effect, the rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer," Gaines said. "Frankly, I'm in favor of it (Proposition 48) because it will raise the standards of the incoming students and reduce the problems coaches face.

"But they (larger, predominantly white schools) would not have done this if they hadn't been embarrassed by the drug and gambling problems and people suing them. The question is, how in the world did it get to this stage in the first place?"

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## McLean Award

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accepted the award on behalf of her mother, who is recuperating from surgery.

The local branch, established in 1933, has held the event each year, according to newly elected President Walter Marshall. Marshall says proceeds from the \$25-per-plate affair are used to help fund the local branch's various activities.

Marshall officially took over the reins of leadership at the banquet from outgoing President Patrick T. Hairston, who has resigned in the middle of his fifth two-year term. Hairston ran successfully in November for the Board of Aldermen.

Marshall was elected by the local branch's executive committee in December to serve the re-

maining year of Hairston's term.

Keynote speaker Bass urged the audience to study the civil rights struggles of recent decades. "Let us remember where we have been," he said, "to give meaning to where we are now, and to help us decide where we must go next."

Noting that slavery was practiced in the United States for more than 200 years, Bass said, "The after-effects of discrimination cannot magically be wiped out in a couple of decades. The long story of civil rights is still unfolding. In future years, our children and grandchildren must take up the struggle. We depend on them to make sure that history does not repeat itself."

Bass also called upon successful people to "reach out and help pull others along. All of us had a helping hand from the civil rights leaders who paved the way before us. We must be good stewards of their struggle."

Bass urged business leaders and government officials to scrutinize equal-opportunity practices within their professions. And he cautioned citizens to "never throw away the opportunity to speak your mind on election ballots."

Marshall, in his closing comments, asked the audience to remember the role that the NAACP has played in the progress of black people.

"We cannot turn back," Marshall said. "The NAACP has played a vital role in the success of black people in Forsyth County. We have to become more involved in 1986."

## Black woman

From Page A1

picked up Ms. Coleman's body and handled her services.

The two other funeral homes in the northern part of this east coast county at times pick up and hold corpses for Stone Brothers, regardless of race, said Hortense Noble, the firm's funeral director.

She said the problem over Ms. Coleman was the first such inci-

dent she knew of.

Pottinger's son, Daniel Pottinger Jr., said Wednesday his father had no comment.

"At the time, I got angry," said Ms. Coleman's brother-in-law, Levi Rackard. "He should have picked up the body and taken it to his funeral home, then let the family pick it up after they decided."

## Klan issued permit to protest

By The Associated Press

PULASKI, Tenn. — The Ku Klux Klan has received a permit to protest the national holiday marking Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in a march through this Tennessee community where the Klan began, officials said.

City recorder Bob Abernathy, who issued the parade permit, said the Klan will be allowed to parade through city streets without hoods beginning at 3 p.m. Jan. 18, two days before the

national holiday honoring the slain civil rights leader.

The town's Board of Mayor and Alderman had earlier objected to the Knights of the KKK's request for a permit, but a city attorney advised the board that the Klan has the right to march here.

"The fact of hooded men marching down our public streets is enacting to our citizens - white and black. Be may, the Supreme Court of the United States say Please see page A13

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