



## NEWS DIGEST

Compiled From AP Wire

### Task force presents discrimination report

DURHAM -- A task force studying racial discrimination at Duke University has recommended an official observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and centralized affirmative action efforts at the school.

The panel's preliminary report, which was made to Duke President H. Keith H. Brodie, also suggests improved training for mid-level supervisors. The report found that disputes involving charges of discrimination at Duke are likely to be handled inappropriately by such supervisors in departments.

The report also calls for the Duke trustees to establish a code of ethics.

The 12-member task force was appointed by Brodie in December, after a series of protests by a coalition of black leaders beginning in spring 1988. The leaders met with Brodie and two top trustees to air their grievances a year ago.

Charles Putman, vice provost for research and development and chairman of the task force, said the group had not attempted to specify instances of discrimination at Duke, but had decided instead to suggest structural and organizational changes to detect where discrimination did exist and to prevent it in the future.

"We made the decision that we were not going to be a grand jury," he said.

The task force also found that there is a public perception that discrimination exists at Duke and that the perception often is created by Duke employees who feel there is no effective means of addressing their concerns.

### Clergy addresses racism and sexism

FAYETTEVILLE -- Though United Methodists view racism and sexism as a sin and have enacted policies against them, many North Carolina churches still are hesitant to accept a minority minister, some say.

But at the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church on Friday, clergy and lay people serving as delegates from churches in the 56 easternmost counties voted overwhelmingly to accept a resolution calling for an "open itinerancy" system in appointments of ministers to churches.

The only criticism of the proposed resolution voiced during the business session was that the 1995 deadline allows too much time for such a system to be implemented. Some delegates think the policy should have been in effect for years.

### 44 arrested at anti-apartheid rally

WASHINGTON -- Forty-four people were arrested outside the White House on Saturday as 2,000 people demonstrated against apartheid in South Africa, U.S. Park Police said.

Police said all 44 were charged with demonstrating without a permit, a misdemeanor carrying a \$50 fine if convicted.

The demonstrators marched from the Washington Monument to the White House, where they knelt in front of the gates and hung placards bearing the names of people who have been detained by police in South Africa.

The event was intended to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the June 1976 Soweto uprising, when more than 575 black South Africans were killed during what was to have been a nonviolent march.

### Prominent black rejected by country club

GARY, Ind. -- A prominent black businessman has been rejected for membership by a Lake County country club, and the Indiana Civil Rights Commission is looking into the matter, the commission director said Friday.

The application of Mamon Powers Jr., the president of Powers and Son Construction Co., for membership at Woodmar Country Club in Hammond was rejected by the club's board of directors, Powers confirmed.

Powers, 38, of Gary declined comment except to say he would apply again if invited by the board. A country club employee who answered the phone said club president Richard Leonard was not there and, in any case, was not accepting calls.

Karen Freeman, director of the state Civil Rights Commission, said no complaint has been filed in the matter. The commission has the legal authority, however, to conduct an investigation despite the absence of a complaint and can file a "director's complaint" if warranted, she said.

"We are in the process of doing that right now," said Ms. Freeman from her Indianapolis office. "We have to get more information."

Ms. Freeman said Woodmar might have Hispanic or Asian members, but that "to my knowledge" the country club rolls include no black members.

### Attorneys argue appeal for Carmen Butler

ATLANTA -- Testimony about an informant's tip unfairly prejudiced a jury in the 1986 cocaine possession trial of Carmen Lopez Butler, one-time girlfriend of former state Sen. Julian Bond, her attorney argued before the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Ms. Butler, who is seeking a new trial, was convicted of cocaine possession with intent to distribute in DeKalb County in August 1987. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Ms. Butler's attorney, Tony Axam, said Monday a narcotics detective should not have been allowed to testify that he had been told by the informant to look for a woman with a Hispanic name during his investigation. That information was hearsay, Axam argued.

He said the detective's testimony helped lead the jury to conclude that more than 200 grams of cocaine found in Ms. Butler's rented DeKalb County home during a raid belonged to her and not to one of the other 10 people who were in the house at the time.

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# New whip: Liberal, black consensus seeker

By JIM LUTHER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON -- People who say the Democrats focus on the interests of liberals, blacks and Northeasterners can point to the election Wednesday of Rep. William H. Gray III of Pennsylvania as House whip. He is all three.

But Gray, 47, also is a consensus-builder. When he chaired the House Budget Committee he worked closely with Republicans and conservative Democrats to develop a spending plan that attacked the worrisome deficit and, as he put it, guaranteed "long-term economic growth and compassion."

When Gray was preparing to move into the Budget job, his predecessor, conservative Rep. Jim Jones, D-Okla., praised his intelligence, temperament and ability "to say no to an awful lot of special interests."

At the same time, Rep. Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., who regularly battled Gray on budget issues, praised him as "a first-rate guy" and said "everybody will be able to work with him."

The Budget Committee chairmanship gave Gray national visibility and made him easily the most powerful black member of Congress. After his term as chairman, which was marked by great success in rounding up Democratic votes for the spending



Rep. William Gray, D-Pa., gives the keynote address at the Wisconsin Democratic convention.

plans he developed, Gray moved up the leadership ladder to chair the caucus of all House Democrats.

Gray's elevation to party whip, the No. 3 leadership job, was made possible by the resignation of Rep. Tony Coelho of California. At a closed caucus, Gray defeated Rep. David E. Bonior of Michigan and Rep. Beryl Anthony of Arkansas.

In winning election Wednesday, Gray had to overcome fears of some members that he himself might be tainted by reports of an FBI investigation of whether he had a no-work, no-show employee on his payroll. Gray steadfastly denied anything improper, and the Justice Department

said Monday that he was not a target of the probe.

Gray, who was born in Baton Rouge, La., has represented Pennsylvania's 2nd District, a Philadelphia area that "Politics in America" describes as black, poor and Democratic, since Jan. 3, 1979. Like his father and grandfather before him, he is chief minister of Bright Hope Baptist Church. Gray is married and has three children.

He has had no trouble winning reelection every two years, although his reputation as a consensus seeker prompted a 1982 Democratic primary challenge from a militant state senator, who accused Gray of selling

out. A third-party challenger in 1986 leveled similar charges in 1986 but Gray won with 98.6 percent of the vote.

Gray is the No. 2 Democrat on the House Appropriations subcommittee on transportation, a prime assignment for one who is always looking for increased funding for mass transit.

An earlier assignment to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, when he was a freshman congressman, opened the way for Gray to win approval for an African development program. He uses his Appropriations position to foster increased aid for Africa.

Beyond his work on the Budget Committee, his biggest victory came in 1986 when the House overrode then-President Reagan's veto and approved legislation imposing sanctions against South Africa because of that nation's racial policies. The final bill was a compromise between Gray's position and a tougher version written by Rep. Ron Dellums, D-Calif.

Gray is not always predictable. In 1984, he faced no serious re-election challenge and spent his time campaigning for colleagues. One beneficiary: Rep. Lindy Boggs, D-La., who was on the verge of losing her seat to a black challenger.

## Supreme Court creating barriers for minorities, Chambers says

RALEIGH (AP) -- Former President Ronald Reagan packed the nation's high court with conservative justices who are unsympathetic to affirmative-action and set-aside programs, the head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. says.

"We have depended extensively on litigation to advance the cause of black people, and we've had some success," Julius Chambers said. "But you know Mr. Reagan came through and has left a court of the same view as Mr. Reagan."

"How effective that litigation effort is going to be in the future is questionable," said Chambers, a native of Mount Gilead and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill law school.

Chambers addressed about 300 people at a conference of the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus at the Raleigh Marriott Hotel on Saturday.

"Despite the law, despite the history, despite the plight of a people, five people decide that (they're) tired of giving some benefits, some rights to a group of black people," he said.

Chambers cited several recent reversals that the civil rights movement has

suffered:

-- In a case that originally involved Duke Power Co., the Supreme Court, by a 5-4 vote, this month made it more difficult for minorities to use statistics to win claims of racial discrimination while making it easier for employers to rebut such arguments. Chambers said that as a result of the ruling, workers would have to pay between \$500,000 and \$1 million to litigate certain job discrimination suits.

-- In a case involving the Birmingham, Ala., fire department, the court this month ruled 5-4 that white firefighters could challenge a court-approved affirmative action plan.

-- The high court ruled by a 6-3 vote last January that the Constitution forbids cities and states from adopting "set-aside" programs without hard evidence that their actions contributed to or caused discrimination. The case involved a set-aside program for construction contracts in Richmond, Va. Chambers said he was not optimistic about Congress' ability to pass laws bypassing the court's actions.

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