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Supreme Court ruling due soon Bakke victory would be loss for all minorities

By **ROGER LANCASTER**

In a few days the U.S. Supreme Court will begin reviewing the Bakke case. Its decision may prove to be the most important civil-rights ruling since the 1954 Brown decision that banned segregated public schools. At stake are two decades of social and educational progress for blacks, women and other minorities.

Allan Bakke, a white space engineer and former Marine, applied to medical school at the University of California at Davis twice, both in 1973 and 1974. He did not pass the general admissions qualifications and was rejected both times. When Bakke learned that a special admissions program for underprivileged applicants in 1974 had admitted a few students with lower college grades and aptitude test scores than his, Bakke claimed he was a victim of "reverse

discrimination." Bakke sued the university. In September, 1976 the California Supreme Court ruled in Bakke's favor and the university appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The main argument in the case is whether special admissions programs constitute reverse discrimination against white males. But just what is reverse discrimination? Does the term have any relevance to the Bakke case or to American education in general?

Though the term reverse discrimination has been widely used as the battle cry among racists and reactionaries, few have expounded on its actual meaning. It is doubtful that blacks, who constitute only 2.7 per cent of the students in state university systems, are in a position to practice any form of discrimination. The word "quotas" (as opposed to "goals") has been closely associated with the concept of reverse

discrimination. Some consider that the use of quotas as a means of redressing social, sexual and racial inequities of the past is reverse discrimination. Some maintain that the same criteria should be applied to all university admissions applicants, regardless of past discrimination. Such a course of action, which almost seems fair at a casual glance, would actually serve to reinforce centuries of racism. In filing the minority opinion of the California Supreme Court, Justice Matthew O. Tobringer said of the Bakke case:

"Two centuries of slavery and racial discrimination have left our nation with an awful legacy, a largely separated society in which wealth, educational resources, employment opportunities — indeed all of society's benefits — remain largely the preserve of the white-Anglo majority. As a practical matter, racial classification frequently must be employed if the effects of

past discrimination and exclusion are to be overcome."

Some people pretend that they've never heard of special considerations or quotas. They ignore the fact that special considerations have long been employed by colleges and universities in selecting veterans, children of alumni, financial contributors and others. Only when quotas are applied to the deprived and to victims of prejudice as a temporary means of adjusting for past social injustice does an outcry arise against special considerations. Of the attack on racial quotas, Jesse Jackson has pointed out that "there has always been a quota system for blacks. Historically that quota has always been zero. Only now when it is used in a positive way to measure our progress does it come under attack."

If the Bakke case is upheld, we can expect the death of affirmative action. Desegregation will be left up to white administrators, who have not shown themselves to be reliable at recruiting minorities. The continued attack on minorities' and women's rights — as epitomized by anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-black and other right-wing groups — will gain momentum. Blacks, women and other minorities will be denied special consideration at universities and colleges while quotas will be maintained for children of alumni, children of financial contributors and other wealthy groups.

The Supreme Court's ruling on the Bakke decision will undoubtedly have a major impact and far-reaching consequences on public education and employment in this country.

What are the future prospects for minorities and women in the United States? Dismal, considering some recent Supreme Court rulings. A rightward trend in the court's philosophy could conceivably erode almost all the civil rights gains of the '50s and '60s. New decisions against gays, abortions and desegregation programs could set the pace for a stepped-up attack on minorities. If the court decides against special admissions for the underprivileged, then women, blacks and other minorities will suffer even more serious setbacks in all areas of society.

Roger Lancaster, a freshman, is a sociology and anthropology major from Goldsboro, N.C.

Biko death final catalyst?

The death of Steven Biko, the nonviolent man who led the opposition to apartheid in South Africa and a founder of that nation's black consciousness movement, may prove to be the final catalyst for a violent black rebellion there. After all, now that the foremost nonviolent black leader is dead, a new militancy seems inevitable. In fact, his funeral Monday was reported to be as much a protest rally as a commemoration for the dead leader.

The anger of black Africans is wholly justified. According to the government, Biko died in a jail after a week long hunger strike while he was being held for questioning. Of course, as many blacks noted, it usually takes several weeks for a person to die from fasting, not a mere week. In fact last week officials reported that he may have been beaten or tortured to death.

Furthermore, Biko was the 20th black known to have died in security detention during the past year. The reasons for the other blacks' deaths, according to the police, included slipping in a prison shower and falling against a chair.

Tensions were heightened at Biko's funeral when police forbade hundreds of blacks to attend by blocking roads and stopping buses en route by asserting that the buses did not have the proper permits to travel. Moreover, the crowd of 10,000 that did attend the funeral heard several speakers warn the government that it had only pushed blacks further toward violence by its actions.

In many ways, a comparison can be drawn between Biko and Martin Luther King. Both were nonviolent reformers. Both were harassed by the government. Both may have died at the hands of the government, although this will probably never be certain. Finally, as the civil rights movement became increasingly militant and violent after King's death, it seems likely that the same will occur in South Africa. In fact, this rebellion seems more likely in South Africa, considering that blacks form a five-to-one majority over whites.

Indeed, the repressive white government of South Africa deserves its fate if it continues to hold fast to its inhumane and archaic policy of racial segregation and oppression. The South African government cannot say it has not been warned.

Blanket Hill: Kent State gym must not mar memory

The trustees of Kent State University these days have been trying to raise a building on the campus. Meanwhile, the students are raising hell about the building. And we hope the students continue.

The trustees want to build a \$6-million gymnasium annex near Blanket Hill, the site where four students were killed and nine others wounded during a campus anti-war rally in 1970.

The students, murdered by National Guardsmen, are remembered by the May 4th Coalition, a group opposing construction of the facility. The coalition wants the site declared a national historic landmark.

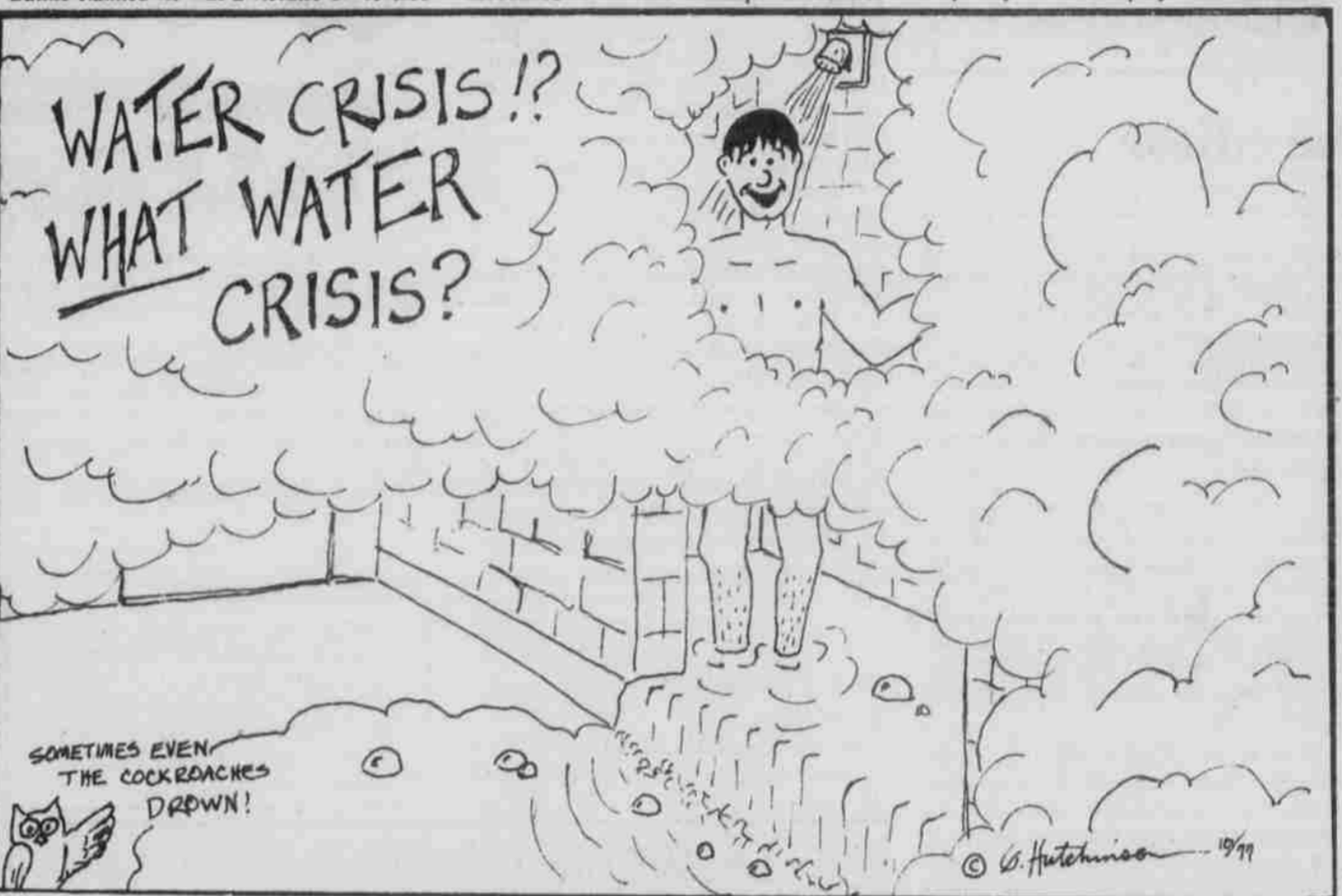
This group and others feel so strongly about the situation that about 1,500 of them last Saturday tore out a 250-foot portion of a fence surrounding the site. One demonstrator stepped in front of a truck but was moved aside by campus police. Two females buried themselves horizontally in a hole workers had dug to transplant a tree from the construction site. The two women later were uncovered and pulled from the hole.

Although the new president of the university favors the construction of the gym — he stands to lose his job if the facility is not built — said he feels that the killing seven years ago was unjustified homicide.

Kent State is already a monument. It is a monument to the mistake of the Vietnam war — a conflict that resulted in the deaths of 56,886 Americans. It is also a monument to the war's opposition — a movement led by the nation's youth that finally spread to the rest of the country. It was a war that America lost. It was a travesty and an embarrassment, and it should not be forgotten.

The protesters at Kent State call Blanket Hill sacred. Building a gym on it would be the same as covering up what happened that tragic day more than seven years ago.

Build the gym somewhere else. Designating the ground as a national historic landmark would be beneficial to the students, Ohio and the rest of the country. That way, we would never forget the battles of the Vietnam war, both in Indochina and in the United States.



Southern Bell should take back goodies and give us service

By **ZAP BRUECKNER**

"My son, what is your wish?"
"A telephone directory, Father Bell."
"A directory?"
"Yes, my father, so I can call my friends without paying for directory assistance. I have already used my five free assistance calls for the month, and the student locator is always busy."
"Here, my son, have a pencil holder with a Carolina football schedule engraved on the side."
"But, Father..."
"Do not thank me, I know you are grateful unto me."

The above conversation sounds a bit like the old question posed in the Bible: if a son asks his father for a fish to eat, what should a father give him? A snake? Of course not; the answer is a fish. But in the case of Southern

Bell as a surrogate father for students, it is the former case.

On Wednesday, Sept. 28, the phone utility began distributing packets to dorm residents labeled: Collegiate Communications. Inside the student discovers an amazing set of trivia. There is a three-sided pencil holder, a little booklet, two bookmarks, a wheel chart and two postcards. What about the student directory? Don't be a loon!

The student telephone customer expects Southern Bell to provide service every month. This should mean basic repairs and free directory service either by paperback form or over the phone. But Southern Bell refuses to answer with decent directory service. Instead they deliver students a packet full of nonsense. Students have paid to be served fish in a restaurant and are given a snake at the back door.

In this silly bundle is a pencil holder with a blue Tar Heel ram on one side. The next side holds yet another 1977 Carolina football schedule — an item most students are swamped with already. The last side says "Keep in Touch." No corporation,

institution or utility in Chapel Hill could be more out of touch with student concerns. Students would much rather have an efficient and free directory service than a pencil holder.

The next ditty in the packet is a booklet entitled "Your Collegiate Personal Telephone Directory." This provides empty space to be filled in with phone numbers and names. Instead of Southern Bell producing a student directory, it allows students to make their own. Creative Phone Book Making 34. No prerequisites, no experience, no credit.

But wait, the booklet is not a total waste. It informs the student that 82 countries around the world will honor his or her Bell System Credit Card for calls back to the U.S. or Canada. Next weekend since students have many opportunities to go overseas during school when you are picking poppies in Turkey or herding reindeer in Siberia, give Ma and Pa a call — and charge it.

Two more items in the package are postcards meant to be sent away to parents or folks outside Chapel Hill. The cards indicate the student's name, residence,

phone numbers and the best time to reach him or her. This is a good idea on Southern Bell's part, but they should send about 100 more for people to have to friends on campus. This would also be another indirect directory.

Far worse than any single item listed above is the cost of this nonsense. Those packages did not fall from Blue Heaven as the little basketballs so in Carmichael. If this is what installation and monthly service charges finance, then a refund is on order because students should get hard-core service and not trite and frivolous gimmicks.

Southern Bell is given students' money and confidence and returns these tokens with a viperous snake. This snake bears fangs of excess directory assistance charges and deceptive gimmicks designed to mislead students.

Southern Bell, take back your toys, give us the service we paid for.

Zap Brueckner, a senior journalism major from Durham, N.C., is a staff writer for the Daily Tar Heel.

Sirica's reduction of Watergate sentences highlights this week's stories

It has taken five years and one month, but Judge John Sirica finally is finished with Watergate.

In what Sirica termed his "last ruling" on Watergate, Richard Nixon's three closest aides — John Mitchell, H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman — had their sentences of 30 months to eight years reduced to one- to four-year terms.

The action came after Sirica listened to tape-recorded pleas of "remorse" and "repentance" from each man.

Mitchell, confined in a minimum security prison at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama, said he was "truly sorry" for and regretted those actions of mine that resulted in my conviction. . . . My reflections since the trial have led me to considerable remorse and distress."

Ehrlichman spoke of acting "without exercising my independent judgment. . . . Had I been wiser, I certainly would have checked out when I realized I was in a moral dilemma." Ehrlichman currently is confined in a Sanford, Ariz., prison camp.

Haldeman, however, appeared to make the greatest acknowledgement of wrongdoing.

"I have the deepest personal regret for everything I have done. I realize the damage it has done to the nation, and I will carry for the rest of my life the burden of knowing how greatly my acts contributed to this tragedy," he said.

Haldeman is serving his sentence in a prison camp in Lompoc, Calif.

The beginning of the week was dominated by news of a hijacking by members of the militant Japanese Red Army. The terrorists took control of a Japan Airlines DC-8 with over 150 passengers and crew members in Dacca, Bangladesh, and demanded a \$6-million ransom and the release of several compatriots imprisoned in Japan.

After securing the ransom and the release of the radicals, the hijackers freed all but 37 hostages and took off for Kuwait, where authorities first

THE WEEK

By **REID TUVIM**

refused to permit the plane to land.

Eventually the plane was allowed to land in Kuwait for refueling. When the craft next took off, it headed toward Syria and then Algiers, where the terrorists ended the six-day drama by releasing the last of the hostages and turning themselves over to police.

Japan has asked Algeria for the return of the Red Army members and the \$6 million, but it is thought that the terrorists surrendered with the understanding they would not be sent back to Japan for prosecution. The money, however, is expected to be returned.

The political waters in the Middle East grew choppy this week as Israel rejected "with both hands" a U.S.-Soviet statement saying a Geneva peace conference should insure "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" and establish "peaceful relations" in the region.

The Arab states and the Palestinians, however, generally agreed with the joint statement. U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim also applauded the agreement.

Though the statement never mentioned by name the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), the implication was there. Never before had the U.S. accepted the concept of "Palestinian rights."

Israel has stated continually it will not negotiate with known members of the PLO but apparently will accept PLO sympathizers as members of another delegation.

Israeli leaders called the statement a sign "of forcing an imposed solution on us" — one the Israelis say cannot be accepted.

Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is in trouble again in her homeland.

She was arrested without a warrant earlier this week on charges of corruption during her unsuccessful re-election campaign this year. Though the New Delhi chief metropolitan magistrate ordered her release after 16 hours of police detention, the government has not dropped the charges.

Tuesday brought an end of President Carter's amnesty program for Vietnam veterans with "general" or "undesirable" discharges.

Under the program a total of approximately 425,000 veterans were eligible. Only 36,826 applied — 8.7 percent of the total.

Critics call the program a disaster, and Congress has demanded the reopening of a majority of the cases. The Pentagon termed the program a success.

And if you're the hunting type, there's bad news this week from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The period of Oct. 5 to 11 until this year has been the traditional hunting season for a very special animal. Henceforth, it shall be known as the questing season — of the unicorn.

"The difference is that in hunting, the object is to kill; in questing, the object is to look," explained Peter Thomas, chief herald of the society.

The controversy began last year when several society members noted there had been no unicorn sightings for several centuries and determined that it therefore must be an endangered species.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) disagrees. David Jenkins, head of the DNR Wildlife Division calls the claims utter nonsense.

"All of our research over the past year indicates a high reproduction output of unicorns and a high group survival rate."

Reid Tuvim, a sophomore journalism major from Atlanta, Ga., is assistant managing editor for the Daily Tar Heel.

