

Associated Press

04-24 4:37a

Top U.S. universities endorse affirmative action in admissions

By SARA SILVER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - A group of the country's most prestigious universities has adopted a resolution defending its right to use race, ethnicity and gender as criteria for selecting students, according to an advertisement published today in The New York Times.

The Association of American Universities, which includes 62 of the top research institutions in the United States, adopted the resolution during its annual meeting April 14 in Washington, D.C.

Calling diversity a "value that is central to the very concept of education

in our institutions," the group backed admissions policies "consistent with the broad principles of equal opportunity and equal protection."

The group said bans in California and Texas on using race in admissions, and a general debate about the goals of affirmative action, "have all combined to create substantial uncertainty about the future representation of minority students within our student bodies."

The group said it did not support admission quotas or the acceptance of students who do not meet admissions criteria.

But it rejected the use of "narrow" definitions of merit, and said that

students benefit from studying with others whose backgrounds are different than their own.

"If our institutional capacity to bring together a genuinely diverse group of students is removed - or severely reduced - then the quality and texture of education we provide will be significantly diminished," the group's advertisement said.

The group includes most members of the Ivy League, private colleges such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Vanderbilt University and leading public universities such as the University of Texas, Austin and the University of California, Berkeley ■

Philadelphia Inquirer

April 24, 1997

Republicans and Democrats hit Clinton education tax plan

The package was criticized as inflationary. Its effect on low-income students was called too limited.

By Rob Wells
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration's education tax package was sharply criticized at a Senate hearing yesterday, with Republicans charging it would further inflate tuition costs and Democrats saying it wouldn't do enough to help low-income students.

The Senate Finance Committee heard some horror stories about rising tuition. One dental student said she would graduate from the State University of New York at Buffalo with \$90,000 in debts.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman William V. Roth Jr. (R., Del.) said tuition at a four-year college increased 234 percent between 1980 and 1995. "This is leading to alarming levels of debts for our young people," Roth said.

The hearing focused on the Clinton administration's education tax package, which includes a \$1,500 college tax credit, a maximum \$10,000 college tax

deduction, early withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts for college expenses, and tax incentives for student-loan forgiveness. The package will cost \$38.4 billion through 2002, the Treasury Department has said.

Witnesses told the panel the Clinton education credits would inflate tuition costs by effectively subsidizing a portion of college costs.

Roth is advocating his own tax-cut package that would let students deduct interest from their student loans, improve tax treatment of state pre-paid tuition plans, and let people save for education using Individual Retirement Accounts.

Defending the Clinton package was Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, who urged Roth not to "let the fear of inflation prevent us from providing assistance."

"The fact that families are getting a little help is not a reason why tuitions will increase

I don't think this program would be a

substantial material factor in tuition costs," Summers said in an interview after the hearing.

Summers said the \$38 billion package primarily was aimed at middle-class taxpayers, but the administration is proposing to increase the Pell Grant program, which is aimed at lower-income people, by \$1.7 billion next year and \$40 billion over five years.

"We're making it possible for kids to go to college without taking on crushing debts," Summers said. He added that the Clinton plan "addresses the middle-class hollow in many colleges," referring to student bodies composed of wealthy students whose families can afford tuition and low-income students who qualified for financial aid based on need.

Sens. Richard H. Bryan (D., Nev.) and Bob Graham (D., Fla.) closely questioned Summers about how the education package helps low-income people gain access to college.

"Are we talking about a program that

Associated Press

04-24 1:44a For Release 10 a.m. EDT

Other countries making strides in educating work force

WASHINGTON (AP) - Education gains by other countries may be helping whittle the U.S. lead in worker productivity.

"The education of the work force, according to at least some measures that contribute to economic success, is growing more rapidly in other countries than in the United States," the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics said in a report today.

The report took care not to put too much stress on the role of education, saying that financial investment clearly has been behind gains by countries catching up most quickly with the United States. Other factors are technological

innovation, foreign trade and government regulation.

Still, growth in education appears to have accounted for an estimated 10 percent to 20 percent of U.S. productivity growth in the last few decades, the report said.

Rather than presenting new information, the report assembled previously gathered data from a number of sources. The report followed recommendations by a congressional panel for the department to look at a variety of statistics and provide analysis and commentary.

Productivity is the national value of goods and services divided by the number of workers or hours worked. As

of 1990, the United States still led Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Britain. However, those other countries were making steady gains.

Among the educational trends cited:

-Young adults in Japan and Germany now are finishing high school at about the same rate as those in the United States. Young adults in Canada and Britain are catching up.

-The proportion of Americans getting a college education is still the highest, although the rate among young adults - those 25 to 34 - is comparable in Japan.

-Still, U.S. students trail students from many other countries in mathematics and science achievement. ■

The New York Times

04/24/97; Edition: Late Edition - Final; Section: Section A; National Desk; Page 27, Column 1

62 Top Colleges Endorse Bias In Admissions

By KAREN W. ARENSON

In an unusual policy statement on the value of diversity in higher education, the Association of American Universities, a prestigious circle of 62 of the nation's leading research universities, adopted a resolution this month supporting the right of colleges to use affirmative action in their admissions procedures.

The statement, which is contained in an advertisement in The New York Times today, expressed the group's "strong conviction concerning the continuing need to take into account a wide range of considerations — including ethnicity, race and gender — as we evaluate the students whom we select for admission." (This page.)

Neil L. Rudenstine, the president of Harvard University, proposed last year that the association consider the issue.

"The higher education community generally," Dr. Rudenstine said, "and our group of 62 universities in particular, had not said anything about our position. We

thought we should be on the record when things are still more fluid."

Despite bans in California and Texas on using race in admissions, many educators say affirmative action remains the best way to insure diversity on their campuses. The association's statement said the actions in California and Texas, together with public debate about diversity, created "substantial uncertainty about the future representation of minority students within our student bodies."

Dr. Rudenstine said members of the association were concerned that there was a widespread misunderstanding that college admissions were based on test scores and grades and little else.

"But it's more complicated than that," he said, adding that Harvard used race, sex and ethnicity, along with many other factors like character and leadership, in seeking a diverse student body.

A Supreme Court decision allows colleges to take these factors into account, he said, "as long as there are no

quotas or two-track systems and there is a consistency of attention to individual applicants, not groups."

Robert M. Berdahl, the president of the University of Texas and a member of the association, was less optimistic about the potential impact of the group's position. It was his campus that was the object of the lawsuit involved in the ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit that barred the use of race as a factor in admissions.

"I don't think it will change the Fifth Circuit's ruling, Proposition 209 or the views of the regents in California," Dr. Berdahl said, referring to the California ballot initiative that banned the use of race and sex preferences in affirmative action programs run by the state. "But it does give me a reference point by saying that I'm not alone on this."

Dr. Berdahl is leaving Texas to become Chancellor at the University of California at Berkeley this summer.

04:13 EST April 24, 1997 ■

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Academe Today

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: April 25, 1997

Section: Government & Politics

Page: A28

WAYS & MEANS

Colorado Agency Punishes 5 Colleges Lacking Minority Graduates

Support among many Colorado politicians for affirmative action is as thin as the Rocky Mountain air. Even so, a state agency is cracking down on five public colleges that do not meet one race-based policy.

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education, which oversees budgets for public colleges, has penalized five institutions for not awarding enough degrees to minority students in 1995-96. The commission and the campuses agreed in 1988 on annual goals for how many minority students should graduate at each campus.

According to the commission's plan, 10 per cent of the graduates of Colorado State University last academic year were supposed to be members of minority groups. Only 8.2 per cent were, so Colorado State must devote 1 per cent of its state appropriation -- \$658,000 -- to efforts aimed at helping more minority students graduate.

The four other campuses, which must spend between \$11,000 and \$67,000, are Mesa State and Western State Colleges, Trinidad State Junior College, and the University of Northern Colorado.

"Public pressure is important for them to keep up or improve their efforts," said Geri K. Reinardy, a spokeswoman for the commission.

Other state officials, however, take a dimmer view of the plan. Attorney General Gale A. Norton, a Republican, has advised campuses to end some race-based policies. And many Republicans backed a bill this year, which almost passed the General Assembly, that would have barred state agencies from having policies like the commission's.

Some college officials say that while they support affirmative action, the commission's formula is off the mark. "I prefer looking at issues of diversity in the broader context," promoting good-faith efforts and long-term goals, "which ultimately will translate into numerical change," said Dana S. Hiatt, who oversees affirmative-action programs at Colorado State.

Copyright (c) 1997 by The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inc.

<http://chronicle.com>

Title: Colorado Agency Punishes 5 Colleges Lacking Minority Graduates

develop volunteerism programs in their communities.

"That," said Powell, "will be the real

proof of the value of the summit." ■

TRADE

The Chronicle of Higher Education [Academe Today]

April 25, 1997

In "Times" Ad, 62 Top Universities Endorse Use of Race in Admissions

By DOUGLAS LEDERMAN

In a large advertisement in Thursday's New York Times, the presidents of 62 leading research universities endorsed the continued use of race as a factor in admissions decisions.

The members of the Association of American Universities tend to focus their attention on research issues, but at their annual meeting last week, they approved a statement "On the Importance of Diversity in University Admissions." The statement was printed in full in the advertisement.

The endorsement came despite a series of court rulings and state referenda

that have undermined admissions policies that take applicants' race into account.

Among the chief executives signing the statement were the chancellors of six campuses of the University of California system. Its Board of Regents voted in July 1995 to bar all of the system's campuses from considering race in admissions, hiring, and contracting.

Ward Connerly, a regent who led the push for the new policy and for a successful ballot measure that would ban racial preferences statewide, called the involvement of the California campuses

in the ad an "outrage" and a "direct contradiction of the will of the people of California and the regents of California."

He added: "These people are paid to carry out the policies of the institution that has hired them. If they don't feel comfortable doing that, they should resign."

Spokesmen for the California chancellors said that while the leaders had endorsed the published statement, they would carry out the university's new policy. ■

Education Daily

April 25, 1997

IDEA BILL WOULD NEVER ALLOW SCHOOLS TO CUT OFF SERVICES

A bipartisan plan negotiated by congressional staff would explicitly prohibit schools from ceasing services to disabled children, effectively overturning a federal appeals court decision.

The draft bill developed behind closed doors would clear the haze of existing law, codifying the Education Department's position that special education students are guaranteed services regardless of any misbehavior related or unrelated to their disability.

The U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled this year that under the existing Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a disabled child can forfeit his right to an education through bad conduct (ED, Feb. 7).

A summary of the bipartisan

agreement obtained by Education Daily says schools would be authorized to discipline disabled students in the same way they punish nondisabled students, if the misbehavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability: "provided that there not be a cessation of educational services."

Policy Turnaround

The IDEA amendments draft—released in summary form to lobbyists late Wednesday—represents a dramatic about-face from earlier GOP bills in the House and Senate that would have allowed schools to cease services when offenses are unrelated to the student's disability (ED, Jan. 30).

But it is unclear if this sets the stage for a quick, painless renewal of IDEA or will lead to battles on the House and

Senate floors over discipline policy.

Rep. Frank Riggs, R-Calif., said last month that he would "insist" that IDEA allow states to cease services to disruptive disabled pupils (ED, March 20).

His staff declined to comment on the plan yesterday beyond saying Riggs was pleased with the compromise.

As expected, the IDEA draft would provide greater flexibility to schools striving to discipline disabled students, allowing them to be moved to alternative placements for 45 days for weapons and "knowing" drug offenses (ED, April 21).

But the plan doesn't satisfy some general school groups' wish for more sweeping discretion.

"It doesn't allow unilateral alternative placements in cases of assault."

The proposals are "not flashy stuff, but it's real," said Richard DeColibus, president of the 5,000-member Cleveland Teachers Union in a district with a \$150 million debt, high dropout rates and shoddy buildings.

The suggestions include a lower teacher-student ratio, all-day kindergarten, stricter discipline and greater parent and community involvement in schools.

If those changes are made, DeColibus said at a morning news conference, "We'll work with any governance, including the mayor."

The union has steadfastly proposed a legislative proposal that would abolish the elected school board and give Cleveland Mayor Michael White control of the district.

DeColibus, joined by Ron Marec, president of the parent Ohio Federation of Teachers, said the union's proposed improvements were based on educational research, such as the need for disciplined, orderly classes to promote learning.

Rick Ellis, a spokesman for the school district, said many of the ideas had merit

but the issue of cost could not be avoided.

"That's what the people in state government are trying to figure out: What is the cost? How do you pay for it?" Ellis said.

The union's wish list was drafted at the suggestion of state Rep. Amy Salerno, R-Columbus.

Salerno is chairwoman of the House Select Committee on School Governance, which held a public forum on the schools Thursday night at Cuyahoga Community College.

The committee listened for about four hours while 70 Cleveland residents testified on the various proposals for governing the schools.

Of the five bills under consideration by the committee, parents and other residents focused on the one that would turn over much control of the state's largest school district to White.

Proponents of the plan said giving the mayor the power to appoint a new school board would establish accountability and return some local control to a district that has been under the control of a federal

court for decades.

"We have tried everything else and we have failed," said resident Ceola King. "So what's wrong with trying something new? Our children deserve a chance."

Those supporting the mayoral-control plan said immediate action was necessary because the district was in an economic and educational crisis.

"We face a public education emergency," said the Rev. Otis Moss, pastor of Olivet Institutional Baptist Church. "We need emergency action."

It is possible that the committee will vote on one of the proposals next week. Curt Steiner, chief of staff to Gov. George Voinovich, said he was working with lawmakers to find consensus on which bill will be moved from committee.

"This is not about Mike White; it's about the future of the kids in Cleveland," said Steiner.

A federal judge placed the district under state control two years ago because of mismanagement and poor student performance. ■

Associated Press

04-25 3:57a

Educators cheered by poll showing support for college diversity programs

By TIM KLASS Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE (AP) - Affirmative action in student admissions. Recruitment of minority faculty. Classes that stress cross-cultural cooperation. Courses reconstituted to draw from worldwide sources.

Despite hot debate over such programs, efforts to promote racial, cultural and ethnic diversity on college campuses enjoy wide voter support, a survey indicates.

The poll conducted for the Ford Foundation in Washington state, a potential pilot study for surveys nationwide, shows conservatives as well as liberals support educational diversity, especially to prepare students better for employment in a multicultural world, University of Washington president Richard L. McCormick said.

"This poll demonstrates that we're in sync with the broad public perspectives on this issue," McCormick said. "The fundamental point is that diversity means

academic excellence."

In the 71-question telephone survey of 600 randomly selected registered voters throughout Washington, more than 70 percent agreed that diversity improves the teaching, learning and extracurricular climate on campus.

Nearly two-thirds agreed that the nation is growing apart, rather than together, and that colleges should prepare students to "get along in a diverse environment."

"These results represent considered opinion," said Stuard Elway, president of Elway Research Inc., which did the polling March 6-13. "This is not an issue that our respondents hadn't thought about before."

McCormick and Elway were joined at a news conference Thursday by John Eshelman, acting president of Jesuit-supported Seattle University, the presidents of three community colleges and Edgar Beckham, coordinator of the foundation's Campus Diversity Initiative.

"For us, the commitment to diversity

is not a fad. It is not political correctness. It is a moral imperative," Eshelman said. "This gives me great hope for our future."

Beckman said the findings generally followed sentiments voiced in two forums in Seattle in March last year. Two similar forums were conducted in Philadelphia in July, and follow-up polls may be conducted in Pennsylvania and nationwide, he added.

The findings were far from unanimous. More than three-fourths said stressing diversity is ineffective "because learning mutual respect and understanding has to start well before college."

To the statement, "There is little purpose to recruiting a diverse student body because students separate themselves into groups by race on campus anyway," response was split 47 percent on each side with the rest undecided.

More direct questions on affirmative action were deliberately omitted.

Beckham said.

"That is not what we were interested in," he said.

The purpose was to learn "how people value diversity as an educational resource and in terms of educational outcomes" rather than assess views on what should be done to advance those goals, choices traditionally left to individual institutions, Beckman explained.

Noting recent bans on educational affirmative action in California and elsewhere, Beckman said he hoped the poll would bolster programs "in the majority of states where the law of the land continues to support positive, deliberate steps that are meant to increase the diversity in higher education."

Questions involving educational quality resulted in some of the sharpest divisions.

Fifty-three percent disagreed with the statement, "Diversity education is nothing more than political correctness, which hinders true education," and 54

percent rejected the statement that diversity is results in admission and graduation of "students who wouldn't otherwise make it" - potentially less than half in each case because of the 4.1 percent margin of error.

"No one is saying there's unanimity on this issue," said McCormick, "but those who are in the minority have for too long in recent years dominated discourse about it."

"You'd think, to judge from what politicians say on the stump, from a handful of court decisions, that the American people have turned full sail and whole-heartedly and completely against diversity in education - and this poll sets to rest that impression..."

"Most people think that diversity and academic excellence go together."

Limiting the sample to registered voters probably contributed to higher than typical levels of education - 75 percent beyond high school and 40 percent with at least a bachelor's degree

- and household income. 40 percent over \$40,000 a year, Elway said.

More than three-fourths, 78 percent, identified themselves as white, 4 percent black, 3 percent each Asian and Hispanic, 2 percent Indian and 7 percent other or racially mixed.

Politically, 33 percent said they were more conservative than liberal, 22 percent very conservative, 26 percent more liberal than conservative, 13 percent very liberal and less than 7 percent moderate.

"In most cases, there are not significant differences across the demographic categories," Elway said. "We looked across the board, and the responses were pretty uniform."

While previous surveys lacked enough similar questions to show clearly how public sentiment has shifted, the pollster added "my speculation is that we are seeing more acceptance (of diversity programs) than we might have 10 or 15 or 20 years ago." ■

Associated Press

04-25 4:03a

State's schools stand to lose \$2 million in reading, math money

tp2lid

LITTLE ROCK (AP) - Arkansas will lose about \$2 million in federal school funding this fall because of a drop in the number of students in a reading and math program for poor children.

Arkansas is one of 14 states that will lose part of its Title I funds from the federal government. Federal funding for the programs in Arkansas will total \$71.3 million during the next school year.

Title I money pays for teachers, summer programs and curriculum

changes aimed at helping poor children improve their math and reading skills.

In most other states, the number of poor students increased. Sixteen states will see increases of 10 percent or more in their Title I funds, the federal Education Department said this week.

Connecticut, where the gap between rich and poor school districts is among the greatest in the country, will get nearly 30 percent more funding. Iowa suffers the biggest drop - 6.2 percent.

In 1994, Congress called for the use of updated census estimates to distribute Title I money. Without that requirement, money would have been sent out for next year on the basis of poverty estimates taken in 1989.

While Title I money is intended to help poor children, any child with reading or math problems can be eligible for the classes, said Clearance Lovell, associate director for Title I at the state Education Department. ■

Associated Press

04-25 4:07a

Volunteers painting U.S. maps on playgrounds

AP Photo JNO101 of April 24 tp2hou
JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) - At 100 Arkansas schools, geography soon could be taught on the playground.

Volunteers on Thursday began painting 20-by-30-foot U.S. maps on playgrounds on school yards across the state. They hope to paint 100 maps in

100 days.

A group including current and retired Southwestern Bell employees paints the maps and gives the schools geography-oriented lesson plans and games. It painted a map Thursday at University Heights Elementary in Jonesboro.

The painters need the ground's surface temperature to be above 50 degrees for more than 12 hours before beginning their work. Using a template, they outline the states, then paint the states different colors.

It takes eight volunteers about six hours to finish a map. ■

Dallas Morning News

April 28, 1997

Acting affirmatively**Texas needs new college admissions plan**

Some Texas legislators believe they have a way to help Texas keep more minority students going to college here, not out of state. Their plan will require budget writers' help, however.

Because of a court ruling, race can no longer be used as a factor in recruiting or admitting students to state universities. Race cannot be used in determining financial aid either.

That unfortunate ruling sent lawmakers scrambling to prevent a "brain drain" as this legislative session began. Minority applications already are down sharply at several Texas colleges. That's troubling for a state whose population soon will become a majority of minority citizens.

While not perfect, a plan from Sens. Royce West, D-Dallas, and Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, could help stop an exodus. The Texas Senate recently passed the package, which awaits House consideration. Under the plan, 50 percent of university classes in the eight Texas schools that use selective criteria would gain admission through traditional means: class standing, grade point averages and standardized test scores.

Forty percent would enter using additional factors. They include the applicant's socioeconomic background and school activities. Schools likewise could examine whether the applicant's school is "low-performing."

Also, if a student finishes in the top 10 percent of his or her high school graduating class, he or she would be automatically eligible for college admission in Texas. Some graduating classes are not very competitive. Perhaps legislators should limit this category to the top 5 percent of students, making the prize a greater honor.

The reforms in this bill use factors other than race in evaluating students. Whether they will expand minority enrollments is uncertain. But Texas must do something. That's why the Texas House should pass this bill, or fold it into a similar bill by Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville.

Budget writers also must appropriate enough financial aid to make this approach work. The proposed state budget falls short here. Sen. Bill Ratliff and Rep. Rob Junell, the top budget writers, should rectify this problem. Without adequate help, Texas universities will lose both students of color and those without the means to attend college. Both would be deplorable for a state in evolution. ■

UCLA student group works to retain blacks, ...

DOCUMENT 3 OF 8

USAT9712000266

LIFE

UCLA student group works to retain blacks, Hispanics

Mary Beth Marklein

481 Words

3493 Characters

04/30/97

USA Today

FINAL

06D

(Copyright 1997)

LOS ANGELES -- While UCLA administrators sort out the do's and don'ts of affirmative action in admissions, a group of students is working to make sure minority students stay in school once they enroll.

- * "Recruitment numbers mean nothing if you can't keep them and graduate them," says Kimi Lee, executive director of the University of California Student Association. "For a lot of underrepresented groups, once they get to a university, they feel isolated."

Like admission rates, retention rates for black and Hispanic students at UCLA are lower than those of white and Asian-American students. For instance, of those students who entered UCLA as a freshman in fall 1990, 54.3% of black students and 66.4% of Hispanics had graduated by 1996. Asian-Americans and whites each had graduation rates of just over 81%.

The numbers might have been lower if not for UCLA's Campus Retention Committee, a student-run organization that offers peer counseling, mentoring, study groups and other support to struggling minority students and summer programs for dismissed students.

But while recent attacks on affirmative action have prompted anger and disappointment among volunteer students, "I see an eagerness to try to find new ways to address what continues to be a problem," says Mandla Kayise, assistant director of the community programs office that advises the committee. "A lot of the students have stepped up their efforts. A lot more students have signed up" to help.

UCLA's program, funded through mandatory student fees of \$15 a year, has been around for almost 10 years. Now, other schools,

- * including UC-San Diego, are trying to launch similar programs.

And two years ago, UCLA's volunteers began adapting some of the programs for local high school students. That remains important,

because even with racial preferences in admissions, only 4%-5% of Hispanic and black high school graduates in California are even eligible to apply to UCLA and other UC schools.

At the Campus Retention Committee's offices, volunteers talk about the need for underrepresented minorities to empower themselves and each other. That mission fits with strategies discussed by an Outreach Task Force, made up of representatives from each of the University of California system's nine campuses.

Instead of widening outreach to meet more potential students, the task force recommends deepening efforts to reach kids at a younger age and for a longer period of time. UCLA, for instance, would work with clusters of schools in nearby neighborhoods that are "low performing," or "educationally disadvantaged," says task force member Winston Doby, UCLA's vice chancellor of student affairs. "You work with whole systems . . . to strengthen the academic competitiveness of students in the pipeline."

Some argue that outreach alone won't be enough to increase and keep the numbers of underrepresented minorities in UC schools. But Kayise says such a prognosis "doesn't take into account the response of the communities where we work. And I think that response has been underestimated."

I0607 * End of document.

on such loans.

Sallie Mae, a stockholder-owned (NYSE) corporation, is the nation's leading provider of financial services for

postsecondary education needs. The corporation is the nation's largest source of funding and servicing support for education loans for students and their

parents. Gisela Vallandigham.
202/298-3147 Ross Kleinman.
202/298-3013 16.36 EDT APRIL 29.
1997■

DOW JONES NEWS SERVICE

04/29

Judge Gives U.S. Deadline In Sallie Mae 'Offset' Fee Case

WASHINGTON (Dow Jones)—A federal judge here gave the U.S. Department of Education until July 31 to decide on its final position with respect to the application of an existing 'offset' fee on Sallie Mae to student loans securitized by the firm.

The order is a sequel to a decision early this year by the federal appeals court here striking down the department's

interpretation of a 30 basis-point fee as the department sought to apply it to student loans securitized by Sallie Mae. The appeals court ordered the case remanded to a lower court, with orders to remand the matter to the **Department of Education**.

Sallie Mae, formally known as the Student Loan Marketing Association,

said it was pleased by the order handed down Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin. 'This means that the Secretary [of Education] must act promptly and any decision must be consistent with the Court of Appeals ruling,' said Sallie Mae General Counsel Timothy Greene.

6:20 PM■

USA Today

April 30, 1997

Colleges see fewer minorities apply

By Mary Beth Marklein
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES - Students from nearby high schools are enjoying this taste of college life as they tour the UCLA campus. But even as they visit the library, walk through the gym where Magic Johnson practices and discuss how to be a "holistic student," many of them suspect their chances of getting in are slim and getting slimmer. And it hurts.

"If they say, 'You're not good enough,' that's going to be real hard," says Juan Rivas, 17, a junior with a B average who plans to study business.

His fears may not be unfounded. He and most of the students touring the campus this day will get no boost for being minorities now that there's a ban on affirmative action in admissions, imposed by the University California Board of Regents and poised to go into effect for students entering in fall 1998.

For years, California campuses and hosts of other universities around the country have used race as one factor among many in selecting students for admission. They defend the policy as a way to right past wrongs against

underrepresented minorities and as a way to build a community that's reflective of society. But the regents' action in California - and a major court decision in Texas - have halted the use of race as an admissions factor in those states. Now higher education leaders nationwide are starting to see the impact:

For the nine University of California campuses, fall 1997 applications from underrepresented minorities are down 5%, even as overall applications went up 2.6% over fall 1996. Officials say the ban mostly will affect black, Hispanic and Native American students. Applications and enrollments of underrepresented minorities are down at the University of Texas, which is looking at new ways to enroll such students after a federal appeals court ruling last year barred racial preferences. It admitted 192 more freshmen for this fall, bringing the total to 10,651, but only the numbers of whites and Asian-Americans increased. The number of admitted black students dropped 107, to 314; Hispanics dropped 235, to 1,333. Applications alone by black and Hispanic students fell by 24% and 22%, respectively, while overall

applications were down 13%. The University of Colorado, fearing legal challenges such as those raised in Texas, is broadening a financial aid award that benefited black students to include factors such as economic need or whether other family members have attended college.

Together, these developments are creating "just a deadening effect on the part of a number of minorities in terms of whether they think college will even be open to them," says James Appleberry, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Washington. "Many parents and students think they will not be able to get a college or university education, and so they don't even try."

In California, UC number crunchers predict that ultimately enrollment of underrepresented minorities could drop by 50% to 75% at UCLA and UC-Berkeley, the system's two most competitive schools.

Those prospects are stirring emotions among students. On Monday, campus police used pepper spray and batons on UC-Berkeley, students protesting

Proposition 209, a much broader anti-affirmative action initiative whose fate is still unknown. Voted into state law last November, it has been tied up in a stop-and-go series of legal challenges and could end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. But even without 209, which would affect all public schools, the UC ban remains.

"They're taking away something that was so precious to us," says UCLA sophomore Willie Novoa, who protested the regents' actions in marches and campus sit-ins, and who lobbied voters to reject 209. "I feel helpless," he says.

But sophomore Lisa Williams, who also fought the changes, is itching to fight some more. "This country is due for a revolution," she says.

Supporters of affirmative action say it helps make up for decades of discrimination against women and minorities.

More than a nudge?

But those who support the ban say minorities are getting more than the nudge allowed by a 1978 Supreme Court decision, *Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke*.

"Colleges have been saying they're using race as one of many factors, (but) the reality is it's the sole factor when it gets used," says Ward Connerly, the regent who spearheaded the change. And, he says, if underrepresented groups, which compose about a third of UCLA's undergraduate population (Asian-Americans and whites make up the rest), haven't yet achieved parity, "Doesn't it suggest that what we've been doing really hasn't been working?"

Indeed, the more pertinent issue, many suggest, is not that underrepresented minorities aren't admitted, but that many aren't eligible.

This year, for instance, UCLA received 29,000 applications for 3,600 spots for first-year students. Of the 10,000 letters of acceptance that went out in early April, the students averaged a

4.14 grade point average (GPAs can climb over 4.0 with extra points given for honors courses) and 1,303 SAT scores - "and most aren't coming from underrepresented groups," says Thomas Lifka, assistant vice chancellor of student academic services.

Meanwhile, minority enrollments in the less expensive, less selective 22-campus California State University system have been increasing. Last fall, the number of black freshmen at CSU rose 15% over the previous year, and the number of Hispanic freshmen rose 6%. That has led some to speculate that many students feel unwelcome at the University of California.

UCLA officials seek to allay such fears. The regents "did not change the fundamental mission of the university . . . to guarantee a place at one of its campuses for every UC-eligible student," says Winston Doby, vice chancellor of student affairs.

Yes, he says, "I'm concerned we're going to lose our diversity in the short run." But for now, he urges students who stand little chance of getting into UCLA to "look at realistic alternatives," such as the less competitive UC-Davis or UC-Riverside.

As it always has, UCLA will continue admitting 60% of applicants on academic achievements alone.

This spring, for the remaining 40% of the slots for fall 1997, a team of admissions staffers and qualified volunteers examined 17,955 applications, one by one, for evidence of leadership, extracurricular interests and performance in the face of educational and economic hardship. Admissions officials always have read some submissions, but primarily to judge students on the borderline academically.

Looking for surrogates?

UCLA officials call it a "holistic" approach that focuses on future potential rather than past achievement. But such

talk disturbs UCLA junior Jason Steele, state chairman of the California College Republicans, which supported the regents and Proposition 209. "We're going to have to watch them very carefully," he says of administrators. "They're scheming in any way possible to have affirmative action anyway."

Lifka disputes such suggestions. "To search for surrogates is in conflict with the spirit of what the regents did," he says. Besides, he adds, "There isn't a good surrogate for race."

A panel of sociologists told Texas higher education officials much the same thing. Basing admissions on class would bring in as many whites as underrepresented minorities. Even so, state legislators are considering bills that would give a nod to low-income families as a way to enroll more minorities.

Some UCLA outreach programs, which aren't affected by the regents' policy but could be affected by Proposition 209, do focus on economic factors that ultimately benefit minorities such as Juan Rivas. He's at UCLA this day through a program funded by the Job Training Partnership Act.

"What we have to do is be clever enough to develop programs that don't have a gender and ethnic base but that include underrepresented groups," says Mary Keipp, program manager of UCLA's 9-year-old Community Based Learning Program. It invites students from low-income neighborhoods to UCLA to consider college as part of their career goals. "Even if they can't come to UCLA, maybe we can open up their minds to going to some sort of college," she says.

No one's suggesting such efforts alone can solve the racial disparities. Even so, "We cannot get discouraged," says UCLA freshman Katynja McCory, an outreach volunteer. "It may not occur in our lifetime, but these are the roots that we're planting right now." ■

Detroit News

April 24, 1997

Are schools failing black boys?

Educators and activists look for ways to keep African-American males from losing interest in class

a while - to the unobservant - that we had disappeared. Now we have tenure, and the work of reshaping the universities has begun in earnest."

Unfortunately, Parini's vision of what college education should be has percolated throughout entire college curricula. Nowhere are half-witted

education ideas given greater currency than in education departments, and for good reason. By and large, education departments represent the academic slums of any university. Education majors tend to have the lowest SAT scores, and their professors tend to have the least academic respectability -

making both easy prey to fads and half-baked ideas.

Educational-reform measures that do not address methodological rot, teacher incompetency and leftist indoctrination will bring disappointing results, regardless of the amount of money spent. ■

70. The Washington Post

05/07/97; Edition: FINAL; Section: OP-ED; Page A21

Affirmative Action: Beyond Diversity

By Owen M. Fiss

Even the friends of affirmative action are divided. Some see it as a way of creating a broad variety of viewpoints in cultural spheres such as the university. Others see it as an exercise in compensatory justice. For them, affirmative action is an effort to rectify the wrongs of the past by giving certain groups an additional advantage in competing for the prized positions of society.

I count myself as a defender of affirmative action, most clearly as it applies to blacks. Yet both familiar rationales seem wanting. They were constructed in the 1970s and '80s to appeal to the broadest constituency, but they mask the real reasons for affirmative action and, in fact, render that policy vulnerable to the attacks it is now undergoing.

The diversity rationale seems shallow and lacking the compelling quality needed to justify the hardships created by preferential treatment. It has little appeal outside the university context — for example, among production workers or guard-rail contractors. Even in the university, diversity seems an incomplete justification, since it doesn't provide any basis for choosing what kinds of diversity we should favor. Why, we are left to wonder, should we give a plus to blacks but not to members of religious groups that might be underrepresented?

The rationale of compensatory justice has the compelling quality lacking with diversity, but it falters because of the lack of identity between the victims of the wrongs committed and the recipients of the preferential treatment — and

between the perpetrators of those wrongs and the people who bear the cost of the remedy. Nor are we told why the compensation should take the form of preferential treatment.

Rather than thinking of affirmative action in terms of diversity or compensation, we should see it as a structural remedy for a structural problem: as a means of eradicating the caste structure that now mars our society and that has its roots in slavery and the segregation of Jim Crow. By giving blacks a greater share of the privileged positions of society, affirmative action improves the relative position of the group that lies at the bottom of the heap. It aims to end the racial ordering of American society.

The structural rationale is like the compensatory one inasmuch as it builds on history. But it does so in a markedly different way. In the structural one, slavery and Jim Crow are viewed not as the reasons for the remedy but instead as the causes of the social structure that needs to be changed. Affirmative action is concerned with the present, with eliminating any form of caste that exists in the here and now.

As such, affirmative action should extend not just to blacks but to any group currently subordinated in society. Even immigrants who only recently arrived in this country and did not suffer past wrongs at the hands of American society would be eligible for affirmative action if they constitute a subordinated group comparable to blacks. (Such a result would not be supported by the compensatory rationale.)

Even as a form of distributive, rather

than compensatory, justice, affirmative action will work its own wrongs. For blacks who obtain the prized positions, doubts are created in the minds of some, including those who occupy high positions of power and prestige, as to whether they would be where they are without preferences. For rejected white applicants, there is the frustration of not being able to attend particular schools or obtain specific jobs. In addition, these applicants suffer a hurt that blacks know all too well — the hurt that comes from being judged disfavorably on a criterion unrelated to individual merit and over which they have no control.

These grievances should never be forgotten nor trivialized, but they do not constitute a reason to turn away from affirmative action. In an imperfect world, a great transformation cannot be achieved without pain and sacrifice — and even a certain measure of individual injustice. Surely this must be the great lesson of the American Civil War.

Asking for such sacrifices is an extraordinary request, and our capacity to make such a request depends on two conditions. One is that the cause involved is so noble and so worthy as to justify the suffering the remedy will inflict. The other is that there is no other way. To support affirmative action in the face of the individual wrongs that it will no doubt cause, we must believe, as Justice Blackmun once put it, that we cannot eradicate caste without the system of preferences that affirmation action entails — that, ultimately, we cannot get beyond racism without taking race into account.

The writer is Sterling professor of law at Yale Law School. ■

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Academe Today

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: May 9, 1997

Section: Government & Politics

Page: A34

IN THE STATES

Berkeley Students Protest Cal. Law Barring Affirmative Action

By Karla Haworth

About 40 students briefly took over the administration building at the University of California at Berkeley last week, fastening its doors and fire exits with bicycle locks to protest the university's plan to comply with Proposition 209.

The proposition, approved by California voters last year, bars public colleges and other government agencies from granting preferences based on gender or race.

Last month, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rejected a lower court's conclusion that Proposition 209 violated the U.S. Constitution's equal-protection clause and other federal laws. The measure is stayed while the plaintiffs -- a coalition of advocacy groups and minority-rights organizations -- appeal the panel's ruling to the full Ninth Circuit.

The Berkeley students entered the administration building after a noon rally at which speakers demanded that the University of California system refuse to comply with Proposition 209.

According to Jesus Mena, a university spokesman, the protesters disabled the building's elevator and secured the doors with U-style bicycle locks and nylon cord.

"It was really dangerous for this building," he said. "If there had been a fire, there was no way to get out."

After officials sliced through the locks with blowtorches, Mr. Mena said, the students moved to the building's foyer and began chanting. They tried twice to re-enter the main part of the building; the second time, "it was pretty clear that the students were ready for a full confrontation," Mr. Mena said. "They charged again, and the police pulled out the pepper spray."

Two officers also used their nightsticks to push back the protesters, said Mr. Mena. They arrested two students, and the rest were told they would face the same fate if they didn't leave, Mr. Mena said. By 3 p.m., the students had left the building. No one was injured.

Harmony Goldberg, a Berkeley junior and one of the protesters, said the students had been unnecessarily showered with pepper spray and beaten with nightsticks.

Ms. Goldberg said she was "amazed" at the level of violence. "We were just here trying to hold a peaceful

protest."

Copyright (c) 1997 by The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inc.

<http://chronicle.com>

Title: Berkeley Students Protest Cal. Law Barring Affirmative Action

Published: 97/05/09

[Front Page](#) | [News Update](#) | [Resources](#) | [Colloquy](#) | [Washington Almanac](#) | [This Week's Chronicle](#) | [Chronicle Archive](#)
| [Jobs](#) | [Information Bank](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Help](#)

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Academe Today

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: May 9, 1997

Section: Government & Politics

Page: A34

IN THE STATES

Scholarship for White Students Challenged in Alabama Lawsuit

By Patrick Healy

A court-ordered scholarship program for white students at Alabama State University violates the constitutional rights of black students, one black student has charged in a lawsuit.

Jessie J. Tompkins, a black graduate student at Alabama State, applied last year for one of the new grants that were created in 1995 to diversify the historically black university. Mr. Tompkins says he was told that the money he sought had been set aside for whites.

"It's state-supported discrimination," said Mr. Tompkins, who sued the university in federal district court in March. Black students must earn good grades and meet other criteria to be eligible for aid from Alabama State, while most white students need only be admitted to receive a scholarship.

The grants were established in 1995 after a ruling by U.S. District Judge Harold L. Murphy in the state's college-desegregation case.

Judge Murphy directed Alabama to pay up to \$1-million annually for 10 years to each of the state's two historically black campuses, which would use the money to enroll more non-black students. At the time, 93 per cent of the students at Alabama State were black; this spring, 88 per cent were black.

Lawyers for the state have asked a federal judge to dismiss Mr. Tompkins's suit or transfer it to Judge Murphy. Robert D. Hunter, the state's lead lawyer in the desegregation case, said he believed the court-ordered scholarships would be upheld. But voluntary aid programs that use race as a factor could come under judicial scrutiny, he said, and may not fare well because of recent court decisions restricting affirmative action.

"All race-based scholarships could end up being on trial in the Tompkins case," Mr. Hunter said.

Mr. Tompkins and other black students at Alabama State have lodged a civil-rights complaint about the scholarships, which the U.S. Justice Department is now considering.

Copyright (c) 1997 by The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inc.

<http://chronicle.com>

Title: Scholarship for White Students Challenged in Alabama Lawsuit

25. Academe Today

May 12, 1997

Backers of Affirmative Action Seek Strategy to Win Support for Their Cause

By DOUGLAS LEDERMAN

Cambridge, Mass. — More than 150 academics, lawyers, and civil-rights advocates gathered here Friday to begin plotting a strategy for persuading judges, politicians, and the public that it is legal and just for colleges to use affirmative action to promote diversity.

The day-long conference, sponsored by Harvard University's Civil Rights Project, achieved mixed results. The participants, all of whom seemed to favor affirmative action, shared ideas for producing social-science research that might build support for it in the courts and elsewhere.

But the civil-rights advocates and professors in the crowd also realized that the narrow boundaries that recent court decisions have set for justifying the use of racial preferences leave little room for doing so, no matter how passionately they believe affirmative action to be right.

"It's frustrating to be focusing on how we can come up with data and research that will make the case before a reactionary Supreme Court as to why they should continue to allow some minuscule sliver of affirmative action," said Anthony M. Platt, a professor of social work at California State University at Sacramento. Supporters of affirmative action may be better off, he said, "focusing instead on reaching a larger group of Americans, not around narrow legal issues, but around a defense of democracy in higher education."

That idea appealed to many of the participants, who argued that the political fight over the future of affirmative action was, in the long term, more significant and promising than the current battle in the courts. But the legal experts in the group sought repeatedly to remind their colleagues that academe must step up its fight in the courts, which it is losing badly, they said.

The conference was the third sponsored by Harvard since March 1996, when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in a case known as

Hopwood v. Texas, barred the law school at the University of Texas at Austin from using race as a factor in admissions.

By declaring that the desire to attract a diverse student body was not a sufficiently compelling reason to use affirmative action in admissions, the Fifth Circuit directly challenged the Supreme Court's 1978 decision in Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, on which most colleges have justified their use of race-based preferences.

In 1996, at the first of the Harvard conferences, which was closed to the public, educators and lawyers bemoaned the lack of social-science evidence colleges could use to prove the value of diversity to their campuses. Friday's conference was aimed at starting to fill that void but showed that that will be an uphill climb.

One researcher, Sylvia Hurtado of the University of Michigan, unveiled a new study showing that female and minority professors were more likely than white men to use cooperative learning and other techniques that, she said, helped students learn.

But John A. Payton, a lawyer in Washington, D.C., who has defended affirmative action in several major lawsuits, said such a finding would do little to persuade a judge or opposing lawyer of the merits of diversity. Mr. Payton told Ms. Hurtado that he imagined a judge would respond to her argument by saying: If you believe those techniques are beneficial, why not just require all professors to adopt them, rather than counting on only some minority professors to provide them?

Legal experts drilled similar holes in other pieces of research, disheartening some of those in attendance. "It seems as if nothing may be enough to convince some of those federal judges," said Jorge Chapa, associate dean of the graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin.

Many of the participants argued that

the colleges had created at least part of the current dilemma for themselves by depending so heavily on standardized-test scores in admitting students. By defining excellence through students' scores on such tests, on which black and some other minority students score significantly lower on average, colleges have had to use "affirmative action to correct the problems we've inflicted on ourselves with our testing standards," said Christopher Edley, Jr., a Harvard law professor who is co-director of the university's Civil Rights Project.

Mr. Edley and the other co-director, Gary Orfield, a professor of education, ended the day by exhorting those gathered here to build and make the case to people inside and outside academe that students benefit from being educated in a diverse setting and that employers want to hire students who have learned how to work with people of other races.

Dr. Orfield seemed to strike the most powerful chord of the day with a presentation that sought to challenge what he called the Hopwood court's statement that using race in admissions was "no more rational on its own terms than would be choices based upon the physical size or blood type of applicants." Using a series of simple charts, Dr. Orfield sought to reveal the great differences between black and white Americans today, showing black people with far higher rates of unemployment and incarceration, and white people with far greater wealth, among other things.

The Fifth Circuit court, in Hopwood, and some other tribunals have dismissed arguments about such societal discrimination, but one person attending the meeting, Isabelle Katz Pinzler, the acting Assistant U.S. Attorney General for civil rights, said evidence of continuing racial discrimination could be used in other courts and, more importantly, in the political debate about affirmative action, to persuade Americans that race still does matter. ■

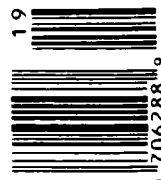
Newsweek

BRITAIN
**HOW BLAIR WON:
THE INSIDE STORY**

The Myth of **Quality Time**

**How We're
Cheating Our
Kids**

**What You
Can Do**



01134

SAY

The Color Bind

Thanks to a court order, a law school discovers that without an affirmative-action program its student body will be too white for comfort

BY ELLIS COSE

EVER SINCE A FEDERAL COURT OUTLAWED affirmative action at the University of Texas, Austin, law school last year, promoters of "diversity" have prophesied disaster. Now, as the school admits its first post-affirmative-action class, their nightmare is coming to pass. If the end of affirmative action is not really analogous to the onset of Jim Crow, to many Latino and black students, the distinction seems hardly worth the trouble of making. As Diana Saldaña, president of the Chicano-Hispanic Law Students Association put it, "It took us 30 years to get here, and it took them 24 hours to dismantle any progress we have made."

Last year the highly ranked UT law school admitted a class that was 5.9 percent black and 6.3 percent Hispanic. This year (with roughly 80 percent selected, and the university projecting no huge shift in proportions of those yet to be picked), the black percentage stands at just over .7 and the Hispanic at just under 2.3. Angelyque Campbell, a black student completing work on a combined law and public-policy degree, believes that the school is in danger of becoming an "ivory white tower" that no longer values minority students. To Ward Connerly, who led the fight for the abolition of affirmative action in California state government, UT law school's numbers reveal something even more troubling. They reflect "the magnitude of the preferences we have been giving at many of our colleges ... and accentuate the tragedy of affirmative action." Such statistics, he says, should not inspire alarm but motivate people to "put their noses to the grindstone and get better prepared."

University officials, who feared a race-relations fiasco if no black law students matriculated, unleashed faculty members, alumni and other students to urge the few who were accepted to actually attend. As a result, at least one of the six blacks (and half of the 18 Mexican-Americans) admitted to

date seem to be planning to enroll. Still, the school will inevitably be a whiter place. If he has to face classes with no black students in them this fall, "I will be very depressed," confessed Patrick Woolley, a black assistant law professor, adding, "I'm very depressed about it now. As it is, even with affirmative action, there are only a handful of black students in a class of a hundred."

For affirmative action's champions, the whitening of UT's law school is an unsettling harbinger of what awaits selective schools across America. "I'm finding it difficult to avoid becoming an alarmist," confided Christopher Edley Jr., the Harvard law professor who served as president Clinton's first affirmative-

Harvard education professor Gary Orfield to launch a major series of conferences largely devoted to reassessing affirmative action in today's society.

In some sense, UT law school brought the crisis on itself by putting an affirmative-action program in place that flagrantly flouted Supreme

action adviser. Although the Fifth Circuit Court decision technically is limited to scholarship and admissions programs at public institutions in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, some educators fear that the court's reasoning may eventually be broadly applied—not only to public universities in other states but to all universities (including prestigious private ones, such as Harvard) that receive government funds. Such concerns led Edley and



Court guidelines. Though initial sorting of applicants was done purely on the basis of grades and Law School Aptitude Test scores, the school went afiel by applying totally different standards and using radically different admissions procedures for blacks and Mexican-Americans than for whites and others. Four white applicants sued and won. Now they are back in court seeking \$5.5 million in damages.

The prospect for minority UT applicants outside the law school does not seem nearly as bleak—largely because other disciplines rely less on test scores and grades. (Thanks in part to a vigorous recruitment effort, admission offers to black freshmen at UT were only a bit lower than last year, and offers to Latinos have actually risen slightly.) Heavy dependence on test scores, however, is typical of selective law schools—as well as of medical schools and elite universities. And without some form of affirmative action, many blacks and Latinos who currently get into such institutions are certain to be excluded. Indeed, an analysis of 1990–91 law-school applicants just published in the New York Uni-

“I’m very depressed. As it is, even with affirmative action, there are only a handful of black students in a class of a hundred.”

—PATRICK WOOLLEY,
law professor

versity Law Review found that a colorblind test- and grades-driven admissions policy would decimate the ranks of Latino and black law students. Of the 3,435 blacks accepted by at least one of the more than 180 ABA-approved law schools in America, only 687 would have made it purely on the basis of their tests and grades, concluded Linda Wightman, a former official at the Law School Admissions Council. Colorblind policies, in other words, may lead to “levels of segregation not seen in a quarter century,” worries Jerome Karabel, a sociology professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and chief architect of that university’s affirmative-action program—which the regents voted in 1995 to abolish. That

vote (under-scored by last year’s anti-affirmative-action ballot initiative in California) has not yet fully taken effect within the UC system. Already, however, administrators there report that applications from Chicanos, blacks and American Indians have dropped. When the regents’ resolution is fully implemented, the numbers accepted are likely to plunge, conjectures Karabel on the basis of the university’s experience with Filipinos. In 1989, when Filipinos (then considered an underrepresented minority) were covered by affirmative action, 227 came as freshmen to UC, Berkeley. That year the university began to phase out special consideration for Filipino applicants, reasoning that their success in the California public-

school system demonstrated that they no longer need such assistance. By 1993 the number of freshmen matriculating had dropped to 54, where it has more or less remained ever since. Latinos and blacks, reasons Karabel, will probably be even harder hit, since their grades and test scores on average are lower than those of Filipinos.

Serious researchers dismiss the notion that affirmative action based on socioeconomic status can be much of a substitute. A wide-ranging statistical analysis by Thomas Kane of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government demonstrates what critics have long assumed: since so many poor whites and poor Asians do relatively well on standardized tests, class-based but colorblind affirmative action is more likely to help them than it is to assist poor blacks and poor Latinos—at least as long as selective schools put so much stock in tests.

Foes of affirmative action think all the handwringing is unwarranted. Why worry, they say, if certain blacks and Latinos don’t get into first-rank schools? “We have no divine right as blacks to go to the University of Texas law school with lower SAT scores,” asserts Larry Elder, a KABC radio host whose conservative views have drawn fire from some fellow blacks. Elder and others believe that well-prepared students can always attend third- or fourth-rate institutions, where they are likely to flounder at any rate. Kane’s data suggest, however, that minority students may, in fact, not do better at such schools, that a high-quality educational institution can make up for a multitude of deficiencies. Minority students who go to selective schools are more likely to graduate than are their counterparts who are equally able but attend less prestigious institutions (excluding historically black colleges, which have relatively high graduation rates). One reason, believes Karabel, is that elite schools are generally not commuter schools, meaning students are less likely to have to put up with distracting noneducational influences. Such schools also are simply more likely to offer an atmosphere where both high academic achievement and careers are fostered.

Moreover, as supporters of affirmative action argue, public institutions have a much more complex agenda than simply admitting those who score best on tests. They are supposed to serve the public interest, which, among other things, means considering the needs of the taxpayers who support them. Claudia Valles, a Mexican-American and third-year law student at UT, Austin (and the first member of her family to go to college), observed that for people from backgrounds like hers, a state school with low tuition may be their only real shot at a good education. Why, she asks, should Mexican-Americans, who pay so much of Texas’s taxes, be denied that

opportunity? Saldaña, a third-year student and former migrant worker, makes much the same point: "I worked hard to get where I'm at. It offends me that an Anglo can take my seat because they're unwilling to consider my background."

The trade-off is particularly clear for medical school. A study last year by physicians at the University of California, San Francisco, found that few white doctors care to practice in minority communities. In fact, they were more likely to go to poor white areas than to affluent black and Latino neighborhoods. Barring a big change in behavior or residential patterns, a decrease in the numbers of blacks and Latinos in medical school will inevitably result in fewer doctors in communities of color. For critics such as Elder and Connerly, the answer is not affirmative action but a wholesale upgrading of schools and a massive readjustment of attitudes. "We need to do better in high school and better on aptitude tests. And I predict that we will," declares Elder. But that is not a short-term solution. So many educators (motivated largely by the desire to keep minority numbers up) argue for relying on broader measures of merit—such as motivation, talent and obstacles overcome—instead of focusing so much on the ability to do well on tests. Even the best of tests, they point out, are a limited measure of capability. Wightman's study, for example, found no real difference in either graduation or bar-passage rates between those minorities who would have been admitted without affirmative action and those admitted because of it. The problem, however, is convincing a skeptical public—and equally skeptical educators—that de-emphasizing tests would create a more just process.

Elder and Connerly are no doubt right that better schooling could theoretically render affirmative action in colleges obsolete. Connerly offers the guess that the process of upgrading education—and educational expectations—might take no more than two or three years, although conceding, when pushed, that it might perhaps take 10. In light of the awful state of inner-city public education, even the more conservative projection seems wildly optimistic. Still, for any number of reasons, people—at least those in the public eye—don't seem to get nearly as passionate about upgrading bad schools and improving conditions in poor communities as they do about tearing down affirmative action. But unless they do, 20 years from now America will be in the midst of a new debate as citizens across the political spectrum wrangle over why, even with affirmative action gone, huge gaps in educational achievement remain.



Tenderhearted tough guy: Royko in his lair

MEDIA

Chicago's Tribune

Mike Royko earned his clout as the voice of the little guy

MIKE ROYKO, THE CHICAGO LEGEND who died last week, once dedicated a collection of his newspaper columns to his "legmen." As Royko handed out the books at his home, he inscribed to Pat Wingert, now of NEWSWEEK: "You were my best. Don't tell the others." It wasn't until Wingert saw the prideful look on the faces of the other acolytes that she realized that Royko, laughing loudly, had written the same to each.

Now we can tell all the others. Royko was the best. Every time someone took a dopey poll of American journalists to see which columnist had the most talent, he won. For more than 25 years, Royko pounded out five 1,000-word columns a week, when even three is a stretch for most. The best of them—from the 1960s and 1970s—stand up well against anything by H. L. Mencken, Jimmy Breslin, Walter Lippmann or any other columnist in this century. Even when he spent every word of a column knifing someone, the reader always knew who he was for: the little guy, out for a little justice and a little laugh.

Royko embodied Chicago as much as Herb Caen, who also died this year, embodied San Francisco. But Royko was hardly a gossip or a booster. He often suggested that Chicago's official motto, *Urbs in*

Horto (City in a Garden), should be changed to *Ubi est Mea?* (Where's Mine?). His depiction of boodling judges, dozing ward heelers and the late mayor Richard J. Daley in countless columns and the 1971 best seller "Boss" will endure as central source material for how machine politics lived and died in midcentury America.

The son of a Ukrainian father and a Polish mother, Royko grew up above his father's saloon, where he met people with names like "Slats Grobniak" (his imaginary alter ego). His most famous column was probably the one he wrote in 1979 after his first wife, Carol, whom he had met at the age of 9, died of a brain aneurysm. Its memorable ending: "If there's someone you love but haven't said so in a while, say it now. Always, always, say it now."

But sentiment was the exception. Mostly, Royko's brilliant moodiness made him an equal-opportunity tormentor: Jerry Brown ("Governor Moonbeam") or "Jesse Jetstream" Jackson got it one day. Reaganite greedheads or gun nuts the next. His talent made him the last of journalism's Untouchables.

In 1974 he wrote of a speech delivered by his own Chicago Daily News publisher, Marshall Field: "It is not, by any means, the most foolish speech I've ever read. There are at least three or four others that I can recall as being more foolish." Field ate it.

In recent years, Mexicans, blacks and gays ignored Royko's strong civil-rights history and protested what they considered his slurs against them in the Chicago Tribune. Royko, always crotchety but no bigot, hadn't really changed. The culture had. He was proud to be politically incorrect, but toward the end it pained him that his satire was misunderstood.

The years of dangling Pall Malls and 3 a.m. benders took their toll, and Royko died of a brain aneurysm at 64. He went out the way he once said he'd hoped to, like Ted Williams, hitting a home run his last time up. In his final column, he explained that his beloved Cubs were cursed not, as legend has it, by a Billy goat owned by Royko's bartender but by former owner P. K. Wrigley, who was slow to hire black ballplayers. "It had nothing to do with a goat's curse," he concluded. "Not unless the goat wore a gabardine suit and sat behind a desk in an executive suite." Funny. Angry. The best.

JONATHAN ALTER with
JOHN MCCORMICK in Chicago

Plans Seek More UC Pupils From Poorer Schools

DOCUMENT 5 OF 6

LATM9713200296

Metro Desk

Plans Seek More UC Pupils From Poorer Schools

KENNETH R. WEISS

TIMES STAFF WRITER

2042 Words

14108 Characters

05/12/97

Los Angeles Times

Home Edition

A-1

Infobox; List

Copyright 1997 / The Times Mirror Company

The ban on affirmative action in admissions to the University of California has spawned a series of proposals seeking other ways of increasing the number of students drawn from the state's poorer-performing high schools.

The plans, including a proposed state constitutional amendment, would guarantee admission to the top-ranking students from each of California's 844 public high schools--the rich ones, the poor ones and those of every racial mix.

Some proposals would promise spots only to valedictorians while others would extend offers to the top 4%, or 6% or even 12.5% of each high school's graduating class. Proponents say such measures would improve the geographic distribution of UC students, inspire competition within lackadaisical high schools and reward disadvantaged students who now lose out to their wealthier counterparts in the competition for UC admissions.

Skeptics see another motivation: an attempt to skirt California's ban on racial preferences.

"If we stack the deck so we get so many students from South-Central Los Angeles and so many from Compton High, there is a question whether it is giving preferential treatment," said UC Regent Ward Connerly, the state's leading affirmative action foe. "That would run afoul of Prop. 209."

But UC President Richard C. Atkinson said last week that he believes "it's not a bad idea" to offer automatic admission to the top 4% of each high school's graduates--a plan that could fill a third of UC's freshman class. The remaining seats would be filled by open competition among all applicants.

"If you are saying that in a large high school the top four people in every hundred aren't UC eligible, I think they are," Atkinson said. "But

Source: Los Angeles Times, May 12, 1997

if you are saying, you are just doing that for racial diversity, I would say there are lots of reasons to do it."

Disparity in Admissions

There is statewide competition now for 24,500 freshman slots at the nine UC campuses.

Each year, 46,000 of the state's 259,000 graduating public high school seniors apply for the openings--pitting students from Beverly Hills High against those from Compton High.

Many of the most talented students end up going to private colleges.

- * Nevertheless, the state Department of Education notes a wide disparity in how high schools feed students to UC. The latest figures show Beverly Hills High, for instance, sending nearly 20% of its graduates there, while Compton sent only 1% of its graduates.

Some officials are concerned that such disparities will grow as UC eliminates affirmative action in undergraduate admissions next year. Race, ethnicity and gender were dropped as factors in graduate school admissions this year--even before voters in November approved Prop. 209, the ballot measure banning such preferences.

Since then, half a dozen plans have surfaced to reserve seats for students from all California public high schools. They range from Lt. Gov. Gray Davis' proposal to set aside slots for merely the top two students at each school to a constitutional amendment proposed by Sen. Teresa Hughes (D-Inglewood), which would offer admission to the top 12.5%.

A UC analysis of such a 12.5% plan estimated that it would boost the percentage of Latino students by more than half and slightly increase the number of African Americans, while decreasing the percentage of Asian Americans and whites.

The analysis also indicated that the 12.5% plan would lower academic standards--measured by grade point averages and SAT scores--for all groups. That prompted some second-guessing about any proposal to automatically admit such a large proportion of each high school's graduates.

"I don't believe the university would want us to lower our standards to accommodate other goals," said Dennis Galligani, UC's assistant vice president who oversees admissions.

But the idea of reserving seats for each high school--including the most troubled--has many backers, including the revered former UC president, Clark Kerr. "Someone who has things in their favor all of their lives doesn't deserve the same credit as someone who had to operate in difficult circumstances," Kerr said.

Such proposals are sure to be controversial, however.

- * Last summer, when UC San Diego proposed giving extra points to applicants from disadvantaged high schools, parents complained that it would penalize high-quality schools--and harm property values. "We scrapped the idea," said Richard Backer, an assistant vice chancellor.

Source: Los Angeles Times, May 12, 1997

"It got blown out of proportion."

Still, Lt. Gov. Davis defends as reasonable his plan to guarantee UC seats to the top two students at each high school, or perhaps four or five students. "We allow a 320-pound lineman to go to UCLA even if he doesn't meet all of the requirements," Davis said. "Let's do it for the top two people graduating from high school."

Senate leader Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward) did not go that far. On Jan. 19, while acting as governor--because Gov. Pete Wilson and Davis were out of state--he issued a proclamation calling on UC to provide "guaranteed enrollment" merely for high school valedictorians.

The proclamation has no force of law. Even a law passed by the Legislature could not dictate policy for the constitutionally autonomous University of California--unlike in Texas, where lawmakers are considering a measure to grant university admission to the top 10% at each high school.

So Hughes has introduced a measure to amend the California Constitution to specify that the top 12.5% from each high school be entitled to UC admission. Hughes said she also will soon ask the Senate and Assembly to set up a joint committee to explore ways to revise UC admission policies.

"The main reason to do this is to have the student population reflect the state's diversified population and give the opportunity to all students," she said. "This is a colorblind approach."

* But her plan would benefit some minority students, according to computer simulations run by UC after the Board of Regents abolished affirmative action in 1995. Picking the top 12.5% of each high school's graduates based on grades and SAT scores, the study said, would increase "UC eligible" Latinos from 3.9% to 6.2% and African Americans from 5.1% to 5.5%. The percentage of Asian Americans would drop 6 percentage points, and white students about 2 points.

Saul Geiser, UC's manager of research and planning for student academic services, said the increase in black and Latino students was not as much as some proponents had wished. "If the hope is to produce a significant difference in racial and ethnic diversity, this isn't it," he said.

One reason is that the strategy would give automatic entrance not only to top students in inner-city schools but in small rural ones, which are predominantly white. Another is that many of the predominantly black or Latino high schools have had a sprinkling of Asian Americans or others who make up a disproportionate number of top achievers.

Learning From Sports Drafts

Rodolfo Alvarez, a UCLA sociologist proposing that 6% from each school be guaranteed enrollment, contends that the real effect would result over time as the prospect of automatic college admission inspires better performance in schools and becomes a source of neighborhood pride.

"If you guarantee the top 6%, think what it does to the community," he

Source: Los Angeles Times, May 12, 1997

said. "The local Rotary and Lion's clubs become enlivened and excited by knowing that some of their kids are going to the university."

Joining with a UC Santa Barbara sociologist, Alvarez in February began circulating a 17-page paper detailing a revised admissions strategy that he likens to the draft for pro sports teams: Each of UC's campuses would develop a list of feeder high schools from across the state, then make early admissions offers to their students.

If students did not get into the campus that they wanted, they could take their chances in the regular admissions cycle, competing with top talent across the state.

Hughes has been sufficiently intrigued by this approach that she wants to incorporate it--and the 6% figure--into her legislation. She recently held a strategy session with Alvarez and representatives from the NAACP and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

UC administrators emphasize that they are committed to figuring out how to preserve a diverse student body without violating the regents' ban on racial preferences. They thus are focused on outreach to low-performing public schools to boost the preparation of disadvantaged students.

But Atkinson expressed interest in tinkering with admissions policy as well. "My original idea was to let the principals make the decision of selecting who is eligible," he said. "But there are a lot of problems with that. People didn't respond too well to that."

No Easy Alternatives

Before 1960, the university did reserve about 10% of its freshman class for special admissions--largely for students recommended by principals, said John A. Douglass of UC Berkeley's Center for Studies in
* Higher Education.

In the '60s, that was scrapped in favor of a more systematic compilation of grades and SAT scores. UC also began its affirmative-action programs, first inspired by the civil rights movement then fortified in 1974 when the Legislature declared that student bodies should reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the state.

Preparing for the hordes of baby boomers entering colleges, the Master
* Plan for Higher Education mandated that the top 12.5% of high school graduates would be eligible for UC admission and the top 33.3% for admission to the California State University system.

But those percentages referred to all graduates statewide, not of each high school.

In reality, some schools produce few graduates who survive the competition for UC slots.

In Los Angeles County, for instance, 39 of the 171 public high schools sent fewer than 4% of their 1995 graduates to UC, according to the state
* Department of Education.

Orange County had six high schools--Valley, Century, Western, Anaheim and Santa Ana and Aliso Niguel--that fell below the 4% mark that year. In

Source: Los Angeles Times, May 12, 1997

Ventura County, Fillmore, Hueneme and Oxnard high schools sent fewer than 4% of its seniors to UC.

But other high schools—such as San Marino, South Pasadena and Sunny Hills in Fullerton—sent one-fourth of their seniors to UC. The lower ranking of these students could lose out if the process was changed to guarantee 4% admissions to every school.

Atkinson and others concede that any revision poses problems.

One of the thorniest is how the reserved seats would be distributed at various UC campuses. Standards for admission to UC Berkeley and UCLA are higher than for the other campuses, driven by demand. Should a reserved seat at UC Berkeley be awarded the same as to UC Riverside?

Another problem is that some high schools, often the small rural ones, don't offer all the courses—for instance in the sciences—UC requires for admission.

"We would have to assure that those students . . . would spend the summer in special remedial courses that would permit them to come up to speed," Atkinson said.

Despite such problems, the concept of setting aside seats for each school intrigues even those suspicious of its intent.

Connerly, the regent who orchestrated the affirmative action ban, said he is open to any strategy that might change the culture that discourages * poor children from pursuing higher education.

"If we can turn this around and make it cool to compete academically," he said, "it could have the impact of turning around the black community. . . . It's worth trying. If there ever was a time for us to try different things, this is it."

(BEGIN TEXT OF INFOBOX / INFOGRAPHIC)

Expanding Eligibility

University of California officials conducted a study to estimate the impact of a proposal to admit the top 12.5% of the graduates of each California high school. The conclusions: More black and Latino students would be eligible for UC and the eligible percentage of Asian American and white students would decline.

CURRENT ELIGIBILITY VS. PROTECTED ELIGIBILITY

	Current potential freshmen	Projected potential freshman
African American	5.1%	5.5%
Latino	3.9%	6.2%
Asian American	32.2%	26.0%
White	12.7%	10.6%

AVERAGE ACADEMIC INDEX SCORE

The plan would also diminish the academic profile of candidates for UC enrollment, with a drop in the academic index score for each racial and ethnic group. The score is based on a formula using grade-point averages and SAT scores.

Source: Los Angeles Times, May 12, 1997

	Current potential freshmen	Projected potential freshman
African American	6,515	5,797
Latino	6,537	5,911
Asian American	6,719	6,529
White	6,681	6,632
Total eligibility pool	6,677	6,443

Source: University of California

I0607 * End of document.

UC Task Force Reaches Impasse / Regents' panel ...

DOCUMENT 1 OF 2

SFC9713500051

NEWS

UC Task Force Reaches Impasse / Regents' panel disagrees on how to

* diversify student body

Pamela Burdman, Chronicle Staff Writer

646 Words

4490 Characters

05/13/97

The San Francisco Chronicle

FINAL

A17

(Copyright 1997)

Two years ago, when they began an unprecedented experiment in the dismantling of affirmative action, the University of California regents set up a task force to explore new ways to help disadvantaged students meet UC's entrance requirements.

Composed of educators, business leaders, students and a few regents, the group was supposed to produce recommendations within six months of its creation -- detailing new ways to expand the pool of UC-eligible students without using race or ethnicity in the admissions process.

Nearly 18 months since its first meeting, the 35-member outreach task force still has not produced its report -- a testament to both the magnitude and the contentiousness of their task.

Now, a group of task force members unhappy with the current draft are threatening to write a dissenting report. They say the task force has offered no innovative approaches, while skirting critical questions about the role of race and ethnicity in shaping disadvantage.

"We weren't handed the task to come up with a political solution to this issue," said task force member Eugene Garcia, dean of Berkeley's school of education. "We were asked to give advice about
* how we can have a diverse student body in the University of California."

UC administrators were set to ship copies of the report to high school principals around the state last week, saying it had the blessing of the entire task force. But they abruptly shifted course late last week, with a decision to have another round of revisions.

Still, the gist of the task force's recommendations has emerged in a series of draft reports, the latest of which reached committee members yesterday.

The drafts envision setting up regional partnerships pairing UC

campuses with low-performing schools, expanding existing academic enrichment programs and providing better and more timely information about UC to high school students.

Margaret Heisel, director of UC outreach, considers the plan a bold attempt to break new ground and believes most task force members agree.

"We're pulling together the whole arsenal of resources the university has in a comprehensive plan to bear on particular schools," she said. "That has great potential to make a difference in the number of people who are prepared for college and end up in good, solid programs.

"The chancellors have agreed to commit themselves to this project -- that's something that's never, ever been done."

However, some critics say the new draft doesn't go far enough to deal with concerns detailed in a series of letters to UC headquarters.

- * One of the harshest evaluations came from Cecil Lytle, a UC San Diego provost.

"These are current initiatives . . . which have proven ineffective at creating and sustaining diversity of campuses even during the halcyon affirmative action era," wrote Lytle. "This report is a grab for consolidation and status quo, and I cannot sign it without substantial changes in attitude and focus."

- Richard Russell, an alumni regent who serves on the task force, complained that the report fails to take the race and ethnicity issue head on. He worries that such an omission will only accentuate the
- * perception that UC's doors are closed to minority students.

The report clearly shows that average SAT scores of blacks and Latinos at all income levels lag behind their white and Asian American counterparts, a problem Russell says cannot be solved by focusing only on social and economic disadvantage.

Committee members have differed on the question of whether outreach programs can target by ethnicity, especially now that Proposition 209 has cleared its first legal hurdle.

Given all the divisions, some task force members had mainly praise for the report.

Wrote UC Riverside executive vice chancellor David Warren, "This was a tremendously difficult job of juggling a lot of often very conflicting viewpoints, and the result is a product that does this while at the same time staying very much on the high moral ground."

I0607 * End of document.

Pakradouni, curriculum coach for Columbus Elementary School in Glendale. "You can see dramatic results almost instantly in kids' interest as well as teachers' enthusiasm."

While the benefits of smaller classes seem to make common sense, there is "no consistent evidence that smaller classes are better than larger ones with the range we normally see," says Eric Hanushek, an economist at the University of Rochester in New York. But educators here feel the California experiment - if it can be kept going financially - could provide that proof.

One hurdle will be finding qualified teachers. California hired an unprecedented number of "emergency waived" teachers with minimum acceptable levels of reading, writing, and math skills. Parent reactions have ranged from mild concern to outrage.

"Some of the teachers they've hired haven't seen a first- or second-grade classroom since they were in first or second grade themselves," says Day Higuchi, of the Los Angeles Unified School District's union. Noting that about 4,000 emergency waiver teachers have been hired, he says, "until the problem of training and hiring good teachers is worked out, it [may not be] the best learning environment for the kids."

Funding is another concern. The state legislature is now debating a \$500 million increase for next year, but this would only cover \$666 of the \$800 average statewide cost per student per year. Local districts must make up the shortfall.

To participate this year, "we've had to take a \$70,000 bite out of our general fund," says Bill Baker, financial director

of the Visalia School District in central California. "That will hurt us for the next few years."

But most administrators, educators, parents, and kids think the long-term prognosis is positive. "We found that 100 percent of teachers are behind this idea, and 97 percent of parents," says Doug Langdon, a researcher for the San Diego Unified School District, which has conducted polls to assess the first year there.

"The change from 32 classmates last year to 19 this year has been dramatic for my son," adds Suzanne LeDuke, whose son, Killian, is a first-grader at Dixie Canyon Elementary. "He has been able to establish a one-on-one relationship with a teacher who understands his strengths and weaknesses. That is just not possible with a brood of 32." ■

9. The Christian Science Monitor

May 13, 1997

Affirmative Action: Rollback That Isn't

Linda Feldmann, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON — The effort to roll back affirmative action may not be the juggernaut it once looked to be - despite a major boost last month from a federal appeals court in California.

In Washington, House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R) of Georgia is resisting pressure from within his party to act on legislation that would end race and gender preferences in federal programs.

In some states, meanwhile, efforts to curtail preferences in state hiring, contracting, and education are moving forward - but slowly. Activists are working to draft language, raise money, and gather signatures for ballot initiatives, but even supporters offer a measured assessment of how quickly these initiatives can be brought to voters.

"There's been a lot of talk," says John Miller, spokesman for the Center for Equal Opportunity, which opposes affirmative action. He sees only two states, Florida and Washington, that might be ready for the 1998 ballot.

In April, a three-judge federal panel in California unanimously ruled that the state's 1996 ballot measure to end racial and gender preferences in state hiring, contracting, and education was constitutional. California voters had

approved the initiative with 54 percent of the vote.

But even given that green light, some Republicans have been reluctant to seize the issue. Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, Congress's only black Republican, cautions that now is not the time to end the program. Speaker Gingrich, while opposing preferences, says he wants the GOP to do more to help minorities before curtailing affirmative action.

In an interview, Rep. Charles Canady (R) of Florida, Gingrich's main opponent on the issue, chided the Speaker: "The Speaker of the House says he's against preferences, but he's also unwilling to take legislative action to end preferences. He's not being consistent."

Until last week, Congressman Canady had no partner in the Senate to push for rollback legislation, but Sen. Orrin Hatch (R) of Utah has now been enlisted. He is taking a go-slow approach, calling for hearings to discuss the appropriate language for a bill.

Last week the Clinton administration took a little of the wind out of Republican sails when it proposed tightened criteria for the awarding of federal contracts to minority businesses. Conservatives complained that the

change was minor but allowed the administration to claim progress.

Political perils The problem with the affirmative-action issue for Republicans is that it does not lend itself to easy sound-bites. An effort to end "preferences" and "set-asides" could be characterized by the other side as an attempt to roll back opportunities for minorities and women. The GOP hopes to attract more minorities and does not want to appear insensitive.

The Republican Party - and Gingrich in particular - already suffers from an image of "meanness" from the last Congress, over issues such as the federal school-lunch program.

"Once we're labeled as harsh or mean-spirited, it's hard to get over that," says William Bradford Reynolds, a Justice Department official during the Reagan administration who stirred controversy in the 1980s for saying publicly that preference programs were wrong.

Still, Mr. Reynolds views affirmative action as a winning issue for Republicans, as long as the news media will let them make their case. The problem, he says, is that fewer people are harmed by affirmative action today than

were in the 1970s and '80s, so it's harder to drum up grass-roots support to fight it. In addition, say other analysts, today's low unemployment makes for fewer aggrieved people over hiring practices.

View from Florida In Florida, Orlando accountant John Barry is optimistic about his ability to put an initiative similar to California's on the ballot in November 1998.

But local political analyst Robert Joffe, a vice president at Mason-Dixon polling firm, notes that it's difficult in Florida to gather enough signatures to make the ballot without a lot of financial help, and he believes the business community will be reluctant to contribute. Top corporate leaders, he says, "have been speaking of affirmative

action in a more politically correct way lately than even civil-rights and left-wing activists. They're used to the current system, and they don't want to alienate markets."

Moreover, Jeb Bush - the GOP's top prospect for the Florida governor's race next year - has steered clear of the issue, as has the Florida Republican Party. ■

TRADE

10. The Chronicle of Higher Education [Academe Today]

May 13, 1997

Supreme Court Declines to Review Case on Student-on-Student Sexual Harassment

By DOUGLAS LEDERMAN

The Supreme Court on Monday let stand a lower court's dismissal of a lawsuit brought against a Texas school district for failing to stop students from sexually harassing their peers. The High Court's action distressed advocates of women's rights, who had hoped that it would send the message that colleges and schools must act to stop such harassment under federal laws that bar sex discrimination in educational institutions.

The Court's decision not to hear the case, which was announced without comment from the Justices, represented the second time in seven months that the Court had passed up an opportunity to weigh in on educators' obligation to stop students from harassing one another based on their sex. Both cases involved parents of female students in the Bryan Independent School District, in Bryan, Tex.

In the case whose appeal was denied

Monday, a woman identified in court documents as J.W. had sued the Bryan district over the treatment of her daughter at one of its middle schools. The lawsuit claimed that district officials had failed to act even though they knew that some male students at the school had physically and verbally abused J.W.'s daughter, by pinching her breasts, among other things. The lawsuit charged that the district's inaction violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which bars sex discrimination at colleges and schools that receive federal funds.

A district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit had dismissed J.W.'s lawsuit, citing the Fifth Circuit's earlier rulings in the other case against the Bryan district, which the Supreme Court declined to hear in October. In that case, which was known as *Rowinsky v. Bryan Independent School District*, the Fifth Circuit ruled

that a school could be held responsible for failing to stop student-on-student sexual harassment only if it was shown to have treated harassment claims made by men differently from those made by women.

The U.S. Education Department published guidelines in March that said college and school officials must take "immediate and appropriate steps" to remedy student-on-student harassment once they learn about it. The guidelines specifically took issue with the Fifth Circuit's decision in the *Rowinsky* case, which Education Department officials said was "inconsistent" with nearly a decade's worth of rulings by the department's Office for Civil Rights.

The case acted on by the Supreme Court Monday is *J.W. v. Bryan Independent School District*, No. 96-1422. ■

11. Education Daily

May 13, 1997

JUSTICES TURN AWAY STUDENT HARASSMENT SUIT

For the second time in seven months, the U.S. Supreme Court has sidestepped the controversy over school districts' liability for students

sexually harassing students.

The justices, without comment, yesterday declined to review *J.W. v. Bryan Independent School District*

(96-1422), in which a federal appeals court held to its position that schools must simply treat harassment complaints by boys and girls equally (ED, March

[Front page](#) | [Today's headlines](#) | [News Update archive](#)

Minority Admissions Plummet at Berkeley's Law School

The number of minority students offered admission to the University of California at Berkeley's law school plunged this spring, with the pool of black admittees falling to 14 from 75 last year. In a statement released Wednesday, law-school officials blamed the sharp drop on the university's elimination of affirmative action.

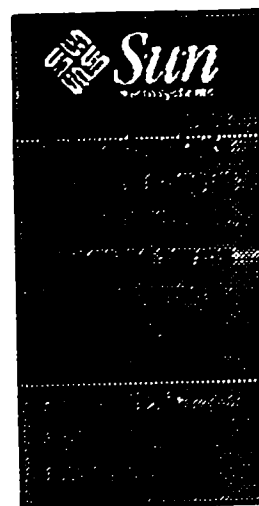
White and Asian-American students appeared to have been the beneficiaries of the new policy. The law school said that of 729 offers of admissions to next fall's entering class, 67.9 per cent were to white applicants, compared with 57.3 per cent last year. Asian applicants received 18.8 per cent of this year's offers from the law school, compared with 15.5 per cent a year ago.

Only 1.8 per cent of this spring's offers were to black applicants, compared with 9.2 per cent a year ago. Offers to other minority groups, including Hispanics and American Indians, declined as well.

This was the first admissions cycle in which the school, known as Boalt Hall, did not consider students' race or ethnicity in deciding whether to admit them. Admissions officers did so to comply with a 1995 resolution approved by the university system's Board of Regents.

Law-school officials said that the new policy was to blame for the statistics they released Wednesday. "This dramatic decline in the number of offers of admission made to non-Asian minority applicants is precisely what we feared would result from the elimination of affirmative action at Boalt," said Herma Hill Kay, dean of the law school.

Ms. Kay added that she regretted the sharp drop. "We must do everything we can to encourage those students of color who are



admitted to Boalt Hall to accept our offers of admission," she said.

To comply with the new policy, school officials asked Law Services, the non-profit corporation that administers the Law School Admissions Test, not to provide them with information about the race or ethnicity of applicants. After the admissions decisions had been made, the school sought the data so it could compare this year's offers with last year's.

The law school at the University of Texas at Austin reported a similar drop in offers to minority applicants this year, after it had eliminated affirmative action to comply with a court ruling. In March 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit struck down the affirmative-action admissions program at the school.

RETURN TO TODAY'S HEADLINES

[Front page](#) | [Guide to the site](#) | [Today's news](#) | [Internet resources](#) | [Colloquy](#) | [Washington](#) | [New grant competitions](#) | [This Week's Chronicle](#) | [Chronicle archive](#) | [Information Bank](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [About The Chronicle](#) | [Help](#)

56. Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

May 15, 1997 Category: Local

Educators shift focus to toughen students

By TIM COLLIE

Staff Writer

Instead of trying to solve the social ills afflicting students, educators now are focusing on making them tough-minded enough to survive the divorce, drugs and violence around them.

The idea is known as "resiliency" and it's gaining ground among the educators and child welfare advocates who gathered Wednesday for an all-day conference on children's issues sponsored by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County.

Few educators would describe the resiliency theory as a retreat from dealing with seemingly intractable issues like teen pregnancy, single-parent families

and domestic violence.

But teachers can only go so far in resolving troubled home lives, and their limited time and resources may be best spent teaching children how to cope and prosper under adverse conditions, several conference participants said.

Underlying the theory is a growing body of research showing that many children actually thrive after experiencing ordeals such as war and poverty. Educators are now asking what qualities these children have and how those positive attributes can be successfully taught.

"Those of us who work with children know that we get children who come from such disadvantage, and they're able to function and successfully conform," said Alison Adler, director of the Safe Schools Center for the Palm Beach County School District. "And by conform I mean take some responsibility, and display some competency. Yet, they come from circumstances we'd describe as very deprived."

At its most basic, the resiliency theory involves setting and maintaining standards for behavior. It stresses activities and rules. ■

57. San Francisco Chronicle

May 15, 1997 Category: Local

Diversity Lessens At Boalt Hall

55 non-Asian minorities accepted; lowest in decade

By Pamela Burdman

Chronicle Staff Writer

The University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law announced yesterday that 55 students of underrepresented minority groups have been accepted to this fall's entering class — by far the lowest number to be admitted in more than a decade.

Although it is not yet known how many of those admitted — 39 Latinos, 14 blacks and 2 American Indians — will enroll at Boalt, they constitute just 7 percent of the 792 students who were admitted.

In contrast, last year Boalt accepted 815 students, and 162 — about 20 percent — were underrepresented minorities.

Because of the regents' 1995 decision

to ban the use of race and ethnicity in UC admissions, Boalt's admissions committee did not have access to information about applicants' race. The data was collected later from the organization that administers the Law School Admissions Test.

"I'm extremely distressed by this," said Boalt Hall Dean Herma Hill Kay yesterday. "This is what we thought would happen when the resolution was put in place, and it looks as though we were right."

The number of offers to underrepresented minorities was nearly double the number projected in a statistical analysis by a faculty committee last year.

But administrators remain concerned that the regents' policy may have sent a negative message to minority candidates. If so, it could erode the school's yield rate — the number of admitted students who actually enroll.

A group of minority students at Boalt are contacting some of the admitted students to encourage them to attend.

UCLA's law school saw a somewhat less dramatic drop in the number of non-Asian minorities who were admitted — 108 compared with 222 last year.

Last week, a group of Boalt students pushing for greater diversity urged their school to assign greater weight to socioeconomic factors — an approach that UCLA is already using. ■

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Academe Today

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: May 16, 1997

Section: Athletics

Page: A35

SIDELINES

Texan Says Athletes Are Being Exempted From Race-Blind Policy

Ever since a federal appeals court in Texas ruled that universities could not consider race in the admissions process, Harold Dutton, a Democratic state legislator from Houston, has been looking for an opportunity to make a point.

Universities are continuing to make exceptions for minority students, he says -- but only for those physically gifted enough to qualify for athletics scholarships.

"We looked at the numbers of minorities on football teams and the number of minorities in the student bodies, and they didn't match up," says Reese Buggs, an aide to Mr. Dutton. Minority students -- black students in particular -- were overrepresented in the former category and underrepresented in the latter, he says.

"So what they are saying is that we will make exceptions and lower standards for football players, but not for people getting into the academic arena," Mr. Buggs says.

To remedy this perceived injustice, Representative Dutton introduced a bill under which the percentage of minority players on athletics teams at public universities could be no more than 10 points higher than the percentage of minorities at these colleges. The bill died in committee.

Undeterred, Mr. Dutton is now supporting a measure to ban athletics scholarships at public institutions. The bill has passed the House of Representatives, but it is expected to get little further.

Copyright (c) 1997 by The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inc.

<http://chronicle.com>

Title: Texan Says Athletes Are Being Exempted From Race-Blind Policy

Published: 97/05/16

[Front Page](#) | [News Update](#) | [Resources](#) | [Colloquy](#) | [Washington Almanac](#) | [This Week's Chronicle](#) | [Chronicle Archive](#)
| [Jobs](#) | [Information Bank](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Help](#)

[Home](#)

[Archive](#)

[Search](#)

[Free
Subscription](#)

[Links](#)

[Author](#)



Berkeley Bland

May 16, 1997

There was startling news out of the University of California this week. The first class to be admitted to the University's Berkeley School of Law since the elimination of affirmative action in the selection process showed an amazing 81% drop in black admissions from last year. Eighty-one percent! Hispanic admissions fell 50%. However, both Asian and white student admissions saw increases of 18% and 15% respectively.

Now I think you will agree that these are significant changes. And many of you also probably think that with the elimination of racial preferences, this new class of future lawyers should have significantly higher academic credentials. Right? Wrong.

The mean grade point average of this year's new students is 3.74 compared to 3.72 for last year. And this year's students averaged only one point higher on the Law School Admissions Test than last year's students. So the elimination of affirmative action at the Berkeley School of Law obviously won't result in an academically more qualified student body, only a less colorful and diverse one.

21. The Baltimore Sun

May 16, 1997

Census Bureau weighs adding a 'multiracial' category

Some Asians, Alaskans prefer it, survey finds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Letting people call themselves multiracial reduces the number who consider themselves Alaskan or Asian but doesn't seem to change the number of blacks, whites or American Indians, the Census Bureau has found.

As mixed-race families become more common, the government is considering adding the option of "multiracial" to the current race categories on federal forms.

The Census Bureau estimated that the number of children in mixed-race families jumped from fewer than 500,000 to 2 million between 1970 and 1990.

The final decision on whether to add the new category will be made by the Office of Management and Budget, but the Census Bureau reported yesterday on the results of a complex test of various reporting options among 112,000 households.

Adding the multiracial category reduced the reporting of Asian or Pacific

Islander as a single race, bureau said. The same happened when the option of "mark all that apply" was offered and several racial categories were presented rather than asking people to pick just one.

But neither option affected the number of people reporting themselves solely as black, white or American Indian.

A group of households made up largely of American Indians and Alaskan natives showed mixed results. Including the multiracial choice reduced the number picking Alaska native, but had no effect on the American Indian total.

The question of if, and how, to add a multiracial choice to government statistics is sensitive. An individual with parents from different categories may not wish to choose one parental identity over the other.

But simply adding a "multiracial" category could cause problems in comparing current and older statistics,

and it might interfere with efforts to track minorities and prevent discrimination.

The census test was intended to gauge the effect of various options on how people reported themselves.

Other findings of the test included:

Substituting "native Hawaiian" for "Hawaiian" increased the number of people picking that category.

Giving people a choice between "Guamian" and "Guamian or Chamorro" made no difference in the number selecting that category.

Spelling out "American Indian" instead of using "Indian (Amer)" or "Alaska native" had no effect on the number checking that group.

Placing a question on whether a respondent is of Hispanic origin before the question of race increased the number who answered the Hispanic question. People of Hispanic background can be of any race. ■

22. Christian Science Monitor

May 16, 1997

College Minority Admissions Drop

Daniel Sneider, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

SAN FRANCISCO — Both supporters and foes of affirmative action have long argued that the imposition of race-blind university admission policies would alter the look of American campuses. Now the first evidence is in, and the results are even more dramatic than many predicted.

The admission of the first post-affirmative-action classes at prestigious law schools in California and Texas shows a steep decline in the number of minority students. In fact, the number of African-Americans offered admission in law schools at the University of California at Los Angeles and Berkeley dropped by 80 percent.

The numbers are intensifying the debate over the movement to roll back

race- and gender-based preferences nationwide.

University of California graduate schools are the first to carry out a 1985 decision by the state Board of Regents to ban affirmative action in admissions. Last fall California voters passed Proposition 209, barring such policies in public higher education, employment, and business contracting. The California measure is now a model for similar moves in other states and in Congress.

"This is what a 209 world is going to look like - a legal profession with virtually no representation for the African-American, Latino, and native American communities," says Mark Rosenbaum of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

and a 209 critic.

While not cheering the lack of diversity, opponents of affirmative action see the statistics as proof of how pervasive race was in past admissions. "It's an utterly predictable result," says Terry Pell, a spokesman for the Washington-based Center for Individual Rights.

Officials of the University of California law schools, who had strongly opposed the decision to end affirmative action, decried the move on Wednesday, when the numbers were released.

"This dramatic decline in the number of offers of admission made to non-Asian minority applications is precisely what we feared would result from the elimination of affirmative action," says

Herma Hill Kay, dean of the University of California, Berkeley, law school.

The loss of racial and ethnic diversity is undeniable. Compared with 1996 admissions, UCLA has admitted 80 percent fewer blacks, 32 percent fewer Hispanics, and 60 percent fewer native Americans, while admissions of whites and Asians is rising. At Berkeley's Boalt Hall, which boasted one of the most diverse student bodies of top law schools, minority admissions have dropped from 20 percent to 7 percent. These results are mirrored at the University of Texas law school, which stopped using race-based criteria following a federal court decision last year.

Critics blame the schools for failing to develop alternatives to race in admissions criteria and having to rely solely on grades and scores in the law-school admissions test. "They've been using racial set-asides all along, and racial set-asides bring in large numbers of minority students who would not otherwise be admitted under a numbers-only admissions approach," says Mr. Pell.

Law schools, unlike many other

graduate disciplines, rely heavily on test scores and grades. According to a recently published study of law-school applications, a solely numbers-based admissions policy would substantially reduce minority entrants nationwide. Author Linda Wightman, a former official at the Law School Admissions Council, estimates that of the 3,485 blacks accepted by more than 160 law schools, only 687 would have been admitted based on tests and grades.

But such test scores are not an accurate measure of how well these students will do, argues the ACLU's Mr. Rosenbaum. Minorities admitted under the affirmative-action criteria did equally well when it came to graduation and passage of bar exams, the same study found.

And contrary to the criticism, the two California schools did make changes in their admissions policies in an attempt to create diversity based on nonracial criteria. UCLA tried to use economic and social deprivation as factors, believing this would help minority students.

Instead it yielded more admissions of poor whites and immigrants from places like Russia and Vietnam. It also led to

the turning down of blacks and Latinos who had good numbers but were from wealthier families. "We have a very diverse class but not the same diversity," says Michael Rappaport, dean of admissions at the UCLA law school.

Anticipating that result, Berkeley tried to reduce the weight given to test scores and to expand the importance of personal histories. But this produced results only slightly better than looking purely at the numbers, says dean Kay.

University officials are worried not only by the lower admissions numbers but also by a drop in minority applicants, a phenomenon visible also at the University of Texas. Moreover, minority students are being more aggressively recruited by out-of-state and private universities than can offer affirmative-action-based aid and other incentives.

The problem may be compounded in the fall as minorities who are admitted choose to go elsewhere. "The numbers will not encourage minority students to come to a place where there are few students like themselves," says Mr. Kay. ■

23. The Financial Times

Qualification for headteachers launched

By Simon Targett
Education Correspondent

A new professional qualification for headteachers was launched yesterday by the teacher training agency.

Mr David Blunkett, education and employment secretary, welcomed it as "an important step in the government's plans to introduce a mandatory qualification for all new headteachers".

The government is keen to make the qualification compulsory following a report earlier this year by Ofsted, the education watchdog, which revealed there are about 3,000 "incompetent" headteachers in Britain's schools.

But teachers' unions, while supporting the qualification, warned that the government would have to provide

guaranteed funding totalling GBP 30m if the programme is to function properly.

The National Professional Qualification for Headship, which has been piloted in 22 centres across England and Wales, is designed to develop the leadership and management skills of aspiring headteachers.

The TTA has drawn on best practice from industry and business, as well as the education sector, and there will be a compulsory module on "strategic leadership and accountability".

Up to 9,000 places are expected to be available in the first year, and within an hour of the launch, the TTA had received 250 calls about the qualification, which is expected to become compulsory.

Some candidates, mostly deputy

headteachers, will be able to complete the qualification in one year, depending on experience. Other candidates could take up to three years to complete the training.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the scheme must be funded.

He said: "Any suggestion that candidates should use the school budget or 'dip into their own pockets' is totally unacceptable."

He said that since schools are already finding it very difficult to recruit headteachers in many parts of the country "the need to acquire a mandatory rigorous qualification might depress applications further". ■

WASHINGTON (AP) - Many American blacks who ...

DOCUMENT 7 OF 12

ASP9714000317

WASHINGTON (AP) - Many American blacks who quit high school are ...

348 Words

2473 Characters

05/18/97

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

(Copyright 1997. The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)

WASHINGTON (AP) - Many American blacks who quit high school are finding ways to complete it by their late 20s, thus narrowing the black-white graduation gap, according to 1995 data released Sunday.

- * The report by the American Council on Education said blacks and whites aged 25 to 29 had almost the same rate of high school completion, about 87 percent, in 1995. In the younger age group, 18 to 24, the gap was wider.

The report said the gap may have closed because of the greater number of black people finishing high school requirements later in life through equivalency examinations. Just 10 years earlier, blacks had an 81 percent graduation rate, compared with 87 percent for whites.

Nonetheless, the council's analysis of census data showed that blacks and Hispanics finish college at a far lower rate than whites, and the rate of enrollment increases is slowing.

Hispanics also fell behind whites and blacks in finishing high school, with a rate of 57 percent.

The council, an umbrella group for colleges, universities and educational associations, included the figures in its 15th annual report on "Minorities in Higher Education." The report included figures on educational attainment for the first time this year.

Looking at college attainment, the report said that 26 percent of whites 25 to 29 had finished at least four years of college in 1995. For blacks, the rate was 15 percent. The percentages were the highest recorded for both groups since 1975. The rate of almost 9 percent for Hispanics was lower than in the 1980s.

- * A special section on Asian-Pacific Americans sought to dispel the myth of their being a "model minority."

Students from that group "are perceived as well-behaved, diligent high achievers who persevere and are educationally successful despite socioeconomic and linguistic obstacles," the report said.

It said, however, the stereotype conceals a wide range of educational experiences. The report noted the lack of even a

*Also ran in
Chicago Tribune
Baltimore Sun*

fifth-grade education in 1990 for large numbers of some groups, such as Hmong, Cambodians and Laotians.

College participation ranged from 66 percent for Chinese-Americans to 26 percent for Laotian-Americans.

I0607 * End of document.

GROWTH IN COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FOR MINORITIES SLOWS

Although the number of minority students pursuing higher education grew 2.9 percent from 1994 to 1995, that pace is well below enrollment advances in prior years, says a study being released today by the American Council on Education (ACE).

Minority enrollment had grown 7.1 percent from 1992 to 1993, and slowed to 4.6 percent from 1993 to 1994 (ED, June 10, 1996).

Overall higher education enrollment is down, the study says, because of lower numbers of college-age white students.

The study's authors attribute minorities' slower growth to statewide efforts in California to eliminate affirmative action and a court decision in Texas banning the use of race in admissions policies (ED, April 11). Both started in 1994, around the time ACE's enrollment data was collected.

"It's difficult for us to know how the rollback in affirmative action will work," said Deborah Carter, one of the study's authors and ACE's associate director for minority education.

ACE, however, says minority recruitment and retention programs over the past 15 years have paid off, increasing the number of students earning degrees.

In 1994, 16.8 percent of all bachelor's degrees were awarded

(05/19/97) GROWTH IN COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FOR MINORITIES

to minority students, up 1.2 percentage points from the previous year. The number of doctoral degrees awarded to minorities increased by 13.6 percent between 1994 and 1995, and by 67 percent since 1985.

Despite growing numbers of minorities in higher education, more attention needs to be paid to the diverse needs of Asian-Americans, says a supplement included in the ACE study.

"We're often treated as one lump sum and that's not the case," said Kenyon Chan, chairman of the Asian American Studies Department at California State University at Northridge, who prepared part of the supplement.

"Minorities In Higher Education 1996-97" is \$24.95 from American Council on Education, Publications Department M, 1 Dupont Circle NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202)939-9380. --

Rebecca S. Weiner

file_id=3096_0004

_3096

19970519

Minority Admissions Fall With Preferences Ban; ...

DOCUMENT 3 OF 3

WP9713900061

A Section

* Minority Admissions Fall With Preferences Ban; Steep Declines at Two States' Flagship Universities Raise Alarm on Campuses Nationwide

Rene Sanchez and Sue Anne Pressley

Washington Post Staff Writers

1643 Words

10742 Characters

05/19/97

The Washington Post

FINAL

A01

Copyright 1997, The Washington Post Co. All Rights Reserved

Two of the nation's largest and most prestigious public universities are reporting a substantial decline in the number of minorities they are admitting in the first classes after the schools were barred from using race as a factor in picking students.

At both the University of California and the University of Texas, the effect of landmark new prohibitions on racial preferences has been swift and dramatic, and it is raising alarm on campuses nationwide about the consequences of losing affirmative action. At UCLA's law school, 21 black students have been selected for next fall's class -- an 80 percent drop from last year and the lowest number of African Americans offered admission since about 1970. At the UC-Berkeley law school, 14 blacks have been accepted in a class of 792, down from 75 last year. The decline among Hispanic students at each law school is similar. Graduate programs at the University of California were the first to be affected by the new race-neutral policy ordered by university regents.

The same patterns also are emerging at the University of Texas flagship campus in Austin -- where graduate and undergraduate programs were subject to new policies this year. Ten black students -- compared with 65 last year -- have been admitted for the fall to the law school, and nearly 400 fewer black and Hispanic students have been offered admission as undergraduates, a 20 percent decline. Meanwhile, the number of white and Asian American students being admitted at campuses in each state has risen sharply this spring.

"We're very distressed -- it's a huge drop," said Michael Rappaport, the dean of admissions at UCLA's law school. "And it's even worse than it appears because we'll be lucky to get even half of those students to come to the campuses."

● ACE NEWS

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION • One Dupont Circle, Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20036-1193 • 202/939-9365 • FAX 202/833-4762

FOR RELEASE A.M. MONDAY, MAY 19, 1997

Contact: David Merkowitz, (202) 939-9365 (office)
or (301) 927-5811 (home); or Deborah
Carter or Reginald Wilson, (202) 939-9395

STUDENTS OF COLOR CONTINUE TO MAKE GAINS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, BUT PROGRESS SLOWS, ACE REPORT REVEALS

Washington, DC (May 19, 1997) -- Enrollment gains by students of color in higher education have slowed considerably after several years of rapid growth, a report released today by the American Council on Education (ACE) shows. While minorities continued to register increases in the number of students attending colleges and universities and receiving degrees during the period covered by the report, the findings raise concerns about the impact of more recent political and legal attacks on affirmative action.

The ACE study, *The Fifteenth Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education*, reveals that students of color continue to make progress in higher education, but still lag significantly behind white students in the rate at which they enroll in college.

Overall enrollment of students of color rose by 2.9 percent between 1994 and 1995 (the latest year for which such data is available), compared with gains of 4.6 percent between 1993 and 1994 and 7.1 percent in 1992. Minority students registered increases of 9.8 percent in the number of associate degrees earned in 1995; 8.5 percent in the number of bachelor's degrees; 11.1 percent in master's degrees; and 9.7 percent in first-professional degrees. However, these gains were smaller than those posted in the previous year. In 1994, increases in degree attainment ranged from 12.4 percent in the number of master's degrees to 16.8 percent in the first-professional degree category.

In addition, while students of color made up 22.3 percent of all four-year undergraduates in 1994, they earned only 16.8 percent of all baccalaureates conferred that year.

-more-

Publication of the report was supported by a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, which has invested heavily since 1990 in programs and scholarships for students of color. "Building partnerships that provide access to higher education is critical to the success of today's students," said Michael Bivens, the foundation's education director. "We recognize diversity as a crucial and competitive advantage in an increasingly global marketplace that needs people with a variety of skills and experiences."

High School Completion

African Americans and Hispanics continue to trail whites in the rate at which they finish high school, as they have for the past two decades. The completion rate for 18- to 24-year-old whites was 81.9 percent in 1995, compared with 76.9 percent for African Americans and 58.6 percent for Hispanics.

The 1995 completion rate for African Americans was virtually unchanged from the previous year, but remains about 12 percentage points higher than the 64.8 percent recorded in 1975. The rate for Hispanics has fluctuated over time. The current rate is slightly above those recorded in the mid-1970s and two percentage points higher than in 1994, but below the 1993 rate of 60.9 percent.

College Participation and Enrollment

Nationally, the number of traditional college-age individuals (18- to 24-year-olds) peaked in 1981 and then went into a 10-year decline before leveling off. Much of the decrease was due to a drop in the number of whites in that age cohort, which in 1995 remained 12.2 percent lower than in 1981. The number of traditional college-age African Americans also dipped in the 1980s, then rose by 3 percent between 1990 and 1995. The Hispanic 18- to 24-year-old population climbed rapidly, increasing by 62 percent between 1985 and 1995 and by 31 percent since 1990.

Although fewer whites are enrolled in college, their numbers have not declined proportionate to their share of the population because of steady increases in their rates of participation in higher education. Enrollment rates for African Americans and Hispanics, on the other hand, have fluctuated over time.

- In 1995, 25- to 29-year-old whites and African Americans registered nearly identical high school completion rates (87.4 percent vs. 86.5 percent). This represented substantial progress from 10 years earlier, when African Americans trailed whites by more than 6 percentage points (86.8 percent vs. 80.6 percent). Hispanics continued to lag behind with a 1995 rate of 57.1 percent.

- Approximately 26 percent of all white adults ages 25 to 29 had completed at least four years of college in 1995, compared with 15.3 percent of African Americans and 8.9 percent of Hispanics. The 1995 figures are the highest recorded since 1975 for whites and African Americans. The rate for Hispanics has fluctuated over time, reaching 10 percent and slightly higher during much of the 1980s before dipping in the 1990s.

Degrees Conferred

The report's findings on degree attainment indicate that efforts by colleges and universities in the late 1980s and early 1990s to improve access for and retention of students of color have paid off. Minority students recorded gains in all four academic degree categories between 1993 and 1994 (the latest year for which data is available). Nonetheless, the increases were smaller than those registered in previous years.

- Students of color earned 16.8 percent of all bachelor's degrees in 1994, only 1.2 percentage points above the previous year, compared with the 2.2 percentage point increase between 1992 and 1993.

- Between 1993 and 1994, African Americans posted increases in the number of degrees earned in each of the four categories, but the rise at the baccalaureate level (7.3 percent) was the lowest among all ethnic minority groups. African-American students earned 9.7 percent more associate degrees in 1995; 10.9 percent more master's degrees; and 8.4 percent more first-professional degrees.

- Hispanic students recorded an 8.2 percent gain in associate degrees; 10.7 percent in bachelor's degrees; 11.7 in master's degrees; and 5 percent in first-professional degrees. American Indians experienced an increase of 13.6 percent at the associate level; 9.1 percent in baccalaureates; 20.6 percent in master's degrees; and 0.8 percent in first-professional degrees. The increases for Asian Americans were 12.2 percent in associate degrees; 8.2 percent baccalaureates; 10.1 percent master's degrees; and 14.2 in first-professional degrees.

status report - 7

ACE is the umbrella association for the nation's colleges and universities. Its membership includes about 1,600 accredited, degree-granting institutions from all sectors of higher education and nearly 200 national and regional higher education associations and organizations.

Copies of the *Fifteenth Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education* are available for \$24.95, prepaid, from Publications Department M, American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, DC 20036. For additional ordering information, or to pay by credit card, call (202) 939-9380.

Critics of affirmative action, however, called the new declines a sign of how much colleges have relied on double standards to boost
* minority enrollment. "This should be a wake-up call for all schools," said Abigail Thernstrom, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative think tank. "These numbers tell us that with affirmative
* action policies, too many minority students who are not meeting standards are still being admitted."

Across the nation, university leaders are closely watching enrollment trends in California and Texas because public campuses there are the first sites under orders to dismantle affirmative action policies that have been in place for decades. Recent attempts in other states to enact similar bans have been blocked, but the issue has become one of the most contentious in higher education as affirmative action opponents continue to push their cause. Already, some
* universities are revamping admission policies and expanding minority outreach programs to try to maintain student diversity even if forced to stop using racial preferences.

Colleges and universities have been reluctant to discuss precisely how they use race as a factor in admissions. Critics charge that some universities essentially have two sets of admissions pools, one for minorities and one for whites.

In a study released today, the American Council on Education, which represents more than 1,300 colleges and universities, reports
* that even with affirmative action minority enrollment on campuses nationally is not growing as much as it was earlier this decade. It grew less than 3 percent last year, compared with 7 percent in 1992.
* Stanley Ikenberry, the council's president, called the findings "an early warning signal" for colleges trying to preserve or improve
* minority enrollment -- especially if the ban on racial preferences in California and Texas were to spread.

"We in higher education face a substantial challenge if we are
* to ensure that these gains are not reversed," Ikenberry said.

Texas and California are in unique positions. In 1995, the University of California system's Board of Regents voted to drop race as a factor in admissions. The new policy takes effect with graduate students this fall and will affect undergraduate students beginning next year. Meanwhile, the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals, ruling in a case brought by a few white students denied entry to the University of Texas law school, last year barred public colleges in that state from considering the race of prospective students.

In the rest of the nation, public universities still adhere to a 1978 Supreme Court decision that allows them to use affirmative action in some circumstances in admissions and hiring. But campaigns to stop the use of racial preferences on campuses -- in some cases modeled after the examples set in California and Texas -- are growing nationwide.

Source: Washington Post, May 19, 1997

"People on both sides of the civil rights battle believe there is a rollback afoot -- some are cheering and others are crying -- and affirmative action is the leading edge of that rollback," said Christopher Edley Jr., a Harvard law professor who has served as an adviser on affirmative action to President Clinton.

In Texas, the question of how to maintain and expand racial diversity on college campuses is an urgent problem. Minorities are already underrepresented on campuses in proportion to the size of their population statewide. The federal court decision -- commonly known as the Hopwood case after the last name of one of the white students who filed the lawsuit -- has left state and university officials struggling to adhere to it while not losing ground they have gained in student diversity in the last few decades.

But already there are signs that the Hopwood case may be * discouraging minority students from applying to Texas campuses -- a trend also evident in California.

At the University of Texas law school, the flash point of the affirmative action debate, applications from black students fell 42 percent this year. Among undergraduates, applications from blacks declined by 26 percent and applications from Hispanics by 23 percent. Similar patterns are apparent at Texas A&M, the nation's third-largest university with 42,000 students. Freshman applications from blacks dropped 13 percent there this year, and from Hispanics by 9 percent.

Those changes are alarming faculty. Patrick Woolley, one of two black professors at the University of Texas law school, said that he fears he may gaze across his first-year classes next fall and see virtually nothing but white faces.

"I'm concerned we're moving toward the resegregation of the law school," Woolley said. "Certainly even with affirmative action, no law school class has ever been brimming over with African Americans or Hispanics."

Some Texas officials are rushing to stop the decline by changing the emphasis in admission and financial aid procedures. Last week, the state Senate approved a bill requiring Texas colleges and universities to admit applicants who graduated in either the top 10 percent or top 25 percent of their classes. After that, officials would have to consider such race-neutral factors as economic status and family background.

In California, UC-Berkeley and other campuses are bolstering programs aimed at recruiting minorities and improving the academic qualifications of those who apply. Across the state, for example, only 5 percent of black graduates from public schools, and only 4 percent of Hispanic students, meet the university's admissions standards. That compares with 13 percent of whites.

In addition to programs that would boost minorities' academic qualifications, campus officials also are trying to put more emphasis

Source: Washington Post, May 19, 1997

in their admissions criteria on the economic background of students.

Some advocates of affirmative action have expressed hope that doing that might be a subtle way to comply with the regents' order and maintain racial diversity. But the new admissions numbers for UC law schools suggest that the task may be much harder.

"We're seeing that trying to rely more in admissions on the disadvantaged background of a student simply won't cover it," UCLA's Rappaport said.

In the past, the University of Texas had in place a system that some say went too far in using race as a factor for admission. Beyond the consideration of grades and Law School Aptitude Test scores, different standards and lower cutoff points were used for blacks and Hispanics; in effect, applications from those students were placed in separate stacks. Terry Pell, an attorney with the D.C.-based Center for Individual Rights who represented Cheryl Hopwood, said the system was unfairly biased against her.

"She was somebody who came from a difficult background," he said. "She was married, she had two children, she worked extremely hard to get an undergraduate degree. . . . If you were were looking for a student who had overcome a lot of adversity, she was it. Yet, she was turned down, solely because she was the wrong skin color."

Still, UT officials say that being unable to use race as even a minor factor in the admissions process could keep the number of * minority students who are accepted lower than it has been in many years.

"The effect is going to be devastating," said Michael Sharlot, dean of the UT law school. "It is tragic because as one of the leading law schools in the nation, we have been enormously successful in terms of the numbers of African American and Mexican American lawyers we produced. This school has 650 African American alumni and 1,350 Mexican American alumni, and there is no law school in the country that has produced anywhere near as many Mexican American lawyers."

Ramiro Canales, a former migrant worker who just completed his second year of law school and is president-elect of the Chicano/Hispanic Law Students Association, said he fears that now "many Hispanic students are afraid. They are not applying here because they perceive the school to be racially hostile and that they can't compete."

Another student, Kyron Hayes, president of the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society, the association for black law students at UT, said, "It does seem like a step backward, maybe not in race relations * but in minority opportunity. It may make other black students think no one wants them here, and that's just not true."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com>

10. Detroit Free Press

May 19, 1997

Minority growth slows on campus

BY PEGGY WALSH-SARNECKI AND MARYANNE GEORGE Free Press Staff Writers

The doors to higher education pushed open by students of color in recent years are closing a crack — a trend that warns of worse setbacks if attacks on affirmative action continue, the coauthor of a new national report says.

College enrollment of minority students in the United States rose 2.9 percent between 1994 and 1995, the latest year for which data was available. That was down from 4.6 percent the previous year and 7.1 percent in 1992, according to the 15th Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education released today by the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C.

Minority students also posted smaller gains in college degrees earned between 1994 and 1995, the report said.

"That slowing down is coming at a time when minorities are growing in the population, so it's paradoxical," Reginald Wilson, the coauthor of the report, said Friday. "We suspect this is due to the strong attack on affirmative action that has been happening and is growing."

Educators said the recent anti-affirmative action moves follow years of increased animosity toward the programs.

In Michigan, a bill sponsored by state Rep. Penny Crissman, R-Rochester, would stop community colleges from race norming, or adjusting test scores to account for social and economic factors, and using preferential treatment in employment, promotions and contract awards.

Two weeks ago, four Republican state legislators promised to mount a legal challenge to affirmative action policies at the University of Michigan. Reps. David Jaye of Washington Township, Deborah Whyman of Canton Township, Michelle McManus of Lake Leelanau and Greg Kaza of Rochester Hills said they were seeking potential plaintiffs for a lawsuit.

In California, voters last year passed Proposition 209, prohibiting gender and race discrimination in education, hiring and contracting.

Subsequently, the regents of the University of California voted to end affirmative action in admissions, effective this year. One recently reported result: The

number of black students admitted to U-C's Boalt Hall law school has fallen 81 percent and the number of Hispanics, 50 percent.

And in Texas, colleges have been barred from considering race in admissions after a 1996 ruling by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

As a result, "the number of minority applicants to the University of Texas declined precipitously," Wilson said.

Overall in recent years, black students recorded the smallest enrollment gains of all minority groups nationally, the ACE report said.

Since 1990, black students' college enrollment rose by 18.2 percent, compared with a 39.6-percent jump for Hispanics, 39.2 percent for Asian Americans and 27.5 percent for American Indians.

The ACE report does not include a state-by-state analysis, but like their counterparts elsewhere, students of color in Michigan have had steady enrollment gains in raw numbers.

In fall 1991, for example, they comprised 18.7 percent of 262,246 students enrolled in 15 public universities. By fall 1995, it was 20.4 percent of 258,996 students, the latest statistics available from the Presidents Council of the state universities.

But the rate of the gains appears to be stalling. At the University of Michigan, for example, minority enrollment rose 6.8 percent in 1992, 1.2 percent in 1995 and 0.7 percent in 1996.

Wayne State University, which draws a significant percentage of students from predominantly black Detroit, saw a 6-percent dip in minority enrollments in 1994 and again in 1996. But black students have remained 21 percent to 23 percent of WSU's overall enrollment.

"Given all the negative publicity around affirmative action and affirmative action issues, I think a lot of minority students will say, I don't want to be bothered with this — who wants the hassle?" said John Matlock, U-M vice provost and director of the office of academic multicultural initiatives.

Enrollments at historically black colleges and universities are rising, he noted.

But Matlock said affirmative action probably isn't the only factor in the overall enrollment slowdown. More students choose work over college when the economy is good, he said, and college costs are rising.

"But I don't want to discount the assault in terms of affirmative action nationwide," he said Friday. "I think it does have a chilling effect on students in terms of where they go to college."

The controversy swirls around what is fair in choosing among applicants. Affirmative action critics maintain all applicants should be evaluated equally. Advocates say some students need special consideration.

Colleges and universities have traditionally used more than grades and test scores in selecting students, Tom Healey, WSU's director of strategic planning, said Friday.

This year, U-M officials extended the deadline for high-ability applicants to file the personal essays that are part of the application process. But minority students in the group were allowed to have slightly lower test scores than other students.

Lee Bollinger, who became U-M president Feb. 1, after the deadline was extended, said he would not have approved it on that basis.

"It would be better to extend the deadline for all applications," he said Friday.

U-M officials say race is one of many factors considered in admissions and defend the university's policies as legal and constitutional.

But their view has been challenged by one of their own, philosophy professor Carl Cohen. He said his analysis of applicants with similar test scores and grade point averages in 1994 shows that minorities were more likely to be accepted at U-M and its law school than others.

"You cannot explain the evident preference given to minorities based on factors such as athletic or musical ability or contributions to society, Cohen said Friday. "Race and ethnicity are the principal factors used at U-M," he said.

Bollinger said declining minority enrollment in California and Texas "contradicts the assumption of many that

diversity can be achieved without paying attention to race and ethnicity in admissions."

U-M's Matlock said the Census Bureau predicts minorities will make up almost half the U.S. population by the year 2050.

"We have to continue to open doors for a variety of students. I think that it's in the national interest," Matlock said. ■

would have said that need-based aid was the big trend," says David Breneman, dean of the education school at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and a supporter of need-based aid. "But now, need has lost a bit of its panache."

The civil rights era of the mid-1960s and early '70s was a heyday for need-based college aid, and federal programs grew exponentially. Last year, state and federal governments and private institutions gave out a total of \$50 billion in college aid - nearly \$35 billion of it earmarked for poor students.

The merits of merit

But in recent years, this need-based aid has come under increasing attack. Conservatives and moderates argue that students should get aid the old-fashioned way - by earning it.

This viewpoint now may be gaining more widespread acceptance. A recent study indicates that merit scholarships may have a positive impact on student performance.

In the first academic study of its kind, researchers at Georgia State University tracked the recipients of Georgia's HOPE scholarships, which provide public-college tuition to students who maintain a 3.0 grade-point average. The study found that HOPE students tended to get better grades, take more classes, and were more likely to complete college than a matched sample of students who didn't receive aid.

"Basically, it comes down to rewarding behavior," says Daniel Bugler, a researcher at Georgia State University

and co-author of the study. "Somehow, just being named as scholars, with all the prestige and press coverage, students are more likely to think of themselves as college material and stick it out."

Even before seeing the results, some states had taken steps to follow Georgia's lead and create HOPE programs of their own. Florida created a college-tuition program for B students last year; Virginia passed a similar program this year. Five other states have considered HOPE-like programs this year.

There's no sign yet that state merit scholarships have taken tuition money away from need-based programs. Many of the new scholarships rely on state lottery proceeds or other sources of revenue.

But some critics worry that higher education may once again be becoming a bastion of the privileged few - especially once the idea becomes ingrained at the federal level, as now appears likely given the White House-congressional budget deal.

An education gap?

"In the world of limited government resources, I'm concerned that merit-based aid will be a substitute for need-based aid, rather than a supplement," says Jamie Merisotis, director of the Institute for Higher Education Policy, a Washington think tank. Historically, affluent students tend to perform better in school than poor students, and the danger of a strict merit-based system is that it could widen the gap between the

educational haves and have-nots.

Some critics also note that having an abundance of merit scholarships has the potential to create a conflict of interest for colleges during grading periods. Professors may feel pressured by the administration to give higher grades to borderline students, critics say, just to keep state and federal aid dollars rolling in.

Initial results from Georgia, however, indicate that grade inflation may not be a significant problem. With only 55 percent of the HOPE recipients still maintaining a B average after two years, there's a pretty big dropout rate, notes Dr. Bugler. "There are so many students who drop below the required 3.0 average that I suspect grade inflation is not the problem that it could be."

Merit scholarships could also have an inflationary impact on college tuitions, some say. "When you give a broad-based subsidy to a lot of students, nobody's going to let the families hold onto it," says Dr. Breneman.

From an economic standpoint, "you get more enrollment per dollar with need than with merit. Without [need-based financial aid], some kids wouldn't be there" at college, he says. As for middle-class students, merit scholarships "might influence where they go," whether prestigious Duke University or a school that is a bit less expensive.

"But basically these are kids who are likely to go to college anyway," Breneman says. ■

4. The New York Times

05/19/97; Edition: Late Edition - Final; Section: Section B; National Desk; Page 8, Column 4

College Minority Enrollment Slowed in 1995

By KAREN W. ARENSON

Several years of rapid gains in the college enrollment of minority students gave way to more subdued growth in 1995, according to a report to be released today by the American Council on Education in Washington.

Education officials worry that the slowdown will turn into an actual decline after recent cuts in affirmative action programs in Texas and California.

"Our primary concern is that the trends continue in the right direction, and that the current turbulence over affirmative action in Texas and California does not create a stall or send

the trends in the wrong direction," said Stanley O. Ikenberry, the president of the council.

TD Gary Orfield, a desegregation expert at the School of Education and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, saw a special significance in the report's findings.

"To see the enrollment rates slowing even before those policy changes occur suggests how incredibly high the stakes are in the reversal of affirmative action," Mr. Orfield said.

The council's study, "The 15th Annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education," showed a 2.9 percent

increase in overall minority enrollment in 1995, the most recent year for which data were available. In 1994, the gain was 4.6 percent, and in 1993, 7.1 percent.

African-American enrollments were up 1.7 percent in 1995 over 1994, to 1.5 million. Hispanic enrollments grew 4.6 percent to 1.1 million. Asian-American enrollment rose 3 percent, to 797,000 students. And American Indian enrollment was up 3.1 percent to 131,000. Total enrollment at colleges was 14.3 million.

The study did not address why minority enrollments had slowed, but educators said a stronger economy and

greater ease in finding jobs might have diverted some prospective students from college. They also cited higher tuitions and cuts in financial aid as possible obstacles. Donald Stewart, the president of the College Board, which administers many college and graduate school entrance tests, said some college officials expected a drop this fall in minority enrollment, particularly by black and Hispanic students in the West. Fewer minority students applied to public universities in Texas and California this spring, although those states have not fully imposed the cuts in affirmative action.

"It's not because of changes in admissions policies, but because of fears of changes in policies," Mr. Stewart said.

The study made clear that while college enrollment by white high school graduates had climbed significantly in 20 years — to 43 percent in 1995, up from 32 percent in 1975 — there was little or no improvement among minority groups.

Slightly more than 35 percent of black high school graduates from 18 to 24 years old were enrolled in college in 1995, three percentage points above the level in 1975. The rate for Hispanic graduates was 35 percent in both years,

though it has fluctuated in the 20-year period.

The number of black college students is at an all-time high, but William H. Gray 3d, the president of the United Negro College Fund, said this was not good enough. The percentage of blacks in college, Mr. Gray said, should match the level for all students. The report said that 42 percent of all 18- to 24-year-olds were in college in 1995.

Officials at the American Council on Education, an umbrella organization for the nation's colleges, universities and other education associations, said their research had highlighted a variety of problems.

One was the low high school graduation rates of Hispanic students.

In 1995, the latest year for which the council had data, fewer than 60 percent of Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds had completed high school or earned an equivalent degree, significantly less than the 77 percent rate for African-American students and the 82 percent rate for whites.

"You can't make progress in opening education opportunities in higher education if they are not graduating from high school," said Mr. Ikenberry, the council's president.

Deborah Carter, associate director of the council's Office of Minorities in Higher Education and a co-author, with Reginald Wilson, of the study, pointed out that Hispanic students who complete high school enroll in college in similar proportions to black students — about 35 percent.

"Much more attention has to be paid to this issue," Ms. Carter said. "By 2015, the Hispanic population will be the largest ethnic minority in the United States. Not to attend to this issue would be a major travesty in terms of providing equal educational opportunity."

The council's report also highlighted problems among some Asian-American groups. Over all, 55 percent of Asian-Americans from 18 to 24 years old were enrolled in college. But among subgroups, the figures ranged from a high of 66 percent of Chinese-Americans to a low of 26 percent of Laotian-Americans.

"The Laotians, Cambodians and some Vietnamese and Filipino immigrants have some major hurdles in terms of language skills," Ms. Carter said, "and demonstrate some of the same at-risk characteristics that other low-income students face."

04:30 EDT May 19, 1997■

5. The New York Times

05/19/97; Edition: Late Edition - Final; Section: Section A; National Desk; Page 12, Column 5

Tenure Denial to a Woman Puts Harvard in an Uproar *Rejection From Leader Who Vows Diversity*

By SARA RIMER

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 18 — The denial of tenure to a brilliant young scholar at Harvard University is hardly a rare event. Indeed, decisions over tenure — the academic prize that confers a job for life — are often contentious, with all the political intrigue of, say, a White House Cabinet appointment.

But the decision last month by Harvard's president, Neil L. Rudenstine, to deny tenure to a rising star in the faculty of arts and sciences — Bonnie Honig, 37, an associate professor of political theory — has led to a firestorm of speculation and protest the likes of which has not been seen here in recent history.

Mr. Rudenstine's decision has raised sensitive questions over his attitude

toward affirmative action at a time when he has proclaimed the hiring of more tenured female faculty members to be one of his top priorities. The uproar, which has been front-page news in The Harvard Crimson and the talk of faculty meetings and dinners, provides a rare window into the byzantine tenure process at one of the world's most prestigious universities.

Professor Honig, who has published two books, with the manuscript for a third recently accepted by Princeton University Press, had cleared all the tenure hurdles save one: winning Mr. Rudenstine's approval. His decision, amid his administration's drumbeat for affirmative action, has mystified faculty members and students.

"I am personally very pleased with

Neil's statements about diversity, and the leadership he is taking on diversity," Mary C. Waters, a professor of sociology, said in an interview. "That's why it's such a complex issue. Here you've got this real liberal guy who says all the right things. And this case comes up that's just so perplexing."

The centerpiece of the protest, itself the subject of as much talk on campus as the president's decision, is a letter that 15 of the most senior and distinguished women on the faculty sent to Mr. Rudenstine asking him to reconsider and questioning his commitment to affirmative action.

At Harvard, where the senior faculty women are not known for their militance, where even tenured faculty members, men and women, are reluctant to criticize

Minority gains in college lose steam

DOCUMENT 1 OF 1

USAT9714000078

LIFE

* Minority gains in college lose steam

Mary Beth Marklein

330 Words

2335 Characters

05/19/97

USA Today

FINAL

01D

(Copyright 1997)

* WASHINGTON -- Minorities continue to make progress in higher education, but their enrollment gains have slowed in recent years, and reversals on affirmative action policies may threaten progress even further, college officials say.

* Enrollment of minority students in higher education rose 2.9% between 1994 and 1995, the latest year for which statistics are available, says the American Council on Education's (ACE) 15th annual Status Report on Minorities in Higher Education, out today. That's lower than gains of 4.6% in 1994 and 7.1% in 1992, the study says.

Some data suggest that efforts by colleges to improve access for and retention of minorities in the late 1980s and early 1990s have paid off, but the slowdown in enrollment "could be an early warning signal of what may lie ahead," says ACE president Stanley Ikenberry.

Recent affirmative action rollbacks in California and Texas limit the ability of public institutions to promote diversity in the student body, Ikenberry says. And on Wednesday, the University of California's Boalt Hall law school reported that admission of blacks dropped 81% for fall and Hispanic admissions fell 50%. This was the first class to be admitted under the UC system's race-neutral policies.

* "We in higher education face a substantial challenge if we are to ensure that (earlier gains by minorities) are not reversed," Ikenberry says.

The report also says minorities posted increases -- at rates far higher than those of whites -- in degrees earned in 1995, but again at rates lower than in 1994. Minorities saw a 9.8% increase in the number of associate degrees; 9.7% in professional degrees, 8.5% in bachelor's degrees and 11.1% in master's degrees.

Among 25- to 29-year-old black men, the high school completion rate increased to 88.1% in 1995, from 82.9% a year earlier, largely

because of increases in the number earning the GED (General Educational Development) diploma. The corresponding rate for white men in 1995 was 86.6%. The rate for Hispanic men, at 55.7%, declined for the third straight year.

I0601 * End of documents in list. Press ENTER or enter another command.

DAILY NEWS

[Front page](#) | [Today's headlines](#) | [News Update archive](#)

NEWS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1997

U. of Cal. Told It Can Keep Diversity by Helping Poor to Prepare for College

By STEPHEN MARTIN

The University of California should step up its efforts to help disadvantaged students in the state prepare for college, a panel of educators and business leaders recommended Tuesday.

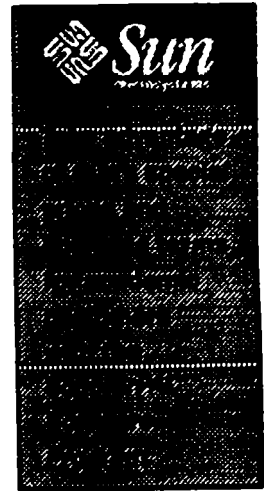
The panel was created in 1995, after the university's Board of Regents ordered that preferences based on race, ethnicity, or gender no longer be used in decisions on admissions, hiring, or contracting. In a report issued Tuesday, the committee outlined a three-part plan for reaching out to students who have received inadequate instruction before college. About 80 per cent of those students are black, Hispanic, or American Indian, according to the report.

The university, the panel found, could maintain campus diversity and improve opportunities for minority students by working with elementary and secondary schools to better train teachers; by helping to improve students' study skills; and by encouraging parents to become more involved with their children's schools.

A gap exists between the high standards required for admission to the university and the academic qualifications of students from disadvantaged backgrounds, said C. Judson King, the university's provost and senior vice-president for academic affairs. "This plan will narrow that gap significantly," he said.

Ward Connerly, who pushed his fellow members of the Board of Regents to ban racial preferences in the university system, said he was "supportive" of the panel's findings.

The panel's report is available on the World-Wide Web, at <http://www.ucop.edu/acadaff/otf/cover1.html>



51. Dallas Morning News

May 22, 1997

Lone black law enrollee withdraws Media scrutiny at UT cited in his decision

By Aline McKenzie / The Dallas Morning News

The lone African-American student who had agreed to enter law school at the University of Texas at Austin next year has withdrawn, saying the media attention would be too much to take, officials said Wednesday.

The first-year student, whose name was not released, has instead decided to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., UT admissions director Shelli Soto said.

"It's a result of all the news that he's been hearing," she said.

UT officials have anticipated a drop in minority admissions in the state-supported school since a court decision last year forbade using race as a factor in admissions.

Opponents of affirmative action have said the drop shows how much race had unfairly played a role in shaping the student body.

The drop in minority enrollment at the UT Law School and other state public universities has received widespread media attention.

Ms. Soto said that other admission offers were still pending and would probably not be settled until late June.

"This is awful; it's tragic," said Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, a 1979 UT law school graduate.

Mr. Kirk said he believes the decision by the court and the subsequent interpretation by the attorney general

were incorrect. "I am utterly and profoundly disappointed," he said.

He said he didn't blame the student for the decision and wouldn't have wanted to be the only black student in a class.

"The state of Texas is going to lose a whole generation of talented" young minorities who will go to school elsewhere, he said.

Dallas City Council member Chris Luna, a 1986 UT law graduate, said, "This confirms my worst fear, which is some of our best and brightest will go elsewhere. No student will place himself under a microscope.

"Law school has enough pressure without the kind of pressure that's going to be placed on this student."

In addition to the lone black student, only a dozen Hispanic students have sent in tuition deposits to secure places in the fall class.

In the past, each class of about 500 has included about 30 to 40 African-American students and 50 to 65 Hispanics.

Mr. Luna said that this situation was "absolutely the fallout from the Hopwood decision" and said that he hoped it would "put pressure on judges and legislators to come up with a fix."

The Hopwood decision, issued last year by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, is named for lead plaintiff Cheryl

Hopwood, a white student who with three others sued UT, saying they had been denied admission on account of their race.

This year, the school considered undergraduate grades, entrance-exam scores, work experience, socioeconomic background and finances when offering admission and financial aid.

Gov. George W. Bush signed a bill into law Tuesday that will require universities to take the top 10 students or those in the top 25 percent of their high school classes. After fulfilling those academic requirements, universities will then have to consider race-neutral factors such as family background.

One local alumnus said he planned to start contacting other law school graduates Thursday "to see if there's anything we can do that would be in the best interests of the university and the state."

"I'm thoroughly surprised and disappointed," said William Mahomes Jr., 49, a Dallas attorney who graduated from law school in 1972. "I was shocked by the fact that there was only one student [enrolled] and even more so now that he or she has withdrawn. ... I didn't expect this kind of result."

Staff writers Jayne Noble Suhler and Stephen Power contributed to this report. ■

52. The Miami Herald

May 22, 1997

Proposal would end schools' choice of texts

By SABRINA WALTERS
Herald Staff Writer

Dade County School Board members will be asked today to put public school students on the same page — literally.

Board Vice Chairman Demetrio Perez Jr. is proposing that standard textbooks be used countywide for each subject at the various grade levels.

Currently, schools choose from among four state-approved textbooks for

each subject and grade.

The Dade teachers union opposes Perez's plan, saying limiting the choice would discourage creativity in the classroom.

"There are many questions about this concerning academic freedom and policies about choice," said Merri Mann, director of educational and professional issues for the United Teachers of Dade.

"A single textbook won't allow

teachers to get engaged. That's part of the art of teaching."

Perez, whose proposal is supported by district administrators, says it would save money and allow students who move from one school to another to keep up more easily.

More than one-third of Dade's 325,000 public school students transferred at least once this school year, according to Marilyn Neff, deputy

50. Dallas Morning News

May 22, 1997

Senators OK bill tracking colleges' minority enrollees **Officials say falling numbers alarming**

By Terrence Stutz / The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN - Minority senators won approval of a bill Wednesday that they hope will put the spotlight on declining minority enrollments at leading Texas universities.

The legislation directs state officials to monitor minority participation at state colleges and universities in the wake of a court ruling that scrapped affirmative action programs in Texas higher education.

"This bill will serve as a constant reminder of how quickly the clock is being turned back," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, sponsor of the measure. "I hope we can get the public's attention. Texas is in for a hell of a rude awakening."

The bill must return to the House for consideration of Senate amendments.

Mr. Ellis and other minority senators said they were alarmed by reports from the University of Texas Law School that only one black student and 14 Hispanics have agreed to enroll for the fall.

Traditionally, the law school enrolls about 30 to 40 blacks and 50 to 65 Hispanics among the 500 new students who attend the school each fall.

UT officials have attributed the drop in minority enrollment to the court ruling. They also said more minority students may decide to attend the law school as admission has been offered to 11 black and 33 Hispanic students.

"If UT becomes all white . . . that doesn't reflect the face of Texas, and we ought to send the money where the people are," he said, suggesting that future higher education funds be redirected to schools that reflect the state's population.

Mr. Ellis also pointed to expected drops in minority enrollment at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and other leading schools.

He and other minority senators said that besides the study required in the bill - which will be conducted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board - they want U.S. officials to look at the issue of declining minority enrollments in Texas schools.

Tuesday, Gov. George W. Bush signed into law legislation aimed at diversifying enrollment in state universities in the wake of the court ruling. It would require public colleges and universities to guarantee admission to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school classes.

UT System Chancellor William Cunningham and UT Law School Dean Michael Sharlot met with senators Wednesday to discuss minority enrollment.

"We are committed to doing everything humanly possible to have a diverse student population at the University of Texas," Mr. Cunningham told reporters.

"We are very disappointed with the numbers. We are doing everything we can to increase the number of minorities and to run a first-class educational enterprise."

Regarding the threat to seek cuts in funding for UT, Mr. Cunningham said, "It would be unfair to punish the student body as a whole because of the [court] decision."

That ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit

Court of Appeals banned affirmative action at the UT law school. Attorney General Dan Morales has said all state universities are bound by the ruling.

Mr. Sharlot said the UT law school is "playing under a different set of rules than Harvard or Yale or Stanford" in trying to attract minorities.

"It is an enormous competitive disadvantage for us. But if we continue with aggressive recruiting . . . we might be able to turn this around."

In other action, the Senate sent a bill to Mr. Bush that would require the Texas Education Agency to develop an academic skills test for special education students.

Once the exam is developed, the scores will be used in the statewide accountability system that annually rates the performance of school districts and campuses.

The Legislature, facing adjournment June 2, acted on a number of fronts Wednesday.

Term papers

Selling term papers would become a crime in Texas, punishable by a fine of up to \$500, under a bill the House sent to Mr. Bush.

The bill would not impose a penalty on those who buy term papers to pass off as their own and would not apply to those offering term papers for free.

Sixteen other states have similar laws, designed to crack down on term paper factories that sell to college students who want to pay someone else to do their work. . . .

The Associated Press contributed to this report. ■

11. Education Daily

May 22, 1997

TWO STATES TRYING TO EASE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SQUEEZE

Texas and California, at the center of legal and political wrangling to end affirmative action, are both working to stem the resulting decline in minority college applications.

Gov. George Bush signed a law Tuesday that requires public universities to accept all Texas high school graduates in the top 10 percent of their class; it takes effect in 90 days.

"We want our state universities to reach out and include students in all walks of life," said Ray Sullivan, the governor's spokesman. "This [law] gives them the flexibility to do just that."

In the year since a federal court virtually eliminated racial preferences in Texas college admissions, minority applications to the University of Texas (UT) have fallen 25 percent.

But university officials fear the new law will create more problems than it solves.

Opportunity Not Enough

Bruce Walker, UT's director of admissions in Austin, said the state discontinued a "top 10 percent" rule about five years ago because it guaranteed admission to students who weren't prepared academically.

"It wasn't working," Walker said. "There's unevenness in [K-12] education across the state."

Since then, UT has used a broader range of admissions factors, including student essays and evidence of leadership skills. Walker said the law limiting admissions criteria to one academic standard "is going in the opposite direction."

He said the law might increase minority applications, but it won't increase minority enrollment unless the legislature adds at least \$25 million annually in student aid for those 16,000 applicants.

"If they can't afford it, they just won't come," Walker said.

He said UT will urge freshmen whom

the school would not have accepted previously, because they didn't meet academic standards, to take summer courses to prepare for college-level work.

"But it's still unclear whether we can require them to do that," Walker said.

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year in *Hopwood v. Texas* (78 F.3d 932) that a college cannot consider race in admissions unless it is intended to correct continuing discrimination at that school (ED, March 21, 1996).

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the ruling, leaving it in place for Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi (ED, July 2, 1996). But the Education Department is encouraging colleges outside the Fifth Circuit to continue using race as one factor in admissions (ED, April 15).

Working With Schools

Meanwhile, the University of California at Los Angeles' law school has admitted 80 percent fewer black students and 32 percent fewer Hispanics from 1996 to this year, the first class to be affected by the school's abolishing race preferences in postgraduate admissions.

The ban on affirmative action in undergraduate admissions takes effect next year, following the state voters' approving Proposition 209 last fall.

A University of California (UC) task force on Tuesday recommended a three-part plan to recruit students at "educationally disadvantaged" high schools statewide. The report estimates that 80 percent of students at the targeted schools are minorities.

The panel says the university must focus on educational disadvantages, not low income, "to serve the goal of racial and ethnic diversity" legally in the wake of Proposition 209. It said poor-performing schools are a better indicator than income of who needs help.

In its draft report, the task force

recommends.

- Forming "school-centered partnerships" among each UC campus and public schools chosen for their poor academic performance, to establish standards and improve student achievement.

- Expanding academic outreach programs for K-12 students, and

- Creating an "information outreach" program to help students and their families prepare for college.

Among the goals are doubling the number of UC-eligible graduates at the disadvantaged schools within the next five years and tripling the number of "outreach contacts" with disadvantaged students and families.

The state and university allocated \$3.5 million for the 1997-98 school year to implement the plan. But educators say it will cost tens of millions of dollars more to be successful, and a state legislator has proposed \$20 million for outreach.

The task force says success will depend mainly on recruiting new teachers, retaining them and providing "ongoing professional development" for teachers at the partner schools.

The state education department estimated last year California will need between 17,000 and 30,000 new teachers each year over the next decade because of retirements and a new "baby boom" of students.

After a public comment period, each UC chancellor is to submit a detailed plan to the UC president by Jan. 1.

The American Council on Education says the rumblings of the upcoming limits on affirmative action in California and Texas are responsible for an overall slowing in the growth nationwide of minority students attending college in 1995 (ED, May 19).

The task force report is available at its Web site at <http://www.ucop.edu/acadaff/otf/cover1.html> — Dave Boyer ■

making sure there is a talented teacher in every classroom. He also wants to expand the Head Start program.

The state has boosted its teacher salaries from 49th in the nation to 32nd from 1990-95, and no other state has matched West Virginia's commitment to staff development during that period, Marockie said.

The state also pumped \$900 million into capital improvements since 1989, meaning about 70 percent of public school students in West Virginia are in new or renovated schools, he said.

Robert C. Byrd High School, built on a former strip mine in a hollow, will be used by the president as a model in preparing students for the 21st century.

The \$24 million school boasts 10 computer labs, the state's only "virtual reality" lab and Internet access that allows students to go anywhere in the world, said Chester Hall, director of

technology.

"We're not up in the hollow in the strip mine. We're anywhere in the world we want to go," he said.

Although not all students will receive classes on virtual reality, all are expected to graduate with some grasp of computers, and up to 70 percent of graduates go on to college.

Rebekah Squires, a student who helped put together the school's virtual reality tour, plans to study accounting at West Virginia University before going to law school.

But her computer training will come in handy regardless of the field she ultimately enters.

"No matter what job you go into, there are going to be advantages of using a computer," Squires said. "You can't live day-to-day and be totally computer illiterate."

Sophomore Nathanael Wentz agreed.

"Just about any field you're going to go into, you're going to use a computer," Wentz said. "Just being familiar with the computer in the workplace is tremendously useful."

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va., said the focus on computers is not misplaced. Six out of 10 jobs will require workers to know how to use computers by the year 2000, he said.

Rockefeller announced a \$2 million Department of Education grant for computers, software and training for teachers on the eve of Clinton's visit, the first by a sitting president in Clarksburg in 45 years.

"The bottom line of all of this is how well children do," Marockie said. "The children in West Virginia are demonstrating they are achieving at the top of the levels in reading and mathematics." ■

TRADE

10. Chronicle of Higher Education -- Academe Today May 22, 1997

Only One Black Student Has Accepted Admission to U. of Texas Law School

By KARLA HAWORTH

Only one black student has accepted an offer of admission to the University of Texas at Austin law school so far this spring, compared with about 40 last year.

The school's dean blamed the drop in acceptance by black and Hispanic students on a federal court's decision last year that banned the consideration of race in Texas admissions.

Enrollment figures will not be official until the start of the fall term. But by this time last year, the law school had received many more tuition deposits from black and Mexican-American students, said M. Michael Sharlot, dean of the law school. Over the last decade, he said, the school has enrolled 30 to 40 black students and 40 to 60 Mexican-American students a year in entering classes that have averaged 500 students.

As of Wednesday, he said, only one black student had remitted the deposit that guarantees a place in the class. Only

14 Mexican-American students had reserved places in the class, Mr. Sharlot said.

In contrast, the number of Asian-American students who have reserved places has risen. Last year, Mr. Sharlot said, about 30 Asian-American students enrolled. This year, 41 have indicated that they would enroll.

Mr. Sharlot called the drop in black and Hispanic students a "disaster" for the University of Texas, which has been a leader in producing minority lawyers.

"This is the same pattern I think you'll find at Berkeley and U.C.L.A. and other schools that are operating under a ban of race-conscious affirmative action," Mr. Sharlot said.

Indeed, the University of California at Berkeley last week announced that the number of minority students offered admission to its law school, known as Boalt Hall, had plunged. The pool of black admittees fell to 14 from 75 last

year. Offers of admission to members of other minority groups, including Hispanic and American Indian students, declined as well.

Officials at the Universities of California and Texas blamed the sharp drops on policies banning affirmative action. In June 1995, the University of California's Board of Regents banned the consideration of race in decisions on contracting, hiring, and admissions throughout the nine-campus system. In March 1996, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit struck down the affirmative-action admissions program at the University of Texas at Austin's law school.

Aggressive efforts at recruitment may help increase the enrollment of minority students next year, Mr. Sharlot said. "But obviously, the only true solution is for the Supreme Court to take a case and announce a rule that would be of national application," he said.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: May 23, 1997

Section: Government & Politics

Page: A29

Texas's State Colleges to Admit Top 10% of High-School Classes

By Patrick Healy

The Texas Legislature has voted to require public universities to admit all students who graduate in the top 10 per cent of all public and private high-school classes in the state. Governor George W. Bush, a Republican, is expected to sign the legislation, which was designed to reverse a decline in minority applications to the universities.

The bill has university officials deeply concerned. It would radically change how their undergraduate classes are selected and would sharply reduce the influence that admissions officials have over whom they accept.

For example, the legislation would require the University of Texas at Austin to admit students in the top-10-per-cent bracket regardless of their standardized-test scores or extracurricular activities. Remaining slots would be filled by the next echelons of top-ranked students, or by applicants who stood out in other ways, such as bilingual speakers, community volunteers, and children of low-income families.

The number of applications from minority students plummeted at several Texas universities this year, after all of the state's public campuses stopped considering race as a factor in admissions and financial-aid decisions. That decision followed a federal appeals-court ruling last year striking down an affirmative-action admissions policy used by the law school at the University of Texas at Austin.

"The reductions have raised alarms across the state," said Steve Kester, an aide to Democratic state Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, the bill's sponsor. "The consensus is that the bill will help address the negative impact on minority enrollment."

As the Legislature's logic goes, the class-rank provision would give public universities a large pool of minority students, who form a majority in many high schools in the state's cities and southern counties.

But several university officials worried that some students who are in the top 10 per cent of their high-school classes will not be prepared to do work on highly competitive campuses, because of the differences in the quality of education offered in the state's wealthy and poor districts. That argument was

made by some members of the Texas Senate before it voted, 27 to 4, in favor of the bill.

State Senator Jane Nelson, one of the four Republican Senators who dissented, said the bill did not deal with the need for all Texas students to be academically prepared for college when they apply.

"School is about academics, but this bill includes a number of non-measurable, non-academic criteria," she said. "Applicants to Texas universities deserve to be judged equally on factors that are relevant and measurable."

Bruce Walker, director of admissions at the University of Texas at Austin, said the bill would force his campus to admit students who would be ineligible under current standards. Admissions officials at Austin now look at a student's academic record, standardized-test scores, essays, extracurricular activities, work and volunteer experience, and other factors. "This bill moves away from the direction we've been moving in," he said. "We've been trying to include more factors in our admissions decisions, but this bill gets it down to one factor for many students."

Many questions about the bill remain. With the automatic-admission provision, for instance, will applicants still need to write essays? If not, how will universities be sure that applicants have adequate writing skills? And what would happen if half of the estimated 18,000 students in the top 10 per cent of their high-school classes wanted to attend the University of Texas's flagship campus at Austin, which enrolls only about 6,000 undergraduates a year?

"There's a lot we still need to figure out," said Dr. Walker.

The bill also perplexed some college officials because it does not insure that eligible minority students will be able to afford to attend the universities. Because race-based aid is banned, the officials said, universities will need as much as \$60-million in new funds to accommodate minority students who qualify for admission under the new criteria but who may not be able to afford to attend. That issue will need to be addressed as the Legislature appropriates money for higher education in the coming months, the officials said.

Copyright (c) 1997 by The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inc.

<http://chronicle.com>

Title: Texas's State Colleges to Admit Top 10% of High-School Classes

Published: 97/05/23

[Front Page](#) | [News Update](#) | [Resources](#) | [Colloquy](#) | [Washington Almanac](#) | [This Week's Chronicle](#) | [Chronicle Archive](#)
[Jobs](#) | [Information Bank](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Help](#)

Dr. Hammond-Paludan says the commission's intent was to generate reliable data that would help win lawmakers' trust and make it easier to persuade them to support higher education down the road.

But the report was widely viewed as evidence that the commission had shirked its role of advocating on the colleges' behalf, and seemed to be functioning more as an arm of the executive branch. College officials criticized the study for making unfair, apples-and-oranges comparisons between their institutions and those outside the state. Dr. Speert, of William Paterson College, says the report led people to think of higher education only in terms of cost and tuition rates, and not "in terms of what it accomplishes or what it does for their region of the state."

The draft report, which the commission has yet to approve, probably would not have riled college officials as much had Governor Whitman not been

proposing for fiscal 1998 a higher-education budget of \$732-million, the same amount appropriated for the current fiscal year. With Republicans in control of the Legislature, the budget's chances of passage are good.

"They have a revenue problem, and they want to squeeze as much out of higher education as possible," says Mr. Greer, who leads the state-college group.

The state's nine four-year public colleges are especially irked by Governor Whitman's budget because it does not give them the additional \$13.5-million they need to cover the salary increases for faculty and staff members that were negotiated by the state. The colleges' boards of trustees have been discussing tuition increases of 9 to 15 per cent, sparking student protests on some campuses.

The restructuring law called for the state to consider relinquishing its control over labor contracts at the four-year colleges. These campuses argue that they

are the only group of colleges in the state without this power, and that their financial autonomy is undermined by the burdens placed on them when the state fails to cover the costs of the raises it gives their employees. But Governor Whitman has not yet tackled the issue, and, with a fall re-election campaign looming, she is not expected to risk the wrath of labor leaders by doing so.

In a statement issued last month, the state's Treasurer, Brian W. Clymer, said the colleges did not need to raise tuition and could cover the salary increases by dipping into cash surpluses or trimming waste. He has offered to send his staff members to campuses to identify savings.

Robert A. Scott, president of Ramapo College of New Jersey, says that he let Mr. Clymer's staff examine his operations, and that "virtually all of the ideas that were suggested were things that we had already done or were under way." ■

14. The Chronicle of Higher Education

May 23, 1997

Backers of Affirmative Action Seek Research to Bolster Cause

At meeting at Harvard, sympathetic lawyers tell scholars that their work will not sway many judges

By Douglas Lederman

Cambridge, Mass. — For two decades, colleges have taken for granted that it is not only legal, but just, to use affirmative action to diversify their student bodies and faculties.

But ever since a federal appeals court shattered that assumption more than a year ago by barring a Texas law school from using race as a factor in admissions decisions, college officials have been forced to wrestle with the knotty task of persuading judges, politicians, and the public that diversity is an essential goal, and affirmative action a valid way of achieving it.

A meeting of more than 150 academics, lawyers, and civil-rights advocates here this month showed just how tough a chore that may be, and how far academe is from accomplishing it.

Participants at the day-long conference, sponsored by Harvard

University's Civil Rights Project, assessed existing social-science research on the value of diversity — which they found wanting — and brainstormed about studies that might yet be done. They also exhorted each other to make the case for affirmative action in every possible setting.

But as legal experts picked apart the academic studies offered in support of affirmative action, civil-rights advocates and professors bristled as they realized how little room recent court decisions have left for justifying the use of racial preferences, no matter how passionately proponents believe affirmative action to be morally right.

"It's frustrating to be focusing on how we can come up with data and research that will make the case before a reactionary Supreme Court as to why they should continue to allow some

minuscule sliver of affirmative action," said Anthony M. Platt, a professor of social work at California State University at Sacramento. Supporters of affirmative action may be better off, he said, "focusing instead on reaching a larger group of Americans, not around narrow legal issues, but around a defense of democracy in higher education."

That idea appealed to many of the participants, who argued that the political fight over the future of affirmative action was, in the long run, more significant and promising than the continuing conflict in the courts. But legal experts in the group repeatedly reminded their colleagues that academe cannot afford to ignore the legal fight, now being waged on new fronts in Georgia and Washington State.

"The question of whether you can actually defeat this or turn it back, that's easy. If you don't do anything, you lose."

said Roger Wilkins, a George Mason University professor who worked alongside Thurgood Marshall in the Justice Department.

The conference was the third at Harvard since March 1996, when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit barred the law school at the University of Texas at Austin from considering race in admissions. By declaring that attracting a diverse student body was not a sufficiently compelling reason to use affirmative action, the Fifth Circuit repudiated the Supreme Court's 1978 decision in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, on which most colleges have justified their use of race-based preferences.

At the first Harvard meeting, in May 1996, which was closed to the public, educators and lawyers plotted a strategy for defending affirmative action in academe.

The second meeting, which took place last month, focused on the impact that colleges' inability to use race in admissions would have on efforts to diversify their campuses, and whether using class or other race-blind substitutes would cushion the effect of not using race. The conclusions: The impact of bans on affirmative action will be great, and no adequate substitute for race exists. (More evidence of those trends came last week. The law school at the University of California at Berkeley announced that of the 792 students it had admitted for fall 1997, using new criteria that conform to the university's ban on race-based preferences, just 14 were black and 23 were Chicano. A year ago, it admitted 75 black applicants and 44 Chicano applicants.)

For this month's conference, which was aimed at developing research on diversity for use in court cases, the Harvard sponsors asked several scholars to report on existing studies of how diversity helps students learn and teachers teach, and to glean similar evidence from data bases.

Sylvia Hurtado, an assistant professor of education at the University of Michigan, unveiled a study showing that female and minority professors are more likely than white men to use cooperative learning and other techniques that, she said, help students learn.

But John A. Payton, a Washington lawyer who has defended affirmative action in several major cases, said such a finding would probably not convince a

judge of the merits of diversity. He suggested that a judge or opposing lawyer would challenge her argument by saying: If you believe that those techniques are beneficial, why not just require all professors to adopt them, rather than counting on only some minority professors to do so?

Legal experts poked similar holes in other pieces of research, disheartening some of the academics in attendance, who were confronted with the need to justify a concept they believe in implicitly.

But Christopher Edley, Jr., a Harvard law professor who with Gary Orfield, a Harvard education professor, co-founded the Civil Rights Project to grapple with issues of race in American society, said it was "really healthy for lawyers to tell the researchers, 'You're answering the wrong question' or 'You're presuming a more-sympathetic audience than we deal with.'"

Dr. Edley, who helped moderate the session and spent much of the day roaming the auditorium in white running shoes, microphone in hand, said he hoped that the day-long meeting would "generate as much fighting as possible."

"I would have liked a little more," he said afterward.

Dr. Orfield and others outlined the sort of evidence that scholars might develop to back up the idea that students of different races come to class with differing assumptions, leading them to test each others' views in ways that help all of them learn. "If you are a black Harvard law student and put on the wrong outfit and walk in the wrong neighborhood, you will be stopped by police" — something that would not happen to a white student, Dr. Orfield said. That black student's approach to a law-school discussion about illegal search and seizure would differ significantly from that of a white student, he said.

Dr. Edley said the Civil Rights Project planned to raise funds to commission such studies. He acknowledged, however, that even a mountain of such evidence might not persuade federal judges like those in the Texas case, who declared that race was no more relevant to a person's character and views than "physical size or blood type."

The lawyers who defended a blacks-only scholarship at the University of Maryland in 1994 presented more than

a dozen social-science studies in court, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit dismissed this evidence in declaring the scholarship unconstitutional. Maryland could have "presented the Sermon on the Mount to the Fourth Circuit" and still lost, said Martin Michaelson, a Washington lawyer, at the Harvard meeting.

As much as they dislike being put on the defensive about affirmative action, some participants in the Harvard meeting said academe must seize the opportunity to make its case.

"One of the best arguments for diversity is that the most powerful learning takes place when students' viewpoints are challenged, and that's what's happening to us," said Richard H. Hersh, president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges. "We have to translate into public knowledge what we can prove about why diversity is good, yet be imaginative and inventive and honest enough to say, 'Okay, in what way have we been myopic? How have we been wrong?'"

Many of the participants argued that colleges had created at least part of the current dilemma for themselves by so clearly defining excellence as high scores on standardized tests, on which black and some other minority students on average score significantly lower than whites. Colleges have had to use "affirmative action to correct the problems we've inflicted on ourselves with our testing standards," Dr. Edley said. De-emphasizing the weight placed on such tests would make colleges less dependent on affirmative-action admission policies, he and others said.

What emerged most clearly from the session at Harvard, several participants said, was that higher education is just beginning to sort out a response to the legal and political tide against affirmative action. The answers to tough questions, they agreed, will be hashed out in additional meetings planned by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard, and in many other gatherings of lawyers, university officials, and researchers in the months and years to come.

What is not at all clear, they admit, is whether the answers will come fast enough to keep up with the stream of court challenges to affirmative action — and, when the answers come, whether they will satisfy skeptical judges and an uncertain public. ■

DAILY NEWS

[Front page](#) | [Today's headlines](#) | [News Update archive](#)

NEWS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1997

Sole Black Student in Entering Class at U. of Texas Law School Withdraws

By DOUGLAS LEDERMAN

The only black student to accept an offer of admission at the University of Texas at Austin's law school for this fall has withdrawn, saying the news media's attention would be too much to take.

Forced by a federal-court decision last year to stop using race as a factor in admissions decisions, the Texas law school admitted 11 blacks out of the total of 991 students it accepted. In previous years, it typically had admitted scores of black students, enrolling 30 to 40 a year in entering classes that have averaged 500 students.

Of the 11 black students admitted this spring, only one remitted the deposit that guarantees a place in the class. But he telephoned the school's admissions director, Shelli Soto, this week and withdrew, citing the extensive attention by the news media about the dearth of black students there.

"He does not want to spend his law-school career in the spotlight and in a position where he is going to be the representative for his race," said Ms. Soto on Thursday. The student, whom the law school declined to identify, has decided to attend Cornell University's law school instead.

Ms. Soto said at least one other black student who had been admitted had told law-school officials that she was sending in a deposit, but they have not yet received it. Several black students could still decide to enroll, Ms. Soto said, and others could be admitted from the waiting list this summer.

The number of other minority students who have accepted offers of admission to the law school also is down. As of this week, only 14 Mexican-American students had reserved places in the class. Normally, the law school enrolls 40 to 60



Mexican-American students a year.

"It is premature to say these are the end results," Ms. Soto said, "but we are not optimistic."

Background stories from Academe Today's daily-update archive:

- ☐ ["Only One Black Student Has Accepted Admission to U. of Texas Law School."](#) 5/22/97
- ☐ ["Number of Minority Students Admitted to U. of Texas Law School Plummers."](#) 4/10/97

Information in depth:

- ☐ [A special section with background stories from *The Chronicle* and documents related to affirmative action in Texas](#)

RETURN TO TODAY'S HEADLINES

[Front page](#) | [Guide to the site](#) | [Today's news](#) | [Internet resources](#) | [Colloquy](#) | [Washington](#) | [New grant competitions](#) | [This Week's Chronicle](#) | [Chronicle archive](#) | [Information Bank](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [About The Chronicle](#) | [Help](#)

March, all 13 school finance measures on Bay Area ballots passed - campaign manager Robert Barnes said he is worried that "the right people who care most about schools won't turn out to vote.

"We need a high turnout among minority voters, gays and lesbians, women, liberals and renters. Those are the groups that are the hardest to get to vote in a special election," he said.

Of the \$50 million that would go to nine city college campuses, more than \$16 million is for electrical upgrades; \$19.5 million is for deteriorating

campuses; \$2 million would renovate child care facilities; \$1 million would make campuses handicapped-accessible; and \$10 million would purchase permanent sites for the Mission and Chinatown campuses.

Job skills for all

"City College, which is 60 years old, has never gone out for a bond measure," said Del Anderson, chancellor of City College. "We educate 85,000 students. We take everyone, regardless of SAT scores, and try to provide them with job skills. At any given time, we have 300 to

500 single parents, many on welfare, who would go to college if they had someone to take care of their kids."

Anderson said that facilities are so antiquated that if 25 computers in any given classroom were turned on at once, "it would start a fire."

"Our buildings are not up to standard, by any means," Anderson said. "We don't have the electrical systems, heating and ventilation we need. We don't have the environment or the technology we need to send our students on to work. That's the bottom line."■

52. San Francisco Chronicle

May 28, 1997

UC Regents to Be Quizzed On Affirmative Action

Pamela Burdman, Chronicle Staff Writer, page A13

Attorneys challenging the University of California's affirmative action ban came a step closer yesterday to questioning UC regents about their controversial 1995 decision.

The development came in San Francisco Superior Court in a case filed on behalf of a student journalist by some of the state's most prominent civil rights and First Amendment attorneys.

Lawyers representing UC Santa Barbara student reporter Tim Molloy allege that Governor Pete Wilson and the regents broke the state's open-meeting law by locking in votes against affirmative action before a public vote was taken.

For nearly a year, the lawyers have been eager to depose Wilson and the regents. Opponents of the regents' policy hope the depositions will bolster their claim that Wilson pressured the regents to scuttle affirmative action to boost his short-lived presidential campaign.

In Judge David Garcia's courtroom yesterday, the two sides agreed to hold the depositions by the end of June. The

arrangement follows a recent ruling by Garcia — the second in six months — rejecting Wilson's and the regents' move to have the case dismissed.

But lawyers for Wilson and the regents still plan to take their case to the Court of Appeals for a third time. "This case has no merit, and there's no reason for it to go to trial," said Wilson spokeswoman Lisa Kalustian.

In the two previous rounds, higher courts let stand rulings by Garcia and another San Francisco judge that said the case could proceed.

The last time the regents had scheduled depositions, their attorneys canceled them a day before they were to begin, saying they were confident they would succeed in getting the case dismissed.

This time, UC attorney Jeffrey Blair says the regents plan to go ahead with the depositions.

"Their idea is delay, delay, delay, delay — and avoid justice," said Eva Jefferson Patterson of the Lawyers'

Committee for Civil Rights, one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs.

"They do not want to go under oath and answer questions as to whether the governor broke the law," she said.

If the plaintiffs win, the 1995 vote could be nullified and the regents forced to take another vote.

The 1995 vote banned preferences in UC's admissions, hiring and contracting decisions. It will take full effect during the next school year, when UC makes decisions on students applying to attend as undergraduates in 1998.

Since Molloy filed his suit in February 1996, voters approved Proposition 209. That measure extends the affirmative action ban to all aspects of state government and public education, but because of legal challenges, that measure is still blocked by the courts.

UC attorney Blair called the case a "tempest in a teapot" because if 209 is upheld, a re-vote by the regents would have no practical effect.■

EDITORIAL

81. Houston Chronicle

May 29, 1997

AFTER HOPWOOD

The problem does not lie with Texas' top universities

Chafing under the impact of court rulings in the Hopwood case, some minority senators in the Legislature recently threatened to reduce funding for state universities with dwindling minority enrollments. Their threats increase the level of racial mistrust, already high, and the actions they threatened would punish all students, particularly the minority students that Texas schools are trying to recruit.

Barred by a panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and subsequently by Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, from using race as a factor in admissions, Texas state institutions are limited in the tools they can use to encourage qualified minority students to enroll. Recruiters from the University of Texas, Texas A&M, the University of Houston and other selective schools visit high schools, mail brochures, offer financial aid to poor students and conduct a host of other activities to encourage minority students to prepare themselves for college and to apply to the

top state schools.

A dispassionate look at the numbers shows that low minority enrollment has little to do with Texas universities. It has everything to do with what takes place in the lives of minority students before they reach college age.

A proposal made by the chancellors of Texas colleges and universities to the Legislature, entitled "Back to Basics," makes the case:

Every year there are about 34,000 black 18-year-olds in Texas, but only 21,000 graduate from high school. Only 7,500 take the SAT test, essential for admission to a selective school, and less than 2,000 make the minimum score.

The numbers for Hispanics show the same sharply descending curve.

Minority senators can blame the public schools, which are failing to educate too many minority children; they can blame irresponsible or overworked parents; they can blame the students themselves for placing too low a value on education.

But the senators miss their mark by blaming the administrators of Texas' top colleges and universities. These educators have worked hard to enroll diverse student bodies and remain eager to admit ambitious students regardless of race.

In Texas, no student is denied an opportunity for higher education, either because of race or low test scores. Students who do poorly in high school can enroll in community college or other open-admissions institution, work hard and transfer to a top-flight four-year institution. Those who do so tend to do better academically than those who enrolled in four-year schools as freshmen.

There is one circumstance that no amount of affirmative action, legislation or ill-considered threats can overcome: If minority students fail to take the SAT test, complete high school and send in an application, they will not be admitted to the great institutions of higher learning that grace this state. ■

82. Seattle Times

May 28, 1997

An education legacy

Thirty-one years ago, on the eve of Seattle Community College registering its first class, a passerby might have wondered what hot band was coming to town. But would-be students were camped on the sidewalk to secure a seat in the classroom, not a performance hall.

That scene tells the story of what community college access and expansion meant then - and now - to citizens of the state.

Seattle's first community college opened just one year before an important milestone in the development of the state's system of higher education, passage of the Community College Act of 1967. Leaders who championed that

important step will be honored tomorrow in celebration of the 30th anniversary.

As the '60s began, what we now call community colleges were junior colleges administered by public school districts. Many communities, including Tacoma, had no two-year colleges.

By 1965, there was growing recognition of the unique role for these schools in providing post-high school training for young people and adults who could not, or chose not to, enroll at a four-year college or university.

Advocates were calling for a new statewide system of community colleges separate from local school districts. Then-Gov. Dan Evans, serving the first

of three terms, took on the battle. With bipartisan support from legislative leaders, the act creating a statewide community college system was passed.

Evans and more than a dozen state legislators from that era will be honored at tomorrow's dinner celebration in downtown Seattle. To mark the occasion, the Seattle Community College district, which is sponsoring the event, will inaugurate the Dan Evans Awards for Distinguished Teaching.

It is a fitting tribute to the vision and leadership that led to a system that today educates nearly 425,000 students every year. ■

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Date: May 30, 1997

Section: Short Subjects

Page: A8

San Francisco State U. Students Protest for Right to Protest

San Francisco — About 50 students at San Francisco State University rallied this month to protest what they believed was the administration's attempt to prevent a previous rally. That protest was to have been against Proposition 209, which would ban affirmative action in state agencies.

In another action, 10 students held a two-hour sit-in outside the president's office to urge him to violate the measure.

Officials said the students had misinterpreted a memo that the rally against Proposition 209 was "unauthorized." They said the memo was sent to avoid a scheduling conflict with another protest. The students later properly registered their rally.

[Front Page](#) | [News Update](#) | [Resources](#) | [Colloquy](#) | [Washington Almanac](#) | [This Week's Chronicle](#) | [Chronicle Archive](#)
| [Jobs](#) | [Information Bank](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Help](#)

parents made union wages, and could pay for their tuition.

It was good enough for our Golden

Age. Why isn't it good enough now?
About the Author: Thomas Geoghegan,

a labor lawyer, is the author of "Which Side Are You On?" ■

79. Los Angeles Times

June 1, 1997

At Last, a UC Admissions Plan That Rewards Merit

By GEOFFREY TAYLOR GIBBS

Sometimes the simplest solutions are the most revolutionary. As legislators and University of California administrators work to preserve access to the university system in the Proposition 209 era, a new approach to achieving ethnic balance is gaining support. A number of policy-makers have recently proposed that UC admission should be guaranteed to the top-ranking graduates of each of California's 844 high schools. Because the high schools' student populations are diverse—some rich, some poor, some overwhelmingly Anglo, some overwhelmingly African American, Latino or Asian American—their top graduates will reflect that diversity. If this principle is adopted, not only will both sides of the affirmative-action debate have to face up to the fallacies of their positions, but also everyone with a stake in public education will have to evaluate where California's schools and universities are heading and what they should stand for.

Of the many proposals embodying this principle, the one with the best chance of implementation would offer automatic UC admission to the top 4% of each high school's graduates.

Neither this plan nor the others can accurately be called "affirmative action," as that term has come to be understood. Nevertheless, affirmative-action critics, while seeing some merit in the proposals, are skeptical. UC Regent Ward Connerly, for example, has warned that "if we stack the deck so we get so many students from South-Central Los Angeles and so many from Compton High, there is a question whether it is giving preferential treatment." Such treatment, Connerly contends, would violate Proposition 209.

Connerly and similarly minded critics of affirmative action have always insisted that "merit" should be the overriding, if not the sole, criteria for determining access to jobs and higher education. And their idea of merit has always been inseparably related to a particular vision of "fairness." Which is why it will be instructive to watch their reaction to a principle that, on

its face, seeks to reward merit and promote fairness.

After all, reserving UC slots for the top 4% of the students at each of the state's high schools is purely merit-driven. These students compete with classmates who generally share socioeconomic backgrounds and enjoy similar access to educational resources. If they excel, their reward will be admission to one of UC's nine campuses. If they fall short, they can't insist they didn't get a fair chance.

The principle would undoubtedly slightly favor students at schools such as Compton High, where only 1% of graduating students currently attend UC, over students at wealthier, higher-achieving schools such as Beverly Hills High, where more than 20% of each class registers at UC campuses. But isn't fairness asking each student to do the best he or she can under the circumstances, and rewarding those who succeed? Notably, even the 4%-admissions plan would only fill one-third of the slots in the UC's freshman class, (primarily with Anglos and Asian Americans), leaving two-thirds open to competition among all graduating seniors.

Some will claim that the best students at some of the state's weaker high schools do not have what it takes to become productive UC students. But that presumption was recently challenged by the man ultimately responsible for turning out productive UC graduates, UC President Richard C. Atkinson. "If you are saying that, in a large high school, the top four people in every hundred aren't UC eligible, I think they are."

The simple notions of merit and fairness embedded in these new proposals will almost certainly cause problems for some affirmative-action supporters, who will be forced to make a hard trade-off between political correctness and practical outcomes.

One of the practical effects of affirmative action in college admissions has been to lower the admissions bar for African American and Latino students. At

any given multiethnic high school in California, an Anglo senior might need, at a minimum, a 3.7 grade-point average to get into the college of his choice. On the other hand, previous admission data at the same college might show that his African American and Latino classmates could expect to be admitted with, for example, a GPA of only 3.2. Few educators, parents or even students themselves would deny that if you set lower expectations for children, the likely result will be lower achievement.

From a strict historical perspective, it may not be "fair" to ignore centuries of relative disadvantage and demand that African American and Latino students compete straight-up with their Anglo classmates. From a practical perspective, however, implementing a uniform standard at schools where all students share similar economic backgrounds might spur African American and Latino academic achievement. Those who would insist otherwise will have to argue that black and brown students are inherently less intelligent and hard-working than their white and yellow counterparts.

Finally, the 4%-admission plan should spark a much-needed debate on the nature of public education, both at the high school and university levels. The focus will likely be both on UC's mission and on how access to the benefits of a UC education should be allocated. Should it be offered equally to all the state's 18-year-olds, or disproportionately to the already favored few?

Implementing the plan would also put on display the academic talents of the top 4% of each of California's high schools, along with the strengths and weaknesses of the high schools that produced them. Many already suspect that the results will reveal that we do not truly have a public education "system" but instead a multitiered education apparatus, in which unequal funding and preparation produce some of the world's best students but also some with virtually no useful skills. The ultimate impact of the 4%-admission plan, then, will be to squarely put a difficult set

are pushing for a cycle of self-fulfilling, self-perpetuating inadequacy. They claim that because their students are poor, their capacity to learn is hampered; because their capacity to learn is hampered, their schools should be held to a lower standard; because their schools would be held to a lower standard, neither the schools nor the students would ever be pressed or expected to show much improvement.

The superintendents wouldn't put it like that, of course. They just want the state to take into account the fact that their students start out behind students in more affluent districts. Their students may not have had the preparation for school that wealthier children did, and they may not benefit from the same support at home or the same respect for learning. Therefore, the superintendents

say, they should not be judged by the same standards.

One suggested alternative is to judge students not by where they end up but by how far they travel, relative to where they start. Accreditation decisions would be made not on absolute test scores but on the improvement made from the beginning of one school year to the end. That gauge could be acceptable for a while. But eventually, if the students from poorer families show gains year after year, they should be able to score as well as students everywhere in the state. Why not set high goals from the start? There should be no need to water down the standards or to lower the expectations.

Robert Bartman, the state's commissioner for elementary and secondary education, feels strongly about

keeping the standards high. He expresses his belief in four simple but powerful words: "All kids can learn." He should stick with that position.

A poor socioeconomic level may handicap students when they begin. But factors in the state school funding formula, plus programs such as Parents as Teachers, help compensate for that start. Every effort must be made to make each student achieve as much as possible; even more important, all boys and girls in Missouri classrooms should feel they have the potential to reach the stars. Superintendents who argue for lower expectations are cheating themselves and their students. They should be models for achievement, not for mediocrity. All children can learn. So should their elders. ■

67. The New York Times

06/01/97; Edition: Late Edition - Final; Section: Section 4; Editorial Desk; Page 16, Column 1 Category: Editorial

Segregation Anew

After dismantling affirmative-action programs, the public universities of Texas and California have witnessed ominous declines in black and Latino enrollment, raising fears that universities in these ethnically diverse states could one day become overwhelmingly white. Fearing rejection, many black and Latino students have decided not to apply at all. In addition, educators foresee a new minority "brain drain," as outstanding students who do win acceptance opt for rival states, driven away by fears of racial isolation. The new segregation endangers the social coherence of both Texas and California. Educators and political leaders will need to work vigorously to reopen educational access and avoid long-term division.

Most of the United States is governed by the Supreme Court's Bakke decision, which forbids quotas but permits schools to consider race in admissions decisions. However, Texas and California have eliminated any consideration of race, each for its own reasons. In Texas, the change results from a Federal court decision that threw out an admissions

system with separate procedures and panels for applicants of different races. In California, the rollback results from a 1996 ballot initiative that altered admissions policies. Because they nearly always came from worse schools than whites, black and Latino applicants were frequently admitted with lower test scores. Scores are only one predictor among many, and students often excel despite them. But under the Texas and California plans, race has been eliminated and test scores have been fetishized.

The drop-off in applications has been astounding. In California medical schools, applications from black students have dropped by a quarter and from Latino students by a third over the last two years. The University of Texas Law School, which has produced a large share of minority law graduates, accepted about 65 blacks students in 1996, but only 11 this year. Every one of those 11 opted to go elsewhere, some because of stories about declining minority enrollment.

Michael Sharlot, dean of the University of Texas Law School, says that trend could continue. He warns that

a dearth of minority lawyers in a state that is half minority will undermine confidence in the law and add to racial friction. Mr. Sharlot says outstanding minority students are deciding to bypass Texas, robbing it of a skilled and upwardly mobile minority community.

In Texas, angry legislators have passed a bill requiring universities to accept the top 10 percent of graduates from all state high schools. California has proposed a program to link universities with poor inner-city schools, in an attempt to improve public school instruction. In both states, it is coming home that minority students are being systematically disadvantaged by abysmal and segregated public schools. The states inflict the damage and have a moral obligation to find a remedy.

Meanwhile, college enrollment figures show there is no such thing as a "race neutral" admissions policy. If universities do not take disadvantage into account, many minority students will face the prospect of resegregation in higher education. ■

EDITORIAL

58. San Diego Union-Tribune

June 2, 1997 Category: Editorial

Emphasize proficiency

Education standards are difficult to raise

Gov. Bill Clinton's political resurrection during the 1980s was achieved in large part by his aggressive campaign to upgrade Arkansas' dismal public school system. During his second term as president, Clinton seems no less determined to lead the charge for national education standards.

The standards issue surfaces whenever politicians sense a national unease about how poorly U.S. students are faring when compared with their counterparts around the globe. That unease has been fairly constant since a presidential commission concluded 14 years ago that the nation was at risk because of its mediocre schools.

Clinton's call for voluntary national testing to gauge how students are performing comes as no surprise. After all, he was promoting the same idea as head of the National Governors' Association when George Bush was in the White House. Like many good intentions, however, this one never materialized. But Clinton aims to change

that by combining several existing programs and then gift-wrapping the package with some rhetorical flourishes.

What makes this standards gambit intriguing is its sheer audacity. Most of what Clinton is proposing already exists in one form or another.

He wants to use the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) fourth-grade reading test and eighth-grade math test and adapt them for use by the states. The testing process would be far less extensive than that proposed by Bush during the early 1990s. States that wished to participate could do so, while those opposed to the concept could decline.

The biggest drawback to Clinton's plan is the lowest-common-denominator factor.

Because NAEP tests are basic in nature, we would prefer an exam that places greater emphasis on proficiency. The downside in raising the academic bar, of course, is that some students will not be able to meet the loftier standards.

This would rile educational psychologists as well as many parents.

Consider, for instance, the fate of state Sen. Dede Alpert's bill to strengthen California's high school math, science and English requirements. The Coronado Democrat's common-sense measure was waylaid in the Senate Education Committee and cannot be revived until next year.

Critics worried that more-rigid classroom requirements might discourage low achievers and thus increase the dropout rate. As a result, the measure was shelved, despite widespread calls on both sides of the aisle for tougher standards.

Most Americans support the concept of testing students to see how they stack up against national standards. The challenge is to devise a test that is both academically sound and politically palatable. In light of the competing special-interest groups that have a stake in this process, that will be no small achievement — even for a master pitchman such as Bill Clinton. ■

59. Dallas Morning News

June 1, 1997 Category: Editorial

Hopwood aftermath

Texas must find ways to boost minority enrollment

Everyone in Texas should be concerned about the alarming impact of the Hopwood court decision on minority enrollment at the University of Texas Law School.

Unless a concerted effort is made to counteract the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, the state may get stuck with a national reputation as being hostile to minority students.

As of last week, only one black college student had accepted admission to the fall term of the UT Law School, the state's largest and highest-ranked law school. Only 12 Hispanic college students had sent in tuition deposits to

secure their spots.

The drop stems directly from the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' 1996 decision in Hopwood vs. Texas, which barred consideration of race in the law school's admission process. The year before the Hopwood decision, as many as 30 to 40 black students and between 50 and 65 Hispanic students comprised the 500-member entering law school class.

To make matters worse, the lone black student has since declined the UT Law School offer and is now headed to Cornell Law School. The reason: the pressure of being the class' only black student and the certain media attention of

that rarefied status.

Law school officials say there's a glimmer of hope since the admission slots are not completely filled. The remaining 6 percent will be filled from a waiting list. Law school officials hope that some black students in the pool will agree to come.

But the officials probably shouldn't hold their breaths. Regrettably, the Hopwood decision has made UT Law School seem like hostile territory to qualified minority students. They are already exercising their options to go to more hospitable climates.

That could prove a stunning setback

not only for the Austin law school but for other Texas institutions that are struggling to deal with the ramifications of the Hopwood decision. A de facto quarantine of Texas colleges can only hurt the state.

That's one reason Texas must find ways to offset Hopwood's tragic impact.

A bill recently signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush will help some. It requires uniform admission policies to apply to applicants who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class. Colleges and universities could expand the pool to include students in the top 25 percent of a class. After that, race-neutral criteria could be the only factors considered.

This approach has several problems, though. Some Texas schools already have used this approach with no appreciable improvement in minority enrollment. The broader admission range also does not apply to Texas graduate schools.

Another option is to challenge the Fifth Circuit's ruling. Two Texas organizations are now considering a suit. They are waiting to see if the U.S. Supreme Court clarifies its position on affirmative action this month.

The high court might address the issue

in a case involving a high school which had to reduce its faculty. In choosing between two equally qualified teachers, the district kept a black teacher and dropped a white teacher, who alleged discrimination. The case has some peculiarities, but it could prove a vehicle for establishing clearer ground rules on affirmative action.

Three Texas universities (South Texas, Texas Wesleyan and St. Mary's) already are protesting Texas Atty. Gen. Dan Morales' interpretation that the Hopwood ruling means that universities cannot even include race in a "basket" of criteria. They are to be commended for trying to find a process that is fair to all students.

Eventually, what's needed is the legal latitude to allow race to be used as part of a basket, or assortment of criteria. The basket might also include family income level, gender, special abilities or disabilities, alumni ties, special interests, geographic distribution and honors - as well as traditional academic measures such as the LSAT scores and academic rankings.

Recent studies have shown that the increasing emphasis on test scores alone perpetuates discrepancies in minority

admissions. Racial and ethnic minorities from low-income families tend to score lower than Anglo students. Such tests help indicate whether a student can handle course work. But they are not a sure indicator either of ability or success. The tests must be part of the process, but should not be the only ranking mechanism.

Until the legal tangle can be sorted out, Texas must do more to boost minority enrollment at its campuses by making more scholarship money available to low-income students both at the undergraduate and graduate level. The state plans to kick in \$10 million for undergraduate students. That may not be adequate. Private foundations and philanthropists also should be searching for ways to provide more scholarships for qualified minority students.

Demographic projections show Texas will soon become a "majority-minority" state. That's another reason higher education must be made more accessible to minorities. If Hopwood's effects go unabated, the best and brightest minority students will leave Texas. Minority students outside Texas will not want to attend the state's institutions, either. Neither result is desirable. ■

60. Dallas Morning News

June 2, 1997 Category: Editorial

Unitary status

It is time for Dallas schools to get out of court

Summer is vacation time for Dallas schoolchildren. But it certainly won't be a time of rest and relaxation for school officials and their lawyers.

They have made a strong plea for the Dallas school district to be released from a federal desegregation suit that has dominated education decisions since the early 1970s.

The choice should not be that difficult for U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders. He granted the district unitary status in 1994, which basically declares that the Dallas schools are fully integrated.

But Judge Sanders extended federal supervision of the public school system for three more years to see if Dallas school officials could live up to their agreements.

The judge has ample information to

justify closing the desegregation case. The Dallas school district is providing equal education for students throughout the system. Millions of dollars have been invested in new school facilities in predominantly minority neighborhoods in recent years.

The final stumbling block is the court's order that faculties reflect the district's racial makeup. With Anglos comprising less than 14 percent of the student population, Judge Sanders should accept the district's plan to provide mixed-race faculties without a wholesale transfer of teachers.

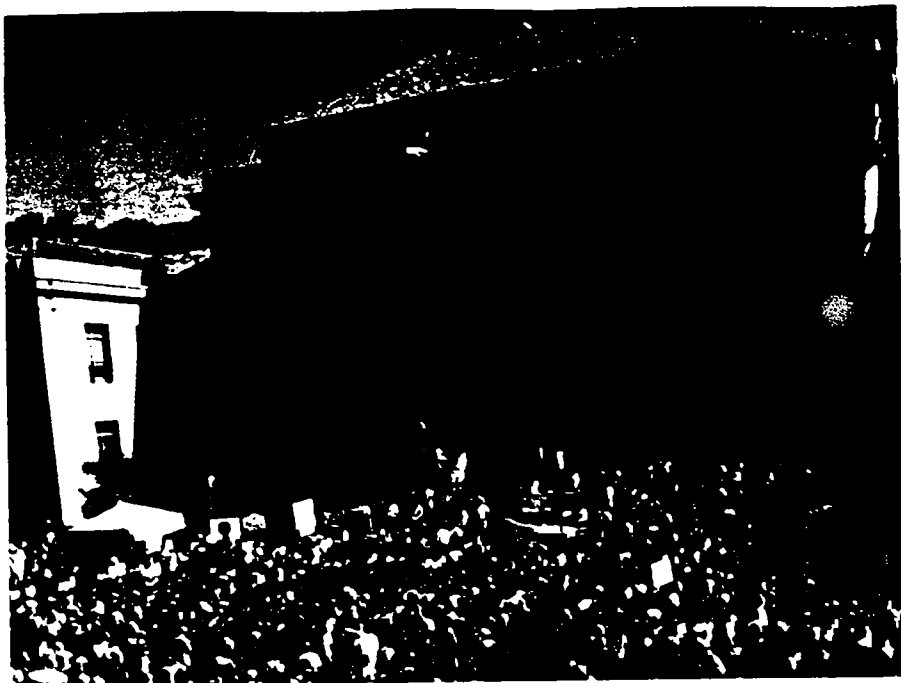
A quarter-century after the desegregation suit was filed, the Dallas school district still does not have the student population it did in the early 1970s. There are about 155,000 Dallas

students today compared to more than 180,000 in 1970.

It's time for Dallas Superintendent Yvonne Gonzalez and school trustees to work on programs that improve the school system and restore parents' confidence. And it's time to let school officials make these needed educational improvements without always having to look to the federal courts for guidance and approval.

The Dallas school district spends more than \$500,000 a year on court costs and legal fees to operate under federal jurisdiction. That money could be better invested in enrichment programs for the students.

Judge Sanders should release the district. It's the right thing to do for the children. ■



BATTLE OVER ADMISSIONS Demonstrators backed minorities in 1995 at Berkeley

implemented by the law schools this year won't apply to undergraduates until 1998.

Critics of affirmative action say the results in California and Texas bear out what they have been saying all along—that selective schools rely far too heavily on racial double standards. Some, like Abigail Thernstrom, co-author of a forthcoming book on race, used the new numbers to zero in on what she feels is the real problem: the public schools. “Our high schools graduate black and Hispanic students who are way behind whites and Asians in basic cognitive skills,” she says. Admitting minorities with lower scores “lets these schools off the hook.” That is why even such anti-affirmative-action crusaders as Ward Connerly, the University of California regent who led the Proposition 209 campaign, are calling for “outreach”: targeted efforts to help minority high school students perform better. “I am in favor of things that will reach out to those families who have never had anyone go to the University of California or go to college,” he told a TIME town meeting last week in Sacramento. The University of California is proposing such a program; it wants to spend tens of millions of dollars to mentor students in some of the state's poorest school districts.

In Texas, meanwhile, a group of minority state senators threatened to cut off funding for the University of Texas if it did not find a way to maintain minority enrollment, and the legislature just passed a bill that attempts to redress the problem by requiring state universities to automatically admit students in the top 10% of their high school classes and allowing the universities to consider “a variety of other factors” in assessing the top 15% to 25%. Some schools, such as the state-owned University of Houston law school, encourage applicants to write about their family background as a way around the requirement that the application contain no “race” box to check.

A recent study of 90,000 law-school applicants by Linda Wightman of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro illustrates both the challenge of recruiting minorities and the payoff. She found that of the 3,485 blacks accepted by law schools in 1991, just 687 would have been admitted only on the basis of board exams and grades. Yet these same minority students had graduation and bar-exam pass rates similar to whites’—and they had an incalculable value to the black community, as both professionals and role models.

—With reporting by Julie Grace/Sacramento

Back to the Future

Forced to scuttle affirmative action, law schools see minority enrollment plummet to 1963 levels

By S.C. GWYNNE AUSTIN

ANYONE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT America's universities might look like in the absence of affirmative action got a chilling glimpse of the future last week in California and Texas. The best law schools in both states—recently ordered not to consider the race of their applicants—said the number of blacks and Hispanics enrolling for next year had fallen to levels not seen in decades. At the University of Texas, which has produced more minority lawyers than any other school in the country—and where, typically, 30 to 40 blacks enter each year—only 11 blacks were accepted and none had enrolled; the number of Hispanics dropped from more than 50 to 14. In California the schools at both Berkeley and UCLA saw black admissions drop 80%, while the number of Hispanic students fell 50% and 32%, respectively.

What happened at these schools was a mystery to no one. Blacks and Hispanics generally do not do as well as whites and Asian Americans on law boards or have high grade-point averages, both factors which law schools—in the absence of other criteria, such as race—give enormous weight. “We foresaw this,” says Michael Sharlot, dean of the U.T. law school, adding

that “one has to distinguish between a surprise and a tragedy. We warned the Texas legislature about this. It's a disaster.”

In most of the U.S., the 1978 Bakke decision—prohibiting racial quotas but allowing schools to use race as a factor in admissions—remains the law of the land. Most schools see real value in maintaining a racially diverse student body. But Texas and California, for different reasons, find themselves on the leading edge of a movement to roll back even such nonquota efforts at affirmative action. The entire Texas university system was forced to change its policies when the Supreme Court let stand an appeals court's 1996 ruling in favor of four white students who sued U.T. law school for racial discrimination. This has caused significant drops in undergraduate minority admissions at U.T. and Texas A&M, the leading schools in the state system, and may result in an even greater drop-off in enrollment, since financial aid must also now be color-blind. In California's case, the impetus for revising its university admissions policies is Proposition 209, the successful 1996 ballot initiative. The changes

**Berkeley's
Boalt Hall
saw**

64. Associated Press

06-03 2:46a

UW students learning in the real world, serving others

SEATTLE (AP) - More and more these days, college students are going beyond the lab or the lecture hall and learning some of their lessons in the real world.

Hundreds of students at the University of Washington and other area colleges are earning course credits with volunteerism, called "service learning."

For example, Barney Gill, a 22-year-old UW zoology major, replanted a wetland - Bellevue's Mercer Slough Park - for "Chemistry Service Learning."

"It wasn't just some experience that I read out of a textbook," Gill said of the project he planned all quarter. "It was actually hands-on implementing a project and seeing it done, which is an experience a lot of students don't get."

The course was created five years ago by senior UW lecturer Deborah Wiegand to encourage science students to tutor or get involved in environmental projects.

Such work makes students "much more interested in what they're learning," Wiegand says.

The UW is one of 520 schools in Campus Compact, a national coalition of college and university presidents founded in 1985 to encourage community service. The organization estimates that 74 percent of its member schools offer service learning.

The UW offered 22 courses with a service learning component this year.

"It's not just about service. It really is about allowing students to be educated in a more holistic way," said Kim Johnson Bogart, director of the Edward E. Carlson Center, the UW's public service office.

This quarter, Travis White and five other students organized a park cleanup

and revegetation project for a course called "Community and Environmental Planning 120." Working with a nonprofit group called TREEmendous, White coordinated with Seattle's parks department and passed out fliers to rally volunteer support for last Saturday's cleanup project in West Seattle's Fairmount Park.

White, a 21-year-old architecture and landscape architecture major, will give an in-class presentation this week and then write a final paper.

"We're supposed to take what we're learning in the class and what we've been doing with the community service and integrate it in this final project," White said.

"I think it has helped me deal with more of the practical planning issues and to see how the community works on environmental planning."

In 1994, the Carlson Center received a two-year federal grant to make service learning part of an entire department, rather than leaving it to individual professors. The geography department was selected, and offered service learning in 11 courses this year, up from three last year.

Victoria Lawson, a geography professor who specializes in Latin America, was one of the first to participate. She wanted her students to be exposed to the realities of poverty, hunger and homelessness.

"I could see the power of the students being confronted with some of the issues I was discussing in a very human way," Lawson said. "It sort of hits them in the face, and then they're forced to grapple with it on a gut level."

The volunteer work has to make sense in the context of the course, she noted.

"It is not easy to integrate ground-level, experiential, powerful learning with intellectual learning. It's not good to just add service learning and stir," Lawson said.

Andria Roeber, a junior majoring in Latin American studies, chose to work for Green Guatemala, an all-volunteer organization working to improve the economic, agricultural and political lives of people in that Central American nation.

"After a while papers get really boring, we're doing so many all the time," said Roeber, 27. "This is more hands on."

Classmate Angelyn Frazer is working for the Northwest Immigrants Rights Project, a non-profit organization trying to provide legal advice for those grappling with immigration and welfare reform legislation.

"I know it's going to take me further, just having that knowledge," said Frazier, 30, who is considering studying immigration law. "I could walk into a law office probably in the next month and say, 'You need some help in immigration?'"

At Seattle University, service learning is part of 25 undergraduate courses. Last fall, 170 students put in 2,100 hours of service.

"It's part of our educational vision," said Mark Long, coordinator at the Roman Catholic school's volunteer center. "It's also part of the vision of what our students should be like after they've completed their time here."

Seattle Pacific University, a Christian school, also integrates service into its mission. Every year, SPU students perform 20,000 hours of community service in the Seattle area, and 120 students work outside the United States, said John van Keppel, associate director of campus ministries. ■

65. The Dallas Morning News

June 3, 1997

Diversity on campus addressed in session **Bills were response to Hopwood decision**

By Sylvia Moreno / The Dallas Morning News

AUSTIN - For the first time in recent history, lawmakers said, they made it their business to dictate college admissions policies to ensure diverse campuses across Texas.

This was the session, say some

legislators, that will be known simply as "post-Hopwood" - the buzz phrase conjuring up the federal court ruling that banned the affirmative action admissions policy at the University of Texas Law School.

That decision was subsequently interpreted by Attorney General Dan Morales to apply to all affirmative action policies at all public colleges and universities.

The case, known for lead plaintiff

Cheryl Hopwood, set the scene for legislative efforts this session to preserve standing for minorities, not only in higher education but also, in state hiring and contracting.

Faced with the legal ban on using race- and ethnicity-based methods to promote diversity, legislators sought to devise creative - and legal - ways to ensure that colleges reach out to minority students.

The answer to the conundrum was embodied in the "Top 10 percent" bill sponsored by Rep. Irma Rangel, D-Kingsville, and Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas.

Under the measure, already signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush, the state's public colleges and universities will have to offer admission to any Texas high school applicant who graduates in the top 10 percent of his or her class. Colleges may opt to offer automatic admission to students in the top 25 percent of their classes.

Under the bill, students other than those who qualify for automatic admission will be selected based on "race-neutral" criteria that include a student's socioeconomic background, leadership potential, parents'

education level and the student's extracurricular activities, including jobs held during school to support the family.

"I think that that bill can be useful," said Al Kauffman, a senior attorney for the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "But it's going to take a lot of work to continue to monitor the universities."

A second, more controversial, admissions bill aimed at "leveling the playing field" for minority students made it out of the Legislature over the weekend. The bill has been sent to Mr. Bush, but his office has said the governor is undecided on whether to sign it.

That measure would require public colleges and universities to apply the same grade point average admissions standard to all students.

The bill, written by Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, was filed in response to the Hopwood decision, which halted minority recruiting - except for that of athletes, who are often admitted to UT and Texas A&M, for instance, on the basis of athletic prowess rather than academic skills.

The bill crystalized the issue of race in

the legislative debate, forcing an emotional soliloquy by one Houston legislator over whether Texas' top schools value minority students more for their running ability or vertical leaps than for their academic potential.

Neither of the admissions bills, however, deals with entrance standards for graduate or professional schools.

The Legislature also passed a bill requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to monitor minority admissions, scholarships and graduation rates at state colleges and universities in the wake of the Hopwood decision. The bill was sent last week to Mr. Bush, whose spokeswoman said Monday that he was still considering it.

The session also opened with a clear message from the Republican-controlled Senate that state-endorsed minority contracting and minority hiring programs were in jeopardy this year.

In the end, the goals set in the budget six years ago to promote state agencies' hiring of minority members and to increase minority participation in state-issued contracts remained intact. ■

66. Associated Press

06-03 3:07a

Governor to ask Legislature to create boarding school

b

ST. PAUL (AP) - Gov. Arne Carlson said he plans to ask the 1998 Legislature for money to create a boarding school for adolescents who need to get away from their home environments.

"We need to open up more kinds of schools. We need specialty schools, boutique schools," Carlson said.

Carlson made his comments Monday after a tour of Totem Town, a juvenile correctional facility in St. Paul operated by Ramsey County.

Carlson's concept of a boarding school would not be a correctional facility and would not be operated by the state Department of Corrections, said Janet Entzel, assistant commissioner for the Corrections Department.

As envisioned, it would provide structured living and learning on a year-round basis for adolescents. Some might be referred by the courts, but not as part of a penalty or punishment. The boarding school also could be an

alternative to foster care for some children. Ms. Entzel said. No site has been determined.

The governor said the boarding school could be established as a charter school, an independently organized school, which operates free of many state educational constraints.

Carlson has repeatedly criticized what he considers a monolithic public school system that differs little from district to district. ■

67. Detroit Free Press

June 3, 1997

Police to reward kids for being good

BY LOUIS S. CLOTMAN Free Press Staff Writer

This summer 7-Eleven is breaking the ice between kids and cops.

Starting this week, 33 law-enforcement

agencies in southeast Michigan will be launching a massive manhunt for kids who perform random acts of goodness — from wearing a helmet while in-line skating to picking up litter, wearing a seat belt or

getting involved in community events or projects.

Their reward: a coupon for a 12-ounce Slurpee from 7-Eleven.

The initiative, called Operation Chill,

57. The Dallas Morning News

June 5, 1997

Texas professional schools see few minorities **Decline in fall numbers linked to court decision**

By Jayne Noble Suhler / The Dallas Morning News

Some of the state's most prestigious medical, dental and law schools will have few, if any, minorities in their new fall classes.

This could have a profound long-term impact on the state because of the great need for doctors, dentists, lawyers and other professionals in minority communities, educators and others say.

Though enrollment is down for all ethnicities at some state graduate schools, some educators say the sharp decline of minority students is a direct result of a court order that prohibits committees from considering race as a factor for admissions.

"The danger is that as a result of the constraints placed on us, if we do not do a better job diversifying the class by next year, we run the very real risk of educating too few physicians who will be motivated, willing and interested in providing medical services to large segments of the population," said Bill Neaves, dean of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas.

Dr. Neaves said studies show that students from poor, minority or rural areas often return there to practice. Many of those areas don't have enough doctors to serve the population.

"The probability is that at least some significant number of those students will in fact go back, while virtually zero students from more affluent, suburban areas that are well-covered medically will do that," he said.

Southwestern has offered fall admission to only three blacks, only one of whom has sent in a tuition deposit. In 1996, 21 black students were offered admission. Admission has been offered to seven Hispanic students compared with 11 in 1996.

The University of Texas School of Law has offered places in the fall class to 11 black students and 33 Hispanic students, down from 65 blacks and 70 Hispanics last year.

The school was in danger of having

no black students in its class after the sole student who had enrolled decided to go elsewhere.

Since then, however, three blacks have sent in tuition deposits, said Shelli Soto, the law school's admissions director.

Ms. Soto was not aware of any study showing that black and Hispanic lawyers tend to practice in underserved areas. However, she said that no matter where minority lawyers end up working, they are role models for young people.

"They still say to other minorities 'you can do this too,' " she said.

The medical school at Texas A&M University Health Science Center in College Station made no offers to black students for the fall, compared with seven last year. It has offered seven Hispanic students admission, compared with 23 last year, school officials said.

"We did increase the number of interviews we did this year to accommodate for the very high quality of students in the applicant pool but not enough" to raise the number of offers made, said Filomeno Maldonado, director of admissions for the medical school.

Some programs will continue to offer admission to students throughout the summer, but most class rosters are set.

At Dallas' Baylor College of Dentistry, a part of the Texas A&M University system, three blacks were accepted into the fall class, down from seven offers made in fall 1996. Sixteen Hispanic students have been offered admission, compared with 27 last year.

"I am devastated by it, and disheartened, but I'm not going to stop looking at how we can continue to find ways to offer opportunities to the highly qualified minorities now being rejected," said Claude Williams, who is black and the director of multicultural services at the school and an orthodontist with a private practice in Oak Cliff.

"There is a critical need for [minority]

practitioners, particularly specialists," Dr. Williams said. "I'm ready to retire, and I have no African-American replacement."

Offers to minority students have been curtailed by a court decision issued last year by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. It abolished the race-based admissions policy at the UT law school. The decision is called Hopwood after the lead plaintiff, Cheryl Hopwood, a white student who sued the law school for reverse discrimination after being denied admission in 1992.

The court ruled that race could not be a factor in admissions or other university decisions. Texas Attorney General Dan Morales subsequently interpreted the ruling to apply to financial aid, scholarships, fellowships, and recruitment and retention programs targeted at specific minority groups at all state-run institutions.

Opponents of affirmative action have said that the drop in applicants was expected and reflects the degree to which racial preferences shaped past admissions. Many people say that using measures such as test scores and grades is the fairest way of determining admission.

Some educators warn that it is too early to tell whether it is a softening of affirmative-action policies or a cyclical decline in applications to medical and law schools that is contributing to the transformation of the ethnic makeup of many programs.

With fewer students to choose from overall, it's difficult to point to the court decision as the sole reason for a decline, some educators say.

"I don't think you can make a general assumption from these figures at this time," said Barbara Ewalt, manager of admissions at Texas Tech medical school, where the enrollment offers also are down. "I think it's the sort of thing we'll have to study over a couple of years."

Admissions based only on quantitative measures don't always predict how good

43. Kansas City Star

June 6, 1997

It takes perseverance to make it through KC schools

By BARBARA SHELLY Columnist

Lincoln Prep, Kansas City's premier academic high school, graduated 102 students Monday night.

There should have been more. The stage was big enough. The school is big enough. It's the faith of the students and the confidence of the city that is lacking.

In Kansas City, the triumphs and tragedies of public education are never more apparent than at graduation time.

A large ceremony is one with 150 graduates. The district hasn't yet compiled the final size of its class of 1997, but administrators expect the numbers to be in the same range as last year, when 1,132 students graduated from 10 high schools.

That's little more than 1,000 graduates from a school district in a mid-sized city which has spent \$1.8 billion in 11 years on the nation's most expensive desegregation program. That's less than half the students who started ninth grade four years ago.

Quick, class. How do you spell DISGRACE?

If the continuing upheaval in the district is a tragedy, the graduates themselves are triumphs.

They have been the subjects of educational experiments which have yet to work. Many have attended demoralized schools with demoralized staffs.

They survived, and some of them

prospered.

Commencements are always bittersweet, and Lincoln Prep's was particularly so this year.

A popular senior, Gesina Dewberry, died of cancer in April. David Biggins, a junior, drowned in a hotel swimming pool while attending a track meet last week.

"You have stared tragedy in the face, and helped each other to survive," Carl Boyd, the commencement speaker, told students.

He pointed out accomplishments: Three-fourths of the graduating students have been on the honor roll; they received more than \$1.5 million in college scholarships.

And yet the ceremony held clues that morale is flagging at Lincoln.

Valedictorian Scott Johnson drew a blast of applause when he alluded in his speech to "this vicious policy of putting administrative decisions over educational quality."

Students, parents and faculty have complained this year that budget cuts and staffing shortages undercut the academic program.

Kansas City can't afford this. The academic strength of Lincoln Prep has traditionally kept the children of well-educated, middle-income families in

the district. Take away that pillar and the structure totters even more.

The district desperately needs a strong academic track and it needs to raise expectations for all students in all schools.

Federal Judge Russell G. Clark noted in his damning court order earlier this year that he was appalled when administrators confessed they'd observed students napping in class, and did nothing about it.

Desegregation attorney Arthur Benson no longer refers to the district's dropout rate. He calls it the "force-out rate."

"The teaching and learning that goes on in the high schools is so poor that it does not surprise me that students are so bored and frustrated they do not stay in school," Benson said.

School board President Ed Newsome, who disagreed with Benson on many things, said the district must "raise the expectations throughout all the schools," and the tougher the curriculum the better.

The challenge is to go beyond talk. It will take a Herculean effort in the face of deep budget cuts and conflicting educational philosophies.

But there is such a thing as perseverance and light at the end of the tunnel.

Ask this year's graduates. ■

EDITORIAL

44. Detroit News

June 5, 1997

Is Academia Resegregating?

Drops in minority enrollment at the universities of Texas and California are provoking alarm among proponents of racial preferences. They fear that hostility to affirmative action is driving minorities away from American campuses, undermining decades of efforts to create diverse student bodies. But we suspect the drop-off shows something quite different, though hardly less disturbing.

The declines in California and Texas come in the wake of several events. First

the University of California's regents decided to ban preferential admissions practices, followed by voter approval last fall of Proposition 209, which bans race-based preferences in all state hiring. Also last year a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in a case known as Hopwood that the University of Texas Law School was using a quota system that was unfair to white applicants. The court declared that "diversity" by itself was not a legitimate criteria in admissions, absent a showing of

deliberate discrimination.

Admissions of blacks at California law schools promptly plummeted 25 to 80 percent. Declines of 28 to 50 percent were reported for Hispanic students. (Admissions of Asian-Americans have continued to climb, however.) Meanwhile, the University of Texas admitted only 10 black students in its law school, compared with 65 last year. And not one of the 10 enrolled.

Advocates of racial preferences, hoping

that higher courts will overturn these decisions, are using these figures to raise the specter of resegregation. But there is no evidence that these schools are any less welcoming to minority applicants who meet normal admissions criteria. The decline appears to say less about a resurgence of racism than about the failure of the educational system to produce qualified candidates for higher education.

It's also worth noting that a decline in minority enrollments at some top-ranked universities preceded both the Hopwood decision and California's ballot initiative. A quick look at figures from the Michigan Department of Education, for example, shows that minority enrollments at the Ann Arbor campus of the University of Michigan, the most academically

demanding of all Michigan universities, declined from 12.93 percent in 1993 to 12.76 percent in 1995. The gain at Michigan State University, another challenging institution, has been a modest 0.39 percent.

Yet the number of "underrepresented" minorities in Michigan's public universities has gone up: It was 11.41 percent in 1993 and 11.81 in 1995 — the latest year for which figures are available. Eastern Michigan University has shown an impressive gain of 2.34 percentage points for the same period.

These figures suggest that some minorities, realizing they have been handicapped by their own educational background, may be opting for universities where they have a better chance of

success. Such education critics as economist Thomas Sowell have long castigated elite universities for engaging in practices that set up many minority students for failure.

Rather than trying to perpetuate practices that were always intended to be temporary, America's leading public universities should direct their intellectual firepower at reforming K-12 systems and offering cost-effective enrichment programs that help the disadvantaged of all races. Preferential practices, if pushed too far, only invite a dangerous social backlash that could set back minority progress by decades. They are no substitute for making sure that all kids are better prepared to take advantage of the rigors of higher education. ■

45. New York Post

June 6, 1997

CUNY: Not just English

The inability of hundreds of City University students on the threshold of graduation to demonstrate even passing familiarity with written English underscores how far CUNY has fallen.

Administrators at Hostos, Manhattan, Bronx and LaGuardia community colleges now admit they were prepared to grant degrees to students who failed an English competency test that shouldn't baffle a fifth-grader. This scheme was stopped only when CUNY's new board of trustees stepped in with a "no English, no diploma" rule.

Board Chairwoman Anne Paolucci is irritated with the university's principal administrators over CUNY's willingness to graduate functionally illiterate students, as well she should be.

Granting diplomas to unqualified students constitutes fraud: It undercuts the value of the parchment earned by qualified graduates, and it cheats potential employers who assume that CUNY degrees mean something.

Meanwhile, despite efforts at reform, there's continuing evidence that the university's four-year institutions are failing in their mission as well, with implications that touch all areas of the city.

Take one vital sector: public schools.

CUNY has long been the principal source of new teachers for the city's schools — it feeds more than 3,000 a year into the system.

But CUNY grads, not to put too fine a point on it, have been performing miserably on the state's teacher-licensing examinations. Only 62 percent passed the liberal-arts test last year — compared with 83 percent of all new grads who took it statewide. Only 77 percent passed the pedagogy element, compared to 90 percent in colleges overall.

Some 1,100 graduates of City College — once considered CUNY's flagship institution — took the two tests in 1996; a scant 40 percent passed the liberal-arts portion, while only 48 percent mastered the teaching-skills test.

And many of those who fail the exam end up on Board of Ed payrolls anyway, where they teach for years, officially with part-time — or "per-diem" — status.

So a bitter cycle has been generated: CUNY, which has been drawing unqualified students from New York's public schools, is sending back into city classrooms unqualified graduates to teach.

CUNY grads fare poorly, relative to

their peers, on other real-world benchmarks. For instance, only 56 percent of CUNY Law School-Queens College grads passed the bar on the first attempt last year, compared to the 80 percent average pass rate for all law schools in the region.

Moreover, according to a U.S. News & World Report survey, a scant 60 percent of CUNY law grads last year could find work in their field — one of the lowest success rates in the nation.

What explains all this? CUNY is fond of pointing out that its student body is "disadvantaged" — which is to say, poor.

This might be persuasive, if it weren't for the fact that CUNY students have always largely been poor (indeed, CCNY was once known, for good reason, as "the poor man's Harvard").

In any event, there's no excuse for knowingly turning out unqualified graduates. A clean-up of the English-literacy mess at the community colleges apparently is at hand — but CUNY's work can't end there.

We trust that Chairwoman Paolucci and her fellow trustees — including the courageous Herman Badillo — will see that the job gets done. ■