

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Time for real affirmative action

The Supreme Court has finally made its decision on the Allan Bakke reverse discrimination case. But it wasn't the clear-cut decision for which both Bakke's allies and opponents hoped.

The Court's 5-4 decision gave Bakke the admission he had sought to the University of California at Davis medical school. But the court still defended using race as a criteria for setting admissions standards and quotas the issue that seems the crux of the Bakke case. It was hardly the life-or-death test for the national push for racial equality over the last two decades, as it had been depicted.

Bakke has sued UC Davis after being rejected for admission to the university's medical school while less-qualified minority applicants were admitted to fill the school's 16-student quota for minority group members out of a total admission of 100 students.

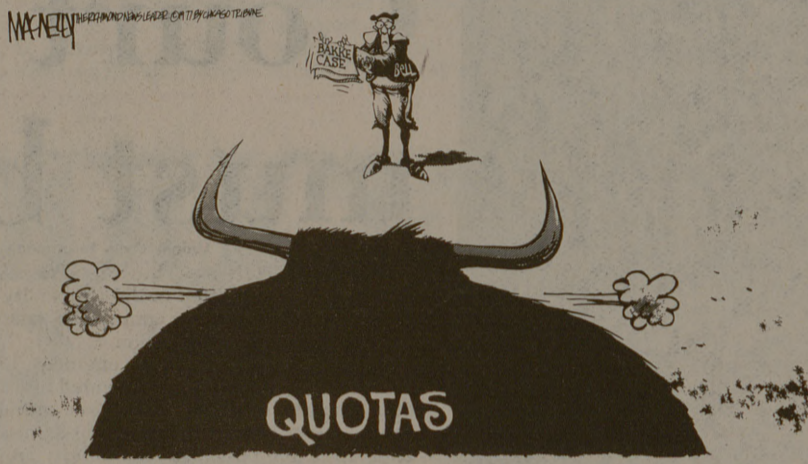
At best, the Court set a precedent protecting citizens' civil rights against the anonymous tyranny of quotas that only consider a man's color. UC Davis deprived Bakke of his civil rights by rejecting him solely on that basis, according to the Court majority opinion.

But Bakke won that point only on the technicality that UC Davis could not prove he would have been rejected for admission if the quota system had not been in effect.

In the second part of their two-part decision the justices reversed the California Supreme Court's verdict and said UC Davis could use race as a criteria for evaluating applicants for admission so long as race wasn't the only criteria used. That was the defect in the school's original quota system.

The justices endorsed racial quotas to continue the affirmative action programs which the federal government has championed for a decade as a means of increasing racial equality.

"In light of the sorry history of discrimination and its devastating impact on the lives of Negroes, bringing the Negro into the mainstream of American life should be state interest of the highest order," Justice Thurgood Marshall, the court's only black justice, said.



Certainly the civil rights movement of the last two decades has brought us much closer to a truly egalitarian society. Those steps toward equality must never be relinquished.

But in the zeal to guarantee equality for minorities, federal agencies have often taken equality away from everyone else. That's what happened to Allan Bakke and it's happening throughout the United States in the name of affirmative action.

Those federal agencies must take the Bakke decision as a directive to treat every man and woman as an individual a unique combination of attributes and defects to be judged on his own worth and not as a color fitting one quota or another.

That's affirmative action. That's equality.

L.R.L.

Migration crushing Mexico City

By WILLIAM F. GENTILE

United Press International
MEXICO CITY — Rogelio Osorio, 30, a native of Mexico's Gulf State of Veracruz, packed a few belongings in a cloth sack, said goodbye to his wife and four children, and boarded a bus for Mexico City.

He thus became one of the more than 1,000 Mexicans who pour into this metropolis every day — seeking work, a chance to escape the stifling poverty of the countryside, and a new life.

Partly as a result of this migration, this capital is the most heavily-populated city in the Western Hemisphere.

Of about 65 million Mexicans, 13 million live in Mexico City. Nearly half those people were not born there, but like Rogelio, migrated from the country in search of a job.

"I worked another man's land for 80 pesos (about \$3.50) a day," Rogelio said.

"I might work four months a year, maybe five. We lived on the boss' land because we had none of our own. The house for myself, my wife and my four children was made of cardboard and tin."

Unless the influx into Mexico City is

curtailed, by the year 2000 it will be the world's largest city, with a population of 25 to 30 million.

Even now the capital is overcrowded. Housing is scarce. Public transportation is strained. The water supply is inadequate. An estimated 4 million people live in the so-called "misery belts" on the city outskirts, without proper plumbing or electricity.

World News

Set in a valley 7,400 feet above sea level and surrounded by a bowl of mountains, the city is a natural trap for the toxic waste from too much industry and too many automobiles.

But despite the discomforts Mexico City is a magnet for rural residents because of the chronic shortage of jobs in rural areas.

Although the unemployment rate in the capital is estimated to be close to 9 percent (with another 40 percent of the work force under-employed), jobs are still easier to

find here than in the provinces.

Gustavo Garza Villarreal, director of urban studies at El Colegio de Mexico, reports that Mexico City houses 45 percent of the nation's industry, 45 percent of its commerce and 55 percent of its social services.

It generates 45.6 percent of total national production, 52.9 percent of personal earnings and is home to 41.9 percent of all salaried employees in the country.

But nearly half the population lives in the countryside, where unemployment in some areas runs at high as 40 percent. Many farmers, like Rogelio, don't own their own land. And most live in grim conditions, barely able to eke out a livelihood.

"I will never go back," Rogelio vows. In Mexico City's southern district of Iztacalco, Rogelio found a construction job and now earns about \$4.30 a day. He works six days a week and says he hopes to do so year-round.

Rogelio lives with his older brother and family of five, who have already been in Mexico City for a year. At night he unrolls a blanket and sleeps on the floor.

"Life in the city is hard," he says. "But it's worse in the country."

Responding to this situation, the government has recently created a National Urban Development Plan, designed to limit growth of Mexico's over-crowded cities. A new National Employment Commission aims to curb the exodus from rural areas by fighting unemployment in the countryside.

Economists are not hopeful this can be done. This year more than 700,000 Mexicans will enter the work force. Over a million new jobs must be created each year if Mexico is to eliminate unemployment.

Last year there was actually a net loss of jobs. This year, fewer than 100,000 new jobs will be created.

Meanwhile, Mexicans continue migrating to the city.

Rogelio, for example, hopes to have a small home of his own by the end of the year and be able to send for his wife and children.

"And after that," he says, "I'll send for my two brothers and their families too."

The price of peace—and rhetoric

By RICHARD SISK
United Press International

UNITED NATIONS — The wages of peace are running close to \$3 million this spring, with more than one-third of the money devoted to putting all the rhetoric into print for posterity.

Budget people at the United Nations say their revised cost estimate is \$2,839,200 for the General Assembly's current special session on disarmament.

That includes \$1,199,000 for verbatim and summary records of the meetings, \$879,000 for translation and interpretation, \$301,000 for reproduction and distribution of documents and \$263,000 for travel expenses.

It doesn't include the \$1,122,000 already spent on the 42 meetings, over 18 months, of the 54 countries represented on the conference's preparatory committee. Those meetings pumped out about 1,500 pages worth of agendas, rules of procedure and the like.

The grand total comes close to \$4 million, with the United States picking up about 25 percent of the tab as it does for most U.N. expenses.

That figure is about as insignificant as \$4



million ever can be when compared with total U.N. expenditures of more than \$2 billion annually. It may well be a bargain if the session leads to curbs on an arms race in which more than \$1 billion is spent every day.

Apart from U.N. expenses for the special session, there are the incidental costs

to the delegations, the U.S. federal government and New York City. These include providing food, security, lodging and other necessities for the more than 500 dignitaries attending the five-week session.

For instance, no figures for the current session are available yet, but the U.N. As-

sociation of the United States estimates it costs the city and the federal government a total of about \$12 million annually for police protection and diplomatic tax exemptions.

This expenditure is a favorite target of local politicians, who periodically call for the federal government to assume all the costs or even for the transfer of U.N. headquarters out of the city.

But the U.N. Association points out that the benefits of having the United Nations in the United States far outweigh the costs.

Members of the U.N. Secretariat and the U.N. diplomatic corps are estimated to spend between \$150 million and \$180 million in this country for official and personal expenses and \$2 million more is spent by the United Nations to rent extra office space," the association said in a recent statement.

And actor Paul Newman, a U.S. disarmament delegate, stresses that the bottom line for the session is not financial, but moral.

"What this whole thing is about is getting technology back in the control of human beings," Newman said. "If not, well it's bon voyage."

Vermont 'open school' bowing to noisy kids

By CANDACE PAGE
United Press International

EAST MONTPELIER, Vt. — When five rural Vermont towns designed their grand experiment in education 10 years ago, they reckoned without the noise of 900 teenagers.

Now, Vermont's first wall-less "open classroom" school is about to spend \$15,000 putting up several floor-to-ceiling partitions.

"The teachers said they couldn't teach things like poetry in all that noise. The kids couldn't concentrate," said Mrs. Ruth Towne, a member of the Union 32 High School Board.

WHEN IT WAS BUILT, U-32 was in the vanguard of educational innovation: few interior walls, a flexible curriculum aimed at meeting each student's unique needs and no bells, grades or study halls.

Now, walls are not the only concession to traditional education at the school. Students spend more time in class, study halls are back for some, and course offerings have been narrowed.

In the process, school officials are healing the deep community rift brought about by a school which many taxpayers considered radical.

The retreat typifies what some educators describe as a general retreat from the idea of "open education," the

education philosophy to which Union 32 and other schools of its vintage were dedicated.

A rejection of traditional, more regimented schooling, open education emphasizes the individual needs of the student and the "nourishing of the human potential," as Robert Nash, professor of educational philosophy at the University of Vermont, puts it.

Education

BUT THE SCHOOL and the open education process has its defenders.

"Our dropout rate is about 2 or 3 percent, half what it is in other Vermont high schools. We must be doing something right," said Alan Weiss, the school principal and a designer of the formula before the school was built.

"U-32 has nothing to be ashamed of academically," Weiss said. College Board examinations scores of its students rate in the top 10 high schools in Vermont, and graduates who go on to college "do very well," he said.

In the late 1960's, open education appeared to be the wave of the future. A Stanford University study estimated more than half the schools built in 1967, 1968

and 1969 were built with an "open" design.

Now, "open education is pretty much in eclipse," said Nash. "Open schools aren't being built anymore, in New England or anywhere. The current movement is back to basics, to emphasis on reading, writing and computational skills. The thinking is open schools went one step too far."

TWO STEPS TOO FAR, some U-32 parents would say.

When the long, low brick school opened in September, 1971, students began coming home with stories of hours of free time to spend as they wished, the freedom to cut classes, calling teachers by their first names and free-wheeling class discussions of radical politics.

Many parents in these rural communities of central Vermont were shocked.

Within two months, a group of residents appeared before the school board with a list of 26 complaints that ranged from charges two students had been stabbed in the school library to accusations children were being given Communist books. The stabbing incident, it turned out, had not occurred.

Their real complaint, however, was that students were allowed to dress, talk and behave with a freedom unusual in Vermont high schools, and that the "basics"

were being ignored at the school.

Some parents complained that many students spent all their free time lying around talking in U-32's carpeted, furnitureless corridors.

BUT OTHER PARENTS, students and teachers fiercely defended U-32's innovations, saying many students were learning more eagerly at U-32 than at other schools.

In the end, it was practicality that brought changes at U-32.

"In 10 years wiser now," says principal Weiss. "We found that seventh graders needed more structure, that it didn't work to group them with older students. We've changed that. I think you could say the extremes have been modified."

The school's ultimate critics — its students — generally give the school high marks.

"It's very free. You don't feel chained down all the time," says senior Deborah Davison. "The teachers are great, they really help you out. They're more like your friends than your teachers."

"Why, suddenly should U-32 change its atmosphere by putting up \$15,000 worth of walls?" wrote school newspaper staffer Judi Hudson recently. "What is the point of having an experimental school if in a matter of seven years we decided to change it to a traditional school?"

TOP OF THE NEWS

STATE

Woman killed in fall off ledge

A Dayton, Texas woman plunged 10 stories to her death Wednesday at a posh Houston night spot. Nancy Louise Lee, 21, a former Lee College coed, coaxed her date into letting her step out on the terrace ledge at Cody's Restaurant and Club, said a Harris County Medical Examiner's office spokesman. Lee then slipped from her date's hold and fell to her death, the spokesman said. Witnesses said that earlier in the evening Lee and her date had been out on the club's fire escape and returned inside, the spokesman said.

Strike deadline passes

A second strike deadline passed Wednesday without a walkout by Communications Workers of America members at Wadley Hospital, Texarkana's largest health facility. The union — which represents an estimated 500 licensed nurses, maids, orderlies, technicians, maintenance and cafeteria workers — set the deadline for 4:30 a.m. Wednesday in an attempt to pressure administrators to sign a contract pending for almost a year. A deadline earlier set for 5 a.m. Sunday also passed without a strike.

A&M grad named new director

Anson R. Bertrand, dean of the Texas Tech University College of Agricultural Sciences, will become director July 10 of the newly formed Science and Education Administration of the U.S. Agriculture Department. Bertrand, who has been dean since 1971, will provide information to the agriculture secretary, Congress and the White House on matters pertaining to agricultural research and education, the University said Wednesday. SEA coordinates government and university research, and teaching and extension programs across the country. Bertrand has degrees from Texas A&M University, the University of Illinois and Purdue University.

NATION

Tower of fritos to ruin view

Residents of a rural lake resort near Killingly, Conn., are furious because they claim Frito-Lay Inc. of Dallas plans to spoil their view with a tower of corn chips. Frito-Lay said Tuesday it will build its first New England plant near the shore of Alexander's Lake in northeastern Connecticut. Plans include a 75 to 100-foot silo-type structure to store finished Frito-Lay products, such as corn and potato chips. About 60 lakeside property owners told the Killingly Planning and Zoning Commission Monday night the \$20 million manufacturing and distribution plant will create "sight pollution."

Tired Carter retreats

President Carter will follow Congress' lead and take a full 10-day holiday, starting Friday at Camp David, the presidential retreat where he plans to celebrate the Fourth of July. Aides say Carter is tired. He's also "pretty disgusted" that the Senate has handed him another setback in his drive to get a comprehensive energy program. The Senate voted Tuesday to block Carter's power to increase import fees on oil. The president had hoped to use the import fees as a weapon to force action on his 14-month-old energy package.

SST exempt of noise regulations

Transportation Secretary Brock Adams has exempted the Concorde supersonic transport from noise regulations applying to other jet aircraft, but has restricted the times of day and the speed at which it can fly over or near the United States. Adams also said Tuesday in Washington that local airport authorities will be allowed to write their own noise regulations as long as they apply to all aircraft and do not discriminate against the SST. The final noise rules apply only to the initial group of about 16 Concorde in operation or being built by the British and French governments.

Actress Russell in jail

Actress Jane Russell has been jailed in Santa Barbara, Calif. for drunken driving. A Municipal Court Judge Tuesday ordered the 57-year-old actress to spend four days in county jail for violating a condition of her parole on another drunken driving conviction. Russell, convicted two years ago for drunken driving, was arrested in April on the same charges after a minor traffic accident. She was a 19-year-old model in Hollywood when the late billionaire Howard Hughes selected her to star in his controversial film "Outlaw."

WORLD

Princess Caroline married

Princess Caroline of Monaco, daughter of former American film star Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III, married French businessman-playboy Philippe Junot Wednesday in the first round of the jet set wedding of the year. The 21-year-old princess, whose beauty, youth, wealth and lineage made her one of the most eligible women of the world, became the wife of suave Junot, 17 years her senior, in a brief civil ceremony in the gold and marble throne room of the Monaco palace.

Vaccination campaigns begun

Authorities in the Gulf ports of Tampico and Ciudad Madero, Mexico have mounted massive vaccination campaigns against polio. Eight cases of the disease have been discovered in both cities and the surrounding area, it was reported Tuesday. Dr. Luis Enrique Santoyo, head of Tampico's health center, said it was the first reported case of polio in Tampico in several years.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and hot today and tomorrow with a chance of widely scattered thunder showers in the late afternoon. High today mid-90s, low tonight mid-70s. High tomorrow low 90s. Winds from the south at 5-10 mph becoming light and variable tonight. 20% chance of rain this afternoon & tonight, increasing to 40% on Friday.

THE BATTALION

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