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Court debates discrimination

Clinton administration backs affirmative action

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — A white teacher laid off in favor of an equally qualified black teacher argued she was a victim of reverse discrimination, and the Justice Department under the Bush administration agreed

The government helped Sharon Taxman sue and win \$144,000 in back pay and damages in 1992.

Now the government has switched sides and is backing the Piscataway Board of Education in its appeal. The Clinton Justice Department contends the board had the right to retain Debra Williams for

the sake of racial diversity. Taxman's lawyer, Stephen E. Klausner, called the switch "unethical and reprehensible" and said Wednesday that he will fight it.

Deval L. Patrick, assistant attorney general for civil rights, said the government switched sides because the judgment in favor of Taxman was wrong.

Patrick said the case does not involve quotas, which the Clinton administration opposes, but affirmative action — "a different animal.

In a friend-of-the-court brief filed Tuesday with the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, the Justice Department argued that workplace diversity can be taken into consideration in voluntary affirmative action plans.

Klausner complained, "Why shouldn't educa-tional diversity be used to protect the only Jew ish business teacher?" He argued that the fam way to decide which teacher had to go would have been to flip a coin.

School officials weren't immediately available for WayS comment Wednesday.

Marsha Wenk, legal director for the state chap ter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which is not involved in the case, praised the government for switching sides.

"If all things are equal, retaining an affirmative action candidate is an appropriate and laudator step," Wenk said. She also noted that while Jew are a minority, they have not been under-represent ed in education

She said Justice's switch "raises a myriad of ethical questions," including what it learned from Tar man while working on her behalf and whether that creates a conflict of interest.

Taxman and Williams were both hired on the same day in 1980, and both were deemed by the board to have equal qualifications. In 1989, Taxman was furloughed while

Williams was retained because she was the only black teacher in the high school's business edu cation department. Taxman returned for the 1990-91 school year

while another teacher was on maternity leave. Af ter sitting out 1991-92, Taxman has been back the past two years because of retirements.

Unqualified medical workers make emergency rooms unsafe

NEW YORK (AP) - Many emergency rooms are staffed by doctors who were never taught how to treat a heart attack, resuscitate a child or treat bleeding, and pa-

tients may be dying as a result. "It would be fair to say that lives could be saved ... if all emergency departments were staffed by appropriately trained individuals," said Dr. L. Thompson Bowles, president of the National Board of Medical Examiners and the chairman of a group of 38 health care authorities who studied the issue.

The panel included a number of experts who were not emergency medicine special ists. Their report is to be re leased Monday

The report strongly condemns a practice in which medical residents supplement their modest incomes by working part time at night in emergency rooms. "Many 'moonlighters' lack

training and adequate experience in any aspect of primary health care," the report said. Only about half the nation's 25,000 jobs in emergency medicine are filled by doctors certified to provide emergency care. In many U.S. hospitals, doctors do not need such certification to work in the emergency room.

"When people ask if there's a doctor in the house, they have reason to expect that every physician can do the minimum to save a person's life in an

emergency. This is not the case today," Dr. Lewis Goldfrank, one of the report's contributors, said in a statement.

He said a better question might be: "Is there a paramed in the house?

"When a young person fin-ishes medical school, they might not know how to treat these things as well as a para medic," Goldfrank, director of emergency medicine at Bell vue Hospital in New York City, said in a telephone interview.

Hospitals often hire part time emergency room doctors o save money, said Dr. David Sklar, an emergency medicin specialist at the University of New Mexico and the president of the Society for Academic **Emergency Medicine**

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Thursday • September 8, 1994

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7-9 p.m.	ACCT 229	ACCT 229	ACCT 229	ACCT 229
	Part I	Part II	Part III	Part IV
9-11 p.m.	MATH 152/161	MATH 152/161	MATH 152/161	MATH 152/161
	Part I	Part II	Part III	Practice Test
11-1 a.m.	ACCT 230	ACCT 230	ACCT 230	ACCT 230
	Part I	Part II	Part III	Part IV
MATH 151 starts Monday 9/19 and again Sunday 9/25				

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Class of 1995 **General Class Meeting**



Thursday, September 8, 8:30 P.M. 110 John J. Koldus Building

Committee applications will be available