



# OPINION

October 1, 1991

The Yellin' Rebel

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## Quota is not a four-letter word

### Discrimination in the workplace should not be tolerated

by Barbara E. Minden

The Bush Administration considers 'quota' a four-letter word. OK, so the "Education President" can't count. I know this is true because affirmative action proposals are always accompanied by the refrain, "This is not a quota bill." I keep asking myself, "Well, why isn't it?"

It is difficult to read a newspaper and not see evidence of systematic discrimination against women and minorities. On Aug. 9, 1991, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* published a story about the "glass ceiling" in the workplace. Glass ceiling is the term for the invisible barrier that keeps women and minorities out of executive positions.

The Labor Department performed a survey of 94 companies over the last three years. The results showed that 6.6 percent of the top managers were women and 2.6 percent were minorities. These results are abysmal when you consider that 51 percent of the American population are women and 12.5 percent are black. If there isn't systematic dis-

crimination, why is there such a disparity between the social demographics and the business demographics?

Businessmen hate the quota idea because they say they need to be able to hire the best candidate. I'm all for that except that the best candidate will usually be a

mographics. Businesses could be given ten years to make the quotas. Businesses could offer full-ride scholarships to minority students with good grade-point averages. The student would incur a commitment to the company after graduation to pay for the

southern states had some opposition to the abolition of slavery but it was still wrong.

I can hear the screams of outrage from white males right now. "What about reverse discrimination, lady, isn't that wrong, too?"

Yes it is. Discrimination is always painful for the recipient. Stop any woman, black or Indian on campus and ask. But that cannot be an excuse for doing nothing either. If a quota law had a pre-determined life span, then reverse discrimination would have an end. The current discriminatory system has a long history and it seems interminable.

In response to the Labor Department Study, Patricia Taylor, president of Business and Professional Women USA, said, "If 98 out of 100 U.S. Senators were women, and if 98 out of 100 directors of Fortune 500 companies were women, I don't think the men in this country would stand for it."

I don't think so either. They'd probably be saying a lot more four-letter words.

*Minden is a staff writer with The Yellin' Rebel*

**"It would be the same as saying, 'O.K, from now on the race will be fair, but the white males get to start a lap ahead.' Something needs to be done to narrow that gap."**

white male because of historical preferential treatment in education and power.

It would be the same as saying, "OK, from now on the race will be fair, but the white males get to start a lap ahead." Something needs to be done to narrow that gap.

Quota legislation could even the odds by forcing businesses to hire a certain percentage of people that represent the relevant de-

education.

In lieu of "Big Brother" strong arm tactics, companies could be given a substantial tax break for voluntary compliance. This method would take longer to bring up the percentage of minority representation in the work place, but probably would meet with less opposition.

Opposition is not a reason for allowing the current systematic discrimination to continue. The

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Hotline for out-of-state students?

Dear Editor,

No one can say that it is easy to adapt to a new surrounding. Even Charles Darwin included "adaptation" in his theory of natural selection. An animal has to change to adapt. But in our case, as thinking animals, we are born into a social circle and will interact with that society's members easier. When a stranger comes into that circle, that newcomer must win his or her acceptance.

It seems that at UNLV the student body doesn't go out of its way for a new non-

partisan student. This assumption may seem a little harsh at first, but if you open your school newspaper you'll notice there has been quite a bit of ink on this issue. There hasn't been total alienation toward the new student on campus if one takes part in school activities, but nobody said involvement was a requirement.

If you're a transfer student not living on campus, you may be as lost as that weekend visitor asking for directions on Las Vegas Boulevard for the way to the "Strip."

I realize that meeting

people in a new environment is a two-way street. But when that new student is as outgoing as, say, Peg Bundy or Bart Simpson, being friendless on campus for long is a total mystery.

Does a student have to take an "intro to openness" course or will he go the full extreme of joining an "out-of-state student club" on campus before the atmosphere at the university becomes as friendly as that of the St. Vincent dePaul society? Maybe Rebels will take pride in abolishing that newcomer attitude that Vegans are as outgoing as

stinging bees.

It is a fact we all go to college for one thing. No, not the parties, but to receive an education. We may as well make it as pleasant a stay for everyone.

Nobody is saying you are wrong to be shy or hang out in your own clique. We're all doing our own thing. But it won't hurt to say hello to a stranger on your way to class and it doesn't cost anything. You can even count it as your good deed for the day.

*Christian Clifford*

### Boulder Dan and Dipstik Duck by Ray Collins



Some people say concerts at Bally's are better than concerts at the Thomas and Mac.

Some people say the war with Iraq is not over.

Some people say the Eagles are destined to get back together.

Some people say Clarence Thomas is not qualified for the Supreme Court.

Some people say the Democrats have no chance in '92.

Some people say UNLV needs more medical facilities for students.

Some people say slime molds can be good pets.

Agree? Disagree? What do you think?

Whatever is on your mind, we want to know about it! Please limit letters to 200 words and write to:

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