

EDUCATION

# Minority admission figures plunge in Calif. school system

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

BERKELEY, Calif. — Affirmative action proponents eager to find out how the repeal of racial preferences would affect the incoming freshman class at Berkeley, the University of California's flagship system, got their fears confirmed Tuesday.

Ethnic diversity has plummeted.

The number of blacks, Hispanics and American Indians offered admission for fall, the first undergraduates affected by the new, race-blind policy, plunged by 61 percent.

The figures are for admissions only. Actual enrollment, which will be much smaller, will not be known until students start responding to acceptance letters going out this week.

Ward Connerly, the UC regent who led the

fight to drop race and gender preferences in admissions, said: "I take no comfort in saying I was right, but it really does point out that the K-12 system has been cheating a large number of black and Latino students and they've been cheating themselves."

Also Tuesday, UCLA said it would admit 36 percent fewer blacks, Hispanics and American Indians, the ethnic trio UC considers "underrepresented minorities."

Earlier, the campuses of UC San Diego, Irvine and Davis showed the same trend. UC Riverside, was the exception, with sizable increases in all ethnic groups.

According to the preliminary figures released Tuesday, 191 black students were admitted for fall 1998, down from 562 in fall 1997, 434

Hispanics were admitted, compared to 1,045, and 27 American Indians, down from 69 in 1997.

Underrepresented minorities comprise 10.4 percent of the incoming class, compared to 23.1 percent last year, a decrease of 54.7 percent.

The number of whites decreased slightly, 2,674 compared to 2,725. Asians, the largest ethnic group on campus, increased slightly to 2,998 compared to 2,925.

However, that may be explained by a 150 percent increase in the number of students who declined to state ethnicity — from 496 to 1,237.

Berdahl said that pool probably contains a cross-section of all ethnicities, but historically whites and Asians (who did not get preferential treatment under the old system) are more likely

not to state ethnicity.

UC regents voted in 1995 to drop race and gender in admissions, a change that went into effect for graduate students last fall and undergraduates this fall.

Numbers give a snapshot of the fight to get into Berkeley: 30,000 applicants competing for 8,000 admission slots with a final enrollment of 3,500 expected.

Among the rejects were 800 underrepresented minorities who had GPAs of 4.0 and SAT scores in the range of 1200.

Berkeley students, who scooped officials by releasing their own admissions statistics Monday, seized on the numbers as a rallying point for the return of affirmative action to California.

## UNCF remains a viable force for blacks

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF), with its single-minded purpose to educate young African-Americans, is a viable entity in the black community.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League join the UNCF as the three premiere organizations within the black community.

The historical roles these groups have played are well documented. Their leaders - past and present - represent the who's who of the communities' contemporary civil rights leadership.

Though these groups and their leaders have consistently pushed agendas that could be



considered moderate and assimilationist in nature, they are still put on trial by philanthropists of all races.

In a recent issue of the "Chronicle of Philanthropy," "the newspaper of the non-profit world," these African-American groups were included with others considered very unpopular with many American

philanthropists.

Among the top 20 charities that were most opposed, the NAACP ranked fourth and the UNCF ranked 11th. The most opposed charity was the National Rifle Association.

Among the top 20 charities considered the least credible, the NAACP placed fifth, the UNCF 10th. The least credible was the Billy Graham

Evangelistic Association.

Among the top 20 charities that Americans never donated to, the NAACP topped the list, the UNCF sat at fifth and the National Urban League ranked 17th.

To the credit of the UNCF and the NAACP, the survey also acknowledged the gains these organizations have made. Whereas 13 percent of the respondents were opposed to the UNCF, 40.3 percent were also supportive.

The survey reflected the strong views many people have about advocacy organizations. The survey also indicated that many of the groups that Americans commonly opposed were Christian, Jewish and African organizations.

## Researching your family history can be easy

By Courtney L. Cannon-Scott  
*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
Welcome to "Back In The Day."

The focus of this new column will be the family and how to trace your family history. It will cover topics such as basic family history research, how to plan a reunion, complete a family tree chart, probe family relationships, preserving important family documents and much more.

Most of us have an idea of where we want to go and what we want to achieve, but have little knowledge of how we got here. Knowledge is power and learning where we came from is the first step in gaining a sense of self and being empowered to make a positive

difference in the future.

Let's start off with some definitions of commonly used words:

**Ancestor** — a person from whom one is descended — such as, father, mother, grandparent, not an aunt, uncle, or cousin.

**Archive** — a place where public records or historical documents are kept.

**Black, Colored, Negro** — words used to describe a person of color, often descended from the African race.

**Census** — the count taken of a population in a specific place, i.e., a country, state, county or city.

**Compiled record** — a record usually found in a book consisting of information gathered from original

documents and or oral reports like diaries or biographies.

**Enumerator** — the person who records census information.

**Genealogy** — the science of studying about ancestors — also called family history.

**Generation** — the average span of time between the birth of parents and that of their children — about 20-25 years.

**Given name** — a person's first name.

**Heritage** — something passed on by an ancestor.

**Maiden name** — the last name of a woman given at her birth — also called the family name.

**Surname** — a person's last name of a person — also the family name.

**Maternal** — mother.

**Paternal** — father.

**Original record** — a record created at or close to the time of an event by an eyewitness. Examples: birth record created by the doctor who delivered the baby, or a census record.

**Pedigree** — the ancestral line of descendants.

**Repository** — a place, room or container where something is stored.

I welcome your comments, and questions on family history research and will reply to correspondence accompanied by a self addressed stamped envelope. Some replies will appear in this column. Please send mail to "Back In The Day" at P.O. Box 162516 in Atlanta, Ga. 30321-2516.

## Students duped by AIM may have recourse

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

College students who fell victim to a financial aid scam perpetuated by Academic Investment Money (AIM) may be able to collect refunds as a result of the settlement of a lawsuit brought against the company by the state of New York.

According to allegations in the lawsuit, AIM preyed on college students seeking financial help for college expenses. In advertisements, AIM claimed to help students locate and obtain college grants and scholarships. Students who called the company's toll-free number were told they were guaranteed to receive grant money.

Students paid fees ranging from \$70 to \$100, but most never heard from AIM again, according to the lawsuit. Some received information from the company that proved worthless for obtaining financial aid. Those who asked for refunds were ignored.

In order to be eligible for refunds, students must file written complaints with the state of New York by May 1. The complaints, along with supporting documentation, should be sent to the attention of Susan Bieber at the New York State Department of Law; Bureau of Consumer Frauds, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.

For more information, call 212-416-8300.

## Dartmouth's new president supports affirmative action

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

HANOVER, N.H. — After a six-month nationwide search, Dartmouth College trustees have picked one of their own to be the Ivy League school's 16th president in 228 years.

Provost James Wright, 58, was named Monday to succeed James Freedman on Aug. 1. Freedman will become a teacher after 11 years as president.

Wright emphasized his vision of Dartmouth as a research community that also "attaches the highest priority on learning."

He also touched on tolerance, perhaps referring to confrontations among students in the last 15 years over such issues as anti-Semitism and South African segregation.

He said Dartmouth should be a community "that does not tolerate the harming of others." He said he also strongly supported affirmative action.

Wright, who has written or edited five books, came to Dartmouth in 1969, became a full history professor in 1980 and served two terms as dean of faculty. He was acting president in 1995 before he became provost last year.

He spearheaded a revamping of the curriculum and wrote a report on residential life.

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