

Michigan kills affirmative action

By James Wright

Special to Sentinel-Voice
BALTIMORE (NNPA) — The voters of Michigan voted to ban affirmative action programs in the state's universities and its government. The initiative, known as Proposal 2, passed, 58 percent to 42 percent despite the fact that it was criticized by civil rights advocates, feminists, academics and political leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties.

BAMN, an ad-hoc organization, By Any Means Necessary, filed a lawsuit in U.S. federal district court in Detroit on Nov. 8 to stop the implementation of the election's outcome.

The NAACP released a statement criticizing the outcome.

"It goes without saying that we are disappointed," NAACP President and Chief

"It is critical that all citizens understand the role affirmative action plays in the creation of a diverse education and business workforce."

— Bruce S. Gordon
NAACP President/CEO



Executive Officer Bruce S. Gordon said in a statement. "This is a setback. It is clear that we have work to do to convince our fellow citizens that affirmative action has made us stronger as a nation and still has a role to play.

"It is critical that all citizens understand the role affirmative action plays in the creation of a diverse education and business workforce."

Michigan Gov. Jennifer

Granholm (D) said the passage of Proposal 2 was "very, very sad." University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman has been outspoken in her opposition to Proposal 2 and said that she will work to fight it.

The ban was passed in light of statistics that show that the University of Michigan has been a leader in the enrollment of Black students. The *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* released

U.S. Department of Education statistics in its Nov. 9 edition that said Michigan had 1,834 Black students — the highest number among the "Top 30" universities.

Michigan has 39,000 students, with 25,000 in the undergraduate division and 14,000 in the graduate/professional schools. [The *Journal*] said Michigan is expected to be surpassed by the University of North Carolina in the enrollment of Black students in 2006 because the enrollment of Black freshman fell sharply to 330.

Michigan is recognized around the world as one of the finest public universities in the United States. Even as the Michigan legislature has cut funding in recent years due to a shaky economy, the university has made up for it by its successful fundraising.

Unlike many flagship (See *Michigan, Page 14*)

Nine resign Black Caucus in Missouri

Special to Sentinel-Voice

ST. LOUIS (NNPA) - Nine legislators have quit the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus in protest of the way caucus chairman State Rep. John Bowman handled a meeting scheduled to elect officers in a body that included new members who won last Tuesday's general election, State Rep. Jamilah Nasheed and T.D. El-Amin.

According to several of the legislators, who quit the caucus, Bowman would not recognize many of the members who attempted to speak at the meeting. This was controversial, in part, because Bowman didn't produce minutes or bylaws and his agenda had it settled that he was president of the caucus this year, when some considered it open to dispute whether his position had been interim.

Bowman was voted president earlier this year after a special meeting of the caucus was called to oust State Rep. Ted Hoskins and State Rep. Rodney Hubbard from their leadership positions in the wake of a fracas over school choice lobbyists directed by Hoskins.

Hoskins and Hubbard were among the group that quit the caucus last Thursday. Also quitting the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus in protest were State Rep. Connie Johnson, State Rep. Maria Chappelle-Nadal, State Rep. (See *Missouri, Page 14*)

Bradley

(Continued from Page 1)

roe said. Marc Watts, owner and agent of Signature Management Group in Chicago, said in an e-mail that Bradley was the "ultimate role model" for African-American males in broadcast journalism. "He knocked down so many barriers for us," Watts stated. "60 Minutes," to this day, is still my favorite television program, and to watch it from here on without seeing him will seem like something is missing from the program.

"I have so many fond memories of interactions with him during my days at CNN. Whenever he showed up on the scene, we all knew to ratchet it up, because we didn't want to get scooped by him. But no matter what story, it was he who always scooped us!" Watts said.

"I can remember during the [O.J.] Simpson criminal trial, he showed up at the courthouse. He was just as big as any other celebrity who rolled through. Later that week during Sunday night I turned on '60 Minutes' and there he was with a sit down one-on-one interview with Johnny Cochran. I knew Ed was up to something. I was mad, too, because I knew I had got beat on something during the O.J. trial. That's the kind of journalist he was. No matter what his friendships were in the press corps, his desire was to beat us all on the story."

Brenda Butler, senior features editor of the *Chicago*

Tribune and president of the Chicago chapter of the National Black Journalist Association, said: "...Ed Bradley was one of the most powerful voices in broadcast journalism," Butler said. "And although he was African-American, he spoke for many. He was just a supreme journalist with his own sense of who he was as an African-American."

Butler said she could visualize seeing Bradley on "60 Minutes" and how articulate and skillful he was in getting the most out of a subject during an interview.

"You could see how Bradley was able to broaden his scope over the years, and you could see what a powerful and excellent journalist he was," Butler continued. "He will be missed. He left big footprints to follow, but at least he left them so that many will be able to follow him."

Richard Prince, columnist of "Journal-isms" for the Maynard Institute — a diversity in media watchdog organization — said that Bradley set the bar in excellence as a Black journalist.

"He was on the e-mailing list for 'Journal-isms,'" Prince said from his offices in Washington, D.C. "He was just somebody who I thought was down to earth and was a role model for a lot of people. I came right behind him. He was in Vietnam and I came right after that generation. But he was one of the pioneers. He had a presence that

was well-respected and set a good example for Black journalists. We still have a long way to go, and we still need strong role models like he was."

Said ABC 7 news anchor Cheryl Burton: "He was an inspiration to so many people he never even knew, and a role model to African-American journalists, as well as to journalists of all colors," Burton said. "He was one of the best storytellers in the business. In these days people don't have passion when they tell a story. He also never forgot where he came from. He was a purist and a renaissance man."

Bradley was born in Philadelphia on June 22, 1941. He initially started his career in education. He graduated in 1964 with a bachelor's degree in education from Cheyney State College in Cheyney, Penn.

While working as a sixth-grade teacher, Bradley freelanced at WDAS-FM radio station in Philadelphia where he read news, covered sports and programmed music. He became an avid lover of the jazz music genre.

In the '60s, Bradley covered the riots in Philadelphia after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was soon hired by a CBS-affiliate radio station in New York City.

In 1971, Bradley became a stringer for "CBS News" while living in Paris. He was transferred to Saigon in 1972 to cover the Vietnam War,

where he received an injury from shrapnel.

In 1981, Bradley joined the award-winning television news program, "60 Minutes." Throughout his career, Bradley would win 19 Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award for his coverage of AIDS in Africa and an award from the Radio and Television Directors Association, among countless other accolades.

Bradley also spent more than a decade hosting National Public Radio's "Jazz From Lincoln Center," finding a way to bridge his craft with his love for the music.

NBC 5 News co-anchor Art Norman said Bradley paved the way for him.

"Ed Bradley was a friend to Chicago," Norman said. "He helped us many, many times with different issues... He would be making sure

that we had kids on the agenda. He was making sure that those of us who were veterans were mentoring young people. That's what he was about. And that's what he talked about, and that's what he did behind the scenes."

Tony Shue, executive producer of news for ABC 7 Chicago, said, "Growing up and knowing that I wanted to get into journalism, as a child when you're watching TV you don't see many people of color on the air," Shue said. "And Ed Bradley was one of the few people who made me realize that I could aspire to be what I wanted to be because he basically broke the glass ceiling. He was the guy on network television that I saw doing what I wanted to do."

Speaking to a group of

minority journalists last week, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) told the audience that he mainly knew Bradley, like so many others, as a fan of his work.

"There were a couple of characteristics that always struck me about Ed," Obama said. "One was his intelligence; another was his fairness. And one of the things I think that was most important about Ed — and I think this is something that all of you have to deal with, and to some degree something that I have to deal with in my position in the United States Senate — is that he had the capacity to speak universally without abandoning his very specific background and cultural ties."

Demetrius Patterson writes for the *Chicago Defender*.



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