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Notes

Editorial Staff

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2 Update: The Bakke Case

As we noted in our last issue, the case of *Regents of the University of California v. Allan Bakke* was formally argued before the U. S. Supreme Court on October 12. A ruling is expected to be announced in the coming months.

Although the Bakke case, which challenges the legality of the special minority admissions program at the University of California's Davis Medical School continues to generate more interest on the part of groups with opposing viewpoints, no individual or group can determine in advance how the Supreme Court justices will decide. One known factor of this litigation is: it has by far outdrawn other national interest cases in the volume of friend-of-the-court briefs filed with the Supreme Court.

At Howard University, the School of Law was among the first interested parties to file such a document. In it, the School of Law argued that minority admissions programs are required or at least permitted under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; that the 13th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution authorizes the use of these measures to grant preferential treatment to Blacks.

Members of the law faculty who worked on the brief include: Herbert O. Reid, Sr., Michael J. Moorhead, Theodore A. Miles, Richard Paul Thornell, Daniel O. Bernstine and Genna Rae McNeil.

Wilmington 10 Documentary

A film crew from the School of Communications at Howard University recently completed a documentary which tells the story of the Wilmington 10. The 90-minute film was directed by award-winning filmmaker Haile Serima of "Harvest 3000 Years" fame, and funded by a non-profit organization.

The Wilmington 10 issue dates back several years when authorities in North Carolina accused a group of young civil rights activists of conspiring to commit arson in the fire-bombing of a grocery store in 1971.

The group, which includes the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, is currently serving a combined sentence of 282 years. Its predicament continues to draw national and world attention to the application of the criminal justice system—particularly in instances involving Blacks who organize to challenge racial discrimination.

Despite the conviction, and perhaps due to the nature of the conspiracy—which allegedly occurred at the height of a protest period against racial injustices—members of the Wilmington 10 are viewed as "political prisoners" by their supporters. And the effort to have them freed continues.

Our Fifth Year

New Directions magazine enters its fifth year of publication with this edition. And as we commemorate the occasion without self-serving fanfare, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a good year during 1978.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Abdulkadir N. Said
Editor

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