

# New Directions

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Volume 5 | Issue 3

Article 1

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4-1-1978

## Notes

Editorial Staff

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### Recommended Citation

Staff, Editorial (1978) "Notes," *New Directions*: Vol. 5: Iss. 3, Article 1.

Available at: <https://dh.howard.edu/newdirections/vol5/iss3/1>

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## 2 Charter Day '78

It was that time of year again. Close to 2000 alumni and friends of Howard celebrated the university's 111th anniversary on March 1 with a dinner party at the Sheraton-Park Hotel. As expected, it was an elegant and memorable affair.

The day after, Dr. Vernon E. Jordan, president of the National Urban League, spoke at the traditional Charter Day Convocation at the main campus.

The alumni achievement recognition this year went to four graduates of the university who have distinguished themselves in the fields of religion, publishing, art, and education.

The award for religion and community service went to DR. MARION C. BASCOM, senior minister of the Douglas Memorial Community Church of Baltimore.

The award for publishing and human rights went to DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT, editor-publisher of the San Francisco *Sun-Reporter*.

The award for art and education went to DR. LOIS MAILOU JONES PIERRE-NOEL, a noted artist who taught at the university for 47 years before retiring last year.

The award for education and public service went to DR. VINCENT E. REED, superintendent of the District of Columbia Public School System.

## Equal Employment

The invitation to us from the White House Press Office made no mention of it but several prominent civil rights personalities were conspicuous among those invited to a White House ceremony on February 23 when President Carter unveiled his administration's new plan to reorganize the federal government's equal employment opportunity enforcement activities.

The President called the reorganization plan "an important step toward a more competent government, toward a more just society." He noted it was the "single most important action to improve civil rights in the past decade."

We hope the President is right. As Black people, we often find ourselves at the bottom of the ladder, and in most instances we have to search hard for the elusive ladder.

For instance, the fight to end job discrimination by the federal government dates back to 1940 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the original executive order that—at least on paper—prohibited job discrimination in governmental agencies. Indeed, other laws to curb bias in employment in the private sector as well have followed the original order. Some improvements can be noted, but we are not yet near where we ought to be.

Under the new plan, subject to approval by Congress, several responsibilities related to employment discrimination that are now scattered in different units of the bureaucracy will be transferred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC. The objective is to create a single agency with expanded resources that can effectively deal with all types of job discrimination in industry and in government.

The EEOC, established in 1964 by the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, is currently ridden with a backlog of complaints. The reorganization, therefore, is likely to enhance the agency's overall objectives and make it more efficient.

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