

Getting Together

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**OVERTURN THE
BAKKE DECISION!**

**END NATIONAL
OPPRESSION!**

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to hear the Bakke decision. This decision made by the California Supreme Court last September 17, 1976, rules that Special Admissions programs for Third World students are "unconstitutional." This decision resulted from a suit filed by Allan Bakke against the University of California Medical School at the Davis campus, which charged the school with "reverse discrimination" because of the existence of Special Admissions programs for Third World people.

UNIVERSITY AND COURTS "Both Enemies"

Actually, both the University and the Supreme Court are against the interests of Third World people. The UC administration urged Allan Bakke to file suit against the Special Admissions program. The UC Davis administration even helped him obtain legal counsel, and aided in his choice of legal strategies. During the court hearings, the UC administration refused to admit that its admissions policies had discriminated against Third World people in the past, and thus eliminated the only possible "legal" basis for continuing the Special Admissions programs.

The actions of the Board of Regents of UC, the UC administration and the courts have once again proven that they are an integral part of the imperialist system and play a big role in perpetuating national oppression.

The Bakke decision sets an extremely damaging precedent with far-reaching implications for the masses of Third World people in this country. It adds "legal" fuel for eliminating all Special Admissions or Affirmative Action programs on and off the campus. For workers, it means an end to special programs to hire more Third World people in jobs traditionally closed to them. Ethnic Studies, financial aid and

other special programs for Third World students would also be threatened.

The Bakke decision intensifies national oppression and serves only the ruling monopoly capitalist class. It is in the interests of all students and the entire multinational working class to take up struggle to overturn the Bakke decision. Already, the Bakke decision has met with increasingly broad and more determined resistance. Throughout California, there have been many conferences, rallies and demonstrations against the Bakke decision.

Students fighting against the Bakke decision have not limited the target of their struggle just to the courts, but have also demonstrated on the campuses against the university system, the chancellor or president. Their demand is to overturn the Bakke decision and defend and extend special admissions, minority hiring and other special programs.

Charges of

"Reverse Discrimination"

Deny National Oppression

The main charge being levelled against the Third World special admissions programs by the Bakke decision is that of "reverse discrimination" — that admissions of Third World students into the colleges and universities supposedly discriminate against whites.

There is no such thing as "reverse discrimination." The limited number of openings gained for Third World students through special admissions programs has by no means achieved equality for the oppressed nationalities in education much less "discriminated" against anybody else.

The "reverse discrimination" argument is a blatant attempt to attack the oppressed nationalities, and goes so far as to deny that the oppressed nationality peoples in this country were ever discriminated against in the first place. It is an attempt to deny the existence of and further intensify national oppression.

The educational system in this country has long denied equal rights to the oppressed nationality peoples in education. From the day they enter the public school system, racist tracking systems force Third World students into courses that train them only for the most oppressive jobs.

The schools in the oppressed nationality communities are over-crowded, dilapidated, and provide an inferior education. Third World students daily face racism and brutality by the school authorities. The educational system denies and actively suppresses equal recognition of the history, culture, and language of Third World people.

For these reasons, a huge proportion of Third World people never even finish high school and are forced into seeking jobs with little or no training. Those that do finish high school have systematically been barred from college. One way is through the entrance examinations which are

tions have an important role to play in struggling against national oppression, and in the course of the struggle against the Bakke decision, it is important to strengthen and build these organizations.

It is also important to build broad support among students of all nationalities and in this way to forge multi-national unity. Mass committees including student organizations and individuals of all nationalities should be formed to unite as many forces as possible.

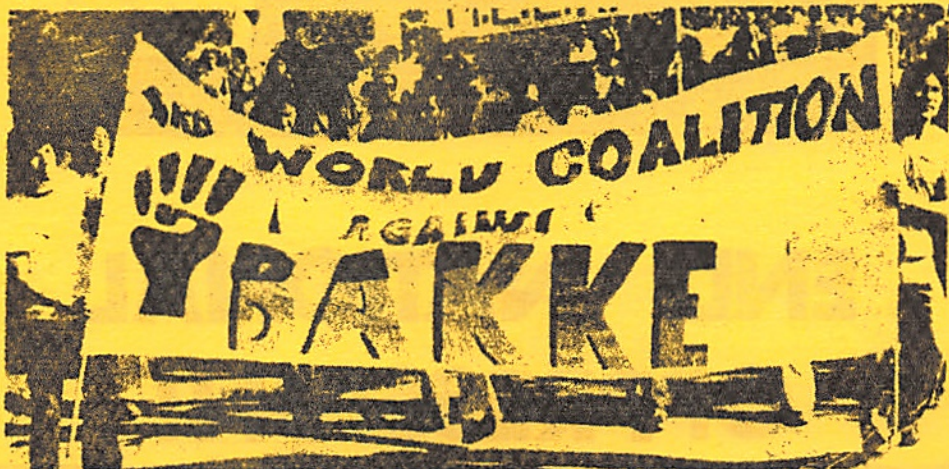
Students must organize and unite around a correct view of the university and the courts, and see their interrelationship. Certain reformist forces within the mass movement who seek to confine the struggle to court battles must be vigorously opposed. Focusing primary attention on legal battles, legal maneuvers and court proceedings places the initiative in the hands of the enemy. How can the courts be relied upon to overturn the Bakke decision when their function in capitalist society is to

enforce national oppression through the power of the state bureaucracy and capitalist law? The courts are only veiling their reactionary role by posing as "impartial" mediators, and by placing the university as the defendant and Bakke as the plaintiff, they make it seem as if the two have "opposing interests."

The incorrect idea that the university "supports" special admissions and is an "ally" in the struggle to overturn the Bakke decision must also be combatted. This view opposes directing any struggle at the university administration. The university has always been against the interests of oppressed nationality students. We must remember that it was the university that urged Bakke to file the suit, and the university has continuously attacked Third World programs. The struggle to resist each and every attack must be intensified, relying on the masses and showing how the struggle against the Bakke decision is a struggle against national oppression. Mass

militant actions against the Bakke decision must be organized, opposing both the courts and university.

As the UC Berkeley Third World Coalition stated, "We will not allow the University administration or the courts to undermine and attack our programs. We, too, have a tradition, one of fighting for, defending and maintaining our educational rights and programs. We have fought against attempts to cut our Ethnic Studies funds; against the firings of progressive faculty and staff; against threats to eliminate our community-oriented courses. In 1974, the Ethnic Studies Defense Committee (ESDC) rallied thousands of students to successfully block the university's attempt to force Ethnic Studies under their control in Letters and Science. Last year's Chicano mobilization for increased admissions and supportive services also highlighted our struggles to win educational rights. This struggle must continue with our campaign to overturn the Bakke decision."



A statewide mass movement is growing on many campuses to overturn the Bakke decision and fight against attacks on Third World programs.

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END NATIONAL OPPRESSION!