

Letters to the Editor

Poverty Law Center

To the Editor,

I'm writing to you, at Senator George McGovern's suggestion, to bring you some encouraging news about events of the past few months -- and to ask you to join us in a challenging effort to guarantee, at last, quality education for Southern blacks.

Many have felt that President Nixon's federal court appointments have signified a reversal in the progress of the Civil Rights Movement.

But both Senator McGovern and I have seen hope for the affirmation of human rights in some recent lawsuits won by our attorneys at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling won not long ago states that a poor person cannot be imprisoned just because he is unable to pay a small fine.

Other federal court orders won this year by our lawyers give Southern blacks equal job opportunity (notably with the Alabama State Troopers), equal representation in local

government, and equal rights to municipal services like street paving and emergency medical care.

This August we won a landmark decree opening the way to significant improvement in the quality of public schools all over the South.

Representing Macon County Sheriff Lucius Amerson (see the enclosed snapshot), the South's first black elected Sheriff, we sued the privately run Jones Law School in Montgomery. We charged that the school's refusal to admit Sheriff Amerson solely because of his race was illegal under federal law -- that federal equal-right-to-contract statutes do apply to private transactions.

And we won. It was the first time a federal judge ever ruled that a private school cannot legally discriminate against qualified blacks by denying them admissions.

As a result, "white flight" schools (segregated private schools that exist throughout the South only to provide an all-white haven for the daughters and sons of racists) are now vulnerable to integration suits under federal law.

Because the sons and daughters of white public school board members and other prominent citizens attend these private schools, most Southern towns and cities have been unwilling to vote funds needed to improve woefully inferior public schools. They have spent their money, instead, on improving the quality of the private schools.

In some areas, property taxes have actually decreased as public school rooms have filled to overflowing with the children of blacks and poor whites.

But if the segregated private schools are integrated, the reason for their existence will have been taken away from them. They'll go out of business, and Southern school boards will find themselves with a strong motivation to improve the quality of public education.

The importance of the Amerson decision cannot be over-emphasized. This one ruling is the key to the final failure of separate school systems (quality private schools, inferior public schools) in the South.

Our lawyers at the Center are anxious to move quickly into the area of "white flight" schools to implement the effects of our victory. When all young Americans -- white and black, poor and wealthy -- have access to equal education, we'll have gone a long way to eliminate the poor trap which has kept so many blacks from escaping poverty through education and professional training.

We plan to bring as many lawsuits as we can afford, against segregated private schools Southwide this year. Only the

generosity of your support of the Southern Poverty Law Center will determine how quickly we move.

The Center accepts no fees from clients; every case is handled free. We can only finance our efforts by asking you to join us in the struggle.

If you participated in the Civil Rights Movement before, you can take pride in what was accomplished. But unless new support enables us to carry on the fight in the arena of human rights, much of what was achieved may be lost.

As President of the Southern Poverty Law Center I feel that I'm participating in one of the most significant advances in American life ever made. Not as a founder of S.N.C.C. more than ten years ago, nor as a member of the Georgia legislature representing poor black constituents, have I felt so much encouragement in the potential of a project as in our present effort to win equal education for blacks Southwide.

For that reason, I'll personally appreciate your generosity now. And in return for your (tax deductible) contribution I'll see that you receive regular reports on cases in progress. (Perhaps you can pass on news of our achievements to help someone in your area.)

If you can send twenty dollars or more, I urge you to do so; every dollar you can spare will benefit thousands of children who may never escape poverty without a decent education.

Can I count on you?

Most sincerely,

Julian Bond

Student Court Decision

Capitol's Student Court on December 6, 1972 handled a traffic appeal submitted by Joseph Potena of Meade Heights. As explained in the following official decision of the Court, Potena received tickets for failing to have a parking sticker on his vehicle.

According to Justice Sam Randazzo, Potena realized he had received the first ticket in October and decided to pay the fine at the conclusion of the fall term. Potena then was issued several more tickets, and disputing the reasoning of several tickets for the same offense, he took his case to the Court.

However, the Court saw the summonses as separate offenses and ordered to pay for four tickets.

Following is the official Court decision:

Upon presentation and careful scrutiny of the facts surrounding the appeal of Joseph Potena, the Student Court has made the following decision:

Joseph Potena will pay all recorded tickets bearing

Two key personnel changes in the staff of the counseling center at Capitol Campus of The Pennsylvania State University have been announced by the provost, Dr. Robert E. McDermott.

Marian E. Krieger, former counselor at the center, has been named psychologist and center director and Edward S. Beck has been appointed to serve as counselor. Ms. Krieger replaces Dr. David M. Lefkowitz who resigned.

In her position, Ms. Krieger will be responsible for in-service training of the center staff, individual and group counseling, coordination of campus testing programs as well as serving as a consultant to the campus faculty, staff and student organization.

Prior to joining the Capitol Campus staff in 1970, she served as counselor and head resident at the University of Redlands, Redlands, California. She holds bachelor of arts and master of education degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and has completed the course requirements for a doctorate in counselor education at that institution.

Beck will be involved in teaching, research and working with faculty and student groups in addition to his counseling responsibilities. He comes to Capitol Campus after serving two years as co-director of student activities at the New York City Community College.

He was granted a bachelor of science and master of arts degree from New York University where he received the Arch Award Certificate of Merit and the Educational Alumni Association Dean Withers Award. He is the member of numerous professional personnel and guidance associations and has conducted research on the speciality-oriented student.

his name and dated up to and including November 16, 1972. The recorded tickets are seen by the Court as the proof of the Business Office that they were sent to Joseph Potena as notices alerting him that he received the tickets.

Mr. Potena claims that he received no tickets for a second, third and fourth violation or did not receive any letters acknowledging those violations. Since the Business Office did have letters for the second and third tickets but not for the fourth ticket, Joseph Potena is to pay only the second and third tickets.

Since Mr. Potena acknowledged the first ticket and was only appealing the second, third and fourth (10/30/72, 11/6/72, 11/16/72) tickets, the first ticket (10/27/72) was not seen as part of his appeal.

Potena reportedly paid the fine, which totaled nine dollars, prior to the conclusion of the term.

Test Dates To Remember

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS (GRE's): Aptitude (Verbal & Quantitative Only) Test Date: February 24, 1973 Last Day for: Registration without \$3.50 late fee: January 30, 1973. Closing Date: February 6, 1973 (\$3.50 late fee).

L A W S C H O O L ADMISSIONS TESTS (LSAT's) Test Date: February 10, 1973 Registration Deadline: January 19, 1973.

NATIONAL TEACHER EXAMINATIONS (NTE). Test Date: January 27, 1973. Regular Registration Closes: January 4, 1973. Late Registration Closes: January 11, 1973.

ADMISSIONS TEST FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN BUSINESS (ATGSB) Test Date: February 3, 1973 Registration Deadline: January 12, 1973.

DENTAL ADMISSIONS TESTING PROGRAM Test Date: April 27-28, 1973. Registration and Application Deadline: April 2, 1973.

MILLER ANALOGY TESTS (MAT's) are administered, by appointment, in the Counseling Center, W117.

Information and study guides for these and other professional and graduate school entrance examinations are available from the Counseling Center, W117. A complete library of graduate school catalogues and programs, as well as program cross references are also available on a loan basis.

Many graduate schools require one, none or any combination of the above tests for admissions. It is always a good idea to consult with the particular graduate programs of your choice to find out exactly what is or may not be required. The counselors will be happy to assist you in this selection process.

These tests are administered on certain dates throughout the year. Should you wish to find out more about these tests and to consider graduate school, stop into the Counseling Center.

TRISH:
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YOUR HELP
IN THE
PAST
GOOD LUCK
TO YOU
IN THE
FUTURE

The Capitolist

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