

## NSBA Urges Supreme Court Guidelines on Desegregation Laws

ALEXANDRIA, VA.—The National School Boards Association is calling upon the U.S. Supreme Court to determine when a school district has effectively resolved its non-compliance with desegregation laws, and also when such a district regains the right to make policy decisions on desegregation without regard to a previously court-ordered plan.

In a brief submitted to the court, NSBA declares it is "imperative that national rules be established." It notes that the high court has not yet specified the rights and obligations of school boards after it has been determined that a formerly segregated system has satisfied its legal requirements.

The NSBA brief was submitted in connection with the case of Board of Education of Oklahoma City Public Schools v. Robert Dowell, now pending before the court.

The present lack of clarity in the law, NSBA says, may discourage school boards from taking corrective action on segregation, even though this could lead to future litigation.

Politically, any course of action a school board may take regarding desegregation is "fraught with controversy," the brief acknowledges. For that reason, it is "important that all the players know the rules of the game."

At issue is the belief of some that a school district, if it was once segregated, should forever bear the burden of proving that any subsequent changes will not adversely affect desegregation in its schools, the brief asserts. Others, it points out, believe that, after a school district proves it has desegregated, any accusers then have the burden of proving that future changes are discriminatory.

If the Supreme Court should determine that affected school districts must remain under the jurisdiction of the courts, "so be it," the brief says. "At least each school board will know that its policies must be formulated with the Supreme Court's standards in mind." If the Supreme Court rules otherwise, a school district found to be in compliance with the law "will know that it can now operate without court oversight," the brief points out.

In the absence of Supreme Court guidelines, formerly segregated school districts "remain in the dark as to who has final control - the school board or the courts," the brief declares.

The brief asserts that it is "counterproductive" to wait until a school district has taken corrective action and then decide that "the action taken must be subjected to a degree of scrutiny that the district may not be in a position to meet."

NSBA urges the Supreme Court to "tackle these difficult issues now, rather than wait for additional appeals court rulings." Delay, it says, "could cause needless harm to the educational process in those communities where the board is delaying action because of a fear of reversal or is taking action that will be reversed after the action has been taken." If a dismissal of charges does not relieve the district from a court's jurisdiction, "there seems little point in seeking such a dismissal," the brief notes.

## Phony Secured Card Offers Fleece Consumers: Consumer Group Releases List of Legitimate Secured Card Programs

Consumers trying to rebuild damaged credit are being victimized by "credit doctors" and "quick fix" artists who charge hefty fees for phony services, says Elgie Holstein, director of Bankcard Holders of America (BHA), a national consumer credit education group.

"Many of these services offer 'secured card' programs marketed by unscrupulous middlemen who take hundreds of dollars from consumers and vanish—leaving the bank issuing the card, and the consumer without recourse," Holstein said. BHA has scrutinized numerous secured card offers and today released a new list of legitimate secured card programs which can be used to establish initial credit or re-establish a damaged credit rating.

Secured cards are Visas and MasterCard made available to applicants in exchange for a deposit in a bank account. The deposits usually earn interest, and they serve as collateral for a line of credit on the bankcard equal to seventy-five to one hundred percent of the deposit amount. Secured bankcards look and are used just like any other Visa or MasterCard. Since a Visa or MasterCard paid on time, over a period of time, is one of the best references on a credit report, a secured card can convince a banker that a customer with previous credit problems has "turned over a new leaf" and is now a responsible credit user.

"Secured credit cards can be an effective way to establish, or re-establish, a positive credit history," said Holstein. "But the misleading ways in which many of these programs have been marketed have earned them a dubious reputation among consumer protection professionals and the credit industry."

"There is no easy way to erase bad credit once you have it," Holstein said. The solution is to find ways - such as legitimate secured card programs—to build positive credit references, which, over time, will show a lender that you've put your credit problems behind you."

To help consumers avoid unscrupulous secured card programs, BHA has screened and compiled a list of reputable secured card programs. The list includes the names, addresses, and phone numbers of seventeen secured card issuers and includes all the financial details of each program. The list also includes tips on choosing and using a secured card and is available, together with a free pamphlet on avoiding the dangers of unscrupulous credit clinics, for \$3.00 (postage and handling) from: Bankcard Holders of America, Secured Card List, 560 Herndon Parkway, Suite 120, Herndon, VA 22070.

ARS lab to learn about the structure and richness of the region's soils.

## ADL Announces Major Victory In Battle Against Hate-Inspired Violence by Skinheads

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The Anti-Defamation League announced that the conviction of five neo-Nazi Skinheads in Dallas for civil rights violations against Blacks, Hispanics and Jews was "a major victory in the continuing battle against hate-inspired violence by Skinheads around the country."

In a statement issued against her, Justin J. Finger, ADL's associate national director, said that the convictions of the five Confederate Hammerskins "sent an emphatic message that bias-related crimes of violence will not be tolerated in our society."

Mr. Finger noted that 17 members of the Confederate Hammerskins have now been convicted on a variety of civil rights charges stemming from assaults against Blacks and Hispanics in Dallas' Robert E. Lee Park and the vandalism of Temple

Shalom and the Jewish Community Center in Dallas. All the incidents occurred between June and October 1988.

Mr. Finger also commended the U.S. Justice Department for its "superb handling" of the case and praised the investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and the Dallas Police Department.

ADL has monitored the rise of the neo-Nazi Skinhead movement over the last several years and has provided information on their activities to law enforcement officials and to the public through a series of in-depth reports. The June 1989 ADL report—Skinheads Target The Schools—revealed that some 3,000 racist Skinheads were operating in 31 states. The report expressed concern over the increased recruitment of Skinheads in schools and their acquisition of more deadly weapons.

## Mrs. Edgar Bronfman, Jr. Chairs 17th Annual March Party for National Urban League

NEW YORK, N.Y.—On March 1, Mrs. Edgar Bronfman, Jr., hosted the Seventeenth Annual March Party at The Plaza for the National Urban League (NUL). The evening of dining and dancing will benefit the League's general operating fund, which underwrites educational and social service programs for communities across the country.

The 1990 March Party marks the fifth consecutive year that Mrs. Bronfman has volunteered her services to assist the NUL in this important fundraising effort. Last year under her stewardship, the League exceeded all previous records for the dinner, raising more than \$230,000.

"The start of this decade marks the 80th anniversary of the National Urban League," Mrs. Bronfman noted. "I invite you to join with our friends and supporters as we stand tall and continue to 'work together to make a world of difference' in the lives of our constituents."



Mrs. Edgar Bronfman, Jr.

"Various constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina have benefited over the years from the enlightened generosity of your company. But this gift to Winston-Salem State University, in your hometown, is truly extraordinary. As President of the University of North Carolina, I send my warmest thanks for this vote of confidence in the future of Winston-Salem State.

"In time, you will see the difference you have made," Spangler wrote. "And I hope you will be dazzled."

The members of Mrs. Bronfman's Benefit Committee include: Francis Arnone, an NUL Board member; Jack R. Battipaglia, Chairman of the Board, Retailers Alliance; John L. Bernbach, President, DDB Needham, Worldwide, and his wife Jane; Daniel B. Burke, Chairman of the Board and President, Capital Cities/ABC; Caroline R. Jones, President, Caroline Jones Advertising; James McQuay, fur designer and manufacturer; Herman I. Merinoff, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Charmer Imports; Mollie Moon,

"I invite you to join with our friends and supporters as we stand tall and continue to work together to make a world of difference in the lives of our constituents."

President, The National Urban League Guild; Joseph R. Perella, Chairman of the Board, Wasserstein Perella, and his wife Amy; Ponchita Pierce, broadcast journalist; Gretchen Siebel, Executive Vice President, Parkchester Management Corp.; Herbert J. Siegel, Chief Executive Officer and President, Chris-Craft Industries; Wayman F. Smith III, Vice President Corporate Affairs, Anheuser-Busch; Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, Minister of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, and his wife Laura; Mrs. Margaret B. Young, and ZEZE, who has created floral arrangements for the March Party for five years.

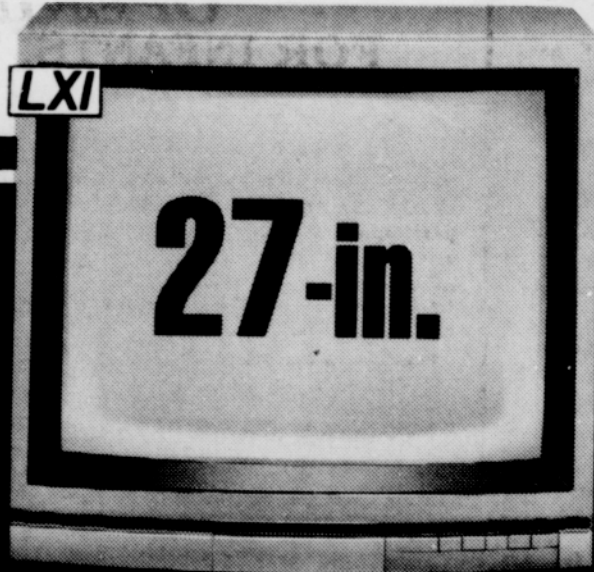
Sherry Bronfman sits on the Board of Trustees for the National Urban League and on the Board of Directors for the Council of Conservators of The New York Public Library. Her husband, Edgar Bronfman, Jr., is President and Chief Operating Officer of The Seagram Company Ltd.

Tickets for the black tie gala are \$300 each. Tables of ten are \$3,000. Sponsor tables of ten are \$5,000. For tax purposes, \$185 is deductible for the cost of each dinner ticket. For more information or to reserve a table, contact Mildred Hall, (212) 310-9019.

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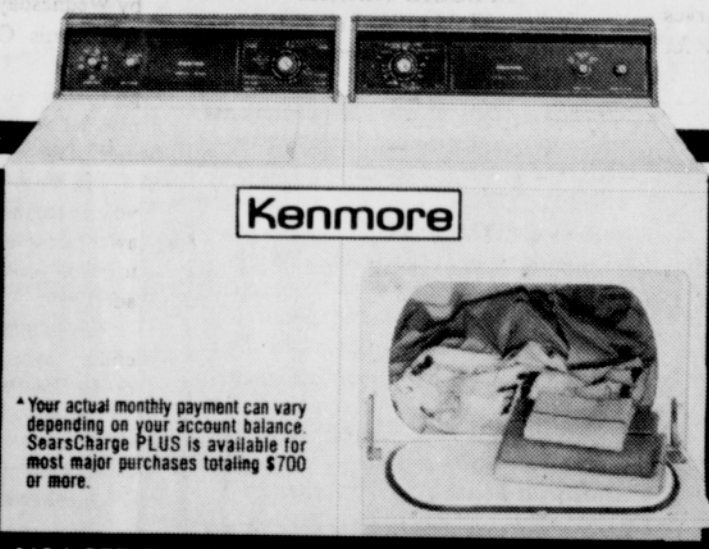
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