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## **Anti-Affirmative Action by Bush Tragic**

A non-partisan consortium of six of the nation's leading civil rights legal organizations dedicated to affirmative action condemns President Bush's decision to file an amicus curiae brief against the University of Michigan's race conscious admissions

"On the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, the president's decision to attack affirmative action, the gateway to opportunity for many of the nation's disadvantaged minority students, is a sorrowful indicator that Dr. King's dream remains unfulfilled. For more than a quarter century, affirmative

action has been a building block for programs that corrected past discrimination and promoted racial diversity and excellence in higher education," a statement from Americans for a Fair Chance

"It is surprising to see that a President who demands diversity in his Cabinet and who will likely seek to nominate the first Latino to the Supreme Court would attack the University of Michigan for desiring the same goals," said AFC spokesman Antonia

"Affirmative action programs have played an essential role in opening opportunities for women and minorities to take their rightful place in our society. The President's decision represents a disturbing step backward in this nation's journey toward equal opportunity for all Americans," said Marcia D. Greenberger, copresident of the National Women's Law

"Bush's opposition to the University of Michigan's affirmative action program sends a tragic message to millions of African Americans and Latinos who rely very heavily on education as an avenue to opportunity," said Shirley J. Wilcher, AFC



## Struggle for Justice Takes a Hit

Julian Bond, chairman of the board of directors for the NAACP. issued the following statement in response to President Bush's oppoaffirmative action program. The constitutionality of the program is

"As expected, President Bush has come down on the wrong side of the struggle over justice in higher education. 'Racial prejudice,' the president said, 'is a reality,' but at the same time he wants to end the most effective remedy against it.

The president characterized the University of Michigan's affirmative

Coming on the birthday of Martin sition to the University of Michigan's Luther King Jr., this is a sad, sad gift and a now before the U.S. Supreme Court: poor way to honor his

> - NAACP chairman Julian Bond on President Bush's opposition to affirmative action at the University of Michigan.

is not. His use of the word 'quota,' with all its overtones of supposed preferences to allegedly unqualified failure to support justice.

Affirmative action is the just spoils of a righteous war, won at great cost and intended to heal division and end centuries of discrimination. Unfortunately, this is one war the president does not think worth fighting.

The president complained that black applicants at Michigan were given 20 points toward admission, not because of 'life experience,' he said, but because of race. But life experience in the 21st century is determined by race. Race colors all our

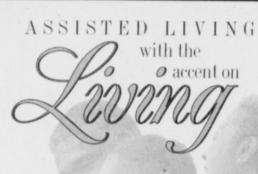
Coming on the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., this is a sad, sad gift action program as a 'quota,' which it persons, is an attempt to disguise his and a poor way to honor his memory

atch a game of high school hoops or call the plays yourself at the chess board. Attend a nearby concert or make your own music on our piano. At Irvington Village our sensitive assistance helps you remain independent.

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## Retter to the Aditor: Health Care Reform Needed

The Portland Observer has taken a trend will surely continue. good first step in supporting the much collective frustration with the health care system in this country.

ning a discussion of what constitutes effective health care?

percentin 2001. That is both disheartendecline anytime soon. ing and tragic, but hardly surprising. The

Economics have dictated that medi-Wyden-Hatch Health Care Act (Jan. 1 cal care maximize profit and minimize heavy, profit-driven health care sysissue). Never before has there been so time invested in treatment, leaving both doctors and patients frustrated. That leaves us with a system that "treats" I would like to encourage The Port- disease predominantly through mediland Observer to take the lead in begin- cations that foster a lifetime of dependency on that system. Rates of chronic disease rise alongside the rising use of Total spending on health care in the pharmaceuticals to hide their symp-UnitedStates-more appropriately called toms. Consequently, there is no rea-"disease management" — was up 8.7 son to think the health care bill will

There are alternative ways to cre- licensed acupuncturist

ate and maintain health, but they are largely ignored by a bureaucracytem. A health care system that actually enhances well-being while it decreases costs will come not about through greater access or cheaper drugs. It will come about through a different understanding of what it means to "treat" disease, and then working toward a system that supports that ideal.

Greg Nigh, ND, Lac Naturopathic physician and



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