

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH

Ann Arbor, Michigan – November 7, 2003

12 NOON ON THE DIAG, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ANN ARBOR CAMPUS

- ◇ **Defend Affirmative Action & Integration, Defend Grutter v. Bollinger**
- ◇ **Realize the Promise of Brown v. Board of Education**
- ◇ **No More Separate and Unequal – Fight for Full Integration and Equality**
- ◇ **No anti-affirmative action ballot initiative in Michigan!**

The US Supreme Court victory for affirmative action in the University of Michigan legal cases is proof that the new civil rights movement can fight and win. The April 1, 2003 national civil rights march in Washington DC of 50,000 students and youth won a precious and historic victory for affirmative action in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. Standing, organizing, marching, and rallying together, we achieved what most believed to be impossible – **we beat President George Bush**, who argued against affirmative action at the Supreme Court.

The independent action of the new civil rights movement secured this victory -- **now our victory must be defended.**

Within days of the Supreme Court's decision in *Grutter*, California Republican businessman Ward Connerly, his billionaire segregationist backers and a handful of racist, right-wing Republican Party politicians from Michigan announced their plan to nullify that US Supreme Court decision by sponsoring an anti-affirmative action ballot measure in Michigan and other states. If passed, Connerly's Michigan ballot proposition would **outlaw** every affirmative action program in education, employment, and contracting. It would ban outreach programs. It would ban equal opportunity programs directed at women and minorities. **If Connerly succeeds in Michigan, he will take his racially divisive anti-affirmative action campaign to other states. We must beat him in Michigan.**

We can defeat Ward Connerly and his attack on civil rights, but only if we stand and fight now. We must stop him from getting the financial resources and building the political organization he needs in order to collect the 317,757 petition signatures necessary to get his segregationist proposal on the ballot for November 2004. Keeping this proposal off the ballot is the only sure way to beat it.

BOYCOTT COORS, DEFEAT WARD CONNERLY

We are organizing a national boycott of Coors Beer, a major funding source of Ward Connerly and his campaign against affirmative action. Get involved in this national boycott campaign. We are organizing a series of civil rights pickets to expose the politicians and businesses involved in bringing this attack on civil rights to Michigan. Watch the www.bamn.com website for upcoming events. Sign the online petition calling for Ward Connerly's removal from the University of California Regents at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/657081309>

Defend the *Grutter v. Bollinger* victory – Fight to realize the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*

While we build the defense of our US Supreme Court victory we must also prepare an offensive against the separate and unequal conditions of education in America.

The new civil rights movement will mark the May 2004 fifty-year anniversary of the US Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* with a march declaring No more separate and unequal – realize the promise of *Brown*.

The *Brown* decision stands for the promise of real equality of opportunity in American life. From the beginning certain right-wing forces have been committed to achieving either the reversal of *Brown v. Board of Education*, or if that is not possible, rendering *Brown* virtually meaningless in practice. Over the past 30 years these right-wing forces have gotten closer and closer to achieving their objective of rendering *Brown* meaningless with a series of victories against racial equality in the federal courts, reactionary and racist ballot propositions, and other reactionary legal and political setbacks for the cause of equality and integration.

In particular, these right-wing forces have succeeded through these means in shutting down most school desegregation programs in America and effectively outlawing affirmative action and integration in California and other states. As a direct result, educational segregation has gotten worse over the last generation.

That chain of setbacks for civil rights in America has at last been disrupted by *Grutter v. Bollinger*.

The march on November 7 in Ann Arbor, Michigan will declare our intention **to defend the victory in *Grutter v. Bollinger* to the fullest.** It is essential to protect the defense of affirmative action in *Grutter v. Bollinger* both in order to defend affirmative action and **to bring an end to the period of setbacks to civil rights and return our nation to the path of progress toward genuine equality.**

SEVENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

November 7-9 in Ann Arbor, Michigan

This conference will discuss and vote on a perspective for the defense of *Grutter v. Bollinger*, and the fight to realize the promise of *Brown v. Board of Education*. We will begin planning for a mass civil rights march on Washington, DC to mark the 50-year anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. For more info, see www.bamn.com.