

Education is the key

July Column

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The Jim Crow days and Civil Rights Movement days were thought to be over, but apparently it doesn't seem that way. The recent decision in the Supreme Court case of *Community Schools vs. Seattle School District No. 1* have many wondering if the Jim Crow Days are not on their way back. As you may have already heard, this ruling states that public schools cannot consider an individual's race when trying to create a diverse school body. This decision seems to be in direct opposition to the 1954 *Brown vs. the Board of Education* ruling where Chief Justice Earl Warren stated that racially "separate facilities are inherently unequal." Now the question, I would like to ask is how does a school district avoid segregation if it does not actively have a plan to encourage diversity?

Justice Anthony Kennedy's suggestion that school districts implement plans to create strategic site selection of new school and targeted student recruitment campaigns will do little to help our nation's schools that are quickly becoming re-segregated. With the official end of school desegregation, how can we prevent the separate but unequal schools from reappearing in our country?

The State of Black America is still pressing forward to rise up and keep their eyes on the prize, all while in the midst of oppression and obstacles. African Americans continue to experience discriminatory treatment whether regarding schooling, housing, or in the arena of criminal justice. Many blacks look to the law as a means of protection against this unlawful act, yet the justice system is failing blacks just when they need it the most. This country was founded on principles that every human would receive liberty and justice for all, regardless of one's ethnicity, race, or gender. This ultimately means equal rights, yet unfortunately that is a major component that is anxiously working to turn back the hands of time, and the progress of the Civil Rights Movement.

Education, the key that determines whether or not someone has a bright and promising future, is the most important tool that one can possess. It allows one to dream the impossible, live the unimaginable, and venture out into the unknown world. A recurring obstacle in America's school system is the act of segregation. Race seems to be a determining factor as to what schools our children will attend. America's problem of racial inequality needs to be completely eradicated because it puts a hold on the progression of Blacks. Being discriminated against was deemed unconstitutional, yet someone is faced with it everyday. Above all, programs that encourage more blacks to earn PhD's, as well as math and science degrees will be illegal if our adversaries prevail, therefore African Americans must work hard to stay ahead of the game, that is continuously try to pull them under.

Furthermore, education leads into the next major issue that affects African Americans. Housing segregation is a Hallmark of American life. It determines the schools that our children attend, the jobs that we seek and hold, and the economic conditions in which we

live in. The gap between the wealthy and the poor is widening and affordable housing is becoming hard to find. Nonetheless, more and more blacks are living in poverty. Not to mention, statistics may be high in the field of poverty, but clearly it's not nearly as mind blowing, as the statistics of the thousands of African American's, particularly men who are imprisoned. According to the sentencing project, if crime rates continue to increase, one of every three black males born today will be imprisoned at some point in their lifetime.