Weber decision hailed

WASHINGTON Union, civil rights and government leaders voiced high praise for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the Brian Weber "reverse discrimination" case as a big boost for minority economic advancement.

The high court on June 27, by a 5 to 2 vote, ruled that private industry may voluntarily set up many kinds of affirmative action employment programs, without fear of being sued by whites on "reverse discrimination" charges.

The decree upheld a racial quota which Kaiser Aluminun and Chemical Corp. and a union used to select applicants for an on-the-job training program.

That decision reversed a lower court ruling which struck down the affirmative action program, which was challenged by a white factory worker, Brian Weber.

Weber claimed that the program used to select applicants was in violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which bars racial discrimination in employment.

The majority opinion, written by Justice William Brennan, and vigorously supported by the lone black associate justice, Thurgood Marshall, held:

"The law does not condemn all private, voluntary, race conscious affirmative action plans."

The Civil Rights Act, the majority opinion added, "was designed to open employment opportunities for blacks."

Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairwoman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission — who is directly affected by the decision — was understandably pleased.

She said the decision leaves no doubt that "voluntary affirmative action is by far the safer course than waiting to be sued by the government."

Benjamin Hooks, executive director of the National NAACP said the ruling "makes common sense," while Vilna S. Martinez, president of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said the decree "has given us the means to open doors that have been closed to Hispanics for too long."

U.S. Department Labor Secretary Ray Marshall sees the opinion as a green light on affirmative action programs.

"We can move forward with new assurances that equal employment opportunity can become an everyday reality in our Democratic Society," he declared.

The veteran and crusty leader of the AFL-CIO, George Meany, also hailed the decision.

"Through collective bargaining, unions and employers can take positive, constructive actions which are in the national interest, and which will accelerate elimination of the vestiges of centuries of racial injustice."

"This is a total victory," declared Leon Lynch, vice president for human affairs of the United Steelworkers union, which appealed the lower court's verdict to the Supreme Court.

Sears, Roebuck & Co., which recently lost a legal challenge to EEOC's affirmative action authority, applauded the high court's decree.

Sears spokesman Ernest Arms says his firm applauds the upholding of voluntary affirmative action program of the Kaiser Co.

"We view the decision as encouraging us to aggressively continue our program of mandatory achievement of goals," he said.

"This program has enabled us to assure opportunities for the disadvantaged, and has had significant impact upon our dramatic improvement in the numbers of minority persons employed and promoted into management ranks," he explained.

Last January Sears filed a class action suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., seeking a ban against penalties for discrimination, until the scores of regulations from various government agencies are reviewed.

That suit was dismissed on May 15 and Sears spokesmen said a decision to appeal is "under consideration."

In wake of the decision on the Weber challenge, Sears' legal plans become a moot question.

The high court's ruling caused the spokesman for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith to voice a word of caution.

"The decision leaves us uneasy," said Justin Finger, the League's national civil rights director.

"We are concerned with the potential for abuse by private employers who may incorrectly read the Weber decision as sanctioning unrestricted racial quotas in employment."

That reaction was one of the few which were not enthused by the Supreme Court's decree.

RED CROSS YOUTH SERVICES DINNER — Dr. Charles Griffin, chairman of Red Cross Youth Services, presents certificates of recognition to Ms. Gwendolyne Young and Mrs. Athalee A. Davis (L to R) at the annual Red Cross Youth dutch-treat teacher sponsor dinner held recently. They were recognized for the variety, quality and number of Red Cross programs they directed for children at the David F. Weglein Elementary School. The certificate of recognition was given to 67 recipients representing 61 of the more than 700 schools in the Baltimore area.

Black workers at Kaiser rooted against Weber

GRAMERCY, LA. — Junius Roussel, a black security guard at the Kaiser Aluminum Plant, frequently jokes with white co-worker Brian Weber about Weber's famous "reverse discrimination" suit.

Roussell says he likes Weber, but he desperately hoped he would lose his suit.

"We were joking about it last night," said Roussell, who sees Weber nearly every day as he leaves the plant. "He was confident. He knew he was going to win this thing."

But Weber didn't win. The Supreme Court held 5-2 that Kaiser could offer special advantages to blacks in a training program that takes note of the fact that blacks were the victims of past job discrimination.

Roussell, 44, has worked at Kaiser for 23 years. He was awakened by his children last Wednesday morning with news that Weber had lost his suit.

"I thought something terrible had happened," Roussell said after being startled from his sleep. "I guess it's pretty good news. I feel great about it.

"If they had this affirmative action program at the time when I first came to Kaiser 23 years ago I probably would have a skilled job now."

Roussell said the decision would help young, unskilled workers — both black and white — move ahead in their jobs. "With the court's action, the people will get a chance to move out of the labor pool from behind their mops and lawnmowers," Roussell said. "They'll be able to put more bread on the table.

"I think it is going to help Brian too, because without the affirmative action program he would not be eligible for a craft job. I think if he had never bidded on this job, he would not have filed the suit.

"I guess he was a little bit embarrassed or hurt," Roussell continued. "I know how it feels to be passed over. It happened to me twice."

Roussell remembers the days when blacks and whites at Kaiser had to wear different identification badges and did not mingle.

"When I came to Kaiser in 1957, my badge number was 4,013 and the whites who were hired ran into the 1,200 series," Roussell said. "In other words, in case of a layoff, they would lay off the blacks before the whites."

But Roussell and other Kaiser officials said there has been no racial tension at the plant despite the lengthy legal battle.

To Roussell, one point about Weber's suit stood out clearly:

Weber never would have sued if the company had not reached out to help black employees with an on-the-job training program.

"Had not the company and the union agreed to this (program), Brian Weber would not have been eligible for any craft job, because he had not the qualifications," Roussell said in a UPI interview.

Weber complained the programs, established by Kaiser with approval from the United Steelworkers of America, discriminated against him as a white by setting up separate seniority lists for blacks and whites. Blacks with less tenure at Kaiser entered the program under the dual-seniority system.

Weber, a former shop steward, felt he could nearly double his $21,000 annual pay as a laboratory technician if he became a craftsman, and would have better job security and could change jobs more easily.

Many black Kaiser employees feel race relations at the plant are good and there is no overt ill-will between blacks and whites because of the Weber case.

Robert Johnson, a 12-year black employee, said the company openly discriminated in the past so it had no choice but to implement a program. He argued Weber had no claim to a place in the training program.

"You're a white guy. When you first came into this world you had something going for you: You were white," said Johnson, a chlorine operator. "When I first came to Kaiser, blacks didn't have any opportunity to excel in a craft. They weren't hiring us."

Johnson said blacks still face discrimination at Kaiser, particularly in disciplinary proceedings.

"We're interested in getting an opportunity," he said. "I always did have slogan: 'Don't give me anything, just give me a chance.'"

CCB offers GED classes

Community College of Baltimore offers General Equivalency Diploma (GED) classes at its Liberty Campus, 2901 Liberty Heights Ave., beginning Monday, July 16.

According to Lois esterson, director of the GED program, every registered students may return for unlimited free tutoring until he or she passes the exam.

Student sreceive 60 hours of instruction in math, social science, literature, English grammar and science. All text-books are included in the $75 fee.

Morning, afternoon and evening classes are available.

For more information, call 396-6369 or 486-1012.

Convicted of lying to Mandel Grand Jury

Glen Burnie woman receives four month work-release sentence

A federal judge has given a Glen Burnie woman a four-month work-release sentence for lying to a federal grand jury that was investigating attempts to obstruct the prosecution of former Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel.

U.S. District Judge Frank A. Kaufman sentenced Donna B. Brown to a year in jail but suspended the last eight months and gave her the four-month work-release term at a local jail.

"This is about as clear a case of perjury as I have ever encountered," Kaufman said.

Kaufman said Mrs. Brown can be released from jail each weekday to work as an optical department supervisor for Montgomery Ward & Co.

Mrs. Brown was convicted April 16 of lying to a 1978 grand jury when she said she could not recall conversations with a member of the 1975 Federal Grand Jury that indicted Mandel and five others.

Mrs. Brown and her husband, Robert, were acquitted June 22 of separate charges they tried to buy information about the Mandel investigation from Diane Lawrence, a close friend of the Brown's who served on the 1975 grand jury.

The perjury conviction stems from her denial before a 1978 special federal grand jury that she had conversations with Mrs. Lawrence about the case. The FBI bugged Mrs. Lawrence's telephone after the initial conversatinn and tapes of subsequent calls between the two women were played for jurors at both trials.

"I find it almost impossible to believe as the jury apparently did that you did not recall anything about these long conversations that you had with Mrs. Lawrence," Kaufman told Mrs. Brown.

"You lied to the grand jury and you persisted in lying to the grand jury when you were given a chance in fornt of the grand jury to change your mind," Kaufman said.

"I share the government's view as to the seriousness of that as to its effect on our legal system and our society," Kaufman said.

Mrs. Lawrence testified at both Brown trials that her close friend offered $1 million for grand jury testimony about the Mandel case.

Hartford County contractor Warren A. Eastburn testified he transmitted the Brown's offer to sell testimony to Mandel co-Defendant Harry W. Rogers III. But Eastburn testified that Rodgers backed off because he feared the legal consequences of jury tampering.

Rogers testified at the grand jury tampering trial that he declined Eastburn's offer.

Mrs. Brown testified she was merely joking when she offered to buy the testimony about the mandel case.

NNPA makes few changes

TULSA, Okla. — There were very few changes in the high command of National Newspapers Publishers Association as the organization of black publishers ended its 39th Annual Convention.

NNAP founder and current president, John Sengstacke, publisher of the Chicago Defender, is serving the second year of his term.

John L. Procope, of the New York Amsterdam News, who completed his term as first vice president, was elected second vice president.

Alfred Morris, a former second vice president, was elevated to first vice president. Mr. Morris is publisher of the Philadelphia Tribune.

Also returning to office were:

Mrs. Ophelia DeVore Mitchell, Columbus (Ga.) Times, secretary; Robert W. Bogle, Philadelphia Tribune, assistant secretary; Mrs. Marjorie B. Parham, Cincinnati Herald, treasurer; and Robert Thomas, Milwaukee Community Journal, assistant treasurer;

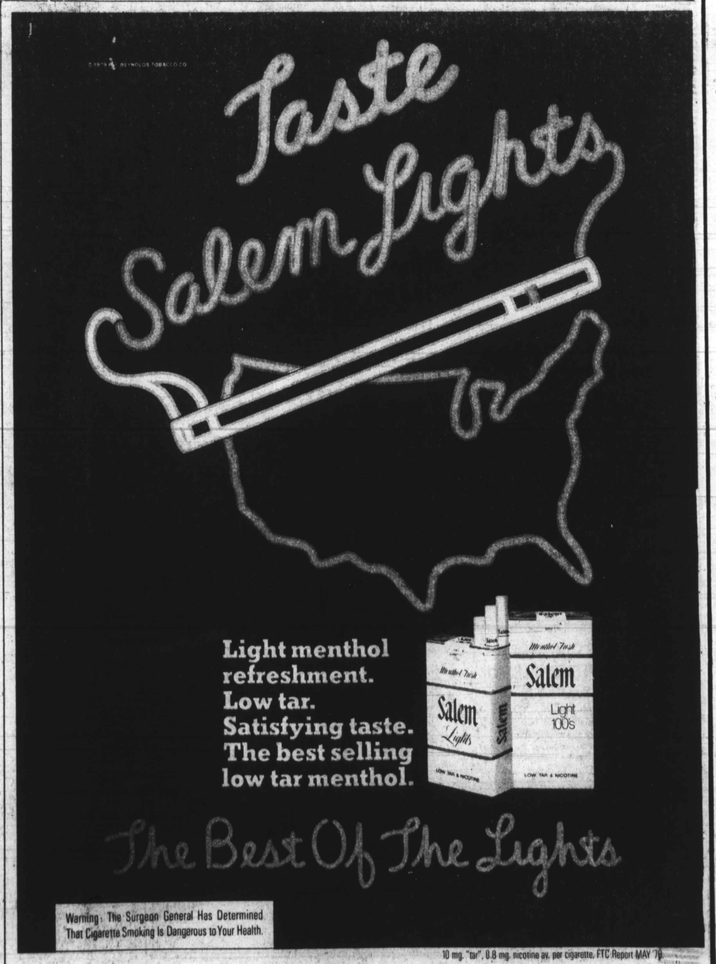
Robert Sengstacke, publisher of the Memphis Herald, was the only new member elected to the board of directors and after Longworth Quinn, publisher of the Michigan Chronicle, refused to seek re-election to the board.

Other board members include:

Mrs. Lenora Carter, Houston Forward Times; Dr. Carlton Goodlett, San Francisco Reporter; Robert Goodwin, Oklahoma Eagle; William H. Lee, Sacramento Observer;

John H. Murphy, 3d, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers; Garth Reeves Sr., Miami Times; John B. Smith, Atlanta Inquirer; Kenneth Stanley, Louisville Defender and Mrs. Jane Woods, St.Louis Sentinel.

Sherman Briscoe, is executive director, and Ms. Constant L. Britt is assistant director.



BITS O' BRIEFS

He knew how

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (UPI) — Here's one way to get to first base:

In the sixth inning of an International League game, Jim Obradovich of the Charleston Charlies claimed he was hit on the leg by a pitched ball. But the home plate umpire didn't believe him.

The Charleston infielder then unbuckled his belt and dropped his pants, exposing a bruised leg.

Obradovich was awarded first base.

"The crowd loved it," said a Charleston official. "They cheered."

A tough out

OAKLAND (UPI) — After a 16-year career as one of pro football's top cornerbacks, Willie Brown has retired as an active player and will join the staff as special assistant.

Brown will work as a coaching aide, as well as in administration, public relations and promotion.

Brown played for Denver and then starred for the Raiders from 1967 to 1978 and in 10 of those 12 years, the Raiders made it into the playoffs. During his playing career, the Raiders won nine division titles, the American Football League and American Conference championships and one Super Bowl.

Captains Bear

Linemen Glenn Bullock, Anthony Chambers and Willie Martin and quarterback Marshall Meadows have been named quad-captains of the '79 Livingstone eleven.

Bullock is a junior from Richmond, Chambers is a senior from Statesville, N.C.; Martin a senior hails from Darlington, S.C., and Meadows, from Wellford, S.C., is a junior.

4 in the dough

Lee Elder, Jim Thorpe, Calvin Peete and Jim Deut continue among the top 100 money winners on the pro golf circuit.

Elder is 39th with $59,510 for the year. Thorpe is in 57th place with $42,837; Peete's $38,084 retains 66th place, and Dent is 97th with $19,209.

Coast Guard Night scheduled July 19

The 13th annual Coast Guard Night will be held at the stadium July 19.

The proceeds from the ticket sale will be used to send retarded children to the game.

Pre-game activities will include honoring Ms. Coast Guard YARD 1979, an outstanding military man, and one of the Orioles will be present a plaque naming him "Coast Guard Yard Man of the Year".

Baltimorean TKO's Bobick

Maryland heavyweight George Chaplin probably ended the pro boxing career of Duane Bobick, Tuesday night t Atlantic City.

Chaplin opened a one-inch gash over Bobick's right eye and otherwise administered a brutal thrashing to the 1972 Munich Olympian enroute to a sixth round technical knockout.

Bobock, deemed "The Great White Hope", was attempting a comeback after being knocked out in the first round by heavyweight contender John Tate in February.

"I don't know," said Bobick, when asked if he would fight again. "We'll just have to see."

The 25-year-old Chaplin, 14-1-1, used left hooks to open the gash in the third round. Bobick tried to work Chaplin to the body buy by the fifth round of the scheduled 10-rounder, the blood was in Bobick's eyes and he had little defense.

Walbrook sets relay record

Despite the absence of one of their fastest members, the Walbrook Junction Track Club girls set a 440-relay mark for the 9-11 age group at the recent Municipal games.

The quarted of Cheryl Nowlin, Meshone Rodgers, Nicky Moses and Trudy Harris registered a 5'.1 clocking, thus bettering the 60 seconds flat record by the Ed Waters 10-11 foursome last year.

Lisa Burton is expected back by Walbrook coach Mills in time for the East Coast relays later this month.

Mervo standout scores for USA

BAKERSFIELD, Calif., — Baltimore (Md.) teenager Guy Goodwin won one event and teamed for a second victory as the United States competed against the Soviet Union here last week.

Goodwin, the Maryland Scholastic Association quarter-mile champion from Mervo, captured the men's 400 meters and ran the opening leg on the American 1600-meter relay foursome.

IMAGE OF A HERO — Robert Clemente Jr. (Right), 16-year-old son of the late baseball Hall of Famer, was the torch-bearer with Cynthia Guadalupe, 14, as the Pan-American Games opened Sunday at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Jim Brown beats Earl Monroe in cancer benefit tennis

ATLANTA, Ga. — Former Cleveland Brown great Jim Brown and the American Cancer Society were the big winners of the fifth annual Jet Celebrity Tennis Tournament, co-sponsored by Michelob Light at the Georgia Tech Memorial Colosseum here.

Brown captured the singles championship for the third consecutive year, and the Cancer Society benefitted by the $70,000 raised through the 3-day event.

Jim Brown three in a row

"It was a great pleasure for Michelob Light to become affiliated with the Jet tournament," Michael A. Orloff, product manager, said. Anheuser-Busch has supported the event since it began five years ago.

"Being there this year, and seeing the enthusiastic participation of outstanding members of the sports, entertainment and political communities, was a real inspiration," Orloff added.

Brown defeated Earl (The Pearl) Monroe and Sid Williams on his way to the title, and actress Mira Waters — who starred in Muhammad Ali's autobiographic movie — joined with Mike Harvey to win the double championship.

In the collegiate division, Brazilian Givon Burros of Hampton Institute defeated Nigerian Antonio Moh of St. Augustine's College, and Cheri Ware of Tuskegee Institute won the women's singles crown by defeating her teammate, Darlene McWay.

Ali to make his retirement party benefit for Olympians

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Muhammad Ali announced Tuesday he will stage a variety show Sept. 6 at the Forum for the benefit of the U.S. Olympic Games boxing program to mark his retirement after 25 years in boxing and the relinquishment of his WBA heavyweight title.

The 37-year-old Ali was all smiles when he made the announcement at his retirement party at a Forum news conference but left no doubt he was serious about quitting the ring.

"I just been fighting too long," he said. "I'm really happy to be getting out. It's been hell. I'm so happy to come here, show my face and not be ashamed."

In the future, he said he will spend much time promoting a new charity he has founded which he called "WORLD." The name, he said, stands for "World Organization for Rights, Liberty and Dignity," and the organization "will help people . . . old people, grippled people, the destitutes."

WORLD, he said, would promote concerts and sporting events to raise funds and he indicated he might box some exhibitions for the benefit of the group.

Tickets for the Sept. 6 retirement party will go on sale Aug. 6. Forum officials said the price of tickets was not yet set and the line-up of stars who will perform would be announced before that date.

One Forum source mentioned as possible performers Frank Sinatra, Kris Kristoferson and the Jackson Five.

16 teams wanted for ghetto tourney

Sixteen teams from all over D.C., Maryland and Virginia are being sought by the Ontario Lakers to participate in the first annual Ghetto Invitational Baseball Tournament for kids 12 and under.

The tournament has been set for July 23 to 28 at Community Park West, 2700 Adams Mill Rd., N.W., with games beginning at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day.

The champion team must win four straight games.

Closing date for entries is July 16. Teams entering should contact the Ontario Lakers youth program at 1700 Kalorama Rd., N.W. or call Walter C. Pierce at 673-7608 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Bullettes tryouts slated at Centre

Auditions for the Stroh's Bullettes, the cheerleading and dance team of the Washington Bullets, will be held Saturday, July 7 at 10 a.m. at the Capital Centre.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and provide their own transportation.

For further information, contact Charlie Williams at 350-3400 ext. 321.

Barnes' wife drops charge

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — An assault charged filed May 2 against former pro basketball player Marvin Barnes for allegedly slapping his estranged wife has been dismissed.

Judge Vincent Ragosta threw out the case when Mrs. Debra Barnes told the court she considered it a "family matter." They have been separated for several months.

The judge refused to rule on the case a day earlier when Barnes' lawyer, Raul Lovett, showed up in the court with the courtwith an affidavit from Mrs. Barnes which said she wanted to withdraw her complaint. The Barneses' weren't with him.

Ragosta asked Mrs. Barnes if her affidavit was correct. She nodded, and said it was. The judge then dismissed the case.

International bid

LAUREL, MD., — "If Spectacular Bid runs in Maryland again it will be in the International at Laurel," trainer Grover "Buddy" Delp said Sunday.

The winner of the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, who will be transferred to Laurel during the fall months.

Cecil tops Concern in crucial BNBL test

By Samuel Davis

In Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League action at Madison Recreation Center on Tuesday, Cecil defeated Camp Concern, 33-26. This practically assured them of a trip to the championship playoffs at the Civic Center in August.

Cecil, which won the first round of play with a 4-1 record in the best-of-five series, entered the game with a 3-0 mark as did Camp Concern.

The game was of importance to both and each team featured outstanding area talent, therefore the game which was scheduled for the first of three that day, was rescheduled last.

Popular players like former Towson stars, Roger Dickens and Brian Matthews, the brothers of Ernest Graham (Kevin) and Pop Writht (Fred) rounded off Cecil's squad.

Camp Concern packed an even more awesome attack with players like past and present Coppin stars, Joe Pace, Mickey Heard, and James (Helicopter) Hayes. In the backout a brotherly combination of Reds and Michael Lyles controlled the ball. Leon Love stood in as yet another popular forward on the team.

Camp Concern led throughout the first half, but in the second half Cecil tied the score at 20 and never trailed agaon.

So, behind in the score and time expirint, Camp Concern had fallen in a trap, because Cecil featured one of the best ball handlers in the state in the person of Dickens.

Each time Dickens handled the ball the capacity crowd rose to watch the show as Dickens continuously retined possession of the ball whie time ran out for Camp Concern.

Dickens finished the game with eight points, second to Fred Wright's game high nine. Graham and Matthews scored seven apiece. Stanley added four.

The way Cecil played, it was hard to realize the team was without center Larry Harrison who is alos a member of the Wake Forest Deacons.

Harrison was injured earlier in the season and Angelo Lilly filled in for him.

Under the direction of coach Wilmer McEachin, the team has averaged 45 points a game and has only given up over 36 points on two occasions. Defensively they allow an average of 34.7 points.

Cecil has only one more game slated for the regular season, against the Clippers whom they defeated by 10 points in the first round of play.

World's top tennis stars to play D.C.

The top stars of professional tennis return to Washington and the public clay (Har-Tru) courts of the Rock Creek Tennis Stadium, July 14-22, in the $175,000 Washington Star International Tennis Championships, one of the major stops on the men's outdoor summer tennis circuit.

Harold Solomon, Brian Gottfried, Marty Riessen and Manuel Orantes have announced early indications of acceptance to this 11th annual tournament, which offers $24,500 in prize money to the winner of the prestigous Colgate Grand Prix event, which features 64 of the world's top tennis players.

This year's Washington Star International boasts an additional feature to add to the tournament's schedule of events. With the installation of permanent lighting on Grandstand A — the results of $75,000 worth of improvements — the Star Tournament has increased the number of sessions from eight to 12, with the addition of four separate nighttime sessions; boosting to seven, the number of matches played each evening.

Sidecourt play commences at 7:30 p.m., with two matches featured on each court in Grandstand A, Monday through Thursday, July 16 through 19. Admission (unreserved seating) is $5 per session. Box, Suite Spot, and Series Ticket holders will receive free passes to each evening sidecourt session.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Washington Area Tennis Patrons Foundation, which funds inner city day camps and the National Junior Tennis League, and other programs in Maryland and Virginia.

Tickets, ranging in price from $3 to $11, are now available at all Ticketron outlets, Herman's World of Sporting Goods, Desks and Furnishings, Arthur Ashe and Friends, and other area sporting goods stores and tennis clubs.