

ANTI-BAKKE DECISION COALITION

January 1978/ Vol I, No. 1

Newsletter



ABDC Expands into Nationwide Coalition

On December 17, 1977, nearly 100 representatives from the ANTI-BAKKE DECISION COALITION'S local organizing committees met in Fresno, California for our fifth advisory committee meeting. Amidst chants of "bakke's Attacks Reach Far and Wide, Build the Struggle Nationwide", the ABDC charted out our plans for the future work in the anti-Bakke movement that include 1) a decision to immediately expand into a nationwide coalition; 2) plans for a National Bakke Conference on Feb. 19 to strengthen the unity among all anti-Bakke forces in the US; and 3) a call for nationwide Spring demonstrations with April 29th being the common date for these actions.

The most significant decision was to expand the ABDC into a nationwide coalition, and to move immediately to establish new ABDC chapters in other areas of the country. Since June 26th, when over 80 organizations and 300 people united to form the ABDC, individuals have been active in virtually every region of the US, with a broad range of people -- from mass organizations on the campuses, communities and workplaces, to professionals, church groups -- organizing in opposition to the racist Bakke decision. The demonstrations in October, where thousands of people took to the streets across the nation, exemplify the mass sentiment that exists against discrimination and national oppression represented by the Bakke decision. And in the future period, the anti-Bakke movement must be built even more broadly, and more and more people must unite and get organized. It is within this context that the ABDC has set forth its plans for nationwide expansion.

Already, a new ABDC organizing committee has been formed in the New York area. In December, a mass meeting was called involving groups from the nearby Third World communities, and students who are part of the Intercollegiate Liaison Committee (a network of Asian student organizations throughout the East Coast). Many of these people had organized activities around October 15 in coordination with the ABDC's National Day of Solidarity, while others are just beginning to get involved in the anti-Bakke struggle. Forming the NY ABDC chapter marks an important step forward in connecting their regional work to the overall nationwide campaign to Smash the Bakke Decision, to End National Oppression, and to fight for Full Equality for Women!

The ABDC is also initiating a national outreach campaign to forge relations with other anti-Bakke groups, and to concretely establish other ABDC organizing committees in different regions of the U.S.

A theme of uniting all that can be united ran throughout the ABDC statewide advisory committee meeting. Towards this goal, the ABDC is calling for a National Bakke Conference on February 19, in Los Angeles, California. The ABDC is inviting all anti-Bakke groups and interested organizations and individuals from around the country that desire to build greater unity to this important conference. In this way, the lessons and experiences of the anti-Bakke struggle can be shared, greater unity can be forged through open discussion, and a common basis reached for coordinated actions in the future. The National Bakke Conference would also set preparations for nationwide Spring demonstrations that should prove to be even larger and more powerful than those that occurred in October. At this time, the ABDC has targeted April 29th as a common date for these actions to take place.

Call for Nat'l Bakke Conference

The ANTI-BAKKE DECISION COALITION invites you to attend a National Anti-Bakke Decision Conference on February 19, 1978, in Los Angeles, California. The ABDC sees this conference as an important means to build the anti-Bakke movement in the US, and to concretely plan for national united demonstrations in the Spring. We are targeting April 29th as the common date for nationwide demonstrations.

As you probably know, the Bakke Decision is currently being discussed in the US Supreme Court. The Bakke Decision, which was handed down by the California Supreme Court on September 16, 1976, holds that the Special Admissions program for minority students at the UC Davis Medical School is "unconstitutional" based on the racist charge of "reverse discrimination".

The Bakke Decision represents an intensification of the systematic oppression of Third World people (Asians, Blacks, Chicanos/Latinos, Native Americans, and other minority peoples) in this country. It is a legal rationale to eliminate special admissions and affirmative action type programs on the campuses, communities, and workplaces -- programs which were fought for and won through the militant mass struggles of the 1960's. The Bakke Decision also threatens affirmative action and other programs for women.

As such, the Bakke Decision has been met with broad opposition from all sectors of people in the US. Nationally, many groups and committees have organized to build a strong mass movement to overturn the Bakke Decision as part of the overall struggle against discrimination and national oppression.

The ANTI-BAKKE DECISION COALITION (ABDC) is a part of this nationwide movement. The ABDC formed in June 1977 in San Jose, California, and has since united hundreds of organizations throughout the state of California. The ABDC is organized into several local organizing committees (Sacramento-Davis; Oakland-Berkeley-S.F.; San Jose-South Bay Area; Fresno Valley; Santa Barbara-Ventura-Oxnard; Los Angeles area), which are guided by our principles of unity:

1. Rely on the masses of oppressed people to defeat the Bakke Decision.
2. Oppose both the US Supreme Court and the UC Regents as equal targets.
3. Oppose the systematic oppression of Third World people.
4. Defend and expand all Third World programs, affirmative action programs, and all special programs for women and working people.

In October, 1977, when the Supreme Court opened its hearings on the Bakke case, the ABDC sponsored a California statewide march and demonstration in San Francisco, which drew over 4,000 people of all nationalities and from different walks of life -- students, women, professionals, community and working people. At its last December 17, 1977 statewide meeting, the ABDC made an important decision to expand into a nationwide coalition, and is currently in the process of forming new chapters in other areas of the US. This is an important step forward in unifying the anti-Bakke movement.

The ABDC since its formation has maintained a policy of uniting all that can be united in our common struggle to smash the Bakke Decision, and to fight against discrimination and national oppression. In this light, the ABDC has initiated plans for nationwide demonstrations in the Spring, targeting April 29th as the common date for the mobilizations. We are also initiating a call for a national conference of all anti-Bakke forces on February 19, 1978, to build the anti-Bakke movement and to prepare for the Spring demonstrations.

The Conference will discuss our perspectives on the Bakke Decision, exchange lessons and experiences in organizing against the Bakke Decision, and through this, forge greater unity and plan concretely for nationwide Spring demonstrations.

Come to the ABDC NATIONAL ANTI-BAKKE CONFERENCE. Let's unite and build for the Spring demonstrations, and make our voices even louder and clearer to the Supreme Court and the Regents. We strongly encourage all anti-Bakke groups and committees throughout the US to attend and participate in this important ANTI-BAKKE CONFERENCE.

Please contact us if you are interested in attending the conference, or if you would like more information. The ABDC can help to cover some transportation costs.

NATIONAL ANTI-BAKKE DECISION CONFERENCE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 19, 1978

JOIN THE ABDC!



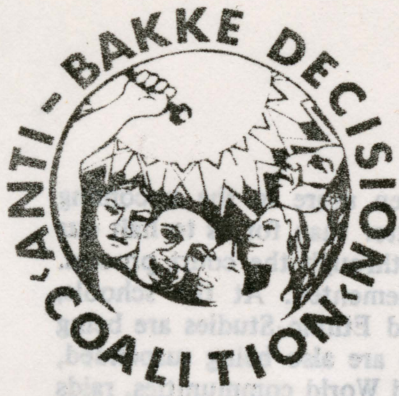
ABDC GOES NATIONWIDE (cont.)

The scope and intensity of the anti-Bakke struggle has continued to grow. And in order to keep up with the expanding demands and responsibilities of expanding nationwide, and preparing for the National Bakke Conference and the Spring demonstrations, the ABDC will be establishing a National Office. The National Office will provide direction to the ABDC's overall work, and oversee the process of outreach and forging relations and communications with other anti-Bakke groups. The National Office is also responsible for centralizing and distributing all resource and educational materials as well as publishing the ABDC's National Newsletter. We encourage everyone to contact the National Office to establish communications with the ABDC, and to learn more about our activities.

These developments are signs that the mass opposition to the Bakke decision and its direct attacks against minorities and women is continuing to mount. Too bad for the US Supreme Court, the UC Regents, and the Carter Administration! By stretching out the legal and court process, by claiming to "support" special admissions while opposing quotas, or by promoting the idea that the Bakke decision will be a "narrow, restricted" ruling limited just to the UC Davis program these groups are trying to dissipate the mass movement against the Bakke decision. They hope that the masses of people will sit back passively and wait for the formal ruling to emerge from the closed door deliberations of the Supreme Court justices -- and that we will close our eyes and be blind to the actual implementation of Bakke in a variety of disguised, but no less dangerous, forms.

2-3,000 similar "reverse discrimination" cases attacking affirmative action type programs are now pending in the courts. Rita Clancy is going to UC Davis Med School as a result of Bakke-type suit. Everywhere we look, Third World recruitment and special admissions programs, affirmative action hiring and other related programs are being suspended, cutback or completely eliminated. The Bakke case is but one aspect of this mounting assault on the gains and programs won in the course of the mass struggles against discrimination and national oppression of the 1960's. And as we continue to struggle to overturn the Bakke decision, it is imperative that, at this very moment, we actively defend these programs against all attacks -- whether it be on the campuses, communities, or in the workplaces. Making these links and defending our gains and programs on a day-to-day basis lies at the very heart of our anti-Bakke movement.

This is the direction of our activity in building the anti-Bakke struggle. It is also clear that we cannot rely on the Regents, the courts, or the government to defeat the Bakke Decision -- as it is these very same forces who are attacking and eliminating the programs that we seek to defend. Our movement must be based among the strength and unity of the people -- students, women, working and community people of all nationalities. In this way, we can smash the racist Bakke decision, and connect this to building a long term fight against discrimination and national oppression. "Expand the ABDC Nationwide!" Build for the February 19 National Bakke Conference. On to the Spring nationwide demonstrations, April 29th!



ANTI-BAKKE

DECISION COALITION

January 1, 1978

Dear Friends,

In the last year, the anti-Bakke Decision movement has made many advances. Consistent outreach and educational activities, and mass demonstrations, have taken place throughout 1977, and anti-Bakke Decision committees and coalitions have formed in every region of the country. Today, the anti-Bakke Decision struggle is a nationwide struggle, one directed at overturning the racist Bakke Decision as part of the overall fight against discrimination and national oppression.

The Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition (ABDC) has been a component part of this movement. And at our last statewide advisory committee meeting on December 17, 1977, we passed a major resolution to expand into a nationwide coalition. We feel that this marks another step forward for the anti-Bakke movement, in building stronger relations and unity among anti-Bakke forces throughout the US. The Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition is encouraging all groups and committees to work jointly with the ABDC - to join the coalition, and form affiliate chapters of the ABDC in your area. We hope to establish ABDC chapters in New York, the New England area, the South and the Mid-west in the near future.

The Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition was formed at a historic Bakke Conference held in San Jose, California, on June 26, 1977. Initiated by the statewide MEChA's (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Atzlan - a mass Chicano/Latino student organization), the ABDC united hundreds of organizations from the campuses, communities, and workplaces into a single, statewide Coalition. Local organizing committees have since formed throughout California.

At the June 26 Conference, the ABDC united around the following principles:

1. Rely on the masses of oppressed people to defeat the Bakke Decision.
2. Oppose both the US Supreme Court and the UC Regents as equal targets.
3. Oppose the systematic oppression of Third World people.
4. Defend and expand all Third World programs, affirmative action programs and all special programs for women and working people.

These principles have guided the work of the ABDC. We have concentrated on organizing at the grass roots level, basing the coalition among students, women, community and working people, and other progressive people of all nationalities. Through the summer, numerous anti-Bakke conferences were held, extensive outreach and educational campaigns were developed in local areas, highlighted by a week-long 125-mile March Against the Bakke Decision by the MEChA's that culminated in a mass demonstration at the Sacramento Capitol building on September 17.

DEFEAT THE BAKKE DECISION!
A DERROTAR LA DECISION BAKKE!

Our struggle against the racist Bakke Decision must escalate even more in the upcoming period. The Supreme Court and the Regents would like nothing better than for us to halt our organizing work, and sit back and wait until a decision is reached through the court process. But, in many ways, the Bakke Decision is already being implemented. At the schools, numerous special admissions, Third World recruitment programs, and Ethnic Studies are being attacked and/or eliminated. Affirmative action programs on the job are also being suspended, or completely wiped out. And with the increasing repression in Third World communities, raids on the undocumented workers by the Immigration department, or the rise of KKK and Nazi activity, it is clear that we must maintain our vigilance and continue our work. It is vital that we unite our forces and build the broadest movement to overturn the Bakke Decision, and connect this to the ongoing struggle against the oppression of Third World people, women, and all working people.

In this light, the ABDC has initiated a call for a nationwide anti-Bakke Decision conference to be held in Los Angeles on February 19, 1978, and for major nationwide demonstrations in the Spring. We are targeting April 29 for demonstrations to take place on the East and West coasts, and possibly other regions of the country.

By uniting and joining ABDC, we can help strengthen the nationwide Anti-Bakke Decision struggle. Our strategy and actions can be developed on a national level, planning out coordinated joint activities, broadening our outreach, and sharing resources and educational materials. It will also serve to advance the exchange of experiences that we have gained in the anti-Bakke movement. Each new chapter of the ABDC would also have representatives to the ABDC's Executive Committee (the coalition's leadership body), and participate democratically in the decision and policy making process of the coalition.

If you are interested in joining and forming new ABDC chapters in your area, or if you want to establish more systematic relations and communications with the ABDC, please contact the ABDC at our national office address:

Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition
P.O. Box 171
Hayward, California 94530

It would be helpful if you could explain the background and composition of your group, and your past and present work in the anti-Bakke movement. In turn, the ABDC national office will be in contact with your group — either by phone, through the mail or direct visit to your area — to work out the process of forming a ABDC chapter or developing closer relations with your group.

Bakke's attacks reach far and wide, build the struggle nationwide!

Unite all nationalities to defeat the Bakke Decision!

End national oppression!

Full equality for women!

We look forward to hearing from your group in the very near future.

In unity,

for the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition

Brief history of ABDC

The ABDC has its roots in the grass roots organizing activity that has taken place on campuses, communities, and workplaces in California throughout the year.

*In February, the Third World Coalition formed at UCB, SFS, and Laney College in Oakland, marking the initial efforts to educate and organize people around the Bakke issue on these campuses. They later joined with other ASU's, BSU's, MECHA's, and TWC's to form the Northern Calif. United Students Against the Bakke Decision, spanning 15 campuses in the area.



The USABD organized a militant protest at the May 20th UC Regents meeting in San Francisco. This demonstration exposed the UC Regent's collusion with Bakke and the courts.

*The Committee to Defeat Bakke in San Jose and the East LA Committee for Democratic Rights actively took up the Bakke struggle, staging demonstrations and programs in various communities and work places. Locals of the UAW, USW, Int'l Allied Moulders and others joined in the anti-Bakke movement.

*On May 7, over 1500 people participate in a mass demonstration in LA. This action was organized by the Statewide MECHA system, which had been playing an active and leading role in the anti-Bakke struggle the entire year. Following this May 7 demo, the MECHA's initiate a call for a Statewide Bakke Conference in order to plan for Fall demonstrations.

*Responding to MECHA's call, active and new anti-Bakke groups from all over Calif. come together in San Jose on June 26th to form the ABDC, a single, united coalition. The ABDC's principles and demands were discussed and developed, and the plans for the October 15 Statewide mobilization and National Day of Solidarity are set. Local organizing committees of the ABDC are set up in Sac/Davis; SF/Oakland/Berkeley; San Jose/So. Bay Area; Fresno Valley; Santa Barbara/Ventura/Oxnard; and the LA area. Continuous outreach and build up activities are developed by ABDC.

*The MECHA's initiate a 125 mile, week long march against the Bakke Decision, popularizing the anti-Bakke movement to communities from San Jose to Sacto. This culminates in a joint MECHA/ABDC rally of over 400 people at the Sac Capitol Building on Sept. 17, just one day after the first anniversary of the Calif. Supreme Court Bakke decision. LA locals organizes a protest at the UC Regent meeting, and similar educational and outreach programs are coordinated with other ABDC locals.

*October 15, the ABDC's statewide mobilization and National Day of Solidarity. Over 4,000 people of all nationalities unite and converge on the SF Federal Building. The march stretches 20 blocks long, and colorful banners and spirited chants bring out the message, "Smash the Bakke Decision", "End National Oppression", "Full Equality for Women". This was the largest of the numerous anti-Bakke demonstrations that took place during the month of October.

*December programs are coordinated statewide by ABDC locals, focusing on relating the Bakke issue to the increasing attacks on Mexican undocumented workers by the US government INS and the racist KKK armed vigilante force on the US-Mexican border. They point out how both are examples of the mounting discrimination and national oppression directed at Third World people.

JOIN THE A.B.D.C. -- BUILD THE NATIONWIDE COALITION
NAT'L BAKKE CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 19
SPRING NATIONWIDE COORDINATED ACTIONS

DEFEAT THE BAKKE DECISION!