opinion

The Reagan administration has not enforced anti-discrimination laws

(Comment from page 6)

There is nothing wrong with a school that is racially unbalanced...it is only unconstitutional...and that is a fearful thing." The Supreme Court has not said any such thing since the nineteenth century.

The administration has also promulgated regulations to weaken the enforcement authority of federal agencies, and has turned the US Commission on Civil Rights into an instrument of presidential policy.

What is perhaps just as disarming as the dismantling of Federal Civil Rights enforcement structure is the administration's attempt to portray itself as a law-and-order administration. When Reagan signed the Voting Rights Extension Act of 1982 into law, he said, "This legislation proves our unshakable commitment to voting rights."

If he neglected to mention was that the Senate managed to pass the bill only over administration attempts to black it.

Ronald Reagan's administration is the first to go backwards in the area of Civil Rights since 1954. No previous administra-
tion, Republican or Demo-

crat, has openly challenged the authority of the Supreme Court's rulings on the subject. The presi-
dent's disregard for the principle of "rule of law", in a country which has this concept firmly em-
bodied in its founding principles, is utterly inexcusable.

The administration has rigidly refused to employ the anti-dis-
crimination tools so painfully de-
veloped over so much time and
has instead chosen to return to the failed policies of the past.

Walter Mondale may not be the most exciting candidate for presi-
dent, but he has a record that shows real support for civil
rights, and respect for the prin-
ciples of the law.

I am not sure at this point that I know any answers. I do believe, however, the first step is to recog-
nize that qualified women and minorities do exist. The usual "obvious case of discrimination" is not so clear as perhaps it once was.

Anne G. Prince

feedback

Qualified women and minorities do exist

To the Editor:

I applaud Barry J. Berenberg's efforts to grapple with the issues confronting women and minor-

ities. However, I was somewhat amused by the fact that in his let-
ter to the Editor [The Tech, Oc-

tober 16], as well as in letters written by others with no real long-term cultural and/or per-

sonal experience of bias, the as-
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