

UNIVERSITE DE NANTES

ANNEE : 2001.2002

UNITE D'ENSEIGNEMENT ET DE RECHERCHE
DE LETTRES ET SCIENCES HUMAINES

SESSION : 1-2° semestre

DIPLOME DEUG NIVEAU 2 CYCLE 1

DATE : 3/06/2002

HEURE : 14h00

SECTION Langues Etrangères Appliquées

SALLE :

INTITULE DE L'EPREUVE CIVILISATION AMERICAINE
(NANTES ET LA ROCHE)

DUREE : 3H

UE 4 M

NOM DU PROFESSEUR RESPONSABLE : M. ZBIKOWSKI

OBSERVATION DU PROFESSEUR : ECRIVEZ TOUTES LES DEUX LIGNES S.V.P.

Part One. Summarize the following text in 100 words, \pm 10%. (40 points)

Indicate how long your summary is.

You might think that the president of a major university would say he was sorry after being criticized by a panel of federal judges. But when an appeal court concluded last month that the University of Georgia had discriminated against white applicants in favor of blacks — and had systematically violated the 14th Amendment — University of Georgia President Michael Adams calmly turned the other cheek. "Sometimes you are defined by the battles in which you engage," he said, "rather than by those you win."

"Our policy is fully constitutional," echoed Lee Bollinger, president of the University of Michigan, whose law school is fighting a similar legal action accusing it of discriminating against whites.

That's right, the courts and the universities are at each other's throats, and once again the bone of contention is race. If you are old enough to remember black-and-white TV, you saw the news reports the last time there was a conflict: federal judges were ordering all-white universities in the South to open their doors to black students. But in the new millennium, the situation has been reversed. Now the schools are the ones trying to bring in minority students with broad affirmative action policies. And the courts have been declaring those policies to be unconstitutional.

What has university administrators around the U.S. so worried is the fact that they know court decisions like the University of Georgia decision could dramatically change the racial composition on the campuses. That is what happened at the Berkeley campus of the University of California, when Proposition 209 (a state law written and approved of by the citizens of California) forced it to adopt an admissions policy that does not provide for racial balance. The proportion of non-Asian minorities in the student population decreased sharply, from 25% to 11%.

(Adapted from Time magazine)

Part Two. Write an essay of about 400 words on ONE of the two subjects. (60 points)

A. Are Colin Powell (U.S. secretary of state) and Condoleeza Rice (President Bush's special advisor) role models that inspire poor black youths today? Justify your answer with references to Afro-American history and to the situation today.

B. Does Protestantism help to explain the fact that many Americans feel the U.S. has a mission and a responsibility regarding world order? Discuss both the defining characteristics of Protestantism and the language used in American declarations of foreign policy.