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OPINION

Columnists' views

Six-eyed visitor talks of discrimination, school prayer

■ You just can't trust aliens. They have to live here a long time before they understand our American way of life.

A UFO landed in my backyard last week, and the pilot, a six-eyed male (at least he said he was a male), stayed at my house for three days, watching television, reading the newspapers, and telling me what was wrong with our society.

He said in his galaxy there was harsh discrimination against six-eyed people by the three-eyed majority, and he was very disappointed to see that in America the minority whites were discriminated against by the black majority.

I gasped at this misunderstanding, but before I could begin to explain the real facts, he said, "Take this Ayers case. It's obvious the ruling blacks are trying to establish a 'separate but equal' system, which I thought your courts had outlawed."

Ignoring my effort to reply, he continued: "Your minority whites understandably want integrated education in universities with high standards of admission, so they can demonstrate they are just as smart as the blacks, but the dominant blacks want to maintain their black universities with low admissions requirements in black neighborhoods so whites will not en-



DAVID BOWEN

Guest columnist

roll. It's a very clever tactic, and apparently it works."

"And take the workplace," he charged ahead. "I see the blacks have used their power to get quotas and set-asides guaranteeing them jobs and business contracts based upon race alone. How can you defend a system like that in a country that says it believes in equal opportunity?"

I was getting madder all the time, and I finally got him to stop talking while he was polishing the lenses on his six eyes.

I responded indignantly, "But you don't understand. Here in America it is the whites who discriminate against the blacks."

"If you believe that," he fired back, "I have a bridge over the river in our largest city that I want to sell you. What about your sports teams? The Knicks and Rockets had all-black teams on the floor. Where were

the quotas for white players?"

Before I could get in a word edgewise, he continued: "And you Americans not only have racial discrimination. You also have religious persecution. Because your oppressive government does not allow prayer in churches or in homes, children are forced to try to pray in public schools — and they are being denied even that."

"That's ridiculous," I replied. "The churches are all still in business, and parents are perfectly free to pray with their children at home."

"Ridiculous, my asteroid," he shot back. "Why would people fight so hard to get to pray in school if children were allowed to do it with parental supervision in homes and churches? With all the different faiths and non-faiths in school these days, any prayer would either have to be so watered down it would say nothing or so sectarian it would outrage most of the students and parents."

I was getting increasingly steamed, but I had an answer he could not ignore: "Many parents feel uncomfortable praying with their children, and they can't always find time to take them to Sunday school or church. So they want the schools to take care of it."

"If so," he replied, "by the time the Muslims, Moonies, Hari Krishnas, and Secular Humanists get their turns praying in school, the parents will wish they had

been able to find time."

I was determined not to let this character from outer space get the better of me, so I gave him my trump card: "We believe if the students don't pay tribute to God in school, He will punish the public schools."

"Ah," he smiled. "So now I know what's wrong with your public schools."

Well, I was so angry by that time I wanted to punch that guy right in the nose, except that he didn't have a nose, and before I could begin to explain the real truth about our society, he jumped into his flying saucer and was gone.

It just goes to show you can't trust aliens. They have to live here a long time before they understand our American way of life. So, please, folks, write if you insist, but remember, it was the six-eyed guy who said it, and he did not leave a forwarding address.

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