

# Editorial Page

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## End public support for private bias

If it's done in Alabama, it should be done in Westchester — Westchester should be the leader.

That's the perfectly reasonable position of the Urban League of Westchester and its president, Ernest Prince, with respect to golf clubs that host professional tournaments — they should have an integrated membership. If their ranks are closed to members of minorities, they should be shunned by the PGA of America.

In Alabama, the Shoal Creek Country Club in Birmingham, host of this week's PGA Championship, has bowed to the pressure of civil rights leaders and corporate sponsors. It admitted its first black member on an honorary basis and agreed to seek others.

The PGA of America, the PGA Tour and the U.S. Golf Association have all announced that membership policies and practices of clubs applying to host tournaments will become a major consideration when sites are chosen.

In Westchester, the first target of the Urban League's integration efforts is to be the Westchester Country Club, host of PGA Tour's Buick Classic. Prince wants to make sure that the next Buick Classic is held at an integrated club.

That gives WCC a clear choice. It doesn't have to integrate its

membership ranks. No private club does. Every one of the private golf clubs in Westchester — including some of the nation's oldest, most prestigious and most expensive — has the legal right to preserve its birds-of-a-feather exclusivity.

And the national golfing associations have not only the right but also the obligation to exclude from their patronage clubs that

practice such exclusivity — clubs that bar from membership people of a particular color or ethnicity or religion.

That principle applies across the board. Private country clubs and beach clubs

have the legal right to practice exclusivity.

And civic and charitable organizations have the responsibility to exclude such clubs from consideration when they choose the site of a fund-raising function.

And publicly owned corporations have the responsibility to review the policies of the clubs at which they pay their executives' membership fees and to refuse such payment at clubs that fail to integrate.

Racial or ethnic or religious discrimination has no place in America's public life.

Westchester Urban League rightly targets Buick Classic.