

1/25/03

Racial quotas are not un-American at all

The *Providence Journal* printed an editorial called, "Quotas are un-American." I would like to make a few corrections and dispel the current myths that the mainstream media is reporting. First, the University of Michigan, if you look closely, uses a point system to judge applicants like most other universities. And, while they argue that points should not be assigned based on race alone, the editors fail to clarify that the now famous "20 points" are

given for race AND socioeconomic background. Never for both, though. So, the uninformed example of "poor Vietnamese peasants" not gaining these contested 20 points due to the fact that they are Asian is false. They would be eligible.

Second, I would imagine that most people would also find points given for alumni, family, friends, and political relations also un-American. For example, the presidential candidate,

We need to support special ed

I attended the West Warwick School Committee meeting of Jan. 14. During this meeting, middle school special education issues were discussed. I specifically heard (School Superintendent) David Raiche indicate the school committee obtained a waiver to avoid special education students from transporting via the front entrance of the school. Not only is this shocking, but to hear that he, the superintendent, is now denying this statement is not

meeting to support these children.

Defending them is not only proper, but their job. Mr. Raiche should be exercising his job responsibilities. Likewise, Ms. Rothwell should be doing the same.

If neither are capable, and it appears they have no difficulty sleeping nights, they should both consider stepping down.

Perhaps the ACLU is the avenue of protection for those who cannot defend themselves from this school system's

George W. Bush, relied upon these points of consideration to get into Yale. Consider that he was a C student at Phillips Andover Academy and then a C student at Yale with unimpressive SAT scores. The only way to mediocre student like this would ever be granted admission to such a prestigious institution like Yale would be for the reason that he received "points" for having had his grandfather or father attend the university. In addition, I'm sure there were more consideration points given for the fact that he grew up living next to the president of Yale in Greenwich, Conn. And, of course, we can't forget that his socioeconomic background allowed him to pay full tuition with no financial aid or burden on the university.

Third, racism is still ubiquitous in our society. To argue differently is to be naive. Drive around, open your eyes, and really talk to the people. In other words, there is still a need to correct the problem. For example, African American's

median family income in 2000 was only \$29,470 compared to \$46,305 for white families. Thirty percent of African Americans live below the poverty level compared to nine percent of whites. The "wealthy black lawyer kids," referred to in the editorial do not exist statistically and are not representative of the majority. Considering race and socioeconomic backgrounds of applicants help to correct this problem and promote diversity.

Finally, consider the inequity in that George W. Bush is using federal tax dollars to fight for three white plaintiffs and his own personal bias. In other words, these plaintiffs are getting a step up or affirmative action in gaining admission into the University of Michigan through the U.S. Justice Department's intervention, guided by President Silver Spoon himself. Who is giving the University of Michigan money to defend its policy of leveling the playing field?

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