

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Affirmative Action is ineffective

Editor: I'm writing in response to Alexis Amaye-Obu's guest column ("Government should affirm Affirmative Action") in Wednesday's Alligator.

I can empathize with her dilemma of trying to figure out how to pay for college. I also agree the world is not to the point where people are hired for their qualifications.

However, I happen to disagree with her when it comes to the solution to these problems.

Affirmative Action seems like a good solution, but through closer examination, one finds only a quick fix that causes further discrimination. Affirmative Action is just a system of quotas.

The answer to social discrimination must be met through social, not legal, means. Discrimination is a serious problem, but a system that makes the deciding factor between two equally qualified applicants the legally enforced "race" factor is part of the problem, not the solution.

As to Amaye-Obu's concerns as to how to pay for her educa-

tion, allow me to suggest avenues other than using her ethnicity as a crutch.

I am using a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship (which only has academic qualifications and is open to ALL students who graduate from Florida high schools) as well as a full-time job to finance my education.

I happen to believe that there are many smart, white (and black, red, blue, green, aqua-marine, or whatever), poor men and women that are just as deserving as Amaye-Obu and should not be disqualified simply because they

may or may not have the "good fortune" to be counted in a "majority" demographic.

Scott Edson
2LS

Race should be not be a factor

Editor: Nationally, in 1992, only 7 percent of registered black, first-year law students had LSAT scores above the white average (Barnes and Carr, 1993). The average entering black medical student placed at the 10th

percentile of the white distribution on the MCAT (Division of Educational Research and Assessment, 1993).

Affirmative Action caused these huge discrepancies.

Too many of my white friends have been denied admission to graduate programs, only to discover that a lesser-qualified black applicant was admitted.

Why don't we eliminate race as an admission criterion and judge everyone as an individual based on his or her merits?

Robert Hickok
8AC



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Questions? E-mail Dr. Lewis Sussman at sussman@classics.ufl.edu

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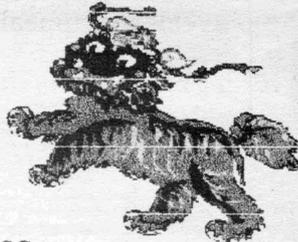
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