

CowPie Asks

Calf #2

June, 1996

What Smells Like A Horse, But Goes To College? *Hypocrisy!*

I confess. I judge people by what I see, not who I think they or their friends are, or who their granddad was, or who they might be sleeping with.

Now it seems we got a bunch of regents at the University of California and Chancellors of UC schools at Los Angeles, San Diego and Berkeley and maybe others, who judge some students by behind-the-scenes funny stuff.

Yeah, some folks got caught doing favors when it came to college admissions. About 32 favors, according to the first *Los Angeles Times* article on March



A horse's hind end. It seems appropriate.

16th, 1996. Now you can bet these favors weren't for any Little People. The favors were for folks who could do, or did things for their school. The Big People!

Then, I read some of the regents doing favors for the Big People were the same ones who voted to discontinue Affirmative Action for the Little People - those with disabilities, or minorities treated badly in the past, or good but poor people. Folks that maybe deserve a little helping hand. Folks *without* Big People friends.

Naturally, there was a brouhaha in the papers. Every article I read, things were getting worse. One State Senator, who asked for at least one favor for a Big Person, was also calling for a Code of Ethics for the regents. A Code of

ethics is *just now* being suggested for a group that's been making decisions about people's lives for over 70 years?! The State Senator and an Assembly woman were threatening to start up, oh maybe half a dozen committees to look into the

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problem. Some of those folks so against favors for Big People were in favor of Affirmative Action for Little People! It seems the

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real argument isn't if there should be favoritism. It was who should get favoritism. Hypocrisy? Sure smells like it!

Maybe a little favoritism ain't so bad. Maybe a kid from a poor family had to work a job - or two - after school. Or maybe her school or teacher was just *plain* bad!

There's also a lot of ways kids can be disadvantaged. A rich kid can be disadvantaged in his head because his parents act like they don't think he (or she) can make it on his own.

The point is that you can't always judge a kid by S.A.T. scores or high school grades. If it's okay to show favoritism to disadvantaged kids, why not show a little favoritism to kids of Big People who might have low scores?

There may be other sorts of things to consider, such as just how far below the line the kid is versus what sort of help his Big People friends may be willing to give the school. Heck, why not let in a terrible student if his Big People friends are going to pay for a new Chemistry building?

People are making a big deal over special favors for the rich like they are something new! Others will

tell you that's the whole reason for getting rich! Are special favors going to stop? Yeah. Right after the Pope gets married!

I think the real issue is getting favoritism out in the open, 'cause if it's fair, it doesn't have to be a secret. I say let in no less than 90% of the students because they're good and have worked hard. And no more than 5% because they need that extra leg up. And no more than another 5% because their Big people friends can help the school.

My way, some disadvantaged kid gets a chance at a top education. And some kid with rich or well-connected parents or

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friends - who maybe didn't study as hard as he or she should have - also gets a chance.

Everyone wins - except the kids that studied real hard and had the grades but who were turned down because some of the slots were

taken by the disadvantaged kids and some with Big People friends. Nobody is *entitled* to go to UCLA or other UC schools, and hell, we all get rejected some-time or other. Maybe that's the first lesson they learn at college.

See you
soon!
C.P.

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Note: COWPIE's topics are often complicated, we are not suggesting that these issues can, or even should, be over-simplified

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