

## Letters to the Editor

May 12, 2006

### **Racism in disguise**

Affirmative action is a newer term for an old problem -- racism. Shame on Nolan Finley for supporting it ("Is affirmative action a remedy or a right?," May 7). Two wrongs make two wrongs and discriminating against whites because blacks were once discriminated against will be found illegal, as it should. The people will speak in November on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative.

*Jack Danko*

*Grosse Pointe Park*

### **Columnist seeks Utopia**

I see that Nolan Finley has embraced the position of former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. This is that "equal protection of the laws" doesn't mean what it says now, but we'll take another look at it in a few decades after society has become a "true meritocracy."

Never mind that this is a state of affairs that has never existed in any society in history, regardless of government-mandated incentives and coercions. Pick up a copy of Thomas Sowell's excellent book, "Affirmative Action Around the World: An Empirical Study."

*Richard G. Finch*

*Dearborn Heights*

### **Equality needs more time**

Nolan Finley's take on affirmative action is both intuitive and correct. I am conservative but agree that more generations need to pass before African-Americans can overcome the equality issues that are so burrowed in the fabric of American history.

In the early movies, blacks were depicted as either cartoonish characters or lackeys whose greatest joy was serving white folk. Blacks were nonexistent on television unless targeted by cigarette commercials. These major entertainment outlets promoted a stigma of inferiority that they are just now beginning to dispel.

*Marvin Lee*

*Commerce Township*

### **Time to reduce injustices**

I read with interest the touching story of the convicted drug runner who will graduate from Michigan Law School ("From prison to law school grad," May 5). While I am now even more confused about why Jennifer Gratz had her application rejected at the

University of Michigan, one thing I am certain of is a "yes" vote on the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative in November. The chances of such injustices occurring again will be greatly reduced.

*David Fisher*

*Ann Arbor*

### **Beware 'outsider' game**

Isn't it hypocritical for Wendell Anthony of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP to be calling Ward Connerly a "California outsider" when he is using U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democratic outsider from Texas, to push his message?

The truth is, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative is not led by outsiders. Jen Gratz, the executive director of Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, grew up in Southgate and went to school at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. All signature collectors, by law, had to be registered to vote in the state.

*Dan Shuster*

*Ann Arbor*