

## What will help you get into Harvard? Super-rich parents with a chequebook and a pen

What a place at Harvard? Persuade your parents to give the university a nice gift. While it is no secret that offering financial gifts to certain Ivy League universities may compensate for a lack of natural gifts, the **extent to** which Harvard's admission process favors relatives of big **donors** is only now being laid **bare**.

extent to 到...的程度

donor 捐赠者

bare 空的; 赤裸的

This is thanks to a lawsuit currently **under way** against Harvard that accuses the university of discriminating against **Asian Americans**. In seeking to determine how Asian Americans are treated by Harvard, the lawsuit has **unearthed** a number of internal university documents that give unprecedented insight into its (seemingly money-**centric**) admissions processes.

under way 进行中

Asian Americans 亚裔美国人

unearth 发掘; 揭露

centric 中心的

While the lawsuit has brought attention to the way in which donations and admissions are **intertwined** at Harvard, this wasn't its primary motive. The case, brought by a controversial **conservative**, Edward Blum, is rather more complicated than that. While **ostensibly** about **racial bias** against Asian Americans, the lawsuit is widely seen as an attempt to **dismantle** affirmative action policies that give traditionally underrepresented groups such as African Americans and **Latinos** a better chance at attending elite universities such as Harvard.

intertwined 缠绕的

conservative 保守的

ostensibly 表面上

racial bias 种族偏见

dismantle 废除; 取消

affirmative action 平权法案

Latino 拉丁美洲的

Conservatives love to **decry** affirmative action as “**reverse racism**” and condemn the idea of **racial quotas**. What this lawsuit, perhaps **inadvertently**, had made abundantly clear, however, is that the most widespread affirmative action programs at play in elite institutions don’t help minority racial groups --- they help rich, predominantly white people. These programs just aren’t labelled “affirmative action”. They are labelled **the status quo**.

decry 谴责

reverse racism 逆向种族主义

racial quotas 族裔配额

inadvertently 不故意地

predominantly 主要地；显著地

the status quo 现状