

I got into Yale' isn't a moral defense

When Supreme Court **nominee** Bree Kavanaugh found his conduct in question on Thursday, he twice responded by **referring to** his Ivy League degrees.

nominee 被任命者, 被提名的人

refer to 关于, 提及, 参阅

At one point, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse pursued a line of **questioning** about the “Beach Week Ralph Club,” a phrase that appeared in Kavanaugh’s **yearbook** next to his senior photo. Whitehouse asked if the “Ralph Club” reference had to do specifically with alcohol, and Kavanaugh responded:

at a point 一度, 在某个时刻

questioning 质问, 询问

yearbook 年鉴, 年刊

“Senator, I was at the top of my class academically, **busted my butt** in school. Captain of the **varsity** basketball team. Got in Yale College. When I got into Yale College, got into Yale Law School. **Worked my tail off**.”

bust my butt (=Work my tail off) 拼命努力工作

varsity 大学代表队的

It was a **deflection**, but the particular shield he raised was **telling**. His response seems to suggest a belief that a prestigious education stands as evidence of moral rightness.

deflection 偏移, 偏差

telling 有效的; 显著的

Kavanaugh treated his education as a **magic wand**, something that could be waved to **dispel** questions of his conduct. Indeed, Americans have a particular fondness for meritocratic narratives, frequently **conflating** achievements and hard work with human worth.

magic wand 魔杖

dispel 驱逐, 驱散

conflate 合并

It should go without saying, but there are all sorts of bad actors who have attended prestigious universities. It is a *reminder* that attending a prestigious school isn't *in and of itself* revealing of anyone's moral character in any direction.

reminder 提醒

in and of itself 就其本身而言