

**'I got into Yale' isn't a moral defense**

<b>Notes &amp; Cues:</b>	<b>Article:</b> <p>When Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh found his conduct in question on Thursday, he twice responded by referring to his Ivy League degrees.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Summary:</b>	