

*San Diego Union-Tribune*, "Letters" 21 March 2019

"Integrity of Admissions Process Always in Question"

RE: "College Scandal A Hard Lesson," (March 16) I would like to commiserate with, but also comfort author Lisa A. Pawlak. Our nation's elites have always considered the elite schools their bastion. Fortunately for meritocracy, admissions decisions are an equation of many factors: grades, SATs, extra-curriculars, sports, special experiences, recommendations; and at renowned institutions, other lesser known factors, such as legacy where a school considers if an applicant comes from a generational line of alumni, or marketing where the applicant is the child of a high profile person that will bring school attention and interest, so these factors count in the applicant's favor. Regrettably, the assault on the integrity of the admissions process has always been with us, but the silver lining in this shameful uncovering of fraud is that fairness has won a battle here, so Lisa Pawlak's son has a better chance to earn his deserved place in a great school.

Jack Flynn  
La Mesa