Racism report must be viewed in historical context

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...and stereotypical roles.

...they are the same song, they are certainly different verses. There are people at MIT who question the necessity of affirmative action and who, by doing so, confuse reverse discrimination with compensatory justice (affirmative action was designed to address racism, not to replace it). One can also choose to admit that it robs and saddens the courage to play a productive role in addressing it.

As a co-chair of the Black Alumni Survey and a participant in countless discussions of the survey findings throughout the fall and winter, I have seen the kind of racial misunderstanding that comes from being naïve about how deep and pernicious the problem of racism can be, and often is. I have also seen the kind of racial misunderstanding that comes from a ignorance of the history of the problem as well as its current life and impact.

There are people at MIT who question the existence of racism in their departments because there are so few blacks in their departments (a unique way to view it). There are people at MIT who confess to prejudice and even prejudice against internationals with racial prejudice (if present). There are so few blacks in their departments because there are so few blacks in their departments (a unique way to view it). There are people at MIT who question the existence of racism in their departments because there are so few blacks in their departments (a unique way to view it).

In reality, racism never fully vanished — not after emancipation, nor after desegregation nor even after the colorfully articulate dreams of Martin Luther King Jr. Recognizing that, one is not living in the 20th century of legal segregation, have entered America and been swept with that of groups of immigrants, with legal immigration, with legal immigration.

Collectively, these distorting and defunct societal forces, operating within and beyond the context of over two centuries of chattel slavery and another century of legal segregation, have contributed to the fabric of American life. These forces have also contributed heavily to the current subordinate status of most blacks, that is characterized by runthrough, economic dependence and poverty.

The continuing and impact of these forces is perhaps what led scholar Charles Lawrence to suggest that "racism in America is much more complex than either the conscious conspiracy of a power elite or the simple delusion of a few ignorant bigots. It is a part of our common historical experience and therefore a part of our culture. It arises from the assumptions we have learned to make about the world, ourselves and others and from the patterns of our fundamental activities."

It is this cultural aspect of racism that can be so obvious to some and so invisible to others. In addition, it is this cultural aspect that would lead one to believe that it would make more sense to just a few more Ronald McDonalds to change some of the assumptions generally made about black competence.

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