



Letters to the Editor (Long Island Edition)

July 15, 2004

[More on Cosby](#)

I read with interest Martin C. Evans' piece ["Cos and effect," News, July 12]. I believe the most compelling portion of the article is the ending quote by Harvard professor and psychologist Alvin Pouissant: "He [Cosby] feels there has to be a renewed emphasis on doing the right thing."

I write to ask, what is the right thing? Cosby speaks out of a justified frustration for people he cares deeply about. Cosby's is a cry for recognition that is born of someone who has raised himself up from his bootstraps to succeed.

This is a justified American ideal, but what of those in our society for whom success is a mirage? They are oppressed by substandard housing, job discrimination, divisive social policies that undermine families, and by the pernicious impact of such conditions, particularly on poor people of color.

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Editor's note: The writer is president of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education.

Lake Success