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Mr. James P. Scanlon
2638 39th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Scanlon:

We apologize for the lateness of this reply to your letter concerning "An American Dilemma," the sidebar that accompanied "Can the Boys Be Saved?" (Education, Oct. 15). You objected, you'll recall, to our chart's presentation of the percentages of black males, black females, white males and white females that attend college. The chart is corrected as published. It does not, as you suggest, represent the racial breakdown by percent of all college students, but rather the percentages of all whites and blacks in America who have gone to college. Only four percent of black males have attended -- whereas 39 percent of white males have. That's a radical disparity.

Thank you, nonetheless, for writing.

Sincerely,

NAME AND SIGNATURE REDACTED

For the Editors