

Dean says minorities hesitant

A&M's past image discouraging

By TIM SAGER
Most minority students are hesitant about coming to A&M because of the university's reputation for rigorous academic discipline and a lingering image of A&M as an all-male, white officer factory, said Edwin H. Cooper, dean of admissions at Texas A&M.

"There is an exaggeration in the minds of minority people about how difficult this school is academically," Cooper said, "and we still have a reputation of being an all-male, primarily white institution with a strong military background. There is a certain amount of hesitation about what A&M has been in the past."

Cooper said that the social factor is also an important consideration for many minority students, especially blacks, who are thinking of coming to A&M: "They like to be around their own kind."

While the University follows Department of Health, Education and

Welfare (HEW) guidelines for admitting students without regard for race, creed or color, the school has no distinct program for recruiting minority students.

The University sends recruiting teams to high schools throughout the state to recruit promising students

but no special effort is made to recruit black students on these visits. Letters are sent to all the high schools in the state giving the times that the A&M visitation teams will be in their area. The high school officials then decide if they want the A&M team on their campus.

"Many of the smaller minority schools in the small towns are not involved in this program," Cooper said. "On the same hand, there are hundreds and hundreds of predominantly white schools that are not involved in this program either."

Cooper feels that special admission requirements for minority students would not be fair to others who wanted to attend A&M.

One member of the admissions staff does, however, work with predominantly minority schools through the high schools' counselors. The University has also worked through the Black Awareness and CAMAC organizations on campus to encourage minority students to attend A&M.

"We feel that the best way to recruit regardless of race or color is for young people who are already happy with A&M to talk with their own people," Cooper said. "Our efforts have been to recruit students regardless of who they are on the basis of those who can succeed academically here."

Black enrollment discussed

By TIM SAGER
When several black students at A&M were asked to discuss their views on the university's low black enrollment, the following points were most frequently emphasized:
✓ High school counselors do not en-

courage minority students to attend A&M, instead steering them toward junior colleges, trade schools or predominantly black colleges.
✓ Most people are reluctant to attend a school where they comprise such a small minority of the student population.

✓ A&M still retains the image of a "farm school" in the minds of many high school students around the state.

✓ There is little opportunity for socializing with other blacks in the College Station community, as op-

posed to a metropolitan area such as Houston.

✓ Black students are conditioned to think it is easier for them to succeed at a black school.

None of the students interviewed said that they had ever encountered overt racism at A&M, but most agreed that blacks attending A&M should be prepared to endure subtle expressions of prejudice from their fellow students.

Most blacks come to A&M because they wish to major in a subject that could not be found in schools with large black populations or because the department at A&M is greatly superior.

The university should more actively recruit minority students in areas outside athletics.

Prairie View does not draw that many blacks away from A&M. The students at Prairie View would probably go to a school in Houston before coming to A&M.

Black enrollment at A&M lowest of schools surveyed

Texas A&M University is the only major state supported school in Texas with a black student enrollment of less than 1 per cent.

Last fall A&M had an enrollment of 25,243 students. Of these, 112 (0.44%) were black and 50 of the 112

were on full-time athletic scholarships. Only 34 black females were enrolled.

Prairie View A&M University, a formerly all-black school located near Hempstead, Tex., now has an enrollment of 5,499, of which 845

(15.37%) is white.

According to the 1970 U.S. census, almost 13% of the state's population is black. At none of the schools surveyed does this percentage appear in enrollment figures. The school either has under 10% or over 80% black enrollment.

Schools contacted for this survey reported the following enrollment figures for last year:

SCHOOL	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	BLACK STUDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Prairie View	5,499	4,654	84.6
Houston	31,118	2,300	7.4
T.C.U.	6,018	382	4.7
Arkansas	12,000	400 (est.)	3.3
Rice	3,648	100 (est.)	2.7
S.M.U.	9,643	200	2.1
Baylor	8,628	157	1.8
Texas	42,598	707	1.6
Texas Tech	22,580	346	1.5
Texas A&M	25,243	112	0.4

The figures given as estimates were provided by the schools in question.

Lebanon to vote, doesn't stop killing

Associated Press
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Only occasional sniper fire punctuated the new truce in Beirut today, but police reported heavy artillery exchanges in the suburbs, the mountain towns to the east and in northern and eastern Lebanon.

The combined casualty toll during the night was 39 killed and 64 wounded, a police spokesman said. But in Beirut the count was only three killed and four wounded by snipers early today, and two killed Wednesday.

Despite the lull in the city, there was growing speculation that the presidential election scheduled Saturday would be postponed again.

Palestinian troops from Syria set up a buffer zone between the Christian and Moslem sectors of Beirut Wednesday after a cease-fire, arranged by the Syrian-Lebanese-Palestinian truce commission.

But Interior Minister Camille Chamoun, who controls the second-largest private Christian army, said he did not expect parliament to meet for the election until security conditions improved.

A broadcast by the right-wing Christian Phalange party said its leader, Pierre Gemayel, might send a delegation to Syria to seek clarification of the deadlock between presidential candidates Raymond Edde and Elias Sarkis.

Sea law talks near finish

Associated Press
UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. — The third session of the U.N. Law of the Sea conference is headed for an inconclusive finish tomorrow with agreement still lacking on the key issues of the 200-mile economic zone and mining the sea floor.

A bloc of nonaligned nations proposed that the conference resume next January. The United States urged a summer meeting, warning that failure to agree by the end of the year could doom the 150-nation effort to write a comprehensive treaty of rules for the world's oceans.

The conference's general committee scheduled a meeting today to discuss the future schedule.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has said the United States cannot wait much longer to start mining the deep seabed. And President Ford recently signed a new law to establish a 200-mile American fishery zone effective next March 1.

Nonaligned delegates argued that a summer session would conflict with too many other international conferences. They also claimed they would not have time to prepare.

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6 WESTERN SANDWICH Sandwich size Denver omelette served on a grilled onion roll.

7 PATTY MELT Ground beef patty with sauteed onions and melted cheese, served on rye bread and grilled in butter.

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