

inside

Dear Readers:

A growing awareness of minorities and their needs in Texas and the nation is a welcome trend that is long overdue. Jessie Jackson, currently the Democratic frontrunner in the 1988 presidential race, has brought attention to the issue, as he woos the support of white constituents.

Over the past few years, Texas A&M has boasted the state's highest minority retention rate, but it is only recently that the administration has made noticeable strides in the recruitment of minorities. And the efforts have paid off. This year black enrollment increased by 29 percent and Hispanic enrollment is up by 26 percent.

But even though these numbers are impressive, we still have quite a long way to go. Our main story is a comprehensive status report on minorities at A&M. We look at where they've been, where they are now and where they are headed.

We've also taken a look at two minority former students who have soared to the tops of their fields. Mayor Henry Cisneros of San Antonio said in a recent Texas Monthly article that A&M was probably the toughest place for a minority to be in school when he was here in the late sixties. But Cisneros made it through A&M and is one of the most popular up-and-coming politicians in the state of Texas. Fred McClure served in 1976 as A&M's first and only black student body president. He's held a number of prestigious governmental positions since then, including special assistant for legislative affairs to the president of the United States. These two men are certainly worth a second look.

A symposium was held Tuesday evening to discuss the Hispanic drop-out rate, an issue that the panelists said affects us all. Some interesting and controversial points were made at this discussion, and we've got the highlights.

Finally, in our weekly student survey we asked students this week how they feel about scholarships set aside strictly for minorities. Predictably, we received mixed reactions.

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Courting minorities _____ 8

Texas A&M is working hard to increase minority enrollment, and has experienced a fair amount of success recently. But there is still a lot of work to be done if the administration is to reach the goals it's set for the University. Look inside for a status report on minorities at A&M.

Spotlighting former students _____ 6

Although being a minority student has its share of disadvantages, some former A&M students, classified as minorities, have taken the state and nation by storm with their determination to succeed. This week, we highlighted two old Ags who can serve as examples for all of us, regardless of our race or ethnic background.

Dropout dilemma _____ 11

At a symposium Tuesday, distinguished panelists discussed the problem of the Hispanic drop-out rate. They didn't agree on the cause of the problem, but offered unique and pointed solutions.

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Some students are upset that there is specific funding available to minority students, while others feel that this is more than fair. This week we asked students how they feel about this issue, and the answers are divided almost equally.

Movie review _____ 4

Arnold Schwarzenegger has a new movie out, "The Running Man," but Tom says Schwarzenegger is the usual one man army hero figure. Look inside to see Tom's reaction to this new action film.

Album review _____ 4

Tom says that "Saturday," the newest release from the Austin-based band The Reivers, doesn't offer enough diversity and that the lyrics are sometimes unclear. Read on to find out how Tom ranked the album.