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Plan: Access and Equity 2000 to increase minority graduation rates

Continued from Page 1

minority graduate and professional enrollment exceeded seven percent.

Access and Equity projects that 89 African-Americans and 214 Hispanics will be enrolled in A&M masters programs by 2000.

Ninety-six African-Americans and 155 Hispanics will be enrolled in A&M's doctoral programs by 2000, and 12 African-Americans and 72 Hispanics will be enrolled in A&M professional programs by 2000.

Barry Nelson, senior academic business administrator and member of the subcommittee on increasing minority graduate and professional student graduation rates, said Access and Equity is attempting to unite activities already present at A&M.

"There have been a lot of efforts in the past to recruit minority students," Nelson said. "A lot of programs are in place in and around the University. What we're trying to do is to bring them together. I'm not sure that's been done before."

According to A&M's executive summary, the University must graduate skilled minority graduate and professional students for the benefit of Texas.

"If undergraduate students are to have a diverse faculty at the institution of higher learning of their choice, Texas A&M University must accept the challenge of graduating minorities who will become faculty members at other institutions," the summary stated.

Dr. Dan Robertson, director of graduate studies and chairman of the subcommittee on increasing minority graduate and professional student graduation rates, said Access and Equity has a better chance of succeeding than past plans did.

"The numbers we have set as goals are relatively modest compared to past goals," he said. "The goals set in the Texas Plan were driven more by the need for the state of Texas' goals to be deemed acceptable by the federal government than by Texas universities."

Robertson said Access and Equity is considering quality of support rather than just numbers.

"There are some institutions known as revolving door institutions," he said. "They bring minority students in, but

they don't end up graduating from there. We're concerned equally with the ideas of recruitment and retention."

Robertson said that although support for Access and Equity is not universal, it is widespread.

"It is critical that more emphasis be placed on better preparing and equipping students in the 15 to 19 age category to meet the challenges offered by institutions of higher learning."

— University's executive summary of the plan

Equity is not universal, it is widespread. "Support is certainly not 100 percent, but we have the majority of faculty and students' support this goal to increase African-American and Hispanic enrollment," he said.

Budget: A&M faces cuts

Continued from Page 1

fund, which was primarily used for utilities on campus.

The Senate Bill also requests a decrease in the general revenue, but at a substantially lower amount — \$112,888 compared to the House's suggested \$3,789,002.

The Senate Bill also reduced money for doctoral programs, available University funds and Article IX reductions.

The Article IX reductions are broken down into several categories, including an employment cap, a proportionality deduction for the University and a 20 percent special item reduction.

"We are hoping the Senate Bill will pass, but only time will tell," Bowen said. "Right now there has been quite a bit of emphasis on the House's proposal."

Bowen explained that each year, the budget is broken down into five parts: educational and general funds, designated funds, auxiliary enterprises, restricted funds and plant funds.

Since the state is mostly responsible for the educational and general fund, money in the rest of the areas should be about the same as last year.

The budget for the 1996 fiscal year will be in effect Sept. 1 through Aug. 31.

State Senate passes bicycle helmet bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate has passed a bill that would require bicyclists under 18 to wear protective helmets on public roads, but would provide no penalties for violators.

Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, said her bill is meant to send a message to save lives. But Sen. Don Henderson, R-Houston, described it as simultaneously useless and intrusive.

The measure passed the Senate with a 20-11 vote Monday. It now goes to the House for consideration.

"This is something the parents should decide," said Henderson, who suggested that an educational program about bicycle helmets would be preferable to Mrs. Zaffirini's bill.

"Now we've got a (proposed) law that's going to make law violators of all of the parents in the state whose kids are riding a bicycle without a helmet, but we don't really mean it because we don't have any criminal penalties," he said. "Really, this is just a feel-good bill telling people that gee whiz, you really ought to put bicycle helmets on your kids."

"Are you going to accept my full body armor amendment?" he asked, tongue-in-cheek.

Advisers: Counselors help with academic decisions

Continued from Page 1

environment which stated that during Spring 1993, fewer than 50 percent of students consulted their advisers before making academic decisions.

"There are 42,000 students here," Leech said. "I think that sometimes students are so overwhelmed that they forget they have someone who is available to them."

Broussard said many students do not visit their advisers because they are comfortable making decisions alone.

"Some students have become comfortable advising by catalogs and degree plans," Broussard said. "They feel they can pretty much walk it

through without seeing an adviser."

Broussard said that those who do not visit an adviser are at a disadvantage because they are not aware of changes within a department.

Leech said students can talk to advisers about a variety of things.

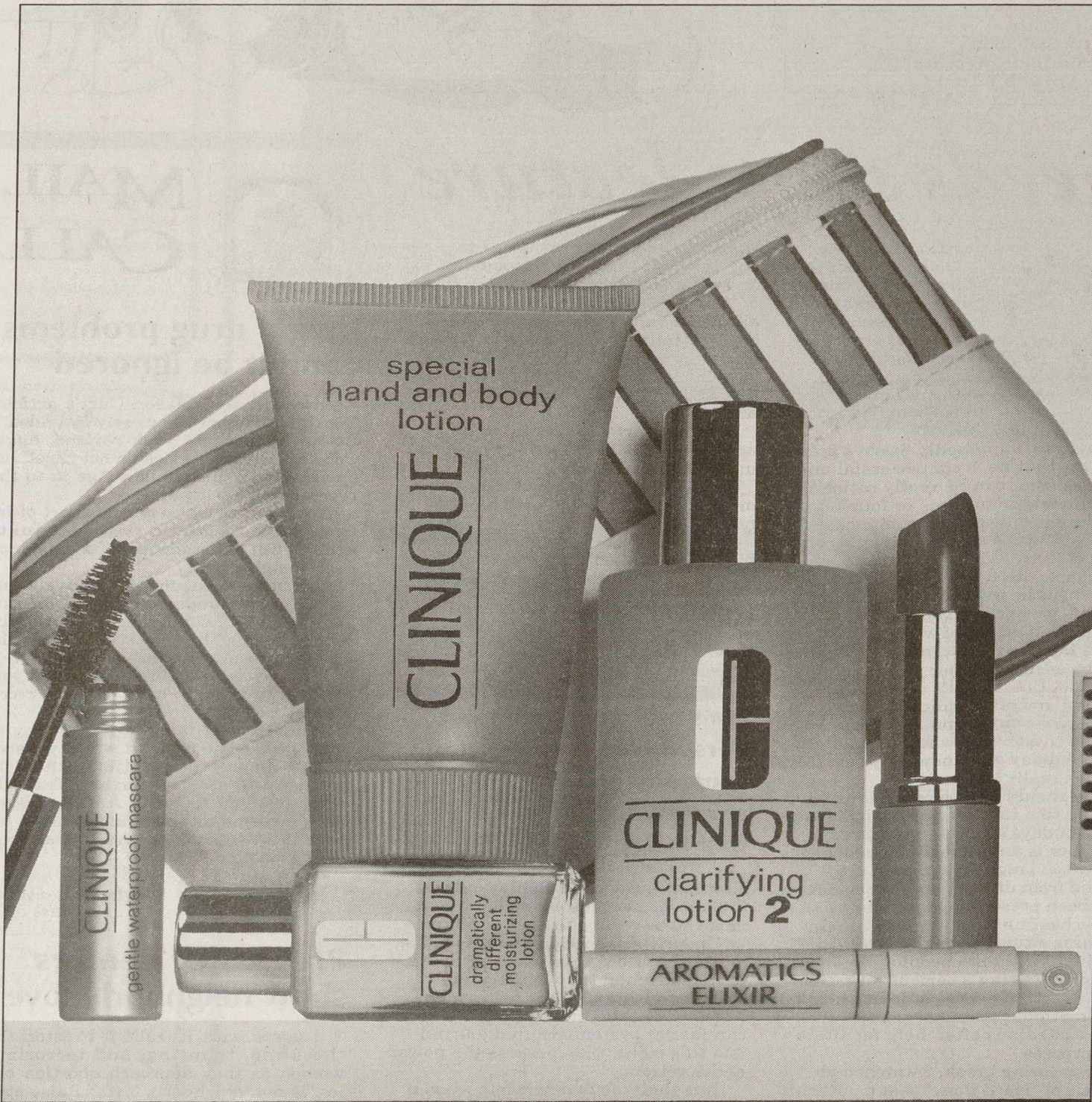
"Some students don't know when the Q-drop deadline is," Leech said. "Others need some help with registration. They need to know that they need a certain course, or if it's totally off-the-wall."

Marek said advisers offer personal advice as well.

"You can talk to advisers about career goals or other things," Marek said. "You can also talk to them about some personal things."

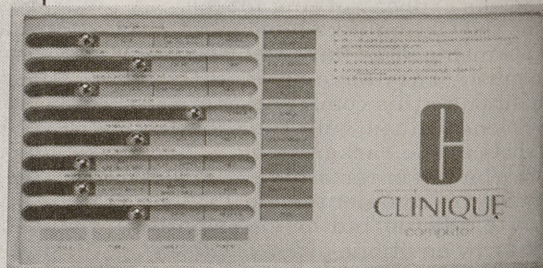
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