

Forum

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"I believe legacy should be dealt with the same as race," Nobles said.

Cynthia Garcia, a sophomore accounting and finance major, said that awarding the same number of admissions points for legacy and race is a satisfactory way to handle the situation.

She also said affirmative action is still desperately needed at this University because a basic psychological tendency causes people to gravitate toward those who are like themselves.

Because those in charge of A&M admissions have historically been white males, Garcia said affirmative action is a necessary check on deep-rooted preferences for similar races.

Affirmative action, she stressed, is a way to ensure that qualified members of all races are represented at A&M.

"The basis for affirmative action is not to get two people with unequal standing," Garcia said. "It is to get two people who are on equal standing."

Nikki Guerra, a senior civil engineering major, said affirmative action will be necessary as long as even one person in the United States is discriminated against.

She also said that though she desires equality, she does not want anyone to overlook her ethnicity because it makes her unique. She said an appreciation of differences should not be lost in the affirmative action debate.

"Before we start telling each other that we are all the same," she said, "we need to remember that we all bring different things."

The Senate Student Services Committee will meet Monday at 6 p.m. to draft a final draft of the Hopwood resolution, which will be voted on at the full Senate meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Koldus Building Governance Room.

Kerlin said students are encouraged to attend either or both of the meetings.

Admission: Board uses point system

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Ruth Prescott, special assistant to the executive vice president and provost in the Office of the Academic Vice President, said she is not surprised that many students do not understand the admissions process because it is fairly complicated and continually evolving.

Race is only one element in a point system that determines who gets into A&M and who does not.

In 1995, roughly 10,000 students were admitted to A&M in an attempt to enroll a freshman class of 6,000. The admissions board, Prescott said, figured that about 4,000 of the admitted students would choose not to attend A&M.

Fifty percent of these 10,000 students were admitted based purely on quantitative measures — SAT and ACT scores and high school class ranking — and given "early notification" of their admission.

Students who had their completed applications on file by Feb. 1, had at least an 1100 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT, and were within the top 25 percent of their high school class, were granted early notification admission.

The other 5,000 students admitted went through individual scrutiny by the admissions board, a more complicated admissions process that involves a point system based on several criteria.

Each applicant who meets minimum standardized test and high school ranking standards is evaluated by two or three members of the admissions board and given a score between 1 and 100.

Prescott said that though the scoring procedure is somewhat subjective, most of the board members tend to score applicants quite similarly, and if there are discrepancies, a supervisor does a re-evaluation.

A projection of an applicant's grade-point ratio is developed based on his or her standardized test scores and high school class ranking. If, for example, the projection indicates an applicant would receive a 4.0 at A&M, the candidate would receive the maximum score in this area, 36 points.

Depending on the level of courses a student took in high school, up to 16 more points can be awarded to an applicant.

Up to 10 points can be given for extracurricular activities and demonstrated leadership skills, and up to 8 points can be awarded based on athletic or other talent and "extenuating circumstances."

Extenuating circumstances, Prescott said, can include such things as a parent who dies during an applicant's senior year or coming from an economically disadvantaged family.

However, Prescott said, the board can take into consideration only those circumstances that students point out on their applications.

Number of hours worked during high school, participation in service projects, and whether the appli-

cant has relatives who attended A&M, known as legacy, can each give a student up to 6 more points.

A student who has established "association with A&M" by attending University conferences and workshops will receive 1-4 points.

Admissions officers have a form on which they tally the points each applicant receives in these areas. However, race is listed nowhere on the form.

Prescott said this is because race contributes to admissions decisions in a different way.

When the admissions board convenes, they face a table of applications that are divided by high school.

Of about 1,200 high schools that A&M receives applications from, 100 high schools have been "targeted" by the board as disadvantaged. This categorization is based on a combination of race and socioeconomic factors.

"Ideally, we (A&M admissions board) would love to look at people solely on their credentials. But as long as we still have those vestiges [of past racism], this is the most nonarbitrary, rational way to do it"

— RUTH PRESCOTT

special assistant to the executive vice president and provost in the Office of the Academic Vice President

Schools with predominately minority populations, high drop-out rates and low TAAS scores are typically targeted.

Every applicant from a targeted school automatically receives up to 6 points. This applies whether the student is a minority or not, Prescott said.

Students from untargeted schools do not receive extra points, even if they are minority applicants.

However, race can still give minority students from untargeted schools an edge because when all admissions decisions for a particular high school are made, an admissions officer checks the list to see if there is a minority student who was not accepted but who falls within 6 points of the cut-off.

If so, the admissions board often moves the cut-off line down, admitting the minority student in question and others who score above him or her.

Prescott said that until the vestiges of past racism are completely eliminated from our society, ways to ensure that minorities are not overlooked are necessary.

"Ideally," she said, "we would love to look at people solely on their credentials. But as long as we still have those vestiges, this is the most nonarbitrary, rational way to do it."

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Consider taking a math course this summer. Advantages are:

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New course offerings this summer include:

- History of Math (Math 689-101)
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Prerequisites for these courses will be kept to a minimum. Contact the Math Dept. at 845-3261 for further information.

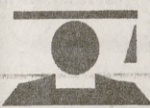
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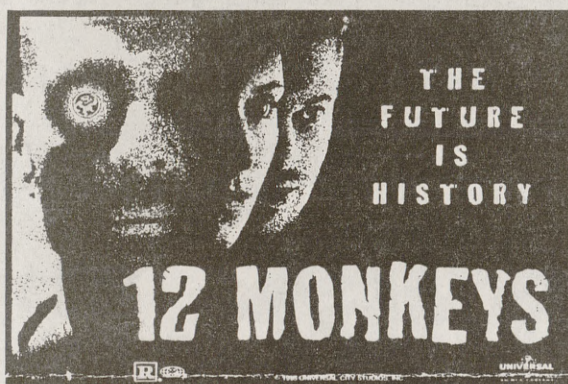
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MAY GRADS

If you ordered a 1996 Aggieland yearbook and will not be on campus this fall to pick it up, you can have it mailed. You should stop by the Student Publications business office, room 230 Reed McDonald Building, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and pay a \$6.50 mailing and handling fee. Yearbooks must be picked up within one semester of the publication date, and they will not be held, nor will they be mailed, without payment of the mailing and handling fee.

MSC FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS...



Fri, Apr. 26 at 7:00 & 9:30 pm

Admission \$2.75 w/I.D. \$3 w/out I.D. Persons with disabilities please call 847-8478 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification 3 working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability. Aggieland Cinema Hotline: 847-8478 Rudder Box Office: 845-1234 All films are presented in the Rudder Theater Complex

Creative Leadership Development Committee

Is looking for motivated people to fill four exciting and new director's positions.

CLD is the newest MSC Committee and is committed to experiential learning through creative and non-traditional programs.

CLD plans activities for its 30 committee members to develop leadership skills.

The new directors will work on programs such as

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- diversity issues
- organizing a trip to Prairie View A&M
- coordinating a ropes course
- and any other activity we can think of which will challenge personal views and perceived limits

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Applications can be picked up 216 of the MSC. Applications are due Wednesday, May 1, 1996 by 4:00 p.m.

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Wednesday **May 8th**

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