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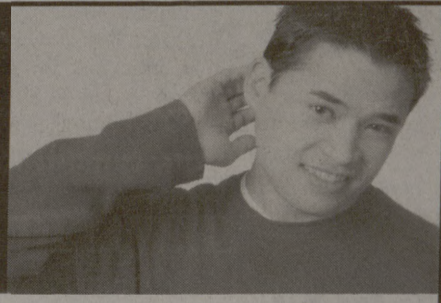
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Ring Dance April 5th, 2003

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One coupon per person, per visit at participating Fazoli's Restaurants only. Expires 5/31/03

Aggie Ring Delivery



CONGRATULATIONS!

Join the Celebration at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center

APRIL 3RD RING DELIVERY

Tickets distributed throughout the day, beginning at 7:15 a.m.

You must have a numbered ticket to get your Ring.

FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 2 P.M.

RING DISTRIBUTION STARTS AT 3 P.M. AND ENDS AT 6 P.M.

We encourage you to take the Bonfire or Replant bus routes that stop in front of the building.

Texas Aggie Artist, Benjamin Knox '90, personalizing the "Historic Aggie Ring"

You must bring your pink receipt and driver's license to pick up your Ring. If you do not have your pink receipt, please bring your student ID and driver's license.

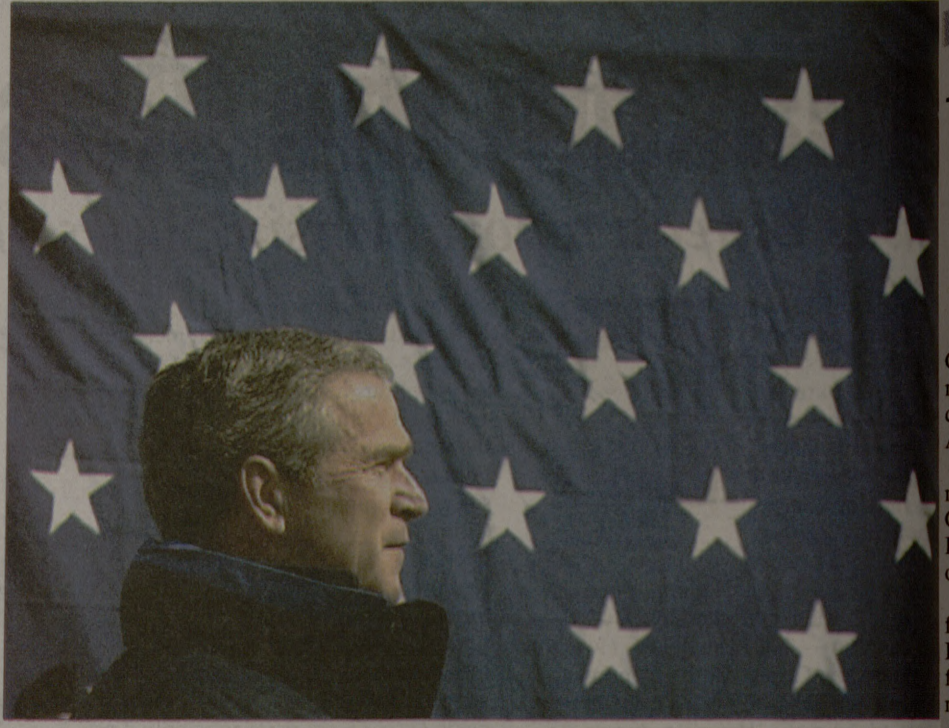
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We are The Aggie Network!

Born in the U.S.A



President George W. Bush surveys the crowd upon his arrival at the U.S. Coast Guard facility in Philadelphia on Monday. Bush gave a speech to members of the Coast Guard, telling them the United States is one step closer to occupying Baghdad.

O'Connor, Kennedy key to affirmative action decision

By Anne Gearan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — What the Supreme Court says this year in its most significant ruling about race in a generation probably depends on just one or two of the court's nine members.

Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy, the court's perennial swing voters, could write the demise of affirmative action as the nation knows it, or rewrite the rules for when race can be part of government decisions.

The historic affirmative action cases the court takes up Tuesday ask how and whether race can be a factor when public colleges and universities choose their students. More broadly, the cases ask wrenching legal and constitutional questions about equality, fairness, opportunity and history.

"It is very likely that it will be 5-4," UCLA law professor Eugene Volokh said of the court's eventual vote. "The question is, 5-4 which way?"

The University of Michigan and its law school give extra credit to minority applicants, making it more likely that a black, Hispanic or Native American will edge out a white applicant who has similar test scores, grades or other attributes.

Three white students who challenged the Michigan policies frame their argument in simple terms: It is not fair for a minority to win a coveted place

on campus just because he or she is a minority.

"I was treated unfairly because of my skin color," said Jennifer Gratz, a white student rejected by the university. "Court records show that if I had been black, Hispanic or Native American, I would have had a nearly 100 percent chance of admission with my grades and record."

"It is very likely that it will be 5-4. The question is, 5-4 which way?"

— Eugene Volokh
UCLA law professor

The university and dozens of supporters counter that a diverse student body is a worthy goal that benefits all students. Government, in this case a public-funded university, has what the Supreme Court has called a compelling interest in furthering that goal, the school argues.

The cases directly address only admissions at public, tax-supported institutions, but the court's rationale is expected to have a wide ripple through private colleges and universities, other government decision-making and the business world.

In a measure of the issue's importance, people began lining

up a day early for scarce seats in the courtroom for Tuesday's arguments, and hundreds of affirmative action demonstrators were expected to gather outside the court Tuesday morning. O'Connor, even more than Kennedy, likely to listen closely to arguments about the practical effects of the university admissions lawyers said.

Both O'Connor and Kennedy are moderate conservatives. He was named to the court in 1992 by former President George H.W. Bush. She was named to the court in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan. They joined the court's three-member conservative bloc to form the majority in Bush v. Gore, the case that effectively ended the 2000 presidential election, and that same 5-4 bloc often prevails in some of the court's most ideologically polarizing rulings.

The four more liberal justices typically score victories with O'Connor and Kennedy peeling together or singly, and give the side a majority.

On affirmative action, the views of most of the justices are fairly clear.

Based on the justices' writings and votes in past cases, many lawyers expect Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas to vote to strike down the Michigan programs as unconstitutional.

Likewise, Justices John Paul Stevens, David Souter, Stephen Breyer and Stephen Breyer are expected to support the program.

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