Students can examine files under new laws

(Continued from page 1) he said, "Most notes (prepared by the David's Office) are on academic or bureaucratic matters and more personal things probably are very vague.

However, there are items which colleges would like kept from students, and among these are letters of recommendation. Administrators across the country are worried that student access to files containing personal evaluations will have a "chilling effect" on admission prospects which depend upon confidential letters as a primary source of information about prospective candidates. University President Derek Bok said last week that Harvard and other universities will lobby for a delay in the effective date of the law to allow for public hearings, during which Congress would be apprised of the dilemma facing college admissions in light of the privacy statute.

"For an institution such as Harvard that is trying very hard not to adhere slavishly to test scores and grades, but to consider a wide range of human qualities, we depend very much on frank, candid letters of evaluation from alumni, school teachers and many other people," Bok told a gathering at Harvard's Eliot House.

If these letters are now open to inspection by the student involved, Bok predicted the "canner and detail with which letters of recommendation are written," would more than likely be impaired.

*(Please turn to page 5)*

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