Black enrollment still below national averages

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"It's our job to change things but we should be doing so ourselves," Whitman said. "The goal is to admit as many American Indian students as possible."

The pool of black applicants was not as good as it has been in past years. Also, nationally, the number of black students going on to college declined from 32 percent in 1977 to 28 percent in 1984, he explained. "And less blacks took the PSAT, from which we base our recruitment efforts."

There has been a drop from 1973 to 1984 in black applications to the Ivy group.

No Puerto Rican students were enrolled at the Institute 25 years ago, according to the Admissions Office. But enrollment in that minority group, unlike black enrollment, has been increasing steadily over the past 25 years. Puerto Rican enrollment at MIT currently stands at above the national average—nearly two percent of the Class of 1989 are Puerto Ricans, more than twice the figure provided by the 1980 national census. American Indian enrollment has been holding steady over the past 8 years.

Blacks composed 11.9 percent of the US population in 1982, according to that year's census. whites compose 2.8 percent of the Class of '89. Harvard University has seven percent black enrollment in its incoming freshman class, while Wellesley College has 6.4 percent.

"I don't think MIT recruits anywhere south of San Antonio, is in southern California and Texas where there's a high concentration of Chicanos," said Andrew Bernal '88, president of La Union Chicana, por Atzlan.

"There are only about two percent Chicano students when there should be six percent by national averages." he said. "We're planning our own student recruitment program to change things but it's not our job."

Minority students have many difficulties even after enrollment.

"I never really had a sitting in the Spring," the student never knew whether he's been on merit or affirmative action," Whitman explained. "Self-confidence is the key to success at MIT. If you think you're not going to do well, you're probably not going to do well."

A few "quilt tips"

Hats: cap, beret, etc.

Ideas: cowboy, matches, etc.

Leather jackets, turtleneck: "At least you're getting on the fact that you're worth something," Bernal said.

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