

the NEW TRIER NEWS



Suit alleges racial bias against Asian-Americans

Students for Fair Admissions call for Harvard's admission records made public

by Ezra Wallach

The group "Students for Fair Admissions" filed a lawsuit against Harvard university on behalf of Asian-American students, demanding for the school's admission records be released to the public.

Asian-American students claim that they have been penalized by colleges due to the high average academic achievement of their race.

The case includes evidence that shows higher average SAT scores for Asian-American applicants to Harvard along with data that shows higher rejection rates among highly qualified Asian-American students.

Supporting the Asian-American students is the Department of Justice and the Trump administration, who are actively investigating Harvard among other private schools to ensure that admission processes do not involve a kind of quota system for race.

They have successfully pushed the court date forward and as of now it will likely take place in October.

Affirmative action ensures that different minorities and social groups are represented at a certain college. While that may seem like a fair thing for admissions officers to be considering, it can make other social groups suffer, including those that have more qualifying applicants on paper.

"I feel like all schools do this and it hurts students coming from wealth because they don't fill quotas. We have a good life and a lot of money so that might give us an advantage but that still makes it frustrating," said junior Matthew Kirby. "I think



Harvard is among the many institutions accused of using illegal race-based quota systems in admissions process | AP

colleges should just take the smartest or most qualified kids; gender, race, etc. shouldn't matter."

In 1997, the University of Michigan was sued by a white student who claimed that members of minority races were granted admission instead of her despite their lower grades and test scores.

This led to similar court cases involving public colleges in following years, many placing the 1964 Civil Rights Act and a 1978 "Bakke" Supreme Court ruling that supported affirmative action side by side.

In 2013, the Supreme Court banned the use of racial, religious, or other defining criteria as a factor in admissions for public colleges, but left the door open for private institutions.

For example, it's easier to get into Notre Dame if you're Catholic. The same goes for Cornell if you're a legacy. Conversely, the acceptance rate at Brown University is 40% higher for men than women, as they attempt to close their gender gap. While these practices are technically legal, placing specific quotas for races of admitted students is not.

The fact that many colleges

seek diversity is no secret for New Trier students; admission chances often seem as if they are smaller at certain colleges due to our academic achievement as one high school.

"Is an 'A' at New Trier the same as an 'A' at Highland Park or Lane Tech? I don't know. It's really difficult for schools to be completely objective in the admissions process. If all kinds of diversity on their campus is a priority, then it will show up in their demographics," said Post High School Counselor James Conroy.

The main goal of most colleges is not to discriminate; rather, it is to make sure their campus is diverse in as many ways as possible, including race. The problem is that easier for some means harder for others.

"It doesn't surprise me that private schools are factoring in race into their admissions," said Conroy. "Colleges these days want their campus to be as diverse as possible. As a private institution, they can prefer students that come from certain locations, nationalities, wealth, and even race if they so choose and that will consequently make acceptance harder for some groups."

Called "reverse discrimination" by some, affirmative action seeks

those who have experienced discrimination in the past, giving them an equal playing field with other, more fortunate social groups.

At top public schools that don't consider race, the number of Asian students is typically higher, while the black population is typically lower. For example, University of California at Berkeley contains 35% Asian-American, 27% white, and just 2% black students. At neighboring Stanford, the Asian-American population is just 21%, while the African-American student population is over twice as high at almost 7%.

"I think [racial consideration] balances out in the end because even though it's harder for kids like us to get in, some of the other kids applying went to worse high schools and don't have the same kind of money," said junior Noah Osher.

In the 1920s, Harvard was afraid that a high percentage of Jewish students would overflow its campus, so they made adjustments to their admissions policies by looking at a more "holistic review," thus decreasing the number of Jews admitted substantially. Almost century later, they may be doing the same thing with race.

Web filtering prompts frustration

Students question school restrictions for online content

by Arjun Thakkar

As the Technology Department continues to adjust what sites students can use on school networks, many students, frustrated with these restrictions, are using alternative methods to access blocked content.

According to Network Manager Richard Williams, the school "is required by federal and state laws to impose protection measures that block or filter inappropriate Internet access." The administration views web filtering as a measure to establish a safe and secure network for student use.

While on the school Wi-Fi, some sites like Facebook are blocked from student access, yet more popular social networks like Snapchat and Instagram remain unrestricted.

Certain mobile games that require Internet access are also blocked on the network, including the recent phenomenon, "Fortnite."

In response to these restrictions, students have begun to use Virtual Private Networks, or VPN, allowing them to access blocked content. As Assistant Principal of the Northfield Campus Gail Gamrath said in a Tech Department iPad Orientation Video, "Attempts to bypass our secure network access these sites are a violation of our school policy and will result in consequences."

"Any device brought onto school grounds is expected to connect to student Wi-Fi and receive the same filtered internet access. This is a way of helping keep everyone safe," added Gamrath.

Some students expressed their confusion over these restrictions.

"I don't believe there should be any filters on social media. We are in high school and we should control our own decisions," said sophomore Frank Zawrazky.

Other students don't take issue with the web filtering. Senior Kirk Stewart thinks that the web filtering encourages students to focus on schoolwork, but he acknowledges that those who do use VPN "won't be stopping anytime soon."

Sophomore Nadia Jaikaran expressed similar views. "I get why some people would be upset about [the school blocking Facebook], but many teachers use Facebook, so it might be a safety measure to restrict connections with teachers beyond the classroom," said Jaikaran.

Student Alliance has heard student concerns and plans to address them. Junior and student body president-elect Bill Yen thinks there is inconsistency in what sites are blocked.

Last year, Yen worked with junior vice president-elect Andrew Willcocks to unblock Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram.

See Web filtering prompts frustrations and questions Page 2

Who to make time for at this year's Lollapalooza



THE WEEKND • BRUNO MARS • JACK WHITE • ARCTIC MONKEYS • TRAVIS SCOTT
THE NATIONAL • VAMPIRE WEEKEND • ODESZA • LOGIC • POST MALONE • KHALID
LIL UZI VERT • PORTUGAL. THE MAN • TYLER, THE CREATOR • CHVRCHES
ST. VINCENT • ZEDD • EXCISION • WALK THE MOON • DUA LIPA • LL COOL J FEAT. DJ Z-TRIP
GUCCI MANE • GALANTIS • CAMILA CABELLO • PERRY FARRELL'S KIND HEAVEN
DILLON FRANCIS • JAMES BAY • BROCKHAMPTON • CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN • BORNIS
GRETA VAN FLEET • TASH SULTANA • ILLENIUM • REZZ • REBELUTION • LYKKE LI • CHROMEO
LUKE COMBS • TYCHO • PLAYBOI CARTI • FRANZ FERDINAND • LIL PUMP • MALAA
RAINBOW KITTEN SURPRISE • MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA • DANIEL CAESAR • THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
BLACKBEAR • JUNGLE • ALINA BARAZ • ZOMBOY • QUINN XCII • GOLDLINK • BILLIE EILISH
HIPPIE SABOTAGE • A BOOGIE WIT DA HOODIE • KALI UCHIS • BAZZI • NAV • LIZZO • DAYA
JESSIE WARE • WHAT SO NOT • ALL TIME LOW • LANY • BEBE REXHA • REX ORANGE COUNTY
CIGARETTES AFTER SEX • ANDERSON EAST • SABRINA CLAUDIO • PETIT BISCUIT • THE WOMBATS
KAYZO • PARQUET COURTS • ALAN WALKER • STARS • A R I Z O N A • THE VACCINES
BOMBA ESTEREO • RUSKO • DERMOT KENNEDY • TROYBOI • BIG WILD • LAUV AND MORE!

Lollapalooza headliners include Bruno Mars and The Weeknd | Lollapalooza

Grant Park festival to feature artists from a variety of genres

by Eli Lieberman

Lollapalooza's 2018 Chicago lineup was announced last month and has been received with mixed reactions.

The headliners for each day are Arctic Monkeys (Thursday),

Bruno Mars (Friday), The Weeknd (Saturday) and Jack White (Sunday). As always, these main acts vary in genre and audience, but are all world famous musicians.

Thursday is loaded with rap and R&B artists, even for an event dominated by such artists. Travis Scott, known for his trap hits such as "Butterfly Effect" and "Goosebumps", has a reputation as a great live performer and will be a must see that day.

Relatively new R&B sensation Khalid is also performing Thursday. He is the artist behind the album "American Teen".

This was his first studio album and has launched him into fame, so he is sure to perform most songs from the project.

Lesser known rapper and Chicago native G Herbo is sure to draw a decent crowd in his home city.

Other notable artists on Thursday include Chvrches and Galantis. Both groups originated overseas and are popular with hundreds of millions of downloads, but are slightly lesser known in the United States.

Friday's biggest names offer a larger variety of music. Pop A-lister Bruno Mars, who debatably has the most star power of anyone in the festival, will be anchoring the second day.

Although Mars is a more nationally known name, Post Malone and Tyler the Creator will most likely take priority for most New Trier students.

Everything Post Malone puts out right now seems to blow up, with songs such as "Rockstar", "Candy Paint" and "Congratulations"

dominating hip-hop radio stations. By the time Lollapalooza comes around he is sure to have released more hits.

Tyler the Creator's most recent album, "Flower Boy," may be his most popular project outside of his core fan base, featuring songs like "Who Dat Boy" and "911 Mr. Lonely."

American rock band The National, who won a Grammy in 2017 for their album "Sleep Well My Beast," will be another big-name act to perform on Friday.

Two other notable yet lower-listed performers to look out for Friday are Taylor Bennett and Two Feet. Although not quite as famous as his brother Chancellor Bennett, better known as Chance the Rapper, has a unique style and is also Chicago native.

Two Feet is one of the many underrated indie acts coming this year and concert goers should heavily consider making time for him.

The Weeknd, who recently released another album, entitled "My Dear

See Lollapalooza lineup Page 6