

Southern Methodist University halts race-based bake sale

by Linda K. Wertheimer
The Dallas Morning News

The sign said white males had to pay \$1 for a cookie. White women: 75 cents. Hispanics: 50 cents. Blacks: a quarter.

The event Tuesday at Southern Methodist University was no PTA bake sale.

It was a conservative student group's attempt at making a political statement, and it caused such a stir that SMU shut it down after 45 minutes.

The Young Conservatives of Texas chapter ran its so-called affirmative action bake sale to protest the use of race or gender as a factor in college admissions. Conservative groups have held similar sales at colleges around the country since February.

Group leaders say they were only making a point while exercising their freedom of speech, but a black student who filed a discrimination complaint with SMU said the bake sale was offensive. SMU officials said they halted the event because it created a potentially unsafe situation for students.

"This was not an issue about free speech," said Tim Moore, director of the Hughes-Trigg Student Center. "It was really an issue where we had a hostile environment being created that was potentially volatile."

During the bake sale, students were crowding around the table outside the student center, and several began to get into a shouting match, Moore said. David C. Rushing, a second-year SMU law student and leader of the conservatives' group, said the event didn't get out of hand and that at the most, a dozen students gathered around the table of sugar and chocolate chip cookies and Rice Krispie treats.

"We copied what's been done at multiple campuses around the country to illustrate our opinion of affirmative action and how we think it's unfair," said Rushing, chairman of Young Conservatives of Texas at SMU and for the state.

Chapters of the group held similar bake sales at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University this month. Both schools allowed the events, citing free speech policies.

Rushing, 23, said the events strive to give students a sense of the inequality he says is created by unequal college admissions policies for whites and minority groups.

Matt Houston, a sophomore, said the group's sign, which listed prices for the treats by the race and sex of buyers, was not a learning tool. It was offensive, he said.

"My reaction was disgust because of the ignorance of some SMU students," Houston said, who is black. "They were arguing that affirmative action was solely based on race. It's not based on race. It's based on bringing a diverse community to a certain organization."

He and Kambira Jones, a 20-year-old junior, both expressed their concerns to SMU officials. "When I saw this, I was like, 'I can't believe they let you guys post this,'" she said. "I felt they were attempting to make Hispanics and blacks feel inferior. We jumped over the same hoops to get there."

SMU's freshman class this year is one of its most diverse ever - 20 percent are minorities. Overall,

minority enrollment among the school's 10,000-member student body is 19 percent.

Before the bake sale brouhaha, SMU already was planning a forum so students and others could debate the aftermath of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action. The court ruled in June that universities could use race as a factor in admissions under limited conditions. The ruling changes the landscape in Texas, where universities have been banned from using race as a factor since 1996.

"We value free speech, and I think our record here shows freedom of expression is important to the academic community and especially this one," said James Caswell, SMU's vice president of student affairs.

The students organizing the SMU event said they meant no offense.

To get permission for setting up, students said only that they were holding a bake sale.

For the record, the SMU sale was a flop, at least financially. The group ended up selling just three cookies, raising \$1.50.

Many public school graduates are not college-ready, report says

by Carolyn Bower and Alexa Aguilar
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Less than half of the nation's public high school graduates have taken the classes they need to enter the least selective four-year college, according to a study being released today.

The picture is worse for black students. Fewer than one in five leaves public high school with the minimum courses required for a four-year college, the study said.

The situation illustrates the gap between minimum graduation requirements in Missouri and Illinois and what students need to know for maximum career options.

The study, called Public High School Graduation and College Readiness Rates in the United States, released last week by the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. The group is a New York City-based think tank whose research has been used to support school choice and vouchers.

Preparation for college has become a critical issue because 70 percent of jobs in the 21st century will require some postsecondary education, said Quentin Wilson, Missouri's commissioner of higher education. Wilson said minorities, low-income students and students who are first in their families to attend college are all underrepresented in higher education.

About 42 percent of public high school students who graduated in 1999 went on to a four-year college, according to a Department of Education report. Twenty-four percent went to two-year institutions

and 8 percent attended a technical school.

Students and their parents need to know by sixth or seventh grade the importance of taking strong core courses, Wilson said.

Sandra Schroeder, superintendent of the Madison schools, said a guidance counselor and principal should watch whether students take courses suited to their ability. While a principal of a central Illinois school, Schroeder said she witnessed many seniors taking ceramics instead of advanced math or science. "For students in their senior year, there can be a 'time to play' mentality," she said. "You have to change that mind-set."

Researchers for the Manhattan Institute define a college-ready student as one who has graduated from high school, taken certain high school courses that colleges require and demonstrates basic literacy skills. Researchers used the least-demanding requirements to enter a four-year college: four years of English, three years of math, two years of natural science, two years of social science and two years of a foreign language.

Compare that with minimum graduation requirements in Illinois - three years of language arts, two years of math, two years of social science and one year of science, among other courses.

Missouri's minimum requirements include only one more unit of science.

The discrepancy is why Schroeder says she's taking another look at whether Madison High School offers adequate courses for a college-bound student. In smaller schools, organizing schedules that allow students to take advanced classes can be tricky, Schroeder said. Schools

may need to alternate the years they offer certain classes, so that students can fit in a college preparatory slate of classes over four years.

"You can do it, but it's more challenging," Schroeder said.

Meanwhile, community colleges can serve to fill in the gaps for students who find themselves in the predicament of completing their senior year, deciding they want to go to college and then finding they didn't take the right kinds of classes.

Jay P. Greene, a senior fellow for the Manhattan Institute, said one thing became clear from the report: "Anyone interested in improving minority representation in higher education has to look at improving K-12 education."

"Counseling students what courses to take could be a good idea," Greene said. "It might be a good idea to increase graduation requirements as a way to guide students. At the very least, high schools have to make available courses needed to go on to a four-year college."

Fixing the problem will require closing the achievement gap between white and black students, providing adequate counseling and making students aware of what is needed to be prepared to enter college, said Howard Denson, publisher of the St. Louis Black Pages. He has worked to promote academic achievement and to close the achievement gap.

"It's a really good thing that we are taking a good hard look at elementary and secondary education today and realizing that, in this day and age, we can do a lot better job for all American children," Denson said.

More information about the study is available online at www.manhattan-institute.org.



Large 1-Topping Pizza



Single Order of Breadsticks

Pizza & 'Stix Student Combo

\$6.99

with coupon

Reg. \$14.98 - SAVE '8



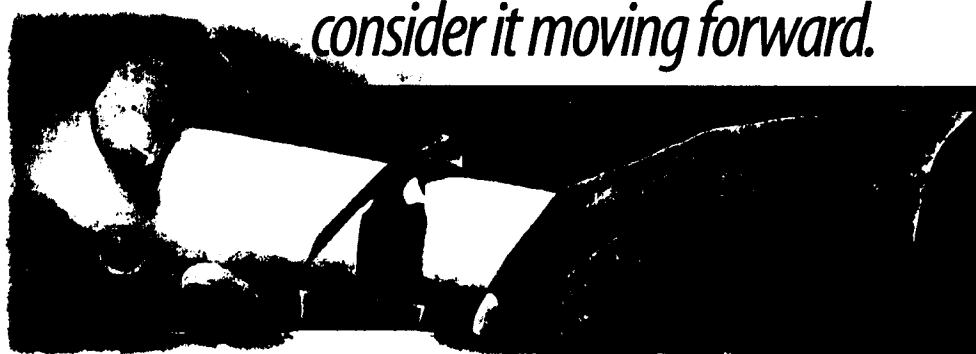
4402 Buffalo Road, Erie • 899-2313
2007 E. 38th Street, Erie • 825-7872

Dine-in, Carryout & Delivery

<p>Large 1-Topping Pizza and a Single Order of Breadsticks</p> <h2 style="font-size: 36px; margin: 0;">\$6.99</h2> 	<p>Large 1-Topping Pizza and a Single Order of Breadsticks</p> <h2 style="font-size: 36px; margin: 0;">\$6.99</h2> 
<p>Large 1-Topping Pizza and a Single Order of Breadsticks</p> <h2 style="font-size: 36px; margin: 0;">\$6.99</h2> 	<p>Large 1-Topping Pizza and a Single Order of Breadsticks</p> <h2 style="font-size: 36px; margin: 0;">\$6.99</h2> 


Offer available on Pan and Thin 'n Crispy crust. Offer available on dine-in, carryout, or delivery orders. Up to 4 orders per person. \$1.00 delivery charge may apply. Limited time offer valid only with current student ID.

Don't think of graduate school as going back...
consider it moving forward.



GRADUATE STUDIES

at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania



NEW!

- ★ Online M.Ed. Reading
- ★ Online Character Ed. Cert.
- ★ Online M.Ed. Special Educ.
- ★ Distance Ed: School Admin. and Counseling

Master of Arts in Art
Art Education

Master of Fine Arts
Ceramics
Jewelry Design/Metalsmithing
Painting
Printmaking
Sculpture

Master of Arts in Social Science

Master of Arts in Clinical Psych.

Master of Arts in Communication Studies

Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology

Master of Social Work

Master of Arts in Counseling
Community Counseling
Elementary School Guidance
Rehabilitation Counseling
Secondary School Guidance
Student Personnel Services

Master of Education
Middle & Secondary Instruction
K-12 School Administration

Master of Education in Reading

Master of Education in Special Education

Master of Education in Elementary Education
Character Education
Early Childhood Education
General Elementary Education
Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies

Master of Education in Educational Psychology

Master of Science
Biology
Information Technology

Master of Science in Nursing
Family Nurse Practitioner
(Consortium program)

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Certificate in Behavior Management

Certificate in Character Education

Certificate in Information Technology

Reading Specialist

Post Master's Certificates in Counseling
Educational Administration K-12
School Psychology

Post Baccalaureate Teacher Cert. (16 subject areas)

Accredited by NCATE, ASHA, CACREP, CORE, NLNAC

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro, PA 16444
Phone: 814-732-2856 or (Toll Free) 1-888-845-2890
E-mail: gradstudies@edinboro.edu
Apply online: www.edinboro.edu

The deadline for graduate assistantship applications is October 15.

Dr. Frank G. Pogue, President
One of the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education