University Selects Five Students For Admission In Mid-Semester

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Five students, three of them on athletic scholarships, were admitted to Rice as undergraduates to begin classes at mid-term. This is the largest number of students ever admitted on a mid-year basis.

The students, two of them on football scholarships from Houston Austin, the third a trackman from Houston Lee also under athletic scholarship, a transfer student, and a Rice professor's daughter, are all taking at least four courses, according to Bernard Giles, Director of Admissions.

Not Unusual

Mid-term admissions at Rice are not entirely new. Giles said that in six of his eight years' experience here there have been one or more students admitted at mid-term, though never as many as five at a time. He also pointed out that the University makes no effort to solicit applications for enrollment at mid-term.

The preponderance of athletes was attributed to the unwillingness of many top athletes graduating at mid-term to delay college matriculation until the next fall for various reasons. In some cases, to compete for the services of an athlete the Athletic Department must either seek the prospect's admission to Rice at mid-term or lose him. Where it is possible and advisable, the necessary exceptions are made.

Not Just Athletes

The question has been raised that if exceptions can be made for athletes and other cases of special concern to the University, why aren't exceptions being made for scholars?

University sources, while allowing that the existing situation may suggest discrimination, pointed out that it did not necessarily indicate that there was discrimination against any qualified scholar wishing to enroll at mid-term. Rather, most qualified scholars prefer to wait until fall.

More in Future?

Giles indicated that independently initiated scholastic inquiries unrelated to University interest have been received, but could not say how many. Each case is decided on its own merits, he added.

When asked if the new "trail-er" arrangement of courses might encourage more and more qualified scholastic applicants to seek mid-term enrollment, Giles commented that this was possible. He said that such cases for the time being would still be dealt with as exceptions to established policy, and that a Presidential study and ruling on the problem would have to precede any change in mid-term enrollment policy.