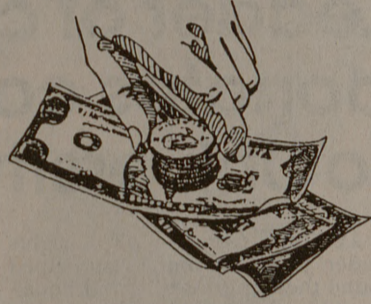


State and Local

A&M official: Competition rising for few available scholarships

By Kathryn McMinn
Reporter



With state colleges tripling their tuition in the last two years, scholarships have become increasingly important to students with financial difficulties. In order to aid a variety of students with their financial burden, scholarships are awarded in many different categories.

Most scholarships have no trouble finding applicants; however, certain scholarships receive more feedback than others.

Lynn Brown, scholarship and employment administrator for the Texas A&M Student Financial Aid Department, said that none of the scholarships in her department lacked applicants.

"It is an absolute myth to assume that students are not competing heavily for scholarships awarded through financial aid," Brown said.

The scholarships that come to the department generally are funded by private individuals. These scholarships fall under four categories: the Opportunity Awards and the

Academic Achievement Scholarships, given to incoming freshmen; the Academic Excellence Awards, given to upperclassmen; and the Junior College Scholarships, given to transfer students.

The Department awarded 500 scholarships from 4,500 applicants to incoming freshmen, while 540 scholarships from 1,900 applicants were given to previously enrolled students.

While grades are an important aspect of scholarship consideration, the applicants also are evaluated on financial need, campus and community activities, leadership positions and work experience.

"I've turned down four-pointers (grade-point ratio) with no extracurricular activities and picked up students with a 3.25 grade-point ratio with lots of activities," Brown said.

Although the path leading to the financial aid department scholarships may appear trodden, there are scholarship committees on campus that, because of specific requirements within the scholarship, must seek applicants for their awards.

The majority of College of Business Administration scholarships are given by private individuals and companies and are awarded through the respective departments, said Les Fiechtner, adviser in the College of Business Administration.

"I often have to request faculty members and departmental advisers to seek qualified applicants because these companies place restrictions on the scholarships," Fiechtner said.

"The restrictions might include geographical location, specific field of study and the sort."

In the 1986-87 school year, over \$600,000 in scholarships were given to undergraduates in the business college, with the majority of them going to upperclassmen.

"The amount of money we are allotted for scholarships each year varies depending on how that particular company is faring in the economy," Fiechtner said. "We give our scholarships to upperclassmen because they are already enrolled within the business college and probably will be staying there," he said.

The scholarships offered by A&M have a minimum grade-point ratio the students must maintain to keep their awards, depending upon the type of scholarship received. These students are required to take a minimum of 12 hours each semester to remain eligible.

All scholarships are designed to assist students interested in excelling academically and pursuing quality leadership positions, he said.

22-year-old case to be retried; man pleads innocent

AUSTIN (AP) — Opening witnesses in the retrial of James Cross testified Thursday that two sorority sisters who were slain in 1965 left Dallas on July 18 of that year expecting a fun-filled weekend at the University of Texas.

The sunburned bodies of Susan Rigsby and Shirley Stark were found 12 days later in a weed-filled vacant lot in North Austin.

Cross pleaded innocent Thursday on a new indictment that accuses him of fatally strangling Rigsby with his hands and her clothing.

"We intend to prove the defendant is the murderer," said Assistant District Attorney Phil Nelson, who was a prosecutor at the 1966 trial.

Cross, now 44, spent more than 21 years in prison before being released on a recent appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Cross, now gray-haired, sat quietly during the trial's beginning.

Before court opened, he sat in a back row and talked with his wife, whom he married several weeks ago after being released from prison.

David Botsford, Cross' chief attorney, tried to make an opening statement but was told by State District Judge Mace Thurman Jr. to wait until the state presented its case.

The first witness was Thelma Schuford of Tyler, who said Stark, her niece, lived in her Dallas home for six years.

"She was the daughter I never had," she said.

"She was real, real happy that Sunday morning when I told her goodbye as she went to pick up Susan for the trip to Austin," Schuford said. "She was looking forward to a few days of vacation before starting a teaching job in the fall."

Robbie Rigsby, mother of Susan, said Stark came by her Dallas home to eat breakfast and then they packed Stark's yellow Corvair for the Austin trip.

Rigsby planned to live with a third sorority sister, Martha Blount, for the summer session at UT.

"She was very excited about being able to go back to school," Mrs. Rigsby said, explaining that her daughter had not been able to attend UT in the spring semester.

Both women described what a shock it was to them when they got telephone calls a day later saying the two 21-year-old sorority sisters had arrived in Austin and then disappeared.

Thurman refused Wednesday to transfer the retrial to another city.

Cross was sent to prison for life in 1966 after confessing in the deaths of the two women.

He was tried only in the death of Rigsby.

The charge involving Stark's death was dismissed after he was in prison.

Cross did not initially appeal the conviction for the slaying of Rigsby, but in 1986 an appeal was filed citing changes in the law since the 1966 trial.

Cross asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to rule he was improperly convicted because the same jurors ruled on his mental competency and guilt.

The court ruled that Cross should be released and receive a new trial.

During his years in the state prison at Huntsville, Cross obtained three college degrees and was described by authorities as a model prisoner.

Thurman has said he expects the trial to last at least a week.

Grand jury clears police in misconduct case

SHERMAN (AP) — A special grand jury found no evidence of alleged criminal activity in the Sherman Police Department, following 20 days of testimony from 85 witnesses, but suggested ways to improve the force.

The statement by the Grayson County grand jury ended five months of controversy in this small city on the Texas-Oklahoma border.

A group of officers, known as the "Crazy Eight," had accused Police Chief J.D. Pickens of discrimination and favoritism, and alleged one detective was involved in drug trafficking.

They said two officers were hand-picked for promotion by Pickens and suggested the two cheated on a civil service examination.

The 12 members of the grand jury, none of them from Sherman, reported to special prosecutor Dan Meehan, district and county attorney for neighboring Fannin County.

The jury convened May 21 to investigate the allegations made by the Crazy Eight but issued no indictments, concluding instead that there was no criminal activity.

The grand jury did submit suggestions for the improvement of the department, including special attention to city jail procedures and the use of city-owned vehicles and better attention to the storage and use of evidence.

The panel suggested that future police department examinations be obtained from a neutral and out-of-county source.

Meehan agreed to handle the case May 1 at the request of the Grayson County judiciary, which works closely with the Sherman Police Department.

"This has been a thorough and painstaking investigation," he said, but declined to comment on the testimony because grand jury proceedings are held in secret.

Meehan said he was impressed with the quality of the grand jury and said that the quality of the report by the grand jury speaks for itself.

"Hopefully this report will restore the confidence of the city in the police department," Meehan said. "I hope the suggestions made will help to improve the department."

Witnesses included every member of the Sherman Police Department, every civilian employee of the police department, members of other law enforcement agencies and citizens and officials of Sherman.

The panel reviewed 76 documents and tape recordings obtained from the Sherman Police Department, the Grayson County Sheriff's Office and the city of Sherman.

A private investigator from Dallas County conducted numerous interviews and reported to the grand jury.

The fracas has reportedly split the department, dragging morale. One officer was accused of leveling a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol at a member of the Crazy Eight.

A hearing on the appeal by eight officers about their civil service exams was postponed and moved from a state court to a federal court on a motion filed by Sherman City Attorney Greg Humback.

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2.05	7280.00	14,500.00	.50	795.00	1550.00
2.04	4850.00	9700.00	.50	695.00	1275.00
2.03	4785.00	9700.00	.49	650.00	1300.00
2.02	7650.00	15,000.00	.48	695.00	1300.00
2.01	5675.00	12,000.00	.48	660.00	1350.00
1.83	2900.00	5800.00	.41	470.00	985.00
1.55	2295.00	4500.00	.40	540.00	985.00
1.26	3675.00	6100.00	.35	395.00	850.00
1.17	2525.00	4900.00	.35	375.00	750.00
1.17	2525.00	4900.00	.35	335.00	750.00
1.16	1395.00	2700.00	.22	165.00	325.00
1.15	2200.00	4200.00	.15	110.00	220.00
1.10	1345.00	2600.00	.10	63.00	140.00
1.08	2250.00	4400.00	.07	38.00	75.00
1.08	2895.00	5600.00	.05	35.00	70.00
1.06	1975.00	3800.00	.03	14.95	30.00
1.02	1495.00	2800.00	.02	10.95	22.00
1.02	2375.00	4500.00			
1.02	2685.00	5100.00			
1.01	1295.00	2400.00			
1.00	3975.00	7700.00			
1.00	1950.00	3800.00			
1.00	1345.00	2700.00			
.99	2150.00	4200.00			
.97	1520.00	3100.00			
.96	1840.00	3500.00	2.78	\$13200.00	27,500.00
.88	1475.00	2800.00	2.14	4885.00	9800.00
.82	1395.00	2000.00	1.23	2750.00	4500.00
.80	1200.00	2300.00	1.10	3200.00	5400.00
.77	985.00	1800.00	1.01	1175.00	2300.00
.72	1145.00	2200.00	.91	2585.00	4950.00
.71	1195.00	2300.00	.76	1085.00	2200.00
.71	1175.00	2300.00	.74	995.00	2000.00
.67	760.00	1450.00	.71	2900.00	5800.00
.65	815.00	1600.00	.62	795.00	1850.00
.63	975.00	1700.00	.62	795.00	1850.00
.62	715.00	1400.00	.57	895.00	1900.00
.61	775.00	1400.00	.55	895.00	1900.00
.61	715.00	1400.00	.54	795.00	1850.00
.60	895.00	1700.00	.47	695.00	1300.00
.60	695.00	1200.00	.47	625.00	1300.00
.59	930.00	1800.00	.35	425.00	890.00
.59	930.00	1800.00	.31	425.00	875.00
.57	695.00	1400.00			
.55	895.00	1700.00			
.55	865.00	1700.00			
.55	695.00	1400.00			
.54	875.00	1600.00			
.54	695.00	1650.00			
.53	795.00	1750.00			
.53	495.00	985.00	1.80	\$3495.00	6800.00
.52	845.00	1750.00	1.38	2275.00	4500.00
.52	810.00	1625.00	.83	1975.00	3900.00
			.60	1195.00	2300.00

ROUND

	Our Price	Compare At
.55	795.00	1600.00
.55	895.00	1700.00
.52	665.00	1300.00
.51	695.00	1400.00
.45	325.00	675.00
.37	350.00	675.00
.31	245.00	500.00
1.52	5275.00	9800.00
1.15	2495.00	5500.00
1.04	1495.00	2800.00
.89	1750.00	3500.00
.83	1350.00	2700.00
.78	1495.00	2800.00
.71	1495.00	2800.00
.46	375.00	675.00

PEAR

	Our Price	Compare At
.55	795.00	1600.00
.55	895.00	1700.00
.52	665.00	1300.00
.51	695.00	1400.00
.45	325.00	675.00
.37	350.00	675.00
.31	245.00	500.00

OVAL

	Our Price	Compare At
	5275.00	9800.00
	2495.00	5500.00
	1495.00	2800.00
	1750.00	3500.00
	1350.00	2700.00
	1495.00	2800.00
	1495.00	2800.00
	375.00	675.00

HEART

	Our Price	Compare At
	1150.00	2800.00
	335.00	675.00

EMERALD

	Our Price	Compare At
	695.00	1400.00

RADIANT

	Our Price	Compare At
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