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Incoming Texas freshmen A must take entrance exam

Test indicates students in need of remediation

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

Page 6

The first move a prospective college freshman can make toward a successful start at higher education may be as easy as dialing a toll-free number.

All students entering college must take a new test, the Texas Academic Skills Program, and a toll-free hotline has been established to answer questions about the test.

The TASP was created by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to identify a student's weaknesses early enough to prevent him from dropping out of school, Frank Gonzalez, an administrative supporter in the TASP office, said.

"You hear statistics about freshmen who come in and can't handle the work," Gonzalez said. "This will identify weaknesses that people have as freshmen so they

The TASP was created as a result of recent educational reform legislation, Gonzalez said.

"The intent of the program is to upgrade education," he said. "This is all part of the reform package." Ron Swanson, of the THECB, said the Texas Educa-

tion Agency also played a role in developing the TASP.
"They decided they wanted a more current test as

well as a test common to all students," Swanson said.
Gonzalez said the TASP will eventually replace other tests such as the Pre-professional Skills Test (PPST) that is taken by education majors.

"We're phasing out other tests and phasing in TASP," he said.

A student must take the test before completing ninth credit hour in college, but students who are rolled in college by September will not be affected Gonzalez said.

The TASP, which was first administered this mon is diagnostic in nature to emphasize where remedian should begin. The three sections of the test are reading

writing and math.

The TASP will not affect admission to college, education majors who have not passed all sections the test will not be admitted to upper level courses.

Gonzalez said an education major does not have pass all three sections of the test at the same time. "They only need to retake sections not previous passed," he said.

The hotline was set up because the THECB and ipates questions from a variety of people including dents, educators and parents, Gonzalez said.

We expect calls from students and educators for obvious reasons," he said. "But we expect parents to because they'll be concerned about if their children

Since the hotline has not been widely publicized,

people have called, Gonzalez said.

The hotline number is 1-800-962-TASP and is any able from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday thro

Police arrest

armed man

after shooting

BALCONES HEIGHTS (A

taunted neighbors in an apa ment complex was behind be Wednesday after shooting a lice officer and holding others

bay before surrendering follo

ing a hour-long standoff, author

ties said.

The suspect was expected to charged with attempted capit murder, said Balcones Height

Police Chief Kenneth Menn.

tioned, Menn said.

A woman inside the man's apartment also was being ques-

phen Fuchs, 30, a three-year w

eran, was in fair but guarded con

dition at Medical Center Hospi

San Antonio police spokesma

The wounded officer, Sgt. Ste

Convicted murderer given lethal injection for Houston slaying

to state insurance board

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clem- company, McDade was the assistant

victed killer Leon King was put to death early Wednesday for the 1978 abduction-slaying of a Houston-area man whose head was bashed in repeatedly with the butt of a shotgun.

King, 44, showed little reaction as he received lethal injection for the April 10, 1978, slaying of Michael Clayton Underwood, 26, of Bay-

town.
"I would like to tell Mr. Richard I appreciate all he has done for me," ne said to Richard Wall, one of five friends he was allowed to invite to witness his execution. "I love you all.

God bless."

He closed his eyes, heaved a sigh as the drugs began to take hold and then stopped breathing.

He was declared dead at 12:27 a.m., 10 minutes after the lethal in-

nts on wednesday filled

fidence," Clements said.

agency with mismanagment.

chairman for the new board.

Named Wednesday were:

state agency

three vacancies on the State Board

of Insurance and said a new era of

reform is coming to the beleaguered

for a reform of agency practices and

restore consumer and industry con-

Expiration of terms and resigna-

Clements said he hopes soon to

announce a third nominee. After

that final appointment, the governor said he will select one of the three as

ton, a retired vice chairman of Texas

Commerce Bancshares of Houston.

tions have emptied all three board seats as legislators charged the

They will share my commitment

jection was given.
"It's about time," Doug Shaver, an

dled King's case, said.

Shaver, now a Houston judge, said King never expressed remorse for Underwood's slaying. "If anyone deserves the death

penalty, it's him," Shaver said.
Underwood's family declined to talk about the execution.

"We are apprised always of what is going on," his mother, C.J. Underwood, of Houston, said. "But we really do not have any desire to make any comment. I don't think it would serve any purpose."

King on Tuesday lost last-minute

appeals before a federal district judge in Houston, a federal appeals court in New Orleans and the U.S. Supreme Court. His attorneys contended King, who had prior convictions for burglary, forgery and drug ossession, suffered from organic brain damage.

manager of the bond departmen for the Kentucky-based Common-

· Richard Reynolds, 61, Flower

Mound, president and owner of Ben Griffin Tractor Co. Reynolds is a

former two-term member of the

Texas House of Representatives and

a former president of Macatee Capi-

tal Corp., a real estate development and capital management firm.

McDade's appointment is for six years; Reynolds' will expire in 1993.

Both appointments require Senate confirmation.

has dawned in our state's insurance

industry," Clements said. "Their leadership and management skills are vital as we work to rekindle con-

sumer and industry confidence in

A new era of regulatory reform

wealth Life Insurance Co.

after being shot once in the le side of his neck, said hospit spokesman Inez Eisazadeh. Sgt. Paul Buske, one of a doze San Antonio officers assisting th 18-member Balcones Heights po lice force, said the shooting ind dent was the third time office Clements appoints two

past 24 hours. "He has problems," said Buske. They have had problems with him in the past.'

had been called to the area in the

Residents at El Marco Apar ments reported shots being fire Heights police officers met will residents, a man emerged from his apartment and began firing the pistol.

'He fired two shots," Buske said. "The officers got down be tween the cars. One of the off cers was hit once below the jar The suspect went inside and that's when police converged on the area.

While officers in the northwest San Antonio suburb asked the city for assistance, police tried to contact the suspect with a bull lhorn but he did not respond Buske said.

The suspect surrendered shortly after 7 a.m., minutes be fore the San Antonio SWAI team was to take over, Buske said.

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Dr. C mechan invited Ocho

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