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# National office reviews UNT sorority

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A sorority's national office on Wednesday sent a representative to the University of North Texas to investigate accusations its chapter there participated in hazing and should be disciplined.

The Denton school, meanwhile, decided to delay a decision on possible punishment against Alpha Kappa Alpha that could range from verbal admonishment to probation or an outright ban from campus.

Jacqueline Edwards, a board member representing the sorority's south central region, will report back to the Chicago-based organization, said Dr. Mary Shy Scott, the sorority's international president in Atlanta.

"She is taking a look at what

## Alpha Kappa Alpha representative sent to Denton to investigate hazing

the school says, what law enforcement says and also Alpha Kappa Alpha's policy against hazing," said Scott.

"Every member knows this. The practice of hazing and other unacceptable practices during the membership intake process are not tolerated in Alpha Kappa Alpha."

The sorority's Denton chapter has been suspended from group activities since the hazing was reported in April. The university had planned to decide on the chapter's future Wednesday.

"There will not be a decision today," said Susan Rogers, UNT associate vice president-marketing and communications.

The sorority's national office

told the school it would forward its recommendations to Denton by next week.

"We will not make a decision until they have made their recommendations," Rogers said.

Scott said the UNT chapter's situation will also be discussed at a national sorority board meeting during the first weekend in November.

"We have thousands of members in that area" of North Texas, she said.

Seven members of the sorority were charged with hazing, a misdemeanor. Five of them were convicted last month and sentenced to 90 days in jail. They were accused of striking the pledges with

paddles and food and forcing them to eat hot peppers.

But the other two members have not yet been tried.

Rogers said the pledges were reportedly harassed over the last year in a series of separate attacks. Reynolds, a Denton County assistant district attorney, said sorority members were accused of "verbal, mental and physical hazing."

The sorority chapter's Denton telephone number was not listed.

The members convicted in September, in addition to their 90-day jail sentences, received one year probation and 24 to 40 hours of community service.

Dean of Students Greg Sawyer said that UNT will consider the sorority's previous hazing record in making its decision. He said university regulations also ban physical and psychological hazing.

# Court gives Drew stay of execution

## Lethal injection halted to grant time for appeals process

The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — A Texas appeals court Wednesday blocked the execution of a Vermont man about six hours before he was to be put to death for robbing and fatally stabbing an Alabama man more than 10 years ago.

Robert Drew, 34, of West Pawlet, Vt., faced lethal injection early Thursday for the Feb. 22, 1983 slaying of Jeffrey Mays, 17, of Birmingham, Ala. Testimony showed Mays was stabbed in the heart and his throat was slashed before his body was dumped in a ditch off Interstate 10 east of Houston.

Acting on an appeal filed by Drew's attorneys, the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin issued an order barring the execution.

"Our ruling today should not be construed as any indication of how this Court will ultimately decide the appeal on the merits," the court said. "We act only to give us sufficient time to perform our basic constitutional and statutory duty of reviewing the propriety of the district court's decision."

"Clearly, to proceed with the execution as scheduled would affect the parties' right pending the disposition of the appeal from the district court order and would destroy the subject matter of the lawsuit," the court said.

The appeal by attorney Ronald Kuby came after a state district court judge in Austin denied a request that would have forced the state Board of Pardons and Paroles to hold a hearing on Drew's claims of innocence. The board earlier Wednesday refused, on a 15-0 vote, to deny Drew a clemency hearing, commute his sentence or grant him a 120-day reprieve.

"It's gratifying at least one court now has felt it's

**"It's gratifying at least one court now has felt it's more important to hold due process of law than rapid executions."**

—Ronald Kuby, defense attorney

more important to hold due process of law than rapid executions," Kuby said. "I am surprised and pleased. It shows that maybe this awesome machinery of death which seems to grind on and on and isn't unstoppable, and in some cases at least fairness and justice will triumph."

"It's off," Bill Zapalac, an assistant Texas attorney general, said.

He said an appeal by his office of the civil court's decision to the Texas Supreme Court would require a written record of the hearing Tuesday and that could not be completed in time to comply with the execution warrant, which expires at sunrise Thursday.

Drew had just arrived at the Walls Unit prison and was taken to a small holding cell outside the death chamber when word of the reprieve arrived, prison spokesman Charles Brown said. He immediately was returned to the Ellis Unit, about 15 miles away, which is home to the Texas death row.

Drew would have been the 16th inmate to be put to death in the state this year and the 70th since Texas resumed capital punishment in 1982. The figures by far are the highest in the nation.

"I'm not scared," Drew said last week. "I don't see being scared would be any good."

Drew was hitchhiking from Florida to Oklahoma when he was picked up by Mays in Lake Charles, La. Drew contends Mays was killed by a companion in the car, Ernest Puralawski, who is serving a 60-year prison term after pleading guilty to murder.

Puralawski, from Chicago, has recanted his testimony that named Drew as a participant in the slaying and says he alone did it.

"I didn't do this," Drew said. "I don't feel it's right to die for something I didn't do."

# Study proves skin cancer preventable by sunscreen use

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Doctors have gathered the first direct, scientific proof that using sunscreen really does prevent skin cancer.

Rubbing on sun-blocking cream has long been recommended as a way to protect the skin from the sun's harmful effects, including cancer.

But this advice had been based on circumstantial evidence, such as animal experiments.

Now, Australian researchers have conducted a summer-long experiment showing that people who use sunscreen before going outside cut their chances of developing the first signs of skin cancer.

"It's a very important paper," commented Dr. Darrell Rigel of New York University Medical School. "It's the first time we have been able to definitively show that sunscreen lowers the risk of getting skin cancer later in life."

The study was conducted on 588 men and women who were randomly assigned to use either SPF-17 sunscreen or a look-alike dummy lotion from September 1991 through March 1992, one Australian summer.

Then they were checked for solar keratoses — small, wart-like growths that result from overexposure to the sun.

These growths are forerunners of squamous-cell skin cancer, a common, usually harmless form of skin cancer. They also signal increased risk of melanoma, the much rarer and lethal skin cancer, although they do not directly lead to these cancers.

The researchers, whose study was published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, found that the sunscreen users averaged a net loss of about one keratosis and those in the comparison group gained one.

The study was conducted by Dr. Sandra C. Thompson and colleagues from the Australian Cancer Council of Victoria and the University of Melbourne. It was funded by grants from several nonprofit Australian health organizations.

# Delta

Continued from Page 2

Delta Week concludes Sunday morning with a church service at A&M's All Faiths Chapel. The service will feature the Rev. Charles Henderson of Desoto and musical selections by Texas A&M's gospel choir, Voices of Praise.

The church service is a very important part of Delta Week, Ledy said.

"Even though the church service is on the last day, it's definitely not last in our lives," she said. "It's very important to our sorority because Delta Sigma Theta is founded on Christian principles."

Although this year's Delta Week has the same theme as last year, Ledy said she thinks this year's event is running more smoothly.

"Last year was a great year and we have some big shoes to fill, but I think we're doing a great job so far," she said. "Our goal is for people to go away more aware of issues that are going on around them, and to think about things they've never thought about before, and I think it's really happening."

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