

ABA asks TSU law school to hike entrance standards

DALLAS (AP) — The American Bar Association is asking Texas Southern University's law school to raise admission standards, effectively shutting the door to many black and Hispanic students that would likely not have been accepted at other state law schools.

The request comes as part of a seven-year accreditation review of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law by the ABA.

The law school, created in 1946 to allow blacks to attend a publicly funded law school, trains a majority of the state's black and Hispanic law students.

Experts say that many TSU law students and graduates would likely not have been accepted at other state law schools because their college grade point averages and entrance

exam scores were too low.

"The attrition rate is unconscionably high, and the bar passage rate remains the lowest among all law schools in the state of Texas," the Chicago-based ABA said in a report obtained by the *Houston Chronicle*.

The report, citing statistics from the July 2000 Texas bar exam, said 52 percent of TSU law school graduates passed the test on their first attempt, and 33 percent passed on subsequent attempts. The state passing rate for those taking the exam for the first time on the same date was 82 percent, and 42 percent on second attempts.

Of the 331 students who entered the TSU law school in the fall of 1999, only 201 maintained the required 2.0 grade point average needed to stay at

the school by the end of the 2000 academic year, the report said. That gave the school a first-year attrition rate of 40 percent, more than four times the national average of 8.9 percent.

Admissions standards have already been raised slightly to meet ABA concerns, said John Brittain, dean of the law school. He expects the school to retain its ABA accreditation, which is required by the state. The school must submit a plan to the ABA by November.

Brittain said he believes it is possible to raise admission standards to weed out many students who would not graduate or pass, but still provide an opportunity to attend law school to minorities who otherwise might not qualify.

"Raising admission standards

presents a dilemma for the state of Texas because it has abolished affirmative action in higher education," Brittain said. "The Thurgood Marshall School of Law is performing a special mission for the state by allowing many students to attend law school who would not have gained admission to other law schools.

"We want to continue fulfilling this historical mission of serving minorities. We have to do a little bit of both — raise admission standards and take educational risks."

In the 1999-2000 academic year, TSU officials said, the school enrolled 92 percent of all black first-year law students attending the state's four public law schools and 52 percent of the first-year Hispanic students.

News in Brief

Man convicted of murder

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas County jury deliberated for two hours Wednesday before convicting a Texas prison inmate of capital murder for fatally shooting a man as he walked along a jogging trail with his wife in 1993.

The punishment phase was underway for Alvin Avon Braziel Jr. for the death of Douglas White. Prosecutors said they were seeking the death penalty.

According to prosecutors, Braziel fatally shot Douglas White, 27, in the chest as he and his wife walked on a jogging trail that circled Eastfield College on Sept.

21, 1993. Braziel then raped White's 24-year-old wife. The couple had married 11 days earlier.

During the trial, Braziel testified he could not remember what he was doing the day of the murder but was sure he was not near the college.

Braziel already was serving a five-year sentence at the Gib Lewis Unit in Woodville for an unrelated 1997 sexual assault of a child.

Reliant suing California

HOUSTON (AP) — Reliant Energy Cos. has sued California for money the com-

pany says it is owed for power contracts.

The contracts covered in the lawsuit filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court are those Reliant made through the California Power Exchange Corp., the *Houston Chronicle* reported Wednesday. The now now-defunct exchange was the state's middleman for the buying and selling of power.

Reliant is owed \$337 million for unpaid power bills in California, but the lawsuit does not cover all of that. A Reliant spokesperson did not have a dollar amount available and the company did not specify in the lawsuit how much it is seeking.

Condemned killer first to use DNA law

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A newly enacted law that provides state-paid DNA testing for convicts kept condemned killer Richard Kutzner from the Texas death chamber Wednesday.

In the first case to test the new law, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Tuesday agreed to consider Kutzner's appeal and stopped his scheduled lethal injection. Kutzner's trial court last week denied the request.

Kutzner, 58, has two death sentences for separate but similar murders in the Houston area committed 17 days apart in

"This is exactly what we needed, a process that works expeditiously and efficiently."

— Sen. Robert Duncan R-Lubbock

1996. Wednesday's scheduled execution was for the strangling of a Montgomery County woman at the real estate office where she worked.

The DNA law was approved by the Legislature earlier this year and signed by Gov. Rick Perry in April. It was intended to boost the integrity of the Texas criminal justice system, which has come under attack from death penalty opponents, particularly after Gov. George W. Bush's presidential campaign last year, when a record 40 Texas death row inmates were executed.

The post-conviction DNA testing law applies to cases where biological evidence exists and can be subjected to genetic testing and where identity was an issue at trial.

What is uncertain is if the law will provide unexpected reprieves for other convicted mur-

derers and at least temporarily slow capital punishment in the nation's most active death penalty state, while the statute is under judicial review.

"I don't know, to be honest," said Rick Wetzel, general counsel to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. "We're dealing with such a new statute. It's a different kind of appeal than anyone is used to. Generally we see appeals from trials that have been concluded. Here, we simply have a motion, a post-conviction motion."

Jim Marcus, Kutzner's lawyer, said he did not believe the law would mean a flood of appeals.

"Not every case has biological evidence. It's not something everybody is going to use, and even then, it may be up to the court," he said.

Marcus wants fingernail scrapings from the victim and a hair sample from the crime scene to undergo the testing. They were not tested for trial purposes and no DNA evidence was presented.

"This is exactly what we needed, a process that works expeditiously and efficiently," said Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, who sponsored the measure. "And we wanted to be able to give the trial court and appellate court some guidelines on post-conviction DNA testing."

"This is a guy fixing to be put to death and he's asking for a DNA test. That's what the bill is designed to do ... to put a process in place to allow that to occur if it is warranted"

The law requires the state to preserve biological evidence that can undergo genetic testing. It also allows certain prisoners to seek state-paid DNA testing if it was not available at trial. A defendant must show there is a substantial question of innocence.

APPLICATION NOTICE

Texas A&M University
Department of Food Services
HIRING STUDENT WORKERS

AUGUST 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
(other dates and times as available by appointment)

Convenient Jobs on Campus for Fall 2001!

Competitive Pay:

**\$6.36, \$7.02,
\$8.03, \$9.15, & up.**

Advancement Opportunities
and Referral Incentives

**Flexible Hours
Work Around Classes!**

**Free Meal Benefit
on Day Worked!**

**Christmas and
Spring Break Off!**

Positions Available

- ◆ Wait Staff for football season and banquets at The Zone
- ◆ Wait Staff for banquets at Presidential Conference Center, Reed Arena and MSC Catering
- ◆ Wait Staff, Cashiers, Cooks, Supervisors and Student Managers at Commons, Sbis and Duncan Dining Centers
- ◆ Baristas, Cash Line Cooks, Cashiers and Supervisors at Rumours, Hullabaloo, Ag CaFe, Pie Are Square, Azimuth, Poor Yorick's, Common Denominator/Chick-fil-A, Stone Willy's™ and the Underground Food Court
- ◆ Store Clerks and Supervisors at Commons and Underground C-Stores
- ◆ Veg/Prep, Laundry and Warehouse Workers, Mail Carriers and Delivery Drivers at the Commissary
- ◆ Bakery Assistants at the Duncan Bakery



Apply On-Line

Click on Employment on our Web Site for Job Announcements and On-Line Applications

Pick up an application from Cashiers!
Ask Managers for details.

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Positions available to TAMU Work Study and Non-Work Study Students
For other Job Opportunities or Information call 862-1390

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH • GIRLS CLUB OF BRAZOS COUNTY

BINGO

1805 Briarcrest
776-0999
COME JOIN THE FUN!

1/2 PRICE OPTION EVERY THURSDAY	CURRENT SCHEDULE	NEW LOWER PRICES
Monday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	BINGO
Tuesday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	MAGIC 2000
Wednesday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	ELECTRONIC MACHINES
Thursday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	BINGO
Friday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	BINGO
Saturday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	BINGO
Sunday	5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	BINGO

Over 20,000 Awarded Weekly
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

If You Have Something To Sell, Remember: Classifieds Can Do It Call 845-0569 THE BATTALION

VARSITY FORD

www.varsityfilm.com
Check out our specials on Focus, Mustangs, & our entire stock of Trucks (all rate, rebate, and inventory information is updated weekly)
PRE-OWNED SPECIALS ARE CHANGED WEEKLY
College Grad and 1st Time Buyer Program for Internet Users
Questions? - e-mail us at ross@varsityfilm.com

The one book you won't sell back.

Order your 2002 Aggieland when you register for fall classes.

Fee Option #16

AGGIELAND

Texas A&M University Yearbook • 100 Years of Excellence