

UT students say racism continues

■ Jesse Jackson's rebuke of professor's comments changed little, they say.

Daily Texan University of Texas
Austin, Texas (U-Wire) — A year after the controversial comments by a UT law professor sparked a protest rally by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, several student leaders who brought Jackson to campus said little has changed at the University of Texas.

Law professor Lino Graglia drew fire last fall when he said blacks and Hispanics could not academically compete with whites because their cultures do not condemn failure. His comments had come at a news conference announcing the formation of a new UT student group opposed to affirmative action — Students for Equal Opportunity.

At the Sept. 17 rally, Jackson blamed administrators for not reprimanding Graglia, calling it a symptom of institutional racism.

Charles Gooden Jr., president of the Black Student Alliance, said Jackson's visit did not have the desired effect to repair internal problems sparked by the Hopwood ruling, which ended affirmative action at Texas colleges and universities that receive federal funding.

"He gave this beautiful speech ... but it didn't make a difference," Gooden said. "It was great for the cause, but as for long-term effects — it just didn't happen."

But UT President Larry Faulkner said he has seen the university heading in a positive direction in terms of a representative student body since he assumed the top UT post in April.

"The community has developed a strong understanding of the importance of having broad participation of people from all segments of the state," Faulkner said.

"I think the event of last year created a consensus to form this kind of understanding, and I believe this is something to work with — people do believe that this needs to be the

University of Texas."

Hal Siemer, president of SEO, said Graglia's comments and the ensuing rally complicated the image of his group.

"When people are able to label you like they did Graglia ... then you have this position to overcome," Siemer said. "It has made our mission more difficult ... I think there are lingering effects."

Marlen Whitley, a UT law student and last year's SG president, said Graglia's comments and Jackson's visit remain strong memories for him and a historic moment for the University.

"That was the climax of all that had transpired since the Hopwood ruling," Whitley said.

"It was one of the more passionate and emotional moments that this campus has experienced ... not only for the campus but for me personally as well. We can use that to judge our progress not only with the loss of affirmative action programs but how we deal with talk about race on this campus."

Kaplan launches first online law school

The Daily Texan University of Texas
Austin, Texas (U-Wire) — Prospective law students now can choose between getting their degrees by walking to class or by logging onto a computer for four years.

Kaplan Educational Centers announced this week that, for \$4,200 each year, it will offer students the chance to attend the first online law school in the world — Concord University School of Law.

Though convenient, the four-year degree offered by the school is not accredited by the American Bar Association, and graduates would be able to take the bar exam only in California because it is the only state bar that allows correspondence instruction.

But some experts said Wednesday they doubted that the online law school would yield a worthwhile education.

Michael Sharlot, dean of the UT School of Law, said he believes an online education lacks the personal touch that comes with late nights in the law library and discussions with peers and professors.

"So much of law school education is dependent on research, writing and personal interaction with faculty and students," Sharlot said. "This seems the very antithesis of legal education."

But Jack Goetz, dean of the Concord law school, said he was confident the school, while unique, would produce knowledgeable lawyers.

"As any school that is starting out, we will have to build a reputation through the quality of the graduates — and that will come in time," Goetz said.

Goetz said the school wants to attract students who would not otherwise be able to attend law school because of job and family responsibilities, or not living near a law campus.

Goetz added that he was not sure how many students would be electronically attending the school this year.

Concord was authorized to award the degree by the Bureau of Private Post-Secondary and Vocational Education in California and has filed for registration with The Committee of Bar Examiners of the State Bar of California.

Robert Heatley, vice president of Phi Alpha Delta, a UT pre-law fraternity, said that while this could be a beneficial program, prospective students should be careful.

"I know that Kaplan has always been a good support for aspiring law students, and if they do implement this, the true judgment will be how their graduates will be accepted into the legal field," said Heatley, who is an economics and government senior.

Admissions to the online school will be based on LSAT scores or a comparable online test administered by Kaplan, undergraduate transcripts, and a personal statement explaining why the student wants to study online.

The same casebooks and textbooks that are used in many traditional law schools around the country will be used, Goetz said.

Professors from various universities who are experts in their fields will also be teaching for Concord, including faculty from Georgetown University, the University of Arkansas, the University of the Pacific and the University of Denver.

The method for the online law program includes five basic learning techniques: lectures, reading assignments, interactive testing, essays and online communication between faculty and students.

Goetz said Kaplan's testing expertise will be beneficial to students because the tests they will be taking during their four years will be similar to the bar exam, and online

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MICHAEL SHARLOT
dean of UT law school

communication with professors is easier than attending office hours.

After practicing in California for about four to five years, it is possible that graduates could register for the bar exam in other states based on reciprocity laws. But Goetz added that actually practicing law may not be the goal of some of the online students.

"Many students will be taking the courses to further their own education or to get a job promotion or advancement possibilities," Goetz said.

Kaplan, a company that provides preparation classes for standardized tests such as the LSAT and MCAT, is currently accepting applications to the school, with classes beginning Oct. 6.

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