

THE BATTALION

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Supreme Court lets 'Hopwood' stand

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday left intact a ruling that threatens all affirmative action programs at state-run colleges in three Southern states.

The justices let stand a federal appeals court ruling that struck down the University of Texas law school's former affirmative-action admissions plan to boost enrollment of blacks and Mexican-Americans.

The court rejected appeals in which Texas officials and two civil rights groups had urged it to decide whether state schools nationwide may continue using race or ethnicity as a factor in their admissions decisions.

The appeals court ruling is binding law for Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and it could influence other courts across the nation confronted with similar disputes.

Today's action was taken without any comment by the full court.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in a brief opinion joined by Justice David H. Souter, noted that the program invalidated by the appeals court has long been abandoned by the law school.

"We must await a final judgment on a program genuinely in controversy before addressing the important question raised in this petition," Ginsburg said.

Theodore Shaw of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund said Ginsburg's opinion "makes clear that the court is not endorsing the appeals court's radical view and that affirmative action, while still under siege, is alive."

Shaw said he did not expect another such case to reach the high court soon, but added, "What we do know is that the opponents of affirmative ac-

tion are not going away."

A three-judge panel of the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last March that the law school's 1992 admissions policy discriminated against whites.

The school had set lower test-score standards for black and Mexican-American applicants, and provided a separate review board for those applications. The plan was aimed at obtaining an entering class consisting of at least 10 percent Mexican-Americans and 5 percent blacks.

A federal trial judge and the appeals court ruled that the quota system violated the rights of four unsuccessful white applicants.

The appeals court went further and ruled that a landmark 1978 Supreme

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A&M reacts to ruling

By Pamela Benson
THE BATTALION

Yesterday, the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals denying the use of race as a factor in admission criteria to universities and colleges in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

In a press release from his office, Texas A&M President Ray Bowen said, "Texas A&M will continue to employ an admission process based upon multiple criteria, including academic, geographic, economic and the potential for suc-

cess at this University."

The press release also said the Supreme Court's decision creates an uneven playing field since it only applies to three states.

However, some students are more concerned with the uneven playing field they believe is being constructed by the admission policies at A&M. Minority admissions are already down by 33 percent.

In April, Bowen said the decrease was caused by a change in University application procedures, and minority

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Ogden introduces helpline to assist Texas motorists

By Brandon Hausenfluck
THE BATTALION

Texas motorists will soon be more secure in their highway travels.

In an effort to publicize the toll-free Stranded/Disabled Motorist Helpline operated by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), State Rep. Steve Ogden and DPS trooper Eddie Carmon held a joint press conference on Monday. They announced that motorists can use the helpline to call for assistance in case of a breakdown or to report drunk drivers, criminal activity and road hazards. The 24-hour helpline can be reached at 1-800-525-5555.

Ogden, who serves on the Appropriations Committee, authored a rider on the 74th Legislature's Appropriations Bill designating DPS as the lead state

agency to help motorists whose vehicles are disabled on a public road.

Ogden said traveling on Texas roads should be safe and worry-free for motorists.

"Driving on Texas highways is a privilege essential to the freedom and well-being of all citizens," Ogden said. "Safe passage on highways is especially important as Independence Day approaches and highway traffic increases."

In a brochure about the program, DPS said the first step to ensure safe holiday travel is preventative vehicle

maintenance. The brochure also suggests moving a broken-down vehicle as far from traffic as possible, turning on the hazard lights and exiting the car on the passenger side. DPS also suggested raising the hood and tying a light-colored cloth to the antenna or door handle.

Carmon said the helpline can give people a way to help stranded motorists without the fear of stopping in an unknown location.

"By calling the helpline, motorists can help others without having to get involved with the situation," Carmon said. "If a passerby sees someone stranded, we encourage them to use their cellular phones to call the helpline. If it's dark and you're 70 miles from the nearest town, how are

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TAKING THE PLUNGE

Steve Haskett, owner of Aggies over Texas, practices a plane exit with a student at Coulter Field Sunday afternoon.

Exchanging Ideas

Architecture program brings Guatemalan students to A&M

By Amy Protas
THE BATTALION

Sometimes a vacation can yield more than just a suntan. Harwood Smith, a former Texas A&M student and architect, began taking yearly trips to Guatemala in 1949. Along the way he became friends with members of the Universidad Francisco Marroquin Board of Directors. The Guatemalan Exchange Program developed from that friendship in 1988. The program allows students from the Universidad to study architecture at A&M for five weeks every summer.

Marie-Andree Fournier, a Ph.D. student and assistant lecturer in architecture, said although the original program also allowed A&M students to study abroad in Guatemala, this has temporarily been halted.

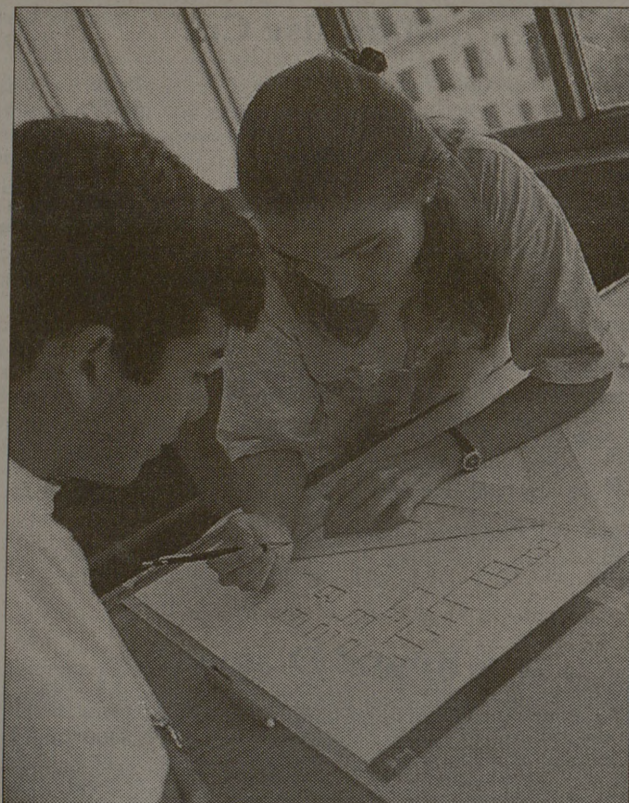
"It used to be that Texas A&M students would also go to Guatemala," Fournier said. "But because of the ban from the state on students going to Guatemala because of dangers, that has ended. Hopefully they will start it again when the ban is gone because there is a really good relationship between the two universities."

The 15 students chosen to study here earned the highest grades at the Universidad. Michelle Neutze, a Guatemalan student, said she wanted to come to A&M to add diversity to her education.

"I heard how good of a school Texas A&M is," Neutze said. "I



OGDEN



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Guatemalan exchange students Julio Alvarado and Cristina Sicilia work on an architectural design project.

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VMI, Citadel to catch up with A&M

By Ann Marie Hauser
THE BATTALION

Single-sex education at state-supported military colleges is headed for extinction with the Supreme Court's ruling requiring the admission of women.

The Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and The Citadel will soon experience changes West Point, the Naval Academy and Texas A&M underwent over a decade ago.

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The Supreme Court ruled 7-1 last Wednesday that VMI must admit women or forfeit state funding.

The federal mandate also affects another state-supported military college, The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

Mike Strickler, public relations director at VMI, said the school's program is a leveling process of incoming

cadets, and the admission of women would drastically alter this.

"No exceptions are made with the introduction of cadets," Strickler said. "We would have to make them with women."

Changes will include the issue of privacy, but Strickler said they will continue with the equality of treatment.

Females were first allowed into the Corps of Cadets at A&M in 1974 as a segregated outfit.

Cadet Autumn Leveridge, a junior bioengineering major, said VMI and The Citadel are missing out by not admitting women and thinks cadets need experience in dealing with all types of people.

"It's not a question of being male or female," Leveridge said. "But it's a question of how good a leader you are."

To maintain their all-male status, both schools would have to become private institutions.

For VMI, this option will be dis-

cussed and decided when its Board of Visitors meets on July 12 and 13.

Eric Tangeman, a senior cadet at The Citadel, said he was not surprised by the decision and plans to take it in stride.

"The standards need to be equal for all cadets, whether male or female," Tangeman said. "But there will be a major difference at The Citadel once females are admitted, no matter what."

Tangeman briefly experienced gender integration last August with the admittance of Shannon Faulkner into his company.

The issue of integration was addressed by commandant candidate Maj. Gen. Ted Hopgood at an open forum for students.

When asked his opinion on the subject, Hopgood said integration is the wave of the future, and VMI and The

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Militia members charged with plotting government bombings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve members of a private Arizona militia unit were arrested Monday on charges of plotting for more than two years to bomb government offices in the Phoenix area, federal officials announced.

Attorney General Janet Reno said the 12 had trained to use explosives to destroy buildings housing the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Secret Service, the Phoenix Police Department and the Arizona National Guard.

The paramilitary group, which called itself the "Viper Militia," engaged in field training exercises in which members made and detonated ammonium nitrate bombs and rockets, according to a seven-count indictment unsealed in Phoenix. The grand jury said several members also trained with automatic weapons.

Ammonium nitrate was used in the bombing that destroyed a federal office building in Oklahoma City, but there was no indication of any connection between the two incidents. The indictment said the Arizona conspiracy began at least as early as May 30, 1994, almost a full year before the Oklahoma City bombing.

The indictment described a videotape made on May 30, 1994, by the group in which a member discussed approaches, se-

curity measures, communications equipment, fences and adjacent structures at the various target locations. The tape also provides suggestions for placing explosives so that they cause the buildings to collapse.

For instance, the grand jurors said, the videotape described a Phoenix building that in May 1994 housed the ATF, FBI and other federal offices.

"The tape's narrator identifies supports for the building and advises that the building would collapse if the supports were destroyed," the indictment said.

"The tape advises that the placement of 'anti-personnel' devices in mailboxes shown near the entrance of the building could harass U.S. Treasury employees. The tape advises that the destruction of a water main shown near the building could inhibit firefighting operations if the building were on fire."

The tape also shows multiple views of the exterior of the building housing the IRS while the narrator discussed the shift change schedule of building security guards and other security measures. Showing the headquarters of the Phoenix Police Department, the tape narrator says it would be difficult to take over but that "it would be a 'major political statement' if it were taken over" and the records and equipment inside "would be invaluable."