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# Supreme Court kills part of suit alleging racial bias at university

reme Court has killed part of racial-bias lawsuit brought nst Texas and various state ofals by a white man denied adsion to a University of Texas toral program in counseling

The justices, in an unsigned deion, said a federal appeals court wrongly ordered the case to l despite evidence that an affirtive action program for minoriand consideration of race (3-0) and Texas layed no role in Francois Lesage's the current least ailure to gain admittance.

Yesterday's ruling said people no sue over a government decie since the formation they say was based on an im-12 that they have missible reason cannot win ason opener and any relief if it is clear that the govment would have made the

"Where there is no allegation of ongoing or imminent constitunal violation to support a claim s and her 18.5 po of forward-looking relief, the govment's conclusive demonstran that it would have made the ame decision absent the alleged iscrimination precludes any finding of liability," it said.

The justices sent the case back s against Sam H. The justices sent the case back niversity in the to the federal appeals court to demine whether other claims transfer guar esage raised still survive.

Lesage sued after being denied had, on average, a GP admission for the 1996-97 acade and test score of 1,242 mic year. His lawsuit sought admittance and monetary damages, and alleged that at least one lessqualified black student was admitted ahead of him.

"[T]here is no allegation of an ongoing or imminent constitutional violation ...."

- Supreme Court Justices' ruling

That year, 16 of 220 applicants were offered places in the incoming class. In pretrial proceedings, university officials said Lesage's application was rejected in the first cut, when the applicant pool was winnowed to 40

They said four criteria were used: undergraduate grade point average, Graduate Record Exam scores, a personal statement" of experience and letters of recommendation.

Lesage's undergraduate GPA was 3.65 and his GRE score was and test score of 1,242. For minorities who accepted the university's invitation of admission, the averages were 3.45 and 1,186.

University officials said "diversity" factors such as race and gender were not considered until the applicant pool had been narrowed to 40, but Lesage disputed that contention.

A federal judge threw out the lawsuit before it reached trial, saying Lesage had failed to offer enough evidence that he had been discriminated against because he is white. But the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that ruling and reinstated the lawsuit last October.

The appeals court relied heavily on statements one member of the admissions committee, Dr. Frank Richardson, made when asked about how the applicant pool was

We're interested in diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds .. Everyone in psychology and counseling psychology ... very concerned to get qualified minority student," he said.

Lawyers for Texas argued that the appeals court ruling means white people have an easier time getting their racial-bias claims to trial than do racial minorities.

## A&M triple-double Detective testifies in yogurt shop murders

at two others accused in the 1991 slayings of four Athletic Conteen-age girls told investigators that Maurice Pierce, ns, are led by ser who was 16 at the time, orchestrated Austin's yogurt writin Kennedy ashop murders.

Into and 10.0 republication Detective Robert Merrill testified during a hearing

king to determine whether Pierce, now 24, and For-Aggies last beatst Welborn, 23, should be tried as adults

Merrill told the hearing that both Michael James White Coliseum, 6 cott, 25, and Robert Burns Springsteen Jr., 24, told potwo teams were ice that Pierce masterminded the robbery and slayings

the Southt an I Can't Believe It's Yogurt! store.
Killed in the Dec. 6, 1991, crime were Eliza Hope
Thomas, 17; Amy Ayers, 13; Jennifer Harbison, 17; and

ders name arah Harbison, 15.

If tried as adults, Pierce and Welborn, who was 15,

could face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted. Because they were under 17 when the crime was committed, neither Welborn nor Pierce would face the

Merrill said both Scott and Springsteen told police that the robbery and slayings were committed because Pierce needed money

Attorneys for the Pierce and Welborn, now 23, criticized the police investigation and questioned the credibility of Scott and Springsteen.

Robert Icenhauer-Ramirez, Welborn's attorney, said the police used "terrible and deplorable investigative techniques" and had "no reasonably trustworthy information" to tie his client to the crime.

Male & Female Staff needed! Guillermo Gonzales, representing Pierce, echoed Icenhauer-Ramirez's criticism.

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#### Managing, Section, & Asst. Editor Applicants\*

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- What changes do you feel would improve the quality of The Battalion? (Give special attention to the section for which you're applying.)

\*Please type your responses on a separate piece of paper, and attach a résumé and samples of your work (stories you have written for publications or classes, pages you have designed, photos taken, drawings made, or other creative samples—just show us what you can do. DEADLINES: Wednesday, Dec. I, for editor positions, and Monday, Dec. 6, for staff positions.

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- Copy Chief
- Graphics
- Photo \_\_\_ Radio News
- \_\_\_ Web News

#### **Assistant Editors**

- \_\_\_ Opinion
- \_\_ Photo
- \_\_ Radio \_\_ Sports Editor
- \_ Web News

#### Staff

- \_ News Reporter Science & Technology
- Feature Writer \_\_\_ Entertainment Writer
- \_\_ Sports Writer Columnist

Reporter

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- Radio Reporter
- Photographer
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- Page Designer Copy Editor
- Gain experience, work in a newsroom equipped with the latest technology, and make new friends.

On behalf of Jexas A&M Former Students from Jaiwan, R.O.C. we express our deepest sympathy to the students and families involved in the bonfire accident. These promising young students, who were so proud of their beloved university, have now become part of the Aggie spirit and will never be forgotten. Dr. Chih-Kang Wang, '75 Minister of Economic Affairs Jaiwan, R.O.C.