

Supreme Court nears statement on race cases

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court is edging toward its most anticipated statement on race in a generation in affirmative action cases that are overshadowing other important rulings expected before the court takes a summer break.

The unfinished business includes a Texas sodomy law and the question of whether the government can force public libraries to filter the Internet. And after that: the possibility the court will see its first retirement in nearly a

decade.

June usually is the court's busiest month, or at least the time when its doings make the most headlines. This year the justices are due to hand down rulings in more than 20 cases, including the two that will govern how universities may consider an applicant's race in deciding admissions.

Although the Supreme Court already has narrowed the use of affirmative action in other areas, supporters say banning it for top colleges would mean a quick return to

almost all-white classrooms.

The court heard from hundreds of interest groups, professors, students, business leaders and even retired military leaders supporting the programs in place at the University of Michigan and its law school being challenged in separate cases before the court.

The court's statement is expected to guide other consideration of race in public life, and opponents of affirmative action hope it will all but end the practice in the

public sector.

Absent such a potentially momentous decision, the year's marquee case would have been *Lawrence v. Texas*, a challenge to a law criminalizing gay sex. The court may be prepared to reverse an unpopular 16-year-old ruling in a Georgia case that upheld similar laws.

"For the gay community, *Lawrence* is their *Brown v. Board of Education*, their major civil rights case," said Georgetown University law professor Richard Lazarus.

Most states have repealed anti-sodomy laws. Where they still exist, they are rarely enforced. Yet the laws undermine gay equality in other areas and are fundamentally unfair, the lawyer for two gay men told the court when the case was argued in March.

The case began when police burst into a Houston bedroom and arrested the two for a sex act that would have been legal for a heterosexual couple.

The public library case returns the court to the clash

between free speech on the Internet and the need to protect young children from smut and sexual predators.

Congress has passed three laws governing children's safe use of the Internet since 1996, but the Supreme Court struck down the first and blocked the second from taking effect.

The latest measure, signed by President Clinton in 2000, requires public libraries that receive federal technology funds to install filters on their

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Tycoon joins race for U.S. Senate in Ga.

ATLANTA (AP) - A famed black restaurateur from Atlanta is joining Georgia's crowded race for U.S. Senate.

Herman Cain, who once ran the Nebraska-based Godfather's Pizza chain, wants Zell Miller's Senate seat. But he has never run for office before, and he must beat two sitting congressmen and another black businessman to get the Republican nomination in 2004.

"He's a very qualified, winnable candidate," said Alex St. James, director of the African-American Republican Leadership Council in Washington.

The race is the first statewide election in post-Reconstruction Georgia to pit two black Republicans against each other. Cain will face fel-

low Atlanta businessman Al Bartell, who ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor last year.

Cain, 57, had a hardscrabble childhood in Atlanta, but worked his way through Morehouse College. He worked for Burger King and The Pillsbury Co. before taking the helm of a struggling pizza chain in 1986.

Within two years, Godfather's Pizza was out of debt, and he bought the Omaha, Neb.-based pizza chain from Pillsbury for \$50 million.

Cain's resume includes a short time as chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, Mo., and as co-chairman of Steve Forbes' 2000 presidential bid. He's also a motivational speaker and author of three leadership

books.

Cain was traveling Wednesday and unavailable for comment. He filed as a candidate last week.

Despite his personal fortune, the businessman is new to Georgia politics and faces a struggle to win the nomination.

Also in the bidding are U.S. Reps. Johnny Isakson and Mac Collins, both seasoned state politicians from Atlanta's Republican-leaning suburbs. But Georgia Republican Chairman Alec Poitevint said the two black candidates have a decent shot.

"It's wide open," Poitevint said. "We have been proactive for a long period of time to let people know our party is open."

Cain could get a boost from Georgia's open prima-

ries, where people may vote in a party's primary without joining it. That means blacks who traditionally vote Democratic could vote for Cain in the GOP primary.

"We could see a lot of participation here," St. James said. "But he's not running as an African-American. He's running as a Georgian. This is not about a black man running for the U.S. Senate."

Bartell praised Cain even though he's running against him and said they could draw record numbers of blacks to the state GOP.

Veteran black journalist Wallace Terry dead at 65

WASHINGTON (AP) - Wallace Terry, a pioneering black journalist, author and teacher, died last Thursday at a suburban Virginia hospital of an inflammation of the blood vessels. He was 65.

Terry joined *The Washington Post* in 1960 to become one of the relatively few black reporters at mainstream U.S. newspapers. He later covered the Vietnam War, an assignment that resulted in the best-selling book "Bloods," an oral history of black soldiers published in 1984.

Terry also worked for *Time* magazine and contributed to other publications, including *USA Today* and *Parade* magazine, and made frequent television appearances. For many years he also taught at Howard University in Washington.

Survivors include his wife, Janice; two sons, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Texas border watch group gets sued

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A self-styled border-watch group was accused of terrorizing six undocumented immigrants in a lawsuit aimed at bankrupting the organization and any ranchers who cooperate with it.

The suit, filed Thursday, labels the Abilene-based Ranch Rescue an illegal paramilitary unit that is motivated by racial hatred.

Ranch Rescue's stated mission is defending private property, and it has conducted "operations" along the country's southern border, rounding up undocumented immigrants and even seizing drug loads.

The suit said rancher Joe Sutton invited Ranch Rescue onto his property in Jim Hogg County this spring and caught four Mexicans and two Salvadorans.

According to the lawsuit, the four Mexicans were robbed and forced to "walk barefoot through cactus and rattlesnake infested country" after their shoes were confiscated. One Salvadoran said he was pistol-whipped; criminal charges are pending against one Ranch Rescue volunteer.

Sutton called the accusations "total hogwash," saying the four shoeless Mexicans merely had to sit on the pavement by his ranch gate while federal agents came to pick them up.

"I interviewed all six (immigrants) and they made it crystal clear to me they were not hungry, were not abused, and they weren't thirsty," Sutton told the San Antonio Ex-

press-News for Friday's editions.

Ranch Rescue founder Jack Foote, who was also named in the suit, said he knew nothing about the Mexicans but said the two Salvadorans were treated well.

"No one was hit, assaulted or robbed," said Foote, 45.

Sutton is part of a recent wave of ranchers and citizen groups that have taken up unofficial patrolling along the southern border in the name of national security. Many carry guns and sport patriotic images.

Laredo lawyer Ricardo de Anda said the lawsuit aims to bankrupt Ranch Watch and Sutton.

"We feel if we get the landowners to stop cooperating with these Ranch Rescue paramilitary types, they will wilt on the vine," de Anda said.

De Anda was joined in filing the suit by the Southern Poverty Law Center, based in Montgomery, Ala., and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, based in Los Angeles.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has often targeted the finances of groups it finds offensive.

Among other cases, in 2000, the white supremacist Aryan Nation in Couer d'Alene, Idaho, was bankrupted after SPLC attorney Morris Dees helped a mother and son win \$6.3 million over an attack by the group's security guards.

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