

Justices Allow School to Keep Diversity Policy

Admissions Challenge in Virginia Declined

By ADAM LIPTAK
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court cleared the way on Tuesday for the use of admissions criteria intended to diversify the student body at an elite public high school in Virginia, declining to revisit the role race may play in admissions months after it sharply curtailed affirmative action programs in higher education.

In turning down a challenge to a policy that eliminated standardized tests, the court gave no reasons, as is its custom in issuing such orders. Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. issued a dissent, joined by Justice Clarence Thomas, that was harshly critical of an appeals court’s ruling in the case upholding the new criteria and rejecting the challengers’ argument that they unlawfully disadvantaged Asian Americans.

The Supreme Court struck down race-conscious admissions programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina in June but left open the constitutionality of admissions standards like the ones in Virginia that do not directly account for race in trying to diversify enrollment.

The court’s decision not to take up the case from Virginia, along with an order this month declining to block West Point’s race-conscious admissions program, suggests that most of the justices are not eager to take immediate steps to explore the limits of its ruling from June. It takes four votes to grant review, for instance, and the Virginia case failed to clear that bar.

In his dissent on Tuesday, Justice Alito expressed frustration.

The Supreme Court’s “willingness to swallow the aberrant decision below is hard to understand,” Justice Alito wrote. “We should wipe the decision off the books, and because the court refuses to do so, I must respectfully dissent.”

The revisions to the Virginia admissions program followed protests over the 2020 murder of George Floyd. Amid concerns about how few Black and Hispanic students attended the school, one of the country’s top public high schools, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va., adopted what it said were race-neutral admissions standards. The school board did away with a rigorous entrance examination and prioritized admission to the top students from each public middle school in the area rather than the top applicants from any school.

Admissions officers were also instructed to consider “experience factors,” such as whether

Continued on Page A15



TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Struggle at the Front

Fighting in Kramatorsk on Tuesday. Ukrainian forces are in perhaps their most precarious position since the war’s start. Page A6.

Interpol Trails The Autocrats, A Step Behind

By JANE BRADLEY
VIENNA — For years, strongmen and autocrats had a novel weapon in their hunt for political enemies. They used Interpol, the world’s largest police organization, to reach across borders and grab them — even in democracies.

An award-winning Venezuelan journalist was detained in Peru. An Egyptian asylum seeker was stopped in Australia. And Russia has tried repeatedly to secure the arrest of William F. Browder, a London-based human rights campaigner.

In response, Interpol has toughened oversight of its arrest alerts, known as red notices, making it harder than ever to misuse them. But as Interpol adapted, so did strongmen. They have turned to the agency’s lesser-known systems to pursue dissidents, a New York Times investigation has found.

Belarus and Turkey, for example, have turned Interpol’s database of lost and stolen passports into a weapon to harass dissidents or strand them abroad. Abuse of this important antiterrorism tool got so bad that Interpol temporarily blocked Turkey from using it. Belarus is now subject to special

Continued on Page A9

Becoming the New Face Opposing the Kremlin

A Rare Female Voice Joins Russian Politics

By NEIL MacFARQUHAR
It was August 2020, and Yulia Navalnaya, the wife of Russia’s most famous opposition leader, was striding through the battered, gloomy hallways of a provincial Russian hospital, looking for the room where her husband lay in a coma.

Aleksei A. Navalny had collapsed after being given what German medical investigators would later declare was a near-fatal dose of the nerve agent Novichok, and his wife, blocked by menacing policemen from moving around the hospital, turned to a cellphone camera held by one of his aides.

“We demand the immediate release of Aleksei, because right now in this hospital there are more police and government agents than doctors,” she said calmly in a riveting moment later included in an Oscar-winning documentary, “Navalny.”

There was another such moment on Monday, when under even more tragic circumstances, Ms. Navalnaya faced a camera three days after the Russian government announced that her husband had died in a brutal Arctic maximum-security penal colony. His widow blamed President Vladimir V. Putin for the death and announced that she was taking up her husband’s cause, calling on Russians to join her.

“In killing Aleksei, Putin killed half of me, half of my heart and half of my soul,” Ms. Navalnaya said in a short, prerecorded speech posted on social media. “But I have another half left — and it is telling me I have no right to give up.”

For more than two decades, Ms. Navalnaya has shunned any open political role for herself, saying that her purpose in life was to support her husband and to protect their two children. “I see my task is that nothing changes in our family: The children were chil-

dren, and the home is a home,” she said in a rare interview in 2021 with the Russian edition of Harper’s Bazaar.

That changed on Monday.

Ms. Navalnaya faces a distinct challenge in trying to rally a disheartened opposition movement from abroad, with hundreds of thousands of its adherents driven

into exile by an increasingly repressive Kremlin that has responded to any criticism of its invasion of Ukraine two years ago with harsh jail sentences. Her husband’s political movement and his foundation, which exposed corruption in high places, were declared extremist organizations in 2021 and barred from operating in Russia.

While not dismissing the difficulties, friends and associates believe that Ms. Navalnaya, 47, has a shot at succeeding through what

Continued on Page A7



VASILY MAXIMOV/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

“In killing Aleksei, Putin killed half of me,” Yulia Navalnaya said.

Hollywood Lawyer’s Largess Toward Biden’s Son Draws Ire

This article is by Kenneth P. Vogel, Luke Broadwater and Michael S. Schmidt.

WASHINGTON — He found a house for Hunter Biden’s new family, paid divorce costs to Mr. Biden’s ex-wife and helped resolve a paternity lawsuit from a third woman. He footed the bill for Mr. Biden’s security, back taxes and car payments, facilitated the publication of a memoir and the launch of an art career, and provided emotional support as Mr. Biden dealt with scrutiny from prosecutors and political adversaries.

In recent years, no one has been more influential in helping Hunter Biden rebuild his life after a devastating battle with addiction than the Hollywood lawyer Kevin Morris.



VALERIE PLESCH FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Kevin Morris, left, with Hunter Biden in a hearing last month.

But Mr. Morris’s role has now become a flashpoint of its own. His influence in shaping an aggressive legal and public relations defense for the president’s son against criminal indictments and Republican attacks has rankled

Continued on Page A14

A New Nerve Center for Trump’s Right Wing Rises in Washington

By ROBERT DRAPER
CORAL GABLES, Fla. — In the lobby of the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Fla., where a sprawling new force in Washington’s right-wing ecosystem, the Conservative Partnership Institute, was holding its winter conference, the former Trump legal adviser Cleta Mitchell was exultant.

Incubator for Loyalists and Future Policies

150 conservative donors and activists who gathered in Coral Gables earlier this month to celebrate the ascendancy of a group that has become a well-paying si-

ecure for Trump allies and an incubator for the policies the former president could pursue if elected. The participants toted gift bags in the warm sunshine and swapped golf clothes for business attire at a dinner where they applauded as two Black speakers — Ben Carson, the former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and

Continued on Page A13



INTERNATIONAL A4-10

Assange Case Returns to Court
A hearing in London is the imprisoned WikiLeaks founder’s last chance to be granted an appeal in Britain. PAGE A8

Solving a Malodorous Mystery
That “putrid” stench filling Cape Town? Officials traced it to a ship’s cargo: 19,000 cows and a heap of dung. PAGE A8

NATIONAL A11-16

Garvey Rides Fame Into Race
The retired baseball star is running a low-key campaign as a Republican in a Senate contest dominated by prominent Democrats in California. PAGE A12

Families Sue an Agency
A group of New York City parents accused child abuse investigators of “coercive tactics” that traumatized families instead of protecting them. PAGE A16

Lucky Names on the Ballot
San Francisco prints candidates’ names in Chinese characters, but the city is cracking down on politicians who adopt overly flattering monikers. PAGE A11



BUSINESS B1-5

Food Inflation May Be Slowing
Food companies are talking about smaller price increases this year, good news for grocery shoppers. PAGE B1

Affordable ‘Underinsurance’
Natural disasters and inflation have led to high insurance rates that have forced customers to cut their coverage. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

L.G.B.T.Q. Literature in Africa
Even in countries where homophobia is pervasive and same-sex relationships are illegal, some authors have been pushing boundaries, finding an audience and winning acclaim. PAGE C1

At Yoko Ono’s Behest
At the Tate Modern in London, a retrospective of the artist’s works tells visitors to draw their own shadows, shake hands through a canvas and imagine paintings in their heads. PAGE C2

OPINION A18-19
Bret Stephens PAGE A18



FOOD D1-8

A President’s Enslaved Chef
The story of Hercules Posey, who cooked for George Washington, has been largely lost to history, but efforts are being made to change that. PAGE D4

