

POLICE

Death Row Racial Bias Debated

Using race in jury selection is issue in Supreme Court case

(AP)—The Supreme Court took up the death penalty last week, hearing an appeal from a black man who says the overwhelmingly white jury that put him on Texas' death row was selected on the basis of race.

Several justices seemed troubled by Texas prosecutors' tactics in Thomas Miller-El's case. His attorney, Seth Waxman, urged the court to throw out his death sentence and use his case as a model.

"Whatever this court decides, this case is going to stand as a benchmark" test for what is tolerated in jury picking, Waxman said.

The Constitution forbids race discrimination in jury selection.

Gena A. Bunn, an assistant attorney general in Texas, repeatedly told the court that the judge who reviewed Miller-El's allegations of racial bias properly ruled against him. She said that Miller-El's evidence was circumstantial.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said he found it "a little bit odd for a

prosecutor to say circumstantial evidence is not relevant."

Miller-El was sentenced to death for the 1985 killing of a 25-year-old clerk at a Holiday Inn near the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The victim was white.

The one black person chosen for the jury told prosecutors he regarded execution as too painless for killers and recommended instead 'pour some honey on them and stake them out over an ant bed.'

Before his trial, prosecutors used their power to challenge specific jurors as a way to eliminate 10 out of 11 potential black jurors. The one black person chosen for the jury told prosecutors he regarded execution as too painless for killers

and recommended instead "pour some honey on them and stake them out over an ant bed."

The Supreme Court intervened earlier this year, just days before Miller-El was to be executed in Texas. Justice David H. Souter said that

under the scenario argued by Texas, only a defendant with a "slam-dunk" jury bias case would ever get a chance to appeal.

Blacks are generally considered less likely to impose the death penalty than whites and are sometimes

viewed as risky jurors because they may be skeptical of police, said Robert J. Cottrol, a criminal law professor at George Washington University.

Waxman said a training manual that had been used in the Dallas prosecutors office recommended keeping black jurors off trials.

The lawyer also said prosecutors questioned black potential jurors differently from whites in an attempt to get answers that would be used to keep them off the jury.

"The record is perfectly clear that there was disparate questioning," Justice John Paul Stevens agreed.

Using race in jury selection is a violation of the 14th Amendment's equal-protection guarantee. The court's ruling would not be limited to death-row cases, but it could be written so narrowly as to only help Miller-El.

Justices have been asked to consider abolishing capital punishment for killers who committed their crimes as minors.



Drugs Land Bush Daughter in Jail

Noelle Bush, 25, daughter of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, arrives for a hearing at the Orange County Courthouse. (AP Photo)

(AP) — Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's daughter and President George Bush's niece was led away in handcuffs Thursday after a judge sentenced her to 10 days in jail for violating the terms of her drug treatment program.

Noelle Bush, 25, told Circuit Judge Reginald Whitehead: "I sincerely apologize for what happened and promise to do well at the Center for Drug-Free Living."

Whitehead told her he was sending her to jail because he was aware of allegations that she had been found with crack cocaine in her shoe while at the treatment center.

The judge said he was disappointed in her but was allowing her to stay in the program rather than returning her to the regular

criminal justice system.

"I want you to have some time to think and reflect on this," he said. "You should be disappointed that you let yourself down."

The president's niece has been undergoing drug treatment in Orlando since February as an alternative to going through the traditional criminal justice system.

She was placed in the drug court system after she was accused of trying to use a forged prescription to buy the anti-anxiety drug Xanax at a pharmacy drive-through in January. In July, she was sent to jail for two days after rehabilitation center workers found her with prescription pills. Police were called to the center last month because of reports she had crack cocaine.

Brochure Tackles Law on Alcohol Sales

The first time supermarket checkers or liquor store clerks are caught selling alcohol to minors, they face mandatory fines of \$350. For repeat offenses, the penalties are much stiffer.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission knows that selling alcohol is serious business, so that's why clerks are required to read and sign the information booklet, "What Every Store Clerk Needs to Know About Selling Alcohol."

Recently, clerks in several Willamette Valley grocery markets sold alcoholic beverages to underage buyers and were cited into criminal court. The store owners (licensees) were also issued administrative tickets because the sales took place on their premises. Several were cited again for failing to have employees read and sign the OLCC clerk's brochure.

The booklet outlines the penalties for selling alcohol to minors or

visibly intoxicated persons, the five types of acceptable ID, how to recognize visibly intoxicated people and tips for refusing to sell alcohol to questionable customers.

Another section lists 18 hints for checking ID to make sure customers are 21, or haven't altered the card to reflect an earlier birthdate. The booklet says to eliminate the guesswork about a person's age and "don't sell unless you're sure."

Jefferson High School Class of '72

30 YEAR Reunion

Saturday, November 9, 2002
7:00 p.m. – Midnight
Billy Reeds Restaurant & Bar
2808 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon

\$25 per person at the door
Buffet provided – No-host bar

To RSVP: (503) 765-3464
or www.classmates.com

CRIME STOPPERS
 (503) 823-HELP 111 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

Felon Wanted for Questioning

Jeffery Haskell

The Portland Police Bureau, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Jeffery Alan Haskell.

A felony no-bail arrest warrant, charging Haskell with probation violation is on file with the State of Oregon, Department of Parole and Probation. In addition, Portland Police Bureau Detectives want to question Haskell in regards to a yet undis-

closed investigation.

Haskell, who also uses the names Jeffrey Allen Head and David W. Mangeta, is a 38-year old white male with a date of birth of July 8, 1964.

He is six feet tall and can weigh anywhere between 190 and 230 pounds. He has blue eyes, brown hair and several tattoos, including a tattoo of a bulldog on his right arm and "JORY" on his left arm.

Transit Station Assault Reward Offered

Portland Police Bureau Detectives, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are looking for anyone who may have witnessed a man being seriously assaulted and other people being confronted and intimidated at a transit station.

On Thursday, Aug. 29, at approximately 6:40 p.m. at the street level of the 82nd Avenue Transit Station, a 40-year-old white male was found in a pool of blood. The victim was hospitalized with facial trauma so severe that his jaw

was wired shut for four weeks.

The victim remembers setting on a bench and then being attacked by someone for no apparent reason.

The person who found the victim did not witness the assault but saw three young black males leave the area where the victim was found. According to the same person, the three individuals had gotten off a Max Train and were harassing and intimidating people, including a woman with a baby, and were trying to

pick fights.

Detectives have tentatively identified the individuals, two of who are very distinctive, as all being 17-years old at the time. One of the distinctive individuals had his hair worn in two extremely long braids, one on each side of his head. The other had tattooing on his neck. Video of the area shows a number of people, at or near the location where the victim was assaulted, who may have witnessed the attack.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in these cases, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503- 823-HELP.

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