

STATES REINED IN  
BY '65 VOTING ACT  
AWAIT A DECISION

RULING DUE THIS WEEK

Justices Weigh a Law  
Intended to Restrict  
Racial Bias

By CAMPBELL ROBERTSON  
BEAUMONT, Tex. — There is little agreement on anything, even when it all started, but sometime in the last decade the Beaumont Independent School District became a battle zone. Tempers have flared at school board meetings and lawsuits have been filed, as a mostly white group of critics have charged the black-majority school board with enabling corruption, wasteful spending and academic cheating. The school board’s majority denies the charges and says the whites simply cannot tolerate black control.

Determined to change the board but aware that the incumbents could not be beaten in the current districts, the critics pursued alternatives. Last December, they pushed for a new election method that was approved, along narrow racial lines, in a citywide referendum. The Justice Department, citing Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, objected to the new method and it was dropped.

Then, in April, the critics took advantage of a little-noticed state statute that rendered three of the board’s black incumbents unexpectedly disqualified from the next election, a procedural maneuver affirmed by a Texas appeals court. This, too, was blocked by the Justice Department.

But throughout the spring, Michael D. Getz, a city councilman and a leader of the crusade to remake the board, kept a close eye on the United States Supreme Court. “I thought, ‘Well, this might not be the last word on this,’” he said.

The last word, for now, will come this week, when the Supreme Court rules on the constitutionality of Section 5. Passed in 1965 at the height of the civil rights movement and renewed and amended several times

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MONICA ALMEIDA/THE NEW YORK TIMES  
**ANTICIPATION** Gay pride flags fly as California awaits a gay marriage ruling. Page A15.



JAMES HILL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

On Sunday, a crowd of journalists greeted a passenger on the same Hong Kong flight Edward J. Snowden took to Moscow.

Brazil, Fortune  
And Fate Turn  
On Billionaire

By PETER LATTMAN  
and SIMON ROMERO

When the Brazilian billionaire Eike Batista appeared on the Charlie Rose show in 2010, he and his country were on a roll.

Brazil’s economy, driven by a worldwide commodity boom, grew a blistering 7.5 percent that year. And Mr. Batista’s prodigious holdings — spanning oil, mining, shipping and real estate — were soaring in value. In the interview, Mr. Batista was asked how rich he would become over the next decade.

“A hundred billion dollars,” he said, an amount that would most likely have made him the wealthiest person in the world.

Today, with the Brazilian stock market and the value of its currency falling as mass demonstrations hobble the country, Mr. Batista’s billions are evaporating. From a peak of \$34.5 billion in March 2012, his wealth has dropped to an estimated \$4.8 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. His lenders are growing anxious, and there are concerns that he might have to reorganize — and possibly lose control of — his dwindling empire.

The rise and fall of the charismatic industrialist mirrors Brazil’s sudden reversal of fortune. After years of economic expansion, the South American nation has begun to sputter. Inflation has become a major concern. Brazil’s stock market index has

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**HONOLULU** Edward Snowden, an analyst with Booz Allen Hamilton working on a U.S. government contract, left here, where he lived with a girlfriend, on May 20, carrying four laptops.

**HONG KONG** After arriving here, Mr. Snowden leaked information on National Security Agency eavesdropping to journalists, and then went into hiding.

**MOSCOW** As Hong Kong questioned technicalities in a U.S. extradition request, Mr. Snowden boarded a flight to Moscow, and arrived Sunday afternoon.

**VENEZUELA** With Mr. Snowden waiting in an international transfer area in Moscow, a Russian news agency reported he planned to fly to Havana, and then Caracas.

**ECUADOR** Meanwhile, the Ecuadorean government announced that Mr. Snowden had applied for a visa to enter this South American country.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Offering Aid, WikiLeaks Gets Back in the Game

By SCOTT SHANE

WikiLeaks once again seized the global spotlight on Sunday by assisting Edward J. Snowden in his daring flight from Hong Kong, mounting a bold defense of the culture of national security disclosures that it has championed and that has bedeviled the United States and other governments.

Accompanying Mr. Snowden on the Aeroflot airliner that carried him on Sunday from Hong Kong to Moscow — continuing a global cat-and-mouse chase that might have been borrowed from a Hollywood screenplay — was a British WikiLeaks activist, Sarah Harrison. The group’s founder, Julian Assange, who has been given refuge for the last year in Ecuador’s embassy in London, met last week with Ecuador’s for-

ign minister to support Mr. Snowden’s asylum request. And Baltasar Gárron, the legal director of WikiLeaks and a former Spanish judge, is leading a volunteer legal team advising him on how to stay out of an American prison.

“Mr. Snowden requested our expertise and assistance,” Mr. Assange said in a telephone interview from London on Sunday night. “We’ve been involved in very similar legal and diplomatic and geopolitical struggles to preserve the organization and its ability to publish.”

By Mr. Assange’s account, the group helped obtain and deliver a special refugee travel document to Mr. Snowden in Hong Kong that, with his American passport revoked, may now be crucial in his bid to travel onward from Moscow.

More broadly, WikiLeaks brought to global attention the model that Mr. Snowden has wholeheartedly embraced: that of the conscience-stricken national security worker who takes his concerns not to his boss or other official channels but to the public.

The group’s assistance for Mr. Snowden shows that despite its shoestring staff, limited fundraising from a boycott by major financial firms, and defections prompted by Mr. Assange’s personal troubles and abrasive style, it remains a force to be reckoned with on the global stage.

“As an act of international, quasi-diplomatic intrigue, it’s impressive,” Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists, said of

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State Rewards Home Care Firms Once Rebuked

By NINA BERNSTEIN

Hunting for ways that the incoming governor could close a \$2 billion budget deficit late in 2010, New York State officials scrutinized Medicaid spending on home health care, and made some startling discoveries.

The cost of caring for frail elderly and disabled people at home had more than doubled from 2003 to 2010, to \$1.3 billion, even though fewer people were being served. And that huge cost increase had been driven by just a half-dozen certified home health agencies out of 140, most located in Brooklyn.

Two names stood out: Excellent Home Care and Extended

Home Care. During a broad investigation of Medicaid fraud he conducted as attorney general, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo had showcased his role in reclaiming \$3.7 million from Excellent and \$9.5 million from Extended in a settlement of false-claims suits against them. The agencies admitted no wrongdoing.

Now a transformation of the state’s long-term care system is in high gear, as the state has extended invitations to agencies to be a part of the new system. Among those chosen: Excellent and Extended.

“I don’t know what an organization would have to do to be disqualified,” said Susan Regan, a longtime member of the state’s public health planning council

who was outraged to discover, on Page 221 of a meeting agenda, that the Health Department had endorsed Excellent for an expanded license.

State officials view the new system as a national model for permanently curbing Medicaid costs. They said Excellent and Extended had both improved and had been approved to take on bigger roles through a standard application process.

But both companies’ ties to policy makers run deep. Excellent’s owners have contributed and raised money for both parties, and its lawyer has been a fund-raiser for Mr. Cuomo, a Democrat.

As for Extended, which paid

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MICHAEL NAGLE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Aleks Zeygerman with Nelli Leventon, his mother, whose care was cut when it was unprofitable.

INTERNATIONAL A3-10

Anniversary Warning in Egypt

Egypt’s military said it was ready to act to prevent chaos at protests next week marking a year since Mohamed Morsi’s inauguration as president. PAGE A4

Climbers Killed by Militants

Taliban militants killed 10 mountain climbers, including an American, and a guide in northern Pakistan. PAGE A4

NATIONAL A11-15

Views Change on Immigration

Significant political shifts since Congress last debated a major immigration bill make an overhaul likelier. PAGE A11

NATIONAL

Preaching to the Unconverted

Jerry DeWitt, a well-known evangelical preacher before becoming an atheist two years ago, returned to the pulpit, of sorts, delivering his first sermon on atheism in a hotel ballroom. PAGE A11



NEW YORK A16-19

A Closer Look at Crash Sites

With murders sharply lower in New York, a revamped police unit is looking more closely into another kind of case, deaths from auto accidents. PAGE A16

BUSINESS DAY B1-7

A Clouded Future for Hulu

Hulu, the Web streaming service, is up for sale. Its next owner will certainly color its character, a prospect that has led some employees to decamp. PAGE B1

Trying to Pare Health Costs

Companies are setting price ceilings as one way to control medical bills. PAGE B1

ARTS C1-6

Like Dinner Theater, but Cool

Entrepreneurial downtown producers are staging shows in clublike settings, and adding drinks and even (below, at “Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812”) caviar to the mix. PAGE C1



SPORTSMONDAY D1-8

The Tax Haven All-Stars

Dmitri Rybolovlev, who has a majority stake in A.S. Monaco, can offer potential players not just hefty wages, the chance to hobnob with the rich and famous and the excitement of living in a sunny place: he can offer them liberation from income tax. But the French soccer league is fighting back. PAGE D1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A20-21

Paul Krugman

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