



AP

# Judge dismisses lawsuit by sorority sisters who sought to block a transgender woman from joining

MEAD GRUVER

Mon, August 28, 2023 at 1:07 PM PDT · 2 min read

Share icon and 516 comments



FILE - Two people walk on the University of Wyoming campus, June 14, 2016, in Laramie, Wyo. On Friday, Aug. 25, 2023, a judge dismissed a lawsuit contesting a transgender woman's admission into a sorority at the University of Wyoming, ruling that he could not override how the private, vol... More

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit contesting a transgender woman's admission into a sorority at the University of Wyoming, ruling that he could not override how the private, voluntary organization defined a woman and order that she not belong.

In the lawsuit, six members of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority chapter challenged Artemis Langford's admission by casting doubt on whether sorority rules allowed a transgender woman. Wyoming U.S. District Court Judge Alan Johnson, in his ruling, found that sorority bylaws don't define who's a woman.

The case at Wyoming's only four-year public university drew widespread attention as transgender people fight for more acceptance in schools, athletics, workplaces and elsewhere, while others push back.

News US Politics World COVID-19 Climate Change Health Science

could not impose the six sisters' definition of a woman in place of the sorority's more expansive definition provided in court.

"With its inquiry beginning and ending there, the court will not define a 'woman' today," Johnson wrote.

Langford's attorney, Rachel Berkness, welcomed the ruling.

"The allegations against Ms. Langford should never have made it into a legal filing. They are nothing more than cruel rumors that mirror exactly the type of rumors used to vilify and dehumanize members of the LGBTQIA+ community for generations. And they are baseless," Berkness said in an email.

The [sorority sisters who sued](#) said Langford's presence in their sorority house made them uncomfortable. But while the lawsuit portrayed Langford as a "sexual predator," claims about her behavior turned out to be a "nothing more than a drunken rumor," Berkness said.

An attorney for the sorority sisters, Cassie Craven, said by email they disagreed with the ruling and the fundamental issue — the definition of a woman — remains undecided.

"Women have a biological reality that deserves to be protected and recognized and we will continue to fight for that right just as women suffragists for decades have been told that their bodies, opinions, and safety doesn't matter," Craven wrote.

View comments

RECOMMENDED STORIES



In The Know by Yahoo

What is the Pants Store that's coming up in a lot of Bama Rush videos?

Bama Rush once again took over TikTok in the month of August and some followers are digging deeper into the Pants Store many sorority rushers have referenced.

7d ago

Yahoo Entertainment

The It List: A sloth goes on murder spree in Shudder slasher 'Slotherhouse,' new docuseries reveals how to 'Live to 100,' 'Choose Love' is Netflix's 1st interactive rom-com and all the best in pop culture the week of Aug. 28, 2023

News US Politics World COVID-19 Climate Change Health Science



No. 1 playoff seed

The race for the No. 1 seed is red hot as the WNBA season approaches its conclusion.

27 m ago

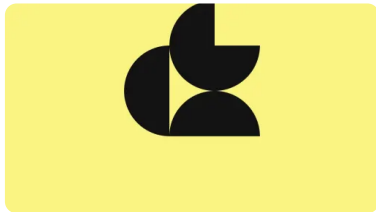


Yahoo Sports

Max Scherzer booed by Mets fans in return to New York

Scherzer told reporters that "I definitely can point my finger to myself" for his part in New York's struggles this season.

1h ago



TechCrunch

A new creator's guild aims to protect online content creators

Content creation is work, but in such a rapidly shifting social media landscape, creators face an uphill battle fighting for fair pay and ownership of their content — typically without any institutional support. The CGA, which launched last week, describes itself as a "professional service organization"...

3h ago



Yahoo News

Trump legal brief: Judge further complicates Trump's presidential bid with March 4 trial date in Jan. 6 case

US. Judge Tanya Chutkan ruled Monday that the trial of former President Donald Trump on charges that he illegally sought to overturn his loss in the 2020 election would begin on March 4, 2024.

6h ago



Yahoo Life

'Fun' sunscreens offer unique textures, sparkly sheens compared to standard lotion. Here's why experts are fans.

If you're sick of wearing white lotion sunscreens, these options may encourage you to be better about sun protection.

4h ago

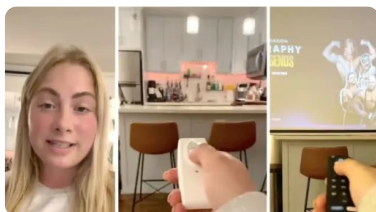


Yahoo Sports

The Danny Ainge System: Using Sabermetrics to rate every NBA team's top executive

A look at each top decision-maker's entire record across three categories: draft picks, trades and free-agent signings.

3h ago



In The Know by Yahoo

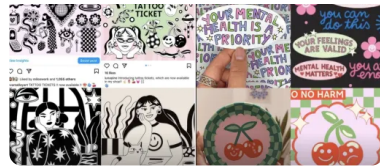
Renter reveals how to transform a small living room into the perfect space for movie night

"If you have a small space, this could be your best friend..."

4h ago

In The Know by Yahoo

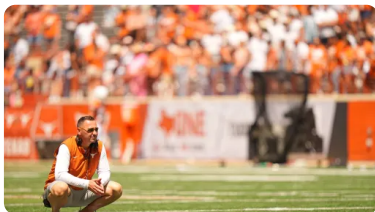
Simple text message hack reveals the identity of unknown senders: 'you just solved a three month mystery for me'



WHO OWNS DIGITAL ART? ILLUSTRATOR ACCUSES ANOTHER ARTIST OF 'RIPPING OFF' HER WORK: 'I REALLY DID NOT

"I explained myself over and over again and showed her proof that my work is not a straight up copy of hers."

4h ago



Yahoo Sports

Texas coach Steve Sarkisian responds to Big 12 commissioner's comments, challenge to Texas Tech

"I'm not guessing he's gonna have his Thanksgiving dinner with us the night before that game."

5h ago



TechCrunch

Amazon increases its free shipping minimum to \$35 for non-Prime members in some regions

Amazon is increasing its free shipping minimum to \$35 for customers who don't have a Prime membership in some regions, the company confirmed to TechCrunch on Monday. Up until now, the free shipping minimum was \$25. Amazon says it's testing the new free shipping threshold randomly by ZIP...

6h ago



Autoblog

Safer in the air or on the road? It's a long-standing debate

Compared to air travel, American roads are more dangerous, and they're getting worse. But there may be solutions with road design and smaller cars.

6h ago

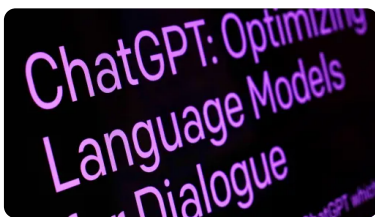


Yahoo Celebrity

Taylor Swift, 'Barbie' and Beyoncé are credited for summer's billion-dollar pop culture boom. Experts weigh in on their massive successes.

Let's hear it for the girls — or, more appropriately, the savvy, trailblazing, powerhouse women who have dominated entertainment and launched #BillionGirlSummer.

6h ago

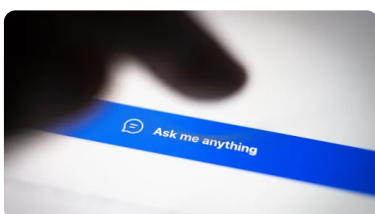


Yahoo Finance

52% of Americans say they're concerned about growing use of AI: Pew

52% of respondents to a Pew Research Center poll said they were more concerned than excited about AI.

6h ago



Engadget

ChatGPT is easily exploited for political messaging despite OpenAI's policies

ChatGPT was supposed to be inoculated against political misinformation in March. Doesn't look like that actually happened.

7h ago





Hyundai recalls almost 38,000 Elantra Hybrids for unintended acceleration issue

A problem with the Elantra Hybrid's Motor Control Unit could cause unintended acceleration, prompting the recall of nearly 38,000 cars.

6h ago



Yahoo Sports

Michigan's Jim Harbaugh again advocates for revenue sharing for athletes, talks impending 3-game suspension

"The current status quo is unacceptable and won't survive."

6h ago

Yahoo!

US

Politics

World

COVID-19

Climate Change

Health

Science

Originals

Contact Us

Terms and Privacy Policy

Your Privacy Choices

CA Privacy Notice

Help

Share Your Feedback

About Us

About Our Ads

Site Map

Follow us on



Download our app

