Wilson angry over primary filing dispute with Gay

By ED ALANIS
Senior Staff Writer

Would-be candidate Brian Wilson calls it KGB tactics to stifle the opposition, and Brazos County Democratic Chairman Ron Gay calls it a simple case of missing a filing deadline. In either case, it has amounted to a great deal of publicity for a possible candidate in the May 5 primary.

Brian Wilson, a senior plant sciences major, plans to run against Ron Gay for Brazos County Democratic Chairman in the May 5 primary. However, his name is not on the ballot because Gay did not receive his filing application before the Feb. 6 deadline. That is, Gay did not have the filing in his hand by the deadline.

Wilson sent his application to Gay by registered mail on Feb. 2. Gay received a notice to pick up a registered letter on Feb. 3. Gay did not pick up the letter until Feb. 8, two days after the filing deadline.

"Gay simply doesn't want any opposition in the race," Wilson said. "He tried to convince me not to run and even offered me a job."

Gay offered Wilson a job on the Brazos County Resolutions Committee.

When Wilson decided to go ahead and run for county chairman, he mailed his application, instead of delivering it personally. The other 66 applications Gay received for the May primary were all hand delivered.

"I chose not to face him again, for fear he would try to talk me out of running again," Wilson said.

"It should have been obvious what the letter was and he (Gay) should have been able to put two and two together," Wilson said. "It was only three days before a filing deadline and he received notice of a registered letter with an A&M zip code on it."

Gay says he did not notice the zip code of origin on the notice, and says he picked the letter up five days after he got the notice because he was busy collecting other hand delivered applications.

"Wilson was in my office on two separate occassions and did not leave an application," Gay said. "The last time we talked, it was my understanding that he was not going to run."

At a press conference Monday, Wilson, along with a group of conservative Democrats, called for Gay's resignation. Bruce Director, the Texas campaign coordinator for Lyndon LaRouche's Democratic Policy Committee, came here from Houston to support Wilson at the press conference.

The National Democratic Policy Committee is not an official branch of the Democratic party. It is a group of conservative Democrats concerned with strengthening the nation's defense.

At the press conference, Director compared Gay's integrity to that of a proverbial snake-oil salesman and called his actions a disgrace to the Democratic party.

Director also said "Mr. Gay's actions indicate that Walter Mondale and his backers are not content to merely support the KGB's foreign policy; they now feel obliged to adopt the KGB's tactics in their campaigns."

The root of the conflict stems from a phone conversation between Gay and Director on Feb. 8. Director claims Gay assured him Wilson's name would appear on the ballot since he had received the registered letter.

However, Gay said he made no such promise.

"I told him I would put Wilson on the ballot if the Texas secretary of state's office said I could," Gay said. But the answer from the secretary of state was no.

On Feb. 16 Gay received a written opinion from Karen Gladney, director of the elections division at the secretary of state's office:

"It is the candidate's responsibility to insure that the chairman receives his application by the filing deadline.

"It is the opinion of this office that an application that was placed in the mail but not picked up by you (Gay) until after the filing deadline is not a timely filed application, even though you received notice that there was a piece of registered mail at the post office prior to the filing deadline."

Gay says he would have welcomed Wilson as a candidate, but that he simply could not legally do it.

Wilson has consulted a lawyer and said he will seek a court ruling, still hoping to get his name on the ballot.

Ruffino: women should take risks

By KAREN WALLACE
Staff Writer

Judge Carolyn Ruffino

The biggest drawback women have today is being afraid to take a risk, Judge Carolyn Ruffino, the first female to be elected to the Court of Records, said Thursday.

Ruffino, a guest speaker for the Women's Week seminar, said she wasn't discouraged by the small audience of 8 women.

"Dispel wishing that 100 people were here," she said. "Ideas start slowly with just a few interested people pushing a seed."

Ruffino said women are afraid to take risks because society keeps them sheltered and protected. This weakens their ability and desire to strike out on their own, she said.

"This leaves women with the stereotype of the warm, nurtured woman," she said.

Women should combine the feminine qualities society provides with developed skills and talents, Ruffino said. Then women can confidently take the risk and try to achieve, she said.

"For the last several hundred years, women haven't come out of their shell," she said. "They haven't dared."

Ruffino said that today, however, women can dare to be different.

"Society set the stage for us," she said. "It takes time to change the ideas that are rooted for so long. Women are now beginning to do something about these changes."

Unperfected skills and wasted talents are another drawback women have today, she said.

For example, suppose a woman marries before finishing college, then later divorces. This woman may be left without a career and without an income. She may have skills, but she has no idea of how to perfect them.

"We're not prepared or able to pick up the pieces," she said. "We are just doing what society taught us to do."

Therefore, women must learn to develop their talents and set goals for themselves, she said.

Women work twice as hard as men to receive the same results, she said. But sooner or later, this will pay off, she added.

If women get good enough, the demand for female employees will increase, and the need for an Equal Rights Amendment will disappear, she said.

Zoo baby gets $600 name

United Press International

HOUSTON — A healthy, 250-pound baby elephant born last month at the Houston Zoo has been named "Beau Thai" by a Houston woman who won more than $600 for her name entry.

Marjorie Whitlow, a 60-year-old Houston grandmother, submitted the name during a name-the-elephant contest sponsored by the zoo, a radio station and the Houston Post, and won more than $600 in prizes. She said she formed the name from the infant's father's name and the name of a dog she once owned.

The infant Asian elephant, born Feb. 1 to a 6,000-pound mama pachyderm named Abbie, and a hefty, 10,000-pound Asian elephant named Thai, was reported in good health Thursday.

It was the second baby elephant born at the Houston Zoo in less than a year, although the first one died after a month.

Clarification

A United Press International story and a Battalion headline referred to the Texas Public Employees Association as a union in Thursday's newspaper. A representative of the Texas A&M TPEA chapter says the organization is not a union and cited chapter by-laws that state: "This chapter shall never become affiliated with, become part of, or endorse any labor union.

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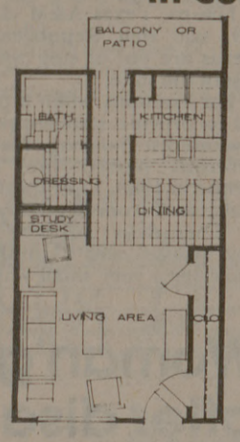

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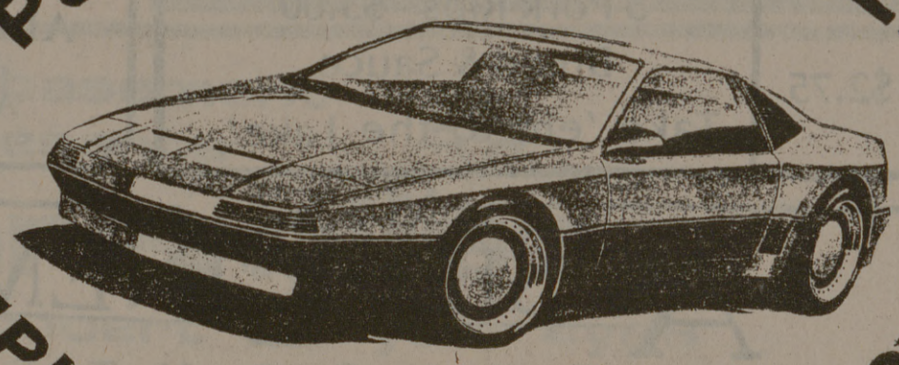

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Monday through Friday, vote at the College Station City Hall across from Campus or at the Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan.

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