

Supreme Court denies husband abortion veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, amid speculation it is prepared to restudy abortion rights, refused Monday to give husbands legal power to prevent their wives from terminating pregnancies.

The justices, without comment, rejected arguments by an Indiana man who said he had "fundamental rights and interests in his unborn child."

The court let stand a ruling last July by the Indiana Supreme Court that said allowing a husband to block a wife's abortion is barred by U.S. Supreme Court rulings in 1973 and 1976.

The justices in 1973, in their famous Roe vs. Wade decision, legalized abortion nationwide and three years later struck down a Missouri law requiring spousal consent before a woman could obtain an abortion during the first 12 weeks of her pregnancy.

There has been considerable speculation recently that the high court, with a conservative majority solidified by appointees of President Rea-

gan, may be prepared to overturn its landmark rulings on abortion rights.

The Justice Department on Friday urged the court to use a pending case from Missouri to consider throwing out Roe vs. Wade.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun, author of the 1973 court opinion, said in September he believes there is a distinct possibility Roe vs. Wade will be reversed during the court's current term.

But in the Indiana case acted on Monday, the court gave no indication of a willingness to reopen the abortion issue.

The case stems from an attempt last summer by Erin Andrew Conn of Elkhart, Ind., to prevent his estranged wife, Jennifer, from having an abortion. She was about six weeks pregnant at the time.

A state trial judge issued a temporary order barring Mrs. Conn from having the operation performed, but a state appeals court threw out that order.

Man's death angers civil rights groups

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Civil rights groups expressed outrage Monday at the beating death of an Ethiopian man, apparently at the hands of white supremacist "skinheads," and said attacks by such groups have been growing nationwide.

Two other Ethiopian men were injured in the attack early Sunday by three young men who had shaved heads and wore military jackets.

Skinheads, bands of young toughs who espouse white supremacism and

are prone to violence, have been linked to two other slayings nationwide, and a multitude of criminal acts against blacks, Asians, Jews and homosexuals.

"I think that what has happened is very tragic, the ultimate manifestation of racial hatred," said Avel Gordly, associate executive secretary of Portland's American Friends Service Committee, which works for peace and social justice issues.

"It needs to be seen as something that has occurred because of the overall racial climate in this country," Gordly said.

Gordly, who also is a member of the Black United Front of Oregon Inc., called for elected officials to put all their resources to work on stopping such attacks.

"We need to hear that these acts will not be tolerated and that the perpetrators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law," she said.

Herman Brame, executive assistant for the Black United Front, said local black leaders were discussing ways to exert pressure on white-supremacist groups.

Police spokesman Dave Simpson said Monday that investigators had no leads in finding the men who attacked Mulugeta Seraw, 27, Wondwosen Tesfaye, 24, and Tilahule Antneh, 31. He said they may be skinheads.

The Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment last month identified Oregon as a "hotbed" of skinhead activity. In Portland, skinheads have been linked to various acts of vandalism and at least two assaults, including the beating of an Asian man in March.

About 2,000 skinheads are active in 21 states, according to a report issued last month by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which surveys race- or religion-motivated crimes.

Portland and the Northwest are ripe for such activity because so few members of minority groups live here, Brame said. The Northwest has been targeted by white supremacist groups as the site for an Aryan "homeland."

Asked if Portland police were tracking skinhead activity, Simpson would say only that the intelligence unit is aware of some of their activities.

"Being a gang member isn't against the law," he said. "We deal with people who violate the law."

Seraw was pronounced dead at Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, where the two survivors were treated and released.

Antneh and Tesfaye told police that three men and two women pulled up in a car when they dropped Seraw off at his apartment in a primarily white neighborhood early Sunday.

The three men beat Seraw with a baseball bat and kicked him, Antneh said, and beat the other two when they tried to intervene. He said the attack lasted no more than two minutes.

"The women inside the car were shouting. They were saying 'Let's kill him. Kick him,'" Antneh told The Oregonian newspaper. "They (the men) never said anything. They just jumped us."



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Amtrak representatives Dave Omans and Greg Diggins hold a banner welcoming the new Amtrak service through College Station.

Banners, band, balloons boost arrival of Amtrak service for CS

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

The crowd waited anxiously along the sides of a crimson carpet leading to the new station's platform as balloons and banners fluttered in the breeze.

The A&M Consolidated High School Band began an upbeat march, and with a long whistle, the train pulled into the station.

But the cheers of the crowd weren't from the scene of small-town America years ago. They came from about 500 Bryan and College Station residents welcoming back a piece of history—the first passenger train to stop in College Station for 30 years.

Amtrak's Texas Eagle line, which begins its first public run today, made an inaugural trip Monday for about 100 dignitaries from Bryan-College Station, Dallas, Corsicana and Houston, stopping for a ceremony in College Station at 12:45 p.m.

Fred Brown, College Station City Council member and liaison between Amtrak and College Station, was master of ceremonies for the event.

"This train brings with it a lot of opportunities for the community," Brown told the crowd. "Before, it brought short-term visitors and long-term residents to the community. History can now repeat itself."

Brown said the last passenger train that stopped at College "Station," thus giving the town its name, was the Southern Pacific Owl that ran until June 8, 1958. It ran for 86 years, but

ended its run because other transportation methods became more practical, he said.

The new station, on Marion Pugh Boulevard, eventually will become a railroad museum about the first station in the area, then located on Wellborn Road.

Robert Smith, vice president of finance and operations at Texas A&M, told the group that the first train to stop in College Station was especially important to A&M.

"The passenger rail brought students by the thousands home for the holidays, to football games and was responsible for bringing young ladies in to the University for dances and other

events," Smith said. "Without the rail service, the school would not have survived. It certainly would have been more difficult for it to flourish."

College Station Mayor Larry Ringer and Bryan Mayor Marvin Tate also gave speeches, both saying they were pleased with the Amtrak's decision to add the new stop and excited about the opportunities it presents to the community.

"The excitement throughout the community is evident," Ringer said. "Especially exciting is the fact that this is happening in College Station's 50th year. It sure makes explaining the name a lot easier."

The crowd, which included dignitaries about to board the train bound for Houston, those who had arrived on the train from Dallas and many

Bryan-College Station residents, seemed equally enthusiastic about the new service.

E.C. McLarty was especially excited because his father was the engineer of the last passenger train to stop in College Station.

"He would be delighted," McLarty said. "As for me, I'm tickled to death. I'm pleased to see them bringing passenger service back to the area. And today's turnout indicates there's a lot of interest."

Those who rode the train in from Dallas said they also were pleased with the new service.

Raymond Bates, London coordinator for Continental Airlines, was one of the dignitaries on the train.

"Everyone was very personable and caring, and the service was great," Bates said. "This new service is going to give the airlines a run for their money, and I'm glad to see it."

"Amtrak has a different attitude—they have a commitment to care. If the customers will support it, the new line will definitely succeed."

Amtrak's assistant vice president for operations, Jim Larson, also attended the inauguration.

"Today, we present you with the Texas Eagle," Larson said. "In plans made in 1971, we had a dotted line running from Dallas to Houston saying, 'start up date to be announced.' It took us 17 years to make that happen, but we finally made it."

And after 30 years without a station in College Station, many think it's about time.

Senate OKs new classes in curriculum

By Laura White
Staff Writer

A recommendation for the addition of computer engineering classes in the computer science department was approved by the Faculty Senate Monday.

The computer science and engineering degree program was developed and approved in early September, but has not been brought into compliance with the common first year of computer science curriculum.

The new program will be included in the next course catalog.

Also approved was a recommendation that the signature of the department head or a designated faculty chairperson, will be required on all graduate student petitions.

In other business, the senate approved a resolution by the planning committee about resolving conflicts between official A&M publications.

In the event that a conflict occurs between the course catalog and the official publication of the Texas A&M University Regulations, the Senate voted that regulations will prevail.

An ad hoc libraries committee to aid in the further development of major libraries on the A&M campus was formed by the Senate.

A&M's Sterling C. Evans library presently ranks 48th in the nation in terms of quality.

The committee will make recommendations regarding the future development of the Evans and the Medical Sciences Libraries. Results of the study will be reported to the Senate by April.

In the Committee of the Whole, several senators admonished Jackie Sherrill for making "blatant political endorsements with the 12th Man T-shirt."

The Committee of the Whole also discussed the rumor circulating in the College of Architecture that procedures are being violated with regard to new courses.

In further action, the senate approved the addition of 11 new courses.

The senate also revised its by-laws.

Radio Moscow declares launch of space shuttle Buran success

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union successfully launched its space shuttle Buran on its first, unmanned voyage early Tuesday, official Radio Moscow said.

The radio made the announcement just minutes after the scheduled 6 a.m. launch Tuesday (10 p.m. EST Monday) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia.

It gave no details of the launch, but the timing indicated the countdown had gone smoothly despite fears that rising wind and ice would halt the launch for a second time.

Technicians were concerned that the shuttle Buran — which is Russian for snowstorm — and its giant booster rocket, Energia, might get covered with a coat of ice.

Correspondent Sergei Slipchenko, referring to a failed attempt to launch Buran last month, said, "If the wind rises into a squall and the orbital vehicle (and) Energia become covered with a crust of ice, then launch time will be changed again."

U.S. officials won't launch their space shuttle if there is ice on the booster rocket or orbiter, and cold temperatures contributed to the failure of booster rocket seals that led to the Challenger disaster in 1986.

Technicians began fueling the 198-foot Energia — the world's mightiest booster rocket — with nearly 2,000 tons of liquid hydrogen, oxygen and kerosene, state-run Radio Moscow reported Monday night. Workers at the Soviet space center

in the republic of Kazakhstan, toiling in the glow of nearly 700 spotlights, labored overnight to prepare the gleaming white, triangular-winged Buran for its computer-piloted flight, Tass said.

Buran is to separate from the Energia once it is aloft, fly twice around the Earth on fully automatic control, then land at a special 2.7-mile con-

crete runway eight miles from its launch pad at Baikonur.

The first try at putting the reusable space vehicle into orbit was scrubbed Oct. 29 with only 51 seconds left in the countdown, when an access arm did not pull far enough away from the spaceship and computers automatically stopped the launch.

V. Filin, the deputy chief engineer

for the booster rocket, blamed the failure on a joint between the access tower and the spacecraft.

Few technical details have been made public about the Buran, a lookalike to the U.S. shuttle, and state-run media have only indirectly indicated its cost.

The Buran can carry up to 10 cosmonauts, Tass said.

Rice homecoming 'queen' denied traditional honors

HOUSTON (AP) — Rice University student Michael Grubbs says he entered the homecoming queen contest as a joke, but he still wants the privilege of representing the school at the annual Cotton Bowl game parade New Year's Day.

The junior from Plano said he believes Cotton-Bowl officials have reacted by deciding, "It's a joke, we want it to end here." But he has no plans of dropping the matter until he understands why he can't have the honor he was voted to receive.

"I'd love to go," Grubbs said. "I deserve to. I won."

However, school officials have been unwilling to play along with the joke that began when Grubbs' friend started distributing a petition that enabled him to win.

"I was supposed to be presented at the homecoming game, but that didn't happen," Grubbs said of Saturday's match against Baylor.

"I have no idea why," he added. "I tried to call some people, but I got the big run-around."

The athletic department directed Grubbs to the student association, which sent him to talk to Rice cheerleaders. "They said, 'We have nothing to do with it,'" he said in frustration.

The snub comes from a school whose students elected a refrigerator as their homecoming queen several years ago.

Rice's homecoming queen usually represents Rice at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, but the Cotton Bowl com-

mittee vetoed his appearance, Grubbs said.

"I'm not really mad about it," he said. "It was kind of a joke. I ran, I had fun, but I don't think it's right to get jerked around... I won fair and square."

Rice President George Rupp said to the *Houston Post*, "He has not talked to me, and I have no comment about it."

After his friend started circulating the nominating petition, Grubbs said, "I got a lot of encouragement, so I ran and won," he said of the accomplishment he is not embarrassed of receiving.

His parents were among those who appreciated the joke, sending him a congratulatory bouquet of long-stemmed red roses.