WASHINGTON (AP) — People charged with child abuse have no

guaranteed right to face-to-face confrontations with their young accusers if the children would suffer emo-

tional trauma as a result, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a pair of 5-4 rulings, the court gave tacit approval to the constitutionality of measures taken by many states to spare children from such potentially traumatic confrontations.

of videotaped testimony, testimony

by one-way closed circuit television

and even testimony by doctors and others who interviewed alleged

abuse victims.

Those measures include the use

"A state's interest in the physical

child-abuse victims may be suffi-

ciently important to outweigh, at least in some cases, a defendant's

right to face his or her accusers in

court," Justice Sandra Day O'Con-

nor wrote for the court.

Concluding its 1989-90 term, the court also upheld federal policies that favor minorities in awarding

broadcast licenses, a major victory

By a 5-4 vote, the justices said preferential Federal Communications Commission policies do not discriminate unlawfully against whites.

The court did not address the issue

of women's rights, but FCC affirma-

commission's "distress-sale" policy, which allows a broadcaster faced with the loss of his license to sell to a

for affirmative action.

psychological well-being of

Supreme Court absolves children 5F

from facing their accused abusers hursday.

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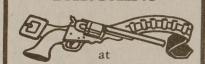
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Highest court rules in favor of affirmative action quotas for granting broadcast licenses

WASHINGTON (AP) --- The Supreme Court said Wednesday the federal government may favor minorities in awarding broadcast licenses, a surprising victory for affirmative action from a court that has recently trimmed racial preferences.

The justices, voting 5-4, ruled that Federal Communications Commission policies designed to bring diversity to the nation's airwaves do not violate the rights of

white people.

The decision delighted stunned proponents of affirma-

"Scrape me off the floor," said Andrew Jay Schwartzman of the Media Access Project, a coalition of groups that had urged the court to uphold the FCC policies. "The Supreme Court has opened the door of opportunity for

America's minorities."

Schwartzman said the ruling also lets the FCC continue its policy of giving preferential treat-

tive action policies treat women and ethnic minorities almost identically. In a case from Florida, the court said the commission could give speminority-owned business at 75 percent of the market value. cial, favorable consideration to minorities in awarding a television sta-In other rulings, the court: tion license. And in a case from Connecticut, the court upheld the

• Limited the power of environ-mentalists to sue in federal court to prevent the opening of federal lands • Upheld Arizona's death penalty

ment to women seeking broadcast

Although the court did not address the issue of women's rights, FCC affirmative action policies treat women and minorities al-most identically. Throughout the history of the two cases ruled on Wednesday, the FCC has argued that women's rights were at issue.

The ruling also removes a threat to other federal affirmatives action programs including

tive action programs, including those adopted by the Transporta-tion and Defense Departments and by the Small Business Ad-

In Wednesday's ruling, Justice William J. Brennan wrote for the court that congressional approval of racial preferences shields such programs from the kind of challenge that could invalidate similar

state and city plans.

Bush administration officials are disturbed by provisions of the bill they say could force businesses to adopt hiring quotas.

law in a decision that also removes a constitutional shadow from similar laws in Idaho and Montana. • Ruled in a Maryland case that

most of the nation's post offices may ban all soliciting on their property. The child-abuse decisions, in cases from Maryland and Idaho, are expected to make it easier to prose people on such charges.

The number of cases is grown More than 2.2 million childs reports were filed in 1988, according to the National Committee for Mave

Prevention of Child Abuse. This is a victory for ch Joyce Strom of the Child We Sitting League of America said after ing of the rulings. "This is a ste the right direction for strengthen a judicial system to protect this From Staff a and acknowledging their s

However, the decisions were notated victory for the states norated defeat for the Constitution's and the constitution are constitution. Amendment, which says that appeture criminal prosecutions, the acceptage shall enjoy the right ... to be signies, a star fronted with all witnesses ag and lousy distributions and shall witnesses against what it will be shall to the control of the

Writing for the court in to try to chan Maryland case, O'Connor Early Wed "That the face-to-face confronz requirement is not absolute does of course, mean that it may east dispensed with."

She added: "A defendant's re

may be satisfied ... only where nial of such confrontation is essary to further an important lic policy and only where reliability of the testimony is the such as the suc

O'Connor said trial judges shield children from such confin tions only when substantial tional trauma - not mere ne ness or reluctance — would resu

Chief Justice William H. Rehr ist and Justices Byron R. Wi Harry A. Blackmun and Anth. M. Kennedy joined O'Connor. Justices Antonin Scalia, Wille

Brennan, Thurgood Marshall John Paul Stevens dissented.

Poll: Americans saw taxes coming

Associated Press

President Bush's flip-flop on his hallmark campaign pledge of "no new taxes" is generating more heat than a summer hot spell in Death

Taxes and the hot air of broken political promises provided a com-bustible mix for people in the street, radio talk show callers and headline writers. It didn't play well in Peoria

"I think all politicians have some

little white lies in them," said Peter Sienkowski, 52, a Dallas Republican. WABC Talk Radio in New York City played Bush's oft-repeated campaign pledge with his Tuesday statement that reducing the federal deficit would reduce the results. deficit would need "tax revenue increases." The about-face prompted a torrent of calls.

'How many times have we heard that phrase, 'read my lips?' " won-dered Paulette Pettit of WABC.

Sales tax

(Continued from page 1)

taxes in College Station. The proposal has the added effect

of increasing students' contributions to the costs of local government, since Texas A&M students pay sales tax, but pay property taxes only indirectly as a part of their rent. Students living on the A&M cam-

pus do not pay utilities or property taxes since A&M is a non-taxable state institution.

Richard Morton, assistant to the Bryan city manager, said Bryan also will use its increase to lower property taxes since the value of property in Bryan has been falling and sales have picked up in the area.

Abortion

(Continued from page 1)

sion for school administered medicine, artificial tanning and earpier-Redfield said.

Some pro-choice advocates, how-ever, believe the Supreme Court's latest decision is just the beginning of a dangerous move.

Susan Neney, director of communications for Planned Parenthood, said the Court's decision is threatening to young adults.
"Many women do not wish to in-

volve their parents, for very good reasons," she said.

Neney said some girls may wish to keep abortion private in fear that vi-olence may be the reaction from angry parents. Moreover, a girl who might come from a loving and caring family fears disappointment and shame from the family

Neney also said if the law forces girls to involve their parents against their judgement, society will witness a recurrence of what happened before 1973 when obtaining an abortion was illegal.

1600 S. Texas Ave

They may find somebody to do a non-medical abortion or they may go to Mexico where illegal abortions are easily obtained," she said. "This is very dangerous. Around 800 women die a month due to illegal abortions in Mexico."

Texas presently does not have a law requiring parental notification for a girl to obtain an abortion.

Both groups, however, believe this certainly will be an issue during January's legislative session in Aus-

Both groups agreed young women need to take a stand when

the issue arises in the state's Capitol.

"A pre-born child desperately needs an advocate, and minors can benefit from wise and compassionate counsel," Redfield said. "Perhaps many parents will serve in these capacities.

Neney, however, encourages young women to be well-informed and sensitive to the abortion issue when it comes time for the Legislature to decide whether to act on the Supreme Court's decision.

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What's Up

Thursday

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: There will be a general discussion a 6 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

TEXAS A&M STUDENT CHAPTER OF AMERICAN METEOROLOGY SO-CIETY: Dr. Lyons will speak about hurricanes at 7 p.m. in the 0&M

CHI ALPHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: There will be a meeting at 7 p.m.al the Chi Alpha house. Call Bryan or Steve at 846-3119 for more information. FOURTH DAY: There will be a meeting for all those who have been on an Aggie Awakening at 6:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center. For more information.

MOSBACHER RALLY: The Mosbacher rally will be at 11:15 a.m. in fort of the Academic Building. Call Anne Payne at 774-4548 for more informa-

AGGIE DEMOCRATS: There will be a dance with the Texas Twisters from 8 p.m. to midnight in the La Fiesta Ballroom. No politickin' — just fun! Call Jeff at 693-9201 or Bill at 696-6034 for more information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at 8:30 pm. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

Friday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-2080 for more information.

CHESS CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in Rudder. Call Steve at 764-3924 for more DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES: The deadline for submitting dates for the 1990 Fall Calendar is today. Dates must be submitted according to calendar guidelines on event cards. For more information call 845-1133.

BRYAN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT: is having a Lake" contest. Anyone can submit their idea of a name for the Bryan Ulities Lake Park. For more information call 361-3658. The deadline is July

BRYAN PARKS AND RECREATION: will show the movie "Old Yeller" at dusk at Haswell Park in Bryan. Concessions will be available. For more information, call 361-3658.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: will have an annual auction in Tabor. The proceeds are to maintain the upkeep of the oldest established churching Brazos County. For more information, call 589-2793. STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE: will have a supper club meeting at p.m. at Wings 'n Things. For more information, call Donielle at 845-1741.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only public the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are un on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.



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