

# The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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## Supreme Court sustains women's right to abortion

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court sustained women's basic right to abortion Monday, voting 6-3 against reviving a 1990 Guam law that would have prohibited nearly all such operations.

The justices refused to review lower court rulings that had declared the U.S. territory's sweeping law unconstitutional.

Monday's action, which activists on both sides of the nationwide debate had expected, marked the first time in 20 years the high court declined to review a major abortion dispute.

But a new case, testing how far states may go in making abortions more difficult to obtain, already is before the justices and could be decided as early as next week.

The court also is wrestling with another abortion-related issue: whether federal judges have the authority to deal with abortion clinic blockades.

"Today's action was hardly unexpected," said Burke Balch of the National Right to Life Committee, which opposes abortion. "It underlines the reaffirmation of Roe vs. Wade."

David Andrews of Planned Parenthood said his group was relieved by the court's action but added, "It does not address the underlying problem of severe restrictions" the court has let states impose on women seeking abortions.

The court last June reaffirmed the core holding of its landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision — that women have a constitutional right to abortion.

But the June decision also said states may raise new hurdles for women seeking to end their pregnancies. The ruling upheld most provisions of a Pennsylvania abor-

tion law.

The invalidated Guam law would have allowed abortions only when an embryo formed outside the woman's womb, or when two doctors determined that continuing a pregnancy would kill a woman or "gravely impair" her health.

Monday's action was viewed as likely to persuade Louisiana officials not to seek to reverse a federal appeals court ruling that struck down their state law banning most abortions. Louisiana Attorney General Richard Ieyoub said he would announce the state's plans Tuesday.

The court's brief order in the Guam case drew dissenting votes from Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia and Byron R. White.

Writing for the three, Scalia said a federal appeals court wrongly struck down the Guam law "on its face."

"There are apparently some applications of the statute that are perfectly constitutional," Scalia said.

Thomas did not join in Monday's dissent and offered no comment beyond the majority's one-sentence statement denying the appeal.

Noting that only four votes are needed to grant Supreme Court review, Leanne McCoy of Americans United for Life guessed that Thomas thought it would be fruitless to provide that fourth vote.

A five-member majority — Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy, David H. Souter, Harry A. Blackmun and John Paul Stevens — controlled the court's decision last June.

"There probably was a decision not to force the hands of the five-member majority," McCoy said. "I don't think his vote (Monday) is reflective of Justice Thomas' views on abortion."

## Rep. Wilson speaks to A&M on ethnic tolerance, education

By MARK EVANS

Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

In a time when minorities are becoming the majority, minorities still find themselves and their views under-represented throughout society, especially at the university level, said State Rep. Ron Wilson, speaking at an open forum last night in Rudder Theater.

"Minorities in this country are no longer minorities," he said. "It is a new day. We all live in a multicultural environment, and we're all going to have to act accordingly."

"We are all going to have to get along."

Wilson said he supports a multicultural class at Texas A&M to teach students racial sensitivity. Students should learn from the sins of the past, so they avoid them in the future, he said.

"There's nothing wrong with us saying that students have to take a multicultural class if they go to a university in this state,"

Wilson said.

Wilson said he also believes everyone should have equal access to publicly-funded universities because they're footing the bills. A&M alone receives \$200 million a year from the state, he said.

"Everybody pays for this university," Wilson said. "It ought to allow everybody access to its facilities."

Currently, the number of minorities represented on Texas universities, both among faculty and students, does not accurately reflect society, Wilson said. He said he would like to see more minority, student and faculty, recruitment.

Texas A&M has already come a long way in minority recruitment, said Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

"We don't have the numbers of black students as we do in the state of Texas, percentage-wise," he said. "Historically, we have come a long way in the last 10 years in regard to all of our programs relating to minority re-

cruitment. But we have a long way to go."

Wilson took issue with the sanctions the University handed down in October to an A&M fraternity which held a party at which activists allegedly chased pledges who were painted black and dressed in grass skirts.

If Prairie View A&M students had painted their faces white and other students shot them with fake Uzis, the punishment would have been a lot more harsh, Wilson said.

"They would have gotten a lot more than a \$1,000 fine," he said. "The Corps (of Cadets) would have been down there in 10 minutes."

"No matter what issue comes up everyone is going to have their opinion on how it should be done and why it should be done," Koldus said, referring to the University's action.

Both he and Wilson look at the situation from different perspectives, Koldus said.

"You do what you think is best at the particular time," he

said. "My point of view is a bit different than his in the sense that he thought (the fraternity) ought to be banned from the campus."

After making his speech, Wilson took questions from the audience.

In response to a question from the audience, Wilson explained that the reason minorities are not involved in more campus organizations which do not relate to culture is because they are not made to feel welcome; they are not taken seriously.

Blacks and browns cannot be blotted out, Wilson said.

"Everybody is going to be a part (of this university), otherwise we'll shut this sucker down," he said.

"There's no law we can pass, no bill we can sponsor that will change how people think about each other."

Wilson said he will continue to work through the Memorial Student Center Black Awareness Committee, which sponsored the forum.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Roberto Villarreal, a senior philosophy major from San Antonio, waits patiently while Delsia McKinney, Director of Development for the MSC Black Awareness Committee, runs a metal detector over him as part of the security checks for a speech by Rep. Ron Wilson on Monday.

## Students, professors provide mixed reactions to multicultural issues forum

By WILL HEALY

Reporter of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University students and professors had mixed reactions to State Rep. Ron Wilson's forum sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Black Awareness Committee Monday night.

Wilson discussed the issue of multicultural sensitivity at A&M — a topic of which he feels the University needs to take a more proactive role.

Student Body President Steve Beller said, in his efforts to address the issue, he made many unsuccessful attempts to contact Wilson, including sending a Student Government delegation to Austin.

"I made many phone calls to Wilson and he never responded," Beller said. "What does that tell me?"

Beller said a solution will come as a result of working together with all student organizations at A&M.

Student organizations are making a concerted effort to reach out to minorities, said Warren Talbot, president of Off Campus Aggies. Student government has opened up, but minorities seem to show less interest,

and even some resistance, he said.

"I don't know how much further we can go without offending (minorities)," Talbot said.

Students may be more culturally aware if they learn about multiculturalism in the classes they take instead of being required to take a multicultural class, said Jill McClure, Miss Texas A&M.

McClure said she felt that some of what Wilson said was contradictory.

"He said that we are a melting pot, which we are, and how we need to come together, which we do," McClure said. "But then he said 'I'm here for my people, and until I get my neighborhood cleaned up, I can't worry about anyone else.' Then why is he here at Texas A&M?"

Brian Walker, a speaker of the Student Senate, said he thinks that things went well and that students got a lot out of the forum. However, he said he was discouraged by Wilson's unwillingness to respond, and the fact that Wilson never said how he feels about the Student Senate's efforts to promote multiculturalism.

"One of our goals for next year and next semester is to get more minorities involved in student activities," Walker said.

MSC Director Jim Reynolds said he felt the forum was an excellent program and commended the MSC Black Awareness Committee (BAC) on their efforts.

"I think we need more programs that help to engage Texas A&M in talking about racism, multiculturalism and diversity," Reynolds said. "A&M needs to do not only programs with elected officials, but also with people from the private sector and the Texas A&M student body with each other."

"It all starts with what is in our individual hearts and minds," Reynolds said.

The forum was one of the few opportunities where the issue can be talked about, said Dr. D.H. Seastrunk, assistant director emeritus of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The race issue is not discussed sufficiently and there is no progress unless it is discussed, he said.

Michelle Boldon, chairman of BAC, agreed that the program was a positive experience.

"What counts is what happens afterwards," Boldon said. "Representative Wilson is gone. He won't be here tomorrow. It's up to A&M to implement positive measures that will make a difference."

## Officials to take action on captain

Missile firing means trouble for crew

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Top Navy officials have recommended that the captain of the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga and seven other officers and sailors face disciplinary action for the missile firing last month that killed five Turkish sailors, military sources said Monday.

The recommendation for the men, including Capt. James M. Drager, is short of a court-martial but serious enough to effectively end their careers, several sources said.

All spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Drager was considered one of the Navy's top stars and was the first helicopter pilot to have been named commander of an aircraft carrier.

The recommendation is expected to be made public Tuesday when the Navy releases its report in Naples, Italy, on the Oct. 1 accident.

Two Sea Sparrow missiles were launched from the carrier and one struck the Turkish ship Muavenet during a NATO exercise in the Aegean Sea. The Muavenet's commanding officer was among those killed and 18 crewmen were injured. One senior military source said Adm. Henry Mauz, the commander of the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, has recommended that six of the Saratoga's most senior officers and two enlisted men face "mast" procedures, which are non-judicial hearings through which punishment is meted out under the Navy's disciplinary system. Such punishments usually do not call for reduction in rank or pay, but more often take the form of official letters of reprimand. After such disciplinary procedures, promotion is unlikely and officers or senior enlisted men or women generally leave the service.

The sailors who actually let the missiles fly are not being recommended for any kind of discipline, the senior military officer said, because a board of inquiry found that they had only followed the orders that were given them. A Navy investigation found that the sailors were awakened late at night and mistook a drill for an actual attack. The more senior officers are being faulted because "much miscommunication" had taken place on board the Saratoga and they had not made clear to the lower-level weapons operators that a drill was under way, the senior military source said.

## Silver Taps to honor one



Silver Taps will be held this evening at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building for Michael Robert Reid, a 21-year-old political science major from Houston. Reid died October 31. A memorial service was held November 4, at St. Patrick's Church in Geneva, Ill.