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## Abortion debate intensifies TX school

Pro-life advocates optimistic on anniversary of Roe v. Wade

WASHINGTON (AP) — Abor- balance — with many decisions now "Jane Roe" of Roe v. Wade who now tion rights supporters are used to battle. But the ground has changed for the 28th anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

Abortion foes were energized by the changed political landscape and planned to be out in force Monday, marking the Supreme Court ruling with marches and protests.

Bill Clinton, who helped the cause for keeping abortions legal, is gone from the White House, replaced by anti-abortion President Bush, who has nominated an even more staunch abortion opponent, John Ashcroft, as attorney general.

"Certainly we can't count on the White House now," said Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women. "And we may not be able to count on the court even now — but for sure if one more nominee gets through that's anything like the Ashcroft model.'

As a Republican senator from Missouri, Ashcroft proposed a constitutional amendment that would outlaw nearly all abortions, including in cases of rape and incest. He also opposes most forms of contra-

Republicans also control Congress now, and Bush could appoint one or more Supreme Court justices. Just one appointment could tip the being made on 5-4 votes. Any nominee, however, would have to be approved by a Senate divided 50-50 along party lines.

"It's like a shot across the bow a warning of things to come that could impact long past Bush's term, even if he's a two-term president," Ireland said.

Certainly we can't count on the White House now."

— Patricia Ireland President of the National Organization for Women

First lady Laura Bush broke from her husband's views last week and said she did not think the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling should be overturned. But that gives little comfort to abortion rights supporters.

Regardless of what his wife thinks, "Bush has signaled that he is going to act on his personal convictions that a woman should not have the right to choose," said Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Abortion opponents are more upbeat than they have been in years. They include Norma McCorvey, the runs Dallas-based Roe No More Ministry, a speakers' referral service for the anti-abortion cause.

"I think the majority of pro-lifers are really looking forward to President Bush getting into office, McCorvey said. "I think we all have the same dream: We'd like to see Roe v. Wade overturned.'

Abortion opponents think it is just a matter of time before abortion is outlawed again. "I think pro-life people — and I think that's a majority in the country — certainly feel better now," said David Osteen, executive director of National Right to Life.

McCorvey, meanwhile, dismissed Ashcroft's statement at his Senate confirmation hearing that he would not try to make abortion illegal. "I would like to think that

[Ashcroft] didn't really mean that," But neither side is taking any-

thing for granted.

Monday's marches and other events by abortion opponents were being countered with efforts by abortion rights groups to mobilize their forces against Ashcroft with radio ads and Internet campaigns.

Americans in general remain split on abortion. An exit poll in the presidential election found more voters favored keeping abortion legal, 55

# financing

AUSTIN (AP) — The stat share-the-wealth school finance system needs to be examined at possibly changed after this islative session, acting Lt. Go Bill Ratliff said Monday.

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"I think everybody knows the plan that I authored in 19 had a shelf life," said Ratliff, w chaired the Senate Educat Committee when the so-cal Robin Hood plan was adopted

House Speaker Pete Laneya Ratliff are discussing appoint an interim commission after Legislature adjourns in Ma "totally dissect the whole pu school funding mechanism see if they can arrive at a substi by the next session," Ratliff sa Laney was not available

comment Gov. Rick Perry understa that some work may need to done on the state's education nance system, said spokesn Luis Saenz. He declined top vide details

Sen. Teel Bivins, chairman the Senate Education Commi said he likes the idea of acc mission studying the school nance issue

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## Study reveals freshmen are not in to politic

LOS ANGELES (AP) — College freshmen are technologically savvy and receive higher grades than past students but they study less, according to a nationwide survey released Monday.

Freshmen also seem to have little interest in politics and are smoking and drinking less, according to a study conducted last fall by the Angeles (UCLA), in conjunction with the American Council on Education.

The survey was based on responses by 269,413 students at 434 colleges and universities.

A record 78.5 percent of students said they frequently used computers before attending college — a figure

University of California-Los that has nearly tripled since 1985, when the question was

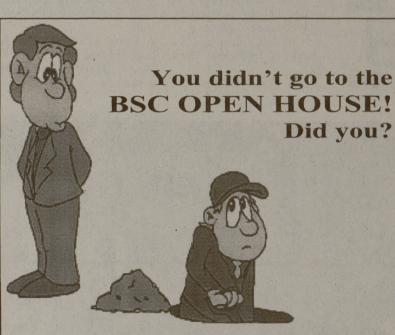
> Men were twice as likely than women to rate their computer skills as above average. Men were also five times more likely to pursue careers in computer programming 9.3 percent compared to 1.8 percent of women — and said they

spent far more time on the fidence is likely to p Internet. 'Research has shown

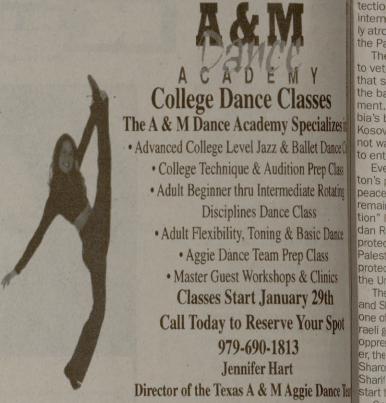
that women feel computers and technology is a male domain," said survey director Linda Sax, a UCLA education professor. "In a work force increasingly dependent on technological proficiency, women's relative lack of computing conthem at a disadvantage The survey also f

the freshmen were more eral in their politics approved of gay right opposed the death pe but less interested ever in the political pro Only 28.1 percent h interest in political affair

a new record low.



BSC OPEN HOUSE Wehner Building Feb 23-25 10am - 3pm **GET INVOLVED!!!** 





Texas A&M University

Pre-Law Society

**Upcoming Events** 

Tuesday, January 23 University of Houston 7 p.m. Koldus 110

Wednesday, January 24 "Welcome Back" Social 7 p.m. Los Cucos in the Culpepper Shopping Plaza

### **On-Campus Interviews**



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