

Cohabitation: dividing up property after splitting up

By DINITA JAMES
Staff Writer

"I always thought it strange that you can have 'legal hand relief,' as it is called, but you can't raise a drink to your lips," said Ellen Gerber, who spoke Thursday in the sixth session of the symposium on Sex Discrimination and the Law.

Gerber and Carol Spruill, practicing attorneys and former UNC students, were the featured panelists in the symposium discussion on sex discrimination in living arrangements sponsored by the Association for Women Students and UNC Women and the Law.

Gerber, who spoke on the legal aspects of cohabitation, said one of the major difficulties in non-marital living arrangements arises when the relationship ends.

Along with the emotional problems of splitting up, she said, comes the problem of dividing up the property acquired during the relationship.

"It's easy to have loose financial arrangements when you're happy," Gerber said.

But she said, when the relationship goes bad, the problems of dividing both real and personal property can be great.

"In personal property, you tend more often to know who bought it," she said. "The person who bought it has a caveat to it. This can become a problem when the rent is due and one person pays it. Then you decide you need some chairs. The other person says, 'You paid the rent, so I'll buy the chairs.' The person who paid the rent ends up with nothing when the relationship breaks up."

Gerber said this problem often leaves the woman without rights to the personal property. "It's usually sexually discriminating here," she said. "The woman is doing the kitchen stuff, so she usually does the grocery shopping. He pays for the real things they buy. Consequently, when they split up, he owns everything. It doesn't have to be that way, but it is something to watch for if you're in that situation."

Gerber said that in North Carolina, there are three ways to own real property: tenants in common, in which each person owns half; tenancy by entirety, usually the case in marriages, in which the husband and wife are both

considered to own the whole; and joint tenancy with the right to survivorship, in which each owns half, and when one dies, his half goes to the survivor.

Gerber said joint tenancy is the best situation for cohabitators. "It's a bad situation in cohabitation, because families usually don't approve. When one party dies, his family usually comes in and tries to claim their child's half of the property."

She said people in such situations should plan ahead. "If you get into a situation like that, try to think about things like that well ahead of time."

Gerber also said writing a will is important in non-marital living arrangements.

"It's your way of saying what you want done when you die," she said. "If you have someone you love, and you want to protect them and their property from your family, put it in a will."

Gerber also discussed the problems of support and custody. "I know you're all asking 'Why are there any obligations of support? We're not married,'" she said. "Well, if you father a child, you are responsible for supporting it."

But she said that when two people are not married, paternity must be established.

"You have three years from the last time the father supported the child to go to court and say, 'That man fathered my child,'" she said.

The importance of establishing paternity, Gerber said, comes when the father dies. "If the father dies without acknowledging the child," she said "all the Social Security is gone that would have accrued to the child of a deceased, and his estate won't go to a child that hasn't been claimed either."

In married or non-married relationships, Gerber said, both parents have equal right to custody of the child. "But if you think equality of custody is rare when you're married," she said, "think how rare it would be in a non-marital union."

She did tell of one situation in which two lesbians had raised a child. The child's mother died and her sister sued for custody. The court awarded the child to the surviving lesbian on the grounds she was a psychological parent. "That was a monumental decision," Gerber said.

Campus Calendar

Public service announcements must be turned in at the box outside the DTH offices in the Carolina Union by 1 p.m. if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice.

ACTIVITIES TODAY

The University Placement Services is offering a free one-hour Interviewing Tactics Workshop at 1 p.m. in 209 Hanes Hall. To receive full benefit from the workshop, please prepare the workshop study material available in 211 Hanes.

The UNC Crew Club will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 202 Carolina Union.

The Order of the Valkyries will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 213 Carolina Union. All members are asked to attend.

A free public talk, "Living in Balance," sponsored by ECKANKAR, will be given at 7:30 p.m. at the ECKANKAR Center, 1337 E. Franklin St.

Margaret Boechmann of George Washington University and policy analyst of the Office of Income Security Policy, HEW, will speak on "New Directions in Welfare Reform" at noon in 207 Hamilton Hall. The visit is sponsored by the UNC Public Analysis Program. The visit is sponsored by the UNC Public Analysis Program. Interested persons are invited to come and bring their own bar lunch. Coffee will be free.

J.C. Koop of the Research Triangle Institute will speak on "Conditional Inference in Sample Surveys: An Exercise in Statistical Inference" at 4 p.m. in Room 324 Phillips. Preceding the program, refreshments will be served at 3:30 p.m. in 316 Phillips.

A second program in a series on "Exploring Sex Roles" will be sponsored at 7:15 p.m. at the Presbyterian Student Center, 110 Henderson St. by a Woman's Place and the Triangle Men's Center. The series deals changes in sex roles and topics tonight include difficulties and personal costs and motivations and rewards involved in accepting new gender roles. There will be no admission charge.

The Educational Policy Committee will hold its first meeting of the academic year at 3 p.m. in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge in the Carolina Union. The meeting is open to interested faculty and students.

A session on "Introduction to Computer Mapping" will be conducted at 2 p.m. in 306 Saunders.

A session dealing "Remote Services—Computing from an Interactive Terminal" will be held at 3 p.m. in 228 Phillips.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The English dept. and the graduate English Club will sponsor a lecture on "The Burden of Editing" by Raven McDavid, professor of English at the University of Chicago and editor of *The Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada* at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26 in the second floor lounge.

The Surf Club will hold an organizational meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge, Carolina Union. All members and interested persons should attend.

The Phi Phi Literary Societies invite all to a reading night at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in 300 New West.

The UNC Young Democrats will hold a meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday in rooms 202-204 of the Carolina Union. Elections will be held for two executive committee positions.

A general body meeting of the Association of Business Students will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Faculty Lounge in Old Carroll.

The Outing Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 207 of the Carolina Union. Upcoming trips and a crash course on camp stoves will be subjects of the meeting.

The UNC Table Tennis Club will meet from 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday in Women's Gym. Persons who have participated in intramural table tennis or just enjoy the game are invited to attend.

football

From page 1

Atkins silenced the 48,000 at Kenan Stadium for good when he swept right around the UNC defense with 7:27 left for a six-yard, go ahead score.

When it wasn't Atkins, it was the scrambling and passing of quarterback Tim O'Hare that confused the ACC defending champs. O'Hare completed 13 of 24 and saved several long losses by dodging Carolina linemen in his backfield.

"He was quicker than I expected," UNC noseguard Dave Simmons said. "He was quicker by far."

"I figured if I could take care of those guys for a while back there, somebody'd get open," O'Hare said. And more often than not, he found tight end Eric Sievers or wingback Dean Richards. On the crucial play of Maryland's game-winning 68-yard drive, O'Hare floated a sideline pass to Gary Ellis on a second and 28 situation which gave the Terps a first down at the UNC seven. Atkins did the rest, as his blockers got outside to leave him an open path.

"I knew when he handed it to me that I was going all the way on that one," Atkins said.

Maryland's defense stopped any threat of a Carolina comeback with constant pressure on Kupec and a blanketing secondary. Atkins and Preacher Maddox grinded out another 50 yards to wind the clock down, leaving the Tar Heels less than a minute to work with.

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The second meeting for students interested in applying for Rhodes Scholarships will be held Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. in 569 Hamilton. Prospective candidates should bring their transcript, list of activities and personal statement.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The North Carolina Botanical Garden is sponsoring a series of Saturday workshops continuing through Oct. 14 for beginning and advanced plant students. The fee includes the cost of text. The garden is one-half mile from campus off 15-201 By-pass on Laurel Hill Road.

Representatives from Bowman-Gray Medical School will be available from noon-2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3 in 311 South Building to talk with anyone interested in its program.

Persons interested in working on "The Southern Part of Leaves" or with the Housing department of the Student Consumer Action Team should contact Philip Garner from 1-2 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in the SCAU office, Suite B, Carolina Union. Editors, surveyors and investigators are needed.

The University Counseling Center has limited openings in a personal growth group. The group focuses on communicating with others, dealing with feelings and feeling better about oneself. Interested persons should call 933-2175 and ask for an appointment with Bob McDonald.

The Cellar Door is accepting fiction, poetry, photography, drama, essays and artwork for the Fall 1978 edition. Entries are due by Oct. 15 in the Cellar Door office, second floor, Campus Y. All manuscripts must be typed. For further information contact Will Blythe of Mike Carroll at 967-2035.

B.Y.O.E. to the Yackety Yack! Portraits for the 1979 issues will be taken Oct. 9 through Nov. 3. Make appointments now at the Carolina Union (9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily) or at the U-Court (9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily). Appointments also can be arranged by calling 933-1259 between 1-5 p.m. weekdays.

Voter registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and from 7-9 p.m. today and Tuesday at the Chapel Hill Municipal Building. Registration also will be held at the Carboro Town Hall from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and again from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday. The last day for registration is Oct. 9.

Interested persons may register for Carolina Union Special Interest Classes Tuesday, Sept. 26 through Friday, Sept. 29, at the Union information desk.

WXYC t-shirts will be available for \$3.50 from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday or Friday at the station office in the basement of the Carolina Union.

If you have a bit of news or an item of interest, call the WXYC news department at 933-NEWS.

Those interested in forming a Judo Club are urged to sign up at the UNC Sports Club Council office in Suite A of the Carolina Union.

All students interested in attending career seminars dealing with individual career topics may sign up at the University

CAT'S CRADLE

THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

Mon.	Night Football
Tues.	10 ft. Video Screen
Wed.	Tony Williamson and friends
Thurs.	The Blue Grass Experience
Fri.	Gove Scrivnor
Sat.	(tickets on sale in advance)
Sat. afternoon	Football on 10 ft. video screen
Sun. afternoon	Video screen

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