

Briefly...

Sophomore cleanup Saturday

The Sophomore Class of 2003 is hosting a Trash-a-Thon, Saturday at the Warwick Center. The project will focus on picking up trash in downtown Wilmington and on Masonboro Island. In addition, local businesses are being asked to donate money, which will be presented to Lower Cape Fear Hospice. For more information, contact Crisp McDonald at FCM1867@uncwil.edu

Police dog demonstration tomorrow

Crossroads will sponsor a demonstration of the role of police dogs and horses by the Wilmington Police Department tomorrow from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in front of Warwick Center. The event is designed to give students an understanding of how dogs assist the police. Pizza and drinks will be provided on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Chancellor's office hours tomorrow

Chancellor Leutze will hold office hours for students tomorrow from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m.

College Democrats and Republicans to debate

College Democrats and College Republicans will debate the issues of President Bush's tax plan, national missile defense and abortion on Thursday, April 5 at 6 p.m. The debate will take place at Center Stage in the Warwick Center and will include questions from the audience. Lloyd Jones, associate professor of political science, will moderate the event. For more information, call John Andrew Petrequin at 962-5928.

Lecture on Moratorium of death penalty

James Megivern, professor of philosophy and religion, will present "The Death Penalty in Christian History," Wednesday, April 4, in Cameron Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Abortion policy limits foreign aid

HEATHER GRADY

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A recent presidential order, known as the "Global Gag Policy," will stop American funding to foreign governments and multilateral organizations for providing abortions or lobbying to change abortion laws in countries where the practice is restricted. It also pulls funding plans from any organization that discusses abortion with patients, according to reports from *Time*.

The policy is very controversial and has been criticized extensively by opponents. Those against the policy say it is counterproductive and will actually increase abortion numbers.

Opponents of the plan also expect it to cause a large decline in the health of poor women overseas and increased deaths as well. In addition to providing abortions, many of the 450 organizations affected by the decision are the only source many poor women have to gain contraception, information, educational materials, general health services and family planning services.

"It is my belief that more women will end up having more abortions [as a result of the global gag rule] and that most who do, being poor women who can't afford proper medical attention, will result in having 'coat hanger' abortions," said Michele Lefler, leader of Women Act in Liberation, a UNCW women's organization.

The policy, then known as the Mexico City Provision, was first implemented during the presidency of Ronald Reagan and was revoked by Bill Clinton soon after his arrival in the White House in 1993.

During 1999, pro-life advocates in Congress attached the gag rule to the foreign appropriations bill as a rider to other legislation detailing repayment of debts to the United Nations. In October, Clinton

eliminated the policy; however, pro-life supporters in Congress then attached a piece of legislation that prevented funds from being provided to overseas organizations until February 15.

Many Christian Conservative organizations applauded Bush's reinstatement of the policy as a strong leadership stance on abortion.

"President Bush has clearly demonstrated today that he is a man of moral courage. We are pleased to see that the president's compassion encompasses the most defenseless among us—our unborn children," said Roberta Combs, executive director of the Christian Coalition, in a press release.

Other opponents feel that Bush is using the policy as a favor to the Christian Conservatives in the event that he does not overturn the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973, which legalized abortion in America. Some political analysts speculate he will not be successful.

"Thousands of women will die each year from illegal abortion because President Bush, who lost the popular vote, needs to curry favor with the religious right. It is a malicious affront to women to gag advocates for their health on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*," said Janet Benschhof, president of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (CRLP), in a press release. CRLP is an international legal advocacy organization that works to support women's rights.

Others object because the U.S. is not paying for foreign abortions or promotion of them according to CRLP sources. Therefore, by taking away necessary funding to organizations that pay for the process themselves, Christian Conservative



Bush has made recent efforts to curtail foreign aid that would go toward abortions.

values are being superimposed on other countries. The policy would rely on America's checkbook to dictate such values, opponents to the policy say.

"The big thing we want people to understand is that what the (gag rule) does is limit what other countries can do with their money. We feel it eliminates the ability of a woman to make an informed decision because she is not getting all the information she needs," said Dana Blackman, director of education for Planned Parenthood in North Carolina.

"It is upsetting to see (Bush)...cutting off international aid and already hurting our global relation. To cut American aid completely for health care and services overseas is a decision with not too much thought behind it," said Adrien Lopez, leader of P.E.A.C.E (People for Education and Active Commitment to Equality) at UNCW.

Many proponents of the policy rebut this idea by focusing on the goal of protection rather than restriction.

"As Americans, we have a rich tradition of reaching out to those in need. I can't think of a group more in need of our compassion and support than those waiting to be born," Combs said.

Other proponents of the policy feel that it is wrong to ask taxpayers to pay for any policy that conflicts with their own set of morals.

"The issue for pro-lifers is not so much if the gag rule will be effective but the very premise of behind the idea of using taxpayer money to support overseas abortions, and the proliferation of ideas contrary to their own. Thomas Jefferson said that it is sinful and tyrannical to force a man to fund ideas that are despicable to him. Such is the case here. Should the government use taxpayer money to support such things? I would say no, and I fail to see how this is even an abortion issue," said John Kaiser, leader of the campus conservative leadership group. "The issue strikes me as economic rather than reproductive. This 'gag rule' does not outlaw abortion, it only serves to end the tyranny of forcing pro-life citizens to pay for overseas abortions and information."



TIDAL CREEK
Cooperative Food Market

**Wilmington's Only
Member Owned and
Operated Natural Foods
Grocery Store**

Join us for our Member Drive
and Food Fair!
Saturday, March 24th
11am - 4pm

**Food
Samplings**

Support the Red Cross!

Live Music

4406 Wrightsville Avenue at Kerr

799-2667