

## Opinion on War

NANCY ZHANG

A recent poll taken by the Washington Post-ABC News reveals 7 out of 10 Americans support "Operation Iraqi Freedom". In the classroom and at home, the talk of the war on Iraq has entered the lives of NCSSM students.

When I watch the news coverage on Iraq, I see planes, buildings, Saddam and other leaders of the world, and I see the broader impact of what is happening in Iraq. Being at home over the past weekend, I remember my father switching on his daily 10:00 Chinese news. The top story was of the number of casualties in Iraq, not buildings suspected of keeping weapons of mass destruction. Extended images of hospitalized children and the elderly were shown with high of numbers of Iraqis injured.

Our government is not fighting the war. Our soldiers, our people, and we are fighting the war. America goes into war believing in a cause, and often comes out of war without any realization as to the human cost. There is so much in the world to believe in, to fight for - but is government really among those causes worth dying for?

America will always remember the Lusitania, Pearl Harbor and World Trade Center. Ultimately war is about the people, not the government. Government carefully controls what we see on the news, what we hear on the radio. If a system wants to control what we think, is it really worth fighting for?

In the classroom, at home, the talk of the war on

Iraq has been filtering into the lives of NCSSM students. A recent poll taken by the Washington Post-ABC News reveals 7 out of 10 Americans support "Operation Iraqi Freedom"; however, a war based on preventative measures at this time of American economic distress seems pretty suspicious.

I ask myself as I try to search for a good reason for US involvement: cause that would suffice the reasons why we are going into War. It is said that weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq but does not America have weapons of mass destruction also? It does not matter who is in control of the weapons whether it be a sadistic ruler or a country who seems to be a light bearer. In the end, a weapon is a weapon, no matter how you use it.

When I watch the news coverage on Iraq, I see planes, I see buildings, I see Saddam and other leaders of the world and I see the broader settings of what is happening in Iraq. I do not believe that these are the things or people that are fighting the war directly. It's about the people. I don't believe that we as Americans are seeing enough of the people involved in the war. Maybe if we see the Iraqis and their children who are bleeding, who have no legs from the air strikes we will change our minds. I am reminded of a quotation from one of my favorite authors: John Dos Passos.

"Of all the things in the world, a government is the thing least worth fighting for."  
- John Dos Passos

## Waitlist

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feel like maybe the admissions office was right and maybe I am not smart enough to be here."

Juliana Weaver found that her attitude towards NCSSM was totally changed by her number 2 position on the waitlist.

"I thought that being wait listed was a sign that the experience to come would be horrific."

Not every hopeful sophomore can be accepted to NCSSM, and not every one will take the opportunity, so a wait-list is an inevitable part of admissions. Yet there may be ways to improve the process that make the experience easier for the students.

Each congressional district in the state must provide 5.8% to 8.8% of the incoming junior class. This restriction creates a disadvantage for qualified students from districts with a large applicant pool.

One student from the Triangle area says, "My experience has been that region plays entirely too large a role in admissions. I understand that it is a mandate from the state but I think that it does not help the school gain the best possible students."

Once students are on the wait-list, many wish to monitor their position and gauge how much longer they have to wait. To be updated on their status, they must call Admissions and ask.

Jason Bischof suggests "some kind of running count-down online so that wait-list students can see if they've got a shot at making it instead of wondering what's going on."

According to one senior, students and parents would be more comfortable if they were informed of the wait-list rules and regulations. "I know that there were a lot of rumors that certain people were pushed up on the list, and certain numbers were skipped, etc."

There may be some complaints about the wait-listing process, but some have turned it into a positive experience.

"I don't really feel like being a finalist instead of a wait-list student would have impacted me socially," says Andrea Clark. "But academically I think being on the wait-list made me work harder in order to prove that I deserved to be here."

Thanks to Dr. Warshaw for providing information about the admissions process, and many thanks to those who responded to the survey. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Happy Thirtieth Anniversary The Siege on Roe v. Wade

REBECCA BUCKWALTER

On March 13, the Senate passed a new federal partial birth abortion ban, voting 64-33 to begin a formal siege on US abortion rights. Statistics demonstrate that partial birth abortions comprise less than one percent of abortions in the US. Partial birth abortions generally take place when the fetus is severely handicapped or incapable of surviving birth and the bill makes exceptions for medical necessity. Thus, the new legislation applies to less than one percent of abortions, and the majority of that percent take place due to medical necessity. Also important is the fact that the majority of states already have legislation in place against the abortion of a fetus beyond twenty weeks. So, what exactly does the new partial birth abortion ban accomplish?

The newest federal abortion legislation is simply a nationalization of existing state law with an extremely limited application potential, and an extremely large potential to begin the demolition of a woman's right to choose.

Partial birth abortions have already been directly banned in thirty-one states, and indirectly banned by abortion laws in other states, such as North Carolina, where abortions past twenty weeks are already illegal. Forty states and the District of Columbia already have post-viability (twenty week) abortion laws in place. Very few legal partial birth abortions occur yearly without medical necessity as a factor. It is dubious whether the new legislation, with a

clause for medical necessity, will actually impact the number of partial birth abortions occurring yearly.

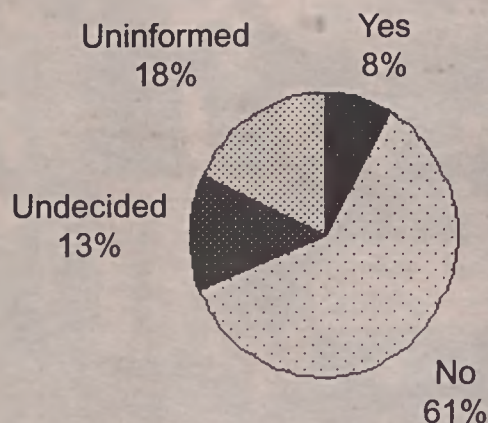
Thirty years after the pivotal Roe v. Wade decision, abortion activists are back on the defensive, trying to protect abortion rights from further infringements and working to gain back lost territory. The new bill is just the drummer boy for an entire anti-abortion army, leading a charge against Roe v. Wade. The rights women worked so hard to gain are now diminishing and shrinking before our very eyes.

In his preliminary days in office, President Bush reinstated the gag rule originally imposed by Reagan, refusing to give aid or funding to a country that supports abortion in any form. Years of work toward birth control and women's rights through US agencies and organizations overseas just starting to show results have lost their funding and can no longer provide birth control education or materials. Bush's funding cuts resulted in three-quarters of the Kenya chapter of Planned Parenthood shutting down, leaving expensive private clinics as the only other available source of birth control.

The attack on abortion rights is most prominent within the US via the new legislation, but an assault is taking place on reproductive rights in the international community as well. The new legislation in the US is just the national manifestation of the conflict. Roe v. Wade is under fire. What is our generation going to do about it?

## Survey Says:

### Do students Support a Switch to a Trimester System?



TAKEN BY DANE EMMERLING

Actual Numbers:

yes = 21  
no = 150  
undecided = 33  
uninformed = 44

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the north carolina school of science & mathematics  
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