

# Citizens support retiring age for judges, poll says

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Six in 10 Americans say there should be a mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices, according to an Associated Press poll.

The survey found public support for an idea that has arisen periodically in Congress without ever making headway.

Only one of the nine current justices, Clarence Thomas, is younger than 65. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, 80, appointed to the court by President Nixon, has thyroid cancer. In the survey, people were asked if they could identify what job Rehnquist held, and 59 percent did not know.

The appointment of justices without term limits or a mandatory retirement age historically has helped insulate the court from politics, said Dennis Hutchinson, a Supreme Court expert from the University of Chicago Law School. At the same time, that can have the unintended consequence of letting some justices serve beyond their most effective years.

People over 65 were among those

most likely to favor mandatory retirement, according to the poll.

The question on retirement mentioned no specific retirement age. Lifetime appointment of Supreme Court justices is dictated by the Constitution and could be changed only by an amendment.

"The justices hold office year after year," said Opal Bristow, an 84-year-old Democrat and retired teacher who lives near San Antonio. "Some of them are old codgers who need to get out of the way and let the younger folks with fresh ideas come in."

Over the years, justices frequently have served into their 70s and 80s and often have died in office. In the past few decades, it has become more common for justices to step down when they face serious illnesses.

If President Bush has to nominate a replacement for any of the nine justices, the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that allowed legal abortions in the first three months of pregnancy is certain to be a central issue.

## LATIN

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tinue it in some way," Sarah said. The group hopes to increase its attendance to include more undergraduates, and it invites all students to join.

"I think people are intimidated of our group, but we sometimes struggle ourselves," Sarah Miller said. "You can be a graduate student in Latin and not be able to speak it because there's so much emphasis on reading."

Sarah said students studying Latin can forget what they know when they don't practice speaking it.

"You have to practice so you can form more than just simple sentences," she said.

Marion Redd, an employee in UNC Printing Services, attends the dinners regularly as well.

Redd said he enjoys the use of Latin in popular films such as "A Man for All Seasons" and "Life of Brian," adding that the second contains "the best parody of a high school Latin lesson you've ever seen."

Morgan said group members have attracted the attention of both waiters and fellow diners at restaurants for their use of the ancient language.

"It's neat to be doing something that people think is a little weird."

Contact the Features Editor at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

## SPELLINGS

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Spellings to dedicate more money to university research and financial aid, but she doesn't expect it.

"Given the state of the federal government, that doesn't look likely," she said.

In a 2002 interview with MyBusiness magazine, Paige talked extensively about grade schools and said community colleges can be "corporate university" training centers but made no mention of accredited colleges.

Lovett said it will be interesting to see if Spellings, known as a stickler for accountability, will adhere to the No Child Left Behind Act and actually close down schools that haven't met the standards. She also said federal funding, which many say is lacking, is another issue in question.

The reasons for Paige's departure aren't known, but analysts say Spellings will reflect Bush's agenda well.

"She and Bush seem to see eye to eye on education policy," Hassen said. "He had the opportunity to appoint her to a position of greater influence and put his stamp further on education in the United States."

But some conservatives fear that Spellings, who has garnered praise from Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., will be driven more by pragmatism than a pro-school choice ideology.

## "(Spellings) and (President) Bush seem to see eye to eye on education policy."

PAUL HASSEN, ACE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Spellings has been by Bush's side since the two were introduced by Karl Rove, Bush's senior adviser, in the late '80s.

A lobbyist for the Texas Association of School Boards, Spellings coached the future gubernatorial candidate on educational issues. When Bush won the state office in 1994, she was his political campaign director.

Spellings followed Bush to Washington and counseled him on housing, labor, justice, health, transportation and education.

She has earned the title of a Bush loyalist, but critics point out that she doesn't have the experience within the school system that Paige had as a teacher, coach, college dean, board of education trustee and high-profile superintendent.

Hassen said the public will know more about Spellings' plans after the January Senate confirmation hearings.

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## CONGRESS

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Jen Bushman, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, argued against such a measure at the beginning of Tuesday's meeting. She said that it is not Congress' job simply to fill empty seats, but to give voices to those students who aren't represented.

"The purpose of Congress is to represent the entire student body, and you should concentrate your energy on making that happen," she said.

Bushman said students in the School of Government most likely would fill vacancies but that such an arrangement could create a monopoly.

Committee member Trey Winslett questioned if it is better to leave seats unfilled or to allow graduate and professional students who are able to make the commitment to attend meetings and serve on Congress.

Bushman said that until Congress meetings are more efficient, those seats will remain empty.

She also said graduate and professional students juggle their time among many activities, including teaching, studying and working.

"If meetings become more efficient, then maybe you could solicit more help," she said.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Delegates to meet, mull Kyoto accord

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The ice is melting and the heat is on for international delegates assembling in Buenos Aires next week to find new ways to confront global warming under the 194-nation treaty on climate change.

The treaty's Kyoto Protocol, requiring initial cuts in "greenhouse gas" emissions by 2012, finally comes into force in February, seven years after it was negotiated.

Next, European governments want the annual treaty conference — Dec. 6 to Dec. 17 in the Argentine capital — to get down to talks on steps beyond 2012 to limit heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

"We are, in fact, only at the beginning of what we need to do," Margot Wallstrom, the European

Union's outgoing environment chief, recently told European Parliament members.

But the U.S. government, which rejects Kyoto and its mandatory controls, balks at that idea.

"We think it's premature to be discussing post-Kyoto 2012 arrangements," Paula J. Dobriansky, the undersecretary of state who will head the U.S. delegation, said in an interview.

Instead, she said, she will use the conference to spotlight Bush administration efforts to develop cleaner energy technologies.

She also will discuss the administration's proposals on how to capture and safely store carbon dioxide, the most common greenhouse gas.

## DALZELL

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hair and fiber tapings were found in the search of his Honda on April 3, 1998, but the evidence was insufficient to charge Dalzell.

Police didn't get their next break in the case until Aug. 31 this year.

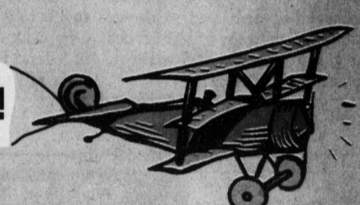
When Dalzell asked that police assist him in removing belongings from his apartment, Westbrook said he saw several objects that led him to Dalzell's former employer, Huntgate's Arts, Crafts & Hobbies at University Mall.

After speaking with Westbrook on Sept. 1, the store's manager filed a larceny by an employee report.

Based on the report, police were able to search Dalzell's apartment. Dalzell was arrested at a friend's residence in Stanley on Sept. 9.

He has been held in Orange County Jail since Sept. 9 — on a \$70,000 secured bond for the murder charge and a \$20,000 secured bond for the exploitation counts.

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