

Court hears abortion case

Expected to rule by end of June

BY FREDA KAHEN-KASHI
STAFF WRITER

The curtain opened Wednesday on the latest court case concerning the definition of when life begins and abortion law in the United States.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the constitutionality of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. The court is expected to rule by the end of June.

Planned Parenthood is challenging the ban, which prohibits late-term abortions and also does not make an exception when having the baby would be harmful to the woman's health. It does make an exception if the woman's life is threatened directly.

"The federal abortion ban does not make provisions for women's health. That's really the most important issue," said Jennifer Ferris, communications coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina.

However, some consider partial-birth abortion tantamount to killing a living child.

"There's trial testimony that the babies are alive and they have

a heartbeat and their feet are kicking before the baby is killed," said Moira Gaul, health policy analyst for Family Research Council, a conservative think tank whose stated mission is to preserve the institutions of family and marriage.

"The implications of the ban would be positive for women," she said.

At the heart of the partial-birth ban issue is a woman's right to choose what to do with her body, said Dean Harris, UNC professor of health policy and administration.

"The issue where abortion is concerned is where do you draw the line between the privacy rights of the individual pregnant woman, on one hand, and the interest of the states on the other hand," he said.

Wednesday marks the second time that partial-birth abortion bans have been brought before the Supreme Court.

In 2000, the court overruled Nebraska's partial-birth law that didn't make exceptions for women's health in *Stenberg v. Carhart* by a close vote, and the state could not enforce the ban.

However, *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood* could have an even larger national impact because it is challenging a federal law backed

"The issue ... is where do you draw the line between the privacy ... and the interest of the states."

DEAN HARRIS, UNC PROFESSOR

by President Bush.

Many predict that Justice Samuel Alito, Bush's recent conservative addition to the Supreme Court, will be the crucial difference in the court's final deliberation.

Alito did not make any comments during Wednesday's arguments.

"I think we're confident that this court will look at this case differently than the *Carhart* case," Gaul said.

Planned Parenthood leaders hope that the conservative judges will look at the facts, not their own opinions, Ferris said.

"Obviously there's a concern, but what Planned Parenthood is arguing has a very firm stand on the law, and the Supreme Court is not there to decide based on their opinions, they are there to decide constitutionality," Ferris said.

Harris also said the bottom line is that the Supreme Court's job is

The 411 on partial-birth abortion

What is a partial-birth abortion?

A surgical abortion that typically is performed during the third trimester or later part of the second trimester of pregnancy and in which the uterine cervix is dilated and death of the fetus is induced after it has passed partway through the birth canal.

SOURCE: Merriam-Webster

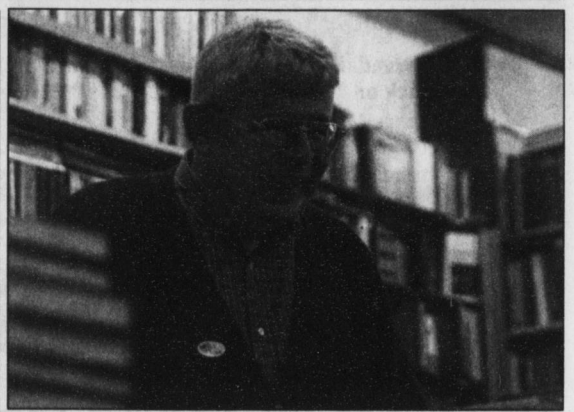
Why is *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood* important?

President Bush backs the federal law Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003. Any ruling the U.S. Supreme Court makes on this case will effect the abortion issue nationwide.

to decide the constitutionality of laws, not to legislate the nation's ethics.

"These basic principles have been around for so long. I don't think they'll change."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.



Bill Loeser is a co-owner of The Bookshop Inc. on West Franklin Street. He said he is looking to sell the second-hand book store.

Locally owned bookstore set for selling block

Area businesses add unique flavor

BY DANIEL PRICE
STAFF WRITER

With national chains such as Qdoba Mexican Grill and Firehouse Subs making their presence felt on Franklin Street, small, locally owned businesses set Chapel Hill apart from other college towns.

But by September one of downtown's unique businesses might be under new ownership.

Co-owners Bill Loeser and Linda Saaremaa are retiring and looking to sell their store, The Bookshop Inc., located at 400 W. Franklin St. Their shop has been in place since the late '80s and is one of the largest secondhand bookstore in the South, housing more than 125,000 books.

Loeser said he has gotten calls from about a half-dozen interested parties but hasn't gotten any offers yet.

Though he's leaving, Loeser said local businesses such as his bring several distinct advantages to downtown.

"You get a variety of things," he said. "If you want something out of the ordinary, chains most likely will not be able to provide it."

From restaurants to hair salons, Franklin Street is littered with independent businesses.

Loeser noted that shoppers cannot find most of the books in The Bookshop at larger chain stores.

Jill Robinson, a UNC graduate student at the School of Information and Library Science who gets her hair done at Moshi Moshi on West Franklin Street, said independent ownership adds a certain something to stores.

"I think they have more charac-

ter, usually," she said.

Robinson said she chooses to do most of her shopping at locally owned stores.

Another longtime proprietor of Franklin Street is Shelton Henderson, who owns The Shrunken Head Boutique.

Henderson said he and his family moved to Chapel Hill from Jacksonville in 1969 to open a store in a college atmosphere and has run the boutique ever since.

Henderson mentioned that all businesses are important, chain and independent alike.

He said one important aspect of owning a business is finding a need and fulfilling it.

"I found a niche, and I worked that niche," he said.

Catlin Hettel, owner of Moshi Moshi, said there are other advantages to shopping at local businesses.

"It's more personal," she said. "You know who your money is going to and what it will be spent on."

Liz Parham, executive director of the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, said money spent at locally owned stores also benefits the town's economy more than money spent at chains.

"They keep the money in-house, so to speak," she said. "It changes hands more often than if it goes to a chain ownership."

She added that a large majority of downtown stores are locally owned.

"Typically chain stores are not going to look downtown," she said.

Although there are many aspects of owning a business, Henderson said one sticks out above the rest.

"I had to do one thing and not give up on it. It's called work," he said. "W-O-R-K."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Party lines impact Student Congress

BY MAC MOLLISON
SENIOR WRITER

Should campus politics be filtered through a lens of partisan politics — Democrat vs. Republican — or should student leaders approach campus issues simply as students?

That's a question Student Congress representatives have been asking themselves lately.

Student Affairs Committee Chairman Tyler Younts announced Tuesday his resignation as chairman of College Republicans' political strategy committee.

The move, which Younts announced using the Congress listserv, comes in the face of a debate about stipends for student leaders that some in Congress say is looming on the horizon.

Monthly stipends are drawn from student fees for some of the top student government leaders.

In the past, debate over retaining or eliminating the stipends has sharply divided representatives along ideological lines.

Younts said he had qualms about the image he was projecting by holding both positions.

"I used to think partisanship was not a problem," Younts wrote to the body.

"However, my feelings have evolved somewhat. ... I believe that students want progress, not partisanship," he went on to write.

Earlier this year, Younts and other Congress members opposed the nomination of former Young Democrats co-president Kris Gould to the Board of Elections due to concerns that Gould's partisanship could taint the election process.

"It would look funny if I'm saying it's not partisan but then I'm political strategy chairman of College Republicans," Younts said, likening the position to Gould's former role. "To continue in (my) position I think would be a little hypocritical."

Last year now-Speaker Pro Tem Dustin Ingalls dismissed the perception that Congress was divided along

"That's what partisanship is all about, getting the votes you need to accomplish something in the political process."

QUENTIN RUIZ-ESPARZA, STUDENT CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE

partisan lines, but he said he now sees things slightly differently.

"I think the partisan lines have hardened this year to the point that someone pointed out that the two sides of the body are sort of segregated," he said.

"It's not a bad thing when it's a real division over an issue on a sort of ideological divide, where students will see things differently and have different priorities and positions on an issue."

He also pointed out negative consequences of the division.

"There is some whipping of votes on really big issues, like stipends."

Rep. Quentin Ruiz-Esparza said partisanship is a valuable part of the legislative process.

"As a Congressman you have certain ideas that you want to further, so it helps to form a body of people

that are going to support you on your political issue — to form, if you will, a party group," he said.

"That's what partisanship is all about, getting the votes you need to accomplish something in the political process."

Jordan Myers, ethics committee chairman, also weighed in, pointing out, like the other representatives, the advantages and disadvantages of partisan voting in Congress.

"It's a double-edged sword," he said. "It is a good thing for the fact of the debate, but sometimes people look at political lines and use that to decide how they would vote on something, regardless of whether it would be beneficial for their constituents as a whole."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Book compiles history of Old North State

BY KEVIN KILEY
STAFF WRITER

William Powell really likes North Carolina.

He just compiled a seven-pound book all about the state — the "Encyclopedia of North Carolina."

The book, sold in Bull's Head Bookshop and set for wider distribution later this month, is the product of decades of Powell's efforts compiling information about North Carolina.

While he said he feels at home anywhere in the state, Powell has spent much time at UNC. He served as curator of the N.C. Collection in Wilson Library for 15 years and taught the state's history for six years to more than 6,000 students.

Powell editing the encyclopedia, a big part of creating the book.

"I think it is important to note that he edited all these entries himself," said H.G. Jones, curator emeritus of the N.C. Collection. "That's a monumental task."

"He probably checked every single record. He's not the kind of guy who would just take your word for something — he's that thorough."



William Powell has been learning about N.C. history and traditions since he was young.

tor for UNC Press, said the book is Powell's crowning achievement.

"This is truly a lifetime achievement for Bill," she said. "It is the capstone on a long and distinguished career."

From college basketball to the famous phrase, "It's been a long damn time between drinks," the encyclopedia is comprehensive.

"It talks about the huge North Carolina topics," said Jay Mazzocchi, the book's associate editor. "But it also has a lot of related subjects."

"It talks about things that not many people in North Carolina have heard of but are extremely important to small parts of the state."

Powell, who was born in Johnston County and raised in Shelby, has been learning about the state since he was young.

"When I was little my grandmother would ask me what I learned when I came home from school," he said. "She would always talk to me about North Carolina."

Powell also has published "The North Carolina Gazetteer," a list of places in the state, and the "Dictionary of North Carolina

Biography," a compilation of data on about 4,000 North Carolinians.

"This is probably the last one. I can't really think of anymore information to publish," he said.

"If you think of anything, please let me know."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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