

Abortion future unclear

By **CRYSTAL BERNSTEIN**
Staff Writer

No major changes in N.C. abortion laws have been made since the July Supreme Court decision, and the future of abortion in the state will probably be unclear until the Supreme Court considers three more cases in October, sources say.

The Supreme Court decision of *Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services* gives states the power to impose restrictions on abortion.

It also supports a Missouri law that forbids the use of public funds, medical personnel or facilities in performing abortions, requires doctors to perform viability tests on fetuses at least 20 weeks old before conducting abortions and affirms that human life begins at conception.

Although the decision does not overturn the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision, it does away with the trimester system established in that case, which allowed a woman to obtain an abortion without government interference during the first trimester (three months) of her pregnancy.

The Roe decision gave states the right to determine the viability of a fetus during the second trimester and prohibited third-trimester abortions unless the fetus posed a threat to its mother's life or health. The trimester classification was a main point of the 1973 decision.

Though no major anti-abortion bills have yet been passed by the N.C. General Assembly, state abortion funds for indigent women were cut from more than \$900,000 to just over \$400,000 in the last session, said Janet Colm, executive director for Planned Parenthood of Orange County. Some wanted to eliminate the funds entirely, she said.

Two bills have also been introduced that would pose restrictions for women attempting to get abortions in the state, both by

Rep. Skip Stam, R-Wake. The first bill requires permission from a judge or parent for minors requesting abortions. Women under 18 can get abortions without parental consent after being counseled, Colm said.

The consent bill passed the N.C. House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority last session, said Rep. Anne Barnes, D-Orange. The state senate has rewritten the bill and added many conditions, she said. The bill is eligible for consideration by the senate in the upcoming short legislative session.

The other bill, called the Abortion Control Act, is almost an exact copy of the Missouri bill passed by the Supreme Court. The bill, if passed, would prohibit public facilities from being used for abortions and would mandate that life begins at conception.

The bill would also allocate \$2.5 million to produce and distribute materials that affirm the idea that life begins at conception, a provision not made in the Missouri bill, Colm said.

The Abortion Control Act was not deliberated in the past legislative session, Barnes said. The bill was sent to the appropriations committee and could be discussed in the short session.

"(The act) puts enormous restrictions on the availability of abortion," Barnes said. "I think that's a really terrible bill."

The General Assembly has a slim pro-choice majority, said Stacey Hawver, an organizer for the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) of North Carolina. This majority, combined with the many pro-choice activists in the state, will help keep abortions safe, legal and accessible to all women, she said.

Public response to the Webster decision in the area has been enormously pro-choice, Colm said. "We've been overwhelmed by phone

calls from people who want to do something. I think we're going to be able to keep (abortion) legal."

Anti-abortion activists disagree. "A very large percentage of the people oppose 95 percent plus of the abortions that are done in North Carolina," said Richard Hartney, executive director of N.C. Right to Life. "I believe that the laws in North Carolina will be restricted."

Some clinics in the area have not met with increased protesting since the decision, said Brian Brenner, marketing director in charge of public relations for the Triangle Women's Health Center. "It's really seemed to be pretty calm."

Other local clinics have experienced a greater amount of opposition since the reconsideration of the Roe decision. "We had not seen picketers here until the last 6 to 8 months," said Jaime Combs, administrator for the Raleigh Women's Health Organization, Inc.

The outcome of three cases being considered by the Supreme Court in the fall will largely determine the future of abortion across the country, Colm said. Two of the cases pertain to parental consent and the other is a clinic licensing bill.

Gov. Jim Martin is waiting for rulings on these cases to make his views on abortion public, said David Prather, deputy director of communications for the governor.

Martin opposes the use of state funds for abortions but approves of abortion when it is used in radical cases, such as saving a mother's life, Prather said.

The abortion issue will be pivotal in upcoming legislative elections. Candidates will have to make their feelings on the issue public, Barnes said. Those elected will be the ones to consider current and future anti-abortion bills.

"The future of abortion in North Carolina depends greatly on elections," she said.

High rainfall, new reservoir ease Chapel Hill water woes

By **TOM PARKS**
Staff Writer

An unexpected increase in summer rainfall and a new Orange County water reservoir have eased the burden on Chapel Hill's water supply, sparing town residents from the area's usual late-summer water shortage.

Edward Holland, research and planning administrator for the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), said Thursday all three of the county's reservoirs were full and the authority had the capacity to deliver 14 million gallons a day, almost twice what the county now uses.

Students returning to UNC have not put a strain on OWASA, even though there has been a jump of almost 750,000 gallons a day in the amount of water supplied by OWASA over the past two weeks, Holland said.

"We can see the difference in the amount of water we pump."

Dry summers and water restrictions have been fairly common over the past 15 years, Holland said, but the addition of Cane Creek reservoir, filled earlier this year, made a water shortage unlikely, even without the summer's heavy rains.

OWASA's other reservoirs, University Lake and Stone Quarry, are also full, Holland said.

Although OWASA was prepared for a dry summer, Holland said the authority does not use weather forecasts to prepare for the summer months and instead they "just take what comes."

Michael Sabones, a forecaster with the National Weather Service at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, said the summer has been remarkably wet, helping area lakes retain a large amount of their water.

Sabones said most lakes lost water in the summer to evaporation, but the

trend was reversed this year, leaving area reservoirs in good shape.

The rain was partly a result of storm systems created in the Gulf of Mexico by the jet stream dipping south, Sabones said.

The National Weather Service's long-range weather forecast for the next three months gives Raleigh and the surrounding Triangle area an even chance of continued, normal rainfall,

Sabones said.

This year the Raleigh office of the National Weather Service has recorded 39 inches of rain, 10 inches above normal for this time of year and an inch above last year's total rainfall.

"It is certainly an anomalous year as far as rainfall is concerned," Sabones said. "We've already had more rain than all of last year."

Don't miss your chance for student concert tix

From staff reports

A special student ticket sale for the Tom Petty and Elton John concerts at the Dean Smith Center will be held Wednesday, Sept. 6, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Smith Center ticket office.

Tickets for the Sept. 13 Tom Petty concert are \$18.50. Tickets for the Sept. 23 Elton John concert are \$22.50. Both concerts will be held at 8 p.m.

All seats are reserved and only

cash will be accepted.

To purchase tickets, students must bring their athletic pass, registration cards and a picture I.D. Students will be allowed to purchase two tickets to each of the concerts on a first-come, first-served basis. A limited number of tickets is available for each concert.

For more information, call 962-0176.

Former PTL leader admitted to Butner

By **ALAN MARTIN**
Staff Writer

Jim Bakker arrived handcuffed at a mental institution Thursday, where a federal judge had committed him for evaluation of his mental competence to stand trial.

Bakker was not present when court opened Thursday.

At the beginning of the proceedings, the defense moved for a hearing regarding Bakker's mental competence. In light of Bakker's absence, Judge Robert Potter granted the motion.

The defense maintained that Bakker was "suffering from a mental disease which renders him mentally incompetent to understand the proceedings and their consequences or to properly assist in his own defense," according to the official court record of the proceedings.

Psychiatrist Basil Jackson took the stand and testified that he had been treating Bakker for nine months. He reported that at that moment Bakker was lying in the fetal position with his head under a couch in defense attorney Harold Bender's office.

Bakker was hallucinating and said he was scared someone was going to harm him. The hallucinations apparently began after a witness for the state collapsed in the courtroom Wednesday.

Judge Potter ordered Bakker taken to the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner for treatment and evaluation to last up to 60 days.

U.S. marshals removed Bakker

from his lawyer's office for transport to Butner, according to court records.

Witnesses at the scene reported Bakker was sobbing uncontrollably and crying like a baby, said David Hanes, a reporter at WSOC News in

Charlotte.

As Bakker was leaving the courthouse Wednesday, he imagined people became frightening animals that wanted to destroy him, according to wire reports.

Potter has issued a gag order to prevent anyone associated with the case from talking about it until the end of the trial.

No one at Butner could be reached for comment.

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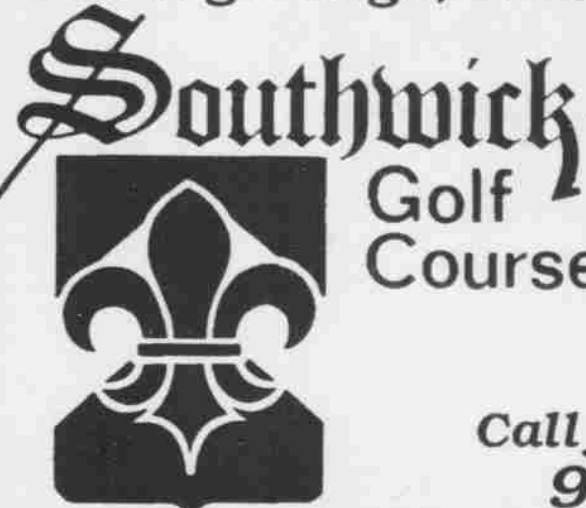
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