Court leaves Mississippi abortion waiting period law intact

WASHINGTON - In a setback for abortion rights advocates, the Supreme Court Monday refused to revive a challenge to a Mississippi law that requires women to receive counseling and then wait 24 hours before ending their preg-

The justices, without comment, left intact a ruling that denied abortion clinic operators a hearing when they tried to block the law before it took effect in

Monday's action, although it is not a decision on the merits of the Mississippi dispute and sets no national precedent, represents a significant rebuff for abortion rights advocates.

A federal appeals court threw out the Mississippi challenge last August after noting the Supreme Court had upheld Pennsylvania's nearly identical abortion regulations in June.

In that landmark decision, the justices said states may not outlaw most abortions or impose "undue burdens" on women's constitutional right to such

Last week, the court refused to revive a Guam law that would have made almost all abortions illegal.

But the June ruling also gave states greater leeway to regulate abortions, eroding some aspects of the court's 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

The justices in June upheld Pennsylvania regulations that required similar counseling and the same 24-hour waiting period for women seeking abor-

In the appeal acted on Monday, lawyers for three doctors and two abortion clinics in Jackson said regulations found to be lawful in one state might be "undue burdens" in another.

"Fundamental fairness demands that the presence or absence of an undue burden be determined in each case on a record that specifically focuses on the burdens of women affected by the challenged law, not on a record developed in another case," the appeal argued

It added: "The effect of this harsh law is compounded by the lack of abortion services in most of Mississippi, the long distances that more than half of Mississippi women must travel to obtain abortions, and the extraordinary poverty of Mississippi women.'

undue-burden standard adopted ... last summer is more fiction than justice for women in Mississippi.' She added, "What it means is we have to wait and see how many women are forced to have children against their will, and once we figure out how many,

Rachel Pine, a lawyer with the Cen-

ter for Reproductive Law and Policy,

said Monday's action meant "that the

then we can go back to court." Pine said the court's action carried a "frightening implication for women all across the nation who in the future want to use the undue-burden standard ... to protect their choice."

But Burke Balch of the National Right to Life Committee said the ruling showed the court did not believe "that there should be endless litigation over the facts about the development of the unborn child and about alternatives to

There are only three abortion clinics in Mississippi — the two in Jackson and one in Southaven. The appeal said nearly half of the state's women must travel more than 100 miles to reach an abortion clinic. The justices also were told that Mississippi has the lowest median household income in the nation, and the highest percentage of children living in

In its August ruling, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said, "The differences between the Mississippi and Pennsylvania acts are not sufficient to render the former unconstitutional on

The ruling left open the door to chal-lenge the Mississippi law as it is applied, but lawyers for the three doctors and two clinics said that forces women "to suffer grievous harm before vindication of their constitutional rights."

Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore urged the justices to reject the appeal.

Allowing evidence hearings for challenges of provisions already upheld in other states would require courts in each state "to litigate various and sundry demographic 'facts' ... before the facial constitutionality of the identical statutes could be established," Moore said. He called the 5th Circuit court's ruling "the only possible outcome" in light of the Supreme Court's decision in

gress is 'it," she said. "What we have now is people and groups of people in congress who vote because of what they

"I really think that we should be much more focused on serving our students than on our own political agendas. I think there's a fear in the congress that student fees are going to be used in ways that don't benefit groups that con-

Rep. Andrew Cohen, Dist. 6, said he thought the low opinion students had of congress was putting pressure on representatives to improve communication with their constituencies. "I think a lot

of skepticism is really healthy," Cohen

"We're spending people's money. This kind of skepticism makes us ac-

countable to the student body." Kolb, Dist. 1, said he thought the nature of campus districts had changed. Because a majority of UNC students now live off campus, it is becoming more difficult for representatives to serve their entire constituency, he said.

"I think it's just changed over the years as the school has become more graduate-oriented," Kolb said. "Traditional students are not an overwhelming majority anymore."

from page I

Wouldn't be prudent': Bush, Carvey share the laughs

The Associated Press WASHINGTON - The White House staff, from cooks to chieftains, assembled on short notice Monday for a special Christmas ceremony. The Marine Band broke into "Ruffles and Flourishes" to signal the arrival of the presi-

And into the East Room strode Dana Carvey, trailed by George Bush.

"Saturday Night Live" had come to the White House

For 10 minutes the president and his staff roared with laughter as the comic from late-night television performed his full impression of manic Bush jokes and gestures, with a little Ross Perot to

It was a welcome break in a mansion whose occupants have not had much to laugh about since Election Day.

This is very, very strange," said Carvey, who noted that he spent the night in the Lincoln Bedroom. "I couldn' tresist getting on the phone, and I called up the Secret Service as the

president: 'Feel like going jogging to-"In the nude," he quipped.

Carvey demonstrated how he melds

abinet

for such dealing, Pekarek said.

"Overall, the Drug Cabinethas raised awareness about the drug problem," she said. "Particularly in areas that are heavily affected such as schools or pubthe voices of John Wayne and Mr. Rogers together to achieve his Bush. We've had a lot of fun over the

years," said Carvey. The president uses a lot of different gestures Of course, I completely

exaggerated it," he confessed. Talways said that the president said, 'IT'S BAD! IT'S BAD!' But you only did it once. I did it for four years. He did

it once," he laughed.

"Every guy I do an impression of is sort of leaving public life," lamented Carvey, lapsing into a snippet of Johnny

whether Martin had spoken to Hunt about the Drug Cabinet.

"He's talked to Hunt about a number of things," she said. "He believes if the program has been successful, the in-

coming governor should continue the

Barbara Bush got up, wished the crowd a merry Christmas and dead-panned, "Wasn't he lucky I didn't hit him right on the head?"

And when Bush finally got a chance at the microphone, the president joked self-consciously, "Don't dare move my

Campus Calendar

5 p.m. UNC Juggling Club will meet in Carmichae 6:30 p.m. Order of the Bell Tower will meet in 212 Union.

212 Union.

7 p.m. CUAB will welcome Killian Manning to hold a workshop on reducing stress in the Union

Cellar Door will have a meeting for all members of the prose and poetry staffs in 205 Union.

ITEMS OF INTEREST UNC Math Contests will be available in 365 Phillips until Wednesday.

Congress

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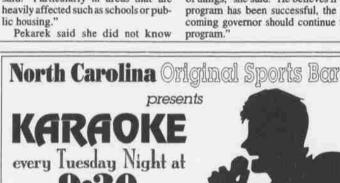


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Atlanta BankSouth

Washington, DC The University Club Buckhead Branch 1135 16th St. NW 3116 Peachtree Rd. NE

Tuesday, January 5, 1993 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Charlotte One First Union Center 41st Floor 301 S. College Street

Wednesday, January 6, 1993 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Triad Area Samet Corporation

Hwy 68 at Piedmont Parkway (1.5 miles South of the I-40 Airport Exit)

Thursday, January 7, 1993 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Triangle Area Glaxo - Research Triangle Park Alexander Drive at the Durham Freeway

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