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Frank Schwartz, a former professor at the UNC-CH Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City, works to tag a shark he caught. Schwartz has been tagging and researching sharks in North Carolina for 35 years.

Researcher feeds off career among sharks

BY JACQUELINE BRILL
STAFF WRITER

Much patience is required to catch and tag a shark safely.

Lines must stay underwater for an hour so the animal will have adequate oxygen while it initially panics.

At least this is how researcher Frank Schwartz has managed successfully to catch, study and tag thousands of sharks in his career. "Last week we had some unusual success for this late in the year and caught a cute little spinner shark," said Schwartz, a former professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City.

Catches can be larger than a hundred sharks in a day between April and September, when the summer sharks are at their peak population. In September they begin to make their migration to Florida for the winter.

Schwartz, who begins his workday at 4:30 a.m., recently published a new book, "Sharks, Skates and Rays of the Carolinas," which identifies and explains 91 species common to North Carolina coastal waters.

Each species has almost a full page profile explaining its peak seasons, behavior and other topics of interest to any beach-goer or scuba diver.

The book is an accumulation of Schwartz's 35 years of catches and research in North Carolina. Every catch involved an up-close and

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FRANK SCHWARTZ, MARINE BIOLOGIST AND FORMER UNC PROFESSOR

personal review of each specimen. "We bring everything on board, so sometimes you can't help getting knocked around a bit when you have a 12 to 15 foot shark in the boat with you," Schwartz said.

Schwartz, a native of New Castle, Ind., began his career in marine biology early. He left Indiana after high school and attended the University of Pittsburgh. He obtained a bachelor's degree in zoology, a master's degree in fish biology and a doctoral degree in ichthyology and ecology — all in only six years.

"Back then there were no scholarships or freebies, so if you wanted to get out there and get a job, you finished quickly," Schwartz said. "I worked 20 hours a day."

That hard work was rewarded with jobs in West Virginia, Maryland and finally North Carolina.

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Schwartz filled that void when he worked with sharks in Maryland and continued his work after a move to North Carolina 13 years later.

Schwartz "came to North Carolina for the state's increased variety of marine fauna. At the institute he not only was given the opportunity to study sharks, but also to assemble and donate an extensive collection of fish that now resides at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

"It took three 18-wheelers to move (the fish), and it is still a pain in the neck taking (the museum) new specimens and working with them there," Schwartz said. He is working on a paper about one of the species, so he continues to make frequent trips from Morehead City to the collection.

Schwartz also was given the opportunity to teach courses in ichthyology, sampling methods and field ecology at the institute. Though his teaching career ended in 1985, he is adamant about continuing his research.

"It's sad not teaching and not having students there to keep you on the ball, but as long as I can contribute, think and walk, I'm still going to work."

Contact the Features Editor at features.unc.edu.

House committee OKs Syria weapons sanctions

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House members on Wednesday imposed weapons sanctions and other penalties on Syria after fresh allegations that the country sponsors terrorists.

"The time has come to hold Syria accountable for its actions," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., as the House International Relations Committee approved sanctions legislation.

The United States considers Syria a state sponsor of terrorism, and officials are concerned it might be allowing activists to cross into Iraq to take up arms against U.S. soldiers.

"It has become increasingly clear which side Syria's government has chosen in the war on terror," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

The legislation, approved 33-2, bans the export of weapons and items that can be used in weapons programs into Syria.

President Bush also would have to choose two of the following sanctions: a ban on all U.S. exports

to Syria except food or medicine; a ban of all U.S. business investment in Syria; restriction of Syrian diplomats in Washington and at the United Nations in New York City to a 25-mile radius; a ban on all Syrian-owned or Syrian-controlled aircraft from taking off, landing or flying over the United States; reduction of diplomatic contact with Syria; or freezing Syrian assets in the United States.

Those sanctions could be waived for "national security" reasons.

Israeli warplanes on Sunday bombed a camp in Syria in retaliation for a Palestinian suicide bombing attack that killed 19 Israelis. Israel said Syria was partly responsible since Islamic Jihad had offices in Damascus and Syria supports the group. Syria has said that it had closed the offices of extremist Palestinian groups.

A naturalized U.S. citizen working as an Arabic translator at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, terrorist prison camp has been accused of spying, with plans to transmit secrets to an unspecified enemy in

his native Syria.

GOP Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, who voted against the bill, said the Bush administration already has enough on its plate dealing with Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and North Korea without trying to antagonize Syria. "I do not see how we're going to take on another nation."

Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., the other "no" vote, said he has no love for the "thugs" in the Syrian government. "I just am loath to use unilateral economic sanctions," he said. "I want the administration to have all the flexibility they need."

Secretary of State Colin Powell made clear to Syria last May that without some significant steps against terrorist groups there probably would be congressional legislation, said spokesman Richard Boucher. The legislation now goes to the full House, where it is expected to pass easily.

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar of Indiana plans to hold a hearing on Syria relations before the end of the month, a spokesman said.

FBI bugs spark Philly controversy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA — Federal law enforcement officials Wednesday confirmed that listening devices found in the offices of Mayor John Street were planted by the FBI — a discovery that touched off a political furor just weeks before Election Day.

Three federal law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that the FBI was responsible for the bug, but refused to comment on any details about the nature of the probe.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a Democrat, and U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, a Republican, were among several politicians who called on the FBI Wednesday to tell the public what it knows about the eavesdropping equipment, found Tuesday.

"I think given this extraordinary situation with four weeks to go in the campaign, it is incumbent upon the FBI to say why they

planted the device," Rendell said.

The bug was found during a routine sweep of Street's office by police. Street is locked in a bitter rematch against Republican businessman Sam Katz, and the campaign has been marked by charges of threats and race-baiting. Election Day is Nov. 4.

At a meeting with reporters Wednesday, Street said for the second day that he didn't know who bugged his office or why. "I haven't done anything wrong, and I don't know that anybody in my cabinet or in my staff around me has done anything wrong," Street said.

Street's campaign suggested the bugging was instigated by the U.S. Justice Department for political reasons.

"The timing of the discovery of these listening devices seems incredibly strange, seeing that we are four weeks out of the election, and we have a Democratic mayor

ahead in the polls, and we are on the eve of the first mayoral debate," Street campaign spokesman Frank Keel said.

"Do we believe that the Republican Party, both at the federal level and state level, is pulling out every stop to get Pennsylvania in 2004? Absolutely," Keel said. "Is the Republican Party capable of dirty tricks? I think that is well-documented."

U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan, the top federal prosecutor in Philadelphia, declined to say what federal agents might know about the bug but denied politics plays any role in his office's decisions.

"The U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has a long and proud history of doing its work without regard to partisan politics. That was the practice of my predecessors, and it is my practice as well," Meehan said in a statement.

Colleges see surge in minorities

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The number of minority students on U.S. campuses has more than doubled since 1981, but white students still are more likely to attend college, according to a new report.

The annual Minorities in Higher Education Annual Status Report issued Wednesday by the American Council on Education found that the number of minority high school graduates between the ages of 18 to 24 attending U.S. schools jumped from almost 2 million in 1980-81 to 4.3 million in 2000-01.

Despite the gains, the ACE said only 40 percent of blacks and 34 percent of Hispanics attend college, compared to 46 percent of whites, continuing a disparity that was even worse in the late 1980s.

William Harvey, the author of the study, said the findings are a reflection of U.S. society.

"The gaps relate to some of the real fundamental social and economic conditions in this country," said Harvey, the director of the Office of Minorities in Education for the ACE.

"We know that individuals in underserved communities are less likely to have the preparation in elementary and secondary school to prepare them for college. And

those communities are clustered among folks of color."

During the 20 years starting in 1980, the ACE said black enrollment grew by 56 percent to more than 1.7 million, while Hispanic enrollment tripled to 1.5 million.

The 1 million Asian-Americans attending college in 2000 also tripled the 1980 enrollment.

Overall, 15.3 million students attended college classes last year, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The ACE said Hispanic and black women accounted for some of the most dramatic minority gains at both two-year and four-year institutions.

In 1980, 28 percent of female black high school graduates between the ages of 18 and 24 attended college. Two decades later, the enrollment among black women stood at 42 percent.

The participation rates for male black high school graduates were not as dramatic, climbing from 30 percent to 37 percent.

In 1980, 27 percent of Hispanic women between the ages of 18 to 24 with high school diplomas were enrolled in college. Twenty years later, that number had increased by 10 percentage points to 37 percent. The percentage of Hispanic men

between the ages of 18 to 24 with a high school education attending college remained stagnant over the same period of time, 31 percent.

The increased presence of Latino women on campuses is part of the mainstreaming of Hispanics into U.S. culture, said Harry Pachon, the president of the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, a Southern California organization that advances issues and policies that impact the Hispanic community.

What do I know about me? ...
I know one day
I'll want to start a family...
but not yet.

- Birth Control
- Pregnancy Testing
- Abortion By Pill
- Surgical Abortion
- Contraception (optional)
- STD/HIV Testing

Planned Parenthood
Chapel Hill 942-7762 Durham 286-2872
for appointments for walk-in times

GET PAID TO
GO TO SCHOOL.
TALK ABOUT
ROLE REVERSAL.

The U.S. Air Force will pay for you to continue your education while you serve your country as a nurse. Through selection into the Air Force Institute of Technology program, you could earn your advanced degree in as little as two years and get paid to do it. You'll be part of an elite team of medical professionals who have chosen to serve their country in this proud institution. To learn more about Air Force Nursing, please visit airforce.com or call 1.800.423.USAF to request more information.

