

Detainee released from hospital Same-sex debate could sway race

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Jackie Ray Batts Jr., a detainee who shot himself at UNC Hospitals, has been released from care, a UNC Hospitals spokeswoman said.

Batts Jr., 35, made a suicide attempt during a trip to the hospital for treatment July 2.

He obtained the weapon from correction officer Ursula Powell, who was escorting him to the hospital from Raleigh's Central

Prison. Powell was not shot and she remains on duty.

No more information could be released because Batts was no longer a patient in the hospital, the spokeswoman said.

In addition, there is no new progress by the N.C. Department of Corrections in the ongoing investigation as to exactly how a detainee took the officer's gun and shot himself, a Corrections spokes-

woman said.

Batts was on probation from cases in Harnett and Wake counties for forgery and obtaining property by false pretenses in 2002.

He was placed on probation violation for not paying restitution and performing community service, according to county records. He received a 30-day extension to do the community service and was to serve weekends in the Johnston County Jail.

Batts was being held as a "safe-keeper" at Central Prison.

County jails sometimes send detainees to Raleigh because jailers think the person would be safer in the capital than in the county facility.

Election focus being shifted from Iraq

BY WHITNEY ISENHOWER
STAFF WRITER

As the U.S. Senate begins to debate the definition of marriage, people on both sides of the issue are making their case, and it's affecting the race for the White House.

The Federal Marriage Amendment, which came before the Senate on Monday, aims to amend the Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

John Aldrich, professor of political science at Duke University, said President Bush, who supports the amendment, is pushing it to

promote morals and family.

"Bush takes every chance that he can to use the word 'values,'" he said.

Aldrich added that while Bush is pushing a family-based agenda in his campaign, his Democratic opponent, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, is trying to focus on the economy.

Concerns about the war in Iraq and homeland security are major factors in the campaign as well, and the importance of same-sex marriage to Americans at this time is questionable.

Michael Cole, spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that works for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equal rights, said this is a "precious time" in our country because of Iraq.

"There are a number of other priorities people want their senators focusing on right now," Cole said. He later added, "(Supporters) are pushing the amendment for political gain."

But there is a conservative voice that sees the issue as pressing.

Ryan Thompson, press secretary for Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., said Inhofe's co-sponsoring of the amendment was in reply to the needs of his constituents. He said Inhofe received 5,042 e-mails in support of the amendment and only 350 e-mails against it from Oklahoma residents.

Still others believe the amendment is meant to take attention off of the negative aspects of Bush's

"There are a number of other priorities people want their senators focusing on."

MICHAEL COLE, SPOKESMAN

presidency.

Alex Formuzis, press secretary for Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., said, "Republicans brought this to the floor of the Senate to try to knock Iraq off the headlines."

At the same time, the far-right voters who are in favor of the amendment are not enough to elicit numerous votes for Bush.

James Guth, professor of political science at Furman University, said, "It will be of marginal value to him."

But the amendment's impact on the upcoming election appears minimal. The amendment is expected to fall short of the 67 needed votes and fail to be passed.

Steve Myers, deputy press secretary for the bill's sponsor, Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., said the bill's long-shot chance at becoming part of the Constitution wouldn't stop it from stirring the issue.

Still, that might not be enough to make a palpable difference.

"It will be difficult to keep in the forefront of the minds of people," said Guth, later saying, "The issue of Iraq is not going to disappear."

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



going crazy?!

Take a break between the books at

the YOGURT pump

106 W. Franklin St. (Next to NY Pizza) 942-PUMP

Summer Hours
Mon-Wed 11:30am-11pm
Thur-Sat 11:30am-11:30pm
Sun noon-11pm

Remember our website with updated daily flavors:
www.yogurtpump.com

HOUSING GUIDE!

Select from houses or condos from Mill House Properties.

HOUSES:

1111 Valley Park Drive
2BR/1Bath house a 20-minute walk to campus RENTED

700 North Greensboro Street
Renovated 5BR/3Bath house near Carr Mill Mall \$2250. mo.

905 Columbia Street
3BR/2Bath townhouse a short walk from town RENTED

CONDOS:

University Commons
4BR/4Bath garden style units on busline \$1500. mo.



Mill House properties

For more information call 968-7226 or go to www.millhouseproperties.com



Chill with your friends!
Hearty Sandwiches!
Delicious Soups!
Freshly Tossed Salads!
Espresso Drinks!
Bagels, Breads + Pastries!

213 W. Franklin Street
Just in front of Granville Towers

Phone - 929-9189
Fax - 929-9186

Mon-Thurs 6:30AM-9PM
Fri/Sat 6:30AM-10PM
Sunday 7:30AM-9PM

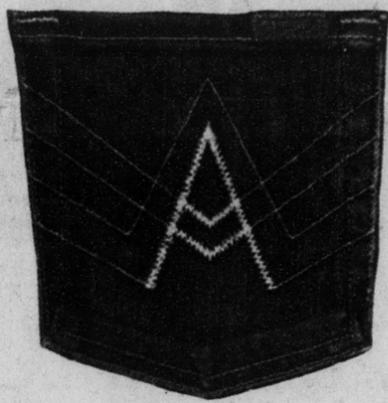
Free Bagel Save \$1.00

With purchase of any Espresso Drink, I.C. Drink, or Hot Chocolate.

On any Sandwich, Salad or "You-Pick-Two."

Valid at Panera Bread locations in the Triangle. Valid through July 29, 2004.

uniquities



Designer Denim

Citizens of Humanity • Chip & Pepper
Seven for all Mankind • Blue Cult • James
Paper Denim Cloth • Yanuk • True Religion
Adriano Goldschmeid • Juicy Couture

Chapel Hill 452 W. Franklin St. (919) 933-4007
Raleigh 450 Daniels St. (919) 852-1234
www.uniquities.com

Local indie-rock label to celebrate 15th year

BY MICHAEL PUCCI
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

By and large, even devoted indie rock fans would be hard pressed to tell you which label most of their favorite acts appear on.

But Merge Records is Chapel Hill's shining exception, a do-it-yourself tale of dedication that has made it the premier local label.

Now, Cat's Cradle and the Carolina Theatre are poised to host a series of concerts to coincide with Merge Records' 15th anniversary later this month.

Laura Ballance and Mac McCaughan formed Merge during the summer of 1989, the same year they formed the seminal indie rock band Superchunk.

The label has held anniversary celebrations every 5 years since its inception, and Merge has gone to

great expense to make this celebration the most successful yet.

"It's fun for everybody," Ballance said. "They get to see the other bands on Merge that they like, and meet other artists on the label if they haven't had the chance. It's a crazy big gathering of people."

The series begins Wednesday, July 28, at Local 506, with a free show featuring The Arcade Fire and Lou Barlow.

The festival moves to the Cradle on Thursday, July 29, when Ballance's band Superchunk headlines a show that also includes The Rosebuds, Richard Buckner, The Essex Green and M. Ward.

On Friday, July 30, the celebration continues when Crooked Fingers culminates a night also featuring Camera Obscura, Portastac, Radar Brothers and Versus.

The last of the Cradle shows is on Saturday, July 31, and is already sold out. Destroyer, The Ladybug Transistor and Shark Quest will open for headlining act Spoon.

The celebration officially ends on Sunday, Aug. 1, at the Carolina Theatre in Durham. Lambchop, The Clientele and David Kilgour are scheduled to perform, and given the size of the venue, this might be the toughest show to sell out.

"People have been really excited, and tickets have been sold really quickly," Ballance said.

Among other things, the weekend festival is a reminder of how far Merge has come since Ballance and McCaughan struggled to keep the label afloat.

Several bedrooms served as its headquarters until 1992, when the label moved into a serviceable office in Chapel Hill, finally settling on its own building in Downtown Durham in 2001.

"I am happy with the label's growth," Ballance said. "Of course, as we continue, we'll grow more... either you grow or you die."

As the shows later this month will attest, Merge's ear for talent always has and will continue to be tuned to the best in independent music.

"We're (still) looking for bands we like," Ballance said. "That hasn't changed."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.



Triangle Yoga

We can't give you less stuff to do. Just another day to do it.

Bank of America announces Saturday hours.

It's not easy to squeeze your whole life between Monday and Friday. Which is why Bank of America banking centers all over town are now open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. — giving you four precious, extra hours to open a new account, refinance your home, talk to a personal banker or just make a deposit. If life is a little hectic during the week, slow down and see us on Saturday at the banking center listed below. Bank of America — the official bank of Saturday.

Chapel Hill Main Office
137 East Franklin Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Bank of America, N.A. Member FDIC.
©2004 Bank of America Corporation.
SAT-26-AD



Higher Standards

CORRECTION

■ A July 8 page 3 article said that the Chapel Hill Town Council is requiring Eastern Federal to hire an off-duty police officer to direct traffic from the theater onto Franklin Street. The officer will assist the theater in directing traffic to and from Elliot Road.

To report a correction, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at cchetto@emil.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Philip McFee, Editor, 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245
One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$.25 each.
© 2004 DTH Publishing Corp.
All rights reserved