2 SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2005

Welcome Back

The Daily Tar Heel

for parents' murder Teen awaiting tria

BY BRIANNA BISHOP CITY EDITO

During Adam Sapikowski's most recent court appearance in July, a Superior Court judge approved a motion to request the results of a psychological evaluation of the teen's father.

Public Defender James Williams, the attorney for the teen being charged with the murder of his parents, requested the exam, which was a part of the records for James Sapikowski's divorce.

The 17-year-old was indicted by a grand jury earlier this summer on two counts of first degree murder for the shooting of James Sapikowski, 52, and Alison Sapikowski, 49,

Adam Sapikowski confessed

May 14 to killing his parents at their Chapel Hill home.

During the two weeks prior to his confession, Adam Sapikowski checked in and out of a Durham Marriott hotel.

At the June 6 court appear-ance, bond was denied for Adam Sapikowski. Williams requested then that

bond be set at \$150,000 for each charge — for a total of \$300,000 — arguing that relevant circum-

stances do not support a first-degree murder charge. He indicated that elements

of physical and emotional abuse might have provoked the killings. But the request was denied due

to concerns such as the absence of

a legal caretaker and that the youth could be a flight risk.

Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall said at that date that he believed the murders occurred April 28 – about two weeks before the bodies were found. Other details about the case emerged at that point as well. Woodall told the court that an

SUV was found in the Sapikowski's garage packed full with food, camping gear and the shotgun used in the murders.

Woodall said that in addition, Adam Sapikowski had access to \$19,000 in a checking account and had asked a friend to leave town with him.

The investigation began after a

relative contacted law enforcement when she had not been able to reach the family in more than a week.

Adam Sapikowski's girlfriend led officers to the hotel. He was brought back to the 29 Whitley Drive home. The bodies were found wrapped in blankets inside the house. Shotgun shells were found on the floor nearby.

Adam Sapikowski is due back in court Sept. 21. Superior Court Judge Wade Barber told both sides in July that the court expects dis-covery to be completed at that time and said any pretrial motions need to be filed by Sept. 10.



Adam Sapikowski, center, at a bond hearing June 6 in Hillsborough. With Contact the City Editor no one willing to act as his legal guardian, the judge denied him bail. at citydesk@unc.edu.



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