

Judges have leeway in setting bond rates

BY TRICIA THOMPSON
STAFF WRITER

Durham courts have raised bond rates, making it harder for those arrested in the county to get out of jail while they await sentencing.

The bond guidelines were changed just before Lawrence Alvin Lovette was charged in connection with the murders of UNC Student Body President Eve Carson and Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato.

The 17-year-old faces a \$3 million bail in Durham for the Mahato

case and was held without bail in Orange County for the charges related to Carson's murder.

When Orange County revised its bond guidelines about two years ago, it also increased the rates significantly, Orange-Chatham District Attorney Jim Woodall said.

"It's not just to ensure they appear in court, but to protect the community," Woodall said.

"Often you have a person with a history of crime behavior. Obviously it's to the community's benefit if they are held in custody

pending trial."

Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Carl Fox, a former district attorney who worked on the guidelines for three years, said the bond a judge sets is decided by a variety of factors.

Ties to the community, prior criminal history, the nature of the charge, evidence, the number of charges pending, and whether the person was released previously on bond all are considered, Fox said.

Judges have some leeway in deciding bond rates and can set

bonds higher than the guidelines, which Woodall said is a starting point.

Fox ranked protection of society as the most important factor in determining bond.

"When there is a higher degree of them fleeing town, they have a higher bond, or in some cases no bond," said Matthew Suczynski, an attorney with Everett Law Firm.

But some worry increased bonds will create an influx in jail populations, which already are overcrowded.

"The higher secured bonds you have, the higher number of people you'll have in jail," Suczynski said.

"That's something to be taken into consideration, especially in Durham where the jail is near, if not at, capacity."

Fox said alternative sentencing helps correct the possible overcrowding in local jails.

Orange Chatham Alternative Sentencing provides ways for defendants who have not been convicted of serious or multiple crimes and are not dangerous to

the community to avoid jail by participating in community-based or rehabilitation programs.

"It's been very successful in its return-to-court rate," said Joyce Kuhn, executive director of the agency.

"We screen factors that have been used reliably over time to indicate a person's stability in the community."

Staff writer Jake Ratliff contributed reporting. Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Smaller settings can be beneficial

BY ARIEL ZIRULNICK
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Barack Obama got intimate with North Carolina voters on Wednesday, speaking with them during a town meeting-style campaign appearance in Greensboro.

More than 2,000 people bought tickets to the sold-out campaign stop, where Obama gave a brief speech and then opened the floor to questions from audience members.

Smaller settings can be advantageous for politicians because voters feel like they are getting a personal look at a public figure while the candidate still garners widespread media attention, said UNC journalism professor Leroy Towns.

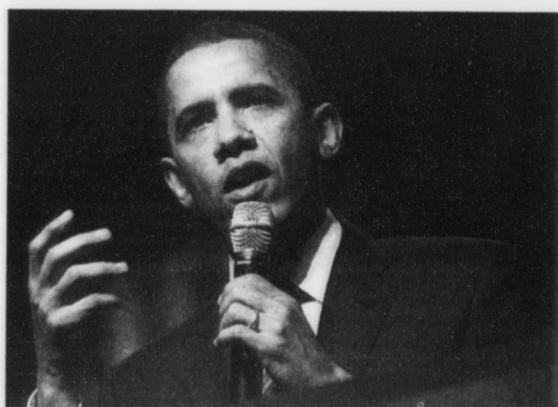
"He can go in a small room and be very intimate and talk to people one-on-one," he said. "Yet he gets the same media bounce out of it as he would with a big audience."

North Carolina is likely to continue seeing such smaller-scale appearances until the primary, Towns said.

"When you're talking to a very specific group, it works well," he said. "It works less well in a general election."

UNC Students for Barack Obama organizer Kate Thompson said that small events can better acquaint voters with the candidates' policies.

"He's able to get into the nitty-gritty details more," she said. "He's just making sure people have the opportunity to learn about them."



DTH/ANTHONY HARRIS

Sen. Barack Obama answers questions Wednesday about how he would change policy while visiting Greensboro's War Memorial Auditorium.

Katherine Lyons, a spokeswoman for the N.C. Obama campaign, stated in an e-mail that town hall-style events are beneficial for both parties involved.

"The town hall-style event gives Sen. Obama the opportunity to have a substantive give-and-take with the audience," she said.

In his speech, Obama targeted Republican presidential nominee John McCain for his economic plans and his support of the war in Iraq, a campaign tactic he began employing only recently.

Thompson attributed the shift to

a narrowing of the candidate field. "There's fewer candidates," she said. "It's easier to draw contrasts."

Towns said that voters can expect to see both Democratic candidates beginning to attack McCain more frequently as proof of their commitment to winning the nomination and the general election.

"It's a signal to supporters that they're willing and able to take McCain on," he said. "It's a subtle signal that they are the candidate."

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

National and World News

FROM THE
CAMPAIGN TRAIL

McCain against saving borrowers

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Republican John McCain on Tuesday derided government intervention to save and reward banks or small borrowers who behave irresponsibly though he offered few immediate alternatives for fixing the country's growing housing crisis.

"I will consider any and all proposals based on their cost and benefits," the certain GOP presidential nominee, who has acknowledged the economy is not his strong suit, told local business leaders south of Los Angeles.

Former first lady endorses McCain

BEL AIR, Calif. (AP) — Former first lady Nancy Reagan endorsed John McCain for president Tuesday as the Arizona senator continued to collect backing from leading Republicans who might help him unite the party and win over critical conservative voters.

The GOP nominee-in-waiting, in the midst of a West Coast fundraising swing, stopped by the Southern California home of President Reagan's widow to accept the endorsement from the Republican matriarch he called beloved and wonderful.

Two die when 30-story crane crashes to ground and destroys famed home

MIAMI (AP) — Authorities are investigating what caused a section of construction crane to plummet 30 floors into a home that a contractor used for storage, killing two people in the nation's second deadly crane accident in 10 days.

The accident occurred at a downtown Miami high-rise condominium Tuesday when workers tried to raise the crane section to extend the equipment's reach, said Miami fire spokesman Ignatius Carroll.

It fell 30 floors and smashed through the Spanish-tiled roof

of a two-story house that was the home of Cameron Diaz's character in the movie "There's Something About Mary." Five workers were hurt, one critically.

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators were at the site Wednesday.

A canine team that surveyed the site of the more than 40-story Biscayne Bay luxury condo tower found no evidence of any trapped people, Carroll said.

The crane's main vertical section was intact. Florida does not regulate or license tower cranes and crane operators.

U.S. Navy regrets shooting Egyptian

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. Navy expressed regret Wednesday that an Egyptian citizen was killed when a navy-contracted ship fired warning shots at approaching motor boats in the Suez Canal.

In the aftermath of the incident late Monday, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the U.S. Navy maintained that according to the security team aboard the vessel there were no casualties.

But on Wednesday, an embassy statement said it "appears that an Egyptian in the boat was killed by one of the warning shots."

U.S. exasperated with North Korea

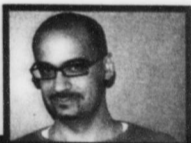
WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The United States and South Korea said Wednesday that patience is wearing thin among international negotiators pressing North Korea to hand over a promised declaration of nuclear weapon efforts.

A spat over the North's declaration, which was due by the end of last year, has deadlocked six-nation nuclear talks. Disarmament negotiators insist that it address claims of a secret uranium enrichment program and allegations that the North transferred nuclear technology to Syria.

An Evening with Junot Diaz

April 1, 2008
Gerrard Hall - 6pm

presented by CUAB



Diaz is a Dominican-American author who focuses on the immigrant experience

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Author of "The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao" winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award & name Best Book of 2007 by New York Magazine

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April 8, 2008 1-4pm
The Friday Center, Chapel Hill, NC

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Walk in registration will begin at 12 noon

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Dr. Ed Hallowell

Renowned leader and speaker on ADHD and learning differences, and co-author of *Driven to Distraction*

Hallowell will show you how to find the buried treasures in ADHD and LD and approach them not as disorders, but as gifts that are yet to be unwrapped.

If you have special needs, we'd like to accommodate you. Please indicate your needs when you register. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill maintains a policy of equal education opportunity.

UNC American Red Cross Club

Kickball Tournament

Saturday March 29, 2008
1p.m. - 4 p.m.
Hooker Fields

7-10 players per team, \$10 per team **CASH PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM!**
Look for UNC Red Cross Club in the Pit to sign up or e-mail redcross@unc.edu

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620 Market St. Chapel Hill 932-9000

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HORTON HEARS A WHO PG-13	1:00-3:00-5:00-7:05-9:10
DRILLBIT TAYLOR PG-13	12:45-2:55-5:05-7:15-9:40
SHUTTER PG-13	1:15-3:15-5:15-7:25-9:45
JUNO PG-13	1:10-3:10-5:10-7:20-9:40
10,000 BC PG-13	1:20-4:00-7:10-9:45

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Starts 5/16/08 - CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN PG

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