# **National and World News**

## Protestors gather to oppose Prop. 8

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (MCT) About 3,000 opponents of Proposition 8 rallied on the west steps of the Capitol on Sunday and vowed not to give up the fight for their rights.

The measure, which is leading by a five-point margin, amends the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. On Wednesday a small group of Alameda County residents started what they are calling a grassroots movement to reverse the proposition statewide. The rally Sunday was one action in support of such a reversal.

#### Civil liberties groups run ad urging Obama to close Guantanamo Bay (MCT) - The American

Civil Liberties Union launched an advertising campaign that calls for President-elect Barack Obama to issue an executive order that puts Guantanamo out of business on Jan. 20, the

day of his inauguration.
Some claim that the president would need an act of Congress to close the prison camps that today house some 255 foreign terror suspects and abandon the ongo ing special prosecutions. But legal experts say President Bush created U.S. detainee policy by executive order and Obama could order the policy be dismantled. Ahead of the election, Obama told CNN that he would close the prison camps "as quickly as we can do prudently." But he

declined to set "a time certain" until after the new administration reviewed the captives' records.

"We have to put in place appropriate plans to make sure they are tried, convicted and punished to the full extent of the law and that's going to require, I think, a review of the existing cases which I have not had the opportunity to do."

### Catholics discuss Obama's policies

The common good can never be adequately incarnated in any society when those waiting to be born can be legally killed at choice," said George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, at the organization's

On Tuesday, bishops will plan

### **TEST SCORES**

Education program, which has been used to evaluate and rank North Carolina public schools since 1996.

Since 2002, the end-of-year reading test has been used as part of the No Child Left Behind process, which declares proficiency in Adequate Yearly Progress

reports.

This year, 10 out of 17 Chapel
Hill-Carrboro schools made

Adequate Yearly Progress.
Schools that receive federal funding face sanctions - including public school choice vouchers
— if they fail to make progress two years in a row

No schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district face sanctions

Faltering test scores also were

at UNC are unique because it is

ent program, both with excerpts

music that is what they're clos-

est to," said Tonu Kalam, UNC

Symphony Orchestra director.

Their heart and soul comes from

orchestration, at using the instru-ments in a colorful way," he said,

also characterizing the orchestra's

"They are particularly skilled at

that repertoire.

"Last year the students had to jump five feet, this year they have to jump seven feet."

JUNE ATKINSON, N.C. SUPERINTENDENT

a problem for local schools three years ago, when the state started altering high school end-of-course

Villwock said the lower results are not a consequence of a waning quality of education but a sign that new methods must be considered.

Lynn Arden, a fourth-grade teacher at Carrboro Elementary School, said the school provides children with tools to succeed, including learning labs and afterschool tutoring programs, but isn't responsible for kids' work after

"We tell our students to read 25 minutes a night as a part of their homework, but we're not there to make sure that they do it," Arden

Arden said teachers are looking for new ways to help students, like giving pre- and post-test writ-ing lessons to improve next year's

"They're scrambling to understand right this minute what it is they need to adjust," Villwock

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#### Court addresses religious statues

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) Supreme Court justices will consider on Wednesday when cities and states can be compelled to display donated monuments that might contain religious messages. The resulting decision could shape what public parks look like nationwide.

A Utah-based religion called Summum contends that once a city accepts the donation of a private display or monument, it must accept others as well. The church leaders want a monument placed in a park in Pleasant Grove City, Utah.

#### Cuba hit by worst storm of season

SANTA CRUZ DEL SUR, Cuba (MCT) — Paloma was the most powerful storm to hit the area in more than 70 years, crashing ashore with 145 mph winds

Saturday evening. Earlier in the season, hurricanes Ike and Gustav together caused an estimated \$9.4 billion

in damage. Authorities said not a single life was lost anywhere in Cuba this time. They credited the government's well-coordinated emergency response. Nearly half a million people evacuated in advance of the storm, including nearly 6,000 from Santa Cruz del Sur.

BALTIMORE (MCT) -Chicago's Cardinal Francis George cautioned President-elect Barack Obama against "formidable" odds he will face in serving the good of all.

meeting in Baltimore.

how to engage the new administration on abortion, stem cell research and same-sex marriage.

#### "It is an incredible compliment to our **ORCHESTRA** community that this orchestra and this would come here." conductor would come here." The orchestra's performances

EMIL KANG, UNC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE ARTS

only one of two locations where they will perform more than sound as brilliant, transparent director is coming. Each night will have a differ-

and colorful. Kalam said one of orchestra's from "Cinderella" and "Romeo and most well-known features is its Juliet," both Russian pieces.
"When they are playing Russian director, Valery Gergiev, who has a strong following and a resume to

> Gergiev boasts conductor status at not only the Kirov Orchestra, but also the London Symphony Orchestra and The Metropolitan

Because of this, Kalam said there is always powerful excitement when people realize the world-renowned

"It has become a magical name because of his personality and his very strong musical profile," Kalam said. "He is a very individualistic interpreter.

He added that music can be used as a common language.

"Music is one way of bridging cultures. It is a nonverbal art form that anyone can grasp," he

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