

TUNNEL

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speech. N.C. State's Chancellor, James L. Oblinger, called Tuesday evening for a student and administrative task force to foster constructive discussion of the issue.

Student leaders have met with the college chapter of the NAACP.

The Rev. William Barber, president of the N.C. chapter of the NAACP, called for "a strong response and punishment" and warned against taking the language lightly because such incidents have evolved into worse things in the past.

"It's wrong for the school to call it graffiti, because you won't find any definition of graffiti with this kind of hatred and violence," he said.

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

EAST-WEST

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said that Perdue appealed to undecided voters, and that her campaign in Charlotte had the final say in her win over McCrory.

"Once they got an opportunity to know and understand Perdue's skill set, relationships and experience, they were more comfortable with her and her approach to Charlotte-Mecklenburg," he said.

"She was basically focusing on a message of cooperation, that the east and west part of the state needed to work together to solve the crisis."

McCrory announced Monday that he would throw his support behind the Perdue administration.

Arrington said the majority of Republican voters generally reside west of the Triangle, while Democrats mostly reside to the east. The division is largely historical.

"The east has been dominated by Democrats for over 100 years, and a lot of people in the west, like the Piedmont area, are a bunch 'Yankees from the south.' They're new people in North Carolina," Arrington said.

Martha Kropf, a UNC-Charlotte political science professor, said that as a Republican, McCrory faced poor odds this election but could fare better in the future.

"It was an overwhelming anti-Republican election. It was anti-things the way they have been, and it's unfortunate that anything that he could have gotten credit for in Charlotte was lost in the election," she said.

"But I expect he will run again, and I expect he will perform better in his next bid in the election."

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

National and World News

US, Japan review military strategies

TOKYO, Japan (MCT) — The Japanese and U.S. governments have begun a radical review of a plan that prepares the Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. military for a crisis on Japanese soil or emergencies in areas surrounding Japan, such as the Korean Peninsula, according to sources.

The governments believe that rumors circulating about the deteriorating health of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il are increasing instability on the peninsula and plan to hasten moves to launch and complete a review of the plan by next fall.

Topics include the choice of private airports to be used by the U.S. military in emergencies, the transportation of wounded U.S. servicemen and the designation of medical facilities that will admit them, according to the sources.

House Energy Committee position a litmus test for the Democratic Party

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — In the first big post-election clash on Capitol Hill, two House heavyweights are battling to lead the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The fight pits Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., a key ally of environmentalists, against the

current chairman, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., who has ties to the auto industry.

A vote is expected next week. It will be the first major test of whether the party's liberal wing, represented by Waxman, has more clout than the party's moderate wing.

Obama and Bush discuss transition

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — Aides to President-elect Obama and President George W. Bush have already begun facilitating the transition of power.

The two met Monday. Obama said they had a "broad discussion about the importance of working together throughout the transition of government in light of the nation's many critical economic and security challenges."

Minn. Senate race to have a re-count

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (MCT) — Six days after the election, unofficial results showed Republican Sen. Norm Coleman leading Democratic challenger Al Franken by 206 votes, a difference of about 0.01 percent that sets the stage for the automatic hand re-count that will begin next week.

Nearly 3 million ballots will be re-counted.

CHRISTMAS

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deal with the Christmas rush."

Early sales trends are driven by efforts to push more holiday-themed merchandise off the shelves for a longer period of time, according to a recent report from a financial con-

sulting firm. But some consumers seem to buy into the early arrival of bells and elves. Across the country, radio stations have been switching to an "all-Christmas" format.

Early holiday music generates higher ratings, said Barry Fox, program director on WRAL-FM.

"We have to please the masses, and the masses want it to be Christmas early," he said.

And if it means a reversal of struggling sales trends, so do business owners.

Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.

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To learn more, contact:
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