

**TRIAL**

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Charges against Washington were later dropped and Taylor faces lesser charges.

In court Wednesday, the emergency dispatcher testified and Assistant District Attorney Morgan Whitney played 911 calls from the victims.

Upon adjourning, Chief Superior Court Judge Carl Fox warned the jurors to avoid paying attention to the many media sources that were around the court Wednesday.

Court will resume at 9:30 a.m.

*"Do not watch or read anything about this case."*

**CARL FOX**, CHIEF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE, IN INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURORS

today, when the prosecution plans to call the Chapel Hill police officers who responded to the incidents.

The trial is expected to last through Monday, when the victims will appear in court to testify.

Whitney will prosecute Taylor for similar charges in a separate trial.

Taylor is still charged with a misdemeanor count of sexual battery.

The prosecution could not prove probable cause to pursue charges against Washington.

Contact the City Editor  
at citydesk@unc.edu.

**National and World News****New foreclosure aid plans released**

CHICAGO (MCT) — More help was promised Tuesday to homeowners at risk of foreclosure: the government will fast-track certain loan modifications, while the mortgage giant Citigroup announced its own program.

Efforts by the government and lenders to help those homeowners target as many as 1 million households. A potentially bigger government bailout for homeowners is still under discussion.

Earlier government-led foreclosure prevention efforts weren't successful, as the voluntary programs were hard to administrate.

**Bishops call for a ban on abortion**

BALTIMORE, Md. (MCT) — In a direct challenge to President-elect Barack Obama, America's Roman Catholic bishops vowed Tuesday to accept no compromise for the sake of national unity until there is legal protection for the unborn.

About 300 bishops gathered to issue a statement calling for Obama's administration to outlaw abortion.

"This is not a matter of political compromise or a matter of finding some way of common ground," said Bishop Daniel Conlon of Steubenville, Ohio. "It's a matter of absolutes."

**Checks from Exxon Valdez oil spill made out for far less than expected**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (MCT) — After a nearly 20-year wait, thousands of commercial fishermen and other plaintiffs will soon collect punitive damages for the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989.

The checks won't be anything like the blockbuster payments many hoped for after a federal jury awarded them \$5 billion — an amount the U.S. Supreme Court cut by 90 percent this summer.

Still, dozens of fishermen can expect checks for more than \$100,000.

Payments could go out as soon as Wednesday, if federal Judge H.

Russell Holland clears them.

But the payments are not seen as a victory among fishermen, who are still mad about the oil spill as well as the long struggle to win punitive damages from Exxon Mobil Corp.

"It's better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick," said William Yankee, a salmon fisherman.

Even the reduced payments will still have fees deducted to pay the lawyers on behalf of the nearly 33,000 fishermen, cannery workers, land owners, Alaska Natives and others who claimed damages from the spill.

**Gun sales rocket after election day**

HOUSTON (MCT) — A week after the election of Barack Obama, gun buyers across the country are flocking to gun stores to stock up on assault rifles, handguns and ammunition.

Some say they are worried that the incoming Obama administration will attempt to re-impose the ban on assault weapons that expired in 2004.

Others fear the loss of their right to own handguns.

"People are terrified of losing their right to protect themselves," said DeWayne Irwin, a gun store owner. "They are scared of civil unrest," the source added.

**Russia wants new missile proposals**

MOSCOW, Russia (MCT) — Russia believes that a compromise on a controversial U.S. missile shield in Europe is still possible, but awaits more constructive proposals from the new U.S. administration, a Kremlin source said Wednesday.

"A compromise is still possible," the source said.

"However, the current U.S. proposals are insufficient ... because the Bush administration is seeking to make the decision (on the deployment of the missile shield) irreversible and ... leave the new U.S. president without an alternative," the source added.

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If interested, please contact: Tiffany V. Hambright, RDH

Clinical Research Coordinator • Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

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**TABLE**

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of safe haven for expression and visibility that could've helped him come out sooner.

"I would've been able to say 'maybe it's not bad that I'm this way.'

Students seek this kind of visibility before coming out, said Terri Phoenix, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Center.

Discrimination against gays still exists at UNC, despite its liberal reputation, Phoenix said, referring in particular to an incident of assault in 2005.

"It creates this climate where it's kind of intimidating to come out," she said. "People really feel like they are second-class citizens."

First-year Cameron Parker said the gay pride provides a relaxed environment where he can talk openly.

Discussion ranges from light-hearted conversation to political debates and advice on coming out.

"It's kind of like 'The View,'" Wilson said. "We have the crazy liberals, like me, and then you have the crazy conservatives."

A few months ago it was just another wobbly table outside Lenoir. But for several gay students on campus, it has become a way to connect with a community.

"I think it fosters a sense of cohesiveness that hasn't necessarily been there before," Wilson said. "Everyone kind of yearns for something like that."

Contact the Features Editor  
at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu)

**JUST GAMING IT**

DTH/ANDREW DYE

Kevin York, a sophomore exercise and sport science major, concentrates on his next chess move. Campus Recreation held its first "Game Night at the Underground" on Wednesday. It plans to extend the event to several nights a week and may offer game tournaments.

**RESEARCH**

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Bush ordered in August 2001 that federal funding would only go to the approximately 60 existing embryonic stem cell lines created from private research.

Embryonic stem cells are derived from embryos that develop from eggs fertilized in vitro. Less controversial stem cell research is conducted with adult stem cells extracted from tissues, organs and umbilical cords.

Bush said taxpayers' money should not be spent on the further destruction of embryos, since some believe this ends a human life.

"We are opposed to anything that involves the destruction of a human life, which begins at fertilization," said Ashley Tyndall, a UNC graduate student and president of Students for Life of America. "I think it's morally repugnant."

Advocates of embryonic stem cell research, however, believe the cells could be used in medical therapies which could help cure a range of diseases including diabetes, Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries.

Terry Magnuson, chairman of the Department of Genetics, said stem cells, due to their regenerative qualities, will help with these medical issues.

He said research is important to unlock more of stem cells' potential contributions.

Robert Lowman, associate vice chancellor for research, said there are currently fewer than five research projects being conducted with stem cells at UNC.

UNC has a bank of cells from the presidentially approved list available to researchers.

Lowman said he anticipates more researchers moving in the direction of embryonic stem cell research.

But Tyndall said there are still other options for stem cell research that show promise and aren't as controversial.

"I think we're devoting a lot of attention to this rather than pursuing other avenues of research," she said.

Contact the University Editor  
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**VOLLEYBALL**

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"I don't think we went into the Duke match earlier in the season with the right mentality — going on the road to beat a team like that," Sagula said.

The other problem is we played them so early in the season, and you never realize the significance.

"I'm not worried about that now."

Now, the Tar Heels have worked their way into a three-way tie for first place in the ACC with Duke and Clemson.

Their season-long goal of winning the ACC Championship hangs in the balance tonight.

"This is probably the biggest match that we're going to play this year," Prussing said.

"One, because it's against Duke, our rival. And two, because we want to knock them out of first place."

"This match is basically for the ACC Championship."

Sagula said this season's team reminds him of UNC's 2005 ACC Champion squad.

"It's really similar to what 2005 was," he said. "That's a great feeling to say we're in it, we're confident, and we know we can beat these teams."

"We have to go out and play well, but there are no gimmicks."

In 2005, Prussing was only a freshman, but her teammates already were confident in her abilities — voting her as one of the team's two rookies of the year.

"In that year, Lauren played the supportive role," Sagula said.

"The other outside hitter that year had significantly more kills. Lauren has slowly emerged as a go-to player."

Prussing said she couldn't have asked for more than a chance to play for the conference title during her senior year.

"It's no secret that in 2006 and 2007 we didn't do as well as we wanted to," Prussing said. "But it feels like we've come full circle now."

"We won the ACC Championship my freshmen year, and we're right there this year."

Contact the Sports Editor  
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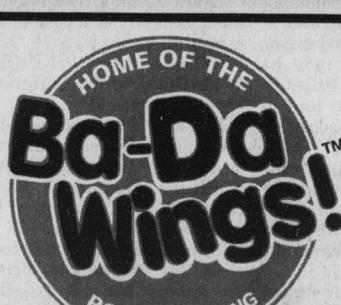
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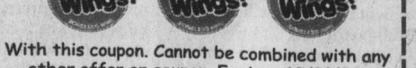
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