

# In family, Womack finds balance during election

Law student keeps job in perspective

**BY NICOLE COMPARATO**  
STAFF WRITER

Jessica Womack is expecting, but this time it's not election law-suit cases.

Instead, the Student Supreme Court chief justice is expecting a baby boy to be born in May, who is expected to be delivered on the same day her stepdaughter, Grier, was born nine years ago.

"I'm an average person — just a 20-something year-old going about her life looking for the next step," Womack said.

With a whirlwind of legal actions defining this year's student body president election, Womack has been busy as chief justice.

But it was her role of mother and wife, she said, that allowed her to keep everything in perspective.

"I have food to eat, my family is safe and I'm in one of the best law schools in the country," she said.

Womack, who attended UNC for her undergraduate degree, met her husband one night when she was out in Raleigh looking for a good party with her college roommate and her friend.

"No places were really good so we went over to Bogart's. I was third wheeling it, so I decided to go listen to the band. My husband was the lead singer, and he said when he saw me in the crowd time stopped," she said.

"He sang a song to me, but I was seeing someone else so I didn't end up getting coffee with him until nine months later when we broke up. After coffee, I knew I had just met my future husband."

Her husband is still lead singer of the band called "The Dickens."

Womack is now a law student who has a stepdaughter, two dogs, two cats and a stray dog with eight puppies in her house.

"If anyone wants a puppy, I'm offering them either for free or a very low cost," she said.

Womack is currently taking bar classes at the UNC School of Law, but she is unsure of what career she would like to pursue in the future.

"I'm not sure what kind of law I want to do," she said, "I don't want to do criminal law — it's too heart-



DTH/ERIN HULL

Jessica Womack, chief justice of the Student Supreme Court, dismissed former Speaker of Student Congress Deanna Santoro's lawsuit last week.

wrenching. But I might want to do corporate law."

Her most recent ruling as chief justice was the decision to dismiss former Speaker of Student Congress Deanna Santoro's suit against Student Body President candidate Ian Lee. Santoro accused Lee of violating the Student Code by running for student body president while remaining student body secretary.

Chairman of the Board of Elections, Andrew Phillips, said she has been fair and deliberate.

"She's always ready to give a well-thought out answer and has good attention to detail," he said.

Womack said the outcome would have been the same had the case been filed last year when Emma Hodson was chief justice.

"I don't think it would have changed because I think the goal of the decision making process is to be neutral and make decisions based on the law," she said.

"We had two cases that were eventually withdrawn by the plaintiffs, there's not much to do with those. And the (Santoro) case was decided on the statute of limitations expiring, and that's based on the interpretation of the Student Code that I had."

Santoro said she thinks the new chief justice has done well.

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### Saudi native will face charges for use of mass destruction weapons

FORT WORTH, Texas (MCT) — A Lubbock, Texas, man who is a native of Saudi Arabia was arrested Wednesday by FBI agents on a federal charge of attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction in connection with his alleged purchase of chemicals and equipment necessary to make an improvised explosive device, and his research of potential U.S. targets.

Some of the targets included former President George W. Bush's home in Dallas, at least 12 reservoir dams in Colorado and California and three American citizens who had previously served in the military and had been stationed for a time at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Authorities identified the suspect as Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari, 20, a South Plains College student. South Plains College is in Levelland near Lubbock, Texas.

The arrest and the criminal complaint, which was unsealed in the Northern District of Texas in Dallas, were announced by David Kris, Assistant Attorney General for National Security; James T. Jacks, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas; and Robert E. Casey Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Dallas Field Division.

Aldawsari is expected to make his initial appearance at 9 a.m. CST Friday in federal court in Lubbock.

Aldawsari was lawfully admitted into the United States in 2008 on a student visa.

If convicted, Aldawsari faces a maximum sentence of life in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"South Plains College has been notified by the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that one of our students has been detained," said Dane Dewbre, the college's associate dean of college relations.

### Libyan dictator's forces attacking

BEYIDA, Libya (MCT) — Forces loyal to Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi unleashed tank, mortar and anti-aircraft fire on protesters Thursday in murderous assaults on three rebellious cities outside the capital, witnesses and news reports said.

The onslaughts came as Gadhafi accused Osama bin Laden of instigating the nine-day rebellion seeking his overthrow, delivering a fresh diatribe over state-run television during which the Libyan leader admitted he was losing control of Zawiya, 30 miles west of Tripoli.

"Zawiya is slipping from our hands because your sons are listening to bin Laden," Gadhafi ranted, adding a bizarre and ironic taunt later in the speech that "a real man doesn't use arms against innocent people."

### General Motors earns high profit

DETROIT (MCT) — General Motors earned \$4.7 billion in 2010 — its biggest net profit since 1999 — and promised hourly workers a record average of about \$4,300 each in profit-sharing as a result.

In the fourth quarter, GM made \$510 million, its slimmest profit this year, on revenue of \$36.9 billion. That compares with a \$3.5 billion loss a year earlier. The company had warned fourth-quarter profits would suffer from higher costs due to ramped-up engineering and the launches of the Chevrolet Cruze compact and Volt extended-range electric car.

GM's quarterly results also suffered from a \$700 million charge in the fourth quarter related to its purchase of \$2.1 billion of Series A preferred stock from the U.S. Treasury.

### Suicide bombing in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (MCT) — An Afghan intelligence official was killed and about two dozen other people were injured in a suicide bombing near the Pakistani border Thursday in a confrontation authorities believe averted a potentially larger strike by the bomber and a companion.

The blast occurred in the district of Spin Boldak in strategic Kandahar province. Afghanistan's main intelligence service, the National Directorate of Security, said its officers encountered a car carrying the two bombers not far from the Pakistani frontier and became suspicious. A gunfight ensued, and one of the bombers was killed, but the other got out of the car, fell to the ground and played dead. When the intelligence officers approached him, he set off his explosives, killing one of them and injuring three others.



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