



HALO 3
Game review; insider's guide **7B**



BARACK OBAMA
Takes heat from opponents about short legislative record **2A**

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LOCAL

MORGAN POCKETED CAMPAIGN FUNDS

The former state speaker is exposed: he put \$465,000 to personal use, most after he left the state House. **2A**

GOLF, TENNIS STORES PART OF NICHE TREND

Raleigh retailer builds bigger stores specializing in fewer sports, rather than targeting all players. **3C**

NATION

Holiday skies will be a little more open

The Pentagon will open military airspace for commercial flights during peak days, and the FAA and airlines will take steps to ensure timely flights. **1E**

Appeals court tosses pollution standards

The 9th Circuit Court in California says the Bush administration failed to justify easier limits on light trucks' fuel economy. **2D**



WORLD

IAEA REPORT: IRAN STILL ENRICHING URANIUM

Iran has answered some questions, a U.N. agency says, but still defies the Security Council because it about its current activities and now has nearly 3,000 operating centrifuges. **3D**

QUAKE DOESN'T RATTLE CHILE'S PRESIDENT

The 9th Circuit Court in California says the Bush administration failed to justify easier limits on light trucks' fuel economy. **2D**

SPORTS

BARRY BONDS INDICTED FOR FIVE FELONIES

Filed exactly 100 days after Bonds passed Hank Aaron to become baseball's career home run leader, the indictment capped a four-year federal investigation into steroid use by elite professional athletes. **1C**



WEATHER

TODAY: Partly sunny and warm. Low 69, high 86.



FRIDAY: Partly sunny and warm. Low 68, high 86.



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AB ● ● ●

UNC-CH tuition increasing



VISIT WWW.NEWSOBSERVER.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS STORY ABOUT TUITION.

ANNE BLYTHE
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL -- Brock Baker, a UNC junior from Nashville, Tenn., stood in

the back of the Carolina Inn ballroom dressed like a cow. He held a poster that read "Eat fewer out-of-staters."

Despite Baker's silent protest, the UNC-Chapel Hill board of trustees unanimously agreed Thursday to increase tuition for all students except in-state undergraduates.

Chancellor James Moeser said the tuition increase -- \$1,250 for out-of-state

undergraduates and \$800 for out-of-state graduate students -- is needed to cover the cost of educating those students because of other rising costs.

In-state graduate students will pay an extra \$400.

Before the vote, the board heard from several students who asked for a more predictable tuition increase schedule and said they had not budgeted for a

tuition hike.

"\$1,250 is a fair number, but it's hard for students to take because they were not expecting it," said Eve Carson, senior and student body president.

Mike Winters, a senior from Cincinnati, said such an increase might cause hardships for families.

See **TUITION**, A9

Nooses revive civil rights fervor



Photo by Jason Arthurs

N.C. State senior Brian Riddick holds a noose that was passed around at a meeting to discuss the noose found at N.C. State recently. The event organizers made the noose and allowed people to hold it and talk about their feelings about its symbolism.

"Now, we've been awakened, and we're asking people, please don't go back in your corners and let this die."

Kevin Williams
Rally bus trip organizer

WADE RAWLINS
Staff Writer

Early this morning, people across North Carolina will board buses and head for Washington, joining thousands at the Justice Department to rally for harsh prosecution of those who threaten blacks with nooses.

For many of the travelers, it will be the second time in two months that they have made a long journey to speak against what they see as discrimination. They say it's a sign that

blacks, in North Carolina and across the country are mobilizing in a way they haven't seen since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Since the arrest of six black teens in Jena, La., angered African-Americans and others nationwide this fall, a new spirit of activism has taken hold, many say. Old groups are re-energized, new groups are forming and college campuses are energized with a fresh spirit of activism.

"The African-American community, it's like we've been walking in the

wilderness," said Kevin Williams, who organized the bus trip today. "Now, we've been awakened, and we're asking people, please don't go back in your corners and let this die."

Officially, today's rally is a response to a spate of incidents across the country in which nooses have been left in public places. One was found at N.C. State University last week.

The Rev. Al Sharpton says he wants the incidents to be investigated.

See **RALLY**, A5

Amidst drought, high-tech listening finds leaks saves water



Photo by Jason Arthurs

Utility Tech German Garcia, left, and Utility Supervisor 1 Dennis James, center, both workers for the Water Distribution Division for the City of Raleigh Public Utilities, (can't give the public utilities exact name), use a ground sounding device called an L Microphone in order to detect leaks in Raleigh's water system along South Blount Street.

DAVID BRACKEN, ANNE BLYTHE
Staff Writers

Dennis James spends his working hours with an ear cocked toward the underground, listening for high-pitched whistles, static and other sounds that

indicate precious water is escaping.

As Raleigh's most experienced leak detector, James, 49, combs the city's 2,000-mile underground network of water pipes with high-tech, high-priced audio equipment.

"I've got some pretty expensive toys,"

said James, whose arsenal includes a \$45,000 electronic leak detector and an array of ultra-sensitive microphones. "No leak sounds identical to another."

With the Triangle enduring its worst drought in more than a century, leak detectors such as James have taken on new importance. On any given day, the region's public water systems say they can't account for millions of gallons of water, much of it due to leaky pipes under city streets and sidewalks.

"We have been operating pretty much in emergency mode for months," said Andy Brogden, Raleigh's water distribution superintendent and James' boss. "If we have a leak, we fix it as soon as possible."

Any public water system that keeps track of 90 percent or more of its water is considered to be in good shape, according to Wayne Munden, head of the technical services branch of the state's water supply office. Losing more than 10 percent is a problem.

"Ten to 20 percent, it's a concern," Munden said. "More than 20 percent, and you need to start looking somewhere."

See **LEAKS**, A9

Hurricanes triggered disastrous tree kill

Katrina and Rita left behind an unheralded environmental catastrophe



JUST THE FACTS: EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE

- 320 million trees killed or severely damaged
- \$2 billion, or 5.5 billion board feet, worth of timber was destroyed in two hurricanes
- 1.1 billion tons of harmful carbon will be released by all the decomposing storm damaged vegetation

Source: The Washington Post

MARC KAUFMAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON -- New satellite imaging has revealed that hurricanes Katrina and Rita produced the largest single forestry disaster on record in the nation -- an essentially unreported ecological catastrophe that killed or severely damaged about 320 million trees in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The die-off, caused initially by wind and later by weeks-long pooling of stagnant water, was so massive that researchers say it will add significantly to the global greenhouse gas buildup -- ultimately putting as much carbon from dying vegetation into the air as the rest of the nation's forest takes out in a year of photosynthesis.

In addition, the downing of so many trees has opened vast and sometimes fragile tracts to several aggressive and fast-growing exotic species that are already squeezing out far more environmentally productive native species.

Efforts to limit the damage have been handicapped by the ineffectiveness of a \$504 million federal program to help Gulf Coast landowners replant and fight the invasive species. Congress appropriated the money in 2005 and added to it in 2007, but officials acknowledge that the program got off to a slow start and only about \$70 million has been promised or dispensed so far. Local advocates said onerous bureaucratic hurdles and low compensation rates are major reasons.

"This is the worst environmental disaster in the United States since the Exxon Valdez accident."

The die-off was caused initially by wind and later by water.

See **TREES**, B6

