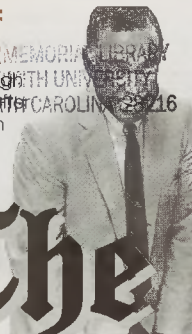


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## Obama builds up war chest

Speaking fees boost bottom line for presidential candidate

By Helen Silvis  
THE SKANNER (PORTLAND, ORE.)

PORTLAND, Ore. - A \$25 a ticket fundraiser raked in \$200,000 for Barack Obama's campaign Sept. 7. That might be a drop in the ocean compared to the \$3 million Oprah raised at her Obama fundraiser the next day, but it also is a sign of the Illinois senator's ability to attract donations from less-wealthy supporters, as well as the Hollywood crowd.

So far, in fact, Obama has been keeping pace with his main fundraising rival Hillary Clinton. Campaign figures for the second quarter of 2007 showed Obama raised \$32.8 million compared to Clinton's \$27 million. In the first quarter, Clinton raised more than Obama, \$26 million compared to \$25 million. The third Democratic front-runner, John Edwards, raised \$12 million in the first quarter and \$9 million in the second quarter.

Oregon State Rep. Chip Shields was one of a small group of supporters who helped bring Obama to Oregon. Shields said Obama's rally kicked off the Oregon Democratic primary campaign season.

"I think he has a very good chance of winning," Shields said. "It will depend just how much ordinary everyday people get involved in his campaign. He's not taking any (political action committee) or corporate dollars whereas some of the other major campaigns are. So it will require thousands and thousands of people to give \$25 to \$100."

Fundraising is crucial because it takes a lot of  
Please see OBAMA/6A



Obama

## Common goals for CIAA and Charlotte



CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry (left), Ford Lion Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Eric Watson and Manny Alexander, regional account supervisor at UniWorld Group, at the unveiling of the league's 2008 basketball tournament logo last week. The CIAA is the nation's second-largest college basketball tournament in the nation and brought \$27 million in economic impact to Charlotte in 2007.

### Tournament organizers, league want to extend profitable relationship

By Cheri F. Hodges  
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Could the 2008 CIAA tournament be Charlotte's swan song?

It is the last year that the very profitable basketball tournament is contracted to be in the Queen City. But CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry said the league is already in talks with the city to keep the tournament in town a lot longer.

"I hope this isn't the last year. I hope that this is the beginning of

six more years in Charlotte," Kerry said.

The tournament moved here in 2006 after spending six years at Raleigh's RBC Center. Charlotte beat out Raleigh for the tournament because of the facilities and additional scholarship money - \$1 million per year, to be exact. Though there were rumblings when the tournament arrived in Charlotte, both years that the event has tipped off here have been stel-

lar. According to Kerry, 2007 was the biggest tournament in its 62-year history. The tournament left \$27 million in the city of Charlotte and broke attendance records, with over 165,000 fans in attendance.

"We've done a lot of things (in Charlotte) that we couldn't have done in other places," Kerry said.

With the unveiling of a new logo and two new CIAA trucks (provided by Ford Motor Company, one of the league's biggest sponsors), Kerry wants to shatter records. Though Winston-Salem State and North Carolina Central universities are no longer in the league, the

"I hope this isn't the last year. I hope that this is the beginning of six more years in Charlotte."

Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Commissioner **Leon Kerry** on the possibility of keeping the league basketball tournament here.

Please see CIAA/2A

## Mortgage defaults linked to rate hike

African Americans are more likely to be assigned a high-risk subprime loan

By R. Billingsley  
THE HOUSTON DEFENDER

HOUSTON - Three years ago, relaxed lending practices allowed many African-Americans to own their home, sending the rate of homeownership to historic highs.

But according to a recent study of subprime mortgages by the Center for Responsible Lending, "2.2 million U.S. households will lose their homes to foreclosure" and subprime loan foreclosures will affect 10 percent of recent African-American borrowers.

Subprime loans are high interest loans that are generally utilized by those who have poor credit scores and limited options, explained Sharon Reuss, spokeswoman for the Center for Responsible Lending.

"I think often African-Americans are steered in the direction of subprime loans by brokers," said Reuss.

"Banks totally relaxed their guidelines several years ago," said Sharlene Mercier, a real estate agent and instructor with Trinity One Mortgage, LLC. "They gave loans to people with bad credit, unverified income, or no down payment. As a community, we took advantage of that and it's coming back to bite us. We moved into homes we couldn't afford. We didn't prepare for gas, food, or cost of living increases. Now we're having a reality check."

That reality check is coming as more and more African-American homeowners are defaulting on their subprime loans, which were intended to serve people who do not

Please see SUBPRIME/3A

## Post foundation honors city's best, brightest

By Herbert L. White  
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

Some of Charlotte's very best community and academic leaders will get their evening in the spotlight Saturday.

The Charlotte Post Best Awards at the Hilton Charlotte Center City, 222 East Third St. at 6:30 p.m. Among the honorees are former Charlotte mayor Harvey Gantt for his contributions to Charlotte politics, education and civic involvement as the Luminary Award recipient; West Charlotte High

See GALA/2A

## City Council member hosts forums on transit

By Herbert L. White  
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Charlotte City Council member Anthony Foxx is jumping into the transit tax debate.

The at-large representative held a press conference on Monday to discuss the transit tax repeal effort, especially its potential impact on bus service.

"I have listened quietly and patiently to both sides of the

transit tax repeal effort," Foxx said in a statement. "At the same time, I have listened carefully to what our citizens are thinking and saying. The pro-transit message is being received as supporting the tax without accountability and anti-transit message is being received as a call for accountability by repealing the tax. We need to keep the tax and demand more accountability,

which is what I have been trying to do and which is what I think citizens of Charlotte want us to do."

Foxx held the press conference near the downtown Transit Center on Brevard St. between Third and Fourth Streets. Before that, he rode the 102 Lincoln Heights bus from his grandmother's home off Beatties Ford Road.  
See FORUMS/6A



Foxx



George Leach speaks up in support of justice for James Johnson at a state NAACP press conference last week in Raleigh.

## N.C. NAACP tackles prosecutors

By Sommer Brokaw  
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

RALEIGH - The handling of the Duke lacrosse case cost former District Attorney Mike Nifong his law license, job and 24 hours in jail.

But rogue prosecutors are across America, and they aren't receiving any punishment, according to the state NAACP. The organization announced Sept. 6 that it is filing a prosecutorial misconduct complaint against a district attorney in Wilson County. The misconduct, they

say, has led to an innocent black man, James Johnson, spending more than three years in jail awaiting trial for a crime he didn't commit.

"Our motto is 'Free James Johnson,'" said NAACP President William Barber in front of the Wake County Courthouse. "Even in the Duke lacrosse case, our position was to follow the facts. We said be fair, be thorough in your investigation, no rush to judgment, no delay of justice. In this case, what we see is folks not willing to follow the facts,

but instead are willing to change the facts to fit somebody's desire to prosecute this young man wrongly.

"North Carolina is really at a crossroads here. Are we going to apply justice across the board, or are we going to show that justice only matters in certain cases?"

NAACP representatives agree with Richard Rosen, a UNC Chapel Hill law professor who told the News & Observer in a July interview, "There's not a single bit of evidence that (Johnson is) guilty."



Girls more likely to bully other kids through cliques, intimidation/1C

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