

## OBAMA

FROM PAGE 1

he said.

Obama will need to get the N.C. crowds quite excited come November, experts say. The last time the traditionally conservative state voted for a Democrat was in 1976 when Jimmy Carter was elected.

Obama's speech in Raleigh comes at a critical time in the election, as economic issues such as the rising unemployment rate and the price of oil are affecting a greater number of Americans.

"You don't have to read the stock tickers or scan the headlines in the financial section to understand the seriousness of the situation we're in right now," Obama said.

Obama did not jump to blame the president for the economic climate.

"I understand that the challenges facing our economy didn't start the day George Bush took office and they won't end the day he leaves ... We live in a more competitive world, and that is a fact that cannot be reversed," he said.

Linda Bnelans of Durham said she liked Obama's specificity.

"It's important for me to begin to hear specifics," she said, "and that's

*"I'd rather be a bum in the boxcar on the Obama train than on the front of the bus with John McCain."*

MIKE EASLEY, GOVERNOR

definitely what I heard today."

Obama also offered tuition subsidies to students in exchange for community or national service upon graduation.

"If you invest in America, America will invest in you," he said.

Obama spoke to the criticism of his economic policies that he has faced from Republicans.

"Every single proposal that I've made in this campaign is paid for - because I believe in pay-as-you-go," he said.

Elwood Beeton of Raleigh said Obama's plan is very ambitious.

"There's no doubt about it, things are tough right now," he said. "But Obama gives us hope for a brighter future, that things will get better."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## MOESER

FROM PAGE 1

are," Moeser said. "I think that's really going to be the test of being the leading public university."

Moeser described other ways that the University has tried to push itself to the fore, and named improvements to the natural sciences as the critically important piece of UNC's goal over the next decade.

"I think science really defines competition in the world economy," Moeser said. "We will rise and fall on our strength in science and technology."

He added that the humanities and social sciences should be included in that consideration and pointed out immediate global opportunities for collaboration.

"Sub-Saharan Africa has huge economic, education and health issues," he said. "Universities there are desperately looking for relationships with American universities, so I think there are tremendous opportunities."

## Fighting the 'gorilla' image

One of the areas in which Thorp will first be tested is in his handling of the town-gown divide, a respon-

sibility he has not had to face.

"We are the 500-pound gorilla," Moeser said. "And I think we have to realize that everything we do, everything we do affects the people who live in this community. And that requires, on our part, a great sensitivity to their concerns."

The UNC Board of Trustees has begun negotiations with the town on a development plan for Carolina North, a project still in its infancy that Thorp will oversee.

"We're building a whole new campus, which in many ways is going to define his term," Moeser said.

Thorp, too, will face other concerns, including the loss of almost half of the current Board of Trustees and possibly his own higher education bond. Moeser has laid out his vision for the University as an academic and research force to contend with on the world stage. As he moves on from the leadership of the University, the responsibility will fall to the chancellor-elect and Moeser will enjoy his own time away.

He'll be spending his days with his two grandchildren and honing his organ skills before returning in the post of professor.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## OMAHA

FROM PAGE 1

joyride back to Omaha.

Now, there are no more speed bumps left - only full-blown roadblocks. This is where it will get tough for the Tar Heels, where we'll find out if the pitching staff really is the nation's best and if the lineup really is the juggernaut it resembled in Cary.

Here's what the Tar Heels are up against:

No. 7 LSU (48-17-1): In any sport's playoffs, the key is to get hot at the right time. And nobody has been hotter than LSU, the winners of 23 straight entering the super regionals and now 25 of the last 26 contests. While they lack a true staff ace, the Tigers can simply outscore teams with their deep lineup (21 runs in Monday's game). And nobody in the tournament is swinging a better bat than Blake Dean right now.

No. 6 Rice (47-13): If starting pitching is the key to the postseason, Rice is a team to watch out for. Ryan Berry and Mike Ojala bring nasty breaking balls, and Sunday starter Cole St. Clair could start on Fridays for most schools. The lineup is strong, and the veteran Owls know how to manufacture runs. And they play a tough, hard-nosed style of baseball that bodes well for grinding it out through June.

Fresno State (42-29): The Cinderella story of the College World Series, Fresno State emerged as the four-seed in the toughest regional in the bracket and then beat Arizona State (ranked third in the nation) in Tempe to become the first-ever No. 4 to make it to Omaha since the field expanded to 64 teams. The Bulldogs came on strong at the end of the year, looking like a different team. Now they have the right mix of chemistry and momentum to keep the ride going.

And that's just one side of the bracket. The tournament's top seed (Miami), another ACC power (No. 4 Florida State), the deep SEC's most powerful team (No. 8 Georgia) and a team that has won six straight (Stanford) will do battle on the other side for a right to a berth in the CWS finals.

The moral of the story: it won't be easy. But, as noted above, the Tar Heels boast the country's top staff and a lineup with no apparent weaknesses. And, as many of them are quick to point out, they have their sights set high after getting this close for the last two years.

"We are very fortunate to get back, but we have some unfinished business to take care of," Wooten said.

Contact the Sports Editor at [sports@unc.edu](mailto:sports@unc.edu).



DTH FILE/JULIE TURKEWITZ

Two Orange County firefighters move fallen debris from the wreckage that remained after an apartment fire September 30th of last year. The rubble has been cleared, but the effects of the fire still linger.

## LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

Mayo said the fire report estimated a 28-minute gap between the time the fire started and the time the fire station was notified.

But, this delay could be due to the time of the fire, he said.

"The time of the alarm was 1:59 a.m.," he said. "Lots of residents weren't home because it was too early for students, and other folks to be coming back from the bars. And if residents were home, they were probably asleep."

Mayo said that the cause of the fire is unknown, mainly because the fire caused too much destruction. He said that he believes the fire started on the first floor and quickly spread throughout the rest of the building.

"It wasn't burned into oblivion, but it was burned so much that you can't say for sure what caused it," he said. "But it seemed to start on the

outside, on the first floor."

In the lawsuit, Arango is seeking \$10,000 in damages, which McGrath said is the maximum amount allowed by N.C. state law.

"In North Carolina, you can only ask for \$10,000," he said. "But we really haven't crossed that bridge yet. It is hard to put a value on a life, though."

He said that the case is still in its early stages and that the parties involved have waited so long after the incident to file the lawsuit because they "just wanted to make sure everything was in order" before the suit was filed.

Attorney Allen Duncan, who is representing the two residents injured in the fire, said his clients also filed suit against Colonial Properties Trust.

Kristin Pietrowicz, a former UNC student, and Susan Thorne, a teacher at Chapel Hill High School, filed a joint suit because both sustained

debilitating injuries from the fire.

"Both women's legs are severely damaged, along with many other injuries," Duncan said.

He said Pietrowicz's injuries were so bad that she had to withdraw from graduate school.

Thorne's injuries have forced her to take the entire year off on disability leave, Duncan said.

"She has been out on disability but has been trying to get back," he said. "She can't walk, or even get close to walking right now, but she is a very dedicated teacher."

Jim Spahn, a representative for Colonial Properties Trust, said the company has been served with the civil summons.

"We have been served and we are researching," he said. "We are continuing to give our full cooperation to the local authorities as we do so."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## NBA DRAFT

FROM PAGE 1

"I think I fit in real well," he is quoted as saying. "They're like my type of tempo of basketball: up and down the court."

Lawson is projected as the Nuggets' pick - 20th overall - by HoopsWorld.com, DraftExpress.com and NBADraft.net.

He has said he will remain in the draft as long as he is sure he will be taken in the first 20 selections.

All three Tar Heels attended Orlando's pre-draft camp May 29 - significant since most potential first-rounders skip the extra playtime.

"Lawson was very impressive in the half-game, three-quarter game he played in Orlando," Blake said. "But there are a lot of point guards in this draft."

Green and Ellington both maintain they only will remain in the draft if they are guaranteed contracts as first-round picks.

Ellington has worked out with teams including the Sacramento Kings and the New Jersey Nets.

"He is also probably one of the

most well-conditioned athletes that we're going to have in," Gregg Polinsky, director of scouting for the Nets, is quoted on the Web site.

Green has gauged interest from the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Toronto Raptors after injuring his hip and elbow in Orlando.

"Green could go first round, could go second round," Blake said. "I will say one thing, if he goes back to school, he will improve his stock."

"I recommend all three of them going back to school," he added.

"They will all be able to play in the NBA. Be it this year, in two years, in three years."

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