

The Daily Tar Heel

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editorial freedom

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► Corrections for front-page errors will be printed on the front page. Any other incorrect information will be corrected on page 3. Errors committed on the Opinion Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

► Please contact Managing Editor Jamie Williams at jameswe@email.unc.edu with issues about this policy.

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WEEKLY DOSE

Wikipedia: where anyone can break news

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

It is well known around Carroll Hall that the journalism industry is rapidly changing. Add the fact that Wikipedia broke the news of "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert's death before anyone else to the list of events that prove the concept of professional journalism is getting increasingly murky.

According to Business Week, the news was posted on Russert's Wikipedia page at 2 p.m., a full hour before the New York Times posted an item and an hour and a half before Russert's own NBC sent the legendary Tom Brokaw out to inform the nation of the news.

There is no indication of exactly who posted the update, but the IP address goes back to an IT firm that works on the Web site of —surprise!— NBC News.

**NOTED.** It was just a normal afternoon for Indiana 12-year-old Dominique Morefield, who was operating a lemonade stand with her friends, but that all changed when a man approached and demanded their profits. All \$17.50 of them. Morefield then took action, chasing the man into a nearby house and calling police. The man was eventually arrested on felony charges of robbery.

**QUOTED.** "We don't feel that someone in the parade who is topless or nearly naked is appropriate for a family audience."

— Ashland, Ore., July 4 parade chairman James Kidd, in response to Ashland resident Jen Moss, who said she planned to ride in the parade wearing only a hemp G-string.

Moss is known as the "naked lady" around town for frequently biking topless.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY

**Art exhibition:** Carrboro artist Maggi Ann Grace is presenting an exhibition titled "How High the Moon," which features India-inspired paintings. The exhibit opened June 1 and will continue through September 1 at Tonal Restaurant in Durham. Call 489-8000 for more information or visit Grace's Web site at <http://www.maggiann.com/paintings.html>.  
**Time:** Various times  
**Location:** Tonal Restaurant, 3642 Shannon Road in Durham

**Dinner series:** The Carolina Crossroads restaurant inside The Carolina Inn is kicking off its "Diamonds Are a Diner's Best Friend" dinner series with the help of chef Jimmy Reale and other local chefs from AAA Four Diamond award-winning restaurants. The cost is \$95 per person plus tax and gratuity.  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Carolina Inn, 211 Pittsboro St.

FRIDAY

**Science activity:** The Morehead

Planetarium and Science Center will host "DESTINY Days," a series that offers visitors an insight into its science education initiative, the DESTINY traveling science learning program. The 40-foot mobile laboratory will be open to the public for hands-on scientific exploration. Admission is free with a planetarium ticket or \$3 otherwise. For more information, call 962-1236.  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Location:** Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, 250 E. Franklin St.

**Hog day:** The 26th Annual Hillsborough Hog Day will feature a barbecue cook-off, live entertainment, arts and crafts, children's activities, antique car show, vendors and much more. There will be a concert Friday by The Deal and the Flabbergasters. Admission is \$5, children under 12 are admitted free. Call 732-8156 for more information.  
**Time:** Friday 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Location:** Downtown Hillsborough and Cameron Park

SATURDAY

**Sidewalk sale:** The Shops at

Eastgate will be having a sidewalk sale. There will be great savings and specials. Visit <http://www.shopping-eastgate.com> for details.  
**Time:** all day  
**Location:** The Shops at Eastgate, 1800 E. Franklin St.

**Summer solstice celebration:** The UNC Forest Theater will host a family summer solstice celebration. It will feature songs and stories from around the world with storyteller Faye Stanley. Families and their children are invited to dress in costumes that honor the moon.  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** UNC Forest Theater on Country Club Road

To make a calendar submission, visit [www.dailytarheel.com/calendar](http://www.dailytarheel.com/calendar), or e-mail Managing Editor Andrew Liu at [ajliu@email.unc.edu](mailto:ajliu@email.unc.edu) with "calendar" in the subject line. Events will be published in the newspaper on the day and the day before they take place, and will be posted online when received. Submissions must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

Easley pushing for drought legislation

BY JESSICA SPRINGER  
SPECIAL TO THE DTH

What seemed to be one of the worst droughts North Carolina had ever seen, starting with water shortages last summer, turned out to be just the start of an unfortunate environmental trend that the governor's office says might be alleviated, in part, with legislation.

Gov. Mike Easley sent one of his chief spokesmen, Deputy Press Secretary Seth Effron, to UNC on Tuesday to explain the proposed bill and press the N.C. General Assembly to take action.

Effron discussed the bill's key provisions, which include the registration of large industrial water withdrawals and transfers.

The bill also would prohibit communities from charging less for increased water usage and require them to develop water shortage plans involving water audits.

Incentives are part of the package for those who follow the guidelines.

"If communities met certain restrictions, they would receive a better opportunity to receive safe water loans from the state and tax breaks for big businesses that traditionally use a lot of water but choose to cut down," Effron said.

Effron was on campus to address the N.C. Scholastic Media Association's Summer Institute and also talked about his transition from journalism to politics.

But it was the drought that was on his mind Tuesday, from lesser shortages to the heaviest droughts in western North Carolina.

"I like to think of it as just 'drought,'" Effron said as he showed off the drought meter — a map indicating by color code which parts of the state are in which level of water distress. "If you're in one of the colors, you're in bad shape."

As of June 10, the state had seen 2.5 inches less than the previous year's rainfall total, which starts the state in a water deficit just as the dry season begins.

Effron called the current environmental state "news that oozes" — an issue that's hard to see until it's at the peak of its destruction.

In March, Easley publicly recognized the drought and called for the General Assembly to pass his legislative plan to modernize water systems, mandate conservation and



DTH/JESSICA SPRINGER

Seth Effron, deputy press secretary for Gov. Mike Easley, holds up a drought meter to explain the levels of drought throughout the state.

upgrade emergency response.

Now, with summer here and the drought spreading again across the state, Easley is pushing for urgent action, even though there have been drier times.

Ryan Boyles, director of the state climate office, said that despite the current shortage, N.C. droughts are nothing new.

"From looking at tree rings we can see that there have been worse periods of drought in the past," he said.

Easley has persisted in his campaign to deal with the water issue.

"The legislature has been in town five weeks and still has not taken up our request on authorization to deal with this drought," Easley admonished legislators in a press release June 12. "We have a drought this year, and the legislature needs to act this year."

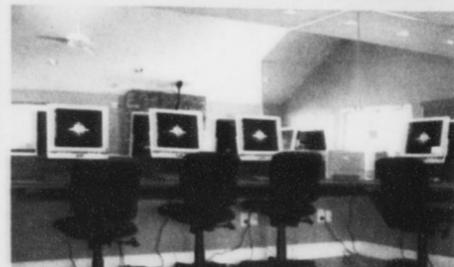
Effron said the bill is complex and will require significant input from legislative committees and staffs now focused on passing a state budget.

Some lobbyists and legislators have questioned whether the governor has the power to enact his water conservation plan and whether legislation is needed.

N.C. law states that the governor can declare the drought an emergency only if there is a threat to health and safety.

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

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