

Campaign songs have long been a part of political races

E1



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## State urged to entice Dell

Easley calls for session to approve incentives, saying 'Quick action is necessary'

By David Rice and Victoria Cherrie  
JOURNAL REPORTERS

RALEIGH

Gov. Mike Easley called yesterday for the General Assembly to meet in special session next week — just two days after Election Day — to approve incentives for Dell Inc. to build a plant that would create at least 2,000 jobs in the Triad.

"Quick action is necessary to ensure that we do not lose the project to another state," Easley

said in a letter to legislative leaders calling for the session next Thursday.

"I expect this company to provide 2,000 jobs at the facility and that there will be a resulting total of over 8,400 jobs, largely in the Triad region. We are nailing down the final pieces of the project and will have the legislation completely negotiated and drafted by the first part of next week," Easley wrote.

His letter did not name Dell, citing confidentiality agreements. But a spokeswoman for

Dell confirmed that the company is awaiting legislative action.

"We are interested in expanding in North Carolina, and the governor's legislative package will help make that possible," spokeswoman Cathie Hargett said. "But we are not in a position to comment further until the legislative deliberations are complete and the negotiations finalized."

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### Dell at a glance

- **Headquarters:** Round Rock, Texas
- **Started:** In 1984, by Michael Dell
- **Hit Fortune 500:** 1992
- **2004 revenues:** \$41.4 billion
- **Number of employees:** 50,000 worldwide
- **U.S. manufacturing:** Texas, Tennessee



MICHAEL DELL

Source: Dell Inc.

"Last week, when we beat the Yankees, to me, that ended so many of the things I thought would never end."

Ralph D'Agostino, a transplanted Boston Red Sox fan



The D'Agostino family celebrates after seeing the Red Sox win the World Series. They are Ralph (clockwise from top), Lucy, Serena, Sophia, Arel, Theresa and Carey.

## Arafat suffers sudden collapse

Doctors summoned from Jordan, wife from Paris, to be at his side

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, West Bank

An ailing Yasser Arafat, 75, collapsed last night, was unconscious for about 10 minutes and remained in serious condition. A team of Jordanian doctors was urgently summoned to treat him, and his wife headed to his side from Paris.

An official in Arafat's office said that Arafat, the Palestinian leader, had created a special committee of three senior officials, including Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, to run Palestinian affairs during his illness.

Other Palestinian officials, including his spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeneh, denied that a temporary leadership group had been formed.

Arafat was eating soup during a meeting with Qureia, former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and another official when he vomited, a body-guard said.

Arafat was taken quickly to the clinic inside his Ramallah compound, where he collapsed and was unconscious for about 10 minutes, the guard said.

Palestinian officials soon descended on the sandbagged, partially demolished compound where Arafat has been confined for 2½ years. The offi-



YASSER ARAFAT

## Curse Is Reversed

Tense night ends in joy for transplanted Red Sox fan and family

By Les Gura  
JOURNAL REPORTER

He paused in the shorthand narrative of his life: growing up a Red Sox fan, meeting his wife at Bowdoin College in Maine, moving to Winston-Salem for a job at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. He mentioned finding good Italian food (cannolis with real ricotta cheese) and great weather in North Carolina, not to mention traffic much better than in Boston, and friendly people.

Johnny Damon had just hit a leadoff home run in Game 4. Boston, 1, Cardinals, 0.

And Ralph D'Agostino got quiet.

The team he has loved since he was a kid playing Little League ball, the team that has given so many in Red Sox Nation heartbreak for so long, was doing it again. This team, a different kind of Sox team — "You can just like them," D'Agostino said — was defying its past.

The Sox were one win away from breaking an

See RED SOX, Page A9

■ The Boston Red Sox win their first World Series title in 86 years, beating the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 to complete a four-game sweep. C1.



Johnny Damon hits a solo home run in the first inning to get the Red Sox rolling.

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## Bush lead has grown, poll finds

Kerry down nine points, according to N.C. survey

By David Rice  
JOURNAL RALEIGH BUREAU

■ **Early In:** Almost 22 percent of voters will have cast ballots before Election Day, a survey by The Associated Press finds, A6.

■ **Back to School:** Richard Burr and Erskine Bowles, candidates for the U.S. Senate, stump at college campuses, B1.

■ **On the Web:** More information on the 2004 elections can be found at the Journal's Web site at www.journalnow.com

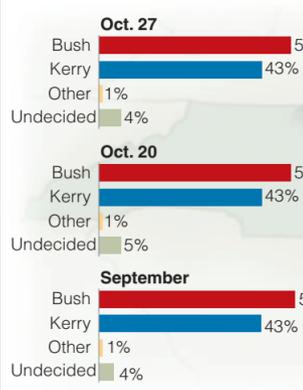
President Bush's lead over Democratic nominee John Kerry has grown slightly to nine percentage points in North Carolina, according to a statewide poll conducted this week.

"It looks like it's just kind of locked in," said Brad Coker, the managing director of Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc., which conducted the poll. "People have made up their minds, and those who haven't made up their minds — they won't affect the outcome."

The poll found that Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney are favored by

See POLL, Page A8

### Bush vs. Kerry



A poll released yesterday shows that President Bush has slightly increased his lead over John Kerry in North Carolina. Bush has maintained a steady lead over Kerry since late summer.

Source: Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc.

JOURNAL GRAPHIC BY NICHOLAS WEIR

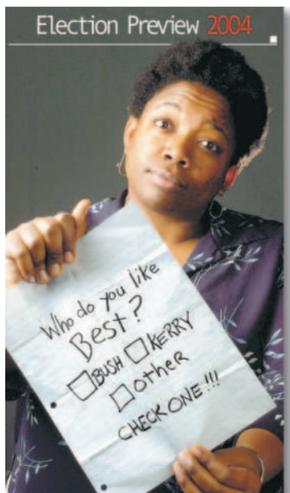
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