



# the Seahawk

"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"



Volume L I, Number 20

www.theseahawk.org

February 9, 2000

## Inside This Issue...

**HOMECOMING VICTORY!**

**CONGRATULATIONS SEAHAWKS!**



### Gifts from the heart

Students help meet Red Cross blood drive goal / 6



### Faculty Art

Professors from many departments contribute to Randall exhibit/ 18

### INDEX

Campus News ..... 3

University ..... 8

OP/ED ..... 10

Classifieds ..... 12

A & E ..... 15

The Scene ..... 16

Sports ..... 19

## SGA to consolidate legislature after elections Constitutionality of 'one-week' amendment questioned

by THOMAS M. RUYLE

Editor-In-Chief

The Student Government Association (SGA) voted last week to become a unicameral legislature after elections in March, but violated their own constitution in the process. In a week of constitutional changes unlike any seen in recent years, the very process of SGA legislation was significantly affected.

### ONE-WEEK NOTICE

An initial measure to rescind the requirement of each house of the SGA to consider constitutional amendments for one week was approved by the Senate last Monday. However, the Senate did not wait one week to vote on the amendment, as required by the constitutional rules in effect at the time. Passage of the amendment, however, was vital to the passing of the major reform package approved the next day.

Attorney General Christian Kilgore explained to the Senate that the nature of the amendment justified the decision to vote on it early. "It stands to reason that if the entire body was in favor of changing it, it would be a little silly for us to have to wait a week," Kilgore said at Monday's meeting.

Senator Lee Keenen disagreed. Keenen initiated a debate on the matter, and voiced his concern about the rules in effect at the time. "We're not following the constitution when we are trying to change it...you have to follow the letter of the law," he said.

Senator Yancey Gulley maintained that the constitution was being followed. He said, "We have had prior notice of this. That notice has been in front of us for a couple of weeks now." Gulley pointed out that the entire Senate knew of the proposal for some time, although it had not been formally introduced in the Senate until that evening. Vice-President Nathan Powell echoed Gulley's comments. "If you (the Senate) are comfortable voting on this...let's go ahead and get cranking on this. We can debate 'notice' until the sun comes up," he said.

The motion passed by a vast majority. Senator Shane Fernando voted against it, while Senators Keenen and Gus Fennell abstained. "My feeling is that the constitution should be interpreted literally.



Thomas M. Ruyle/The Seahawk

The SGA Senate votes on a constitutional change last Tuesday. Several amendments, which change the structure and standards and procedures of the SGA, were passed last week.

I agreed entirely with what was being passed, but I think that we should abide by the constitution when we're working to amend it," Fernando said. "I was voting against the process in which it was being conducted."

After the meeting, Kilgore agreed that the Senate was supposed to wait one week to vote but defended the decision to vote immediately. "There's wide latitude for the spirit of the law...if the body is in favor of the change, let the change promptly occur rather than force it to be bound by something that they were changing" he said. Keenen criticized the entire process after Monday's meeting, saying that the SGA was not following its own rules. "I abstained from voting because I believe...it was unconstitutional to vote on an amendment that hadn't sat in front of us - formally - for at least a week," he said. "Notice' is very ambiguous."

He also expressed concern that the lack of the one-week wait before amendment voting can open the door to constitutional changes at a whim. "All they need to do is get so many people together, a

See SGA, page 5

## Seahawks net homecoming victory over ODU

by ROSA TYSOR

Staff Writer

"Sometimes you're the bug and sometimes you're the windshield. Those things happen," said Old Dominion University head coach Jeff Capel, after his team fell to the UNCW Seahawks in this year's homecoming basketball game. The game's final score was 66-60.

After a two-point lead at the half, UNCW jumped back into the mix with a 7-0 run in the middle of the second half. The Seahawks took a 42-34 lead off of a three-pointer by reserve forward Stewart Hare with 13:34 left on the clock.

ODU rallied, however, cutting the lead to six points on a Skipper Youngblood layup with 9:23 left on the clock.

Oleg Kojenets was able to take charge, driving the Seahawks to a comfortable 13-point lead with six straight points, capping the run with two free throws at 4:41.

Kojenets and Blizzard put together back-to-back baskets with just under two minutes left, and the Seahawks coasted from there.

See HAWKS, page 5



James Flint/The Seahawk

UNCW guard Ramond Perrine takes a shot against Old Dominion University in last Saturday's Homecoming victory. UNCW beat ODU 66-60.