

# the Seahawk

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VOLUME LII NUMBER 21

WWW.THESEAHAWK.ORG

MARCH 14, 2002

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## Champs again!! Seahawks win second CAA Championship

JESSIE NUNERY

STAFF WRITER

Richmond, VA— Ed Williams kept all the clippings from last year's newspapers that described the heart-break surrounding UNCW's loss in the CAA finals to George Mason. Williams and the other Seahawks can now toss those clippings into the trash after defeating Virginia Commonwealth 66-51 in last Monday's 2002 Colonial Athletic Association Championship game.

The Seahawks cruised comfortably by James Madison, Delaware and VCU in consecutive days to earn their second CAA championship in three years and most notably, earn their second ever trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Playing as the number one seed, the Seahawks showed why they were the best team in the conference. Led by tournament MVP Brent Blizard, who poured in 58 points over the three-game stretch, the Seahawks won each game by an average of 15



Coach Wainwright celebrates the Seahawks CAA Championship by removing the net that will keep it as a memento.

points, nearly topping a conference record.

In Saturday's quarterfinals, Blizard was unstoppable. The junior guard from Tallahassee, Fla. connected on five three-pointers, scor-

ing 29 points as UNCW knocked off ninth-seeded James Madison 78-62.

Sunday's semifinal placed the Seahawks in a tough matchup against

SEE CAA, PAGE 9

## Students protest for 24-hour visitation

WILL KLINGER

STAFF WRITER

Nearly 15 students carrying protest signs and noisemakers marched across campus late last month trying

to rally student support to create 24-hour visitation in on-campus housing.

The march, organized by freshman Roey Rosenblith, began at the International House and progressed

limited visitation hours severely hamper students' ability to experience a truly independent college life.

"Under the current policy I have to sign in other people's friends overnight. My friend had a birthday party, and we had to sign in her guy friends so we could celebrate," said professor Michael Pavlona, a freshman and resident of Schwarz Hall.

Rosenblith said he feels he represents a majority of the university's student body on the issue of removing visitation hours in all on-campus housing facilities.

The march ended at the Warwick Center, where the Resident Housing Association was holding a scheduled conference to discuss visitation and other issues.

Rosenblith spoke on behalf of the protestors on the issue at the meeting and presented the association with a petition filled with hundreds of signatures.

SEE 24-HOUR, PAGE 3



Students gather outside the Warwick Center to demand 24-hour visitation in on-campus housing.

## Speaker for graduation cut

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Changes to the spring commencement ceremony will leave this year's class without a commencement speaker to allow time to call the names of all graduates.

The commencement, to be held Saturday, May 18 will consist of two large ceremonies, one at 9:30 a.m. for the professional schools and another at 1:30 p.m. for the College of Arts and Sciences. Several departments will have receptions following the larger ceremony.

The decision to do without a speaker, made after a recommendation from the chancellor's cabinet, was approved by the chancellor-appointed commencement convocation committee after talk that the speaker was secondary to calling the names of graduates.

"We wanted to put the focus back on student recognition rather than on a keynote speaker," said Ron Whittaker, registrar and commencement convocation committee member.

The decision came as a result of student requests to re-prioritize the central feature of graduation, as well as to address university budget concerns, Whittaker said. The university is currently unable to pay expensive graduation speakers, and so in past relied on government speakers so that travel and accommodations may be paid per diem.

This year, the ceremony will feature dignitaries from within the UNC system and members of the board of trustees as presenters to recognize the seniors who have completed their degree requirements and fulfilled their graduation needs.

"I think this (decision) is really positive," Whittaker said.