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Open Meetings Lawsuit Against UNC to Head to Court

By JESSICA JOYE
Staff Writer

A student who applied for in-state resident status is alleging a University committee shut the doors to her case illegally, and now the battle will go to court in two weeks.

Junior Tait Davidson has filed a lawsuit against UNC's Residence Status Committee, alleging it did not adhere to the North Carolina Open Meetings Law in a November ruling.

Davidson applied for in-state status for the fall 1999 term and was denied this request for unspecified reasons by the Residence Status Committee, which holds its meetings under the N.C. Open Meetings Law of 1971.

According to that statute, any public body hearing, deliberation or action must be conducted openly.

A 1997 Senate bill amended the law, saying that committees are required to "keep a general account of the closed session so that a person not in attendance

would have a reasonable understanding of what transpired."

The Residence Status Committee's Nov. 22 meeting was permissibly closed to the public, although Davidson and her attorney, Brad Lamb, were present along with the three committee members.

But after 55 minutes of discussion and presentation of evidence, Davidson and Lamb were asked to leave as the committee reviewed the evidence, Lamb said.

The committee then sent a letter Nov. 23 communicating that Davidson's

request had been denied by a two-to-one vote, Lamb said. The only record the letter provided of what happened in Davidson and Lamb's absence was that the committee "reviewed the evidence and decided the appellant had not met the requirements for in-state status."

Lamb said both he and his client felt this letter provided an inaccurate description of the closed part of the meeting. "We didn't have a grasp on why they decided against us," Lamb said.

He said the committee's failure to accu-

rately record minutes was in violation of the law and affected Davidson's knowledge of whether to pursue future appeals.

Davidson's lawsuit asks the Orange County Superior Court to declare the decision null and void, to provide her with a new hearing and for the committee to be ordered to comply with the record-keeping requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

Davidson could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Lamb filed the petition Jan. 6. It was

then delayed by January's snow and a further postponement requested by UNC.

UNC has filed a motion to dismiss the case, which will be heard April 10. Lamb said he anticipated the trial would begin May 15. Lamb said he hoped to get the case settled soon.

"A university for the people should protect the rights of the people, but in this case, I think they see it differently."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

Tar Heels, Vols to Duel in Texas

Tennessee's Black, Haywood Exchange Shots Through Press

By BRIAN MURPHY
Senior Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — If Tennessee's C.J. Black is as good on the court as he is at a press conference, North Carolina might be in trouble.

Black, a 6-foot-8 center, brought his "A" game to Thursday's pregame press conference for Friday's South Regional and gave warning to UNC's Brendan Haywood.

"I can play inside or outside," Black said. "He's going to have to respect me. I'm going to test his quickness out on the floor. He will have to respect me fully. If he doesn't respect my jumper, I'm going to have a career night."

Black, averaging 9.1 points and 5.3 rebounds per game, didn't wait until he arrived in Austin to disparage Haywood. In Wednesday's edition of The (Nashville) Tennessean, Black questioned Haywood's heart.

Haywood, who had seen Black's comments, said he thought they were a joke. But then Tar Heel forward Julius Peppers printed them off the Internet.

"I read it. If that's what he feels, fine. We'll see Friday," Haywood said. "They like to talk a lot. If they get a little layup, they're jumping around and getting hype."

But Haywood, who said Black's comments would make it to the Tar Heel bulletin board, wouldn't get into a war of words with Black.

"Coach Guthridge is not going to let us put anything like that in the paper," he said.

The verbal jousting adds to what should be the most important matchup in tonight's game. Haywood and the rest of UNC's imposing frontline present a challenge for the smaller Volunteers.

Black will be primarily responsible for guarding Haywood. But he will get plenty of help from Tennessee's guards cheating down and from reserves, like the 6-11 Charles Hathaway and 6-10 Marcus Haislip.

"We might double down," Black said. "We just want to make it tough for him."

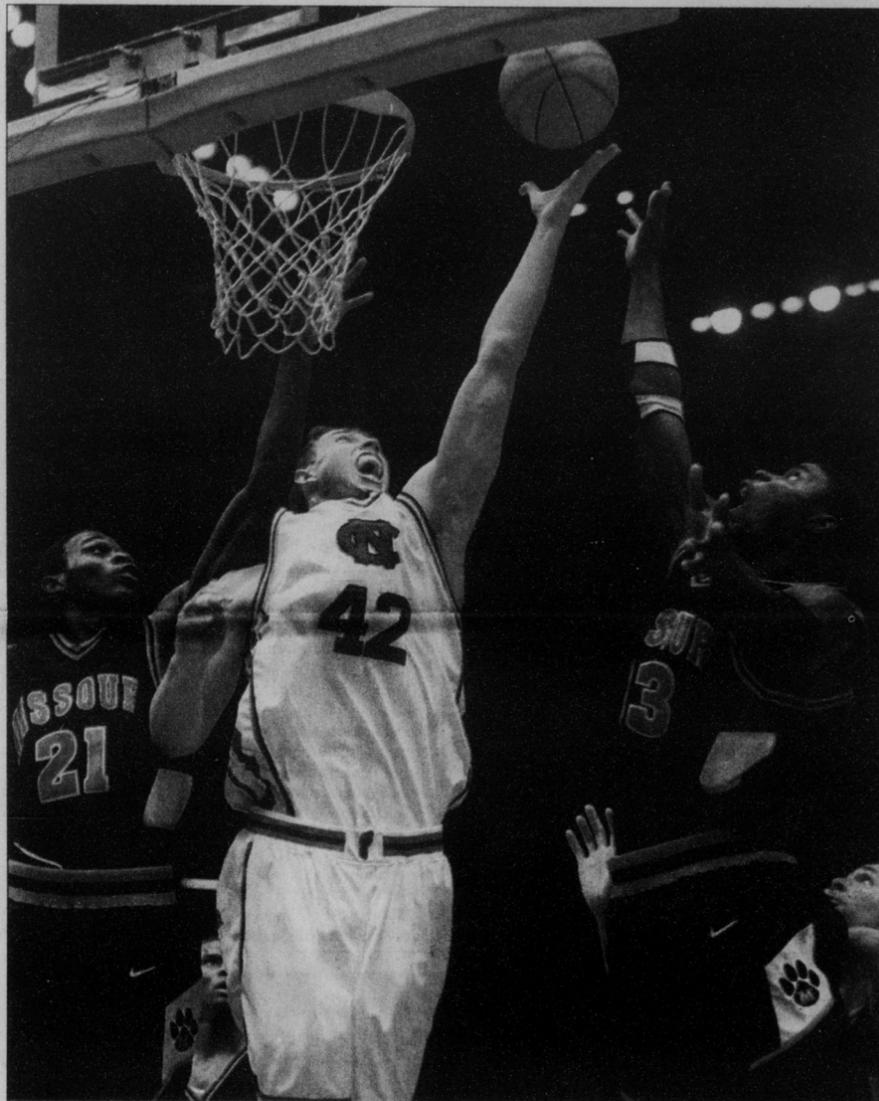
Tennessee does have experience guarding big men, such as Auburn's Mamadou N'diaye and Jamaal Magloire of Kentucky. But the Tar Heels, with 6-11 Kris Lang at power for-

See MEN'S BASKETBALL, Page 2



Coach Guthridge Deals With Loss Of His Mother

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North Carolina forward Kris Lang, center, vies for a rebound against Missouri forward Kareem Rush (21) and center Tajudeen Soyoye during the Tar Heels' first-round victory. Lang has 21 points in two tournament games.

Teasley Leaves Postseason Foes In Her Tracks

Point guard Nikki Teasley amassed six points and four assists in her nine possessions, using a play UNC called the "Baseline."

By T. NOLAN HAYES
Sports Editor

OXNARD, Calif. — Playing good defense against most teams allows you to force them to rush up a low-percentage shot as the shot clock expires.

That leads to success.

But playing good defense against North Carolina often earns you a one-on-one matchup with Nikki Teasley.

That leads to embarrassment.

When the Tar Heels cycle through one of their halfcourt sets and fail to get a good shot from it, Teasley goes to get the ball. She waves her four teammates away, and they line up on the baseline in a 1-4 alignment with about 10 seconds left on the shot clock.

Then the show begins.

Teasley goes to work on her defender — or defenders — and either sets up a teammate for an open shot or creates one for herself. The play, which the Tar Heels call "Baseline," is successful more often than not and serves as a get-out-of-jail-free card during times when UNC struggles to get a good shot.

"It's been said throughout the country that nobody can guard me one-on-one," said Teasley, whose ankle-breaking cross-over dribble has made some defenders trip and fall on the floor this year. "Not being cocky or anything, but I have a lot of confidence in myself, and I believe in that. So when I've got the ball, I just score whichever way I can."

"Now, people are bringing two and three guards up to help, and that's just leaving people open, so that's fine with me. I've got confidence in my teammates that they'll knock the shots down, and that's just racking up assists for me."

The decision of how to guard Teasley, who celebrated her 21st birthday Wednesday, is a difficult one for UNC's opponents. Rice tried a little bit of everything in its 83-50 NCAA second-round loss to the Tar Heels and failed miserably much of the time.

In the nine times Teasley ran "Baseline" against the Owls, UNC came away with 18 points. Teasley tallied six points, four assists and one turnover in those possessions.

Rice played her straight up in the first half. Teasley got her defender back on her heels and swished a triple in her face on one possession and completed a three-point play after being hacked shooting a floater on another.

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Death Row Survivor Shares Tale

Former Death Row inmate Darby Tillis spent nine years in an Illinois prison before he was cleared and released.

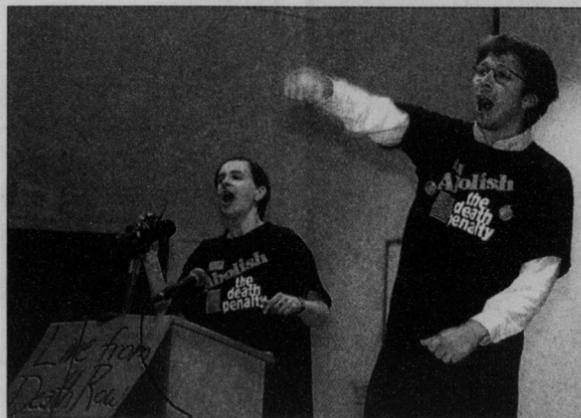
By KATE MACEK
Staff Writer

Imagine being wrongly accused of murder, tried, convicted and sentenced to death. After spending nine years in prison, freedom is finally awarded but without compensation.

This is Darby Tillis' reality.

He spent more than four years on death row and was finally released in 1987. Now at age 57, he has learned to funnel his frustration into a productive fight against capital punishment.

Tillis shared his experiences with



Greg Pettis, a member of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, leads a chant of "They say death row, we say hell no!" Thursday night.

UNC students, faculty and community members Thursday night in a program sponsored by the Campaign to End the Death Penalty.

Still charged over the injustice he suffered, Tillis told the Manning Hall audience of the racism and corruption he said penetrated the judicial system and the institution of the death penalty.

"In my first television interview, I

was asked five times if I was angry. I wasn't angry," Tillis said. "But after 13 years of watching the same thing happen to other men, I'm angry as hell."

Prior to Tillis' speech, death row inmate Stanley Howard joined the program from Chicago via telephone. Howard is a member of the Death Row

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Local Bars Gear Up For Game-Time Suds

By JENNY ROSSER
Staff Writer

With the North Carolina men's basketball team's unexpected showing in tonight's game, local watering holes are preparing for the influx of fans into every place with a television and beer.

Harold Baines, an employee of Goodfellows, located at 149-1/2 E. Franklin St., said the bar was well-prepared for the expected crowds looking for a place to watch the UNC-Tennessee NCAA matchup.

"The (Budweiser) guys are on standby if we win," Baines said.

He said the bar would have normal hours tonight, but that Sunday hours could change depending on the game.

Jim Couch, manager of BW-3 Restaurant, located at 206 W. Franklin St., said game time influenced the amount of business generated.

He said earlier games were often better for business because people who

watched the game also ordered dinner. But Couch said tonight's game should prove to be profitable because the restaurant would most likely be at full capacity by 8 p.m. "People who try to get here for the game won't have much luck getting in," he said.

Jerry West, manager of Woody's Tar Heel Tavern and Grill, located at 175 E. Franklin St., said the sports bar was stocked with extra beer and food.

"You have to order extra food to soak up all of the alcohol," he said.

West advised fans who planned to watch the game at Woody's to be at the bar by 6 p.m. if they wanted to get in.

Siera Ciocci, a bartender at Linda's Bar and Grill, located at 203 E. Franklin St., said that although game nights often got hectic, this year's crowds had been tamer than those in the past.

Ciocci said she was not working tonight but that she planned to watch

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INSIDE Friday

Students Plug UNC

The Student Ambassador Program, a student-government organized group, will make its first visit to N.C. high schools this weekend. The program, which began this year, aims to make high schoolers more familiar with UNC and clear up questions about the University's complex admission and financial aid processes. See Page 5.

The Pen Is Mightier ...

Take the helm and lead The Daily Tar Heel into the next millennium. Apply to be the next editor.

Applications are available in the DTH front office and are due by noon Friday. For more information, contact Editor Rob Nelson at 962-4086 or at rnelson@email.unc.edu.

Today's Weather

Sunny;
Low 70s.
Saturday: Sunny,
Upper 70s.

Winning isn't the most important thing. It's the only thing.

Red Saunders