Forte Enters Draft, Plans to Leave UNC

Joseph Forte took the final exam of his sophomore year on May 11 and left Chapel Hill later that day to head home

In between, he announced his intentions to head to the NBA and in effect bring an end to his playing days at North Carolina.

Forte entered his name into the NBA Draft and will forego his final seasons of college eligibility. He is one of a record 58 underclassmen to declare for the

"It has been a goal of mine to be an NBA player, and it appears I will be drafted in the first round with a guaranteed four-year contract," Forte said in a statement. "Therefore, I'll have the opportunity to fulfill this lifetime dream.

"I've had two great years at Carolina, as a student and as an athlete. I'm grateful to my teammates and to the two coaching staffs under whom I played which helped me improve as a

Forte, a first-team All-American, led the Tar Heels during the 2000-2001 season by averaging 20.9 points a game. The 6-foot-4 guard led all ACC players at his position with an average of 6.1 rebounds a contest

Forte said in the statement that he

plans to return to school for the second mmer session so he can continue

working towards earning his degree.

"Coach (Dean) Smith, Coach (Bill)
Guthridge and I certainly wish Joseph
the best," UNC coach Matt Doherty said in a statement.

"He has been an excellent student athlete, and he will continue to be a part of the Carolina basketball family. We do feel he will have a great NBA career.'

Forte's departure means the Tar Heels will probably be without five of their top seven players from last sea-

Center Brendan Haywood and reserve guard Max Owens graduated, and Ronald Curry and Julius Peppers will likely focus on their professional

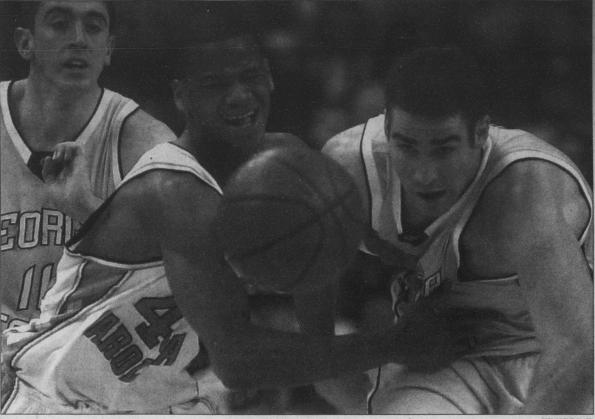
football prospects next spring.

A mock draft at ESPN.com projects that the Charlotte Hornets will select Forte with the 16th overall pick.

The mock draft has the Orlando

Magic selecting Haywood one pick ear-

"As has been the history at Carolina, we seek to find out approximately where a young man stands in the draft," Doherty said. "We then present our findings to him and his family, and they make the final decision. Although we are disappointed for next year's team, we support Joseph and his family in



UNC guard Joseph Forte fights for the ball against Geogia Tech forward Jon Babul during the 2001 Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. Forte decided to forego his remaining two years at UNC to enter the NBA draft.

Bill to Stop Adultery Claims in Debate Democrats Might Get

RALEIGH, N.C. – Questions of what's good or bad for family converged in a Senate committee debate Tuesday over a bill that would eliminate adultery and alienation of affection claims in civil

More than 40 states have eliminated or limited the use of these English common law torts, or civil actions,

The House last month passed the measure after proponents said the torts are outdated and recall a time when

wives were treated as property.
"The law allowed the husband to recover for his loss when his property had been interfered with," bill sponsor, Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, told a Senate judiciary panel. "It simply is time for us to do away with these causes of action," he said.

Jilted wives and husbands can seek damages for alienation of affection against their spouse's lover or companion, citing a loss of intimacy and happy married relationship. Jurors must determine the lover performed wrongful acts that brought about the

lost relationship.

Damages for adultery, known in common law as "criminal conversation," can be made if a plaintiff can prove the defendant had sexual intercourse with the plaintiff's spouse.

Attorneys opposing the ban say the alienation of affection tort serves a use-

has destroyed a marriage.
"This is a tort that's not for every situation. It's a rare tort but that needs to be there," said Jim Walker, a Burlington torney who represented a woman in a high-profile alienation case

His client, Dorothy Hutelmyer, received \$1 million for another woman's involvement in breaking up Hutelmyer's marriage.

These two torts are pro-family, promarriage and pro-children," said Ed Parker, a Winston-Salem attorney who has handled similar cases. "To abolish these torts is to say that adultery is OK."

Hackney, a family law attorney for nearly 30 years, said he's never seen the torts used to help a family stay together. revenge or leverage in child custody or

"There's no evidence showing that this tort preserves the family," said Suzanne Reynolds, a family law professor at Wake Forest University law school. "... It is the pro-family, familyfriendly position to take.'

Jim Maxwell with the North Carolina Bar Association, which supports the bill, said the spouses could still sue in civil court for intentional infliction of emotional distress should the torts be elimi-

No vote was taken on the bill and likely won't until early June after the Senate passes its budget, said Sen. Kay Hagan, the chairwoman of the judiciary

Control of U.S. Senate

The Republican party could lose its Senate majority if Senator Jim Jeffords leaves the GOP after 13 years.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney worked urgently Tuesday to prevent vet eran Sen. Jim Jeffords from leaving the Republican party and delivering control of the Senate to the Democrats. "I'm considering a lot of things," said the Vermont lawmaker.

Jeffords, a committee chairman who frequently crosses party lines on highprofile issues, has had strained relations with the White House. Officials said he met during the day first with Cheney and later with Bush at the White House.

Senior Republican officials said on condition of anonymity that the presiurged Jeffords to remain Republican, but the senator refused to commit either way.

A switch - whether to the Democrats or to become an independent - could have profound implications for the Senate, currently divided 50-50 along party lines, as well as for Bush's legisla tive agenda. The party with a majority controls the flow of legislation in committees and on the Senate floor, and

"I very much want him to stay. I expect that he will," said Senate GOP Whip Don Nickles. "He's a very, very valuable member of our caucus. I hope and expect he will stay in our caucus. Jeffords appears to have enormous

holds all the committee chairmanships.

influence in the current Senate, divided 50-50 along party lines. In addition to his chairmanship of the committee with jurisdiction over health and education egislation, he holds a seat on the Finance Committee, with its sway over tax and trade policy. As a Republican who sometimes votes with Democrats, he also is in a position to exert leverage

on the White House and GOP leadership.
Asked about his plans, Jeffords said, "Lots of people are trying to get me to do different things."

It was unclear whether Jeffords intended to bolt from the party that has

been his home for nearly a quarter-century in Congress, or was publicly vent-ing his irritation with his treatment at the hands of the White House and GOP majority in the Senate

Jeffords angered the White House this spring when he refused to support Bush's budget with its \$1.6 trillion, 10year tax cut. Instead, he sided with a bipartisan group of lawmakers who forced changes on the Senate floor. The result was the first high-profile defeat for the new administration

Shortly after that, Jeffords was not invited to the White House for a National Teacher of the Year award ceremony honoring a Vermont high school educator, a move widely viewed as political payback.

Former Sen. Robert Stafford, R-Vt., whom Jeffords replaced in the Senate in 1989, said Tuesday his successor called him this week to seek his advice.
"I think he is very seriously consid-

ering what would be the wisest thing for him and for Vermont," said Stafford. "I have no idea from that conversation what he intends to do.

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Helms Will Announce Senate Plans by Sept.

Sen. Jesse Helms says he will consult with his wife before deciding to run for a sixth term as N.C. Senator.

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. - Sen. Jesse Helms said Saturday he will announce by September whether he will run for re-

The Republican told about 400 peo-ple attending the state Republican Party convention that he and his wife, Dot, will make decide together whether he'll run again in 2002. An announcement by fall should give fellow Republicans enough time to put together a campaign if he decides against trying for a sixth term, he said. But "I ain't saying I ain't running yet,"

Helms said after the audience clapped for several minutes, chanting "Run, Jesse, run.'

as served in the Senate since 1973. He has been battling ailments that have raised questions about whether he will be able to run again

He sat in a leather armchair during a question-and-answer session Saturday and appeared to walk surely, if slowly,

Helms often uses a motorized scooter on Capitol Hill. He had knee replacement surgery in 1998.

His staff released a doctor's letter in February that said Helms was in good

neatm.

Dr. John Eisold, the attending physician to Congress, said Helms' heart is "sound" and his blood pressure "excellent." Helms appeared to have recovered from pneumonia that hospitalized

On Saturday, Helms repeated familiar themes – such as urging politicians to be more mindful of God – and sized up personalities from new Mexican President Vicente Fox to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Helms met Fox, whom he called "a perfectly charming man," in April when the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee traveled to Mexico with other committee members. Helms held what were described as

cordial meetings with Fox and other Mexican politicians after years of castigating the country and opposing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

tells him to do. He's not as conservative as I am, but who is?"

Helms said he and Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., have cordial relations. But not as cordial, Helms said, as Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who called for Mrs. Clinton to give him a hug after

their first meeting in the Senate.

"Jesse Helms did not get up and say,
Lady, I want to hug you," Helms said.

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Vatican Revisits Directives

VATICAN CITY - Discussing the future of the Roman Catholic church, Cardinals have raised the issue of the gulf between Vatican directives on sex and other sensitive issues and the reality back at the parish.

Some cardinals pointed to problems f "communication" between the Vatican and its worldwide dioceses at a closed-door meeting Tuesday, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. Pope John Paul II summoned the car-

dinals for three days of talks on challenges facing the church in the third millennium. The gathering also gives the princes of the church, as cardinals are known, an oppor-tunity to get to know one another for the time when they will have to vote for a suc-cessor to the 81-year-old John Paul.

Speeches from several of the 153 car dinals present Tuesday touched on the Vatican policy stressing the traditional family of husband and wife.

In addressing his fellow cardinals, Archbishop Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadelphia cited U.S. Census Bureau statistics showing the increasing number of Americans living together but not marrying and the number of children born out of wedlock.

The head of the Vatican's office on

office was putting together a dictionary of sexual terms. The spokesman said it would reflect "new usages such as sexual health and gender."

John Paul has made improving relations with non-Catholics a major goal of

the family, Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo of Colombia, announced his

his papacy. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of England suggested Vatican organize a major meeting of leaders of various Christian denominations.

Today, John Paul will celebrate Mass with the cardinals and join them for

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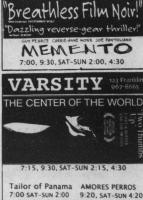
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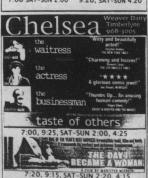
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