

ACC snags Miami, Va. Tech in expansion

SYRACUSE, BOSTON COLLEGE LEFT OUT IN UNEXPECTED VOTE BY CONFERENCE LEADERS

BY TIM CANDON
SENIOR WRITER

When Big East Commissioner Mike Tranghese ripped into ACC Commissioner John Swofford in late April for trying to lure three schools away from the Big East and to the ACC, it looked as if ACC expansion was a done deal.

But it wasn't even close. Weeks of campus visits and conference calls ensued, and in the end what was supposed to be a 12-team super conference that would have added Miami, Boston College and Syracuse wound up adding only two members — Miami and Virginia Tech — leaving onlookers wondering how a sure thing came not to be.

"Our best path in a changing landscape was to grow," Swofford said at the July 1 press conference formally announcing the admission of Miami and VT to the ACC. "And I believe that a superb decision was reached to invite Miami and Virginia Tech to join us. I think that this will truly enhance all of us, and we're here tonight to celebrate Virginia Tech and the University of Miami becoming an integral part of the Atlantic Coast Conference."

While Swofford called the Hokies

integral after they had joined, they weren't wanted in the beginning.

Miami, Boston College and Syracuse were supposed to be the new members, which would've allowed the ACC to hold a lucrative football conference championship game. The additions of BC and Syracuse also would've opened the ACC up to the TV markets of Boston and New York, which the ACC was going to use as leverage after the 2005 season, when its current television deal runs out.

But after campus visits to Miami, BC and Syracuse, a formal vote to add those three schools never took place. Duke President Nan Keohane and North Carolina Chancellor James Moeser were staunchly opposed to expansion.

That wouldn't have been a problem because expansion only needed seven yes votes to pass, but Virginia President John Casteen III came under pressure from Virginia Gov. Mark Warner to vote against any expansion plan that excluded the Cavaliers' in-state rival, Va. Tech.

Casteen obliged, bringing expansion to a standstill.

After a conference call June 24,

Swofford called for a vote from the ACC Council of Presidents, and it then was proposed that Virginia Tech be included with only Miami as additions to the ACC.

The vote passed by a 7-2 margin. While it was a plan no one saw coming, the potential existed for it to still fall apart.

Miami President Donna Shalala said she and Athletics Director Paul Dee would need to take the weekend to mull over joining the ACC.

Miami was surprised by the invitation to the Hokies and needed time to look at financial projections of an 11-team conference.

Dee and Shalala ultimately decided that the long-term advantages of the ACC outweighed their current status in the Big East. But the decision was not an easy one.

"In coming here tonight, it's really bittersweet for me and for the University of Miami because we really do wish to accept this invitation in the way that it's intended and the way it's meant," Dee said on July 1.

"But we also leave behind great friends and great universities in the Big East Conference."



Miami Director of Athletics Paul Dee (left) accepts a polo shirt from ACC Commissioner John Swofford at a July 1 press conference where the conference formally announced the additions of Miami and Virginia Tech.

Virginia Tech, however, was a little more giddy about its invitation.

"Virginia Tech is pleased to have received an invitation for membership into the Atlantic Coast Conference," said John Rocovich, head of the VT Board of Visitors. "It shows the ACC and its mem-

ber schools hold our athletic program and our university in high regard."

While the end that came was unexpected, the ACC said that it was a positive conclusion and that the future is bright.

"Working with these outstanding

members, both of whom share academic and athletic agendas, we believe the best days of the ACC lie ahead," said Georgia Tech President G. Wayne Clough.

Contact the Sports Editor at sports@unc.edu.

GROUPS GRAPPLE AGAIN OVER SUMMER READING

Group says book shows liberal bias

BY BONNIE KLUTZ
STAFF WRITER

The Committee for a Better Carolina — a conservative UNC group — spoke out in July against what it called the liberal bias represented by the University's Summer Reading Program.

The committee has argued that this year's book selection, Barb Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America," is a one-sided view of the conditions of low-wage workers.

"This book is not very academically or intellectually done or useful," said Michael McKnight, the committee's leader.

"They need to at least provide a balance — two perspectives."

Last year, UNC selected Michael Sells' "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations," which was criticized by another conservative group, the Family Policy Network.

State Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Caswell, a UNC alumnus, said that he opposed this year's selection and that Ehrenreich's account lacks any academic value.

"I refer to (the book) as intellectual pornography with no redeeming qualities," he said.

He added that he is "disappointed that my alma mater can't find a book that's no more academically and intellectually challenging than that two-bit novella. Our University can do better."

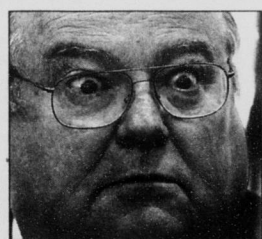
The book, Webster said, might even have a negative impact on students. "I don't think there's anything in this book to give a student what he needs to keep trying."

McKnight said the reading selection is representative of a much larger problem at UNC, where he thinks the faculty is overwhelmingly liberal. "When discussing issues, it's helpful to have balanced perspectives," he said.

Sophomore Tripp Costas, a member of the Committee for a Better Carolina, echoed McKnight's rationale. "It's just lack of objectivity in the intellectual community."

Joe Stansbury of the John William Pope Foundation — which funded newspaper adver-

SEE READING CON, PAGE 5



Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Alamance, shows his displeasure with UNC.



Tepper, others defend selection

BY ALESIA DICOSOLA
STAFF WRITER

A coalition of UNC student organizations held a Raleigh press conference July 15, focusing on academic freedom and the importance of fostering discussion.

Student Body President Matt Tepper, alongside representatives from 11 student organizations, met with state legislators to voice support for the summer's reading selection for incoming freshmen.

The book, Barbara Ehrenreich's "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America," details her experiences working minimum-wage jobs among America's poor.

For the second year in a row, UNC's selection has been scrutinized.

This time, the criticism has come from the Committee for a Better Carolina. In response to the committee's newspaper ads, which claimed that the book has a liberal bias, Tepper and a number of student leaders decided to hold the conference.

"(The committee) took everything out of context," said senior

Justin Guillory, representing UNC's Young Democrats.

He said the press conference itself was an example of how the book can foster intellectual discussion.

A number of state legislators as well as representatives from UE Local 150, the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, also were present at the event.

Tepper began the discussion by pointing out that the students in attendance represented a diverse

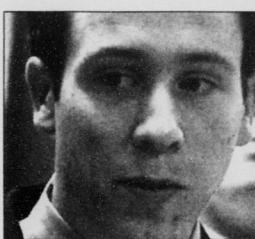
cross-section of the UNC population and that they were not funded by any outside groups.

The Committee for a Better Carolina's ads were funded by the Raleigh-based John William Pope Foundation.

Tepper called the book "a legitimate selection" and praised it for the debate and discussion it has sparked.

Incoming freshman Anne Marsh Treadwell of Fayetteville also spoke highly of the book as "an informative and extremely worthwhile assignment."

SEE READING PRO, PAGE 5



Matt Tepper defends UNC's choice at the General Assembly.

UNC accepts court ruling

Affirmative action policy upheld

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

UNC officials praised the U.S. Supreme Court's June 23 decision to allow colleges and universities to use race as a factor in admissions processes and said the court's findings won't alter the structure of UNC's own race-conscious policies.

"We'll be unaffected," said Chancellor James Moeser.

The court voted 5-4 in ruling that the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor was acting constitutionally by giving preference to minorities in admitting applicants.

In a separate ruling, the court upheld a decision to ban UM's point-based admissions system by a 6-3 vote, ruling that the system violated the 14th Amendment, which demands equal protection

SEE AFF-ACTION, PAGE 5

Threat of SARS dies down at University

Campus formed plans just in case

BY MEREDITH OAKES
STAFF WRITER

After the first case of severe acute respiratory syndrome in North Carolina was confirmed, local health centers leapt into action. Officials now are returning to their normal pace.

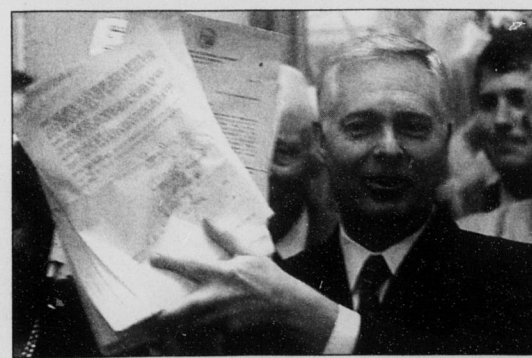
An Orange County man was diagnosed with SARS on June 6, and local officials began taking steps to identify other possible cases.

It was the eighth confirmed case of SARS in the United States and the first in North Carolina.

Eight other suspected cases had been reported in North Carolina between March 19 and April 28. All recovered fully, and their lab tests for SARS turned out negative.

SEE SARS, PAGE 5

State budget includes 5 percent tuition hike



Gov. Mike Easley holds up a copy of the state budget after the General Assembly passed it June 30. It passed on time for the 1st time in 3 years.

BY ELLIOTT DUBE
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The possibility of a partial government shutdown. Heated debate over a one-time federal aid infusion and increased alcohol and tobacco taxes. The looming shadow of a shortfall of hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. State legislators staying up well past their traditional bedtimes.

All these things ended when Gov. Mike Easley signed a new \$14.8 billion state budget plan into law June 30, beating the start of the new fiscal year by hours.

A significant game of tug of war had taken place in state legislative offices, halls and chambers since April 17, when the House offered the first in a string

of budget proposals and possibilities. The Senate countered with its own plan, bringing two months of compromise amid a struggling economy.

"It is always a formidable challenge in tough economic times to find a way to keep a budget balanced and to pass one to begin with," Easley told budget writers and members of the press.

Both chambers of the General Assembly also approved adjustments to the plan to assuage some of the governor's worries.

Easley had warned legislators that he would veto the bill if it came to his desk unchanged, saying they were being too optimistic in anticipating revenue growth of 5.5 percent for the 2004-05 fiscal

year and that the plan was unbalanced by more than \$400 million.

But the governor stepped away from his threat once legislators passed the Budget Adjustment Act, which gives Easley the power to take \$50 million out of the state's "rainy day fund" for every 1/2 percent of expected growth that goes unmet for the second year of the biennium.

The plan puts \$150 million into the rainy day fund and \$50 million into a repairs and renovations fund, among other allocations.

Democratic Rep. James Crawford of Vance County, a co-chairman of the conference committee, said budget writers devel-

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 5

INSIDE

LOCAL ELECTION SEASON HEATS UP
One UNC student, one employee join those hoping to win Chapel Hill Town Council seats. PAGE 6



INSIDE

PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL
N.C. Sen. John Edwards continues his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination. PAGE 8

NEWS UPDATES

- Tepper kicks off year as SBP
- UNC Hospitals among best in nation
- BOT approves new general counsel
- Town Council examines Master Plan
- Campus sees host of new deans
- Proposed act tough on file sharing