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ACC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The North Carolina women's basketball team celebrates after its 88-67 ACC Championship victory against Duke on Monday — the Tar Heels' first conference tournament crown since 1998. DTH PHOTOS/BRANDON SMITH

Bill would affect BOG

Students want a say on key board

BY VICTORIA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

The passing of a proposed bill in the N.C. Senate could allow a student to directly affect issues including tuition rates and enrollment policies.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange, proposes that the student member on the UNC-system's Board of Governors have the same voting right as appointed members.



N.C. Sen. Ellie Kinnaird is sponsoring a bill to increase student voice.

A seat currently is reserved for the president of the Association of Student Governments or a delegate to sit on committees and to join talks.

SEE VOTE, PAGE 4

CLEAN SWEEP SEALS ACC TITLE

BY JACOB KARABELL
SENIOR WRITER

GREENSBORO

As last year's North Carolina women's basketball team watched Duke celebrate its fifth straight ACC Tournament championship, then-freshman point guard Ivory Latta looked over at her coach.

"We're going to get us one next year," Latta said.

After defeating the Blue Devils for the third time this season, Latta's prophecy became a reality. No. 4 North Carolina topped No. 5 Duke 88-67 in the ACC Tournament championship game at the Greensboro Coliseum on Monday, a surprisingly easy victory that gave UNC its first ACC Tournament title since 1998.

Latta lived up to her end of the promise from a year ago, scoring 26 points and earning the tournament's Most Valuable Player award.

But the Tar Heel win would not have happened without the team's rebounding. Duke,

which out-rebounded Maryland by 13 in its semifinal victory Sunday, corralled just 37 rebounds to UNC's 53.

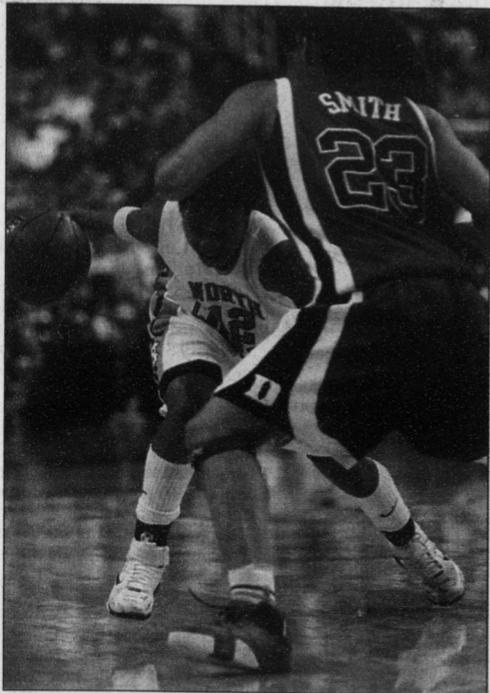
La'Tangela Atkinson and Erlana Larkins brought down 12 and 10 rebounds, respectively, effectively neutralizing 6-foot-7 Duke center Alison Bales. Larkins also added a tournament-high 16 points.

"As far as the rebounding aspect, height doesn't really matter as long as you box out," Larkins said. "As far as scoring, the whole week of practice, we just concentrated on faking before we shoot. And Alison and the other big players went for a lot of the fakes, and I was able to score."

Entering the game, Duke (28-4) could have been considered the favorite, even though North Carolina (27-3) held the top seed. The Blue Devils demolished their first two opponents by an average of 43.5 points per game, while the Tar Heels had to crawl back from deficits in the final five minutes to defeat both Miami and Virginia during the weekend.

And early Monday, Duke looked ready to take control, establishing a 15-7 lead because of ACC Player of the Year

SEE DUKE, PAGE 4



UNC's Ivory Latta (12) crosses up Blue Devil Wanisha Smith (23) during Monday's game. Latta was named the Tournament MVP after scoring 26 points and dishing out seven assists.

Wilson project sees full support

BY TED STRONG
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

The Chapel Hill Town Council gave approval Monday night for a 149-unit, mixed-use development that has faced almost four months of review, along with criticism from nearby residents.

Council members voted unanimously to grant the Wilson Assemblage, which will be constructed off U.S. 15-501 near Sage Road, a special-use permit — the go-ahead to pursue construction.

One key to the deal's approval, on the heels of four public hearings, was an agreement the developer, Crosland Inc., struck with the Orange Community Housing and Land Trust.

Under the terms of the deal, the trust has the option to purchase the low-income component of the project in 15 years at a preferential rate.

"I think it's a good thing that the housing will be affordable ... forever once we own it," said Robert Dowling, executive director of the

SEE WILSON, PAGE 4

Hate, marriage items draw vocal crowd

Council approves '05 legislative list

BY DAN SCHWIND
SENIOR WRITER

Few times in recent memory has a Chapel Hill Town Council meeting motivated so many to attend.

The council unanimously approved its 2005 legislative agenda Monday night in front of a crowd so large that it required additional viewing rooms to avoid fire code violations.

Most of those in attendance came out to voice their opinions on three

items proposed by council member Mark Kleinschmidt, focusing on his effort to repeal the state's recognition of the Defense of Marriage Act.

Such a repeal would allow municipalities within the state to acknowledge same-sex marriages legally conducted in jurisdictions that allow them.

In addition to lobbying for the repeal, Kleinschmidt also advanced an agenda item opposing a proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage as "the union of one man and one woman."

He also supported adding sexual orientation to the state's laws that cover hate-based crimes.

Many people took the time to emphasize their support for Kleinschmidt's proposals.

Chapel Hill resident Paul Lindsay said he supports the proposals because he thinks it is important to extend marriage benefits to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

"I think that marriage is a great institution," he said. "I believe that it's only fair for the benefits of marriage to be available to everyone."

Chapel Hill resident Margaret Chesson supported the inclusion of sexual orientation in the hate crimes statute, saying she believed that fighting violence is something

all parties can agree on. "I don't understand everything," she said. "But civil rights-wise, I think you should support the hate crimes legislation."

But opponents of the legislation said that hatred of the LGBT community is not their motivation.

"Our founding fathers — they believed in Jesus Christ and they believed in the love of God," said Hazen Ham, spokesman for Christian rights group Called 2 Action. "They weren't haters."

Instead, several said they believe the legislation clashes with their

SEE LEGISLATION, PAGE 4



Cameron Bailey-Pridham (right) and Heather Debethizy, juniors, show their support for the Chapel Hill Town Council's proposals on same-sex marriage. DTH/RICKY LEUNG

ONLINE

Escheats bill could affect funding for education
Legislature to eye state's incentives for businesses
Find these and more stories at www.dthonline.com.

INSIDE

CAMPUS SAFETY
Despite recent assaults, campus police say crime is down PAGE 2

SPORTS

POETIC JUSTICE
Sunday's victory against Duke cemented by J.J. Redick's lackluster showing PAGE 11

WEATHER

TODAY A.M. showers, H 53, L 23
WEDNESDAY Mostly sunny, H 48, L 27
THURSDAY Partly cloudy, H 49, L 33

