

The Daily Tar Heel

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Some fault state's testing

Seek alteration of NCLB standards

BY JACKI HUNTINGTON AND ARIEL ZIRULNICK
STAFF WRITERS

North Carolina has received national recognition for its standardized testing programs, but the state is now reconsidering how best to make its exams more relevant and beneficial to students.

School officials have charged that N.C. exams should be more focused and in-depth rather than merely meeting the broad federal requirements set by No Child Left Behind.

Stephanie Knott, assistant to the superintendent for community relations for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, said she thinks streamlining the state's exams would be a step in the right direction.

"There has been sort of a general consensus that many curricula in the U.S. are a mile wide and an inch deep," she said. "They should be an inch wide and a mile deep."

Local charter schools have also come under fire for failing to reach benchmarks of academic progress, raising the question of whether those schools should be evaluated according to the same standards as traditional public schools.

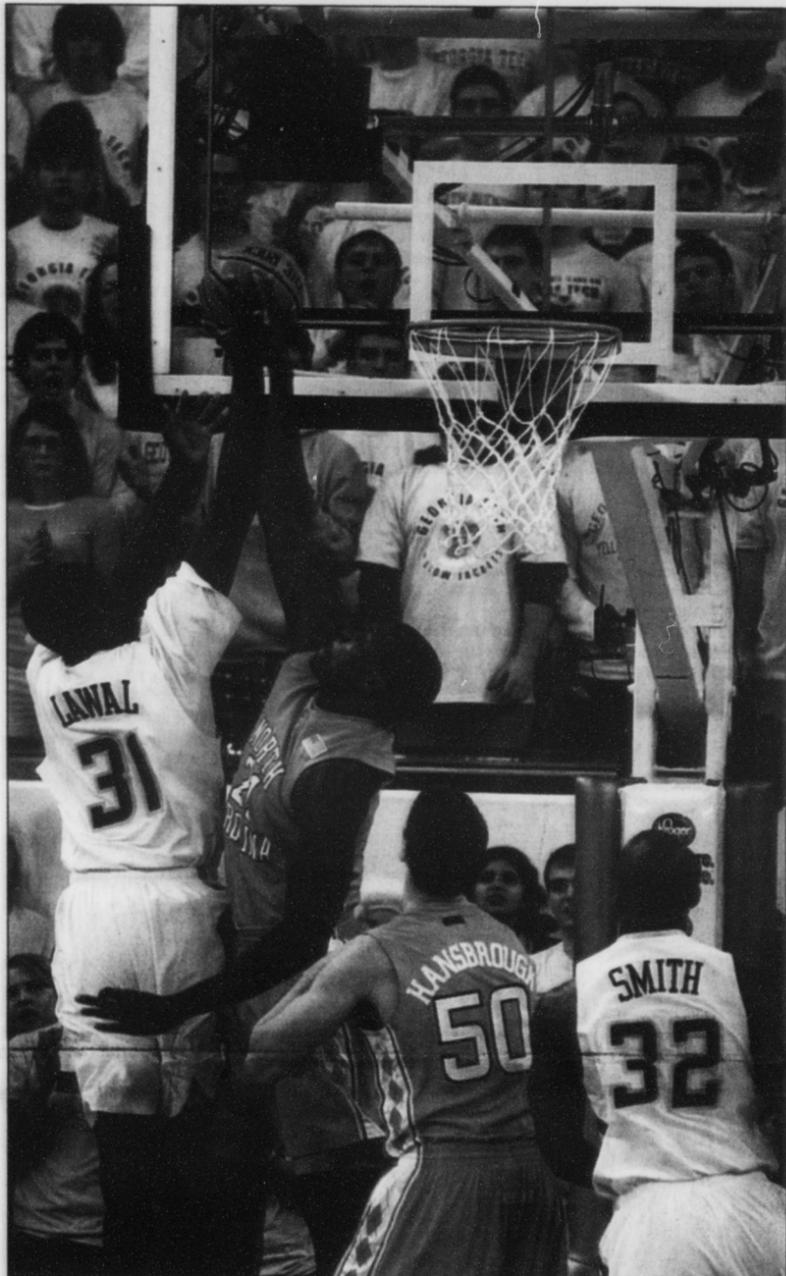
"I think North Carolina is absolutely missing the boat when it comes to charter schools," said U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C.

"To make them fit the mold of other public schools is a mistake. We are badly missing what charter schools provide," she said.

In general, Foxx said the state's standards are not stringent enough. "I think it is very well accepted that North Carolina's tests are very, very weak," she said. "(They) are not giving us the kind of assessment that we need."

SEE NCLB IMPACT, PAGE 9

SWATTED AWAY



Deon Thompson blocks a shot attempt by Georgia Tech's Gani Lawal in the second half of the ACC matchup Wednesday in Atlanta. Thompson finished the game with nine points in 24 minutes of action.

Late block helps seal UNC win

BY JESSE BAUMGARTNER
SENIOR WRITER

ATLANTA — In a game that seemed sure to be characterized by breakneck speed and offensive firepower, No. 1 North Carolina managed to survive a snail-paced, free throw-filled final five minutes and knock off Georgia Tech on, of all things, UNC 83 to 82.

The back-and-forth 83-82 victory wasn't secure until UNC's Danny Green and Tyler Hansbrough collapsed on Yellow Jacket forward Zack Peacock in the post and Green blocked his shot. Peacock gathered the ball back in but missed

a short jumper that was tapped out of bounds by Georgia Tech with 0.5 seconds remaining, allowing UNC (18-0, 3-0 in the ACC) to run out the clock for the win.

"It was me," Green said, claiming the block. "But Tyler came across (and) helped ... he had to bring it behind his head, made him alter his shot."

The win was UNC's first at Ga. Tech's Alexander Memorial Coliseum since 2001, a statistic that Roy Williams said the team knew coming in.

"Nobody on our staff has won here except me when I was an assistant, and that was 800 years ago," Williams said.

"So there's no question that we talked about trying to come down here and play better."

Offense was the story of the first half, as the two teams

SEE VICTORY, PAGE 9

Heels encounter familiar strategy

BY SAMANTHA NEWMAN
SENIOR WRITER

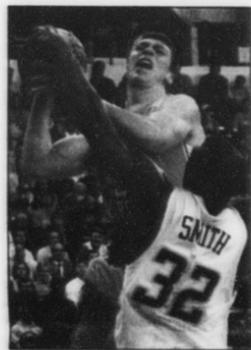
ATLANTA — There are certain things the North Carolina men's basketball team is known for. The Tar Heels like to run, and with the powerful presence of Tyler Hansbrough, they tend to dominate inside play on both ends of the court.

But when UNC hit the road to take on ACC foe Georgia Tech on Wednesday night, the Yellow Jackets were ready to give the Tar Heels a taste of their own medicine.

UNC notched its first win at Alexander Memorial since 2001, but not without a fight through the final seconds from Ga. Tech.

"Great effort physically, I think by both teams," UNC coach Roy Williams said. "When balls were on the floor, guys were after it. Guys were knocking each other down but they were also picking each other up."

The home team seemed to be on a mission to prove it could keep pace with one of the fastest



UNC's Tyler Hansbrough led the Tar Heels with 27 points and 11 rebounds in North Carolina's 83-82 win versus Ga. Tech.

teams in the country. The Yellow Jacket defense constantly pressured the UNC ball handlers and forced 15 turnovers for the game for 15 points.

SEE STRATEGY, PAGE 9

'Healthy tension' in town-gown

Both sides stress communication for the future

BY DAVIS WILLINGHAM
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill, chartered in 1793 specifically to serve the needs of the new University, is a true college town.

Today, however, it takes no more than a glance down Franklin Street to see that the University also exists to serve Chapel Hill's needs.

"If Franklin Street could be conceived as a front door to the University, it is incumbent on both of us to make sure it is the best face that we can present," town council member Laurin Easthom said.

She said it is up to both groups to make the downtown a pleasant place because they each have a stake in the way it looks and functions.

As the University expands and projects like Carolina North push forward into other parts of Chapel Hill, town leaders said that communication becomes crucial to maintaining a collaborative town-gown relationship.

Sunday, top town and University officials met to talk about plans for Carolina North, the University's proposed research campus. Easthom said there is "healthy tension" between the two groups, which she said is a good thing.

Linda Convisor, UNC director of local relations, said the high number of University employees working downtown increases the importance of the mutual relationship.

"Attendance at our cultural events, our sporting events and students coming for admissions' visits are some of the main components of the

downtown customer base," Convisor said. "Not to mention the students and faculty members."

University-owned buildings

As part of its desire to maintain a vibrant downtown, the University owns several buildings on Franklin and Rosemary streets. Tenants include Carolina Coffee Shop, Schoolkids Records, and the University's Information Technology Services building.

Katrina Ryan leases one of the University's buildings. She owns Sugarland, a bakery and dessert cafe, located at 140 E. Franklin St.

Ryan said in order to rent from the University, she was required to submit a proposal detailing how the space will be used. Convisor said that's to ensure all University properties become downtown assets.

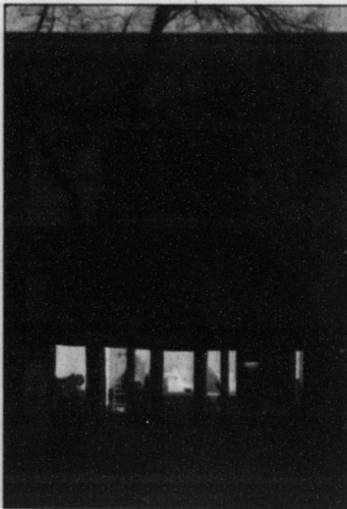
"We feel pretty lucky that they chose us, since we love our spot," Ryan said.

Ryan added that her experience with the University as her landlord has been positive.

"UNC has been very helpful in negotiating with the town to issue our building permits, which are always tricky for an old building," Ryan said.

Convisor said that the University selects occupants it deems are of long-term value to both the University and the downtown and that they don't just pick the first renter they find.

"This gives us a chance to set the bar high for what should be expected of other downtown property owners," Convisor said.



The old Julian's clothing store location, now home to Sugarland, is one of several properties the UNC owns on Franklin and Rosemary streets.

How UNC compares

Off-campus properties owned by universities are becoming attractive options across the

SEE TOWN-GOWN, PAGE 9

Black enrollment drops in ranking

UNC goes from top of list to third

BY ALICE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

For six of the past eight years, UNC has topped a national survey measuring the highest black freshmen enrollment rates, but this year the University fell to third place.

UNC's freshman class is 11.1 percent black, while last year's freshman class was 12.3 percent black. The black student population remains the largest minority group on campus.

The University admitted 36 fewer black students in 2007 than the year before. That's a 7 percent decline in the black freshman population, while the entire freshman class increased in size by 1 percent.

Despite the results of the survey conducted by the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, recruitment and minority officials at UNC said they aren't concerned.

"We are among the national leaders (in black enrollment), and I do not see that changing," said Archie Ervin, associate provost for

diversity and multicultural affairs. Ervin said looking at the drop in standings during a one-year period does not suggest future declines.

"We are certainly ahead of the others," he said. "This drop in standings is certainly not a trend."

In the journal's survey, which tallies the nation's highest-ranking universities and liberal arts colleges, Columbia University and the University of Virginia tied for first.

Both Columbia's and Virginia's freshman classes are 11.4 percent black this year. Fourth place went to Vanderbilt University, which has a freshman class that is 10.3 percent black.

The journal bases its ranking on percentages of entire freshman student bodies, not actual numbers of enrolled students.

Out of the top 29 universities listed in the survey, UNC has the largest number of black freshmen, with 434 enrolled.

Officials also said they aren't worried because diversity is a major part of UNC's image.

During his State of the University address in the fall,

SEE ENROLLMENT, PAGE 9

announcement

WE'RE HIRING

The Daily Tar Heel is hiring new staff for the spring semester. Applications will be accepted for writing desks and visual desks. Applications are available in Union 2409 and are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 23.

online

EXPANDING CHOICES

A new planned development in Efland called Buckhorn Village will aim to bring a new shopping option to Orange County consumers.



diversions | page 5

THE WEST SIDE

Divisions gives a sampling of some eatery options located within walking distance and west of UNC's campus, such as sandwich and coffee joints.

this day in history

JAN. 17, 2002 ...

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is chosen as the May Commencement speaker. Edwards, a UNC law school graduate, was chosen for his University ties and political work.

weather

Rainy
H 38, L 31

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