

Pain propels Tar Heels forward

BY EDDY LANDRETH
Staff Writer

*"I've never seen a night so long/
When time goes crawling by/
The moon just went behind the
clouds/ To hide its face and cry"* –
Hank Williams,

"I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry"
Lessons learned over the
course of a season can hurt nearly
as much physically as mentally.

Carolina's 85-84 last-second
loss to Duke at the Smith Center
on Feb. 8 fell squarely into that
category.

Austin Rivers' amazing last-
second shot will assure a spot for
this game among the great finish-
es in a rivalry filled with unbeliev-
able performances.

Unfortunately for Carolina,
all the glory in this one belongs to
the Blue Devils.

"[The loss to Duke] was about
as crushing for a regular-season
game as I've ever felt," coach Roy
Williams said. "Sometimes los-
ing is like someone grabbing your
heart, pulling it out and shaking
it in front of your face. There is
nothing you can do about it."

There was no way to gauge
who felt the most pain from the
loss to Duke, no matter how one
might have measured it. Never-
theless, senior Tyler Zeller must
rank near the top on the anguish
meter by any measure.

He stayed awake until 5 a.m.
reliving the misery.

"I stewed over it," Zeller said.
"I have a tendency to take losses
hard, especially when I missed
two free throws that could have
won the game."

The basketball season is a
lengthy series of lessons, some
horribly painful, some not so
much. The great importance is
that a team continues to grow
and mature, not repeat the same
mistakes.

The loss to Duke could end
up as the finest blessing in dis-
guise of the season for the Tar
Heels. UNC's failure to main-
tain its concentration and turn

a 10-point lead with two-and-
a-half minutes left into a 15- or
20-point victory is a poor trait
that has become habit as the sea-
son has progressed.

"That is one thing we haven't
done this year, is when we got

teams down
we haven't
stepped on
their necks,"
point guard
K e n d a l l
M a r s h a l l
said. "Long
Beach State,
we got a siz-
able lead,

but they hung around. Georgia
Tech, I think we got it up to 25,
but they got it down to 12.

"We have to learn to step on
teams' necks when we get them
down, not give them that hope
down the stretch that they can
win the game."

UNC turned an 11-point lead
into an 18-point victory against
Virginia in the game following
Duke. Such a turnaround could
carry Carolina to the lofty goals
and dreams it still has for this
season.

"We watched the last two
minutes and 28 seconds," Wil-
liams said. "That is the only part
of the tape we watched. ... I said,
'OK, let's learn from it so we don't
make those same kinds of mis-
takes again.'"

The players do not wish to
lose; none want their concentra-
tion to fade in the final minutes
of games or to commit silly turn-
overs and take bad shots. But just
like making great defense a habit-
ual process, as the Tar Heels have
done, the instinct to play smart
and together until the final horn
must also be cultivated.

"Losing the Duke game
helped us get refocused," Zeller
said after UNC's hard-fought
win against Virginia. "We all
came out with the right attitude."



Eddy Landreth

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Rosa Parks, played by Sheila Neville, sits behind the fare box during *Why Should I Move?* David Deming plays the bus driver and Brian Litchfield portrays the white man who demanded Rosa's seat.

Chapel Hill Transit staff
performed *Why Should I Move?*, a
reenactment of the day in 1955 in
which Rosa Parks refused to give
up her seat on a Montgomery,
Ala., bus, at University Mall
on Feb. 4. The performance was
part of the town's celebration of
Black History Month.

PHOTOS BY ALICIA STEMPER



The bus driver, played by David Deming, encourages Rosa Parks, played by Sheila Neville, to relinquish her seat to a white man.

TRANSIT FROM PAGE 1

could create would help sales-tax
revenues, benefiting the entire
county.

Kleinschmidt referenced stud-

ies done by the town in the '90s
showing that light rail along U.S.
15-501, a corridor the commis-
sioners have indicated interest in
exploring, would not be benefi-
cial for the county, citing cost and
station location issues.

"We determined that 15-501

would not be appropriate for light
rail, but enhanced bus transit
would be important for it, and we
still believe that," he said.

However, Commissioner Earl
McKee again expressed his op-
position to the light-rail costs and
the possibility of a transit tax, say-

ing that he was "adamantly op-
posed" to asking county residents
to vote on the tax.

The board agreed to create a
timeline for public meetings that
would allow for citizen comments
on the transit tax.

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