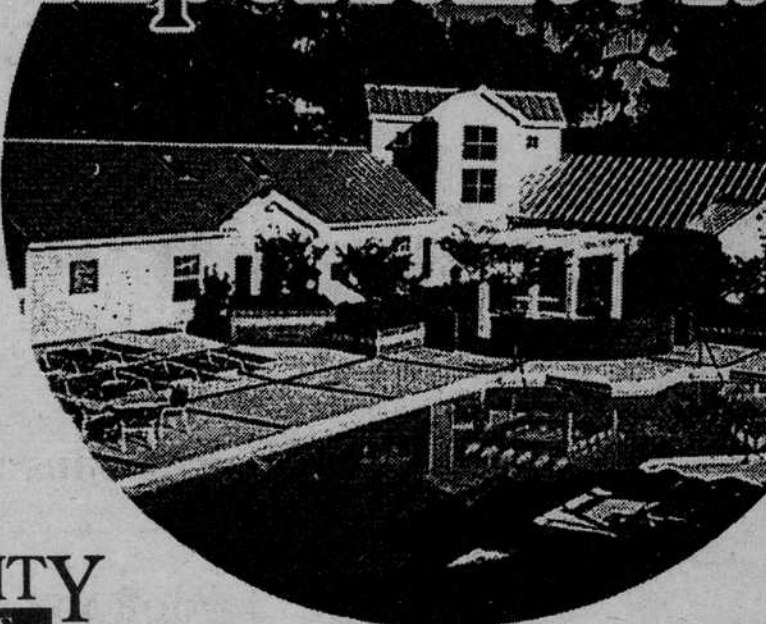


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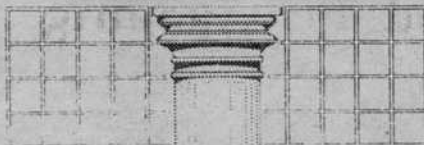
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## Lawmakers' acts ripple across state

By Pete Iacobelli  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Legislature's efforts to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse dome may not satisfy the NAACP, but they are apparently good enough for the Southern Conference and the NCAA.

Commissioner Alfred White, whose 12-team league includes four South Carolina schools, had said the Southern Conference would not hold championships in the state until the flag came down. "That is happening," White said Thursday. "The feeling among our chief executives is that the [state's] action seems reasonable."

The NCAA, which last month said it would not bring future championships to South Carolina as long as the flag flew, released a short statement.

"The focus of the NCAA Executive Committee was the flag's presence above the dome of the Statehouse," it said, "and we are pleased that the governor and state Legislature have been able to reach agreement on the matter."

NCAA spokesman Wally Renfro said the governing body would not answer questions about the flag.

The South Carolina House on Thursday gave final approval to a bill removing the flag from the dome and placing a similar one at a monument to Confederate soldiers on Statehouse grounds. The Senate passed a similar bill in

April.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said its tourism boycott of the state will continue because the flag will be too prominent at the new location.

Supporters say the flag represents Southern heritage. Opponents says it's a symbol of hatred and slavery.

South Carolina's sports scene has faced constant scrutiny since the NAACP's boycott began Jan. 1.

The New York Knicks pulled out of a pre-playoffs training camp in Charleston; USA Track and Field condemned the flag before the women's Olympic marathon trials in February; tennis star Serena Williams withdrew from the Family Circle Cup tournament in Hilton Head; and the NCAA said if the flag was not down by mid-August, it would remove the 2002 men's basketball regional from Greenville's Bi-Lo Center.

"It has been a stressful time. I think you can say we can breathe a little easier," said White, who negotiated with the NAACP before deciding to keep the league's men's basketball tournament at the Bi-Lo in March.

South Carolina athletics director Mike McGee said he was pleased with Thursday's 62-48 House vote.

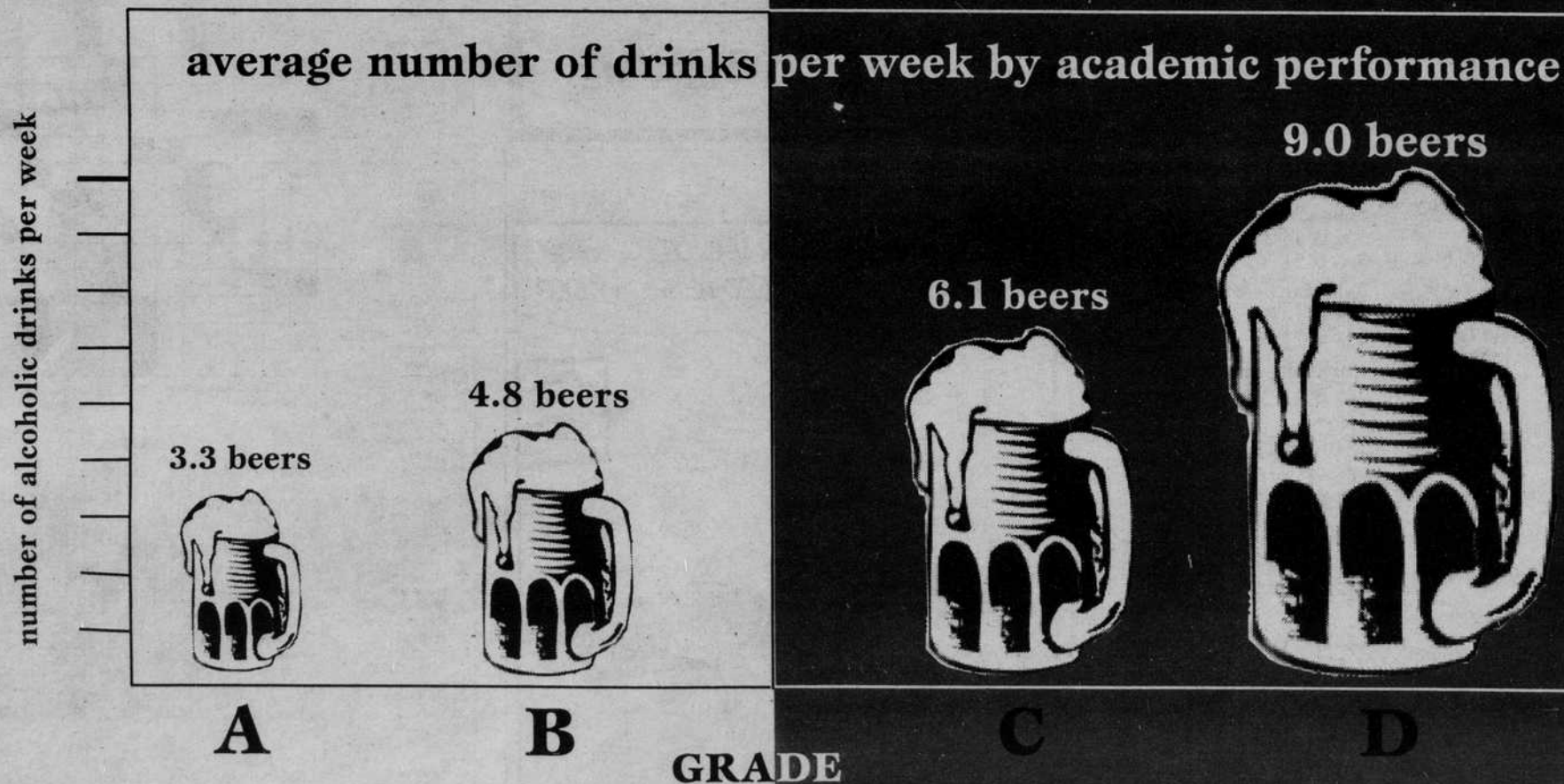
The two chambers must now iron out any differences. Gov. Jim Hodges has said he would sign any bill that brings down the flag.

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