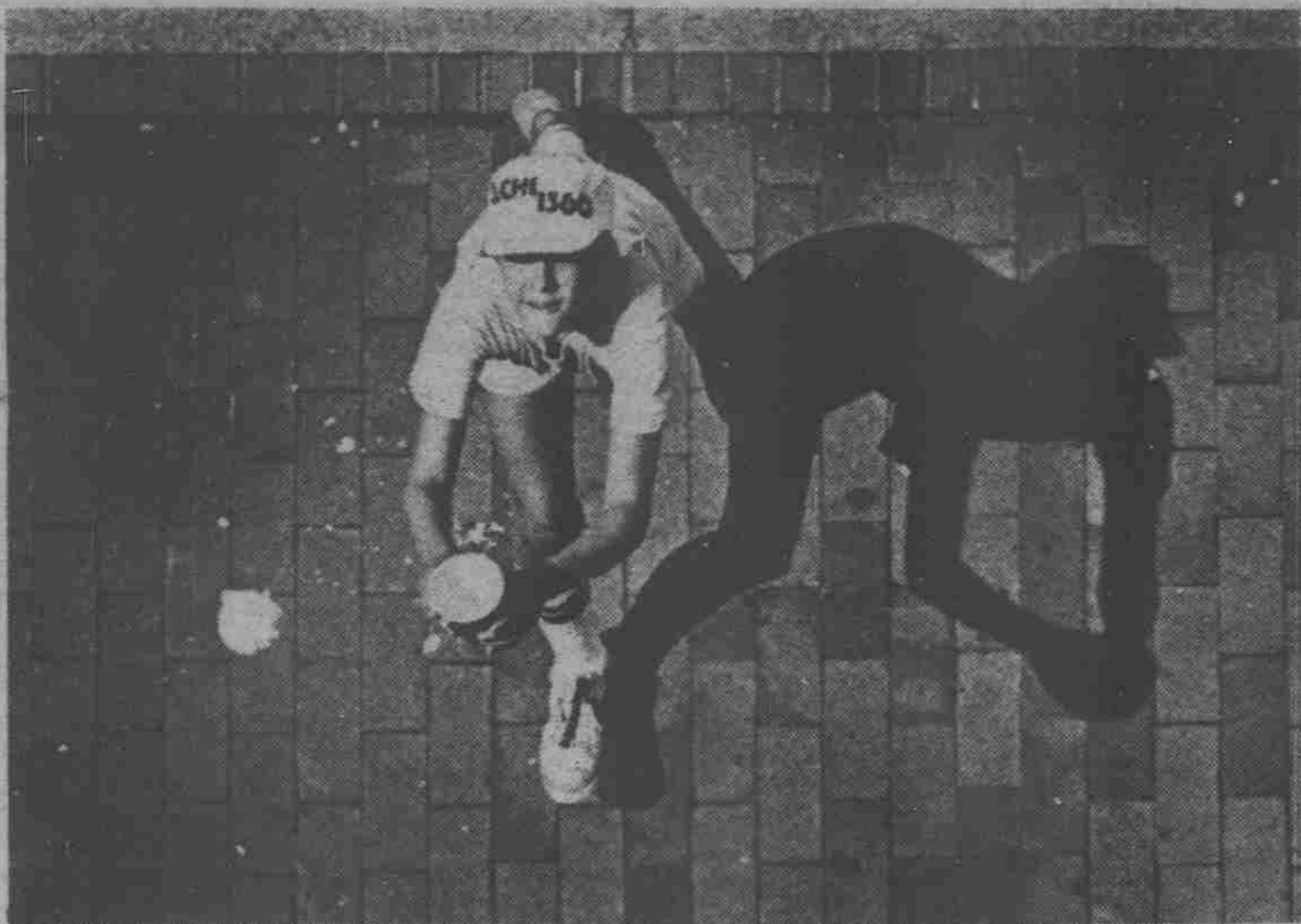


## FEATURES



# Ice cream

## Scoop 'Olympics' tests skill with challenge, fun

By JEFF HIDAY

Al Wood put his finesse on the line Sunday as one of the judges in the second annual WCHL-Swensen's Ice Cream Drop at University Square.

Before the contest, the judges were given an opportunity to "show off their stuff," by catching a scoop of ice cream (actually colored ice) dropped from the top of the east building at University Square into a small sundae cup.

Mayor Joe Nassif, one of the judges, almost made the catch, but the scoop popped out of his cup. Another judge, Jim Payne of WCHL, fared as well. But when the third judge, Al Wood, stepped up, the crowd watched expectantly. They shouldn't have worried. Al Wood always comes through in the clutch and this was no exception — he caught the flying ice scoop easily.

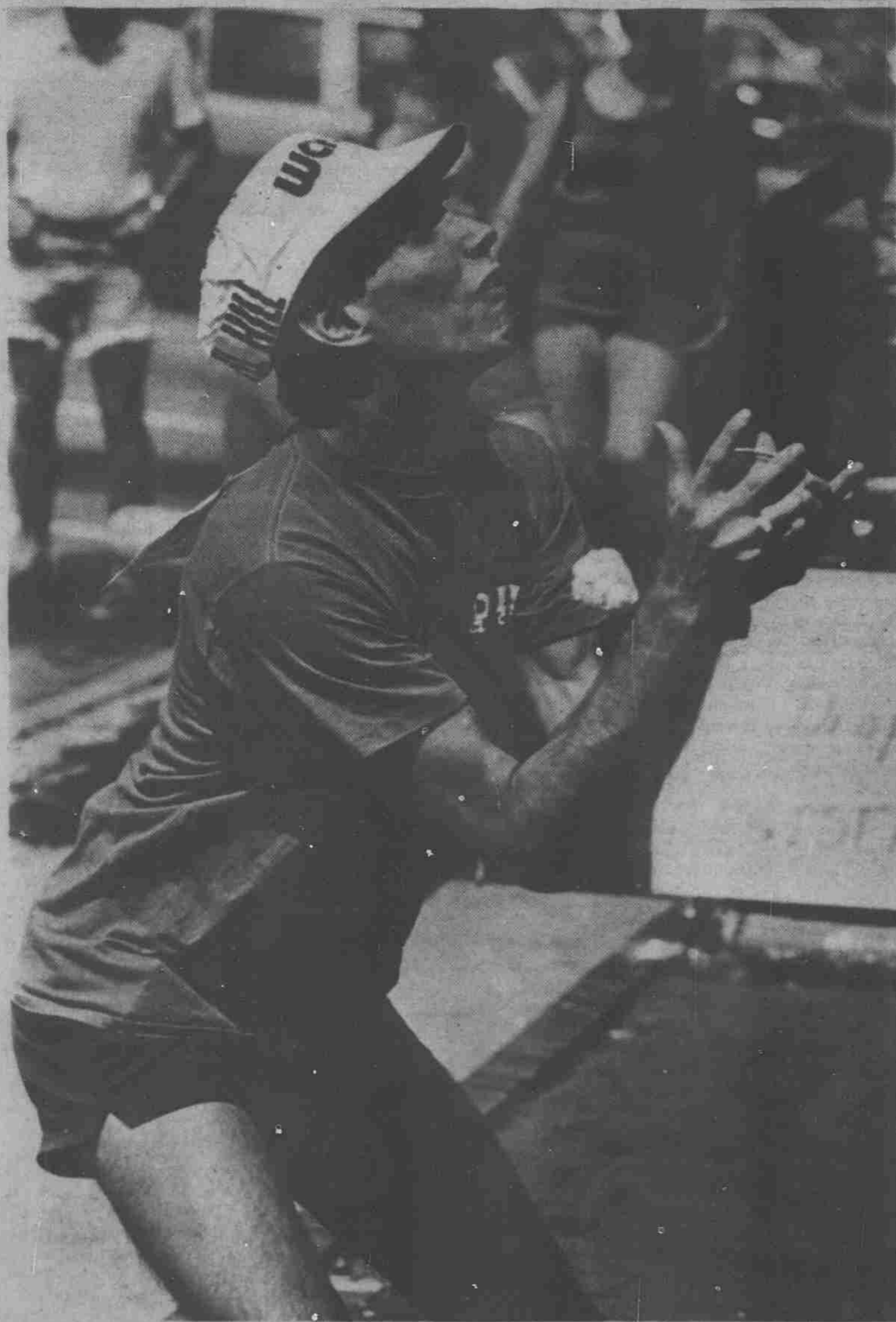
With preliminaries over, serious competition got under way. The elimination round consisted of 100 participants. Those who caught the ice cream advanced directly into the championship round, where they were judged on neatness, originality and creativity, Glen Mitchell of WCHL said.

Larry Winters, a defensive back on the football team, made the winning catch in the adult (Olympic) division by catching the cold stuff while executing a 360-degree spin. His gold-medal prize consisted of 52 Swensen Gold Rush sundaes — one per week for a year.

The silver medalist, Tony Hart of Carrboro, performed a behind-the-back catch. And Matt Hapgood of Chapel Hill, the bronze medalist, did a "shoestring" catch, placing the cup on his foot. The 12-under (Junior Olympic) division winner was Andrew Tulchin of Chapel Hill.

"There were some pretty good styles," Wood said. "But they were so young, and looked a little uncoordinated. A few times it scared me — I thought it might hit 'em in the head."

Leon Todd, Swensen's owner, said the event "went real well. It created a lot of interest and a lot of fun."



Chapel Hillians, young and old, enjoyed the Ice Cream Drop at University Square Sunday. Those who could not catch a scoop could taste a scoop. Everybody won. Photo by Scott Sharpe.