

Queen selection stressing tradition

By LORRY WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

When students vote today for Homecoming queen, they won't find any surprise candidates such as Yure Nimomma, a guy who was elected queen two years ago.

The Carolina Athletic Association is trying to revive Homecoming at the University and bring respect back to the event. The Homecoming queen selection process is one of the areas CAA worked on, said Marc Wright, CAA vice president for Homecoming.

The five senior girls on this year's ballot were chosen from 20 applicants by a faculty committee. All 20 candidates went through faculty interviews and wrote essays about their goals and how their experiences at UNC had helped them achieve those goals. The faculty committee looked at each applicant's academic merit, campus involvement, personality and achievements when making its selection.

"We tried to put together a program that recognizes extracurricular activities and academics," Wright said, adding that the CAA wanted to break away from the idea of a queen being selected for looks.

A contest based solely on looks was "passe and beneath what the candidates on this campus are worthy of," Wright said.

The process remains traditional in that the student body decides today which of the five girls will represent the University as Homecoming queen. Voting is from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Chase Hall, the Student Union and Campus Y Court.

This year's queen receives a scholarship for spring tuition and free accommodations for two at Myrtle Beach, S.C. The four girls on the Homecoming court will receive a variety of prizes and gift certificates from Chapel Hill shops.

Members of the Homecoming court said they liked the changes the CAA made in this year's Homecoming queen selection process.

Susan Camp, a political science and

speech communications major from Cary, describes herself as a positive, energetic person who could represent the student body and be someone it could be proud of.

"I like to think I represent UNC now as an RA (resident assistant) and as a student," she said. "I will always be an alumna, and as Homecoming queen it would heighten that (association to the University) even more."

Camp's involvement in campus activities and organizations is one of the things she believes qualifies her to represent the student body, she said. Camp's involvements include membership in the Interservice Christian Fellowship and the UNC Wind Ensemble. She is also a teaching assistant in the speech department.

Arlene Ferebee is another candidate who has been involved in a variety of campus organizations. Ferebee, a health policy and administration major from Fayetteville, is a member of the Black Student Movement, Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the Sweet Carolines.

"I think I represent a dynamic and diverse group of people," she said, adding that if she were chosen queen, then those groups she represented also would be recognized.

Ferebee said she didn't look at the Homecoming queen event as an election, and she didn't have a "slogan or anything to woo voters."

Another resident assistant on the ballot is Jennifer Ferguson, a Spanish and English major from Charlotte.

Ferguson said she wanted people to know she was a giving, caring person, interested in helping others.

"That's been reflected in the activities I've been involved in here," she said.

"Helping others has been one of the major motivations in being an RA."

The University always has been important to Ferguson, she said, adding that she'd like to think what she's done has made a difference not only to her but to others.

Ferguson is a member of the Spanish National Honor Society and the Order of the Bell Tower and is president of the Carolina Choir.

Katharine Kelley, an international studies major from Atlanta, Ga., describes herself as a feminine feminist.

"A person can be feminist and feminine," she said, adding that the revised Homecoming queen process afforded the opportunity for others to see that.

"(The concept) has gone away from the popularity contest and beauty contest," she said. "They're looking for a more well-rounded person who is involved."

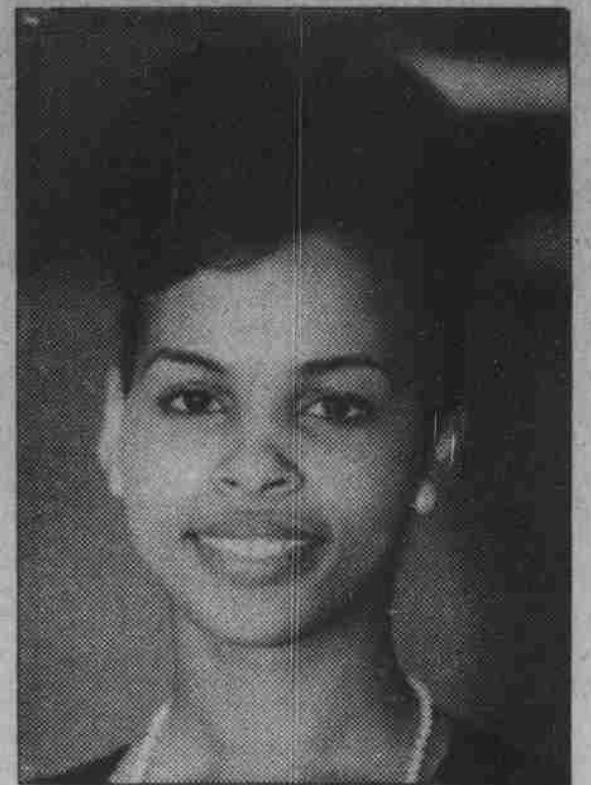
Most of the court members know each other, and for that reason, Kelley said she wasn't looking at today's election as a contest. The event could have been turned into a political campaign, she said, but the five girls on the court didn't want it that way.

One candidate surprised about her nomination was Katherine Noesen, an economics major from Hendersonville. Noesen's experiences at Carolina have been different from other people's in that when she first came to the University, she "wasn't totally thrilled," she said.

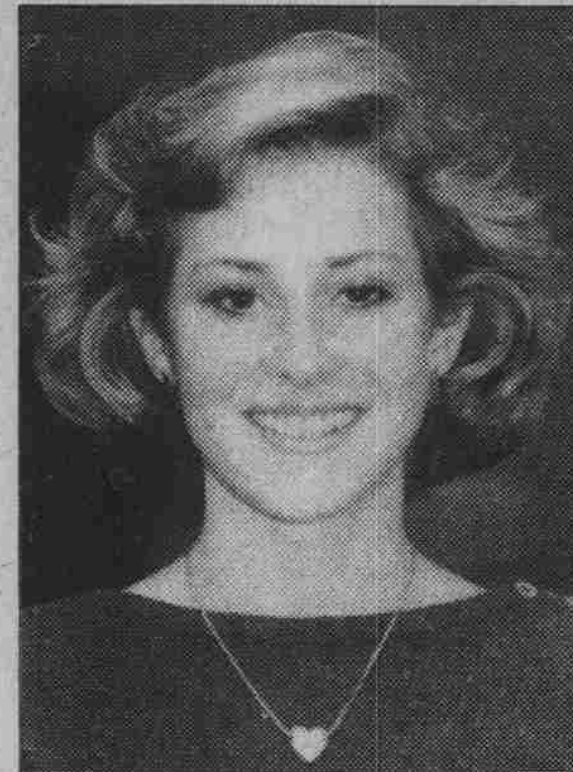
"But during the course of 3 1/2 years, I have grown to love the place and the people," she said. "I haven't had an extremely easy time here, but I've tried to make the best of it."



Katherine Noesen



Arlene Ferebee



Katharine Kelley



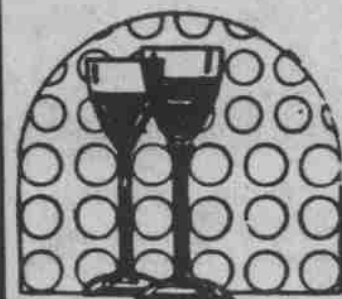
Susan Camp



Jennifer Ferguson

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