

Coming home to Chapel Hill

Carolina Blue spirits flow through a colorful weekend of nostalgic revelry

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Staff Writers

It was just like coming home. In fact, it was.

UNC alumni flocked to Chapel Hill over the weekend for a series of events planned especially for them. A homecoming parade on Franklin Street, the N.C. State University-UNC football game, the crowning of the homecoming queen and a massive fraternity party vied for alumni attention.

Carolina fans, flashing smiles of laughter, lined the Chapel Hill streets Friday afternoon to watch the Carolina Athletic Association-sponsored Homecoming parade.

The festive spirit of the parade's participants was contagious to viewers along the route, which began on South Street at Carmichael Field, turned right on Columbia Street, right on Franklin Street and right on Raleigh Road, to finish with a small pep rally back at the starting point.

Steve Streater, the parade's grand marshal, a former UNC football player and president of the N.C. chapter of Students Against Driving Drunk, led the procession. In the parade were five floats, 14 residence hall-decorated golf cart entries, the UNC Marching Tar Heels, the Homecoming Court, the Sweet Carolines, the ROTC Color Guard, the 1985 Homecoming Queen Arlene Ferebee, the UNC cheerleaders, Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity and Mikeman Tommy Warlick.

"I thought the parade was incredible," said Suzy Street, CAA vice president in charge of publicity. "So many people participated. There's a lot of work here, and it's not just us (CAA)," she said.

"This is just part of the fun of Chapel Hill," said Sean Fincher, a junior from Fayetteville, after he threw a giant beach ball at the High Kicking Heels, a UNC Marching Tar Heel Band auxiliary unit, as they marched past him on Franklin Street. "The State-Carolina game is the game everybody waits for," he said.

Richard LeClerc, a lab technician at Duke University who was wearing a Carolina sweater and a Duke golf hat, said he came to Chapel Hill Friday to participate in the Homecoming festivities.

"I've come to cheer for Carolina. Go Tar Heels!" said LeClerc as he danced on the edge of Franklin Street.

Arnold Minors, a friend of LeClerc's from Toronto, Canada, said he had not expected to cheer at a parade for the Tar Heels during his first visit to North Carolina. However, Minors said, "I think it's fun."

The parade floats and golf carts, which ranged from a golf cart showing N.C. State as "MOO U.," to the Lambda Chi Alpha/Kappa Alpha Theta float showing in "real life" a UNC football player sawing a State wolf in half, all predicted doom for the Wolfpack.

Susan Harrison, a senior from Pittsboro, said seeing the parade was worth the 45-minute wait she had on Franklin Street.

"Did you see all the effort that went into the floats?" she asked. "They showed a lot of spirit."

Others also applauded the work put into the entries and made comments on them.

For instance, when the Senior Class float passed and a huge cow representing the N.C. State Homecoming Queen waved at the crowd, Robbie Byrd, a freshman from Fayetteville, said, "That looks like Sparky the Firedog."

While Streater, Ferebee and Mark Pavao, CAA president, judged the float and golf cart entries after the parade, the festivities continued with the cheerleaders and the band leading about the parade participants in a pep rally.

The Kappa Sigma/Zeta Tau Alpha float showing a ram about to hit a Wolfpack symbol in the center of a dart board won first place and was displayed on the Kenan Stadium end zone during the game.

The top three golf cart entries were also placed on the field. Carmichael Residence Hall won first place with its depiction of a wolf sucking on a pacifier and the slogan "State Sucks."

Craige Residence Hall's cart "Sack the Pack," which had a wolf in a grocery bag, captured second, and Morrison Residence Hall's, "Crush the Pack" cart showing a

blue foot stepping on a six-pack of the beverage "Wolf," captured third.

Friday night, alumni and students were able to get fired up for Saturday's game at a Delta Upsilon pep party, and members of the fraternity termed the party a success.

"There were between 4,000 and 5,000 people there," said Mark Pranke, a senior member of the fraternity. "We had people all across the street. We knew the police would shut us down if people were in the street, so we had about 15 brothers lining the street. We also hired two policemen from Orange County."

Members of the fraternity talked with police more than a month in advance to coordinate the event, Pranke said.

Then, during halftime at Saturday's game, came the coronation.

"Estatic" was the only word Lori Weeks could find to describe how she felt after being named 1986 UNC Homecoming Queen.

Weeks, a speech communications and radio, television and motion pictures major from Wilmington, was crowned by 1985 Homecoming Queen Arlene Ferebee during half-time ceremonies at Kenan Stadium. As applause came from the stands, Weeks embraced her father, Jim Weeks, who was her escort.

"I can't believe it happened," Weeks said amidst hugs and congratulations. "The other girls were just as qualified as I was," she said. "I think my enthusiasm for Carolina showed through. Even though I'm a senior, I still have a lot of enthusiasm."

Weeks also said she was grateful for the support of her sorority sisters. "Alpha Delta Pi was just wonderful," she said. "They pushed me through. I don't think I could have won without their help."

A senior transfer from UNC-Wilmington, Weeks was elected by students Thursday from the seven members of the Homecoming Court.

Michele Killough, a psychology and political science major sponsored by the Senior Class of 1987, was named first runner-up.

The other Homecoming court members were: Sibby Anderson, a drama and speech major from Greenville, N.C., sponsored by Student Government; Felicia Carter of Greensboro, a physical education major sponsored by the Minority Advisory Committee; Tammy Gilliam, a pharmacy major from Winston-Salem, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha; Patty McCarthy, an accounting major from Hendersonville, sponsored by Phi Mu and the Sweet Carolines; and Laurie Toreson, a Spanish education major from Chapel Hill, sponsored by Craige Residence Hall.

Kenny McManus, co-vice president of Homecoming for the Carolina Athletic Association, was extremely pleased with the entire Homecoming week.

"More student organizations than ever participated in Homecoming week," he said. "And I think that's why it was so successful."

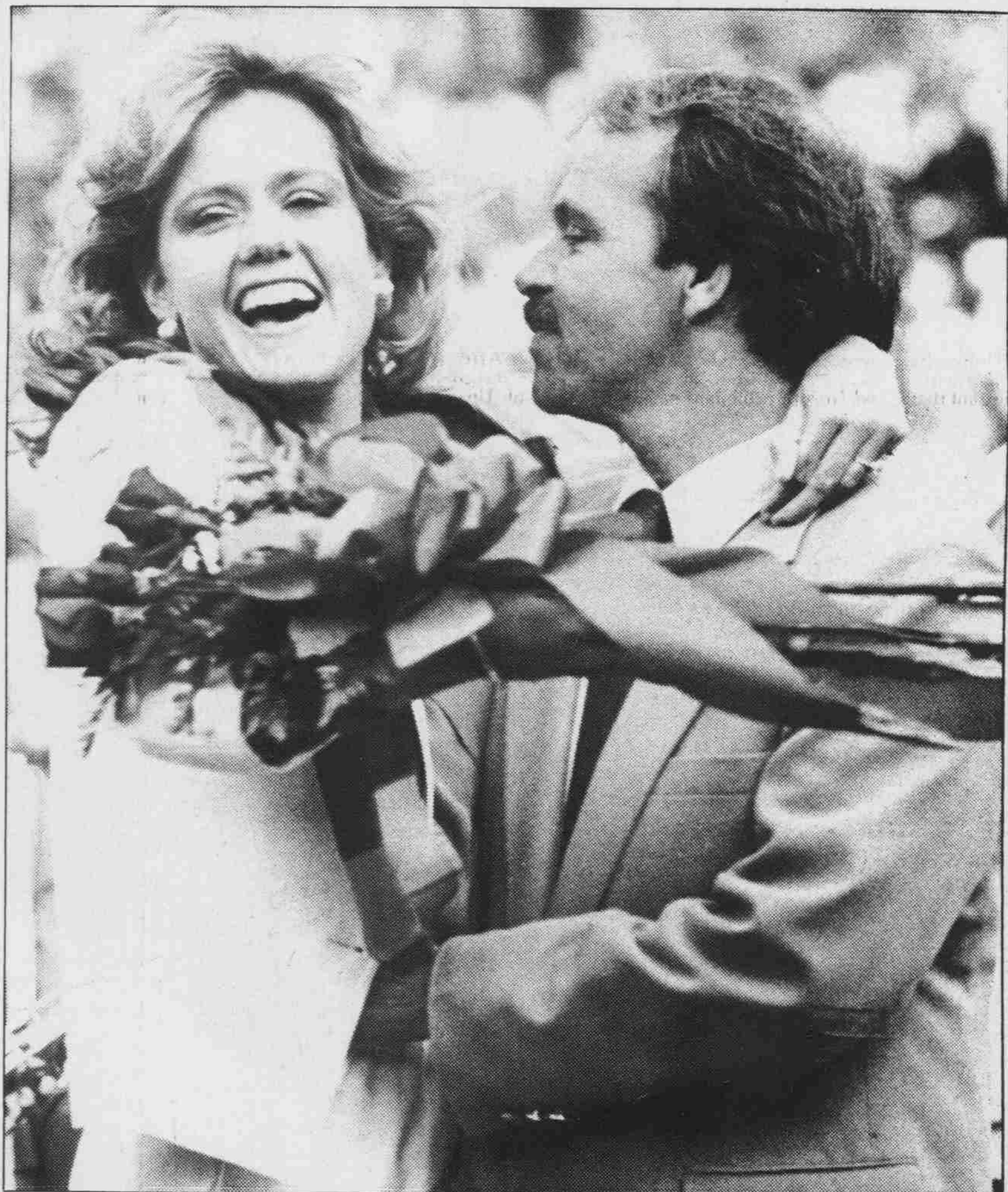
All candidates for Homecoming Queen must write an essay before they are considered by the three-member faculty committee which chooses the court. "The queen has to be qualified," McManus said. "It's not just any girl who picks up an application. She has to prove herself through achievement."

McManus also said he was happy with the renewed interest in Homecoming among students. He said that 884 votes were cast this year, opposed to about 500 cast last year. "There's definitely a renewed interest and that's nice to see," he said.



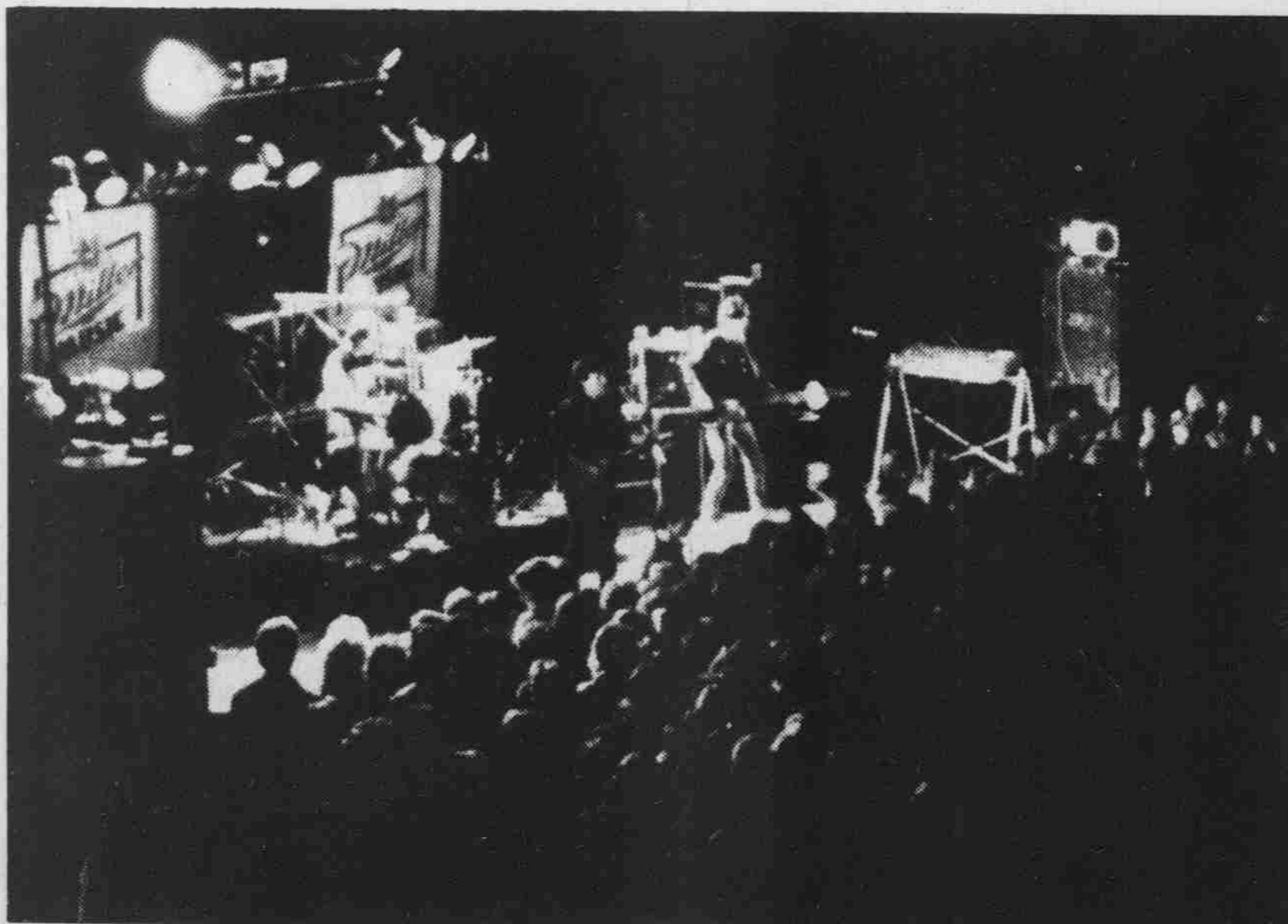
Members of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority march with their float down Franklin Street during the parade Friday

DTH/Tony Deitell



Lori Weeks is congratulated by her father after being named UNC's 1986 Homecoming Queen

DTH/Dan Charlson



The Producers play to the crowd at the Delta Upsilon "Beat State" party Friday night

DTH/Julie Stovall