

Students struggle to cope with drop-add hardships

By LAURA BENNETT
Staff Writer

In the stifling heat of Woolen Gym Tuesday morning, junior Karen Crutchfield was sprawled on the floor, blankly staring at lists of courses she had not been able to schedule. Like many others, Karen was a victim of drop-add 1988.

"I'm so mad!" said Crutchfield, who had only been scheduled for nine credit hours. "Everything that I need is closed. I was even willing to take an art class, that's how desperate I was."

The lack of open courses was a common complaint among the often-desperate souls in Woolen Gym. The problems this semester were the usual ones: too many people, too few classes and not enough organization.

While some students wandered aimlessly from table to table, others were determined to get exactly what they wanted.

"I'm a junior and still trying to get a perspective from General College," said Penny McGhee, who had been standing in front of the English table for 35 minutes during her second day of drop-add.

"I'll be here until somebody drops it," McGhee said. "I'm ill, angry, tired

and aggravated. I wonder why this is so hard to do."

According to registration officials, this semester's drop-add is not much different from past semesters.

University Registrar David Lanier said Tuesday registration was running as smoothly as usual, and no special problems have arisen this semester.

"We did have more students yesterday than expected," Lanier said. He said he thought the weather conditions would have discouraged students from showing up on Monday.

But the line of students, stretching from Fetzer Gym all the way to Carmichael Residence Hall at 8 a.m. Monday indicated the weather was no obstacle.

Boyd Newnam, associate professor of physical education, occupied a seat at the General College table in Woolen Gym. "Yesterday, things were very busy," he said. "I think it might be a little more hectic than usual this year, but I don't know why."

"Some of the problem is because of students being closed out, and some of the problem is with students wanting a specific time. Nobody wants an 8 o'clock class," Newnam

said.

Kristin Tucker, a frustrated sophomore who received only seven hours from pre-registration, said this semester has been worse than usual. "I've had better luck in the past."

"I think everyone should be guaranteed at least 12 hours," she said, shuffling through pages of scribbled schedules. "I'm just taking what I can get — that's all there is to it."

Tucker hopes to see some major changes in the future. "I hope it will improve and change over to the telephone system," she said.

Lanier said plans for the new phone-in registration system are underway. A contract is being drawn up with a software company, he said, and the system is expected to be installed in two years.

Several students who could not pick up courses during drop-add said they would try to join classes by obtaining the instructor's permission.

Some academic departments have a two-day rule, which allows interested students to take the places of those who do not show up after the first two days of class.

Efforts have been made to ease the



DTH/David Minton

Cathy Brown, a freshman from Charlotte, tries to fix her class schedule Tuesday in Woolen Gym

individuals who are able to take the process in stride.

Dirck Martin, a "sophomore these days," arrived to register with a clean slate Tuesday morning. With zero hours to show for his failing efforts, he did not appear to be too worried. "I'm totally oblivious to what's going

on," he said.

According to Martin, the secret to remaining calm is a pre-registration dose of Valium. "That way you don't care what you get when you come in here," he explained.

"It's a fun struggle," Martin added, as he disappeared into the masses.

King holiday still a source of controversy

From Associated Press reports

ATLANTA — Forty-three states now celebrate a holiday in memory of Martin Luther King, but controversy still surrounds some of the observances nearly 20 years after the civil rights leader was slain.

"We've come a long way and picked up some (states) in the last year or so that we thought would be more difficult," said Lloyd Davis, executive director of the King Federal Holiday Commission in Washington. "I think it's just a matter of time before we get the others."

The seven states that do not observe a holiday for King are Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Wyoming.

The biggest controversy over the holiday has come in Arizona. Democratic Gov. Bruce Babbitt issued an order in 1986 creating a King holiday, but his successor, Republican Gov. Ewan Mechem, revoked the order when he took office in 1987.

Mechem insisted that his opposition to the holiday was based on a technical point, not race, saying

Babbitt's order was illegal.

Later in 1987, Mechem came under fire for defending the use of the word "pickaninny" as referring to black children. Opponents charged that he had become a racist embarrassment to the state and he now faces a recall movement.

Another debate over the holiday — this time over the date of the observance — erupted in November in New Mexico. The 1987 legislature authorized the holiday for the third Monday in January, the date established by 36 other states and the federal government.

But New Mexico's Personnel Board voted in November to have state employees observe the 1988 King holiday on Dec. 24, saying it would be better to give workers a day off next to Christmas than to have them off on the day before the legislature convenes.

Civil rights activists demanded the resignations of board members who voted for the change; the board last month rescinded its vote and decided to celebrate with other states this year on Jan. 18.

Davis counts New Mexico as one of the commission's greatest victories. Now he and King's widow, Coretta Scott King, hope to broaden the meaning of the holiday.

"Many people do not see King in a broad perspective," Davis said in a telephone interview. "They see him only as a civil rights leader and not a theologian, philosopher and political scientist."

"The more we see an increase in violence, whether it is apartheid in South Africa, violence in the Middle East or the Persian Gulf or the use of drugs by young people, there is a need for his message."

Three states celebrate the holiday on Jan. 15, King's birthday: Alaska, Delaware and Maryland. Connecticut celebrates the first Monday on or after Jan. 15. New Jersey observes the first Monday after Jan. 15, and Michigan marks the Monday closest to Jan. 15.

In Louisiana, the King holiday is on a list of five "optional" holidays from which, each year, the governor chooses one to give state employees the day off. The King holiday must, by law, be celebrated at least every other year. Gov. Edwin Edwards has selected King's birthday as one of this year's state holidays.

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