

Big turnout expected for expanded parade

By LEIGH PRESSLEY

Staff Writer

Carolina and Franklin Street are traditionally known for explosive good times. Saturday, as the Homecoming parade floats through Chapel Hill, that tradition will continue.

"An Explosion of Good Times," the theme of Homecoming 1989, promises to deliver a parade that is equally dynamic. With six marching bands, 27 decorated golf carts and several all-out floats, this year's parade should be bigger and better than ever.

Lisa Frye, Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) president, said this year's parade would bring together all aspects of the University community.

"For the past three years, the parade has been a stable, growing part of Homecoming. We're starting to bring the different factions of the

University together: the students, the community and the alumni."

Included in the parade will be student leaders Brien Lewis, student body president; Student Congress Speaker Gene Davis; Bobby Ferris, president of the senior class; and Greg Zeeman, vice president of the senior class. Donald Boulton, vice chancellor and dean of student affairs; Frederic Schroeder, dean of students; Jonathan Howes, mayor of Chapel Hill; and Ron Stutts, morning personality of WCHL will also participate.

Bronwen Griffith, CAA's vice president, said the six marching bands planned for the parade would be a big change from last year.

"We've always had a parade, but this year it's going to be big," she said. "We're going to have over 400 high school marchers, floats and decorated golf carts. It's definitely going to be a big event."

The bands participating will include the UNC Marching Tar Heels, the Navy Drum and Bugle Corps, Grimsley High School and Dudley High School of Greensboro, Harnett Central High School of Burlington and Eastern Guilford High School of Guilford County.

In addition, the High Kicking Heels, the Shriners and a local Boy Scout troop will participate in the parade. Appearing on floats will be groups such as the Black Student Movement, Campus Y and the CAA. Sororities and fraternities floats will also add to the festivities.

Because the parade is later in the day this year, CAA officials hope more students will come out to watch.

Homecoming Chairwoman Alison Nipp said the parade was at a convenient time for most students.

"Last year, a lot of students just slept right through the parade. This

parade is going to be easy to see. Students can stand outside their dorms, stick their heads out the window and watch. It's around noon so they can just roll out of bed and go get something to eat, too."

CAA members have been working on the Homecoming parade since late April, but a lot of work falls on float-building groups in one afternoon, Nipp said.

Groups building floats rent U-Hauls for one full day and work with plywood and chicken wire all day Friday decorating their floats.

"It takes a lot of group effort and a lot of quality time," she said.

Student participation in the parade is up this year, but the early date of the game may hurt the Homecoming effort in general, Nipp said.

"This year more groups are involved, but not as many as expected because the early date this year. Af-

ter sorority and fraternity rush, the Greeks are still involved."

Frye said the CAA chose the early date for Homecoming rather than hold the event in November.

"There are usually more games in October, but this year we only had one game to choose from. We played Wake Forest two years ago for Homecoming, so it was either Sept. 30 or in November. We felt like with all the outdoor events, students would enjoy the weather."

As the parade passes by, students can enjoy Tailgreet, an all-you-can-eat barbeque sponsored by the Downtown Commission and the General Alumni Association.

The parade will begin at Rams Head parking lot, wind through campus past the Old Well and Fraternity Court and travel down Franklin Street around noon.

A glimpse at celebrations across nation's campuses

By KYLE YORK SPENCER

Staff Writer

Although it often seems to Carolina fans that UNC's annual Homecoming celebration is the only one in the country, many colleges and universities across the United States also have vibrant long-standing homecoming traditions.

Most American colleges share at least one common homecoming bond.

"It is a killer party weekend," said Robert Marble, a sophomore at N.C. State. "But that's only if they're real into it."

This appears to hold true for most schools. While the University of Virginia's (UVa) homecoming weekend is drenched in tradition, Jenny Bennett, a UVa sophomore, said she hadn't even noticed it last year.

"I was expecting to hear about

homecoming by November, so I asked some of my friends, and they told me it had already gone by. It wasn't even advertised."

At Boston University (BU), the homecoming mood is similar.

"Some people get into it. Some people don't," said Debbie Mintz, a BU sophomore.

At BU, homecoming is mostly popular among fraternity and sorority members and members of the student government, Mintz said.

In other smaller colleges, the actual football game may not be the emphasis of homecoming weekend. According to a former Guilford College student in Greensboro no one goes to the game, but everyone parties afterwards as if they had been to the game.

Homecoming is most popular at large state schools, particularly in the South. At the University of Miami the yearly celebration is an elaborate one, said Todd Misemer, associ-

ate homecoming chairman. This year the homecoming committee plans to build an obstacle course with a fairy tale theme. Part of the course includes making Cinderella's bed and finding the right shoe size for her, he said.

To add to the festivities, each campus organization will receive a bag full of "stuff." Each organization will dress someone up like an ibis (a large bird), the school's mascot, Misemer said.

Being homecoming queen has tremendous significance, he said. She automatically becomes Miss Miami and is then eligible to become Miss Florida, who competes in The Miss America pageant.

Other universities don't take kings and queens as seriously. A few years ago at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, a fraternity sponsored a dog as homecoming king. The dog won, and the homecoming queen had to parade onto the football field during halftime with her king, a dog,

said Mark Hall, a program adviser for their student union.

"She wasn't too happy about that," he said.

At the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, traditions such as homecoming king and queen were done away with in the '60s and '70s, said Bill Colburn, executive director of their Alumni Association.

"Students viewed it as sexist," he said.

Students at UNC, whose Homecoming game against Navy will be held at 4 p.m., can be happy they don't attend Louisiana State University. Last year's football game was held at 11:30 a.m. in order to fulfill a television contract with the Southeastern Conference. Gripping students were forced to hold their tailgate parties at 9 a.m., said Deborah Day, a chief staff writer for their student newspaper, The Daily Reveille.

"We just got drunk earlier."

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