

Planners target UNC alumni for weekend spirit boosters

By **CRICKET FRENCH**
Staff Writer

Carolina alumni have been returning for the Homecoming football game for more than 100 years, but UNC students have only recently begun aiming more of the weekend festivities toward returning graduates.

This year more events on Homecoming weekend are structured to focus attention toward alumni. In years past, Homecoming has not been organized for the greatest turnout of out-of-town participants. This year, 1989 alumnus Denny Worley said he had seen the birth of Rampage, the new Carolina Athletic Association (CAA) program to get students and alumni involved in Homecoming. "The first year was 1985. In 1984, Carolina had a Homecoming but there were no events. There was a parade, which consisted of the band, the cheerleaders and one car. There wasn't even a Homecoming queen."

Worley said he was looking forward to this Homecoming weekend. "I want to drop back into the Carolina experience as a student. I miss all the things I used to take for granted, like reading The Daily Tar Heel over breakfast."

The CAA has put together a number of activities for Rampage '89, which are open not only to students and alumni, but to University staff, the public and members of the town, said Brad Bennett, CAA Homecoming vice chairman.

"Our job at the CAA is to boost the spirit for Carolina during the week of Homecoming," Bennett said. "We want to ignite a spirit for coming

back to UNC and supporting the school."

Homecoming chairwoman Alison Nipp agreed, but stressed the CAA's interest in increased alumni involvement. "The weekend Homecoming events are focused toward alumni participation."

Weekend events will kick off with the Franklin Street Extravaganza today from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The street fair between Henderson and Columbia streets will feature entertainment by the singing groups the Loreleis and the Clef Hangers, the Black Student Movement Gospel Choir, a rock band and live radio broadcasts from U-93.9 FM and WCHL radio, Bennett said.

Shop windows on Franklin Street will be painted, blue and white balloons will lace the street, and clowns and Carolina Fever members will be present. Other Extravaganza festivities will include mock game shows for adults and musical chairs and cake walks for children.

"I hope all of our events this year will become tradition," said Lisa Frye, CAA president. "We have laid a terrific amount of groundwork for future events."

Bennett said, "The Franklin Street Extravaganza, Tailgreat and the football game were planned with alumni in the forefront."

In conjunction with the General Alumni Association (GAA) and the Chapel Hill Downtown Commission, the CAA created the first annual Tailgreat, an all-you-can-eat barbeque luncheon on the quad between Silent Sam and Franklin Street Saturday

from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We (the GAA) hope this will be a great addition to the Homecoming activities with particular interest to the alumni and citizens of Chapel Hill and Carrboro," said Laurie Norman, assistant director for alumni activities of the GAA and a 1983 graduate of UNC.

Tailgreat will include live entertainment, Ben and Jerry's will sell ice cream, and the Class of 1990 will sell soft drinks. Tickets are \$4 for students, \$8 for non-students and are available at the CAA office, the Downtown Commission and in the Pit.

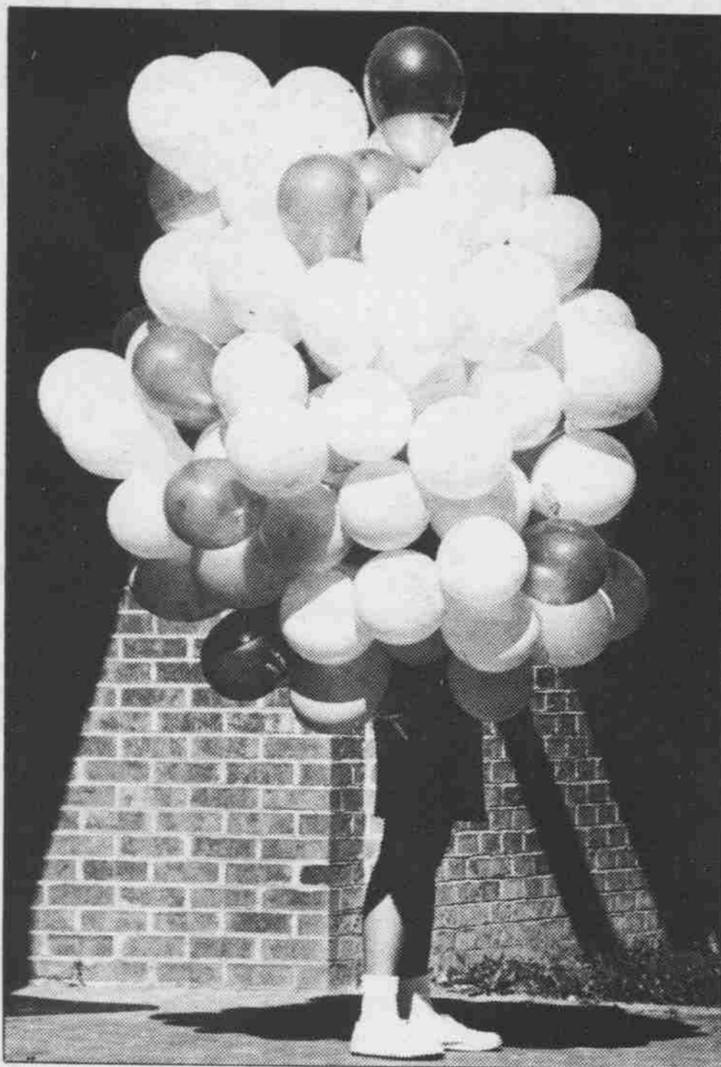
The traditional Homecoming parade will begin at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, reaching Franklin Street around noon. The parade will feature the Homecoming queen and court, student floats, WCHL morning disc jockey and Great Marshall of the parade Ron Stutts and the Dudley High School Marching Band.

Besides the new public events evolving for Carolina alumni, there are several old traditions and hangouts for the returning UNC graduates.

Most fraternities and sororities always welcome back their alumni for pre-home game events, such as cookouts and barbeques.

Worley said he was coming home to Carolina on Thursday night to begin his journey down memory lane early.

"This weekend people will come to plan and expect to see old friends and become re-acquainted with Carolina," Worley said. "Because that is what Homecoming is all about."



DTH file photo

Balloon bouquet

Each year's Homecoming celebration includes lots and lots of balloons, and this year is no exception.

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