

Behind 'enemy' lines

Taking a look at the festivities planned at Navy's October homecoming

By **KIMBERLEY MAXWELL**

Staff Writer

As UNC gears up for its Homecoming game against Navy, the U.S. Naval Academy will celebrate its homecoming weekend Oct. 27-29, said Ken Busik, executive director of the alumni association.

Alumni are a big part of the Homecoming celebration, Busik said. All alumni are invited as well as the midshipmen, students of the Academy.

The fifth-year reunion class is particularly featured, Busik said. Each class member is presented with a gold certificate.

The festivities begin Friday, Oct. 27, with a parade, Busik said. The midshipmen dedicate the parade to all visiting alumni. The president and executive director of the alumni association, the president of the fifth-

year reunion class and the commandant midshipman — the second man in charge at the Academy — all review the parade.

Alumni are also involved in several sports tournaments with the midshipmen, Busik said. These tournaments include golf, baseball, lacrosse, squash and distance running.

Then there is a pep rally, said Carol Feldmann, spokeswoman for the Academy. The brigade commander is responsible for the spirit during both the pep rally and the game.

The midshipmen take their role as spirit providers seriously, Feldmann said.

"They consider themselves a part of the football team." The midshipmen march to the game in formation, Feldmann said.

That evening, alumni and midshipmen are invited to the "World's Large-

est Cocktail Party," Busik said. This party at Dahlgren Hall involves dinner and dancing, Busik said. Tickets are \$20 per person, and the affair is limited to 4,000 people. It will last until the "wee" morning hours.

Saturday morning before the game, each alumni class has a tailgating party, Busik said. Instead of the trunk of a car, alumni of various classes dine under tents. Individual caterers provide the food. The visiting team, James Madison University, will also

have tailgating tents.

At halftime, presentations are made, Busik said. This year, a sidewalk at the Academy will be dedicated for a former superintendent who died last year. After the game that afternoon, each class will sponsor its own affair.

Sunday morning, everyone will attend chapel, the final activity for the homecoming weekend, Busik said.

"This is a chance to get everybody together and see how the

school's doing."

The Academy expects a large turnout for homecoming weekend, Busik said. Even though the number of people attending the various functions must be limited, the stadium will be filled to capacity, which is about 30,000. A good percentage of those attending the game will be alumni.

The midshipmen are not very involved in the planning of the outside functions, Feldmann said.

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