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An unexpected but welcome visitor appeared for the UNCC-UNC-Wilmington game, which the 49ers won 89-62 last Thursday. Cedric Maxwell, now of the Boston Celtics, witnessed what turned out to be the last collegiate game of Jeff Gruber and Lew Massey. (photo by Debbie Miller)

Jam-Up: Bands Aren't Booked, But Beer Will Be Here

By Brad Rich

Remember last year when there was no beer at the Jam-Up Festival...and it rained all day, and the concert had to be held at Charlotte's Merchandise Mart?

Hopefully, UNCC's annual rites of spring will not face such awesome problems this year. According to both Jennie Cernosia, Assistant Dean of Students, and Robbie Cohen, chairperson of the Jam-Up Festival, the University can't promise good weather, but it can promise 75 kegs of free beer at Sunday's festival.

"The beer is being financed by an outside source," Cohen said, "and 3,000 hot dogs are being paid for by the University Program Board (UPB). Also, there will be thousands of prizes donated by Charlotte businessmen to be given away..."

Cohen said that commuter groups, dorm groups and clubs and organizations can set up booths to give away prizes at the festival. "The UPB will set up the prizes for the groups to give away," Cohen said. All they have to do is set up the booths and

man them."

Groups interested in running a booth at the festival should contact Cohen by March 31.

"The bands for the April 15 Jam-Up concert have not been booked," Cernosia said last Friday. "Last year the bands weren't booked until two weeks before the date...the show will be in the amphitheatre - unless it rains."

If it does rain, Cernosia said tentative plans call for the concert to be held in the lower level of the parking deck behind the Cone University Center. "Nobody off campus wanted us," Cernosia said. "We make too much of a mess. The Merchandise Mart, where we held it last year said no, and so did Park Center...Of course, holding it on campus does mean we won't have any problem with the beer permit."

Though there will be no free beer at Saturday's concert, Cernosia stressed that people can bring their own. But Sunday, the taps will flow...and after a year of prohibition, at least one day of the Jam-Up Festival will return to normal.

UNCC Denied Bid From NCAA, NIT

By James Braswell

At 4 p.m. Sunday UNCC's athletic office was a scene of slight disappointment; UNCC was not getting an NCAA bid.

That news was somewhat expected, though many still had hopes for a return trip after last year's Midwest Regional Championship.

The hours passed and those anticipating a call from the NIT grew impatient.

Every possible lead was followed in an attempt to find out if the 49ers would have shot at postseason play. The Associated Press in New York was called: Wake Forest, likely candidate-but one that was also eventually snubbed-was called, but by even...no word.

Finally, the call. Bray Cary, Sun Belt publicity Director, broke the news.

UNCC was staying home.

On a quiet note UNCC's 1977-78 basketball season had ended, as had the careers of Lew Massey and Jeff Gruber.

A season with many ups and a few downs had ended with a 20-7 record.

In the athletic office, comments ranged from "How can they do that?" to "That stinks!" to "Fairfield?"

No toilet paper on campus trees, no froths beer for celebration. Nothing.

And it hurt. Head coach Lee Rose was obviously disappointed.

"Such is life," was his first comment as he broke the news to those who had waited in the office all afternoon.

"But the people I feel sorriest for are the players," said Rose as he slumped in his office chair. "I feel like they worked and they deserved a shot to defend their Midwest Regional Championship, or at least

a chance to go to the NIT" (The National Invitational Tournament in New York City.)

Why the 49ers were not picked above some of the 48 teams chosen by the two tournaments was the thing that baffled Rose the most.

"I think it's hard to justify us not being in one or the other. We beat LaSalle and Florida State, who will both be in the NCAA...Having gone to the NCAA and the

NIT the past two years, it's for me as Athletic Director to see where we have gone wrong...We felt like we had a shot at the NCAA and certainly a good shot at the NIT."

Explainable or not, UNCC isn't going. And next year? "We'll just have to start with what we've got and work hard. That's what we've done the last three years," said Rose.

Such is life.

Meal Card To Cost More Next Fall

By Becky Caldwell

As the cost of living and labor has increased, so has the cost of the UNCC meal plan. As a result, dorm students will see an increase in the cost of their food service next fall.

The amount of money obtained for the 1977-78 year will not meet next year's budget.

Professional Food Management (PFM) Manager Steve Yeager says an increase of seven to eight percent will be asked for from the University. The students' payment will be larger. Yeager says, however, "I don't know if the school will take that much (seven to eight percent) or not" from each student. The exact price is not set at this time.

Several factors will affect future increases in the cost of meal plans. One is the larger amount of students on the

system. Presently, approximately 2,060 students are on the plan and the number will increase next fall as more people from the apartment dorms and from the community request it.

Energy, having gone up 185 percent in cost is another factor. Much energy is used in the Residence Hall Cafeteria, and that cost will be reflected in the meal plan's cost.

Yeager, who says he feels the success of the system depends on the quality of the management, says he tries to accommodate students' needs.

To allow more space in the center section of the cafeteria, the deli bar was moved into the serving line. Also, an additional 100 tables and chairs are to be added by the fall semester.

Yeager feels this will be an improvement, even though he says no one

has complained of the present situation.

Future plans include providing different food service units around campus.

A combination deli bar/ice cream parlor in the Bookstore building is being planned; other improvements being considered are a buffet room, special dinners with waitress service, and a "steak of the month club" in which a small price would cover the extra cost of the meal.

Yeager feels the existing food service system is best for this campus. He says ideas and procedures from other schools are constantly studied and added onto the UNCC system if they are deemed helpful.

When asked to rate the UNCC cafeteria in relation to other college cafeterias, Yeager said, "I would never say we're number one, but that we're number two, trying to be number one."