

# Why buy it when you can make it?



(photo by Robin Colby)

Christmas presents are always nicer when they've been handmade, and they're also economical due to inflation.

By Joyce Wright

Right here, on this very campus, is an inspiring and unique experience just waiting to be discovered. It's the Craft Cellar, and everything about it is wonderful. In one afternoon, a person with virtually no talent can turn out a masterpiece and walk away with relief from the frustrations of the day and a feeling of accomplishment.

The Craft Cellar is a department of the University offering non-

credit courses in traditional arts and crafts. The courses are taught generally in the afternoons and usually one at night during the semester. Any student can learn soft basketry, pottery, handbuilding ceramics, silk screening, macrame candlemaking, copper enameling, quilting and various other creative crafting. Almost any craft that is not offered on a regular basis can usually be worked out with the individual to be taught

separately. The class time is most often two hours per week, but the students are encouraged to come down and "hang out" on their own.

A program along this line needs a very special person to make it a success. Jennifer Ensign, the director of the Craft Cellar, is exactly that. Ensign is a very conscientious person who keeps the program running smoothly and at the same time takes a great deal of time and personal interest in every one of her students. Her creative ideas keep the classes growing and developing in whatever way it is that works the magic of making arts and crafts.

The schedule and registration for the Craft Cellar classes will begin shortly after the regular spring semester classes start. However, don't wait until then to visit the Craft Cellar. Open anytime between noon and 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. on Fridays, you can find the Craft Cellar outside and under the Cone University Center. Start now at discovering whether you like pottery or basketry best, or even quilting or macrame.

conscious. "I just said to myself, you are what you are. Now do what you can with what you got."

After she made the decision to enter the pageant, she started getting things together. "I borrowed a gown, a bathing suit, two pairs of shoes, a hat and suspenders. I wore my own jeans and underwear." Houston was very appreciative for all her friend's support. "I wish I could take out an ad in the *Carolina Journal* and thank everybody who helped me."

Now that it's all over and she's realized it's not a dream anymore, Houston's settling back into her schoolwork and being Miss 49er. "I do want to be a representative to UNCC in a very positive way. I'm not just saying this because I don't have to say this ... I'm looking forward to it."

## Miss 49er borrowed everything but her voice and smile

By Nancy Davis

Take away her soft brown eyes, her whispering gentle words, her golden voice moving the audience with "The Way We Were", and you'd still have a perfect winner of the Miss 49er pageant.

Karen Houston, this year's Miss 49er is more than another beauty pageant winner. She is a very devoted UNCC student, which makes her reign

even more special.

"I love UNCC," Houston beams with the pride of a mother. "I love the people, the area ... the Belk Tower ... I guess I was destined for UNCC."

This kind of optimism is prevalent in all she does at UNCC, which is quite a bit. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority which she says has given her an opportunity to

have "older women to relate to." Houston is also a resident advisor and sings in the Children of the Sun choir. Singing in the choir is "one of the few things I do for myself." Even though she has no plans to pursue a career in singing, she says, "I enjoy singing very, very, very much. My secret aspiration is to be a singer."

A junior criminal justice major, she wants to work with juveniles and do counseling work. "I look at adult criminals and I want to

stop it at a younger age. Plus, I just like young people," she added. Houston transferred from Western Carolina after her freshman year and jumped into her major and getting involved on campus.

Getting involved with the Miss 49er Pageant was a tougher decision. "I'm not a Cheryl Tiegs fashion girl," Houston laughed. She realized she was bigger than the other girls in the pageant, standing inches above any of them, but says she wasn't self-



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