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Has Jam-Up Outgrown UNCC?

By Rick Monroe
Carolina Journal Staff Writer

Is UNCC's annual Jam-Up more than the campus can handle?

Director of Public Safety Jerry Hudson believes so, following last weekends 5,000-plus crowd and ensuing seven DUI's and two accidents involving Jam-Up participants.

Hudson feels Jam-Up has gotten so big, it takes all the resources of the University to control. Last Saturday's event filled all the school's parking lots and involved 16 of the campus' 17 police officers.

"We can't handle anything bigger with our resources . . . it's beyond the scope of the resources of this department and the University to handle anything bigger," Hudson said.

One of the most serious problems with the overload of Jam-Up is the inability of campus police to control the traffic and crowds and at the same time watch for drunken drivers leaving campus.

Seven persons who had attended Jam-Up were arrested by the Mecklenburg County Police Department and the N. C. Highway Patrol late Saturday afternoon and night. At least one traffic accident with serious personal injury was reported involving persons who had attended Jam-Up and alcohol was suspected to have been a factor.

Emergency personnel in the area reported four accidents involving intoxicated Jam-Up goers and a total of ten DUI's, although these numbers could not be confirmed as a breakdown of arrests made by Charlotte Police was unavailable.

"All we were after up there was traffic control," said UNCC police officer William T. Harper who was shift supervisor during Jam-Up. "We were unable to screen for DUI's with a crowd of 5,000."

"We just got them the hell off campus," Hudson said, "But if someone came to our attention as being a hazard, we would have taken care of it."

Although Harper would not agree that DUI's were taking a back seat to other problems, he did agree that it was a matter of too few officers for the situation. "We had to keep the areas blocked off; we had to deal with vandalism; we were tied up directing traffic. When you're breaking up a fight, you're not going to see a car swerving."

Hudson said it would be difficult to spot a drunk driver on campus even with the additional officers. He said that the slow rate at which campus traffic was moving made it easy for intoxicated drivers to conceal the effects of alcohol. Not until they were on the highway were the county police and Highway Patrol able to recognize the drunken drivers.

According to Hudson, the county police was contacted two weeks before Jam-Up, and ordinarily that would have been sufficient. However with the discovery of the body of Neely Smith, a five year old



Photo By Rick Monroe

Alexander Raymer, 18, of 3320 Winterfield Place in Charlotte and Michael Wayne Berry, 16, of 3525-D Taurus Drive (seated at rear of truck) are aided by emergency personnel from the Newell Volunteer Fire Department. The two were involved in a

single-vehicle accident on Old Concord Rd. while leaving Saturday's Jam-Up. The accident report and officers at the scene indicated alcohol use was a factor in the mishap.

east Charlotte girl reported missing since mid-February, and the emergency landing of an airliner at Charlotte Municipal Airport, many of the county officers who would have normally been patrolling the UNCC area were diverted. To help alleviate the manpower shortage, the Highway Patrol was notified late Saturday afternoon.

Is Jam-Up a little bit out of hand? "A little bit, hell!" says Hudson, "It's a lot out of hand."

"When we get through a day like that without a major incident, we feel lucky. We just prayed a lot and somebody heard us."

Hudson is working on a report to Chancellor E. K. Fretwell, outlining the problems of Jam-Up and possible solutions. Although the report is incomplete, Hudson indicated some suggestions would include: moving the event off campus, limiting it to students each of whom could bring one guest and hiring bands which attract less rowdy crowds.

The new chair of the University Program Board, and the persons responsible for next year's

Jam-Up, Charles Simms agrees with Hudson's assessment of the Jam-Up Situation. "We're planning to increase the size of Jam-Up and bring in better bands, so we're having a meeting Thursday with Hudson to come up with some ideas to better control the crowd."

Some of Simms' suggestions will include keeping the date and bands to perform at Jam-Up a secret between the two or three top members of UPB and moving the event to Charlotte Memorial Stadium.

Past measures to control the size of Jam-Up have been met with limited success. This year UPB issued wristbands to students with validated ID's Thursday and Friday before Jam-Up. Free beer was distributed only to those with a wristband.

According to present UPB chair Mac Ritchie, only 75 kegs of beer were available for the 5,400 students with wristbands. That ratio, one keg for 75 persons, was established by the Dean of Students Office. Ritchie noted that a keg usually serves 35 persons.

"We took as many precautions as we could," Ritchie said, "We didn't want to promote it as something where people go out and get sloppy drunk. We don't promote it as a big beer blast."

Dean of Students and Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Chuck Lynch said the ratio was established out of concern for the University's responsibility during Jam-Up. Lynch said there are instances where schools have been sued by students who were in accidents following Jam-Up type events.

But Lynch feels the beer given away at Jam-Up is only a part of the problem. "I know more beer is consumed by the people who bring their own than by those who take part in the give away." Lynch said, "But what students do on their own, I don't think we can control."

New Changes Await Approval

By Ray Gronberg
Carolina Journal News Editor

Chancellor E. K. Fretwell will decide sometime in the next week whether to accept or reject changes in the student body constitution as proposed by the Documents Review Committee.

The revisions will include new procedures for

governing the activities of the student bank and the Elections and Publicity committee, but fail to provide for minimum academic qualifications for elected officials.

"We didn't know exactly where to put it," is the reason legislature chair and review com-

mittee member Barry Brown gives for the failure to establish minimum course loads and grade point averages for officials.

Brown explained that, although the Elections and Publicity Act sets qualifications for candidates for office, it says nothing about standards

once the candidate takes office. Neither does the constitution.

Ginny Newton, chair of the committee, said they first considered placing the standards in the constitution, but decided against it, because, she said, "We

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