

# Athletic Association Rallies Spirit, Distributes Ducats

## CAA Provides Link Between Students, Department of Athletics

BY TOM ACITELLI  
STAFF WRITER

Ever wonder who sees to it that students have their fair share of seats in the Smith Center or inside Kenan Stadium? Or just who is planning the upcoming events surrounding Saturday's Homecoming game against Wake Forest?

The "who" in question is the Carolina Athletic Association, one of the oldest student organizations at UNC.

"The CAA is operated by and for students," said CAA President Anthony Reid, elected by the student body last spring. "It is essentially here to fulfill student interests in athletics. Technically, every registered student at UNC is a member of the Carolina Athletic Association."

Reid said the primary responsibilities of the CAA president were not only to oversee the organization's operations, but also to voice students' athletic concerns to the Department of Athletics.

Apart from its position as a liaison between the students and the University's athletic department, the CAA also carries out other necessary duties to assist students.

Prominent among these duties is handling basketball and football ticket distribution, a lofty responsibility because of the size of the seating venues and the perennial popularity of the two athletic teams.

The organization also strives to garner the support of students for nonrevenue sports on campus, said CAA treasurer Ian

Walsh.

"Obviously, we do have to focus on student participation in revenue athletics such as football and basketball," Walsh said. "However, the CAA does try to get students out in support of the nonrevenue sports."

The CAA has sponsored "Chats with the Coach," where coaches of UNC athletic teams meet with students in the Pit on the day of major home games.

Another major priority of the CAA is the management of Carolina Fever, the official UNC spirit organization that has about 250 members. "In its 10th year in existence, Carolina Fever is a great way to become actively involved in supporting our sports program," Reid said.

Events surrounding Homecoming have long been a special responsibility of the CAA. Other special events have also been developed by the CAA in recent years, including the "Blue Blitz" football game and the annual "Midnight Madness" basketball practice, which was held Saturday in the Smith Center.

The CAA was also instrumental in the opening of the Student Recreation Center in 1993.

Students seemed to be appreciative of



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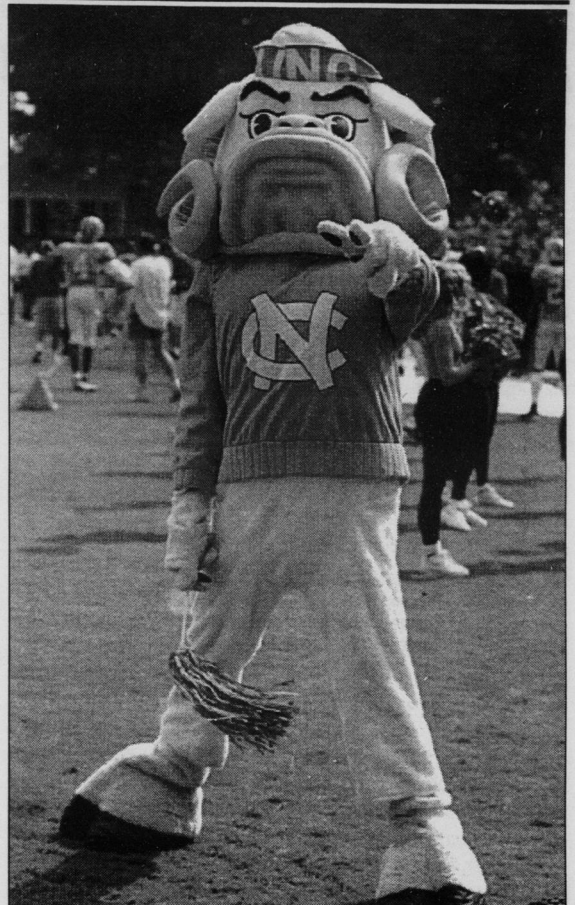
IAN WALSH  
CAA treasurer

the CAA's activities. "The CAA appears to be very well organized in the fact that they explain their ticket distribution policies very clearly," said Chris Chase, a freshman from Charlotte.

John Coppola, a freshman from Clearwater, Fla., said he saw the CAA as beneficial to him and his classmates. "It's a great opportunity for all incoming freshmen to get involved in athletics at UNC for the next four years or so," he said.

Students wishing to express their views to the CAA, to join Carolina Fever, or to learn more about this student organization can drop by its offices in Suite A of the Student Union or by calling 962-4300.

The latest sports information can be found by using the Carolina Athletic Association Hotline at 962-4CAA or by accessing their Internet address at <http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/CAA>.



The Ram, in conjunction with the cheerleaders and CAA's Carolina Fever, gets the crowd roaring at North Carolina athletic events.

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