

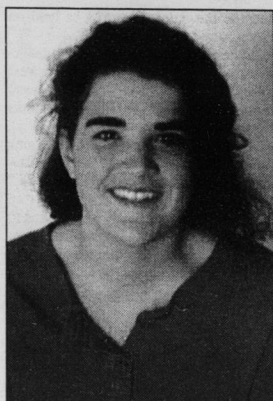
7 Homecoming Queen Finalists



JESSICA RIOS



AZRA SHAIKH



JOY STARNES

lowed her to define her identity at the University.

"Being Hispanic definitely makes me feel like a minority," she said. "But it's something I'm proud of. It's part of my identity and it brings me back to my roots."

She is also co-chairwoman of the Campus Y's Big Buddy program, where she acts as a role model for two children.

"Big Buddies is one of the most important things I've done at Carolina," she said. "I see myself working in the same environment, with kids who need special attention."

Azra Shaikh

Shaikh is a senior from Cary. She was nominated by Alpha Epsilon Delta, the premedical national honor society.

She is involved with Sangam,

Muslim Students Association and AED. Shaikh was vice president of Sangam during her junior year. She was also a part of the health sciences living and learning program as a junior. She is now suite coordinator of the health sciences living and learning program, which is housed in Carmichael Residence Hall.

Her sophomore year she was an intern at Glaxo and vice president of Whitehead Residence Hall. She took part in the Emerging Leaders Program. She has volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House.

Working with the Sangam Executive Board, she says she was instrumental in securing a Hindi-Urdu class at the University.

Joy Starnes

Starnes is a communication

studies major from Monroe. She was nominated by the Order of the Bell Tower.

She has been the social chairwoman and treasurer of the Order of the Bell Tower.

Starnes has also participated in other campus activities, including project literacy, Yoke fellows prison outreach, peer tutoring and the senior class gift campaign.

"The things I've been involved in are service-oriented," Starnes said.

"I don't want to sit behind a desk all day and punch numbers. I want to be involved in helping people."

She said she wanted to represent the University at Homecoming because she had enjoyed her experience here so much.

Starnes said, "I get goose bumps just thinking about how proud I am to be here."

Axing of Service Project Turns Homecoming Title Into 'Weekend Position'

BY MARVA HINTON
STAFF WRITER

This year's Homecoming queen contestants are not required to propose and complete a service project. The selection process will instead focus on a candidate's history of activism within the University and the community.

In the past, candidates were judged in part on their service projects. Once elected, the Homecoming queen was required to complete her project in the spring. If the queen did not meet this requirement, she lost her title.

Anthony Reid, president of the Carolina Athletic Association, said the decision to eliminate the service project was based on CAA's desire to make the contest fair to all applicants.

"The service projects were becoming increasingly elaborate," Reid said. "We realized it's not fair to 'grade' candidates on the feasibility of funding of projects. We did not want to turn the contest into a financial competition."

In the past, the queen and the organization that sponsored her were responsible for raising the money to fund the project.

Reid also said the fact that a Homecoming queen was not elected as a public official but selected for her position persuaded CAA to change the service requirement.

"Homecoming queen is an honorary position," Reid said. "She does not have duties she is expected to perform. Although her

reign is a year, in some ways it's a weekend position."

Nikki Allen, Homecoming committee chairwoman, said she agreed that the Homecoming queen's role had become too broad.

"We agreed unanimously that the service project took away from the queen's main responsibility, which is to represent the school during Homecoming," Allen said.

Allen said the candidates' history of service was important and would still be a factor in the judging.


"The judges are looking for someone who has taken advantage of all the opportunities to get involved on campus," Allen said.

Reid cited the busy schedule of most seniors and the transition that occurred in the leadership of CAA in the spring as additional problems with the service project that had occurred in the past.

Past queens had to complete their service project in the spring semester at the same time that they were preparing for graduation and often under different CAA leadership.

"Former CAA leaders had the responsibility of making sure the queen did her project when they weren't even in office," Reid said.

Reid said the CAA wanted the Homecoming queen's year-long reign to be pleasant. "All our attempts are directed at making this a positive experience for the young ladies and the campus as a whole, which will culminate into a wonderful Homecoming that will be memorable for all."



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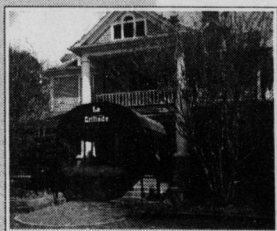
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