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Final Four distribution causes distress



Students irked at CAA treatment of Monday lottery

BY ERIN ZUREICK
STAFF WRITER

The Carolina Athletic Association once more is facing criticism of its ticket-distribution methods.

Officials of the student athletic organization were charged with publishing the distribution of Final Four tickets that took place Monday. Those who entered their names in a lottery had a chance to obtain the coveted prize.

Now students who were hoping to support the men's basketball team in St. Louis this weekend

are saying that CAA did not adequately publicize the contest to purchase tickets.

And some are questioning just how many tickets went to members of the group.

The association posted a message on its Web site and sent an e-mail to its 2,000-member listserv — the best possible ways to pass along the information given time constraints, CAA officials say.

Student Solicitor General Matt Liles said he did not find out about the process until after the deadline passed.

"I consider myself pretty well-connected on campus, and if I didn't hear about it, then the average student probably didn't either," Liles said.

CAA President Lindsay Strunk insists that the association tried its best to spread the word.

"When you find out Sunday night at 10 o'clock, there's not a lot you can do," said Strunk, who will not attend the Final Four.

Liles said posting the information on the Internet was not sufficient.

"Yes, it's on the CAA Web site, but that's not somewhere people frequent every day," he said.

Ticket-holder Bayley Crane, co-chairwoman of CAA's Homecoming committee, said she found

out about the tickets through word of mouth.

"My roommate called me at 11 a.m. and said we were going down to the ticket office," Crane said.

Crane said 500 students signed up for the lottery. She said there were 20 sign-up lists, each containing the names of 25 UNC students.

Students were given a choice between \$130 upper-level seating and \$170 lower-level seating.

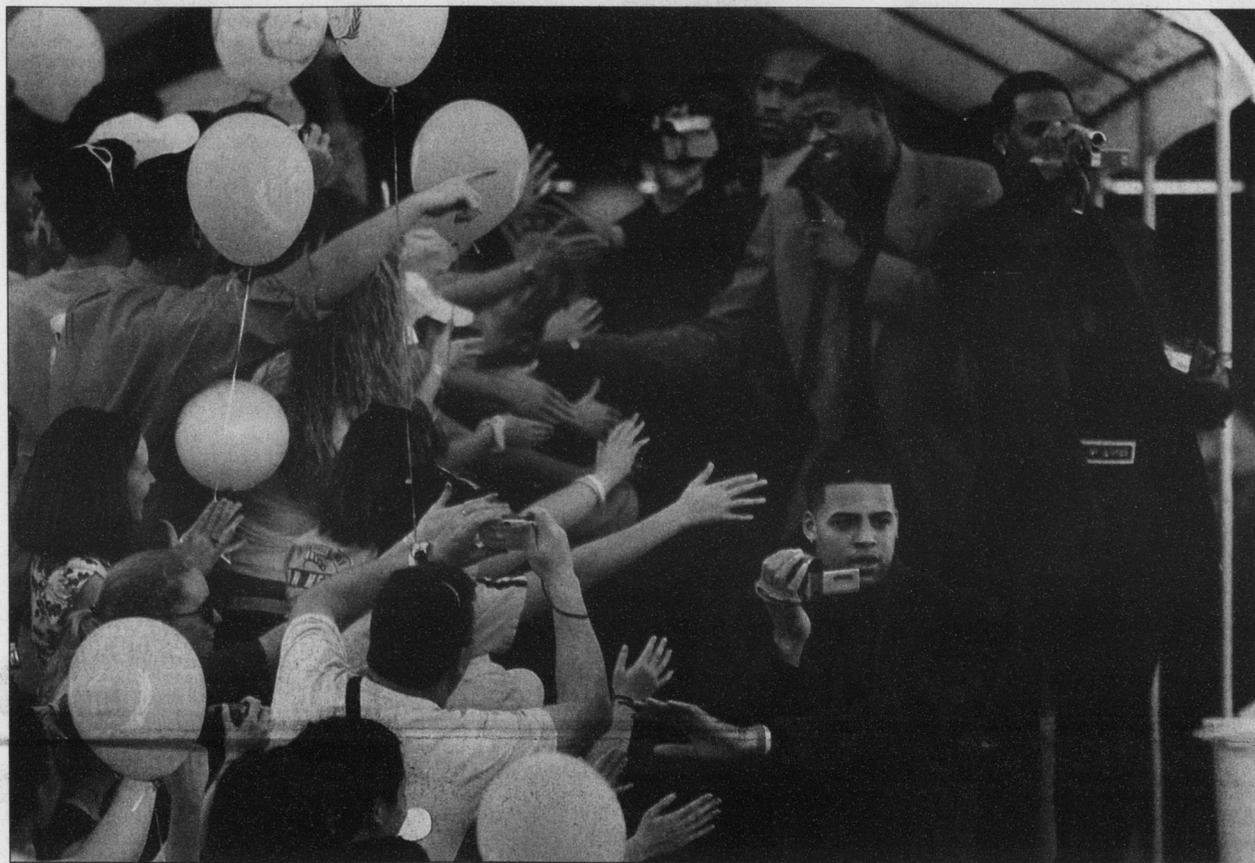
"I heard that everyone who signed up got tickets," Crane said. "But that doesn't include people who changed their minds because of the cost."

CAA President-elect Justin Johnson, who will

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CAA President Lindsay Strunk said her group did its best to promote tickets.

CANDID CAMERAS



DTH/BRANDON SMITH

North Carolina center Sean May (center) soaks up support from the Tar Heel faithful as he departs from the Smith Center with his teammates, heading to St. Louis for the Final Four. May, who was named a Wooden Award finalist Wednesday, will lead UNC into battle against Michigan State

starting at about 8:47 p.m. Saturday. If the team can beat the Spartans, it will take on the winner of Saturday's other semifinal game, featuring Illinois and Louisville — teams that finished No. 1 and No. 4, respectively, in the year-end polls. UNC hasn't been to the Final Four since 2000 and last won the championship in 1993.

In budget, echoes of past cuts

BY JAMES EDWARD DILLARD
STAFF WRITER

In 1991, the economy was slow, there was a war in Iraq and the N.C. General Assembly had a \$1.2 billion dollar budget gap.

Now, 14 years later, the wheel of fortune has come full circle — especially for the General Assembly, which once again is laboring to cover a similar shortfall.

The cure was the same then as it is now: Either raise taxes or cut costs.

"We don't know which pill to swallow," said Sen. Bob Atwater, D-Durham.

Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, and Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, both said legislators are considering a strategy similar to the one used to bridge the 1991 gap: erasing half of it with cuts and covering the other half with taxes.

While both were quick to note that the current gap is more manageable, UNC-system officials still are worried that this year's cuts could be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

"We can look at that budget that was passed in 1991, but if they pass a budget like they did in 1991, there will be a negative impact on the quality of education received by students," said Mark Fleming, the system's lobbyist.

Compounding cutbacks

This year's proposed cuts, which might reach 4 percent, or \$90 million, come on the heels of five straight years of funding reductions.

And system officials repeatedly have warned of

SEE SHORTFALL, PAGE 11

Dean search nears its end

BY RACHEL BROCK
STAFF WRITER

After search committee meetings, a review of applications from across the country and interviews with finalists, the search for a dean of the journalism school is coming to a close.

Officials are in the midst of negotiations with Gerald Baldasty regarding his taking over the deanship of UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Steve Allred, executive associate provost, confirmed Wednesday afternoon.

Baldasty now holds the post of professor and chairman of the Department of Communication at the University of Washington.

He received his doctorate in communications from the University of Washington in 1978 and has a background in journalism and communication history.

"We haven't reached an agreement, but he is coming back next week for more discussions," Allred said.

Baldasty declined to comment Wednesday. Officials said they are glad to see the search process — which began last September — come to a close.



Gerald Baldasty is in negotiations with officials to be the dean of UNC's school of journalism.

a strong candidate with a good reputation." Baldasty would be a good fit for the school, said Ruth Walden, associate dean for graduate studies and professor in the journalism school.

She said Baldasty interacted well with students,

SEE DEAN, PAGE 11

Richard Cole will step down as dean of the school on June 30, after serving in the post for 26 years.

Although it will not be an easy task, building on Cole's legacy might be possible for Baldasty, said Chuck Stone, Walter Spearman professor in the journalism school.

Stone said throughout the search process that he hoped a woman would be named the school's next dean. But he now is satisfied with the likely leadership of the program.

"It's time to move forward," Stone said. "(Baldasty) really is

Surprise Spartans will battle UNC in the paint

BY BEN COUCH
SENIOR WRITER

It was supposed to be like this. With only four college basketball teams in the nation still playing, two of them hail from the same conference.

But that conference wasn't supposed to be the Big Ten. And that second team was not supposed to be Michigan State.

"Well, I can't say that we totally expected to go to a Final Four," said Spartan coach Tom Izzo. "I expected to have a great year with the nucleus of the guys that went to the Elite Eight two years ago, with the addition of a Shannon Brown."

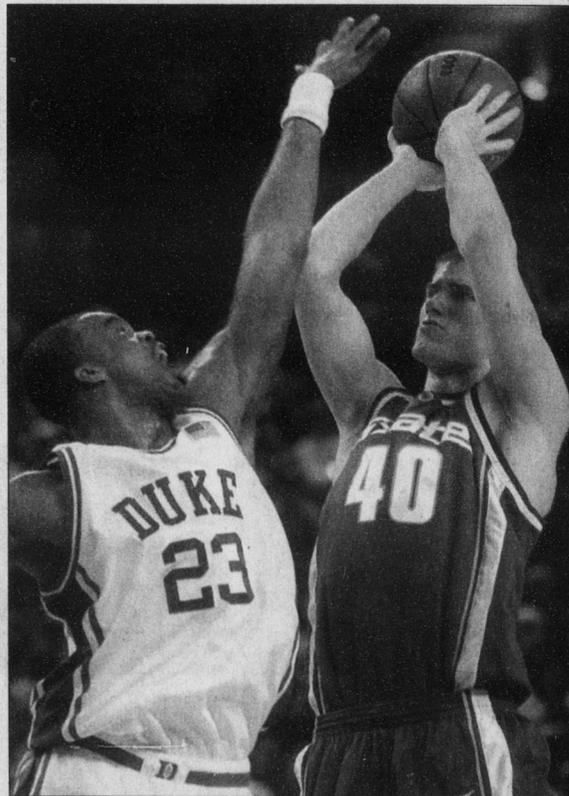
"You know, you always dream it. But reality is it's been a little bit of a surprise."

Even if his team's run caught the Spartan coach unaware, MSU won't be able to sneak up on its competition any longer.

With the season on the line and a week of preparation, it's unlikely North Carolina will regard its semifinal opponent lightly.

The Spartans (26-6) are balanced and versatile. They have an eight-man rotation that can be extended to 10 and six players averaging at least 9 points per game.

SEE MSU, PAGE 11



COURTESY OF THE STATE NEWS/CLINT SPAULDING

Michigan State center Paul Davis (40) will give UNC all it can handle in the post. Davis had 20 points and 12 rebounds in MSU's victory against Duke.

Gell, Hunt lobby for moratorium

BY STEPHEN MOORE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — As the crowd waited patiently, Alan Gell and Darryl Hunt sat silently on stage in the auditorium of the N.C. Museum of History.

Both men served hard time in N.C. prisons. Hunt was twice sentenced to life in prison, and Gell sat for years on death row.

But there was another common thread between the two: their innocence.

The pair spoke Wednesday of their time in prison, the pain they experienced and their continuing search for justice.

They came together to voice support for a bill in the N.C. General Assembly.

The measure, introduced March 9, would create a two-year moratorium on executions while a special panel would review the state's death penalty system.

The stop in Raleigh was part of a statewide tour featuring former inmates who are calling for the temporary halt.

Gell, tried and convicted of murdering Allen Ray Jenkins in 1995, was sentenced to death in 1998. Hunt spent 18 years in prison for the murder of Deborah Sykes.

Both were found innocent in 2004.

But Gell said he fears there might be others on death row who are innocent.

SEE MORATORIUM, PAGE 11



Alan Gell, who supports a moratorium, spent 6 years on death row for a crime he did not commit.

dive
ONLINE

- Film follows lives of children "Born into Brothels"
- Dance-funk-indie outfit delivers with new album
- Check out the arts calendar for upcoming events

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WEIRD SCIENCE

As University runs its 1st research day, officials worry about the effects of cuts on UNC's endeavors **PAGE 4**

WEATHER

TODAY P.M. showers, H 76, L 56
FRIDAY P.M. rain, H 69, L 53
SATURDAY Few showers, H 61, L 35

