Carolina's Living Legends recall Outstanding '91 senior hams the good ol' days ... 50 years ago

By Kay Stallworth

Do you remember when dances were held in Bynum — the first gymnasium? When the basketball tradition was really taking off? When the cafeteria was in Swain Hall (a.k.a. Swine Hall)?

The alumni of 1935 do. And they are the founders of a group, Carolina's Living Legends, whose members include some truly fascinating people who remember it all.

The purpose of the group is very simple, said L.C. Bruce, coordinator of Carolina's Living Legends. "All we are after is to renew old fellowships and old friendships."

The group has no president, executive committee, nor does it require fees or dues. There is simply a coordinator, or - as Bruce describes his position - a "cheerleader."

All members must have been a student at least 50 years ago. Other requirements, besides the very obvious one of being alive, are that members must have attended Carolina for a least one quarter (Carolina was on a quarter system from 1931 to 1934) and have paid any outstanding bills.

The reason students who did not graduate from UNC are eligible for membership is because they attended school during the Great Depression. Many students simply could not affore, although they had to quit school, they never lost their Carolina fever,

The only other way to be a Living Legend is to have married a Carolina student who attended Carolina at least 50 years ago. This assumes that spouses must have been intelligent to have married into Carolina mystique, Bruce said.

These requirements make more than 5,000 people eligible. As of now there are more than 1,000 Living Legends.

These are extraordinary people the class of 1935 especially. Bruce was a political science/pre-law major. He was also president of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity in 1935 and 1936. He said he went to school with a Persian prince. Other classmates included a Kenan, a name that should sound familiar to most UNC students, and Vermont Royster, who was editor of The Wall Street Journal for many years.

"I knew 90 percent of my class," Bruce said, Because of that, he said, he has a certain loyalty to Carolina and his schoolmates.

Julian Raney, also a 1935 graduate and member of the group, was a busi-ness major (then called the School of Commerce). He said he enjoyed the group, because it allowed him to get together with old friends and rehash

He said there were only 2,700 students at UNC when he attended

freshmen through seniors. "I knew most all of them (his class) by sight or by name," Raney said.

Only a few women were allowed to enter UNC as freshmen. "There were very few of the lovely coeds," Raney

Raney echoed Bruce's memory of the Great Depression. He said his tuition for a year was \$75, and to pay

it he had to have a scholarship. In those days, University room and board fees totaled \$450, Bruce said.

Carolina's Living Legends meets twice a year - once to host an open house at the Carolina Inn, and in the spring, for an organizational meeting. Last year's open house brought 200

This year's organizational meeting was held April 4. During this meeting, the group listened to speakers from the University tell them about issues facing the school.

The Department of Development works with the group to furnish it with a budget and works as a liaison between the group and the University.

This idea of keeping up with old friends has caught on, too. From all the contact, fun and fellowship that alumni have had and the great success of the group, the classes of '34, '35, '36 and '37 now have reunions every year instead of the usual reunion that takes place every 10 years.

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GAACK!

WAS HOPING

IT WOULDN'T BE

SO FUZZY

"This way (the new ID system) is more user-friendly and we can get feedback from the people who make use of

need arises," he said.

it up with alumnus Rick Dees

By Beth Tatum and Lauren Chesnut Staff Writer

Rick Dees stands on the stage, announcing the outstanding seniors he has chosen for his show. One, two seniors are announced. And then: "From my own alma mater — the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — a national merit scholar, senior class vice president, creator/producer of his fantastic talk show, a journalism major ... Chris Lemont Brown."

Brown walks in, wearing a Carolina sweatshirt, points at Dees, winks and smiles. He's on the air.

Brown was one of six outstanding seniors chosen from across the country to represent the nation's finest on the graduation special of Rick Dees' "Into the Night" relevision show. The program, which aired Friday night, honored the 1991 graduates, said Susie Cole, talent executive for "Into the Night."

The audience was made up completely of graduates, including the UCLA women's volleyball team and 78-year-old Wilson Blain, one of the oldest 1991 graduates in the country, Cole said. It took Blain 60 years to get his degree, meanwhile putting all of his kids through college.

Also appearing on the show were comedian Andrew Dice Clay with the valedictory speech, the band I Love You, comedian Elon Gold and beach volleyball player Sinjin Smith.

When asked what advice he would

Chris Brown

give to the graduates, Clay, between drags on a cigarette, told them to follow their dreams — a piece of unusual advice that some of the graduates appearing on the show have decided to follow.

When the representative graduates appeared on the show, they formed something like a panel for Dees' questions. He asked whether college was worth the effort and what they had learned - both of which earned positive responses. Then he asked the big question - what are college kids thinking about these days?

Brown immediately jumped in and said: "I think, for starters, cartoons.

Now bear with me. I definitely think cartoons... I mean, they're like 30 minute commercials.

Imitating his best Smurf voice, he gave an example: "Papa Smurf, Papa Smurf help me! Gargamel's going to eat me ... unless you buy this key for

"We have the responsibility to go out and get all the old school of cartoons back," Brown said. "What about Speedracer? Did you guys like Speedracer? Get an old cartoon like Speedracer back when you can tell it's a good cartoon because the animation is the worst.'

Dees responded: "This is the University of North Carolina. I'm telling you, man, things haven't changed a bit.

Each of the six received a plaque in recognition of their achievements as outstanding seniors.

Cole said the students were chosen by their universities, which were selected at random. The program's officials looked at a map and chose some geographically dispersed schools.

Brown may have been chosen by UNC to appear on the show because of his interest in performing, Cole said, The only request the show made was that the outstanding student not be a sports star because the No. 2 NFL draft choice to was already appearing as a representative graduating senior.

At the end of the show, the guests and graduates gathered on the stage, all smiles, the school representatives holding their plaques. This was the Class of

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ID

fice, he said.

The only part of the card that cannot be invalidated is the copier strip, Tufts said, but that would have a \$20 limit. "It would be like losing your wallet with a \$20 bill in it," he said.

Because the new ID card is larger than the library copier cards, only the law school library will test the new cards' photocopying application at first, Tufts said.

The new ID cards were tested last year when they were issued to incoming freshmen and transfer students. Students living in Carmichael Residence Hall also received cards that served as their front door "key," which also could

Calvin and Hobbes

HOBBES, HAVE YOU EVER

be used in the laundromat and vending machines in the residence hall.

Since the Carmichael pilot key-card roved successful, a similar residence hall key-card system will be installed in Hinton James and Morrison residence halls in the fall, Tufts said.

One of the more desirable parts of the system is that the University will make small changes to perfect the system before making several large investments and then discovering that the system doesn't work, he said

"To avoid making expensive installments across campus of a technology and ramming it down people's throats,

REALLY?

WHAT WAS

we'll spread out as the availability and

Students can go to the meal card office on the north end of Lenoir Dining Hall to have a new ID card made. They must turn in their old ID card at this time. The only students who this will affect are rising juniors and seniors who plan to obtain a meal plan in the fall, Tufts said. Students who only plan to attend this year's summer sessions will receive a new meal card without a

from the appropriations committee, he said. "We could bring it back to the floor of the Senate as a separate bill, or we could add it to the budget bill."

Presently, Lee is negotiating an agreement from House leaders about the bill. Lee said this was a good time to

establish flexibility, especially during the state's financial troubles. Many unmet university needs will be filled with this bill, he said.

"By giving a great amount of flex-ibility, there will be some relief from budgetary problems.

"(Also), this will decentralize the budget management process. I think it is proper for schools to have greater management control over their campuses," Lee said.

Ben Tuchi, UNC-CH vice chancellor for business and finance, said the overall effect of the bill, if passed, would be important for the University. "If is passes, it will be of significant advantage. It will reduce duplication, reduce

the need for paper handling and in-crease dramatically the knowledge of

where we stand financially," he said. As the bill stands, it would take effect in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. But discussions on the Senate floor could push the effective date to fiscal year 1992, Tuchi said.

The bill marks an important trend in budgeting changes, Lee said.

"I'm a strong advocate for budget reform. We in North Carolina need to make drastic reforms. This is just a small step in that process.

"We've got to see in 1993 if this concept is working," he said. "If it works. I feel that the bill could be expanded." Jen Wing contributed to this article.



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