

Homecoming '88: Oh, what a time it's going to be

By Susan Nesbitt

My big sister is a Mountaineer. I don't mean that she climbs on rocks and stuff — although she does — but that's not the point.

What I mean is that my sis Tamra goes to school at App. Yes, ASU. Appalachian State. The enemy.

And she's coming down here, with her Mountaineer boyfriend Broc, for the weekend and the big game. Mom and Dad, too. Wonder who they'll root for.

They'd better root for the 'Cocks. It took me hours and not a few promised favors to find four extra student IDs to get tickets for them all. It took me forty bucks, cash, to validate them. On Saturday at Williams-Brice, I have to find three kindhearted student-game-goers-without-guests to claim my folks and get them into the game, because I can only admit one of them on my ID.

I talked to Tami the other day, and she was telling me about App. Their mascot is, of course, a mountaineer, and his name is Yosef. They come up with all sorts of nifty banner slogans: "Don't Play With Yosef" and the like. Well, she attributed that sort to the TKEs. She said that App has a few regular-old-students and some fraternity/sorority types to balance out what she called a "more than our share" share of hippies, App's "hippie contingent." She's not knocking that; in fact, she's part of it. Her Mountaineer roommate Heidi went so far as to call Boone the hippie capital of the world — Boone, N.C., with more hippies per square mile... Anyway, they said Boone is pretty much your average college town.

I asked Heidi if she thought the Mountaineers would win this weekend, and she answered with a quite emphatic "YES!" She qualified her response with the fact that the 'Neers are 3-and-0, and she was unfazed by the 'Cocks own 4-and-0 record. She said that for their homecoming, they're playing Furman, and they'll win that one for sure, as well.

I called dear ol' Mom and Dad, too, telling them how destitute and malnourished I am. So they're taking Tam, Broc and me out to dinner and stuff while they're here. Dad and I talked about the Georgia game and Robert Brooks' nice one-handed touchdown catch, and Dad said he hasn't been to a college football game since he was in college — you can imagine how long ago that was — at Oregon State cheering for the Beavers. I'm excited about showing him how we do things around here: the wave, "GAME!"—"COCKS!", "We're gonna beat the . . .", you know, all the trimmings and trappings of supporting our team.

I bought my mom a "University of South Carolina MOM" sweatshirt. I know she's gonna love it 'cause she put the bumper sticker (same sentiment) from her "Parent Orientation Pack" on the Olds last year when I left the nest.

Dad has a USC sticker on his old Ford truck, too, along with the App sticker he got from Tam when she was a freshman. What neat parents.

Maybe they miss us, me and Tam, and that's why they're making a six-hour trip from Smalltown, N.C. Maybe. Or maybe they just want to see some real ball played. Either way, what a time it's gonna be.

Fans to celebrate homecoming at Cockfest

By Mary Catherine Carroll

Since its founding in 1971, Cockfest has grown into a community event which brings students and residents together to celebrate USC's Homecoming.

The concept of Cockfest was fashioned after the Gator Growl in Florida and begun by Edward Craig, a Pi Kappa Phi member, in his senior year.

The first Cockfest, almost dubbed Cockfight, was held on a rainy Friday night at Williams-Brice stadium. A \$1 admission was charged and 4,850 attended, Craig recalled.

Pi Kappa Phi — with Craig as their leader — produced a two-hour show which included a performance by the S.C. State marching band, student organization skits and fireworks, and Bob Fulton, the voice of the Gamecocks, as emcee. The show had a \$6,000 budget and was sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Gamecock Club.

University Union provided a concert afterwards. The worst problem of the first Cockfest was the paranoia that cigarette smokers might burn the new astroturf, Craig said.

Amiel Goldberg, the 1986 Cockfest director, recalled worry that the turn-out would be slim because of the State Fair and the fact that there wouldn't be the usual fireworks display. Fairground officials refused to let the fireworks be set off because of liability reasons.

Nonetheless, a crowd of 8,000 to 10,000 people turned out to show their spirit, Goldberg said.

There had been a real problem getting sponsor-



ship that year, Goldberg said. In past years, Cockfest had relied on corporations, specifically beer distributors, to sponsor the program. The raised drinking age put an end to this. Cockfest organizers had to look to other corporations for support.

After finding no sponsors in the community, the athletic department agreed to let Cockfest keep the funds donated by the department for fireworks, which were no longer needed. The money was to be used solely for Cockfest and not by Pi Kappa Phi, Goldberg said.

Bob Fulton was once again the emcee and WNOK-FM promoted Cockfest for the first time, Goldberg said.

Disc jockeys Leo Windam, Pandora Reynolds and J. J. Jackson were there to do a live pre-Cockfest show.

Attempts were made to get student organizations other than the Greeks to participate in Cockfest and to make Cockfest a community event, Goldberg

said.

The 1988 Cockfest crowd is expected to be larger than last year's 10,000 to 15,000, due to Carolina's undefeated record and the team's big win over Georgia last Saturday, Mark Adamson, director for 1987 and for 1988, said. "We are expecting about 5,000 more than last year," Adamson said.

The show will include the senior football players, Coach Joe Morrison, the USC cheerleaders, Cocky and the USC marching band.

Bob Fulton, Joe Pinner of WIS-TV, and Jonathan Rush of WNOK-FM will emcee this year.

All student organizations were invited to participate in skits. Four groups were selected to do seven-minute skits on the "Go for the Garnet" homecoming theme.

Celebrity judges include: Pat and Rose Vella, owners of Vella's Deli; Pandora Reynolds of WNOK-FM; Athletic Director Richard Bestwick and Bob Fulton. Also on hand will be a Pi Kappa Phi national representative.

Each group was given \$100 for skit production. Any cash left over will be put back into Cockfest. Winners will receive plaques.

WNOK-FM will be on the scene once again to give a live introduction, and WIS-TV's Joe Dagett will broadcast the sports report from Cockfest.

Cockfest will close this year with a fireworks display as its grand finale. Gamecock fans can come out at 7 p.m. to be part of an 18-year tradition.



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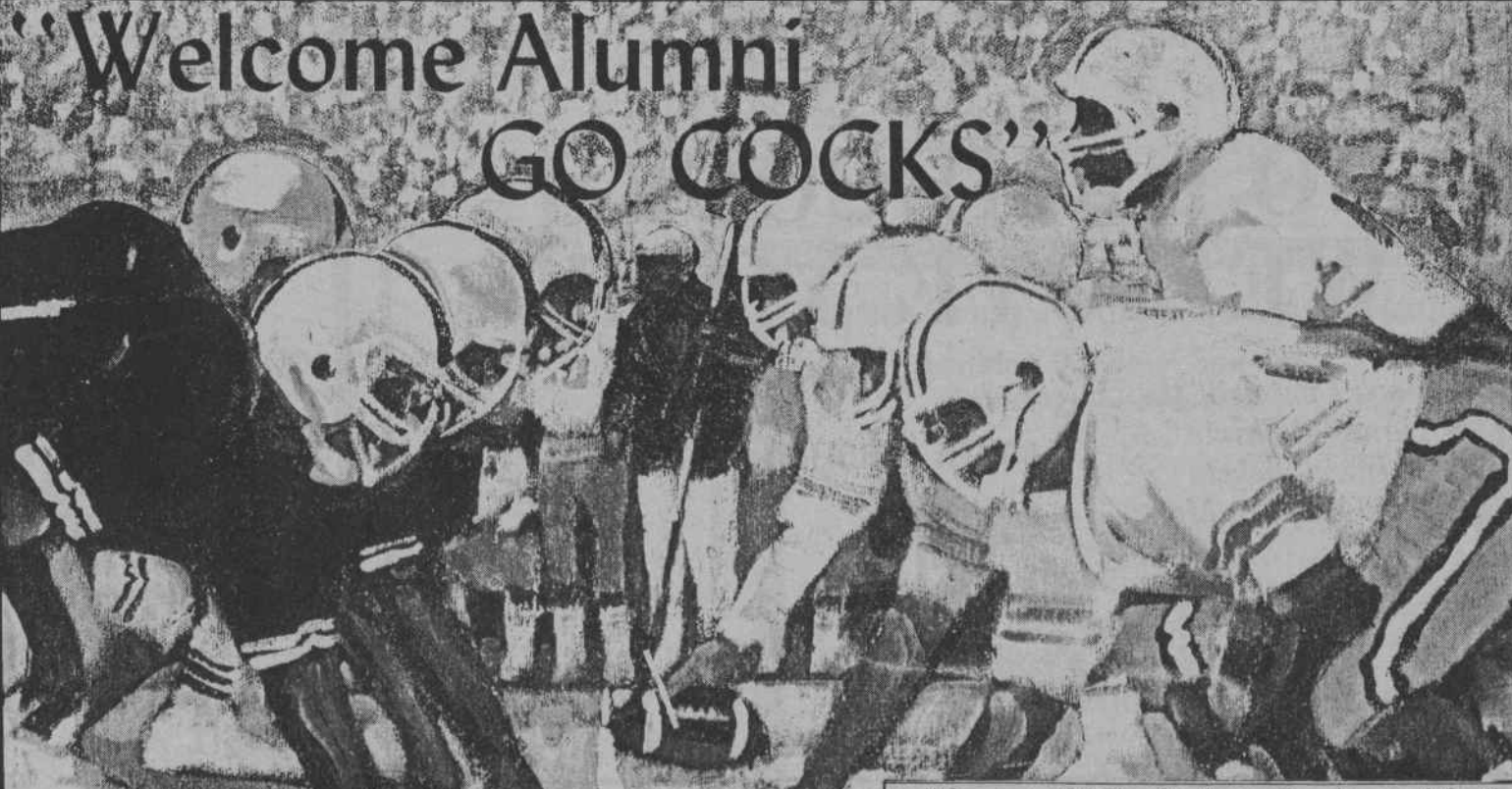
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