

## DOME

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getting one at that price is highly unlikely.

More than 62,000 tickets to the event were sold by lottery last April at prices ranging from \$30 in the stratosphere of the Dome to \$65 closer to court-side.

Tuesday dozens of classified ads in the *Times-Picayune* announced tickets wanted and for sale. Calls to several of the 800 numbers found tickets, when available, priced from \$275 to \$850 each.

Such sales are illegal, according to Sgt. Marlon DeFillo of the New Orleans Police Department, but unlikely to end in prosecution.

"If we had complaints we'd investigate," DeFillo said. "We haven't had complaints. I find it hard to believe, but people will pay outrageous prices to get into the game."

Pleas for tickets range from the mercenary approach, promising quick cash for the tickets, to other ploys aimed at plucking the heartstrings of ticket holders.

"I have a friend who advertised that his kid was seriously ill and wanted to see the game before it was too late," said Mark Adams. "Even that didn't get them tickets at cost. I think he paid about \$300 each, though, and that's not bad."

The two-day schedule drew more than 120,000 when the big-arena format was launched in 1982. The Superdome hosted

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— Sgt. Marlon DeFillo,  
New Orleans police

the tournament again in 1987 and drew 130,000.

Attendance this year will be about 124,000 because additional suites have been added since 1987, Peneguy said.

There are 132 suites in the Superdome. The luxury accommodations feature living room-like settings, wet bars and private bathrooms in addition to seats outside the boxes for viewing the games.

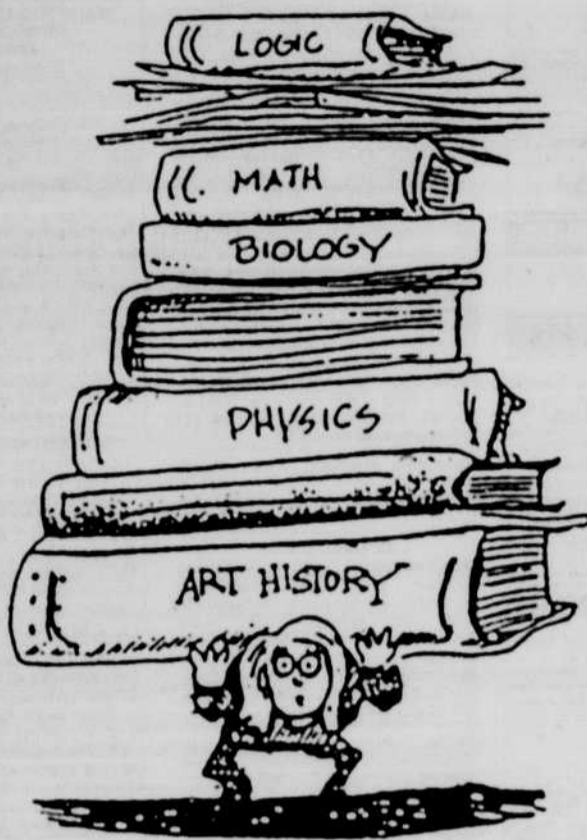
Suite holders are entitled to buy one ticket per seat to any event in the Superdome.

Organizations selling suite tickets for the event range from the New Orleans Saints to professional ticket sellers like Preferred Tickets in Indianapolis, Ind.

Preferred Tickets offered suite accommodations on the near-court side to both days' games, including catering and an open bar, for \$1,500 each. A woman answering the telephone at Preferred Sports said they had 10 spots left to sell.

"Once you've seen it from a suite you don't want to go back to the stands," she said.

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