



# Stentorian

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The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

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## AROUND THE WORLD ...and back

Compiled by Maryellen Corbett

### International

■ The fighting has ceased in Bosnia, but the tragedy is far from over. NATO reports that Muslim Bosnians are being kept from returning to their homes by Serbs. NATO-led peacekeeping forces have had to break up riots.

■ The fighting continues in Lebanon. The Israelis have been trying to pin down Hezbollah guerrillas. Hezbollah is a Syria-based group that opposes the Middle East peace process. The Israelis have also attacked the headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

### National

■ Popular humor columnist Erma Bombeck dies on April 22 due to complications from a kidney transplant. Bombeck has been delighting people with her wry look at suburban life since 1965. She was 69.

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■ **Judicial Change:** Proposal for a judicial board with students drawn up and submitted to Director of Student Life, page 5

■ **DUMA:** Visiting the Duke University Museum of Art., page 7

## Beall fire extinguished quickly despite delays

Daniel Davenport  
and Monica Dev  
*Editors-in-Chief*

"It's real! It's real!" screamed Second Beall D.A. Jamie Joyner as she ran down Second and Third Beall on April 24 at 10:42 p.m. This snapped 90 Beall girls into attention while a fire grew below them in room 109.

Senior and First Beall resident Erin Anderson pulled the fire alarm after realizing that the fire was too big to smother. "It was just a tiny fire when it started," she said.

She had to pull the alarm, as the smoke had not yet reached the hall to activate the smoke detectors. First Beall SLI Amy Wheeler said that by the time she reached the hall, there was a layer of smoke accumulating on the ceiling.

Three minutes after the alarm was sounded firefighters from the Second District fire station on Ninth Street arrived.

According to the Capt. Randy L. Baker's report, twenty-five firefighters from all over Durham worked to extinguish the fire. With four fire engines, two aerials, and a rescue vehicle, the fire department had the fire out in time to prevent irreparable damage to other parts of the Beall/Bryan Complex.

- ① Fire starts in room 109.
  - ② 10:42 p.m.—alarm pulled.
  - ③ 10:45 p.m.—firefighters arrive.
  - ④ 250 ft. of 1 3/4-inch hose taken inside, but only reaches the opening of the Beall hallway.
  - ⑤ "At this time the doors to the hallway were opened where we were met by heavy fire, smoke and heat."—from the incident report by Captain Randy L. Baker.
  - ⑥ 200 ft. of 3-inch hose taken inside in order to reach down the hallway. Fire extinguished.
- based on incident report filed by Captain Randy L. Baker

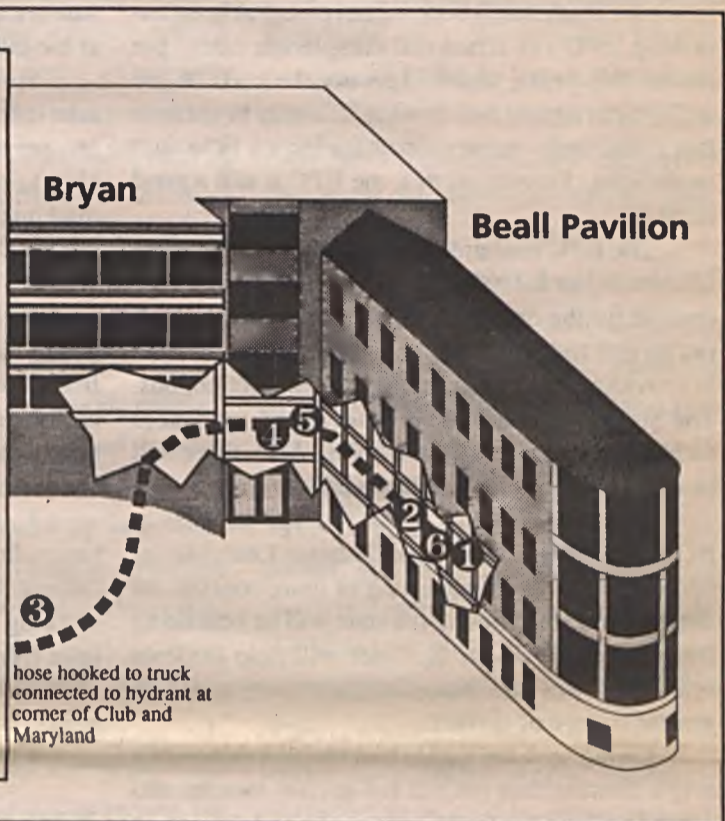


Illustration by Daniel Davenport

The fire department, however, initially had trouble getting water to the fire. Beall contains a pressurized water system to which a fire hose can be hooked up, but the firefighters could not access this water.

"It is very possible that the heat caused the valve to the water main to [remain] shut," said Ken Horne, head of security.

The firefighters instead used the fire hydrant on the corner of Club Blvd. and Maryland Ave. Ac-

ording to Baker's report, the hose brought into the building was not long enough to reach into the hallway, and a second hose was brought and connected to the first.

Fireman H. S. Turnage of the Second District station said that the fire was put out relatively quickly under the conditions. First Beall has been closed for the rest of the year due to the extensive damage in the hallway and many of the rooms. Everything except for personal belongings of staff and students is

covered by the State Insurance Office.

Most personal items, except for those in the two rooms where the fire entered, were damaged by smoke and heat, so some were salvageable. These items fall under individual homeowner policies.

"[Fortunately] my mom has insurance that is going to pay for everything," said Anderson.

## Fire sparks interest in student safety

### NEWS FEATURE

Daniel Davenport and  
Monica Dev  
*Editors-in-Chief*

Occurring only a few months after the Second Bryan fire, the much more severe fire on First Beall made fire safety issues a top priority at NCSSM. Unfortunately, rumors have spread, making it difficult to know what is and what isn't the truth. We present here some of the rumors and the facts behind them.

**Rumor 1:** The fire was caused by a student's extension cord.

**Truth:** Fire Marshal Charles Ottaway has not yet determined whether or not anything caused the fire in addition to a faulty lamp.

**Rumor 2:** The ventilation system in Hunt Dorm does not shut off when a fire alarm is sounded. This would cause fire to spread quickly throughout the building.

**Truth:** At one point two of five air modulators in Hunt were not turning off when fire alarms were sounded. These had previously broken down and been replaced by York, the company that maintains them.

"York failed to tie the fire alarm into [these] units...that [was] corrected two months ago," said Head of Plant Facilities Joe Clifton.

**Rumor 3:** Firemen have been denied tours of the school to become familiar with the building.

**Truth:** Firefighter H.S. Turnage of the Second District fire station said that seeing the building beforehand helps in the process of fighting a fire, but tours of the school have dwindled in the last few years. "The administration didn't want us [firefighters] walking around there...but I have not been turned down personally."

Capt. Randy L. Baker, who wrote the incident report for the April 24 fire, said that he has not toured the school in the last six or seven years for unspecified reasons. He did say the reasons

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