

# The Tar Heel

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Thursday, August 1, 1985

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

## Fire at Towne House Apts. leaves 14 homeless Tuesday

By Kevin Meredith  
and Jim Greenhill  
News Editor and Editor

Fourteen people were left homeless Tuesday after fire at the Towne House Apartments on Hillsborough Street destroyed four apartment units and severely damaged at least four more.

A spokeswoman for the American Red Cross and a police department social worker said that many were students or recent graduates of the University. No families were involved.

The Red Cross offered shelter, and local residents have been calling in offers of clothing and temporary housing.

The fire, which started in the basement of the two-story apartment block, caused no injuries. Geoff Hilliard, a resident, reported the fire about 10:30 a.m. when he saw smoke coming from the basement door.

The cause of the fire has not been determined, Assistant Fire Chief C.

Matthew Maynor said Wednesday, but added, "At this time we don't suspect arson or anything of that nature." He suggested that mattresses and other flammable materials being stored in the basement under the apartments were a fertile place for a fire to begin.

"It (the fire) had a lot of fuel in that basement," he said. Maynor said the quick spread of the flames to the first and second floors might have been due to fire going up through air conditioning ducts.

Denise Dixon, a resident of the first floor apartment over the basement, said she saw flames and smoke coming out of the vents to the basement. After knocking on her neighbor's doors, she left the building. No one else was home, she added.

Dixon, a student from Winston-Salem who moved to Towne House Apartments this June, said she lost everything in the blaze which com-

pletely gutted her apartment, the one above it and two others. Lateral spread of the flames was stopped by a fire wall.

By the time the fire was under control, most of the roof over the apartments had burned leaving a gaping hole ringed with charred shingles and smoldering timbers. "They've got a lot of wood in the attic," Maynor said, estimating that the fire's temperature had reached 2,000 degrees by the time it broke through the roof. Dorothy Bernholz, director of Student Legal Services, said that the flames were visible from her second floor office in the Carolina Union. The SLS offices are over a mile away from Towne House Apartments.

All three Chapel Hill Fire Department trucks were at the scene and more than a dozen firemen fought the blaze.

The Red Cross still has shelter and clothing available.



Phil Berney/Yackley Yack

Firefighters battle blaze that destroyed four units and severely damaged four more.

## Encouraging university R&D

By Lane Mitchell  
Staff Writer

The Coalition for the Advancement of Industrial Technology, comprising more than 52 corporations, 15 major universities and nine trade associations, is lobbying on Capitol Hill for two congressional bills aimed to amend the existing Research and Development law to encourage more corporate donations of research equipment to universities.

According to forecasts by the Battelle Memorial Institute, the United States will spend about \$107 billion this year on research and development. Industry-sponsored research represents more than half of the total at \$55 billion, which is up 11 percent from 1984.

The two bills, H.R. 1188 and S. 58, propose to:

- make a permanent tax credit of 25 percent to companies for spending on university research that exceeds one percent of their annual average qualified research expenditures between 1981 and 1983

- enact a new 20 percent tax credit for basic research specifically encouraging companies to fund it in universities

- enhance deduction provisions for corporate donations of state-of-the-art equipment to universities for research and educational purposes. According to the American Society for Engineering Education, most university laboratory engineering equipment is 20 to 30 years old and

equipment to teach new technologies is almost non-existent.

In 1981 a provision for a 25 percent tax credit was established. This tax credit is scheduled to expire on December 31, 1985. Since 1981, research spending in the United States increased by about 40 percent.

According to Martin Neil Baily and Robert Z. Lawrence of the Brookings Institution and Data Resources Inc., a permanent tax credit would generate an additional \$2.9 billion in gross national product by 1991.

Under ideal circumstances, the Brookings Institution says, the annual GNP could increase in the

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Phil Berney/Yackley Yack

'Heat from flames soared to an estimated 2,000 degrees.

## Clinton man charged in on-campus assault

By Kevin Meredith  
News Editor

Police arrested a UNC-Chapel Hill student following a fight in the Davie Hall area Tuesday morning.

Marc Douglas Knight, 21, of 13 Hamilton Dr., Clinton, N.C., was charged with possession of stolen property and assault with a deadly weapon by University police, and is being held in Orange County Jail on \$500 bond.

The police report filed on the

incident, which occurred about 11 a.m., did not say what weapon Knight used, or what stolen property he has been charged with possessing.

Sgt. Ned Comar, of the UNC campus police, said that at the time the arrest was made, Knight had probably disposed of the weapon cited in the report. Charges of assault were brought by the victim of the assault, who was not identified in the report.

## Ice cream party today

An all-campus ice cream party will take place today in the Pit from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. The party, originally scheduled July 30th, was cancelled at the last minute because of possible inclement weather.

CGC Rep. Tom Vlcek said CGC Speaker Wyatt Closs cancelled the party at the last minute.

"I think he thought we'd have rainfall, so he called ARA Food Services and postponed the party," Vlcek said of Closs. Despite the expectation, it was sunny throughout the Tuesday lunch period. The party, sponsored by Student Government with student activity fees, is open to all on-campus second summer session students.