

# Burnout party simmers indoors

By REBECCA NESBIT  
Staff Writer

Is Burnout burning out? People who attended the Pi Kappa Phi party Friday night may have thought so. Instead of holding the annual Burnout party, the fraternity held a smaller party for the brothers, said Scott Gerlach, Pi Kappa Phi president.

"We prefer not to call it Burnout because it wasn't the same at all," Gerlach said. "Burnout was always outside, and there was always a lot of sponsorship. This year it was a party for the brothers. It was a lot different from the past because before it was for a great cause, and the brothers were always working. This time it was for us and our friends," he said.

Between 400 and 500 people

attended the party, compared to last year, when about 3,000 to 4,000 people came to Burnout, Gerlach said. Two bands, Graffiti and the Phi Gam Band, played inside to keep the noise level down since the Chapel Hill Town Council denied the fraternity's request for a noise permit.

"The size was perfect," Gerlach said. "We were afraid there were going to be too many people to control, and we didn't want that. Everyone was able to fit inside and see and hear the bands."

Mayor Jim Wallace said, "Whatever went on must have been fine because I didn't hear about anything big. I don't think that there were any arrests and there were no complaints on the noise as far as I know."

Gerlach said the police came to

the fraternity house before the party started at 1:30 p.m. to measure the decibel level from the property line. The noise level stayed at 60 decibels all day, he said.

"It wasn't noisy at all from the property line, but inside the house it was loud as hell," Gerlach said.

The police department did not make any arrests at the house, he said.

"There was no trouble with the police. I was here all day and I didn't see any policemen," Gerlach said. "Now, as far as arrests made on people driving home goes, I don't know. I just know about what happened at the house."

Pi Kappa Phi raised only about \$1,000 for the N.C. Jaycees Burn Center, compared to last year's total

of about \$6,000, Gerlach said. All money the fraternity raised this year came from T-shirt sales, but in the past they raised funds with T-shirts sales, donations and corporate sponsorship.

"Since this party was on such a smaller scale, we couldn't have sponsors of the past like 94Z, Miller and Domino's. We were honest with them about the number of people and how the party was going to be different and they were just not as interested," Gerlach said.

Parking was a controversial issue when the fraternity requested a noise permit, but it was not a problem after the Town Council denied the noise permit, because parking on Finley Road is legal.

"It's legal for parking on the roads, but since the Town Council had such power over us because they held the noise permit, we always had to comply with that and try to keep people from parking," Gerlach said. "Since we didn't get a permit, we didn't have to worry about parking."

But Burnout might not be burning out after all.

"As far as next year, it's looking like Burnout is going to be like it has been in the past," Gerlach said. "The public support we have had is tremendous."

The Highland Woods Recreational Association, consisting of residents from a neighborhood near the fraternity, wrote letters to the Town Council and the police department supporting the Burnout fundraiser.

Town council member Bill Thorpe has explained to the fraternity why the council denied the permit this year and how they will probably vote in the future, said Gerlach.

"Mr. Thorpe has come out to the house and basically told us that things will definitely be different next year," Gerlach said. "They blindly made their decision. The mayor and some other council members made their decision without realizing how the general public felt about the issue," he said.

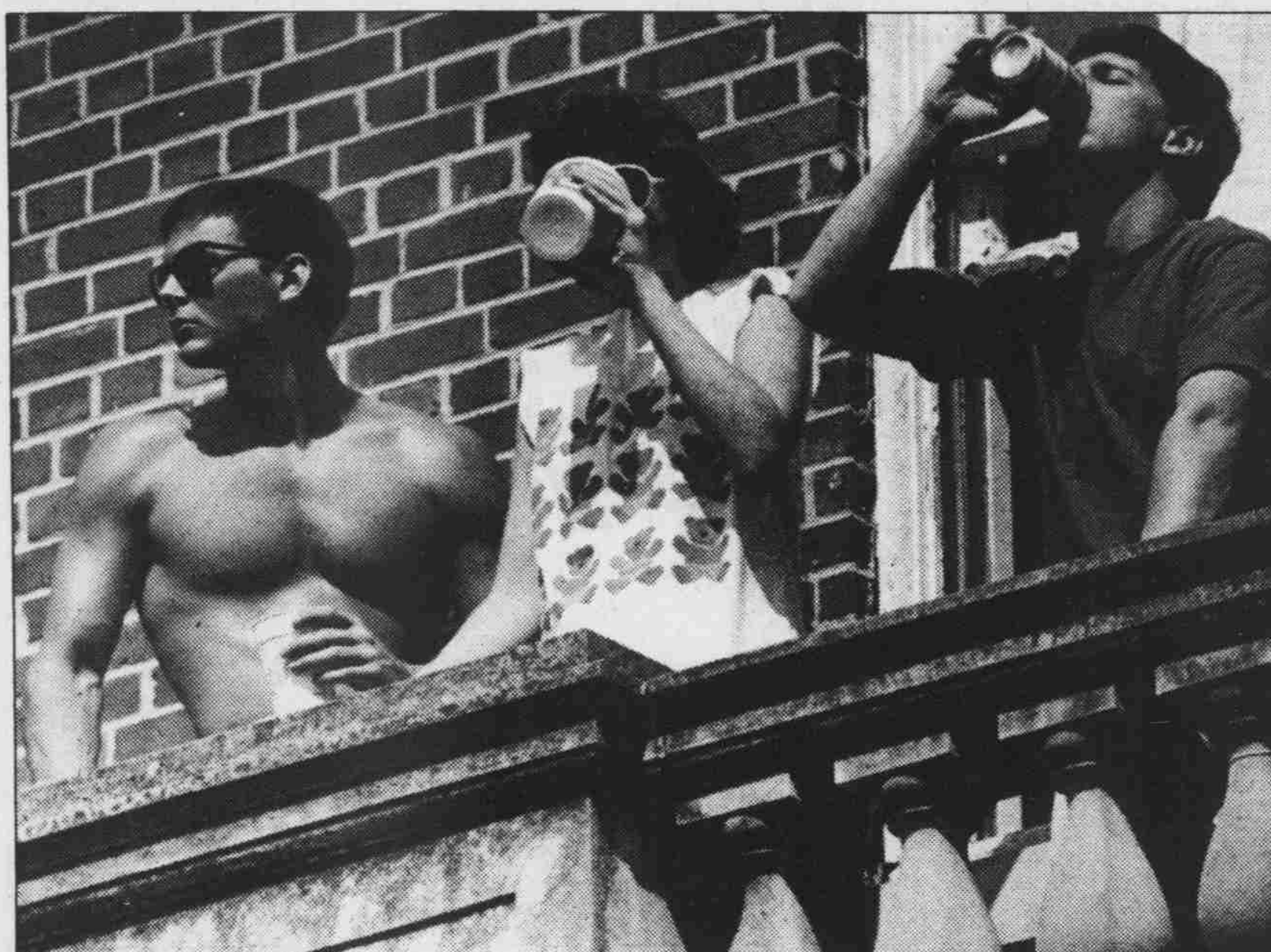
"The Burn Center is definitely the one who was hurt the most by this year's decision," Gerlach said.



DTH/Charlotte Cannon



DTH/Jonathan Serenius



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"It's a family kind of atmosphere, where the whole campus can get together for a nice afternoon of fun in the sun."  
— Jeff Moeller

"Springfest was everything I expected and more."  
— Lee Warner



DTH/Jonathan Serenius



DTH/Charlotte Cannon