

The Daily Tar Heel

SUMMER EDITION
Weekly
 THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1996



Talkin' Trash With the County
 Wednesday's public hearing will focus on a new area landfill. Page 2



Wir Wollen Deutsch Studieren
 Ground-breaking German exchange program digs in at UNC. Page 5



An Aria With Your Appetizer
 Singing hostesses entertain hungry crowds at Macaroni Grill. Page 7

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Fire Officials Call Sigma Chi Fraternity Fire Suspicious

■ The Saturday morning fire caused \$5,000 damage, but no one was injured.

BY MINDY HODGES
 STAFF WRITER

Investigators are calling an early-morning fire at the Sigma Chi fraternity house



The early-morning fire was contained in the basement of the Sigma Nu fraternity house. Repairs are expected to cost over \$5,000.

Saturday suspicious, and as of Wednesday, the cause was unknown. No one was injured while escaping the fire.
 Chapel Hill Fire Chief Dan Jones said the blaze originated in a couch in the basement of the house in Fraternity Court while eight people were asleep. No residents were in the basement during or before the early Saturday morning fire began.
 Jones said the fire was not started by electrical or mechanical problems. Investi-

gators are exploring the possibility of an accidental or intentional origin.
 The fraternity spent \$750,000 on fire safety renovations last September. Fire officials believe these renovations helped the residents evacuate quickly and safely without injuries.
 This investment in fire safety might even have saved their lives.

Non-combustible interior finishes and fire doors slowed the spreading of the fire to upper floors and sleeping areas, Jones said. A new central fire alarm and a smoke detection system were also added as part of the renovations.
 "It didn't spread like the Phi Gamma Delta fire," Jones said. "It made the difference here."

Jones said when the Chapel Hill Fire Department arrived at the scene, there was heavy smoke coming from the house.
 David Redding, the Sigma Chi fraternity house manager and member, said, "We smelled smoke, and we went and knocked on doors yelling at everyone to get out."

One resident rushed to a nearby pay phone at approximately 6:48 a.m. to make the 911 emergency call when the evacuation was complete, Redding said.
 When residents escaped the fire, they conducted a head count to make sure ev-

eryone was present, Jones said. "They did exactly what we encourage them to do and got out immediately," he said.
 "Everyone went down the new fire escape," Redding said. He said the new fire escape was a stairwell, rather than a vertical ladder that would not allow for quick escape.

The damage due to fire and smoke is expected to exceed \$5,000. Fire damage is only present in the basement, but smoke damage occurred on the first and second floors.
 Jones said all fraternity members can take actions to protect their houses from fire damage.
 "Frat houses don't do a very good job of making their houses secure," Jones said. "They leave doors unlocked and windows standing open."

Redding said the Sigma Chi fraternity house is far safer than before the fire prevention renovations. "I think frat houses will be improving fire safety," he said.
 Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins said she was concerned about the recent fires. "It's very frightening," she said.

There was a meeting Monday to look at similarities between the fires that have occurred recently. Both fraternity fires started early in the morning in the basement.

Sigma Nu Break-In Alarms UNC

BY MINDY HODGES
 STAFF WRITER

Fraternity members have been urged to take extra safety precautions due to a break-in at the Sigma Nu fraternity house on Monday and the recent fires at the fraternity houses of Phi Gamma Delta and Sigma Chi.

The most recent event, the break-in, added another dimension to the worries of the Greek community.

Two Chapel Hill police officers discovered a broken window at the Sigma Nu fraternity house Monday at 5:13 a.m. when they were checking the area during the investigation of the Sigma Chi fraternity fire, said Chapel Hill Police Spokeswoman Jane Cousins.

"There's no indication at this point that the fire and the break-in are related, but we certainly always keep that in mind that they might be related," Cousins said.

A meeting was held Monday to discuss the possibility of a link between these events, but no sound evidence has

been discovered yet.

Due to the hazardous nature of fraternity houses recently, the University has offered living space to all fraternity members who feel they are in danger.

The burglar alarm at Sigma Nu fraternity was activated early Monday morning when the break-in occurred, and officers heard it when they approached the house, Cousins said.

They immediately contacted the Chapel Hill Fire Department for further investigation of the fraternity house, she said.

"There was very little, if any, physical evidence left at the scene," Cousins said. Nothing was taken from the fraternity house, but investigators did find six broken windows, she said.

There are no suspects right now, Cousins said.

A letter with recommended safety tips written by Frederic Schroeder, dean of students, and Ron Binder, director of Greek Affairs, was hand-delivered Mon-

See BREAK-IN, Page 7

Board of Governors Looking at Costs of Fire Safety in UNC-System Residence Halls

■ Installation of alarms and sprinklers in 237 residence halls could cost \$55 million.

BY JEANNE FUGATE
 EDITOR

Fire safety could cost the UNC system over \$55 million, according to a recent study.

The UNC Board of Governors will discuss Friday a report about sprinkler systems and fire protection measures for the 274 residence halls across the state.

UNC-system President C.D. Spangler initiated the study on May 16, just four days after the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house blaze that killed five students.

"Everybody's become much more sensitive of the issue because of the May 12 fire," he said. "Somebody's got to start doing something to keep something like this from happening again."

Spangler said he had assigned staff members to compile figures sent in from all 16 campuses.

"You have to get the facts before you have a legitimate discussion," he said. "There would be no way to have an enlightened discussion without having that information."

Spangler said he hoped the information would provoke discussion in the state legislature regarding improving fire safety on UNC-system campuses.

"I think there will be some action in the General Assembly that will be beneficial to all campuses," he said.

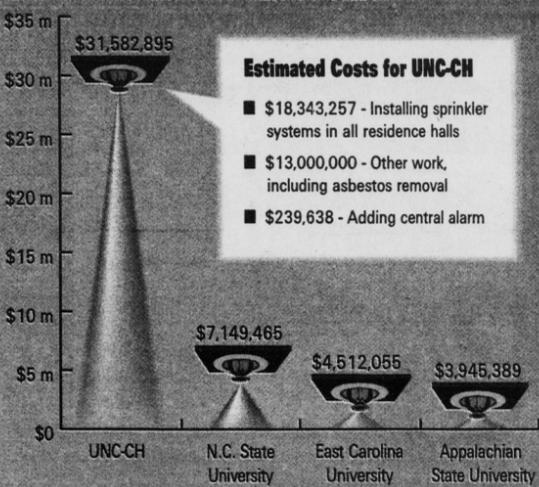
He said UNC would especially see the benefit because it is the largest campus and most in need of renovations, but he would not speculate about the amount of support the system might receive.

"I think (legislators) will be the ones who determine the degree of that response," Spangler said.

The \$55 Million Question

The Board of Governors will discuss Friday the \$55 million cost of adding sprinklers and alarms to UNC-system residence halls.

ESTIMATED COST OF RENOVATION, IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



SOURCE: UNC GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

DTH/BETH POWERS

Another definite response will come from the BOG on Friday, he said.

"The alarms are an obvious upgrading that the BOG is going to have an immediate interest in," he said.

Adding alarms would cost the system \$1.26 million. At the University, Odum Village Family Apartments are the only residences in need of alarm systems, to a total cost of about \$240,000 for the 306 units.

"Beyond that, they have got to deter-

mine what should be done about sprinklers in the dorms," he said. "And that'll be an active discussion."

Sprinkler systems for every residence hall in the system would run up a bill of over \$55 million.

"It would be impossible to do them all at one time," Spangler said. "There's not enough people or money."

UNC racks up the highest cost with an

See SPRINKLERS, Page 7

UNC Board of Governors Prepares To Search for Spangler's Successor

■ The Personnel and Tenure Committee finalized a policy to find a replacement for Spangler, who might retire in August.

BY AARON BEARD
 SPORTS EDITOR

With UNC-system President C.D. Spangler possibly retiring in August, a UNC Board of Governors committee will present a final draft of a search policy to find his successor at the BOG meeting Friday.

The five-page policy outlines a search process involving four committees. Committee members would hold meetings to garner public input, discuss possible salaries and benefits for the final choice and other important tasks.

"This is designed for a selection process," said Lois Britt, chairwoman of the BOG's Personnel and Tenure Committee.

The policy further outlines steps to be taken in the selection process, including who will gather information about applicants and how applicants will be screened for the position.

According to the policy, the BOG will first create a nominating committee, which will determine who will serve on the other committees. The next committee, a leadership statement committee, will hold public hearings to learn what qualities faculty,

students, alumni and other members of the public want in Spangler's replacement. This information would be compiled into a leadership statement to set out the qualities needed in the next UNC-system president.

The committee will be composed of 20 UNC-system members, including BOG members, four chancellors, faculty members, the student member of the BOG and representatives from boards of trustees.

The screening committee, composed of five to seven past and present BOG members, will review the applications and cut one-third of the candidates.

The search committee, to be composed of 13 past and present BOG members, will interview candidates and offer one name to the BOG for approval as the UNC system's next president.

The process outlined in the policy is an involved one, but Britt said the details were necessary to ensure a successful search.

"The chief executive officer for the university system is the day-to-day administrator of the policies," she said. "Consequently, the selection of a chief executive officer is one of the most important functions the Board has."

The current chief executive officer, Spangler, has served as president of the 16-campus system for more than a decade.



UNC-system President C.D. SPANGLER will announce retirement plans in August.

Want Your MTV? No Luck at UNC For Three Years

BY JON WILLIAMS
 STAFF WRITER

On-campus students who have bought their "TV Guide" subscriptions for 1996-97 had better ask for a refund — at least until 1999.

Cable TV, which was supposed to have been ready to go in some campus dorms this fall and spring, has been pushed back — again.

"Asbestos is preventing work from being done in the dorms" said Larry Hicks, Associate Director of University Housing. "The asbestos is not dangerous now, but could be if disturbed."

Due to the possible threat it poses, asbestos can be expensive to contain.

Hicks said the cost of the project had gone up due to the asbestos problem. The project, which was originally supposed to cost \$4.2 million, might end up costing \$7 million, he said.

Long distance revenue from students' phone use was expected to pay for the project, but now additional funds may need to be found, Hicks said.

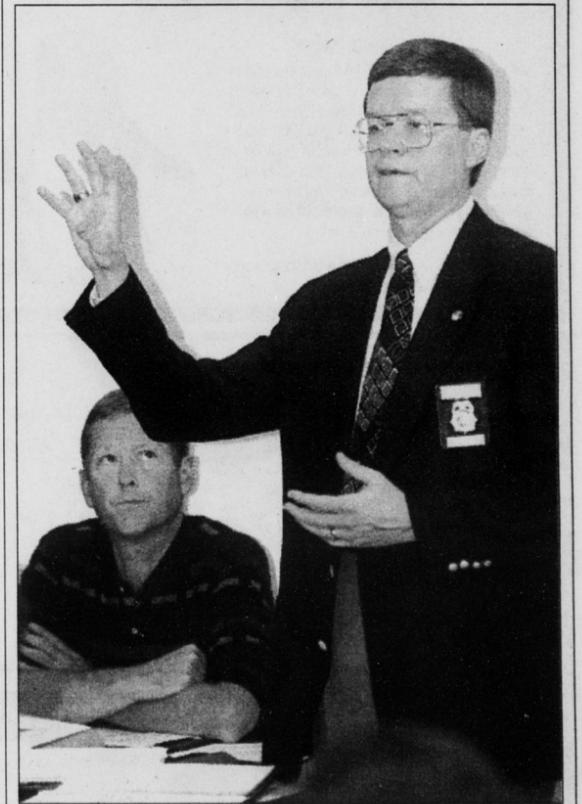
Cost is not the only problem. Trying not to disrupt the students' lives with construction is also a major consideration.

"This project could be done in about a year if the dorms were unoccupied" Hicks said. "But this is the students' homes, so we have to tread lightly."

The University has already taken major steps in the completion of the project, how-

See CABLE, Page 5

A Sprinkling of Words



Chapel Hill Fire Chief Dan Jones explains the benefits of automatic fire sprinkler systems to concerned Greek leaders June 5. See story page 3.

Black Public Works Association Continues Claims of Racial Injustice in Town Pay Practices

BY RENÉE TOY
 STAFF WRITER

The Black Public Works Association discussed proposals of a more equitable Chapel Hill town budget and of racially unbiased town practices during a noon news conference Thursday at the Hargraves Center on North Roberson Street.

The 1996-97 budget, which was passed by the Chapel Hill Town Council Monday night, addressed salary raises for town employees. A large portion of the budget, \$726,000, will be used to increase the salaries of employees.

This portion will be used to raise the salaries of the town's lowest-paid employees from \$15,229 to \$17,262, which would bring them to above poverty-level wages.

Steve England, a leader of the BPWA steering committee, said the raise had come about from BPWA agitations.

While raising the lowest-paid employees' salaries to above the poverty level was a major victory, England said it still left much more to address.

He said town employees in the higher pay grades will get the

bulk of the raise money and black employees will continue to be compressed into the lower pay grades.

"Although this plan looks good on paper, it really means that the rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer," England said. "The highest-paid employees are trying to hold on to their large raises and leave us the crumbs."

According to the budget, the 91 full-time employees in the lowest five pay grades would receive \$87,351 of the budgeted money, which is an average raise of \$959 per employee. The 17 full-time employees in the highest five pay grades would split \$40,137 of the budgeted money, an average of \$2,361 per employee.

England said he believed the town's budget would adversely affect black employees. All but one of the 17 lowest-paid employees are black.

England said the town's system of promotion and salary raises kept them in the lowest pay grades.

"They're locked in the lower pay grades and can't get any

See BPWA, Page 7

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

Will Rogers