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FIRE
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of a second-floor window were:

- Adam Jones, 21, of Atlanta. The rising senior is a Phi Gamma Delta member.
- Ben Eubanks, 21, of New Bern. Eubanks, a rising senior, is a former Phi Gamma Delta president.
- Anne Glenn, 21, of Charlotte. Glenn had not been enrolled this past semester.

A Nude Awakening

A Carolina Inn employee called Orange County 911 at 6:07 a.m. He reported a fire at 108 West Cameron Ave. — the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, just across the street from the Inn.

"The fire was well involved when the first units arrived," Jones said. Firefighters, who had a three minute response time, were unable to enter the building, he said. Chancellor Michael Hooker, who went

to the scene of the fire as soon as commencement ceremonies ended, said local officials had done all they could.

"The Chapel Hill Fire and Police Departments, as well as our own police department, responded quickly and admirably as soon as the call came in," Hooker said.

Director of Greek Affairs Ron Binder heard about the fire soon after the firefighting units had reached the scene. "I got called at 6:30 am. I got four phone calls — they were very thorough," he said.

Binder had to attend graduation so he had planned on just checking in. "I got over there about 7 a.m., and it kind of dawned on me how serious the situation was."

Alumni of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity arrived on the scene at about 7 a.m., Binder said.

"They were helpful with the layout of the house," Binder said. "The police department was very grateful to hear about

the little nuances that they and the current brothers knew from living in the house."

Some of the nuances included fire code violations. Johnson, the assistant fire marshal, said that the last fire inspection at the fraternity was Dec. 11, 1995. The house had eight violations, which they had corrected by January.

But violations, like the long-lasting effects of this tragedy, cannot be undone.

"What should have been the happiest day is found out to be the saddest," Chancellor Michael Hooker said May 12.

Binder said he had never experienced a similar event. "I've been a Greek adviser for 11 years on different campuses and this is probably the biggest tragedy I've ever had to deal with."

Student Body President Aaron Nelson said he was at a loss for words.

"I just can't believe on a day that was to be so wonderful, tragedy can just strike without warning, without any warning whatsoever."

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STUDENTS
 FROM PAGE 1A

Some of the swimmers presented his mother with a T-shirt signed by the team.

Weaver joined Phi Gamma Delta his freshman year, receiving the pledge of the year award. He also served as recording secretary. Libba Weaver said, "He loved that fraternity, as we do."

Weaver graduated from Rocky Mount Academy in 1993. He is survived by his parents Libba and Gary.

Mark Strickland

Where Mark Strickland walked with his good friend Josh Weaver, the children at Rocky Mount Academy would follow.

"They were sort of like pied pipers while they were here," Proctor said. "They were good role models for the little guys."

Friends and family describe Strickland as a personable man who always had a smile on his face. "He was a very sensitive young man, and he didn't like to step on anyone's toes," said Hank Strickland, Mark's father.

Jason Harrell, 21, met Strickland when they played on the high school basketball team. "He was the perfect gentleman, the perfect citizen — nobody ever said a bad word against him," Harrell said.

Strickland's father said he had many friends. "We always teased him — as soon as he came home he had 20 calls from friends wanting to talk to him," he said.

Strickland said through his grief, he recognized his son's accomplishments. "He had 21 good years of quality," he said.

Strickland graduated from Rocky Mount Academy in 1993. He is survived by his parents, Rita and Hank; and brothers, Jeff, David and Steven.

Anne McBride Smith

Anne McBride Smith grew up with Josh Weaver and Mark Strickland in the tightly-knit community of Rocky Mount. She and Weaver became fast friends as toddlers

after his family moved to town.

"She enjoyed knowing the boys at the Phi Gam house," said Anne's mother, Mary Sue Smith. "Mark Strickland, whom she died with, was like her brother, and Josh Weaver, too."

Smith led an active high school life. She was captain of the tennis team, editor of her yearbook and an honor student, but she still found time to maintain these friendships in college, even after she joined Pi Beta Phi sorority.

"To describe Anne is to describe someone whose life was her friends and her family," Mary Sue Smith said.

Pat Mauldin, a longtime friend of the family who has daughters close to Smith's age, said, "She was always 'Annie' here."

A sorority sister said, "She was just always smiling, always really friendly."

She graduated from Northern Nash High School in 1993. She is survived by parents Mary Sue and Timothy; two sisters, Catherine and Rebecca; and brother Tim.

Joanna Howell

"She was born late, she walked and talked and teathed early," said Dan Howell, Joanna Howell's father. "She and her mother read books together from Dr. Seuss to all the current romances."

That emphasis on language continued as Howell worked her way from reporting for her high school paper to becoming an assistant editorial page editor for The Daily Tar Heel.

Associate Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications Cathy Packer said, "It hurts to lose any student, but it really hurts to lose a student like that — a student with endless potential."

Chris Yates, who worked with Howell on the DTH editorial board, said, "My first impression, was she was very outgoing, very interested in you — in people."

She joined Alpha Delta Pi sorority her freshman year, and her father said she enjoyed its social outlets.

Howell graduated from Apex High school in 1993, where she was a cheerleader, ran track and was in the National Honor Society. She is survived by parents, Daniel and Jan; and brothers, Robbie, Tommy and Michael.

Ben Woodruff

Randy Worth lives two doors down from the Woodruffs, and went to school with Leon and Bonnie, the parents of Ben Woodruff. He said he often saw Woodruff moving the lawn or going to soccer games.

Worth had known Ben Woodruff since he was six years old. "He always had an infectious smile, but was a well-mannered, pleasant kid," he said.

The Raleigh neighborhood of about eight houses holds an annual Christmas party. "I remember him sitting on Santa's lap as a very young boy," he said.

Charles Riddle, rector at St. Michael's Episcopal, said Woodruff had served as an acolyte and attended the church's kindergarten. "Ben was a very likeable person," he said. "He was a big old friendly guy."

"He's been a part of this parish here his entire life," Riddle said. "It's a loss for their family and for our entire church."

Woodruff graduated from Broughton High School in 1993. He is survived by his parents, Leon and Bonnie, and sister Molly Elizabeth.

Real World Pain

Five young people will no longer be a part of the University community.

"This is the type of situation no student body president can solve and no chancellor can keep from happening," Yates said. "They say we're not in the real world, but this is real pain, real tragedy."

The pain has become all too real for five North Carolina families.

Mary Sue Smith has no explanation for the fire that took her daughter's life.

"I'm just so sorry that their lives have been cut short," she said. "We just wanted these young people to achieve happiness."

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