

# The Daily Tar Heel

**INSIDE THURSDAY**  
OCTOBER 24, 1996



**Clean and sober**  
Student Health Service volunteers are asking students to refuse alcohol for 24 hours. Page 2



**Costly campaign**  
The town of Carrboro will have to pay \$900 to repair damage anti-Helms posters have left behind. Page 3



**www.obsessed**  
This week's Divisions tries to untangle the current interest in the World Wide Web. Page 5

**Today's Weather**  
Mostly sunny; low 70s.  
Friday: sunny; low 70s.

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## Fraternity fire claims 1 life at Ohio school

BY JENNIFER WILSON  
STAFF WRITER

Tragedy struck at Ohio Wesleyan University when a student died in a fraternity house fire Saturday that started under circumstances similar to those of the May 12 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house fire at UNC that killed five people.

Phi Delta Theta fraternity member Casey Polatsek, 20, died from smoke inhalation when the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house caught fire early Saturday morning, the middle of OWU's Homecoming weekend.

The fire caused \$20,000 in damages to the university-owned fraternity house, said Tom Macklin, Delaware, Ohio fire chief.

Macklin said the cause of the fire was under investigation, but he said the fire was probably started by a burning cigarette on a couch in a second-floor bedroom. It probably smoldered for several hours before the couch burst into flames, Macklin said.

The house's fire alarms went off, alerting the six or seven people who were in the house. David Cozzens, dean of student life, said more people would have been in the house, but the bars were still open and many people had not yet returned from other fraternity houses.

Macklin said the fire was preventable. "The furniture where the fire started should have been removed from the room earlier in the evening," he said.

He also said a sprinkler system would have prevented the fire from spreading. And, since the fraternity house is owned

by the university, it is the university's responsibility, Macklin said.

Cozzens said the campus had not discussed installing sprinklers yet because it was still dealing with the emotional impact of the tragedy. But he said sprinklers were a very expensive option. "We have to weigh safety versus the dollars," he said.

The university's residence halls and fraternity houses do not have sprinkler systems because they were constructed before sprinkler systems were installed in buildings, Cozzens said.

OWU's tragedy shares remarkable similarities with UNC's May fire.

The tragedy occurred during the university's "Fall Fest" Homecoming weekend. The fire began after a reception for the fraternity's alumni was held at the house, Cozzens said.

The Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house fire began the night before graduation, after a party that included parents and alumni. Investigators linked the fire to a smoldering object, probably a cigarette, that ignited flammable materials near a basement-level bar.

Cozzens said the community had been dealing with the grief process of the loss of a student and reacting to the media. The university administration did not

SEE CAMPUS CONNECTIONS, PAGE 2



CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## EXORCISING THE DEMON DEACONS



Tar Heels Cindy Werley (far left) and Kate Barber (22) double-team a Wake Forest defender in UNC's 7-1 field hockey win at Fetzer Field on Wednesday. With the win, UNC moved to 7-0 in conference play. See story, page 11.

DTH/BRAD SMITH

## DA postpones rape trial date indefinitely

■ The student charged with second-degree rape knew his accuser, an officer said.

STAFF REPORT

The first court appearance of a UNC freshman charged with second-degree forcible rape has been continued for probable cause purposes, a representative of the District Attorney's office said Wednesday.

Jason Ryan Newsom, 18, of 129 Ehringhaus Residence Hall appeared in Orange County Superior Court in Hillsborough on Wednesday. The date of the continuance was not known, the representative said.

UNC Police Officer Lt. Mark McIntyre said Wednesday that Newsom knew the rape victim, a female student at the University. The two were not dating, he said.

The incident occurred in a residence hall about a month ago but no arrest was made because the case was under investigation, McIntyre said.

Newsom was arrested Monday afternoon and was placed under \$20,000 secured bond.

He posted bail from the Orange County Jail later that same day.

Newsom could be summarily suspended from the University for his arrest. Under the University's Disciplinary Emergency Policy, a committee composed of UNC officials can take such disciplinary action.

## Group marks 25 years of aiding civil liberties

BY SARA GRIFFITT  
STAFF WRITER

About 15 years ago, a Star of Bethlehem was placed on top of the Morehead Planetarium. In response, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Civil Liberties Union protested and said the religious freedom of some individuals would be violated by the Christian symbol.

The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately decided the star would not infringe on the religious rights of non-Christians, but the case is indicative of the spirit of the Civil Liberties Union.

This month, the CHCCLU celebrates 25 years of protesting and acting against various civil rights violations that have occurred in the area.

"The purpose of the local chapter is to protect the Bill of Rights for everyone,

even extremist groups like the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Panthers," said Daniel Pollitt, Kenan professor emeritus of law at UNC.

Pollitt, who has been active in the Union since its formation in 1971, will be honored by the group next month.

Pollitt said he thought the group had done an extremely effective job in the past. "The organization is very necessary," Pollitt said.

Pollitt cited a case in which the protests by the group have been effective in bringing about change, including the protest of a raid that occurred on Graham Street about three years ago.

"The police did not have a valid search warrant under the Fourth Amendment, the search and seizure amendment," he

SEE CIVIL LIBERTIES, PAGE 2

## County offers women support on health care issues

BY MARY-KATHRYN CRAFT  
STAFF WRITER

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can be difficult for women because of obstacles such as sexually transmitted diseases, breast cancer and domestic violence.

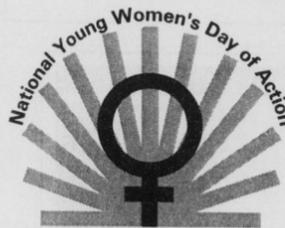
However, various support groups in Orange County offer ways for women to deal with these health issues.

Local health care professionals say many women face domestic violence, both in this community and in others.

"Anywhere from 10 to 33 percent of women who seek treatments in emergency rooms suffer from domestic violence," said Anna Waller, chairwoman of the board for the Coalition for Battered Women. "We have every reason to think this is a major problem for women."

UNC Hospitals implemented a method for screening victims of domestic violence in September 1995, she said.

"It is a nursing protocol to try to screen people for all indicators of domestic violence," Waller said. "Nurses are trained



Part four of a four-part series:  
HEALTH CARE

to see indicators and ask the patients specific questions (to determine if they are domestic violence victims)."

UNC Hospitals' Beacon program was designed to identify and counsel domestic violence victims, said Diana Solkoff, program coordinator.

Other issues affect local women as well. "In this community, young women are concerned about pregnancy and STDs," said Ruth Efrid, a nurse practitioner at the Orange County Health De-

partment. "Older women are usually more concerned about chronic diseases such as breast cancer or heart disease."

Efrid said the county had a family planning clinic which offered programs about pregnancy and birth control. The health department also offers a program which educates women about contracting, treating and preventing STDs. For older women, the county has a clinic for breast and cervical exams, Efrid said.

A breast cancer support group sponsored by the American Cancer Society also meets once a month, said Aletha Rease, office manager at the Orange County American Cancer Society. She said the group met the second Tuesday of each month, and the next meeting would be Nov. 14.

At the upcoming meeting, Johanna Webb will speak about how to re-establish one's body image after surgery. Rease said the group consisted of 20 to 30 members that held group discussions and in-

SEE HEALTH CARE, PAGE 4

## Day of Action calls on women to effect change

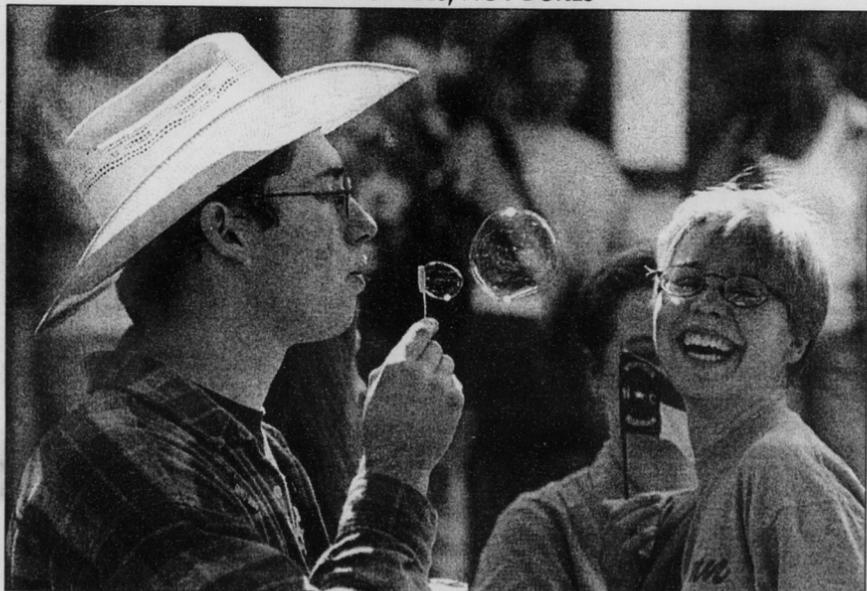
BY ANNE HARDEN  
STAFF WRITER

The 1977 Hyde Amendment put an end to federal funding for abortion and changed the face of health care for low-income women across the United States.

Rosie Jiménez was the first person to die as a result of this amendment, say organizers of the National Young Women's Day of Action. Today they will recognize her death and ask American women to effect change in policy that affects their lives.

SEE YOUNG WOMEN, PAGE 4

## SOAP BUBBLES, NOT BOXES



DTH/JON GARDNER

The last warm days of autumn brought out the kid in everyone. This young-at-heart student spent part of his afternoon blowing soap bubbles in the Pit earlier this week.

## 2 suicides not related, UNC counselors say; assistance still available for troubled students

BY SHENG LEE  
STAFF WRITER

Exactly one week passed between the suicides of two UNC students, but Director of the University Counseling Center Dr. John Edgerly said he thought the two suicides were not reflective of any trends developing on campus.

Edgerly said he could not conceive of a correlation between the Oct. 14 suicide of graduate student Ellen Carrigan and freshman Matthew Paul Burnore's suicidal jump from the second floor of Ehringhaus Residence Hall on Monday.

The wide age gap between the two students further supported that their deaths were unrelated, he said.

Edgerly said he could not remember many instances in which two suicides occurred in such a short time period at UNC.

"This is one of the few times suicides have occurred in close continuity," he said.

Edgerly said there were some warning signals for those who were concerned about loved ones. Removed contact from

people in an exaggerated sense and an open confession of not wanting to live were some of the signs, he said.

Edgerly said despite warning signs, he thought suicide was a difficult problem to spot. "Suicide is a privately contemplated activity," he said. "The signs are usually hidden away."

Dr. Erica Wise, director of Student Psychological Services, said students who thought that a friend might be suicidal should confront that friend. "Approach the person, say what you have noticed and ask how they're doing," Wise said.

Wise also said concerned students should contact a professional.

"You can't keep a secret if someone might hurt themselves or someone else," Wise said. "Often students don't want to or can't ask for help and need a nudge in the right direction."

Edgerly said different departments

**Suicide prevention counseling**  
University Counseling Center  
962-2175  
Student Health Service  
966-2281

including the Office of Student Affairs, the police department, Student Health Service and University Counseling Center were working together as a whole to provide support for the community.

"We have provided on-call services for the people who are in Ehringhaus (Residence Hall) and will also provide services for anyone else who walks in and asks for it," he said.

People initially respond to suicides differently than other tragedies. The general reaction is much quieter and less widespread than expected, Edgerly said. "Sometimes individuals might not even respond until weeks after the incident," he said.

Edgerly said the University Counseling Center provided information sessions, consulted with different departments and alerted people in groups about what to do whenever these types of tragedies occur.

Even though these services were provided to combat suicide, it was impossible for them to be foolproof, he said.

"The problem is that suicide is a reality of life and living. It's a horrible one, but it is going to periodically happen."

*The heart has reasons which reason does not understand.*

Blaise Pascal