

### Watered Down

By fall 2001, all Greek houses must contain sprinkler systems to comply with a town mandate. Twelve houses have yet to install the systems and will do so at the following times.

- Kappa Alpha fraternity — fall 2000 (summer 2000 - summer 2001)  
House will be closed
- Kappa Sigma fraternity — fall 2000 (fall 2000 - summer 2001)  
House will be closed
- Tau Epsilon Phi fraternity — fall 2000 (summer 2000 - summer 2001)  
House will be closed
- Delta Sigma Phi fraternity — summer 2001
- Delta Zeta sorority — summer 2001
- Kappa Delta sorority — summer 2001
- Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity — summer 2001
- Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity — summer 2001
- Pi Lambda Phi fraternity — summer 2001
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity — summer 2001
- Delta Upsilon fraternity — fall 2001 (house tentatively scheduled to be renovated during fall)
- St. Anthony Hall coed fraternity — fall 2001 (house tentatively scheduled to be renovated during fall)

SOURCE: OFFICE OF GREEK AFFAIRS

# 12 Greek Houses Still Need Sprinklers

By JESSICA JOYE  
Staff Writer

The deadline is closing in for UNC fraternity and sorority houses to meet fire safety regulations.

Twenty-one out of the 33 Greek houses have already met the 1997 Chapel Hill mandate, which states that all houses must be equipped with a sprinkler system by fall 2001.

The requirements were set after a 1996 fire at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house gutted the structure and killed five students.

The Phi Gamma Delta house did not have a sprinkler system in place.

Kappa Alpha, Kappa Sigma and Tau Epsilon Phi fraternities are currently undergoing extensive renovations to install sprinkler systems.

Ron Binder, director of Greek Affairs, said representatives from the remaining nine houses have told him their plans for renovations and installations. He said most of these chapters are planning construction for next summer.

Binder said he expected Delta Upsilon and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternities and St. Anthony Hall co-ed fraternity to close next fall for major work.

The fraternity members plan to repair walls and stairs, rewire the electric system and add sprinklers.

Binder said the representatives from the remaining houses have indicated they will not undergo extensive renovations. He said they will merely add sprinkler systems.

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity Fire Marshal Drew Youngblood said his fraternity is in the midst of a capital campaign to raise money for the needed construction, slated for summer 2001.

"We believe these renovations are extremely necessary, so we are working hard in order to meet the mandated regulations in time," Youngblood said.

Other fraternities and sororities showed their commitment to safety last spring, when a record 11 houses had

perfect fire inspections.

"The fact that so many houses had zero violations really proves that fraternities and sororities are taking the issue very seriously," Youngblood said.

The fire safety rules have become more stringent to enforce the gravity of this issue, Binder said.

He said renovation efforts are running smoothly at this point.

"The Greek houses have been cooperative thus far," Binder said. "I am confident that everyone will make the deadline."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

## IN THE NEWS

### Clinton, Mandela Call For Peace in Burundi

ARUSHA, Tanzania — Lending U.S. prestige to an effort to end one of Africa's bloodiest wars, President Clinton and Nelson Mandela lectured warring factions from Burundi on Monday about the consequences of the collapse of peace talks.

Seven years of fighting between that land's ethnic Tutsi and Hutu has killed 200,000 people.

"When all is said and done, only you can bring an end to the bloodshed and sorrow your country has suffered," Clinton said.



President Clinton and Nelson Mandela toured Tanzania Monday, encouraging warring factions to resume peace talks.

Clinton, rounding out the second African tour of his presidency, flew to Tanzania after a two-day visit to Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, which is still shedding the vestiges of corruption under autocratic rule.

After his stop in Arusha, Clinton was continuing on to Egypt for a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the Middle East peace process.

Negotiators in Tanzania had hoped that Clinton would witness the signing of a major Burundi peace accord.

But the power-sharing agreement signed Monday wasn't approved by Hutu rebels, who hadn't participated in the talks.

Several small Tutsi parties also did not approve the agreement.

Mandela, the former South African president and chief mediator, lashed out at the Tutsi parties that didn't sign, accus-

ing them of ignoring "the slaughter."

### U.S. Officials Accuse Cuba of Denying Visas

WASHINGTON — The State Department accused Cuba on Monday of systematically preventing Cubans holding U.S. visas from migrating to the United States, forcing many to try a high-risk escape by boat.

The charge was made in a diplomatic note which alleged that Cuba has failed to abide by a 1994 agreement seeking to establish ground rules for the orderly migration of 20,000 Cubans plus family members to the United States.

"The Cuban government has consistently failed to take effective action in response to our continuing and legitimate humanitarian concerns," the note said.

The note was handed to Fernando Ramirez, chief of the Cuban diplomatic mission in Washington.

A copy was made available to The Associated Press.

The note says 117 Cubans from 57 families had been denied exit permits by the Cuban government in a recent 75-day period.

All had been granted visas to migrate to the United States.

A senior State Department official said Coast Guard personnel recently have picked up an increasing number of fleeing Cubans who have U.S. travel documents.

Established procedures require that Cubans intercepted by the Coast Guard be returned to the island.

The note said the recent death of two fleeing Cuban brothers "highlights the growing propensity of Cubans denied the means to migrate in a safe, orderly and legal fashion to risk their lives in desperate sea voyages."

The brothers were victims of a shark attack in the Florida Straits.

### Rand Set to Propose Inmate DNA Collection

WINSTON-SALEM — Backers of a plan to collect DNA samples from anyone arrested on certain violent felony charges are preparing to renew the fight for their proposal when the General Assembly convenes in January.

Proponents of DNA testing say the results can help solve decades-old crimes, while collecting DNA from convicted felons can identify repeat offenders as well as solidify evidence against the guilty or exonerate the innocent.

A measure to create pilot testing programs in Forsyth, Robeson and Halifax counties stalled in the state Senate last

month due to concerns over costs, which counties would participate and privacy questions.

Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, a former defense lawyer, plans to resurrect the issue when the General Assembly convenes in January.



State Senator Tony Rand will propose a law to collect DNA samples from N.C. prison inmates.

"If you protect the privacy, you are doing (the testing) as an identification measure only," he said.

"I think society wants the guilty punished, the innocent freed."

Rand's proposal, introduced last year and revived in the final days of this year's session, called for testing anyone arrested on felony charges.

It would have provided \$40,000 to the N.C. Department of Justice to run the pilot program for one year, but it's not clear exactly how much the program would cost.

Initial plans called for \$500,000 for the program over two years.

The bill called for health officials to take the DNA sample and for law officers to send the sample to a lab to be analyzed.

### Ford, Firestone Clash Over Venezuelan Tires

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ford Motor Co. and Bridgestone/Firestone offered conflicting information Monday about whether certain tires manufactured in Venezuela, reportedly linked to dozens of accidents there, met the right specifications.

The differing interpretations came as U.S. congressional investigators questioned executives at Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. about when they knew there were safety problems with their tires.

Company spokeswoman Christine Karbowiak released a letter the company sent Monday to Venezuelan authorities, who are expected to submit a report shortly to the country's attorney general.

That report could lead to fines or criminal prosecution of Ford and Bridgestone/Firestone in Venezuela.

The Bridgestone/Firestone letter states that in June 1999, Wilderness AT tires P25570R16 and P23575R15, manufactured in Valencia, Venezuela, were mislabeled as not containing a nylon

strip between the steel belts and the tread of the tires.

Bridgestone/Firestone said Monday that the tires did in fact contain the strip, as requested by Ford, but that the markings on the tires were wrong.

### Settlement Approved In Diet Drug Lawsuit

PHILADELPHIA — A federal judge has approved a proposed \$3.75 billion national settlement of health claims stemming from the diet drug combination fen-phen, which has been linked to potentially fatal heart valve damage.

Under the settlement approved Monday, fen-phen users would get up to \$1.5 million, though most would get far less, depending on their level of injury and how long they took the drugs.

The settlement also includes money for future medical monitoring.

U.S. District Judge Louis C. Bechtel gave preliminary approval to the settlement in November.

Barring an appeal, attorneys said fen-phen users could begin receiving settlement checks as early as January.

More than 9,000 lawsuits have been filed against American Home Products, maker of fenfluramine, the "fen" in the fen-phen diet drug combination.

The Madison, N.J.-based company sold the combination under the brand name of Pondimin and also made Redux, a chemical cousin.

### L.A. School Vouchers Succeed, Study Shows

LOS ANGELES — A study that measured the effect of school vouchers on student performance found that black students performed better on standardized tests after switching to private schools.

The study, released Monday, found no similar improvements among other ethnic groups, however.

The voucher system, which provides money to help parents pay for private schooling, has become a key issue in the presidential election and in California, where voters face a voucher initiative on the November ballot.

The study, led by Paul Peterson, a government professor at Harvard and a Stanford University's Hoover Institution fellow, examined three privately funded experimental programs in New York, Washington, D.C., and Dayton, Ohio.

Researchers found that between 1997 and 1999, black children on vouchers raised their percentile rankings on standardized math and reading tests on average by 6.3 points.

The Associated Press

# Forest Fires Threaten Homes, Close Road

The Associated Press

RED LODGE, Mont. — A fast-moving wildfire closed the scenic Beartooth Highway to Yellowstone National Park and threatened up to 150 houses Monday, some of them million-dollar trophy homes in the Montana woods.

Elsewhere, a firestorm in an Idaho forest destroyed most of the buildings at a guest ranch, and a second guest ranch was ordered evacuated.

The fire near Red Lodge became the No. 1 firefighting priority in Montana, but ground crews with shovels might not be on the job before Tuesday because so many other blazes across the West are demanding their attention.

"Even if we got everything we want, it may not be enough," Forest Service Ranger Rand Herzberg told residents.

"This is going to be a tough one, folks." Les Linn, 76, said he packed up and got out of his house when the fire was about half a mile away.

"We loaded up the back of the pickup," Linn said. "The thing I made sure I

got first were my guns."

The Willie fire — so named because Willie Nelson was headlining a music festival in Red Lodge — started Sunday when a motorcycle crashed and caught fire a few miles south of town on the Beartooth Highway that leads into the northeastern corner of Yellowstone. The fire quickly grew to 3,000 acres on the west side of the highway, which was closed on Sunday.

Many tourists had to find another way out of the park after the closure of the 65-mile route to Red Lodge.

"We're moving everybody back toward Yellowstone Park, telling them to turn around," said a spokeswoman for the Montana Highway Patrol.

Flames were just feet from some of the evacuated houses.

"One side of the road has homes, the other side has fire," said fire information Officer Scott Fitzwilliams.

A few of the houses evacuated were worth as much as \$1 million, but most were middle-class homes, Sheriff Luke Schroder said.

# Ramsey Parents Pledge Help to Colorado Police

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — John and Patsy Ramsey pledged their cooperation to police Monday as they arrived at their lawyer's office to answer investigators' questions about the 1996 death of their daughter, JonBenet.

The couple, who now live in Atlanta, arrived at about 8:10 a.m. for the meeting with police from Boulder, Colo., where the 6-year-old beauty queen was slain in their home in 1996.

"They say they need our help. We're here to help," Patsy Ramsey said as the couple arrived.

She was to go first in the questioning, followed separately by her husband. It was the first time in more than two years that they had faced questions from Boulder authorities. They were questioned separately in April 1997 and again in June 1998.

JonBenet was found strangled and beaten in the basement of her family's Boulder home Dec. 26, 1996. No suspect has ever been named, and the Ramseys deny any involvement.

The seven-member investigative team from Boulder was being led by Police Chief Mark Beckner, who said the questioning would focus on evidence developed over the past two years and statements the Ramseys made in their book, "The Death of Innocence," which came out earlier this year.

Some of the new evidence has come from additional forensic testing.

Beckner said the Ramseys are still under suspicion.

"Either they're involved or they're witnesses," he said. "They're critical to this investigation. Certainly, there are going to be some tough questions, but we're not going to be confrontational."

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