

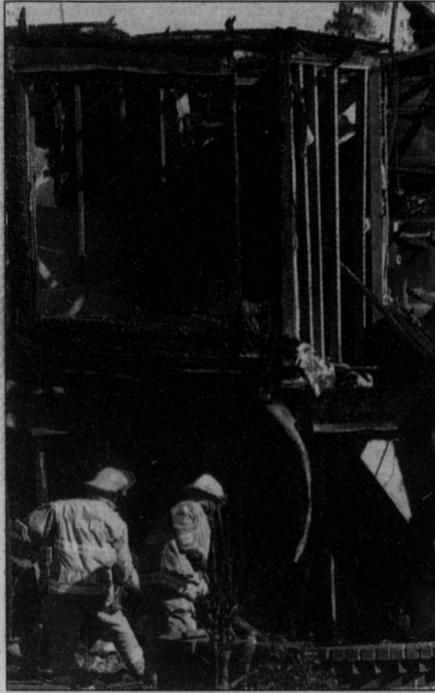
The Daily Tar Heel

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Late-Night Fire Leaves 1 Dead, 2 Injured



DTH/JEFF POULAND

Chapel Hill firefighters work Thursday to clean out an apartment that was gutted by a fire Halloween night.

By PHIL PERRY
Staff Writer

As thousands of people partied on Franklin Street on Tuesday night, a deadly fire raged at Brookstone Apartments complex, taking the life of one man and sending two more to the hospital.

Chapel Hill firefighters responded to the blaze at about 11:07 p.m. at the complex off Homestead Road. Fire and emergency service personnel had the fire under control in a little more than an hour.

Chapel Hill police spokeswoman Jane Cousins confirmed a man's body was found Wednesday. She also said no information about the man will be released until his family has been notified.

Chapel Hill Fire Department Capt. Doug Kelly said the man's body was found in one of the second-floor apartments. He also said officials are still investigating the cause of the man's death.

Two residents from the building were taken to UNC Hospitals to be treated for burns.

The blaze caused fire, smoke and water damage to at least eight apartments, while several others suffered smoke and water damage. No estimate for the extent of the damage is available yet.

The Chapel Hill Fire Marshal Caprice Mellon is teaming up with the N.C. Bureau of Investigation in trying to determine the cause of the fire. The investigation could last several days or even longer, according to a news release.

Kelly said that after investigations Wednesday, the origin of the fire was still unknown. He also said the time the blaze started was unknown.

"The fire was through the roof when we got there, so there's no telling how long it had been burning before we got the call," he said.

Kelly also said there were no sprinklers in the building, but it was built long before they were required by law.

Sarah Chaffins, a senior business major and a resident at Brookstone, does not live in the building that was destroyed, but she said she saw the other apartments burn. "My roommate and I ran outside, looked over the roof and saw smoke," Chaffins said. "I ran around the side of the building and the whole roof was on fire."

Chaffins said that when the firefighters arrived, they doused her building with water to prevent the fire from spreading. She said that just in case, she and her roommate gathered their valuables and put them in plastic bags.

She said she feared if the fire department had come five minutes later, her building would have burned, too.

"It was the scariest thing I've ever

experienced, really," Chaffins said.

"It was just terrifying."

Interim Police Chief Gregg Jarvies said the Chapel Hill police were on the scene to offer assistance to the fire department. "We just provide any assistance we can," Jarvies said. "In a fire situation, we support if they ask us to."

That support comes in multiple forms. Police provide scene security, crisis counseling and media assistance, Jarvies said.

Displaced residents can turn to the Red Cross for help. Alyson Jackson-Snavely, director of emergency services at the Orange County chapter of

the Red Cross, said there was a representative from the Red Cross on the scene at about 12:30 a.m. to help the victims. "We provide immediate emergency needs - that includes food, clothing and shelter," Jackson-Snavely said.

The Red Cross is putting up four of the residents in a hotel. "Generally we just do it for the initial 72 hours," she said.

But she added the Red Cross could extend that length of time, considering extenuating circumstances.

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"It was the scariest thing I've ever experienced, really. It was just terrifying."

SARAH CHAFFINS
Brookstone Resident and Fire Witness

General Assembly Forum Spotlights Funding for UNC

Candidates for the N.C. Senate and House shared their views on private contributions, out-of-state tuition and faculty salaries.

By PENELOPE DEESE
Staff Writer

Money - and where and how to spend it at UNC - dominated discussion among eight N.C. General Assembly candidates during a forum Wednesday night in Carroll Hall.

About 50 people attended the event, which was hosted by Chancellor James Moeser and moderated by Institute of Government Director Michael Smith.

The Senate candidates were incumbent Sens. Ellie Kinnaird and Howard Lee, both D-Orange, and their Republican challengers Bill Boyd and Vickie Hargrove. House of Representatives candidates included incumbents Reps. Joe Hackney and Verla Insko, both D-Orange, and their challengers Libertarian John Bauman and Republican William Towne. GOP candidate Rod Chaney did not attend.

The meeting, which included questions from both the moderator and audience members, centered on the University, as discussion revolved around tuition increases, faculty salaries and

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ASU Eyes Increase In Tuition

Officials at Appalachian State are discussing a \$200 tuition increase to keep the university competitive.

By AIMEE BROWN
Staff Writer

A possible campus-initiated tuition increase at Appalachian State University has sparked whispers of tuition increases across the UNC system.

ASU administrators are now considering a \$200 tuition increase. The ASU Board of Trustees is expected to consider the proposed increase in December.

Last year, five system schools raised tuition. The ASU proposal comes almost exactly a year after UNC-Chapel Hill trustees voted for the first of the five tuition increases.

The Board of Governors eventually approved a \$600 increase at UNC-CH that is being phased in this year and next. Last year's increases left some fearful that additional campuses would request tuition increases this year.

If an individual campus decides to request a tuition increase, the request must be presented to the UNC General Administration in December. It will be sent to the BOG later for consideration.

But ASU spokesman Bob Shaffer said last year's tuition hikes did not affect ASU's decision to consider its own tuition increase. Shaffer added that ASU had the opportunity to initiate a campus tuition increase a year ago but did not.

He said the increase would allow ASU to remain competitive with peer institutions by funding student financial aid, technology and faculty salaries.

Boosting faculty salaries was the reason behind last year's increases.

Andrew Payne, president of the UNC Association of Student Governments, said last year's campus-initiated increases created a trickle-down effect. "The Board of Governors has really opened up a Pandora's box."

He also said last year's tuition increases allowed some universities to

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DTH/SEPTON IPOCK

Halloween revelers go nuts for a chance to make it on the local television news. Franklin Street was filled with nearly 50,000 partygoers out to show off creative costumes and shed their inhibitions Tuesday night.

Halloween Doesn't Get Wasted

By ISAAC GROVES
AND LAUREN RITTER
Staff Writers

Almost 50,000 costumed partygoers filled three blocks of Franklin Street on Tuesday night, reveling in Chapel Hill's annual raucous Halloween celebration.

Chapel Hill police closed Franklin, Columbia and Henderson streets to vehicles at 8:50 p.m., and the streets remained barricaded until 2:15 a.m., when the police cleared the streets of the remaining partygoers. Police cleaned up and opened the streets to cars at 3:20 a.m.

Officials said this year's crowd topped the one that gathered on Franklin Street last year,

which they weren't expecting.

"The number of people surprised us because it was a Tuesday night," said Gregg Jarvies, Chapel Hill interim police chief.

Police were on hand at different street barricades to confiscate anything that resembled weapons, including toy guns and knives.

Despite the precautions, people said they still had a good time with their friends and the people they met while partying Tuesday night.

"I love meeting new people and seeing their costumes," said UNC sophomore Adrienne Rhoads, who was dressed as a baby.

Katie McMahon, a UNC sophomore who was dressed as

a hula girl, agreed. "It's better than Christmas and my birthday combined," she said. "Halloween is a time when people can lose their inhibitions."

Ryan Ellis, who came dressed as Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst, said this was his third time attending the celebration.

"I like Halloween a lot - there's not another time you get to act like someone you're not," he said.

Thousands of people packed the streets to gawk at the costumes that people came up with this year. "I love just looking at all the costumes," said Kyle Sleeth, a Wake Forest University freshman from Pittsburgh, who was dressed as a "guy from North Carolina."

"The Jesus one (costume

was the best I've seen so far," he said.

But the night was not all fun and games for everyone. Nearly 260 uniformed law enforcement officials were present, most of whom were brought in from outside of Chapel Hill, said Sgt. K.L. Cheeks of the Durham Police Department.

Alcohol Law Enforcement officers, who were there to assist other police officers, cited 80 people with alcohol violations. Fifty-six were charged with underage possession of alcohol. "The majority were for alcohol violations, but a number were for disorderly conduct as well," Jarvies said.

Local businesses were not

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Student Elections Hit Cyberspace With New System

The system is the brain child of Student Body Secretary Michael Woods and Assistant Student Body Secretary Fred Hashagen.

By BLAKE ROSSER
Staff Writer

A new online voting system aims to sidestep the technological glitches that have plagued student elections while streamlining the voting process.

The program, created to make University-related voting more convenient for students, will allow people to access a ballot via Student Central on the UNC home page, beginning with the Homecoming elections on Nov. 8.

The idea for this program occurred to Student Body Secretary Michael Woods and Fred Hashagen, assistant student body secretary, during spring student government elections last year when they got exasperated after waiting in line to vote. "This system is going to be more effective," Woods said.

WebslingerZ, Inc., a Carrboro-based company, created the software.

"The only reason we're doing it is to make student lives easier and to increase voter turnout," said Student Body President Brad Matthews.

When they access the page, students will have to agree to an Honor Court statement and will see a disclaimer telling them their name will not be associated with their ballot. "The name, PID, year and on-campus status of voters will be separated from their votes onto two distinct lists," said Jeremy Tuchmayer, Elections Board chairman, who has been testing the program. "The whole process takes all of about a minute."

Although the new system can be used in the upcoming Homecoming elections, which fall outside of the Student Code, Student Congress must put the online voting into the code before it can be used in the spring elections.

"Homecoming is a really good time for us to first do this because it will allow us to make changes (for the spring elections), if need be," Matthews said.

After an operator error forced the board to hand count almost 4,000 votes in last spring's elections, Woods said the new system will prevent such problems from occurring in the future. "Obviously, computers are not perfect, but human error is taken out of it," he said.

Other minds behind the program are also confident that it will be successful. "This is not an experiment," Matthews said. "We want to make sure it will work before we implement it."

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Student Body President
Brad Matthews said he hopes online voting will increase voter turnout.

Know how sublime a thing it is, To suffer and be strong.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow