

The Daily Tar Heel

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1 DIES IN FALL FROM DORM

4-story plummet shocks campus; other student is in 'fair condition'

BY CHRIS COLETTA AND JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
SENIOR WRITERS

One student is dead, one remains in fair condition and the campus community is in mourning after two students fell more than 30 feet from their residence hall early Friday.

The fall, which UNC officials and safety experts are calling a freak accident, took



Freshman Tyler Downey is in fair condition at UNC Hospitals.



Sophomore Keith Shawn Smith died after the fall.

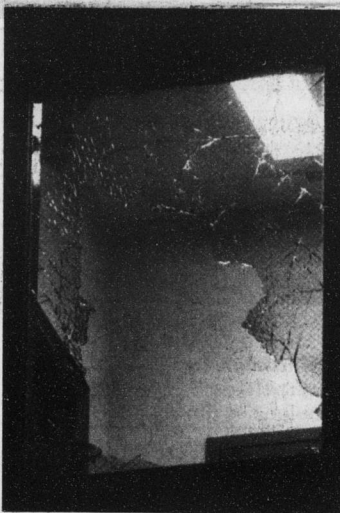
the life of Keith Shawn Smith, a 20-year-old sophomore from Greensboro. It also sent 19-year-old freshman Tyler Downey to UNC Hospitals — where he is recovering from broken vertebrae and other injuries, says his roommate, Trey Flaherty.

The accident, which police say involved neither drugs nor alcohol, has hit close to home for the friends of Smith and Downey — many of whom live on the third floor of Stacy Residence Hall, where the incident took place. Three days after the events of Friday morning, many of them still found it hard to be alone.

"What's most important to me right now is being around people who experienced it and feel the same way I do," Alan Kneidel, a sophomore from Charlotte who lives on the third floor, said Sunday. "I can barely control my emotions if I'm alone in the shower."

Those who witnessed the fall saw, by all accounts, an unintended tragedy. They say

SEE FALL, PAGE 4



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

In an accident Friday, two UNC students fell out of a third-floor Stacy Residence Hall window onto a ramp four stories below.

Student deaths at UNC

Keith Shawn Smith is the third UNC student in the last 18 years to die after an accidental fall from a campus building — and the second of the three not to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

March 1988: David Mantey, a 22-year-old senior, falls to his death from the ninth floor of Granville Towers. Mantey's girlfriend speculates that the potential Phi Beta Kappa inductee was under the influence of hallucinogenic mushrooms, but medical examinations rule out alcohol and drugs as causes of the fall.

April 1995: Freshman Jamie McGee dies after falling as she and a friend try to climb Phillips Annex in the middle of the night. The case makes national headlines when it becomes known that McGee, who is only 18, was served alcohol earlier in the evening at Buckheads, a Franklin Street bar at the time. The bartender is charged in the incident.



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

Flowers in makeshift bottle vases lie in front of the railing of the ramp leading up to the basement of Stacy Residence Hall in memory of Keith Shawn Smith on Sunday. Smith died early Friday from wounds sustained in the fall, which officials have called a freak accident.

Students fall from dorm window

- 1 About 12:20 a.m. **Racing down the hall** Sophomore Keith Shawn Smith and freshman Tyler Downey were racing down the third-floor hallway of Stacy Residence Hall. They fell four floors and landed on a ramp outside the entrance to the hall's basement-level laundry room, which faces Country Club Road.
- 2 12:23 a.m. **Student calls 911** UNC freshman Adam Farag hears the two fall, races from across the street and calls 911.
- 3 About 12:28 a.m. **Police respond to scene** Smith and Downey are taken to UNC Hospitals by Orange County emergency response units. Police investigate, and students gather in shock.
- 4 1:07 a.m. **A quiet dorm** Police declare the scene clear. A few students remained, some crying and others silent.

SOURCE: STAFF REPORTS

5 4:30 a.m. **Smith reported dead** A hospital representative says that Smith has "expired." Downey is reported to be in critical condition.

6 Mid-morning Friday **Smith's parents arrive** Smith's parents visit Stacy and gather a few belongings.

7 12:45 p.m. **Press conference** Melissa Exum, dean of students, announces that investigators don't think alcohol or drugs played a role in the accident.

8 Friday afternoon **Window is replaced** Workers replace the window in Stacy with the same type of window the students crashed through, which is in compliance with state building codes.

9 Friday evening **In 'fair condition'** After sitting in critical condition for more than 13 hours, Downey is reported to be in "fair condition," which means he is conscious, though he might be uncomfortable, and his vital signs are stable and within normal limits.

DTH/FEILDING CAGE

SMITH, 20, LEADER, BELOVED FRIEND

BY BRIAN HUDSON
NEWS EDITOR

As the resident adviser for the third floor of Stacy Residence Hall, Keith Shawn Smith, 20, fostered a bond among his hallmates.

Three days after Smith's death, that camaraderie has provided solace for the more than two dozen men on the hall.

"One of his best skills was being able to get along with everyone," said freshman Eric Sabo of Westlake, Ohio. "He could be your RA, but at the same time he was also one of your best friends."

Smith was more than the leader on the hall, say those who lived with him. His genial demeanor brought the residents together.

The residents reminisced about the activities and events Smith organized to bring the students on the hall together, such as a version of hide-and-seek in which everything on the floor was fair game.

"He would try to get everyone to go as a whole to eat or to (athletic) games," Sabo said. "A couple weeks ago, he cooked us a whole spaghetti dinner."

The residents formed a fraternal bond with Smith — who would yell, "Daddy's home!" to announce his return to the floor — that they say is unique across campus.

"Our hall is probably the most amazing hall I've seen," said John Pope, a freshman from Charlotte. "And Keith's right in the middle of everything."

Smith's dedication carried over to his work on the Honor Court board, where he demonstrated concerns for students' interests when on the bench, said Erin Scharling, executive vice chairwoman of the Honor Court.

"It was clear that he was a court member that had a high level of compassion for the students he was judging," she said. "His enthusiasm and his compassion are definitely going to be missed."

Smith, an economics major, had an interest in entrepreneurial work and wanted to own his own business, Pope said.

"That's been one of the hardest things to deal with — just that Keith had so many aspirations and so many goals," he said. "One of

SEE SMITH, PAGE 4

Remembering Keith Shawn Smith

Details about Smith's funeral were released Sunday. Check Tuesday's Daily Tar Heel for more information.

Day: Wednesday
Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Mount Zion Baptist Church, Greensboro
Arranged by: Unity Memorial Funeral Service, Greensboro

Transportation: UNC officials say they plan to offer transportation from Chapel Hill to Greensboro for the service.

UNC's annual one-night stand

Dance marathon nets fundraising record

BY SAPNA MAHESHWARI
STAFF WRITER

Except for the flashing of colored lights, Fetzer Gym was dark. Moralers lined up in two rows, many with glowsticks in hand, and began cheering. As

INSIDE Additional coverage of the marathon. **PAGE 11**

This year's Dance Marathon began at 7 p.m. Friday and ran through 7 p.m. Saturday, boasting record-breaking participation and raising a hefty \$201,141.90 for the N.C. Children's Hospital.

SEE MARATHON, PAGE 11



DTH/ROB LANGDON

Exhausted dancers at the UNC Dance Marathon lean on tables as the fatigue begins to settle in early Saturday at the 24-hour fundraiser.

UNC 77 DUKE 65

UNC dumps on Blue Devils

BY BRIANA GORMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

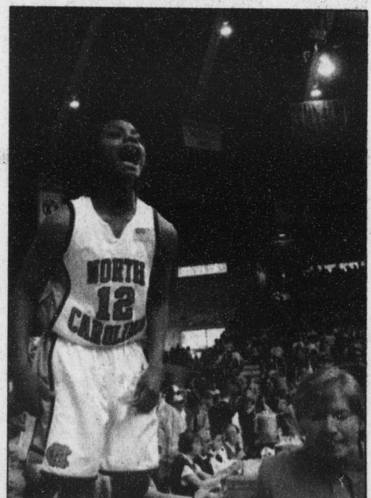
All season long, North Carolina women's basketball has been lauded as the speediest team in America.

INSIDE Tar Heels see rebounding talk **PAGE 14**

Saturday against No. 1 Duke, the Tar Heels showed just how quickly they could move on the court and in the rankings, as they defeated the Blue Devils, 77-65, and were left to await their impending No. 1 spot in the nation.

No. 2 North Carolina used its speed to run rings around Duke on both ends of the court as it defeated the Blue Devils to win the ACC regu-

SEE WOMEN'S HOOPS, PAGE 4



DTH/LOGAN PRICE

After defeating Duke, Ivory Latta jumps onto the press table in celebration Saturday.

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, Friday's "today in history" incorrectly states that in 1956 UNC had an all-male student body. Women first were admitted to upper-level University courses in 1897. They were unrestrictedly admitted as freshmen in 1972.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

announcement

SPOTLIGHT DELAYED

Due to Friday's death, The Daily Tar Heel has delayed its weekly Monday spotlight to Tuesday's issue. The piece will examine town-gown relations.

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EDITOR'S BLOG A forum to discuss the Stacy accidents and campus reaction

PHOTO BLOG One photojournalist's emotions after Friday's Stacy accidents

SPORTS BLOG Our experts name their All-ACC picks at A View from the Press Box

campus | page 7

ARMY OF ONE

The University's Army ROTC unit takes to the terrain of Duke Forest this weekend for a series of combat-simulated training exercises.

today in history

FEB. 27, 2002 ...

N.C. politicians abandon a plan to tie tuition to family income because it raises questions about equity.

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