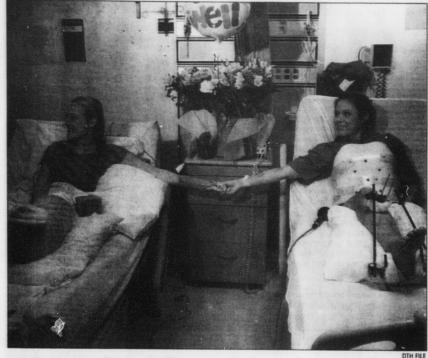
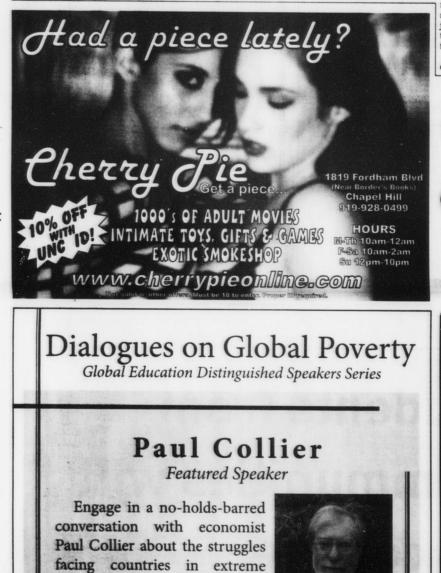
News

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008

Residents rebuild and recover after fire



Susan Thome and Kristin Pietrowicz jumped 25 feet from their balcony during a fire at their apartment complex in Colonial Village at Highland Hills on Sept. 30. Both sustained foot and spine injuries, and one woman died.



"The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It," named one of the best "Books of the Year 2007" by The Economist. Hear Collier's explanation of the traps these countries face and his proposed solutions for change. Co-sponsored by UNC Chapel Hill African Studies Center.

decades

research, Collier has authored

of

Apartment blazes displaced dozens

BY SARAH FRIER

Kelli Gaskill said she woke up when her dining room windows shattered from the heat. Kristen Pietrowicz said she woke up when her curtains illuminated with flames.

Early in the morning of Sept. 30, residents of Carrboro's Colonial Village at Highland Hills saw their apartments go up in flames. Twenty lost their homes.

Two women, Pietrowicz and Susan Thorne, were forced to jump off their balcony and sustained serious foot and spine injuries. And one woman, 55-year-old Gloria Ines Suarez, died.

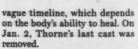
The residents of Highland Hills, and others displaced by the string of apartment fires that struck Orange County at the end of the year, have spent the past few months rebuilding and recovering from the loss of their homes.

Still, the Highland Hills fire was unique.

"In the history of the Carrboro fire department, that fire would rank in the top five," Deputy Chief Trey Mayo said. "That's about a hundred-year history." When the fire ripped through, roommates Thorne and Pietrowicz

When the fire ripped through, roommates Thorne and Pietrowicz said they had no choice but to jump off their balcony. Although they survived, both shattered their feet and injured their spines. Both women are wheelchair-

dependent until recovery – a



"I feel like I should be able to get up and walk, but that wouldn't be a good idea," she said. "They have these medical boots — they look like ski boots — on my feet now."

Thorne is undergoing physical therapy for her injuries and said she hopes to return to her teaching job at Chapel Hill High School when she can walk again. She said her doctor told her she'll have severe arthritis in both feet.

Suarez is survived by her son, Juan Arango, a UNC student.

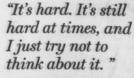
She worked as a translator for the Program on Integrative Medicine at the UNC School of Medicine and was known for her dedication to the health and wellbeing of those in need. She also was involved in mission

work with orphans in Mexico and Honduras.

The building burned for 20 minutes before the fire department was notified, causing too much damage for fire investigators to determine a cause.

"It's a reasonably old building with an open attic, an open crawl space, wood exterior and no sprinklers." Mayo said. "It's constructed in such a way that makes it easy for fire to communicate through it."

And as fire investigators strug-



KELLI GASKILL SURVIVOR OF SEPTEMBER FIRE AT CARRBORO'S COLONIAL VILLAGE AT HIGHLAND HILLS APARTMENT COMPLEX

gled to find evidence of a cause, victims said they've struggled to rebuild their lives.

"I got out with jeans, a T-shirt, and two dogs," Gaskill said. Gaskill didn't have renter's

insurance to provide financial support after the fire.

A little more than three months later, with full-time employment and help from the community, she has a car, a triplex and a bed.

"I've got nothing else as far as furniture is concerned, but I'm pretty much settled," she said. "You do what you have to do. The main thizg is I'm pretty sad still about losing my cat."

When Gaskill bought her new apartment, she said she made sure it came equipped with several smoke detectors and bought another one just in case.

should be used in tast. should be added a shoul

"It's hard. It's still hard at times, and I just try not to think about it."

> Contact the Features Editor at features@unc.edu.



The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life CONGRATULATES The Fall 2007 Initiates of Gamma Sigma Alpha National Greek Academic Honor Society



Gamma Sigma Alpha honors the top 4% of fraternity and sorority members with outstanding academic scholarship. Membership is by application and is based upon junior or senior status, as well as either a 3.50 cumulative GPA or higher, or a 3.50 semester GPA during Spring 2007. The purpose of Gamma Sigma Alpha is to promote the advancement of education among Greeks and to instill a greater spirit of cooperation among Greek students and organizations.

ecca Adkins, Sigma Sigma Sig Tyler Layne, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Moriah Alper, Kappa Delta Archer Lyle, Alpha Delta Pi Heather Anderson, Alpha Delta Pi Sapna Maheshwari, Alpha Delta Pi Leigh Anne McLaughlin, Sigma Sigma Sig Grayson Armstrong, Sigma Nu Lindsay Ash, Alpha Delta Pi Ashley Mohney, Alpha Delta Pi Chessa Atkinson, Sigma Sigma Sigma Meredith Morrison, Alpha Delta Pi Allison Barnett, Alpha Delta Pi Leslie Norrington, Alpha Delta Pi Ashley Barriga, Pi Beta Phi Emily Patterson, Alpha Delta Pi Sarah Beane, Pi Beta Phi Jessica Powell, Alpha Delta Pi Claire Berg, Zeta Tau Alpha Mei Qi, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Adam Boyle, Kappa Alpha Order Cameron Rosenow, Alpha Tau Omega Anna Brown, Kappa Delta Malcolm Ross, Alpha Tau Omega Rachel Clark, Alpha Delta Pi Natalie Sink, Alpha Delta Pi Sarah Covill, Apha Delta Pi Stephanie Slipher, Alpha Delta Pi Shepard Daniel, Kappa Delta Martha Marion Smith, Alpha Delta Pi Andrew Delaney, Sigma Nu Grace Smith, Alpha Delta Pi Alexander Elmes, Pi Lamda Phi Andrew Jackson Stiles, Alpha Tau Omega Kelly Field, Alpha Chi Omega Kyle Hoidal, Alpha Tau Omega Andrew Timmons, Alpha Tau Omega Cameron Watkins, Zeta Tau Alpha Barrett Holland, Alpha Tau Omega Berkley Webster, Alpha Delta Pi Lauren Hollowell, Alpha Delsa Pi Allycia Whitman, Theta Nu Xi Ellen Ji, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi Brian Willett, Pi Lambda Phi Meredith Karr, Alpha Delta Pi Catherine Winslow, Delta Delta Delta Anna Lassiter, Alpha Delta Pi Courtney Wood, Kappa Delta

The Daily Tar Heel

January 10 Public Lecture, 7:00pm* Nelson Mandela Auditorium FedEx Global Education Center (on the corner of Pittsboro & McCauley Streets)

Book Signing and Refreshments, 3:30 - 5:00pm Harambee Lounge, 3rd floor FedEx Global Education Center

FREE and open to the public! *Reception Following

poverty. After



global.unc.edu

