

Fraternity pig pickin' to benefit fire safety

BY MEGHAN PRICHARD STAFF WRITER

Ten fraternities will fight fire with fire during their first pig pickin' benefiting the Chapel Hill Fire Department.

The fraternities aim to raise money for the department, which has helped them promote fire safety over the years, Phi Gamma Delta President Penn Clarke said.

Phi Gamma Delta members will host the event from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today at their house across from the Carolina Inn for \$5 a plate.

The host fraternity has a particularly strong tie to the fire department and fire safety issues.

On May 12, 1996, a fire, likely ignited by cigar butts, trapped five UNC students within the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house.

The five died in the fire, and the

house was burned to the ground.

Although the building was equipped with fire extinguishers, there were no sprinklers as building codes did not require them.

Now sprinkler systems must be installed in all Greek houses, along with fire-exit diagrams on the back of all sleeping room doors, and all chapters are in compliance.

"Fire safety is still a really prevalent issue," Phi Gamma Delta Treasurer Andrew Batchelor said. "This is just a way for us to tell them thanks. We don't have a lot of opportunities to do that."

The fire department will use the donations to fund UNC fire safety programs, said Jenny Levering, assistant dean of students for fratern-

ity and sorority life.

Assistant Fire Marshal Doug Kelly, one of the judges, said he's looking forward to the event.

"We've gotten a working relationship with the University sororities and fraternities," he said. "This will be the icing on the cake as far as the

relationship we have with them."

Phi Gamma Delta's chef, John Ratty, suggested the pig pickin' idea.

"A lot of the (fraternity) chefs really enjoy cooking barbecue, and I thought it'd be kind of fun," he said.

The pig pickin' also is part of a new effort by the Interfraternity Council

to unite the Greek community. "Everybody ... is trying to foster a good, positive image for the Greek community," Clarke said. "We really care and want to give back, too."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Jesse Jackson speech The famous reverend spoke at Winston-Salem State University on Thursday. See pg. 4 for story.

Latino health A fair Sunday will provide free tests and give information targeted toward Latinos. Go online for story.

'Deadman Walking' UNC will present the play this weekend as part of its examination of the death penalty. See pg. 3 for story.

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