

Extra!

The Daily Collegian

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FOR A BETTER PENN STATE

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FIVE CENTS

Delta Sigma Phi Fire Damage Believed \$25,000; House Guttled



Destruction in basement of Delta Sigma Phi where fire started.

Firemen Say Wiring Is Probable Cause

By ED DUBBS

Fire partially gutted Delta Sigma Phi fraternity late this morning, causing an estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000 damage. Several members suffered slight cuts and burns, but none was seriously injured.

The house, commonly called the Pink Elephant, was insured at \$132,000, approximately 80 per cent of the face value.

Damage was high throughout most of the house, according to Fire Chief Thomas E. Sauers. Some furniture was removed before damaged, he said.

Considerable damage was done by smoke and water. Water from the upstairs floors was running through the ceiling onto the first floor at a steady flow after the fire was brought under control at about 1 p.m.

Faulty Wiring Blamed

Sauers said the fire was probably caused by faulty wiring in a compressor motor of a refrigeration system in the basement.

The Alpha Fire Company of State College and the Undine Company of Bellefonte answered the alarm, which was sounded at 11:15 a.m. Although the fire was under control by 1 p.m., the last flames were not extinguished until 4:45 p.m.

Smoke was first noticed at 11 a.m. by the fraternity cook, Mrs. Edna Boone, who was preparing dinner. Most members of the house were attending church at the time the fire started.

Jump from Windows

Several weekend male guests jumped from the second floor to escape injury. A house member said the reason they were forced to jump was because they did not know their way around the house.

Members of the house will stay in other fraternities, which have offered assistance, until they can live as a group again.

O. Edward Pollock, assistant to the dean of men in charge of fraternity affairs, said he is trying to secure Pollock dorms for the group. He hopes they will be able to move into the dorms as a group before the Christmas holidays. They also hope to find a social headquarters, they reported.

House officials estimated next March 1 as the earliest possible date of returning to the house.

Temporary Headquarters The fraternity officers today set up temporary headquarters at Phi Sigma Delta fraternity. Members met there for lunch and a meeting this afternoon.

Members will move into assigned fraternities beginning tomorrow.

Delta Sigs Receive Aid From Many

Offers of help poured in to the members of Delta Sigma Phi today in the wake of the fire which gutted their house at Fairmount avenue and Locust lane about 11 a.m.

Within a short time after the fire broke out arrangements had been made to house the 38 members of the fraternity in 19 fraternities in the immediate area.

Thirty-eight of the forty-four members of the fraternity lived in the house.

Robert Bullock, Interfraternity Council president said all fraternities had offered their facilities. However, he said, it was decided to house as many members as possible in the immediate area, so they will be near the Delta Sigma Phi house to facilitate repair work.

May Have House by March

Bullock said fraternities had offered meals and rooms to members of the fraternity for as long as necessary. Members of Delta Sigma Phi said today the earliest they could expect to move back into the house would be March 1.

Barbara Nicholls, acting president of Panhellenic Council, said today that all sororities were standing by to help in mop-up operations later. At least one sorority, Gamma Phi Beta, offered money to the fraternity.

Eugene Fulmer, secretary of the State College Area Chamber of Commerce, said offers of help from downtown merchants would be coordinated later, after members of the fraternity could determine what was needed to remodel and refurnish the house.

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Gov. Leader 'Uncertain' On School Bill Deadlock

By RON LEIK

Gov. George M. Leader said in an exclusive interview today he doesn't know "where we go from here" in solving the financial problems of the state's public schools.

He put full blame for the deadlock of the school appropriations bill on the Republican-controlled Senate, where the bill has been stalled since last October.

"The administration," he said, "has done its job. Now it is up to the Senate to shoulder the burden."

Leader spoke at the morning service of the Salem Lutheran church at Aaronsburg, about 25 miles northeast of the University, on the occasion of the publication of a book about Aaron Levy, founder of the little town.

Retail Tax Plan Draws Support

HARRISBURG, Dec. 11 (AP) — A proposal to shift Gov. George M. Leader's manufacturer's excise tax to the wholesale or retail level drew some tentative support tonight from the Republican Senate leadership.

Sen. Rowland B. Mahany, GOP Senate leader, said such a proposal might provide "a suitable compromise solution" of the year-long tax deadlock in the general assembly. The idea of converting the 3 1/2 per cent manufacturer's tax into an excise tax on sales through changing the level of collecting it was considered by legislators over the weekend as the governor's much-amended tax bill headed into another week of debate in the Senate.

Elections Committee to Meet All-University Elections Committee will meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow in 8 Carnegie.

TOMORROW'S WEATHER

FAIR AND COLD



Some Delta Sig's In Bed, at Chapel When Fire Starts

Some members of Delta Sigma Phi didn't know about the fire in their fraternity house this morning until they returned from church and Chapel services.

Others were still in bed when the blaze broke out.

Since the fire was mostly confined to the first floor and the basement of the fraternity house, members had time to remove their personal possessions and some of the furniture.

Couches and chairs were piled outside of the house and bundles of clothing were strewn on the ground.

Word of the fire swiftly passed throughout the area and townspeople and members of many other fraternities soon gathered to watch the Alpha Fire Company fight the blaze.

As fire fighting efforts continued, police detoured traffic from Locust Lane and Fairmount Avenue.

Hundreds of spectators gathered, many of them with offers.

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Reds Stir Kashmir Issue

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 11 (AP) — Russia's traveling salesman flew back to India's capital today from a two-day visit in the north during which they vigorously stirred up the sleeping Kashmir controversy.

Again it was blunt, forceful Communist party boss Nikita Khrushchev who aired the views of his country on the vexing Kashmir problem in a manner likely to create new white-hot tension between India and Pakistan.

Welcome as were his words to the general mass of Indian people, it appears they fell on most unhappy ears at the government level.

India's strategy on winning Kashmir has been to avoid open conflict with Pakistan while at the same time consolidating its own political and economic control over the disputed northern province.

Kashmir's population is predominantly Moslem but the state's Hindu maharaja acceded to India in 1947. Since 1949 the state has been split by a UN cease-fire line.

Now Khrushchev, by declaring Kashmir belongs to India and Pakistan should in effect shut up about the whole thing, seems likely to have provoked a new period of bitterness and tense relations. Grim-faced Prime Minister Nehru had no public comment on the developments when he flew home from south India to spend the next 48 hours with his Russian guests.

Government sources said there would be no official reaction to Khrushchev's speech—at least until the Russians are out of the country.

"But if Khrushchev had deliberately set out to light a fuse to a fresh discord between India and Pakistan at a time when our problems seemed to be simmering

down he could not have done a better job of it," said one influential Indian.

This impression appeared general among leading classes here, though the rank and file of the Indian people are openly delighted that "we have found a strong friend on our side."

Murray Pledges Montana to Adlai

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP)—Sen. James C. Murray (D-Mont.), pledged his support to Adlai E. Stevenson today in Stevenson's bid for the 1956 Democratic presidential nomination.

But there were indications that despite Murray's assurance Montana's 16 convention votes would go to him, Stevenson was not making as much progress as some of his friends had hoped in another area—the South.