

Today's Forecast:  
Cold, Cloudy  
and Windy

# The Daily Collegian

FOR A BETTER PENN STATE

One Step  
Further?  
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VOL. 58, No. 89

STATE COLLEGE, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 20, 1958

FIVE CENTS

## DTS Fire Loss Set at \$30,000

### 2-Alarm Fire Originated In Basement, Partitions

By BILL JAFFE

The fire which gutted Delta Theta Sigma fraternity early yesterday morning caused damages in the excess of \$30,000 to the house alone and countless dollars in personal property loss.

The building, owned by the Delta Theta Sigma Alumni Association, was covered by insurance. The precise amount of coverage will not be known for several days. Arthur W. Nesbitt, a past president of the association, said last night.

The fraternity, at 126 E. Fairmount Ave., was extensively damaged on the inside and the entire house received smoke and water damage. The fire alarm was sounded at 7:10 a.m. and a second alarm followed at 7:35 a.m.

Alpha Fire Chief Thomas E. Sauers Jr. said the fire apparently started from hot ashes coming in contact with a wooden partition in the basement. The ashes were removed from the furnace by Donald Deckman, sophomore in agricultural education from Camp Hill, at 5 a.m. when he checked the fire in the furnace.

The fire was discovered around 7 a.m. by Donald Alcorn, a junior in agricultural education from Kittaning, when he noticed smoke in the stairway leading from the cellar and in the first floor hallway. He aroused his 29 sleeping fraternity brothers and by the time they were awakened, the house was filled with smoke.

House president James Compton, senior in dairy science from Saltsburg, sounded the alarm from the first floor telephone after he found the second floor telephone dead. The students grabbed a few of their personal belongings and quickly made their way to the street without panic, Compton said.

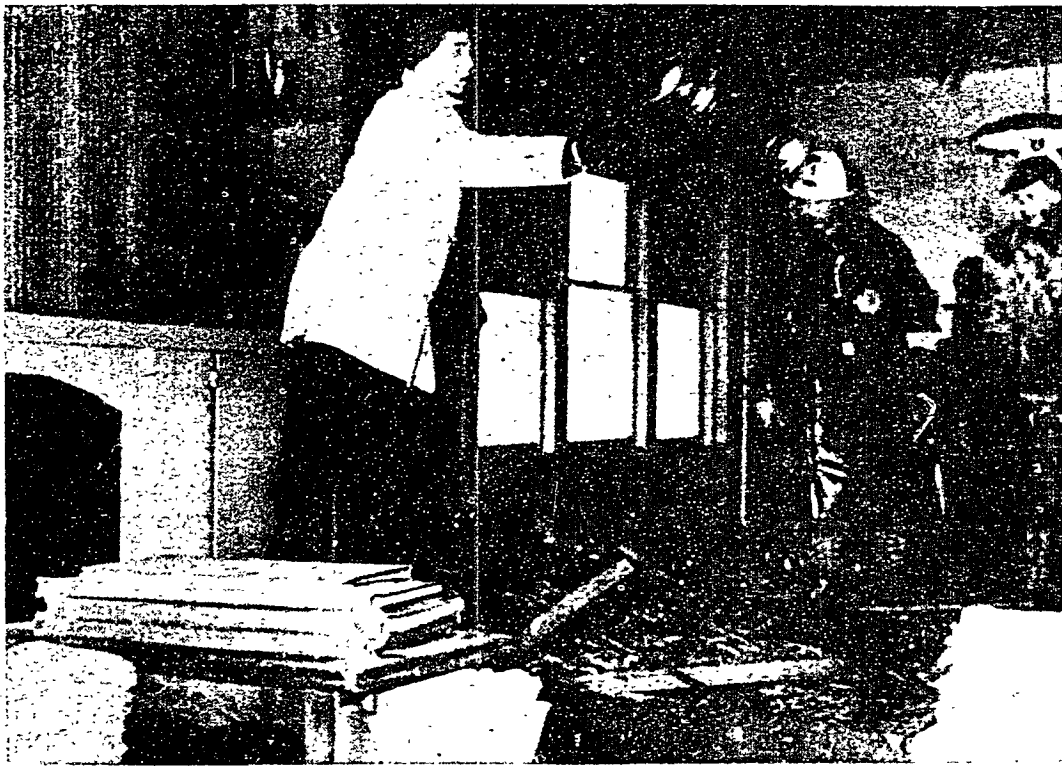
Most of the brothers were clad only in pajamas, trousers and topcoats when they were forced into the 10 degree weather.

The Alpha Fire Company sent more than 40 men to fight the blaze, which lasted over four hours. Six trucks, and seven 2 1/2 inch lines were used to carry water to the scene from nearby fireplugs.

The fire quickly spread from the basement through the rest of the house by the way of wall partitions. There were no fire walls in the building, built in 1910.

Most of the fire damage was centered in the middle of the building and two rooms on the

(Continued on page two)



—Daily Collegian photos by Bob Thompson  
DELTA THETA SIGMA fraternity members hastily salvaged what personal and house belongings they could when they discovered yesterday's \$30,000 fire which burned out the inside of the building. One student tosses a trophy to another fraternity member (off picture), while students carry their belongings down a fire escape.

## Contest For Cover Girl Now Open

The annual Pittsburgh Press search for the University's "Campus Cover Girl" is on.

Entries are open for the Campus Cover Girl contest, sponsored by the Roto Magazine section of the Pittsburgh newspaper.

The contest is open to contestants from colleges in the tri-state area of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio.

Deadline for entries is 4 p.m. Monday. Coeds who wish to enter must submit a photograph of any size at the Hetzel Union desk.

The contest will not be based on "cheesecake" and pictures submitted should be an accurate likeness of the entrant.

Contestants may enter as individuals or may be sponsored by a group.

The University Cover Girl will be selected by a group of student leaders and faculty members. Each other school in the district will select its queen and the pictures will be submitted to the Pittsburgh Press.

Pictures of the individual campus winners will be published in the March 16 issue of the Sunday Roto and the judges will select their five top candidates.

The winner of the tri-state contest will have a color photo of herself published on the cover of the Roto Magazine. A biographical sketch of the queen will accompany the photograph.

Lois Shaffer, sophomore in elementary education from Allentown, was last year's University Cover Girl.

## No Tickets Remain For Artists' Concert

All student tickets have been taken for the Festival Quartet concert scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Sunday in Schwab Auditorium.

The last student tickets were picked up at the Hetzel Union desk by 4 p.m. yesterday.

Some non-student tickets still remain. They may be purchased at the HUB desk for \$1.25.

The concert is the 11th in the present Artists' Series.

## Coed Commuters to Name Queen Court Nominees

All commuting women except freshmen, will meet at 12:30 p.m. today in Women's building.

The purpose of the meeting is to select nominees for May Queen Court.

## Rotation System to Face Ouster Recommendation

The controversial fraternity-independent rotation system may face its final test tonight when the Elections Committee's recommendation to throw out the system is presented to All-University Cabinet.

Elections Committee Chairman Peter Fishburn will present the recommendation to delete from the Elections Code the rotation provision at the Cabinet meeting at 7 tonight in 203 Hetzel Union.

Also on the Cabinet agenda is a report on re-evaluation of seating of Cabinet members. The report recommends that representatives of the Board of Dramatics and Forensics be dropped from cabinet, and that representatives of the Panhellenic Council, Leonides, Women's Recreation Association, the

Athletic Association, and the Daily Collegian be made non-voting members.

These groups are now voting members of Cabinet. All other council seats would remain unchanged.

The recommendation to take away voting privileges from the five groups says that they represent "important interest groups of students," but allow for over-representation of some students.

If Cabinet approves the Elections Committee's report, the spring elections will be held without restrictions placed on any candidate's affiliations.

The Elections Committee unanimously approved the recommendation at a meeting two weeks ago. The committee report had been compiled after extensive research on the issue, both its effect in past University elections and from election systems at other schools.

The present rotation system is provided for in Article 3 of the Elections Code, which states:

"An independent man shall never oppose a fraternity man in any election. The offices of All-University president and senior class president shall be rotated between fraternity and independent students each year, and in no year shall the All-University president and the senior class president be of the same affiliation."

"The All-University president and the All-University secretary-treasurer shall be of the same affiliation each year. The All-University vice president will be of the opposite affiliation as the All-University president."

The code also provides for the rotation of the affiliation of the senior, junior, and sophomore class officers.

## Housing, Aid Given Men After Blaze

Delta Theta Sigma's 30 members, who were forced out of their house yesterday by a fire, are being temporarily housed in unit three of the Pollock Circle dormitories.

The offer to house the students was made by O. Edward Pollock, assistant dean of men in charge of fraternity affairs, and by the Housing Department. The students will probably remain in the units the rest of the semester.

The value of the personal property lost by the members will not be known for several days, as all items must be checked and values assessed, Fire Chief Thomas E. Sauers Jr. said.

Five students, Kermit Yearick, Donald Tuttle, Donald Deckman, Thomas Smouse and Richard Frecon, lost nearly all of their personal belongings when the flames broke out in their two rooms.

The first floor and entrance to the house was remodeled in the spring of 1955 and some \$13,000 was spent in construction and furnishings. The exterior did not suffer much damage, but the rugs and interior furnishings were water soaked and smoked, President James Compton said.

The house, built in 1910, was the Alpha Gamma Phi fraternity residence until 1923 when the group became a national chapter of Delta Theta Sigma. Chi Phi fraternity occupied the house in 1915.

The members of the house were served yesterday's breakfast in neighboring fraternities and private homes. They ate lunch at Theta Chi, and supper at Alpha Zeta.

A meeting was held last night by the members and active alumni in the area to reorganize and make arrangements for dining facilities. A board of directors meeting of the Alumni Association is planned for Friday night.

Several State College restaurants offered meals for the members during the day. Balford Cleaners offered to clean the smoke-filled clothes and Penn State Laundry offered to wash the student's clothing.

Residents in the area made coffee for the firemen and house members during the blaze and numerous other offers of aid have been received by Pollock.

## Faculty to Give View on China

A faculty panel will discuss "Red China—Peace or Menace" at 7:30 tonight in the Helen Eakin Eisenhower Chapel Lounge.

Members of the panel and their subjects are: Dr. Vernon V. Aspaturian, assistant professor of political science, "A Russian View"; Dr. Robert T. Oliver, professor of speech, "A Korean View."

Dr. Harry Harootian, assistant professor of history, "A Japanese View"; Dr. Rustum Roy, associate professor of geochemistry, "An Indian View."

Dr. Luke T. Lee, associate professor of political science, will be the panel moderator.