



Bryan Wade Heritage/Collegian

Construction moves forward for the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house on Burrowes Road. OPP officials have agreed to restore the house's sandstone window seals to their previous white color to commemorate the original use of the property.

Green space to honor Phi Delta Theta legacy

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though construction of a green space in its place is moving forward, the legacy of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house won't be completely erased from the 243 N. Burrowes Rd. property.

Office of Physical Plant (OPP) officials will reuse the fraternity house's sandstone window seals in the green space, perhaps as some sort of seating — a gesture meant to commemorate the original use of the property, OPP spokesman Paul Ruskin said.

The decision has garnered praise from both current groeks and alumni.

Sandy Deveney, a member of the Phi Delta Theta alumni board of directors, said he was pleased when he heard the red sandstone seals will be restored to their original white color and reused in the property.

"Obviously I'd rather have the house, but that wasn't in the stars," he said.

Though alumni haven't contacted him, Intergovernmental Council President Max Wendkos said he thinks they will appreciate the university's decision to preserve pieces of the original buildings.

The former residents of the fraternity house have relocated as a result of the demolition, Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said.

He said the brothers who recolonized

and became members of Tau Delta Phi are living in the Tau Epsilon Phi house.

The Phi Delta Theta Board of Directors is trying to add its own commemoration to the mix in the form of a sign or plaque on the property.

Deveney said he has begun talking with the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Program Commission.

Because the property lies in the Farmer's High School Historic District, it would need approval from the commission to put in a sign.

Even if they don't meet the commission's criteria, the board of directors can still erect a plaque with the property owner's — in this case, the university's — permission.

While commemorations are decided, progress on the green space's construction is moving forward.

Ruskin said the 15-step demolition process is close to completion.

Demolition of the house began on Aug. 13, about three months after the university purchased the house for \$ 1.75 million.

The green space will be "hardscaped" in the fall and then seating, walkways and lighting will be installed, Ruskin said. In the spring, landscaping will occur with planting and final touches, he said.

As soon as it's safe, the space will be opened to student traffic, Ruskin said.

To e-mail reporter: mer5200@psu.edu

Exposure incidents reported in dorms Officials caution students

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Two indecent exposure incidents were reported between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Wednesday in East and North residence halls, Penn State Police said.

Police could not comment if there was any relation between the first incident — which occurred between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Tener Hall — and the second incident at 11 p.m. in Holmes Hall, police said.

"I think they're seeing some similarities in these cases," Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said. "And there were a number of incidents between the 10th and 18th [of August]."

In each instance, an unknown male entered the residence halls and exposed himself to a female student before leaving the area, police said.

The man in both incidents is described as being of college age, light-skinned and dark-haired, police said.

He wore a mask to conceal his identity in both instances, police said.

The two recent incidents of indecent exposure — related or not — are a problem for university students, University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland said.

"I always see the safety concern," Ragland (senior-political science) said. "You don't know who doesn't feel safe."

On-campus residents need to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, Ragland said.

"I always see the safety concern. You don't know who doesn't feel safe."

Christian Ragland
University Park Undergraduate Association
president

They should understand that these types of incidents are not a joke, he said.

Even though some students may think such incidents are "victimless crimes," the actions are a serious offense, Ragland said.

"At the end of the day we need to get across to students that every decision you make has a consequence," Ragland said.

Students living on campus are being asked to prevent anyone from "piggybacking" into residence halls in an effort to increase safety, Powers said.

"Everybody has access to their own residence hall through card access," Powers said.

"That is there for their safety."

Students should also use common sense and walk in well lit areas, be aware of their surroundings, report any suspicious activity to police and keep their doors locked at all times, police said.

No further information could be released pending an investigation, police said.

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