

House Fire Doesn't Daunt Illinois Crows

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Returning to the Crow House the past fall semester, Brothers and new Pledges were shocked to find that fire had gutted the attic and parts of the third floor on the day of August 6th. Quick response by the Champaign Fire Department and the fact that our roof was shingled in solid slate saved the House and spared Phi Kappas everywhere a great deal of grief.

The fire was caused by old faulty wiring located on the floor of our attic. The brink of the fire destruction was centered in a 4-man room on the third floor, with the ceiling completely destroyed and the walls heavily damaged. Occupants of the room were hit pretty hard and lost quite a bit of money (an estimated \$500) in personal items and books. The adjacent room also suffered some damage on walls and ceiling.

Major water damage occurred on the third floor and our newly remodeled second floor rooms were ruined (one with water damage and the other with large patches of fallen plaster) and needed to be repaired. Some of the doors in the House were broken in by the Fire Department as it thoroughly searched for signs of possible spreading of the fire.

Total damage was around \$17,000. The insurance on the House covered replaceable value of the loss. However, the non-insured loss totaled close to \$9,000. This amount was needed to bring electrical systems in the House up to compliance with the current electrical code. As a result, we had to increase our monthly house bill \$5 per man.

The initial clean-up, consisting of making the Phi Kappa House half-way livable, got underway the very next day thanks to a handful of Brothers.



STUDY ROOM
NINE right after the
fire.



STUDY ROOM NINE 16 weeks later