



FIRE DAMAGE as seen from the outside of the House

(Undergrads; Jim Reedy, Brad LaPayne, and Randy Bisping — Alumni; Dan Driemeyer and John Shriver).

Phi Kappas everywhere are indebted to alumnus John Shriver. He devoted considerable time for almost a month by taking charge of the security of the House and contracting of bids for repair. We would have been in serious trouble if John had not volunteered his services time and time again during this crucial period.

Though Jim, Brad, Randy, and Dan worked hard for a few days, they could not rid the House of that "recently burned" atmosphere. Thus when school started weeks later, one could still see the exterior damage and smell the lingering odor of smoke and charred timber. The real shock came to the freshmen and their parents. Many of the pledges had only seen the House a couple of times previously while their parents had never seen it before. The realization that they were moving into a fire damaged House instead of the beautiful structure they had seen just months ago was quite an adjustment.

For the whole fall semester Phi Kappas had to work and study around the reconstruction. The most inconvenienced Brothers were the occupants of the burned room. (Randy Bisping, Gary Knosher, and Barry Jesse) They made residence in the adjacent room, converting a normal 4-man room into a 7-man room. Randy, Gary, and Barry had just completed remodeling the room before the fire and now had to do it all over. This involved a lot of work (a full semester's worth!!) as they did 90% of the reconstruction themselves. The insurance company required construction similar to the way it was before the fire. This included putting up panelling, laying carpet, and

rebuilding their dance platform, as the room (like all our rooms) is modernly furnished.

Though our House was built in the 1920's, our 13 study rooms rank among the top in appearance. I am sure National Secretary Wes Dangler will attest to that. An important reason for the constant modernization of our rooms is that the Chapter will pay for half of all improvements an individual puts into his room. For example, if two roommates decide to put \$200 worth of improvements into their room, the House foots \$100 leaving them with a cost of only \$50 apiece. This is really inexpensive considering most Brothers put improvements in during their sophomore year which leaves them over two years to enjoy it.

Another incentive for keeping our rooms looking great is that once a Brother invests \$25 of his own into a room, no one can "Chapter Roll" him out. Many freshmen and sophs will declare themselves junior roommates to an upperclassman, put at least twenty-five dollars into the room, and therefore be assured of keeping that room for as long as he wants.

As for the living room, dining room, TV room, etc, our alumni donate some sort of improvement every year.

All this, plus a hell of a lot of pride, contributes toward making the Alpha Chi Rho House one of the best on campus. ♣



ILLINOIS CROWS IN FULL FORCE and fully organized after the fire.