Residents May Pay $229
For Houck House Damage

By PHIL LONG

An episode of acid throwing in Houck House, March 14, may cost its residents $229.

The nature and amount of damage caused by the incident evoked a strong statement Friday by Frank T. Schimpfhauser, co-director of the men's dormitory.

He called the incident an "immature act of vandalism" and promised that if the people involved are caught, they, not the residents, will have to pay for the damage.

Vandalism Described

Schimpfhauser said someone had taken a plastic bottle of acid from a chemical lab and squirted house telephones in the lobby, panels in the elevator and two doors and part of the hallway on the fourth floor.

In a written statement distributed to residents in Houck House, Schimpfhauser itemized the damage as follows: $20 for each of the doors; $20 for cleaning walls and elevator panels; $6 for refinishing electrical panels and fire hose; $37 for paint and $126 for labor involved in painting the hallway.

He said last night, however, that it might not cost as much as the original estimate because some Houck residents had helped clean the acid from the walls.

Payments Must Be Soon

"It is clear, however, that damages must be paid for as soon as possible to relieve both student and assessment pressure expected near the end of the quarter," Schimpfhauser said.

"As expected then, it is the major responsibility of the entire house to meet the present expenses," he added.

Schimpfhauser said assessments will be adjusted for each resident to "pay a responsible part of the incurred damages."
Alarm wakes residents

Faulty detector sends students into icy weather

By JULIE VINSÓN
Lantern staff writer

A fire alarm at 1:39 a.m. Tuesday left 240 residents of a north campus dormitory standing in snowy 8-degree weather, a university official said.

The alarm, which lasted 12 minutes, went off in the southwest corner of Houck House’s second floor because of a smoke detector malfunction, said Robert Barnett, emergency medical services and fire prevention supervisor.

The inspectors on the scene found no evidence of smoke under the alarm. They also found that the alarm was not pulled by a resident, Barnett said.

Normally the procedure wouldn’t have lasted so long, but it was difficult to get people out of the building, he said.

“The stairwells were full of people, which is the worst place they can be if firefighters need to get in there,” he said.

“Our policy is to evacuate the building, and the bells will keep ringing until everyone is out,” he said.

Mindy Jordan, a freshman from Marysville majoring in Engineering, said she was sleeping at the time of the alarm.

“I wasn’t happy,” she said. “It was really nasty to be woken up in the middle of the night, especially when it was so cold outside,” she said.

Jordan said she stood outside for the duration, but remembered to grab a coat and slippers.

Don Wintringham, emergency medical services and fire prevention chief, said in 1987, the service responded to 356 incidents in the residence halls. Of those incidents, 67 were deemed as a malfunction of either a smoke detector or of the system itself, such as a fire panel in a residence hall office.

“Some smoke detectors have a lifespan of about five years, and at some point they go bad,” he said. “There’s no real way to prevent that.”

If there is no evidence of another cause, such as lingering cigarette smoke, at the scene of an alarm, inspectors will deem the alarm as a malfunction and the device can be checked, he said.

Of the remaining incidents, 30 were accidental false, 132 were malicious false, 39 were for things other than fire — such as suspicious odors — and 38 were actual fires, he said.

None of the fires were serious ones, Wintringham said.
HOUCK HOUSE

The attached note and letter are regarding information in the Halls of Honor booklet done by Residence and Dining Halls around 1970. I have corrected the booklet (located 169-37) and referred to this file for the corrections, plus additional data supplied by the wife of Edwin Richard Houck. He graduated from OSU in September, 1938 with a B.Sc. degree in Business Administration.

Ernest Carl Houck graduated in March, 1938, with a Bachelor's degree in Mining Engineering.

7-20-93 bli
HALLS OF HONOR

PS. Please let me know who else needs this information.

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May 10, 1993

Dear Mr. Barshart,

Thanks so much for all your efforts in planning and helping make the plaque dedication for House Sparrow a success. I'm sure Mr. House Sparrow was pleased too as we all were.

I also want to thank "Willy" for his good job too. I couldn't remember his last name. The refreshments were good too.

Blessed with a beautiful day the whole thing went off like clockwork.

We all thought it was very nice and we all appreciated it very much.
P.S. I would like to correct a few mistakes in the brochure regarding my husband, p. 35.

Ed graduated Sept. 2, 1938.

We were married Fall 1940.

He enlisted in 1943.

He was inducted May 24, 1943.

He received his wings June 9, 1944 from Monroe, La., rated aerial navigator June 10, 1944 and sent to Casper, Wyoming.

Sent overseas Oct. 1944.

Killed on 5th mission Dec 9, 1944.