thursday, september 4, 1975

daily nebraskan

# Greeks remodel houses to comply with fire code

Until two years ago, UNL sorority and fraternity buildings were not subject to any fire or housing code requirements. Since that time, the Greek houses have come under the jurisdiction of Lincoln Housing Code rulings and now are working on improvements to meet those regulations, according to Del Weed, environmentalist for the UNL department of environmental health and safety.

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This summer many housing corporations added fire doors, alarm systems and other preventive measures to their buildings, said Weed, whose job is to inspect all UNL buildings.

The Delta Upsilon fraternity house, which sustained \$20,000 to \$30,000 damages in a July 30th fire, has installed a fire alarm system, according to Tom Kampfe, house manager. The alarm system is tripped manually, he said.

### Evicted

Although forced out of the Faculty Club building and off-campus last year by the potential cost of complying with fire regulations, Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity "is still alive and active," according to its vice president.

"It would have cost the Faculty Club \$13,000 to modify the upstairs housing so fraternity could live in," Fred Sternenberger said. "Instead of modifying it, they took the first opportunity they had to kick us out without due notice.

Sternenberger said the fraternity was given one month notice to move out and the building was empty for the year, despite the fraternity's offer to pay the renovation price.

"We would have been perfectly willing to put up the money," he said. "We would have begged, borrowed or stolen to stay in there."

### Just an excuse

Sternenberger said the club used the excuse of the fire regulations to oust the fraternity.

"The fire regulations came at the right time for the club to use them as an excuse to kick us out," he said.

According to Sternenberger, fire regulations have hurt fraternities and sororities. He said he thinks the fire code has been enforced unevenly.

"Certain places can get an extension while others can't," he said. "I can't give you any concrete examples; that's just the impression I've gotten in our experience."

The fraternity continues to survive off-campus "even though we have to work harder to gain members and to get campus recognition," Sternenberger said.

### Lodge concept

He said the fraternity has adopted the "lodge concept" at a house at 360 N. 33rd St. Meetings and parties are held at the house where just officers live.

The fratemity will be moving to a larger location "in a better area at 20th and R Sts. in about a week, according to Sternenberger.

The Sigma Nu fraternity closed an open stairway extending from the house basement to the third floor, said Ed Bull, president. Fire doors, an alarm system and fire extinguishers were added for safety, he said.

An alumnus of Gamma Phi Beta sorority said a permanent fire escape has been installed in that house. Barb Cobb said two rooms on the third floor also were remodeled into one room because the two smaller rooms created a fire and safety hazard.

**Excessive** cost Cobb said the improvements are still

being made, but cannot be done at once without what she called excessive cost to house members. She said eventually she would like to see a housing code that was "realistic." Closing all open staircases is expensive when it is not necessary, she said.

Weed said NU was not lax in prior enforcement of fire safety rules. He said letters suggesting improvements in Greek buildings were written to housing corporations before the housing code was established two years ago.

Weed said UNL inspectors work with the Lincoln Fire Dept. and city housing code workers for continuous safety in all UNL buildings, not just sororities and fraternities.

Pit Stop Slalom races aren't just for skiers

# **By Jim Williams**

## Why a car column?

Cars are expensive. Repairs are expensive. Gasoline is expensive. In other words, there is a real need for this column. I really need the money.

Cheap Thrills "Hey, is this one of the racin' car?" asked the gas pump jockey. He was looking at the white-painted "30/38 EB" on the Capri's windshield, trying to decide if he should wipe it off.

"No," I said modestly, "we're in the slalom and . . . "

"What's a slalom?" asked the pump jockey.

I'm glad he asked that. A slalom (or autocross) is like a short road race, one car at a time. The "racetrack" is a course laid out with pylons, those big orange cones the street crews use. They mark the bends, curves and straightways of a challenging small-scale road circuit. Cars are placed in classes according to performance. Sorry, VWs don't compete with Corvettes.

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Each car runs the course clocked by an electric timer. Time penalties are g ven for pylons knocked down. The fastest time in each class wins a trophy and the week's bragging rights.

If you enjoy skillful fast driving, you'll like slaloming. Any kind of car is okay. I placed second two weeks ago to a Honda Civic (oooh!).

The car will have to pass a safety inspection. If it's in good shape you'll need only an extra throttle return spring. A gas station attendant can show you how to put it on. The extra spring prevents the part that determines the car's speed from sticking open, which prevents unscheduled trips in to the weeds.

If you want to try slaloming, don't be shy about your skill (there's a special beginners' class that only costs a buck.) These events are almost always on Sundays. They're advertised in the "Sports/Import Autos" classifieds in the Sunday World-Herald. The organizers of any of them would be more than happy to see you and your \$4.50 entry fee.

A week from this Sunday there's an Omaha Camaro Club-sponsored slalom in Omaha. I don't know where yet, but I'll be there. I hope some of you will, too. I have a score to settle with some Civic owners.

Help, help. You just got a Volkswagen Rabbit, you think it's great and you want to spread the word, right? I'd like to talk to you.

If you're having a moroting-oriented event, let me know so I can announce it.

If there's something you'd like to see in this column, tell me. If you just want to swap motorhead gossip, I'm your man.

Drop me a note at the Daily Nebraskan offices at 34 Nebraska Union and let me know what you want. It will overwhelm my employers. I'm planning some road tests, a little technical information, even fun and games-watch next week for the amazing "Find Czechburg" contest!

Until then, may your shifts be ever swift and your differential never grow dilapidated.

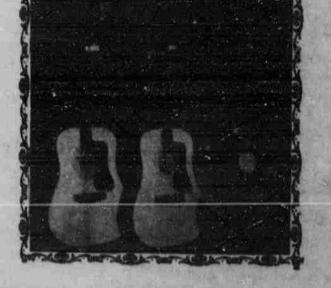
**Crossword Puzzle** 

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GUITAR GALLER

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TOOK DRA TOOK DRE AND TO THE MALTON

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