

HAZARD!

Saturday afternoon a campus residence was completely destroyed by fire. Total loss has been estimated at \$10,000—a \$6,000 structure with contents valued at \$4,000 being wholly demolished. Truly, an unfortunate occurrence.

But destructive fires are always unfortunate. The damages caused often wipes out the savings of a lifetime—even life itself. Consequently, it is the duty of the individual to prevent their starting, and it is the obligation of any group to make adequate preparations for the handling of any accidental conflagrations in such a manner so that their tolls will be as small as possible.

A deplorable example of our preparedness in fighting fire was given at that fire Saturday. Lack of cooperation among members of the fire department and between the department and on-lookers was glaringly conspicuous. Such a complete destruction of a building not more than a half mile from a station housing three modern trucks can only point to one thing—the lack of correct methods in using such applicable equipment.

We are not trying to place blame of this destruction upon anyone or upon the department. That is not our purpose here. It is true that the fire occurred at a most inopportune time—a Saturday afternoon when only five of the twenty-three men of the volunteer organization were available. Those five undoubtedly did their job as efficiently as possible.

However, fires are inconsiderate in their time of occurrence, and type of occurrence. We should be prepared to combat effectively any kind of fire at any time.

The thought of a fire in any of the dormitories with the present crowded conditions is at least sobering. The new buildings here represent enormous sums of money, and unnecessary damage by fire would be lamentable. Destruction of one house has forcibly brought to light the fallacies of the present method of fire control on the campus. Will that also serve to foster needed remedies to guard against possible greater loss in the future?

Suppose this particular fire had been in one of the halls in the middle of the night!

LOPEZ

Patrons of the Entertainment Series were delighted Friday night with the concert of Vincent Lopez in Guion Hall. The master-musician of tender melodies provided an hour and a half of entertainment that apparently met with the approval of students, faculty, and Bryan people, alike.

We agree that his jazz was, perhaps, "incomparable", however we are forced to report his deeper music, in places at least, as somewhat labored. A few times, downright harsh. The rendition of "Bolero"

allowed quite a scattering of tones to creep out of the harmonious fever and become disappointingly strident. However, we are still willing to congratulate him for making effort to please the entire audience.

Commendation is in order for Raymond Kerr, social secretary of the senior class, who proceeded to aid Jack Ferguson in bringing Lopez here after the seniors had voted their unwillingness to cooperate. The proposition was that Lopez should play for the senior "Ring Dance". That the dance following the concert turned out to be a financial success (as well as social) is for Kerr only a deserved-good fortune.

SAAR-BASIN

As the new year approaches, anxiety in European circles, over the outcome of the Saar plebiscite, scheduled for January 13, increases daily by leaps and bounds. Questions are: **To be or not to be Nazi; and, to be or not to be German.**

The rich little mining territory (and the rest of the world also!) is all agog over the election which will determine whether the fabulous wealth, represented by the large iron and coal deposits, will revert to France, or to Germany, or remain under **status quo**.

At present, France has control of the mines, but the territory itself is under the supervision of the Saar Governing Committee, created by the League of Nations in 1920. Chairman of the committee is Geoffrey G. Knox of Great Britain.

The outcome, which probably has the question of war or peace for the world, depends indirectly upon the Catholic Church. The little knot of land harbors over a 70 per cent Catholic population. And, if the Vatican suggests an anti-Nazi policy, an anti-Nazi policy it will be—and no joke! As the Church is still thumbing its nose at Hitler, there appears little likelihood that the vote will favor him. However, if the demagogue can think up an attractive bargain, trading leniency toward German Catholics for the endorsement of the Pope, he may be able to pull the tide his way in time.

But, we tremble at such a prospect!

German control would mean: a loss of liberty to the miners, a constriction of Europe's coal and iron industry (today Saar exports coal into France with no duty imposed—a condition that would cease to exist the moment the Basin fell into Hitler's hands); an economic shake-up (Germany would either have to issue marks, in order to obtain the francs held by the Saar population and thus be able to pay France for the mines, or she would have to produce the money elsewhere, something very dangerous, as foreign financiers are already casting critical glances); and an increasing enmity between Germany and France (France would undoubtedly erect fortifications on the Saar boundary).

We hope that the Vatican makes no concession!