

Indiana U. students aid burned fraternity

United Press International

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Fellow students poured out their help Tuesday to members of an Indiana University fraternity whose house was destroyed by a deliberately set fire that killed one student and injured more than 30 others.

Jerry Scott Zook, 23, of Indianapolis, admitted in a taped confession that he set Sunday's fire after two drunken fights with members of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

Zook, a former Indiana University student, is charged with murder and arson. He was ordered held without bond in Monroe County Jail Monday.

In a taped confession played in court Monday, Zook told of entering the fraternity house, finding some turpentine and using it to set the fire.

"The first can I dumped on the floor. I may have walked around the house. There are periods of time I don't remember," he said. "I don't know why I did this."

The early morning fire spread quickly from the living room, authorities said, generating dense smoke that killed Israel D. Edelman, 19, of Richmond, Ind., as he slept in an upstairs room.

Dozens of other students fled, some leaping from upstairs windows to escape. About 30 were treated for smoke inhalation, and three required hospitalization. Three others suffered broken bones while escaping the blaze.

Monroe County Prosecutor Ronald J. Waicukauski said Zook was drinking heavily at a ZBT party and began fighting with fraternity members and alumni.

Friends took him away from the fraternity house and tried to detain him in a nearby apartment. But he returned to the ZBT house and used two quarts of turpentine to start the fire, the prosecutor said.

University students contributed Tuesday to an aid fund for the ZBT house. ZBT officials started the fund off with \$1,000, and a Monroe County State Bank official said Tuesday the amount being mailed in is still unknown.

Other students, particularly members of fraternity and sorority houses, were offering ZBT members meals, temporary sleeping quarters, showers, soap, books and even class notes lost in the flames.

Judge John Baker entered innocent pleas for Zook, appointed a defense lawyer for him and set trial for Dec. 17.



Photo by MARK RUDOLPH

Waiting in the dark

Four A&M students waited in line to buy tickets to Bruce Springsteen's Nov. 29, 30

Houston concerts. Tickets sold out two hours after they went on sale.

Chernenko: Party faces farm production crisis

United Press International

MOSCOW — President Konstantin Chernenko told a special meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee the Soviet Union is beset by an "acute" crisis in agricultural production.

The Soviet leader, in a lengthy speech carried by the official news agency Tass, proposed a controversial plan to irrigate huge tracts of land in the south.

The Central Committee meeting came at a time the U.S. Department

of Agriculture estimates the Soviet 1984 grain crop to be 65 million tons short of its 240 million-ton target.

Chernenko, who presented proposals to guide the country's agriculture in the year 2000, described grain production as the country's "key problem." Western diplomats said the proposals presented little change in the Soviet's conservative, centralized system.

"The situation in agriculture in a number of sectors remains difficult," Chernenko said.

"Agricultural production still lags behind the country's growing requirements ... the problem of providing the population of many cities with foodstuffs, above all meat, is still acute."

Mikhail Gorbachev, the Politburo member responsible for agriculture, did not deliver the major agricultural address, as would be customary. Western diplomats saw it as an indication he may have stepped down from the post.

Group cites human rights abuses in U.S., 117 countries

United Press International

LONDON — Amnesty International, in its annual report Tuesday on human rights abuses in 117 countries, cited the record number of American prisoners on death row and accused Iran and Saudi Arabia of inflicting "cruel and inhuman" floggings and amputations.

The London-based international human rights group said thousands were killed in Asia in 1983 —

"through unlawful killings in Indonesia and other countries, and after swift trials in China."

Amnesty's Report 1984 also cited torture carried out by security forces in Chile and by both government and rebel forces in Soviet-occupied Afghanistan. It cited disappearances in the Central American nations of El-Salvador and Guatemala.

Amnesty, which opposes capital punishment, expressed concern

over an increase in executions in the United States and "the highest figure ever" of convicted American prisoners on death row.

Latest figures issued by the American Legal Defense Fund showed there were 1,420 prisoners on death row, including 720 whites, 597 blacks, 75 Hispanics, 15 native Americans, five Asians, and eight undetermined.

Austin, B-CS have fewest unemployed

United Press International

AUSTIN — The best place to look for a job in Texas is still the capital city of Austin, while unemployment from last winter's crop freeze continues to give South Texas the highest jobless rate in the state, the Texas Employment Commission reported Tuesday.

Austin posted the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.4 percent in September. Bryan-College

Station had the second lowest unemployment rate, while the McAllen-Pharr-Edinburg area had the highest Texas jobless rate last month at 21.5 percent.

The average state unemployment rate in September, reported earlier this month by the TEC, stood at 5.8 percent.

Other metropolitan areas and their unemployment rates for September include:

Abilene, 3.9 percent; Amarillo, 4.5 percent; Beaumont-Port Arthur, 10.7 percent; Brownsville, 13.4 percent; Dallas-Fort Worth, 3.8 percent; El Paso, 10.1 percent; Galveston-Houston, 9.2 percent; Harlingen-San Benito, 13.4 percent; Killeen-Temple, 5.3 percent; Lubbock, 4.3 percent; San Antonio, 5.0 percent; Sherman-DeSoto, 5.0 percent; Tyler, 4.5 percent; Waco, 4.6 percent.

Off Campus Connection

The Off Campus Connection is sponsored each month by Loupot's Bookstore at Northgate as a service to Texas A&M students. Stories and artwork are provided by the staff of the Off Campus Center.

BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

If you're living off campus, you may find that you want to move out of your apartment, duplex, or house before your lease term has ended. Although your reasons may seem valid to you, moving out before your lease expires is a breach of a legal agreement and the manager may be entitled to damages.

It is incorrect to think that you only forfeit your security deposit if you break your lease. You can be sued for the remainder of the rent you owe, according to the terms of the lease. If you are unable to pay your debts after suit, a judgment can be filed against you which lasts for 10 years. This means that certain personal property you acquire during this period can be used for payment of the damages. A judgment on your record can prevent you from obtaining loan or credit.

Many apartment managers and property owners are now reporting residents who break their leases to the local Credit Bureau. This could have an impact on your future ability to gain credit in Bryan/College Station. If it is necessary for you to move, there are several ways you can try to lessen the damage of breaking your lease and thus reduce your risk. The ways of reducing your risk are: (1) negotiating, (2) subleasing, or (3) releasing.

Negotiate: It may be possible for you to negotiate with the manager to allow you to terminate the lease. If you and your manager reach an agreement, make sure that the agreement is in writing and signed by both parties.

Sublease: A sublease is an agreement in which you rent your apartment to another person with the manager's permission. Before you consider this alternative, be sure to ask your manager if he/she allows subleasing. Many managers do not. According to a sublease, you become a sub-manager; you are still responsible for the apartment including damages and rent. You are not entitled to receive your security deposit until your lease term ends.

Release: This is the most widely used option. In a release, you find a person who is willing to lease the apartment. An agreement is made by all parties which states that you are no longer liable for the apartment. A new lease is created between the resident and the manager which terminates your lease. In some cases, you will receive your security deposit within 30 days after moving out. In other cases, you will not receive your deposit until the lease term expires.



WHAT'S UP DOC?

As midterm rolls around most students are finally becoming adjusted to the changes associated with a new semester - new classes, new instructors, and of course, fees. Among the list of charges for shuttle bus pass, lab use, building use, and parking permits lies the Student Health Center fee. Although often overlooked, this service is probably one of the most valuable as it entitles students to a full range of confidential and free health care. Beutel Health Center provides students with a variety of facilities including a modern laboratory and x-ray, physical therapy, and diagnostic departments. Services such as clinic visits, diagnostic examinations, care of illness or accidents and laboratory tests are offered to all students on a first-come, first-served basis. A student is also provided 10 days of treatment per semester for cases requiring hospitalization.

In case of an emergency, the Health Center provides an ambulance service which is available 24 hours a day. A University ambulance is available for all on campus emergencies and some off campus emergencies. If you live in Bryan, the University's ambulance is available to you free of charge. College Station residents must call the College Station Fire Department (911), and there may be a charge for the service.

The Health Center is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. For emergency treatment a student can call 845-1511, 24 hours a day. Beutel Health Center has a variety of services to offer to students at Texas A&M. For more information call 845-1511.

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