General Alarm Fire At UMass Destroys Dormitory

By Toby Zullo

A general alarm fire last Saturday evening swept through the Abigail Adams House at the University of Massachusetts. At the time many of the 322 girls residing at the dormitory, commonly known as "The Abbey," were away for the weekend. Although the alarm was sounded at 7:30 p.m., by dormitory residences, the building was orderly. None of the girls were injured. Both the University and Amherst fire departments responded to the alarm. Additional help had been requested from Hadley, Greenfield, Sunderland, and Northampton fire departments. The cause of the fire, believed to have started on the first floor, is being investigated. The fleeing coeds left behind their clothes and other personal belongings. Several male students rushed into the burning building in an attempt to save some of the girls' personal property although they were unable to go above the first floor. Twenty of the men managed to rescue the dormitory piano.

The Massachusetts College of Agriculture, which the University has described as "crowded," is set as a dormitory fire. Immediate plans for replacing the building have not yet been formulated. Fire damage was estimated at $300,000 to $500,000.

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