May Reopen Next Week
Charles Playhouse Lobby Fire
Forces Suspension of Performances

Poor Dad is still hanging in the
drapery at the Charles Play-
house, but the audience can't get in
to see him.

A fire gutted the upper and lower
 lobes of the Playhouse early
Friday morning, forcing suspen-
sion of performances for the first
time in the loopy history of the
theater.

Although no reopening date has
been set, the theater hopes to re-
sume performances of "Oh Dad,
Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You In
the Closet and I'm Feeling So
Sad" next week.

The fire also damaged the box
office and destroyed some rec-
cords, but the automatic sprinkler
system prevented the fire from
spreading to the theater itself.

The seats and stage were abrupt,
but some costumes and props
were destroyed by water.

A spokesman for the theater
estimated the damage at nearly
$50,000. The building was not
insured, and the company has no
reserve funds to cover such a
loss. As a result, they have is-
troduced a public appeal for funds.

In hopes that enough money can
be raised, repair work has al-
ready started.

Refunds will be made to any
one holding tickets for canceled
performances, but the theater
hopes that most people will ei-
ter exchange the tickets for one
or a later performance or allow
the theater to keep the money as
a donation.

Anyone who purchased tickets
through the TCA Ticket Service
can obtain refunds there begin-
ing Friday.