Historic frat to undergo renovations

Repairs include new roof, remodeled carriage house

By Gary S. Blog

Despite its historic significance, Phi Delta Theta fraternity officials said they are finding no problems in getting approval for about $400,000 worth of repairs to their house.

The house, located at 703 Walnut Ave., is part of the Walnut Park Historic District, which was put into the National Register of Historical Sites in 1983.

PDT President Brett Baker said the fraternity house needs a new roof and fire alarm system. Other plans for the house also include remodeling the kitchen, basement and part of the upper floors.

Several minor building code violations will also be corrected, Baker said. Most of the repairs to the house should be completed by fall, Baker said.

A two-story carriage house behind the main house will also be renovated, with completion scheduled for spring 1988, Baker said. Currently, the carriage house is unused and will be totally remodeled, he added.

"The lower floor will allow cars to be parked there and the upper floor will be living quarters for approximately 10 people," Baker said.

The fraternity plans to pay for the renovations from loans and alumni donations. "This is our 100th year and we hope to use it as a big fund-raising drive with our alumni," Baker said.

New plant stirs protest by neighbors

By Lisa Huber

Syracuse University may get a new power source which will serve the University, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and three city hospitals.

The project is still in the planning stages, said Dan Forbush, SU vice president of public relations and marketing communications.

The proposed plant would be built adjacent to the University's existing system on McBride Street, Forbush said.

However, without the support of the adjacent predominantly black neighborhood, the plant will have to be moved, university officials said.

Black leaders are displeased with the proposed plant and claim they are being forced into accepting it, according to Wednesday's edition of The Post Standard.

The Syracuse Black Leadership Congress said they were uninformed about the plant until they read reports in the media, the paper reported.

If problems with the neighborhood continue, the plant could be located on university-owned land in the Skytop area, Forbush said.

"Originally I thought the Skytop area would be more expensive," he said. "But that may not be the case."

The University proposed a new plant in 1984, however plans never materialized.

Last spring, the University proposed building a 230-megawatt power plant on the Skytop land, Forbush said.

However, when the University and Niagara Mohawk officials came to an agreement about the sale of power, the plans fell through, he added.

"The new plant is a scaled down version of the original," he said.

The proposed 45-megawatt plant would produce steam and electricity, Forbush said.

Officials from the city and the University, including Senior Vice President for Facilities Administration Harvey Kaiser, met Wednesday night to discuss the steam plant, said Elizabeth Volan, administration specialist for facilities administration.

Kaiser was unavailable for comment Wednesday night.

SU is currently powered by a 30-year-old plant next to the proposed site, Forbush said. The present power plant will need to be replaced soon. "It's an aging plant," he said.

The electricity will be sold to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, and the steam will be sold to SU to heat and cool its buildings.

The University would then sell some of the steam to Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital, University Hospital, Veterans Administration Hospital and the ESF campus.

Construction may begin as early as this summer, New York City developer of the plant, Adam Victor was quoted as saying in The Post Standard.

"The plant would offer a source of low cost steam to the University," Forbush said. "It would be considerably less than what we're currently paying."