

Wesleyan cleans house after fraternity's protest

By BRENT GREER
Citizen-Journal State Service

DELAWARE — A few pieces of furniture and a television set were all that remained downstairs in the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house at Ohio Wesleyan University last night.

University officials swept away most of the furnishings yesterday following a demonstration by 200 to 300 students late Wednesday night and early yesterday.

Four students were arrested during the protest, which stemmed from the university's decision Wednesday to withdraw recognition of the Beta chapter until 1986 because of repeated violations of university guidelines, said John Smeaton, dean of student life.

Police cruisers and fire trucks reportedly were pelted by bottles and billiard balls thrown by students, as police tried to restrain the crowds. Firefighters were called to extinguish several bonfires, which the students were feeding with fraternity furniture.

Fraternity members denied any similarities between their actions and the antics of those in "National Lampoon's Animal

House," a satirical movie that profiled comedic, and sometimes destructive, fraternity members.

Most of the 53 men living in the Beta house had moved out last night. Only a handful planned to stay there overnight.

Several Beta members called the university's decision to close their home "unfair" and said the protest resulted from the administration's lack of communication with the greek community.

"Most students are mad because the students have no voice" on campus, said Karl Potraz, a 22-year-old senior from Olmsted Falls.

"It wasn't a fair decision and they (students) realize ... it could happen to them," said Potraz, who resigned yesterday as chapter treasurer.

Potraz said other chapter officers also resigned.

David Lusk, a 22-year-old junior from Newark and the son of Newark Mayor Mary Lusk, said Beta members recently initiated pledges and had no idea their chapter would lose recognition from the university.

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FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE — Members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, bitter from a university decision to expel the chapter from campus, sit in their nearly empty house last night. Most members have moved into university residence halls. (C.J. Photo by Brent Greer)

Wesleyan empties frat house

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"We were led to believe we were making progress," Lusk said.

But Smeaton said the chapter, which has been on probation several times since 1976, could not prove certain violations of the university's student handbook had been remedied.

Smeaton said the Betas had several violations concerning noise, disruptive behavior, damage and unre-

gistered parties since a November letter from administrators, which instructed chapter officers to submit a report by Feb. 1.

"Beta has a long history of problems on campus," Smeaton said. "We had to draw the line somewhere."

The university had been investigating the Beta house, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the Phi Delta Theta fraternity for repeated violations of student guidelines.