

Fire Victim Files Lawsuit

A Buffalo, N.Y., man injured in a tragic fire that claimed the life of a fellow Edinboro University student on Dec. 8, 1990, has filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the building's owner.

Joseph J. Staszczuk, who had been living with other students at 125 Ontario, Edinboro, filed suit in U.S. District Court against Michael E. Slusarz of Erie.

Staszczuk claims the building was in a state of such disrepair that it violated housing ordinances and that it was unfit for rental.

Pennsylvania State Police fire marshals had ruled secondary electrical wiring as the cause of the fire, indicating that it may have been smoldering in the living

room ceiling rafters for some time before igniting.

Staszczuk's lawsuit claims the owner of the building permitted the existence of electrical outlets and switches that did not work, causing excessive use of functioning electrical outlets.

He also claims that wiring and light fixtures were faulty and that the owner failed to provide functioning smoke detectors.

The students, members of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at Edinboro, were awakened by shouts from members of another fraternity located across the street.

Fraternity house fire after party kills five

By The Associated Press

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. – A joyous homecoming weekend turned tragic yesterday when a smoldering sofa ignited a blaze at a fraternity house hours after a party, burning five people to death.

Residents believed the sofa fire had been extinguished when they put it out on the porch of the two-story wood house near the Bloomsburg University campus, Fire Chief Ralph Magill said.

Four people escaped unharmed from the dawn blaze that killed four men and a woman.

Four of the victims and a dog were found dead on the second floor. The other victim was found on the first floor.

Batteries had been taken out of the smoke detectors in the house, a common practice during smoke filled parties, Coroner Ali Alley said.

Five members of the Beta Sigma Delta fraternity lived in the house. Identities of the dead were not released.