

TIMELINE (#15B) CHICAGO HOUSE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. West Quadrangle was divided into 8 houses, each set apart from the next by fire walls. There was no intercommunication between houses except at the grade floor level. The northeast dormitory was named Alfred Henry Lloyd House. I lived at Lloyd House for my first 3 school years (1953-1956). The adjacent dormitory (to the west) was named Chicago House.

2. In the fall of 1954, with increasing enrollment, Chicago House was converted for women's use. They were well received by the male population of West Quad. Before the year was out, the women were taking turns eating in the 4 dining rooms.

STORY 1

The Chicago House women had no personal use for the **urinals** remaining in all the hall restrooms so they converted them into flower pots. They filled the lower portion with soil and planted flowers and other growing things in them. The plants were watered by merely flushing the urinals.

STORY 2

The only connection between Lloyd and Chicago Houses was a large, heavy, metal fire door at the grade floor level. Only a select few people had keys to this door. During the 1954-1955 school year, certain industrious Lloyd House residents attempted to gain entrance to Chicago House through this door. After multiple attempts, the best they could do was to remove the door hinge pins. The door was so secure that it would not budge in any direction. These men abandoned their attempt but failed to return the hinge pins to their hinges.

The next day, the vending machine man arrived with his hand truck loaded with cases of glass-bottled soft drinks. Not noticing that the hinge pins were missing, he unlocked the door with his key and pulled the heavy door open. He must have been surprised, to say the least, when the huge door fell on him and his hand truck. Fortunately, he wasn't injured but some of his bottles were not so lucky. There were no disciplinary actions to the Lloyd residents for their failed attempt to enter Chicago House.

STORY 3

BACKGROUND

Panty Raids were popular at many colleges after the first fully documented one occurred at the University of Michigan on 3/20/52 (see link below). This was the single incident that inspired a nationwide fad. The objective of a panty raid was to obtain an article of lady's lingerie and proudly display it as a trophy. Far from being fearful, most of the girls were aware of the raid. They had their stockings, panties, and bras ready and waiting to be tossed out windows and doors. The typical sound heard was gleeful, high-pitched squealing and giggles.

<http://michigantoday.umich.edu/2008/07/raid.php#top>

CHICAGO HOUSE PANTY RAID

This panty raid occurred about 3 years after the infamous 1952 raid described above. It took place at about the vernal equinox (these kind of things always seemed to happen when the season changed from winter to spring). Suddenly one early evening, a large group of male students appeared on the street and parking lot opposite Chicago and Lloyd Houses in West Quad. They started forming at the major women's residence halls and magically gained numbers as they marched to Chicago House. By the time they arrived, they numbered in the hundreds, perhaps as many as 500. The school authorities had spotted this large group and locked all the heavy iron gates and other doors permitting access into West Quad. Many of us living in Lloyd House were watching the unfolding events with great glee.

This large crowd seemed happy and generated no destruction (although they could have easily overturned cars or caused other damage). Mostly, they were dancing about and shouting words and slogans. They wanted the Chicago House girls to throw them their panties and other intimate garments. The girls obliged them by tossing their undergarments from their windows. They encouraged the crowd while winking at each other and saying how naughty these boys were.

Several U of M deans and athletes attempted to disperse the crowd. But none of them was convincing and the size of the crowd continued to increase. Finally, the authorities announced that all violators would be reported to their draft boards for possible induction into the army. Even this serious threat did not help.

Ultimately, the Lloyd House Resident Adviser was authorized to take the unusual step of pulling out the fire hoses on each of the 4 floors and training them on the crowd, if it didn't disperse soon. We Lloyd House residents were anxious to defend the Chicago House girls by hosing down the crowd from the safety of our windows. We started manning the hoses and planning whose rooms should be used for the best effect.

We were sorely disappointed when the crowd slowly started to abate. It was unclear whether the authorities had informed them that the mighty Lloyd House fire brigade was about to spring into action. Within a few minutes the crowd disappeared. Many of them were happy, having gained their trophy intimate lingerie. The entire panty raid lasted less than an hour, and there was no apparent property damage or injuries. Almost everybody went away happy except the Lloyd House defenders who never got the chance to operate the fire hoses.