

Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Mostly cloudy tonight and Friday with chance of rain. Little change in temperature. High in the upper 50s to low 60s.

Temperatures for 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. today: High 62, low 35.

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THURSDAY AFTERNOON—APRIL 8, 1971

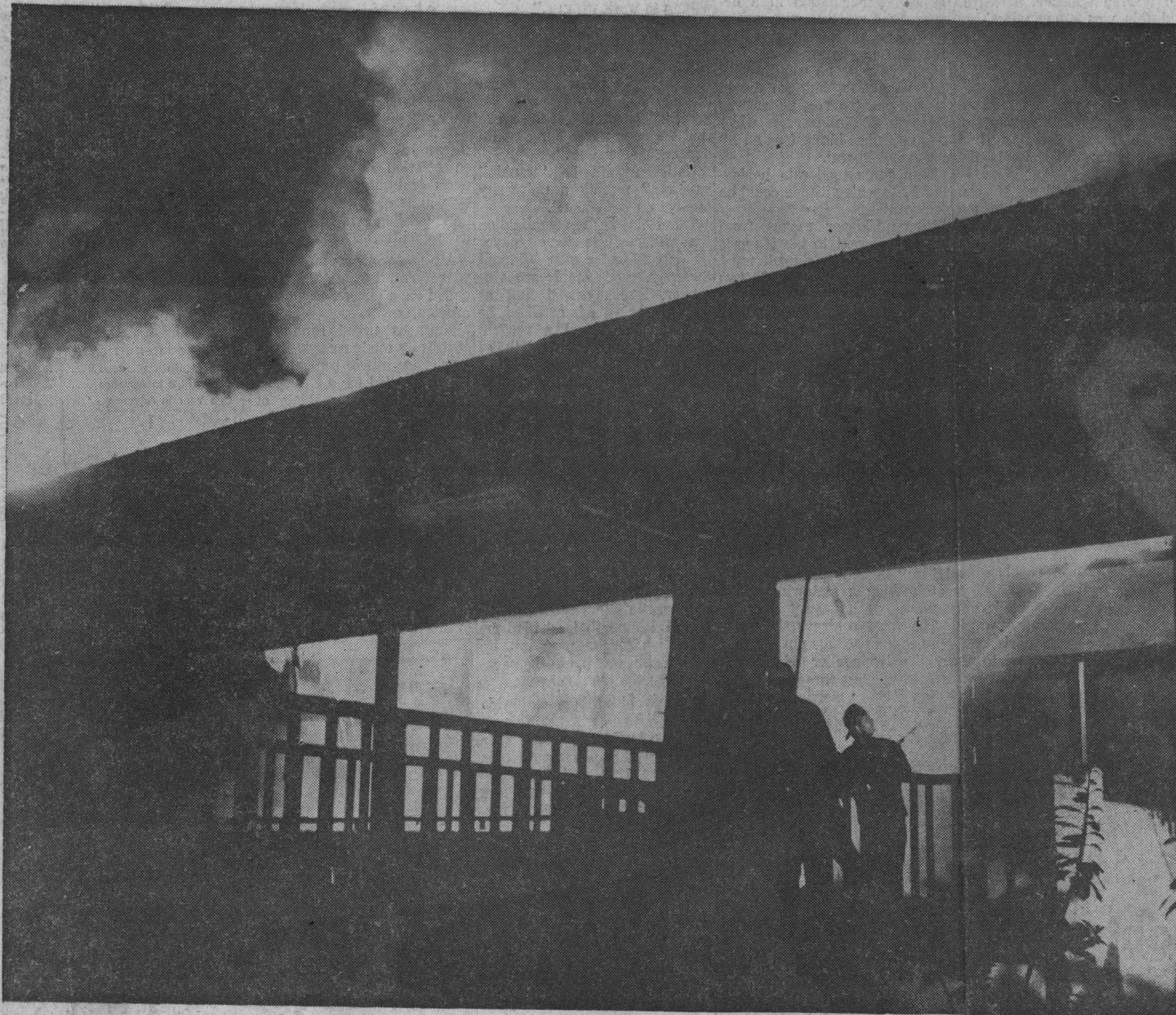
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Today's

Closing

N.Y. Stocks



Firemen direct their hose at blazing timbers early today in their fight against a \$500,000 blaze that gutted a large portion of the Central Services Building

on the UCSC campus. Santa Cruz fire officials believe an accelerant was used, because of the rapid spread of the flames. An investigation is under way. The

fire was first reported at 1:48 a.m. (Photo by Sentinel Chief Photographer Pete Amos. For other photos, see Pages 6 and 14.)

\$500,000 UCSC Fire; Arson Hint

By CLIFF JOHNSON
Sentinel Staff Writer

Fire ripped through the upper section of the Central Services Building at UCSC about 2 a.m. today, causing an estimated \$500,000 damage, according to Santa Cruz Fire Chief Ted McEwen.

Cause of the blaze is undetermined, but fire investigators strongly suspect an "accelerant" was used to spread the blaze, according to assistant Fire Chief James Slater.

James Easter and Frank Moore, University policemen, discovered the fire while on patrol, and reported it at 1:48 a.m., McEwen said.

The fire is thought to have started in Chancellor Dean McHenry's secretary's office, or in the waiting room of her office, Slater said.

The chancellor's office, and admissions office which comprise about one-half of the upper floor — were completely destroyed, and the remainder of the structure suffered extensive smoke and water damage.

UCSC fire marshal Frank Borges said no vital records were lost because of fireproof files and duplication of records elsewhere.

About 50 firemen, half of them off-duty and roused from sleep by the emergency horn's blast about 2:10

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Slight Increase In Withdrawals

(See background stories on Page 8.)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon has increased slightly the pace of U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam, ordering another 100,000 men home by Dec. 1. But he rejected appeals

ence to the 1972 presidential election, he invited the American people to "hold me accountable if I fail."

There are indications from other administration officials that Nixon expects to reduce the

and some of its units retreated out of Laos in apparent disarray. Other administration officials have said it will take until next fall to assess fully whether the six-week operation was a suc-



This is a view of Chancellor Dean McHenry's office this morning, following a \$500,000 blaze that severely damaged the Central Services Building at UCSC. First alarm was reported at 1:48 a.m. today. San-

ta Cruz fire officials indicated the blaze spread rapidly and that they suspected an "accelerant" was used. Photo by Sentinel Chief Photographer Pete Amos.)

\$500,000 Fire Guts UCSC Building

(Continued from Page 1)
a.m., fought the fire two hours before bringing it under control.

"Flames 30 to 40 feet high were rolling out of the building," said fire captain Edward Smith, one of the first to arrive.

Six city pumper engines, one Live Oak pumper and the city aerial ladder were used to fight the blaze, which flared again briefly after an hour of firefighting effort.

"It's a helluva fire," Chief McEwen said between gulps of coffee supplied by a Salvation Army unit.

Firefighters dogged in and out of the building, trailing long lines from hydrants more than 100 feet away while small groups of students from nearby residence halls sat on curbs and silently watched. Overhead, a stream of water played along the roof of the burning building, from a nozzle on top of the extended aerial ladder. (See photos on Page 14.)

This morning, in the aftermath of what Chief McEwen described as "the most expensive fire in the city's history," an intensive investigation began.

One state fire marshal is on

the scene, and one more on the way, to assist local investigators in finding the cause of the half-million-dollar fire.

"There's going to be a lot of sifting," Asst. Chief Slater said. "And a lot of people to interview."

City police will co-operate with university lawmen in the police end of the investigation.

"The FBI was notified, which is a matter of routine in possible arson cases," Police Lt. Charles Scherer said. The FBI has not entered the case, but had indicated its resources would be available "if needed", soon after the first fire trucks reached the scene.

Most personnel who work in the two-story structure are off today, but emergency offices are being set up in vacant residence halls, and new telephone lines being brought in, according to Gurden Mooser, University Relations.

The Central Services Building had 90 telephones in upper and lower floors, all of which will have to be replaced, according to Lee Perry, Pacific Telephone Co. manager. Cost will be about \$5,000.

Some academic personnel records were lost in the fire,

which could affect faculty promotions if they were not duplicated; according to the University relations office. Some portions of those records might be in the computer complex located in another building, but at presstime nothing was certain.

Dr. N. Manfred Shaffer, admissions officer, told The Sentinel early this afternoon that 90 per cent of the records in the admissions section are intact.

He said the major problem will be one of time to salvage

and-or replace some records and that a two-month delay may result in the processing of students' admission applications for the fall quarter of 1971-72.

The registrar's office on the lower level of the building keeps important documents in fire re-

sistant safes and these papers apparently came through unharmed, he said.

Shaffer said some prospective students may experience a delay of a couple of months in receipt of their letters of admission. He added, "We hope they'll be patient with us."

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Legal Offtrack Betting Is Off And Running In NY City

NEW YORK (AP) — Offtrack betting was off and running here today—nearly five months and five million dollars after it was scheduled to start.

Philip Gross, of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, who had waited more

we'll be doing \$1 billion a year, and we'll be one of the top 50 corporations in the country."

At the moment, however, the operation is \$5.5 million in debt due to a series of delays involving labor problems, kinks in the