



HOT SEAT—This chair is thought to be the start of the Monday night fire in the manager's office of the Wicker Basket Restaurant. The fire began around 9:30 p.m. and caused considerable damage. The Youngstown Fire Department reacted quickly upon notice of the fire and prevented further damage.

Photo by Mike Braun

Kitchen office burns in Wicker Basket blaze

By Bill Snier

A fire in the Wicker Basket Restaurant in Kilcawley Center at about 9:30 p.m. Monday night gutted the first floor restaurant manager's office.

A cleaning lady smelled smoke and together with Jim Mellinger, a student employee, searched for the fire. The office blaze was discovered and the Youngstown Fire Department notified.

A smouldering cigarette butt left on an office chair covered with papers and files, was listed as the apparent cause of the fire. The office had been closed at 6 p.m.

Losses during the fire included numerous office supplies, a calculator, an adding machine, two telephones and restaurant business records.

Though the fire was confined to the one office, smoke spread throughout the Wicker Basket requiring three large fans to clear it. There was no damage estimate.

The fire was reported by telephone instead of by the building alarm to avoid a general panic at the "Carson and Ca" show in the Kilcawley Center multi-purpose room.