

May 15, 1970
KTJO On

Hot Seat

Announcer John Howarth of KTJO was broadcasting a chapel service as Tauy Jones caught fire last Sunday evening. He said he was standing at the top of the stairs when the smoke and hot air hit him "like someone had turned on a light switch."

Howarth then called the station manager, Curt Hildreth, to communicate his distress. According to his report, he had difficulty in conveying the crisis of the situation.

Howarth interrupted the chapel service with a secular but definite announcement: "This damn place is on fire!" He proceeded to shut off the station transmitter.

Howarth's escape route then took him through the portals of the East windows of the third floor on to the adjacent ledge. The rescue snorkel of the fire truck brought him safely to the ground where he was described as "nervous" by the fire chief.

KTJO will remain officially off the air for the remainder of the semester, according to Mike Lonchar, Program Director-elect. Lonchar also stated that KTJO will remain off the air until a fire escape is installed for the safety of station personnel.