

Four toilets set on fire by unknown arsonist

University toilet seats have been the object of the most recent vandalism on campus.

Fire engines roared through campus at 4:51 p.m. Monday to a fire in the men's room of PLC. The toilet seat was no sooner extinguished when, at 5 p.m., another fire was reported in the first floor men's room of the University library.

After this toilet seat fire was put out, another fire was reported on the toilet seat of the men's room in Gerlinger annex.

At presstime, a fire was discovered in the first floor men's room at Condon Hall. This fire was reportedly set in a trash bin of the first floor men's room.

Modus operandi was similar in the first three cases: the arsonist(s) placed paper towels under the toilet seats and ignited them.

Fire has also been evident downtown recently. On Sunday, five fires were set in

garbage bins around the Eugene mall. A man called the fire department around 6 p.m. the same day, asked if fires had been reported, then laughed and claimed responsibility.

Motives of the mad toilet burner are under investigation. One spectator observed that the arsonist must have a fetish for "toasted buns."

The Universal Movie crew, which was filming in front of the Administration Building at the time of the fires, was undisturbed.

The fire caused extensive damage to the toilet seat in the library. The seat and nearby light fixtures melted and the bathroom walls were blackened.

The seat in the men's room at PLC was described as usable, but slightly singed.

Lloyd Story of the Eugene fire department, says "This sort of thing's been happening a lot in the last couple of days."



Photo by F.H.A.T. Axmacher
Apparently someone has taken exception to the University's toilet seats and has expressed his opinion by setting them on fire.

Sewing class offered for isolated women

By KAREN KANGAS
Of the Emerald

Connie Holvey is fighting an epidemic in Eugene. She is not battling an outbreak of the flu or measles, but an outbreak of depression among women caused by isolation.

For a month Holvey has been fighting this epidemic by offering women who feel isolated a chance to meet others and build their self-esteem while learning sewing skills free. So far, only two women have joined the sewing class, but Holvey says many more could benefit from it.

"Isolation is deadly rampant in Eugene," says Holvey, a University CSPA graduate student and a volunteer at Womenspace — an

organization dealing with the problems of physically abused women. "When this isolation is prolonged, it can lead to severe depression," she says.

The largest contributing factor in the problem of isolation is transiency, Holvey explains. Wives of foreign students and women passing through town looking for work are not in Eugene permanently, so they don't strive to become active in the community, she says.

Wives of foreign students are particularly discouraged from joining activities because of the language and cultural barriers they face, Holvey explains. The women have trouble with English and they are unfamiliar with American customs so they tend to

keep to themselves, she says.

By isolating themselves, Holvey points out, the women become more dependent on their husbands.

"When the husband comes home, the wife wants desperately to talk to him. The husband resents the time being taken away from his studies and he resents the wife trying to live her life through him," Holvey explains.

As a result, the women feel isolated from their husbands and the community, the lose their self-respect and they become very depressed, Holvey says.

The same thing happens to women who are passing through Eugene in search of employment. Holvey says the women feel they can manage without much social

contact because they only plan to be in town for a short time.

Unfortunately, the women aren't happy without social contact and they become depressed, Holvey says.

Holvey started the sewing class, sponsored by the Wesley Center with the hope it would ease this depression. By meeting women with similar problems and by learning a useful skill, Holvey says she believes the women will

improve their self-esteem.

She reports that women's self-respect has gone up 150 per cent since the class first started. "They are really enthusiastic and excited about doing more," Holvey says.

The class meets each Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Community Room of the University's Westmoreland Housing Project, 2055 16th Way. All women who feel isolated from their families or the community are encouraged to attend. Child care is provided free.

Gillaspie named to OEC board

Janet Gillaspie, University Survival Center director, was elected last week to the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) Board of Directors.

"I'm very excited; this is a good opportunity for me to meet and work with people who deal with the same issues I continually deal with," Gillaspie says.

Gillaspie was one of 17 candidates nominated to fill 12 positions open to the board. The board itself elects new members to serve two-year terms of office.

The OEC is a 3,000-member state organization. It serves as a watchdog and information exchange for 70 environmental

member groups and does lobbying and litigation on environmental issues. The 23 directors meet monthly in Salem.

Gillaspie has been the Survival Center Director since June of 1977 and has been instrumental in organizing the Eugene Conservation Alliance, a coalition of environmentalists in Lane County.

JESSIE COLIN YOUNG IN CONCERT



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Norton Buffalo

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Tickets \$6.50 advance/\$7.50 day of show
Advance outlets: EMU Main Desk, Sun Shop
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featuring

Polka Music by the

"Polka Meisters"

4-7 pm EMU Patio

