

Arson suspect's arraignment set for sometime this week

Arraignment in Lane County Circuit Court is pending for Eric Schell, 20, of Portland, the suspect in an arson fire set on the first floor of Hamilton-Spiller dormitory March 14.

Police arrested Schell, a second-year University freshman, on the evening of March 17. Schell, a first-floor resident of Spiller dormitory, was released on \$5,000 bail. He no longer resides in Spiller.

No date has been set for trial, but Schell faces a possible 20-year sentence for first-degree arson.

The suspect was arraigned March 18 in Lane County District Court, but because that court has no jurisdiction in felony cases, Schell is expected to be arraigned this week in county circuit court.

Campus-based Eugene Police Officer David Biggs, who worked with the Eugene Fire Department's Jim Jensen in the arson investigation, said the fire did \$11,000 damage to the dormitory. There were no injuries.

Dorm resident assistant Brent Dahl said no damage was done to any of the residents' rooms or belongings.

The fire broke out at approximately 3 a.m., Saturday, March 14. Several students and RA Dahl pulled alarms, woke fellow students and called campus security.

The fire originated in a small janitor's closet just off the first floor lobby.

Campus security notified the Eugene fire department, which responded promptly, Dahl said.

Biggs, Sgt. Rick Allison, director of EPD campus security, and Dahl all praised dormitory staff and residents for the quick response to the fire that helped prevent a possible loss of life. Smoke alone can be a killer, Allison said.

"It could have caused fatalities," Biggs said. He said several residents later reported thinking the fire alarms were false, and sauntered out in their underwear. But Biggs said that treating fire alarms as "a big joke" is a dangerous practice.

Former coach's trial begins today

The trial of former University assistant basketball coach Ron Billingslea on theft charges is scheduled to begin this morning in Lane County Circuit Court.

Billingslea has been charged with stealing \$1,680 in state funds between March and June 1979. Former assistant basketball coach Mark Barwig also has been charged with stealing \$2,000 in state funds during the same period.

Barwig's trial is scheduled for

April 29.

According to documents filed in court, the former coaches allegedly took unused airline tickets purchased for recruiting travel and had them deposited in personal accounts at a Eugene travel agency. They later deposited the funds in their personal checking accounts, court documents say.

The first-degree theft charges are Class C felonies and are punishable by a maximum five-

year prison sentence and a 2,500 fine.

The two assistant coaches were indicted last May by a special Lane County grand jury investigating the University athletic scandal.

Both Billingslea and Barwig were assistant coaches under Dick Harter and left the University in 1978 after Harter became coach at Pennsylvania State University.

University names acting vice provost

Joanne Carlson, assistant to the provost and coordinator of federal relations at the University, has been named acting vice provost, effective immediately.

Carlson, 52, replaces Marshall Wattles, vice provost since 1971. Wattles retired in December 1980, and served through winter term under a policy that allows retired faculty to work 600 hours in a given year.

In announcing Carlson's appointment, Provost Richard Hill

said "she is widely respected on the campus, and we are fortunate to have her available to serve as acting vice provost."

A search for a permanent vice provost will begin after the new University president is appointed.

A graduate of the University journalism school, Carlson joined the University staff in 1963 and in addition to other positions, has worked as an assistant dean in the Graduate School and as director of the Office of Federal Relations.

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