

Arson is suspected in Straub Hall blaze

By John Widder
Of the Emerald

Arson is suspected in Friday's Straub Hall blaze that caused at least \$500 damage to a psychology professor's office in the building, said a Eugene Fire Department official.

James Jensen, Eugene deputy fire marshal, said the fire peeled paint off the walls, damaged the carpet, and discolored the ceiling panels in Room 223 Straub Hall, the office of psychology Prof. Alexander Pollatsek.

The fire set off a smoke detector at 12:18 p.m., according to campus security, and the building was evacuated.

Pollatsek, who was out running when the incident occurred, said he left his office door unlocked while he was gone. The fire originated in cardboard boxes and wrapping paper in the corner of his office.

Campus security officer Billie Alvarez, along with psychology business manager Bob Graden, tried to extinguish the blaze but could not enter the office due to smoke and heat.



Photo by John Widder
At least \$500 worth of damage occurred during a fire at Straub Hall last Friday.

The Eugene fire department soon had the fire out. Fans were placed in open windows to help clear the smoke.

The last reported fire on campus occurred last year in Villard Hall.

The fire is being investigated as an arson, according to Sgt. Chuck Tilby of the Eugene Police Department.

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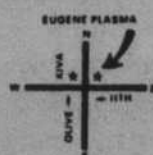
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