

Two injured in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity fire

☐ Smoke alarm was deactivated 45 minutes before fire discovered

By Matt Bender
Emerald Reporter

Two University students suffered minor injuries in a fire caused by a space heater in a fraternity early Tuesday morning.

The fire started in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity member Mark Nguyen's room and was reported to the Eugene fire department about 3:30 a.m. Nguyen, who was taken to Sacred Heart General Hospital for smoke inhalation, was found unconscious outside his room on the third

floor of the fraternity shortly after the fire department was called.

Dave Swartley, Sigma Phi Epsilon president, said Nguyen woke up after a fire alarm was pulled. Before he collapsed, Nguyen went to the room next to his and woke up his neighbor, who called 911.

Tim Birr, fire department spokesman, said fraternity members Dan Bradley and Ben Palmer found Nguyen in the third-floor corridor and carried him outside the building.

Fellow fraternity member Juan Martines jumped from his third-floor room to escape the smoke and flames, Swartley said. Martines was treated and released for cuts he received from breaking out his window and landing

on broken glass.

Another fraternity member, Matt Hay, was rescued from his third-floor window by a fire department ladder truck. Birr said Hay was trapped in his room by smoke and fire.

About 40 other people who were in the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, 1000 Alder St., escaped without injury, Birr said. The street was closed and firefighters had the fire under control by about 4 a.m. Alder Street was re-opened about 7 a.m.

About 45 minutes before the fire was reported, Swartley said a fire alarm on the third floor sounded. Swartley

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Men Against Rape leaders burn out quickly

☐ All four members say they have friends or family who have been abused

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Associate Editor

Sean Foxley and Ross Freeman sat across from each other at a small, round table by the Skylight Cafe. The men conversed comfortably as if they were holding a casual conversation, but they were actually conducting a weekly Men Against Rape meeting.

Louie Dickinson approached the pair. It was his first Men Against Rape meeting. He was considering joining the group.

Foxley and Freeman smiled and told him to pull up a chair. Dickinson told the men he expected more people at the meeting.

"Expect apathy," Freeman said.

Men Against Rape is a group of the dedicated few. The four current Men Against Rape members said they are frustrated at how few men are in the group. A small number of members means they must carry a heavier work load than if there were more men joining.

But the small number of men involved in Men Against Rape is nothing new. Burn-out and frustration are common in this group, which has never had more than about 10 regular members, said Bill Brotzman, Men Against Rape member.

Brotzman directed Men Against Rape the past two school years. He finally quit his position because he was physically exhausted and "emotionally raw," he said. For a month before he quit, he had nightmares every night of men getting up and arguing with him during a rape awareness presentation he was giving.

"For awhile, the organization was my child," he said. "People started



Sean Foxley, Men Against Rape chairman (left), and Ross Freeman compose half of Men Against Rape's membership. Foxley says he won't return as chairman.

Photo by Anthony Fornely

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Police deny withholding rape reports

☐ Police hope the rumors will not cause people to stop reporting rapes to authorities

By Matt Bender
Emerald Reporter

Rumors that Eugene police are keeping two campus rapes secret have surfaced in the wake of the recent reports of three rapes and one assault in the north Eugene area.

Caitilin Twain, ASUO safety affairs coordinator, said false rumors that police are not telling anyone that two women have been raped on campus by a serial rapist are scaring University students and their parents.

"We have had parents calling President Brand's office asking why nothing is being done about these rapes," she said.

Twain said someone started the rumor that police knew about the rapes, but were trying to keep them secret so they could catch the serial rapist themselves.

Twain said women should be concerned about the recent north Eugene rapes, but should not believe the rumors about the police.

"Rumors like this might keep people from going to the police," Twain said. "That would keep the people who should know about these things from knowing, and that is not healthy."

Sgt. Dennis Baker, Eugene police department's campus officer, said the rumors are untrue and they are bad for the police's relationship with the community.

"The rumors kill us," he said. "People are saying police are not telling the community what is going on. That's bogus."

Tim Birr, EPD spokesman, said no campus-area rapes were reported to the police last week.

"Not that they didn't happen," he said.

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WEATHER

Skies will be mostly cloudy in the Eugene area, with the sun peeking out later in the day. Highs will be in the 40s.

Today in History

In 1803, in its Marbury vs. Madison decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was the final interpreter of constitutional issues.

NEIGHBOR SHOT BY ACCIDENT

PORTLAND (AP) - A man who says he routinely answers his door with a loaded shotgun accidentally shot his neighbor to death early Tuesday, police said.

The victim had gone to visit Vincent Wilson, 34, in north Portland. When Wilson answered the door shortly after midnight, the gun he was carrying accidentally discharged, police spokesman Derrick Foxworth said.

Wilson, who was holding the gun, said he keeps the weapon near the door for safety purposes.

Wilson was questioned by police and released.

SPORTS

NEW YORK (AP) - Minnesota rookie Christian Laettner was suspended without pay by the Timberwolves for Tuesday night's game against the New York Knicks for missing a practice.

Laettner, who started the team's first 47 games, was suspended for missing a mandatory team practice at Morristown High School in New Jersey.

At the time of the practice he was receiving the 1992 Carolinas' college-amateur athlete award in Charlotte. Last year, Laettner led Duke to its second NCAA championship.

Laettner is eligible to be back in uniform tonight at Minneapolis against Seattle.