



Firefighters work to extinguish the last flames from a Monday blaze. Fourteen firefighters and five pieces of fire department equipment were dispatched to the scene.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

ment equipment and firefighters putting out the last of the blaze shortly after 11 p.m.

No one was injured in the fire, as all three roommates had been at Taylor's since between 9 and 9:30 p.m., according to police reports.

Capt. Tim Birr, spokesman for the Eugene fire department, said the fire began near the dining room/kitchen area in the back of the home.

Birr said friends entered the empty house 30-45 minutes before the start of the fire because a stereo that had been turned on led them to believe that the three roommates were at home. Ashes from the cigarette of one of the friends, some of whom were smoking during their brief visit, may have been deposited in a box of newspapers and started the fire, Birr said.

Tuesday afternoon, Hansen, pointing at the area where the fire was believed to have started, said it would have been impossible for the fire to have been electrical in origin because no outlet was nearby, only the box of newspapers and a mountain bike.

"All indications point to smokers' carelessness," Birr said.

The house, a one-story frame located at 622 E. 17th Ave., suffered about \$30,000 in structural damage and the house's contents suffered about \$15,000 in damage from extensive heat and smoke in the house. The three roommates rented the home from a Eugene landlord.

Among the items destroyed by the fire were stereos, compact discs, mountain bikes and sporting equipment. The occupants and some of their friends sorted through the fire's mess Tuesday, looking for anything salvageable. They found little.

Eugene firefighters were dispatched to the scene at 10:58 p.m. Monday after receiving a 911 call.

University sophomore Mark Hacking, who lives next door to the gutted home, was preparing to go to sleep Monday night when he heard glass cracking and

breaking outside.

"I was laying in bed, and I heard glass coming out of the window," Hacking said. "It sounded like people were smashing bottles outside."

After looking outside of his bedroom window and seeing black smoke billowing from the house, Hacking alerted a roommate of his, who was also preparing to go to sleep.

Josh Berg, a University freshman and Hacking's roommate, and Hacking ran outside to the neighboring house. After both pounded on the windows and walls to alert anyone who might be home, Berg turned his home's garden hose on flames emanating from a window in the burning home's dining room area.

Berg said he believes he was able to put out some flames before firefighters arrived. Birr said there was "no question" Berg helped.

"Josh grabbed the garden hose and knocked down a lot of fire," Birr said.

The two roommates also signaled a third person, Adam Nitkowski, to call 911, according to police reports. Nitkowski had been at a friend's house across the street from the burning home.

"I saw it out of the corner of my eye and told my friend to call 911," Nitkowski said.

Firefighters arrived at 11:02 p.m. and had the flames under control by 11:14 p.m.

A number of curious witnesses and friends of the three roommates stood around on East 17th Avenue for more than an hour while officials cordoned off the home's yard area. Five pieces of fire department equipment were dispatched to the scene, along with 14 firefighters.

With the home boarded up, a smell of burnt rubber or plastic lingered in the air Monday night and was still heavily apparent Tuesday afternoon.

While standing among a pile of melted CD covers piled on his porch, Hansen seemed upbeat, looking ahead to an immediate future he didn't know was there just the day before. He said Moe has moved into the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, of which he is a member, and that Hansen and Hoopaugh hoped to move into an apartment together.

CUSTOM SCREEN PRINTED GREEKS • DORMS • CLUBS **axiom**
T-SHIRTS SWEATSHIRTS • JACKETS • CAPS
 IMAGE ENHANCEMENT GROUP
 380 WEST 3RD AVENUE
 (NEXT TO REI)
 Ask Us About Embroidery • Ad Specialties 344-7842

Unlimited LTD bus service

is an optional student fee. That means refunds are available.

Keep in mind, however, that your student ID now enables you to ride the bus any time, anywhere, all term!

Also remember that by supporting unlimited bus service you're helping alleviate traffic, reduce air-pollution, ease the campus parking problem, and provide transportation for thousands of students.


But if you still want a refund, come to the EMU Main Desk during normal business hours March 29 - April 2. Also available at the LTD Customer Service Center during normal business hours April 3 - 7.

Call 687-5555 (Voice) or 687-5552 (TDD) for more information.



Express Yourself!
Lane Transit District

© 1993 LTD



Art & School Supply

30% Off!
Organizers:
At-A-Glance & Dayrunner
Books & Refills

Appointment Book 2⁹⁵
U of O Mortar Board
With UO calendar of events reg 6⁹⁵

File Folders 4⁹⁹
1/3 cut box of 100 #752 1/3 reg 6⁹⁹

Weyerhaeuser Laser Paper 3⁹⁵
Recycled 20# 8.5 x 11 reg 6²⁵

Premier "First Choice" 7⁵⁰
Laser Paper
24# 8.5 x 11 reg 9²⁵

Rollerball Pens 1²³
Pilot V5 & V7, Asst colors reg 1⁷⁹

**A PARTNER
IN YOUR
EDUCATION**

School Supply Sale!

Sale Ends April 10th!

Looking for a good deal?? Read the Oregon Daily Emerald Classifieds.