

Officials say dorm fire due to arson

Little damage was done by fires Sunday at the University Inn on Patterson Street

Police and fire officials are investigating a pair of small fires set at the University Inn Sunday night.

Firefighters responded to an automatic fire alarm at the inn, 1000 Patterson St., about 11 p.m. and found fires burning in a third-floor trash can and in a dumpster outside of the building. Fire investigators said the fires were deliberately set and are looking for suspects in the incident, said Tim Birr, Eugene fire department spokesman.

"Whether it was a prank or not," Birr said, "we take any fire

in a high-rise building very seriously."

Birr said very little damage was done by either of the fires. The third-floor fire was started in a trash can located in an elevator lobby and was easily extinguished. The dumpster fire was started when some burning material was sent down a garbage shoot.

A sprinkler in the garbage shoot was set off on the second-floor as the burning material made its way down to the dumpster, which is located outside of the building. Birr said water from the sprinkler caused minimal damage and was cleaned up by firefighters.

Birr said the 1000 block of Patterson Street was closed from 11 p.m. to midnight while the building was evacuated. He said five firefighting vehicles were dispatched to the scene.

Waco cult comes to fiery end

Group allegedly sets its ranch on fire after FBI begins tear gas assault

WACO, Texas (AP) — Doomsday cult leader David Koresh's apocalyptic vision came true Monday when fire believed set by his followers destroyed their prairie compound as federal agents tried to drive them out with tear gas after a 51-day standoff.

As many as 86 members of the Branch Davidian religious sect, including Koresh and 24 children, were thought to have died as the flames raced through the wooden buildings in 30 minutes. Only nine were known to have survived.

The blaze, fanned by stiff winds, erupted about 12:05 p.m., just six hours after FBI agents began using armored vehicles to pound holes in the complex of buildings and spray them with tear gas.

Attorney General Janet Reno said she personally approved the assault in hopes of forcing a peaceful ending to the standoff. She said she never considered the "chances were great for mass suicide," despite Koresh's warning in a letter just last week that any agents trying to harm him would be "devoured by fire."

Federal authorities said they would not know the precise death toll until they could search an underground maze of passageways.

Four of the survivors were hospitalized with burns and broken bones; the five others were in custody in the McLennan County Jail.

One survivor told authorities that people inside the compound had set the blaze, said Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern. The man said that as he left one of the buildings, "he could hear above him people saying, 'The fire's been lit, the fire's been lit,'" Stern said.

The end of the standoff plainly stunned the FBI because Koresh had repeatedly promised there would be no mass suicide.

"I can't tell you the shock and the horror that all of us felt when we saw those flames coming out," FBI spokesman Bob Ricks said in a solemn afternoon news conference.

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Stumped



Photo by Jeff Pasley

Al Morris sets up a foundation for a petrified stump and slabs of granite outside The Museum of Natural History Monday afternoon. Morris, who volunteered for the job, said, "It's not that hard if you've got a strong back." The work should be completed by the end of April.

ASUO leader hopefuls have second debate

Opponents agree they will continue to work on causes

By Tammy Batey
Oregon Daily Emerald

Two ASUO Executive candidates ended a University Housing sponsored debate Monday night by commenting on

their shared concerns. But their running mates spent much of the debate juxtaposing themselves with each other.

In their closing remarks, Diana Collins Puente, ASUO vice presidential candidate, and Leslie Warren, ASUO presidential candidate, said regardless of the election results, they'll continue to work together to force political change.

However, early in the debate Mark Johnson, Warren's running mate, set up a contrast between the lobbying effectiveness his ticket could achieve and that achieved by Collins Puente and Eric Bowen, ASUO presidential candidate.

Bowen described his experience as an intern at the state House of Representa-

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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy today with a 60 percent chance of rain. Highs near 65 degrees. More rain Wednesday with highs 55 to 65 degrees.

Today in History

In 1889, Adolph Hitler was born in Braunau, Austria.

NUDITY APPEALS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court Monday gave a judicial cold shoulder to arguments asserting a constitutional right to sunbathe in the nude. The justices, without comment, left intact a Los Angeles ordinance that bans nudity at public beaches.

The ordinance's "chilling effect" had been attacked by advocates of the mental, spiritual and physical benefits of public nudity, nude sunbathing and nude swimming.

The appeal acted on today said Los Angeles officials should be forced to allow nude sunbathing on some portions of Venice Beach.

"The 'evil' is in the mind of the beholder," the appeal said. "The undesired impact upon individuals and families may be controlled successfully by segregated beaches."

SPORTS

Churchill standout Barbie Hickson, considered one of the top high school pitchers in the country, has signed a national letter of intent with the Oregon softball team. Coach Tami Brown announced Monday.

"We're real excited to have Barbie sign with us and become a part of our program. She's one of the top-two pitchers in the nation, and she'll play a major role for us the next four years," Brown said.

Hickson helped the Lancers win 4A state titles the past two years. She was undefeated last year and had a 0.00 ERA.