

News digest

Fraternity ritual ends in near fatal fire

1 PULLMAN, Wash. — A weekend fire that heavily damaged a Washington State University fraternity house has uncovered a practice that police said Sunday may not be uncommon on WSU's Greek Row: binding a student's wrists and ankles and leaving him helpless.

In the case of the WSU sophomore found by firefighters Saturday — bound with duct tape inside a barricaded guest room as a fire burned in another wing of the Sigma Nu house — the consequences could have been disastrous.

As a practical joke, it "could have gone horribly bad," university spokeswoman Sue Hinz said.

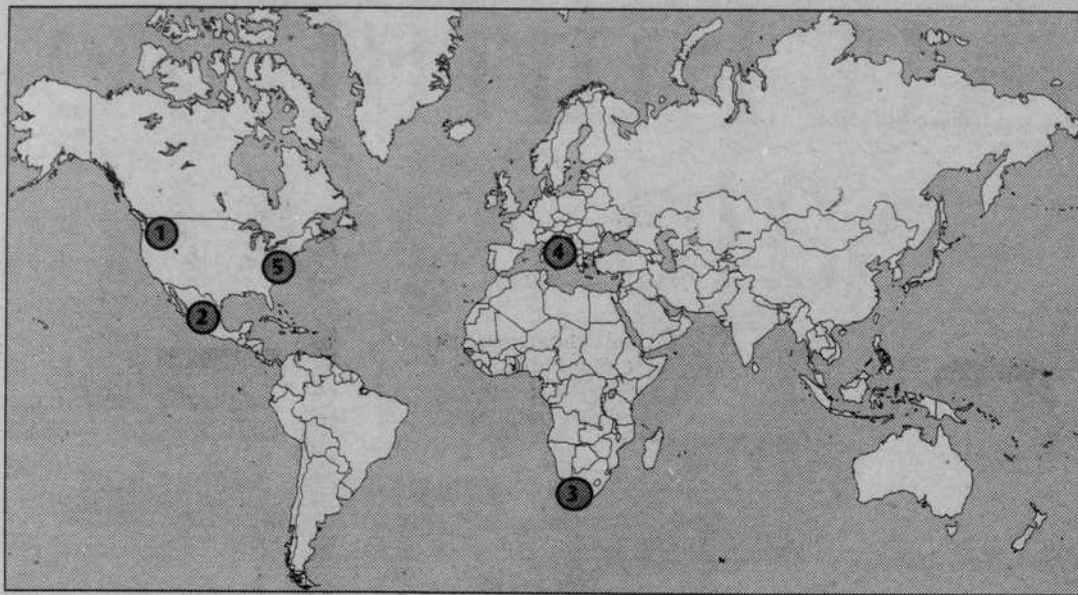
"It's very fortunate firefighters got to him. There was smoke in that area and people can die from smoke inhalation," said city police and fire spokesman Glenn Johnson.

"It's an unfortunate happening," said Ben Schuetz, a junior who lives in the Delta Tau Delta fraternity next door.

Protesters release hostages as conflict continues

2 MEXICO CITY — Hundreds of protesters have freed the 65 policemen they captured during a clash over control of a teachers' college, according to news reports Sunday.

Several police and protesters were injured during the weekend protest in the Hidalgo state town of Tepatepec, 50 miles north of



Mexico City, the reports said. Protesters also burned more than a dozen police cars.

State officials and town leaders met briefly Sunday to discuss the conflict over the Tepatepec's teachers college, but there was no word on an agreement.

The latest violence began as hundreds of state police raided the school early Saturday morning to end a seven-week student takeover. Dozens of students were arrested.

Security guard shoots, kills seven relatives

3 CAPE TOWN, South Africa — A former security guard on Sunday shot and killed seven relatives, including two young chil-

dren, and then fled, police said.

The victims included the man's wife, her three sisters, a brother-in-law and two of the man's children, aged 3 and 7.

All were shot in their heads execution-style. A 13-year-old daughter escaped the attack.

The shooting spree began around 7 a.m. at a farm near Prince Alfred Hamlet in Western Cape, police spokesman Anton de Kock said. The name of the suspect, a former member of the South African Defense Force, was not immediately available.

Louis Milne, who runs the farm, said the 35-year-old gunman had worked as a security guard on the property until six months ago, when he was fired for pointing a

gun at his nephew. He said he wanted to shoot his family because his wife wanted a divorce, Milne said.

Bomb from WWII discovered, detonated

4 ROME — Italy shut down a central stretch of its major north-south rail and road routes and evacuated hundreds of people Sunday to blow up a newly uncovered American-made bomb dropped in World War II.

The rusted bomb contained about 550 pounds of TNT, authorities said. Explosives experts deemed it too fragile to dig out or disarm. Instead, they excavated a crater and used plastic explosives to destroy the bomb from afar.

"Perfectly successful," said Lt. Col. Fabio Commellini, one of the leaders of the explosives team.

An allied warplane dropped the bomb near Terni, about 40 miles east of Rome, on Jan. 28, 1944, when much of Italy was under German occupation. The bomb landed in the Paglia River, near a rail route.

Skier buried in avalanche

5 CONCORD, N.H. — An avalanche on New England's highest peak smothered a skier Sunday, one day after a different avalanche killed a skier in upstate New York.

David McPhedran of Kents Hill, Maine, and a friend were skiing in an area of Mount Washington called the Gulf of Slides when the avalanche hit about 1 p.m. Only Aimee Reiter survived, said Col. Ron Alie of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

"They decided to climb up one of the gullies to ski down it and caused the avalanche, which swept them down the gully," Alie said.

"She was buried waist-deep, but David was buried face down."

Reiter, also of Kents Hill, climbed out and uncovered McPhedran, 42, but was unable to save him, Alie said.

With heavy snowfall and rough weather conditions, Mount Washington is one of the few places in the East where avalanches are a danger. During the last century, 126 people have died there.



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