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NEWS BRIEF

Residence hall repaired after December fire

University Housing has repainted walls, changed carpets and replaced a bookshelf after a fire broke out in a residence hall room in Hamilton Complex, forcing an early morning evacuation of the building on Dec. 6.

University freshmen Andrew Byrne and John Gutman were living in the room at the time of the fire. Byrne said he is currently living in an apartment complex near Hayward Field and is now allowed to visit the residence halls. He added that Gutman is living in Bean Complex.

Gutman could not be reached for comment, but Director of University Housing Mike Eyster confirmed that Gutman lives in the residence halls.

The cost to repair fire damage in 109 Spiller was approximately \$4,000, Eyster said.

That number is less than one-sixth of the \$26,000 cost that Director of Resident Life Sandy Schoonover told

Byrne the final toll could be, Byrne said. He added that she gave it only as an example of the high costs of repairing fire damage.

Schoonover said she wasn't able to talk about any specific conversation with a student, but she did say she remembered a previous residence hall fire that she thought cost about \$26,000.

"At the time of the last fire I had absolutely no idea what the cost might be and never said to anybody that it would be that particular amount," Schoonover said.

Eyster said he didn't know who gave the initial estimate, and he guessed safety officials may have given the \$26,000 figure.

"Ofentimes those estimates are not accurate," Eyster said.

Eyster said he could not identify who paid for the damages, but he was able to say that University Housing will generally assess who is responsible for damages and bill them.

Byrne said during an interview after the incident that a candle he lit caused

the fire. Eyster said lighting a candle in a residence hall room is a violation of housing rules.

Byrne declined to comment on his punishment stemming from the incident or whether he paid the repair costs, but he said he was not aware the repairs cost about \$4,000.

Director of Student Judicial Affairs Chris Loschiavo said he was not able to discuss any individual student's case.

Eyster said the damage to the room was "relatively minor."

"The reason for that was because an alert student heard the smoke detector and investigated," Eyster said. "I think they're caught pretty quickly in residence halls most of the time because people live so close together."

Eyster said that about a year ago, a fire in a residence hall room caused more property damage. Before that, a similar incident hadn't occurred for nine or 10 years.

"A fire that actually burns some of the fixtures in the room is pretty rare," he said.

Jared Paben

BOMB

continued from page 1

An Emerald employee contacted a Department of Public Safety dispatcher, who said it was the second call DPS had received.

DPS Interim Director Thomas Hicks said DPS received a call from library staff about the bomb threat, and Hicks decided to evacuate the building after consulting with

library officials and EPD.

Personal Materials Clerk for University Libraries Jen Lindsey made an announcement over the public address system shortly before 3:45 p.m. telling everybody to evacuate the building for safety reasons. No alarm was activated, she said.

Lindsey stood outside the library's Media Services entrance blocking access to the building and told people it might be 30 to 45 minutes before

people would be allowed inside. She said she saw only officers inside the building before leaving.

After establishing that the building was safe, DPS reopened it at 4:40 p.m., Hicks said. The bomb threat was the first he could remember the library receiving, and it was the first bomb threat directed at the University in a couple of years.

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

NIGHT

continued from page 1

women-only section, a gender-queer section and a gender-neutral section — so each group has its own space.

"It started out as a woman-only event because we were, and are, afraid to walk alone at night," said Erin Dury, the sexual violence prevention and education coordinator for the Women's Center. "But it's now kind of evolved to include men too because there's lots of male feminists."

But the march organization could be changed if enough people attend today's public forum on Take Back the Night and oppose sectioning off the march. The meeting will be held in the EMU Board Room from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Dury said she is uncertain whether a decision will be reached at the meeting, adding that the public's input on how to organize the march will greatly influence the final decision.

Senior Tanya Widger, a women's and gender studies major, said she thinks the march should include a women-only space because some women feel uncomfortable around men. She added that changing the organization of the march to lump everyone together would keep some women from participating.

"It would defeat the purpose (of the march) because, historically, it has been an event for ending the violence

against women," Widger said.

She added that the whole point of Take Back the Night is to empower women, and that goal is compromised if any woman feels uncom-

"(Take Back the Night) started out as a woman-only event because we were, and are, afraid to walk alone at night. But now it's kind of evolved to include men too because there's a lot of male feminists."

Erin Dury
Women's Center

fortable participating in a march where she is around a man.

ASUO Multicultural Advocate Austin Shaw-Phillips said he supports keeping the march divided into different sections.

"I think the line separations allow as many people as possible to participate in the march without violating the integrity of the women-only space," Shaw-Phillips said.

Shaw-Phillips said the three different sections are necessary because he wouldn't feel comfortable being around all the men in the gender-

neutral space because he spent the majority of his life living as a woman. He added that he wouldn't feel comfortable marching in the women-only space either because he identifies as a male. Shaw-Phillips said dividing the march into different sections honors diversity by giving each group of people a space that recognizes their identity.

But some students don't see the need for separate sections. College Republicans Chairman Jarrett White said he thinks having a women-only space in the march is unnecessary.

"I think that's pretty stupid," White said. "I don't know if these women think they're going to go through life without any contact with men."

He added that he thinks it's hypocritical to relegate men to a separate marching space because they go to the event to show their support for women.

"I don't know why (women) would be uncomfortable (marching with men)," White said. "Especially since the men are there supporting their cause."

Dury said that as far as she can remember, Take Back the Night has always reserved a space for women only, and if Thursday's forum convinces the Women's Center to organize a mingled march, it would be a first for the University.

Contact the news editor at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.

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