

Arson is suspected in Kierstead Fire

The third fire in three months damaged another room in Keirstead Hall last Friday and according to the head of Security, Chief Williamson, "Arson is very

By LINDA HALSEY

highly suspected."

Last week's fire originated in a overhead slide projector located in a classroom. Both the projector and a nearby table were destroyed. This and intense smoke caused an estimated \$400.00 in damages.

Graduate student Frank McCarthy, who discovered the fire, said he smelled the smoke and diminished the fire with a manual extinguisher.

Williamson said the projector's switch was in an "Off" position when the fire was discovered. "This eliminated the possibility of overheating or another electrical malfunction as the cause of the blaze."

In addition, a hand printed note was discovered taped to the black board in the classroom which stated. "The Mad Bomber strikes again number 3!"

The security chief said the number "3" in the note indicated that the previous two fires could have been purposely set.

Keirstead's first fire, (Nov. 15th) was reported to have originated from a cigarette dropped between the cushions of a couch in the second floor lounge. The second fire, (Jan. 14th) resulted in a small quantity of papers burned on the top of an office filing cabinet. The blaze was easily extinguished and was believed to have started from a carelessly disposed match.

Williams said that, "Although the other two fires looked suspicious, we didn't believe they were purposely set; now I think it's very possible that the same person was the source for all three."

The investigations into the source of the fires have begun by both Security and the Fredericton City Police, and security has tightened in Keirstead Hall.

Anyone with any information regarding the source of the fires is asked to contact Chief Williamson at 454-4830.



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Keirstead Hall has been the site of three suspicious fires in the last few months

Photo By KAVANAGH