

Child molester jailed for threatening to set wildfires; not linked to California firestorms

The Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. — A convicted child molester was charged Monday with threatening to set wildfires in revenge for the seizure of his property, but prosecutors said they hadn't linked him to recent arson firestorms.

Firefighters stamped out hot spots in the 19,000-acre Malibu wildfire, and schools reopened for the first time since the blaze struck. Thomas Lee Larsen, 43, was

charged with one count of mailing a threat to damage or destroy by means of fire. The threat was in letters mailed to police agencies and homes.

Larsen, who was arrested Sunday, didn't enter a plea at his arraignment Monday. A Nov. 23 hearing was set before U.S. Magistrate Judge Carolyn Turchin.

He faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles

Eick refused a request to post bond for Larsen, saying he posed a danger to the community.

Larsen's arraignment attorney, Phillip Bronson, asked for \$100,000 bail secured by the equity in Larsen's parents' home. Bronson said Larsen lived with his parents and would not want to hurt them.

Larsen also applied for a court-appointed attorney.

U.S. Attorney Terree Bowers said prosecutors had not linked Larsen to any of the 26 Southern

California wildfires that killed three people and destroyed more than 1,000 structures during the past two weeks.

Nineteen of those fires were the result of arson, according to the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The seven-page letter, signed "Fedbuster," was sent in August and September to about 35 law enforcement agencies and to Los Angeles County homes picked at random, according to court documents.

Provost

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commitment we as faculty have made."

Perry also touched on the issue of religion in the classroom in his speech. He voiced his support for a professor's and a student's right to freedom of expression in the classroom but said discussion should be limited to relevance to the class.

"Both (students and faculty) have the right to full freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject matter of the course," he said. "Discussion of religion in classes can certainly be germane to the curriculum of a course; yet, if discussions about religion are not pertinent to the course subject matter, problems can arise."

If any student is unhappy with the way a professor handles a topic, he said, they should go through the proper procedures to issue a complaint.

In other Senate business, several members expressed concern over the MSC Council's policy of approving all speakers that come to the campus.

They said the policy is a direct attempt at censorship and should not be tolerated by the university.

The executive committee agreed to look into the problem and see what the Faculty Senate can do about changing it if they should.

Cancer

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of the woman's overall condition.

The local American Cancer Society office works with those people in this community who are dealing with the different forms of cancer.

Gail Boone, district secretary for the American Cancer Society office located in Bryan, said several programs have been developed to help women deal with breast cancer and its effects.

The Reach to Recovery Program is a national program that is used locally to help mastectomy patients through the recovery process.

Boone also said a support group has been formed recently at the Bryan/College Station area for women suffering from breast cancer.

"These women have been meeting informally all summer to determine what needs a support group should address," Boone said.

The first meeting of the group was set for Thursday.

According to statistics from the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rate for localized cancer has risen from 78 percent in the 1940s to 93 percent today. The rate of survival increases to almost 100 percent in those women who have cancerous growths in only a small area.

The American Cancer Society stresses that early detection of breast cancer is considered to be the most viable solution available at this time to women who are suffering from the deadly disease.

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