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Detroit news briefs

December 20, 2007

3 die in fire at group home

Authorities are investigating a possible firebombing that killed three men in a group home on Detroit's west side late Tuesday night.

Five men escaped the fire at the two-story home in the 14800 block of Winthrop, near Greenfield, in Detroit, while the other three -- ages 60, 55 and 50, were found dead in an upstairs bedroom, firefighters said.

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Capt. Steve Varnas of the Detroit Fire arson section said the case has been turned over to the Detroit Police homicide section.

"It was a fast fire; all indications are that it was accelerated," Varnas said. "All indications are it's arson. Witnesses said a large rock came through the window, followed by a lit bottle."

A neighbor told investigators she saw three men running away at the time of the fire, Varnas said.

Varnas said the group home has been in operation since the 1970s.

Detroit Mercy professor to lecture in Poland

Anthony Martinico, professor of architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship grant to lecture at the Politechnika Warszawska in Warsaw, Poland. He began his studies last September and will be teaching until July 2008.

Martinico plans to focus on architectural history and theory, specifically American architecture and urbanism in the 19th and 20th centuries and architectural theory from 1965 to the present. Martinico is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.

He is the first faculty member from the School of Architecture to receive the Fulbright Award.

Martinico, who is UDM's Director of the School of Architecture, holds a bachelor of arts degree and a bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Detroit.

Compiled by Ben Schmitt and Free Press staff.

COMMENTS

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Kids Light up my Life

Time is running out. This holiday photo contest ends on Christmas day. Send us your photos to enter. Shown here is Collin, who is delighted by the Arctic Ring of Life exhibit at the Detroit Zoo.

- **Not so fast -- food, that is:** How often do you and the kids gobble down McDonald's nuggets or Burger King's Whoppers?

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