

1. A fire in a classroom at Mallory College last night left two students with minor injuries.

Authorities said the fire began just after 6:30 p.m. in a fifth floor classroom at the College. Firefighters extinguished the blaze by 7 p.m. The students suffered slight burns when they tried to put out the fire.

The fire began in a trash basket and spread to several desks and chairs. Damage was estimated at \$1,500.

2. Fred R. Thornton, 32, was sentenced to nine months in jail yesterday for taking part in a cross burning at the home of a racially mixed couple two months ago.

Thornton, 456 Graceland St., was sentenced by District Court Judge Richard Franks, who said the crime was "despicable." Thornton had pleaded guilty to a charge of bias harassment.

He and two other men ignited two planks arranged to form a cross in the couple's driveway, prosecutors said. The men had spent the night drinking in Thornton's home. The two other men have entered not guilty pleas and will be tried next month.

3. A fourth-grade student has caused a company to recall pencils with an anti-drug message.

The message on the pencils read, "Too Cool to Do Drugs." But 10-year-old Arthur Metzler of 98 Arden Way pointed out that when the pencil is sharpened it can read, "Cool to Do Drugs," and, as it is sharpened still more, "Do Drugs."

The Britton Pencil Co. pencil will now read, "Too Cool to Do."

4. A single-engine plane crash-landed near Stinson Airport yesterday, damaging a few cars but leaving the pilot and passenger with only minor injuries.

The single-engine Beechcraft Sierra propeller plane struck three cars parked near a Little League baseball game. No one on the ground was injured.

The pilot, Herbert Young, 25, of Atherton, suffered cuts and bruises. The passenger, Sarah Shields, 19, of Clovia, was held at Memorial Hospital for check of a possible concussion. Young said the plane lost power while he was practicing taking off and landing.

5. The long-delayed winter weather is on its way.

The metropolitan area is expected to have sleet, snow and freezing rain this weekend. After weeks of balmy weather, winter is expected to hit with below-freezing temperatures for several days.

The weather alert put Freeport highways crews to work salting down highways and roads. Utility company employees were told to stand by in case of emergencies.