

# YOU'RE NOW YOUNG & WILD.

...PARTIES, ALCOHOL,  
NOT A PARENT IN SIGHT

WHAT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A FUN COLLEGE PRANK  
IS ACTUALLY CALLED

# ARSON



if you set a fire, be prepared to trade  
your dorm room, for a *prison cell*

**“I DID NOT INTEND  
TO HARM ANYONE.  
IT WAS A PRANK  
THAT GOT OUT OF HAND.”**

**- SEAN RYAN**

In January of 2000, roommates Sean Ryan and Joseph LePore started a fire in a dormitory lounge. Were they on a murderous rampage? Prosecutors have said the two freshman were up late celebrating a victory by the basketball team. Three students died, and 58 others were injured because of their prank. They faced 30 years in prison on felony murder charges. After pleading guilty to 3rd degree arson, they were sentenced to 5 years.

On campuses throughout the country, many college students foolishly get the idea that setting fires is a funny activity. Bulletin boards, banners, microwaves, couches and other furniture; setting items like these ablaze is all too common. Rarely is this done with intent to cause injury or death. It's ignorantly viewed as just a gag, often coinciding with high spirits, partying, and alcohol consumption.

## KNOW THIS: **YOU ARE NOT A KID ANYMORE.**

In the eyes of the law, you are an adult and will be prosecuted as an adult.

What your mind might see as a prank is actually a serious crime that puts lives in jeopardy.

Bad decisions have real consequences and you will be held accountable.

## **DON'T EVER START A FIRE**



**Homeland Security  
and Emergency Services**

**Fire Prevention  
and Control**

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