

Teen given year in jail in firebombing

A 17-year-old Dongan Hills youth who pleaded guilty to firebombing a building that was to be used as a training center for the retarded yesterday received a one-year term in the City Penitentiary.

Michael O'Hara, 17, of 247 Reid Ave. was given the sentence by Supreme Court Justice Pasquale E. DiVernieri after his earlier guilty plea. A co-defendant in the case previously was sentenced to a probation term after also entering a guilty plea.

The fire at 26 Dumont Ave., Dongan Hills, in a two-story brick building, occurred Oct. 29 just as the state Office of Mental Retardation was getting ready to open the facility as a training site for 200 retarded persons.

The building had been hit by suspicious fires twice before. According to his indictment, O'Hara was angry that the training center was put in his neighborhood and along with a friend, Joseph Koeller, hurled two molotov cocktails into the building one evening.

The two Dongan Hills youths were arrested 25 hours after the fire began. The building received \$45,000 in damage and is being repaired now by the state.

DeVernieri refused to grant youthful offender status to O'Hara.