



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER UMHB NURSING STUDENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

(Waco, Texas) **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that, **EMILY NATIVIDAD PELLETIER**, 39, of Waco, Texas, was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison to be followed by a three year term of supervised release plus restitution in the amount of \$875,278.69, in connection with the fire that damaged the Wells Building on the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus.

During her guilty plea hearing on March 12, 2003, Pelletier admitted that she lied to ATF agents regarding the fire that burned the Wells Building located on the campus of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, in Belton, Texas, on March 23, 2001. Pelletier told ATF agents that three persons had abducted her and taken her inside the Wells Building before they set fire to the building. Pelletier admitted that she concocted the story to cover up the fact that she had set fire to the Wells Building. At the time of the fire, Pelletier was a nursing student at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The Wells Building housed the School of Nursing and other university classrooms.

As a result of the fire, the Wells Building and the adjoining York Building had to be closed for a period of time. Nursing classes had to be relocated to other areas of the campus for the remainder of the semester. Numerous professors who maintained their offices in the Wells Building lost class materials as well as personal items.

This case was prosecuted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Texas State Fire Marshal's Office, and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Department of Public Safety. On behalf of the government, this case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Gloff.

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