

"I just can't sleep..."

... I need a \$99 waterbed."

Yuri Andropov

\$14 million blaze

Dick incinerates Earth Sciences

by Brad Fedger

Edmonton police charged Advanced Education Minister Dick Johnston with arson early this morning in connection with last night's Earth Sciences Building fire that caused an estimated \$14 million damage.

Johnston, freed on \$10,000 bail, denies he was even in Edmonton at the time of the blaze, which firemen say was likely started around 7:00 pm. Tuesday night.

"I was relaxing in my hot tub in Okotoks with some business associates last night," claimed Johnston, who recently announced that the government would be funding a renovation project for the Earth Sciences Building.

NDP leader Grant Notley said in a telephone interview that Johnston should resign from the cabinet: "I saw Dick at the Legislature in the afternoon carrying one of those plastic gas containers. He said his secretary used it to water plants."

The Getaway tried to reach Johnston's Executive Secretary but found that the Minister still had not hired one.

Government spokesperson Sharon Tymkow said Johnston was acting strange on Tuesday, asking her for a light.

Johnston is a non-smoker. According to a study by Fairbairn, Brinsmead and Ziola Architects, there were serious "architectural, mechanical, and electrical flaws" in the now-charred building.

"I guess you can throw that report out the window," said Johnston, who smelled more like gasoline and smoke than an Okotoks' sauna.

"You realize, of course, that this is all off the record. I don't want a trial by media. I've got my rights to privacy and no one can prove I was even near the University," said Johnston.

However, Notley and NDP Ray Martin say that Johnston was seen wandering around the Earth Sciences Building by some Campus NDP members who were holding a meeting there.

The members could not be reached at press time but Johnston maintains his innocence.

"The fact the building was a fire trap and that we (the government) had committed millions of dollars to upgrade it to Alberta Building Code standards, well, that's purely coincidental. It's a sophistry debate," he said.

Ron Phillips, VP facilities and service at the U of A, said it's quite possible that fire was accidental or simply due to inadequate safeguards: "There are exposed wires and there are chemicals that were left unattended. I suppose Johnston might have a case but my suspicion is that he's guilty."

Peter Lougheed's press secretary said Johnston will not be asked to resign in light of the minor nature of the charge: "I mean, get serious. This is nothing compared to what past cabinet ministers in Alberta have done."

Campus security, when contacted by the Getaway about last night's fire, replied, "So that's where all the smoke came from....I thought it was Myer Horowitz smoking his cigar."

Johnston is scheduled to appear in court on January 26.

Santa strikes

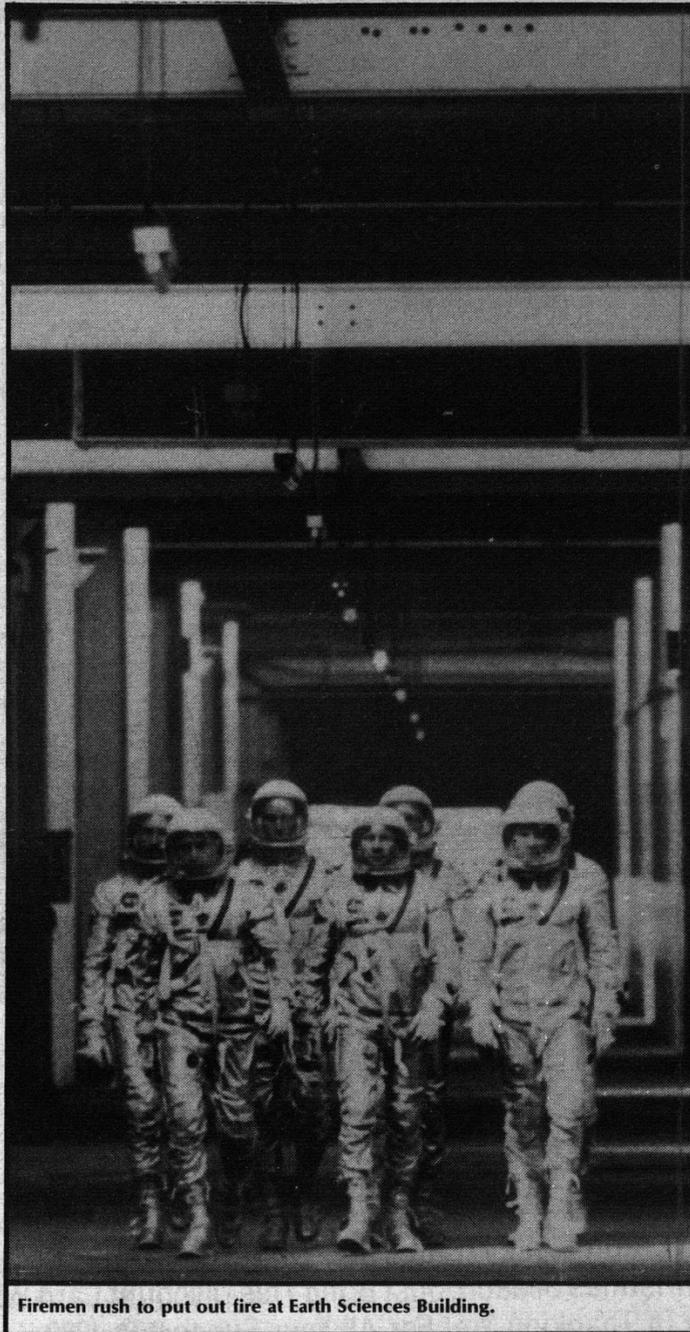
RNR(CUP) - The Soviet media has shed new light on the shooting down of Korean Airlines flight 007 - Santa Claus did it.

According to the most recent issue of Pravda, Santa Claus' sleigh has been equipped with air to air missiles since the jolly fellow had some trouble entering Finnish airspace three years ago.

Apparently, Mr. Claus was commuting from his island home in the South Pacific to the North Pole when he became involved in the incident between Soviet fighters and Flight 007.

He panicked and fired his missiles at the fighters but since reindeer antlers are no substitute for telescopic sights, Saint Nic missed and shot down the passenger plane instead.

The report did not mention the tape made by American Intelligence in which a Soviet fighter-pilot says he fired his missiles.



Firemen rush to put out fire at Earth Sciences Building.

Mulroney's muff mucks up

OTTAWA (CUP) — Progressive Conservative Leader Brian Mulroney was rushed to hospital yesterday after getting his jaw stuck in the doorway to his office in the Parliament buildings.

The incident occurred at 3:30 pm. while Mr. Mulroney was on his way to meet with reporters.

Paramedics were unable to remove Mulroney's jaw from the doorway and were forced to cut the doorjam out of the wall and transport the entire door frame along with Mulroney to the hospital.

"I've never seen anyone with such a fat head - I mean wide jaw," said one paramedic.

Upon arrival at Louis St. Laurent Memorial Hospital, Mulroney underwent successful sur-

gery and was recuperating in his room by supper time.

Mr. Mulroney is expected to be back at his desk by next Tuesday.

"We're just keeping him for observation," said chief surgeon Robert Stanfield.

Upon hearing the news, Mila Mulroney rushed back from New York where she was partying with the Rolling Stones at Studio 54.

"I told him not to smile or open his mouth in narrow spaces," said Mrs. Mulroney.

The opposition leader was in surprisingly good spirits when he met with reporters in his hospital room this morning.

"This reminds me of an event from my childhood in Bay Como. My father and I were out hunting

one fall day when a flock of ducks flew overhead....we didn't hit a single one," chuckled Mr. Mulroney.

Renovations have already begun to widen the entrance to Mr. Mulroney's office. It is estimated that the work will cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000 dollars.

"We might as well do it right the first time," said a spokesman. Prime Minister Trudeau was unavailable for comment.

HUB resident turns commie pinko

Police announced today that the gunman arrested in HUB last Tuesday has been formally charged with espionage.

The name of the suspect has not yet been released but it is known that he was a member of the Arts Students Association (ASA) and has been importing Cuban Arms through the Association since the beginning of the term.

"We found two cases of AK 47 rifles, 15 grenade launchers and ten boxes of exploding Havana cigars in the apartment," said Staff Sergeant Ian McKinnley of the Edmonton City Police. "We found a Soviet tank in the suspects parking space."

Police also discovered detailed plans for the overthrow of HUB management and the seizure of the Getaway and CJSR.

"The saboteurs felt that if they controlled the campus media, their position would be impregnable," said McKinnley.

"It is a good thing we apprehended this guy in time or else we would have had to call in Ronald Reagan to invade and protect ourselves and our neighbours from the Cuban presence."

McKinnley says that the police have been aware of subversive activities at the university for some time.

Photographs taken on the last space shuttle mission revealed preliminary preparations for the installation of SS 20 missiles in Quad," says McKinnley.

"But it weren't for the rather bizarre turn of events last Tuesday, the case would never have been cracked so quickly."

The suspect was arrested last Tuesday when police received a report that a man was pointing a gun out of the window of his apartment in HUB.

CONTENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| In the News... | ...Jerry and James |
| In the Letters.... | ...dumb stuff dreams |
| In Entertainment... | ...Edmonton Telephones |
| In the Sports... | ...mayhem and hell |
| In the Features... | ...Cabbage Patch craze |

Tremendously big year-end party for Gateway staffers will be held on Thursday, December 15, 1983, starting at 6:00 pm. It's a potluck affair so drop by room 282 SUB for the address! See you there.