



ARSON AT HUB

Exits jammed Fire guts 2-man unit Witness sees man leaving

*Water pressure down
in fire-fighting hoses*

by Don Truckey

Arson is suspected in a fire that gutted half of a two-man unit in HUB at 10:05 last night.

No one was injured in the blaze that swept through 2A-9802-112 Str., located one floor above the main south entrance of the student residence.

The three women who live in the unit were absent when the fire broke out. A man left the apartment just as the fire began, said Larry Stefan, who lives across the mall and was the first person to notice the flames.

Stefan said he saw the man enter the unit about fifteen minutes before the first started. Stefan resumed studying, then glanced out over the mall fifteen minutes later and saw flames and smoke through the open windows of the suite.

The man left the apartment, Stefan said, making no attempt to put out the fire.

Stephan alerted his room-mates, called the fire department, and rushed downstairs to try to douse the blaze with a hose from a fire station next to the stairwell leading to the apartment.

"The fire trucks were there in three or four minutes after we called," Stefan said. "And it's a good thing, because the HUB fire hose was hopeless. It was just a trickle."

Stefan said he and his room-mates pulled the hose—a fireman later called it a "garden hose"—up the three flights of stairs leading to the suite and attempted to water down the flames. But it was too hot, Stefan said, and the water pressure too weak to stop the flames' progress.

Stefan said he noticed there seemed to be two separate fires—one in the drapes and one in the clothes closet.

After their fruitless attempts to stay in the suite with the hose, the men retreated to the mall level and attempted to aim the water in the open mall window, but again to no avail.

A crowd gathered on the mall as dense black smoke spilled from the window and billowed down the mall. In a matter of minutes, vision was restricted to approximately 40 feet between the south end of HUB and the Rutherford library passageway.

Although the fire trucks arrived promptly, firemen had difficulty applying water to the flames quickly. Close to ten minutes passed before firemen were able to enter the suite with hoses to douse the blaze. An extension ladder being moved into position from one of the three trucks on the scene wasn't needed as the men made their way up the stairs first.

Flames filled one bedroom window of the suite seen from the outside and lights remained on along

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A meeting of the Publications Board to select the 1977-78 editor will be held Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 270, SUB. The public is invited to attend this meeting.

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HOHOL

...Becoming more than just a word

The university's Board of Governors will not seek legal advice on their stand concerning differential fees for foreign students despite public speculation that they would do so at their next meeting Friday.

"We are not seeking legal opinions on the matter and I don't believe Dr. Hohol is either," B of G chairman Eric Geddes told the Gateway Wednesday.

A Monday report in an Edmonton daily speculated the Board would examine their legal status vis-a-vis the provincial government since they have twice refused a proposal from Alberta's minister of advanced education, Dr. Bert Hohol, to impose a \$300 fee increase on visa students at the U of A.

\$7.5 million short of plea

The U of A operating grant proposed by the provincial government is \$7.5 million less than the amount requested by the university but still approximately \$10 million more than that awarded the university last year.

"We asked for something around \$110 million," university vp finance and administra-

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Under the Alberta Universities Act the advanced ed. minister approves fee schedules recommended to him by the respective boards of governors at Alberta's three full-time universities.

Different news sources indicated that Dr. Hohol has discussed the idea of changing the Universities Act to give the advanced ed. minister the sole right to set fees at Alberta universities, though Hohol's latest public statement is that he will not move

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