

KKK activity shocks community in Alberta

RED DEER (CUP)—Three lawn-burnings with racist overtones have shocked this central Alberta city in recent weeks.

The burning of lawns in the shape of a cross at the homes of families of Asian descent have corresponded with an upsurge in activity of the Ku Klux Klan in the area.

But local RCMP have ruled out Klan involvement in the incidents which they prefer to call "willfull damage to lawns."

The three lawn-burning incidents all occurred in quiet suburban neighborhoods of this city of 42,000 to families who have lived in Canada for at least six years.

The first two incidents occurred early in the morning of Sunday, August 10.

The two families—one of East Indian and one of Japanese descent were away from their homes when gasoline was poured on their lawns in the shape of a cross and set ablaze.

The East Indian family reported earlier incidents in which eggs were thrown at their car and house. On one occasion, someone jimmed open the kitchen window and hurled eggs into the home.

A third, similar incident occurred ten days later at the home of another East Indian family.

Police suspect that lawn burning was the act of a "copy cat" but no arrests have been made in any of the cases.

Two days after the first incidents, a teen-age boy found a recruitment poster urging "keep Alberta strong, join the Ku Klux Klan" a block from the two homes.

But Tearlach Dunsford Macpherson, Alberta leader of the Klan, says the group had nothing to do with the incidents and may begin its own investigation if RCMP are unable to find the culprits.

Macpherson said the burnings are giving the Klan a bad image. It will sue the culprits for misrepresentation since the firey cross is a Klan symbol, Macpherson said.

The Klan has two chapters in Red Deer and plans a public rally in the city this fall, he said in an interview.

The group's literature says the Alberta Klan is separate from all other Klan organizations. It has been legally registered with the provincial government under the name of the Invisible Empire Association of Alberta, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Klan membership is open "to men and women of all races, religions and colors", says the literature.

The lawn burning incidents have sent shock waves through the city.



Mayor Ken Curle, who received Klan recruitment letters two months ago, says he "deplores" racist attacks.

"There is a certain element of people who say "they (immigrants) are taking my job away," says Curle.

"I guess we are still a WASP society, and some people think that's all we should be," Curle said.

An editorial in the Edmonton Journal interpreted the incidents as "only the miasma of maniacs, not an infection of Red Deer's liberal lifeblood."

Budget cuts a reality

by Paul Creelman

The deans are cutting several hundred thousand dollars from this years budget, according to Administrative Vice-president Shaw.

"The process isn't finished yet," says Shaw, "because we still have to make recommendations as to any further savings which the administration may suggest."

Most of the cutbacks have been achieved by not filling salaried positions in both academic and administrative departments, says Shaw. However, even though he states categorically that there will be no reduction in student services, it is clear that many departments in the university are cutting back on teaching materials.

Dean D. D. Betts, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, says that his faculty has cut back about \$40,000 dollars.

"We could only save money in teaching material and supplies. This would include chemicals, lab supplies, and small pieces of equipment. You have to understand that we were in a difficult position, since a lot of our money has already been spent this year," says Betts.

Not all the Faculties have been affected in a similar fashion, however. Dean Kent, head of the faculty of Administrative studies, states that all of the money saved in his faculty has come from positions which could not be filled anyway.

"Most of our savings have come from empty salaried positions which have not been filled for one reason or another. If there had been more money

available, of course, we would have kept on trying to fill these positions," says Kent.

Kent refused to give the amount of money cut back in this way.

President MacKay, commenting on the general situation in the university, said that the funding situation may not be as serious as it first appears.

"The reductions which are occurring may not be actual decreases in the budget, but rather a reduction of last year's increases," says MacKay.

Not all faculties have been affected by the cutbacks. The faculty of Graduate Studies, which is funded from a variety of sources from scholarships to grad students, was awarded an inflationary increase of 8% last year according to the Dean Kenneth Leffek.

"Our funding situation could be better, but it could be worse," says Leffek. "The buying power of our budget has remained about the same this year, although there is more pressure on the scholarship money."

However, in many parts of the university, department chairpersons are already complaining about the revision of funding arrangements.

"The amount that we've saved so far in this department is less than the president hoped we could save, but more than we can stand, according to some of the heads of departments," says Dean Betts.

"We've had cries of anguish and strong objections from several chairmen already."

Year end building date desired

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period in which those opposed may have their case heard.

Sykes said he does not expect the application to be turned down.

University president Andrew MacKay said tenders would be called for the construction project immediately after the

council's okay. Construction time has been estimated at nine months to a year, he said, but the rink may be ready by the beginning of the 1981-82 school year.

"That is my hope," said Dr. MacKay.

The proposed site was one

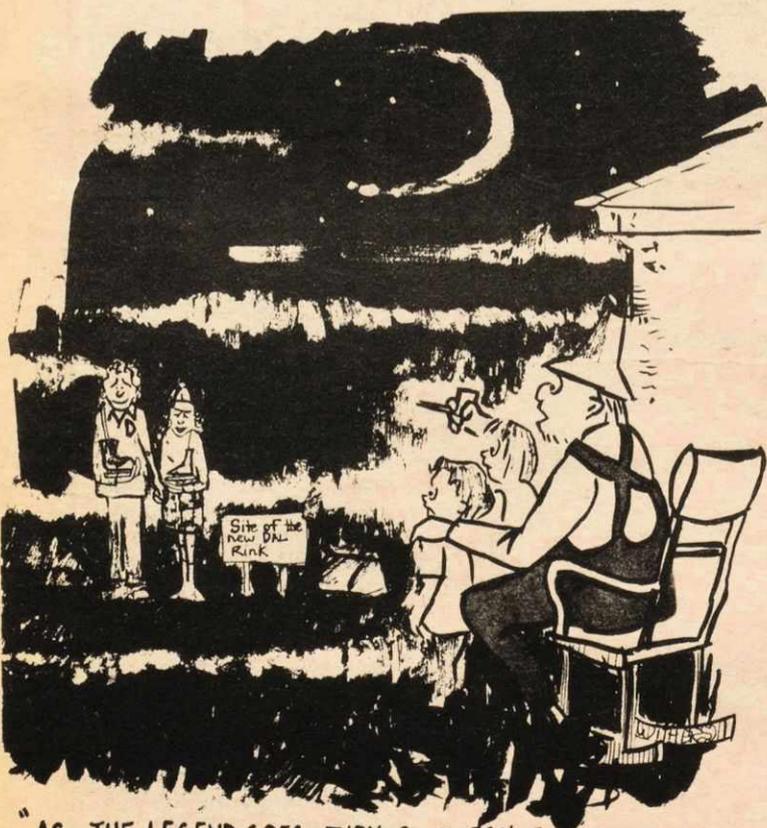
of three being juggled by university administrators. Originally, a location beside DALPLEX was sought, but the political hurdles that delayed construction of the sports complex would have resulted in another lengthy legal battle.

The university received permission five years ago to build DALPLEX on its present South Street location. However, shortly thereafter, the city re-zoned the area. A building of DALPLEX's proportion was disallowed and the battle was on. Dalhousie took its grievance to court and won back the right to build on the proposed location. Undaunted, the city took the case to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, but suffered another setback. Finally, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of the university. However, the Court stipulated that further construction on the site was prohibited.

DALPLEX was officially opened last fall.

The administration looked at the idea of building the new arena south of the Student Union Building between LeMarchant and Seymour Streets. Ultimately, the South-LeMarchant site was chosen.

Sykes said the 1660-seat arena will be connected to the old gym's locker room and shower facilities. "Actually," he said, "we can make use of the old gym for its auxiliary facilities more easily than we could at DALPLEX."



"AS THE LEGEND GOES, THEY COME BACK EVERY YEAR 'ROUND THIS TIME. HOPELESSLY WAITING FOR THEIR FIRST SKATE IN THE NEW DAL RINK."