

Explosion and fire on campus

Keith Krause

The University Health Sciences Center under construction, at 114 St. and 84 Ave., was the scene of an explosion and fire yesterday afternoon.

Two explosions rocked the basement of the building at 8:30 pm, and thick black smoke quickly billowed up through the floor. Seven fire departments were called to the scene and traffic was directed around the area.

"We don't know what caused it, and we don't even know what it is," said an unidentified man.

The basement was being used as a storage area for construction materials, and it contains large quantities of chemicals were in the area at the time of the explosion. A large amount of plywood was also stored there, and it is believed this was responsible for the fire, which spread through the entire basement.

Forty five minutes after the explosion, the fire was still not under control. It was a full hour before the fire was contained.

No one was in the basement at the time of the explosion as the storage area closed earlier. Some workmen were on the upper level of the building at the time, but no one was injured.

"Part of the problem is that we haven't inspected all of this building yet, as it is still under construction," said Bill Bessett, a fire department spokesman. "We don't know what is down there, as construction materials are constantly being moved in and out," he said.

No damage estimate was available at press time, and it will likely be some time before the cause of the explosion and fire can be determined.



Black smoke billows from the new Health Sciences Centre which was damaged by a fire and a pair of explosions Monday afternoon.

Photo by Russ Sampson

the Gateway

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1979

Optimistic about his own reelection

Horner knocks trust fund

Keith Krause

Jack Horner's federal election campaign got off to a strong start at the University of Alberta on Friday.

Horner, federal minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, spoke to an audience of about 100 in Dinwoodie Lounge, SUB, before speaking at a dinner in the lounge with Prime Minister Trudeau.

The lecture centered on resource and economic issues, with Horner coming down hard on the provincial government.

"I don't think it's good for Alberta to have that big a Trust Fund (the Heritage Trust Fund)," said Horner. "There is nothing stopping Alberta from getting into the Tar Sands with money."

Horner was responding to a question about the Liberal government's policy of giving oil exploration companies "better than no tax at all" to build heavy refineries.

"If the tax bit is too high, the projects won't go," said Horner. He accused the Alberta government of holding up many projects by demanding a share of revenues and royalties. "We have to speed up development of our tar sands," he said.

Horner also explained his reasons for joining the Liberal

party, crossing the floor from the Conservatives.

"Alberta has been out of step with the rest of the country." In the past few years they have seldom managed to have an MP on the government side, he said.

"There haven't been enough salesmen for Alberta...I think Alberta has been poorly understood."

Horner spoke for 20 minutes, and then fielded questions for the next 45 minutes. The questions were wide-ranging, dealing with the federal role in education, Horner's election chances and Joe Clark's political abilities.

Horner commented, "Joe

Clark has demonstrated in his life so far no ability to do anything."

The question of education spending cutbacks also raise Horner's ire.

"It's too bad to hear this from a province which is as rich as Alberta," he said in reply.

Horner also says his chances of being re-elected in the Crowfoot riding after his party switch are very good.

"Crowfoot will prove the ability of voters to rationalize or think."

"When you sell your soul to a political party you forfeit your right to think," he said.

Trudeau in Camrose

CAMROSE — In his first Alberta campaign appearance, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau made an emotional plea for the election of a strong, central government.

Speaking before a near capacity crowd of 1500 at Jack Horner Appreciation Night, the national Liberal leader argued that a powerful government in Ottawa was necessary to stop the growth of various "provincial separatisms" which exist in Canada. In restating what has become a Liberal campaign theme, Trudeau said that compromise could only be achieved with a strong central government in charge.

continued on page 9

New Democrats say Wright was wronged

Julie Green

The provincial NDP candidate for Strathcona claims the presence of polling stations on campus contravened the Election Act and may have altered the outcome of the provincial election.

Gordon Wright, an Edmon-

ton lawyer, says he could have defeated the Conservative candidate, Julian Koziak, if polls had been more conveniently situated, preferably on campus. The low turnout of students—only 500 of the 2000 registered in the district—was attributed to the location of the polls by Ray

Martin, the NDP provincial secretary. There was "no provision made to vote in the riding," Wright said.

Absentee student polls were held at CAB, HUB, and in Lister Hall. Polls on the election day, however, were situated only at

UAB referendum passes easily

by Alex Tindimubona

A small number of U of A students voted 70% in favour of a \$8 dollar athletic fee increase in Thursday's University Athletic Board (UAB) referendum.

Only 3,135 votes were cast, 17% of the student population. Of these, 2,191 voted Yes. On the strength of this vote, about 19,000 students will pay \$25 each next fall, an increase of 47% from the present fee of \$17.

Commenting on the result, Returning Officer Susan Savage said 70% in favour is strong

indication that the increase is needed. "At the same time, it is clear that those who want the facilities are the ones who voted," she said.

The largest number of Yes votes came from the Physical Education poll station, where the vote was 95% in favour, way ahead of the next stations, Lister and SUB with 76% in favour.

The increase was supported at all polling stations. The closest it came to defeat was in HUB, where the vote was only 53% in favour.

1979 U.A.B. REFERENDUM RESULTS

POLL	YES	NO	Total #	% Yes
Phys. Ed.	376	19	395	95%
SUB	322	131	453	76%
Lister	178	49	227	76%
Agriculture	52	20	72	72%
Law	114	45	159	72%
V. Wing	190	99	289	65%
CAB (South)	124	70	194	64%
Rutherford	175	97	272	64%
CAB (N.E.)	304	177	481	63%
Education	175	101	286	61%
Tory	101	65	166	61%
HUB	80	71	151	53%
TOTAL	2191	944	3135	70%

Youth and student offices open in Sprague Building

Effective today, the Youth Employment Centre and the Hire A Student office, will be located in the Sprague Building, 9943 - 109 Street.

Russ Brown, Metro Manager for the Canada Employment Centre in Edmonton, announced that both offices will be available to young people

and students looking for full-time or part-time work.

"The full range of employment services will be available at the Sprague Building," said Mr. Brown. "Job vacancies will be advertised on our Job Information Boards, and staff will be available to discuss the individual employment needs of our young clients. The counsellors and student placement officers will be visiting Edmonton area employers to discuss their employment needs and keep them aware of the availability of the young people registered at the centre."

Those wishing further information are invited to telephone the Youth Employment Centre at 425-5219 or the Hire A Student office at 425-3570.