

# Board smoulders over firetrap

by Jens Andersen

Discussion of the seriously substandard Earth Sciences Building (formerly the Agriculture Building) enlivened an otherwise routine Board of Governors meeting last Friday.

A study recently showed that the building has 20 major health and fire hazards.

"It appears the provincial government will be taking some sort of action on it in the near future," said U of A Vice-President Facilities R.E. Phillips. The University has decided that the building will continue in use, with renovations being made to bring it up to the standards of government fire regulations. At the earliest, work could begin next summer.

Phillips stated he is still awaiting for provincial government approval of \$3-400,000 for planning the renovations. Total costs for the project are estimated to run from \$12-14 million.

Various suggestions were made regarding how to prevent buildings on campus from falling below standard in the future. Grad student rep Richard Jehn suggested that the Board Building Committee have a mandatory review procedure for regulating moves between buildings. Many of the problems in Earth Sciences stem from the conversion of the building from a primarily "teaching" building to a more research-oriented one.

Public member Jack Kennedy also suggested that future buildings should be separated into one or the other category.

President Myer Horowitz agreed with Phillips that the crux of the problem is the lack of funding for renovations on an annual basis. He also pointed out that, aside from Olds College, the U of A is the only post-secondary

institution in Alberta that has to deal with the problem of older buildings, and thus it is hard to exert pressure on the government to get the required funding.

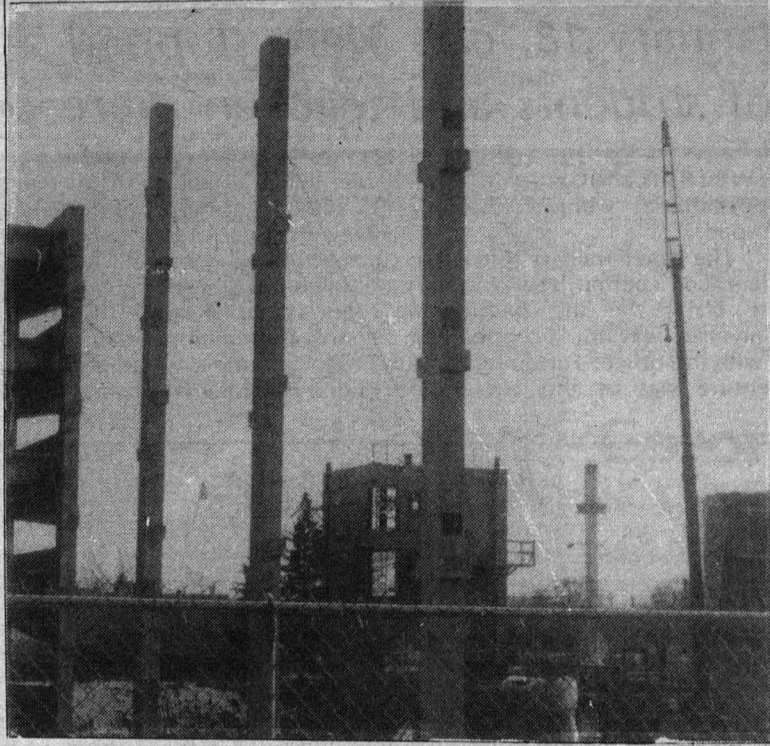
In other Board news:  
• \$6,000 dollars was awarded to

CJSR campus radio station for the purchase of broadcast equipment, and \$23,000 to the Students' Union for renovations to the SUB Theatre lobby.

• It was revealed that the University of Calgary rents furnished suites

to their student at less cost than the U of A rents comparable unfurnished ones.

"How they balance their budget, I don't know," said Phillips.



This is the new parkade under construction and should not be confused with the controversial Earth Sciences Building. Neat - Eh?

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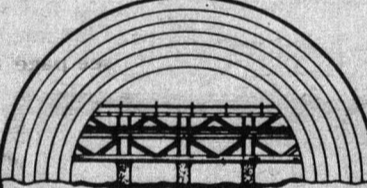
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