

FIRE AND FLOOD IN RESIDENCES

UPEI CAMPUS BECOMES DISASTER AREA!!!

-by G.M.-

There have been a number of accidents in the residences at UPEI during the last couple of weeks. On Saturday Oct. 28th there was a flood in Blanchard Hall which flooded two floors in the "D" section. Last Thursday, Nov. 2nd there was a fire in Bernadine Hall resulting in the entire building being evacuated. The flood at Blanchard occurred on Saturday evening or rather early Sunday morning after the Harvest Ball! One of the tenants was brushing her teeth when the sink fell off the wall. She was not able to close the valve because the hot water pipe was broken and she might have been scalded. She called the Head Resident who in turn had to call Security and then maintenance to find out which of the MAIN lines had to be closed off. This was at approx. 2:30 in the morning. By the time the main line was closed, 2nd floor was flooded and water had leaked through the floor/ceiling to the first floor apartments where there was approximately two inches of water in the corridors.

It is not yet known the amount of damage or what the university intends to do about water damaged property!

Last Thursday, the fire alarm sounded in the Security Department. Members of the Security, as usual, went to check out this alarm. Imagine their surprise when they found out there was really a fire! There have been dozens of alarms in UPEI Residences over the past couple of years; all of them false!

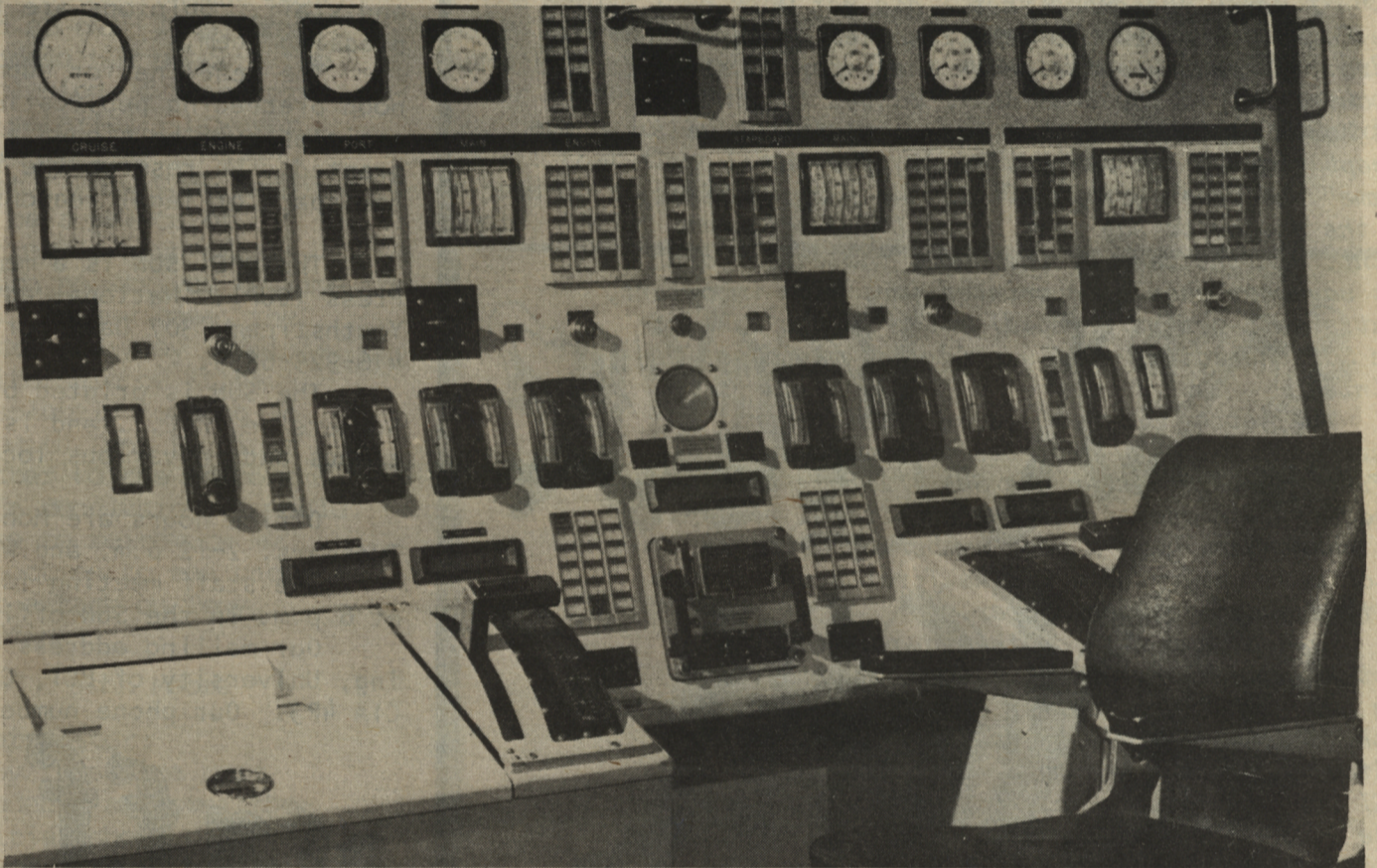
The Security members notified the Fire Department (who arrived on campus

within 9 minutes). All residents of the building were evacuated. Members of the Ch'town Fire Dept. entered the building and took care of the problem. It appears the incinerator in the basement had plugged up and someone had left the door open. Windows and doors were opened and the smoke disappeared. There was little smoke damage and tenants entered the building within an hour.

Security and the fire Dept. acted quickly... this time! Things might

have been very different. Security looked into the alarm immediately instead of just saying it was probably another false alarm; there were eight members of security on campus (instead of the usual two) because they were attending their monthly staff meeting; some clown pulled a fire alarm in the gym awhile after the fire trucks reached Bernadine (another false alarm); curious onlookers abandoned their cars behind and around the fire equipment blocking off

all entrance and exit lanes for emergency vehicles, had the fire been more serious; the fire was during the day time when most students were in class, had it been the night, they would probably have ignored the alarm. Now since the proctors no longer have pass-keys to the rooms, the member of security would have had to check the 100+ rooms in the building by himself. UPEI was indeed fortunate that nothing more serious happened.

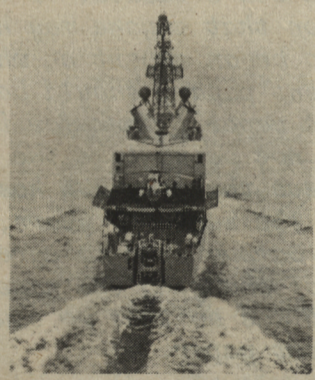


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