

Blaze doesn't dampen spirits

By **BARB LIVINGSTONE**

PhDs were on the end of a mop handle Monday as clean-up work began at Concordia College.

After a fire Sunday destroyed the school's gymnasium at 7128 Ada Blvd., students and faculty began work early Monday cleaning up water spread throughout the college.

Classes are not being held this week because of reading week, but will resume as usual next week.

However, high school classes planned for the college had to be postponed because of the fire.

Rev. Theo Reiner, director of communications for Concordia said the facility is down but "certainly not out."

He said physical education classes will probably be relocated in other city facilities, as will other scheduled activities.

The gymnasium was also used as an auditorium for dramatic and musical productions. The fire destroyed the props of the college's major drama production slated for March 10 to 12.

Father Reiner said the production will possibly be held elsewhere if props — such as a two-storey house that was ruined in the fire — can be rebuilt.

The first big choral concert planned for April 9 could be held in a city church as a benefit, he said.

Because of the fire, Concordia also lost all its athletic equipment, most of its printing equipment, and faculty offices for eight professors who also lost libraries and files.

The college's electronic equipment including mikes, tape recorders and a video tape recorder that Father Reiner said was one of the college's proudest possessions was also damaged.

He said some students went into waist-high water to rescue the video-machine that has water damage and may be unusable. One of the most serious losses was a "big, black beautiful" grand piano that Concordia had purchased last fall.

"It is still black, but not very beautiful" said Father Reiner. Early damage estimates placed costs of the fire at \$750,000. Father Reiner said everything was insured, but with a \$100,000-deductible clause.

He said the college had been planning to expand "somewhere down the line." and the fire may speed up plans.

The college is also worried, said Father Reiner about what could happen to plans for the Edmonton Eskimos to

use the Concordia football field and gym for this year's training. "We are not sure what will happen but we are hoping this can still go ahead" he said.

Concordia was already crowded with an enrolment of 420 students and a faculty that had to double up even prior to the fire.

Now, said Father Reiner, it will just be a case of work as usual with a little more "squeezeing."

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