

STAGNANT

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI/SAINT LOUIS

Radioactive gas bubble trapped in Tower lounge

Nuclear scientists worked around-the-clock March 30 to shrink a radioactive gas bubble in the faculty lounge on the thirteenth floor of the SSB Tower, according to officials with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The NRC was called onto campus March 28, when the clouding around a small nuclear reactor in Benton Hall cracked.

Radioactive steam and other gasses escaped from the building via underground air conditioning ducts, leaked into the

elevator shafts in the Tower, and were discovered building up in the lounge March 29.

"Right now we're not sure what can be done about the bubble," said Gi Gercounter, an NRC official. "But I want to stress that we have the situation under control. That gas poses absolutely no danger to anyone. Everything's okay. It's safe, really. There's no danger. Don't panic. Everyone stay calm. Hey, this thing's no problem."

"I don't see a need to evacuate the building," said

UMSL Chancellor Arnold Grabbag, "but we're handling this whole thing with an over-cautious attitude. I think that's the way it needs to be handled."

"Consequently, classes will not be held in the SSB or the Tower until the bubble has been eradicated. Faculty members, however, will be expected to continue using their offices and maintaining regular office hours," Grabbag said.

Grabbag is not new to this kind of situation. Twenty-nine years ago he was part of a team that worked with a cracked nuclear reactor near the University of Mexico.

"In one minute, I was exposed to the same amount of radiation people get from the sun in 10 years," Grabbag said. "And see, I'm still here now."

Cladding around the nuclear reactor cracked at around 3pm, March 28, according to faculty in the physics department. The mishap caused water used in keeping the facility cool to leak, exposing the reactor's nuclear fuel rods to air.

The temperature within the containment area of the reactor allegedly doubled, and physics department sources said that radioactive steam was released from the device in an effort to reduce a dangerous rise in reactor pressure.



BACK IN A FLASH: UMSL Police have made this composite photo of the flasher that struck UMSL last week, (Photo by Pearl Notso Swift).

Flasher strikes police criticized

The UMSL police department was harshly criticized last week for the length of time it took to respond to several reported incidents of 'flashing' on campus.

The criticism was made in a report submitted to John Peery, vice chancellor for Administrative Services, by 173 female students and 64 female faculty

and staff members reportedly 'flashed' March 29-30.

According to the report, UMSL police took 28 hours and 40 minutes to respond to an emergency telephone call made from Benton Hall immediately after the first reported incident of 'flashing.'

The call was made at 6:15pm, March 29, according to an official police dispatching log. Police reportedly arrived on the scene at 10:55pm, March 30.

"I was walking out of the bathroom on the third floor of Benton," said the victim of the first incident, who wished to remain unidentified, "when I saw this guy standing in the middle of the hall, getting undressed. He was down to his socks by that time. Then he stood there and yelled, 'Ta-da!'"

The victim said that when she attempted to flee from the man, he scooped up his clothes and followed her.

"I ran down to the first floor and called the police on the hotline phone," she said. "At first they put me on hold, but after a few minutes an officer spoke to me and said that they'd have someone right over."

"I waited there for more than a day," she said. "I realize that the police have their hands full with the parking situation, but I was pretty disgusted."

The 'flasher' reportedly left Benton Hall at around 6:20pm and made his way to the University Center, where he allegedly exposed himself to an

[See "Flasher," page 2]

Council holds successful meeting

Central Council, UMSL's student government, held an orderly, full-attendance meeting March 25.

All of the Council's elected and organizational representatives took part in the meeting, were on time, stayed until the meeting's conclusion, and followed parliamentary procedure.

"I was amazed," said Pat Condescension, the Council's chairperson. "The whole thing went without a hitch. The only trouble I had was when the student body president kept yelling, 'Yes!' and, 'I'm for the motion!' while I was trying to take attendance."

"We actually got something done," Condescension said. "I'm pleasantly surprised that

college students can be so well-behaved."

"I didn't get it," said Cortez Lobotomy, student body president. "People were raising their hands and saying things like, 'Point of order,' and 'Divide the question.' And the things we voted on started out with, 'Be it moved.' I didn't understand what was happening."

"I was confused," said Lobotomy. "Everything made sense."

The meeting marked the first gathering of the full Council since the spring of 1977. The group has been plagued by attendance problems and member expulsions throughout the last two Council administrations.

[See "Council," page 3]

Next student president to receive \$15,000

The Student Activities Budget Committee allocated funds for 22 student organizations last week.

The Committee approved a \$15,000 a year salary for president of the student body.

The salary is an increase of \$13,000 dollars a year from the

present president's salary. Central Council had requested \$4,000 for the position.

"We were told that if we gave more money to the president we could get a better quality person

to serve. So we figured if we offered \$15,000 we might just

get someone who could handle the job," committee member Dan Danley said.

To make up for the increased salaries, the committee cut funds for non-essential budget items, Danley said. Course evaluation was totally eliminated in the new budget.

"We all felt that course evaluation was important, but it was late and we were still over budget by \$30,000 so we said, 'what the hell,'" according to John Erikson, another committee member.

Several new groups were funded for the first time this year.

The UMSL Brotherhood Club was given \$300 for work in improving the sportsmanship on campus. Kevin Slapem is the faculty sponsor for the club.

The UMSL Anti-UMSL club was given \$150. The club specializes in tearing down anything constructive to UMSL. C. B. Johnstone is the faculty advisor.

The UMSL Booster club was to be given \$1,000 but the club was eliminated when the club's member got fed up with watch-

"...if we offered \$15,000 we might get

someone who could handle the job."

Dan Swanger, yet another committee member, responded to attacks saying that the committee was dominated by Greeks and gave more money to the Greek budget.

"I don't think so. We had to struggle to even get the \$13,000 for our trip to the Bahamas to attend the national conventions," Swanger said.

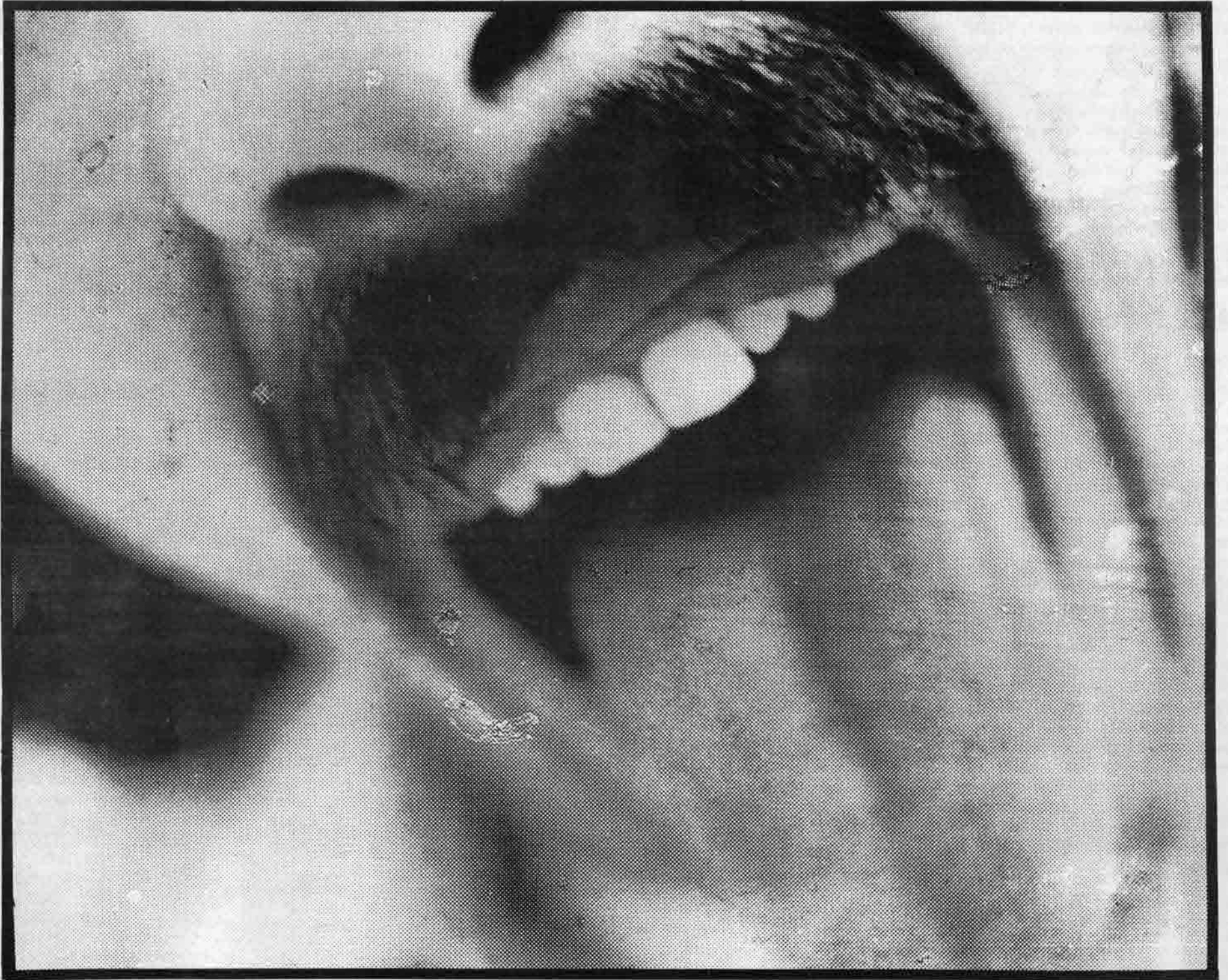
ing 15 straight losing seasons.

The UMSL Committee for Racism was given \$500. Earl Butz is the club's sponsor.

The only group not to be funded this year was Student Services "We just didn't have the money to spare," Danley said.

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