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 building was surrounded by small nuclear reactor in Benton Hall cracked. Radiative steam and other gases 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 G1 Gerounter, 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 I'm still there 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.

Radioactive contamination ducts, take attendance. successful

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chairperson.

"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 Lobo­tony. "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 Danley said.

"We made up 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.

"...if we offered $15,000 we might get someone who could handle the job."

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 Skemp 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 watch­ing the Booster's $30,000 worth of equipment.

"I ran down to the 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 really think that the police have their hands full with the parking situation, but I was pretty disgusted."

The 'flasher' reportedly left Benton Hall at around 6:00pm and made his way to the University Center, where he allegedly exposed himself to an

[See "Flasher," page 2]
Applications for positions on the Fall'79 Current staff are now being accepted