

Tunnels

(Continued from Page 1)
crete corridor.

While I couldn't see any human remains or casks, or hear any plaintive moans of freshly-entombed victims, this section of the University's tunnel system was eerie enough. The tunnel seemed to stretch on into infinity, and though in fact it was not quite that long, the system is surpris-

ingly extensive.

"I could take you from here (underneath the student health center) all the way to the Clinical Services Building if I had time," Craven said. He explained that every building on campus is connected to every other building by the tunnel system, which is in turn connected to the physical plant by the main tunnel that passes under

Franklin Boulevard.

We continued on, crossing under 13th Avenue and then turning west, toward the science complex. We paused at a tangle of pipes.

"Water, water return, electricity, telephone, alarms and heat," recited Craven, pointing at the appropriate conduits. He explained that all the utilities for campus buildings are carried from the physical plant through the tunnels.

Finally we emerged into the coolness of the basement of Science III, a refreshing change from the 85 F. degree atmosphere of the tunnels. I was exhilarated; I felt like Elijah Davidson just back from discovering the Oregon Caves. Craven, however, was less enthusiastic; after 16 years of building tunnels and stomping through them to correct a variety of malfunctions, his sense of wonder has worn a bit thin.

"Oh, I don't know, I don't especially like it down there," he said, mopping his brow. "It's too hot."

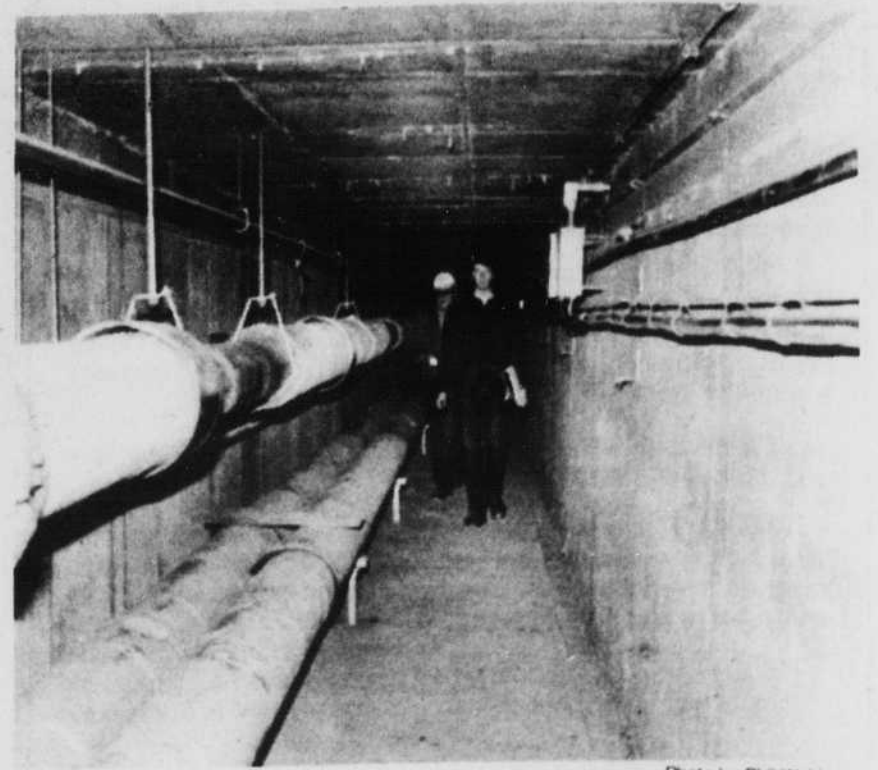


Photo by Phil Wadstein

Emerald writer Brad Lemley makes his way through the recesses of the tunnel which connects Science II and the Health Center with the aid of a flashlight and Norm Craven, the University's inspector of new construction. This tunnel is only one of many which criss-cross the University.

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Students file status suit

(CPS) — What power does a student government have?

Student government would be just an academic exercise in at least one state, if the Arizona Board of Regents, which has control over the state's public universities, has its way. The Regents, now being sued by the University of Arizona Student Government, claim that the student government is an arm of the university. They view it as a state agency with no legal standing of its own.

The battle over the legitimacy of the student government arose from a controversy over who is entitled to \$10,000 worth of profits from the campus bookstore.

In 1937, the Regents sold the bookstore to the Associated Students of the University of Arizona (ASUA) for more than \$21,000. In the contract signed at the time, the

students agreed to turn over profits to the Regents until the bookstore was paid for. This was done. Then, in 1971, the university business office, which handled the bookstore finances, refused to turn over \$10,000 in bookstore profits to the ASUA, claiming that the contract was invalid because the ASUA did not constitute a legal entity. The ASUA filed suit against the Regents in 1972.

Before the 1971 controversy, the ASUA did get a large portion—\$40,000—of the bookstore profits. But this money was distributed to the government by the university as it was needed. In essence, said David Hameroff, ASUA president, if the university did not like what was being done with the money, it simply did not hand the students a check. Such was the case when the student government wanted \$10,000 to

start a birth control clinic. The money was withheld.

The ASUA suit centers on two points. Did the Regents actually sell the bookstore to the ASUA, along with all privileges of profit that would go along with that sale? The second and more important point is whether the student government was a legal body with the right to make such a contract in the first place.

To complicate things further, there is the question of whether the ASUA has the right to hire a lawyer to defend its legal status. If the ASUA is actually a state agency as the Regents contend, then by state law, it cannot use state funds to pay for a private attorney. By this logic, the ASUA would have to go through the Regents in order to obtain a lawyer to sue those same Regents. A similar Catch 22 faces a student organization at the University of Texas which is trying to sue the Regents of that state.

The ASUA has not been able to pay its attorney thus far, and owes him more than \$5,000.

The Regents deny that they ever agreed to turn over profits to the ASUA. They deny that the ASUA fulfilled its obligations in running the store, and they deny that the ASUA even has a legal right to sue, since it is "a part and parcel of the University of Arizona community."

But if the ASUA is not recognized as an independent legal entity, why did the Regents sign the contract to begin with? "You're asking me to speak for people who were around 40 years ago, and I can't do that," said Blair Benjamin, legal advisor of the Board of Regents. The Regents, he added, certainly have an obligation to live up to a contract, "if it was valid. This one is not. And even if it had been valid, the ASUA has long since abrogated its obligation. They never sought to undertake running the bookstore, and they don't seek to now. All they want is the profits."

The ASUA suit asks for a payment of \$10,000 to ASUA, and calls for a declaratory judgement stating that ASUA has the right to bookstore profits. More importantly, the suit asks for a decision as to whether ASUA is an independent entity, and whether it has the right to hire an attorney and pay the fees with ASUA funds. A judgment is expected within a month.

Oregon State System of Higher Education

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