



The Town Quacker Announces

The University of Oregon Housing Department is now accepting applications for the position of **STUDENT MANAGER** **ACADEMIC YEAR 1989-90**

QUALIFICATIONS: Must be a regularly enrolled student with experience as a Resident Assistant, or comparable experience as determined by the selection committee. Must be available to students and staff during most weeknights and weekends. Will not be allowed to hold an outside job.

REIMBURSEMENT: Current Student Managers receive \$4393 room and board credit and 3371.45 as a cash stipend.

SELECTION PROCESS: Will begin February 13, and should be completed by the end of Winter term.

MANDATORY MEETING: Thursday, February 9, at 4pm, Housing Office, Walton Hall.

APPLICATIONS: Are available at the front desk of the Housing Office in Walton Hall. Due February 7, 1989, no later than 5pm.



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University

Miles of tunnels weave through campus underworld

By Christopher Blair
Emerald Reporter

It's not exactly the dreaded Labyrinth maze of ancient Greek mythology, but the University has an impressive network of tunnels beneath its lawns and sidewalks.

Approximately 3.3 miles of walk-through service tunnels were built over a period of more than 40 years ending in 1972. They hold mainly steam and water pipes and conduits for electrical wires.

The tunnels have in the past been seen as a good place for University students to explore. However, the lack of light and jutting bolts and sections of pipe can be dangerous. Entrances to the tunnels are locked and access is ordinarily limited to authorized personnel only.

However, Harold Babcock, director of the University's Physical Plant, does occasionally give guided "hard hat tours" to interested students, staff and University backers.

"It's easy to get lost if you don't know where you're going," he said. "I don't like to frighten people, but at the same time I want them to be frightened, because I want them to know that they can get in here and get stuck or get hurt," he said.

Most buildings on campus are linked to the tunnel system through locked doors in their basements. In addition, there are two tunnels that run under Franklin Boulevard and the Millrace. Both are used sparingly because seepage keeps their floors under three inches of water.

"We're careful to try to keep people out, but I make a lot of tours," Babcock said, unlocking a tunnel entrance in the basement of the Student Health Center. "I do that primarily to take the mystery out of it so people don't try to get in on their own."

"There are so many places to get hurt in them... if (people) don't have hard hats or know where the light switches are," he said. "Quite often I'll turn the lights out so people know what it's like to be in a really dark area, kind of like being in a mini tunnel."

While the darkness and seemingly chaotic array

A 3.3-mile network of service tunnels sits just four feet beneath the surface of the University campus. The tunnels were once used as fallout shelters in preparation for a nuclear attack, but now they are used by Physical Plant personnel to maintain water, steam and electrical lines.

of wires and pipes are dangerous, no threatening wildlife lives in the University's subterranean world.

"This would be a natural place for rats, but I haven't seen any carcasses or any droppings," Babcock said.



Harold Babcock, University Physical Plant director, inspects a steam valve during a recent tour of the service tunnels that run under the University grounds.

cock said, adding that has heard of — but has never seen — a few cockroaches in the tunnels. The tunnels are baited with poison for this reason, Babcock said.

The going along the tunnels is shaky, and ducking under pipes that cross the passage at waist level is often required. The tunnels are constructed of solid, usually dry, concrete. Small metal tubes running along the tunnel's six-and-a-half-foot high ceiling contain well-insulated wires carrying 12,000 volts.

Another potential danger to the average tunnel explorer is asbestos, which insulates some of the pipes.

"There's lots of asbestos in the tunnels," he said, patting one of the pipes labeled with intermittent signs warning of the dangers of the cancer-causing material. "But if you don't disturb the asbestos there's no danger to it."

The tour continued around behind the health center, through a tunnel three feet under the grass near the basketball courts. Water was on the floor a half-inch deep in spots, and Babcock said the tunnels are pumped out continuously to free them of water seeping in from the ground or dripping from the miles of water pipes.

The pipes ferrying steam to dorms and offices keep the tunnels hot and humid year round, usually an uncomfortable 90 degrees or warmer.

The tunnel is blocked off at Agate Street by a 50-foot section of concrete to keep Hamilton and Bean Complexes separated from the rest of the tunnel system. This is mostly for security reasons, Babcock said, citing intermittent locked gates as another measure designed to keep potential thieves from going from dorm to dorm.

Back-tracking from the blocked passage, Babcock explained one of the tunnels' more interesting purposes: their use in the '40s and '50s as fallout

shelters. The tunnels were stocked with food, water and medical supplies, to be used by citizens of Eugene in the event of a nuclear war.

"The tunnels were here originally for the pipes," he said. "But after World War II, there were studies made to find places that could be used as fallout shelters. What you want from a fallout shelter is mass between you and wherever the radiation is."

The tunnels were a favorable site for a fallout shelter because they were under four feet of ground and were lined with concrete, he said. However, in the early '70s, the food, water and other supplies were removed.

"The danger seemed to be over, and the feeling was that if the bombs fell, they'd break these things up anyway," he said.

"There are so many places to get hurt... if (people) don't have hard hats or know where the light switches are."

—Harold Babcock

As he walked under 13th Avenue and north toward Franklin Boulevard at the end of the tour, Babcock shut off the dim lights along the corridor, and turned off his flashlight. The darkness was total, similar to conditions that would exist in the tunnels in a catastrophe.

Babcock said he usually gives tours of the tunnels to University backers and staff. An occasional tour is available to organized groups of students, however. They must be arranged with the housing office.

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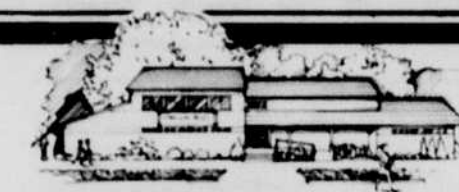
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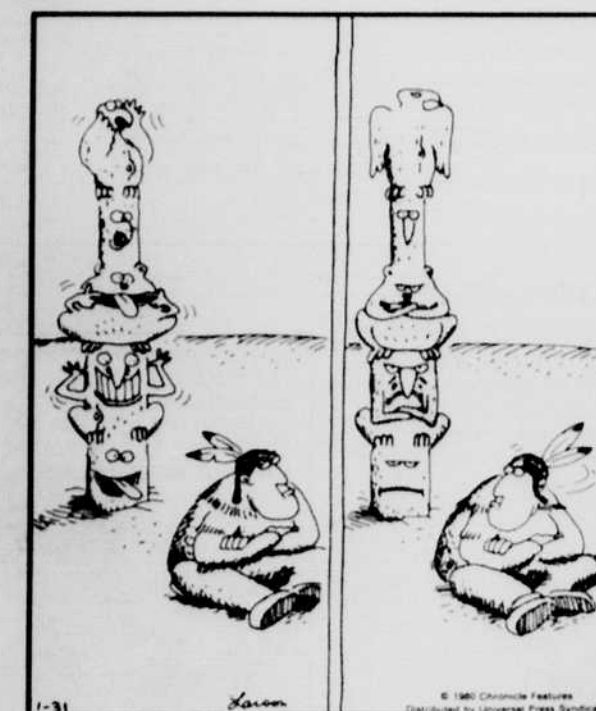
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