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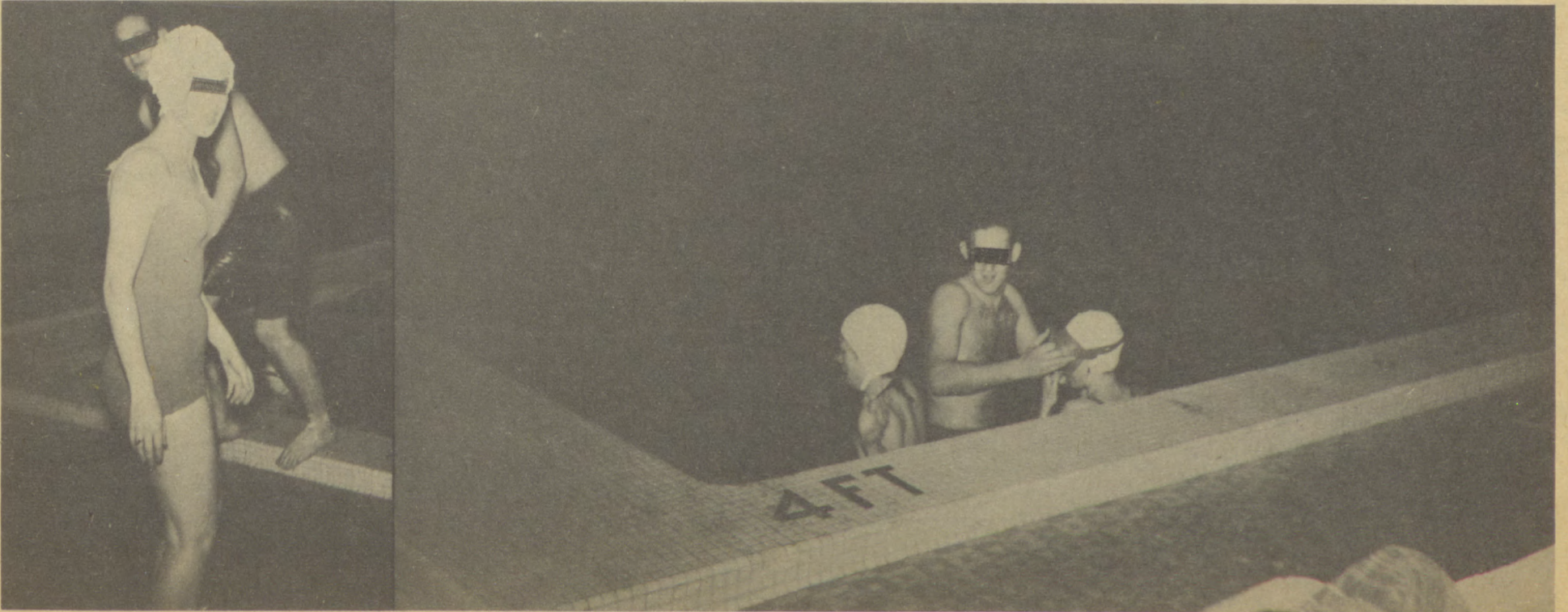
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PHANTOM AND NIGHT DIVERS UNCOVERED BY OBSERVER PHOTOGRAPHER AS RESIDENT STUDENTS CAROUSE IN UNFINISHED INTRAMURAL POOL



COULD THESE INNOCENTLY SPLASHING STUDENTS BE THE INFAMOUS NIGHT DIVERS?

Submersive Observer photos expose MSUO men and women cavorting in the university pool weeks before it legally opens. Following a thorough and harried investigation, university officials unearthed the secret entrance which nightly admitted dozens of students into this dim hideaway. (filched Observer photos)

By Dick Moby

Observer Special Writer

EAST CAMPUS, Dec. 15---Solved: The Mystery of the Night Divers and the Phantom of the Pool. Maybe.

Hollie Lepley hopes so, anyway. As master sleuth of MSUO, he thinks he has cracked this baffling case after two weeks of nighttime stake-outs in and near the new \$1,500,000 Intramural Sports and Recreation Building.

Seems that the building, which won't be completed and opened for several weeks, has been in use for almost a month.

Lepley, who otherwise is director of physical education, has spent that time trying to figure out how groups of students -- almost 100 at a time -- were getting into the building at night and making full use of the Olympic pool.

Along with a volunteer Watson from the construction company, he checked every possible means of entering the building and, when it became obvious that the students still were outsmarting him, he changed all of the brand new locks for brand newer ones.

But this didn't help, and neither did his patient lurking in the bushes. One night he heard them in the building but couldn't find them.

So Lepley tried another approach and attempted to establish a line of communications by sending a memorandum to 200 campus residents.

"To the Phantom and the Night Divers:"

"Please clue me in!"

"The general welfare and safety of all participants should be of primary interest around a swimming area. From all reports, you have been most resourceful in this respect."

There were, indeed, a few unconfirmed reports of skin irritation. And resourcefulness? Well, a campus wag has suggested to Lepley that when the building does open, he let the Night Divers run it.

Whispered stories making the rounds of the student body include a report that before the Night Divers ever used the pool, the chemistry majors among them ran an analysis of the water. The laboratory tests showed the water to be "a couple of points above standard, but safe."

The students also set up an efficient lifeguard system, and had a technical crew, among whose responsibilities was control of mechanical equipment, including electrical circuits to which switches had not yet been connected.

But one point missing from all the stories was the one Lepley needed most of all -- how did 75 and more students get into a building that was completely sealed?

Well, it wasn't. And Lepley, a former University of Nebraska swimming coach, learned, finally, of a remarkable new way of getting into a pool.

Just climb down a dry drainage well and do an Australian crawl from down under through a horizontal conduit which carries pipes to the boiler room, and there you are. And only one person has to enter in this way, and then he can open the door for the rest of the party.

And Lepley, now that he has discovered the Night Divers' secret entrance, terms the case closed.

He sent them season's.
They reciprocated --
on the pool wall.

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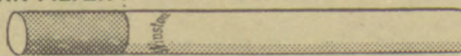
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