

# Tunnels explored, rumors debunked

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What comes to mind when you hear of the Borah tunnels? Rats? Cold War age bomb shelters? Cockroaches?

A few Borah Senator staff members, including me, had the chance to go down into these fabled realms and figure out what is actually going on, and from what we've seen -- not very much.

Even staff writer, senior Alissia Harris, the one who ecstatically suggested the story idea, enthralled by the novelty of the mysterious tunnels, wasn't very impressed by what she saw.

"I'm disappointed," she said, as the group (only five were allowed under) walked back to the newspaper room from its tour. Looking with disillusionment at newspaper adviser Michelle Harmon, she wailed, "You should not have let me come!"

But, that's not to minimize what's going on down there.

Walking from east to west through the dimly lit over-glorified crawl space, we saw sewage pipes, water lines, data lines, and electrical wires crossing alongside the north side of the low 5'5" ceiling.

Sometimes a water or sewage line crossed our path, and we'd have to either duck, or step over a pipe. The best way to compare what purpose these tunnels serve is a comparison to the human body: if the buildings on campus are the muscles, skin, and skeletal structure, the security office the eyes, and

the brain its offices, the tunnels are the vertebrae, cardiovascular system, and intestines.

Imagine this setting: It's a dark night; the cold biting wind whistles through the cracks in the main hall doors; a full moon blankets the quad in a sickly white, casting ominous shadows of the bare branches into the hall. The camera cuts, and we now see the girls basketball team descend into the tunnels in a game of scavenger hunt.

They feel their body temperatures rise little by little, and moisture develops on their brows as the heat from the boiler washes over them.

Their little game of scavenger hunt isn't so lovely now. Rats scamper away as the caverns of Borah High open up and the girls let out a bloodcurdling scream.

Perfect opening scene for a raunchy horror flick, right? Well, it kind of still is. Just take away the rats (we didn't see any), replace the word caverns with crawl space, and remember to duck or else one runs the risk of a faceful of lead pipe.

Also the part of a girls basketball team being in the utility tunnels is actually true. A few years back, senior Tori Schoonover was one of the girls to participate in a team scavenger hunt that required the team go down into the utility tunnels. As they ventured deeper and deeper into the East wing of the tunnels, it grew smaller and smaller. "They aren't as bad as I thought they'd be," said Schoonover.



Photo By Jaynee Nielsen | jnielesen@borahsenator.com

Utility pipes run along Borah's underground tunnels.



Photo by Jaynee Nielsen | jnielesen@borahsenator.com

Junior August Mckernan writes her name on a pipe alongside others from years past.

## Senator Shoutouts: Why do you think Borah has underground tunnels? What are they used for?

*"Borah has underground tunnels so that the rat scientists that are running secret tests on us can study our habits and behavior in our natural environment."*

Annika Moffett, junior

*"For maintenance and emergency situations."*

Anna Kennedy, senior

*"Borah was built by mole people."*

Ellen Young, junior

*"Maybe for ninja turtles."*

Ryan Day, sophomore