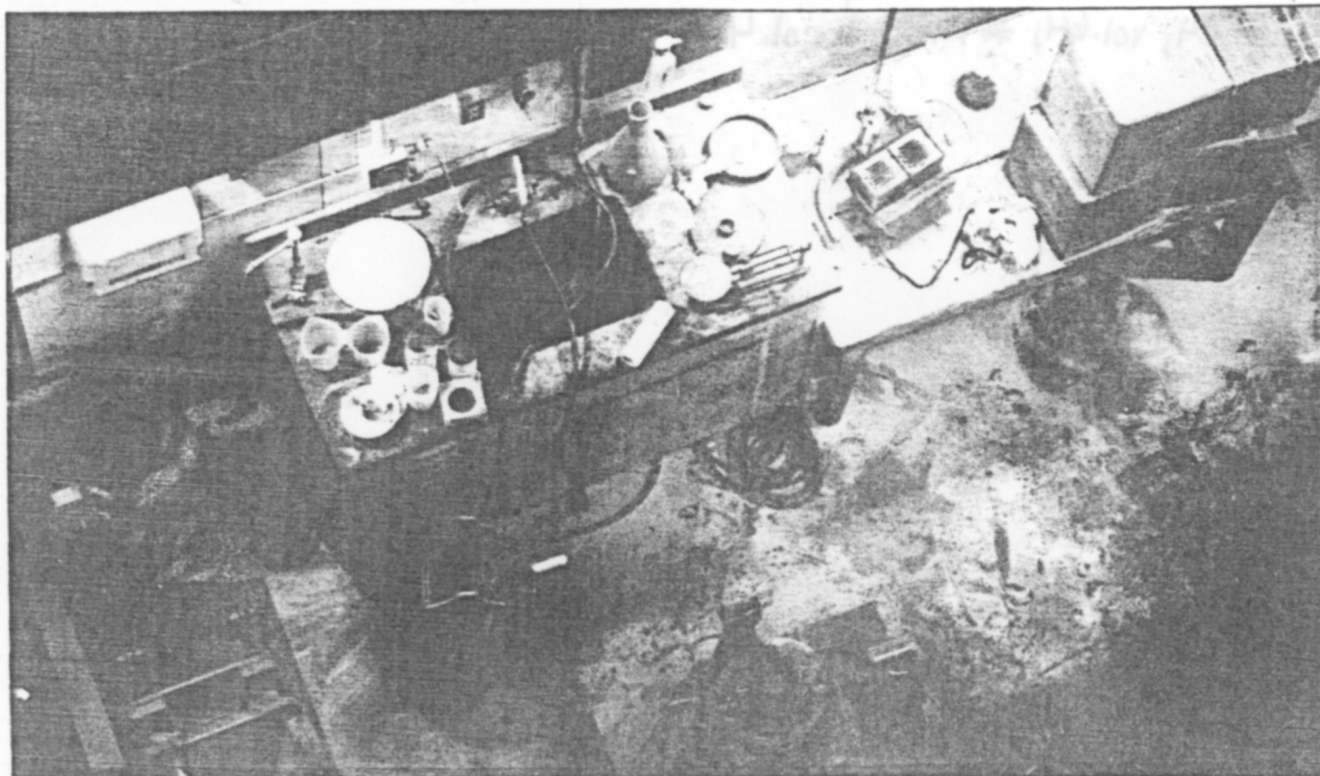


An overview shot of the chemical lab where a fire started when students tried to extract the oil from some soybeans. Engineering Sciences building was evacuated from 5:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to clear the building of smoke and reset the alarm.

The Jambar/
George Nelson



Soybean fire empties ESB

By CLARENCE MOORE
Jambar News Editor

A fire that began in the chemical engineering lab of the Engineering Sciences building clouded its hallways with thick heavy smoke and strong fumes, and caused the cancellation of some night classes held in that building.

The fire, which began yesterday in the chemical engineering lab at approximately 4:50 p.m., was the result of a soybean oil extraction experiment that was being conducted in a class taught by Dilip Singh.

Members of the class said they were working on an assignment that involved extracting the hexane oil from soybeans by heating them in a type of pressurized container.

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Fire

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The vapors from the heated soybeans exploded, causing the fire.

Students conducting experiments on another level of the chemical engineering lab said they heard a slight explosion, and suddenly the upper tiers of the lab began to fill with smoke.

When the students working in the area tried to put out the fire

with an extinguisher, the fire's smoke spread, alarms were pulled and the building was evacuated.

Members of the campus police department and the University's maintenance department arrived and also acted to put out the blaze.

The city fire department arrived and evacuated the building. The evacuation lasted from 5:10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to clear smoke and to reset the alarm.