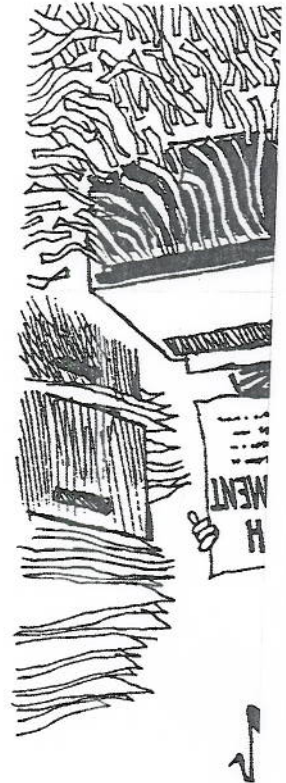


of Utah was converted
 be better served if the
 ch seems to think the
 e university by the Leg-
 example of a continued
 orts are for. This bill is
 to determine — that is
 statutes is not up to the
 sion violates existing
 they see fit. Whether the
 hould be left alone to run
 nd of Regents exists for a
 was not intended for it.
 arp decision-making an-
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I want guns on campus
 mpus, but whether the
 that guns should be al-
 : guns on campus. I per-
 : university's funding in
 by Sen. Mike Waddoups
 / personal vendettas. A
 their legislative powers
 es that should be beyond
 using their positions to
 s of the Legislature are
 iversity of Utah shows
 during at the Capitol to-

ie Legislature



readers may sometimes feel that
 there is too little thinking going on as
 to what gets in or does not get in the
 paper.

First, there was no attempt to stack
 the deck. Some 20 minutes before
 deadline, the layout person for Sun-
 day's Opinion section learned that
 the obituaries would not fill all of the
 2½ pages that had been set aside for
 them. Therefore, the space would
 have to be filled with opinions and
 syndicated columnists. Under the

"facetiously sarcastic" e-mails and
 faxes about Paige's (assorted exple-
 tives) retraction.

Whew! Let's all just exhale. We
 have eight more days to go.

The Reader Advocate's phone
 number is (801) 257-8999. Write to the
 Reader Advocate, The Salt Lake Tri-
 bune, P.O. Box 367, Salt Lake City,
 Utah 84110. E-mail:
 reader.advocate@sltrib.com.

2/17/02 S.L. Tribune

Tiny ISU Nuclear Reactor Is No Threat to Public

BY JAY F. KUNZE

I was shocked and disappointed to
 read the article published in the Feb.
 10 edition of your newspaper titled
 "Idaho State University's Lax Poli-
 cies Pose a Nuclear Security Threat."
 The article was written by Kevan
 Crawford and alleges that Idaho State
 University (ISU) engaged in various
 criminal and fraudulent actions in
 relation to its non-power reactor. I am
 disappointed not only by the libelous
 and outrageous nature of Crawford's
 statements, but also that *The Tribune*
 chose to print them. Even if this par-
 ticular forum is intended to be an
 "anything goes" medium, the inflam-
 matory headline was surely written
 by *The Tribune* staff.

Lest your readers envision a
 "Hanford-type" nuclear reactor, they
 should know that the reactor at ISU is
 a small, low-power training reactor
 donated to the university in the 1960s
 by a contractor of the Department of
 Energy to be used in connection with
 ISU's Nuclear Engineering and Sci-
 ence program for training students
 and conducting basic reactor physics
 and irradiation experiments. The
 sub-critical facility associated with
 the reactor develops no measurable
 power. Both are benign nuclear de-
 vices, safe to operators, students and
 the public. The reactor is limited to
 power no more than that of a standard
 incandescent night light or a single
 Christmas tree bulb.

The facilities at ISU are regulated
 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commis-
 sion and are inspected by their offic-
 ers on a regular basis. In 1993 the NRC
 did issue the notice of violation re-
 ferred to by Crawford, and ISU im-
 mediately responded by taking cor-
 rective action in all areas noted. None
 of them resulted in any criminal or
 civil penalties.

These corrective actions were

followed up with inspections by the
 NRC, and ISU remains in compliance
 today. ISU's policy and practice, then
 and now, is to take safety and security
 seriously, and to vigilantly strive to
 remain in compliance with applica-
 ble regulations and safety standards.

We unequivocally reject the asser-
 tion by Crawford that either the NRC
 or ISU are lax in their enforcement or
 compliance with applicable regula-
 tions and safety standards or that ISU
 has engaged in any criminal or
 fraudulent conduct in relation to its
 nuclear reactor. Our security plan is
 periodically reviewed both by the
 NRC and in-house, and since 9-11 the
 facility has been under heightened
 security, as have all nuclear facilities
 in the nation.

Finally, your readers should also
 know that Crawford's motives and
 current knowledge of ISU's program
 are suspect. He is a dismissed former
 employee who was last employed at
 ISU in January 1994. How he purports
 to have the kind of current informa-
 tion allowing him to conclude that
 "some violations [of the USNRC] un-
 doubtedly continue to this day" is
 anyone's guess. The truth is the ISU
 facility represents no danger to ISU
 personnel or the public.

As noted, the NRC does regularly
 inspect ISU's facility, and the regula-
 tory issues that occurred while
 Crawford was affiliated with ISU,
 even as the reactor supervisor, were
 addressed long ago. We have endured
 Crawford's vitriolic diatribes for
 years, and one would hope he would
 move on to something more substan-
 tive and productive, although based
 on experience, he will probably only
 see this response itself as further
 confirmation of his "conspiracy"
 beliefs.

Jay F. Kunze is dean of the College
 of Engineering at Idaho State
 University.