

NU 'cold' to injured

Hazards caused by icy conditions on campus streets may cause students to suffer serious accidents but, it is unlikely that a student could successfully sue the university for damages, according to attorney Robert Lange of Student Legal Services.

The law states that the property owner cannot be charged with negligence because of natural ice accumulation if the injured party was aware of the Lange said. The party would have to prove that the owner knew of the dangerous conditions and did not take steps to improve them.

Slippery streets which are caused by sudden ice storms create a difficult situation when trying to prove negligence is a factor.

In case a student wished to press charges because of injuries received on university property, he should contact the Student Legal Services in the Nebraska Union.

Officers take reins

New officers will take the reins of the University Program Council on both campuses Wednesday.

Officers were chosen through interviews with Associate Director of the Nebraska Union Sara Boatman, Campus Consultant for Campus Activities and Programs Gary Gilger, Program Coordinator for Campus Activities and Programs Tony Warner and former UPC chairman J.B. Milliken, according to UPC member Kent Warneke.

Newly appointed officers for UPC-city campus are Pam Fritz, president; Mitch Pimie, first vice president; Gail Casteel, second vice president; and Clarence Walker, public relations coordinator.

East Campus officers will be Nathan Wesely, president; Dan Rasby, first vice-president; Glenn Poppert, second vice president; and Kent Pauley, secretary-treasurer.

New committee chairpersons will also start next week.

Senators veto elderly utility cut

The Nebraska Legislature's Public Works Committee Thursday killed a bill that would have provided reduced public utility rates to the elderly.

Introduced by Sen. William Nichol of Scottsbluff, LB93 would have made it possible for persons age 62 or over, drawing Social Security or railroad retirement, to receive lower water and electricity rates. All persons over 65 also would have received the reduced utility rates.

Several senators expressed reservations concerning the administration and limits of the bill.

"It seems like an administrative nightmare to me," said Sen. Robert Clark, Sidney.

Determining who would get lower rates and who would not, as well as which municipalities would participate in the programs were points raised by Hemingford Sen. Sam Cullan.

As written, the bill would have applied to first-class cities with populations of more than 5,000 and less than 25,000 inhabitants, second-class cities, villages and unincorporated areas. It would be up to the

individual municipalities to administer the program. "How can we justify that some get it (lower rates) and some don't?" said Cullan. "What should location have to do with it?"

Cullan said he thought there was a need for a state-wide board to administer the program rather than individual boards of directors.

Speaking in favor of the bill's concept, but not necessarily in favor of the bill were Allen Arringdale, executive director of the Nebraska Panhandle Community Action Agency, and Dave Priester, executive director of Legal Services of Southeast Nebraska.

Appearing in opposition to LB93 was Lee Starr, representing the Nebraska Power Industry Task Force and Lincoln Electric System. Starr said when some people get lower rates, others must pay more than their share.

Nebraska already has an established welfare assistance program, Starr said. The groups he represents are opposed to LB93 because a utility district should not be involved in welfare decisions, Starr said.

Crew seeks to pinpoint plant places

By Carla Engstrom

When the UNL grounds crew takes inventory, no sales are recorded.

Instead of measuring profits, Jeff Taebel and Craig Derickson record the species and locations of trees and shrubbery.

After inventory is complete "architects and design people will have an accurate map and know the precise location of everything on campus," according to Derickson, an area supervisor on the east campus grounds crew.

Taebel, a botany specialist hired for the project, said if each area supervisor knows where and how much plant material is in their area, they'll know how to handle specific problems peculiar to that species. He added that this will be a boon to the campuses' overall appearance and maintenance.

The last inventory taken was about 15 to 20 years ago, according to Kim Todd, campus landscape architect.

"We think inventory is important to designing future plans," Todd said.

It also allows ground crews to become familiar with plant needs, Todd said.

Crew to help

After snow removal is completed by the grounds crew, which is considered top priority, Taebel explained, they will help area supervisors become familiar with the species.

A system to number trees also will be devised, Todd said. She explained that if a tree is dead and needs to be removed, the wrong one will not be pulled out.

"Right now we're locating and identifying what we can by sight, afterwards we'll identify plant material by genus,

species, variety, thickness of trunk, height, spread and condition," Taebel said.

Todd said there are two people now taking inventory, and added that Taebel is in charge of the whole project.

"He'll be showing others how to understand the maps," she said.

Todd estimated that inventory will take about 160 days to complete. It began Jan. 10.

In some cases, trees are not located in the right spots on the old map and a fire hydrant was even plotted in the wrong area, Derickson said.

Stadium area inventory

After Taebel completes the mapping on east campus, he said he will take inventory in the stadium areas to see how many trees and shrubbery will need removal because of the stadium expansion.

Inventory also will help landscape designers know if there are exotic or unusual material in an area, Taebel said.

When inventory is completed, the maps will be recorded and inventory will not be necessary again, Todd said, it will be updated only if things are removed or added.

The base maps will be used to develop master plans for the future, she said.

Currently about 6,000 seedling plants, trees and shrubs have been ordered for grounds improvement. "We basically do our own propagation," Todd said.

The \$20,000 budget for greenery has already been spent and a new building either has landscaping in the budget or there may not be any money for landscaping, Todd said.

Rodeo club rides into Sioux Falls

The UNL Rodeo club will be riding high at its first spring rodeo at the Sioux Empire and Farm Show today and Saturday in Sioux Falls, Iowa.

The club competed in five rodeos last fall—ranking fifth in the Great Plains region—and plans to enter 11 rodeos this spring, said Chris Buechle, Rodeo club president.

Nebraska competes with South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan, according to Connie Huckfedt, women's rodeo captain.

Each participant must pay his own entry fees, lodging and gas, Huckfedt said.

Entry fees for each event are \$25 plus a \$5 stock fee.

Contestants for the men's team include: Greg Swin, bareback, calf roping, team roping; Mike Peterson, saddle bronc, team roping, calf roping; Chris Buechle, bareback; Bob Iske, calf roping, team roping; Marshal Juma, bareback, bull riding; Bryon Dodge, calf roping, team roping, bull riding; Rick Lien, bull dogging, team roping; Robin Gaebe, bareback and Greg Mullins, calf roping.

The women's team contestants include: Patty Lutter, breakaway calf roping, goat tying; Tara Carver, goat tying; and Diane Schoenrock, barrel racing.



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