

Burn unit...

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The personnel, trained in cardiac care, intensive medical care, and care of the burn unit, are dedicated people, he said.

"It's hard on them. There's a lot of stress," he said. "We had to call a couple of them in Saturday from a day at the stadium to bring in a boy from Ogalalla."

GILLESPIE SAID the 15-year-old Ogalalla boy suffered severe burns. He had been trying to warm himself in a duck blind by lighting a pan of gasoline. He was injured in the explosion that followed, Gillespie said.

"I hate like hell to see anyone burned when they don't have to be," he said. "A lot of these are the type of burns that are preventable."

A primary cause of burns and one few people appreciate is the ability of burning clothing to cause serious burns, he said.

"A lot of people don't realize how rapidly their clothes burn," he said. "That's what the big problem is with about 90 percent of our patients. Their clothing

has caught fire."

Clothing made of synthetic blends melt as they burn, doing more damage by sticking to the skin than if a person had been in his "birthday suit," Gillespie said.

Gillespie said the best thing to do is to take off burning clothing or try to smother the flames.

"To leave them on is an invitation to extension of the burns," he said.

Gillespie said other steps people can take to avoid burning include safe storage of flammable liquids.

"With the energy crunch people will buy gas and store it," he said. "If they store it indoors, say in the garage, it could catch a spark. Keep them out in a well-ventilated area."

GILLESPIE TOLD of a patient who had stored what he thought was an empty propane tank in the trunk of his car overnight. When he got in the car and pushed in the cigarette lighter, the car exploded, he said, putting the man in the burn unit for six days.

"We can predict that when we get a hard freeze where pipes freeze, we'll get admissions due to propane tank explosions," he said. These explosions are caused when people attempt to relight pilot lights or thaw pipes with heat, he said.

The best thing to do in such situations is to call the gas company, Gillespie said.

"You wouldn't try to take out your own appendix, and I wouldn't try to light a pilot light," he said.

If a patient entered the unit with burns on 50 percent of his body, Gillespie said these procedures would be followed.

The patient would get 14 liters of fluid in his veins the first day to replace that lost to the burns. He would be hooked up to a system pumping in the fluids and to a monitor watching the function of his heart and lungs.

There would be a tube down his throat allowing a machine to breathe for him, preventing any talking.

THE PATIENT would be put in a bath of Clorox bleach and water for 20 minutes, rinsed for 10 minutes and then the burned skin would be removed with surgical instruments. This procedure, which is often

repeated, is quite painful, Gillespie said.

The surface then is treated with antibiotic dressing and wrapped, he said.

These procedures go on for four to six weeks, Gillespie said, depending on the depth of the burns.

Once the tube is removed from the patient's throat, he would be forced to take in more than 5,000 calories in six meals a day just to maintain his weight. The need for calories is greater because the burns accelerate the body's metabolism, Gillespie said.

Skin grafting and physical therapy come next. The burned muscles must be stretched six times a day in the hospital, he said, and therapy continues after the patient leaves.

Gillespie said they treat more than just the burned skin.

"We're treating the whole patient," he said.

Psychological teams and social workers are a part of the burn trauma unit staff.

Head nurse Pat Halberg said, "We help them cope with the pain and with the fact the accident happened."

She said it was important to "maintain the range of emotions and see they return to a functional life."

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Library...

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Because University faculty and staff use the Union as much as students do, Kreuscher said he thinks the University should make up for the cost of the utilities.

"It's a solution better than increased fees or massive cuts," he said.

If cuts are made in the Union's budget, Kreuscher said it is possible that the Union would be closed nights, weekends and summers, the Campus Activities and Programs would be eliminated and maintenance would be cut to make up for the utility costs.

He added that closing of the Colonial room stopping off-campus catering and cutting employee discounts also are all possible considerations to make up for the loss.

KREUSCHER SAID he estimates the Union's utility costs will be about \$300,000 for next year. The Union's current budget is \$600,000, according to Kreuscher.

"The \$300,000 cannot be absorbed into the \$600,000 budget without major cuts," he said.

"The utilities support for this year will probably have to come from cuts in programs or an excess in student banking account," he said. He added that the student banking equity balance, which he is not sure is from student fees, has \$68,000 in it.

If the University makes up for the Union's utilities, Kreuscher said the money will either come from state tax or tuition.

Union earnings stand at \$160,983, but Kreuscher said it is not possible to use that account because it is not based on ready cash. He said some of that figure includes furniture and the worth of other material items.

The senate passed a bill placing \$275, that was allocated for the membership to the United States Student Association, into a "contingency fund."

Sen. Todd Adams explained that a contingency fund allows the senate to use the \$275 for other things besides the USSA membership providing that the bill doing so originates out of or is approved by the senate's budget and fees committee.

Chairperson of the Budget and Fees Committee Renee Wessels voted against the bill that her committee presented to the senate. Wessels said she wants to leave the money in the account that it is now in until it is decided not to spend the money on the USSA membership or until something permanent is decided for the money. She added that she voted against the bill when it was in committee.

After nearly six months, the ASUN Government Liaison Committee does not have a permanent leadership or organizational framework to work in.

Sen. Wojtasek presented an organic act determining the framework and accountability of GLC, but the proposal failed.

Under Wojtasek's proposal, GLC would become a commission. GLC would be accountable primarily to the senate and the president of ASUN would have the ability to appoint or dismiss the chairpersons of GLC.

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