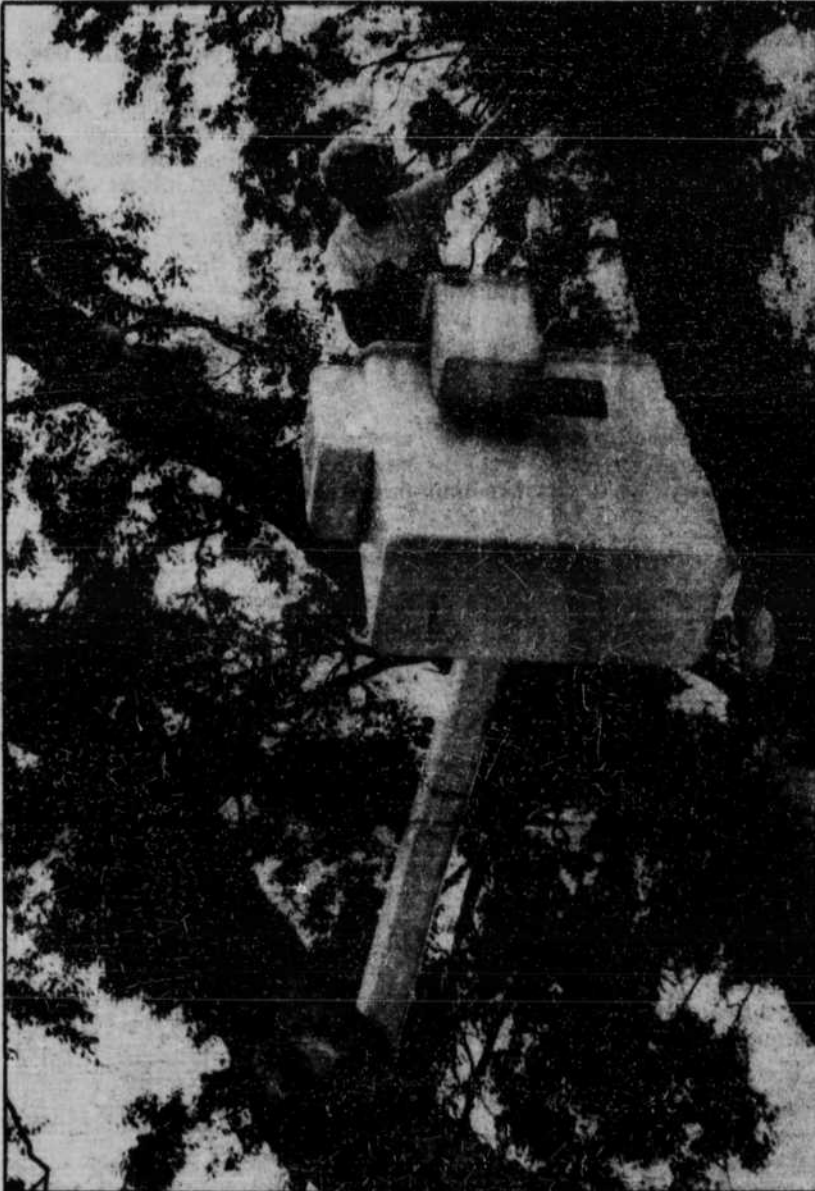


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Connie Sheehan/Daily Nebraskan

Mark McVicker, East Campus landscape supervisor, and his assistant Tom Dobbs check the angle for the tree's cabling system.

Doctor's stressed patients cured with saws and cable

By Connie L. Sheehan
Senior Editor

Mark McVicker talks about how he assists his patients when they're under a lot of stress, then turning around, he picks up a saw and walks toward his latest patient.

Instead of a white coat and stethoscope, McVicker's uniform includes a hardhat and saw. His stressed patients are trees.

McVicker, the landscape supervisor for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln East Campus, pauses before climbing into the aerial bucket.

He points to the stress cracks on the current patient, a common hackberry in front of the Agriculture Communications building.

But this common hackberry

isn't so common. It is currently the second largest common hackberry in the state. The tree's large size has caused the splitting and stress, McVicker said.

"We took some of the weight off by trimming the tree, then we'll use cables in the treetop for support," he said.

McVicker said the high-strength aircraft cables can withstand about 12,000 pounds of stress.

"The cables give support under heavy winds but still allow the tree to sway in a natural way," McVicker said.

While pointing to one of his cured patients located near the East Union, McVicker said people only notice the crew installing the cable, not the cable itself.

Blast injures one

UNL cleans explosion mess

By Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

Officials are still working to clean up traces of radiation and chemicals in a lab where a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate student was injured by an explosion July 12 at 2:30 a.m.

Sheng Shijie received a cut on her chin and got radiation in her hair while conducting an experiment involving radioactive materials in Hamilton Hall.

Sheng was otherwise uninjured because of the precautionary measures she had taken, according to Larry Grimm, UNL radiation safety officer.

Grimm said Sheng was wearing a lab coat, gloves, a lead apron, goggles and a mask.

"She was well protected," he said.

Grimm said the radiation in the experiment was not as dangerous as the chemical. The radiation came from carbon-14, which Grimm said gives off very little radiation.

Grimm said it was the chemical, not the radiation, that set off the explosion.

George Sturgeon, vice chairman of the chemistry department, said the chemical Sheng was using is very touchy and unpredictable. Called

diazomethane, the chemical can be set off by scratches on the glass of a beaker, he said.

Sturgeon said that although the diazomethane had been stored for about two years, there is no scientific evidence that its age was a factor in the explosion.

Sheng contaminated both the hall and the women's bathroom on the 7th floor of Hamilton after the explosion.

Grimm said he already has cleaned the hall and bathroom of radiation. He said he will clean the contaminated lab as soon as he returns from a conference in Colorado.

"We have a big mess to clean up and it will take a couple of weeks to do it," he said.

Grimm said one problem with cleaning up the radiation comes from contradicting information about what cleaning products to use. He said clean-up crews must avoid using cleaning products that will react negatively with the chemical.

After the explosion, Sheng was taken to Lincoln General Hospital where she tried to wash the radiation out of her hair. She was unsuccessful because the diazomethane had bonded to her hair, Grimm said.

As a result, Sheng had most of her hair cut off, Grimm said.

Although the haircut probably

wasn't necessary, he said, Sheng had it cut for safety reasons.

Grimm said the radiation wouldn't have permeated the scalp and the chemical "probably wouldn't have."

Sheng will take urinalysis tests for several months to be sure that she did

See EXPLOSION on 2

Plane crashes

SIoux CITY, Iowa (AP) - A United Airlines DC-10 airliner carrying 298 people exploded and crashed in a ball of fire Wednesday while trying to make an emergency landing in Sioux City.

There were reports of survivors, United said.

The plane experienced "complete hydraulic failure" before the crash, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Fred Farfar said.

The plane was on a flight from Denver, with an eventual destination of Chicago.

A witness, Mark Smith, said he could see survivors walking away from the crash.

A National Transportation Safety Board spokesman said the crash occurred just after 4 p.m.

Multi-Cultural Affairs program receives \$140,000 federal grant

By Diane Brayton
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln recently received a \$140,000 federal grant for a program that will provide tutoring and career and academic counseling for low-income high school students.

The Upward Bound Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, works through colleges and universities to reach area high school students, said Jimmi Smith, director of UNL's Multi-Cultural Affairs.

The program will increase the numbers of low-income students going on to college by working within the Lincoln community, Smith said.

"We're going into a partnership with Lincoln public schools," he said.

The population targeted for the program includes low-income high school students. Preference is given to under-represented students, such

as racial minorities or women.

Students who are the first in their family to attend college also are eligible. All students involved in the program must show an educational need.

Educational need means the student needs "extra supplemental assistance in order to complete their secondary program and go on to college," Smith said.

Besides offering tutoring and counseling, the program will make internships more available to disadvantaged students, Smith said, and it will teach them networking skills.

Smith said he also wants to use the program to inform the public about the students' achievements. He said the public often doesn't recognize the accomplishments of low-income students.

"A number of low-income students are prevented from taking advantage of higher education because of social conditions," Smith said. "Those populations are not performing up to their potential."

By offering this assistance, UNL will be able to give low-income high school students motivation to stay in school and encourage them to attend post-secondary institutions, Smith said.

Colleges and universities nationwide are eligible for the grant, making the process a competitive one, Smith said.

"We have very compelling problems in Lincoln that require extra resources to combat," he said.

"We also have resource people who can, as a team, work to overcome the problem, especially for the minority and female population," he said.

Although the grant is a start, Smith said, "it doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of need."

"We need to use community resources to make it stand a ghost of a chance," he said.

Because of the limited money available, UNL will be able to start the program in only one or two area high schools, he said.