

Radiation violations cited

Inspection stirs improvements

By Adeana Leftin
Staff Reporter

A recent inspection by the Nebraska Department of Health has prompted improvements in communication between UNL's radiation officer and authorized users, an official said.

Larry Grimm, radiation safety officer for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said that although he has not yet received a formal list of UNL's violations, his office already has begun improvements.

"Essentially, I'm already moving ahead on what they've told us," he said.

Improved communication should correct most of the paperwork errors, Grimm said. He attributed most of the mistakes to the large number of radiation users on campus.

About 500 faculty members and graduate students work with radioactive material at UNL, Grimm said. Although that number stays about the same each year, he said, there is an

annual turnover rate of about 100 to 200 people.

Everyone who uses the radiation must complete an extensive training period and is subject to routine check-ups. Every two years, users must reapply for their radiation licenses.

"It's a lot of legwork" for his office, he said.

To streamline the checkup process, Grimm said that he has established communication with deans, directors and chairpersons in the colleges with which he works. Previously, Grimm's office had no contact with department heads.

Most of the people Grimm has contacted have sent a list of their employees who are using radiation, he said.

"There are about three or four different colleges that have to respond to us and nearly all have called us," Grimm said.

The number of violations discovered during the inspection may look bad, Grimm said, but it is misleading.

Most of the problems did not deal with misuse of radiation, he said, but

with improper paperwork.

"We occasionally miss things... have we dotted our i's and crossed our t's on paperwork."

"The state health department came through and dinged us on all sorts of things. They were incredibly picky," Grimm said.

His office has not yet been notified of the number of violations, but one problem pointed out by the health department was UNL's use of a new radiation procedure manual, he said. The manual has not yet received the department's approval, but should be approved by December, he said.

Problems with actual radiation use have been rare, Grimm said.

"I won't say we haven't had accidents. We have," he said. "The very few accidents we have had have been handled immediately."

Grimm cited one incident last year when a graduate student who was not allowed to work with radioactive material created an explosion in a lab. No one was hurt.

"All we had was one big mess to clean up," he said.

\$ 900,000 in funds

Crash tests get boost from contracts

By Cris Wildhagen
Staff Reporter

The dummy went off the road in a Honda Civic and hit the bridge railing at 60 mph.

The vehicle was totaled.

The cost was \$20,000.

The dummy was injured, but probably would do it again. The Midwest Roadside Safety Facility just received more than \$900,000 in state and federal contracts to continue crash-testing roadside safety features.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln test site, located at the Lincoln Municipal Airport, has been operating since 1976.

Edward Post, a UNL civil engineering professor and director of the site, said new designs that could reduce the number of roadside fatalities are tested at the site.

"This is a very important area of safety," he said.

Each year, there is an average of 25,000 fatalities and 1.7 million injuries nationwide from accidents in which the vehicle left the road and crashed into roadside hazards, Post said.

The crash-test program is trying to lower that number by testing different designs from agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration and the Nebraska Department of Roads.

To help continue testing, the pro-

gram just received more than \$600,500 from the Federal Highway Administration Pool Fund, \$165,000 from a Federal Highway Administration contract, and \$150,000 from a continuing study contract, Post said.

Tests performed at the facility show whether or not designs for such things as utility poles, guard rails or mailbox supports would be roadside hazards, Post said.

MwRSF is a combined effort between Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas. The states share the cost of testing common designs, then report on the design's safety to the agencies, Post said.

in brief

NEWS

Crafts show to feature artists from 8 states

The KFOR Arts and Crafts Show will be Friday through Sunday at Agricultural Hall at State Fair Park.

Artists and craftsmen from eight states

will display holiday gift ideas and home decorating items.

The show will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day and is free to the public.

Lancaster County absentee ballots available

Residents who will be out of Lancaster County on election day next Tuesday can vote by absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots are available at the election commissioner's office, 555 S. 9th St.

Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30

p.m. Wednesday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday.

NASA physicist to address Wesleyan forum

Charles Jackman, atmospheric physicist at the NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, will address the Nebraska Wesleyan University Forum at 10 a.m. Nov. 9.

Jackman's lecture, "Stratospheric Ozone

Change," will be in the McDonald Theatre in the Elder Memorial Speech and Theatre Center, 51st Street and Huntington Avenue.

The forum is free to the public.

Forum

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"I'm an invited guest here," he said. "I expect to be treated like one."

Charles Lamphear, director of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research, said that because the lid proposal is a constitutional amendment, it probably could not be removed for three or four years. In that time, quality at the university, as well as throughout the state, could deteriorate, he said.

"A lot of quality students would leave, and it would probably be the better ones," he said. "There is a high probability of quality deterioration."

Jaksha said the term "lid" is used loosely and does not describe his proposal. The proposal allows continued spending increases by local and state government, he said.

As long as increases are less than 2 percent, they can be approved by the methods used now, he said. If increases are more than 2 percent, citizens must approve them in a special election, he said.

"There is no lid," Jaksha said.

Moody called the proposal "mean-spirited" and said it punishes governments which ask for spending increases of more than 2 percent. If the voters turn down the request for funds, he said, the government is limited to no increase — not even 2 percent.

Loan

Continued from Page 1

White said NSLP's regional marketing time, the federal government reimburses the guarantee agencies completely for loans that are not repaid.

Agencies that have default rates of more than 5 percent are not completely reimbursed. Ninety percent of loan defaults are reimbursed when defaults exceed 5 percent but are under 9

percent. For guarantee agencies that have default rates of more than 9 percent, the reimbursement is 80 percent.

approach, school review policy, education planning centers and assistance with lenders and schools will help NSLP stay within the 5-percent range.

NSLP has proven itself to be a sound guarantor, White said.

"I think that NSLP is off to a real bright future and I foresee us serving the folks in Nebraska as we have in the past," she said.

police

REPORT

Beginning midnight Sunday, Oct. 28

10 a.m. — Follow-up, theft.
11:15 a.m. — University of Nebraska-Lincoln parking stall sign stolen, Harper-Schramm-Smith parking lot, \$50.

12:30 p.m. — Radio and cassette player taken from car, dash and window damaged, Acacia fraternity, 2255 Vine St., \$200 loss, \$125 damage.

8:15 p.m. — Magazine taken and recovered, Love Library, \$2.

10:11 p.m. — Cassette player, headphones and cassette taken, Pound Residence Hall, \$120.

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My Macintosh is more important to me than my car.
I lent my car to my sister. But nobody's taking my Macintosh.



Jason Jimerson
B.A. Sociology, Earlham College
M.A. Sociology, University of Virginia
Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology, University of Chicago

"I don't know how anybody gets through college today without a Macintosh. Sometimes I have so many assignments that I barely have time for sleep. Yet my Macintosh allows me to get my work done on time — without making sacrifices.

"Working on my dissertation and field studies means collecting an incredible amount of information. So jumping from one program to another with ease is imperative, as is quickly making charts and graphs. By enabling me to do these things, Macintosh probably saves me an hour and a half each day.

"Another great thing about the Macintosh is that it makes you feel technically confident. Remember putting toys together when you were a kid? Who reads the directions? Nobody. You look at the picture of the bike and you know exactly what to do. The Macintosh operates the same way. I actually taught a friend to use one in two minutes.

"What would my life be like without a Macintosh? Scary."

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Why do people love Macintosh?
Ask them.