

Diane Nelson to hurl hot dogs at halftime

BY JOSH FUNK
Assignment Reporter

Nebraska's first lady will schling wieners and T-shirts for a good cause at Saturday's Husker football game.

Diane Nelson will help observe America Recycles Day by manning Fairbury Food Products' der wiener schlinger at halftime. The hot dog-shaped cannon uses air pressure to launch projectiles into the stands.

All 76,000 fans will have the chance to celebrate America Recycles Day by helping the ushers recycle all the plastic stadium cups.

After each home football game, ushers and cleanup crews collect about 5,000 cups, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Recycling director Dale Ekart said. After the cups are collected, they are processed into a new product.

The theme of this year's recycling day is Keep Recycling Working: Buy Recycled.

"We want to make people more aware of recycling," Ekart said.

UNL buys products with recycled content to support responsible environmental policies, Ekart said.

The city also buys recycled products whenever it is economically feasible and there is no loss of quality, Gene Hanlan, the city's recycling manager, said.

Thousands of products with recycled content are available on the market today, he said.

Lincoln also has other events planned to raise awareness of recycling and recycled products.

Today the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a recycled-products show from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Service.

On Saturday, those interested in more information can attend an open house at Midland Recycling from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

There also will be displays set up at Gateway Mall throughout the day.

Last year, Lincoln collected 10,336,000 pounds of recyclable material during its fiscal year, Hanlan said.

Students getting rise out of elevator work

BY DARREN IVY
Staff Reporter

Some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students have encountered inconveniences while trying to get to their residence hall rooms this semester.

Construction of new elevators in Abel, Sandoz and Smith residence halls are keeping residents grounded.

"I usually have to wait forever, so I end up taking the stairs," said Jamie Jessen, a junior middle school education major and student assistant on the sixth floor of Sandoz.

The \$1.8 million project, paid for with bonds sold by UNL, will replace old equipment in the top part of the elevator shafts with new computerized devices. When the project is completed, 16 elevators will be redone and one elevator will have a video camera in it.

Travis Buel, a sophomore mechanical engineering major and student assistant on the fifth floor of Abel, said he will be glad when workers finish construction on the 32-year-old elevators.

"I feel safe in the elevators, but sometimes I wonder if I am going to get stuck," Buel said.

He has been stuck in the Abel elevators four times, he said, but his most memorable instance happened this year when a group of student assistants were stuck on the Abel south elevator for 20 minutes.

"Everyone in Abel could have had a party since we were all stuck in the elevators," Buel said.

While work is being done in Abel north, Sandoz and Smith, students are limited to one elevator in each hall.

The other elevators in these halls will be finished second semester. The elevators in Abel south will be started next fall and finished by May 1999, said Glen Schumann, associate director of housing for maintenance.

Some students living in Harper and Schramm residence halls said they are happy with new elevators installed there last summer.

Brian Kunkel, a junior economics and finance major and student assistant on Harper's sixth floor, said he has already noticed better reliability and quicker service.

Kunkel said the student assistants in Harper haven't had any problems with people getting stuck in elevators

except during power outages last month.

Andy Schwindt, a sophomore history major who lives in Harper, said he has noticed the elevators are more reliable, but didn't think they were any faster.

Construction on Cather and Pound residence hall elevators will begin this summer. These halls will take more time because door openings have to be cut in the concrete elevator shafts so elevators can stop on every floor, Schumann said.

Because of the unreliability, slow speed and old age of the elevators, UNL began researching and planning for new elevators three years ago, Schumann said. He said the elevators were old, but were still safe.

When completed, the new elevators will be faster, more reliable and more modern, Schumann said. He said the elevators will travel faster between floors so students may not even notice a difference.

"It will be like having three elevators rather than two," he said.

Another new feature on the elevators will be a load-leveling mechanism.

Schumann said the old elevators tended to get overloaded with weight and would shut down. But with load leveling, the new elevators will beep and not move if they contain too much weight.

Another benefit to the modern equipment is fewer maintenance problems, Schumann said.

But along with the modern elevators comes the need to take care of them. Schumann said UNL currently spends \$70,000 to \$100,000 a year on elevator maintenance. Vandalism of the elevators accounts for a large sum of the money, he said.

Elevator doors are common vandalism targets, Schumann said.

He said it is important to prevent this vandalism because the opening and closing of doors causes the most wear on elevators.

"An elevator is only as good as its doors," Schumann said.

To try to prevent vandalism to the doors, residence hall officials will experiment with a video camera in an Abel elevator, Schumann said.

Beginning next semester, a camera will be installed in the new Abel north elevator. Schumann said he thinks a camera will reduce vandalism damages by \$25,000 a year.

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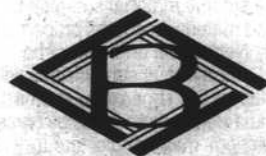


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