

Electrician suffers shock, burns at UNL

By JOSH FUNK
Senior Reporter

An electrical contractor working with power lines at Memorial Stadium on Thursday afternoon was electrically shocked and taken to a hospital, where he was listed in good condition Thursday afternoon.

Kelly Schroer, 25, an employee of Shanahan Mechanical and Electric Inc., was badly burned when his arm accidentally brushed against two live power lines in the stadium's power room, University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing said. The electricity coursed through his body.

A stadium employee who was painting a door near the power room, which is just inside gate 24, saw a bright flash in the

power room just before Schroer staggered out.

Although Schroer was coherent, he was visibly burned on the right side of his face, neck and right arm. He was shaken, and some of his hair had been burned off, Bushing said.

Schroer had been working on terminating some wires at the stadium's electrical switchboard when the accident happened.

Paramedics took Schroer to Saint Elizabeth Community Health Center, where he was treated for burns.

Schroer was admitted to the burn center so doctors could observe him overnight.

Officials from Shanahan Mechanical and Electric could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Two water rights bills at odds

By JOY LUDWIG
Staff Reporter

Regents

Nebraska may possess an abundance of water in its lakes, streams and aquifers, but how that water is allocated concerns some Nebraskans.

Two bills discussed in the Natural Resources Committee Thursday both propose legislation to control the sale, lease and transfer of water rights by the owner to another person who would be required to use it for a beneficial purpose.

Although both bills concern the same issue, they each have a different approach.

LB1212 would place no restrictions on the sale, lease or transfer of water rights.

But LB1213 would require the Department of Water Resource to evaluate the economic, environmental and physical impacts on the land that could result by changing the use of or transfer of the water to a differ-

ent place. Only after doing a thorough evaluation could the department approve a permit.

Sen. Bob Wickersham of Harrison, the bill's sponsor, said LB1213 would allow people to use industrial water for agricultural uses or agricultural water for domestic uses.

Current law does not allow water uses to be transferred, he said, but the bill could allow for more economical water use after the impacts and benefits were examined.

However, Bob Hilger of David City disagreed. He said he felt the water use should not be changed.

"Nebraska is not experiencing a water scarcity problem," he said.

If less water was allocated for agricultural use, crops could be damaged, and it could leave a lasting effect on smaller communities, said

Hilger, who represents Nebraskans First, a group of farmers dedicated to protecting Nebraska's underground water.

Bryce Neidig, Nebraska Farm Bureau president, also opposed the bills. He said the leasing, selling or transferring of water rights would not work the way senators thought it might, no matter how much money was involved.

"Water does not have a price. It is not for sale," he said.

But Loren Schmidt of Bellwood said he thought the bills would help control the state's water resources, not create problems.

"The farther west you get and the farther north you get, the more arid the climate is and the more important the water is," he said.

Schmidt said he thought laws should be established in order to deter other states that might want to tap into Nebraska's water in the future. But if water does leave the state, he said, people need to be compensated.

Blood drive draws students

By JOSH KNAUB
Staff Reporter

UNL freshman Amy Patras' face remained calm.

"All done?" she asked.

Patras had just donated blood for the first time, joining about 400 other students who gave during Wednesday's University of Nebraska-Lincoln on-campus blood drive.

Patras and other donors said they found giving blood an easy, professionally handled and nearly painless process, despite myths of large needles and Nazi nurses.

Patras said she and other Love Memorial Residence Hall residents first decided to give blood after talking with their hall health aide.

"I figured now is as good a time as any," Patras said, and headed to the temporary blood-drive center in the Nebraska Union.

Her donation process began by answering about 50 health-related questions. The questions serve as a

prescreening to the donation process. All blood samples are tested several times for many blood-borne illnesses, including AIDS, said a nurse screening potential donors.

On Tuesday, 53 candidates were weeded out by the screening process.

Patras passed the screening and moved to a lawn-chair-type cot to donate. Orange-colored iodine was used to disinfect the area just below her inner elbow. There, the blood would be drawn.

Patras feared the initial insertion of the needle and tensed up slightly. A phlebotomist - a person who draws blood - slid the needle into Patras' arm. She said it didn't hurt. The phlebotomists said Patras was both a model and average donor, because most donors are calm about giving blood and feel no side effects.

But the most common side effect of donating is fainting, especially for first-time donors, they said.

"People have a lot of nervousness about giving blood, and when they realize that it's not that bad,

their blood pressure just drops and they faint," one phlebotomist said.

It normally takes between five and eight minutes to draw a pint of blood.

Then the needle is removed and the already-labeled bag is stored for transportation.

Donors are asked to raise their arm for a few moments, then the arm is bandaged. After waiting about a minute, they are escorted to a waiting room where food and beverages are available.

"Ready?" a volunteer in a health-aide T-shirt asks.

"I guess so," Patras said.

After waiting 15 minutes and eating a required snack, Patras was free to go.

Those screening donors said they would notify Patras within the next week if her blood tested positive for any diseases.

Patras smiled, washed down her donut with one last sip of lemonade and rose to leave.

"That was much more easy than I expected."

Freshmen face higher standards

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classes had become any harder.

"If (professors) haven't increased their expectations, then it wasn't any more rigorous than before," Neuhaus said.

UNL administrators are encouraging instructors to step up their expectations, because the university is no longer "drug down" by the less-prepared students, said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen.

But UNL will not become an elite campus for only top high school students.

"That's not our role," Griesen said. "We're an institution that has been there for everybody, and will always be there for everybody."

Stan Maliszewski, director of counselors of the Omaha Public Schools, said students who meet the requirements would have a better chance at succeeding.

"There's a strong correlation between the rigor of courses that students have been taking in high school and those characteristics carrying over into their freshman year," he said.

"There's no question more students are experiencing more rigor in their course work as a result of the core requirements."

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