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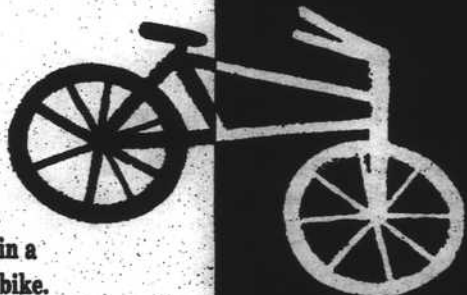
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# Walk sets trouble spots aglow

By IEVA AUGSTUMS  
Assignment Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln plans to shed a little light on City and East campuses after Saturday's Spring Safety Walk revealed some areas with burnt-out lights and overgrown shrubbery.

The Parking Advisory Committee, the Chancellor's Safety Committee and the UNL Police Department sponsored the 4 a.m. walk. Eleven people walked and drove the paths that students and faculty members take to and from their classes and cars.

Tad McDowell, Parking and Transit Services manager, said the walk helps determine if there is adequate light throughout campus.

UNL Police Sgt. Bill Manning said the walk makes him aware of any new safety concerns.

The perimeter parking lot at New Hampshire and 13th streets was McDowell's main concern this year.

Although the lot is lit and has emergency phones, the railroad crossing produces a large safety concern for students.

"When students go to the tracks, a train comes," McDowell said. "They have nothing to do but wait."

McDowell said parking services plans to move the lot across the tracks but will not be able to for a couple of years.

The Area 3 parking lot by the Harper-Schramm-Smith Complex also concerned McDowell.

Manning said brush located on Burlington Northern property is growing over the fence, concealing the view of the railroad tracks.

A majority of campus car vandalism occur in this lot, he said. McDowell said parking services has been in contact with Burlington Northern, and a quarter to one-third of the brush will be removed.

Moving inward, the core of City Campus was well-lit except for a couple of burnt-out lights.

The main concern, however, was a diagonal row of burnt-out lights running from Andrews Hall to the Nebraska Union and to Love Library.

Under the assumption the union renovation caused a circuit to break, Manning reported the

concern and said the university will look into the matter.

East Campus walkers were concerned with lighting around Husker, Burr and Fedde Residence Halls. Landscape services plans to cut back dead tree and shrubbery branches that block lights around the buildings.

Landscaping also will trim trees and shrubbery in front of Love Library.

"This year we had a lot of minor details - burnt-out lights and bushes," said Parking Advisory Committee President Linda Swoboda. "But consider yourself walking alone at night. It's the little things that matter."

McDowell said no concerns were submitted through the parking services World Wide Web site; however, parking services will keep its Web site up and running.

Safety and lighting concerns on City and East campuses can be directly submitted to the parking services office using the following World Wide Web site: [http://www.unl.edu/park/img\\_nofr/park/img\\_sfty.html](http://www.unl.edu/park/img_nofr/park/img_sfty.html).

# Police officers help family escape fire

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior Reporter

Without fear for their own safety, two Lincoln Police officers rushed into a smoke-filled house Thursday night to get a family out safely.

The Johnson family - two grandparents, their daughter and her children - and officers escaped the fire without major injury.

The small fire that started in the basement of the home at 2828 U St. began to fill the house with smoke before officers arrived.

Police received the call at 10 p.m., and officers were on the scene two minutes later - before the fire department, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

Officer Steven Niemeyer took the call from six blocks away and arrived first.

When he saw the smoke and several people on the porch and in the living room, Niemeyer ran into the house to make sure everyone got out.

As Niemeyer stood on the porch with three children beckoning to those inside, Officer John Carter arrived.

Carter recognized the children as members of his congregation at Liberty Gospel Fellowship church.

"I saw the kids and thought, 'This is not good,'" Carter said.

Then Niemeyer went into the house, where the smoke continued to thicken.

There was no time to think about the danger, they said, and Carter quickly followed Niemeyer

into the smoke-filled house.

As Carter helped Ida Johnson, 68, get out, Niemeyer again disappeared into the smoke to find her husband, Eugene, who was trying to fight the fire in the basement by dumping pails of water onto it.

"The smoke was burning my eyes and lungs, and it was tough to see," Niemeyer said. "I didn't stop to think about the danger."

Niemeyer found Eugene Johnson lying on the stairs trying to catch his breath before going back for one more pail of water.

Carter continued to yell through the thick smoke to stay in contact with Niemeyer in the basement.

Then Niemeyer and Eugene Johnson came up from the basement, and all three left the house through a side door.

Firefighters arrived shortly after and extinguished the fire. Investigators still are unsure of the cause of the fire.

Ida Johnson and her daughter, Sarah Rice, were treated for smoke-related injuries at the scene. Eugene Johnson and Rice's four children did not need treatment.

Carter and Niemeyer work out of a police substation located within 10 blocks of the burning home, which helped reduce response time.

When asked if their actions were heroic, both officers said they were just doing their jobs.

Carter said, "You don't think about the danger (to yourself) when other people are involved."

# Past sex offender arrested

By JOSH FUNK  
Senior Reporter

A Lincoln man with a history of sexual assaults was arrested Thursday for allegedly raping a 13-year-old girl.

Danny Edwards, 31, was out of jail on bond pending trial for a January sexual assault charge when the alleged attack happened Wednesday.

About noon Wednesday the victim and a friend went over to Edwards' apartment on the 100 block of North 32nd Street to drink with Edwards and some others, Lincoln Police Sgt. Ann Heermann said.

After drinking for a while the girl passed out, Heermann said.

Later she woke up in bed and Edwards was allegedly raping her, Heermann said.

Edwards was arrested for sexual assault.

A check of Edwards' criminal history showed two past sex-offense charges: a first-degree sexual assault in Omaha in 1991 and the January third-degree sexual assault charge in Lincoln, Heermann said.

Edwards is scheduled for trial today on the January charges, which also include contributing to the delinquency of a minor and obstructing a police officer. The victim of that assault was a 16-year-old boy, according to court records.

Edwards pleaded innocent to those charges and was released on \$2,500 bond. Conditions were that he make all court appearances and have no contact with children under age 16.

## Daily Nebraskan

Questions? Comments? Ask for the appropriate section editor at (402) 472-2588 or e-mail [dn@unlinfo.unl.edu](mailto:dn@unlinfo.unl.edu).

Fax number: (402) 472-1761

World Wide Web: [www.unl.edu/DailyNeb](http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb)

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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