

Auto accident kills two men

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

Two men died in a car accident Thursday morning.

The 9:56 a.m. accident at Warlick Boulevard and Old Cheney Road involved a Salem Oil Company semi tractor trailer and a Dodge pickup truck, Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

"I know 400-some people are killed in car accidents each year, but when it hits home it is really difficult," said Chuck Salem, owner of Salem Oil Company.

The driver and passenger of the pickup truck, identified as David A. Vice, 36, of York, and Craig A. Harris, 41, of Henderson, were killed in the accident, Capt. Al Soukup said.

The addresses of the victims were taken from their drivers' licenses and are the best information the police had as of Thursday night, Soukup said.

The driver of the semi trailer

truck, Frederick Kos, 50, of Lincoln, was transported to BryanLGH West Medical Center and suffered only bumps and bruises from the accident, Salem said.

He was treated and released from the hospital.

Kos' minor injuries were the only thankful thing that came out of the bad day, Salem said.

Kos was unavailable for comment.

Soukup said the report of the accident has not been completed, and the police did not know who was responsible for the accident as of Thursday night.

No citations had been issued.

It is also unknown if slick streets caused by weather played a role in the accident or how fast the vehicles were going at the time of impact, he said.

Finnell said the pickup was eastbound on Old Cheney Road and the truck was southbound on Warlick Boulevard when the two collided in the intersection.

Program tackles teacher shortage

By Margaret Behm

Staff writer

A nationwide shortage of teachers has one organization recruiting college graduates of all majors.

Teach for America is an organization that gives college graduates the opportunity to teach in under-resourced urban and rural schools across the country.

The program was developed 10 years ago by Wendy Kopp, a college student at Princeton University, who presented the idea in her undergraduate senior thesis statement.

Ten years later, the program continues to grow and is a good way for college students to get involved in society, said Jeff Knievel, campus coordinator.

"It's an opportunity for college students to give back to the community where they came from or a community where they know needs assistance," said Knievel, a senior sociology major.

Teach for America is one of many service programs students apply to in the spring. Other programs include the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and Vista.

Not only is it a great way to help out schools, but Teach for America is also an excellent way for graduates to get involved with a job opportunity where they have assistance, John McNally, campus coordinator, said.

"You're not going in blind because they provide resources where people want you to go in and teach," said McNally, a senior political science major. "Teach For America will say that it isn't the greatest neighborhood, but we're here to help you."

Jeff Hellbusch went through the program from 1995 to 1997 in Baltimore, after graduating with an English degree from Northwestern University in Chicago. He taught middle-school English.

"There's a huge teacher shortage," said Hellbusch, a third-year medical student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "In Baltimore it's crazy. You don't even need to have a high-school diploma to be a substitute teacher. It's pretty crazy that actually happens, but it does."

Participants will always have another person from the program in the school they teach in, Knievel said.

Hellbusch said he was intimidated by the idea of teaching at an inner-city school, but later he liked the change.

"I got to admit, I was a little apprehensive - I even had a few nightmares about it."

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Jeff Hellbusch
former participant

hensive - I even had a few nightmares about it," he said. "But once I was there, the adjustment was not bad at all."

Hellbusch said being in the program helped him get into medical school.

"I know someone on the review committee, and they said they thought the program was impressive," he said. "So I know for a fact it helped."

Participants must apply before they are accepted into the program. This year the deadline is Monday. Students can pick up applications at Career Services in Nebraska Union 345 or by visiting the Web site at www.teachforamerica.org.

There are currently 13 areas across the country where students can teach. Applicants rank their top three choices, and the organization will try to place them there. Participants can teach all grades.

Students of all majors can apply for the program, and it is recommended they apply during their senior years of college, Knievel said.

Students must spend 12 hours in the spring in a public school classroom observing the strategies of teachers.

In the summer, the participants will spend five weeks in Houston. There they will be trained by educators and will teach summer school.

Participants are given a temporary teaching certificate. Many school districts require the participants to become fully certified to teach while they work there, McNally said.

"Most of the time, they are required to get a teaching certificate while you're teaching," he said. "So when you're done, you have a real certificate. There are some people that stay teachers."

Participants must commit to the program for two years. They receive a salary where they work, with \$4,725 per year from the program.

Gas line breaks, lulls traffic

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

Traffic came to a lull midmorning Thursday as crews repaired a one-day-old gas line downtown.

The accident occurred during construction of the Que Place Garage and Gallery Complex, 12th and Q streets.

"This is a routine experience during construction," said Alan Hersch, Peoples Natural Gas spokesman.

Chuck Moreno, underground foreman for ABC Electric Company, 1021 N. 25th St., broke the line while trying to install a junction box that controls traffic signals and lights.

Hersch said that by law anyone who is going to dig must call to check for power lines - including gas - before they begin.

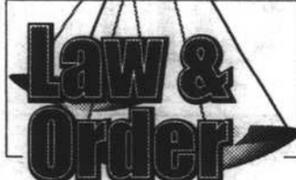
ABC Electric did not do that, he said. "It's a serious deal ... if you hit an electrical line it could cost you your life," Hersch said.

Moreno said he normally would call to check for lines, but while he was at the site, he asked John Schroeder, superintendent of Sampson Construction Company, where the gas line was.

Schroeder pointed to one area, and the line was not there. He then pointed to another area. When workers began digging, they hit the gas line and broke it, Moreno said.

Hersch said traffic began flowing shortly after the gas-leakage scare was calmed. The plastic gas line was repaired within a few hours.

Moreno said ABC Electric probably will cover the damages.



Girl damages vehicle with boyfriend's head

A 16-year-old girl reportedly tackled her boyfriend, put him in a choke hold and pounded his head into the windshield of his vehicle on Wednesday, Lincoln Police Ofc. Katherine Finnell said.

Brian Reed, 21, 840 La Brea Ave., is not pressing charges for the 10 p.m. incident; he just wanted it reported to the police.

The girlfriend was upset that her boyfriend had gone to a nude bar for his 21st birthday, Finnell said.

Reed reported \$270 damage to the vehicle caused by his head, Finnell said.

Compiled by staff writer
Michelle Starr

Mortar Board collects funds to buy books

From staff reports

The UNL Black Masque chapter of Mortar Board will be in the Nebraska Union today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. collecting money for books for elementary school children.

The money will be given to programs in the Lincoln area that buy the books, said Christy Jensen, the senior honorary's president.

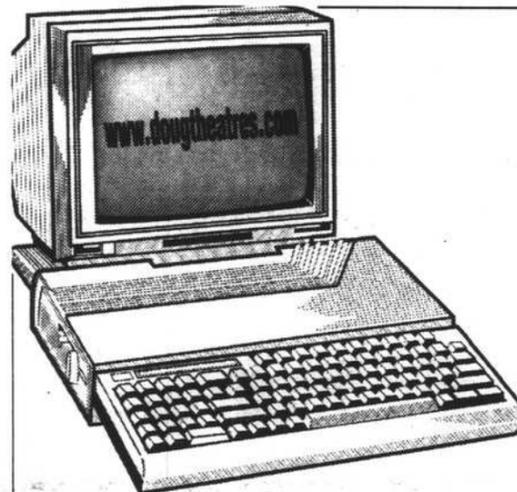
Jensen said the national Mortar Board service theme this week is "Reading is Leading."

This week is National Mortar Board Week.

Also as part of the week, Mortar Board alumni will have lunch at the Wick Alumni Center on Saturday.

The group has been around for about 100 years, Jensen said.

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