

VOLUME LXXXIV • NO. 26
JUNE 27 - JULY 4, 2003

BRIEFS

Response to the Electrical Incident on June 24

On Tuesday morning, June 24, at approximately 8 a.m., there was a serious electrical accident in the service room on the south end of the Raw Products building on the Experiment Station campus. Two employees of an electrical contractor suffered burns. One was airlifted to Strong Memorial Hospital by the Mercy Flight helicopter, the other was treated at Geneva General Hospital.

The contractors were working on the SUNY Construction Fund project to renovate the Raw Products building.

"This is an unfortunate incident. We are very concerned about the well-being of the injured individuals," said Station director Jim Hunter. "I'm grateful for the quick response of Station employees, and Geneva fire and safety officials."

Since the incident, more has come to light about the Station response.

When the smoke detector in the mechanical room went off, several people called 911 to report the incident, including one of the contractors on the scene, and custodian Kenny Bell and Debra Johnston, from PGRU, who were working nearby.

Project coordinator Ralph D'Amato, and Jeff Rios, the Station's refrigeration technician, were among the first to respond. Rios, who happens to be an emergency medical technician, was able to provide emergency care to the injured electricians until local emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene. Rios has also served as a firefighter with the Lyons Fire Department for 19 years. He doesn't always carry his medical equipment in his truck. "I was lucky I had it with me," he said. "I put oxygen on the one man right away. Then we cooled down his burns with water until the ambulance arrived. I tried to keep him calm and answering questions."

"Ralph and Jeff acted calmly and professionally to get the best possible outcome from a bad situation," said assistant director Marc Smith, in acknowledging their roles after the incident. "Their presence, their expertise and their dedication are crucial to the continued safety of anyone who works here and they are the kind of professionals who make me feel privileged to *be* someone who works here."

Among the Geneva fire and safety personnel who responded were Bruce Moore, from the Station print shop, who is also the assistant fire chief for the City of Geneva.

(Continued on page 2)

Worobo Promoted To Associate Professor

Randy W. Worobo has been appointed associate professor of food science at Cornell University. Worobo, who hails from Alberta, came to Geneva after a year post-doc with the Institut de Biologie Moleculaire et d'Ingenierie Genetique in Poitiers, France, in 1997. His appointment is effective July 1.

"Randy is a very energetic and productive faculty member who has exceeded all our initial expectations," said Cy Lee, chairman of the food science and technology department at Geneva. "He has an excellent reputation for outstanding research, and a kind personality. His collegial and collaborative spirit, and the guidance he provides to his students is exceptional."

Worobo's program involves enhancing the safety of fruits and vegetables from farm to finished product, and is split between research and extension. His basic research program focuses on identifying and characterizing antimicrobial peptides, called "bacteriocins," to inhibit bacterial and fungal pathogens and spoilage microorganisms. Worobo's research group investigates potential anti-cancer agents in antimicrobial peptides. Worobo and his team are also involved in the development and use of alternative processing technologies, which include ultraviolet light, for apple cider and fruit juices.

While working at the Experiment Station, Worobo has had 14 peer-reviewed publications, and mentored seven graduate students, two post docs and two visiting scientists. He has been principle or co-investigator on four USDA grants, two apple grants, two honey grants and one NYSERDA grant. He also won the 2003 CALS Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring of Independent Research Award, and the 2003 Cornell Tradition Employer Recognition Award. He received his Ph.D. in food microbiology from the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, at the University of Alberta, in 1995.

"I am proudest of the industrial application of the UV processing technology and our advances we have made in the antimicrobial peptide work," Worobo said, when asked about his accomplishments at the Station.

For the future, Worobo hopes to develop an antimicrobial peptide as a pathogen and spoilage microorganisms control agent for commercial application in the food industry. He also wants to continue forging a strong relationship with the fruit, vegetable and beverage industries.

Worobo, who is quite modest about his success, had many people to thank in his department and lab: "John Churey, who has a great wealth of knowledge and provided fantastic support for my programs; all the people in my lab group for their hard work and dedication; Olga Padilla-Zakour for her collaboration and friendship; Don Splittstoesser, Tom Burr, Thomas Henick-Kling, Cy Lee and Dick Durst for their mentorship; and the front office staff in food science for their assistance and friendship. You have all been very good to me."

Worobo said what he likes best about working in Geneva is the "friendly and supportive nature of this small-knit community." Worobo appreciates the beautiful Seneca Lake location and Geneva's accessibility to larger urban centers. Each year he takes time from hunting down bacteria in the lab, to hunt for pheasant on his family's farm in Southern Alberta. He also enjoys working on his house and—time permitting—cooking.



Randy Worobo

J. Zakour

CALENDAR of EVENTS
JUNE 27 - JULY 4, 2003

FITNESS

Aerobics

Date: Mon., Wed. & Fri.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Sawdust Cafe

Taekardio

Date: Mon. & Wed.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

CLASSIFIED

YARD SALE: 2754 Ferguson Corners, RD, Penn Yan. Table & (4)Chair set, Refrigerator, Couch, Bikes, Baby Items, Clothing, N64 and Games, Toys, and much more... For questions contact Ann Griner at 315-536-3546

FOR SALE: GEXL44 self cleaning gas range. Purchased in 1992. Excellent condition, bisque color. Call Charlotte McCarthy at 781-2347

FOR SALE: 1990 Chevy Corsica (one owner vehicle), automatic, 146,656 miles. New brakes, new gas line, needs muffler. Asking \$500 or best offer. For more info, please call Amy at 787-2314 or e-mail ada10

FREE TO A LOVING HOME: 8-week-old kittens. Yellow and white long haired tigers, gray, black, and black & white. Please contact Amy at 787-2314 or ada10 for more information

FOR SALE: Raymond electric truck- walk behind pallet mover. 2,000 lb. capacity. Good condition. Asking \$500 OBO. Entomology Department surplus equipment. Contact Cindy Smith at x2322 or cls47

CAMPRENTAL: Cayuga Lake. \$75 a night, \$500 a week. Week runs from Tues 3pm to Tues 11am, or Sat to Sat etc. Deposit required, 50% or \$100 whichever is less-non refundable. You must bring your own towels and linens. There is one queen size bed upstairs and a full size futon downstairs. Contact Dawn at 787-2292 or dcd6@cornell.edu for more information

FOR SALE: Baby rabbits. Lop-eared, assorted colors. \$10 each. JWL2, 539-3155, or x2407

FOR SALE: Lexmark - multi function (print, scan, fax, copy). Works with PC only, not Mac. Never used (see previous sentence). Originally paid \$170, will sell for \$125. Contact Don Downing at x2273 or dld3@cornell.edu

BEACH HOUSE vacation getaway on beautiful, southwest shore of Canandaigua Lake, is only a 45 minute drive from Geneva, 10 minutes from Naples. Swim, sun, fish, romance, relax, loaf, wine country, Reservoir Creek and Bristol Harbour golf courses, Bristol Valley Theater, Grape Festival, etc. Situated right on the water, suitable 1-2 couples or small family. Very nice beach area. Rowboat and canoe included. A few summer openings remain in July and August. Reduced rates by week or week-end in May-June and September-October. Interested? Contact Elaine at elg2

WRITE A BEST SELLER

To place an ad in Station News just e-mail your information to Donna Boyce at dmb62

Please be sure there is a Station phone or e-mail address listed in the ad.

(BRIEFS, continued)

While the injured were being tended to, John VanderWeide and Phil Beman shut off the main disconnect to the Raw Products building load center to de-energize the transformer. Later, the crew from Buildings & Properties restored power to the Raw Products building wine room and the seed storage rooms of the USDA's Plant Genetics Resources Unit, by running a feed from B&P over to the Raw Products building.

"The whole B&P crew should be commended for their work on Tuesday," said D'Amato. "They took care of covering the gates and making sure emergency personnel got to the right location as quickly as possible. They deactivated the transformer, and then were able to restore power to critical areas."

"I am extremely proud of the response of everyone involved," said Station environmental health and safety manager Soon Kong. "I would like to extend special thanks to Jeff Rios and Ralph D'Amato."

Soon further noted that the incident underscores the importance of health and safety training and education, and the importance of following department and unit safety procedures. "We are following up on the incident with assistance from Ithaca Environmental Healthy & Safety electrical specialists," he said.

Depending on how long it takes to bring the damaged power panel back on-line, some USDA employees may have to relocate to the Surge Building.

L. McCandless

SAVE THE DATE
July 11, 2003
16th Annual
Station Club Golf Tournament



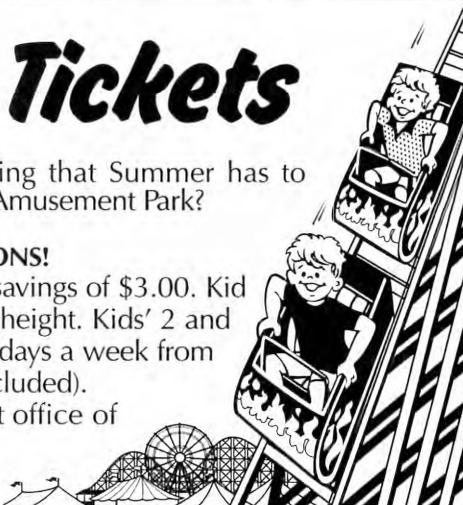
Seabreeze Tickets

It's time to start thinking of everything that Summer has to offer. What better place than Seabreeze Amusement Park?

75 GREAT ATTRACTIONS!

Parking is free. Tickets are \$14.95. A savings of \$3.00. Kid passes are \$13.95 for kids under 48" in height. Kids' 2 and under are free. These passes are valid 7 days a week from June 24 through Labor Day (holidays included).

See Nancy Long for tickets in the front office of the Food Research Lab, room 150. Her office hours are 8:30 - 1:30.



Renaissance Festival

Tickets are still available for this year's Sterling Renaissance Festival to be held Saturdays and Sundays, July 5th through August 17th!

Station Club has discount passes: \$16. for Adults, \$6.99 for children ages 6 - 12 years, children 5 and under are free. Children's Weekend tickets (for July 5 and 6) must be purchased at the gate.

For more information, please visit the following web site: <http://www.sterlingfestival.com>

You may contact Amy Andersen at x2314, ada10@cornell.edu or stop by Room A103 Barton Lab for tickets. Checks should be made payable to "Station Club", or if paying in CASH, please bring exact amount.

