

Recent rape-murders prompt legislative bills

By Tam Lee

The rape-murders of two Lexington, Neb. women in the past year are the stimulus behind three bills heard by the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee Wednesday.

The bills, introduced by Gothenburg Sen. Herb Duis, would require convicted sexual offenders to undergo a hearing to determine whether they are sexual sociopaths, set the penalty for first-degree sexual assault (penetration) at a minimum of 25 years with no parole, and would require any person accused of sexual assault to post 100 percent of the bond set by a judge. Persons accused of sexual assault now must post only 10 percent of the bond.

Two Lexington-area women, including the sister-in-law of murder victim Ruth Eby, testified in favor of the bills.

Ellen Eby of Overton, said the laws are needed to prevent crime and to protect society. "We have to think of society's rights. Where were the rights of Ruth Eby when that happened?"

The man accused of the killings was out on bail for another sexual offense at the time of the crimes.

Lincoln Sen. Jo Ann Maxey read a letter from a Lincoln woman whose son

was sexually assaulted last summer. The woman, who asked not to be identified, was in favor of the bills because the assault occurred when the man accused of the crime was out on bond following the sexual assault of a six-year-old girl in the same neighborhood.

Gina Washburn, coordinator of the Lincoln Rape Crisis Center, said the center was in favor of the sexual sociopath hearing, but thought the 25-year minimum penalty was too stringent. The strict penalty would increase plea-bargaining and judges and juries would be reluctant to convict persons accused of the crime, she said.

Washburn said requiring 100 percent bond from those accused of sexual assault was discriminatory against poor people, and would lead to judges ordering low bail so the full amount could be posted.

Michael Gooch, a Lincoln attorney, said men who are ruled as "treatable" sexual sociopaths are committed to the Lincoln Regional Center and those who are ruled "untreatable" are sent to the Nebraska-Penal Complex. Gooch represents three penitentiary inmates who were committed as untreatable sexual sociopaths.

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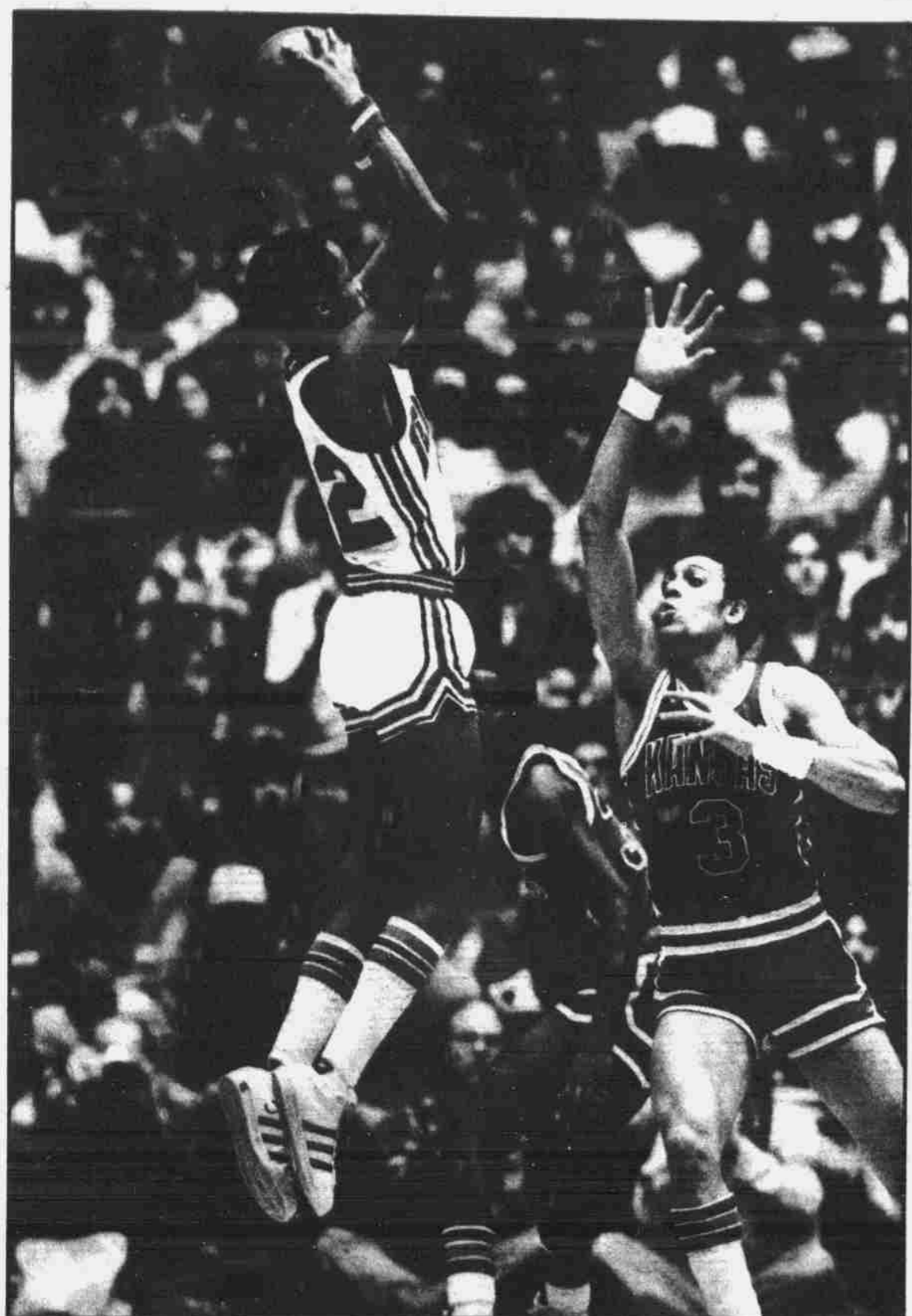


Photo by Ted Kirk

Nebraska guard Brian Banks fires a jump shot over Kansas guard Clint Johnson in the first half of last night's game in the Nebraska Sports Complex. The Huskers beat the Jayhawks 62-58. See page 14.

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Paris center aids homesick, moneyless U.S. travelers

By Amy Lenzen

PARIS Michelle wiped a tear away as she talked about her family.

"I miss them so much now, especially my little sister. We're really close.

"I came to Paris because I was unhappy at school. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I thought that by coming to Europe to study I might get my head together. I thought that I would be happy.

"And I was at first. Paris is so fascinating and lovely. But I still don't know what I want. And I'm so lonely."

"Won't you please help me?" she begged.

Michelle is a regular client at the Student Advisory Service, a clinic for Americans living in and near Paris.

Mary Larounis and Irving Levin, master psychiatric social workers, from the American Aid Society see some 200 students every month.

Fortunately, according to Larounis, most problems brought to them are not as severe as Michelle's, a student with emotional problems intensified by culture shock.

That afternoon Angela came to the clinic. She is from San Francisco. After traveling nearly a month in western and southern Europe she had only 40 francs (about \$9) to last two weeks until her plane would take her home.

Although she had called her parents, her mother could not send money until her next paycheck, a week away. Angela wanted a loan.

John from Portland, will be a student at the University of Paris as soon as he earns some money. He needed a job and wanted to work in a home where he could get room and board. Did they know of anyplace?

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State's economy strong in '78

The economy in Nebraska and the nation will be strong in 1978, according to two UNL economics professors, but their predictions were clouded by an air of uncertainty.

Donald Pursell, director of business research at UNL, and Wayne Dobson, Abbot Professor of Economics at UNL, spoke

Wednesday night at a B-Week program entitled "The State of the Economy: Nebraska and the Nation."

"The Nebraska economy is becoming a service economy," Pursell said. He said most of the jobs available to UNL business graduates in 1978 will be in banking and retail services.

The other side of this, Pursell said, is the declining importance of agriculture in Nebraska's economy.

Farm income generated only six percent of the total personal income in the state in 1977, Pursell said.

"Grain farmers will be paying 1978 prices on incomes that are at the same level they were at in 1968," he said. "Farm income in 1976-77 was an absolute disaster."

Dobson said the national economy is strong going into 1978 and cited four million new jobs generated last year as proof.

But he warned that the economy may be too fragile to withstand the national deficit contained in the Carter administration's new budget.

"It will be highly inflationary and undesirable to try to push unemployment to a level which exceeds the economy's ability to absorb workers," Dobson said.

inside thursday

Hearing impaired: Striking farmers found Washington not listening to demands. L. Kent Wolgastpage 4

Eager beavers in Hat City: Jim Williams jets to Iowa to learn ins and outs of writing resumespage 12

Is upper level Econ a brain drain?: UNL professors discuss the relevance of upper level economics coursespage 11



Photo by Marjie Lundstrom

This man could be less lonely if he went to the American Aid Society Clinic in Paris, France.