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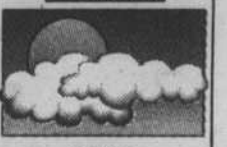
Black History Month

DIVERSIONS

BLACK



THURSDAY



45/25

Today, fog lifting this morning, becoming partly sunny. Friday, dry and mild.

UPC changes called dangerous for minority interests

By Corey Russman
Staff Reporter

Student leader says ethnic programming might be neglected

As the University Program Council finalizes plans to reorganize, one University of Nebraska-Lincoln student is worried about the potential for a decrease in cultural awareness programming.

Ernest Smith, chairman of the Big Eight Council on Black Student Government, said he was concerned because members of the majority tend to look out for their own interests and

might begin to ignore ethnic programming because of the controversies it could produce.

Because all students pay fees that help support university organizations such as UPC, Smith said, minorities could be "paying for something they may not get returns off of."

Smith said he also was concerned that issues such as cultural performances, lectures and speakers could

go untouched if there was not adequate minority representation in the reorganized UPC.

He said he hoped minorities still would receive adequate representation. Smith has encouraged minorities to apply for the new UPC positions in order to ensure representation from the minority population.

UPC officers are selected on the basis of involvement in campus orga-

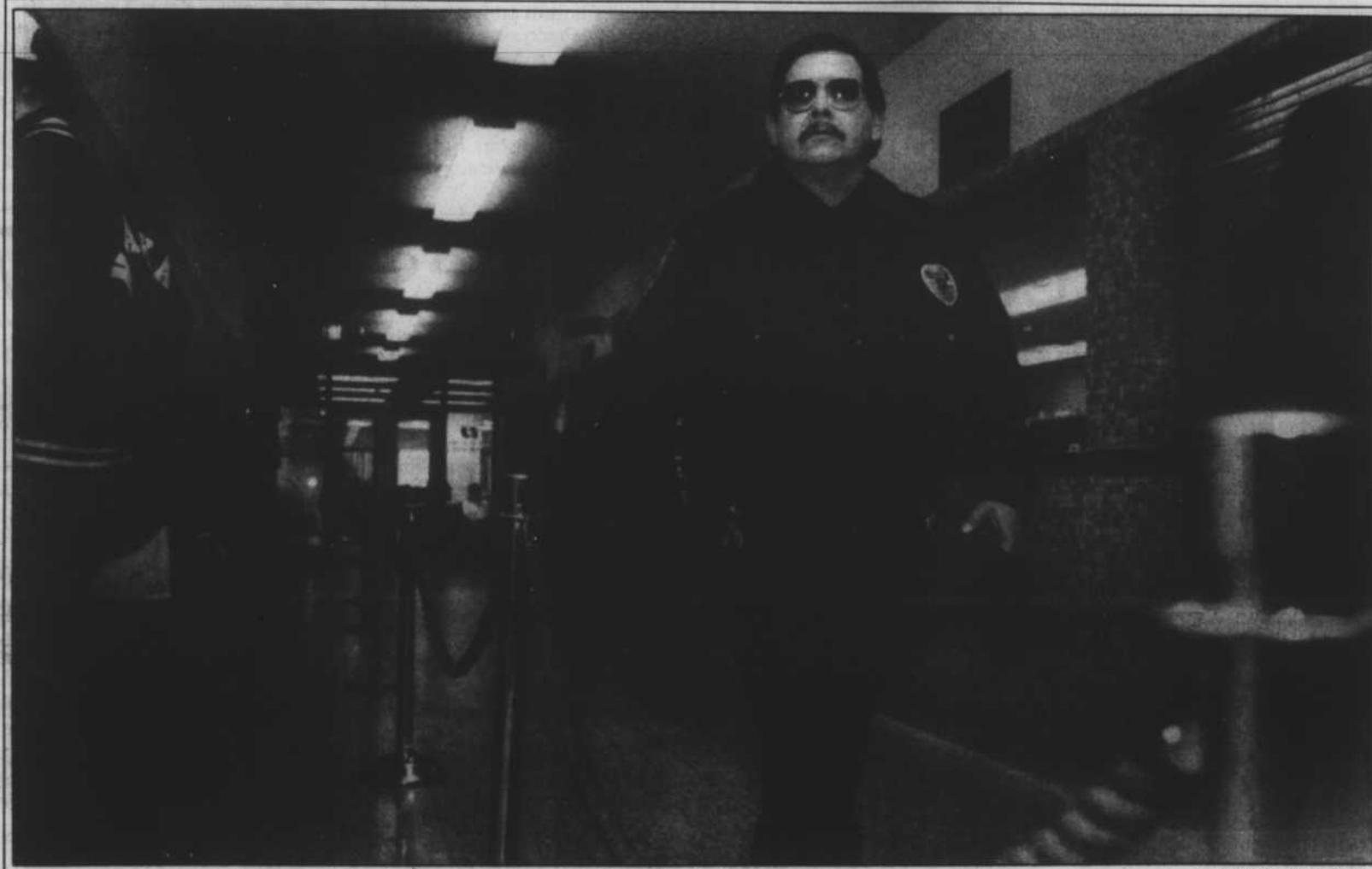
nizations, Smith said. Because minorities traditionally have not been as involved as non-minorities, he said, they may find it difficult to get adequate representation in UPC.

Smith said he also had concerns about money allocation for cultural awareness programs, and hoped it would "not be one big pot, in which the most powerful get the most money."

The changes in UPC's organization were approved on Jan. 26. They call for the consolidation of the present 18 UPC committees into one large committee.

The 18 committees will be replaced by 11 event directors, five executives, an event staff and many volunteers. "All that's disappearing is the committees that make UPC seem like 18 different groups," said Wendy

See UPC on 3



Michelle Paulman/DN

UNL Police Officer Joe Scott patrols the Administration Building Wednesday. While seeing an officer in a building used to raise eyebrows, Scott said he believed people were getting used to the foot patrol. "Hopefully, we'll be a deterrent to crime," Scott said.

Crime scare

Prospective UNL students worry about campus safety

By Doug Kouma
Staff Reporter

After two highly publicized, violent crimes involving UNL students last semester, prospective students are worried about campus safety, said Jan Roth, office manager of the high school and college relations office.

In an effort to ease these worries, UNL officials are striving to make crime prevention and safety information available.

The kidnapping and murder of UNL freshman Candice Harms and

graduate student Arthur McElroy's attempt to open fire on a classroom of students, should not have a large effect on students' decisions to attend UNL, Roth said.

But, Roth said, the crimes do cause fear in some students and parents.

"A lot of the concern is coming from parents from smaller towns concerned with their student's safety," Roth said.

"But all students and parents have some concern," she said. "It doesn't matter where they're from."

UNL Police Chief Ken Cauble

said that when he talks to prospective students, he "tries to tell it like it is."

"Nationally, crime is on the rise," he said, "and Lincoln is no different than any other town."

But despite the increase, Cauble said, the crime rate at UNL was still low compared to Lincoln, which also has a low crime rate for its size.

Kris Dillon, a university representative for the high school and college relations office, said at high schools she had visited the crime rate did not seem to be an overriding issue.

Roth said students who visited UNL were given the "Crime Safety and Prevention" brochure, which the university began distributing last semester in accordance with the "Student Right to Know and Campus Security Act of 1990."

She said tour guides made a special effort to point out safety features such as the emergency phones and the campus escort service.

Her office also advises students

See CRIME on 3

Man charged with killing Harms pleads not guilty

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

A man facing charges in connection with a murdered University of Nebraska-Lincoln student pleaded not guilty Wednesday.

Scott Barney, 24, was arraigned on first-degree murder charges in the death of Candice Harms, 18. Barney appeared before Judge Jeffrey Chevront in Lancaster County District Court.

Harms' body was discovered Dec. 6 in a field southeast of Lincoln. She had been missing for 12 weeks.

Chevront set a March 29 jury trial date for eight charges related to the string of Lincoln robberies Barney was allegedly involved in last fall.

Barney also pleaded not guilty to the robbery charges. The charges included: two counts of robbery, two counts of using a weapon to commit a felony, two counts of theft by receiving stolen property, one count of conspiracy to commit a robbery and one count of possession of a firearm while committing a felony.

Barney's first-degree murder charges will be heard at a jury trial May 10.

Roger Bjorklund, 30, also faced charges in connection with the robberies and Harms' death. He did not plead, and his attorney, Public Defender Scott Helvie, filed a motion to quash the robbery charges.

The motion to quash is a procedural move often used in legal cases, Helvie said. It is a motion that alleges facts used were possibly unconstitutional or defective, he said.

Bjorklund was not served with a copy of the charges 24 hours prior to the arraignment, as required by state law, but Helvie said that wasn't the reason for the quash.

Chevront will hear the motion to quash Bjorklund's robbery and murder charges Feb. 12 in District Court.

Both men are being held without bond.

ASUN to put commencement prayer on March ballot

By Andrea Kaser
Staff Reporter

Students will be able to voice their opinions about prayer at commencement ceremonies now that ASUN members approved putting the question on March's election ballot.

After much debate, the resolution to add the question passed with a 14-to-8 vote and three abstentions.

Ronald Schmidt, senator for the College of Law, said the question would have no authority in the formal

commencement decision. The intent behind the question, he said, was to use it as evidence for the Commencement Committee to show how the majority of students felt about the issue.

Some members of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska questioned the accuracy of the elections, citing last year's 16 percent voter turnout and the low number of seniors who vote.

Andrew Peshek, senator for the College of Business Administration, said because most student voters were freshman and sophomores, putting

the question on the ballot might be putting it before the wrong segment of the student body.

A vote representing 16 percent of students would not have enough power to decide the matter, even if the vote were yes, he said.

Shane Tucker, senator for the Department of General Studies, said all students had the opportunity to vote and this issue would get students who oppose prayer at commencement to go to the polls.

"This is a challenge for all the would-be atheists and Christian-haters to go out and vote in the elections,"

he said.

Schmidt said he was ashamed of Peshek and others who attacked the democratic process by implying that those who didn't vote still should be represented.

"I think you guys have been intimidated too much by the D.N.'s sensitivity training," he said, asking members if they were going to allow the students to decide, or the Daily Nebraskan's editorial board.

"To say that the majority doesn't have the power to implement its will goes against democracy," he said.

Jason Howell, a senior criminal

justice major spoke to members on behalf of the students.

"I'm here to show our opposition to this action," he said. "We hope that you support us."

After his brief statement, the group filed quietly out of the room.

ASUN President Andrew Sigerson, who was at another engagement during open forum, later said he was looking into the legal ramifications of CFA's action. The level of press the matter was receiving was premature, he said.

"There are a lot more stages in this before it's final," he said.