

# Daily Nebraskan

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## CORRECTION

Jason Howell's comments at Wednesday night's ASUN meeting were directed at CFA's proposed budget cuts, not the prayer at graduation issue. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

## DIARY OF A MADMAN



**FRIDAY**

42/18

Morning clouds then becoming partly sunny in the afternoon. Weekend outlook, cloudy and cooler.

## Abortion bills raise questions

Education, consent debated over at committee hearing

By Jeff Zeleny  
Senior Reporter

Over 40 people testified during four hours of discussion on three abortion-related bills in a judiciary committee hearing Thursday.



Informed consent, a 24-hour waiting period prior to having an abortion, prohibition of public funds and facilities for use in abortions and eliminating the duty for school districts to provide abortion information were all brought before the committee.

LB110, introduced by John Lindsay of Omaha, would require that information detailing the anatomical and physiological characteristics of an unborn child be provided to a woman prior to having an abortion.

The bill would also require a woman to wait 24 hours after she signed the informed consent document to have an abortion.

People on both sides of the abortion issue debated on exactly when life begins, but Lindsay tried to bypass that argument.

"When life begins is not the question here," Lindsay said. We need to "look beyond the issue of pro-choice and pro-life."

"Abortion rights might divide us, but the issue of informed rights doesn't."

Guyla Mills of Lincoln told the crowded committee room that she knew from personal experience that women need to know the truth before having an abortion.

"This bill allows the right for a woman to hear the facts," she said. "I was exploited by the abortion industry 10 years ago."

If there had been a 24-hour waiting period then, she said, that child would now be alive.

Dr. Walt Weaver, a Lincoln cardiologist, said women must be informed about what happens during an abortion, just like any other medical procedure. A law might be the only way to ensure that.

Steven Dinsmore, professor of education and counseling at Wayne State College, said the discussion should move away from the religious and emotional aspect of the issue.

"I'm sick to death of the debate about abortion," he said, in opposition of the bills. "Normally, I would

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People fill the food court in the basement of the Miller and Paine building, 13th and O streets, over the lunch hour. With new offices and businesses moving in downtown, the food court is bustling with people during the work week.

## Downtown revival

### Mayor: Students play key role in success

By Rebecca S. Kruse  
Staff Reporter

Lincoln's downtown, once encased in a cocoon of withering business interest, has gone through a metamorphosis.

"In the past 18 months the downtown has experienced a renaissance," Mayor Mike Johanns said. "I feel better about the downtown than I have in a decade or more."



Dan Quandt, director of the Lincoln Convention and Visitor's Bureau, agreed.

"It's heated up," Quandt said. "Whatever slide it may have been in has bottomed out."

"I have watched the reformation and restoration of the Haymarket into a really bustling area," Quandt said.

The keys to downtown Lincoln's success include the university, retail, entertainment, housing, commercial office use and state government, Johanns said.

"We have to pay attention to each one of those," he said. "If we do that, the future of downtown looks very bright."

Many students live in the area even if they don't live on campus, Johanns said. The downtown area has a natural attraction for students, he said, offering restaurants, bars and theaters. The retail industry is also trying to attract students, he said.

"We love UNL students," Johanns said. "They are great for the city of Lincoln."

"I wish I could give each and every one of them a big hug."

Downtown businesses are adjusting to the various needs of their student clientele, Quandt said, and they are taking a harder look at who

See DOWNTOWN on 2

## Attorney seeks death sentence for accused

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said he planned to seek the death penalty for at least one of the two men accused of murdering a UNL student last fall.

Lacey is seeking the death penalty for Roger Bjorklund, 30, of Lincoln, for the alleged abduction, rape and murder of Candice Harms, an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Harms was last seen leaving her boyfriend's house Sept. 22 shortly before midnight, on her way home to 6100 Vine St. She never made it home, and she was reported missing the next day.

After almost three months of extensive searches, her body was found in a shallow grave southeast of Lincoln.

Scott Barney, 25, also of Lincoln, led authorities to the site Dec. 8. He and Bjorklund were being held in Lancaster County Jail at the time for their alleged involvement in a string of armed robberies and burglaries in Lincoln last summer and fall.

Lacey said he and Barney had come to an agreement before authorities were led to the grave site. He refused to specify the terms of the agreement, but hinted that it might have made Barney immune to receiving the death penalty if convicted.

Barney was arraigned Wednesday in Lancaster County District Court before Judge Jeffrey Chevront, who set a March 29 jury trial for eight charges related to the robberies.

The charges included: two counts of robbery, two counts of theft by receiving stolen property, two counts of using a weapon to commit a felony, one count of conspiracy to commit a robbery and one count of possession of a firearm while committing a felony.

Barney pleaded not guilty to charges of first-degree murder and to the robbery charges.

Bjorklund, who allegedly committed the fatal shooting, also was charged with using a firearm to commit a felony.

He was scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, but his attorney, Deputy Lancaster County Public Defender Scott Helvie, filed a motion to quash the murder charge.

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

Lacey would not comment on whether he would also seek the death penalty for Barney.

## Freshman retention to the sophomore year

Retention rate figures are from Fall '90 to Fall '91

School	Rate retained
Stanford	98%
Yale	98
Ohio St.	83
Iowa St.	83
Minnesota	82
Missouri	80
UNL	76
Middle Tenn. St.	47
North Texas St.	38

Brian Shellito/DN

## Freshman dropout rate declines

Low funds, grades barricade return, UNL official says

By Mark Harms  
Staff Reporter

The number of students returning after their first year at UNL has increased in the last two years, but UNL's retention level still lags behind its peer institutions, an official said.

The lower rate of returning fresh-

men affects UNL's national reputation because publications that rank the nation's colleges include retention rates in their overall evaluations, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

According to the UNL Office of Registration and Records, 77 percent of the traditional freshmen who entered the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall of 1991 returned in the fall of 1992 — a 1 percent increase from 1990.

Earl Hawkey, director of registration and records, said there were several reasons freshmen dropped out

after their first year. Financial problems, family concerns and the desire to take a year off to reflect on life goals are some of the more common reasons, he said.

But Hawkey said low grades were the main reason most freshmen didn't return.

Griesen said programs like University Foundations, the Academic Success Center and Special Opportunities and Services helped increase UNL's retention rate by helping students adapt to university life and to

See RETENTION on 6

