

Daily Nebraskan

August 25, 1993

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 93 No. 4



A&E

Superman returns

The world's
greatest
superhero
reclaims his
throne.

Wednesday
91/66
Today, partly cloudy
and warm.
Thursday, chance of
thunderstorms.

Wiretapping of Bjorklund under scrutiny

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Editor

Lincoln police used a wiretap to monitor Scott Barney and Roger Bjorklund because officers did not want to rely on circumstantial evidence in their robbery investigation, an officer testified Tuesday.

Lincoln Detective Sgt. Greg Sorensen said police did not pursue a search warrant because they feared it wouldn't produce anything conclusive enough to arrest the pair. Sorensen's testimony came in the third day of suppression hearings in Bjorklund's first-degree murder trial.

Barney, 24, and Bjorklund, 31, were arrested Dec. 2, 1992, for possession of stolen property and suspicion of being involved in a string of Lincoln robberies last fall. They were later charged in the murder of University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Candice Harms.

Bjorklund's lawyers, led by Chief Lancaster County Public Defender Scott Helvie, have asked a judge to prevent wiretap information and Bjorklund's statements to police after his arrest from being used in his trial.

The pair's alleged ties to the Harms' case was not discussed Tuesday.

Sorensen said a confidential informant, who led police to Barney—and eventually Bjorklund—was not close enough to the pair for an undercover investigation, and police feared tipping the men off with any overt attempt to get information. He said police had more than enough evidence to justify using the phone tap.

Because police were looking for bank robbers, the most incriminating evidence they could find would be cash, he said. But Barney and Bjorklund had just returned from a trip to Las Vegas, and they could have claimed to have won the money there, Sorensen said. Also, the robbers' clothing as described by witnesses was not unusual.

Based on experience working with phone taps to trap robbers, Sorensen said he thought the men planned and discussed the robberies on the phone.

After discussing the wiretaps, Helvie asked Sorensen about Bjorklund's questioning fol-

See BJORKLUND on 8



Kiley Timperly/DN

Brick laying 501

Moe Johnson of T & M Construction works on laying bricks for one of 27 water inlets, or storm sewers, being built in conjunction with the construction on 10th Street by the 501 Building. See 501 construction and street construction stories on page 6.

Officials question testosterone link to greek hijinks

By Becky Becher
Staff Reporter

Two UNL leaders doubt a recent study that blames testosterone levels for rambunctious fraternity members' behavior.

Members of three "rowdy" fraternities at an unidentified university had higher testosterone levels than members of two "responsible" ones, according to a study by James Dabbs Jr., professor of psychology at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

The testosterone levels in the rambunctious fraternities measured in the higher end of the normal range, the study said.

Ninety-eight fraternity members were tested for the study.

Scott Bunz, Interfraternity Council president and a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma fraternity at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the study was ludicrous.

Dr. Russell F. LaBeau, the University Health Center's medical director of student health services, also questioned the validity of the study's results.

Saliva, which was used in the study, is a less accurate medium than blood for testing testosterone, LaBeau said. In addition, the number of subjects participating in the study was small, he said.

"The author would agree with me that not enough research has been done to make heads or tails of this," he said.

But LaBeau said the study could have a shred of validity because testosterone was related to anabolic steroids. Steroids, which are used for bodybuilding, are known to cause aggressive behavior when used in high doses, he said.

But LaBeau said the study indicated that the testosterone levels were still in normal range, and thus really shouldn't cause much difference in behavior.

LaBeau and Benz said they blamed rambunctious fraternity behavior on factors other than testosterone levels.

Fraternity men often act either responsibly or irresponsibly because of the examples set by leading fraternity brothers, they said.

"A lot of fraternity behavior is learned," LaBeau said. "Some fraternities have a tradition of being wild party boys, and others have a more conservative bend."

Modernizing registration elicits mixed emotions

Students anticipate speedier drop/add

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Sometime during their college career, probably every student on campus has caught a glimpse of Marty Cushing.

Tuesday, you could see her gray hair and pink polka-dotted dress flash through three slits in a wooden partition at fall's drop/add session.

For 18 years, Cushing has been handed thousands of drop/add request forms through the slits each semester. She sorts and feeds the forms into a machine that helps create each student's schedule.

"I saw my son go through here, three grandkids, my daughter," she said.

Tuesday she saw nearly 3,000 students who had waited in a line that at 6:45 a.m. stretched from the Administration Building to Burnett Hall.

This school year is her last at drop/add, though, as the university prepares to install a new system of registration — one that will eliminate Cushing's job. UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier has promised to install the line-free, less-stressful system in March for the 1994-95 school year.

Cushing, along with what has become a friendly family of drop/add workers, will be placed in other jobs across the campus next year.

Cushing worked a similar job at drop/add even when the university had an archaic registration system that used paper cards to process requests instead of computer-readable forms.

The University of Nebraska-Lin-

— 66 —
**Old women do not fade away. They just work
registration.**

—Cushing
drop/add employee

coln's system now is a jumble of technological wizardry, said Anthony Schkade, a UNL assistant director of registration and records.

One thousand feet of computer cable, 1,500 feet of extension cords and 400 feet of telephone wire wind

and weave their way through the Nebraska Union Ballroom during the five-day session.

Behind the scenes at the nearly extinct drop/add system are two machines that receive the red-and-white

See DROP on 8

Human rights, invocation concern Academic Senate

By Mike Lewis
Staff Reporter

Human rights and prayer at commencement were on the minds of many of UNL's Academic Senate members this summer.

Fred Choobineh, president-elect of the senate, said the Human Rights Committee had been working on some changes in a resolution that the senate had passed in May. The resolution calls for a section of

Discrimination addressed through evaluations, ethics statement

the Professional Ethics Statement to be circulated around the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The section states that professors' judgments of student work should be free from discrimination.

The resolution also asks departments to include questions about instructors' sensitivity toward women and minorities on teaching evaluations.

Choobineh said minor adjustments to the resolution would be introduced some time this fall because many professors had concerns about adding questions to teaching evaluations.

Professors were worried that their chances at promotion and tenure might be unfairly jeopardized by the evaluations, Choobineh said.

Also, some professors wondered whether the senate's resolution would infringe on their academic freedom, he said.

"They were afraid that it would create an environment that was not going to be conducive to open expression," Choobineh said.

But students' rights also need to be taken into account, he said, and so the changes to the resolution will be an attempt at compromise.

The academic senate's executive committee will probably report on the human rights resolution at the senate's Sept. 14 meeting, Choobineh said, although no formal action will be taken then.

At the same meeting, the senate's commencement committee will report about the commencement prayer issue.

The committee had recommended last year that a moment of silence replace the invocation at commencement. Chancellor Graham Spanier followed that recommendation during the December and May 1993 ceremonies,

but he reinstated the prayer at the August graduation ceremony.

Choobineh said Spanier made this decision after taking into account the opinions of Nebraska citizens, the NU Board of Regents, the academic senate and UNL students.

Also at the Sept. 14 meeting, Steve Dunbar, the senate's representative to the campus-wide information system advisory board, and Donna Liss, the student information system project manager, will give presentations on computers and campus information technology.

The senate's executive committee also will report on a senate retreat held last Thursday, Choobineh said.

ACADEMIC
SENATE