

# Bjorklund

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until Barney's statement to police. Her body was found buried in a shallow grave in a field southeast of Lincoln.

Harms' name was mentioned for the first time in the hearings during afternoon testimony Wednesday.

During questioning by Assistant County Attorney John Colborn, Lincoln Police Detective Sgt. James Spanel recalled the investigation of Bjorklund's garage where a stolen 1977 Chevrolet pickup truck was recovered. Colborn asked if it was involved in the death of Harms. Spanel said it had not been.

In morning testimony, Lincoln Police Officers Brian Jackson and Dennis Duckworth detailed the circumstances of Bjorklund's arrest and the items seized from his vehicle and residence at 610 S. 52nd St.

A search of Bjorklund's car after the arrest yielded an unloaded 9 mm

semi-automatic pistol, a clip full of bullets, a police scanner, a lead pipe, \$23 cash and some pills.

Duckworth said items seized Dec. 2 from the South 52nd Street house included several newspaper articles about robberies, articles about the Mafia, a coat with a container of tear gas in one pocket, two address books, a small amount of marijuana and ammunition.

On Dec. 8, police returned to the address with a search warrant, Duckworth said, and took from Bjorklund's garage a shovel with dirt on it and a plastic wheel with duct tape.

Duckworth said he was driving by the house on an unrelated call Dec. 11 and saw a desk, telephone book and posters he had earlier seen inside the house near a garbage can outside the house.

The hearing will resume today at 9 a.m.

Senior Reporter Alan Phelps contributed to this story.

## Text of Bjorklund letter:

Editor's note:

This is the text of a letter from Roger Bjorklund to Stan and Pat Harms, parents of slain UNL student Candice Harms. The handwritten letter, dated Dec. 24, 1992, was transcribed by the Lincoln Police Department and received into evidence Wednesday in pre-trial suppression hearings in Bjorklund's first-degree murder case. These are Bjorklund's words. The letter has not been edited for content or clarity.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Harms,

It is Christmas Eve, 1992. This is really the first day that I have had pen and paper to write a letter worthy of being written. Until this time I only had a pencil which made for hard reading, with my poor writing. I am sitting in my cell this evening, listening to the Christmas station out of Omaha. I feel God's impression to write you. I know I am writing against the wishes of my lawyers but to me this is bigger than lawyers or courts. I will tell you a little about myself. I was born in Lincoln in 1962. I was adopted six days after my birth to Seventh Day Adventist parents. I was raised as a Christian, yet I was not born again. I moved from home when I was sixteen to escape my father's wrath. It was not until I was twenty-three that I felt God in my life,

I was baptized a Seventh Day Adventist as was my wife. I worked for the church in the publishing area. When I felt God's call to preach I began to attend Union College, and was student pastor of a church in Falls City, Nebraska. I thought I was saved, looking back I was not. It was not long time Satan was in control, that is when I met the man I am in jail with. My life at that point went all the way down the tubes. I split with my wife twice, and gave up any attempts to be a Christian. I am happy that God has saved my marriage. But that is not why I am writing, I am writing first of all to let you know that your Christian attitude has had a great effect on me. I have chosen by God's grace to take a hold of Jesus nail scarred hands, and to accept his forgiveness when I die, I want to die, a resident of heaven, and I pray the same for my family.

I am prepared by the grace of God to accept the full weight of the law in my life. I am not interested in any deals, any plea bargains, life is of much more value than that. I have told the police the one hundred per cent truth without asking for any sort of deal. The truth has not been put forth in the media, but that is okay because whatever I get I deserve. I am not going kicking and screaming, I am

going as God guide me. If I could take the other man's penalty I would do that also. From what I have seen and heard of you, I would be happy to have you on my jury. I can see you are fair loving people. I hope to meet you in heaven. I will do my best to get the one hundred per cent truth out to the public, they and you deserve that, I am so thankful God who gives, I hope some day you can forgive me. I need your prayers. I want so much for your lives to be whole. They never can be until you sit at the feet of Jesus. Your child was taken from you, and that is not fair, oh how I wish I could change places with her. God knows this is my true heart feeling. I do not deserve one bit of pity, or sympathy. And I have not asked for it. What I have asked for is Christians to forgive and pray for me. I would be happy at anytime, to give you an account of what happened if that would help you. As I prepare for my future not knowing for sure what it will be, but I'm asking God to give you and the people of Lincoln what they need to continue their healing. Thank you for reading this, it is from my heart, I hope to meet you and your family in God's kingdom.

Sincerely,  
Roger Bjorklund

# Heat

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Sexton, in turn, called university workers and was told that no air-conditioned rooms were available for the class.

"There's nothing I can find for them at all," Sexton said. "It would be better to have the class outside."

Right now Sexton sees no hope to help beat the heat.

"I don't know what we're going to do," she said. "I guess just pray that it gets cooler."

Bob Carpenter, campus architect, said that four buildings — Military and Naval Science, Richards Hall, Bancroft Hall and Brace Laboratory — had only partial air-conditioning.

Students with classes and teachers with offices in these buildings would have to tough out the heat, he said.

Rich McDermott, UNL director of facilities management, said his department had fielded calls about temperature problems even in air-conditioned rooms.

Normally during August, the service center received about 250 calls complaining about the heat and this

year has been no different, McDermott said.

The service center can send out temperature-control workers to try to repair broken air-conditioning systems.

"We attempt to fix them, but sometimes the solution means an entire revamping of a system," he said. "That could get very expensive."

For students and teachers who must suffer in rooms without air-conditioning, McDermott only can provide fans.

"Sometimes we can't do a lot for them," he said.

Professors should hold their class-

es at other locations, said a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

"Don't stay in a closed room. Tell the prof to take the class outside," the spokesman said. "That's not good for you."

University officials said that during prime-time — the late morning and early afternoon hours, extra classroom space was almost non-existent.

Unfortunately, those were the hours when the temperature was the highest, the meteorologist said. Such hot weather could be a hindrance to learning, he said.

"I don't know how you're going to

learn when you're suffering from the heat like that," the spokesman said.

Zariski agreed, saying that the heat weakened his lecture.

"I had a little trouble concentrating on what I was saying," he said.

At Zariski's class on Wednesday, students were greeted by two standing fans that stirred air through parts of the room. But the fans were too noisy, Zariski said.

He moved his class to a small lecture room on the fifth floor of Oldfather Hall, where 40 students crowded to hear to a lecture on European politics.

# Nelson

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district are better with Sen. Engels," the governor said.

Engel said although he was not a seasoned politician, he would be ready to start work immediately in the next legislative session, which begins in January.

"I am not familiar with the legislative process, and I am not familiar with all the bills that are before the legislature," Engel said. "But I am very fortunate that I have the next four months to engage in the learning process."

That process will have to start right away, the new state senator said.

"I plan on intensifying my learning," he said. "You have to be a student to be a teacher. Throughout my life, I've been a student in different categories, and I'm definitely a student now."

Engel, flanked by his children and grandchildren at the podium, described himself as a "conservative democrat."

"In Nebraska, that's kind of commonplace," Engel said.

Engel said he planned to run for election in 1994.

# Academic

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career in Lincoln.

"We've attracted some good student-athletes here, and we have a lot of players each year who have 3.4-3.5 GPA's," he said. "We've put a lot of attention into our academic support programs."

Nebraska swimmer Justin Switzer was one of four Huskers, along with football's Mike Stigge, women's basketball player Karen Jennings and gymnast Sumner Darling, to be named academic All-Americans last year.

Switzer said Nebraska's strong academic reputation for its athletes was what attracted him to Lincoln.

"The other schools I looked at really never mentioned academics," said the senior from Beaumont, Texas. "With Nebraska, I didn't hear about athletics until after I had heard all there was to know about academics and their support programs."

Switzer, who is international business and finance major with a 3.98 GPA, said Nebraska's academic reputation was catching up to its athletic fame.

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