

Judge could close hearings in Bjorklund case

By Alan Phelps
Senior Reporter

The pre-trial evidence suppression hearings in Roger Bjorklund's first-degree murder case were put on hold Friday as the judge considered whether to close the hearings to the public. Lancaster County District Judge Donald Endacott said the court would be dealing with "a very sensitive area" in upcoming sessions, and he must decide if a future jury might be tainted by press accounts of what might be

said in the courtroom. "There is a great deal of slow, meticulous tedium ... to assure everyone is accorded a fair trial who comes into our courts," Endacott said.

The jury is to be selected in the Sidney area. Chief Lancaster County Public Defender Scott Helvie, representing Bjorklund, has argued material released through the hearings could hurt Bjorklund's chances for a fair trial.

Endacott ended the hearings Thursday just after Deputy Lancaster County Attorney John Colborn asked Lincoln Police Detective Sgt. Greg Sorensen for an account of a conversation the detective had with Bjorklund.

Sorensen said earlier that Bjorklund had told him his conscience had been bothering him. Bjorklund, 31, and Scott Barney, 24, were arrested Dec. 2 in connection with a string of Lincoln robberies last fall. Police say Barney later told authorities he and Bjorklund were involved in the slaying of University of Nebraska-Lin-

coln student Candice Harms. Endacott met privately with lawyers on both sides of the case and lawyers representing the media for much of Friday morning. When Endacott reopened the hearing at nearly 11 a.m., he said it would take the rest of the weekend to examine exhibits for their potential to taint a jury should the media report them.

While the courts belong to the citizens, Endacott said, he must also protect the rights of the accused. "It is in that delicate area of bal-

ancing that we find ourselves in now," he said.

Endacott said he would make his decision before the hearings reopen this morning.

Alan Peterson, a Lincoln lawyer representing media interests, said he was under court order not to elaborate on what evidence would be examined. He said the judge did not say the media were irresponsible in the hearings so far.

"Nobody is pointing at anybody," he said.

NAACP

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had never participated in a march or rally before and was there out of curiosity.

"I have a multicultural education class, and it seemed like a good idea to go (to the march)," he said. "I was interested in hearing what they had to say."

A variety of speakers participated in the rally, including representatives from UNL's Commission on the Status of Women, Nebraskans for Peace, the Lincoln chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, the Lin-

coln High School Rainbow Coalition and the Lincoln NAACP branch.

Speakers touched on topics such as women's rights, the death penalty, affirmative action, multicultural education in public schools and the progress made in racial equality.

Also included were invocations from several local clergies such as the Islamic Foundation of Lincoln, the Vicar General Catholic Diocese, the Unitarian Church and the Congregation of B'Nai Jeshurun.

Similar marches to state capitol buildings took place all across the country to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the civil rights march on Washington.

state something we voted out?" he said. "There are 900 ABATE members in Nebraska. Take the time to take back what is yours."

Dave Kendle of the Nebraska Libertarian Party said motorcyclists had to fight for the freedoms big governments often take away.

"They want to be nannies, but you don't need a nanny to tell you how to run your lives," he said.

"If you wish to live free, be prepared to fight for your freedom."

Tom Emal, ABATE state coordinator, said he was proud of the motorcyclists that came to the rally despite Saturday's rain.

Abate

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this is un-American and against the Bill of Rights," he said.

Sheeney said popular support was the key to overturning the law.

"If we show enough support, they'll have little choice," he said. "In the long run, freedom's going to prevail. It always has."

Kent Bernbeck, also of Freedom First, encouraged all ABATE members to work together to overturn the law.

"Who is the Legislature to rein-



William Lauer/DN

Bikers from across the state joined a 45-minute parade ride from Waco, Neb., to the State Capitol steps Saturday afternoon to protest the mandatory helmet law. Organizers said the rainy weather cut participation by half.

Clinton faces tough issues

EDGARTOWN, Mass. (AP)—A rejuvenated President Clinton was winding down his summer vacation Sunday, trading resort-island serenity for a return to the political wars of Washington.

Fights over the North American Free Trade Agreement and an overhaul of the health care system loom ahead for Clinton, who spent much of his first seven months in office laboring for passage of his economic program.

Clinton, who hadn't taken a lengthy vacation in years, succumbed to the lure of the sea, the golf-course greens and the trendy restaurants during his 11-day stay here.

"It's just one of these periods when he's totally relaxed," said press secretary Dee Dee Myers. Asked if she could recall having seen a rested Clinton, she replied, "No, not that relaxed before."

But Clinton will need plenty of stamina as he approaches a hectic post-Labor Day schedule.

He wants Congress to approve the treaty creating the world's largest free trade zone among the Unit-

ed States, Canada and Mexico. But a number of fellow Democrats, including Majority Whip David Bonior of Michigan, oppose it.

Bonior called the treaty "fundamentally flawed" Sunday and said it's opposed by two-thirds to 75 percent of House Democrats.

"They fear it is making American jobs our number one export," Bonior said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "This treaty is premature. It is negotiated in a way which will hurt American workers, it will not help Mexican workers ... It's a lousy treaty."

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas, who supports the treaty, predicted the bill would be approved in the Senate where he said 34 to 35 Republicans probably would endorse it.

"There won't be any Republican gridlock to talk about," Dole said on CNN's "Newsmaker Sunday," adding that the president must "make the case with the Democrats." He said the treaty will produce new exports and new jobs.

On the foreign policy front, there was encouragement in reports that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization are weighing mutual recognition as part of a package to establish limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

Peace talks resume in Washington on Tuesday.

Carolinas prepare for Emily

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Waves along the shore weren't big enough to interest surfers Sunday, but Hurricane Emily was on a blustery path toward land and coastal residents rushed to stock up on food and supplies.

Some people, with memories of Hurricane Hugo still fresh, made plans to leave.

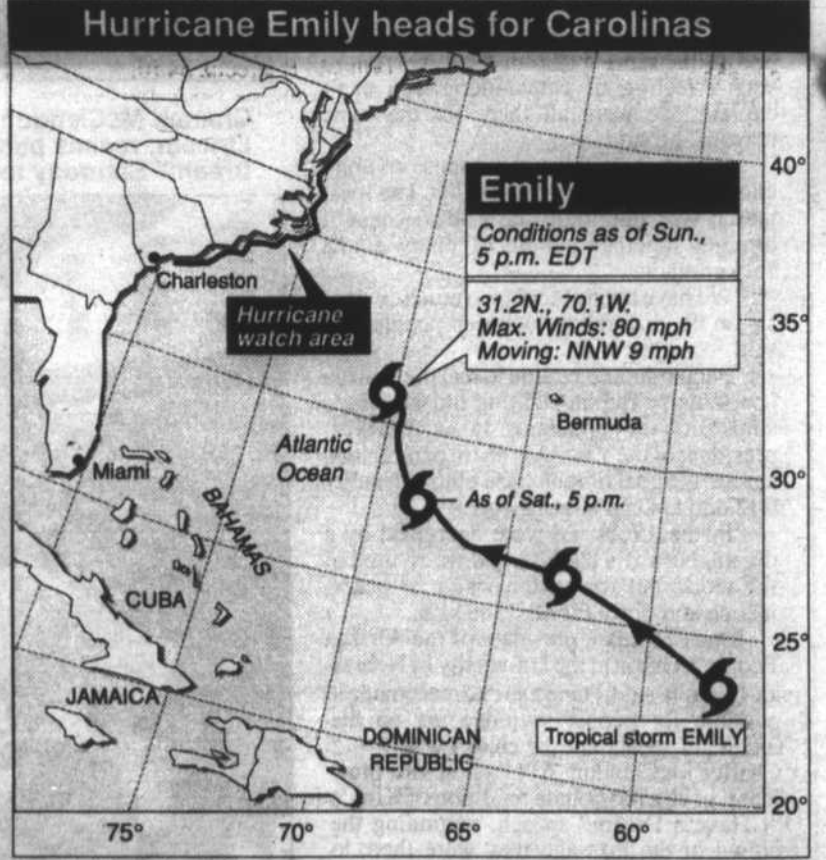
"I wouldn't want to go through the fear again. It's easier to get out than to stay," said William Holden, who left his North Myrtle Beach condominium to return to his home in New Jersey.

"I'm waiting to see and keeping my fingers crossed," said Arnold Wolfe of Little River.

"If it's going north, I'm going south. If it's going south, I'm going north," said shrimp boat Larry Cobb, whose shrimp boat Bridget floated on the placid water of Shem Creek in Mount Pleasant.

Cobb remembers all too well riding out Hugo on his boat. The storm smashed into Charleston in September 1989. From Caribbean islands to the inland Carolinas, it caused at least \$5.9 billion in damage and killed 85 people.

Emily was moving west-northwest on Sunday at 9 mph. Its top sustained



AP

wind speed was about 80 mph with some strengthening expected. A National Hurricane Center advisory projected the storm could make landfall Tuesday, possibly in North Carolina or even much farther north.

"It continues to pose a threat to the East Coast," said Bob Sheets, the director of the National Hurricane Center.

In Manteo, N.C., Dare County Emergency Management officials met to review plans, assistant director Cheryl Booth said.

"There are no shelters, no safe place to go, when a hurricane strikes," she said. "They will order an evacuation once they decide how long it's going to be before the hurricane strikes."

Flood problems return to Des Moines

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Renewed flooding caused by as much as 10 inches of rain forced hundreds to evacuate Sunday as crews rushed to protect the city's water treatment plant for the second time this summer.

"Now we can talk about the two floods of 1993. It's going to be a mess," said Tom Tucker, owner of an interior design business in West Des Moines that was flooded twice.

With the ground already saturated from a record summer rainfall, water from the latest storm quickly drained into streams and creeks, which then overflowed throughout central Iowa.

More rain was forecast and flood warnings were issued for the region.

"We're not quite out of the woods yet," said National Weather Service forecaster Dan Smith.

Des Moines officials closed streets throughout the western part of the city as sewers backed up and smaller creeks flooded.

"There is very little we can do other than evacuate," said Des Moines Mayor John Dorrian.

The American Red Cross opened two shelters for evacuees forced from their homes, and hundreds of volunteers spent the day filling sandbags.

South-central Nebraska also got heavy rain, with 6 1/4 inches overnight at Harvard and 3 inches in 3 1/2 hours at Fairmont. Streets, rural roads and some basements flooded but water was receding quickly Sunday.

Many in the Des Moines area were still reeling from flooding earlier this summer.

Weather service officials said Sunday's deluge made this the city's wettest summer on record. As of early Sunday, rainfall for June through August totaled 29.06 inches, breaking the 1881 record of 26.54 inches.

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