

udge bans press from portions of Bjorklund's hearing Vol. 93 No. 8

By Alan Phelps and Steve Smith Senior Reporters

oger Bjorklund's pre-trial evidence suppression hearings were ordered partially closed Monday in an effort to prevent a future jury from being tainted by press reports of potential evidence

Members of the media and other onlookers were ordered out of the courtroom nine times during the hearings when subjects were dis-cussed that the defense, prosecution or Lancaster County District Judge Donald Endacott considered sensitive.

Endacott ordered the partial closure after meeting with lawyers involved in the case and those representing the media. Chief Lancaster county Public Defender Scott Helvie, representing Bjorklund, has said several times in

court the hearings should be closed.

The open portions of Monday's hearings focused on the events of Dec. 6, when police said they told Bjorklund that Scott Barney, 24, had implicated him in the death of University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Candice Harms.

The court was cleared of spectators when Lincoln Police Detective Sgt. Greg Sorensen and other witnesses described their conversa-

tion with Bjorklund. However, Sorensen relat-ed in open court a phone call he had with John Vanderslice, Bjorklund's attorney at the time.

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Vanderslice, who was not present for the statements police said Bjorklund made, called the police station and asked why his client was there, Sorensen said.

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Tuesday

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Policy forces international **UNL** students to be insured

By Yuk Peng Lee Staff Reporter

eginning this fall, some international students at UNL might find an extra bill on their tuition statements.

Peter Levitov, associate dean of international affairs, said international students must buy health insurance that meets the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's criteria or they would be billed for the university's student insurance plan.

Kunle Ojikutu, director of the University Health Center, said many international students coming into the United States were un-aware of health-care costs.

If these students find themselves in a situation where they need to use medical services, he said, they might find they can't pay the bill. "We are not forcing foreign students to buy the insurance, we are acting for their own benefit," he said. But if international students fail to secure private insurance policies they will be billed

private insurance policies, they will be billed automatically for student health insurance through their tuition statement.

Levitov said the university has required all foreign students to have health insurance since 1953, but UNL decided to begin enforcing the policy last year. The U.S. Information Agency announced in

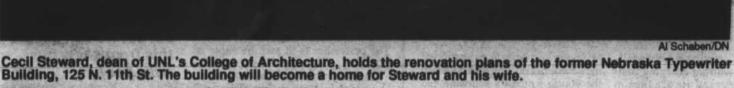
March that visiting scholars, exchange students and exchange professors, who are all J-1 visa holders, must have insurance by September 1994, he said.

The university rule states that all international students, or F-1 and F-2 visa holders, must have insurance coverage as well.

Ojikutu said insurance would give international students health-care security. One international student had \$25,000 bills

at a local hospital and no insurance coverage, Ojikutu said. The student was unable to pay his medical bill, he said.

"Health insurance provides international



Home sweet home Downtown building's benefits call to architecture dean

By DeDra Janssen all Reporter

hen Cecil Steward was eating lunch last fall at The Rotisserie Restaurant, at 11th and O streets, he didn't know he was looking out the window at his future home.

Leaves had fallen off of the trees outside the restaurant's window and Steward, dean of the College of Architecture, had a clear Building across the street. The building had been closed and abandoned for two years. Steward and his wife had been interested in living in downtown Lincoln for several ears and had been keeping their eyes open years and had been keeping their eyes open for properties and opportunities in the area. The for-sale sign in front of the old building caught Steward's eye. "I started wondering what the configura-tion on the inside was like," Steward said. So he called the phone number on the sign and bought the building in May.

The Stewards hope to move into their new home by Christmas. Their neighbors will be the Georgian Place Apartments, the YMCA and the Lincoln Electric System building. Two weeks ago, work began to remodel the building, to make it a livable home. Steward drew up the renovation plans him-

self. Even though the Stewards will be moving

the summer or shoveling snow in the winter, he said.

And the expected problems of downtown living don't discourage him. He has ample parking available behind the building. Traf-fic noise probably won't be a problem, he said, because he's used to it.

'Our house now is over one block from Bryan Hospital and the fire station. There will probably be less night noise," he said.

But aside from escaping the little burdens suburban life, Steward has more substantial reasons for making the move downtown.

Al Schaben/DN

mont area, they're not reluctant about moving into an abandoned building.

In fact, they're ecstatic about it.

"Downtown Lincoln is unique," Steward said. "There are a variety of activities to participate in. It's clean, safe, close to both our jobs," he said. Steward's wife also works on the UNL campus.

Steward said he was looking forward to many other aspects of downtown life. For example, he won't miss mowing the lawn in

'I, as an architect, believe there should be mixed uses in central business districts, not just commercial and retail," he said.

Environmental and social concerns were a deciding factor for Steward, as well. "I want to demonstrate what similar properties might become, and I want to demon-

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students medical coverage, and this would give them a rest of mind," Ojikutu said.

Sheryl Augstums, insurance coordinator at the health center, said many foreign students had been stopping in the health center to ask about the mandatory insurance.

From the number of students asking questions, Augstums said she thought many foreign students did not have insurance. The actual number of uninsured students is unknown, she

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More students means more degrees

By Melanie Brandert Staff Reporter

ncreasing enrollment among women and international students has led to an overall rise in de-

grees awarded by UNL over the past 10 years, a university official said. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Graham Spanier said in his State of the University Address this month that the total number of degrees awarded by the university rose by 7 percent during the past deca

grees and a 5 percent increase in

doctoral degrees. John Benson, director of Institu-tional Research at UNL, said the in-crease in degrees awarded during the 10-year period reflected increases in enrollment.

The number of women in programs such as business and engineering in-creased during the 1980s, as did the number of international students attending UNL, he said. Benson said he was uncertain why

more women were enrolling.

UNL has experienced an 8 percent increase in the number of degrees awarded to undergraduate students, a But he said the large numbers of

19 percent increase in master's de- because international students were government-supported. The students are encouraged by

their governments to complete uni-versity programs quickly, he said. Benson said he attributed the in-crease in graduate degrees awarded to the increase in enrollment in graduate

"In a more general sense, we find we award more master's degrees since it reflects that our graduate student enrollment is increasing," he said.

Most students who enroll in graduate studies complete a degree, he said, rather than just taking a few

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