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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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A&E Science fiction
The Lincoln Fantasy and Science Fiction Club is on the grow.

Tuesday 75/55
Mostly sunny and warm today, continuing into Wednesday.

Judge bans press from portions of Bjorklund's hearing

By Alan Phelps and Steve Smith
Senior Reporters

Roger 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 discussed 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 related in open court a phone call he had with John Vanderslice, Bjorklund's attorney at the time.

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.

See BJORKLUND on 3



Al Schaben/DN

Cecil Steward, dean of UNL's College of Architecture, holds the renovation plans of the former Nebraska Typewriter Building, 125 N. 11th St. The building will become a home for Steward and his wife.

Home sweet home

Downtown building's benefits call to architecture dean

By DeDra Janssen
Staff Reporter

When 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 view of the Nebraska Typewriter Company 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 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 configuration 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 himself.

Even though the Stewards will be moving from their fully equipped home in the Piedmont 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

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. Traffic 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 of suburban life, Steward has more substantial reasons for making the move downtown.

"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-

See STEWARD on 3

Policy forces international UNL students to be insured

By Yuk Peng Lee
Staff Reporter

Beginning 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 unaware 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 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 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

See INSURANCE on 6

More students means more degrees

By Melanie Brandert
Staff Reporter

Increasing enrollment among women and international students has led to an overall rise in degrees 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 decade.

UNL has experienced an 8 percent increase in the number of degrees awarded to undergraduate students, a

19 percent increase in master's degrees and a 5 percent increase in doctoral degrees.

John Benson, director of Institutional Research at UNL, said the increase in degrees awarded during the 10-year period reflected increases in enrollment.

The number of women in programs such as business and engineering increased during the 1980s, as did the number of international students attending UNL, he said.

Benson said he was uncertain why more women were enrolling.

But he said the large numbers of international students enrolling led to a higher number of degrees, in part

because international students were government-supported.

The students are encouraged by their governments to complete university programs quickly, he said.

Benson said he attributed the increase in graduate degrees awarded to the increase in enrollment in graduate studies.

"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

See DEGREE on 3

