

Daily Nebraskan

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

CAMPUS

Pucker up

College Republicans are sponsoring a kissing booth today at Broyhill Fountain.

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Wednesday
65/38
Partly sunny today and Thursday. Slightly warmer tomorrow.

Restaurant firing draws protests

Owner denies dismissing man for being gay

By Dianna Searcy
Senior Reporter

Not all customers at the Green Gateau were there Tuesday morning simply to enjoy the food and atmosphere. Many were protesting what they allege was discriminatory treatment of an employee.



Kate Huff, a sophomore archeology major at UNL, and Barb Bair, former publisher of Women's Journal Advocate, protest the firing of a gay employee outside the Green Gateau restaurant Tuesday morning.

Sandy Summers/DN

They joined about 30 protesters who stood outside the downtown restaurant Monday night, joined with equal rights messages. Members of local organizations such as the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights and the Gay/Lesbian Student Association drilled out flame-resistant posters by spraying their names for the protest of the Green Gateau, 30 S. 10th St.

Former Gov. Kay Orr was among protesters who lined up along 10th Street showing signs and driving.

Orr, who was not a regular customer, would not comment to reporters whether she supported the protest.

William Livengood, owner of the Green Gateau, said he was not upset about the protesters' actions.

"That's their business," he said. "They can do whatever they want to do. That's the way part about America. Everybody has the right to do their own thing."

Livengood said he denied the protesters' allegations were unfounded.

Bolte alleges the cause of the firing.

When the Green Gateau opened last fall, Bolte was among the first employees to be hired. He worked

two days a week.

Bolte gradually increased his hours during the year, but in August he requested to return to the two-day-a-week schedule. The request was approved by a manager.

A few weeks later, Livengood asked the manager to fire Bolte because he allegedly was too effeminate. The manager said Bolte was a good employee and shouldn't be fired.

Bolte left for vacation. When he returned Sept. 2, the manager told him he had been fired. Two other employees, Kevin Caughlin and Gia Rauchnot, quit in protest.

Livengood said Bolte was not fired because he was gay. Bolte's scheduling conflicts became too great a problem to accommodate, he said.

Bolte had asked not to work on two football Saturdays, Livengood said.

"We need part-time employees

during our busy time," he said. "His schedule didn't work with our schedule."

Livengood said he knew Bolte and other employees were homosexuals long before the day Bolte was fired.

Nebraska has no policy banning job discrimination on the basis of sexuality, said Marlayn Cragun, executive director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, in a telephone interview.

Tuesday's protesters advocate a bill introduced last year to the state Legislature that would make it illegal to discriminate against people on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Pat Greene, a member of the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, said the bill would not mandate quotas for hiring gay or lesbian employees.

Greene said she and other local homosexual-rights advocates

“His schedule didn't work with our schedule.”
— Livengood
owner, Green Gateau

would push for the bill to become law in this year's legislative session.

Bolte said he had no plans to file a lawsuit because he allegedly suffered discrimination. Current Nebraska laws give him no grounds for a suit, he said.

Bolte, who supports the bill, said he was pleased the event had drawn much attention to further his cause of equal rights for homosexuals.

"I've become much more of a celebrity than I had hoped," Bolte said.

Motions end Bjorklund hearings

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Editor

Three motions filed by attorneys for Roger Bjorklund and the state were partially sealed Tuesday in Lancaster County District Court.

Judge Donald Endacott ordered the documents partially closed, but declined to close the pretrial hearing to the press and public.

Chief Deputy Lancaster County Public Defender Scott Helvie filed two motions in Lancaster County District Court. In the first motion, Helvie said Scott Barney should be prohibited from testifying at the trial.

Bjorklund and Barney both are charged with first-degree murder in the 1992 slaying of University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Candice Harms.

Fourteen paragraphs in the motion were sealed and not read by the judge during the hearing.

In Helvie's second motion, he said Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey should be recused, or disqualified from his position in the trial, because of prejudice or personal interest.

The judge read Helvie's motion, which said that because Lacey filed the charges against Bjorklund, he shouldn't prosecute the case. Five paragraphs in the motion were sealed by Endacott.

Helvie did not return telephone calls for comment Tuesday afternoon.

The motion filed by the county attorney's office was almost completely sealed by Endacott.

All three motions can become unsealed at any time, Endacott said.

Attorney Alan Peterson, who represents various Nebraska media organizations, objected to sealing the motions. The objection was overruled by Endacott.

The judge said Tuesday's hearing was the last before Bjorklund's trial. Jury selection begins Monday in Sidney, and the trial will start Oct. 25 in Lincoln.

Barney basher butts heads with parents, dinosaur fans

By Dianna Searcy
Senior Reporter

Fox, a 19-year-old student, started out as an idol to many children's dinosaur fans.

But now, he is the target of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student protest that has been going on since last fall.

"I've been really pissed off," Fox said. "Everybody's talking about how I'm going to be a mad scientist, and how I'm going to be a mad scientist, and how I'm going to be a mad scientist."

Day events. Fox and other UPC members have considered a Barney boxing match, a Big Bird vs. Barney bash or everything-but-Barney events.

The Nov. 10 bash is a month away, but Fox's name already has become a naughty word in some local households.

"From what I've gathered, I'm noted as one of the most hated men in Lincoln now," he said. "It's turning into more of a personal attack."

Fox's name appeared in four of the five letters to the editor concerning the Barney Bash in Monday's Lincoln Star newspaper.

"I have no idea where this thing is going to go," he said. "It grows every day."

Fox has talked to reporters from California, Canada and many of Nebraska's papers. He's

read a story in USA Today about his brainchild. He has dedicated a wall in the UPC office to post letters and newspaper articles on Barney issues.

Fox has fielded calls for the past two weeks from angry parents and other concerned citizens. Even University of Nebraska-Lincoln alumni have called threatening to withdraw financial support if Fox follows through with the event.

"I've had to put a lot of things off so I can take care of this little monster," Fox said. "It's affecting my classes, my personal life. It's grown to mammoth proportions."

It's even stretched into his home life.

"If this is Barney, go away. We don't want to talk to you," is the message that callers hear

on the answering machine at Fox's house.

"Honestly, I'm sick of it. For something so small, it's gotten so big," Fox said. "People have forgotten how to laugh. This is all fun and games."

Besides, he said, the Barney Bash was created solely for students. Fox said he had yet to hear student criticism of the event.

"If the students don't want this thing to happen," he said, "it ain't going to happen."

Fox said adults had told him he failed to understand children's love for Barney. But Fox said he was still a child at heart.

"I'm the biggest kid imaginable," Fox said.

"When was the last time I watched Saturday

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UNO engineering professors pitch proposed secession

By Andy Housman
Senior Reporter

Engineering professors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are considering the possibility of creating a separate college to serve the Omaha area.

The NU Board of Regents is considering the proposal to create two separate colleges at the Lincoln and Omaha campuses.

construction systems technology, said UNO needed its own college to adequately serve the community.

"The reason we are here today is to express our concern as faculty regarding our inability to serve the needs of the Omaha area students and the industrial community of Omaha," he said.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha program originally was developed as an independent college in 1968 to meet local industry needs.

Sokol said Omaha was the only

city its size that didn't have an engineering college to work "hand-in-hand" with the city's industries and with its urban students.

"UNO needs to revamp the engineering program to make it more practical and responsive to industry," he said.

Sokol said the trend of making the UNO college UNL-dependent made him pessimistic about its future.

"The future of Omaha-based programs is not one we can be confident about," Sokol said.

But both professors said they thought a separate engineering college should be restored at UNO.

Sokol said UNO's students were different from UNL's.

Most of UNO's students are older and work full time or part time.

"UNO is an urban university with a different mission than UNL," Sokol said.

Sokol said enrollment figures showed a need for an engineering

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