



A rivalry spilling into the stands?

Colorado coach Bill McCartney addresses the behavior of Buffalo and Cornhusker fans.

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Tuesday

55/30

Breezy and cool today, sun this afternoon. Wednesday, fair.

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Emotion packs first day of Bjorklund trial

By Alan Phelps and Steve Smith
Senior Reporters

Roger Bjorklund killed an already wounded Candice Harms because he thought it was the humane thing to do, Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said Monday.

Lacey, speaking to jurors on the first day of Bjorklund's first-degree murder trial, said Bjorklund fired three rounds into Harms' head after she had

been sexually assaulted twice, shot once and strangled.

But Chief Public Defender Scott Helvie argued the state's evidence against Bjorklund was circumstantial and Bjorklund's statements to police were coerced. He said Scott Barney, another man charged in the murder, killed Harms.

The mood was emotional in the courtroom from prosecutors' opening statements to witnesses' testimony.

At least two jurors were brought to

the verge of tears during later testimony from Stan and Pat Harms, Candice Harms' parents, and Todd Sears, her boyfriend.

Bjorklund faces charges of first-degree murder and use of a firearm in commission of a felony in the murder of Harms, an 18-year-old University of Nebraska-Lincoln student.

Lacey said the state would try to prove the following:

Bjorklund and Barney had discussed abducting and sexually assaulting a woman for two weeks prior

to Harms' disappearance. At about 6 p.m. on Sept. 22, they began driving around Lincoln, "stalking, looking, desiring to find a woman in this community who they could abduct and have their way with," Lacey said.

The pair drove near the university looking for a victim. At one point, they spotted a woman standing on a porch, but Barney decided nabbing her might cause too much of a disturbance.

Just before they were about to give up about midnight, Barney and

See TRIAL on 3

Bjorklund trial update

- ▶ During opening statements, prosecutors said Bjorklund sexually assaulted Harms while reciting lines from the movie "Cape Fear."
- ▶ Prosecuting attorneys said that after the murder Bjorklund and Barney "went home, almost as if nothing had happened."
- ▶ Defense attorneys said the state's evidence against Bjorklund was circumstantial, and Barney actually killed Harms.



Jay Calderon/DN

Roommates Don Denton (left) and Brad Johnson have a longer commute than most UNL students. The two moved to a farmhouse 20 miles south of Lincoln.

Greener acres

Students trade city's hustle, bustle for rural seclusion

By Alan Phelps
Senior Reporter

Drive south far enough, and you might hear electric guitar cords floating over the miles of milo.

That probably means Brad Johnson and Don Denton's landlord is away and the guitar-wielding duo is cranking up the amplifiers.

"We jam a lot and don't have to disturb any neighbors," said Denton, a former Lincoln resident who now lives amongst crickets and cornfields.

Tired of city life, the two students decided in July to move 20 miles away from the hustle and bustle of Lincoln.

The paint is peeling, flies zoom about the living room, and cable television is only a dream. But the rent is only \$300 a month, and the roommates enjoy the solitude — far different from the pad near 26th and Vine streets that Johnson and Denton used to share with three other people.

Johnson, a criminal justice and psychology major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, proudly pointed at the faded wallpaper and plaster flaking off his wall.

"Some people in New York City pay good money to have walls that look like that," he said. "We got it for free."

"It's good to be out here where it's secluded," said Denton, who studies drafting at Southeast Community College. "This is definitely cheaper."

The roommates, friends since they went to school together in Oakland, said it wasn't easy locating dream homes.

"We looked for them, but they're really hard to find," Johnson said.

See FARM on 2

Police seek 3 suspects in beating

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Editor

The University of Nebraska athletic department helped in the investigation of the assault of a UNL international student, Police Chief Ken Cauble said Monday night.

The athletic department "helped contact people who may have had information regarding the incident," Cauble said. He said the department cooperated throughout the investigation.

Cauble would not say why the athletic department was involved in the investigation, nor would he specify which area of the department was cooperating.

Three suspects, including one University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, are being sought on third-degree assault charges in connection with the Oct. 17 beating of Boon-Chung Ong, a UNL student from Malaysia.

Further information about the suspects and the assault will be released by university officials Tuesday afternoon, Cauble said.

No arrests have been made in the case, Cauble said, but the suspects have been identified. UNL police have been unable to locate the two nonstudents, Cauble said. One suspect lives in Omaha and the other in Lincoln, he said.

The three suspects will be cited on misdemeanor charges stemming from the assault. The charges carry a maximum of one year in prison or a \$1,000 fine or both.

According to police reports, Ong was found semi-conscious near Broyhill Fountain. He was treated and released from Lincoln General Hospital.

Witnesses told police a group of black men were crowded around Ong on Broyhill Plaza. Two or three of the men were assaulting Ong, witnesses said. Ong fell to the ground and was kicked in the head several times, witnesses said.

Cauble said members of the Afrikan People's Union provided valuable information in the investigation. APU members have said a group of 10 men that caused a disturbance at Rapfest, an event held the night of the beating in the Nebraska Union, also might have been involved in the assault.

See ASSAULT on 2

Former Lincolnite gathers area's believable ghost stories

Editor's note: This story is the second in a Halloween week series about Lincoln ghost stories.

By Matthew Waite
Staff Reporter

Stories about the Nebraska Capitol Building's ghosts aren't listed in any history books, but that doesn't mean the ghosts aren't there. "Guide to the Ghosts of Lincoln," a book by Alan Boye, chronicles the tales of ghosts and other things that go bump in the night in the Lincoln area. Locations range from the fifth floor of Pound Residence Hall to Antelope

Park. Boye, a journalism professor at Lyndon State College in St. Johnsbury, Vt., said he started collecting ghost stories for the book 10 years ago.

Boye placed a series of ads in Lincoln area papers asking for people to send him ghost stories. He received between 100 and 200 stories, he said.

After narrowing the field to 30 or 40 stories, Boye said he did follow-up

research. The best 12 stories were written for the book.

But even research didn't convince Boye ghosts existed.

"I'm somewhat skeptical myself," Boye said. "But the reason these stories made it into the book is because they were so believable."

Boye said one of the stories in the book came from his own experiences.

The story, titled "Just Go East on 'O' Street," took place at an old farmhouse outside of Lincoln on Highway 34. Boye and an archeological crew of which he was a member moved into the house, which was near some old Indian mounds they were to excavate.

The owner told crew members the previous tenants disappeared without a trace. When the crew members moved into the house, they found the former tenants' breakfast still on the table.

While in the house, the crew heard noises in the night of footsteps, furniture being moved and dishes being smashed. Also, the water pipes were unscrewed, flooding the basement.

According to the story, crew members saw the apparition at night and actually lived with it for several weeks.

"It was very interesting," Boye said. "I halfway hoped it would continue."

Boye said he was excited by the eerie and frightening sensation the haunting caused.

"But you tell yourself that this can't be happening."

Boye said historical ties, such as a tragic death at the location, made the story realistic.

The believability of a ghost story depends on its intensity, he said.

To make the stories real, Boye said he used many different sources to get corroborating information.

He said he used old newspaper accounts, interviews with those in-

See BOYE on 2

