

# Trial

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Bjorklund saw Harms at a stoplight at 27th and Vine streets. They followed her to her parents' home in the Chateau La Fleur apartments, 6100 Vine St.

Bjorklund then jumped out of Barney's car with a gun in one hand and a police scanner in the other. He forced his way into Harms' car and forced her to the floor. Bjorklund drove Harms' car, following Barney north of Lincoln to 27th Street and Bluff Road.

Barney and Bjorklund put duct tape over Harms' eyes and bound her hands. They abandoned Harms' car, a 1987 Chevy Corsica, in a field and threw Harms into the hatchback of Barney's 1988 Nissan Pulsar.

The pair took Harms to a secluded spot near 86th Street and Hitchcock Road. Barney went to get gas for his car, leaving Bjorklund in a field with Harms.

Bjorklund then sexually assaulted Harms with his hand and a condom while reciting lines from the movie "Cape Fear." Barney returned and had forced intercourse with Harms.

Afterward, the two men wrapped Harms in a blanket and put her back into Barney's car. They drove around while discussing what to do next. Barney decided Harms must be silenced. They drove to a large tree near 134th Street and Yankee Hill Road.

Bjorklund grabbed Harms around the neck, attempting to choke her into unconsciousness, and dragged her several yards from the road. Bjorklund lost his balance and fell, breaking a bone in Harms' neck that caused her to begin suffocating. Barney then shot Harms once in the head with a .38-caliber semi-automatic handgun.

Before leaving the scene, the two men realized they forgot the blanket in which Harms was wrapped. Bjorklund went to retrieve the blanket and found Harms was still moving. He shot her three times in the head with his .38-caliber handgun. Later, he told police he thought it was the humane thing to do.

Bjorklund and Barney then returned to the site at 86th Street and Hitchcock Road, where they burned Harms' clothes, shoes and purse.

"Afterward," Lacey concluded, "they went home, almost as if nothing had happened."

— 66 —  
**See if you think it points to Roger Dale Bjorklund as one of the persons who snuffed out a life for no good reason.**

—Lacey  
 Lancaster County Attorney

Lacey said that when Barney and Bjorklund learned authorities had begun searching for Harms, they returned to her body to bury it in a shallow grave. Bjorklund also rubbed model airplane fuel over her in an attempt to erase any fingerprints they might have left, Lacey said.

Lacey said the state would use statements from Barney and Bjorklund along with corroborating evidence to prove their story.

The two guns, along with shells and bullets, were found by authorities in Pawnee Lake west of Lincoln, Lacey said. Another cartridge was found in the house Bjorklund lived in at the time of Harms' death.

Police also found an ash pile at 86th Street and Hitchcock Road that yielded a swatch of green cloth matching the shirt Harms wore Sept. 22, Lacey said. Burned pieces of shoes much like those Harms wore also were found, he said.

After the body was recovered, Lacey said, a pathologist found fiber on Harms' hands that matched the carpet fiber in the back of Barney's car. Bullets in the body matched bullets fired from the guns recovered from the lake, he said.

Lacey urged the jury to examine the evidence carefully.

"See if you think it points to Roger Dale Bjorklund as one of the persons who snuffed out a life for no good reason," he said.

Helvie cautioned jurors not to take Lacey's comments as evidence, but to let the facts come to light through witness testimony.

Helvie said there was a reasonable doubt the evidence pointed to Bjorklund as Harms' killer. He said Barney actually killed Harms.

Bjorklund wore a green shirt, denim jeans, white tennis shoes. Unlike the pretrial hearings, his legs were not shackled. He took notes as the lawyers spoke and asked questions.

During separate testimonies, Stan and Pat Harms recounted events of Sept. 23, the day they reported Candice Harms missing.

When she discovered Candice Harms was not at home or at Sears' house, Pat Harms said she became worried.

"I went upstairs to tell Stan that Candi was gone," Pat Harms said. "Those were the words I used, because if she wasn't with us or with Todd, then that's what she was ... gone."

She said while her husband and Sears searched for her daughter, she stayed home, waiting for the phone to ring.

"I was scared to death and I was frightened," she said. "I thought something was terribly wrong and I didn't know what to do."

Sears, Harms' boyfriend, brought at least two jurors to the verge of tears with an emotional recount of the last time he saw Harms alive.

Sears said he normally walked Harms to her car when she left, but on Sept. 22 he did not because he was not wearing any shoes.

"As we stood there on the front step, I kissed her good night," he said, wiping away tears between sobs. "She started walking away and then turned around, and kissed me good night again."

Sears said as she reached her car, Harms stopped and told him "to have sweet dreams."

Then he watched her as she drove away, Sears said.

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
International Film- Story of Qui Ju (Hong Kong) Ross Theater UNL Students \$3 Public \$5 3,5,7, and 9pm			Wacky Wednesday		1964: Beatles Concert 8 pm Nebraska East Union UNL Students \$2 Public \$5	UNL Cornhuskers vs. Iowa State 1 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			Wacky Wednesday	Party in the Plains Spike Blake Band 8 pm Nebraska East Union UNL Students \$3 Public \$5		Pow Wow Centennial Room
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
International Film- Damage (England) Ross Film Theater UNL Students \$3 Public \$5 3,5,7, and 9pm Pow Wow Centennial Room			Student Holiday (UNL Offices Open)	Thanksgiving Vacation (UNL offices closed)	UNL Cornhuskers vs. Oklahoma 1:30 pm (ABC) Thanksgiving Vacation (UNL offices closed)	
28	29	30				Tickets may be subject to a convenience charge.

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