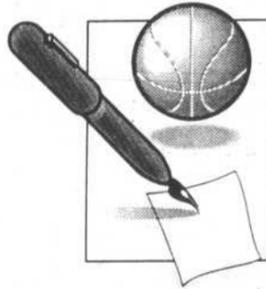


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SPORTS

Neer welcomes recruits

Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Neer is expected to sign a large recruiting class Wednesday.

Page 7

Wednesday
55/33
Increasing cloudiness and mild today. Thursday, mostly cloudy, highs in the 50s

Officer recalls incriminating phone conversation

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

A Lincoln police officer testified Tuesday he overheard Roger Bjorklund on the telephone saying he and Scott Barney were equally responsible for the death of UNL student Candice Harms.

Timothy Kennett testified during the 11th day of hearings in the first-degree murder trial of Bjorklund. Bjorklund and Barney have been charged in the Sept. 22, 1992, slaying of Harms.

Kennett told jurors he was left alone to guard Bjorklund Dec. 6, 1992, in a room that contained a telephone. Bjorklund made five calls in what Kennett said was an attempt to

reach Bjorklund's wife, Shannon.

During one call, Kennett said, Bjorklund asked for his wife, paused, then began talking. During that conversation, Bjorklund said he had prayed that God would take care of the Harms case, Kennett said.

"He said he and Scotty were both equally responsible for what had happened to Candice Harms," Kennett said. "They both felt like doing something crazy, and they ended up finding Candice Harms."

Kennett said he then heard Bjorklund say: "You know how crazy Scott can get at times."

"He stated he had fingered Candice Harms, but he had not raped her, that Scott had raped her," Kennett said.

"He said that he deserved to die, that what he did was wrong," Kennett said. "He stated that he wanted to call Candi Harms' parents and tell them what happened."

Kennett said Bjorklund then told his wife that Barney could be very manipulative.

"He said that he loved her, that he wanted to go to heaven, and that's why he told police what he did to Candice Harms," Kennett said.

Chief Lancaster County Public Defender Scott Helvie asked Kennett if he had testified word-for-word what Bjorklund had said.

Kennett said he took notes on the telephone conversations. Kennett said he attempted to record the calls, but his tape recorder failed.

Before Kennett's testimony, jurors had left

Bjorklund Trial Update

- ▶ A Lincoln police officer testified Bjorklund told his wife that he and Barney were responsible for Candice Harms' death.
- ▶ Bjorklund left the Lancaster County Jail early Tuesday morning to look for the house where he said he had bought a shovel. Defense attorneys say Bjorklund bought the shovel after Sept. 22.

DN graphic

the room briefly so attorneys could meet with the judge. They reaffirmed Bjorklund's statements were made freely and voluntarily.

During the meeting, Helvie asked the judge

See TRIAL on 6



Therese Goodlett/DN

Peter Hoffman, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln law professor, leaves in December for the Republic of Palau. Hoffman will serve as a Palaun Supreme Court justice.

Law professor finds bench, beach

By Ann Stack
Staff Reporter

Sandy beaches, coconut palms, crystal-clear oceans and 80-degree temperatures. For some, paradise. For Peter Hoffman, his office.

Hoffman, the Earl Dunlap Distinguished Professor of Law at the UNL College of Law, is leaving in December to be sworn in as one of four justices on the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau.

Palau, a part of the U.N. Trust Territories, is a small island in Micronesia with about 16,000 residents.

Hoffman said he applied for the judicial appointment last year and was the top pick out of 250 applicants.

The application process was fairly sim-

ple, he said.

After writing a letter and submitting his resume, he met with the judicial board of Palau. He was selected as the new Palau Supreme Court justice from seven finalists.

Hoffman, a law professor at UNL since 1974, said he became familiar with Palau through his wife, De Lora Nobuo, a Palau native. They met while she attended Union College in Lincoln.

Hoffman said he would not face a language barrier problem at Palau because he said most residents spoke English as a second language. English also is the language of

the courts, he said, and the Palaun legal system closely resembles U.S. laws.

"We became the United Nations administrator to the island after World War II," Hoffman said. "The law is very similar to American law, but custom plays a big part in the law. It's a well-developed traditional law system grafted onto American law."

The position is a lifetime appointment, but Hoffman doesn't plan to spend the rest of his life on Palau's sandy beaches. He has a two-year leave of absence from the university and plans to return to Lincoln after a few years.

"We'll probably stay for several years, but I have an initial two-year commitment. Then I'll just take it from there," he said.

"I'm looking forward to it, but I'll definitely miss Lincoln."

FACULTY profile



Professors say debate lacked substance

By Shane Tucker
Staff Reporter

UNL faculty members said Tuesday that Ross Perot and Vice President Al Gore dodged some key issues in their debate about the North America Free Trade Agreement.

Gore went head-to-head with Perot during the 90-minute debate, hosted by Larry King on a special edition of CNN's "Larry King Live."

The debate provided an opportunity for the Clinton Administration officials, who support the plan, and Perot, who opposes it, to gather Congressional votes on the trade agreement

that will come before Congress next week.

Craig MacPhee, chairman of UNL's Department of Economics, said the most noticeable aspect of the debate was not what it covered, but what it left out.

NAFTA's effect on consumers, investment and service-oriented jobs were not discussed during the debate, MacPhee said.

Jobs in the service area, such as banking and consulting, are a large part of the American economy, said MacPhee, but neither Perot or Gore mentioned them during the debate.

David Rapkin, associate professor of political science, also said he thought the debaters didn't address some important NAFTA issues.

Both Perot and Gore, Rapkin said, failed to discuss the aggregate effects of NAFTA on jobs.

The effects of NAFTA debaters chose to focus on were exaggerated, MacPhee said.

Both Perot and Gore discussed the issue as if it would have an immediate impact, he said.

But MacPhee said its immediate effects in the U.S. would not be noticeable.

"I think that the effects of it (NAFTA) have been way overblown either way," MacPhee said.

The agreement probably will affect the two

See NAFTA on 6

Fiji directors suspend chapter after incident

By Alan Phelps
Senior Reporter

National Phi Gamma Delta directors have suspended the operations of UNL's Fiji chapter after university officials said a pledge was hazed Nov. 3.

Jeff Knoll, 19, remained in serious condition Tuesday, nearly one week after falling from a third-story Fiji bathroom window. University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials said fraternity members forced Knoll to drink just before he fell.

A nursing supervisor at Lincoln General Hospital said Knoll was conscious. She would not elaborate on his condition at the request of Knoll's family.

Knoll suffered facial fractures and a closed head injury when he landed on concrete and a metal grate. He had evidently been trying to climb down a pipe outside the window to escape the house.

James Griesen, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said Fiji's members would be allowed to eat and sleep in their fraternity house, but activities as a fraternity — such as social events — have been suspended pending investigation into the incident.

See FIJI on 6

Three men face assault charges in beating case

From Staff Reports

The Lancaster County Attorney's office filed third-degree assault charges Tuesday against three males suspected in the assault of a UNL international student last month.

Deputy County Attorney Jodi Nelson would not release the court number assigned to the case or the names of the suspects charged in connection with the Oct. 17 assault of Boon-Chung "Marco" Ong.

One suspect will be arraigned Wednesday, and a Nov. 17 arraignment date was set for the two other suspects, Nelson said. One of the three suspects is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said any assault by a student on campus constituted a violation of student code of conduct.

"I will confirm that one or more students who were involved in the incident where Mr. Ong was assaulted have been notified of an alleged infraction of the student code of conduct," he said. "However, I will not comment on whether any of the individuals cited by the county attorney have been so notified."

Griesen said university judicial procedures were confidential and declined to release the name of the student involved.

Police said the University of Nebraska Athletic Department had assisted in the investigation. Athletic department officials have declined comment.