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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

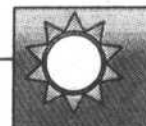
Vol. 93 No. 64

SPORTS

No respect

Several AP voters don't think Nebraska deserves a shot at the national title.

Page 7



Friday

35/20

Today, mostly sunny but windy and cold. Dry and becoming warmer through Sunday.



UCI student paper slams new president

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

While University of Nebraska officials were welcoming president-elect Dennis Smith with open arms this week, some of his students back home were bidding him good riddance.

"Hasta la vista, baby," was the headline of a Nov. 15 editorial from New University, the weekly campus newspaper of the University of California at Irvine.

The editorial, which criticized Smith for the work he has done as

executive vice chancellor, was addressed to students of the NU system, said John Ronan, editor in chief of the newspaper.

"We, the newspaper, used him as a personal whipping boy, more so because he epitomized everything we disliked about the administration here — their aloofness, their lack of availability," Ronan said, "not because we personally didn't like him."

Smith, who caught the flu during his Nov. 13-16 tour of the four campuses of the University of Nebraska, was unavailable for comment.

The editorial denounced Smith,

● See guest editorial page 4

calling him a closed-door administrator.

Horace Mitchell, the vice chancellor for student affairs and campus life at UCI, said although Smith was generally a well-liked official on campus, some students, at times, might disagree.

"What happens when you're in the position he's in is that you can't make everybody happy all the time," Mitchell said.

The editorial criticized Smith for

selling university land to the Transportation Corridor Agency for use as the future site of a major freeway.

The land, the editorial said, was ecologically preserved and home to the endangered California gnatcatcher.

The land is an environmentally sensitive area, Mitchell said, but UCI officials adhered to all state environmental laws in the sale of the land.

"Everything was according to law and form," he said, "but there were some who didn't want it to happen."

Ronan said the sale of the land received unanimous opposition from

UCI's academic senate and student government members.

"Everybody who was anybody on this campus was against that sale, and he pushed it through," Ronan said. "We were totally down on his case for that."

The editorial also criticized Smith for failing to further the implementation of an Asian American studies program. Asian Americans make up 43 percent of the student population at UCI.

Mitchell said UCI had been in the

See SMITH on 6

Take down

Women's club puts chokehold on stereotypes

By Amie Haggart
Staff Reporter

The UNL women's wrestling club is putting a reversal on the stereotype that the sport is only for men.

Bonnie Hackes, a UNL graduate student, started planning the club in August. Hackes said she had been wrestling for years and was encouraged by others when she presented the idea for a women's club.

Wrestling provides a real challenge, Hackes said.

"It takes a lot of practice to learn the moves and be able to put them together in a combination," she said.

The women's wrestling club meets Wednesday nights at 7:30 in the Campus Recreation Center. Hackes said the women warm up, do drills on basic moves and then have scrimmages.

Hackes said student fees funded the club, so men who are interested could join. However, she said she wanted the club to focus primarily on women.

Karen Mackey, who has practiced judo for 21 years, said wrestling strengthened her judo skills.

"I wanted to learn wrestling, especially for the mat techniques," she said. "People who have wrestled have a big advantage in judo on the mat."

Hackes said in the spring, many wrestlers would begin competing in matches through the Rec Center's intramural wrestling program. She expects some women's wrestling club members to participate in tournaments around the country.

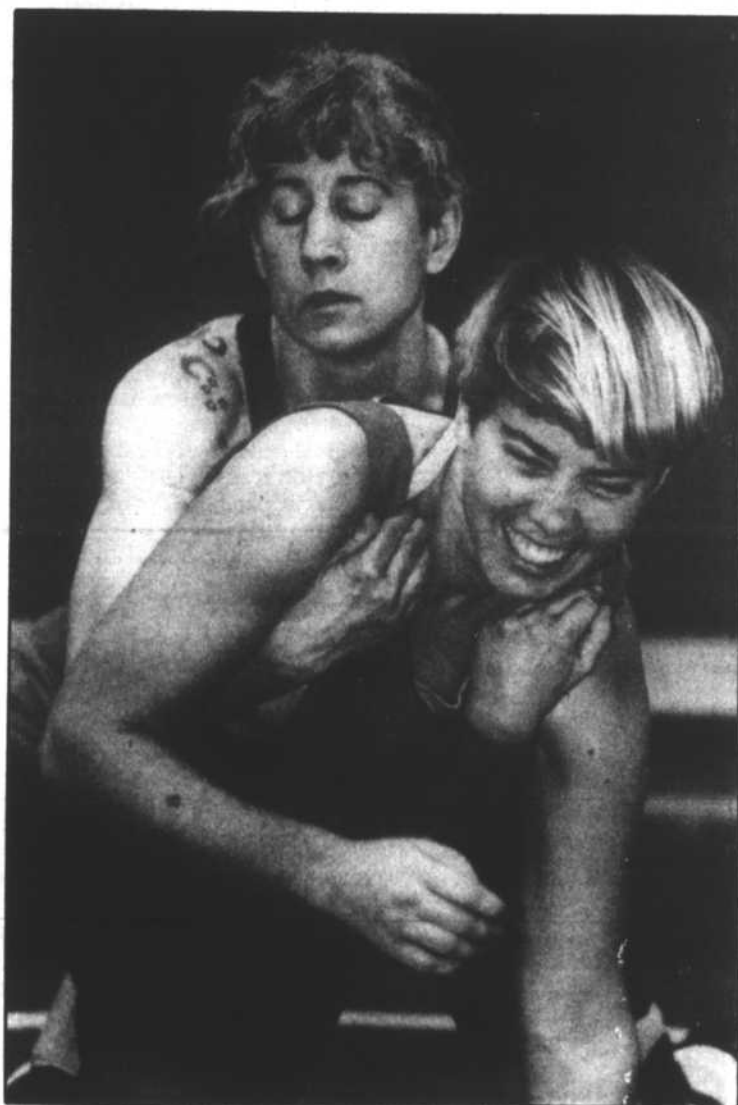
Mackey said because many women did not practice judo, the wrestling club added a new dimension to her athletic endeavors.

"It is nice to be around other women who are interested in a combative sport," she said. "There are always women who are interested in sports like judo and wrestling, and this is giving women the opportunity to do something like that."

Hackes said college finally offered women many of the same opportunities male athletes had always enjoyed.

"On the collegiate level people have equal opportunities, but before they get to this point some opportunities aren't available," Hackes said. "Once they reach adolescence they begin to drop out because wrestling is perceived as a male sport."

Chandra Burtrum, a senior chemistry major in the club, said having a women's wrestling club elimi-



Shaun Sartin/DN

Bonnie Hackes, a home economics graduate student, wrestles Chandra Burtrum, a senior chemistry major, during a women's wrestling club practice. The women's wrestling club meets Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Campus Recreation Center.

nated some of the stereotypes surrounding men's and women's sports.

"Before it was only guys that did the wrestling. Now no one can say that only guys do that," she said. "Now the opportunity is there and is open to women."

In addition to athletic skills, Mackey said women could learn personal-safety tactics from being in a combative situation.

"Wrestling is also good from a self-defense standpoint," she said. "The biggest thing the women are taught as far as self defense is self confidence. The experience is in a nonthreatening environment, which makes it easier to transfer in a real situation."

Hackes said various coaches had been instructing the sessions. UNL men's varsity wrestling coach Tim Neumann has been very helpful in recommending coaches, she said.

Burtrum said wrestling helped to free her mind from stress and worries.

"When I go in there to practice,

— "It is a step beyond physical fitness. You can't be a good wrestler unless you can think on your feet."

— Hackes
UNL graduate student

I forget about everything else. You only focus on what you have to. Since I'm learning, I focus that much more so that I get down the techniques," Burtrum said.

Hackes said wrestling required more than physical fitness.

"It is a step beyond physical fitness. You can't be a good wrestler unless you can think on your feet," she said. "This combines physical skills, which are necessary, and the mental aspect, which gives a challenge to it."

Harms murder case scared city to action

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Last September, almost everyone in Lincoln knew an 18-year-old UNL freshman was missing.

Wednesday, nearly everyone knew a man was found guilty of her murder.

The incident that resulted in the death of Candice Harms drew much attention throughout the city during the 75 days when no one knew her whereabouts.

Fliers with Harms' picture decorated street poles, bulletin boards, doors and windows. A billboard on Holdrege Street reminded passers-by a young woman was missing.

Rumors of what might have happened to Harms ran rampant.

Students and citizens joined Harms' parents in helping find their daughter. Local businesses donated buttons, paper and free advertising.

The community waited to learn the fate of Harms and hoped for the best.

Dec. 4, 1992, the answer was known when Scott Barney confessed that he and Roger Bjorklund took part in Harms' death. Barney led police to Harms' body Dec. 6. A jury found Bjorklund guilty of first-degree murder Wednesday.

The fear that gripped Lincolniters from the night Harms disappeared heightened the awareness of the incident, said Judith Kriss, director of the

UNL Women's Center.

Kriss said she thought Harms' death received a great deal of attention in Lincoln because each community member could relate to it.

"Everyone that I know has identified with this case in some way — as a parent, as a woman, as a student, as a victim, as a vulnerable person, as someone being in the wrong place in the wrong time," Kriss said.

During closing arguments at Bjorklund's trial, Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said no woman in the county was safe the night Bjorklund and Barney set out to find a woman to kidnap and rape in hopes of fulfilling a fantasy.

Harms just happened to be that woman.

Kriss said the randomness of the incident also contributed to its enormous publicity.

"She was totally and completely a victim," Kriss said. "There was nothing she could have done to prevent that — other than not be there."

Kriss said she was relieved the jurors found Bjorklund guilty because it illustrated that crime didn't pay.

"It sends a very clear message that what happened is out of the realm of anything that is acceptable," she said.

Kriss also said the verdict would help quash ideas that women are vulnerable.

See BJORKLUND on 2

Bjorklund's fate rests in legal system's hands

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey will use three arguments in an attempt to persuade a judge to sentence Roger Bjorklund to death.

A jury convicted Bjorklund on Wednesday of first-degree murder and using a weapon to commit a felony in the death of Candice Harms.

Lacey said he would use three aggravating circumstances to persuade District Judge Donald Endacott to give Bjorklund the death penalty during the Jan. 24 sentencing hearing.

The state is limited to arguing only aggravating factors for the judge to issue the death penalty, Lacey said.

Defense attorneys are allowed to argue almost any factors to save Bjorklund from a death sentence, he said.

Lacey said he would try to prove beyond any doubt that one or more of these aggravating circumstances apply to Bjorklund's case:

● The murder was especially heinous, atrocious or cruel, or manifested exceptional depravity by ordinary standards of morality and intelligence.

● The offender has been convicted of another murder or a crime involving the use or threat of violence. (Bjorklund has been arrested in connection with several robberies committed last fall.)

● The murder was committed in an apparent effort to conceal the commission of another crime or to conceal the identity of the perpetrator of the crime.

Defense attorneys have implied they would argue that sentencing Bjorklund to death would be unfair when his alleged accomplice, Scott Barney, cannot receive it.

Barney pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against Bjorklund in exchange for a promise he wouldn't receive the death penalty.

J. Kirk Brown, chief of the criminal appellate section of the Nebraska Attorney General's office, said attorneys would have an entirely different focus during the sentencing hearing than during the trial.

The sentencing hearing is similar to a mini-trial, Brown said, where witnesses will testify and evidence will be introduced.

See PENALTY on 6