

# Daily Nebraskan

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**A&E  
Movie  
Review**

Spielberg scores another hit with "Schindler's List." Page 6

**Wednesday**  
22/10  
Today, a chance of freezing rain with snow in the afternoon.

## Taped confessions open Bjorklund hearing

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

Taped confessions of jury tampering and more details in the death of Candice Harms were admitted Tuesday during the first round of suppression hearings for the sentencing of Roger Bjorklund.

Bjorklund, convicted in November of the first-degree murder of Harms, appeared before Judge Donald Endacott in Lancaster County District Court.

Detective Sgt. Greg Sorensen of

the Lincoln Police Department testified that Bjorklund requested a meeting with him after his conviction. He said Bjorklund's message sounded urgent.

Bjorklund asked Sorensen about the investigation into the jury tampering during his trial, Sorensen said. A tape of the conversation was made.

From a transcript of the tapes, Bjorklund said he wanted to help clear Pastor Sherman McCormick's name. McCormick, from the Piedmont Park Seventh Day Adventist Church, helped

Bjorklund deliver threatening letters to jurors after visiting him in jail.

Five jurors, all women, received threatening letters at their hotel during the trial's third week. The letters urged the jurors to find Bjorklund guilty.

McCormick wanted Bjorklund to send a note to Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey claiming responsibility for the letters.

Bjorklund said he followed the advice of a fellow inmate, who Bjorklund said wrote the letters.

Bjorklund said he did not even know what the letters contained, but knew they were sent.

Sorensen said he asked Bjorklund why the letters were sent, which could have caused a mistrial, when Bjorklund had said he wanted his trial to be over.

"Well, 'cause I guess I was stupid," Bjorklund said in the transcripts. "I took someone's advice and I shouldn't of, and I felt bad about it..."

Also admitted into evidence were tapes holding what Sorensen called a

more detailed account of the death of Harms.

Sorensen said Bjorklund asked if tapes could be used in the sentencing hearing. Sorensen said Bjorklund was never given the idea the tapes would not be used against him in court.

Bjorklund's attorney, Chief Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie, asked Sorensen why he questioned Bjorklund about the murder after he had been found guilty. He also ques-

See BJORKLUND on 3



*Bending over backwards*

John Ertl, a sophomore fine arts major, and Keaton Mercer, a senior theater major, practice their ballet techniques during their Principles of Ballet class Tuesday afternoon in the Johnny Carson Theatre.

Travis Hoying/DN

## Clinton touts health care, crime package

From Daily Nebraskan  
and Associated Press Reports

WASHINGTON—Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey and Rep. Doug Bereuter both gave President Clinton high marks on his first State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Crime and welfare reform were the strong points of the Clinton agenda, the Nebraska congressmen told the Daily Nebraskan.

Kerrey, a Democrat, said the president had his priorities straight—crime, children, families, education and job training.

However, Kerrey said, the Clinton health care initiatives need changes.

"I disagree with some of the approaches the president is taking on health care," he said. "With all due respect to the president, that bill won't pass."

The most successful issues in Clinton's first year have been those receiving bipartisan support, Kerrey said. Without that support, he said, health care would not pass.

Bereuter, a Republican, said the problems for Clinton's agenda may not be the Republicans' fault.

"The problems that will come, will come from the bleeding-heart wing of his own party," Bereuter said.

In the past, Bereuter said, the more liberal Democrats stopped crime and welfare initiatives.

Bereuter said Clinton put pressure on the liberals in the Democratic Party with his agenda, because many of his initiatives were modeled on Republican ideas.

Clinton's initiatives are steps in the right direction, Bereuter said. He said he would get bipartisan support on many issues, especially welfare and crime.

"I'm going to help him with my vote," he said.

In his speech, Clinton proclaimed progress on his promises to break gridlock and revive the nation's economy and challenged Congress to move promptly on health care and welfare reform.

"Our work has just begun," Clinton told a joint session of Congress. "We must do both at the same time."

Upping pressure on Congress to pass the health care reform plan he proposed, Clinton—who has yet to veto a bill—threatened to veto any measure that does not meet his standard of universal coverage.

"If the legislation you send me does not guarantee every American private health insurance that can never be taken away, I will take this pen, veto that legislation, and we'll come right back here and start over again."

Clinton took advantage of—and some of the credit for—the improving economy to call for Congress to "continue our journey of renewal" by enacting the remainder of his domestic program.

"We replaced drift and deadlock with renewal and reform," Clinton said.

Turning to crime, Clinton voiced strong support for legislation that would put 100,000 more police on the beat, send three-time felons to prison for life and ban assault weapons.

"Violent crime and the fear it provokes are crippling our society, limiting personal freedom and fraying the ties that bind us," Clinton said.

See ADDRESS on 3

## NU engineering debate called 'turf war'

By Kara G. Morrison  
Senior Reporter

The debate over establishing a separate engineering college at UNO has started a "turf war" that is hurting the entire NU system, one regent said Tuesday.

"It's getting out of hand," Regent Robert Allen of Hastings said.

Allen cited as an example a Dec. 9 engineering consultant's meeting at UNO, where one professor was physically barred from the room by University of Nebraska at Omaha faculty

members because he had not signed a petition supporting the separate college.

Allen said the engineering debate had culminated into a competition between campuses that was detrimental to the NU system and the university's overall image.

Omaha Regent Rosemary Skrupa disagreed that such competition was hurting the University of Nebraska.

"Perhaps I've been too long in a free enterprise system, but I believe competition is student effective and cost effective," she said. "There is nothing wrong with it."

"That's the whole nature of the university, to foster constructive dissent, and once a decision has been made, let's play ball. The opposite would be a police state."

Such competition, however, is not consistent with the one-university concept NU Board

of Regents Chairman Charles Wilson of Lincoln has advocated throughout the debate.

"The essence of (the one-university concept) is that the University of Nebraska and all the programs included in it should be directed to meet the needs of the entire state," he said.

"I think the concept is relevant to the engineering debate," Wilson said. "Engineering is the most expensive undergraduate program. It's important to use our resources wisely in order to have the best program in the state of Nebraska, including Omaha."

When individual campuses react by pursuing their own agendas and competing with one another, Wilson said, a unified approach to meeting the state's needs is jeopardized.

Allen said outspokenness by Omaha regents, business leaders and UNO administration advocating a separate college also had undermined the university's decision-making process.

"There is a process by which they can seek a change, but their going public with this is really causing animosity," Allen said.

Allen said UNO Chancellor Del Weber had never confronted the regents about any problems with the UNO engineering program.

Allen said the "turf war" extended beyond the engineering debate and charged Weber and Omaha regents with taking deliberate measures to forward their own causes and undermine the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's progress.

"Del didn't start the turf war, but he has made it much more intense for trying to be just like a university that's only 50 miles away," Allen said. "This turf war is more serious than most people want to acknowledge."

### One-university concept?

► Regent Robert Allen said debate was getting out of hand, citing a UNO conflict where one professor was physically barred from a meeting.

► Regent Rosemary Skrupa said the debate was part of the university's nature to foster constructive dissent.

► Regents Chairman Charles Wilson said this competition was not consistent with the one-university concept.

Thursday, the Daily Nebraskan will examine the duplication two engineering programs could create in the NU system.

Weber declined comment.

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo dismissed Allen's linkage of the issues to the engineering debate and animosity between campuses.

"It doesn't have anything to do with issues in the past, it has to do with the needs of the state and having those met in a very specific instance. It's not related to those issues," O'Brien said.

Skrupa also disagreed that the engineering debate had caused a rift between campuses on other issues.

"I hate to see anyone even trying to suggest there are other problems," Skrupa said.

Wilson said he expected the engineering consultant's report to be available to the regents within the next month or two.



**ENGINEERING  
DEBATE**