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Barney pleads guilty to Harms' murder

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Scott Barney pleaded guilty Thursday to the first-degree murder of Candice Harms, claiming full responsibility for his role in the crime, but saying Roger Bjorklund directed his actions.

"I was following what Mr. Bjorklund was saying to do," Barney told Lancaster County Judge Donald Endacott.

Barney said he was a willing participant in the abduction and rape of Harms, but that Bjorklund alone shot and strangled her.

As part of a plea agreement, Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey is seeking life imprisonment, not the death penalty, against Barney. Prosecutors also dropped all robbery charges against Barney for which he was originally arrested.

Earlier this week, Lacey canceled an original deal to have Barney plead guilty to lesser charges of second-degree murder and robbery after

Barney failed a polygraph test.

Endacott ordered a presentence investigation report that he said would be due May 23. Barney will be sentenced June 10.

Barney, who by pleading guilty gave up his right to a trial and against self-incrimination, answered Endacott's questions about the events on Sept. 22, 1992. He also read a statement where he apologized "for the pain that I have caused so many."

Barney said in his statement: "I have regretted my involvement in this crime from the very beginning, even to the point that I could no longer hold it in. This was the reason that I led authorities to the burial place of Candice Harms."

Barney led police to Harms' body in December 1992.

Seated in the witness chair, Barney, 26, did not look up while he read from the statement. He apologized to Harms' family and said he had found Christ as a result of soul-searching after committing the crime.

"I wish to express my sorrow for the pain

— "66"

I wish to express my sorrow for the pain caused Miss Candice Harms. Though she is not here to personally address, I deeply regret having hurt an innocent young lady.

— Barney

pleading guilty to Harms' murder

— "99"

caused Miss Candice Harms. Though she is not here to personally address, I deeply regret having hurt an innocent young lady," Barney said.

Harms' parents, Stan and Pat Harms, said they hoped Barney had converted to Christianity, but said they had doubts about his statements.

"I don't feel forgiveness totally because I don't feel he has told the whole truth," Stan Harms said. "I think he had a lot more to do with initiating the kidnapping. ... I don't think he was the innocent bystander he said this morn-

ing."

Through his statement to the Lincoln Police Department and court testimony, Barney gave the following account of events the night of Sept. 22, 1992:

Barney and Bjorklund were golfing at Pine Lake a week before the abduction of Harms when Bjorklund said he wanted to rape a woman.

"He was saying there was a good possibility we might be caught from a (credit union) bank robbery ... and he stated that he wanted to impose himself on some

See BARNEY on 3

Merger may increase academic opportunities

By Todd Neeley
Staff Reporter

The recent merger of the Big Eight Conference with four Southwest Conference schools may help to open a few doors in research and academics at UNL.

David Brinkerhoff, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said it was too soon to tell how the merger would affect academics at UNL.

But, he said, the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University and Baylor University are strong academic institutions.

"It's a good thing; there are some good schools there," Brinkerhoff said. "It's a merger that should have some academic value to UNL."

Donald Helmuth, associate vice chancellor for research at UNL, said the four schools could complement UNL research.

He said Texas was strong in agricultural research, Baylor emphasized biological technology, and Texas A&M was a good science-oriented university. Texas Tech is strong in teaching and research programs in business, engineering, home economics, agriculture and law.

"All these schools do something different," he said, "so we hope to have a dialogue with them."

Helmuth also said there was a possibility the merger would help UNL improve on larger research projects.

And, he said, graduate students doing research at UNL may have better chances of finding jobs after graduating.

If the conference merger helps to improve UNL's visibility, he said, all areas of academics and research may benefit.

However, despite the possible increase in national exposure, Brinkerhoff said, it is not likely the merger will bring more faculty and students to UNL.

Sally Wise, president of UNL's Academic Senate, said it could take a while to understand the effects of the merger on academics at UNL.

"I think it opens doors to us to do different research and outreach projects," she said. "It has the potential to be positive at UNL academically as well."

Although it is an athletic merger, Wise said, it was important to address the academic side of the merger.

"Academics are an important part of it, and they need to be considered and addressed," she said. "I think the ball is in our court to see what opportunities this will bring."

Athletic Director Bill Byrne will speak about the merger at the Academic Senate meeting Tuesday.

Bubble sheets, be gone

By Melanie Brandert
Staff Reporter

Students registering for summer and fall semester classes will no longer have to fill out bubble sheets and registration worksheets.

NRoll, a new telephone registration system, will soon enable students to register for classes using a touch-tone phone.

Complete instructions for the system will be included in the Fall 1994 Schedule of Classes, which will be available Monday to students, said Suzan Marschman, information systems coordinator for the Office of Registration and Records.

Marschman said the schedule of classes would instruct the students when to call the system, depending on time, day and class level.

Graduate students and seniors will be allowed to use NRoll March 14, the first day of registration. Juniors, sophomores and freshmen will be able to use the system shortly thereafter.

When students call 472-7272, an electronic voice will be activated to

guide them through the registration process.

The voice will ask for the semester code, the student's social security number and the student's personal identification number, which recently was sent to UNL students.

"It's important for a student to listen to the prompts and to be prepared," Marschman said.

NRoll will provide students with information on their status in a desired class. They will know immediately if they are in that class or not, she said.

"Once they punch in the call number, then the system will tell them if they are in that class," Marschman said.

If the class is full, the system's voice will tell them so and will give the students alternative sections if they are available, she said.

Marschman said the registration and records office was hoping for a positive reaction from students. The office is planning student focus groups,

See NROLL on 3



A&E Memory Lane

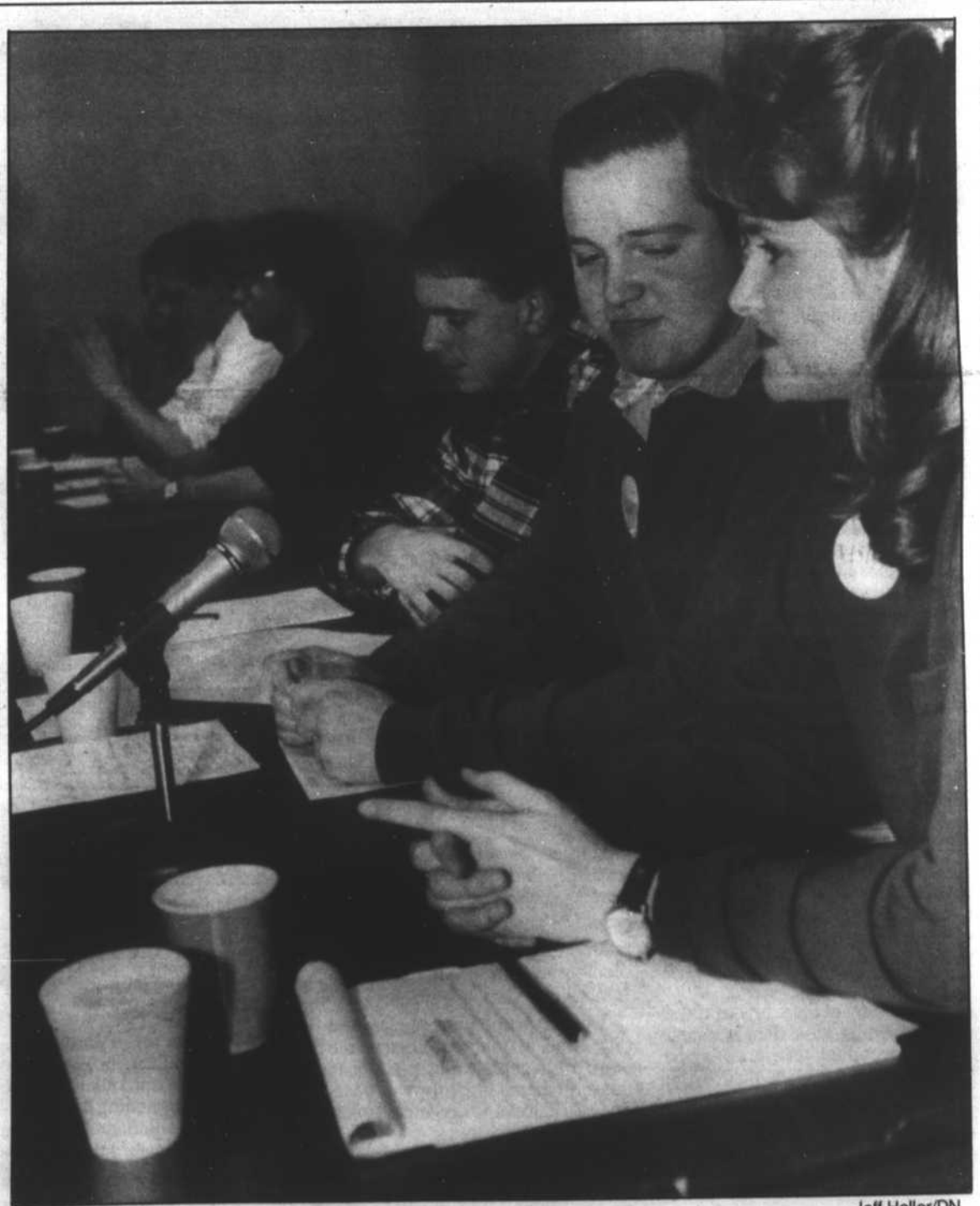
UNL art professor Dave Read uses photography to capture the American experience. Read's black-and-white display, "The Way We Live Now," opens at the Haydon Gallery this weekend.
Page 9



Friday

65/33

Today, mostly sunny and mild, becoming cloudy at night.



Jeff Haller/DN

VISION party members listen to RESUME members Thursday at their second debate.

Debate hits on diversity, drinking

By Heather Lampe
Staff Reporter

RESUME presidential candidate J.B. Howell responded to VISION's claim of a diverse ticket by saying there was more to diversity than simply skin color. "Diversity is a value," Howell said during the second of three ASUN pre-election debates. "It's not something you can take a picture of."

Judy Rishel, second vice-presidential candidate for VISION, said her party had strived to put together

a diverse ticket.

"VISION will be the party that will reach out to minority students and get them involved. We will be the party that will listen to every group's concern on this campus," Rishel said.

Howell said RESUME, though they had fewer candidates than VISION, was just as diverse.

"Where does diversity come from? What makes a group diverse?" he asked. "It is how they act, feel and think."

Robert Anderson, first vice-presidential candidate for the RESUME

party, said ASUN traditionally did not meet the needs of minority students.

"Being a gay male myself, I know a lot of these issues have not been dealt with," Anderson said.

The RESUME and VISION parties also discussed proposed grading changes, plans for a bicycle dismount zone, the possibility of UNL becoming a wet campus and student voter turnout.

Other debate focused on RESUME's campaign for a wet cam-

See DEBATE on 3