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A&E Concert Review

Crosby, Stills
and Nash still
thrill the
audience, even
after 25 years.
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Monday

37/10

Today, variable
cloudiness with
flurries at night.

Bjorklund sentencing to last three weeks

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Proceedings begin today to determine whether Roger Bjorklund will be sentenced to death or life in prison.

Bjorklund was convicted in November of first-degree murder and using a weapon to commit a felony in the 1992 death of UNL student Candice Harms. His sentencing hearing is expected to last three weeks.



Defense attorneys have said they would argue Bjorklund should not receive the death penalty since prosecutors were seeking a lighter sentence against his accomplice.

As part of a plea agreement with prosecutors, Scott Barney pleaded guilty last Thursday to murdering Harms. Barney, who led police to Harms' grave in December 1992, said he would plead guilty and testify against Bjorklund if the death penalty was not sought against him.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey has said he would not call Barney to testify against Bjorklund. Barney will be sentenced June 10.

J. Kirk Brown, chief of the criminal appellate section of the Nebraska Attorney General's office, said prosecutors would have to prove one or more aggravating circumstances for Bjorklund to receive the death penalty.

Brown said such aggravating circumstances included:

- The perpetrator has been convicted of another murder or violent crime or has a history of serious assaultive behavior.

- The victim of the crime was killed to conceal the fact that a crime had been committed or the victim was killed to conceal the perpetrator's identity.

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The only way to avoid (life in prison) is to have the pardons board reduce that sentence.

—Brown

Nebraska Attorney General's office

— 99 —

- The murder was especially heinous, atrocious or cruel. (Brown said this usually involved whether the victim was sexually abused or tortured.)

Lacey has said he would try to prove beyond a doubt that one or more of these aggravating circumstances applied to Bjorklund's case.

Brown said Bjorklund's previous record, which was not relevant in the trial, would be important in proving aggravating circumstances in his sentencing hearing.

Bjorklund and Barney were arrested in connection with a string of Lincoln robberies in 1992.

Sentencing hearings are mini-trials, where the prosecution and defense enter new evidence and call a number of witnesses, Brown said.

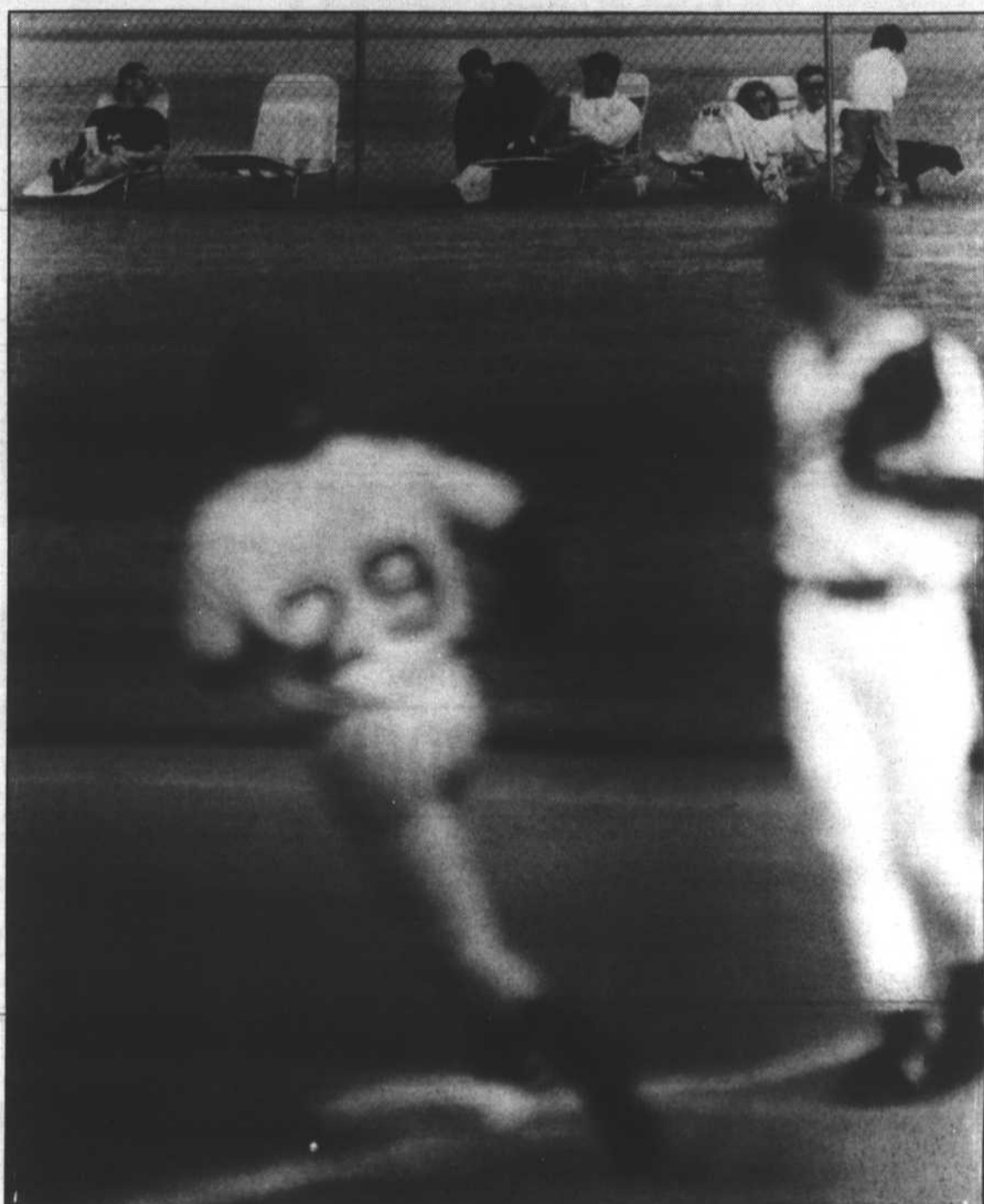
Brown said although prosecutors were limited to presenting documentary evidence, the defense could use any mitigating evidence and circumstances, including the defendant's personal life, for its case.

If one or more aggravating circumstances cannot be proven, Brown said Bjorklund's sentence would be life in prison, which typically meant a natural lifetime in prison without parole.

"The only way to avoid (life in prison) is to have the pardons board reduce that sentence," Brown said.

Under current parole procedures, Brown said, a parole board would not

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Michelle Paulman/DN

Signs of spring

A group of fans shun the bleachers at Buck Beltzer Field for the outfield during Nebraska's game against Western Illinois on Saturday afternoon.

Talk key to combating sexism in academia, author says

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Instances of sexism, similar to those alleged in the Committee W report on the College of Business Administration, are widespread in academic institutions, an author said Friday.

Paula Caplan, author of "Lifting a Ton of Feathers: A Woman's Guide to Surviving in the Academic World," spoke about her book to more than 100 students and faculty members Friday in the Nebraska Union.

Caplan, who teaches women's studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, said the UNL American Association of University Professors report was similar to women's experiences she recorded while researching her book on women in academia.

Caplan said she met Friday with CBA Dean Gary Schwendiman and other administrators at their request. She said she was encouraged by the fact that UNL administration seemed dedicated to solving the problems.

"Dean Schwendiman told me he has been putting aside an enormous amount of time to work on this," Caplan said. "I think (the administration) should be given a chance to follow through."

In her speech, Caplan shared some of her own experiences with sexism.

She recalled one instance in which a male supervisor commented on her research on sex differences, asking, "When are you going to stop doing that and start doing something important?"

Another time, a colleague assumed Caplan

wasn't working as hard as other professors just because she had four children.

As an undergraduate, Caplan said male professors became defensive when she wrote a paper mildly challenging Freud's views of women.

Caplan said although academia was not worse in terms of sexism than the work force in general, sexism in academic institutions had gotten worse in the last 20 years.

"If you're a woman and you walk on campus and look around, it's very deceiving in a way, because you think: women are obviously welcome because look how many there are."

In reality, she said, "the academic funnel" exists. Women administrators are increasingly difficult to find in high-paying, high-profile positions, creating a funnel-like structure.

Caplan said other problems for women in academia included:

- a devaluing of women's work. (Professors believing women and minorities who do well are not doing their own work).

- stereotypes and fears of powerful women. Caplan said women who speak out or band together are seen as threatening.

- a lack of incentives for women (The best jobs seem out of reach, she said).

- frequent use of sexist language.

One of the best ways to combat sexism, she said, is to prioritize ways of making campus more conducive to women and minorities and to talk openly about problems.

"It's important to talk and talk and talk about this," Caplan said.

Luck played part in airplane crash survival, pilot says

By James Hruska
Staff Reporter

KEARNEY — On July 19, 1989 what began as a routine flight on board United Airlines, Flight 232, took a turn for the worse.

After the flight departed from Denver at 2:09 p.m., it climbed to an altitude of 37,000 feet. At 3:16 p.m. the crew notified the air traffic control center at Minneapolis that the No. 2 engine had failed.

The crew experimented with the controls on the remaining No. 1 and No. 3 engines and was able to direct the DC-10 to Sioux City, Iowa, where it prepared to land at Sioux Gateway

Airport.

When the plane approached the runway, the left wing lifted while the right wing hit the ground. Upon impact, the airplane broke into four pieces.

The DC-10, a new type of aircraft, depends on hydraulic pressure.

"It is absolutely essential you have hydraulic pressure and fluid or you have no way to fly the airplane," Captain Alfred Haynes said.

The odds that a DC-10 would lose total power of the hydraulics is a billion to one, he said.

"On July 19th, Murphy's Law caught up with us, and we lost all hydraulics," Haynes said

Haynes spoke in Kearney on Friday and Saturday at the Aeronautics Aviation Maintenance Seminar sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics.

One crew member and 111 passengers were killed in the crash, but 184 people survived. There were five factors Haynes credited to the survival of so many: luck, communication, preparedness, execution and cooperation.

Haynes said luck played a large part in directing the aircraft out of a densely populated area.

The crew experimented with the throttle control of the two remaining engines, Haynes said, and were able to approach the runway. After approach, another problem faced the crew.

"We had no way to steer it and no way to stop it," Haynes said. "There were times when we all doubted we would keep the airplane in the sky long enough to get it to the airport."

Haynes also said luck played a large part in the rescue operations. At the time of the crash, an annual golf tournament was being played. Many doctors were there and were notified before the plane hit the ground.

Also at the time of the crash, shifts were changing at two local hospitals. This allowed the hospitals to be double staffed.

About 250 guardsmen from the 185th Air National Guard in Sioux City also helped with

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