

Technology

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ussions. "We need your views on how information technology can build a stronger Nebraska," he said.

He said the input from the small group discussions would show how information could be put to work, would clarify the obstacles and would identify partnerships to avoid duplication and stretch resources. The information would be relayed to the newly established Nebraska Commission on Information Technology, he said.

"By working together and by making wise investments, people in Nebraska can find the fast lane in the information superhighway and drive towards success," he said.

Guest speaker Dennis Smith, president of the University of Nebraska, said the NCIT was an important step in addressing the issues of technology.

"Today we're talking about information technology and telecommunications in our state," he said. "These are clearly technological changes of a magnitude that will define an era, and we all have a stake."

Smith said taking advantage of technology was hindered by misdirection.

"Education, business and industry, health care and government agencies

have all been working to develop electronic systems for delivery of information," he said. "but unfortunately, there has been little or no strategy."

The NCIT would address urban and rural access, compatibility, cost, training and balancing the needs of competition in developing a strategy.

"If we do these things thoughtfully, if we involve all of us together, the technology we develop and fine-tune will turn out not only OK for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren," he said.

Smith said he wanted to do two things to advance technology within the universities.

"One is to provide enough hardware that all students would have access to computers," he said. Smith said those computers should be hooked to video equipment, so students could do some of their own tutorial and advanced course work.

He said these advancements combined with training would help the university system immensely in the future.

Nelson said students should be concerned with the information superhighway as well.

"The sooner you get on the on-ramp, the better the chance of making things happen," he said. "The faster you get up to date on what's happening and get the base level of everyone's knowledge up there, then you'll be positioned to follow along as developments occur."

Book to help blacks pick colleges

By Kara Korshoj
Staff Reporter

A few members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln community have written the first-ever guide for black students.

"The Black Student's Guide To College Success" reviews more than 900 colleges throughout the country.

Ruby Higgins, assistant director for student support services in UNL's Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs, is a co-author of the guide, which was published by Greenwood Press.

Higgins said the book was aimed toward blacks to help them choose a college or university that would best suit their interests.

Clidie B. Cook, R. McLaran Sawyer and Keith W. Prichard are also co-authors of the book.

Sawyer, Prichard and Cook are all instructors in the UNL Teachers College.

The book has sections dealing with issues such as whether to choose a black college or an integrated college, how to finance a college education, selecting a major and how to get along with nonblacks on campus.

Higgins said the time was right for

a publication dealing with the topic. "I just felt there was a need for this," she said.

The guide also has essays from successful blacks such as Greg Gumbel of CBS News, Lyn Vaughn of CNN Headline News and Bill Cockerman, a coach at the University of California-Berkeley.

"The essays shared how they were able to get through the college process successfully," Higgins said.

Higgins said she and the other authors took the history of black graduates and the prestige of each college into consideration when deciding which colleges to overview.

The guide looks at predominately white as well as black schools and provides information black students can use when talking to college recruiters, Higgins said.

In the overview of each college, the guide supplies the student with the name and number of the black recruiter to contact and listings of black organizations on campus.

Linda Kay Morgan, an employee at the UNL Multi-Cultural Affairs Office, said she wished she had had the

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"I just felt there was a need for this."

— Higgins
author, "The Black Student's Guide To College Success"

book when she was deciding on which college to attend.

Morgan said the book was essential for black students.

"Many of them do not know what to expect from a predominately white university," Morgan said.

Many black students find themselves in a situation in which they chose a college based on what they can afford, Morgan said.

"This book gives you the support to cope when you feel isolated and alone in a white university," Morgan said.

"The Black Student's Guide To College Success" is not yet available in bookstores, but it can be found in Love Library, Higgins said.

Bjorklund

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In the defense's opening statements, Chief Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie said prosecutors couldn't prove the aggravating circumstances required to impose the death penalty.

A one-month time period wasn't long enough to prove Bjorklund had a substantial assaultive or terrorizing history, he said.

In addition, Helvie said, Bjorklund did not kill Harms to cover up the rape. The actual killing, he said, was done by Barney, who pleaded guilty to the murder Thursday.

Finally, he said, the rape-murder combination didn't automatically make Bjorklund's crimes heinous enough to warrant the death penalty.

"It is obviously a heinous crime; all homicides are heinous," he said.

But other cases of murder and sexual assault in Nebraska have resulted in life imprisonment, not the death penalty, he said.

The Legislature requires criminal penalties to be applied uniformly throughout the state, he said. Bjorklund deserves the same treatment as Barney, who has bargained with prosecutors to avoid the death penalty.

Testifying first for the prosecution was Ivars Kalnins, an employee at Rudy's Drive-In, 1608 N. 56th St., which was robbed in September 1992. Bjorklund has made statements that he was involved in the armed robbery.

Kalnins sustained minor injuries in the robbery, but none were long-term.

Randall Repp, a former employee at Rex TV, 6900 O St., testified that he also was robbed in September 1992. The burglar threatened Repp and took the store's deposit bag.

"They said they knew where I was and knew where I lived. If I told anyone, they would kill me," Repp said.

Barney and Bjorklund also were accused of robbing the Travelodge, 2901 N.W. 12th St., in August 1992. Dean Dreyer was working the night of the burglary.

Dreyer said one burglar entered the motel lobby after 2:15 a.m. After taking the money, the robber threatened Dreyer.

"He told me if I moved, I was a dead man," Dreyer said. "I thought of my wife and kids and just prayed nothing would happen."

Scott Ogburn, an employee at Sinclair, 48th and Randolph streets, testified about a robbery of which he was a victim in September 1992.

Ogburn recounted the burglary of the gas station. He later identified Barney as the burglar.

Various newspaper articles were offered into evidence despite objections by Helvie. The articles recount the robberies which Bjorklund and Barney are accused of committing.

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