

# Daily Nebraskan

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

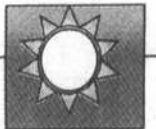
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SPORTS

## Huskiers 'quaked'

The 26th-ranked Penn Quakers manhandle Nebraska 90-80 in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

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Friday

65/34

Today, mostly sunny.



## Ministers say Bjorklund was church leader

### Defense witnesses call him dependable, dedicated to theology

By Kara G. Morrison  
Senior Reporter

Ministers and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church said Thursday that Roger Bjorklund was a religious man when they knew him.

Defense attorneys called several witnesses to testify about Bjorklund's character in the second week of his sentencing hearing.

Bjorklund was convicted in November of murdering University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Candice Harms. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against him.

Bob Mohr, a pastor who sold religious books with Bjorklund in the literature ministry of the church, said Bjorklund was ambitious and dependable in the four years he knew him.

"Roger seemed to get along well with everyone," said Mohr, who kept in contact with Bjorklund from 1986 to 1990.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey asked Mohr, who called Bjorklund a strong leader in the church, whether he thought Bjorklund could be easily influenced to do something immoral.

"I think Roger is pretty much an individual," Mohr said. "I don't think he'd be easily led astray."

Donald Yancheson, a Seventh-day Adventist minister in Hastings, said he and Bjorklund had been friends while the men were attending Union College in Lincoln.

He said Bjorklund was friendly and dedicated to theology. Bjorklund, he said, was often opinionated in his beliefs.

"He was extreme in his thinking at times," Yancheson said. "He chose not to associate with people who didn't agree with him."

Lancaster County District Judge Donald Endacott sustained the defense's objection that Yancheson answer questions about visits he made to Bjorklund in jail.

Endacott said Yancheson did not have to answer the questions because of pastor privilege laws.

Yancheson said he thought Bjorklund was remorseful about Harms' death, but the minister said he was confused by the intense interest Bjorklund took in the trial and legal proceedings against him.

Two former supervisors of Kimberly Quality Care, a home health-care provider, also testified that Bjorklund worked well with their clients, one of whom was a quadriplegic.

Bjorklund's sentencing hearing will resume today and is expected to conclude next week.

Endacott has said he will have 90 days from the time the last evidence is submitted in the sentencing hearing to decide Bjorklund's sentence.



Sandy Summers/DN

Paul Olson, an English professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, recently won the Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity. Olson has spent 25 years working for American Indian civil rights. "I am grateful for the award; I hope that I continue to do justice to the spirit of Sue Tidball."

## Professor gets humanity award

### Paul Olson champion of human rights activism

By Kara G. Morrison  
Senior Reporter

Paul Olson is known for challenging students to think critically, for defending human rights and for encouraging activism instead of passivity.

"A university ought to be a place of dissidence and learning where students come out having a sense of what they want to do," says Olson, a foundation professor of English at UNL, "not just what job they want to have."

Olson recently was named a recipient of the Sue Tidball Award for Creative Humanity.

In nominating Olson for the award, UNL graduate student Susie Prenger said Olson challenged the university to respond to human needs.

That challenge starts in his classroom. "I try to get (students) to explore what their real convictions are," says Olson, who teaches conflict resolution courses, including one on the literature of war and peace. Olson says he has never known students

who have had the courage to follow their own visions who didn't find success doing something meaningful. He challenges his students to explore their thoughts and their definitions of success.

"If no pain is involved, no learning is taking place," Olson says.

Olson began teaching at UNL in 1957, when activism in academia was strong.

"In the '60s and '70s, a lot of university people were engaged in civil rights ... they were politically active," Olson said. "That's almost entirely disappeared."

Now, Olson says, many faculty don't step outside the university long enough to know what problems are going on around them. And by not knowing, many fail to get students involved in their world.

"If I had my way," Olson says, "I'd require faculty members to get out of the university part time to see what's going on." He's an activist himself.

With his research on American Indian culture, his interest in what he sees as increasing poverty in our country and his work with his wife Elizabeth in the peace move-

ment, Olson has been an activist within education.

He has spent several years on UNL's Human Rights committee and has headed a national committee on undergraduate education. In both capacities, Olson has challenged universities to meet needs of all people.

"Higher education is structured not to be very much in touch with the needs of low-income people and people from different cultures," Olson said.

Olson worked to ensure accreditation requirements would make universities accountable for all people's needs.

Prenger called Olson "an intellectual giant who would laugh at such a label."

Olson laughs. He denies the label furiously, despite having studied in London on a Fulbright Scholarship and receiving his doctorate at Princeton.

Olson insists he has days where he's a rotten teacher and says his teaching methods are not distinctive.

"I think almost any method, if it's done with a certain amount of love and some respect for the students, can work," he says.

## Electoral Commission fines VISION party for violations

By Brian Sharp  
Staff Reporter

The Electoral Commission levied \$48.75 in fines against the VISION party Thursday, bringing the total to \$110.75 for campaign violations during the ASUN election.

All complaints filed against losing parties were dismissed by the commission, a tradition from past rulings, officials said. The RESUME party has been fined \$5 and LETTUCE, \$1.

For the victorious party, now declared certified winners, no such tradition exists.

Violations that VISION had been accused of included: removing other candidates posters, campaigning in residence halls, placing party signs on vehicles and males being on a female floor without an escort.

The commission found VISION guilty of seven poster violations, involving 50 posters in all. A total of \$28.75 in fines were levied for those violations.

Door-to-door campaigning violations at Abel Residence Hall brought a fine of \$25 and an amendment that VISION send letters of apology to residents named in complaints and hall presidents.

Residents in Abel Hall said the fine was light and didn't address the seriousness of the violation. Males being unescorted and wandering the halls not only violated the rules, but a very personal sense of safety, they said.

Hubert Brown, a UNL broadcasting professor and commission member, said that while he recognized the female residents feeling of being violated, it was difficult to address in a dollar amount.

"What kind of fine are we talking about?" Brown asked. "What would assuage that feeling? I don't know."

During the hearing, Andrew Loudon, ASUN president-elect from

the VISION party, said most violations probably stemmed from a last-minute act of nervousness.

Loudon said he was in the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity house when he got a call reporting low voter turnout. Assuming that meant low turnout for VISION, he said, a last-minute push was made to get students out to vote.

With polls closing in three-and-a-half hours, Loudon said he made the announcement that "we gotta go," and the fraternity cleared out. Loudon said he regretted now that he didn't take time to explain the rules.

"I'm not begging for mercy," he said. "I personally will be paying the

fines — not VISION. Please try and be lenient."

J.B. Howell, ASUN presidential candidate with RESUME, said afterward that he was shocked by the outcome.

While the commission did what it thought was right, Howell said he disagreed with the action.

"I guess Loudon whined enough that he wasn't responsible and screamed ignorance. That's never been an excuse," Howell said, "but I guess they (the commission) bought it tonight."

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