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## Reallocated funds help engineering dilemma

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

Money reallocated by the Legislature for engineering education is just the first step in resolving a larger issue, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln official said Sunday.

A move to give \$200,000 to enhance engineering education in Nebraska, especially at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, was added to the Legislature's main budget bill last week.

The amendment, sponsored by Omaha Sens. Brad Ashford and Chris Abboud and Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln, reallocates money in NU central administration for UNO.

The money will be drawn from a faculty savings fund that holds benefits and pay from unfilled positions.

On Sunday, Stan Liberty, dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, said temporary money allowed for only one-time expenditures, like equipment and facility improvements, and not ongoing costs such as faculty.

"We can use any funding provided to enhance our programs on either campus," Liberty said. "We certainly have needs."

Liberty, who oversees engineering education for the state of Nebraska, said the money was not

enough to meet all needs. However, Liberty said, he'll take what he can get.

Ashford said immediate needs in engineering education at UNO, brought to light by a recent consultants' report, spurred the amendment.

"We need to stop the bleeding," he said. "After we stop the bleeding we can see where to go in the future, but now they need four faculty members."

The idea behind reallocating money for UNO was simple, Ashford said.

"They are underfunded," he said. "They need faculty."

"If you have to make a choice between funding central administration and faculty ... faculty comes first," Ashford said.

Wesely said he got behind the bill because he was fearful of the reaction to the consultants' report supporting a separate engineering college at UNO.

"I was fearful that the response would be a rush to implement it," he said. "Knowing politicians, there is a lot of pressure to act on this."

The issue of increased funding for engineering education is universally agreed upon by the Legislature, Wesely said. The amendment was just a start, he said.

The Legislature's main budget bill still is under consideration and will be debated Wednesday.

## Bjorklund

Continued from Page 1

growing up," he said.

Bjorklund said his involvement in the Seventh Day Adventist Church came to an abrupt end when the church "let him down" in 1991.

"I mentally collapsed," he said. "I quit."

While Bjorklund's involvement in the church decreased, his activity in computers increased.

Bjorklund met his accomplice in the Harms murder, Scott Barney, through his computer involvement.

While Bjorklund went on an elaborate tangent about computer networks, Lacey covered his eyes and rested his head on the table.

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After Bjorklund's statement, Lacey told reporters he was unimpressed with his appeal for mercy.

"I think Mr. Bjorklund has his priorities as skewed as the day he killed Candi Harms," Lacey said. "Any time you have the chance to tell a judge at a time so important in your life, you don't talk about computers and experiences about things that don't make a difference."

"He should have told the court in no uncertain terms how sorry he was," he said. "The only emotion (shown) was when talking about his own wife and family. I just ask him to consider what he did to Stan and Pat Harms."

During closing arguments, Special Deputy Public Defender Richard Goos questioned Endacott's objectiveness of deciding Bjorklund's sentence alone.

"I've taken an oath to uphold the law. When I can't uphold the law I won't be a judge," Endacott said. "My personal feelings have nothing to do with that, and I don't want to hear that argument again."

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Chief Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie said Bjorklund had no significant history of violence. Bjorklund

and Barney's alleged robbery streak from Aug. 29, 1992 to Sept. 21, 1992 was Bjorklund's only major criminal activity, Helvie said.

Under Nebraska statute, the crime must be proven to be especially heinous to warrant a death sentence. Lacey argued throughout the sentencing hearing that the Harms abduction and murder fit that description. Helvie disagreed.

"I'm not going to sit here and argue this wasn't a heinous murder, it certainly was," Helvie said. "Deciding what is especially heinous is difficult."

Helvie offered about 30 reasons Bjorklund should not receive the death penalty.

Barney led police to Harms' body and signed a plea agreement with prosecutors. Barney has been convicted of the murder and will be sentenced in June. As part of the agreement, Barney cannot be sentenced to death.

"To impose the death sentence on Mr. Bjorklund would be excessive and disproportionate to the sentence Mr. Barney will receive," Helvie said.

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Lacey made a final plea to Endacott on behalf of Harms. Lacey told the judge to put himself in Harms' place on the night of Sept. 22, 1992.

"Think how it must have felt laying in a cold field with your clothes off," Lacey said.

In earlier statements, Bjorklund said the rape of Harms took about five minutes, although he said it must have seemed a lot longer to her.

Lacey wept as he tried to convince the court that the atrocities of the abduction, rape and murder were enough to sentence Bjorklund to death in the electric chair.

"To me that is especially heinous and cruel — there's no way to get around that," Lacey said. "No arguments in a courtroom many months later can change that. Just five minutes ... was especially heinous and cruel."

Senior Editor Adeana Leftin contributed to this report.

## Bill

Continued from Page 1

Omaha, Baldwin was shot, paralyzed and arrested.

LB498 would allow courts to use omissions by a patient to determine whether they were dangerous. Failure to take medication would be an omission.

The bill also would mandate the development of individual treatment plans for the patient consistent with the court's orders. If a person was found not complying with the treatment, a warrant could be issued, and the patient could be put into an appropriate facility.

Wesely said the bill had been a long time in the making. He said he had help from many sources, including judges, attorneys and University of Nebraska-Lincoln law professors.

Treatment of mental illness has progressed, and the law hasn't, Wesely said.

"With modern drugs, (doctors) have identified many (mental) conditions that can be treated," he said. "Our laws do not reflect that."

The bill was difficult to draft, but it is a good bill, Wesely said.

"Mental health laws are technical and difficult," he said. "They have to balance the rights of the mentally ill with the right to safety."

## Screens

Continued from Page 1

board approval.

Regent Robert Allen of Hastings said the board needed to go forward to support one of the best college football programs in the nation.

The university shouldn't worry about a shortfall of sponsors, he said. Advertisers would jump at the chance to be affiliated with the Nebraska foot-

ball team and the first video screens in a college stadium.

Some regents suggested the athletic department inform the board when full sponsorship commitments were met.

Also, the regents passed a measure to pave the parking lot east of the Abel-Sandoz residence hall complex and to place lighting and emergency telephones in the Area 20 lot west of 10th and V streets.

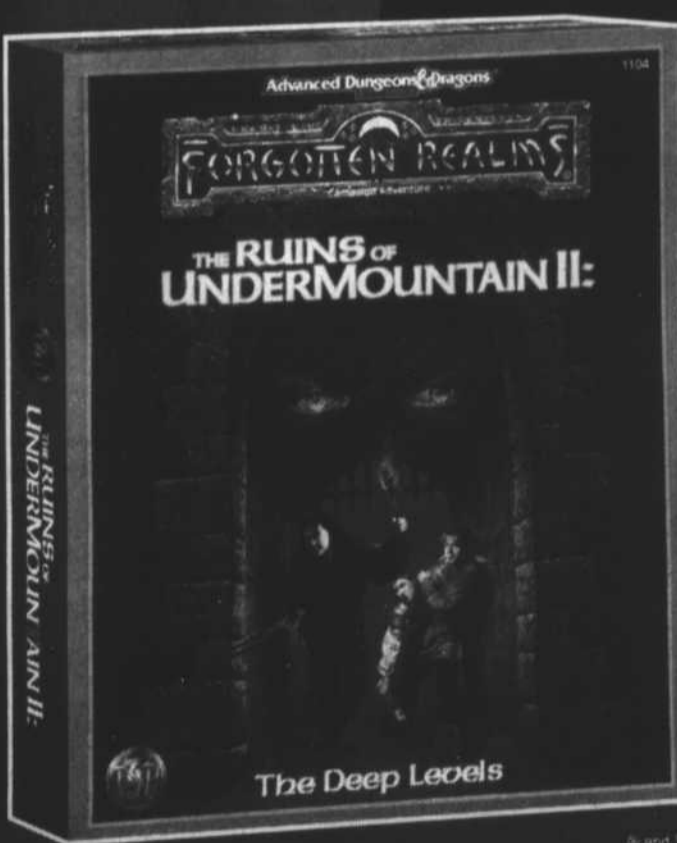
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