

Daily Nebraskan

April 1, 1994

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vol. 93 No. 132



Happy
April
Fool's Day!

Daily
Harassment
joke issue
supplement
inside.



Friday
65/35

Today, partly cloudy.

Baldwin's freedom debated in court

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Witnesses testified Thursday that Andrew Scott Baldwin was ready to move out of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital.

Lancaster County District Court Judge Paul Merritt heard testimony on a request to let Baldwin live with his girlfriend, Jolene Davidson.

Baldwin, a former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student and football player, was found not responsible by reason of insanity in the January 1992 beating of Gina Simanek. In a subsequent psychotic episode, Baldwin was paralyzed from the waist down when an Omaha police officer shot him in September 1992.

Merritt did not give a ruling in the matter, but he said the Regional Center was not going to get out of the responsibility for Baldwin's rehabilitation.

"It just astounds me, all of the attempts by the Regional Center to rid itself of Mr. Baldwin," he said. Merritt said the Regional Center had legal responsibility for Baldwin.

Chief Deputy Public Defender Scott Helvie said Baldwin had reached a point where a less-restrictive alternative treatment plan was warranted.

Baldwin would not be dangerous if

he followed the treatment plan devised by the Regional Center, Helvie said.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey said the plan presented by the center was too vague.

The plan would allow Baldwin to live with his girlfriend while continuing physical rehabilitation at Madonna and counseling with a private psychiatrist.

"They have a plan that is so vague and imprecise ... it is not consistent with public safety," Lacey said. "I don't think there has been an adequate showing by the defense that this is consistent with public safety."

Helvie called Dr. John Shuart, director of neuropsychology at Madonna, who testified Baldwin had been responsible for taking his own medicine for more than three weeks.

Shuart said Baldwin had suffered no breakdowns while at Madonna.

"Scott has reflected on his experience he's been through and he's showed good insight ... to prevent future breakdowns," he said.

Baldwin also has been out in public more than 80 times for different therapy reasons, Shuart said. He said Baldwin had been to UNL twice to start work as an academic adviser in

See BALDWIN on 6

Abortion 'gag rule' foes say bill bad for women

By Todd Neeley
Staff Reporter

Opponents of legislation that would prohibit public employees from sharing information about abortion said Thursday the bill would make it impossible for a woman to make an educated decision about terminating a pregnancy.

Members of the newly formed Committee to Stop the Gag Rule said at a press conference that LB156 would have a "devastating effect" on Nebraska's women.

Christine Scudder, president of Nebraska Planned Parenthood Voters for Choice, said LB156 would prevent Nebraskans from speaking about abortion with doctors or other public employees.

In addition to prohibiting certain acts by public employees relating to

abortion, the bill would prohibit the use of public facilities and funds for abortion.

Scudder said the bill also would deny a woman an abortion unless her life was threatened.

The committee will try to fight government attempts to stop Nebraskans from speaking about the issue.

Although bills similar to LB156 have been proposed three times, this is the first time such a bill has advanced from a committee, Scudder said.

She said the passage of LB156 would result in a loss of federal family-planning funds to the state. It also would force health-care providers to violate medical community standards and would deny information about abortion to all women.

LB156 would reduce the number of health care providers for certain patients and would endanger the lives of many women, Scudder said.

Jan Kennedy, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Omaha and

See OPPONENTS on 6

Judge Endacott's actions questioned by defense

By Matthew Waite
Senior Reporter

Allegations of inappropriate contact between judge and jury in the Roger Bjorklund murder trial are upsetting, a member of the jury said Thursday.

Roxanne Born, foreman of the jury, said Chief Public Defender Scott Helvie was drawing at straws trying to get his client a new trial.

Helvie has requested a new trial based on what he called inappropriate contact between Lancaster County District Court Judge Donald Endacott and the jury.

When the jury was selected from Sidney, Endacott said a short prayer with jurors. After the trial, Endacott

hugged the jurors, thanking them for their service. They responded by giving Endacott a chocolate pie.

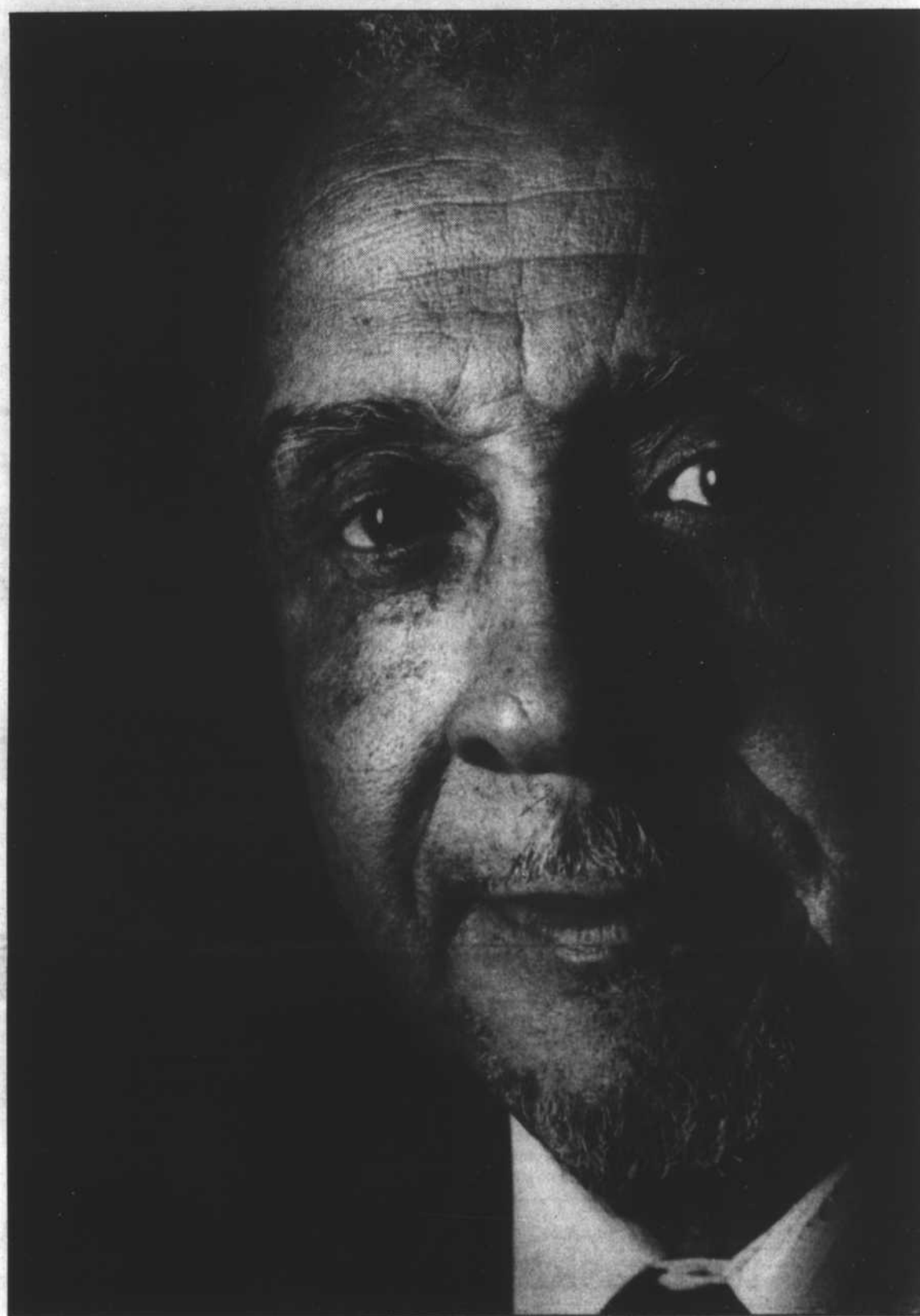
Born said she didn't think anything about Endacott's behavior during the trial created an unfair slant in the jury's decision.

"I heard about this and it upsets me because I don't think you could find a more honorable and well-intentioned (judge)," Born said.

She said Endacott said the prayer because he was human, not because of anything to do with the case.

Born said after the jury had been selected, Endacott came into the room, introduced himself and asked those who wanted to bow their heads in

See BJORKLUND on 6



William Lauer/DN

Frank Hale, vice provost at Ohio State University, said although progress had been made in terms of multiculturalism in education, universities needed to work hard to attract and retain minority students. Hale was the keynote speaker Thursday for the Teachers College annual conference.

No easy task

Speaker: Multicultural progress in education takes hard work

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Frank Hale said progress on multiculturalism and diversity in higher education could only be achieved by aggressive and united efforts.

"When we get down to it, it's all about commitment," said Hale, who received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in communications, political science and English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1950 and 1951.

"Long before civil rights legislation, long before affirmative action initiatives, there were blacks and whites who were committed to (equality) and went out of their way to make a significant difference," Hale said.

The legacy of such work, Hale said, needs to continue.

Hale was the keynote speaker for the Teachers College's annual conference Thursday in the East Campus Union. The conference theme was "Personal Growth Through

Diversity."

Hale, currently vice provost and professor emeritus at Ohio State University, is credited with much progress in diversifying education.

Ohio State was one of the top institutions in numbers of African-American students receiving doctorate degrees in the late 1970s.

Although Hale said much progress had been made in terms of multiculturalism in education, he said universities had much hard work ahead of them to attract and retain minority students.

"We have to begin with administration policy and procedures," Hale said. "There has to be a commitment from the top."

With the administration's commitment, Hale said, universities must aggressively recruit minority students and provide them with financial aid.

"I learned a lot from (Ohio State football coach) Woody Hayes," Hale said. "He was not only a great coach; he was a great recruiter."

"You don't get good athletes by

sending out a letter with a little note at the bottom saying 'equal opportunity employer.' Affirmative action says, go get 'em."

Then, Hale said, a university must diversify its curriculum and work to assure a positive campus climate for minorities.

"Curriculum, to be global and to be reflective, needs to entertain all ideas," Hale said. "It is important for all people where they sit to understand that out of their roots, each has made a contribution."

The final test of a university's commitment to diversity, Hale said, is whether it commits significant resources to the effort.

Hale, who arrived Wednesday and will be in Lincoln until Sunday, said he had not yet had time to assess the progress UNL has made in terms of diversity since he was a student here. But he said he was encouraged by his invitation to speak at the conference.

"I'm glad to know the university is taking this issue seriously," Hale said.