

Bjorklund wants new name

From Staff Reports

Roger Bjorklund has petitioned the Lancaster County District Court to change his name to Tommy William DeSimone.

Bjorklund was convicted in 1992 for the rape and murder of UNL student Candice Harms and will be sentenced next week to either life imprisonment or death.

The petition, filed Monday, is an amendment to an earlier petition that asked for his name to be changed to Tommy Lukert, which he derived from the names of his biological parents.

DeSimone is the name of a gangster in the book "Wiseguy." Mention of that character is not made in the petition.

In the hand-written petition, Bjorklund states that he has had no

formal contact with his adoptive parents for the past six years.

"I have nothing but hate and disdain for the name my adoptive parents gave me," he wrote. "Each time I hear my name I am reminded and relive the years of torment that I had while living with my adoptive parents."

Bjorklund wrote that he established a relationship with his birth mother seven years ago and that he wants to establish his own heritage — Irish, Italian and German — with the new name.

"It is important to the petitioner's mental state and continued inner growth to change his legal name," Bjorklund wrote.

Judge Paul Merritt was reviewing the petition Wednesday, but no court date has been set.

Athlete's charges from one event, judge rules

From Staff Reports

Two charges against NU football player Tyrone Williams stem from the same event, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Lawyers for Williams appeared in court to try to show that the charges against their client were unconstitutionally similar, Deputy County Attorney Joe Kelly said.

Williams, who did not appear at the hearing, has been charged with the unlawful discharge of a firearm and the use of a weapon to commit a felony.

Prosecutors allege that last January, Williams fired a .22-caliber pistol into a car driven by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student.

Kelly said the ruling would aid another motion that Williams' lawyer filed.

Lancaster County District Court Judge Bernard McGinn set a hearing for Oct. 11 on the motion to dismiss one of the charges.

The motion, called a plea-and-bar motion, says Williams could not have committed one charge without committing the other, Kelly said.

ated to casinos and bigger money that find themselves with the biggest problem, she said.

Teresa Krafta, a clerk at Q4Quik on 17th and Vine streets, has been selling lottery tickets for about a year. She said she had seen interest grow.

"It's increased as it's gone on," Krafta said. "The students want the lottery. They want the instant cash, and they don't want to wait."

The tickets come in batches of 300, and some rolls may have only a few winners of nothing more than \$20, she said. Others ticket rolls might have a couple of \$100 winners.

It's a hit-and-miss game, she said.

Lottery

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sented an irresistible urge to some.

"It's just like the first drink to an alcoholic," she said. "Compulsive gambling is the purest form of addiction there is."

"But the lottery itself is just the tip of the iceberg."

Hammond said a compulsive gambler in the lottery would buy five, 10, 50, even 100 tickets on a regular basis. All of which she has witnessed, she said.

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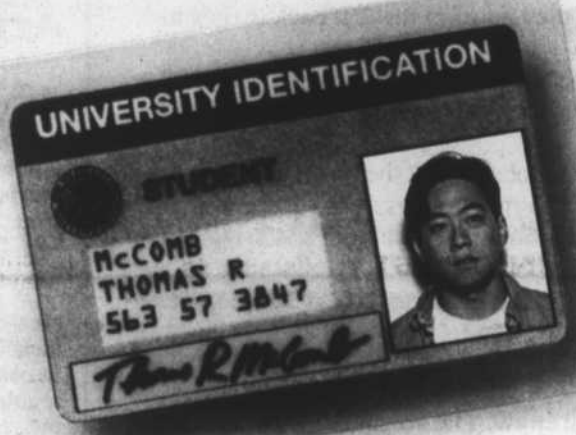
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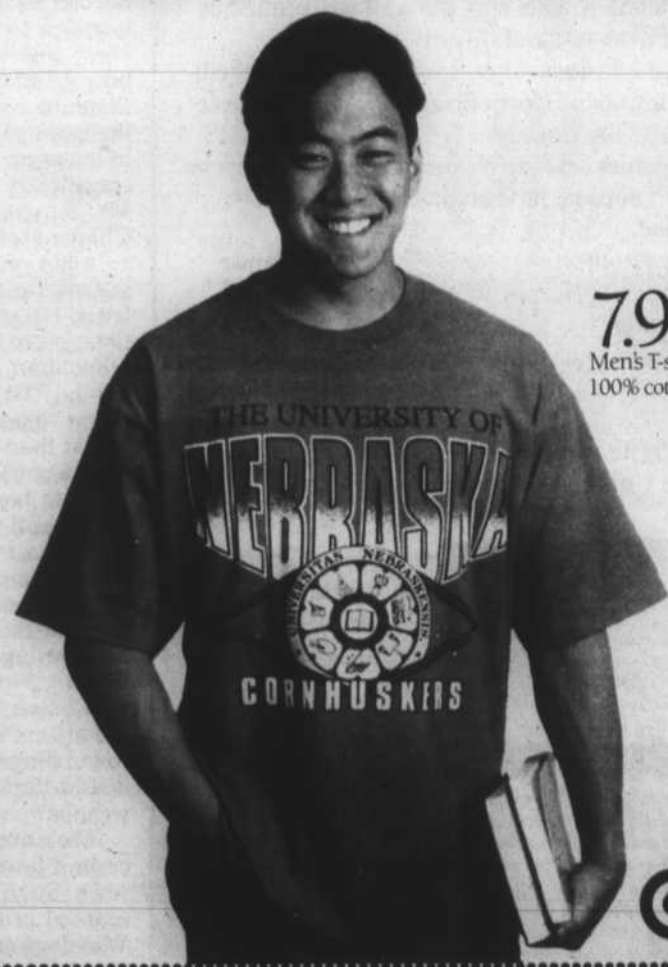
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