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THURSDAY



WEATHER:

Today - Partly sunny.
Southwest wind 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight - Mostly sunny.
Low in the upper 30's.

October 26, 1995

Jury awards Harms family \$36 million

By Ted Taylor
Staff Reporter

Stan Harms spoke softly from his home Wednesday afternoon after hearing the verdict of his family's civil suit against the two men who raped and killed his daughter.

After deliberating for an hour and a half earlier in the day, jurors awarded the Harms family nearly \$36 million.

"We'll be lucky to see a nickel of that money," Harms said. "But that was never our purpose. We wanted to be sure that neither one of them could profit off the case using Candi's name."

Roger Bjorklund and Scott Barney were convicted of abducting, raping and killing 18-year-old Candice Harms. She was a UNL freshman when she died Sept. 22, 1992.

Bjorklund has been on death row since Sept. 21, 1994. Barney is serving a life sentence.

Harms said sitting through the three days of testimony this week was tougher than the long criminal trial.

The Harms family was sequestered as witnesses during the 1994 trial and was not in the courtroom to hear many details of the murder.

"We were still numb to her death then," her father said, "and we didn't have to hear a lot of the testimony as it was graphically retold."

"It has been three years since her death and the numbness has sort of worn off. All the graphic details recounted in this trial hit us with full force."

Harms was joined in the courtroom Wednesday by his wife, Pat, and daughter, Rebecca. The trial was also difficult for Pat Harms, who wiped away tears as she heard the grizzly details of her daughter's last night.

The nine men and three women on the jury awarded the Harms: \$7,400 for funeral expenses; \$750,000 to the next of kin for Candice Harms' wrongful death; \$35 million to the Harms estate for "physical and mental suffering she experienced prior to her death"; and \$20 in response to a request from the Harms' lawyer.

The jury's decision followed final arguments from Andrew Strotman, the Harms' lawyer.

"You have a difficult task in assigning a monetary value to a life," Strotman said Wednesday morning. "Your job is to put a monetary value on the loss of Candi's society and companionship."

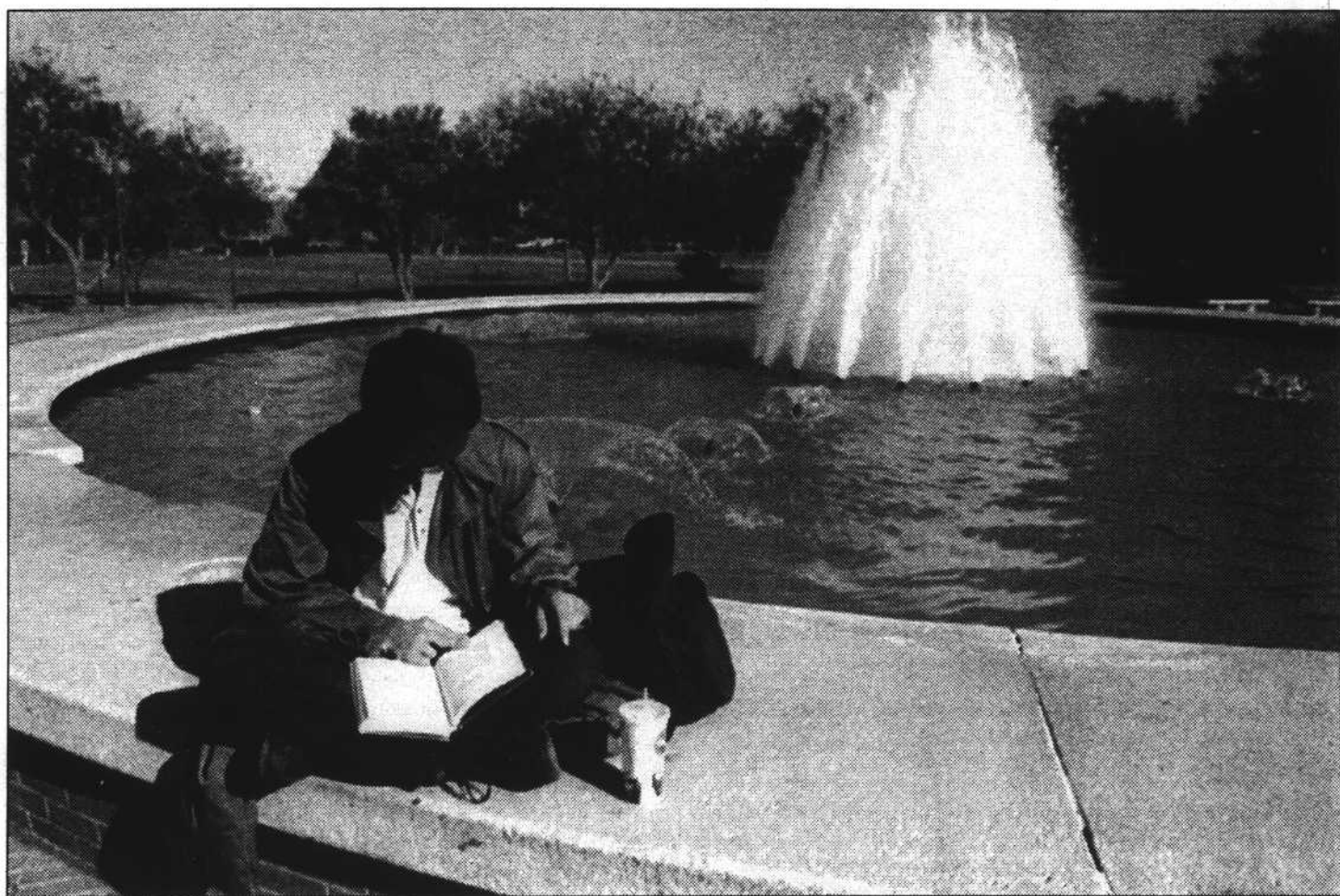
He made one last request before the jurors began deliberation.

"And when you have your monetary amount fixed — add \$20," he said. "That is the money they (Barney and Bjorklund) took from Candi's purse and used to buy the gas to drive around the night they murdered her."

Strotman had asked the jury to consider \$500,000 in the wrongful death action.

"That is a very reasonable amount for the

See HARMS on 6



Andrew Kanago, a junior English major, reads a book in front of Broyhill Fountain this week.

Jon Waller/DN

Ideas abound for new plaza

By Ted Taylor
Staff Reporter

Planners will try to meet student needs when redesigning Broyhill Plaza, campus landscape director said, but everyone involved must stay flexible.

Kim Todd came to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska meeting Wednesday night to answer questions about changes to occur during the upcoming Nebraska Union expansion.

Todd also had some questions of her own. Senators responded to a questionnaire she had given them earlier, which asked what about the plaza should be kept or replaced.

"We are still in phase one of the union expansion project," Todd said. "The best thing now is to gather as much useful ideas as possible — and useful does not mean boring."

Most senators who spoke at the forum had one big concern: keeping an actual fountain in the new plaza.

The possibility of a water sculpture had

Fountain a special memorial

By John Fulwider
Senior Reporter

The small, bronze plaque on Broyhill Fountain often goes unnoticed when students gather there to talk, study or cool their feet.

But the words "In memory of Lynn Diann Broyhill, Class of 1967" have marked the fountain for more than 20 years.

Broyhill, 21, was a senior home economics major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She died in a car accident Sept. 8, 1966, on her way to pick up a gown for the Aksarben ball.

been raised when nationally acclaimed artist May Lin was named as a possible designer.

Lin designed the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. and has expressed interest in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln project.

Kiersten Yanken, an arts and sciences senator, called the plaza a "unifier."

"It's such a gathering place for all differ-

The fountain was dedicated in her memory in the fall of 1970. It is scheduled to be removed as early as October 1996 to make way for the Nebraska Union expansion.

Daryl Swanson, director of Nebraska Unions, was assistant director when the fountain was dedicated.

Swanson remembers the Saturday dedication as a busy day.

Not only was there a football game that Saturday, but there was a Republican dinner for Clifford Hardin, a former UNL

See FOUNTAIN on 3

Groups continue formulating plans for first town meeting

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Six people forged ahead Monday with plans to bring the University of Nebraska-Lincoln its first town meeting.

Although the planning session did not draw as many people as hoped, Larry Doerr, group coordinator, said the group needed concrete plans before it could target participants.

"Not everybody's saluting this like it's the greatest thing since sliced bread," he said, "but I think there's enough to start."

Doerr, a Campus Ministry representative, targeted about 20 student,

staff and faculty organizations.

Representatives from the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Unions, faculty, the Residence Hall Association, the Student Involvement office and Cornerstone came to the planning session Wednesday.

Shawntell Hurtgen, ASUN president, said a town meeting could make the campus more of a community.

She said the group should invite the same representatives who attended the cultural diversity retreat earlier this month.

Doerr said he wanted an informal forum where people gathered in a circle with someone in the middle

directing dialogue.

The group discussed ground rules for the meeting, which included:

- Making the meetings a forum for many views and not a polarized debate.

- Encouraging comments on issues and not statements aimed at people's characters.

- Maintaining a staple group of invited representatives, but opening proceedings to the public.

The group also debated whether to hold the meetings in a public place such as the Nebraska Union lounge or in a private meeting room.

Daryl Swanson, Nebraska Unions director, said he remembered an open

microphone forum called "Hyde Park" from the 1960s that was held in the union lounge.

"There were times when it went off the deep end," he said, laughing. "I think that was where one of the first draft cards was burnt in Nebraska."

Swanson said the open microphone served as a pressure valve, but Doerr said he was worried that a pressure valve would lead to polarized issues instead of education.

Jerry Petr, an economics professor, said some issues could lead to people going over the edge and "throwing chairs at one another."

But Swanson said people might

not be attracted to the meetings if they didn't have a provocative issue.

The group formed a planning group that will meet Wednesday at 4 p.m. to decide issues and sponsorship.

When final plans are made, Doerr said, UNL may have two planned meetings a year with a format to allow short-notice meetings on pressing campus issues.

While trying to decide a meeting format, Petr said the decision might be made in the process.

"We can learn by doing," he said. "We can see what happens, make adjustments and try again."

See FORUM on 3