

McMenamin death remembered

It has been a nightmare of a year for the parents of Martina McMenamin.

The UNL student was slain one year ago today, July 25, 1995.

She had just completed her freshman year. She had moved out to Amberwood Apartments and was working at Godfather's.

She was found that night by her roommate, Sarah Bognich. She had been stabbed to death and was lying in a pool of blood.

For 11 months afterward, no arrests, waning leads, no answers for a family crushed by loss of a daughter.

Bognich tried to help in the search as much as she could by piping up in the media every now and again and handing out flyers posting a reward.



Matthew Waite

But that was early in the search. As time went on, hopes faded.

Then a break-through. The Lincoln Police Department arrested Gregory Gabel on June 25. Police say this is their prime suspect.

Gabel is now sitting awaiting arraignment. The families are awaiting justice.

Gabel, under law, is now innocent until the Lancaster County Attorney can prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he is otherwise. His next court date is Aug. 5, where he is expected to enter a plea.

The family and friends of Martina McMenamin, in the meantime, must wait for the slow and contemplative judicial system to administer justice.

They waited a year for an arrest. Now they must wait for a verdict.

Godspeed to a quick and just decision, for the sake of the family.

Waite is a senior news-editorial major and the DN Summer editor.



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Letter: Pro-death penalty display sick

I wish to express my total anger at the front colored photo featured on the front page of Daily Nebraskan issue, Vol. 95, No. 161, July 18th, 1996.

I was absolutely sickened by the vulgar display inherent in the public demonstration at Joubert's execution. But such is the guarantees of "peace-

ful assembly" supposedly guaranteed under the Constitution. I from this point on question the equal protection of such asinine public encounters secured under the tenets of the 1st Amendment rights.

If mankind is a social animal, the public outcry at Joubert's execution unmistakably proves Nebraska has its bastions of swine, animals and dogs.

Whatever the merits and interpretation, I am against the death penalty, if

such vulgar public demonstrations will be repeated in the future in Nebraska. Such public encounters should altogether be restricted from the news media and future public outbursts as in the instance of the Joubert execution. The private citizens of this country should be spared from such offensive and obscene demonstrations in the future. I do not need it shoved in my face at the next execution in this state, to satisfy the warped and sick passions of pro-death

penalty proponents.

I have always been a supporter of the death penalty in Nebraska and now seek the repeal of capitol punishment under our Constitution. If it will spare me, a private citizen and tax-payer, the next indecency of a public mob gone mad in any future execution. Who is mankind to play God in this day and age?

After the Joubert execution I am now firmly convinced as a Nebraskan I am totally against capitol punish-

ment, and a firm believer in the abolishment of the death penalty in Nebraska.

Joubert has made his peace with his soul and Creator, and has made his public confession. So should the people and pro-death penalty members of Nebraska. Hell hath no fury like an unruly mob scorned!

Uja Tapa Machunazhi
Americans Against Capitol Punishment
 Lincoln

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