



## SPORTS

### Still on top

The Nebraska men's gymnastics team beat Oklahoma and California in the MPSF Championships over the weekend. **PAGE 9**



## A & E

### IRA in the USA

Brad Pitt stars as a gunrunner for the Irish Republican Army who finds a home with a New York City cop in "The Devil's Own." **PAGE 12**

## MONDAY

March 31, 1997

### SEE THE LIGHT

Bright and breezy, high 70. Clear tonight, low 43.

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## keeping the *Light* alive Out of Harms Way



MATT MILLER/DN

**CANDI HARMS** was an 18-year-old freshman at UNL when she was kidnapped and murdered in 1992. During the painful years that followed, her parents Stan and Pat Harms relied on their faith in God to relieve their grief. As Stan says, "We felt like many times during this ordeal we were being carried because we definitely weren't walking."

## Loved ones turn to God, each other to cope with 18-year-old's murder

**Editor's Note:** This week the Daily Nebraskan will focus on the stories of those who grieved over the death of a loved one.

Each story shows how family and friends dealt with their grief and may be an inspiration or bring understanding to those who are grieving or those who may some day face a similar situation.

**BY CHAD LORENZ**  
Senior News Editor

For years, Stan and Pat Harms had to ask themselves many questions about the 1992 murder of their 18-year-old daughter Candice Harms.

The mystery of Candi's disappearance during the first semester

of her freshman year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln created many questions, but produced few answers.

Almost five years later, they say one question still prevails. "Why can't she be here today?" Stan said he frequently asks himself.

Please see **HARMS** on 3

## Heaven's Gate came to UNL in the 1970s

**BY MATTHEW WAITE**  
Senior Reporter  
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Disciples of the Heaven's Gate cult were in Lincoln in the mid-1970s asking University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and faculty to join them toward their "second level."

Followers of Marshall Herff Applewhite were on campus in January 1976 to try and recruit new members. Applewhite was the leader of a cult who, with 37 others, committed suicide Wednesday.

Two disciples — a man by the name of Reach and a woman who called herself Hickory — talked to about 100 people at the UMHE Commonplace Chapel, which is now the Culture Center at 333 N. 14th St.

Stories from the Daily Nebraskan in 1976 said 15 people gave the disciples their names and phone numbers for further contact.

Now, 21 years later, it is unclear if Reach and Hickory were among the 39 dead at the group's posh Rancho Santa Fe mansion outside San Diego.

At the time of their visit to UNL, the Heaven's Gate cult was in its early stages.

In 1976, the cult had not yet adopted its now infamous Heaven's Gate name, but the recruiters talked about their leaders Bo and Peep — names which have recently been reported to be aliases for Applewhite and Nettles. The philosophy they described in 1976 was identical to the Heaven's Gate group.

They also talked about a meeting in Oregon — the birthplace of the Heaven's Gate cult and the place Applewhite and Nettles inducted their first recruits.

The two, and a third who called himself Tuna, did not reveal their birth names to the Daily Nebraskan — they said they gave up their identity for the cult.

Authorities have now identified and notified most of the cultists' next of kin.

One of the families they notified was that of retired U.S. District Court Judge Lyle Strom of Omaha. His daughter, Susan Strom, was one of the 39 dead in San Diego. She had only briefly visited her family over the last 21 years, the last in 1987.

Members of the group, some of whom were castrated, committed suicide by consuming barbiturate-laced pudding and alcohol and putting plastic bags over their heads.

The group believed that a UFO, trailing the Hale-Bopp comet, was coming to take them to the "next level."

Ron Hunter, an attorney in Omaha, was a freshman on campus in 1976 when the members came to recruit.

Twenty-one years later, he recognized the original poster they used to get people to their meetings — a poster that mentioned nothing about cults and religion — in the news.

"It was just weirdo UFO stuff," Hunter said. "You just thought, 'Oh this is really strange.'"

Hunter and some friends decided to check out the lecture, but when they started talking about cult-like activity and religion, they left.

The recruiters said that a higher power told them where to recruit, but the Daily Nebraskan reported two former cult members as saying the recruiters targeted several cities, but mainly college towns.

Documents from the group's website show many cities were targeted in 1975 and 1976, and mentions both Lincoln and Scottsbluff, home of Western Nebraska Community College.

Hunter said it was the television and the World Wide Web that jarred his memory of the cult's visit to Lincoln.

"It just amazes me that 20-years later, they managed to get followers."

**For excerpts of the stories that ran in the Daily Nebraskan in 1976, please see page 7. For the latest news about the cult from San Diego, please see page 2.**

## Neighborhood safe after violence, resident says

**BY MATTHEW WAITE**  
Senior Reporter

Tee Joy thinks his is a fair neighborhood. There are some bad people here and there, he said, and they do come and cause trouble sometimes.

But, he said, while standing outside his house on the 2800 block of Starr Street, he and his wife are not leaving because of the trouble a few people can cause.

Joy's neighborhood is quiet now, and has

been for almost four days. But that has not been the case this last week.

The troubles in the area started when a simmering dispute with alleged gang ties and regional influences boiled over into street violence and gunfire last week.

The dispute turned sour the night of March 19, when as many as 35 people were involved in a fight near 29th and Dudley streets. Some of the people were armed with clubs and rocks.

Seven people were cited — six formally charged — for disturbing the peace after the fight was broken up by Lincoln police. Three people

were taken to the hospital for injuries sustained in the fight.

Police, some with riot gear ready, were on standby in the neighborhood over the weekend.

On March 24, police arrested and jailed three people in connection with a shooting incident on the 400 block of South 19th Street. Another man was later cited for being an accessory to a felony.

Police reports said DeAndra Brown, 18, Terrance Watford, 18, and J-Twan Overstreet, 18, shot at two people coming out of a house. Police believe that one of the people was among those involved in the street brawl. The shots hit

no one, but struck a car, causing \$75 damage.

Each of the three was charged Wednesday in Lancaster County Court with two counts of making terroristic threats and use of a weapon to commit a felony. Their next court appearance is April 14.

Eleven people were arrested or cited in the last week for incidents surrounding the fight.

### After the storm

Following days of fights, arrests and reports

Please see **QUIET** on 8

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