

# Vigil commemorates Candi Harms

**HARMS** from page 1

kept relighting his candle's flame every time it blew out. Five years ago, Sears used the same persistence in searching for Candi. He was behind a campaign that spread buttons, ribbons, posters and billboards across Lincoln from September to December, 1992, when her body was found.

Scott Barney and Roger Bjorklund were convicted for Harms' kidnapping and murder. Barney, who led police to the body, was sentenced to life in prison in June 1994; Bjorklund was sentenced to death three months later.

During that time, and after, Sears was an unofficial spokesman to the throng of reporters covering the high-profile case. At Sunday's dedication, he was allowed to be a little more quiet.

Instead, Becky Harms spoke publicly for the first time about her sister. She represented her parents, Stan and Pat, who moved to Minnesota recently, and couldn't come to the dedication.

"Time does diminish the pain, but it in no way can refill the emptiness," she said, as the wind almost drowned out her trembling voice. At one point, tears came to her eyes, and she had to pause. Seconds later, Sears stepped beside her with an outstretched arm. She continued.

She thanked the university and students on behalf of her family, and said the violence that caused Candi's tragedy could not be tolerated.

Jim Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, told mourners about a poem he read at Candi's memorial service; it was "A Passing Glimpse" by Robert Frost.

"I think that's what many of us at that time thought we had of her: a passing glimpse of a beautiful person," he said.

But Griesen asked that the memorial stand for more than Candi's memory.

"I think the best way to commemorate Candi is to fight anger, fight aggression, and fight man's inhumanity to man," Griesen said.

Andrew Loudon, who was a UNL sophomore when Harms disappeared, was later instrumental in getting the memorial built. He told those at the dedication what Candi's death did to students.

"In fall, 1992 and the many months that followed, this campus came together as one," he said.

After the disappearance, Loudon said, fear descended on campus. "There was a rush on mace. Every girl had one of those things on her key chain," he said.

Loudon remembered how students followed the case as Harms' body was found in December, 1992, and the "deep, deep grief that followed."

In 1994, Loudon was president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, and helped raise funds for the Harms memorial.

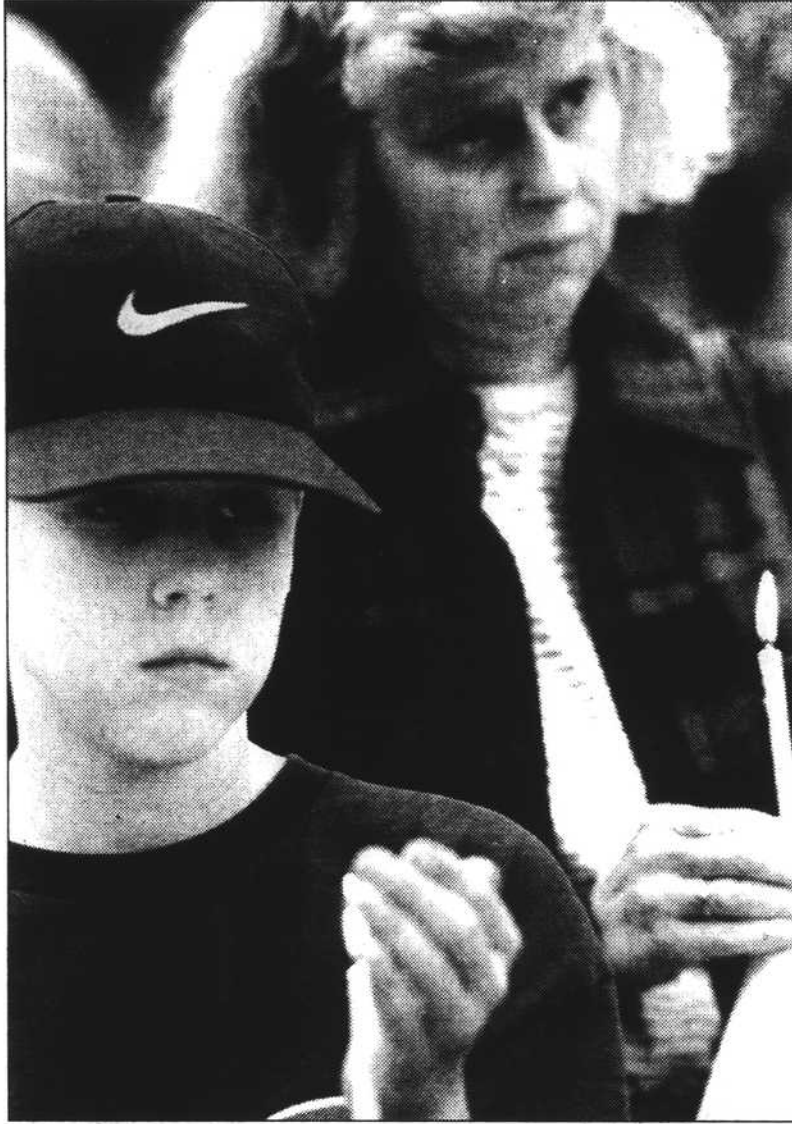
By the end of the memorial drive, ASUN had \$10,000, a majority of which was \$5 and \$10 donations dropped by students in a bin at the Nebraska Union.

Stan and Pat Harms have said they wanted the memorial to be a bench where students could gather because Candi always had so many friends and loved others.

After the dedication, the hush lifted, and family and friends relaxed a little. Becky Harms thanked Sears for his support during her speech.

"I had to fight something back myself before I came over," he told her.

She said it was hard to stand before so many people, especially media, and talk about her sister. "That's something I've been trying



**TOM HILSABECK, 12, and his mother Cindy Hilsabeck, join their community in honoring Candice Harms Sunday night at the Harms' memorial dedication ceremony.**

SANDY SUMMERS/DN

to avoid."

Tuesday marks the fifth anniversary of Candi's disappearance. For years, Sears took that day off work to visit Candi's grave. Now, he

remembers the day as the third anniversary of the day he met his wife, Brenna.

"I'd rather focus on that instead," he said.

## RHA sets new date for retreat

BY SARAH BAKER  
Assignment Reporter

UNL's Residence Hall Association held an unscheduled meeting this week after canceling its annual retreat. President Ben Wallace said the retreat was rescheduled because few people signed up.

"Only 14 students signed up, and we needed a minimum of 24," Wallace said. "Hopefully since there is more notice this time, we will have a better turnout."

The retreat has been rescheduled for Oct. 25-26 at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland.

RHA will begin discussion on this year's budget at their Sept. 28 meeting. Wallace provided the group with an explanation of what the budget is, and said he will answer any questions that members may have before next week's meeting.

The group also put out this year's first issue of its newsletter, The Toilet Paper, Sunday. Two copies of the letter - which contain general information about RHA's agenda - will be posted in each residence hall bathroom.

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