

Teen murder lacks motive, suspects

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Gary Lacey said. Pickinpaugh was a ward of the state, and had lived with Robert and Marilyn Beggs in a group home at 2155 S. 52nd St. for 14 months before his murder.

"He was a pretty good student," Robert Beggs said. "But apparently there were a lot of things we didn't know."

Ten to 15 police officers and detectives spent Friday collecting evidence from the crime scene and interviewing people who knew Pickinpaugh in an effort to find the killer, Casady said.

The investigation continued throughout the weekend, but by Sunday afternoon police had no official suspects.

Pickinpaugh was a student at Lincoln Southeast High School, Lacey said. Pickinpaugh's mother and two brothers, one younger and one older, live in Lincoln, and his father lives in Hastings.

At the group home where eight other teen-agers lived with Pickinpaugh, Beggs said there were "all kinds of degrees of sadness and remorse."

Pickinpaugh was a practical joker, Beggs said, but he got along with about everyone in the group home.

In 1995, a teen-ager who lived at the same group home was found dead just a few blocks north of where Pickinpaugh was found critically injured.

Michael Schmader was 17 when he was found buried in a shallow grave near 48th Street and Antelope Creek.

Pickinpaugh's body was taken to BryanLGH Medical Center West for an autopsy Friday morning, but Lacey would not release the cause of death.

"We feel the investigation will be aided by not releasing the cause (of death) in this case," Lacey said.

Police believe the murder, Lincoln's first this year, happened between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. in the shopping center parking lot.

Lacey said the unidentified McDonald's customer who found Pickinpaugh was walking to his car in the west end of the lot when he saw a green Chevrolet Cavalier with the

“*He was a pretty good student. But apparently there were a lot of things we didn't know.*”

ROBERT BEGGS
Pickinpaugh's foster parent

door open.

"The customer saw the individual (lying there) and thought it was unusual," Casady said. "Then he took a closer look and saw that something bad had happened."

The customer went back inside McDonald's where an employee called police, Casady said.

There were other cars parked a few feet away from the Cavalier in the last row of parking of the well-lit shopping center when Pickinpaugh was found, Casady said.

Except for the restaurant, most stores had already closed that night.

The Cavalier belonged to a friend of Pickinpaugh's, Lacey said. Pickinpaugh had lots of friends, Lacey said, many of whom called police to offer information about him and his whereabouts that night.

Lacey would not discuss specifics of any evidence police seized, or of the crime scene where the slender boy with bleached hair was killed.

At Southeast High School, counseling was available Friday to help students cope with the murder.

Anyone with information about the crime should contact police or call Crime Stoppers at (402) 475-3600.

Although police had not established a motive for the murder, Lacey said that there was no reason to believe this was a random killing or a threat to public safety.

"I don't feel afraid, myself, to go anywhere in the city," Lacey said. "And there is no reason to fear this area."

Housing to allow non-honors students to stay an extra year

Neihardt Residence Hall students now can stay until summer 2001

By **BERNARD VOGELSANG**
Staff writer

RHA

University Housing will allow non-honors students now living in Neihardt Residence Center to stay there for an extra year, until the summer of 2001.

University Housing modified the new housing policy for Neihardt after the Residence Hall Association recommended in a resolution that the 25 non-honors students be allowed to stay there until graduation.

Doug Zatechka, director of University Housing, said the modification was made to honor the RHA resolution.

"This decision extends the time non-honors students can stay in Neihardt as much as possible," he said.

RHA passed the resolution three weeks ago as a reaction to the original University Housing policy that non-honors students should have to move out of Neihardt before the fall

of 2000.

RHA President Shane Perkins said he was pleased Zatechka and Patrice Berger, director of UNL's Honors Program, took the RHA resolution seriously and found an alternative to the original plan.

The three Neihardt senators voted against the RHA resolution three weeks ago.

Neihardt President Jocelyn Walsh said, however, she is proud the RHA resolution helped make University Housing change its mind on a previous decision.

"This proves RHA is effective," she said.

Non-honors students now living in Neihardt can stay there even longer than the summer of 2001 if space exists, Zatechka wrote in a letter to Perkins.

In other business, the RHA Senate approved the spring semester

budget by acclamation Sunday night.

The senate also decided to support the Fourth Annual Cancun in the Abel-Sandoz Dining Hall with \$600. The dinner event will be held March 25.

Walsh proposed to amend the request by Sandoz from \$800 to \$400 because only \$1,500 is left on the RHA budget for social events in the spring semester.

But RHA Election Commissioner Kristy Jacobberger said a small amount left for social events shouldn't be a reason to support Sandoz with less money.

"If you are going to have a mindset like this, every hall is going to turn in their requests for money in week one," she said.

After studying Sandoz' budget for the event, Harper Hall President Joe Scharfbillig proposed to support Sandoz with \$600.

"This amount takes the situation on our budget into account and won't hurt Sandoz."



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