

Jury hears details regarding youth's murder

By JOSH FUNK AND SHANE ANTHONY
Staff writers

Accused murderer Tony Galligo's jury heard from his accomplice Thursday in the 1995 murder of their foster home mate.

Timothy Hopkins gave a detailed account of Michael Schmader's murder and Galligo's involvement.

During the murder, he said, Galligo was "just standing there" a few feet away while Hopkins stabbed Schmader.

Hopkins, 20, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and the use of a weapon to commit a felony in exchange for his testimony against Galligo. In December, Hopkins was sentenced to 15 to 20 years in prison.

"I think it is fair to say that the county attorney's office did not know the level of Hopkins' involvement (when they made the agreement)," said Kirk Naylor, Galligo's attorney.

On Oct. 18, 1995, Schmader was beaten and stabbed to death before being buried in a shallow

grave in an Antelope Creek storm-drainage tunnel under 48th Street.

Schmader's body was uncovered on Dec. 23, 1995, by two teen-agers who were digging a fort with a shovel in the tunnel.

In September 1997, Hopkins was arrested after he confessed to killing Schmader, but Hopkins said he acted alone.

Naylor said Galligo came forward in April 1998 and said he witnessed the beginning of the assault and offered to testify against Hopkins.

All three boys lived in a state group home run by Robert and Marilyn Beggs - located a few blocks from the murder scene - where Schmader was killed.

When Hopkins and Galligo, 19, got home from school on Oct. 18, 1995, they found two cartons of cigarettes missing, Camels and Marlboro Lights 100s, Hopkins said.

Some other teens, who were smoking the cigarettes at the bus stop, told Hopkins and Galligo that Schmader had given them the cigarettes.

Hopkins said that when he and Galligo started

talking about beating up Schmader, Galligo said "I'd like to kill him," and (Hopkins) said, "Let's do it."

Hopkins, without showing any emotion, then told how he planned the murder, which included getting a bigger knife from the kitchen than the one Galligo picked and concealing it in his pants pocket.

In a monotone voice, Hopkins said that he and Galligo staged a phone call in the foster home with someone about smoking marijuana, so Schmader could overhear.

The call acted as a lure to get Schmader out of the home and to the tunnels, he said, where Schmader believed the three were going to smoke the marijuana.

Around 8:15 p.m. they took Schmader down to the drainage tunnels - where they often hung out - to kill him.

Hopkins said he distracted Schmader by telling him to look at the sun glinting off some gold graffiti while he pulled the knife.

The knife was in his pocket, Hopkins said, so

he jerked it out and stabbed Schmader in the shoulder instead of the neck as planned.

Schmader screamed loudly and Hopkins panicked and started stabbing Schmader repeatedly while Galligo looked on, Hopkins said.

Because of the blood, the knife slipped out of Hopkins' hands, he said, so he tried to break Schmader's neck and strangle him.

After the struggle, Hopkins said, Schmader fell to his knees vomiting blood, and Hopkins called to Galligo, asking him to get a rock.

Hopkins said Galligo came back with a large rock and dropped it on Schmader's head.

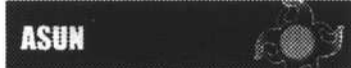
Then, Hopkins said, he picked up the rock and dropped it on Schmader's head - harder than Galligo had - 10 to 12 times.

Galligo and Hopkins buried the body that night and tried - unsuccessfully - to find the knife before disposing of their clothes and returning to the group home.

Hopkins is scheduled to continue his testimony at 9:30 a.m. this morning, and the trial is expected to run into the middle of next week.

Students question ASUN candidates

By KIM SWEET
Staff writer



A standing-room-only crowd drilled candidates for ASUN's top offices during the second executive debate on Thursday.

With the March 3rd elections less than a week away, students questioned the candidates on campus unity, representation and other topics.

The debate was sponsored by the Residence Hall Association, Honors Board and Neihardt Council.

One of the questions posed to the candidates by RHA asked the candidates' reaction to special-interest housing, such as honors floors and student learning communities.

Trisha Meuret, second vice-presidential candidate for Focus, said the move of all special-interest floors to Abel Hall will be "a step in the right direction."

Meuret, who lived in Abel Hall, said the change would be beneficial.

Rachelle Winkle, first vice-presidential candidate for Voice, said her experience as a student assistant on a special-interest floor proved to her the floors helped students.

"They bring freshmen in and try to encourage them to be leaders," Winkle said. "This is a national trend - it bridges the gap between classes and real life."

The Focus and Voice parties also exchanged their ideas about relieving tensions that arise between students living in greek houses, residence halls and off campus.

Voice second vice-presidential candidate Vernon Miller said one of his party's proposed solutions was to continue looking into NU Weekend, which would be coordinated with

Residence Hall Association Week and Greek Week. The weekend would help bring the three components together, Miller said.

Having random roundtable discussions and town hall meetings would also help bring students together to express their views, Miller said.

Focus presidential candidate Paul Schreier said one of the events on campus that unites students is athletic events. Students rally behind these events together - despite their differences, Schreier said.

In order to continue to promote the events, Schreier said it was necessary for students to be a part of deciding ticket prices and seat positions.

Addressing one of the issues that Focus and Voice have taken opposite stands on, current ASUN second vice-president Eddie Brown pressed the Focus party member on why they stepped out against the proposed constitutional amendment to add five at-large seats to the senate.

Schreier said the intention of the amendment, which is to bring new voices to the student senate, cannot be accomplished.

Since five at-large students would be elected campuswide, students who have contact with the most students during the day - those in the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business Administration - would have an advantage, Schreier said.

The executive candidates will face each other again on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Nebraska East Union, the last debate before Wednesday's election.

Judge dismisses teen-sex lawsuit

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When asked if her parents could have stopped her from having sex, she answered:

"I don't know if anything could have stopped me, but I know now that I shouldn't have (done it)," she said.

Her relationship with her father, she said, included problems with his drinking and abuse. During counseling in spring 1996, she said, she told counselors she had been physically abused by her father, and he threatened to kill her.

Bixler's lawyer tried to show that Leanne Detmer's mental problems stemmed from disagreements with her parents, not from Bixler's actions.

Doug Detmer testified that his daughter threw a glass candle holder at him and stabbed him with a screwdriver on April 10, 1997. Ten days later, he said, she was going upstairs when he grabbed her hair and pulled her back down the stairs, causing her to fall.

"She was irrational for two to three months prior to the pregnancy,"

Doug Detmer said. "She was getting worse all the time before she was pregnant."

But Chevront criticized testimony which he said conflicted with earlier testimony and that it almost begged to be stricken.

"I hope that the primary basis for this case was not to profit in some way from convincing some gullible media organization that the pregnancy of a 16-year-old girl brought about by a 16-year-old boy is somehow unique," he said. "I can assure the world it is not."

Eating disorders pose lifetime battle

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unwanted calories.

The summer after her sophomore year in high school, Schweer locked herself in her room with a 2-liter bottle of Diet Coke and ate 148 laxatives.

"They didn't even faze me," Schweer said. "I went swimming right afterward."

Her mother found hundreds of empty laxative boxes in Schweer's bottom dresser drawer. She enrolled Schweer in an outpatient treatment program where a doctor said she had an electrolyte imbalance and a minor irregular heartbeat.

Despite working with nine different therapists, Schweer's eating disorder controlled her life through her sophomore year of college.

"I couldn't do anything until I had taken my laxatives," she said. "They made me feel in control of my life."

Although Schweer has made tremendous strides, she said, each day is a constant challenge.

"If I know I am going to Valentino's for lunch, I will skip breakfast and eat a small dinner to compensate," she said. "It is hard for me to just go out without planning it into my day."

Senior dietetics major Jennifer Schulte's eating disorder surfaced during her junior year of high school.

"I started restricting my calorie intake and exercising every day over the summer," Schulte said. "When I went back to school ... people I had been friends with didn't even recognize me. ... It wasn't a good reaction anymore."

Schulte's aerobics instructor noticed her weight loss and had her checked in to the University of Nebraska Medical Center for a month of intensive inpatient treatment and four months of outpatient treatment.

"I was confused as to what was going on," Schulte said. "There came a point where I wanted to stop losing weight, but I just couldn't."

Amy Martin, a senior art major, moved to Tekamah from Omaha when

she was 13. She never felt like she fit in there.

"I remember sitting down at dinner with my family, and we were having spaghetti and garlic bread," Martin said. "I looked at a piece of bread oozing with butter and told myself that I could not have another piece. It was going to make me fat."

Martin began to exercise every day and limit her caloric intake. She ate the same thing every day so she knew how many calories she ate.

"If I got on the scale and weighed a pound less, I saw it as a triumph."

Although Martin eats more frequently now, she sticks to a low- and non-fat diet. Martin never sought professional counseling. Instead she uses her art to work through her disease.

"My art has been very therapeutic," Martin said. "It allows me to confront my body image and view my figure in a different way."

"I feel like I am on the road to recovery. It gets to the point where you're tired of being controlled by the disease."

Although each woman's situation is unique, they all share the day-to-day challenge of living with an eating disorder.

"I know that it will always have some control over me," Martin said. "My ultimate fear in life is becoming fat. If my jeans are tight, I get scared."

Students who think they may have an eating disorder can contact the University Health Center's Counseling and Psychological Services at (402) 472-7450.

At any given time, 10 percent or more of college aged women report symptoms of eating disorders, the Academy of Eating Disorders Web site reports. Interventions with these individuals may be helpful and could prevent the development of more serious disorders.

Martin said working through an eating disorder is a constant battle.

"People think once you gain back some weight and look normal that you are over it," she said. "But that's only the beginning."

Student court seeks other projects

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"We thought such proceedings were necessary," Strong said. "Hopefully they won't have to be used, but it is good to have them."

Liz Stryker, an associate justice and a sophomore criminal justice major, said the impeachment proceedings would benefit future student court members.

Other projects include designing a handbook outlining student court proceedings and creating a case file index.

Beyle said most of the projects being completed have been needed for years.

Arp said he didn't mind working on projects, but working on a case would be interesting.

"I'm still helping out my fellow students, just not directly," Arp said. "I hope (students) realize that."

Arp was re-appointed to student court Wednesday, along with six other students, for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Court justices are appointed annually by the outgoing ASUN president to ensure no political agendas would be set by the upcoming ASUN president.

Scott Lindberg, a sophomore political science major, was also appointed to the court as an associate justice.

Lindberg said he was not told student court has not heard a case in four years.

"It's a little disturbing, but not necessarily a bad thing," Lindberg said. "I will do my best to serve students, even if it is only doing projects."

Strong said the court has been disappointing not hearing cases, but said he has enjoyed his term as chief justice.

"We took it upon ourselves to be the guardians of the judicial code," Strong said. "I'm happy to have been a part of getting awareness out about the student court process."

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year, weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.
Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.
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