

Hair designer likens his profession to art

By Suzanne Teten

Painters, musicians, writers and sculptors have unique artistic talents, but hairstylists, although deserving, seldom are recognized for their artistic abilities.

Kahn Darner, a hair designer for Hair Express, said Saturday that creating an image for a person demands artistic ability.

"I'm not into your basics," said Darner, who has worked in Lincoln for 3½ months. "I do a lot of enhancing on a person in general. It's just like an artist — I mold people."

Darner said he does not put one haircut on everybody. He said he likes to point out people's facial features and show them how they can create a better image for themselves.

To be able to do this, he said, he has taken advanced training from professionals in Boston and Los Angeles to learn how to create a total image with hair, makeup and fashion. Darner said all three must be blended together to achieve the desired

illusion. Gorgeous hair and poor makeup application just do not mix, he said.

As part of his job with Hair Express, Darner conducts seminars for companies and groups to teach employees how to accentuate their looks. He said he also has worked with the Nancy Bounds Finishing and Modeling School for fashion.

Breaking society's molds is something Darner said he loves to do. People must be willing to change, he said, especially their appearances.

"We don't have to do it so drastically that you're an oddball," Darner said. "We can do it really subtly so it looks nice."

Darner said his desire to break molds may have stemmed from his upbringing in a university atmosphere. Both of his parents are professors at UNO. His parents' backgrounds in English and psychology exposed Darner to a broad range of ideas, he said.

Born in Albuquerque, N.M., Darner also has lived in Oklahoma and Colorado.

The 23-year-old began his hair styling career four years ago after a short sales job with his father's lumber company in Colorado. Darner said he joined

the Stewart organization, which owns a chain of salons across the nation. Stewart transferred him to Lincoln, he said.

In his spare time, Darner said he likes to ride his bicycle, but he spends much of his free time reading and attending classes to advance his training. To be on top of the hair styling field, a person must keep up on all the new techniques of coloring, cutting and permanents, Darner said.

Eventually, Darner said, he would like to become a platform artist who travels around the country demonstrating new techniques to thousands of people. He said he also would like to operate his own salon in a warm climate, like Phoenix, Ariz.

Most of all, Darner said, he enjoys changing the way people look.

"If I can help somebody, I will without a doubt try 100 percent," he said.

Although success may not come overnight, Darner said he already has the enthusiasm of an artist who enjoys his work.

"I'm gonna be doing hair until I'm 60," he said.



Craig Andreen/Daily Nebraskan

Kahn Darner of Hair Express cuts a customer's hair.

HUMORIST SHIRLEY LUETH

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Police Report

The following incidents were reported to the UNL Police Department between 1 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday:

1:20 a.m. — Tire reported slashed in metered parking lot near the Nebraska Union.

1:26 a.m. — Fire reported in a Cather Hall trash chute. Fire has been classified as arson. An investigation is underway.

11:17 a.m. — Cash reported stolen from Henzlik Hall.

11:36 a.m. — Attempted burglary reported at Henzlik Hall.

11:40 a.m. — Backpack reported stolen from the University Bookstore.

12:03 p.m. — Hold-up alarm reported sounding at the National Bank of Commerce branch office in the Nebraska Union. Alarm apparently malfunctioned.

3:30 p.m. — Minor two-car accident reported at the northwest entrance of Memorial Stadium. No injuries were reported.

4:06 p.m. — Wallet reported stolen from Nebraska Hall.

4:23 p.m. — Textbook reported stolen from the College of Business Administration.

4:40 p.m. — Personal items reported stolen from Henzlik Hall.

5:35 p.m. — Bicycle seat reported stolen from bicycle near Cather Hall.

6:13 p.m. — Person reported receiving annoyance phone calls at Pound Hall.

7 p.m. — Person reported receiving annoyance phone calls at Pound Hall.

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