

Accident motivates dancer



Robin Trimarch/DN

Kevin Wicher didn't let a car accident ruin his dreams.

"I've always liked to perform," Kevin Wicher said. "That's all I ever wanted to do."

It was only at Wicher's first solo performance that he was a bit nervous.

"I remember when we first started going to church in Omaha, (and) my mother used to make us go to choir rehearsal," the senior musical theater major said.

It was there that Wicher's singing career ignited — the choir director asked him to sing solo at the next church service.

"I was embarrassed (because) I had never really sang in front of people before, and the other kids were laughing at me during re-

hearsal," he said.

But on the day of Wicher's solo appearance, he said the audience "got into it" and he felt good about himself.

"After that I wasn't nervous — the people appreciated it," he said. Wicher also dances and acts.

"I've always liked to watch people dance," he said. "Acting is my least favorite of the three."

Wicher's hopes to dance was almost shattered by a car accident two years ago. Wicher was a passenger in a car when the driver ran a red light, and the car was hit by a semi-truck — on Wicher's side.

The scariest part of Wicher's accident, he said, was that the doctor

could not find a pulse in Wicher's foot and told him that they may have to remove his foot.

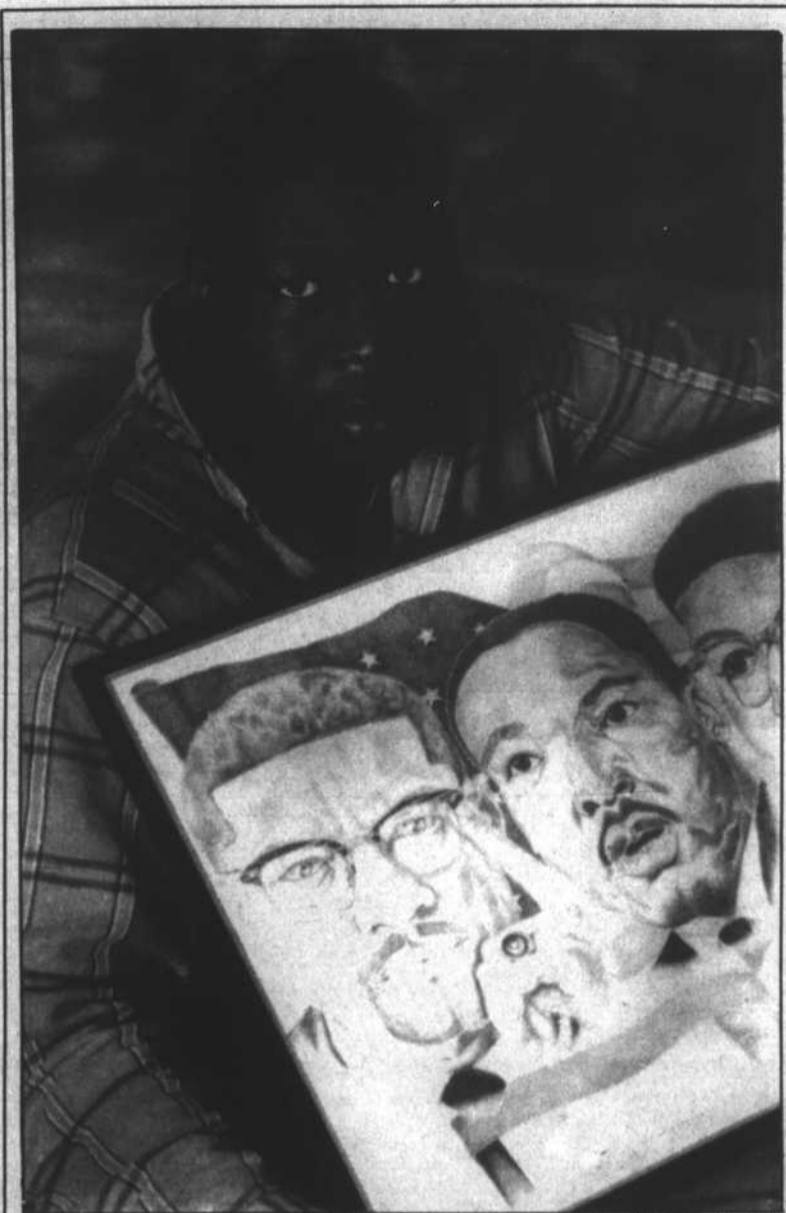
But the doctor finally found a pulse, which saved Wicher's foot — but another problem occurred.

"At first the doctor told me that I would walk with a limp and I would not be able to perform as well as I used to," Wicher said.

Although the doctor's comments gave Wicher a "drive" to continue to strive for the best, he said he always knew that he would be able to dance as well as he had before the accident.

As a student at UNI, Wicher has

see DANCER on 11



Staci McKee/DN

Jerel Ford, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman fine arts major, holds his state first place high school artwork entitled, "Malcolm, Martin and Me." Through the ACT-SO talent competition, Ford, who also won second place in the sculpture and poetry competition, said he was flown to Nashville, Tenn., to compete in the national competition.

Ford said he submitted the above drawing in the competition because he wanted to not only present leaders of the past but also let people know that they needed to look at leaders who could make a difference today.

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