

# Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 94 NO. 132

inside **Monday**

Sports

Huskers take two of three from Tigers, page 7

Arts & Entertainment

Hank Williams Jr. revs up Lincoln audience, page 9

April 3, 1995



## McElroy's image remains with students

By Brian Sharp  
Senior Reporter

When Arthur McElroy walked into room 112 of Ferguson Hall on Oct. 12, 1992, he said nothing. He simply raised the barrel of a .30 caliber semi-automatic rifle and attempted to fire. The gun jammed.

Two years later, the image of McElroy standing in front of the actuarial science class remains vivid in students' minds.

Jay Severa, who now lives in Enfield, Conn., was in the class that day.

"Just hearing his name—you still

get some pretty intense feelings," Severa said.

Severa had not heard a judge's decision acquitting McElroy of all charges before being contacted Saturday afternoon.

When McElroy walked into Lancaster County District Courtroom No. 3 on Friday, he again was silent. But this time, he was escorted by two armed sheriff's deputies, and the life decision being made was not in his hands.

Judge Bernard McGinn pronounced McElroy not guilty by reason of insanity. The prosecution, defense and students in the actuarial

science class that day said they expected that ruling.

McGinn ordered McElroy remanded to the Lincoln Regional Center pending a May 4 preliminary hearing to determine if McElroy is still a danger to society and/or himself.

McElroy was charged with attempted second-degree murder, making terroristic threats and two counts of using a weapon to commit a felony.

Severa said that despite the strong emotion that still surrounds the incident, he also remembers the odd behavior.

McElroy was "rather unusual," Severa said. He would get angry if

someone accidentally kicked his desk or touched his belongings, Severa said.

As McGinn read from a four-page decision, McElroy sat quietly, his gaze fixed on the judge. McElroy's hair had grown long, and was combed straight back. His full, black beard was marked with grey.

"The court now finds and orders that the defendant, Arthur Lee McElroy, has proved ... he was not responsible by reason of insanity," McGinn said. "He did not understand the nature and consequence of what he was doing and did not understand that what he was doing was wrong."

"The court now acquits the defen-

dant of the charges ... on the grounds of insanity alone."

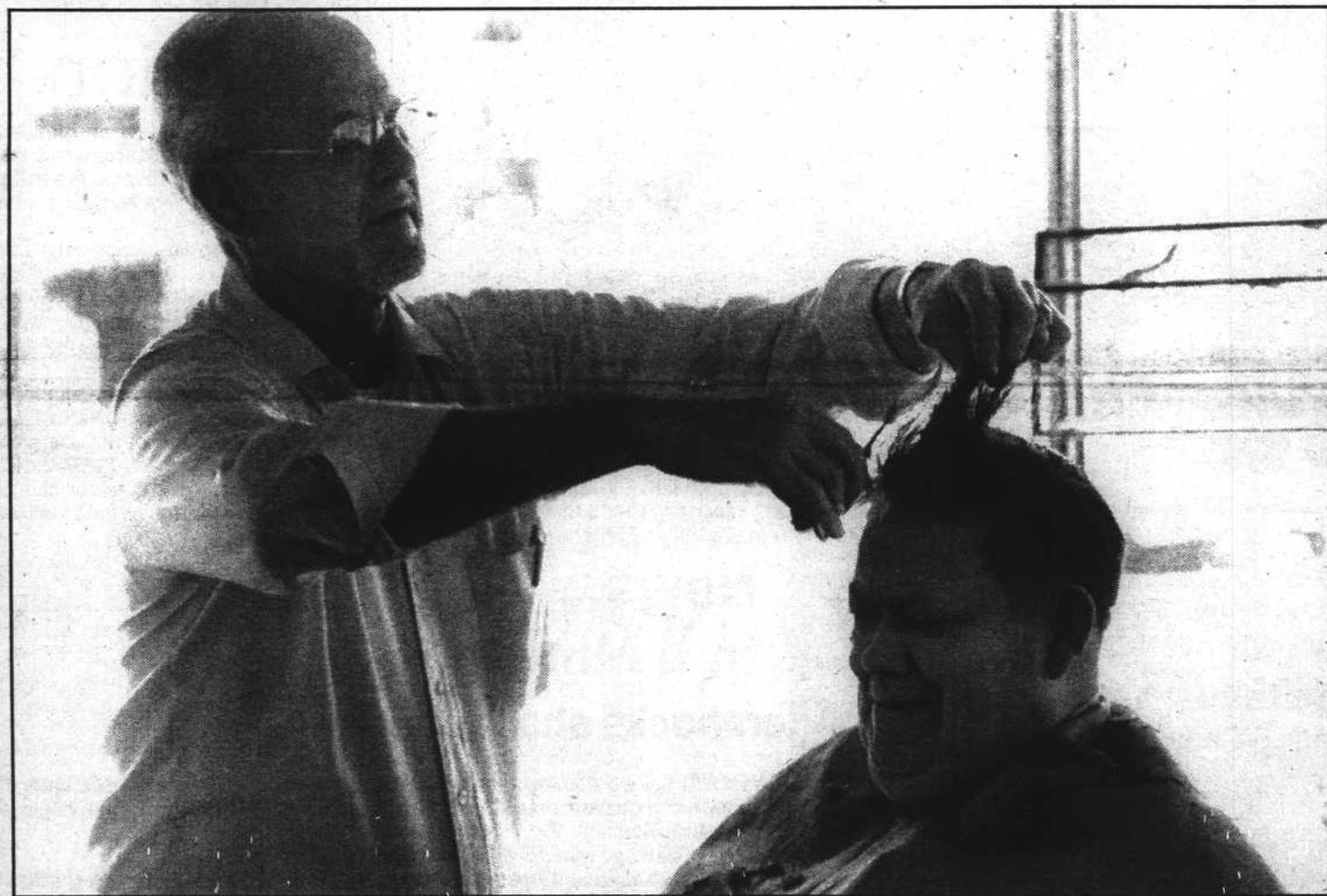
Chris Sullivan, who was also in the class, said he was satisfied and not upset by the verdict. He said McElroy should remain separated from the public.

But Sullivan said he thought McElroy's mental state was such that he knew what he was doing that day.

"People need to be accountable for their own actions," Sullivan said. "When you have an individual that has a law degree ... The level of intelligence that he has kind of argues

See McELROY on 6

### SHEAR ANGUISH



Jay Calderon/DN

Delbert Tolliver, right, winces as he gets his hair cut by Duane Butler. Butler's family has operated the Butler Barber Shop for 100 years. See Insight on page 3.

## Journal, Star futures vague after buyout

By Brian Sharp  
Senior Reporter

The newsrooms of the Lincoln Journal and Star have become a rumor mill in recent weeks. As the scuttlebutt flies about who will stay and who will go, final decisions about the newspapers' future have not been made.

The impact of those decisions does not end in the Journal-Star building at 926 P St., especially for a town that has spent the past 100 years growing up around the newspapers.

The buyout of the Lincoln Journal by Lee Enterprises, of Davenport, Iowa, was completed Friday. The next day, it was announced that former Lincoln Star editor Tom White will return to serve as editor of both newspapers.

The original announcement of the buyout, and the naming of the new editor both were unexpected, employees say. What happens next is anybody's guess.

Patty Beutler, The Lincoln Star's teen-page editor and general-assignment reporter, said she was relieved the merger had finally come, and optimistic about what might happen.

But Beutler wonders if she will continue to be part of the newspaper, for which she has written 24 years.

"It has become very difficult for everyone," Beutler said of the uncertainty. "Reporters like to know. We have had lots of questions, but nobody has the answers."

Beutler was out of town the past two weeks and returned to work Thursday.

"I'm grateful not to have been here," she said. "There have been a lot of rumors, a lot of distractions. There is a lot of tension in the newsroom."

Don Walton, a columnist and reporter who has been at the Star more than 30 years, echoed those comments.

"It's pretty clear here that nobody knows from the top to the bottom," Walton said. "Nobody knows who stays and who goes."

Walton also is the professional advisor to the Daily Nebraskan.

The history of the papers goes back to 1867, when the Nebraska Commonwealth was first published. That paper eventually evolved into the Lincoln Journal.

J.C. Seacrest got a job with the Journal in 1887, and eventually gained control of State Journal Printing Co. in 1922.

The Lincoln Daily Star was founded in 1902. In 1950, the State Journal Printing Co. merged with Star Printing Co., but editorial staffs remained separate. The Star discontinued its evening edition the next year, while the Journal stopped publishing a morning newspaper.

The two papers maintained a partnership until Friday, when Lee Enterprises officially completed a \$59 million deal to take sole control of Journal-Star Printing Co.

Employees of the Journal recently received letters terminating their employment with the newspaper and offering them positions with Lee. But the offer has not calmed any nerves.

See JOURNAL-STAR on 6

## Loudon pleased with ASUN term

By Melanie Brandert  
Staff Reporter

For the first time since 1991, Andrew Loudon is taking a break from student government.

"This has been my life for four years," he said.

Loudon finished his 1994-95 term as president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska and UNL's student regent last week.

As a freshman, Loudon was appointed a senator for the division of general studies. He served as speaker of the senate as a sophomore and was appointed chairman of the Government Liaison Committee as a junior.

Loudon said one of his significant accomplishments was the defeat of the minus-system grading proposal. For his other major accomplishments, he listed a compromise with the University Program Council in selecting its executives and event directors and lobbying the NU Board of Regents' not to start a separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

He said the grading proposal, rejected by the Academic Senate, was an issue he didn't expect to encounter. Through an extensive lobbying

effort of academic senators, Loudon said, ASUN senators "put the issue to rest."

He said some goals of the VISION party were not met, including the re-evaluation of tenure for UNL professors and adding bus routes.

Executive officers decided re-evaluating tenure was not in ASUN's best interest, Loudon said, and Star Tran's contract with the university to provide service solved the busing problem.

Loudon said he thought he made a significant impact as student regent and represented students well.

"There were several issues where I was able to convince members to vote differently," he said.

One of those issues was the proposed increase of Internet access fees.

Loudon said the senate voted to lower the increase, and he was able to convince some regents that it would not benefit students.

"They at least listened to my opinion," he said. "That was important so I could convey the feelings of the student body."

Loudon said he now must focus on law school, which he will enter after graduating in August.

Some administrators and regents said they were impressed by Loudon's leadership and

demeanor. But at least one became disheartened by his remarks about Chancellor Graham Spanier, who last month accepted the presidency of Penn State University.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said he didn't like Loudon projecting his views as the students'.

"That bothered me," Griesen said. "I haven't been pleased with his comments about Graham Spanier."

Griesen said Loudon helped to create the impression that Spanier's "liberal social agenda" was more important to him than the educational quality of the university.

Still, Griesen said he thought Loudon was an effective leader.

"On the whole, I'll give him high marks as student body president," he said. "He'll do well in his future endeavors."

Regent chairwoman Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo said Loudon was effective as a student regent and impressed her with his knowledge of issues.

"It's important for student regents to be able to stand up and speak about student issues," O'Brien said.