



New additions

Defensive tackle Glen Matthews and cornerback Joe Walker have taken different paths to play for the NU football team this spring. PAGE 9



Lil' Oscar

While not as prestigious as the real Academy Awards, the 24th Student Academy Awards are important for young filmmakers. PAGE 12

April 3, 1997

DREARY DRIZZLE

Cloudy, high 55. Dark and stormy tonight, low 45.

Daily Nebraskan



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Phillips out of jail, returns to Rams

From Staff and Wire Reports

St. Louis Rams running back Lawrence Phillips was a free man Wednesday after serving 23 days in jail for the assault of a former girlfriend.

Phillips was released from the Lancaster County Corrections Air Park Facility at 6 p.m. to his NFL coach, Dick Vermeil.

Vermeil, on the eve of starting his first coaching job in 14 years, flew to Lincoln to retrieve Phillips from jail. The Rams reserved two seats on a TWA flight for the return to St. Louis.

"I had a nice conversation with him and he's excited about getting out, of course," Vermeil said in St. Louis. "We go from there."

Phillips served 23 days of a 30-day sentence for violating the probation he was serving for an assault charge. He was released for good behavior.

The former Husker star pleaded no contest to assaulting a former girlfriend in another football player's apartment complex in 1995. That probation was revoked by a judge after he was picked up for drunken driving in Los Angeles in June 1996.

That arrest was just months after the Rams made him the sixth pick of the draft.

Phillips' sentencing on the violation of probation last month came one day after he pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct in Omaha. Police there say Phillips was verbally abusive toward officers who responded to a loud-party complaint at the Red Lion Inn.

The same day Phillips was sentenced and taken to jail, two women at the party served him with civil lawsuits for improper sexual conduct. Phillips' attorney, Hal Anderson, called the civil cases "silly."

Phillips is scheduled to appear in Douglas County court on the disorderly conduct charge in May.

"My attitude about it (is), he's paid his dues,"

Vermeil said. "We write that off as a mistake by an immature person."

But the Rams vow to watch him more closely than ever. Hence, the personal treatment.

"We also realize there's a tendency for any one person that makes mistakes to make them again," Vermeil said. "Our whole program will be designed to help him make sure he doesn't do it again. I have a lot of confidence in him."

Phillips had off-season knee surgery and did physical therapy while serving his jail term. Vermeil isn't sure how much Phillips will be able to do in the Rams' spring mini-camp, which begins today.

keeping the Light alive Ageless Question



JEFF TIERNEY, then 13, displays his shooting skill after a day of hunting ducks with his grandfather Paul Mackin in 1969. Paul died last fall, but Jeff said he would remember the outdoorsman for his love of hunting, fishing, gardening and cooking and for his love for his family.

Deaths strengthen family

Editor's note: This week the Daily Nebraskan is focusing on the stories of those who grieved over the death of a loved one.

By ERIN GIBSON Senior Reporter

For most people, death seems a small, unglorious event.

An illness — often a combination of long life and disease — claims the body quietly to the dismay of family and friends.

No television cameras or grieving masses usually rally behind the coffin. No memorial posters or quilts of bright colors commemorate the passing.

A church gets rented for a funeral, maybe a wake, and then everyone tries to snap back into routine.

"He thought I could never be in his shoes. And then I was ... and didn't like it."

SUE TIERNEY

And with little outside support, a grieving family must say, "Goodbye."

For the Tierney family, goodbye was a long, drawn-out sigh that followed two grandfathers' battles with cancer.

When each death finally arrived, it did not surprise them. Doctors had told the fates of both men before.

Family members had time to accept death, and greeted it alongside their grandfathers, staying with both men until their

Please see CANCER on 3

Marintzer faces DWI charges

By MATTHEW WAITE Senior Reporter

On the last day of his presidency, former ASUN President Eric Marintzer also was in court facing drunken-driving charges from an incident in November that he said was a mistake.

"It was one of those situations where it was probably a bad judgment call," the 22-year-old said Wednesday. "People make mistakes. This by no means justifies this. I am not trying to justify this."

But his attorney, Shelley Stall, said in an evidence suppression hearing that police actions on the night he was arrested should instead be the bad judgment call in question.

Marintzer, who was elected president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska in spring 1996, was pulled over Nov. 24, 1996, when Lincoln police officers saw his 1990 Oldsmobile Cutlass make a turn without using a turn signal and swerve over the center line.

He was ticketed for first-offense

driving while intoxicated and crossing the center line.

Officers had been watching Marintzer's car that night because of a hit-and-run accident investigation. Earlier in the night, another person driving Marintzer's car hit a truck parked in the alley between O and P streets, from Centennial Mall to 14th Street.

Officer Lance Worley testified Wednesday that he had been watching Marintzer's car from an unmarked police vehicle. When Marintzer came out of Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St., Worley said he watched as Marintzer struggled to get in his car.

Worley said under cross-examination that just because someone has been in a bar does not mean he is drunk, but the trouble getting to his car did indicate to him that Marintzer may be intoxicated.

Marintzer did get into his car, and left — Worley followed. Later, after Marintzer committed the two traffic violations, a marked police cruiser assisted Worley and pulled Marintzer over near 18th and R streets.

Stall tried to suppress evidence Wednesday of Marintzer's field sobriety test administered to him — which he failed — and his subsequent arrest.

Stall told Lancaster County Court

Please see MARINTZER on 6

Inauguration reveals Ruwe's inspiration

By KASEY KERBER Staff Reporter

The inauguration ceremony for the 1997-1998 ASUN officers included quite a few surprises, but none so revealing as the story told by new ASUN President Curt Ruwe.

Shortly into Ruwe's inauguration speech, he told of a basketball game he played as a loud-mouthed youngster who was obsessed with birds, maps, a hidden treasure and talking

about them — often. He said as long as people had ears, he would talk.

After that basketball game, his father addressed his rambling son.

"Curt, watching you on the court tonight made me wonder ... How could anybody like you?" Ruwe said.

And Ruwe, 35 senators, two executive officers and an audience of sup-

Please see INDUCTION on 8