



SPORTS

Vering devoted

Brad Vering waits for another shot at the national title, which eluded him during his freshman season. **PAGE 14**



A & E

Ethnic arts

Nebraska's culture no longer centers on prairie culture and polka. Today, we begin a semesterlong series devoted to the diversity of the arts. **PAGE 9**

THURSDAY

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SNOW DOUBT

Flurries, high 30. Cloudy tonight, low 12.

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REMEMBERING REFLECTING RENEWING



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

LEOLA BULLOCK of Lincoln hangs this painted resemblance of Mount Rushmore in her living room. The faces in the painting are, from left, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman and Thurgood Marshall.

King's legacy continues in segregation survivors

—Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three stories that will examine Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and legacy.

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

Behind the curtain on a bus in southwestern Mississippi sat a young black girl riding to school in the 1940s.

She rode 30 miles across county lines because the high school in her county didn't let black folks in.

Racism. Mockery. Colored-only rest rooms. Name-calling.

By 1950 Leola Bullock was fed up.

At 21 years old, she left the South and all its dirty prejudice behind. But what she found in Lincoln was not the promised land that Martin Luther King Jr. would later talk about Americans someday finding.

Rosa Parks, a 43-year-old black seamstress, is arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. The Montgomery Bus Boycott ensues with the help of a 26-year-old Baptist minister and advocate of nonviolence named Martin Luther King Jr. It was 1955.

Bullock had a dream to escape the deep-rooted racism of the South.

She doesn't regret leaving the South, but her northern refuge was not much better.

Please see **REMEMBERING** on 6



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

LEOLA BULLOCK was a key figure in the civil rights movement in Lincoln in the 1960s. Bullock, who was born in Mississippi, came to Nebraska in 1950 to escape segregation and racism.

Suit alleges Pardons Board shut out victims

■ The attorney for Gus and Audrey Lamm charges the Pardons Board with denying their rights by not allowing them to tell their side of the story in Reeves' execution hearing.

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

On Wednesday, a Lancaster County District Court judge heard arguments on one of the claims that may save Randy Reeves' life.

One day after the Nebraska Supreme Court stayed Reeves' execution, Judge Jeffrey Chevront said he would consider the suit, which alleges Board of Pardons members denied the rights of victims at their Monday meeting.

“There is no legislation to enforce the victims' bill of rights. So this court lacks jurisdiction.”

KURT BROWN
assistant attorney general

The matter was originally scheduled for an emergency hearing, but because today's scheduled execution was stayed, there will be time for both sides to submit written arguments.

“We are asking the court to make the Pardons Board obey the law,” said Paula Hutchinson,

attorney for both Reeves and Gus and Audrey Lamm.

At Monday's Pardons Board meeting, where the Board voted to deny Reeves clemency, the Board would not allow Gus and Audrey Lamm, family members of one of the women Reeves killed, to address the Board, Hutchinson said.

Please see **HEARING** on 8

Politics plays role in state executions

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

A stay of execution for Randy Reeves prevented Nebraska from sending its fourth person to the electric chair in the last five years, after 35 years without executions.

The return to regular use of capital punishment in Nebraska came because of continuing public support for the death penalty and the exhausting of appeals by some long-standing death-row inmates, according to those who follow death penalty issues in Nebraska.

Lancaster County Attorney Gary Lacey noted that those who have been executed in the

1990s, and those who have moved closer to execution, committed their capital offenses in the first few years after the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty.

That 1976 decision overturned a 1972 Supreme Court ruling banning capital punishment because of what the court called unfair sentencing practices.

Nebraska fine-tuned its capital punishment law to meet the court's new requirements, and it took until this decade for death-row inmates to run out of appeals, Lacey said.

The state executed Harold Lamont Otey in 1994, John Joubert in 1996 and Robert Williams in 1997. Before Otey's execution, no one had been put to death in Nebraska since serial killer

Charles Starkweather in 1959.

Reeves was granted a stay of execution Tuesday so the Nebraska Supreme Court could hear arguments that his rights under the state's new equal rights amendment were violated.

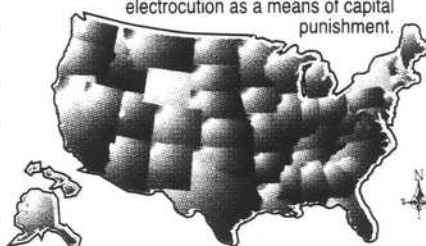
In addition to the end of some inmates' appeals options, politics and public support for capital punishment have allowed the executions to go forward, said Jim Mowbray, chief counsel for the Nebraska Commission on Public Advocacy.

“Politics certainly plays a very strong role,” he said. “Politicians believe it's good for their careers to be staunch supporters of the death

Please see **DEATH** on 8

States of execution

Nebraska is among 38 states that have the death penalty and one of 10 to use electrocution as a means of capital punishment.



- States that have the death penalty
- States that have no death penalty
- ◻ States that have the death penalty, but have no one on death row

JON FRANK/DN