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Hawking honors

Elaborate residence hall won't draw
Nebraska's best and brightest to
UNL. OPINION, PAGE 5

Bar, sweet bar

Duffy's Tavern has been packing
them in for the past 60 years.
A&E, PAGE 9



Son left with questions after plea

■ UNL student's father pleaded no contest to killing wife and stabbing daughter in June 1998.

By Michelle Starr

Staff writer

Nineteen months after the crime was committed, the son of both the victim and the attacker feels like the case is finally coming to a close.

Aaron DuPree, a UNL student and son of Craig and Joan DuPree, has mixed feelings about his father's not going to trial for the killing of his wife.

Craig DuPree escaped first-degree murder charges and pled no contest to lesser charges in Lancaster County District Court on Wednesday.

County Attorney Gary Lacey offered the lesser charge after consulting with the family and weighing the possible outcomes.

Craig DuPree, who said he was insane at the time of the murder, had two psychiatrists, one for the state and one for the defense, saying he was not sane at the time of the crime. A second psychiatrist for the state said he was sane.

"Given the circumstances, we concluded since we have the burden to prove he was sane beyond a reasonable doubt, we decided to go to a lesser charge," Lacey said. "I wasn't sure a reasonable jury would find him sane. I think it was a prudent thing for me to do given the circumstances."

Judge Karen Flowers accepted the plea and found Craig DuPree guilty of manslaughter, second-degree assault and two counts of use of a weapon to commit a felony.

He was convicted for stabbing his wife, Joan, to death shortly before 6 a.m. on June 11, 1998. She died from wounds to the throat.

According to court documents, Craig DuPree and his wife, Joan, had an argument about his lying to her about their financial situ-

"There are some days I love him and miss him, and there are others where I am angry with him."

Aaron DuPree

Craig DuPree's son and UNL student

ation.

The argument escalated and Craig DuPree picked up a knife. He told police he lost control and stabbed his wife.

When their daughter saw her mother on the ground in their bedroom covered in blood, Craig DuPree also stabbed his daughter, Emily, now 15, in their home at 5300 S. 53rd St.

Aaron DuPree, now a 21-year-old sophomore theater major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was asleep on the couch downstairs at the time of the killing.

He awoke groggy to his sister talking to

their father about something concerning their mother and blood, he said in an interview with the Daily Nebraskan.

The severity of the situation didn't wake him fully until he heard his sister pleading for her life, he said.

"She said 'I won't tell anyone. Please don't kill me,'" Aaron DuPree said.

Aaron DuPree said he had blamed himself for a long time for not stopping the killing.

The morning Joan DuPree died, Emily

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Heather Glenboski/DN

RECYCLING COORDINATOR Dale Ekart is responsible for checking how well people in campus buildings are recycling their trash. He said he looks for ways the university community can recycle more efficiently.

Dumpster D i v i n g

UNL coordinator looks in trash for recyclables

By Cara Pesek

Staff writer

Some might say Dale Ekart's job stinks.

Ekart, the recycling coordinator at UNL, spends two weeks each year sorting through the garbage of every building on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campuses.

But Ekart's unusual job serves a noble purpose—helping the environment.

The mission of the annual adventure, which Ekart refers to as "Dumpster diving," is to find out how much garbage the UNL community recycles.

Ekart said that since he began Dumpster diving in 1993, the percentage of garbage UNL recycles has increased each year.

In 1993, only about 10 or 11 percent of UNL's garbage was recycled. Last year, Ekart said, UNL students, faculty and staff members threw 26 percent of their garbage into recycling bins rather than garbage cans.

This year, Ekart expects the percentage will be even higher.

"We're doing pretty well," Ekart said. "Now we have most of the good stuff out of the trash."

And the list of good stuff recycled by the university is constantly growing, Ekart said.

"I've found animals both dead and alive, brand-new items and even money."

Dale Ekart

UNL's recycling coordinator

During his 1993 Dumpster dive, Ekart said he found that a lot of cardboard was being thrown away. He looked into more efficient ways to recycle it.

Since then, he's also looked into more effective ways to recycle products such as aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles, newspapers and office paper.

In some instances, recycling bins were placed in buildings where the Dumpster dives revealed little recycling previously had taken place.

Other times, the bins simply were moved to more convenient locations.

For example, administrative technician Betty Pratt recently asked Ekart how recycling could be improved at CBA.

After conducting an audit of CBA's trash, Ekart recommended the recycling bins simply be made more handy than trash cans, Pratt said.

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Some students' actions endanger NU on Wheels

By Kimberly Sweet

Staff writer

In the second semester of its operation, those affiliated with UNL's newly launched safe-ride-home program say they are pleased with the results.

But some worry the continued success of NU on Wheels could be marred by the disrespectful behavior of a few students.

After the start-up of the semester, newly hired drivers have reported incidents of students abusing their free-ride privileges, as well as the drivers, said Molly Schmitz, NU on Wheels coordinator.

Schmitz said she is worried about the effect the incidences will have on retaining drivers for the program and maintaining the relationship with Husker Cab Inc.

Incidents including students blowing smoke in nonsmoking cab drivers' faces, cursing at drivers who refuse to wait for riders to finish their drinks and calls harassing the cab company's operator hurt the success of the program, she said.

"The program is providing a service to students," Schmitz said. "But if students abuse it, it will be hard to get drivers."

Donna Corey, personnel manager for the cab company, said the number of serious incidents involving cab drivers has been small in number.

But in one case, a student who called the operator every minute and a half was turned over to the police and arrested for harassment, Corey said.

Other students who have threatened the drivers in one way or another have simply been left to walk, Corey

said.

Most of the incidents have involved students not showing up for a cab after they have called and requested one, she said.

That affects the amount of time students have to wait for the rides, the cab drivers say.

"When they don't cancel their

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