

# Son has questions after plea

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DuPree was scheduled to leave for a school trip to Washington, D.C., and Aaron promised he would wake up by 5:30 a.m. to say goodbye. He overslept.

"If I would have woken up at 5:30, I could have talked to my father," Aaron DuPree said.

When he did wake up, he went upstairs and saw his mother on the floor in the bedroom and his sister's neck wounds, he said.

Though the exact sequence of events is somewhat of a blur, he knows he took his sister and covered her wound with a cloth, he said.

"There was a problem, and I had to fix it," Aaron DuPree said. "I didn't feel for quite a while."

Craig DuPree had called police and said his wife was dead.

Aaron DuPree went back upstairs and shut the door to his parents' room because his younger brother Ethan, now 13, always went into the room after he woke up; Aaron DuPree did not want his brother to see their mother, he said.

He also woke up his other brother, Jacob, now 18, and told him and Ethan what happened and took them downstairs. Ethan DuPree didn't believe it until he saw the blood, Aaron DuPree said.

"I went back upstairs to sit with my mother," Aaron DuPree said. "She was dead."

Aaron DuPree left his mother after some time and waited for police outside.

Emily DuPree was taken to the hospital and was released within a couple days.

She recovered from the two stab wounds to her throat and she, Ethan and Jacob are now living with their aunt and uncle in Omaha.

Aaron DuPree has mixed feelings about his father, he said.

"There are some days I love him and miss him, and there are others where I am angry with him," Aaron DuPree said. "I've always loved my father, and I'll always love him unconditionally. But that doesn't

*"I don't even know how my mother died. I've heard five to 10 different stories of the sequence of events. I don't even know if those are true."*

Aaron DuPree

Craig's son and UNL student

make him infallible, and it doesn't mean he doesn't have to pay for what he's done."

Aaron DuPree maintained regular contact, maybe once or twice a week, throughout that summer.

As school started in 1998, the visits became less frequent, about once a month because of his busy school schedule, he said.

Other than a few days ago at the hearing, Aaron DuPree had not talked to his father in person since March or April of 1999, he said.

Aaron DuPree does get to talk to his father over the phone on holidays when he calls the family, but Craig DuPree's time is limited on the phone, Aaron said.

Aaron DuPree said he never saw any signs that his father was having psychological problems, he said. But he did know about the financial problems.

"I've always been my mother's confidant," Aaron DuPree said.

Since the killing, Craig DuPree has been diagnosed by his psychiatrists with bipolar disorder.

The cycles of ups and downs were not apparent to the family because they went in long intervals that spanned an 11-year period, Aaron DuPree said. Aaron DuPree is now on an anti-depressant, Aaron DuPree said.

Aaron DuPree was disappointed the case didn't go to trial, because he wanted to see and hear all of the evidence.

"It's not because I wanted him to get off or that he would get worse," Aaron DuPree said. "I don't even know how my mother died. I've heard five to 10 different stories of the

sequence of events. I don't even know if those are true."

Even without a trial, Aaron DuPree has been told that he can have access to all of the evidence as long as his father signs a document allowing it. Craig DuPree told his son he would, Aaron DuPree said.

Part of Aaron DuPree's grieving is a continuous process, he said.

"I carried a deep sadness with me for a quite a while," Aaron DuPree said.

Coincidentally, days before his mother's death, Aaron DuPree finished the book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People."

In the book it says bad things happen, and God is there to help people cope and heal from those experiences, Aaron DuPree said.

He said the views expressed in the book have helped him grieve.

The university, especially James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, and the theater department have been understanding about his financial situation and when he needs to tend to family matters or see his father in court.

He also said his family, girlfriend and fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, have provided support while he grieves.

Aaron DuPree said when he went through his mother's funeral guest book he was amazed and impressed at the support offered from his fraternity brothers.

"There were more people at my mother's funeral than there were at Frank Sinatra's funeral that was a few weeks before my mother's," Aaron DuPree said.

"I love Sinatra, so that was a big deal."

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Gerald Early will deliver the annual Abraham Lincoln Lectures on March 7, 8, and 9. His program, "Princes Kept the View: America in the 50s and 60s," will feature talks entitled "Muhammad Ali as Third World Hero," "Sammy Davis Jr. as Establishment Rebel," and "The Rise of Black Philadelphia," a look at militant political action in Early's hometown during the 1960s.



Gerald Early is a professor of English and Afro-American studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Early also serves as Washington University's Director of African and Afro-American Studies and Director of the American Culture Studies Program. A frequent commentator for National Public Radio, Early's books include *The Muhammad Ali Reader* and *The Culture of Bruising* which won the 1994 National Book Critics Circle Award for criticism.

The talks are free and open to the public and will commence at 7:00 each evening in the Great Plains Art Collection, 215 Love Library, on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln. A reception and book signing will immediately follow Thursday's lecture.

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# Actions endanger NU on Wheels

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rides, it causes everyone down the line to have to wait," said Daniel Brunsen, one of the NU on Wheels drivers.

Students should look out for the cabs, especially when they are downtown, because the cabs can't double park.

"We can't stop more than a couple of seconds," Brunsen said.

Other incidents have involved non-students. One cab driver was punched in the stomach when he wouldn't take a paying rider home, Corey said.

Some might think the job of chauffeuring around intoxicated students — part of the program's clientele — doesn't lend itself to respectability.

But Schmitz said all students have a responsibility to show respect, no matter their level of intoxication.

"(The drivers) anticipate that students need a ride home from drinking at a party or at the bars," Schmitz said. "At the same time, they expect a level of respect whether (the students) are

*"It started out slow, but every week it gets more."*

Donna Corey

personnel manager for Husker Cab Inc.

drunk or not."

Drivers say when students show their appreciation through tips it improves the atmosphere and relationship between the drivers and the students.

Schmitz said the drivers' tolerance of these problems would determine the ultimate consequences.

If they quit, the program is forced to hire new drivers, she said.

Schmitz said she also doesn't want to jeopardize the relationship with Husker Cab Inc. — the only cab company in Lincoln.

Despite what she calls a "few bad apples," Schmitz said the response to the program this semester has been good.

Corey said the number of rides

provided continues to go up every week.

"It started out slow, but every week it gets more," she said.

Schmitz reported that last semester, 630 rides were given in the 27 days the program was in operation.

Nearly 1,400 students participated in the program.

Sixteen percent of the calls ended up in voids, meaning the person who called for the ride wasn't there when the driver showed up, she said.

Schmitz encouraged students to call and cancel the cab if they found another way home.

"Students need to call back and say they don't need a cab so the overall efficiency of the program continues," she said.

# McCain, Bush spar in heated debate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George W. Bush accused John McCain in debate Thursday night of smearing his reputation with campaign attacks over religion and said, "I don't appreciate it one bit."

His GOP presidential rival denied the charge and said he had merely served up "straight talk" about the Texas governor's visit to Bob Jones University.

In their 10th and final debate before next week's Super Tuesday primaries, the two leading rivals for the Republican nomination differed politely over which

man could better lead the GOP to the White House this fall.

Bush said he could attract the independents and Democrats whose votes have been going to McCain. And McCain said "Christian conservatives all over America" will support him despite his criticism of Pat Robertson.

McCain, at pains to underscore his party loyalty, also pledged not to walk out of the nominating convention this summer if he wins the popular vote in the California primary next Tuesday but

loses all 162 delegates in a separately counted winner-take-all contest.

The format was unusual, with Bush and Alan Keyes on stage in an auditorium in the Los Angeles Times building in California and McCain joining by satellite from a studio in St. Louis.

Education, foreign policy, death row executions and gun control also came up in the wide-ranging debate.

The two men also clashed over campaign finance reform and Bush's speech at Bob Jones University.