

# Home births are for some,



Becky, Paul, Chezo and Elia VanLith

Staff Photo By Janet Hammer

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tacted the committee June 11. On that day, Fuller discussed the college's proposed elimination with committee members, and provided "a considerable amount" of documentation supporting the college's continuation, Griffin said. But, she said, "for whatever reason, whenever the academic planning committee has requested input, it's been ignored or ignored up until the last minute. They (Centennial personnel) have had more opportunities than they are indicating." Fuller said the committee has not done a cost-benefit analysis to determine Centennial's worth to students and faculty. The committee has decided, he said, that "there's no long-term vested interest in the program, so it's relatively painless for us to get rid of it."

## Oil tax averages 19 percent

The windfall profit tax on Nebraska oil production will average 19 percent of the price of a barrel for producers and 23 percent for royalty holders during 1980. These estimates are presented in the July issue of "Business in Nebraska" by James R. Schmidt and Larry A. Graus of the UNL Bureau of Business Research. The tax legislation was signed by President Carter on April 2, 1980, and is designed to collect a total of \$227.3 billion before a phaseout period begins.

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Birth is a family event that belongs in the home, says Becky VanLith, who gave birth to her 10-pound son, Chezo in her own home one month ago.

"It's such a part of family life," Ms. VanLith said. "It's the only place we ever thought of having a child."

However, Phyl Kenney, obstetrics coordinator at St. Elizabeth Community Health Center, said she thinks home deliveries can be a dangerous situation posing "undue risks" for both mother and child because of a lack of medical equipment and personnel.

"The mothers who do this (home births) are gambling," she added. "At the best, we are dealing with a nebulous situation."

While there's "no such thing as a 100 percent safe delivery," she added, hospital settings have definite advantages, especially in an emergency.

"A controlled situation (like a hospital) is important to preserve the quality of life for the baby and the mother," she said. "Time is of the essence if you have a crisis."

Becky and her husband Paul, 2112 C St., are not newcomers to home birth situations. Their first child, Elia, now 22-months-old, also was born at home.

The couple lived in the state of Washington at the time of the first birth. Midwives in that state can be licensed and a midwife attended Elia's birth, she said.

In Nebraska, however, a state law says that persons attending to mothers during childbirth must have a medical license. Nebraska law does not have provisions for the licensing of midwives.

Ms. VanLith said that being in control of the birth process was one of the main reasons she chose to have her baby at home.

"I could eat what I wanted, sleep when I wanted to, and wear what I wanted," she said.

Another advantage to having children at home, she said, is that other family members such as fathers and brothers and sisters can be together during the birth.

"There is not the separation. There is just so much less disruption of your normal every day life."

She said her husband's presence at the birth of both children gave her emotional support.

Ms. VanLith said Chezo's delivery went "smoothly," and that she used no pain killers.

Although Elia was not in the room when her mother was in labor, the first-

## UNL residence halls filling fast —director

UNL housing officials have stopped accepting applications for residence hall rooms from men who will be 20 or older by October 1, UNL Housing Director Douglas Zatechka stated in a news release Tuesday.

For the seventh year, residence halls will be filled to capacity, and some students may be placed in temporary housing, he said.

After July 7, 1st students who send housing contracts to UNL will be placed on a waiting list. UNL housing officials will notify those students if space in residence halls becomes available.

Applications from women still are being accepted. However, Dick McKinnon, assistant director of housing for residence education, said that the women's dorms almost are filled.

"We're checking them weekly," he said.

The housing office must provide rooms for freshmen and sophomore students who will not be 20 until after October 1, according to NU Board of Regents

bylaws. Bylaws require unmarried freshmen and sophomore students under 20 who do not commute to their homes to reside in on-campus housing.

McKinnon attributed the high occupancy rates to the convenience of living on campus and to the increasing costs of transportation and other living expenses for off-campus students. More than 5,000 students live in UNL's residence halls, he reported.

If the demand for rooms exceeds the supply, he said, students will be assigned to temporary housing.

Temporary housing can be dormitory lounges, the basement of Abel Hall, or three persons, rather than two, assigned to end and corner rooms, which are larger than other dormitory rooms.

McKinnon said that all of these emergency arrangements would be temporary and that students usually are reassigned to rooms within two weeks, because of cancellations during the first two weeks of the fall semester.

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