

## Crash kills student

A UNL student and his three children were killed in a two-car accident early Tuesday morning on Missouri Interstate 29, authorities said.

Johnny E. Ikomi, 38, his 8-year-old son, Temple and 2-year-old twins, Tosan and Elji, were killed when their car was struck in the rear and caught fire, said Cpl. Gary Dusenderg of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Ikomi's 32-year-old wife, Taiwo, was taken to Heartland East Hospital in St. Joseph, Mo., where she was treated for cuts and bruises Tuesday afternoon.

The car Ikomi was driving was struck in the rear by a car driven by James D. Scrivener of Dearborn, Mo., the patrol said.

Ikomi's car was stopped or moving slowly as it approached a blinking yellow sign indicating that the left

lane was closed ahead. Dusenderg said Ikomi's car traveled into the median and caught fire. The car driven by Scrivener ran off the right side of the road. Scrivener suffered cuts and bruises, but was not seriously injured. Charges against Scrivener are pending an investigation, Dusenderg said.

Fire apparently caused the four deaths, according to the patrol report. Peter S. Levitov, director of the UNL international educational services, said Ikomi had a bachelor's degree and was looking for a graduate program. Ikomi, a native of Warri, Nigeria, reportedly was in Fayetteville, Ark., looking at the University of Arkansas' graduate program.

"He was determined to get a master's degree before he returned home (to Warri)," Levitov said.

## Education, brain drain forum topics Gubernatorial hopefuls debate

By Linda Hartmann  
Staff Reporter

Five gubernatorial candidates presented their positions Tuesday on education, brain-drain and the possibility of a state-funded student aid program.

The three republican and two democratic candidates spoke at the Nebraska State Student Association's legislative forum in the Nebraska Union. They agreed that adequate funding for higher education should be a governor's high priority. But they had different approaches to providing the money.

Democrat Dave Domina said the key to high quality education is a strong economic base. An improved state economy, Domina said, would make needed education money available and provide people with more educational opportunities.

Democrat Chris Beutler said his eight-year record in the state Legislature shows his support of education. Education would be his first priority, he said, and he would "haggle" with the Legislature to make sure it is properly funded.

To provide this money, Beutler said, the state may need to reallocate resources from other state agencies, raise taxes and begin external revenue sources, such as a state lottery.

Republican Roger Yant said he would like to see the state provide less money and use what is saved for education.

"We've got to start cutting back on our government," he said. For example, he said, the state payroll has grown by \$100 million in the last three years. This money would be better spent on the state's colleges and university, he said.

Yant also proposed that the state use a lottery and video slot machines to generate money.

Republican Everett Sileven said that although state government is responsible for providing a healthy economic climate for education, educational responsibility rests with parents and individuals.

Some areas of the university need to be cut, Sileven said.

"A university does not have to teach everything in order to be a university," he said.

Republican Kermit Brashear said education would be a high priority in his administration.

"It's the cornerstone of the foundation of the house we're trying to build," he said. "It's basic and we must have it."

The candidates also addressed the Nebraska "brain drain." A recent NSSA survey showed that 75 percent of university and state college students are not committed to staying in Nebraska after graduation.

Beutler said the state must foster economic development and agricultural revitalization to provide more jobs

for these graduates. Yant agreed, saying many graduates can do the same jobs in other states for more pay.

A homestead program, Sileven said, is the answer to the brain drain. His program would allow thousands of young people to stay in the state in farming lifestyles, he said.

Brashear said Nebraska's high taxes discourage businesses and employees. He proposed offering businesses incentives for hiring new graduates.

Domina said he would like to give businesses tax incentives for locating in Nebraska and offer a job training program for non-college graduates.

Each candidate also gave his opinion of a state-supported student aid program.

Yant said if the state used 2,000 video slot machines, it could raise \$60-\$80 million a year for a student aid program.

Sileven said he would only support state loans, not grants, to students.

Student aid is attractive, Brashear said, but first the state needs a stronger economic base to fund such programs.

Domina agreed and said he wasn't sure the state could afford such a program now.

Beutler said the lack of a state scholarship program is a social injustice. The state should definitely fund aid for college students, he said.

## Symposium to evaluate Legislature

By James M. Lillis  
Staff Reporter

The Legislature's 50th anniversary will be celebrated at the State Legislative Reform Symposium, which starts today at The Cornhusker Hotel.

The three-day symposium includes discussions about the operation and effectiveness of the one-house Legislature, as well as state legislative committees, decision-making and politics.

Robert Sittig, a UNL political science professor, said the most important thing about the conference is the objective evaluation of the Legislature's effectiveness by U.S. political science specialists.

"It's risky, but it's something that needs to be done," he said.

Former Nebraska Gov. Norbert Tiemann will speak Wednesday evening. Other featured speakers are state Sen. Vard Johnson and former U.S. Rep. John

Cavanaugh. Both will speak Thursday. There also will be a roundtable discussion Thursday of the unicameral experiment, and panelists will discuss state legislative committees and decision-making.

On Friday, panelists will discuss legislative policies and compare the Legislature with those in other states. UNL speakers will compare notes with out-of-state speakers and apply their findings to their own areas of study.

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