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SPORTS

Pike's Not Peeking

NU senior forward Eric Piatkowski says he refuses to look at his NBA chances until after Nebraska finishes its run toward the NCAA Tournament.

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Support of regents to help Smith begin job

By Jeffrey Robb
Senior Editor

L. Dennis Smith will enjoy university-wide support when he begins work as NU's new president, members of the NU Board of Regents said.

And, they said, that support will provide Smith with a golden opportunity to address current problems and issues within the NU system.

Regent Chairman Charles Wilson of Lincoln said the backing would provide Smith with a "honeymoon" of sorts. But once Smith starts making tough decisions, opposition could develop and the opportunity could fade, Wilson said.

Wilson said Smith, who takes office Tuesday, didn't have the baggage or opposition on issues that those in the system eventually gather.

"The vice presidents, chancellors and all the faculty-senate presidents I've talked to have all expressed enthusiasm about working with Dr. Smith," Wilson said.

Regent Don Blank of McCook said

regents' support for Smith was strong. "We're all 100 percent behind him," Blank said.

Though they have had little contact with Smith, Regent Robert Allen of Hastings, along with Wilson and Blank, said Smith had the qualities needed to improve the university.

"He looks and sounds strong," Allen said. "I think he'll be good."

From his exchanges with Smith, Wilson said, the incoming president is direct, but still pleasant.

"I look forward to serving with him," he said.

Soon after Smith takes office, the board will hold a special meeting to sit down and talk with the new president, Blank said.

The desire to work toward a one-university concept, however, is one issue that Smith won't need to be informed of, Wilson said. Smith already knew what the board wanted and had expressed ideas on how to make it work, Wilson said.

He said Smith needed to develop a good chemistry with administrators to foster the one-university concept.

"I hope and the board hopes, if our judgment of the man is correct, that he can do that," Wilson said.

Allen said Smith should sit down

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LETTUCE gets canned, can't participate in debates

By Angie Brunkow
Senior Reporter

The ASUN Electoral Commission chose to stick to the rules Thursday by excluding a protest party from an ASUN election debate.

Brenda Keller, an electoral commissioner, said election rules indicated that only recognized student election groups could compete in the three debates sponsored by the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska.

LETTUCE, an unauthorized party that is running a write-in campaign, petitioned the commission on Thursday to allow executive candidates to speak in the remaining two debates.

Matthew Kissler, presidential candidate for LETTUCE, said the party deserved the opportunity to get its name out in the debate.

He said the party, which was formed about a week ago, would generate student attention and interest in student government.

"Within a week's time, we've generated more media attention than VISION and RESUME (the two recognized parties)," he said.

Mark Byars, the electoral commission director, said he wanted to increase student interest but had to be fair to the registered parties.

"It is not the obligation of the commission to allow you into a debate simply because you've become popular," he said.

Brian Fitzgerald, first vice presi-

dential candidate for LETTUCE, said keeping the party out of the debate put it at a disadvantage.

But ASUN President Keith Benes said LETTUCE should have followed the rules like the other parties.

"That's the price you pay," he said.

In other business, the commission decided not to release the number of votes cast on election day for David Letterman.

Gary Doyle, chairman of Students For Dave, is sponsoring a write-in campaign to get the popular comedian elected as president.

Byars said votes for Elvis Presley weren't released when students wrote him in a few years ago. Presley and Letterman are ineligible to take office because neither are UNL students.

"Precedent has already been set in this matter," he said.

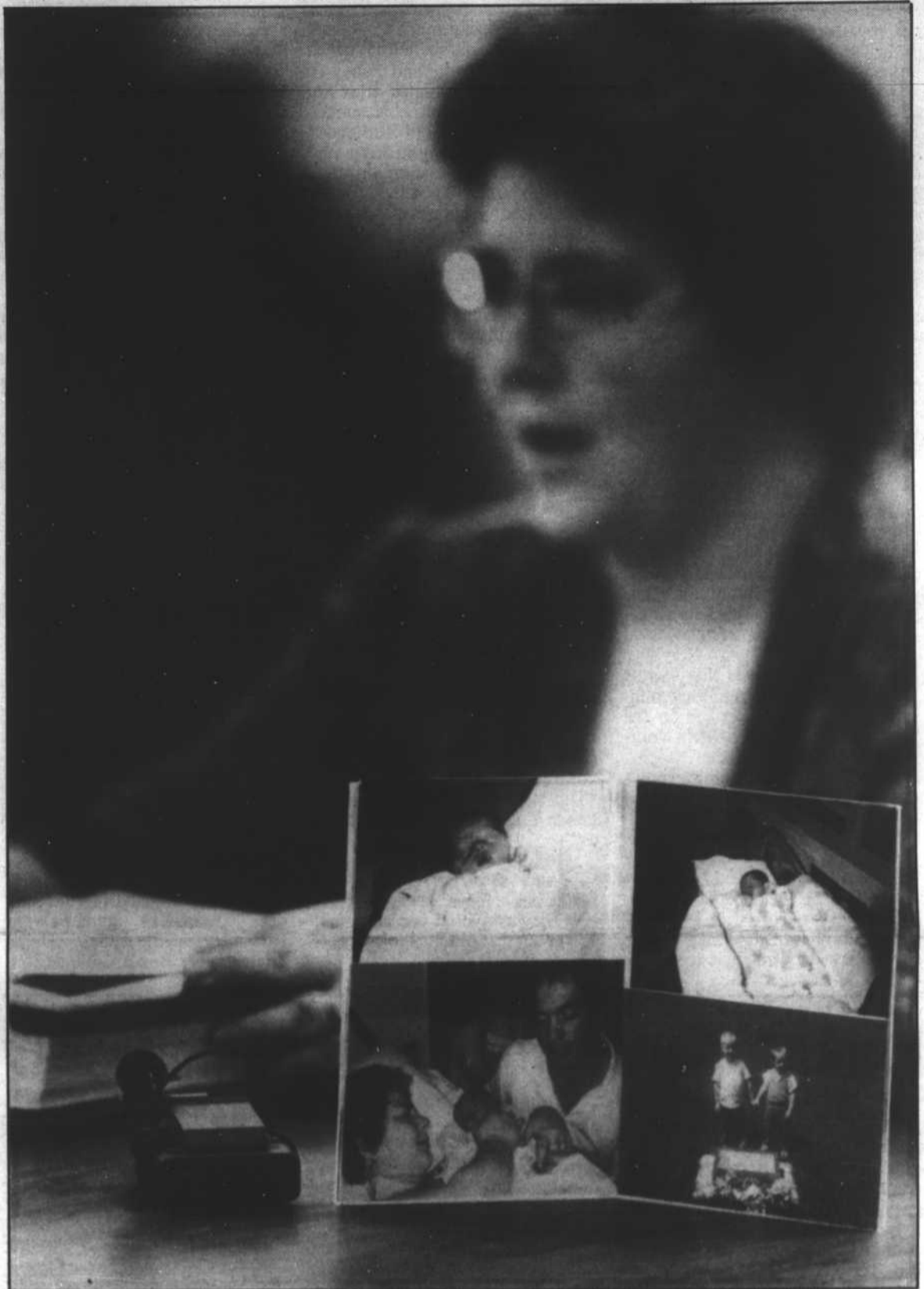
Lee Thurber, an electoral commissioner who voted to release the information, said students would want to know how many votes Letterman got.

"If we have the information, what the heck," he said. "We may as well release it."

Students could probably figure the number of votes for Dave by subtracting the number of votes each eligible candidate received from the total number of votes, he said.

Byars said students were welcome to do that.

"We may be encouraging higher education," he said. "If students can figure it out by themselves, they ought to do the math."



Kiley Timperley/DN

Sandy Uhing of Hartington testifies in support of a legislative bill that would allow people to sue in cases of wrongful death of a viable fetus. Uhing displayed photos of her son Joshua, who was stillborn after a car accident when Uhing was more than eight months pregnant.

Bill to consider rights of fetus

By Kara G. Morrison
Senior Reporter

Sandy Uhing was eight months pregnant when a car accident on Oct. 11, 1991, caused her abdomen to be crushed against the steering wheel of her car.

The driver of the other vehicle had failed to yield on a country road near

Uhing's home town of Hartington. As a result of the collision, she said, her son was stillborn.

Uhing, testifying to members of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee Thursday, said she was told she had no cause for action against the driver for the loss of her child.

"Why should my child's life be any less important than anyone else's?" Uhing said, displaying a picture of her stillborn son to committee members as she spoke.

Uhing asked senators to pass LB921, which would allow the death of a viable fetus to be actionable

under wrongful death charges. Sen. Connie Day of Norfolk said she proposed the bill as a result of Uhing's experience.

Day said she did not think the bill should be connected to the abortion argument.

"This is not a pro-life or pro-choice issue," Day said. "... Even Roe vs. Wade recognized a third trimester."

The bill, she said, addresses only those immediately surviving the dead.

Mike McCormack, an Omaha attorney, also testified in support of LB921. McCormack said his client, a 27-year-old woman, was two weeks from term when she, too, had a car accident.

The woman was hospitalized and released, but was told the next morning that her placenta had been lacerated, McCormack said, causing the baby

to drown in its own blood. "My personal opinion is that it is obscene that there is no cause for action," McCormack said. "... It doesn't make any sense at all."

Jim Cunningham of the Nebraska Catholic Conference testified in support of LB921, saying it would "establish the humanity of the unborn child."

Sen. Tim Hall of Omaha asked Day whether the term "viable fetus" would have to be defined by the bill.

Day said a judge would have to define the term, but thought a viable fetus was one "close to full birth" and able to survive outside the womb.

She said three other states had laws recognizing, but not defining, the death of a viable fetus as a cause for wrongful death action.

No one testified against the bill.

— Uhing
testifying on behalf of LB921

Bosnia Analysis

Abbas Ali, a former University of Nebraska-Lincoln student now in Bosnia, reports back on his experiences in the middle of war-torn former Yugoslavia. Others at UNL share a different perspective. See page 6.

DN graphic