

Senator steps down; faces cancer battle

By John Fulwider
Senior Reporter

Sen. Connie Day of Norfolk will resign from the Nebraska Legislature in late December to fight a recurrence of breast cancer.



Day

"I think my constituents deserve a full-time senator," Day said in a telephone interview Wednesday evening. "And I just couldn't be."

Gov. Ben Nelson Wednesday appointed Leland "Lee" Klein, a Battle Creek farmer, to replace Day in the Legislature's second session, which begins Jan. 3.

Day's breast cancer went into remission in August 1991, three months before her election as the District 19 senator. The cancer has reappeared in her tailbone, she said.

Day said her most memorable moments as a senator came when she talked with her district's young people about the problems they face. They would always give her straight answers, she said.

"We have this presumption that we know what's best for the chil-

dren," she said. "And sometimes we forget to ask them."

Her proudest legislative achievement, she said, was the zero-tolerance law. It was her first bill as a freshman senator. The law revokes for 30 days the driver's license of anyone under 21 caught with a blood alcohol content of .02 or higher.

Day said she was happy with Klein as her replacement.

"I'm extremely pleased with Lee," she said. "He's very open, and he'll listen to the people."

Nelson appointed Klein to the Corn Development and Utilization Board in 1992. He has been the chairman for the past 1 1/2 years. He also is a director on the Executive Committee of the U.S. Feed Grains Council and serves on its Marketing and Development committee.

Klein has said he plans to seek election to the District 19 seat in November 1996. Day said she would not challenge Klein in that election.

Her political future remains uncertain, but Day said she knew where she would be during the Legislature's second session when she isn't undergoing treatment.

"I'm not going to disappear," she said. "I'll still be down there when I can, behind the glass, working those issues that are important to me."

CBS report features Phillips in tonight's '48 Hours' show

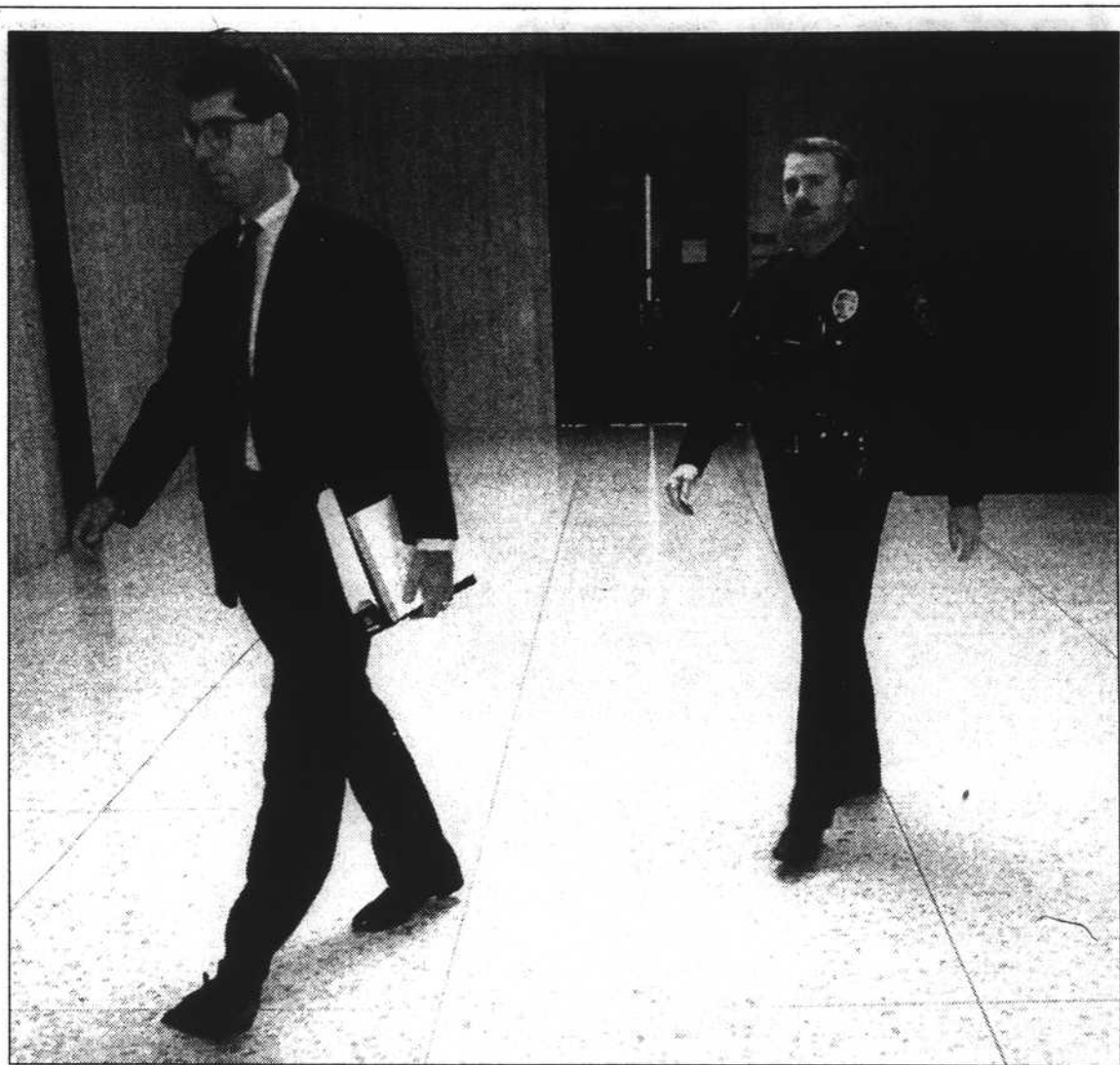
From Staff Reports

NU football player Lawrence Phillips will be featured in tonight's "48 Hours" report about athletes and violence.

The news program conducted a three-month investigation of violence by athletes that brought film crews to several college campuses, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The CBS program, which airs at 9 p.m., focuses on Phillips' September assault on NU basketball player Kate McEwen.

Denver Broncos wide receiver Vance Johnson also will be featured on the show, along with an investigation into whether athletes receive preferential treatment when charged with crimes and an analysis of whether fans encourage athletes' aggression.



Jay Calderon/DN

Deputy Lancaster County Attorney Joe Kelly and University police officer Robert Soflin walk into District Court Wednesday morning. Soflin, who was injured in a September 1994 shooting, testified in the attempted second-degree murder trial of Gerald Schlondorf.

Schlondorf

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floor of the County-City building, where the courtroom is located.

When Soflin took the stand, he told jurors that he began chasing a dark blue Chevrolet pickup truck as it crossed City Campus. As his vehicle was still moving near 16th

and S streets, Soflin attempted to get out when he saw a man point a long-barrelled weapon at him.

Soflin said he did not have time to draw his weapon or step out of his police cruiser before at least nine shots were fired at him. He realized that he was hit when he saw a large hole blown through his right hand.

"I knew it was going to be diffi-

cult to draw my weapon due to the fact that I was laying on my gun," Soflin said. "As I was laying across the seat of my vehicle, I could hear gunshots."

Prosecuting attorneys will continue questioning Soflin when testimony resumes today at 9 a.m.

Staff Reporter Ted Taylor contributed to this report.



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