

Partial-birth abortion bill testimonies heard

By ERIN SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Legislature

Three senators presented bills to the Judiciary Committee Wednesday that would ban partial-birth abortions unless the mother's life was at stake.

Sen. Dave Maurstad of Beatrice, who introduced one of the bills, said the abortions fringed on murder.

Partial-birth abortions, also called intact dilation and evacuation, usually occur between the 18th and 24th weeks of pregnancy. The doctor dilates the woman's cervix, delivers the legs and torso of the fetus, punctures the head with a sharp object and sucks out the brain to allow it to fit through the cervix.

"If there is any action that comes closer to infanticide, I don't want to know about it," Maurstad said. "It would be defined as murder if the baby's head were outside the mother's body."

Senators said the three bills, LB23, LB167 and LB217, were similar and may later be combined. All made partial-birth abortions illegal except if the mother's life was in danger.

Vikki Stella flew in from Illinois to tell about her experience with a partial-birth abortion and opposed the bill.

While she was pregnant, doctors found the baby's head was filled with fluid and did not have a brain, and had nine abnormalities. The baby would not live outside her body, Stella said.

"I made the agonizing decision to take my son off life support," Stella said.

Stella was 33 weeks into the pregnancy when the baby was aborted. She did not want to go through vaginal delivery or a Caesarean section, she said, because she was a diabetic and could not heal as easily as most people, and

feared she would be sterile if the fetus was not aborted.

Stella broke into sobs while testifying, and told the committee it was God, not her, who chose for her son to die. The surgery enabled her to have more children, she said.

Two who testified in support of the bills told stories of babies they could have been encouraged to abort who were now healthy years later.

Susan King of Kearney brought in her 10-year-old son, Devin, as living proof that a fetus classified as abnormal can not only live, but have special talents.

When she was pregnant, doctors said Devin's head was filled with fluid and they did not know if he had a brain.

Ten years later, Devin is playing the violin and piano by ear, King said. She also noted that she, too, was diabetic.

"One life taken by this is one life too many," she said.

Bob Blank, vice chairman of Metro Right to Life, shared a similar story.

His 16-year-old son was born with birth defects, spina bifida and fluid on the brain. Today, he walks, talks and is a champion speller.

"My son is a miracle of the Lord," Blank said. "When we talk about all these things, we're leaving God out altogether."

Several who testified in support of the bill said the abortions were hardly ever performed to save the life of the mother.

Dr. Bruce Taylor, a Lincoln gynecologist, said 80 percent of all partial-birth abortions were elective.

"It's far from being a life-saving procedure for the mother," Taylor said.

Kelly Groux, president of the Pro-Choice Coalition of Nebraska said lawmakers should stay in their place — the government.

"Lawmakers are not experienced in determining appropriate medical treatment," Groux said. "Legislators do not belong in the examining room, operating room or delivery room."

"A woman does not carry a pregnancy to that stage only to have an abortion."

Renee's Floral Boutique 2818 N. 48th
464-2727

Home of the Cookie & Candy Bar Bouquets!

Gifts in Balloons • Gift Baskets

Free local delivery with any order
\$37⁵⁰ or more.

Local and worldwide delivery available.
Visa • MasterCard • Discover • American Express

Law & Order

What's going on campus and in the community

ARMED ROBBERY

A 47-year-old woman was robbed at gunpoint outside her house Tuesday night, but the two robbers got away with only \$2.50.

The woman told Lincoln Police she was walking to her mailbox outside 2950 N. 49th St. at about 9:55 p.m. when two men wearing dark clothes approached her.

Sgt. Ann Heermann said one man wearing a ski mask pulled out a handgun, put it to her head and demanded money. Another man with a baseball cap over his face stood near him.

The two men took the money and ran northbound on 49th Street. The woman described the man with the gun as 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 150 pounds.

ADVANCE to enter race

ADVANCE from page 1

said there are residence hall student assistants, former senators and other community leaders as candidates in the ADVANCE party.

Ruwe also addressed the issues of computer technology, higher student fees caused by campus renovations, and parking. He said fees should not increase for computer education and that ADVANCE would oppose any policy that would limit the amount of parking available to students.

"We stand today in the face of ... racial issues, sexist issues and diversity issues," Ruwe said. "We have tough issues and the road will not be smooth, I can promise you."

"The ADVANCE team is ready, willing and able to travel the rough road."

Rager agreed.

"ASUN has tremendous potential, and I believe that we are the party that will continue to advance that potential to reality," she said.

Unbelievable Low Prices

Diamonds, Engagement Rings, Gold Chains and Bracelets.

ELDER JEWELRY Shop the Rest Come to the Best
3111 O St. 474-6044

Win a trip to Sunset Beach!

Enter the 1-800-COLLECT "Anything Can Happen" Sweepstakes

IT'S EASY TO WIN!

Simply complete a 1-800-COLLECT call between February 3 and February 28, 1997 and you are automatically entered! Plus,

1-800-COLLECT saves up to 44%

FIVE grand prize winners will win a trip for two to the set of SUNSET BEACH in California and a tour of the NBC Studios!

So use 1-800-COLLECT. The more calls you make, the more chances you have to win!



Tune in to Sunset Beach Weekdays on NBC

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN AT SUNSET



1-800-COLLECT
Save up to 44%

Daily Deals

NB

NEW YORK BAGEL
13th & Q • 438-0088

Monday Madness
99¢ Breakfast & Pizza Bagels

Wednesday Hump Day
--Half Off--
50% off on all food & drink
--with student ID--

Friday Double Trouble
--2 For 1--
Buy one, get one FREE
--all items--

Students - 10% Off Daily
With student ID
Not valid with above offers
FREE DELIVERY