



## SPORTS

### Skidding

The Nebraska baseball team hasn't lost faith after an 11-game losing streak. Today, NU tries to end the skid at Kansas State. **PAGE 10**



## A & E

### Nebraska beats

Antone Douglas, who is also known as All Ayz, is an Omaha rap artist with a new album, "Last Breath: 24th Street Stories." **PAGE 12**

## TUESDAY

March 11, 1997

### ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Sunny, high 65. Partly cloudy tonight, low 37.

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## Saving Grace

*Out of fear, she delivered her baby alone in her Smith Residence Hall room. Now, a former UNL student knows the family she has would have supported the one she created.*

BY PAULA LAVIGNE  
Managing Editor

**T**hursday night, Kimberly Coffeen was alone in her room.

By Friday morning, the 18-year-old freshman had a roommate for life.

That was Jan. 24. It marked the end of more than nine months of a hidden pregnancy and lonely nights full of tears in a residence hall room.

And it marked a choice: adoption or acceptance. For Katherine Grace Coffeen-Spencer — only hours into this world — that choice was to be her future.

Last May, Kim and her boyfriend chose not to use birth control — once — after prom and weeks before Kim's graduation from Marian High School in Omaha.

It wasn't her choice to become pregnant, but by September, she knew she had to make a decision. Abortion was not an option.

Confronted by fear, in her first semester of college and away from home, Kim decided to take on one of the hardest tasks any woman can face — childbirth.

She hid the pregnancy, delivered the baby by herself — putting both mother and child in grave danger.

She did this alone out of fear she would disappoint those who loved her. Only later did she realize that the people she feared would turn her away, would have embraced her and supported her when she needed them.

Now they do.

### Hiding inside

Kim took a pregnancy test in May, but the results were "hazy," she said. Over the summer, though, she was car-sick too many

times to not suspect something else. In September, the test was 100 percent positive. That was when she and her boyfriend Cletus Spencer decided to hide Kim's pregnancy from everyone.

Kim said they figured if they didn't tell anybody, they could give the child up for adoption and no one would know — especially the four people who brought Kim and Clete into the world.

"The biggest thing was that we didn't want to disappoint our parents," Kim said. "I'm an only child, and to come in and say, 'Yeah, I'm 18, I'm pregnant.' Just to see the look on their face."

"I do everything in life because I want to please them and please myself. To me, being pregnant was a big disappointment. I thought my parents expected the most of me."

In her scenario, Kim said, her parents would have kicked her out of the house and cut her off from the family.

So Kim devised, as her father would later say, "the perfect crime." She wore baggy sweatshirts, bib overalls, jogging pants and sweaters. And she said she denied the life growing inside her.

In the fall, she started as a freshman news-editorial major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She moved from Omaha to her Smith Residence Hall room. Kim fended off the stress, she said, because she put all her pressure into school.

Some of her friends who saw her every day said they thought she was pregnant, but figured she would admit it if she were. And they were dispelled by Kim's complaints of menstrual cramps.

Her mother and father saw her almost

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LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

**KIM COFFEEN** holds her healthy baby girl, **Katherine Grace Coffeen-Spencer**, at her parents' home north of Omaha about two weeks after delivering the baby by herself in her Smith Residence Hall room January 24. Coffeen hid her pregnancy from family and friends for more than nine months.

## Parties trade final blows

BY KASEY KERBER  
Staff Reporter

There were few surprises in Monday's ASUN debate between KEG and ADVANCE, as both parties held firm to the points they've promoted throughout their campaigns.

Technology was once again a key point of the ADVANCE party, while "administrative accountability" continued to be the main thrust for KEG.

But Monday's debate — the final bout between the two parties before the Wednesday Association of Students of the University of Nebraska elections — featured an emphasis on rep-

### ASUN Elections

resentation and politics.

Both parties felt it was important to lobby in the Legislature — whether for bills that directly affect university students or bills that address a non-university issue that students might still care about.

But KEG and ADVANCE had different views on a handful of other issues, including how to deal with the NU Board of Regents.

Curt Ruwe, presidential candidate for ADVANCE, said being informed and showing an

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## Hall security adequate, UNL housing official says

BY ERIN GIBSON  
Senior Reporter

The university's recent \$50,000 settlement with a former student who said she was raped twice in residence halls will not pressure the university to increase safety measures in the halls, a school official said Monday.

Doug Zatechka, director of housing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the university meets or exceeds federal standards for

campus security. UNL would not step up its current "good security" to avoid future lawsuits, he said.

"How much do you make the hall become a prison?" Zatechka asked. "I don't know what else we can ultimately do."

The University of Nebraska issued a statement Friday saying it agreed Feb. 13 to pay former student Kathy Redmond \$50,000 in an out-of-court settlement among Redmond,

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