

## Supreme Court may hear Nebraska case

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The appellate court ruled in favor of Carhart.

If the U.S. Supreme Court hears the case it could reverse the 8th Circuit Court's decision and end what Deputy Attorney General Steve Grasz called a "cruel and barbaric procedure."

The court could also postpone action.

In 20 cases across the United States, courts have blocked or limited partial-birth abortion laws because of vague language, said Margie Kelly, spokeswoman for the Center of Reproductive Law and Policy. The center represents Carhart.

The law in question, LB23, was passed by the Legislature and signed into law on June 10, 1997. Carhart filed against the state two days later.

"LB23 outlaws a specific procedure (partial-birth abortion) in Nebraska. It's my hopes that the U.S. Supreme Court agrees," said Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad, the author of the bill. Kelly disagreed.

The law is not exclusive to partial-birth abortions and is a criminal ban,

Kelly said. Doctors could be charged and lose their licenses if they decided to perform any type of abortion, she said.

Grasz, who handled the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals case, also wrote the petition for the state.

Grasz said the state's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court contained four major points:

■ The 8th Circuit District Court misread the Nebraska statute and thought that it included all abortions.

■ The district court misapplied past U.S. Supreme Court rulings by finding the Nebraska statute created undue burden on abortion rights.

■ A baby delivered from its mother's body up to its head is a human.

■ Abortion is a decision for the Legislature, not the courts.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on whether to hear the case could come as early as 3 p.m. Friday, Kelly said.

The court could hear the case as early as April.

The case is titled Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg vs. Dr. LeRoy Carhart.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Improvements noticed by Lincoln police

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said.

The owners could also be held responsible if any accidents occur because of drinking at their house.

"They're almost like a bar," he said.

If a party is broken up, the police would issue the appropriate citations, make arrests and send others home.

"We never put anyone into a car that

we know is intoxicated," Jackson said. "The expectation is that they will find a lawful means of getting home."

If a person is too drunk to drive home, the police will find a ride home for them, Lobdell said.

Initially, the Lincoln Police Department funded the program, but the program began receiving funding in August 1999 by a portion of the money from the Robert Wood Johnson grant.

## Holiday events planned

■ Students offered a variety of activities for Martin Luther King Day.

By Sara Salkeld

Staff writer

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Planning Committee is encouraging students to not take a day off next Monday.

Instead, it is inviting everyone to come to the Nebraska Union to celebrate and to be part of this year's theme: "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off."

The day is a "great opportunity" to reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and community service, said Andy Schuerman, president of ASUN.

"It is an important part of African-American history," Schuerman said.

Even so, some students said they did not intend to stay on campus during the break.

Joel Webber, a junior broadcasting major, said he might.

"I haven't heard much about what is going on, but if I stick around I might be interested," Webber said.

Other students said they feel it is important for UNL to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"It is important to get people

"It is important to get people involved."

involved," said Rashad Benford, a senior finance major. "It's good to see young people active in programs like this. It is also an opportunity for young people to entertain at events like this."

The day's schedule is packed. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. in the Nebraska Union with a welcome from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor James Moeser and a performance by the Lincoln Community Gospel Choir.

At 10 a.m., the NAACP Youth Council is sponsoring a march from the UNL Culture Center to the state Capitol, where the council will hold a rally in the East Legislative Chambers.

For those who choose not to participate in the march to the Capitol, alternative activities are available. In the union there will be presentations held by various campus groups.

As an added bonus to attending the events, free lunch tickets will be provided by the chancellor's office to be redeemed at Nebraska Union vendors.

They will be available during the

Rashad Benford  
senior finance major

morning activities.

The afternoon activities will begin with Voices of Destiny, the Lincoln High School youth choir. The presentation of the chancellor's "Fulfilling the Dream" award will follow.

The award is given to two individuals who have made an exceptional effort to live out the dream of Martin Luther King Jr.

To end the day's festivities, The Exchange Project, a theater, dance and music company, will perform.

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