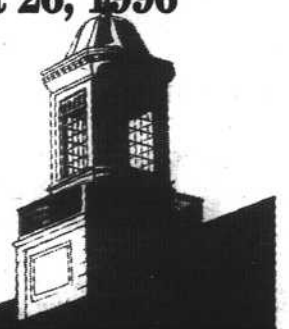


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## Hang time



MYRON MOORE/DN

ADAM PROCHASKA JR., plays spaceball at the University of Nebraska Big Red Welcome Sunday. The traditional beginning-of-the-year celebration moved to greenspace this year and featured dozens of informational booths, free food and games.

## Regents discuss proposed merger for Med Center

BY ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha will have to form a partnership with a health network if it wants to remain one of the state's success stories, its chancellor told the NU Board of Regents Friday.

Carol Aschenbrener urged board members to consider a partnership with Alegent Health System of Omaha. Aschenbrener said a partnership could provide a diverse and populous patient base and would bring in patient care revenue, which makes up one-third of the money spent on research and two-thirds of UNMC's budget.

If the medical center doesn't get a partnership with a health network, it could lose patients because of the increasing trend of patients using managed care plans, Aschenbrener said. Under managed care, patients see only doctors who are members of the medical group.

"Academic health centers must restructure because the health care system is restructuring," Aschenbrener told the regents. "We must prepare our students for the managed care environment they will be working in."

NU President Dennis Smith was skeptical that the partnership was the best solution.

"I worry that we're responding instead of planning," Smith said.

Jumping into a partnership could be risky, he said, and is comparable to a marriage commitment.

"I think we need to look at the length of those marriages and the difficulty of getting a divorce," Smith said.

Aschenbrener said that many other academic health centers around the country have been forming partnerships, and it was time for UNMC to follow suit.

Because the meeting's format was a round table-type discussion, no decision was made on the issue.

In other regent news:

District 1 Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln and District 2 Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo are both up for re-election in November. Their terms expire in January 1997.

Wilson is running unopposed. O'Brien, former regents chairwoman, will be challenged by Andrew Sigerson, former president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska. He is also the son of Chuck Sigerson, chairman of the Nebraska Republican Party.

## New students flock to convocation

BY ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

An undercurrent of pure school spirit gave the Lied Center for Performing Arts a Memorial Stadium-like feel Sunday as students eager to start their UNL years gathered for the first ever New Student Convocation.

Chancellor James Moeser, decked out in academic black robes, betrayed the formality of his clothes and bellowed out "There is No Place Like Nebraska" with the band as he led the crowd of more than 2,400 students in song.

So many students showed up for the event that overflow crowds watched on monitors in Kimball Hall, which holds 1,200 people, and in the Nebraska Union.

Moeser was flabbergasted with the turnout for the convocation, which was a tradition he brought with him from Pennsylvania State University.

"It was bigger this year than it ever was

there," Moeser said a bit breathlessly. "Next year we'll have to move it to the Devaney Center."

Moeser avoided stuffy commentary and instead issued extremely practical advice to the group.

"You will have more free time than anytime since you were in kindergarten," he told freshmen. "It's very tempting to squander it."

He urged students to treat school as an "eight-to-five" job and spend time in the library, not a dorm room, between classes.

Convocation attendants also listened to some fatherly advice from Cornhusker head football Coach Tom Osborne.

He espoused the value of well-rounded health — physical, mental and spiritual. He said students should stay away from alcohol and drugs and avoid promiscuity. He then went on to less-often heard subject matter at a public university: God.

"Consider this issue very carefully: 'Is there a God, and what does he mean to you?'" Osborne asked.

Students listened with near reverence to

Osborne, and didn't mind the heavy advice.

"It's nice to see him in person," said Aaron Page, a freshman from Boelus. "You always just have to see him on TV."

Eric Marintzer, president of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, and Paul Kelter, associate professor of chemistry, spoke on lighter issues.

Marintzer said students should get out and try everything during college, from volleyball games to cinnamon rolls at the Nebraska Union bakery.

Kelter cracked up the crowd with the humor that helped him become last year's outstanding educator at UNL.

"How is it possible to prosper at a university with more people than the four counties near your house?" he mused.

Kelter reminded students of what is come, though.

"For those of you in 9:30 Chemistry 109, come prepared to think, because we start right away."

## Moeser outlines new plans, projections for progress

BY TODD ANDERSON  
Staff Reporter

As he looks out for the future of UNL, Chancellor James Moeser Friday reiterated his three-point agenda during his state of the university address at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

In front of the largest crowd to attend any of the four past addresses — a mix of 950 students, faculty and administrators — Moeser thanked his predecessors Graham Spanier and Joan Leitzel, as well as other administrators and faculty for their support.

"I have never been in another state where the people are so in love with their university," he said.

With this support, Moeser wants to create a university that attracts Nebraska's best high school graduates, creates nationally recognized centers

of excellence and develops a campus-wide "ethical core."

"To be a great university, we must have outstanding faculty and outstanding students," he said.

Instead of losing Nebraska's top high school graduates to neighboring states, Moeser wants a university that will be the first choice for Nebraska's graduates.

"We are in an intensely competitive environment," he said. "This is not a competition for prestige and image, but how we define our university."

Moeser said academic recruitment at the university must function like athletic recruitment. He called for University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty and students visiting prospective students, building the endowment fund for scholarships and restructuring the honors program.

He said if Nebraska could attract the state's top students, "the next tier of

very good students will follow, raising the level of discourse in every section of every class on campus."

Moeser said the new 1997 admission standards would help ensure that incoming freshmen are prepared to receive a university education.

Along with his plan to create a university known for its academic program, Moeser envisions a university that is home to several nationally recognized centers of excellence.

He cited the importance of UNL's existing research programs, which generated a record amount of \$501,000 in revenue for the university last year.

"We are an economic force in this state," he said.

Moeser highlighted the success of UNL's distance education program, which he said is "arguably the best in the nation."

The university cannot be No. 1 in everything, he said, which means some

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JAMES MOESER  
UNL chancellor

programs and departments will receive priority.

He said the university must reallocate enough resources internally and bind together related programs.

"If we continue as if the east and city campuses were two different institutions, we shall never realize our full potential as a university," he said.

Moeser said he will soon release the names of a national advisory board and, by spring, will identify the programs that will become national centers of excellence.

Moeser also called for expanded use of technology and its availability.

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