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## Cabinet selections break new ground

By **RON FOURNIER**  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton Thursday named U.N. ambassador Madeleine Albright to be the first female secretary of state and retiring Republican Sen. William Cohen as defense secretary, laying the foundation for national security policy in his second term.

He asserted his new advisers would "rise above partisanship" to meet the challenges of a dangerous time.

"They have the experience, the judgment, the vision to meet the heavy responsibility and the high privilege of leadership."

Clinton also named Anthony Lake, his na-

tional security adviser, to be the new CIA director. Sandy Berger, Lake's deputy, will move up to take his boss' former spot.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry and CIA director John Deutch are resigning. All three were in the Oval Office for Clinton's announcement.

Clinton praised them as "bright, forceful, strong-minded individuals," and said his new team was made up of people with "remarkable qualities."

Though the appointments of Lake and Berger amount to a second-term reshuffling, the nominations of Albright and Cohen are trailblazing.

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## NU cheerleader in hospital after gymnastics accident

By **CHAD LORENZ**  
*Senior Reporter*

A UNL cheerleader was in critical condition at Lincoln General Hospital Thursday night after suffering a neck injury during practice Wednesday night.

Tracy Jensen, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln junior from Lyons, was injured while performing a gymnastics maneuver in Mabel Lee Hall. She was taken to the hospital just after 10 p.m. Wednesday.

As of Thursday night, Jensen was undergoing tests and had not yet undergone any surgery.

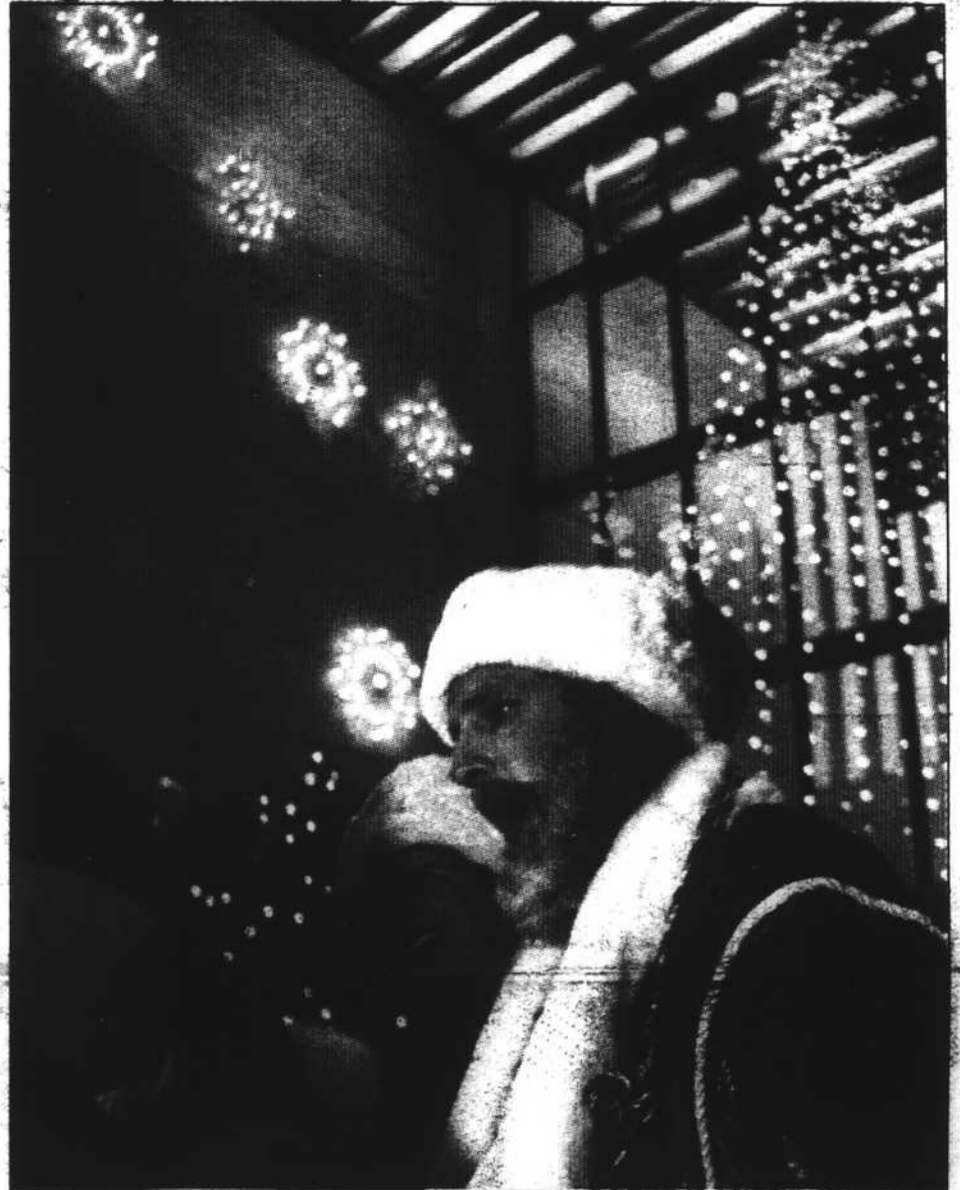
Cheerleader Coach Jamie Boling would not say whether doctors had detected any signs of paralysis.

Other members of the cheerleading squad and athletic officials would not comment on the incident. Jensen's family was with her at the hospital, but also declined to comment.

This is Jensen's third year on the squad. Last year, she was injured during a home football game when she fell from the top of a human pyramid.

This week, the squad was preparing to travel to St. Louis to perform Saturday at Nebraska's Big 12 championship football game against Texas.

## Lights, Santa, action!



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

**DAVE AND BECKI BARNES** of Lincoln, masquerading as Santa and Sandra Claus, greet people at the corner 13th and O streets Thursday night. The couple was downtown for the ceremonial lighting of the downtown Christmas lights.

# Pine or Plastic

It's that time of year again,  
when people must choose  
between real and artificial  
trees for the holidays.

By **ERIN GIBSON**  
*Staff Reporter*

This time of year, thousands of Nebraskans will venture forth through wind and snow to hunt down the perfect symbol of the Christmas season.

In the name of tradition, many spend hours stalking the many tree lots and farms, prying through prickly, bending branches until they find that once-in-a-lifetime tree to light up their homes.

Others forgo the hunt and choose an artificial tree — an eternally green substitute they say drops no needles on the carpet and requires little care. For some, allergies to the trees require the sacrifice of tradition.

Although the real vs. fake debate is a calm one, Nebraskans only have one chance per year to get the decision right.

## Holidays

This included Gov. Ben Nelson, who chose to keep live trees in his office and the governor's mansion this year, said his press secretary Diane Gonzales.

"He's a traditionalist and a nature-lover," she said.

Mayor Mike Johanns and Chancellor James Moeser said they prefer the same.

And so do Nebraskans by the carload, said the owner of Prairie Pines tree farm in Lincoln.

Walt Bagley, who opened the farm with his wife Virginia in 1965, said people are very enthusiastic about picking out a live Christmas tree.

Thanksgiving weekend, people trekked out to the countryside to pick out their tree in the soaking rain, Bagley said.

"They're about as fanatic as those people who went to the football game," he said.

Every year, more and more people come out to buy a fresh tree from his farm — the first farm in the state, he said. His customers pay from about \$25 for a good 6-foot-tall tree to

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RYAN SODERLIN/DN

**WALTER BAGLEY** has been growing Christmas trees since 1959 on his farm, Prairie Pines. Bagley said the Christmas trees serve as a wildlife refuge and a windbreak for his farm.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RYAN SODERLIN/DN

**RAY MILLER**, a senior nursing major, gets into the holiday spirit. Artificial Christmas trees come in a variety of sizes and can be easily stored and reused.