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Capitol branch



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

THE LINCOLNALL-CITY Girls Choir sings around the Nebraska State Christmas Tree in the rotunda of the State Capitol Sunday. Both the tree in the capitol building and the tree in the Governor's Mansion were open to public viewing Sunday.

Shoppers support Russ's despite cocaine incident

BY CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

A Lincoln supermarket may lose \$75,000 because of possible food tampering last week, but the company's vice president said customers' safety was worth the sacrifice.

Last Wednesday, employees at Russ's Market at 17th and Washington streets found four

syringes containing traces of cocaine near food. One syringe was stuck into a pear.

Thirty employees loaded three semi-trailer trucks with any food that could have been contaminated — about 40 percent of the store's merchandise.

"We certainly didn't under-react," said Pat Raybould, vice president of B&R Stores.

Please see **TAMPERING** on 6

Nelsons give holiday tour; more than 1,000 attend

BY ERIN GIBSON
Staff Reporter

Gov. Ben Nelson and his wife, Diane, invited the entire state to join them Sunday on a holiday tour of their Lincoln home.

More than 1,000 Nebraskans accepted, showing up to greet the Nelsons and view some of the 27 rooms, 11 bathrooms and 137 windows of the Governor's Mansion, which was decorated in holiday style.

Diane Nelson said she and her husband enjoyed the annual event and the chance to open their home to its owners — the people of Nebraska.

"We want to share everything we have with the people of Nebraska," she said. "It's delightful to share it; that's what Christmas is all about."

Children and adults alike seemed equally delighted to view the holiday splendor of the dignitary's home.

Eleven-year-old Hailey Abbott said the mansion was "neat."

Holidays

"It just seems so big, and it's colorful, and it has so many neat rooms," she said.

Abbott and her friend, 10-year-old Kari Langemach, especially liked the large candy-clad gingerbread village created by the mansion's chef and displayed in a meeting room downstairs.

Aaron Spicka, 10, found inspiration in the house itself — and in the great Christmas tree in the entry hall.

"I want this house when I grow up," he said. "I'd like to be governor."

Patriotic nutcrackers, ribbons and pounds of gold garlands and ornaments decorated the tree — Spicka's favorite of the mansion's holiday displays.

Nelson said she and her husband are the first occupants of the mansion to open its doors to Nebraskans who are not state employees. Since the holiday open house six years ago, the event has reflected the open feeling about the governorship that the couple shares, she said.

UNL ranks below peers in gender-equity report

BY MATTHEW WAITE
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska received its gender-equity report card Saturday morning and was ranked near the bottom of its peer group.

But some regents disagreed with the findings, saying the goal of being at the midpoint of peer universities was flawed and arguably illegal.

The Joint Commission on the Status of Women, made up of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women from each of the four NU campuses, touched off some heated discussion when its annual report to the NU Board of Regents showed campuses lacking in four key areas:

- Developing a system of reward incentives for administrators who increase their women hires and promotions.

- Creating a budget pool of vacated positions to be given to departments who can hire senior women faculty.

- Determining why women faculty decline NU job offers.

- Including progress toward gender equity in annual reviews.

Marilyn Grady, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln associate professor of educational administration, said adhering to gender equity goals set by the regents in 1991 should have put UNL near the middle of its peer institutions. It is now near the bottom of the rankings.

But Regent Drew Miller of Papillion said a goal of hiring women to reach a midpoint of a group was flawed because it advocated gender-based hiring.

"I think a lot of this is P.C. BS that is going on here," he said during the meeting. "We could very well get sued from this. It is illegal to hire people based on gender."

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DREW MILLER
NU regent

Miller's comments drew a rebuke from Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo, who reminded Miller that the regents rejected him last year when he tried to dissolve peer-group comparisons.

O'Brien said the task force that created the seven gender-equity goals should be recreated, and she said she would be willing to serve on it.

After O'Brien's suggestion, NU President Dennis Smith announced a newly created task force on gender equity to review the goals of the previous task force and to study new strategies of recruitment and retention of women.

The new task force will begin in January. The implementation of the seven gender-equity goals created by the task force in 1991 were studied by the joint commission this year, Grady said.

The findings were:
• NU campuses completed all but six of 31 sub-goals to the seven main goals.
• In 1993-94 and 1995-96, UNL ranked low

Please see **REGENTS** on 6

Book celebrates football, faith, life of Brook Berringer

'One Final Pass' pays respects to athlete, hero, son

BY DARREN IVY
Staff Reporter

To some, he was an athlete. To fans of all ages, he was a hero. To Jan Berringer, he was a son.

Those people united Saturday at the University Bookstore for a book signing by Jan Berringer of "One Final Pass," a tribute to Brook Berringer, the Nebraska football player killed in a plane crash last spring.

"One Final Pass" is a book about Brook Berringer's life, starting with his relationship with his dad and going through his football-playing days at Nebraska. Berringer's mother said the book was to be about his faith and football.

"Working on the book has been very emotional, but working on it is better than not doing it," Jan Berringer said.

"It has been good therapy."
She contributed to the stories, but the first idea for a book about Brook Berringer was planned by Arthur Lindsay. Lindsay, the writer of "One Final Pass," had started a book before Brook Berringer's tragic death. After the ac-

Please see **BERRINGER** on 6



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

JAN BERRINGER signs a poster and a book for Tami Freeman, a Lincoln Southeast High School student, at the University Bookstore Saturday. Freeman waited over an hour to get her momentos signed.