



# SPORTS

## Tiger Tussle

The Nebraska men's basketball team puts its four-game win streak on the line at Missouri. The NU women also play the Tigers tonight. **PAGE 7**



# A & E

## Rock-a-bye, baby

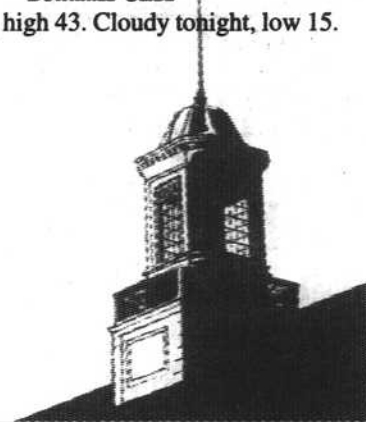
Lincoln's Lullaby for the Working Class has made a name for itself. Better yet, they're playing at Knickerbockers on Thursday. **PAGE 9**

# WEDNESDAY

January 22, 1997

### DOWNHILL SLIDE

Partly sunny, high 43. Cloudy tonight, low 15.



# Daily Nebraskan

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## UNL senior stays positive for pageant

By ANGELA HEYWOOD  
Staff Reporter

The tapes — she's seen them a million times before. They keep her focused, so she watches them again and again.

Kimberly Weir, the current Miss Nebraska, is preparing to compete against 50 other women for the crown of Miss USA in Shreveport, La., on Feb. 5.

She watches tapes from the last three Miss USA pageants to learn how to act and what to do once she is in the pageant, she said.

Weir, a senior political science major, was chosen as Miss Nebraska last Oct. 1 in Omaha. Since the beginning of November, she has been preparing for the 46th annual Miss USA's swimsuit, evening gown and interview competitions, she said.

Weir has been exercising 2½ hours daily to get ready for the swimsuit and evening gown com-



PHOTOS BY JAY CALDERON/DN  
**TOP: MISS NEBRASKA KIMBERLY WEIR signs autographs at Gateway Mall Saturday afternoon. She will compete in the Miss USA pageant next month. ABOVE: Weir talks with autograph seekers. The senior political science major says she considers herself an advocate for children.**

petitions, but she hasn't done much to prepare for the interview. She's ready for that part.

"Who knows me better than myself?" she said.

Weir's interest in beauty pageants began as a child when her father urged her to watch the Miss Universe pageant on television, she said. Because

Weir is of Cambodian, Chinese and Irish descent, she said, he wanted her to know that women of all races were considered beautiful.

But Weir's involvement in beauty pageants didn't begin until

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## Washington jury selection begins

By MATTHEW WAITE  
Senior Reporter

Jury selection in the trial of former NU wingback Riley Washington began Tuesday with the judge and prosecutor questioning preliminary panelists.

The defense was expected to question potential jurors today, with opening arguments soon to follow. Attorneys in the case said the trial would finish sometime next week.

Washington is on trial for the second-degree attempted murder of Jermaine Cole on Aug. 2, 1995. Prosecutors claim Washington shot Cole outside of the Kwik Shop at 27th and W streets.



Washington

The trial had been delayed for months, originally because Cole, a reputed gang member, had left Lincoln and could not be found. Later, defense attorneys asked that a special prosecutor be appointed because of a conflict of interest in the county attorney's office.

Of the 24 potential jurors questioned Tuesday, only one is black — all the rest are white. Thirteen of the jurors are men; 11 are women.

Fifteen other reserve jurors were called but not questioned. They were in the court to listen to questioning and are available if attorneys cannot find 12 jurors and two alternates from the pool of 24.

Before questioning began, Lancaster County District Court Judge Bernard McGinn told jurors that they

would have to ignore everything but the evidence in the case.

"It is your duty to determine what the facts are," he said. McGinn said jurors should not go to the crime scenes, should ignore media reports and should not decide on the case until it is given to them.

Questions from McGinn and Special Prosecutor Ronald Lahners mostly centered on jurors' relations to parts of the case, including the Husker football team, coaching staff, potential witnesses and even the attorneys in the case.

One question, however, had McGinn and Lahners treading lightly — whether or not jurors were influenced by media reports of the case.

Ten jurors said they remembered reading about the shooting on Aug. 2, 1995. Three asked to be questioned outside the presence of the other jurors about whether or not they were influenced.

One juror said he was an avid football fan, which included membership in the Touchdown Club and season tickets for the last 50 years. He told Lahners that he could be impartial.

Other connections jurors had to the case included a female juror being related to potential witnesses, a male who had owned a convenience store and had seen verbal gang conflicts in his parking lot and a male juror who went to high school with a Husker football player.

Lahners also asked jurors if they knew anyone who was a victim of a violent crime — four responded yes — and if any jurors knew each other — six said they did.

Seating of the 12-member jury and the two alternates was expected to finish this morning.

## Senators propose bills on same-sex marriage

By ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

On the issue of same-sex marriage, 29 of Nebraska's senators are supporting a bill in defense of marriage — marriage between a man and a woman.

And one senator is sponsoring a bill in defense of those who he says suffer from discrimination.

Sen. Jim Jensen of Omaha proposed a bill that picks up where the federal Defense of Marriage Act left off. The federal law, which allows states a choice whether or not to recognize same-sex marriages from other states, was passed last year by Congress and signed by the president.

The Nebraska bill, which was co-signed by 28 other senators, would not allow same-sex marriages from Nebraska or other states to be recognized. Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha, on

the other hand, has proposed a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in Nebraska. To simply oppose Jensen's bill during debate isn't enough, he said.

"That's not good enough for me," Chambers said. "I don't put my eggs in somebody else's basket."

Chambers said he would rather debate his own bill in the framework he provides, not according to the agenda the Jensen bill follows.

"They are taking a politically popular position which really discriminates against an entire segment of the population," Chambers said. "It's busybody, meddling legislation supported by people who don't have enough in their own lives to keep busy."

"What such people really need to learn how to do is keep their nose out of other peoples' crotches."

Sen. Jensen said his bill is not

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