

Finale

Nebraska All-American Lisa Reitsma's career came to an end Saturday as NU lost in the Pacific Regional. **PAGE 8**

Roots rocker

Perhaps best known as the lead singer of Lincoln's Shithook, Phil Shoemaker has a storied history running much deeper than that. **PAGE 7**

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JACK FROST -- PSHAW!
Mostly sunny, high 47, Low 26.

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It's a Capitol Christmas



GOV. BEN NELSON, with the help of a group of Lincoln children, lights the Christmas tree at the State Capitol Sunday afternoon. Sunday's ceremony, which was presented by Lincoln's Pinewood Bowl, KFOR-AM (1240) and the Lincoln Jaycees, was the 50th Nebraska State Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Please see story on the back page.

RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NU may encounter revenue cutbacks

■ Regents prepare for the potential loss of \$50 to \$150 million. State and federal funding for NU has been declining steadily.

BY BRAD DAVIS
Senior Reporter

In the era of downsizing and cost-cutting, the University of Nebraska could be faced with a loss of \$50 million to \$150 million in its operating budget by 2015, NU President Dennis Smith said Saturday.

Streamlining operations and reducing costs to prepare for this possible revenue loss were the topics of the NU Board of Regents retreat Friday and Saturday.

Roger Benjamin, president of the Council for Aid to Education, presented the results of a two-year study to the regents Friday in the Wick Alumni Center.

The study was compiled by the Committee on National Investment in Higher Education and documented the group's findings that costs for higher education were rising "much faster than funding."

NU Provost Lee Jones agreed, citing the state's declining contribution to NU.

Regents

Jones said NU received 21.7 percent of the state's general fund in 1989, compared with an expected 16.3 percent in 1999, which the state Legislature already has approved.

NU's state and federal funding is expected to continue its decline with more government-supported groups vying for their piece of the tax payers' pie, Lt. Gov. Kim Robak said Friday.

Smith said a \$150 million revenue loss would make it difficult just to maintain the status quo. Because of that potential loss, Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo said, NU would not talk about flourishing in future meetings, but instead would discuss "whether or not we can survive."

O'Brien said regents and university administrators needed to examine their budgets with an open mind, holding "no sacred cows."

Several of the regents said there was a need for systemwide change, although NU chancellors presented cost-saving plans implemented for only their respective campuses.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Richard Edwards presented UNL's programs for

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Kwanzaa recognizes traditional principles

BY KELLY SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Holiday



While the end of December marks the Christmas season for many, the end of December marks more than just Christmastime for Venita Kelley.

Kelley, an associate professor of communications and African and African-American studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, thinks about the coming of Kwanzaa week as much as she does Christmas. Kelley is one of the many African-Americans in Lincoln who celebrate Kwanzaa Dec. 26 through Jan. 1.

Kwanzaa week, Kelley said, is a celebration of values — who people and their families are and who they want to be.

"Kwanzaa has to do with honoring and reclaiming traditions that were taken away from African-Americans, often taken by law," Kelley said.

Kelley said she had practiced Kwanzaa for five to seven years in earnest, but since moving to Nebraska and away from her family, she had

not.

While celebrating Kwanzaa week is important, she said, Kwanzaa is about more than just a week.

"You practice Kwanzaa every day. Every day is about living the principles of Kwanzaa," Kelley said.

The seven-day celebration of Kwanzaa, a Kiswahili word meaning fruits of the harvest, is mainly about the family, Kelley said.

"It means the first fruits of the harvest, which was a time of family gathering. Kwanzaa is a celebration of a family's future and present," she said.

On each evening of Kwanzaa week, a family celebrating the holiday gathers and lights one of seven candles placed in a candle holder. Three candles are red, three are green and one is black. The candles alternate in color in the holder with the black candle in the center to symbolize balance,

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