



SPORTS

On the return

Joe Walker battles to rehabilitate his knee so he can return to return kicks for the Nebraska football team next fall. **PAGE 12**



A & E

A Lev story

UNL art student Lev Schieber has culled inspiration from his ancestors' experiences in a concentration camp. **PAGE 9**

TUESDAY

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BRIGHT POTENTIAL

Mostly sunny, high 60. Clear night, low 45.

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Candidates discuss public safety

■ Three of the five mayoral hopefuls, including Wesely and Johnson, support plans to augment the Lincoln police force, but their numbers differ.

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

As five mayoral candidates await the final results of today's primary election, each one vows, if elected, to work harder on ensuring public safety in Lincoln neighborhoods.

Three of the five candidates support plans to hire additional police officers over the next four years.

Front-runners Don Wesely and Cindy

City Elections

Johnson both support cop plans. Wesely, the lone Democrat in the race, said his plan was to add 45 new officers to Lincoln's police force. Republican Johnson's plan would add about half that.

Lincoln, with a population of about 209,000, has an average of 1.39 police officers per 1,000 people.

According to 1997 FBI statistics, Lincoln's police average ranks at the bottom of U.S. cities between 160,000 and 260,000 in population.

Des Moines, Iowa, for example, averages 1.77 law enforcement officers per 1,000 in population, while Madison, Wis., averages 1.8. Omaha's ratio is 1.94 per 1,000 people.

Wesely said he was shocked that Lincoln's

police ratios have fallen next to last among the 38 similarly sized U.S. cities.

"The police tell me that's dangerous," he said. "It's hard for them to keep up with calls and get to where they need quickly."

Hiring 45 new officers, he said, would raise Lincoln's average and ensure safer streets.

"I think public safety is a priority," said Wesely, who acknowledged that hiring new officers would be difficult to fit into the city's budget.

"We'll have to phase in more police over time," Wesely said. "My hope is that we can get up to 45 more police in four years."

Wesely said he was amused by Johnson's plan, which would raise the average number of officers from 1.39 to 1.5 per 1,000.

"That's why (the police) are not endorsing her," Wesely said. "They're endorsing me."

The Daily Nebraskan was unable to contact Johnson, who did not return several phone calls

over the past few days.

Republican candidate Terry Kubicek, a self-employed farmer and an attorney, was quick to shoot down Wesely's plan.

"It's a budget buster," Kubicek said.

Wesely's plan would put the city \$1 million over the budget, Kubicek said.

"If you start hiring 12 officers per year, by the year 2002, we're millions of dollars over the lid."

Rather than hiring new officers, the city should invest more money in creating programs to deter people who are at risk of becoming criminals, Kubicek said.

One potential program, he said, would be building several recreation centers for at-risk children or students.

"I think there's an opportunity to look for

Please see **MAYOR** on 6

Legislature

Senators plan public services for Schellpeper

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

Legislators are planning a public ceremony later this week to honor the late Sen. Stan Schellpeper, whose death Sunday of a heart attack already is being mourned with state flags flown at half-staff.



Schellpeper

Schellpeper died Sunday on the farm, 11 miles north of Stanton, where he was born and raised. He had spent the weekend celebrating Easter with his family, including three children and eight grandchildren. He was 65.

He was walking on the farm with two of his grandchildren when he suffered a heart attack and collapsed. He died shortly thereafter.

Funeral services for Schellpeper are scheduled for Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the gymnasium at Stanton High School. The Legislature plans to honor Schellpeper on Friday afternoon in a public ceremony in the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber.

Schellpeper was elected to the Legislature in 1986 and was re-elected in 1990, 1994 and 1998. He was chairman of the General Affairs Committee and a member of the Agriculture and Revenue committees.

Born Jan. 27, 1934, in Hoskins, Schellpeper was a farmer and livestock feeder. He held several rural and agricultural leadership positions, including stints as secretary-manager of the Stanton County Fair Board, president of the State Fair Board and president of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association.

On Sunday evening, Gov. Mike Johanns ordered the state's flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of Schellpeper.

In a telephone press conference Monday, Johanns praised Schellpeper for his professionalism and passionate concern for the needs of rural Nebraskans.

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HIGHER LEARNING



RELIGION

101

Story by
Ted McCaslin

Photo illustration by
Ryan Soderlin

MANY STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS said religion plays a role in the classroom, whether the class focuses on religion or on a secular topic.

Spirituality plays role in classes

Editor's note: This is the first in a four-part series examining the relationship between religion and higher education.

The bumper sticker reads: "As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools."

Aside from any political connotations of the sticker, it speaks a simple truth.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is not a religiously affiliated school. However, for some, religion still is very much a part of the classroom.

Classes listed in next semester's schedule of classes mention religion in their titles, including English 341: Judeo-Christian literature and Music 451/851: Music and the Church.

These classes are part of the interdisciplinary religious studies program, which offers a minor.

"There is no religious advocacy; it is purely a descriptive study," religious studies chairman John Turner

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