

Bucking the Broncos

It was a big win for the Nebraska women's soccer team as they beat powerhouse Santa Clara 3-1 Saturday night. **PAGE 9**

Ordinary people

Steve Martin, Michael Jordan, Bill Gates. They are the names of the rich and famous, but they are the faces of Lincoln residents. **PAGE 12**

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Mostly sunny and mild, high 70, cloudy tonight, low 45.

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Sex, Drugs & Saving Souls

NO QUICK FIX

Drug use still a critical problem in Lincoln communities

BY JOSH FUNK
Senior staff writer

As Lincoln's appetite for drugs continues to grow, so will the number of drug-related crimes, police said.

When shotgun blasts shattered a quiet Sunday evening in the Hartley neighborhood last May, 15-year-old Christopher Rucker was killed and two other men were wounded.

The crime occurred during a botched drug-motivated robbery.

Police said the five youths planned the robbery to steal a pound of cocaine and marijuana from one of the men living in the basement apartment on the 2800 block of R Street.

For Lincoln's chief narcotics officer, Capt. Duaine Bullock, the murder was another symptom of the plague he treats every day.

"Lincoln has a real drug problem right now," said Bullock, who heads the Lincoln/Lancaster County Narcotics Task Force, comprising LPD and Sheriff's officers.

The methamphetamine trade has grown into the prime concern for police, but crack cocaine, marijuana, LSD and other drugs continue to be a problem in Lincoln. So police focus on fighting all aspects of the drug trade — not just picking dealers off the street, but also rooting out suppliers and educating the public.

In the U.S. Attorney's office, where many

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MARIJUANA GROWERS face severe penalties if caught by police, but some say the benefits outweigh the risks. These plants, which are almost mature, were grown in a Lincoln home under fluorescent lights.

COURTESY PHOTO

WHILE METHAMPHETAMINE has become the prime concern for police, marijuana use remains popular. College students use the drug more than any other controlled substance.

Drug crimes rise at UNL

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Over the past six years, the number of crimes reported to the UNL Police Department have steadily decreased, but the number of drug offenses has increased.

In 1992, only two drug offenses occurred at UNL, but there were 24 violations in 1997. The number dipped to 14 in 1998, but that number is still a marked increase.

University Police Sgt. Mylo Bushing attributed the increase to more vigilant reporting, regular patrols of residence halls and university programs.

"We've always encouraged people to get involved and report crimes, but there was usually little response," Bushing said. "But in the last couple of years, we've seen an increase of students reporting crimes on campus."

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Sunday service makes history

■ The Rev. Charlene K. Morris-Quarells was ordained Sunday afternoon, making her the first black woman in Lincoln to become a Baptist pastor.

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

Loud bursts of "Amen" and "That's right" jumped from the congregation's lips during the sermon Sunday afternoon.

Energy exuded from the 20-member gospel choir as they swayed, clapped and belted out hymns of praise.

But the people gathered together Sunday were not celebrating the standard Sunday service.

The nearly 100 people joined together after regular church services to formally install Rev. Charlene K. Morris-Quarells as their pastor of Mount Hermon Missionary Baptist church.

Morris-Quarells is the first black woman in Lincoln to become pastor of her own

church. Not only is the 51-year-old's installment a first for the small, 120-member church, it is also almost unheard of in the Baptist faith.

Morris-Quarells acknowledged that as a female Baptist minister she had some obstacles ahead of her.

"If there's anything that's going to be hard, it's acceptance," she said. "That's not just Baptist ministry, that's all ministry."

Women ministers are recognized by Baptist organizations, said Deacon Curtis Watkins, but not women pastors.

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