



SPORTS

Texas tennis

Both the Nebraska men's and women's tennis teams visit Texas for the Big 12 Championships this week. **PAGE 9**



A & E

Country rocks

The Country Melvins blend traditional, old-style music with quite modern punk for a style that alienates some but draws many. **PAGE 12**

WEDNESDAY

April 28, 1999

REVENGE OF THE CLOUDS

Mostly cloudy, high 60. Cloudy tonight, low 45.

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City Elections

Johnson dreams big for Lincoln

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of two stories profiling the Lincoln mayoral candidates. Thursday's story will feature Democratic candidate Don Wesely.

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

For Cindy Johnson, life has always been a mix of fairy tale fantasy and hard-earned reality.

But Republican Johnson, who is competing for the Lincoln mayor seat against Democrat Don Wesely, has lived in enough places to know the difference between dreams and real life.

Born in El Paso, Texas, as a daughter of a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, Johnson has lived in many of the southwestern states — five to be exact. Johnson, a Lincoln city councilwoman, first experienced fairy tales 30 years ago, after her family moved to Arizona, and decided to take a family vacation west to Disneyland.

"To me, that was like going to heaven," Johnson said.

"I was so excited about going that I threw up the whole day before I went," she said. "My mom and dad thought I was going to be too sick to go, and it was just that I was so excited that that's how I reacted."

Despite vomiting, Johnson begged her mom and dad to go ahead with their original plans and travel to Disneyland.

"I was so excited for that — going to Disneyland and then going in and it being so awesome — seeing how clean it was, and

Please see **JOHNSON** on 7



FORMER CITY COUNCILWOMAN CINDY JOHNSON is running for mayor in the **May 3 election**. Johnson is a Republican, endorsed by Gov. Mike Johanns. She says her key to communication is "not to be adversarial."

RICK TOWNLEY/DN

Legislature

Dickey to take seat of Schellpeper

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Senior staff writer

Today there will be a new face sitting in the seat that the late Stanton Sen. Stan Schellpeper occupied for 12 years, before his unexpected death earlier this month.

Republican family farmer Bob Dickey of Laurel was sworn into office Tuesday, replacing Schellpeper's post representing District 18.

Schellpeper, who was a Democrat and also a family farmer, died of an apparent heart attack on Easter.

Gov. Mike Johanns said of the 26 applicants for the post, Dickey's combination of assets made him the best person for the job.

"His experience, education background and community involvement would indicate he would be an asset to the Legislative chamber," Johanns said. "He faces a great deal of responsibility and is due for a great change in his life."

Speaker Doug Kristensen of Minden applauded Johanns for his expedient work to fill Schellpeper's spot. Kristensen then welcomed Dickey to the non-partisan Unicameral, the only one-house Legislature in the country.

"I want to be the first one to welcome you to the most unique body in the world. But tomorrow morning you better get warmed up."

SEN. DOUG KRISTENSEN

"I want to be the first one to welcome you to the most unique body in the world," Kristensen said. "But tomorrow morning you better get warmed up."

Dickey said although he was excited to be a part of the Legislature, he was saddened as well.

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Torr's goal: increase research at UNL

New NU official wants to improve ranking

BY KIM SWEET
Staff writer

Marsha Torr has helped build instruments in earth-orbiting satellites.

She has served as chief of the atomic physics branch at NASA in Marshall Space Flight Center in Cleveland.

Now she is the new vice chancellor for research at UNL, ready to make the university one of the top research institutions in the nation.

But despite her lengthy resume, the job won't come easy.

With the University of Nebraska-Lincoln lingering on the cut-off for the Top 100 research universities in the nation, Torr will have to work hard to gather resources to improve UNL's ranking.

"It is very important for us to get firmly within the Top 100," said Torr, who was previously vice provost for research at the University of South Carolina at Columbia. "We should really be in the top 50-70 research universities in the nation because of the educational competitiveness those

institutions have."

In order to reach the level of research to put it into the company of its peer institutions, UNL would have to double the amount of research and funding that comes into the university, Chancellor James Moeser said.

Moeser said it would be a significant challenge, but that Torr, who doubled the amount of federal research funding going into the University of South Carolina, was the right person for the job at UNL.

"We'd like to think that is possible here as well," Moeser said.

Along with her track record for bringing in research dollars, Torr said, she has the experience

necessary to build a successful research program.

While she has extensive experience coordinating research initiatives behind a desk, she also has the knowledge of what it takes to carry out research projects.

"I've done all sizes and scales of projects, so I can relate to different issues of finding funding, putting labs in place and working with different teams," Torr said.

Torr will use her broad base of experience in performing and organizing research initiatives to bring major projects to Nebraska in the next five years.

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