

# Daily Nebraskan

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FRIDAY

WEATHER:

Today - Mostly cloudy, becoming sunny. Northwest wind 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight - Mostly cloudy and cool, low in the mid 30's.



April 26, 1996



Richard Thomas, a Santee tribal councilman, stands in front of the Ohiya Casino on the Santee Reservation in Knox County. Scott Bruhn/DN

## Santee struggle to keep casino

By Joshua Gillin  
Staff Reporter

SANTEE — Clarence Campbell, Sr. stands at the end of a room filled with slot machines, keeping an eye on the two dozen or so people sliding dollar bills into them.

He is a security guard for the Ohiya Casino, in the village of Santee, less than a mile from the South Dakota border.

While "ohiya" is the Sioux word for "win," there is no guarantee this noisy room will remain open for long.

The room is no extravagant Vegas-style casino. It is small and cramped with 68 video slot machines — tighter when many of the games are being played at once.

One of the players stands up from the machine she is sitting at and waves. She is ready to cash in.

Campbell sees the woman. Noticing his co-worker is busy, he walks over and escorts her to the cashier's window, where the woman eagerly accepts her winnings of \$22.

He guides the woman through the room to

the front door, waving goodbye as she gets into her car and drives away.

"This is my job," he said. "It's my responsibility to take care of the property and the people and make sure nothing happens to either of them."

Campbell takes his job very seriously. It is one of the few available in this village of 600 people in northeast Nebraska.

"I lived here when I was younger," he said. "I left here when I was about 16 or 17 years old, and there was no employment then, either."

"Jobs have always been hard to come by around here."

Campbell was working in Yankton, S.D., about 50 miles away, when the casino opened Feb. 2. Hoping he would be able to both live and work in Santee, he applied for a job. To his surprise, he got one.

But even now, the 60-year-old Campbell has no assurance that he'll be able to continue working there.

The State of Nebraska, having deemed the casino illegal, is trying to shut the cafe-

turned-casino down.

The recent seizure of \$87,194 of the casino's earnings from the Marquette Bank of Yankton by federal marshals, as well as the threat of a possible \$25,000-a-day fine for violation of a pending federal closure order, may have some workers looking over their shoulders.

But not Campbell.

"There's no fear here," he said. "There's really nothing to worry about; we Indian people have been harassed all our lives. What's this compared to everything else governments have done to us?"

Campbell said he had noticed a change in the community since the casino opened.

"The Indian people here are proud of this place," he said. "We've never had a problem in here. We used to have an alcohol problem in the village, but now I see people trying to sober up."

"We know this is a place for economic development, and we want to keep it."

For Campbell, the state's attempts to close

See SANTEE on 10

## UNL Police get invited to Olympics

By Erin Schulte  
Staff Reporter

The ability to control rowdy fans at Cornhusker football games may have helped send two UNL bicycle police officers to the summer Olympic Games — to work as security guards.

When Officer Brian Peters and Cpl. Brian Scusa sent in their applications to work at the Olympics more than a year ago, neither expected to ever take the trip to Atlanta.

"We just thought we'd throw our hat in the ring," Peters said.

Although they're not sure what Olympic officials saw in their applications to volunteer as security guards, both agreed it was probably their experience working with crowds of more than 75,000 people at Memorial Stadium on football Saturdays.

"We've had over 100 sellout games," Scusa said. "There's always crowds, but we never have major incidents. It's given the university a good

See POLICE on 9

## Pop reduced to 25 cents

From Staff Reports

A quarter can't buy a lot these days.

Pay phone calls, newspapers and postage stamps have all risen above the 25 cent mark, but right now at UNL, 25 cents can still buy a can of pop.

The price of pop has been reduced in 36 machines during dead and finals week on City and East campuses at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said Gene Meerkatz, manager of Vending Services.

"We were just trying to create goodwill and pass on a deal to our students," he said.

"They support us all year, every year, and this was our way of saying thanks."

Machine prices have been changed in buildings students use frequently, Meerkatz said.

From Nebraska Hall to Westbrook Hall, from the Beadle Center to East Campus Recreation, from Nebraska Union to the Plant Science Hall, machines have been adjusted to sell pop for 25 cents.

"There's a lot of work in changing the machines and changing them back," Meerkatz said.

The half-price tradition may continue in future semesters if vending services doesn't end up losing too much money from the venture.



Travis Heying/DN

Jan Berringer speaks to reporters.

## Berringer's mother says thank you

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

One week after her son's tragic death, Jan Berringer is still shocked and overwhelmed by the number of people her son affected.

Berringer said the cards, letters, gifts and condolences she and her family had received since Brook Berringer's fatal plane crash last Thursday had helped her and her family start healing.

"Knowing that others too share my family's grief and pain helps us get through these difficult days," she read from a prepared statement at a press conference Thursday morning in Memorial Stadium — where the former NU quarterback helped his team win back-to-back national championships.

"I need to tell the people of Nebraska and others across the nation how much their support has meant and how it has helped my daughters and I deal with our pain."

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JAN BERRINGER

mother of Brook Berringer

So many cards and letters have been sent to the family's home in Goodland, Kan., that Berringer said the mailman didn't stop at the mailbox anymore. He instead parks in the driveway to deliver the mail.

Kansas Sen. Bob Dole has called and sent

the family flowers. Berringer said Dole promised to send her and her two daughters, Nicoel Nasser and Drue Berringer, individual letters.

The family also has received flowers and condolences from every Big Eight school, along with many other universities.

But the letters and remembrances from children have made the biggest impact.

"School children have been sending me letters they've written and pictures they've drawn," Berringer said. "That is especially heartwarming to me, not only because I'm a school teacher, but because Brook loved children and was particularly compassionate with those who had difficult changes in their lives."

Berringer, a fourth-grade teacher in Goodland, said she believed every child in Goodland had sent her a letter.

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