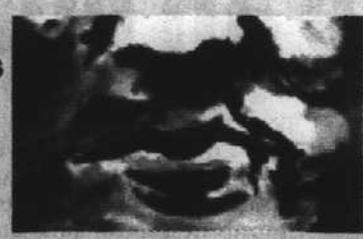


Daily Nebraskan

Though the violence still irks, review of 'Fight Club' is rethought
In Arts/5



Huskers advance to NCAA Sweet 16 after a five-game win over South Carolina
In Sports Monday/16



The semester-long student artist series draws closes with a look at the art of the written word
In Arts/5



Election doesn't remove veil from court

BY GEORGE GREEN

When lawyers for George W. Bush and Al Gore squared off inside the Supreme Court on Friday, the rest of America had to wait outside to learn how the punches fell.

Early last week, the court denied requests from C-SPAN and CNN to televise the proceedings.

The struggle to feed the court battle live into homes has pitted ambitious journalists against a court that values its privacy.

Bruce D. Collins, C-SPAN's general counsel, said he felt the media deserved access to the court's sacred chambers because of the importance of the arguments occurring inside

its doors.

"It is difficult to conceive of any other oral argument before the court more deserving of the largest possible audience than this one," he said.

Collins said seeing and hearing the court work live could greatly enhance the public's knowledge of this typically obscure institution.

But Kathy Arberg, a spokeswoman for the court, said it has never allowed cameras to breach its courtroom and it felt that it didn't need to start now.

"A majority of the justices decided to adhere to the past practices," she said.

John Bender, a news-editorial professor who specializes in media law, said he was not surprised by the court's decision.

He said the electronic media do not have an automatic right to plaster courtroom images across television screens.

The media have a right to cover courtrooms with reporters under the First Amendment, Bender said.

But beyond giving reporters seats in their chambers during proceedings, the court has no other legal obligation to the media, he said.

"There's no right, except when a jurisdiction creates one," he said.

Essentially, Bender said, each state decides how it would like to regulate media coverage of its courtrooms.

Some states allow near complete coverage, while a few states still bar cameras com-

pletely, he said.

In Nebraska, Bender said, justices let cameramen cover appellate courts, including the Supreme Court. But, he said, the state doesn't allow the media to televise criminal court proceedings.

Despite a staunch rejection from the Supreme Court, Bender said, in the past the media have convinced some federal courts to toy with the idea of filming courtroom proceedings.

Bender said the media made headway on the issue during the early 1990s.

But, he said, when the O.J. Simpson case landed in the headlines for weeks on end, the public and courts grew tired of struggling with the media.

"It would be a very educational opportunity for the general public."

Larry Walklin
broadcasting professor

Gruhl said.

Bender said the court values its privacy so much that court lore says Justice Anthony Kennedy came across tourists in the court who didn't recognize him as a justice and approached him merely because they wanted Kennedy to take a photo of them.

Those days, though, will come to end, Gruhl said.

Please see TAPES on 7

\$20,000 will buy seat at alum club

BY SHARON KOLBET

Groundbreaking for the Nebraska Alumni Association's Champions Club began Friday.

The two-story pavilion located at 701 N. 10th across from Memorial Stadium is scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of the 2001 Nebraska football season.

But before you start making plans for a pre-game soiree at the new club, you might want to check your bank account balance. A 25-year membership will run you \$20,000.

Despite the steep entry fee, the alumni association maintains the new facility will be a boon to the entire university, not just those who can afford the membership fee.

"It's a building project that will benefit everyone," said Ed Paquette, executive director of the Nebraska Alumni Association.

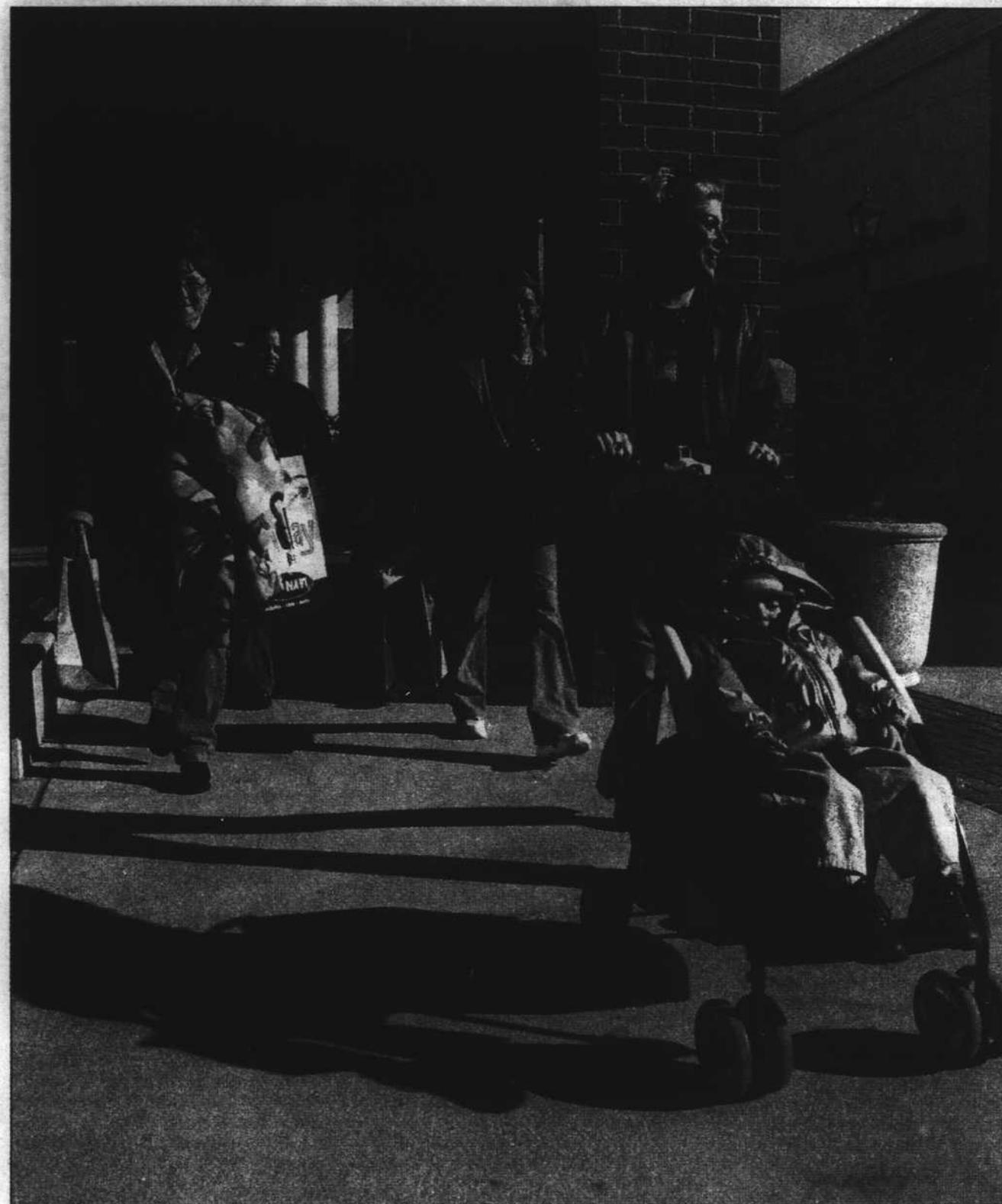
"The Alumni Association gains more space and the university gains more parking."

A surface lot containing 400 parking spaces will surround the facility. The lot will be for members only on game days, while providing the university with additional parking for students and staff during the week.

The Alumni Association will manage the Champions Club using the space for events exceeding capacity at the Wick Alumni Center.

"In the past, we had to turn people away because we just didn't have enough room at the Wick Center," Paquette said.

The Champions Club will help alleviate this problem by



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING: Angie Ferrell pushes her one-year-old daughter, Taybor, with Kay Ferrell, left and Jenni Butler on Sunday at SouthPointe Pavilion. The Ferrells and Butler, from Marysville, Kan., said they normally do their Christmas shopping at the last minute but decided to make the trip to Lincoln Sunday because of the nice weather.

Derek Lippincott/DN

Culture Center plans OK'd

■ Interim Chancellor Perlman approved a recommendation to move ahead with project.

BY VERONICA DAETH

Chrystine Russell, a freshman who works at the Culture Center, said she understood why a lot of students never come to the center.

The building that houses seven University of Nebraska-Lincoln minority student organizations is located at 333 N. 14 St. in what used to be a Presbyterian church.

It's too far off campus for students to come, Russell said. Russell said many students don't realize the Culture Center is part of the university.

But UNL is taking strides to solve the problem. Interim Chancellor Harvey Perlman approved a recommendation from the Academic Planning committee Wednesday to move ahead with plans for a new Culture Center, said James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The new center, which would rise three stories and span 30,000 square feet, would be built onto the east side of the Nebraska Union.

Though nothing's final at this point, the next step will be formulating a project statement for the facility, Griesen said. A project statement describes the cost, size and other details of a project.

Griesen said that could be done next semester, but he might not submit it to the Board of Regents until next fall.

The board must approve the project before work can begin.

Students and workers in the Culture Center have been asking for a new facility for a number of years.

The current center has problems with heating, air conditioning and ventilation.

It's too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer, Russell said.

Griesen said some upper rooms can't even be used because of the temperature extremes.

Another concern is the lack of handicap accessibility of the main floor. This limits some stu-

Please see CENTER on 7

Election protests continue

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush bashed through a second day of testimony about chads, voting machines and the vice president's pleas for a recount, while GOP running mate Dick Cheney said Sunday it's time for Gore to concede.

Democrats talked about the possibility of a gracious exit from the presidential contest, but declared, "It's far from over."

As a Florida circuit judge promised a speedy resolution to Gore's historic election protest, the vice president braced for the next round of legal action and attended church, where he heard a sermon titled, "A Time for

Waiting."

It was an apt metaphor for the longest, closest presidential contest in 124 years. Gore, testing Americans' willingness to wait as he exhausts his legal options, conducted an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes" as part of a personalized public relations blitz.

"At the end of the day, when all processes have taken place, if George Bush is sworn in as president, he'll be my president. He'll be America's president," Gore said.

Nearly a month after Election Day, Cheney led a herd of Bush and Gore allies to the Sunday news shows. "I do think that it's time for him to concede," he told NBC. "So far, he's chosen not to do

"I can assure you that the vice president, when the time comes, will concede in a very gracious way."

Warren Christopher
Gore lieutenant

that — to pursue other avenues — and clearly that's his prerogative. But I think... history would regard him in a better light if he were to bring this to a close."

Gore allies said he won't con-

Please see ELECTION on 7



Supporters of George W. Bush shout at Al Gore supporters Friday in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C.

Mark Wilson/Newsmakers