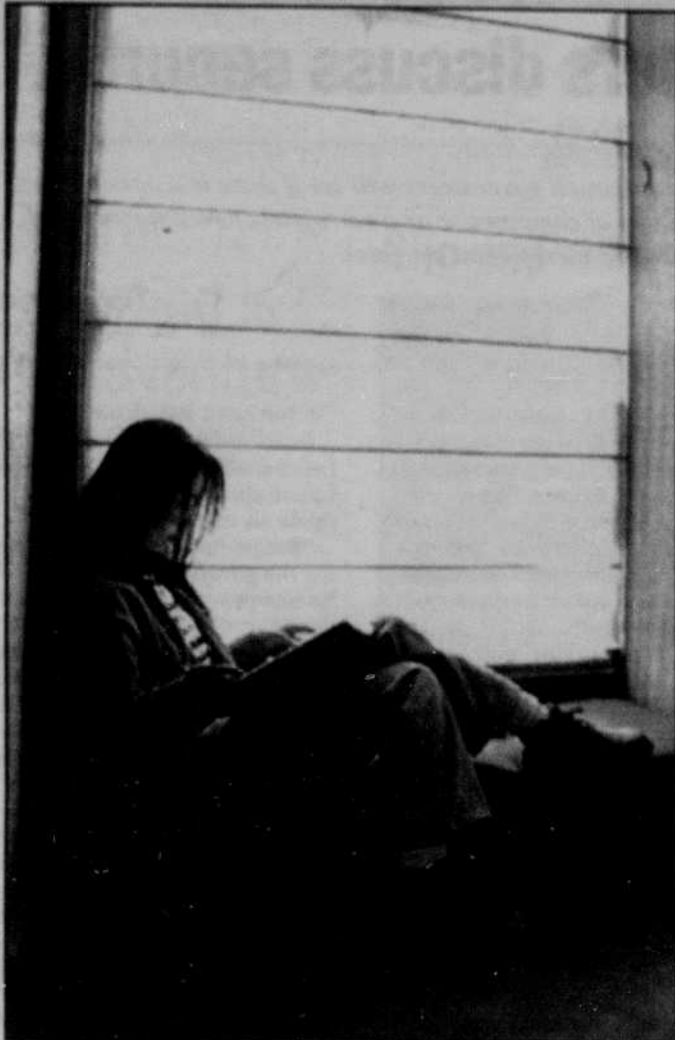


## So close yet so far



ANDREW BRACKENSICKE/Emerald

With only six days to cram before Finals Week begins, Emiko Sota, a junior in Linguistics, gets a head start on her studies in the EMU Art Gallery Tuesday afternoon.

## Man steals tractor, crushes four vehicles including police car

YORK, Neb. (AP) — A man took a stolen tractor on a midnight rampage, crushing a police car as the officer inside vainly tried to stop him by firing his gun. The officer was not seriously injured; the tractor driver fled.

Officer Mike Hanke was treated for minor head injuries and released from York General Hospital. No one else was injured in Monday's incident, which also involved the destruction of two unoccupied pickup trucks and a parked car.

An aerial search failed to find the driver, who ran away when the tractor broke down about a quarter-mile from the smashed police car. Police Chief Don Klug said investigators were circulating a sketch of the suspect based on witness descriptions.

No arrests had been made by early today.

Hanke was on patrol shortly after midnight in this east-central Nebraska town when the tractor, which had been stolen

## stranger

THAN FICTION

from a local business, came down the middle of the street, Klug said.

When Hanke realized the tractor wasn't going to yield, he tried in vain to back out of the way, then emptied his weapon as the tractor began driving over him, Klug said.

He fired about 12 rounds, but the tractor still crushed the car, pinning the officer inside.

There was no evidence found in the abandoned tractor indicating that the driver had been hit by the bullets, Klug said.

## Teacher takes child's Limbaugh book away

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that an elementary school can keep a book by Rush Limbaugh out of the classroom — for now.

The father of Jason Gardner sued Montvale Elementary School after a teacher took Limbaugh's *The Way Things Ought*

*To Be* from his 9-year-old son during reading time last month.

U.S. District Judge James Turk denied the father's request for an injunction against the school, saying that because there were only four days left in the school year, continuing the ban would do no harm.

Teacher Bruce Bays said he confiscated the book after noticing a chapter titled "Condom Bungee Jumping. The New Diploma." The school agreed with the action and banned Jason from reading the book.

Bays said he believed it was inappropriate for a fourth-grader to be reading about condoms as a way to prevent the spread of disease. The chapter is above the boy's comprehension level and could offend parents whose children might talk about it during class, he said.

Thomas Gardner argued that the school violated Jason's right to free speech. Limbaugh, too, accused the school of censorship on his nationally syndicated radio show.

After having Jason read a sentence from the book, Turk ruled that the material was above Jason's reading level.

## POLICE BEAT

■ A statue of a woman was broken after a truck ran into it at the College of Education's breezeway on Sunday. An 18-year-old man, the owner of the truck, and his 16-year-old brother, who admitted to driving the truck into the statue, were arrested for the hit and run. A witness said the truck ran into the figure twice, breaking off her leg. The bronze statue is valued at more than \$1,000 and is approximately 5 feet tall.

■ A 29-year-old man was charged with intimidation, disorderly conduct, trespassing and harassment after using racial slurs and threatening language on 13th Avenue Friday. The suspect, who had a knife, was hit by a black male near the Dairy Queen restaurant after the suspect called him a "nigger" and then told him he was going to "kick his ass." The black male felt threatened and acted in self-defense when the suspect was nose to nose with him, the report said. Earlier, the suspect told a West University guide, who is a black male, "You know it's great when you guys are wearing suits, but when you start putting 'niggers' in suits ... that's when I have to kick ... all of you niggers. I will kill

you and kick you in the back of the neck." The guide continued to move away from the suspect and avoided contact with him.

■ A stuffed deer head with catsup splattered all over it was left at the front door of the Alpha Phi sorority house at 1050 Hilyard St. A note was left on the head that read, "To the [Alpha Phi] bitches ... this is nothing for what's coming to you." Sorority members said they were not aware of any enemies of the house except for a man that had tried to sexually assault a couple of them.

■ A 26-year-old man with a 9-mm automatic pistol threatened to kill himself, his ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend in Carson Hall on Friday evening. He later tried to cut off a finger with a pair of scissors. He was arrested Sunday night.

■ A man was charged with shoplifting a pair of sunglasses and possessing less than an ounce of marijuana on May 31. He said it was the third time he had shoplifted. He added, "It's not like I steal all the time. Every time I steal, I get caught."

— compiled by Brian Womack

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