

Central High School  
124 N. 20th St.  
Omaha, NE 68102

# Central High School REGISTER

Volume 103, December 1, 1989

Inside  
Earthquake  
Berlin Wall  
Dancer  
Basketball

## OPS establishes peer counseling through PPC

— Kelly Schiltz —

OPS has adopted a plan for high school students to counsel each other. This plan, called Positive Peer Culture, or PPC, is being coordinated at Central by Mr. Tim Herbert, Central High Special Education teacher.

Originally, PPC existed at Omaha junior highs and a few high schools, according to Mr. Herbert, but recently The Omaha Board of Education has decided to expand the project to all Omaha public high schools.

"It is a stressful time for young people," said Mr. Kenneth Butts, project coordinator of PPC in Omaha. "Students need to talk about their problems," said Mr. Butts.

Underclassmen and teachers at Central were asked to name six students they felt they could talk to, they could trust, and whose advice they would take. "That's the kind of kids we want," Mr. Herbert said.

The lists from students and teachers were then combined, and the students that appeared on both lists are currently being interviewed. Final elections will be held sometime before Christmas break.

The students elected to PPC will meet once a week during a study hall and talk about their problems.

Approximately 63 underclassmen involved in PPC in the beginning. The groups, which will originally contain nine students will vote on if they

would like additional students in the group.

According to Mr. Herbert, seniors are not participating in PPC this year because once they start to trust each other and truly talk about their problems they will be too wrapped up in graduation.

During the discussion, a facilitator will always be present. Unless the group gets out of control, the facilitator will not intervene. "It gives students a sense of control. The students are in charge," Mr. Herbert said.

The facilitators of PPC at Central are all Central teachers. They are Mrs. Kristina Bertch, Mrs. Lenore Wood, Ms. Debbie Hettwer, Mrs. Diane Phieffer, Ms. Cynthia Newberg, Mr. Al Roeder, and Mr. Herbert.

Mrs. Phieffer said she decided to facilitate a PPC group to offer additional assistance to students.

Ms. Hettwer said PPC is an opportunity for students to receive assistance from their peers. She feels PPC will benefit many students.

According to Mr. Herbert, the discussions will be confidential. The members of the group may not talk about the discussion outside of the meetings. The facilitators must also keep the discussion confidential, Mr. Herbert said.

"I think it has every potential," said Mr. Butts. Mr. Herbert, who feels that PPC will be a success at Central, said, "I think it's a wonderful program."



Matt Hovde and Rachel Shomaker played Pippin and Catherine in this year's all-school musical *Pippin*. The production was performed November 9-11. Photo by Andre Gilmore

## DECA to sponsor assembly featuring STARS

— Alyson Adams —

On December 7, DECA will sponsor an all school assembly where *Stars*, a film which stresses self-esteem, will be viewed, said Mrs. Alice Bunz, Central High marketing teacher. According to Mrs. Bunz, the film will feature several teen images, film celebrities, and good Top 40 music.

"DECA [Distributive Education Club of America] wants to provide self-esteem in the school, so we're hosting a three-screen media presentation of *Stars*," she said.

Mrs. Bunz added that the assembly will also emphasize the importance of a drug-free and alcohol-free school. "You hear 'Say no to drugs' but no one ever tells you what you're supposed to say 'yes' to," she said.

Motivational Media Assemblies, the creator of *Stars*, suggested an answer to the drug problem. "It is time to say 'yes' to being the best and not just 'no' to drugs," they said. "Thousands of young people these days are wasting their lives due to alcohol and drug use rather than 'reaching for the stars,'" Motivational Media Assemblies said.

"It's different than the normal routine. Besides the Jackson and Martin Luther King assemblies, Central hasn't had any [other assemblies]," Central marketing teacher Mr. Darrell Lahmann said.

Mr. Harry Gaylor, Central marketing teacher, said, "I think it'll be one of the premier high school events and something people will remember. It will get kids thinking more positively and make our kids and teachers feel special about being Eagles because [the film] is an innovative and stimulating educational event to get

students thinking about making choices."

Mr. Gaylor added, "I hope the students will be appreciative of [the assembly]."

According to Mrs. Bunz, the film is the beginning of a public relations campaign.

"We'll see what the response is. DECA is in charge of the marketing research and finding out the students' reaction. We'll pass out surveys before and after the assembly," she said.



Students will view *STARS*, a film presented by Motivational Media Assemblies.

Mrs. Bunz added, "The group will write a 40-page public relations manual and submit it for state competition."

Senior Lisa Hobson is on a DECA committee which will help with the assembly. "I'm supposed to go

and talk to Dr. Moller and five of us will go to a faculty meeting and get staff support," she said.

Jennifer Weiss, senior, is on the promotional committee. She said, "We're planning on putting up posters on December 1 to let people know that it is happening and when it is. It will basically inform them."

Senior Jessica McCoy, who is also on the promotional committee said, "The presentation will be effective in helping students feel better about themselves; therefore, it will create student unity. If you feel better about yourself, you'll feel better about your school."

Dr. G.E. Moller, Central principal, also commented on the assembly. He said, "I'm curious and eager to see it. It sounds like a production really tailored to the interest of teenagers. It almost sounds like it's bound to grab the attention of kids."

According to Motivational Media Assemblies, *Stars* will "challenge people to care for themselves."

DECA member Laurie Anderson, senior, recently moved to Omaha from Colorado where she previously viewed the film.

"It has really cool music. Usually you think [assemblies] are going to be stupid, but it's not—everything relates to everyone in some way or another. It fits all groups and takes away stereotypes," Laurie said.

She said that *Stars* also improved her mood the day she saw it. She added, "I was having a really bad day and I walked out feeling good about myself and school. It recognizes that everyone feels bad about themselves sometimes and that it's a common emotion, but it's okay because everyone does. It's presented in a way that makes you look into people's eyes—not stereotypes."

Poll Question

Do you think that UNO should ban students from parties held on its campus?

Yes 41(20.3%) No 160(79.6%) Total polled:201



Megan Micheli, Sophomore: "No I don't because they should have the right to go to a party if they want to."



Lesley Shields, Junior: "I don't because the students that are older are causing the problems. They need to get better security. If the community worked harder there wouldn't be problems like this."



Tony Williams, Senior: "No, I think they should get better security. They didn't have any last time."



Mr. Harrington, Math teacher: "No, I think UNO is responsible to get organizations to have security. A few Mad Dads is not enough. Now they are just taking two steps backward."

Photos by Ingo Socha

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UNO bans high school students from parties and dances on its property

The UNO Board of Regents has recently banned all people under the age of 19 from attending parties of any kind on campus until the Board can look over the issue in January when they said they will have a permanent solution.

This statement came after four teenagers were shot at a sorority party on the UNO campus.

This mindless violence also caused the cancellation of

fraternity and sorority parties in the near future because of the need to hire more security.

What does this mean for the thousands of high school students who use the Milo Bail Student Center to hold such activities as Homecoming and Prom? The future is uncertain for these types of dances but, if UNO strictly enforces the rule, there will be no more high school dances held there.

UNO should have made

the sponsoring organization have more security than just a couple of Mad Dads. Trained security guards should have been at the dance checking the jackets and purses of all who came in.

UNO, however, only holds a small portion of the blame. The large portion of the blame goes to those who fired the shots that wounded innocent people and possibly ruined Homecoming for future classes at Central.

S.A. tickets are necessary to keep activities going strong

Student activity tickets, or S.A. tickets, are an important part of the Central High activity and athletic income. For this reason, each student wanting to participate in any school-sponsored sport, club, or activity must first purchase an S.A. ticket.

For those who do not understand the logic or meaning behind this requirement, the Register would like to explain the purpose for the rule.

First, every sport, club, and

activity spends school money except football and basketball. These two sports pay for themselves and turn over a profit. However, everything else requires the use of funds generated from S.A. ticket sales.

Volleyball, for instance, does charge money to get into the matches, but it does not make nearly enough money to pay for its own uniforms, tournament fees, coach salaries, and equipment. The money it lacks must be paid for with school funds.

This example holds true for any activity, be it chess club, cross country, or debate.

The S.A. ticket sales for the 1989-1990 school year were sufficient to supply activities with needed materials. Out of the approximately 1850 students at Central, about 1450 bought S.A. tickets. The administration stresses that these excellent sales figures are such that keep the activities going strong at Central High School.



MADD is confused with Mad Dads

Mad Dads unfairly treated

Recently, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD filed suit against Mad Dads, a group of fathers concerned about the growing gang crisis in the Omaha area. Both of these groups have legitimate causes and mature people leading them. So why is MADD planning to sue Mad Dads?

The names the two groups claim, MADD feels, are too similar and the women of MADD do not want to be confused with the

men of Mad Dads.

One of the leaders from MADD wrote a letter to the World-Herald saying that her organization was being confused with Mad Dads by people wishing to donate funds.

Why is it so hard to just steer these generous people to the nearest Mad Dad who is sure to accept the donation with pleasure?

Both of these organizations benefit good and somewhat similar causes. The people of MADD

should realize that charitable organizations should work together and try to settle their differences out of court and without a large sum of money changing hands.

Really, what would MADD gain out of this situation besides bad publicity for their cause and a lot of money?

The Register feels MADD would get more out of letting Mad Dads be who they are and getting on with what their organization was founded to do.



Spontaneous Combustion with Stacy Gottschalk

# Animals question the mystery and absurdity of human nature

"A horse is a horse, of course, of course, and no one can talk to a horse, of course, that is of course, unless the horse is the famous Mr. Ed."

In case you do not recognize this, it was the first line of the theme song for the old television series, *Mr. Ed*. Mr. Ed was a talking horse who only conversed with Wilbur, his owner. Mr. Ed also played the harmonica, used the telephone, and sang well enough to make the female humans swoon.

He used Wilbur to hide his ability to talk, claiming his name was Wilbur Post whenever he, for example, called the pizza place and ordered a large vegetarian pizza.

Humans could learn lessons from watching him, too. He was a firm believer in the necessity of "being kind to animals."

Sometimes my cat gives me such disgusted looks that I have to wonder what she is thinking, or what she would say to me if she could talk. I feel so stupid when she looks at me like that.

I wish that all creatures could talk like the fictional character, Mr. Ed. Perhaps then we would not kill them so readily or destroy their habitats with such great ease.

The birds would laugh at us hysterically,

claiming that people look ridiculous from above, like little ants scurrying around in such a senseless manner. Small animals would join in the festivities, claiming how silly we look from the ground. The tiniest of insects would laugh derisively at us for running from them, screaming and stomping around like fools. Bears would ask why campers tie their food up in trees. Do they think that this makes the food taste better?

The question of why humans put animals together in cages to stare and exclaim over them would certainly arise. After all, why are we so fascinated by these creatures?

Fish would scream with laughter and would taunt us endlessly about our poor and feeble attempts to stay afloat in water. I can just imagine a sperm whale asking a man if he really needed all of his appendages, or could he spare a leg or two?

Rodents would ask why, in the old days (I certainly never did this), did women and girls scream and frantically jump on furniture or even faint at the sight of rats or mice.

My cat would demand to know why I listen to loud music, why I talk to a ringing object for long periods of time when no one else is in the room, and what is that ridiculous noisy device that makes my hair

look like the character on the cover of Stephen King's *Firestarter*?

But after these creatures finished ridiculing us with their sarcastic inquiries, they might turn to what we, as "higher" animals, should recognize as more serious issues.

"For what reason do you pollute the air and the water?"

"Why do you tear down our forests, our homes?"

"You bury toxic wastes and garbage in the earth, and you hunt and kill us to make coats, purses, boots or other items!"

"My best friend in Alaska now looks like a chocolate-covered marshmallow, thanks to a certain oil company!"

"Why do you do these things? You are hurting yourselves, as well as us!"

Their complaints would continue endlessly, and we would have no satisfactory answers for them.

Maybe it is a good thing that animals cannot talk. It really would be bothersome to have squirrels flag me down in the streets to ask me questions about my motives regarding the animals on earth (animals other than humans, that is).

## West German views on events in East Berlin

The *Mauer*:

Probably the most frequent question I was asked in the last couple of days was "How do you feel about the latest events in Berlin?" A very easy question one might say, but let me give you a real answer for it:

### Another View

By Tim Romberg

The writer is an exchange student from West Germany.

Of course I was happy as can be when I saw people standing on the wall, chipping off chunks of the wall and even East German borderguards joining in what was said to be "The biggest party of the decade." I have been to Berlin a few times, and driving to Berlin on one of the three highways that lead to [East] Germany and that you are never allowed to leave on your way to West Berlin, makes one automatically think about the [Eastern] part of Germany and how we could ever overcome the Communist dictatorship there and in Eastern Europe, and just three months ago I was not sure if I would ever see the wall being torn down, let alone a reunited Germany.

Now everything happened in a matter of two or three weeks, though initiated by the opening of Hungary's borders. This flood of people, however, did not add much to the annual immigration to West Germany, [and] my personal

opinion is, that this new flood of people will not change anything because more people implies more consumers, therefore an expanding market, therefore more jobs and more taxpayers. The only problem [that] remains [is] to get those new people from a different system settled down and show them the ropes in the new Capitalist system.

But now, of course, the new policy by Egon Krenz has successfully stopped people from pouring into the West, (which is another piece of evidence that politics are just crazy—you open a wall and people stop making their way to the other side of it), and people are calling for reunification. And believe me, it is the only thing that makes sense, [because]; (a) East Germany faces immense problems with its inefficient economy and with all the skilled workers gone; (b) West German business is highly interested in investing [in East Germany]; (c) two German states are simply unnatural, just look at Berlin; and (d) the people want it.

Now I am aware that there are a number of people who do not like the idea of all this. But feelings cannot be settled by arguments, and so the only thing that would settle all concerns would be a European unification, in which 1993 is only a small step, but a real union is about to come and must come and will include parts of Eastern Europe (Hungary is already moving towards it) and East Germany could be the radical in the chain reaction of European unification.

## Letters to the editor . . .

### Other fans have the right to enjoy games

Dear Editor,

Please accept this response to the "Central fans' spirit unfairly squashed by administrators" editorial in your last issue.

Such administrative "action," which has occurred extremely infrequently, certainly was never meant to "squash spirit." Yes, we, your administrators, have told some groups of students to sit down, but NEVER to "be quieter."

We would never tell anyone to sit down if fans only stood during crucial and extra exciting plays. We have told students to sit down only when their standing took on a "permanent" nature and those sitting behind them could not see the field.

"Certainly our tendency to stand and shout the praises of our school might bother those sitting behind us, but they can stand, too." Ah, yes, but what if they choose not to stand? Why does the right of those who wish to stand take precedence over the right of those who wish to sit? . . . a convenience, by the way, for which the stadium was built.

" . . . Those who yell with clean tongues should be allowed to do so . . ." Your administration encourages all the non-profane yelling students wish to produce - even standing briefly at extra exciting times, or standing an entire game if it is done at the back of the stadium and not in front of other fans who have equal rights.

G. Moller, Principal



### "Pippin" a magical, extraordinary show

Dear Editor,

Glory, Glory! Thank you to everyone who contributed their own individual "magic" which made "Pippin" such an

"extraordinary" and successful musical. It was great fun to "spend a month or two . . . with you . . . doodle-le-doo!"

Ta Da!  
Mrs. Georgeson

### Gratitude extended to all involved in musical

Dear Editor,

To the cast of "Pippin," thank you for all of your effort, perseverance, and excellent performances of "Pippin." I would also like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Georgeson for her direction, support, and understanding of my needs as a choreographer.

To Mr. Theis, Mr. McAdam, Mr. Gibbs, and Mr. Hausman, thank you for helping everyone to produce a very complex and compelling musical event. I shall never forget the "magic" of working with all of you.

Dalienne Majors,  
Choreographer

### Alcoholism serious, possibly fatal, disease

Dear Editor,

"Survey Says" in the November 3, 1989 issue of the Register indicated that of 150 students surveyed, 26% (or 39) indicated they drank at least once a week. The excellent accompanying articles dismissed MIP's as a threat to teens. I'm very concerned that nothing in the paper dealt with the results of the survey which revealed definite symptoms among some students of the disease of alcoholism. Alcoholism is a disease that is often terminal. 39 students in

your survey indicated a possible predisposition toward alcoholism.

My hope is that you will do your research on America's, and Omaha's, number one health problem. All of society, including teen-agers, are not gifted with the ability to "take-it or leave it" when it comes to alcohol and/or other drugs. MIP's and DWI's are secondary symptoms of a problem that is an insidious disease rather than a moral or a legal issue.

Gerry Zerse,

Area artist makes it big:

## Central student featured in artist's painting



Rachel poses next to her step father's painting entitled *Rachel in White*. photo by Allie Green

### Alyson Adams

Rachel Shomaker, Central senior is the step-daughter of artist Kent Bellows and the subject of one of his works entitled "Rachel in White."

### International exhibitor

According to Mr. Bellows, his art appears in New York at the Tatistcheff Gallery and at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He also has exhibitions in Chicago, Los Angeles, Arkansas, and the International Art Fair.

When asked about competition in the art world, Mr. Bellows said, "It's very competitive right now—especially nationally. There are a lot of good artists and a limited amount of money for good art."

### Beginning of success

"My real success started in 1985 when I met my dealer. Before that, I did illustrations for magazines such as *Omni* and *Rolling Stone*. Any artist needs a good dealer," Mr. Bellows said.

Except for occasional trips to New York, Mr. Bellows does not need to travel much, he said. His dealer, Mr. Tatistcheff, takes care of most of his national business matters.

"There's not enough demand in Omaha. You've got to get the art out of the city because there are only a few collectors here," Mr. Bellows said.

Despite the lack of support in Omaha, Mr. Bellows does not wish to move to a bigger metropolis to find a better market.

### Congenial atmosphere

"This is where my family is. I'm a conservative person and Omaha is congenial. There aren't many distractions here, the cost of living is better, and I don't like large cities. My step-family and dad are here. I'm very family oriented," he said.

Presently, Mr. Bellows' studio is in the basement of his

house. He said it is sometimes difficult to concentrate with the three Shomaker children around, but he thrives in the family atmosphere.

"I was the oldest of three and it's the same thing here. Because I'm a realist, I connect with the family and its traumas. It's been good. It's a part of realism," said Mr. Bellows.

### Family member models

Family members, he said, make the best models. In the future, Mr. Bellows plans to use them more.

"Kent is very serious during the modeling sessions," Rachel said. "He wants everything to be perfect, yet he makes you feel totally at ease."

Mr. Bellows started his career at a young age. "I've been drawing since I was tiny. When I was five, I won a cartoon contest for the *World-Herald*," he said.

His father, who was also an artist, was his major influence, said Mr. Bellows. He added, "I think art is an inborn talent. It's not something you choose to do. It's almost a vocal calling—a spiritual connection with God. It's more of a vocation than a job."

"I guess I knew that I wanted to be a professional artist when I was 15 and sold my first painting. I think being an artist is something that's decided for you—it's the hand you're dealt. Artists are cracked up and art reassembles them. Recreating is a way of life. I can't imagine life without art," Mr. Bellows said.

### Education

Mr. Bellows said that he has studied at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with Tom Majeski whose wife is a librarian at Central.

"I learned most of what I know from my father, though," he said.

According to Mr. Bellows, he spends at least 50 hours a week at the easel. "Art is not for lazy people," he said.

"It usually takes me about one or two weeks to complete a small drawing, but it can take me up to three months for a larger work," he said.

Rachel said, "The [modeling] sessions normally take one to two hours, and there are usually one or two shoots."

Mr. Bellows said that he prefers drawing in black and white instead of color. Although he enjoys working in all mediums, he said charcoal and pencil are his favorites.

"There's a lot of power in the lack of color. It makes a powerful statement. Imagination fills the soul," Mr. Bellows said.

He also prefers live models over still-lives. "I work a lot with the human figure. Nudes are a classical tradition," he said.

Mr. Bellows, despite many hours at the easel, takes time out to offer his advice to aspiring artists. He has toured and has lectured at UNO, he said.

"I talk to young artists and enjoy interacting with them," he said.

**YULE CRACK UP!**

**CHEVY CHASE**  
NATIONAL LAMPOON'S  
**CHRISTMAS VACATION**

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS  
A HUGHES ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION  
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BEVERLY D'ANGELO RANDY QUAIL ANGELO BADALAMENTI MATTY SIMMONS JOHN HUGHES TOM JACOBSON  
JEREMIAH S. CHECHIK

**YOU BETTER WATCH OUT THIS DECEMBER!**

## Border opened after 28 years

# Barbed wire no longer separates Germany

Ingo Socha, the author of this article, is an exchange student from West Germany and gives his views here.

"...with a little help from Krenz." Joe Cocker changed the lyrics of the Beatle's song, "I'll get by with a little help from my friends," in a concert in West Berlin to celebrate the opening of the Berlin wall by East Germany's new Communist party chief, Egon Krenz, on November 11.

Two days earlier, East German officials declared that "private travel abroad can be applied for without submission of requirements. Permits will be issued at short notice."

Two crossings were opened almost immediately, and people from East Berlin began to pour over the border.

This was the first chance for East German citizens to leave their county unimpeded since the erection of the wall in 1961.

The government constructed the wall to keep people from fleeing Berlin's East sector after World War II.

Since then, the town has been divided and the country has been separated from the West with barbed wire.

During the week after the opening, other parts of the wall were knocked down to restore traffic between the two parts of Berlin.

Dr. Ali Moeller, chairman of the foreign language department at Central, was "thrilled" by the events.

She talked to an East German, Dr. Gerhard Wazel, who she met in Boston, about the situation before the fall.

At that time, he speculated that it would take his government five years to open the border. "Actually it was five weeks," said Dr. Moeller.

Dr. Moeller is president of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG).

She spent the last two summers in the GDR reviewing and evaluating a "landeskunde seminar," a training program devised to help teachers understand the culture and language of East Germany.

"I was glad to see that people still have a voice," Dr. Moeller said. She hopes that



People celebrate the opening of the Berlin Wall, constructed in 1961, on November 11 by helping each other over it. Some collected pieces of the wall that had been knocked down. Free travel is now allowed throughout Germany. Photo by Associated Press, reprinted with permission from the World-Herald.

this is just the beginning of a series of dramatic reforms.

Chris Reinarz, a Central senior and self-described great-great-grandson of the last of the German monarchs, Otto von Bismarck, said he was "in ecstasy."

He added, "This is certainly the best thing to happen in the history of Germany."

Tim Romberg, a West German exchange student at Central, evaluated the situation as "another piece of evidence, that politics is just crazy—you open a wall and people stop making their way to the other side of it."

East Germans have been fleeing their country illegally since early August.

Now the government seems to have stopped the massive exodus by allowing free travel.

Some refugees have taken advantage of the situation to return to their homes in East Germany.

### Impacts on West Germany

Since the beginning of the exodus of East Germans in late summer, enough people moved to the west side of the wall permanently to cause mixed emotions in West Germany.

In August, the first evacuees coming via Czechoslovakia and Hungary were welcomed with great affection by West Germany.

The government

started an instant emergency program to guarantee housing and food in tent camps and unused army barracks.

East Germans are given \$50 as "welcome money." They have a better chance to get a job because big enterprises get the cheap, good workforce directly from the camps.

West Germans hold the firm view, though, that East Germans only came to profit from West German social security.

To improve West German attitudes toward the refugees, the federal government set up a group to

support emigres.

Half-page ads were placed in "Die Zeit" and "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung," papers that are read nationwide, to encourage better treatment of East Germans.

Tim Romberg does not see any negative impact on West German economy.

His theory is, that nothing is going to change, because "more people implies more customers, therefore an expanding market, therefore more jobs, and therefore more taxpayers."

According to "Die Zeit," East Germans do not want any charity for their country.

They are afraid that their economy would only improve due to money from the West.

They believe that their government would take claim for the West German help and thus not reinforce the necessary reforms.

Dr. Moeller is convinced that most East Germans would prefer "having reforms in their home country opposed to starting all over again in West Germany."

### Reunification?

Now that the wall has fallen, the question whether or when to reunify the two German states has moved back into the light of public interest.

"There are numerous cultural aspects, that both states have in common," said Dr. Moeller.

She sees a realistic chance to bring Germany back together again.

Reunification makes sense to Tim Romberg because (a) East Germany faces immense problems with its inefficient economy, (b) West German business is highly interested in investing there, (c) two German states are simply interested in investing there, (c) two German states are simply unnatural and (d) the people want it."

### Life in the West

Life in the West is not always desirable for East Germans. Large factories take advantage of the naivety and desperation of many refugees.

Certainly one of the favorable problems posed on them is how to spend their "welcome money" of \$50.

According to a survey of Deutsche Presse Agentur, the largest West German news agency, the preferred products are fresh food, especially bananas. Toys and candy are purchased with Christmas in mind.

An East German man overwhelmed by the mass of products asked, "Why do you have about 100 different kinds of toothpaste?"

### OUR STUDENTS SAY IT BEST

"I came to Missouri Western on a baseball scholarship. Everyone is friendly here, and I have many new friends. Living in the dorms lets me be away from home but not too far to get back on weekends. I like the location of the college and the whole area. I really like it at Missouri Western." "B.J." Sojka (86)

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**SPOTLIGHTS**

—Michelle Hickle—

**NHS selects students**

November students of the month were Michael Watkins, freshman, Matt Hovde, sophomore, Nicole Abrahamson, junior, and Kristin Long, senior.

**Students make decathlon**

This year's decathlon members are James Valentine, Kelley Ramsey, Suzy Wolff, and Anya Lawler; juniors, and Jennifer Gentle, Denvia Laugel, Keith Lucas, Kayt Headen, Ben Rouch, Tim Pierce, Kate Shaw, and Jennifer Hurley; seniors.

**Zi Wu wins award**

On November 27, Zi Wu was presented with the Rensselaer Science and Mathematics Award.

**Choir plans performance**

On December 2, the Central A Cappella Choir plans to hold "A Night With A Cappella" at St. John's Church, 2402 N. 22nd St., at 7:30 p.m. Admission will be free.

**SNHS inducts members**

On November 21, 19 new members were inducted into the Central Spanish National Honor Society. Officers: Jennifer E. Murphy, president; Julie Williams, vice-president; Jodi Chruma, secretary; and Stef Kurtzuba, treasurer.

**GNHS inducts members**

German National Honor Society inducted 17 new members on November 7. Officers: Shannan Cormaci, president; Scott Miller, vice-president; Jennifer Hennig, secretary-treasurer.

**Violinist wins first chair**

Hilary Foster, senior, was selected as the first chair violinist in the All-State Orchestra. Senior Julie Larson was selected as the third chair viola, the highest chair in that category from Omaha.

**Mr. Kubik sends videotape of class to Boulder  
Biology class writes letters to E.P.A. decision-maker**

—Michelle Hickle—

For the past two years, Mr. Gary Kubik, biology teacher and wrestling coach, has involved his honors biology classes in the Two Forks Dam project.

This year, Mr. Kubik's honors biology classes wrote letters to Mr. Lee DeHihns, the Environmental Protection Agency's decision-maker on Two Forks. Their letters were in support of the EPA, to prevent the construction of the dam whose purpose is to provide water for Denver's suburbs.

Mr. Kubik's decision to oppose the building of the dam is shared by many scientists. It is a concept that he teaches to his classes.

Mr. Kubik said, "Building the dam would destroy a major ecosystem in both Nebraska and Colorado." In Nebraska, the Platte River, pit stop for the endangered whooping crane and other migratory birds, would be destroyed.

In Colorado, the Cheesman Canyon, home to

Colorado's premier trout fishery, would be destroyed.

This summer at wrestling camp, Mr. Kubik met Mr. Mike Stanley who is also a biology teacher, wrestling coach and a scientist who opposes the Two Forks Dam project. Mr. Stanley teaches honors biology in the Boulder Public Schools.

Mr. Stanley also has

presented Two Forks to his classes from a scientist's limited point of view. To broaden their views, he agreed to correspond class to class with Mr. Kubik.

Mr. Kubik videotaped his biology classes' experiments with the prairie ecosystem and sent it to Mr. Stanley's class in Boulder, Colorado. Mr. Stanley is to videotape his class's

experiments with alpine and mid-atlantic ecosystems and send them to Mr. Kubik.

Mr. Kubik and Mr. Stanley are trying to show their classes that wildlife, including a few endangered species, and the natural habitat will be drastically affected by the building of the Two Forks Dam.

According to Mr. Kubik, future scientists would be at a loss if the ecosystems of Nebraska and Colorado were destroyed.



Mr. Kubik displays articles in this classroom to increase awareness of biology, wildlife, and, especially, the proposed Two Forks Dam project to provide Colorado suburbs with water. Photo by Sean Chapman

**\$5000 helps Central introduce, promote Citinet**

—Keri Babe—

A new communication link, Citinet, has hit the Omaha area, and the Central High marketing class is working on the introduction and promotion of the product.

Citinet is a computer-linked communication system offered through US West Telecommunications. It is connected to phones in hospitals, travel agencies, banks, and other businesses.

Citinet has a personal section where people can write for advice on the computer and receive answers in return.

Citinet serves a range of functions—to send and receive messages, to gain access to information, to conduct financial transactions, and to purchase

goods and services.

Although Citinet is new to Omaha, it has been accepted most successfully in France since the mid 1970's. In France, more than 4 million households currently use videotex services.

The CHS marketing staff learned about Citinet through several different marketing conferences. According to Mrs. Bunz, marketing teacher, Citinet and other providers are interested in students' ideas and what they think of the new product so it can be of greater service to a

wide range of people.

US West hopes to have the Omaha market saturated with fifty thousand systems installed within the next two years.

Mr. Terry Tomlinson, said, "I think it has tremendous potential for opening lines between school and home. Omaha is very fortunate to be used as the test site, specifically grades K-12."

According to Mr. Tomlinson, Omaha is the only area out of US West's fourteen-state region to test Citinet.

Central is one of the few high schools to have the opportunity to promote Citinet. Central was

approached by a provider and was given 5,000 dollars to create literature and promotion material to present to P.T.A.'s and schools to get the educational market of the city interested in the product.

Senior Keith Klanderud, a Central marketing student said, "I think this is a great opportunity for the marketing department to make money. It is definitely not a high school level project, but I think with a little work we could be very successful."

The project is currently underway and will be presented by the marketing students in a few weeks.

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## Central students, teachers worry about family

## San Francisco earthquake shakes up buildings, people

Jennifer E. Murphy

On October 17, thousands of people were in Oakland, California to see the World Series. Instead, they, along with people in the San Francisco and surrounding areas, experienced an earthquake, which measured 7.1 on the Richter Scale.

A few students and teachers at Central felt "tremors" from the California quake as well.

"I was pretty scared," said senior Kate Shaw. "I had been watching the World Series, and the picture went out. I didn't think much about it until I saw the damage."

Kate has two siblings who both reside in California. Her brother, Mark, lives in San Francisco, and her sister, Becky, lives in Monterrey which is south of San Francisco, she said.

"When my mom got home, we started calling immediately," said Kate. She said that when they got through to her brother, she was "really relieved."

According to Kate, neither of their homes suffered damages from the quake. They could not return to work the next day, she said, because the offices were closed due to the earthquake.

Mrs. Bernstein, Central English teacher, said, "We were in the car and heard about [the earthquake] on the radio. When we got home, there was a message from my daughter [who lives] in

Southern California, telling us the family in Millbrae was fine."

Mrs. Bernstein said, "My son, Bob, was at the Pacific Heights Medical Center going through a procedure with a patient."

"Bob called from the hospital that night," she said. "We heard from everyone right away."

"I did not know about [the earthquake] until a friend called me," Mrs. Roehl, Central Home Economics teacher, said. Her daughter, Karen, lives in San Francisco.

"I didn't get in touch with her," Mrs. Roehl said. "My other daughter who lives in Georgia somehow got a hold of her and called me."

"Bob said that this was the first earthquake he couldn't stand up in," said Mrs. Bernstein. "He was looking at a patient's eyes with a machine when her head started shaking. The table also was vibrating."

She said that Bob and the patient "calmed each other down." There was no broken glass and the hospital had generators for power, according to Mrs. Bernstein.

Bob suffered no damage at his home, according to Mrs. Bernstein.

She said that although his house was not damaged, there were "cracks in sidewalks" in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Bernstein said that Bob had told her about the

"California Earthquake Reflex."

"The minute a person feels anything, they head for a door or under a table," she said. "Tourists don't know what to do. In downtown San Francisco, a lot of people were injured. They could have been tourists just standing around."

"People handled the situation well," Kate was told by her brother. "But tons has to be done. Transportation [in San Francisco] is difficult as it is."

Aaron Batt, junior, said that his grandparents were visiting San Francisco and their plane "took off 10 minutes before the earthquake hit."

"They heard about it on the plane," he said. "They were relieved."

Aaron said that his family heard about the earthquake on television.

"We had no idea where they were," he said. "We tried to call, but [we] couldn't get through."

Mrs. Bernstein also said she has a son Larry who lives in San Jose, with his wife.

"My daughter-in-law was driving home. At first she thought it was the car, but then trees starting falling over," she said. "She pulled over and stopped."

"[When she got home] there was water on the floors from the toilets, and a fourth of the water in their swimming pool was missing," she added.



Debris from buildings that were damaged or destroyed littered the streets of San Francisco after the earthquake that shook the city October 17.

Ingo Socha

"Bob said that an earthquake 'humbles' you because you have no control," said Mrs. Bernstein.

"You don't sleep afterwards," said Mrs. Roehl.

"My daughter says you keep waking up."

Mark Shaw summed up the situation for Kate, "It will be a while before things are back to normal."

## Proposed legislation puts lid on budget for school system

Hilary Foster

Proposed legislation concerning a shift in the amount of money going to Nebraska School systems will go to the Nebraska legislature next session, according to Mr. Stan Sibley, the coordinator of government relations for the Omaha Public Schools.

A panel of educators, state senators, and educational advisors have met during the past two years to discuss re-financing Nebraska's education, Mr. Sibley said.

"A committee has been looking at financing schools in Nebraska," he said. "They are recommending certain changes."

According to Mr. Sibley, under the current state budget, schools receive 70 per cent of their income from property taxes. He said that this is unfair because "there is no way to equalize money."

Some districts have a great amount of property, and with a low tax, the districts can have enough money to function. However, other districts that do not have as much property must raise taxes, still face monetary shortages, and they cannot provide their students with an equal education, Mr. Sibley said.

Dr. Don Benning, assistant superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools, added that the proposed legislation would

broaden the tax base to include income tax. One of the goals of the legislation is to give a cut in property tax statewide.

The proposed legislation has two parts, according to Mr. Neil Krause, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education. The first part of the proposal will provide property tax relief for taxpayers. The state will provide each school district with funds from income tax and property tax, rather than the district providing funds.

The second part of the proposed legislation involves the equalization of funds to all school districts. The state will help the school districts that need for additional programming. However, the legislation also involves a four per cent lid on the school district spending.

The lid restricts the budget from increasing more than four per cent. The lid is a problem, according to Dr. Gary Bennett, assistant superintendent for general administration of the Omaha Public Schools, because the cost of living increases at about five to six per cent each year.

"We cannot give teachers the cost of living because it is higher than the lid," he said. Dr. Bennett added that this could affect class size and teacher salaries.

Mr. Krause also objects to the lid. "Increases in education over the last four years have been at seven per cent," he said. "To operate at four per cent would be virtually an impossibility."

Mr. Sibley said that the four per cent lid is "not necessarily set in stone." He said that the reason for the lid is to make the school districts spend money wisely. However, he agreed that it will affect the budget.

"It will drastically affect salaries. Eighty-five per cent of the school district's budget is in salaries for teachers, administrators, custodians, and everyone else who works for the districts," he said. Because of the lid, the schools will have fewer dollars to spend on salaries. "All employees will have to forego salary increases or schools will have to reduce staff," Mr. Sibley said. He added that teachers would not receive paycuts, but their salaries would not increase at all.

According to William C. Ramsey, member of the state school board, it is unfair that teacher's salaries must remain the same: "Nebraska is currently [paying teachers] at about four thousand dollars below the national average for teacher salaries. We're going to run into a terrible shortage of teachers."

The legislation

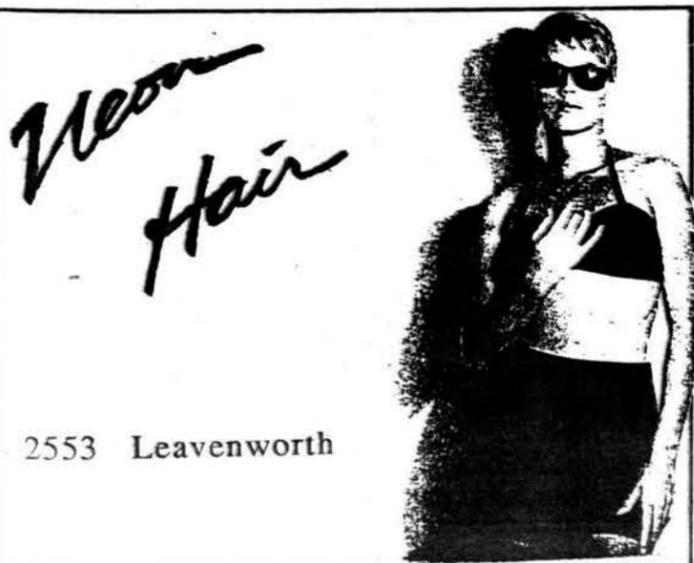
containing the lid will only perpetuate this problem, according to Mr. Ramsey.

The final version of the "suggested guidelines for the bill" will be out in the middle of December, according to Dr. Benning. Although some argue that the bill will be detrimental to education, Dr. Benning believes that it will "allow the school districts to maintain and enhance educational standards."

Mr. Sibley said that although the four per cent lid might not provide adequately for an increase in teacher salaries, he thinks the legislature will be flexible with it.

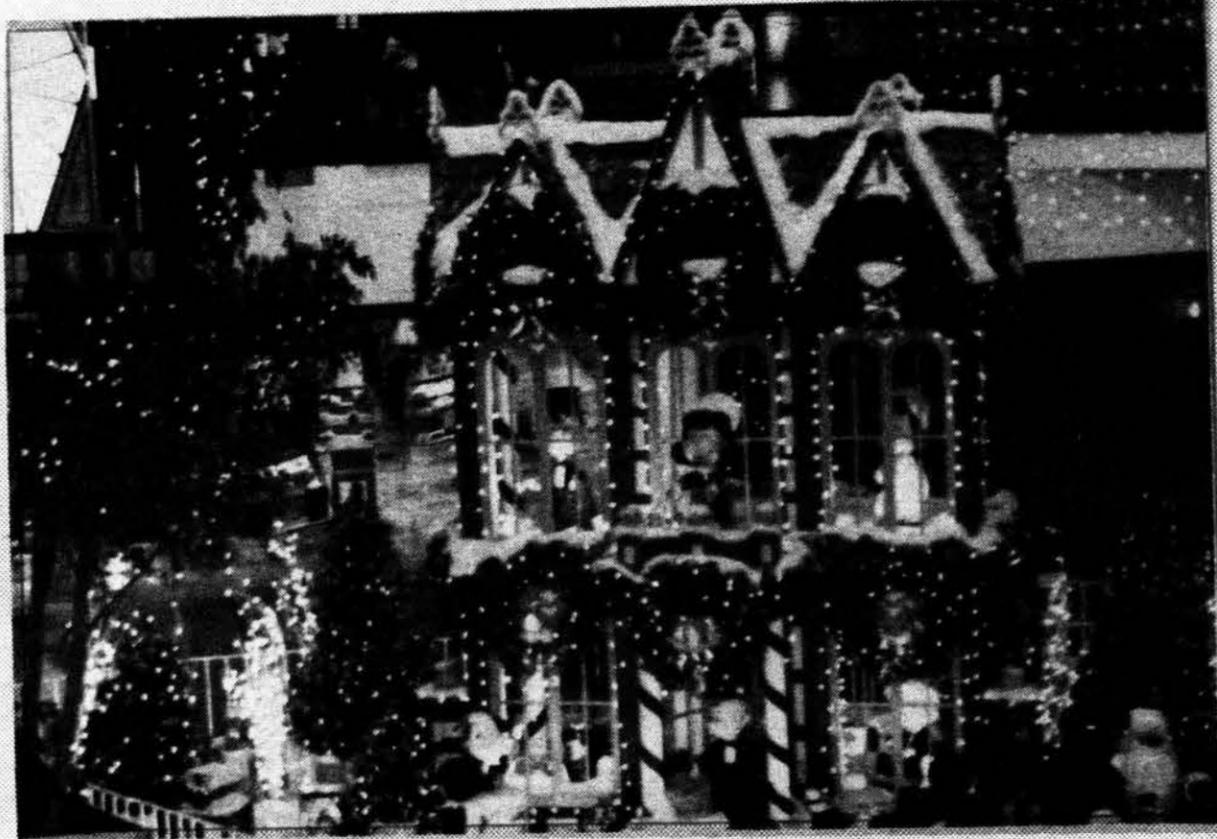
"The legislature would set the lid every year. It would always be in a range; for example from four to six and a half per cent." He said that school districts will be placed in a tier based on the size of the district, and then they would be evaluated on how much money they spend per student.

The district that spends more money per student will have a stricter lid and the district that spends less will have a more lenient restriction. According to Dr. Benning, the bill will most likely pass. "The senators will adjust it. What form it will pass in no one knows. Some form of funding change will happen."



2553 Leavenworth

# Happy Holidays!



The Christmas display in the center of Westroads uses the Peanuts characters to decorate the area. Santa Claus waits underneath for children to see him. The area always seems crowded. Photo by Michelle Rosener

## Creative writing classes join with Postal Service to play Santa for children

—Stephanie Kurtzuba—

"Everyone writes to Santa when they're little, but getting a letter back is something only a few lucky kids will get," said creative writing student Kirstin Terry.

According to Mr. T. M. Gaherty, creative writing instructor, Central has been participating for five years in a program that makes many Santa Claus believers very happy. Through Pat Salerno, OPS English Coordinator, Central's creative writing classes along with other OPS high school writing classes have become involved in answering letters written to Santa Claus.

"This is a cooperative venture between OPS and the U.S. Post Office," said Dr. Salerno. With the provisions of North Pole stationery and postage fee, Mr. Gaherty's classes answer about 150 letters.

Dr. Salerno said the Omaha area Post Office begins sending him "Dear Santa" letters

at Thanksgiving time when he sets about to their distribution among the six participating OPS high schools.

"We've had good participation with this project. The teachers do a lot. Some of the letters require a sensitive approach, and the teachers help screen what's written in response to the kids," said Dr. Salerno.

Mr. Gaherty said he believes that the project is a good challenge for the students.

"I tried to make my letters original so that the kids would believe it was really from Santa. I tried to envision the little boy or girl when they opened it," said a former creative writing student, Amy Edgren. She added that she "enjoyed the assignment," and felt it reaffirmed the children's faith in the magic of Santa Claus.

Maia Murray, another student previously in Mr. Gaherty's class, said she did not believe that responding to the

letters disillusioned the children.

"They find out about Santa sooner or later. Kids grow up so fast, they might as well enjoy it while they can," she said.

According to Mr. Gaherty, most of the letters Central students receive fall into two categories.

He said, "The kids seem to come in two classes. There are the ones who want everything and make a list of 25 or 30 things, and then there are the ones who don't think of themselves and ask for things for their mothers or little brothers."

Dr. Salerno said that over "500 Dear Santa" letters were responded to last year. Although form letters are also sent out by the Post Office after OPS students are released for winter recess, Dr. Salerno said that he thought the project "unique" and intends to continue it again this year with help from Central's creative writing program.

## Decorations a though a year

—Jennifer E. Murphy— by Septe

As people walk through shopping malls, department stores and grocery stores in the month of September, they are reminded of one of the big holidays of the year, Christmas.

In September? "It is a little early," said sophomore Shawn Wainwright.

"[Stores] are rushing it," he said. He is referring to artificial trees, lights, Christmas decorations, and merchandise that start appearing in stores from one to three months before Christmas.

"Our Christmas decorations went up [November 5]," said Christy Nicholson of Seifert's at Westroads. The central store sends out [decorations] to us. People start their shopping earlier in November."

The Candlelight store, also at Westroads, puts Christmas items on display November 10 and 11, according to the store's owner.

"People call us October about our Christmas things," she said. "This is a regional shopping center. People might not be back in the area." She also said that when people see these items, they purchase them.

"Our decorations are going up by September 15 and have to be completed by September 29," said Tom Wangler, the manager of the Trimmery Department

# and shopping for holidays, trying to some, bring spirit early

"The merchandise is up by September 15." "People buy Christmas merchandise as early as September 15. It's unbelievable!" he said.

The Westroads center put up its banners and the over-aw-covered house with characters and trees end of November 3, to the women at an booth located in the

"The amount of people the mall is increasing," women behind the on Booth. "Santa will at mall] on November

Crossroads had their up [November 3 and Shawn. He works at us Says" in the Food There are a lot more [at Crossroads] now.

"People have been about our Christmas disise," said Jonni of J.C. Penney's. sells Christmas socks, holiday canisters (with or potpurri), and dishes, g to Miss DeBoer. "The d socks are selling really

Sophomore Kevin said that promoting as early is "kind of

"Thanksgiving gets over and forgotten," he start seeing decorations

up in mid-September. It takes away from the true meaning of Christmas."

"Our philosophy behind Christmas decorations is that when customers come in before Christmas to shop, they see our dynamic [Christmas] display and it makes an impression on them," Mr. Wangler said. "It is instilled in their minds that 'I will do my shopping at Shopko.'"

"I like the Christmas decorations [up early]," said senior Dawn Bobkovas. She also works at Shopko, behind the service desk. "It is more festive. No one can afford to buy after Thanksgiving anymore." Dawn also said that having the decorations and Christmas goods out early puts her "more into the holiday spirit."

Yunker's stores also put up their trees, pointsettas, bows and banners the weekend of November 3, according to Jennifer Bakkerud, a Hall of Fame Sales employee.

"We put them up 3 weeks before Thanksgiving because that is when most of the sales are," she said. "We have had more crowds."

"Usually, I start [Christmas shopping] in September," said sophomore Angel Henning. She does not mind the holiday decor out early. "I love it!" she said.

"Our Christmas decorations went up 2 or 3 days after Halloween," said junior Craig Wylie of Westside High

School, a courtesy clerk at Albertson's. "The whole store is Christmas—no Thanksgiving [merchandise]." He said that he "doesn't care" if the seasonal decorations are up.

"I was asked about Thanksgiving [goods] by a customer. She complained that we had so much Christmas stuff out," he said. "She said that Christmas [merchandise] isn't what she wanted."

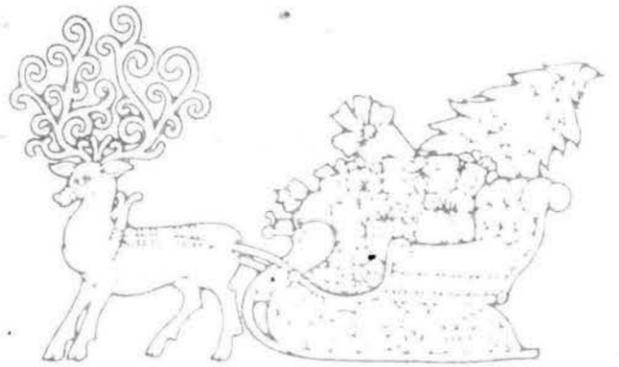
"[The decorations] take the heart out of the holidays," said Shawn. "Everything is so materialistic. Christmas ornaments for \$20 or \$25!"

"People are buying it," said Mr. Wangler. "While some might say that it is 'taking away from the true meaning of Christmas,' I have to point out that a lot of people are buying." He went on to say that Shopko is doing the Christmas decorating on the "psychological stand point," to "have an edge over" their competitors.

"For Shopko, the Christmas season begins November 1," he said.

"Hallmark stores seem to have cards and decorations up 6 months before the holiday," said Kevin. "People worry too much about presents. I like the holiday season, but [stores] shouldn't do any more [with holiday promotion] than they do now."

"I can't wait for Christmas, decorations or not!" said Dawn.



## Expressions different about holiday birthdays

Hilary Foster

"I get so many presents!" said senior Kiri Soares. Kiri's birthday, December 18, occurs during the busy week that precedes Christmas, and she thinks that this is one of the reasons that she receives a large number of presents.

"I got a whole bunch of presents last year because my family forgot my birthday until Christmas. They can't forget for long because it's near such a big holiday. They felt doubly guilty and bought more presents," she said.

Kerry Coughlin, freshman, said that she thinks she gets more presents because Christmas is so close to her January 4 birthday. "[My parents] feel guilty that my birthday is so close to Christmas, so I probably get more presents."

"You get really bad presents because everyone has already given you presents," said Valerie Garver, senior. She said that since her birthday comes after Christmas, on January 9, people have slipped out of the giving mood they were in during Christmas.

"Everyone has either forgotten about your birthday, or they have already spent all of their money," Valerie continued.

Jess Wenke, a sophomore whose birthday is on December 20, says that having a birthday before Christmas is usually good. "Well, you have two kinds of people; either people are in a giving mood and they give you lots of presents, or they are trying to save money, and then you don't get as many," she said.

Some students, including Cindy Garner, sophomore, and Mark Chapman, junior, agree that although their birthdays are during the holiday season, they get the same amount of presents as they would any other time during the year.

"I usually get the same amount of presents as my sister gets, and her birthday is in October," Cindy said. Her birthday is December 14.

Having birthdays near Christmas does not only affect the amount of presents people get. The traditions surrounding the celebration of Christmas and Hanukkah determine the nature of birthday presents and the way people celebrate.

"I definitely get all winter stuff," Valerie said. "Sweaters and winter clothes are all I ever get. If your birthday is in another season, you can get such a variety of presents. I'd never get a swimsuit, but I keep getting ice skates."

Kiri said that her presents are always wrapped in red and green paper. "Sometimes [my family] won't even let me open my birthday presents until Christmas morning, especially when my family is out of town for my birthday, and they're coming back for Christmas."

Kerry said that since her birthday is January 4, it often coincides with the end of Christmas break and the first day back to school.

Although most people usually celebrate their real birthday, some students avoid the confusion by celebrating half-birthdays, which their birthdays in June or July.

"I did that once!" Mark said. "When I was about ten, my mom took my friends and me to Skateland in the summer."

However, Valerie and Kiri said that half-birthdays are an equal menace to celebrations because many people are out of town during the summer months.

Birthday parties are always affected by Christmas spirit, according to Cindy. She avoids this problem because she always has small slumber parties instead of large "Christmas/Birthday" parties.

Jess said that her parents have always made a special effort to make her birthday a separate holiday from Christmas. With only four days between the two holidays, this has been difficult, but the family always takes time to celebrate Jess' birthday.

Kiri said that one reason her birthday has been separate from Christmas in some years is that her father shares her birthday. It is easy to celebrate both holidays.

Although some students feel that having a birthday near the holidays disrupts the flow of the holidays and cheats students out of a birthday, most people feel they get an equal birthday, both in presents and celebration, as people who were born in other seasons. "But," Mark pointed out, "I don't really know what it would be like to have a birthday at any other time."



and belief in Santa Claus is demonstrated by the letters to Santa Claus answered in classes and the long lines people wait in to have their pictures taken on Santa's Westroads Mall. Photo by Michelle Rowner

# Pippin displays magical show

—Jodi Chruma—

121 Central students presented Pippin, the 1989 school musical.

Pippin, played by sophomore Matt Howde, is the son of Charlemagne and the heir to the Holy Roman Empire.

one needs to be happy with whatever he or she has in life and that "life is what you make it."

The musical, written by Roger Hinson and Stephen Schwartz and originally performed in 1972, was "meant to be a one-act play, but we divided it," said Mrs. Pegi Georgeson,

student maitnee, for which many students were excused from class.

Mr. Theis said that many people don't realize the amount of time that it takes to do a musical like Pippin. He kept track of the amount of time he spent and said it amounted to 125.2 hours. "We were working since the second week in September, up until the production, with things getting more intense [as we approached the deadline]."

Mr. Theis, who played the keyboards for the musical, said, "This show is a team effort, from top to bottom, of the directors, cast, crews and orchestra."

Mr. Charles McAdam, instrumental music director who was in charge of orchestra preparation for Pippin, said that the students involved were dedicated to their work. "Halfways will say on the program that it was 'directed by' or 'orchestra preparation by,' but it all comes down to the students and how hard they work. The pit we had this year was excellent," he said.

Mr. Larry Hausman, technical director, said that it is important for members of the school and community to support the musical because of the time students put into it. He said that the total receipts are not out yet, but that they went \$1200 over budget on last year's musical.

"However, about 120

kids work on it, so that's ten dollars a kid over about three months," said Mr. Hausman. On an hourly basis, that's a very small price to pay." He thinks that the audience, especially the students, enjoyed Pippin.

**"This show is a team effort, from top to bottom, of the directors, cast crews and orchestra."**

Freshman Melissa Licm, member of the Pippin chorus, said, "I thought all the audiences were really responsive and nice. She said that if she had been distracted by the audiences, she would have "tried to keep going like it was a rehearsal."

Central principal Dr. G.E. Moller believes that the Pippin performances were done well. "The standards of excellence are pretty good here," Dr. Moller said that his opinion is supported by many parents and by colleagues from other schools.

Dr. Moller said, "I trust the judgement of our people. Sometimes they ask my advice [on how to handle controversial scenes], and I'm not sure what I would have said this time, but I really trust their judgment. [Pippin] was handled appropriately."

Mr. Debraune Meyers, choreographer for Central's production of the musical, said that she does not care what the audience thinks about performances "as long as [the performances] make sense to me."

Whether or not people liked [the musical] is of no concern to me." She said that she tries "to evolve the art form

**"I really think that all the hours of rehearsal we spent paid off in the final performance."**

by trying to be truthful."

Mrs. Georgeson said that Pippin is of the Avant-garde, or controversial style, because it has some shocking parts to it (as Pippin discovers his sexuality). "We presented them as tactfully and as nicely as possible." She said that one

big [lusty] dance was left out of the Central production.

According to Mrs. Georgeson, this is the second year that the student maitnee was restricted to "Student Activity" ticket holders only. "We found that it was a noisier crowd [when anyone could attend]. Other schools have done this too. It emphasizes the idea that [the purpose of the maitnee] is not to get out of class, but to support fellow students. For the most part, those who go only to get out of class don't show any class."

Senior

Stephanie Kurtzuba, the leading player in Pippin, said, "I really think that all the hours of rehearsal we spent paid off in the final performance. I think the production we presented was tasteful, entertaining, and, above all, refreshing."

Freshman

Seh Noseworthy, who played the timpany drums in the Pippin orchestra, said he thought he played best on Thursday night. "I wasn't as aware of the crowd. I'm less nervous with less people."

Senior

Rachel Shomaker, who played the

**"Everything—the tech, the cast—just clicked."**

widow Catherine, said that all the audiences were good, but that she "loved the student maitnee. You never know what they're going to do. They keep you totally on edge."

Rachel said that she thought that the musical was a success, especially the Friday night performance. "Everything—the tech, the characters, the cast—just clicked."

Pippin musical has magic to do. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

However, he wants more fulfillment in his life.

Mr. Terry Marc Theis, Central music director, said that the story is about the idea that

Central drama director.

The Pippin performances at Central lasted about two hours in the auditorium for three nights, in addition to a

## "Renaissance" *Rei Momo* rocks with new Byrne style

—Benjamin Roach—

David Byrne has once again lived up to his billing as rock's "Renaissance Man" with his new album *Rei Momo*. The album, named after a Brazilian carnival king, fuses African and Latino styles with a more modern pop influence. The work is a success, but not a triumph usually associated with the name of David Byrne.

The album has no direction, though, and maybe that's Byrne's goal: to create a joyous musical experience free of any message. From the opening lyrics of the album's first song, "Independence Day," one knows this album will be filled with a party and not with "psycho-killers" ("now and then I get horny/at night you do/at night you do"). Other tracks on the album are filled with Byrne's

beautiful, off-beat, surrealistic lyrics ("It's a beautiful world/and a beautiful dream/and you know I don't care/if things are not what they seem") which complement the easy-going rhythms of *Rei Momo*. Byrne loses his trademark paranoid singing style, too, when articulating the lyrics, adding to the laid back feeling of the album.

The production is excellent. Byrne produced this album with Steve Lillywhite, the producer of the Talking Heads' last musical brilliance, *Naked*. Once again, Lillywhite works his magic as every instrument sounds fresh and yet meshes with the overall achievement.

The only drawback of *Rei Momo* is the rest of the Talking Heads: they're not on the album. Byrne may be a genius, but his ideas and visions could be expanded on by the brain trust of the rest of the Heads (Weymouth,

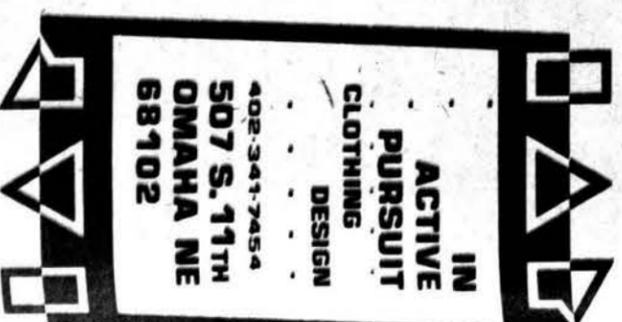
Franz, and Harrison), none of whom are present on *Rei Momo* to help him out. Byrne is all alone on this endeavor and it shows.

Songs which have the potential to be masterpieces, aren't. The songs on *Rei Momo* don't grow, don't simulate the scenes. They appear to be striving for something, yet never attain it. Thus, leaving the listener almost unsatisfied. I say almost unsatisfied because the music contained on *Rei Momo* is above average material, only it could have been better.

Byrne does capture the liveliness of the African/Latino styles and this should be commended, even if it's not as bold or profound a statement as the Heads' *Remain in Light*. *Rei Momo* is a great album, though, despite my criticisms. I am a firm believer in Byrne and his music, and I recommend *Rei Momo* whether you're a believer or not.

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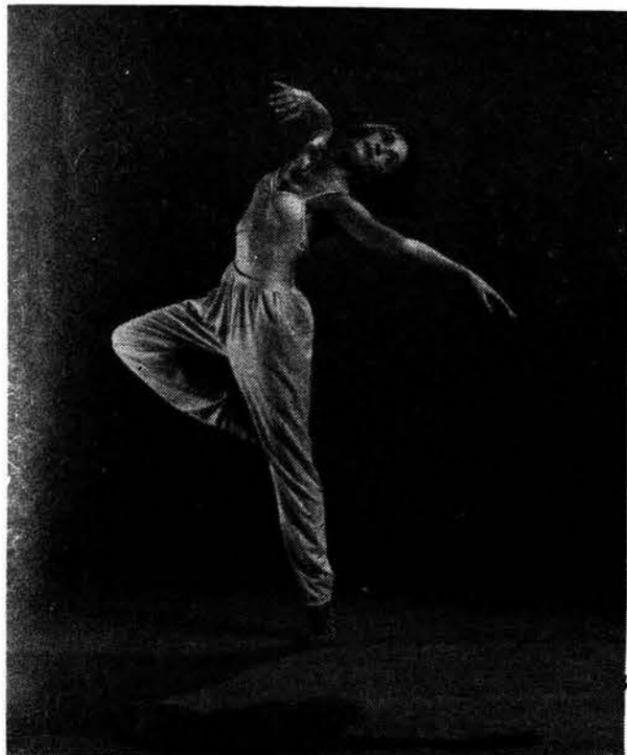
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Majors choreographs musical

Dancer from Central

Keith Klanderud
The Central High performing arts department recently got a taste of modern dance — something relatively new to the Omaha area. Daliene Majors, a graduate of the Julliard School, recently worked with Mrs. Georgeson's Drama classes and was the choreographer of

the dance program at the Emmy Gifford Children's Theater. Ms. Majors is available through the Nebraska Arts Council's Artist-in-the-Schools/Communities Program and the Metro Arts Council's City Arts program in Omaha. "I am doing residencies at Lewis and Clark Junior High, North High, and Central, and I was asked to do a



Daliene Majors

quite surprised. Movement was so important in Pippin, and the students surprised me. My concept of high school musicals really changed."

Ms. Majors choreographed all of the dance material in Pippin, and Kay Auxier helped the students with their dances during a two week period during which Ms. Majors was away in India.

"Kay helped [with the musical] while Daliene was in India; it really didn't set us back at all," said Senior Traci Strachota who was in Pippin.

Traci also said, "I was really impressed when I saw the musical on tape. The dancing was really modern and different from most musicals I've seen performed in the high schools."

According to Ms. Majors, modern dance emerged at the end of the nineteenth century as choreographers sought their own movement vocabularies outside the confines of traditional ballet. Ms. Majors is using her skills as a teacher and choreographer of modern dance to try to help vitalize modern dance in the Omaha area.

"Modern dance really isn't that popular in the Midwest. It's more popular in the coastal areas," said Ms. Majors.

Ms. Majors showed her ability to choreograph in the musical Pippin, but she has no immediate plans to choreograph any future high school musicals.

"I plan to go back to the University of Iowa to get my masters in dance. I will be able to teach dance at a university, and it will help my general outlook in terms of teaching," said Ms. Majors.

Ms. Majors also had some advice for high school students interested in the arts. "The most important thing is to be obsessed with what you do. Teachers might try to convince you otherwise, but if you love it that much, keep your vision and see as much as possible."

residency here because there are no dance classes." She worked with Central's Drama classes for about two weeks and taught a variety of different movement, dance, and relaxation exercises.

These exercises included contact improvisations, poses choreographed with music, and trust exercises. She also presented films on different types of choreography to the classes. "There is more to theater than just speaking lines on stage; the training of the body is just as important as the training of the voice," Ms. Majors said.

She also mentioned people who she thought were very good with moving their bodies. "Some actors and actresses I think move very well are Kevin Kline, Meryl Streep, and Lawrence Olivier."

Sophomore Heather O'Brien, a Drama student, said, "I thought the things we did [in class with Ms. Majors] were different but neat."

Ms. Majors choreographed this year's fall musical, Pippin.

"I normally don't like to do musicals but with Pippin I was

this year's fall musical, Pippin.

Ms. Majors graduated from Central in 1968 and has a long list of experience in the performing arts. After graduating from high school, she attended the prestigious Julliard School of dancing in New York. After receiving her BFA in Dance and appearing in performances at Dance Theater Workshop, Lincoln Center Institute, and Barnard College, she returned to Omaha in 1980.

"It was hard to make money as a dancer in New York. I came back to Omaha probably because I needed a break, and my family was here," said Ms. Majors.

She returned to Omaha and started her own company, the Dance Theater of Omaha. Her company will be doing a 1990 touring program funded by the Nebraska Arts Council, and they received grants from the Nebraska Arts Council for performances of Igor Stravinsky's "The Soldiers Tale" earlier this year.

Ms. Majors is the director of Dance Theater of Omaha and is also the director of

Space monsters with underbites

Hilary Foster

The television wasteland looms before millions of viewers who lie on their couches, listlessly flipping through the channels. At the touch of a button on a remote control pad, one can thumb through hundreds of movie channels, scores of talk shows and scattered sensationalist "wanna be" news shows. In this sea of viewing opportunity, the most satisfying hour of television is the old standby, Sesame Street.

For over a decade, this show has entertained and educated both adults and children across the nation. My childhood memories are filled with the escapades of Ernie and Bert. I have vivid memories of this "odd couple" going to the movies and being antagonized by the lady with the big hat, and Bert's everpresent paperclip collection.

Equally important in my young life were the lives of Maria, Susan, Gordon, Big Bird, Snuffaluffagus, and Oscar the Grouch. A child safe soap opera, the dramas of these characters kept me tuned in day after day.

Along with these stories, Sesame Street also taught me the famous 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12 song, and explained the purpose of each of the twenty-six letters of the alphabet. And who could forget the little purple monsters whose language is "Yip yip yip yip yip yip, Uh huh, uh huh."

Well, now that I have matured, I find myself returning to this wonderful episode of my past. After school, I used to rejuvenate myself by watching old Batman reruns. Since the tragic removal of the caped crusaders from the airwaves, I searched for something to amuse myself and happened upon my childhood favorite, Sesame Street.

The show has definitely come a long way since my pre-school days. A myriad of new characters have joined the show, like David the shopkeeper, and the new monsters, Telly and Elmo.

Along with the advancements of the storyline come some rather unfortunate drawbacks. A new episode, the Miami Mice, a takeoff of Miami Vice, has cartoon mice fighting crime in the walls of peoples houses. However, the good still outweighs the bad and I live through the Miami Mice to watch Big Bird plague Oscar.

In addition, the drama has heightened with the "Street's" anxious await of Maria's baby. To my shock, Snuffaluffagus has come into the open and everyone believes in him. (In my day, people thought of him as Big Bird's imaginary friend). Modern Sesame Street is full of new and exciting story lines, but it still contains the number songs and Ernie and Bert capers. Thank Goodness!

Holiday Events

- Christmas Prom.....Friday December 22 Peony Park Ballroom, \$15 per couple
A Christmas Carol ....through December 22 Omaha Community Playhouse, \$8 student rate
Mannheim Steamroller.....Orpheum Theater New Year's Eve tickets available, \$14.75
The Nutcracker.....December 14-17 Orpheum Theater, prices vary

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# Ex-Eagle borders on "big time"

— Benjamin Rouch —

Sam Johnson might be cracking into the entertainment "big time." With small success in



Sam Johnson

published writing and the rough draft of a screenplay completed, Johnson is lingering on the edge of stardom with a career in entertainment he began about ten years ago in the halls of Central High.

A 1981 Central High graduate, Johnson has always been interested in entertainment. He began working in the field, while attending Central, by

writing a comical, off-beat column for the Register while still managing to be the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief.

Sam also performed in the school musical, Hello Dolly, where he was cast as the male lead. He also performed as "Bernard" in a series of Road Show sketches which he wrote based on the wild Jules Feifer character. Sam credited these performance pieces as inspiration to write entertaining material, and later, screenplays.

"They got me interested in writing for movies, dramatic type stuff," he said. "Central has the funniest people. There's a lot of funny material just waiting to be used."

Sam did just that as he used those "funny people" as actual material for an underground newspaper he wrote and circulated at Central. However, Dr. G. E. Moller, Central High principal, wasn't too keen on the paper.

"I recall a particularly painful meeting with Dr. Moller," Sam said.

The purpose of the paper

was not to anger Dr. Moller but to entertain and most importantly, to keep writing.

"The more you write the better you get," he said.

Sam went on to graduate from Yale while still writing on his own. In 1985, with Yale roommate Chris Marcil, Sam wrote a comic piece about "direct mail" (Ed McMahon sweepstakes, record clubs) in which everything done in the piece was done by "direct mail." The piece was published by The New Yorker and Sam said this was a big break because it would now classify him as a published writer. This meant the next piece would have a better chance at publication.

Sam moved to New York to experience the world and to begin to attempt magazine writing. He also said he wanted to immerse himself in the "Information Age," and New York was just the place to do it: Broadway, cable TV, styles, attitudes—everything is in the city.

"There is an incredible

amount of stuff going on," Sam said. "It's important to get exposed to different kinds of people, different cultures."

Sam likened New York's atmosphere to Central's, except on a much larger scale. Central and New York are both active, cosmopolitan communities in which one is exposed to different kinds of people and different kinds of cultures, he said.

"Central is great because it's an energetic place," Sam said, "you can lose yourself in all those different pursuits."

Sam said experience helps but it is not for everybody. He said that participating in various activities and being in New York, in general made him feel like he was involved in what was going on. He said this made him feel like he knew what would and would not work in his writing.

In New York, Sam survived on writing press releases which he described as "not very glamorous" but the "bread and butter" of his existence. He wrote material about the most important

part of a book to be later used in reviews, talk shows, and news releases. He said creativity and his journalism skills, primarily the ones he learned at Central, helped him along in his work.

Sam said he is still writing for magazines and press releases, but he said he would "ultimately like to write for movies."

Sam has recently begun that pursuit. He wrote the script for a 12-minute feature about a woman who has moved out of her apartment, but her neighbors suspect foul play by aliens. He said it was a parody on the Unsolved Mysteries show.

His screenwriting career, his greatest ambition, he says, is also underway. He has written the rough draft for a movie about a "corporate office quest," which he describes as "roughly like the Wizard of Oz in an office building." Sam said he hopes to polish the screenplay and sell it in Hollywood. What does the near future have in store for Sam? More press releases, he said, and hopefully a career in movies.

## Half scale reptiles in "Dinosaur Encounter"

# Museum exhibits model dinos

— Jodi Chroma —

Four to five thousand "man hours" made possible a prehistoric jungle for dinosaur models at the Omaha Children's Museum, according to Mr. Steven Wheeldon, president of Heartland Scenic Studios.

The environment is part of the "Dinosaur Encounter," a display of animated half-scale dinosaur models that the museum leases from Dinamation International Corporation of San Juan Capistrano, California.

According to Mr. Wheeldon, two tape decks run constantly in the museum with "sounds that you might have heard [in prehistoric jungles], like bird sounds, only we slowed them down so you don't recognize them." He said that the dinosaur models themselves also "make a roaring sound."

Another sound that adds to the museum's atmosphere is that of dripping water in a man-made cave in the exhibit. Mr. Wheeldon said, "The water is from a hose, but we turned it down really low. Another feature of the Omaha Children's Museum exhibit is volcanoes made of a type of spray foam material.

Mr. Wheeldon said, "They have lights inside and [the volcanoes] were painted fluorescent black so it looks like they're glowing." He also said that smoke machines placed inside the volcanoes add to their effect.

Trees also are a part of the "Dinosaur Encounter" environment. According to Mr.

Wheeldon, the tree trunks are just some of the columns of the building covered with spray foam insulation and painted brown. Many of the tree limbs and leaves are real, but they were glued on the trunks, he said.

According to Mr. Wheeldon, Heartland Scenic Studios approached the planning of the Dinosaur Encounter exhibit "like a theatrical set, only it's 360 degrees. It's a unique exhibit. Not too many museums go to that extent [to create a display]," Mr. Wheeldon said.

Other museums across the United States also have models of dinosaurs from the Dinamation International Corporation. According to Mrs. Betsy Paragas, director of the Omaha Children's Museum, some of their associates saw the dinosaurs displayed in a museum in Kalamazoo, Michigan. "They loved them but didn't like the way that [the dinosaurs] were displayed on pedestals," she said.

"We wanted to create an interactive experience with a habitat around the dinosaurs," Mrs. Paragas said. The dinosaurs themselves move with compressed air and are controlled by computers, but she said that the prehistoric jungle setting makes the dinosaur models seem even more realistic.

According to Mrs. Paragas, the dinosaur models came fully assembled, originally from California, in three North American Vans. To accommodate the exhibit, the Children's Museum had to be relocated from 18th and St. Mary's in downtown Omaha to 20th and Howard, in what was originally the Team One Ford building. "The garage area was turned into the prehistoric jungle," she said.

As for the amount of time that the museum will be at that location with the Dinosaur Encounter, Mrs. Paragas said, "That's in the works right now." She said that green dinosaur tracks

were painted on the street leading from the old location to the new, but that they are wearing off. "The main reason that children are not frightened by the dinosaurs is that they know they're extinct. They know [the dinosaurs] can't get them. I find it refreshing that young people have a genuine respect for the exhibit. The Children's Museum also has a "Dinostore," which has "everything anyone could possibly want concerning dinosaurs," said Mrs. Paragas.

Mrs. Ricki Selva, Omaha Children's Museum floor manager, said that some children said that going to the "Dinosaur Encounter" is "like being at Epcot Center [in Florida]. That's stretching it a bit, but I'm grateful for that perception."

According to Mrs. Selva, parts of the environment probably aren't scientifically accurate. "We couldn't buy all ginkgo trees and ferns. Also, you wouldn't find all these dinosaurs living at once [because they were from different time periods]," she said. The exhibit was funded by the Peter Kiewit Foundation.

Junior Erika Gaylor, facilitator at the museum, said, "Some kids are scared [of the exhibit] and are convinced it is real." Junior Jennifer Voorhees, an Omaha Children's Museum clerk, said that a lot of people from out of town visit the museum. According to Jennifer, some of the visitors said that the Dinosaur Exhibit was the best they had ever seen because the exhibit isn't just dinosaur models in a room.



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Mortimor's Dance  
with  
Benjamin Rouch

The following column is rated R by the National Council of Stupid and Insignificant Columns. No one under seventeen may read on unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. This column is about the SAT and may contain material unsuitable for family reading (or reading at all). . . In Dolby stereo where available.

I walked into the SAT testing center with nerves of jello. I had screwed around for two years of my high school career. . .ok, ok. I had screwed around for all four years, and now I desperately needed a SAT grade of salvation to be accepted to any college, let alone one of the top party schools in the nation.

My class schedule didn't boast any high points, either: study hall, English, study hall, weight lifting, lunch, lunch aide, lunch again, social studies, study hall, and psychology. Wait a minute, did I drop psychology? You had to think in that class, so I probably did. As you can see, my academic endeavors were a little under par. I needed a great grade.

Mortimor did, too. He took all those ritzy honors courses, but he was never in class enough to get a decent grade. In fact, I don't think I ever saw him in school. He wasn't even here today to take the test!

It didn't take me long to figure out why. Some girl trying to get brownie points was taking roll and when she called out Mortimor's name, who should answer but Eugene Eugene: the smartest kid in the history of the school. Here I was about to end my life, and here Eugene Eugene was to begin Mortimor's.

This was the least of my problems, though. Our teacher turned out to be the man I consider the anti-christ, Mr. Hossenfeffer. The last time we met I was doing time in ISS. He didn't speak to me at all, but he had this look that said, "I've got you now! Ha Ha Ha!" So when he

## Harvard, Yale, and Mud

handed me my pencil I made sure it was the required No. 2 style.

"Please turn to Section A and PRINT the required information," Mr. Hossenfeffer said. Mr. Hossenfeffer stressed, "Please PRINT the required information."

This was it, I told myself, it was all or nothing now. I quickly filled out the "required information." You know, the standard stuff: any brothers or sisters, hobbies, future plans, ever been convicted of a vicious and inhumane crime. . . I answered yes to the last question.

"Yes, young man, you have a question?" asked the old goat.

"I don't understand part one," a voice answered. Mr. Hossenfeffer smiled and spoke, "That, young man, is where you print your name. They're asking you to print your name."

I almost died. How stupid could a person be? "Mr. Hossenfeffer" the voice asked again, "What's my name?"

I nearly died laughing. Did the kid even know he was alive!

"That's enough!" Mr. Hossenfeffer sneered in my direction, "Your name is mud," he answered back to the stupidest kid in the world.

"Are you sure it's mud?" he asked.

Finally, we began the test. Mr. Hossenfeffer gave us thirty minutes to complete thirty problems. It was a joke, too. I struggled through antonyms, and a harsh snore came from behind me by a guy whose name is mud.

To top it all off, Eugene Eugene finished the test. The kid finished the entire test in under thirty minutes. Mortimor is going to Harvard and hasn't even been to high school. The only place I'm going is to an insane asylum, and that's if I'm lucky enough to flunk out of high school.

"TIME!" Mr. Hossenfeffer bellowed. "You

will now have a ten minute rest break."

Thank God! I lurched out of my chair and out into the hall. I was planning to fly right out school to abort this self-torture, but I figured I had come this far, I might as well finish myself off.

Outside in the hall I listened to all the test chatter: how'd ya do, it wasn't all that bad, aaaarrgh, if I had only five more minutes, I put that too!

I was about to puke at all this nonsense. It got worse.

"I tell you she was hesitant!"

"What do you mean?"

"I mean I took time out of my test to sneak a peek at how she was doing and I tell you she wasn't fluid!"

"Fluid?"

"She wasn't moving right along. I tell you she was having trouble with the test!"

"Ohhhhh, no."

"Ohhhhh, yes: she'll never get into MIT now. She got a 2 in AP Physics and another 2 in AP Calculus. She's gonna slip in the class rankings, and I'm going to move up and take her place!"

"Ohhhhh, no."

"She'll have to go to Yale! Ha Ha Ha!"

"Ohhhhh, no. . . Yale!"

I puked right there on the floor.

"Mud" was still sleeping when I returned to my desk. He had filled out his name ("mud") on the form and that was it: nap time.

I was all of a sudden real, real worried about my future. I always thought I could breeze through school, Mortimor did, but then again I'm not Mortimor. I might as well be mud.

I wish I could take it all back and this time at least try to do well. If I tried for just one year it would have been better. It may have helped my future well-being. God knows I can't write this stupid column all my life.

## Horror fans still Time Warping

—Lena Gold—

"And God said: Let there be lips!"

It's late one lonely Friday night—or maybe it's Saturday, but it's still late and lonely. The clock is ticking, the T.V. is occupied by your parents and PBS, and you've been reduced to having stare-down matches with your cat.

You are bored. But, never fear, the situation isn't

terminal. In fact, there is an ultimate solution, something that's cheap, releases nervous energy, and puts you among friends. And you can do it any Friday or Saturday night you like. It's the *Rocky Horror* Picture Show at the Westroads AMC at midnight.

"LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN!!!!"

Many long years ago, around the late 1960's, and the early 1970's, *Rocky Horror* was conceived in the mind of an

unemployed actor, Richard O'Brien (who plays the character of Riff-Raff in the movie), as a short script called *They Came From Denton High*. With the influence of Sam Shepard's *The Unseen Hand*, and the contributed ideas of a few of O'Brien's associates, *Rocky Horror* was born. It premiered as a play at the Theatre Upstairs in London on June 16, 1973. *Rocky* drew sellout crowds night after night, and for the next year, seeing *Rocky* in London was the

"in" thing to do. Special *Rocky Horror* travel packages were even available from Paris.

The play's claim to fame was its audience involvement. Sets were built around and through the theater to erase the barrier between the audience and the performance. This created astounding results, and *Rocky* was a hit.

*Rocky's* success continued in the U.S. where it opened in 1974 at a Los Angeles club called the Roxy. The show seemed destined for success.

The film was made in London in 1974, and on October 21, 1974, *Rocky* opened on Broadway. However, for the Broadway production, the sets were done in a more traditional style, and without the successful audience involvement that the show was famous for, *Rocky* fell on its face. The film, too, was a bust, and it seemed that the one million dollars put into its production was money down the drain.

However, it was noticed that the film did well around college campuses, and, once it moved into the midnight time slot, the cults formed, and box office figures soared. By 1978, *Rocky* was playing as a midnight movie throughout the country.

"Dammit, Janet! I love

you!"

It's not clear how the original audience participation started, but by 1977, an entire alternative dialogue existed, and the majority of it is credited to Louis F. Farese Jr. Farese first saw the movie on Labor Day weekend 1976, and after seeing it over and over, had the compelling urge to talk back to the screen. *Rocky Horror* soon became an audience controlled show, complete with a live corset-clad cast to mime the actors on the screen. *Rocky* had gone from movie to party.

"You're wet."

Central Senior, Jamie Wright, has seen *Rocky* forty-three times in the past year. "It's a stress reliever," he says, "a release from the normal." Most agree that a movie about two engaged nerds and a castle full of alien transvestites is definitely a release from the normal. "Some people think it's stupid, and some people love it," says Jamie, who often takes virgins (people who haven't seen the movie before) to *Rocky*. Another Central Senior, Quane Ludwig, was one of Jamie's victims. His first impression was one of disbelief. "No way!" he quotes himself as saying. "I was utterly overwhelmed the first time I saw it," he says. "It's a humbling experience. Jammin' music!"



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# Conditioning, team work, could lead to successful season

—Christopher Harz—

"We can be in the top five in the metro rankings this year," said Mr. Jim Martin, varsity basketball coach, about this year's Central varsity basketball team.

Other metro coaches have ranked Central third in The Holiday Tournament which will be played over Christmas vacation.

There is a hard work ethic on the team. "We go over

**"This team has an excellent mix of veterans and newcomers who have moved up from the J.V. team."**

all the basic fundamentals and have been conditioning extremely hard during practice," said Mr. Martin.

The team has been working on its team defense. Junior, Shon Greene, has been hitting the boards hard, and senior, Karibu Crudup, has been showing some excellent ability on the defensive end of the game, commented Mr. Martin.

The 6'7" center, senior Walter Outlaw, is also a major factor on defense for blocking

shots and getting rebounds.

"The toughest team this year to play is going to be South," said Walter. This was also the opinion of Coach Martin, who said the reason for this is because South has a lot of experience returning from last year.

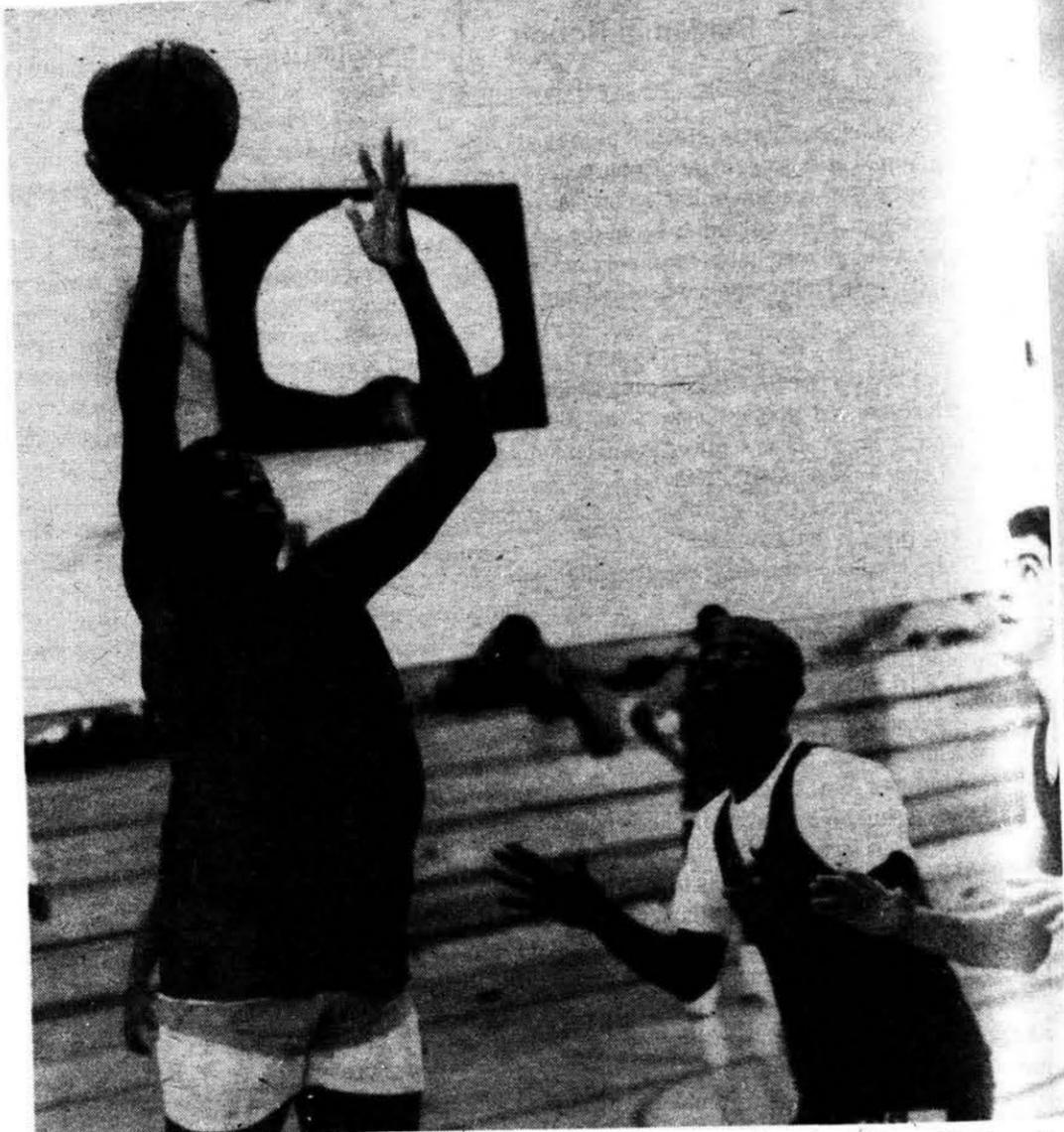
Mr. Martin said that he plans on playing a more up-tempo game, the run and gun offense. "When we start to run there will be hardly anyone who can stop us," said Karibu.

"This team has an excellent mix of veterans and newcomers who have moved up from the J.V. team," said Mr. Martin.

One of those players is Shon Greene, a J. V. player last year who also suited up for varsity. According to Shon, the biggest change for him from last year to this year is the greater competition and the more physical play.

Many team members played together over the summer on a team called the Cavaliers, also a benefit to the team, said Mr. Martin. The four players are seniors, Mike Walker and Loren Kirk, and juniors, Shon Greene and Robert Lewis. Senior, Brian Owens, is also playing very well, said Mr. Martin.

The first game of the season is tonight at Northwest, starting at eight o'clock.



Shon Greene takes a shot during practice while juniors, Tracey Finley and Brett Wolfe watch. Photo by Andre Gilmore

## Chess club rebuilding after graduation losses

—Mara Taylor—

The Central High Chess Club had their first match on November 21 against Bryan High School.

According to Mr. Roeder, sponsor, the Central team lost the match to Bryan. However, he said, "They (Bryan) have traditionally been one of the tougher teams in the metro to beat."

Mr. Roeder said that this year is going to be a rebuilding year for the team. "Last year our team finished second in the metro, and one of our players, Eric Troy, tied for the state championship. He became co-champ," Mr. Roeder said.

Mr. Roeder, who has sponsored the chess team for the past two years along with Mr. Shipman, said his toughest chess players include Hank Thompson, Eric Troy, and Tim Farkus.

Eric Troy, senior and last year's state co-champ, said, "Chess provides an escape form the normal

scheme of things."

Hank Thompson, junior, said, "It's the only thing I've won a trophy for, and it gives me the chance to compete and play against other people."

Eric said, "I've played chess so long because I like being able to plan my strategies and watch the person across from me squirm."

According to Mr. Roeder, the team practices each day from an hour to an hour and a half, not including matches which, he said, can last up to two hours.

"The players also spend a lot of time practicing and playing at home on their own time," he said.

Hank spends at least five to six hours a week playing and practicing chess. He said, "The amount of time that I spend on chess depends on whether or

not it's chess season."

Mr. Roeder said that he considers this year's chess team to be some of the smarter students in their class, "but being smart and being able to play chess well don't go hand in glove."

Defining the chess team as a sport or a club is difficult, according to Mr. Roeder. "It's certainly not athletic. I don't consider it a sport, but it's more than a club."

Eric said that he would like to see this year's team improve on quality and hopefully make it to the national level.

"My goal at this point," Hank said, "is to be able to beat any casual player. I'm not that good within the sport, but I can play [well] against people that don't play chess constantly."



Junior, Hank Thompson, member of the chess club, contemplates his next move during a recent chess club meeting. Photo by Sean Chapman

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Offsides with Justin Mcwhorter



# New indoor sports prevail when Old Man Winter taints the weather

Listen up sports fans. Winter is upon us and many of the activities that we often participate in need to take place indoors because of the foul weather.

I don't know about you, but when I get confined inside a house I tend to go, let's just say, indescribably crazy. I find myself fidgety, worrisome and altogether ancy. I feel the need to let off cooped-up energy in one way or another.

I have been putting a lot of thought into different types of sports and activities that anyone with a touch of imagination and a sense of true sports vision can partake in and enjoy whenever "Old Man Winter" makes outdoor activities physically or even sometimes morally impossible.

The four games (if you can actually bestow that definition upon them) I have found most fitting for use as vehicles for releasing unbridled winter-time anxiety are about to be explained to you in full detail.

The first way to enjoy a typically outdoor sport in the privacy of your own home is to participate in Sink Skating. As you have probably already guessed this diversion is directly related to skateboarding.

You can make a deck out of a popsicle stick that was either formerly holding your pudding pop together or purchased at your local craft store. Wheels from an old Matchbox Car can be affixed with a staple or some heavy-duty packing tape. A secure hold must be obtained to insure that your skate stays together during the difficult and gut-wrenching maneuvers that are achieved on the sink/bowl. If you are worried about potential slipping, grip tape may be applied to the top of the stick.

I suggest a simple free-style event would be the best way to start out. When you learn how to propel this miniature board that you've made a little better, other

events such as height and distance competitions are in order.

Living room Hockey/Soccer are games that can be played with the feel of the real game. I've found that an effective ball/puck can be made out of crumpled newspapers covered with at least two layers of all-purpose duct tape. This ball is not only as durable as heck, it also won't mark your mother's precious furniture.

When playing the hockey version of this game brooms or old golf clubs may be used as sticks. I like to use a five iron because you can either send a screamer to the lower left corner or loft an easy shot right over the unsuspecting goalie's shoulder.

The shape of your living room and amount of furniture contained there-in does not change the rules of this game. A Lazy-Boy acts as an incredible screen just as the loveseat in the corner can serve as a penalty box. The acute angles in many of these modern living rooms makes for some very interesting shots on the goal.

You should follow the rules that you decide on before the game and take into consideration that in many of the larger arenas, the breaking of an item is an automatic two minutes in the box.

Teams of two are recommended because of the obvious crowding that can occur in such close quarters. As you progress in your dribbling and shooting abilities, additional rules such as two touches before a shot and no shots within a certain distance marked from the goal will increase the intensity of the game.

My third game intended to make this winter a little more bearable is the old stand-by Doorway Basketball.

I like to use a hanger that I usually pick up off the floor of my room. It is bent in such a way that the triangle

is opened and the hook is bent to grapple the closed door.

The ball is traditionally a pair of long, white tubesocks that have been folded in such a way that they resemble a ball. However, any semi-round object is adequate. Playing on your knees is required because of the height of the basket. There is no dribbling.

No fouls should be called because free throws are too easy to make, and no out-of-bounds should be established unless of course the ball rolls under your bed. In cases like this, whoever can fight their way to the ball first gets it.

The games of twenty-one and horse can offer the best way to enjoy this somewhat deranged form of basketball.

Clothes-chute Fishing is not for the weekend fisherman. I made this up specifically for those of you who like to fish on those hot, lazy days of summer and can't see why anyone would want to walk out on a frozen lake in arctic temperatures to fish through a hole in the ice.

All you need to make your angling dreams come true is a couple of feet of string and an old wire hanger. You must cut the hooked end off the hanger with some wire-cutters and then tie it to one end of your string. Make sure the knot is tight so you don't end up telling a story about "the big one that got away."

Anything that can be picked up by the hook of a hanger is appropriate to use as a fish. Attach point values to these items and set them at the bottom of the laundry chute in the basement. You must then go to the next floor and drop your line.

These are just a few ways that I thought of to make the monotony of staying inside during the winter a little less monotonous.

## U.S.V.B.A. new opportunity for volleyball in metro

Renee Grush

Although the volleyball season has come to an end, Central has plans for off-

season competition.

According to senior Susan MacDissi, varsity volleyball player, Central's volleyball coach, Miss Debbie

Hettwer, along with South's and Westside's coach are organizing a U.S.V.B.A. (United States Volleyball Association) program at Central for the first year.

Senior, varsity player, Diane Wageman described the program as "competitive, off-season volleyball to improve and stay in shape during the winter."

According to Diane, she has participated in the program for the past two years at Millard North.

"Volleyball has gotten bigger and better in Nebraska the past five years," Diane said. "This program provides more coaches than highschool volleyball can, which can help you get a new perspective."

Miss Hettwer said that the current players involved in U.S.V.B.A. will receive help from coaches who played for both UNL and UNO.

According to Diane, U.S.V.B.A. has previously been available at Bellevue, the College of St. Mary, Millard North and in Lincoln.

"[U.S.V.B.A.] is definitely related to the outcome of regular season volleyball," Miss Hettwer said. "Ninety-nine percent of successful teams practice year round."

Although U.S.V.B.A. is not a requirement to play Central volleyball, it is strongly recommended.

"It helps a lot to prepare the whole team, and the individual for the next season," Susan said. "It also helps the

coaches to determine how much each person wants to put into their playing."

According to Miss Hettwer, Central's program will be slightly different than Millard North's in that it is not extreme, all-year practice, but more just fun.

"We're going to practice on Saturdays only, to allow the girls to participate in other sports during the week," Miss Hettwer said. "The idea is to stay familiar with volleyball, rather than to be so competitive year round that they burn out by August."

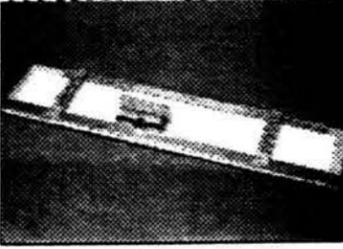
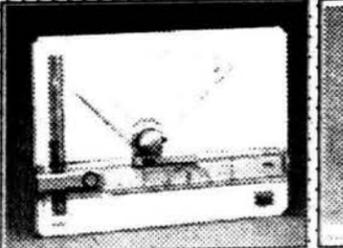
**"It helps a lot to prepare the whole team and the individual for the next season"**

Miss Hettwer said that it is a great advantage having the program at Central because it eliminates travelling time.

"We are thrilled that Mr. Jones allowed us to use the gym here," Miss Hettwer said.

In an effort to raise money for program, a raffle for a T.V., a radio-cassette player and a turkey, will be held on December 1.

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# Thrill-seeking Central student climbs rocks as weekend sport

—Mara Taylor—

Why would anybody travel to a barren stretch of land in Colorado to climb a rock? Because it is there, of course!

Aaron Miller, freshman, spends many of his weekends sporting ropes, harnesses, and clamps as he scales up small mountains and large rocks.

According to Aaron he began rock climbing at the advice of a friend and his dad. "They invited me to go with them to South Dakota for the weekend," he said, "and that's when I was introduced to the sport."

Since that time, Aaron said that he has improved greatly on both his knowledge and his ability, although he is still a "beginner." "I've climbed a rock that rated 5-9 on steepness [5-14

is the steepest], which is fair," he said.

According to Aaron the highest rock he has ever climbed was 500 feet high.

"I mostly go to Colorado and South Dakota on the weekends, and sometimes I'll catch a plane to Kansas City and climb down there for practice," he said.

**"I mostly go to Colorado and South Dakota on the weekends, and sometimes, I'll catch a plane to Kansas City and climb down there and practice."**

Aaron said the most difficult part of rock climbing is getting up the rock. "Overhangs are really hard because they require a lot of upper body strength, which is very important in this sport."

There are also different types of rocks that are harder to climb than some, Aaron said. "It

depends on the equipment," he said, "but rocks that crack and break when you grip them, and the smooth, flat rocks are really tough."

Sandstone, Aaron said, is an example of a type of rock that is difficult for climbing.

"I've never had any serious injuries from climbing, just strained muscles and a sprained

ankle from a minor fall," he said.

According to Aaron, many risks are involved when climbing very steep or high rocks, "but the equipment makes it safe if you use it right. It is much safer to top-rope, or secure the rope and then attempt to climb, than it is to lead, which is securing the rope as you climb," he said.

Equipment common to safety conscious rock climbers includes ropes, special flat shoes, a harness to wear around your legs and waist, and repelling equipment for the climb back down, Aaron said.

According to Aaron, weather can also play a big role on the safety of a climb. "If the rocks are slippery and ice-covered

you can't climb them, although there are some that do, some that even climb frozen waterfalls," he said, "but if my hands get super cold then it's hard to move them and I don't get good enough grips."

Aaron enjoys rock climbing because "it's a good thrill," he said. "Just being able

to do it and to accomplish something new and different is exciting."

"There are some people who are really into this," he said, "and put indoor rock climbing set-ups in their basements. There are even indoor facilities in California and other places that offer it as a recreational indoor sport."

Aaron said that he thinks this is a good idea because it allows you to perform the sport all year round, and it offers good practice time and a way of developing better skills. "You don't get quite the same thrill as you would climbing outside, though," he said.

Aaron said, "I would like to climb to the top of Devils Tower in Wyoming and then hang-glide off. That would be a real thrill!"

## Central Swim Team

# Experienced and hard-working team make state championship possibility two strokes easier

—Renee Grush—

Central's swim team began practice in preparation for the upcoming meets of this season.

According to junior Heather Dunbar, the swimmers have high aspirations for the season.

"The team has strength in its experienced swimmers," Heather said.

"The new freshmen and sophomores also add to the team and will make a big difference in future teams."

Assistant coach Ms. Connie Kozak agreed.

"I think the girls will have one of the best seasons they've had in years due to both number and quality," Ms. Kozak said.

"It's still too early to tell how the boys will do."

According to senior Keith Klanderud, each swimmer's goal is to go to state.

"The team has progressed since I was a sophomore and gets better every year," said Keith.

"I think we have a pretty good chance."

Senior Simone Wehbe said



Simone Wehbe and Keith Klanderud demonstrate their stroking abilities during an after school practice. Photo by Andre Gilmore

Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:15 till 7:00, and after Christmas, will have early swim practices on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, as well as regular two hour practices after school.

"We have a good chance to compete with teams who have been traditionally outstanding," Ms. Kozak said.

According to senior Nicole Gerhard, the season will start off with a meet against Westside, the state champions.

"We've got our most difficult meets right at the beginning, so hopefully we'll get our times down right away," Nicole said.

According to Keith, even

have advantages over Central.

"We didn't have any pre-season, so we're starting off a little behind other teams," said Nicole, "but we're catching up really well."

"I know this is something that the swimmers complain about every year," Keith said, "but in order to have a

## Triathletes spend summer in competition

—Chris Harz—

What sport consists of swimming one mile, cycling 25 miles, and running 6.2 miles?

The answer is a triathlon.

Two Central juniors, Rob Shradar and Matt Stonehouse, compete in triathalons regularly.

### Successful Summer

Matt had to sit out for most of the summer because of a broken arm.

Matt competed in two events this summer, finishing second in both.

Rob competed in six events this summer, winning five out of the six.

Rob and Matt usually compete in local events, but Rob also travels to Iowa for competitions.

### Future Events

"Next year I'm going to travel to Texas, California, and Florida because these are the hot spots for big triathalons," said Rob.

Currently Rob is ranked first in Iowa and Nebraska in his age group of ages 15 to 17.

Rob's only loss was in the Iowa state championships which he lost by 26 seconds.

My goal is to qualify for the Iron-Man Triathlon when I'm 18," said Rob.

### Training

During the summer, Matt and Rob each practice almost every day.

Their training consists of swimming 4500 meters, cycling 45 miles six days a week and running four to six miles a day.

According to Matt, the biggest problem of training for triathalons is trying to find the time to practice.

SPORTS CALENDAR		
<p><b>GIRLS BASKETBALL</b></p> <p>Dec. 7: JV North (A)</p> <p>Dec. 8: Freshman South (A)</p> <p>Dec. 9: Varsity North (H)</p> <p>Dec. 14: JV Burke (A)</p> <p>Dec. 15: Freshman Bryan (A)</p> <p>Dec. 16: V Lincoln (A)</p>	<p><b>SWIMMING</b></p> <p>Dec. 12: Bellevue W.(H)</p> <p>Dec. 19: Northwest(A)</p>	<p><b>BOYS BASKETBALL</b></p> <p>Dec. 7: JV North (H)</p> <p>Dec. 8: Freshman South (H)</p> <p>Dec. 9: V North (H)</p> <p>Dec. 15: Freshman Bryan (H)</p> <p>Dec. 16: JV Burke(H) Reserve (H)</p> <p>Dec. 21: Freshman (H)</p>
<p><b>WRESTLING</b></p> <p>Dec. 7: South Invitational</p> <p>Dec. 8: South Invitational</p> <p>Dec. 9: Council Bluffs Invitational</p> <p>Dec. 12: Papio (A)</p> <p>Dec. 19: Prep (H)</p>		