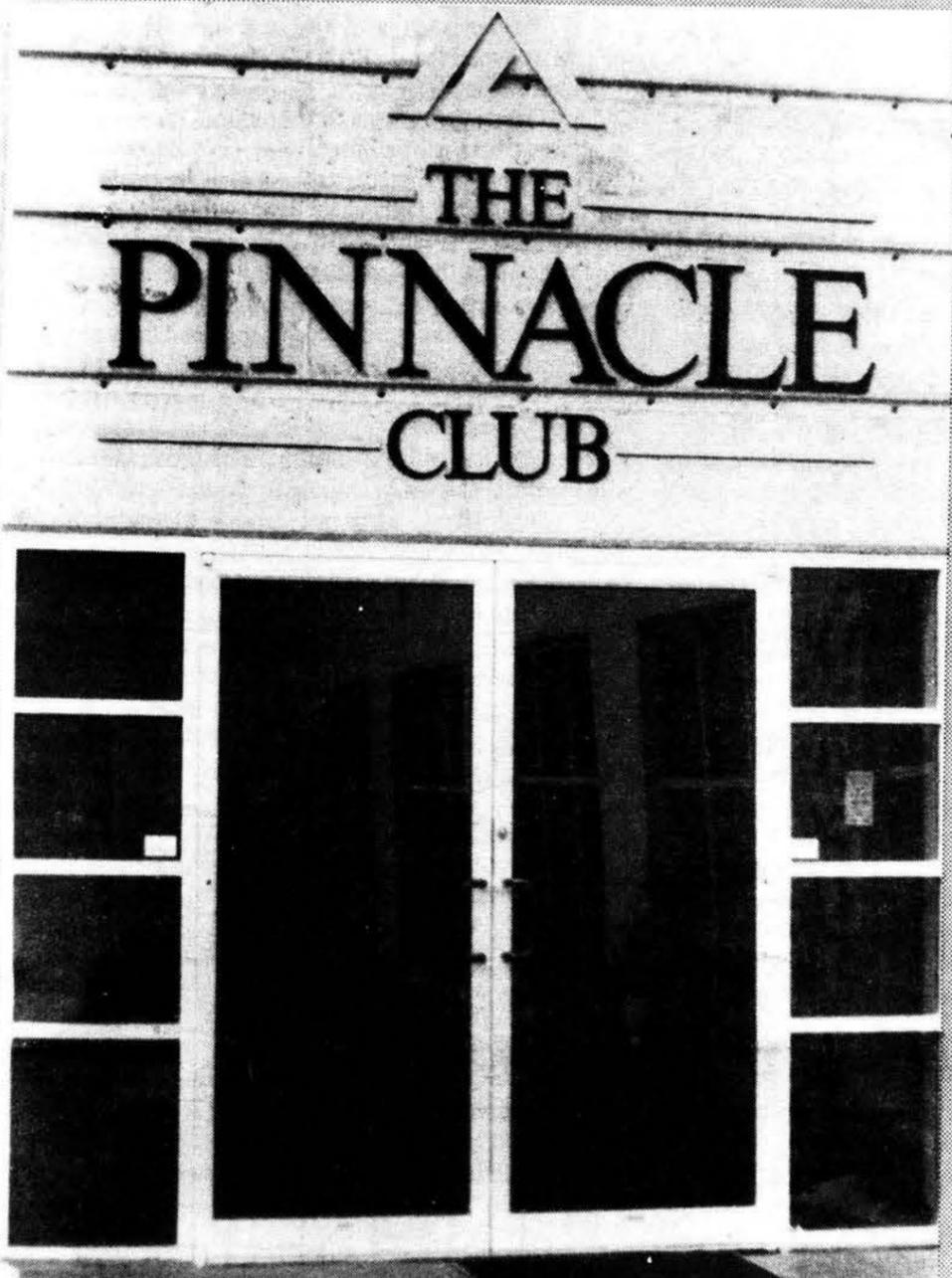


Central High School  
124 N. 20th St.  
Omaha, NE 68102

# Central High School REGISTER

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**The Pinnacle Club**, a health club located across the street from Central in the Scouler Grain building provides a place for downtown business people to exercise. A number of Central faculty members work out at the club. Photo by Sean Chapman

## Teachers achieve 'pinnacle' of recreation and fitness

Jodi Chruma

Just about 174 steps from the Central High School sign on the lawn facing Dodge Street lies The Pinnacle Club. What is a pinnacle, you ask?

According to Webster's dictionary, a high point of achievement or development is a pinnacle.

The Pinnacle Club offers fitness facilities to help downtown Omaha business people reach a high level of fitness.

Mr. Phil Kass, recreation administrator at The Pinnacle Club, said that about 29 downtown Omaha businesses, including Central, have members of the club. Mr. Kass said that 14 people from OPS are members of the club and that about 12 of them are Central teachers.

All members have access to the 28,000 square feet, (spread out over two floors) of the club, according to Mr. Kass.

Facilities include an Olympic-sized pool, indoor track, basketball court, aerobics area and racquetball courts. Other facilities include a fitness testing lab, strength training area and locker/shower rooms.

Mr. Roy Hunter, manager of The Pinnacle Club, said that the building had been owned by Enron Corporation, but that it is now part of Scouler Properties, Inc.

According to Mr. Hunter, the building's health club was renovated in late 1987.

Mr. Hunter said that many of the companies that utilize The Pinnacle Club view it as "their own private fitness center."

"Our goal is to reach 1,000 members. We hope to be there by one year from [the day that the club opened,

which will be] August 1, 1990.

Miss Laura Meehan, The Pinnacle Club receptionist, said that monthly membership fees are \$30, with no initiation fee. She said that many employers "help out by subsidizing," but that Central High School staff must pay the \$30 on their own.

Mr. Paul Pennington, Central math teacher, said, "When the day's over, you're exhausted from teaching, but once you're [at The Pinnacle Club], you enjoy the fact that you're there. You go home feeling better if you've had some physical exercise instead of just standing in front of a class teaching."

**"When the day's over,  
you're exhausted from teaching,  
but once you're [at The  
Pinnacle Club], you enjoy the  
fact that you're there."  
- Mr. Paul Pennington**

Mr. Pennington said that he goes to The Pinnacle Club specifically for racquetball.

Mrs. Joann Roehl, Central home economics teacher, said that the club is "clean and everyone is very friendly." No one seems to mind that you're not really in shape. According to Mrs. Roehl, she works out at the club two to three times per week for a half hour.

## Benson, North, South Renovation updates schools

Hilary Foster

All buildings must be renovated at some point in time, and schools are no exception. In fact, schools must be renovated not only to keep up the physical building, but also to keep the school up to date with the technological needs of its students.

"[Central] completed the renovation five years ago," said principal Dr. G. E. Moller. He said that Central's renovation spanned almost ten years. During this time, the auditorium and track were put in, the ceilings, carpeting, window frames and offices were all completely redone. Additionally, the counselors were centralized into one office.

Currently, three other OPS schools are undergoing extensive renovation. North, Benson, and South high schools will be redone.

Mrs. Joyce Christensen, principal of South, said, "We are currently under construction of the athletic facility and the technical center."

The construction at South started last May and will continue for the next three or four years, according to Mrs. Christensen. "We have closed off part of the school. Students don't have access to the first floor," she said.

"Our goal is to keep school as normal as possible for the current students," Mrs. Christensen said. She said that is why South has "the longer phasing in the project."

According to Mrs. Christensen, the school day will not be shortened at South, but students will have to attend classes in smaller areas.

"Basically, we are using smaller spaces and moving [classrooms] into offices. There is not a room that is not used full time. It's the creative use of areas," she said.

Although the construction is an obstacle, Mrs. Christensen said that she feels very excited. "We are able to put up with the dust and noise because there will be a much better learning environment." She added that there is a feeling of excitement among the students and parents.

Dr. Orville Matzke, assistant principal of North High said that North will be adding science labs, a student center, a counseling center, and that "all classrooms will be made to look better."

The construction will take "close to four or five years," he said. "We've lost four science labs at this point as well as two shop classes and drafting rooms [to the construction] . . . the building gets tight."

"Right now we don't think we will have to [cut school]," Dr. Matzke said. Although space is at a premium, he said that they have divided some rooms to make other classrooms.

"The students take it well . . . they are as thrilled as can be about the renovations," he added.

Continued on Page 9 . . .

"I have to work myself up to the condition where I won't sink to the bottom of the pool," Mrs. Roehl said.

Mr. Jerome Gillogly, Central social studies teacher, said that when he heard that The Pinnacle Club was going to open up, he was glad that there was finally a place where he could go right after school to use. "It's a very efficient, clean place with a nice location. I'm very impressed," he said.

According to Mr. Gillogly, working out at The Pinnacle Club is a real "picker-upper. I can't wait until the next time I'll go. I'm that enthused," he said.

Mr. Gillogly said that he usually goes to The Pinnacle Club three times a week for an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes and has been doing so since February. "It isn't very crowded. You don't have to wait around, you just go in and do your thing. We have the benefit over others in the [downtown] business community because we can leave school at 3:15.

Mr. Paul Semrad, student support teacher, said that he can go to The Pinnacle Club after school and get home by 5:00-5:30. "It's convenient and so close," he said.

Mr. Semrad said that he mainly plays racquetball. "When you play against someone like Mr. Keenan-he's played a long time- it can be a humbling experience, but it allows me to get some exercise."

The Pinnacle Club members can bring their whole family with them on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Regular hours are from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., on Monday - Friday, and 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 on Saturday.

The facility is closed on Sunday.

Do you think that teachers deserve a raise in pay in Nebraska?  
 Yes 167(90.5%) No 21(8.9%)  
 Total 188



Vanessa Strazdas, freshman: No, because they only have to work nine months a year.



Duncan Joyner, sophomore: We have a good academic program and they should have a salary that is consistent with their teaching skills.



Mike Gonzales, junior: Yes, because they put up with bad students, bad behavior, truancy, and failure to turn in homework. All of them are very knowledgeable. They help to shape kids into fine professionals of the future.



Geri Young, senior: Yes, because some of the teachers are really good and they deserve it.



Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, Social Studies teacher: Definitely. For the quality product that Nebraska teachers produce, our teachers are grossly underpaid.

photos by Sean Chapman

# Teachers' salaries inadequate

Thanks to Central's "Partners in Excellence," American Charter, Central teachers got a little appreciation in the form of a special breakfast and lunch in the courtyard on Teacher Appreciation Day. Even though this was a noble gesture, teachers deserve even more. They deserve more money, respect, and benefits because what they do is probably one of the most important jobs in existence.

Although they often get students who are undisciplined, obnoxious, or uninterested, they realize they hold in their hands the futures of America and take the obligation extremely seriously.

Unfortunately, teaching is one of the most unpopular jobs known, especially in Nebraska, where the median starting salary in 1989 for an OPS public school teacher with a bachelor's degree was \$19,325.

Considering the median salary for teachers in the entire

United States is \$31,357 and the Nebraska average teacher's pay per year is \$24,751, one might think that students in Nebraska would be considerably less educated. However, on standardized tests, Nebraska students' scores are consistently in the upper five percent in the country. This is pretty good for students whose teachers' salaries rank 42nd nationally.

Opponents of teacher raises argue that since the cost of living in Nebraska is much less than in other parts of the country, it is inevitable that salaries here would be less than in San Francisco or New York.

Furthermore, a proposed educational spending lid will make it impossible for the school boards of Nebraska to appropriate teacher raises that will keep pace with the rising costs of living.

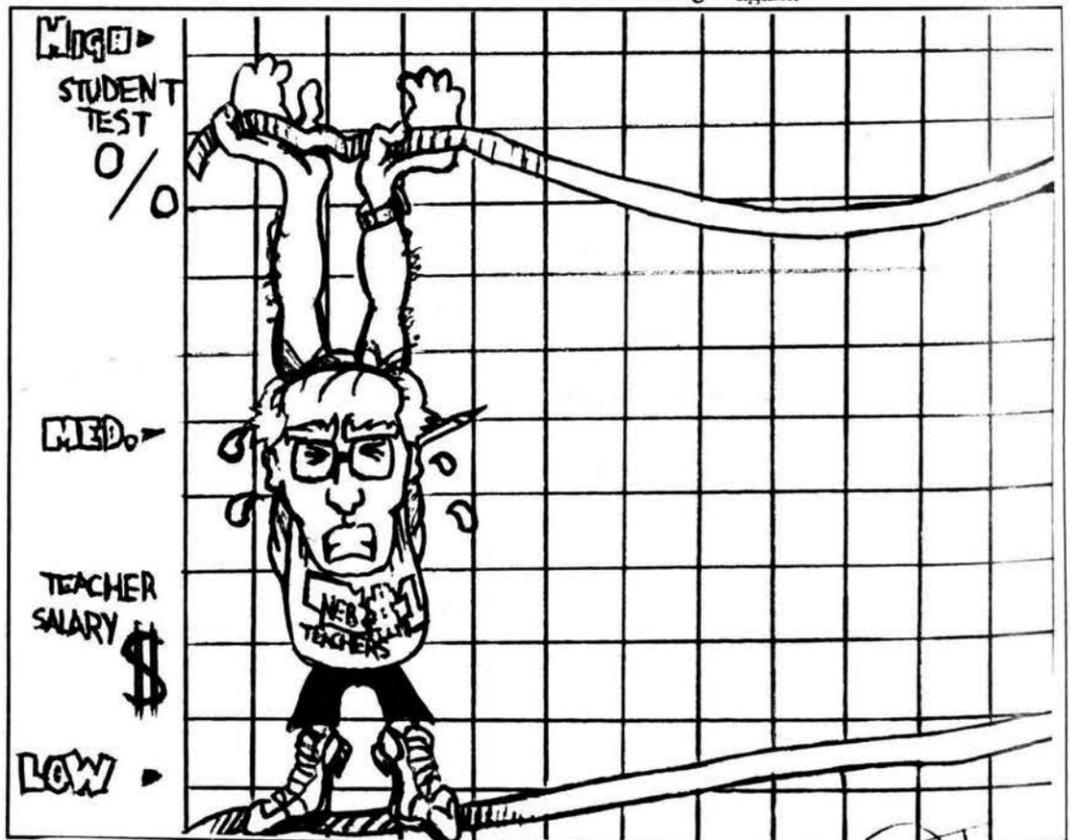
With these kinds of incentives, who would want to become a teacher when one could enter the business world making

twice or triple that?

Also, teachers are being required to take additional hours of human relations at the college of their choice to renew their teaching licenses after January 13, 1993. This action will make the teaching profession even less attractive to bright, young teachers who may be easily enticed by corporations or businesses needing the skills these people have to offer.

Becoming a teacher is getting more difficult and less attractive. With these kinds of negative trends, finding dedicated and loyal educators for the youth of America is going to become harder and harder in the years to come.

With all the evils the world has to offer the children of the next generation, someone must try to make sure we have qualified people to teach those kids about the mistakes that have been made and how to avoid making them again.



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# U.S. education needs improvement

In many elections across the country this spring, improving education is a major plank in the political platform. Everyone has an opinion about what is lacking in the United States educational system, and just as many people have ideas about what can be done to make it better.

The rush to improve began in the last decade when reports surfaced indicating that students in Japan were superior to American students in math and the sciences. Further studies in the United States found that the majority of high school students were also illiterate in history and geography.

Perhaps one reason for the poor performance of American students is that society tends to reward sports ability rather than academic brilliance. The kid with straight A's in A.P. Physics and A.P. Math cannot get a date for the Prom, but the star basketball player is elected Prom King. Certainly, sports are of importance in American high schools, but they should not be the focus.

The most feasible solution to improving education would be to begin again. Educators and law makers should examine the successful systems of other countries before deciding what to do.

One idea that some law makers have considered is a minimum competency exam at the end of high school. Some countries already have such an exam. In West Germany, for example, if a student does not pass his *Abitur* in two attempts, he is not considered a graduate of high school and cannot continue at a university.

A test like this in the United States would require all students to pass in order to receive their diplomas. These exams need not be as stringent as those of other countries, but students should have to prove competency in basic math, reading, history and geography.

Some may argue that these tests would not be fair to students who did not have access to good schools. So the U.S. needs to raise the standards of all

schools. The government has the money: in the defense budget, 28.8 percent of the GNP goes to defense, while only 3.2 percent is for education.

Another necessity is the raising of teachers' salaries. Teaching is not a glamorous job, and teachers are paid very little for the work they do. In comparison, teachers in West Germany earn one and one half to two times as much as the average of all other workers.

Schools should not rush to improve math ability by doubling the science requirement, for that would eliminate all courses in the Humanities and make all students technical robots that could only think in numbers. Yes, abilities in these areas must increase, but not at the expense of creativity.

No one has all the answers to improving education in the United States. But as the lack of education is the root cause of many of the problems plaguing society today, education of future generations should continue to be the main concern of law makers.



**Spontaneous Combustion with Stacy Gottschalk**

*"Oh say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!!!"*

Yes, Americans are brave. Free? Well, supposedly. Our star-spangled banner lives on (and on and hopefully on). And yet the American flag does not always, except in the military, carry the same meaning as it used to. On the streets of America, things have changed.

Violence is virtually everywhere. Assaults, rapes, murders, robberies—they happen every day. A person can hardly watch the news without hearing about another act of violence, senseless or otherwise.

In an old song by the Boomtown Rats, this was a mother's explanation as to why she killed her family: "I don't like Mondays." Far-fetched? Not really, a woman did actually kill her family and offer that explanation. "The lesson for the day was how to die."

A valuable lesson, there's no doubt about it. If gangs kill others because of the colors they wear (it is somewhat ironic that both of those colors represent our country on our nation's flag), then a woman killing her family because of a bad weekday seems perfectly reasonable.

But rather than actually being killed, it would have been much easier and healthier to watch the news or to take a walk down the streets of any city, including Omaha.

*The land of the free, the home of the brave*

**America not always so beautiful**

Drugs are always in the news. Crack houses operate while drug lords lounge around in South America. Americans give birth to cocaine babies who hardly stand a chance. These babies could, with help, succeed in life, or they might more likely end up on the streets selling or using drugs, just like their parents. They are not free.

In the meantime, the drug lords continue to prosper. It's a vicious and entrapping cycle—real and potent. Even the mayor of the capital city of the United States has been involved. If that's not sad, I don't know what is.

While in Boston last October, I watched a man stagger onto the subway and sink down into the seat across from me. Hungry, tired, and stinking drunk, he kept falling asleep onto the shoulder of a girl, who patiently and repeatedly nudged the man to awaken him. This poor, homeless man was riding the subway with no particular destination in mind (not that he could have found it if he had had one).

Another time, when I was in San Francisco, I saw a homeless woman who had a thin and sickly puppy tied to her belongings. I really felt for this woman and her plight, and I could barely stand to see such a miserable situation for the dog. He would have been much happier in the city pound, but the lady was alone. Her puppy kept her company while she begged for money. It was sickening.

I have seen these people in Washington D.C., New York, other large metropolitan areas, and even Omaha. They are lonely, not to mention hungry. They beg for money. They get any food that they can from trash bins, and they sleep in gutters, where they also expel their bodily wastes. It's a wonder that these homeless people still have the will to live. The American

flag must mean little or nothing to them.

What will the future hold for America? Somehow, I doubt that it will be like the clean futuristic world we usually picture. Unless we try with all of our might, there will still be violence, drugs, and the homeless problem. There will still be poverty and pain. Subways will continue to smell like urine, and mothers will kill their families. People will continue to burn the the symbol of our country, the American flag.

The strong will survive; the meek will suffer. Our meek are the poor. Our poor are suffering, and so is our country. America the beautiful? I think not. We must make everyone strong, but this is a monumental task.

Jim Morrison said in one of his poems: "I used to believe in the good old days." I couldn't agree more. Then again, I have never lived in "the good old days," because none of us ever have. I used to believe that there were such things as the "good old days," but now I know better.

I feel as if I am adrift in a sea of apathy. America is not as wonderful as I, in the blessed innocence of childhood, once thought it to be. Actually, the only time that I really feel like a true-blue American is at the annual World-Herald fireworks display at Rosenblatt Stadium on the Fourth of July, and that only lasts for an hour or two at the most.

But I did say that "our star-spangled banner lives on (and on and hopefully on)." As many problems as our country has, we are still brave, and enough of us are undeniably proud. With a lot of effort, we, the citizens of America, can change these things. It is not too late, and I do believe this. We can all be free, at least Americans still have that right.

**Seven day wait for handgun too long?**

You must wait seven days before receiving the handgun you purchased.

Is this asking too much?

**Another View**

by

Josh Cooper

The writer is a member of the Register staff.

Apparently it is because our state legislature failed to pass a bill that would create a mandatory seven-day waiting period before a consumer could receive the handgun that he/she

had purchased. Just recently the legislature also failed to pass a two-day waiting period.

In failing to pass this law, it seems to me that the government has little power. How will the government solve the problems of gangs and drugs if it is unable to pass this law? I am worried.

By no means would the law abolish all murders and crimes. However, think of all the suicides and murders that occur in the heat of passion. Undoubtedly, the law would save some lives. In addition, seven days would allow the police to perform a more extensive check on the would-be purchasers of

handguns. In states that have such a law, many felons were refused a handgun after the police performed a check on them.

Right now, a handgun purchaser must sign a piece of paper swearing he has committed no felonies. Now, I am not a felon, but I know for a fact that a felon would not admit he is a felon, knowing a handgun would not be issued to him.

I know few people who hunt deer with a .357 Magnum. I know few people who hunt pheasant with a Midnight Special. When I see a guy walking around a department store waving a

handgun, I understand: perhaps he is hunting, but is just lost.

I do not question the right to purchase a handgun. I know that some people collect them and others shoot at targets for a sport. Can these people wait seven days for a handgun? The answer is yes. The law would allow anyone, (except felons), to receive their handgun after seven days. That's one week or 168 hours.

The NRA, National Rifle Association, and others, believe this law is an infringement on people's Constitutional rights. I believe that the felon who purchases a gun Friday night, gets drunk,

and shoots me, is infringing on my rights! It should be noted that the NRA also opposes a two-day waiting period! A two-day waiting period?!!

So, yes, the waiting period would not put an end to murder and suicide. But, as it has been proven in other states, both would be reduced. My real question is, who would this law hurt. I don't see how waiting 168 hours for a handgun can be a problem for a law-abiding citizen. I also cannot see that it infringes on the right to bear arms. I do not support the abolition of guns. But I do support the law that might save people's lives.

**Letters to the editor...**

**Author not knowledgeable on subject of movie**

Dear editor,

I am writing to you about an article printing that I as well as many other Central High members disapproved of. It seems that one Lena Gold has written on a subject that she knows nothing about.

Ms. Gold said, and I quote, "those of us who live in the real world, who know the effects of racism on both sides, can't help but wonder, 'so whaddya trying to say Spike?'"

Please put it together Ms. Gold. Spike is saying do the right thing. When you watched this film, you obviously did not pay attention. The movie is not meant for you to understand. It's made to make you think!

[Ms.] Gold also said that all we know from *Do the Right Thing* is that it is hot. In a recent interview with Spike, he talked about how when the heat goes up, people get frustrated, mad and the crime rate goes up. But I'm sure you weren't paying attention to that, were you Ms. Gold?

Ms. Gold criticized Spike, as well as ridiculed him. I feel pity for her and encourage her not to take up a film critic's position.

Antone Douglas, sophomore

**'Film does disservice [to] Malcom X'**

Dear editor,

Lena Gold must be commended for her incisive review of Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing*. I share her frustrations at his affected ambiguity toward the use of violence when, in fact, he strongly implies that violence is the "right thing." Although he quotes both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, Lee's final quote cites Malcolm's "by any means necessary."

The film does a disservice by presenting only a thin slice of the richness of Malcolm X. Instead of fostering an appetite for more knowledge about Malcolm, Lee argues that Malcolm's photo on a restaurant wall and one quote can capture the essence of Malcolm's genius. It is to *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* that all Americans should go for the truth. Malcolm grew to understand that there is no ambiguity about the results of violence. The simple truth is that the end does not justify the means. Violent methods ultimately and inevitably tarnish and corrode any seemingly "good" end. Violence only gives license for repression.

Permanent benefits can be achieved through the use of non-harming means—such as the "Soul Force" of Gandhi and King and, one senses from his autobiography, the mature Malcolm X. We must not lose faith in that force to reverse the violence of poverty and racism, which is increasingly targeted on women and children.

No one can deny that Lee has proven his genius at *cinema verite*. What inspiration he could give all Americans by applying that talent to the true story of the whole Malcolm, the Malcolm of *The Autobiography*.

Carol A. Valdrighi, Student and teacher of history

# SPOTLIGHTS

Michelle Hickle

## DECA sells itself very well

On March 16 and 17, 69 of Central's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) students went to the 1990 State Marketing Conference in Lincoln. Out of 700 students at State, 37 of Central's students received 67 awards for individual events. That is the state record for the most awards earned by any one school in Nebraska.

Central placed in 12 of the 14 competency areas, another state record. The areas that Central placed in were advertising, apparel and accessory, food marketing, general marketing, general merchandise, hospitality and tourism, full-service restaurant marketing, and quick-serve restaurant marketing.

National qualifiers, students who placed in the top three of their event, were Jen Bell, Laura Buckingham, Jennifer L. Collins, Emily Fitzsimmons, Andre Gilmore, Lisa Hobson, Jennifer Johnson, Keith Klanderud, Madeleine Mundt, Chad Rains, Stephanie Sirois, Kiri Soares, Mara Taylor, Jason Teel. These students will be going to San Jose for the National Career Development Conference, April 25-28. Nebraska takes 90 students to Nationals each year and this year, 15 of them will be from Central.

During State, Lisa Frey was elected to be the state secretary for DECA next year. Heather Collins was elected to be the district vice-president. Lisa and Heather will be going to nationals.

The top 100 students compete in a Quiz Bowl, where the top 20 are recognized. Ten of the top 20 were Central students. Jen Bell placed first. They were Jennifer L. Collins, Madeleine Mundt, Jennifer Johnson, Andre Gilmore, Jim Haley, Emily Fitzsimmons, Julianne Hill, Michelle Hansen, and Lisa Hobson.

Others award winners were Laura Buckingham, Chris Charles, Jennifer L. Collins, Davina Cook, Lisa Frey, Darin Fritz, Erika Gaylor, Andre Gilmore, Jim Haley, Michelle Hansen, Pam Harp, Julianne Hill, Cassie Holum, Julie Julian, Heather Lower, Hai Nguyen, Perry Pirsch, Brian Poloncic, Chad Rains, Shellie Rodie, Tanya Sawayed, Krista Schultz, Mikala Tomes, Jake Torrens, Jennifer Weiss, and Jody Wommack.

"Our strong internship program is probably one of the reasons we are doing so well," said Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing instructor.

## 70 new members inducted into NHS

During a Sunday brunch on March 25, over 70 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. Central's adopt-a-school partner, Enron, paid for the honorary brunch at the Red Lion Inn for the inductees and their parents. The students who were inducted have accumulated a 3.5 grade point average, participated in at least three extra-curricular or community activities, and demonstrated leadership abilities.

## Certamen gaudium fuit

At the end of February, some of Central's Latin students went to the T building for the Latin *Certamen* ("contest"). The second year Latin team placed third. Team members of the two second year teams were Shannon Cornaci, senior; Chad Hoare, James Valentine, and Scott Whitaker, juniors; and Joshua Bahr, Lasana Jones, Duncan Joyner, and Michelle Sterett, sophomores.

Central had two third year teams. One placed second and the other placed third. Laura Greenlee and Ingo Socha, seniors; Libby Duckworth, Kelley Ramsey, Amy Vosburg and Brett Wolfe, juniors; and Arden Brewer and Rachel Tomlinson, sophomores, made up the third year teams.

The fourth/fifth year team of Dan Everding, Stan Hui, Larry Rock, and Shari Waterman placed first. Central's fourth/fifth year teams have not lost a city competition in the last ten years.

## 1990-91 singers picked

Next year's CHS Singers were chosen at the end of February. Those students chosen were Jennifer Boatright, Heather Dunbar, Kate Lundholm, Aidan Soder, and Becca Williams, soprano; Michelle Evans, Jill Quigley, Amy Vosburg, Aretha Walker, and Jess Wenke, alto; Bryan Campbell, Kevin Custard, Matt Hovde, Josh Kollman, and Tristian Walker, tenor; and Gary Combs, Greg Lovings, Dorell Morrow, Dan O'Dell, and Shawn White, bass.

## Blues Street Combo is "superior"

The Blues Street Combo received a "superior" rating at the Great Plains Jazz Festival held at UNO. The members of the Blues Street Combo are Olen Briggs, Aaron Kerr, and Wil Voss. Will Voss was selected as the outstanding soloist for the festival.

## Math department wins contest

On March 22, Mr. John Waterman, Mathematics Department Head, took 14 students from his Enrichment class to Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Missouri, for the Northwest Missouri Math Contest. Sixty schools with over three hundred students represented four states at the contest.

Each student took a 50 question multiple choice test that lasted two hours. The team score was the total of the top three scores. Central's sophomore, junior, and senior teams placed first.

Individually in the senior division, Zi Wu placed first and Duane Ludwig and Eric Troy tied for third. In the junior division, Tim Romberg placed first; Brad Gibson, second, Scott Fullerton, third; and Anya Lawler, fourth. In the sophomore division, Q. Chin placed third and Bryan Campbell placed fourth.

The students who went to the Northwest Missouri Math Contest were Denvia Laugel, Duane Ludwig, Eric Troy, Alvin Yam, and Zi Wu, seniors; Scott Fullerton, Brad Gibson, Anya Lawler, Kelley Ramsey, and Tim Romberg, juniors; and Bryan Campbell, Q. Chin, Kristen Steenburg, and Pete Thorson, sophomores.

## David Martin recognized

Mr. David Martin, English teacher, was awarded one of seventeen National Council of Jewish Women 1989-1990 Grants. The grant was awarded to him for his innovative classroom work in writing, reading, and civic education.

## Dr. Ali Moeller's project rewarded

"A springboard of communicative practice in the foreign language classroom" is the title of the innovative teaching project by the foreign language department head and German teacher, Dr. Ali Moeller. This project was awarded one of a hundred Business Week Magazine \$1000 Awards for instructional innovation. The project was designed to involve German speaking students in literary works and texts so much so that the anxiety of speaking a foreign language is overcome.

Dr. Moeller also received the 1990 Cooper Foundation \$1000 "Excellence in Teaching" Award. This award based program was designed to improve teaching and reward innovative teachers.

## Dan Fellman to depart for Japan

This summer, Dan Fellman, junior, will go to Japan on a U.S. Senate-Japanese Youth Exchange Scholarship. First, he will go to Washington, D.C. for a briefing on the Japanese language and culture and to meet with the Nebraska Senators. Senator Jim Exon and Senator Bob Kerrey sponsored the program and were each allowed to select an individual from Nebraska to participate. After the briefing in Washington, D.C., Dan will spend two months in Japan with individual host families.

## Central placed first over all on first try

On March 17, seven Central math students went to the JETS (Junior Engineering Technological Society) competition in Lincoln. This was the first year that Central participated in the competition, and the Central team placed first overall. Team members were Jennifer Bremer, Jennifer M. Collins, Duane Ludwig, Tim Romberg, Jeff Smith, Eric Troy, and Zi Wu. Each student took one test in two different areas. The various areas of competition were biology, chemistry, computer fundamentals, English, math, and physics. Duane Ludwig placed first in English. Tim Romberg placed first in physics and computer fundamentals. Zi Wu placed first in chemistry and math.

## Three students qualified for AIME

Last month approximately 120 Central students took the AHSME (American High School Math Exam), an exam of 30 questions to be answered in an hour and a half. Of those students, three of them achieved at least a score of 100, which is the minimum qualifying score to take the AIME (American Invitational Math Exam). Those students were Duane Ludwig, Zi Wu, and Brad Gibson. On Tuesday, March 9, they took the AIME, an exam of 15 questions to be answered in three hours.

## Student to take off to Germany

This year, Jennifer Voorhees, junior, and Jessica Wenke, sophomore, applied for the Congress-Bundestag Exchange, an all-expenses paid year in West Germany. Both were semi-finalists and went to Lincoln three weeks ago for the interviews, the final step before finalists were chosen. Jennifer Voorhees was chosen to spend next year in Germany. The last Central students to have the opportunity to do this were Jennifer Drake and Justin Kerr, who both graduated last year.

## World-Herald recognizes teachers

During the week of March 6, several Central teachers were nominated for recognition by the *Omaha World-Herald* as an outstanding teacher. Nominations were received from students in the form of essays. The teachers nominated were Mr. James Harrington, math teacher; Mr. David Martin, English teacher; and Ms. Juanita Merrigan-Potthoff, English teacher.

## Students of the month

March's "Students of the Month" are Christopher Bailey, freshman; Meghan Lewis, sophomore; Michelle Arnett, junior; and Anthony Williams, senior.

## Students to do accounting

Sophomores Matt Auslander, Owei Belleh, Cindy Garner, Hope Gerhard, and Michelle McCune were interviewed and accepted into the Omaha Public Schools Career Center Academy of Finance. Lisa Lewis was chosen as an alternate.

The Academy of Finance is a two-year program designed to help prepare students for college or the world of work. The students will spend their junior year taking accounting at Central, World of Finance at the Career Center first semester, and Banking and Credit second semester. The summer between their junior and senior years, they will be placed in a six week internship position. At the Career Center during their senior year, students will take Financial Planning first semester and Principles of Finance second semester.

## Projects rewarded at Science Fair

Jennifer M. Collins, Tim Romberg, and Eric Troy represented Central at the Metro Science Fair at UNO on Saturday, March 24. Tim's project, "The Juliet Set for Three Body Dynamical Systems," was entered in the physics division of the Science Fair. Tim's project was awarded the grand prize.

Jennifer's project, "Using Hypercard to Solve the Simplex Algorithm," received an honorable mention in the computer science division. Eric received an honorable mention in the engineering division for his project, "Using Chaotic Vibrations to Predict Metal Fatigue."

'Omaha, in general, is far behind in its practices'

# Green Eagles formed to make students aware of environment

Erika Gaylor

"Finally, Central High School has taken a step to becoming more aware of environmental hazards," said Michael

Stansberry in reaction to the Green Eagles first meeting on March 1. The club has met on every Thursday since then.

The Green Eagles is an environmentally concerned club that was

founded by three Central students: juniors Michael Stansberry, and Adam Rissien, and senior Marcus Micheli.

Sponsored by Mr. Al Roeder, science teacher, the Green Eagles will soon be sponsored by the Green National Movement, a political party internationally based in West Germany.

Adam said that the Green Eagles

have to turn in member forms to the regional base in Kansas City to be approved.

According to Mike, they had to ask for permission to use their name. "Other local groups that support [Green Eagles] are the Nebraska chapters of the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation," said Marcus.

### Focus is making students aware

Adam initiated the club at the beginning of December by getting approval from Dr. G.E. Moller, principal, after writing a constitution for the club. Mr. Roeder also helped to establish the group.

According to Mike, Mr. Roeder gives the club support and "okays" the ideas.

Central's Green Eagles hope to focus on making students aware of the environmental hazards around them and on a larger scale to produce a more conscientious Omaha.

"Omaha, in general, is far behind in its practices," according to Mike.

As the first small group to be affiliated with the Green National Movement, the Green Eagles want to start with Central and then move up to making an influence on Omaha, said Mike.

The group will decide the other activities by a group consensus. Adam explained that a consensus means a total majority where everyone agrees on the proposition.

Some possibilities that are being considered are letter writing, recycling campaigns, and peaceful protests.

"For example, we are considering doing something about banning tuna and styrofoam," said Mike.

### Recycling, tree planting

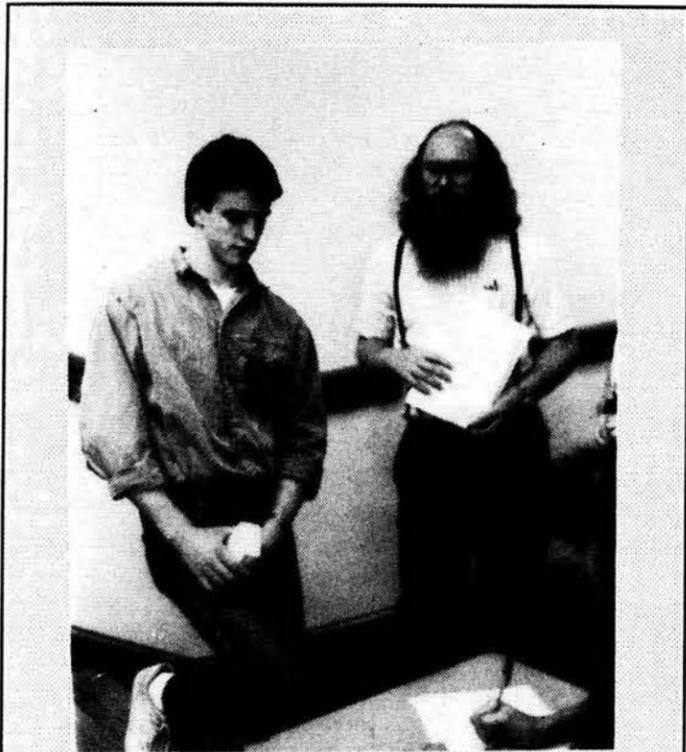
Mike said, "The club might collect cans like the idea of recycling paper, or set up a station for one Saturday when all Omahans could bring their trash." Another possibility would be to buy trees and plant them.

The other activities will depend on how the group votes, said Adam.

The club dues are three dollars, but the group might have to do some fundraisers, which they have not planned yet.

"Hopefully, the money from the recycling efforts will be enough," explained Adam.

Marcus said, "Even though the proposed activities could prove to be difficult, the enthusiastic group here has the ability."



The Green Eagles meeting comes to order after school on Thursday, March 1. Photo by Allie Green.

Mr. Martin has invited prominent community leaders to speak

# Mayor Morgan visits Mr. Martin's English class

Tim Pierce

Friday, March 16, Mayor P.J. Morgan attended and spoke at an English Class at Central.

Mr. David Martin, English teacher, believes that, with recent advances in democracy, there is a need for students to receive a strong civics foundation in high school.

**"Educated people must be able to read and write in order to think."**  
-Mr. David Martin

"Educated people must be able to read and write in order to think," said Mr. Martin. Without educated people, he feels democracy would not exist.

**"I consider it a great opportunity to make a difference in this community."**  
-Mayor P. J. Morgan

This philosophy is supported through studies of American Literature and authors such as: Thomas Jefferson, Adlai Stevenson, and John F. Kennedy. Mr. Martin also said, "It's no accident that democracy is spreading rapidly through the world... all things evolve, including governments."

Mayor Morgan began on a positive note saying, every one can be what they want to be, if they obtain an education. He spoke about plateaus and obstacles, accomplishments and set-backs in his life which have



Mayor P.J. Morgan spoke to Mr. David Martin's English class on Friday, March 16. Mr. Martin believes his class needs to have a "strong civic foundation." Photo by Stacy Gottschalk

brought him to the present day. He spoke of the quality of life in Omaha; clean air and educational opportunities are beneficial. "I consider it a great opportunity to make a difference in this community," said Mayor Morgan. "We will rid this city of gangs, but it won't be because of

police officers [alone]; each one of us has to care." He continued to emphasize the need to care throughout the discussion.

Mayor Morgan expressed his belief that a caring outlook begins with the family. He spoke of his recently deceased son and the expressions of

support which they shared. He said families must make an investment in education.

Mayor Morgan also spoke about "urban relocation" in the Logan-Fontenelle housing district. He feels that urban relocation is necessary to insure better living conditions, create a place of belonging, and restore a general feeling of high esteem. Mayor Morgan also believes that a segregated police patrol in North Omaha would be destructive.

When asked about the Mayor's policy to control illegal drug activity in Omaha, he responded by explaining the Drug-free Zones around Omaha area schools and the Federal Statute which doubles the penalty for any drug activity in this area. Mayor Morgan closed by reassuring the students that their concerns would be recognized if brought to his office.

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## Dimension work begins

— Jennifer E. Murphy —

*"Drowning in pools of thought; a state of mind, affecting the state of being. To be, and at the same time, not to be. Think, therefore insanity; randomness..."* — Russ Finch, senior

"Writing is a good way to get things out and let go of tension," said Mrs. Kathleen Maloney, Central English teacher.

"It helps form ideas about life and people." She also said that she writes occasionally and usually "to release pain," she said.

"Dimension is a literary publication done by the Creative Writing classes," said Mr. T. M. Gaherty, Creative Writing and Journalism teacher. "[Dimension] includes material by the Creative Writing classes and the student body."

According to Mr. Gaherty, *Dimension* has been in publication since 1968, when it first appeared as a pull-out in the *Central Register*.

Students at Central were invited to submit entries for consideration of acceptance to the magazine in early March, Mr. Gaherty said.

**"Writing is a good way to get things out and let go of tension."**

**- Mrs. Kathleen Maloney**

"Submissions were open to all students," said senior Valerie Garver. "Six entries was the limit."

Valerie is a member of the *Dimension* selection committee, and this is her third year on the committee, she said.

Poetry, from ballads to free-styles, and prose works up to 750 words were the acceptable entries, she said.

"We read everything and chose everything on merit. We look for something really creative and well written," she said.

Valerie also said that all of the selection committee members read the "whole batch of entries" and send a sheet along with the entries. The members have the choice of rating the entry a "yes," "no," or "maybe," she said.

According to Valerie, the selection committee consists of five members, and senior Amy Edgren is the Chairman.

"The members of the Creative Writing classes are involved in the making [of *Dimension*]," Mr. Gaherty said. "Historically, just works of the Creative Writing students were showcased in it. It has grown to open up submissions to all [Central] students."

The Co-editors of *Dimension* are seniors Jen

Gentle and Alyson Adams. Alyson said it was a "real surprise" when Mr. Gaherty selected her for the position.

"I am a good organizer and work well with people," she said. All students in the Creative Writing classes who desired a certain spot on the staff were required to write a paragraph explaining their qualifications to Mr. Gaherty, she said.

She said that she and Jen "hope to create a magazine unique and interesting," and that they "still have a lot of ideas." Alyson said that a cover design has been selected and was done by Chris Jones, senior.

Layout of the magazine *Dimension* will be done under the direction of Kirstine Terry, senior, and Layout Committee Chairman, Alyson said.

Kirstine has been involved with *Dimension* since she was a sophomore, she said. Kirstine has had poems and prose both selected for *Dimension* before also, she said.

According to Kirstine, she has one thing she wants changed in the layout.

"There have always been illustrations on the pages that try to interpret the poems on the page. I don't want to do that, but have border work," Kirstine said.

All of the layouts will be done on the Macintosh Plus computers in the journalism room on the PageMaker program, and should start in a few weeks, she said.

"We would like to sell 400 *Dimensions*," said sophomore Sean Rourke. He is the Promotion and Sales Committee Chairman of *Dimension*.

According to Sean, the Promotion and Sales Committee made all of the posters and circular announcements promoting *Dimension* to get people to hand in material and then to start trying to sell them.

Junior Becca Williams is a member of the Promotion and Sales Committee because "it is one of the committees that works the hardest."

"I wanted to be involved with [*Dimension*]," she said. "Promoting is pretty important."

"*Dimension* should come out around May 4," said Alyson.

"The *Dimension* is still one dollar," Sean said. "Students could have ordered them from any Creative Writing student."

Mr. Gaherty said that the magazine was due at the printer's on April 4, and that students who wanted a copy of

*Dimension* must have ordered one before that date.

"No extras are purchased," he said.

"It is a great magazine. Some of the best writing in the school is in *Dimension*," said Sean.

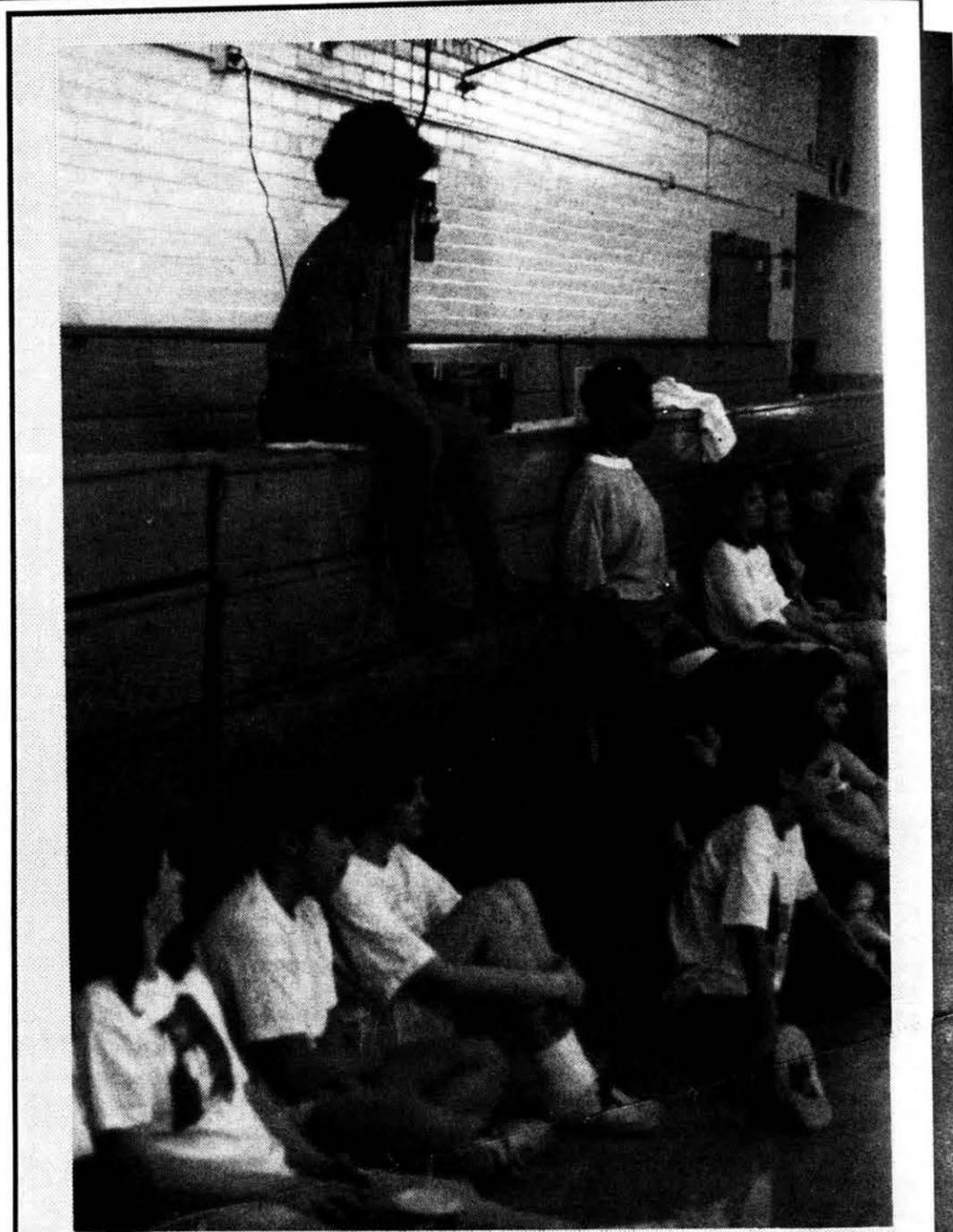
Alyson said that the *Dimension* is a "really interesting collection of Central students' thoughts and ideas."

"*Dimension* showcases writing that Central does. It is a public relations tool," said Mr.

Gaherty.

"The [Creative Writing] classes can be involved in the publication of a small magazine with the layout and the selection processes. It's a good experience," he said.

*"...This is the dimension of dimensions, not a twilight zone or a realm of darkness. This is the dimension of enlightenment, of understanding without knowing. My dimension."* -- Russ



A group of cheerleaders, cheerleading candidates, and spectators observe cheerleading try out routines. The 1990-1991 squads will consist of eight varsity members, nine junior varsity members, 12 sophomore members, and eight freshmen members. Photo by Ingo Socha

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# A. P. for students who yearn to get ahead

—Keri Babe—

Some Central students are taking advantage of their high school education now and will reap the benefits later in college. Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses are college level courses designed for high school students so they may receive college credit for various subjects.

## 269 enrolled A.P. students

Currently, there are 269 students enrolled in A.P. courses at Central. The classes are offered in English, mathematics, American history, chemistry, biology, physics, and foreign languages. The major difference between A.P. courses and honors courses is that A.P. classes provide the opportunity for students to prepare for and take the Advanced Placement tests, with which students can earn college credit.

The number of students involved in A.P. courses varies greatly, depending on the subject. For example, there are 67 students enrolled in A.P. English and only 6 in A.P. Physics.

"A.P. classes are for people who are willing to work very hard because they know they can get college credit," said senior Kayt Headen.

## In-depth courses

Mr. Dan Daly, A.P. English teacher, has 67 students currently enrolled in A.P. English. He said, "The course is a design that intends to replace a first year college level course." According to Mr. Daly, the students that have taken both A.P. English in high school and freshmen college English say the two courses are very similar.

"You can pursue academic interests to their fullest extent [in A.P. classes]," said senior Duane Ludwig. Duane is currently enrolled in three A.P. courses.

The grading system for A.P. classes is the same for those of an honors class.

"If you're not willing to work, you won't get the grade," said senior Jennifer Bremer. Jennifer is enrolled in four A.P. courses this semester. She said she feels the biggest difference between A.P. courses and other courses is that A.P. is much more in-depth.

Mr. John Williams, A.P. chemistry teacher, stresses the fact that A.P. requires a lot of time and responsibility on the students' behalf. Mr. Williams feels that students who take A.P. Chemistry in high school benefit much more than those that have to take chemistry in college. He said that it is hard to weed out the weak students in a large college environment. At Central, the classes are small and cover the same material, he said.

In order for an A.P. student to obtain college credit for an A.P. course, a student must take the A.P. test. Many colleges will accept a score of a three, four, or five, with one being the lowest, and five being the highest. Most colleges accept A.P. credits.

## Advantages of the A.P. test

There are several advantages to taking the A.P. test. One such advantage is exemption by colleges or universities from first-year courses and permission to take higher level courses if academic credit is awarded for exams taken.

"You can't imagine the requirements for taking the A.P. test," said Mr. Williams.

"It's remotely comparable to an achievement test, except about five times as hard," said Duane Ludwig.

The test is composed of one particular subject in depth, with multiple choice sections and free response or essay sections.



Intense discussions such as this one take place when enrolled in an A. P. class. Pictured are senior, Karen Eastlack and A.P. German Teacher, Dr. Ali Moeller. Photo by Allie Green

year are May 7th through the 11th and May 14th through the 18th. The fee is \$62 for each test.

In order to be accepted into an A.P. class a student must be recommended by a teacher or

counselor and fill out an application.

## Substitute teaching is a nightmare with advantages

—Alyson Adams—

You scuttle down the unfamiliar corridor, frantically searching for room 248. You fling open the classroom door only to find 30 unruly students whom you are expected to control. Does this sound like your worst nightmare? For substitute teachers, this is a daily adventure.

According to substitute teacher Mrs. Shirley Harris, there actually are some advantages to substituting.

"It helps me see inside different schools—see how they operate. I enjoy the variety of schools," she said.

Mrs. Harris has been a substitute for four years now but said that she would prefer to teach full-time.

"I've taught English and Spanish full-time in China, Hong Kong, and the Philippines," Mrs. Harris said.

She said substitute teaching is convenient for her because her husband is in the military, and they frequently relocate.

"After I arrived in Omaha last August, there were no openings for full-time teachers," she said.

Mrs. Harris is not unqualified for a full-time job. On the contrary, she majored in English and minored in Spanish in college, and she has a Bachelor's degree in science and education and a Master's degree in English.

## Confidence and a strong self-image

"You've got to go in there with a strong self-image and a lot of confidence," she said. "Some students think subs are unqualified. They don't realize that I am just as qualified as their regular teacher and maybe even more so."

Mrs. Harris added, "[The students] don't always respect me. They think I have no capabilities and I'm teaching them because I didn't feel like baking a cake that day."

Vocal music accompanist Mrs. Patricia Allender said that although it is sometimes confusing for music substitutes, because they are not familiar with the music, overall, they are treated well by the students.

"The kids in the music department are usually pretty nice to the subs," she said.

Mrs. Harris said that her classes are easily controlled when she uses the correct approach. "If you go in trying to baby-sit, you're going to have problems. If you go in as a teacher without being rude, you'll be okay. You just have

to go for it," she said.

Mrs. Harris admitted that she prefers substituting at high schools rather than junior highs. "High school students are a lot calmer and more mature—they're not so fidgety," she said.

Amy Vosburg, junior, disagreed with Mrs. Harris. "Students usually give [subs] a hard time. I hope they get paid well," Amy said.

According to Mrs. Harris, this is not the case. She said, "There's not much money in [substituting]. In O.P.S. (Omaha Public Schools), subs make \$61 a day—that's about half of what full-time teachers get."

## Advantages and disadvantages

Mrs. Harris said that although she likes the fact that she teaches every day and never has problems finding work, substituting does sometimes get lonely. "There's no place to call home. I don't have a school of my own, a staff of my own, or kids of my own," she said.

Like Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Rose Mary Tradar also frequently substitutes for Central teachers. Mrs. Tradar, a teacher of 25 years, became a substitute after retiring from full-time teaching.

She said, "I still wanted to deal with schools, just not full time. I plan to keep [substituting] for at least another four years."

Mrs. Tradar said she is treated well by high school students, but refuses to teach at junior high schools. "There are a lot of discipline problems at junior highs. The kids are unruly," she said.

According to Mrs. Tradar, she is called in the morning to substitute that day about 80% of the time and 20% of the time she is called the night before. "I don't really mind getting up early in the morning. That way I can watch the news. I'm just wasting my time if I sleep late," she said.

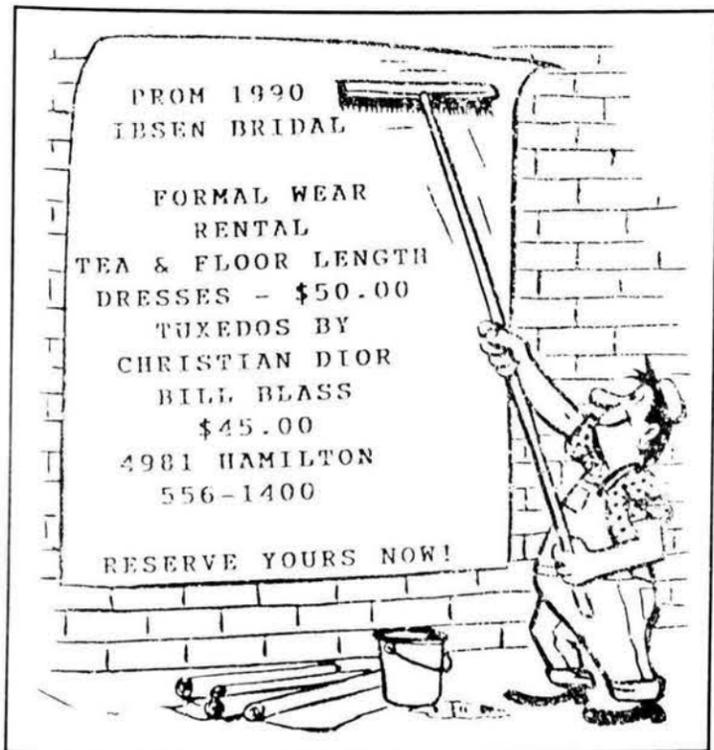
Mr. Jay Wichmann started substituting because he was unable to find a full-time teaching job over the summer. "I think [substituting] might get my foot in the door with O.P.S., but it'll be hard to get a full-time job. I see a lot of 40 and 50 year-old gym teachers. I think my lack of experience will hurt me, but I hope [substituting] will help," he said.

Mr. Frank Ault, a Central substitute, also had problems finding full-time employment.

"[Substituting] is sometimes fun, but it's also kind of daring. It's a lot harder than teaching," he said.

Mr. Ault added that although the pay is low, he enjoys the flexibility. He does, however, have one complaint.

"I hate the morning phone calls. I don't like to talk to anyone early in the morning," he said.



'A good way to promote the importance of art'

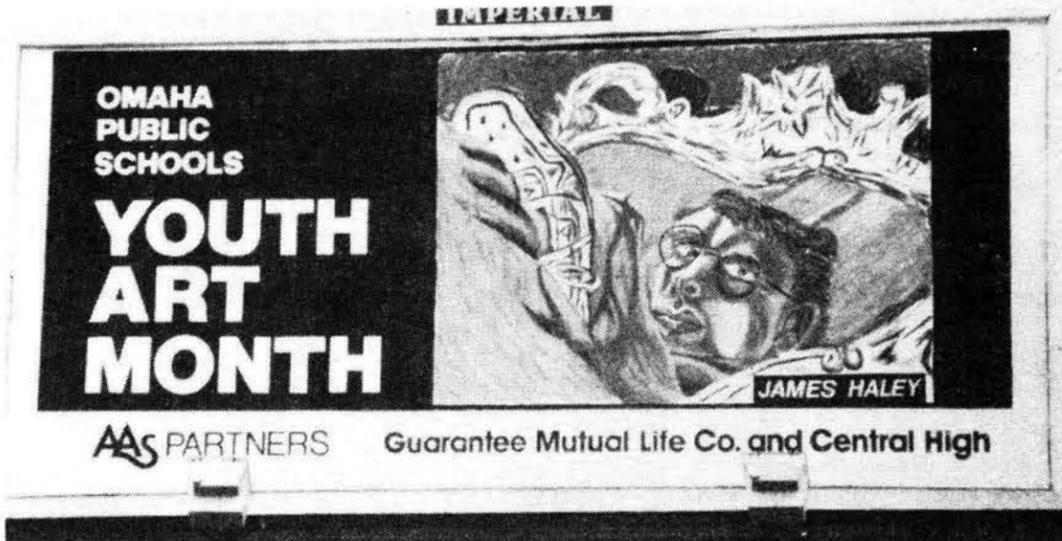
## Art Month exhibits involve Central students

Julie Torpy

Youth Art Month promoted art exhibits at Joslyn Museum, the T.A.C. building, on various billboards, and at an exhibit as distant as Washington D.C. during the month of March.

Youth Art Month, a national organization, started about fifteen years ago. Mr. Jerry Pabst, art supervisor for Omaha Public Schools, directs the program in Omaha. Though Mrs. Margaret Quinn, Central art teacher, said not much is done nationally right now, Mr. Pabst feels Youth Art Month is a good way to promote the importance of art.

Senator Bob Kerrey unexpectedly chose five works by Central juniors Lance Naikelis, Emily Rennard, Matt Buckingham and seniors Mike Pongrubam and Kim Horne at one of the exhibits at T.A.C., the Teacher Administration Center. Mrs. Quinn and other students, including those from Central, also had work displayed at the



Billboards around Omaha display art students completed for Youth Art Month. Jim Haley's design can be seen on the billboard at 80th and Dodge. Photo by Andre Gilmore

show. "I didn't expect my work to be at the T.A.C. building, much less Washington," Lance said. Their work will be displayed in the Senator's office in Washington, along with their photographs. Five pieces of art from the special education school, Oak Valley, will also go

to Washington for a couple of months.

Along with forty-four other Omaha students, Central seniors Laurie Anderson, Jim Haley, and Sarah Straub had their art produced into billboards during Youth Art Month. The billboards were each individually sponsored by

different organizations.

Jim Haley's billboard, sponsored by Guarantee Mutual, will be at 8023 Dodge Street and Sarah Straub's Billboard, sponsored by America Charter, will be at 20th and Cuming Street for about a month.

Laurie Anderson, whose work is sponsored by

Scouler Grain at 30th and Dodge, said, "I think it's neat how the community is trying to promote art and recognize artistic talents and creativity in the younger generation."

A reception for the ninety-eight students who have work at the T.A.C. building was held Wednesday, March 14. Teachers, including Central Art teachers Mr. Larry Hausman and Mrs. Quinn, had some of their art displayed with the students.

Along with the exhibits at the T.A.C. building, Joslyn Art Museum sponsored a show in which several Central students participated. Mr. Larry Andrews, Central art teacher, and Mr. Hausman each had two students at the Joslyn show. Mrs. Quinn had four students. The exhibition at the Joslyn Art Museum are seniors Amy Rogers, Tim Pierce, Angie Green, Melissa Drickey, Lallaya Hicks, and juniors Chad DeMers and Lance Naikelis and Kenneth Miller, a past Central graduate.

## Science Fair offers money, 'recognition'

Tina Ray

Three students represented Central High School at the 24th annual Greater Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair (GNSEF) in Nebraska City at Nebraska City High School, March 31st through April 2nd.

"All high school students from Nebraska are invited to attend; however more participation comes from the eastern part of Nebraska," said John Waterman, Central math teacher and sponsor for the fair.

Competition categories at the fair are contained in the general areas of physical sciences, social sciences, and mathematics, with smaller categories in each area.

Jennifer M. Collins, Tim Romberg, and Eric Troy, seniors, each entered one project for the fair. Jennifer's project is in the category of Computer Science. She shows how to maximize profits for a company on computer.

**"I did the [Science] fair for the recognition."**  
- Jen M. Collins

Tim also entered his project in the category of Computer Science. "I analyze three planets orbiting in space and obtain pretty pictures," said Tim.

Eric's project is in the category of Engineering. Eric "analyzes the transition to chaos in the frequency spectrum of a metallurgically fatigued tuning fork."

"Many companies are

sponsoring the fair and are always on the lookout for good competitors," said Tim.

"I did the fair for the recognition," said Jennifer.

Eric entered the fair for the "monetary" value of it, meaning the cash prizes and scholarships available.

**"You can never be sure of what you get when you win."**  
- Mr. Waterman

Central students prepared for the GNSEF months before they handed in their applications. "We have been doing research on our projects for at least eight weeks," said Jennifer.

Applications also had to include a formal write-up including problem and hypothesis, methods, and conclusions drawn from the project.

Preparation for the fair was difficult due to the fact that the projects were strictly extra-curricular. "We had to do it ourselves," said Tim. "This was never connected to any of our classes." The deadline for all GNSEF applications was March 9, 1990.

Prizes for the GNSEF vary. They can range from money to computer catalogs. Two years ago, Jonathan Miller, a senior from Central whose project won a prize, received a briefcase full of accessories including computer discs, a calculator, and other merchandise.

"You can never be sure what you get when you win,"

said Mr. Waterman. "It depends on the category the contestant is in."

All contestants who enter the GNSEF are also eligible

to participate in the ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, May 12th through the 16th.

"The two best projects from all categories at the GNSEF are chosen to compete at Internationals," said Mr. Waterman.

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# Pallat receives commanding rank at Military Ball



The Nineteenth Annual Military Ball for the Omaha Public Schools High School Reserve Officers' Training Corp (R.O.T.C.) was held on Thursday March 15, 1990, at Peony Park's Ballroom from 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight.

At the ball, the battalion commander from each high school competes for the rank of brigade commander over all Omaha-area battalions. Central's commander, senior Rick Pallat, was honored with the rank of deputy brigade commander.

Rick is pictured shaking hands with principal, Dr. G.E. Moller. Rick's escort is Consuelo Belmudez.

Photo by Geri Therkildsen

## Renovation... continued from page 1

Mr. Jim Pennington, a curriculum specialist at Benson, has been involved with the plans and effects of the renovation. He said that "there is a significant

amount of add-on construction which will create additional science and technical classrooms, a new cafeteria, and an expanded gym." He added

that the existing structure will be upgraded.

The construction at Benson will last approximately two and a half years, according to Mr. Pennington. Additionally, the construction will impact the school day.

"There is some program interruption [because of the renovation]," he said. He added that some classes, such as science labs and home economics classes, "will be in what is considered unorthodox spaces for that class."

Starting next fall, student days will be altered to accommodate the construction, according to Mr. Pennington.

"What is being proposed is that seniors will attend class from seven to eleven in the morning, attending five class periods with no study halls," he said.

The Omaha Public Schools require each student to take five classes each day. Mr. Pennington said that normally, students are required to have a study hall.

"This is for those students who can meet the graduation requirements with five classes. Usually, the eight period day is the rule and a shortened day is the exception. Now a five period day will be the rule and the exception will be the longer day," he said.

Under the proposed plan, juniors would attend school from 9:30 to 2:30, a six period day, and freshmen and sophomores attend a normal day. Although it is still a proposal, Mr Pennington said it is "almost a certainty."

## Rauchut wins national award

Alyssa McIntyre

"Teachers are a critical element in making a school," said Mr. Gene Conley, Chairman of the Board of Guarantee Mutual, one of Central's Adopt-a-School partners. His statement demonstrates an awakening in public opinion toward education.

People are finally beginning to realize that both education and the teachers who provide this education are worth much more recognition and money than they have received in the past. Private organizations, such as the Buffet Foundation have begun offering awards to outstanding teachers in the Omaha Public School District. Nebraska's Governor, Kay Orr, gave teachers' salaries a boost last spring by appropriating \$40 million to be used in directly raising teachers' salaries.

Other federal agencies are also trying to aid teachers. The National Endowment for the Humanities, has, for the last two years, been awarding 52 of the United States' teachers \$27,500 to allow them "to undertake a full academic year of independent study in history, literature, foreign languages or other humanities disciplines," according to the foundation's press release.

Dr. Ed Rauchut, Central English teacher, received the foundation's award this year. He will spend next year researching the political problems in several Shakespearean plays.

"I hope to get a book out of [the year's research]," Dr. Rauchut said, when asked what he hopes to achieve from the year off.

Dr. Rauchut will use the year to work on his project entitled, "Shakespeare's Henry

V: The Laws and Politics of War." He believes that the technical material in many of Shakespeare's plays loses many students and teachers. Dr. Rauchut hopes that finding out about some of the material will make the plays easier for students to understand and enjoy.

Even though teachers are getting more recognition, problems still arise. The grant that Dr. Rauchut received comes up short of his yearly salary. Along with that, because of certain clauses in Dr. Rauchut's (and other teachers') contract with OPS, he will not retain any of the health benefits he is currently receiving, will be unable to add to his pension, and will not be credited on the teacher pay schedule for next year.

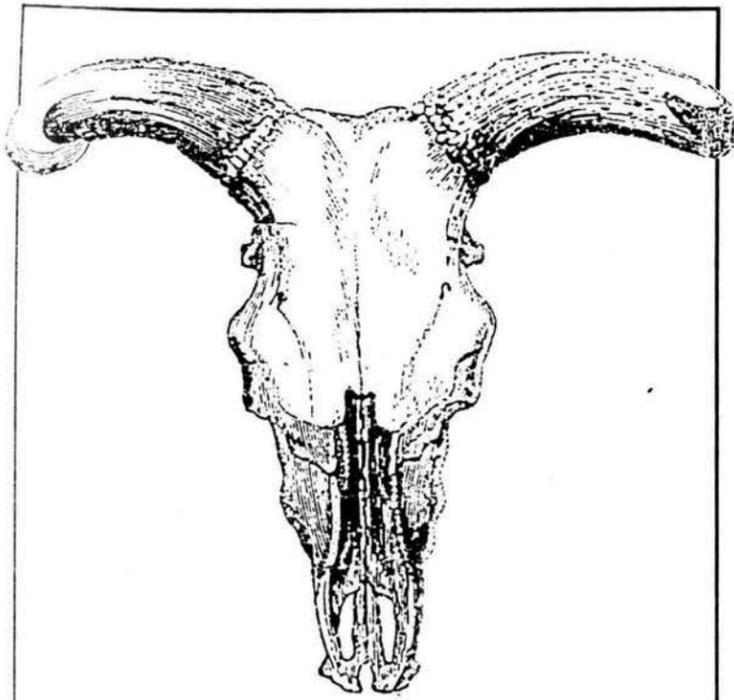
Mr. John Mackiel, assistant superintendent for personnel services of the Omaha Public Schools, said that the provisions in OPS teacher contracts are definite in terms of what the district can and cannot do about the shortfall.

He pointed out that other teachers have received awards of this type which take them out of the district for a time, but the award usually suffices for the loss of salary.

"In this case the award wasn't enough," Mr. Mackiel said. He said that the "bottom line" is that the district cannot alter the contract to make up for the loss, but that he is optimistic about efforts to defray Dr. Rauchut's costs with outside funding.

Ms. Karen Breakell, Director of Public Relations at American Charter, another Central Adopt-a-School partner,

Continued on page 15



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**Tom Jones:****Spring play to be comedy with deep moments**

—Alyson Adams—

"It's a really fun show. It's funny, but it has its deep moments. I hope people will come and see it," said sophomore Bryan Campbell, male lead, referring to Central's spring play, *Tom Jones*.

Mrs. Pegi Georgeson, drama teacher and director of *Tom Jones*, said that auditions were tough.

"A lot of things are considered in casting. People just kind of fall into place. They need to have the right look of the part and the right sound. I look for charisma, interpretation and

projection. It's also important for people to be able to work well with others on stage. Someone can be doing a great job by themselves, but if they can't work together, it doesn't matter," said Mrs. Georgeson.

Sophomore Todd Djureen, who plays the part of Blifil, said that he did not originally intend to audition.

"My friend made me. I said I would because I didn't think I'd make it. There was a lot of competition, especially for the girls," he said.

After the four hour audition, Todd wound up getting

a bigger part than his friend who forced him to audition.

Mr. David Barrett, Mrs. Marlene Bernstein's student teacher, volunteered to help with the production of *Tom Jones*.

"I've been interested in plays since high school, so I decided I'd help out with Central's while I was here. I think I shocked Mrs. Georgeson," he said.

According to Mr. Barrett, *Tom Jones* is an eighteenth century play set in England in which Tom Jones falls in love with Sophia, a

woman of a higher class.

"It's a story of class segregation. Tom is always on the run; it's one long chase scene," he said.

Mr. Barrett said that the play is coming along well.

"The talent is overwhelming. No one could be better for the roles. The students are cooperating and learning their parts extremely well. I'm sure everyone will think it's fun. It's the most talented high school cast I've ever seen," he said.

Mr. Barrett said that he keeps track of the blocking of the characters, interprets dialogue, and helped judge auditions.

"Eighty-four people tried out, but only about half made it," he said.

Senior Erin Bennett, female lead, did not expect to receive such a large role.

"I was shocked to get it — it's a much bigger part than I expected. Mrs. Georgeson kept making me read the part of Sophia, and it made me mad because I didn't think I was going to get it. I only had a little part in last year's play," Erin said.

According to Erin, rehearsals usually run from after school until 4:30, but as opening night approaches, they may run until at least 5:30.

Todd said that on Tuesdays and Wednesdays the cast blocks and on Thursdays and Fridays they run through their lines. The following Monday they go through the scenes they rehearsed the previous week.

Todd said that although he does not quit his job in order to attend after school rehearsals, the advantages outweigh the sacrifices.

According to sophomore Duncan Joyner, student director, servant, and townsperson of *Tom Jones*, the play will run April 26-28, with a student matinee on Thursday, the 26th.

Duncan said that he enjoys being in the play.

"It's a good way to meet people. It's really interesting to work on a project and see how things happen. It's neat seeing how the finished product comes to be. I saw *Pippin*, but I didn't know how it was created," he said.

Duncan added that as a

student director, his responsibilities include writing in the blocking in the director's book, playing other people's parts when they cannot attend rehearsals, and helping Mrs. Georgeson.

Duncan said that he was originally only a student director and had no acting part in the play, but because some actors with small parts dropped out, he now plays the part of a servant and a townsperson.

Senior Duane Ludwig had a similar experience.

"I originally got the part of Captain Blifil, which is practically the smallest part in the whole play, because Mrs. Georgeson wanted me to be able to be on the golf team, too. But, then the guy who played the Judge had to quit, so I got promoted to the Judge," Duane said.

Junior Jennifer Voorhees plays the part of Honour in the play, but also helps with publicity.

"Basically, I just help find people who can make *Tom Jones* tee-shirts, do posters to advertise, and do the program," Jennifer said.

She added that *Tom Jones* is coming along a lot faster than *Pippin*.

"Everything is more geared toward acting, not singing and dancing. It's nice to be able to concentrate on the acting part," she said.

Mrs. Georgeson said that deciding on which play to do this year was "a long process." She considered doing a series of three one-act plays, but read *Tom Jones* and instantly "fell in love" with the script.

"I like comedies—they're more appealing to the student body. *Tom Jones* is well written and has a sizable cast," she said.

Mrs. Georgeson went on to say that the play originally called for a cast of 24, but she expanded it to 46 in order to include more people.

According to Mrs. Georgeson, the play is coming along "great."

She said, "It should all be blocked by [this] week. It's just flowing—it's a fast pace play. Some kids have all their lines down already. There's such comradery among the cast. It's really getting together."



Blake Thomas and Trinity Abraham peek in their manuscripts while rehearsing for *Tom Jones*.

Photo by Allie Green

**Boys' and Girls' State in Lincoln****Students picked for state seminar**

—Kelly Schiltz—

This year's Boys' and Girls' State will be in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 3rd through June 9th.

Boys' and Girls' State, which is sponsored by the American Legion and the Women's Auxiliary, "allows for participation in politically related activities," said Mr. Steve Nelson, head of the counseling department. The seminar includes debates and group discussions concerning governmental issues. Students are also allowed free time.

Teachers and counselors nominate students for the seminar. Those students must then fill out an application. The selection of students, who must be juniors, is based on leadership, citizenship, character, health, and class rank.

Students from all over Nebraska participate in Boys' and Girls' State. "It was really

neat meeting people from other parts of the state," Melissa Garner, a senior who went to Girls' State last year, said.

This year's girl's participants are Jenny Voorhees and Teresa Clark. Brian Comer and Bill Germer are the boy's participants. The alternates selected are Erika Gaylor, Emily Fitzsimmons, Hai Nguyen, and Wiff Farrell.

During their free time, students can participate in either a chorus, band, or newspaper production, Melissa said.

Housing for the students is located in the dormitories of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. For election purposes each dorm acts as a state. Within that dorm there are two counties. Each floor acts as a town which is named after a United States president, said Melissa.

Each student is assigned to one of two political

parties, said Sharon Stoolman, a senior who also went to State last year. The two parties were known as the Federalists and the Nationalists.

Elections are held and all students are expected to run for an office, Melissa said. Students can run for either local, county, or state level offices. There is a primary held for students wishing to run for governor.

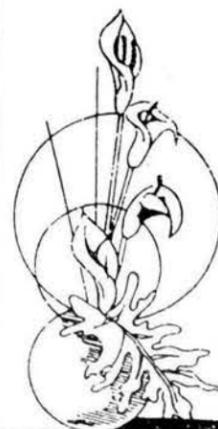
Sharon, who ran for Secretary of State, won the office of Director of Equal Opportunities. Melissa was elected to the Board of Regents.

The seminar is held on the last week of school. Because of this, the students participating in the seminar must make up their finals before they go.

"I had an excellent time. I'm glad I went," said Sharon. "It's a big honor to go. I thought it was fun," Melissa said.

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Election Commissioner: Approximately 50% of eligible voters ages 18-21 register

# In-school registration, Motor Voter bill offer convenience

Kelly Schiltz

The League of Women Voters registered 194 Central students on March 26th and 27th for upcoming primary elections.

To be eligible to register an individual must be an American citizen and be at least 18 years old by that year's general election day. This year's general election day is November 6th.

In Nebraska only 75% to 80% of the eligible voters actually register, according to Margaret Jurgensen, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner for Douglas County.

Eligible voters can register as Republican, Democrat, or Independent.

The age group of 18 to 21 year olds has the "worst record for not only registering, but also voting," Mr. Jack Blanke, Social Studies department head at Central, said.

Of the eligible voters between the ages of 18 to 21, approximately 50% register, and of this percentage only around 50% actually vote in the elections, according to Ms. Jurgensen. As younger voters get older, their participation does increase, she said.

The turnout of younger voters is not great, said Ms. Nancy Shugrue, Administrative Vice President at the League of Women Voters.

However, it does improve when students are registered within their own high school, she said.

"Because it's new to us, we feel more comfortable having it at our school. It's more relaxed," Tanya Sawaged, junior, said.

"Most people wouldn't take the time to go someplace else," Jodi Jahn,



Walter Outlaw, senior, is one of 194 students who registered to vote when the League of Women Voters visited Central. Eligible voters must register by May 4th to vote in the primaries held on May 15th. Photo by Allie Green

senior, said.

"I wanted a chance in making a difference as to who will be elected," Tanya said.

The voting and registration system in Nebraska is "the simplest system that there is," said Ms. Jurgensen.

A legislative bill, called Motor Voter, currently in Congress would make registering to vote even more convenient, according to Ms. Shugrue. The Motor Voter bill would allow individuals to be automatically registered when they obtain or renew their driver's license.

On February 6th, 1990, the Motor Voter bill was approved by the House of

Representatives with a two to one margin. The bill now goes to the Senate for possible approval.

Five other states as well as the District of Columbia have a Motor Voter law, said Ms. Shugrue.

There has been a

dramatic increase in voter registration within those states, she said.

Eligible voters must register by May 4th at any county office in order to vote in the primaries held on May 15th.

Ms. Shugrue feels that the vote of younger people is

very important in the outcome of elections.

Younger voters influence elections and politicians are starting to take notice, according to Ms. Jurgensen.

"They are a force," she said.

## 'Night on the Nile' prom theme wins contest

Stephanie Kurtzuba

The mystery and magic of Africa is coming to Central.

In fact, Central students will have the opportunity to experience a romantic "Night on the Nile" at the spring prom, May 5.

This year's theme (A Night on the Nile) was the winning entry from senior Kim Benning in the Student Council theme contest.

Kim will receive fifty dollars towards dinner on prom night and a free ticket to the junior-senior dance.

Student Council President Justin McWhorter said that he believes the contest was a "good idea."

**"[Student Council] is in charge of decorating, selling concessions and cleaning up after the dance." - Eric Shoemaker**

He said that holding the contest saved Student Council a lot of time in having to choose the theme themselves as they are the sponsors of the prom and are responsible for all aspects of preparing and running prom.

"We are in charge of decorating, selling concessions and cleaning up after the

dance," said sophomore Student Council member Eric Shoemaker, "and I don't even get to take a date because I'm an underclassman!"

Junior Jennifer Boatright said, "I think restricting sophomores is a good idea. It gives them something to look forward to."

According to Mr. Paul Semrad, Student Council sponsor, the music for prom will be provided by All American Music, "a disc-jockey service."

Senior Council member, Claudette Williams said that all the music that will be played at the dance has been preselected by the Student Council.

nominations will be required to put candidates on the ballot. Mr. Semrad said the reason for this was to "reduce the length of the ballot."

Night on the Nile will be held in the Central High courtyard from 8-12 p.m.

Mr. Semrad said that formal prom photographs will be taken in the south hall of the school.

Candid photos will also be taken and will be displayed in the west trophy case after prom for students to order.

Senior Ebony Smith said, "I'm excited for prom. Being a senior, it should make for a lot of good memories."

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# Robert Bateman tours Nebraska

—Tina Ray—

World renowned wildlife artist, Robert Bateman, and a group of Japanese delegates from the Shizuoka Zoo, Utonaiko Sanctuary Nature Center of Tomakomai City at Hokaido, and Yamashina Institute for Ornithology in Japan, embarked on a three day tour throughout Nebraska, March 2nd through the 5th to view Nebraska's wildlife and speak about the environment.

"Robert Bateman was wonderful," said Betty Davis, the Project Managing Consultant of Betty Davis Associates and sponsor for the Bateman tour. "It was an exhilarating experience to have these people here."

Robert Bateman and the Japanese delegates came to view the Nebraska wildlife, specifically the Sandhill Cranes, 400,000 of which migrate along the Platte River each year. Mr. Bateman and the Japanese delegation privately viewed the Sandhill Cranes at sunrise along the Platte

River in Grand Island on March 4th.

Robert Bateman, whose works have been exhibited at the National Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C., "plans to create a painting of the Sandhill Cranes," said Ms. Davis.

However, the Japanese delegates had a different purpose for viewing the cranes. "Cranes are used frequently in Japanese art, like origami," said Ms. Davis. "But in Japan, cranes are very rare, contrary to Nebraska, where cranes migrate across on a regular basis. The Japanese delegates also came to Nebraska as an international exchange toward the interest of the environment and wildlife." Robert Bateman and the Japanese delegates also viewed other sites in Nebraska including the Fontenelle Forest and Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha.

Robert Bateman, an avid environmentalist, came to Nebraska to endorse the protection of the environment. "One of the reasons Robert Bateman came to

Nebraska was as a project directed toward International Earth Day, April 22nd," said Ms. Davis.

Bateman was involved in a series of public events in Nebraska, sponsored by the Nebraska Wildlife Federation. Mr. Bateman gave a free public lecture at the Lied Center in Lincoln March 2nd, speaking about his works and the protection of the environment. "Robert Bateman stated that the that the Platte River must be preserved," said Ms. Davis.

Mr. Bateman also signed his works at the public sale of his paintings at the Lincoln Trade Center and Masterworks Gallery in Lincoln March 3rd, and at the Back Alley Gallery in Grand Island, March 4th.

The most recognized public events that Bateman and the Japanese delegates attended were the dinners that ranged from \$25-50 a plate in Lincoln at the NBC Center March 3rd, the Mid-Town Holiday Inn in Grand Island, and the Henry Doorly Zoo

March 4. The Japanese delegates also spoke about the Japanese Crane at these dinners. "These dinners were so popular that the people who came to the dinners filled it to full," stated Betty Davis. All the proceeds from the dinners will be given to the Nebraska Wildlife Federation and Henry Doorly Zoo.

Robert Bateman and the Japanese delegates were honored for their tour in Nebraska by the City Council of Omaha. After Robert Bateman and the Japanese delegates arrived in Nebraska March 2nd, they were given keys

to the city and Omaha mayor P.J. Morgan proclaimed "Robert Bateman Weekend in Omaha."

Kay Orr, governor of Nebraska and honorary chairperson of the "Weekend with Robert Bateman" project also proclaimed "Robert Bateman Weekend" in Nebraska. Students from the Wake Robin Elementary School in Bellevue and the Meadow Lane Elementary School in Lincoln presented Robert Bateman and the delegates with origami cranes and other artwork March 2nd.

## My Left Foot Artist's visual biography

—Ingo Socha—

"Cerebral palsy is a general term for a variety of disorders caused by damage of the brain," says the *World Book Encyclopedia*.

The movie *My Left Foot* portrays the life of Christy Brown as an artist who suffers from this disease. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis as Christy and Brenda Fricker as his mother, the movie shows small vignettes from Christy's life.

While Christy is waiting for his appearance in an assembly for the benefit of a private institute for brain disorders, he tells his story to Mary Carr, the nurse in charge of him and his future wife.

During the first flashbacks, young Christy appears to be a burden to the family. Most of the time he is under the staircase, his favorite hiding place.

Two situations show how he finally is accepted by his parents as a full member of his family. In one instance, although he can neither walk nor talk, he manages to alarm the neighbors when his pregnant mother falls off the stairs.

He is recognized by his father as son of the family after he manages to pick up a piece of chalk and write the word "mother" on the floor. Shouting "He is a real Brown; he is my son!" his father picks him up and carries him through the streets.

Within the first few vignettes, it becomes apparent that this is not just a movie about cerebral palsy, but also about the importance of a family.

Christy needs his family. The care of his parents, his

brothers and sisters keeps him from being buried in self-pity. His siblings take him in a pushcart wherever they go.

All the time he is getting less and less clumsy with his left foot. He discovers painting as his medium of expression. Every night he sits down and works on his paintings, his painted 'diary.'

When he meets Eileen, his whole life changes. She is a doctor who has specialized in brain disorders. She teaches him how to speak more clearly. She

falls in love with his paintings and arranges his first exhibition, which establishes Christy's reputation as a painter.

*My Left Foot* is not an easy movie to follow. It takes the viewer's full attention to keep track of the events. In order to stress the important parts, some things remain unexplained.

This movie does not show the self pity of a diseased man but pictures the life of a painter who is struggling to overcome his handicap.

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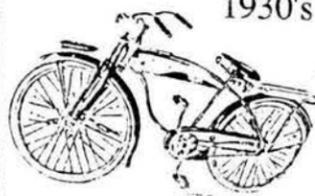
April 23... Sharon, Lois Bram  
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April 28... Whitesnake/Bad English  
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May 6... Jay Leno  
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—Tim Pierce—

"Come one, come all!" said Mrs. Betty Munch, Joslyn Memorial Art Museum Education Assistant, reflecting the feeling that everyone is welcome to visit the museum.

The Joslyn Art Museum offers a variety of events. During the month of March, prominent events will be: a Student Art Exhibition, Bagels & Bach, and Thursday Night Live.

Joslyn is hosting the third annual Student Art Exhibition in which junior high and high school work is being displayed. This exhibition celebrates National Youth Art Month and is co-sponsored by the Joslyn Women's Association and Arby's. It is on display in the southwest gallery of Joslyn's lower level.

The exhibit was juried by Mr. Jerry Horning, Chairman, Fine and Performing Arts Department at Creighton University. Out of 542 pieces submitted, 69 works were chosen for the show. Students whose work was submitted were honored at a program and reception held March 4 at the museum.

Schools from the Omaha Metropolitan Area were allowed to submit 10 entries per teacher. From Central, 8 student works were selected. These students are: Chad DeMeres, Angie Green, Melissa Drickey, Lallaya Hicks, Kenneth Miller, Lance Naikelis, Tim Pierce, and Amy Rogers.

Joslyn also offers Bagels & Bach on the first Sunday of each month, in the Storz Fountain Court. These Sunday mornings at the museum include the sounds

of classical music and a light brunch. Doors open at 10:15 and the concert starts at 11:15. The cost for Joslyn members is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under age 12; for non-members, \$7.50 for adults, \$4.00 for children.

Thursday Night Live is a series of live music performances and art appreciation talks every Thursday evening in March. It is a co-sponsorship of Joslyn Art Museum, WOWT6, and KKAR Radio. All events are free with Museum admission. The non-member admission for adults is \$2.00, for senior citizens — \$1.00.

**During the month of March, prominent events will be: a Student Art Exhibit, Bagels & Bach, and Thursday Night Live.**

Not to be overlooked, the museum exhibit from February 24 to April 4, 1990 is one of high esteem. Virtue Reward, a Forbes Magazine Collection, is the largest collection of Victorian art outside Great Britain. The paintings culminate an overview of moral principles and concerns of the Victorian era.

Because of the museum's close proximity to Central, Joslyn Art Museum offers Central Students and Faculty entertainment and education with convenience. Including its nationally renowned permanent collection and many events, the Joslyn Art Museum offers a Gallery Buffet, book store, and historic library.

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# Magic Theater twists toward movement

—Allie Green—

"We like to challenge people," said Jo Ann Schmidman, Artistic Director for the Magic Theatre. "To let people know that even in Omaha, Nebraska you can find good experimental theater."

The Magic Theatre, located on 1417 Farnam Street, is supported by The Nebraska Arts Council, Corporations, and by private donations.

The Magic Theatre provides the average theater goer with a new and unique theater experience. Located in Omaha for approximately twenty two years, the Magic Theatre writes and puts on all its own productions.

"Individuals in the Midwest are open to the incredible new ideas in the name of art," said Ms. Schmidman. She added that they place a strong emphasis on writing and creativity.

"Most theater is people talking, not much movement at all," said Ms. Schmidman. "We are more visual than other theaters. We use more body and physical images."



Magic Theatre players (from left): Megan Terry, Susan Watts, JoAnn Schmidman, and Sora Kim portraying a scene in *Body Leaks*.

Sora Kim, Visual Artist for the Magic Theatre, adds projections and slides, plus polar motion in many of the productions.

The theater, nestled between a shoeshine store and a restaurant in a converted store

front, has no permanent stage or chairs, and can seat ninety three people maximum. "In one production," said Ms. Schmidman, "we actually had the audience move around and

working on a production called *Body Leaks*, which is opening at the end of April.

*Body Leaks* is about what we say and what we don't say," said Ms. Schmidman. She

Ms. Schmidman said that "everybody learns in a different way, *Headlights* shows this."

"We are not trying to preach," said Ms. Schmidman. "We want to entertain and make a statement." She also said that people like to have the best time when their minds and hearts are engaged. "We want to mean something more to people."

Prices for the Magic Theatre include a two dollar student rate. "We are interested in communicating with people," said Ms. Schmidman. "If you have no money, we will take rainchecks."

"We do what's close to life," said Ms. Schmidman. "We write in contemporary English. Different performances is what is most intriguing."

"We give our plays, give our audience animation so they can better control their lives," added Ms. Schmidman.

"Not another place like this in Omaha," said Ms. Schmidman.

## Nightmares turn into page reality

—Stephanie Kurtzuba—

"Horror writers are simply trying to make sense out of the chaos, and... ourselves as well. We have to go all the way in, to conduct exploratory surgery. And some surgery is done with a laser and some with a saw..."

Such is the philosophy of Robert R. McCammon, New York Times bestselling author of such macabre masterpieces as *Swan Song* and *Wolf's Hour*.

With a unique style and a distinct flair for science fiction, Robert Mc Cammon's second novel, *Stinger*, draws its reader in like Pepsi through a straw. This chilling, explicit novel does not skimp on all the traditional methods to arouse fear in its audience. McCammon creates a powerful world of terror through vivid description (including my personal favorite, the decapitation chapter) and psychological snafu.

*Stinger* is a venture into the mind-bending evil of an alien bounty hunter. Sounds kinda stupid, eh? Well, trust me, by the end of chapter 5, you will

be so involved in gang warfare, a dying town, and crooked cops, that an alien bounty hunter will seem like a relief!

The sheer control McCammon commands from his reader leaves one almost exhausted at the end of the book. The intricacy of characters and their relationships, which in most books bores me as much as a good game of canasta, actually adds depth and believability to this somewhat sensational novel. (Nah, me facetious?!)

Although I enjoyed McCammon's first novel, *Swan Song*, more than *Stinger*, I was pleasantly surprised and impressed to find that *Stinger* had a completely new plot twist and purpose. Often, horror writers tend to fall into the trap of rewriting a previous novel and just changing characters' names.

I recommend *Stinger* to any avid horror fans, but I also suggest *Swan Song* as a milder intro to McCammon. Watch for Rob's coming work because I'm predicting now that he is soon to join the ranks of the masters: King, Saul, and Barker.

## Want something new? Cafe serves up variety

—Josh Cooper—

Upon entering the Garden Cafe, you will notice a huge assortment of pies on display. The list includes cherry pie, apple pie, Boston cream pie, raspberry pie, and chocolate pie, just to name a small

the menu, and if you can't find what you want, the Garden can probably still make it for you. The servings are huge, and the prices are very reasonable.

A long list of potato casseroles is on the menu. An incredible assortment of sandwiches, melts, quiches,



fraction. You will also see rolls, such as cinnamon and caramel, cookies, brownies, muffins, croissants, and breads. Some of the homemade breads include raisin, cinnamon, cherry, banana, blueberry, and sourdough.

However, before you jump into the desserts, you may want to have breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

At the Garden Cafe, you'll find ten of everything on

stirfrys, salads, hamburgers, steaks, soups, pancakes, omelettes, eggs, fish, chicken breasts, and veggie entrees are available as well. You can also order a sloppy joe or even prime rib.

The Garden Cafe is the only place I know that offers a special including a delicious, warm cinnamon roll and tasty chicken salad. I recommend this combination (it's my personal favorite).

The service is exceptional and the overall appearance of the food is very nice. My meal, which was surrounded by an assortment of fresh fruit, tasted wonderful.

The interior of the Garden is very clean and springy and colors include creams, whites, and green. Some large green plants are inside, and beautiful water colors hang here and there. The Garden Cafe is a place where you can smile and enjoy yourself. If you are looking for a restaurant that is dark and gloomy, you'd best look elsewhere.

The newly relocated and remodeled Garden Cafe, located at 103 & Pacific (at One Pacific Place), is open Thursday through Saturday from 6:30-10:00 and Sunday through Wednesday from 6:30-9:00.

After eating at the Garden Cafe it is fun to window shop at the neighboring stores including: the Gap, Banana Republic, Brookstone, and Laura Ashley, among others.

The Garden Cafe is a delightful place to eat. It is fairly casual, and tee shirts or sport coats are acceptable.

If you want a menu that offers one of the biggest assortments of food in Omaha, delicious desserts, and you don't wish to spend five hours waiting for your meal, go to the Garden!

The Garden Cafe has two other locations. One is located at 108 & Center in Rockbrook Village, and the other is located in the Old Market at 1113 Howard.

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# Smithereens stick to plain routine

—Alyssa McIntyre—

"Something new is what we need." — The Smithereens

Monday, March 5 was just a normal Monday, even though The Smithereens were in town. Plain, routine, and simple best describe The Smithereens concert held at the Peony Park ballroom. The plain grey tour bus in the parking lot was the first indicator of The Smithereens' simplicity.

The usual concert atmosphere continued as I went inside. The sight of concert t-shirts, (very uncreative designs, plain red, grey, or black shirts) the bulky Peony Park security guards with the usual blank looks on their faces, and the usual crowd of people waiting for the concert to start indicated the onset of another Omaha concert.

It turned out that the band that opened the concert is a basically routine opening band

at Peony Park concerts. The group, called Charlie Burton and the Hiccups, opened for The Replacements last May and played basically the same show at this show as they did then.

Aside from the few strange (probably inebriated) people who were really getting into the music, no one was very enthused with the unattractive appearance, and rather profane, country-style music. The corpulent lead guitarist, who played sloppily most of the time, did do some excerpts from songs by Metallica, The Rolling Stones, and others, which finally got some reaction out of the crowd. Waiting for the headline band to come on was the normal, boring time. When The Smithereens finally did come on, the room was slightly more energetic, but you could tell that for these New Jersey natives, Omaha was just their Monday night stop, on the way to some bigger city.

The music was obviously part of their usual

routine. I own only one of The Smithereens tapes, but had heard almost every song the group played. I realize that people go to concerts to hear their old favorites, but groups also like to publicize their new music at these concerts. It seemed like The Smithereens just were not fired up enough to try anything new for us little Omahans. It also seemed like someone had said to them, oh, these are simple people, just keep it simple.

I'm not saying that simple is all bad. The band's simple tunes made it easy even for people who do not have all The Smithereens' albums to rock to the music, maybe even sing a line or two.

I was also extremely thankful that The Smithereens have not turned completely fake. Many bands today use machines to produce the sound of actual instruments, because the machines are easier to control during live performances than real guitars, drums, or other instruments.

No matter how much easier the machines are to control, I will always believe that it is much more entertaining to watch live drummers, for example, than to watch some guy hit a keyboard with one finger to produce some pseudo-drum noise.

I did see an unusually wide age span at this concert. I had always thought The Smithereens only had a following of high school and college age students, but I saw many older and younger people. Altogether, the concert was actually quite well-attended. The dance floor and most of the seating areas were nearly full.

I also noticed that the usually idle security guards were actually doing their job. A number of minors were taken out of the concert for possessing alcohol. Anyone who was not wearing one of the blue wristbands, which were given only to those who could show legal proof that they were over 21, could be arrested for

possession of alcohol, or so the sign on the door said.

I guess the concert was really live for some people. People who were standing near the stage came out of the concert perspiring quite heavily. Personally, I was getting really sick of the whole thing on about the first encore. When the lights finally did come on after the third encore, I was really glad.

Overall, I enjoyed the concert. I can't say I didn't like it. It was nothing special, though. I just hope The Smithereens were able to recover from their low in Omaha, and get a little energy for their next concert. I also hope that not many other groups have to be subjected to the low voltage Omaha crowd at Peony Park. I have always wondered why groups don't come to Omaha, but now I realize that it must be pretty hard to want to play here, when they know they could play somewhere where the crowd does more than stand and bob their head once in a while.

## Rene Johnson: dancer and actress

# Central performer takes to Omaha stage

—Ingo Socha—

"I wanted to become a dancer, but then I slid into acting and now I can use both," said

Saturdays at noon at the Upstairs dinner theater.

Her first production at the dinner theater, her first paid role, was one of ten kids in

*Boat* at the Orpheum Theater. She played young Kim, the daughter of a couple who performed on a boat. Even though she "only" had four lines of dialogue, she was fascinated. "This was a big thrill because some of the famous actors from New York and Texas were there."

Her favorite part was the role of Piglet in *Winnie the Pooh*. "The kids come and hug you, and it's just great when you see their faces brightening," said Rene.

This is one of the main reasons why Rene loves to perform on stage. "I just love to play for little kids and make them smile." Another important reason, said Rene, is "you can be whatever you want to be."

Also, Rene admitted, she loves costumes. "The costumes in *Show Boat* were just great. Everything matched, even minor details like gloves," she said.

Acting was not always her major interest, though. Rene planned a career as a professional dancer. She started to take dancing lessons when she was four years old. "I had so much

energy, my parents just had to do something," she said.

Her mother was the first to propose lessons to her. Her first school was Beth Gaynes' Dance School. In nine years, she learned most of her technique. "I enjoyed being there a lot. Beth had brilliant choreography and fancy costumes."

She left Beth because she was offered a job as a teacher for three-to-12-year-old kids at a different school. "It was the most fun," said Rene about her teaching experience.

Now she is at a smaller school which is "a lot different from what I was used to from Beth. We hold recitals in high schools, and the costumes are more affordable."

Rene specialized in classical ballet, but she also does point dance, tap, and jazz dance.

Everybody in her family is somehow involved in entertainment.

Her father used to play in a band called the Melville Band, her younger brother is

presently learning how to play the drums, and her older brother, Ray, works for a dinner theater in Ohio.

Her mother, Rene said, "is the brain of the family." Rene relies very much on her family's support.

Her brother Ray is Rene's idol. To her, the perfect dancer is just like her brother: he has strength, coordination, patience, and rhythm, because "you have to feel the music."

Ray, a graduate of Central, did choreography for Rene's competitions and also for the Upstairs Dinner Theater.

He started attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha but interrupted his studies when he was invited to go on tour with the Community Playhouse's "Christmas Carol."

Rene admires him "because he is a male dancer and there aren't a whole lot of men doing ballet. Besides, his choreography is fantastic."

Rene's next project is a part in Central's spring play *Tom Jones*.



Actress Rene Johnson dances on a wall outside Central. Photo by Ingo Socha.

freshman Rene Johnson. No, she was not talking about her part in *Pippin* or her tap dancing gig in this year's "Road Show."

Rene Johnson is working for the Upstairs Dinner Theater. For two years, she has auditioned for every major production there.

Her current show is called *The Case of the Missing Hot Dogs*. A group of kids—one of whom is played by Rene—is looking for a crocodile that escaped from Henry Doorly Zoo.

The show is presented

*Cheaper by the Dozen.*

A highlight of her "career" has been a part in *Show*

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# Go West, Buckaroo



"STOP!" Mortimor screamed in terror as Flounder slammed on his brakes and our family truckster skidded across the interstate.

"WHAT? WHAT?" Flounder yelled to Mortimor as the car careened to a halt alongside the road.

"What," Mortimor said in disbelief, "didn't you guys see that damsel in distress back there? She's waiting to be rescued. She's waiting for Prince Mort."

I dry-heaved.

"We're on the interstate, Mort," Flounder began. "I just can't back up in traffic that's going 65 miles per hour. I like my life, you know. Besides, it's against the law."

"Against the law!" Mortimor exclaimed, "Since when has it been legal to drive at 110 miles per hour? You've been breaking the law ever since we left Omaha."

"That's different," Flounder muttered.

"Forget her," I said. "There will be plenty of damsels in Colorado who you can get rejected by."

"Yah, Mort," Flounder said, "let's just get to Colorado."

Mortimor sighed.

"You boys forget that we're meeting my girlfriend in Colorado. All of those damsels won't do me any good then. I've got to seize the moment, now. Use your heads."

I looked at Flounder and Flounder looked at me. We both knew what had to be done. Flounder kicked it in reverse and we drove back up the interstate—despite all the oncoming traffic.

The other cars swerved, hurled, and crashed out of our way. The air was filled with curses and screams. I bet there were at least twelve cars wrecked on the road, and countless more angry people.

"Thanks, guys," Mortimor said after we had parked in front of the damsel's disabled car. "No problem," we said in unison as he jumped out and proceeded to be chivalrous.

"I hope he doesn't take long," Flounder said. "I wanted to hit the slopes before dark."

"Me, too," I lied. I had never been skiing in my life and I had hoped to keep it that way, but Mortimor talked me into going. He mentioned snow bunnies and

the absence of adult supervision. How could I refuse?

I didn't want to ski, though. I had this very real fear that I would never come back in one piece. I was so scared of my frosted-mountain suicide that I had brought an extra five hundred dollars for medical bills. No teasing, I'm a fragile guy.

I don't understand why we couldn't have gone to Paris or Cancun or Des Moines. I would have gone anywhere if I didn't have to ski.

"What is taking that blockhead so long?" Flounder said. "We don't have all day."

"Sorry guys," Mortimor said as he climbed back into the car, "she was a tough nut to crack."

"Can we go now?" Flounder grumbled.

"Yes, Yes," he said, "onward!"

Flounder peeled out and started speeding down the interstate, avoiding the debris and the wreckage we had caused before. The angry drivers shook their fists at us and yelled words not worthy to be printed in this publication. Some of them even began chucking parts of their damaged cars at us.

"Right back at ya!" Mortimor yelled as he told his victims off with his own special hand movements. Mortimor laughed a deranged laugh, and Flounder and I got nervous.

He turned to Flounder then, who was already going ninety. "Fly man, fly like the wind! Can't you get this thing to go any faster? TO WINTER PARK AWAY!!"

Flounder liked to speed, plus he was anxious to get there, so he obliged Mortimor to the fullest. They were both beginning to scare me now.

"Flounder," I said, "I don't mean to offend your driving capabilities or anything, but can you handle this kitten when it's purring down the road at 145 miles per hour?"

"No problem," he answered.

"Just checking," I said as I put on my seat belt and began a couple of Hail Marys.

"ARRRRGGGHHHH!" Flounder suddenly called out in agony, "Cops."

We pulled over to the side of the road and the cop followed behind us. I was secretly overjoyed. We had been going just a tad bit too fast for me. At this point, I didn't care if Flounder got thrown in jail, just as long as we slowed down.

"I didn't even see him," Flounder said, "He just

materialized from the air. One moment there was nothing, the next, flashing lights and sirens. Talk about bad luck."

The officer tapped on Flounder's window and he rolled it down.

"Is there a problem officer?" Flounder asked in the most innocent voice he could muster.

"Did you know you were going 80, I repeat, 80 miles over the speed limit?" he said.

"80 MILES OVER THE SPEED LIMIT!" Flounder screamed. "My speedometer must be broken or something because I swear it read 55!"

The cop looked at Flounder like he was insane. I asked myself if there was a law against lying to a police officer, but I couldn't think of any off the top of my head. Thank goodness.

"Young man," the officer began, "do you expect me to believe that you didn't know you were going 80, I repeat, 80 miles over the speed limit?"

"Yes," Flounder said timidly.

"Didn't you think you were going just a little bit fast when you were passing other vehicles left and right?" he said sarcastically.

Flounder started to cry. He was caught and everybody knew it, or at least I thought everybody knew it.

"Let me handle this," Mortimor said to the blubbering Flounder before turning to the cop.

"Oh no," I thought, "not Mortimor."

"Excuse me, sir," Mortimor said, "are those Bugle Boy jeans your wearing?"

We didn't get a chance to drive away because the cop grabbed Mortimor by the throat and began strangling him. It took Flounder and I both to pry him off. I guess Mortimor just has a way with people.

I didn't ski that spring break. I didn't see the mountains. I didn't even make it to the Colorado border. Mortimor, Flounder, and I spent our spring break in the Lincoln County jail. We had been bad boys and had to pay the consequences.

Why we had been bad boys is beyond me. For fifty-one weeks of the year we're fine, upstanding citizens (except Mortimor, of course), but when spring break week comes along we lose our minds. We have no sense of responsibility. We have no morals, no values. It makes for a good time and everything, but as I sit in this cell I will ask myself over and over again, "why?"

## Rauchut award

Continued from page 9

said that American Charter decided that they could not support Dr. Rauchut financially.

Ms. Breakell said that although the company "believes strongly in the programs" of the OPS district, and "support their excellence," American Charter believes they need to encourage action so people who excel in teaching do not have to make these types of decisions.

Mr. Conley of Guarantee Mutual said, "Here is a teacher any district would love to have. It seems ludicrous that somehow, the district could not make up for the shortfall."

When a teacher takes a year's leave without pay in OPS, there is no guarantee that he or she will return to the same school they left. Dr. Rauchut said he plans to return to teach, even though it may not be at Central.

Ms. Karen Myers, spokesperson for the National Endowment for the Humanities, said she knew of three or four other award winners, off the top of her head, who, like Dr. Rauchut are actually taking a monetary loss by taking the award.

# Bad Influence proves 'art imitates life'

—Stephanie Kurtzuba—

'Tis said "art imitates life." Well, for those doubting Thomases who might challenge this age old adage, I offer as proof exhibit A: *Bad Influence* starring Rob Lowe and James Spader.

**"James Spader did a fair job as the young stockbroker who falls under Lowe's 'bad influence.'"**  
-Stephanie Kurtzuba

*Bad Influence*, (or *Bad Waste of Four Bucks* as it is known to me) leaves little to the viewer's imagination, both in the plot and in the bedroom scenes. And just in case you missed the boudoir part the first time when you were out getting popcorn, Rob will recap for you later in the film by showing selected tapes from his video library.

Rob Lowe's character in the film seemed to be a revamped pretty boy attempt at

Jack Nicholson's *The Shining* character. (You remember, "All work and no play makes Jack" a really scary dude!)

Anyway, Rob gave it his best shot and I have to admit, James Spader did a fair job as the young stockbroker who falls under Lowe's "bad influence."

Spader lends an innocence and naivete to his otherwise wish-washy role and carries off the transformation his character undergoes from Super Wimp to Super Stud.

Another part of this film that I didn't appreciate, even more so than Rob's bad Nicholson imitation, was the fact that the director elected to show the characters relations with multiple sex partners.

O.K., sure this movie was rated R and it's a fair warning of what to expect onscreen, but I really believe it is the responsibility of the people involved in the movie to be aware of the influence their movies can have.

And whether our society likes it or not, AIDS is a

growing threat and everyone is responsible for doing what they can to stop the spread of it, including the movie industry. Considering the high visibility of stars such as Lowe and Spader, I believe they owe it to the public to at least refrain from onscreen

promiscuity. If you have an extra four bones that you'd rather spend almost aimlessly than save, see *Bad Influence* but be warned, it can have a bad influence on you. Especially if you like video cameras!

## Beauty and the Beast

- \* Did you know...
- \* Beauty and the Beast is more than a love story about a pretty girl and an ugly guy with a bad haircut?
- \* Sunday, April 22nd
- \* Orpheum Theatre, 2 p.m.
- \* \$ 5.00 student ticket ... bring your student I. D.
- \* Buy your tickets in advance at Ballet Omaha (1416 Howard) or at the Orpheum right before the performance.

Ballet Omaha  
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# Mutant turtles rock and roll on screen

Lena Gold

You've probably seen them on television or at the toy store, well now they're on the big screen and these dudes are cool! Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles opened last Friday and despite not-so-awesome reviews,

wave. The turtles are sad but soon meet up with a striking young reporter and later a vigilante crime buster. Together they all survive the assault by the Foot in their reporter friend's antique store apartment. Then they begin their



## LEAN, GREEN AND ON THE SCREEN.

the movie was fun to watch.

The movie tells the story of how four ordinary turtles mutated into four totally hip ninja heroes and no, this is not a cartoon.

The turtles were found by a talking rat/ninja master and when the turtles stumbled over some toxic waste in the sewer, they mutated and were trained in the art of the ninja by their talking rat/ninja master father figure.

The turtles begin fighting crime while staying unseen, when something terrible happens, their ninja master father figure is kidnapped by members of "The Foot", a gang which is masterminding a crime

search for the kidnapped ninja master. Finally the gang meets up with the leader of The Foot who ironically is the same man that killed the ninja rat's old master. Then they all get in a big fierce battle and guess who wins?????With their rough street dialects and pizza fetishes, the turtles make the movie fun to watch.

The movie is much more appealing for the six to ten year olds but would be fun to see with your younger brothers or sisters on a Sunday afternoon, but definitely not a Friday or Saturday night, and most definitely not with a date!

# Volcano movie: semi-explosive

Keith Klanderud

Joe Versus The Volcano was an interesting movie. When the movie ended my first thought was "I don't like it" but I thought again and I realized that I did like it.

The movie stars Tom Hanks (Big) as Joe and Meg Ryan (When Harry Met Sally) as the love interest, the love interest, and the love interest.

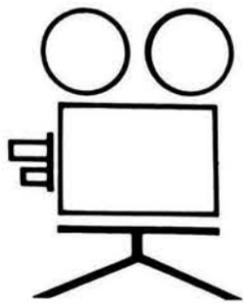
Yes, it was fun. Joe is introduced as a miserable character who has no life and a horrible gloomy job that is taking him nowhere fast. He is constantly going to the doctor trying to figure out why he feels so darn bad. Joe's doctor figures out what is really wrong with him: he has a brain cloud. A brain cloud? you ask, yes, a brain cloud.

Joe then decides to accept an invitation to die like a real man and throw himself into a volcano to save the orange soda-loving Waponi tribe.

The journey begins (finally) with Joe and his limousine driver on a shopping spree through New York to prepare him for the big trip. Joe then departs for Los Angeles where he meets a rich little playgirl who leads to her sister, another rich little tart who will navigate him to the island of the Waponis.

Things soon turn to worse for Joe and his love interest when their ship is destroyed at sea and they end up floating to the island of the Waponi's on Joe's heavy-duty luggage.

Then it gets even more exciting! Joe finally makes the decision to jump off of the volcano but right when he takes the first step..... I won't spoil it for you.



I think the message of the show is quite clear: don't wait until you find out you have a brain cloud before you start living your life (it's either that or always buy durable luggage.)

Joe Versus The Volcano is a fun and different movie. Once again Steven Spielberg took a movie and did whatever he wanted with it. That makes Joe Versus The Volcano along with many of his other movies worth seeing. I recommend it, although don't expect as much out of it as the title suggests.

# New European Bakery Delice, new place for sweets

Ingo Socha

Twenty years ago, about all one could buy for dessert in Omaha, was Cannolli, ice cream, and cheese cake. Fortunately, times have changed and one of the newest places to find just desserts is Delice at 1206 Howard St. in the Old Market. The Delice is a European-style bakery. Here you buy tarts and tortes as rich as sweet as they are offered in France, Germany or Italy.

The homey atmosphere resembles a mixture of a French bistro and mother's kitchen. Blue and white tiles and wooden tables produce the kitchen look.

Halfway up the wall, the deep blue color is separated from a light apricot hue by a wooden panel. Milky opaque lamps—as one would find in a bistro—hang from the ceiling.

Walls are tastefully decorated with black and white photographs by Willy Ronis and Frank Horvat. A big chalk board lists the day's menu and prizes.

Dominating the small, but long room, is a display case and a wooden counter, where the patron places his order and picks up utensils from mugs like mom used to put them in.

Delice is the French word for "delight," which is also an ice cream speciality, which you won't find here. Even without it, there is a vast choice. "I try to offer recipes from all over Europe," says owner Katie Combs. "Most ideas are from France and Italy, though."

The menu features 15 cakes priced from \$16 for a Dutch apple cake to \$30 for a marjolaine. This tart consists of layers of toasted hazelnut, hazelnut, chocolate ganache, and hazelnut mousse and is "the signature of the bakery," says Katie.

Guests who don't want a whole cake (the marjolaine serves 16) can buy the treat by the slice or sample from an also huge variety of petits-fours, mini

When she became "up with baking behind the scenes," she returned to Omaha. "I wanted to be my own boss," she said. Also, I enjoy people and I was tired of sitting somewhere in the back. I wanted to see customers and talk to them."

She borrowed money from friends and family and rented the little store in the Old Market.

Presently, she employs six other people who help her run the place. "We make everything from scratch," says Katie Combs.

According to her, the tarts and treats are "made from the finest ingredients. We only use European chocolate. Sampling around, I especially enjoyed the German chocolate cake, which is nutty and moist. Tidbits from the "assorted cookies" seemed to lack the moisture, though.

At the moment, Katie's emphasis lies in catering. She supplies desserts for restaurants like M's Pub and the Aquarium. Also, she bakes for weddings and other events. She'll even make a cake from a customer's recipe she says. "I have been asked to make obscure cakes before."

For a nice cup of espresso and some delicious cake, Delice is a good bet. If you like it, ask Katie for her formulas. "I'll give every recipe to everybody, I don't have secrets."

Delice is open six days a week from nine p.m. to eight a.m. It's closed on Mondays.



pastries, and other fancy bakery.

Coffee in many shapes and forms is offered. The Delice offers espresso, cappuccino, and cafe latte besides normal coffee. Decaffeinated coffee and double servings are also available. "We make all coffees with fresh beans from San Francisco," says Katie.

Apparently she fell in love with the San Francisco beans during her stay in the Bay Area. There, she went to school and baked for different hotels before she became pastry chef of the Parc 55 hotel in San Francisco.

# Running nuns good for laugh

Lena Gold

Domini, domini, domini. Sister Inviolata of the Immaculate Conception and Sister Euphemia of the Five Wounds? If you liked A Fish Called Wanda, you'll love Nuns on the Run.

This not-so-seriously religious film from Hand Made Films and produced by Michael White stars Eric Idle (a Monty Python player and personal

favorite of mine) and Robbie Coltraine. These two Brits go from good-hearted criminals to nuns in an effort to hide from the hitmen trying to hunt them down. And, despite their zany behavior and rather masculine habits, they might actually have pulled it off if Sister Euphemia hadn't fallen in love with an accident prone, half blind, but very nice local waitress.

Okay, yes, it's one of those crazy comedies solemn

people label as stupid, but it was fun and I laughed a lot.

Never fear, however, you don't particularly like Monty Python. Nuns on the Run is quite that off the wall, but it's wild, sort of a cute combination of slapstick and wit.

Nuns on the Run was one of those "good feeling happy ending movies."

So, if you're still depressed from midterms, go see it, it'll cheer you up.

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# Central's baseball team prepares for season

## Academics as well as athletics stressed to players



Senior, Ross Nisi, prepares to hurl a pitch at an opposing batter, last season. Photo by Andre Gilmore

Michelle Hickle

The season for Central's baseball team has just begun, but they have been preparing for a long time.

The team began preparing for this season during a league last summer.

They have been selling refreshments at home football and basketball games to pay for the entry and umpire fees of the summer league, since they were not sponsored. The baseball team will be sponsored by Piccolo's this summer.

All but one of this year's varsity team played in the summer league, according to Mr. Elvis Dominguez, Spanish teacher and head baseball coach.

**"We have the best ever assembled here. They are not only good athletes, but good people, too."**

- Mr. Dominguez

Athletic preparation is not the only type of preparation the team has done. All school year each team member has worked to get good grades and keep them up.

If a student does not have the grades, he does not play baseball. Mr. Dominguez makes sure of it.

Tryouts, held in late February, produced 17 students for the varsity team and 14 for the junior varsity team.

The junior varsity team which is coached by Mr. Steve Eubanks, a McMillian science teacher, practices at Lynch after school. Central's varsity team practices at Booth and at Creighton's baseball field.

Mr. Dominguez said that this year's varsity team will be "very competitive and there is no reason why we can't compete with anyone in Metro or State.

We have the best group ever assembled here. They are not only good athletes, but good people, too."

This year's varsity team consists of James Archer and Scott Sheehan, sophomores;

**"Athletic preparation is not the only type of preparation the team has done. Each team member has worked to get good grades..."**

Kevin Jones, Aaron McKeever, Scott Shannon, Gary Sillik, Scott Whitaker, and Brett Wolfe, juniors; and Robert Barta, Kimera Bartee, Mike Church, Matt Deiber, Trevor Flynn, Craig Linguist, Ross Nisi, Todd Reger, and Brian Wilson, seniors.

The junior varsity's team is made up of students from Central and Norris, one of Central's feeder schools. Arnold Brathwaite, Mike Buckley, Jesse Dilonzo, and Pat Driscoll, freshmen; Matt Auslander, Al Bakhit, Eric Behrens, Matt Hauffman, and Mike Kay, sophomores; Rob Likes, Brian Mejak, and Marlon Wright, juniors, are the students from Central.

Jerry Cline and Justin Noel are freshmen from Norris.

# Central's boys soccer team gets ready to explode

Benjamin Rouch

"It's fair. Everything in soccer is fair, but I know our team is better than a 1-3 team. We have incredibly talented players who need to learn to work with each other," Jeremy Kershaw, senior, said.

Central's boys' varsity soccer team has stumbled from the starting blocks this year, or so it would seem to anyone who hadn't attended any of the games. If one judged the team solely on their record, one would have to assume the team isn't as strong or as competitive compared to

teams of recent years. However, that is not the case.

"Our capabilities do not reflect our record at all," Sean Foster, junior, said. "People expected more; they expected too much, too fast."

Brian Goeser, sophomore, agreed. "I don't think it [our record] shows how truly good we really are. I think we can compete with any team."

Why, then, are the Eagles 1-3? The answer is youth and inexperience. The players aren't inexperienced, but the team is. This year's soccer team hasn't had a chance to grow

together, yet. Technically, 1990 is a rebuilding year for the team.

"We have a young team," Coach David Martin said. "Of the starting eleven players, we have only two seniors and two juniors; the rest are sophomores."

But 1990 isn't a rebuilding year. Although Central does have a very young team, they have fought till the very last minute of every game they've played. They could have easily won all three of the games they lost.

"We've had two shootouts in the last two games—you can't get any closer than that," Jamy Champenoy, sophomore, said.

"With a couple of breaks," Coach Martin said, "we could've been 4-0."

Leadership might have

been a factor in the three losses.

Coach Martin said he felt that sophomores Sean Foster, Jamy Champenoy, and Josh Bahr had emerged as leaders offensively. However, he felt the senior leadership of Justin McWhorter and Jeremy Kershaw was paramount to the young team's success.

"McWhorter and Kershaw are playing very well. I hope they continue to display the leadership it takes to succeed in the Metro Conference," Coach Martin said.

"They voted us captains [Bahr, Foster, McWhorter] because they thought we could bring the team together. I think the captains need to deliver," Bahr said.

Coach Martin also praised sophomore Steve Fontaine.

"Steve Fontaine is probably the most improved player on the team. He gives 200% every game," Coach Martin said.

The scoring burden, though, hangs on Sean Foster's shoulders.

"We look up to Sean for our offensive leadership," Jeremy said.

Coach Martin agreed. "Sean Foster has got the bazooka foot."

Coach Martin thinks the strong point of the team is the defense, though. He said they have a good fullback and halfback crew, anchored by Kershaw and McWhorter. Raddick Kosior, "the Polish Nightmare," is also a defensive specialist.

"The offense hasn't jelled yet," Coach Martin said.

"I think there's a lot of potential on our team," Jamy said; "we just need to pull all the individual talent together."

What will happen when the individual talent of the Central High soccer team is running on all cylinders and working together as a team?

"Every game we've played we've gotten better," Coach Martin said. "By the time we get to districts we could surprise some people."

J.D. Guinn was a little bit more optimistic.

"If we start going all out and get it together, I think we can make it to the final four at state, if not the championship," he said.

The Eagle soccer team is ready to explode.

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Knauss and Martin resign

# Central left looking for new varsity coaches



Mr. Knauss coaches in one of his last games. Here the Lady Eagles listen to what Mr. Knauss has to say during a time out. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

— Christopher Harz —  
Central's varsity basketball teams will be looking for new coaches next year. Mr. Don Knauss and Mr. Jim Martin have resigned from their varsity coaching duties.

Mr. Knauss, who has coached the girls' varsity team for the last five years, finished his coaching career with a record of 7-13 this year.

"My coaching days are over," said Mr. Knauss, who has coached high school basketball for almost 30 years; 25 of these years have been coaching boys.

"Coaching basketball is fun and easy but the other distractions make it hard to coach," said Mr. Knauss. According to Mr. Knauss there were some disadvantages that he had to face while coaching at Central.

The first is fan support. "When there are only five people at a girls' varsity basketball game there is not any sort of crowd support," said Mr. Knauss.

Another problem which Mr. Knauss had to face as a coach is the lack of people who tryout for girls' basketball.

The freshman girls' basketball team only had four members on the team, which caused Mr. Knauss to cancel their games. According to Mr. Knauss when, a school like Central does not have a true freshman class, it is hard to compete competitively against other schools.

"When a student attends a school like Benson and plays sports there, it is going to be hard to get that student to come to Central their sophomore year," said Mr. Knauss.

One problem O.P.S. faces is that it does not have a real intermural program to create

athletes, unlike parochial schools which have programs which start in fifth or sixth grade to create athletes, said Mr. Knauss.

Another problem that Mr. Knauss sees is that freshmen do not come to Central to play sports.

Mr. Knauss has

**" My coaching days are over."**  
- Mr. Don Knauss

coached at three different schools in his coaching career: Gering (9 years), Benson (16 years), and Central ( 5 years). Along with Mr. Knauss's coaching experience he has also received many awards.

He is a member of the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame, three times Metro coach of the year, two times western Nebraska coach of the year, and coached the state all star basketball team once in 1981. Along with these awards Mr. Knauss also had the highest

winning percentage among active metro coaches with a record of 379 wins and 198 losses.

One thing Mr. Knauss will continue to do is teach. He plans on playing it by ear on how long he will keep teaching.

After 22 years Mr. Jim Martin, boys' varsity basketball coach, has called it quits. "I lost interest and became burned out," said Mr. Martin when asked why he retired from coaching. Another reason Mr. Martin retired from coaching was that he thought it was time to let a younger person take over as head coach.

Mr. Martin has some more goals that he wants to accomplish before he is done teaching. " I'm planning on perhaps teaching another four years," said Mr. Martin. Another thing he plans on doing is to work more with F.C.A (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) and get more involved with church activities. One other option Mr. Martin could pursue is to coach overseas because there are many teams which look for coaches from the U.S.

As a basketball coach

Mr. Martin had a record of 290 wins and 175 losses many of those wins while coaching at Central. Mr. Martin has coached at three different schools: Milford as an assistant coach (two years) , Benson as sophomore and freshman coach (five years), and at Central ( 22 years).

While being a coach, Mr. Martin has also received a number of awards. In 1975 Mr. Martin was named coach of the year by the Omaha World Herald; this was for all varsity sports. For the years 1974 and 1975 Mr. Martin was voted metro coach of the year by the other metro coaches.

Along with these awards, Mr. Martin's teams won state in 1974 and 1975 while also being runner-up in 1969. According to Mr. Martin, his

biggest reward though is seeing former players taking an active part in the community.

When asked what it will take for Central to become a basketball power again, Mr. Martin came up with the following statement. " The freshman restrictions at Central must be lifted; we must wait a few years for a new cycle of people, and the North High attendance area must be opened to all schools." Another thing Mr. Martin commented on is the style of basketball play in the 1990's. "It should be fast paced offense and a lot of pressing or full court defense."

Mr. Martin does not have any real plans to return to coaching in any major way, but he said he might coach a church team or go overseas to coach.

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Offsides with Guest Columnist Renee Grush

# Sports vs. Academics; the issue confronts society

Recently, the World-Herald has overflowed with articles and letters from the public, expressing concern that the United States has placed the importance of sports high above academics in the school systems. As I read a few editorials, I immediately chuckled to myself at the ludicrousness of these people.

One grandparent wrote about the concern she faced when her grandchildren purposely missed test questions to avoid the embarrassment of being too smart. She went on to say that kids who don't make a team are labeled as nobodies and further suggested that only "extremely smart kids" should be allowed to play on an athletic team.

How ridiculous! I've never seen anyone shunned aside simply because they're not an athlete; and I've seen people cheat, yes, but try to do worse on a test?

I continued to read until an article about Jaime Escalante, a Los Angeles calculus teacher, caught my eye. This man, whose teaching accomplishments became nationally recognized in the movie "Stand and Deliver," was now considering leaving his job due in part to parents who take their children out of advanced classes to allow more time for sports.

Slowly I began to understand the grandparent's concern. If parents aren't going to be supportive of higher education, certainly their kids won't. However, I don't think the problem ends here.

Sports seems to have become the new doorway to wealth and luxury in America. Everywhere you go, the media uses athletics as a symbol of glamor. Sports stars advertise soft drinks, tennis shoes, cigarettes, and even underwear.

But what about the people who used academic achievement to gain success in life? Where are their commercials? No wonder the grandkids feel like nobodies, when they're not good at what they see as their only hope for success.

Sports are no longer a pastime, they're a profession; a profession promising wealth.

An excellent example is the recent baseball strike that ended March 18. Players who were already making millions of dollars demanded, and eventually negotiated, an increased wage!

What has happened to our good old American pastime? The players aren't playing for love of the game! They're not even playing for exercise or personal satisfaction. They're playing for MONEY MONEY MONEY!

Speaking of money, colleges offer enormous scholarships to athletes who will eventually go professional, only to make even more money. Meanwhile, non-athletic students struggle with finances through college, struggle in their search for a job out of college, and must work their way up the ladder of success.

When conditions are so much more favorable to an athlete, of course a student who wants a successful future will be tempted to drop that advanced math class for more practice time on the field.

In reality, however, very few will actually create a profession out of their sport, or gain the recognition they desire.

The media contributes to this problem in yet another way. Television devotes its time to sporting events through all seasons, and the ratings are unbelievable!

How do you suppose the educational station compares to this? Don't get me wrong. I'll be the first to admit that I'd watch a football game before Masterpiece Theater, simply because sports are more exciting, but excitement shouldn't be a requirement for importance.

Evidently the Omaha World Herald thought sports were more exciting too, when they placed South High School on the front page of the March 12 issue for both basketball and academic decathlon championships.

**How ridiculous! I've never seen anyone shunned aside simply because they're not an athlete: and I've seen people cheat, yes, but try to do worse on a test?**

Sure, at first glance that seems pretty fair. . . until you realize that South's decathlon team won their championship two weeks prior to the front page article. It's a shame that it took a basketball title in order for decathlon to get any recognition.

The glamor associated with sports is a temptation to both young and old in today's society. I'm not saying that sports aren't rewarding; both athletics and academics have their merits. We just need to watch where we place our priorities. I am proud to attend a school where academics are stressed, yet we still maintain high athletic recognition every year.

## Rifle team shoots for success

Michelle Hickle

This year, Central's Rifle Team was undefeated in the City Rifle League. They competed against Rifle Teams from Northwest, Bryan, North, South, Burke, and Benson.

The Rifle Team began shooting in September. They practice every day. Each person on the team shoots at a match and the top four scores are used for the team score.

Each person shoots at ten targets and is allowed one round per target. There are three positions for shooting the nine and a half or eleven and a half

pound rifle: prone (lying on the stomach), kneeling, and standing.

A .22 caliber bolt action rifle is used to shoot at a one and a quarter inch target that is 50 feet away. The aim: to get a bullseye. The problem: the bullseye is only a dot. That is marksmanship.

"With marksmanship, concentration is the key," said Major Richard Yost, R.O.T.C. instructor.

Dave Bowen, Robert Gowens, Patricia Ortega, and Matthew Riley received medals for obtaining at least a 227 average in the City Rifle League

Match. Scott Dixon, William Reynolds, and John Collins obtained averages above 210. The possible high for the ten targets is 300.

The high for one position on one target is 100. Dave Bowen and John Collins each had a high score of 97 in the prone position. Matthew Riley had a high of 93, and Dave Bowen and Patricia Ortega had a high of 92 in the kneeling position. Dave Bowen, also, had a high of 83 in the standing position.

Major Yost said that the standing position was the hardest of the three.

### Letters to the editor

## Wrestlers speak out

Dear Editor,

I have recently viewed the Central High Register and to my dismay, I discovered that there were only two small paragraphs in the Register for wrestling and over half a page for SCUBA! Several Central wrestlers gave just completed a very successful season; such as our Heavy-weight State Champion Keith Tooley, and our Third-placed Larry Littlejohn. Others who have had a successful year and deserve recognition are: Brad Costanzo, John Kolvek, Steve Kolvek, and Tyrone Turner. These fine young men have been working hard for four months and have made it to state with their hard work and exceptional talent. I believe that these young men deserve more than two tiny paragraphs for all their hard work. The Register has been faithful in their support of the football team and its fine athletes like Calvin Jones, but I feel that it is now time to give the Central High Wrestling Team and its many fine athletes some recognition.

Sincerely,  
John Tiemann

Dear editor,

I am a member of the Central Wrestling Team and wish to complain about a certain paragraph released in your most

recent issue of the Register [March 2, 1990].

This paragraph pertains to Wrestling and to a certain individual, Keith Tooley. In this paragraph, it merely mentions that Keith was a state champion. I think that Keith (and the wrestling team as well) deserves more credit. After all, Keith was the only state champion produced by Central this year.

To become a state champion, you have to be the best wrestler in the state in your weight. It is a shame that Keith is not recognized more, because there are 64 class A teams in Nebraska and almost all of them have a heavyweight wrestler, but Keith was the best! Only 13 other wrestlers can share their feelings with Keith in becoming the best wrestler in their respective weight classes!

Sincerely,  
John Kolvek

Editor's note;

The Register sports staff would like to point out that two articles on wrestling have appeared in the Register along with many statistics and other information pertaining to wrestling was included in the Sports Spots section of our paper.

We thank you for your letters; we hope you will continue to voice your concerns.

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# New coaches: 'positive' addition to spring teams

—Renee Grush—

As the changes of spring bring another season of sports, Central is experiencing some changes of its own: six new spring season coaches.

The following: Mr. Larry Andrews (girls' tennis), Mr. Matt Carmichael (boys' long distance), Miss Lisa Foster (girls' long distance), Mr. Tim Herbert (boys' soccer), Mrs. Dianne Pfeiffer (stretching and high jump), and Mrs. Vickie Wiles (long jump), all inherited their coaching position in different ways.

According to Mr. Herbert, his coaching was due to "being at the right place at the right time."

"I overheard that there was a possibility of having a third [soccer] team this year because of the number of kids who sign up," Mr. Herbert said. "Since I was the assistant varsity coach at Benson last year, I was excited. I didn't think I'd be able to coach my first year at Central."

Mr. Carmichael, special education teacher at Kellom Primary Center, said that Mr. Jim Fuxa, director of Secondary Physical Education, contacted him with the offer.

According to Miss Foster, ninth grade English teacher at Norris Jr. High, Jim Fuxa was her reference source too.

"[Jim Fuxa] had seen me at different races and knew I was interested in running," Miss Foster said. "When Coach Martin contacted him, Mr. Fuxa referred him to me."

## Reasons for Coaching

According to Ms. Pfeiffer, she took her coaching position because they needed her.

"I enjoy coaching and wanted to get into a different area than gymnastics," Ms. Pfeiffer said. "They needed someone, and I enjoy working with the kids."

According to Mr. Andrews, Central art teacher, he has been waiting for an opening for a long time.

"When I came to Central seven years ago, there was

mention of an opening then," Mr. Andrews said. "I was really open for it since it would allow me to contribute outside of the classroom."

"That opportunity fell through, but I was hoping something would open up down the road," said Mr. Andrews. "Nothing came up until now, and since Mr. Jones knew I was interested, he told me about it."

According to Mr. Andrews, his interest in coaching comes from his enjoyment of playing tennis.

"I grew interested in tennis and started playing just out of college," Mr. Andrews said.

"Now I play on afternoons and weekends and often four to five hours a day in the summer."

## Coaching Qualifications

According to Mr. Andrews, he plays tennis with local associations like Omaha Sports Club, and Omaha Tennis Association.

"The league gives you an opportunity to play other people of your ability — year round," Mr. Andrews said.

"When I'm teaching I like to have a specific time set aside to play each week; that way it's more consistent," he said.

According to Mr. Carmichael, he never competed in track in high school but grew interested as an adult.

"I compete in different road races," Mr. Carmichael said, "but I'm basically a tri-athlete."

Miss Foster said that her interest in running didn't occur until she was 30 years old. Mr. Herbert said that his interest in coaching also came from his love of soccer.

"I played all through high school and later in clubs and for mens' teams in the summer," Mr. Herbert said.

According to Ms. Pfeiffer, although she was not a high jumper in high school, she did run hurdles, and her aerobics fitness training gave her experience in stretching techniques.

"Before, one of the kids would lead the stretching, but there would tend to be a lot of talking going on, and you couldn't be sure that they were doing the appropriate stretches," Ms. Pfeiffer said.

"As for high jumping, it can get frustrating because it's new to me. I'm learning from scratch, and everything will have to come with trial and error."

## Coaching Difficulties

According to Mr. Carmichael, the hardest thing about undertaking a new coaching position is learning the old system.

"You have to see what the other coaches have done, and work with the kids from there," he said.

Mr. Herbert agreed, and said that it was difficult to establish a routine. "Most kids are used to different coaching styles," he said.

"It's especially hard in the first weeks, when all three coaches are together, and it's hard to bring out your own individual coaching talents until further into the season."

"Just getting to know the kids and learning their names can be tough," Mr. Herbert said. "It's something you want to try and do, though."

Mr. Andrews said that he has received lots of help from coaches and players, but one of the hardest things is that he is unfamiliar with the other teams they will play.

"For the seniors, it's probably more of an adjustment, but it's up to that individual if the adjustment is reasonable or becomes

a problem," Mr. Andrews said.

Ms. Pfeiffer said that new coaches can be beneficial because they can give the kids "fresh ideas."

"I actually get out and run with the girls," Miss Foster said, "which makes it seem like we're all in it together."

Mr. Carmichael also runs with his boys at practice. "That way I can offer advice as we go, and they don't feel like I'm just sending them out on their own," he said.

He said that he also tries to give the boys some incentive, too.

"One method of incentives is to make deals," Mr. Carmichael

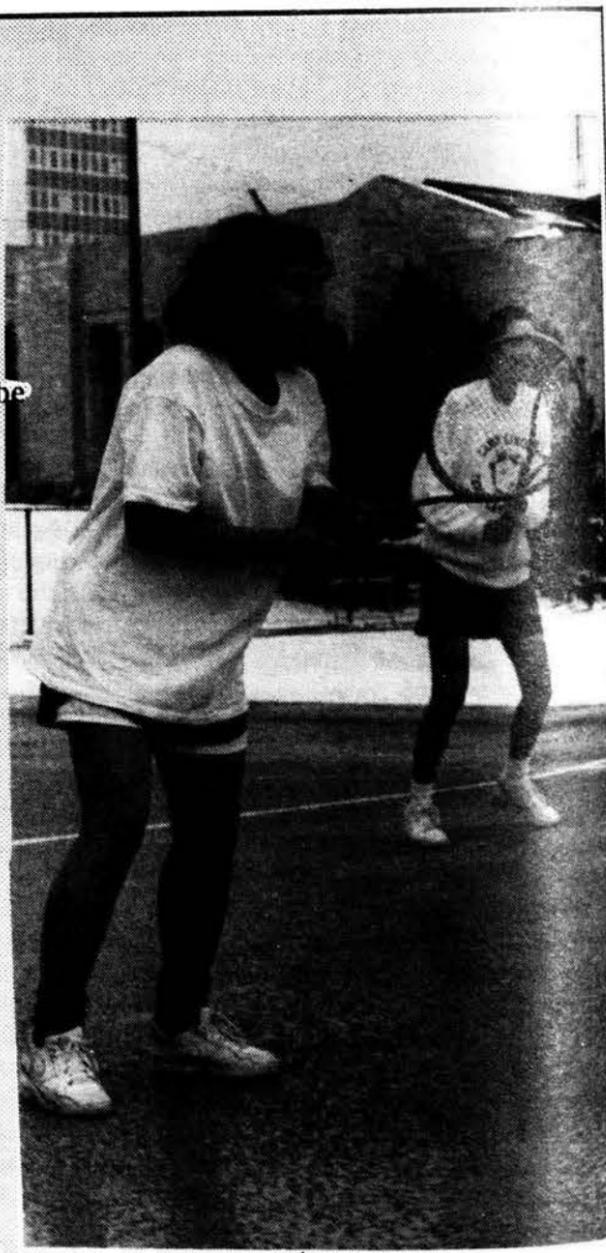
said. "I told the boys that if anyone could beat my time, I'd take them out for a malt."

According to senior Yahnea Green, the addition of the new coaches has been nothing but positive.

"It's better than last year because two coaches (Miss Foster and Mr. Carmichael) took Mr. James' place," Yahnea said. "Before the boys and girls had to run together, and we (the girls) felt like we had to compete with their times."

Yahnea said, "There should be no problems because most of the runners are new and didn't work under the old coaches."

Simone Wehbe and Melissa Roberts wait impatiently for their opponents to return their volley. The Central girls' tennis team is returning five starters from last year.



## SPORTSPOTS

Michelle Hickle

### POWERLIFTING

In the Nebraska State High School Powerlifting Championship, held at Bryan Senior High School, Central placed first overall.

Individually, Victor Johnson (sophomore) and Marvin Nutt (sophomore), Donnell Griffin (senior) and Richard Pallet (senior), placed first in their weight divisions.

Anthony Brown (sophomore) and Jesse Value (sophomore), Ronnel Johnson (junior) and Brian Armstrong, (senior), placed second in their individual weight divisions.

Mike Taylor received the best bench award for his lift.

### CHEERLEADING

Early this spring, Central held cheerleading tryouts for next year's squads. This year's varsity squad conducted the tryouts.

The students chosen for next year's varsity squad are Laura Cap, Emily Fitzsimmons, Lisa Frey, Jennifer Johnson, Julie Pallat, Sarah Storer, Mikala Tomes, and LaDonna White.

Next year's junior varsity squad will consist of Cori Costanzo, Natasha Gromak, Heather Holland, August Matlock, Keira McKenzie, Lori Myers, Tabatha Rockwell, Dawn Tatum, and Jacque Thompson.

Jennifer Beal, Katie Cleary,

Taria Conley, Kerry Coughlin, Katy Flemming, Gina Gomez, Anjonette Lewis, Liz Offner, Shelley Sirois, Meghan Stanek, Amy Wagner, and Megan Young will be next year's sophomore squad.

Next year's freshman squad will consist of Michelle Buller, Melanie Conley, Reagan Cormaci, Valerie Hubbell, Tara Rudolph, Maria Sandoval, Natasha Sempek, and Amber Wood.

### SWIMMING

Nine Central swimmers qualified for the Nebraska State Swim Championship held at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.

They were Lisa Frey (junior), Nicole

Gerhard (senior), Julie Neary (freshman), Todd Reiser (freshman), Rob Shradar (junior), Matt Stonehouse (junior), Mike Thyllin (junior), Mikala Thomas (sophomore), Simone Wehbe (senior).

Lisa Frey was also named to the Metro Conference All Academic Swim Team.

### BASKETBALL

Walter Outlaw was named to the All-Metro American Division second team. Loren Kirk and Tamir Anderson were All-Metro honorable mentions. Walter, Tamir and Leslie were All-State honorable mentions.