

Central High Register

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Merit Semi-Finalists top in state



By Andrea Davis

This year, Central's senior class has 12 National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists, the highest number of semi-finalists Central has had in the last five years. This is the most of any school in Nebraska. "Of the 111 semi-finalists in Nebraska, we have ten percent," said Mr. Robert McMeen, guidance director. The finalists were: Michelle Bobo, Willie Bogue, Mary Campbell, Kevin Cody, Michelle Dowd, Sydney Foster, Cale Herreman, Matt Pattison, Zach Prescott, Wayne Rasmuss, Michael Rolleigh, and Vanessa Strazdas. "I would like to believe these figures show that we know how to challenge the high-ability students," said Central principal Dr. G.E. Moller.

"I didn't expect to be a semi-finalist," said Sydney Foster, senior. The semi-finalists were chosen because of their PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores, taken last year.

"Some classes come along with a greater number of outstanding students," said Dr. Moller. "I don't want to imply that this class is better than any other, but some students are just very good test takers."

In order to become a finalist, students must write an essay, send grade

transcripts and SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores. "I've written my essay and taken the SAT, but I think it will depend on my scores," said Michelle Dowd, senior. According to Michael Rolleigh, senior, 85 percent of all semi-finalists become finalists. "Very few" students become merit scholars, said Michael.

Michael said that the National Merit Association gives out three categories of scholarships. The Corporate Scholarship is for "children of employees of corporations" who have donated money for National Merit Finalists. The College Scholarships are given to students who are considering a college who has given money to the Association. The National Merit Scholarships are given to "students who score well but don't fit into any of the other categories," said Michael.

Even if these students do not become finalists or scholarship winners, they will still be able to use this on college applications. "It's not a lot of money, but I can still use this on a resume," said Michelle.

"I feel good about knowing we have a significant number of high-ability students" because usually those students are "good leaders and are creative," said Dr. Moller. "The whole school benefits and it contributes to a better school."

Something to smile about: Central's National Merit Semi-Finalists are shown in the photo above. Bottom row from left: Mary Campbell, Kevin Cody, Michael Rolleigh, Zach Prescott, Willie Bogue. Top row from left: Michelle Dowd, Sydney Foster, Michelle Bobo, Matt Pattison. Not pictured are: Cale Herreman, Wayne Rasmuss and Vanessa Strazdas. Photo by Mike Buckley.

Committee reviews school's needs

By Daniel Franck

This year, Central High will see several important changes due to the new Strategic Planning Committee. The Strategic Planning Committee is a new committee that hopes to make dramatic changes in the number of people who get involved with the school.

"The Strategic Planning Committee grew out of the Effective Schools Movement," said Mr. Dan Daly, English department

head and co-chair-person of the committee. The Effective Schools Movement is a group whose main goal is to get people more involved with the school. Mr. Daly said that the idea was to "involve as many people as possible; that way they have something invested."

"Anybody who wants to be involved can," said Mrs. Alice Bunz, business department head and co-chair-person. "We hope to involve teachers, administrators, students, parents and

community members who are interested in the future of Central High."

The Strategic Planning Committee is the new replacement for the old School Improvement Committee. Every school in OPS is required to have a school improvement committee. Central still has one,

but it just uses different beliefs and formats than the old one.

The Strategic Planning Committee breaks up the school's problems into several pieces. The pieces are such issues as all-around school atmosphere, technical literacy, athletics and curriculum development. The Strategic Planning Committee breaks up into several task forces and addresses the issues separately.

Mary Lynn Reiser, parent, was the driving force behind the forming of the committee. Being a believer in the Effective Schools Movement, Ms. Reiser pushed to change the old School Improvement

committee.

The Strategic Planning Committee had a group come into Omaha, over the summer, and present a workshop on the Effective Schools Movement. The workshop was held so people new to the methods of the Effective Schools Movement could get acquainted with them.

"At the first meeting, we were presented with figures regarding the reading comprehension of high school students," said Mr. Daly. "The figures showed that reading comprehension scores have gone up since 1977. However, people in the business community say that the average high school student can not read technical writing. The Effective Schools movement wants to address this issue."

One such person who feels that students have become "technically illiterate" is Mr. Bill Daggett, former teacher. In a program presented to OPS English teachers, Mr. Daggett told the teachers that they "should

be teaching more technical writing." There are mixed feelings on this belief.

"I'm not sure I agree with that," said Mr. Daly. "A lot of people believe that if a student is a good writer and knows technology, then he can be a good technical writer."

Right now, the Strategic Planning Committee is still in the early stages. "We're still recruiting new people to come to the meetings," said Mrs. Bunz. Mr. Daly said that he was "interested" in the future of the committee. "I don't know what it's going to be like," said Mr. Daly. "It's a new ball game for me and everybody else involved."

The Strategic Planning Committee is currently meeting once a month in the Central High library. On October 29, Fred Homen, employee of the US Department of Labor, will be speaking. Mrs. Bunz said she would like to see anybody interested come to these meetings. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The idea is to involve as many people as possible... -Mr. Daly

Anybody, who wants to join, can. -Mrs. Bunz

Graduation now without any prayer

By Judy Engler

On May 25, Central will hold its annual graduation ceremony. With the Supreme Court deciding against prayers at graduation, there have been some slight changes. Dr. Moller said, "We can no longer have prayers at any school function, including graduation." Much discussion among students on either side of the issue have since followed.

By attending a public school, students are not exposed to any religious beliefs. "Prayer is personal; they don't teach it in school so why should it be included in the graduation ceremony?" Melissa Liem, Central senior, said.

Some students are upset by the decision. "I'm Catholic and I have my own personal beliefs. I think there should at least be a short prayer included in the ceremony," said Noel Jaroch, senior. For those that have strong religious beliefs the decision is upsetting, but some do not have an opinion either way. Gina

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Editorials: Positions on the sale of condoms in school and the National Debt. See page 2.

Student's summer activities range from researching at the Med Center

to experiencing life abroad. See page 5.

Centralites sound off on musical taste, concerts and hearing loss. See pages 6-7.

Inside

Unsigned articles are the opinion of the Register staff

Condom sales necessary to reduce risk of unprotected sex

Today, an overwhelming number of teenage lives are dramatically altered by unsafe, unprotected sex. Every day, 3,000 unwanted babies are born to teenage mothers. By age 17, one out of every five teen-age students has or has had a sexually transmitted disease. Even AIDS has begun to spread rapidly among teens — most people now infected with the disease came into contact with it before age twenty-two, and, between 1988 and 1989 alone, AIDS cases increased 51 percent among 13 to 19-year-olds. While contraceptive devices, especially condoms can slow the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and decrease teenage pregnancies, recent studies show that only twenty-four percent of sexually active teens use contraception regularly.

Recognizing their ability and responsibility to combat these horrifying statistics, the Omaha Public Schools have mounted a worthwhile effort at educating students about the facts and the risks of sexual activity. These Human Growth and Development courses have helped dispel dangerous myths and inform students about safe contraception.

However, Human Growth and Development classes are not enough. For most, it is not enough to be told and re-told the risks of unexpected sex. If it was, teenage sex would be a minor problem, not a health crisis. To further the effort to decrease teen-age pregnancy and the spread of STDs, the Register staff believes that the Omaha Public Schools should make condoms readily available for student use.

Today, because of the success of Human Growth and Development classes, most students understand the importance of safe sex. Yet they are actually discouraged from taking proper precautions. Studies indicate that most teens find it difficult to purchase condoms at drug and convenience stores and that many of them, females in particular, have negative experiences while attempting to acquire proper contraception. In many instances, these negative experiences entirely discourage students from using

safe contraceptives. The schools provide a place in which students can more comfortably and privately acquire condoms. And no known research shows that increased prophylactic availability results in more teenage sex.

The school system should take advantage of its opportunity by making condoms available for sales in every high school bathroom. The school system sacrifices nothing by doing so: the condoms could be sold without a financial loss. And no moral ground is lost either, since sexual activity is already prevalent. Students, however, gain a new ability to make the right decisions about protection during sexual activity.

Without making contraceptives readily available, we face an enhanced risk of the AIDS epidemic and teen pregnancies to destroy more and more young lives. Certainly, Omaha Public Schools and other school systems throughout the nation have the responsibility to avoid this risk by simply selling condoms in school bathrooms.



National debt poses threat to students' future

One of the most troubling, but commonly ignored problems currently facing the United States is the national debt.

The United States has the largest debt of any other nation in the world. The Register believes this important issue that needs to be addressed since today's high school students will have to deal with the debt and its complications.

The national debt is increased each year by the deficit. The deficit is the amount of money the government spends beyond what it collects in taxes. The government basically spends money it does not possess so it borrows to pay for expenses other funds do not cover.

Costs which create the deficit include: national defense, direct payment for individuals, grants to states and localities, federal operations and interest.

All these various governmental expenditures have to be paid for, and what the government cannot get from taxes it borrows. The government borrows about 23 percent of the money needed for all of these costs.

The national debt is currently about four trillion dollars, a phenomenal amount of money. To illustrate the magnitude of this debt; one thousand billions make one trillion and one thousand millions make one billion. The government is unable to pay the trillions of dollars it owes because each year, it has to borrow more money to pay the interest on the money it borrowed previous years.

In addition, the debt is compounded by huge government expenditures. For instance, in July of this year, the government spent

approximately \$24 million per hour, \$ billion for the month. If the government is allowed to continue this, the United States could find itself in a situation similar to that of the ex-Soviet Union.

At an 8 percent growth, on the current debt could reach \$161 trillion dollars by the year 2040. This means that when people of our age group retire, there may be no more government benefits like Social Security because of necessary budget reforms that will have to take place, inevitably.

The national debt and year after year deficit must not be ignored much longer. The situation we face, has the possibility to destroy our country as we know it. We must face this problem, and demand political action. Our generation has a great challenge before it, and we must start dealing with it now.

Our Piece of Omaha

Should condoms be sold from coin-operated dispensers in school bathrooms?

YES - 72%

NO - 10%

UNDECIDED - 18%



"Yes, so nobody gets diseases or anything."

Tony Anania, Freshman

"I think they should -- it would not be promoting sex, it would be promoting safety."

Roslyn Fraser, Sophomore



"People will get them [condoms] regardless but if they're accessible, they'll be more prone to be aware of AIDS and STDs."

Jessica Carlson, Junior



"Yes, because we need to see that teen pregnancy is going around. We have kids having kids."

Collier Starks, Senior



Conflict over graduation prayers

By Mary Campbell

By Ryan Shoener

The public school system was created to prepare all of America's children for the harsh reality of survival. In today's world, that means teaching them responsibility and essential skills.

It also means teaching them tolerance for different ideas and values. The public schools were created not to teach one value system, but to teach understanding. This idea is crucial if our system is to become one that includes all people within the American

forum

This year will be the first that a prayer will not be said before graduation ceremonies due to a Supreme Court ruling earlier this year. The reason for this was that the court felt that the prayer was trying to persuade a person to that religion. That is not true at all. The prayer is meant as tradition, symbolizes what our country believes, and wishing you success as you go out to the real world.

The prayer in question was spoken by a Jewish Rabbi, and in no way said anything that would attempt to persuade a person to Judaism and definitely not towards Christianity due to their difference in beliefs.

Also, by the time most seniors graduate they are eighteen years old, this means they have the right to vote. They have a voice and must make their own decision as to who to vote for, distinguishing on their own whether or not the candidate is worthy to be voted for.

Another point is that a young woman, at any age, has the right to have an abortion. A young woman can choose, without parents or other parties input, whether or not to terminate a child.

Both of these are very large decisions for someone in their teenage years, yet teenagers are not able to distinguish between whether or not a single prayer is trying to persuade a person to a religion?

This country was founded due to people looking for place to freely practice their religion. One prayer intending to be neutral and symbolizing what our country stands for should not be misinterpreted, especially when the seniors who are graduating and going off to the real world to freely choose for themselves. Since they are free to choose, they should be able to distinguish, individually, whether or not a religion is trying to persuade them.

Judeo-Christian believers have no right to exclude the value systems of others.

The school system's duty to teach all people equally and maintain the Constitutional freedom of religion is one of its most important goals. If one allows prayer at school functions, however, one is automatically violating the rights of those whose beliefs are outside of Judeo-Christianity and thus reducing the number of individuals who can be included. In order to be a truly democratic society, we must recognize the individual's right to freedom of thought and not place people in an environment which forced a set of values upon them.

School functions are meant to be places for people of all races and creeds. The majority, in this case Judeo-Christian believers, have no right to exclude the value systems of others. We must make our public schools places of learning and understanding for all people, not just the majority.



Absolute Uncertainties

by Thad Domina

Society must adjust to today's new world

"We have learned that we cannot live alone, at peace; that our well-being is dependent on the well-being of other nations, far away We have learned to be citizens of the world, members of the human community."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

This year, as school children recite the familiar "...in 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue" the world watches. On

these spirits of good and evil made Europe a leader in economics, technology and culture. At the same time, Europe stood as a feared and hated conqueror to the less technologically advanced societies of the time.

Today, in a world with no more frontiers to explore, these same spirits threaten to cause the collapse of an unresponsive does little to help society in this modern age of overpopulation and overdevelopment. Instead of helping, European and American colonialism causes famine, war, injustice, and discontent in all corners of the earth.

With no more distant lands..., Columbus' imperialistic spirit does little to help society.

the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the "New World," questions are being asked about Columbus and the other imperialistic heroes of the West. This is prompted by the discovery that today's exploration must center around understanding ourselves, not on the conquering of distant lands.

Columbus exhibited the strengths of European society: its willingness to explore, experiment, question commonly held thought and make good out of error. But the bloody aftermath of Columbus' imperialistic discovery of the New World also personifies Europe's cruel brutality, selfishness, and narrow-mindedness. Together

With the collapse of Western imperialism, it is now obvious that the civilization of Columbus must turn to explore itself. There are no more distant havens for the people to run when their society begins to decline. There are no more untapped sources of raw material and cheap labor to stimulate Western economies as the expense of a local population and the West's pollution — both morally and environmentally — are now global, too.

These realities serve as a call to the West to examine itself. Besides the economic

hardships Americans and Europeans face, Europe is unable to give its own history the attention needed to avoid its repetition; it stands on the verge of widespread violent nationalism. Here, in North America, we suffer through our own racial strife, sexism and social decay, without a chance of reform until we begin to understand ourselves.

As we students observe the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in America, we need to find renewal for his courage while reminding ourselves that his age of physical exploration is over. Our schools must teach the accomplishments of modern-day pioneers: scientists, philosophers and

The Columbuses of our day must think and fight for a greater good than mere adventure.

artists that force us to examine ourselves and explore social frontiers. The Columbuses of our day must think and fight for a greater good than mere adventure. They must make peace, demand change, preserve the earth, question authority and encourage unity.

Columbus and the generations after him left us in a world of false Western strength and international injustice. As members of a new generation, may we touch off a new age of self-examination and understanding, in an attempt to right the wrongs of the past.

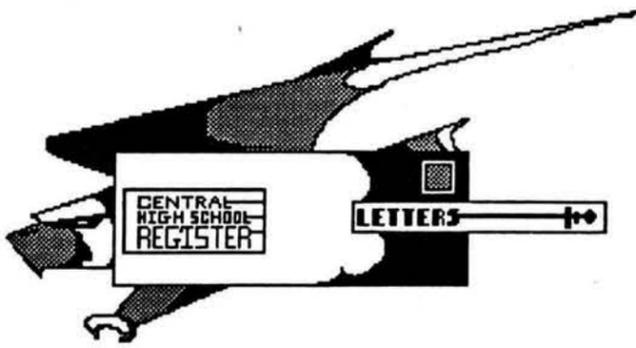


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Send us letters...



Room 315, unsigned letters will not be accepted.

news BRIEFS

Marketing manages Central cookie craze

The cookies are here! Marketing students and the girls' volleyball team are heading Central's Otis Spunkmeuer cookie connection. This chain operation, based through Kansas City, donates ovens, while the students provide finances for cookie dough and baking sheets. Flavors include: macadamian nut, macadamian nut, chocolate chip, peacan, oatmeal raisin, double chocolate, chocolate, and peanut butter. Chocolate remains the favorite flavor. Prices are thirty cents per cookie or three for a dollar.



According to Jerad Miller, senior, the profits remain high. Tommy Huey, senior, explained the success. "It's different," he said, "Everyone else sells candy bars. That cookie smell gets around." Tommy also said that sales will continue as long as the demand remains high.

CHS English teacher plans Polish stay

Ms. Susan Kalina, English teacher, found her career to be a global motivation. She has been accepted by the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program to teach in Poland for the 1992-93 school year. Ms. Kalina will be replaced this year by Ms. Joan Skoog.



Bunz heads business

Alice Bunz, Central business instructor of nine years, has replaced Wanda Utecht as business department head. While at Central, Mrs. Bunz has been active in weekend and weekday business projects. "I hope to be an advocate for the teachers I represent," she said. "I hope to help them deliver business education to the students."

Junior acts in Othello

Daemon Bagley, junior, lives days and nights among sword fights and star-crossed lovers. Daemon plays Officer, Gentleman Two, Attendant and Guard at the Center Stage Theater's production of *Othello*. According to Daemon, practices are six hours weekday evenings and seven hours weekend nights.

"I've always been in drama but never in a real show like this," Daemon said. He is hoping to appear in the company's next performance, *Romeo and Juliet*. "I enjoy Shakespeare and given the chance, I'd do it again," he said. The Center Stage Theater is located at 35th and Q. Productions run through October 4; student tickets are discounted and must be reserved in advance.

by Rachel Kozol

New classes at CHS

by Wendy Revers

New students, new fixtures, new teachers, what goes great with that? New classes. This year Central has four new classes, each with its own purpose and each with its own interest group.

This summer fifteen teachers and one city government official met in Washington D. C. along with representatives from school districts in Michigan, Mississippi, and Colorado. They met to discuss a program sponsored by the Close-Up and the Constitutional Rights foundations.

The aim of the program is to rejuvenate interest in community involvement and volunteering. Grades involved would be ninth and tenth.

Mr. Jack Blanke, social studies department chairman, along with Mr. Dean Neff, social studies teacher, represented Central High School at this program. Mr. Blanke said, "the class will benefit students with a better understanding."

Another new class is the Japanese class. Central is one of the few schools in the nation to receive one of the Japanese classes. The class is centered in Lincoln, NE, with the Nebraska Education Telecommunications Commission.

Students watch the teacher on television. The class is connected with the teacher and other classes over the nation by telephone. They call every two days to Lincoln and discuss the lessons by speakerphone with the instructor. Once a month when they call into the actual broadcasting room the instructor quizzes each school, and the students are graded.

Another new class that is offered is ethnic studies. This class is offered for one semester and the class takes time to focus on each individual ethnic group and its contribution to past and present societies.

African-American History is another new class offered at Central this year. The class is similar to ethnic studies, yet it focuses on African-American History and its contributions.

Graduation now without prayer

(continued from page 1)

Gomez, senior, said of prayers at graduation, "A prayer is good, I can't see why not, but it doesn't really matter to me."

Noel suggested that "maybe they could have a short prayer for each religion represented here at school." "There should always be a separation between church and state. By attending a public school we should be guaranteed that. They can go home and say their prayers after the ceremony," Melissa commented.

Senior Monica Brasile said, "the system is so close-minded to other people's views. A prayer would infringe upon other's beliefs and force them to listen to something they don't believe in. That is not right."

MIDTERM SCHEDULE
Monday, October 26- Social studies, Music, ROTC, PE, Foreign Language
Tuesday, October 27- English, Reading, Drama, Drafting, Business
Wednesday, October 28- Science, Art, Home Economics, Math

There will be no school on Thursday, or Friday, October 29th and 30th.



The kit: included are contraceptive devices and a model of the uterus.

Students, staff approve kit

by Anna Thomas

During the 1991-92 school year the Omaha Public School's Board of Education approved a contraceptive kit. The kit was to be used as a teaching aid in correlation with the regular Human Growth and Development curriculum at the start of second semester. It was unknown what type of reaction this controversial teaching aid might invoke.

It's like geography, if you teach without a map it's a little hard.
 -Ms. Schuler-Weingarten

The kit consists of samples of a wide variety of contraceptive devices. Included is a condom, a sponge, an IUD (intrauterine device), and different contraceptive foams and jellies. There are also models of the female uterus to give students a better idea of how the devices are operated.

Ms. Schuler-Weingarten described the kit as a "show and tell" box and stressed that students are not allowed to touch or take any of the box's contents.

Senior Marcie Langfeldt was sorry she missed the experience of the kit said

that students need more visual stimulation and "hands-on" experience. Jessie Lawrence, senior, also regretted not seeing the kit and felt that the kit would have been helpful. "I feel that now people will be more informed," said Jessie.

Molly Tworek, sophomore, thinks that students need more visual stimulation and "hands-on" experience. Jessie Lawrence, senior, also regretted not seeing the kit and felt that the kit would have been helpful. "I feel that now people will be more informed," said Jessie.

Junior Michelle Queen disagreed. "The pictures in the book are just cartoons. With this [the kit], you get to see the actual size of the contraceptive devices."

The general consensus of Central High School's Human Growth and Development students was that the kit was a success. It added the visualization necessary to inform students more completely. Ms. Schuler-Weingarten concluded by saying that "it's like geography, if you teach without a map it's a little hard."

New teachers roam Central's halls

by Kelly Roberts

Do you remember the first day of school walking down the halls as a new student? Well what if you were a new teacher? This year 11 new teachers, a counselor, and a counseling secretary joined the faculty at Central. The new additions include Mrs. Ruth Bahr, Mr. Murray Fenn, Sgt. Jurin Carey, Miss Wendy Melcher, Mrs. Kelly Priebe, Mrs. LuAnn Richardson, Mrs. Laura Schartz, Mrs. Joan Skoog, Mr. Troy Soldatke, Miss Andrea Stranglen, Mr. Phil Trejo, Mrs. Veronica Ulrich, and Mrs. Mary Wilmoth.

Besides just being a teacher, many times the profession requires extracurricular duties or demands. Miss Andrea Stranglen, a new English teacher as well as cheerleading sponsor at Central, said that, "sometimes I feel stressed out with all of the responsibilities, especially now that Homecoming is right around the corner." She also mentioned that being the sponsor of cheerleading can be very enjoyable. "Watching the girls cheer on the team, makes me feel good to be a part of it," she said.

Mrs. Joan Skoog, another new English/Social Studies teacher at Central, is also the Pom-squad sponsor. Mrs. Skoog said that she also understands the extreme pressure of outside activities because she is responsible for advising 20-some girls.

Another "new kid on the block", Mr. Murray Fenn, a Business co-op teacher, helps to organize the office internships at Central this year. "I think

the internship program is great. It's working with the students, and all of the hard work is definitely worth it," Mr. Fenn said. Even though the outside activities can be very stressful, many teachers feel that it is worth the time and effort for the students.

Many of these new individuals find themselves excited about the coming year. "I am really looking forward to the new year and what it holds for my students and me," Miss Wendy Melcher, another new math teacher at Central said. Mrs. Melcher said that some of her goals for the new year are to try to change the negative feelings associated with math and want to show the students how to be successful and how to have fun! "I hope to develop a greater interest in reading as a whole and get more students involved in school!"

Another new addition, Mrs. LuAnn Richardson, the new counseling teacher replacing Mr. Moran, said that she has many expectations for the new year. Mrs. Richardson said that she came to Central with much enthusiasm for the department. Likewise Sgt. Jurin Carey, the new ROTC instructor, said that he wants to instill good citizenship values and as well as sense of character in his students. "I hope to provide one on one attention for students to prepare them for the future!" Sgt. Jurin said. Mrs. Ruth Bahr, new counseling secretary, said, "There is nothing I like about this school!"

Students experience life in foreign

by Kelly Roberts

Most vacations are spent on trips with the family or at various camps, but for some students, their summer was experienced thousands of miles away. In the last ten years there has been a large attraction for students to expand their horizons in foreign countries.

"It was definitely one of the best experiences of my life!" Leah Cha, senior, said reflecting on her trip to Japan. This summer several Central students made the same comments about their experiences in another foreign country. From Paris, France, all the way to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, many students have had the chance to learn about other cultures and lifestyles existing in the world.

Ian Barnes, junior, spent two weeks out of his summer in the Dominican Republic helping to expand orphanages and build part of a church. He mentioned that most of the people live in extreme poverty and suffer from political distress. "It would really place a burden on your heart to see where these people live day in and day out," Ian explained. Because of these reasons and many more including the high mortality rate, the plague of illiteracy and disease, Ian would one day

like to live in the Dominican Republic to try to help make a difference.

Another Central student, Craig Lee, senior, went on a school tour to England, France and Switzerland. He explained that through out his trip he was continuously comparing the lifestyles of these cultures to that of the Americans. Craig found that France has a much more influential culture than the United States due to its focus on the Performing Arts and the emotions of the people. "On any given day you could walk the streets and find open displays of musical bands and festivity," Craig mentioned. The trip gave him and 12 other students the chance to see such sights as the Eiffel tower, Notre Dame and the Alps. Craig also commented that one of the best aspects about the trip was the intense "hands-on" experience that he gained, as well as picking up the language faster than being in the classroom.

For one Central student, Katie Mowery, junior, the territory of Guam was an extreme culture shock. Katie's aunt lives on a naval base in Guam which gave her a great opportunity to visit. "They live in a very backwards, primitive society where tin shacks are a typical home," Katie said. She mentioned that one of the

most difficult things to overcome was the hatred that the common people had toward the Americans. Americans were generally equated with the military, which in turn promoted hostility and restrictions for the people. Besides the political aspect of the country, Katie felt that she would definitely go back because of the fun activities and the beautiful scenery. "We went SCUBA-diving, hiking and parasailing during the day and experienced Japanese food in the evening," Katie mentioned.

One Central student Leah Cha, senior, said "I had more Japanese food than I could handle during my 40-day stay in Japan. In cooperation with a group called Youth For Understanding, Leah was able to learn more about Japanese students and their culture. "We started the day around 7:20 and didn't get back home until after 6 and even then the kids still studied," Leah commented. In Japan, school is an average student's life. The pressure to successfully pass high school means being accepted into a good college and ultimately getting the right kind of job to survive in society she said. She also found that Central seems to have many different social levels where as Japan is just basically on one.

Centralite lives in Italy

by Andrea Davis

Sarah Rennard, senior, did not go to Central last year. Instead, she spent the year going to school in Italy.

Sarah attended Liceo Ginnasio Linguistico school, an Italian school. In the three months before school began, she had to learn Italian. "Learning Italian was not as hard as I thought it would be," said Sarah, but, "my grammar and vocabulary were bad at first."

Besides the differences in language and culture, Sarah also had to adjust to the differences within the school. In Italy, students do not choose classes but choose a school. She had to choose between the four types of schools: classical, mathematic/scientific, linguistic, or artistic. "The artistic and linguistic are still in experimental stages," said Sarah. "I chose the linguistic." At the linguistic high school, she was taught German, Latin, French, Italian, history, and philosophy. "I had a total of 12 classes," she said.

"My family became closer (in Italy)," said Sarah. On weekends, the Rennards visited other towns like Rome, Milan, Naples, Florence, and Sicily. They saw castles, canals, Greek ruins, and statues. "We had no car, so every place that we went we had to take the train or walk."

On the weekends when she was not on trips with her family, Sarah found the activities for teenagers to be "much different than in the U.S." In the evening she would go and walk on the two main streets where the shops were, go home for an hour, then go to a pizzeria to eat with friends. Around ten, they would go to a bar for a half an hour then to a disco to dance. "There is no age limit in bars," said Sarah. She said that this is a good way to meet people in a more relaxed environment.

"The people in Italy are really friendly," said Sarah. "They like Americans and try to emulate American ideas." She would like to go back again before she graduates from college. "This

Seniors spend summer in medical research program

by Kristen Perry

This summer, three Central students jumped started their possible medical careers when they participated in a research program for minority students at the University



Future Researchers: From left, Emily Moore, Mike Watkins and Lauren Webb. Photo by Mike Buckley.

of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Seniors Michael Watkins, Emily Moore, and Lauren Webb spent eight weeks in the department of pharmaceutical practice at the Med Center doing various types of research. Each student chose a project and was paid a \$1000 stipend for the eight weeks.

Michael and Lauren worked with endothelial cells from umbilical cords to study the reactions of various types of drugs on those cells. However, according to Lauren, this experiment "didn't quite work out" because of sterilizing problems. They then switched to testing the effect of two different possible cancer drugs on tumor cells from mice.

Emily chose to research ways of more effective distribution of medication. Dr. Tim McGuire, a doctor in the college of pharmacy at the Med Center, said the results of Emily's research will be used to better administer drugs together, especially in newborn babies.

According to Dr. McGuire, this was the first year the program for student research was used. "[It] was successful," he said. He also said that the Med Center hopes to continue the program with two to three students each summer.

The program's goal was to motivate students to choose a career in health care, said Dr. McGuire. "The students were already motivated," he said, but the program "helped them to realistically assess their options in health care. . . . It was a two way street. The students helped with our research and we helped them learn about health care careers."

All three students said that after their experience this summer, they wanted to pursue a career in health care. Before working in this program, Emily had planned to become a doctor, but "thought it was an impossibility. It isn't as hard as I thought," she said.

All three said they had fun and learned a lot. The students had two weeks of training and classes to help them prepare for the research they did. Michael said the students were required to attend a seminar on blood pathology and safety. They learned about AIDS and hepatitis B and how to prevent getting those diseases on the job.

Each student said they would like to do the research program again next year if given the chance. "It was the best summer of my life," said Michael.

news BRIEFS

Central senior wins science scholarship

Senior Michelle Dowd has been selected to receive the Bausch and Lomb Science \$5000 Scholarship. "It is from the University of Rochester, but you have to be enrolled to use it," said Michelle.



Michelle was chosen from all of the students in Dr. Robert Wolff's physics classes. The deciding factors were students' grades, attitude and classroom participation.

She found out about the scholarship through reading the Central's PEP newsletter. When she came back to school, she asked her science teachers about the scholarship and discovered she had been awarded it.

Attending Rochester is not a problem for Michelle. "Rochester was my first choice of colleges to apply to."

Open house held

On September 23, from 6:30 to 8:30, Central held its annual Open House. It enables the parents to become acquainted with the school and its philosophy.

Dr. Moller, principal and coordinator of Open House, is slightly concerned this year because of the slowly declining number of parents who attend each year. The number has dropped from 1,262 parents attending in 1989 to 1,202 in 1990. Last year there were about 1,000 parents attending. "I don't know why it has fallen," Dr. Moller said. Dr. Moller commented that this decline is somewhat bothersome because he wants the parents to be involved and interested in their child's everyday schedule.

Jungle in courtyard

Have you observed the new "jungle" in the courtyard lately? The new tropical plants were added among the courtyard walls this past summer under the supervision of Dr. Jurgen Shawver, English teacher.

Dr. Shawver's neighbors, Bill Sherlock and Rudy Calvetti, avid gardeners, were discussing with Dr. Shawver their special tropical plants and the need to place them in safe keeping for the harsh Nebraska winter. Dr. Shawver took the idea to Central principal, Dr. G. E. Moller and they agreed that the courtyard would be an excellent spot.

Homecoming plans

Homecoming festivities will occur the weekend of October 2 and 3. The game against Ralston will be played at Bergquist stadium Friday and the dance will be held at UNO's Milo Ball Student Center Saturday. This year's theme is "A Night in the Big City."

by Laura M. Dunham, Judy Engler, and Wendy Revers

"No one good ever comes to Omaha," says Central junior

by Anna Thomas

"No one good ever comes to Omaha." This was Central junior Kristin Miltner's reply about Omaha's concert scene. Tony Moton, *Omaha World Herald* columnist, views the situation as this: "The problem is the perception of Omaha as an entertainment center around the country is not very positive." This is due to Omaha's location in the Midwest, said Mr. Moton.

Although a number of Central students view Omaha's concert status negatively, Mr. Moton said he was "pleasantly surprised" upon his move here nine months ago. "I think for variety and quality, Omaha doesn't

do poorly." Students main complaint was the lack of big names. "None of the really good bands ever come to Omaha," said junior Jenny Berg. In order to see some of the more popular names, many people go out of town. Kansas City and Ames, Iowa, are two of the places visited most often.

An example of this occurred on September 11, when many Centralites traveled to Ames to see the band U2 perform at Cyclone Stadium. Kristin described it as "an opportunity of a lifetime" that could not have happened in Omaha.

Mr. Moton's opinion was that the bigger names could be attracted to Omaha with "a larger venue." He

also thinks that the signing of the Omaha based band 3-11 will improve Omaha's name as an entertainment center.

Students also compensate for the lack of big concerts by attending smaller shows at such places as Peony Park and the Ranch Bowl. Many of Omaha's local bands are becoming more popular, and Mr. Moton rates them as "good to very good."

Their popularity is accredited to the increasing positive opinion of alternative music. This trend in alternative music will help Omaha's concert status, in Mr. Moton's eyes. "I think the alternative scene is what is going to make Omaha," he said.

Ms



Centralis

Loud music has students asking "What?"

By Anna Thomas

Fifty-thousand screaming people crowd into Cyclone Stadium. The pulsing rhythm of U2 fills the air and the audience goes wild. After approximately two hours of booming music, the people go home happy, with a ringing in their ears.

Many people experience this ringing, but just accept it as a common concert side-effect, but what they don't know will hurt them.

Ms. Kathy Olberding, an audiologist at Ear Specialist of Omaha, said this is the biggest problem. She stated that no pain is involved with inner ear damage, and "by the time someone notices, it's too late."

Mr. Nes Latenser, architect and expert on sound and acoustics, said that "any long, sustained noise" can do serious damage, but almost immediate damage can be done if the noise level is at 140 decibels. "That's what's bad about a rock concert," he said. An average

two hour rock concert is measured at 106 dBA, but on many occasions they have been measured as louder.

Mr. Latenser compared listening to a rock concert to "standing on a step-ladder and sticking your head in the back of a jet engine."

Rock concerts are not the only way teenagers can damage their ears. Stereo headsets can play as loud as 128 dBA—which is louder than the average concert. Also students who are involved in a band can be exposed to levels of 90-110 dBA and are very susceptible due to the regularity of the exposure.

Ms. Olberding said that there is a higher incidence of hearing loss among adolescents, but the problem is typically not detected until later. While testing a local

Youth Group for hearing loss, Mr. Latenser found that 30%

“**by the time someone notices, it's too late.**
-Ms. Olberding

of the group had already lost 1% of their ability to hear. "Your body will give you signals," said Ms. Olberding. If there is a persistent ringing, a "full" feeling in the ear, or a temporary decrease in hearing, immediate action should be taken.

First to occur in inner ear damage is the loss of high pitches. Next it becomes difficult to discern speech. "There's nothing you can do to get that clarity back," said Ms. Olberding stressed, "so turn down the volume."

When questioned, many Central students said that they did listen to loud music and that they did not know or care about inner ear damage.

Regarding listening to loud music, sophomore Joe Davis said, "It's the way I like it." When asked whether he knew he was doing damage to his ears, he said, "I probably am, but it doesn't bother me."

Junior Ben Perlman shared Joe's opinion and said, "I can still hear, can't I?" When asked if loud music had affected his hearing, senior Pat Fuerstenau said, "What?"

Senior Jerad Miller said the only thing he worried about was that "my neighbor yells at me every day."

Mr. Latenser is aware of many teenagers' ignorance of the problem and thinks "there should be a class" to educate adolescents on the damage loud music can cause. He said that a person is born with perfect hearing "that goes fast in an industrialized

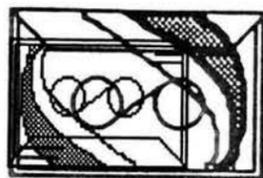
society." without the problem of loud music.

According to Ms. Olberding, the problem is getting worse. She said that a national study showed that people in the 15-24 year-old age bracket had lost 2.5% of their hearing in 1990 compared with 1.2% in 1980.

Ms. Olberding talked about how inner ear damage is accumulative over a period of time and irreversible at any time. "Individual people are prone, and typically it's not until after years of exposure to noise, however, it doesn't have to be on a daily basis."

Ms. Olberding concluded by recommending that teens use earplugs when listening to music and use ear protection while doing any activity that might cause ear damage, such as working with power tools or mowing the lawn.

Mr. Latenser stated that teenagers should be more careful with their hearing is concerned because "it's a very sad and irreversible thing."



by Julie DeWitt

Teachers' musical tastes similar to teens

Have you ever wondered what types of music your favorite teachers listen to? Surprisingly, some of them listen to music not all that different from their students.

Mrs. Kris Bertch, geography teacher and debate coach, listens to "all types of music except country music." When she goes to debate tournaments, she "listens to whatever the kids listen to." She thinks that "most" of the music teens listen to today is "pretty good. Some of it is too raunchy and detailed, though."

Mr. Jim Harrington, Central math teacher, listens to what he considers "popular music." He enjoys listening to the radio as well as compact discs. His favorite stations are Lite 96 and Z-92 "because of the older stuff they play." Mr. Harrington said that music

"hasn't changed as much as I think it has." He believes the topics teens are interested in have changed, which has caused changes in their musical tastes. Mr. Harrington said that he "wouldn't recognize ten percent of the recording artists teens listen to today."

Mrs. Esther Brabec, German and French teacher,

Jurgen Shawver, English and Latin teacher, listens to "a variety of music. It depends on the mood I'm in." He likes classical, contemporary music and "some jazz."

Dr. Shawver thinks that musicians today are "always attempting a new way to get their message across." He says they do this by "loudness" and "repetition." He listens to music mostly at home where he sometimes listens to the radio. "I usually stay away from the hard rock stations," he said. He listens to CD 105.9 as well as Lite 96, "because of their older music." Dr. Shawver's favorites include The

“**...[music] hasn't changed as much as I think it has. -Mr. Harrington**”

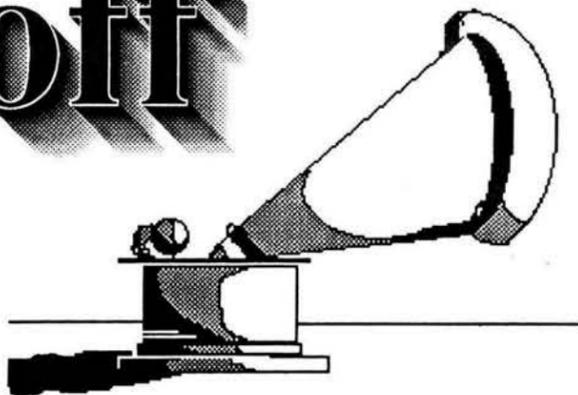
likes rock music. She thinks the music teens listen to now "has gotten louder and the words are harder to understand. Some of it doesn't even sound like music anymore."

Dr.

Moody Blues and Elton John. Miss Carol Lenners, business law and economics teacher, likes, among other types of music, jazz. She thinks that music has changed quite a bit since she was a teen. "I grew up around the Beatles and the Beach Boys. I'm not used to heavy metal."

She finds it "very difficult to understand the words" of the music her students listen to. She said, "That's my main negativity." Miss Lenners said that over the music played today, she prefers "good old-fashioned rock and roll."

is sound off



From rap to rock, students enjoy different music

By Alex Cooper

Students listen to a variety of music, ranging from rap to rock.

Richard Foster, Central junior, prefers rhythm and blues and rap. He likes such groups as New Edition, True and BBD. He said, "I like rap because it's something I grew up with [and] it's written by blacks." He said that he feels rhythm and blues is going to the mainstream. He said, "Too many rhythm and blues groups are going to pop for no reason." Richard said he uses tapes instead of compact discs because they're easier to keep track of and because cds are too expensive.

Carrie Jacobson, a Central junior, favors alternative groups such as Sting, the Police, The Smiths, Peter Gabriel, and Morissey. She said, "I like Morissey

because I like harmony and melody." She likes Sting because he has a "very interesting voice." Carrie said that alternative is what a group is if it does not fit under another category. She likes cds better than tapes. She said, "You get better sound [with a cd] and I'm too lazy to rewind and fast forward." Carrie tries to get her music at Dirt Cheap or Homers in the used cd section.

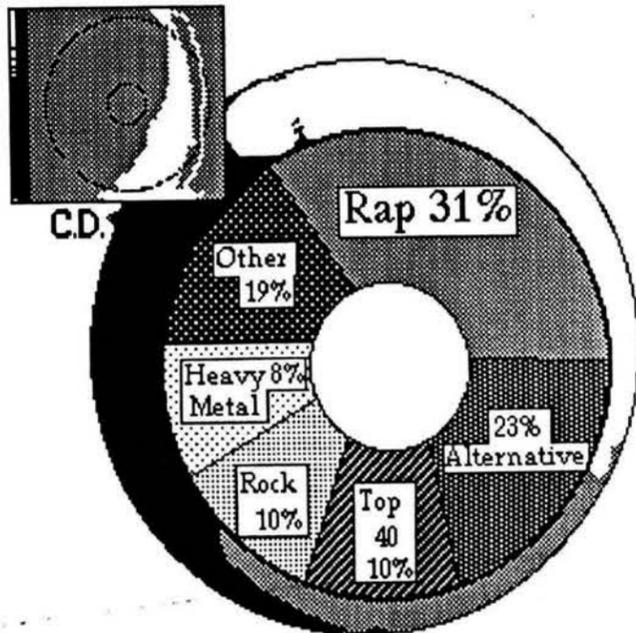
Aaron Tye, a Central junior, said he likes 70's music. He said, "There's variety and pop is too generic." Aaron said, "You need something with soul and life." He shops at both Best Buy and Homers. He said Best Buy has cheap cds, but Homers has a bigger selection.

David Dolson, assistant manager at Homers in the Miracle Hills Park, said, "People are listening to a lot of rap and alternative." He said rock n' roll

sells the most because more of it exists. He said that rap music sells a lot to male caucasians because it gets more publicity and has explicit lyrics. When people hear of a controversial album, they often come in and buy it to see what it's like. Mr. Dolson said that new country like Garth Brooks is selling alot to young adults.

Mr. Dolson said that MTV affects what people listen to because it exposes people to different groups. He said that after they see it on MTV they come here to ask if we have it.

Mr. Dolson said, "We do a lot of sales for used cds. It's a big market." One can get a cd, for a cheaper price and it's the same quality as when paying full price. He said that most stores guarantee their used cds now.





Feel the beat: dancers are from left: Melissa Liem, Wayne Rassmuss, Pat Higgins, Christian Harding, and Brian Kiel. photo by Chris Beccera

Fall play has fantasy twist

By Ben Fenner

"I was on the floor laughing," said Mrs. Georgeson, Central drama teacher, when asked why she picked *Happy Daze* for this year's fall play. "I'd been reading plays all summer," she said "and when I came across *Happy Daze* I knew it'd be great!"

Happy Daze, by William Gleason, is a comedy about a modern day teenage boy who, after watching too many episodes of bandstand, creates an imaginary fifties

world inside his head. He hides away in this world and meets many interesting people who send him through a journey he will never forget.

The *Happy Daze* student matinee will be on Friday, October 23 and will last approximately through fourth hour. Tickets will be two dollars with a Student Activity ticket. There will also be two evening performances, on Thursday, October 22, and Saturday, October 24. Curtain time for these shows is seven-thirty and tickets will cost four dollars.

Hot off the shelves... well, not really

The *Avenging Disco Godfather* earns 4 thumbs down

By Willie Bogue

When I say, "Rudy Ray Moore," some of you out there may not recognize the name. If you take the risk of watching *The Avenging Disco Godfather*, you'll know why.

This blaxploitation flick stars the infamous Rudy Ray Moore as Tucker Williams, better known to all as "The Disco Godfather." The Godfather runs a disco night club where lately some drug dealers have been peddling angel dust (also called "wack") to innocent kids (including Tucker's nephew, Bucky). Tucker takes it upon himself to shut down all the PCP labs

in town and starts his "Attack the Wack" campaign. After some mind-boggling plot twists that I doubt even the director could unscramble, Tucker closes down the clandestine laboratories and foils the evil basketball team owner who was (apparently) responsible for the manufacture of the drugs.

So, if you decide to venture into *Avenging Disco Godfather* territory, HEED THESE WARNINGS, O BRAVE ONE: (1) Prepare to be visually assaulted. Remember, these are the 70's. Butterfly collars, polyester bell-bottoms, and Tucker's silver platform shoes are all socially acceptable. As if

that weren't enough, the director made a rather depressing attempt to show the hallucinations of a PCP high as (among other things) what appeared to be a badly acted scene from *CATS*. These scenes are brutally and almost randomly cut into the film. (2) Get ready to groove to the funky sensations of such disco classics as *Spaced Out*, *Disco Godfather*, and *Put Your Weight On It*. (3) Don't pay much attention. You'll just get confused.

The Avenging Disco Godfather gets 4 out of 5 thumbs down.

Movie Views... Sneakers earns 4 stars

By Jenny Priesman

Heist films have not been successful recently. The majority of them bomb miserably at the box office with the critics panning them. *Sneakers*, however, succeeds where the rest have failed.

Sneakers boasts an all-star cast of Robert Redford, Dan Akroyd, Ben Kingsley, River Phoenix, and Sidney Poitier. With this talent, it is hard to fail.

The story revolves around a group of computer geniuses with secret pasts who are employed by supposed

National Security agents. Their original mission is relatively simple: to steal a high-powered computer program that will decipher any code in the world. The plot thickens as mistaken identities are revealed, and the hackers must decide who to trust.

The movie is a fast-paced, suspenseful thriller that is full of laughs. Some of the plot is predictable, but that does not take any fun away from the audience. The characters are likable from the beginning, so the audience roots for the hackers

almost instantaneously. The audience reactions were frequent and audible as favorite characters were placed in danger or made questionable decisions. The closeness with the hacker intensifies as the tension builds. There are also many political one-liners and hilarious situations in the movie.

The result is an enjoyable film that will entertain most. There is something almost everyone in *Sneakers* ensuring that the movie will be successful.

Central student performs in "The Wiz"

By Jenny Priesman

Gennean Scott, junior, is easing her way down the road with five Central graduates in the Omaha Playhouse production of *The Wiz*. She joins graduates Leiloni Brewer, Vincent Orduna, Johnice Orduna, Lanette Metoyer-Moore and Richard Smith in the show, which runs from September 10 to October 10.

The Wiz is Gennean's first acting endeavor. Although she is a newcomer to theatre, she believes that her cheerleading experience has helped her prepare for the show. "Performing in front of groups" at games and pep rallies taught her techniques that she uses in the show. Self-esteem is cheerleading's most important lesson, she said. She says that acting is different from cheering, but she "loves it!"

Gennean plays several roles in the show, including a Tornado dancer, a Citizen, a Poppy, and a Winged Monkey. Her favorite role is the Winged Monkey. "It's exciting," she said, because she "gets to be free and laugh a lot."

Leiloni Brewer, a 1992 graduate, began acting when she was in eighth grade at Lewis & Clark Junior High School. She performed in *Rock and Roll* that year and has been performing ever since. She appeared in Central's productions of *Once Upon A Mattress* and *The Music Man*.

She believes that her experience at Central helps her in *The Wiz*. "Central was little, but being on stage there helped me prepare for something big." Working with "so many people" taught her to get along with "a big cast."

Leiloni plays a Crow, a Poppy, a Citizen, a Winkie, and a Quadling. Her favorite parts of the show are the Quadlings and the Crows. The Quadlings are "subtle and petite" while the Crows are "unique and very different."

She has good memories of Central. "The teachers try to help you if you want to do something. The word 'can't' does not exist at Central."

Vincent Orduna plays the Scarecrow in the production. He also performed on the Central stage before attending Midland Lutheran College in Fremont. In 1992 he directed *A Streetcar Named Desire* and performed in two other shows there. As the Scarecrow, Vincent must sing, dance, and act, skills that he learned while attending Central.

Other Central graduates in the show are Johnice Orduna, who plays Aunt Em and a Citizen, Lanette Metoyer-Moore, who plays Addaperle, and Richard Smith, who plays a Family member, a Munchkin, Lord High Underling, a Winkie, and a Citizen.

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(R & B)
Oct 16
Civic Auditorium



Cindy Brady sweeps poll

Who's your favorite Brady (of *The Brady Bunch* fame) and why?

The above question was presented to six homerooms. Of the 88 responses received, there were five clear winners. Some of the comments are printed below.

- 1st place—Cindy (21.6%)
- 2nd place (tie)—Greg (17%)
Marsha (17%)
- 3rd place—Alice (12.5%)
- 4th place—Tiger (the dog) (6.8%)

"Although Alice wasn't a true Brady, she went above and beyond her household duties. She also had nice legs."

"Jan. Her forehead was the shiniest."

"Tiger. He's just so Stoic."

"Snagglepuss."

"Wally, because he is a good friend of the Beav."

"Cindy. She was so adorable and had a cute sneeze."

"That would have to be Greg because his lime-green bellbottoms & groovy peace signs just are way cool, man."

"Greg. Because he was a stud, and I liked his bellbottoms."

"Marcia. She's so groovy—the perfect example of a 70's woman."

Next Issue's Poll Question:

When did you last see Elvis?
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Bring responses to the entertainment staff in room 315 before October 21st.

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Whistling
in the Dark
by
Chris Becerra



Some days are just like others

*Her boy is not like any boy
her boy is not a Man
had he the faith of a mustard seed
she'd take him by the hand...*

- Acorns

I have a dangerous little ditty stuck in my head. The tune is catchy, too catchy, or maybe a sign that I have spent an unsafe amount of time in front of the television again.

Michelob- (some days...) - Michelob- (some days...) - Michelob 'cos some days are better than others... which seems to convey to me: drown your woes into the murky, bottom depths of the bottle or, better yet, dissolve the monotony of those duller, calmer days into the possible violence of one beer after another.

I don't know, I can't seem to fit the basic theme into a neat, condensed lyrical form.

Beer ads and slogans boggle my mind. But, certainly that's because I know that, just by drinking a beer, I won't find myself on a yacht, surrounded by bikini-clad women resembling Crissy from *Three's Company*, nor do I wish to. Absurd!

And then, I think that's why men get drunk; they become disappointed. They feel dissed, as if they actually expected a companion six-pack of beautiful and naive women right next to the beer display at the super market, a kind of commodity. They're bummed because when they hear the hiss of their Buds popping open in their ears, they will again find themselves in their same old life. Not on a yacht, not on a planet of women.

After work, when they get on that elevator, they subconsciously dream that the little box strung on a thin cable will lead them to the Bahamas. But no, just a little box, maybe travelling alone, maybe a few secretaries, no gorgeous swimming teams; just a briefcase, maybe, and a button leading to the bottom floor. So then, what's better than to sacrifice these dreams to a night sulking at a bar? Right?

Sometimes when I see boys wearing those t-shirts with all of those different

brands of alcohol advertised on the back, I wonder if they just can't make up their minds—poor guys. Decisions sure can be tough sometimes. Well, whatever gets them drunk on the weekends, I suppose. But, again, maybe that's just me. I mean, I know my nights will never belong to Michelob. It's like this with everything. The ads give you what you what you want—the product leaves you lost every time.

Okay, here's an example, (one of my favorites!): the Fab Five Freddy interviewing Billie Dee Williams, asking him how on earth he does it; being the busy celebrity that he is and still managing to be a swinger!

"Colt 45," answers Billie. The commercial then cuts to a scene in which Billie is surrounded by slinky women, pawing him, untying his tie while he stumbles across the dance floor, partying, drinking.

I dunno. Well, for a guy like me, sitting there watching that, sipping my soy-milk, the situation is extremely funny and very alien. Almost frightening. Here are these women, giving this guy what he wants, while he's swigging his Colt 45, which, if I'm not mistaken, is just as potent—and dangerous—as tap water from Love Canal. I just don't think it's a good idea to glamorize being around drinking people, or being one! Especially when 90% of domestic violence is a direct result of excessive drinking.

I'm not trying to sound Nancy Reagan-ish about all of this. I'm not telling anyone not to drink, just don't believe these lies that the ads feed you. Don't assume that every time you drink you're destined to have a blast, that women will want you, or even eye you from across the room.

These folks don't care what they're telling you, just so you buy, just so you keep buying. They know the average-American male psyche is where the money is at. They show men mountains, waterfalls, semi-nude girls, and then give them a can of beer, letting them think that another beer will bring them closer. Some days are just like others, aren't they?

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Penalty Shots by Tim James

The Sports Complex Struggle

It looked promising. Aksarben was up for sale. Omaha needed a new sports arena and convention center. Horse racing attendance and profits had decreased over the past few years and appeared to be on its final stretch. Located in a prime central area, the property seemed a sure bet for many proposals.

The property ended up in the hands of the Douglas County Board after much hassle among city leaders. The city passed on the prime acres because the mayor balked due to a lack of funds to buy the site. Instead, Mayor Morgan proposed a renovation for the Civic Auditorium. He planned to raise taxes to raise the roof of the Auditorium to make the seating capacity around 16,000 and add new convention rooms. I think that if the Auditorium was renovated, parking problems would be even greater than the present problem.

I consider the neglect of building a "Nebraskaplex" at Aksarben to be one of the growing problems in this expanding city of ours. We are definitely long overdue and have the need for brand new facilities in Omaha. Not

only will the sports arena bring more professional exhibitions and activities to the city, but the arena could also serve as a concert hall to attract big name artists.

One of the major reasons I propose the site of Nebraskaplex to be on Ak property is convenience. The truth is that the majority of people don't want to drive downtown to see events, especially at night. Recent examples of poor attendance at downtown contests are Creighton basketball and the Metro Holiday Basketball Tournament. Attendance at both of these attractions has dropped in recent years. The Auditorium should be host to conventions, meetings, and, of course, the circus and those oh-so-big drawing monster truck races and demolitions. (I can see the commercial now - Tickets going fast!)

My solution to the Nebraskaplex question involves three steps:

1. End horse racing at Aksarben once and for all.

Horse racing at Aksarben is now over for the year, and I know that we all miss it, but it should be over for good. The high attendance and mutual handle have deserted the Ak for the past few years and gone into other avenues of gambling, like Keno or year-long dog racing at Bluffs Run. It is a genuine waste of time and space for the county to continue racing when these prime acres could be used for more constructive, year-long purposes. Hang up the saddles, Aksarben, and tear down some of those timeworn structures like the Grandstand.

2. Build a sports arena and a convention center on the property of Aksarben.

With help from a slight tax increase in the city for a few years, construct a Nebraskaplex that has seating

of at least 20,000 and could be converted into a concert hall. Many residents of Omaha and the surrounding

Hang up the saddles, Aksarben, and tear down some of those timeworn structures.

communities could all benefit from the arena. The more out-of-town people the events draw, the more revenue for the city. Aksarben has plenty of hotels and restaurants around the site to support the crowds. The site also has plenty of free parking space available, a feature that the downtown plan does not include.

3. Create a public park on the location.

Complete with baseball/softball diamonds, tennis courts, basketball courts, running and biking trails, and also wide open acres for various sports. Aksarben is a perfect place for a public recreation park. Omaha is in need of more trails and paths for bikers, joggers, and walkers.

At the center of the metro area, the Aksarben property is well suited for the proposed Nebraskaplex structures. A vote should almost not even be necessary to decide the location. Nebraskaplex on the Aksarben site is the answer.

Sports Briefs

Girls' Golf

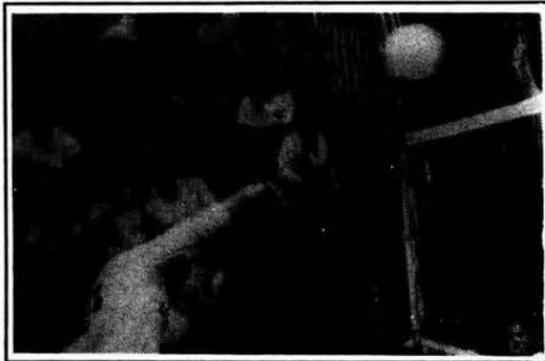
The Central girls' golf team teed off to a victory against South at Elmwood course to launch their 1-1-1 season. The team of ten golfers has five returning and feels fairly confident about the upcoming season. "The team is young and inexperienced," says Coach Jo Dusatko, "but I'm sure we'll have a winning season."

The team is scheduled to play Gross, North and rival Marian in the next few weeks. The team placed third in the Abraham Lincoln Invitational on September 17. Liz Crossman, sophomore, received sixth place medal honors and Musselman, junior, received seventh place honors. The team is optimistic about this year's season and is hoping to qualify for the state tournament in October.

Boys' Tennis

"The team is really deep in talent," stated Clark Lauritzen, sophomore member of the boys' tennis team at Central. The 15 player team is made up of returning players. "We lost some seniors, but we'll pick up the slack," said junior returning player Jeff Darst.

The team has won key matches so far in the season and is optimistic about the rest of them. Clark said, "I don't think the team has been this serious in a long time. We should win almost all of our matches." Last year the team was undefeated until Metro and State, so the team has created the same high expectations for this year.



Spike it down: Brooke Bahr, junior, knocks it over the net in a sideout against Burke during Central Varsity volleyball match in three games. Their next match is on Thursday, October 1st at home against Ralston. Photo by Tim James.

Girls' Volleyball

The varsity volleyball team began its season on September 8. In its first game, the varsity team was defeated by South, 15-7, 15-7. The team has 6 returning players this season: Julia Armenta, Jessica Lawrence, Rachael Newsome, and Williams, seniors, Brooke Bahr and Amber Wood, juniors. According to Coach Williams, the team has a chance to be one of the top in the area. The JV team started its season on September 8, with a win against South. April Stevens, junior and JV player, says "We hope we do our best and win as many games as possible." The freshmen team started its season on September 15, against Bryan.

Junior Varsity Football

Central has not only a successful varsity football team, but a successful junior varsity team as well. The coaches of the junior varsity team are Mark and Stan Standifer. The team itself "changes from week to week," said Coach Standifer, so a roster is not available.

The junior varsity team has a 1-1 record. The team beat Burke 16-8, but lost to Prep 8-14, and beat Papillon 21-18. Central will play Millard North next Thursday, October 1st.

"Despite our lack of practice, we still beat Burke," said Ty Sievers, junior player I-back for Central both JV games. Ty also looks favorably on the future. "Although we lost to Prep, it was our better game because everyone played hard. We'll play that hard in every game, we'll have a good season overall," said Ty.

Boys and Girls' Cross Country

The 1992 Central Cross Country team is off and running to new goals this season. Together, the boys' and girls' teams have about a dozen or more runners spend their afternoons after school practicing in Elmwood Park. Every day runners jog a two to six mile course winding through the park. Invitational meets are usually held on Tuesdays and Fridays.

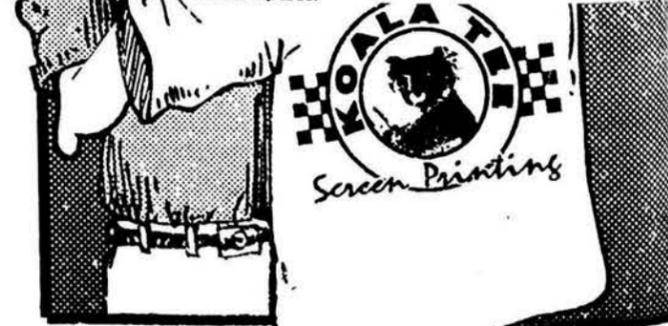
Team members are looking for a successful season at the meets. "We have a good chance for our top competitors to win medals at the meets. If we keep up the same pace, we'll do better in districts than we've done in past years," Roger Russell, junior, said.

Pom Squad/Cheerleading

The new sponsor of the cheerleading squad this year is Miss Arlene Stranglen, English teacher.

Miss Stranglen said that the members of the 1992-93 cheerleading squad are "good all-around leaders both academically and socially." According to Miss Stranglen, the team will focus on promoting school spirit. Varsity cheerleader and junior Jenny Gruber, said, "This year will be better because more cheerleaders will be on the team and there will be more team spirit."

Mrs. Stranglen is promoting school spirit by sponsoring the Pom Squad. She is more organized than ever and is sponsoring us at pep rallies. Mrs. Stranglen is a strong leader and has enjoyed the experience.



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Eagles soar into fall with top ten ranking

by Jon McDonald

Central's Varsity football team lost last Friday, September 25 in a game to number one Lincoln Southeast. Eagles now have a 2-2 record.

An estimated crowd of 100, according to the Omaha World Herald, turned out to watch the number one team in a loss. A play against Central at Bergquist stadium.

The first quarter was where the Eagles played hardest. The Southeast Knights, after taking possession of the kickoff, promptly scored against Central, making for a 7-0 game. Central, however, shone through and gave the ball to the metro rushing leader and sophomore I-back Damion Morrow, who scored Central's only touchdown.

While Central managed to score in only the first quarter, the visiting Knights scored in every quarter. The final score was 28-7.

The Lincoln Southeast game was Central's second loss in a row. The Friday prior to the

game against the Knights, the Eagles played the Millard South Indians who were ranked number three. That game was played at Buell stadium.

The final score was 23-6, with Central's only point again scored by Damion Morrow, though the extra-point kick was hooked.

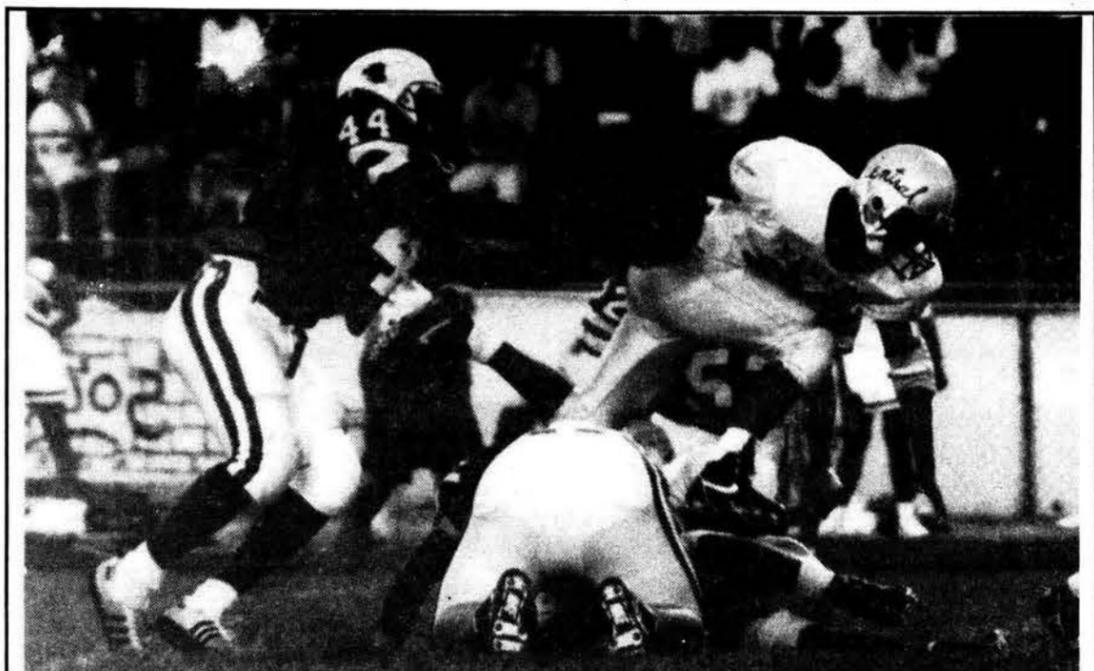
"We played a terrible game," said Nick Ogden, senior, and Eagle strong safety. Central in the fourth quarter never even managed to get into the Indian part of the field. In fact, the Eagles lost a total of 74 yards in penalties.

"Our team held them [the Indians] until the fourth quarter," said Gerard Leahy, junior, and Eagle defensive end.

However, before losing the games to Lincoln Southeast and Millard South, Central enjoyed a two-game winning streak over Burke and South.

Central shut out Burke 27-0 at Bergquist stadium on September 11.

Varsity Coach Joe



Leaping for the first down: Damion Morrow, sophomore, climbs over defenders on one of his 36 carries against South. He rushed for a total of 196 yards in the game and scored twice in Central's 15-13 victory. Photo by Tim James.

McMenamin praised the defensive line for the victory. He said that Central ran a 5-3 defensive scheme that was effective against Burke because it "kept the linebackers free." This opposed the Burke veer-type offense. "They [Burke] couldn't figure it out," said Coach

McMenamin.

Central also defeated South 15-13 for Central's first win and first game of the year.

Central is currently ranked number nine overall in the metro area conference.

Sophomore I-back Damion Morrow has rushed for

89 percent, 317 of the total 358, of the yardage gained in the last two Central games combined. He leads the metro with a total of 673 yards in four games.

Central will play its homecoming game this Friday, October 2, against unranked Ralston.



More trophies to add?... Mr. Pennington hopes the number of awards and trophies will increase during his athletic director years. Photo by Tim James.

Pennington positive about new position

By Kelly Grace

Mr. Paul Pennington, Central's new assistant principal and athletic director has a favorite saying. "Winning isn't everything, wanting to is." As a new athletic year begins at Central, Mr. Pennington will apply this philosophy to his new job.

Pennington resumes the responsibilities of assistant principal and athletic director

here at Central in place of the late Dick Jones. As Jones' assistant for 7 years, Mr. Pennington feels qualified and able to run the athletic show here at Central. Pennington was selected as athletic director over several applicants. In his 22nd year at Central, Pennington eagerly accepts the challenge.

Pennington, who also remains one of three assistant principals at Central, leads a hectic life. Besides raising three daughters, Pennington has

taught Math and currently enjoys recreational tennis. He believes strongly in the phrase "Teaching is to touch a life forever."

"I have received much support from the administration," claims Pennington. With his added task of running the athletic

department, Pennington is thankful for the help he has received.

Pennington loves athletics and enjoys golf as well as

tennis. In high school he played football, basketball, and baseball. "I think that in high school you must have fun." He finds that through athletics an individual can accomplish that "without risking their personal safety."

"One of my goals this year is to work a lot with the coaches." Pennington believes that "Coaches are the role models for many students." He hopes that everyone involved in athletics and school should simply "do their best to win."

Winning isn't everything, wanting to is. Mr. Pennington

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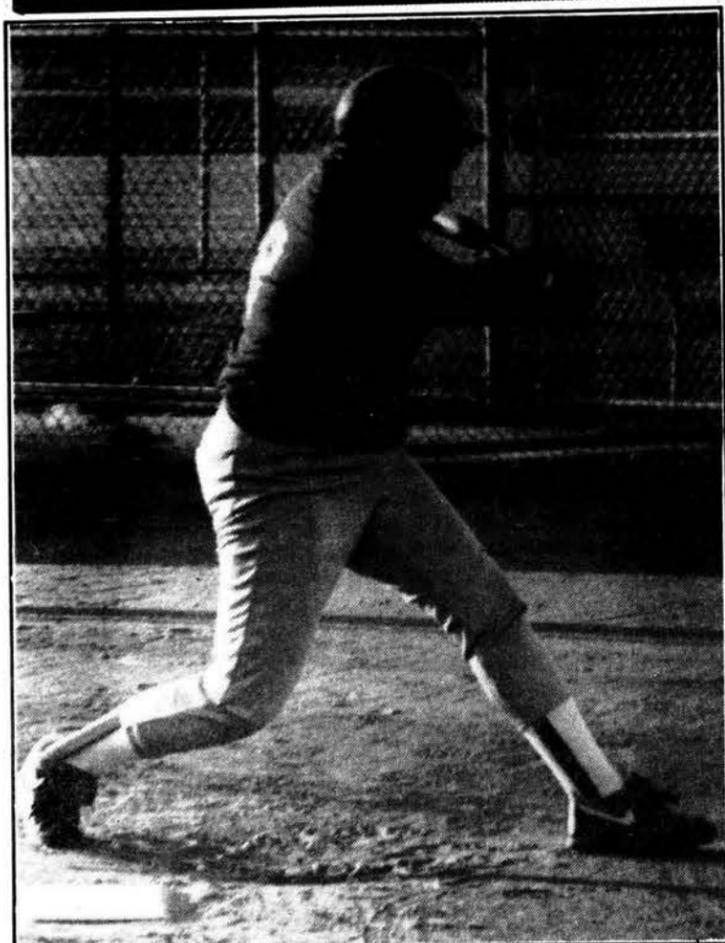
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Now at bat: Kelly Custard, freshman, takes a swing at a pitch in warmups before a recent varsity game. Central girls' softball is currently 11-7 and the team is ranked #7 in Metro. Photo by Amber Wood.

Softball slides into second year

by Leah Mussleman

"It's just a matter of time."

This is the comment of Girls' varsity Softball club sponsor, Norman Custard, on when girls' softball will become a school sanctioned sport. Right now girls' softball is a club, despite the fact that over 50 girls participate on one of Central's three teams.

Softball needs the approval of 32 schools to become state sanctioned; currently the number has reached 28. OPS has already approved the sport for its schools. "The last four teams will probably have to come from out of the state," said Coach Jim Kozak, varsity team manager.

Many of the girls are upset about softball not being recognized as a varsity sport. One of the biggest complaints they had was the fact that they don't letter in a club sport. "We should be able to get letters just like the baseball players," said Sara Swisher, varsity player and junior.

"The school has been very cooperative," Mr. Custard said. According to Mr. Custard, the Metro High School Athletic

Association and the Omaha Softball Association have also been supporting the softball teams and helping them out with the costs of equipment, umpires, and fields.

Central has three teams, 1 varsity and 2 junior varsity. The three teams share a total of about eight coaches; only two of the coaches, Mr. Tim Herbert and Mr. Custard, are teachers at Central High.

According to Mr. Custard, this is the second year of interest in girls' softball. Last year over 100 girls showed an interest in the sport. Central has 51 players this year.

Mr. Custard commented that the number decreased because many players were unable to compete at the league's high level of play. Coach Jim Kozak noted that the "level of ball this year is a lot higher than last year."

So far the varsity team is 12-6, junior varsity Purple is 3-0 and junior varsity Silver is 1-1. One of the teams varsity lost to in extra innings was Millard North, a team Mr. Custard said could very well be the best in the state.

This year's team is a young team with only three

seniors. The players are to mature and improve to as a team to all reach the high competitive playing the remainder of the season next year. "We've improved from last year," said varsity and junior Briana Hool.

Many of the players are returning from year, and, in addition to year, most play on city teams in the summer. Mr. noted that about 85 percent of the girls participate on summer teams. Briana said, "You play (in summer leagues) good varsity competitor!"

The players are optimistic about this season and are expecting to win in the state tournament in October. "When we play teams we pull together and well to beat them," said player and junior Julie Be

They have games Monday and Wednesday and tournaments over a week once in a while. Even though softball is not sanctioned in the state, many people still support the team, creating spirit in players. Varsity player and Rachel Muetting said the softball team has "the spirit!"

Keystone Trail a popular path

by Jon McDonald

Motor vehicle homicide is a very real and scary threat to local joggers, bikers, and skaters. The threat of having one's life ended while trying simply to get a little exercise has prompted Douglas County to provide people with the Keystone Trail.

Keystone Trail stretches from Center street to Fort street and passes through Democracy Park. Many users of the trail like to access it on 78th and Cass, right by Goodrich. The trail is open from 5A M to 11P M. It is available for walking, jogging, biking, roller skating/blading, and skateboarding.

The rules for Keystone Trail are posted in many

convenient places along the trail itself. The rules include: proper biker etiquette: when someone is passing he/she should announce his/her presence; all pets must be on a leash; people are required to proceed single file around curves and under bridges; alcohol is not permitted; users are expected to be courteous and motorized vehicles of any type are not allowed.

"It's nice, a little too flat for my taste, but nice for some quick exercise," said Central earth science teacher Al Roeder. The trail was also praised by Cassandra Swisher, senior, when she stated that she liked it because the scenery made long walks seem shorter than they were.

The scenery along Keystone Trail includes such items as a soccer field, a vegetable garden, several playgrounds, bird feeders, a bridge that leads to a dirt/mountain biking trail. "I like it because you can see the bungee jumpers [at Peony Park]," said Fran Anania, Central junior.

"It's boring-there's no variation," said Michelle Queen, a Central junior. Other Centralites shared her opinion. Erik Dicks, senior, said that his main reason for not liking Keystone Trail was the fact that many of the joggers and walkers on the trail are very rude, making his bike rides unenjoyable.

Keystone Trail is approximately seven and one half miles from one end to the other.

Creighton hires Dominguez

by Christy Shearer

What happened to former Central Spanish teacher and baseball coach Mr. Elvis Dominguez? Creighton University offered him a position as an assistant baseball coach. He resigned his position at Central following the 1991-92 school year.

Mr. Dominguez said that he misses the teaching aspect at Central, but he feels that this career move is a good opportunity for himself and his family.

Next semester, Mr. Dominguez will be teaching Spanish classes at Creighton. In addition to these classes, he will be scouting and recruiting for Creighton during the off-season.

In the future, Mr. Dominguez said that he hopes to pursue a coaching career in professional baseball.

Mr. Dominguez said, "I have all good memories of

Central and I enjoyed the time spent there." Also according to Mr. Dominguez, "the staff and administration were really nice to work with."

Replacing Dominguez as baseball coach is Mr. Steve Eubanks, physics teacher. According to Mr. Paul Pennington, Creighton athletic director, Mr. Dominguez recommended Mr. Eubanks for the position. In addition to his new position, Mr. Eubanks will be the coach of the reserve football team.

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Oct. 1, JVFB - Millard North (A) RSFB - Prep (H) GG - Metro BT - Gross (A) VB - Ralston (H) 9VB - North (A)	Oct. 8, CC - Metro JVFB - Westside (H) RSFB - Burke (A) GYM - Pspillion (A) 9VB - South (A)	Oct. 15, BT - State (Oct. 15-16) VB - Gross (A) 9VB - Tourney (10/15-16)
Oct. 2, CC - Millard North (A) VFB - Ralston (H) BT - A. Lincoln (A)	Oct. 9, VFB - Northwest (A) Oct. 13, VB - Northwest (H) 9VB - Burke (A)	Oct. 20, GYM - Burke (H) VB - North (A)
Oct. 5-9 VB - Metro Oct. 6, 9VB - Benson (H) Oct. 7, GG - Districts Oct. 7-9, BT - Metro	Oct. 15, CC - Districts JVFB - North (A) RSFB - A. Lincoln (H) GG - State GYM - South (H)	Oct. 22, JVFB - Millard South (H) RSFB - T.J. (A) Oct. 23, CC - State VFB - North (H) Oct. 27, JVFB - Benson (A) RSFB - North (H) Oct. 29, VFB - Prep (A)
CC - Cross Country VFB - Varsity Football JVFB - J.V. Football	RSFB - Reserve Football GG - Girls' Golf GYM - Gymnastics	BT - Boys' Tennis VB - Vars./J.V. Volleyball 9VB - 9th Gr. Volleyball

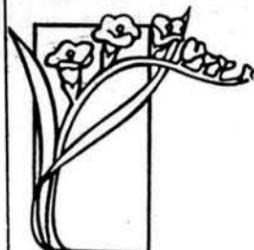
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