



the Register

The oldest school paper west of the Mississippi

107 No.4 Central High School Omaha, Nebraska December 21, 1993

Student groups participate in holiday charities

Students catch the spirit of giving

By Matthew Truesdell



Several Central clubs are donating their time to the community this holiday season.

Project FREE, Central's drug-free youth club, will go caroling this month at Skyline Manor retirement home, according to Michelle Seiter, freshman. "We think the people at the retirement home will really enjoy it," said Michelle.

Tanya Luken, senior and Project FREE president, said she hopes to "bring a lot of joy to many people who otherwise wouldn't get into the Christmas spirit."

Ms. Sharie Jorgensen, counselor and sponsor, said that other clubs from Central would be invited to go caroling with Project FREE.

Also caroling this year is the German National Honor Society. Mrs. Heidi Jung, sponsor, said that GNHS will carol at The Lutheran Home. Caroling is a tradition for GNHS. Mrs. Jung said, "We've been doing that for probably 15 to 20 years." GNHS also made Christmas cards to send to United States troops stationed in Somalia, said Mrs. Jung.

Central's creative writing

classes answered letters that children sent to Santa Claus. The Postal Service gets letters every year addressed to Santa and allows organizations to respond to them and send them back to the children who wrote them.

Classes have answered letters for six or seven years, according to Mr. Mike Gaherty, creative writing teacher.

National Honor Society is considering volunteering at the Omaha Food Bank or at the Francis House sometime in December, according to Jeff Darst, senior and NHS president.

DECA members are volunteering to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Some members rang bells in the courtyard during lunch periods this year. Ms. Alice Bunz, sponsor, said that their goal is to get the entire DECA chapter involved with the Salvation Army and with community service in general.

DECA also held a blanket drive for the Salvation Army. Mrs. Bunz said that both activities were held in conjunction with Central's Adopt-a-School partner, Scouler Grain. DECA sent fliers about the blanket drive to Scouler, and employees also held a drive.

Ring in a little holiday cheer: Seniors Briana Hooi and Andy Helgesen help the Salvation Army's effort for the needy. Photo by Cathy Moyer.

Jeremy Drake's father 'satisfied' with verdict of Masters, Herman murder trial

By Rickerl

Christopher Masters, 20, was found guilty November 30 of first degree murder for the shooting of Jeremy Drake, former Central High School student. Masters was convicted of murdering Jeremy October 8, 1992, after committing a kidnapping that was the result of another youth's, Jeremy Herman's, suspicion that Jeremy Drake knew about the theft of his car speakers.

Jeremy Herman, 18, was sentenced November 15 to life in prison with no chance of parole, although by state law is the mandatory sentence for those involved with a

kidnapping. Jeremy Herman pleaded guilty to kidnapping in a plea bargain for his testimony against Masters.

Jeremy's body was found along a hiking trail in Hummel Park three days after the shooting.

Masters faces life in prison or a possible death sentence. His final sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 11. Masters was also found guilty of use of a firearm to commit a felony and kidnapping.

Mr. Bob Drake, Jeremy's father, said he is somewhat satisfied with the verdicts but believes the judicial system tends to carry on with sentencing. He said that the whole ordeal lasted 14 months. Mr. Drake said he has "mixed feelings on capital punishment," but believes that Masters and Herman "should not be an active part of society." Mr. Drake said that even if

Masters were sentenced to death, there is no guarantee that he would actually be executed in the electric chair. He said that there are numerous people on death row and the last to be executed was in 1958. He said that he is somewhat dissatisfied with our justice system

and believes that Nebraska should either "enforce the death penalty or get rid of it."

Mr. Drake said that he believes Masters had the potential to kill and would have eventually ended up killing somebody. Mr. Drake said that he does not think that the murder was

premeditated but believes that things just got way out of hand. He said that he believes Herman's "intention was only to scare Jeremy," to get information out of

him about the stolen speakers.

Mr. Drake said he holds them both equally responsible, even though Masters is the one accused of firing the shot that killed Jeremy. He said that it is really upsetting for him and his family because Jeremy Herman and Jeremy Drake were originally friends and that he and his whole family had been acquainted with Herman. Mr. Drake said that his life has been changed drastically. He said the loss of his son is something he and his family have to deal with on a daily basis. He said he has become really "apprehensive" about who his other kids are involved with.

Mr. Drake said through this whole experience he has become "aware of the problems that face society today." Mr. Drake said his suggestion to youth to prevent murders like this again would include that "teenagers be aware of who their friends are." He said he strongly believes in the relationship between teenagers and their parents. He believes it is crucial that parents "stay in touch with their children" and recognize who their friends are and what they are currently involved in

Teenagers [should] be aware of who their friends are.

--Mr. Bob Drake, father of Jeremy Drake

DECA tries new format

By Bethany Vesely

Central's Marketing department is attempting to parallel the National DECA Quizbowl format with Central's district DECA Quizbowl.

Quizbowl is a competition for DECA teams to test their knowledge and marketing skills against other teams on district, state and national levels.

At Central, each student on the team answers four questions in front of an audience instead of in a room with only the judge. In other schools, the person on the team to press their buzzer first is presented with the question. "Calling it a team is kind of erroneous because one person could answer all the questions," said Mrs. Vickie Wiles, marketing teacher.

Central's format allows about 17 teams to participate at one time. The new format was developed because of the large number of people showing interest in DECA. "As interest rises, we want the national competition to change, and we will show them how ours is done," said Mrs. Wiles.

Index

Editorials.....	2
Entertainment.....	9-13
Entertainment column.....	11
Features.....	5-7
Letters to the Editor.....	2
News.....	4-5
Opinion.....	3
Opinion column.....	3
Sports.....	14-16
Sports column.....	14

the Register

Editorial Pages

Unsigned articles are the opinion of the Register

In School Suspension in dire need of drastic reformation

The primary tool which Central's administration uses in its valiant efforts to curb misbehavior in the school is In School Suspension, or ISS. During that day, spent in a room which the administration admittedly keeps at a considerably lower temperature than the rest of the building, that student must first copy a list of rules, then write essays regarding their misdoings. After that, the student is allowed to work on his or her studies for the rest of the day.

The administration believes that this system keeps students out of trouble, as they theoretically fear the impending days which would be spent in a closed room, away from their friends and classes. Further, this form of punishment is better than outright suspension in that it keeps the students in a controlled environment, out of trouble.

We at the Register believe that although the premise behind ISS is good, the practice of it has become ineffective and requires revision. The largest flaw with the system involves the recidivism which ISS fosters. For many students, being allowed to spend a day or two catching up with their studies is far from punishment. Further, days in ISS are considered as excused absences. This offers many students the chance to legally skip their

classes; again, not exactly punishment.

We concede that in many cases, outright suspension is an unfair punishment for most students. There should be other options. Perhaps assigning students to assist in the custodial duties of the school or assigning students to cafeteria duty would accomplish the disciplinary goals the administration much better. By doing this, the administration can still keep students off the streets and even go further in teaching some responsibility and at the same time creating for many a more effective punishment.

Less radical would be to simply make days spent in ISS count as legitimate absences, forcing those students who recurrently find themselves in room 245 to consider the ten-day absence rule as another part of ISS, also increasing its power as a deterrent.

The fact that the administration has resorted to means as reactionary as lowering the heat and forcing students to copy rules should be a signal that ISS is not as successful as many would like to make it appear. It is time that the school begin looking at other options for this level of punishment, beyond simple incarceration. It is time that the school make a change in another area which is in desperate need.

Cutting gifted programs hurts many bright futures

With the shortage of educational funding, many departments have cut extras out of programs. However, the decision as to what is an "extra" is not easily made, and sometimes the wrong things are sacrificed.

One of the most recent "luxuries" that has been cut is the program for gifted students. This program has been cut with the intention of not only saving money, but of putting students on more of an equal basis. This is approached with the attitude that gifted students will excel whether they are helped in a separate way or not, and that keeping these students in a mainstream classroom will aid students with problems in overcoming their obstacles.

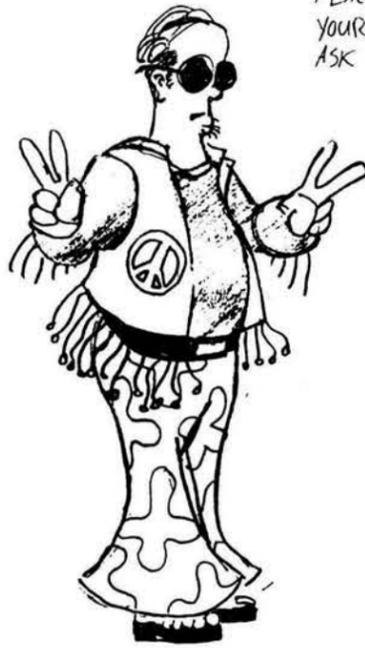
Unfortunately, these ideas are incorrect. Even gifted students in the United States rank lower than those in other countries when tested. This should prove that a program for intellectually gifted children are a necessity, not a luxury. Students with outstanding abilities should have special guidance in order to make the most of these gifts. Programs for below-average students receive extra funding, but the students with the most potential are virtually ignored.

Cuts to programs for the gifted have been made nationwide,

and in some cases they have been completely eliminated. In OPS, the entire district has cut these programs at all levels. The junior high schools have lost most of their honors classes, including English and science. They have also lost ten part-time facilitators for talented and gifted students. Senior highs lost the Academy of Finance previously offered at the Career Center, among other things.

Keeping everyone in a mainstream situation is not a way to help students get ahead—it is only a way of chaining gifted students down.

People need to think of this situation in every aspect. They need to look at it from the gifted students' point of view. They need to put themselves in the desk of that bored child, sitting in a classroom with nothing to do but dream of a time away from school. Children need to be challenged to be motivated, and they need to be motivated to be successful. If officials are worried about this country's youth, the answer to ending their worries will not be found by increasing the number of unmotivated children who do not enjoy school. Instead, they should be finding ways of making educational environments more fun and the time spent in them more productive than it is now.



PEACE OUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS. TAKE OUT YOUR HOMEWORK AND YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES TO ASK ME QUESTIONS OR MEDITATE.

THEY'RE DRESSING LIKE US, THEY'RE TALKING LIKE US. THIS IS SCARING ME.



Editorials In Brief

On violent video games

Congress is angry over video game violence—angry enough to legislate about it, some members say.

Consumers, if they are wise, will look to neither Congress nor the video game industry for an answer to this problem, because anything Congress does is likely to be unconstitutional and anything the industry does will be inadequate.

Let conscientious parents, employing whatever ratings inspire their trust, monitor their children's rental or purchase of these expensive games. And let the sellers beware.

--Chicago Tribune

On the Boy Scouts

If you thought the Boy Scouts of America was mostly about camping, hiking and other such outdoorsy stuff, you haven't been paying attention.

Lately, it's been about going to court over the three Gs—girls, gays and God.

This week, the scouts won a victory on the God front.

The Girl Scouts of America decided in October that holding out against the nation's increasing diversity was fruitless, so they stopped requiring their members to swear an oath to God.

The Boy Scouts should strike their religious tent and do the same.

--USA Today

On hard core rap

Hard-core rap music is wildly popular and often reaches number one on the charts. It is also the music where women are called "bitches" and "whores," and men murder each other for sport. But now hard-core rap and other murderous, misogynous music will have one less radio outlet in New York City.

Inner City Br... which owns several rad... around the country, has... policy for keeping violenc... fanfany off its airwaves. It... sible measure that other... ought to emulate.

--New York Times

On gang apparel

A lot of people... to outlaw street gangs, a... not for some fine print in... tution, would do so.

There is good... criminal activity by some... that does not give the gov... acting through public... cials—the right to outlaw... of an group, no matter... some of its members.

Besides, forb... wearing of gang colors... nate gangs—or the illicit... members—any more... ing white sheets could... the Ku Klux Klan.

--The Des Moines Register

Register Your Opinions

Do you think teachers should be allowed to dress in a more casual manner?

Yes 79%

(87 students polled)

No 10%

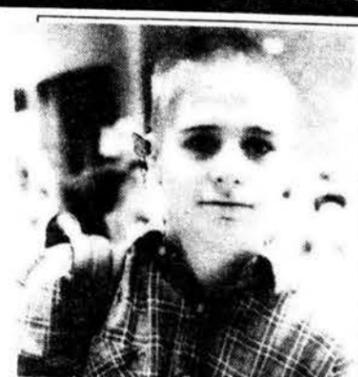
Undecided 9%

Voices across Central



DyChelle Brunt (11)

"Yes, because they have to deal with children. If they were more comfortable they could make their classes livelier."



Shawn Corbett (9)

"Yes, they should be able to dress how ever they want."



Jono Brandford

"No, it is the profession chose, and dressing up in the things that goes along the job."

When you'd rather spend vacation under a tent of blankets and chairs

Rubber Soul



Michelle Chandler

While American students count down the days left until winter break, vacations are approached in an entirely different manner in other parts of the world. While we keep track of the hours from one break to the next, the government in other countries is enforcing leisure time, encouraging vacations and putting forth every effort to make citizens' free time as productive as possible.

Japan is one country that has begun to work hard at enjoying free time. Citizens are now learning what to do with vacations.

The latest effort consists of an indoor beach and ski slopes. In an attempt to persuade workers to spend more time in leisure, they have created an entirely man-made beach, complete with computer-generated waves, a volcano that explodes every 15 minutes and the sounds of chirping birds piped in

through a sound system—all under the largest retractable dome in the world. Another climate-controlled shelter houses ski slopes that are covered with a fresh powder of machine-generated snow each morning.

In my opinion, extra vacation sounds like a fantastic idea. Being able to plan a trip without worrying about the weather would be nice, too. However, the thought of having to work at enjoying free time somehow puts a damper on the idea. This kind of rigid vacation time takes all of the risk out of making plans. How many times have you stayed in on a rainy day and played games?

When I was younger, my friends and I would make tents by draping blankets over furniture when the weather was inappropriate for playing outside. We made up plays

and performed them for our parents and siblings. Some of the most enjoyable activities we participated in occurred on days when it seemed like we had nothing to do. We used our imaginations. We were creative. We didn't say, "Oh, it's raining. Let's grab our skis and head for the slopes!"

Okay, okay. I don't want to end up sounding like my dad, talking about the "good old days" when candy bars cost a nickel and you could get a steak dinner for a quarter. I just want to make the point that if these indoor-outdoors had been around earlier, many things would be different. Not only would children lose their ability to chant the "Rain, Rain, Go Away" song, but the phrase "save it for a rainy day" would never have been uttered. Somehow, the phrase, "save it for a day at the climate-controlled

beach" just doesn't convey the same idea.

Everyone should know how to enjoy free time. It should be an inborn human characteristic. It should not be a learned behavior. There are many ways to have fun without creating new environments and computerizing the ocean. I hope that we will always be given vacation time. Having fun is what makes hard work worth the effort. I wish the Japanese government the best of luck in fulfilling its vow. I hope that Japan will become as fun-loving as the next nation. I also hope that after they find the ability to use spare time to have fun, they will keep it forever. But, for the meantime, I'll be counting down the seconds until my vacation begins. Let's see here, now. Where was I? Oh, yeah—518,429 seconds. 518,428 seconds. 518,427 seconds...

Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Festive Season. Whatever. As the winter/holiday season progresses, winter break draws near, and everyone with vacation time anticipates the days of leisure and activities he or she has planned for them.



David Lawler

On Monday, December 13, a Michigan judge finally declared the ban on doctor-assisted suicide unconstitutional. This is the first major victory in an ongoing struggle by Dr. Kevorkian. Dr. Kevorkian feels that doctor-assisted suicide is a human right. However, the state, up till now, felt it was not a right that the government has no right to prohibit an individual from receiving this humanitarian service.

The base right of this service is provided by the fourteenth amendment of the constitution which guarantees our right to

IN THE CROSSFIRE

This Month: The morality of doctor assisted suicide

liberty. The Michigan judge who presided over the case declared the ban in conflict with the fourteenth amendment

arguing that it took so long for the ban to be declared unconstitutional. An individual has the right to make his or her own choices. This concept, self-determination, is one of the main principles this country was founded on. To go against this principle, undermines our entire way of life and reinforces the hypocrisy this country has sunk into.

Despite the legality, the morality of the issue cannot be denied. If a patient is terminally ill and wants to die, it is only moral to let them. They are suffering and want it to stop. If they want to live, let them. But do not tell them they have to suffer living. It is immoral, it is unethical, and most importantly it is unconstitutional.

Assuming that society limits assisted suicides to seriously ill patients, will it be left to the individual patient and the doctor to determine when suicide is appropriate? Suicide today is illegal. Why? Because our experience with human behavior has led us to conclude that people who attempt suicide are not rational. This assumption is reflected in the fact that, even though suicide is illegal, people who attempt it and fail are rarely punished. How do we assure that the seriously ill patient is making a rational decision? After all, not all terminally ill patients decide that they want to die. Some fight to the end for life, even when they are in pain. Presumably, we do not intend to allow doctor-assisted suicides for trivial reasons. If not, how do we determine when a reason is good enough? Do we limit the practice to terminally ill people in



Chuck Whitten

pain? Why should we distinguish between people who are terminally ill and in pain from those who are not terminally ill, but who are also in pain? If all people in pain are allowed to take this route, how much pain is required before suicide is permissible? How do we measure this pain? How do we assure that the decision is a product of the pain and not the undue influence of overburdened relatives, greedy heirs or even the natural feelings of guilt on the part of sick persons about the problems they are creating for their families?



the **Register**

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School Board cuts \$200,000 from Gifted Program for 1993-94 year

By Cliff Hicks

"It's the first major reduction we've had since the program was founded in 1978," said Mrs. Judith Hennig, supervisor of the Talented and Gifted Department.

For the 1993-1994 year, \$200,000 was cut from the Talented and Gifted program. Ten part-time facilitators from the junior highs were cut this year. These part-time facilitators were there to assist students into the honors programs from the grade school level.

Mrs. Hennig believes that the lack of these facilitators to help guide students into preparation for advanced courses in high school will hurt their growth academically. "Students will lack the discipline necessary for the honors and AP courses," said Mrs. Hennig.

Junior high schools are moving to the "middle school model," with few or no honors or gifted classes. This extension of middle schools continues the tradition of students "all having the same abilities," which Mrs. Hennig says "simply isn't so."

The ten facilitators cut from the junior highs were cut along with many honors classes, in falling in with the middle school model. Honors English, honors science, and others have been cut, the only exception being honors math.

Earlier last year it was agreed these cuts needed to be made by the Board of Education. The decision, which began in the hands of the teachers, was passed in July of this year.

Ms. Hennig feels cutting the gifted programs will be hazardous to the students.

"My daughter graduated from Central and she got 15 hours of credit from the AP exams," Mrs. Hennig said, "and she graduated

[college] in four years where her friends mostly graduated in four and half years."

Ms. Hennig claims that the preparation her daughter received from the junior high level was "invaluable." The cutting of honors programs is "extreme and harmful," said Mrs. Hennig.

"We still have programs like Invent America and Knowledge Masters, but the coordination is gone," Mrs. Hennig said.



A student's learning process is hindered by "the limitations of being in a class not up [to] the student's level. Students need to be challenged to keep them interested," said Mrs. Hennig.

A motion was made at the last Board meeting to reinstate a facilitator at one school. The motion was voted down, which Mrs. Hennig believes was "because it was only for one school." It is Mrs. Hennig's hope that the facilitators will be reinstated for the 1994-1995 year.

Several parents and students spoke out at the meeting about the cutting of these facilitators and programs. No final decision has been made, and it will not be made until

July. Cuts in the general budgets are also affecting the gifted programs, such as the cuts to the academy of finance, transportation, field trips, professional conference attendances, services, supplies, equipment and funds for staff development.

Mrs. Hennig believes the loss of these funds has injured the gifted program a great deal. "How can we desire to be the first country in the world in education, when the first people we cut funds from are our gifted?" said Mrs. Hennig.

Omaha Public Schools does not receive any funding for its gifted program from the state. Nebraska is the only state in the surrounding six-state area not to. The gifted program also does not receive any federal dollars. Mrs. Hennig feels that the gifted students are "getting the short end."

High schools did not suffer the same dictated cuts as the junior high schools, but Mrs. Hennig says that high schools are doing a "paring down of staff."

The reduction of staff could lead to even larger classes, with fewer classes offered. Unlike the junior highs, the senior highs are allowed to decide where the cuts will be made.

Mrs. Hennig claims the turnout at the Board meeting has been "extraordinary." Many parents and students have attended to state their objections.

Mrs. Hennig hopes that the facilitators will be reinstated if possible.

She asks parents and students to write to the Board, or attend a meeting if they have input to the situation. Mrs. Hennig said, "it does make a difference."

Taboo topics The gag rule: Homosexual abortion not discussed in

By Elizabeth Kaplan

"Some topics are not in the bounds of this Human Growth and Development class, and the teacher will say so if a topic or question does not apply to this class," reads rule number seven of the Human Growth and Development guidelines distributed to all students enrolled in the course.

This rule refers to the controversial topics of abortion and homosexuality which are not a part of the Human Growth and Development curriculum, according to Mrs. Betty Schuler-Weingarten, Human Growth and Development teacher.

"The rule implies two things," Mrs. Schuler-Weingarten said. "The student does have the right to say the words abortion and homosexuality, or write it in an essay, but it is not a part of our curriculum. We never present or test on information on homosexuality or abortion."

Mrs. Schuler-Weingarten said that the rule has been enforced since the Human Growth and Development classes were instituted into the schools. "I was on the superintendent's task force in 1986 to 1987 which worked on the curriculum for the course. There were so many varying beliefs that nobody could come to a common ground as to what should be taught about the subjects. We decided to leave it out of the curriculum completely," she said.

Mrs. Schuler-Weingarten also stressed the fact that students "do not get in trouble for making a comment in written work on personal beliefs on these issues or for using the words in the classroom."

She said that if questioned about homosexuality, AIDS, the teacher gives statistics "without their personal view."

"I don't mind the rule," said Mrs.

If we didn't have the gag rule, I'm afraid teachers would interject their personal opinions into their teaching --Mrs. Schuler-Weingarten

Tollesfrud, director of Planned Parenthood, feels the gag rule "doesn't make sense."

of factual information presented on the subjects which enhance students' understanding and also acknowledge beliefs on the subject.

"People are so tolerant that by talking about homosexuality you're promoting it," Mrs. Tollesfrud said.

Ms. Tollesfrud also said that factual information should be presented on abortion.

"I think that it is important that sexual orientation be covered because young people are confused about their sexual orientation might have now to talk about it," Mrs. Tollesfrud said.

"People would be more tolerant if they were less and the only way that could be if we talked about it often. I don't understand this one area of life we are to talk about and deal with issues," she said.

News Flash

First Semester Final Exam Schedule

Tuesday, January 11: Periods 3, 8, 10

Wednesday, January 12: Periods 1, 4, 9

Thursday January 13: Periods 0, 2, 5-7

Central band, chorus, orchestra members audition for All-City

Tryouts were held December 1 and 3 for the All-City band, chorus and orchestra. The students auditioned to participate in All-City, an annual citywide concert, and for their chair placement. All-City will take place on March fifth at 7:30 at the Civic Auditorium.

DECA rings bells and collects blankets for Salvation Army

Approximately 40 DECA members have been doing volunteer work as bell ringers for the Salvation Army. The students do the bell ringing from 3:00 to 9:00. Mrs. Vicki Wiles, DECA sponsor, said the students do all the work on a volunteer basis, and work one to two hour shifts. She also said some of the students have been creative while they are working and sing Christmas carols and ring the bells to tunes.

Mrs. Wiles said the bell ringing is one project that Central does for the Salvation Army which is an adopt-a-school partner of the Army. This is the third year that DECA students have been involved with bell ringing for the Salvation Army.

DECA also plans to hold a drive whose goal is to get students to donate blankets and also supply for those in need during the winter season.

Students play at Kellom school

Approximately 25 jazz band members and 12 pom squad members held an assembly at Kellom elementary school on November 30. According to Mr. Wilger, jazz band teacher, the performance was to allow students to view the performance if they showed that they had earned the privilege by

being good. Mr. Wilger said the assembly included the band playing for a few minutes and also a performance by the pom squad members. Mr. Wilger said the purpose of the assembly was to motivate young students and show them that a good citizen can earn them special privileges.

Students, teachers tell their tricks

Cheating: a practice in which some students participate

Elizabeth Kaplan

Names have been changed to preserve anonymity.

Copying, placing cheat sheets in calculators, prewriting in names, writing chemistry formulas on a pencil or answers on a piece of paper are all methods of cheating used by Central students.

Many of these students are successful in their cheating ventures. One student described an instance in which she cheated on an algebra test in eighth grade and received a passing grade for it.

"We were given the test to take home and correct and bring it the next day," the student said. "I kept all of the answers and then copied them onto the test."

Jody, senior, cheated on an English theme her sophomore year. "I was asked to think I would write a whole theme in class," Jody said. "I wrote out the whole theme before the class, took it out of my bag and pretended to write for half an hour when I turned it in." Jody got a passing grade for the theme.

Lynn, junior, also claims

to have cheated at various times in her high school career. "I cheat every once in a while," she said. "I try not to do it too often in the same class, though."

"I think the worst thing I ever did was to write out half of an essay test for history before class. I got a 100 percent on the paper," she said.

Another Central junior, John, described an effective method of cheating. "Before you hand in your test paper you look at other people's papers to check your answers," John said. He also said sometimes if a smart student who sits in front of him gets up to ask a question he "accidentally" looks at answers on their test.

Robert, junior, said he once cheated on a chemistry test by writing formulas on his pencil.

Though it often seems that students who cheat do not get caught, some instances do arise in which a student is caught by a teacher and punished for cheating. Robert described one such instance.

"When I was a freshman, I was writing answers for a test on my desk. The teacher was standing be-

hind me talking to a student. She walked forward and saw me writing them down. Therefore she gave me a zero on the test and made me erase the answers," Robert said.

This occurred right before

"Sometimes I know that if I don't cheat, I'll screw up really badly on the test," Lynn said. "I know if I studied I could do well on the test, but sometimes I don't have time to study."

the student a zero and not allow them to make up the work or test," Mrs. Nared said.

"We try to prevent students from copying a previous student's work by collecting all papers and not returning them until graduation," she said.

Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, history teacher, feels that cheating is "unfortunately" a big problem.

"I wish it wasn't idealistic to say that they're only cheating themselves and in the long run they are only hurting themselves," she said. "Cheating isn't just cheating yourself. Cheating hurts the other students, too. It is insulting to the teacher and fellow students."

"It is also the teacher's responsibility to monitor and attempt to make testing conditions fair," Mrs. Valdrighi said. Making two sets of tests is a way Mrs. Valdrighi attempts to prevent cheating.

Mrs. Valdrighi said that she is "too compassionate" to embarrass a student in front of his or her peers when she catches the student cheating. "I usually take their cheat sheet, give them a zero, and never forget that they're a cheater," she said.



parent teacher conferences which Robert said was "very bad." "I didn't cheat for quite a while," he said. "It was a good lesson."

Students have various reasons for cheating. These often include forgetting to do an assignment, being too tired at night to study due to a job or not feeling prepared for a test.

Mrs. Bernice Nared, assistant principal, said that no specific rule on cheating exists in the student handbook. However guidelines for teachers on how to handle cheating and plagiarism are outlined in the teacher handbook.

"Teachers are allowed to extract the work, keep the work and set up a parent conference, or give

Radon: a dangerous, deadly gas found in much of Nebraska

Bob Slosburg

There is an uninvited guest in your home. He is secretly lurking in the corners and halls, poisoning your family's lungs. Ms. Lisa Hug, science teacher, is working to kick radon out of your home and protect your family.

Radon, a deadly invisible gas, can be found in many buildings throughout Nebraska. Nebraska has one of the highest radon levels in the United States. The second leading cause of lung cancer next to smoking, radon is dangerous.

Ms. Hug, who volunteers with the Nebraska Radon Project, said,

"Radon directly damages lung cells." The Nebraska Radon Project, sponsored by the Univer-

Radon directly damages lung cells.

--Ms. Hug, science teacher

sity of Nebraska-Lincoln, is a statewide effort to find out exactly where

the high levels of radon are. Participating cities in Nebraska are Chadron, Columbus, Grand Island, Lincoln, North Platte, Omaha, Scottsbluff and Wayne.

A teacher is in charge in each of the above cities, and a teacher is assigned to represent each school. Ms. Hug is the Central representative. She learned about the project by watching several closed-circuit television broadcasts informing her about radon, its dangers and the various ways to detect its presence.

Part of the project involves the incorporation of radon information into the classroom. Ms. Hug passed out 40 testing kits to students and faculty and has been using it in her applied chemistry class.

She hopes to see a complete list of the results in January. Ms. Hug went on to explain that the EPA standard radon level is 4pCi/L (picoCuries per liter). She said that Nebraska's level is significantly higher because of "uranium deposits in the soil."

Ms. Hug also tested Central in two different areas for radon. When tested in a third floor classroom, the results were normal. The

other test is still at the lab.

For radon levels only slightly higher than the EPA standard, Ms. Hug recommends "opening windows more frequently" or the installation of a "ceiling fan."

For levels significantly higher than the norm, a high-tech ventilation system may be necessary. The Nebraska Department of Health will provide individuals with a long-term radon kit free of charge. Otherwise Mrs. Hug said that radon kits can be purchased at area hardware stores "for around \$30-40."

Ms. Hug believes that radon is not something the public is knowledgeable about.

News Flash

Accounting team ranked fifth in the nation

Central High honors principles of investing students, under the direction of Keith Bigsby, accounting teacher, are currently ranked fifth in the nation in the Collegiate Investment Challenge. The Collegiate Investment Challenge is a program that is sponsored by AT&T, Texas Instruments, Pontiac, USA Today, Radisson and American Airlines.

This program allows students to get involved in the stock market, where they have a risk free opportunity to manage money in a three-month competition.

Each team receives \$500,000 in fake money. They then have an opportunity to choose the stocks that interest them and ones in which they are willing to invest. The average of the five Central portfolios shows that they raised their \$500,000 to \$531,593 allowing them to be currently ranked fifth in the nation. There are approximately 1400 other high schools and 1500 students who are participating in this contest. Last year, Mr. Bigsby and his students from the Academy of Finance participated in this event and finished eighth in the country.

Small elected as District 8 president

Kyle Small, junior, was elected Nebraska Association of Student Councils District 8 president. He attended the NASC Student Conference last month at North High School and ran against six other candidates for the position.

The District 8 president is responsible for running District 8 meetings. At the

meetings, plans are made for social and community activities, according to Kyle.

Kyle said that he hopes to get District 8 involved with the community more than it has been in previous years.

This is the second year in a row that a Central student has been elected District 8 president.

New computer system for students

The business computer lab in room 334 recently received a new LAM computer networking system that will be available to business and marketing students.

"Central was the last of the Omaha Public Schools to get new computers, making us number one in the technology race," said Mr. Bixby, business teacher. "It will give Central an advantage."

Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Wiles and Mr. Finn, business teachers, are currently being

trained as systems operators for the lab.

"Experience with computers will make our students more employable and give them a well rounded background of business requirements for college," said Mr. Gaylor, marketing instructor.

The lab may open the possibility of more computer classes offered to students. "We are conducting research to see if there will be a demand for zero or eleventh hour classes," says Mrs. Bunz, marketing teacher.

English teacher puts out fire

On Thursday, December 9, a fire was discovered on the second floor by Mrs. Skoog, English teacher, during ninth period. Mr. Dan Daly, English department head, said that he "heard the fire alarm and reacted as usual."

He said Mrs. Skoog notified him of

the fire. He then got a fire extinguisher, and a student pulled the pin while he aimed at the trash can.

Mr. Daly said he believes the fire was intentionally set. "I don't see how the fire could have been accidental," he said. "It could have been smoldering for quite a while."

Patriotism: is it still alive?

Central students show their true colors

By Jacob Slosburg

The singing of the National Anthem before Friday night's basketball game, the American flag found in every classroom, the custom of wearing red, white and blue on the Fourth of July and the tying of yellow ribbons around trees during the Gulf War.

Patriotism is as much a part of America's culture as is apple pie and baseball. Or is it?

It is a fact that patriotic activities peak during wartime. Do the citizens of the United States take their freedom for granted until it is at risk? What are Americans willing to sacrifice for their nation? Do citizens frequently practice patriotic activities such as the pledge of allegiance and the National Anthem?

The Pledge--Is It Still Said With Meaning?

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

Many students can remember when the pledge of allegiance was recited at the beginning of each school day. Hand over heart, standing up at their desks, the above words were said by most elementary students in the Omaha Public Schools.

Although the American flag can be found in every classroom at Central High School, the pledge of allegiance is not said at the high school level other than a brief part of the freshman curriculum for students in ROTC classes.

According to OPS offi-

cial, the pledge of allegiance is encouraged on the elementary level. Mr. Mel Clancy, director of elementary education for the Omaha school district, said, "It is standard procedure that all teachers are asked to incorporate patriotism into their classroom. However, having their classes say the pledge of allegiance is not mandatory."

Mr. Clancy went on to explain that most of the district's elementary students, "90 percent," engage in reciting the pledge of allegiance each morning to start the school day. On the high school level, he said, "Teachers have much more flexibility."

According to Mr. Clancy, an American flag can be found in every classroom. "There is a standard equip-

ment list for each classroom, and the American flag is an item on this list."

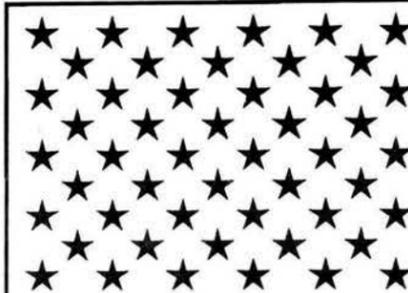
If a student should choose that he prefers to not say the pledge of allegiance, Mr. Clancy said that "the student's wishes are upheld."

Another OPS official, assistant superintendent Dr.

Gary Bennett, said, quoting from his policy handbook, "The pledge of allegiance to the flag should be learned by every student and used on appropriate occasions in the classrooms."

According to Dr. Bennett, OPS policy does not define "appropriate occasions."

Mr. Bob Reznicek, assis-



YES:

21%

NO:

76%

UNDECIDED:

3%

The pledge of allegiance is not said here at Central High School. Do you think it should be?

(91 students polled)



Wear your stars and stripes: Ryan Shoener, senior, models a patriotic shirt. Photo by Cathy Moyer

tant principal at Westside High School said, "The pledge of allegiance is not said on a regular basis at Westside High School."

At Marian High School, however, the story is a different one. Nicolle Hamilton, office aide and student, said that the pledge of allegiance is said every morning in each classroom. She believes this is true for all of the parochial schools.

According to a *Register* poll, the majority of students feel that the pledge of allegiance does not need to be said on the high school level.

Chris Darst, freshman, feels that the pledge of allegiance does not need to be recited each morning. "Most of us don't remember it anyway."

Andrea Wieduwilt, junior, said, "It's O.K. for little kids to develop a sense of nationalism and I appreciate the efforts made by educators in the elementary school, but it's too much of a controversial issue in the high school."

Andrea feels that on the high school level students can form their own opinions on the United States of America.

"There are other ways to show your patriotism," said junior Sara Corbin.

A Piece of Cloth or an American Symbol?

Flag burning is another patriotic issue in question. In 1990, the United States Supreme Court (in

the *Ikeman vs. United States of America* case) ruled that burning a flag in protest is legal and a form of free expression. The decision was not unanimous but overturned the Flag Protection Act. Previously, in 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court passed the Flag Protection Act which banned burning the flag in protest when an American flag was burned at the Republican National Convention in Dallas. This decision was also not unanimous.

Sara said, "I don't think you should burn the flag because it is disrespectful to your country and offends others' beliefs."

Jeremy Fenton, junior, said, "Flag burning is a form of free expression and should be legal."

Jeremy is patriotic but does not know whether or not America is the best nation in the world to live in.

"I've never lived in any other country so I really have nothing to compare it to."

Sara said she likes living in the United States because of "freedom and democracy."

Heather Brown, junior,

may want to live in a nation other than the United States when she grows up. She feels that America is not the best country in the world to live in because of crime and other problems with its justice system. Heather also said, "We [the United States] are a leader in the world economy."

The National Anthem

Congress made the "Spangled Banner" the United States National Anthem in 1931. The anthem is sung before most professional and amateur sporting events in the United States.

It is custom for many to adopt an anthem before sporting events.

Most of us don't remember it [the pledge of allegiance] anyway.

-Chris Darst

Lawler feels that the national anthem has lost some of its patriotic ing.

He said, "I think the singing of the National Anthem at sporting events has lost its meaning over the years. Now it's just a tradition."

Students 'Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas'?

By Julie DeWitt

It's that time of year. It's the season of giving and receiving and being with families. People everywhere are celebrating this holiday season. For many of them it's one of the happiest times of the year.

So what is there to be depressed about?

A lot of things, according to Ron (first name only used to protect identity) of the Douglas County Mental Health Center. "Having no family, no social environment and a lack of money" can contribute to holiday depression, or a heightened sense of depression during the holidays, he said.

Ron said that there are many different types of people who are candidates for depression around

the holiday season. "People who don't have a vast support system tend to get depressed during the holidays," Ron said. He also said that a person's age is not a factor in depression but that their "socio-economic situation" is. He said that people with little money get depressed "because they can't buy gifts for loved ones."

Alex Yale, junior, said that one thing people may get depressed about is that "there are homeless people out in the cold." Alex thinks the best way a person can deal with depression during the holidays is the "giving and receiving of gifts."

Clay Wulf, junior, agrees that thinking of the poor and homeless can bring people down during the holiday season. "Someone who

can't provide a good Christmas for their family" is a likely candidate for depression, Clay said.

He thinks that a good way to feel better about the situation would be to "do charity events like ringing bells for the Salvation Army."

J. D. Welsh, junior, agrees. "I helped deliver food to the poor last year."

"Basically anyone" can get

depressed, according to Kevin Armstrong, senior. Kevin said that one thing people may get depressed

People who don't have a vast support system tend to get depressed during the holidays.

--Ron, mental health worker

about it."

Ron said that at the root of

most depression cases during the holidays is loneliness. "The days, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, are supposed to be happy times. People begin to think about what they don't have," said.

Ron said that the best way to deal with depression is to be around somebody like you and family. Don't isolate yourself from others."

Ron also stressed that people who are or may become depressed stay away from alcohol because it's a depressant.

Anyone who would like more information on depression should contact the Douglas County Office for Mental Health, 444-7500.

December 21, 1993

All in the family Family ties strong at Central High

By Matthew Truesdell

If you have never heard the name Blazeovich around Central, it hasn't been from lack of opportunities. Mr. Paul Blazeovich is a social studies teacher, his son Joe Blazeovich is a student teacher for Mr. Clyde Lincoln and Joe Blazeovich's sister Nadia is a sophomore at Central.

Joe Blazeovich, a Central graduate, is currently getting his bachelor's degree in education from Northwest Missouri State University. He was granted special permission to teach at Central.

Joe Blazeovich said he wanted to student teach with one of the best teachers around and that Mr. Lincoln fit that definition.

Joe Blazeovich has been no stranger to Central since graduating. He has helped coach the Eagle's baseball team for the last five years.

Joe Blazeovich said he feels at home at Central because he knows many of the teachers and students due to his coaching.

His student teaching has been complicated by Mr. Lincoln's absence from school due to surgery.

Joe Blazeovich has had to take over Mr. Lincoln's classes completely, preparing and administering material. He says it has helped him because he has to rely on himself for preparation. Although he has an

My father tries to make class interesting and so do I.

--Joe Blazeovich

extra workload, he said, "It would be impossible without other teachers for support and assistance."

"Under the current circumstances, I'm ecstatic with the way he's been handling Mr. Lincoln's absence," said Paul Blazeovich. He said that "a parent is always apprehensive about wanting a son or daughter to succeed," and he is proud of his son's performance. Paul Blazeovich said that his son has worked and studied extremely hard to make it where he is.

An added twist in the Blazeovich family circle is that Nadia is in one of Joe Blazeovich's classes. "If he can get past her he can teach anyone," said Paul Blazeovich. Joe Blazeovich said that the first few weeks having Nadia in class was difficult but that he's gotten used to it now.

Nadia said that she's



Brother and sister spats: Nadia Blazeovich, sophomore, and Joe Blazeovich, student teacher, laugh over an argument in class. Photo by Amber Wood.

treated exactly like any other student, and that the hardest part of having her father and brother teach at Central is that "you always have an eye on you." She says that whatever she does during the day has a good chance of getting back to someone in her family.

Joe Blazeovich said that his father influenced him to a certain degree. "My dad tries to make class fun and I try to do the same," he said. He said that his father had more of

an influence on his getting into coaching than on his teaching. Paul Blazeovich said that he hopes he has had an influence on his son. Mr. Blazeovich said that his philosophy is "to try and help as many students as possible, and I see Joe doing that."

Joe Blazeovich said that although "relating to kids is fun" he doesn't want to make a career out of teaching. He wants to go back to school and get his master's degree

in administration. He also said that he would like to coach at the college level, but he is not relying on it as a career.

According to Nadia having family members at school "isn't as bad as everyone thinks" and says that at times it can be very convenient. Joe Blazeovich said that having family at Central "makes coming here more interesting. Everyone has stories throughout the day."

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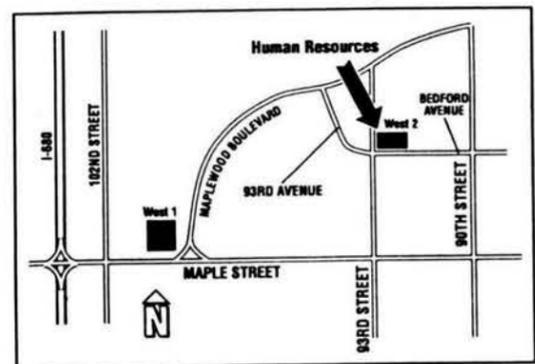
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Disruptions downtown affect business

By Matt Kudlacz

With the heavy focus that has been placed on the mid-November jaywalking incident involving a number of Central students, a great deal of interest has been placed on the relationship Centralites share with downtown business owners.

The area most affected by neighboring students is the Park Fair Mall, a community comprised of mostly eateries, located at 201 South 16th Street, during the hours between 2:30 and 5 p.m. when most of the youths are presumably waiting for the arrival of the city bus.

Ahme Kuzu, manager of the Great American Steak and More, a small restaurant within the mall's popular food court, said that his business "has a lot of problems from Central High kids," adding that "if they were to stay quiet," he would welcome their presence. They "affect our business," Mr. Kuzu explained, frightening the clientele from the ConAgra corporation, who often visit the mall after school dismissal.

Mr. Kuzu maintains that it is because of the "loud," disruptive actions of the students that he is "losing customers" and gaining a "bad reputation," adding that the attempts at solving the problem are destined to be unsuccessful.

"Many people are talking—mayors, city officials, and businesses—but it's not working," he said, saying that the public "cannot blame ourselves or close our eyes to

the problem." Mr. Kuzu warned that if the disruptions in the mall continue, business may find difficulties in selling their products and "paying our rent."

"About three o'clock, we start to have problems with the noise in the food area," said Angela McGinnis, manager of Popcorn Plus, "while the kids are waiting for the bus." She added that a solution could exist, but it would have to start with the correction of the "poor parenting."

"One of the biggest problems we've ever had was a large fight in the mall," Rick Hanna, assistant manager of the Walgreen Drug store in Park Fair, said, which involved "around thirty" of the individuals in question and a number of the mall's security guards and resulted in the hospitalization of a few individuals, the closing of the store and a flood of publicity.

"Whether the problem is



Center of activity: The Park Fair Mall, located at 201 South 16th Street, is a common gathering place for young people after school while waiting for the city bus. Photo by Amber Wood.

with Central students is not the issue," Dan Dannenburg, manager of Walgreen Drug store, said, saying the concern should be placed on the correction of the relationship between young people and Omaha merchants, which is on uneasy terms "all across town."

"It's not so much an every day problem," Mr. Dannenburg explained, claiming that "not all Cen-

tral kids are bad."

"We haven't had any problems," Bob (who declined to provide his last name), manager of The Cookie Company, said in support of the students.

Todd Seavers, Little King employee, said that Little King doesn't "have any problems," but it closes "at two-thirty, before they (the large group of students) get

here." However, Mr. Seaver explained that it was obvious that merchants were having a difficult time keeping customers, as they are often "scared away by them."

He concluded that the solution, aside from closing all businesses early, as Little King would be to attempt to send all people "straight home."

Task force formed to clean up image

By Matt Kudlacz

With the growing problem of teen mischief in the downtown area and the resulting disapproval of the nearby businesses, Central High has tried to form a task force to help deal with the situation.

The committee, which is comprised of Central High staff members, including principal, Dr. G.E. Moller, marketing teacher Mr. Harry Gaylor, Mr. John Keenan, English instructor, and Keith Bigsby, head of the business department, a Central High student representative, Kyle Small, junior, spokespersons from a number of downtown businesses, leaders from the black community, representatives from the Omaha Board of Education, and Omaha police officers, has had three meetings since the highly-publicized jaywalking incident occurred.

Mr. Harry Gaylor explained the evolution of the committee, saying that the intention of the first, high-attendance meeting was not to create such a council, but rather to "gather input" and "review the facts" of the jaywalking situation. "A consensus was reached," Mr. Gaylor said, "that it was really a societal problem across the nation."

He said that Central's problems seemed unique only because

of the presence of "bad press." "Finally," he said, "a structure for the group was reached and it was decided that it would be an organization of city officials, parents, Omaha Public School, Central's neighbors, teachers and students, in order to remedy the problem."

During the first meeting, he explained, a rough outline of the attempted goals was created to "end the disrespect" that the youth has for downtown businesspersons, meet the "merchants' concerns" and perhaps "set a model for the rest of the city."

With the initial need established and recognized by the committee members, the force was ready to plant itself upon firm ground and begin working towards solutions to the problems presented. However, as Dr. Moller explained, because of poor communication and the resulting low attendance of the second meeting, "any real change" was post-

poned to the third assembly.

In retrospect, Dr. Moller characterized his attitude towards the third gathering as "disappointed," saying that the greatest portion of the conference was spent "rehashing what had happened"

The image of Central and the public's perception of it has to be clarified.

--Mr. Gaylor

downtown and the "different perspectives" of it. Rather than "zeroing in on the past," he said that

he had hoped the group would attempt to "prevent a reoccurrence" or at least "reduce the frequency," while "developing a better relationship between businesses, the police, and students."

Dr. Moller said that he thought that a mere "5 to 10 percent" of the meeting focused on what to do in the future. "Finally," he explained, "in the last few minutes of the meeting, the members discussed what might be done."

The ideas that Dr. Moller said were haphazardly suggested at the conference's closing included

incorporation of more employment of Central students in the downtown area, usage of the area as a site for a city-wide homecoming parade, the use of a video camera to single-out troublesome individuals, the administering of a school survey concerning student attitudes toward the situation and businesses in general, the addition of positive material into the social studies program and a school assembly.

In opposition, Mr. Gaylor failed to see the problems that Dr. Moller did, saying that the third meeting has established the group as an "identifiable alliance" that may provide "some growth for the community." He continued to say that the very existence of the committee

could help to develop a favorable "relationship between Omaha Central," a friendship that has strengthened recently because of press.

"The images of Central the public's perception of it has to be clarified," he said, adding "being one of the unique schools in the city, understanding "was important. There's always something when you communicate," Mr. Gaylor said, saying that the task force "try" to better the future.

Kyle Small, appointed student representative, did not comment upon the nature or direction of the committee, which had another meeting scheduled for December 16, 1993.

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December 21, 1993

Surreal downtown theater ideal for *Belches on Couches*

By Anna Thomas

The window stretches before me. Flattened Frito-Lay bags, lawn chairs, and a Mr. Potato Head decorate the space. Some surreal dream? NO! I'm at the Omaha Magic Theatre.

Upon entering the establishment I find Jo Ann Schmidman, head of the Magic Theatre and Central graduate of 1966, working amongst a clutter of photos and empty 7-11 coffee cups.

In the center of the room is a set of square, swimming pool, shredded video tape and dotted with plastic half-spheres and two vacuum cleaners. The space is bordered by colossal half-assembled columns and a projection screen. Bars of rainbow light slide from the ceiling.

Down at the Magic Theatre, productions are approached with a twist. Jo Ann Schmidman, Sora Kimberlain, Megan Terry, and occasionally others, team up to write, direct, and produce their own plays. From choosing the words to painting the set, they do it all.

Although often works are accepted from playwrights outside of the theatre, and from around the United States, the women toil to produce one major production a year, in which they do all the work.

This year's "big show" is entitled *Belches on Couches*.

Lassie, *The Young and the Restless*, *The Simpsons*, Jeffrey Damer, Madonna, rape, Hostess Snowballs, QVC . . . everything is there.

"*Belches* projects that a positive human leap may result from 'belching' back at tube," said Ms. Schmidman. "We look at how a re-

viewing of 40 years of videotaped humanity might affect our futures if we sit on our couches and 'tune-in' to our possibilities rather than 'tune out'."

Ms. Schmidman disagrees with the present move to censor tele-

Can't you tell slime from reality? The assumption is, is that we can't tell the difference.

--Jo Ann Schmidman

vision. "Can't you tell slime from reality? The assumption is, is that we can't tell the difference."

Ms. Schmidman thinks that if we focused on the vast amount of information accumulated on television, instead of the violence and sex, society could witness "a window on a whole other life.

"Television offers "so much information and insight into human sensibilities," she said.

The Magic Theatre staff wants their audience to gain something from the script of the play, but they also pride themselves on offering a complete visual show, in addition to the sounds.

Ms. Schmidman said that if a person came to the play "with earmuffs and a frontal lobotomy," there would still be enough visual action to keep them entertained.

"It's like no theatre I know. . . we take special care to design every element," said Ms. Schmidman.

Both Ms. Schmidman and Ms. Kimberlain were careful to stress that *Belches* is supposed to be funny. They want the audience to laugh, but



Lights! Camera! Belches! Jo Ann Schmidman and Sora Kimberlain play out a scene from *Belches on Couches* in full costume. Lighting, fiber optics, and other set elements contribute a major part to the production's completeness. Photo by Megan Terry.

still get something out of it.

"The audience really writes the show," said Ms. Schmidman.

Although they craft the script, everyone sees something different, all depending on what type of person they are.

The Magic Theatre's *Belches on Couches* will premiere Christmas week, December 27-30. During this time, individuals bringing two paying guests will be

admitted free. The staff encourages people to bring out-of-town guests to the production to "show off Omaha's cultural wealth."

All performances begin at 7:30, and seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 346-1227 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

David Brink, Hollie McClay, and Larry Tarkington will be joining the

women on the stage.

Erich Christian and Matt Erickson will be supplying audio work, while Todd Clark video creates subliminal sound and visual elements.

After the Omaha premiere, *Belches* will be touring nationally.

The Magic Theatre is a non-profit organization

It's like no other theatre I know.
--Jo Ann Schmidman



say potato, you say potahto: The display window to the Magic Theatre features lawn chairs, Mr. Potato Head and a big shark caught in a net. Photo by Cathy Moyer.

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■ Holiday shopping madness!

Deck the malls with crowds and folly; look out, it's a zoo!!!

By Carrie Jacobson

'Tis the season when we are mauled by malls.

For the many procrastinators and faithful readers alike, I ventured to Oakview, Crossroads and Westroads malls, and tape recorder in hand, I braved the crowds, made an exchange, even saw a few Saint Nicks.

My journey began at Oakview, which is all the way out on 144th and Center. To coin an adjective, Oakview was zooey. The first thing I saw as I walked in was, quite naturally, Santa, but the second thing was a, dare I say *portable?*, cash machine! I asked a guard who was conveniently walking by what this was all about; he sheepishly admitted that a couple of cash machines had temporarily been added to make cash more readily available to customers. Eek, the epitome of commercialization it seems. If I would've been him, I would've lied to me.

So I inevitably stepped through The Line— you know the one, the line full of screaming children in their Sunday best waiting to see Santa. I think the parents thought I was cutting them, although I was only “tee hee— just passing through!!!” But who did I see working the jacked-up Polaroid than Central’s own Briana Hooi, sporting a green Frosty-the-Snowman smock. I had to admit I was curious to know what one of Santa’s elves actually does, so when Santa “went to feed the reindeer— he’ll be back in half an hour!” I cornered her.

“I’m not his elf,” she said, exasperated. “I’m just this girl who gets paid five bucks an hour to take these kids’ darn pictures.”

“Santa is an all-cash business,” she explained. “Hundreds of dollars are made an hour. It’s just a big photo opportunity.” She leaned in close and whispered, “Ya know, parents can bring their own cameras and camcorders. They hit the roof when they find that out after they

spent twenty bucks on Polaroids.” Some mom told Briana that she ruined her kids’ Christmas just because Briana wouldn’t let her kids in line. (Santa was about to go on break and one part of Briana’s job is

Later, as I sat in the food court with a strawberry Julius, I noticed a small centerpiece labeled “Happenings at Oakview” for the month of December. Well, kiddies, it turns out that later this month is Men’s Night, featuring, among other things, “shopper assistance provided by the International School of Modeling.” Eek.

Finally, I just got fed up with all the people and all the lines and left. Too zooey.

Off to Westroads it was with me then! Westroads was a lot better in terms of actual space; it seemed like there were slightly fewer people than I’m sure there actually were. Parking, however, was

hellish, much more so than that at Oakview.

I made an exchange at a store whose exchange policy is usually two weeks (I’d had the merchandise for sixteen days) without a problem. I don’t know if it was a slow business day or the spirit of giving, but it was pleasant.

I’d begun to walk around a bit when suddenly some old geezer slams into me and slimes away without even saying “excuse me.” Two minutes later a decrepit housewife did the exact same thing. Finally I got curious and knocked into a

couple of people, hoping they would think it was their fault and say “oh Pardon me!” but to no avail. I guess people are either too preoccupied or too stressed out to worry about anything menial like politeness, but it’s just part of the Holiday Mall Experience— be prepared.

It’s actually a bit lovely at Westroads, all things considered. The lighting is a little softer than that of the two other malls, and the decor isn’t as potent, although it does tend to get spread on pretty thick in places.

I started to get tired and onry after a while, so I ventured back out into the cold to try and locate my car. It was hard. Some one should drive a shuttle bus; parking there is just *wretched*.

Finally, it was on to the Crossroads. It’s a little smaller and I don’t shop at that many stores there anyway and there’s too many people. It’s like a sardine can, this mall.

I started to feel a wave of claustrophobia coming on, so I had to get out of there P.D.Q. Usually the only place I ever go in anyway is Gloria Jean’s Coffee Bean, but I was feeling a little too much anxiety for a frosty cappuccino that day.

I don’t know about you but this year I’m doing all my shopping via *Spiegel*. Either that or I get everyone on my list a hat with ear flaps from *L.L. Bean*.

Santa is an all-cash business . . . hundreds of dollars are made an hour. It’s just a big photo opportunity.

— Briana Hooi

to stand at the back of the line and turn people away when it’s almost time for Santa to “wrap some more toys.” The mom yelled at Briana for five minutes that *her* kids *deserved* to see Santa.

“The same thing happens with the Easter Bunny,” sighed Briana. “So much hype.”

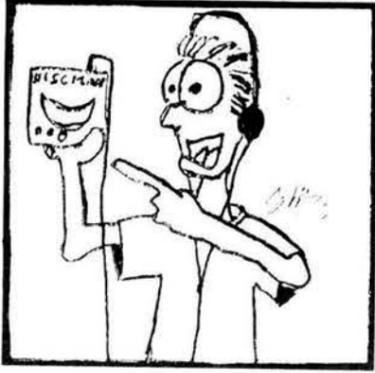
I had to go then as Briana needed to tend to some boy who had successfully pulled Santa’s beard off, so I turned to go in the direction of a plethora of wreaths. The decorations in Oakview are nothing short of ostentatious.

To buy or not to buy: CD sampling has the answer

By Joe Brecci

’Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring because, well, they were all out getting those crazy little last minute Christmas gifts.

It never fails. It happens every year, and to almost everyone. You are frantically rummaging the rows of your local music store trying



to almost any CD they like, then if interested, buy.

An employee of Twisters said that because of the listening

station “our sales have gone up considerably.” The station not only lets people listen to their newest favorites but it “expands” and lets people discover new groups.

A n -

to find the perfect CD to get your significant other and then it happens. You think you have found it. The CD your honey will worship you for. Yes, you are going to buy Big Happy Wildabeasts Dance Mixes and Blues Fest. It looks cool (I mean how many CDs have you seen with Wildabeasts wearing berets and dark sunglasses on the cover?). Of course you have no idea how this CD sounds, but that’s OK, they will love you for it all the same, right? WRONG!!!

Tired of putting up with horrendous guilt trips from those you have bought expensive musical gifts for? Well, not any more.

Just recently a new music store in Millard called Twisters has opened its doors to new music and a new way of going about buying it.

The Twisters Listening Station, as it is called allows you, the happy consumer to go into the store and rather than just pick out a tape or CD based on a really spiffy cover, you can sit down and actually listen to the CD you are about to buy.

Using their own equipment, the employees at Twisters have managed to construct their own make-shift listening station that allows the consumer to listen

other version of the listening station can be found in almost all of your favorite area Shopko stores. The only difference in Shopkos arrangement, is that it is more of a video listening station. This device lets you look at some of the newest in CD titles and when you have found one you like, you simply push the button and watch the screen. This device more or less promotes the video and the CD at the same time.

Aside from Twisters, Shopko and a few record dealers in big malls, there are no other places in Omaha where you can find this innovative new discovery.

Why don’t other stores carry the station?

Steve Schwarting, manager of Homers downtown, said that none of the other Homers stores carry the listening station because “it has to be kept running all day long, seven days a week.” Other problems that plague a lot of the stores is security and room. Mr. Schwarting said that he “would like to get a listening station, but first we need to overcome other problems.”

So for now you will have to wait for this exiting bit of technology, or you can go out to Millard, or your favorite Shopko and experience it for yourself.

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN OMAHA BESIDES PUTTING A BLOW-TORCH TO FROSTY THE SNOWMAN . . .

- 1) Help fight AIDS and buy the *No Alternative* compilation album.
- 2) See Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Evita*, showing January 7-9 at the Orpheum Theater.
- 3) Check out a few good flicks . . . Jane Campion’s *The Piano*, or Clint Eastwood’s *A Perfect World*.
- 4) Have fun with the Harlem Globetrotters, coming to Ak-Sar-Ben on January 9.
- 5) See *Suds*, Howard Street Tavern, playing through December 31.
- 6) Sledding and hiking at Mahoney State Park.
- 7) Everybody else is buying it . . . *Doggystyle* by Snoop Doggy Dogg.
- 8) December 26-31, see Manheim Steamroller’s annual Christmas concert at the Orpheum.
- 9) See *Belches on Couches* at the Magic Theater. Premieres December 27th.
- 10) Set up a trap and catch that wily Rudolph!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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December 21, 1993

Alaska and me



by Anna Thomas

Mrs. B and shopping: Those holiday necessities

tion commemorating Mrs. Rose Blumkin brings back some poignant memories. What child could forget the family trips to the furniture store? Sure, it seemed like a drag at first. You would have been a lot happier watching the Smurfs or playing Chutes and Ladders, but then a whole new world opportunity appeared to you, like a jar full of fresh nightcrawlers and your older sister's underwear drawer.

So many beds to jump on, so little time! Every chair and sofa must be tested for proper bounce and spring resiliency. And the rows of carpet samples... now there was hyper-child heaven.

Climbing up and sliding down! Jumping off of and hiding underneath! Greens and blues, plush and berber, stain-resistant and not—a palette of colors and a fistful of adventure, right there for the snatching, until you heard The Sound. You all know what I'm talking about. That whirring, creaking sound, like the motor of an old sewing machine. Slowly turning around, you beheld in absolute, horrific terror... Mrs. B. in her little electric cart! Tearing down the aisle, full speed ahead, a screeching laugh reverberating from every walnut stain TV cabinet and refrigerator, the witch's theme from the Wizard of Oz pounding in your head. You stood in still fear until your mother grabbed you by the ear and threw you onto a pile of Oriental rugs, and Mrs. B. only just nicked the heel of your left Zip sneaker. All in the name of shopping...

SHOPPING! I awake from my Mrs. B./childhood reverie to a

list of things I have to do, and the last item reads Christmas shopping. I abhor Christmas shopping! It's like clipping your toenails. You have to do it because otherwise people will look at you funny, but it's really not fun at all.

How do people decide what to buy? Is there some gift-choosing gene? If so, how come great-aunts and grandmas don't have it? Does it disintegrate with age? Last year my great aunt bought my cousin John a bag of Jolly Time popcorn and a shaker of popcorn seasoning. Have these people ever heard of gift certificates?

And then there's that problem of what to buy that special someone, that significant other, the person who pays for your movies and washes your car. The dilemma thickens if it's the First Big Gift Exchange. You've been going out for a few months, having a good time, but you are clueless in the present department. Which purchasing level has your relationship reached? Level I: Tapes and CD's. Level II: Apparel and clothing. Level III: Watches and jewelry. Level IV: Slinky underwear.

Now, most people know if they qualify for Level IV, but the rest of the hierarchy of the relationship purchasing pyramid is kind of a blur. You don't want to buy a guy a nice sweatshirt if he's giving you the new Snoop Doggy Dogg tape, and you don't want to be handing him the latest Alvin and the Chipmunks release when he sprung for a Perry Ellis watch.

So what is an unknowing

holiday gift-giver to do? Employ spies! Hire thugs to discover the item, price, style, color, make, model and size of your soon-to-be-treasured-Christmas-memory. This way you will know exactly what type of gift you need to buy, and plus, if the present you are supposedly receiving is unsatisfactory, immediate action can be taken. Subtle hints can be dropped during your weekly drive to pick up your dry cleaning. For

moron would buy his girlfriend a Thigh-master for Christmas?" Yeah, a despondent look will cross his face for a brief second, but as soon as he drops you off he'll run to exchange it for some nice perfume or a diamond necklace.

Good luck all you holiday shoppers! One last piece of advice: food dehydrators and Chia pets are perfect gifts for anyone, and watch out for Mrs. B.!

Warning: Tendency of columnist to switch from random topic to random topic at warp speed attributed to large lack of sleep and too much caffeine.

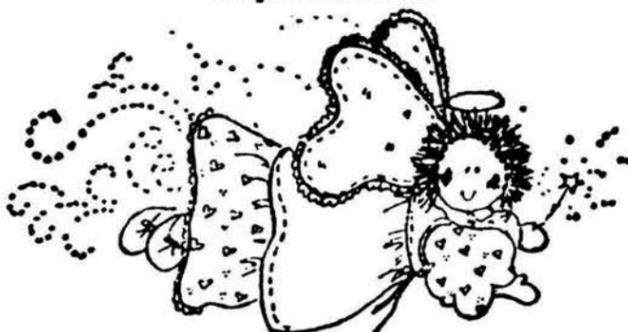
Ahhhh December! The smell of pine needles and candy canes permeate every corner of the house, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, Jack Frost nippin' at our nose, bells are ringing (continuously in the math office), malls are bustling and... it's Mrs. B's birthday!

Mrs. B—an important part of everyone's childhood. Like the old willow by the swimming hole or the climbing tree in your grandma's backyard, Mrs. B. has always been here. Like the sentinel rocks of Stonehenge or the blowing sands of the Sahara, Mrs. B. shall live on...

Is it just me, or has anyone else noticed that Mrs. B. holds a birthday sale every three months or so? 100? The woman should be at least 2003!

But the century celebra-

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■ *Let's get technical*

Welcome to the future

By Carrie Jacobson

CD roms, multi-media computers, alkaline battery chargers, Newtons, Zoomers, digital cassettes— what *are* these things?

These are the new technologies in entertainment, the waves of the future and potential Christmas presents.

"The multi-media computers allow access to a large amount of computer programs that weren't readily available to fit on most computers. For instance, you can have an encyclopedia set, a book of quotations and the Hammond World Atlas all on a little compact disk, like a music disk," explained Dameon Horner, sales maker of over two years for Radio Shack.

"A CD rom is what you play the disks in. It's basically another drive, like a floppy drive, except you can only read what's on it," said Mr. Horner.

"Several companies make the CDI, that's *CD interactive*," explained Art Hull of Master Electronics.

"It's an entire system that hooks up to your television, VCR, your computer and/or your stereo. It plays music and games, and when it hooks up to your computer you can access your encyclopedia.

It also plays movies on its laser disk player. There are 8000 movies available on laser disk, and the number of games is growing," said Mr. Hull.

The digital cassettes are

also new. "Instead of recording the music on as music, like on a normal cassette, it records it as numbers like a CD. The sound has CD clarity on a tape you can record to. We've never had the capability to record that well before," said Mr. Horner.

The digital cassette players are relatively new; consequently, they are expensive: about 700 dollars.

Now, let's take alkaline battery chargers. According to Mr. Horner, you can get a higher voltage on just a regular battery. They sell for around fifty bucks.

The Apple Newtons, or the IBM version, the Zoomers, are also very big, according to Mr. Horner.

"They're pretty small, about eight inches long, and they're very smart. They give you the capability to write on the screen with a pen while it converts your handwriting to typewritten text. You can then hook it up to a modem, a printer, even a fax machine," he said.

At Radio Shack, the multi-media computers do the best among the new technologies.

"Of the two we carry, one is rated very highly. A couple of magazines liked ours, too; people read those, so they've been going over very well," said Mr. Horner.

All these new toys can be found at Radio Shack according to Mr. Horner. Master Electronics carries most of the aforementioned, but only services the Newtons and Zoomers.



Vegetarianism: a way of life

By Ann Rickerl

"I do not think it is right to kill an animal for food," said Beth Wagner, junior, when asked why she decided to become a vegetarian. One reason why some Centralites follow a strict vegetarian diet is based on animal rights and the treatment of animals for food.

Beth said she has been following a vegetarian diet for two years because of animal rights although health concerns have definitely influenced her decisions.

Beth said that her meals are cooked separately from the rest of her family since they do eat meat.

Beth said she often finds it difficult to eat out because "there is never a whole meal that a vegetarian can order." She said that when she does it at fast food restaurants, she often only gets a side order because that is all they offer that is meatless.

Ellen Fitzsimmons, senior, agreed and said the main reason that she does eat meat is more or less because of animal rights. She said that she does not eat red meats such as steak, but will eat poultry. Ellen said that she has had a "hard time dealing with the fact that it was once a living animal."

Ellen said that it is not that hard to not eat meat at her house because she said that her whole family does not eat that much red meat

tein in her diet, she said she eats a lot of peanut butter and takes vitamins with iron. Ellen agreed and said, "it is harder to find food to eat at nicer

said she takes a multi-vitamin. She eats tofu in order to get extra protein in her diet since she does not eat meat. Jenny said that she does not eat any meat but she does eat eggs in baking.

Good nutrition is another reason why people choose a vegetarian diet.

Kelly Moyer, senior, said she became a vegetarian two years ago mainly because of health reasons. "She said she really watches what she eats and believes that meat is really unhealthy."

She said she mostly eats sea-food and "occasionally" will eat chicken, but not often.

Kelly said that nutrition value is the main reason, if not the only reason that she became a vegetarian. She said that her vegetarianism has nothing to do with animal rights. She believes a vegetarian diet is one of the healthiest diets and it lacks the unnecessary fats that are commonly found in a meat-eating diet. She said that in the place of meat she often eat plenty of fruits, vegetables and beans in order to get extra protein in her diet.

She said that she does

I do not think it is right to kill an animal for food.

--Beth Wagner

restaurants," as opposed to fast food restaurants.

Ellen said some other reasons or not eating meat are health concerns. She said that working environment in meat packing plants is not very clean and has influenced her decision to not eat meat products.

Jenny Bailey, senior, said that she is a vegetarian because her entire family are vegetarians. She explained that she chose to be a vegetarian because of both "health reasons and also animal rights."

Jenny said that she has been raised a vegetarian by her par-

Tuning in and tuning out; Omaha's radio war

By Joe Breci

Winning thousands of dollars, loud morning talk shows and really odd sounding commercials for a tractor pull comin' right at ya this Sunday! Sunday! Sunday!

Ahhh, the sounds of radio.

Radio has been around since the turn of the century. It all started out small and simple with a little story about a few baseball players named Who, Why, and Because; told by America's favorite tall guy and short chubby man: Abbot and Costello. Ever since then radio has gained more and more popularity and competitiveness.

So what's all the hub-bub? Ratings. It's an all out war to find out who plays the best music and attracts the most listeners.

As of now in Omaha, Sweet 98 holds the number one spot in high school listeners. However, Sweet 98's morning show with Rockett in the Morning is aimed at an older audience and not as many high schoolers listen.

Kathy Witt, senior, says she listens to Sweet 98 because "they play a lot of the songs I like."

Angie Splittgerber, senior, listens to Sweet 98 just because she "likes to keep up on

He [Rockett in the Morning] sometimes is just too opinionated and loud.

--Ms. Jorgensen

current music."

Age is another factor that plays into radio broadcasting. Mike Steel, music director at Sweet 98, said that they basically aim their music and advertising at "females from the ages of 18-34." Statistics say that this group tends to be where most household buying comes from. Therefore, most of the

programming on the radio is aimed toward that particular group.

Music and advertising are how Sweet 98 and most of the radio stations in Omaha attract customers.

Ms. Sharie Jorgensen, a counselor at Central, said she listens to CD 105 and Sweet 98. She usually listens to CD105 in the morning and Sweet 98 later on in the day due to the morning show on Sweet 98. Ms. Jorgensen said that she would rather "listen to music, more than Rockett in the Morning. He sometimes is just too opinionated and loud."

With the recent uprising of country music it would seem a lot of listeners have changed their normal listening venue, to switch to some good ol' country music.

It would seem this is not true though. Mr. Steel said that "country music made its big debut last summer and since then" the country kick "has come and gone". It all started with the changing of KXKT (the Kat) to a country station. From there, two or three more stations sprung up around town to give Omaha a grand total of four or five country

radio stations.

Since the country music revolution has died off recently, Sweet 98 and the other radio stations have stopped being worried about their country competitors. As of now Sweet 98's biggest competitors are Z-92.96 and Kesey.

But people in Omaha are listening to more than just the "big" popular radio stations. Chris Totzke, sophomore, listens to KKAR because he "enjoys the programming and it keeps him aware of the world around him."

Kate Ross, sophomore, said she doesn't like to listen to the radio because "I have a lot of good tapes, and I always know what I'm listening to." Kate also listens to a little bit of easy listening and has a variety of show tunes.

On the other hand, Rene Goschke offers alternative music, and since as of recently there aren't any alternative music stations in Omaha, Rene listens to tapes she has.

So what is to become of the radio revolution? we will all just have to tune in and find out.



DYLAN'S
STUPID
FACTS:

Did you know?

Scientists have performed brain surgery on cockroaches.

In Vermont, it's against the law to whistle underwater.

A Cuban land crab can outrun a horse.

Between 3 and 5 p.m. on Saturdays is when the most people are bitten by other people.



Keep your nose to the grinds

By Carrie Jacobson

As the pungent aroma rises from behind the stainless steel counter, customers sip mocha from big blue mugs at mahogany tables.

These are scenes from M.J. Java's, a newly opened coffee bar located in the Landmark Center downtown.

"It has a very unique atmosphere," said Marilyn Konigsberg, founder and in-part creator of the Java hut. "Sort of high-tech and European looking, yet friendly and unpretentious."

M.J. Java's is a non-smoking establishment. "We roast our own beans in the Landmark store, and until they're roasted they sit out. You cannot preserve the freshness and the quality of the beans if there's smoke. So in order to deep with our mission, which is to provide really fresh, great-tasting coffee beans, we decided to make M.J. Java's non-smoking. You can't have a product sitting out without it being contaminated by the smoke; our first responsibility is to the coffee," explained Ms. Konigsberg.

"Coffee houses can get very smoke-filled, kind of dingy and grungy. We wanted something very clean that office workers could come to during the day and be comfortable, and that in the evening would have a cozy, intimate feel," she continued.

M.J. Java's opened on October 12 of this year. "My name is Marilyn and my partner's name is Jane, and we both liked 'Java,' so it was natural. We named the business for ourselves," said Ms. Konigsberg.

Why the downtown location? "Coffee and office workers go together. People can come in on coffee breaks, for lunch, anytime during the day. We also like the Landmark building with its great looking architecture and all the glass. As we stood by

it we could see the Union Pacific and the other U.S. West buildings, ConAgra, the Peter Kiewit Conference Center and the Chamber of Commerce—it seemed like a good gathering place for office workers, and for the people living in the Greenhouse apartments and around the Old Market," said Ms. Konigsberg.

Aside from coffee, M.J. Java's serves bagels, pastries and fruit juices starting at breakfast. A different soup is made every day for lunch along with cold cut sandwiches on French biguet bread; throughout the day they have cookies, cakes and tea breads.

M.J. Java's brews four kinds of coffee daily and sells over 30 different varieties. They also serve hot and iced tea, fruit juices, bottled water, and French and Italian sodas. "That's club soda with Torani syrup; it comes in lots of different flavors. It's nice for people who don't drink coffee," said Ms. Konigsberg. "Next summer we will probably add some other cold beverages."

Ms. Konigsberg's son worked in several national chain coffee houses around the country before working for M.J. Java's. "He's really been key when we come up with recipes," explained Ms. Konigsberg.

"We want to attract office workers, downtown shoppers and diners and anyone who likes good coffee! I don't think students should be put off by the fact that M.J. Java's looks very sophisticated. The coffee is less expensive than that of other coffee bars, and it's fresher. We want to see people who want to sit in a nice, elegant atmosphere and enjoy good coffee and enjoy themselves," said Ms. Konigsberg.

M.J. Java's is open Monday through Thursday from six a.m. to five p.m., Friday from six a.m. to eleven p.m. and Saturday from seven a.m. to eleven p.m. It's closed Sundays.



Grounds for Discussion: The outside of M.J. Java's coffee bar, located in the Landmark Center. Photo by Cathy Moyer.

No Alternative benefits AIDS

cassette version contains extra songs from Sonic Youth and Jonathan Richman.

The CD opens with "Superdeformed," by native Nebraskan Matthew Sweet. Annoyingly dissonant and abrasive compared to his finer, pop-song material, Sweet's song is one of the album's two poor performances. The other, "Unseen Power of the Picket Fence," a tribute to REM, comes from Pavement, one of the most critically acclaimed and overrated alternative groups on the map.

Don't worry though... once Sweet's guitar feedback fades away and you program out the Pavement track, you're in for one of the best records released this year.

The three cover songs on *No Alternative* are worth the price of admission alone. Soul Asylum checks in with their funky, urgent remake of Marvin Gaye's soul hit "Sexual Healing," which ends with a humorous but unprintable lyrical addition from frontman Dave Pirner. Uncle Tupelo make Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Effigy" stunningly somber, convincingly playing it as if it were one of their own songs.

The most exciting song on the album is the Goo Goo Dolls' hyped-up version of a Rolling Stones' classic, complete with driving guitars and a bellowing horn section. Between the band's excellent playing and the fact that the lead singer sounds like Tom Jones, one

would hope that Mick Jagger and Keith Richards finally decide to retire after hearing it.

Several virtually unknown bands contribute some of the album's most fantastic material, including the Verlaines' "Heavy 33," Barbara Manning's acoustically and lyrically pretty "Joed Out," and "Brittle," by Straightjacket Fits.

No Alternative also features the work of several extremely well-known acts. Soundgarden, whose new album is set for a February release, contributes one of the album's harder songs, "Show Me," recorded during the sessions for their sonically brilliant SOMMSE.P.. Ex-Hüsker Dü leader Bob Mould gives his help with "Can't Fight It," a fine acoustic number about loss and a broken relationship. The Breeders donate a live version of "Iris," a haunting, intense song accentuated by singer Kim Deal's voice, which here sounds much like that of "alternative" guru and pioneer Perry Farrell. The biggest band on the album, Nirvana, plays the secret, unlisted 19th song, "Verse Chorus Verse," the once-intended title track for their new album *In Utero*.

Other bands contributing fine performances include Urge Overkill, the Beastie Boys, Buffalo Tom, American Music Club and the Smashing Pumpkins, whose major label debut, *Siamese Dream*, has been the music industry success-story of 1993.

The album's finest perfor-

mance, however, comes from Sarah McLachlan on "Hold On," which comes closest of the album's nineteen songs, with the exception of Patti Smith's spoken-word tribute to Robert Mapplethorpe, to addressing the AIDS epidemic. McLachlan's beautiful, breathy voice makes lyrics like "So now you're sleeping peaceful/I lie awake and pray/That you'll be strong tomorrow/And we'll see another day" flow like feelings or thoughts. When the song ends, you want to hear it again and again.

No Alternative is a fantastic album with 70 minutes of the best music you'll hear for awhile. If you can't wait until Christmas, treat yourself to your own copy of it. It's for a great cause, and it makes a great gift.



By Dylan Gaughan

You've just sat down to the hardest project you'll be assigned this year. Sweat beads on your forehead. You grip your pencil tightly in your hand. Making out Christmas lists sure can be a pain. Never fear, Dylan is here to give you one idea, the ideal gift, for that slowly developing Christmas list of yours.

No Alternative is a compilation album released by the Red Hot Organization, a charity organization which has raised over four million dollars for AIDS education, prevention and primary care institutions. The organization has released two other compilation albums, *Red Hot and Blue* and last year's *Red Hot and Dance*. The compact disc contains nineteen songs, while the



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Gift of first softball glove means encouragement in girls' athletics

Seventh Inning Stretch



By Christy Shearer

"Merry Christmas" was the phrase I awoke to one bright Christmas morning. I ran down the stairs with the eagerness and anticipation of any seven-year-old who was ready to enjoy a day filled with presents, family and fruitcake (of course, I've never actually eaten any).

After a quick breakfast, it was time for my family to load into the van for our annual pilgrimage to the ever-popular Shenandoah, Iowa.

We arrived at our destination along with thirty of our closest relatives. I anxiously viewed the mountain of presents that had accumulated under the tree.

After a very large family dinner, a mini Christmas concert featuring the raw talents of all the grandchildren and a visit from Old Saint Nick himself, we were ready

to open the presents.

I had unwrapped the typical gifts of Barbie Dolls and bubble bath, until I came to my last gift. I opened the box to find the most hideous looking thing that I had ever seen, a bright red softball glove. At first, I thought that there had been some mistake as this was not the gift that I expected any girl to get. My uncle quickly informed me that it was no mistake and that I would be taught how to use the glove the very next day.

From that time on, I was hooked. I immediately begged to be allowed to sign up for the summer softball program at the local YMCA and stay up late with my dad to listen to the Kansas City Royals on the radio.

It seems to me now that many females must have gotten their start in a similar way. They were encouraged to participate in athletics at a young age by a significant male who was not threatened by the concept of females in athletics.

In order to be successful, young girls needed the support and encouragement of their parents and coaches. Perhaps, too many girls were stifled by being placed in the role of "daddy's little girl."

However, an increasing number of girls do receive the support they need to excel in athletics. The success of girls' sports such as soccer which was sanctioned in 1988

and softball in its first season proves the theory that girls' participation and recognition in sports is on the rise.

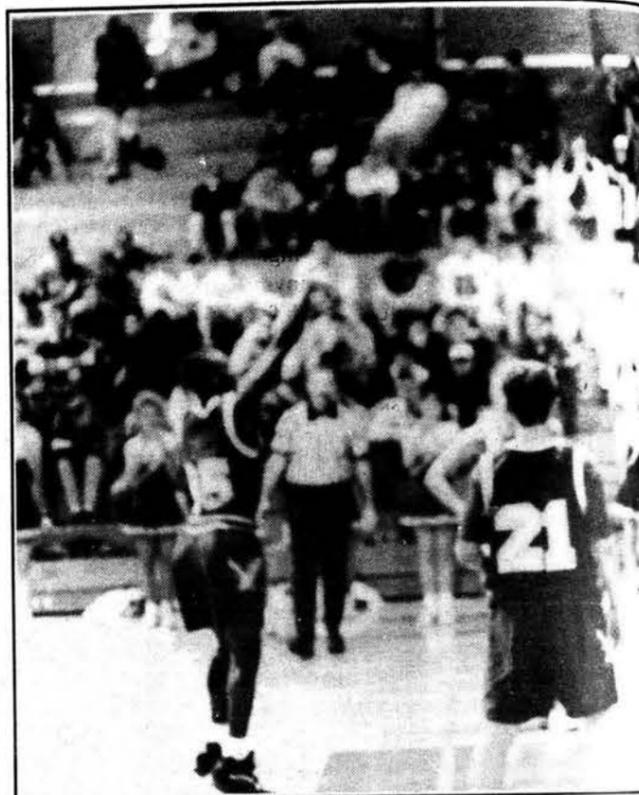
Softball had a very successful first season with large numbers of participants and fans. Through the local media, girls were able to get the recognition and credit for their accomplishments that they deserved.

Several steps have been made towards the goal of equal opportunity for and the increase in the participation of women in sports as new ways for them to become involved have developed. For example, the sanctioning of softball and the latest trend, female sports broadcasters, have opened many doors for women to excel in sports.

Now that the doors have been opened, young girls will have female role models to give them the encouragement and opportunity to get involved in a sports program.

Even now that I can far out-throw the uncle that gave me my first softball glove, I have greatly benefited from the encouragement that he gave me and the doors that he opened for me.

I am glad that now I can return the favor to his young daughter by teaching her the fundamental skills that I learned at her age and give her the opportunity to excel so that she can carry on the tradition of female athletics.



Free throw: Monta Sanderson, senior, shoots a free throw in the Eagles' game against Millard North. Photo by Melanie Jacob

Eagle guard averages 26 points per game

By Brian Wilson

This year's boys' basketball team has seen both the good and the bad of what it can do. Mr. Rick Behrens, varsity basketball coach, said, "The team has a lot of good players, but they need to learn how to play better as a team."

After three games, the team is finding its weaknesses and learning how to increase output. Ryan Behrens, freshman, said, "We have a lot of quickness, but we need to move the ball down the court a lot faster. We also fouled too much in the games we lost."

The goals of the team are now to get more shots in and eliminate turnovers. Ryan thinks the team can get more shots in by focusing on "getting the ball to the scorers when they are open." Mr. Behrens said, "We are shooting the ball pretty well, but we need to get more shots in." He also mentioned, "We have

too many turnovers and not enough assists."

According to Mr. Behrens, the team has a lot of talented players. Kyle Shulz, junior, has a 40 percent free throw average and four for four in three-point shooting. Eddie Smith, senior guard, is Central's leading scorer with an average of 26 points a game. Eddie tied the school record with 40 points in the Millard North game. He has an 88 percent free throw average, making 15 out of 17 free throws in the first three games.

The team won its opening game against Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson. The 68-56 victory marked Central's fourth consecutive opening-game win.

The team's record in the first three games is 1 and 2. Ryan said, "We didn't play well against Lincoln East, but we improved in our game against Millard North." In the game against Millard North, the team lost 72-



Eagle Briefs



Girls' team loses three

"We can only get better," said senior Marquicia Peterson as she reflected on the first three varsity girls' basketball games.

The Central team lost its three games to Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln East and Millard North High schools.

Marquicia felt that "we need to work more as a team" to gain an upper-hand during the tough contests. "The team also needs more support from the fans, like the boys' team. The girls' team has struggled with a lack of attendance which could be attributed to the games starting much earlier than the boys' games.

The coaching has been "stricter" and "more serious," according to Marquicia. "This has helped improve our teamwork somewhat," she added.

The JV team has seen some success as they have posted a record of one win and two losses. Junior Melanie Jacob said, "Our teamwork has been great; we get along on and off the courts." She attributed "great

defensive play" to the win against Thomas Jefferson. "We need some improvements, but we are happy with the team so far," Melanie added.

Wrestler wins second place at first tournament

A shortage of team members is still a problem for this year's wrestling team. Gerard Leahy, senior, said, "We look good, but we need a lot of wrestlers. If you weigh between 150 and 200 pounds, come on down."

The team had five medalists in the Vern Ekfelt Invitational held Dec. 1st and 2nd at North High School. The top medalist was Jeff Casady, senior, who won second place in the 103-pound weight division. Other medalists were Eric Willits, junior, Gabe Lawrence, sophomore, Jason Holoubek and Gerard Leahy, seniors.

Mr. Gary Kubik, head wrestling coach said, "I was pleased with the way they wrestled. We have a lot of young guys, and I'm looking forward to a good year."

Swim teams upset North

The Central High swim team, coached by Mr. Mark Allner, came back to take second place in both boys and girls divisions at the OPS Holiday Invitational four days after suffering a huge defeat to Ralston.

"They really worked to get that win," said Coach Allner.

Both the boys and girls teams won their second meet with an upset over Omaha North High on December 14.

"The team surprised me," said Coach Allner, "North has probably the best girl swimmers in the state, but we they pulled it off."

Coach Allner said that he isn't "working the team too hard" right now but plans to "start cracking down on them after Winter Break. They'll be moaning and groaning"

"I think we peaked too early last year," said Coach Allner, "I hope we peak closer to the end of the season this year to be ready for metro."



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Fun on the slopes.

Snowboarding offers Centralite alternative winter fun, job.

By Brian Wilson

Aerial stunts, cutting-edge curves and ultimate rides are just some of the elements of a fast-growing winter sport called snowboarding.

Snowboarding is a sport that extends the boundaries of skiing. It is similar in ways to skiing but is considered a lot more radical by Rob Koop, senior.

Rob said, "Snowboarding is better because there are more tricks. Anything a skier can do, snowboarders can do, plus more." There are basically five types of snowboarding styles: halfpipe, freestyle, free riding, extreme and racing.

Mike Hughes, senior, says he likes snowboarding because snowboarders can go almost anywhere they want on the mountain. It's a lot harder to ski on fresh powder than to snowboard on it.

According to Rob, snowboarding is getting popular in other countries and may become an olympic event. People are getting hooked on snowboarding because it is easier and cheaper than skiing, and you can do anything you want on a board."

Rob says that extreme snowboarding is very dangerous, but the other styles are a lot safer than skiing. "The body can't get into as many messed up positions because both feet are strapped to one board. On skis, people can get really messed up when they wipe out and both legs get twisted in different directions." Rob has been snowboarding for six years, and said, "I haven't had any broken bones or bleeding injuries."

Six years ago, Rob saw a snowboarder on T.V. and then saw someone 'boarding' at a local sledding hill.

"It hit me, I could do that. So I got one for Christmas and became a natural," said Rob.

"I am proud to say I was self-taught," said Rob. "By teaching myself, I made all the mistakes you never want to make; that's how I learned." Rob now practices every weekend about 12 hours a day and a couple times during the week, after school.

Last year, Rob got a job giving lessons on the weekends at Mount Crescent, located in Crescent, Iowa. "I went up to try out and ripped up the mountain," said Rob. Rob said, "This year, I will get my license to teach."

For a lesson lasting around two hours, the cost is between ten and twenty dollars. "The price depends on if you're in a group or a single lesson," said Rob. Rob says he makes about \$400 to \$800 a season. "It's not much, but then it's not much of a job, as far as work goes."

Rob says he teaches beginners ranging in age from 5 to 50 years old. "Most of them end up coming back for more lessons," said Rob. "Sometimes I go out after a lesson and show a kid some tricks. It's a lot of fun because I get to snowboard all the time."

Rob enjoys snowboarding at Mount Crescent even though it's not near as big as the mountains he has been to in Colorado.

He said, "You can get away with a lot of stuff there that would get your lift ticket ripped up in Colorado."

Last year Burton Snowboards had a competition at Mount Crescent and are planning another one this year. Rob missed the competition last year, but he is planning on competing this year. The winner of this competition gets a new Burton snowboard. Rob said, "I'm not going to let anyone get that board."



Aerial feats: Rob Koop, senior, demonstrates high-flying stunts on his snowboard. Photo courtesy of Rob Koop

Central graduate wins Hoop-It-Up Championship

By Christy Shearer

Maurice Ivy, 1984 Central graduate, was a member of the 1993 Hoop-It-Up Women's Division World Championship team from Omaha. The team won the 3rd outdoor basketball tournament in Dallas, Texas.

Championship team

Omaha's team featured four college All-American women's basketball players, including former Olympian Nancy Lieberman-Cline. The team won the regionals in Omaha, the next level in Huntington Beach, California and the finals in Dallas.

Maurice said that the team lost one of its six games on every

level of the tournament but was still able to come from behind to win. "Everybody on my team knew how to reach down and give a little more," she said.

Central years

Maurice was a starter for Central's girls' varsity basketball team for four years. The team, coached by Mr. Paul Semrad, present Central administrator, won back-to-back state championships in 1983 and 1984 going 50-0 during these two years. Maurice said, "Nearly every starter on that team went on to play Division I basketball."

According to Mr. Semrad, *USA Today* even ranked the team twelfth nationally.

During her senior year,

Maurice broke the state record for career points, averaged 26 points per game and was named the all metro and state scorer.

Mr. Semrad said, "She [Maurice] was blessed with tremendous ability; her speed and quickness are unparalleled. In my mind, she is the best player ever to play in Nebraska."

What set her apart, according to Mr. Semrad, was her "burning desire to be the best she could."

At Central, Maurice said that she received a lot of support from the coaching staff and administration.

"Richard Jones, [late athletic director] who was a counselor to me. I was not an honors student, but he made me keep my grades up," Maurice said.

"My education is one of the most important things that I have accomplished. Central did a great

job of preparing me for college, and it was one of the best choices I've made. If I had it to do over again I'd do it the same," Maurice said.

College success

Maurice went to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln on a full-ride basketball scholarship. She said, "Central opened a lot of doors for me. Through the exposure I received, I was able to choose between 255 colleges." She originally planned to attend San Diego State, but she was advised by her parents to attend UNL.

She said, "It made a difference to be near my family and fans at Central because they were supportive of me."

Maurice said, "Nebraska is my home. It is unfortunate that so much talent goes out of state." However, Maurice said, "It took us [the team at UNL] awhile to develop. I probably could have gone farther at another school."

Olympic moments

During her senior year in high school, Maurice was invited to try out for the 1984 Olympic team. She tried out again in 1988 during her senior year at Nebraska but was "not physically able to compete" as the result of a knee injury.

"You cannot believe the level of competition. It was an honor

to be invited to try out even though I didn't make either team," Maurice said.

Current involvement

Currently, Maurice is a member of a professional women's basketball team based out of Beatrice, Nebraska, and is the sports director at the North and Millard Park branches of the YMCA.

"I feel like we [the team] are pioneers trying to establish a foundation for women's basketball. We have made some steps in the right direction, and it will only get better," Maurice said.

Through her work at the YMCA, Maurice has been able to continue to be involved in athletics. "I love it because it's so closely related to sports. I've been fortunate to get a job that I really enjoy," Maurice said.

Hoop-It-Up

For winning the Hoop-It-Up competition this year, Maurice and her teammates received a free round-trip ticket to anywhere in the United States and the automatic top-seed in next year's tournament.

Participating in this tournament, according to Maurice, was worthwhile. "Anytime you can travel for free and do something you love, it's definitely worth it," she said.

According to Maurice, she would like to continue playing basketball for two or three more years and then pursue a career in coaching at the collegiate level.

"My goal is to give women's basketball the most positive exposure I can," Maurice said.

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Skiing: Sports Staff surveys the slopes from top to bottom

By Daniel Franck

This review contains opinions of the author.

Well, it's winter once again, and while some people may spend their weekends at home pouting over their fading tans, others are preparing for one of the best ski seasons in years.

We here at the *Register* have taken it upon ourselves to supply you with honest opinions of the different skiing opportunities available.

Mt. Crescent

If you're looking for a good time skiing without having to wipe out your college savings, Mt. Crescent is definitely the place to go. Although it is not technically a mountain, Mt. Crescent makes the best out of what it has.

Mt. Crescent offers an excellent opportunity for beginning skiers. The ski lessons are taught by a well-trained and knowledgeable staff.

The nine runs offer a varying range of difficulty. None of the runs could truly be called advanced terrain, but they do allow for thrills and even some air.

A well-kept "pseudo-half pipe" is easily accessed to the side of the main run. I have witnessed people achieve aerials close to eight feet from launching off of the "half pipe."

Most of the snow at the resort is man-made. I recommend attending the resort on a day when fresh powder will cover the runs.

Mt. Crescent offers night skiing on all the runs. Rates vary, so for more information call 545-3850.

NebraSki

NebraSki (formerly Trailridge) could barely be called an okay ski resort. One of the best parts of the resort is that the name spelled backwards is "iksarben."

I don't find NebraSki to be a good place for beginners. Their beginner run is a long sloping run that just happens to be located near a steep exit for another trail that is often used as a ramp. An unaware beginner could easily move into the path of a skier crashing down from a four foot aerial. The beginner run is also only serviced by a rope pull lift. I find rope pulls to be the hardest type of lift to learn to ride.

The snow on the runs during my former visits could be compared to a Slush Puppy. The conditions were terrible. My edges were often caught by the ice causing quick reaction time to avoid falling.

NebraSki offers night skiing on all of its runs. Once again, rates vary so call 332-3313 for more information.

Out of state

For those of you who are lucky enough to go skiing in some

actual mountains, I have included highlights of some of the resorts found in neighboring states.

Winter Park, Colorado

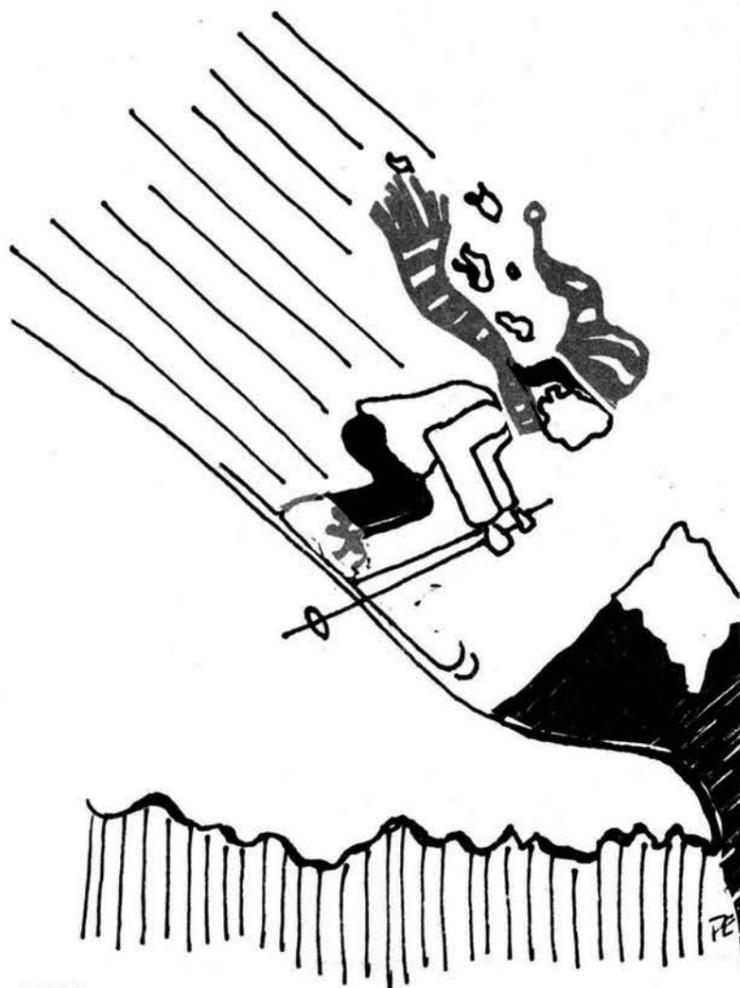
Winter Park offers one of the best ski schools in the nation. The instructors here are top notch. Don't miss the chance to check out any one of the several clinics available. Three peaks and a back mountain bowl are open for skiing. The town of Winter Park has several stores and a tubing hill.

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Steamboat's claim to fame is the plethora of days where champagne powder snow can be found on the runs. The lift service is phenomenal; rarely will you wait more than a few minutes for a lift. A brand new snowboard park highlights the resort. Steamboat Springs offers open-to-the-public bobsled runs at the all-new James Brown University Center for Soul Bridge.

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Jackson Hole is known for its difficult runs. It has the greatest vertical drop of any ski resort in North America. A variety of hotels are located at the base, including one modeled off of a European youth hostel. The town of Jackson Hole offers many stores, restaurants and movie theaters for evening entertainment.



Central 'Ski bums'

Central students enjoy skiing during vacation

By Daniel Franck

Rosignol. SuperG. Daffy. Moguls. 190s. Huh?

These terms are alien to the average person, but to the ski enthusiast, they are the terms of their passion.

Many students at Central High consider themselves ski enthusiasts despite the fact that they live in a state with no mountains. They find a way to fulfill their addiction.

"My dream in life is to become a ski bum," said Joe Foldenauer, junior. Joe said that he grew up in Wyoming, so he felt greatly deprived when he "moved into a flat-as-a-pancake state like Nebraska."

"I've skied all my life in Wyoming," said Joe, "so moving to Nebraska was kind of weird. Now I have to leave the state in order to ski."

Joe said that he has done unusual things to curb his urge to ski. "The last time it snowed, I skied down California Street and cross-country skated back up," said Joe. Joe says that he plans to go skiing at an out-of-state resort during winter vacation.

J.B. Jones, junior, is a student who considers herself a ski enthusiast. "I love skiing," said J.B.

J.B. finds several ways to calm her need to ski. "I usually get stuck going to (Mt.) Crescent," said J.B., "but when I get the chance I go skiing up in Canada."

Not only is J.B. a downhill skier, but she was once a member of a ski-jumping team in New Brunswick.

"When I was seven years old, I tried to ski-jump off of my house," said J.B. "I tied two boards to my feet and skied down the roof. Unfortunately, I didn't get the lift I needed and more or less fell."

Joe and J.B. are working to form a ski club at Central. They started by getting signatures to see how many people would be interested.

"We discovered that there were about 100 students who were interested," said Joe. "Now, we're looking for a teacher who's willing to be a sponsor."

The club would be for recreation as well as competition.

"Ultimately, we want a ski team," said Joe. "We hope to start competitive skiing between schools. We want to encourage other schools to form teams also so that we can hold competitions."

"If we were the only team, than becoming state champs wouldn't be much of a challenge," Joe said.



On the slopes: Cindy Halley, junior, like many other Central students enjoys skiing during her time off of school. Photo courtesy of Cindy Halley

Wrestling Calendar

Double Duals
 Jan. 25 CREIGHTON PREP-RALSTON
 Feb. 1 A.L.- WESTSIDE
Tournaments
 Dec. 31 Creighton Prep Invitational at Creighton Prep
 Jan. 8 Tri-Center (Iowa)
 Jan. 14-15 Metro Championships (TBA)
 Jan. 15 Pender (Fresh-soph) at Pender, Nebraska
 Jan. 29 Bellevue East (Fresh-soph) at Bellevue East
 Feb. 5 Bellevue West (JV) at Bellevue West
 Feb. 12 Nebraska Districts
 Feb. 17, 18, 19 Nebraska State Wrestling Championships
 Starting time- 6:00 p.m.
 *All Home Meets in bold caps

Swimming Calendar

Jan. 4 Bellevue East at Bellevue East
 Jan. 11 South at South
 Jan. 18 PAPILLION/LAVISTA at NORRIS
 Jan. 22 Lewis Central Boys' Invitational
 Jan. 22 A.L. Girls' Invitational
 Jan. 25 GROSS at NORRIS
 Feb. 1 Northwest at Morton Jr. High
 Feb. 10, 11, 12 Metro Meet
 Feb. 24, 25 26 State Meet at Lincoln
 Starting time- 4:00
 *All Home Meets in bold caps