



the Register

The oldest school paper west of the Mississippi

Central High School

Omaha, Nebraska

March 23, 1994

Midterm schedule an 'inconvenience'

Elizabeth Kaplan

The third quarter midterm schedule needed to be altered several times due to various conflicts. It was much more difficult this year to schedule midterms," said Paul Semrad, administrator. Weary to create a schedule providing staff and students with the least amount of inconvenience, which is difficult when there are so many school events to consider."

Mr. Semrad said that originally he was considering having midterms on Monday, March 14th, but we decided that because over 100 students were going to DECA on that day it would be too much of an inconvenience for teachers and students so we moved them back to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday."

The schedule had to be changed again when the administrators found out that over 100 students were attending a Latin Convention on Friday, March 11, said Mr. Semrad. "We moved the midterms to the 8th, 9th, and 10th also knowing that there was a possibility that the boys' basketball team would go to the State tournament on the 10th."

Mr. Semrad said that he definitely wanted to give kids the

opportunity to go to state," so the administrators and department heads met to discuss a revised midterm schedule after the team qualified for state.

It was decided to postpone Thursday's midterms to Monday, March 14.

For DECA students and many teachers, rescheduling the midterms has been a "major inconvenience," said Mr. Jack Blanke, head of the social studies department.

Mr. Blanke said that only about 50 percent of his students were able to take the test prior to the convention. He said that students who wouldn't be able to make up the test until Wednesday, March 16, the day teachers must submit third quarter grades, might have to get an incomplete for the quarter.

DECA student Monique Houston, junior, said that most of her teachers didn't have their test ready in time for her to take her tests before leaving for the convention. "I think it is really an inconvenience for [the teachers]," she said, "but I don't mind because I have extra time to study."

"This may have caused some inconvenience for teachers, but we originally changed it in consideration for the teachers and students. It just didn't work out," Mr. Semrad said.



Student wins city-wide ROTC honor

On Tuesday, March 15, Central senior Chris Olander received the position of Brigade Commander for all of OPS. Major Richard Yost, ROTC instructor, said that this means that Chris will be "in charge of all seven schools of ROTC." Chris was interviewed by a board of Army National Guard members. He was chosen for the position above Battalion Commanders from other schools. Chris did not know about the award until the awards ceremony. Chris will be in charge of the OPS Annual Brigade Review on May 6. Photo courtesy of Marc May.

Briganti brothers' art picked for billboards

Matthew Truesdell

In recognition of Youth Art Month, two Central seniors have their artwork displayed on billboards around the city. Even more remarkable is that the students chosen were Scott and Sam Briganti, twin brothers.

Scott said that he comes from a family of artists. "Our grandparents on both sides of the family are pretty artistic," he said. In addition, Scott and Sam's brother, Craig, who is a sophomore, had artwork

selected for a billboard last year. Central submitted twelve pieces for possible selection and a group from OPS decided on the pieces that would appear on the billboards. Scott's piece is called "The Glove" and Sam's is "Hotel del Coronado." Sam said that the selection committee did not know ahead of time that the Brigantis were brothers. After selecting the pieces, the group believed that one student had done both works and that there had been an error on one of the names. When the committee called Central to check on the names, they were informed that the Brigantis are brothers.

"I was just basically surprised," said Scott of his selection. "It felt good."

"I thought it was really cool," said Sam. "I was really surprised." Scott and Sam both attribute some of their success to Mrs. Marg-

aret Quinn and Mr. Larry Andrews, art teachers. Sam said he was thankful to his teachers for "showing us such a wide variety of art and preparing us for things we'll probably see in the future."

I've been interested in art since I could hold a pen.
--Scott Briganti

The Brigantis have been interested in art for all of their lives. "I've been interested in art since I could hold a pen," said Scott. "We've always drawn." Both brothers hope to use their artistic skills in their careers. Scott, who is interested in graphic design or advertising, said he would like to incorporate the business and art classes he is taking now. Sam is interested in architecture and graphic design. "Art all around is my favorite thing," said Sam.

English experiments with Electronic Mail

By Beth Katz

In the past, it has been determined that one of the most effective ways to communicate and share opinions with people is through open discussion. Many teachers and students frequently engage in classroom discussions as a way to discuss material being studied and to voice their views. But this presents several problems.

What about the students who don't participate and don't listen? What about the students who are too shy or self-conscious to participate? And what about those who don't have time or the attention span required to learn anything from the conversation? That's where E-Mail factors in.

E-Mail (Electronic Mail) is a time-consuming way of carrying on an open discussion through a computer. It is widely used by many businesses and educational institutions throughout the world, allowing them to communicate with each other by writing thoughts, comments and opinions on a computer then streamlining

them into a collective pool that all involved have access to.

Second semester, students in Mrs. Terrie Saunders' ninth hour sophomore honors English class have been given the opportunity to experiment with an E-Mail simulation program that computer programmer Mr. Tim Larson heard about through a discussion group, Computers and Writing, and he obtained it for Central for free.

Using pseudonyms for anonymity, students are given three discussion topics or quotes on which they comment over a two-week period. It is the job of the student to decide when they have time to use E-Mail, whether it be during study halls or before school. There is a goal of 600 words per two weeks.

"It's rather hard to go in without a study hall," confessed sophomore Tanya Watzke, "but I usually get it done within three lunch periods." As of now, Central is the only school in the district to use the E-Mail.

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the Register
Editorial Pages

Unsigned articles are the opinion of the Register

More school days not necessary for students' educations

With the release of the 1994-95 school calendar, it has become common knowledge that the first day of school is scheduled on August 18, 1994. Many students, parents and teachers have noticed this date with no small amount of unpleasant surprise.

The thought of the school year beginning at this early date is outrageous. Not only does this cut into summer vacation time, but Nebraska is prone to its hottest weather in that part of the month. For schools without air conditioning, it is nearly impossible to get anything accomplished in that kind of environment, and school is often either canceled or students are released early because of the smothering heat in the first few weeks of school in a normally scheduled school year.

Though the new school calendar also shows the conclusion to the 1994-95 academic year at the end of May rather than the usual date in the first week of June, that does not make up for the absurdly early starting date. It makes more sense for students to be in school in the first week of June, as it is a cooler time of year. Also, the week in-

tended for the beginning of the year is often used for family vacations and camps. Giving students a mere two months of summer vacation makes it much more difficult for families to fit all of their plans into a limited time.

Another aspect to consider is the number of students who work over the summer. Students will not have as much of an opportunity to find jobs or earn as much money in a shorter length of time. Many students play sports on summer leagues or travel with groups composed of others from all over the nation, and their schedules plan for the more traditional late-August to early-September school starting date. These students would be forced to make the choice between not being involved in their activities or missing the beginning of school, which is probably the most important time to attend.

The Omaha Public School board has made a huge mistake in scheduling school to start on August 18. This plan is unreasonable and inconsiderate of the students and teachers and their families.

Finding dollars for schools always a major problem

Money and education. Determining how to create the best formula with these two variables has been a headache of government at all levels for years.

We often hear contrasting sound bites such as "You cannot simply 'throw' money at schools," and "Cutbacks kill education." The problem remains, how can the government find that happy medium between harsh cuts in funding and ridiculous over-expenditures?

Another problem is resolving the way in which dollars should be spent. In Kansas City, well over a billion dollars was spent renovating a public school system that was one of the worst in the country. Despite this massive amount of money which was injected into the system, money that mainly went towards new build-

ings and equipment, student's test scores in that area show little improvement. The question then becomes, once the money is allocated, should it be spent on improving the learning environment, or on teacher salaries and curriculum?

Here in Omaha, and specifically at Central, we have seen how this argument over money can affect education. In previous editorials we have expounded upon cutbacks in areas such as gifted programs and elective courses. It is obvious that these cuts truly do hurt education. What is not clear is how to raise funding levels without hurting other areas of society. In our next issue, we will look at various proposed programs for funding education, from the ones that work to the ones we believe are unfeasible.

Computer coordinator deserves a pat on the back

In today's age, there is an unprecedented need for computer literacy. Knowing your way around a hard drive and keyboard is nearly as important as learning the traditional "three R's." With this increased importance on computer curriculum, it has become necessary to have teachers in schools who are capable of instructing students on

fundamental computer knowledge. At Central, our computer expert is Mr. Larsen. His work with the various computer networks in the building and with the students who use them has been outstanding. We would like to commend Mr. Larsen for the work he has done to bring students at Central into the computer age.



Letters to the Editor

It is the policy of this newspaper not to publish unsigned letters

Editor,

I must take exception to the editorial of February 23 "Community service should be part...." If this isn't a classic example of "touchy-feeling good" education I don't know what is. Let's take one sentence, I quote: "students should be required to do volunteer work in order to graduate from high school." What is wrong here? "Required to volunteer"? It is amazing to see the number of people from politicians to teachers who support this Orwellian concept. Of course this group also thinks we should have mandatory youth service to your country after high school. They forgot that they fought against the draft in the 1960's.

Americans have a history of volunteerism. Remember 1776! You were a patriot if you were devoted to rightness, morality, individualism, liberty and property. Today, patriotism is "flag-waving"

collectivism. Forcing people to do something they don't want to do is another form of servitude. The more "required volunteerism" we have, the less volunteerism we will get. Sincerely,

Brian E. Watson

Editor,

I went to the library on Tuesday during lunch and there was a class in there, so the librarian told me that the library was full. I turned around and I counted seven empty tables.

What I don't understand is, why can't the librarians reserve enough seating for the class that will be occupying the library, and leave the rest of the seats to the others who want to study. I even asked her if I could just use the newspaper (the class was not using it) and she still said, "The library's full." Another suggestion would be to limit the

selection of books that the reserves used. Therefore reserve proper books for the reserves so that the others do not use them. They need to do research on...

Send letters to room 31

Correction

In the February 23rd story "Students compete" should have reported Mindy Creswell, not her sister, Issa, competed in the competition.

Register Your Opinions

How do you feel about next year's extended school year?

(84 students polled)

Approve 11%

Disapprove 81%

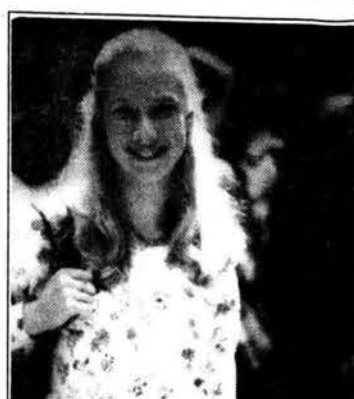
Not Sure 8%

Voices across Central



Martha Keene (11)

"I think it is kind of pointless because not a lot gets done at the beginning of the year anyway."



Mary Hill (9)

"I don't like it because it won't make that much difference in what we accomplish."



Lawrence Axelrod (10)

"I think it's good because we're not to be losing a lot of time to school days anyway, this will kind of make-up for that"

You can run, but you can't hide--crime is everywhere

Rubber Soul



By Michelle Chandler

She burst in the door. There's a woman lying in the parking lot and she's bleeding pretty badly. Is there someone who can take a look at her?" The medical assistant and the doctor rushed out.

It was a sunny Saturday afternoon, about 1:30 p.m. I was at my desk, not expecting anything unusual to happen.

Little did I know that right outside a woman of about 80 years of age was out shopping with her friend, when, on their way back to her car, someone ran up behind her and pushed her to the ground, and someone else grabbed her purse and ran. It's a good thing that someone driving by noticed her and cared enough to come to the nearby medical clinic to look for help.

After a few minutes, the ambulance arrived and the woman was taken to the hospital. She ended up with a fractured arm and shoulder and three stitches in her head from where her glasses broke and cut into her temple when she hit the concrete.

I know that crime has become the big issue in society. However, even though I know about crime and I know to be cautious, I never expected something like this.

An 80-year-old woman in a busy parking lot in broad daylight being mugged and injured so badly that she couldn't move? I'd always thought of muggings as incidents late at night in dark alleys in "bad parts" of town. This incident woke me up to the fact that crime really is everywhere and that everyone needs to be careful, no matter where they are or what time of the day it is.

If an elderly woman, unable to walk without the assistance of a cane, cannot walk to her car without getting attacked, no one is immune to the crime that seems to be running today's society.

Perhaps the worst part of this incident is that the muggers, who weren't identified, were described as "young people." This type of occurrence is the basis for the blame being shoved onto our generation. This is why so many

adults think that today's youth have no respect for their elders, or for life. Events like this are what cause people to express their dislike for our generation, and what may be worse than dislike, their fear of us and fear for the future of the United States.

It is truly unfortunate that a few ignorant, uncaring individuals can ruin the reputations of an entire generation. Not only do we have those people in our community who display their disrespect for others by injuring them and stealing from them, but everyday one hears reports of the latest drive-by shootings, of innocent people dying because of one group's hatred of another. We have young children taking guns to school with them because they feel that they need to protect themselves from the crime that exists in their schools and everywhere else they

go.

It all comes back to that woman lying on the concrete, unable to move her arm at all, unable to get up off of the ground. Her head was bleeding, all of her identification had been stolen, and she had no idea who had done this horrible thing to her. I'm sure that she must remember the times when a person could walk through a parking lot, minding her own business, and get safely into her car without even having to think about looking over her shoulder to make sure no one was going to shove her down and steal her purse. Now she has a new memory to add to this. A day when she tried to make that trip to her car, but she didn't make it. Instead she ended up in the hospital, without money, without her dignity and without that sense of security she had lost such a short time before.



Hannah Rennard

This is the time of year when most people start to complain that there is not enough to do over the summer. I happen to disagree. There are too many things to do and not enough time to do them all.

First, I meet my friends at the swimming pool. Then we go to the mall, where we have dinner and see a movie. After that a group of people meet at someone's house to hang out at night. Sound familiar? That is the daily life of most of the teenagers who say there is nothing to do over the summer. On top of their daily schedule, there are hobbies, con-

certs, and baseball, tennis, golf, and a variety of other sports. These hobbies and sports are not hard to start and are great time occupiers, if anyone has time to spare. If that isn't enough, I can also suggest traveling, volunteering at any variety of places, or reading, if you get really desperate.

Most people regret saying that there is nothing to do over the summer because there is. A great majority of the people who complain about there being so much extra time over the summer return to school saying that they wish the summer were longer. If someone says there is nothing to do this summer, they are most certainly wrong. There are plenty of things to do this summer, just not the time to do them.

What will you be doing for nighttime entertainment this summer? As far as I'm concerned, there is absolutely nothing to do that will not eventually end up getting you into trouble. Sure there may be a few places you could go such as to movies, a friend's house or hang out at Perkin's, but these can easily become boring. You could go to parties, but there is always a chance they will get broken up by the police and you will end up with a minor in possession.

Whatever happened to the under 18 dance clubs or to the places where people could just congregate and have a good time? Lately I've been wondering if it would be more beneficial to teenagers and adults to reopen some of these places with better secu-

rity that meets the demand of our safety, but is also someplace we can feel comfortable.

I believe that whenever teenagers become bored with the same activities day in and day out that their boredom will eventually lead them to trouble within the home or even with the law. Maybe this can be prevented by filling the extra time all of us will have this summer with more activities and events if someone will wake up and take the initiative. Maybe this does not pertain to you, but to some, not being bored could possibly make a difference to our society as a whole.

IN THE CROSSFIRE

This Month: What's there to do in Omaha?



Sarah Phillips

the Register

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Editorials In Brief

On The Big 12

Leaders of the Big Eight Conference universities showed resourcefulness in facing a difficult situation.

The Big Eight, situated in sparsely populated states that offered television networks relatively small markets, was in danger of being left out after 1995, when the College Football Association's role in negotiating television contracts was to end.

No industry should be allowed that much power over colleges and universities. But unfortunately, football and basketball are the only college sports that are self-sufficient. If minor sports are to survive, and if women's sports are to achieve equity with men's, universities must get more revenue selling the rights to televise their football and men's basketball games.

-Omaha World Herald

On Censorship in schools

School officials in California and New York, two states with supposedly sophisticated education systems, are in a race to see which

can impose the more benighted censorship.

California got off to a big lead when it removed works by two Pulitzer Prize winners from a statewide English test for 8th and 10th graders which the state had determined as offensive.

The best way to deal with offensive stereotypes is to address them head on in class discussions, not to duck the issues.

-New York Times

On cigarettes

Once upon a time, cocaine was added to Coca-Cola—just a pinch, designed to give drinkers a zip. When cocaine was better understood, the practice ended.

Once upon another time—like this morning—nicotine was added to cigarettes, in a measured dosage well understood to cause and maintain an addiction, according to a TV network news show.

While society wrings its hands over the thought of legalizing drugs it has for so long fought, it pays little heed that legal drugs—

alcohol and tobacco — kill 300 Americans for every one who dies from using cocaine, heroin or any of the others on the outlaw list.

-Des Moines Register

On potato guns?

A potato gun is a dangerous firearm that ought to be banned.

Consider how the device operates. A potato or similar object is rammed into a tube. An explosive spray is forced into a chamber and ignited. The resulting explosion expels the potato at speeds up to 600 feet per second.

People who dismiss these devices as a harmless novelty ought to think what a potato traveling at 300 to 400 mph might do to a car windshield. Or to a child's face. A potato gun serves no legitimate purpose. Its sole reason for existing is to hurl objects against other objects at high rates of speed.

-Omaha World Herald

Senior chosen for national chorus

By Joe Brechi

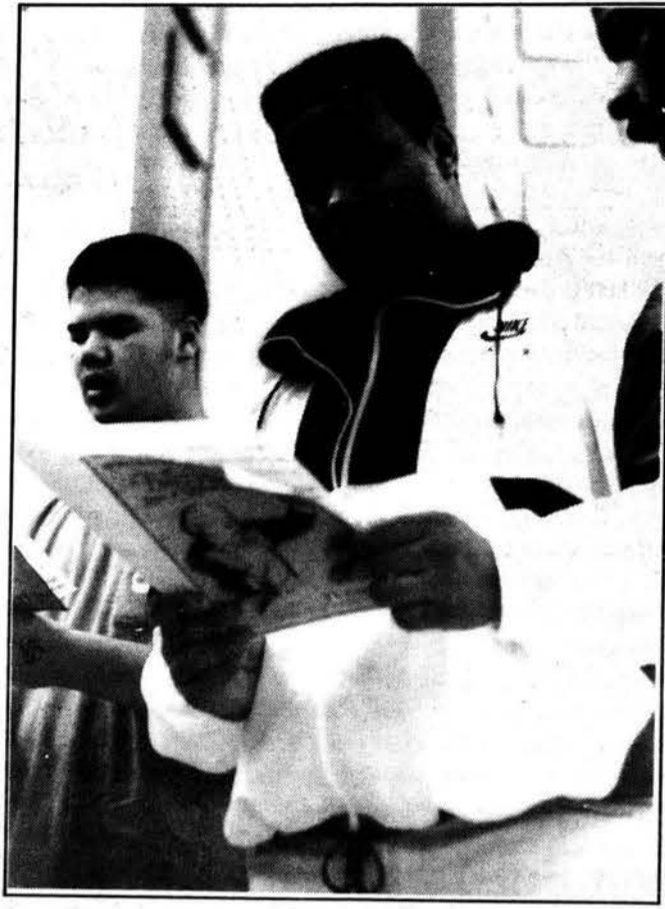
Kevin Sayers is a busy guy. For someone who is in A cappella, CHS and UNO Singers, football, gospel choir, ROTC, power lifting, wrestling and has a part-time job, you wouldn't think he has time to do much of anything. WRONG.

This summer Kevin is taking a month off his busy schedule to travel with the Sound of America Honor Chorus. This trip will allow Kevin to tour Europe in July and he will get to visit places like Germany, Switzerland and France.

Kevin will start his trip by going to Pennsylvania where he will get his music and practice it for at least six hours a day for a few days. From there he goes to Europe.

When in Europe he will have the chance to sing "in all sorts of cathedrals and churches that famous people don't even get to perform in," such as the Notre Dame cathedral, said Kevin.

He was first chosen at the All State concert based on singing merit. From there he submitted letters of recommendation from school officials. A committee then reviewed and interviewed him. Kevin is one of 40 people in the U.S. to be admitted into the Sound of America Honor Chorus.



Students visit Unicamera

By Matthew Truesdell

American government students spent March 2 getting up close and personal with the people who run Nebraska. Mr. Dean Neff and Mr. Clyde Lincoln, social studies teachers, took some of their students to Lincoln for an annual visit to the Unicameral.

The main topic of the trip was juvenile crime, said Mr. Neff. "We obtained a number of bills on juvenile crime and discussed them in class."

The students heard from several speakers during the trip. One speaker was a policy research worker from the governor's office. He discussed the legislature's defeat of the bill that would have established military-style boot camps for teen offenders. He also discussed legislation that had passed to build a new juvenile prison.

Students later met with Senator Scott Moore, head of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Moore talked about how the state would fund the new prison. Senator Brad Ashford met with students to talk about gun legislation

and juvenile crime, and a member of the Attorney General's office discussed the legality of crime bills. The past students have heard from the governor or the lieutenant governor, but both were campaigning the day students were in Lincoln, according to Mr. Neff.

We obtained a number of bills on juvenile crime and discussed them in class.

--Mr. Neff

Bills were introduced during the legislative session. Students saw the Unicameral in action, where a bill is read in its entirety before the legislature votes on it. Before going to Lincoln, students chose a bill to be before the legislature.

The students were to research a bill and find out why it had been introduced. Mr. Neff said that students also contacted their senators to express their opinions on certain bills.

American government classes have gone to Lincoln for activity for several years and this year the trip was a part of Active Citizenship Today. An Omaha Public Schools program of community involvement.

DECA wins state trophies, medals

By Julie DeWitt

Motown, automobiles, the Pistons, the Lions. Yes, we're talking Detroit, Michigan, and nine Central marketing students are headed to that very city.

From March 13-15, 86 Central DECA members spent time at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Omaha for the 1994 State Career Development Conference. Participants competed in various individual and team career-oriented events. The top three winners in each event qualified for the National Career Development Conference to be held in Detroit at the end of April.

Nine Central students placed in the top three spots, earning the chance to represent Nebraska at Nationals. Those qualifying include: Sara Talcott, Briana Hooi, Maria Sandoval and Allison Heller who placed first in their events; Jenny Bailey and Jim Turco who placed second; and Norris Wiley, Sam Briganti and Brian Alseth who placed third.

Erin Bullington was selected to attend the DECA National

Leadership Academy, and Monique Huston was elected to the position of District II State Vice President.

Students who placed in the top eight in their events received medals. Central students who were state medalists include: Ian Barnes, Julie DeWitt, Andy Helgesen, Phil Hruska, Tom Johnston, Troy Kaisershot, Andy Kammerer, Katy Kolvek, Cathy Moyer, Kelly Moyer, Cassie Otto, Kim Rock, Natasha Sempek, Kyle Small, Anna Thomas and Jana Yourkoski.

Students who placed in the top 20 in their events received certificates. Central students who received certificates include: Kris Berg, Erin Bullington, Jennifer Cunningham, Seth Farrington, Michele Ferrin, Jenny Gradowski, Cindy Halley, Katie Hoberman, Deeann Hui, Monique Huston, Cassie Neary, Ann Otto, Cindy Rivera, Megan Seidl and Clay Wulf.

Amy Glup, junior, received a DECA scholarship for having the highest score on the UNL Entrepreneurship written test.

Students who ranked in the

top three for each individual test received a certificate. Those earning first place awards in individual tests include: Sam Briganti, Julie DeWitt, Brian Ellefson, Suzanne Gaylor, Andy Helgesen, Joey Morley, Maria Sandoval, Sara Talcott and Norris Wiley.

Second place winners include: Brian Alseth, Ian Barnes, Sam Briganti, Jenny Gradowski, Briana Hooi, Tom Johnston, Kelly Moyer, Cassie Otto, Sara Talcott, Anna Thomas and Jim Turco.

Third place winners include: Brian Alseth, Jenny Bailey, Andy Helgesen, Gus Jespersen, Cathy Moyer, Kelly Moyer, Kim Rock, Kyle Small and Anna Thomas.

"We had an excellent showing," said Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing advisor. "We're representing the state in eight national contests plus we have a state officer," he said.

"The behavior, competitiveness and sincerity of the students competing was appreciated by all coordinators," Mr. Gaylor said.

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News Flash

150 Centralites perform at All-City

Over 2,600 students participated in the 45th annual All-City music festival. 150 of which were from Central. The concert, which took place on March 5 at the Civic Auditorium, hosted a crowd of spectators totaling almost 6,000 people.

The list of entertainment included junior high and high school band; elementary, junior high and high school chorus and the

high school orchestra.

To be chosen for this concert at the high school level, students had to try out in front of a music instructor. The judge would then make a tape, review it, and send back the choices. Along with Central at least two dozen other schools participated in the All-City concert, which is the only type of all metro concert in the United States.

Eight students awarded certificate

On February 6, 70 African Americans from the Omaha School District were awarded certificates for academic achievement. Eight students from Central were included in this group. The 1994 students selected to represent Central were James Chipasula, Kyiia Clark, Anitra Doleman, Fredrika Ellis, Angela Holloway, Rebecca King, Marcelles Walker and Valarie Wolfe. This group represents the top African Ameri-

can students from the district's seven schools.

The students were selected for their academic achievements, character, participation in school activities and church or community involvement. In addition to the students being recognized, the parents or guardians of these students were honored for providing support these students needed to succeed in school.

Students get chance to see D.C. Close-up

Mr. Jack Blanke, social studies teacher, and 15 Central sophomores are going to Washington D.C. with the Close-up Foundation for a week April 24 through the 30th.

Close-up is a private foundation designed to improve the education of American students and to teach them about the government on site.

Close-up is a national program that

sends representatives to each high school and offers to pay for one-third of the cost of the trip, meets the students in Washington D.C. where they stay at a hotel either in Arlington or Alexandria and gives them a tour of Washington D.C.

Close-up provides this program every week for different schools from the middle of November to about the middle of May.

Marketing aids in writing survey

Earlier this month, one junior and one senior marketing class of students helped in developing a survey for the High School Attendance Pattern Committee.

"The survey is being used to find out why students choose the schools they do," said Mr. Harry Gaylor, marketing teacher. "It was brought to Central students with a marketing background to make sure the questions

were clear and concise for students," said Mr. Gaylor. After revisions to the survey were made, it was given randomly to about 100 students, grades nine through 12 at each of the seven area high schools.

Results of the surveys are sent to the attendance committee and reviewed by subcommittees composed of parents, students and community people.

March 23, 1994

'Omaha western goldrush' marks annual fundraiser

By Beth Katz

An ingenious concept to raise funding for scholarships awarded to students from Central has once again been put into effect. Friday, March 18, 1994, marked the 20th Annual Fundraising Auction held at the Scouler Grain Hall room, across the street from Central High School. The auction, which in past years has been held in the central courtyard, has adopted a new theme as well

Most of all, we hope everyone had a good time.
--Mrs. Broekemeier

and Mrs. Ginny Bauer, school treasurer.

Proceeds from the auction, which have totalled over \$20,000 per auction in the past, will benefit the Scholarship Endowment, the graduating class of 1994, and the current academic and co-curricular activities. Auctioned merchandise was donated by the community as well as former alumni of Central. Tickets for the auction sold

out, a success in the eyes of all who helped put the fundraiser into effect.

"Most of all," added Mrs. Broekemeier, "we hope everyone had a great time."

"The theme is Omaha western goldrush," said auction organizer Mrs. Tina Broekemeier. The fundraiser is also being headed by parent Mrs. Barbara Musselman

Central High School students park illegally at Creighton University

By Elizabeth Kaplan

Last month Central students were called from class to move their cars which were illegally parked in a Creighton parking lot. Dr. G. E. Moller, principal, license numbers in the intercom so cars could be moved.

Kevin Moller, crime prevention officer at Creighton, said that he had received complaints from Creighton residents that Central students were allegedly parking in the parking lot for the Towers building located directly north of the Central practice field. He said that when unauthorized vehicles were parked in the lot it causes a "big inconvenience" for residents who have no other place to park.

"The residents were unable to park

in that lot and when they confronted the Central students about it they were ignored," said Mr. Bartels. Officers placed warnings on the 14 illegally parked cars and did inventory checks on them to determine which cars belonged to Central students.

"We made a list of the cars that appeared to be Central vehicles," Mr. Bartels said. "Instead of towing the cars or issuing tickets, we notified the principal so the students could move their cars." He said that he hasn't received any more complaints of unauthorized vehicles being parked in the lot, but more "drastic measures" such as towing or ticketing the unauthorized cars will be taken in the future.

Dr. Moller acknowledged that calling students out of class to move their cars can be disruptive, but he understands the critical parking problem at Central so he tries to "help kids avoid getting tickets whenever possible."

The residents were unable to park in that lot and when they confronted the Central students about it they were ignored.
--Mr. Bartels



Do it with flair: A dancer shows her international awareness with a personal style all of her own in this authentic Spanish outfit.. Photo by Amber Wood

Annual FLART Fair 'really swell'

By Bethany Vesely

Central's annual Foreign Language/Art Fair was held in the courtyard at Central on March 1st from 6:30 to 8:00. Students from each foreign language class, including Spanish, German, French, Latin and Russian, provided entertainment for the students, staff and family who attended.

Foreign language students told stories in their language, sang, danced, performed musical arrangements, brought cultural food and dressed in costumes to represent a historical character or figure from their country. Art students worked at different stations showing how to make pottery, applied design, prints and other things done in art classes which are offered at Central. Jake Bond, senior, demonstrated on the wheel for the "little kids and parents to see and they

could try it."

One attraction was the Greek dancing done by the Latin students who practiced during fourth hour for four days with Mr. Paul Blazevich, social studies teacher. Mr. Blazevich is of Greek descent and taught them the dance. Jenny Huyduska, junior, participated in the dancing. She said the cultural fair was more organized than other years and was "really swell."

"The Foreign Language/Art Fair came as an outgrowth of the foreign language banquet that began about 11 years ago when the district was pushing interdisciplinary learning," said Mrs. Vickie Anderson, Spanish teacher.

This year was the third FLART fair, but the first year art has been a part of it. Every year there is a different elective along with the foreign languages.

News Flash

Academic Decathlon places third at State

Central's U.S. Academic Decathlon team placed third Saturday, February 19, in the state competition at Skutt High School.

First place went to Creighton Prep, and Papillion/LaVista placed second. The team won a total of six gold medals. Central also placed second in the Super Quiz.

Team members took comprehensive tests in language and literature, fine arts, science, mathematics, social studies and economics. Members also wrote essays, gave speeches and were interviewed.

Junior Robert Teply was the team's highest-scoring member. Team members include seniors Katie Mowery, Kristen Perry, Ryan Shoener and Brandon Steenson; and juniors Kent Herzog, Monique Houston, Tami Minikus, Ben Moeller, Robert Teply, Chuck Whitten and Alex Yale.

Mrs. Dee Kovarik, the coach of the Central Decathlon team, said that she was very proud of the team.

ROTC ball held at Peony Park

March may come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, but right smack in the middle is the JROTC Military Ball.

The annual JROTC Military Ball was held on March 18 at the Peony Park ballroom. The Military Ball was open to students attending an OPS school. All of the OPS JROTC corps in the city attended the event.

The highlight of the night was the announcement of Brigade Commander. Brigade Commander is the highest rank a student can achieve in JROTC.

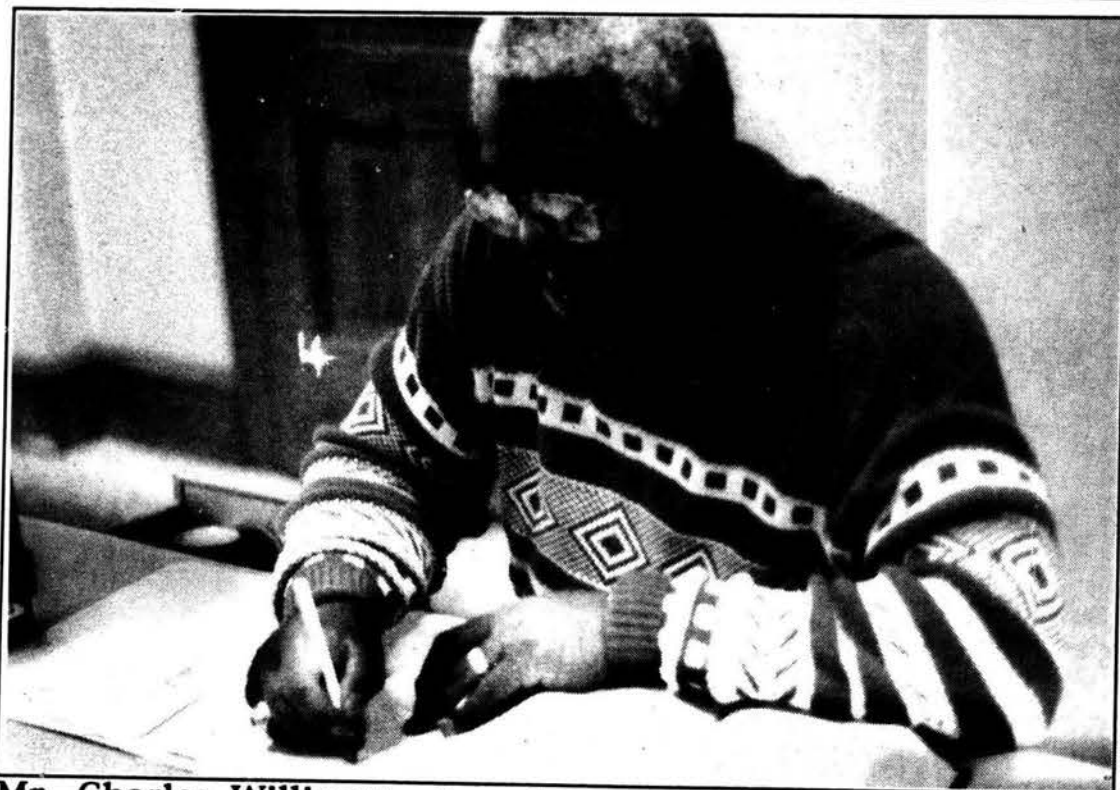
1994 CHS Prom to end earlier

Central's 1994 Prom will be held on Saturday, April 9 in Central's courtyard.

Prom will have a few changes this year, said junior Cindy Halley, student council member. Instead of ending at midnight, as Prom traditionally does, it will end at 11:30p.m. "Mr. Semrad said that he wanted to do this in order to let the teachers have a chance to go home a little earlier," Cindy said.

She said that Mr. Semrad suggested the time change because teachers often have to remain at Central until past one A.M. in order to supervise clean-up and to make sure that all students are gone.

Cindy said that Prom will begin at 7:30p.m. Tickets will probably cost \$20 per couple, Cindy said. She said that the theme for this year's Prom has been decided by Student Council, but has not been released to the public yet.



Mr. Charles Williams: Central's security aide is currently pursuing another degree to add to his long list of educational accomplishments.
Photo by Jenny Hurst

Security aide advances education

By Ann Rickerl

"I have always been intrigued with history," said Mr. Charles Williams, Central security aide, when asked why he wishes to pursue a career teaching history.

Mr. Williams said that he has been going back to school "this time for about eight months." Mr. Williams' degrees include one in hospital administration and another degree with an "emphasis on criminal justice."

According to Mr. Williams, he has not always wanted to be a history teacher and in fact did not become interested until he started working at Central and saw how classrooms are run and how students reacted to a school environment. Mr. Williams said he then started thinking that maybe he "could offer something to the youth of America."

Mr. Williams said that it was difficult to adjust to his new schedule of working during the day at Central and then attending night classes at UNO on week nights, but he believes that all the hard work will pay off in the future.

Mr. Williams is currently enrolled in 12 semester hours. He said he is taking introduction to literature, 20th century history, human relations and a course on the history of the western frontier. Mr. Williams admitted that by the end of the week he is pretty worn out but knows he will get his reward in the end.

"Dedication is the key. You have to be willing to put forth everything you can," said Mr. Williams, "teaching is quite demanding with the everyday work assigned."

Another obstacle to overcome is the relationship between teachers and their students, said Mr. Williams. "First, you need to gain their trust, then they will know that they can come and talk to you" when they have problems in their lives or if they just need to talk.

"When you're a teacher, you have to learn to sacrifice things," said Mr. Williams, to get to the goal that you wish to accomplish.

Mr. Williams said his family totally supports him in this move, and they know his dedication towards his goal will be worth it. He said his family is "a goal-oriented family" and they respect his wishes to pursue a career in the teaching profession.

Because of attending night classes at UNO, Mr. Williams said

handle certain situations. He said working at Central "has been an advantage" because he has access to many books and computers that many people in his situation would not have.

Mr. Williams said he has contact with teachers on an everyday basis so he can talk to them and ask questions. Another reason that working at Central is an advantage to him is that he has "one-on-one" contact with students where he gets to interact with students by "talking and responding" to them.

Mr. Williams' wife works for OPS and is the assistant principal of Norris. He said she has worked there for about ten years. According to Mr. Williams, his wife started out as a history teacher then went into counseling and then eventually becoming the assistant principal.

Mr. Williams said he hopes to work in the Omaha School District "in about 1996." He said the main reason he prefers OPS is that "they seem to have a better grasp on course requirements and availability of multicultural education."

Mr. Williams said another reason he wishes to become a history teacher is that he feels "there is a large need for minority presence to be in the secondary school system."

Dedication is the key...teaching is quite demanding.

-- Mr. Williams

he does not get to spend a lot of time with his family, but he said "it's the quality of time and not the quantity of time that counts."

The experience from working at Central, said Mr. Williams has given him the best opportunities to see what a teacher's role should include and how to

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CHS smoking policy 'difficult to enforce'

By Kristen Perry

4. VIOLATIONS AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY. a.) Tobacco—use of (Senior High School). Student found to be in use of tobacco while in the school building. First Offense: In-school suspension 1-5 days. Second and Third Offense: Short-term suspension. Fourth Offense: Long-term suspension."

This statement appears in the OPS student handbook under "Guidelines." According to Mr. Paul Semrad, Central administrator, guidelines are only suggestions for punishment. "We are allowed to add to them," he said.

Central's policy on smoking at school also appears in the student handbook. The policy includes cigarettes, snuff, chewing tobacco or other tobacco products used on school grounds or in the school building.

Central's policy is stiffer than that of OPS. The first offense calls for a parent conference and one day of ISS. Second offense calls for two days suspension. Third offense is punishable by five days of suspension and the fourth offense is punishable by ten days of suspension.

"It is difficult to enforce the policy [in the building]," said Mr. Semrad. "It is a difficult thing to try to stop because kids are constantly coming to and from school."

Mr. Semrad said that the security aides and teachers are all assigned to different parts of the building, and it is difficult for them "to be everywhere at once." How-

ever, he said that enforcing the policy is easier inside the building than outside.

Smokers are brought to the principal's office if caught, but "we don't punish everybody," said Mr. Semrad.

"Students should be aware of this rule as of every day," Mr. Semrad said. He said that students are responsible for knowing the rules and are required to carry a card saying they have read the student handbook. He also said that school rules are periodically updated in the circular.

Mr. Jerry Doctor, school department head, keeps statistics on the school on how many people

It [smoking] calms my nerves. It's addictive. --"Joe"

protect identity), sophomore, said he smokes because "it's addictive, it calms my nerves." Joe said he smokes at school every day. Smoking costs him \$15-20 each week. "I'm not worried about getting caught at school," he said.

Other students say they are upset by students who smoke in the school. "It bothers me in the classrooms," said senior Amy Clark. "It's not outside."

"If you were caught smoking at work at a smoke-free building, you would be punished for smoking," said Cassie Otto, senior. She said that the same thing should apply to students. Cassie said she wishes the entire building would be smoke-free.

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PEP Board Committee finds speakers for classes

By Angela Parks

One night of every semester the Counseling Speaker Committee of the PEP Board meets with Mr. Bob McMeen, a Central counselor, to discuss possible speakers on certain subjects that teachers request for their classes.

Chairman Mrs. Sally Kaplan, nine other members and Mr. McMeen make up the Counseling Speaker Committee. The committee has had about 30 to 40 requests for speakers. The members of the committee divide the requests upon themselves, and then make contact with people from the community.

The committee consists of a variety of parents with many different occupations a fact that makes it easier for the committee to find speakers.

The committee believes that having speakers is good for students. Speakers give students a wider range of ideas for careers and information on topics.

Mrs. Kaplan said, "It is good to have adults in school education and to have adults know what Central is about, and so putting the two groups together works out great for both students and adults."

Ms. Mary Branson, English teacher, had her reading 11-12 class listen to speaker Cantor Leo Fottman speak about himself living through the Holocaust when he was 19.

Cantor Fottman is a Jew who was taken with his parents and brother to a concentration camp. At the camp he saw his parents put in the showers which then took their lives.

Cantor Fottman had experiments performed on him by a Nazi doctor. The Nazi doctor wrote a book called *Auschwitz*, which Cantor Fottman is still looking to find.

Cantor Fottman said, "It was much easier to be a dead Jew than a live one." He tried to kill himself, but it did not work. The Nazis tried to hang him, but the rope broke.

Ms. Branson wanted Cantor Fottman to speak to her class because her class is reading the book called *The Wave*, by Todd Strasser, which deals with prejudice and hate. Cantor Fottman discussed and told stories about hate, discrimination and prejudice he had experienced and seen.

said, "He was a very interesting person. He kept everybody's attention throughout his vernacular. I also learned a lot more about things that happened in the Holocaust. I will never really know how the Jews really felt."

On March 8, Ms. Carol Valdrighi, social studies teacher, had Mr. Paul Christensen speak to her tenth period American history class on immigration.

Mr. Christensen is from the United States Department of Immigration. Mr. Christensen showed a short video on the disappearing border between the United States and Mexico. He then discussed the problems with illegal immigrants in the U.S. and the changing of demographics. He also discussed the effects that NAFTA will have on illegal immigration.

Ms. Valdrighi stated that the students were shocked by the film because of the "flood of immigrants" shown running into the United States.

Kathy Witt, senior, said, "I thought Mr. Christensen was a great speaker because we learned what happened to Mexicans who crossed the border illegally." She stated that there is a three-step procedure for an immigrant to stay in the United States if he is caught as an illegal immigrant. She also said that having speakers is very educational and she wished more teachers had speakers.

Mrs. Nita Merrigan-Pothoff, English teacher, has also been having speakers talk to her senior English class in hopes of giving the seniors a chance to hear about jobs dealing with the art of communication and how to break into the business field.

The most recent speaker that has spoken to Mrs. Merrigan-Pothoff's class was on March 17. The speakers were Ms. Mary Schrader and Ms. Carol Schrader who discussed the topic of stand-up comedy.

Mrs. Merrigan Pothoff has already had Ms. Sharon Car and Ms. Trina Creighton speak this semester, and last semester she had disc jockey Roger Olson from station 103.7, a former Central student, talk to her senior English class.

"What the students learn in school is not applicable to the real world," Mrs. Merrigan-Pothoff said.

She also said that she felt that the Counseling Speaker Committee was doing an excellent job of finding speakers for her class.



Working with the family: Heather Olsen, senior, works at her parents bakery business, Olsen's Bake Shop as well as working another job.
Photo by Jenny Hurst

'Family reunions every day' Central students work with their parents

By Matthew Truesdell

"Our family is close," said senior Heather Olsen; "everyone knows everything about everyone." Why does Heather's family know so much about each other? Because they all work at the family business, Olsen's Bake Shop. In fact, several Central students work for their parents.

Cory Weale, senior, works at his dad's business, Southwest Auto Parts. Cory works during the summer and on days when he does not have to go to school. Through his job Cory has become a licensed salesman in the state of Nebraska. He works with the inventory and answers phones.

Another family-run business is Wiig and Son Service Specialists. "I'm not the 'son'," said Chris Wiig, senior, but he does help with the business on occasion. Chris's uncle and grandmother also

work in the family business. Chris said that he did a lot of work over the summer, going out on calls with his father. Now he said that he mainly does bookwork on the weekends.

Heather said that she is expected to help out at her family's shop because she is a member of the family. She also has a job at the Omaha Public Library. Heather said that working for her family differs from working at the library because she has more freedom. She has more freedom in scheduling and in what duties she has to perform. Heather also said that she does not have to worry about getting evaluated at the bakery.

Cory and Chris both agreed that a flexible schedule is an advantage of working for one's parents.

One disadvantage, according to Cory, is that if you upset your boss at a regular job "you just go home." For Heather, going home and forgetting about her work is

even more difficult. Heather's family lives above Olsen's Bake Shop. Her brother and his family live next door and also work at the bakery. "It's like a family reunion every day," said Heather.

How do parents and children that work together get along? Cory said that he and his dad get along well. "I enjoy working there," said Cory. Chris also said that he enjoys working for his dad. Heather, however, said that there are more fights at the bakery than at the library.

Cory, Chris and Heather all said that they have learned things working with their families. Chris said that he has learned how to repair some appliances by going on calls with his dad. "I know how to make donuts," said Heather, explaining that she performs many tasks at the bakery. Cory said that his work "helps me understand what my dad does."

National Honor Orchestra selections Two CHS seniors receive high honors

By Bethany Vesely

Two Central seniors, Sarah Beran and Christian Harding, were selected to play in the National Honors Orchestra, which will meet in Cincinnati, Ohio, for four days and have a concert on April 9.

They were asked to audition through an application given to

them in their All-state music folders. Each sent a 15-minute demo tape to the Nebraska Music Educators and they chose the top three applicants of Nebraska.

Sarah Beran plays the trumpet in the Youth Symphony, band, jazz band, honor band and has been the first chair trumpet in All-state for the past two years. She started

playing the trumpet in third grade after three years of playing the french horn and has continued to win many competitions. She said she felt honored to have been selected.

Christian is playing the cello for the National Honors Orchestra and has also been the first chair cellist in All-State for two years. He plays the piano, saxophone, harmonica, guitar, string bass and sings, and would like to make performing, teaching and composing his career. He was glad to be chosen but was upset that the school board is not paying for any of the trip.

"If it was an athletic or cheerleading national event, the school would have paid for it," said Christian. "It shows how Nebraska treats music and the arts. They are just not supporting us."

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The end of an era-- Closing Peony Park

Peony Park was frequented by many members of the younger generation. Some went there for fun, others went there to work. It was a good time. The roller coaster, pool, ferris wheel; there was so much to do. Peony Park was the "place to party" in Omaha. Little kids would beg their parents to ride that one last ride. It is closing due to some bad weather over the last two summers. Its last function, a dance, will be on March 31. It will be missed.

Peony Park

From ice house to amusement park

By Matt Kudlacz

Source: *Omaha World Herald*

It started as an ice house. The spectacular hulk of Peony Park, whirring amusement rides, popular gatherings, and eager crowds, rose modestly from the prosperity of simple Omaha businessmen. It was not their intent to construct a massive haven for Omahans to bask in the summer sun and soak in the atmosphere of social activities; it was merely their hope to keep the pace with business.

In 1919, Joe Malec, the park's unwitting founder, took advantage of the booming auto business of the period and ventured past the simplicity of his ice house and began selling ice cream, sandwiches and popcorn to travelers.

Expansion shined its face upon the young entrepreneurs, which included Joe, his wife, Mamie, and two brothers, Jerry and Godfrey, and allowed them to branch into a fried chicken shop on the then-outskirt of town, 77th Street and Lincoln Highway. The 10-acre site of their chicken shop did not lessen the burden of their responsibilities, but it did provide a solid base for the changes that the group was planning.

With the confidence of his chicken business and the policy of adaptation to the market as his personal proverb, Joe embarked on yet another venture, building a ballroom in the early 1920's a move that would prove very prof-

itable as the hall would later come to hold some of the greatest entertainers in history. Performers such as Glenn Miller, Paul Whiteman, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, populate the park's history of musical guests.

Perhaps the ballroom's heyday was during the 1940's and 50's when crowds as large as 2,800 would gather for nightly dances. Popularity kept the dancers active every night of the week and the Malec's well-financed, until the national craze died and they were forced to change once again.

Following the days of dance, the ballroom, in conjunction with the park's Royal Grove, which was built in 1936, has served as a banquet hall and site for corporate picnics, political events and concerts. Although it did not hold the attention of the entire park, the ballroom and its appendages still aided the business as a profitable enterprise. The gardens which now occupy the area and add to its outdoor appeal were actually the inspiration of the park's name. Originally titled Peony Gardens, the nation-wide floral retailer stood adjacent to the park's plot, only later to become its decoration.

The addition of the 3-acre lake and bathhouse in 1926 provided the Malecs with another method of prosperity, and, following the tides of change of the time, embraced the business of summertime customers. The sandy beaches



Site of royalty: The park's Royal Grove served as picnicing grounds for various Omaha corporations. Photo by Amber Wood.

of the park were the closest locals could come to actual coastal swimming and, as a result, scores of eager Nebraskans crowded the waters.

Weather permitting, the park could be insured of a successful summer of ocean sub-culture, a far cry from peddling chicken to weary travelers. The Malecs had found another goldmine on the shores of a man-made lake.

However, expansion was not left unconsidered as the park took another progressive step and

began stocking its woods with amusement rides in 1958. Just as the group had done in the past, the Malecs brought changes to their poolside dynasty slowly, purchasing children's rides and creating miniature golf courses at first.

Adding to their investment a little more each year, they managed to acquire a new piece each year, including a skyrail, which gives the rider a tour of the Malec's lake. Beginning in 1964, the expansion began including adult-oriented rides, attracting a

wider audience to the park's gates and bringing a number of swimmers out of the water and into the flow of currency of the rides.

The Malec's final venture proved successful, giving the business the profitable definition of an amusement park and plush banquet hall, complete with outdoor facilities. Business was so fruitful in the 1960's that the park's owners considered purchasing several other existent sites and using them in conjunction with Peony. And all this from an ice house.

Student Memories:
I remember when...

"I'll always remember crying in the Black Hole."

--Jono Bradford, 11

"I'll never forget that dying urge to jump from the skylift onto the snail bar."

--Russ Rumbaugh

REAMS at Peony Park silenced

By Jacob Slosburg

The children on the roller coaster did not know. The teenagers working at the game booths had no idea. Even the general manager was oblivious to the news. Peony Park was closing.

According to Mr. Tom Peschio, general manager, over the last two years, Peony Park has lost, "mainly due to a lot of rain and cold summers, approximately one million dollars." Because of the financial loss, the park will close on March 31. "The Last Waltz," a dance held on March 31, will be the last function held at Peony Park.

The park hopes to sell the 26 acres of land to a single developer. However, Mr. Peschio could not disclose who was interested in purchasing the ground.

All the rides and other assets will be auctioned off on April 16. "The auction is being promoted nationally by Norton Auctioneers. They have auctioned off over 200 amusement parks," said Mr. Peschio.

Before two summers ago, Peony Park had undergone five years of operating losses. The park entered bankruptcy. Mr. Peschio said, "At the point in time, Peony Park reorganized financially and managerially. Unfortunately the reorganization was not successful principally because of the weather."

Peony Park is the largest amusement park in Omaha and

employs as many as 600 people during parts of the year. Mr. Peschio said, "At least one-half of our employees are students."

The Malec family owns 86 percent of the park. Mr. Joe Malec, partial owner and employee at the park, said he had been working at Peony Park ever since he was 13 years old.

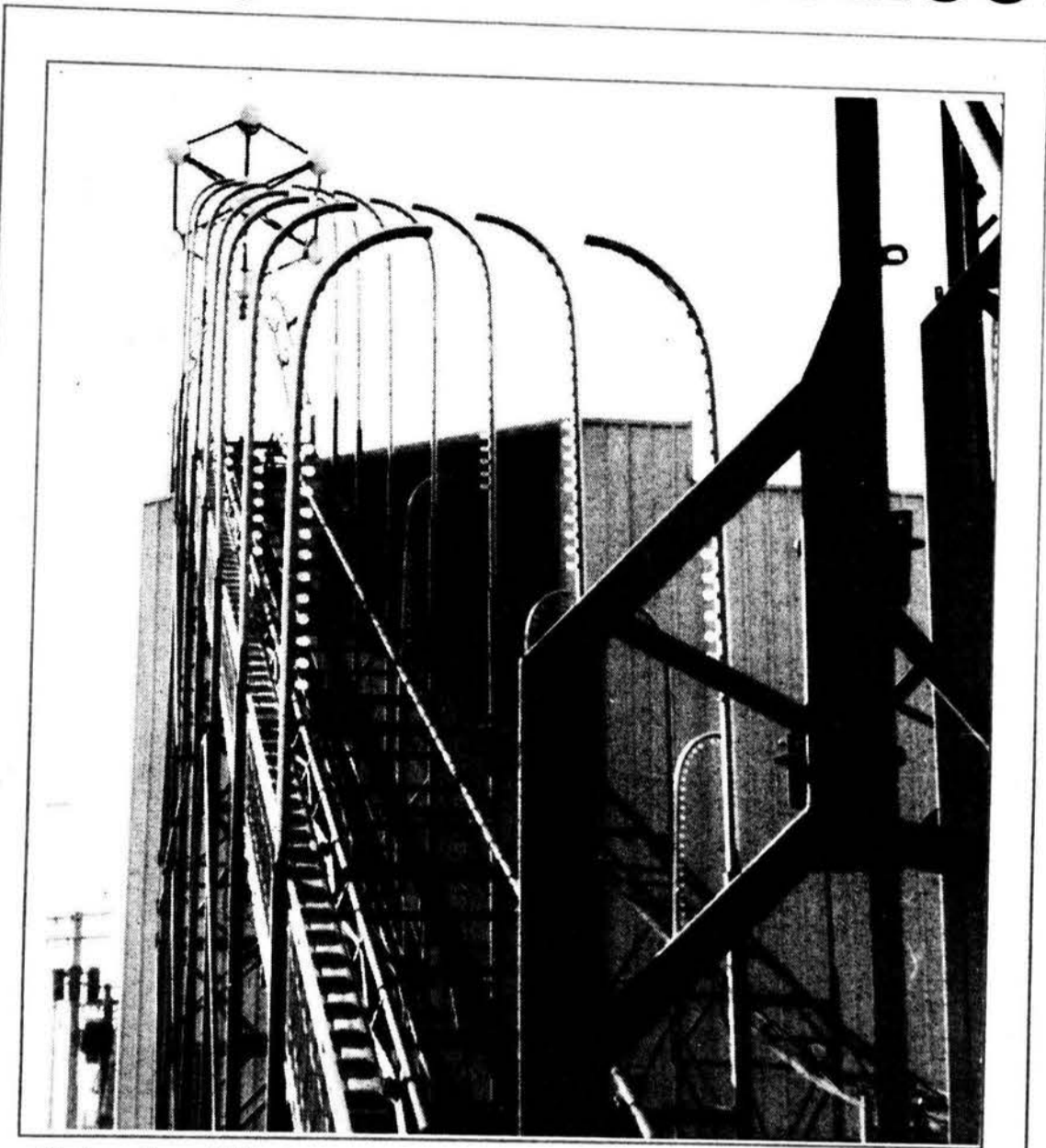
He explains his decision to close the park by saying that "it was an economic decision. We just couldn't afford to keep the doors open."

The city has made no proposal to purchase the amusement park. Mr. Malec said that Mayor Morgan has sent some people to investigate into purchasing the park, but he has not heard back from them. Another organization, the Italian-American Society, is doing anything it can to keep the rides running.

However, Mr. Malec has his doubts about keeping the park in operation. "I'm not sure if the Italian-American Society will get its homework done in time [April 16]. I really don't see the park staying alive," said Mr. Malec.

Mr. Malec also said, "We're just at a point where we [the Malecs and employees] can't do it anymore."

Mr. Malec says that the park will break even once the 26 acres of real estate are sold and is not sure what he will do for his future career.



Going downhill: Peony Park closes for good due to seven summers of financial losses. Photo by Amber Wood

ollections of the past: former employee tells his story

contains opinions of the author. ... I should turn in my application when I notice: ... closed, permanently. ... I think to myself. That park has been around ... Tradition alone should keep it alive. But no ... to miss it. That may sound sentimental, but you see, ... how crazy it was at first. All bundled up in sea- ... with my nametag pinned to my chest, I stood out ... job to people in the park, few and far-between as ... and I called to anyone nearby. It was my job; I ... erator. ... boring job, you think? Not so. I know how you feel ... when I looked through what positions Peony Park ... thing really caught my eye. In the end, I put down ... to work in the arcade. After all, I knew a thing or two ... As it turned out, the closest anyone ever came to ... the arcade was the cashier, who made change and ... and those of us whose job it was to clean the place. ... was called into the interview, the interviewer was ... had expected him to be. I mean, having never gone ... view before, I was expecting some elderly gentle- ... dressed in a white collar shirt, a pair of expensive ... servative neck tie. Kevin was none of these things. ... was short and squat. The first thing that hopped into ... that I was going to be working for a dwarf football ... judge as he looked, he looked extremely muscular. ... to explain how that is, I'm just telling you the story.

He sported a goatee and was dressed in a red Peony Park supervisor's windbreaker, with an Iowa State sweatshirt on underneath it. No slacks, just a pair of blue jeans. He had a clipboard with a pencil attached to it and a friendly, mischievous smile. Instead of the interrogation I had been expecting, I found myself having an enjoyable conversation with him. I mean, we talked about everything we could have possibly covered in the time of the interview. I got the impression I would like to work with him after the interview.

On a Sunday night, about a week after the interview, I got a call from Kevin telling me I was hired. I was psyched. Someplace had actually been crazy enough to hire me. I was now... employed. What a feeling.

Training began a week or two after that. First though, there was a giant meeting of all the employees who would be working there that year. There I met the other two supervisors, Jeff and Marcie. I already knew Jeff from school, but I hadn't met Marcie, who struck me as a happy-go-lucky combination of Pippi Longstocking and Dennis the Menace on far too much caffeine. They weren't the highlight of the meeting though, Mona was.

Mona was the boss. It was to her that each one of us had to answer. One spot of dust, one crooked stuffed animal, one hook without a balloon on it and she'd tell us to get busy. Even if we had everything done to the best of our ability, it was time to do it again. She couldn't stand to see a single worker in the park inactive. I suppose that came with being boss.

Mind you, Mona wasn't the final word, Tom Peschio was. We all knew that, but Mr. Peschio (who I never got the privilege of formally meeting) didn't come into the park that often. My fellow employees and my best guess was that he was handling the finances and other important stuff. Besides, Mona's title was "Director of

Park Operations," which gave her authority over each and every one of us. When Mona was around, even if you had cleaned five or six times, you found a way to make yourself look busy.

Let me state this now, and forever answer the question to all those who ever asked: No, the games at the Park were never rigged in the time that I was there. Yes, games like Milk Bottle Toss and Kat Rack were difficult and required skill, but it was always possible. I know, we'd stand around and practice if nothing was going on.

Getting people to play wasn't always easy. Each one of us had our own little gimmick: Craig threw Kat Rack balls behind his back and knocked them down to show how easy it was; Tammie was so ridiculously happy that you'd play to get her to be quiet. My thing was juggling.

"I bet you can't knock down those cats!" people would often exclaim when I worked Kat Rack. Taking it in perfect stride, I would turn around, snatch a ball out of the juggling pattern and throw it at the cats. By the end of the year, about nine out of ten shots would hit. It worked like a charm and I raked in the money for the Park.

1994 marked the finale for Peony Park. No more would people like me be able to go there looking for a job, no more riding the roller coaster as part of "testing it to make sure it doesn't get stuck," no more barking games to customers who couldn't care less, no more playing "Find the Supervisor," no more to a lot of things.

So many things I took for granted, so many memories I will never forget. The times I had there will always be a part of me; the people I knew there played an important part in my life. Most importantly, though, I enjoyed myself. The end of Peony Park seems to affect a lot of people. I know I will miss it.

"I'll never forget the time on the Tilt-A-Whirl that Kari (Johnson) threw-up and they had to close it for two hours."
--Kori Lovett, 10

"I remember dropping my ice cream on the ferris wheel onto an old man's head."
--Kelly Seidl, 10

"I remember the heart-break of being too big to ride the corvettes."
--Mark Horton, 12

Saving the Earth:

Students involved with environment

By Ann Rickerl

With the recent concern of being environmentally conscious, several groups at Central have shown concerns and are taking action.

Student council members are selling Human-i-tees, which are environmental t-shirts. Human-i-tees shirts promote world conservation and harmony, protection of the rain forests and oceans, and endangered species preservation.

According to Kate Duggan, senior, the idea was suggested at the student council state convention. She said that the student council decided to try to sell these t-shirts because they did not think it would be too difficult and would not present dangers for "losing money."

Mrs. Judy Storm, student

council sponsor, said they first "decided to see if there was an interest," and then found that there seemed to be a lot of environmentally-conscious students who attend Central.

Mrs. Storm said that the t-shirts which sell for \$12 a piece, have been selling pretty well. Kate agreed with Mrs. Storm and said she feels the sales have had a "good response from the students."

Kate said that with the profits from the t-shirt sales student council is either going to give money to Save the Whale Foundation to sponsor a whale or will send money to contribute to the preservation of the rain forest.

Mrs. Storm said if they do sponsor a whale it would include monitoring their environment, controlling the area where they live and protecting them from whalers.

In addition to selling t-shirts, student council has also set up a recycling bin in the courtyard for aluminum cans.

Mr. Gary Kubik, science teacher, and his honors biology students have also done work for ecological matters. The class has written several letters to organizations about preserving wetlands. Mr. Kubik said they try to politically influence politicians to vote for bills to preserve these regions.

Mr. Kubik said he thinks it is an excellent assignment because it makes "students aware of ecological situations and shows them the importance of contact with leaders or organizations."

"It is important because when young adults show an interest, political people tend to want to do something," said Mr. Kubik.



Cross-cultural experience: Central students stop in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. Photo courtesy of Bill Tice.

OPPD offers opportunities

By Daniel Franck

Five Central High students are getting the chance to work for OPPD this summer through a program organized between OPPD and the Central High Task Force.

The students selected for the program are seniors Randy Kaiser, Lashelle Shields, Brigitte Rock and Norris Wiley.

The program was created to help improve relations between Central High students and downtown area businesses. It hopes to settle concerns brought up after 26 Central students were arrested and handcuffed for jaywalking and obstructing traffic on November 10.

To be allowed in the pro-

gram, students had to be nominated by the counselors. The counselors were to select students who were 18 years old, college bound, successful and good role models.

Students involved in the program are taking a class in employability taught by OPPD employee Ed Williams. The class teaches things such as writing a resume and attending an interview. After graduation, the students will be given jobs at different OPPD sites.

"We're trying to improve our relationship with the Central students as well as give them experiences that will help them later in

life," said Mr. Williams.

This summer, OPPD will work to find each of the students a job at one of the plants. Jobs that the students may have include reading meters, computer work and answering phones.

"What each student does is based on their ability level," said Mr. Williams. "They'll receive jobs at the plants where they can be used to their best ability. They may work at any one of our plants."

After this year, the students will have the chance to reapply for their jobs every succeeding year. "We'll encourage the students to return every summer unless their work is below average."

Brigitte said that she agreed to be in the program because of the jobs that they will be matched with. "It's a good job with good pay and hours."

"Our hope is that when the students are done with college, they'll return and apply for jobs at OPPD," said Mr. Williams. "This is a chance for them to get some experience."

We'll encourage the students to return each year.

--Mr. Ed Williams

Students say they are impressed with Russia

By Bethany Vesely

Central students Bill Tice, senior and czar of Russian club, Tanya Luken, senior, Jessica Hensley, senior, Andrew Mattson, freshman, and two senior foreign exchange students from Chile, Ariel Valle and Yoon Huan Chang went on a field trip to Russia from February 16 to the 23rd.

Bill's father, Mr. Alex Tice, accompanied the students who travelled through New York, St. Petersburg, Moscow and Finland. The trip was arranged through the Russian Travel Bureau and Mrs. Marina Sadofsky, Russian teacher.

Tanya described her experience as beautiful and wonderful.

"The culture is like nothing that could be imagined," Tanya said. "People were generally friendly to foreigners, but if they didn't like you, they would tell you.

The generation our age didn't seem to like us, though. There was a group of them screaming profanities at us and telling us to go back to America."

Andrew said this scared him, but as a whole, the trip was "much fun." He noticed that the architecture was elaborate on all government buildings and the streets had no lane markers. "People squeezed in and out, but there were no accidents," he said.

Jessica said the city seemed "really grey" in Russia and the people all seemed unfriendly. "When we were in the Kremlin where Boris Yeltsin lives, the soldiers all glared at you. If you stepped off the sidewalk, they would blow a whistle at you and push you back on the sidewalk with a stick."

The highlight of her trip was when she and Tanya went to walk with the men who showed them around the city. Jessica is planning on having one of them stay with her family this summer.

Bill went into the trading business during his stay. He traded his Swiss Army knife for a Russian Navy uniform. He said the people there all wanted to buy everything he had, especially his calculator.

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Here's to the bride! Z-92's Todd and Tyler celebrate the nuptials of Mr. Dan Cavin and Miss Penny Adams. Photo provided by Mrs. Penny Cavin

Bouquets and big trucks Wild wedding for OPS teacher

By Brian Priesman
Mayhem, mud, monster trucks and marriage. Marriage? Since when have monster trucks and marriage gone together?

Since February 18, when Career Center broadcast journalism instructor Miss Penny Adams married Dan Cavin at the Civic Auditorium.

The wedding, sponsored by Z-92 and the Hot Rod Association, was the product of a practical joke.

The two were having trouble paying for the wedding. "A couple of people we know got married on Sweet 98 on Valentine's Day," said Mrs. Cavin.

Both Mrs. Cavin and her husband thought that something like that would be fun, as well as being a lot cheaper.

Mrs. Cavin was driving to work one morning and Todd and Tyler, two of Z-92's morning DJ's, were asking people to get married on the monster trucks.

"I thought it would be a funny practical joke to play on my fiancée," said Mrs. Cavin.

She called in and had Todd and Tyler call her fiancée on the air.

"After a little bit of coaxing by them, he said yes," she said. "I was shocked."

"The Hot Rod Association paid for the judge, and Hy-Vee paid for my cake, flowers and food," said Mrs. Cavin.

She had to provide her own dress and Budweiser donated a keg of Ice Draft Beer.

The night of the wedding turned out to be hectic, loud and fun.

There had been a scheduled rehearsal from 6:00 to 6:30, but Mrs. Cavin was late arriving due to a hair appointment. Because of this they had to cancel the rehearsal.

Todd and Tyler, the two DJ's responsible for the evening, announced the wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Cavin were driven in on two separate trucks. Mrs. Cavin on the "Predator" and Mr. Cavin on a slightly crushed "Carolina Crusher." The "Carolina Crusher" had run into a wall earlier in the evening.

Getting out of the trucks and up to the podium proved to be a problem for Mrs. Cavin, whose dress got caught in the truck as she was climbing down.

She soon freed her dress and let herself be escorted to the podium by an official from the Hot Rod Association.

The audience was into the wedding, heckling both Mr. and Mrs. Cavin the whole time. They were yelling out comments like "Don't do it, dude," and "save yourself!" and Mrs. Cavin's favorite, "Practice safe sex!"

The ceremony, which lasted only 15 minutes, was presided over by a local judge. At the kiss, the audience burst into applause for the newly-weds.

Present in the audience were Mr. Cavin's 2 children as well as his brother and sister-in-law.

Present for Mrs. Cavin were her father, step-mother and her brothers.

Some of Mrs. Cavin's friends present were television production instructor Ms. Sharon Crawford, radio broadcasting instructor Mr. Roderic Ray and advanced television production student Jennifer Owen.

"It was a thrill," said Jennifer, who's a senior. Jennifer, who had never before been to a Monster Truck show, went mainly for the wedding, but she also went "because my boyfriend wanted to."

One of Mrs. Cavin's friends videotaped the wedding for her from the podium.

The reception was held in another room in the auditorium. Fifty people showed up including some of the monster truckers, who finished the keg.

The 15-minute ceremony received a lot of attention, with television news crews and radio crews covering the event.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, despite the loud engines of the trucks that could be heard throughout the building.

Overall, Mr. and Mrs. Cavin were very pleased with the wedding.

Both the bride and the groom were smiling and laughing during the ceremony and they thought that "the hecklers added to the fun."

"Hey, it was cheap," said the new Mrs. Dan Cavin, with a smile on her face.

Make a priority List

By Carrie Jacobson

"Although the idea of getting to see a movie for free is a great one, I know now that the movie's message is more important." So said Netta Shuput after using her free pass to see the Holocaust film, *Schindler's List*.

"All junior and senior social studies teachers were notified to tell their students," said Mr. Jack Blanke, social studies department head.

"We're asking parents to sign a permission slip because the movie is rated R. And even though all the permission slips are gone now, we're still going to do this on a first-come, first-serve basis. The official slip is not necessary," he said.

According to the permission slip, Omahans Karen and Gary Javitch donated passes to the movie for some students in both public and private schools.

"We donated money to the ADL [Anti-Defamation League] with which to purchase 1100 tickets, and we also sponsored an essay contest with five cash prizes," said Mr. Javitch.

"I was inspired to do this by Sam Fried, a Holocaust survivor who spoke at my daughter's school. He offered to pay for any student who went to the movie. I believe *Schindler's List* is a movie with a message that has to be heard

and seen," said Mr. Javitch.

Mr. and Mrs. Javitch chose Omaha public and private schools because "the districts are the biggest."

With the pass, students can attend any 5 p.m. or matinee show at the Cinema Cen'er only. Mr. Martin is sponsoring the essay contest at Central; any student who sees the movie may enter.

"This movie is a slice-of-life in a concentration camp. Unfortunately, it shows only part of the picture; the entire story is worse. People should not forget that governments that are out of control can harm their citizens. Bigotry left unchecked can destroy human relationships," said Mr. Javitch.

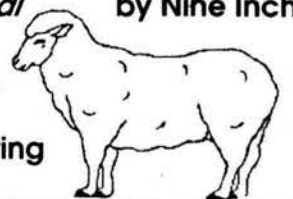
"I really think this is great—the schools are giving out passes to a great movie because it teaches a history lesson in itself," said Jason Ellis, senior.

"I feel that receiving a pass from the social studies department provided a great opportunity to learn about the history of the world outside the classroom," said Brad Iwen, senior.

"I think that it's important for every American to see this movie to gain a better understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust. It's good that they're giving out passes because it's an educational experience," said Kate Lavia, junior.

10 better things to do in March than go out like a lamb.

1. See Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke in *Reality Bites*.
2. Go to the Playhouse production of *My Antonia*
3. Fishbone in concert at the Ranch Bowl, March 27th.
4. Buy Soundgarden's *Superunknown*.
5. See the *Pirates of Penzance* at the Orpheum, March 24-27th.
6. Check out Cental's own *Shrinking Violets* at Downtown Grounds, April 11.
7. Watch Robert Duvall in *Wrestling Ernest Hemingway*.
8. Check out *The Downward Spiral* by Nine Inch Nails.
9. FRANK SINATRA!!! Coming Mar. 27th.
10. Go far away and enjoy your Spring Break!



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Blockbusters a bust; renting the right thing to do

Dylan Gaughan

In just a few days, the Academy Awards ceremony will have come and gone. The awards will be given, hands will be shaken, and for a few months, movie studios will stop releasing their better pictures. Boring sequels will soon flood the market, and the film industry will wait a few months to put out their Oscar-worthy movies.

Basically, from now until July, you should hold onto your money and stay away from the box office.

To kill the time, however, I am here to offer up a few movies on video that you can rent. These pictures are movies that should have done better at the box office last year or the year before but were either under promoted or lost out to big studio blockbuster films.

A little warning before I begin... most of the films below are a bit on the violent side, so if you're looking for a new *Free Willy*, look elsewhere...

Reservoir Dogs

This has become one of my favorite movies of all time. I watched it six times when I first rented it and have seen it twelve more since then.

In his directorial debut, Quentin Tarantino has created an astounding film about cops, robbers, friends and traitors. Every scene is stunningly acted and sharply shot, giving the film the tension the

script calls for, and then some.

Written by Tarantino, *Reservoir Dogs* tells the story of eight criminals facing the aftermath of a jewelry heist gone bad. The thieves spend most of the film in an abandoned warehouse, trying to figure out which one of the team's members is an undercover police officer.

While the story is intense and intriguing, it is the acting in the movie that makes the film a virtual cinematic masterpiece. The cast includes Christopher Penn (*Short Cuts*), Tim Roth (*Murder in the Heartland*) and Michael Madsen (*The Getaway*), who is a superb, twisted sadist. If Madsen's cop-torture scene, the film's most memorable and darkly amusing moments, does not send chills up your spine, you are one sick individual.

The movie's finest performances, however, come from Steve Buscemi (*Barton Fink*) and Harvey Keitel (*Bad Lieutenant, The Piano*). Buscemi shines as the frantic-yet-calculating criminal, and Keitel will amaze you, making you care about him and the other burglars.

The chillingly powerful

Reservoir Dogs, with its superb story, acting and soundtrack, has turned one-time video store clerk Quentin Tarantino into one of Hollywood's brightest young talents. He wrote the screenplay for Tony Scott's *True Romance* (another fine movie), Oliver Stone is currently directing his script for *Natural Born Killers* and Tarantino's second effort at directing,

Pulp Fiction, should be released some time this year.

Menace II Society

Written and directed by Allen and Albert Hughes, *Menace II Society's* run at the box office last year was marred by a few isolated incidents of violence at a few theaters across the country. The shortened box office run was a disappointment, considering the critical acclaim the film had received from film reviewers and from the Cannes Film Festival.

Though the movie can be overly ambitious at times, the Hughes brothers' directing is the star. The editing and camera work are exceptional, often reminding the viewer

of such great films as *Goodfellas* and *Boyz N the Hood*.

The film is gritty and extremely violent, never holding back on the frightening chaos brought about by murder. One of the characters, after killing a store owner and his wife, takes the security video tape and shows it off to his friends.

The total disregard for human life will shock the viewer, but the Hughes never glorify the killing.

Menace suffers from two problems: some of the acting is overheated and noticeably poor, and it is difficult for the audience to care for the story's main character, who becomes a thief and a killer halfway through the movie.

The film's flaws are more than compensated for by Jada Pinkett, who plays a single mother trying to move out of the Watts ghetto. Pinkett successfully conveys the anger and desperation of one of the strongest female characters in any recent film.

For this fine female role and their excellent directing in their debut movie, the Hughes brothers should be commended.

Man Bites Dog

Do not be fooled... this documentary about a philosophizing homicidal maniac is fictional, a fact my friend didn't

learn until after he had sat through the entire film.

Shot in black and white and directed by Remy Belvaux, *Man Bites Dog* is a French mock-documentary (like a deranged *Spinal Tap*) following the killing spree of a frighteningly cunning and intelligent serial killer.

It is also quite funny, in a sort of way.

Benoit Poelvoorde plays the killer with crackling energy, bringing the film its realism. Throughout the film he talks to the documentary crew on the joys of killing and why he does it, eventually dragging them into his sick world.

As unnerving as it may be, you will find yourself laughing during this movie, especially in the scene when Poelvoorde and the film crew bump into a second film crew, which is documenting the life of a separate killer. The fame-hungry Poelvoorde then kills the crew and gives Belvaux their camera as a gift.

Though it is subtitled, *Man Bites Dog* is not hard to follow. See it before it is remade and ruined by Hollywood in the same way the industry manhandled *La Femme Nikita*, turning it into the mediocre action film, *Point of No Return*.

So, until *Rambo IV* and *Robocop 578* rage their way through the mindless summer box office and the wreckage clears, check out a couple smaller, better films that, unfortunately, no one got the opportunity to see in the theater.

Basically, from now until July, you should hold onto your money and stay away from the box office.

Role play the day away

By Brian Priesman

"Roll 2D6 to find out if you survived the evil Zylanthian's psionic-cyber blaster attack; roll for percentages; roll 3D4 for M.D. points."

Huh?

"You've survived the attack, but you've wandered into a werewolf's nest, and he isn't in a very good mood. Roll 2D10 for initiative."

What?

"The werewolf has initiative. He swings at your body with his paws."

What is this?

To the uninitiated, this might seem like a bunch of gibberish, but to the enlightened, this is very obviously part of a campaign from a role-playing game.

Role-playing games have become very popular of late; many Central students play them. Some of the more common games include *Advanced Dungeons and Dragons*, *D.C. Heroes*, *The Marvel Universe* and *Rifts*.

Role-playing games, or RPGs as they are called by players, are an interactive adventure game where the player creates and lives his or her own character.

"You can become another person, yet it's not a person that some other stranger creates like the author of a play," said senior Ali McLarney, who plays the RPG *Rifts*.

A person creates a character by choosing the type of person they want to be and then rolling different sided dice to find out the attributes of that character.

The players then play the game in character, using the attributes as a guide.

The games are controlled by a Game-Master, or GM, and it is up to the GM to create different stories, or campaigns, for the characters to interact with each other in.

"Role playing games are a good outlet for explosive imaginations, although some people take them a little too far," said senior Josh Perilo, who plays *Advanced Dungeons and Dragons*.

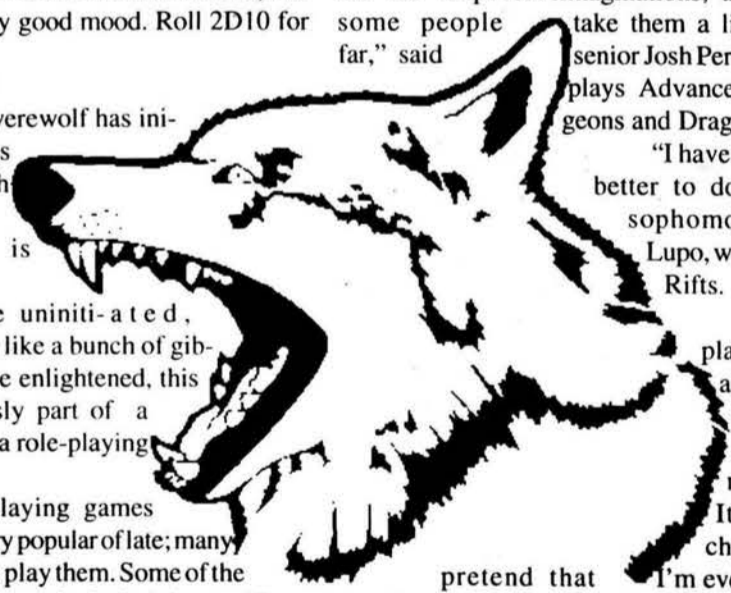
"I have nothing better to do," said sophomore Joe Lupu, who plays *Rifts*.

"I pretend that I'm everything that I'm not. As long as people don't let their imaginations get too big for them, it's a lot of fun," he said.

"I think role-playing games are an important and valuable learning experience," said Ali.

The writers and publishers of RPG's acknowledge that there is violence in the most RPGs are clearly marked as to their violent content, and many have warnings from the publisher.

RPG modules can be bought in any hobby store or comic book store. The cost of a basic module is 20 dollars. Supplements, models and dice run up to 15 dollars.



Dylan's Stupid Facts

- 2 of 3 people struck by lightning survive
- Snails travel 25 feet a day.
- Males have thicker skin than females.
- 17 out of 20 people have brown eyes.
- "Commitment" is one of the most frequently misspelled words.
- It is illegal in Maryland for a wife to search her hubby's pockets while he is asleep.
- During the Puritan era in New Haven, Conn., a youth 16 or older could be executed for cursing at a parent.
- More ice cream is consumed in Alaska than in any other state.
- Christopher Columbus' signature was always "Xpo Ferre
- The honeybee is deaf.
- St. Louis, 1905: The first car theft occurred.
- Astronauts' hearts are smaller when they're in space.
- Kleenex was originally filter paper for gas masks.
- June marriages have the highest divorce rate?

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March 23, 1994

PBS airs *My Antonia* segment with Centralites old and new

By Carrie Jacobson

On Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12, a special half-hour news program called *Statewide* aired on PBS. "We were the feature segment," said Christina Belford, junior. "The show in itself is kind of like a news program; it features goings on across the state."

Statewide featured the creation of *My Antonia*, a play at the Omaha Community Playhouse adapted from the text by Willa Cather, which has been extended through April 2 due to sellout crowds. Christina plays one of the three Antonias—the teenaged one. Also featured in the production is Kristen Perry, senior, as Tiny Soderball.

"They [PBS] walked around and filmed different aspects of the show," said Christina. "I know they talked to all the Antonias because they aired all three of us. They just filmed the whole process from day one; they'd come once or twice a week to film whatever went on that day."

According to Christina, PBS captured the first readthrough, several rehearsals, the costume shop and opening night.

The PBS segment noted that "the first read-through is often the first time cast members find out who's in the show, who will be their family for the next two months."

My Antonia has never been previously adapted for the stage, and Charles Jones, its writer/director, said in the segment that "many people have said that the novel is not readily adaptable; it cannot be made into an evening in the theater." He was careful to note that, in writing *My Antonia*, he tried to keep with Cather's original text as much as possible.

The drama has a large cast, 41 in all, with over a dozen children. According to the PBS segment, it's a "difficult" script—much of the dialogue is taken right from the novel, which can be "awkward in changing into

conversation."

The piece tells that three Antonias at three different ages often appear in the same scene as Antonia recalls pioneer life on the plains. There is a "powerful but difficult" scene in which the three Antonias simultaneously translate Russian into English.

"It's so hard to think when you have a foreign language booming in the side of your head," said Christina in the segment. "It's working to get the timing perfect, having the voices and the accents match."

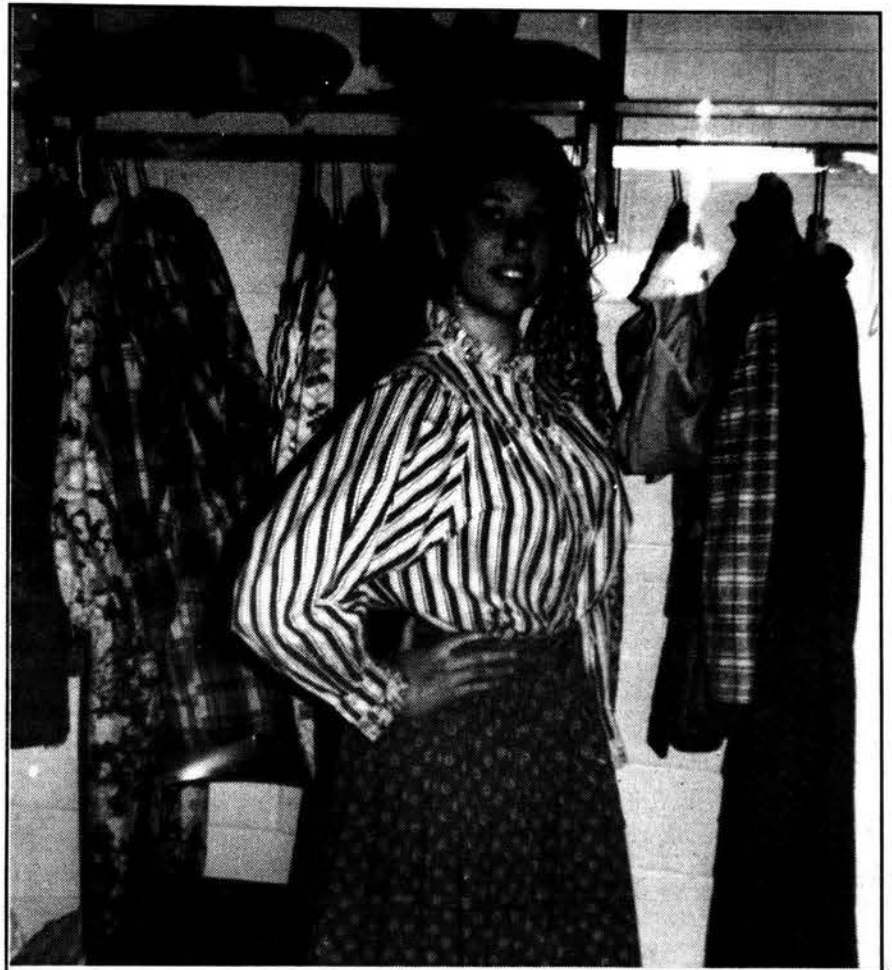
The PBS piece noted that the costumes suit the time period. Seamstresses sew for four shows at once. "We had three weeks from making patterns to opening night," said Wendy Stark, *My Antonia*'s costume designer.

Christina and the other two Antonias are shown sitting down with a dialect coach to pick up the Czech accent better. There are dialect coaches for the languages of Russian, German and Czech. Eva Romberg, a German exchange student who goes to Central, is a German dialect coach for the production.

Heather Hannaford plays Lena Lingard in *My Antonia*. She is a 1993 Central graduate.

The PBS piece progresses to one week before the show when the stage crew finally removes the set and lights from the last show and installs the lighting and platforms for *My Antonia*. The first time the cast tests out the set is five days before the show. According to the segment, the stage pieces move "flawlessly."

Chris Wiig and Ali McLarney, seniors, work on the stage crew for *My Antonia*. "It's a lot of hard work, but it's worth it," said Chris. "I don't get to take a tech class at Central." Chris operates the main curtain and the pivot, which pushes scenery off and pulls it on, and the fly, which just pulls scenery. "The platforms weigh like 500 pounds," he said.



Places everyone! Christina Belford gets into her costume for *My Antonia*. Photo by Amber Wood.

"I'd do it again—I can be a member of the cast without all the rehearsals. It's a very valuable thing to understand what the crew's doing when you're onstage and what the actors are doing when you're offstage," said Ali. This is the third show Ali's been involved with at the Playhouse.

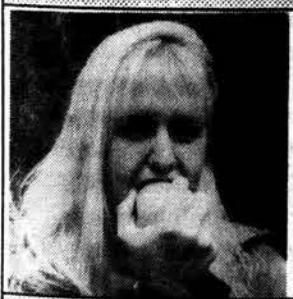
Statewide captured opening night;

the cast had "never done it without stopping."

This is Christina's fourth show at the Playhouse. She said that there was "nothing much different in having the film crew there" for the duration of rehearsal. "But it was stressful knowing if you screw up it may end up on television. Rehearsal is for mistakes," she said.

Bad pop-tarts can lead to cravings for Fred Astaire

Alaska and me



by Anna Thomas

My fingers reluctantly grasp the door handle. My knuckles transform into scared white mounds and I slowly enter the room. A creaking thump reverberates off my room's walls as my heart beats once and comes to a halt. An odor of stinky moth wings plugs my nose and a threatening sound bombards my ears. It is a rustling sound, like an army of papery insects stalking my soul.

Yes, I am in the library. I don't know about the rest of you, but

the mere mention of the word library strikes fear into my heart. I know that it's a fear I really need to conquer in order to get anywhere in life, but I can't help it. Libraries scare me.

I think it goes back to second grade. Every Tuesday was Library Day, and each week at the appointed time we'd march downstairs like the robots we were. The librarian was a rather robust woman with bad breath and piggy little eyes. She'd wait until we were seated on the nasty green carpet, copies of *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* and *Pippi Longstocking* clutched in our tiny hands. She'd grin insanely and then in a voice as rough as an Italian man who hasn't shaved for three hours, she would say those words that instantly set my

palms a sweatin' and my knees a knockin'. "Time to put your books back! Check the number on the spine and put it back exactly where you found it!"

I would look around and watch all the other children, with glazed eyes, trickle zombie-like to the shelves. Did they really know where their books went? Because I sure as heck didn't. My tiny second-grade brain was too filled with thoughts of Scooby-Doo and Tang to remember where I had gotten the book the week before, so I'd slyly slink to the nearest shelf and shove the book in, hoping the librarian wasn't dusting for fingerprints that week.

The years have passed, and things have only gone downhill. Not only did I never learn proper library procedures, but around seventh grade I became a library fugitive. I am not

exaggerating. The folks at the Omaha Public Library were beyond sending me little overdue reminders. They had a wanted poster of me on the wall. The F.B.L.I. (Federal Bureau of Library Investigation) was knocking at my door. I lived in Mexico for a year, and all because of Fred Astaire.

For some reason I had checked out a biography of Fred Astaire (don't ask me why—I probably got a bad Pop-Tart for breakfast) and it had somehow ended up in my closet, sandwiched between my stamp collection and fishing tackle. I was convinced I had returned it, so I scoffed at the little postcard reminders that were sent to me.

I finally found the book and it was a year overdue. Being the intelligent junior high student I was, I went back to the library.

Instead of facing the fire and paying the fine, I put it in the book-drop. I couldn't go back for years, until my father discovered I had checked the book out on his card and he owed the money.

My brain was too filled with thoughts of Tang....

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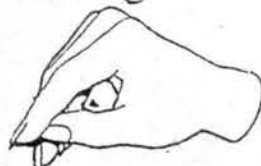
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And now, already scarred for life by this great American System, they've switched to computers! Who ever said technology was a good thing? I admit, the card catalogue was kind of a sick torture (who was this Dewey guy anyway? I think I'd like to give him a big kick in the shins) but at least it didn't beep or break.

So I finally learned how to find my book on the computer, but I still don't know how to find it in the actual library. And now things are just getting worse! The MLA bibliography boggles my mind, and I don't go within a hundred foot radius of the microfiche.

And beneath the haze of general confusion lies naked fear. I think a library would be the absolute worst place to be chased by a crazed murderer.

This thought occasionally crosses my mind as I wander aimlessly amongst row upon row of books. There would be no place to hide, and the librarian would shush you if you screamed.

And am I the only person that worries about bumping into that weird spirit from *Ghostbusters*? And is it required by law to use orange as a prominent color when designing a library? And why are most librarians short? Does the silence compress their bodies?

My burning inquiries will eternally lie unanswered, unless of course you would like to go to the library and look them up for me. It's probably on microfilm.

New look, new season for Major League Baseball

By Michael Sigmund

This article contains opinions of the author.

Another season of singing along with Harry Caray? The hot corner is warming up as spring training begins to take shape, and the boys of summer are back for another thrilling season.

No matter how you say it, baseball season is here again. The 1994 season promises to be interesting due to the arrival of Michael Jordan, the continuing conflicts between the owners and the players and the new playoff format that will increase the intensity of the pennant races come September.

New rules include an eight-team playoff, with the six division winners and a "wild-card" winner from each league. The wild-card team will be the team with the best record that does not win the division. The team with the best record from each league will play the wild card team in the first round of the playoffs with the other two divisional winners squaring off.

This season is sure to hold some surprises, but here are the picks and pans for the 1994 season.

Atlanta truly has the talent to beat the Phillies this year, but they will be relying on a rookie shortstop and catcher. Atlanta still has the best starting pitching in the league, and with the addition of Omaha na-

tive Greg Olsen as closer they will be hard to beat.

Philadelphia has many weaknesses that can be solved with the miracles that took them to the World Series last year. The Phillies must go injury-free to challenge the Braves.

Starting pitching is weak, but if Tommy Greene, Curt Schilling and Danny Jackson have repeat seasons, things may go smoothly. Closer Norm Charlton must make a full recovery from his serious arm surgery; otherwise the Phils will be

left without a save man.

Offense is strong for the Phillies with the exception of John Kruk. Kruk will not play until June following the removal of a

cancerous testicle. Kruk's illness ended trade talks for backup first basemen Ricky Jordan, which might have brought the Phillies much needed pitching help.

The NL East should end with the Braves in first place. The Phillies will finish second and win the wild card.

The Houston Astros will finally make the playoffs this year when they win the NL Central division. With the addition of closer Mitch Williams and the strength of their outfield, Houston will finally see some success. Look for a first place finish.

The NL West will be an

absolute runaway for the Giants even if they don't produce the numbers of last year's team. San Francisco will easily win the division with the return of superstar pitchers John Burkett and Bill Swift. The Giants will cruise to the playoffs.

In the AL East, the Toronto Blue Jays are still the best team in the division. With Paul Molitor, Duane Ward, Juan Gonzalez and John Olerud returning, the Jays will be tough to beat. Watch for the Jays to take a shot at a "three-peat" as they finish first.

The Baltimore Orioles have an excellent shot at challenging the Blue Jays and should win the wild card spot. The Orioles' bullpen is very strong with the addition of Lee Smith and they have strong offensive power in Cal Ripkin Jr. and Brady Anderson.

The AL Central will be won by the Chicago White Sox without a struggle and without Michael Jordan. In fact, Jordan's distraction will keep the White Sox from being the best in the league.

Kansas City will finish second, a distant second. The owners spent the off-season trying to figure out how to save money after all the big spending over the past several years. K.C. is a small market and signing non-producers like David Cone cost the team some much needed free-agent help.

The AL West will be the answer to the Texas Rangers' inability to make the playoffs. The weakness of this division will put the Rangers in the playoffs without much of a battle.



The crowd goes wild: Fans cheer on the Eagles at the state tournament. Photo by Amber Wood

Boys' basketball team has quick end to state hopes

By Michael Sigmund

"You always think you could have done a little bit better and we really could have won that game," said head boys' basketball coach Rick Behrens. His team lost in the first round of the state tournament to Lincoln Northeast, number one at the time.

Despite going into the locker room at half time tied at 26-26, the Central team fell behind by six in the first two minutes of the second half and never came back. "We were capable of scoring 35 points in the first half," Coach Behrens said.

"We didn't shoot well, and

there probably was some nervousness," Coach Behrens said.

Another factor may have been the new basketballs that the state tournament uses. "I, for the first time, can't understand why they do that," Behrens said. He noted that this is not done in college or the National Basketball Association.

Fouls were a real problem in the second quarter for the Eagles. More than half the points scored by Lincoln Northeast were off of free throws. For the game Lincoln Northeast shot 35 free throws to Central's 13. "I wasn't so concerned with their 35, I just thought we should have been shooting 30 as well," Coach Behrens said.

Students benefit socially, physically from intramurals

Seventh Inning Stretch



By Christy Shearer

Being a couch potato sports fan is not enough. The true excitement comes from being a part of the action and competition. The late President John F. Kennedy once urged that youth must be active sports participants rather than just spectators. The vigor of the future, he believed, was linked to the opportunities provided for sports par-

ticipation by the nation's youth.

Unfortunately, many of our youth do not receive adequate encouragement or opportunities to get involved in an athletic program. The school system does a good job teaching basic skills to its grade school students, but it does little to follow-up on the students' progress or provide the stimuli to keep them interested.

The problem is that too few students are able to participate in athletics at the high school level. This problem results from lack of funds. The athletic programs that already exist face a shortage of funding which limits teams to only the top athletes. When this occurs and only a few students qualify for a school's competitive teams, a well-developed intramural program can be helpful.

At Central and other area high schools, only a small percentage of the student body is actively

involved in competitive sports. For many, competitive sports are either too time-consuming or too selective to encourage their participation.

These students that do not get involved are missing out on all the benefits that sports can provide such as the opportunity to take a break from studies, to interact with peers and to just have fun. An intramural sports program could provide these opportunities.

Unfortunately, too often intramural sports on the high school level have become just a chance for additional practice by the school's competitive team players. Instead, they should provide everyone with the chance to improve their level of physical fitness, to develop recre-

ational skills and to improve social relationships.

I have found that colleges more readily recognize the importance of intramural sports. A question that I have frequently asked on college visits this year is "How actively involved are your students in intramurals?" All of the schools had very well developed programs with facilities and equipment for students to use.

Aside from the physical aspect, intramural sports also benefit students scholastically. Recent studies have shown that there is a close correlation between intramural participation and higher grades. They also help to break up cliques, build interracial interaction and act

as a stress reliever. Students can use their free time positively and form meaningful relationships with other students with similar interests.

To encourage participation by everyone, a school could offer tournaments like three-on-three basketball, which requires little equipment, over a lunch period or after school.

Since we all cannot be involved in competitive sports, many students would benefit from an intramural program. We need to develop a good system of intramurals for everyone because the benefits of athletics go far beyond winning and losing. Athletics provide students with an atmosphere of excitement surrounded by friends and fun.

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Power lifting team wins State and Nationals, new records set

By Brian Wilson

This year's power lifters have proven to be nothing less than champions. Individual lifters have acquired first place finishes at the state and national levels.

As a team, Central won both the State and National meets this year which were held on February 26 and March 12 and 13.

Power lifters compete using their combined weight lifted from the squat lift, bench press and dead lift.

Individual winners at the national meet were Kevin Armstrong, senior and Hien Nyugen, sophomore. Kevin, at 275 pounds, set new American records in the bench press with 380.2 pounds, dead lift with 595 pounds and total with 1,526.2 pounds. Hien, who lifted in the 132 pound weight division, set American records in the squat lift with 424.2 pounds, bench press with 303 pounds and total with 1190 pounds.

Titus Casebeer, senior, at 123 pounds, Ahman Greene, junior, at 220 pounds and Randy Sittig, senior, in the heavy-weight division, all were runner-up finishers in

the national competition.

The nationals meet is a two-day, drug-free competition. Mr. Joe McMenamin, power lifting coach, said, "It's an outstanding competition. Our lifters really competed well."

Coach McMenamin also said, "Kevin had a good competition against his competitor who was national runner-up last year." Kevin's opponent from Indiana was ahead of Kevin by 40 pounds going into the final lift, which is the dead lift. Kevin lifted exactly 40 pounds more than his opponent to tie, then a tie-breaker decision, named Kevin the champion.

Kevin said, "It's a great feeling to win both State and Nationals."

Hien Nyugen, who has won every competition he has entered, including the Natural Athletic Strength Association (NASA)

World competition in Las Vegas, set new state and national records this year. Hien said his goals now are to break 1400 pounds in his total.

"Hien is a world class lifter; his future is just outstanding," said Coach McMenamin.

Hien said, "I feel like I accomplish a lot and it's good for me."

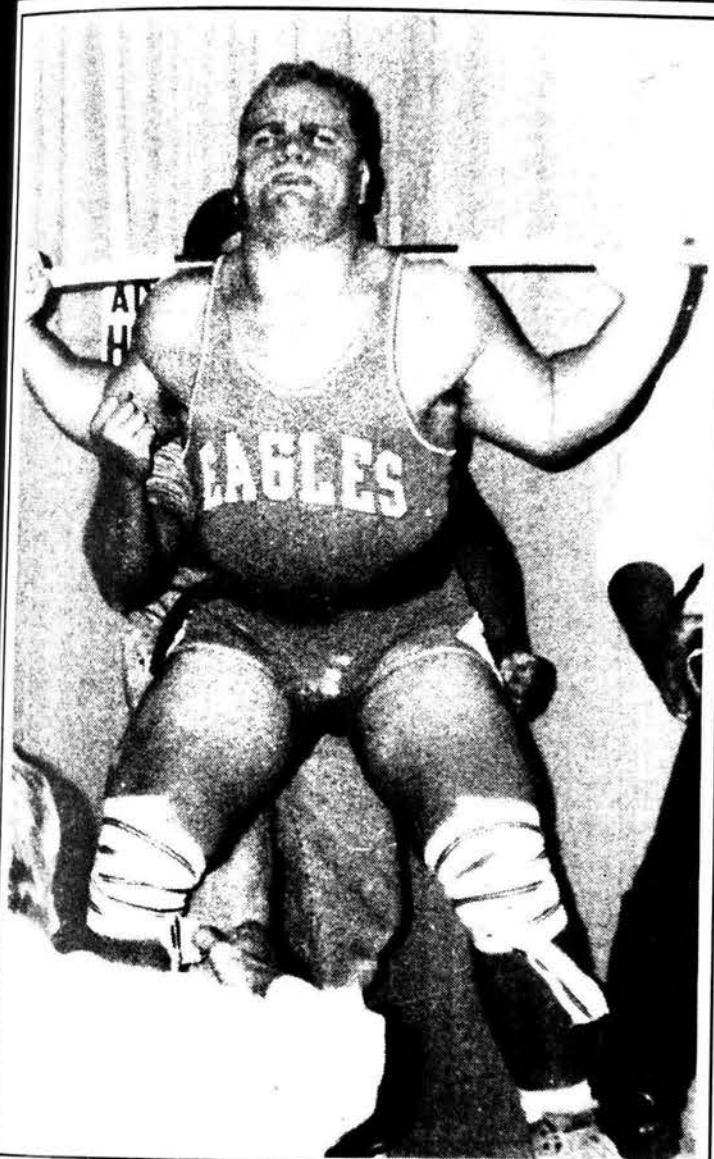
At state, individual winners were Kevin, at 275 pounds;

Hien, at 148 pounds; Jeff Casady, senior, at 114 pounds; Titus Casebeer, senior, at 123 pounds; Tony Hudson, junior, at 181 pounds and Jason Holoubek, senior, at 242 pounds.

Kevin and Hien broke state records in their respective weight divisions. Kevin broke the squat lift

record with 560 pounds, bench press with 385 pounds, dead lift with 565 pounds and a total of 1510 pounds. Hien set state records in the squat lift with 540 pounds, dead lift with 515 pounds and total with 1370 pounds.

It's a great feeling to win both State and Nationals.
--Kevin Armstrong



Pumpin' some iron: Kevin Armstrong, senior, lifts over 500 pounds at Nationals. Photo courtesy of Kevin Armstrong

Senior attends Curling Nationals; team places third

By Christy Shearer

Central senior Pat Jordan and his teammates placed third in the Junior Men's National Curling Competition February 5-13 in Madison, Wisconsin. The four-man team made it to the semi-final round but lost to Wisconsin. Last season, the team was the Junior Men's Runner-Up.

Pat began curling with the influence of his father from Wisconsin. The sport is a lot more popular in the northern states and Canada than in Nebraska, according to Pat. Most of Pat's family, includ-

ing his brother Kevin Jordan, freshman, who was almost chosen as the alternate for the team for nationals, is involved in curling.

Curling is a winter sport that is played on a rectangular sheet of ice. The object of the game is to slide 42-pound stones across the ice and be the closest to the center of a ring, therefore accumulating the most points. "You don't have to be big to curl, but you have to have endurance and arm strength because it can be really tiring," Pat said.

During a game, the team members work together to determine the position of the center ring

and develop strategies to knock the opposing team's stones away from it. Pat said, "You really have to rely on each other; it's definitely a team sport."

"Curling," Pat said, "is a mentally draining game because you really have to concentrate." To prepare for a tough competition like nationals, Pat said, "I have to sit down and get focused on an object."

Pat is a member of the Aksarben Curling Club. With about 200 members the club plays league games three days a week on sheets of ice inside the Aksarben livestock building. According to Pat, the club

would like to expand to a new facility or add sheets of ice at Aksarben.

"It does take up a lot of time especially before nationals. Most of my friends don't see much of me during the winter," Pat said.

This year Pat has missed six days of school to attend curling competitions. He said that his teachers "have been really cooperative," but that "it takes awhile to catch up" when he gets back.

According to Pat, curling does not receive as much attention as other sports for several reasons. First, "it is not a very good spectator sport, unless you appreciate it," Pat said. Second, he said that there is "a really strong misconception of curling being like shuffleboard on ice which gives an image of old people."

Pat said that most of his friends do not understand curling or watch his competition. "At first, they all say 'What's curling?' and then I have to give a thirty-minute presentation to explain it to them," Pat said.

Despite the misconception,

curling is gaining in popularity world-wide. In 1998, curling will be added to the Winter Olympics as an official sport. Pat said that his team may have a "pretty good chance" to qualify if they "stick together." The team has received an invitation to attend an Olympic-sponsored camp in Canada.

The team is looking towards the national tournament next year and a chance to qualify for the world tournament which may be held in Scotland. "We are at least one of the strong favorites [to win] if we stay together," Pat said.

Pat said that this opportunity to travel and meet new people was one of the characteristics that first attracted him to curling. "But then I found out that this is something that I really wanted to win," Pat said.

Pat encourages others to get involved in curling because "it is a fun sport that almost anyone can play." He said, "Right now, there is a six-year-old playing all the way up to an eighty-year-old lady."

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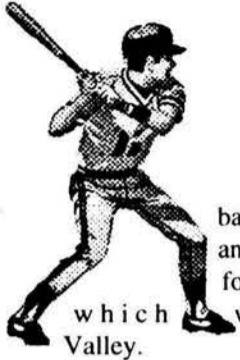
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Spring Sports Preview



Baseball team 'very optimistic' for season

The varsity baseball team held tryouts and practices to prepare for its season-opener which was March 22 against Valley.

The head coach of the varsity team is Mr. Steve Eubanks, the JV coach is Mr. Paul Blazeovich, and the new freshman coach is Mr. Trent Kelly.

In deciding on the varsity team, Scott Briganti, senior and catcher, said that coaches look for players "with a good work ethic and guys who give 110 percent."

This season the team, according to Scott, will focus on keeping everybody healthy. He said, "We're going to have a really good offensive and defensive team."

Coach Eubanks said, "I'm very optimistic. I think we're going to surprise some people." For this season Coach Eubanks said that he has given a lot of attention to acquiring a good pitching staff. He said, "The pitching looks strong. We have some good young pitchers."

"My main goal is to develop the bodies and minds of the athletes so that they can play their best," Coach Eubanks said.

Due to problems with the Salvation Army which owns the property, the baseball teams will not be able to use their previous home field, Booth. According to Coach Eubanks, the varsity team is scheduled to play its home games at Lynch field, but he hopes that the Seymour-Smith fields in Ralston will become available soon.



Boys' soccer team 'looks great'; has state goal

Boys' varsity soccer coach Tim Herbert said he is optimistic as the Eagles start their regular season.

Coach Herbert calls the team "young" but is hopeful as "most of the returning starters are back."

"The team looks great," Ben Kreuz, junior, said. Ben said that the team's "lack of experience" could be the biggest obstacle the team needs to overcome. He said the team's goal is to "make it to state."

The boys' soccer team participated

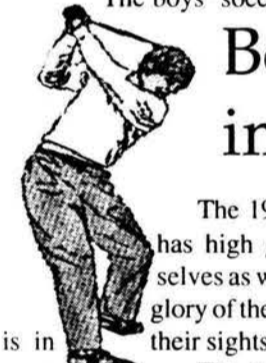
in an indoor league this winter, which gave them additional playing time together.

Coach Herbert said that the team needs to "concentrate on scoring goals" and is looking to "increase the number of victories."

Coach Herbert said that in the past two years since the team won state, "the (crowd) response has been favorable."

"I anticipate that this year the response will be great," he said.

The Eagles open the season Friday, March 25 at 4:30. It is an away game against Bellevue East.



Boys' golf team plans to improve over last season

The 1994 boys' golf team has high goals set for themselves as well as the team. The glory of the state championship is in their sights.

The team made it to state last year and placed 6th overall. Individually, J.D. Welsh, junior, placed fifth in the tournament. "I see no reason why we cannot win state as a team," said J.D.

Mr. Jim Galus, head golf coach, said that the goals for this year are to "continue improving in tournaments and match play."

He also said, "I'd like to see all our guys win a tournament."

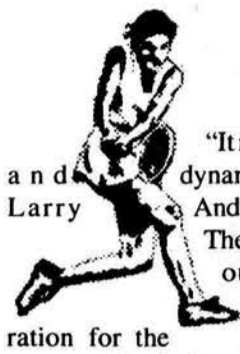
In the last two years, the team has won six tournaments.

The team hopes to increase this record and turn their runner-up finish in metro last year to a victory this year. "Success breeds confidence," said Mr. Galus.

This year there are four lettermen returning. Although the team lost two of its top players, Mr. Galus said, "the depth is there; every tournament we enter, we have a definite chance of winning."

Pat Lynam, junior and two-year letterman, said, "I think we will be better than last year. We have more experience and we are ready for it."

Mr. Galus added, "I won't be satisfied unless we do better than last year."



Girls' tennis expands to two player nationally-ranked

"It really should be a strong dynamic season," said Mr. Larry Andrews, girls' tennis coach. The team has begun tryouts and practices at Dewey Park in preparation for the spring season.

Mr. Andrews is enthusiastic because this is the first year he will have both junior varsity and varsity teams. Coach Andrews said that he has tried to get two teams for a number of years, but he has been held back by lack of talent at both levels.

Coach Andrews said, "This year, we can have a strong varsity program and a good JV program as well."

The team is led by nationally-ranked freshman Andrea Friedman. "She is one of

the strongest players in the Missouri Valley section," Andrews said.

Senior Deeann Hui and juniors Mia Douglas and Libby Broekemeier are the returning varsity players. All three have "been playing for a lot of years and have a lot of difference types of experience."

Freshmen Erica Wolf and Jambal Brashears are both experienced tournament players who "bring depth to the team."

Ms. Jennifer Thornby will be the coach for the junior varsity team. She will be assisted by former Central player Brandi Licker who is attending the College of St. Mary on a tennis scholarship.

During the season, the team will have the top two singles and doubles teams compete in tournaments.



Girls' team 'has potential' hopes for winning record

"I'm optimistic that something good will happen for the team," girls' varsity soccer coach George Grillo said. He called the team "highly motivated" and hopes to have a winning record this year.

"The potential is there," said Andrea Wieduwilt, junior. "Many of us have been playing together three years or more." Both Andrea and Coach Grillo have been satisfied with the attendance of their games.

"The athletic director has been very

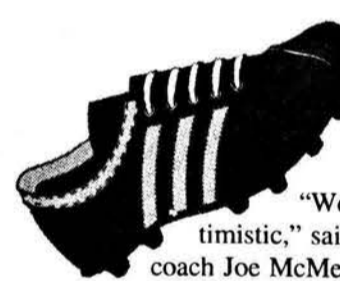
supportive of us," Coach Grillo said.

The team has been practicing every day after school. There was also an indoor league in December and February in which the team participated.

"What it's going to come down to is whether or not we can start working together as a team," Andrea said.

Coach Grillo is "enthusiastic" about their season, which starts Tuesday, March 22. They play Mercy at 4:30 at Tranquility Fields.

In addition to their regular season the Eagles will host a tournament April 22.



Track teams prepare for upcoming season

"We are very optimistic," said boys' track coach Joe McMenamin. Both the girls and the boys have begun regular practices after school in preparation for the upcoming season.

The boys' team has "good balance" in all events. Coach McMenamin is "anxious" for the first meet because he "wants to see how the team performs."

Seniors Kevin Armstrong and Randy Sittig specialize in the throwing events while juniors Damion Morrow and Ahman Green are the team's sprinters.

The girls' team is "very strong in the middle and longer distances," said girls' coach John Georgeson. The team is young with only five seniors and 25 underclassmen.

"(The girls) have a good attitude and

work habit," Coach Georgeson said. "and look for someone with a work ethic and someone who is there every day."

Seniors Stephanie Huff and Cam Czaja and sophomore Monique Peterson will lead the team in the distance events. Senior Petra Eccarius will compete in the shot put.

The track team began conditioning in January and has had regular practices for about a month. Coach McMenamin and Coach Georgeson have concentrated on longer distance running in the early practices. Sprinting will become more common in April.

Track relays started on March 19 at Burke High. Upcoming relays include Grand Island on March 26 and April 1 at Ralston.

Varsity meets begin on April 8 at Millard North followed by the Central Invite on April 16. The regular season ends with the Lincoln High Invite on April 22.

The post-season begins in May with Metro on the 3rd and 4th, districts on the 12th and state on the 20th and 21st.

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29 Skutt (H)
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28 Millard No. (A)
Varsity
March 28 Benson (A)
29 Millard No. (A)
*All games at 4:30