

Volume 110  
Number 4  
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# the Register

The oldest school paper west of the Mississippi, est. 1886



Basketball, page 16

## Dickens in the Market...



Lel Brown

Central seniors Jessica Dickes and Lacey Pruitt sing carols in the cold with Mary Fitzmaurice at Dickens in the Market, which took place Saturday and Sunday Dec. 8-9. Ibsen Costumes holds auditions every year for people who wish to participate in the festival and provides the costumes for them at no charge.

## CHS Administration eyes issue of mandatory uniforms

By John Gaskins

The issue of mandatory public school uniforms has caught the attention of many Omaha administrators, teachers and parents, including those of Central High School.

The Omaha Public Schools Board of Education has formed a committee to investigate the possibility of making uniforms mandatory for OPS elementary school students.

Committee chairman Dr. Doug Bahle, the OPS Director of Student Personnel Services, said OPS has sent questionnaires to parents asking for their opinion on the issue. Of the parents that replied the questionnaire, 69 percent said they would approve of uniforms. Bahle said that based on that approval, the board will most likely vote to enforce mandatory uniforms as soon as the investigation will be completed.

"We could be seeing elementary students in uniforms as early as next fall," Bahle said. Bahle also said that the board does not plan to look into uniforms for high school students in the near future. Board member Bill Meier has been proposing this idea for OPS students for about 16 months. Meier and other supporters have claimed that uniforms would eliminate distractions, competition and violence between students and improve student behavior and achievement.

Although the requirements would only apply to elementary

schools, many people at Central have strong opinions concerning the possibility of Central students wearing uniforms. Central principal Dr. Gary Thompson said he would be opposed to requiring Central students to wear uniforms, and that it would be difficult and inconvenient to force students to buy and wear them. Thompson said that in such a diverse atmosphere as Central's, uniforms would hurt the individuality of students, which he considers an important part of high school life.

"You don't have to go any further than the courtyard or the halls to see that students here like to express themselves," Thompson said. "It would be a shame if that expression were taken away from them."

Thompson disagreed with Meier's theory that uniforms would help students learn better and achieve more in the classroom.

"Students are already here to achieve. They don't achieve with their dress, but with their minds," Thompson said.

Math department head and National Honors Society Co-Advisor Mr. John Waterman said requiring uniforms would hurt the education of students.

"The purpose of public education is to help kids find out more about themselves and to find their niche," Waterman said. "Making them all look alike gives them no individuality and defeats that purpose."

eatine or steroids?

## CHS athletes choose performance enhancers to gain edge

By Mike Kelly

In a highly competitive world of high school sports, some of Central's athletes use performance enhancers as a method of improving their muscle mass and strength.

Performance enhancers such as weight lifters have been widely reported and used for a long period of time. Now new forms of performance enhancers such as Creatine and Mega Mass are becoming widely popular and readily accepted among both players and coaches. The most popular of the legal performance enhancers is Creatine. Creatine was made famous by the Nebraska Cornhusker

football team who uses it during their summer weight lifting program. Nebraska began using Creatine in 1991, and now its use has spread to athletic programs at UNO and various high schools around the state.

The difference between Creatine and other legal performance enhancing drugs is that Creatine does not just help you gain weight, it helps you gain lean muscle. Creatine is taken in six week cycles. After every cycle the athlete should take six week period off without using Creatine.

Central senior Luke Denney has been using Creatine for about one year.

"The first week I used Creatine my bench press went up 20 lbs," Luke said. "After that the increase was not as drastic, but it climbed consistently throughout the cycle."

Creatine produces almost the same results as steroids, without the possible side effects. The only rumored side effect to Creatine is that it lessens the endurance of the athlete when he is taking it.

"It's just a rumor," Luke said. "I never really felt anymore tired."

Most experts agree Creatine is the best performance enhancer on the market today.

Shawn Murphy, an employee of GNC which sells a wide variety of weight gainers

and nutritional products, thinks that Creatine is a worthwhile product.

"It's the closest thing to actual steroids without the side effects," Murphy said. "It is top of the line material."

Luke said athletes have to be dedicated to a weight lifting regimen if they decide to use a cycle of Creatine. Creatine is very expensive. Depending on the athlete's body weight, a cycle of Creatine can cost up to \$220 at regular health and fitness stores. It is available directly through the factory at about half the cost.

"Using Creatine without lifting weights regularly will do an athlete no good," Luke said. "Also it is very expensive, but if you use it properly, you will see the benefits almost immediately."

Another kind of performance enhancer is steroids. Steroids offer the same gain in lean muscle mass that Creatine does, only it does more of it in a faster amount of time.

Anabolic steroids are illegal in the United States. Unlike legal performance enhancers, they have long-term side effects on the athletes that abuse them. Some side effects are liver damage, acne, shrinkage of the genitalia and a mental imbalance that causes mood swing and irritability. Some of these side ef-

fects occur immediately, and others happen over a long period of time.

One Central athlete who wishes to remain anonymous used a cycle of steroids at one time during High School. \*\*Dan bought a cycle of anabolic steroids at a local gym. He used them for six weeks. During this time his bench press increased by 20 lbs. Dan said he believed that steroids used in moderation can benefit the athlete better than Creatine without any of the side effects.

"I used a six week cycle and did not experience any side effects," Dan said. "There is a fine line between use and abuse; an athlete should be able to train without them."

Dan said athletes are so overwhelmed by the results of the drug and want to continue using them.

"Since the results are so good, the athletes want to do it more and more," Dan said. "Soon they get into a cycle where they can never go back. It is just like any other drug."

Dr. Kim Duncan, a physician at Methodist Hospital said any sort of steroid use is harmful.

"Anytime an athlete gets involved with steroids he is putting his health on the line," Dr. Duncan said. "Any type of steroid use is dangerous, no matter how small the dose."

### What's inside?

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## Carelessness causes crashes

Did you ever think that it is with casual regard that an airline crew performs their duties? Just as drivers overlook checking the gas tank, or fastening their seatbelt, anyone involved in the airline service is also human and statistically inclined to make mistakes. However, these shared random errors have one large difference. A driver takes the chance knowingly and with some sort of conscious consent. But an airplane pilot or other employee does not have this same authorization to jeopardize hundreds of lives because of evasion.

When a person boards an airplane the concern is generally not that the pilot may not perform his job completely or that the ground crew's concentration might be off. However, lately the basic source for the deaths of many people has been old fashioned negligence.

In Florida, an airplane recently caught fire for just such a reason. Oxygen generators were being transported by a passenger plane. This would be an appropriate plane on which to carry such cargo, if the generators had been empty. However, being mislabeled, the full generators were in a situation where they became hot and caused an explosion, killing all. These generators belonged on an air freight plane, not a passenger plane.

The first indisputable failure is the false classification. Even so, putting the tanks on a passenger plane could have been avoided. When any hazardous material is shipped, it has to be inspected. However, as Ken Welk, former Frontier Airline Station Agent, said an in-depth investigation of what is inside the parcels is only done if there is some sign of a leak or other noticeable complication. The second major inadequacy the airline exhibits is the people they have chosen to handle ground responsibilities. Many airlines hire a separate crew outside of their airline to do the work which otherwise their own staff would demand more money for. This is called "out-sourcing." Welk said there is no real interest in the jobs they perform because many feel they should work only as hard for as much as they are paid. It is not clear what is worse, the fact that these workers gamble with their tasks and thus with human lives, or that money is such an issue that these third parties are still hired by airlines.

In South America, another preventable crash occurred. The pilots apparently realized sometime during their flight that their sensors were not working. Duct tape had been left covering the outside sensors from a recent cleaning of the plane. The tape-removal box has never been a box to check on any conventional takeoff list. It seems to have fallen under the understood "Duh" category. Unfortunately, once again, someone had their mind on other things.

Prepping and maneuvering a plane cannot be dealt with in the same manner as an individual who is about to drive might absently do so. There is no reason why deaths have to result from an employee's boredom and idle attempts at the tasks. The stakes and repercussions are higher in the airline business because of the obligation to protect the passengers. Anyone working with the safety of others in mind must address their job as a duty to the traveling public and not just a pay check that brings in frequent flier miles.

## Torture, unjust in any circumstance

Through the ages, governments, organizations and individuals have used torture as an underhanded method of discovering the secrets of their enemies. Ignoring the suffering of the prisoners, torture was employed time and time again. Most people today consider torture to be an evil of the past. Think again.

Israel, a country known throughout the world for its religious commitment, has reportedly been torturing their Palestinian prisoners. Dr. Ruchama Marton, founder of the Association of Israeli and Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights (AIPPHR), said a "Form of Medical Fitness" requires Israeli physicians to examine detainees before they undergo interrogation.

One part of this form has the doctor record any evidence of physical injury "before entering interrogation." The requirements of this medical form clearly indicate the intentions of the Israeli government.

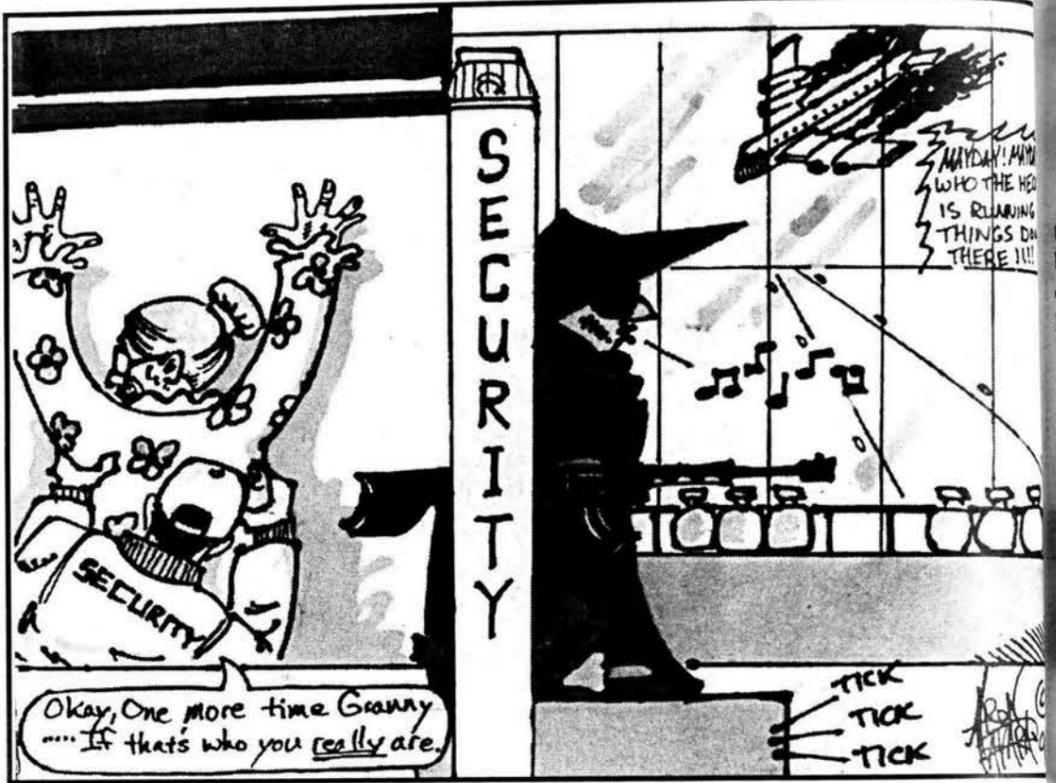
In fact, there have been reports of prisoners who were deprived of sleep, threatened with physical injury such as rape and even death or the torture of members of their families during interrogation. Often detainees are severely beaten.

The Jewish people have suffered persecution so often that it is difficult to believe that they would use these types of tactics on others. After living through the Holocaust and seeing the suffering which torture causes, it is hard to understand why the Israelis have dropped their standards to such a low level.

Israeli human rights specialists estimate that Israeli intelligence and military personnel have subjected at least 5000 Palestinians a year to these practices since 1988. Many detainees have died or committed suicide as a result of these actions.

In 1990, the government accepted the Landau Commission which set guidelines under which "moderate physical pressure" was allowed in the interrogation of detainees. This law provides an easy loophole through which officials can implement torture without facing consequences for their actions.

Torture is wrong in any situation. It makes no difference whether the person being tortured is a terrorist or a five-year old child, the principle is the same. While holding prisoners is a part of war, torture should not be. To punish an individual in this way for the hatred existing between countries is inexcusable. Most surprising of all is the country which is now implementing such methods. Israel should remember their past so that they do not repeat the mistakes of those who persecuted them.



## REGISTER YOUR OPINIONS

"Register Your Opinions" is a sampling of student opinion. It is not meant to represent the views of the entire student body or the staff of *the Register*.

### Should school uniforms be required in public high schools?



No, because they would violate our constitutional right to freedom of expression.  
**Charlie Carlin 10**

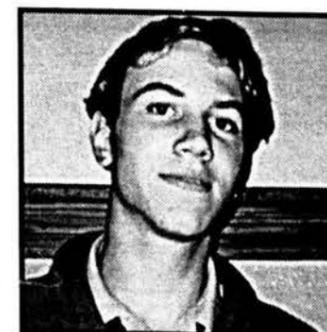


Yes. School uniforms would create an atmosphere of enhanced quality and lessen the emphasis on materialism.  
**Omar Nazem 12**



No, because wearing the same things hides people's style and individuality.  
**Djuan Johnson 11**

Yes. They would eliminate problems of people not fitting in because of their clothes.  
**Tai Burleson 9**



No. This is a public school. We should be able to wear what we want to wear.  
**Nick Joerz 9**

## Procrastination looms during the holidays

Besides the laughter and good times which the holiday season brings, it also raises the stress level of most people to abnormal heights.

Just think of all the pressures that weigh us down at this time of year. It's amazing that we survive the holiday crunch at all!

Of course, a tendency to procrastinate greatly enhances the stress that we feel at this time of year.

Yes, procrastination is that natural wish to put off those undesirable chores until a "tomorrow" which never seems to arrive.

We all have experienced the wide variety of problems which procrastination can cause.

For example, with Christmas and Hanukkah comes the chore of buying holiday cards and buying presents.

These presents are not only for loved ones but also for those relatives whom you never see.

The problem of deciding what to get for someone that you don't know is motivation enough to put off for another day.

After you get done with the worst part (the choosing of the gift), it is not as difficult to actually get everything in the mail.

Apart from holiday deadlines, students also have deadlines at school.

## Through My Eyes

By Erin Beal



It seems that every research paper you write during the semester is due during the month of December.

The demands this creates on students' time can be extremely frustrating.

Although most students know about these projects for months in advance, almost no one actually starts to work on them until the weekend before they are due.

What is it about human nature that makes it so difficult for people to start a project before it's due?

If we could somehow overcome this problem, life would be so much easier.

Unfortunately, few people have the will power to pace themselves with long-term projects.

Procrastinators tend to struggle with commitments which all must be fulfilled at the same time.

Oh, well. What would the holidays be without the stress that makes them so joyful? For most people, the experience could not possibly be the same.

I find it amazing that, after all the excitement of Christmas, people still have the energy to go shopping all day on Dec. 26., battling everyone in the state as they all migrate to the nearest mall.

This never sounded too appealing to me. I realize the importance of returning things that don't fit, but

why does everyone always have to do it on the same day?

Large families who all get together for the holidays often have even more problems at these meetings than would normally occur.

I'm sure that it is a lot of fun for these huge groups to get together and catch up on gossip.

However, trying to keep an eye on all of the little kids can push even the most patient of people to the limit.

It is even more important for big groups like this not to procrastinate because so much more organization is required.

All of those little details like hotel accommodations and food can create problems if not handled ahead of time.

After all, if a procrastinator waits too long, all 100 of their closest relatives might be living in their home for a week.

People never change. It is almost impossible to make a procrastinator think ahead, and this time of year will be just as stressful a century from now as it is today.

Well, until we live in a perfect world of no deadlines, with love, joy, and peace all year long, just try to do your best to remain sane past the month of December.

From one procrastinator to another, happy holidays.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A READER OPINION FORUM

#### Mandatory drug testing unfair

Dear Editor,

Mandatory drug testing of teens before they can receive a driver's license was recently proposed by President Clinton as an effort to curtail drug usage.

On the surface this seems like a sound and legitimate idea. Becoming able to drive is a milestone in a teen's life and privilege held in very high regard. Many past efforts to decrease drug usage have failed.

President Clinton is also receiving increasing pressure from many groups, especially conservative groups, to do something about the drug problem in the United States.

This is just one of those efforts that is really only here to help us, right?

Teens actually account for about 16 percent of the drug usage in America. By targeting only teens, the government is attempting to solve a primarily adult problem through methods which reach only juveniles.

The government can feel comfortable enacting such policies because teens really have no say in the matter.

The vast majority of teens cannot vote, therefore elected officials have no fear of voter backlash when they blame teens for a problem.

Policies such as this create a terrible dichotomy. Teens justly feel as if they are being persecuted, making them angry and bitter at the adult population.

The adults then become more afraid of teens and worsen the problem by suppressing them even more in an attempt to control a group that they really do not understand. The consequences of a series of events such as this can be catastrophic.

There is a solution to the matter however. Test everybody. Regardless of age, race, income or any other factor, if anyone is going to be tested, everyone should be tested.

The sixteen year-old who just got his license, the middle aged businessman, the 75 year-old retired woman, should all be treated the same. Singling out one group who really isn't even responsible for the problem will solve nothing; to make a real statement, everyone must be treated equally.

Charlie Carlin, sophomore

#### Recognition lacking for sports

Dear Editor,

As the 1996-97 school year approached, many students at CHS devoted their time and efforts to playing a fall sport. It became clear as the season progressed that one sport at CHS seemed to receive more attention and publicity than the others.

The Central football team was granted a no. 1 spot not only in its rankings, also the student body, faculty and parents at CHS. The media attention received was well-deserved and did nothing except encourage and unify our football team.

The CHS football team worked hard for their victories and were obviously recognized for their accomplishments. They were the gold and the other fall sports at CHS were silver.

But what about the other fall athletic programs? Volleyball, tennis, golf, softball and cross country all achieved numerous victories and were rarely recognized by the school as often or as enthusiastically as football. Numerous intercom announcements regarding football and signs publicizing football games were often seen and heard throughout the halls at CHS.

Announcements of other fall sport games were not made. A mere time and place shoved in the middle of a long list in the circular which was rarely read by a homeroom teacher did not compare to the signs, announcements and encouragement received by the football team.

Many long and demanding hours of training, conditioning and mental preparations were spent by all fall team sports.

Encouragement and support from the student body, faculty and parents needs to be distributed equally throughout the teams. This added support would do nothing except encourage individuals and teams to do their best.

In conclusion, the support that the football team receives is exciting and should continue. All fall team sports deserve equal support from CHS. All sports should contribute to being the gold of CHS.

Lauren Pettit, sophomore

## WHERE TO FIND US

Send all letters of opinion to room 315 or find the box on the two side of the courtyard. It is the policy of the Register not to print unsigned letters.

### The Register

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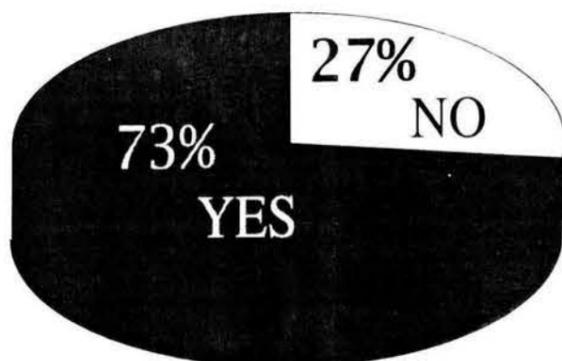
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## CENTRAL STANDARDS

Do you think it is right to impose a stricter punishment on those who kill a police officer versus killing someone who is not associated with the police?



119 Students Polled

**NEWS  
IN  
BRIEF**

**Final Exams  
creep up in mid  
January**

Final Exams for first semester have been scheduled for the second week after students return from their Winter Break. The final exams will be held on Tues., January 14, Wednesday, Jan. 15, and Thurs., January 16. Each exam will be one hour long. The exam schedule is as follows: Tuesday, January 14 third hour, eighth hour, and tenth hour. Wednesday, January 15 first hour, fourth hour, and ninth hour. Thursday, January 16 zero hour, second hour, and fifth, sixth and seventh hour.

**Minorities find  
niche in writing**

Pen and ink is an after school activity which keeps up with Central's focus on English.

It is sponsored by The School of Journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This group however is a little different from those students who are responsible for *Dimension*, Central's literary magazine. These students are by requirement all Latino, Native American, or African American.

The current sponsor for this organization, Mrs. Peggy Wheeler, said that these ethnic groups were chosen because of their under representation in journalism and creative writing. She also said that it provides a level of comfort to the students.

This is the third year of this group's existence at Central. Mrs. Wheeler launched the association the first year and then Colleen Augason, no longer at Central, took over for the second year.

"Fresh blood. You need new people to keep things from getting stale," Wheeler said.

But this year Wheeler is back and said she is ready to welcome 15 returning students, and hopefully around five new ones.

Students join this through recommendation and then if they decide to stay, they meet once a month.

On this year's syllabus is tentatively a movie review and art review. But Wheeler said that much of what will be done will be decided by the students.

"I want to get the kid's input, after all they're going to be doing it," Wheeler said.

Wheeler is also planning on introducing the students to the Internet. She said she will show them how to create Web pages, and work on Central's pages.

**CHS students find benefits in helping Red Cross**



Caroline Foley

Senior Elizabeth Monaghan makes phone calls at her job with the Red Cross to set up blood donation appointments.

By Lea Platz

During the Blood Drive on Nov. 15, many students and teachers were involved in the process of giving blood.

"Once kids start donating we hope they will continue to donate as adults," Linda Points, Red Cross Blood Drive Team (B.D.T.) Supervisor, said.

About half of all adults in the United States donate their blood. However, they tend to have a harder time finding an opportunity. It is harder for adults to get away from commitments, such as work, etc.

One of the major reasons that donating blood is directed at young people is because they have more time due to less things going on in their life.

Another reason for donating blood is the desire to save lives.

However, some find that for the money, blood would be a very fair exchange. Plasma centers are the places which offer money for the donations. It is a misconception that the Red Cross pays you. They do not.

At a plasma center, people can receive money for their donations depending upon the rarity of their blood type, giving whole blood or plasma.

"It is again the students who show interest in the money aspect of it," senior Elizabeth Monaghan, B.D.T. worker, said.

Elizabeth works at the Red Cross as a type of telemarketer. It is her job to call and set up appointments for people to come in and give blood.

"The people are all usually receptive, but you get an entirely different response from kids," Elizabeth said.

One such donor was Grant Lutz, junior, who said that if he were to do this on his own, part of the incentive would be money.

Out of Central's 17 and 18 year olds, 17 percent participated in the blood drive this fall, 13 percent have donated blood on their own before and 27 percent are shown as being organ donors on their driver's licenses.

"This is actually a fairly good percentage, considering a lot of people's classes they could not miss and other unavoidable things throughout the school day," Jenny Philips, senior B.D.T. worker, said.

Jenny also said that some people donate out of curiosity. A lot of young people are interested in medicine and this is an easy way to find out a little more about it.

"If someone were considering going into the medical field, this would be an excellent way to get a head start," Jenny said. "Having the Red Cross on your resume says a lot about the prospective medical student."

**ASVAB provides exploration for juniors at CHS**

By Tim Hakanson

Every year, all Central High School juniors take the ASVAB test as a part of Central's career exploration program.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is an aptitude test that helps students explore careers.

It is taken at Central as one of the final steps in the career exploration program that begins in seventh grade. Mrs. Lynda Molyneaux, career counselor, said.

In seventh grade, OPS students take an interest survey. In ninth grade, they take an IDEAS test that helps evaluate their career interests. In tenth grade, they take the PLAN test, which has a career interest section. These three items all help to tell what a student likes to do, but no test up to eleventh grade has told what the students are good at, Molyneaux said.

■ College

**Scholarships, essays; toughest parts of applying**

By Lea Platz

For seniors the time has arrived to start the application process for college.

Right now college applications are being filled out and prepared for the admissions committees to pour over.

Some sections of many of the applications are very similar, consisting of transcripts, standard blanks to be filled and boxes to be checked.

Test scores and Grade Point Averages possibly put you in the same category with many students, however.

One aspect of some applications, which allows the applicant to show the difference between them and the next, is the essay.

There is no specific way colleges ask for essays to be written. Often times three topics are given and one is to be picked.

Other times you are simply asked to write about yourself. The

essay could also be questions asked to get the applicant would try to answer it uniquely.

Senior Sarah Fischer said some of the questions were challenging to answer.

"One of them asked me to talk about my personal integrity. That is a difficult thing to tackle," Fischer said.

Mrs. Sharon Cipperly, Guidance Director, and former College Counselor, said that Admissions Committees are looking for a difference.

"The essay has to show the Admissions Committee how you

will add to the diversity of the campus," Cipperly said.

An essay does not have to be expository, formal.

Cipperly said you are also invited to let them know who you are through other ways like poems, collages or cartoons.

If an experience is to be the topic, Cipperly said it should be the microcosm of the experience.

"It's not the experience itself. It is the reaction to the setback or reverence."

It is even okay to say that a person has tried but is not over a setback yet. In fact Cipperly said to stay away from happily-ever-after type of things. The essay is a tool

the counseling office for their scores to be released will be reported, Molyneaux said.

She said that the reason Central uses military test is because it is the best one.

Students take the ASVAB during their senior year to prepare them to make the plans they will have to make as seniors.

On the EXCELS Survey taken last year, students identified career exploration as their priority in their high school education.

They also reported that Central was doing a good job in this field.

When students receive their ASVAB scores they use the Occu-Find Booklet to find the careers that fit their ASVAB scores, interests, and work values.

Two-hundred careers are listed in the booklet. This booklet will help them determine careers that will fit them best.

**O**ne of them asked me to talk about my personal integrity.  
-- Sarah Fischer, senior

used to become aware of your own strengths and share that with others.

There are certain instructions which should be recognized. The directions generally specify whether it should be handwritten or typed.

Cipperly said that if there is no specification, typing says something about your presentation.

However, if it is to be handwritten, she said you should only use black ink.

Sometimes you have to use space which the application provides, but the length should not exceed 500 words, or two pages double spaced.

Cipperly said the average length is 300 words.

She said that though you should not write it the night before, you should also not write it and rewrite it repeatedly.

It is very important that it is well written and grammatically correct. Proofreading is a key to achieving this goal.

# Students teach students languages of the world

By Rachel Slosburg

Several Central students are returning to elementary school. However, not because they could not cut it in high school.

Instead, it is a result of their devotion to foreign language and helping the youth of the community-or, as they say in French--la jeunesse, learn a foreign language.

Students representing the languages including French, German, Latin and Spanish visit classrooms located throughout the Omaha Public School District and provide elementary students with a basic overview of a particular language.

In order to meet the elementary teaching requirements, students must have completed two years of the same language and are currently continuing their enrollment in the class.

Transportation and a workable class schedule are the two other major requirements. A student is responsible for getting to and from the designated elementary school.

The student must have his foreign language class and a study hall in two adjacent periods during the school day.

Students who have a foreign language class ninth hour and early release are also eligible for elementary teaching.

Students work in pairs; each student is given one partner to help plan the class time allotted each week.

The partners are obligated to teach six consecutive weeks. Each class time is one-half hour long, and the students prepare the learning material for the elementary kids every week.

The elementary schools mainly assign students to the intermediate grade levels: fourth through sixth grade, although, some

students teach to third graders.

Foreign Language Department head Daryl Bayer said that Central was the first high school to start an elementary education program.

"The program has existed for over 16 years because it was already in place before I started teaching at Central," Bayer said.

Over the years, Central students have taught at various elementary schools.

However, because Central joined the gifted education program, this year Central's school location has been limited to a certain area.

Students currently teach at Lothrop and Belle Ryan Elementary. Junior Corey McCallon said he enjoys teaching French to third graders.

"It is a great experience that both the kids and I look forward to," Corey said. "I remember having high school students teach a foreign language to me and it was the best part of the week."

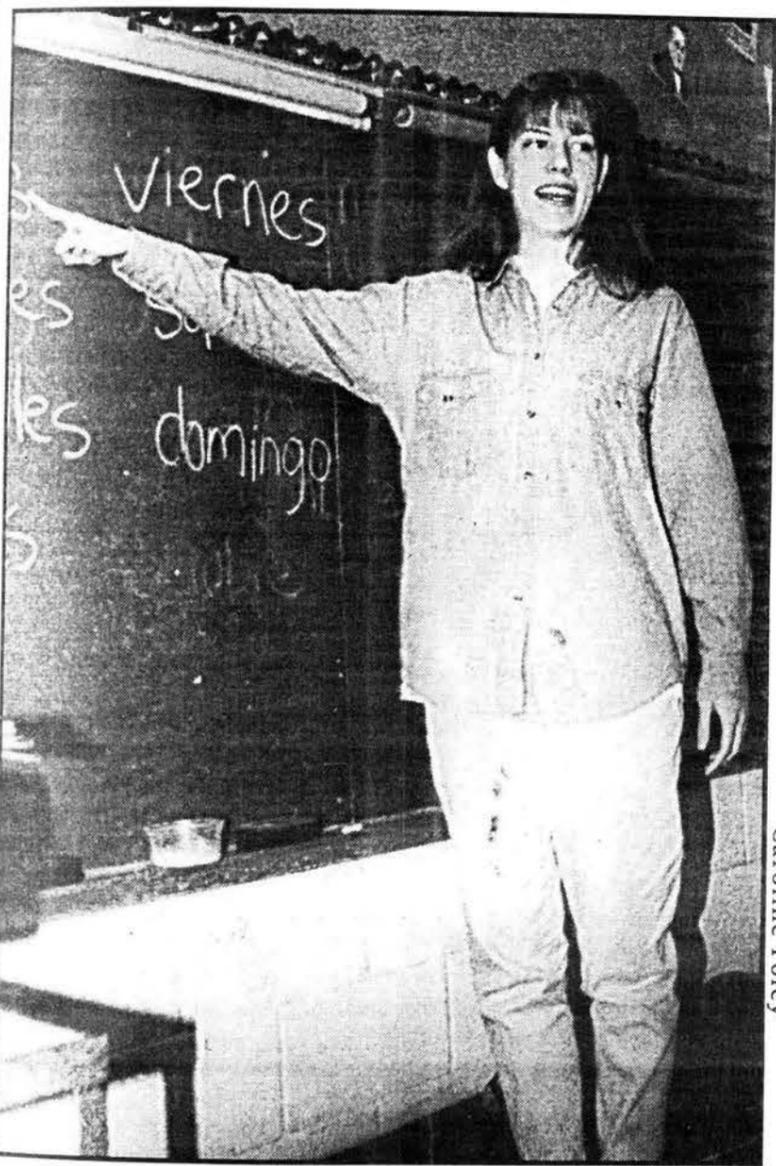
Corey said he has visited the kids three times and already taught them the alphabet, colors, numbers and greetings.

"My partner and I play games like around the world to help the kids remember the new words," Corey said.

Senior Anna Jane Kerns said she also enjoys teaching to third graders with her partner Sonja Shelstad at Lothrop Elementary.

"I realize that the kids will not retain all of the information, but it definitely gives them a good introduction of what to expect in high school," Anna Jane said.

"Teaching the kids forced me to think of creative ways to present the information and make it fun."



Caroline Foley

Senior Lisa Prosterman shows elementary students the basics behind the Spanish language.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pop machines help ease stress on funds at CHS

With budget cuts in the future for the Omaha Public School district, Central High School has found a way to pick up the slack here and there.

With the addition of many new pop and vending machines Central is bringing in some extra revenue each month that funds many things not possible before.

Dr. Gary Thompson, principal, said this extra money that Central makes off pop machines is nowhere near the amount of money that the budget cuts will take away.

"When these budget cuts are made, this extra money from the vending machines is going to help fund the little things that are important," Dr. Thompson said. Although this money will not be able to compensate for all the cuts in staff, it will help with supplies and events.

Central receives most of the profits from the money that goes into the Powerade machines every day.

"The money we make funds things like perfect attendance awards, the National Honor Society induction brunch and other items such as supplies for teachers," Dr. Thompson said.

### Music gears up for winter performances

The music department held its winter music performance on Monday, Dec. 16 and Tuesday, Dec. 17. The instrumental concert on Dec. 16 consisted of the Jazz Band, the Concert Band and the Orchestra. A few musical selections performed were "Green Sleeves" by the Concert Band and "Jazz Man" by the Jazz Band. A large audience viewed the concert on Monday. The vocal music department had its vocal concert on Tuesday, Dec. 17. The vocal concert consisted of the Acappella, the CHS Singers, and the Bel Canto Singers. A Honors Recital will be held on Jan. 13.

### CHS student has photography show

During the month of December, "Inspired By Artza," an exhibit of photographs taken by LeighAnne Brown, senior, will be on display in the Jewish Community Center gallery. The Jewish Community Center is located at 333 S. 132nd Street.

# Math Club cleans up at UNL Math Day

By Tim Hakanson

Two Central High School Math Club members won scholarships at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln Math Day on Nov. 14, 1996.

About 25 Central students competed in the contest that involved high schools from across the state. All of the participants began by taking a multiple choice test, called Probe I.

Later in the day, the scores were announced, and the students with the top 50 scores went on to take the Probe II test. On this test, eight questions were asked. Students were graded on their answers and the methods they used to find those answers.

Five Central math students got scores on the Probe I that allowed them to take the Probe II. They were seniors Andy Ochsner, Dakota

Bailey and Cori Mallenby, junior Sam Kruger, and sophomore David Rennard.

The scores from that test were added to the scores from Probe I to get a final score.

Two students from Central, Sam and David, placed in the top ten.

Sam received a \$4,000 scholarship to the University of Nebraska for placing fourth overall. He said that he left before the awards ceremony. He received the news from team member senior Omar Nazem.

"When I got home, Omar called and told me, and I was shocked," Sam said.

David received a \$2,000 scholarship to the University of Nebraska for placing tenth overall. He said that he had fun at the contest.

Only 25 of the 50 students who were supposed

to go actually went, Mr. Waterman, math department head, said.

The previous day, the forecast for the day of the contest was icy.

Waterman said that he did not want to take any chances, so the Central trip to Lincoln was cancelled.

"The weather was better the next day, but it was too late to change our minds," Waterman said.

About half of the students were determined enough to drive to Lincoln without a sponsor, and the weather did not get bad until the ride home, John Stacy, junior, said.

"I wish that they would not have cancelled it because we had to miss school, but we had fun," David said.

# New club sends CHS students into the past

By Tim Hakanson

There is a new club at Central this year. Central's History Club is in its early stages of development.

The purpose of the club is to make connections between history and modern times in a way that is not boring. Delaina Terhune, junior, and Delaina and junior Jen Sand-

came up with the idea to have a history club. It started as a joke in history class," Jen said. They would joke about watching different historical movies, such as *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*, in a fictional "his-

tory club." After discussing the idea with Ms. Vicki Deniston-Reed, social studies teacher and History Club sponsor, they realized that it could actually work, Jen said.

Deniston-Reed said some of the goals of the history club are to critique historical movies, take field trips to learn about local history, and listen to guest speakers.

She said that a trip downtown to learn about Omaha history is a very possible field trip.

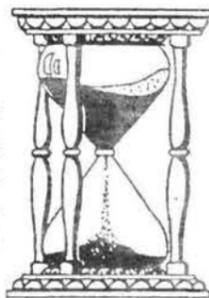
Mr. William Deardoff, Burke High School Teacher, does a Civil War reenactment. Deniston-Reed

said that he will hopefully be a guest speaker. Deniston-Reed said that the club is mostly student directed, and she is impressed with the leadership.

Jen said that there is a new president who will preside over each meeting, as well as a rotating secretary. The club is open to all students.

The majority of the club members right now are juniors who are taking world history, but there are

also a few seniors who are taking American history.



At meetings, members will do things such as watch and critique historical movies and play educational games such as Trivial Pursuit.

"The first meeting was more successful than expected," Jen said.

She said that 24 people showed up for the meeting.

In the future, she hopes to advertise the club by hanging posters and announcing meetings to the school.



By Caroline Foley

- School: University of Michigan
- Where? Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Percent male and female: 53 and 47 percent
- Number of applicants: 18,118
- Percent accepted: 45 percent
- Mean SAT: 490-600 verbal and 580-700 math
- Estimated tuition (including room and board): \$19,800 out-of-state
- Students involved in fraternities and sororities: 18 percent
- Most popular major: psychology

Miscellaneous information: The University of Michigan is a part of the Big Ten and its teams do well in most sporting events.

Because UM is such a large university, its academic programs are excellent.

UM's engineering, biology, chemistry and political science departments are particularly strong, but English and psychology are the most popular majors.

Many students claim that the compassion between each other is "cutthroat."

The graduation requirements vary from school to school. There are writing and English requirements for all undergrads.

Some courses enroll as many as 500 students, but these classes break up into 25 student sessions taught by teacher's assistants (TAs).

Many upperclassmen move off campus, either to frat houses or to many of the old houses in the surrounding area.

All information taken from *Insider's Guide to the Colleges*.

## Hoagland remains politically active

By John Gaskins

Former congressman Peter Hoagland, one of Central High School's most prominent and successful graduates, is still hard at work and involved in serving the nation, despite not being in the political spotlight.

Hoagland was Nebraska's second district House representative from 1989-1995. Today, he is an attorney at the Erant Fox law firm, one of the top law firms in Washington, D.C. The firm is directly involved with government regulations and orientation, which keeps Hoagland involved in politics.

Hoagland said he enjoyed his years in Congress and someday might consider running for public office again. He said the job was extremely important and demanded time, work, and commitment.

"You are on the run all the time," Hoagland said, "but I loved the opportunity to help build a healthy country and work through its problems."

The main functions of a congressman, he said, were helping and answering letters from constituents, becoming familiar with and voting on issues every day and serving on committees that discuss different issues. Hoagland served on the House Ways and Means Committee, the Banking Committee and the Interior Committee.

"Sometimes you have to make unpopular decisions, but you have to vote on what you think is right and benefits the people the most," Hoagland said.

The former congressman said the most important issue facing the nation today is the economy, and that President Bill Clinton has done an excellent job in turning the nation's economy around.

A Democrat and strong supporter of the Clinton Administration, Hoagland served on the National Finance Board of Directors, a committee that raised money for the Clinton campaign. He is a strong believer in the Democratic values of government involvement in the affairs of a nation.

"Republicans don't believe in government and want the government to get out of people's lives," Hoagland said. "Democrats traditionally believe the government can be instrumental in improving the lives of everyone, and that is what I believe in."

Another important issue in government, Hoagland said, is education. Hoagland said he believes in government funding for education, and supports Clinton's involvement with the issue. Hoagland said he received an excellent education at Central, and believes it was and still is one of the most outstanding academic schools in the country. He also said Central provides a great multicultural experience.

"When I was at Central, it was one of the best urban high schools in the nation," Hoagland said. "There was great racial and ethnic diversity and everyone got along well."

Hoagland said he was interested in politics in high school and always had aspirations of being a public official. He said that Central provided an excellent preparation for a political career.

After attending Stanford University and Law School, Hoagland came back to Omaha to serve as a lawyer for a small, independent firm.

Hoagland won his first election for public office in 1978 when he was elected to the Nebraska Legislature. He served two terms in the Unicameral from 1979-1981.

Two years later, when Nebraska's second congressional district seat was open, Hoagland jumped at the opportunity to run. After a grueling campaign, Hoagland was elected to Congress. Two successful campaigns came in 1990 and 1992, and Hoagland was becoming one of the most popular elected officials in Nebraska.

In 1994, Hoagland lost a down-to-the-wire election against businessman John Christensen. The loss was one of many in a year in which Republicans regained control of the House and Senate, marking the theme of change and new ideas.

Hoagland said his campaigns took a lot of time and work, but were worth it. He said the most fun parts of campaigning were advertising and debating.

An Omaha native, Hoagland said Nebraska was a wonderful place to grow up and work. He still remains in close contact with family and friends in the Heartland, and said there is always the possibility of moving back to Omaha.

"My family likes it in Washington, but I always thought Omaha was a great place to live," Hoagland said.

**I loved the opportunity to help build a healthy country.**  
-- Peter Hoagland

## Smoke-Out receives mixed reviews

By Brian Joseph

The Great American Smoke-Out was seen as a success by its organizers and a failure by much of the student population.

The Great American Smoke-Out, which is in its twentieth year, is a day when all smokers are challenged to stop smoking for one day. Other activities of the day included educating the public about the various effects of smoking.

Miss Cherie Barg-Humphries, Central's CAD design teacher who brought the Great American Smoke-Out to Central, said that the Smoke-Out's main goals were greatly accomplished. Barg-Humphries said that Smoke-Out succeeded in re-enforcing that smoking is not glamorous and generally raising the public knowledge about smoking.

Nikki Lopez, the tobacco control specialist at the American Cancer Society and one of the main directors of the Great American Smoke-Out in the Omaha metro area, also agreed that the Smoke-Out was extremely successful. "It promotes that if you can quit for one day, you can quit for life," Lopez said.

However, many students see it very differently. The general consensus among the student population was that it was ineffectual.

Junior Jaime Chrastil said that the Smoke-Out's goal of getting people to stop smoking for one day was unrealistic.

"No one is going to quit for a day," she said. Another common opinion amongst the students was that the Great American Smoke-Out was a joke. Many students sight that its name, "Smoke-Out," more suggestive about drug use than effective.

"It was a good laugh," sophomore Kathryn Schroeder said.

Even members of the student council, the main participants in the Great American Smoke-Out, said that they felt that the Smoke-Out was unsuccessful.

"It was not taken seriously," sophomore and student council member Jane Swirzinski said.

However, not all of the students said that the Great American Smoke-Out was a waste. Some thought it was a positive.

"It's a good program and a good message," senior Melody Maling said.

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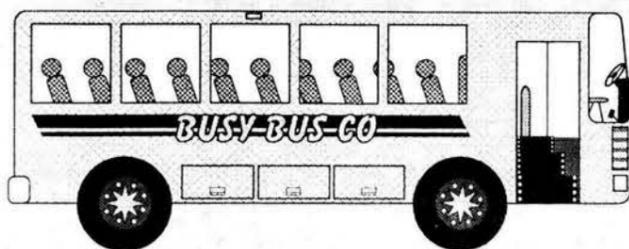
## DECA attends conference

Central's chapter of DECA (Association of Marketing Students) traveled to Minneapolis to attend the Central Region Leadership Conference.

This conference, which took place from Nov. 22-24, included a variety of learning activities as well as many fun events.

A total of twelve states participated in this huge meeting. Of the 3,500 people who attended this conference, 50 were from Central.

Mr. Harry Gaylor, a marketing teacher and a sponsor of the trip, said he was pleased with the turnout.



Throughout the weekend, students had the opportunity to hear inspirational speakers.

The opening keynote speaker was Mark Scharenbroich, whose presentation stressed the importance of participation and growth toward maturity during high school. Dan Clark and Harvey Alston each spoke about leadership, character and goal-setting on subsequent days.

Each student was expected to participate in six workshops each day. Each work-

shop lasted for about an hour.

Many companies sent representatives to Minneapolis in order to support education, Gaylor said.

For example, there was a workshop available at the conference that dealt with marketing a pro-basketball team.

The conference was also a good source for fund-raising ideas. There were all sorts of fund-raising companies present, selling everything from ties to computer software.

The DECA students from Central found the time during their trip to visit the Mall of America as well as a professional basketball game.

Senior Stacey Jelken

said that the best thing about the trip was "being able to room with people that you usually don't hang out with at school."

DECA has other activities planned for the near future. Districts will be held at Southroads Mall on Jan. 25. The business students will take two written exams and participate in one judged event. This event examines the students ability to solve business problems.

Approximately 200 business people from around the Omaha are volunteering to help with the judging.

## Alumnus owns bookstore, loves to read the merchandise

By Emily Martin

For one Central alumnus, having an English teacher read *A Tale of Two Cities* out loud in class heightened his own interest in books so much that he decided to run his own bookstore for in life.

Mr. Jeff Armstrong, Central High class of '73, now owns his own bookstore, called Pageturners. Even as a teenager, Armstrong showed an interest in reading. In a week he could read two to three books along with his school assignments.

Central Latin teacher, Miss Rita Ryan, remembers Armstrong from his days in high school. Armstrong's friendly nature helped him realize his wish in life was to serve the people by opening his own business.

"I always wanted my own store and I couldn't imagine a better store than this," Armstrong said.

With his store, Armstrong meets many different people. He said he credits Central for giving him a better understanding of the many different people in the world.

"Diversity was the best thing about going to Central," Armstrong said. "I was able to talk to people of any race or social status."

Armstrong said his favorite part of owning his own store is that he gets to meet interesting people. Some of the customers in his store are old acquaintances, like Ryan.

After graduating from Central, Armstrong attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln where he received a degree in business administration.

These days a person can find Armstrong sitting behind the counter at Pageturner's, reading.

"One perk of owning your own bookstore is having to read books to know the merchandise," Armstrong said.

## Dancer from Central performs in production of the Nutcracker

By Emily Martin

One Central student is dancing in the Nutcracker ballet produced by Ballet Omaha this holiday season.

Rebecca Renard, freshman, performs in this year's production of the Nutcracker. Her character, the Robinson daughter, is a girl who dances at a party in the ballet.

While Ballet Omaha produces the Nutcracker, the Dayton Co., from Dayton, OH, supplies the professional dancers needed for the production. Ballet Omaha provides the younger dancers for the ballet. These dancers are chosen based on their talents portrayed through auditions.

"I love being in the Nutcracker, it's especially nice getting to know the Dayton Co.," Rebecca said.

Working with a professional company gives Rebecca an inside look at the inner workings of a large company and gives her a new experience, she said.

"You have to be an intermediate or advanced dancer in order to audition," Rebecca said. "I thought it was a really easy audition."

Rebecca has been dancing for ten years, four years with Ballet Omaha.

"I love everything about ballet, including the long classes and rehearsals," Rebecca said. "I love being on stage the most."

This is Rebecca's first year participating in the Nutcracker. Here she gets to do what she loves, dancing on stage.

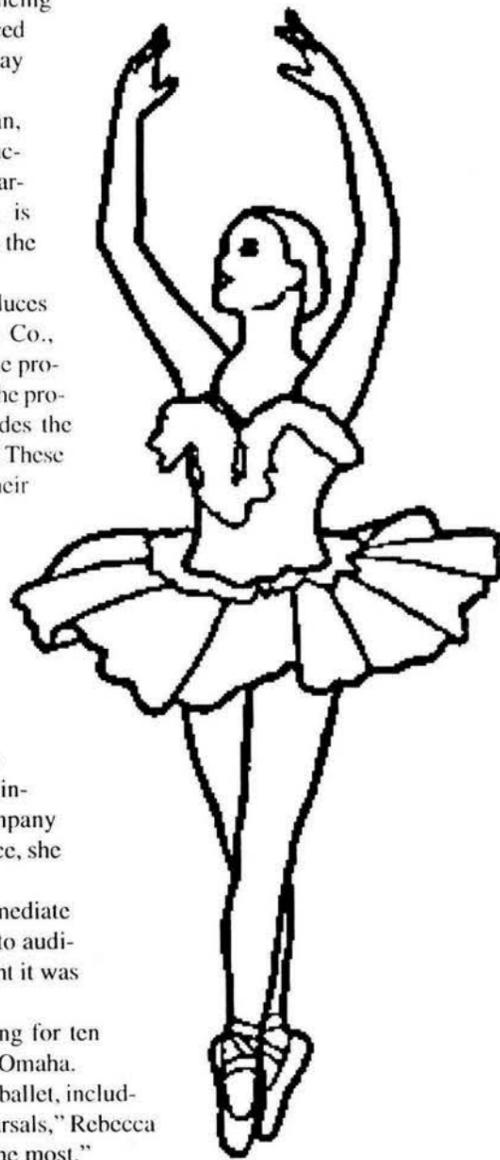
"One of the best parts about being in the Nutcracker is the large number of people who come to see it," Rebecca said. "It's exciting to dance in front of so many people."

Being in a production like the Nutcracker is not all fun and games though. Along with all of the positive aspects of the performance, there is still one thing Rebecca dislikes.

"The costumes in the ballet are really uncomfortable," Rebecca said. "That is the only really bad part about being in the Nutcracker."

When she gets older Rebecca is thinking of becoming a professional dancer.

"It would be fun to be a professional dancer, although it would be very competitive," Rebecca said.



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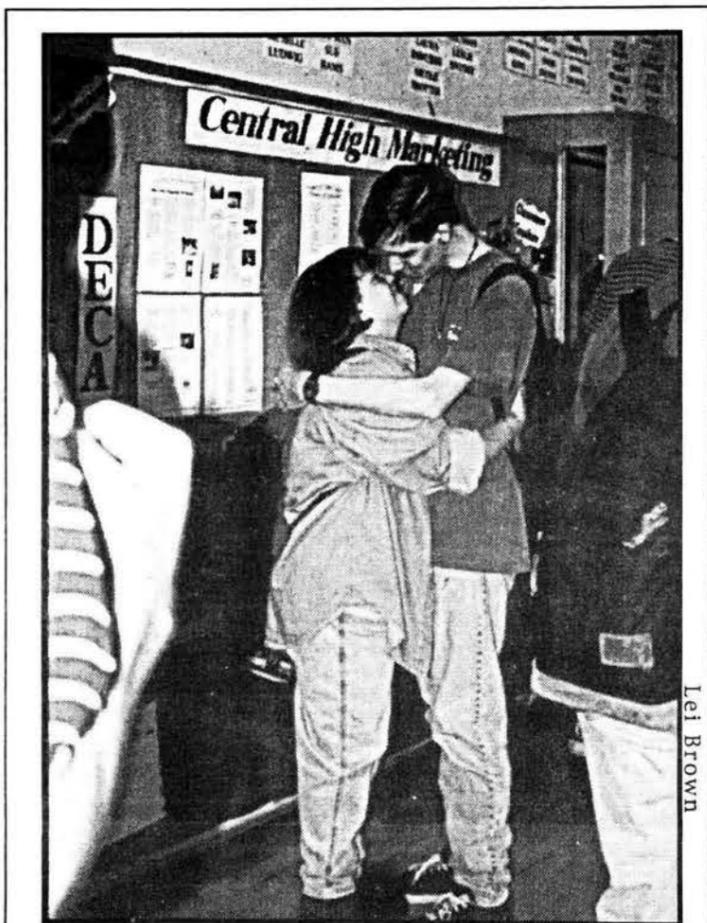
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# THE IDA

## PDA: A touchy subject



**Pucker up...** Seniors Nick Anderson and Paula Christiansen share an intimate moment in the halls during passing period before going to their next class.

By Rachel Slosburg and Erika Wulff

Public Display of Affection, PDA, is an issue of dating on which people's opinions differ.

Many Central couples show their affection for each other in between classes during the passing periods or at lunch. Oftentimes, students are seen holding hands, hugging or kissing.

Central's Assistant Principal, Mrs. Bernice Nared, said Central has its own definition and school guidelines on the topic of PDA.

Nared said a quick peck on the cheek or a short kiss on the lips does not classify as PDA at Central.

"Central does not have a problem with friends who peck each other on the cheek or a quick kiss on the lips; that is not PDA," Nared said.

"PDA is a deep, long passionate kiss or people petting each other in the hall."

Nared said Central does not condone the activity of PDA.

"It [PDA] is not and will never be acceptable in this school," Nared said.

She said the first time a student is turned in for PDA, both participants will have a conference with an administrator.

The second time the same students are caught for PDA, the administrator will have another conference with the students and a phone call to parents.

If the students choose to ignore the administrator's warnings and continue to show PDA in the hallway, the third offense would be a conference with both students, an administrator and the students' parents and the possibility of suspension.

"If seen, caught or turned in, we will visit with all parties involved," Nared said.

Nared said, on a more personally note, she does not think PDA is appropriate for the school.

Senior Nick Anderson and his girlfriend senior Paula Christiansen said they do not mind showing affection in public. Nick said he and Paula kiss approximately five times during the school day, or when they see each other in the halls.

"I think there is a certain extent to which I would go," Nick said. "I think French kissing is going too far."

Nick said he and Paula have dated almost a year and it was a long time into the relationship before either felt comfortable hugging or kissing in the halls or in public.

"I think my affection shows that I actually like this person and am not using her," Nick said. "The affection every once in awhile keeps the relationship strong."

Not all students and staff approve of PDA.

Seniors Carrie Walter and Cassy Koziol said some students' actions in the hallway are unnecessary and disgusting.

"If passing period is the only time people can find to grope one another, we will pay for their room at the Satellite Motel," Carrie and Cassy said.

Music teacher Mrs. Lyn Bouma said PDA is unnecessary at school.

"I think that students need to save that stuff for their private life," Bouma said.

Central marketing teacher Mrs. Vicki Wiles said, "There is an appropriate age, stage and place for those kinds of activities."

Math teacher Mr. Jim Harrington said he does not enjoy some of the scenes in the halls.

"A hug is fine, but prolonged intertwining is not a hug," Harrington said.

## Students say dating is dated

By Erika Wulff

"Dating is a part of adolescent development used as practice for future relations," Mrs. Kerry Timm, guidance counselor, said.

Relationships and dating become a big topic in high school.

A person can hear about who's dating who, at any locker, in any hall, classroom, rest room, or classroom.

As students begin to journey through adolescence, interest in relations with the opposite sex grows.

"It's nice to have someone there for you," Ian O'Donnel, senior, said.

Students said that dating today takes on a different role compared to the way their parents dated.

Promise rings and letter jackets no longer seem to be tokens of affection.

In fact, students said that they don't even date.

Contact with the opposite sex is rarely one on one.

"Instead we hang out in groups, go downtown, to restaurants or parties," Ian said.

Dating today seems to have taken on a more casual role.

The *Omaha World-Herald* published a story last October about the differences between dating of baby boomers compared to dating of the Generation 'X'ers.

The story illustrated how the formality of dating has decreased and how former dates are now simply rendezvous.

"It helps take the pressure off," Denise Ray, junior, said. "When you're with a group of people you don't have those awkward moments of silence."

Another aspect of dating is the "going steady" stage.

However, students said that that aspect is also extinct.

"Going steady is something our parents did," senior Willie Aponick said. "Being strapped down in a relationship is for marriage."

Casual relations with the opposite sex seem to fit in better with the lifestyle of teens today.

Hence, it appears that the drive in is out and hanging out is in for high school students.

### The H

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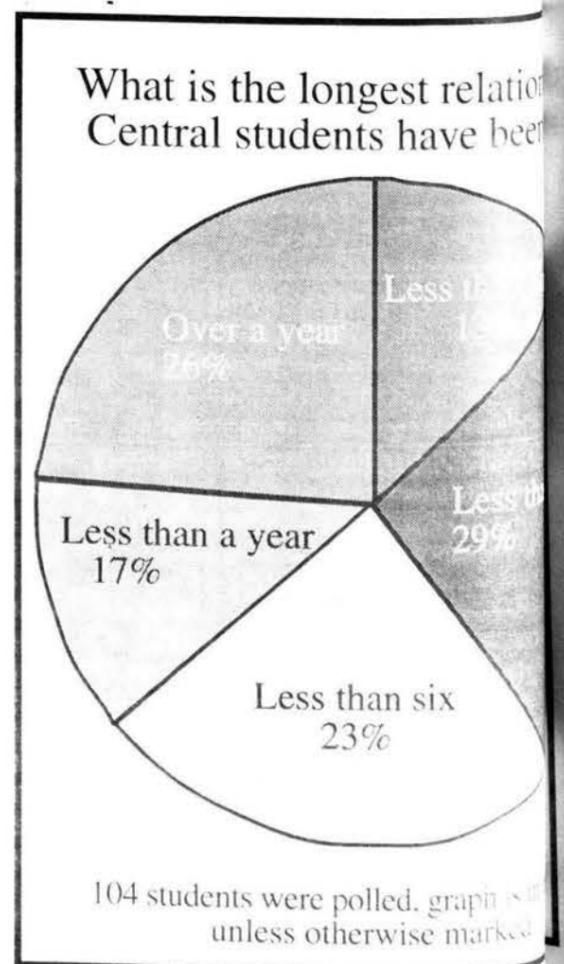
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# THE DATING GAME

■ Same-sex schools

## Teens seek dates elsewhere

By Rachel Slosburg

The dating game still exists, even if students attend a same-sex high school.

The following students who attend same sex high schools were interviewed and asked their opinions on the advantages and disadvantages of relationships at their schools.

Kari Jenkins, junior at Marian; Katie Wulff, senior at Mercy; Drew Gerken, senior at Creighton Prep; Dan Mancuso, junior at Creighton Prep; and Matt Mancuso, senior at Creighton Prep.

**QUESTION: What is your own dating situation, or how do you spend your weekends?**

**ANSWERS:**

**Kari-**"I mainly hang out with guys from Prep on the weekends."

"Freshmen year, I met a lot of different guys at football games, basketball games and dances." "However, it wasn't until the end of my sophomore year that I formed a close group of guy friends."

"I am currently seeing a junior from Prep and my weekend plans have expanded to parties at peoples' houses and movies."

**Katie-**"I have a set group of friends with whom I socialize."

"Many of the girls at Mercy have boyfriends from other schools, it is not hard to meet guys."

The boys agreed with the girls on the topic of relationships.

**Drew, Dan, Matt-** The boys said going to an all guy high school has not restricted their girl friends.

**Matt-** "I have had several different girlfriends during my four years of high school," Matt said.

"Right now I am not dating anyone in particular."

**QUESTION: What is the major beneficial difference between a coed and same-sex high school?**

**ANSWERS:**

**Dan-**"I think the primary advantage of a same-sex high school is my ability to focus on academics while I am at school during the day and then concentrate on my social life after school and on weekends."

"When I arrive at school at 7 a.m., my priority is not what I look like," Dan said.

"I can really intensify on my school work and it makes the weekends even more exciting."

**Matt-**"I like going to school without worrying what the girls think of me."

it can become all the harder for that person to establish his own identity.

According to Johnson's book, children often blame themselves for divorce.

Timm said that as children become older, in their teenage years, they often intellectually know that the divorce was not their fault, but emotionally still feel some responsibility. They often try to justify the divorce.

Senior Chad Jacobson said that his parents were divorced when he was eight years old.

"I felt betrayed by my parents," he said.

He said that he felt betrayed because he had no say in where he was to live and who he was to live with.

While young children usually do not understand why their parents divorce, maturity can sometimes help teenagers understand why, Timm said.

"They are still hurt by the divorce and find it hard to accept," Timm said.

She also said that if the marriage situation was awful for the child, he or she may find it a relief when

it ends.

Chad said that divorce can be necessary because a prolonged bad marriage can hurt a family.

Divorce can also have an effect on children's and teenager's views of relationships and marriage, Timm said.

"They look at their parents and expect them to be together forever," Timm said.

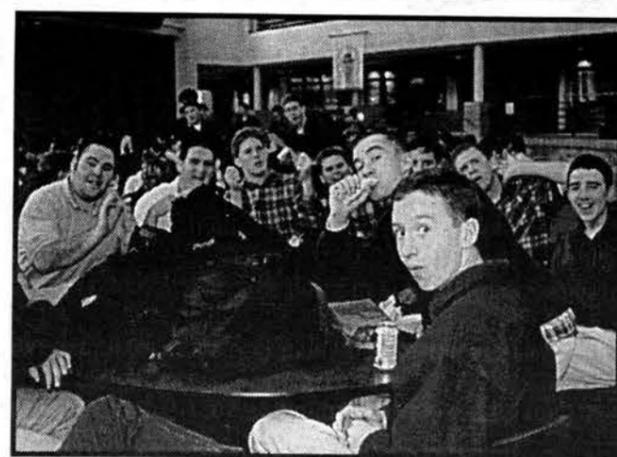
She said that when this does not happen, it often reflects on the child's own view of marriage.

Children of divorced parents do not always have a negative attitude toward marriage because the breakup in their parents' relationship can cause them to be more careful with their relationships.

Chad said that divorce is common because people are rushing to get married too early and are getting married for security, money and sex.

People are still making the commitment to get married, but according to a guidance pamphlet, more than one third of the marriages in America end in divorce.

Over half of those divorces involve children.



What's missing? Prep students must learn to adapt to a girl-free environment. They must find time outside of school to hang out with girlfriends.

"It is more relaxing, but I am definitely not going to an all-guy college."

**Kari-**"I enjoy not having to impress the guys or see them everyday at school."

"I like being able to just hang out with the girls and center my attention to my class subjects," Kari said.

**QUESTION: What do you miss most about a coed high school?**

**ANSWERS:**

All the students said that attending an all girl or guy high school is not a disadvantage.

However at times they said it would be great to socialize with friends of the opposite sex during the school day.

**Kari-**"I miss seeing the guys and sharing classes with them."

"Sometimes it seems I don't really get to see my guy friends until the weekend," Kari said.

**Drew-**"I would like the girls to be able to help me with my homework."

"I need the girls' brains to aid me with my hard classes," Drew said.

## Divorce splits families, hurts teenagers

By Tim Hakanson

Divorce can be a time of great difficulty and change for children of any age.

Teenagers, as well as younger children still have problems when their parents' divorce, Ms. Kerri Timm, Central's personal/social counselor said.

Forty-eight percent of Central students have divorced parents. This statistic is based on a survey of five percent of every class.

According to *Divorced Kids*, a book by therapist Laurene Johnson, children suffer a variety of responses to divorce. These may include sadness, feelings of abandonment and isolation, confusion and disorientation, feeling torn between parents, feeling forced to grow up quicker and codependency.

Johnson said that the emotional scars of a divorce on a child may take years to heal, and may never fully heal.

Timm said that teenagers can suffer from identity problems when their parents are divorced.

She said that teenagers are usually trying to establish their identities.

When their family situation becomes difficult and changes,

When their family situation becomes difficult and changes,



# Entertainment

## December 20, 1996

### Manicuring, acrylics find popularity among students

By Carolyn Bullard

In the past, fingernails have been regarded with little consequence other than an occasional file and a layer of nail polish.

No longer is the maintenance of your finger-tips limited to the basics. With the rising trend of fingernail art and designs, many Central students say that they are finding their creative nails a necessity.

How does one go about getting these art-filled nails? Brandi Zajic, junior, said that she goes once a week to get her nails done at Hollywood Nails on 72nd Street. At this time she gets fills, which consists of the filling in of the base of the nail where the real nail has grown out.

"This usually costs around \$18," Brandi said.

She then has her nails painted, once with nail polish, and then by airbrush, in the design of her choice. This costs around \$5 to \$8 for both hands. It is much more expensive, though, if you wish to have your nail designs hand painted, which costs \$5 per nail at Hollywood Nails. As you might believe, it gets expensive.

"I used to get my nails done every week, but it got way too expensive," Liz Honig, Senior said.

At U.A. Nails in the Westroads a full set of acrylic nails costs \$30. This cost includes the nail art, if desired. Again, for

handpainted designs, it is \$5 per nail. A silk wrap, which strengthens and repairs broken nails, is \$15.

It doesn't stop at nail designs. There are imitation jewels available to be glued to the nail, or you can get your nails pierced with little rings, Brandi said. Brandi said that she, like many people get flowery designs airbrushed on their fingernails.

"Boys like them," Pam Williams, junior, said. Pam currently has "Playboy Bunnies" stenciled on each fingertip.

When several young men were asked if they liked painted fingernails, most gave the same reply.

"I really don't pay attention to girls nails as long as they're not all bitten down and disgusting," Aaron Hill, Junior, said.

Junior Brandee Shirley had yet another reason.

"I bite my nails and have really short nails naturally. With long, decorated nails I am less likely to bite them," Brandee said.

Out of those asked to identify the best nail salon, many different answers were given. Most thought that the quality of the nail job had more to do with the individual doing the nails rather than the actual store. Some said that if a good nail artist changes salons, the clients will follow.



### Virtual reality dizzies users

By Brian Joseph

Poor, nauseating graphics and no originality makes Tilt's virtual reality arcade game a waste of time and money.

I expected to be transported to another world when I played the Tilt's virtual reality game, "Zone Hunter."

With paying a charge of \$3, this "miracle of technology" game.

My first impression was of total dismay. The graphics were simply horrible. The color was pale and bland. Everything had a flat looking. There was no dimension to the objects encountered in this game.

To move through this "reality," I did not have to physically walk. All that I had to do was press a button to move about. I was especially disappointed me. The whole point of virtual reality is that it is more like reality. Personally, I do not have to press a button to walk.

Another disappointing aspect was that when I attempted to turn my head to look to the left or to the right, I became extremely dizzy. The game lacked any fluidity. When I turned my head was as though everything in front of my eyes "jumped." This was so disorienting that when the game finally ended, I had trouble standing up straight.

With all its immediately noticeable flaws, I still had faith that this game would become interesting. It never did. "Zone Hunter" consisted of walking through various corridors shooting at robots. "Zone Hunter" was more tiresome than fun.

Virtual reality has been a buzz word the last few years. It is anonymous with incredible technology. I expected the unbelievable when I went to Tilt. It was unbelievable. Unbelievably horrible.

## Hip-Hop adds to Clinton remixes

By Rebecca Starr

George Clinton is at it again with the inaccurately named *Greatest Funkin' Hits*. It's better than great, it's marvelous.

This is another groovable album from the king of funk himself, Clinton, who combines the jiving sounds of the oldschool with big name newschool rappers. With enough featuring artists to fill the People's Choice Awards and remixes that could put the originals to shame, Clinton's new album is a different sound than others.

Like everything Clinton has ever touched, this album turned to gold and gave us all a fresh look at some of the funk classics as well as new perceptions of some other artists.

He kicks off the album with "Atomic Dog" (Dogs of the World Unite Remix) which features Coolio doing a Snoop Doggy Dog sort of thing. I know that most people don't see how a rap star like Coolio could fit into the stylings of true funk so well, but it really works and it works so well that they threw a second feature artist, Shorty, in on this one, too. In fact, he likes this song so much that he puts in a second remix of the

original version. But who can blame him, it is a great song.

The next song is "Flashlight" and this one has so many featured artists that the voice that I could define were the mumblings of Busta Rhymes, not to mention the efforts of Q-Tip, Ol' Dirty Bastard, and the sounds of Parliament Funkadelic.

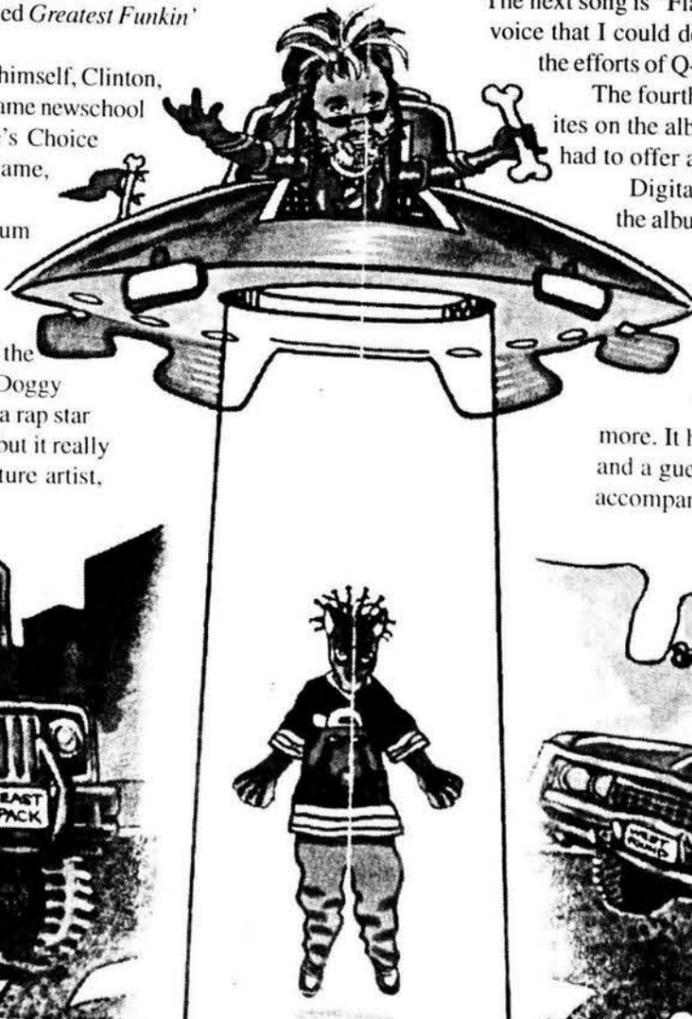
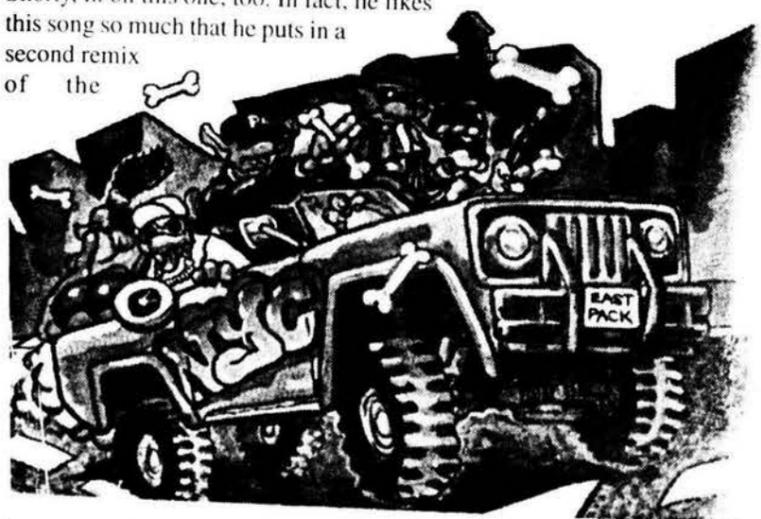
The fourth track, "Bop Gun" (Old Nation Remix), was one of my favorites on the album. The stylings of Ice Cube added to everything the original had to offer and I was impressed.

Digital Underground lent their handy work to "Knee Deep" in the album and the bonus track. The Midnight Mix and Deep as a M... Funker remixes show how different two versions of the same basic song could sound.

With all of the excitement who could forget "Do It Right" (Go With that Shake) (Know What I'm Saying Remix) featuring guest artists, just the real funk with a catchy name.

The album had all the kicks that an album should have. It had great sounds, artists and best of all it had George Clinton and a guest appearance by the Parliament Funkadelic, who chose to accompany him through the rest of the album.

Just a suggestion, everyone should own a piece of this funk mothership. Maybe all you hip hop fans could trace your roots back to the roots.



# Happenings



**December 29**  
**The Urge**  
**Ranch Bowl**

**January 15**  
**Smashing Pumpkins**  
**Civic**

**January 19**  
**Goldfinger - Ranch Bowl**

**January 24**  
**Chris Durte**  
**Ranch Bowl**

**January 27**  
**Social Distortion**  
**Sokol**

## Novel defaced by stage

By Carolyn Bullard

"One flew east, one flew west, one flew over the cuckoo's nest."

These words were sung aloud at the Omaha Community Playhouse as director Carl Beck presented the play *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, based on the novel by Ken Kesey. Lacking depth, the show proved to be less than satisfying.

The plot, which takes place in a mental institution on the west coast, is the story of a rebel committed to the asylum, who makes it his goal to drive the head nurse crazy. All along insights are given from another patient, Chief Bromden. Bromden is apparently both schizophrenic and a deaf mute.

Though funny, the show was rather disappointing. In comparison to the book, the characters were some what one-dimensional and stereotypical. Randle P. McMurphy, the rebel rouser and

newcomer to the institution, was played by the former *Sweet 98* disc jockey G. Rockett Phillips, of the famed "Rocket in the Morning" radio show.

Phillips could rile the stage with his loud obscenities and obnoxious attitude, but were it not for his incessant rambunctious behavior, the audience would have fallen asleep in the first 15 minutes.

More upsetting than that, the play was even too centered more around the happenings of the ward and the oddities of its patients rather than on Chief Bromden, the main character. In the novel, Bromden's thoughts are essential to the profound meaning in the book. Instead, the play focused more on making the crowd laugh.

The sad thing, and the most disturbing part of the entire play, was that much of the show seemed to be a huge mockery of the mentally ill. That is what caused the crowd to laugh. A novel about the thoughts and feelings

of human beings was turned into a play which used the mentally ill to get an easy laugh. Parts of it were genuinely humorous, but others relied on the crowd's insecurities to furnish the laughter. This is not necessarily the fault of the author or the director, but does have something to say about the audience.

The acting did not seem very serious. The one exception was the part of Billy Babbit, a young man suffering severe depression, played by Karl Rohling. Rohling bettered the play by giving Billy Babbit depth. Babbit was real, while the rest of the actors sat on stage giving a bland impersonation of what they perceived to be "crazy."

It must have been a very difficult play to write due to the original plot being based on the perceptions and thoughts of a man who does not talk. Even with that in mind, the play was a disappointment. As usual, read the book.

## Star Trek blazes into another hit movie

By Sam Achelpohl

Dazzling special effects, first-rate acting and sinister villains have proved that one of the most beloved legacies can still boldly go where no one has gone before.

"Star Trek: First Contact" is taking the adventures of the starship Enterprise to the edge of their seats.

The adventures of the starship Enterprise continue as the crew clashes with their long-time adversary, the Borg, a cybernetic race that takes all the living beings they can get and converts them into robotic slaves.

The crew of the Enterprise are there, of course, to stop them at all costs from destroying the Borg's ultimate goal, Earth.

Great performances were turned in by all the Enterprise crew as well as a few others. Michael Stewart, who plays Captain Jean-Luc Picard, is wonderful as the vengeful captain

bent on protecting the human species from extinction.

Brent Spiner is excellent as Data, the curious android aspiring to become more human.

The original cast of "The Next Generation," which includes Michael Dorn as Worf, LeVar Burton as Chief Engineer Geordi LaForg, Marina Sirtis as Counsilar Troi and Gates McFadden as Dr. Crusher all present great performances, as well as Alice Kringer, who plays the wickedly evil Borg queen.

Jonathan Frakes takes on the task of both directing and acting as he plays Commander William Riker, first officer of the Enterprise.

The marvelous special effects and visuals are out of this world.

Space battles between the Borg and the

Enterprise glimmer with phasers and photon torpedoes shooting through space.

The story begins with the release of the newest and most spectacular of the Enterprises, since the last one was destroyed in "Generations".

The Borg are yet again attacking Earth and one ship is the only thing to stand in their way. (It will help a lot if you have some background in the Star Trek world.)

The Enterprise must go back in time in pursuit of a Borg ship trying to change Earth's past in the 21st century by disrupting humanity's first contact with aliens.

Humans first contact with extra terrestrials comes when a scientist named Zeffram Cochrane builds the first warp drive (ability to travel at the speed of light).

The aliens (who are Vulcans by the way)

realize that humans have the ability to travel beyond our solar system so they initiate contact.

The Borg attempts to destroy both Cochrane, played by James Cromwell, and his idea so that first contact is never established and the timeline is sent into disarray.

The Enterprise engages the monstrous Borg ship and somehow the Borg are able to come aboard the Enterprise and take it over.

The ensuing rush of events for the Enterprise crew to both defeat the Borg and convince Cochrane to go ahead with his warp drive experiment is as exciting as it gets. With "First Contact", the Enterprise crew has exploded back onto the big screen with the style that trekkers have been accustomed to for years.

Without a doubt, the newest of the trek films does not shun the image of the legacy.

# Turf Talk

By Les Anich



## On the road without Farley

The no. 6 ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers will have to go forth to the FedEx Orange Bowl instead to the Sugar Bowl and this time, for the first time in three years, are not in contention for a NCAA championship title. Like the past two games, the Huskers will have to redeem themselves without star linebacker Terrel Farley.

All the seniors, except for Jon Vedral who was also busted for drunk driving, only have one more game to redeem themselves from the loss in the Big 12 Championship.

Are the Huskers better off without him? From what I can tell, they are not as explosive as they were in the past with Farley on the field. They lose a lot of spontaneity without him.

Well, he's not coming back. He's long gone. There's no more Mr. INT on the Blackshirt's roster. Still, the Huskers can do without him, but they would be better off if he was still on the team. Better off, what if he didn't take his second chance for granted or what if he didn't get caught for drunk driving or resisting arrest or damaging private property? You just wonder what could be for the Huskers if he was still on the team.

Just say "What if?" What if he stopped drinking alcohol. What if the second was his first incident? We all have questions in our heads, but not any more than his teammates and coaches do, especially Head Coach Tom Osborne.

Coach Osborne took the proper steps in accepting Farley back on the team after the first incident. He made the right decision in suspending him from the team after the second incident.

Luckily for Farley, the University of Nebraska will continue to support him in his education.

But we know for a fact that the most talented Nebraska defense in school history must go on to the Orange Bowl. Farley must be left behind, not on the sidelines, but completely out of one of the greatest football programs in the nation.

Dreams do come to the very talented, but those who have the talent but not the dedication to the sport or life itself will instead have nightmares about their dreams fading away.

Farley is a great example of one of the very talented who wasn't dedicated to the game. His bright future in the National Football League is very bleak because of his uncontrolled drinking behavior. This incident may swing the NFL scouts' thoughts.

NFL teams do not need linebackers, especially ones who have a drinking problem. They want runningbacks and quarterbacks.

How many chances do you need to break a habit? Two? Three?

Farley was given two chances and he took his second one for granted.

He had it all, but he was the one who didn't want the help. All he did was brush his problems off his back. He didn't control it, so it controlled him.

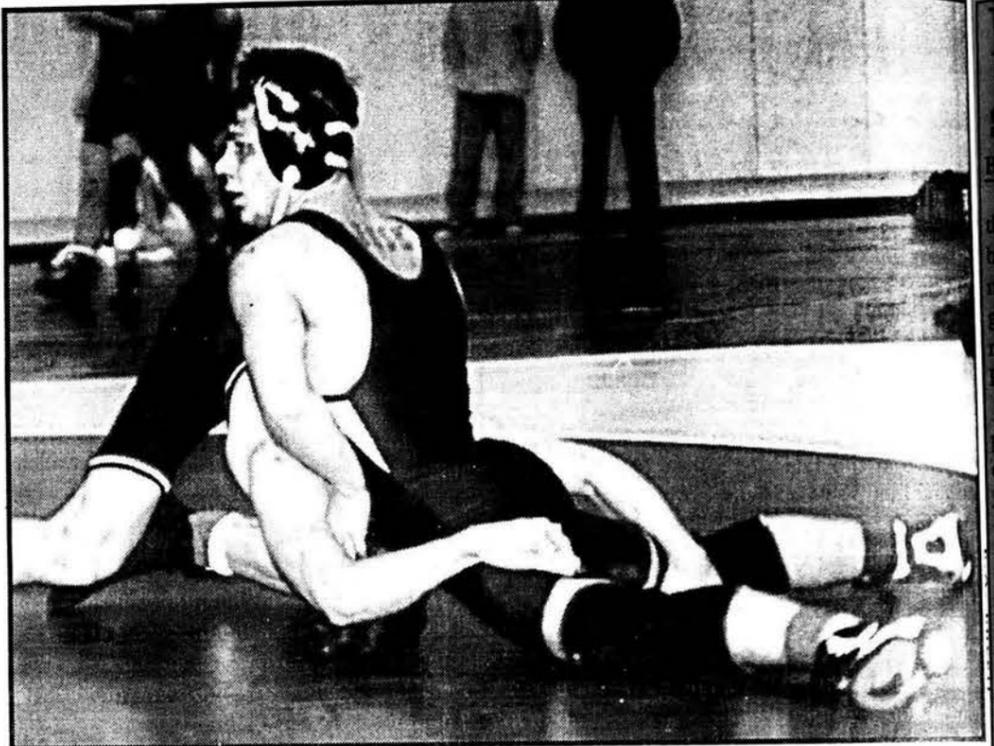
The Huskers lost a great player in Terrel Farley, but it wasn't the team who lost, it was Terrel losing himself and losing his team. A team that has been there for him on and off the field. The problem was he didn't care. He abused the team's respect and the program's credibility.

Will the results of the Blackshirts' performance decrease with the lack of Terrel Farley?

Not a chance. Mike Minter is a superb athlete and has stepped up to fill the vacant spot with excellence.

With or without Farley, the Blackshirts will dominate any team in the country, but only on a good day. They're usually on a rampage. The Blackshirts should have crumbled the Longhorns and the Buffaloes for being snubbed from the All Big-12 first team. Only three from the Huskers' defense made the first team.

The Huskers will use that and the loss to Texas to motivate themselves for the Orange Bowl against Virginia Tech with or without Farley and Vedral.



**Pinned him:** Senior Vito Agosta pins down a Benson wrestler at the Vern Elkfelt Tournament held at North High School.

## Wrestling opens season with victories

By Les Anich

Two varsity wrestlers won their weight class at the Vern Elkfelt Tournament at Omaha North on Dec. 6, and one finished as runner-up to a two-time national winner.

Senior Vito Agosta defeated Omaha Benson's Lowell Brownfield, 7-3, at the 130 lbs. weight class.

This is the first match that Vito wrestled at 130 pounds instead of 119 pounds which he wrestled at for the past three years at Central. He pinned Omaha North's Nico Miranda in the semi-finals.

"It's a lot more beneficial for me and for the team if I wrestle at 130 lbs.," Vito said. "I feel a lot better and healthier at this weight level than my previous weight class."

Head Wrestling Coach Gary Kubik said that Vito can wrestle at whatever weight he feels good at, but as long as he wrestles in at least fifty percent of his duals at that weight class to qualify for state.

In the 189 lbs. weight class, senior Ladarius Murry defeated Clark High School's Willie Douglas, 3-1, in overtime.

Ladarius said he feels a lot more comfortable this year in his third year than his first couple of years.

Ladarius said Willie gave him one of the toughest matches in his high school career.

"He gave me a great challenge, but most of the matches in the big tournaments are tough. I feel very good about this season," Ladarius said. "I know that I am good, and I know that I get a little bit cocky and arrogant when I get on the mat, but I think it works to my advantage."

Ladarius said he knows that he is in contention for the state title and that his experience and "cockiness" will be a major factor in winning a title.

Junior Josh Buckles, 103 pounds, was defeated by Westside's Brad Metzler.

"Brad is a two-time national winner and he is only a freshman," Josh said, who wrestled with a knee injury.

Josh said that by the time the State Tournament comes around Feb. 1997, he will be able to beat Brad and go on to win his first title.

Coach Kubik said that he agrees with Josh because the national winner won his title in style wrestling.

"I have the advantage in school wrestling which is different than what [Brad] is used to," said.

Coach Kubik said that three have a definite chance of winning a state title or at least placing second in their respective weight class.

"I have no doubt in my mind that they could win their respective weight class," coach Kubik said. "They have improved so much in the past couple of years."



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## Bowling teams expect a successful '96-'97 season

By Sam Achelpohl and Les Anich

Central's bowling teams have begun their season with a chance to rebuild and become a part of a winning atmosphere. The men's team has begun their season with a great start by taking first place in the Fremont Tournament, Head Bowling Coach Paul Blazeovich said.

Teams from all over Nebraska participated in the first state bowling tournament of the year. Omaha Gross, Columbus, Bellevue West and Lincoln East are just a few of the competitive teams that Central faced on November 22 and 23.

"We had some tough competition up here," coach Paul Blazeovich said. "We usually have a tough time with Gross, and both of the Bellevue teams."

Central was one of twenty teams participating in the tournament that was held at Plaza Lanes in Fremont.

The Eagles, who were seeded no. 2 going to the first place match, came back from third place finish on Saturday to win the tournament by defeating Columbus in the championship match.

"We knew that we could win the whole thing," senior Jason Michalaak said. "All we had to do was bowl smart and make just a few mistakes."

Coach Blazeovich said he believes that this is only the beginning to what he believes will be a very successful year.

"They've got a shot at the state championship as long as they play as a team," coach Blazeovich said.

Senior Ryan Henkel said that this year's team has a very good chance of winning a

third straight championship.

"This year is going to be no different from the last two," Ryan said. "

Senior Doug Cap said the team has very high expectations this year and that they would be disappointed if the year does not go as expected.

On the other hand, the women's bowling team has no returning bowlers from last year. This season will be mainly focused on rebuilding a very young and somewhat inexperienced team for next year, coach Blazeovich said.

"They're a great bunch of girls and I think they will gain a lot of experience this year," coach Blazeovich said. "All I wish for the team is that they have a lot of fun, and that is all I ask them to do."

The women's teams faced a tough challenge on Dec. 10 when they bowled against Burke in their first match of the year.

"It was a disappointing loss because we didn't play as well as we could have," Sarah said.

With with no real base from last years team, most of the girls on the team are juniors and seniors who bowl on their own, but have never played on a team.

The varsity team include seniors Sarah Herzog, Kathy Benson and Rachel Philbin and juniors Julie Weston, Heather Anderson and Amy Bacome.

"Most of us are here just to have fun and hopefully develop friendships and a sense of team unity," Sarah said.

With the bulk of the season approaching, both teams seem to think they will have a very successful season.

## Swim team reigns victorious in first meet

By Sam Achelpohl

Central's swim team opened its season with a victory over Bryan High School at its first meet on Dec. 10.

With first place medals all around for Central, the Eagles dominated Bryan. All the Central swimmers posted fast times and some that might be considered state qualifying times, such as the 200m Medley relay.

"With the times we had from this first meet, many of us should qualify for state in both individual and relay events," senior captain Zach Johnson said. "We completely took control of the meet."

The team posted almost perfect scores over Bryan and took all the first place medals in every event.

Miss Kathleen Laughlin, head swimming coach, was very pleased with the outcome of the meet and said she

hopes it will reflect on the results the team will have the rest of the year.

"Bryan had some good swimmers but they just didn't

Coach Laughlin also said that she thinks many Central swimmers will qualify for state

"A lot of the girls were only three or four seconds away from state qualifying," she said.

Zach Johnson said that the coaching from both Laughlin and assistant coach Steel, a teacher at Norris Jr. High, has been very helpful in preparing for the season and upcoming meets.

"She's done a great job along with Coach Steel to help us get ready for the season," Zach said.

The victory over Bryan has made a mark upon this season and with tougher competition approaching, Central will be in for an exciting season and, hopefully, more victories to come.

have enough people to compete against us," coach Laughlin said. "When we compete against teams like Creighton Prep, Marian, and Millard South, we'll have some tougher competition."



Lift off: Senior Jeff Ludwig takes a dive during the meet against Omaha Bryan. Central won the all around over Bryan.

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# SPORTS



## We Cover Eagle Territory

### Men's basketball slams into season

By Mike Kelly

The Central Varsity basketball team opened its season with a win over Northwest on Dec. 6, but fell short on Dec. 7, losing a heartbreaker to Omaha Benson 78-73.

The fourth ranked Eagles had seven players score in the 71-45 win over Omaha Northwest.

Senior guard Galen Morrison led all scorers with 25 points. The rest of the Eagle scoring remained balanced with senior forward Brandon Myers contributing 11 points to the victory.

"It was a good way to open the season," senior forward Sam Farrington said. "We got a lot of people into the game and played fairly well on defense."

Central fell behind early and trailed by seven at the end of the first quarter.

"I think we were all a little nervous even though we've been through all this before," Brandon said. "The first game everyone is always rusty."

Central shook off a few first quarter jitters and gained control of the game in the second quarter. Central went on an 8-0 run to start the second quarter with key baskets by senior guard Ryan Behrens and senior forward Robert Jefferson.

"It was a tremendous effort on our part to take control of the game in the second quarter," Ryan said. "That is the way we should play all the time."

The second half was all Eagles. All players got into the game and seven players scored.

The next night the Eagles had their home opener against Benson. The Bunnies dominated the first quarter of the game hitting their first eight field goals.

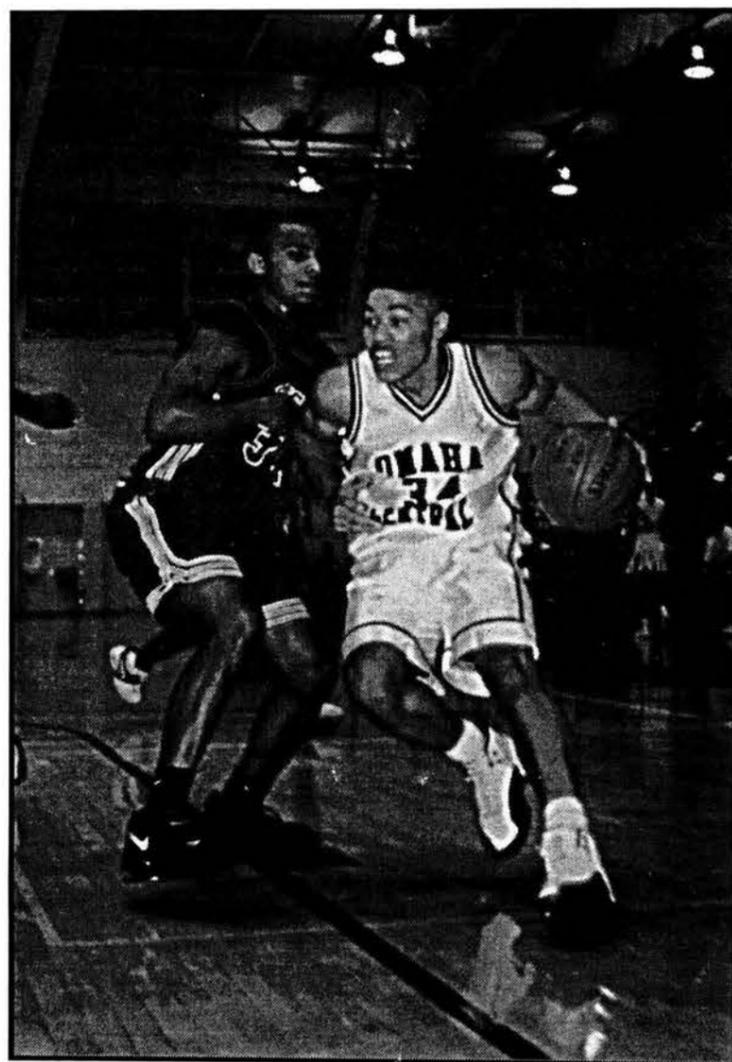
"Benson just shot the lights out," Ryan said. "We played decent defense, but they just would not miss."

Benson took a 15 point lead into the locker room, leading 43-28.

"At halftime we had to have a gut check," Brandon said. "It was the first time we had been down a substantial amount this season."

The Eagles responded to the adversity by pouring in 33 third quarter points and cutting the Omaha Bunnies lead to 4.

"I thought when we got that close that the game was



Lel Brown

Cutting through: Senior guard Galen Morrison drives to the basket. Galen led all scorers with 25 points against Omaha Northwest.

ours," Sam said.

The Eagles battled to tie the game in the fourth quarter and were trailing by two with 1:30 left in the game.

Ryan was called for a blocking foul and Benson hit the ensuing free-throws.

"The foul was questionable and it put us in a bad situation because we were forced to foul from that point on," Brandon said.

Benson hit four free-throws down the stretch and went on to win 78-73.

"I don't think anyone feels too bad about the loss because we showed we can come back and show how tough we are when we are behind," Brandon said. "Only next time, we will win."

### dy eagles expect to bounce back from losses

By Mike Kelly

The Central women's basketball team began its season with a pair of losses.

The 0-2 Eagles lost to Omaha Northwest 33-28 on Dec. 6 and 62-17 to Benson on Dec. 7

"We were very disappointed in our opening weekend," junior guard Joey Davis said.

"We thought we would do much better than we did."

Poor shooting contributed to the loss at Northwest. Central missed at least ten lay-ups during the course of the game.

"We just have to improve our shooting," senior forward Emily Broom said. "We were the better team."

A bright spot for the Eagles against Omaha Northwest was senior guard Liz Monaghan. Liz scored a career high 11 points in the game.

Central's stingy defense caused Northwest to turn the ball over 30 times.

"We played a very good game defensively," Liz said. "We just could not turn them into points."

On Dec. 7, the Eagles had their first home game at Norris Jr. High against the eighth ranked Benson Bunnies. Benson dominated from the start getting off to a 33-9 lead before halftime.

"We should have given them a much better game than we did," Emily said.

Senior Quiana Mitchem had 10 of the 17 Eagle points.

"I just wanted to make good shots and try and help the team," Quiana said. "I think we can improve a great deal as a team."

Despite the setbacks, the Eagles attitude remains positive during basketball practice.

Head Women's Basketball Coach Dave Felici said the team remains upbeat and ready for the weeks ahead.

"About all we can do is continue to practice hard, watch films and learn from our mistakes," coach Felici said.

"Two games does not make a season," Emily said. "We can't give up now, because the season will get better."

The Lady Eagles will play in the Holiday tournament starting on Dec. 21.

### Park skates in downtown Omaha

By Sam Achelpohl

Area downtown businesses are putting together idea of building a park based solely on the ability to skate freely in the downtown area.

Many teenage skateboarders have found it very difficult to skate in downtown Omaha due to tougher prohibiting skating in many locations. Although signs are posted in many places along the walls of General L. Mall and Heartland of America Park, many places do not have these warnings even though it is still illegal.

A solution to this problem has arisen as area businesses have worked with Omaha skateboarders in an attempt to reach a resolution.

Downtown Omaha Incorporated (DOI), one of Central's Adopt-a-School partners, has recently been working with the mayor and other city officials to put together a plan that will build a skate park by the area around 16th street.

DOI, composed of 160 downtown stores and businesses, is putting together a committee that will examine many ways to improve the appearance of 16th street, one of which is the idea of the skate park.

The committee, which has spoken with many Omaha teenage skateboarders, has become aware of the increasing problem with skateboarding in the downtown area. Keith Bigsby, former Central Business teacher, has been rallying support for the park.

"Lots of kids don't know that soon skateboarding will be illegal in most of the downtown area, and hopefully this park will give those skateboarders a chance to skate in downtown," Bigsby said.

A meeting was recently held between a few Omaha business people and students as to what kind of ideas could be recommended.

Colin Duggan, senior, was one Central student who attended the meeting.

"This idea is definitely a step in the right direction," Colin said. "How could you go wrong with an idea giving skaters a chance to skate in downtown without worry of police on your backs?"

Colin also said that although still in the planning stages, the park will make a large impact on the number of tickets being issued to skateboarders.

"It's come down to this: where the police can take you and take away your skateboard without giving you a chance to argue back," Colin said. "If skateboarders have a place to skate without any problems with the police, then they won't get a lot less tickets to write as well as a lot less boards to lose."

Alex Lund, senior, is a Central skateboarder who also thinks the park is a good idea.

"It will keep us out of trouble and still give us a place to skate where we won't get kicked out," Alex said.

## Departments

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Jump ball: Senior Quiana Mitchem fights for the ball with a Benson player. Quiana scored 10 of the 17 points for the Eagles.