

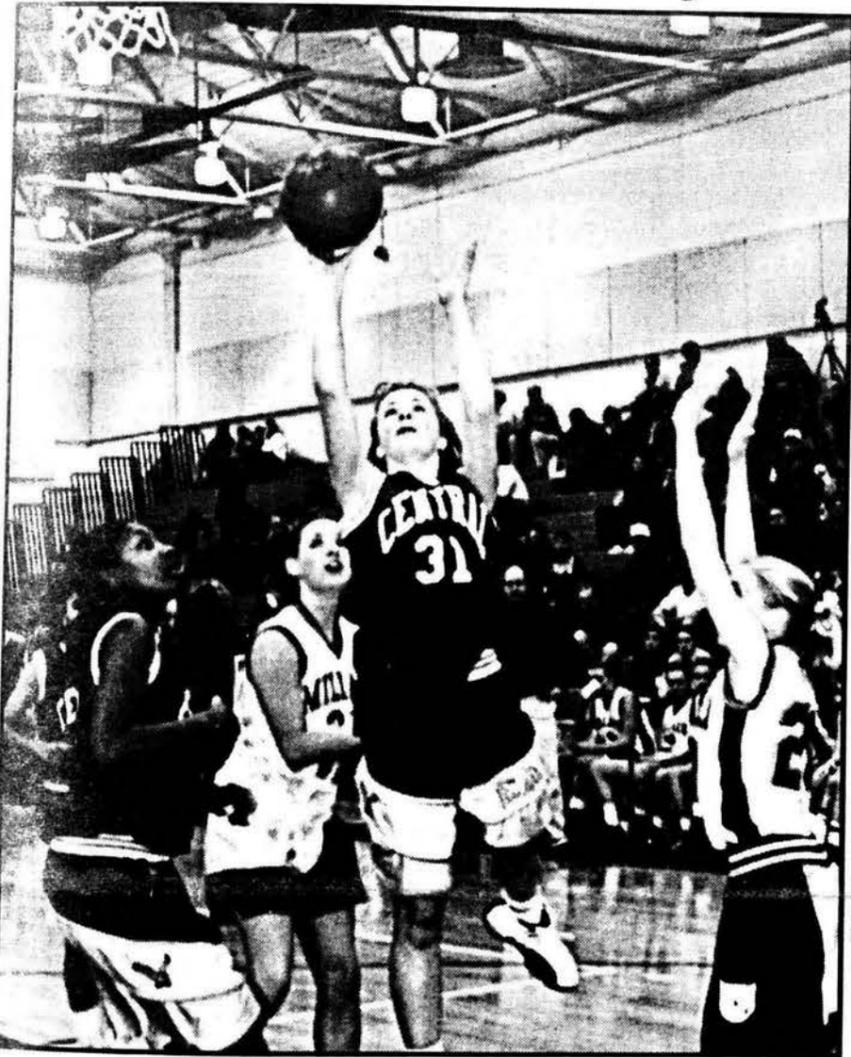
the Register

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



Senior dance, page 4

Up, up and away...



Lea Brown

Air Broom? Senior forward Emily Broom takes off, up and away from the Millard West defenders. The Lady Eagles beat the Wildcats 48-44 to earn their first win of the season. Emily led the team in scoring with 15 points.

Number of tickets declined, but death rate increased

By Lea Platz

Sergeant Rick Bell of Omaha's Traffic Section said that recently the number of deaths has increased on highway stretches, but the numbers of tickets distributed has declined. Both of these shifts occurred because of Nebraska's change in speed limits.

As of June 1, the rural parts of the interstate's speed limits increased from 65 m.p.h. to 75 m.p.h. Shortly ensuing this change, many two-lane highways also experienced a raise from 55 m.p.h. to 65 m.p.h.

"Thirty-nine more people died in 1996 than in the previous year, which put the traffic fatality rate at 293 people total for 1996. That is the highest fatality rate since 1989," Bell said.

During the same year in which the number of fatal interstate accidents elevated, ticketing saw a remarkable reduction. In the last year, there were almost half as many tickets given than in previous years.

Bell said that an increase in anything, when in the hundreds, is not necessarily as radical as it is made out to be when the difference is around

a number like 39.

Much of the manipulation of the statistics comes from the source presenting the material.

"Each cause, Moms Against Drunk Driving, seat-belt groups, anyone vehicular related will put a spin on different numbers to benefit themselves," Bell said.

This means that by the way the numbers are presented, they may appear more severe than they actually are.

Also, other factors such as fatigue, alcohol, drugs, failure to give the right of way and road design are often present in fatal car accidents. Bell said that the only time speed becomes a dangerous factor is when these elements are combined. This year alcohol was seen as a larger factor than usual with 13 more related deaths than in the last year.

"The amount of accidents which killed multiple people this year went up by 35 instances," Bell said.

Bell said that the estimated amount of tickets written yearly was around 100,000. This year the number did not even reach 50,000.

But the successful drop in the total number of tickets

issued is in a battle with the fact that more people have died since the reintroduction of the 75 m.p.h. speed limit.

Bell said that the speed limit used to be 75 m.p.h. until the economy could not afford to drive at such a speed. The speed was then reduced not because of a high interstate death toll, but because the amount of oil available would not permit cars to travel so fast. Bell said that the increase in deaths should be put into some sort of perspective.

"The increase that has been observed is not really as drastic as it appears," Bell said. "You have to take the numbers and statistics offered, and read them without the assumption that the increase in deaths has resulted purely from the speed.

The numbers of fatalities vary year to year, going up and then falling again and not necessarily being connected to one specific element, such as speed. The only truth to be stated, Bell said, was that crashing will inevitably become more dangerous when going at the speed of 75 m.p.h. But something still has to go wrong to cause the accident.

Former Central principal questions Omaha 2000 reports

By John Gaskins

The school-improvement program of Omaha 2000 reported progress in all areas of Omaha-area education and community involvement for the past year. However, these results have not convinced one former Central High School administrator that the program is headed in the right direction.

The Omaha 2000 project is a volunteer effort of Omaha-area educators, parents and business leaders geared towards evaluating and be-

coming involved in the quality of education of Douglas and Sarpy County school districts. It is part of Goals 2000, a national effort consisting of six goals for America's education to be hopefully reached by the year 2000.

Despite the effort of the project and its improved grades, Dr. Gaylord Moller, Central High's principal for 27 years until his retirement two years ago, has said he is skeptical about the program. In fact, he was so skeptical, he wrote an editorial in the Omaha World-Herald this past month criticizing the purpose and validity of the project.

Moller was most concerned with the fact that the project does not consider the possibility of forming a committee of competent business leaders who could devise a system that monitors and allocates the spending of money on serious, worthwhile programs to solve the problems of education. He said that it is an important way to find out if the school districts and the project are spending their money wisely, and that should be the focus of the program.

Mary Lynn Reiser, chairman of the task force and production of Omaha 2000's report card, responded by saying the program is a non-financed project whose focus is the evaluation of community involvement, not necessarily the work of the school districts.

"We are not grading the schools. This is an organization of hard-working volunteers who are making sure the community is doing its part to get the kids on track," Reiser said. "I think it is a great program and we are definitely making great progress."

The committee gave improved grades in all six areas, the highest being a "B+" in math and science achievement. A grade of "A" means that the goal has been achieved. Receiving the worst grade was the discipline and control of drug use and violence among students.

Reiser said that the grades improved because the committee believed that some new programs under the project have helped its progress.

One was the Safe Futures program, in which volunteers talk to students about their substance abuse

problems. Another improvement was in preparing children to learn before they enter school, with the help of the opening and improvements of area day care centers.

The report card is a benchmark for people to look at and think about, Reiser said, and that the project as a worthwhile catalyst to bettering the quality of Omaha education.

Moller was also pessimistic about the goals of the project, saying they are unrealistic and unachievable in some areas. He said he would not pay the extra cost to achieve them. For instance, he was troubled by Goal One (by the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn). He said that poverty-stricken children simply do not have such an opportunity.

He also said he believed a Goal Three (all students will leave grades four, eight and twelve having competency over challenging subject matter... and they will be prepared for responsible citizenship) is totally unachievable because of the loss of teacher and parental authority in this generation.

Another problem Moller had with Omaha 2000 was the improved

grades on the report card. He said that the committee is producing "poppycock, feel-good 'grades' that will have minimum impact on our community." He also cited admitted cynicism over the manipulation of statistics.

"The only valid purpose this project has is to give positive publicity to education," Moller said.

Reiser responded by saying, "The committee tried its hardest and did the best they could evaluating the community's involvement. We did not sugarcoat our results." Bill Moller said there are better ways to improve the quality of education, namely well-funded programs for underprivileged children. He said merely being aware and feeling good is not enough.

Reiser is a former Central High parent and P.E.P. advisor under Moller's administration. They both acknowledged respect for each other and Moller said he is happy that a project was formed.

While Reiser wanted to validate the program's success, Moller said he "had strong feelings" about the project's intentions and that is why he wrote the editorial.

What's inside?

Editorials . . . page 2

Jazz Band . . . page 5

Religion . . . pages 8-9

The Urge . . . page 10

Turf Talk . . . page 14

Basketball . . . page 16

Right to die deserves defense

Awakening every morning to agonizing pain without any hope of relief is the plight of many individuals suffering from terminal diseases. These people are confronted daily with a life that is so extremely painful that it becomes unbearable. Many of these people are so disabled that even suicide is an impossible dream. In situations such as these, physician assisted suicide is the only answer to a life tormented with pain.

The right to die is a fundamental right that should not be denied to any person suffering on a daily basis from a debilitating disease. There has been much interference in this issue by meddling citizens, and their opinion has no place in this issue.

The right to die is the one issue that must be an entirely individual decision, with the consultation of the patient's physician or health care provider. A situation in which a patient is considered terminal means that a patient will die with or without medical care before a time at which natural causes would induce death. At this point of a disease, any medical treatment will not save the person's life. Often, a patient feels that to prolong his life would simply be to prolong his suffering.

Groups of activists lobbying for a voice in this opinion need to remove themselves from the issue until it becomes their own personal choice. A person who chooses to end his own life to alleviate their suffering is in a unique situation- a situation which cannot be understood by any group of activists, panel of experts, or the supreme court. These groups should not be involved in any sort of decision making concerning the lives of terminally ill individuals. The right to decide when a life ends is up to only one person-that person.

The main fear of the opponents to the right to die cause is that doctor assisted suicide will become a so called "state-sanctioned killing." This phrase implies that the state would promote and utilize the killing of individuals who do not wish to die. The right to die does not entail the state encouraging or providing means for doctor assisted suicide, but the concession that each individual has the right to decide the extent of his life. The stigma that has always accompanied suicide has also been affixed to doctor-assisted suicide, and the right to die movement.

Something that is often overlooked by opponents of the right to die movement is that the individual who makes the choice to end their own life does not do so because of the pressure of any of his family members or the right to die movement. The only reason this has become a national issue is because the debilitating pain that the individual lives with prevents them from ending his life without the involvement of others.

The sensitivity of this issue is incredible, and the involvement of any other group of people, other than the dying patient and his doctor, is completely unnecessary. It is the responsibility of the judicial system to guarantee every individual with a terminal disease the right to choose whether or not they want to live the rest of their limited days in pain. Every person deserves that choice.

Proficiency tests

Teachers need not worry

In the past, an educator had only to receive a teaching degree to be considered eligible to instruct in public school classrooms across the nation.

But whether standards are sometimes compromised along the line, or inadequate persons have just managed to slip past the better judgment of their employers, there is a problem at hand.

To rectify this problem, several states have implemented proficiency tests, each identifiable by a specific acronym. Various national testing services make these tests available if the state chooses to use one rather than writing their own. One such test is made available through Princeton standardized tests. This well-known company also provides student tests. Such proficiency tests in certain instances have brought about mixed emotions among the teachers affected. Most of these tests question specific areas of teaching, but have broad coverage. The test provides an avenue to evaluate general teacher knowledge.

Certain teachers feel that this test is not fair to their careers. They have claimed that if a person does not excel in a area which is questioned on the test, it should not mean that they are incompetent in their profession.

For instance, a man who wished to become a principal failed for years to become one because of the math section on the test. He took and repeatedly failed that portion of the test. After much effort he finally did pass the test. However it is worth pondering whether or not a person who is competent in his field, but possibly not in another subject is suitably educated to instruct and guide a room filled with young people.

The problem described is common in state after state. Though school districts have teachers who are well rounded and valuable to their student's education, potentially any school will also possess teachers defined as deficient by a proficiency test's standards.

Teachers are the people who assist in the formation of their student's intellect, who aid in the development of their reasoning skills. How is this to be done if they lack certain abilities, many of which prove to be fundamental.

One end of the extreme logically says that all teachers should be able to pass all sections of a proficiency test. The truth is most good teachers could do just that without any problems. The opposing argument is why should a person be excellent in one area and be required to have an above average understanding for a subject which they do not even teach. All teachers should be well rounded and have a decent handle on a all subjects. Effective instruction is preceded by an educator who can is well educated, and can prove it.

The answer may lie in taking a closer look at what it means to be proficient. How high are the standards required for a person to be deemed proficient? Since the standards are minimal and reasonable, teachers should be able to meet 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 President Clinton be prosecuted for sexual harassment during his term as president of the United States?

No. He was not president when he supposedly committed this crime. It doesn't make sense to prosecute him during his term.

Karen Kazor 12

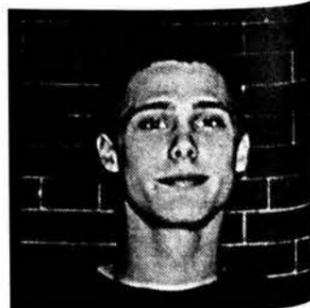


Yes. I feel that if you are accused, it needs to be cleared up-one way or another. I think he would want it resolved.

**Kaann Reigle,
office paraprofessional**

No. He should be prosecuted after his presidency. He has a job to do right now.

Pat Laird 12



Yes. Everybody has the same rights. Being president doesn't make you any better than anyone else.

Julius Aquino 9

Students confused by future

Through My Eyes

By Erin Beal



Don't you hate it when people ask you what you're going to do when you grow up? Sure, you used to like answering, when you were in the second grade. Then you could answer whatever you currently wanted to do.

For most kids, their answers would change weekly.

Of course, a few knew with an unshakable certainty exactly what they would be doing as adults.

A similar minority exists in high-schoolers as well. Except for those lucky few, most of us are still trying to find the answer to this age-old question.

By students' senior year of high school, many tend to avoid this question.

You see, now the answer matters. Now it could decide our future, and now we're supposed to know.

Your parents, your friends, your friends' friends - everyone you know seems to ask where you are going after high school.

For many people, the answer is college. Of course, the following question is which one you plan to attend.

For me personally, it was a difficult enough decision trying to decide were to *apply* much less were to actually commit the next four years or more of my life.

A shadowy fear in the back of many seniors' minds is the worry that they will choose the wrong school and, after arriving, be desperate to leave. The best campus

visit is still just that, a visit.

It is incredibly difficult to decide, based on a brief glimpse of a school, whether or not this is the right place to be.

Unfortunately, the destination is only the beginning of the questions

go to college or feel that now is not the right time to go. Then you are faced with the decision of what to do.

Many graduates take a year off from school to earn money by working full time. Others sign up with one of the armed forces, either in order to earn money for college later or begin a military career.

Which brings us to another problem. Money. It's got to come from somewhere and everyone faces problems in coming up with it.

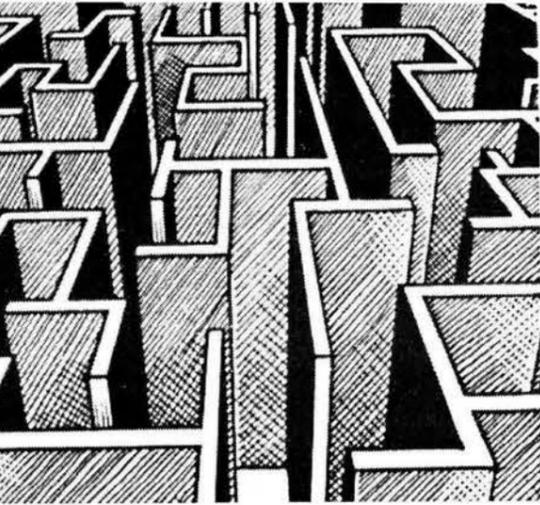
Depending on your grades, you can always try to go the scholarship route. This involves countless applications, essays and trans-

cripts. Unless you happened to be born into a millionaire's family, the only other option for prospective college students is to work. What a wonderful way to spend your last summer at home - working full time.

As the summer draws to a close and the time for departing to college draws near, graduates will begin to worry about all of those typical freshman concerns.

Until you've actually been there awhile, college seems to cause just one problem after another.

Oh, well. The only comforting thing about the whole process is the knowledge that thousands of others are facing exactly the same problems.



regarding the future.

Naturally, everyone wants to know what you are going to major in. It's unbelievable that we are all expected to make up our minds about what we are going to do for the rest of our lives. Right now.

I know that declaring a college major on an application isn't binding and that the average college student changes his or her major three times before graduating.

Unfortunately, the statistics don't help a whole lot when you seem to be selling your soul by filling in the intended major section on those applications.

But what if you don't want to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A READER OPINION FORUM

Dear Editor,

Many people think that Latin is a waste of time because no one commonly speaks it. But the truth of the matter is that Latin is intertwined in almost every language spoken today. Knowing Latin can expand your English vocabulary and also introduce you to the foundation of other languages such as Spanish, German, etc. Latin is referred to as a dead language, but if you look around the language still strives in everyday life.

Latin VI,
JCL

Dear Editor,

Before coming to Central I attended Lewis and Clark. Every day my friends and I were persecuted by other students because of our appearance and free attitudes toward each other. Most of my friends and I just accepted the fact that we would always be bothered no matter which school we attended. However, upon arriving at Central, we were all pleasantly surprised by the open-mindedness of the student body. The environment at Central was much more comfortable than Lewis and Clark. I just wanted to say "thank you" to all the staff and students who truly care about others and make it a point to be kind to everyone.

Jennifer Sanders, junior

Dear Editor,

In these days of extreme environmental awareness, many parts of the community, including CHS, seem to be trying their hardest to save the earth. Central promotes the recycling of aluminum products by placing trash cans designated for such material in the courtyard. Why then does Central use Styrofoam trays, cups and plastic silverware?

Everyone knows that Styrofoam is hazardous to the environment. Students are forced to use and waste thousands of pounds of this harmful material. Although it may require a little bit more work to wash plates and silverware, the cafeteria and custodial staffs are more than capable of handling this job.

Instead of spending money to buy a seemingly never-ending amount of Styrofoam and plastic, why not spend this money on silverware and plates that can be washed and used more than once.

Steffen Hooi, senior

Dear Editor,

I think it's so gross when I'm walking down the stairs and feel chewed gum stuck on the banister. People just throw rappers, chewed gum, and crumpled papers in the corners of rooms and hallways. They are defacing our schools when there are trash cans in every classroom and a couple in the hallway. Haven't the students ever thought about what visitors would think? So, please, think before you throw, "Pitch in."

Amanda Micek, freshman

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CENTRAL STANDARDS

Do you think it is appropriate for parents to make their very young children (2-6) compete in beauty pageants?

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.

**NEWS
IN
BRIEF**

**Senior of-
ficers plan
d a n c e**

Central's senior class officers are planning a Sadie Hawkins dance in the near future. This type of dance requires that the girls ask the guys to the dance instead of the traditional type in which guys ask girls. The officers chose this type of dance because they wanted to do something different. Andrea Friedman, senior class representative said.

"This is basically just something fun for the seniors to do," Andrea said. "We hope that it will create some senior unity."

The event will occur in the courtyard on Feb. 28 from 8 to 11 p.m. This dance is primarily for seniors, however, senior girls may ask underclassmen to go.

The courtyard will be decorated with a luau theme, and the dance will include such activities as sand volleyball, limbo and possibly karaoke.

Tickets will cost \$5 and will go on sale in February.

**Students make
Honor Choir**

Three CHS vocal music students out of 16 singers from all of Nebraska will be attending the North Central Regional Convention.

Courtney Worrel, Anna Jane Kerns and Philip Medeiros were chosen from over seventy-eight singers in Nebraska. To audition, singers were expected to sing two specific excerpts from the All-State music. The auditions were recorded on cassette tapes and submitted to judges.

Paul Torkelson, choral activities director at Wartburg College, will be conducting this choir. Practice for this performance will be extensive. "[The singers] cram thirteen hours of rehearsal into two days in order to quickly put together the music," Mrs. Lyn Bouma, vocal music teacher, said. In addition to the three students from Central, two other singers were chosen from the Omaha area. One student was from Ralston High School and the other attends Bryan High School. Besides the singers from Nebraska, singers will also be present from Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. This concert will be held in Peoria, Illinois on Feb. 1.

Jazz Band comes alive at hotel's grand opening

By Tim Hakanson

Central High School's Jazz Band played at the Grand Opening of the new Embassy Suites in Downtown Omaha on Jan. 23.

While people toured the new hotel, the Jazz Band played a variety of jazz selections. They were played right after Mayor Hal Daub cut the ribbon to open the hotel, which is located near the Old Market.

Mr. Pete Wilger, Jazz Band director, said that they played a number of upbeat selections to celebrate the opening.

He said that they played in the atrium where the music could filter throughout the building. The band

will play for the guests for about one hour.

As the guests headed towards the Grand Opening banquet, a small group of Central instrumentalists played Dixieland music.

Luigi Waites, an Omaha jazz musician, played the vibraphone with the band. Wilger said that he is a fixture in the Omaha jazz scene who is well-known and plays all over town.

He said that the Jazz Band was fortunate to be able to play and work with Waites. The Jazz Band worked

with Waites in practice.

"I feel honored to play at such a big event with such a talented musician as Luigi," junior bass guitar player Alli Pagan.

Wilger said that this was a big public relations event for Central because there were many dignitaries at the opening of this luxury-class hotel.

Dr. Gary Thompson, Central principal, said that Downtown, Inc. wanted Central musicians to play at the event and contacted Mr. Keith Bigsby, former Central business and marketing teacher. The Jazz Band

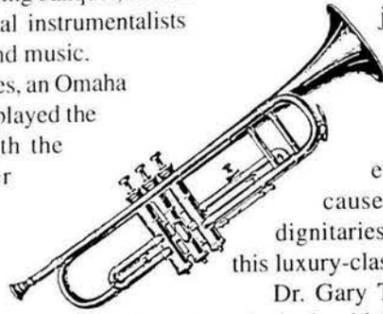
was chosen to play.

Downtown, Inc. is a group of downtown businessmen and businesswomen, including Central, that work for the betterment of Omaha's downtown area.

Central is an Adopt-A-School partner with Downtown, Inc. and participates in many activities of the organization.

Ryan Watzke, senior and saxophone player said, "It's a good public relations event. Central's name will get the word around downtown."

Wilger said the Jazz Band devoted a lot of their practice to working on the music for the event.



known

Aloha



Lel Brown

Oh my, senior Dane Foster gets a lei put around his neck by senior Andrea Friedman at the senior auditorium homeroom on Jan. 23. This skit was done to promote the senior only Girls-ask-Guys Luau to be held Feb. 28 in the Courtyard. Tickets will be on sale the week of the dance. See Briefs to left.

ESL

New classroom proves valuable

By Josh Cohen

For many students at Central, room 245 has been a bad memory.

For the past several years it has served as Central's in-school-suspension room, but this year is different.

Last fall OPS allotted money to Central to convert this room into a new state of the art ESL, English Second Language, room.

ESL is the program which helps students learn English when it is not their first language.

The ESL program at Central has a larger enrollment than in past years.

There are currently 51 students at CHS that participate in ESL.

The room was completely redone. A new floor was laid over what used to be stadium-style seating.

Now the room is about the size of two normal classrooms at Central, but it is divided into two sections.

One section is an office for ESL teachers Ms. Michelle Golden and Ms. Sheila Houston and three paraprofessionals who help them during

the school day.

The other is a classroom for kids to work and learn in each day.

Central principal Dr. Gary Thompson said that with the new room in use, there should be less strain on the ESL teachers.

"We have the second largest ESL program in the OPS district. This improvement will help with its success," Dr. Thompson said.

Golden said that she believed this new room was not only an improvement but a necessity.

"The room is working out so far," Golden said. "Having a room that is so near the rest of the school actually gives the kids a better chance to interact with other students."

Golden also said she believed ESL is a direct reflection of what is happening in Omaha right now.

"Central was the last OPS school to start an ESL program," Golden said, "and this is a real reflection of what is happening in Omaha. Immigrants are coming here because they think it is a better life than in California, Texas or Florida."

Block scheduling adds choices for students

By Emily Martin

Block scheduling at North and Bryan High Schools offers a different school environment for the students and staff to learn in.

"Since we began block scheduling at Bryan the students and staff have been more relaxed and there are more students on the Honor Roll, among other things," Ms. Peg Naylor, assistant principal at Bryan High School said.

Naylor credits the block scheduling system at Bryan for other improvements as well. She said the students focus more on their classes and in turn do better. The students are also less hurried to learn in the classes because of the extended time.

"Teachers get a chance to explain a lesson and assign work during the class period, so students can get a jump-start and ask questions if they need to," Naylor said.

The block scheduling means

that students have more class time to complete work and therefore less homework. Students on the block schedule also have no study halls during the year. They complete a years worth of work in one semester for four classes at a time.

"After the block scheduling started, I did a lot better in school and started to get better grades," Cliffedtta White, senior, said. "I have more time to do my work and I am less stressed."

Teachers are able to find out their students learning styles quicker and try out different teaching techniques like cooperative learning and problem solving.

"The teachers have more class time to help you," Cliffedtta said.

At North they have been experiencing similar successes. The students are less stressed, they have fewer tardies and truancies, less homework and a lengthened lunch period. North has an A/B block

schedule, whereas Bryan has an intensive block schedule. The A/B block schedule means the classes alternate from day to day. On one day they will have even classes and on the other day the odds.

"We have received only success from the block scheduling here at North," Mr. Dennis Kimberlain, assistant principal at North, said.

North decided to use the block scheduling system after they looked for ways to improve the school setting.

Their main objective was to find a schedule that would help the students at the school do better.

For five to six years there have been school districts around the

STUDENT SCHEDULE	
Sample Block Schedule at Bryan High School	
Advisement	7:45 - 7:58
World History	8:02 - 9:30
French 9-10	9:40 - 11:00
Biology	11:14 - 1:00
Marketing Lab	1:22 - 2:50

country that have experimented with scheduling options. North has many different scheduling options.

"In research, block scheduling has easily been received by many types of schools," Kimberlain said.

Both North and Bryan have block scheduling approved by teachers, parents and the board before they started it.

Cold days freeze learning

Emily Martin
The decision to close school because it is too cold or snowy is an easy one, according to Dr. Bennett, assistant superintendent for the Omaha Public School District. There are three criteria in determining if students get off of school for a day. When making a decision, the superintendent's office looks at the temperature, humidity and wind speed.

rain and hail are all classified as humidity in the air. The wind speed affects the temperature and creates a high wind-chill.

"We do not base our decision on just one of these criteria, it is a combination of their effects," Dr. Bennett said. "We make our decision on the side of safety for our students and staff." A high wind-chill is extremely dangerous to be out in, even for short periods of time.

When the wind-chill gets lower than minus 55, the school district sees this as a threat to safety and will close school for the day. Usually such a low wind-chill is due to high winds which may also cause problems if there is snow on the ground.

Damp snow causes less of a problem in high winds than powdery snow. The winds will easily pick up powdery snow and blow it around so it is hard for people to see. If the wind moves around an excessive amount of snow, it can cause a whiteout condition in which visibility is minimal. School may also be canceled for whiteout conditions.

"During a white-out

condition it is too dangerous to have school because no one is able to see the road," Dr. Bennett said. "White-outs are a serious threat to safety."

The amount of snow on the ground also determines whether the superintendent's office will cancel school or not. If there is an abundance of snow and the city road crews are unable to clear the roads, school will be canceled on account of it being too dangerous for the buses and vans to pick up students and for parents to drop students off at school. Sleet may also cause school to be canceled. When it sleets outside, the roads become covered with ice. It is hard for the buses and vans to pick up students safely if the roads are in bad condition. The road crews may salt the roads to make them more manageable.

"We are interested in the safety of not only the students, but our staff and parents," Dr. Bennett said. "We receive our information from the National Weather Bureau to find out what time and for how long a front may be in our area."

If bad weather has the possibility of becoming a nuisance the

superintendent's office waits and watches the weather to see if there are any problems that would affect school.

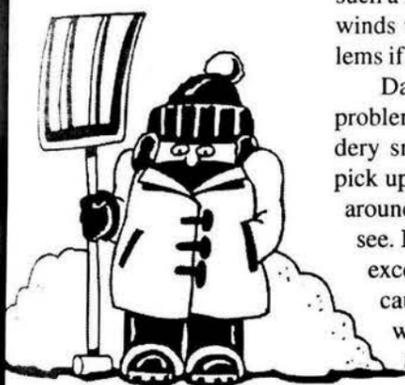
Cold fronts and high winds become problems if they are extreme and persist for a long time Dr. Bennett said.

"We call off school prior to six o'clock in the morning so the news stations can get the information on the news," Dr. Bennett said. "We like to call off school before ten o'clock the previous night so parents are able to figure out carpools and child care."

The bad weather will not only cancel school, but it may also cause an adjustment in after school activities. Extra curricular activities may be canceled or shortened due to the weather.

No matter what the school district does in the issuing of cold or snow days, it does not please everyone.

"We get calls from parents and citizens whether we close school or not," Dr. Bennett said. "I don't mind though, it is good for the community to be involved."



Coca-Cola surges new citrus drink onto market

Sam Achelpohl

A brand new soft drink has hit convenient stores all over the country, boasting a taste that Coca-Cola says will knock you right off your feet. Surge, a new product of the Coca-Cola company, is making its debut as it has begun its appearance on store shelves, fountains and vending machines all over the country. Created to appeal to "active youths and hardworking young adults," Surge attempts to present a "bold citrus" taste much like that of Mountain Dew.

The soft drink bursts off with a bright red and green package that shows that Coca-Cola is actively trying to get our attention. They have added a few new features to the normal soft

A wide mouth opening is included on the can in their effort to enhance its "chuggability". They have also made the drink low in carbonation so large intakes are easier.

One strange characteristic of the drink is the bright green coloring of the liquid. These features may possibly make Surge a new contender against Mountain Dew.

"Coca-Cola is always looking for gross opportunity," said Tanja Mordeson, a marketing executive representative for Coca-Cola. "Citrus drinks were the only category that we needed to explore more."

Mountain Dew, which is a product of the Coca-Cola corporation, topped off at roughly \$2 billion dollars in sales last year alone.

"We've spent the last two years researching

the idea of a new citrus drink," Mordeson said. "Based on that research, and the superior marketing strength of our bottlers, we think Surge is poised to become the next major non-cola soft drink."

Two television advertisements for the brand will air during Super Bowl XXXI. It will be the first Coca-Cola advertisement during the Super Bowl since 1991.

Other marketing support for the drink will include television, radio and point-of-sale advertising.

Coca-Cola has also announced a national sampling of Surge to over 5 million teens and young

adults in the first month of the drink's introduction.

Attempts to surpass Mountain Dew's success in the past have seen some rough times. Mello Yellow was around for a long time but was never able to reach the success of Mountain Dew. No other soft drinks boasting a citrus taste seem to have what it takes to get to the level that Mountain Dew has reached. Does Surge have what it takes to become the next Mountain Dew? Only time will tell.

A small controversy has arisen with soft drink, Surge. An agricultural business has said that they have trademarked a product used to milk cows and calls it Surge.

An agreement says that, unless they come to an agreement before the Super Bowl, they will not air the ads scheduled during the game. If this agricultural company takes Coca-Cola to court and wins, they may be forced to recall all Surge products on the market and rename the drink.



Teachers urged to get vaccinated for Hepatitis

Sandra Cummins

Over 155 Central staff members have signed up to have Hepatitis B vaccinations sponsored by the Cross/Blue Shield, Mrs. Jenny Conahan, Central's nurse said.

"I think it's a great turnout," Conahan said. "Close to 88 percent of the staff signed up."

The vaccination will be furnished by SmithKline and Beecham Pharmaceuticals and is free to all full-time employees that are covered by their insurance.

Part-time employees will pay a reduced price of \$25 per shot.

"A regular injection can be between \$70-\$85," Conahan said.

The vaccinations will be administered by Conahan in a series of three shots.

The first will be given in February, the second in April, and the third in October.

All Central staff members are eligible to have the vaccination and were urged to make a careful decision after reading information about the Hepatitis B disease and vaccination.

"I had reservations about getting the shot, but I talked to my doc-

tor and he said it was fine," said Ms. Wendy Olson, word study and Spanish teacher.

The vaccination is not being offered to students mainly because of cost, Conahan said.

Students usually get the vaccination through their doctor.

"It wouldn't be a bad idea for students to get the vaccination on their own," Olson said.

Hepatitis B is a disease that affects the liver.

It can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and increases the chance of liver cancer, Conahan said.

It can be spread through all body fluids including saliva, but especially blood.

Symptoms of Hepatitis B include anorexia, fatigue, an enlarged liver and jaundice.

It may take at least four weeks after exposure before any symptoms are noticed.

"Healthcare workers, babies whose mothers are infected, maintenance inspectors and people with risky lifestyles are the primary contractors," Conahan said. "Twelve thousand healthcare providers contracted it last year."

NEWS IN BRIEF

DECA students place at districts

Central's DECA members participated in the district competition on Jan. 25. This competition was held at Southroads Mall. Central was well-represented with 15 medal winners and 11 finalists. Approximately 600 marketing students attended this competition.

Central's Quiz Bowl team, including seniors Kiley Kane and Omar Nazem and juniors Dan Danberg and Sam Kruger, placed third out of 64 teams.

The participants take two written tests, one test in the person's specialized area and another in the economics category.

They also took a role playing test in which the student was presented with a situation, given ten minutes to prepare his response and then expected to act out what he would do. Omaha area business people judged this event.

The scores from each of these three tests were then combined, and an overall winner was announced for each general category.

Road show shapes up for 83rd year

With auditions over and cast chosen, the 1997 Road Show, entitled "A Sentimental Journey," is getting ready for opening night.

As soon as the acts are notified of their acceptance, the preparation begins. Students work daily perfecting their routines, which include tap dancing, drama skits, and music by Linda Rondstat.

The practice time allows them to become comfortable with Central's stage and also to work on entrance and exits.

In order for students to be a part of this year's Road Show, which by the way is in its 83rd consecutive year, students had to audition in front of a group of selected judges. Chosen by application, these judges decided if the individual acts would benefit the program as a whole, to create a well-rounded night of entertainment. Acts had to be under five minutes in length and had to be appropriate for all ages.

The opening night of "A Sentimental Journey," will be Feb. 14 at 7:00 pm.



By Rachel Slosburg

- School: Indiana University
- Where: Bloomington, Indiana
- Percent Male and Female: Men - 47 Women - 53
- Number of applicants: 17,372
- Percent Accepted: 41
- Mean SAT: 475 verbal and 539 math
- Estimated tuition (including room and board): \$14,710 out-of-state
- Students involved in Greek system: 23
- Most Popular Major: Arts and Sciences
- Mascot: Hoosiers

Miscellaneous information:

Indiana University, with 26,000 undergraduate students, is one of the largest universities in the Midwest region.

The business and music schools in IU's academic program are considered among the best in the country for undergraduates. Other excellent departments include biology, foreign language and international studies.

The college unites for its love of basketball and support for the school's team. The IU campus is also considered one of the most scenic in the nation, with beautiful landscaping and a wide range of architecture.

Famous graduates of IU include basketball great Isiah Thomas and newscaster Jane Pauley.

All information taken from *The 1997 Edition of The College Catalog*

Candy sales raise funds for scholarships, trips

By Rachel Slosburg

"I've got Snickers, M&M's, Gobstoppers, Twizzlers and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups."

This is a common statement by Central students who are involved with various school activities including clubs and sports.

The same students involved in a variety of activities sell the candy, whether it be Twizzlers or Gobstoppers, in order to raise money for the particular club which they participate in.

The candy fund-raisers have been very successful at Central and provide an easy way for a school activity to earn money in a short amount of time.

The money raised from the fund-raiser is used for many different aspects of the club. Foreign language department head, Mrs. Daryl Bayer, said that the money earned from the language clubs' candy fund-raisers are normally used to buy software, technology and to pay for student outings or field trips.

She said one of the most important uses of the money in the foreign language clubs is to give scholarships for graduating seniors.

"It is nice for the seniors to be remembered for their work," Bayer said. "The extra money

for college is also helpful to the students."

Bayer said that the foreign language fund-raiser made almost \$4,000 this fall.

Although the candy sales are a beneficial fund-raiser, some teachers said they believe that the candy

can be a nuisance in the classroom

Bayer said.

Mrs. Sandie Diechman, German teacher, does not allow any food to be eaten in her classroom.

"I think the students have plenty of time to eat during their lunch periods," Diechman said. "The sugar throughout the day causes the students to lose their concentration in class." Some Central students have conflicting opinions on candy fund-raisers.

Junior Ally Crossman said she is happy

to help increase the money for an organization which she participates.

"I feel, as a member of the club, part of the responsibility is helping out with the fund-raiser," Ally said.

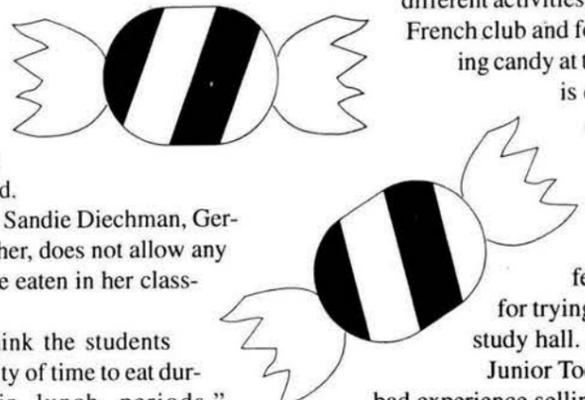
Ally said she has already sold candy for different activities this year including pom-poms, French club and foreign language. She said selling candy at the beginning of the school year is difficult because many people are trying to make money.

Junior Aaron M... said he is frustrated with selling candy as a fund-raiser. Aaron said he received a referral, which led to a day in the study hall for trying to sell candy in his ninth grade study hall.

Junior Todd Jacobson said he also had a bad experience selling candy.

He said he sold candy for cross country at the beginning of the year and it melted because of the heat in the building.

"I don't mind selling the candy, but it is a problem carrying it to every class," Todd said. "The candy which melted I ended up paying for."



Teens fail to recognize seriousness of drunk driving

By Dave Echternach

John and Mindy are fictional names used to protect real identities

"There is no such thing as just getting a ticket for drunk driving," Mark Antoniak, a criminal defense attorney said.

"Drunk driving is a serious criminal offense that teens just don't seem to recognize," Antoniak said.

Each year more and more teens are arrested for drunk driving. But it doesn't stop at the arrest, a conviction almost always follows.

"I have represented in my career, four cases in which a minor was arrested for drunk driving and I have lost all with the exception of one, a plea bargain," Antoniak said. "The process in which the arrest occurs can be an unreal experience."

John said he was pulled to the side of the road by an Omaha police officer. When John rolled his window down he knew he was going to be in for a long night. When the officer approached his car he asked John for his license and registration and told John he had been pulled over because he field to yield at a stop sign. When John handed the registration over the officer could smell alcohol on his breath, and he asked John if he had been drinking. John said he told the officer that he hadn't been drinking.

The officer then asked John if he would object to a sobriety test. John said he would not object so the officer left John and went to his squad car, returning to John's car with a breathalyzer unit. The officer told John to blow into the tube and it would register immediately if he was over the legal limit. John registered .02 over the legal limit.

John said he was then handcuffed, searched and taken to jail, where his parents were notified of what happened.

"They wouldn't post bail for me so I spent the night in jail until my grandparents came to get me," John said.

"Being arrested can be a horrible experience for anyone, but getting arrested for a DWI has a lot more implications than just being arrested,"

Antoniak said.

"You are arrested, handcuffed, searched, booked, fingerprinted, put in jail, your car is impounded and that is just the beginning."

"You will lose your license, you must appear in court within a very time consuming and very expensive," Antoniak said.

"You will need money, and a lot of it, for attorney fees, fines, forfeitures, (DWI ticket, and car impoundment) court costs, assessment driver safety courses, (mandatory) license reinstatement, (after a period of usually one year) and wait until your insurance company is out. "If they don't drop you, you will pay through the nose for a period of five years," Antoniak said.

Mindy, a senior said she has never thought of the seriousness of drunk driving. "I go to a lot of parties where there is drinking and I almost always drive home drunk."

"I feel I pay more attention to the road, driving drunk makes me concentrate more," Mindy said.

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"He said if I didn't do it, he wouldn't love me anymore."

"AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I GOT ANGRY! It was such a trashy thing to say. Like I was so desperate for him I jump off a cliff or something."
"We didn't have any birth control. I started out saying it was just the wrong time. Then I started thinking it was the wrong guy."
"I know it's okay to say 'NO.'"
"If he really cared, he'd have let it drop. He'd have given me time. You don't have to be the brain of the world to be a woman. You don't have sex without protection. And you sure don't make a baby with a guy who thinks he can treat you like that."

Nobody should pressure anybody to have sex. Especially if you feel you're not ready. Or prepared.
It's a fact of life that if you have sex without safe, effective birth control you're going to get pregnant.
If you need information, birth control or just someone to talk to call Planned Parenthood. We're private. We're affordable. We care.

Planned Parenthood
of Omaha-Council Bluffs

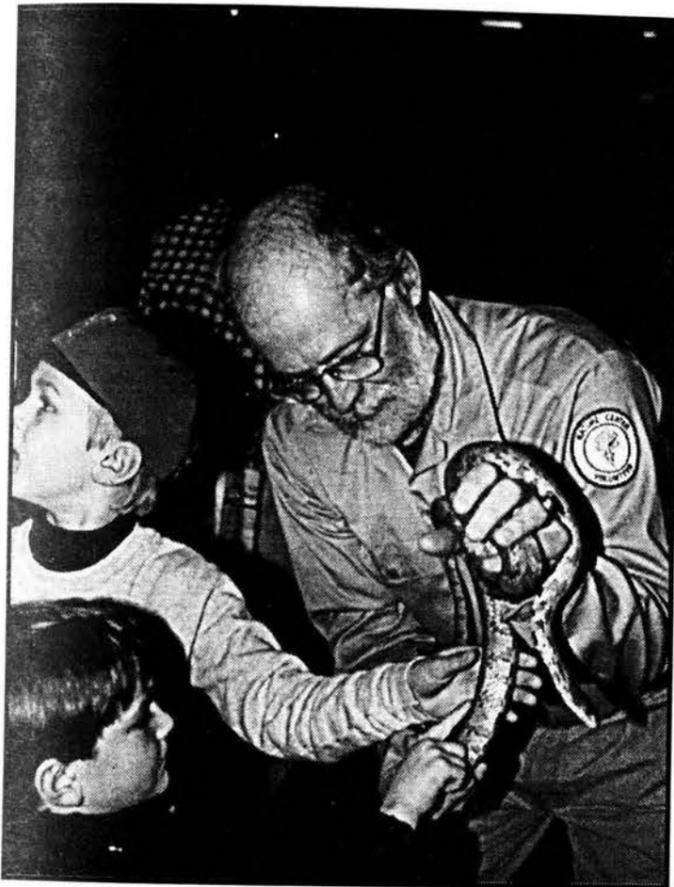
- Birth Control
- Pregnancy Tests
- Caring, Kind Staff

Dodge Center
4610 Dodge St. • 554-1040

Pregnancy Helpline • 553-6361
(8 am - 5 p.m., weekdays)

Facts-of-Lifeline • 558-PLAN
(recorded information)

Kids explore education



Caroline Foley

Handle with Care: Kurt Cipherson, a Fontenelle Forest ranger, allows children to feel the scales of a harmless corn snake, at Kidz Explore on Sunday January 19, at the Civic Auditorium. Over 15,000 parents and children attended Kidz Explore to find educational activities for kids in the Omaha area. NASA set-up demonstrations and gave lectures throughout the two-day event.

Pen pals share friendship, culture

By Emily Martin

Having a foreign pen pal from a unique country is both educational and rewarding for two Central students.

Florina Mosenkis and Jen Sanders, juniors, have pen pals from countries outside of the usual French, German and Spanish ones many students receive from their foreign language teachers.

Jen has two pen pals, one in Vancouver, British Columbia, and another outside of Ladysmith in South Africa. She obtained her pen pals from a previous teacher who was interested in different cultures and traveling.

"I thought it was really interesting to have a pen pal from South Africa, just because I think we all have a lot of myths on what South Africa is like," Jen said. "It is really fascinating to have an opinion from somebody who actually lives there."

After Jen began writing to her pen pal in South Africa she said she learned many things about life there, how they prepared their food and the expectations put on teenagers to go into the military there, as well as learning some of her pen pal's native language. In return Jen shares aspects of her life with her pen pals.

"We basically write what teenagers do and how they interact with each other in our countries," Jen said.

She writes to them about what she does in her free time, school, her friends, where she travels and other information.

For Jen, the best part about having pen pals from other countries is the exchange in culture, both her sharing the American culture with them and them telling about their cultures.

"It's interesting to see how other kids your age interact in a completely different society," Jen said. "In Canada, even though it is awfully close to home, there are still a lot of differences."

Jen has also noticed an improvement in English from her pen pal in South Africa since she has been

writing.

"It's fun to look back at old letters and some of the newer letters and see how he has progressed," Jen said.

As for Jen learning her pen pal's language, she said he has sent her some words and their English equivalents from his tribal dialect.

It may become faster for Jen to communicate with her pen pal in Canada soon because he is getting email.

"It will be even easier to talk to him because it is just a lot easier to send mail through the Internet, you don't actually have to go to a mailbox," Jen said.

For Florina Mosenkis, junior, it is already easier for her to write her pen pal because they correspond through the Internet. Her pen pal lives in Kiev, Ukraine.

"I met my pen pal while I was doing research on the history of Kiev," Florina said. "I sent him a message because I thought he was a professor, but it turns out he was a professor's son."

After the mix-up, Florina and her pen pal continued to correspond. Florina used to live in Kiev, so she is able to here about her old city now.

"A lot of things have changed since I've lived in Kiev," Florina said. "There are English billboards everywhere and they receive American music and movies faster now."

Florina said she finds it easier to write to her pen pal via the Internet because it is faster and easier to write a short note that is returned in a few days than mailing a letter the conventional way.

"It's fun to write on the Internet because you get responses faster," Florina said. "My pen pal even sent me pictures for the holidays through the Internet."

Both Florina and Jen plan to keep writing their pen pals once they get out of high school, continuing the exchange of cultures they have begun.

Your Future 101

Quiz

- Do you like computers?
- Do you want to be a leader?
- Do you like working with people?
- Do you want to earn a top income?

- | YES | NO |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Score yourself 10 points for each yes answer. If you have 40 points,

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"You can go further, but you can't find better!"

FREE TO

Catholic church lacks callings

By Erika Wulff

The Catholic Church is facing difficult times due to the lack of new nuns and priests in the ministry. The number of men and women ordained has dropped 76 percent compared to 1955, according to the Catholic Voice.

"Our culture does not promote people to lead religious lifestyles," Father Larry Dorsey, Pastor of St. Gerald's Church in Ralston said.

Currently in the Catholic Church, the number of men preparing to become priests and the number of women preparing to become nuns has declined significantly.

"In the past thirty years, the number of priests and nuns has declined by half, while the number of parishioners has doubled," Father Dorsey said.

Sister Susan Severin, librarian at The College of Saint Mary, said that one of the reasons for the drop in priests and nuns is due to the other ministry options people have to choose from.

"People have other ways they can help the church, such as The Peace Corps, Habitat for Humanity, Francis House, becoming a minister of the Eucharist, or by simply donating time to parish activities," Sister Severin said.

Despite the drop in Catholic ministry, Protestants are not experiencing the same type of decrease, according to Father Dorsey.

One of the main reasons for that may be the differential rules on abstinence from marriage.

"Not being able to marry and have children is a large sacrifice. However, your parish becomes your family," Sister Severin said.

The Catholic ruling on the issue of abstinence has remained firm for thousands of years.

However, the ruling may change if the Pope were to decide to change it.

"The reason behind the ruling is because the priest or nun can spend the majority of their time with the parish, and because caring for a family is

World Religions		
Religion	Estimated members	Place of Origin
Christian		
Roman Catholic	621,639,000	Palestine
Protestant	369,408,000	Northern Europe
Eastern Orthodox	65,645,000	Western Asia
Non-Christian		
Islam	555,277,000	Arabia
Hinduism	462,590,000	India
Buddhism	250,952,000	India
Confucianism	163,130,000	China
Shinto	33,050,000	Japan
Taoism	20,563,000	China
Judaism	17,320,000	Middle East

Source: The World Book Encyclopedia, 1988

not possible with our salary," said Father Dorsey.

Another possible reason for decline is the misunderstanding people may have of religious life.

"The portrayal of religious life has gotten a little out of hand. The media pecks religious life apart," Father Norman Hunke, pastor of St. Cecilia's Cathedral, said.

Sister Severin said she agrees with Father Hunke that the life of priests and nuns are romanticized in movies, on T.V. and in books.

Sister Severin said movies such as Sister Act and Nunsense do not justly portray religious life.

"There is so much more to the life nuns lead. A sister's duty is to serve and educate her community through her occupation," Sister Severin said.

Sisters do more than roam the convent singing and praying.

Nuns have occupations such as being nurses, therapists, counselors, teachers, hospital administrators, psychologists, musicians,

dentists, shelter workers, artists, day care workers and hospital chaplains.

"If people understood the self-fulfillment aspect of being a priest or a sister, I believe more people would consider the occupation," Sister Severin said.

Father Dorsey isn't worried about the number plunge.

He said the trends in the Catholic Church show many times that when the number of priests were lacking, the numbers eventually rose.

In Father Dorsey's freshmen class, there were eighty boys.

Today, there is not even that many in the whole seminary. This spring, Omaha will ordain thirty new priests.

Father Dorsey said that is five more than last year.

"You can't really go out and promote being a priest or a nun. All you can do is try to play a positive role in peoples' lives, and the rest is up to them," Sister Severin said.

Religion represents diversity, variety

By Erika Wulff

There have been thousands of definitions for religion. The many religions of the world cannot be defined by simple statements.

At Central High School, the diversity in religion and personal beliefs among students reflects the variety of religion in our country.

Tiffany Taylor, senior, was baptized Mormon at the age of eight.

On Sundays, Tiffany attends Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints where she worships with other members. Tiffany said that she enjoys going to mass where each week there is a new speaker who shares his or her life experiences with the rest of the members.

"It helps you learn more because you hear from various perspectives," Tiffany said.

Tiffany's church sponsors youth activities every Tuesday. Activities include various sports and service projects. The youth group participates in activities such as basketball, cleaning parks and taking younger children to the Omaha Childrens Museum, Tiffany said.

Senior Jason Hoberman is of the Jewish faith and has been active in his religion since he was a child.

"I believe in the ideas which Judaism is based upon and plan to raise my children Jewish," Jason said. "Judaism has taught me many morals and ethics which I try to apply to my daily life."

Jason said he goes to services at his synagogue at least once a month and celebrates all of the Jewish holidays.

"The Jewish holidays bring my family together and give me time to thank God for health and happiness," Jason said.

Jenny More, sophomore, is Catholic and attends Saint Peter's Church every Sunday. Jenny said she has gone to Catholic school almost all her life. She said she believes it has allowed her to grow into a mature, responsible person.

"I'm not a religious freak," said Jenny, "but I think my religion has given me important guidance throughout my years," Jenny said.

Jenny said she doesn't get involved in parish activities. Instead, she lives her religion out through her attitude and

actions. She said not all of her beliefs coincide with the rules of Catholicism.

"My religion is a mix between my own and Catholicism," Jenny said.

Many people today are forming their own types of religion. Basic morals may be based on the religion they were brought into, but then are applied to their own lifestyles. Senior Sarah Newell and Ben Wieduwilt are examples of this personal religion.

"I have my own set of views on things; I don't need them to be dictated to me," said Sarah.

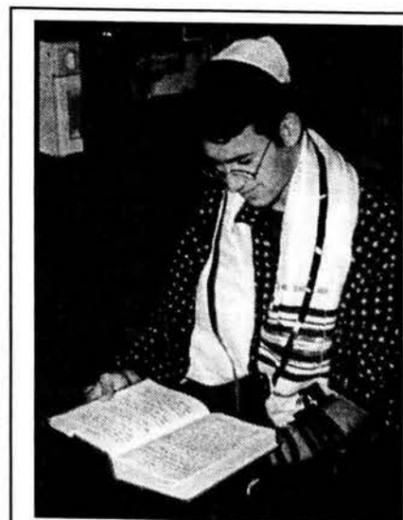
Sarah was confirmed Methodist at age thirteen. She said that she does not like going to church, but goes due to her mother's insistence.

Sarah does not believe that one must be in a church to pray and could do without "hypocritical scare tactics."

Ben was Lutheran for a year until his church kicked out his favorite minister.

"It was over some tax evasion thing. I thought it was so hypocritical of the church to do that," Ben said.

Ben attended Christ the King in Bellevue with his family until the inci-



Caroline Foley

Morning prayers... Senior Jason Hoberman reads from his Siddur.

dent occurred. Ben said that now he just lives by his own views, like most kids.

"Lots of kids our age go to church because they are made to, not because they want to," Ben said.

Keisha Hampton, freshman, attends Saint John's Baptist Church.

She has been attending church for four years and every Sunday with her parents.

"I like church community. I also like church," Keisha said.

Keisha is also a member of the church. She also attends church and participates in church activities. She said that her parents emphasize the importance of faithfulness to her religion.

Still others, like Junior Robert Foley, do not necessarily follow a certain religion.

"I wouldn't say one has to go to soul," Robert said.

Robert said that it is wrong for parents to educate their children.

"Parents have to educate their children, but the child is responsible for their own beliefs."

BELIEVE

Students discover Bible 'Beyond Belief'

By Tim Hakanson

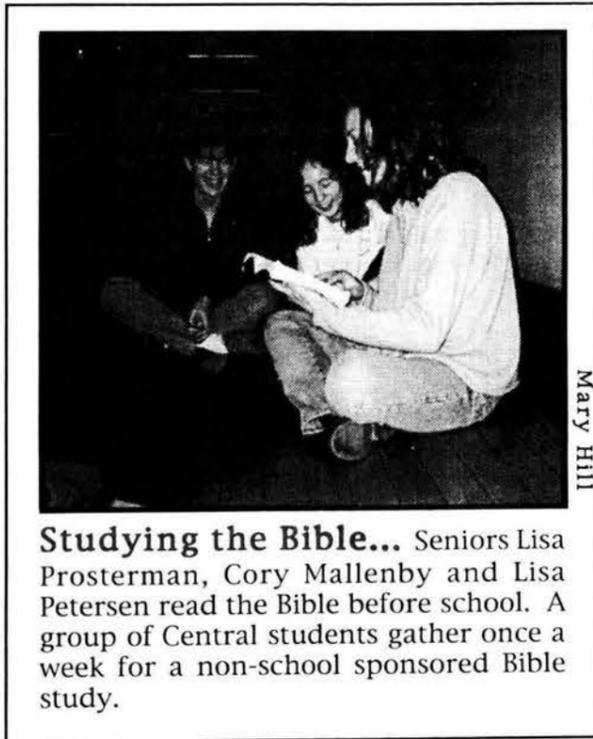
Every Wednesday morning before school about 15 students meet in Central's West Cafeteria for a non-school sponsored Bible study class.

This year's Bible Study is unofficially called "Beyond Belief."

Lisa Petersen, senior and leader of the Bible Study, said that Beyond Belief was chosen as a name because "Christianity is not just a belief, but it's a relationship with Christ. It's deeper than just religion."

This group of students is composed of people from different denominations and churches.

Lisa said, "It's open to anybody from any denomination."



Studying the Bible... Seniors Lisa Prosterman, Cory Mallenby and Lisa Petersen read the Bible before school. A group of Central students gather once a week for a non-school sponsored Bible study.

Those in the Bible Study like the opportunity to get together with other Christians to study the Bible.

The Bible Study gives me good Christian encouragement," Becky Potter, freshman, said.

Freshman Emily Ortiz said that she felt better about Cen-

tral after finding out through the Bible Study that there were other Christians at Central.

Lisa said that it is a good way to get to know Christians at Central.

Lisa said that church-going Christians, those curious about the Bible and visitors have come to the Bible Study.

She said that it is not the details of a person's belief that matters, but what they believe in their heart.

They often study passages from the Bible based on things the group is interested in learning about, Lisa said.

She said that she usually gets her lesson plan from other studies, sermons and daily devotionals.

She said that these books often have indexes and references on subjects that the group will be studying.

They try to go deeper into the Bible than just the basics of Christianity.

There has been a Bible Study at Central since the Supreme Court case involving Westside High School that decided that Bible studies could take place in public schools.

Last year, the theme of the Bible Study, led by Jill Roberts, who was a senior last year, was "Jesus' life."

They studied situations in Jesus' life and the principles that he taught so that they could better understand him.

Lisa said that if one's life reflects Jesus' life, everything else will fall into place.

Lisa said that the Bible Study group is based on the belief that the Bible is the ultimate authority in Christianity.

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whether or not he agrees with the principles of his religion," Robert said.

Robert said he believes religion is the cause of many world problems, but also gives people fulfillment and direction in their lives.

"People have taken their beliefs to the grave with them; religion is simple answers to complex questions," Robert said. "Religion closes one's mind off to so many things; I consider myself open-minded."

Robert said people cannot justify what is right and wrong.

"It all depends on a person's perspective or how one looks at a situation, but I cannot determine what is morally right and wrong," Robert said.

Stacey Nguyen, junior, said she practices a philosophy rather than a religion. Stacey and her family are Buddhist. Stacey, who was born in South Vietnam said she still has much to learn about Buddhism but likes the basic foundation of the philosophy.

"You don't have to look up to a god or pray for forgiveness. Buddhism is a way to live life for yourself, not for a god," Stacey said.

Detective warns against cults

By Rachel Slosburg

A different aspect of religious belief is cults.

The idea of a cult is a group of people who come together and live according to a leader.

Private detective Dennis G. Whelan has worked in the field of cults since 1975.

"I have researched, read, interviewed and removed people from cults for over twenty years," Whelan said.

Whelan said cults call themselves a religion for credibility and to attract more people.

Whelan said the other main reason cults claim to be a religion is economic.

"Cults call themselves a religion because religions are tax free, therefore cults make multimillion dollars and pay no taxes," Whelan said.

Whelan said his definition of a cult is a group of people who come together and have a living leader.

He said the leader claims to be the messiah or second coming and also claims to have a direct contact to God either through revelations or messages.

"A religion is based on written scripture and belief, but a cult does not qualify as a religion," Whelan said.

No matter what a cult is classified as, Whelan said the cult problem in the United States is growing daily.

"The media may not print or discuss the cult situation because it is considered old news, but the cult situation is a growing menace to

American families and children," Whelan said.

Whelan said a cult uses mind control and brainwashing to manipulate a person to join.

He said cults best "bait" are all-star 18 year-olds on college campuses.

"Students who are well-groomed with an A or B average and high moral standards are ideal targets for cult recruitments," Whelan said. "This type of student normally is limited in his social life, but a cult member secretly pretends to be their friend and suddenly the student feels he belongs."

Whelan said that soon the cult member brings the student to meetings, which may be called "Bible study", and before long the student has been brainwashed into believing in the cult's principles.

Whelan said several signs of mind control indicate that a person has joined a cult.

He said some of the mind control steps include the individual isolating himself from his family, being deprived of sleep and losing any connection to the outside world.

Whelan said there are four ways a person may leave a cult.

The first is the individual's own decision to leave.

He said the second way is for the cult to kick out the individual.

Whelan said the third way is for families to persuade the loved one to leave the cult.

He said the fourth method is to be physi-

cally removed by a rescue team and go through the process of deprogramming.

"The most successful and effective way to remove a person from a cult is by a rescue team," Whelan said.

Whelan said the rescue team takes the cult victim to what is called a host family and is given counseling by a deprogrammer.

Whelan said the deprogrammer trains the victim to forget the brainwashing and principles taught to him in the cult.

Whelan said he has rescued over 150 people who were in different cults around the country.

He said cults which exist in the Omaha area include the Unification Church, Scientology and the Promise Keepers.

Whelan said he started a local organization called Love Our Children which was a support group for relatives of a cult victim.

He said he also helped form CAN, or Cult Awareness Network, which was a national organization which helped inform the public of the dangers involved with joining a cult.

"CAN was destroyed by the cults who broke them financially and the Love Our Children organization stopped eight years ago," Whelan said.

He said the cults have lobbyists in Washington who pay thousands of dollars to politicians' campaigns and as a result the cults have gained the cooperation of the United States government.

January 31, 1997

Cigar trend lights up at Central

By John Gaskins

In the golden age of Hollywood, many of show business' brightest stars could be seen taking a puff - singer and swinger Sammy Davis, his rat pack buddy Frank Sinatra and the funniest man in the world Groucho Marx. Today you'll find the Terminator, "Ah-Nold" smoking it up, and it is one of the great trademarks of the Seinfeld legend and hipster-dufas we know as Kramer.

Yes, we're talking about cigars, and now cigar smoking has become one of the latest trends in our day of cappuccinos and coffee shops. All across the nation, whether it is at cigar shops, coffee shops, men's clubs, the golf course, or just about anywhere, we are seeing more people light up those stogies.

Why has cigar smoking become a trend again? Is it cooler or more socially acceptable than cigarette smoking, or is it just as bad for your health? You don't have to go far to find the answers.

The cigar-smoking trend has caught on with many teenagers, including a couple Central students, both over the age of 18.

Senior Dakota Bailey said he treated himself to a stogie on his 18th birthday and has enjoyed it from time to time since. He was so enthralled with cigars and became such a connoisseur that he became the Regional Coordinator of the Internet Cigar Group of Nebraska, a web site devoted to cigars.

Dakota said he prefers cigars over cigarettes because they taste better and are just plain more fun. He also said people enjoy smoking cigars because of an unexplainable yet enchanting atmosphere people get when they smoke with each other.

"I like to smoke cigars every now and then because it is fun to share the camaraderie of cigar smoking with other people," Dakota said. "Smoking alone would be kind of worthless, and cigarettes are kind of gross."

Dakota said he goes to S.G. Roi Tobacconist in the Old Market every couple weeks with another senior, Zack Johnson, and picks out and smokes cigars for a nice break and end to a week of school. Dakota and Zack said that another popular cigar hangout is Cigarillo's, located in west Omaha on West Maple Road.

"There aren't too many better feelings in the world than walking into the humidor and taking a whiff of that sweet cigar smell," Zack said, "and there's nothing like a great cigar!"

Both said they like to try out many different kinds of cigars, from the cheapest to most expensive, from foreign to domestic,

but Dakota said, "no good-tasting cigars come from the U.S. States." He said his favorite cigars come from Nicaragua. Zack's favorites are Dunhill's, which come from Europe, and he said he was once so excited about a recent acquisition from the Canary Islands, he "almost cried."

They both said they prefer more expensive cigars in the price range of \$5-\$7 because, "drug store and gas station cigars like Swishers and Black and Milds are dog rockets," meaning they stink.

Cigar smoking has commonly been linked only to men in the past, but now women have been puffing up more frequently.

"It's not just a guy thing. I love it, and so do many women," said one female Central student, who wishes to remain anonymous. "Cigars are in with everyone."

Even though cigar smoking has become increasingly popular, numerous medical studies have proven that cigars are hazardous to your health.

The belief that cigar smokers reduce their health risk because they often smoke less than cigarette smokers and do not inhale is true, according to the American Lung Association.

However, when cigarette smokers switch to pipes or cigars they are more likely to inhale or may smoke more often, which means that switching to cigars will not eliminate the health risks of smoking, including cancer of the mouth, throat, voice box, esophagus and bladder.

The U.S. Surgeon General also warned that smoking any kind of tobacco may lead to lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and many other health problems. One in four smokers die because of smoking.

Simply put, there is no safe form of tobacco and all tobacco forms are dangerous to smokers and nonsmokers alike, said the American Lung Association (ALA).

Also, despite the growing popularity of cigar smoking, the trend still has its doubters and opponents. Many people are concerned about the grotesqueness and smell of cigars and smokers.

"They just plain stink," said one student. "When I see a cigar smoker, I want to puke. Cigars look, smell and taste disgusting!"

Still, as long as there are shops like S.G. Roi and puffery like Dakota and Zack, the ever-so interesting trend of cigar smoking will puff on.

Fans Urge band's return

By Mike Kelly

On a chilly December night, The Urge came to Omaha and heated up the Ranch Bowl before a sellout crowd of 374.

With a mix of ska, metal and soul, The Urge played a testosterone-filled set with songs like "Dirty Rat," "Take Away," and "It's Getting Hectic."

The Dec. 29 show marked The Urge's fourth appearance in Omaha in less than one year. Previously they had opened the 311-No Doubt show last June at the Civic Auditorium and played Sokol Hall with the Phunk Junkeez at the end of October.

Hailing from St. Louis, The Urge has developed a cult following in Omaha with the same faces in the crowd at all four shows.

"The Urge is tremendous," senior Zack Johnson said. "I go to their show every time they come to town."

Frontman Steve Ewing has hair like Living Colour's Vernon Reid, vocals like Rage Against the Machine's Zach De La Rocha and stage presence like Pearl Jam's

Eddie Vedder.

On songs like, "Where Do We Go?" he sings of racial harmony and taking further steps to achieve it.

The mostly young audience moshed and got kicked in the head by crowd surfers throughout songs like "All Washed Up," and "Open All Night," a song about drinking.

A stellar horn section featuring Bill Reiter on the trombone and Todd Painter on the saxophone provided a funky diversion from the heat of the mosh pit.

Resembling ska greats such as Mighty Mighty Bosstones and No Doubt, the horn section of The Urge jammed in harmony at the beginning and end of every number in the show.

Although he had good backing from the band, the man of the night was Steve Ewing.

Ewing and the band covered an old Beastie Boys song called "Rhymin' and Stealin'."

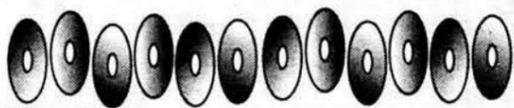
"Ali Baba and the forty thieves" was

the chant as the mosh pit reached its apex. When the horn section started playing, Ewing made a Carl Lewis-like jump off the stage and into the microphone and all. It was almost like the video for REM's song "Drive" with Ewing singing the song while passed around on the top of the crowd. After Ewing got back on stage, Painter and Reiter ditched their instruments and took their turn jumping the crowd. Reiter even stopped surfing to talk to some pretty girls who were up in front by the stage.

As the crowd filed out of the Ranch Bowl, steam from sweaty bodies filled the air like hot coffee steam from a pot.

The Urge has recently been playing on college radio stations, especially on The Edge. They fully deserve all the commercial success they are getting.

The Urge will likely come back to Omaha again will be a must see.



A LOOK BACK AT 1996

Movies

Movies- the good, the bad and the ugly

The Good-

Romeo and Juliet- Strange interpretation of a classic tale.

Fargo-Wierd.

Independence day- Never saw it, Mikey and I are probably the only ones, but I'll buy into the hype.

The Ugly-

Evita-Madonna. So, are you still like a virgin?

Nutty Professor- It's about time that Eddie Murphy put out a film that made money.

Beavis and Butthead-Why should someone make a movie out of an extremely bad TV show that is past its peak?

THE BAD-

Every Chris Farley film made this year and last year and the year before.

Broken Arrow- John Travolta as a dancer I can see. I can even see him as a gangster, but a pilot? It reminds me of the *Look Who's Talking* days.

MUSIC

Festivals-

Edge Fest- Filter headlined. Who wants to see Filter?

Reggae fest -It was rainy, very rainy, but well worth \$13.

Lalapolooza- Metallica? No thanks.

Deaths in the music industry-

Sublime's Brad Nowell

Smashing pumpkins' John Melvoin

Tiny Tim

Tupac

Concerts in the metro-

Tori Amos- She has a big piano for such a small person.

Dave Matthews Band- Life is short but sweet for certain.

Phish-Lots of hemp.

Bush- I've had my fill of Bush. To bad they put out one more crappy album.

Alanis - I hate my life and I am going to whine so much that you hate my life, too-Morissette

ALBUMS (that don't deserve a spot on the top list)-

Snoop Doggy Dog *Dogfather*- It sounds a lot like his last album and that wasn't bad.

Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill* remained a jagged little pain from September of 95 to August of 96 with only 1 week of not being on MTV or VH1 top ten charts and she still sucks.

The Top Albums of 1996 in no particular order-

Beck *Odelay*- He is where its at.

Fugees *The Score*- How come all of their popular songs are remakes?

Dave Matthew's *Crash*- Mikey likes it.

Rage Against the Machine *Evil Empire*- I wish I was Jackie O'nasis, too.

Sublime *Sublime*-Too bad that this was their last album.

Jock Jams- Hey Macerana! (Don't forget the Chipmunks put a rendition of this album)

Phish *Billy Breathes*- Phish put out a damn fine album.

New wave bookstore interests readers



Allison Jessing

By Rebecca Starr

Musical variety, great coffee and one of the very few places in Omaha to offer poetry readings are some of the things that make the Book Station more than just a bookstore.

Book stores have become entire shopping centers and are gradually evolving into social hubs. The changes are catered to in a smaller more personal atmosphere by The Book Station, (1913 Leavenworth).

The Book Station carries a diverse selection of mostly non mainstream reading. Don't expect this store to offer the latest John

Grisham novel, but if you're looking for a strange comic book series or a book by some lesser known or local author, this could be the place for you.

They offer diverse topics and carry a large amount of reading about gay/lesbian topics.

The store also carries a small selection of shirts, trading cards, and small novelty toys.

The store is broken up into two rooms. One side of the store offers a coffee shop type atmosphere with art by local artists including Central juniors Kelly Connor and Chris Schroeder.

With stars and coffee cups painted on the floor and comfortable couches make the coffee all the more enjoyable.

"Sometimes I head down to the Book Station on the weekends to the shows or just for conversation," Erin Foley, freshman, said.

Local shows are always a popular option and people cram their way into the shop to see free shows for bands like The Jive Monkeys and Foil.

About twice a month, the store holds poetry readings where people of all ages get up

and read. Kelly participates in this along with senior Ian O'donnell and Joe Knapp, junior.

"I've gone to a few readings and have enjoyed it every time I've gone," Samantha Frasier, junior said. The readings are free as well and usually last for about an hour. They break out the coffee machines and for these occasions.

If you enjoy a coffee shop atmosphere and reading a somewhat different assortment of literature, you'll probably enjoy the Book Station.

Poetry readings are held in which many students participate including Kelly Connor, junior.

Manson scares the masses

By Carolyn Bullard

If you like loud and scary music, not to mention really bizarre and disgusting CD covers, then I think I have found the album to make you smile, that is if you even smile. With it's harsh lyrics and loud, repetitive social commentary, Marilyn Manson's latest album, *Anti-Christ Super Star* is not a big crowd-pleaser.

He's been everywhere lately. From the cover of Rolling Stones magazine, to Oprah Winfrey's talk show, people are talking about them, or him actually, the Reverend Marilyn Manson, the lead singer of the band. They sing about death, dying, Satan, more death, a little more Satan, you get my drift. I guess one might say they cover the darker side, quite a euphemism.

From the perspective of the band and its album, it is not the darker side, but an honest way of life. *Anti-Christ Super Star*, a cheesy take off on the 70's Broadway musical *Grease*, uses every opportunity it has to denounce the standards of today's society and culture.

"The time has come for bitter things," sings the band in a pretty little number called "Irresponsible Hate Anthem." They were not kidding. Bitter is definitely what you are going to get.

There is not one song that is more calm or relaxed than the others. Every single one will leave you either suffering from extreme nausea, deaf or at least with a severe headache. This is definitely not music for the masses. The music questions the validity of the Christian religion, but does it in such a monotonous way that you feel like you are getting brainwashed.

By the looks of the CD cover these guys sure had

some fun making this album. Let's see....the lead singer is naked, angel wings spread into the air, with a really interesting apparatus attached to his, well you know what I am getting at. Oh, you'd never in a million years suspect that these guys are absolute freaks.

The music itself really wasn't that weird. With a few exceptions, it was just loud and completely annoying.

I guess I was actually a little disappointed. After ten or so songs about worms and the devil, it really gets kind of boring. I was expecting something a little more freaky. By their looks, I know they have it in them to do it.

During the duration of *Anti-Christ Super Star*, the urge to remove the CD was overwhelming. The only song that was ever so slightly capable of not getting made fun of was one entitled "The Beautiful People," which attacks societal standards of beauty, still it was not exactly music to my ears.

The whole time you are

listening to it, you will be thinking of all the possible mental illnesses these guys could have. It isn't even entertaining, much less music.

All I can say is this: if you don't like yelling, screaming, bad music and more screaming, then this is probably not a CD that you would benefit from. Even if you do like that kind of stuff, I am sure there are much better albums out there waiting to be discovered.

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Sometimes Dazed and Usually Confused

By John Gaskins



What is the deal with these commercial sponsors in pro golf tournaments? Every tournament is now called something like the Manufactures Hanover Budweiser Chrysler Prudential Life Insurance Wal-Mart Frito Lay Ben-Gay Dixie Cup Turtle Wax Preparation-H Classic. Hail to the winner of such a prestigious event.

Another thing that bugs me about sports is free agency. This is the concept that after a very short amount of time, an athlete on a professional sports team can decide to make himself available for another team in the league because he is unhappy with the team he is on, as long as his new team offers him more money. Well, isn't that just

special. Wouldn't that be nice in the real world? I'm sure there's a Hinky Dinky employee out there who is unhappy at Hinky Dinky and hopes there are other grocery mart owners out there fighting for him. I can hear the negotiations now. "Oh, come on, Morty. He's got more God-given talent than Corky from *Life Goes On*. Have you seen the way he sacks that stuff? He's a machine. He must be worth what - six, maybe six-fifty - an hour? Sign that kid up, Morty!"

football guys like John Madden are especially repulsive. Did you hear this ogre during the Super Bowl? "Look at this guy...boom! Look at that guy...boom! I'm drunk!...boom!" Or we could have college basketball's version of the loony puppet... Dick Vitale: "It's awesome, baa-bee, awesome with a capital A! Warm up the bus, baa-bee!" Hey, Dicky V, do us a favor. Take a pill, ba-bee. Calm down, there.

The Wild, Wacko World of Sports

Before I start this month's column, on behalf of our sports god, Les Anich, I would like to give major props to the boys basketball team for being rated No. 1 in the state. Great to see our friend Stu is catching on. The win at Millard South was epic (sorry to steal from Mike Kelly's vocabulary). Nice going, guys.

Anyway, I figured that a timely article for this issue would be the complete mayhem of the sports world. As most of you sports nuts out there know, the Super Bowl has come around, the basketball and hockey seasons are in bloom, and even golf, yes, golf has started. Now, don't get me wrong. I love watching sports. Many of the major ones that we see weekend to weekend are just fine. It is some of the other so-called sports, the mania of free agency commercialism in sports and some announcers that make me want to take a time out.

My first question is - since when was there such an overwhelming demand for figure skating? Figure skating! Have you noticed this? We don't just have figure skating championships, we have weekly freak shows that are running out of ideas that pass for a sporting event. "Hot on Ice - Figure Skating Goes Rock and Roll." Are you kidding me? I'm sorry, but this is ridiculous. I'm not going to say this isn't a sport, but I know it is ballet dancing on ice. About the only thing worse than watching weirdoes in skin-tight costumes with bulging genitalia prance around on ice for three hours is watching Richard Simmons doing gymnastic routines in his boxers to *Sweatin' to the Oldies*. I hope that guy sweats till his perm wits.

There are many other obscure and stupid sports out there, many of which you can see on 24-hour sports channels. I like these channels, but I would steer clear of any programming after 10 o'clock at night. For example, when ESPN came out, all they had was billiards, steeple chasing, lumber jacking, and for all I know televised games of quarters at college frat parties.

When they picked up real sports, like hockey and baseball, they turned these weird competitions over to late night or to other new 24-hour sports channels, like ESPN2. For cryin' out loud, what sports could I possibly crave in the middle of the night - certainly not the Southeast Tennessee Lawn Bowling Championships... Seniors Division. A couple of my other favorites are Asian Ping Pong and Australian Rules Football, which is rugby with really funny looking referees in sports coats and brim hats whose main functions are to make fun-looking "the kick is good" gestures as opposed to breaking up the Myopian War on the field. Nevertheless, it is one of the few ESPN originals that is fun to watch.

Being the golfer that I am, I would like to give a few views on the sport, or game, or whatever you want to call it.



Schnitzel Nursing Home
onships, sports will always be there to intrigue, excite and every now and then irritate us. Ah, yes - the thrill of victory and the agony of stupidity! Until next month, as Mikey would say, I am out!

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Visions are written purely for the entertainment of our readers. Any resemblance to fact is purely coincidental.

Capricorn Dec.22-Jan. 19

No matter what goes on this month, don't allow the gray skies to get you down. Try to get your mind directed away from areas that might cause you stress. A break will do you some good.

Aquarius Jan.20-Feb. 18

Tests are over but there is still some unresolved business that needs tending to. Deal with it honestly and move on. There will be someone in the next month that needs your help with something very important. Be sure not to overlook this person.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

Beyond the shadow of a doubt, January will prove to be a time of reflection. Don't let this reflection keep your head in the clouds, or serious damage could take place.

Aries Mar.21-Apr. 19

Someone new and peculiar will make themselves acquainted with you this month. Don't rely on your first impressions of this person, he or she may have ulterior motives.

Taurus Apr. 20-May 20

Procrastination will really hurt you if you do not get your act together. Relaxation is nice, but so is the feeling of completion. After the work is done, there will be plenty of time to loaf around.

Gemini May 21-June 2

If you think that you are bored right now, just wait. It's looking like the next month is going to get progressively worse. Try getting involved in something new to break the monotony a little bit.

Cancer June 22- July 22

You will attempt to make some changes concerning some unwanted circumstances. If planning is well thought-out, then these changes are very likely to take place. Otherwise, get used to the way things are, they could remain like this for a while.

Leo July 23-Aug. 22

Satisfaction will be headed your way this month. Though all may not seem to be working out the way you would like, it will work out for the better.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

February should be a pretty peaceful month for all the Virgos. Sit back, relax and enjoy it. If you are not careful, your good spirits might just rub off on those around you.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct.23

You will read a horoscope and be just a little disappointed because it doesn't really tell you anything.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Plan on having a very busy schedule this month. It looks as if Scorpios are high in demand for the month of February. A calendar might be a necessity this month.

Sagittarius Nov.23-Dec.21

If you don't already, you will soon have your eye on someone very interesting. If they haven't responded by the end of the month, drop it. If they have responded, something very exciting could be on its way.

HAPPENINGS



Foxy Brown

Tues., Feb. 11
Civic Center

Road Show

Fri. & Sat.,
Feb 13 & 14
Central Auditorium

Marilyn Manson

Sat., Feb. 22
7:30 pm
Civic Center

Type O Negative

Sat., Feb. 22
9 pm
Ranch Bowl

Scream offers diverse sound

By Jen Houlden

Scream, the motion picture soundtrack, is packed with songs that leave you as breathless and on edge as the movie itself. *Scream*, the movie, an intense thriller, provides an excellent atmosphere for the fast-paced techno coupled quiet mourning songs.

My personal favorite is Gus' remake of Blue Oyster Cult's "Don't Fear the Reaper." Gus has taken out the intricate psychedelic sounds of the original and simplified it. They bring a very melancholy and lonely feel to the song, and the deviation is a treat.

To hear a classic done in such a way is refreshing. Instead of another group singing the song in the same style as the original artist, Gus has made the song its own. They have added nuances that Blue Oyster Cult could never have contemplated.

Catherine does a song called "Whisper," which is almost as quiet. The song progresses

through many mood swings, and it is obvious how the song fits with the movie.

Soho's "Whisper to a Scream" is also a great find on this album. It embodies the mood of the movie, and the whole album through the innovative styling of the song.

On another note, Sister Machine Gun brings up the tempo quite a bit with their techno-ish song, "Better Than Me."

The chase scenes of the movie were all taken at the pace of this song, and the grinding beat will make you as hyped as they were. But you won't be facing death, so it will work out a lot better for you.

Even for those who, like myself, don't particularly like techno, will greatly enjoy this album.

In general, this album is a good choice for parties or really almost any situation in which the music tastes of the audience is quite diverse.

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to Central Staff and Students



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Turf Talk

By Les Anich



Rodman vs. world

league can't control him they may have to. So, if I was Rodman, I'd cut out the extra curricular activity for the remainder of his decorated career.

Rodman is a great actor. He's an entertainer more than a basketball player. Basketball fans respect him because of that.

His little outbursts, especially kicking court-side cameraman Eugene Amos in the groin, diminished his respect from the league, players and his fans.

He may not look to be a dedicated athlete (or from this planet), but averaging close to twenty rebounds a game in his career is incredible. It's a phenomenal feat. A player can't pull down that many rebounds without being dedicated to the game.

An 11 game suspension, a \$25,000 fine and also, the NBA ordered him to undergo counseling, all that will do to Rodman is slow him down in reaching 15,000 or 20,000 rebounds by the year 2000.

Rodman's outburst resulted nearly \$1.5 million including the \$200,000 out-of-court settlement with Amos. This settlement also ensured that Rodman would not face criminal prosecution.

When the smoke clears and all is forgotten, Dennis Rodman will be his old self again. He'll be pulling in 20 rebounds a game and he'll add on some extra curricular activity that will result in technicals.

Dennis will always be Dennis, no matter how the NBA punishes him.

There are two words you can use to describe the flamboyant forward Dennis Rodman of the Chicago Bulls:

Amazing and wild.

Overall, he is a fantastic basketball player. He has over ten thousand rebounds in his long and decorated career with the Detroit Pistons, the San Antonio Spurs and the defending World Champions Chicago Bulls. His career could end in the immediate future if he can't control his little outbursts.

He is a walking time bomb ready to explode any minute during a game. One little glitch in his game can spark one of his little outbursts.

But that's Dennis being Dennis.

That's his style. And for some reason some of us accept it to a certain point.

Love him or hate him, you have to admire the guy for his accomplishments on the court.

The majority of sport fanatics accept or prefer to see a fight during a pushing or shoving or deal during a game.

A little shoving or back talking during a game is very acceptable. And it's also part of the game. It's the way of the game. There's going to be a lot of back talking and shoving during a game. The refs can't catch everything.

Rodman's outbursts are not acceptable.

It's a psychological benefit for the player if he knows he has disturbed his opponent's thinking toward the game. Players have their own way of getting into another player's mind. It could be a little push or it could be one little word.

But for Rodman, it's more than a shove and it's more than just words. His behavior explodes and he gets physical towards anybody. So you better get out of his way.

You have to do what you have to do to win. But to a certain point.

In Rodman's case, he is going way too far.

The NBA should do something other than suspending Rodman or fining him close to a half a million dollars for his little outbursts. That's pocket change for him.

Maybe kicking him out of the league is a bit too drastic, but if the

Outta my way!!!



Senior Forward Brandon Myers drives on a Millard West player during their game on Jan. 17. They beat the Wildcats 83-75. The Omaha World Herald poll has recently ranked the Eagles no. 1 in the state.

Central swimmers qualify for state

By Sam Achelpohl

Central's swim team springs into success as many Eagle swimmers qualifying for state.

"Our team this year is better than last year's team, and last year's team was good," senior captain Zack Johnson said.

Central recently posted state qualifying scores in the away meet at Millard South.

Juniors Mike Gill, Eddie Piatt, and Nate Bullington, all posted state qualifying scores in two relays, the 200m medley and 200m freestyle. Zack also qualified in the relay events.

Lately, the swim team has cruised through victories against Bellevue East and Benson.

"Although the team may not have the depth to win against the big teams, we expect to do well as the next half of the season approaches," Zack said.

"We don't really have the numbers to win against some of the tougher teams in the city, but we think we'll have the times to place well," Zack said.

Teams like Creighton Prep and Westside, who have a long history of success in state competition, will be tough competitors for the Eagles as the latter half of the season approaches.

Sophomores Marci Holmes and Jody Baines, junior Erin Quinlan and seniors Abby Dinin and Cari Cain are all members of the women's swim team that have recently qualified for state at the Millard South duel.

"We have the potential to qualify ten more swimmers in state," Head Coach Kathleen Laughlin said. "We've already qualified with all the relay events,

now we're trying to qualify more people in individual events."

Coach Laughlin also said that the team has shown much improvement from the team last year.

"We've definitely had an improvement since we qualified for more events this year and we consider last year a record year," she said.

Coach Laughlin also said that they are swimming more like a team this year instead of as individuals.

"It's great that the team is taking those extra steps for the team, it's making a huge difference in our performance," she said.

Abby Dinin said that the team is having a much better showing against the bigger teams this year.

"When we swim against the bigger teams, we swim much better than the smaller teams because we pick it up when we actually have competition," she said.

Coach Laughlin said that the team has been tapering off a little in practice in order to save energy for big competitions like metro and state.

"Hopefully with the three more duels and two meets that we have left, we can get more people to get state qualifying times," Abby said.

We're going to have to play teams like Marian and Creighton Prep, and if we can post some good times, we expect to do well against them."

The swim team is looking forward to a few more duels and the metro and state.

With six swimmers already qualified for state, expectations are high as they approach the latter half of the season.

Lady Eagles end drought

By Sam Achelpohl

The Lady Eagles basketball team has picked up the pace as they approach the latter part of the season by scoring wins against Bellevue West and Millard West on the weekend of Jan. 17.

"The girls have continued to work hard all season, and have been improving with every game," Head Coach Dave Felici said.

"We played some top ten teams early in the season the we had problems with.

Teams like Marian, Millard South, Benson and Westside all gave us a tough time," he said. "We've also had some close games that we could've won."

On Jan. 17, the women's basketball team went into an away game against Millard West and took control, winning 48-44.

Emily Broom scored fifteen of the Eagle's points with Quiana Mitchem contributing nine points in Central's route of the Wildcats.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the Eagles beat Bellevue West in a close game that ended 45-41.

Emily Broom scored another fifteen points with Quiana Mitchem



Take it to the hole, sophomore guard Lavonda McClinton drives to the hoop against Millard West.

taking control of the boards with sixteen rebounds and scoring eleven points of her own.

Although the season has not produced many wins, the team is looking forward to success in the future.

Two Central seniors have been showcasing their skills on the court, getting some big numbers in two categories.

Quiana is one of the top three rebounders in the state. Emily Broom has hit nineteen of twenty-

five from the free throw line as well as scoring fifteen points in each of their two wins.

Quiana said that a week of great practicing made the team prepared for their games.

"During the first game we stayed ahead and we were finally playing like a team," she said. "When we beat Millard West, we took the confidence we got from that game and took it into the next against Bellevue East."

Quiana also said that with the two wins, the team looks to the future of the season with assurance that more wins are in the future.

"We know that we have the talent, we just have to find the desire to win each game."

The varsity women have a tough schedule as they begin the latter half of the season. With games against Millard South and Lincoln High, it is evident that girls will have to win some big games against top rated teams.

LEI BROWN

Senior rides in amateur rodeos

By Les Anich

Many sports deal with the overall theme of man vs. man or man vs. machine, but not many deal with man vs. animal. Senior Chris Worms enjoys the excitement and adventure of competing against a bull.

"Anything could happen when you are on a bull or when it throws you out," Chris said. "You don't get a second chance, so you better hold on as tight as you can on the rope and enjoy the ride."

This animal will likely out-power the rider every time, and sometimes stomping on the fallen rider and seriously injuring him.

Chris participated in five county sponsored rodeos in the past three years. And he knows the power of these animals.

"I've been stepped on a couple times by a bull and a bucking horse," Chris said. "It will run over anything or anybody in its path, so you better get up and run for the gates."

Chris said he was also horned in the ribs during a bull ride that caused him to visit the hospital after the incident.

"It wasn't that bad," Chris said. "I was very lucky I didn't receive any serious injury."

Chris has been bull riding and bareback riding since the age of 14. Both professional and amateur rodeo programs are built around the six major contests: saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, calf roping, bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping.

"I've never held on for eight seconds (the maximum)," Chris said. "The longest I've been on is seven, so I still have some work to do."

Chris said a cowboy with a perfect ride is given a score of 100 points, but this feat is rarely accomplished.

The average score is usually 87 or 88 points.

Chris said that rodeo stock is very valuable and the horses and steers are well cared for to the point of being pampered.

They are encouraged in their dislike of being mounted and further annoyed by the flank strap, which is placed around the hind quarters," Chris said.

"Any foreign object on the rear of the horse or bull makes them buck," Chris said. "And they go wild."

Chris said he doesn't feel like pursuing his hobby as a career in the future wishes to keep on riding until he doesn't enjoy it.

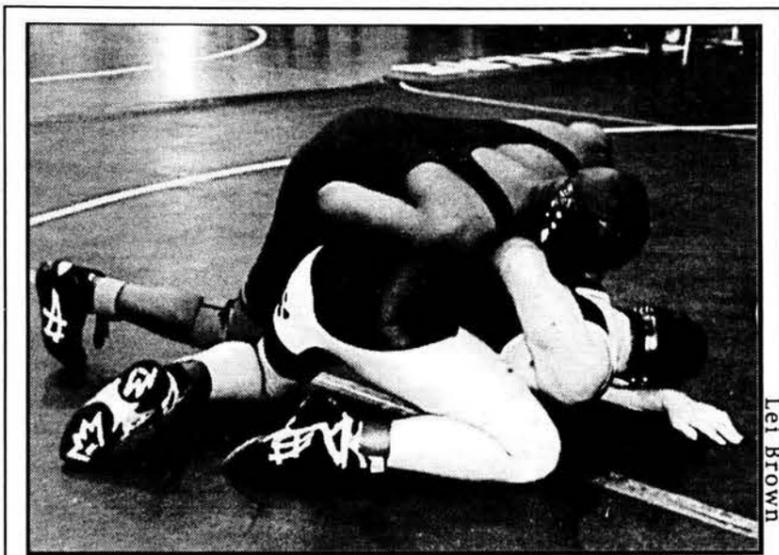
Wrestlers pin competition, head to districts

By Les Anich

The varsity wrestling team looks forward to place five or six wrestlers in the State Tournament at the Devaney Center in Lincoln on Feb. 20-22, Head Wrestling Coach Gary Kubik said.

"I expect five or six (wrestlers) making it into state," coach Kubik said. "We have a very tough district. That works to our advantage for us, because if our wrestlers lose to a district winner then he'll be placed in a different bracket at state."

A tougher district will make easier matches for the Eagle wrestlers at the State Tournament, coach Kubik said.



In control...Senior Ladarius Murry holds down a Millard West opponent. He finished second at Metro.

Senior Ladarius Murry, 189 lbs., has a 16-5 record heading into Districts on Feb. 15 at Lincoln Northeast High School.

"I feel confident in placing in the top three," Ladarius said.

Senior Vito Agosta, at 130 lbs., Ladarius and junior Josh Buckles, at 103 lbs., placed second in their weight class at the Metro Tournament held on Jan. 18.

"Vito was very exhausted going into the championship round," coach Kubik said. "He had two other matches that day."

Central wrestlers had a very decorated season, coach Kubik said. Vito, 18-2, won the Elkfelt

Tournament, Ralston and Creighton Prep Invitationals.

"Vito had his heart on an undefeated season," coach Kubik said. "So now he is learning to be more relaxed. He used to be too wound up before a match and that backfired on him."

Josh, 15-5, won the Council Bluffs Invitational and finished second at the Elkfelt Tournament. Ladarius won the Elkfelt Tournament and finished second at the Ralston Invitational.

Freshmen Dusty Friedman, 125 lbs. and Max Kenny, 112 lbs. finished fourth and sixth in the Council Bluff Invite respectively. Fresh-

man Ishrat Husain, 112 lbs. finished sixth at the Ralston Invite.

Juniors Jason Regan, 145 lbs. and Joe Wojtkiewicz, 171 lbs. placed fourth and fifth at the Ralston Invite.

"Overall, everybody is healthy. Josh is in his best health ever during a wrestling season," coach Kubik said. "Jason Regan has a loose cartilage in his breast plate, so it's hard for him to breathe during a match."

Coach Kubik said the team has three weeks to prepare for State.

"We have a chance to work on techniques and condition a little bit more," coach Kubik said.

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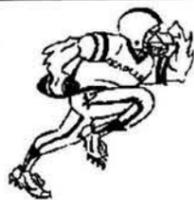


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SPORTS



We Cover Eagle Territory

Eagles soar to no. 1 ranking

By Mike Kelly

Since a loss to Omaha Benson in the second game of the season, the Central Men's Basketball team has won ten games in a row including a victory over Omaha Bryan in the championship of the Metro Holiday Tournament.

The Eagles gained a no. 1 ranking in the state after a Jan. 24 win over Millard South, for the first time since 1974.

Millard South battled the Eagles the entire game. The unranked Indians led by eight with less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles struggled and senior Galen Morrison was charged with a technical foul.

With less than one minute left, the Eagles closed the lead to five.

After Millard South missed the front end of a one-on-one, the Eagles raced down the floor and Galen drove through the lane and made the lay-up. He was also fouled so he had a chance to cut the lead down to 2.

Galen missed the free-throw but senior Brandon Myers came down with the rebound, passed it quickly to senior guard Ryan Behrens, who then drilled a three-point basket to tie the game.

Millard South called time-out and set up for a last second shot.

With time running down, Galen stepped in front of a Millard South pass and drove down the court for the winning basket.

The Eagles won 64-62 and kept their winning streak alive. "It was a good victory for us," Galen said. "We still struggled though. We are better than that."

The win over Millard South, complemented with losses by then no. 1 Hastings, no. 2 Columbus, and no. 3 Lincoln Northeast, propelled Central to their first no. 1 ranking since the 1974-75 season.

"Being no. 1 is really good," Ryan said. "But we need to keep winning all of our games."

"We have been playing very good basketball ever since holiday tournament time," senior guard Kenny McMorris said. "We just need to keep trying hard in practice and good things will happen."

The Eagles were seeded fourth coming into the Holiday Tournament, an event they had not reached the finals in since 1974.

After coming from behind to beat Millard West, the Eagles beat Westside, then decimated the second seeded Papillion Monarchs 71-42.

"We played extremely good defense against Papio," senior guard Ralph blank said. "They had some pretty good shooters from the outside and we shut them down nicely."

Nine players scored in the victory including Galen, the all-tournament team captain, who had 25 to lead the Eagles effort.

The Eagles returned to action Jan. 2 to face Bryan in the final game. The Eagles fell behind 22-8 early to the upstart Bears, who were coming off an upset victory over Omaha North in the semi-final game.

Central rallied in the second half and tied the score late in the third quarter and never looked back.

Galen scored 10 of his game high 23 in the fourth quarter to lead the Eagles to a seven point victory and a tournament championship for the Eagles.

"The win over Bryan was a big confidence booster for us," Myers said. "It showed we would not back down in a big game."

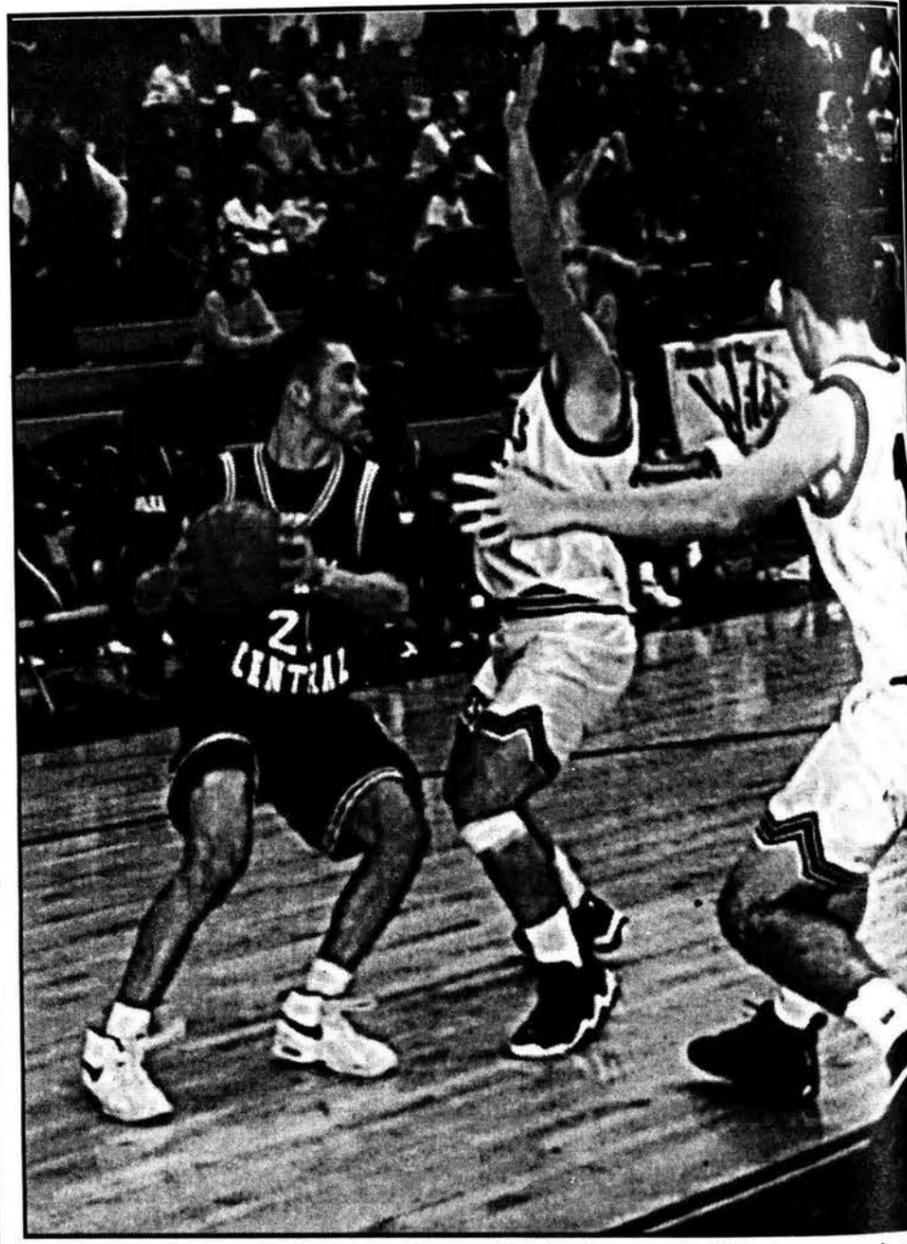
Kenny was also named to the all-tournament team averaging 15 points a game to boost Central.

After the Jan. 10 game, with Creighton Prep canceled due to cold, the Eagles returned to the basketball court to face Omaha South.

Central fell behind for most of the game, before rallying to win 66-61. Morrison had 30 points. The win over South was the seventh in a row for the Eagles.

A strong defense, a deep bench and the ability to come from behind has propelled the men's basketball team to victory this season.

Key contributors for the Eagles have been Ryan and post players senior Robert Jefferson and Myers.



Help me! Senior Ryan Behrens looks for an outlet to pass during Central's 83-75 win over Millard West. Ryan currently leads the Metro in assists and is second in three-point percentage.

During the winning streak the Eagles have not let up. Head Basketball Coach Rick Behrens said that the key to keep winning is to go out and practice hard every day and not take any opponents lightly.

"If we do not come to play everyday we will get beat," coach Behrens said. "The Metro is just too strong."

Volleyball sets goal for championship

By Mike Kelly

The Central Men's Volleyball Team will attempt to repeat as Nebraska State Champions this season.

Last season the Eagles capped a tremendous season by winning the State Cham-

pionships in May and competing at the National Championships last July in San Jose.

Led by Head Coach Brad Reichmuth, the Eagles return to the floor with only two players with varsity experience.

Steve Hernandez and James Nelson lead a young Central squad that is very gifted athletically, but lack the experience and communication that last years team had.

"We have great athletic talent," Reichmuth said. "Seven of our ten players can dunk so we play a lot more above the net this season."

One of those players is senior Steve Hernandez. The returning varsity player developed a jump serve over the summer and should be one of the most exciting players in the state this season.

"Steve is a great athlete who is probably farther along with his skills at this point in the season than any athlete we've had here,"

Reichmuth said. "The jump serve is nice too."

Among the seven newcomers on the squad this season, three of them are sophomores.

Gary Bullard, Stuart Waters and Ben Rinaker all stand a chance to see significant time.

"We have never had a sophomore start for us," Reichmuth said. "But these guys could step in and contribute right away."

Other new team members include seniors Dane Foster, Steve Quackenbush and Bobby Malik along with junior Jay Axlerod. Basketball player Luke Denney should join the squad when his season is finished.

The team practices twice a week, usually at night when there are no conflicting after school sports.

"I would like to get more practice time," Quackenbush said. "But it is difficult to get gym time because we are not sponsored by

the school."

In Nebraska, about 10-15 schools have a club volleyball team. Each team plays a round robin schedule with a State Tournament in May. The winner of state goes on to nationals in Denver early in July.

Despite the youth, the Eagles believe a second consecutive state championship is very attainable.

"If we constantly get better over the course of the year and improve our skills, there is no reason why we should not win state," Steve said.

Reichmuth said he is not putting any pressure on the players to win state but that anything is possible.

"Last year our goal was to win state and we would settle for nothing less," Reichmuth said. "This season we will keep practicing hard and if we put it all together, we have a good chance as any to repeat."

Departments

Ladys' basketball..page 14

Turf Talk.....page 14

Rodeo rider.....page 15

Wrestling.....page 15