

Opinion

OP cannot stop the president Page 4



Central Focus

Holiday season brings-out giving spirit Pages 6 & 7



Sports

Towering juniors to lead Eagles Page 12

Wednesday

December 16, 1998

the Central High School Register

Volume 112 Issue 4

The oldest high school newspaper west of the Mississippi, established 1886

Official finds security problems

Thompson says OPS Risk Management findings do not accurately reflect safety of Central

Dan Joseph
The administrator, who walks into school buildings unannounced and times how long it takes until a staff member questions why he's there, remained unnoticed by Central staff members for 27 minutes.

The administrator, who walks into school buildings unannounced and times how long it takes until a staff member questions why he's there, remained unnoticed by Central staff members for 27 minutes.

"I'm convinced this school is as safe as any place." Dr. Gary Thompson Central Principal

"I'm convinced this school is as safe as any place," Dr. Thompson said. But, what about the results? "It was an abnormality," Dr. Thompson said.

door the administrator used to get into the building, located near the loading dock, normally is locked. Secondly, he said that while the administrator wandered the halls of the second and third floors during ninth hour, he ran into only seven or

eight teachers. "Obviously, there wasn't a whole lot of people in the halls," he said. He said that Central simply does not have a big problem with students in the halls, so consequently there is not a lot of security for the halls during class periods.

Thirdly, Dr. Thompson said that the administrator was not stopped by many of the teachers because they recognized him as an

OPS group considers fewer periods

By Mary Lynn Super

A newly formed committee is seriously considering the possibility of changing from a ten-period school day to a seven-period day, one of the committee's members said. Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Director of Secondary Education Dr. Renae Kehrberg said that group, officially titled the Comprehensive High School Committee, is trying to discover exactly what aspects would make up the ideal high school.

Scheduling options are definitely part of these considerations, she said. "As a group, we are trying to locally research what is the best way to academically structure a school day for a typical student," Dr. Kehrberg said.

She also said that the committee is studying the effects of the schedules containing fewer classes, which are now in use at both Bryan and North High Schools.

Keeping in mind the fact that the students are the ones who will be affected by the decisions, Dr. Kehrberg said that the group wants to make sure that they have input from students themselves.

Sophomore Joey Fehrman was chosen to be Central's representative at the meetings.

He said that, as of right now, he does not think that a seven-period day would be beneficial to Central.

"I can hardly fit in all the classes I want to take right now. How could I possibly fit them into a day with less periods?" Fehrman said.

Dr. Gary Thompson, Central principal, said that, because of all kinds of reasons such as lack of space, Central would never implement a seven-period day.

One of the reasons for the consideration of the schedule change is the fact that with less periods and fewer classes being taught, OPS would save quite a bit of money, Dan Daly, chairman of the CHS English department, said.

"Consider the idea that for each teacher that is no longer needed saves an average of [approximately] \$36,000 a year. If four positions are eliminated from each school in the district, close to \$1 million dollars could be saved," Daly said.

Senior Brooke Ponc said that teachers' jobs should not be eliminated simply to save money.

"Regardless of whether the money goes to the teachers or somewhere else, people still have to pay the same amount of taxes," Ponc said.

She also said that if these actions eliminated extra-curricular activities and elective classes, every student's

Turn to IDEAL, page 2

Group to boost alumni involvement

By Mary Lynn Super

Central has always had a fantastic reputation as far as the quality of its alumni, but what most people do not realize is that the inventor of Rogaine, the hair-growth chemical, was just one of the school's many famous and successful graduates, the director of the newly formed Central Alumni Association said.

Merrilee Miller, graduate of the class of 1966, said that the association wants to give the current and future students of Central a better idea of the school's past.

The [the association board members] hope to create interest and inspiration in the current students," Miller said. "Hopefully, this will give them something to look up to."

Junior Aaron Rich said that he thinks the Alumni Association is a great idea, if the members stay involved with the school.

"I think it would be a great way to keep in touch with the people who you graduate with," he said.

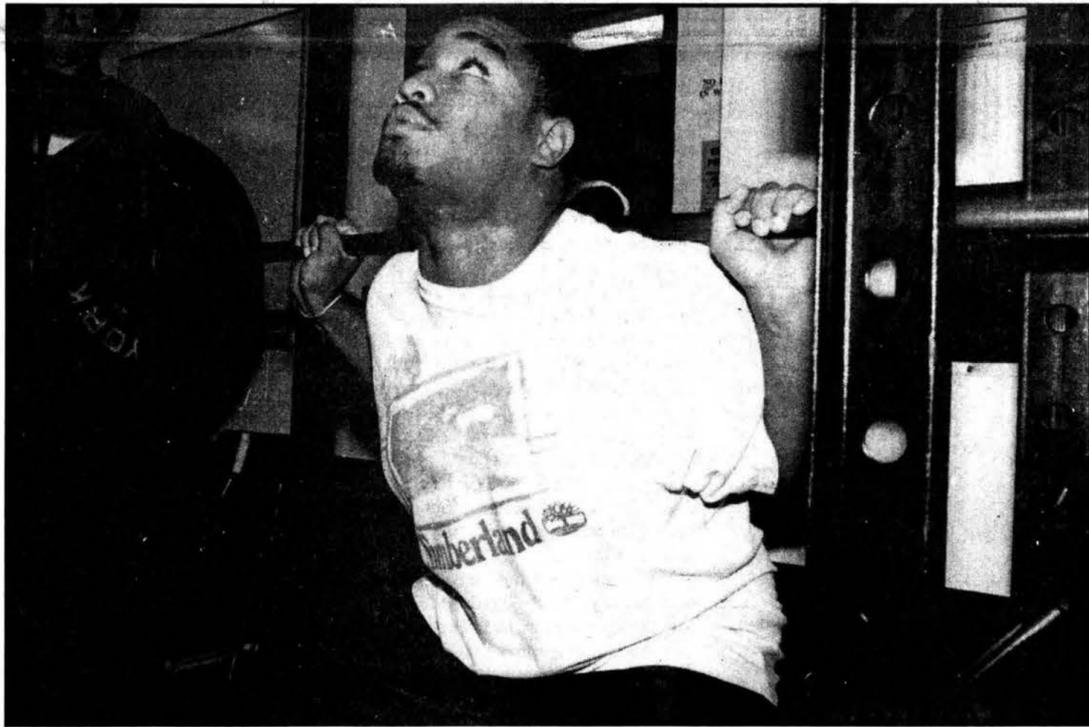
One of the ideas the group is working on to keep both graduates and current students informed includes the possible creation of a Hall of Fame, displaying the various successful alumni, Miller said.

He said that the association members hope to induct about 25 graduates into the Hall of Fame next year. The inductees will range from financial wizards to best-selling authors.

We're working on developing an interactive computer program, which gives students the chance to stop and look about past graduates just by up

Turn to GRADS, page 3

Pumping IRON



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

HANS AND FRANS...

Senior Errol Randolph (above) and sophomore Manuel Montemayor (right) participate in the first Power Lifting practice on Dec. 2. The Power Lifting team is currently training for the TJ Invite and the State Meet, both of which are at the end of February. "We seem to field a pretty substantial team every year," Coach Joe McMenamin said. "Our weight training and PE classes turn out strong individuals every year."



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

Students help visually impaired children shop for presents

By Brian Joseph

With the coming of the holiday season, grade-school students and teenagers alike are hitting the malls in search of gifts for their family and friends.

But, what if you're blind?

In an effort to help visually impaired children shop for gifts, roughly 30 Central students took part in the 38th annual Ruth Sokolof Christmas Party at Westroads Mall on Sun., Dec. 6.

"It's just a good chance to get out of the house and socialize," Ryan Strunk, a visually impaired sophomore from Fremont Senior High, said. "This is pretty fun for me."

The event, sponsored by the Nebraska Foundation for the Visually Handicapped, is held in honor of the late Ruth Sokolof, the founder of the J.P. Lord Preschool for the Visually Impaired.

How it works is each of the 105 visually impaired children involved is paired-up with a student volunteer and given \$100 to use on

a shopping spree.

The volunteers then accompany the children around the mall and help them select gifts for their family and friends. Also, at the end of the day, the volunteers help the children wrap their presents.

"I thought it would be great to help out other people," sophomore Aleks Berzins, Strunk's shopping partner, said. "I just felt I hadn't been doing enough lately."

Phil Sokolof, Ruth's husband, provides each child with \$100 and helps organize the

event in conjunction with Donna

Turn to RUTH, page 2

Ruth Sokolof Christmas Party laws 105 children, teenagers

Index

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes News, Features, Opinion, Central Focus, Entertainment, Sports.

SEVEN

Committee discusses new schedule

Continued from page 1

eliminated extra-curricular activities and elective classes, every student's opportunity to expand his education would decrease.

But, she said she could see the other side of the issue, too — the side presenting the benefits of a type of block schedule.

"Block scheduling could be good in that it would help the student focus on an individual class, giving them the time to cover not only a greater quantity [of], but higher quality, material," Ponec said.

Senior Phil Jonak said that he believes that students should only have to take the classes that are necessary and a couple of their choice.

"I'm all about a seven-period day," he said. "It seems like that would give us [the students] a chance to learn more in the classes we choose."

With so many students having different opinions on these issues, the committee has made an attempt to take their views into consideration by having student representatives from high schools around the metro, Dr. Kehrberg said.

No matter what the opinions of the students, though, the new schedule may not even be feasible. Daly said that, logistically, a seven-period day would never be possible at Central.

With the student population increasing every year, the number of rooms in the school would not be able to accommodate all of those people.

"I'm concerned about the instructional swamp that would result if this school system adopted a seven-period day for senior high schools," he said.

He also said that, while it seems that the 50-minute classes would give opportunity for more material to be covered, the long period would not benefit the students.

"High school students typically have a short attention span," Daly said.

RUTH

Students help blind shop for presents

Continued from page 1

Hultman, the director of the Omaha Public School's (OPS) Visually Impaired Program.

"It works out real nice," Sokolof said. "The volunteers love it, too. It's a nice feeling."

Also, Hultman said that this event allows the children to not only shop for their gifts, but also to get out and have some fun.

"I just want to see the kids have a good experience—both the visually impaired and the volunteers," she said.

However, because of a lack of volunteers, Hultman said that this almost did not happen. Four days before the event, there were only 70 volunteers signed-up to attend.

But, Janet McFadden, facilitator with the OPS Department of Special Education, said that after Central students were notified about the party, they had enough volunteers.

"I think you guys from Central saved us," she said. "We were short of people up until Friday."

In fact, Hultman said that so many student volunteers showed up that the organizers were forced to turn away some 50 additional students.

Whatever the case, junior Erik Smith said that he was glad that he was able to get involved.

"Now that I'm here, I'm having a lot of fun," he said. "I'm glad I agreed to do this."

Brendon Cahill, a freshman from Westside and the teen Smith shopped with, said that he was excited to go shopping without his family.

"This is the first time I've done it," he said.

Plus, he said that he enjoyed being around such a "rad" person as Smith.

NHS members sweeten honey sales

By Talya Greenspoon

The Central National Honor Society (NHS) participated in a city-wide fundraiser called Honey Sunday to raise money for the Ollie Webb Center, NHS president Dave Rennard, senior, said.

Rennard said that NHS went door-to-door selling honey bears to benefit the Center and the Madonna School for Exceptional Children, both of which help retarded children.

Although Honey Sunday is an

annual event in Omaha, NHS just started participating in it this year, Rennard said.

Senior Dana Hendee, Treasurer of NHS, said that she hopes Honey Sunday will become a tradition for NHS to participate in.

Hendee said that she enjoyed going door-to-door with her group selling honey.

She said that they picked up the honey from Commercial Federal, one of the sponsors of this year's Honey Sunday.

Hendee's group of four sold 35 bears at \$3 each, she said.

"It was a good thing for Central kids to participate in," Hendee said. "It was really easy but also really helps."

Rennard said that about five groups of four people from NHS sold honey.

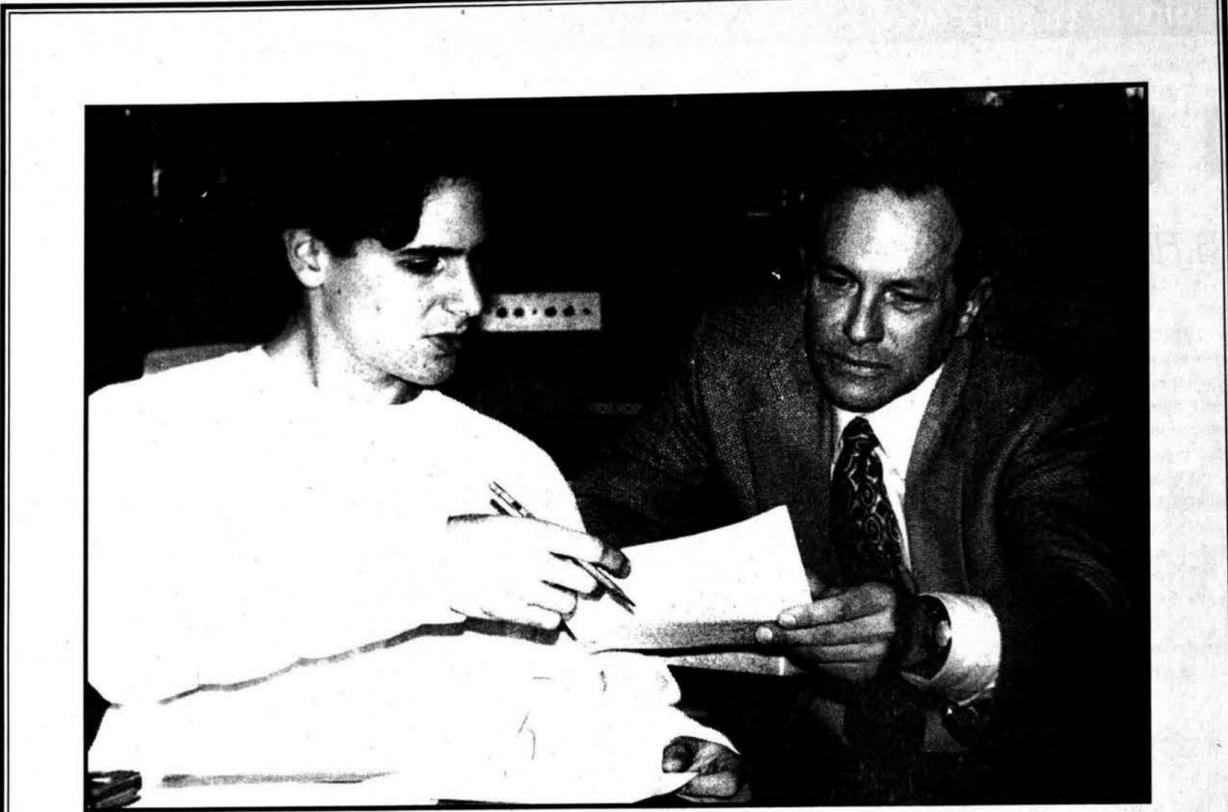
"NHS tries to do a certain amount of community service activities each semester. Honey Sunday is one of these activities," Rennard said.

Rennard said that he was encouraged by the NHS sponsor John Waterman to contact the Honey Sunday coordinators.

"It was a wonderful cause, and I'm glad that we could be involved in it," Waterman said.

Hendee said that she benefited from the experience.

"I did it because it sounded like a fun and different way to not just raise money, but also to do something that took a short amount of time and helped the community," she said.



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

AHH, TO BE YOUNG... Senior David Rennard (left) shows his shadow, Superintendent Dr. John Mackiel, his AP Chemistry homework on Nov. 17.

Student for a DAY Mackiel shadows Central senior

By Brian Joseph

Who says you can never be young again?

Dr. John Mackiel, superintendent of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) District, got the chance to re-live his high school years when he shadowed senior David Rennard on Wed., Nov. 17.

"You always try to remain young at heart," Dr. Mackiel said with a grin.

Originally, Dr. Mackiel said, Rennard wanted to shadow him on the Senior Job Shadow Day on Nov. 5. However, because of a scheduling mix-up, Rennard said that the job shadow fell through.

Thus, Dr. Mackiel said that Rennard suggested that the two of them reverse their roles; instead of Rennard following the superintendent around, Dr. Mackiel shadowed Rennard.

"I thought it would be very cool," Rennard said. "Mrs. [Lynda] Molyneux [guidance counselor] had suggested it to me. And, its rumored that Dr. [Gary] Thompson [Central principal] suggested it to her."

Whatever the case, it could not have worked out better, Dr. Mackiel said.

"I always considered myself a teacher, but the distance is too far [from the students] as an administrator," he said.

Dr. Mackiel said that by shadowing Rennard he not only got a chance to interact with students, but also had the opportunity to see how OPS dollars are spent.

"It reaffirms the things I do day-to-day," he said.

As Rennard's shadow, Dr. Mackiel observed Pathways 21, AP English and AP Chemistry classes. Also, Dr. Mackiel attended the first Senior Principal Advisory Meeting of the year.

"He witnessed some of the most difficult courses that Central has to offer," Rennard said.

When he asked Dr. Mackiel to shadow him, Rennard said that he wanted to give the superintendent a chance to see how much work a Central honors student does on a daily basis.

"I want him to realize just what a time commitment going to school is," he said.

In fact, Rennard said that he wished that Dr. Mackiel could have shadowed him for an entire day.

"I wanted it to be a 24-hour thing, but that's hard to make happen," he said.

Gothic dress, lifestyle sign of times, professor says

By Derek Tritsch

Clinically depressed or just plain misunderstood?

For parents of gothic teenagers, this is a pressing question and one that causes a great deal of distress and confusion for all parties involved.

The gothic style of dress, or shock fashion, as it is commonly referred to, is characterized by all black clothing, dark lipstick and white make-up.

Many gothic teenagers also put black make-up around their eyes as well as dye their hair a certain color.

Gothic teenagers often begin this lifestyle change in the years just before high school, and for many, the agent of change is music.

Central freshman Jennifry Gunn said that she started dressing this way the summer prior to her seventh grade year.

She said that she originally got the idea from music, but now everything she wears comes from her

own ideas.

"I read something where some psychologist was saying that we are play-acting. I don't think that's true at all. Everything I wear is entirely my own idea," she said.

Many parents who see their once clean-cut child transform into a gothic teenager assume that something is seriously wrong with their child's psyche, but Dr. Gery LeGagnoux, a clinical professor of psychology at the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), says don't be too sure about that.

"Parents need to ask themselves: what's the nature of their child's activity?" LeGagnoux said.

"Has he become a quasi-creature of the night? Has his self-esteem decreased significantly? Is he overly obsessed with death?"

If so, the teenager could be in danger and perhaps even suicidal, in which case the parents need to intervene immediately, LeGagnoux said.

If not, then the parent need not worry too much, he said.

"Most of the time these are just adolescents establishing their independence," LeGagnoux said. "Every generation engages in some sort of salient behavior, this is their way of showing a rejection of society's mores."

Dr. Mark R. Purviance, a clinical psychologist with the Nebraska Mental Health system, said that the gothic behavior is a reflection of society today.

"This is nothing new, at all. It's simply the latest face to an old dynamic, but the difference here is that this trend looks frightening."

Purviance said that he occasionally encounters gothic behavior in his profession, and when he does, he has a standard answer for the usually-distraught parents.

Purviance said that the best thing for a parent to do in this situation is to talk to their kid.

"The majority of these younger

people show no ill effects of the new behavior," Purviance said.

"Most of them are doing well in school, have a strong network of friends and are even active in community service."

"But, on the off chance that the child is depressed, it is important for dialogue between the parent and child."

Gunn said that she is far from depressed. In fact, with grades of ones and twos on her most recent progress report, she and her parents are happier than ever, Gunn said.

Central Junior Robyn Szeliga also wears gothic-style clothing. She said that her appearance often creates a stir in the public, but not at Central.

"I get noticed out on the street sometime, but it doesn't bother me," Szeliga said.

"I dress as myself, not to impress anyone."

TEST Official finds security prob at Central

Continued from page 1

recognized him as an OPS employee. "He's been a district security guard for years and years," he said.

Also, Security Guard Lane said that Central does a big problem with dropping people that come into the here for legitimate reasons.

And as for the other Security Guard Mike McW that in the event strangers building, they do not remain for long.

"They're quickly security guards," he said.

Nonetheless, after Central's slow response to the school is safe.

"I don't feel very safe," said. "Can you imagine a sneak in here?"

Sophomore Joe Nuss he agreed saying that security guards do not do monitoring the halls.

"Sometimes I'll be in the halls and I'll pass three or four security guards and they don't say anything."

"I think the security guards are too lenient. They're good kids, but they're too lenient."

On the other hand, Josh Hankenson said the poor response time doesn't necessarily mean that the building is safe.

"Just because someone is in the school does not mean it's safe," he said.

Also, sophomore Adriana Piña said that Central is safe because of the sheer number of students here.

"There's so many people here it's not like they [intruders] can sneak in here."

Plus, she said that she spent a majority of her day in a controlled, safe environment.

Whatever the case, Dr. Mackiel said that in response to the times Central received, the school will be making a few changes.

Now, he said that staff will be required to stop in the building.

Also, he said that security tags will be required for teachers.

As for the security risk assessment, Risk Manager said that are a take-off of many businesses employ.

"A lot of businesses have shoppers that they hire," she said. "We thought we could do something on that."

Theulen declined to comment specifically on the results of the test due to confidentiality.

She said that only the results of the school in question would be made public.

Dyed hair Black makeup around eyes Dark Lipstick

White Body

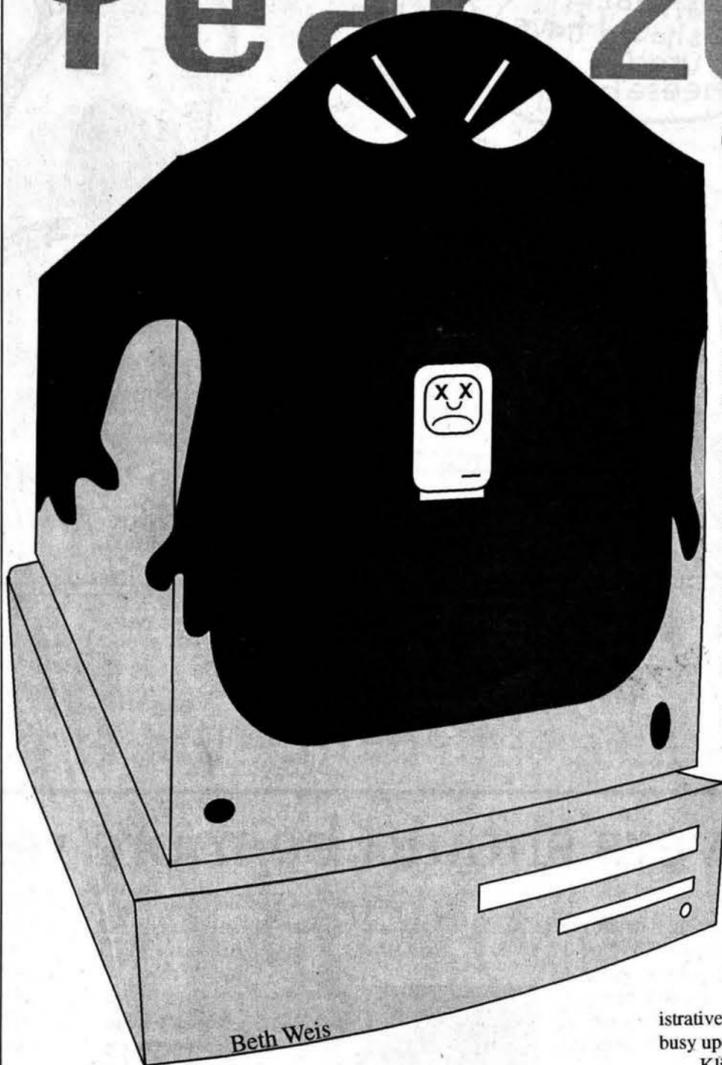
All black clothing

PICTURED: JENNIFRY GUNN FRESHMAN PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLIE CARLIN, BETH WEISS

Gothic Fashion

# Year 2000 Bug

## Computer bug will impact Central



By Vince Wesselmann

The notorious year 2000 computer bug is expected to make an impact on Central, a student computer expert said.

Jennifer Klein, the school's network assistant, is expecting the school's computers to be affected when the millennium rolls around, she said.

The bug takes place because the year "1999" is inputted into a computer as "99," while "2000" is inputted as "00."

This "00" will be interpreted by computers as 1900 because "19" is a default. This misunderstanding will cause several problems.

"The school board has performed an analysis to make sure that things will run smoothly, but it should have been more detailed," Klein said.

The Teachers' Administrative Center (TAC) building is busy updating software, she said. Klein believes that a task force

of approximately a dozen people should be put together to test and prepare for the bug, she said.

"They may get TAC ready, but the individual schools will still need preparation," Klein said.

Kelly Bourne, the author of "The Year 2000 for Dummies," has his own theory on the effects of the year 2000 bug.

He believes that the bug will have a ripple effect which will start in several small, unprepared businesses.

"If a small company that makes brake cylinders, for example, is shut down [because of the bug], both the factory that supplies the company with materials and the businesses that buy the brake cylinders will be forced to close," Bourne said.

Only 25 percent of small businesses, which represent the engine of today's economy, have prepared for

the repercussions of the Year 2000 bug, Bourne said.

Scott Pettit, the resident year 2000 computer bug expert at the Applied Information Management (AIM) Institute, said that he is worried about some of the consequences of the movies dealing with the Y2K bug.

One of the movies, starring Chris O'Donnell of Batman fame, will be released in the spring of next year, he said. These movies may distort people's understanding of the computer bug.

People may begin stocking up on food and fuel as well as making large withdrawals from the bank, expecting the bank to fail.

These may seem like wise precautions. However, these actions would ultimately cause an artificial surge, followed by a drop in U.S. economy.

### Who's affected?

- OPPD
- Union Pacific
- Banks
- Any company reliant on computers

### Who's not?

- Most Macintosh-oriented businesses
- Businesses that are not computer reliant

Source: Scott Pettit

## New HOBY ambassador develops leadership

By Caroline Walburn

Thanks to her great leadership ability, her sensitivity towards others and a desire to pass on her knowledge to her peers, Central sophomore Courtney O'Malley was chosen as this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Ambassador, Central representative and counselor Kathy Hanrahan said.

It [the HOBY seminar] sounded like a very good opportunity," O'Malley said.

All Central sophomores were eligible to apply for the HOBY Ambassador Program by simply filling out an application and answering an es-

say question on what they would like to see accomplished in their community and other leadership goals.

Some of the topics O'Malley touched on in her essay included increasing teenagers' involvement in the community and stressing the importance of volunteering, she said.

The main building block of HOBY is the thought that the most important thing in education is to teach teenagers to think for themselves, the website said.

"HOBY was a great experience for me. It taught me a lot about leadership and responsibility," former

HOBY student ambassador Jessica Boro said.

The goal of the HOBY seminars is to develop leadership potential and prepare the next generation to lead their communities in the future, O'Malley said.

The seminars strongly encourage the ambassadors to become as involved as possible.

"I am trying to lead my peers in the right direction," O'Malley said.

After HOBY sent ambassadors to The President's Summit for America's Future, the program added a volunteering component to their



## International troubles upset student

By Andrew Lieben

Due to the recent fears of hostility in the Middle East, one Central student was forced to postpone her trip to Israel, the student said.

Maggie Day, junior, had won a month long trip to Israel as part of the American Israel Friendship League (AIFL). However, due to the rising fears of hostility in Israel, Day's trip was postponed from November to March.

"If America is pulling its embassies out of Israel, they are not going to send in a group of 100 teenagers," Day said.

Several rumors had been floating around that several terrorist groups in Israel were becoming more and more hostile and that the trip might be postponed, Day said.

However, the project leader, Jan Gleason, assured Day that the trip would proceed as scheduled.

The next day, Day received a phone call from her sponsors informing her that the trip would be postponed until March.

"I was very upset," Day said. "I cried all night. It was a big emotional letdown."

Because she thought the trip would be in November, Day missed out on a lot of activities she was really interested in.

She was unable to try out for the All-State Orchestra and she will be unable to try-out for the All-City Orchestra in March.

"I had received all my school work before I was scheduled to leave," Day said, "but now, I'm just not ready for it all."



**"I'm just really upset about it all. It's taught me that you can't rely on anything. You just have to be ready to bounce back."**  
Maggie Day  
Central junior

David Morris, a sociology teacher at Central, was the one who told Day about the program in the first place, Day said.

This is the first time Morris has sponsored a student for the AIFL, Morris said. The competition is very competitive, he said.

"Maggie is very self-confident, is personable, is intelligent and likes challenges," Morris said. "That is why I thought she would be a good choice to go."

seminars.

Every ambassador that attends the seminars must undertake a community service project requiring 100 hours of community service, Hanrahan said.

"I don't mind the service requirement. I really like the feeling of having helped out," O'Malley said.

Not only do the HOBY seminars provide exciting and opportunities for the student ambassadors; they draw interest because of their exciting, fun and educational atmospheres, former HOBY student ambassador Jane Swirzinski said.

"It [the seminar] was a plethora of fun!" Boro said.

After being selected in July, Day and the two other candidates met every other week to prepare for the trip.

They would research about Israel, read books and news articles about the country, and basically prepare for every aspect of their trip, Day said.

"I spent half a year planning and preparing for this trip, and now I won't be able to go until March," Day said. "It's all so exhausting."

## GRADS

### Group to boost alumni involvement

Continued from page 1

the association. This number includes the board of 30 CHS graduates, ranging from the class of 1938 through the class of 1992, she said.

Miller also said that the idea developed when she realized that Central was the only high school in Nebraska without an Alumni Association.

There is only one true requirement one must fulfill before becoming a new member of the Alumni Association, Miller said.

"You simply have to be a graduate of Central who wants to stay involved with your alma mater," Howard Marcus, the first member of the association, said.

Well, that's not quite all. Miller said that there is a choice of a \$10, \$25 or \$50 donation that is required, along with a written application.

Hopefully, she said, the money will go to projects including the tentative plans for a "Cornerstone Ceremony" in the year 2000.

"Central's first cornerstone was laid in 1900. It was a huge event. People around the country came; even the president made an appearance a few days later."

Miller said that she hopes to recognize the significance of this event with an anniversary ceremony.

## Teacher to retire after 37 years

By Andrew Lieben

Central High School will be losing its English Department head and AP English teacher, and many Central students say they will be sorry to see him go.

Dan Daly, teacher at Central for 37 years, is retiring at the end of this school year.

"I could have retired in 1995, when the law on retirement changed, but I chose to stay on," Daly said. "I'm glad I stayed."

Daly said he wanted to accomplish several things with the department and with the AP English class.

"There were also some students I wanted to teach," Daly said.

"However, if I kept wanting to teach new students every year, I would never be able to leave."

Daly started teaching the AP English class in 1956, after Mr. Clark retired.

Daly said he maintained much of Clark's curriculum. In 1976, Daly took over as head of the department.

"I felt an obligation to maintain continuity in the course and the department, especially for the best students of Central," Daly said.

"However, I did change the AP English course slightly. Any course will change to reflect the personality of the teacher."

Senior Emily Parrott, said she is enjoying the AP English course and having Daly as a teacher.

"He's one of the best teachers I've ever had," Parrott said.

"He makes English class enjoyable every day. I think the entire English Department is the best in the city, if not the state. It prepares students for the future beyond Central."

The English department is as strong as it has ever been, Daly said. Five new teachers have been recently hired.

With the balance of veteran teachers and new teachers, the entire department has great skills and great competence, Daly said.

"I trust in my superiors to replace me with someone competent enough to do the job," Daly said.

Junior Chris Ochsner, said he was disappointed that he will not be able to have Daly as a teacher.

"My brother had Mr. Daly, and he said that he learned a lot from him," Ochsner said.

"I hope that whoever replaces him will be just as good. I do hope that they are from Central and are familiar with the English curriculum. Someone like [Jurgen] Shawver or Mrs. [Bernie] Saunders would be a great replacement."

Dr. Gary Thompson will be the new head of the English Department, and the new department head will choose the AP English teacher, Daly said.

"When people go, it feels like the end of an era," Daly said. "Someone's really indispensable."

Youth Support Group  
Serving Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Heterosexual Youth  
**PFLAG**  
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
For more information call (402) 291-6781

**Jackson Street Booksellers**  
Used, Rare and Out of Print Books Bought and Sold  
Open Daily  
1119 Jackson Street  
Omaha NE 68102 (402) 341-2664  
e-mail-Books@2access.com

1212 Howard Street Lower Level  
**shock**  
DRESS DRINK MODIFY YOURSELF  
\* Vintage Clothing \* San Rio \* Coffee & Espresso \* Juices & Smoothies \* Art Gallery \* Hip Collectables \* Live Music  
Central Students receive 10% off any purchase in December!

**RAINBOW**  
Recording Studio  
Sound and Lighting  
554-0123  
2322 South 64th Avenue

"We carry the nation's future."  
**Laidlaw Transit**  
Reasonable Rates  
-Ski Trips -Parties  
-Football Games  
-Family Get-Togethers  
For Charters:  
Contact Marcia @ 341-8260  
Equal Opportunity Employer

# the Central High School Register

Principal--Dr. Gary Thompson  
Advisor--Matt Deabler  
Opinion Page Editor--Katie McCann

## Central High School

### English teachers superb

Central High School has the best English Department in the state. The English Department, both the teachers and the curriculum, is superb.

The curriculum itself prepares students for college and real life, and the teachers convey the information to the students extremely well.

Central's curriculum, especially theme writing, trains students for college tests.

Many students dread in-class theme days, but truthfully, those themes are incredibly similar to the essays found on many college tests.

Any college representative who comes to Central will say that graduates of Central's English department adjust better to the college tests than many other college students.

The process of writing themes also relates to writing detailed reports to superiors for jobs.

Many high-class jobs require written progress reports.

These reports do not require the analysis of a novel, or any other common theme topics, but they do require some analytical skill and a lot of attention to detail.

So, in reality, themes are not meant to just be busy work for students, but a

preparation aide for their careers.

Central's teachers also teach analysis extremely well.

Being able to find hidden meanings in the text rather than read what the words just say is a valued skill.

Having a basic understanding of many classic works also broadens the students' field of knowledge.

They will be able to compare modern works that they read with classic works they have already read.

Central's teaching staff manages to teach students analytical skills and theme writing skills very well.

Central's teachers not only teach valuable skills about grammar, but also teach important lessons on style.

Both skills are necessary to succeed in college and in life.

Without the great variety of skills that Central teachers teach to their students, the curriculum would not be what it presently is.

With a mixture of experienced teachers and new teachers, the English Department has succeeded in teaching hundreds of students the skills necessary for college.

Hopefully, in the future, Central will be able to continue its tradition of excellence.

## Westside High School

### Penalties a good idea

Every school has problems now and again with smoking in or on school grounds. There shouldn't be.

Because of these problems, Westside has increased the penalties in hopes of avoiding such incidents.

Beginning at the start of their second semester, students caught smoking will receive a \$100 fine, serve one-day of In School Suspension (ISS) and will be required to take a Smoking Succession class.

The class's purpose is to help students, who are caught smoking, quit by teaching about methods.

True, some students will just ignore what the class teaches to them, but after repeated offenses, and continually retaking the class, they might just listen.

At least there is a possibility that the students will stop smoking on school grounds.

Although the high fine may be a little unreasonable, the rest of the new plan may be the start of a solution to this growing problem.

The problem of smoking on school property is not limited to Westside. It exists at all schools.

The problem is not that teens smoke, but the smoking in schools and on school grounds.

Central High is not new to the problem of smoking on school grounds. And perhaps a new program like Westside's would help.

Perhaps if Central had higher penalties like fines and succession classes, there would be fewer occurrences of smoking on school grounds.

But that is a "what" if situation.

Then there are a few people who would bring up the age issue.

They would say that if a student is legally old enough to smoke, rules like this should not affect them.

But what these people do not realize is that age is not the issue. The rules of Central are clear.

This new policy's purpose is not to only punish students alone, but also to show students a different view of smoking and to re-iterate a long-time school rule: no smoking on school grounds.

Because of this new policy at Westside High School, students not only at Westside, but all over the city, will take the hint that school administration is not going to tolerate smoking any longer.

## Student matinee

### Lights cause distractions

The administration at Central is showing a lack of trust to students by keeping the house lights on during student matinees.

Due to bad behavior by several students during last year's musical "Fiddler on the Roof," the administrators decided to leave the house lights on for all future performances.

The administrators said that they wanted to catch the students misbehaving. They may also have wanted to scare other students into behaving.

This action was reasonable in previous years. There were, at times, problems with student behavior. Both the considerate audience and the performers did not want any distractions during the performances.

However, now, in a completely new school year, the administration has decided to continue to leave the house lights on.

With this action, the administration is demonstrating their refusal to trust the student audience, and in doing so, has created several new problems.

First of all, leaving the lights on is distracting to the performers on stage and the musicians in the pit orchestra.

With the lights on, the performers are more likely to be distracted by members of the audience and may not be able to perform as well as they could have.

Secondly, the musical, the Road Show, and the spring play are all relatively professional productions.

They have actors, musicians, dancers, and a stage crew, just like any other perfor-

mance.

However, with the house lights up during the performance, the production itself does not seem professional. Even if the production itself was perfect, to the audience and the performers, it will seem less than perfect.

This is a new school year, with a new freshmen class, new students coming and old students leaving.

The student audience still has some old spectators, but it also has new ones.

The new spectators should not have to suffer because of the actions of past audiences.

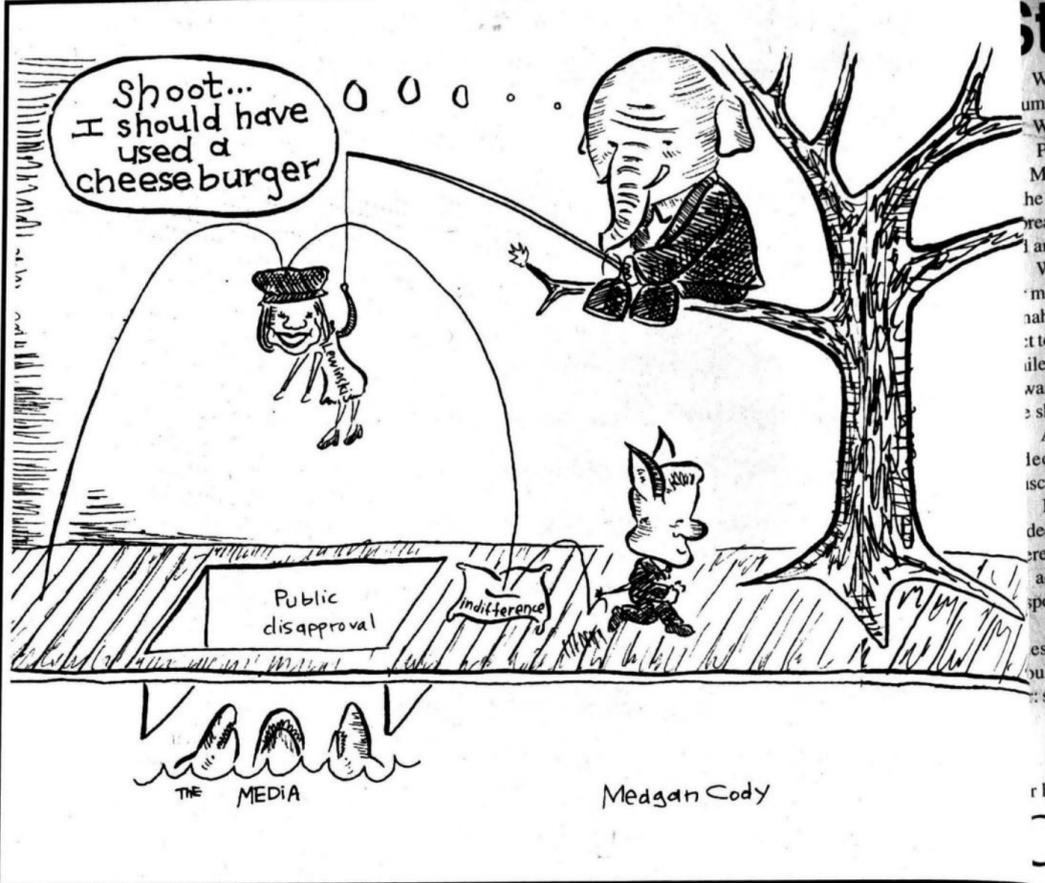
True, some students might still misbehave if the lights in the auditorium were off, but the administration cannot be sure of that until they allow the lights to be turned off during a performance.

It's almost ridiculous to have the lights on during student matinees and not during the evening performances because just as many students attend the evening shows.

If the administration allows the lights to be turned off, at least once, they can truly determine whether the lights should be kept permanently on or off for the year.

If they turn off the lights and if a fairly large amount of students do misbehave, then there is some reason for keeping the lights on during performances, however if students do behave, then the lights can and should be kept off for future performances.

All in all, the whole issue of whether lights should be kept on or off during performances is just a show of trust from Central's administration.



### Drivers should be more responsible

Picture it.

You're freezing your tushy off at, oh, say 33rd and Leavenworth on Nov. 17, 1998, at approximately 3:23pm, not to be specific. Now for the horror story.

Now that the scene is set, the tale of horror and bitter may begin.

So I—I mean this girl I know was driving her friend home from school when a strange and foreign noise begins to invade her ears.

She grows wary and hesitant, yet persists in driving westward as the sound becomes louder and more evil (think, thUNK, THUNK, THUNK). Suddenly, realization strikes as her wheel begins to tug to the left.

Goblins had overtaken her car, beginning with the steering column! Okay, not really. But wicked beings deciding to rule the world starting with an innocent teenager's vehicle sure is more exciting than a flat tire.

And yet, a flat tire it was. Not just low

or slightly punctured or kinda sad looking. We're talking no air, kablooeey, zippo, zilch, combined with hydrogen to make water kinda gone.

This nameless driver, actually let's call her Gertrude, pulls over into the most random alley available to her ailing car.

Gertrude, our heroine steps out of the car, her cape blowing in the wind—OK more like her hair blowing in her face—and assesses the situation.

Being the omniscient narrator that I am, I can tell you that her brain activity was this—What I have: a spare tire, a hidden jack and nine cold fingers (don't ask). What I don't have: a \*flippin clue as to how to \*flippin change my \*flippin tire.

To continue, our heroic driver braved the hurricane-like winds, finally stumbling into the nearest business, a uniform retailer.

Gertrude related her dreadful situation to

the nearest clerk, who, after poking the Gertrude for not knowing how to change a tire, let her use the phone (no, a spare tire needed!).

But her call was to no avail. She could be reached who would be assistance.

It seemed that two of the store clerks were getting off of work and could lend a hand.

But was it a secret plan of sabotage carried out under the orders of Shredder?

Morg... I mean Gertrude, would take that chance.

Well, they turned out to be super helpful to Gertrude and her friend.

After a quick stop at Fred's gas for air in the spare (say that one of they were on their way home.

Moral of the story: If you can't change a tire, you should know how to use a \*flippin flat tire, or use one of those sealant devices.

Whatever works.



### Disco balls No. 1 on Christmas list

Deck the halls with disco balls; 'tis the season, Cliff's the reason.

With Christmas being just a few days away, I am sure all of my top ten gift ideas will be sold out at the store. And here they are.

10. Reserved spot in the lunch line. I would love to leave my last class before lunch walking instead of running so I could get a decent spot in the lunch line.

9. Pillows to sleep on during studyhall and boring classes. The desks in my classes are just too small to sleep in comfortably.

But, with the help of a pillow, I think my naptime would be a little more restful.

Using my arm for a pillow gives me cramps and I hate the lines I get on my forehead when I use my backpack to sleep on.

8. A free parking spot as close to school as Principal Dr. Gary Thompson's. I would love to take five steps and be inside of the school. I have to walk what seems like a mile to the door of school.

7. Albert Einstein's brain to help me with my physics homework. Since Al was the smartest guy in the world, I would love to have

him as my aide or even have his brain.

6. An elevator key for all year usage. I would love to have that magic key for the elevator so I wouldn't have to lug all of my books up the millions of steps at Central.

5. Fold-out wings so I could fly to class. This would be good for several reasons.

Reason 1. I could fly over all of those clueless people who walk so slow it makes me mad.

Reason 2. I could fly over all of the people that stand in the middle of the stairway talking to their friends about their "oh, so important news."

4. All year round hall pass. This would come in handy when I am late to class, which happens way too often.

If I had a pass, I would never have to think of an excuse of why I am late.

I can't keep telling my teachers that I fell down the steps and I had to pick up all of my books. That's when a pass would come in handy.

3. A complete Cliff Note library for my English class. With all the "classic" stuff we read, Cliff comes in handy.

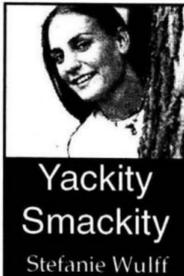
It's too bad that Cliff's notes are not available. After all, I would have to suffer through the whole book to get Cliff to help me.

2. Music to pee to. This is a popular subject, but I think it's a great idea. Who wants to listen to me pee?

And the number one Christmas gift...  
1. Disco balls, strobe lights and music in my locker. I would love to have strobe lights and music turn on whenever I open my locker. That would be phat!

Just imagine... You open your locker and a disco ball is spinning around and your favorite music comes on while a light blinks on and off.

It's a built in party in your locker! The more reasons to visit that metal wall.



**the Register**  
Volume 112 Issue 3 December 16, 1998 Omaha, Nebraska

**Editor-In-Chief/Columnist** Brian Joseph  
**Executive Editor/Columnist** Mary Lynn Super  
**Design Editor** Beth Weis  
**Business Manager** Nicole Neumann  
**Opinion Page Editor** Katie McCann  
**Sports Editor** Derek Tritsch  
**Associate Editor** John Eubanks  
**Entertainment Editor** Meredith Zendejas  
**Chief Photojournalist** Charlie Carlin  
**Assistant Business Manager** Jeremy Scurlock  
**Feature Writer/Asst Bus. Manager** Debra Slape  
**Asst. Design Editor/Columnist** Jared Hart  
**Asst. Design Editor/Columnist** Morgan Denny  
**Assistant Sports Editor** Jeff McWhorter  
**Assistant Sports Editor** Amy Yin

**Assistant Opinion Page Editor** Andrew Lieben  
**Asst. Entertainment Editor/Columnist** Stefanie Wulff  
**Assistant Associate Editor** Meredith Kalina  
**Assistant Associate Editor** Talya Greenspoon  
**Photojournalist** Cathy Colling  
**Photojournalist/Cartoonist** Laura Werkheiser  
**Cartoonist** Meagan Cody  
**Feature Writer** Kara Lund  
**Feature Writer** Sonya Voss  
**Junior Staff Writer** Christine Anderl  
**Junior Staff Writer** Rebecca Rennard  
**Junior Staff Writer** Caroline Walburn  
**Junior Staff Writer** Vince Wesselmann

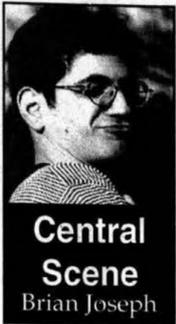
**Advisor** Matt Deabler

Central High's *the Register* seeks to inform its readers accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance. *The Register* (USPS 097-520) is published monthly, September through May by Omaha Central High School, 11 N. 20th St. Omaha, NE 68102. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of *the Register* staff. Periodical postage paid at Omaha, NE postmaster: send subscription address changes to *the Register*, Omaha Central High School. *The Register* is self-sufficient. To place an ad or inquire about ad prices, contact the business manager at 557-3352.

# Students show disrespect to teachers

interrupt this regularly scheduled (for a brief tirade on respect. What is this world coming to? Archia Busch, a 12-year-old girl attend- Millian Magnet Center, hit a teacher face when the teacher tried to set-up a fight between Busch and another student on Sept. 30. When Busch was expelled, she protested and took the Public School (OPS) District. The mother said that her daughter hit the teacher, but only an accident and thus should be let off the hook. A few months later, the court ruled with the OPS District: Busch should be expelled. It, even though this case has and the right party has won, is still an issue that needs to be addressed. And that issue is —Er, I mean the lack of respect. In years past, there would have been no question about what Busch's punishment would be in light of her disrespectful behavior. She would be expelled and she would like to be, that's exactly the way it should be. A student should get kicked out of school for hitting a teacher, just as a football player

should be ejected for hitting a ref. (Or, if you don't like my sports simile, try this math one on for size: student + jacking teacher in face = expulsion.)



**Central Scene**  
Brian Joseph

I can't believe a mother would actually back her child when her daughter is obviously in the wrong.

Actually, on second thought, I take that back. I'm not surprised at all. At Central, I see examples of this sort of disrespect and disregard for authority everyday.

Anymore, it has become common place for a student to talk back or even swear at a teacher.

And that in itself says a whole lot. When I was in grade school, my teachers would not put up with any amount of disrespect. A student who would roll his eyes at a teacher would promptly be reprimanded.

Now, teachers don't even bat an eye, and students don't even receive a slap on the wrist. And that, my friends, is a travesty.

Even though teachers can—and often do—get on our nerves, they are giving us a gift that we can never repay: our education. Without the help of our teachers, most of us would never be able to make it to college or

make something of our lives.

And how do we show our thanks to these people who are bettering our chances of future success? We talk back. Or yell. Or cuss. Or hit.

It sickens me to see my fellow classmates disrespect the men and women who are only trying to help us, not make our lives miserable or frustrating.

With that in mind, the next time a teacher says something that just really chaps your hiney, think before you act. Don't just fly off the handle and do something that you're going to regret.

Or, better yet, why not take the time to actually thank your teachers for helping you? I can guarantee that they don't get thanked nearly enough for the job they do. Besides, it might even help your grade. (Oooh, I'm going to get it for that one.)

Oh, and one more thing: when a teacher asks you to do something, just do it. As long as what they ask of you isn't harmful, you should respect their wishes and do what they say.

As teenagers, we aren't going to get anywhere in life if we don't respect authority.

And, with that, let me conclude by saying that I too think that Busch shouldn't have been expelled for hitting the teacher.

She should have been deported.

# Central seniors suffer from procrastination

senioritis. Definition, according to *Super's New World Dictionary*: The "disease" that overtakes the typical high school senior, causing the student to perform all required activities EXCEPT those related to school and/or homework.

Notice that while the definition states no real reason for the lack of effort associated with senioritis, it only gives the impression that the student has little or no control over the "disease."

Better, more accurate definition, therefore, may be: typical procrastination, and subsequent feeling, of a senior."

Procrastination always comes at the end of the first semester. It's the time when every teacher assigns tests, papers, and papers, all to be completed on the exact day.

Every student can relate to this, but upperclassmen (especially seniors) really feel the effects of procrastination. Between AP classes, college applications, scholarship applications and, of course, the time-consuming extra-curricular activities, time seems to be precious.

What does that stop the majority of us from putting things off until the clock in the morning the very day the paper is due? Of course

not, why would it?

Like that English test that you somehow forgot about until the day of the test. Did you even start the book? Yeah right, you'll just borrow someone else's "Cliff's Notes" because you were too lazy to buy them yourself. Now that's some serious procrastination.



**S(o)up of the day**  
Mary Lynn Super

But the funniest thing about the whole situation is the fact that, in the end, we all spend more time complaining and worrying about all the things we have to do than actually getting those things done.

When you stop to think about it, the realization that it is our own fault always comes into play. But does this change anything? No, why should it?

As a high school student, supposedly engulfed in the best years of my life, why should I change my habits now? I was just starting to get really attached to them.

So, basically what I'm trying to say is that the "disease" of senioritis isn't just for seniors anymore. I guess it never really was.

Instead, the vicious procrastination/overwhelming cycle links us all together into some kind of secret, unknown society. Who'd of thought?

# Merchants overreact during the Christmas season

Christmas, bah humbug. Why am I so jaded in this jolly holiday? Because Christmas is not what it used to be. This media made holiday has run its course.

Why is this holiday so worthless? As I have the eternal answer.

The answer leads me to a question. What are we celebrating? The answer given is St. Nicholas, gifts, love or the birth of Jesus. Sorry big shooter. All are wrong. Being all-knowing, I shall tell you the correct answer. By giving gifts we are celebrating that classic holiday Natalis Solis.

What could be provoking me to write blasphemous words? Could it be drugs, alcohol, or deficiencies? No! Natalis Solis is Dec. 25, the day of the invincible sun Mithras.

Stunned yet? Those always-thinking Romans decided on a day, any old day to convert us pagans to Christianity. Good choice, eh? What if the preacher conned you into believing Dec. 25 had anything to do with Christmas?

So, as you give those socks and wife's to your Grandpa (or Grandma for that

matter) just think of me, and remember you're doing it in remembrance of that tough guy Mithras.

Now to my next mind-bending question: what else could this seemingly innocent holiday harm? Who has the answer? Me, naturally.

Christmas infringes on everyone's freedom of religion. It's not so much freedom of religion as prejudice against religion excuse me.

To what other broad group of followers could I possibly be alluding to, but Jews? Somehow we Christians, in a feel good attempt to practice what we preach, try to make a stink over Hanukkah. Does it make up for the United States and society negating their holidays? Probably not.

We "think it through" Christians have come to a genius solution. What is this wasteful and degrading answer? "If they give presents, then it must be the Jewish equivalent of Christmas, right? Umm, no.

So what do we Christians do? We make

menorah decorations, dreidels for children and Hanukkah wrapping paper. All eternal religious quarrels are set right with the correct wrapping paper, right?

And through it all, because this country was founded by Christians, it is evident that those are the only holidays that matter. Hey Jack, look at the schools: Winter Recess, formerly called "Christmas Break," or Spring Break, A.K.A. Easter break, huh, huh.

As I recall there is no Late September Break, not even a "Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur" release.

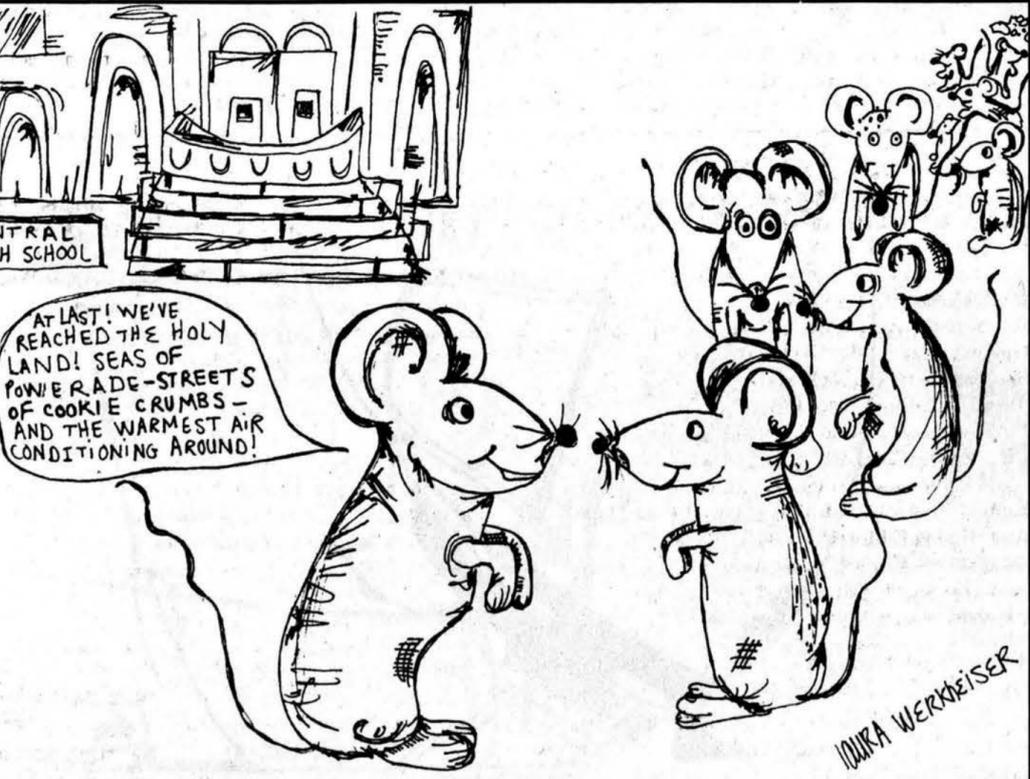
Nonetheless, in a lethal mixture of faith, television and movies, we Christians have eliminated our conscience, and also terminated all feelings of remorse for wrong doings. Isn't that the Christian thing to do?

How can one man, such as myself, fix all these religious faux pas's of society? Easy. All of my readers and I shall convert to Jehovah's Witnesses. As I lead us out of the jaws of Hell, we will all pretend that holidays don't exist.

How would that not be perfect?



**I'm better than you**  
Jared Hart



IMKRA WERKREISER



## Register Your Opinions

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

### Do you think cigarette and tobacco ads specifically target teenagers and youths?

Yes. Tobacco companies want to target youths because they will live longer and buy more products for themselves and their friends.



Andrew Foster, 9

No. It would be a waste of their time. People do what they want to do. Ads cannot influence people to buy a product.



Carmilia Johnson, 10

No. The ads target everybody. Students and youths just smoke to look like adults.



Kara Warner, 9

No. Tobacco companies do put ads in places kids look, like magazines, but they also put ads in adult magazines.



Terrell Gardner, 12

Yes. The tobacco companies target teenagers now so they can get them addicted. Then the teenagers will be smokers for life.



Mikala Schuman, 11

Yes. Kids see a cartoon, like the smoking camel, and they think that that product is for them. Ads like that should be banned.



Mike Garner, 11

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A READER OPINION FORUM

Dear Editor,

I would like to say on behalf of myself and the rest of the "Guys and Dolls" cast, crew and pit orchestra that I am simply disgusted that there was no news coverage of our musical, neither before nor after our performances. So many students were involved in the show and we all put a lot of time and effort into it, trying to make it as good as we possibly could. Mrs. Georgeson, Mrs. Bouma, Mrs. O and all the other teachers involved put much of their time in as well. It would have been nice if there had been something about "Guys and Dolls" in the paper (*the Register*) to promote it and even after the show, it would have been nice to have given us some credit! We are all very annoyed by the fact that we were ignored.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Gatzke, sophomore

Dear Editor,

Many people ask me why I choose the half-hour bus ride to Central over the two block walk to Burke. I always explain that one of the reasons I love Central is for its diversity. Central is a melting pot of teenagers from all over the city with an array of different backgrounds. It is also interesting meeting kids from all over the world that have immigrated to the U.S. I can practice my Spanish speaking skills talking to the girl from Mexico who sits next to me. I have become well-rounded by making friends with all kinds of people.

Some cities such as Denver, have stopped desegregation bussing because of expenses. Desegregation is a necessary part of the school district's budget. Desegregation is priceless because it decreases racism and stereotypes.

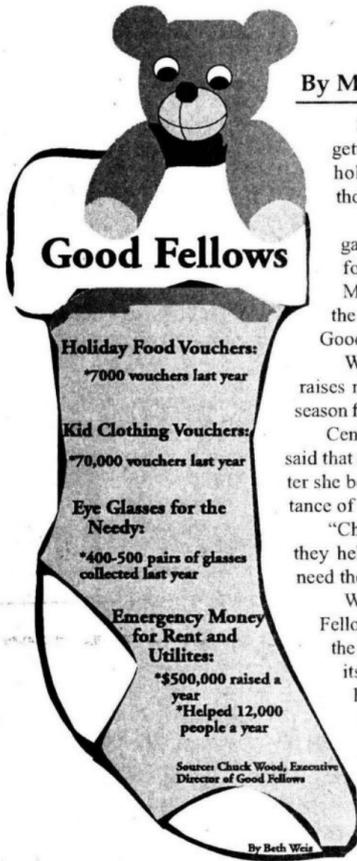
Sincerely,  
Paige Jenkins, sophomore

➔ 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.

# Season of Giving

## Volunteers help out during the winter season

### Good Fellows charity provides for community



By Meredith Kalina

Some "Good Fellows" are getting into the spirit of the holiday season by helping those a little less fortunate.

"The mission of our organization is to raise money for needy families in the Midlands," Chuck Wood, the executive director of the Good Fellows program said.

Wood said that the program raises money during the holiday season for need people or families.

Central junior, Kelli Mattson, said that after she helped at a shelter she began to realize the importance of charity.

"Charities are great because they help people who genuinely need the help," she said.

Wood said that the Good Fellows program, sponsored by the Omaha World-Herald and its readers, raises money by having the readers of the newspaper send in donations.

Wood said that the program uses the donations to help people in several different categories.

The first category, Wood said, is that they give needy

families holiday season food vouchers to ensure that they will at least have one good meal during the holiday.

"We mailed out 7,000 vouchers at this time last year," Wood said.

The second category, Wood said, is a clothing fund.

Wood said that Good Fellows works with Target in giving out various clothing vouchers to school age children in desperate need of the help.

Wood said that they contact Omaha Public Schools (OPS) to find out what children may need the financial help.

The specific students are recommended by teachers and administration she said.

"The kids can then go into a Target and pick up coats, shoes, or clothing with their vouchers," Wood said.

Wood said that for this certain campaign they earned \$70,000 for clothing vouchers last year, which helped many children.

Wood said that a third category is a partnership with Prevent Blindness Nebraska, that will provide glasses for homeless people who can not afford them.

He said that if a person has a strange prescription, they would pay for them.

"We have given out 400 to 500 pairs of eye glasses per year," he said.

A fourth category, he said, is that

Good Fellows will provide money for emergency needs such as, rent, utilities and gas for households who genuinely need it.

"Losing heat during the winter is not fun at all, and we want to help those families who really need help," he said.

Wood said that they work with four agencies who help Good Fellows determine whether or not a certain family actually needs the financial help.

"Last year, we helped 12,000 families, and spent around \$500,000 doing so," Wood said.

Wood said that they also work with area temporary youth shelters to provide them with money for food.

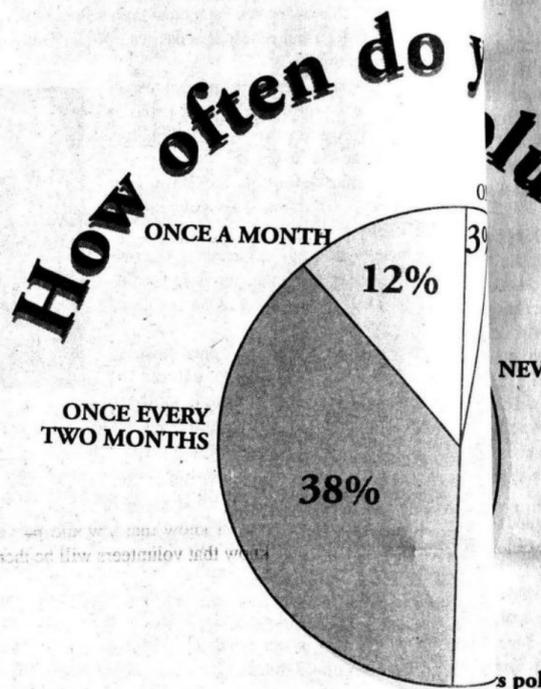
He said that these shelters are for youth who are having trouble with their families, and they stay at the shelters temporarily.

Ruth Haig, the office manager at Youth Emergency Services, a shelter of this kind, said that having to buy teenagers food can get very expensive.

"We really appreciate the money that we get from Good Fellows, and it helps us out a lot," he said.

Wood said that a good thing about Good Fellows is that all of the money raised is strictly used for the organization's charities, not to run the actual organization.

Wood said that high school students help out a lot by raising money for the projects.



### Need for shelters increases with cold weather

By Talya Greenspoon

The need for homeless shelters and volunteers to work in them increases in the winter season, the executive director of the Siena/Francis house said.

Paul Koch said that the homeless shelter he runs has an increase in the amount of people who need a place to stay during the winter.

"The cold weather brings in more people, but we have a steady group of volunteers throughout the year who continue to come during the winter," Koch said.

Junior Julia Jahn said that she volunteered at the Siena/Francis House recently. She said that her job was to wash and dry mattresses used by the overnight occupants.

"I volunteered because I enjoy helping others," Jahn said. "If I can do that by getting up a little earlier on a Saturday morning then I will."

Koch said that volunteers and their duties change according to the situation.

"Some can serve dinner for the Meal Provider Program, they can make 200 bag lunches or they can sort clothes," Koch said. "We are consistently busy throughout the year."

The Siena/Francis House is more than a soup kitchen, Koch said. It shelters women, their children and men at their emergency overnight area, he said.

The shelter also has a recovery program for people in the process of changing their lives and getting off the street, Koch said.

The maximum capacity of the shelter is 800 people, but the most they have ever held is about 300 last January, Koch said.

"The volunteers helped out very much so," Koch said.

To volunteer as a minor, Koch said that one must have parental consent, but they are

welcome to help.

Junior Tim Robertson, a minor, also has volunteered at a homeless shelters, he said.

Robertson said that last December he worked at the shelter Steven's Center. He and some friends brought in groceries to make a dinner and then cooked a spaghetti dinner for the occupants in the shelter, Robertson said.

"I am a member of the Boy Scouts and we volunteer at shelters every year to help out the needy people in the community," Robertson said.

Robertson said that he continues to help out once or twice a year at shelters, donating his time. He said that the Boy Scouts try to volunteer in the winter and fall seasons because that is when homeless people have the hardest time.

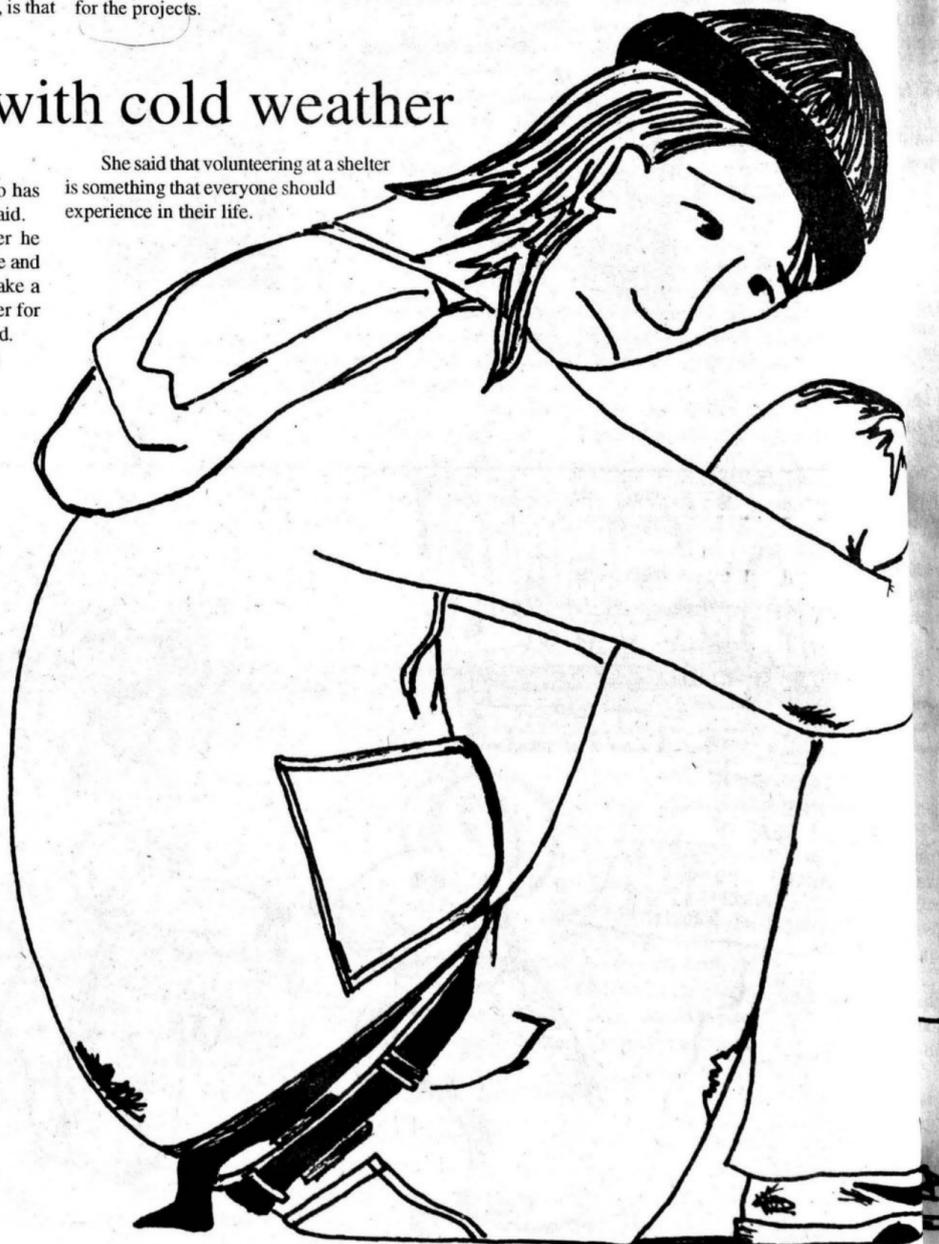
Koch said that compared to other cities he has worked in, Omaha has exceptional volunteers and services for homeless people.

"Omaha is very unique to other cities in how it treats the less fortunate," Koch said.

Jahn said that in addition to helping others, volunteering at shelters is a great way to feel good about yourself.

"I am glad that I did something to benefit the community," Jahn said.

She said that volunteering at a shelter is something that everyone should experience in their life.





CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

**Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells...**Volunteers (from left to right), Father Jim Michalski, John Arch and Nicholas Arch ring bells at Crossroads mall to raise money for the Salvation Army charity. They stood in front of Younkers to attract people's attention in hopes that they would give money to the charity.

## Highway Patrol drives to motorists' rescue

By John Eubanks

Being stranded on the highway with no one to call could be very scary, but there is no reason to worry anymore, a Highway patrol Sergeant said.

Kevin Johnson said that every weekday the Highway Patrol sends out volunteers in two vans to travel along the interstates. The volunteers help people with abandoned vehicles or with any car trouble at all.

Central senior Michelle Moran said that she has seen the patrolman and volunteers out on the road assisting people with car trouble.

"I know that I would be very happy to know that volunteers will be there for me if I have any trouble," Moran said. "The volunteers deserve gold stars or something rewarding."

Johnson said that all the volunteers are sent to driving school and to the Red Cross, for first aid classes.

Volunteers are also given a personality test to check the background of their criminal records and driving records, in order for them to be able to drive one of the vans around the interstates.

"All of the vans are fully equipped with certain automotive things, which will be useful for us when we are helping out others," Johnson said.

Johnson said that inside the vans include short-wave radios (connects them to the highway patrol frequency), neon vests (used to distinguish them), rain coats and a multitude of safety equipment.

Moran said that the equipment seems to be prepared to take on any risk to help another.

"Each van travels a different route in order to help as many as possible," Johnson said. "One travels the east route and the other the west route."

Johnson said that it normally takes two trips back and forth in the four hour time frame, equaling a total of 120 to 150 miles will be traveled as well."

Junior Willie Metcalf said that the volunteers travel a long distance and for quite a long time.

"I, personally, don't think that I would have four hours to spare," Metcalf said. "The volunteers must have hearts made out of gold."

Alvin Riskowski, a volunteer that assists the highway patrolmen, said that during the four hours their job is to basically clear any dangerous debris off the highway and to assist with tire repairs, changes or even getting people gasoline.

"There is also a cell phone that is used in case we cannot get the car started, for whatever the reason is," Riskowski said. "We always try our best."

Metcalf said that the fact that they have cell phones is good, yet it probably won't be effective because most people already have their own cell phones to use in case of an emergency.

"I could see if it was just some car stopped on the side of the interstate with no help at all," Metcalf said.

Riskowski said that they also stop for any car that they see parked along the side of the road.

"If the car is abandoned, it is red tagged," Riskowski said. "That way it will give the

people 24 hours to move the vehicle or else it will be towed."

Along with stopping and helping stranded vehicles, they can also assist with accidents, directing traffic.

"We use our flares and red pylons (cones) to direct traffic," Riskowski said.

Moran said that it is nice to see the volunteers doing a variety of tasks instead of just one.

"They probably help balance the amount of officers, or at least give them breathing room to operate other tasks," Moran said.

Riskowski said that this program frees up the law enforcement officers so that they can enforce the law and take care of violators, while the volunteers assist stranded vehicles.

"It is very gratifying to see the surprise and gratefulness of a stranded motorist when we assist them," Riskowski said.

Riskowski said that not only do they help but they also hand out pamphlets giving information about the program and a referral card to be sent to the Highway Patrol office telling them how much they appreciate their

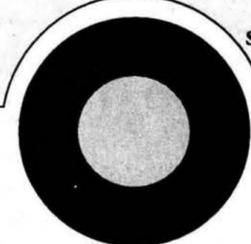
### Highway Patrol

Items for van are donated by the state and the public

The program started in July 1997

Helps approximately 20 people day

Source: Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Highway Patrol

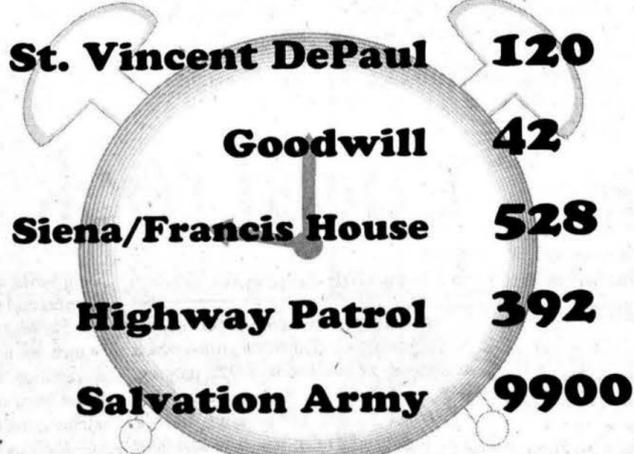


## Homeless numbers

- 600,000 men, women and children go homeless every night in the US
- 15 Million Americans have experienced being homeless at least once
- 30 to 40 percent of the homeless male population has served in the armed forces

SOURCE: Department of Health and Services

## Volunteer Hours During the Winter Season



SOURCE: PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICES OF EACH ORGANIZATION

By Beth Weis

MORGAN

## Rink time decreases, teens say

By Stefanie Wulff

The popularity of ice skating seems to be declining among school students and teens, a city skating park spokesperson says.

Jean Sumpter has worked at Tranquility for several years and noticed a decline in teenage skaters during the various seasons.

"The teen business picks up in the winter, but during the summer, it's not that great," she said.

She said that the weather probably has an effect on teens in the winter, causing them to want to do something "winter-like" such as skating.

Sumpter says that she has seen a lot of hockey players come to the rink and a lot of younger kids rather than older teens.

Junior Taylor Billotte used to ice skate for hours during morning when she was in junior high.

"I just don't have that much time to skate as much as I used to," she said. "The time between school and a job."



Billotte said she has been skating for eight years and competed in competitions that were held in Arizona and California.

Billotte said that one could compete in different levels such as regionals, sections, and national.

"I don't compete as much as I used to, but I still skate," she said.

Billotte said that she wishes she could skate more often, but she just has to make time for it.

Math teacher Eric Welte said he has been skating since he was 10 years old, and he loves the sensation of sliding across the ice.

To relieve his stress, Welte said that he takes a vacation up to the rink every year to skate in the snow and soak in the scenery.

However, Welte said, as a student he did not skate that often because school was very time-consuming.

But as the years went on, he went to college, he said that he now has more free time to skate.

He often skated with his brothers, he said.

Junior Stasia Bakhit said she has been ice-skating and playing hockey for 13 years.

Bakhit said that she had more time when she was younger than she does now.

"Between school and my other commitments, I just don't have much time to skate," she said. "There's just not enough hours in a day."

Bakhit plays for the Junior Highers, a boy's hockey team, and is the only girl on the team, she said.

"We all have busy schedules and only have time for practice," she said. "We are never able to skate on our own free time."

Bakhit said that she loves the cool temperatures of the rink and would never give up skating if it depended on it.

# Opera Annie

# Opera

## Theater company puts on musical at Rose

By Rebecca Rennard

The sun has come out and is shining on the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center.

The Omaha Theater for Young People opened their production of "Annie" on Nov. 27 and will continue the performance through the month of December. Samantha Fry, who plays Annie on Saturday nights said.

"Annie" is a musical about a young orphan who is looking for a family.

Mitch Raftery, Central sophomore, said that because his neighbor is Annie, he has seen the show twice.

"It was really cute. The sets were great and the kids performed really well," he said.

Katie Hughes, who plays Annie on the weekdays, said the audience applauded after every song, but she said she still gets nervous before going on stage.

"I really like getting so much attention," she said.

Katie Scott, who plays Pepper, the bully of the orphanage, said she gets nervous about an hour before the curtain goes up, but when she steps on stage it just goes away.

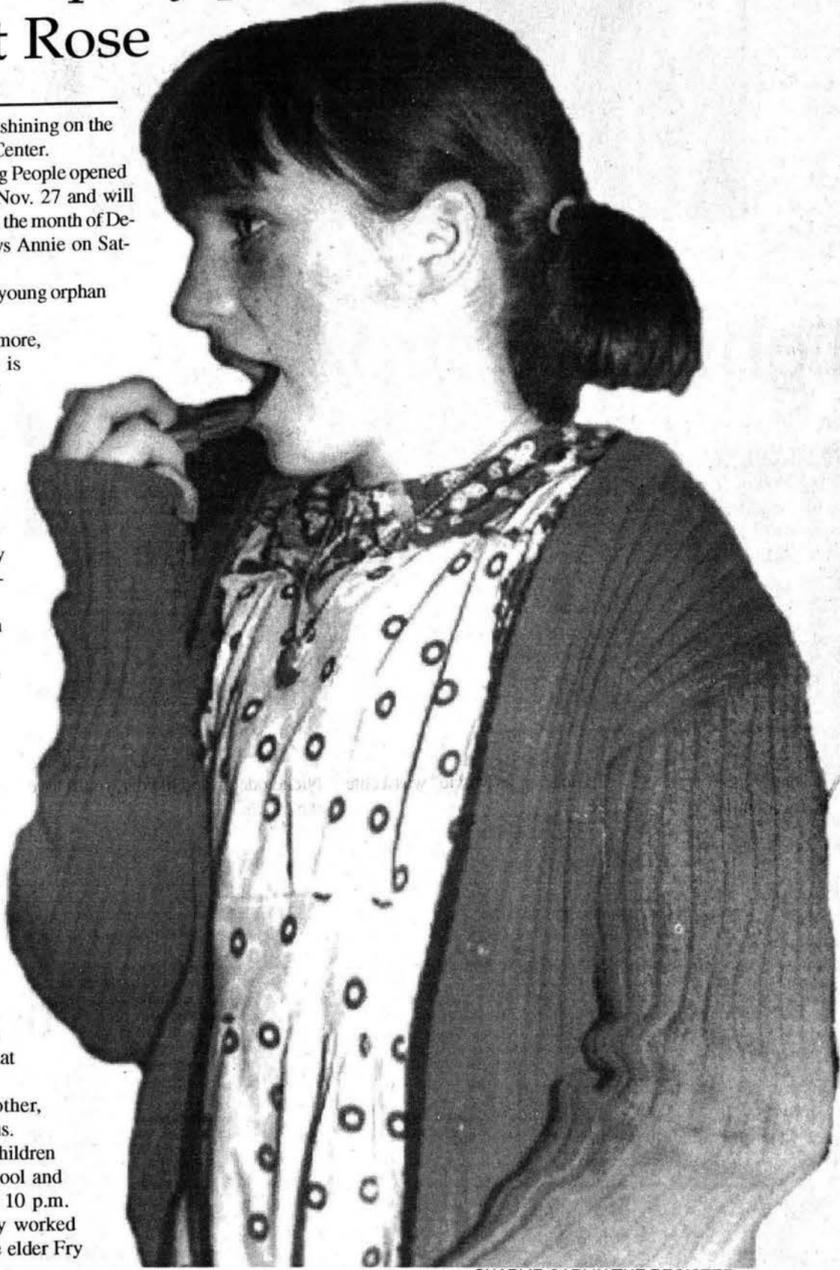
"It's really fun to be up on stage in front of so many people," she said. "The crowds are great."

Fry said she loves performing and having a good audience makes it more exciting.

Although the show is going smoothly now, both the children and adults involved understand that it has been a lot of hard work.

Patty Fry, Samantha's mother, said the rehearsals were strenuous.

"It's been pretty crazy. The children went to rehearsal right after school and sometimes were not home until 10 p.m. The week before the show, they worked from 12 p. m. to 8:30 p. m.," the elder Fry said.



CHARLIE CARLIN/THE REGISTER

## Hill educates listeners with heart, soul

By Caroline Walburn

The wait is over. Lauryn Hill's eagerly anticipated debut solo album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," has arrived, with blazing beats and lyrical content that will draw you out of real life and onto the streets of 1960s Harlem.

The blends of hip-hop, reggae and R&B translate into a personal, triumphant account of the artist's life.

The crooked path of her

childhood is described in the first single, "Doo Wop," with lyrics ripping at those who played young Lauryn like she dumb.

Throughout the album she continues through her life. She finally reaches her young adult years of internal confusion with the song, "Lost Ones," where she asks herself, "How you gonna win/When you ain't right within?"

Although a few of the tracks were filled with cynical humor and

surprising anger, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," retains a fine and delicate balance.

Some of you may remember Hill's sometime gritty alto voice from past Fugee albums. Don't worry, she transforms her voice with polished hip-hop tracks, like her single "Doo Wop," and the occasional Jamaican-tinted vocal.

The concept of "miseducation" is drawn out and defined in the album as Hill sees it; she feels it is about

the things you learn outside of school and in society.

I had no regrets about buying this album.

It was written and produced by Lauryn Hill, with tracks by Mary J. Blige, DeAngelo and Carlos Santana.

This CD dances to a non-traditional beat...the beat of a heart.

"The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," transcends hip-hop into a whole new world.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

### Holiday Numbers

- 130, 637, 520 Americans open presents for the holidays
- 19, 211, 400 Americans leave food out for Santa
- 51 Percents of those Americans who celebrate Christmas with an artificial tree
- 20 Percent of American Jews who have Christmas trees in their homes.
- 79 Percent of American Jews that light Hannukkah candles
- 31 Percent of Americans who watch football on TV during the holiday.

By Beth Wein  
Source: The Unofficial U.S. Census

## Local rock program hits airwaves

By Meredith Zendejas

The local radio station, Z-92, started a new program called Homegrown, which features local rock bands, Z-92's program director said.

Bruce Patrick, the program director, said that Homegrown is a new half-hour radio show that is aired every Sunday at 10 p.m. on Z-92.

"The program was started to show the people of Omaha that there are lots of bands in the Midwest that are not discovered by record companies and that need to be recognized," Patrick said.

He said that Z-92 is trying to make an effort to get a large variety of music for their listeners.

Patrick said the show is sponsored by Homers and the Ranch Bowl.

He said that both of them wanted to branch out and help get local bands some recognition. Both Homers and the Ranch Bowl have already been supporting and encouraging the local bands, Patrick said.

He said John Piccirillo from the Ranch Bowl is the DJ for the Homegrown show.

Patrick said that Nick Malloy from 93.3 KROCK about three years ago before it became the Point.

Patrick said that

Piccirillo was chosen because he had a good radio background, and he knew about the local music business.

Patrick said that the Homegrown show only has enough music for a half-hour program. However, he said he has been getting about two records a day by

local bands wanting them to play music on the show.

He said in order to have them play music it has to be screened. The music is played has to be some form of rock, Patrick said. The music also has to be good lyrics and be well produced. He

the quality has to be there. He said that some of the music they get sounds poor the recording and is not airable.

Patrick said that there is no age limit on the bands that have them play their music.

He said that the word "Homegrown" is used to describe the street from the bands that the show is a big success.

### Homegrown

"Homegrown - 1/2 hour block of local rock!"

Who: John Piccirillo, DJ.

When: Sundays, 10:00 - 10:30pm.

Where: Z-92

# REGISTER MOVIE REVIEWS NOW SHOWING

**RUGRATS  
A BUG'S LIFE**

**VERY BAD THINGS**

## "Bad things" not so bad

By Stefanie Wulff

Cast Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz and Jon Favreau together in a movie and you get "Very Bad Things."

Perhaps that is why this movie was rated R for content, violence and text, but that's what I like in a movie. For those of you who are of legal age, I recommend taking a trip to the theater to see "Very Bad Things" for a fun flick and a laugh.

Five guys, who include Slater, Favreau, Daniel Stern, Jeremy Piven and Leland Orser go to Las Vegas for a bachelor party.

They run into some serious problems which require some serious solutions.

The men had a wild night of parting and murdered a hooker in the hotel room.

They try to figure out what to do, but all they do is argue.

After conversing about all of their options, they decide to bury her in the Nevada desert.

The twisted plot left me on the edge of my seat. I tried to guess what would happen next, but I was always wrong.

The men return home and swear not to tell anyone what happened. That worked, for a while. Diaz plays the pushy 27-year-old fiancée of Favreau, who's bachelor's party turned evil. She is obsessed with getting married. She becomes more annoying as the movie goes on.

When the men return home, the guilt gets to some of them, making them paranoid and on the verge of turning to the cops.

However, Slater seems to feel that the right thing was done and they will turn out all right.

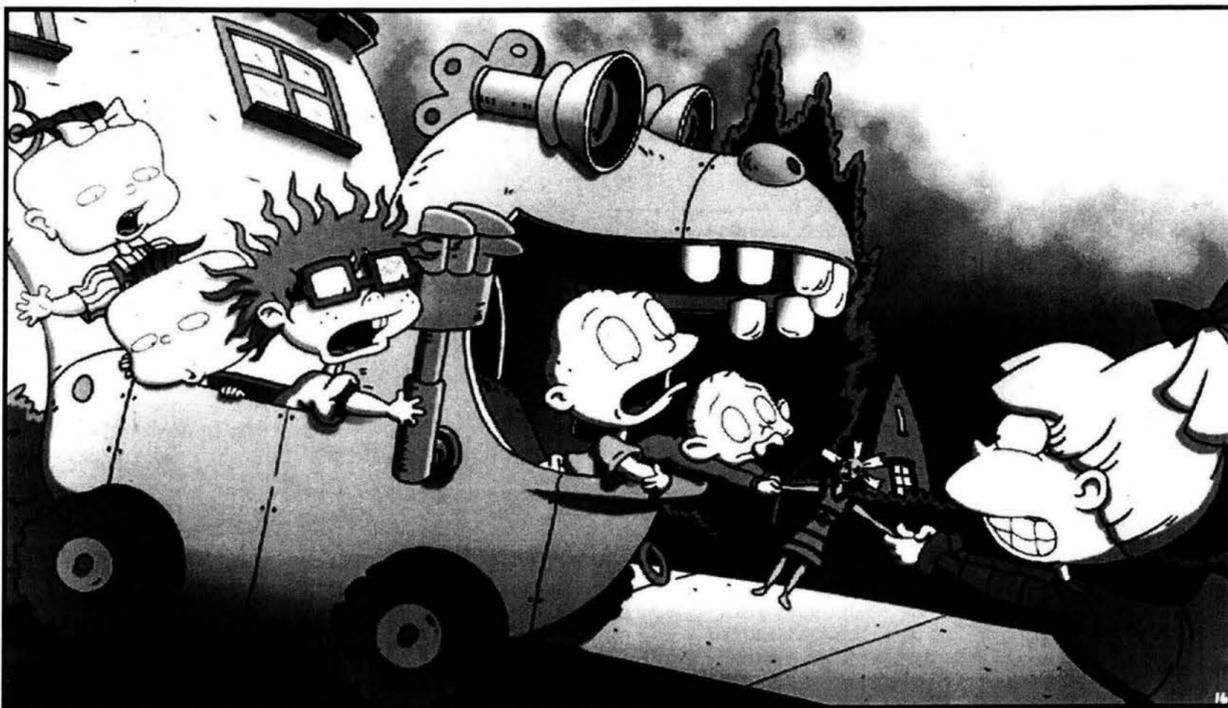
Slater, who plays a wacko real-estate agent, disagrees with everyone and devises a master plan and carries it out himself.

The problem is solved in his eyes, but there is still hostility among the friends.

Piven (who may remember him from "PCU"), plays the black sheep brother of Stern, who is the least popular of the five.

At the end of the movie, two of the five friends survive, Diaz goes insane and, throws a temper tantrum in the street.

"Very Bad Things" was creatively written with actors who demonstrate what you should not do at a bachelor's party.



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND OAK VIEW THEATERS

## Rugrats' exciting voyage entertains all ages

By Meredith Zendejas

Watch out Indiana Jones because here comes Tommy Pickles! "The Rugrats Movie" was a cute movie.

Tommy Pickles and his friends start the movie off by letting their imagination run wild by becoming Indiana Jones.

Instead of looking for lost and

hidden treasure, they are trying to get a jar full of cookies.

If you ever had the chance to watch the television show on Nickelodeon, and liked it, you'll love the movie.

Tommy's mom, Didi, had another baby and named him Dillon Pickles. They call him Dill for short. (Get it, Dill Pickles?!)

Tommy had questions about

where babies came from, but he asked the wrong person. He asked Angelica, who absolutely hates babies because she is a "big kid".

Angelica told them that babies came from a store, a supermarket for babies. She also told them that Tommy's parents wouldn't have time for him anymore.

Tommy does not like the idea of not having his parents to himself, so

him and his friends try and think of a way to get rid of Dill.

Now the adventure begins.

Tommy and his friends ride off on a toy dinosaur and get lost in the woods where they will meet up with circus monkeys and wolves.

If you haven't done anything with your younger siblings in a while, this is a good thing to take them to.

## "A Bug's Life" delivers imaginative script, comedy

By Caroline Walburn

Don't bother getting out the RAID, chemicals can't kill off Disney and Pixar's latest computer animated movie, "A Bug's Life."

"A Bug's Life" has many similarities to the first collaboration between Disney and Pixar, "Toy Story," however the miniature setting in "A Bug's Life" jumps from the bedroom to a backyard.

The imaginative script matches up a colony of diligent ants against a gang of cut-throat grasshoppers. Colorful voices and defining graphics make these two insect groups come alive on screen.

The ants, led by the keen and

decisive Flick (Dave Foley), have been forced to work and gather food for the grasshoppers, who are led by the arrogant and bull-headed Hopper (Kevin Spacey).

Fed up with the persecution the ants have been subjected to, Flick sets out to find neighboring insects to help the ants in their "freedom fight" against the grasshoppers.

Although his colony is extremely skeptical of his non-conformist plans, they seem to admire Flick's courage when he returns with a group of "warrior bugs."

The admiration comes to an abrupt stop, however, when Flick

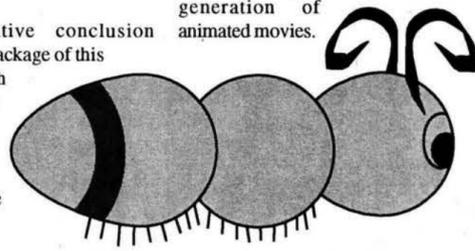
discovers that the "warrior bugs" are in fact circus bugs, who believe their mission is to entertain rather than fight.

With the true identity of the circus bugs revealed, the end of the movie quickly changes from grim to comical.

The creative conclusion of this film, which features the perfect balance between high-tech graphics and a creative story line.

Although "A Bug's Life" is heavy on child appeal, people of all ages will enjoy this festive blend of uplifting characters and exuberant comedy.

This remarkably entertaining film is leading the way into a new generation of animated movies.



**\$149.95**  
Strat Style Electric Guitar  
Sale Priced.....Was 249.95!  
Steel Reinforced neck pickups, tremolo bar 5 way switch  
Swoboda Music South Omaha 20th & Q 731-0908

**OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE**  
Central Adopt-a-school partners  
7605 Cass St. 392-2212

**\$169.50**  
Electric Bass  
Sale Priced.....Was \$269.50!  
Vintage Body Style traditional single split pickup Volume and Tone control Adjustable Neck Great Bass for the Price!  
Swoboda Music South Omaha 20th & Q 731-0908

Be Kind to Yourself at **McFoster's Natural Kind Cafe**  
Eclectic Vegetarian Cuisine  
Fresh Fish  
Free Range Chicken Dishes  
Homemade Organic Soups  
Cappuccino • Soy Lattes • Organic Coffee • Organic Beer, Wine & Spirits  
Smoke Free  
Sunday Brunch 10am-3pm  
302 S. 38th St. 345-7477  
M-TH 11am-10pm, Fri. & Sat. 11 am-11pm

**Petrov's DRIVE-IN CAFE**  
Your Late Night Soda Shop  
59¢ center  
Good Food Always  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA  
Congratulations Central Basketball

Vintage, Vintage, Vintage  
**Psychedelic and SWING!**  
CLOTHING, JEWELRY, SHOES, ETC.  
**Weird Wild Stuff**  
4965 DODGE • OMAHA, NE • (402) 551-7893

Central Scopes

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Talk to that mysterious person you see in the hallway everyday.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) All low time to chat with your friends. It isn't all work and no play. Everyone gets time to mess around for a bit, now it's your turn.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Your financial problems will get better. No, you don't win the lottery, but you do run into some money.

Aries (March 21-April 19) A choice will have to be made between two friends. Choose wisely, or you'll be regretful.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) An unfortunate accident will leave you heartbroken.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Communications with your friends couldn't be better! You're at the top of everyone's popularity list.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Unfortunately, you are very forgetful this month. Start the day off early because you'll need the extra time to look for your keys.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Even though it seems as if you're on overload this month, don't slow down. Keep working hard and you'll be rewarded.

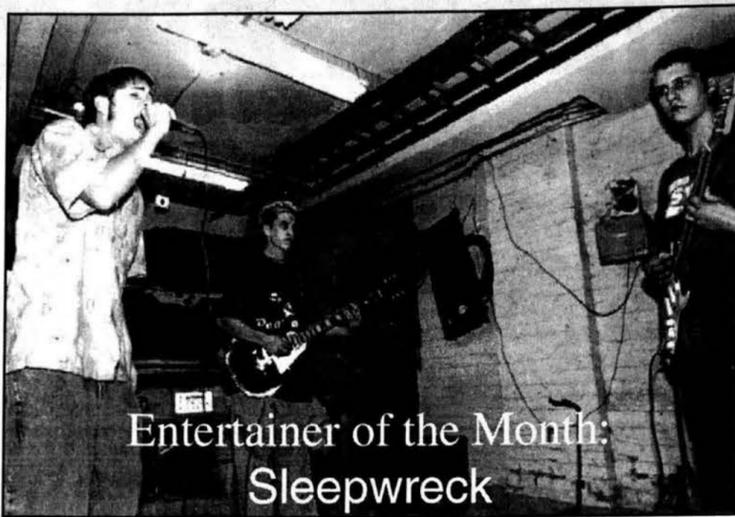
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A rivalry with a sibling will make you so mad, you'll want to spit nails. Calm down and talk it out.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) A new love enters your life unannounced, so keep your eyes open.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Even though the goals you want to reach seem impossible, keep your head up and they will be more accessible.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Keep in mind that first impressions last the longest, so brush your teeth.

Stefanie Wulff



Entertainer of the Month: Sleepwreck

CALLIE THOMAS/THE REGISTER

Band wakes up Central

By Callie Thomas

Four Central students have recently fulfilled their dreams of playing in a band.

The band, Sleepwreck, writes all their own music, and so far has six songs, sophomore guitar player, Erich Haas said.

Sleepwreck has five members.

Although four are from Central, sophomore drummer Adam Shank attends North High School.

The other members of the band are sophomore Josh Bieber (vocalist), junior James Gallup (bass) and sophomore Jeff Chalkley (guitar).

"It's like five different music genres coming together and playing as one," Chalkley said.

The bands fist experience on stage was at the Road Show last year. Chalkley, Haas.

With the addition of Gallup to the band, they plan to play "Picture" at Road Show this year, Haas said.

In addition to playing at Road Show, the band has played at dance clubs, such as the Asylum.

Haas said he is self-taught on the guitar and has been playing for three years.

"As a guitarist, I am most heavily influenced by the bands Rage Against the Machine, Pearl Jam and Deftones," Haas said.

Chalkley said he got his first guitar when he was three, and began taking lessons at the age of seven.

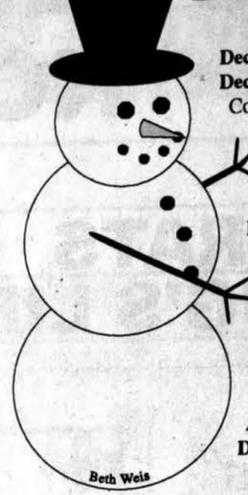
He said he has been taking lessons at D-Rocks for a year.

He says he remembers writing his first song, about being on a deserted island, at the age of six.

"Words left to waste in solitude are better used by someone with an attitude," Chalkley said describing Haas.

Sleepwreck is planning on recording and distributing tapes around Central and their neighborhoods for more recognition.

Happenings



- Dec. 13-21—HANNUKAH
Dec. 16-20—"A Christmas Carol" at the Omaha Community Playhouse
Dec. 16-22—Holiday Wildlights at the Doorly Zoo
Dec. 17-20—Madrigal Christmas at the Marriott Ballroom
Dec. 18-19—The Urge at Ranch Bowl
Dec. 19—Grasshopper Takeover at Stock Ballroom
Dec. 19—WINTER BREAK
Dec. 19-22—"The Baltimore Waltz" at Blue Barn Theatre
Dec. 25—CHRISTMAS
Dec. 26-27—Mannheim Steamroller at the Auditorium
Dec. 30—Steve Allen at Harvey's Casino

Santa Trivia

In the United States, Saint Nicholas became associated with December 25, Christmas Day, rather than his traditional feasting day, which is?

December 6

The legend of Santa Claus, climbing down the chimney and leaving switches for the naughty children, is of what nationality or origin?

Dutch

What is the name for Santa Claus in Germany?

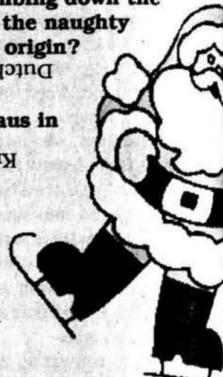
Kris Kringle

What is the name for the Santa Claus in Italy?

Befana

What country calls their Santa Claus, The Grand Motherly Babouschka?

Russia



SOURCE: Grolier Encyclo

Free Pager!

When you buy 6 months of service for Only \$48

No Contracts or Activation Fees
Unlimited Paging in the Lincoln & Omaha Area

The Better Beeper Company

13255 West Center Road (402)758-0555
7409 Dodge Street (402)558-2337

Your Period

LATE

do you PANIC? PANIC? PANIC!

CALL EPS 554-1000

We Can Help.

EPS Pregnancy Services
5001 Leavenworth Street



- \*Need Some Extra Holiday Cash?
\*Wanna work some place where you can have FUN?
\*Looking For Competitive Pay and Flexible Schedule?

If you answered YES to all 3 questions then we want YOU!

David M.

Mangelsen's

Now Hiring Full & Part Time Framing\*Cashiers\*Crafts\*Floral Party Goods\*Christmas Traditions

Westgate Plaza \*3457 S. 84th St. \*391-6225

Advertisement for Zio's Pizzeria featuring a cartoon character and text: Hand stretched N.Y. style Pizzeria, Freshest Pizzeria Best taste! Zio's Pizzeria, 13463 W. Center Road • 330-7924, 7924 W. Dodge Road • 391-1818, 1213 Howard (Old Market) • 342-1111

We're Proud to Support Central.



first national bank of omaha

MEMBER FDIC

Investing in you.

Known for 200 years "Since 1950"



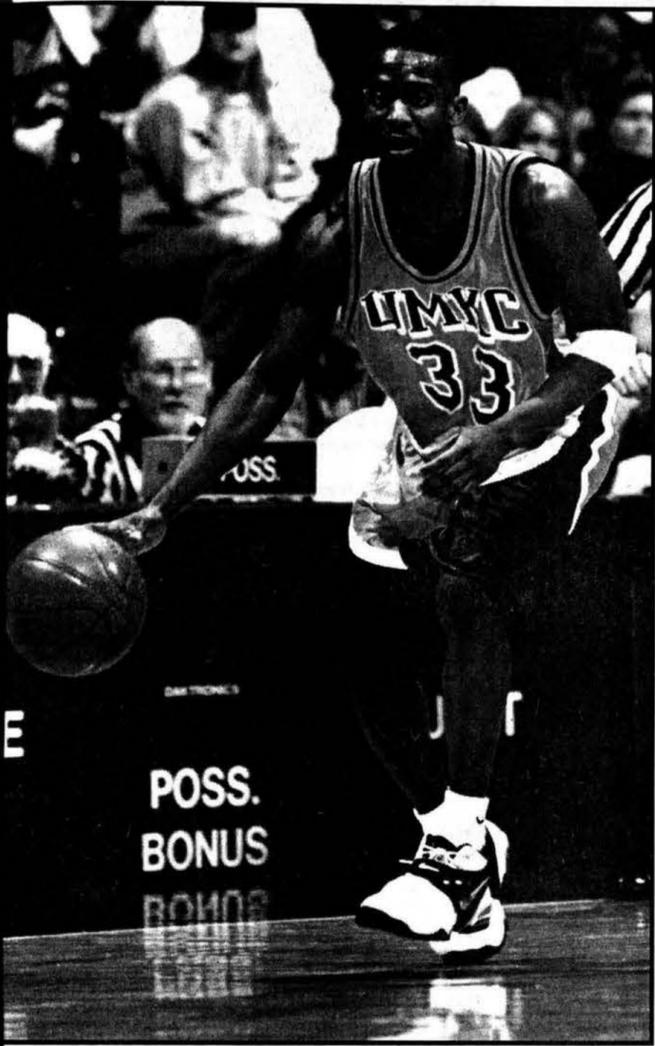
Try us for All of Your Floral Needs

733-2322

5414 South 36

Citywide Delivery

# Springing into action



COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

**EDDIE SMITH** brings the ball up the court for the Kangaroos.

## Eddie Smith



### Season statistics (through 7 games)

- POINTS PER GAME: 13.7 \*
- ASSISTS PER GAME: 2.7 \*
- STEALS: 6
- REBOUNDS/GAME: 3.6
- 3-POINT SHOTS: 8 for 19
- 3-PT. PCT: .421
- FIELD GOAL PCT: .424
- FREE THROW PCT: .667
- MINUTES PER GAME: 32.0 \*

\* leads the team

### By Derek Tritsch

A former Central basketball player is in the news again, this time surfacing at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC).

Eddie Smith, the go-to-guy on the Eagles' 1993-94 team, now finds himself in that same position with the UMKC Kangaroos.

The 5-foot-11 guard is averaging 13.7 points-per-game through seven games so far this season for the 3-4 Kangaroos.

Smith has led the Kangaroos in scoring three times, with his season high of 26 points coming at home against Creighton.

"Eddie's a rare breed of scoring

point guards," UMKC Head Coach Bob Sundvold said. "When the game's on the line, we want the ball in his hands."

After starting every game after January last season, Smith has started every game so far this year.

Sundvold said that the team counts on Smith to be a leader.

"He leads by example," Sundvold said. "He's always at practice early and he always works hard. He does everything I want him to do."

Besides leading UMKC in scoring, Smith also leads them in assists and minutes. He averages 2.7 and 32.0 per game, respectively.

Smith led the state of Nebraska

in scoring his senior season at Central, averaging 25.0 points-per-game. His scoring attracted notice from many area-Division I basketball programs, but Smith did not meet minimum scholarship academic marks.

Forced to attend junior college directly out of high school, he chose Cloud County Community College in Concordia, Kan.

Central basketball Head Coach Rick Behrens said that Smith is one of his all-time best scorers.

"Eddie is a very smooth, explosive scorer," Behrens said. "We counted on him a lot."

## Softball

# CHS catcher named to All-State team

By Amy Yin

If getting chosen for the All-State team was a goal, than one softball player accomplished it.

This season junior catcher Kari Shank has been named to the All-State and All-Metro Conference teams.

"Being named to the All-State Team was a huge honor," Shank said, "I didn't even expect it. I was shocked when they told me I had been selected for the team."

While accepting the honor, Shank said that the coaches had a lot to do with her success.

"I would really like to thank Mr. Semrad, Coach Kerri Semrad and Coach Donahue," Shank said. "During the season, I had a tendency to get down on myself and they helped talk me out of a lot of situations."

When asked, Coach Semrad said that Shank was a tremendous player.

"She really motivated the team this season," Semrad said. "She proved to be the leader on and off the field."

Shank said that one of the highlights of this season was the Eagles loss to Fremont.

"That was probably my biggest moment this season," Shank said. "Fremont's pitcher, Tammy Nielson, is one of the best pitchers in the state, and I ended up getting four hits (4-4) off her in the game."

Though Shank got four hits off of Nielson during the Fremont game, she says it was probably one of the most disappointing losses of the season.

"That was a game I thought we

could win," Shank said.

Shank said that even though the season didn't end the way she had planned, she still accomplished some of her goals that she had set for herself.

"One of my goals was to be selected to the All State Team which I accomplished," Shank said. "My other goal was to keep the same batting average (.433) that I had last year, but that didn't happen this year, unfortunately."

Shank said that even though the season has ended, she still has some goals in mind for next year.

"My biggest goal for next year would be probably to work hard or harder than I did this year," Shank said. "I don't want to get frustrated the way I did this year."

Shank said that she has been playing the game of softball ever since the third grade.

"One of my best friends got me into softball, and I have been playing the game ever since," Shank said. "My mom was also playing softball at the same time."

Shank said that the biggest moment of her career was being chosen to play for a summer softball league that made it to Nationals.

Even though she is still a junior, Shank does know what lies in the near future.

"I am hoping to get a scholarship to play softball in college," Shank said. "As of right now, Arizona State (ASU) and the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) are my top choices. ASU has one of the best softball programs in the United States."



# Central football team to play Lincoln East next season

By Jeremy Scurlock

The Central High School football team will begin its 1999 season four days early against the Lincoln East Cougars, Central High Athletic Director Paul Pennington said.

Head Coach Joe McMenamin said that starting early is pretty exciting.

Because Class A is composed of 25 teams, a small conflict arose in next season's football schedule.

The Eagles had only eight games scheduled next season instead of the usual nine, Pennington said.

Pennington also said that because the other Class A Metro teams had already been given a full season schedule, Central began looking for out of state opponents.

"Finding a team willing to play Central from out of state wasn't going to happen," Pennington said.

This was not only a problem for Central; Millard North and Lincoln East were facing the same situation, Pennington said.

The solution to this problem? Central will play a game against the Lincoln East Cougars on Tuesday

Aug. 30, 1999 two days before their game against Omaha North on September 3, 1999.

"The early start to the season allows our team only two weeks and a day of practice," Pennington said. "But, it also gives us a by week and a chance to rest the week before playoffs."

The early start to the Eagle season is scheduled as a home game, but a change in location is in mind, Pennington said.

"We'd like to play the inaugural game on their new turf," Pennington said.

## Lincoln East

**Mascot:** Cougars

**1998 Record:** 0-9

**Final 1998 Ranking:** None

**State Titles:** 1975, 1979

**Head Coach:** John Gingery

**SOURCE:** Lincoln East Athletics

# Skaters brace for coming winter

By Amy Yin

When winter is here, and after an unusually warm summer, skateboarders and rollerbladers now find alternative things to do.

"I try to cope," junior skateboarder Greg Arthur said. "If it is snowing, we shovel. If it's not, we try to go where it's not."

Senior rollerblader Neal Duffy said that they go to parking garages when the weather is bad.

Security guards don't like that very much, Duffy said. "Other people go to skateparks

when it's not snowing."

During the winter, many skateboarders and rollerbladers resort to other sports.

Junior skateboarder Aaron Arthur says that when it snows, he goes snowboarding.

"Snowboarding is a lot like skateboarding," Arthur said.

Duffy said that although there are avid skaters and rollerbladers in the Metro area, there are not many competitions in Omaha.

"There are one or two competitions in Omaha during the summer, the main one being at

Aksarben," Duffy said. "There are none in the winter."

Duffy also said that getting a sponsorship to rollerblade professionally is hard to do.

"Getting a sponsorship is hard because many of the top rollerblading companies are out on the west coast and don't notice the Midwest," Duffy said. "I would love to get sponsored and get paid to rollerblade."

All in all, most skateboarders and rollerbladers enjoy what they do.

"We love to do it," Edds said.

www.wesmellgood.com

Perfume Oils  
by Maisha

2561 Leavenworth St.

344-8906

1620 SO  
10TH



345-  
8313

Steaks \* Poultry \* Fish \* Seafood \* Pasta  
\$2.99 Daily Specials Mon - FRI  
"You Have to Try it to Believe it!"

\*Hours\*

Lunch: 11-4 PM Mon thru Sat  
Dinner: 4-10 PM Sun thru Thur  
4-11 PM Fri and Sat

"Planned Parenthood helped me make the right choice for me."

"I'm not ready to have a baby. So I went to Planned Parenthood for the counseling and birth control I needed. I learned they offer everything from emergency contraception, to HIV tests, to pregnancy tests. I always knew Planned Parenthood was there for me. I just didn't know in how many ways."



- Melanie, 18

Health Care. Education. Counseling.  
That's what we do at Planned Parenthood.

For birth control, emergency contraception, pregnancy tests, STD/HIV tests, and information, call the health center nearest you.

Planned Parenthood of Omaha-Council Bluffs 1-800-230-PLAN  
http://www.plannedparenthood.org





# SPORTS



## Full-Court Press

By Jeff McWhorter



## Lockout more entertaining than season

The NBA lockout: it's fantastic! The absence of the NBA season has become more entertaining than real, professional basketball ever was. Many may disagree with me but here is why I think the NBA lockout is a good time for everybody.

First of all, nothing is more entertaining than to watch grown men who play professional sports (ie, play a game) squabble with their bosses about how many more millions of dollars they want to earn each year. Patrick Ewing, star center for the New York Knicks, just missed his second \$900,000 paycheck. I'll bet the look on his face was worth a million. No pun intended.

The players are demanding that 60 percent of the revenue made by a team be paid out to them! Pardon me but that is absolutely ridiculous. A team consisting of 12 men wants 60 percent of whatever astronomical amount a NBA team pulls in a year. I just feel bad for the players who only make around \$800,000 a year and weren't prepared for such a blow in the pocketbook. It will only take me a couple years, maybe fifty, of hard work to earn that amount.

Other entertainment provided by the lockout is the behavior of Mr. Congeniality himself, Dennis Rodman. Even without a season, Rodman's antics have managed to make a mockery of the NBA with his name appearing in numerous headlines. Marrying Carmen Electra of Baywatch in Las Vegas while too intoxicated to make an honest decision about the ceremony was just one of Rodman's many escapades.

Apparently feeling the lockout's blow to the wallet, Rodman recently filed suit in the Orange County Superior Court that World Championship Wrestling (WCW) had allegedly not paid him for two pay-per-view performances.

He is also currently being sued by a cocktail waitress for reasons we won't get into. But he did give her a \$100 bill. That doesn't sound like frugality to me.

It's interesting to watch what happens to players when they don't have the basketball season to keep them occupied.

For example, Chris Webber of the Washington Wizards is spending his free time in a courtroom testifying to charges of possession of marijuana and resisting arrest. While he is on pace to outrun the case, he is still racking up a big bill.

You figure he has to pay his high-class lawyer and associates, he will probably receive fines from the league and he has lost his shoe deal with Fila due to a violation in his good conduct clause. No wonder he wants more money.

One aspect of the lockout that is nice to see is the Indiana Pacers' commitment to the game. Antonio Davis has been organizing workouts for his team to attend since the lockout began and routinely eleven or twelve players have shown up. The Pacers are aiming to make a title run while preparing themselves for a season that may never come.

# CHS alumnus takes talents to Rockhurst

By Jeff McWhorter

After a short stint with the Nebraska football team, Central alumnus Luke Denney went back to his athletic roots.

For him, that meant going back to soccer, which he now plays at Division II Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Mo.

Denney, who graduated in 1997, said he had a variety of athletic decisions to make.

Among Denney's high school honors were: All-State soccer his junior and senior years, All-State and All-Academic football his senior year and a member of the boys' varsity basketball team. Denney said he looked to make his mark in whatever sport he chose to pursue.

Coming out of high school,

Denney's major scholarship offers came from his primary sport, soccer. Perennial Division I-power Saint Louis University offered him a scholarship. Many other smaller schools followed suit.

Football wasn't a sport he received much attention from colleges in though, he said.



"I was really undecided on what I was going to do when I graduated," Denney said. "The attraction to go play football at Nebraska for Coach Tom Osborne was just too great, though."

In the summer of 1996, Denney decided to walk-on at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (NU). Denney began to practice with the football team and was amazed at the commitment that was needed, he said.

Denney said two-a-day practices

and the fitness testing were nothing like he had ever done in soccer. Despite the workload, he managed to keep up and earned recognition from the *Omaha World-Herald* on his achievements as a freshman walk-on.

During the season, Denney wasn't on the Cornhusker's main squad but he earned the right to suit up every game as a redshirt freshman wide receiver. He attended the team's National Championship victory over Tennessee at the Orange Bowl. Despite not playing, Denney received a Championship ring.

The accomplishments at NU were exciting for Denney, but for an athlete used to being an overachiever, it wasn't enough.

"I was really beginning to miss soccer and I couldn't stand not playing," Denney said. "I also found out I didn't really like Lincoln."

Denney finally decided to quit

CHS File: Luke Denney

Graduated: 1997

Sports: football, basketball, soccer

Honors: All-State and All-Academic team as senior, football; Nebraska Gatorade Player of the year All-State as junior and senior, soccer

After high school?: walk-on with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln football team

Current endeavors: Denney is on scholarship at Division II-Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Mo., for soccer

football and accepted an offer to play soccer for during the upcoming season.

After playing soccer for 14 years on everything from YMCA microsoccer teams to Gladiator select club teams, the transition back simple, Denney said.

The two-hour practices and scrimmages he was accustomed to were back. Traveling through the Midwest for soccer tournaments also appealed to Denney.

At goalkeeper, Denney spent with another senior goalkeeper helped Rockhurst finish with a successful record of 12-3-2, he said.

"I love playing soccer," Denney said. "I'm having a blast. Denney said the skills and lessons he learned at Central have given him a great deal after graduation."

# Twin TOWERS

## Juniors Ben Jacobson and James "Boomer" Mills lead the Eagle basketball team into the 1998-99 season

By Jeff McWhorter

A pair of juniors plan to stand tall for the Eagle varsity basketball team this season.

Ben Jacobson and James "Boomer" Mills, two of the team's big men, are preparing to help the Eagles soar to new heights this season and improve off last year's 5-14 record, Jacobson said.

"I just can't sit through another year like last year," Jacobson said. "My first priority this season is the team, and I'll do anything for the team to win."

Jacobson and Mills, standing tall at 6-foot-7 inches and 6-foot-5, are confident that they can do just that. Mills said that, since the pair have began playing together this season, they have just clicked and are working together superbly.

"We have the same game and are a great combination," Mills said. "We look for each other and seem to connect often."

Jacobson is the team's most experienced player going into the season. After playing the last two years on the varsity team, he has showed dramatic improvement, Head Basketball Coach Rick Behrens said.

"Ben has developed good scoring ability," Behrens said. "He has come along nicely and matured as a leader also. He really has stepped up."

Last season, as a sophomore, Jacobson averaged 14.0 points and 9 rebounds a game for the varsity team.

On the other side of the spectrum, Mills is playing his first full year of varsity this season. Last year, after beginning the season in the starting lineup, Mills ended up the season splitting time with the junior varsity team.

"James played both varsity and junior varsity last season," Behrens said. "By the end of the year he was really playing excellent."

Two areas where Mills improved immensely were his mid-range shooting and his passing, Behrens said. His leaping ability and quickness are also assets, he said.

### Ben Jacobson

Year: junior

Position: center, forward

Height: 6-foot-7

Behrens on Jacobson:

"Ben has developed good scoring ability. He has come along nicely and matured as a leader. He has really stepped up."

Mills on Jacobson: "Ben's a great scorer. I think teams will find out that they have to come out and guard him on the perimeter this year."

Expectation for season: "I think we'll compete with every team that we play this year, but we need to be able to win the close games, which is something that we had trouble with last year."



### James Mills

Year: junior

Position: power forward

Height: 6-foot-5

Behrens on Mills: "By the end of [last] year, he was really playing excellent. [This year], Boomer has improved immensely in his mid-range shooting and his passing."

Jacobson on Mills: "Boomer is a very versatile player. He can post up anyone and he can also shoot the outside jumper. He's also one of the quicker guys in the Metro for his size."

Expectation for season: "I think the team's success this year will depend on defense and rebounding. We should be able to score enough to keep up with any team in the Metro."

## SCORECARD

## REGISTER PICKS

Sports staff calls 'em like they see 'em.



**Derek Tritsch**

Sports Staff Editor



**Jeff McWhorter**

Assistant Sports Staff Editor



**Amy Yin**

Assistant Sports Staff Editor

Holiday Bowl  
Dec. 30  
Nebraska (9-3) vs.  
Arizona (11-1)

Gator Bowl  
Jan. 1  
Georgia Tech (9-2)  
vs. Notre Dame (9-2)

Cotton Bowl  
Jan. 1  
Mississippi St. (8-4)  
vs. Texas (8-3)

Fiesta Bowl  
Jan. 4  
Tennessee (12-0) vs.  
Florida St. (11-1)

Nebraska

Georgia Tech

Mississippi St.

Florida St.

Nebraska

Notre Dame

Texas

Florida St.

Nebraska

Georgia Tech

Texas

Tennessee

## Contents

Page 11.....Former Eagle leads UMKC basketball team.

Page 11.....Eagle softball player is named to All-Nebraska team