

the Central High School Register

Monday,
September 27,
1999

Volume 113,
Issue 1

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register@ops.org

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Fighting for Pay



ANDREW DANFORD/THE REGISTER

Teachers Rally Over Salaries, Respect

By Andrew Danford

"What's priority number one!"
"People!"
The Omaha Educators Association (OEA) carried this message to a rally at the Teacher and Administrative Center (TAC) to help increase public awareness of the teacher contract negotiations, OEA President Liz Rea said.

Teachers have been working this school year without a new contract. Usually, teachers have a contract for the school year during May or June prior to that year, Rea said.

However, Rea said that this year, the teachers and negotiators have not been able to reach an agreement on improving teacher salaries and working conditions. "Negotiations have slowed down to a crawl," Rea said.

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Superintendent Dr. John Mackiel said that the teachers were demanding a 5.6 percent pay raise. The negotiators were offering a 5.1 percent pay increase.

At the rally on Sept. 20, over 1,000 teachers from across the district came to let the school board know that teachers and administrators want to reach an agreement regarding their contracts, Rea said.

One major theme of the rally was that

teachers in OPS are paid significantly less than other teachers around the nation.

According to OEA, the average teacher salary in OPS is \$5,000 less than the national average.

Central Social Studies Teacher Carol Krejci said that she has seen many teachers leave OPS for other school districts because the pay was better.

"We are about 44th in the nation as far as teachers' salaries go," she said. "But our students rank in the top 10 in student achievement."

OPS School Board Member F. E. "Fritze" Stanek said that there is not enough money to increase teachers' salaries.

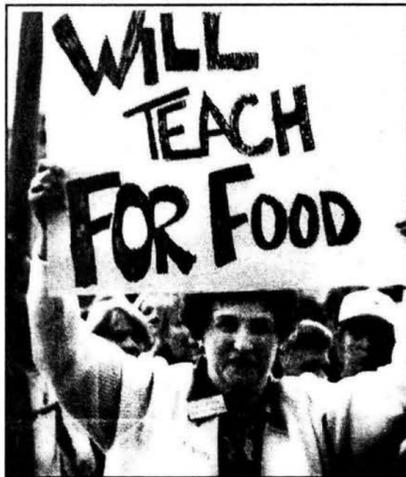
"There is only so much money for salaries," Stanek said. "I can't vote any more to them. They must feel that there are some reservoirs of money that we don't know about."

Stanek said that he did not believe the protest would be very helpful in reaching an agreement on teachers' contracts.

"We have not sat and finalized anything," he said.

After the rally, seven people spoke on the behalf of OEA before the school board.

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CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Omaha Public Schools' teachers rallied before the school board on Monday Sept. 20, protesting salaries. Top: Susan Troyer from Howard Kennedy cries for respect. Above: Central High School Government Teacher Carol Krejci protests current teacher salaries.

Denver teachers to receive merit pay

By Andrew Danford

The Denver Public Schools (DPS) District will implement a new pilot program study this year that will reward teachers based upon their student's performance, Vice President of the Denver Classroom Teachers Association (DCTA) Becky Wissink said.

The program will be a two-year study, Wissink said. Twelve elementary schools and three middle schools will participate in the program for the first year.

Faculty at Denver schools will vote on whether to participate in the program. The program will include only those schools where the staff voted by an 85 percent majority to participate in the program.

About 450 teachers will participate in the program during the first year, Wissink said. After the first year, 200 high school teachers at two high schools may be added to the same elementary and middle school teachers.

Teachers will receive \$500 for

participating in the first year of the study.

Schools will measure student achievement in one of three categories: scores on the standardized Iowa Test of Basic Skills, scores on tests created by teachers or other measures of achievement resulting from special training that teachers undergo, Wissink said.

The teachers will also set goals for their students in these three categories. They may set up to two goals for each year.

For each goal that the students achieve in the first year, the teacher will receive \$500 in addition to the \$500 for participating in the program.

During the second year of the program, teachers will receive \$750 for each goal that their students achieve but no money for simply participating.

The program will be overseen by a committee of four members. Two members of the committee will be appointed by DPS and two by DCTA.

Turn to PAY, page 2

Students choose school curriculum

By Andrew Danford

When 15-year-old Melissa Randles went back to school on Sept. 8, she did not start her sophomore year of high school. She had no teachers and no curriculum. She will not receive any grades this year, take home any report cards or have to worry about taking any tests.

Randles and 17 other students are different. They attend Alpine Valley School in Golden, Colo.

At Alpine Valley, the students decide what to learn and when to learn

it, Randles said.

"No one can tell you to do anything you don't want to do," she said. "What the students learn here is what they want to learn and need to learn."

Alpine Valley was founded three years ago by Larry Welshon, a public school teacher, and accepts children ages 5-19.

"I realized that what I was doing in the public schools was harming the children," Welshon said.

He also said that he believed that students learn more and are happier when they are allowed to learn on their own.

"Human beings want to be the best that they can be," Welshon said. "It's when you force them to learn that they hate to learn."

Welshon said that this idea is very clearly evident at the public school where he

Turn to ALPINE, page 3

Alpine Valley	
18 students attend	
● The school is two years old	
There are 7 staff members	
Students are in school 5 hours a day	
School Hours are 8:00 am-5:00 pm	
Ages 5-19 accepted	
Tuition is \$3,500	

JARED HART/THE REGISTER

Cameras needed at Central, Thompson said

By Rebecca Rennard

Be aware; big brother is watching. Principal Dr. Gary Thompson said security cameras are high Central High School's priority list.

He said Central is a "safe" school compared to many others, but it too could use a few changes, namely security cameras.

"It would be great if we had complete control over who is in the building at all times," he said, "but in reality we can't do that."

Thompson said he believes

cameras would increase the security of the school.

"There is no way to get someone at every door," he said. "The security cameras would give us better control over who comes and goes."

Security Guard Joe Venditte said every door, aside from the West side of the school, are locked at 8:00 every morning. Although he, and his colleagues, check the doors everyday, there is no way for them to constantly monitor the many doors around the building.

Freshman Doug Longcrowe said

he feels the cameras are necessary for this exact reason.

"Central needs those cameras because the school is so big," he said. "It is impossible for them [security guards] to watch everything at once. The cameras would give them the info they need to keep the school safe."

Thompson stressed that the cameras would be preventative devices more than anything else.

Security Guard Frank Zavorka said they would be very helpful for preventing skipping as well as vandalism in the parking lots.

Thompson said that next to controlling who enters the school, his main concern is neighborhood gang graffiti.

"We would be able to monitor tapes and to see who is doing the graffiti so we can punish them accordingly," he said.

The biggest problem with the ideas is funding. Thompson said he has found that a minimal system with the capability to display faces accurate enough for identification would cost around seventy-five to eighty thousand dollars.

Security Guard Dan Longwell said another problem with the cameras is that they would need constant monitoring.

"Cameras are a good idea, provided there is personnel specifically assigned to watch them," he said.

Despite the few problems, Thompson said Central will hopefully be receiving the security cameras soon. He said they will be posted around the school inside as well as outside.

Zavorka said the cameras will be

especially important in the North side.

"That [the North side] is where the skippers are; where people get let in," he said. "Cameras will be very useful for monitoring that area."

Even without the cameras, though, the security guards said they believe strongly that Central is the safest school in the Omaha area.

"I've heard from parents who have kids going to other schools that Central has the best system for security," Security Guard Dan Longwell said. "If I had kids, I would definitely send them to Central."



Shooting hits close to home

A shooting occurred outside of Central High on Dodge St. between Central and the Joslyn Art Museum on Sept. 21 at approximately 1:58 p.m., Omaha Police Department Officer Don Savage said.

Twenty-three-year old Israel Rodriguez was hit in the shoulder and leg as he waited for his girlfriend, a Central student, Savage said. Police found six shell casings at the scene, he said.

The suspect, a Hispanic male, was seen driving a dark-colored vehicle west on Dodge St., Savage said.

Disney recognizes CHS teacher

Central High School's English Department Chair, Terri Saunders, is one of the finalists in the Disney American Teacher Awards.

Saunders was one of the thirty-nine teachers chosen out of the seventy-five thousand teachers nominated. Saunders said the awards ceremony will aired on the Disney Channel on Nov. 15.

CHS dropout pleads guilty

Central Dropout Andrew Westling pled guilty to murder in the second degree and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony on Aug. 18.

The murder charge holds a minimum penalty of one year and a maximum of 50 years in prison. The weapon charge holds a minimum penalty of one year and a maximum of 20 years in prison and up to a \$25,000 fine.

No date has been set for his sentencing.

Rose celebrates anniversary

The Omaha Theater for Young People at the Rose is celebrating a special 1999-2000 season commemorating its 50th anniversary, Executive Director Roberta Wilhem said. The Theater will be performing some of its most popular productions along with world premiers of other productions during the anniversary season.

CHS dances to the millennium

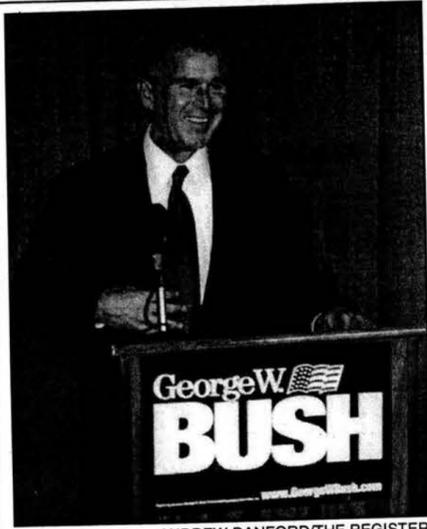
This year's homecoming will be held on Oct. 2, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. This year's theme will be "Millennium Magic."

The homecoming game will be held Oct. 1, against Millard North at Bergquist Stadium at 7:30 p.m. Homecoming king and queen candidates will be introduced during half-time.

Monday starts off spirit week with pajama day, Tuesday, Hawaiian Day, Wednesday, Blast from the Past Day, Thursday, Crazy hair/Clash Day and Friday is Purple School Spirit Day.

Central puts on musical

Central will perform its fall musical, "South Pacific," starring Matt Smith and Jenny Storm on Nov. 5 and 6. A student matinee will be held on Nov. 4. Tickets for the matinee will cost four dollars and be sold at the school store.



ANDREW DANFORD/THE REGISTER

On the Campaign Trail



ANDREW DANFORD/THE REGISTER

TOP: Republican Presidential Candidate, George W. Bush, speaks at a press conference held on Aug. 31 at Iowa Western Community College.

ABOVE: George W. Bush greets supporters after the rally. Bush spoke to a crowd of over 400 supporters on educational issues.

Presidential Candidate Bush visits Omaha

By Andrew Danford

As a parent of 17-year-old daughters, Republican Presidential Candidate Governor George W. Bush brought educational issues to the forefront of his recent visit to Omaha.

Bush began his Aug. 31 trip by visiting two Catholic grade schools, Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Agnes Mission School, and ended it before over 400 supporters at a rally at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs.

"As governor, I made sure that making sure our children got educated was our first priority," Bush said. "All of us must work to make sure that every child is educated."

Bush stressed the importance of offering equal opportunities to all children in America throughout his stay in Omaha.

"Two societies have developed in schools today," Bush said. "One that reads, the other that doesn't—One that dreams, the other that doesn't."

He said that local communities must take charge of their schools and insist that the students in their schools meet high standards.

"I think that it is important to know whether students are meeting standards and expectations," Bush said.

As evidence of this, Bush said that standardized test scores were up in his home state of Texas.

When schools meet the goals they set for their students, they need to be praised, Bush said.

However, when schools do not meet the expectations that they have for themselves, the public must shine the spotlight of shame on them, he said.

As part of meeting these high standards, Bush said that people

need to start to take responsibility for their actions.

"Children must hear a message of responsibility," Bush said. "We must pass laws that say we are going to hold you accountable if you break laws. We will hold you accountable if you illegally sell a gun. That accountability is called jail."

Bush also addressed the issue of school safety while in Omaha.

"I think that most schools are safe in America," he said.

In Texas, Bush said that several measures have been taken to help prevent violence in schools.

One such measure was the establishment of intermediate schools that are half-way between school and jail, where students who have committed crimes may attend, he said.

Also, he said that simple things, such as placing drug and gun free zones around schools, are also effective measures in the prevention

of school violence.

Bush said that another important step in the prevention of school violence is local involvement in the schools.

"Communities must take charge of children who have turned school yards into battlefields," Bush said.

Bush also said that the best way to prevent violence and crime was to change the hearts of the people through involvement in church and charities.

"When we change hearts, we change America for the better," he said.

He said that as America approaches the 21st century, everyone should have the opportunity to become prosperous.

"An educated child is one more likely to realize their dreams," he said. "There are no second rate children in America, and no second rate dreams."

Omaha Public School's teachers rally for better benefits

RALLY, continued from page 1

One speaker, King Science Center Teacher Jim Fisher, said that the teachers are not paid enough to support themselves and their families.

"Things can't continue the way that they are until people are a higher priority," Fisher said.

Another speaker, Central Spanish Teacher and Nebraska State

Educators' Association (NSEA) Vice President Vicki Anderson, also said that teachers are often forced to seek employment outside of the classroom to support themselves.

"Several of my colleagues said that they wanted to be here tonight," Anderson said. "But they are working."

OPS School Board President Dr. John Langan said that the school

board could not do much to help increase teacher salaries.

"You are marching on the wrong building," Langan said. "Teachers are underpaid, but the root of that problem does not lie in this building. Our legislatures own that problem."

He said that caps on property tax increases imposed by the state unicameral prevent the district from raising teachers' salaries.

Mackiel also agreed that the problem did not lie in the district. Instead, it lies in the state legislatures, he said.

"This rally needed to take place," Mackiel said. "It needed to take place in Lincoln together."

The district may vote to override the limitations on the increases.

However, Langan said that the district does not plan to vote to

Teachers test new program

Denver teachers participate in study to examine merit pay

PAY, continued from page 1

Outside experts will be used to help ensure the reliability of the goals and assessments of the goals, Wissink said.

Disputes as to whether or not students have achieved the goals that teachers set for them will be settled by an arbitrator.

Data will be taken throughout the course of this program to help assess the progress of the study.

After the two-year pilot period, members of the DCTA will vote on whether performance pay will be used to determine their entire salary, Wissink said.

"There has been nothing like this in the past," she said.

In the past and in the Omaha Public Schools district, teachers have received pay based on seniority. Also, past merit programs have awarded bonuses to teachers' salaries.

However, if the plan is passed in two years, it will be the first merit pay program that would be used to determine the teachers' entire salary, Wissink said.

Central Math Chair John Waterman said that he believes that a program such as this would be an effective means of helping boost teacher performance.

"The general teacher would become more concerned about their students if it is directly tied to their salaries," Waterman said.

"I believe in rewarding quality," However, Central English Chair Terrie Saunders said that she believes that these programs are not effective.

"A good teacher is motivated anyway," Saunders said. "A bad teacher is a bad teacher no matter how much you pay them."

She also said that she believes that students' performance would be hard to measure in order to have a program such as this.

"I don't think that you can monitor it objectively," Saunders said.

Central Senior Samira Nazem said that she believes that this program would be unfair to teachers who do not have motivated students.

"I think that it is unfair because teachers have different levels of students," Nazem said. "The students are the ones who should be rewarded."

However, Wissink said that the teachers would be able to set goals according to how they believe their students will be able to perform.

"We all work with different children," she said.

President of the Omaha Educators Association (OEA) Liz Rea said that she does not believe that such a program will be implemented in OPS.

"I can't see anything like this in the near future," she said. "Usually there is not enough money to go around for teachers' salaries anyway."

While this program is still a pilot program in Denver, the funding for the program will come from outside sources.

override the state limitations because of the recent bond issue.

"We have already stretched the voters in this district," Langan said.

Rea said that the NSEA plans to present a bill to the state unicameral in January that would allow school districts increase the funds for the teachers' salary outside of restrictions of the state property levy.

Students pray for school, administration

By Meredith Kalina

See You At The Pole is a student initiated, student lead prayer time once a year, around your school flagpole. Kent Julian, pastor of student ministries at Christ Community Church said.

"There were a couple of students who asked me if they could do a See You At The Pole at Central, and I said that it would be fine," Principal Dr. Gary Thompson said.

Julian said that See You At The Pole began about ten years ago when students at a high school in Texas decided to stand around their flagpole and pray for their school.

He said that police came to the school, and it was later discovered that it was perfectly legal to hold a See You at the Pole.

"When people found out that it was legal, it spread to other states, and eventually across the nation," Julian said.

Central Senior Dustin Hoggarth, said that prayer on school grounds concerns him.

"If the school is going to enforce laws against certain freedoms on school grounds, like smoking, why not against all of them including prayer," Hoggarth said.

Dr. Gary Thompson, principal at Central High School, said that because of the open meeting laws, students are allowed to hold religious organized events as long as there is no direct teacher involvement.

Julian said that having See You At The Pole led by students is very important.

"I think its great for a student to be in a place to show courage and boldness by taking a stand among their peers," Julian said.

"It's a confidence builder, and we mainly want students to gain encouragement to get out there and participate in See You At The Pole," Julian said.

He said that the pre-rally also served as a way to get students together to be able to see other people from their schools who will also be participating.

Julian said that See You At The Pole has two core aspects.

One, he said, is that it is completely student lead. Second, he said, is that the entire event is prayer oriented.

"Students are there to pray for their schools, their teachers, the administration, their peers, and themselves," he said.

Central Junior Erica Kess, said that she thought this year's See You At The Pole was awesome and that everyone there was really focused on the prayer.

"God was really there with us that day, and I was touched by that amazing time that morning," Kess said.

Kess said that prayer is really powerful when you do it with a bunch of your peers, and it was really neat.

Julian said that prayer is so important to make See You At The Pole successful.

"See You At The Pole is important for the school because students are being prayer ambassadors for the current condition of the school," Julian said.

Thompson said that he thinks it is very nice that students take time to pray for the school and administration.

Central Senior Jon Noland, said that he thinks having students around the flagpole praying for the school is very important and encouraging.

"It showed me that there are a lot of Christians here at Central and that's cool," Noland said.

Julian said that he has also seen the positive effects that See You At The Pole has on students and schools.

He said that because of See You At The Pole many students have really been deepened in their faith and have gained boldness.

"For a lot of students it was a serious step in their walk with Jesus Christ to attend, and they advanced from a private walk to a much more public one," Julian said.

He said that in many cases, after See You At The Pole, many students decide to start Bible studies and other Christian organizations.

A Day in the Life...

...An in-depth look at an all-boys and an all-girls school.



MEREDITH KALINA/THE REGISTER

By Meredith Kalina, Courtney O'Malley, and Ally Freeman

"It's a great situation, a great atmosphere," Dan Kenney, Athletic Director and Theology teacher at Duschene Academy said.

The atmosphere in which Kenney spoke of was very evident to us as we visited Duschene that morning.

Walking through the auditorium doors to Duschene, we noticed that all of the

tween classes, Sophomore, Kathleen Heck said. K. Heck said the students use the time to eat, talk, and catch up on homework.

Thompson believes that breaks such as these at Central would create potential problems and mischief among students.

The next class we visited was Theology taught by one of the few male teachers at Duschene.

The first few minutes of class, students went around the room and said intentions.

Duschene students, along with other private Catholic schools are required to go to attend church once a week as part of their schedule. Dean of students, M. Heck said.

When asked about his feelings regarding being one of the only male teachers in an all-female school Kenney replied that he had previous experience in public coed and in many ways prefers teaching at a private single sex school.

M. Heck said that the average class size at Duschene is around 15, and 20 is a maximum.

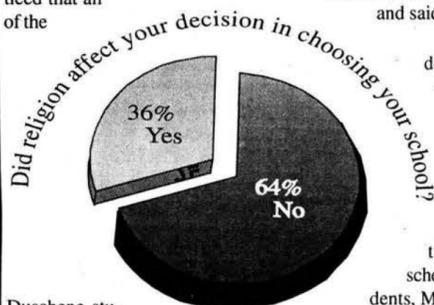
The smaller numbers in class sizes and total student population allow students to have more attention from the teachers and better opportunities to excel," M. Heck said.

Thompson agrees that to a certain extent smaller working environments do make a difference when class sizes are under 20.

Along with having no male students, Duschene also has few minorities, but M. Heck said they are trying to increase the percentage of minorities at the school.

Thompson said Central's diverse environment, as opposed to a single-sex environment, is beneficial in the future for preparing students for the real world.

To get the full view of private



Duschene students were wearing red plaid skirts and either polo shirts, red sweaters, or Duschene sweatshirts.

Many students said they did not mind wearing uniforms because it takes off a lot of the pressure of looking good and impressing people at school.

"Although uniforms eliminate some of the distractions initially, people accept people for who they are," Dr. Gary Thompson, Central High School principal said.

As we were walking, we noticed that one of the girls took her backpack off and left it in the middle of the hall and continued walking.

Shocked, the three of us asked what she was doing, and we then found out that this was a common happening, which showed us the trust and unity at Duschene.

After that shock we were led to Spanish class. We were amazed to find out the students were not allowed to speak any English.

Every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday after second block, the students get a 15 minute break in be-

single sex schools, we thought we could also get the other side of the spectrum and visit Creighton Prep...

We walked into Prep and were astonished to see approximately 300 boys sitting in a cafeteria, well behaved, studying and eating their catered lunches.

As the guys finished eating, everyone dispersed into different "recess" activities.

While some studied in an area specifically designed for doing homework, others headed to the gym for games of basketball.

Prep merely requires a dress code of a collared shirt, no jeans or

sweatpants.

As the bell rang, for lunch and basketball to end, the students quickly hurried to their classrooms. They knew better than to loiter in the halls for fear of the strict demerit system.

In Ecology, the teacher took the class outside to learn about trees.

"Private schools allow smaller working environments and better student teacher ratios than public schools," Baines said.

Our final observation of the day occurred when we went to relieve ourselves; we were astonished that Prep, an all boys school, has larger women's bathrooms than Central!



MEREDITH KALINA/THE REGISTER

DANCE WITH ME! Duschene students spice up Spanish class with a dance to help memorize spanish conjugations for verbs. Above right: Prep students listen to Architecture teacher.

Central as compared to Prep and Duschene			
	Central	Prep	Duschene
Total # of Students	2325	960	239
Percent who go onto college	70%	98%	100%
Cost	Free	\$5065 per year	\$4900 per year
Percent of minority students	40%	10%	6%



CLAIRE DEVNEY/THE REGISTER

CENTRAL STUDENTS stand around the flagpole to pray for their school and peers.

Alpine Valley offers unconventional educational experience

ALPINE, continued from page 1

teaches at part-time.

"The kids at my other job are dead," he said. "They are the walking dead. They have no will and no desires. I hate it [teaching in the public schools]. It's a drag."

However, Central Principal Dr. Gary Thompson said that he does not believe that the learning style at Alpine Valley is practical everywhere and for every student.

"Things that are practical there, are not practical here," Thompson said. "Everybody who wants to walk in the doors here can, and we have to educate them."

Welshon said that life at Alpine Valley is based upon one fundamental rule: "Do what ever you want to do, but don't hurt anyone."

Alpine Valley is governed by the School Meeting.

The School Meeting is composed of all 18 students and seven staff members and makes all the day to day decisions of the school, Welshon said. In addition, the school

meeting makes the budgeting decisions at the school and has the power to hire and fire staff members, he said.

Randles, who is the chairperson of the School Meeting, said that each member of the School Meeting is given one vote, even the 5-year-olds if they choose to vote.

In addition to the School Meeting, the Judicial Committee helps govern the school. It is composed of three students and one staff member, and its purpose is to hear cases of those who violate school rules and sentence the offenders.

The sentences issued by the Judicial Committee are often tailored to fit the crime, Welshon said.

For example, a student caught running in the school was sentenced to walk backwards in the school for a week.

The school is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and students are required to stay at school for at least five hours every day but are free to leave the campus at any time.

"I usually come as early as I can and stay

as late as I can," Randles said.

As a result of the freedom students have at Alpine Valley, there is no such thing as a typical day at school, she said.

"I really don't know what to expect when I come to school," Randles said.

Students learn through game playing and social activities, have written and performed plays and also enjoy activities such as writing, Welshon said.

Although there is no curriculum, if students wish to be taught in a particular subject, they can ask a staff member to teach them in that subject, Welshon said.

He said that in the school's first two years, staff members have only taught three classes: math, science, and Spanish.

Randles said that if the staff members could not teach the student in a certain area, such as music or dance, that a teacher from outside might be brought in to teach the student, or they might take lessons outside the school.

Randles also said that another important

part of learning at Alpine Valley is learning from other students.

"I have learned things from 5-year-olds, and they have learned things from me," she said.

The school building consists of two "quiet" rooms, one large room, and a small kitchen.

Students use the "quiet" rooms for activities such as reading or playing music. The large room provides an area for students to interact with each other, Randles said.

In addition to activities inside the building, students often play outside the school or go to a nearby park during the school day.

Because Alpine Valley is only in its third year of existence, the school has had no graduates.

However, Welshon said that at Sudbury Valley, the school upon which Alpine Valley is based, 80 percent of the graduates go on to college.

Alpine Valley is not accredited by any

educational organization.

"It's a game," Welshon said.

"Accreditation is a game." Central Junior Clint Lloyd said that he does not believe that students can be entrusted with the responsibility to prepare themselves for college.

"You go from jacking off all day, to going to college," Lloyd said. "I don't think so."

Also, because there is no curriculum or traditional graduation requirements, students can graduate from Alpine Valley whenever they feel ready to leave, Welshon said.

In order to graduate, however, students must write a thesis defending the idea that they have taken the responsibility to prepare themselves for the world outside of Alpine Valley.

Several panels will then review the thesis and then grant or deny the student a diploma based upon the panels' decisions.

Thompson said that he does not believe that most students can be entrusted with the responsibility of teaching themselves.

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CHS A Cappella chosen to sing at regional convention

By Courtney O'Malley

Central High A Cappella will be the only Nebraska school to join a Regional Convention in Wisconsin in early March, the Central Vocal Music teacher said.

Lyn Bouma said that she was excited that A Cappella will be performing at the American Choral Directors Association Regional Competition. The Competition will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, the first week of March of 2000.

Central High's A Cappella was chosen out of six other Nebraska schools competing to be accepted into the one available spot open in the convention, Bouma said.

Central is the only Omaha Public School to ever be accepted in to this convention, Bouma said.

Senior Matt Smith, one of the Central students to attend the convention, said that it is one of the greatest honors to be accepted.

We'll be singing with many other schools such as St. Olaf College, he said.

Central along with five other states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin will be performing.

There are a total of 20 performing groups, including children's choirs, high school choirs, college choirs and adult choirs, Bouma said.

The Biannual Regional Competition, although called a competition, will be organized more like a convention.

The convention will last approximately four to five days, Bouma said.

Central A Cappella will be performing with 2 other choirs from

the University of Wisconsin at La Sal and Madison Youth Choir, Bouma optimistically said.

They will be singing a session on African Music.

"The music we'll be singing is a big change from the usual repertoire selection that we're used to," Smith said. "It will be a great opportunity to expand."

Central had to audition to even get into the convention, Bouma said.

"I thought it was a long shot, that maybe we'd have a chance, and obviously we did!" Bouma said.

Central sent in a tape of musical pieces that we had performed within the last three years, she said.

"Ms. Bouma picked one song from each of the past three years that we completely tore up, mastered and did exceptionally well on," Smith said.

Central was chosen and notified in the spring, although the students were not told until the first week of school, Bouma said.

"I am very excited and looking forward to it," Junior Melissa Mancuso said.

Central will have to do a lot of fundraising to make it, Bouma said.

The cost per person is approximately \$300, and we have to take 60 students, Smith said.

"It will take a lot of fundraising to get there," Smith said.

As compared to previous years, A Cappella is very different.

There is much more ethnicity and cultures combined in one, Bouma said.

"Central is by far superior in the Metro area," Bouma said.

"I am very excited to be going and represent all of the graduated students that did so well in past years," Mancuso replied.

Central is by far superior in the metro area.

--Lyn Bouma, Central's vocal teacher

Get out of my way!



CLAIRE DEVNEY/THE REGISTER

"I HATE MONDAYS," Garfield rolled out of bed Monday, Sept. 6 to participate in this year's annual Labor Day Parade. Garfield and three other balloons, each filled with 6,000 cubic feet of helium, floated through the streets of Downtown Omaha.

Students gain experience in law field

By Andrew Danford

Hear ye! Hear ye! Court is now in session.

Well, almost.

Later this fall, the Central High School Mock Trial teams will compete against other area high schools for the third year in a row, Mock Trial Sponsor Carol Hipp said.

As part of Mock Trial, students spend hours preparing to be either the plaintiff or the defense in a courtroom setting, Hipp said.

The students must learn the courtroom procedures and also terminology to be very familiar with the case, she said.

"It is an excellent way to experience the law profession, Hipp said.

"If you are thinking about law," she said, "there is no better way to experience it."

Central Junior Shayna Denny, who was part of Central's Mock Trial team last year, said that they spend hours learning the case and practicing courtroom situations.

Denny said the case this year involves a daycare.

She said a child was diagnosed with a disease that does not permit him to be in the presence of smokers, she said.

The parent of the child informs the daycare management that the child is not to be around people while they smoke, she said.

However, a daycare staff member smokes while near to the child, and the child has an asthma attack. The child suffers permanent damage, the parents are bringing charges against the daycare, Denny said.

We have an interesting case this year," Hipp said. "It is kind of drawn out of today's news."

Central Sophomore Joseph Meyer, who joined Central's Mock Trial team this year, said that his case is so realistic makes it interesting and enjoyable.

"It makes you more interested in the case instead of something that would never happen," Meyer said.

In the past, Central has had only one Mock Trial team.

However, Hipp said that she hopes that Central will be able to have two teams this year.

Also, instead of practicing with trial lawyers as they have done in the past, students will work with third year law students from Creighton University, Hipp said.

Teams consist of three lawyers, three witnesses and one alternate, she said.

The witnesses are given affidavits. They must know their affidavits and testify only to what they are given on the affidavit, Hipp said.

The witnesses dress as their character, act and add drama to the cases, Hipp said.

The competition will take place in late October or November, Hipp said.

The trials are held at the County Courthouse.

The jury judges the teams on how they obeyed the courtroom procedure and how well they knew the case, Hipp said.

Last year, Central made it to the third round. The year before, they made it to the local semifinals. Hipp said that she hopes as the team grows older, they become more competitive.

"It takes years to build this

Increased enrollment causes changes in suspension system

By Ally Freeman

If you've been in trouble and you're thinking of going home this afternoon--think again, a new in-school suspension program (ISS) will be held after school hours instead of during classes.

Principal Dr. Gary Thompson, said that the main driving force behind Central's change was the need for additional classroom space due to increased enrollment.

The old system was also changed so students would not have to miss classes, Assistant Principal

Paul Semrad said.

Semrad said that now the students are given a warning prior to their suspension, so they have time to arrange transportation home after school.

I would like to believe the program will be more successful and help teachers by not taking the kids from classes and homework, Semrad said.

Junior Shane Graham said he has been in ISS before. Graham believes the new concept is better if you are being suspended, but a worse punishment.

"Being in [the room] for two hours is more lenient than being in there for a whole day," Graham said.

Semrad said that other schools around the area have tried it and that Central has previously held a Saturday school ISS as well.

Semrad said he hopes students will understand it is in their best interests.

"Some kids could have missed up to five days for being in ISS and there is no substitute for being in class," Semrad said.

Semrad also said there were too many repeat offenders missing class

and parents complained about their children being absent for class.

Central English Teacher, Jodie Martinez is in charge of watching the kids assigned to ISS.

If the kids work constantly they are permitted to leave at 4:30, but if they do not, they stay until 5:00, Martinez said.

Junior Laura Hendee said she believes many students will be upset about the change in the system.

"It will be more threatening to some students because now they have to spend a significant amount of their free time after school in ISS," Hendee

said.

Elkhorn High School changed its in school suspension system last year, and created a new program, After Hours.

Elkhorn's After Hours program was created because they were not seeing a difference in behavior, Roger Breed, Superintendent of Elkhorn Public Schools said.

Central is the only school in the district that I know has adapted this new program, Thompson said.

"Now, the students will be going during their time, not the teachers," Thompson said.

Ice Skating proves more than hobby for Central teacher

By Courtney O'Malley

The flit of the skates, the brush as the blades hit the ice, a swoosh as a figure flies by, snow sprays as the skater comes to a stop...

One central teacher is one of those people who has taken an ordinary activity and turned it into something extraordinary.

Art Department Chair Larry Andrews had a most unusual hobby--ice-skating.

Andrews explains that after teaching for 18 years, he found ice-skating to be very relaxing and

enjoyable, as well as an effective stress reliever.

Although Andrews no longer enjoys ice-skating, he still considers it to be his favorite pastime.

When asked why he started to ice-skate, Andrews immediately went into a daze as he reminisced of his days growing up in Blair, Neb. on the nearest frozen pond.

In 1963 at the age of 12, Andrews was involved in a serious sledding accident, almost resulting in the amputation of his right leg, he said.

"When the iron steering handle

of the sled went through my leg, it missed my main artery by a quarter of an inch," Andrews said. "If it would have hit it I would have bled to death."

After spending nearly six weeks recuperating in the hospital Andrews decided to make the best use of his leg, Andrews said.

"I figured it was a miracle that I still had my leg, so I might as well make the best use of it," Andrews said jokingly.

Andrews spent most of his time ice-skating and playing hockey.

After a while he found that skating around and around on the ice rink was very monotonous and boring.

He combined his love of skating, music, and winter sports and started to ice dance.

"Ice dancing was a great exercise and a stress reliever after a hard day of teaching," Andrews said. "It just made me feel better."

Andrews spent approximately six years as an ice-dancing instructor.



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Central Hall of Fame



JARED HART/THE REGISTER

Fifteen Nominees to be inducted into Hall of Fame

By Sarah Peterson

Fifteen distinguished graduates and teachers will be the first to be inducted into Central's Hall of Fame, chairman of the Hall of Fame committee said.

Max Kennedy, Central graduate of 1953, said that the inductees will be honored at a banquet in Central's courtyard on Sept. 30.

"The Hall of Fame was created

to better record the history and accomplishments of the one hundred twenty-seven years of the school (Central) and its people," Kennedy said.

The day following the banquet, those inducted will be at Central talking to student groups with similar interests and career choices, Kennedy said. He said that the group will also be honored at the Homecoming football game.

The committee tried to pick a diverse group of people from different eras at Central, Kennedy said.

Inductees include people that became actors, Noble prize winners, a pro-football player and even the teacher who wrote the *Style Book*.

Fifty-five nominations were received for the Hall of Fame in 1998, Kennedy said. In Jan. 1999, an initial fifteen were selected for induction this year.

From now on, ten distinguished Central graduates and teachers will be inducted into the Hall of Fame every year, Kennedy said.

Also, plaques honoring the fifteen people will be put on display at Central, Kennedy said.

Of the fifteen people inducted, seven are deceased, Kennedy said. Of the eight that are still alive, he said he expects all to be at the banquet.

Family members and

representatives of foundations that the inductees created can attend the banquet with or in place of an inductee.

Dr. Jack C. Lewis, a Central graduate of 1952, is one of the fifteen who will be honored at the banquet.

"It's a great honor," Lewis said. "I'm proud to be part of this first, great group."

Lewis said he continues to go to all Central football games and

volunteer as a team physician, as he has for the past thirty-five years.

"Central gave me a good start," Lewis said.

Lewis said he later attended Stanford, graduating with a pre-medical degree. He went to medical school at the Nebraska College of Medicine. He has maintained a private practice in Omaha since 1969.



Robert M. Spire

Class of 1943
Nebraska Attorney General;
Developed Nebraska Bar's pro bono legal services



Gale Sayers

Class of 1961
Star running back
for the Chicago Bears;
Named to National
Football Hall of Fame



Joseph G. Masters

Teacher
CHS principal from 1910 to 1939;
Instrumental in creation of
National Honor Society



Jessie M. Towne

Class of 1892 and Teacher
First Dean of Girls and
first female vice principal;
taught at Central for
more than 40 years



Henry J. Fonda

Class of 1912
Renowned stage and
screen director;
Recipient of Academy
Award



Sara Vore Taylor

Teacher
Wrote the *Style Book*,
introduced at Central
in 1921 and used na-
tionally



Jack K. Lewis

Class of 1952
Volunteer physician for
Central's sports program for over
35 years



Brenda J. Council

Class of 1971
President of
Omaha School Board and
member of Omaha City
Council; attorney



Peter Kiewit

Class of 1918
Built family business
into one of world's
largest construction
companies



Class of 1953
National leader in aiding
organizations to outreach
to minorities in areas of
development and self help



Carlton B. Goodlett

Class of 1931
Civil rights leader;
community activist;
publisher



Susan Thompson Buffett

Class of 1950
Lobbied and organized
school board and community
to support Central High in
1960's and 1970's



Lawrence R. Klein

Class of 1938
Winner of Nobel Prize in
Economics in 1980;
Served as President Jimmy
Carter's economic adviser



J. Arthur Nelson

Teacher
CHS principal from
1944 to 1968; Central
recognized as one of
top ten schools in the
nation



Saul A. Kripke

Class of 1958
Considered to be one of pre-
mier philosophers of Western
world based on his many books
on subjects from mathematical
logic to metaphysics

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..... you ask My friends say they're doin' it. My date wants it. I've thought about it. But am I ready?
- Tracy J

Diva B answers

Tracy, dear --
Jumping into sex before you're ready can leave you dealing with a whole lot of problems -- awful feelings, unwanted pregnancy, infections. Ask yourself: What does sex mean to me? Am I in love? How will I feel afterwards? Do I have protection? Am I ready to deal with pregnancy or catching something? I find that I can be clear in my head when I'm by myself, but when I'm setting next to my partner, a hundred silent pressures make me nervous and tongue-tied. So plan ahead, and think about your response. It's totally cool to say "no." In the end you'll learn that good things happen when you're true to yourself. -- Diva B

know more

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Road rage, a harrowing experience

It's All Good



Andrew Danford

The air was thick with expletives. I couldn't even hear the other car's horn over the string of four letter, monosyllabic vulgarity. So what just happened? I was turning left on 72nd Street on a Saturday morning. There was no light at the intersection, so I was on my own trying to get across the street. About 150 feet to the right of me, there was a red

light that had stopped traffic on 72nd Street. Someone had left me a space to cut through traffic that had backed up at the light. However, I could not see around the traffic backed up at the light to see whether or not there was traffic in the right lane. The light was red anyway. Just to be safe, I decided to turn into the turning lane in the middle of the road to avoid anything that I could not see that was traveling in the other direction. As luck would have it, not only was there someone in the right lane, but he also wanted to be in the turning lane. He did not seem to have the time to slow down to let me into traffic. However, he did seem to make time to stop next to me and inform me that

my driving had something to be desired. He hung out the window of his rusted old, red mini-van and yelled a string of obscenities at me. I did not know what to do. I was scared. So I turned the wheel back to the left. I was too shaken up by the man in the wife-beater driving the soccer-mom-mobile to realize that there was also traffic in the left lane going the opposite direction. A couple of drivers in the left lane did take notice and leaned on their horns. I slammed on the brakes and stopped just a few inches from hitting a car in the other lane. My friend in the wife-beater was still carrying on about my driving. But now he was not just yelling, he was reaching for something. But what? A gun? A knife? Was

he going to kill me? I floored the gas and pulled ahead of the man in the wife-beater. I was not going to find out what he was reaching for. I never saw him again. I had just become a victim of road rage. I had heard the stories about people being shot over parking spaces, and read about the rise in highway fatalities as a result of road rage, but the existence of road rage was never real to me until that day. But why are people victims of road rage? Maybe it's society's fault. The rush of deadlines and need to be in several places at the same time has placed a great stress on members of society today. In their haste, people just do not have the time to be nice to each other. Maybe if we all just took it easy for a while, the world would be a better, not to mention safer, place.



Road Rage: The Warnings

1. The car has a gunrack painted like the confederate flag.
2. The windshield is obscured by the antlers on the front of the car.
3. The guy screaming at you has arms bigger than your waist.
4. Spikes on the bumper.
5. The person has more than three baseball bats in the car.

6. You can't hear the cars around you because of the string of obscenities.
7. You learn entirely new things about your mother from the guy in the other car.
8. The guy has beer stains on his shirt from 15 different countries.
9. His dog rides in the front seat and his kids ride in the back.
10. He openly shakes while driving.

Stupidity abounds for teenagers

I'm a Jerk, You're a Jerk



Michael Gerhardt

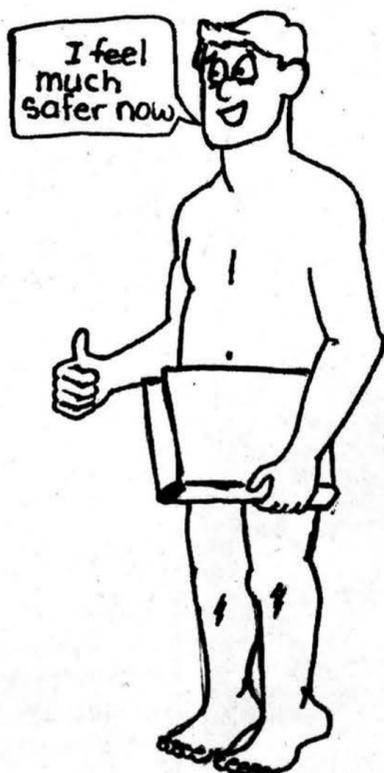
Ok, so, I'll be blunt. There are a lot of really stupid people out there. Seriously, like, really, really stupid people. For instance, has anyone met those people who drink a whole lot at parties and then have sex with people they've never met? Those people are stupid. It always end up that one person runs around bragging about it and the other runs around denying it. If they weren't such an idiot

and didn't drink, they wouldn't have to do that. Has anyone met those people who come to school completely plastered, and think they can cover it up by chewing gum? They're really stupid. If you do that, let me inform you, it doesn't work. It's obvious you're hammered out of your skull. The fact is, your eyes are barely open and your breath still smells like it, no matter what gum you chew. Don't waste your time because it's obvious no matter what. Another thing, I don't particularly care how many cigarettes you've just smoked. I don't care. Also, I don't smoke, I don't have any cigarettes, and I don't have a lighter. Don't ask. Complaining about the stairs isn't a good thing to do either. Hey, there's lots of stairs, hey, we know. Great. When you complain about them, it helps out everybody. I'll agree, they get irritating, trudging up them everyday. So what. Shut up and deal with it.

We all know that the passing periods aren't very long. Maybe if you didn't stop and complain to your friends about the stairs and how long the passing periods were, you'd get to class on time. I've gone from the locker room to the third floor in four minutes, you can get from your second floor class to your first floor class in that much time too. Also, don't try to cover it up when you trip on the doorsteps because it just makes you look like a fool. Don't try to look cool when you fall on the stairs either. It's not feasibly possible. Just look like an idiot and smile. It really gets to me when people beat-around-the-bush or what ever phrase you want to use, and don't just say what they mean. Don't try to sugar coat things, if you have something to say and somebody asks you about it, then say it. Don't worry, they asked what you think, if they want to know, tell them. If someone says, "Do you like this?" don't say

"It's ok, I don't mind it," when you know you don't like it. Say "No. It's terrible." People may be offended, but hey, they asked. You told them what they wanted to know. They shouldn't get mad. I've found that in life, being blunt works a lot easier than anything else. If people get offended, then that's what happens. Not too many people get that upset when I'm blunt. A lot of people are actually entertained by it. So that's my goal, to tell it as I see it, with no filling. It's kind of funny when people take things so seriously, when it's very clear that I'm not being serious. I have a feeling that Jared Hart did the same thing last year, and boy, gee golly, did I ever get mad, but I was too stupid to realize what he was doing. If you really feel the need to complain, write a letter or e-mail me at register@ops.org. If you feel the need to complain to a person, complain to me, to my face.

O.P.S. Foolproof plan to keep weapons out of school.



C. J. Jody

Highschool, a juvenile abyss

I'm Better Than You

Jared Hart

It begins. As quick as you can say go, themes are in your face, homecoming is right around the corner and high school is getting in gear. Do you know what? It's all for not. Not to rain on anyone's parade, but high school is nothing. It means nothing now, nor will it ever mean anything. High school means nothing because students are here for a measly four years. No matter who you meet, who you date, in ten years no one will be concerned with your wasted life. I don't care if you are president of student council, or All-State quarterback, what we all do now is pointless. Even if people seem to care now, in ten years they won't. Heck in one year you're lucky if anyone remembers your name. Unless you are me. People act as if popularity matters. It doesn't. Popularity only matters when you open the yearbook. The minute you leave the stage with your diploma all of the people you pretend to like fade away. Suddenly you don't have to act like you are their friend. So why do you have to pretend now? I don't, which is probably the reason I can't find a date to homecoming. That

and the fact that I somehow have managed to cut myself off from every female at this school. Don't believe me? Think back to junior high. Did you think that popularity was important? Truthfully. Reflecting, does anyone care who was who in jr. high? No. High school is the exact same way. On the college scene, no one cares if you did anything important in this juvenile abyss. Any connections with friends in high school waste away. You should feel lucky if you take a friend away from high school. I'm not talking in the next year, I mean in the long haul. But you won't. The only thing you have in common with any of these people is that you go to the same school. If you ever find you have anything else in common, props to you. I was wrong. But do you know what the chances are? Slim to none. Even if you have found your life-long friend at Central, how long is that, four years? This is Four years of your measly 76 on this planet. One nineteenth of your life is spent here. Central is not that big of a deal. So what does this all mean? If popularity doesn't matter, then what does? Nothing. Everyone will find out, in the real world, that in college people are no longer in school to be popular. They are there to learn. Now, if you are in high school and more worried about what 'those snobby' girls are going to say about what you are wearing, you're really out of touch. If this is the case, it is my prediction that you will officially be stuck in high school forever. You will never join the university scene. You will always wonder, 'what's happening at Central?' And you have my pity. Sorry to everyone who cares what people think. It's all over in six months. Live it up now.

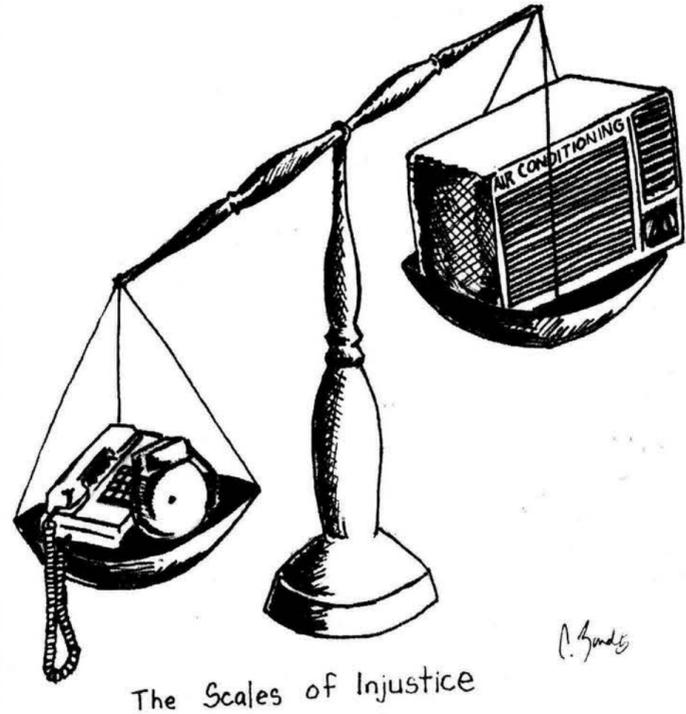
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Perspectives

Merit Pay • Letters to the Editor • Security Cameras



Merit pay, not the answer

Recently, the Denver Colorado Teachers Association implemented a pilot for the 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 school year that would base teacher raises on the academic performance of their students.

Editorial

The opinion of The Register

While teachers should be rewarded for their achievements and skills at teaching, merit-pay is simply not the answer.

The raises would be based on scores on the standardized Iowa Test of Basic Skills, scores on skills tests created by teachers or other specially designed measures of higher achievement resulting from additional training that teachers have undergone.

In the first year of the plan, the staff of 12 elementary and three middle schools will be given one month to vote whether to participate in this plan. An 85 percent majority is needed to participate. If achieved, the teacher would receive a \$500 stipend and a possible \$1000 bonus if their students meet achievement goals. In the second year, two high schools are allowed to join in on the pilot and the teachers could be given as much as a \$1500 bonus for the students meeting their goals.

Teachers who teach new or learning disabled students are at a definite disadvantage to those who teach more advanced classes. In a question-and-answer forum held by the Denver Board of Education, Laura Lefkowitz,

board of education member, said that the question of performance objectives for learning disabled students would be addressed over the next 24 months.

Over the next 24 months, many teachers could lose money simply because they deal with mentally handicapped students. Many teachers are intimidated or uneducated about working with the mentally handicapped. This lack of teachers for this field will be perpetuated by the lack of incentives for this area. Two years is not soon enough.

The limited involvement of high schools is a great omission in this plan. Lefkowitz said that this was because of the budget of the year, and that it would be more feasible to try for the first year on the elementary schools.

Twelve elementary schools compared with two high schools is too uneven. The unequal amount of middle schools also questions the intelligence of this plan. Implementing high schools in the second year of the plan makes no sense. Teachers in high school would be bitter because they don't have the chance to receive the additional payments that teachers in the elementary schools and some middle schools receive.

This limited involvement of high schools does not begin for another year. For one half of this pilot, High Schools are completely uninvolved. This pilot cannot be proven to work well if one of the main components of education is missing. No one plan can be proven if the whole of it is not tested.

Register Your Opinions

"Register Your Opinion" is a sampling of school opinion. It is not meant to represent the view of the entire student body or the staff of the Register.

Do you think security cameras would do anything to stop the violence or vandalism at Central?



Yes. Kids would know not to do anything stupid, but it wouldn't stop the whole problem.
-Joseph Tingly, 10

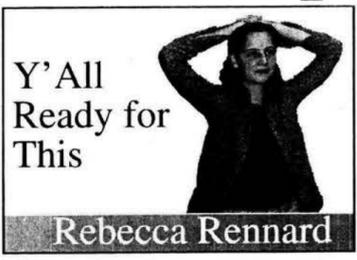


No. Kids don't care. If they want to do something or break something they'll do it anyway. They might get caught, but they'll just keep doing it.
-Brooke Szeliga, 12



No. However big it is, they'll always find ways to get around the cameras.
-Zach Akin, 9

Brother provides long lasting friendship



Y' All Ready for This
Rebecca Rennard

He likes to call himself the "Green Lantern," although I'm not quite sure why. Once we went to see a movie, him dressed as the Green Lantern and me as his sidekick, the Silver Tiara. Everyone gave us funny looks. Everyone looks at Dave differently. Most are in awe. In awe of his intelligence. In awe of his enthusiastic lifestyle. Many look at him, but don't really know. They see his yo-yo and his harmonica. They see his talents. They see his wild hair and friendly smile. They see his confidence. They see him as a straight 'A', band-directing, soccer-coaching, Boys Nation representative with the lead in the musical and his own math theorem.

Those things are not so important. They are as superficial as beauty. To me he is more. He is my big brother. He is my big hero. When I was two, he finally learned to talk. When I was four, he peed on me. When I was eight, he beat me up. When I was ten, he teased me. When I was 12, he ignored me. When I was 14, he became one of my best friends. Now, he tries to teach me to play chess. We talk for hours on end about life, about philosophy, about truth, about fear- everything and nothing. We watch "Friends" together- he secretly wants to be Chandler. He tells me

about how he picks wild daisies for his girlfriend. We bicker, but we are unconditionally best friends. Once I came home crying. -He came up to my room, sat beside me on my bed and put his arm around me- not caring, not asking why I cried, only knowing that I should stop. No words could have been as powerful. I have always known that if the world were in danger he would save it. But that day I knew that if I was ever in danger he would save me too. No one could ask for a better brother. A bigger hero.

Juviniles need tougher punishments, earlier

In recent years, younger and younger people have committed more and more atrocious crimes. From murder to larceny to rape, horrible crimes are being committed by children as young as 11. The majority of those children and teenagers who go onto commit such horrible crimes commit lesser crimes before. We need to educate and enforce, so that these children do not go on to worse crimes.

Eighteen-year-old Kirkland L. Wise was convicted for the rape of two women, as well as one count of using a deadly weapon to commit a felony. Wise's criminal record started at age 10, with shop lifting, and at 14, had gone to armed robbery. Society needs to make it clear to its children that there is no tolerance for crimes committed by the young. A child who shoplifts at age 13 and is shown no tolerance for his behavior is no

where near as likely to commit later crimes. Recently, four Westside High School students were arrested for an alleged attempted arson of their administrator's house. It is not being implied that we should lock-up our children or crush them with an iron fist. They should simply be shown that no one will accept their actions. We need a system which punishes second and third time young offenders harsher, to discourage them from going on to committing worse crimes.

A system like this would show them that no one is kidding around. In this "strike" system, children found guilty for the first time would be would receive a semi-harsh punishment, such as a fine or public service. The second, third and later offenses would be treated more harshly, and continue to grow more severe, relative to the number of offenses and type of offense. Kids need to have crime prevention early, before they go on to worse things.

The Register

Vol 113 Issue 1 September 27, 1999 Omaha, Nebraska

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Central High's *The Register* seeks to inform its readers accurately and fairly about items of interest and importance. *The Register*, (USPS 097-20) is published monthly, September through May by Omaha Central High School, 124 N. 20th St. Omaha, NE 68102. Unsinged editorials are the opinion of the Register staff. Periodical postage paid at Omaha, NE postmaster: send subscriptions address changes to *The Register*, Omaha Central High School. *The Register* is self-sufficient. To place an ad or inquire about prices, contact the business manager at 557-3357.

LETTERS, E-MAIL & FAXES

Focus on other sports

I think *The Register* does a wonderful job. I know a lot of hard-work goes in to making the paper. However, one area that could use some improvements would be the sports section. Many times the section focuses more on basketball or football. I play softball and I felt that sport didn't get that much publicity last year. Also, I think the sports section should focus more on Central sports. I remember seeing many articles talking about national sports or regional sports, but not a lot on Central's teams. Maybe just broaden the horizon a little bit.

Emily Felix, sophomore

Show more Eagle spirit

Isn't school spirit great!!! Like those outrageous guys at the football games who have their shirts off and chests painted "Eagles." And what about those pom squad girls! That's some good-lookin' school spirit if I've ever seen any. Don't forget our athletes who are sportin' their Central gear on game days, plus the gazillions of clubs we have represented here. I'm saying get involved during your high school years and show some pride for the eagles. I'm tired of hearing about all this

to intelligently argue against it.

Jennifer Gunn, sophomore

Humans make mistakes

I think people complain too much about school. I always hear someone complaining about something in the school. While I do admit there are flaws in the school, you have to remember that humans run the school. Humans do make mistakes. If you don't like the school, go to another one. Every school has something wrong with it. If you have a complaint, go talk to someone who can do something about it. The common person doesn't want to hear about it.

Adam Tapio, sophomore

Hart's column great

Jared Hart's column, "I'm Better Than You," was very amusing. It was the only thing I looked forward to reading every time the paper came out. It gave the people in this school something to talk about, with it's controversiality and sarcasm. Personally, I'd like to see it again this year.

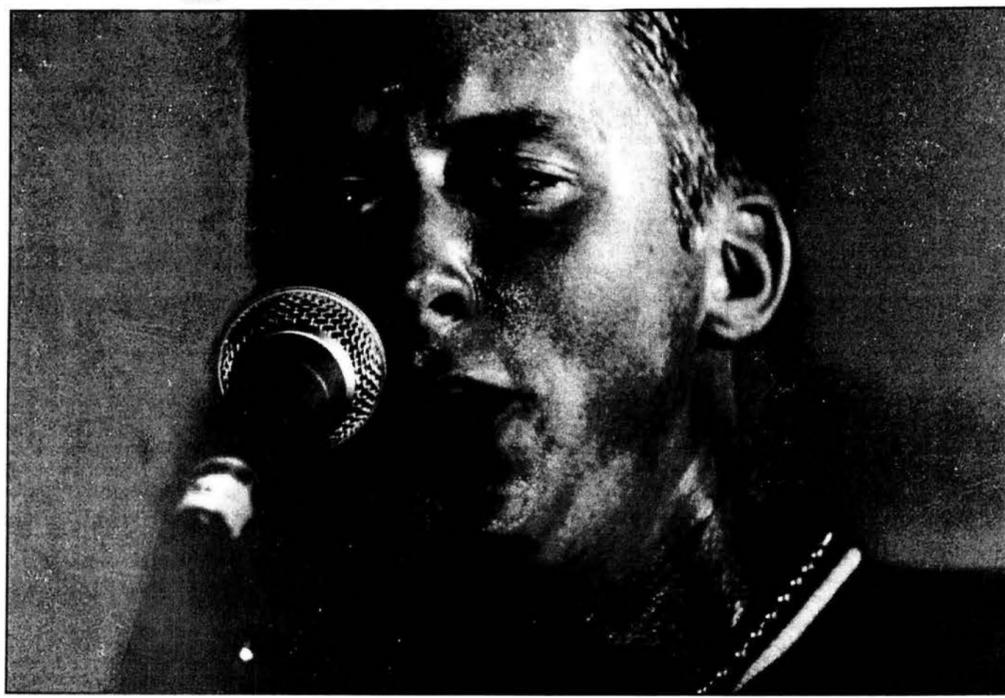
Kyle Clark, Sophomore

Hart goes too far

I was upset by last year's column on "Goths/Hessians" by Jared Hart. I am not easily offended and I don't have a problem with people expressing their opinions...as long as they can back them up with valid evidence. Not only did this columnist state his opinions as fact without anything to back them up, he also had a few blatant untruths in the editorial. For example, he stated that the Wiccan religion is basically the same thing (I don't recall the exact wording) as Satanism. This could not be further from the truth. Besides that it is religious discrimination. I feel that in the future he should at least research his topic so he can try

Joe Fehrman, junior

Battle of the Bands



MIKAYLA CHAMBERS/THE REGISTER

Second annual Battle of the Bands attracts 800

By Stefanie Wulff

Six bands competed against each other in the Christ Community Church's second annual Battle of the Bands on September 17th for the grand prize of a free recording session and professional demo tape at the Nevada Studio Room, Battle of the Bands coordinator Joe Darago said.

Four to the Floor, an Elkhorn High School punk band, competed against other bands from Prep High School, Westside High School and Blair for the grand prize recording session or the second prize, a \$100 gift certificate to the Nevada Studio Room, Darago added.

"Only six bands can compete because of the time frame," he said.

Bands interested in competing entered try-out tapes which were listened to and narrowed down to the best six, he said.

All of the lights, speakers and technical equipment was rented from Midwest Sound and Lighting, Darago added.

Approximately 800 students and adults attended the event to be entertained by the contestants and to see who would end up the winner.

And the winner was Remedy from Westside.

Even though Four to the Floor wasn't the

winner, guitarist Nick Brophy said he had a blast.

"It was a really good experience," he said. "That was the biggest amount of people we've ever played for," Brophy added.

Four to the Floor consists of Pat O'Donnell on guitar and vocals, Chad Rozniecki playing bass, Steve Massara beating the drums and Brophy. The band got together in middle school and have been together since, Brophy said.

Even though Four to the Floor doesn't have an album out yet, they are working on more songs and will eventually come out with an album, Rozniecki said.

Four to the Floor has played at Waterloo Days and Elkhorn Days mostly for publicity, Rozniecki said.

The inspirations for the four are Blink 182 because they've been around for a while and they dig the punk style, Brophy said.

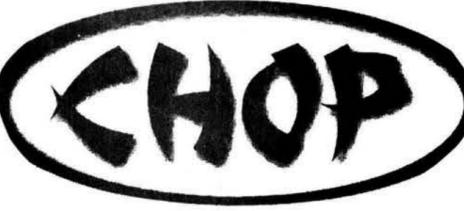
However, Brophy said that he has "respect for any band that can make it."

He said that it is tough to make it in the music business and it takes a lot of work and determination.

Most importantly, Brophy and Rozniecki both agree that being in a band is a good characteristic to tell a girl.

"They might say, 'Wow! He's in a band!'" Brophy said.

EVERYBODY ON THE FLOOR... Four to the Floor's Chad Rozniecki battle's it out for the grand prize of a free recording session at the Nevada Studio Room. Battle of the Bands, held on Sept. 17th, drew in 800 people and six competing bands.



entertains, receives loud response from crowd

By Stefanie Wulff

The Westside High School band, Chop, was one of six contestants to enter Christ Community church's Battle of the Bands on September 17th.

They didn't win.

The competition was loud, tough and I thought for sure that they would win because they had the crowd of 800 jumping up and down long before they started playing.

Chop consists of Eddie Morin from Prep High School, Chris Pelphrey from Westside High and Mike DeFranco also from Westside. The band has been together for over a year, Pelphrey said.

DeFranco, Chop's drummer, said that the

name Chop has really no significance except for the "inappropriate" story that only Morin and Pelphrey know.

He said that the band had a lot of fun and that was the most amount of people they had ever played in front of before.

Chop has had gigs at Sokol Auditorium, the Cog Factory and the Ranch Bowl, Pelphrey said.

The three members sell the tickets to friends and fans and then amount of people who come is how much they make for that show, DeFranco said.

Chop gets 75% of all ticket sales and has recently noticed more people showing up at their shows, he added.

Inspirations for Chop are similar to the

bands whom competed against them, Blink 182 and MxPx, DeFranco said. However he said that he enjoys older music and loves the band Phish.

If you have never heard of a drummer with determination than here is your first chance.

DeFranco said that he really wants to make it big, with or without Chop and plans on moving out to Los Angeles when he turns 18 years-old.

He said that he does not want to get a job and wants to move out to California to start making something of himself before it's too late.

"My drum teacher who's 30 wants to go out to LA, but that's kinda old to start out

there, so you might as well try it when you're young," DeFranco said.

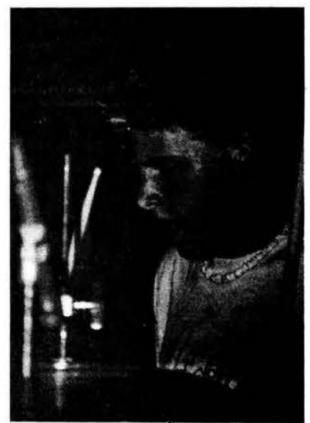
Chop's music has a "poppy punk" style and its lyrics are about every day things and of course, ex-girlfriends, DeFranco said.

He said that it was tough to write about serious things, so the band sticks with topics they know about.

"She's Gone Dike" is about one of our ex-girlfriends and we wrote it around the time we had all broken up with our girlfriends," DeFranco said.

"Beth (ex-girlfriend) kinda acts like a dike, but she's not," he added.

Catch Chop's next show at the Ranch Bowl on September 29th. You'd be chopped liver not to. Ha. Ha.



MIKAYLA CHAMBERS/THE REGISTER

DRUMMER Mike DeFranco pounds out the beat for Chop

Different bands provide a variety of musical beats

By Sandi Czapl

Bands returned to Christ Community Church on Friday September 17th to battle it out for cash in the second annual Battle of the Bands. Six bands were introduced to everyone on this night to show off their great talents.

The first band that I saw was Four to the Floor and they were

dressed in somewhat casual clothes. They produced a great sound and worked very well together. They played two songs that sounded awesome, even though I was right next to the speaker and everything was muffled.

The second band that played was from Prep called Phyme. The crowd seemed to like them. I thought Phyme was the best band that played

because they played two very opposite songs called "Halo" and "Too Cool." The guys were dressed in black dress pants with white shirts and ties so they looked very formal for the event.

The third band was from Westside and their name was Remedy.

Now talk about good looking. This band wore black pants with tight

black shirts and they looked extremely studly. However, their songs left a lot to be desired, but they sounded alright for a simple high school band.

People began to jump up and down and they looked so stupid. It was very interesting to notice that this was the only band that made people react so strangely.

The final band that I saw was

Chop. Now this one was the one that had the most hype leading up to it. It was kind of like "Titanic" where everyone expects to be so good that when they see it, they are only disappointed to find out that it was nothing what they expected it to be.

I thought this band was horrible. All they did was scream and there was really no beat or anything and you couldn't follow along to the music at

all. The performances attracted 800 people and turned out to be a great evening for most of them.

The music was good, the boys were cute, and they even provided refreshments. What better way to spend an evening then like this?

In the end, the winner was Remedy and second place went to a band called Treebeard.

Hip-hop vibe shines through for Central band, Theory

By Stefanie Wulff

Sit down, N'Sync, because the Central High band, Theory has a lot more talent than you do!

Theory, who has been together for almost one year, works hard to deliver good music to its fans, Central Sophomore and Bassist Ed Yin said.

The band includes five guys, Paul Penke on drums and Tom Wrighton on guitar, whom both attend Burke High School, Yin on bass and both Chris Piatt and Nick Saldi on the mic.

"The band slowly formed," Yin said. "First Paul, Tom, and I started jamming, then the songs came, then flyers and then with luck we found singers Chris and Nick," he said proudly.

The inspiration behind the music is 311, a local gone national band and the Beastie Boys, Yin and Saldi, said.

Yin assured me that 311 is not a "sell-out" band like a lot of Omahans

think and they work hard to send out their positive vibe.

Saldi, a Westside graduate, scratches and mixes records which help Theory's hip-hop vibe shine through.

A lot of money goes into a band, Yin said.

"Saldi threw in a lot of his own money to get the band started with T-shirts and the demo CD," Yin said thankfully. "So that means that most of the money from the shows goes to Nick," he added.

Saldi and Piatt, another Westside graduate had been in previous bands together, therefore a lot of the equipment was recycled for Theory, Saldi said. When Theory proved to be successful at shows, more and better equipment was bought, he added.

Theory often plays at the Ranch Bowl and the Asylum Dance Club, Yin said. They have also traveled to Sioux City and Grand Island.

"The summer was our busiest time

because we were on the road a lot on tours," Yin said.

However, when school started Yin said Theory had to cut back on tours because three of the five members are still in school.

The future of Theory looks promising, Yin and Saldi agreed. When Penke, Wrighton and Yin graduate, the five plan to move to Los Angeles in order to get the national ball rolling, Yin said. After all, that's what their inspirations, 311 did and look at them now.

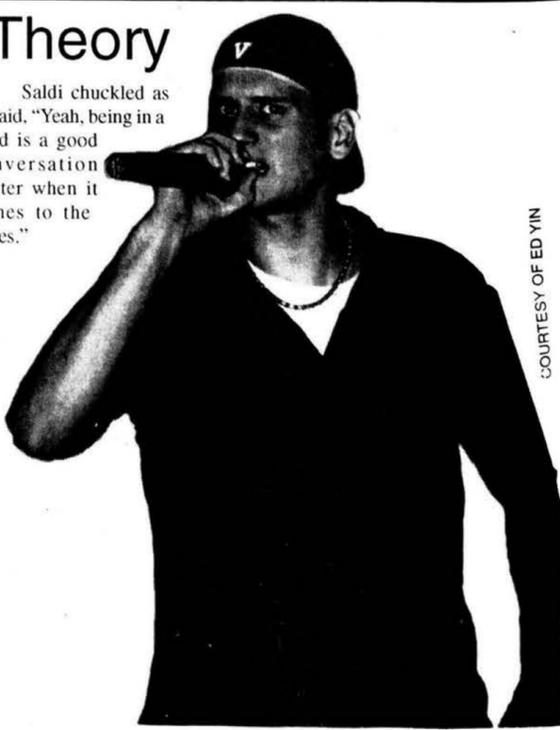
Theory's album, which is self-entitled, has had amazing sales, Saldi said. The album was distributed to Homers and CD Warehouse and often Saldi said he had to restock the shelves in the stores to meet the needs of the fans.

And, of course being in a band has its rewards...the ladies. Both Yin and Saldi said that being in Theory attracts girls and that they enjoy seeing the crowd jump up and down to the beats.

Saldi chuckled as he said, "Yeah, being in a band is a good conversation starter when it comes to the ladies."



COURTESY OF ED YIN



COURTESY OF ED YIN

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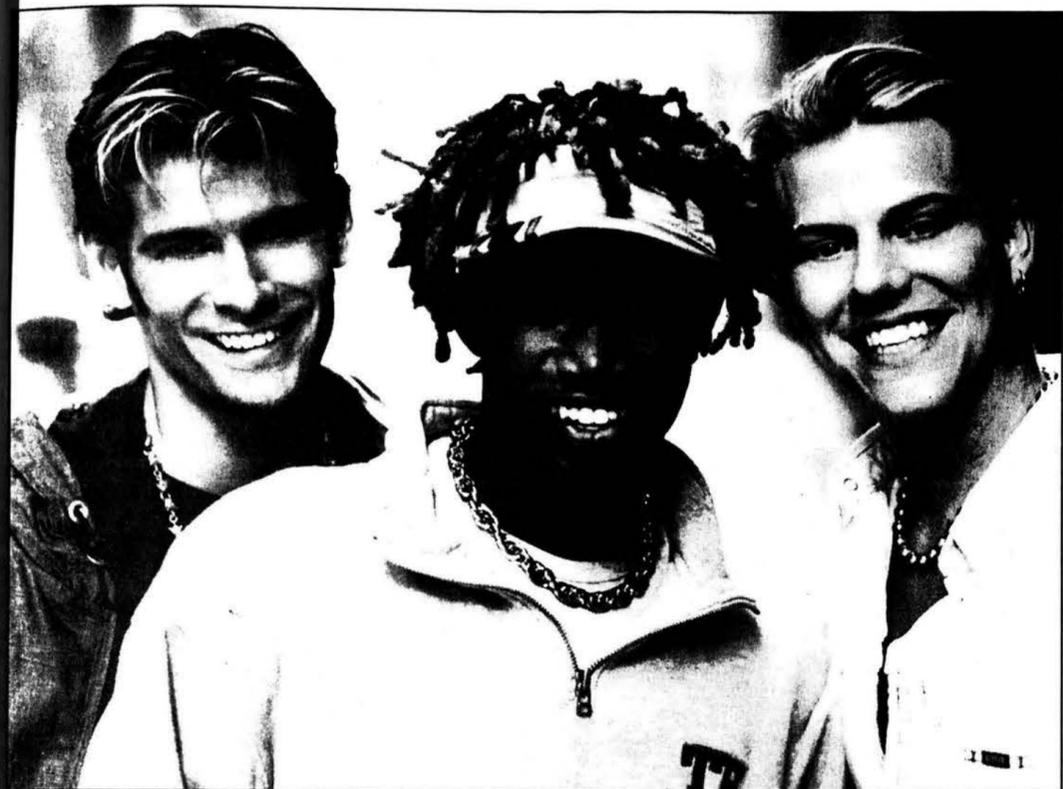
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COURTESY OF RED AUNT ENTERTAINMENT

MOVE OVER BACKSTREET BOYS, there's a new group in town. (Left to right) David Loeffler, Damon Butler and Trey Parker combine the sounds of hip-hop and pop-rock as they try to make it big as Express Yourself Clearly (EYC). Their hit album "I Feel It" is loaded with teenybopper tunes sweet sounding to the ears.

Here a boy band, there a boy band

By Sandi Czapl

Well, there is another all boy band out there for everyone's enjoyment and pleasure. If N'SYNC and the Backstreet Boys were not enough for you, then you have to hear these guys.

The band is called Express Yourself Clearly, better known as EYC, and they are just like all the other boy bands around.

EYC is an extremely talented group that has produced a variety of different songs.

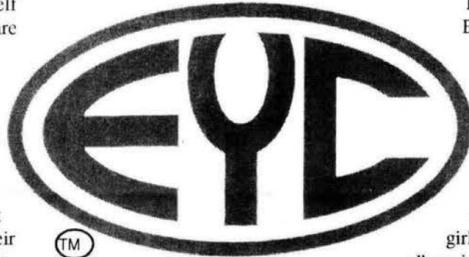
Their top selling single "This Thing Called Love" and other songs like it are in their latest album, "I Feel It."

The group seems to clarify a distinct line between soul and pop rock, but all their songs contain a little of each. The words to their songs are kind of like words of wisdom from the guys.

The song "Fallen Angel," is a very well written song that gives guys everywhere a semi-decent name.

However, the one song on the album that got on my nerves was "Time to Party." It sounded like screams and it didn't go over well with the expected pop music genre of this time.

The guys in this group aren't the picture perfect pretty boys that every girl drools over



and their voices are a lot more mature than the others are.

EYC was actually together long before the Backstreet Boys or N'SYNC were even around.

They won the "Smash Hits" Breaking Band Award one year before the Backstreet Boys did.

Damon Butler, Trey Parker and David Loeffler (EYC) are also different from other boy bands because they formed from friendship instead of by agents and managers.

EYC performed with the Backstreet Boys and even the Artist Nobody Ever Stopped Calling Prince.

Even though EYC is not very well known in America, they have to sneak out of the back doors of hotels in England, Australia and Europe just to get something to eat.

So if you are into the whole all boy teenybopper craze that every girl seems to be in right now, then this album is definitely for you.

However, if the sound of three more guys that sound exactly the same doesn't thrill you, then I guess you will have to look for another bands name to praise.

Swing, Latin dance popular among many

By Sandi Czapl

Swing dancing is becoming more and more popular by the day. Unfortunately, swing dancers in Omaha have to find a new place to dance because of the recently closed Stork Club.

Ron Shepard, the owner and instructor of Just Dance, said he teaches about 14 classes a week involving various dance crazes such as ballroom, Latin, tango, mambo and definitely swing.

Shepard has been teaching in Omaha for 20 years this year, he said.

"My favorite class to teach is swing. All the people are really great and it's such a fun class to teach," Shepard said.

Different music rhythms and dancing styles make up all the intricate dancing skills, Shepard said.

The reason that all types of dances are so similar is because they all evolved from the same era, he added.

The 30's, 40's and 50's were a large part in the formation of music and dance styles, he said.

Shepard said that they participate in competitions such as ProAm. In this regional per-

formance, Shepard and one of his students compete with each other.

"The closing of the Stork Club is a real tragedy," Matt Smith a Central senior and dance student said, "It was the only place in town to go to past midnight and still have fun."

Smith has been swing dancing for about four years now and has recently started taking lessons from Shepard at Just Dance.

Swinging is a talent that can be used in all types of performances at both church and school, especially when instructing students on how to perform well, Smith said.

He said that swinging is a great way to get involved and meet other people, especially at Just Dance where everyone is so friendly and unique.

"The Stork Club's atmosphere was unlike any other," Smith said, "All the furniture and decorations were from the same era and there is no opportunity in the world to see something like that."

Swing dancing involves both movement and coordination. That's what makes it kind of difficult, Smith said.

Until another club is opened, students like Smith and others who enjoy the fad will have to find a way to continue to swing.

"Blue Streak" demonstrates Lawrence's talent

By Sandi Czapl

Martin Lawrence has always been an audience pleaser, but in his new movie "Blue Streak," Lawrence over excels at his comedic talents.

In the movie, Lawrence's character, Miles Logan, steals a diamond and in the process, gets arrested.

However, he was smart enough to hide it in the air ducts before he was taken away.

So he memorizes the address and the air duct number so that when he got out of jail, he could retrieve it from the same spot.

Two years pass and Logan is released from jail, so he goes to the address only to find that the place is now a police station.

Logan, being an ex-con, has to try to become a police officer so that he can get the diamond he worked so hard to steal.

As soon as Logan becomes a police officer, he does everything right and earns the respect of his boss and co-workers.

Even though it is obvious that none of this stuff could ever happen in real life, the writers come up with very creative lines that

the actors put on screen in a way that no other movie I've seen do before.

The soundtrack to the movie should also be great. The songs are bouncy and they go along perfectly with the movie and plot.

The songs helped to keep me involved in the whole ora of the film.

The cast consists of extremely talented actors and actresses who are not very well known.

The movie is very well written and Lawrence is the perfect man to play the lead.

I don't think it was worth nearly killing himself over, but at least he is fine and the movie is going to turn out to be a big hit.

There is absolutely no possible way that you could go wrong with a hilarious movie like this with a lead character like Lawrence.

If you are looking for a light, fun comedy this weekend, "Blue Streak" is definitely the movie for you.

I thought the movie was great and some of the lines were so clever and creative, there is no possible way I couldn't have laughed.

I suggest you go see this movie this weekend. It is definitely a must see!

Destiny's Child's album appeals to teenage girls everywhere

By Tarrin McGhee

Destiny's Child is back with it's hot new album "The Writing's on the Wall."

The songs on the album are really unique and the beats are sweet.

Also, not only do the songs have inspirational lyrics, but the songs really help teens deal with relationships.

One particular song, "Hey Ladies" is a prime example.

In that song the members of the group discuss how their boyfriend has been treating them wrong but they just can't seem to leave him alone.

A line in the song that sticks out in my mind is: "Yea, he did me wrong; but I love him so. I keep holding on but he's got to go."

A lot of teens (ladies that is) can really relate to that song because of similar problems that they have dealt with in their relationships.

Another one of their songs, titled "Bug-a-Boo," is also related to teens.

The song is about how a man just will not take no for an answer.

The chorus goes: "You make me wanna throw my pager out the window, tell MCI to

cut the phone cords, break my knees so I can't move, cause you're a bug-a-boo."

My absolute favorite song on the album is a song titled "Say My Name."

And no, it's not what you think.

The song really surprised me. It talks about how guys like to act different when they're around their friends. You know how it is. They act all macho.

The chorus goes: "Say my name, say my name. When no one is around you say baby I love you, if you ain't running games."

To sum it all up- this album is great. Their first album doesn't even come close to this one.

I would really recommend this album to every teen (female) that I know. Sorry guys, this bud's not for you.

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Billboard Hit brings Divine to the top

By Stefanie Wulff

There's something about youth, flawless voices, raw talent that's pure in every essence, three powerful, determined, emotive voices that harmonize to a sound so spectacular that the three can only be called on name... Divine.

The fate of three New Jersey teenagers meeting and forming Divine was only the first step.

Seventeen year-old Nikki Bratcher, 17-year-old Kia Thornton and 18-year-old Tonia Tash deliver the hip-hop soul vibe of Divine.

"Lately," the platinum #1 selling single was the first song to hit the airwaves. "Fairy Tales", the bands first album spent 11 weeks on the Top Five Billboard Hot 100 and 14 weeks on the Top Ten Billboard Hot 100.

The music, which is mostly about fancie, evil male heart breakers and dreams, reflects the life experiences and perceptions of teens their age.

"Our album has a live feel, a fun feel," 17-year-old Bratcher said. "It's about young love. Although our perception of love may not be the same in ten years," she adds, "It's about what's real to us now... at this moment."

There's no reason the trio needs help with their love life, however.

With all the fame the teens are

absorbing, the guys must be flocking.

"At our age, guys come and go," Bratcher said. "Love is not a fairy tale, and it doesn't always have a happy ending."

"Never Thought," the first track on "Fairy Tales," starts off non-funky, but gets a serious twist as the song goes on.

The girls harmonize in singing, "Never thought that I'd find someone to love me like you do. Never thought in a million years that you'd make all my dreams come true."

This surely delivers the love

message followed by powerful rap lyrics and bass in the background, which is truly a combination of divinity.

Divine also has a video for "Lately" showing on Black Entertainment Television (BET) that evokes warmth and innocence.

The video depicts a story of a young girl missing a childhood friend who has moved away.

It describes the feeling of loss, a universal concept we've all experienced.

The teens try to emphasize the good and bad

aspects of life in their writing and musical beats.

"We want to set and example that no matter what you're going through, have a dream and follow that dream," Tash adds.

For the fans, Divine will come out with a new album in October.

"I feel like this is what I was meant to do," Bratcher said. "Because all my life I've been on this steady road of good, like God has been watching over me my whole life and he never steered me wrong."



COURTESY OF RED AUNT ENTERTAINMENT

Stefanie's Prophecies



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct.22) A mysterious someone is trying to get your attention. Your love life will start to spark and get more exciting.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21) An out of body experience may leave you jolted. Don't be shocked, the result could leave you with a new outlook on life.

Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21) The love of your life will soon pop into view. Take the chance to get to know them better (wink, wink).

Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan. 19) Don't be afraid to make a wrong decision, it may bring better things to your life in the future.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.18) Apologies are often hard to spit out, but they mean a lot and fix a lot of your wrong doings. Repeat after me, "I'm sorry, I'm a jerk."

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Feeling overloaded? No wonder! Your pants are on too tight, so loosen up. Hang out by yourself sometimes instead of your crazy friends.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Think before making any commitments. It's harder to say "no" after you've already said "yes."

Taurus (April 20- May 20) There are at least two resolutions in the problem you are facing. One side may be a risky alternative, and the other may be boring but brings long time happiness.

Gemini (May 21- June 20) If it seems your friends are acting different towards you for the worse, don't hide under a rock. Talk to them and sort out the differences, you'll be much happier.

Cancer (June 21- July 22) Make a move on the boy or girl next door. Don't hold back your feelings, maybe they feel the same...

Leo (July 23- Aug. 22) Sharing is always nice, depending on what it is you share. It's great to share clothes, but don't share lives.

Virgo (Aug. 23- Sept 22) First impressions are the ones that last. Look and feel your best no matter where you go.

TOP 5 PICKS



COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD PICTURES

IT'S COLD IN HERE... Haley Jole Osment stars with Bruce Willis in "The Sixth Sense," a chilling, psychological thriller from Hollywood Pictures and Spyglass Entertainment. The abnormal boy with paranormal powers scored first place in Entertainment's Top Five Movies.

TOP 5 SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER MOVIES

1. The Sixth Sense
2. The Blair Witch Project
3. American Pie
4. Big Daddy
5. The Haunting

TOP 5 RESTAURANTS FOR HOMECOMING

1. Village Inn
2. Olive Garden
3. Applebee's
4. Garden Cafe
5. French Cafe

TOP 5 BANDS FOR HOMECOMING

1. Dave Matthews Band
2. Backstreet Boys
3. N'SYNC
4. Limp Bizkit
5. Blink 182

* 178 people polled

FILL Ups

Hey kids, it's time to FILL UP! Now put down your English homework and give this a try. It's entitled "First day on the job," so keep that in mind. And don't cheat and look at the passage first!

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Famous person _____ | 2. Verb _____ |
| 3. Famous landmark _____ | 4. Type of weather _____ |
| 5. +ing verb _____ | 6. Famous person _____ |
| 7. Place _____ | 8. Noun _____ |
| 9. Street _____ | 10. Famous person _____ |
| 11. Verb _____ | 12. Famous mobster _____ |
| 13. Action hero _____ | 14. Verb _____ |

First day on the job

It all started when my friend (1) _____ woke me up way to early to (2) _____ to the (3) _____. It was (4) _____, and I was still recovering from (5) _____ the night before. (6) _____ and I were suppose to go to (7) _____ to pick up a (8) _____ and then drop it off on the corner of (9) _____ for it to be picked up by (10) _____. Some task! Sometimes I think it would be easier for me to (11) _____ a bank to get cash than to work for (12) _____. But after all, what I really want in life is to be (13) _____ and if this is how they started off then this is what I must do to (14) _____ my career!



- Sept. 27- 30—The Amazon on the IMAX at Henry Doorly Zoo
- Sept. 29- The Nebraska AIDS Projects, "You Gotta Have Friends" Benefit Concert with Celine Dion and Michael Bolton at the Civic Auditorium
- Sept. 29- Johnathan Richman with Five Story Fall at the Ranch Bowl
- Sept. 29- Chop at the Ranch Bowl
- Oct. 1- Phish in Ames, IA at the Hilton Coliseum
- Oct. 2- Frog Pond with Five Story Fall at the Ranch Bowl
- Oct. 4- NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 4- Ben Folds Five at Sokol Auditorium
- Oct. 15- Carolyn's Mother at the Ranch Bowl
- Oct. 19- 311 at Sokol Hall SOLD OUT

Lip Smackin' Good



Sandi Czaplá

Teenyboppers provide no purpose

Ah, the lovely sounds of twelve-year-old girls screaming the names of all the boys' bands like N'SYNC and Backstreet Boys.

We all know the sounds I'm talking about and I think... no wait, I KNOW that I had enough and that obsessing over the bands is a senseless thing to do.

How can one person be so involved in one band that they go to see every concert with their "I Love N'SYNC" signs? What lovely demoralizing sight to see.

I almost have to feel sorry for these girls that put their whole heart and soul into the bands only to find out later on the band wasn't even that great in the first place.

Excuse me as I clear my throat and take a lovely trip back to the early 90's with a band called New Kids on the Block.

You remember what happened to them? They were banished from society for seven years never to be heard from again. Unfortunately, for our sake both Joey McIntire and Jordan Knight came back to haunt us in our seemingly happy days.

Or how about Milli Vanilli? The loved Grammy winning, lip sinking, dynamic duo that fell apart after everyone found out the secret.

How can we forget the beautiful Since O'Conner? Truthfully, I owned one of her tapes and the only thing I remember about her is her baldhead. I guess that's probably the way she wanted to be remembered.

Is this what we want to happen to our treasured N'SYNC, Backstreet Boys and the overly beautiful yet talent lacking Brittan Spears?

A simple answer to an easy question. Yes. Think about the world without these people. Young girls could idolize someone more important, such as Bill Clinton.

Wait a minute, maybe that's not the greatest example, but you get the picture.

Maybe the reason that the bands are here in the first place is to keep young people away from worshipping creepazoids like the President.

Plus if we banished these people from the face of the earth, who would we make fun of and when would we be allowed to change the radio station?

All right, so maybe the Backstreet Boys do serve a purpose on this planet. I think they were put here to sing, look pretty, and if we're lucky maybe do a little dance here and there.

How difficult can that be? And yet plenty of people are getting paid millions of dollars every day to do just that.

Isn't it ironic that the people who make the big bucks are people with names like Britany and Lance?

Next thing you know there will be a big pop star named Fluffy or Gem.

I know it's insane, but sorry to say, speak nothing but the truth.

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Tennis:

Serving up winning season

By Carlos Zendejas

The 1999 tennis team starts the season off with a bang, going .500 dual competition.

In pre-season preparation, Head Coach Matt Shafer said that it was the team's goal to go .500 in dual matches in the season.

Well, that goal is coming into fruition as the season progresses with a current record of three wins over Benson, North and Papillion and three losses to Westside, Millard North and Creighton Prep.

"The matches we lost were in arms reach of becoming wins," Second Year Varsity Player Junior Michael Kruger said. "Things just didn't work out for us those days."

As for upcoming matches, Senior Fabian Sittig said that he hoped to beat every team that they are capable of beating, but admits that they may face some challenging opponents in upcoming matches, especially in the big tournaments such as Metro and State.

"Come time for the state tournament, we will really have to depend on the older, more experienced players on the team," Shafer said.

Sittig said that the leadership on the team comes from a combined effort of the top players on the team, especially from Captain Chris Ochsner.

"Ochsner is one of our team leaders, he plays well consistently and he never loses his temper," Kruger said. "He has a serious gift for composure."

Other top players on the team include Number One Singles Player Sophomore Ed Yin, Senior John Fitzpatrick, Sophomore Ben Cramer, Junior Ian Sansom, Kruger and Sittig, Shafer said.

Shafer said that there is a lot of talent on the team and a lot of guys on the same level of play.

Although Ed Yin plays number one singles, there is constant competition among us," Kruger said. "We all push each other to strive for our own personal best."

Kruger also said that with the constant competition, the whole team is noticeably improving.

Kruger attributes this fact to the drills that Shafer puts them through.

"All of the drills that Coach Shafer has

put us through show, and they allow us each to display our skills," Kruger said.

Kruger said he believes that the team will continue to improve, because of the support members provide to one another.

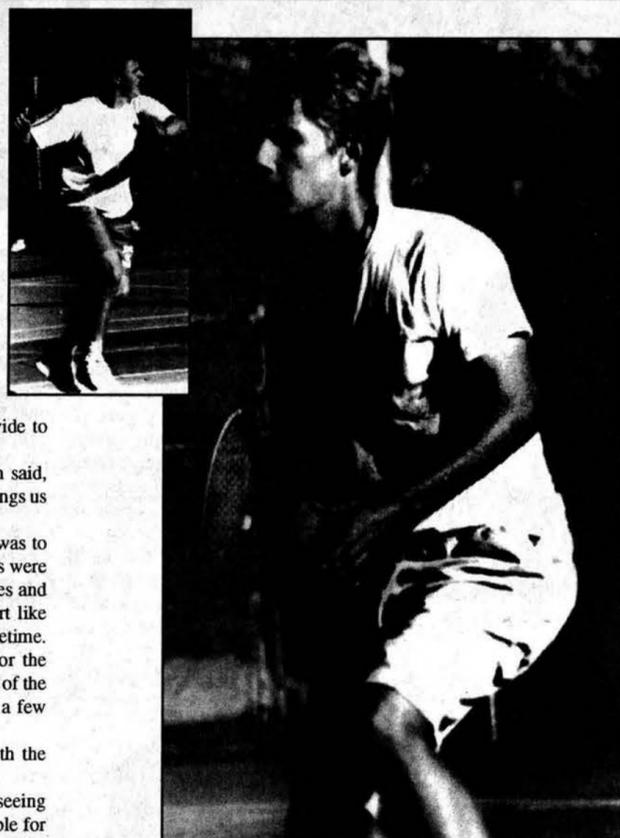
"Sure it's a lot of work," Sansom said, "but it helps the get team better and brings us closer to our goals."

Shafer said that one of his goals was to have fun, Shafer also said that his goals were to see the team improve, learn the rules and etiquette and to see them learn a sport like tennis that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Shafer also said that his goals for the season include continual improvement of the team, to go .500 in duals and to win a few matches at both metro and State.

These goals go hand in hand with the goals of those of the players.

Sittig said that his goals include seeing the team beat every team that is possible for the team to beat, to play as well as possible, to win some matches in the big tournaments and to have as much fun as possible.



MIKAYLA CHAMBERS/ THE REGISTER
Top: Fabian Sittig (12) strikes a solid return.
Above: Chris Ochsner (12) stands ready for the oncoming serve during a tennis practice.

Central alumnus makes college baseball roster

By Jeremy Scurlock

Former Central High School student Zach Jacobson went to check the cut list for Allen County Community College's [ACCC] baseball team in Iola, KS last week to discover that he was now a pitcher in the collegiate level.

"I've known since I was a wee lad that I wanted to play college [base] ball," Jacobson said. "I'm relieved that all the hard work I put into over

so many years has paid off."

Jacobson was unable to take part in Central's 1999 spring baseball season after a conflict with former head coach Matt Shafer, leaving Jacobson no chance for a Spring season.

"It wasn't an easy thing [kicking Jacobson off team] to do, but I had to stick by my guns and let him [Jacobson] know that I wasn't going to stand for any behavioral problems," Shafer said. "I'm glad to see it didn't

keep him from going on to play in college."

Jacobson was a leader and a key player on the Eagle baseball team, three-year teammate of Jacobson and two-time letterman, Dylan Morgan said. Losing him was a real blow to our spirits, the whole team felt we needed him to win.

Jacobson signed up to play for a non-American Legion team in the summer since Shafer had banished him from Central baseball. American

Legion is the league where the best baseball players in the area compete, Jacobson said.

"I knew that with no spring season and not much play against tough competition in the summer, I'd have to work really hard to get to where I wanted to be," Jacobson said.

Running, weight lifting and vigorous conditioning became a part of his daily regimen, Jacobson said.

"I never heard much from Allen County, so I came down here [ACCC]

really just hoping for the best," Jacobson said. "I'm excited to see what I can get out of being on this team."

The workout regiment and training Jacobson does takes a lot out of him, Jacobson said. It consists of lifting and throwing three times a week as well as conditioning almost every day.

"Since I spent my summer on a team which wasn't scheduled to play much, I spent a lot of time on my own

running and working with my pitching," Jacobson said. "I did a lot of work on my own to get myself ready for this."

Coach Val McLean heads the ACCC baseball program and is, Jacobson said, able to correct any flaw in any ball player.

"It's great to finally go to a school where the coaching staff is educated in the game of baseball and able to communicate what he knows to the players," Jacobson said.

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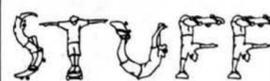
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Central student to play at UNL

By Jeremy Scurlock

Central High School senior Lornell McPherson has made a verbal commitment to play football for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln [UNL] during the 2000 season.

On Thursday, August 25 McPherson said he and several coaches, including Husker head coach Frank Solich, met and discussed the possibility of becoming a Nebraska Cornhusker.

"After we finished drills for the day I was taken to an office and offered a full ride," McPherson said. "I liked what they had to offer, so I ac-

cepted. Getting the recruiting started and pretty much over early and before the season started was a relief," McPherson said. "Now I'm able to focus on the team winning and not making an impression on scouts."

A verbal commitment, being one which is not legally binding, Central Football Head Coach Joe McMenamin said, McPherson can still decide to go play somewhere besides UNL. A contract cannot be signed until the second Wednesday in February, he added.

"At this point, there is very little doubt about where I'll be playing next season," McPherson said. "I've made

up my mind, I'm going to Nebraska." McPherson was one of the most sought after players in the state, McMenamin said. He was the recipient of interest from some of the top football programs in the country.

Schools such as the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, the University of Kansas, Iowa State University, and Colorado State University all showed a lot of interest in what McPherson was capable of.

"I was first contacted by Iowa State, but received a lot of letters from many schools," McPherson said. "I put some thought into it, and liked what Nebraska had to offer. Plus it's

close to home."

McPherson is in his third year as a starter on Central's Varsity Football team, McMenamin said, and has developed into a player with talent as well as leadership ability.

"This year we asked him [McPherson] to step out of the Quarterback position and move to full-back," McMenamin said. "He knew that it was in the best interest of the team and told me he was more than willing to do whatever it took to win."

Because McPherson committed only in a verbal manner, Coach Solich was unable to comment on his recent acquisition.



Lornell McPherson

Warmin' the Bench

Carlos Zendejas

Sports solve all problems

Hello Sports fans welcome to bench.

As Sports-fans you have been enlightened, perhaps that's why you are reading my column.

You know that the troubles of world can all be solved with sports.

Even in the time of the Ancient Greeks, only one thing could stop constant warfare, sports.

So why can't we take a lesson from the Greeks?

Sure, we're not under the same circumstances by any means, but look at it a broader sense.

Sporting is something that has countless positive qualities.

So why can't we use those positive qualities to overshadow some of the negativity in the world.

So then, let us look at some applications of this enlightened concept of

First of all, we could get rid of the war in the world because disputes would now be settled on sports field.

Don't worry, there wouldn't be much noticeable difference in the balance of worldwide military powers.

I say this because it seems to me that the countries with the best militaries are also the countries with the best sports teams.

Which means that the good U.S. of A. will still be number one.

One of the main reasons for this is that Europe consists of a bunch of girly-men and artsy-fartsy weirdos.

Secondly, those commies in Russia can't afford to inject their young with steroids anymore.

You could also get rid of those nutjobs like Saddam Hussein because you could steal athletes or genetically engineer them in a shack in the middle of the desert.

Well, know that we have since handedly gotten rid of all war, let's move on to some of societies other ills.

How about those girls who are always whining about how fat they are.

Why don't you play a sport and lose some of that excess baggage.

And what about all of those little depressed weirdoes running around? Why don't you play a sport?

Sports are proven to boost self-esteem and improve social skills.

Which is something you could use.

And what about all of you violent kids running around trying to be people.

Why don't you take out your aggression with a nice contact sport.

Sports are also beneficial to all you college bound people out there because colleges love it when you play a sport.

So people, now that you know why sports are such an important thing to play, go out and play them.

Listen to me, and don't confuse the word sports with those worthless sports video games.

I can't stand those people who only sports experiences involve those silly sports video games.

Then they have the nerve to brag about how they can "kick your butt" at some Playstation game.

Whoop Dee Doo, who cares, certainly not me.

But hey, can you beat anybody at a real sport, probably not.

What is that, you can't.

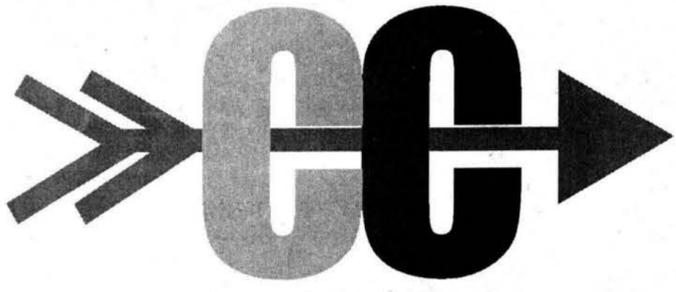
I would love to see it if you were to actually try and get off of your butt and play a sport.

"Coach, why didn't he pass to me? I'm positive that I pressed the button."

Anyway, please try and not be a really big loser.

Play sports because they can solve all of the world's problems.

So goodbye for now, I'll see you next time on the bench. So until then I'll be keeping it hot and warm for all of you real players.



Cross Country

RIGHT: Bottoms up, Adam Deacon (10), Takes a swig of the good stuff, but he swears he is only a social drinker.
BELOW: Left to Right: Ryan Shaw (9), Quentin Lueninghoener (10), Joe Hoagland (10), Kevin Grace (10), Shawn Daley (9), Adam Rachwalik (9), Doug Meigs (9), Luke Matyja (9) and Fred Vacanti (11) Gather at the starting line and prepare to take off after the gun, Just another day at Central High.



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER



MEREDITH ZENDEJAS/THE REGISTER

Teacher takes coaching position at university

By Carlos Zendejas

Central High's former Head Volleyball Coach recently took a job which forced him to relocate to Texas Tech

University in Lubbock, Texas.

Reichmuth said that he is now an Assistant Coach at Texas Tech University.

"My main job is to help in running practices and scouting opposing teams," Reichmuth said.

Reichmuth said that in practices he helps run drills but he said that mostly he acts as a player.

For example Reichmuth said that if there is a team that they are facing with a specific talent, then it is his job to mimic that skill in practice in order to prepare his team.

Along with his practice duties, Reichmuth also said that he is responsible for watching videos of the other team and rating their passers."

"There is a lot of preparation involved in the games, a lot more than in high school volleyball," Reichmuth said.

And as far as the differences between high school and University level volleyball, Reichmuth said that there aren't as many differences as he expected.

However, Reichmuth said that there were a few that he had noticed.

Reichmuth said that one of the biggest differences was the fact that there are only 12 players and four coaches, which makes him more able to focus on coaching.

"It is a lot easier for me to focus on coaching without all of the extras, like trying to reserve the building for

practices and dealing with parents, that high school gives you," Reichmuth said.

Another difference that Reichmuth said has noticed is that there is not a lot of work needed to hone the skills of the players.

"In high school some kids come who aren't that great, and then they work to become good, whereas in college they already come to you pretty talented," Reichmuth said.

Aside from the differences, Reichmuth said that he is adjusting well, and as for the question of whether he will ever come back to Central, Reichmuth said that he is still unsure about that.

Reichmuth said that that decision

all depends on the coaching job offers that he receives in the future.

Reichmuth said that he will only take a Head Coaching job if it is in the right school in the right part of the country.

Reichmuth said that he still thinks about Central a lot and that he enjoys the high school atmosphere over that of the University, so coming back would not be out of the question.

But in the meantime, Reichmuth said that he is looking forward to coming back to Nebraska when he will face the Huskers on Oct. 30 at the Coliseum in Lincoln.

Until then, Reichmuth said that he misses life at Central High School and that he thinks about it every day.

Tom Osborne makes a leap of 'Faith in the Game'

By Meredith Kalina

Lines of Husker fans wove in and out of the bookshelves at the Borders on 132nd and Maple on Sept 13 for the signing of Tom Osborne's new book, Faith In The Game.

"We felt really privileged to have Tom Osborne at our store, it's really impressive," Nancy Johnsen, the general manager at Borders, said.

Johnsen said that she has a great deal of respect for Osborne and that the people there at Borders that night did too.

Leanna Jones, a bookseller at Borders said that although the

signing officially began at seven o'clock, people began pouring in at four o'clock.

"It was the best turnout we've ever had for a book signing," Jones said.

Tom Osborne, former Head Coach of the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers said, that his new book, Faith In The Game, is basically about the importance of coaching.

"The book has a lot to do with good team character, the importance of loyalty to your team, learning to work as a team, how to win the right way, and my personal faith," Osborne said.

"I admire his faith and the fact that he is not afraid to talk about it," Jones

said.

Jones said that he has good moral character, and always keeps his cool, which is very impressive.

Osborne said that he decided he had better sit down and write while he could still remember the importance's of coaching and write a book.

"I started on the book last September and sent it to the publisher in March," Osborne said.

He said that he has had a lot more flexibility in time since his retirement even though he still works all day.

"I am teaching some classes at the University and working with some

mentoring groups," he said.

Osborne said that he now has more time for his family and is enjoying spending more time with them.

He said that he enjoyed writing the book, and he hopes it inspires coaches and teammates everywhere.

When asked if he had any words of advice for Central High Schools varsity football team, Osborne replied that considering Central's season so far, there is nothing more he can say.

"You've always had a great football team and wonderful coaches, and I want to wish them all the best of luck this year," he said.



MEREDITH KALINA/THE REGISTER

Tom Osborne signs his new book at Borders.

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