

the Central High School

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CHS teacher finalist for national award

By Meredith Zendejas

Central High School's English Department Chair, Terri Saunders, was one of the thirty-nine finalists out of seventy-five thousand nominated for the Disney Learning Partnership Teacher of the Year Award.

Neel Lattimore, Publicist for the Disney American Teacher Awards said that this is the tenth year Disney has recognized teachers with this award.

Saunders went to Disney world for the awards ceremony on Nov. 15.

"I was anxious, excited, but I was also relieved that it would be all over when they announced the winner," Saunders said.

Saunders said that Terri Linder, a special education teacher from State College, Pen. won the over-all teacher award.

"Eventhough she did not win, she's still a winner to us," Kathy Maloney, English teacher said. "We are very proud of her."

Saunders said she was nominated by one of her students last year and was chosen from the nomination to

be a finalist.

Saunders said that after she was chosen from the nominations she was sent a packet that contained four essays that she had to write.

"Someone had taken the time to nominate me, so I felt it important to take the time to fill out the application," Saunders said.

Junior Noah Moe, and a former student of Saunders said that she is a teacher who has worked hard at what she



Saunders

does and she just keeps on getting better and better.

Saunders said that when she sent in the application she did not expect to hear anything back, except a letter telling her the other teachers who had won. That is why she said she was surprised when she got a letter telling her she was one of the top three applicants in her category. She said she also got a

phone call from Disney telling her she was a finalist

"It was a nice surprise," she said. "I have done my job, and I tried to do things different, but I did not expect anything like this would come of it."

Lattimore said that teachers deserve much more credit than what they get, he said that teachers are the people who encourage and get kids excited to learn.

"Saunders is one of the few teachers who will help you even if you are not in her class," Moe said.

The category that Saunders

said she was entered in was the High School Humanities category.

She said the other teachers who are in the same category are an Advanced Placement Literature teacher and a Spanish teacher.

Lattimore said that the film crew, who came to film Saunders on Sept. 15 portrayed how well she works with kids and her teaching philosophy.

He said that the film was cut into a one-minute clip on Saunders that was shown when they introduced her.

School Violence



CARING...



ABOVE: Tipper Gore meets with supporters on her visit to the metro area on Nov. 3. TOP: Gore speaks at a benefit dinner in Council Bluffs in front of 175 supporters.

...for our children

Tipper Gore speaks about violence in the nation's school systems.

By Andrew Danford

With the concern of a mother, Tipper Gore, wife of vice president and Democratic Presidential Candidate Al Gore, addressed the issue of school safety on a recent trip to the Omaha area.

At a press conference following a benefit dinner on Nov. 3, Gore presented several measures that she said she hoped would help limit the incidence of school violence in America.

One such issue was gun control. "My husband [as President of the United States] would continue to push legislation to limit access to guns," Gore said.

She said that the availability of guns to children compromises the safety of schools in America and needs to be addressed with strong legislation to keep guns out of the hands of students.

A second measure that Gore said that she would like
Turn to TIPPER, page 9

Photos by Andrew Danford

Graphic by Jared Hart

OPS obtains grant for ESL program

By Andrew Danford

In response to the increased enrollment in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS), the federal government recently awarded the district's ESL program a \$2.5 million grant, the coordinator if the program said.

Susan Mayberger said that OPS will receive about \$500 thousand over the next five years in order to help the district's ESL program.

"We needed the money pretty badly," she said.

In 1990, the district's ESL program enrolled 325 students. Today, Mayberger said that the program has grown to almost 2,500 students.

"We have the largest ESL program in the region," she said.

The money from the grant will be used in several ways, Mayberger said.

Some of the funding will be used to help make 100 teachers in the district certified to teach ESL.

Another 40 teachers will receive the opportunity to partake in an intensive study of the Spanish language in Mexico as part of the grant.

Also, the money will be used to hire 25 more classroom paraprofessionals across the district and provide families with resources to teach their children English at home, Mayberger said.

Teacher Michelle Golden, ESL teacher, said that she believes that the extra help that these paraprofessionals would provide is very necessary to the ESL program.

She said that often she and other ESL teachers at Central are called out to the classroom to translate languages and do other tasks that the paraprofessional could perform.

"It would allow us to do our job better," she said.

Golden also said that similar to the rest of the district, the Central ESL program has grown dramatically over the past several years at Central.

She said that when the ESL program started at Central six years ago that there was only one teacher and seven students.

Now, the ESL program has seven teachers and about 120 students, Golden said.

Mayberger said that the training that the grant money provides will be open to all ESL teachers in OPS.

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District offers alternative educational environments

By Andrew Danford

When former Central junior Emily Lykke goes to school in the morning, she no longer takes a backpack; backpacks are not allowed at her school.

She checks her coat at the door; there are no lockers.

She does not take any of her books home; most of her teachers will not let her.

She goes to a different type of high school—an alternative high school.

"I wouldn't even call it a school," Lykke said. "It's more of a study hall than anything else."

Lykke was reassigned to Blackburn High School, one of three alternative schools in the Omaha Public Schools district (OPS), after being caught drinking at a football game earlier this year.

Although Lykke only stays until 12:30 p.m. because she only has to take four classes, at Blackburn, school starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m.

Lykke said that the classes offered at the school are basically the same as the courses at Central.

However, she cannot continue to be enrolled in Spanish 7-8 or Trigonometry; they are not offered at Blackburn.

Principal of the Alternative schools in OPS Ed Virant said that although the classes may be organized differently than at a traditional

school, all the classes at the alternative schools in OPS are the same as those offered at the other schools in the district.

"The classes have the same textbooks, the same course requirements as a traditional school in the district," he said.

Virant said that he is disappointed that his schools cannot offer all the courses that a traditional school can, but because of the size of his schools and varied needs of the students, it would be very hard for his schools to offer an entirely comprehensive selection of courses.

"The fact that we are not able to offer everything that a comprehensive high school can is a concern of mine," he said, "But there are a myriad of other courses for students to take here."

He said that in cases where students are reassigned and are unable to take a class that they were able to take at their previous school, it is the student's own fault that they cannot take that class.

"Students know the consequences," he said. "If they choose to break the rules, maybe the loss of opportunities is just part of the consequences."

Also, Lykke said that she did not feel that the teachers did an adequate job of teaching her at the alternative school. She said that the teachers often were not able to answer her questions and did not offer very much of a

Turn to SCHOOL, page 2



Senior wins Spirit Award

Senior Kristina Derrick won the Nebraska Health System (NHS) Spirit of Women Award, the NHS Corporate Communicator said.

Jennifer Kock said that Derrick was a very well-rounded and ambitious young woman.

"I didn't even know I was nominated," Derrick said. "But I am glad I won."

Derrick will receive the award during the NHS Spirit of Woman Conference on Jan. 15 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

NHS holds a Bowl-A-Thon

The National Honor Society participated in a Bowl-A-Thon to benefit research for Spina Bifida on Nov. 12 at Kelli Lanes. The students accumulated pledges for each of the three games they bowled to raise money for this cause. Spina Bifida is a birth defect that results from the failure of the spine to close during the first month of pregnancy. This disease can cause paralysis and fluid in the brain among other complications.

Pro football expands to city next year

The Indoor Professional Football League recently announced the expansion of the league into Omaha. The new team, to be called the Omaha Beef, will begin playing in the Civic Auditorium with eight home games starting April 2000. Ticket prices will be from \$10 to \$36 and \$75 to \$288 for season tickets.

New Peony Park to open next spring

Local Businessman Carl Jennings recently announced that he plans on building a new Peony Park.

The park plans to open this spring with a corporate picnic. It will be located on a 30-acre sight near the junction of Highway 275 and West Center Road.

The new Peony Park will feature many of the original rides and attractions that were found at the previous park, Jennings said.

Freshman places at State Meet

Freshman Chris Gorga placed ninth at the State Cross Country Meet on Oct. 22 in Kearney.

Gorga was the only runner on the cross country team to qualify for state this year.

City will replace downtown bridge

Starting in the fall of next year, work will begin to replace the 10th Street bridge from between Jackson and Pacific Streets.

The project will cost the city \$10.5 million and last about a year after construction begins.

The existing bridge is over 100 years old. The new bridge will attempt to uphold the architectural and historical design of the area, city officials said.



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

Omaha opens skate park

By Talya Greenspoon

A refuge for Omaha skateboarders has finally been built on the site of Roberts Park, the project manager of the skate park said.

Kevin Strehle said that the city-contracted skate park, located on Cass St. and 78th St., was a collaborative effort between a group of skaters and Strehle's architectural firm, the Ciaccio Dennell Group.

Construction on the park began this summer, and the park opened officially on Oct. 25, Strehle said.

The skate park includes elements for the beginning and average skater, including stairs, ramps and facsimiles of downtown scenery that skaters like to skate on, Strehle said.

Central junior, and skater, Blake Leavitt said that he's been to the new park numerous times, and thinks it is

a great addition to Omaha.

"I think the park is great, the only problem is that it is overcrowded," Leavitt said.

Junior Eric Bensalah agreed with Leavitt that the skate park itself has everything he needs, but it is just too crowded.

"They should create another park in West Omaha," Bensalah said.

For the present, the parties involved in creating the skate park seem pleased with the results.

Paul Fisher, a member of the Student Democrats, said that his organization actually started the idea of a skate park.

"We were the link between the City Council and the skate park supporters," Fisher said.

Fisher said that he is completely satisfied by the skate park.

"It is huge," he said. "Nothing was cut from the budget."



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

ABOVE: Andrew Nebbia, an eighth-grader at Norris, rides the rail at the skate park. TOP: UNO student Earl Stein soars at the skate park's opening day on Oct. 25.

Former CHS student experiences life in alternative school

■SCHOOL, continued from page 1

challenge.

"Your teachers, they don't teach you anything," she said. "The stuff we do is totally not challenging. One teacher even talks to the kids about smoking weed and drinking."

Connie Wheeler, a teacher at Blackburn, said that she faces many different challenges when she works with students in an alternative school.

Wheeler has taught in both the traditional and alternative school setting.

"The motivation is more strenuous for me as a teacher [in an alternative school environment]," she said. "It's just more 'tough cookies' here in the alternatives."

She said that as a teacher in an alternative school, she has had to find more "creative" ways to teach her students.

"You kind of have to teach in alternative ways to alternative kids," she said.

She said that these "creative" teaching methods include more in-class work on projects as opposed to lectures and note taking.

Wheeler said that because students

are always entering and leaving the alternative schools that teachers are forced to teach students at more of an individual pace.

As a result, she said that it may seem like a "study hall" to some students.

"It pretty much has to be individualized," she said. "We have students coming in every week of every month."

She said that because of all this movement in the student body, teachers often do not issue books to their students for them to take home.

"We don't get our books back," Wheeler said.

Lykke said that the students keep to themselves at the alternative school.

"I only have about four friends in the whole school," she said.

Also, the class sizes are considerably smaller in the alternative school as opposed to the traditional school.

Lykke said that there are seven students in her largest class and only two in her smallest.

As a result of the individually paced curriculum at Blackburn, Lykke said that she was able to earn her Earth Science credit in just nine days.

However, Wheeler said that the

alternative schools are not intended to allow students to gain credits in an easier environment than in the traditional schools.

"We are not a credit mill here," she said.

Virant said that Blackburn only has about 230 students—about 10 percent of the size of a traditional high school in OPS.

Wheeler said that this small class size is very important to the individualized teaching style in an alternative school.

"We have to be able to give more direct attention to students," she said. "It has to be more one-on-one."

Both Virant and Wheeler said that they were not any more concerned about safety in an alternative school as opposed to a traditional high school.

"Safety is the same here as any other school in the district," Virant said.

Lykke said that while she has attended Blackburn, she has witnessed only one fight.

Virant said that there are such a wide variety of students enrolled in alternative schools that it would be unfair to label students at an alternative school as having behavior problems.

"[It [an alternative school] is not for one particular type of kid," he said.

Schools experiment in single-sex classrooms

By Andrew Danford

At the turn of the century, students at Central used different staircases depending upon their gender. Boys went up one side, and girls went up the other.

Now, at the turn of the next century, students at Jefferson Leadership Academies in Long Beach, Cal. go to different classrooms depending upon their gender. Boys go to one classroom, and girls go to another.

When the school first opened its doors this fall, it became the only public school in the nation to divide its entire student body into different classrooms depending upon their gender, Dick Van Der Lann, a spokesperson for the Long Beach Unified Schools District, said.

Van Der Lann said that the school was created after the district surveyed the parents last year.

In the survey, 58 percent of the parents in the district said that they would be interested in sending their child to a school where the students attended different classrooms depending upon their gender.

"We did it because the parents were interested in it," he said.

Therefore, in response to the survey results, the district replaced Jefferson Middle School with the Jefferson Leadership Academies.

Sparkle Peterson, an academics director at Jefferson, said that as part of the change the entire administration of the school replaced.

"It was the whole works," Peterson said. "It got a total face lift."

Van Der Lann said that after the school was established, students had to then apply to the school.

There were no special criteria that students had to meet to gain enrollment in the school.

Students who had attended the old Jefferson Middle School were given first priority to attend, he said.

After those places were filled, the other slots were filled by other interested students in the district, Van Der Lann said.

Peterson said that the interest in the school was so great that they had to add another 100 slots to the school. However, there is still a waiting list to get into Jefferson, she said.

"We still get calls every day from parents wondering if their child can enter our school," she said.

The total enrollment of Jefferson is about 1,100 students, Peterson said.

Both the boys and girls who attend Jefferson are offered the same curriculum, Van Der Lann said.

"What we are doing is making sure that the students have equal access to the classes," he said.

The only two classes taught in the school

in a co-ed environment are orchestra and band, Van Der Lann said.

In addition to providing equal opportunities through the classes, the school also provides equal opportunities to students by offering them a single-sex classroom environment, Peterson said.

She said that in the past, the single-sex classrooms were usually only seen in the private schools where some students may not have the monetary means to attend.

"We are just giving the students another choice," Peterson said. "It is nice to see that [the option of attending a single-sex classroom] is now offered to all of our students."

Jefferson is not the first school to offer this option to public school students, however.

In the early 1990's, Ray Johnson started the Paul Robeson Academy in Detroit, Mich.

Johnson, who is also the principal of the school, said that he started the school with the intent of offering equal opportunities to boys who might not otherwise have the means to attend a single-sex school.

"One size does not fit all," Johnson said. "Giving kids option where they can perform at their best should be our goal. Resources and dollars should not be a roadblock for students."

However, after just a few years, Johnson was sued by numerous agencies and was ordered by the courts to open his school to female students.

FTC proposes new Internet law

By Sarah Peterson

The Federal Trade Commission issued the final rule to implement a new law aimed at protecting the privacy of children using the Internet, advertising team leader for the Bureau of Consumer Protection said.

Toby Levin said that the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (COPPA) will go into effect on Apr. 21, 2000.

All commercial Web sites will be required to obtain parental consent before collecting, using or disclosing information from children under the age of thirteen, Levin said.

"Basically, this puts the parents in control of the information that goes online about their children," Levin said.

The new law will affect hundreds of Web sites, Levin said. Any commercial Web site that is aware that it collects information from children thirteen and under

will be affected by the law.

Under the new law, sites will be required to provide a notice to their site to parents about the policies of the collection, use and disclosure of children's personal information, Levin said. All sites will have to obtain "verifiable parental consent."

Parents will have the right to access information on their child, Levin said. Parents can check the information and even delete the information. Sites will not be allowed to ask children any more information than that which is necessary.

This law was passed after a report issued in March 1998 profiled the practices of 212 commercial children's Web sites, Levin said. The report showed that while 89 percent of the sites collected personal information from children, only 24 percent posted privacy policies. Only one percent required parental consent to the collection or disclosure of children's information.

Missouri schools lose accreditation

By Rebecca Rennard

The Missouri Board of Education voted to take accreditation away from the Kansas City Public Schools (KCPS), but the school district is currently fighting the case in federal court, a public relations specialist said.

Beth Hammeck said she, as well as the rest of the school district's officials, are currently arguing the loss of accreditation before Federal Judge, Dean Whipple.

She said the main reasons for disputing the situation resides in the fact that loss of accreditation will make improving the school system more difficult.

"It will be hard to attract teachers, as well as to keep the students in the current population," she said. "We also have currently eight administrative positions that we will not be able to fill because no one wants to take the job."

If they lose the case, she said the district will no longer be accredited effective May 1, 2000.

In this situation, Hammeck said the school district has two years in which to improve its scores on the Missouri Assessment Profile (MAP), or the state will take full control of the schools.

"We need to show improvement with our standardized testing results," she

said. "We need more people in the upper and middle percentage brackets than the lower."

She said that diplomas will have less meaning to colleges, as it may be difficult for students to be accepted into many private universities. Hammeck said, however, that state colleges say they would continue to accept students regardless of the district status.

The district is considering offering a Saturday school, where students who are currently seniors would be encouraged to take extra classes, so they could get all the credits before May.

This way, she said, they would not be affected by the loss of accreditation.

The majority of students, however, will be affected by the change.

During the two-year time period, students who live in the district can opt to attend another school, with transportation at tuition paid by KCPS, Hammeck said.

"This will create a huge financial burden for our schools," she said, "which is part of the reason we [the district] are arguing the case in court."

Students who choose to stay in the district will be a part of an experimental school system.

Hammeck said they would experience several changes in administration and policy.

District debates over school vouchers

By Meredith Zendejas

The debate on school vouchers has brought new problems, the Consultant and Accreditation in School Improvement for Omaha Public Schools said.

Jack Gilsdorf said that vouchers are given to students who would normally go to a public school, to attend a private school.

"Public school funds should not be

available to private schools," Gilsdorf said.

He said that is one of the reasons why vouchers are causing a problem. Vouchers are a violation of the first amendment," Gilsdorf said. "It goes against the separation of church and state."

He said that the people of the community pay taxes so that kids could go to a public school, where they can

get free education.

The tax-payers are not paying to help the private schools. The private schools are supposed to supplement their own funds.

Vouchers could be given for various reasons he said.

One reason is that the parents of the child do not have the funds to pay for the private school.

Another reason is they don't like the

public school or the programs that the school offers.

Parents also have the concern that the teachers in the schools are less competent, Gilsdorf said.

"Parents want kids to go where the teachers will want the kids to learn," Gilsdorf said.

Vouchers have been challenged in court, but nothing has yet to be done he said.

War veterans receive high school diplomas

By Meredith Zendejas

Gerald F. Andrews is seventy-nine years old and will be graduating from Central High School this year.

Andrews, along with six hundred-eighty other veterans of World War II in Nebraska, will be receiving their diplomas from their old high schools from before they were drafted in to the war.

Keith Fickenschler, the Nebraska director of Veteran Affairs, said.

Andrews said he was drafted in the war in 1938 during his senior year. He said he served for three years in the South Pacific.

When he came back he said that he was married, so going back to school was not an option.

"I had to work to provide for my family," Andrews said.

Fickenschler said he heard about a similar program in Massachusetts doing the same thing.

He said that the main goal of the program was to honor those World War II men who sacrificed, at no charge, our freedom.

He said the second goal was to present the diplomas in a local school setting so young people could recognize the sacrifice that was made for our freedom at no charge, but also recognize that there was a price to pay.

Junior Meredith Rinaker said that it

is good that someone is taking the time to honor them.

Fickenschler said that they would not have to complete any formal test or take any classes to receive the diploma. All he said that they have to do is prove that they fought in World War II and were honorably discharged.



Andrews

He said that some of the reasons that the men did not go back to school was they had to support their family, like in the case of Andrews.

"I often thought of getting my diploma, but I would not have been able to take the tests," Andrews said.

Rinaker said that this shows how times have changed.

"Education has become a bigger deal, education is the center of what we do," Rinaker said.

When Andrews heard about how he could get his diploma he thought, "Why not? It would be a great feeling."

Principal Dr. Gary Thompson said that there are two veterans graduating from Central. He said along with Andrews is a George A. Matthews, who lives in North Platte.

"They did a great deal of service to our country and they deserve their diploma," Thompson said.

Dancing Queen



MEREDITH ZENDEJAS/THE REGISTER

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE Sophomore Melody Witcher is captain of the drill team at Central High School. The drill team was started this year at Central.



A closer look at Creighton, Iowa State, UCLA, and Georgetown.

Creighton University

Location: Omaha, Nebraska
Admissions: Average ACT score, 25.6
Greek System: 14 National fraternities and sororities
Tuition: Combined tuition, fees, room & board \$19,578
Housing: 1,699 (46percent) undergraduates live in the residence halls; 92 graduate/professional students also live in the residence halls
Athletics Highlights: Seven-straight Men's Soccer NCAA Tournaments, 1999 Men's Basketball Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Champions and NCAA participants
General Information: Creighton is a Catholic and Jesuit comprehensive university committed to excellence in its selected programs.

Iowa State University

Location: Ames, Iowa
Admissions: Average ACT score, 24.5
Greek System: 34 fraternity chapter houses, 20 sorority chapter houses, over the past 20 years has been consistently voted the most outstanding Greek system in the Midwest
Undergraduate Enrollment: 21,035
Tuition (non-resident): \$9,152
Room and Board: \$3,958
Housing: 19 Residence halls for single students, 74 university apartments for single students, 1002 university apartments for families
General Information: More than 100 majors are offered in eight colleges, however Iowa State puts an emphasis on areas related to science and technology.

UCLA (University California at Los Angeles)

Location: Los Angeles, California
Total Enrollment: 35,000
Tuition (non-resident): \$12,400
Room and Board Costs: \$5800 to \$7600
Housing: Four traditional high-rise residence halls, three new halls in Sunset Village, and two complexes of apartment-like suites. Off-campus housing involves University operated apartments and numerous privately owned apartments and rooms. Rooms in the UCLA residence halls come with plug-in access to the Internet, email, phone service, cable television, and FM radio.
Athletics: Over the last decade no school has matched UCLA's combination of NCAA team and individual championships, football bowl games, and men's basketball NCAA tournament appearances.
General Information: You can dine, bank, shop, work out, visit a doctor, enjoy a show or simply take a stroll in the park without ever leaving UCLA's 419-acre campus.

Georgetown University

Location: Washington DC
Admissions: Average SAT Verbal 666-716, Math 663-716
Undergraduate Enrollment: 6,176
Tuition: \$31,000
Acceptance Rate: 22.5 percent
Housing: In addition to traditional residence hall settings, Georgetown offers several special interest options including a Volunteer/Community Service floor. A recent addition is the "Live It" program, in which students who live on the same floor enroll in a common course and participate in weekly seminar style discussions with faculty.
Athletics: Georgetown has 24 varsity athletic teams at the Division I level, as well as an intramural program with league and tournament competitions.
General Information: The college offers 27 traditional majors and several interdisciplinary programs. It is also committed to need-blind admissions, and has abundant foreign study opportunities.

Street school provides home for at risk youth

By Meredith Kalina

A building will serve as a place to house many North Omaha youth ministries, and has given the Omaha Street School reason to be grateful, Lori Parsons, co-founder of the school and office administrator, said.

Parsons said that the Omaha Street School is a Christian school for at risk teens who were kicked out of or dropped out of high school.

The school opened in January, has already grown to twenty five students and they come from all over Omaha she said.

Parsons said that the school is a regular high school with changing class periods and four full time teachers.

"We're really excited about the things that are happening at the Omaha Street School," she said.

Parsons said that when she and her husband moved to Omaha to start the school. The Genesis Foundation gave them their first grant to get the school started.

"Grants and personal support is how we keep running, and we appreciate it a lot," she said.

The Genesis Foundation is the organization which recently purchased the old Nebraska School for the Deaf and will now use it for North Omaha youth ministries of various types, such as the Omaha Street School.

Parsons said that at first the

Genesis Foundation began looking to buy the property.

"We are really excited about the things that are happening at the Omaha Street School."

—Lori Parson, co-funder of the Omaha Street School

Church, where it is held now.

"We will have more space, and it will feel more like the structure of a school building with classes and more of our own space," Parsons said.

Bob Gjere, the Genesis Foundation

co-founder and president, said that the new facility was purchased to serve as a ministry tool for North Omaha churches and their individual youth ministries.

"We purchased the building in order to build up area churches and to minister to their needs," he said.

Gjere said that they have helped children go to summer camps and have helped fund minority internships at several ministry sites.

Gjere said that they plan to partner up with many area ministries such as Young Life ministries and the Good News Bear Club to help them further their ministries with resources and space.

He said that they mainly just want to be an encouragement to other organizations that want to help youth.

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Grant given for Spanish aid in OPS

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Although the training will focus mainly on the Spanish language, Mayberger said that the funding will not be used solely to help the Spanish-speaking ESL students.

"The training will help all ESL students no matter what their first language is," she said.

In addition to the teacher training, Mayberger said that the district will also use the funding to help create "family centers" where parents may receive materials to help teach their student English at home.

Ningning Li Central junior and former ESL student said that she believes that this parental involvement in the learning process is a key for students learning English.

However, she said that she does not think that the extra funding will be very effective if the parents do take the initiative to teach their child English on their own.

"If parents aren't going to make an effort on their own, then they won't do anything when it is provided to them," Li said.

Also, Li said that the money might be better spend showing parents the need to teach their child English.

She said that she believes that parents often do not feel the need to teach their child English and therefore the child is not motivated to learn the language.

"Parents need to see the need to teach their kids English," she said.

Mayberger said that the family centers may be located inside of a school building or at other locations throughout the city.

No locations have been chosen yet for the family centers, she said.

Also, Mayberger said that the money would be used to create a program in the schools where students may go when they do not know any English.

Golden said that such a program is very necessary to the ESL program as a whole.

"Some people come here who have never been to school or exposed to English a day of their life," she said.

However, Li said that she believes that even though they may be able to purchase materials and train teachers, the money will not help if the students do not work hard to learn the language.

"They [ESL students] need to work harder," Li said. "And if they don't work harder, then they don't deserve the funding."

OPS was one of eight school districts around the nation to receive this type of grant at the present time, Mayberger said.

The federal government has only awarded this type of Title VII grant two other times in the past to 16 other school districts, she said.

QUALIFIERS PREPARE FOR ALL-STATE

By Jenny Nelson

This year's Annual All State Music Concert, sponsored by the Nebraska Music Educators, promises to be a challenging and prestigious event for all students involved, the band director at Central High School said.

Pete Wilger said, "To be considered one of the best [musicians] in the state is quite an honor."

The All State Music Concert will be performed on Nov. 20 at the Lied Center in Lincoln, Neb. The musicians were given only two days to rehearse in Lincoln prior to the concert, Wilger said.

Seniors Heather Morehouse, Katrina Kerns, Elizabeth Eakins, Ellen Kiteley, Andrew Lieben, Matthew Smith, juniors Drew Billings, Bryan Fink, and sophomores Hallie Wunsch, Braden Nelson and Dwight Lewis, were selected All-State for chorus. The chorus alternates chosen are Seniors Lori Eiserman, Julie Russell, Vince Wesselman, Richard Riederer Jr. and Sophomore Timika Scott, Chorus director Lyn Bouma said.

Senior Maggie Day,

juniors Laura Chaney, Matthias Bracht, Noah Moe and sophomore John Orduna made All-State for orchestra, and Seniors Kerry Komar, Amy Linenberger and Junior Mitch Raftery made All-State for band. There are no alternates for orchestra or band, Bouma said.

Wunsch spent a few weeks preparing for the tryouts.

There were two workshops that hopeful candidates could attend, to prepare

fun for the

audition. Wunsch attended both of these workshops and worked with Central's vocal teacher Lyn Bouma to improve her chances.

Wunsch also plays the French horn and the trumpet, but she decided to try out for All State under the vocal category.

"I felt I had a better chance to make All State for vocal," Wunsch said.

Orchestra Director Molly Moriarty helped the orchestra and band hopefuls by listening to them. Wilger listened to orchestra and band students, also.

Ms. Moriarty and myself tried to listen to everybody," Wilger said. Moriarty said that most of the students take private lessons, but she and Wilger tried to help them as much as they could.

Sophomore Kaitlin Davis tried out but did not make All-State for orchestra. Davis did not attend the workshops.

"My private teacher was able to help me more in preparing because he knows me and has experience," she said.

Raftery decided to try out for All-State Band instead of chorus because he thought it would be more of a challenge.

He said that he went to one of the workshops, and that it "helped a lot."

Raftery said that he has never taken private lessons for his saxophone before.

"All-State is really neat because

it is where the best of the best [musicians] come together to play much more challenging music," he said.

Moriarty said that the All-State concerts are very prestigious, and that they are a chance for

student musicians to perform harder literature that they would not be able to in school.

Wilger and Moriarty said they believed that all the musicians who made it into the All-State concert deserved it. They also said that many who did not make it should have.



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER



MIKAYLA CHAMBERS/THE REGISTER

ABOVE: Amy Linenberger, Senior plays the flute. FAR LEFT: Mitch Raftery, Junior tutes on the saxophone. LEFT: Kerry Komar, Senior All State band member takes a break from the clarinet to smile at the camera.

An in-depth look at Westside's modular scheduling

By Courtney O'Malley

Today, Nov. 1, 1999, I chose to visit Westside High School.

8:55 a.m. I walked into the school, expecting to be scolded for being late because Westside High School starts at 8 a.m.; or, rather, homeroom starts at that time.

To my surprise, I found students lounging around, socializing and doing homework anywhere in the school. Students were at tables, on the steps or just sitting around what they called the courtyard.

For many students school starts at 8 a.m. Others are given the privilege of what Westside calls a late day, which may start as late as 11:44 a.m.

Westside has modular scheduling. The day is divided into 13 periods or mods. Mods one through four and

11 through 13 are 40 minutes long, while mods 5 through 10 are 22 minutes each. The 22-minute mods provide time to serve lunch and allow flexibility necessary to offer 60 or 80 minute class periods. The department of a particular subject determines the number of times the classes meet each week, information according to the Westside Bulletin.

I spoke with Westside's Vice Principal, Dr. Crook, who is a firm believer of modular scheduling.

"A good thing about Modular scheduling is that one with modular scheduling can almost take a whole

Crook said.

After finding Senior Chris Alford, the student I shadowed, we were off to begin a typical day of high school.

9:02 a.m. I attended AP Composition. Although it was the second mod of the day, it was the first class for Chris. The class was held in part of the auditorium. The students immediately found their seats.

Modular Scheduling is predicated on responsibility. It's not for everyone. This is why we also offer an alternative school," Crook

open campus to upperclassmen, students are allowed to venture wherever they are pleased in the school, that is, if they have an open studying period.

Although loitering in the hall is usually not permissible, no hall passes are needed.

I ended up settling in the Instructional Material Center, or what the students more commonly call the IMC.

A major component of modular scheduling is independent study. With open time on a schedule, students become responsible for many decisions. Upperclassmen are free to make choices regarding their independent studying time.

"It's the faculties belief that young adults can handle this freedom adequately and learn to make decisions on their own," Crook said.

10:25 a.m. I walked in the fourth mod, Bio-Chemistry. This class was 40 minutes. I noticed something rather peculiar. In both of the classes I have been to, the teachers handed me work and asked me for my homework in return, as if I regularly attended Westside.

As Chris and I were walking to

the next open mod, I was asked a question that surprised me. I was asked whether or not I wanted to eat lunch now or later on in the day. Freedom is extremely different from the three-assigned lunch periods at Central.

11:45 a.m. was time for European History. I've noticed something throughout the day, most of the classrooms had clocks. Actually the auditorium classroom had a clock, yet it had stopped at 9:00 clock!

12:32 a.m., now it was time for lunch! We decided to grasp our upperclassmen privilege and leave. We went to Godfathers. I thought was odd that if we wanted pizza just didn't go to the Pizza Hut inside Westside.

The reason for this was because it was closed. That seems like an odd reason, and this one is because pizza everyday for lunch doesn't exactly comply with school health codes.

Throughout the day, I had seen many new things, some of which puzzled me, some of which I really liked.

"I really like modular scheduling. It allows me to have a lot of freedom that most don't get," Alford said.

Modular Scheduling versus Regular Scheduling		Regular Scheduling	
HR	Mod	Monday	Tuesday
8:00-8:15			
8:20-9:00	1		Vocab
9:00-9:40	2	AP Comp	
9:40-10:20	3	Brucham	8. o'clock
10:20-11:00	4		
11:00-11:22	5		
11:22-11:44	6		Calculus
11:44-12:06	7	ESL History	Composition
12:06-12:28	8		

other semester of classes in the time from that it takes a student with regular scheduling four years," Dr.

9:45 a.m. was the first open period of the day. Because of the

By Jared Hart

you ask

The first time my girlfriend and I had sex, we didn't use any protection. Could she get pregnant? - Tyreese A

Diva B answers

Tyreese, dear -- The short answer is yes. Anytime you have sex, you run the risk of pregnancy. Another note, and you probably already know this, is that you can get sexually transmitted infections from unprotected intercourse. Okay, so now you know not to do it again. To avoid any future stress, use a condom each and every time you have sex. And don't forget Emergency Contraception. It can help prevent pregnancy when taken within 72 hours (three days) after sex. Abstinence is the only way to be sure you're 100% protected. In the end, you can take matters into your own hands and keep you and your girlfriend safe. -- Diva B

know more

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Ask Diva B at divab@navix.net.

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School board prohibits door-to-door selling

By Andrew Danford

Out of concern for students' safety, the Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) school board recently voted unanimously to ban door-to-door fundraising activities in the district, School Board President Dr. John Langan said.

However, the measure does not eliminate all fundraising from the district, Langan said.

It only prevents students from selling items door-to-door in order to raise funds for the school.

He said that he did not want to put students at risk when there are other ways to raise the funds for the schools.

"Kids were carrying big business on their backs at the cost of school safety," he said.

He said that he believes schools should use means such as carnivals and flat donations to raise money and not fundraiser sales.

Former President of the district-wide council of parent teacher organizations Tim Barry said that his group presented the idea for the measure in order to provide a standard for the entire district.

Prior to this measure, there were no rules regulating fundraising activities for the schools in the district, he said.

"We just saw a lot of different things going on across the district," he said. "There were no coherent standards district-wide."

Barry said that he does not want to see fundraising in general stopped. He said that he simple believes that there are better ways to raise money for schools.

"We are not saying 'Eliminate fundraising altogether,'" he said, "but the practice of fundraising needs to be looked at."

Barry said that he would like the fundraisers that schools put on to have some educational value to the students and make the community more involved in the school.

He said that he believes that carnivals, talent shows and other projects that schools work on are a better solution than selling products door-to-door.

Also, Barry said that the traditional fundraisers do very little to help make money for the schools in the long run.

"The bottom line is this," he said, "fifty to 80 cents out of every dollar goes back to the companies."

Langan also said that the companies often make more money from the door-to-door fundraisers than the schools.

"I have lots of objections to these companies getting rich off of

students," he said.

Barry said that recently there has been a movement to ban door-to-door fundraising across the country.

In fact, the national parent teacher organization has a policy against door-to-door fundraising, he said.

He said that there was an incident in New Jersey where a student was killed while going door-to-door fundraising about two years ago.

Also, Barry said that incidents of school violence have brought safety to a higher place in the public mind and are behind recent movements to eliminate door-to-door fundraising.

Langan said that in the 1970's,

two students were killed in Omaha while going door-to-door.

However, Junior Paige Jenkins, junior, said that she believes that door-to-door fundraising is not a very large safety concern in the grand scale of things.

"When I think about what we do on a daily basis that is dangerous," she said, "going door-to-door is not very dangerous."

Jenkins said that she believes that the school board should have examined issues that pose more of a threat to school safety before they stopped door-to-door fundraising.

"It was just a waste of [the school board's] time," she said.

Student Democrats exercise their free speech

By Ally Freeman

For years students have struggled to find their place in society, but one group is trying to get teenagers' opinions and ideas heard around the community, a sponsor of the program said.

English teacher and Student Democrat sponsor at Central High School Donna Noll said that recently the organization, Student Democrats, started a chapter at Central High School.

Noll said Student Democrats began because there were a number of Central students already participating in the city wide program and they saw a need for a Student Democrat organization at Central.

"I thought more people would participate in the citywide program if we had one here," Noll said.

Junior Ningning Li, is one student who joined after Central started their own chapter.

Li thinks it important that students keep part in what they are supposed to do.

"Student Democrats is not about being a politician, its about what politicians are supposed to do," Li said.

Li said that since Central has their own Student Democrats, it will be easier for interested students to join an organization where they can speak their opinions.

Noll said that one reason she was inspired to help charter this organization at Central was that she personally has been a political activist for a number of years.

It is important for this type of activity so students can have their voices heard, Noll said.

Noll said it is also important because next year is a presidential election year and many of Central's students will be eligible to vote.

"Students who get more involved in politics and community will be more likely to vote," Noll said. "Then we will have a voting nation."

Gary Di Silvestro, adult advisor to the citywide Student Democrat

organization said he and others started the group in 1996 after many students volunteered in the presidential campaigns.

Many of those same students wanted to stay involved in politics and other community affairs, Di Silvestro said.

He said that this organization helps students grow to become more confident and involved in the community.

"Not only does it help the individual, but as a group they can accomplish more," Di Silvestro said.

Junior Christian Hoeger said that the organization interested her because her family had a long history of being involved in politics.

She said it helps keeps students informed on what is happening throughout the community.

Hoeger hopes having a Central Di Silvestro said Student Democrats was the main driving force behind the recently opened skate park.

"Several students had expressed interest and made it their number one project," he said.

Student Democrats lobbied council members, did research on other skate parks around the country, and finally presented their proposal to the city.

"This [skate park] was an example of how they worked as a group to get something accomplished," Di Silvestro said.

Along with the skate park, another major event the organization produces is a monthly open microphone night, he said.

Students can come enjoy themselves and perform, Di Silvestro said.

Additionally, Student Democrats run a one-half hour television program on Cox Cable.

The program contains students talking about politics, often interviewing some of Omaha's elected officials, he said.

He said the main goal of the organization is to help build the Democratic Party, while involving students in their community.

Swing Kids




GET DOWN!
Sophomore Lanie Gabriel shows off her swingin' dance moves.

SWING, BABY! Junior Jenny Storm and sophomore Dwight Lewis put on their dancing shoes for the A Cappella Swing Dance.

CLAIRE DEVNEY/THE REGISTER

Students flip for swing dance

By Melissa Angelo

Central A Cappella choir sponsored a swing dance in the Central courtyard Oct. 29 from 8 - 11p.m.

The swing dance was a success with about 62 students attending.

Students bought their tickets ahead of time, and the cost was \$5.

Vocal Music Department Teacher Lyn Bouma said the reason why the swing dance was so early this year is they are planning for two swing dances.

The next swing dance will probably be held in January.

Central jazz band played the first half of the swing dance.

Senior A Cappella President Matt Smith, helped instruct the students who wanted to learn how to swing and was also the disc jockey after the jazz band finished playing.

"The swing dance last year we sold 120 tickets, this year we sold a little bit more than half of what we sold last year," Smith said.

Smith said the reason for the small amount of students attending this dance because it was Halloween weekend, end of football season, and the school play "South Pacific."

Junior Andrea Gatzke, also helped instruct the students who didn't know how to swing making the dance lively.

"I learned how to swing when I lived in Denver. My eighth grade teacher formed a dance club after school to teach the students how to swing", Gatzke said.

Sophomore Sloan Dawson, jazz band saxophonist played a solo at the beginning of the dance.

"Friday's swing dance was a great opportunity for Central's Jazz Band to perform for the student body. We played a nice selection of swing ballad and Latin tunes for the dancers," Dawson said.

Burke senior Aaron Sattler said the courtyard was spectacular, and he liked the open way of the people.

Junior Ningning Li said the parents were

really great about donating food and beverages.

Junior Toccarra Washington, an A Cappella member, said she attended the swing dance event last year and she had a great time.

Senior Julia Jahn, senior class activities coordinator, said she had no idea how to swing but she had fun watching everyone else.

Junior Ben Beck, A Cappella member, said A Cappella was the perfect organization to host the swing dance.

"So many members of the choir appreciate swing-style music and dancing so who better to raise money for?" said Beck.

Junior Jenny Storm said it was her first year coming and she had fun.

"I had a swinging good time," Storm said.

Proceeds from the swing dance will go towards the A Cappella trip to Madison, Wisconsin and Chicago.

Participants gain recognition for technology honor society

By Jenny Nelson

The American Technology Honor Society (ATHS) is a fairly new organization at Central High School, designed to promote and recognize technological literacy in students, the ATHS founder at Central said.

Central Librarian Kristel Mayberry said that she formed the Central chapter of ATHS and appointed the members January of last year.

She said that this Honor Society is not as strict or prestigious as the National Honor Society (NHS), and

that she hopes it never will be, because she does not want to compete with NHS.

"ATHS has more of a flavor of an organization than an honor society," Mayberry said.

She said she believes that ATHS is more informal and kind of like a club.

Junior Joey Fehrman is president of ATHS at Central. He was one of the 20 students initiated last year. He said that the purpose of ATHS is to "promote technology."

One of the major differences between ATHS and NHS is that the required grade point average (GPA) to be in ATHS is much lower- only 3.0.

Mayberry said she believes that the lower GPA requirement would attract more students and get them more involved.

"The more the merrier," Fehrman said.

ATHS is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Technology Student Association (TSA), Mayberry said. President Bill Clinton invited the formation of ATHS on Oct. 10, 1995.

Students to be initiated were recommended by teachers of technology oriented curriculum, Mayberry said. Possible candidates were taken off of Central's honor roll list.

The list was then given to a School Council of five technology teachers.

Central Teachers Cherie Barg, Amanda Karpf, Tim Larson, Drew Thyden, and Peg Wheeler made the recommendations. The eligible students received a letter inviting them to join ATHS.

Sophomore Amy Schmadeke was one of the students inducted last year. She said that although she has not been able to do much with ATHS lately because of her busy schedule, she believes that it will be a worthwhile experience.

"I think that [ATHS] is a fun organization, and that my participation in it will look good on my transcript," Schmadeke said.

Many of the ATHS members have missed a lot of the meetings due to other extracurricular activities, and Mayberry said she was a little "disappointed in the return."

Both Mayberry and Fehrman said that part of the problem was that the meetings were too often.

Now, the meetings are once a month and mandatory. Fehrman said that now things are "getting better."

Fehrman said that there are many activities planned for this year.

ATHS was in charge of selling the leis for Hawaiian day during Spirit Week in October, and they plan on going bowling soon, he said.

"[We're going to] make it more fun," Fehrman said.

He said that over the summer he came up with a long list of technology related activities for the society to do.



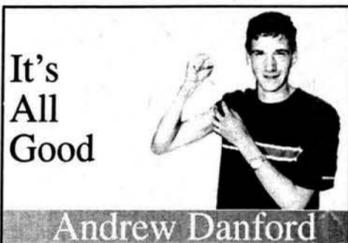
Perspectives

College Boards

Hate

Drug legalization

Tests control too much of future



It's All Good

Andrew Danford

The joys of college.
Getting a fresh start.
Making new friends.
Enjoying the freedoms of finally being on your own.
Taking all those lousy tests to get in.
But since when has test taking become such a big industry?
Why is there a section of books at Barnes & Noble devoted entirely to the strategy and practice books for the ACT and SAT?
You now, it's the shelf right next to the Cliffs Notes.
Why are programs offered by various agencies promising to help boost students'

scores on the exams?
Are they really that big of a deal?
Is that really what the tests are intended to be?
Concerned, and not to mention gullible, parents believing that if they just could buy their child the right books and computer software, their student will ace the test have created a new industry in America—the test taking industry.
I hope that it does not work that way.
These tests seem to have become a contest to see who can prepare the best for that specific test—not to see who knows the most.
Do the colleges really care that you could ace the SAT but just sit around for the rest of the time?
Go play a sport.
Go have some fun.
Go do anything else, but don't worry about these

tests.
A whole industry that does not need to be here had evolved out of the test taking business.
Now it seems that it is no longer the person who knows the most who scores the highest, but it is the person who knows how to play the system the best.
It is a crooked system.
Seminars are offered on test taking strategy. They have sprung out of the same root that the get-rich-quick and make-your-life-easier-in-only-six-easy-installments infomercials.
But is that really their intent?
Do they really care how you do on the test?
Is it just their pocketbooks that matter?
Books have been written and loaded with practice problems and "helpful" hints.
Go read a real book; it will help you out more in the long run.
People should use their time to prepare for life—not just for a single test.
The test only takes three hours. It

should not determine the fate of one person for the remainder of their life.
However, all too often these tests are promoted by counselors, parents and even peers as being all important.
I would be very disappointed if life were based entirely upon these tests.
When was the last time that someone came up to you on the street and asked you "Leaf to tree as grass is to _____?"
Should someone's existence be determined by scores and percentages? 1600/36?
Can these scores make a person happy? Maybe briefly, but in the end they will matter?
The whole system is too superficial.
The questions are cold and lifeless.
People should emphasize other aspects of life more than these tests.
Sit back. Relax. Don't break your number two pencil. It's not worth it.
If only people could do this, the world would be a better, not to mention more fun place.
Oh well. It can't all be good.

Top Ten signs you won't get into college

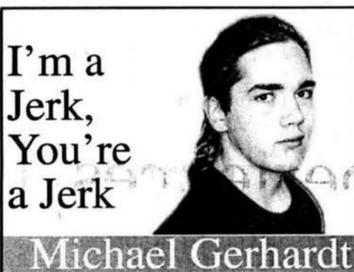
1. You failed the French Fry test.
2. Your diploma came on a used tissue.
3. You are failing Saturday school.
4. You filled the ovals on your SAT in the shape of a Kitty cat.



5. Your college thesis was a prize in a cereal box.
6. Your backpack contains one book and 40 admits.
7. Your idea of an extracurricular activity is watching SportsCenter and eating Cheese Balls.
8. You legally placed an order for a keg for your graduation party.
9. Your son is just one grade behind you.
10. You can count your ACT score on one hand.

Principal
Dr. Gary Thompson
Advisor
Matt Deabler
Opinion Page Editor
Michael Gerhardt

Parrot people infiltrate Central



I'm a Jerk, You're a Jerk

Michael Gerhardt

Parrot people. They're everywhere.
They're in our cities.
They're in our homes.
They're definitely in our schools.
You know some. Some of your friends might be parrot people. Your parents, relatives, your neighbors, any one of them could be a parrot person.
Parrot people are those who just regurgitate information people tell them. They don't even think when regurgitating information, they blindly accept it as fact.
You can't escape them. They can only be

destroyed by one thing. Only one thing can be done to stop them from taking over
Think for yourself, don't be a moron.
Parrot people come in many different forms. There's a regular parrot person, (also known as an "idiot") who just wanders through life, barfing up actions and doing whatever their peers or society tell them to. Along with these rather harmless people, come a very different breed of parrot people. Racists. Bigots. (Also known as "shut up, no one cares what you say, go live in a cave and make a wife out of corn husks.") They're the people who condemn people just because they're different from them. The people who need to be deported to a small island far away, such as Samoa.
The regular parrot person, as mentioned before, doesn't really cause a lot of problems. They don't spread any negative messages, they don't really harm any property, and they just stumble a long. Usually, the just end up spending money on a lot of things they're not sure if they want.
So, for instance, your regular parrot

person does whatever their friends or society convinces them that they should be doing to be cool. If they're convinced that it would change their standing on the social scale for the better, they will gladly let themselves be mauled by a pack of rabid robotic wolverines, a parrot person might do this without a second thought. A normal parrot person is an idiot, but they don't really cause any problems in society.
But then comes the harmful parrot people, there's a totally different story. Harmful parrot people learn their hate and filth from people who preach it to who ever will listen. They're brainwashed since birth, taught by their inbred parents to hate and fear those derved (place group or race here). And their inbred parents learned it from their inbred parents, who learned it from their inbred parents, until eventually the reason why they hate these people is lost in an inbred haze.
Harmful parrot people are the jerks who spray paint swastikas on a synagogue and desecrate the graves of people who died needlessly. They lead the mass marches on the

homes of interracial couples; they hold signs at people's funerals saying, "God hates gays." They lynch, they degrade and sometimes they even kill.
Harmful parrot people's minds are filled with stereotypes and preconceived ideas. They assume that since a guy has long hair, he's a truck abusing, wife-beating smoker. If he wears the slightest hint of black, he's a Satanist as well. If a girl wears any article of Ambercrombie or American Eagle clothing, she's a stuck up, preppy rich girl.
They don't have to worry about thinking they can easily assume everything about anybody by such meaningful things as what kind of clothing they wear.
Harmful Parrot people are some of the largest wastes of life in the world. I'm going to do all of you slobos out there a big favor and tell you something that everyone else wanted to tell you, but never did: No one cares about your hateful filth you spew out. Shut up. Go far away. Far far away. Every semi-coherent person wishes you would crawl into a very small hole and die.

Drug war means nothing



I'm Better Than You

Jared Hart

There is no war on drugs.
I don't know why people act like putting away a few drug dealers makes a difference. The war on drugs is only going to stop after the average Joe gets unhooked. And the DARE program does nothing.
Every one of the tokers I know in high school, once upon a time, was a graduate of the DARE program. Somehow there is irony in the fact that some of the biggest drug addicts I know still wear their 'dare to resist drugs' t-shirts.
But for whatever reason parents feel that if their child goes through the dare program in fifth grade, it has anything to do with their decisions in high school. Guess what?
I really don't know what the point of the DARE program was, but I think it had something to do with teaching kids how to say no. Like there are pushers running the streets of Omaha forcing children to snort crack. That only happens in the legislative branch of our fine government.
If anything DARE had the opposite effect on children. I learned more about drugs those five weeks than all through my adult life.
The DARE program didn't really tell the down side of drugs. In fifth grade I learned that speed makes you work harder and faster, without feeling tired. Hey, where can I get myself some of that? If I took DARE again I could probably find out.

It's not the just the DARE program. It's any program target to the oh-so enthusiastic fifth grade. Even the GREAT program targeted at middle school did not work.
Why don't we Dare to keep cops off doughnuts, we might have a better success rate. Even on a federal level there is no war on drugs. Liddy Dole said seventy percent of all convictions are for drugs every year. If the government had any cahones at all they would legalize drugs.
Think about that. People are going to get their drugs one way or another. It takes too much time and money to stop the drug trade. Give it up.
Even if we did sell bud at the corner Kum and Go, is there a problem with that? No really? So we can sell the most addictive substance to eighteen-year-olds and the only last legal drug to kids over 21, but no reefers?
I think we should sell marijuana in place of alcohol. Why? Because it smells better and people drive a lot better with it.
Think about it. Kids are going to get their tweed either way, why not just tax the dickens out of it? Is there a problem with selling it? Marijuana is nonaddictive and cheaper than cigarettes anyway.
And all that drug traffic cocaine that is so prominent on the streets, just bring it back in that good old fashioned Cocaine Cola.
Why replace caffeine with traditional crack. How's that for a late night study session. I can guarantee you would score higher in history.
But that will never happen. Because if Clinton ever decided to actually stop the drug trade, the apocalypse would roll around. Mysteriously, various South American countries would collapse. Oh no, not because Columbia sells drugs in America, no.
So to help out the rest of the world, Clinton allows drugs to roam the streets of America. Don't you love the U.S.?



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Perspectives

Hatecrimes

Letters to the Editor

Single sex education

Register Your Opinion

"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 single sex classrooms would benefit education?



No. You need to learn to work with all kinds of people and understand them better.

Lucas Matyja, 9



No. You don't get used to being with the opposite sex for job environments and marriage.

Kirsten Leahy, 10



Yes. Students should focus on the lesson, rather than the opposite sex.

Kathy Maloney, English teacher

Hatecrimes need harsh punishments

Aaron McKinney was sentenced to two life sentences on Nov. 4, 1999, for the cold blooded slaying of gay college student Matthew Shepard.

McKinney's friend, Russell Henderson also participated in the crime, and is also serving two life sentences. These sentences are what are needed to demonstrate that hate crimes are not accepted in America.

After an unwanted advance on McKinney by Shepard, McKinney and Henderson lured Shepard to a remote location, pistol-whipped him multiple times and tied him to a fence where he was left to die. They also stole \$20, his shoes and two credit cards. Shepard was later found and taken to a hospital, where he suffered for five days before dying of head wounds.

The sheer inhumanity of this crime deserves a punishment as harsh as was given. Any person who can commit such an atrocious crime deserves to be separated from all humans, and have his rights and privileges taken away.

Anyone who could commit such a terrible crime and have such a massive disregard for human life does not deserve to live with humans.

Along with harsh punishments, other things could be done to stop hate crimes. Education could easily help keep such crimes from occurring. Teaching children when they are young not to hate is an easier way to keep them from committing atrocious crimes, but it is still a very difficult thing to do.

Classes that teach tolerance would help to teach hateful people to learn to live with each other, if nothing else. Classes such as these should be mandatory along with all jail sentences.

These sentences set a precedent that hate crimes will not be tolerated. Harsh sentences demonstrate that hate crimes will be quickly punished and strictly enforced. They display the American belief that one has the right to live as they choose and how they want.

This precedent that these sentences sets helps all of America with tolerance and acceptance. If nothing else, it will make people think twice about committing hate crimes.

Editorial

The opinion of The Register



Think about what you are saying before it is said



None of it has any value." The words that came from her mouth were so simple. The sarcasm in her voice could be easily detected, and so I forced myself to laugh. My body was filled with a million emotions at once. Anger. Disbelief. Disappointment. Pain.

I knew she was joking. She said it herself, but that did not make hurt any less. The hours I had put into that project. The effort everyone had used. It was pointless? It had no value? I almost cried over those simple words. Simple, yet powerful. Maybe she was not joking. Maybe she really did think it was worthless. My work, our work was worthless. Sometimes when people are joking, they say things. Things they do not see as harmful. I understood, and so I did not cry. But that does not mean I did not hurt. "You are so stupid." The words tore through me, ripping out my heart. People had called me stupid before, and I never cared very much. Maybe I knew they

were joking. Maybe I knew they were just as stupid. But from him? My brother. My protector. He who never did anything wrong. He who never failed. Him, the genius. He was more intelligent than I, and I knew it. So did he. Maybe to him—maybe from his point of view—I really was "so stupid." He knew which buttons to push, and this one set off a bomb inside me. He was just mad and we had been arguing. My mom told me he did not mean it. He apologized. But it did nothing. He was sorry. He will always be sorry. He was just upset. He was angry and the words came to his mouth so easily.

I was upset and the words were not so easy to take back. I knew on the surface that what my mother said was true, but deep down a knife cut through my heart, leaving a wound that could never heal. When people are mad they say things, things they do not mean. I understood. I forgave, but I could not forget. People say things, things they do not really mean to say. It is just a fact of life. I have done it before, but so has everyone else. Does that make it right? Does that make it hurt less? Words are powerful. Words hurt. Words scar. And once they have been said, they can never be taken back.

Single gender classes take away experiences

In the past public schools has always been a learning environment that involved both the sexes. Separating boys and girls in the classroom sound good, but realistically it is taking a valuable part away from the learning experience. Separating sexes occasionally for classes like sexual education have been considered common place, but schools in California and around the country are offering math, science and language arts by gender. The thinking is that girls and boys will be able to perform better without the tension of the opposite sex. Girls often feel intimidated by

boys in subjects like math and science. This could lead to low test scores and poor class performance. Girls and boys may feel more comfortable when they are surrounded by their own sex. This sense of comfort could allow them to gain more out of the lesson. Segregating students is not the answer for improving the learning experience. Boys and girls need to learn to work together at an early age. They need to learn how to establish positive working relationships early on with the opposite sex. These relationships are vitally important late in life. Students are missing out on the viewpoints held by the opposite sex.

We live in a world that includes both the sexes, so it makes sense to be educated in atmosphere with both the genders. If students were segregated, it would take away from the "real world" experience of school. School is essentially training for adult life and the workplace, and by segregating boys and girls it is robbing them of valuable training for later on. If boys and girls do not learn to work together at an early age, the harder it will be when they reach adolescence and adulthood. In sexual education, the presence of both boys and girls is vital. It may be uncomfortable for the students but it is a necessity.

After all boys and girls will have to deal with sexual issue whey they begin serious relationships. So naturally, childhood and adolescence is the best time to start discussing sexuality between boys and girls in a classroom environment. Keeping boys and girls together in school seems to be the right answer. Exposing children to the opposite sex will pay off later in life. If the ability to work with the opposite gender is instilled in students, it will yield more successful working and personal relationships. Making students feel comfortable around each other will eliminate the need for single sex education in public schools.

The Register

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LETTERS, E-MAIL & FAXES

Central experiences last forever

The Register's September 27th edition contains an article in which Jared Hart declares that "High schools is meaningless," that "Central is not that big a deal," that "no matter who you meet, who you date, in ten years no one will be concerned with your wasted life," and that "On the college scene, no one [will care] if you did anything important," while languishing in Central's "juvenile abyss."

It is clear that Jared Hart is trying to make a name for himself by throwing out outrageous statements to get rise out of people, but this time he has gone too far. What he says is not only irresponsible, but also dead wrong.

A large percentage of my classmates and I returned to Omaha last month to attend our fifty-fifth Central High School reunion. I traveled all the way from my home in Massachusetts, and others took the time and trouble to come from as far afield as Hawaii, Texas and Florida. After more than half a century, we still found ourselves still bound together in genuine friendship, and there was common agreement amongst us that our four years at Central were among the most important of our lives. Those of us fortunate enough to go on to college

(I took my BA at Yale and my MA at Cornell) all continue to feel that, without the solid educational laid at "Ye Old Bastille," we could never have built such happy and successful lives as we have.

Mr. Hart may genuinely believe that "High school is nothing; it means nothing now, nor will it ever mean anything," but if so, he is sorely misguided. Your years at Central can be the most rewarding and productive of your lives, if only you approach them with a positive and constructive attitude and pull your oar with the rest.

Jarvis M. Freymann, Central High's class of 1944

Guns require responsibility

Tighter gun control isn't the answer. The need for better parenting. I've had a gun for over two years now and have moved onto my second and then onto my third. The guns are registered under my father's name, but I paid for two and the other was a 13th birthday present.

We keep our guns locked up, not because of me, but because of the fact that we live in a bad neighborhood and don't know who could get a hold of them.

if they were stolen. Teenagers aren't buying guns, they are stealing them. So making it harder to buy a gun is only going to hurt the person who needs protection.

I have access to these weapons, any time I want. But when I go out I use my head and don't misuse my weapons.

It's the people that misuse their weapons and hurt or kill people that should be given the death sentence. I'm from a bad part of town and I know better than to shoot someone for pointless reasons like, street colors. I've been shot at, shot over and I've had every window in my house broken out by bricks or baseball bats. Even with that, no one in my family has shot back.

People should have to take a "common sense" test to be able to own anything remotely dangerous.

But a waiting period is senseless. All a waiting period is going to do is delay a crime because if someone has a criminal record chances are they already know what they are going to do with it. So if one person doesn't sell to him or her another person will.

Josh Contreras, 11

Bible Contains Truth

I disagree about evolution and it being told. I think if they're going to teach it they should teach the truth,

and the truth is in the bible. Everything we want to know about when the world is going to end, to where we are going is in the Bible.

Bakari Jackson, 11

Students need open minds

I recently read your article "State Debate Over Teaching Evolution," by Rebecca Rennard. It was a terrific article and she did a good job of covering it. The interviews with the science teachers and students were good.

I agree with most of the science teachers opinions that evolution should be taught to students so they can keep an open mind.

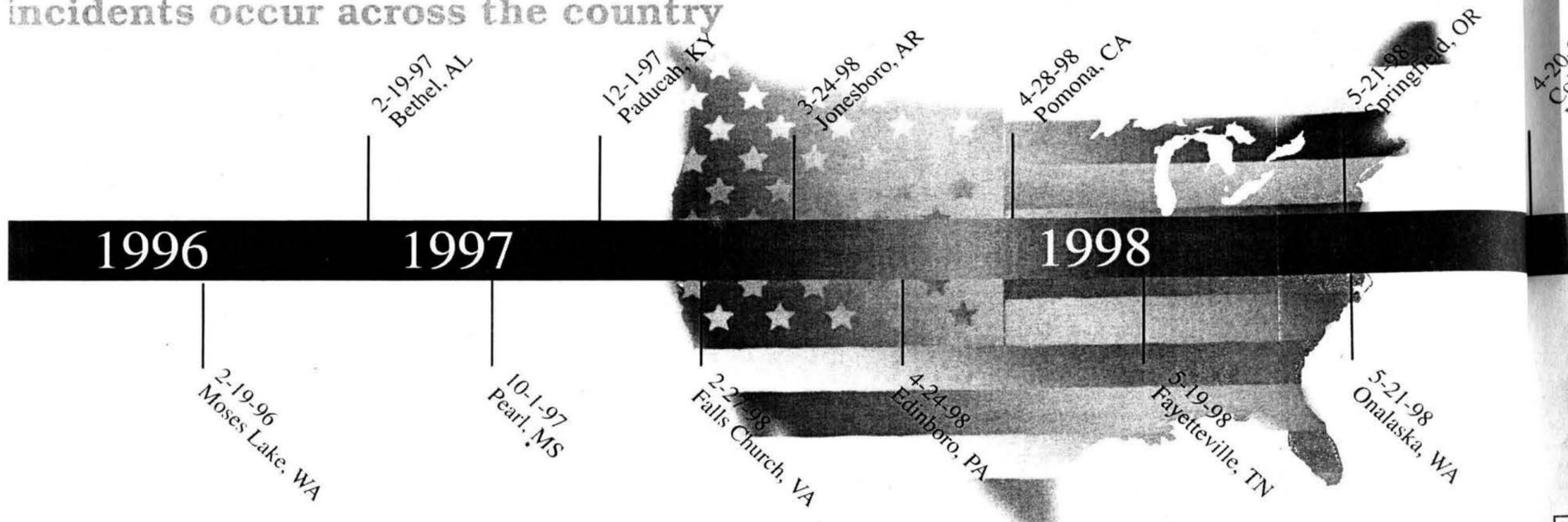
The students don't necessarily have to believe it, but they should know it exists. However, when it is brought up in the classrooms, it brings up some arguments. I believe the student should be able to speak their mind, but also at the same time listen to what the teacher has to say.

Jason Domonkos, 12

When writing a letter to the editor, please include your full name and grade.

School Violence... A problem across the country

Recent school homicides, violent incidents occur across the country



Violent students spur development of a new computer risk assessment program

By Jenny Nelson

An increasing concern in school violence has caused many people and companies to begin developing methods to prevent violence and to detect violent characteristics in young students. In a joint effort by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and a threat-evaluation company, a new computer program is being developed to achieve these goals.

Gavin de Becker Inc., a private software company in California, has developed a series of Mosaic programs. These programs are intended to help officials discern real threats of violence. Gavin de Becker Inc. has made risk-assessment programs for the past ten years, according to the company.

The newest program, known as Mosaic-2000, is aimed at detecting a potential for violence in students.

The new program begins testing at more than 20 schools in December, according to the company.

Mosaic-2000 is intended to bring uniformity, structure, expert opinion and validity to high stakes evaluations. National Violence Prevention Consultant for the Hazeldon Foundation,

What if a kid is identified as a violent person and it turns out years later that [the test] was scored wrong?

Kathryn Piller, National Violence Prevention Consultant for the Hazeldon Foundation

Consultant for the Hazeldon Foundation,

Kathryn Piller has concerns about the Mosaic Program.

She said her main concern about programs like Mosaic-2000 is that they will end up labeling good kids as violent.

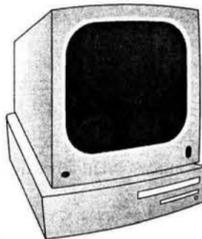
Sophomore Hallie Wunsch said that she doesn't exactly agree with the Mosaic-2000 program.

"You can't label students," she said.

Piller said that this program is intended to give students a psychological profile, but she said that she is afraid that it will just brand kids.

"What if a kid is identified as a violent person and it turns out years later that [the test] was scored wrong?" Piller asked.

She said she doesn't think that a "quick fix"



JARED HART/
THE REGISTER

is all that is needed.

She said that many students do not get enough consequences for their actions, good or bad. She said that she believes there is a problem with the system.

Central Dean of Students Darrel Lahmann said he thinks that the Mosaic program would be time consuming if distributed to all of the students at Central.

He said that he doesn't think it is something that must be administered to everyone at Central.

Lahmann said, however, that he thinks that if this program is proven commendable, it would be worth the time.

Senior Katie Ruben said that she would not want to take the Mosaic-2000 test.

"It would be a violation of me," she said.

Ruben said that she thinks that the program could work if it were distributed to students at an early age. She said she believes that people learn more in the first couple of years of their lives than the rest of their lives.

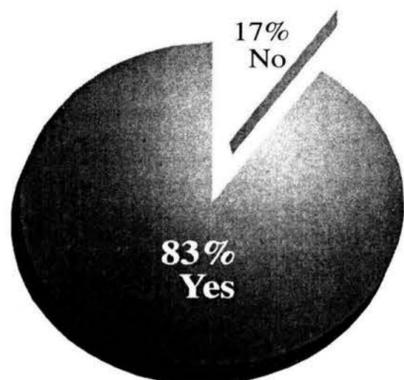
Junior Clint Lloyd said he believes that it is okay to test people with the Mosaic programs.

However, he said, people should not be treated any differently, depending on the results of the test, until they have actually done anything negative in society.

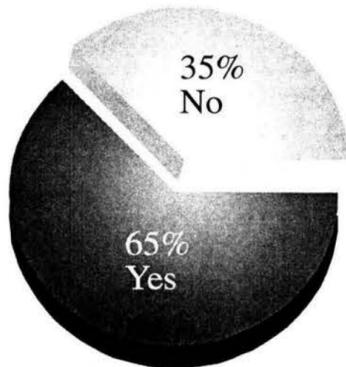
"Just because a person's mind thinks [the way it does] doesn't mean he or she is a bad person," Lloyd said.

Do you feel that the media blows school violence out of proportion?

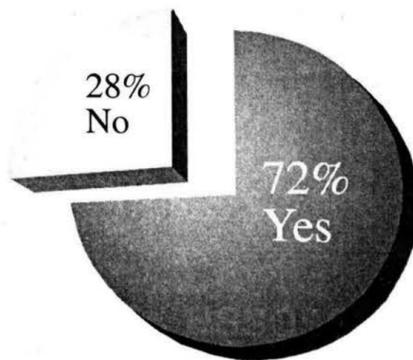
Do you feel safe at Central?



Do you feel that the media blows school violence out of proportion?



Do you feel that violence in schools is a problem in this country?



117 STUDENTS POLLED
JARED HART/THE REGISTER

School fights cause concern over safety

By Sarah Peterson

School violence is a growing concern for many people across the nation, an elected member of the Nebraska State Board of Education said.

Kathryn Piller, also a National Violence Prevention Consultant for the Hazeldon Foundation, said that violence in schools across Nebraska has been evident just since the beginning of this year.

"It's the same story in every state," Piller said. "People are bullying and there aren't enough consequences."

Central Dean of Students, Darrel Lahmann, said that there haven't been many fights at Central this year—only around ten.

"Central is harder on fights than other schools and therefore has fewer [fights]," Lahmann said. "If a conflict is even close to a fight a student will face a five day suspension."

A fight in Bryan High School's cafeteria on Oct. 26

ended in the death of a student, Luanne Nelson, director of Public Information with the Omaha Public School district, said.

Sophomore Jonathan Leggett, 15, died of head injuries he suffered during a fight with fellow student Francisco Salinas, Nelson said.

"The staff and students at Bryan have been greatly impacted by this event," Nelson said. "Their thoughts and sympathies are with Jonathan and his family."

Extra counselors were available for both students and staff after the incident, Nelson said.

Lahmann said that the incident at Bryan was a tragedy that could happen anywhere at anytime.

Piller said she felt that the school should have been closed after the incident.

"These are human beings who work and go to the school," Piller said. "I can't understand how school went on as usual the next day."

Issues of violence should be considered seriously, Piller said. Prevention of violence needs to begin early.

Piller said that she believes better discipline is one way that violence could be prevented.

She said that she feels that some teachers are too lenient, others too strict and some have no clue. Therefore, teachers send no clear messages to students.

"We need schools where everyone can work together so that kids can learn and teachers can teach," said. "People shouldn't have to be afraid to teach or to learn."

Piller said that going around the problem, such as hiring police officers, may work in the short run, but not in the long run.

Junior Laura Chaney said that she felt that a lot of schools were going around the problem by focusing time on keeping people out of schools, when most incidents at school involve students already in the building.

Piller said that she believes that mediation training should be emphasized for students, adults and teachers.

Lahmann said that the type of people who get into fights are mainly people who don't think things out very well.

20-99
Columbine High School
Littleton, CO

10-26-99
Bryan High School
Omaha, NE

1999

JARED HART/THE REGISTER
SOURCE: VIRGINIA YOUTH VIOLENCE PROJECT

5-20-99
Conyers GA

Violence decreases, school homicides increase

By Becki Chandler

New evidence has found that all types of violence in schools have been declining, although more attention has been given to recent homicides in schools, said a professor of Health and Education at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Professor Ian Newman said that the number of teens who carried a weapon to school has decreased, and the percentage is declining each year. In 1993, the number of students in the United States grades 9-12 who had carried a weapon within the last 30 days to school was at 35 percent and in 1997 the number had decreased to 33 percent.

According to the 1999 Annual Report on School Safety, incidents involving school violence have declined although homicides in schools have risen.

The report stated that overall school crime rates declined between 1993 and 1997 from about 155 school-related crimes for every 1000 students aged 12-18, to about 102 crimes for every 1000 students in 1997.

This decline is partially due to the fact that recent school shootings have given people a wake-up call of what can happen in society, Newman said.

"Media and the public can over emphasize these incidents but we have found that once a social problem is found, society often corrects it before it can become a problem," Newman said.

He also said that schools and communities have instituted a zero tolerance policy on incidents that can occur, such as the possession of weapons at school, which also contributes to the decrease.

Also, the School Safety Report states that fewer students are carrying weapons and engaging in physical fights on school grounds.

Between 1993 and 1997, there was a significant decrease in the percentage of high school students who carried a weapon to school within the past 30 days. These declines were similar across sex, grade and race/ethnic subgroups.

However, male students, younger students, and Black and Hispanic students were more likely than their peers to engage in such behaviors were.

Minority students and young students feel less safe

at school than other groups, the report stated.

Central Security Guard Charles Williams said that Central is a very safe school with occasional incidents that could happen anywhere.

Even though there is a feeling of safety at Central, a poll completed by *The New York Times* revealed that around 52 percent of students believed that an incident like Columbine could happen at their school. The other 48 percent believed that their school at least relatively safe.

Junior Mara Olesh said that she feels very safe at Central.

"I trust the security here at Central and I do not doubt their abilities to keep me and this school safe from anything that can happen," Olesh said.

Newman said that the number of young people who feel safe at school in Nebraska is very high and that school is one of the safest places a person can be.

Dr. Jerome Lord, senior associate for the United States Department of Education, agrees with Newman and believes that there is no indication that the average American school is dangerous.

Plans, such as placing police officers in schools have also been a contribution to the decrease, Williams said. He said that an officer was scheduled to be placed at Central, but the appointment has been delayed.

Many factors can lead to violence in school. Prejudices and racial comments have been found to be a large contribution Dean of Students, Julie Johnson, said.

Human relations is the best thing to reduce violence and increase grades, Newman said.

"If a student has an adult to confide in or relate to, much of the tension that can arise can be diminished," Newman said.

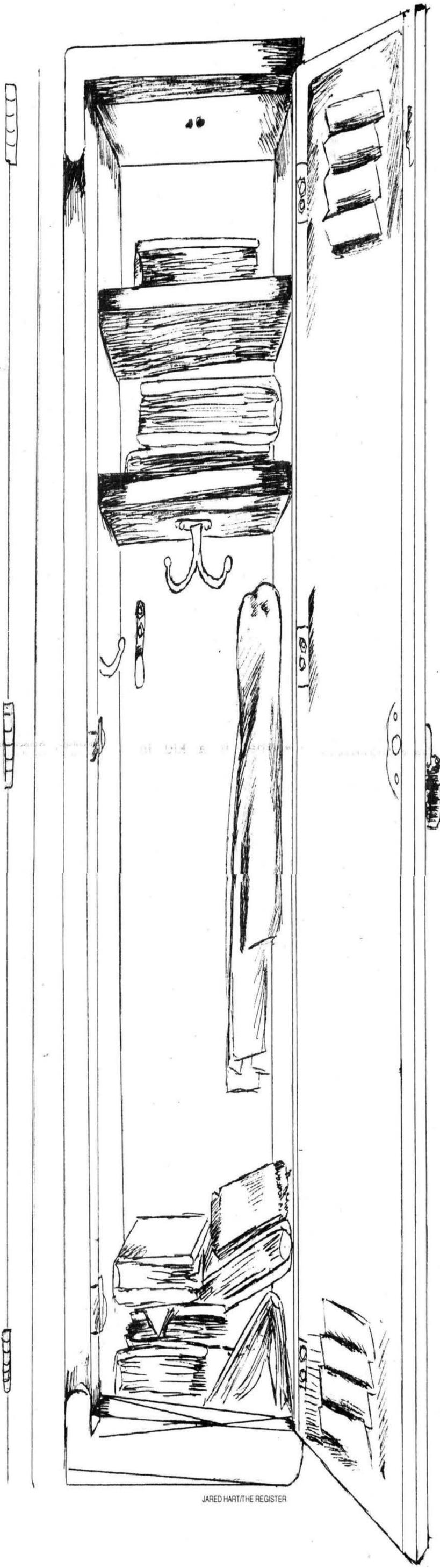
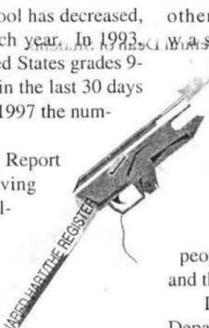
Lord said that now when a teacher or student is verbally threatened or insulted, it is taken more seriously.

Johnson said that many of the fights are spur of the moment and are started by conflicting emotions.

"Students need to realize when they are involved in a physical conflict, they are not just putting themselves at risk, but others as well," Johnson said.

Security Guard Russ Lane said that the presence of security and contribution of students have greatly assisted in keeping a safe environment.

"In a school with around 2400 people there is always a source for conflict," Lane said.



JARED HART/THE REGISTER

Tipper Gore addresses school violence

Tipper, continued from page 1

She said that funding for early identification programs may come from federal mental health grants that her husband would support as President.

Gore also said that she would like to see more local police officers in the schools to help serve as a deterrent for acts of violence.

"They [police officers in schools] have made the communities more interconnected with the schools and make the students feel safer," she said. "It just makes for a safer environment to have more police around."

Another aspect of community involvement in the schools that Gore promoted was mentoring and volunteering.

"Kids that are troubled can turn to these mentors for help and not to violence," she said.

Gore said that in several communities across the nation, volunteers, especially men, have served in the schools as mentors and helped cut down on violence.

"They [the volunteers and mentors] make it known that they will not tolerate any inappropriate behavior in school," she said.

She said that such community involvement in the schools would help the residents, especially the parents and students, to become empowered in the school system.

However, Gore said that although all these measures may help increase school safety, a combination of a number of these things would be necessary to make a significant impact on the overall incidence of violence.

Gore said that her husband would work as President to help pass all of these measures in order to increase school safety into the next millennium.



COURTESY OF CAPRICORN RECORDS

OMAHA BASED BAND 311 performed a sold out show at Sokol Auditorium on Oct. 19th. The eclectic rock band includes (l to r) SA Martinez, Chad Sexton, Tim Mahoney, P-Nut and Nick Hexum.

311 vs. George Clinton

Bands offer two excellent nights of dancing

By Stefanie Wulff

Completely different bands, same venue, different days, extremely opposite crowds, but same prices for bottled water.

311 and George Clinton. After the wave of energy passed through my body with the shock that I was actually going to go see 311 perform live, I planned out in my head how I was going to get the lead singer, Nick Hexum, to notice me in the crowd.

However, I am still Hexum-less.

After hearing the news that I received press passes for the George Clinton show five days later, I tried to remember if I had even heard his music.

Despite the fact that I was completely in love with 311 and hadn't even heard two songs of George Clinton, I was just as excited for both concerts.

George Clinton, the founder of Philadelphia funk, is a legend in himself. I had seen him in movies, magazines and television and I wanted to see him in person. The opportunity finally arose.

The first hype...the 311 concert.

After waiting an hour with hundreds of other people in 40-degree weather to get inside the small Sokol Auditorium, I was definitely hyped to see the band.

When I finally got inside, I was overwhelmed with hundreds of people and the smell of body odor. However, I was even more

excited.

Weaseling my way up to the stage was the hardest task. I had to latch on to a 6'2", 200 lb. guy and have him lead me through the masses of people trying to get as close as we could to the stage. I wanted to see Nick Hexum's nose hairs.

After waiting another 45 minutes for 311 to actually come on stage, I was starting to get annoyed. Oh well. I guess it's fair that everyone had to wait for everyone else to get in the door before the show started. It didn't help that the lines were four blocks long.

The show started and so did the pushing, jumping, sweating and yelling. I was in the front for about four songs and then my shoe came off. CRAP! At the worst possible moment. Fortunately, I found my shoe and slipped it back on, but I had had it with being in the middle of the "pushing pit."

As I inched my way backward, for my own safety of course, I began to enjoy the show much more without hundreds of people smashing into me.

I had never seen so many sweaty bodies in one place. I had never sweated so bad before, not even when I play volleyball for seven hours in a row. My clothes were drenched with water, sweat and other people's sweat (which is really disgusting).

Turn to 311, page 11

Broadway Theater Season 2000 brings musicals to Omaha

By Stefanie Wulff

Bright lights, big city, singing and dancing...Must mean one thing...BROADWAY!

The Broadway Theater Season 2000 is upon us and brought to you by Opera Omaha, the Assistant Marketing Director, Kathy Bass said.

Bass said that this is the fifth annual Omaha Broadway Season and this years featured shows are "Fame-The Musical," "Rent" and "Phantom of the Opera."

"The Omaha Theater Productions is a nice way to bring more theater into Omaha," Bass said.

"Fame-The Musical" is being shown at the Music Hall between the dates of Feb. 29

through March 5, while "Rent" and "Phantom of the Opera" are being shown at the Orpheum Theater, she said.

The first show, "Fame-The Musical" was first introduced as "Fame" the hit motion picture, then as the popular television series and now as the stage musical, Bass said.

"Fame-The Musical," which is composed by Steve Margoshes, focuses on the hopes, dreams and aspirations of a group of students attending New York's High School of Performing Arts, she said.

The musical tells of their four-year journey from auditions to graduation, she said. And the motto of the school is but of course, "Fame costs and this is where you start paying," Bass concluded.

"Rent," directed by Michael Greif, is showing from April 25-30.

The musical has won many prestigious awards such as four Tony Awards, a Pulitzer Prize and many other theatrical awards, she said.

"Rent" is a fresh 90's-style musical that mixes rock, soul, gospel, reggae, tango and pop music for an electric contemporary sound, Bass said.

It's a story of three couples (one straight, one gay and one lesbian) who are driven by the need to love and connect, she said. However, Bass said that the musical contains mature themes and mature music that calls for a mature audience.

And last but not least, perhaps the most

well known musical besides "Cats," Bass said, is the "Phantom of the Opera," which will be playing June 28- July 16 at the Orpheum Theater.

The musical is composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

As one of the most successful musicals of all time, "Phantom of the Opera" has broken every box office record in London, on Broadway, in Los Angeles and in Toronto, Bass said.

The musical, she said, tells the story of the hideously deformed Phantom who lurks beneath the stage of the Paris Opera House, exercising a reign of terror over all of its occupants.

The Phantom falls in love with a beauti-

ful soprano and devotes himself to create a new star of the Opera by nurturing her talents at his disposal, she explained.

The history of the Omaha Broadway Theater Season is remarkable, Bass said. Musicals such as "Grease!," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Hello Dolly," "Cats" and "Annie" have been performed throughout the last five years, she said.

Tickets for Phantom of the Opera" range from \$15 and \$65, Bass said.

For "Fame-The Musical," tickets run about \$35 and for "Rent," anywhere between \$20 and \$52.50, she said.

However, Bass said that Season Ticket Holders to the Omaha Broadway Theater Season receive a discount on most ticket prices.

Movie captures simplicity of complex world Students, teacher star in theater production

By Talya Greenspoon

Beautiful yet frail. Simple but complex. Slow yet speeding a message to your heart.

"The Straight Story" is all of these contradictions and more, combined to make the most heartfelt, endearing movie I have seen all year.

The plot sounds corny, but suprisingly is not. It involves a 76-year-old man with no license, whom rides his lawnmower across the state to see his sick brother.

This is due mostly to the fine actor, who plays the lead Alvin Straight, Richard Farnsworth.

Farnsworth's eyes convey more meaning in a glance than an entire teen-flick that we've been subjected to in the past months.

This movie has no need to masquerade as something more. It is simple.

As Straight travels, he meets and changes the lives of the people on his way.

His advice is from experience, about family problems, sibling rivalry or even recurring World War II memories.

The most remarkable thing that I noticed while watching this film was that the viewers' laughed when Straight said something funny.



TRUCKN' DOWN THE HIGHWAY... Richard Farnsworth stars in "The Straight Story" as Alvin Straight, who rides across the Heartland in his '66 John Deere from Iowa to Wisconsin to visit his sick brother, Lyle, played by Harry Dean Stanton.

Not when he did something or played to the camera, but when he was actually telling a joke.

It seemed as if he was having an individual conversation with each and every one in the audience-including me.

I won't lie, I cried a lot during this movie. When I wasn't crying, I was on the brink of tears.

Every fragile scene touched my

heart, and every line was spoken with emotion.

The messages of this movie transcend the screen and the moment that you see them.

They apply to your life and force you to appreciate the luxuries that you possess.

"The Straight Story" is an amazing film which captures the simplicity of a complex world.

Students, teacher star in theater production

By Sandi Czapl

The superstition that twins who are separated at birth and get back together later on in life is an uncommon one.

However, this is the superstition that the plot of "Blood Brothers" is based upon, a Central senior said.

Senior Vince Wesselmann, who plays one of the leads in "Blood Brothers," said that he found out about the show through the musical's director, Jerry Ditter.

"Jerry Ditter asked me if I wanted to go to call backs for "Blood Brothers" after I had auditioned for Central's fall musical," Wesselmann said.

After the callbacks, Wesselmann found out that he had gotten the lead role of Eddie Lyons, he said.

The musical is centered on a woman named Mrs. Johnstone and the twins that she is pregnant with.

She goes to her employer Mrs. Lyons, who is played by Central's drama teacher, Mrs. Georgeson.

She tells Mrs. Lyons that there is

no possible way that she can pay for both of them with all the other children she has.

So they sign a contract which entitles Mrs. Lyons to one of the kids while Mrs. Johnstone keeps the other.

"I thought the musical was absolutely amazing," one audience member said, "it was extremely well cast and well performed."

Julie Russell, a central senior, said that she really enjoyed seeing the show and recognizing so many people that she knew.

Aaron Perilo, a senior and another actor from the show, said that he plays a variety of numerous characters.

"I play the cop, finance man, judge and a London kid," Perilo said.

He said that the leads only had one role, but the rest of the cast received numerous parts.

The play was performed one month after the cast was posted and it was put on for four weeks on Thursdays through Sundays at 7 p.m. at the Millennium Theater.



COURTESY OF ORPHEUM THEATER



BASED ON a true story. Farnsworth stars as Mr. Straight.

New York Burrito wraps up a great meal

Meredith Kalina

It's got great food, bad service, great atmosphere, and high prices all wrapped into one.

I am speaking of a hip restaurant at 108th and Dodge called New York Burrito Gourmet Wraps, which overall proved to be a rather pleasant place to get a bite to eat.

Although 108th and Dodge does not exactly portray the busy streets of New York City, the atmosphere inside the restaurant made up for it.

It had black and white checkered tile floors, bright colors, and photographs of New York scenes.

The set-up of the restaurant was really neat which also

added to my opinion of the atmosphere.

When you walk into the place, you immediately enter a line that is much like a lunch line.

No, not a hair net and a washed

potatoes

lunch line, but a walk through line.

They have various menu items you can choose from or you can create your own, a very popular choice.

First, you chose what type of tortilla you want from a number of

avors and the size.

Moving down the line, you chose the type of meat you want in your wrap, chicken or steak.

Next, you proceed to add ingredients to your individual wrap.

The choices included lettuce, tomatoes, rice, onions, cheese and a wide variety of sauces.

Once you have created a wrap with all of your desired ingredients, they mysteriously wrap this huge tortilla thing all up in foil and place

it in a steamer.

The steamer serves to melt all of the ingredients together.

Served with chips and a drink, the wrap was really good and a different type of taste than your usual burger or pizza.

They are not quite a Mexican food and not quite an American food.

Now, I will say that this restaurant is a bit expensive, around seven dollars a meal.

Don't get me wrong, I don't mind spending money at a restaurant where I can sit down at a relaxed setting and get waited upon, but I think it was a little too much money for the type of restaurant it was and for the service I received.

Speaking of the service I received, it was horrible! When I walked in the restaurant, an annoying bell rang and the two teenage employees

rushed out from the back somewhere.

That, my friends, was the only time I saw them.

Once I had paid for my meal, the girls ran to the back and I never saw them again.

It was pretty pathetic. The person I was with needed

to go bag before we left, so I went to the counter to get one.

I waited forever for the girls to show up and perform their duties, but finally just reached behind the counter to get the bag myself.

Still no sign of the restaurant employees.

I then left the restaurant, still not having seen the employees.

Other than the service, the restaurant was wonderful and well worth the stop.



COURTESY OF NEW YORK BURRITO

"South Pacific"

Students produce entertaining musical

By Jennifer Friedman

Sitting in the auditorium, I never expected a Broadway like performance. Central High's production of "South Pacific", though not the best choice for a musical, proved to be a terrific musical and an enjoyable evening.

The cast put a lot of effort into their performance, which made me appreciate what they were doing.

For those of you who did not skip class to go see it, the musical is basically about American troops and nurses stationed in the South Pacific.

There are many different story lines running throughout the show. One involves a French man, Emile De Becque, played by Senior

Matt Smith, who has fallen in love with the head nurse, Nellie Forbush, played by Junior,

Jenny Storm, who is stationed with the troops.

A subplot of the musical is that of Lieutenant Joseph Cable, played by Senior Aaron Perilo.

Lieutenant Cable recently arrives in the South Pacific and is soon

entranced by the island across the way called Bali Ha'i.

He falls in love with a native of the island, Liat, played by Senior Julie Russell.

The rest of the musical is mostly a farce involving Luther Billis, a seaman, played by Senior Erik Smith, Bloody Mary, an island native played by Senior Elizabeth Eakins, and the rest



PUCKER UP... "South Pacific" cast members, junior Chalee George and sophomore Katy Young, prepare for the musical by getting dolled up. (BOTTOM LEFT) Senior Erik Smith puts on a mean show while dancing in the musical.

of Billis' men, the Seabees.

The musical started off a little dryly.

The opening scene, containing a conversation between Emile and Nellie, left something to be desired. However, the opening song, 'Dites-Moi', was beautifully sung.

The first scene with the Seabees and Bloody Mary was highly entertaining and a refreshing change from the stiffly acted opening scene.

Elizabeth Eakins did a beautiful portrayal of Bloody Mary. She kept the audience on their toes and laughing.

Senior Vince Wesselmann, who played a character nicknamed Professor, and Erik Smith were once again type-cast in comedic roles and seemed to steal the show.

Along with Eakins, they

were definitely a highlight of the show.

Perilo and Russell had excellent on-stage chemistry.

They made it quite believable for the audience that their characters had such a mutual attraction for each other.

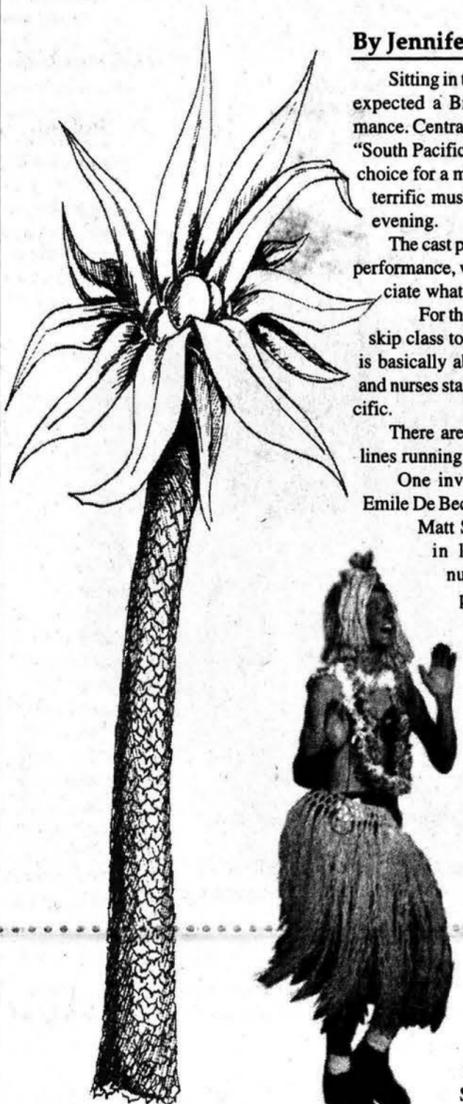
All of the ensemble seemed to perform to the best of their capability and did an excellent job.

They were all an impressive cast of characters.

The set was exquisite and quite impressive.

The pit orchestra did an excellent job. It was impressive how well they kept with the show.

I found the musical quite interesting and beautifully carried out. The drama department did a fabulous job and I look forward to what else they have in store for us.



PHOTOS BY MEGAN MYERS
GRAPHIC BY CARLOS ZENDEJAS

Lang entertains many with amazing rifts, vocals

By Mikayla Chambers

Young guitar prodigy Jonny Lang proved his talent with amazing rifts and expressive vocals during his concert on Nov. 12 at the Music Hall.

The concert started at 8 p.m. with opening act Nina Storey whose energy pumped excitement throughout the crowd. It was a worthwhile 50 minutes.

I feel bad for the rest of the cities Lang is touring because Friday was Storey's last performance with Lang. They will really miss out.

After a ten minute alcohol break, Jonny came on.

Everyone went crazy.

This was a new experience for me, my ticket actually had a seat number, and I had personal space.

Lang was dressed in a sleeve-

less gray t-shirt and pants and proceeded to bring the crowd to their feet dancing.

The huge pit in front of the stage made it hard for the crowd to get closer to the action.

Lang's expressive vocals and amazing guitar rifts made the crowd yell for more when he left the stage.

Lang played music from his current album "Wander this World" and

some of my personal favorites "Good Morning Little School Girl" and "Rack 'em Up" from his previous album "Lie To Me." I was in for a shock when this 18-year-old came on to the stage.

His facial contortions were so expressive that I thought he was drunk. But to my knowledge that wasn't the case.

Lang was singing the song "An-

gel of Mercy" which is a very solemn song in the beginning where Lang was singing about God. During the whole concert there was a light shining on Lang from the back.

The particular lighting during this song was in rays and gave Lang an immortal appearance, someone sitting behind me yelled, "Jonny is God!"

It was pretty funny, but you just

had to be there.

At the end of the concert Lang threw out his guitar picks and was presented with a Cornhusker jersey with the number seven on the front and his name on the back.

Any regrets about this Fargo babe?

I just wish I had seen him in Kansas City last spring opening for the Rolling Stones.

"Angela's Ashes"



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

COMING SOON... "Angela's Ashes", starring Emily Watson and Robert Carlyle, hits the theaters this holiday season. Keep an eye out for this heart touching film. It is an adaptation of a real story of impoverished childhood in Ireland during the 1930's, and the love of a mother.

Movie portrays mother-daughter bond

By Meredith Kalina

A 1978 gold Mercedes; the symbol of the beginning of dreams.

Dreams of a better, more fulfilling life, love and happiness drive Adele August, played by Susan Sarandon, to pack up everything including her security and 14-year-old daughter Ann, played by Natalie Portman, and set off for a distant place in the new movie, "Anywhere but Here".

Adele's plan has always been to get her daughter Ann out of their small, dead-end home town of Bay City, Wis., and achieves her goal when she suddenly buys a Mercedes and announces that she is going to move her and Ann to Beverly Hills.

The Mercedes, Adele says, is their ticket to a future. Ann is devastated by the fact that she will have to leave the only family she has, considering she has never seen nor

spoken to her father, and the move deepens the resentment she has towards her mother.

I enjoyed the fact that the movie portrayed a real life relationship between a mother and her daughter.

Ann's anticipation throughout the movie is to see the day when she can leave her mother and go live somewhere far, far away.

This movie did an exceptional job at showing the struggles that a single parent who wants the very best for her family faces.

Upon reaching Los Angeles, Adele goes to great lengths to look like she has everything under control, even though both her and her daughter are financially and emotionally struggling.

Convinced that her life is miserable and that her mom is crazy, Ann refuses to find the good in their situation.

There are so many events that take place during this

movie that one minute have you in deep thought, the next minute have you in tears and the next minute have you laughing out loud.

I guess another reason I loved the movie was because it hit close to home for me.

Any senior in high school with a mother can relate to Ann in some way, either the fact that she can't wait to leave home for college or any of the everyday struggles she went through with her mother.

The movie gave me a little bit of a better understanding and appreciation of what mothers go through and do for their children.

The movie ends with another dream being chased and the selling of the 1978 gold Mercedes.

"Anywhere But Here" was a beautiful movie with a wonderful and moving cast.

Oprah Winfrey suggests that the film should be seen with your mother, and I agree.

Rocketman burns big hole in pocket

By Cathy Colling

What would you do with sixty dollars? I could think of a ton of things...new clothes, shoes, car payment, buy food, and I could think of many more things. The thing I would love to do is kick myself in my butt for paying sixty dollars for a three-hour concert.

During Elton John's concert, Elton came onto the stage and opened up a brand spankin' new Diet Coke and slowly drank it throughout the performance. Elton would slowly sip some pop and when it was all gone the concert was over.

That is an amazing concept. I wonder if he does that all the time, huh?

When a person thinks of Elton John, what do they think of? If you would ask most people they would start off saying how Elton would come out onto the stage in these funky high shoes with a wild crazy outfit and some wacky star glasses.

But to my surprise, Elton came out in normal glasses, shiny black shoes, and a bright orange suit outfit, that I might add was trimmed in rhinestones. Talk about being conservative. Sure he is a diva now and is "supposed to dress that way." Ok, so he makes millions of dollars a year and that is all he can afford?

For a three hour show, that cost me \$20 per hour I was disappointed. Oh and don't forget those T-shirts...the cheapest one was \$27 with the most expensive at \$60.

Now that we got that out of the way, what about the song? I must admit Elton started out with some great songs and I thought that this WAS going to be an EXCELLENT show. As I started mingling, I acted like I knew what I was doing by sneaking down onto the floor to try to take pictures.

I ended up getting into the third row and I felt like I could see the tiny droplets of sweat falling from his face.

When I was starting to get excited at getting ready to try to take a picture, a security guy came and kicked me out of my seat, trying to act dumb and innocent I looked at my ticket and said "Oops."

Trying not to look too lost, I quickly started walking and sat in the next available seat... like in the fifteenth row. Sure it was close, but not what I wanted.

They said I could not walk up to the stage and take pictures because my camera was too "BIG." Only point and shoot cameras were allowed.

I decided I needed to move because the security guards were watching me very closely now. Moving up to the back of the stage by the "important" people, I started taking pictures. Obviously I was doing something wrong because this old hag was glaring at me...so I kindly asked her how she was doing. She continued to glare...so I thought I would give her an evil glare too, wrong thing to do. She called security on me and tried to have my camera confiscated. With a lot of sweet words, big teary eyes, and of course little girl charm I was able to escape the awful guard.

Now as I was sitting in my seat I noticed Elton still singing songs nobody ever heard of watching everyone get antsy in their seats. Near the end it got much better, and when he ran off the stage the crowd started chanting Elton soon came out and sang some good old classics... like "Benny and the Jets", "Baby Got Blue Shoes" and "Crocodile Rock."

To make a long story short, I was very disappointed in the beginning but near the end I didn't want it to be over.

If you want to go to a live and crazy show I would recommend going to the Goo Goo Dolls, Madonna, or even Ben Folds Five.

If you are looking for a more relaxed show that you can sit in a seat for three hours and just listen to music without doing a lot of dancing, I would suggest going to Elton John's concert.

Just think, if you make \$7 an hour, you only have to work about nine hours to make enough money to go!



CATHY COLLING/THE REGISTER

Moshing satisfies the crowd

By Michael Gerhardt

I had someone else's blood on my arm. I wasn't sure whose it was, but it wasn't mine.

But that's what I wanted.

Lower Case I, Jank 1000, Twitch and Switchback at the Ranch Bowl on a Friday night, it sounded like it would be a good show. I decided I felt like moshing and went to check it out.

First off, Jank 1000 played their fetid mix of Blink 182 and Green Day.

After watching the band play about a half of one of its high energy, faceless, clone songs, I left and watched people bowl. That was more exciting.

Luckily, they played a short set. Just a suggestion, try and learn a few more chords, it might help out.

Next were LowerCase I, debuting with its new drummer.

One thing that saddened me was with the loss of their drummer; they lost Dan, the dancing man. The new drummer compliments the skill of the rest of the band well.

Their bassist played with his sublime skill, and for once, slap bass actually helped the band.

Lead Guitarist Phil Reno played as well as he always does, covering the entire fret board and still keeping up that his unique guitar tone. The entire band meshed very well, and it was their best performance I'd seen them give yet.

Up next was the best of show, Switchback. I'd never heard them before, I'm pretty sure they just formed out of the cracks in a board.

They were great, and they were really nice guys who really were eager to meet their fans after the show.

Last were everyone's favorite, Twitch. Twitch played its usual show, their normal verse-chorus-verse-chorus, standard style still there. They always put on a good show, even if their music is a bit repetitive. Their pits get better and better everytime and it was during their set that I got the blood on me.

There was one more band after those four, but I was tired, bruised, and I had a lot of blood on me, so I went home and went to sleep.

Bands delight many at Sokol

■ 311, continued from page 10

And for all the guys that walked around with you're shirts off displaying your sweaty bodies, I give you two thumbs down. That's sick, sick, sick!

On the other hand, I was in awe. I had a perfect view of Nick Hexum and I felt like we had bonded. (Or I wished that I thought we had bonded.)

As the show wined down around 11p.m., I had a huge grin on my face, was hotter than a chili pepper and as dehydrated as a man lost in the desert.

But I couldn't end the night with out a fight.

A stage crewmember threw Chad Sexton's drumsticks out in the crowd and just because I'm a girl doesn't mean that I wasn't going to fight for them. I wrestled a guy to the floor trying to get that stick, when all of a sudden I was thrown about 3 feet backwards. So much for memorabilia.

So I ran outside in the 45-degree weather to cool off and caught a cold. Not a smart move, but boy did it feel good. The night

was over and even though I was Hexum-less, I had the best time ever!

The legend of funk, the father of dreads, either way you've heard his name at one time or another.

Ladies and Gentlemen: George Clinton!

The concert goes at the Clinton concert were much more mature, older and better looking. Everyone there seemed to have black and brown in their wardrobe, unlike the 311 concert where florescent colors seemed to be of choice.

Again, I had to wait in line for about a half-hour to get inside Sokol and another half-hour for the Parliament Funkadelics to hit the stage. But the "waiting music" that was playing was already causing me to dance.

The crowd started getting rowdy

shouting, "WE WANT THE FUNK!" over and over again. The Parliament Funkadelics came on with crazy costumes including a guy in a diaper. They played excellent music and got the crowd involved a lot more than 311 did.



The Parliament Funkadelics spoke to the crowd and seemed like they were having the time of their lives.

Finally, the legend himself hit the stage. Just as I had pictured him, George Clinton was there in dreads and his deep voice filled the air.

Prep band Prhyme impresses students

By Sandi Czapl

Creighton Prep has a lot of students involved in music whether they are talented in that respect or are just observing their peers perform, a junior at Creighton Prep said.

Mike Otepka, a junior at Creighton Prep and a member of a band there, said that he and two other juniors are in a band called Prhyme.

The band has been together for about two years, ever since they began in eighth grade, Otepka said.

Otepka plays the guitar and vocals with the bassist Dan Peters and drummer, Zak Olsen.

"When Dan and I were in eighth grade, we started a band before we even knew Zak," Otepka said. "We decided to look up the word 'young' in the dictionary and found out that

it meant prime. So we changed the spelling to prhyme and we were ready to go."

Prhyme has played at school gatherings, parties, the Ranch Bowl and Battle of the Bands.

"We got into Battle of the Bands because Zak goes to church at Christ Community, so we got the connection that way. We were the only band chosen to perform for the second year in a row," Otepka said.

Junior Andrea Gatzke heard Prhyme's music for the first time at Battle of the Bands.

The band seemed to be very in sync with each other and their performance was excellent," Gatzke said.

Gatzke said that Prhyme was one of the best performances of the evening.

They were by far better than any of the other performers," Gatzke said. "They should have received first place."

Instead of the famous 311 pushing, the crowd stood and danced all night.

There was no massive sweating, and the atmosphere was much more chill than the 311 concert.

There were not as many people as 311 brought in, but I must say that George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelics put on a much better show.

Even though I love 311 and I had barely heard George Clinton's music, I was more impressed with the Clinton show.

It seemed as though 311 didn't want to be there. They said everything to the crowd that was on their "311 Live" album and sounded like fake enthusiasm.

I was definitely disappointed in the attitudes of 311 and I thought they should have showed more enthusiasm like George Clinton did.

However, both shows were terrific and I can't decide which one was more fun. In any way, I loved the excitement of being pushed around by hot, sweat bodies while listening to the best band from Omaha, but I also like the chill atmosphere of the Father of Funk.



PRHyme TIME: Mike Otepka livens it up for the crowd at Battle of the Bands.

Stefanie's Prophecies



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Does dinner for two sound nice? Ask out that hottie you've had your eye on for quite sometime.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Quit your annoying habit before it's too late. I'm talking to you, smokers...

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18) Who wears the pants in your life? Often times you let others control your life and do as they say. Take control and do what YOU want to do.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) This is the month where all your dreams come closer to reality. Just a bit more praying and they will soon come true.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Get ready to make a change in your life. My grandma always said, "Out with the old and in with the new, that's what good boys and girls should do."

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Ahh, spring time babies...you're so pure, fresh and clean. The spring air rests in your flesh and tingles at your toes for all to notice your pureness.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Your friends know what their talking about. Take their advice seriously and something good will definitely come from it.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Take your love across the border. No, not to Mexico, but somewhere special to say those three magic words whatever they may be.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Is your past coming back to haunt you? Have you ever heard of Karma? Well it's a true philosophy so don't do anything bad that will come back and smack you in the face.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Lose some weight to date. Sure it tastes good, but so does a mate.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Give out hugs and kisses to all your friends. If you give love, you'll get love.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're having a major impact on someone's life. You don't know who, but they sure know you.

Top 5 Picks

Top Five Television Shows

1. "Friend's"
2. "Simpson's"
3. "Dawson's Creek"
4. "Real World"
5. "That 70's Show"



Top Five Bands

1. Dave Matthews Band
2. Limp Bizkit
3. N'SYNC
4. Red Hot Chili Peppers
5. Pearl Jam



Lip Smackin' Good



Sandi Czaplak

A valuable lesson in the art of flirting

The art of flirting is definitely a lost talent that needs to be mastered by our men. So I know the thought that's running through your head is, "Sandi, please, I beg of you, tell me how to be a stud."

Well boys, it's really kind of simple.

One, you never ever start a conversation with, "Hey baby, do you want to go upstairs and ... um ... well ... you know?"

Yeah. Way to be blunt. A little word to the wise. Being blunt is bad.

Also, cheesy pick-up lines are a no go.

For example, "Are you tired? Because you've been running through my mind all day!" Yeah right. You're gonna get a little somin' somin'.

Or how about a tribute to "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air?"

"Let's get a bucket of chicken and get busy!" What does that mean? I think I made my point without saying very much at all.

Polite conversation is always nice. As long as it doesn't start out, "Hey, how 'bout them Yankees?"

All you'll get is a confused, raised-eyebrow look.

Then there's, what I like to call, the let's-not-say-a-word-and-I'll-just-pull-down-my-pants approach.

Too many guys let their testosterone take over and this approach is what you get. Corny music can add way too much to the scene that you're trying to create.

Playing "Let's Get it On" can be a little too blatantly obvious as to what your plans for the evening were.

Now for you ladies. Please stop strutting your stuff. Is it really that important to have a boyfriend during high school? I'm sick of hearing girls say that they "need" a boyfriend. You don't NEED anything.

This is the 90's. Didn't you ever learn that a boyfriend during high school was unnecessary?

It is absolutely ridiculous how many girls curl their hair in the morning and put on five pounds of makeup just to go to school and see their "guy friends."

All you really have to do is wake up, take a shower, brush your teeth and dry your hair. Now I do understand that makeup is definitely a necessity, but don't get carried away.

Not like most immature high school boys are worth getting dressed up for anyway. Yeah sure, maybe there are a few guys from high school that are better than average-looking, but for the most part, are they really worth your time?

No, probably not.

I have one more word of advice for you.

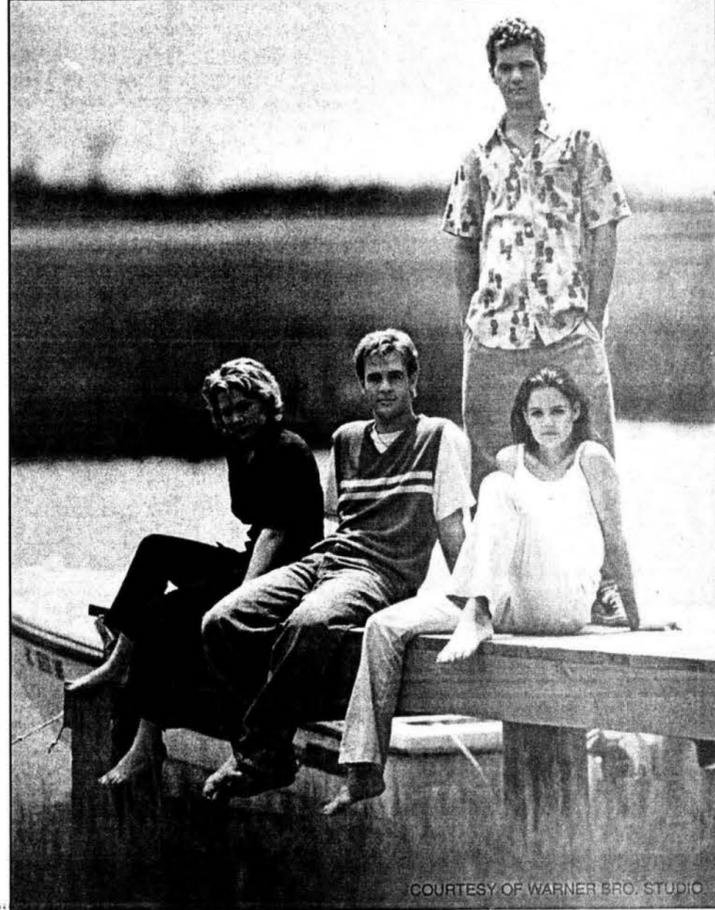
Don't ever date anyone that you work with or especially for. Believe me.

Many have tried and few of these relationships have gotten to a stage where it can even be called a relationship.

So I may not be a relationship expert, but most of it is just common sense. Use yours. That is if you have any.

Happenings

- Nov. 20- 5 Story Fall with 4 Pound Robin at the 18th Amendment
- Nov. 21- Limp Bizkit, Method Man and Red Man at the Civic Auditorium
- Nov. 23- The Samples with Angry Salad at the Ranch Bowl
- Nov. 24- Grasshopper Takeover at the Ranch Bowl
- Nov. 25-28—Thanksgiving Break = NO SCHOOL
- Nov. 27- Indigenous at Sokol Auditorium
- Nov. 30- Neil Diamond at the Civic Auditorium
- Dec. 1- Neil Diamond at the Civic Auditorium
- Dec. 2- Indigo Girls at the Civic Auditorium
- Dec. 7- Jingle Ball '99 starring Def Leopard featuring Train, Old 97's and Five Story Fall at Aksarben
- Dec. 11- Buck Cherry at the Ranch Bowl
- Dec. 13- Mulberry Lane at the Orpheum Theater



DAWSON, YOU'RE MY HERO! Dawson and the gang earned the number three spot in this month's Top 5 Picks.

Entertainment Briefs

Def Leopard to perform in Omaha
Dec. 7-Sweet 98 is sponsoring a performance by Def Leopard at the Aksarben Colosseum. Opening for them will be Train, Five Story Fall, and others. Tickets are \$19.95 through Ticket Master or \$25.00 at the door.

Classic "Nutcracker" with new edge
Dec. 2-5- The newly formed Omaha Theater Company Dance, based at the Rose Blumkin Performing Arts Center, will present their own version of "The Nutcracker this winter."
This particular version of "The Nutcracker" was originally choreographed for Ballet Omaha during their '93-'94 season and has been performed only twice.
It is set in the 20's and adds a modern twist to the holiday classic. Clara, who in most versions dreams of her Nutcracker Prince and a land of sweets, dreams about becoming a movie star and the land of film.
Elaborate sets and costumes add to the magic of the performance, especially in the party and snow scenes.

Headless Horseman hits theaters
Nov. 19- The movie "Sleepy Hollow" starring Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci comes out today just in time for the holidays.
The movie is based upon the story of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." This story, about Ichabod Crane, was written by Washington Irving.
Limp Bizkit to perform at Music Hall
Nov. 21- Limp Bizkit will perform with Method Man and Red Man at the Civic Music Hall. Tickets are sold out, but listen to 93.3 K-Rock in the mornings for a chance to win a ticket.

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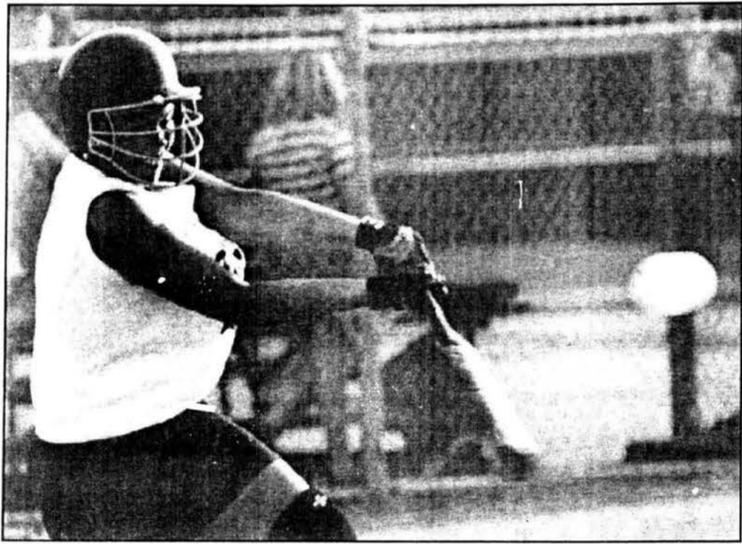
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Student signs official contract with Creighton



SENIOR KARI SHANK swings in Creighton's direction. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB ANDERSON

By Carlos Zendejas

Tears were shed, kind words were said, but the difference between this, and a casual gathering of old friends was that a national letter of intent was signed by senior softball standout Kari Shank.

Shank, who has been recruited by Creighton University since last summer, had already made a verbal commitment to Creighton, but finally made it official Nov. 10.

"I am so glad that it's finally over," Shank said, "It was very stressful and nerve-wracking."

Shank said that she was very stressed and nervous because she was really wondering if she had made the right decision.

Shank said that she feels good about her decision and is looking forward to seeing some playing time as a Creighton Bluejays.

Shank said that she will receive

at least half of the playing time at Creighton because the depth at the catcher's position is not that strong.

Shank said that there are two catchers right now, one is graduating, and the other is a freshman.

"I think that I will get at least half of the time at the catcher's position," said Shank.

Shank said she has been recruited since her junior year.

"The recruitment process was very stressful and it made me very nervous," Shank said.

Shank said that the most difficult part is when the other coaches came to see her play.

"It makes you really nervous because there is so much pressure to perform well," Shank said.

However Shank said that she handled the pressure well, and she said that she thinks it will help her in the future when she will be playing for larger crowds at the

collegiate level.

Shank's club coach Steve Hess said that Shank has hard work been a good athlete, and her hard work has paid off with her scholarship.

Head Softball Coach Kerri Semrad said that Shank's honor is a well-deserved one.

"Kari deserves all of the honors that she has received," Semrad said. "She has been a real team leader all four of her years at Central, even during her Freshman year."

Assistant Coach and principal Paul Semrad said that Kari is a very special athlete, and that her accomplishment is a very notable one, considering that it has been nearly 13 years since a Central athlete in the women's program has signed with a division one school.

"It is a great thing for Central High's women's athletic program, it is an exciting thing for all of our sports," Mr. Semrad said.

Football players seek further playing opportunities

By Jeremy Scurlock

Six seniors on the 1999 Central football team are being given the option of continuing to play in college.

The problem they face is where will they be given the best chance to play and at the same time successfully educate themselves for a career.

Ernest Harrington, JaMaine Billups, James Roark, William Gregory, Andrew Mitchell and Jerry Borzobohaty are all recipients of strong college recruitment, Head Coach of Central High football, Joe McMenamin, said.

Harrington, 6'1", 215 pounds, was a three-year member of the varsity squad and started every game in his fourth season as an Eagle. He led the state in tackles for the majority of the season but finished second with 127 tackles in nine games.

He was the starting center on the offense and patrolled the backfield as a linebacker on defense.

"Ernest has great range in the backfield," McMenamin said. "His aggressive play defensively should allow him to play well at any level."

Harrington will bring his size, speed and tackling smarts to the college playing field with him, McMenamin said.

"I don't want to tie myself to a school yet, I want to weigh my option for awhile, Harrington said." "Kearney, UNO, Drake, and even Colorado State have sent me letters, so have a lot of smaller D-2 [Division Two] schools."

McMenamin said that Harrington needs to take some visits and spend some time thinking about what will be best for him.

"Getting the opportunity to play at the next level is a much better way for me to get into school," Harrington said. "I'm not sure I'd be able to otherwise."

JaMaine Billups, 6'0", 205 pounds, was one of Central's most dangerous running threats and finished the season with 1623 yards on 91 carries, 8.5 yards per carry. He was also the second leading tackler on the

team, McMenamin said.

"Billups does an excellent job finding the holes and really accelerates off the ball," McMenamin said. "Some schools are focusing a good amount of attention on him."

Billups said that if he had to make a decision immediately he would probably opt for Iowa State University, but has been interested from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Michigan, the University of Iowa and Colorado State University.

"I want to play offense, I like it more and personally feel I'll do better," Billups said. "I'm going to visit some schools and the coaches and do what's best for me, most off all I want to be happy with the choices I end up making."

Billups averaged 128 yards a game this season and had 15 touchdowns. His 1623 yards was fifth in the state.

Roark, 6'1", 195 pounds, played fullback offensively and in the secondary as a linebacker. He was a four-year member and has great leadership ability, McMenamin said.

Interest in Roark has come from New Mexico State University, Dartmouth University, Columbia University, the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK), the University of South Dakota (USD), and Northwest Missouri State University, he said. But the strongest recruitment is coming from UNK and USD.

Roark said he thinks he is looking forward to possibly playing on the collegiate level and is looking forward to having fun in college as student athlete.

"When I do decide, I want it to be the right one," Roark said. "I'm not going to college strictly for football, I'm also looking to do well in the classroom and get an education."

William Gregory, 5'8", 185 pounds, spent two years as a varsity player; he too played on both sides of the ball as an I-back and cornerback.

"Will is probably the most athletic member of this year's team and maybe the most under-rated player in the state."

Central Recruits



Ernest Harrington



JaMaine Billups



James Roark



William Gregory



Andrew Mitchell



Jerry Borzobohaty

McMenamin said. "His talent seems to have been shadowed by the overwhelming publicity and popularity of Billups and McPherson."

Gregory said he has received interest from larger schools like Kansas State University, Colorado State University and Iowa State University; but is likely to go to a smaller school.

"I might go to junior college just to get stronger, faster and gain some experience," Gregory said. "The thought of playing at the next level gets me hyped and should prepare me for other things."

Gregory said he will explore his options further after the season and plans on making a decision based on more than a school's football program.

Andrew Mitchell, 6'1", 225 pounds, used his speed and blocking ability on offense as a tight end and defensively as defensive back.

"It [the opportunity to receive a scholarship to play football in college] gives me a lot more options, it also helps out financially," Mitchell said.

McMenamin said Mitchell has seen a lot of interest from Division Two schools and is capable of competing very well at that level of play.

"He was the smartest player on the

team," McMenamin said. "He uses his brains and made nearly no mistakes, he'll most likely play defensive end in college."

McMenamin said Mitchell had told him that he would be going to West Point Military Academy. Mitchell has since said in an interview he will not be going to West Point and is still indecisive about what he'll be doing after graduation.

"If a play football it most likely will be a D-2 [Division Two] school," Mitchell said. "Possibly Brown University, Carnegie or Melon, I'd like to go to the east-coast."

Jerry Borzobohaty, 6'2", 220 pounds, was a four-year member of the varsity team and played the line on both sides of the ball as an offensive guard and defensive end.

"Jerry has great speed and is very strong, his pulling and trapping attracted interest from several D-2 schools," McMenamin said.

Borzobohaty said he has other plans, at least for his near future. He plans on becoming one of the few, the proud, the brave, a Marine.

Borzobohaty said he has been planning to enlist in the Marines since his sophomore year.

"That's what I want to do, I'll only get stronger and faster in the Marines, and I might play afterwards in college," Borzobohaty said.

Ask The Trainer

Information Courtesy of Trainer Jeanee Weiss

Q: How do you prepare for cold weather?

A: When you change the climate in which you live, your body has to become acclimatized. Acclimatization refers to your body becoming used to the environment should it be, heat, cold, humidity, or altitude. This process should be gradual and incorporate not only getting used to the cold, but also becoming used to exercising in the cold. Start with short practices or conditioning sessions (about 20 minutes), increasing the duration over a 5 to 6 day span until full practices are reached.

Q: What are the best things to wear during cold weather during cold weather training?

A: As you exercise and large muscle groups begin to move, and they generate heat. Your body will get rid of excess heat by producing radiant heat from your head and neck, and perspiration. The clothing you choose to wear should protect your body from the environment, but not interfere with these processes. Clothing should be worn in layers that can be added or taken off easily. The fabrics should allow some airflow; therefore cotton fabrics are the best choice. Avoid fabrics with high contents of rubber, elastic, vinyl, or Spandex. These fabrics trap the heat and perspiration, not allowing either of them to evaporate, and may cause hypothermia (a drop in body temperature) due to moisture build up.

Q: Is it true that cold weather can cause injuries?

A: Exercising in cold temperatures puts you at risk for hypothermia. With proper precautions, this can be avoided. Cold weather can also indirectly increase your susceptibility to injuries, particularly to those involving muscles, tendons, and ligaments. In order for your body to move efficiently, the muscles, ligaments and tendons must be warm. Cold weather will cause these body parts to cool more quickly, and increase your chances of suffering injuries such as muscle cramps, tears, strains, or sprains. So, be careful when exercising under these conditions to keep in constant movement, and wear proper clothing to help keep muscles warm.

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WINTER Sport Preview

Eagle Basketball

Men's Schedule

2/2	Creighton Prep (A)	7:15 pm
2/4	Bellevue East(A)	7:15 pm
2/10	Millard South (H)	7:15 pm
2/11	Papillion/LV (A)	7:15 pm
2/16	North (H)	7:15 pm
2/18,29-31	Metro	TBA
1/7	Millard North (A)	7:15 pm
1/8	Burke (H)	7:15 pm
1/14	Bellevue West(H)	7:15 pm
1/21	South (A)	7:15 pm
1/28	Northwest(H)	7:15 pm
1/29	Lincoln Hish (A)	7:00 pm
2/4	Westside (A)	7:15 pm
2/5	Millard West (H)	7:15 pm
2/11	Benson (H)	7:15 pm
2/12	Lincoln East (H)	7:00 pm
2/18	Bryan (A)	7:15 pm
2/22-25	Districts	TBA
3/2-4	State	TBA

Last year's record: 7-12

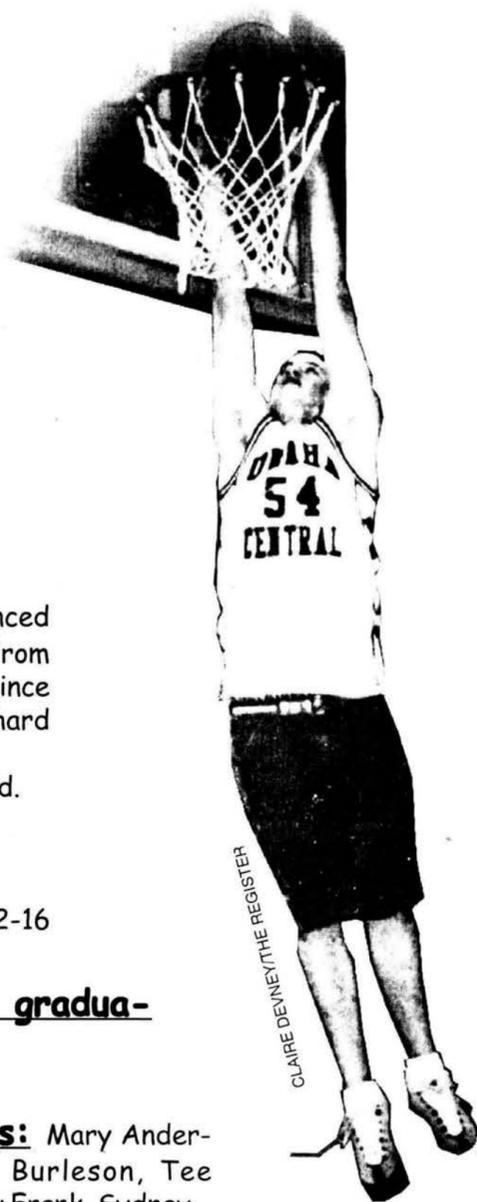
Key players lost to graduation: Jacky Smith, Lorenzo McMorris

Key returning players: Brian Rahaman, Ben Jacobson (see photo), James Mills, Mike Kuhn, Jared Ruffin, Willie Metcalf

Opponents to watch for: All of them

Coach's outlook on the season: An experienced group of seniors combined with strong contributions from some juniors and sophomores who have been improving since last year give this season a positive outlook, Coach Richard Behrens said.

"We have high hopes for our team this year," he said.



CLAIRE DEWEY/THE REGISTER

Ben Jacobson

Women's Schedule

12/2	Marian (A)	7:15 pm
12/4	Bellevue East(A)	5:30 pm
12/10	Millard South (H)	5:30 pm
12/11	Papillion/LV (A)	5:30 pm
12/16	North (H)	5:30 pm
12/18,29-31	Metro	TBA
1/7	Millard North (A)	5:30 pm
1/8	Burke (H)	5:30 pm
1/14	Bellevue West(H)	5:30 pm
1/21	South (A)	5:30 pm
1/28	Northwest(H)	5:30 pm
1/29	Lincoln High (A)	5:15 pm
2/4	Westside (A)	5:30 pm
2/5	Millard West (H)	5:30 pm
2/11	Benson (H)	5:30 pm
2/12	Lincoln East (H)	5:15 pm
2/18	Bryan (A)	5:30 pm
2/22-25	Districts	TBA
3/2-4	State	TBA

Last year's record: 2-16

Key players lost to graduation: Stephanie Kelley

Key returning players: Mary Anderson, Selease Avery, Tai Burleson, Tee Campbell (see photo), Mandy Frank, Sydney LeFlone, Mary Jane Tritsch, Kari Rider

Opponents to watch for: Omaha Marian, Omaha North

Coach's outlook on the season: After a summer of hard work at various team camps, and victories over multiple Metro-area schools (including Millard West, Millard South, Omaha Burke, and Omaha Benson), this year's team has taken a major step to the next level, Coach Michelle Roberts said.

"As long as they continue to work together many positive things lie ahead," she said.



CLAIRE DEWEY/THE REGISTER

Tee Campbell

Eagle Wrestling

Last year's record: 1-4

Key wrestlers lost to graduation: State Champion Ray Kizzee

Key returning wrestlers: Will Garcia, Anders Christensen, Max Kenny

Opponents to watch for: All of them

Coach's outlook on the season: With three returning State qualifiers, this year's wrestling team should be very competitive, Coach Jimmie Foster said.

"This should be an exciting season," he said.

Returning Wrestlers



Anders Christensen



Ty Griess

Returning Swimmers



Sarah Cleveland



Adam Backora

Central Swimming

Last year's record: 4-4

Key swimmers lost to graduation: Kerri Inzerillo, Mike Gill

Key returning swimmers: Marisa McClure, Sarah Cleveland, Luke Kielion

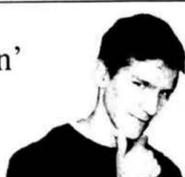
Opponents to watch for: Westside, Marian

Coach's outlook on the season: Pre-season conditioning with the help of the new Assistant Coach Lynn Braddock, combined with the fact that one Central swimmer has already made State qualifying times gives this season an awesome outlook, Coach Heather Dunbar said.

"Ms. Braddock and I share the same coaching philosophy, and the team is excited for the season. It should be fantastic," she said.

■ CHS FOOTBALL

Warmin' the Bench



Carlos Zendejas

OPS leaves athletes ill-prepared

The middle schools in the Omaha Public School district provide inadequate sporting opportunities for today's future high school athletes.

They are turning out soft little girly-men, who are lazy and unprepared for the challenges incurred through high school sports.

Junior high school kids, who have shown so much promise in athletics compared to their other middle school counterparts, come into the high school arena with less than satisfactory performances.

For example, many of the OPS students who are "City Champions" can look forward to a promising career as a high school athlete? Not true.

Many of the OPS city champions are complacently sitting in their J.V. spots. Completely oblivious to the fact that OPS has taken their once promising future and shoved it so far up a certain orifice in the lower portions of their body that it will never see the light of day again.

It may possibly be rediscovered at a later date when their prostate fails and a full rectal examination is required.

Middle schools are not preparing students for sports because they are not well organized, there is no commitment required and the coaches don't provide an atmosphere of a team.

Some coaches in junior high may have their athletes believe that it is okay to let down your team as long as they (don't) try hard.

Which leads to the lame excuse of, "I tried."

I learned the hard way that that excuse does not fly because if you really tried you wouldn't have failed.

Some middle school athletes come into high school with the idea that they can get by on natural talent.

However, most come to the realization that in high school, athletes with "natural talent" are a dime a dozen.

What sets superior athletes form from the rest is their ability to compliment their "natural talent" with plenty of hard work.

Is it a wonder when the schools in our district are continually getting beat by every school and their mother?

This is because in other parts of Nebraska team unity and hard work are ingrained into the heads of children from the time they are in little league.

There are schools that are more team oriented and hard working than those in OPS.

If this is not so, then answer this question,

when was that last time that a school from OPS has won a state title at a sport?

I don't know either, but it hasn't won any that I know of since I have been in high school.

If the Omaha Public School district has a higher population than any other school district then why does it continually get beat by schools with a considerably smaller population?

We should take a lesson from those former commies in Russia, China and Kearney and start including performance enhancing drugs in our government subsidized lunches.

Chocolate or white milk? Fruit or juice? Hamburger or pizza? Creatine or Andro?

This is the lunch line of the future. This is the way that it was intended to be. This is the plan that will elevate OPS back to the forefront in athletics.

So all of you activists and all of you small little girly men who aren't any good at sports and have given up all hope of getting good by natural means write your congressmen, talk to the principal and let your voice be heard.

Our only hope to reach any standard of excellence is by implementing a strict regimen of performance enhancing drugs and laziness.

So okay, it isn't our only hope, but it is the way that requires the least amount of work, and of course that is all that matters, right?



CLAIRE DEVNEY/THE REGISTER



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MEREDITH ZENDEJAS/THE REGISTER

WHAT'S THE DEAL (ABOVE)
Head Coach Joe McMenamin argues with the referee on a questionable call in the game against North Platte.

JaMaine Billups (12)
(FAR LEFT) uses his breakaway speed to evade would-be tacklers and add more on to his Class A rushing record for a single game. Billups ran for 336 yards in 32 carries.

Ouch! (LEFT) Trainer Jeanee Weiss wraps JaMaine Billups' ankle during the Creighton Prep game

We've Got Chicks (BELOW) (Right to Left) Mary Jane Tritsch, John Fitzpatrick, Dustin Freidman, Jeff McWhorter, John Croskey, Mattias Bracht, Matt Lind and Greg Edds cheer on the team at the Creighton Prep game while reminding us all of the fact that we have chicks, and also that we are number one, well not really, but it sure is fun to yell.

The thrill of Victory... ...The agony of Defeat

By Jeremy Scurlock

The Central High School football team entered the play-offs this year with a lot of confidence in its ability and the mind-set that they could beat any team in the state, Central High Football Head Coach Joe McMenamin said.

The team, which finished second in the state in highest total offense with an average of 360 yards per game and had a regular season record of six wins three losses, received its play-off spot as a wild-card team. The first game was scheduled against the North Platte Bulldogs which were ranked seventh in the Omaha-World Herald's Nebraska high school football rankings, McMenamin said.

"Central started the scoring with a one-yard run by quarterback George Davis and an extra-point kick by kicker/punter Andrew Ludwig early in the first quarter.

North Platte responded with a four-yard touchdown run later in the first quarter and made the extra point kick, tying the score at seven.

Central High I-back JaMaine Billups scored on Central's next possession on a 69 yard run, Ludwig followed that with the extra point.

North Platte scored the final points in the first quarter on a one-yard run with the

extra point, evening the score for the final time in the game.

"We established the running game early," McMenamin said. "There really wasn't any reason to pass, something we only did once during the whole game."

Central took the game over during the second quarter via the blocking provided by the offensive line and fullback James Roark, Billups said. Billups crossed the goal line into the end zone three times, from 15 yards, 44 yards, and 3 yards. Ludwig followed all three with a successful extra point attempt. The score at the half stood at Central 35, North Platte 14.

"Our play in the first half was really good and a lot of the credit should go to the o-line and full-back [Roark] for their great blocking," Billups said. "The holes they opened allowed me to see the backfield and do what I had to get the extra yards."

"I got a little worried in the second half, they're a good team and started to gain some momentum. They played a very physical game and hurt with trick plays," Billups said.

Central ended up having to punt the ball away on their next possession and North Platte threatened to score again when linebacker Ernest Harrington intercepted the ball inside the Central 20-yard line, McMenamin said.

Billups scampered into the end zone one more time, this one from two yards out, thus

giving him his fifth touchdown of the game. Billups tied the state Class-A record for most touchdowns in a game by a single player with the five trips into the end zone.

"His [Billups] performance was excellent," McMenamin said. "I'm really happy for him but really not that surprised, I knew he was capable of doing something like this."

The scoring stopped after an eleven yard try by Roark; Ludwig's extra point try came up short. North Platte would not score again. The final score stood at Central 53, North Platte 28.

"I was really proud of the way the team played on both sides of the ball," McMenamin said. "We held on to the ball real well and the defense held them when it really mattered."

Central had 455 rushing yards on 53 carries. Billups ran the ball on 32 of those carries and finished the game with 336 yards, breaking the record for most rushing yards in a Nebraska Class-A high school play-off football game, McMenamin said. Roark finished the game with 110 yards on 16 carries.

McMenamin said the key to Central's victory was the offensive line; Jerry Borzobohaty (12), Ryan Colvin (12), Andrew Mitchell (12) and Jamar Dorsey (10). As well as a cut back in mistakes, the team had no turnovers and only five penalties.

Central then moved on to play second-ranked Omaha Creighton Prep (10-1) in the quarter final re-match which put Prep against the only team to hand them a loss all season in a 20 to 14 victory for the Eagles earlier this season.

The game started to Central advantage. Billups found the end zone on a six-yard run and took the lead seven to nothing after Ludwig's extra point cleared the uprights. That score would carry into the second quarter until Prep tied the game at seven with a 6 yard pass and a successful extra-point kick. Central carried the lead into the locker room at half-time after Ludwig kicked a field goal inside Prep's 20 yard line.

Prep scored 20 unanswered points on a nine-yard pass, a six-yard run, both of which were followed by an extra point, and an interception which was returned 68 yards for the touchdown.

Central would score twice in the last 7:30. McMenamin said, but were unable to come up with victory.

"McMenamin said that Prep's defense allowed only 51 points during the regular season twenty of these points were scored by the Eagles in their match-up earlier this season.

The team got 24 points in the re-match but it wouldn't be enough to beat the Bulldogs' 27, putting Central's season to an end.