



JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

CHECKING UP : Though Reggie Williams has not done any vandalism for almost two years, he still checks up on the places he used to vandalize.

## Former graffiti artist talks about his crimes

Vandalism leads to other illegal acts, he says

by Matt Wynn

"Sometimes they would catch you doing something you wasn't supposed to, and start calling the cops. You can't allow that stuff. You gotta let them know. You gotta go down the law," former graffiti artist and Central junior Reggie Williams said.

Williams, who started doing graffiti when he was in middle school, said he never really thought about the consequences his actions could have while he was doing it.

"I just did it," Williams said. "I don't think I really did much of anything back then."

Williams spent 10 months in the Douglas County Detention Center for stealing cars. He said he started stealing cars as a result of the vandalism he used to do.

He did graffiti and other acts of vandalism as a way to get back at people for things they did to him.

He said he would vandalize things spontaneously, instead of planning his night out before he started. But once he got started, he said he would be sure to get the homes and property of those people he felt had wronged him.

"I remember one time I broke the windows, slashed the tires and spraypainted this one black shiny mustang all red. All cause he used to yell at me when I cut through his yard. Or something stupid like that. It was my duty to handle that, so I did," Williams said.

Williams said he was never picky about what kind of property he would deface. He said he would deface both private and public property, and houses of both old and young families in his neighborhood.

"I'd just kind of go out at three

Turn to GRAFFITI, page 2

## Traffic accident raises concerns over safety

by Joe Meyer

A recent fatal traffic accident has reinforced safety concerns when students cross the street outside of Central.

At 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, 21-year-old UNO student Sam Donneau was walking across Dodge Street heading north when he was struck by a charter bus that was turning left off of 19 Street, Omaha Police Officer Cal Dierks said.

Then, according to witnesses, a second vehicle hit Donneau while he was lying in the roadway. He was transported to Saint Joseph hospital in critical condition where he was later pronounced dead.

Dierks said the investigation is going slowly because the department is still talking to witnesses and finalizing what happened during the accident. He said the accident was not caused by the malfunctioning of traffic lights, but by

human error.

"Someone did something wrong," Dierks said. "There are a lot of accidents that we do not draw a definite conclusion right away."

Principal Gary Thompson said he remembers when a Central student who was making a turn hit another student who was walking across the street. Although he was not seriously injured, there have still been many other instances where students have nearly been hit. This is a constant problem for the school, Thompson said.

"I worry every day about that," he said, "that someone will walk out in front of a car."

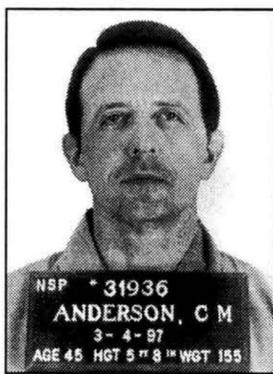
He said a lot of students often cross the street without being careful. This is dangerous when the cars have to react to the students.

"We have a number of students walking across the street at their own leisure, bringing cars to a stop," Thompson said.

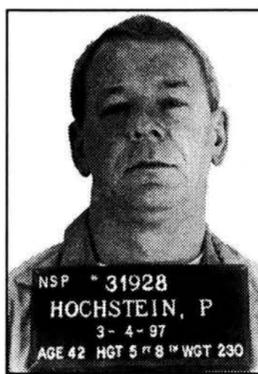
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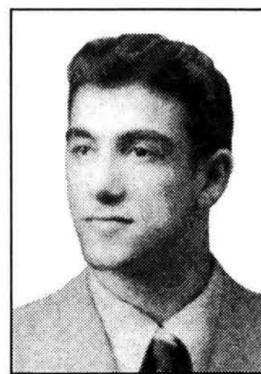
## Two Sides of Death Row



Michael Anderson (1997)



Peter Hochstein (1997)



Ronald Abboud (1952)

## Family, inmates reflect on Central alumnus' life, murder

Story By Matt Wynn

Inmate photos courtesy of State Penitentiary

Abboud's senior photo from the 1952 Central

High O-Book

Some information obtained from court documents

Michael Anderson and Peter Hochstein were convicted on Aug. 23, 1978 for escape and the murder of Central graduate Ronald Abboud.

For JoAnn Abboud, Ronald's wife, it was like the end of a bad chapter in her life. Her husband's killers had been found, and were going to be punished.

Then the jury handed down its sentence. "Execution."

Now, twenty-six years after Ronald's murder, JoAnn and her son Steve are still waiting for that sentence to be carried out.

"If anyone ever deserved it [the death penalty] it's them," Steve said.

### The crime

Although to this day Anderson denies any connection with the Abboud slaying, he said he is sorry for the loss Abboud's family has endured.

In 1975, Ronald was the head of a prosperous real estate business, he had children and he was in a happy marriage.

He also had money. And Anderson wanted it.

So he forged Abboud's signature to a check for \$3000 he made out to himself.

He knew the signature well enough. After all, he and Abboud were not only business associates, but also good friends.

"Anderson used to come over and eat at our house on weekends," Steve said. "He would go on vacations with our family."

Eventually, Anderson became disgruntled with his employer. Around Labor Day, 1975, while at an Omaha bar with Hochstein and another friend, Lon Reams, he shared his idea.

According to court documents Anderson said, "He needs to be done away with."

The talks about killing Ronald continued over the next month.

Then one autumn day the trio had gathered at Anderson's house when Anderson offered Hochstein \$1500 to kill Abboud.

Hochstein thought about it and said "Well all right, if you'll pay the money, I'll do it."

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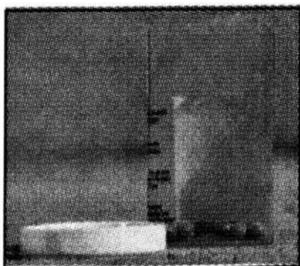


Turn to pages 4-5 for an in-depth look at Nebraska's Death Row. Including:

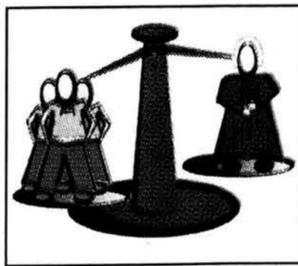
- A history of all Death Row inmates
- The execution process
- A guard's experience with Death Row
- An interview with John Lotter

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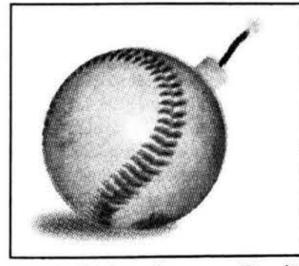
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**CENTRAL BRIEFS**



**Latin team takes first**

The Central quiz bowl team of Jennifer Yin, Rachel Danford, Jay Searson and Annette Wilder placed first at the All-city Latin College Bowl Competition. The contest was held March 7 at Creighton Prep. The team went on to compete at the State Competition on March at Creighton University.

**Students attend state DECA**

Over 95 Central students participated in the State DECA competition Thursday March 15-Saturday, March 17. Participants were engaged in competitions and took classes to develop their marketing and leadership skills. The top three finishers in each category will go on to compete at the National Competition in Anaheim, CA in late April.

**Principal says Central still safe**

After the school shooting in San Diego, California on March 5, school districts across the nation have taken extra precautions to keep schools secure and students safe. Principal Gary Thompson said that Central has not done anything different since the shootings. He said they recently reviewed the crisis plans with teachers, but it was not a direct result of the incident. He said Central makes continued efforts to keep students safe every day.

**Science dept. decides on new AP track**

The Central science department has created a revised class system available for some students. Under the new Advanced Placement (AP) track, students will be able to take AP Biology as a sophomore, AP Chemistry as a junior and AP Physics as a senior. Only highly motivated students will be able to participate in the path. Under the previous system, students had to choose between one AP science their senior year; this gives them the opportunity to take all three.

**School holds auction**

The Central High Scholarship Auction was held on Saturday March 24 at the Mutual of Omaha Dome. The theme of this year's auction was "Kicking up our Heels Under the Stars." The money raised will go towards scholarships and additional funding for Central activities. Many Central students were on hand to help out at the event. Auction items included a car, various trips and a pinball machine.

**Art dept. joins in J. Doe project**

The Central Art club has been asked to create a J. Doe, art teacher Margaret Quinn said. The marketing department is funding the project with money earned earlier this year by a grant for an anti-smoking campaign. As a result, the theme for the sculpture is "Y?", as in "why smoke?". Students in Quinn's third year art class and members of the art club submitted designs for the sculpture. Quinn and members of the J. Doe committee chose junior Quentin Lueninghoener's, senior Alyx Matyja's and Andy Hoffman's design which features names of people who have pledged not to smoke.

**Graffiti removal van shows results**

By Matt Wynn

When Mayor Hal Daub went to the League of Cities meeting in Philadelphia in 1996, he was a mayor with a problem. "I was really troubled my first couple of years as mayor with the real problem of graffiti in Omaha," he said. But when he came back, he had an idea. "While in Philadelphia, I saw this truck," Daub said, "and it was a graffiti van."

Almost immediately upon his return, Daub said he began to implement a program very similar to the one he had seen in Philadelphia. He said he allowed businesses and citizens to donate money to raise the necessary \$86,000.

"The multi-faceted approach was a big part of this. Government could have bought the van, but having people donate money was a great way to broaden the base of public support," Daub said. To date, Omaha's graffiti van has removed over 5,500 examples of graffiti from Omaha's streets.

"This is one of Mayor Daub's most successful programs," Tim Campbell, a city employee who helps with the graffiti van, said. The graffiti van is really just a normal truck with a highly complex computer inside, Daub said. The computer has the ability to match any color of paint the van may

come in contact with. The painters on the van simply need to scan a portion of the building where there is no graffiti. Then the computer will begin matching colors.

Campbell said that mixing the paint is only one part of the process. First, the city must be able to locate graffiti. For that, the city turns to its citizens, Daub said.

"Citizens can call up anytime to our hotline and get their graffiti removed completely free of charge," he said. After a call has been made, the van must simply be able to reach the graffiti's location. Campbell said that throughout the winter months, this is especially hard.

"The city only has one of these vans, so I'm very careful about choosing when I take it out," he said. He said even though the winter has been hard, the van has still gotten its job done fairly well. "Lately the gangs have been doing a lot of area tagging. It makes us look like we're not working, but really we are," he said.

He said that the van has been out 13 of 21 working days. Before the van was put into effect, the city had to revoke an ordinance that made it illegal for the city to paint private property. Once the city had the van and the ordinance out of the way, it was simply a matter of removing the graffiti. Campbell said this is the best



EMILY NEUMANN/ THE REGISTER

**DOING THEIR JOB:** Mike Huston and Jeff Nicola work on a wall in South Omaha. Though most graffiti is found in South and North Omaha, Tim Campbell, the coordinator of the program, said graffiti can be found all over the city.

part. "We spray the chemicals on to follow the letters. That saves money on paint. Then we let it sit for awhile," he said. Both Campbell and Daub agreed

that graffiti is a major problem, but the truck is doing a good job of keeping it down. Daub said the police department has started to take a stronger stance on graffiti since the van. So far there

have been over 75 arrests. "It's trespassing, it's destruction of property," Daub said. "I'm very proud of the program and I'm proud of the crew for getting the job done."

**MAD DADS sends message of respect, members say**

By Steve Packard

Wilbert Burroughs said his involvement with the MAD DADS goes back to day one, after an encounter with drug dealers who lived next door to him. "I lived next to a crackhouse, and

there was a 14 year old kid," he said. "He broke out all the windows in my car. I had been out of town. I came back to my home and my wife told me what had happened. I got out my twelve-gauge shotgun and held the kid until the police came. "The father was sitting on the

porch telling me, 'Don't shoot my son! Don't shoot my son!' The kid broke away around the house. I told the police to get him and they took him to jail."

Eddie Glass, George Grixby and Wilbert Burroughs, all members of MAD DADS, are out to stop these tragedies from happening. They all stand for a common goal: to save youth from guns, drugs, violence and social disorder.

Grixby said he joined the program because he wanted to set a good example for young people. "This is a time in young people's lives when they're looking for role models, and some of these kids are looking in the wrong direction," Grixby said. "MAD DADS definitely has good role models."

"There's a young girl in my neighborhood who doesn't even know my name and she'll go, 'Hi, MAD DAD!' And you can tell from little things like that, we're presenting good role models," he said. Glass said he joined because he wanted to help out with the young people in the community.

The three members expressed some primary concerns and missions, too. "Our mission is basically to hit these kids at an early age," Glass said. "We have what we call a Men in School program. What we do is we go in and greet them [students] and talk to them."

The MAD DADS said they have spoken with Omaha Public Schools (OPS) school officials like Jon MacKiel and Tom Harvey so they can work with schools within the system. Currently, the organization is also working to include Franklin, Saratoga and King schools in their activities.

"You know, they're [kids] learning so much from the TV and the streets, but education is real important to these kids," Glass said. MAD DADS also sponsor a neighborhood street patrol.

"Our main program is the street program," Glass said. "We meet with the neighborhood associations, too. The problems are everywhere."

The DAD in the name stands for Defending Against Drugs, which is a duty Glass said he takes seriously. "The police know about every

crackhouse in Omaha," Glass said. "Sometimes, it seems like it takes forever. I guess they just need to get enough evidence on them before they can get them."

MAD DADS also offers a number of community services. "Last year we had the bread giveaway; we gave away turkeys. We've done a lot of the graffiti cleanups, too," Burroughs said.

The organization supports a parental class as well, but said it's teen pregnancies as a major problem to be addressed.

"You have young girls having babies. Then, you have the boys there who are making these babies," Glass said. "But then you have a lot of these guys who run off and do take their responsibilities. There's a lot of them, but there are a few who take responsibility."

MAD DADS Co-Founder Eddie Staton said he will campaign to get more men involved in the organization.

"We're having a program, a program trying to recruit more men," Glass said. "We have a lot of work working out on the streets, but we need more men."



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

**FIGHTERS OF CRIME:** Eddie Glass, Wilbert Burroughs and George Grixby stand outside of MAD DADS headquarters at 3309 1/2 30th St. The men joined for different reasons, but all believe in the same basic principles.

**Art student chosen to give library mural new look**

By Thea Naikelis

The library mural has come in handy for the last few years- as a step by step guide on how to dress on flashback day.

The old mural and all of it's 1970s glory is up for a renovation this year.

Art students of all levels were assigned the interesting task of coming up with new and innovative ideas for this large scale expression of Central talent.

"I think it will be weird to come

back years after I've graduated and see my old art still painted up on the wall," first place winner Ananda Walden said.

The contest was open to all students who could follow the guidelines set by the Central Art Department. All entries had to be drawn to scale on a piece of paper 10 inches



WALDEN

by two inches and display one of the specified themes; technology, diversity, time, literature or art communications.

The actual mural, when completed, will span the length of a bookshelf in the school library.

After collecting entries, the art teachers narrowed the 60 pieces to a final 15.

These were voted on by art club officers and selected

faculty and the top three winners were then chosen.

Different prizes were awarded to the top three entries.

Prizes consisted of one \$50 and two \$25 gift certificates for Dick Blick, an art supply store, for first, second and third place.

The winning entry was approved by Dr. Thompson before the actual mural work began.

"It's a lot of work for one student to paint all of those wall pieces in time for summer," Adviser Margaret Quinn said, "so we will try to

incorporate all three top entries and involve selected members of art club in the process."

Walden said that she was proud to have her piece chosen, but she was not too excited about all the work involved in painting the library wall.

"The department is funding everything for this project, just because we did 20 years ago," Quinn said.

If it goes well we hope to design murals for many areas of the school in need of some fresh paint and imagination."

**Former Central graffiti artist talks about vandalism, other crimes**

**From GRAFFITI, page 1**  
In the morning and spray up the town," Williams said.

Kathleen Swanson, a city employee who oversees graffiti removal, said it is exactly that mentality that has caused graffiti to become such a problem among youth in Omaha.

"I can't tell you how frightened some of these people are," Swanson said. "They are having little gang wars on their garages, and they don't know what to do. They're having to ask, 'Is it just a tagger out there or is

it a dangerous individual?"

She said that people like Williams are a major problem and they need to be dealt with as quickly and directly as possible.

"They are lowlifes. They have no consideration for other people's property," Swanson said.

The city has done several things to attempt to mitigate the harm that taggers and graffiti artists cause.

The city implemented a graffiti van and crew three years ago to drive around and clean up any graffiti it comes across.

She said the van has worked well.

To date over 100 vandals have been caught with the van; most of them convicted as repeat offenders.

There are other ways that graffiti artists can be caught, though.

"Some of them are so dumb," Swanson said, "They'll go out and draw their so-called art. Then they'll come back later and take a picture of themselves standing next to their artwork. And that's how we catch them. We find these pictures of people standing next to their work."

She said the police department has also taken a lot of steps to try to deter people from doing graffiti.

She said lately it has made penalties for tagging and vandalism a lot harsher.

"Sometimes they can be fined as much as 100 dollars, or given up to a year in jail," Swanson said.

Williams said he was never caught while he was tagging. "There was a couple guys that chased us," Williams said. "I've been chased, but never apprehended and caught."

He said he doesn't think he was particularly crafty, but he definitely wasn't stupid.

"It wasn't like we would tag

something up, run off, and then come back the next day to admire our work," Williams said.

Williams said he has stopped tagging altogether.

But he said every once in a while he still thinks about how fun it was. And he still thinks about what a relief it was to spray someone's car and smash someone's window.

He said he hasn't done it for 10 years. But he said if he were with a friend who was interested, and he had just a couple extra cans of spray paint, he might be up for one last time of "breaking stuff and painting it up

# D.A.R.E. changes current curriculum

By Rebecca Murow

This is a very, very exciting thing for all communities," B.J. McConnell, deputy director for education, said about the new Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.

A grant allocated by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is providing an improvement for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) curriculum McConnell said.

It is hoped that the \$13 million grant being used to better the D.A.R.E. curriculum will have a more positive impact on the students than it has in the past.

Central students had several different opinions on the D.A.R.E. curriculum students in fifth grade all across OPS are currently being taught.

"It doesn't work," junior Ed Yin said. "They talk to kids at such a young age. I think they forget. If kids want to do drugs, they're going to do drugs."

Junior Theresa Fuchs agreed that her

D.A.R.E. education did not affect her decision-making.

"I don't really know if it made a huge difference," Fuchs said. "I already knew I wasn't going to do drugs, so it didn't really influence my decision."

The new program will increase not only drug awareness, but take a step to prevent violence as well, McConnell said. McConnell said she believes that the violence awareness is especially relevant due to the recent school shootings across the country.

"[D.A.R.E. is] undergoing the largest study of its kind to create and evaluate prevention for seventh and ninth graders," McConnell said.

In the past, D.A.R.E. had predominantly served as a program for fifth graders with a continuing class for seventh grade students.

McConnell said that the refined continuation into seventh and ninth grades will provide more needed information to the maturing students.

All of the new programs are an updated version based exactly on what the previous

program entailed.

The new curriculum also allows for more time to practice assertiveness and refusal.

Although many students did not think the D.A.R.E. program had a significant effect on their decisions about drug use and violence, one student believes that the extension of the curriculum through seventh and ninth grades will make a greater impact.

"The D.A.R.E. program is introduced too soon to kids," junior Nicole Lynch said. "The new curriculum will be much more informative and beneficial to students now that it will be carried on as they grow older and are faced with the decision of whether or not to do drugs."

The focus of the D.A.R.E. program is on the individual person.

D.A.R.E. is only one step in pointing students toward the right path to take when it comes to prevention. Children are influenced by everything around them, including parents, teachers and coaches.

"It takes everybody," McConnell said. "D.A.R.E. is one slice of that big pie."

# SASI's first year challenging, administrator says

By Joe Meyer

The problems caused by SASI, the district's new server program this year have mostly been caused by the system's introduction to the school.

Also, most of the problems have been solved and the system should work better next year, an assistant principal said.

"Like any new system, the first year is really challenging," Paul Semrad, assistant principal and data administrator, said. "I'm not an expert on this yet. In another year, we will be better off."

Lois Koern, data processing secretary, agreed the system is sometimes hard to use.

"When it is good, it is very, very good," she said. "But when it is bad, it is horrid."

Semrad said having enough school officials to enter the information and knowing how to use the information are some problems brought by the new server.

"One of the advantages to SASI is it has more ability to input information, but a problem with that is having the manpower to input that information," he said.

Overall, though, Semrad said the new system has a lot of benefits to it. To begin,

the server is maintained by officials in the school.

Before this year, all the information from the school was kept at the Teacher Administration Center in a district-wide mainframe. The easy accessibility of information helps the school, Semrad said. For example, now the main office can print its own class lists and transcripts, increasing the efficiency of the program.

"Before, none of these things you could print in the building," Semrad said. "It had to be printed at data processing."

The ability for the school to process and record its own information will soon end some of the school's more primitive practices.

The old way of making transcripts after each semester will soon be eliminated and the school will be able to print its own up-to-date transcripts upon requests.

"All of this [old transcripts] will become obsolete," Semrad said.

Diane Caldwell, project leader for the SASI implementation, said the centralized system at each school will increase the security of the system.

The thirty-year-old system's code was accessible to so many people that its function

could not be determined at the end of its use. She said the new program has more control over the records.

Semrad said only three people have access to change the records in the system. The guidance department and department heads have access, but to a limited extent.

Caldwell also said the system has a lot of potential to be used to the school's advantage, even though some problems exist now.

"The biggest advantage is the potential in the district because we had to get the architecture in place before using the SASI modules," she said.

The district is looking at special features to include in the server that would help teachers in the classroom, Caldwell said.

Some of the possible features include the ability for teachers to take instantaneous attendance while in class, track students' performance on tests and give parents some access to their child's records.

"The idea is to strengthen the integration of information," Caldwell said.

Semrad and Caldwell agree: the switch was worth it and the system will get better.

"I can guarantee it is worth it," Caldwell said. "It makes buildings more independent."

# COLLEGE

# CORNER

## University of South Florida

Location: Tampa, Fla.  
Admission: 67 percent of applicants accepted  
Enrollment: 15,461  
Housing: Dormitories and apartments  
Academics: Weekend college, combined bachelor's/graduate program in business administration and medicine  
Average test scores: 960-1200 (SAT), 19-25 (ACT)  
Tuition: \$12,416  
Interesting facts: Undergraduate campuses in St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Lakeland

## University of Central Arkansas

Location: Conway, Ark.  
Admission: 96 percent of applicants accepted  
Enrollment: 6,956  
Housing: Dormitories, apartments, fraternities and sororities  
Academics: Liberal arts/career combination in health sciences  
Tuition: \$7,044  
Interesting facts: Central Arkansas has an observatory, greenhouse and student art gallery

## University of New Hampshire

Location: Durham, N.H.  
Admission: 77 percent of applicants accepted  
Enrollment: 10,056  
Academics: Undergraduate research opportunities programs  
Average test scores: 1000-1210 (SAT)  
Tuition: \$18,565

## Seattle University

Location: Seattle, Wash.  
Admission: 88 percent of applicants accepted  
Enrollment: 2,941  
Housing: Dormitories  
Academics: Bachelor's/graduate program in business administration  
Average test scores: 850-1220 (SAT)  
Tuition: \$20,368  
Interesting facts: Seattle University is affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church and has 5 theology and ministry programs

## North Dakota State University

Location: Fargo, N.D.  
Admission: 78 percent of applicants accepted  
Enrollment: 7,585  
Housing: Dormitories, apartments, fraternities and sororities  
Tuition: \$19,012  
Interesting facts: Offers aerospace and astronomical engineering majors

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# Death Row

Currently ten men sit on Nebraska's Death Row. They have spent their time in Housing Unit 4 at the Lincoln State Penitentiary for years, appealing their sentences. They are all there for one reason: murder. Collectively, the ten men have murdered eleven people across the state.

In this issue, the *Register* talks to some of the people who have dealt with Nebraska's death penalty. Victims and murderers alike shared their thoughts and experiences with the punishment.

## Family, murderers talk about life since the crime

From ABBOUD, page 1

Then let's start planning," Anderson said.

The trio decided the best way to kill Ronald would be to get him into a secluded area and shoot him, execution style.

So on Oct. 29, 1975, Hochstein called Ronald. He told Ronald that he had some riverfront property he would like appraised.

When Ronald showed up, Hochstein shot him three times in the back of the head.

Then he, Anderson and Reams went out for dinner.

### The aftermath

JoAnn was 37 at the time of the murder. Steve was ten. His other siblings ranged from three to 12.

"It was devastation. It wiped us out. My children were angry at the whole world because they lost their father," JoAnn said. "I couldn't even function myself. I was a basket case."

JoAnn said she was completely incapable of raising her children after her husband's murder.

One of her friends moved in to help with the children.

Although the children had some sort of guidance, Steve said it didn't help them get over the emotional trauma of the murder. He said he developed an extreme disregard for authority.

"How could I deal?"

The disrespect for the agencies, trying to push this off to the side as a mafia hit or something. It just didn't seem like the authorities were doing their job. I definitely carried that with me," Steve said.

Steve said that throughout the years after his father's murder, he and his brother RJ had no guidance.

"We just went haywire - we didn't believe in the system anymore. It had failed us, and we weren't going to let that happen again," Steve said. "We were at the bottom of the barrel. You question God at that point."

He said he found it difficult to even comprehend exactly how he felt.

"I don't know how to measure all the pain. You can't quantify it," Steve said. "To take a father from 3 children, a husband from a wife. It was a brutal experience. Immeasurable."

Steve said his mother really went over the edge.

"She was kind of lost for a couple of years," he said.

JoAnn said she wasn't lost, but looking. Looking for her husband's killer.

She hired a private investigator named Daniel Whelan to handle the case.

Whelan planted several bugging devices in Anderson's house. The bugs recorded Anderson and Hochstein discussing the murder and the cover up.

Anderson said he was surprised to learn about the bugs.

"Whelan bugged my house, bugged my phone, bugged everything with these cheesy little Radio Shack bugs. He was outside listening in

on his CB radio," Anderson said.

### The trial

To JoAnn and Steve, Whelan's tapes proved Anderson and Hochstein guilty. Now it was simply a matter of proving it in court.

Their attorney introduced the tapes in court. But after hearing how they were collected, the judge almost threw the case out.

Abboud's attorneys realized that they had to find a real witness, and quickly. The court date was set, and there was nowhere near enough evidence to convict either Hochstein or Anderson for the murder.

That's when they found Reams, the as-of-yet-unknown third party in the murder.

Hochstein had used Reams' gun to commit the murder, so the prosecution used that fact to scare Reams into testifying.

The defense tried to suppress his testimony several times, but to no avail. He told his story, and the jury was sold.

Almost three years after Ronald's death, his killers were convicted and sentenced to spend the rest of their lives in jail.

The court made this statement: "The court found that...the crime was especially heinous, atrocious, cruel, and manifested exceptional depravity by ordinary standards of morality and intelligence. Although torture was not involved, it is clear that this element was applicable. The defendant killed. ... The act was totally and senselessly bereft of any regard for human life. It was wanton, deliberate, cruel, and inexcusable."

### An escape

Despite his conviction, Anderson clings to the story that the only thing he really did to deserve any jail time was escape from jail.

Anderson and Hochstein were put under maximum security at the Douglas County prison at 17th and Harney.

While in prison, he and Hochstein started stealing small amounts of metal, and then using a well-hidden hacksaw blade to cut the metal into keys to fit the prison locks.

"We're sitting there calculating how long we'll have till they know we're gone. We figured about 30 minutes. It was our plan to jump out and haul a--," Anderson said.

But first, they had a trial to attend.

"We decided if we got found innocent, screw all this escape sh--," Anderson said.

"Otherwise, we're out of here."

Anderson said he realized the minute he got into court that he and Hochstein did not stand a chance.

"I took one look at that jury and I realized most of them already thought we were guilty," Anderson said. "So we went to trial, lasted two weeks, got convicted."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RJ ABBOUD

**HAPPIER TIMES** This picture, taken four months before Ronald's murder, is one of the few photos the family has of Ronald. From left to right, RJ, Senator Roman Hruska, Steve, JoAnn and Ronald Abboud.

Following their previous plan, Anderson and Hochstein broke out of Douglas County prison, taking a fellow cellmate, whom Anderson only referred to as Shepherd.

When Anderson and Hochstein escaped, Steve said it was like a double whammy. His father had been murdered. Now the people convicted of the crime had escaped.

Steve suspects that the killers had help from within the prison.

"To have hacksaws for the bars, to have six stories worth of sheets [Anderson and Hochstein made a rope out of bed sheets] they had assistance. There's no doubt they had assistance," Steve said.

Even if they didn't have assistance, however, Steve said he still thinks there is no reasonable explanation for what happened.

"This was supposed to be a maximum security prison!" Steve said, "With all the tools and everything else, well sh--! You might as well have been in the carpenter's shop!"

After breaking out of prison, the trio stole a plane from the hangar at Eppley Airfield.

"There was just one kid in there [the hangar]. And we tapped him on the back and we said, 'We're going to steal a plane. You can either help us or we'll tie you up and do it ourselves.' And he said, 'Well then okay, I'll help,'" Anderson said.

Even though none of them had ever flown a plane before, Anderson, Hochstein and Shepherd flew a stolen plane all the way to North Dakota, where it ran out of fuel.

"We were only about two miles away from Canada, which is where we wanted to be. So we figured, 'Ah, we'll just walk,'" Anderson said.

But apparently Shepherd could not handle the walk. So the party ended up camping out in an abandoned building.

Hochstein fell asleep under a tree. Anderson said he was tired too, so he went to sleep inside the building. They both forgot all about Shepherd.

"I woke up a couple hours later, thinking I overslept. I went outside and I hear Pete on the roof kicking and yelling at Shepherd. Turns out Shepherd had fallen asleep on the roof, right out in the open," Anderson said.

By this time, the authorities had found the abandoned plane and had begun to search the area. Douglas County had sent out a national alert that three escaped convicts were on the loose in a stolen plane, and the North Dakota police knew who they were looking for.

Anderson said before too long,

they had been caught. Authorities surrounded them.

"I figured, 'Well alright. I'll give up before they get all excited. Game over,'" Anderson said.

Anderson and Hochstein were brought back to Omaha, where they were convicted of robbery and kidnapping Shepherd. That's when they were sentenced to death.

### Today

Since 1978, Hochstein and Anderson have been "honorary members of Death Row," as he called it.

Anderson said due to his conviction, he now has to deal with a lot of legal papers and appeals. He said he tries to learn as much as he can about the legal system, so that he can handle his own case, or at least know more about it.

"A lot of those guys that let lawyers handle their appeals are now dead. Otey, Williams..." Anderson said.

Anderson was referring to Willie "Walkin' Willie" Otey, who was executed in 1994, and Robert Williams, who was executed in 1997.

"Our case is tough because it's 24 years old," Anderson said. "There's a lot of hoops we got to jump through."

JoAnn said she thinks Anderson and Hochstein shouldn't even be allowed the chances they have been given.

"The only thing that would truly put an end to this ordeal is if the appeals process were addressed," JoAnn said. "With all their appeals, there should just be an end to it. They deserve the punishment they were awarded."

Last year Hochstein and Anderson's case was appealed again.

"Nobody ever even called us about it," JoAnn said.

Steve said he heard about the appeal trial over the radio and immediately called the rest of his family.

All of them then attended the appeal.

"Just looking at Anderson in that courtroom, his hands and eyes were cold as ice. He had no remorse. When you have no remorse, how can there be forgiveness?" Steve said.

The case didn't last long, and before the week was up the convicts were back in Housing Unit 4.

Anderson said one thing about life on Nebraska's Death Row.

"Thinking back, we should have just ran. If they shot us in the back, so be it, cause it's a hell lot better than being down here," Anderson said. "But then again, I guess that's justice for you."



Walden

**THE CHAIR** A Central artist's rendition of the Nebraska electric chair. The chair was first used in 1930, and has been in use ever since.

# Inmate reveals life on Death Row

By Michael Gerhardt

"The only difference is they die one day at a time over a much longer time, whereas we die in only a couple of years," Nebraska death row inmate John Lotter said.

Lotter has been living in Housing Unit 4 at the State Penitentiary in Lincoln for five years, convicted of the first-degree murder of Teena Brandon, Philip Devine, and Lisa Lambert.

According to a Richardson County Court Report, Lotter and his accomplice Marvin Nissin had driven to Humbolt, Nebraska to Lambert's farmhouse to kill Brandon so she could not testify against them for kidnapping and sexually assaulting her.

The two had agreed that anyone present during the murder of Brandon also had to be killed, which resulted in the murder of Devine and Lambert.

According to the court report, Lotter has been escaping from prisons, stealing cars and getting arrested since age 15.

Today, Lotter's schedule is much more regimented.

Every day, Lotter said, the inmates get up for breakfast and are allowed in the law library from 7:45 until 9:45 a.m. After that, they are locked in their cells until lunch, let out for lunch, locked down again and then allowed time in the yard. After that they are allowed to take showers, then locked down again

until dinner. After dinner comes another lockdown until 8 p.m., when they are allowed into the dayroom before they are locked up again until the next morning.

"The only thing that changes your day is a visit from your people from 8 to 10:50," Lotter said.

Lotter said in each cell, an inmate has a television and a radio as well as their case file and all of the things needed to write letters. Lotter said no speakers are allowed, so everything must be done through headphones. Lately, the prisons have been pushing for clear TVs, so nothing could be hidden in them. To Lotter, this means earning enough money to buy another TV.

"I think they want to discourage us without taking anything away from us," Lotter said.

Also, Lotter said the prison officials have recently banned all shoes with any color but white and green. Lotter said changes like these are common.

"Next they'll come out with see-through jumpsuits so they don't have to pat you down," Lotter said.

The media stereotype of death row is inaccurate—at least for Nebraska, Lotter said. The severity of each death row varies from state to state.

"This state is a hell of a lot different than Texas or Florida," Lotter said.

Lotter said some states get things on their death row that

Nebraska doesn't get.

Nebraska's death row is relatively small, with only 11 inmates. Comparing that to death rows of more than a hundred people, Lotter said security must be much different.

There have been a few stabbings on Death Row, but Lotter said most of the fights on death row are shouting matches. Lotter said the prison guards usually break up a fight in one or two minutes.

He said the TV stereotype of guards and inmates becoming friends is generally untrue. Lotter said many of the guards are simply there to do their job.

"You have guards that come in and have an agenda and bring in their personal problems and rub you the wrong way. You've got others who just do their job and you learn to stay out of their way," he said.

Still, Lotter said the guards and the inmates could bond on occasion. "Sometimes we act like counselors to them. They talk about their marriage problems and girlfriend problems and we give them advice," Lotter said.

Lotter said he finds this somewhat humorous.

Lotter said the attitudes of the other death row inmates are mellow, with all of them wanting to be left alone to do what they want. He also said the inmates receive little or no privacy, so none of them want any noise or interference.

Outside of the prison, Lotter had

a wife and daughter and worked as a door maker, building \$5000 and \$10,000 doors for casinos and other places. To Lotter, the loss of family is the worst loss.

"I miss my kids, my people, my mother, my sisters," Lotter said.

Lotter said he tries not to let his sentence hang over his head, but it does get to him occasionally. Lotter said he is more concerned about his family than he is himself.

"I think about how it's affecting my family instead of me," Lotter said. "They don't want to see me like this."

When faced with the possibility of release, Lotter said the sudden integration back into society does not frighten him.

"It doesn't scare me to get back out there, it's just another transition. I've always been pretty good at that," Lotter said.

Lotter pointed out that getting released is much tougher for people who simply do a set amount of time, because they have to be released into reality again.

One thing Lotter noted most was the lack of privacy on death row. He said someone is always watching, always invading his personal space. Lotter said this lack of privacy fits into every inmate's life and is always there.

"If you're in your cell, there's always someone walking by your door, looking in to find anyone who overdozed or hung himself," Lotter said.

one person who took himself off because it bothered him," Johnsen said.

The staff on Death Row is rotated every four months, Johnsen said, which keeps the job from becoming a routine. Johnsen said routines lead to complacency, which can eventually become dangerous.

Johnsen said the selection for death row guards isn't any special process.

Case workers, case managers and corporals handle most of the day to day work which must be done on death row.

Each guard takes a five week preservice training, where they are taught self defense using pressure points.

"We don't want to get in a fight with an inmate, we want to control the inmate," Johnsen said.

Also, Johnsen said each team is trained to respond to other staff members, every staff member knows what is going on with other staff members. If an inmate is acting differently or doing

something they didn't used to do, he is watched and the reports are kept on file.

Johnsen said a common misconception is that guards and inmates form bonds all the time.

Johnsen said the guards try to keep things totally professional and not form any friendships with inmates.

He said one of the main things the guards try to do is to treat the inmates with respect.

"We try to treat that person as a human being. As a result, the inmate will turn that around," Johnsen said.

Johnsen also said a guard is not required to stay on death row if he does not feel right.

"If they have problems, if they have any [different beliefs], they're not obligated to be part of the process," Johnsen said.

One of the lesser-known parts of Nebraska's death row is the Control Unit, or the "hole," as inmates call it.

The control unit, Johnsen said, is a very limited

environment. Johnsen said when inmates are placed in the control unit, the administration has to do new things, such as restrict time available to things like cups and other necessities.

Johnsen said the control unit is not for the meek staff members.

"We've had inmates that have gone through different phases of throwing urine or feces on you," Johnsen said.

To get put in the control unit, an inmate has to commit a violent act, such as fighting, sexual assault or murder, Johnsen said.

Attempted escape will also put an inmate there.

Currently only one man is in the hole: David Dunster, a man convicted of killing his cellmate and who is now on Death Row.

"Dunster's is an interesting case," he said. "He killed someone in here. That's what Control Unit is for, people like him."

## NEBRASKA'S DEATH ROW

Death Row inmates are segregated from the rest of the prison population for various reasons. Win Barber, an assistant to the warden at the Lincoln State Penitentiary said.

They gained this distinction by being convicted by a jury of their own peers to have committed murder in the first degree.

But as Barber put it, "There are plenty of guys in here for first degree murder. But not all of them are on Death Row."

If there are more aggravating circumstances [things that make the crime worse] than mitigating circumstances [things that make the crime not as bad] in a capital case, then the jury has the option of sentencing the defendant to death.

The convicted killers than have the option of pursuing various appeals, district judge Joseph Batallion said.

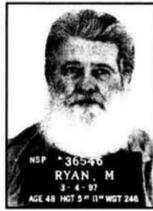
Once an inmate has exhausted all of his appeal avenues, an execution date is set, Batallion said.

"All of the men who have been put to death on our electric chair, they have exhausted all of their avenues," Barber said.

NOT PICTURED: Roger Bjorklund and David Dunster

### Michael W. Ryan

Sentenced for the first degree murder of James Thimm and second degree murder of Luke Stice. Ryan ran a cult in the farmland of Richardson County. He instructed cult members, including his son, to assist him in the sodomy and eventual murder of both victims. He was sentenced in 1986.



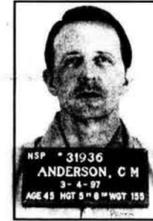
### John Lotter

Sentenced for the first degree murder of Teena Brandon, Philip DeVine and Lisa Lambert in 1993. Apparently Lotter's motive for the murders was related to sexual orientation. A movie, "Boys Don't Cry," was made about Lotter's crimes. He was sentenced in 1996.



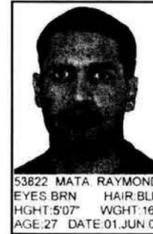
### Michael C. Anderson

Sentenced for hiring Peter Hochstein to murder his employer, Ronald Abboud, in 1975. After they were in custody, Hochstein and Anderson escaped. They were apprehended two miles from the Canadian border and brought back to Douglas County, where they were sentenced to death.



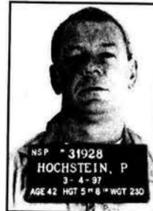
### Raymond Mata

Sentenced for the first degree murder of his girlfriend's son, three year old Adam Gomez. Apparently killing Gomez was a way of getting back at his girlfriend. Mata fed pieces of Gomez' body to his dogs. Mata was sentenced in 2000.



### Peter L. Hochstein

Sentenced for the first degree murder-for-hire of real estate developer Ronald Abboud in 1975. Hochstein escaped from jail and was apprehended and sentenced to death in 1978.



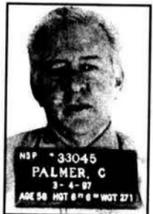
### Jeremy C. Sheets

Sentenced for the rape and first degree murder of 17-year-old Kenyatta Bush, a North High student. Sheets abducted Bush from school and killed her later on Sept. 23, 1992. He was sentenced in 1997.



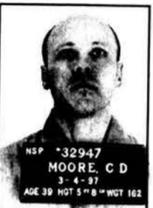
### Charles J. Palmer

Sentenced for the first degree murder and robbery of coin salesman Eugene Zimmerman in 1979. He was convicted in 1980. Palmer was robbing Zimmerman's store and shot Zimmerman during the robbery. He has been through the appeals system numerous times



### Carey Dean Moore

"The Taxi-Cab Killer." Sentenced for the first degree murder of Ruell Van Ness and Maynard Helgeland, both cab drivers in the Omaha area. He committed his crimes in 1979 and was sentenced to death in 1980.



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COUNTIES WHERE THE CRIMES WERE COMMITTED

## Death Row just part of the job, guard says

By Michael Gerhardt

For Dallen Johnsen, escorting an inmate to his death is just part of the job.

Johnsen is the Administrative Captain at Lincoln Correctional Center and a required member of the death escort team that takes prisoners to the electric chair.

Johnsen said he has been on both the deathwatch and death escort teams, as well as worked in the gym, cell houses, and yards in many different prisons in Nebraska. Johnsen said the stress levels on death row compared to stress levels everywhere else in the prison are not very different.

Each member of the death watch and death escort team is required to seek counseling each time an inmate is executed. Johnsen said counseling is available to anyone who needs it. Still, Johnsen said he has seen very few problems.

"Of all the people I have interviewed, there has been only

## THE EXECUTION PROCESS

- E MINUS 24:00 HOURS** (24 hours until the execution) The electric chair and support equipment are tested. The condemned man is taken to a special room in the prison hospital for the death watch, unless he has been moved there earlier because of behavior problems. He is allowed special visits from his family and friends.
- E MINUS 12:00 HOURS** The condemned man chooses his last meal from menu items on the prison inventory.
- All other inmates are ordered to their cells, where they will remain locked in until the execution is completed. Barricades and signs are put up in the prison parking lot. Parking in the lot is prohibited during the execution, although people will be able to stand in the lot. The public will be barred from the prison itself.
- E MINUS 06:00 HOURS**
- E MINUS 02:00 HOURS** News personnel are allowed into the prison visiting room, while the condemned man's escorts, official witnesses and mechanical staff members prepare for their duties.
- E MINUS 01:00 HOUR** The condemned man's visitors leave, and he is prepared for execution. Official witnesses hear his last statement, and the death warrant is read.
- E MINUS 00:45 MINUTES** Equipment supporting the electric chair is turned on.
- E MINUS 00:30 MINUTES** A preliminary call is made to the Board of Pardons, which can grant last-minute clemency.
- The condemned man is taken into the execution chamber. After he is strapped in the chair, curtains between the chamber and the viewing room are opened so witnesses can recognize his face. The curtains are then closed, and the executioner applies the electrodes. A telephone call is made to the Board of Pardons.
- E MINUS 00:10 MINUTES**
- Execution. The curtains are opened and the execution occurs. The inmate's witnesses are escorted out of the prison. A mortician is summoned to remove the body.
- E MINUS 00:00**

INFORMATION COURTESY OF NEBRASKA STATE PENITENTIARY

# President's visit draws Central students, teachers

By Joe Meyer

Thirteen Central students and three teachers went to see President George W. Bush speak at the Mancuso Convention Center on Feb. 28, on a trip sponsored by the social studies department.

Ted Arndt, American government teacher, organized the event. He said he received the tickets from Sen. Chuck Hagel, Rep. Lee Terry and the governor's office.

Arndt said he sponsored the event to try to get the students more involved in the governmental system and he wants them to remember the event.

"I hope the kids will have something to tell their kids," Arndt said.

One student got the chance to meet the 44 president of the United States.

Sophomore Cecilia Millatmal got a chance to shake hands with Bush, get his autograph and give him a letter that she wrote him.

"He's got a firm grip, a real firm grip," she said.

Millatmal said she wrote the letter before the event planning to

give it to a security guard, not Bush himself. She said the letter praised his tax plan, saying that giving money back to the people is a good idea.

Arndt said he was surprised that Bush chose to come to Omaha so early in his administration.

Some students were not so sure the visit's main objective was to come to Omaha. Senior Nick Joerz said the main goal of Bush's visit was to visit Iowa, which he lost by only 7,000 votes. Joerz said he thinks Bush's visit was to gain support in Iowa.

Bush needs support in "swing states" like Iowa to pass his agenda, Joerz said.

"Omaha's got a bigger airport than Council Bluffs does," Joerz said.

Jean Whitten, chairperson of the science department, agreed that the event was something every student should have tried to attend.

"Anytime a citizen has a chance to see the president, they should take advantage of it," she said.

Whitten said Bush was the second president she has seen. She said she saw President Kennedy in Texas when she was in high school.

"It was really awesome," Whitten said. "It was almost surreal."

Arndt said he expected Bush to try to build support for his tax plan and to try to show Nebraskans how the proposed plan would affect them.

"I think he'll try to bring his tax plan to the normal American people," he said.

Actually, Bush spent just as much time on other key issues as his tax plan that he sent to Congress. Bush said things about better medical insurance, the national debt and the educational system.

"One of our biggest priorities should be to make sure every child gets a quality education," Bush said. "There are no second rate children in America, there are no second rate teachers."

Kathleen McCallister, who graduated from Central in 1978, said she came to Bush's speech to support his educational plans.

She especially likes his reading initiatives to try to make sure that every student in the country can read by second grade.

McCallister also said she came to the speech so her daughter, eight-year-old Kelsey, could see the president.

All of the Central students who



JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

**WAITING:** A crowd of citizens awaits the chance to listen to President George Bush give a speech on Feb. 28. Bush's visit lasted for a little over half the day.

attended the speech said it was a good experience.

Even Joerz, a staunch Democrat who said Al Gore is the true president, said Bush did a good job.

"I didn't like what he said, but I thought he had good form and style," he said.

Joerz said the president focused too much on issues that he has no

power to control, like family life.

But Joerz was in the minority. Almost all of the Central students praised Bush, and said they would go to another speech if given the chance.

# Several states' legislatures consider lowering legal voting age

By Meredith Grunke

States throughout the country start to consider lowering the voting age on a local level, sparking youth rights activism throughout the country. Recently, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Texas have introduced bills that would lower the states' local voting ages to 16.

Gov. Mike Johanns said the Nebraska Unicameral is not planning on introducing a bill to lower the state's voting age any time soon. If one was introduced, Johanns said he would be surprised if it went very far within the Legislature.

He said he does not believe the voting age should be lowered.

"It seems a little young, and I'm not saying that 16-year-olds can't be responsible, but history has shown that the worst voter turnouts come with younger people."

"I do think 16 is pretty young," American Government teacher Carol Krejci said, "but if the teenager has had a government class, it would be a reasonably informed vote and not just based on fancy advertising."

State Sen. Jim Jensen also said he is not for lowering the voting age because he doesn't feel that young teens are informed well enough.

Central senior David Gutman said that he doesn't think the voting age should be lowered because apathy among 18-24 year-old voters is already widespread, and voter turnout would only decrease if the voting age was decreased.

State Sen. Pat Bourne said he doesn't think lowering the local voting age would be a bad idea. He said teens have many other rights and opportunities, such as having a job or owning a car. The important thing is to get more eighteen-year-olds first, said Sen. Bourne.

Krejci said that she believes lowering the voting age would be beneficial to students and increase future voting turnouts.

"If you get into the habit early,

you'll stay in the habit," said Krejci. "When the students are in school it's easy for the teachers to encourage them and help them make voting a lifelong habit."

Most recently, the Texas Legislature introduced a joint resolution and a bill on the 14th. Both of which were heard on the 14th. Both documents called for a lowering of the Texas voting age to 14, but when the bill was heard on the 14th, a substitute was added to the bill changing the age to 16.

According to the joint resolution, the only people who should not be under the age of 16, declared mentally incompetent in a court of law or convicted of a felony. The resolution also calls for the amendment to be made to the state's constitution if the bill is passed when it is voted on, on

**"If you can get life in prison at age 16, you should be able to vote."**  
*Representative of Texas State Senator Ron Wilson*

## RESEARCH STUDY FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH DEPRESSION

**This study, sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and coordinated by UNMC, evaluates the effectiveness of psychotherapy and medication treatments for depression in adolescents. Adolescents, ages 12-17, may be eligible for the study. Symptoms of Clinical Depression may include:**

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**Pam Gradvolle Simon.**

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# Graduated licenses

New approach may lower number of accidents, official says

By Joe Meyer  
It's too early to see if Nebraska's graduated licensing program, started in 1999, is working but the state has experienced a significant decrease in accidents among 16-year-olds, a spokesman said.

Fred Zwonechek, administrator for the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, said accidents in the state involving 16-year-olds decreased 4.5 percent in 1999.

"That was the largest [decrease in a] single year we've had in this decade," Zwonechek said. "That's the first decrease we've had since 1985." Other states with similar provisions have also experienced decreases in traffic accidents involving young drivers.

Scott Falb, traffic safety specialist for the Iowa Department of Transportation, said the state had a 20 percent decrease in traffic violations and 10 percent reduction in traffic accidents among 16-year-olds after the new provision was established by the state in January 1999.

"We feel that is something we can build on," Falb said.

Kurt Goetzinger, director of communication for the Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha,

said the decrease should be attributed to an increase in responsibility among teenagers in taking driver's education seminars.

Goetzinger said there has been an increase in students enrolling in the driver's education program, with leads to a decrease in accidents among new drivers.

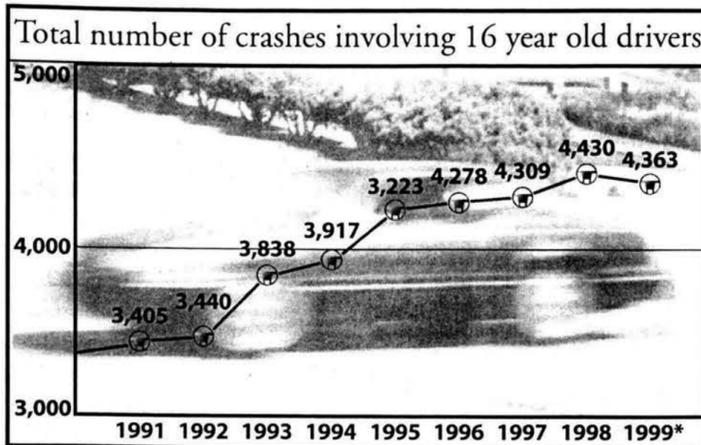
Goetzinger said the changes in the legislature were a good idea.

"I think it's probably one of the best things they've done," he said.

Zwonechek said the program has gone well. The only problem the state has noticed is a disparity between students who choose to enroll in a driver education course and those who log 50 hours of driving time.

"There's a distinct difference between 50 hour logs and driver education," he said.

Zwonechek said the state is seeing that the drivers who log their



**RARE DECREASE** In 1999, the year the new graduated license program took effect, the state experienced its first decrease since 1985.

driving hours are more likely to get into accidents or get traffic violations.

He said the state thinks that some of the students do not drive for the total 50 hours required by law.

Falb said Iowa requires that parents accompany their child to get a license and they sign a statement claiming the student has had 20 hours of driving experience with an instructional permit.

Kwonechek said the states have

not suggested any legislation to deal with the difference in the two methods.

If any changes are made, a restriction on the number of passengers that can be in a car with a 16-year-old driver would be the most likely, Kwonechek said.

Falb said Iowa doesn't have any exclusive restrictions on the amount of passengers that a 16-year-old can have at one time.

# Near accidents occur often, principal says

From SAFETY, page 1

The layout of the school may be to blame, Thompson said. He said the sidewalk leading down to Dodge Street does not end at an intersection. This encourages students to just keep walking, and cross in the middle of the street.

"The easiest thing to do is run across the street," he said.

Because of this, the school has a lot of school officials outside after school.

Only two administrators are in the building after school, Thompson said. He said he is outside helping to load city buses.

Thompson said police sometimes come to school to protect the students.

The police are not outside every day, he said, but the department's presence after school helps the situation.

"I think it helps with just the traffic," he said. "People are more cautious when they see the patrol car."

Thompson also said the school has requested that the city

install a traffic signal between 20th and 24th Street on Dodge Street.

Chris Faulk, traffic signal engineer for the City of Omaha, said he has never heard of a request from the school.

Faulk also said installing a traffic signal somewhere on Dodge Street would not help much.

"It doesn't look like an area that would make sense to put a crosswalk in," he said.

Dierks said the best thing for students to do is to follow all traffic laws while walking out of school. This helps the police a lot, he said.

"They are not safety concerns for police as long as motor vehicles and students obey traffic laws," he said.

Thompson said he has made many announcements about the need for students to be careful while leaving school. Because the school is situated in the middle of downtown, this is a big concern for him.

Dierks said this type of accident is something he wishes never happens to anyone else.

"It was a pretty traumatic accident to witness," the officer said.

# Severe midwest nurse shortage may cause problems, chairperson says

By Ally Freeman

A recent nurse shortage has compromised the safety of many patients in Nebraska prompting new recruitment efforts to entice more to enter the nursing field, a nursing supervisor said.

Dr. Marilyn Valerio, associate chairperson of the students' department of nurses school at Nebraska Methodist College said there is definitely a nurse shortage in Omaha.

She said the shortage has been occurring for about three years but has escalated in the last year and has since been receiving national attention.

"Nurse shortages go up and down, and many times they are in cycles," she said.

Some causes for this particular shortage include the aging nurse

population.

She said the average age of a practicing nurse in a hospital is 44, and the average nursing educator is 50.

There is also a decline in the number of students going into nursing, Valerio said.

She said the shortage has threatened working conditions. Many nurses have been forced into mandatory overtime, working between 12-20 hours in one day.

"It jeopardizes the safety of people being cared for," Valerio said.

There are currently people leaving the profession because they are so fatigued and burned out, she said.

Although the current situation is dangerous, Valerio has hopes that a current bill in the legislature will lure many Nebraska nurses into the field.

She said there is currently a bill in front of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Nebraska legislature to address the current nurse shortage.

Sen. Deborah Suttle introduced the bill that addresses incentives for students to receiving nursing loans and attracting non-practicing nurses back into the field.

Suttle said her bill would provide for loan payments, pay bills and give scholarships to students entering the nursing field. In addition, the bill would pay for refresher courses for people who came back to nursing.

It would basically offer financial incentives for returning, Valerio said.

Suttle said her personal experience as a nurse, in addition to reports from her nursing colleagues have brought to her attention the low pay and long hours nurses endure.

"The care patients are receiving is being neglected because there are not enough nurses," she said.

Suttle said the bill has not gotten out of committee yet. The state is not looking favorably upon it because they believe the money could be spent on better things.

"I think it is a good use of the state's money," Suttle said.

She said incentives such as those outlined in her bill are essential to curbing the nurse shortage in Nebraska.

Even if the bill does not pass, other efforts are being made to help attract certain demographics to the nursing field.

Historically nursing has been a female profession, but the opportunities for women to enter other career fields have expanded in the last few decades.

One problem is that the profession has not attracted very many men or ethnic groups.

"We are doing a lot of work to turn that around," Valerio said.

Other recruitment efforts include educating the public and going to schools to encourage prospective students to consider occupations in nursing.

Valerio said many do not realize the value and hard work in become a nurse. Nurses must be very well educated in science and math fields, she said.

**OVERWORKED:** Linette Jahn, RN, works into the wee hours of the night to keep patients' prescriptions up to date. Jahn is one of a dwindling population of nurses in Nebraska.



PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

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# Your Health

**Inside:**  
~ Herbal Medicine  
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All the pressures, the stress and the anxiety of life are affecting today's teens...

# KIDS and suicide

By Lydia Coleman

*\*Name changed to protect identity*

It isn't difficult to notice the sounds of mentally ill patients screaming down an empty hallway while being strapped into a bed at a local psychiatric institution. When Central junior, Joe Smith\*, opened his eyes and realized that he did not make it to heaven or hell, but was instead lying on a gurney at Immanuel Mental Health Clinic, he felt even more insecure than before his suicide attempt.

According to reports from the Center for Disease Control, suicide claims the lives of more Americans than homicide.

On the morning of Feb. 5, 2001, Smith woke up and started his daily activities as usual. He attended school without the slightest difference in his schedule. It was not until he reached home that his whole day took a drastic turn.

When he walked through the door of his house, he was faced with two screaming parents. The habitual arguments grew louder.

"We fight all the time," Smith said. "I get yelled at every day."

He said he had to take medication daily to keep his health problems (seizures) under control.

"I just couldn't deal with it anymore. I thought the easiest way to take control of my life and my problems was to take more medication than I needed," Smith said.

That night Smith took forty-eight tablets of Depakote, his seizure medication. That is sixteen times the amount of a normal dose.

"I didn't realize what I had done

Turn to SUICIDE, page 12



LUENINGHOENER/ THE REGISTER



LUENINGHOENER/ REGISTER

## On the line

Hotline is saving grace for some

By Annie Walden

The only thing the counselor knew about the person at the other end of the line was that she was upset and she was about to kill herself.

The crisis management team at the Boy's Town National Hotline deals with desperate people every day, but the call of one 17-year-old girl really stuck out in the mind of crisis counselor Vivian Marr.

"She was calling from her car phone and was threatening to drive off the road," Marr said.

The first thing she did was to convince the girl to pull off into a parking lot to talk.

"Our main interest is to help the callers and ensure their current safety," Marr said.

The girl revealed to Marr that her parents were going through a divorce and the mother was having an affair. She also said that her mother's boyfriend was sleeping over at the house while the father was out of town.

"She was so afraid that her father would come home and find his [the boyfriend's] motorcycle in the garage," Marr said. "Feelings of hopelessness and helplessness is why they call."

Marr said the caller felt like there was no way out of her situation and wanted to get rid of the emotional pain that she was going through.

Marr said that once the caller realized that the problem she was facing was not her fault, she was able to start coming up with her own solutions.

"Basically what she was doing for three-to-four months was trying to take care of her mother," Marr said. "It's not the child's responsibility to care of the parents. They have no reason to have to take on that responsibility. This is their time to be taken care of."

Marr stayed on the phone with this girl for about an hour, which is longer than most calls last.

This crisis counselor got a follow-up call from the girl a while later, naming her case a success story.

"Come to find out, she was not aware that her parents had come to a decision to have an

Turn to HOTLINE, page 12

## Getting through the night

High school students fight to get sleep

By Danielle Rollins

Teenagers in high school and often young adults in college have the worst sleeping patterns of the entire population, due to excess stress and anxiety. Chere Duran, a registered Polysomnographer (sleep specialist) said.

Duran said the pressures of schoolwork, extracurricular activities and social affairs keep teens from getting the sleep they need.

"Teenagers are about the worst to have normal sleep patterns," she said. "There is just too much going on."

"[I have] a lot of involvement in extracurricular activities," junior Megan Hoover said.

Dr. Steven Smith, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), said that sometimes sleep deprivation

could lead to a more serious disorder like insomnia.

He said that chronic insomnia can happen from every night to two or three nights a week.

Freshman Ben Baker said he does not get enough sleep. He said that it is not because he is overly stressed, or even because he is too busy. He just cannot get to sleep at night.

"I look at the clock and it's 4 [a.m.]" Baker said. "I'll try to get to sleep...I don't know what it is that keeps me from getting the sleep I need."

Duran said that another disorder many teens suffer from is called delayed sleep phase syndrome.

In this disorder, patients are troubled because they have problems falling asleep.

Sometimes patients will lie down at nine and not be able to get to sleep until five or six in the morning, Duran said.

When a patient has this much trouble falling asleep, he often does not get the correct amount of REM, or deep sleep.

"You need your REM to feel mentally adequate the next day," Duran said.

She said the long periods of time in which the patient is not able to achieve a deep sleep could cause problems.

Lack of sleep over a long period of time can cause mental disorders," she said. "It can [also] cause depression [and] fatigue."

Depression can also occur when someone hasn't slept in a while. Duran said that all many depression

patients want to do throughout the day is sleep.

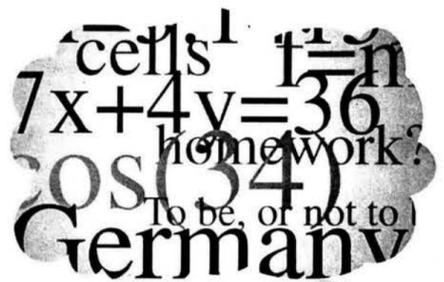
"If you have depression, you want to sleep eight to twelve hours a day," she said.

Duran said that many doctors prescribe medicine for these disorders. She said that there are other methods of helping the patients.

"They have medicine for everything now a days," she said. "That's just masking the problem instead of treating the disorder."

She said some simple changes in the patient's daily habits could prevent disorders from occurring.

"You need to go to bed at the same time and wake up at the same time every day," Duran said. "[Otherwise] it's really hard to get back to where you are supposed to be."



LUENINGHOENER/ THE REGISTER

**EVERY MOMENT COUNTS:** Junior Leah Rafal represents the many teenagers who try to make up for missed sleep by falling asleep in class.

Coping  
with

## STRESS

■ Obsessive Compulsive  
Disorder disrupts lives, therapist says

By Danielle Rollins

"In a panic attack, it's like you are at the top of a roller coaster and you can't get down," Dr. Kevin Cahill, Clinical Psychologist for Oak Heights Counseling, said. "Your heart starts beating and you get that queasy feeling in your stomach. You feel like you are [either] going to have a heart attack or you are going to die."

Cahill said that patients suffering from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) often experience "panic attacks" or "anxiety attacks" before they are diagnosed.

He said the attacks usually occur before the patient is diagnosed, often as a way of relieving the stress they are experiencing. After the patient is diagnosed with OCD, they use their compulsions

as a way to relieve their stress.

While the disorder was once considered a rarity, today it is being diagnosed more and more often.

The symptoms are said to occur in the late teens and continue throughout adulthood, Cahill said.

"It can affect people at any age," he said. "[But] about half of the people who have OCD show symptoms by age 15."

Cahill said that 25 percent of those who are diagnosed with this disorder are obsessive only, that is, they have constant intrusive thoughts.

The other 75 percent are compulsive as well. They use repetitious reactions to cause the obsessive thoughts to subside.

"OCD is [a combination of] recurring thoughts and behaviors that are intrusive or unwanted, [that are used] to ease the anxiety or worry from obsessions," licensed mental health practitioner Mark Ziegenbein of Therapy Resource Associates said.

He said it is important to remember that the patients are suffering from an unwanted disorder.

They realize there is something wrong, and they are embarrassed by their behavior.

Cahill said there are about five different kinds of compulsive behaviors that OCD patients suffer from.

Patients who are compulsively worried about germs may wash their hands frequently or take

several showers a day.

"Sinners and doubters" are usually people suffering from OCD who are very religious. They are afraid that everything they do is wrong or that they are sinning against God.

"Counters and organizers" count everything many times. They organize their closets and drawers several times a day and constantly feel that they are forgetting something. "Hoarders" are afraid to throw anything away for fear that they may lose something important.

They end up saving things for many years because they have convinced themselves that these things are important.

"They just keep things, not because they think they're valuable, just because they can't let go of them," Cahill said.

He said that about half of the patients seek professional help for their disorder. The other half just suffer through it.

There are several types of treatment used to help people who suffer from OCD.

There are medicines used to subdue the behavior, "thought stopping" techniques to teach patients not to concentrate on their obsessions and techniques used to help rationalize their fears as well as support groups to help sufferers, Ziegenbein said.

Cahill said that the group of patients who choose not to receive treatment might be torturing their family and friends as well as themselves.

"It [OCD] becomes a life problem in addition to an emotional problem," Cahill said.

## Shock therapy treats depression

By Lydia Coleman

Electroconvulsive therapy is unlike any other treatment in psychiatry, The Committee for Truth in Psychiatry director, Linda Andre said.

She said it has brought controversy for over sixty years, with many supporters and opponents.

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is a common treatment that has been on the rise in the past two decades, Andre said.

It was made for those who are severely depressed and who do not respond to (or can't tolerate) drugs, she said.

Andre went on to say that it was also necessary to treat untraceable mental illnesses, such as severe depression, especially when there was a risk of suicide.

"When someone experiences more than they can handle, the improvements in ECT can

help reduce the dangers associated with early shock treatments and help in the healing process at hand," Andre said.

Certified technicians use electrodes connected to an ECT machine and attach them to the scalp of a patient who has received general anesthesia and a muscle relaxant, Andre said.

With the flip of a switch the machine delivers enough electricity to power a light bulb for a fraction of a second.

The current causes a brief convulsion, reflected in the involuntary twitching of the patient's toe, she said.

A few minutes later the patient wakes up severely confused and without any memory of events surrounding the treatment, which is typically repeated three times a week for about a month.

"An annually estimated 100,000 Americans, most of them women, use this simple procedure every year," Andre said.

ECT, also known as shock therapy, is not welcomed by everyone. Therapy patient Robin Serdlow said shock therapy is something many dread.

"Shock therapy has been feared by many, and it should be," Serdlow said.

Serdlow said she has received many psychiatric services.

She is manic-depressive and has been taking different medications for her illnesses. Her doctors suggested electroconvulsive therapy a few years ago, but Serdlow was against it.

No one knows how or why ECT works, or what the convulsion, similar to a grand mal epileptic seizure, does to the brain, Andre said.

However many psychiatrists and some patients who have undergone ECT say it succeeds when all else—drugs, psychotherapy, hospitalization—have failed.

About 80 percent of patients who undergo ECT show substantial improvement, according to The American Psychiatric Association.

By contrast, antidepressant drugs, the cornerstone of treatment for depression, are effective for less than 60 to 70 percent of patients.

"I would rather die than send a shock wave through my body," Serdlow said.

## Acupuncture provides way to treat ailments

By Paula Salhany

The acupuncture procedure involves inserting half-inch needles less than a centimeter into points of the body in order to relieve pain and stress, James Dowden, the Executive Director of the American Academy of Acupuncture, said.

Some of the common ailments that acupuncture helps cure are tennis elbow, migraines

and back pain. It can be beneficial to some types of muscular problems as well.

"I am using acupuncture to help a muscle that atrophied after I had surgery on it," sophomore Reo Jones said.

She said while the idea of having needles in her is scary, she said if she thinks about it as a healing procedure it is not as bad.

"I see the fear as a mental thing, like being ticklish. I can trick my mind into not being afraid of what I know is good for me," she said.

"I think that acupuncture is a better

method of healing than drugs or anything else. I look at alternative medicine as a way to heal the body in natural ways," Jones said.

Acupuncture is an alternative to surgery and drugs, Dowden said. It combines ideas known to both western and eastern medicine. The eastern notion states that along lines called 'meridians,' points can be found to relieve tension and discomfort.

Acupuncture can be performed by two different kinds of people, Dowden said, those who are physicians and those who are only trained as acupuncturists.

"It is better to have you're physician as an acupuncturist because you can be sure the use of acupuncture is correct. We acupuncturist, you do not know if it is the treatment for the ailment."

There are several types of acupuncture some that do not use needles at all. Kneading hand acupuncture is one form that does not involve the use of needles. In this form, doctors use pressure to gain the desired effect.

"In the Korean method, they believe you can find all the points needed in the body," Dowden said.

REGISTER  
YOUR  
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What stresses you  
out the most?

# Is the science vs. nature Herbal Way the BEST WAY?

By Danielle Rollins

By using herbal remedies along with standardized medicine, many are finding it easier to maintain a healthy lifestyle, Dennis More, local herbal store owner, said.

"I personally believe in integrated usage, the use of doctors and herbs [together]" he said. "But [instead] it's 'my way or the highway', it's all about money now."

More said that doctors, instead of keeping the best interest of the patient in mind, focus mainly on making money and prescribing medicines with unnecessary side effects. He said that if doctors would look into the benefits of herbal medicine, many ailments would be easily cured without going through heavy medication.

"Ninety-five percent of all human ailments are nutritional ailments," More said.

Dr. Mark Malesker, associate professor of pharmaceutical practices at Creighton University and clinical pharmacist at Immanuel Hospital, said.

Doctors do not regularly prescribe herbal remedies and medications because they are not scientifically safe, not because they do not believe the methods are valid, he said.

"These products are not monitored by the Federal Drug Association (FDA)" Malesker said.

"[They] have not been studied in a scientific method, [and] the quality of product may vary," Malesker said that

just because a product is herbal, it doesn't mean that the product is not going to cause harm.

"Even though these products are thought to be natural, it does not mean that they are safe," he said. "Herbal products may cause harm to the patient."

Nancy Hurley, a local herbal store owner, said that using all natural remedies instead of modern medicine could reduce unwanted side effects such as headache, nausea and diarrhea while creating the same general effect of most standard medicine.

She said natural remedies are better for the body than any chemical could be.

"God gave us the herbs, he did not create the laboratories," she said. "Look at the people who go through chemotherapy. The doctor never tells them how to eat or what supplements to take."

Junior Julie Henvey said she started taking vitamins about a year ago.

She said she did not eat right, and the vitamins helped her to remain healthy.

Natural remedies generally have either no or very few side effects, Hurley said. They are taken in larger doses, and more times a day because they are usually not as strong as most chemicals.

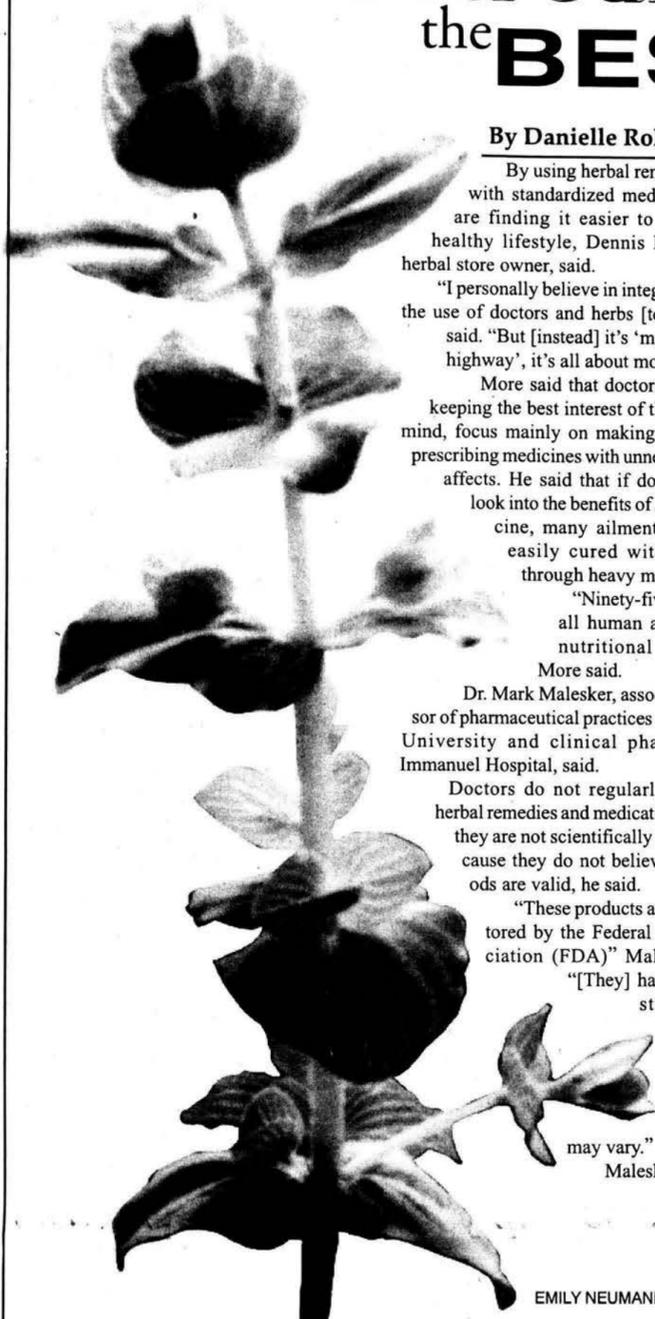
She said using herbal medicine to cure ailments requires making changes in a person's diet and exercise rituals in addition to taking the supplements.

"It means a change in the style of your life," she said. "You don't just take a pill."

Hurley said that herbal remedies are becoming increasingly popular today because people are finally trying to take care of their bodies. She said that more and more people are becoming concerned with how chemicals affect their bodies.

"People are taking responsibilities for their lives," she said.

**Left:** Rotundiforium is a type of herb used in foods.



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

## Self-image contributes to depression, student says

By Paula Salhany

Depression is a disease that can be treated, counselor Carla Harding said.

"Everyone at some point in time is going to be depressed. The thing to look for is when the depression lasts for weeks to months at a time or is reoccurring," Harding said.

There are many different types of depression such as bi-polar, seasonal depression, and long term depression.

All of these can be treated with Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors [SSRI] such as Paxil and Prozac.

All literature on these drugs state, in studies that have been performed the drugs work and they are nonaddictive drugs.

Harding said anything that will raise the level of neurohormones such as serotonin or dopamine in the body will help. Something as simple as exercise or cutting down on sugar intake can help this.

"There is no evidence that they are addictive in any way but that is what doctors said about a lot of drugs twenty years ago," she said.

She said the first thing to look at is the environment the person is living in. Something such as too much caffeine, or not enough sleep can trigger depression.

"I would think less of myself and get mad at myself. Sometimes to the point where I would want to hurt myself," sophomore Allison Legino said.

She said she knew something was wrong with her. She would cry a lot, having bad days became a daily routine.

"Depression is caused by an imbalance of neurotransmitters called endorphins in the brain," psychiatric nurse practitioner Kathie Bikerstaff said.

She said a combination of counseling and drugs is usually the most effective and works the fastest.

Harding said there are many ways that depression can affect the life of a teenager. Some of the changes that could occur are changes in eating habits and sleep habits.

"I really noticed it having an effect on my running," Legino said. "I have never quit during a race, I had always gone on to the finish. But I got a spot on the varsity track team and I had such a low self-esteem and I did not think that I could do it. I worked myself up so much that I ended up getting kicked off the team."

The order of treatment should be to look at the obvious things in the person's life that can be changed, then counseling, and lastly medication, she said.

"Right now I am relatively happy, she said. "I still have people tell me my self-esteem is too low. But I do not care as much about what people think about me anymore."

## Some teens turn to drugs to ease pain, loneliness, counselor says

By Danielle Rollins

Drug abuse is becoming an increasingly large problem among teenagers who feel they cannot deal with the pressures of school and home, Susan Schlegal, the in-patient addiction counselor at the Richard Young Center, said.

Many students faced with pressures from peers and emotions, turn to drugs to help ease stress caused throughout the day, she said.

Among the most common drugs used by teenagers experiencing these frustrations are alcohol, marijuana, Amphetamine Sulphate (speed), heroine and Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD).

Schlegal said while students turn to these drugs to make their problems go away, they just make the problems worse.

Some problems students face are loneliness, abuse, stress and excess pressure.

Many of the addicts admitted into the Richard Young center are suicidal or cut and burn themselves, other teens have been diagnosed with depression, she said.

"They turn to drugs to ease that emptiness inside," Schlegal said.

She said she feels many of the pressures of school are reasons why teens turn to drug abuse.

Tony Phillip, a therapist at the Maplewood Addiction Day Clinic, said he thinks it is more likely that problems at home and among peers are the cause.

"Somewhere along the line they feel they don't measure up," she said.

Junior Zac Sena said when he started using he was curious. He said he started smoking marijuana because he had never done it before.

"I was very pleased with the effects," he said. "I liked to get high."

Sena said after a while the effects began to wear off.

"The paranoia set in," he said. "I had to quit."

About a year ago, Sena quit smoking marijuana completely. He said that it just wasn't worth it anymore.

Phillip said many of the teens currently in treatment at the Maplewood Clinic have a persistent pattern of defying authority.

The teens are consistently truant, have a history of running away or not reporting their whereabouts to their legal guardians and have problems obeying the rules.

Many of them have misdemeanors or other violations with the law.

"It's an inability to deal with frustration and emotional behaviors," he said. "They're angry."

Schlegal said the students crave structure because it makes them feel safe. By creating a structured environment, she said the students would thrive.

She said the main aspects of the therapy program at Richard Young are the counseling sessions. In these sessions Schlegal said the counselors help the patients by determining what the exact problems are.

"My main focus is picking out why you are doing it," Schlegal said, "It's not just ooh I got bored, I'm gonna start using."

Senior Ben Delgadillo disagrees. He said that he started using out of boredom and drugs took up the time. Among the drugs he used were marijuana, opium and certain painkillers.

He said when he started using he did not notice as much pressure in his life.

"It's just an escape from everyday life," he said. "The stress actually decreased."

Many of the patients do not realize their prob-

lems have gotten so serious, Schlegal said. After she realizes why patients are using, she attempts to stabilize them.

"It's a wake-up call," Schlegal said. "You think that this could never happen to me, then we hold up a mirror"

Once the patients are stable, they can be sent to the outpatient program, Schlegal said. There, they are no longer required to remain in the clinic, and can continue with therapy on a normal basis.

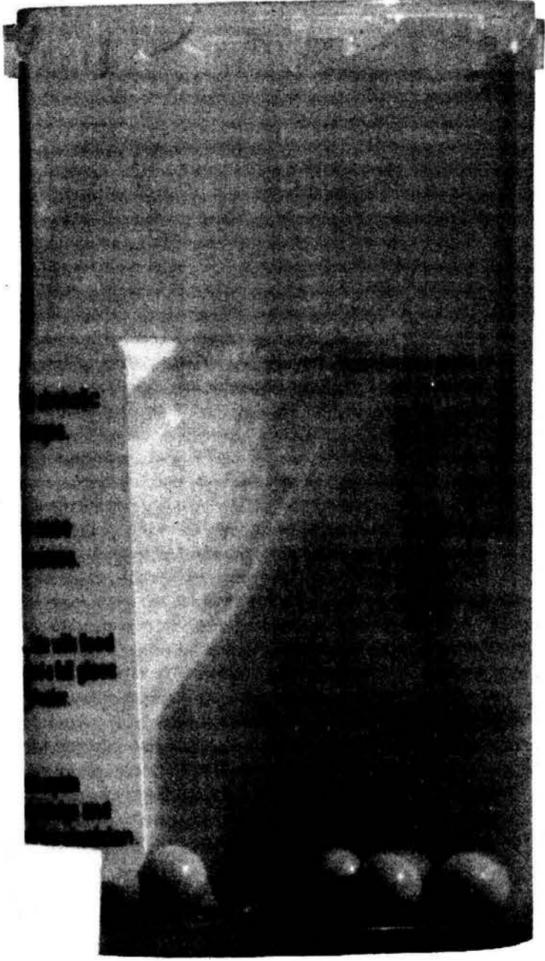
Delgadillo said after he was caught with marijuana and alcohol in his car, he went through two alcohol classes and had drug evaluations.

"It helped inform me of what it was actually doing to my body," he said. "I knew, but I just didn't care."

Phillip said his clinic focuses more on group therapy. By creating a nonthreatening situation, the therapists can allow their patients to be confronted by their peers about their problems.

There are individual sessions as well, and the questions and feedback prove helpful to the patient.

The sessions are five days a week for three hours an evening.



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER



"My family life is stressful because everyone is always arguing."

Michalla Sullivan, 11



"Stress is when every teacher assigns projects or tests on the exact same day."

Ryan Haskins, 10



"Guys think they know everything and girls open their mouths when they shouldn't."

LaTasha Bradley, 9



"There's more homework than there is me."

Lindsay Harkness, 11



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

## Suicide attempted, student lives

From SUICIDE, page 9

until I had already done it," Smith said. Barely able to walk, Smith went to find his parents in their room. He started to realize he had done something he was going to regret.

"I didn't know if I really wanted to die, or if I just wanted to go away for a really long time," Smith said.

Once he got to his dad's room, he started to ask for help, but his dad was still bitter over the previous argument and decided to ignore him.

Not knowing what to do, Smith waited outside the door of his dad's room because he had lost his ability to walk.

Within half an hour his dad came out of his room, saw his son passed out on the floor with the empty medicine container lying next to him, and rushed him to the Emergency Room at Immanuel Medical Clinic.

Upon arrival at the hospital, the Emergency Medical Unit started to pump Smith's stomach to get rid of the medicine that was not already in his blood system.

They stuck a half-inch rubber tube that was approximately five feet long down Smith's throat and into his stomach. Once the tube was in place, medicine was forced into his stomach and then sucked back out, like a vacuum.

"The tube was in me for about a half hour, and I was throwing up the whole time, too," Smith said. "It was the worst feeling ever."

Once that was done, Smith had tar put into his body to help absorb the medicine that was already in his bloodstream.

The tar left Smith throwing up for a week after that.

When the doctors had done all they could at that time, Smith was put in the Psychiatric Ward of Immanuel Medical Center.

He spent a week being evaluated. The people who were in the hospital with him were not all suicidal. Most of them had severe mental illnesses.

Although Smith is still alive after his suicide attempt, he is being closely monitored. He has to attend counseling weekly.

"When people are depressed or have to deal with cards they have never been handed, they don't know how to react," Alegent Health therapist, Peg Shepard said.

Many suicidal youths experience family troubles, which lead them to doubt their self-worth and make them feel unwanted, misunderstood and unloved. Loss of love contributes to the risk of suicide, Shepard said.

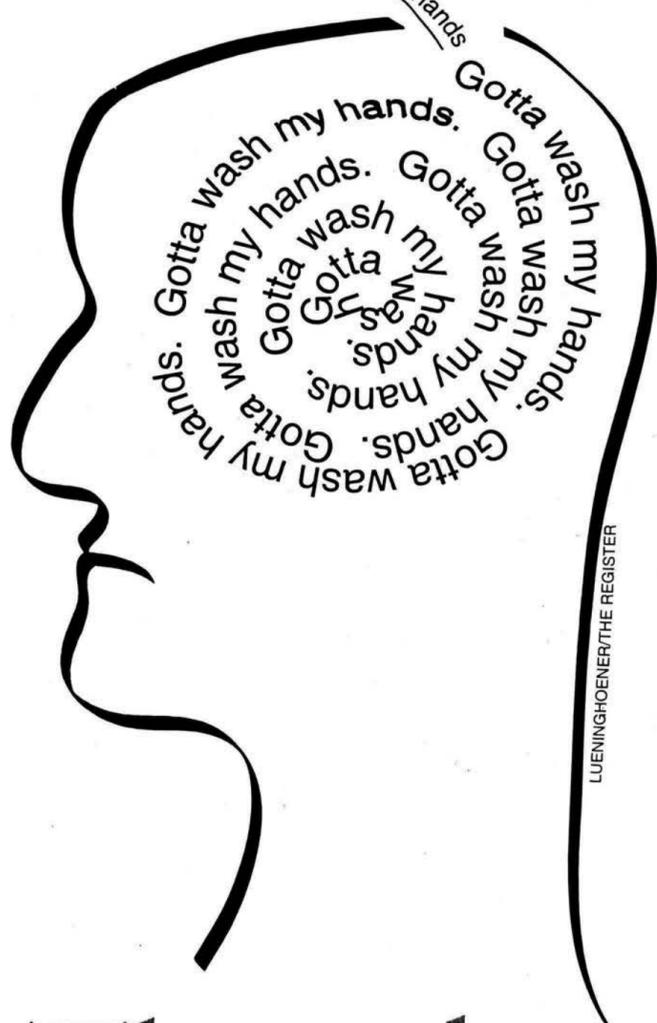
According to Alegent Health Psychiatric therapist Joyce Huebner, not all suicidal threats and depressions are family-oriented.

"When someone threatens to kill themselves, they need immediate help, no matter if it comes from a professional or a friend," Huebner said.

Gotta wash my hands

Gotta wash my hands

Gotta wash my hands



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

# Thought Obsession

It starts out as just a nagging thought, then slowly it takes control of a person's mind and her life. This is how one student handled an Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

By Danielle Rollins

\*Name changed to protect identity

From the time she was about three, Jane Doe\* has been called a worrywart. Her friends would tease her about being a perfectionist and constant intrusive thoughts would plague her throughout the day.

She and her family were very aware of bizarre rituals and obsessions, she was overly fussy about keeping her closet door shut and everything on her desk had to be perfectly straight.

Doe and her family knew that her preoccupation with perfection was something more than an overly anxious personality and two years ago, when Doe was diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, (OCD) she said she was not at all surprised.

"I knew there was something [wrong.] It used to be that one thing would really worry me, the anxiety would be really intense for a day or [even] a week" she said, "When you think about it constantly and you are trying so hard not to think about it, it kind of takes you hostage."

Doe said her family first took notice of her overly obsessive behaviors when she was about three. She would develop unusual rituals and habits that she would end up doing on a regular basis.

"I would stand up and twitch or jump or something," she said. "Then I would just lie back down."

She said the first time she was taken to a doctor for these behaviors she was told that it was a tic and after a while she would grow out of it. Doe, however, thinks she was misdiagnosed.

She said she later realized that these 'rituals' were compulsions. Now, however, she only experiences the obsessive part of the disorder. The constant intrusive thoughts, she said, are

what keep her from feeling normal.

When she was younger, Doe said her obsessions involved more bizarre topics. Once she said she thought for days about a hermit crab that she had buried in her back yard.

"That is all I thought about, 'Should I dig it up, should I leave it there?' Most people would have just dug it up, that is pretty bizarre," she said.

Doe said about two years ago she was professionally diagnosed with OCD. She said even before she talked to the doctor she knew what she had.

"I could have diagnosed myself, without answering 400 true and false questions," she said.

Doe is currently taking Zoloft, an anti-depressant medication that reduces the intensity of her obsessions. She said that by taking the medication she is able to feel a little more normal.

She said the doctors tried to get her to take more drugs that would help her concentrate better, but she refused.

"I don't need a pill for that, [concentration]" she said. "I just need to adjust."

Doe is also required to see a therapist every couple of months. The one she sees now is a child and adolescent psychologist.

She said although she does not think that she particularly benefits from these visits, they are required if she wants to continue on her medication.

"It has been a long time since I have been able to say 'I have no worries,'" she said. "Everyone has worries, mine are just more intense. I am able to be a lot happier, and feel somewhat like I am more like everyone else."



## Hotline aids teens in crisis situation

From HOTLINE, page 9

open relationship and were only staying together until she was out of high school," Marr said. "Not only did the father know her mother was having an affair, but he was having one himself."

Marr's caller had come across the hotline number in a magazine.

If the girl had never worked up the courage to call the hotline, she might never have gotten out of the car alive.

The first thing a counselor does once she picks up the phone is conduct a "lethality risk assessment."

The counselor determines if there is immediate danger by asking the caller direct questions: Do you have a chosen a method? Are you alone?

"We get a lot of calls from people who say they had taken pills before they called," Marr said.

In this case, the only thing to do is find out where they are, keep them awake and get an ambulance there as soon as possible.

"We are just like 911," she said. "We never assume that the call is a joke."

Once it is established that there is little immediate danger, the situation can be assessed further.

The counselors work to show the caller that there are options besides suicide.

If the caller has chosen a method then the best thing is to get that thought as far away from the caller as possible.

"Most of the time they will do what we say," Marr said. "It's not so much that they want to end their life, they just want the pain to go away."

"We try to have them come up with their own options," Marr said.

If the caller is around other people, the counselor often asks to speak with anyone else, to ensure their safety.

"A lot of the time they will let us talk to their parents, and we explain that their child called because they are considering suicide."

Family often does not know how to react to the news.

The best advice, Marr said, is to approach them about it.

Never just ignore a suicide threat, Marr said.

"You always want to take action," she said. "Doing it for attention is a cry for help."

The best thing to do is be there for support and get help, if needed.

Find out the person's social system. Marr said. It helps to see how things are going with friends, church, school, work, etc.

There are many telltale signs of a suicidal person.

Often sleeping habits change or they begin to give personal possessions away.

"They acquire a weapon when they've never had a weapon," she said, "or suddenly get a gun for protection."

There are many reasons why people feel the need to kill themselves, but there is never one single cause, Marr said.

"We get teen pregnancy calls. The girls are very worried about telling their parents," she said. "They don't want to go through with it [the pregnancy]."

A lot of the time substance abuse is also involved, Marr said.

It takes a lot of preparation to become a crisis counselor, she said.

"I love my job. It's very enjoyable," she said. "The only time it gets difficult is getting a call and knowing that they feel so helpless that it's devastating. It can get pretty scary sometimes."

She said the feeling of gratification she gets from knowing she made a difference makes everything worthwhile.

# Alternative therapies offer stress relieving options

By Danielle Rollins

**Hypnotherapy**  
Hypnotherapy works with the subconscious mind to change the way it thinks, Jeanette Laiten, owner of New Visions Wellness Center, said.

Laiten said that by working with the subconscious, hypnotherapists are able to remind people of certain things they should be doing to maintain a healthy mind and body.

"Most of us know what we are suppose to do," Laiten said. "But we don't always do it."

She said that she has patients that come in for help with smoking, stress management

and test anxiety, as well as weight loss.

The therapist starts out by getting the patient to relax, she said that if the patient does not feel comfortable she said that is much harder.

"In order to be hypnotized you have to want to be," Laiten said.

After that, the therapist is able to make suggestions about the patient's behavior. If the patient suffers from stress, the therapist may tell him that every time he sees a certain object or hears a certain phrase he will no longer feel stressed. Laiten said that this process works very effectively and almost instantly.

Many people, however, fear that hypnotherapists will attempt to 'control' them once they are hypnotized, Laiten said that this

is not true, the patients are still fully conscious and the therapists cannot force them to say or do anything they do not want to say or do.

"A lot of people think that they are going to lose control," Laiten said. "[They think] we can make them do what we want them to do and that's not true."

Another common fear of hypnotherapy is that it will harm the patient, or that the patient will not come out of hypnosis. Laiten said that this too is a myth. There is no danger involved in hypnotherapy, she said, it is just a high state of relaxation.

"Nobody could ever get stuck there," she said. "Without us talking you would either get bored or go to sleep."

**Gem Therapy**

Gem Therapy is an alternative therapy that helps people overcome pain and injuries by using precious stones to change a person's level of strength, Lorraine Venner, a gem therapist, said.

"Gem Therapy works by changing energy levels in a person's aura," she said.

A person's aura is the energy that is produced by the outer body of a person.

The aura is what is used to find the different points where the gems should go, she said.

There are many different types of gems that are used. The most commonly used are citrine, quartz and emeralds.

"Most of the stones we use are either semi-precious [or] precious," Venner said.

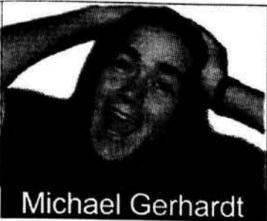
For the treatment, people either wear a gem necklace or a therapist will put spherical gems on certain points on the body. People can either treat themselves or go to a certified gem therapist.

The easiest way to treat a person with gem therapy is to have them wear high quality gem necklaces.

Among the most common pains and injuries treated with gem therapy is migraines and back pain.

"Gem therapy can take anywhere from minutes to days to help a person's aura," Venner said.

I'm a Jerk  
You're a Jerk



Michael Gerhardt

## President makes bad decisions early

I hate George W. Bush. I absolutely despise that ignorant, conservative slob who has become president and made a mockery of the White House.

He was appointed, not elected and he simply does not have the experience that is needed to lead such an excellent country.

I've lived in Texas. It's a miserable place. The people are ignorant and the upper class rules everything. The schools are terrible and the money gets spent in the wrong places. Good ol' GWB didn't help out very much while he was governor.

Being the governor of a state (no matter the size) simply does not prepare someone for the awesome responsibility of governing the United States. That's like stepping out of the little leagues into starting at first base for the Yankees.

His inexperience has already been made clear by the decisions he has made since the election. Take for example his recent cut of money for earthquake preparation, saying it was needless spending.

Also, take for example this recent 6.2 scale earthquake in Seattle, WA that had absolutely no deaths. None whatsoever.

Any correlation between the two is obviously just a coincidence, I'm sure. Lots of other things could be explained this way too. I'm sure everything that will happen during the Bush administration will be simply brushed aside by saying that it was a simple coincidence.

**Bush aide #1:** After you ended federal funding to all fire stations, fires increased 49,765 percent. The stations say it was because they did not have enough funding.

**Bush:** That's a coincidence. It had to have been caused by something else.

**Bush aide #2:** Also, after you cut all federal funding to don't-insert-scissors-violently-into-your-eye support groups, 500 percent more young children stabbed themselves in the eye with scissors.

**Bush:** Ask me what that is.

**Bush aide #2:** What is it?

**Bush:** A coincidence.

**Bush aide #1:** One last thing Mr. Bush, you've got what appears to a little bit of white powder under your nose.

**Bush:** Guards! Get him!

Also, after another devastating school shooting in California, committed with a handgun, it has become even more obvious the United States is in desperate need in for tighter gun control, especially when it comes to hand guns.

"Guns don't kill people, people kill people."

By this logic, if this child would not have had a gun, he still would have killed people.

Obviously, he could have easily walked in with a broken bottle and killed two people and injured 13 others. He could have easily killed that many people if he would have run through his school with an axe as well.

Still, the worst possible thing he could have done was continuing the Reagan era ban on money given to third world that help provide abortion services, as if this will do any good. Instead of giving them sanitary clinics, they can have dark alleys.

## The JURY says...



LUENHOENER/THE REGISTER

## Teen Court outweighs traditional system

Teen Court is the most effective way of punishing a minor.

Teen Court is an interesting program. It gives those who have been accused of a misdemeanor an interesting choice: the defendant can either go to the Juvenile Courts and be judged in a traditional manner, or to Teen Courts where they will be judged quite differently.

In Teen Courts, a defendant must admit guilt. Than a jury of his or her own peers judges the defendant's character. It is the duty of the lawyer to try and point out the good things about a client.

Teen Court is a program designed around the philosophy that a jury of peers is more influential in dealing with behavioral problems than any other method. This is definitely true.

Teen Court relies on the positive peer pressure to deter defendants from becoming repeat offenders. Furthermore, defendants come to understand the consequences of breaking the law and that they are accountable for everything they do.

This is certainly a good setup. All parties involved come away with some sort of positive experience from

the teen court.

It not only benefits the defendants, but it provides valuable learning experience for the numerous teen volunteers who volunteer an average of 10 hours a week to the program.

The Teen Court jury has the authority to require each defendant to serve anywhere between six and ten jury duties, which involves them in the sentencing of other defendants who come through the program just like they did.

Those who owe restitution are required to pay it. The jury may also sentence defendants to community service hours, ranging from 15 to 50 hours of service per charge. A defendant with two charges may receive up to 100 hours and 20 jury duties and peer circle sessions.

Other sanctions include counseling, random drug screens for those convicted of drug related crimes; a jail tour; two to five page essay on subjects relating to the crime; a verbal or written apology to the victim, school or parents; Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for alcohol related cases; suspension of driver's license; and a curfew.

The reason for Teen Court's success is that it is, as

the name implies, for teens alone. The defendants are teens, the lawyers are teens, the bailiff is a teen and the jury is comprised of teens.

More simply put, Teen Court is a program run by teens for teens.

The juvenile must not have had a prior record and must be referred for a law violation by school administrators, school resource officers, juvenile court judges, the Department of Juvenile Justice and the State Attorney's Office, or may be directly referred by law enforcement officials.

The juvenile must admit his or her guilt.

Any lawyer will say that defending a guilty defendant is no easy task. The task of a Teen Court lawyer is to prove that their defendant is of good character. Therefore, the lawyer must prove the defendant will not break the law again.

If the defendant fails to complete any part of the post trial contract in a timely manner, or engages in any unlawful conduct during the completion of the program, his case will be sent back to juvenile court.

Teen Court is an interesting approach to the growing problem of juvenile crime. Hopefully Douglas County's own Teen Court will continue to get the use such an innovative program deserves.

EDITORIAL  
The Opinion  
of  
the Register

## Humans dominate, activists should get over it

So I talked to an animal rights guy this weekend. I really think he had a problem.

"My pal Julien had this plan to capture lots of whales and put them in a giant tank." I said to my (former) friend Mench Meier.

"They would swim around like a hamster in a roller cage. They would make waves and the waves would run generators that make electricity. When they died, we could eat them..."

"That's specist!" Mench said, practically falling out of his chair. "Why are humans any better than any other animal?"

I shook my head and made a face. "You guys say that drug testing on animals doesn't work," I told him. "You say that what may be dangerous for animals may be safe for humans and vice versa. You say you

can't relate the two. So we MUST be a different, and superior species."

"Do you use deodorant," Mench asked. I sniffed my armpits, suddenly thinking I was nasally offensive. "Sure I do," I said.

"Don't you know there's a hole in the ozone layer?" he asked.

I made another face.

"No really," he continued. "There's this hole way up up in the atmosphere and it's caused by your using deodorant."

I walked over to the tiny window in the store. I pulled back the steel gate in front of it, opened the window, stuck my head out and looked up.

"I don't see any hole," I said. "You can't see it," he said. "It's just a

space where there's no ozone and there should be."

"So this ozone, I guess it must be pretty important," I replied. "Is it something you need to breathe—like oxygen, maybe?"

"Nah," Mench said. "It's poison. If you breathe it, it'll kill you."

I looked at him carefully. I watched for the bulging forehead vein, a twitch in the neck or any of the other telltale signs of mental illness.

I tried to speak calmly, "You mean you want me to stop using deodorant because there's an invisible hole thousands of miles above an invisible airmass, and what the hole should be filled with, is poison?"

Mench nodded.

I slowly edged myself toward a heavy bookend in case he cracked completely. "Okay," I said. "Somehow, the stuff in my deodorant can is travelling out my window and doing something when it get past the lower levels of the atmosphere to make a hole in the ozone over my head. Is it a big

hole? Does it cover all of Omaha?"

"Oh no," Mench said. "it's not here. It's in the middle of the Pacific, not over any landmass."

This time it was I who was about to lose it. I tried to put the pieces together in as rational a way as I could.

"Okay, I said through gritted teeth. "When somebody used deodorant, the spray goes into the sky through the clouds and to the outer reaches of the atmosphere."

Then these sprays from all over the sweet-smelling-armpit world congregate where there's no people, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and make an invisible hole in a poison part of the sky.

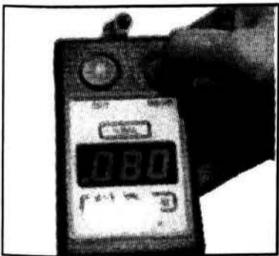
This hole lets ultraviolet ray shine too heavily below.

That means that the fish swimming in the Pacific will get too deep of a tan.

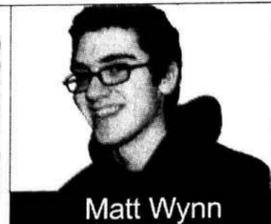
And for this I should give up using Right Guard..."

"That's right," said Mench. I threw him out.

### Editorial



Read Between  
the Lines



Matt Wynn

Point-counterpoint

Year-round school debate takes many turns

For Adopting new program fights overcrowding, helps students learn

Omaha Public Schools (OPS) should definitely look into putting a year-round school calendar into effect. Implementing year-round schooling would help solve OPS' problems with overcrowding.

It would also maximize the time students spend in school, effectively eliminating the six-week lag after summer break.

The phrase "year-round school" is a misnomer. The more than two million children enrolled in year-round schools attend the same number of days as children who attend schools that use a traditional schedule, approximately 180 days.

The term "year-round" refers to using an alternative school schedule. Instead of going to school for nine months and having three months of summer vacation, students in year-round schools have several breaks spread throughout the year.

One of the common year-round schooling schedules has students go to school for nine weeks of school and then have a three week vacation.

The most effective way of using a system is what is called a multiple track system.

Using this policy, the student body is divided into groups and instruction time is staggered. While some children are in school, others are on vacation.

Surely multiple tracking could be used in OPS to help alleviate the overcrowding many schools face on a day-to-day basis. This way, the school could hold twice as many students as normal.

Year-round schooling would

also help create a more successful academic environment at school.

On a traditional calendar, teachers and students often spend the first six weeks of school reviewing last year's curriculum. With shorter breaks throughout the year, less time is devoted to review which allows the school to teach the students more material in the same amount of time.

Many schools offer remedial or enrichment classes during "intercessions," or breaks. Children who are having difficulty are not as likely to permanently fall behind when provided with extra learning time. This way, students are never idle and they are always learning.

Besides these obvious benefits, there are other reasons why the system helps create a better learning environment.

Teachers and students who participate in year-round schooling report less stress and burnout. Absenteeism, discipline problems and dropout rates go down when a year-round schooling program is implemented.

Most teachers in districts that use year-round school calendars also report that students maintain a higher interest in learning.

The year-round school system is also helpful to students whose second language is English. By spending more time around people who speak English naturally, ESL students get a grasp on English faster.

The year-round school format would be a huge help to students, parents and educators. OPS should definitely consider adopting it.

EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register



Against Curriculum prevents any benefit from year-round schooling plan

Adopting a program to conduct year-round school is not an educational policy that should be adopted by school districts. Instead of increasing the effectiveness of the school year, year-round schooling would have many negative consequences.

Year-round schooling has been seen as an effective way to increase academic achievement by extending the school year so students are in the classroom longer.

Supporters contend that students being out of school for the summer makes them forget concepts that they learned the previous school year and hinders their academic development.

Having students attend school throughout the year would not help the process.

Most forms of year-round schooling have mini breaks instead of one long break in the summer. For example, a school may be in session for three months and then take a two-week break.

If the philosophy is true that students forget information when gone for a policy only increases the harm by having more frequent breaks in the school year.

Having students continuously start and stop school limits their academic achievement even more than the current system does.

Also, the idea that the summer students of valuable information is eliminated by the curriculum that schools use.

When a teacher teaches a class, the teacher knows the class will end in June. The class' material is always

finished when the school is dismissed for the summer.

A teacher does not start the year with the battle of Gettysburg in June and pick back with Lee's surrender in August.

Granted, students need to know concepts from the previous year to do well in algebra class, but students do not forget an entire mathematical concept in less than three months.

Year-round schooling does not work for other reasons. For the program to work, the schools in certain school districts have to have air conditioning to make the learning environment pleasant enough.

Also, a year-round schooling program would be a bad idea because it would be hard for students to focus during the summer.

Students are used to being able to do whatever they want during the summer, not being stuck in classroom learning the fundamentals of calculus.

This distraction from the classroom is more harmful than any material during the summer.

Implementing year-round schooling would have numerous negative consequences on schools. Conditioned and classes would have to be constantly interrupted.

Schools should keep the same calendar they currently have. It has worked this long, so why change?

EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register

Constant focus on future makes undecided teens feel uncomfortable

"So, what do you want to be when you grow up?"

How many times have you heard I bet it's somewhere in the six figures. Everyone from my parents to my boss has asked me that. Here's my question: why should I have to know?

Now, I've given a range of an-

swers to this question. Princess, doctor, actor, writer, Smurf, astronaut and Courtney Love are just a few an-

swers that come to mind. Some people know from day one what they want to be.

Little Joey may be playing football in the front yard and fifteen years later, he's an NFL All-Star Quarterback.

What about Kaitlin and all the rest of her disillusioned peers? Are we the bad seeds? Or for once in our lives are we the normal ones?

All through middle school, the teachers made it sound like once you started choosing your own classes, it would make everything easier.

For me, and a lot of others, it just made it harder.

At New York University, students don't have to decide their major until the end of their sophomore year, and that's only the suggested time. So, we

have plenty of time to spin our lives into turn after turn. Maybe we'll end up right back where we started.

If you listened to all of the surveys, manuals, and preparation guides that have been given to us since seventh grade or so, you would think that being clueless about your future is a fate worse than death.

It's not a fate worse than death and critical deadlines are actually far away.

With all of the things each one of us deals with, haven't we earned

some sort of pass to be unsure for awhile? Can't we all just exhale for a moment and stop worrying about AP tests and early admissions deadline?.

That just doesn't apply to students and seniors. Freshman year, juniors are taken to "ecos.embark.com" to start their career planning guide.

It's just fine if someone wants to browse and get a little background information on something that interests them.

But if you start worrying about your career freshman year, you're in

for four years of unnecessary stress.

So, if you know what you want to do, consider yourself lucky and know that I envy you.

If you're like me, just take a deep breath and know that someday you'll find something that you wanted to do since you were five, but you just didn't realize it.

So what do I want to be when I grow up? Find me at the Class of 2003's ten year reunion. Maybe I'll know by then?

Corner in a Circle Room



Kaitlin Butz



Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi, Established 1886

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Matthew Wynn Editor-in-Chief



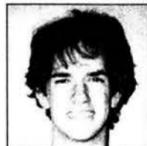
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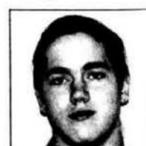
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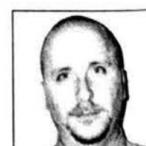
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# Vouchers destroy public education, distract from reform

They started in Milwaukee and moved to Cleveland. Now, vouchers have moved to the national stage, where President Bush is advocating a nationwide program. If implemented, vouchers would cripple the public education system and leave it to die.

A publicly funded voucher program that would give disadvantaged students tax dollars, allowing them to choose which school they attend, would ruin public education.

### EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register

These programs use tax money to give a "voucher," or certificate worth a certain amount of money, to low-income families so they can send their students to any school.

Instead of investing in trying to improve education, a nationwide voucher program would take students away from public schools, abandoning this precious institution and making it worse.

Publicly funded vouchers have been accepted before in some cities around the nation. Milwaukee has the longest established voucher program, started in 1990, while Cleveland started one in 1996.

The biggest problem with a publicly funded voucher program is that it violates the separation of church and state. Most of the students who are offered this money choose to attend parochial schools. For example, in Cleveland during the 1999-2000 school year, 96 percent of the students who received 3,761 school vouchers choose to attend sectarian schools.

The voucher program becomes unconstitutional when public funds help students attend religious schools. By using money from taxes that are usually used to fund public schools and giving them to

parochial schools, the government oversteps its legal parameters.

Because of this, the US Court of Appeals, situated in Cincinnati, ruled that the Cleveland voucher program was unconstitutional in December 2000. In the court's ruling, it said the lack of neutral private institutions does not give parents any options besides a public school or a parochial school.

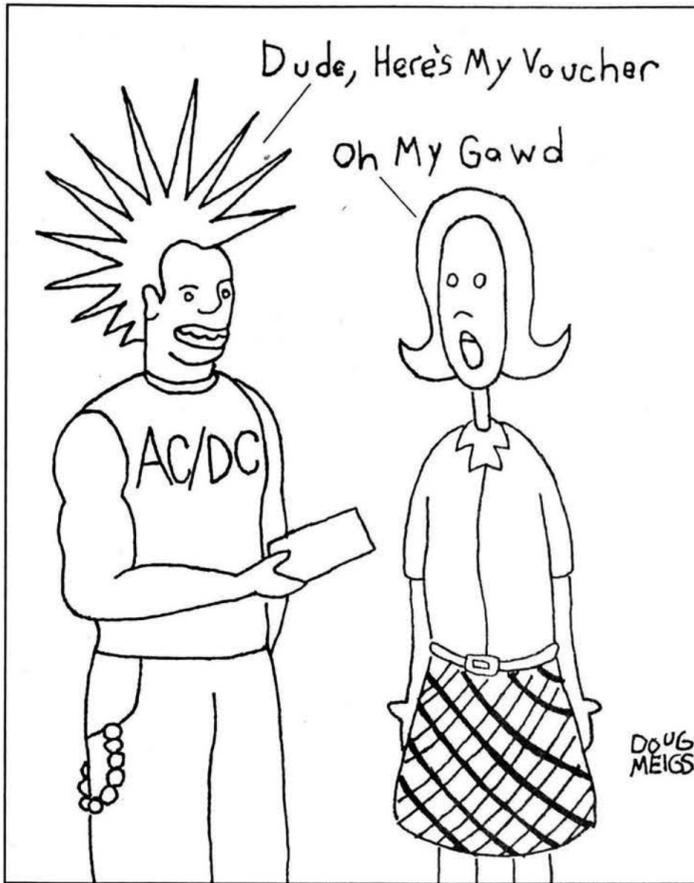
Besides being unconstitutional, vouchers give very little incentive to be passed. The voucher programs damage schools by taking resources away from public schools.

First, vouchers take students from an already fragile public school system and put them in other schools. This shifting of students does not make the public schools better. It only leaves the schools with fewer students to teach with depleted resources.

Also, voucher programs take money away from the public educational system. When funds that are normally used to maintain public education are taken away and given to other schools, the public schools lose valuable funding.

During the 1998-99 school year, the public school district of Milwaukee lost about \$22 million and the Cleveland district lost another \$10 million when it gave students vouchers. This money could be used in a better way to improve these schools the state claims are failing.

The most disturbing fact about



Public School students. These findings were consistent with thirty years of data that suggests there is no difference in performance between public and private schools.

Another key problem with voucher programs is that they are very unpopular. In the 2000 election in November, two state initiatives to establish voucher programs were rejected by voters in Michigan and California by a convincing margin.

Also, voucher programs are very unpopular with teacher unions. In a statement released on Jan. 23 by the National Education Association, which represents 2.6 million elementary and secondary teachers, said that President Bush's attempts to establish vouchers in the United States are a bad way to fix public education.

"For a new president who has pledged to unite the nation and end bitter partisanship, his voucher proposal is sure to divide us," NEA President Bob Chase said. "Bush has an opportunity to invest in action that produces real results, such as reducing class size, repairing schools, providing extra help for students who need it and enhancing teacher quality. The plan unveiled today relies on a failed political gimmick."

These proposals that Chase suggests have been proven to work better than vouchers. A study organized by Princeton University professor Cecilia Rouse found that students in smaller classes in Milwaukee, under a new provision, achieved better in school than their voucher counterparts.

Vouchers should not be something the nation should invest in. They will destroy public education.

To ensure that this system will continue to serve the nation's children, other options should be pursued. Vouchers are an educational pipe dream that will never work in a society that values public education.

educational vouchers is that they do not increase academic achievement.

After analysis of the two existing voucher programs, little gain in achievement was recorded for students who received money to

go to other schools.

In a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, professor John Witte showed no achievement differences between voucher students and comparable Milwaukee

# Central students become docile sheep during passing periods, lunch

People are sheep. It's not necessarily a bad thing, but it really is true. Nobody likes to stand out or be different. I know that as is way of thinking is awful and should be punished. Anyone who doesn't trust me? There are a few experiments that can be done to prove my theory. Most

of the 'sheep tests' can be done here at Central.

Let's face it, as a student, all adults think our lives revolve around school.

That's not the case, but let's not go there.

### Sheep Test #1:

Pick a set of doorways in the halls at Central; the doors between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sides on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> floor generally work

pretty well. Close two of the fire doors, leaving the third one open. Wait for passing period and watch what happens.

It's surprising how many people want to go through the one open door and how long it takes for someone to open a second door.

Eventually, someone gets brave and doesn't follow the crowd, but it's funny to watch while it lasts.

**Sheep Test #2:** During a lunch hour in the courtyard, get a whole table of people to start clapping for

no apparent reason.

See how many people join in. Someone actually tried this last year and got the whole courtyard going I thought it was hilarious.

I guess you kind of had to be there to understand it though.

**Sheep Test #3:** Seek out someone popular and get them to wear something really bizarre or dye their hair an obnoxious color, temporarily, and tell people it's permanent.

Next, wait a day or two and see how many people wear the exact

same thing or dye their hair the exact same shade.

**Sheep Test #4:** Get a group of friends together and go out to eat. This could also be effective in the school cafeterias or courtyard. Sit and stare at the ceiling for a while.

I can almost promise you that every person who passes you will look up.

There are always those one or two people who ruin my fun tests though.

**Sheep Test #5:** If you're feeling in a happy mood you can create a

holiday.

If you sell it right, you can get just about everyone to believe it's a real holiday.

Confidence is key. Does anyone remember the Bastille Day on Jan. 24?

Bastille Day is a real holiday marking the French revolution and it's not in January. It's actually on July 14.

In short, people are sheep. People need to dare to be different. It's cool and all the popular people are doing it.

### People Scare Me



Melissa Arnold

# Size of clothes presents teenage girls with double standard from society

If people are getting bigger, why are clothes getting smaller?

Looking around today, anyone can see the girl in the tight leopard-print spandex pulled across a cellulite-aden thigh.

No, she is not the girl from that bad rap video. She's the girl that sits next to you in algebra.

At first you think to yourself, "Does the girl own trick mirrors? Or is she stuffed sausage look back in?"

Why do girls insist upon going to The Rave or some other god-awful store in the mall and stuffing

them selves into clothes made for, "My size Barbie?"

The easy answer is denial. I am convinced this is it, but maybe another answer can be found.

The average size of a woman is a size 14, but the average size of a pair of pants is a size 6.

The media wants us to believe that the average woman looks like Kate Moss, when in all actuality the average woman looks ... average.

Due to these clashing facts, girls are convinced they must buy what they see in Seventeen no matter how

much their backside looks like two wart hogs fighting under a blanket.

Another answer could be guys. I once heard a girl ask her friend, "If I hike up my skirt, do you think he'll ask me out?"

Not to get preachy, but if you have to pull up a skirt or wear a tight shirt to get a guy, is he worth having?

Besides, do guys really like to see

folds of fat poured into a tube top?

If so, I will save that column for a different day. But, by now, I think we've seen enough "Degrassi Junior High" to know guys aren't worth it.

What do I think? I think it's a mix of the three. The world's media gives

us lots of ideas about our body image. It can make thin girls feel fat and I think we've all seen the articles in Teen entitled, "How to wear a tube top even if your tubes are too big". It was something like that.

The point is that it screws with girls' heads. Clothes are bought by the average girl, but made for bulimic ones. Then of course there is my original hypothesis-complete denial.

That denial festers to become a fashion faux pas when we stupidly mistake for confidence.

There is the time-old idea that

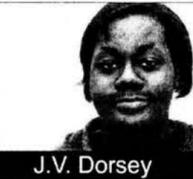
you have to dress like a \$3 hooker to get a guy.

What's my solution? If you can't see your belly button, don't let your stomach show. If your knees are no longer visible, don't wear a mini skirt.

I would personally appreciate it if no one wore fake leopard, fake snakeskin or iridescence.

Please find clothes that fit and in the end, you'll be as happy covered up as we will not having to avert our eyes when you walk in the room.

### Why I'm Right



J.V. Dorsey

HEROES

### - Women's Basketball Team

Congratulations to the women's basketball team for its appearance in the state basketball tournament. Although the team lost in the first round, it represented the school and itself well. The Eagles played well against the top-rated team in the state, Lincoln Southeast. Good job, Lady Eagles.

### - Z-92's Traveling Dodgeball All-Star Team

Thanks to Z-92's morning personalities, Todd and Tyler, and others, the school was able to host a dodgeball game that matched the Z-92 team against Central's faculty. Central beat the radio guys, but a good time was had by all. Also, the Central baseball team received the profits, which went to help the team purchase new uniforms and equipment.

### - Pegi Georgeson

After twenty-five years of directing and producing Central's musicals and plays, drama chairperson Pegi Georgeson has decided to retire from teaching. While she has been here at Central, the school has enjoyed a fine drama department. Thank you, Ms. Georgeson for all of your hard work and dedication. Good luck in all you decide to do.

### - National Honors Society

On a recent Saturday afternoon, the National Honors Society held a Paint-a-thon at school. The group, armed with dozens of kids and a lot of paint, applied a new coat of paint to the basement and other areas where care was needed. Thanks to NHS, some spring cleaning that the school needed finally got completed.

### - Rick Behrens

Rick Behrens has decided to stop coaching the men's basketball team after 11 years of being the head coach. Although he will continue to teach social studies classes, he should be thanked for his hard work and help in developing a competitive team.

### - State Writing Assessment

The state writing assessments, required for every student in the state, was a total waste of time. Students were told to write essays supporting or opposing an imaginary bill that would limit the working hours of teenagers. This program can get worse, though. Talks have been circulating that the state may organize the "grades" by grade, school and even teacher. Welcome to another bureaucratic standard that does not seem to be going away. Speeches and reading assessments will also have to be concluded before the year is out.

### - True Colors

If the school wanted to teach freshmen about colors, it could have saved a lot of money and given every student a coloring book and a big box of Crayolas. This test is a complete waste of time and did not provide any benefit for anyone. The school should invest its time and money in other areas.

### - Step Repairs

Not only did these actions close the stairs for days, but the school is also focusing its efforts in the wrong area. How can the school bring someone in to fix the stairs while other necessities like the water fountains and the bathrooms are not adequate for the student body. The school's philosophy is to fix each problem one at a time. This way, school repairs are an endless circle of perpetuating headaches. Hopefully, the renovation of the school will put an end to these spontaneous repairs.

### - President Bush

The president's quick visit to Omaha was a change from Clinton's eleventh hour visit, but it was nothing that it should have been. Instead of thanking Omahans for voting for him (the election was a landslide in the state), he used the event as a time to gain political capital to pass his tax cut plan. His speech was a big power trip, rather than a friendly proposition. In case he forgot, his campaign is over and he won.

NEE  
PROS

# Editorials

“Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791

## Early renovation designs fit school perfectly

After years of talk and complaints, Central will finally be renovated from bond money. The approval of preliminary plans drawn by the school is one of the first steps to be taken. Renovating the school is now a reality and the ideas that the school came up are a perfect fit for the school.

The newly accepted renovation proposals for the school will help ease the burden of overcrowding that the school is dealing with.

The proposal, which was developed by a group of students, teachers and administrators, designed a plan that would build a new kitchen and gym. After this, many areas of the school will be shuffled to optimize the amount of space that the school has.

The plan would extend to the west off of the weight room to make a kitchen and a more substantial loading dock. The kitchen would be on the top floor and the loading dock would be below that.

Also, the new gym will be expanded to make a bigger gym, which school officials hope will have a hardwood floor.

Yes, the school will be getting air conditioning and heating upgrades. That was always an obvious selection for the com-

mittee.

After these building extensions are made, certain rooms, classrooms, and even the library will probably be moved to increase the efficiency of the school.

The old gym will become a cafeteria. The business wing on the third floor will be changed into traditional classrooms, since the fourth floor cafeterias will be made into computer labs for marketing, CAD and other computer classes. The library might be moved to the fourth floor, but that is not decided yet.

Officials were totally correct when

they decided to use the grant money this way. Instead of spending all of the money on expanding the school so it would become a complete eyesore, they decided

to expand a little, and use the existing room to the school's advantage.

But this is also a problem. For many reasons, the school was limited in what it could do concerning the building itself. Many zoning

laws, along with the fact that the school is a historic site, limited the

amount of work on the school that could be done. Given what the school had, officials did a really good job in developing a plan that would improve the learning environment and general effectiveness of the school.

The first advantage of the renovation will be what happens to the kitchen and cafeteria. Currently, the kitchen

and cafeteria are crammed together into half of the fourth floor, which is very inconvenient. The courtyard is on the first floor, which means food needs to be taken downstairs to feed the students that cannot fit into the cafeterias.

Once these plans are carried out, it will be easier to feed all the students. The new, bigger kitchen will be right next to the proposed gym and just down the hall from the courtyard as well.

The biggest improvement that the school will see will be a drastic increase in classroom space.

The cafeterias on the fourth floors will be converted into technology centers that will work better than the current ones.

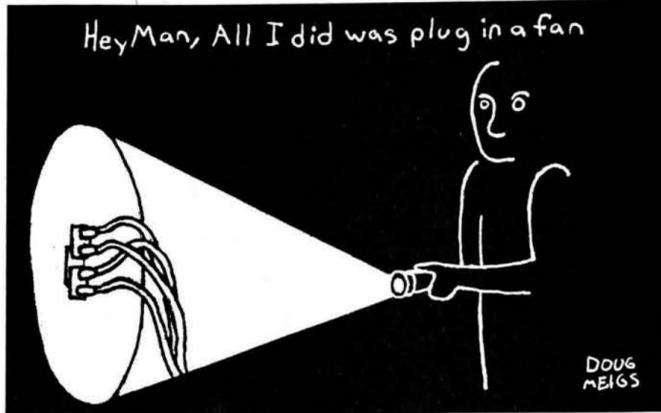
The current computer labs will become classrooms that will help the school reduce class size.

Right now, it is a miracle that one can walk down any hallway in the building without seeing every desk in a room full with students. Most of the time there are over thirty students in a room with only one teacher, which limits individual attention that each student receives and hinders academic achievement.

The sports department will also be improved. If the school is able to build a gymnasium with a hardwood floor, the school will be able to hold its own home basketball games. Also, the area directly beneath the gym will be able to be used for practices for volleyball and basketball teams.

The renovation plans are aimed at improving every aspect of school life. The cafeteria dilemma will be solved, classroom space will be increased and conditioning will finally be installed.

The renovation committee deserves gratitude for the things they did under such a tight budget. The group did the best job it could and Central will certainly be a better school once this huge project is completed.



### EDITORIAL The Opinion of the Register

Dr. Gary Thompson  
Principal  
Matt Deabler  
Adviser  
Matt Wynn  
Opinion Page Editor

## Letters, E-mails and Faxes

### Religion stories ignored minority religions

I think Danielle Rollins should research everything she talks about. I despised how she went to a religious "expert," who most likely doesn't believe in any deity, instead of looking to Central students.

Not to mention she seems to have no respect for any of the religions she does talk about. For example, if you were in Taoism or another eastern religion, and you were handed a survey that only covered Christianity, Hinduism, Muslim or Judaism and put your religion under "other" you'd be mad at whoever wrote it. If Danielle wants to write about something, she should know about it first. And she shouldn't whine like she's my nine-year-old sister.

Elizabeth Atwater, 9

### Rules concerning electronics need adjusting

I understand why they have some rules here at Central, but I just don't agree with some of them. One rule that I will never agree with is the electronics rule.

Yes, I realize that things will get stolen, but that is a risk that people will take if they could bring CD and radio players to school. If we can bring calculators with games, why can't we bring gameboys and CD players? To me, this rule makes no sense.

Jessica Morehouse, 9

### Dropping bottles risk safety; security needed

As a student who walks up and down the stairs everyday, I would like to see something done about the dropping of glass bottles and milk cartons. On Feb. 26, a glass bottle was dropped from the North cafeteria during a passing period. We are very lucky nobody was hurt, especially because it was done again the next day. It was the same side and most likely the same kid.

I feel that we should have security guards standing at the fourth floor during every passing period. This was the first incident I have seen using a glass bottle, but I constantly see or hear the dropping of water bottles and milk cartons.

I would like to be able to walk up and down the steps without having to worry about some type of bottle dropping on me.

Chad Riley, 9

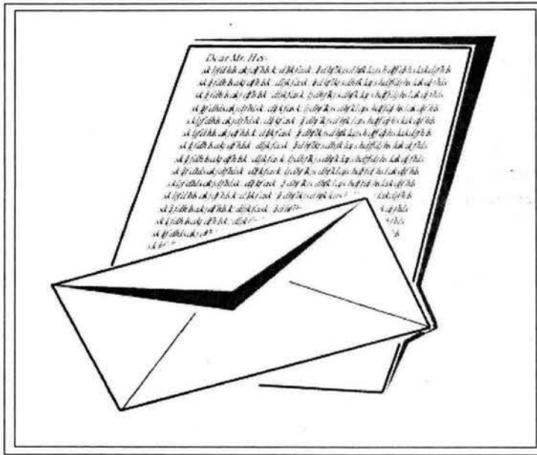
### School caters to top students, ignores others

Being a senior only a few months away from graduating, I've realized that my view of Central has changed drastically from my freshman year.

When I was a freshman, I saw Central as a fun school with a lot of different types of people, good teachers, and just an overall good environment where we take pride in being one of the best academic schools in the state.

But my view has now changed having spent the last three years struggling to get by in my classes. My opinion now is that Central caters to the better students. We have a million different ways that we are rewarded for doing well with Purple Feather Day and Honor Roll, but what about the rest of us? Those of us who don't have a cumulative GPA of 6.487, but we still try hard?

Now, I'll be the first to admit that I slacked off a little my sophomore and junior year with my grades, but where was my motivation? I had none. I had the potential coming here to be a great student who would be very successful in high school, but



I started slipping and there was no one here to help me.

Now, if a good school that takes so much pride in being such a good academic school wanted to keep hold on that pride, wouldn't they do everything they could to make sure every student did well? Don't you think the counselors would want to find out why a person who had straight A's until she came here was suddenly blowing her chances of attending college with the grades she was getting?

The kids who involve themselves in everything and work to get all A's get attention and the kids who really screw up and get into trouble get attention, but they don't even know your name.

Alison David, 12

### Lathan's rights damage community peace

I thought that Jon Lathan's column was hilarious. Not what he said was hilarious, but his misconception that rolling down a neighborhood at 3 in the morning with your bass at 36, treble at -40 and system at 60 isn't a crime. Of course it's a crime. If I had to go to work at 6 a.m. and some car's beat woke me up at 3 a.m., I'd be mad. You may have the right to do that, but I have the right to sleep.

Mike Livingston, 11

### Music reviews disappoint, change needed

I just wanted to express my concern about the bands and albums featured in the *Register*. Seriously, Dead Fetus is nothing I would not want to listen to. I know I am judging a book by its cover, but what kind of sick people would name their band Dead Fetus.

How about you feature some good bands. For example: Phish, String Cheese Incident, Medeski, Martin, Wood, Greyhound Allstars and Keller Williams. Sure, not many people have heard of these bands, but at least they're tasteful.

I think the *Register* should put some variety in the music section. Not the same old death rock, kill a baby and kill yourself music.

Colin Rinaker, 10

### Newspaper brings embarrassment to school

I am ashamed of our school newspaper, which has received national acclaim in past years, something we probably won't be seeing this year based on opinions expressed through editorials and music reviews.

For a change, maybe we could not have such a pessimistic view of the world. It seems as though Michael Gerhardt's columns have an extremely negative view on everything. They might be well written, if he would lighten his views on mosh pits and violence. Dead Fetus, the band covered in the last issue, is something I wouldn't want to see in a paper.

On another view, can we get a conservative view writing for the paper. Maybe someone for Bush, 416 and Daub. Or would that go against some crazy newspaper law. I would do it, but I fear my conflicting opinions would damage the "friendly outcast" view that the *Register* contains.

Eric Jacob, 11

### Physical education credits clog schedule

I have been planning my schedule for my junior year and I've come across a few problems regarding my P.E. credits. First of all, I think it is unnecessary to require four P.E. credits for graduation; especially if the student is involved in sports.

I understand it is important to exercise and stay healthy, but two years of gym is a little much. I have a packed schedule and I don't want to sacrifice an elective or miss out on my lunch hour just to take a gym class. One year of gym should be enough for graduation.

Katie Anderl, 10

### News stories biased, lack proper balance

I think the *Register* is a good paper overall, but there are a few things that bother me. I think there should be more effort put toward the news section for balancing each story. I can kind of tell how each story is slightly biased when a controversial subject comes such as 416 comes up. Now, I was against 416, but I could tell the writer was too.

I also think the columnists need some work. I understand that columns are the opinion of the columnist, but they really need more diversity on them. Maybe you could set up a column that regular students could compete to write for. That would be fun and rewarding to everyone.

So, in the end, I just want to say that the *Register* is a good paper. It has a good staff and good layouts, but needs to be straightened out the rough edges.

Nolan Windom, 10

### Women's sports deserve more recognition

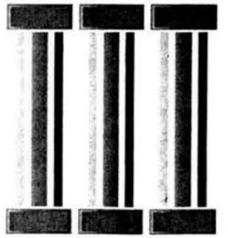
Women's sports are doing a great job this year. The volleyball team went to state and recently, the girl's basketball team went to state as well. The basketball team had its best season in a long time.

There needs to be more stories on women's sports. Since the girls are doing a lot better in their sports, they deserve more stories in the *Register*. I like football and men's basketball, but I think there needs to be an equal amount of stories on women's and men's sports.

The paper is already good, but it would be even better if there were more stories on women's sports.

Dominique Gonzales, 10

# Opinion



## New trends leave less to imagination, lose integrity

Five hundred years ago, anything that anyone found remotely enjoyable was considered a sin.

Today, a girl in a shirt where a shirt is the size of an eye patch in public is considered fashion.

What is wrong with you people? Its called style - and frankly, I just don't get it. It seems that the most popular designing technique today is "making it smaller."

If the shirt isn't selling, make it smaller. Cut the back off and shrink it until it is literally the size of a napkin.

In fact, screw the top; just put a couple of straps on that handkerchief over there and we can market those.

But what really keeps me up at night is that it's working. It isn't the fashion industries that we have to blame for this tragedy. They're bringing this all to make money. This is how they

feed their children. No, it's the consumer who is really at fault here.

It's the consumer who is buying into this joke that we call fashion. I am sure that big designers like Hilfiger and Klein are sitting around their huge mansions, counting there millions of dollars and laughing at all of the little sheep that buy their clothing.

Tell me something. If burlap sacks suddenly became a trend would you wear those around as well? Or how about painting your faces with whale oil and bat droppings?

Oh wait, you already do that. I am constantly hearing that people use style as a way of expressing their individuality. Now, unless every girl in the world has the exact same personality as Britney Spears, I am not seeing how this is true.

If you want to be an individual, wear something that no one has seen before. Isn't that what "individual"

means? Buying the exact same outfit that you saw in a magazine the day before is not a great way to stand out.

I would have a lot more respect for people if they would actually admit that they only buy clothing they know their friends would find socially acceptable, but they constantly deny it.

Maybe if they would actually come out and say, "I find this shirt vulgar and disgusting, but Christina Aguilera was wearing it on the cover of Teen People last week so it can't be all bad," then I would have a little more respect for them. Maybe, but not likely.

To avoid being a hypocrite, I will admit that I am not entirely original myself. I do wear clothing that others have labeled "trendy." But I don't pay more than \$2 for what I wear and I always make sure that my clothes actually cover my entire body. Most people I meet

pay over \$40 for something that is way too small to be a real shirt.

This is usually when I ask myself, "Where did the rest of the shirt go?" I know that at one time shirts had backsides and a bottom half, but I think that style went out with the sixties.

Sadly this isn't the only problem with fashion today. Clothes are always too tight, too short or too ugly.

People find it perfectly acceptable to criticize big stars for their tacky clothing choices, but are completely ignorant when it comes to their own.

The solution to this problem isn't to be more careful when picking out clothes; it isn't to spend more money on classier clothing choices or even to start dressing like your grandmother.

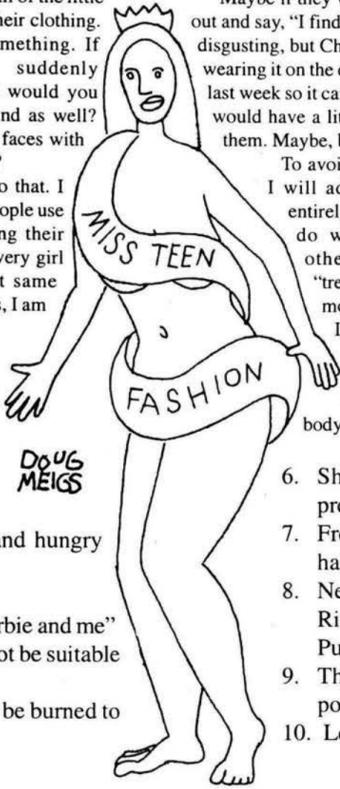
The only real solution is to be yourself and not to worry about what others think. If people acted like themselves, I guarantee a lot of problems would be solved.

Although this advice is greatly similar to something I saw in a Hallmark card once, it is true. Now, I just need to get people to understand.

They'll all Laugh at You



Danielle Rollins



### Top Ten Failed Fashion Trends

1. The Mofro - half mohawk, half afro.
2. The edible coat - for when you're cold and hungry and very, very inebriated.
3. The female mullet.
4. The "Barbie doll" makeover (using the "Barbie and me" makeover kit and molten hot plastic, may not be suitable for actual human use).
5. Apple barrels with suspenders. Could later be burned to keep warm.

6. Shirt in a can-comes in six great colors and no preservatives.
7. French braiding...armpit hair...corn rows...back hair...perm...shoulder hair...
8. New scent from France: Fragrance de la Maggot-Ridden-Bags of Hacked-up Human-Limbs and Putrescent-Liquified Innards.
9. The REALLY retro look (lace corsets, bustles, powdered white whigs and plaid knicker).
10. Less is more, the Amish look.

## School's attendance brings problems, officials do nothing

Open enrollment doesn't work.

Central has almost 2,300 students enrolled this semester.

The open house for freshmen recruitment in January had its highest turnout ever.

There is still no place to park within a 10 mile radius.

Thank you OPS for instituting open enrollment.

The school now has to deal

with overcrowding, and it's due mostly to open enrollment that was started last year, but OPS' refusal to limit the number of students allowed to attend Central doesn't help.

Everyone's suffered at one time or

another from the effects of overpopulation. Whether it is getting knocked down in the hallway by a big backpack or being distracted from the learning environment of overcrowded classes.

There are obvious safety concerns, and even more obvious comfort concerns.

These contribute to disruptions during the school day and frustrations for all students.

Due partly to the increase in school population, a new schedule was introduced this year.

The schedule gave students five minutes to get between classes and allotting only nine classes during the school day, thus freeing up classrooms because of the different lunch arrangements.

These are steps in the right direction, but

by no means are they a solution. Central's administration should put a cap on the number of students allowed to enroll, there is no other option.

Yes, all students should have an equal opportunity to go to any school they want, but a line has to be drawn, and the quick fix solutions need to stop. A comprehensive solution needs to be drawn up.

Central should set a limit of 650 students to all incoming freshmen classes to ensure the population never grows over 2,600, and with the drop out rate factored in, it would probably hover around 2,450.

Students already attending Central should be grandfathered in, or allowed to stay automatically, to ensure no current students could be shut out.

Starting with next year's incoming freshmen class, all students wishing to enroll

at Central should apply, with all ESL students being accepted due to the school's advanced ESL department. Next, students nearest to the school should be allowed to attend, with the cutoff being at 650 kids.

As it is, the counselors are already overloaded with scheduling and OPS' underpaid teachers' days are completely filled with classes: Seven hundred incoming freshman does not help the problem.

Knowing OPS, it will not address the problem. Central students shouldn't get their hopes up and should realize their overcrowded classrooms aren't going to be getting any smaller soon.

Again, kudos to OPS for open enrollment. Now we can just sit back and count how long it will take for the district to fix the problem. I am willing to bet it may take another century or two.

Never Look Back



Quentin Lueninghoener

## Going from Bobby Fisher to deadbeat makes for fun time

Playing chess in a refrigerator is something I recommend to everyone.

Getting paid \$6.50 an hour while playing chess in a refrigerator is even better.

Half a year ago, I was doing just that. Today, I am lucky if I drive down the street without losing one of the hubcaps off my car.

The fact is that even when I had a job, I still didn't do any work. Maybe that's why the place closed down.

I am a deadbeat. I don't have a job, hubcaps on my car or even a beard that connects at my chin.

I am failing a class or two, my insurance company is harassing me and I still don't care. Why?

I have the right to fall in a rut for half a year. I had a respectable job for five months. I dealt with incompetent managers for long enough. Why can't I be a deadbeat for six months? It makes sense to me.

The fact is that the job that I had was a really good one, but I didn't realize that until a couple months after it was gone. Where else could I get paid for playing chess in a huge refrigerator, drinking malts and eating hamburgers while spitting spitballs at a television for five hours a day?

It's not like I have been sitting on my hands waiting for another good job to come and hit me in the face. On a recent trip to the state penitentiary in Lincoln, I found a job at some factory that pays employees double digit wages per hour.

I didn't really like that job. Besides the fact that it was in Lincoln, it wasn't the most pleasant of jobs.

I didn't have the fire to suck up and get

a job that 800 qualified people have already applied for. By the time I have considered whether or not I want to pursue something, that opportunity is given to some other guy. Why try to beat everyone else out if you are performing a job that can be done by 799 other people?

To get the chess-playing gig, I simply showed up and the manager gave me some tax forms and a free tee-shirt. Then, she told

me to come back tomorrow, to actually work. She later told me that I had the job before I even walked into the place for the "interview."

She hired me when I didn't have a front tooth. That sums that job all up, but it was great.

The most pride can be taken from doing things that everyone and their dog has not done.

That's why playing chess in a refrigerator is so intriguing. That's also why I take pride in the fact that I have broken seven bones in my face, even though it happened because I was being a complete idiot.

Being a deadbeat has its own personal satisfaction.

Not everyone becomes elated when they find a dollar bill in their shoe, but I do. The sad things is I put that dollar in my shoe a year ago for emergencies, but now I need it to buy a pop. Little things like that make me smile now, but I still yearn for the days when I played chess in a refrigerator.

The coolest thing about playing chess in a refrigerator was that after every game, I would tell my opponent, "Welcome to the Bahamas," instead of the regular checkmate.

Welcome to the Bahamas



Joe Meyer



## REGISTER YOUR OPINION

What do you think the school should focus on when planning to renovate (air conditioning excluded)?



"I like the idea of making the upstairs a technology center."

Daniel Gutman, 9



"They need to fix those old wood floors. They are really creaky."

Matt Yates, 12



"The athletics should have better things like better equipment for all sports."

Julia Darrow, 9



"Chalkboards because they don't clean as well as they used to and they're hard to read."

Jason Cawthon, 10



"They need to make new classrooms because the old ones are crowded."

Tammy Cooks, 9



"Cafeterias, they are really old looking and no one wants to eat up here. It's old and dull."

Lorenzo Fuller, 12



"Update classrooms so they are a nice learning environment."

Dana Carlson, 10

# Teacher pay bill disgraces public school educators

Legislative Bill 749 is the worst attempt at raising teacher pay that could be written. Instead of solving the problem that has plagued the state for quite some time, it only makes a mockery of the issue, delaying reform.

LB749 is an attempt to gradually raise teacher pay over a three-year period of time, which afterwards, would remain the same.

While this bill is supposedly doing a favor to teachers, it is littered with references to things like calculating weighted students and weighted land or demographic factors.

So depending on what district someone goes to school in, and what area that person lives in, the impact on teacher pay differs.

It is set up to raise teacher salaries according to the grades that they teach. Lower grades get smaller pay raise while teachers who teach higher grades get more money. This is

ridiculous and should not be adopted by the Legislature.

An increase in teacher pay should be universal. It shouldn't matter what grade is taught.

If a teacher can go to school, and get the same degree as other teachers, they should be paid the same.

Prioritizing the grade levels only leads to disparities in the amount of learning that occurs in elementary schools.

There should be no problem giving teachers in the state pay raises because Nebraska has one of the highest educational rates in the country.

The state should put some other issues on the table and make increasing teacher salaries its biggest concern.

There should not be a legislative bill that is so hard to comprehend that no one wants to try and put it into effect. The

main reason that this bill proposal is so bad is that it is so hard to understand. Anyone that did not go to law school probably would not know what this bill was about.

It seems that the main intent of the bill is to be incomprehensible to the common person.

In fact, this bill is a feeble attempt at making it look as if Nebraska is trying to do something for the state's underpaid teachers, but this is just a facade for change. Actually, it adds around another \$50 per weighted student to their paychecks.

Plus, the estimated impact on taxes would be around \$15.447 million. By 2003-04, it would be up to around \$15.833 million

The Legislature should

raise salaries by establishing a slight increase in the sales tax. This could be achieved by increasing it by even as little as .25 percent. What average consumer would recognize the difference in 6.5 percent tax and 6.75 percent?

With the sales tax at 6.5 percent, the state makes \$3.25 on a \$50.00 purchase. If the state raised the tax to 6.75 percent, the state makes an extra 12 cents in revenue on the same \$50 purchase, so it would be \$3.37 tax.

That extra 12 cents could go toward increasing teacher pay. The average consumer would not notice a 12 cents increase on a \$50 item.

This increase would be for a good cause. It would be done to insure that all Nebraska children receive a quality education from qualified teachers.

This issue is not any other spending bill that would get citizens upset. This is the state's future, and citizens should not

care about a slight increase in sales tax if it saves the state from having to employ unqualified teachers.

Increasing teacher salaries is very important for the unicameral to do. Whatever it decides to do, or not to do, will affect the state for decades to come.

The Legislature needs to increase teacher pay and it needs to increase it now.

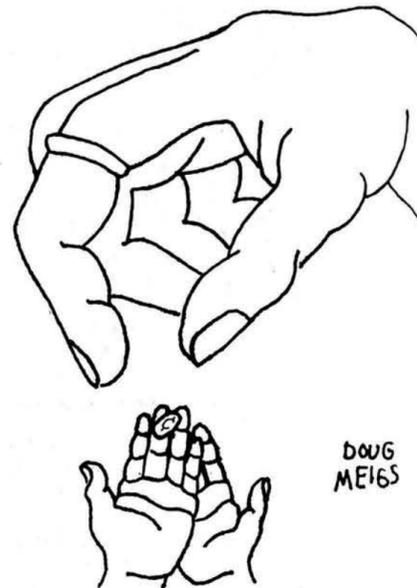
Other states and school districts have raised teacher pay. Places as close as Council Bluffs have increased teacher pay.

This will tempt teachers to leave the state if the Legislature remains idle for too long.

If this teacher migration occurs, the state's educational system will suffer.

This bill should be reevaluated so its purpose is clear. Until then, it should not even be attempted to put into legislation. The Unicameral needs to toss this poor attempt at a bill out the window and try again from scratch.

## Teacher Pay in Nebraska



DOUG MEIGS

"Please sir, may I have some more."

# 'Abortion pill' should not be available to mothers in Nebraska

Allowing for the proliferation and easy access of RU-486, the abortion pill, in Nebraska is a bad idea.

This pill is different from any other pill currently available.

It is unique because it can abort a pregnancy after an egg is fertilized. The pill can be taken any time during the first trimester of a pregnancy and still function properly. Other pills and treatments are used as contraceptives. Even "the morning after" pill does not work after fertilization. RU-486

steps into unprecedented territory, affecting a fertilized egg that is undergoing cell division.

If pregnant women were able to gain access to this pill, it would trivialize life and promote irresponsibility.

This pill gives the image that an abortion is easy and painless because all one needs to do is take a pill and the "problem" goes away.

But this is not the case. Choosing

to have an abortion, no matter the means, is a difficult and life-changing decision. Therefore, giving women the opportunity to take a pill to terminate a pregnancy trivializes the process.

The state should not promote such irresponsibility.

An abortion should be done under the advisement and careful operation of a licensed doctor.

Nervous mothers who have access to a "wonder pill" should not be able to end a pregnancy in less than five minutes of consideration.

Giving women this option would also encourage unsafe practices. The drug was developed in France and is legal in some states, like Iowa, and is believed to cause some side effects.

The drug causes a woman's body to contract and miscarry the developing baby. If this does not happen, then the woman has to go to a doctor and receive a conventional

abortion.

If the government allows this drug to become available to pregnant women, it would be the same as the government supporting back-alley abortions, except for this time it would be in the name of women's rights.

Along with a right comes a responsibility. If a woman is considering an abortion, she should be responsible enough to think the entire situation through and not be enticed by a pill that makes the whole

process easy.

Also, the rights of the father should be considered. If the mother is able to act alone, then the rights of a father become violated.

Current abortion standards should be reconsidered, and the rights of the parties involved should be increased. Allowing this drug to be accessible in the state is not the way that abortion rights should be increased because it increases irresponsibility with this so-called responsibility.

# Being an American brings pride along with some embarrassment from past

America does not deserve to be the leader of the free world.

For many years, the rest of the world has looked up to us. Small, young countries emulate our system of government and older, more prosperous ones watch our economy. This is unfair.

Leave me alone. I'm going to go sulk and ponder why America has ever been the land of the free.

Home of the brave, yes—that's something I can understand

There were braves—and squaws and papooses—over here when the Europeans came. Of course, you can argue that they had come over on the land bridge from Asia.

You can say that there really are no Native Americans, but they were here before we were. That's just the way it is.

Our founders conquered the

"Indians" and would never admit that we stole their land.

They lied to them and made them march towards the land we promised them—the Great Plains, which were totally unsuited to their hunting-and-gathering way of life—and then shrunk it even more when the Europeans discovered that the Plains were useful to them.

They told the natives that they were going to get half the bloody Western Hemisphere, and then took it away from them, keeping the best parts for themselves.

So, why didn't they put them up in North Dakota, where nothing ever happens? Because there is gold there, and they didn't want the hostile natives bettering themselves.

The trend continues today. Native Americans don't pay taxes, but have you ever been to a

reservation? Living conditions are horrible. If you think a tax-free life is enough to pay them back, I'm sorry, you're wrong.

Since they have nothing better to do than hang around and waste away from the diseases the Pilgrims so thoughtfully brought along, our resourceful founding fathers tried to put them to good use. The plantation owners need workers for the tobacco farms, so that's where the natives go.

There is a small problem, though—the savages die very easily. Once the plantation owners found that they don't do well in slavery, they imported mass amounts of Africans.

Then, after huge social upheaval, several thousand needless deaths, and other extremely large issues, half the country decides that the Africans ought to be citizens.

They start calling them African-Americans, and begin to think about giving them other basic rights—assuming that this makes up for years of oppression. Of course, this is a good thing. The

country as a whole was horrible to African-Americans, but at least they felt bad about it.

We decide we're even going to let them vote. Remember, the women aren't voting yet. Only African-Americans need apply.

Now the people who helped keep the Pilgrims alive in the New World aren't citizens, but the former dregs of society—the Africans, are. Sure. That makes phenomenal amounts of sense.

Oh, but wait. You're wrong! That is quite possibly one of the most fundamentally incorrect things I have ever heard in my life.

No one ever fought for the Native Americans. Nobody cared about them. Nobody attempted to protect them.

The country's leaders only wanted them to get out of the way. They wouldn't allow them to be in our society, and expected their society to adjust to the restrictions they put on it.

But we don't stop with them.

The show's not over. We haven't bothered the Hawaiians yet.

So, I'm an American. That's nice. That means I live in the best country in the world. Sure I do—we're a great country.

I wonder if we tell people this during naturalization classes.

I'm willing to bet a lot of money that if we showed immigrants what an amazing obnoxious bunch of people that we are, then Yankee Stadium would be packed with new citizens singing the national anthem every month. Maybe they would still like to come because of our precious image.

So, I think you get my point. Never think that we're entirely right. America is a hypocritical country. Not that I'm unpatriotic or anything.

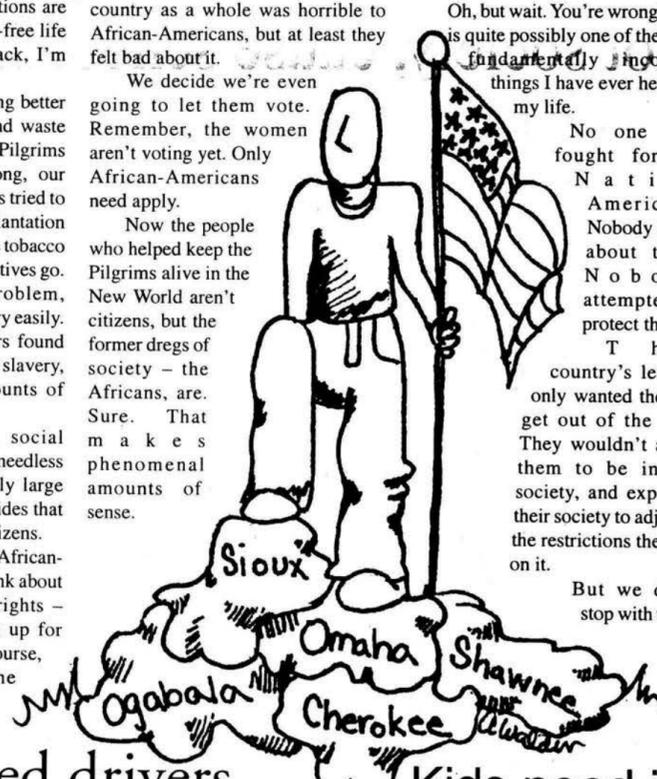
We have a lot of opportunities here, and we really are lucky to live in the United States of America.

I love my country, and I love the people in it, but some of the nation's history is scarred by intolerance.

This is Out of Hand



Faith Lynn



# Graduated licenses produce prepared drivers

The graduated license program that the state established two years ago is working. It is the primary reason why automobile accidents involving 16-year-olds has decreased ten percent in the first year data is available.

The graduated license program works because it requires potential drivers to become more responsible before they receive their licenses. This was a good change because under the old system, a student was allowed to receive a license if he simply showed up and passed a driving test.

The new system produces better drivers because it has more requirements than before.

As part of the graduated licenses program, the state has sanctioned driver's education courses. If a student passes a driver's education course from one of the sanctioned companies, then the driver does not have to pass a driving test issued by the state.

If a student takes a driver's education class, he becomes more educated about driving, as the name

suggests, and he is less likely to be involved in an accident or receive a traffic ticket.

By having students take driver's education programs, the state makes sure that every student receives an approved course before they have a legal driver's license.

The legislation also has a clause that makes it legal for a potential driver to log 50 hours of driving time while he has an instructional permit and then take his driving test.

Making it mandatory to document this amount of driving with an adult is a good idea. It proves that the driver is knowledgeable enough to be responsible when driving.

But this clause sometimes creates a problem. Some students drive for only part of the time or lie completely to receive their licenses.

The drivers who decide to log the time are more likely to be involved in accidents, according to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety. The drivers still need to pass a state driving and vision test, but this disparity in figures is a problem that the state should



address.

The state cannot make a driver's education program mandatory for all potential drivers because a course can cost the student hundreds of dollars, but all loopholes with the system should be ironed out.

Some action should be taken by the state to affect teenage driving after drivers receive their licenses. A provision could be added that would allow for the suspension of one's license if that person causes

# Kids need involved fathers

Children today need a good father figure.

I think it's sad that most of the time, kids say their role models are sports stars like Kobe Bryant.

These people are fine and all, but how about a role model more close to home—like your own dad!

Can't someone for once say, "my dad's the greatest person I know and I want to be just like him!"?

It is a lot easier to just be a dad, rather than a father.

All a guy has to do to become a dad is to contribute his half of the implantation process.

This is a big problem amongst teenage parents. The number of teenage pregnancies is actually decreasing, but that doesn't mean the guy's are taking care of their kids.

And why not? Because maybe they don't have the time, patience, or the money?

Because going out and finding a job to support their "new family" means they can't party on the

weekends.

Or maybe because it's harder to "pick up chicks" at the mall while they're pushing a baby stroller around?

Why should the mother be left with the responsibility of a child that father helped create?

She didn't impregnate herself. I hear guy's all the time talk about how much of a man they are, and these are the same guys I know for a fact they have kids and don't "claim" them."

But I won't say any names.

I will however note that yes I am aware of the many wonderful men out there who love and take care of their children.

We need these people a lot. I admire more men like them.

help fulfill the lives of our children. If they don't do this rewarding task who will?

Men need to be men. Guy's children need fathers—not dads. Don't ever choose not to be a part of a child's life.

Keepin' it Real



Keandra Cooks

# New system attacks school

## Problems could have been avoided by school district

SASI has held the school hostage this year. The school district took a gamble with the new system, and they lost.

Very few things have gone right and the school environment has suffered because of it. Report cards have been delayed, the system has been shut down for days at a time and scholarships and transcripts might be delayed as well, all because of the transfer to the new system.

Most of the problems that occurred this year were caused by human error. But they were not caused by incompetence or bad employees. Rather, the problem with this year has been untrained employees.

All of these problems could have been avoided with a little more research and a bigger time investment into the system before it was fully implemented.

The biggest problem with SASI is it was not officially piloted in the district last year. It was thrown into every school in the district this year with little research beforehand.

Before SASI, the district was operating with a thirty-year-old mainframe system with codes that predated BASIC, one of the earliest programming languages.

The district saw a very valuable program that had so much potential and went with it.

No matter how bad the old system was, the district should not have leapt blindly into a program that no one in the district knew how to operate.

They tried to teach over a thousand school officials how to use the program last summer, but when this kind of instruction is needed, problems were inevitable.

This ignorance of the system caused most of the new problems that are still unsolved today.

Each school has been stranded on its own little island because of the lack of district-wide information. Therefore, most of the problems are unique to each school.

Since the district has to deal with scores of schools with dozens of their own problems, the project quickly became a mess.

Because of the problems with the system, the changeover has become a

huge guessing game.

Almost daily, new problems are found and calls are made to the administration center to try to find out how to fix these problems. Instead of knowing what to expect, the problems surprised the school and the solutions were not available.

Another problem with SASI is the transfer from hard copies to a totally electronic system.

Before this new system, the school was operating on paper with limited computer use.

Since the program was quickly implemented, personal had to enter information from hard copies for current students to make sure that old information would work with new information.

The office does not have the manpower to do this massive data entry. Therefore, the office has been behind schedule the entire year, which is a reason why so many problems have occurred.

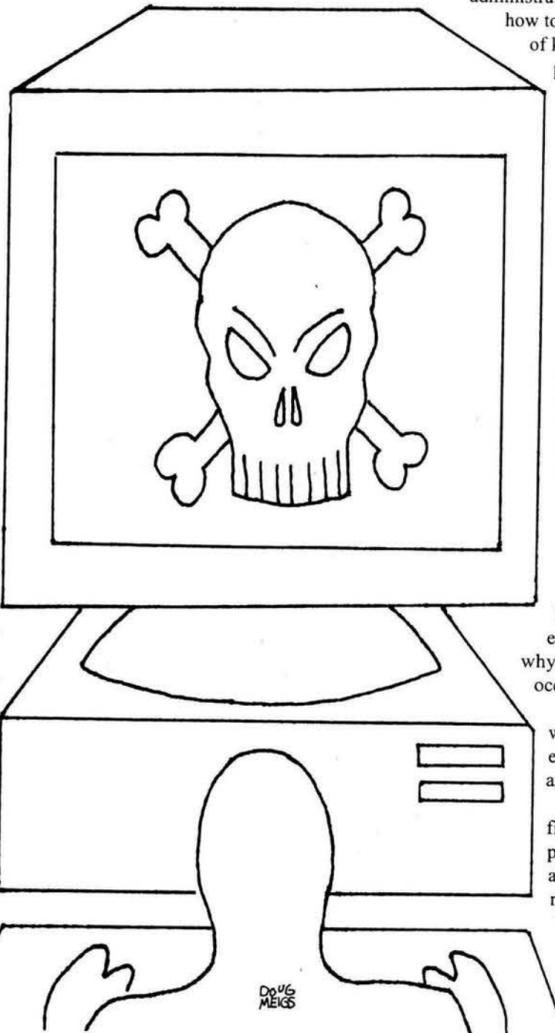
The system is now working better, but the effects on this school year are irreversible.

The system survived the first year, but most of the problems could have been avoided if the district researched the new system before they threw it into every school in the district.

That way, the district would have known what problems to expect before they

happened.

Hopefully, when the district decides to change computer system the next time, they will take a little more care than they did this year.



EDITORIAL  
The Opinion  
of  
the Register

# Individuals, not society, cause school shootings

It happened again. Another "picked on" kid decided to solve the problem by going into school and shooting people. This time, it happened near San Diego, but it seemed like the rest of the recent school shootings.

It left stunned students and worried parents along with a lot of carnage. Most of these things will never be fixed, but they can be prevented from happening again.

Once a tragedy occurs, people are quick to point the finger at one thing and pretend that it will never happen again. For example, after every recent school shooting, every suspect is displayed as the strange kid next door. They were the geeks of the school. They stayed in their garages for hours, making bombs and plotting whom to kill.

Using this logic, one might think school shootings are inevitable. Maybe the killers were born with a genetic defect that caused them to explode into a deadly rampage during their puberty.

Maybe the key to not having a shooting is that a school is lucky enough not to have a natural-born killer attending the school.

Also, people are quick to point the finger at external factors. Marilyn Manson and violent video games have all been blamed for causing school shootings. All of these claims are bogus. These things are not

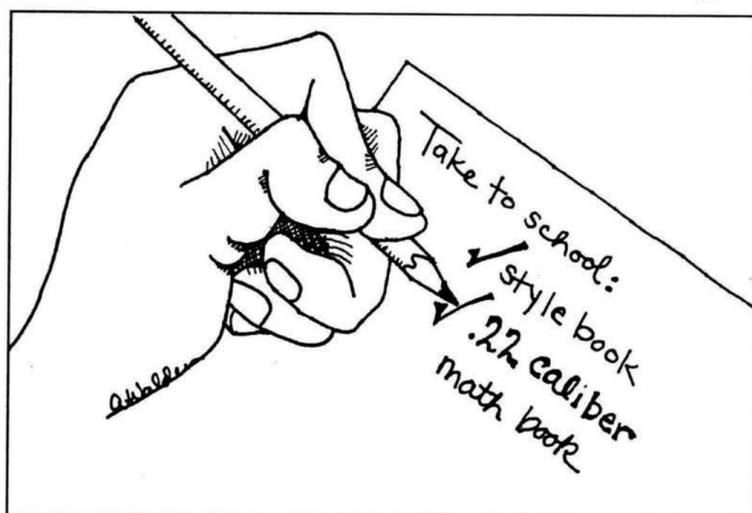
predestined to happen and watching a violent movie or two does not cause them either. There are two reasons why these tragedies occur: the perpetrator and the weapon.

First, the real reason is the kid. Kids who seek violence as an answer to their problems are unrealistic. These kids can not control their emotions and settle their problems in a civilized manner.

Maybe no one paid enough attention to the kid. Maybe he had mental or behavioral problems or maybe he was severely depressed. Maybe he did not have enough friends or help was not available to him.

But one really depressed kid does not cause dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries. The problem is these students were able to go to school with guns.

There is no reason why these tragedies should happen. People should be more responsible with these weapons and not allow them to get into the hands of kids. There is also something that the government can do to try to stop these things from



happening. Gun control has always been a key topic for debate at the national level, but nothing ever happens and students continue to kill other students.

After the school shooting at Columbine High School, citizens blamed the National Rifle Association because of its continued support for unlimited gun rights. There was a sudden push for rapid gun control, but nothing happened after that. Instead, the NRA held its national convention in Denver a couple of months after the incident.

But the floor of Congress is not the only place that this problem can be solved. Students, teachers and anyone involved with schools can help to make sure that this kind of

thing never happens again.

These incidents do not suddenly happen. There are a lot of warning signs. Before the most recent school shooting, the suspect allegedly said he was going to commit the act a couple of days before it happened.

Threats of committing such acts should not be taken lightly. Students should inform school officials about all violent things that anyone says. Even if the person does not go through with it, lives will be saved.

In order to stop school shootings, the country has to make a serious attempt to try to stop them. People cannot simply say that it will never happen to them or in their school. These things have to be done both at the legislative and the personal level.

# Drug prevention should be main focus of money

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse recently released a report stating that of every dollar spent Nebraska on substance abuse, only three cents are spent on drug treatment and prevention. This is a massive discrepancy that only helps feed the vicious circle of drug abuse.

It's obvious why there is such a problem with drugs in Nebraska. So little money spent on education leads to more people abusing drugs. If

more money was spent on drug education, fewer people would abuse drugs.

Drug treatment also suffers from this lack of funds. A treatment facility that cannot do its job cannot function well. An addict who comes out of an underfunded facility is more likely to return to drug use than is an addict from a well-funded facility, recreating the terrible circle of drug use.

The study also found that 75 percent of the money spent on adult

corrections was spent on substance abuse. This is proof that spending so little on treatment and prevention leads to more spending in other areas of substance abuse. If more money was given to prevention and treatment, maybe this circle could be broken.

If more money was spent on treatment and prevention, more programs could be developed to educate and inform about the dangers of drug use.

Some would argue that with how many dollars that go into substance abuse, three cents would mount into

a large sum.

Three percent is not enough to even have a minuscule effect on drug abuse. If three percent were spent on road maintenance and the rest on lane lines, the public would throw a fit. If three percent were spent on building maintenance and the rest on billboards, there would be a public outcry. Why are drugs any different?

More money must be spent on drug prevention and treatment in order for any type of drop in drug usage to result.

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The Opinion  
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the Register



# Lower voting age gives teenagers responsibility

Lowering the voting age in state elections in certain states to 16 would be a good idea. Nebraska should also think about lowering the voting age to try to increase teenage responsibility.

Two states, Minnesota and Texas, are currently debating propositions to lower the voting age in those respective states to 16.

If these changes are passed, they would only affect local and state elections because a constitutional amendment would be needed if the voting age were to be lowered for national elections.

Increasing the electorate would give teenagers a broader sense of responsibility. If teenagers were able to vote when they were 16-years-old, teenagers might care more about the political system at an earlier age.

Opponents to this proposal say that 16-year-olds should not be able to vote because they do not vote on election day.

They stand behind the fact that 18 to 26 year olds are the least likely, out of any age group, to vote. This claim is ridiculous.

Even if these younger people do not practice their rights, they should still have an opportunity.

If only one 16-year-old practices his right to vote, then these new provisions would be worthwhile.

Giving them the choice is a good thing to do. It would allow the younger generations the opportunity to have a say in their local and state governments.

Another contention that might block the lowering of the

voting age is the idea that 16-year-olds are not responsible enough to handle the choice.

This is bogus because these teenagers are affected everyday by most of the key issues in public elections - education, public utilities, transportation and drugs.

The theory behind voting should be to give as many people the opportunity as possible. That way the candidates elected would be chosen by a greater percentage of the citizens.

Voting age requirements have always been hard to pass through legislation. Women, minorities and 18-year-olds all tried long and hard to gain suffrage.

Instead of this apprehension, the legislatures should give more people the right to vote and then try to increase the voter turnout, not the other way around.

This is why this legislation is so important. If this legislation were passed in these two states, and was seen as successful, then similar measures might be adopted in other states.

Then, if enough support was collected, the national government might follow with the reconsideration of the national voting age.

All teenagers are not apathetic, docile kids. The government should allow more citizens to vote, especially in local elections. It's not like the government would be ruined if a few more teenagers were able to express their rights.

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# Drinking laws fail to send proper message

The new focus the Legislature is putting on underage drinking is long overdue.

This year, the Unicameral has introduced LB114 a bill that would change the laws for the better.

This bill should be passed because the current system presents a huge loophole when trying to combat underage drinking.

Current legislation makes the possession of alcohol by anyone younger than 21 illegal, but it does not address the consumption of alcohol illegal as well.

This is a huge legal barrier for law enforcement officials

when they try to stop underage drinking. A ticket can only be written if the minor possesses the substance at that time.

Legally, nothing can be done after the teen has actually consumed the alcohol.

This would be changed under the new provision. The possession and consumption of alcohol would become illegal if this bill were passed.

Passing this legislation would help stop illegal drinking by giving police officers more ground when investigating these cases and allowing for minors to be punished for consuming alcohol.

The process would be more effective if this provisions are accepted. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. The bill also effects the penalties for alcohol possession and consumption by a minor.

If a minor were ticketed for such a violation, the teenager's license would be suspended for six months or even revoked, no questions asked.

The current penalties for possessing alcohol are not enough. After the sentence is carried out, nothing else happens.

Most first-time offenders are offered an opportunity to attend

a diversion class to avoid the presence of the ticket on their record.

A diversion class is just a seminar that addresses the evils of drinking and alcoholism. This class is too easy on minors who are caught drinking.

Attending one class with dozens of other teenagers does not deter teenagers from breaking the law in the future.

When they attend this class, they are looking for an easy way to get around the law. They are not looking forward to learn about the dangers of drinking that they have heard from parents and teachers for years.

This way, their actions are never changed. This lack of a personal policy makes teenage drinkers feel like a small speck in a huge

stain. They think the law enforcement cannot focus on them because they are not the root cause of the problem.

These propositions would be a good change. By taking a teenager's license, something that most teenagers value a lot, teenagers will reconsider the action.

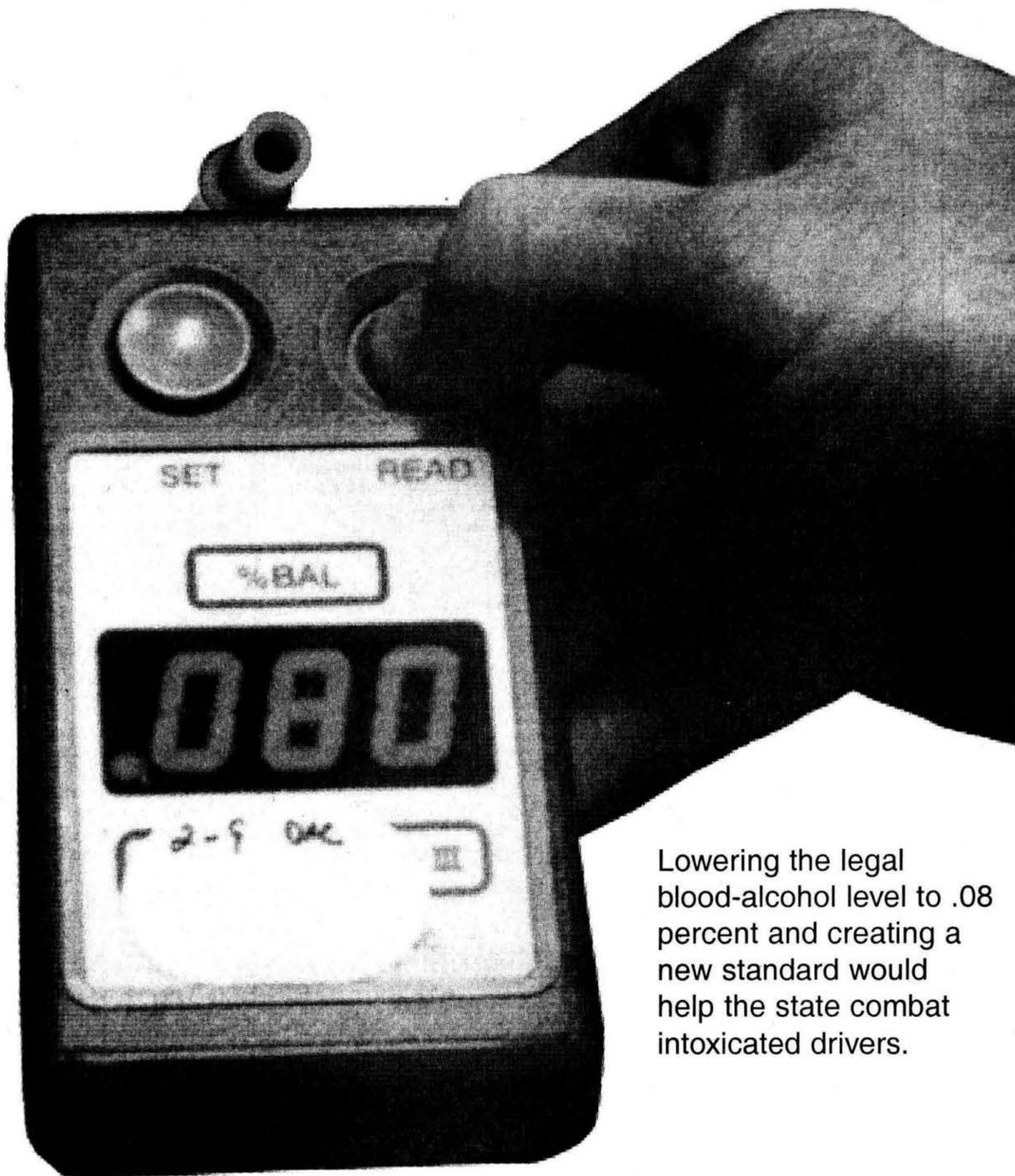
Also, making harsher penalties for illegal drinking would cut back on repeat offenders.

The fact is, this problem needs to be solved one speck at a time. True, taking away one driver's license affects only affects one offender, but taking away 100 licenses gets the point across that the state will not tolerate underage drinking.

The current regulations are not up to date. They do not allow police officers the flexibility needed to stop this problem.

Also, no teenager fears getting caught with alcohol. Therefore, these laws need to be reconsidered, and LB114 is a great way to do that.

## The new magic number



Lowering the legal blood-alcohol level to .08 percent and creating a new standard would help the state combat intoxicated drivers.

## Unicameral approves new drinking limits

The Nebraska Legislature has passed LB166, a bill that lowers the legal drunken-driving standard from .1 percent to .08 percent blood-alcohol content.

This bill will have many benefits for Nebraska and its citizens.

Drunken driving is an unending plague throughout the United States, and it does not seem to be slowing down anytime soon.

While this plague cannot be completely stopped, a bill like LB166, which takes drastic measures to help reduce the problem, can effectively eliminate the source of the problem.

Drunk drivers kill thousands of innocent people each year. One of the most common sense ways to keep this from happening is to simply keep the intoxicated drivers off of the streets.

A lower percent will make it easier to arrest drivers who appear to be inebriated.

It will also make it much easier to prosecute them. Instead of letting them fall through the cracks, prosecutors would have more ground in prosecuting defendants charged with driving while intoxicated.

Lowering the legal alcohol limit would be another way to keep drunk drivers off of the streets. This has obvious benefits to everyone.

Less drunk drivers on the road means less innocent people killed. It means less fathers, less mothers, less sons and less daughters killed for no justifiable reason. It means less sadness and less grief for victims families to suffer through.

One of the arguments used against this bill is that it will incriminate the recreational drinkers and not those who represent a real threat.

This is simply not true. A person should be capable of recreational drinking without drinking to excess.

To reach .08 percent blood alcohol level, the average man would have to drink four drinks in one hour.

This is hardly recreational.

Besides, a person who has been drinking, no matter how much they may have consumed, should not be driving, especially after four "recreational"

drinks.

Passing this bill would also have other benefits besides making the streets safer.

If this bill was not passed, Nebraska would lose \$33 million for highway repairs by 2007.

The federal government threatened to take away this money if Nebraska did not pass this bill.

The federal government recently adopted the .08 percent standard and it has been pressing for other states to do the same. Many states have done it, but some have not.

With Nebraska's highway problems, the state has no choice but to act.

A \$33 million loss would be a significant hit on the Nebraska highway system.

As seen by the poor conditions of roads over this past winter, Nebraska needs all the highway funds that it can possibly get, especially without raising taxes.

Since this bill has passed, Nebraska's roads will be safer to drive on and better maintained. The Unicameral should be commended for this act.

EDITORIAL  
.....  
The Opinion  
of  
the Register

## Strange plane ride proves importance of toilet paper

Toilet paper is a necessity. I do not think there is any argument there. Normally a shortage of toilet paper is not something someone has to worry about when traveling.

Going into a stall and finding that there is no toilet paper left is a problem. A person can be embarrassed if she has to ask a stranger if she has an extra roll.

But those incidents are few and far between, especially in a large airport.

Airports buy toilet paper in bulk so you have to wonder how many trees got killed, or the rolls that they put in the dispensers are

so large you cannot help but think that one roll is an entire tree.

If you were going to a remote part of India, it is basically a guarantee that your bowels will not be happy.

My cousin Joe is a lawyer in West Palm Beach, Florida. His associate, John, was going on such a trip.

Joe was going on a trip up state the same day.

He had gone over to John's office to get a cup of coffee and then go to the airport with him.

When Joe got there, John was stuffing rolls of toilet paper in his trial bag. His trav-

el bags were not that large, so he could only fit three of the four rolls in and he had to have enough toilet paper to last him a week or two.

He asked Joe to carry one so he would not look dumb carrying a roll of toilet paper around. There is something funny about a respectable lawyer in G-man clothing carrying around a roll of toilet paper.

But in the rush of the day, the two went their separate ways and Joe forgot to give his associate the roll.

Joe sat there as any other person would in the aisle seat of the airplane. He was minding his own business, drinking his coffee and reading a newspaper.

He reached down to get some papers out of his bag. The roll went flying out of the bag and it went rolling down the aisle.

It would not have been a problem if it

was the kind of toilet paper that is individually wrapped, but Joe's associate wanted a more substantial roll of toilet paper.

The toilet paper bought by the public facilities is thin and awful. In order for that kind of toilet paper to work, a person has to use practically the whole roll in one sitting.

The roll was unrolling at an ungodly rate and there was Joe chasing after it, all the way down the aisle.

When it finally reached the end of the roll, he realized that he was going to have to roll it back up all the way back to his seat.

When rolling toilet paper, no matter how hard you try, the roll never rolls straight.

So Joe was on an early flight where numerous business people were staring at him as though yet another person had gone insane. All because of fancy pieces of paper.

Everything  
but the Sink



Paula Salhany

One Strike  
Against Me



Jon Lathan

## Theft leads to hard lessons school arrests

I'm running around the third floor minding my own business, in my gym shorts, Iverson's and a t-shirt. During the run, some klepto stole my clothes.

Yes, I said my clothes.

I had carelessly laid them down in a spot where I could see them, and they were gone before I got back around. I was around the school for about an hour looking for my clothes.

I was told they could be in toilet stalls, trash cans or the locker room. I ended up missing a really important interview that night because I didn't have any clothes to wear.

The worst thing about getting my clothes stolen was that I had my cell phone in my pocket and my wallet with my ID in it.

I had no money in my wallet, but I didn't care about that. All I wanted were the pictures of my nieces that were there.

What type of inhuman delinquents would steal pictures of someone's nieces?

My mom was heated. I got called more names pertaining to my stupidity than Central has names for its beef cuts. She told me not to tell my dad quite so much because she didn't want to hear him complaining.

I called my cell phone about a hundred times, to see if anyone would answer it. Someone actually picked it up.

Because of this, I knew someone had it, and it was not laying on the street or in a toilet somewhere.

I decided to be a man about the situation and tell my dad. I thought he would just say, "Okay I understand."

I have never been more wrong.

As soon as he came in the house, he shrunk right back down to my three-year-old stage. I have never heard so many profane words exit from one human mouth in a time.

After calming down, he called Sprint and had my service suspended.

If you steal a cell phone, don't use it. Sprint gave me a list of all of the frequently dialed numbers that were made after the time of theft. I took those numbers to school with me the next day.

So I'm sitting in front of Mr. Anderson's office waiting for him to give me his input on the situation, when the strangest thing happened.

If you want to steal someone's clothes, don't wear the same exact thing to school the next day.

Sure, I was stupid for leaving my clothes out, but he has to top the list of the world's stupidest crooks.

He was already on probation for some other stuff he had done, and guess what else? The kid was only a freshman.

Young people these days just don't have any respect.

I got all of my stuff back. Well, not my wallet, and of course not my clothes, but everything else. Even if my clothes were offered to me, I won't accept them. If he needed them that bad, he can keep them.

According to Officer Jerry Paul, the kid is probably in Kearney by now.

I suddenly got my clothes, phone and wallet stolen. Then, I caught the kid wearing them and had him arrested. I also missed about four classes that day, so I guess it wasn't all that bad.

All this happened in two days.

Why would someone need to steal clothes? Especially ones that were not even a major brand name?

The answer: this kid was stupid.

People told me that if they would have seen that kid, they would have beat him down and stolen the clothes back from him.

The way I saw it, we both could have gotten arrested. If I had started to attack him, I wouldn't have stopped until someone put me in cuffs. There's no telling how long that kid would have been in intensive care.

The strangest thing though, is that apparently this kid had sold my ID, too. It showed up along with my phone. Who would someone want to pretend to be me?

# Favorite Bands

The *Register* staff handed out a survey to Central students asking them to list their favorite bands. Seven hundred surveys were returned. Here are the top fifteen.

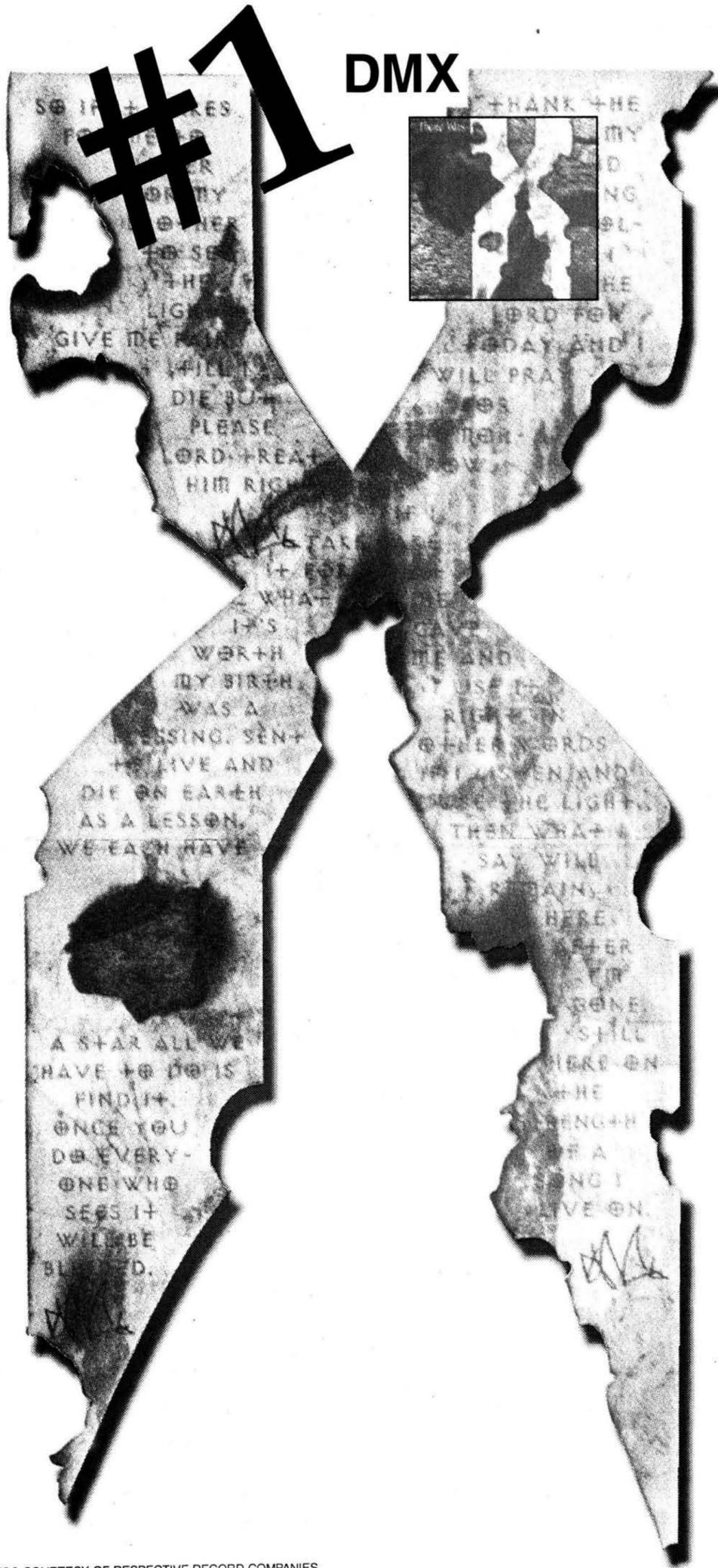
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reviews: Central's favorite bands  
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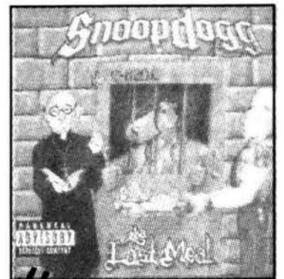
Tattoo trends  
Page 28

Barbie exhibit  
Page 22

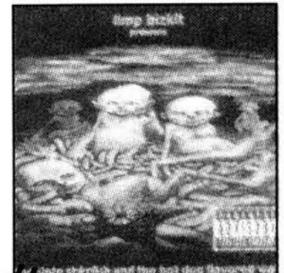
software piracy  
Page 32



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE RECORD COMPANIES



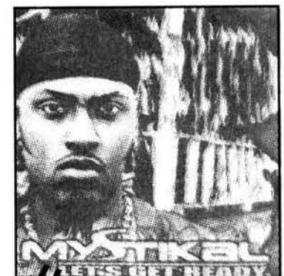
#2 Snoop Dogg



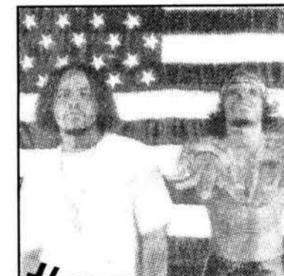
#3 Limp Bizkit



#4 Jay-Z



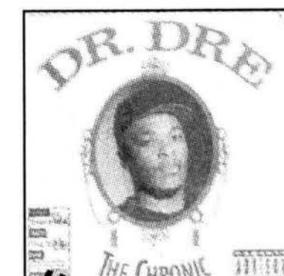
#5 Mystikal



#6 Outkast



#7 Ja Rule



#8 Dr. Dre

Turn to THE TOP 15 RECAP, page 24 for the rest of the picks and reviews

## Lack of security causes deaths, injuries, official says

By Layne Gabriel

Security at concerts has become a concern with the large number of injuries and deaths that have occurred in the recent years, said Paul Wertheimer, director of Crowd Management Strategies.

The death of a 15-year-old girl from a heart attack at a Limp Bizkit show during the Big Day Out festival in Australia has become one of the more recent problems.

Wertheimer said that heart attacks are very common among teenagers at concerts with the crowd crushing situations. Crowd crushing is when the crowd sways or runs to the stage, causing other people in the crowd to

be carried along.

Woodstock '99 was also a security mishap, Wertheimer said. The first aid station saw 10,000 people, there were six reported rapes and \$2 million in property damage.

"There has never been a Woodstock that has been run right," he said.

Wertheimer said that concert-goers must know their rights.

Women should not have to battle with people to keep their clothes on, a separate space should be available for those who mosh and free water should be made available to all in attendance.

The concerts with the worst record are Limp Bizkit, Metallica, Blink 182, rap shows

and Korn. Wertheimer said that Limp Bizkit is possibly the most dangerous concert to attend and that if it does not change its ways, the disasters are going to happen again.

Wertheimer said he also blames alcohol consumption for some problems with concert attendees.

"Alcohol is probably the number one risk problem at concerts," he said.

Alcohol also causes many problems with the crowd, as well as drug use, Tom Bergin, director of Concert Security Services in Omaha, said. He said that the Omaha Police Department often sends undercover officers to concerts to take care of Marijuana smokers.

The consumption of alcohol causes prob-

lems regardless of age, but the overcrowding and standing room, as well as festival seating, also cause problems.

"Generally the problem with concerts is not fans, but the environment fans are placed in," Wertheimer said.

Crowd Management Strategies' database includes every reported concert injury in the nation, as well as around the world, and rock shows are not the only thing to blame.

At a Christina Aguilera concert at the Nebraska Fair Expo on Aug. 3, 2000, 12 people suffered heat exhaustion from the crowd crushes.

Wertheimer said that security knows  
Turn to CONCERT SECURITY, page 22

# Concerts lacking security

From CONCERT SECURITY, page 21

about rushes, but really does not care. He said he believes security officials do not work to their fullest.

"What is security doing when girls get tops ripped off and their bras ripped off? Nothing," he said.

Wertheimer said one of the other major causes of injury is crowd surfing and stage diving.

He said it is safest not to mosh or crowd surf, but being knowledgeable about those actions is key.

"I don't believe fans have to stand at the back of the room," he said.

If a show is not enjoyable because of problems with security, it is best to complain to the local officials.

He said he encourages people to press charges if they feel violated at a concert.

"You have a right to have a reasonably safe and enjoyable concert environment," he said.

Safety for moshers is not always considered. Special spots for moshers are safest for the rest of the crowd, Wertheimer said.

"They can cause a lot of havoc for people just watching the show," he said.

Bergin said that security officials at the Civic Auditorium are there to prevent crowds from getting into artist areas and provide some help to keep the crowd safe.

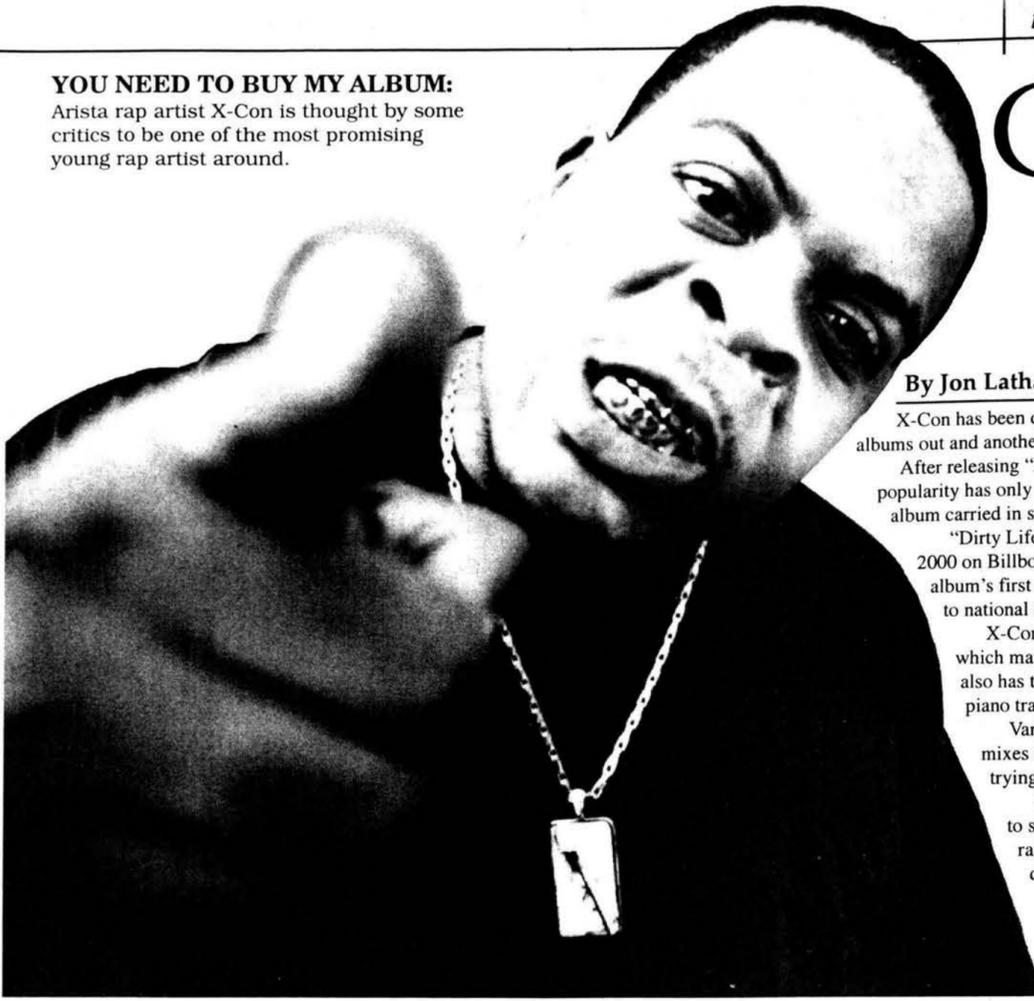
Bergin suggested that injuries can be prevented by being safe with moshing and crowd surfing.

He said that any time a general admission show is at the Civic, the control over the crowd is easily lost.

With the main floor capacity of 5,000 to 6,000, it is hard to keep out an eye for injury.

He said that the safest places to sit in general admission shows at the Civic is in the seats to the left and right of the stage in the first balcony, so that the view is adequate and injuries are avoided.

**YOU NEED TO BUY MY ALBUM:**  
Arista rap artist X-Con is thought by some critics to be one of the most promising young rap artist around.



# Coming at ya!

By Jon Lathan

X-Con has been quietly making a name for himself with two albums out and another one on the way. After releasing "Life Behind Walls", his first LP in 1993, his popularity has only grown. Unfortunately, you can't even find that album carried in stores anymore.

"Dirty Life," his second release, spent the majority of 2000 on Billboard Magazine's Hot Rap Charts after the album's first single, "Whoa Lil' Mama" hit it big and went to national airwaves.

X-Con's music is about beautiful, bouncing women, which many of those South Florida girls happen to be. He also has the necessary thumping beats and a smooth piano track.

Variety is what X-Con has going for him. He mixes it up with dance tracks and tales of drug dealers trying to break the cocaine habit.

Unlike most "gangsta rappers," X-Con seems to show both side of street life. In one song he raises it up, then in the next he drops it back down.

His smooth, well-practiced songs have helped him to become one of the rising stars in the rap industry today. Watch out for X-Con because he's making a run for the top.

## Barbie exhibit at Western Heritage Museum recounts history

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

The 42-year-old Barbie Doll with the perfect figure was in her own exhibit in the Western Heritage Museum Jan. 27-Mar. 4.

The exhibit, "The Collection Barbie Doll: Four Decades of Fashion and Fun," contained some of the earliest Barbie Dolls, including the original Barbie Doll.

Portrayed as an 11 and a half-inch doll with long legs and big hips, she was dressed in a black and white swimsuit wearing her signature ponytail.

In the 1960s, Barbie was more sophisticated and elegant, with her dresses taken from

the Parisian runways. Barbie changed her hairstyle from the ponytail to the bobble cut because of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. Barbie designer Ruth Handler also made Barbie's waist twist and turn.

In the 1970s, Barbie started to wear every style of fashion from prairie dresses to sparkly disco outfits.

Because of the outburst of Barbie's clothes, Times Square was renamed "Barbie Blvd." for a week.

Handler had come up with the Barbie Doll idea because she realized her own daughter, Barbara, was playing with paper dolls, Deb Schmadeke, marketing director of the

Western Heritage, said.

"Handler thought she needed more inspiration so she patented the first Barbie Doll in 1945, naming it after Barbara," she said.

Barbie was introduced to America for the first time at the New York Toy Fair on Mar. 9, 1959. Toy buyers were then doubtful of weather or not the Barbie Doll would be a success.

After they began selling, the buyers soon realized that girls were interested and before long, would want the doll.

The African-American and Hispanic Barbie Dolls were not introduced to the enthusiastic crowds until the 1980s.



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# 'Sneaky Fitch' fails to please audience

By Daisy Bonham-Carter

Central's spring play, "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch," by James L. Rosenberg, looked like an elementary school's performance instead of the quality that the school has come to expect over the years.

The biggest problem with the production was that the script did not complement the talent that was on the stage. This kind of performance could have been predicted when this play was selected. If a better script was selected, a better performance would have been better.

The actors who had talent were not challenged enough in this play. The audience probably would have liked to have seen them have decent material to work with. If they had decent material, they could have developed it more and they play would have been a lot better.

The lights and makeup were well done, but even the technical aspects of the play could not make up for the problems with the script.

The cast of "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch" was extraordinarily large because director and producer Pegi Georgeson must have had very loose requirements for the casting.

Adding people to the show caused clutter on stage that detracted from the main characters and caused confusion at some times during the play.

For one, the story was weak. The entire play took place in a "hillbilly" town in the old West, named Gopher Gulch. Sneaky Fitch (senior Ben Beck) was the withered, smelly, old, dumb cow-

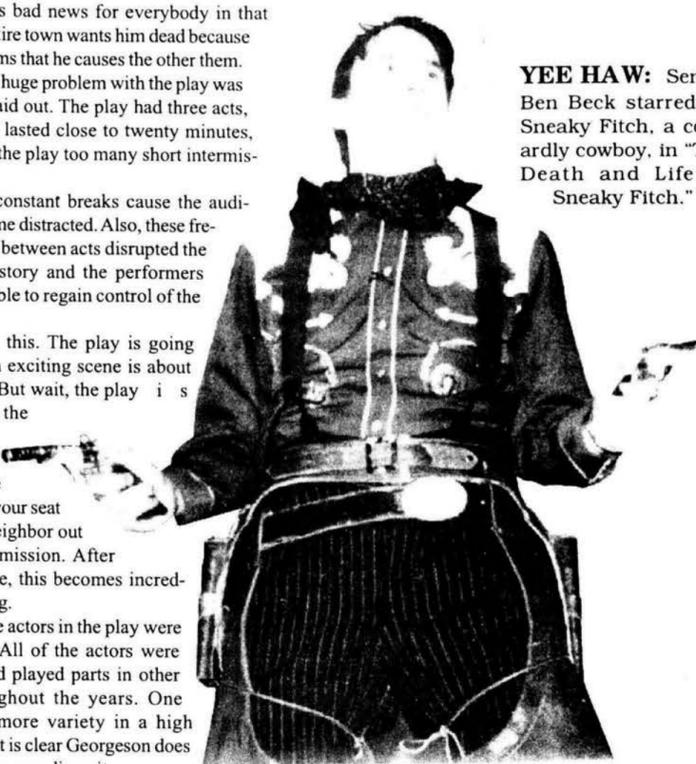
boy who was bad news for everybody in that town. The entire town wants him dead because of the problems that he causes the other them.

Another huge problem with the play was how it was laid out. The play had three acts, and each act lasted close to twenty minutes, which gives the play too many short intermissions.

These constant breaks cause the audience to become distracted. Also, these frequent breaks between acts disrupted the flow of the story and the performers were never able to regain control of the plot.

Imagine this. The play is going along and an exciting scene is about to come up. But wait, the play is stopped for the characters to change and you have to get out of your seat to let your neighbor out for the intermission. After the third time, this becomes incredibly annoying.

Also, the actors in the play were not diverse. All of the actors were ones that had played parts in other plays throughout the years. One should see more variety in a high school play. It is clear Georgeson does not encourage any diversity.



**YEE HAW:** Senior Ben Beck starred as Sneaky Fitch, a cowardly cowboy, in "The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch."

# Nasum rejects traditional grindcore rock stereotype

By Michael Gerhardt

The Swedish grindcore band that has mastered its sound, Nasum, has released another pummeling juggernaut of power with its most recent album, "Human 2.0."

Each of the 25 tracks on the album is full of grindcore chaos. Each track bashes the listener with whiplash riffs, crazed drumming and rabid vocals time and time again.

Pounding beats are mixed into every possible segment, which give a stark contrast to the explosive noise sections that the group sometimes uses.

There are very few grindcore bands that can make their music sound like anything else but noise. Nasum is very good at inserting catchy hooks into its music. Because of this, Nasum is one of the more memorable bands in this genre.

One thing that really stands out about the album is the drumming. It's absolutely insane. It's a barrage of cymbals and toms, with the occasional regular beat thrown into the mix.

The album is well-produced with very interesting packaging. It's not possible to tell exactly what is on the cover, but it is most certainly eye catching, to say the least. This is just the start of the amazement one has when experiencing this band.

"Human 2.0" starts out with an explosion on the track "Mass Hypnosis." Even through the song is only a little over one minute long, it is still fully capable of reducing the average listener into a pile of dust (as are most of the other songs on the al-

bum.) The next memorable song is "Shadows," which begins with standard superfast noise and then moves into a melodic, keyboard-backed interlude with ultra low guitars in the background.

"The Professional League" is a groove-laden hammer to the face, with extremely emotional music as well as very powerful lyrics that truly impact the listener.

With the way grindcore is, most songs sound a lot alike, and sometimes it's very difficult to tell where one song ends and another begins. This is something that is very consistent throughout the entire genre. It's not just Nasum that does it.

One very amusing thing about Nasum is how the members write their music - they don't. They openly admit in the album booklet that they steal their riffs from other bands they play with, which is very unique.

This is amusing, but it also gives a nagging doubt about whether the amazing song playing was written by them or someone else. When a band admits they steal the lyrics from another band, what is stopping it from stealing the entire song from another band as well?

Still, in a genre full of clones, every fan should be able to appreciate the quality and uniqueness Nasum puts into its music. Without Nasum, grindcore music would be an abyss of loud screaming and stupid instrumentals.

Anyone who is interested in good music should definitely check this band out.



# See Spot Run' entertains with humorous plot, happy ending

By Melissa Angelo

From start to finish, "See Spot Run" keeps the viewer suspicious of what will happen next and the hilarious actions of the characters. Combined with the happy ending, the plot makes this movie the best comedy of the year.

The name "Spot" just does not match "Agent 11," the crime-fighting superdog that was put into protective custody to escape the gangsters that are trying to murder him for placing their head honcho in jail.

While in protective custody Spot - also known as Agent 11 - is

mixed up with another dog and gets into the wrong hands, only to escape and find two new friends.

Gordon (David Arquette), a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, has the ability to escape the ferocious claws or teeth of any dog on his route.

In his babysitting fiasco with Stephanie (Leslie Bibb)'s son he encounters the worst - or, in reality, the best.

He finds a pet dog. While Stephanie is on her business trip getting covered in mud and hitching a ride on a motorcycle to get back to her son the trio has a fun time and boy, dog, and man

become emotionally attached.

The best part of this movie is when Gordon gives Stephanie's son James (Angus T. Jones), an overabundant amount of sugar and James is literally jumping off the walls.

This wacky PG-rated film was particularly cute because of the mixture of comedy, such as the anti-dog commando tactics that Gordon uses on his route, the odd behavior of Spot, and the personality change that each of them acquires.

Certain scenes and language may not be suitable for children younger than eight to see.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

**SEE SPOT RUN** Angus Jones, Bob the dog and David Arquette star in "See Spot Run." Look for this film to win many awards for its humorous plot and enjoyable storyline.

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## Continued from page 21

Here are Central High's top 15 picks, as shown by the *Register's* survey of 700 students. Members of the staff chose some of the most recent releases by these artists and gave their "quick-hit" opinions.



## 1. DMX

DMX's album, "...And Then There Was X" starts off great and finishes with a grand finale, but is sometimes a chore to get through the middle. DMX places more emphasis on how his lyrics work with the beats. After a few tracks, his lyrics quickly become an explosion of expletives that makes Hiroshima look like a firecracker. These tracks are a dime a dozen and he fails to develop anything memorable. Listening to this album is valuable experience. A couple of tracks might need to be skipped, but the album is still worth its weight in gold compared to others.

-Joe Meyer

## 2. Snoop Dogg (see photo, lower right)

## 3. Limp Bizkit

The interesting thing about modern pop bands is their ability to release the same album over and over, while still increasing record sales. Limp Bizkit's third album, "Chocolate Starfish and the Hotdog Flavored Water," sounds exactly like the other two albums the band has put out. The best track off of the CD is, "It'll be OK." The song starts with a beautiful guitar riff and singer Fred Durst using his impressive voice. The other songs are all the similar to older material, but Limp Bizkit has been working with the same formula for a few years. Why change?

-Michael Gerhardt

## 4. Jay-Z

Randomly insert the word "jigga" into every sentence, put a catchy beat behind it and you can recreate Jay-Z's album, "Vol. 3...Life and Times of S. Carter." The album makes tolerable background music, but for more attentive listening it is not very appealing. The profanity is annoying, even to most open of minds. The only song that was easily recognizable was "Big Pimpin'," which was so overplayed that it was painful to listen to. To the untrained ear, "Vol. 3" basically sounds like 15 tracks of the same song with slightly different background music.

-Layne Gabriel

## 5. Mystikal

Mystikal's "Let's Get Ready" has hard beats and fast lyrics because that is Mystikal's style. This album exceeds Mystikal's standards because of the fact that he has other voices on his album. The other voices contrast Mystikal's tongue-twisting style by adding a singing sort of sound to his tracks. Once you hear the single "Shake it Fast," you can't get it out of your head. Mystikal is the man. His mix of lyrics, beats and voice style separate him from all others in the rap field.

-Jon Lathan

## 6. Outkast

Sex, more sex, humor and profanity. "Stankonia" has everything it takes to be one of the best rap albums. This album flows well. The recent single, "Ms. Jackson," is the high point. After that, the lyrics take a turn to the offensive side. Once the F-word, S-word and N-word get used 15 times in one verse, it gets to be a little trying. When taken lightly, the lyrics can be humorous. Some of the tracks are repetitive and tedious, but all in all this is classic. The speed and precision are to be commended.

-Matt Wynn

## 7. Ja Rule

Ja Rule's 1999 release, "Venni Vetti Vecci" is filled with a combination of vulgar language, good rhythm and strong messages. To prevent the entire disc from containing deep emotions and hard felt thought, Ja Rule included some ridiculously stupid songs somewhere in the middle. "Venni Vetti Vecci" is a tough album that in actuality has a religious and purposeful backbone. The balance of serious and silly music on this album cancels each other out, making the album enjoyable.

-Sarrah McDonald

## 8. Dr. Dre

Dr. Dre's first album, "The Chronic," takes you back to the old-school rap of the early 90s. It's a classic rap album, but will only be remembered because it has inspired so many other rap stars. If you have any questions about life in South Central Los Angeles, look no further. Every song discusses the sex, drugs and violence of the area. To some this might be entertaining, but it sounds like his personal gripes, as though the rest of the world doesn't know Los Angeles has problems. I'm sure if I wrote fourteen songs about sex and drugs in Omaha, millions of people would purchase it, too.

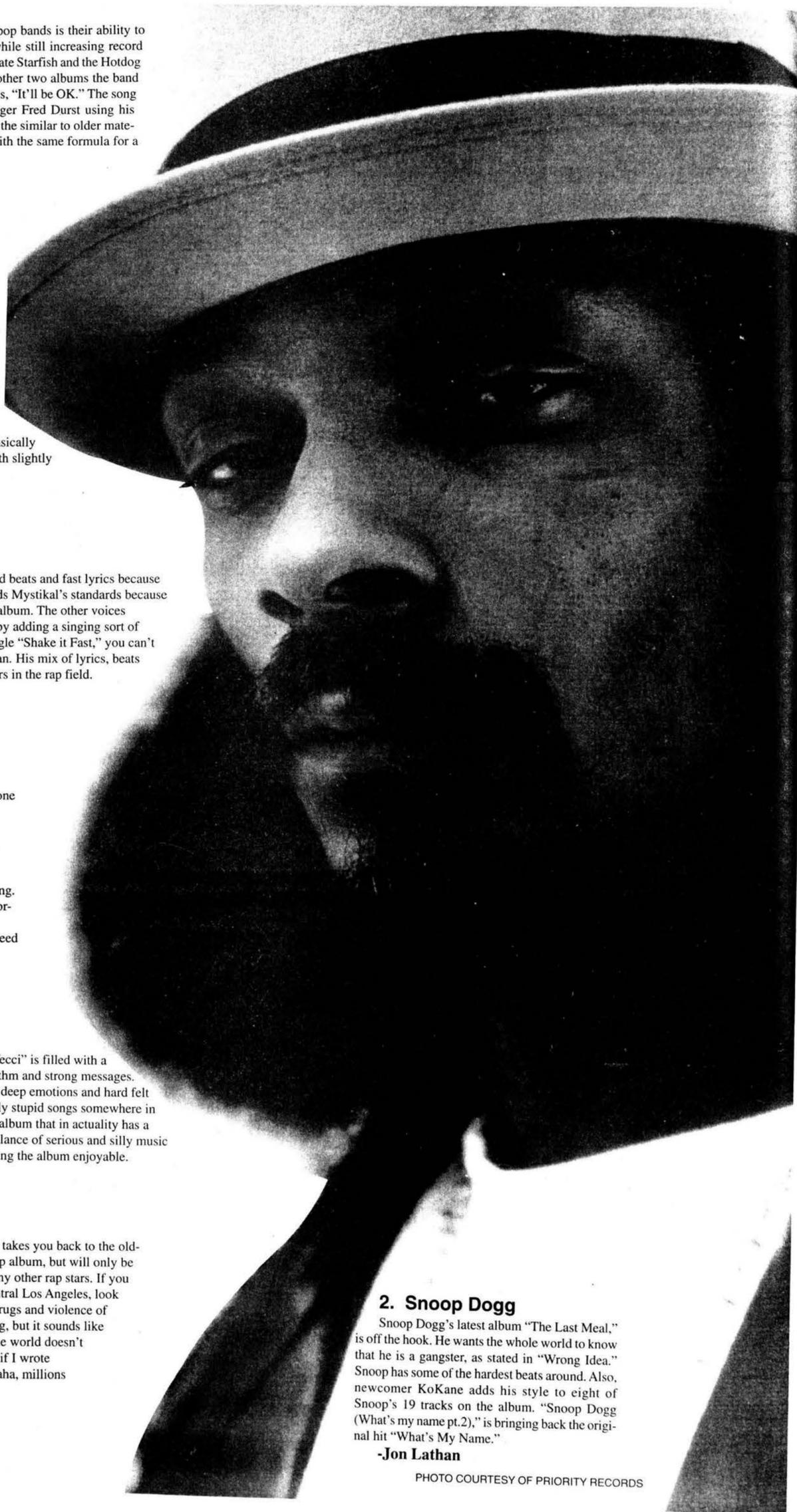
-Ally Freeman



## 9. K-Ci and JoJo

The hit song "Crazy" is one of the few decent songs on K-Ci and JoJo's "X". The rest of the album is an imitation of Boyz II Men. When a song starts becoming emotional or contains certain topics, K-Ci and JoJo have a nasty little habit of spoiling the song with long moaning matches. These are the kind of useless noises that musicians make when there are no words. Much of their songs sound the same and it gets very boring after a while.

-Sarrah McDonald



## 2. Snoop Dogg

Snoop Dogg's latest album "The Last Meal," is off the hook. He wants the whole world to know that he is a gangster, as stated in "Wrong Idea." Snoop has some of the hardest beats around. Also, newcomer KoKane adds his style to eight of Snoop's 19 tracks on the album. "Snoop Dogg (What's my name pt.2)," is bringing back the original hit "What's My Name."

-Jon Lathan

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRIORITY RECORDS



**10. Eminem**

While Eminem's, "The Slim Shady LP" starts out promising, the repetitive sound and sad attempts at being controversial send the album downhill. Most of the songs on the album sound exactly the same as, "My Name Is," the song that made him famous. But of course the lyrics are offensive. At certain points in the album he threw in things that didn't seem to fit, like talking about rape and murder where it really does not make sense. He should try to be coherent every once in a while.

-Danielle Rollins



**11. The Beatles**

The Beatles' "1" is chock full of 27 of the Beatles' number one hits. From, "Love Me Do" to "The Long and Winding Road," the album has some of the Beatles' best songs and some of the best songs ever written. "1" has everything from the catchy old Beatles songs like, "She Loves You" to the ballads like, "Hey Jude" and "Something" of the band's later years. "1" is an essential to any Beatles collector or the listener who is just getting interested.

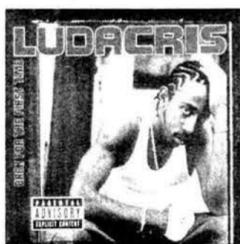
-Layne Gabriel



**12. Tupac**

"All Eyez on Me" was Tupac's last album before he died. It is a mix of hard beats, great lyrics and lots of profanity. This album shows what rap is all about. Even if someone didn't like Tupac, after listening to this album, his or her views might change. The weird thing about this album is that Tupac made references to death and going to heaven. He must have known that something was going to happen to him. The last two songs were Tupac asking for forgiveness.

-Jon Lathan



**13. Ludacris**

The music on Ludacris' most recent release, "Back for the First Time," is some of the best major label music released in the past couple of years. The lyrics are funny and memorable, the beats are catchy and the overall effect is astounding. The track "What's Your Fantasy," featuring Shawna and Ludacris is one of the most repeatable tracks around. Ludacris also has interesting skits in this album. The skits are funny and mixed with the music it is hard to take this album off the turntable.

-Matt Wynn

**14. Dave Matthews Band**

Just a word to Dave Matthews: drop the electric guitar now. The Dave Matthews Band's most recent album, "Everyday," is catchy as any other. But still, there is something seriously disturbing about listening to Matthews jamming on the electric guitar. The melodies on the album are outstanding and remain sensual and somewhat melancholy, which upholds Matthews' trademark style. The album grows on you, but at first it is not the most appealing.

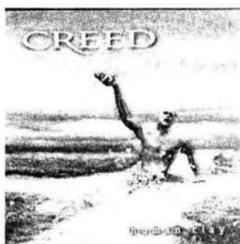
-Layne Gabriel



**15. Creed**

Creed's most recent album, "Human Clay," is filled with typical, yet different Creed music. Although everyone has heard the radio singles "Are You Ready," "What If," "With Arms Wide Open" and "Higher," the best is hidden within the songs that are not played on the radio. "Faceless Man" is possibly the best song on the album with wonderful lyrics and a different sound. Creed is successful in creating material that deviates from the previous album, but still keeps listeners riveted.

-Layne Gabriel



**The Top 15 Recap**

- |                |                   |                        |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. DMX         | 6. Outkast        | 11. Beatles            |
| 2. Snoop Dogg  | 7. Ja Rule        | 12. Tupac              |
| 3. Limp Bizkit | 8. Dr. Dre        | 13. Ludacris           |
| 4. Jay-Z       | 9. K-Ci and Jo Jo | 14. Dave Matthews Band |
| 5. Mystikal    | 10. Eminem        | 15. Creed              |

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# 'Hannibal' disappoints viewers who like original

By Chris Aponick

At first glance, everything about Hannibal Lecter's return to the big screen was delectable.

However, "Hannibal" started to become less and less of a film as each scene unraveled.

Anthony Hopkins brilliantly reprises his role as Dr. Lecter. He has escaped to Italy where he is masquerading as Dr. Fell, an art historian.

At the same time he is being tracked down by the billionaire, Mason Verger, played by Gary Oldman in an uncredited role. Verger, a former patient and victim of Lecter, is horribly disfigured and is bent on feeding the good doctor to specially

bred man-eating boars.

Meanwhile, Clarice Starling's standing in the FBI is tarnished due to a botched raid. She is reassigned to Lecter's case and becomes aware of Verger's plot to capture Hannibal.

This is the point when the plot gets so convoluted that everything in the theater starts to spin around at 100 miles per hour. For a plot this intensive, the movie should be somewhere around three hours long, however, "Hannibal" clocks in at a little over two.

Despite the fact that the movie feels rushed, the acting was superb. Hopkins shined and Gary Oldman was diabolical as Verger. Julianne Moore did a fine job but fell short of Jodie Foster's Clarice. The other

characters filled in nicely, but the film fell short from expectations.

The worst part of "Hannibal" was Ridley Scott's directing. Where "Silence..." was subtle, "Hannibal" was grotesquely over the top. Scott made a visual feast out of a movie that could have achieved more with less.

Scott overplayed every little cut and scratch with five gallons of blood. The visual effects were reminiscent of the gushing liquids that abounded in "The Evil Dead." Scott's approach failed from beginning to end and only succeeded in providing a gross-out.

To complement, this was a perfect score that would not shut up. Every part of this film had music. It tends to tone out the dialogue and takes over the whole plot.

The other main problem is the re-characterization of Lecter. In "Silence..." Hannibal was fearsome because he had a glass room separating him from the world.

However, in "Hannibal," Lecter is reduced to such lines as "Okey dokey." This is not the Lecter that was incarcerated in the previous classic. A liberated Hannibal is like Gilligan working a hot dog stand in Central Park. It doesn't work.

This film pales in comparison to "The Silence of the Lambs" but is a step above most other thrillers. Yet the fact remains that "Hannibal" is a film with an overstuffed plot and plenty of visual overkill.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

**LETTERS FROM THE WASTELAND:** Mario Calabrese, Rami Jaffee, Jakob Dylan, Michael Ward and Greg Richman showcase their musical talents on the Wallflowers' recent album, "Breach." The album only has one mediocre track.

## Wallflowers maintain quality

By Paula Salhany

Wallflowers fans are in heaven. Finally, the long awaited album, "Breach" has been released.

The third album by the band is much like its second, virtually every song is magnificent. The lyrics all tell a story about life, yet all the songs have their own unique quality.

The best song, by far, is track four; "I've Been Delivered." The lyrics describe waking up one day and realizing that you need to move on with your life. It is thought-provoking and an overall well organized song.

About two to three weeks ago, the first track from "Breach" was released on the radio. It is called "Letters from the Wasteland." It has a catchy melody that makes you want to listen to it over and over again.

The only track that is mediocre for the band is "Mourning Train." It has a hoedown quality that does not work. It is a track

that you might want to skip although it still has some good parts.

It is refreshing to finally hear some real music. The Wallflowers always deliver with the same sort of good quality that old school music used to have.

Jakob Dylan, lead vocals and guitar, follows in his father's, Bob Dylan, footsteps and enjoys songs that are memorable and enjoyable for everyone who listens to them.

This is a great break from most music today that repeats the same words over and over again and tries to say they are making music. The band actually thinks about what they write, and it shows in the music and its popularity.

In the Wallflowers album, even though the refrains have the same melody, the words are often changed to put a twist to the song. This way, the listener is always attentive to what the band is doing.

Any band that can make an album that only has one non-stellar track deserves an award of excellence.

# VAST's latest release mixes symphony, edgy rock



**VAST:** Instrumentalist Jon Crosby (right) built the band through a series of auditions. The age of the band does not show in its music.

By Matt Wynn

VAST's latest release, "Music for People," is a fantastic display of exactly what happens when a talented musician goes unappreciated.

VAST's first album was their first album with samples from blues musicians and Benedictine monks.

After VAST's first album, Jon Crosby, the all around instrumentalist in the band, pressed on and held auditions for a live band. The bassist and drummer who play with him on "Music for People," joined the band because of these auditions.

Crosby's ingenious does not stop there. In a bold move, he augmented the new full-band VAST sound by traveling to Mumbai, India and recording backing tracks with the New Bombay Recording Orchestra.

Many would wince at the sound of a hard rocker going

symphonic, but Crosby pulls it off well. Instead of sounding overblown and pretentious, the orchestra complements each song. Crosby's vocals are also a strong point. The lyrics are more introspective on this album, and less overtly bitter.

Critics might accuse him of trying to sound more polished and accessible to appeal more to mainstream audiences, but everything that the band does during the album complement the lyrics nicely.

"The Last One Alive" and "Free" are anthems worthy of U2 in its heyday. "I Don't Have Anything" and "We Will Meet Again" are sentimental but sincere ballads. The real prize is the far-too-short "My TV and You," the only stab at social commentary on the album, with a pulsing electronic rhythm and delicious baroque-sounding harmonies.

"Music for people" is more accessible than the first album and it might just be accessible enough to bring the band to a wider audience.

**We chose UNOmaha**

*Lema Bashir, 1998 graduate  
Michael Munson, 1996 graduate  
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majoring in Music Performance.  
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*photo by Angela Schumaker*

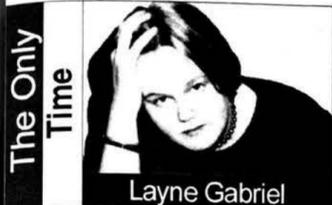
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Layne Gabriel

The Only Time

Lyrics hold most meaning in music

The purpose of music has been completely forgotten. Music is all about emotion and listening to it should make you think "Man, I know how you feel" instead of "Heh, this is cool." I think the beauty of music is pushed aside for pleasant beats that are created.

Of course, there's time for weird music, and I listen to stupid music when I'm in the right mood.

It's really hard to appreciate that kind of music when you have people like Trent Reznor baring his soul with guttural yells and moans.

Take a look at the artists featured on the front page of the A&E section for a moment. Members of the student body recently voted them as some of their favorite artists.

I have a serious problem with their choices. Let's talk about taste for a minute here. With 600 artists to choose from, I'm shocked at all the crap that made it into the final list.

Right now I'll tell you, I'm no fan of rap or R&B, so that immediately eliminates my potential liking of about 80 percent of the winners.

My personal top five choices are Nine Inch Nails (NIN), the Beatles, Tori Amos, A Perfect Circle (APC) and Pearl Jam.

So I'm biased towards some of my favorite artists, but the reason I picked these five is because they actually have some artistic merit.

NIN basically ran around like a bunch of guys with makeup and cornstarch on and made it big with more unique music that can still appeal to a large group of people.

I don't think I need to justify my choice with the Beatles.

Amos is filled with raw emotion in her cryptic lyrics.

APC just recreated singer Maynard James Keenan's reputation as the screaming vocalist of Tool into a softer-but-still-rough ball of emotion.

Pearl Jam is in a league of its own right now. The lyrics seem to read more like stories and somehow the music just gets embedded in your mind for hours or days.

Sure, I think Mystikal is an artist. But his art is just something that does not appeal to me. Some of the other bands, like Limp Bizkit, have no excuse for being on the list.

As long as people look for meaning in the music they listen to, I've done my job. But question yourself again, the next time you're driving down Dodge listening to "Rollin'" by Limp Bizkit. Do you really know how he feels?

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Local restaurants provide fine cuisine for prom night

By Lauren Freeman

Looking for a great restaurant for prom night, but have some criteria that has to be met? Take a look at a few of these restaurants for some ideas.

**The French Café:** This is a nice, French restaurant at 1017 Howard Street in the Old Market. The servers are very polite and accommodating.

It has a great atmosphere for a prom dinner, as well as a great location, just minutes away from Central.

The food is excellent, although it is difficult to figure out some of the French terms. After the waiters give some assistance, it is not hard to find an outstanding meal.

If a light meal sounds better before the big dance, one can order a simple salad, like the Caesar salad, which is made right at the table.

Or, for the diner who is looking for a filling meal before prom, many steaks can be ordered from the menu. However, that same wonderful food is quite expensive and is anything but fast.

Another drawback is that parking is extremely hard to come by in the Old Market on a Saturday night.

For a prom night that is classic and elegant, then the French Café is a great place

to start it off  
**Grisanti's:** This is a semi-casual Italian restaurant at 10875 West Dodge Road in Old Mill. It has excellent Italian food with a great "prom night" atmosphere.

It is not too fancy or too casual, but it is perfect for the traditional prom attire.

The food is definitely worth the money because it is not terribly expensive.

But, when eating at Grisanti's, one must watch how much they eat. The restaurant politely serves unlimited salad and bread before every meal that is ordered. This restaurant provides the perfect prom dinner with outstanding food.

**Bomba Dia:** This is a popular restaurant at 4949 Underwood Avenue in Dundee. The food is somewhat interesting and exotic and, if one can find something they like, it is great food.

When ordering some entrée with a Spanish title from this restaurant, do not be surprised if it is served with orange or purple mashed potatoes. The prices are very high, but the food is worth it.

However, the people who attend Bomba Dia are mostly adults and it is rare to see high school students eating there.

Also, there is a small dance floor in the restaurant so one can warm up their dance shoes while waiting for their order. This is a

good idea because the service is rather slow.

If one is looking for a formal, trendy restaurant and does not have a spending limit, Bomba Dia is an excellent choice.

But if one does not feel like trying new, exotic foods before their prom and paying high prices, then trying another restaurant would be recommended.

**Kobe Steak House:** This is a great Japanese Steak House in Regency Fashion Court at 120 Regency Parkway.

Kobe Steak House has a very fun and elegant atmosphere. The chefs make your food right at the table. The staff at the restaurant is extremely accommodating and nice.

While waiting for the food, the chefs come to your table and do special tricks with the food. They keep the customers occupied and the Steak House actually makes it fun and interesting to wait. Then, when the food comes, it is excellent.

There are many choices on the menu, so there should be something for everyone.

Unfortunately, the steak house is very expensive. But, if you want to have the time of a lifetime during prom dinner, this is a great place to go.

The very bottom line to these great restaurants is to find an affordable restaurant, with a good atmosphere for prom night.

Where to eat for prom?

The French Cafe Located downtown in the Old Market, the French Cafe is elegant but costly.

Grisanti's Located in West Omaha, Grisanti's provides huge portions of Italian food.

Bomba Dia Located in Dundee, Bomba Dia provides a unique and exotic dining experience.

Kobe Steak House Located in Regency, the cooks at Kobe Steak House prepare the food right at the table.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	27 album release pearl jam domestic bootlegs	28		30 prom	31 galactic @ ranch bowl
	3 album release rammstein 'mutter'		MOVIES, MUSIC + MORE MARCH 27-APRIL 28	bört bažharach @ orpheum	
8 NOW PLAYING 'SEE'S POT RUN'	9	10 album release ani difranco 'reveling / reckoning'	11 'josie and the pussycats' opening	12	13 'bridget jones's diary' opening @ cog
15	16	17	18	19	20 hawthorn @ asylum
					21
22	23 no school	24	25	26	'Bakin' up in reno" opening @ sac museum
					28 hubble exhibit @ sac museum

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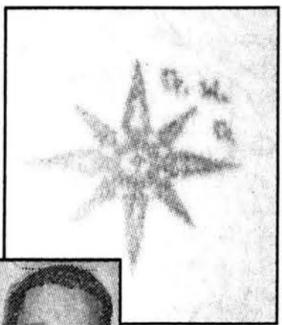
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# You're putting that needle *where?* The art of body modification

## A Quick Look at Central's Tattoos



Brent Larson, math teacher



Alicia Zoetewey, sophomore



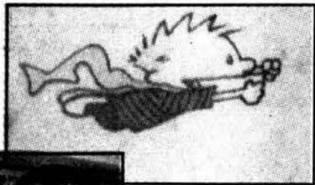
Molly Moriarty, music teacher



Bryan Cavalieri, junior



Dru Taylor, senior



ALL PHOTOS EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER



PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

THAT'S NOT TOO BAD. Nikki Pettis of Extreme Images works on a tattoo for one of her clients.

## Teachers, students enjoy tattoos

By Layne Gabriel

Math teacher Brent Larson got his tattoo on the back of his leg over three years ago. He said he always wanted to get one and he wanted to be sure that it had meaning to him.

Larson's tattoo is the bearings of a compass with a cross in the middle and the letters "GWG," standing for "Go With God."

"It didn't hurt at all, it just felt like a bunch of leg hairs being pulled," he said.

Larson said that his wife was surprised, but that she is okay with the meaning.

Senior Chris Jensen got a tattoo of a panther on his back in September. His parents agreed that he could, and his father's friend did it.

Jensen said that the tattoo was put on the back of his shoulder and that it did not hurt. He said that he had always wanted one and that his friends have them. Jensen said he thinks that anyone should be able to get a tattoo.

"I think if they want them, they can get them. It's their body," he said.

Going with a friend helped Molly Moriarty, orchestra teacher, get her first tattoo.

She got a tattoo at Big Brain productions in the Old Market, which is where her friend got tattooed.

She got a clover on her ankle, exactly where her friend got his.

Moriarty said that the pain was not as bad as she expected, but when the color was filled in, it was more painful.

"I have a pretty high tolerance of pain in certain places," she said.

Watching a television show on tattoos and researching it on the Internet helped her make her decision.

More tattoos could be in the future for Moriarty and she does not want to keep her tattoo hidden since it is art.

"If you can't see it, it's like what's the purpose of having it?" she said.

Moriarty said that pretty much everyone who has seen her tattoo has liked it and her

friend loved it. Although she could not bring herself to watch the process, she does want to get more tattoos.

Nikki Pettis, the tattoo artist at Extreme Images, only does custom work.

"If you get something from me, you're the only person on the planet [who has it]," she said.

Most people regret tattoos when they decide too quickly on what to get, or if they go to the wrong shop. Pettis often is asked to do cover-ups over a tattoo that has been regretted.

Monty Vogel, owner of Body Mods, said that when thinking about getting tattoos it is good to remember that tattoos are permanent and that it is best to get the highest quality of work for the price, not just get the cheapest design.

If an artist does not know what they are doing, the artwork could need to be redone or covered, which adds more to the cost of the tattoo, as well as taking more time.

"Most of the time, covers have to be at least double to three times the size of [the original]," he said.

Vogel said that the most regretted tattoos that people get are names and cartoon characters, but placement makes a big difference with the satisfaction.

"What is regretted most? Names. What do we do the most? Names," he said.

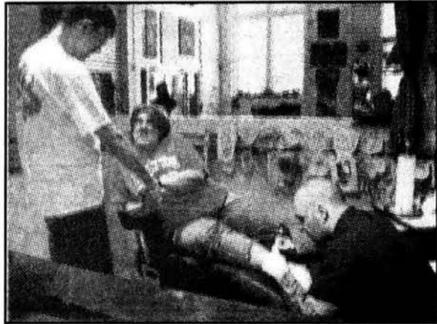
Pettis tries to talk customers out of getting names tattooed on them, but if they do, it should be done in light blue or red ink so that it can easily be covered up.

"When someone comes in with a name, I ask if it's a girl or boyfriend to make sure that that's something they want to keep on their body permanently," she said.

Pettis said she sees many people coming to get tattoos with a friend.

"Probably two in every 20 people come solo," she said.

The tattooing process is somewhat of a long one, with the outline taking longer



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

OH MY GOD! Chris from Big Brain Productions works on a woman that does not take the pain too well.

because it requires more precision, while the filling is quicker, Pettis said.

Some people do not select a design before getting tattooed and Pettis will often give them her best opinion and ask questions to figure out what could be best for them.

Pettis said most of her customers are satisfied and 85 percent of her customers are repeat customers.

When going to get a tattoo or piercing, ask about single-use needles and autoclave sterilization, Vogel said.

An autoclave is a fully-contained, pressurized sterilization system that is above 240P and has 15 to 20 pounds of pressure.

Vogel said that the autoclave sterilization is the type that is used at every parlor because it prevents transmission of diseases like HIV and Hepatitis.

Healing problems are rare unless the client is doing something wrong. Pettis gets tested for any disease that can be transmitted every six months to be sure the customers are always safe.

For Pettis, seeing her work on other people is a very spiritual experience.

"They're going to take a piece of me to the grave," she said.

## Obscure body modifications done on selective scale

By Layne Gabriel

Sophomore Rachel Schulte said she has never seen anyone with a split tongue or little bumpy implants under their skin, but that she thinks it would be a creepy experience.

"I think that's really disgusting unless they're spikes under the skin. It looks like it's some sort of disease," she said.

Schulte's friend wants surface piercings and she thinks it looks odd on some people, but not on others.

Monty Vogel of Body Mods also does scarification and branding on a very select group of clients.

He said that it takes a lot of work to convince him to do that type of work, since it is irreversible and he wants to under-

stand the reasoning of the client.

Vogel is known for some of the more unique types of piercings in the business.

Transverse lobe piercings, which go through the ear side-ways, are a new type of piercing that Vogel has been doing.

First the customer must choose the jewelry then a line is traced and a needle is bent to fit the shape. The piercing is done and the jewelry is inserted.

"Smitty," a half-owner of Big Brain Productions, does a lot of obscure body modification.

He said that he does most of his work on people from the business.

"If you want implants, you gotta know what you're getting into," he said.

If an object is too big to be inserted under the skin, tension

will build up and the object will pop out, Smitty said.

An object the size of a marble is too large for a beginner. There is also the chance of the implants migrating.

He has also split tongues. To do that, a piercer uses a cauterizing scalpel to cut the tongue, or hemostats to clamp the tongue from the tip to the center, which flattens the tongue out and then the tongue is cut with scissors.

"I really don't recommend getting your tongue split," he said.

Tongue splitting is virtually irreversible, and fixing it is expensive.

The risk of infection is high and bleeding is also common. Anyone that gets their tongue split is also without the use of it for several weeks.

Smitty also does surface

piercings, which is piercing a part of skin like the neck or back. To do that, he makes a pattern and applies it with a stencil.

"Grab it and stab it," he said. He said that he has people come in about once a week to get surface piercings and most are successful. These types of piercings infect easier and sometimes push themselves out.

Branding is also something that Smitty does. He uses circular body jewelry wire that he bends into a shape. Wire that is one-quarter of an inch wide creates a one-half an inch scar.

He does branding about once or twice a year.

"I'm really selective on who I do that one to because it's not an exact science, everybody scars differently," he said.

## Body piercings appeal for many reasons

By Layne Gabriel

Senior Andy Adams has had various piercings. He has some on his ears, his tongue and he had his penis pierced.

Adams took his genital piercing out after about four months because it did not feel right.

"I got pierced for pain. I think a lot of people get pierced for fashion," he said.

Adams said he is planning on getting his tongue re-pierced, his eyebrow pierced twice and another earring.

"My mom's all down for 'whatever you want to do to yourself that's fine.' My dad doesn't care," he said.

Monty Vogel, owner and manager of Body Mods, said that there is a problem with the piercing the first thing to do is go back to the piercer, since most doctors do not know how to handle a flesh wound that is supposed to be permanent.

Most irritation problems with tongue piercings occur because people play with them. Navel, eyebrow and cartilage piercings often get irritated from being touched.

When finding a piercer, people should look at the book of photos that he or she has and go by word of mouth. Vogel said that people should go to the shop and ask questions.

"Ask people what they recommend, what they think," he said.

Vogel said if a piercer makes a mistake with a tongue piercing or any other piercing, a nerve could shut down, but damage is rarely permanent. There are certain moves that could send someone to the hospital, however, he said.

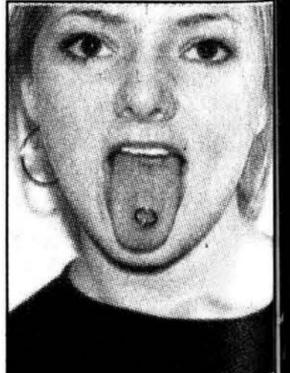
There is really nothing to do to prevent the pain before getting pierced, but since drinking alcohol thins the blood, it could cause problems. Junior Jenny Markle has her nose and tongue pierced. She said her nose did not hurt, but her tongue

bled.

"I just thought it looked nice," she said.

Markle said she wants more piercings, and eventually will get her nipples and eyebrow pierced.

As for her parents, "Oh, they hate it."



PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

SAY "AHH" Sophomore Brittany Hansen shows off her unique jewelry.

### Types of Body Modification:

Tattoos- Permanent ink inserted beneath the skin

Piercings and Surface Piercings- Metal jewelry inserted through skin or muscle.

Tongue Splitting- Tongue cut with scalpel to create a fork.

Scarification and Branding- Burning or cutting of the flesh to create a pattern.

Implants- Small objects placed under all seven layers of skin to create a design.

The Edge is the Arts and Entertainment magazine for the *Register*. This issue, the Edge tackles three aspects of student life at Central: drugs, sex and technology.

At A Glance

## Street Drugs

**Cocaine** - A stimulant made from the leaves of erythroxylon plants, cocaine is used in many forms. Cocaine can be snorted, ingested, injected or smoked. When coming down from the high, the user can feel depressed, fatigued and irritable. When a user overdoses, extreme agitation, respiratory failure, heart failure and death can occur.

**Inhalants** - Often a household object, inhalants range from hairsprays and nail polish remover to lighter fluid and cleaning solvents and cause a strong head rush or high. Inhalants can cause nausea, nosebleeds, fatigue, loss of coordination, mood swings, asphyxiation, hallucinations and numbness. Damage to the brain, nervous system, lungs and nasal passages is not uncommon.

**Marijuana** - A depressant made from the cannabis plant and usually smoked, marijuana is the most frequently used illegal drug and varies in potency. Marijuana use can cause increased heart rate, relaxation, impaired skills and concentration and increased appetite. When a user smokes a large amount of marijuana, sensory images can shift, emotions can fluctuate rapidly, self identity can be lost and fantasies, hallucinations and image distortion can occur.

**Ritalin** - Commonly used to treat attention deficit disorder (ADD), methylphenidate, sold under the name Ritalin, is also abused by drug users. A stimulant, Ritalin is sometimes crushed and snorted or dissolved and injected. The abuse of Ritalin can cause the same effects as cocaine and amphetamines.

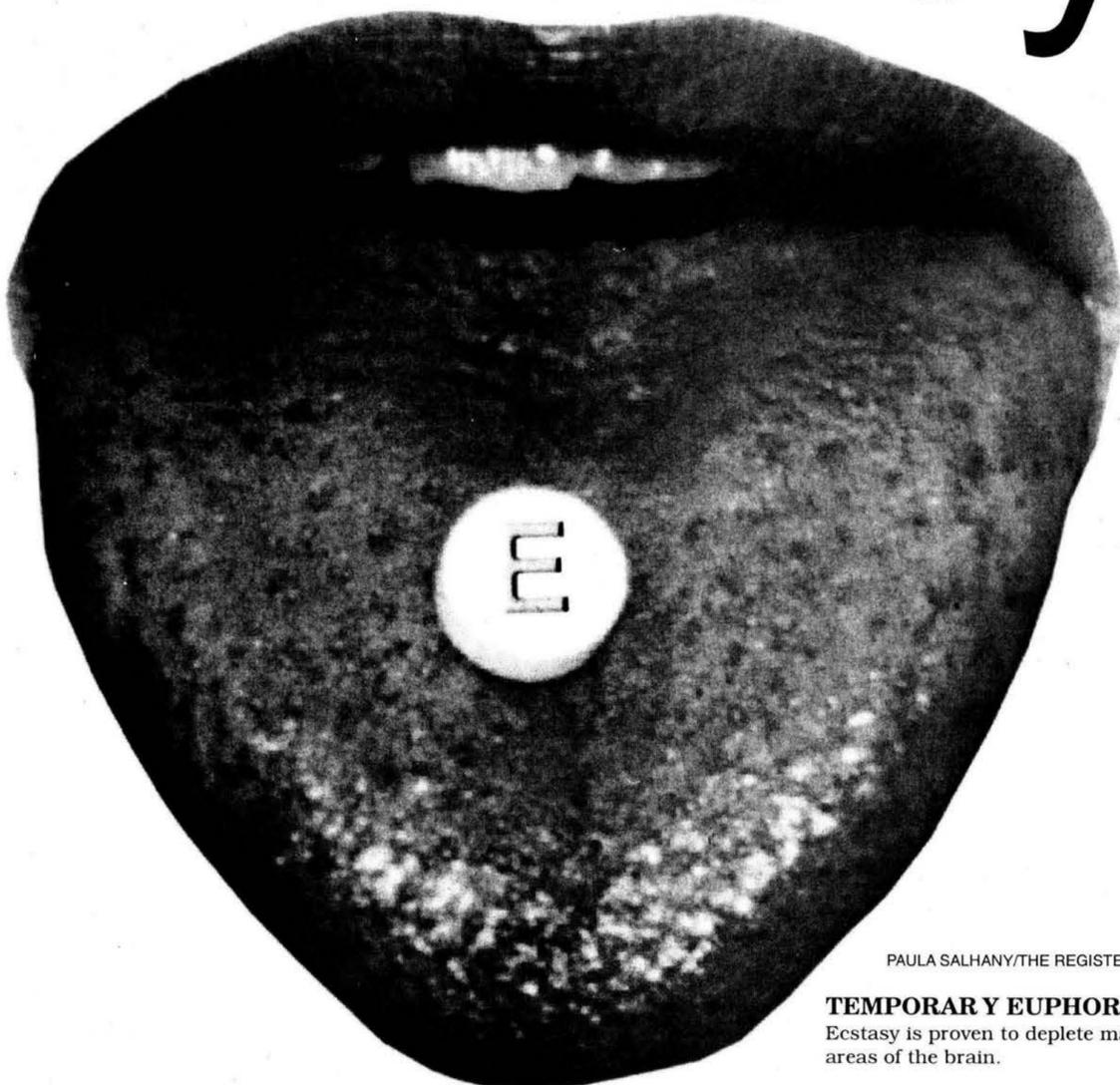
**Methamphetamine** - A stimulant that is usually manufactured in hidden labs, methamphetamine can be swallowed, sniffed, injected or smoked. Users can experience increased alertness, euphoria, appetite loss and elevated heart rate. Prolonged use can cause blurred vision, dizziness, loss of coordination and lead to addiction. Overdoses of methamphetamine can cause high blood pressure and heart failure.

**Mushrooms** - A natural hallucinogen, mushrooms can be eaten plain, mixed with other food or brewed into a tea. The severity of a mushroom trip varies depending on the species of mushroom, but colorful hallucinations are common. Mushrooms can also cause depression or suicidal tendencies for weeks after the initial trip.

**LSD** - A hallucinogen made in a laboratory, LSD (D-lysergic acid diethylamide) is usually made into a liquid which can be dropped onto the tongue, paper or into the eye, or made into a tablet. LSD users can experience impaired judgement, strong hallucinations and distorted vision. When a trip is bad, panic, paranoia, anxiety, loss of control, confusion and psychosis can occur. Flashbacks may reoccur without warning.

Information gathered from [www.streetdrugs.org](http://www.streetdrugs.org), [www.stopdrugs.org](http://www.stopdrugs.org), and [www.drugabuse.com](http://www.drugabuse.com).

# Ecstasy



PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

**TEMPORARY EUPHORIA:** Ecstasy is proven to deplete many areas of the brain.

## Ecstasy arrests raise questions about drug

By Layne Gabriel

Over the past six months, the use of Ecstasy (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine or MDMA), has become higher in the Omaha area, Sgt. Mark Langan of the Omaha Police Department said.

There have been 20 to 30 arrests in the past six months, Langan said, and with each arrest comes a five-year minimum sentence. Langan said that he sees a lot of out-of-state people bringing in Ecstasy to sell.

On the street, Ecstasy sells for about \$30 per pill with users purchasing one or two pills at a time. Most Ecstasy users in the Omaha area are between the ages of 16 and 21, and the drug is popular at raves, Langan said.

Chuck Matson, drug evaluation and classification program coordinator at the Omaha Police Department, said that the medical effects of Ecstasy can cause major problems in the brain.

Ecstasy alters the serotonin levels in the brain. Serotonin is a natural neurotransmitter that controls moods, body temperature and appetite. With prolonged Ecstasy use, some of those areas of the brain are depleted.

While the drug is being used, it causes a happy feeling, but when it begins to wear off, an effect called "Suicidal Tuesdays" takes over the body, Matson said.

It causes a hangover type effect with severe depression a few days after. Eventually, the user may never return to emotional equilibrium without using Ecstasy.

The short-term effects are overheating of the body, brain damage and higher chances for risky behavior.

"It's one of the few drugs that really does damage to the brain," Matson said.

Long-term effects cause the user to take Ecstasy more compulsively, which causes an addiction.

Matson said that most teenagers are not aware of the down side of Ecstasy because there is little education about it.

"Because there's not a big concern about it, there's very little education," he said.

Most information that teenagers get on Ecstasy is from peers, other drug users and the Internet.

A majority of users also use other drugs, which is called cocktailing. Ecstasy is usually used with marijuana, LSD and mushrooms, but

about 20 to 30 percent of drugs sold as Ecstasy are not really Ecstasy, Matson said. Any powdered drug can be made into a pill and sold as Ecstasy.

"The stuff you buy this week may be totally different from the stuff you buy next week," Matson said.

Ecstasy has a very adverse effect on driving skills as well. It is a sensual drug that gives the user vision distortions. Matson said turn angles can be distorted and young people are driving off the road.

Ecstasy users do not look or act drunk or high and it has a very low effect on speech and motor skills, Matson said.

More deaths and injuries are predicted and more scientific evidence will also be collected in the future, Matson said.

## Date rape drug arrests low in Omaha area, officer says

By Joe Meyer

Because of the inability to test possible date rape victims and the lack of a presence in Omaha, no seizures of date rape drugs have been made by the Omaha Police Department, a narcotics lieutenant said.

Lt. Eric Buske, a police officer for the narcotics unit, said investigating alleged cases of date rape is almost impossible. GHB, a homemade liquid used in date rapes, is only detectable for four hours after it is consumed.

The loss of memory that is the drug causes does not provide the investigating officer with any solid proof to make an arrest.

The only arrests that can be made are for possession of the drug, Buske said. The Omaha Police Department has not made any seizures of the drug. In fact, there has only been one arrest in the state for possession of a drug used to commit date rape.

Buske said the department has heard from informants that GHB is in town, but the police have not made any arrests because of the drug.

"We've heard of it being on

the streets," he said, "but we haven't seized any of it."

Buske said one or two ounces of GHB can make a victim become semi-conscious. He said this feeling can resemble feeling extremely intoxicated, where people are not passed out, but their memory is affected.

Most times, the liquid is carefully put into someone's drink at a bar or a restaurant, Buske said. Because the liquid is colorless and odorless, many victims do not know that the drug has been slipped into their beverages.

The memory loss might be a reason why reports of possible date rapes are rare.

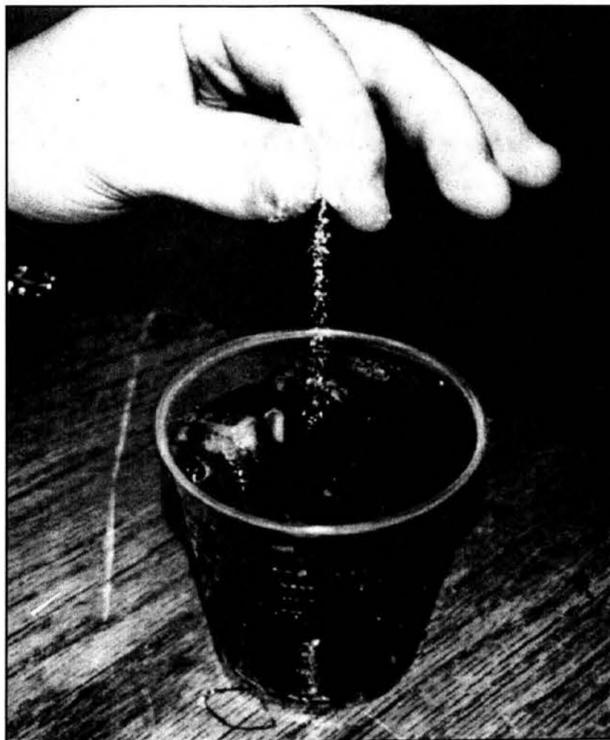
"I've not seen any direct reports of it [date rape]," Buske said, "but a couple of people have claimed that is what happened to them."

Buske said the department will be able to seize the drug if it becomes a big problem. He said officers from the unit have received information on the drug and will be able to arrest people for possession.

"We're familiar with it and we are trained with it," he said.

Right now, the best option is to be careful, the lieutenant said.

"You want to make sure you keep track of your drink," Buske said.



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

**WATCH YOUR DRINK:** Many drugs can be put into drinks to cause memory loss or unconsciousness.

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# Sex & Relationships

## Teen pregnancies Central's numbers increase, teacher says

By Matt Wynn

Marsha Wheeler remembers being pregnant at Central. She was a sophomore at the time.

"I was judged a lot," Wheeler said, "and it was almost always negative."

Now a senior, Wheeler's daughter, Brittnie, is two years old. She can talk, walk, and smile.

"I love her a lot. I've got, like, three photo albums full of pictures," Wheeler said.

Cases like Wheeler's are becoming less common across the country, but at Central they are more common than ever, teen parenting teacher Kelli Priebe said.

"I think this year we know of, so far, fifty or sixty pregnancies," Priebe said.

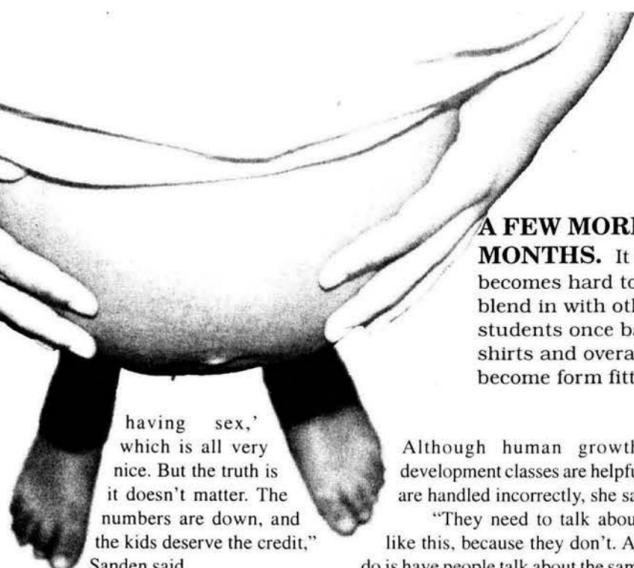
She compared that to three years ago, when she had only six students in her teen parenting class. But while Central's pregnancy rates skyrocket, national averages continue to decline.

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, teen pregnancy rates were down 13 percent in both Nebraska and the nation from 1992 to 1996.

"If this trend keeps up, it can only be a good thing," Ingrid Sanden, communication assistant for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, said.

She said there are many possible explanations for why the teen pregnancy rate has been declining recently.

"People like to say, 'Oh, they're using more contraceptives,' or, 'Oh, they're not



EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

**A FEW MORE MONTHS.** It becomes hard to blend in with other students once baggy shirts and overalls become form fitting.

having sex,' which is all very nice. But the truth is it doesn't matter. The numbers are down, and the kids deserve the credit," Sanden said.

Sanden said she thinks Central could lower the number of pregnancies by holding after-school symposiums.

But she said the effects of people's opinions on teens should not be underestimated.

"Teachers and coaches and adults in school have always played a role. But teachers have a lot to do. We think parents and clergy and all adults in a community should try to play a role in educating teens about teen pregnancy," Sanden said.

Priebe said she thinks trying to deter high school students from sex is an exercise in futility.

"I think it starts at birth," Priebe said. "You've got to start your child with a good sense of purpose. We've got to give kids reasons not to get sexually active in life. They have to see the negatives. They have to see the disadvantages."

Teen mothers seem to think prevention techniques can still be viable in high school, however, Priebe said.

Wheeler said she thinks she could have been given more support in school to prevent her from getting pregnant.

Although human growth and development classes are helpful, they are handled incorrectly, she said.

"They need to talk about stuff like this, because they don't. All they do is have people talk about the same kind of stuff I learned in junior high," Wheeler said.

She said human growth classes should be more open and encourage people to talk about real life situations.

"They just need to tell you real life stuff," Wheeler said. "They need to tell you straight up how things are."

Priebe said she thinks pregnancies can be effectively prevented starting as early as elementary school.

"I know there are fifth and sixth grade teachers who are able to identify girls that might be at risk of getting pregnant," Priebe said.

But of course, girls are not the only ones involved in a pregnancy. There are fathers, too. Technology teacher Matt Shafer is sponsoring a teen fathers support group for those students.

He said that there was a staff meeting about teen pregnancies, and in the course of the meeting some people hinted that they would eventually like to see a support group for fathers.

Shafer said he jumped at the chance. "I don't want these guys to just be the sperm donors," Shafer said. "I want them to be the dad."

## Teenagers use contraceptives more often

By Layne Gabriel

Although national teen pregnancy rates are at a 20-year low teenagers are still having sex, Beverly Nolte of Planned Parenthood said.

Teenagers have been more diligent with birth control lately, she said.

Sexual activity at a younger age has also allowed adolescents to be manipulated by older sexual partners, which in turn makes the possibility of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease or unwanted pregnancy higher.

"They're [teenagers] replacing that [intercourse] with other sexual activity like heavy petting, outcourse and oral sex," Nolte said.

Sexually transmitted diseases

can still be passed through oral sex. To protect against that, an unlubricated condom should be used on men and a piece of latex should be used on women to prevent the exchange of bodily fluids.

Nolte also recommends getting tested for sexually transmitted diseases, since some symptoms can go undetected.

"Even if you're not having intercourse, you need to get tested," she said.

Chlamydia rates are increasing with teenagers, but other sexually transmitted diseases are on a decline.

Among teenagers, pills, the Depo-Provera shot and condoms are the most popular.

She said that boys are more likely not to use protection and that although

protection may not feel the best, there are ultra thin condoms that protect without numbing the feeling.

No relationship is safe from diseases. There are the same risks regardless of involvement in a heterosexual or homosexual relationship. Younger gay males are also using less protection, Nolte said.

Although some teenagers have sex for the wrong reasons, sometimes the emotional pain can be avoided.

"Don't do it because everyone else is doing it," Nolte said.



Condoms

## Sex at Central by the numbers

**92%** of students surveyed identified themselves as heterosexual.

**8%** of students surveyed identified themselves as bisexual or homosexual.

Of students who said they have had sex:

**50%** of freshmen

**60.3%** of sophomores

**64.6%** of juniors

**77.6%** of seniors

Of those who use protection:

**26%** use the pill

**79%** use condoms

Of the students waiting for sex:

**65%** are waiting for the right person

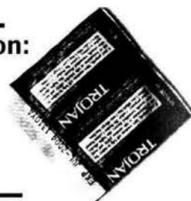
**31%** are waiting because of religion

**28%** are worried about pregnancy

**22%** are worried about STDs

**5%** are worried about social acceptance

\*of a poll of 400 students



## Morning after pill causes debate

By Mike Zhang

The condom broke and she forgot her pills.

Each year, over 3 million unplanned pregnancies occur due the carelessness of one or both partners. Emergency contraception can help most of these women to prevent from being pregnant and reduce abortions.

Right now, the Coalition of Health Workers is petitioning the FDA to get the emergency contraceptive pills to be non-prescription. Many users have complications getting the prescription within 72 hours after unprotected sex, which is necessary for it to work. "The government can't regulate when people have sex. Why should they be able to regulate the access of the pill?" junior Libby Dyer said.

This pill reduces the chances of getting pregnant from four percent to two percent.

"To get it to be easily accessible to women is a very important aspect of the pill. If it is non-prescription, it would be much more widely used than it is now," said Beverly Nolte, communication and marketing director of Planned Parenthood. "Planned Parenthood completely supports the move to get the EC pill to 'over the counter' status."

Even if the move to get the pill as "over the counter" succeeds, it will still take the FDA board at least a year or two to approve it and get it to non-prescription status.

"Because it's safe, I think that the pill

should be more widely used by women and definitely needs to be more convenient. To get it over the counter may be too far at least for now," Tina Ridgway, an advanced practice RN at the Women's Services OB GYN clinic in Omaha, said.

According to research, the EC pill is a high dose of birth control pill that is taken in two doses. One dose is taken within the 12 hour limit followed by another dose 12 hours later.

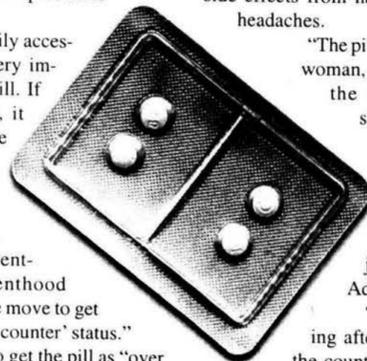
"The Catholic Church very strongly oppose the use of artificial birth control in any form and is strongly opposed and rejects any means that bring about abortion. We must respect the dignity of humans from the first moment of life to the last," Father Michael Gutsell, Chancellor of the Christian Archdioceses, said.

Users of ECP have experienced many side effects from nausea and vomiting to headaches.

"The pill, if taken by a pregnant woman, doesn't do any harm to the fetus, that's why it shouldn't be considered an abortion pill," said Nolte.

With over the counter status the pill will be sold just like Tylenol or Advil.

"I don't think the morning after pill should be over the-counter. There are going to be people out there who will abuse the pill. Who knows, they might even get addicted or something," junior Schyler Thomas said.



## REGISTER YOUR TOPINION



"Yeah, if they know what they're doing and they're safe about it."

Adrian Montes, 10



"I think it's their decision. They shouldn't have pressure from anyone else."

Danielle Howsden, 10



"No, because it's not right."

Mike Bell, 9



"I don't feel strongly about it."

Charles Farber, 12



"Yeah, cause they gotta do it sometime."

Dominic Choto, 10

Should teenagers have sex?

# Interracial love

Couples feel pressure from friends, parents and teachers

By Joe Meyer

"Why did they even date?" a group of girls said in a history class. The statement was directed to junior Timika Scott about her relationship with her boyfriend. No, the rudeness was not because of what happened the last weekend, but because Scott is dating someone of a different race, Scott said.

Although Central is known as a diverse school, dating someone of a different race is sometimes a problem with some.

Scott, an African-American female, and Chris Beber, a Caucasian male, said that overall, most people are respectful of their interracial relationship, but some people feel obligated to express their disagreement daily.

They are still reminded of people's rudeness everyday. The couple has dealt with everything from playful jokes from their parents and each other to rude comments said by some classmates.

"You get a lot of people saying, 'Hey, you date that white guy or that black guy'," Scott said.

Junior Debra Gross, a Caucasian female, said she and her boyfriend, Antwan Flournoy, an African-American male, were hesitant about telling some people at school about their relationship because of people not accepting it.

"At the beginning, we did not really want anyone to know, because all the girls and guys would say something," Gross said.

She said that she has not heard any rude comments at school, but she has heard some things outside of Central.

"I think Central is a really interracial school," she said. "No one is racist at school."

"Out of school, people will look and talk," Gross continued. "I kind of blow it off [now], but at the beginning, we used to look at each other [in embarrassment]."

Some of the comments come from people closer in their lives.

Scott's grandmother and Beber's grandfather were vocal about some problems they had with the interracial relationship at the beginning, they said.

"We've talked a little bit and she [my grandmother] realized she was in the wrong," Scott said, "but we haven't talked since then."

Beber said his grandfather's apprehensions were probably caused by traditional beliefs that have matured over time. He said the problems went away after a while.

"After I started dating her, he [his grandfather] did not have a problem with it," he said.

Scott said that overall peers are more vocal about their disapproval.

"It's more of a peer thing," she said, "Peers are more unaccepting. Adults do not say anything."

Scott, Beber and Gross all said their parents were all very supportive of their relationships.

Scott said that she and Beber had been friends for almost two years and the decision to start dating came naturally.

Scott said she was worried more about Beber's height than his race. "I thought he was short," she said. "I don't date short guys."

Race was never an issue during their friendship, she said. She also said she did not think about it when he asked her to start dating three months ago.

Gross agreed. She said she talked with Flournoy like any other person and the decision to date him was like any other.

Overall, the relationships are accepted and many people act like it is no big deal, Scott said.

"It's accepted for the most part, but there are a few things," she said.

Gross said society is more tolerant than they used to be. She said the fact that there are more interracial couples shows that bigotry is a thing of the past.

Scott said the apprehensions are always going to exist and it is something that they have to deal with.

"It's still there, don't get me wrong," she said. "It will be out there forever, it will not go anywhere."



**LOVE HAS NO BOUNDARIES.** Juniors Debra Gross and Antwan Flournoy embrace. This couple has been going out for one year and two months.

EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

## The Facts *on* Chlamydia the most common sexually transmitted disease among high school students

- One in 10 adolescent females tested for chlamydia will test positive
- Most common bacterial disease reported in the United States
- Symptoms can be mistaken for flu symptoms
- Symptoms include painful urination or discharge for males, pelvic pain, bleeding after urination, irregular bleeding, increased urination
- If a person finds they have chlamydia, treatment should be sought immediately
- When diagnosed, chlamydia is easily treated, but if it goes untreated it can cause pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, potentially fatal tubal pregnancies, infant blindness and infant pneumonia
- Pelvic inflammatory disease occurs in 40 percent of chlamydia sufferers and 20 percent become infertile

Information provided by Jeffery Stearnes M.D. from University of Nebraska Medical Center and Human Growth and Development teacher Nancy Medina



"No, because teenagers couldn't have the pressure of having kids because they're irresponsible."

Nichole David, 9



"Who cares?"

Justin Tatum, 11



"I don't know, it depends on what that person thinks is right and if they are ready for it."

Liz Davis, 10

# Software Piracy

Illegal sites assist online thieves in obtaining copyrighted material

By Paula Salhany

In the past few years, many Internet activities have been made illegal in order to limit people's Internet usage.

Several online communities have been started to combat these laws, most of them run by normal Internet users.

One of these communities is Warez.

Warez is an illegal community where members exchange pirated software.

"What bothers me most is when they [software companies] say piracy is stealing. It's nowhere near stealing," Ben, a Warez site founder, whose name has been changed to avoid risk of incrimination, said.

He said that when a person steals, he has something and the person he steals it from does not have it anymore.

"Piracy is something that most people don't feel is morally wrong. Just because something is illegal doesn't mean it's morally wrong, and just because it is legal doesn't mean it's morally right," he said.

He said he pirates software so that his broke friends will be able to utilize software they would otherwise not be able to get.

"I believe prices are too high today," he said. "They [the software companies] need to change style."

The style that Ben is referring to is the way the software companies sell and distribute software.

Warez provides this software for free.

He started with a small site and said he was hooked when he got his first \$100.

Most of the sites gain income from ads and traffic on their sites. Ben has 28,000 to 30,000 visitors daily.

Warez provides access to programs that have been "ripped" off a CD or the original program.

The files are extracted from the original programs. They are "rewritten" so they can be installed without the CD or to bypass copyright protection, said Warez web master "Sinister."

Because Warez is so illegal, "Sinister" would not give his real name.

When the programs are "ripped" they get "reassembled" into compressed archives such as rare files or .ace files so

they can be compressed into much smaller files to put on the Internet, he said.

Pirated software is any copy-written software that is bought by someone and then shared with someone else, Drew Thyden, technology teacher at Central, said.

"For example, if you buy a game, and then you put it on your machine, and then give the game to a friend, it is considered pirated," Thyden said.

According to statistics provided by Microsoft, the piracy rate in the United States is 25 percent and the wages lost as a result of this activity are hovering around \$4.5 billion.

The total dollar loss due to software piracy for the top ten countries in the world are \$7.3 billion.

In North America, piracy is a civil crime.

In 1997 a No Electronic Theft (NET) Act was signed. It addresses the reality that the piracy of software is a large problem.

The NET Act allows law enforcement officials to charge people who pirate software.

"Companies and people that are caught could be sued up to \$100,000 per offense," John O'Sullivan of Hotline, a software

company, said.

Hotline is a software program that allows users to set up an online community or server.

On Hotline it is possible to connect to other people and share software.

Another Hotline user is not allowed to share files or software with other users. The user regulates which files are available and which are not.

"We are aware that there are Warez users that use Hotline as a file sharing tool," O'Sullivan said.

He said software piracy is a huge problem both online and offline. Offline it is an issue of people burning disks full of software that they get from friends or pass to friends.

Even though serial numbers are used as a way to protect the software from be-

ing pirated, people still get around it by not registering the software at all, Thyden said.

"Some software I have seen registers itself," he said.

While it is relatively easy to obtain pirated software there also can be harm to consumers.

Some pirated software could have viruses, be put on corrupt disks or be incomplete.

"If you know the real Warez websites there is no problem getting what you want," Ben said.

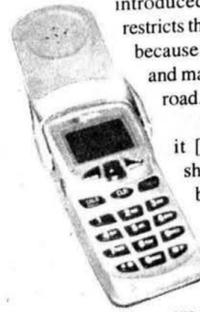
"Warez won't die," he said. "As long as prices are high, it will always exist."



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

## Cell phones cause driving problems

By Chase Thornburg



Nebraska Sen. Jim D. Cudaback introduced a controversial bill that restricts the use of cell phones recently because cell phones distract drivers and make it dangerous to be on the road.

"I felt there was a need for it [the bill], and I think we should nip this problem in the bud," he said.

Cudaback said a friend of his brought it to his attention that cell phones, hands-held or hands-free are a problem on cell phones.

"You don't notice [people on cell phones] until you look for it," Cudaback said.

Lt. John Friend of the Omaha Police Department said this bill would help police track what causes car accidents.

"As of now, we have no way to track what causes car accidents, but this bill could help," he said.

Senior Mitch Raftery and sophomore Stephanie Fredericksen advocate the intent of this bill.

Raftery said he could not understand why anything could be as urgent as to have to talk on your cell phone while driving.

"One hundred percent attention is needed to drive," Raftery said.

Fredericksen said drivers need to pay attention to the road and not what their phones are for that night.

"People lose their concentration when they're talking on their cell phone," she said.

Sophomore Brandon Cruz is against LB234. He explains how he does not like his freedoms being infringed upon.

"You can't make the public safe at all times, or else the government becomes big brother," said Cruz.

Sen. Cudaback said that if a person who was not paying attention to the road killed a person close to Cruz, he might have a different point of view.

"In my opinion, life is too precious. Why would you want to take the chance to put anyone else's life in danger?" said Cudaback.

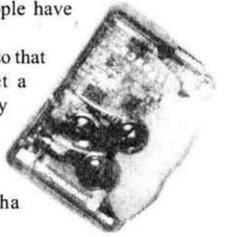
## Pagers help students keep in contact

By Layne Gabriel

Look around in a classroom.

How many people have pagers?

"I have a pager so that my mother can get a hold of me and my friends can get a hold of me wherever I'm at," junior Lequisha Johnson said.



Johnson has had a pager since eighth grade and she does not really see any drawbacks to owning one. She thinks having a pager is safer, since she sometimes gives her pager number to people instead of her home phone number.

"You don't have to call the person back," she said.

She said she always carries money for a phone call, just in case.

Jenny Derby, an employee at Paging Plus, said that she sees people ages 14 to 20 buying the most pagers. Mostly parents buy them to keep track of their children, Derby said. Some of the drawbacks are the monthly fee and that sometimes pagers go off in school.

When a pager number is dialed, the phone lines connected to a tower that the company owns send a signal to the pager, which usually takes only five seconds, she said.

She said that using pagers are helpful and that the pagers that Paging Plus sells are only digital for the local area, which is what most people purchase pagers for.

# Hacking community poses threat, agent says

By Paula Salhany

Hacking is quickly becoming a major problem for computer users worldwide, an FBI agent said.

"Usually a hacker will be a 20 year old white male who doesn't have a job and sits at home all day doing nothing but hacking," Special Agent Pete Sakaris said.

"Many of them are members of many world wide hacking communities," he said.

It is easy to get the information to become a hacker.

All a person has to do is have a computer with an Internet connection, and go to any well known hacking site and read up on the materials needed.

Former hacker, sophomore Jacob Priluck, said getting into people's computers was exhilarating. He did not worry about getting caught and said if a hacker is careful that the

possibility of getting caught is low he said.

Priluck said he personally has never tried to go for anything big such as government sites. But he said he has friends who have succeeded.

He and others in his department work under 18 US Code 1030. This is the fraud and related activity in connection with computer law.

The first step in catching hackers is waiting for the call. A company that believes it has been hacked will call the FBI to report it.

Sakaris will then look at the computer that has been supposedly hacked and look at the log to see who has been in the computer.

If he sees anything unusual or suspicious he traces the IP address of the computer that the hack came from through route utilities to get to the original computer.

Then a more traditional form of

investigation is enforced to find out who was sitting at the computer at the time of the hack.

A hacker known on the Internet as "Jack" said after almost four years of "hacking" he has never been caught. He began hacking when he thought his girlfriend was cheating on him. He said he got hooked on it and has not stopped.

Hackers say hacking is not for everyone.

"A person has to be strong and fearless," "Jack" said. "You're either cool and confident or you're nervous. There is no in between, really. Because you are alone at home when you hack, and there is no one to comfort you."

Most hackers use programs such as Unix, Linux or Telnet to get into a computer. These are simple operating systems that use code to run.

Many people are concerned

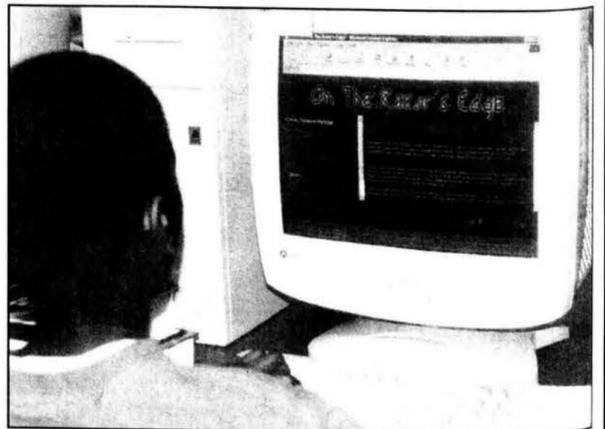
about the safety of their information.

"There is no 100 percent way to keep hackers out of any computer, essentially, if your computer is on, you are susceptible to hackers," Sean Sheil, computer technician at Northwest Missouri State College said.

He said the way to tell if you have been hacked is if you see anything unusual on your log first, such as missing time blocks.

Sakaris said with all the demands on new technology, companies are pumping out material without making sure all the loopholes and problems are ironed out. This makes it ten times easier for hackers to get into computers.

Each day the software companies are fixing problems with software, yet hackers are coming up with new ways of entering systems and stealing information.



PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

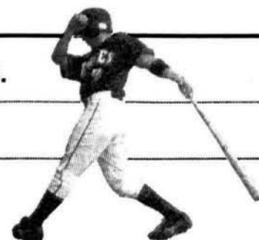
**CLICK CLICK CLICK** Many hackers need only a few basic computer skills to complete the hacks they wish to accomplish. Although these hacks are very primitive, they can still be disastrous, a special agent said. Most hackers use more complex systems though, such as Unix, Linux or Telnet.

# Sports

What's the best type of bat (right) to use in high school? **Page 34.**

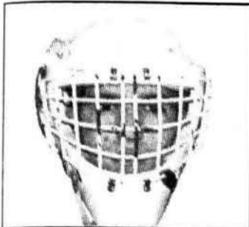
Muscle supplements add bulk for some. **Page 35.**

Check out the Spring Sports Preview. **Page 38.**



## Hit & Run

Taking a look inside



Hockey Spread  
page 36-37

The big move. Council Bluffs offers to build the Lancers a new arena.



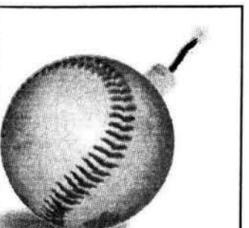
Alternative sports  
page 38

A preseason look at Central's soccer team.



Friendship  
page 40

Connected at the hip. Josh Ryks and Brent Bell share memories since third grade. The duo has played basketball together for six years and plan to continue on into college.

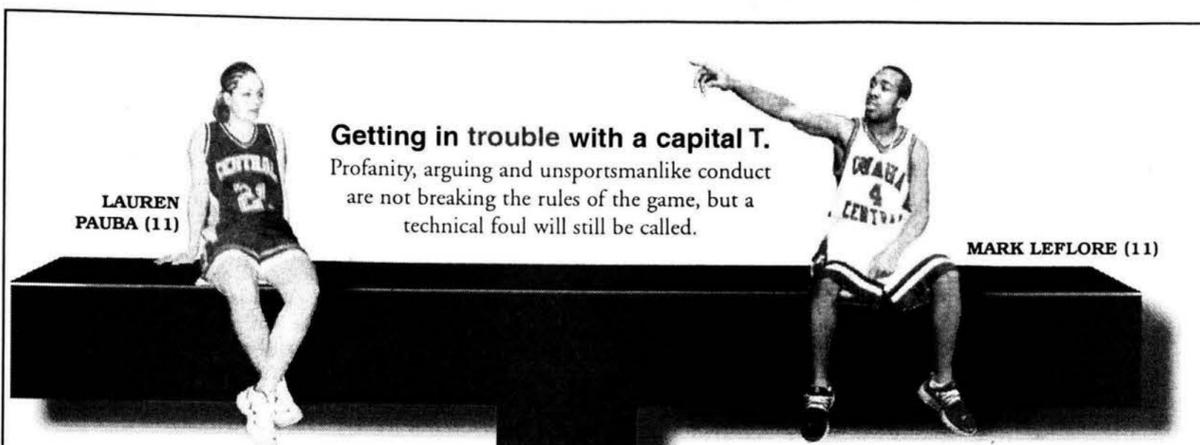


Commentary  
page 40

Troy Schulte's column and Central High baseball players' reaction to the labor disputes in Major League Baseball.

### Eagles in Action

Varsity Girls Soccer- 3/29 at Westside 4:30  
Varsity Boys Soccer- 3/29 at Westside 4:30  
Varsity Baseball- 3/28 at Bellevue West 4:30  
Boys and Girls Track- 3/31 Omaha South Invitational  
Girls Tennis- 4/5 at North 4:00  
Boys Golf- 4/3 at North 3:30



LAUREN PAUBA (11)

MARK LEFLORE (11)

### Getting in trouble with a capital T.

Profanity, arguing and unsportsmanlike conduct are not breaking the rules of the game, but a technical foul will still be called.

**Lauren Pauba**  
Total fouls: 82  
Total foul outs: 5  
(5 fouls in a game): 5  
Total games played: 22  
Avg. fouls per game: 3.7  
First foul out: vs. Bellevue East Lost 54-58  
Quote: "I've gotten yelled at by referees and one time I got a warning. But I haven't gotten a technical foul this year."

**Mark LeFlores**  
Total fouls: 66  
Total foul outs: 5  
(5 fouls in a game): 5  
Total games played: 19  
Avg. fouls per game: 3.47  
First foul out: vs. Bellevue East.  
Quote: "I'm still in the football mindset and I'm more physical than a lot of other players."

Below: Vince Smith is a high school basketball referee who has had to call technical this year. He said sportsmanship is the cause for most technicals. See feature page 40



## Technical difficulties

By Chris Aponick

Lauren Pauba and Mark LeFlores, both juniors, had a total of 148 combined fouls between them this year.

"There usually is a foul when one is called but sometimes the calls are totally false," Pauba said.

Pauba said a lot of her fouls occur because she is playing aggressive defense. It also helps add an intimidation factor.

"When you knock a player down they tend to be scared about making contact the next time," she said.

LeFlores said he was threatened with technical fouls when he protested calls about his aggressive style.

"Basketball is a game of emotions," junior Mark LeFlores said. "Technical fouls should be called if a player hits another player or has bad conduct but not for just disagreeing."

LeFlores has received several technical fouls this year, has fouled out of five games and he has a reputation of being ill tempered. His reputation has made him target to officials, he said.

"Once an official calls one technical they are looking forward to calling another one," LeFlores said.

Technical fouls occur for many different reasons and some are more serious than others, Metro conference officiating coordinator, Dick Morrissey said.

"Lots of people make too much out of it, but technical fouls are no different than double dribbling, traveling or other personal fouls," he said.

LeFlores said his physical style tends to draw fouls and causes him to be less effective on the court.

"I'm still in the football mindset and I'm more physical than a lot of other players," LeFlores said.

Turn to TECHNICALS, page 35

**Brent Bell**

32

Total fouls: 56  
Total foul outs: 2  
Avg. fouls per game: 2.95

**Dominique Johnson**

40

Total foul outs: 0  
Avg. fouls per game: 2.46

**Kris Kuhn**

3

Total fouls: 36  
Total foul outs: 1  
Avg. fouls per game: 2.57

**Josh Ryks**

44

Total fouls: 30  
Total foul outs: 0  
Avg. fouls per game: 1.6

**Schlyer Thomas**

32

Total fouls: 47  
Total foul outs: 0  
Avg. fouls per game: 2.47

## Basketball coach quits

By Troy Schulte

Central head basketball coach Rick Behrens offered his letter of resignation to athletic director Paul Pennington two days after his team lost in the first round of the district A-3 tournament ending his eleventh and final season.

Behrens said after coaching at Central for 16 years, as well as being a teacher, the time commitment was too much. He said he has actually been considering stepping down for the last few years, but thought now was the time to do it.

"It has been in the back of my mind for awhile," Behrens said. "I just wanted to go through the season and evaluate my options at the end."

Pennington said when Behrens first told him of his resignation it came as a shock to him.

"I was surprised at first, but I knew he had thought about," Pennington said. "But, you never know what's on a coach's mind."

Behrens said the decision was hard to make because of the players they have coming back next season and the players who are on the younger teams.

"It was tough considering the players we have coming up. I think this [year's] freshman class is the best since I've been here," he said.

Before arriving at Central in 1984, Behrens was an assistant coach at Omaha Tech High School. Then in 1984 Tech closed due to low enrollment, he was reassigned to Central.

"Central would have been my first choice," Behrens said. "I like it down-town and I knew a lot of kids coming over here from Tech."

When he came to Central, he was an assistant to then head coach Jim Martin. In 1990, Martin decided to end a career, which included two state titles in the 1970s. Behrens was made head coach and has been at that position ever since.

When senior Nolan Banks learned about Behrens resigning he said he was a little surprised.

"I think the pressure put on him by the fans was too much," he said. "I don't think he is a bad coach, but maybe they need a change."

Behrens said that the decision was easier for him since he ended with a winning 11-8 season.

"All but one of the teams we lost made it to state," Behrens said.

As of right now, Pennington said he has received four applicants for job, including assistants, Scott Wilke and Eric Behrens.

He said Central has a tradition of having the junior varsity coaches moving to head coach positions.

"I think [an assistant] has a good chance at getting it. But they have to look at all the applicants."

## Girls basketball competes in state competition

By Chris Aponick

Central's varsity girls basketball team's trip to the state tournament this year was the first trip in fifteen years.

Head coach Michele Roberts said the team played tournament runner-up, Lincoln Southeast, close only losing 46-39.

"Southeast hadn't seen us before state," she said. "It was the best game we played all year."

Central's athletic director Paul Pennington said Southeast overlooked Central in the tournament.

"Southeast was overconfident and they thought our team had no chance against them," he said.

However, Central approached the game much differently he said.

"The team felt confident that we could win and we viewed them [Southeast] as a regular team," freshman, Crystal Howard said.

The team focused on the things they needed to do to win, she said.

"We told each other to slow it [the game] down," she said. "If one of us made a mistake it was okay."

The team experienced success early on and led by five at halftime.

"We were beating Southeast's press early on," Pennington said. "Freshmen, Katrina Washington and Crystal Howard were rebounding the ball and getting lay-ups."

The locker room was really loud and everybody was excited.

"We knew the game wasn't over though," Howard said.

The freshmen were taking a lot of the shots in the game. Howard led all scorers with 18 points and was the best player on the floor. However, Central had some errors that kept them from winning, he said.

Junior Lauren Pauba and Howard fouled out of the game, Howard when there was 90 seconds left.

Howard said she became concerned when she fouled out because Southeast started winning.

"Central turned over the ball two-to-three times in a row in the second half and had about 20 turnovers, yet the fact that they only lost by seven is amazing,"

Pennington said.

Towards the end of the game, Lincoln Southeast took the lead by making several free throws.

"Central became panicked and started to rush things towards the end," Howard said. "A team used to winning wouldn't panic."

Pennington said the team represented Central well but were unable to win the game due to their lack of experience in big games.

"Southeast is 19-3 and has a tradition of winning and we were 9-12," he said. "They knew how to win down the stretch."

Roberts said the trip to state provided a good learning experience for the young team.

"This year was mainly a learning experience in high school basketball," Howard said.

Roberts said the team has not yet reached its full potential.

"If they work hard they could have an outstanding season next year," Pennington said. "However, they will not surprise anyone."

Howard said that this season would be something to build on.

"This year our goal was just to get to state," she said. "But now it will be to win it all."

Howard said Central will be one of the top teams the next three years.



PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

**LET IT FLY:** Freshman Crystal Howard tries to block out the crowd and make a free throw. Central came close to beating the number one seed Lincoln Southeast.

**TRAINER'S CORNER**



JEANE WEISS

**Leg fractures hurt balance**

In most leg fractures, the fibula, a large bone in the leg, has the highest rate of being broken. Most of these fractures occur in the middle of the bone.

They result from either direct or indirect trauma during sport participation. Being struck with a football helmet, kicked during soccer, landing incorrectly during a gymnastic dismount, or sliding into a base incorrectly can cause these fractures.

When this happens, the bone is usually moved from its original position, or displaced. Loss of function occurs and will limit participation until the bone has been put back into place and allowed to heal.

Swelling, deformity, decrease range of motion, bruising and pain are all symptoms associated with leg fractures.

To treat these fractures, the athlete must be seen by a doctor in 24 hours and x-rays must be taken. Treatment will most often include placement of casting materials or bracing, anti-inflammatory medications.

The most important key to healing is rest, for a period of four to six weeks.

Once the cast and/or brace has been removed, the athlete will need to attend some form of physical therapy to gain back their strength and balance in the limb.

**ALUMINUM BATS**

● **SWEET SPOT**

The sweet spot in the aluminum bat is where the power comes from. The NCAA has recently changed bat regulations, which have ultimately made the sweet spot of the bat smaller.

● **TYPICAL PRICE**

\$130-\$200

● **TYPICAL WEIGHT**

30-35 ounces

● **TYPICAL LENGTH**

30-35 inches

● **GRIP**

The grip of an aluminum bat is a strip of leather wrapped around the handle of the bat. It is designed for both comfort and to stop the vibration of the bat when a ball is hit.

● **RISKS**

"The scary thing with metal bats is that you do not have to hit the sweet spot for it to be hit hard. It gives the batter a lot of room for error," Central head baseball coach Scott Hodges said.

**Different Strokes**

*In recent years, changes to the requirements of aluminum bats have been made to make them safer for high school competition. But some people think they are still a risk. Should high school baseball ban aluminum bats and switch to the wooden kind?*

By Troy Schulte

Considering the fact that baseball players all over the country are getting bigger and stronger, Central head baseball coach Scott Hodges said that a switch from aluminum to wood bats might be a good idea, but the lack of funding would not allow such a move to be made.

Using wood bats in high school baseball games instead of aluminum would greatly reduce the risk of injury. However, Hodges said that with the small amount of funding baseball teams get and how easily wood bats break, it would not be possible.

"With any high school you go to, baseball is going to be a self-funded sport," he said. "The other night at practice we broke two wood bats. That's about sixty bucks."

Prior to this season, the NCAA made changes to the regulations of the size of aluminum bats.

The new regulation size of the barrel is now negative three, changed from negative five.

This means that the length of the bat, in inches, cannot be more than the weight of the bat, in ounces. Also, the circumference of the barrel can be no more than two and three-fourths inches.

"Their [NCAA's] goal was to slow the speed of the batted ball down from about 99 mph to about 93 mph to give the pitcher more reaction time to get into a good fielding position," Hodges said.

**Metal or wood?** Although the baseball team uses metal bats in games, junior Mike Livingston practices his swing with the wooden alternative.

Senior Joe Rider, who is in his second varsity season, does not think that the changes will have any effect on the batter's performance.

"I think that even with the changes, the [aluminum] bats still have a lot of power and can still be a risk," Rider said.

Hodges said he agrees with Rider. "The scary thing with metal bats is that you do not have to hit [the ball] on the sweet spot for the ball to be hit hard," Hodges said. "It gives the batter a lot of room for error."

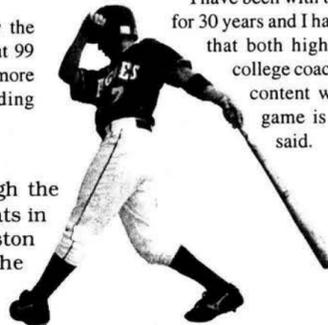
While Hodges and Rider said they think something needs to be done about the bats, the vice-president of public relations at Louisville Slugger, Bill Williams, said that any injuries sustained by a player from a batted ball has more to do with kids getting stronger than the aluminum bats.

"I have seen guys in the pros get hit from wood bats," Williams said. "There is also a risk that the wood bat breaks and pieces of wood fly back and hit the pitcher, so I don't think it is the aluminum bats at all."

Hodges said that even with the little amount of funding baseball teams get, the switch to wood bats may be made someday.

Williams disagrees. He said he has never seen high school baseball teams banning aluminum bats.

"I have been with this company for 30 years and I have found out that both high school and college coaches are quite content with how the game is played," he said.



ALL PHOTOS BY EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

**WOODEN BATS**

● **SWEET SPOT**

Wooden bats have a natural sweet spot. Its source of power is much smaller. Through time, it will deteriorate, causing wooden bats to be replaced more often than aluminum ones.

● **TYPICAL PRICE**

\$30-\$45

● **TYPICAL LENGTH**

30-35 inches

● **GRIP**

Wooden bats generally do not have a grip. The handle is bare which means the vibration of the batted ball is more severe and makes it easier for the bat to shatter.

● **RISKS**

"There is a risk that the wood bat breaks and pieces of wood fly back and hit the pitcher," Bill Williams, vice president of public relations for Louisville Slugger

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# Drug tests too costly, coach says

By Michael Gerhardt

The costs for drug tests and privacy concerns are two reasons Central athletes are not mandatorily tested, athletics department chairman Joe McMenam said.

Although he supports drug testing for athletes, McMenam said each drug test runs \$100, therefore ruling them out. He said privacy is also a concern. The parents of students who would be tested would have to sign a consent form.

"Students who would not sign this form would not be allowed to play sports," McMenam said.

Central coach Stan Standifer said it would be up to the parents to test their children.

"If parents suspect their kids of drug use, they should test them, but the school can't," he said.

Standifer also said mandatory drug testing is an invasion of privacy that can only be done at the college or higher level. Central

basketball player, senior Josh Ryks said it would be an invasion of privacy.

"People think it's none of the coaches' business and not a problem," he said.

However, Ryks said that more people would stop doing drugs if drug testing was introduced.

McMenamin said tests would come if the Nebraska School Activity Association (NSAA) passed a bill for it.

McMenamin said drug testing would have many benefits.

"It would help make clean players and promote a better atmosphere all the way around. It would help create a level playing field," he said.

However, Standifer said drug tests would give no players any kind of advantage.

"Athletes who already excel don't need performance enhancing drugs," he said.

Standifer said that the people who would use them, would be those who needed the extra push to be number one.



EMILY NEUMANN/  
THE REGISTER

# Cooperation stops fouls, official says

From TECHNICALS, page 33

Former Central head basketball coach Rick Behrens said officials will give technical fouls to a player for protesting too much, profanity or bad behavior.

"I've gotten yelled at by referees and once I got a warning," Pauba said. "But I haven't gotten a technical foul this year."

There have been times where LeFlore said he could have drawn a technical because he was upset with how he was playing. Instead the officials told him to relax.

"I try to give leeway," high school basketball referee Vince White said. "If a kid slams the ball down because he's frustrated with himself, I won't call a technical."

However, if the action is directed at a referee, a technical must be called, he said.

"Some referees take satisfaction in giving technicals," LeFlore said.

Some officials will take out frustrations on the court, Behrens said.

However, White said if an official focuses on the game, unfair fouls do not occur and the players stay calm. He said he has given technicals to a coach and a player this season. "I prepare by not bringing anything on,"

White said. "I wait in the locker room for an hour so I can go into the game [calm]."

Morrissey said people react more to technicals than other fouls.

"It can be tough to block out crowd comments," Behrens said.

White said the home team has to control the crowd. He also said the coaches can be aggressors to an official, as well. Coaches have to stay in a six-foot long box by the bench, but some coaches will get out of the box to harass officials, he said.

"Some officials call technicals because they don't know the game's flow," he said.

Referees emphasize different things. If one official calls quick travels then it slows down the game. However, some are lenient and will allow more contact, White said.

"I view the game from a player's perspective and therefore allow more contact," he said. "I don't call a foul unless the contact gives an advantage to one player."

LeFlore and Pauba both said they prefer referees who have played to be officials. "Consistency is the key in officiating," White said. "If you call fouls early then later in the game you can just let them play."

# Supplements provide mixed effects



## CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE

Many students use vitamin supplements, such as Myoplex, instead of muscle enhancers like Creatine and Anotesten.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSCLETECH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

taking it, your body depends on those supplements and that's how you develop addictions."

Sophomore Scott Graser took creatine over the summer of 2000 and said he saw some measure of success.

"I thought it would bulk me up," Graser said. "The results weren't great."

Graser stopped taking the product when he heard it would cause cramping and did not want it to affect him when playing football. Senior Travis Hepburn used creatine in 1999 and said he felt some success.

"The most obvious increase was that I had more energy," he said.

Hepburn increased his bench press weight from 185 pounds to 225 pounds, but stopped taking creatine when he found negative side effects.

"One of the reasons I stopped taking it was I read an article that said it could cause liver damage," he said.

He said \$30 a month for creatine was also a drawback.

"If it were proven safe and if I had the money, I would consider using it," he said.

Junior Jamar Dorsey holds many of Central's weight lifting records, but does not use muscle supplements.

"I don't believe in taking enhancers," he said. "I know there are some people who take it, but I don't believe them."

so there hasn't been time to implement all the standards that the government wants," she said. "The consumer has to be careful."

A report by a French health agency has raised concerns about creatine phosphate, a muscle supplement.

Creatine is produced by the body and used during heavy exercise to boost the energy in the muscles.

The report suggested that creatine has a "carcinogenic risk," meaning it may cause cancer, which convinced physical education teacher Ryan Murtaugh that it is not safe.

"I use to see creatine as a supplement, but now, I don't know. Nobody's done long-term studies on it," Murtaugh said.

Science department chairperson Jean Whitten said there are many reasons a person doesn't need to use a muscle supplement.

"If you eat well, exercise, and take care of yourself, then you're just as well off," Whitten said. "If the supplement is naturally produced by the body, then the excess levels in the body will make the body stop making it. Then, when you stop

By Steve Packard

Go into a nutritional store and there will be two types of muscle supplements.

They are labeled, "Anotesten" and "Nortesten" and cost around \$70.

They both contain precursors to the most powerful human steroid, testosterone.

Anotesten and Nortesten are androstenediones. They are not testosterone, but they encourage its production.

According to the warning label on the bottles, the NFL, NCAA and International Olympic Committee have all banned its use.

Nutritionist Kristi Reimers said athletes will do anything to win.

"A study was done where college athletes were asked if there was a drug that will make them win, but kill them," she said. "And the majority said they would use it."

Reimers cautions all athletes against using these products.

"The supplement industry is young,

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# No interest means no hockey

## Problems with hockey at Central



### Lack of space

With multiple sports practicing at Central space is limited, especially for an activity which requires so much space.

### Tight budget

Funding would have to be purely student generated.

### Costly supplies

- helmet- \$300
- padding- \$600
- rink time- \$110/hr

### Too few teams

There are not enough high schools in Nebraska for competition or NSAA sponsorship.

By Jon Lathan

If Central students wanted, hockey could be a new club sport even without the athletic department or the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA), Central High School athletics director Paul Pennington said.

Hockey has to be a club sport because of lack of players, practice areas and support. But, the biggest problem would be the funding.

"Funding would be done completely by the students," Pennington said. "There is not even enough money in the budget to pay teacher salaries. Sports are always added, and none are taken away," he said.

Pennington said gymnastics is a key example. He said, it is decreasing in popularity with the student body.

Pennington is not the only person who has these concerns. Executive director of the NSAA, Jim Riley, said that there are not enough high schools participating.

"There have to be at least 32 high schools participating for it to be NSAA sanctioned," Riley said.

"There are only 16 schools in the Omaha metro area, Riley said, so there would have to be 16 more schools that would have to join."

Another reason is facilities. There would be no places to practice and no available times. Pennington said that practices would probably have to be at 4:30 a.m.

Also, according to Riley, there are no places to practice.

"There is only one rink in Lincoln, maybe one in Kearney, and there are a few in Omaha. So no other teams in the state would really be able to practice because of the lack of facilities," he said.

There is also a lack of student interest and lack of interest by parties wanting hockey, he said.

Central junior Jeremy Nath has been playing hockey for ten years. He plays for the Jr. Lancers, an Omaha travel team. Nath said the same thing that Pennington and Riley said.

"The biggest issues are funding and ice-time. Also, you would have to have a sport specific coach for hockey," Nath said.

Nath said a plain black hockey helmet is around \$300. Plus the pads would be an additional \$600-\$700 for a used pair. Ice-time is around \$110 an hour so to field a freshman, JV and Varsity team it would be about \$330 for an hour per team.

Nath said that if students wanted high school hockey, he would petition for it because of his love for the sport. "There would probably be a bunch of house-league kids playing," Nath said.

A lot of Central students already play house league, so they say that high school hockey would not be a problem.

Sophomore Neal Bierman said he plays house league to make up for there not being any high school hockey. He said if there were high school hockey, however, he would definitely make it a point to be on the team.

## Central alumni excel at collegiate level

By Joe Meyer

Although Central does not have an organized hockey team, two brothers who graduated from the school are currently playing collegiate hockey.

Jed Ortmeyer is a sophomore forward for University of Michigan and his brother, Jake, is a junior defenseman for Miami of Ohio University.

Before the Ortmeyers were playing collegiate hockey, they played hockey for the Omaha Lancers. Jake played for one year while Jed played for two. Also, Jake played in a junior league in Danville, Illinois to try to get recognized.

"I knew if I kept playing, maybe someone would like the way I play," Jake said.

Jake said playing hockey for Miami is more challenging than playing for the Lancers, even though the semi-pro league plays 50 more games than most college teams.

"With the Lancers, all you had to do was play hockey," Jake said. "I didn't have to study for tests and go to classes."

Jake said the Lancers, and the United States Hockey League (USHL) in general, is a good league to prepare players for college. He also said the coaches do a good job in getting their players recognized by college scouts. The Lancers usually have ten players go to college teams each year, Jake said.

The brothers said they started playing hockey when they were about five. They started playing on area teams, which was rough.

Jed said they had to travel every weekend to

Michigan and Minnesota to compete against other teams. Also, they had to practice before school at 5:30 in the morning for two years.

"We had to make a lot of sacrifices," he said.

Jake said the local hockey community had advantages.

"Growing up, we were always playing with the same guys," he said.

The hockey scene in Omaha is growing, the brothers said. The Lancers and the University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks have increased the number of fans in the city, Jed said.

"People do not know how big a hockey town Omaha is," Jed said.

Also, the creation of more leagues for high school students who cannot play for their schools is also an opportunity that they did not have.

"There are far more [leagues] than what we had," Jed said.

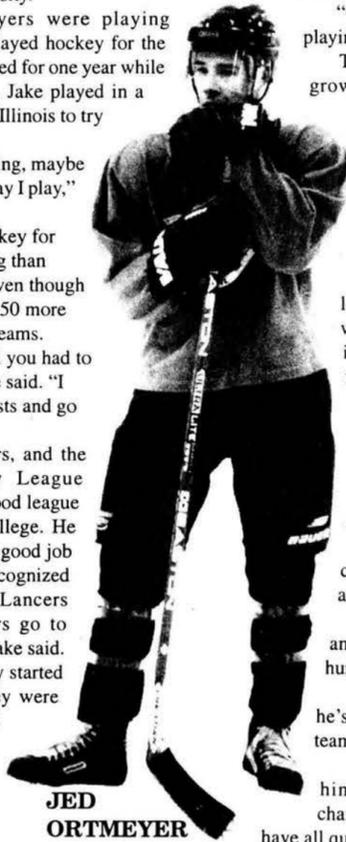
The brothers said playing college hockey gives them a new opportunity: the chance to play against each other.

However, they said that competing against a sibling does not affect the way they play.

"I'm going to hit him as hard as I hit anyone else," Jake said, "but I don't want to hurt him like everyone else."

"You know it's him, but you have to forget that he's your brother," Jed said, "He's on the other team."

Also, Jed said playing collegiate hockey gives him the chance to compete for a national championship. Michigan, Miami of Ohio and UNO have all qualified to play in the CCHA hockey playoffs.



JED ORTMEYER

## Central student overcomes racial barriers in sport

By Jon Lathan

Central student Jonathan Johnson has broken a stereotypical barrier.

He is a black hockey player, and has been playing for around eight years.

He presently plays for the Gladiators, an Omaha travel team. Johnson said that he plays for a travel team because they have better players, and they test your abilities better. Although, Johnson said that they lose more games than they win.

He said that his teammates and coaches don't have a problem with his race. He said that his team acts as if they can't understand him sometimes, because of all of the

slang that he uses, they want him to talk proper.

He started out playing hockey in his grandma's basement in St. Louis, when he went to visit his father.

"I just put on some Fisher-Price skates, got a tennis racket and a ball, and started playing," Johnson said. "I said to myself, this is fun."

When J.J. was younger, he played roller hockey for the Omaha Vipers, a team at Interskate 6-80.

He couldn't afford to play his second year of peewee league, so Johnson decided to play ice hockey, instead.

"There's a big difference in ice and roller hockey," Johnson said.

He said that when he first got on the ice, he kept falling.

"At my first tryouts," Johnson said, "I told my coach that my skates weren't sharp enough, and that's why I couldn't skate."

Johnson said that even after getting his skates sharpened, he realized that it wasn't the skates, it was the skater.

He said that he still has trouble skating, but he's getting better at it. He said that if you have balance, playing hockey, and ice-skating are easier. He also had trouble buying equipment.

"My teammates called me a mooch because whatever no one else wanted, I took, Johnson said. "I went in one day, and came out with a helmet, pads."

This past season he played his

third year of ice hockey.

"I remember one season of hockey when we lost every game," Johnson said.

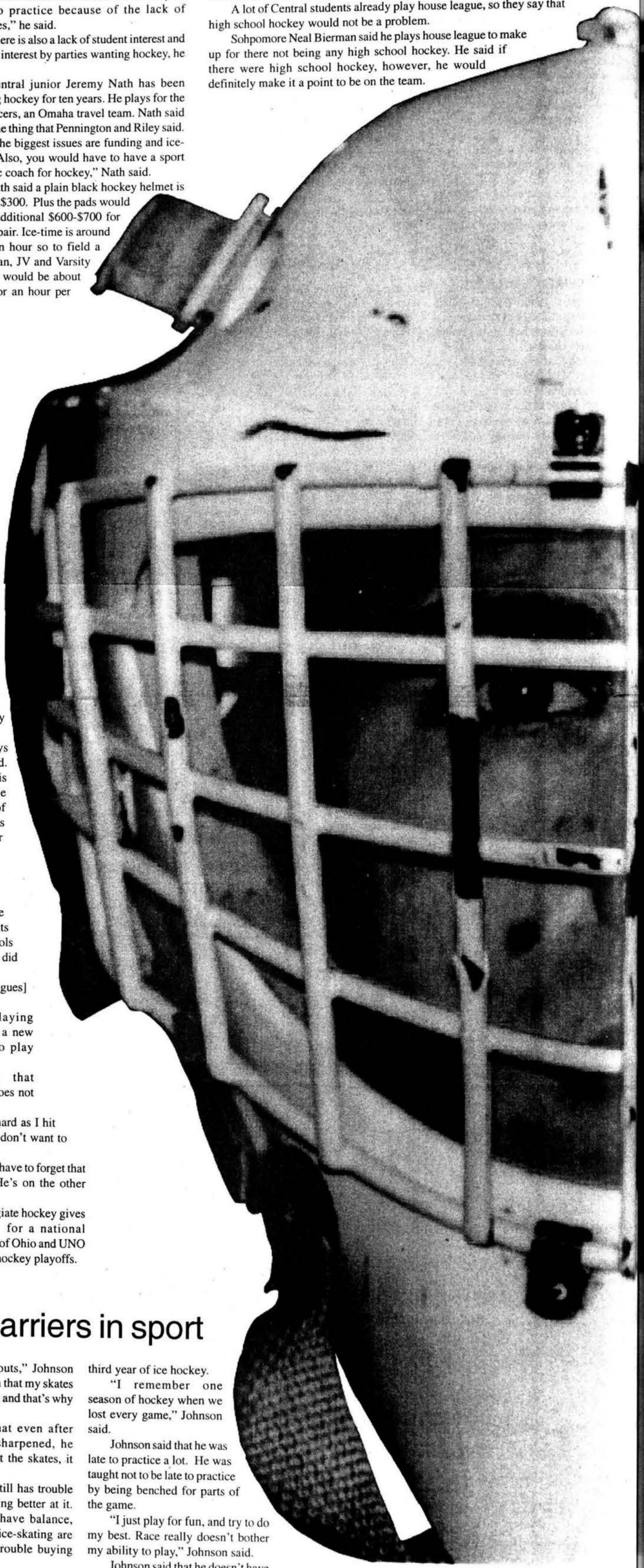
Johnson said that he was late to practice a lot. He was taught not to be late to practice by being benched for parts of the game.

"I just play for fun, and try to do my best. Race really doesn't bother my ability to play," Johnson said.

Johnson said that he doesn't have a real strong point in hockey.

Checking is hard for him and he is getting better at skating on the ice at the speed that hockey runs.

"I just like to go out there and play as a team," Johnson said.



FACE OFF: Goaltender Curtis Nosal, a junior from Creighton Prep, plays on a hockey team with Central students. Nosal intends to play for the United States Hockey League (USHL) during his senior year in high school.

# Omaha may Lose Lancers

*New arena could draw longtime hockey team across the river*

By Troy Schulte

After the Omaha Lancer's lease expires in the spring of 2003 to play its home games at the Aksarben Coliseum president Ted Baer said the team may move into a brand new \$150 million arena in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The funding to build the new 7,500 seat arena has not been finalized yet, but is very close.

Along with a new arena, there will be new hotels, an indoor and outdoor water park and a movie theater constructed near the area.

"It is about 99 percent for sure [that the move will be made], we are just waiting for the funds to be approved," he said.

Those funds need to be approved by Vision Iowa, a financial group that has been given money by the Iowa legislature to build the arena. Joe Thornton, a Council Bluffs attorney involved with the Lancer move, said that Baer decided on the plans for the arena and is now in the process of negotiating with Vision Iowa.

The Lancers, Baer said, have been looking into building a new arena for a number of years and would like to stay in Omaha. But because of how old the coliseum is and the fact that no private party has donated any money for an arena to be built in Omaha, it would be impossible.

"We would be interested in staying [at Aksarben]," Baer said. "But it is about 70 years old and not much work has been done since it was built. For us to stay, they would have to fix it up a little bit."

Head coach Mike Hastings said when the move is made he is concerned about whether the fans will want to make the slightly longer trip to Council Bluffs.

"There will be some [Omaha fans] that might say that it is too far of a drive," he said. "But some of the devoted fans will be there."

Captain Jim Dahl said that even though he has only been a Lancer for two years, he will be sad to see Aksarben

go.

"Omaha did a great job of building a tradition here and the fans have sold out games for so many years it is going to be sad to leave," Dahl said.

Defensman Lee Green does not want to see Aksarben go either.

"I like it a lot," he said. "I think it has a lot of character and tradition."

Although Baer, Dahl and Green do not like the idea of leaving Omaha, they all think that Council Bluffs will be a good fit for them. Baer said that both the Lancers and their fans are excited about moving into a brand new facility.

"I am very excited [about the move to Council Bluffs]," Baer said. "I think it is good for the fans to get a new facility."

Green, who is also a second-year captain, said like Dahl, he will not be around when the new arena is built either, it is a good thing for both the players and fans.

"I think [the new arena] will get people more excited about the Lancers," he said.

In his seven years at the helm of the Lancers Hastings said that he has gathered a lot of great memories at the coliseum.

"I think that Aksarben has a certain aura that other places don't have," he said. "I have had a lot of good memories here and sure I'll miss that."

A new arena and city is not the only change the Lancers will make before the 2002 season. The Lancers will also have a new name.

"We will still be the Lancers. But, we don't know if we'll be Omaha or Council Bluffs, or even the Twin Cities Lancers," he said.

## Excessive violence in professional game influences youth hockey

By Doug Meigs

Hockey is a sport commonly associated with violence, a Central hockey player said.

Matt Leu, a senior who plays for the Omaha Gladiators said the hard hits, fast shots and fighting in hockey make people think that hockey is violent by nature.

"Whenever you have some physical contact in a sport you'll have some altercation," said Kieth Hendrickson, USA supervisory official of Omaha's referees.

The integral role that physical contact has in hockey is evident throughout the entire course of a game, the director of the Omaha Gladiator High School Hockey Organization, Shawn Spencer said.

Because of physical contact's relationship with the sport of hockey, it is difficult to discern under what situations violence is appropriate, Leu said. Both spectators and players have different views concerning violence's presence in hockey.

The opinions of fans and players range from total support of violence in hockey, to complete opposition or anywhere in between, he said.

"Violence is part of what makes hockey 'hockey,' but there is so much more to it than that," Leu said. "On some levels it [violence] is good for the sport, on the other hand, I don't want to see people get hurt, or play a sport to hurt other people."

Violence in youth hockey is a negative part of the game, Spencer said. "I don't feel that violence has a place in hockey period," he said. "The game itself can be physical without being violent. When it turns from physical contact to using your fists as weapons, that is the line that physical

contact crosses to become violence."

Violence in the NHL is a major factor influencing violence in youth hockey, he said.

"From a high school standpoint fighting is glamorized in the NHL, so much that high school players feel that is how you play the game," he said.

Recent acts of violence in the NHL have received significant media coverage including Eric Lindross' several concussions and Marty McSorley's violent slashing against Donald Brashear in October of 1999.

Despite hockey's reputation for fighting and violent contact, the Hughston Sports Medicine Foundation, has found that the most injuries occur when players are checked from behind into the boards.

"I think there should be more serious consequences [for checking from behind], because players could be injured, paralyzed, or break their neck," sophomore Neal Bierman said.

Hendrickson said checking from behind is called more and thinks something should be done about it.

There are several organizations that have started to look for ways to curb hockey violence.

Safety Towards Other Players (S.T.O.P) is one such organization that has already begun to implement its preventive procedures in youth hockey, according to its website.

S.T.O.P.'s program consists of a "fair play challenge" that is taken by players, coaches and parents. The players wear stop sign patches on their backs as reminder of the potential injury that could be caused.

## Most Common Hockey Injuries

- **Facial injuries**-Although the number of these ailments are declining due to increased use of helmets and pads, they still remain as the most frequent type of injury.
- **Shoulder dislocations and separations**-These are due to the excess amount of body checks impacting the upper torso in hockey.
- **Hip pointers**- Frequently caused by collisions with goal posts or contact with other players.
- **Concussions**-Commonly caused by checking from behind.
- **Groin injuries**- Often occurring because of quick starts or changes in direction.
- **Wrist Injuries**- These result from slashing (from a stick) against unprotected forearms and wrists.
- **Damaged hands**- Coming from fist fights during the game.



# SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Chosen by their coaches, these players are the ones to look for in the upcoming spring sports season. The performance of these athletes may make or break their team's year.

	<b>2001</b> Aleks Berzins (12) Team captain. He is the most experienced player. An offensive and defensive leader. <b>Boys Soccer</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Tim Herbert Team record last year: 12-5 Season outlook: "We will play a different style this year and hopefully the team can win 10-12 games again," Herbert said. "Youth and inexperience will be combined with a lot of heart and athleticism."	

	<b>2001</b> Tony Driscoll (10) Returning letterman. One of the lowest scorers on the team. <b>Boys Golf</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Jim Galus Team record last year: 2-7 Key matches this year: Creighton Prep and Bryan. Season outlook: "We hope to have a competitive team," Galus said. "The varsity team might consist of three freshmen, a sophomore and a senior."	

	<b>2001</b> Norma Reynolds (10) Qualified for state in the 1600-m relay with Emily Monen (11) <b>Girls Track</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Trent Lodge Team record last year: Tied for tenth at the State Track Meet and seventh at districts Key meets this year: Burke and Millard South Season outlook: "Central has a young, but talented team. The girls have a sense of what it takes to be successful," Lodge said.	

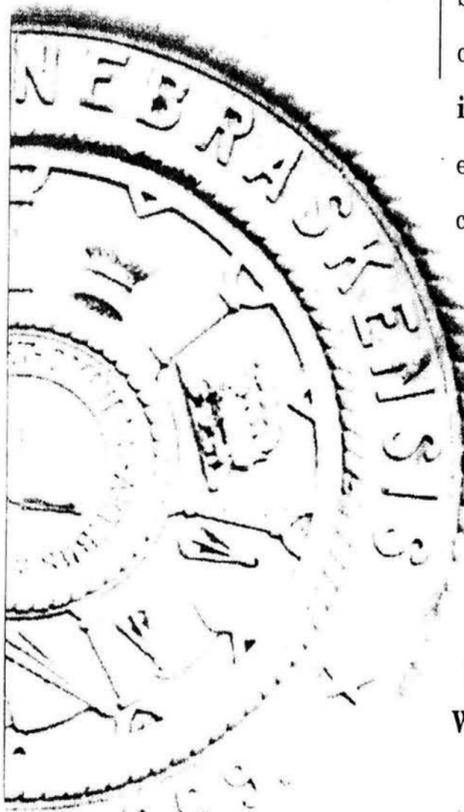
	<b>2001</b> Robert Fogarty (12) 300 batting average last spring. He has great defensive range. <b>Baseball</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Scott Hodges Team record last year: 3-23 Key games this year: Westside (went to Nationals) and Prep Season outlook: "Last year's team didn't really approach games expecting to win but this year's group consists of a bunch of players who love to compete and hate to lose," Hodges said.	

	<b>2001</b> Laura Hendee (12) She will be critical to the team's success this year. <b>Girls Tennis</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Larry Andrews Team record last year: 2-6 Key matches this year: Ralston and Bellevue East Season outlook: "I anticipate a better season record," Andrews said. With experienced players and some new talent, we should be very competitive."	

	<b>2001</b> Freddie Ellis (12) Third place finishes in the 4 x 100-m and the 4 x 400-m relays. <b>Boys Track</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Jeff McCune Team record last year: Finished 6th in state Key meets this year: Central Dick Jones Invitational Season outlook: "We have finished in the top six the past two years (3rd in '99, 6th in '00). This group is capable of another high finish," McCune said. "The team will have 18 returning letterman."	

	<b>2001</b> Meredith Rinaker (12) She is one of the team leaders and was chosen second team All-State last year. <b>Girls Soccer</b>
	<b>CHS STUDENT ATHLETE</b>
<b>The Team</b> Coach: Joe White Team record last year: 5-11 Key games this year: Burke Season outlook: "We have a lot of seniors but look to improve our record with excellent underclassmen and the production of Rinaker and Kim Labenz," the coach said. "The skill level has definitely improved, so we will look to improve our overall record from last season," White said.	

## NU makes Sweet 16.

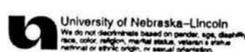


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# Indoor soccer helps build team unity

By Chris Aponick

Both of Central's soccer teams received an extra boost from their participation in local indoor soccer leagues, boys varsity coach Tim Herbert said.

"The league helps the players in staying conditioned and it helps with their fitness," Herbert said.

The league is hosted by Off The Wall Soccer and was started five years ago when Off The Wall opened. Both leagues (boys and girls) had 28 teams in each of them this season.

"We have always had a tremendous high school league," Off the Wall Soccer's owner Tim Gillespie said. "There was a demand for it and we had the space to do it. It's been a huge league since we opened."

Girl's coach Joe White said that Off The Wall offered the league, but it was up to the seniors on the team to organize and lead the team.

Senior Colin Boatright said the teams use the league to look at

players that might be on the varsity team in the spring as well as getting the players working together as a unit.

"Playing indoor soccer lets all of the players get a feel for each other before the season," senior Chris Myers said.

Having teams play with half the number of players than they do outside and playing on artificial turf, makes the game faster and higher scoring, Herbert said.

"It also takes different conditioning because the players do a lot of sprinting and the game moves faster," Gillespie said. "However, in outdoor soccer, it's more of a marathon."

White said that playing indoor stresses different skills than regular soccer does.

"It helps with keeping the ball at our feet and in making better passes," senior Tim Davey said.

The team will be helped by the fact that it will already have played together and that it will have had touches on the ball before the season begins, White said.

"It lets us know our abilities so we can build on them throughout the regular season," Davey said.

Indoor soccer gives the players and coaches a good idea of who improved their skills in the off-season, senior Caroline Walburn said.

"It also shows who will be leaders based on things like who is on time and ready to play," she said.

Herbert said Central can also see how the other teams in Omaha are coming together.

Senior Meredith Rinaker said the coaches also have a chance to look at their team's younger talent.

"It gives me a chance to see the younger players play as well as giving me the chance to see different players that have improved," White said.

The younger players also get to play and gain experience because the girl's junior varsity players get to compete in the league too, Rinaker said.

"The JV team gives the younger players a chance to excel by themselves," she said. "But several varsity players have been making sure

that the JV team has enough players and filling in, if they are needed. It shows that the team will be well-led."

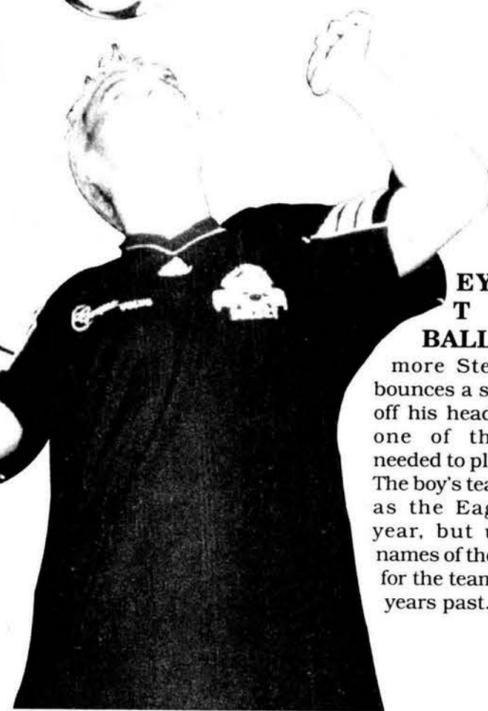
Myers said playing indoor helps all levels in many parts of their game.

"When I played on the indoor team freshman year it was for learning but this year it has been more for fun.

I've enjoyed it because it's not really intense but then again it's still the same competition," Myers said.

The competition of playing indoor during the off-season makes the soccer players prefer it over traditional training methods, Rinaker said.

"It's better than running or lifting weights during the off season," Boatright said.



**EYE ON THE BALL:** Sophomore Steven Rue bounces a soccer ball off his head to show one of the skills needed to play soccer. The boy's team played as the Eagles this year, but used the names of their goalies for the team name in years past.

PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

# Central, Prep rugby team gains interest, new players



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

**ABOVE:** Junior Brig George runs across a rugby field (a parking lot) during a practice game.

By Troy Schulte

The popularity of rugby at Central and the number of athletes going out for the Central/Creighton Prep high school rugby team has increased dramatically in the three years that junior Brig George has been on the team.

George has been playing on the team since his freshman year and said he has noticed a definite increase of popularity in the sport.

Central is not the only school in which rugby has become popular, though.

Creighton Prep, the school that Central combines with to make the team, will make it a varsity sport

starting next year.

Central athletic director Paul Pennington said that it would be hard to turn a club sport like rugby into a varsity sport because the sport would have to be sanctioned by the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA).

"I have no problem with various sports whether it be bowling, rugby or hockey," he said. "What I don't understand is their desire to make it a high school sport."

There are a many reasons why rugby is becoming popular and more teams are developing, George said.

"It's just the sheer reputation of rugby," George said. "I think rugby is a gentleman's sport with honor, and

those are the kinds of guys we want to attract to the Central/Prep team."

If it was made an official sport at Central, however, George said that more people would get involved.

"It's known as a club," George said. "But, it is a sport and we are sanctioned by the United States Rugby Federation and we do have registered and trained refs."

In fact, George said last year he talked with Pennington about making it a sport, but he did not seem to optimistic about it.

"He [Pennington] said that it would be a lot of work [to make it a sport]," George said. "He knew I was willing to do it, but he didn't think that everyone else [on the team] was."

Head coach Skip Dacy said that he contacted the NSAA about making it a sport, but they had the same views on it as Pennington.

"When I contacted them they did not seem real interested," he said. "They told me that they would probably need another girls' sport to balance it out."

Dacy has been the coach of the Central/Prep rugby team since 1992. Since then he has been teaching athletes about rugby.

This year Dacy said George has been helping out with teaching the younger players about the game.

"He helps them work on fundamental skills," Dacy said. "He knows a lot about the game."

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# Teammates since junior high plan next move

By Troy Schulte

Ever since their eighth grade basketball season, seniors Josh Ryks and Brent Bell have sat on the bench the majority of the time.

After five years of practicing and making each other better, they prepared themselves for their one and only season on varsity.

For the last five years both Ryks and Bell have played on the same basketball team and every year it has been the same story; play the majority of the game on the lower level team and sit the bench when they suited up for the higher level team.

During that eighth grade basketball season at Lewis and Clark Middle School, Ryks said that

playing on the lower-level b-team games and sitting on the bench during the higher-level a-team games allowed both he and Bell to improve their game and get ready for basketball at Central. For Bell, sitting on the bench was a little dose of reality.

"It really inspired me to work hard and improve," Bell said. "I worked hard before, but that made me work harder."

Prior to their ninth grade basketball season both of them had high expectations of what playing basketball at Central would be like.

"We thought for sure that by the time we were sophomores we would both be at least suiting up for varsity," Ryks said.

But after one season of playing on the freshman team and a half of a season the next year, Ryks said that their feelings switched from wanting to just suit up for varsity to wanting to stay on the sophomore team and improve while playing.

"Before the Holiday Tournament in our sophomore year, [head coach Rick] Behrens asked us if we wanted to suit up for varsity, and we said no," Ryks said. "We would rather stay on the sophomore team and get better than to sit on varsity."

This season they are seniors, and both Ryks and Bell said that without the time they put into basketball over the years, they would not be on a team that had a chance

to go to the state tournament.

"I used to be not so good at my jumpers, so we worked on my jumpers. He [Ryks] used to be not so good at dribbling, so we worked on his dribbling."

Knowing that their high school careers are coming to an end Bell and Ryks look ahead to their career in college basketball.

They both decided that rather than attending different Division II or III schools. They said they would be better off going to the same junior college.

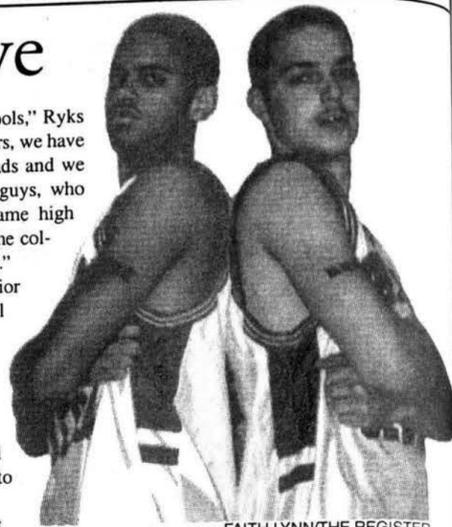
So the two of them decided to go to the Lincoln School of Commerce to continue improving their game, much like they have for the last five years.

"We had other offers from

Division II and III schools," Ryks said. "But, over the years, we have become real good friends and we think that having two guys, who both played at the same high school, to go to the same college is hard to come by."

Attending a junior college would give all both of them two years of eligibility and Ryks said that when their eligibility is up that the work they put into basketball will allow them to go to a Division I school.

"We hope that after that we can all go to a Division I school, maybe the same one,"



FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

**STANDING TALL** Seniors Bell and Ryks plan on going to the same junior college together.

Major League Baseball labor disagreement remains unresolved

## Salary cap answer shows way for all involved

Bud Selig and Major League Baseball are in a lot of trouble.

That's because come Nov. 1 the contract that Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) signed in 1996 is up. Before that date Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig and President of the MLBPA Donald Fehr, have to come up with a new agreement or there may be another players strike, like in 1994.

Back in 1996, Major League Baseball and the MLBPA signed a five-year agreement that ended labor disputes in baseball, ending arguments that took over two years to resolve.

That two-year long dispute started back on Aug. 10, 1994, when the players walked out on the owners starting a 234 day strike, which eventually cancelled that season, and it could not have come at a worse time.

Before that day, that season was turning out to be one of the most exciting in years. There was Ken Griffey Jr. and Matt Williams chasing Roger Maris' home run record, the Chicago White Sox and the Cleveland Indians in a pennant race and it was the first year for the expanded play-off format and wild-card team. The possibilities were endless.

Eventually that long winter ended and it was April again and when acting commissioner of baseball Bud Selig realized that they were not anywhere close to an agreement, he started to panic. Instead of him losing more money and seeing replacement players play the 1995 season, both him and

Fehr said they came to an agreement.

Nobody bought that. The only agreement they made was that they did not want to lose anymore money. Both he and Fehr knew that no fan would want to go see a bunch of no names play.

That agreement they finally made two years later did not include a salary cap that some people wanted, but if owners wanted to buy championships, they would have to pay.

That solved all their problems for five years, but now it's 2001 and on Nov. 1 that contract is up. When that day comes, the owners may do it to us again. They may cancel baseball.

That is what is going to happen if baseball's owners and players can not come up with a deal that will please both parties by Nov. 1. I'm telling you right now, it's not going to happen, unless they do two crucial things.

One: A salary cap. That tax was a step in the right direction, but a salary cap will make every team competitive. If teams are limited to how much they

spend on personnel, they will not be able to pay \$252 million for one player.

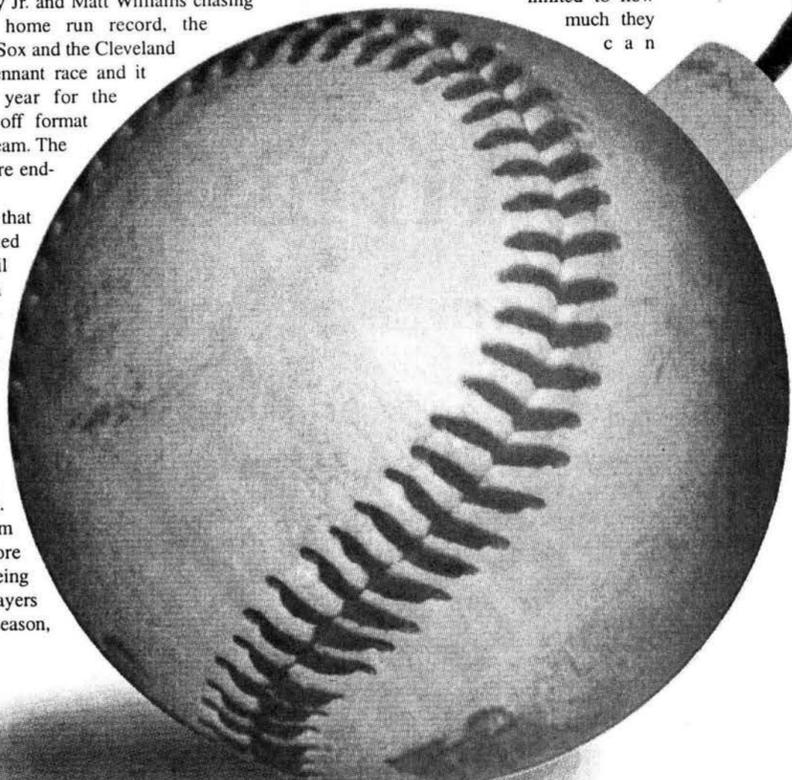
Two: The one thing that the owners and players have the same view on and they both hate it. I know the whole idea is ludicrous. Why should a team, or any company for that matter, share the money it earned to help out the competition? Until it is put into play, you will never see a small-market team like the Montreal Expos make the playoffs. If this doesn't happen, every year you will have only four teams in position to win a title.

If an agreement does not come by Nov. 1 (which is what is most likely) you will undoubtedly see another players strike like 1994. But, this time it might be worse.

Charging the Mound



Troy Schulte



LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

## 'Playing days' shape referee's professionalism

By Troy Schulte

Growing up in St. Louis in the late 1960s, Nebraska Scholastic Activities Association (NSAA) referee Vince Smith viewed playing basketball as a way out of the inner city and for him to get an education.

Smith grew up in the inner city of St. Louis and played basketball at Ofallon Tech High School. After a junior season in which his team won the state tournament title and a senior season in which they advanced to the tournament, Smith took a scholarship offer from Wichita State.

After a disappointing college career, Smith's desire to play basketball was still there. So prior to the 1973 season he tried out for the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks. After a few weeks, he said, he was playing well and thought he was going to make the team. But his season quickly came to an end as Smith broke his hand and was unable to finish training camp.

Smith then returned home to St. Louis to play for Athletes in Action, a Christian basketball team that played top college teams from all over the country. After two years of traveling around the country and playing college programs, he left that team and decided to explore his options.

"I had offers to play in Scotland, but I thought that playing in the Philippines would be a better fit for me," he said.

While playing in the Philippines, Smith said he learned a lot of tough lessons about life and the living styles of other cultures.

"I thought growing up in St. Louis in the city was tough," he said. "There are some areas [in the Philippines] that are in total poverty."

Smith played on a team with only one other American player and the others did not speak English, which he said, made it tough to communicate with his teammates.

"It was kind of tough because there was only one guy on the team who you can be buddies with," Smith said.

After his one season in the Philippines, Smith grew homesick and returned home to try out with the American Basketball Association St. Louis Spirit. Smith played in training camp and through the exhibition season but was not kept on the team when the Spirit's season started.

Being cut from the team made Smith realize that maybe quitting basketball for good would be a smart idea. He first got into officiating when he thought he needed a part-time job. Since he played high school, college and professional basketball and knew the rules he thought it would be a good fit for him.

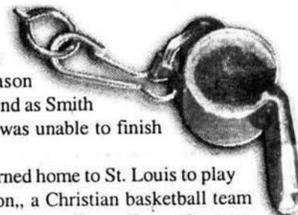
Smith said that he enjoys his job and officiating high school basketball games, but there defiantly down sides.

"Being a referee, you're always the enemy," he said. "If you make one team happy there is always another who is upset."

He does not take it personally though, he said it is just part of the job and you have to learn how to deal with unhappy players and fans.

"I think it builds character, learning how to handle yourself in hostile situations," he said. "Sports taught me a lot about life and officiating taught me a lot about being an adult."

Right now, Smith is in the process of trying to get into the North Central Conference, and would like to move up in the profession.



### Eagle Player Quick Comments



Ian Waterman (11)

"Both sides could be more bending in their ways."



Josh Juranek (11)

"I think they make enough money as it is."



Mike Livingston (11)

"They need to realize they're living out everyone's dream."

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