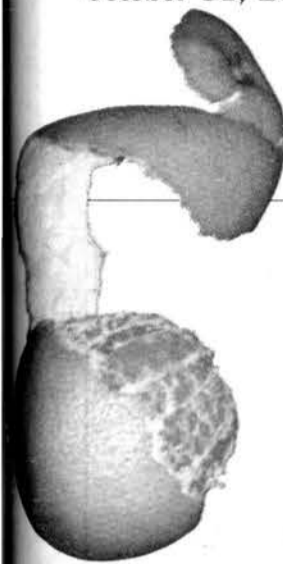


the Omaha Central High School REGISTER

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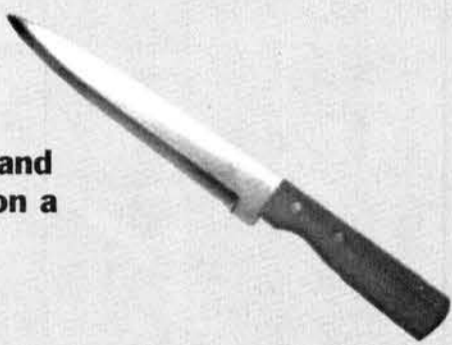
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HYPOGLYCEMIA
Low blood sugars can cause dizziness, fatigue and stomachaches. For some students, it's normal.

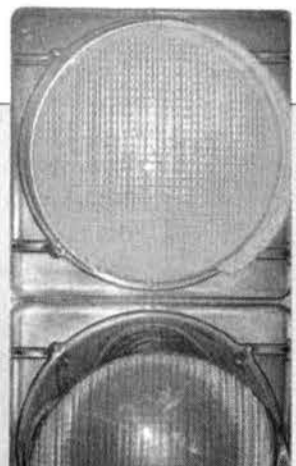
PAGE 12A

VIOLENCE
After Sept. 11, acts of violence in television, movies and music have taken on a new meaning.



SOFTBALL
The softball team was going strong, then hit a brick wall at districts. What went wrong?

PAGE 29D



2001 NSPA/JEA Best in Show

Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi

National Pacemaker Award Winner

Athlete plays despite assault charges

By Matt Wynn

Even though a starting central linebacker violated the district's eligibility rules, he still played in five football games this season.

After a Register investigation, administrators removed senior Teon Eason for the remainder of the season because of two counts of assault he was charged with in late August, including one charge that was

reported by the school nurse.

Although he was eventually removed from the team, the fact still stands: an athlete who never should have played may have helped the team win two games against North and Millard South.

The Code of Conduct for OPS clearly states that any student charged with assault that results in injury is ineligible to participate in athletics and other extracurricular activities for the

duration of the school year.

The officer who responded to the nurse's call on Aug. 27 wrote in his report that the victim had a "serious bruise" on one eye. According to County law, that bruise is an injury.

Athletic Director Paul Pennington said he only gave Eason a 15-day suspension from athletics because limited information was available when he handed down the consequence.

"All I knew was we had an athlete who was ticketed and arrested, nothing more," Pennington said. "Knowing this, I took it and did what I thought I had to do."

By the district's own rules, administrators only have flexibility with punishment after an investigation.

City prosecutor Mike Winchester said he does not see any evidence an investigation

took place.

"All the information needed to tell what happened is right here in the police reports," Winchester said.

Winchester said the most important part to the rule in the handbook is the part that states there must be an injury.

In the police reports, there is ample evidence of both assault and injury, he said.

"This is a predator. And he

will continue to be a predator," Winchester said. "But luckily, when you are his age, you are still able to be worked. The ends of your bones are still developing, your frontal lobe is still growing; you can still be taught. But in order to do that, he will have to face some consequences."

Normally, a Student Personnel Assistant (SPA) from See EASON, page 8

OPS postpones classroom fees after parent sues

By Joe Meyer

Senior Zack Kowalewski cannot believe what is happening to his Career Center photography class. Ever since a Central student's father sued the school district on Sept. 21, the photography class has changed a lot, Kowalewski said.

Students have always been required to purchase their own film and processing paper from the department for the 14 years that laboratory technician Lisa Burkhardt has been there.

Until now, instructors have to furnish the students with the supplies free of charge because the district imposed a sanction postponing all student transactions immediately after the lawsuit was filed, Burkhardt said.

In one day, the photography department at the Career Center handed out over \$400 in supplies, something that is depleting the department's funding, Burkhardt said.

"It's affecting us every hour of everyday," she said. "I know we will be able to make it through this semester. Hopefully, we will be able to make it through the entire year."

Roger Roll, father of a Central freshman, filed the lawsuit because he was fed up with paying numerous student fees for her throughout the past three years. In his lawsuit, he claims the fees are unconstitutional because the school district is not

Turn to LAWSUIT, page 3

Alumnus dies in terrorist attacks

By Joe Meyer

Central graduate Jerrold Paskins always had a great work ethic, his wife Inez said.

On Sept. 11, Jerrold, who graduated in 1962, was working in a conference room on the 94th floor of Tower One in the World Trade Center, the exact place where the first hijacked airplane crashed into the building.

Inez said he asked if he could use the conference room early to get his work done. That was just the way he was, Inez said.

"I'm an early riser," Jerrold told a woman at the company he was working with the day before. "How early can I come into your company to get the work done?"

Inez said she first heard about the attack when

See PASKINS, page 11

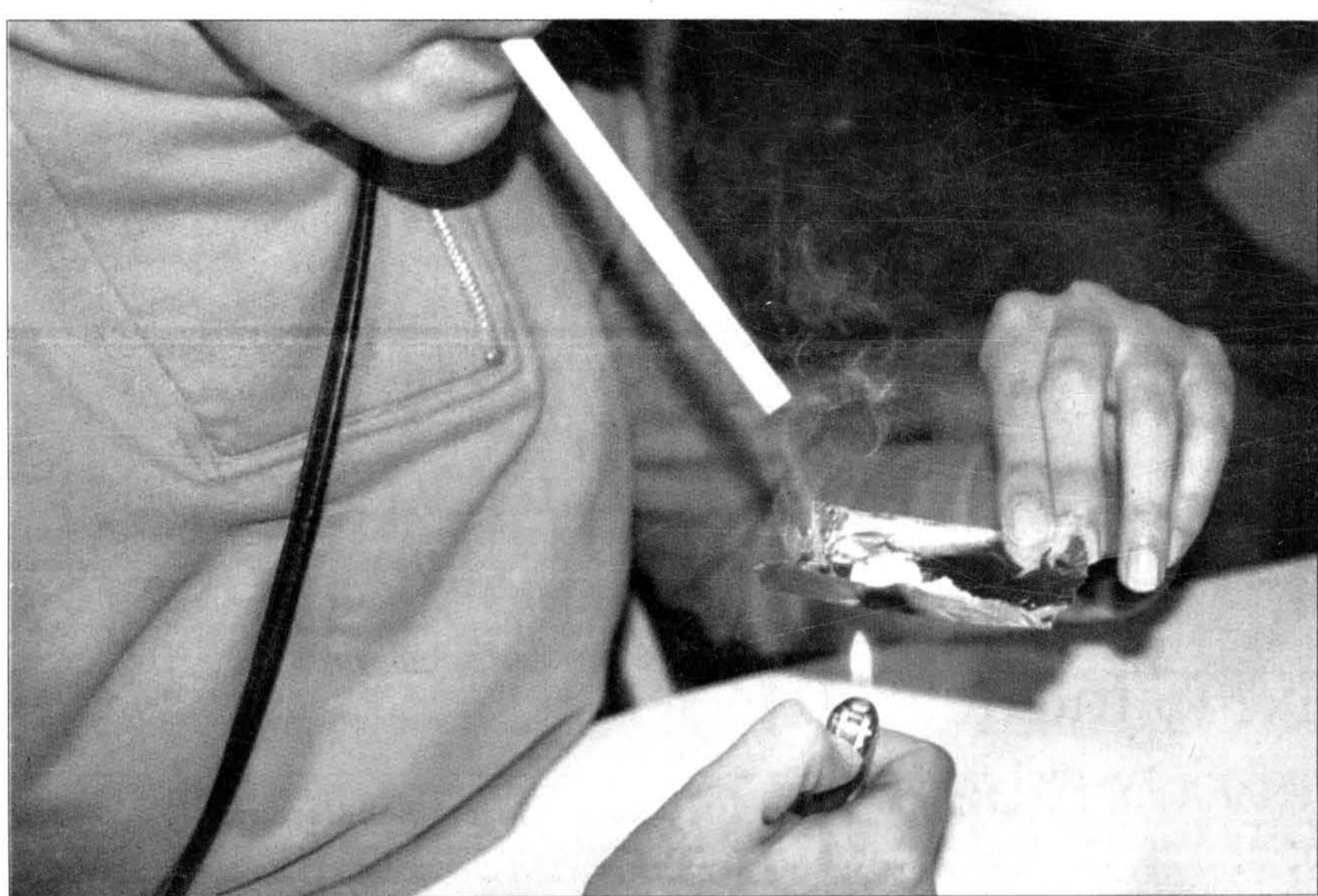


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

This photo illustration shows one method people use to smoke meth. A user puts the drug on any surface that can be held, usually a piece of tinfoil. Heat is then added with a lighter underneath, and the chemical begins to smoke. The smoke can either be inhaled without an instrument or with a straw. Meth can also be injected or snorted. Some people even put rocks in their eyes.

By Matt Wynn

*name changed to protect identity

Junior year was fun for senior James Richmond*. He got out of school and walked over to his friend's house. They would play some video games. Then they would smoke a little meth. That's when the fun would start. He would still play video games, but he would be better than usual.

"For some reason you can just concentrate better, move faster, be smarter. It helped me beat all the games," Richmond said.

Then he would start drawing. He would draw almost every day anyway, but when he was on meth, his art was a lot better than it ever was.

All the lines were straighter, and he would spend more time trying to get everything right.

"I would use a ruler and make sure everything was perfect. I would measure out every line and make sure it

Turn to METH, page 5

METH

anatomy of an epidemic

One Central student talks about the factors leading up to his own addiction to methamphetamine, one of the fastest growing and most frightening drugs in the nation

INSIDE: Turn to pages 4-5 for more stories

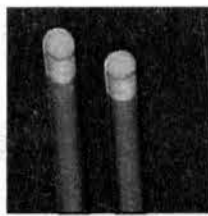
● Lab bust leads to stiff jail time for one area couple

● Local interstate source of drug for most of country

● How the drug works and what it can do to a body... and a mind

INSIDE

Copyright 2001
Omaha Central High School
Register
Vol. 115, No. 2
10 pages



Youth Center
YMCA's new teen center gives students a place to go after school, helps younger children with homework.
NEWS, 12A



Ballet
Pirouettes, pliés and more. Dancing is becoming popular, and the activity has its benefits.
A & E, 21C



Crowded Picture
The competition for the football state title is more fierce than ever. Almost every team has a chance.
SPORTS, 40D

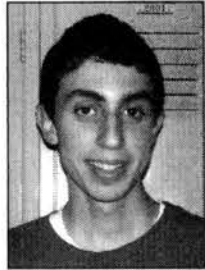
Briefs.....2A
College Corner.....3A
Meth.....4-5A
Smoking.....6-7A
Hall of Fame.....10A
Technology.....8A
Insight.....13B
Point-Counterpoint.....14B
Heroes/Zeros.....16B
Forum.....17B

Q & A.....18B
The Draft.....20B
A & E.....21C
Calendar.....22C
Commentary.....26C
Violence on TV.....28C
Sports.....29D
Kickboxing.....31D
Tennis.....33D
College Sports...34-35D

New frisbee club grows every week

The Ultimate Frisbee club is a recent addition to Central's traditional clubs and activities.

The club meets once a week, usually Sundays, at "the Sunks," located at Happy Hollow and Underwood. Everyone who shows up plays Frisbee for a few hours and has a good time, club founder Jacob Priluck said.



Priluck

"Ultimate Frisbee club is the first of its kind at Central," Priluck said. "Many Central students play Ultimate Frisbee, so the club made sense," he said.

There are not very many teams in the metro area. Many people regularly play at open fields such as Memorial Park and "The Sunks," but there are very few organized teams, he said, which is hard for competition.

The club played UNO's Ultimate Frisbee team on Wednesday, Oct. 24. UNO won the match, but both sides had a good time, Priluck said.

The club's goal is to have fun while playing Frisbee.

"We are the best club at Central," Priluck said.

There are many members in the club, and more coming each Sunday. The club is quickly growing in popularity, he said.

Priluck said anyone interested is encouraged to join any Sunday.

Construction delays first art club projects

Art club painted pumpkins for its first activity of the year on Oct. 25.

The club then sold the pumpkins to Central students and faculty in the courtyard, club vice president Ashley Vak said.



Vak

The club took bids for the pumpkins and the highest bidder took the pumpkins home.

The sale's proceeds were donated to United Way of the Midlands/Chad, Vak said.

Art club had a slow start due to construction in the art room to fix the ceiling. The club plans on many more activities now that the room has reopened.

Besides displacing the art classes for several weeks, the construction in the art room also slowed the progress of many art club projects.

The club had to postpone the completion of their mural in the library because school administrators decided to hold art and physics classes in the area. The mural will be made by Central students. It was started last year.

The club's next project is to make hemp necklaces.

Later in the year, art club is planning on setting up a gallery to show off its work. Members said they hope to open the display before winter break.

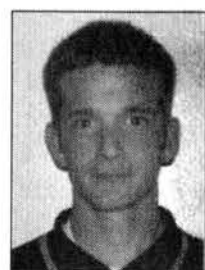
The grand opening will include a dinner to mark the premiere of the gallery.

SNHS inducts new members

Spanish National Honors Society started off the year by inducting new members into the group of Spanish students, club member Wade Shelton said.

The group will participate in many activities throughout this year.

From helping younger students with Spanish work to doing community service and raising money for scholarships, the club will have a busy year, Shelton said.



Shelton

"The club teaches us more about Spanish culture," he said.

Many of the members tutor students in beginning Spanish classes. The students will usually give up a study hall and spend time to help others with their language problem, Shelton said.

The Spanish Honor Society will also fundraise to provide a scholarship for a person who decides to major in Spanish during

college.

"I enjoy helping to raise money for the scholarship," Shelton said.

The students volunteer in various activities during the year.

Many of these events are related to Spanish culture in some way.

The volunteering helps the community while giving the members service hours that they can use when they apply to college.

"The honor society is a great thing to have on your resume," Shelton said.

It takes many steps to become a member of the Spanish National Honor Society.

The first requirement is that each student needs to have a "One" in Spanish classes for at least three semesters at Central.

They also need to have two teacher recommendations in order to apply to become a member of the group.

The students were then inducted at the beginning of the school year.

News calendar

Compiled by Aaron Maurice



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

City, state and military officials listen to the Omaha Symphony play at Memorial Park during a memorial service for the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. An estimated 2,000 people from the Omaha area attended the memorial, making it one of the most largely attended memorial services in the Midlands, certainly in Omaha.

November

01

Winter sports physical

Today, free winter sports physicals will be available to athletes in the Old Gym after school. In order to try out for a sport, all athletes need to have a current physical.

02

Last day to buy yearbooks!

Yearbook sales end on Friday. The book sells for \$25 and has more color and exciting features of Central students. The sales will not be extended. Go to room 315 for more details.

02

"Brigadoon" premieres

The first Central musical of the year is set to premiere Friday. The musical will be presented to students followed by two evening showings. The last show will be Saturday night.

03

SATs at Central

The SAT will be administered at Central Saturday morning. This is the second to last test before winter break, so if you forgot to register for this one, you can still register for the Dec. 1 test date up until the 7th.

05

State football playoffs

Football teams from around the state start the first round of playoff games. The games last throughout the month and conclude with the state championship.

08

Parent teacher conferences

Make sure you turn in all your late homework and make amends with your teachers in time for teacher-parent conferences. Conferences begin at 12:30 and go until 7:30.

08

Senior Job Shadowing

Seniors are required to shadow a professional this day in order to experience a day in the work force. Underclassmen will take the plan and ASVAB tests in the morning.

09

No school

After the parent-teacher conferences, students get a day to rest up for the next two weeks of school until Thanksgiving. This may also be a great time for seniors to schedule their job shadows, if they could not arrange them for the 8th.

22

Thanksgiving

Start your oven and get ready to stuff your turkey. The day of lots of eating and no school has finally arrived.

23

Shop 'til you drop

Thanksgiving is over, now its time to shop. Get your checkbooks ready to buy those hard to get items in time for the holidays.

25

Blood drive

The Red Cross will have a blood drive at Central today. Students are encouraged to donate their blood to help those in need.

25

All-State

The All-State music performance is scheduled for the 25th at the Civic Auditorium. In past years, the performance has featured many Central students, and it should be like that this year.

30

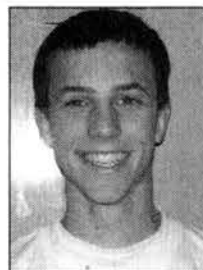
First Boys' and Girls' Basketball Game

On Nov. 30, the boys and girls basketball seasons get underway. Both teams play Burke, with the boys playing at home and the girls competing at Burke.

Trial team starts year

The court is in session. Oral arguments for this year's Central Mock Trial team.

The Mock Trial team had a court case during the last few weeks of October, club sponsor Carol Hippi said. The group consists of



Witchger

teams, who represent the different sides of a case. The case this year is about a business that will take money from a town farmers.

This was actually

tried in the Nebraska court system but names have been changed to respect privacy, Hippi said. The group meets at the courthouse to begin their trial. They then split into separate sides to proceed to try the case as it would be in an actual court.

The goal is to learn how court system works and how cases are decided, Hippi said.

Sophomore Phillip Witchger involved in Mock Trial. He said the club provides a great opportunity to gain first hand experience about that law field.

The group provides an opportunity for the students to see how court system works, including arguing and talking to lawyers, he said.

Witchger joined Mock Trial because he has thought about becoming a lawyer after he graduates from school.

The experience of preparing a case has helped him understand more about how the system works.

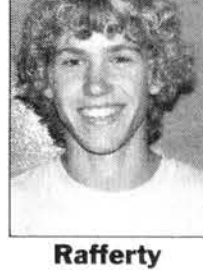
"Mock Trial has been a great experience in applying knowledge learned to a real-life situation," Witchger said.

He said the time spent working and preparing for the case was worth the end result.

Club combine climbing, hiking

Rock climbing and hiking started off the year with a few hikes but much more is planned, club member Eric Rafferty said.

Rafferty combined his ideas of starting a rock climbing club with the hiking club that started last year at Central and formed a new club with the merger of the two.



Rafferty

Rafferty started climbing a few years ago and has enjoyed the sport. He traveled out of state for competitions ever since to test his skill.

The club members went on numerous hikes last year around Omaha. This year, they hope to expand their choices for hikes and climbs with trips farther away than last year's trips.

The hikes are held after school or on weekends. The club tries to find places where all of the club members can participate.

Their first meeting of the year took place on Oct. 4. Members discussed possible trips and events. The club had its first climbing event at the indoor wall at the South/Southwest YMCA on Oct. 25.

"The YMCA's climbing wall has challenging routes for all levels of ability," he said. "Climbing indoors is an ideal place to learn how to climb."

The rock climbing club will be available for all students to join. The YMCA is allowing the club to use the facilities free of charge.

Rafferty said he hopes that more students will join.

His goal for the year is to go on an out-of-state trip where they try outdoor climbing.

Rafferty wants to go to a region of the country where there are many places to climb, such as Wyoming.

Wyoming has many rock formations suitable to novice climbers, Rafferty said.

Psychologist's job more than counseling

By Joe Meyer

Richard Muff is Central's school psychologist.

But his job title does not describe what he actually does on a daily basis.

"I'm a mixture of a counselor, teacher and psychologist," Muff said. "I have training with all of those."

Muff was a teacher and counselor in other parts of the state before taking his current position.

"I sometimes do things that a teacher does," he said. "I sometimes do things a counselor does and I sometimes do things a psychologist does."

John Downs, student and community services coordinator for OPS, said Muff's previous experience sets him apart from the other psychologists in the district. "We do not have very much staff on board that have teaching experience," Downs said.

Muff's unique responsibility in Central is to conduct testing for behavioral and learning disabilities.



Photo By EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER
Psychologist Richard Muff is at Central two days a week. He is available to help students in all sorts of areas.

He also helps arrange for students to be placed into special education classes and receive extra help with school.

"They (school psychologists) can provide knowledge to teachers and administrators about disabilities that are not common," Downs said.

Along with testing students

for problems, Muff also counsels students about personal issues, but that is not a big part of his duties.

Because Muff is only in the building for two or three days a week, he said he can not dedicate enough time to those issues.

"I will work with the student for a (school) period, but if the stu-

dent needs long-term help, then they need to see a professional therapist," he said.

He also works on crisis teams that visit schools.

For example, Muff remembers the district assembling a crisis team when a student disappeared from Beals Elementary.

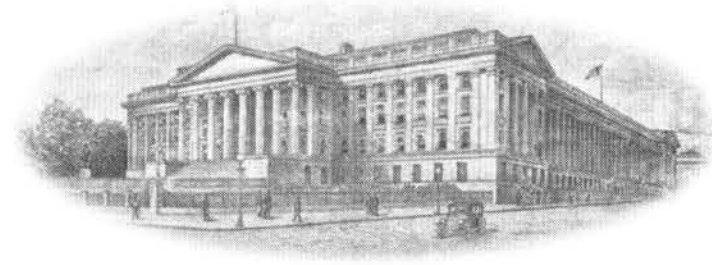
These teams also visit schools when a student dies and during other emergencies.

"When you have a crisis in a school, adolescents and young people are encountering death for the first time," Muff said.

Muff is also responsible for teaching teachers and other faculty in the district about student behaviors.

In the training, which every teacher in the district will go through, he teaches staff members how to deal with angry students and students with severe behavioral and learning problems.

No matter what he does during the day, Muff said his biggest responsibility is to help students perform well at school.



College Corner

University of Michigan

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Admission: Open admission

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 23,971 full-time

Additional facts: Large university providing great variety of classes and majors, 211 different majors, great campus location

Freshman admissions: Average freshman has 3.5 GPA and 1180 on SAT, recommendations and interview encouraged

Peru State College

Location: Peru, Nebraska

Admission: Open admission

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 900 men, 900 women full-time

Additional facts: Undergoing multimillion-dollar renovation, small town environment, Liberal Arts college

Freshman admissions: Incoming freshmen need a High School GPA of 2.5 or higher. 18 on ACT, dedicated student

ITT Technical Institute

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Admission: 90 percent of applicants accepted

Type: Private technical university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 340 full-time

Additional facts: Offer computer networking, multimedia, web development and computer electronics

Freshman admissions: Incoming freshmen need lots of math in high school. Admittance is also based on motivation and work ethic.

University of Northern Colorado

Location: Grenada, Colorado

Admission: Open admission

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 9,500

Additional facts: Offer unique majors such as language pathology, large enough to have the technology, but small enough to have teacher student interactions

Freshman admissions: Incoming freshmen need to have an above average GPA and SAT or ACT scores, admittance based on Colorado Student Index which is a combination of GPA and SATs and ACTs.

LAWSUIT

District asks state to analyze legality of student fees

from LAWSUIT, page 1

providing a free education to his children.

"I am taking on a giant here," Roll said. "I'm taking on not only the Omaha Public School system, the biggest district in the state, but I'm essentially taking on every school district in the state because every school district charges these fees."

Freshman Dena Roll, Roger's daughter, said she understands why her father is pursuing legal action against the district.

"It's probably opening up a can of peoples' eyes," Dena said. She said some of her friends

commented on the lawsuit, but teachers and administrators were not said anything to her.

Article VII of the state constitution states that a public school district must provide free instruction to all students between the ages of five and twenty-one years.

Charging fees violates this article, Roll said.

The district is currently trying to decide what fees are charged for instruction and which ones are not, OPS director Student and Community Services Steve Nelson said.

Nelson said the district is currently investigating the

student fees that schools charge. That process was just starting before the lawsuit was filed.

Principal Gary Thompson said the school has stopped charging most student fees.

Because of the lawsuit, the district imposed a sanction on the schools to not charge fees for anything that involves classroom activities.

This has caused some budget concerns, Thompson said.

"It will have a very significant effect," he said. "Either we have to come up with extra dollars or some of the projects will disappear."

Assistant superintendent Dennis Pool said the sanction may start to affect the district's curriculum, like Kowaleski's photography class.

"It (collecting student fees) has just been a way we have counted on for a certain amount of revenue," Pool said. "We want to be able to offer the curriculum, but if we can't have students pay for some, we would have to roll back on that curriculum."

Thompson said the fees the school collects go to fund things inside the school.

For example, the locker fees pay for the school to buy replacement locks, paint the

hallways and furnish new lockers.

Freshman Luke Hollenbeck said he is not opposed to paying locker fees.

"If it's just a couple dollars at the beginning of the year, then it's all right," Hollenbeck said.

Freshman Zach Kain said the school should give students the choice whether to use a locker or not.

That way, charging for it would not be so controversial.

Science department chair Jean Whitten said the sanction does not allow the department to ask students for money to purchase lab equipment and supplies.

It is just part of a long history of decreased funding, she said.

The science department has lost about \$16,000 in district funding over the past two years, Thompson said.

All science teachers have purchased supplies for laboratory experiments using their own money, Whitten said.

Kain said students should be the ones who should pay for the experiments, not the teachers.

He said he has no problem paying for part the experiment's costs, if he is going to be using it in class.

The financial impacts of the lawsuit are not all immediate,

though.

If Roll wins in the courts, the school district will have to repay four years of student fees, which Nelson said would be extremely costly to the school district.

"Oh my goodness," he said. "That money has been spent. That money is already gone."

Although his legal filing might be causing some burdens for some students, Roll said that was not the reason he sued the school district.

All he wants is for the district to be accountable for the money it spends and obey the constitution.

"I'm not here to hurt any kids," he said. "I would be hurting my own kids if I was. It was not an easy decision to make and I understand that it actually could raise taxes someday. It is holding the Omaha Public School district to the task of providing a free public education."

Nelson said the district has looked at the issue and referred it to the Nebraska State Board of Education for guidance on what to charge for and what not to.

The issue will be discussed at a state board meeting Nov. 1.

"It is not an issue that is singular to OPS, it's a statewide issue," Nelson said.

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METH:

Methamphetamines have gained a whole new dimension in the past couple of years. The number of cases the district attorney has dealt with have gone up 200 percent over the past four years. The scary part is that more youths are getting involved. Here, the *Register* has put together three stories that best sum up the issue.



All photos courtesy of COUNTY ATTORNEY

At the time of their arrests, Richard Fidone and Pebbles Graham had over \$4000 in hard cash. Police also found some of the actual meth. Both are now serving at least nine years in jail for the illegal manufacture of meth.

Lab busts affect even freshest faces in meth life

By Matt Wynn

The woman was taken to the police station in handcuffs. She was facing a major charge: intent to sell or distribute methamphetamines.

The twenty-five year old was nondescript. She wore a brown baseball cap, an inside-out green sweatshirt and green pants, all of which separated her from the typical inmate. At about five-and-a-half feet, 120 pounds, she didn't seem capable of the crimes for which she was accused.

But it must not be too out of the ordinary. Everyone knows that sometimes good people do bad things, and especially if they are coerced into it by an older friend.

Which, in the case of Pebbles Graham, was true. Her boyfriend, 45-year-old Richard Fidone, had been running a meth lab for a while. He had never been caught, and had always been particularly careful about his operation.

But lately he had been getting sloppy. Unfortunately for Graham, it just so happened that Fidone got caught when she was part of the operation.

Now they were both in jail.

Nebraska was taking a hard stand against crimes involving the drug, and not without good reason.

Arrests had gone up 200 percent in the past couple of years while meth-related crimes like theft, assault and the like continued to get more and more violent and common.

District attorney in charge of drug-related offenses, Corey O'Brien, was running the investigation that brought Fidone and Graham to justice.

Even before they searched the house, the police knew what they were going to find.

Already the police had done extensive investigations into the lives of the suspects. They had rooted through the pair's trash and found several ingredients for the making of the drug.

They found numerous recipes for it, too.

After they had found sufficient evidence to support the belief that Fidone and Graham were involved in

the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine, it was simply a matter of obtaining a search warrant.

"Getting a search warrant is no problem. People are antsy to convict. Getting these people into the system is really a priority," O'Brien said.

After a judge was presented with the evidence, they found it easy to make the decision to give the police the right to search the house. As far as they were concerned, there was no reason to delay the inevitable.

Judges knew Fidone and Graham had more than one recipe for the drug.

They had more than enough of the necessary chemicals to create a large amount of the drug.

And, as officers who had previously searched the house knew it smelled. That slightly urine-like, dirty, not-quite-right smell that officers in Omaha have come to know so well. The meth smell.

It was at the house. And it was coming from the basement.

So on Sept. 23, 1999, at about ten o'clock in the morning, five members of the Omaha Police Narcotics Team knocked on the door at 6123 South 33rd Streets. Six officers of the Nebraska Clandestine Laboratory Team, a unit that specializes in safely dismantling meth labs, joined them.

The Clandestine Unit is supposed to be on site for all meth busts. Because the chemicals involved in making the drug are so dangerous, they are more than necessary.

"Everything about meth is combustible," O'Brien said.

And he's right. For the recipe Fidone and Graham were using, the main ingredients included match heads, paint thinner and muriatic acid. All of which are either combustible alone or extremely flammable.

When the officers knocked on the door to announce their presence, the front door swung open. Fidone had apparently left it unlocked.

With the door open, the police considered their options. So they did what they felt was

right, announced their presence and entered.

Upon doing a sweep search of the house, officers found no residents. But tucked away in the basement they stumbled upon what appeared to be a working laboratory in a locked room.

Jackpot.

"These labs are all over the place, and it always kind of catches me by surprise. They're so dirty, they're so primitive. And everything's just there. Meth makes you forget to cover your tracks, I guess," O'Brien said.

Because of the previous searches on the property, officers had a pretty good guess where they could find either Graham or Fidone.

So they went across the street and knocked on the door.

"Police," one of the officers said.

Graham answered the door at Fidone's mother's house. Graham was disheveled and looked as if she had been up for a long time. Her shirt was inside-out and her brown, stringy hair hung down in her eyes.

Seeing that she really had no choice, she let the officers in.

Fidone was found in a back bedroom, laying on a couch. He, too, seemed like he had been up for a little bit too long.

After the family had been gathered at the dining room table, a member of the Clandestine group, who was still checking out the basement laboratory, asked to see the officer in charge.

"There's all sorts of stuff," he said. "Muriatic, acetone, heaters, matches...we even found some of the stuff," the Clandestine officer said.

The police officer detaining the family breathed a sigh of relief.

"Good," he said. Then turning back to the other officers in the room, he added, "Book them."

Fidone and Graham were then read their rights and taken into custody.

After a lengthy trial, both are serving at least nine-and-a-half years in prison, with mandatory release set for 12 years.

"They probably won't be released anytime before that. Nebraska's really cracking down on methamphetamine. We're sick of it, and we're done messing around," O'Brien said.



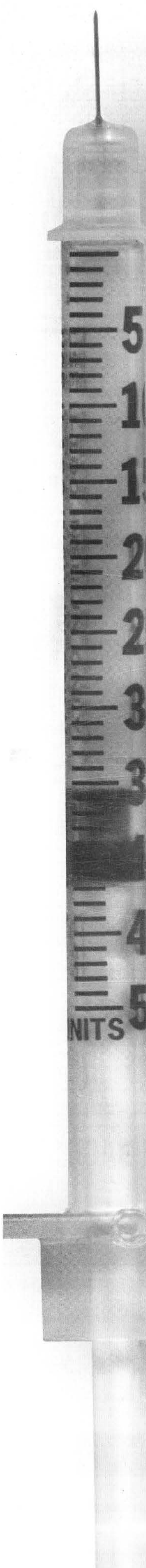
One of the scariest parts about meth is that it is a manmade drug, Corey O'Brien with the County Attorney said. The recipes are fairly simple and require only ingredients found at pharmacies. This means a lab could be anywhere. This is the house Fidone ran his lab out of.



Several ingredients for the production of meth were found in the corner of Fidone's house. These included muriatic acid, acetone and paint thinner. All of the ingredients were found in a locked room in the basement by members of the Clandestine Team, a task force specializing in dismantling meth labs.



One of the biggest telltale signs of a meth lab is a large amount of matches in the house. Some recipes require red phosphorus, a chemical found only in match heads and fireworks. If a large amount of matches is found in conjunction with other necessary chemicals, it is easy to get a warrant.



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METH

Sleeping during class related to drug, student says

from METH, page 1

He would draw whatever came to mind. It would all look perfect.

But then, at about 7 in the morning it would hit him.

"Right as you're getting dressed for school, you look down and say, 'Man, I'm tired.' Then you realize you haven't been for a day, and you're smack starts to hurt. That's good," Richmond said.

This school year, Richmond hasn't used the drug at all. It's the first year he's even attempted to get off any drug.

He said he's trying to stay sane, at least during the week, and even over the weekends, he's not touching meth, or "crank" at all.

Occasionally he still smokes weed, but that's not as bad as anything he used to do.

Richmond started doing drugs when he was just 11 years old. He said he started for the same reasons as any other kid: his friends forced him into it, he didn't want to be left out and it just looked fun.

So he started smoking weed.

"That's a pretty harmless thing," he said. "But when you know how to use it, it can be one of the best drugs there is. The best is smoking crank, then lighting a big fat blunt. That's like the perfect high."

After about two years of dealing with lighter drugs like marijuana, Richmond stepped up to the next level.

"I used everything," he said. "Weed, coke, acid, mushrooms, and you know I'm forgetting some stuff in there. But then, I don't know exactly why, but I thought I needed something better."

So, when he was only 13 years old, Richmond started using meth.

"The first time I did it, I was at my homeboy's house. I didn't want to do it, cause I'd seen that on TV, and I knew if you snorted something, you was going to be dead real quick. I did it, but I didn't like it," Richmond said.

His first time with the drug was uneventful.

"It didn't really screw me up that bad, just made my nose

bleed a little," he said.

But after doing it that first time, he found it easier and easier to use it again and again. Finally, he found a way to use it that he was accustomed with.

He realized he could smoke the drug, and he was hooked.

After that, it was hard to get him to stop.

"We used foils, glass pipes, light bulbs, any way we could smoke it, I like. Once in a while we'd sniff a line, but I would never make a habit of it," Richmond said.

One thing Richmond did make a habit of was meth. He would always use it, sometimes staying up three or four days at a time.

The worst part, he said, was going to school in the morning. Since he usually used the drug three times a week, that happened more often than he would like to admit.

One time, he came to school after a particularly good fix, sat down in first hour, and fell asleep.

When he woke up, it was fourth hour, and he was very much in the wrong class.

He said he can't picture how his teachers couldn't have known he was on drugs.

"I'm pretty sure they had to have known I was on something. I was always asleep, and if I was supposed to answer a question or something, I wouldn't, because I couldn't," Richmond said.

Quitting hasn't been difficult. When he last used, about a week before school started, he knew it was going to be his last time.

He got together with a couple of his friends who also used, and together they decided to quit.

He still hangs out with his crowd, and he still gets a little bit of pressure to use. But he just simply says no.

"It's not as hard as it was like, three years ago," he said. "I never fiend for it. I don't need it. I liked it, I mean, it's the best high you can get. People who say otherwise are lying or afraid of sounding addicted. But this is my senior year, and I can't be doing that."

After almost two months off the drug, Richmond said he is having no problems. He hasn't gone back to his old ways yet. And what's more, he doesn't plan to.

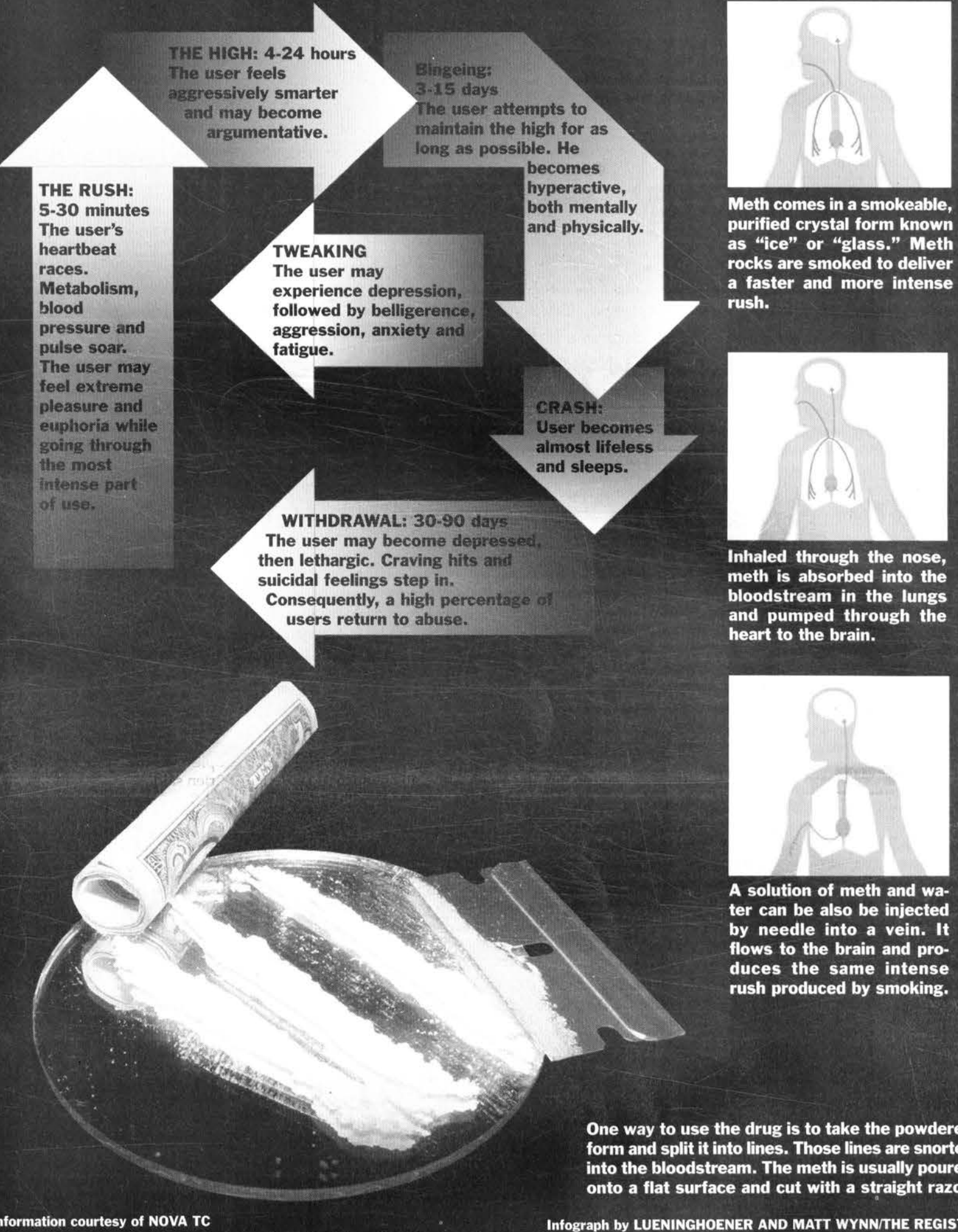
"Like speed that you smoked, that's what it was. But I'm done with it. I've got to learn some stuff, I got to graduate," he said.

And if he keeps it up, that might just be possible.

The many faces of meth

The mechanics of methamphetamine vary. The effects of the drug are many and can last for up to 90 days, Suzanne Nord, the intake supervisor at Nova TC, a local treatment center said. Here the Register takes apart the three different ways people can use the drug as well as shows the different stages a person goes through after taking the drug.

Methamphetamine, also known as "speed," "meth" or "crank" is a white, odorless, bitter-tasting powder. Some users mix meth with food or stir it into drinks. Others suck on meth rocks until they dissolve. In rare cases, some users drop rocks into the corner of an eye. The most common methods are smoking, injecting and snorting.



'Drug pipeline' supplies state with methamphetamines, officer says

By Paula Salhany

Under the seat, in the trunk, in the floor boards and quarter panels, all of these are places where a drug trafficker could potentially hide their drugs.

At one time or another, drug traffickers have hidden drugs in every imaginable place in a vehicle.

The drugs have been transported from the place they were manufactured to any major metropolitan area via Interstate 80.

For many years I-80 has been a major hub for drug traffickers. This is because I-80 is a straight shot from west to east across the United States.

It is easy for traffickers to transport their drugs across the U.S. on I-80 without having to stop or go very far off their route to get services such as gas, food and lodging, Lt. Tom Schwarten for the Nebraska State Patrol said.

Schwarten has been involved in many of the drug seizures along I-80.

"I had stopped a car going eastbound on the interstate for speeding and noticed some

discrepancies," he said. "I then obtained a warrant to search it and in one of the trailers I found \$227,000 that was a direct result of a marijuana sale."

In this case the drugs had originated in the east and had been delivered to the west. In most cases the patrol has seen drugs originate in the west, Schwarten said.

"There is no hard and fast rule with drug traffickers. Basically everything goes," he said.

Today the most popular drug on the streets is methamphetamine. This is partly because meth is so addictive and partly because of the higher prices of cocaine due to seizures along the interstates.

"When I first came onto the job cocaine was the most popular street drug. But then law enforcement began cracking down on it especially on the interstates," he said.

The amount of cocaine that was seized went up causing the price to go up. At that point addicts turned to the relatively new drug, meth.

"It was cheaper and provided a better high so addicts turned to that," he said. "Every year we have seen the number of meth seizures go up considerably."

Overall, Schwarten said out of all the drugs seized he sees the highest amount of marijuana and the highest dollar amount of meth.

Trafficking according to the DEA includes manufacturing, distributing, dispensing of or being in possession of any controlled substance with the intent to manufacture, distribute or dispense a controlled substance.

The first offense for anyone

who is caught trafficking any major substance such as methamphetamines, heroine or cocaine is no less than five years in prison and no more than forty years. This is if the person is caught with 5-4 gm of meth.

For anyone with 50mgs or more the first offense means no less than forty years in prison.

In most cases the trafficker will also have to pay fines starting at \$

2 million.

"Consequences for people who are caught trafficking more than once can get very very severe," Schwarten said.

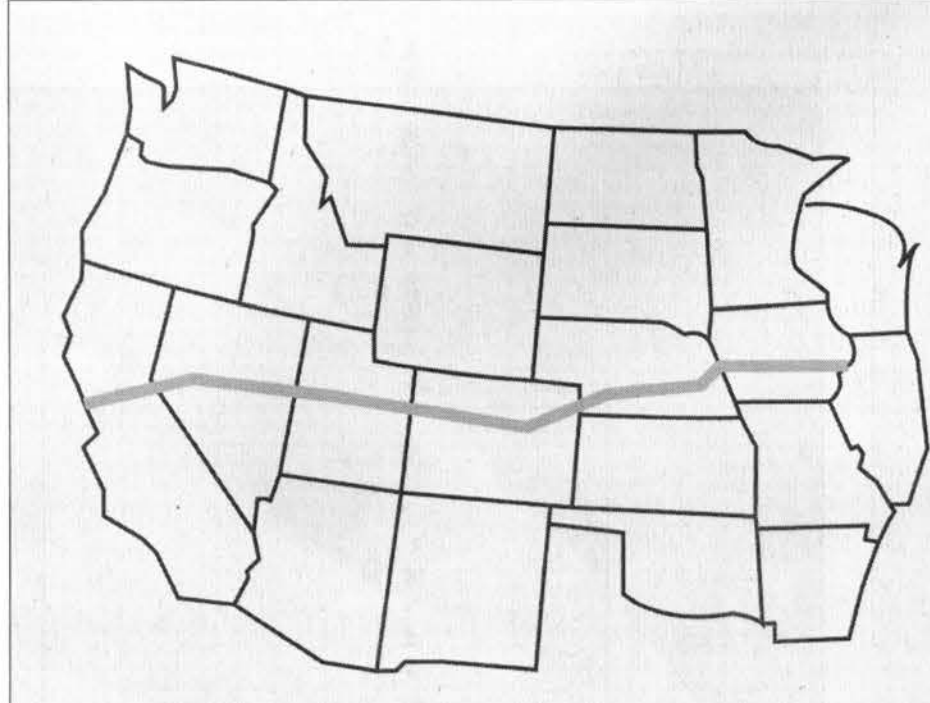
Because the state patrol puts so much emphasis on trafficking on I-80 and because the penalties are so severe, it has forced traffickers to take other routes.

Another route that is frequently used is interstate 40. This

road goes through major metropolitan areas like St. Louis.

If traffickers believe it is too risky to take the interstates they will resort to two lane highways that cut through the country.

"We try to deter people from trafficking in the first place," Schwarten said. "But if people are addicted to meth, being that it is a highly addictive drug, they will do almost anything to get it."



The meth 'pipeline'

Tens of thousands of dollars worth of methamphetamines and other drugs are delivered everyday through Interstate 80, America's drug pipeline, Lt. Tom Schwarten with the Nebraska State Patrol said.

I-80 starts in California, where the Drug Enforcement Administration believes meth is manufactured by Mexican nationalists. From there, the highway snakes through most of the country, passing through major cities such as Las Vegas, Denver, Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha, Des Moines and the Quad Cities in Eastern Iowa.

Because trafficking meth between state lines does not fall in anyone's jurisdiction, if a person is caught transporting the drug he is immediately sent over to federal court, Corey O'Brien with the Douglas County District Attorney's office said.

Infographic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Burning OUT

The gateway closes

Central student says drugs caused him to turn to smoking, not vice versa

**Name changed to protect identity*

By Doug Meigs

John* has used every drug from LSD to crack cocaine.

In seventh grade, the Central senior began to experiment with many different drugs. He began with "hard drugs" and is currently using what is commonly considered the gateway to harder drug use, cigarettes.

John said he began doing drugs in junior high, quit during his freshman year and started smoking cigarettes the next summer.

Rather than cigarettes leading John into harder drugs, harder drugs led John into cigarettes.

"I liked to smoke other things, so I thought, 'Hey, why not try smoking cigarettes? I thought, 'I've done everything else so why not start smoking?'" he said.

For John, cigarettes seemed like the next step. After he quit using drugs, he

said he didn't see any reason not to start smoking.

"There's something about not being able to sleep at all and feeling like your heart's about to explode that's not very appetizing," John said.

From what he described as dissatisfaction in drugs, John said that smoking cigarettes seemed like a logical progression.

Now, however, John said he regrets starting and is trying to quit. He recently cut down from one and a half packs a day to a half of a pack per day.

John's progression of drug experimentation is different than most common ideas concerning drug use.

Cigarettes are usually considered a gateway to drug use. For John, drug use was a gateway to smoking.

The National Child Safety Council (NCSC), on the other hand, believes that

smoking cigarettes leads to other drug use.

According to the NCSC, "gateway" drugs include alcohol, caffeine and nicotine products.

The NCSC determined that the use of one or more of these chemicals or substances could lead to use of stronger drugs.

The chemical substances listed are said by the NCSC to be dangerous because they are a health hazard, as well as being drugs that are legal and easy for minors to obtain.

The substances are a gateway to other drug use because they introduce an individual to a form of high that the person seeks to make stronger.

The NCSC also stated that every child who smokes or drinks will not become a drug addict, but there is potential they may.

Most of those who develop a dependency on drugs do so because of use of gateway drugs like cigarettes.

John, on the other hand, disagrees with the NCSC.

"I wouldn't consider anything a gateway drug, actually. If anything, other drugs are a gateway to smoking because smoking compliments other drugs," he said. "As far as marijuana, it's just that if you'll get high, (chances are) you'll do cocaine," he said.

As seen through his own experiences, John said he feels the reasons people use drugs vary from individual to individual.

He said many people he knew back in junior high were opposed to drinking or smoking.

Now, John said, most of them are potheads. In contrast, the other group of his classmates who used to do drugs

have quit.

"It depends on the person. Some people like the idea of getting messed on burning plants instead of blowing smoke," he said.

Smoking, he said, could lead some people to other drugs.

But for himself and others like him, smoking cigarettes is only part of the experimentation. People will do what they are surrounded by, he said.

If people are around cigarette chances are they will smoke cigarettes.

If they are around alcohol, chances are they will drink.

Cigarettes being considered a gateway to drug use is false, John said, cause such absolute generalizations do not exist.

"It's just a matter of how old you are and running into different drugs," he said.

Ways to Quit

Many who are trying to shake the smoking habit don't know just how to stop. A few of the most effective and popular ways to drop the addiction are listed below. Check out the facts and measure them up to a few of the others ways smokers are trying to drop the habit.

Nicotine Patches

Price: \$22 and up

Availability: Almost any drugstore

Duration: 10-12 weeks

Use: Most nicotine patches use a step-down method. The smoker will be on one patch that releases a level of nicotine for a period of time before switching down to lower levels. Those who smoke more than 10 cigarettes a day are advised to try the three-step method while those who smoke less are advised to try the two-step method.

Pros: Provides craving relief for relatively long periods of time

Cons: Potentially embarrassing if not worn under clothing

Nicotine Gum

Price: \$40

Availability: Most drugstores

Duration: Approximately 12 weeks

Use: The smoker should chew the gum until a tingling sensation or peppery taste is noticed. At that time, he should then place the gum between his cheek and his gum, leaving it there until the tingling goes away. Repeat this process for a half an hour or until the gum stops tingling.

Pros: Short-notice availability to calm unexpected craving

Cons: Flavor may not appeal to some users.

Hypnosis

Price: Varies due to location, the lowest starts at \$20

Availability: Only three centers in Omaha advertise this practice though many centers have hypnotists specialized in helping individuals quit smoking.

Duration: Sessions last anywhere from 1 hour to 3 hours depending on which center the smoker attends. One Omaha center said that the smoker can easily be nicotine-free after one session. Other centers may take longer.

Use: N/A

Pros: Can stop smoking after one session

Cons: Expensive and experimental

Hypnosis eliminates craving

By Danielle Rollins

The gum didn't work. The patch made you feel silly and quitting cold turkey is not a possibility.

There is still hope.

Nita Walling is a hypnotist working at a clinic in Omaha which specializes in helping people quit smoking.

She said the therapy helps people quit almost immediately by showing them they are stronger than their addiction.

Walling said hypnosis is a combination of will and want.

The smoker will go into an "altered state of consciousness" where he can tune out the noise and chatter of the everyday world and focus on what he wants to do, stop smoking.

Walling said the customer is able to realize he wants to quit and

makes the decision right then and there.

In other words, after the smoker comes out of hypnosis, he decides he is no longer a smoker.

As Walling put it, he is an "ex-smoker" and cigarettes no longer have the same spell over him.

"You won't be a smoker until you pick up a cigarette and start smoking again," Walling said.

She said hypnosis is a state of consciousness between being fully asleep and fully awake.

When the body is in this state of consciousness, she said the body and mind are able to relax.

The smoker is able to eliminate fear and doubt.

The smoker is no longer distracted by the outside world and it is easier for him to quit, Walling said.

"It [hypnosis] allows you to

get rid of the mind-chatter that goes on when you are conscious," she said.

The hypnosis center Walling works for charges \$50 a session.

Walling said it only takes one session to quit.

Depending on the client, the session can range from one to three hours long.

The length of time depends on the patient's experience with hypnosis.

She said if the patient has not been hypnotized before, it might take a longer session for the hypnosis to be fully effective.

"I like to give them longer sessions because I think that's what they need," she said.

The sessions are very personal. The hypnotists do not do group sessions. Instead, it is very one-on-one.

Walling said hypnosis is a therapeutic.

It is simply another way to motivate people to quit smoking.

She said that this particular type of hypnosis is not for entertainment purposes as some people believe.

The practice is strictly to help the patient.

"We don't do birthday parties or Christmas parties here," she said.

Walling said smokers must remember the key to quitting having the right frame of mind.

She said the decision to quit has to be made by the smoker himself.

"Nobody ever comes in here who does not want to quit," she said. "You don't do it because a doctor told you to quit. You do it because you want to."



Dec 20
LA #3



Photo by CHRIS APONICK/THE REGISTER

Anti-tobacco group speaks up

By Danielle Rollins

Just Eliminate Lies. This is the name and plea of a group of Iowa students organized to stop the tobacco advertising they said was aimed toward teens. According to Just Eliminate Lies (JEL), the tobacco industries are targeting America's youth as tomorrow's potential addict. JEL coordinator Tammi Blackstone said the organization began in July 2000, as a result of the Master Settlement Agreement funding gained from suing tobacco industries. Blackstone said the group toured local high schools to recruit students to attend a two- or three-day summit. The summit was a camping trip and meeting meant to inform students about JEL's mission. "We got the word out," Blackstone said. "Every school in the state heard about it." Blackstone said the first Summit resulted in creating a 30-member executive council that is still involved with JEL today. Recently, a second Summit was held to recruit new members. This allowed the executive council to lead the group and recruit new members themselves. Laura Westercam, who is a senior

at Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School, said she has been an active member of JEL since it first began. She is a member of the executive council and has attended both Summit meetings. Westercam said she became concerned about the smoking problem when she volunteered at a hospital. She said she saw people in the hospital with health problems related to smoking. "You see these people, 50 years old or however old they may be," she said. "They shouldn't be in a wheel chair because of emphysema." Westercam said this was the biggest reason why she became involved with antismoking campaigning. "It's time we strike back," Westercam said. "It's a serious problem. It's time they [tobacco companies] realize they have gone too far," she said. The organization goes through a professional advertising agency to come up with their commercials. Though they seek professional help for this aspect of their program, Westercam said that all of the final decisions go through the students before the public views their advertisements. She said this helps because she doesn't know what will impact fellow

teenagers the most. "I'm 17, but I don't know what every 17-year-old wants to see," Westercam said. She said many of the students involved with JEL are also involved with local organizations in their own community. Westercam is also involved with TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use). TATU targets the younger generation. Volunteers go to local elementary schools to put on skits and talk with the students about tobacco. Westercam said she thinks talking with the students before they are affected by tobacco advertising helps them to see the dangers of tobacco at an earlier age. "It is so important to reach these young people while they are still young people," she said. "The tobacco companies sure are." There are over 1,000 people involved with JEL, but Westercam said even if a lot of people are involved with the organization, it does not necessarily mean they can reach everyone. "That's a great, impressive number," she said. "But that's not going to reach every Iowa kid." Junior John Dieter of Cedar Falls High was a reporter researching JEL for a story when he realized that the organi-

zation appealed to him. He decided to contact the coordinator and find out how to get involved. He has been involved with JEL for about a year. Both Westercam and Dieter said although they do not approve of smoking itself, they do not look down on the smokers. "We're not saying that smokers are bad people," Westercam said. Dieter said that he has many friends who smoke. His friends all know he does not approve of smoking, but they also know he will not think less of them because of this habit. Dieter said that JEL does a lot of one-on-one work. As well as the Summit allows the executive council to connect with the hundreds of kids who attend. "Hopefully, they'll go back to their community and talk to them," Dieter said. Westercam said she thinks JEL will inform people who, otherwise, may not think about issues such as tobacco. She said she hopes the work she does will affect her community. "JEL is just a means to an end," she said. "An end to smoking."

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think tobacco advertising targets teenagers?



"No. It's not teens, it's older people, because you always see old people in their ads."
Carolyn Schaeffer, 11



"Yes. The youthful, fun-filled look in advertisements obviously isn't targeted towards your senior citizens."
Nate Rice, 12



"It doesn't target them, I think it influences them. It gives teens ideas, and it grows from there."

Kristen Daugherty, 11



"I don't really have thoughts about it that much, because I think a lot of teens' parents, including mine, don't talk about smoking."

Jackie Henkel, 9



"Sometimes, but I don't think it's direct. A lot of the times it's people in their mid 20s and 30s in these advertisements. I think a lot of people are seeing people smoking and saying, 'Why can't I?'"

Ben Krise, 10

Ex-smoker adjusts to disability

By Doug Meigs

With fluid dripping out from behind the napkin he holds over his throat, sometimes David Gourley has to stop talking mid-sentence. The liquid drains from what he calls his "trach," a device that was installed when he had a tracheotomy two years ago. The surgery was a result of excessive smoking. Gourley began smoking back when he was in high school. Gourley had open-heart surgery when he was 13 years old. His doctors told him never to start smoking. In a fit of defiance, he started two years later. He thought the defiance was cool and he wanted to be a member of the crowd, he said. He has had the trach for five years and is supposed to have it removed. Part of the reason it hasn't been removed is that he can't stop smoking until last August. If Gourley was given the opportunity to relive his youth and not start smoking, he said he would probably still smoke. "It's kind of hard to say you would or wouldn't have started smoking," he said. "Looking at it now, it was stupid to start. It was stupid, but hindsight is 20/20." Gourley grew up in South Carolina. He said in southern states, it was acceptable for high school stu-

dents to start smoking when they were underage. "When I went to high school, we could smoke between classes," Gourley said. "It just seemed like the thing to do." He said all of his friends smoked, as well as approximately 70 percent of all the students in his high school. Gourley said his smoking habit developed early and grew into a more than a pack-a-day addiction that lasted for over 30 years. From Gourley's many years of smoking, he said he developed throat cancer and emphysema. His throat cancer is what made his tracheotomy necessary. A tracheotomy is a cut that is made into the throat to enable air to flow to the lung. Dr. Anthony Yonkers said that tracheotomies are used not only to aid people suffering from cancer, but also those who have suffered from ailments such as throat trauma or infection. Yonkers said in cases like Gourley's, the tracheotomy's purpose is to allow the individual to breathe after the cancer has been removed. Gourley said he didn't realize he had cancer until he went to the doctor because of a sore throat that had been bothering him for three weeks or so. Gourley caught the cancer while it was in stage two of four, which his doctors said was beneficial for his

treatment. He said his voicebox would have to have been completely removed if he had waited only a few more weeks for his cancer to escalate to stage four. Because he didn't stop smoking after the tracheotomy, Gourley said the scarring from where the cancer once was didn't subside. The scarring prevented the air to flow through his throat. He said he had to return to the hospital and have the stitches in his neck and the trach removed. From all the surgery and radiation treatment Gourley received, he said his thyroid as well as part of his taste buds and were damaged. Even after all Gourley's problems resulting from smoking, he said he didn't plan on quitting until his most recent heart surgery. While in the hospital, he was not allowed to smoke. It was a change that Gourley said was for the best. He stopped smoking permanently once he left the hospital. Now that he has stopped smoking, the scarring in his throat has diminished. Now, he said he has more hope that he trach will be removed in the future. "You kind of wonder what the outcome's going to be, but I never did feel sorry for myself," he said.

Parents start group due to child's illness

By Paula Salhany

Julia Dopheim has never said a full sentence. She never will. She is three years old and soon, her health will start to decline, making her unable to dance and sing like she does now.

On Oct. 25, 2000, Julia was diagnosed with Sanfilippo Syndrome.

Sanfilippo Syndrome is a rare disease that effects the brain, Dr. Chester Whitley at the University of Minnesota said.

Children who are born with this disease lack an enzyme that breaks down long chains of sugar in the brain.

"Sanfilippo is a genetic disorder, so it is not contagious and you cannot be infected by it," he said.

Besides the fact that Julia can only say a few words and often gets restless and hyperactive, she lives a normal life.

One particular Tuesday, Julia's older sister Emma wakes her up from her scheduled one-hour nap. Soon, she walks sheepishly out of her room, sucking her thumb. She has lines on her face from sleeping.

"You slept hard today, didn't you sweetie," Becca Dopheim, Julia's mother, said as she gives her daughter a hug.

Julia smiles and sits on the couch with her mother, her older sister Emma and younger sister Olivia. Andy, her father, is at work today.

Becca looks at Julia and asks her to go get the Lego's for Olivia to play with, but she only smiles and keeps sucking her thumb.

"Sometimes, I'll talk to her but she does not quite understand what I'm telling her," Becca said. "I keep on noticing subtle things like that that are changing."

Doctors have told Andy and Becca that developmentally, Julia has reached a plateau and soon, she will start to regress.

"We are devastated," Becca said. "I'm devastated that I have to watch my child slowly die. I don't want her sisters to see that."

Luckily, neither of the other girls have the syndrome. Becca said because the risk is too high, they will not have another child.

Even though at this time, there is no cure or even a treatment for this disease, there is still hope.

After Julia was diagnosed, Becca and Andy began to look on the Internet for similar cases. They found a handful of parents who started foundations to raise money for research to try and find a cure for Sanfilippo.

"We contacted one family, but they were too overwhelmed with the paperwork that they said no to us putting our money into their fund," Becca said. "So Andy and I decided the only thing we could do was start our own."

They named the foundation 'Julia's Hope.' Its main goal is to raise as much money as possible to sponsor doctors who are conducting research to find a cure for Sanfilippo syndrome.

In order to raise money, help from volunteers and organization is critical, Becca said.

The family has held a concert, a dinner and a dance called Spring in September. Supporters also gathered at a soup supper held at the Dopheim's church to raise money to help Julia.

The soup supper was held on Holy Thursday

as a free offering to the parishioners of the church, Pat Johns, a family friend who helped organize the function, said.

"The soup supper was a big success," she said. "Julia was running around smiling and wearing a pink dress. Pink is one of the words she can still say, so everything that night was pink."

There is no shortage of volunteers to help the Dopheims. Becca doesn't actually know how many volunteers have tried to help her daughter, but she is grateful to all of them.

She said there are a group of fifteen people who are on the core committee. All the members have found volunteers who have found other volunteers.

"It is really powerful what people are capable of doing," Becca said. "If anyone doubts that there is goodness in people, they should come talk to me."

A major source of hope and support comes from a foundation called the National MPS (mucopolysaccharide) Society.

The society's main goal is to provide support for parents and research in order to find a cure for Sanfilippo and other related disorders.

Becca and Andy recently went to their first MPS conference in Los Angeles. While there, they were able to make contact with some of the other parents who had children in the same situation as Julia.

"It was comforting to be able to see these other families and know that I was not the only one who was going through this. It was nice to be able to reach out to other families and talk to them about their experiences," she said.

The conference was not only for parents, but scientists and doctors also attended.

Whitley was one of the doctors at the convention. In 1980, he was one of the first doctors to perform a bone marrow transplant on a patient with the disorder.

He said even though the bone marrow transplant did not stop the disease from progressing, it did provide useful information that can be used in the future.

Currently, the most promising research is in gene therapy.

"The way it works is we locate the gene that makes the enzyme that is missing and they inject it into the patients body in hopes that the gene will start to produce the enzyme," Whitley said.

He said even if this treatment worked, the mental retardation has already begun, but there is a way to screen new born babies. If screened, doctors can tell if the baby has the disorder before damage occurs.

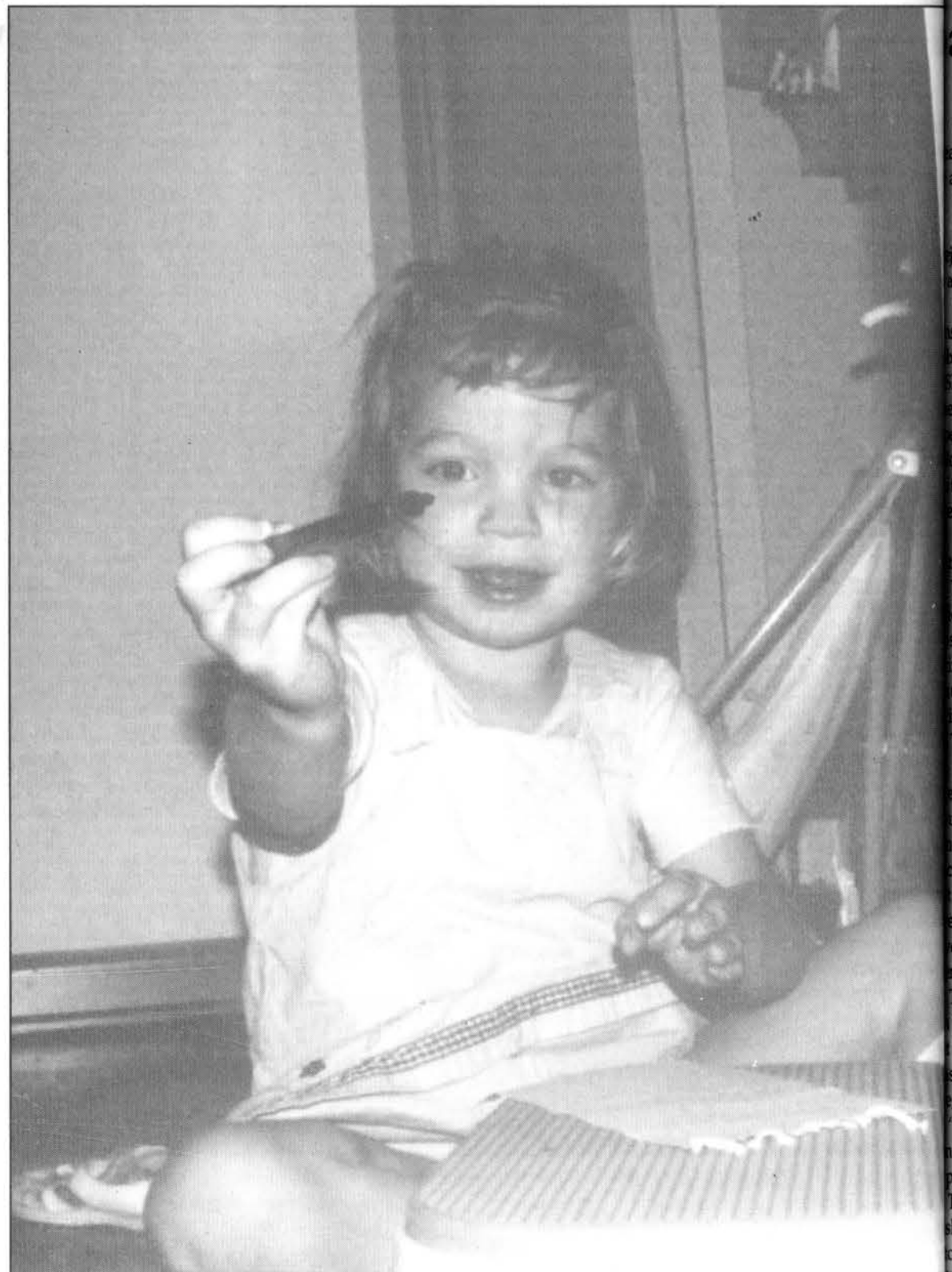
"Right now, new born screening is done for different types of diseases such as Sickle Cell Anemia, but not for Sanfilippo Syndrome. We are trying to publicize this," he said.

As it is, children with the disorder are usually diagnosed when they are two to six years old.

A good physician will notice mild physical features that are different from the rest of the family. Children with the disorder will also be developmentally slower than other kids their age.

"At the age of about 10, when normal kids are learning their times tables, these children will not know how to count," Whitley said.

Not only will they not be able to count, most won't even be able to feed themselves, let alone



Julia Dopheim plays in her room after waking up from her scheduled one-hour nap. On October, is restlessness. As the disease progresses, doctors will be able to treat symptoms but there is still no cure for Sanfilippo.

Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER-GAZETTE

swallow.

Becca took Julia to a sleeping doctor because she was not sleeping well, a symptom children with this disorder usually experience.

"We went through two months of hell," Becca said. "They kept trying different tests and they kept coming back negative."

Finally after she changed doctors, they got the answer. Julia was then diagnosed with Sanfilippo.

"Julia will always be a baby. Sometimes it is hard for her older sister to understand that," Becca said. Until a cure is found, doctors can only treat Julia

for specific symptoms.

At 2:30 p.m. the same Tuesday, Julia was up for an hour. She wheels a play stroller into living room saying "Bye-bye" to no one in particular.

"Not yet sweetie," Becca said. Because of Sanfilippo, Julia gets restless and to go out and exercise. Today, they are going to zoo.

Julia pushes her stroller up to the door and presses her face against the glass.

"We have good days and bad days," Becca said. "But there is always hope."

Wireless technology hurts communication, professor says

By Paula Salhany

Junior Dan Cavanaugh looked up and swerved into a median.

"My front tire hit, then my back tire hit and sparks were flying everywhere," he said.

His front tire had popped and both of his rims were bent. Luckily, no one was hurt.

The main reason Cavanaugh got in the accident was because he was paying attention to his cell phone and not the road. He was looking for a phone number when his friends yelled at him to look at the road.

While, like many people, he does think cell phones cause people to do careless things while they are driving, according to statistics from American Automobile

Association, only 1.5 percent of car accidents are caused by cell phones.

Cell phones have made people more accessible and the idea of contacting someone while they are at home has disappeared, Jeremy Lipschultz, communications professor at UNO said.

Lipschultz doesn't think cell phones have invaded the privacy of the population because there is always an off button and people can always get their messages at a later date.

"Technology has changed the community so much that people sometimes have to ask themselves what the best way to communicate," he said. "It is sometimes better for people to walk the extra ten feet to talk to someone face to face

rather than send an e-mail."

There are both advantages and disadvantages to technology such as cell phones, Lipschultz said.

"A major disadvantage is safety," he said. "People try to drive while they are on the phone and along with other distractions, it can cause accidents."

In a study done by the National U.S. Highway Traffic Safety Administration, out of 1069 people, 75 percent said it was unsafe to drive a car and talk on a cell phone and 22 percent said it was safe.

Three percent said they did not know one way or another.

Cavanaugh said he no longer uses his cell phone while he is driving.

If he needs a number or if he needs to talk to someone, he will either pull over or look while he is at a stoplight.

Some people worry that society might rely on technology too much, Lipschultz said.

"When people talk on their cell phones or e-mail someone they are losing the facial expressions and silent communications that one gets when they talk face to face," he said.

Lipschultz suggests that people think about the method they use to communicate and to take every once in a while to talk to someone in person instead of e-mailing them.

That human element, he said is vital to communication and is quickly being lost.

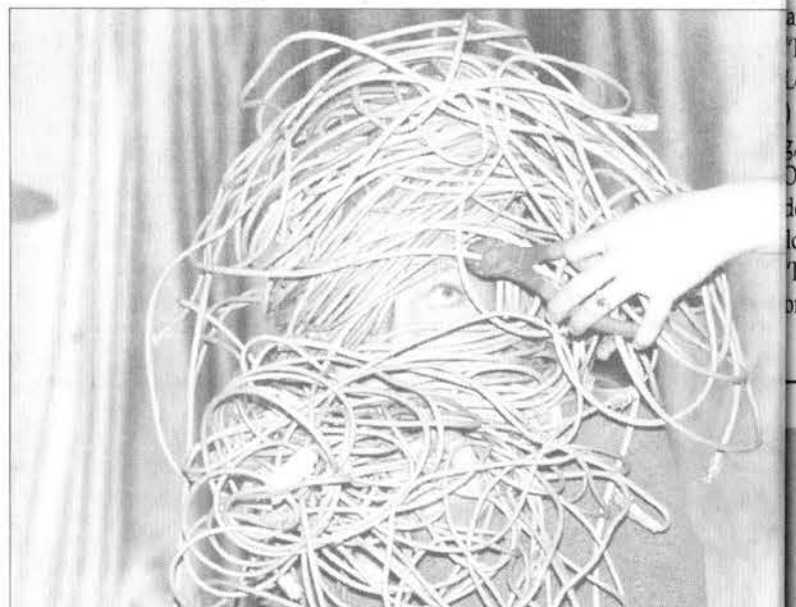


Photo illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER-GAZETTE

This photo illustration shows how some people have been wrapped up in technology. With wireless technology as like this change only makes matters worse, some professors

■ EASON

Starting linebacker benched after eligibility investigation finds violation

From EASON, page 1

the district would be called upon to help guide the administration when a legal matter must also be enforced in school.

But on the day that Pennington learned about Eason's charge, Central's SPA, Mary Stiverson, was unavailable.

Stiverson said it is not anyone's job to supply information about students involved in the legal system to the school. A third party must supply that information, she said.

Varsity football coach Joe McMenamin said he turned the information he learned from other football players over to

Pennington.

"That's his (Pennington's) responsibility," McMenamin said.

The school nurse was also required to fill out an incident report and send it to administrators after the victim was sent to her office, principal Gary Thompson said.

Steve Nelson, director of Student and Community Services for OPS, said the school had several avenues it could have taken after learning of the charges against Eason.

"Let's say you have a volatile situation, like an assault," Nelson said. "You may want to take a look at moving a person, even to a dif-

ferent school setting."

But even with both the coach's and nurse's accounts of what happened, Eason was still given a lax punishment.

"The communication that needed to take place simply didn't take place," Thompson said.

The fact that the incident was reported at the school helped, but there was not enough information immediately available to make an informed decision, Thompson said.

"We didn't have all the pieces, or even the wherewithal to ask someone to get all the pieces," Thompson said.

Nelson said the district will

eventually have something to say about the mismanaged punishment Eason initially received.

"Ultimately, the chain of command would end with the principal, who tends to delegate this sort of thing out," Nelson said.

Thompson said it is his duty, but he gives it to administrators to handle.

"I think it's everyone's expectation that I know every expulsion, every suspension. And I simply don't. I know a lot of them, but not all. I glance at their sheets when they come across my desk, I pick out some names, but it's impossible for me to know every problem in this school," Thomp-

son said.

Thompson said he thinks Central has dealt with Eason as he should have been dealt with from the start.

Eason was kicked off the team prior to the Oct. 19 game against Burke. By the following Monday, all evidence he had ever been part of the team was removed from the locker room.

His tackle totals were removed from the statistics for the defense and his name and number were removed from the team roster.

The five games he took part in will be his only athletic involvement this year.

The district has many reasons for not allowing an athlete to trouble with the law to play.

According to the Code of Conduct, the district believes part of learning is accepting responsibility for one's actions. That reason, the Code of Conduct extends to hours and places beyond the usual boundaries. It shows students how strong intent to work with all students their decision-making is.

"Did we make a mistake? Maybe. But we thought it right until we got more information. At that point, we tried to do it as best we could," Thompson said.

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SEA's special meeting delays allot initiative

By Joe Meyer

Social studies teacher Carol Krejci is the idea of petitioning the public to pay raise. But she could deal with it if needed. "You got to do what you got to do," she said. "If the Legislature does not do anything, I see no viable alternative." Because of the state's budget problem and the recent terrorist attacks, the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) decided to postpone deciding whether or not to petition for a raise. The initiative is a special meeting held in Lincoln on Nov. 29. The association will reconsider it at its next meeting in April. The teachers would collect 125,000 signatures to a half-sales tax on the November ballot, NSEA president Duane Obermier said.

The four NSEA proposals

Eliminating districts' spending caps

Increasing districts' levee allowances

Tuition assistance for teachers who return to college

Allowing teachers to voluntarily extend their paid year by five days

The association called the special session because it wanted to know what its next step should be while trying to increase teacher salaries throughout the state, Obermier said.

"We simply wanted some direction from a large cross-section of members," Obermier said.

The members decided to write four legislative bills that the association will push through the Unicameral during its next session.

The four suggestions included renegeing the spending and levee caps the state imposes on school districts, waiving tuition for teachers who are enrolled in the state's graduate school and allowing teachers to voluntarily extend their school year by five days.

Krejci, who also occupies a spot on NSEA's board of directors, said she expected the association's decisions.

The one thing she was disappointed in was that the member's did not approve a bill that would establish a minimum teaching wage in the state.

"Sometimes teachers are their own worst enemies," she said. "They were so busy being fair and reasonable, they kind of shot themselves in the foot."

Krejci said she was pleased that the association postponed discussing the ballot initiative until April. This way, the teachers can wait until the Legislature has another chance to pass legislation.

"I think a lot of it depends on what the Legislature does," she said. "(This year) we can say 'If you don't do anything, we will go over your head.'"

Obermier said that if the association decides to petition the public, the effort would consume a lot of its resources.

"It would be a very big project for our organization to take on," he said.

Stressed out

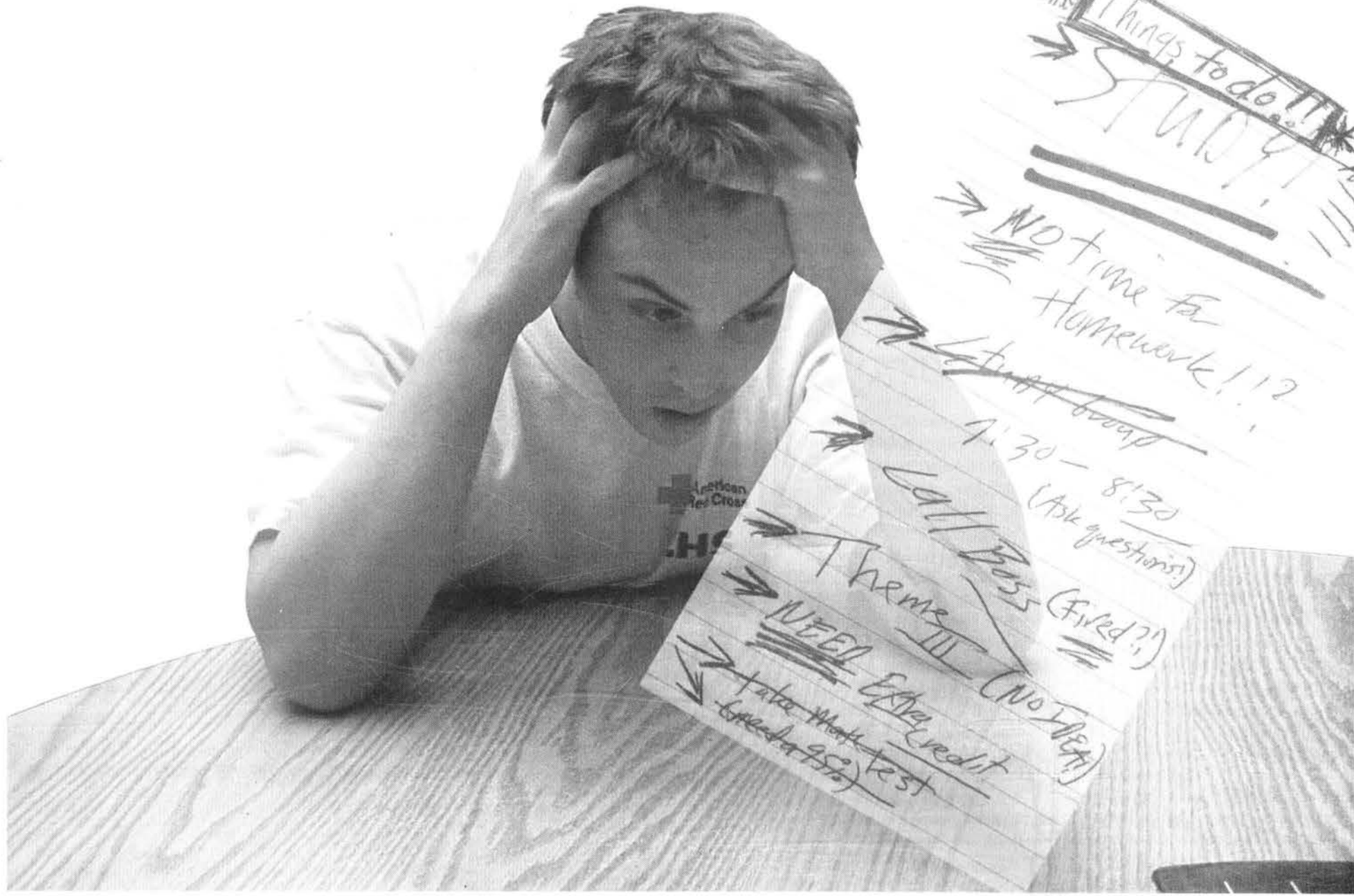


Photo illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

In this photo illustration, senior Michael Heller shows how stress can affect Central students in every day life. Even with some way to keep track of what needs to be done, classes, sports, activities and social problems can all have an intense effect on a student, Linda Molyneaux, the chairperson for Central's guidance department, said.

Students feel pressures of everyday life, counselor says

By Matt Wynn

Between completing Calculus homework and attending voice lessons, senior Hallie Wunsch finds she just doesn't have as much time as she needs.

"Oh yeah, I'm losing it," she said. Not only is she trying to take (and pass) the core classes she needs to graduate, but she's also enrolling in classes that better suit what she would like to do for a career. Namely, sing.

"I've got CHS Sginers and voice lessons. I've got all my classes. I've got Calc and English. I have early release, but that doesn't really do much," Wunsch said.

Since it's her senior year, Wunsch also has to worry about applying to colleges, registering for admittance tests and scholarship options.

Add these stresses to the social relationships Wunsch has, and you have one stressed teen.

"There simply aren't enough hours in a day," she said. But Wunsch isn't alone.

The beginning of the year is one of the most stressful times for many Central students, Counseling Director

Linda Molyneaux said. "Homework, simply not understanding, job and financial responsibilities, personal problems, career goals, parents, the list goes on and on, and it can really weigh on a kid," Molyneaux said.

The counseling department tries to let students know what their options are when it comes to stress.

Counselors start teaching students how to handle stress freshman year. They go into Pathways classes and talk about what stress is and different ways to deal with it during the first year of high school.

"You can never remove stress completely, it's a fact of life," Molyneaux said. "We try to tell the kids that, and get them to understand it."

Since everyone has to deal with stress, it is imperative for students to learn different ways to deal with it.

And hopefully, students will choose positive ways of dealing with it, she said. Sometimes students turn to unhealthy habits in order to relieve stress.

Molyneaux said she has dealt with students who have done almost everything to deal with stress, including chemical dependence.

"Inappropriate behavior at school, blowing up at a teacher or a friend, alcohol and chemical dependencies, running away, we see it all in here. And that's just the tip of the iceberg," she said.

Counselors try to let students know they can come to the counselors office if they need to talk about any problems they're having.

Two counselors, Ron Moore and Karen Cirulis, are also planning on holding stress management classes before first semester is over, Molyneaux said.

The classes are basically support groups for students who are having difficulties dealing with the stresses that come along with being in high school, Cirulis said.

These support groups have been held in past years, so many students have already attended the classes.

Senior Byron George has already attended some of the support groups in past years. The first year he had early release, he decided to attend the classes during ninth hour in order to get through his tough classes.

"I learned all sorts of tricks for when I flip out," George said. "When I get really

bad I go play a quick game of rugby, get bruised up a little. When I just need to take a quick break, I sit back with a nice, refreshing glass of Coca-Cola."

Molyneaux said there are a variety of techniques the counselors use for helping students deal with stress.

She said since stress is always going to be a factor, students simply need to learn how to budget their time wisely.

But if that doesn't help, a student can always come to the counseling office for a little extra help.

"What you always ask is, 'What needs to happen to make you feel better?'" Molyneaux said. "And there are thousands of answers to that question."

Molyneaux said the beginning of the year is the second most stressful time of year, second only to the end of first semester.

That's when students are not only worrying about applying to colleges and scholarships, but are stuck right in the thick of it, she said.

But no matter when stress gets to students the most, it is the counselor's job to help kids through it, Molyneaux said, and students are encouraged to ask any counselor for help.

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Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Officer R. Barrett tells drivers they are not allowed to park in the drop-off zone at Eppley Airfield. Security at the airport was increased after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Students deal with extra security, delays at airport

By Joe Meyer

The increased security provisions at Eppley Airfield did not cause problems for the Academic Decathlon's trip to Chicago, students said.

"They make it out to be absolutely horrible," junior Gavin Jensen said. "But they look at your photo I.D. only a couple times."

Despite the fact that the group of students had to arrive two hours early, the increased security did not cause very many problems for the group, adviser Vicki Deniston-Reed said.

Reed said the recent security measures did not cause any delays for the team. The students were able to visit the Chicago Art Museum on time.

"It went very well," she said. "I can't wait for next year."

Reed said the security was higher than it usually was, but not as bad as the group expected.

"We had people bring their birth certificates, but no one was asked for more than one piece (of I.D)," she said.

Mike Pecha, chief of airport police at Eppley, said individual airlines decide what identification they require, but most of them have increased the requirements.

Pecha also said individual airlines have implemented random

searches of checked luggage since the terrorist attacks.

Airport security has also increased, especially concerning parking around the airport.

Also, airport security officers search all vehicles entering the airport.

Pecha said one of the most noticeable changes is the presence of National Guard Military Police inside the airport. He said the guards help airport security report disturbances.

Junior Robert Montag said he felt more secure with guardsman at the airport.

"It just seemed like something to keep people happy and it worked," Montag said.

Pecha said most passengers understood the delays were for a good cause.

"There's not enough room to be fluid (with operations) anymore," he said. "It's better to be safe."

Montag and Jensen both said that security at the Chicago Art Museum was about the same as it would have been before the attacks. The museum administration wanted the students to leave their bags at the door and guards searched some visitors when they entered the exhibit.

Park's re-opening brings mixed feelings for students

By Paula Salhany

Peony Park is back. After it closed in 1994, the land of the old park was sold off.

But now, Carl Jennings, president and CEO of Peony Park, Inc. has rebuilt and reopened the amusement park in Wahoo, Neb.

"There are many reasons why the park closed. One was because of death in the Malec family and another because of a large amount of debt," he said. "To put it lightly, the family had a lot of problems."

The founder, Central graduate Joseph Malec Sr., wanted the park to be a place where families could have a good time.

Originally, the park only had a ballroom for dancing and live music shows, Jennings said.

The new park, called Peony Park: the Legend Returns, has been open for most of the summer. People are able to come for "sneak-a-peak" weekends to see the new park grounds.

While quite a bit of the park is up and running, it is not finished yet, Jennings said.

"We have an Olympic-sized pool, but it has not been filled," he said.

Junior Liz Schulze remembers when the park was on Cass Street and very close to her house.

"I remember going and riding the Ferris wheel. But I don't think I would go to the new park just because it is really far away," she said.

She said she also remembers Peony Park being a fun place to go. She also remembers it always being dirty.

While some students like Schulze would not go to the park, some students are excited about the reopening.

"I think Omaha needs a place like Peony Park. There is really nothing else to do something here," freshman Courtney Thomas said. "I would go even though it is kind of far away."

Jennings said he is hoping the new Peony Park's will continue where the old one left off in 1994.

Drug courts stops crime without overcrowding jails, attorney says

By Joe Meyer

Defendants walk up freely and shake hands with the judge. The audience behind them starts to applaud.

Although it is not normal courtroom procedure, on one question what is going on.

It seems normal. And then come the magic words.

"You came back negative," the judge proclaims.

This isn't a normal courtroom.

This is the Douglas County Drug Court.

"You wouldn't see any of this going on in any other courtroom," county attorney Corey O'Brien explains during a Thursday session. "It's a real different court."

The drug court, which is the only program like its kind in the state, is an alternative way to deal with drug users who are caught breaking the law.

The program allows them to stay out of jail and off probation. Dealers are not allowed in the system because the county considers their crimes violent offenses, no matter what the individual circumstances regarding their case.

"The competitive nature of the trade (makes it violent)," O'Brien said. "They are always fighting over new trade."

"The potential (for violence) is always there."

The morning after someone is arrested for a nonviolent drug crime, O'Brien reviews their case and decides if they can be referred to the program. Arrestees cannot have a history of violence and they cannot have weapons on them when they are arrested.

The drug court is a diverse program. Everyone from first-time offenders to convicted criminals are allowed in the program.

The drug they were using when they were arrested, either heroin or crack-cocaine, does not matter to O'Brien when he is deciding who to place in the

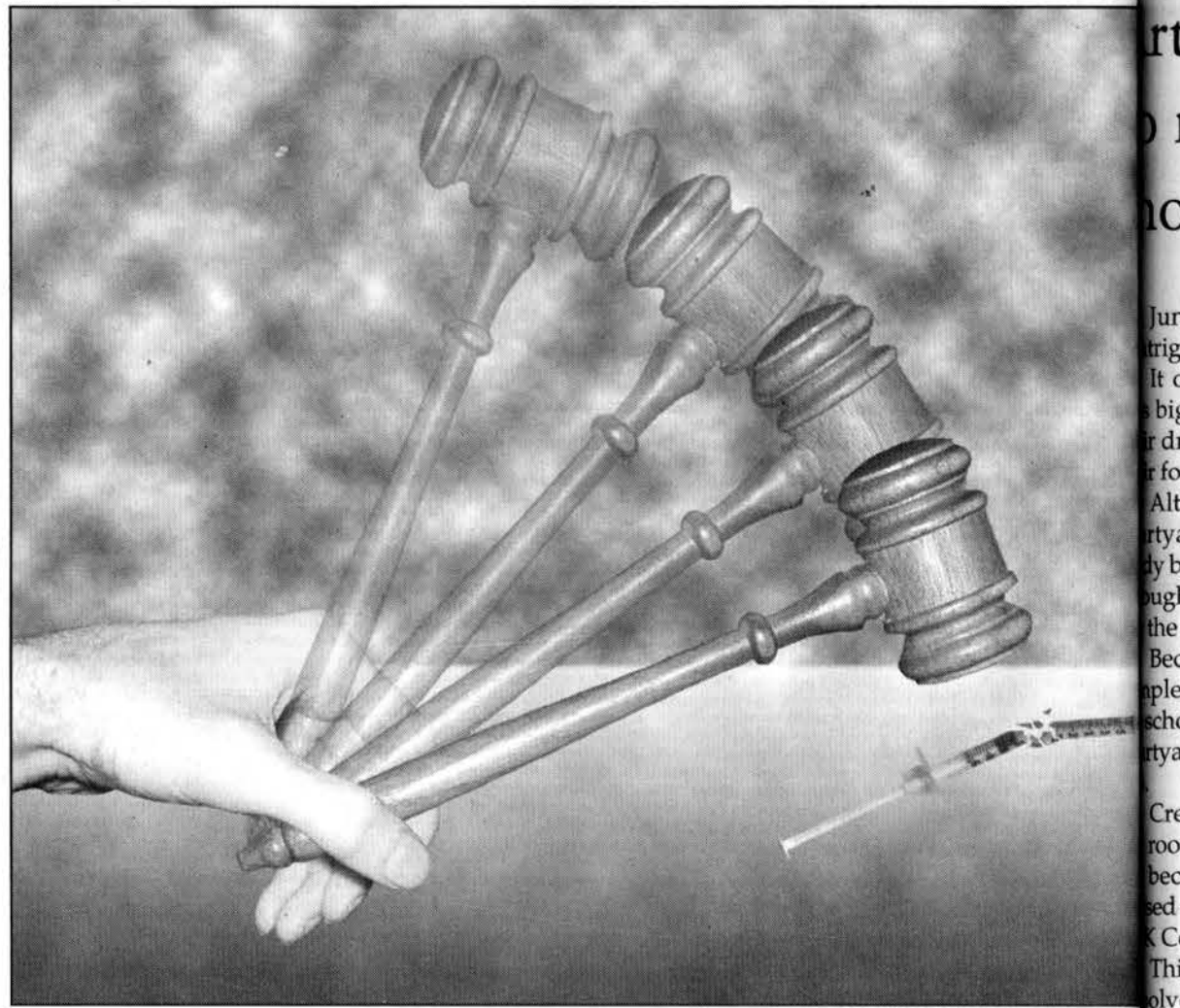


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

This photo illustration shows the Douglas County Drug Court's opinion of how its system works. The people in the system think the law can help users break their addictions, simply by having a judge levy a strict penalty involving drug tests and diversion techniques.

program. Abusers of all drugs are accepted.

But the goal is still the same.

The court does not care about what someone has done in the past.

The only thing that matters is how the defendant handles the treatment program. If they show up to all the sessions and stay clean, they pass.

In order to successfully pass the program and have their charges dropped, participants have to meet several criteria. The person has to show stable employment, receive drug education and test negative to urine analysis throughout the 18 months, the attorney said.

If any of these are not met, their case is directed back to criminal court.

"Our goal is to get them away

from drugs," O'Brien said. "We don't hold that (previous uses) against them."

"They get in trouble when they don't show up."

O'Brien said the drug court has been very successful during its four-year existence. Most of the people who enter the program successfully complete it and stay clean, he said.

There are many differences between the drug court and being on probation, O'Brien said.

"Drug Court's probably a little tougher and it comes before you're convicted," he said. "They're seen a lot more then they would on probation."

The court has been so successful that other counties in the state are starting to catch on, O'Brien said. Lancaster and Sarpy Counties will soon start similar versions

of the project.

The best part about the program is that it allows lawyers judges to focus on the drug users, O'Brien said.

Instead of charging all people who are arrested for possession they can focus their efforts where.

"The great thing for us is sending them (users) to court, it lets us concentrate punishing the dealers," he said.

Also, the drug court is a better rehabilitation tool than O'Brien said. Instead of being locked up, they receive the treatment they need.

"The whole reason we have the drug court is because most of these people are working for next high," O'Brien said. "They rob stores, they write bad checks, they victimize society."

Newest members inducted into Hall of Fame

By Paula Salhany

The night started with an elegant dinner. Afterwards, the eleven inductees to the Central Hall of Fame and guests went to the auditorium, where a presentation was held.

Many of the honorees talked of fond memories from when they were students at Central.

On the list of honorees was Alan J. Heeger, Nobel Prize winner for chemistry, Gerry Thomas the inventor of the TV dinner and Richard Pfaff, professor of history at the University of North Carolina and noted scholar of medieval liturgy.

In their speeches the honorees talked about why they chose to go to Central and what they learned while they went to school.

"My fondest memory was probably singing the Gilbert and Sullivan numbers for the roadshow," Gerry Thomas said.

"I would always have a bit of stage fright before I went on, but as the night went on, I would just start singing away."

Thomas said he invented the TV dinner because there was a surplus of turkeys and Swanson was given a challenge to remedy the problem. So Thomas designed the tray and gave the TV dinner its name.

Other honorees were members of the debate team and music department.

"I remember how much fun it was to sing in the entrance of the auditorium where the ceiling was low," Richard Pfaff said. "It was great and it sounded like you were singing in the bathtub. We would sing our hearts out."

Pfaff also has fond memories of taking Latin classes. In his speech, he talked about how grateful he was to Central for keeping the tradition of teaching Latin as a foreign language alive.

Dr. Jack Lewis, who was in

charge of the ceremony, said he was amazed with the newest inductees.

"This is probably the best year yet," he said. "I think we will have a hard time topping it in the years to come."

The selection process was a hard one for Lewis and other committee members, he said.

The members all met at the Pancake House on 78th and Dodge to look over the nominations that were sent to them.

"We met at the Pancake House partly because I have a room there and partly because when we would meet at Central, it would be late at night and all the girls would be scared," he said. "So we decided to just go ahead and make our decisions at the Pancake House."

Once they completed their normal meeting business, the committee looked over the nominations sent to them and they weeded out the best of the best.

"We had about twenty two finalists this year, but naturally had to narrow it down," he said.

"So we send out for more nominations and letters to narrow choices down as much as possible."

The committee has a special way of voting for the final honorees. This year, the top eleven received so many votes they decided to have eleven nominees instead of last year's sixteen.

The eleven that did not get picked will be in the running next year's induction.

"There were actually proposed to be thirteen inducted this year but one person turned down and the other was in many and had no way of getting back here in time. So we ended up going for the eleven."

All eleven plaques were presented on the north side of the first floor along with the other inductees.

The night was a great success, Lewis said.



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Renovations continue

Art classes return to room, physics moved to library

By Joe Meyer

Juniors Will Anderson and James Wright liked the new room a lot. It offered a nice atmosphere and it was big enough for them to spread out their drawings and art materials during their fourth hour Studio Art class.

Although most students think of the courtyard as a place to eat lunch and study before school, the area held classes throughout the days on a new look during the last few months.

Because of improvements that were completed in the art and physics rooms, the school moved many classrooms to the courtyard, library and writing lab in room

Crews removed plaster panels from rooms on the top floor of the building because years of water damage had caused the roof to leak, Rich Ridpath with K Construction said.

This was a safety concern that had to be solved immediately, Ridpath said.

"I would be real surprised if those classrooms aren't 50 years old," principal Gary Thompson said.

Art department head Larry Andrews said the construction caused minimal problems for the 43 art classes that had to be moved. Dozens of physics classes were moved after the crews finished in the art room.

The situation simply caused a lot of rearranging, he said. It was easier than expected.

Besides students having to become comfortable with the new room, teachers had to change their class plans in order to accommodate the new environment, Andrews said.

The classes that were most affected by the changes were the pottery classes, Andrews said.

Unlike the other classes that were moved to move their supplies to the new area, pottery was different.

Margaret Quinn, who teaches four pottery classes, said she had to change her curriculum a little because the clay could be stored in the courtyard. This caused some students to be a little anxious.

"They want to work on clay," Quinn said. "That's why they took the class, but can't do the production part all the time."

Quinn said she taught students about concepts and ideas while the classes were out of the room.

It was the same material she teaches every year, except she had to teach it at a different time while the classes were located in the courtyard.

This allowed for the students to keep working during the few weeks they were



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER
Brian Barnes fastens his harness before removing old plaster from the ceiling in the physics rooms on the fourth floor. The work displaced the classes for several weeks and physics classes are still scattered throughout the building.

out of the room.

"My students are working everyday," she said, "and those who aren't do not have an excuse."

Overall, Quinn said, the recent construction might be turn out to be beneficial for the students.

"It's probably to their benefit because they will be more prepared for the midterm," she said.

The biggest downfalls of holding classes in the courtyard were that it was easy for students to be distracted and some students tried to walk out of class more often, Quinn said.

But the courtyard accommodated the classes surprisingly well, she said. The area had access to a storage closet, a wet sink and other essentials.

Quinn said students do not need fancy classrooms to succeed.

As long as the expectations and curriculum is the same, everything will work out.

"We've been pushing the quality and they know that," she said.

Although the courtyard worked well for the time needed, it did have its inevitable drawbacks, Junior Nora Prazan said.

"I like having art in the courtyard but it's hard to finish our drawings when we don't have the things we have in the art room," he said.

Although the students said the courtyard arrangement worked well for their art classes, they didn't think it would be practical to hold other classes in the lunch area.

The inability to hear teachers when they are lecturing would probably not work for an English or math class, Anderson said. Also, students could become easily distracted by the open area and other aspects of the area.

But since the art classes were production-oriented class, the arrangements worked well.

Portables to close down practice field

Although it may cause some problems the solution to next year's construction problems was clear, principal Gary Thompson said.



Portables.

Twenty or thirty of them on the turf.

To get through next year's renovation project, that is what students and teachers will have to deal with principal Gary Thompson said.

As evidenced with the art and physics classes for the past months, there is not a lot of room to hold the classes in the building, he said. This is the easiest way to handle the situation.

"Basically, the turf will be shut down for a year and we will move in a large number of portables," Thompson said. "It's the only way to do it quickly and safely while working around 2500 students."

Thompson said he thinks the school will empty an entire floor of classes at a time and move the students and teachers to the portables on the turf. That way, construction crews will be able to work on more rooms at a time.

All in all, Thompson said the classrooms should be out of the school for a couple months at a time.

Freshman Vasili Chaika said walking outside to go to classes will bother him, especially in the winter.

The inability to use the turf and track for gym classes will cause problems, freshman Brad Bolden said. Football practices will have to be moved, too.

"What are we going to do if we got to go outside?" Bolden asked. "What are we going to do if we need to use the track?"

Thompson said no plans have been made to accommodate for the gym classes and some athletic practices yet, but the school looked at all the inconveniences the project would bring when it was deciding what to do.

This way was the best and would bring the least amount of inconveniences.

Although the students said that next year's plans will disturb the school environment, they admit that this is the only way for the school to deal with the projects.

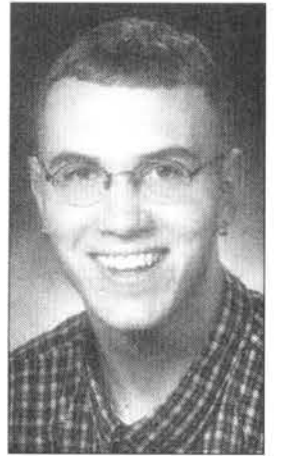
"There is no other place, really," freshman Ray Bass said, "because downstairs, there's classrooms."

Graduate will carry Olympic torch through city in January

By Paula Salhany

Central graduate Nick Joerz will carry the Olympic torch through Omaha Jan. 10 on its way to the 2002 winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Joerz, who is a member of the class of 2001, was chosen to carry this year's torch, which is 33 inches long, three inches wide at the top and 0.5 inches wide at the bottom.



Joerz

Joerz is one of thousands of participants who will carry the torch throughout the United States for 65 days before it reaches Salt Lake City for the games.

Each school in the district was asked to nominate a student who rose above his potential and made remarkable achievements, guidance department chairperson Linda Molyneaux said.

Molyneaux nominated Joerz because he had a successful story to tell.

"I had been kicked out of 8th grade for throwing a firecracker in the hall," Joerz said. "Then I was kicked out of high school. At one point I was in jail."

Joerz then moved in with his aunt and started dating a girl who helped him to stay focused.

"My aunt did a lot more for me than my mom and my girlfriend was also a big help," he said.

He turned his life around and ended up graduating in five years and speaking at his class' graduation ceremony last May.

Because of his story of success, Molyneaux said she instinctively chose to nominate him for the honor.

"His story immediately came to mind," she said. "I sent over a letter of recommendation I had written for him for college and they chose it."

In the end, Joerz was chosen to carry the torch when it comes to Omaha.

Joerz said he has mixed feelings about being a part of the relay team.

"I'm really scared about carrying the torch," he said. "I really hope they don't make me run very far because I'm really not in shape. But I am also really excited."

The torch for the winter Olympics is estimated at just under three pounds and the shape resembles an icicle.

"Each runner will carry the torch for .2 miles, about one lap around a track," Mark Walker of the Salt Lake Olympic Commission (SLOC) said. "The relay is actually a passing of the flame and not of the torch itself."

For each Olympic torch, the flame is lit in Athens, Greece with rays of the sun. Olive leaves are placed in an ancient bowl and lit with mirrors. There is also a small relay through Athens, he said.

The flame will be flown from Athens to Washington D.C. and then to Atlanta where the relay will begin.

"[The relay] is starting in Atlanta because it is the site of the last Olympics on U.S. ground," Walker said.

At the end of each night, there will be a special evening ceremony to celebrate the Olympic flame.

Omaha will host an evening ceremony the day that the flame travels through.

Over all, the flame will be carried over 13,500 miles by over 11 thousand participants. Even though a large number of people carrying the torch, it is still a great honor, Walker said.

Joerz said he is looking forward to this historic opportunity.

PASKINS

Graduate was on floor where first plane crashed, wife says

in PASKINS, page 1

father called her that day. "He said, 'You have to turn on the TV, something terrible has happened in New York,'" Inez said.

After that, she checked her husband's errand and saw that he was staying in Marriott hotel, which was next to the towers. After calling his company, called hospitals and the police in New York looking for her husband.

It was three days later when she found that he was so close to the scene of attack.

That is when she stopped looking for him and started grieving.

After that, the family held a memorial service in Anaheim even though rescuers have not found his body.

During his four years at Central, he was involved in many activities. He played football, was a member of the

wrestling team and was involved in ROTC. In fact, he played on the same team as professional running back Gale Sayers.

"He sat on the bench and Gale Sayers played," Inez said.

Jerold also enrolled in honors English classes while he was enrolled at Central. That was just a small part of the education he valued while he attended Central, his wife said.

"He was very proud to be a Central High graduate," Inez said. "He was very proud of the education he got from Cen-

tral High. He got an excellent education."

After high school, Jerold enrolled in school at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After one there, he joined the Army Reserves and transferred to the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

That is where he met Inez during their senior years, she said.

After he graduated with a degree in journalism and she earned an elementary education degree, the two decided to marry in 1970.

Although he worked at the Omaha World-Herald as a sports writer during college, Inez said he decided to go into the insurance business because it would not distract him from his family.

The couple gave birth to a son, Robert, in 1973. The family moved away from Omaha. They lived in Minnesota, New Jersey and California, Inez said, but Nebraska was always a special place for

them.

Jerold coached baseball, basketball and football teams throughout his life.

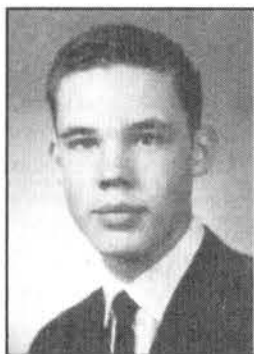
"He did not always have the best team athletically," his wife said. "But it was the way he coached the boys. They could beat the other teams."

He also taught Sunday school for almost 20 years, Inez said.

Inez said she supports the country's current actions when trying to stop terrorism. She said she wants justice to be served and people to be held accountable for what they did to her husband and the thousands of others.

Besides the loss of companionship, Inez said her husband's death has been especially difficult for her because she has recently been diagnosed with cancer.

"I could not have been loved more," she said. "He was a wonderful man and a great father."



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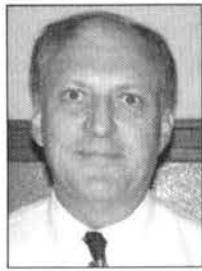
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Principal announces retirement

By Matt Wynn

Seven years of 80-hour work weeks. Seven years of planning graduations. Seven years of football games, paperwork, budgeting and discipline.

And now, finally, it's going to be over.



Thompson

Principal Gary Thompson submitted his resignation letter at the end of September to calm rumors about his possible retirement that were circulating

the building, he said.

"I look forward to doing something while I'm still young enough and well enough," Thompson said. "I've wanted to do something, and now I finally have the chance."

Last summer marked his 55th birthday. That means he now qualifies for retirement.

And after the family problems he's had over the past year it wasn't a hard decision.

Last year Thompson's father spent almost three months in the hospital. He had a quadruple bypass and was diagnosed with cancer.

With his parents 400 miles away Thompson said he felt it necessary to take this opportunity.

His announcement has sent ripples through the student body, OPS and the school's teaching staff.

"It's always tough when you lose a good administrator," James Freeman, director of recruiting for OPS, said. "Anytime you lose this kind of expertise, that is a loss. We're going to miss him, but you have to do what you have to do."

Freeman said the district is conducting a search to find a replacement for Thompson next year.

"We're going to do the search, screen the applicants, all of the necessary stuff we do. After that, it's just a matter of finding the best person for the job," Freeman said.

Freeman said whatever Thompson does, the district certainly wishes him the best.

Teachers echoed his sentiments.

"I can guarantee the new principal will not do everything he does," math teacher Susan Drumm said. "You can be sure no-one else will put in the time. He probably works eighty hours a week, and that's not including the time he spends at home. He's at every football game, every band function. Everything this school does, he does, too."

Drumm said it is obvious Thompson has a love for the school, both the building and its students.

But other teachers in her department are worried about what will happen next year.

"I'm personally a little scared," math teacher Chad Burns said. "We have a great principal right now. I honestly can't see things getting much better. And anything less will be a let-down."

Even students seemed disappointed with Thompson's decision.

"After going through four years with him, it's really kind of sad to see him go. He was always here, and everything ran smoothly. Obviously he was doing something right," junior Sarah Barnhardt said.

She said she hopes that next year, the school will be able to continue to operate as it has. But she understands that may be easier said than done.

Thompson's tenure officially ends on Aug. 31.

But since he rarely took advantage of vacation days, he has about a month of vacations he will use at the end of his stay.

So he will really be retiring in late July.

Thompson said he believes he has accomplished a lot in his time at Central, and hopes others agree.

"The vast majority of kids here are excellent, they really are. We're blessed in that regard," Thompson said. "When I leave, I'm going to leave feeling real good about this place."

Hypoglycemia

Headaches, shaking often accompany misdiagnosed disease

By Paula Salhany

Hypoglycemia is a disease that is not widely known.

It is hard for doctors to diagnose hypoglycemia because it is such an unpredictable and unknown disease, Dr. Tim Lane, diabetes doctor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said.

"There are two different kinds of hypoglycemia, there is a reactive type and a fasting type," he said. "By far, the reactive type is the most common."

Central senior Sloan Dawson, who has reactive hypoglycemia, suffers from many of the symptoms that go along with the disease such as headaches, fatigue and nervousness.

"Around eleven o'clock, if I haven't eaten anything with sugar in it, I start to shake and get really distracted," he said.

He said the 'sugar shakes' distract him in class and he must eat something or get some fresh air to make things better.

Hypoglycemia occurs when the body produces too much insulin.

This causes blood sugar to drop.

Another way blood sugar can be dropped is by not consuming enough food with sugar included in it to affect the body.

"Usually sometime between breakfast and lunch and then between lunch and dinner, people who suffer from hypoglycemia will complain about having headaches, getting sweaty, and being anxious. This is because of the drop in blood sugar," Lane said.

Most of the time symptoms can be alleviated quickly by drinking a glass of orange juice or eating something with protein in it, he said.

In the morning, Dawson usually will have something other than just cereal to help him get to lunch and through the day.

The reason the symptoms go away so quickly because the orange juice and protein has glucose in it, which when consumed raises the blood sugar in the body.

"With each person they symptoms differ, that is why it is so hard for doctors to diagnose the disease," Lane said.

For many people eating small meals frequently during the day and sticking to a normal schedule every day will help them keep their blood sugar under control.

There is also another kind of hypoglycemia, called fasting hypoglycemia, that is very rare.

"Only about one in 10,000 people have this form of the disease," Lane said. "It is usually caused by a tumor that secretes insulin in an unregulated way."

This causes the body to be in a constant state of low blood sugar. It also causes victims to wake at night.

"These people tend to be over weight because they are always eating so they can reduce the symptoms," he said.

A simple way to cure fasting hypoglycemia is to locate the source of the unregulated insulin and if it is a tumor simply removing it will take care of the problem.

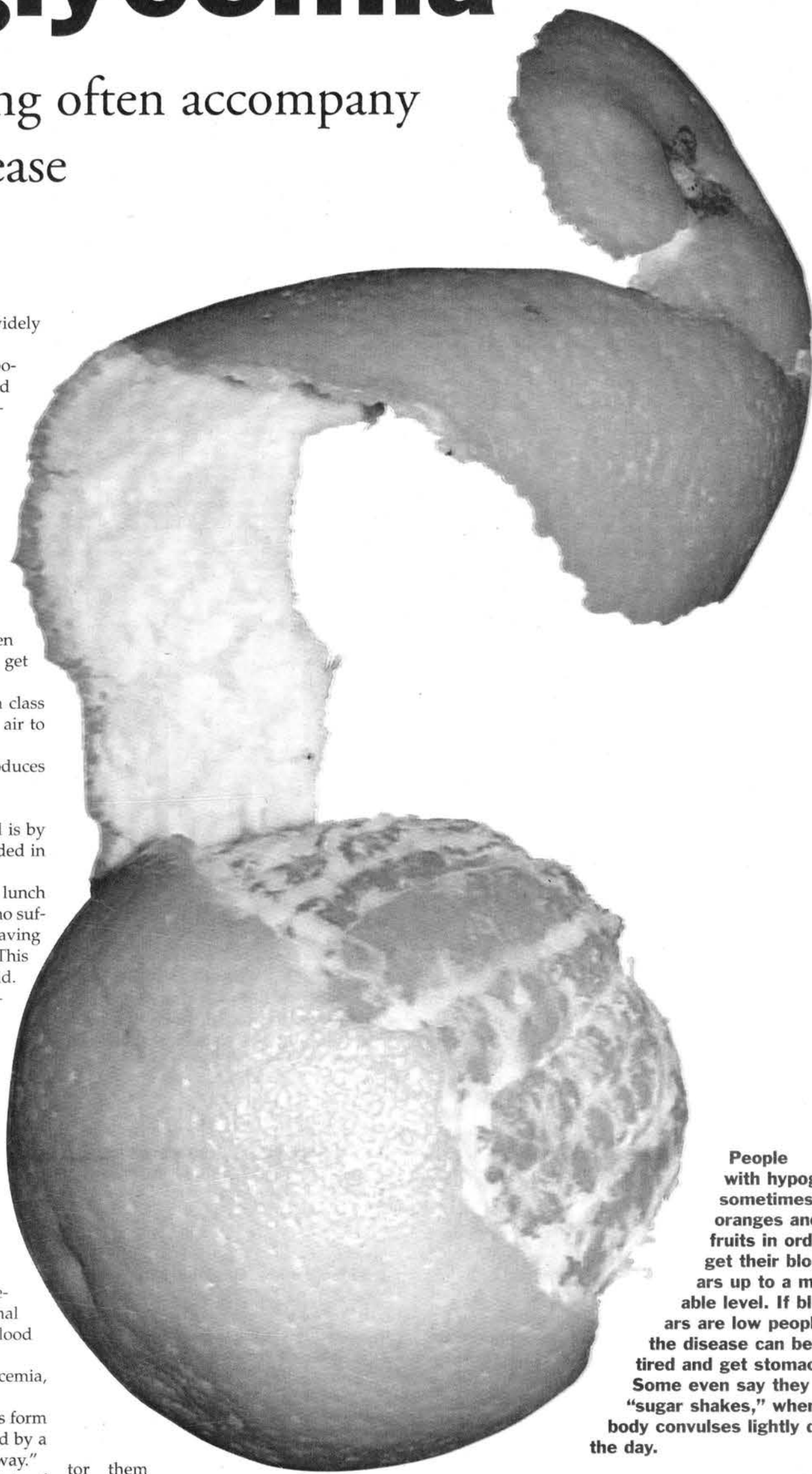
"Sometimes it is hard to locate the tumor or the source of the insulin so we have to bring the patient in and fast them for 72 hours," Lane said. "We moni-

tor them to see where the insulin is coming from and we make sure that their blood sugar doesn't go too low."

A low blood sugar is considered to be anything below 60.

A normal person, who does not suffer from hypoglycemia or diabetes, has a blood sugar of 150 to 200. A person who has a blood sugar of 240 or above has reached a level where their blood sugar is dangerously high.

Every person has a different blood sugar that is



People with hypoglycemia sometimes eat oranges and other fruits in order to get their blood sugar up to a manageable level. If blood sugar is low people with the disease can become tired and get stomachaches. Some even say they develop "sugar shakes," when their body convulses lightly during the day.

Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

specific to him, but a normal blood sugar will fall somewhere in the 150 to 200 range. There are also other reasons besides hypoglycemia that blood sugar can be lowered. If a person has an infection or if they are sick, naturally blood sugar is lowered.

But more than likely, if a person is relatively healthy, except that he is suffering from the common symptoms of hypoglycemia, then there is a good chance he has the disease.

New YMCA teen center attracts students after school

By Paula Salhany

For the last ten years, the YMCA has sponsored many activities for teenagers.

But finally, there is a YMCA building specifically for teens.

Alfonzo Shade, teen program director at YMCA, said the building was donated by Alegent Health and is the only building out of the eight YMCA buildings in Omaha that is used solely for teens.

The center is designed for students to have a place to go after school, Shade said.

After doing work the teens are able to use the recreational facilities in the building.

The kids are able to play pool, air hockey, play station and watch movies.

Junior Dawn Bush goes to the YMCA frequently, along with many of her friends.

"I go there at least three times a week if not more," she said.

She uses her time to work on homework, volunteer and tutor junior high students.

Since its opening on Sept. 5, the number of students attending the center has gone up. Today about 40 students come in per day.

"This YMCA is not only a place where kids can come and just hang out. The building is run mainly by

the teens," Shade said. "They run the cafeteria area and help to keep the place clean. It is a good opportunity for these teens to get job skills and play and active part in the community."

He said every teen that come is required to help out. Many of the students also help with homework problems their peers may have while others volunteer at the concession stands.

Bush is very happy about the new teen center. Before the building was donated, the teens would go to another YMCA to go homework.

Bush is also the vice president of a program called Black Achievers. It is a program that many of the students who attend the YMCA are involved in.

"We have entrepreneurs who come in and talk to us about different careers," she said. "Each year there is also a teen summit where people from ten different states come and go to workshops to talk about work and success."

Black Achievers meets in the YMCA on Saturdays and is one other way that the center has helped teens.

"Probably my favorite thing to do there is play pool. My uncle taught me how to play and I definitely have some competition at the YMCA," Bush said. "It's a lot of fun and is a big help for the teens in the community."

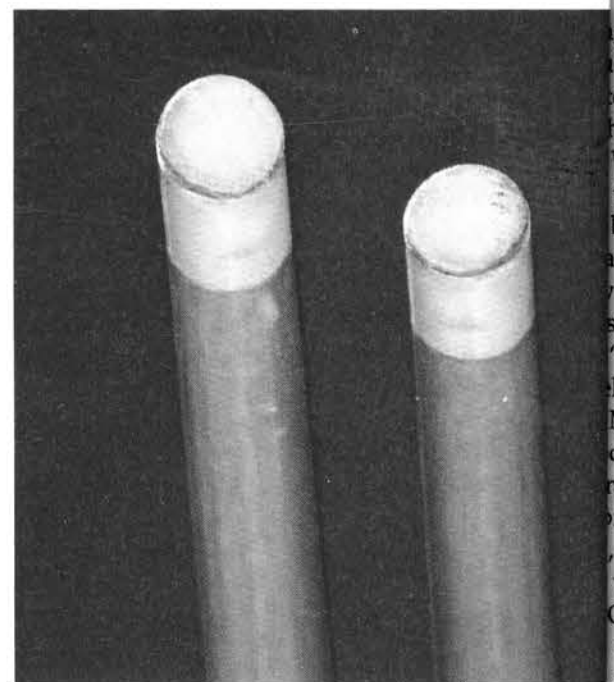


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Pool is just one of the many activities the new YMCA teen center offers after school. Several Central students attend the center everyday.

Dec 20
10 #3



QUICK ACTION
Administrators' response stops fights in their tracks.

PAGE 18



READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Matt Wynn

Impact of free speech
cares some

Suppose that you could go through life feeling free to do exactly what you wanted to do by a jerk who crossed your path for one day.

Would you really want to do

if you're like me, you probably get mad when you see truly stupid things like a mother abusing her kid, but you also get mad at meaningless things.

Like in my case. It often happens to me when a person talks to me loudly about stupid things.

Even if I were big enough to tell them to shut up, would I want to?

After all, it's just as likely to find something about me to be envious: my clothes, my hair, or maybe they can just see the wrinkles all over my face that I don't like.

In a perfect world, most of us would choose not to put up with other people.

In order to live in a crowded, complicated world, we make compromises. We agree, at least implicitly, to rein in many of our primal impulses.

I know I carry around a lot of anger because it occasionally comes out in the form of cruel or sarcastic remarks.

Most of the time, I keep it inside. I later find myself wanting to smash somebody in the face just because I don't like the way they look.

I don't do it, of course. Not because I'm skinny and cowardly, either. On the few occasions in my life when I actually have hurt someone, I didn't do it all that much.

That's not completely true. I once punched some guy at a party once and made his mouth bleed.

The rest of the night, my mood swung back and forth between disgust and exuberance. One minute, I was ashamed. And the next minute I was like a natural born killer.

Based on that experience, I might be tempted to think that it's not all that bad of an idea to go around socking people who get on my nerves.

But there's obviously a big problem with that plan. At least half of the people who get on my nerves are a lot bigger than me.

I just heard some doofus on the radio claiming that writing is one of the most aggressive things we can do. He said, "I mean, it's so obvious, see, we write with the same hand that we hold our weapons with."

Well, I paraphrased slightly, but this guy claimed the world has become such a violent place because of mass literacy, and that we are becoming "illiterate" (the trendy word for "illiterate"), world peace is on the way.

My reaction was double-edged. On one hand, I wanted to punch that idiot and cram his stupid book down his throat, but he wrote a book to tell us that writing is bad.

Or maybe I've been a hostile all along, throwing words and mortar bombs at a foolish public without any discretion at all.

Maybe I should take that doofus' advice and just stop writing this column.

Or maybe he's wrong.

BREAKING

THE RULES OF THE GAME



Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

School should enforce district's eligibility rules

Normally, an arrest is a big deal. Especially for an athlete. The district's Code of Conduct clearly lays out punishments for athletes who are charged with a crime. Ranging from being ineligible for 15 activity days to being suspended for the entire year, the district's rules are clear.

But sometimes, these athletes slip through the cracks and do not receive the correct punishments.

When arrested or cited, an Eagle might be suspended for a game or two, but he could be back on the playing field before the district says he should.

There is something wrong with this picture. While an athlete is being charged with a crime, from a petty misdemeanor to a felony, he should be ineligible until the matter is settled in the courtroom.

No games. No practices. Nothing. No exceptions.

Although a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law, this standard should not transfer to the playing field.

In the eyes of the general public, an athlete's image is scarred simply when he is arrested. One only needs to look as far as

Lincoln where the Nebraska Cornhuskers come under fire every time an athlete has a run-in with the law.

An athlete playing on a school-sponsored team is a representative of the school. The school should be careful whom it allows to play on its sports teams.

If the player looks bad, the school looks equally as bad, if not worse, for allowing the athlete to play while in legal trouble.

No matter how much the player's absence will hurt the team's performance, these rules should be followed. If a team wins a state championship with players who hurt the school's reputation, what is the benefit?

There are no benefits. Participating in a sport is a privilege, not a right. If a student can be declared ineligible because of poor grades, the same punishment should apply for other off-the-field reasons.

But having the rules on the books is obviously not all that needs to be done.

School officials need to enforce them—no questions asked.

In high school athletics, the emphasis should be on allowing hard-working students to represent their school.

When an athlete is arrested, making bail

before the next practice should not be their biggest concern. It is obvious the athlete has other problems that need to be addressed.

If athletes are not immediately kicked off the team, they do not realize the severity of the problem.

Allowing students to play when they are charged with a crime presents a vicious double standard for the school.

The law says they should be punished while their coaches and administrators may think they are above the law.

Obviously, the current rules are not working. If that is because the system does not allow communication between administrators and the law, then that should be dealt with.

But if the information is readily available or the infraction is committed or reported in school, then the administration should have no qualms about giving the punishment described in the handbook.

Athletes who are charged with crimes should be declared ineligible indefinitely. Until the court solves the matter, they should stay off the playing field.

Otherwise, courtroom bailiffs and probation officers might have to start accompanying athletes to the games.

But maybe the school could give these new people uniforms, too.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff

Childhood toys only help kids become responsible adults

Children's toys are a big conspiracy.

I woke up one day to the sound of my two brothers playing with the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and listening to Nirvana.

At first, I thought I was nine years old again.

For the first time in eight years or so, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles were back in my house again.

Immediately, the incredibly trendy theme song from the television show started running through my head like gospel music in church.

I used to have the biggest collection of these classic toys. I had all the turtles, their enemies, the pizza van and the pepperoni



WELCOME TO THE BAHAMAS

Joe Meyer

shooter. I even had all the gear I needed to have, the sleeping bags, the movies, the posters and everything else that had the icons on them.

I used to sleep on the front lawn in my sleeping bag because my parents wouldn't let me use it inside.

I was set, but then my mom decided the turtles had to go. It was the most tragic day in my

young life.

Then, my dreams were obliterated for the second time. Looking at my clock, I realized I should have left for school two minutes ago.

I really wanted to join in and revive my turtle-playing skills. I was the best ninja turtle fighter in a three-block radius.

But I have not scouted out the new competition since I moved from my old house.

I never have time.

That might be a blessing, though.

I don't approach toys the same way as I used to. Throughout the first twelve years of my public education, I have learned to think reasonably, never question authority and

never do anything that does not make complete sense.

As much as I hate to say it, playing with four-inch plastic figures did not seem like the most productive thing to do at that point.

Instead, I packed my bag, tried to catch a little nap on the couch and left for school.

It always bugged me how the turtles were named after Renaissance artists.

During the pretend battles of my youth, I would wonder to myself why Donatello was fighting Michelangelo.

He probably got mad because Mikey stole his idea for the David statue, made it better and took all the credit.

Even the most innocent of

items can become tainted when better motives are involved.

Even children's toys can be manipulated so they offer other meanings to vulnerable young children.

G.I. Joe was created to increase enlistment in the Army and the makers of Captain Planet wanted to increase environmental awareness. The goal of the turtles was to make little kids like art.

The ninja turtles used to be my heroes. In some ways, they still are.

When I was young, the ninja turtles were a special thing to me.

But now I realize I was just one little part of the big picture.

I guess I should've known.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Censorship after terror questioned

• For •

Restrictions show respect for victims of terrorist attacks

Normally, it would be a civil rights violation. But in this instance, it was the respectful thing to do.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C., some radio stations refused to play some popular songs that they thought conveyed violent messages. Also, television stations and movie rental places censored movies that showed pictures of explosions and acts of terrorism.

Immediately, citizens claimed that their rights had been violated. These companies received a lot of angry feedback from people who thought they had been violated.

Citizens should have total freedom in everyday life, but this was a special instance where the restrictions were needed.

These companies made the right move.

These restrictions were put in place out of respect for the victims of this horrible atrocity and their families. It was not some right-wing conspiracy to try to stop normal people from having fun.

After the worst terrorist attack in America's history, there was an obvious reason why this type of censorship was enforced.

The nation and its citizens were not looking for a reminder of the violence the day brought. Entertainment always takes

second place to everyday life.

Hearing a popular song on the radio or seeing a favorite movie is not very important in such a tragic time.

These restrictions were not unconstitutional, either.

Because private companies, not a government agency, censored this material, it was legal. A private company made the decision.

Also, because only some companies restricted the entertainment, consumers could find the material somewhere else.

For example, if a person did not agree with one station's censorship, all he had to do was listen to another station where the music was being played.

These songs and movies were not censored forever. Within a few weeks after censoring some songs, all the radio stations were back to playing the same music they had before the attacks.

While some people may think these restrictions were a little extreme, this censorship was justified because of the situation and the companies that did it.

In the grand scope of things, the censorship was not a very big deal.

It helped the nation return to a state of normalcy.

But hopefully this will never be needed again.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

• Against •

Any restrictions dilute right to hurt fight against 'real' enemies

Censorship is never justified. Never. Not under any circumstances. Not at any time.

The Constitution of this country specifically states that citizens have a right to freedom of speech.

Any attempt to hinder that right, under any circumstances, is simply wrong.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, many radio stations across the nation banned songs they viewed as offensive.

There was no reason to ban such classics like "Imagine" by John Lennon, and Don McLean's, "American Pie." These songs were removed from certain airwaves for almost a full week after the attacks.

In a time of crisis, the only thing this country has to cling to is its civil rights and its basic values.

Terrorists attacked this nation to instill fear, sadness and apprehension.

They wanted to destroy the very thing that keeps this country unique and great: its freedom.

Censorship is the opposite of freedom. It is oppression.

The tragedy on Sept. 11 cannot be allowed to erode America's rights. To let that happen would be to give in to the evil we are fighting against.

The Constitution is the staple

of America. It defines the values, morals and basis for everything the stars and stripes stand for.

An attack on America's people did not need to go through the very essence of this country to be hurt.

If anything, Americans should become more protective of their rights. Waving the flag and enlisting in the military is all fine, but it only helps one front of the war.

It is just as important to have our home front to stay strong.

American values need to stay intact and not become strained during this time.

America cannot afford to have all the new wants on Afghanistan or whatever other

harboring terrorists. But the still wounds that need to be healed back here at home.

Our rights cannot be ignored. America is great because of everything that happens here.

Irrelevant as these restrictions may seem, they hurt the things that this country is built upon.

All censorship should be considered illegal, whether during a time of war or not.

It doesn't matter. Censorship is something that is never

Otherwise, we might as well move to Afghanistan.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

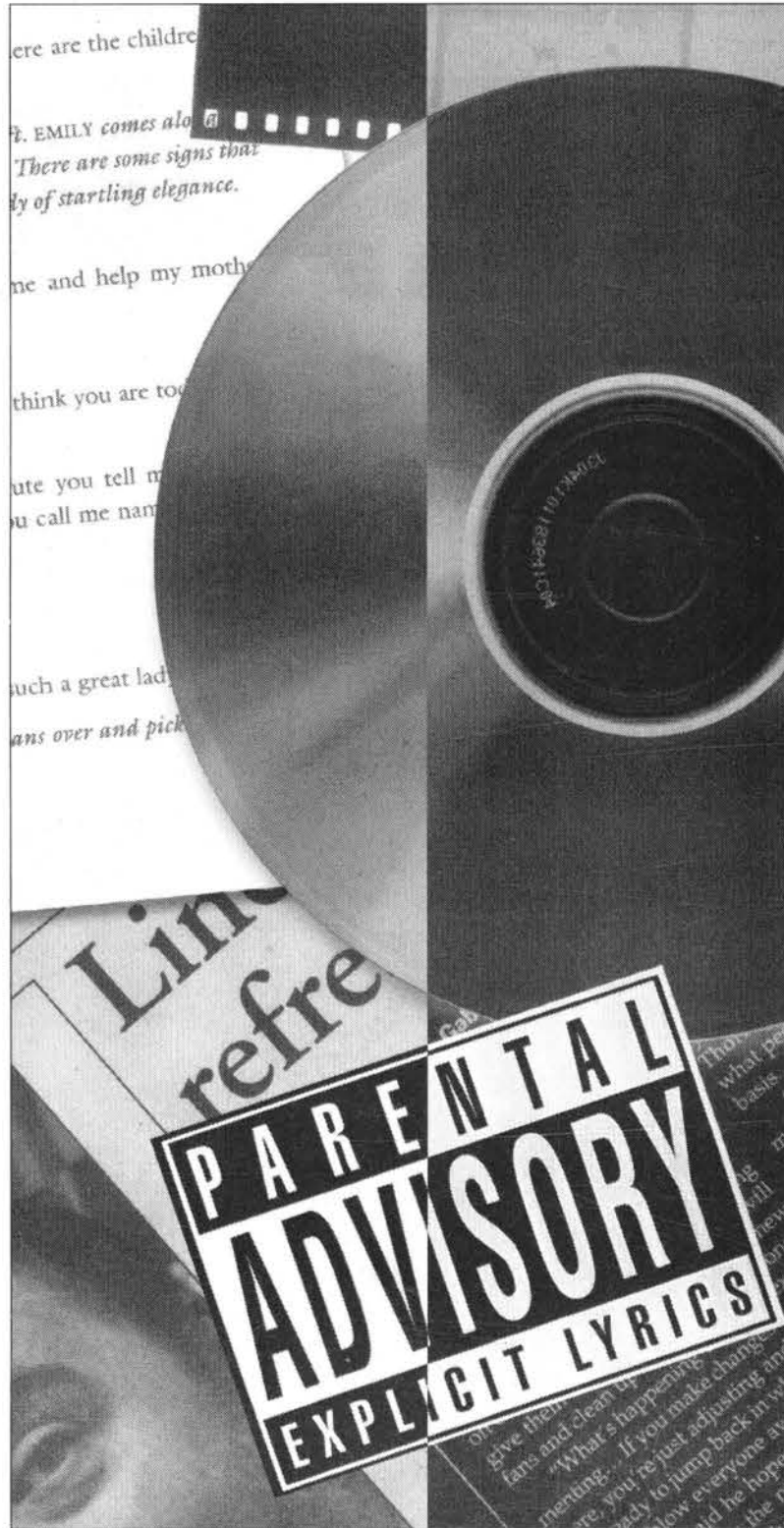


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Fahey's after-school fair fails to offer options to students, teachers

How can Mayor Fahey expect a one day, after-school fair to be successful without any other action?

If he thinks the fair had positive results, he should think again.

After-school activities cannot succeed unless they are held in a school environment where the activities actually take place.

Earlier this month, the city

held an after-school activity fair at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Fahey has supported the measure ever since he was inaugurated.

It's a nice attempt, but Fahey and the rest of the city's executive branch needs to reexamine how to get students more involved.

Statistics suggest that the hours immediately after school are the "prime" times for students to commit crimes.

But students are not going to attend a student fair after they get out of school.

This fair did not benefit anyone. It was a waste of time and money for the city. The money could be put to use elsewhere.

If the city wants to try to make sure students stay out of trouble after they leave school, then it should give money directly to the schools.

This would provide students with more opportunities than 100 of these fairs could.

This funding would expand the school's resources.

In turn, schools would be able to offer more activities to more students.

Whether used to purchase more computers for technology clubs or equipment for the hiking club, there are many other ways this money could have been spent.

High school programs need more money and resources for more programs.

Also, investing in the city's public schools would actually

reach the students, something the fair did not.

Instead of students having to travel for miles after they get out of school, the extra resources would be available to them immediately whenever they wanted to use them.

The after-school fair the city held this past month was simply a glorified poster for the city to improve its image.

It was a public relations tool that made the city look good, but did not change anything.

It is ridiculous to think school fairs not being held at schools would help keep students out of trouble.

This fair was a lousy way for the city to try to help students become more involved in school activities.

Instead of continuing to waste money, the city should invest in the schools.

Or else Fahey could continue to use public money to accomplish nothing. It's up to him.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

the Omaha Central High School REGISTER
Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi, Established 1886

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its reader accurately and fairly as to items of interest and importance.

The Register is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), Quill and Scroll and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

Recently, the Register won a National Pacemaker from NSPA and a Cornhusker Award from NHSPA.

In April 2001, the Register won the Best-of-Show competition in San Francisco, Calif. at JEA's annual journalism convention.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Register staff and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the students of Central High School or its faculty.

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Letters must include the author's full name and grade.

The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy and taste. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact are not considered.

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Classes confuse freshmen



NEVER LOOK BACK
Quentin Lueninghoener

OPS administrators are starting to put too many students in upper-level math courses, too early.

It doesn't work. Five years ago, while I was in my seventh grade Top-Math class, I was fully aware that I was on pace to take Honors Algebra I the following year.

I was amazed. At that time, it was a very new concept to have eighth graders take high school classes while in middle school.

But that has all changed. Now, OPS has set up Honors Algebra classes for students to take during their seventh grade year. Therefore, they will be two years ahead of normal freshmen entering the school.

It should be obvious to teachers that this has become a mistake and is getting out of control this time of year.

The district needs to stop this kind of self-gratification.

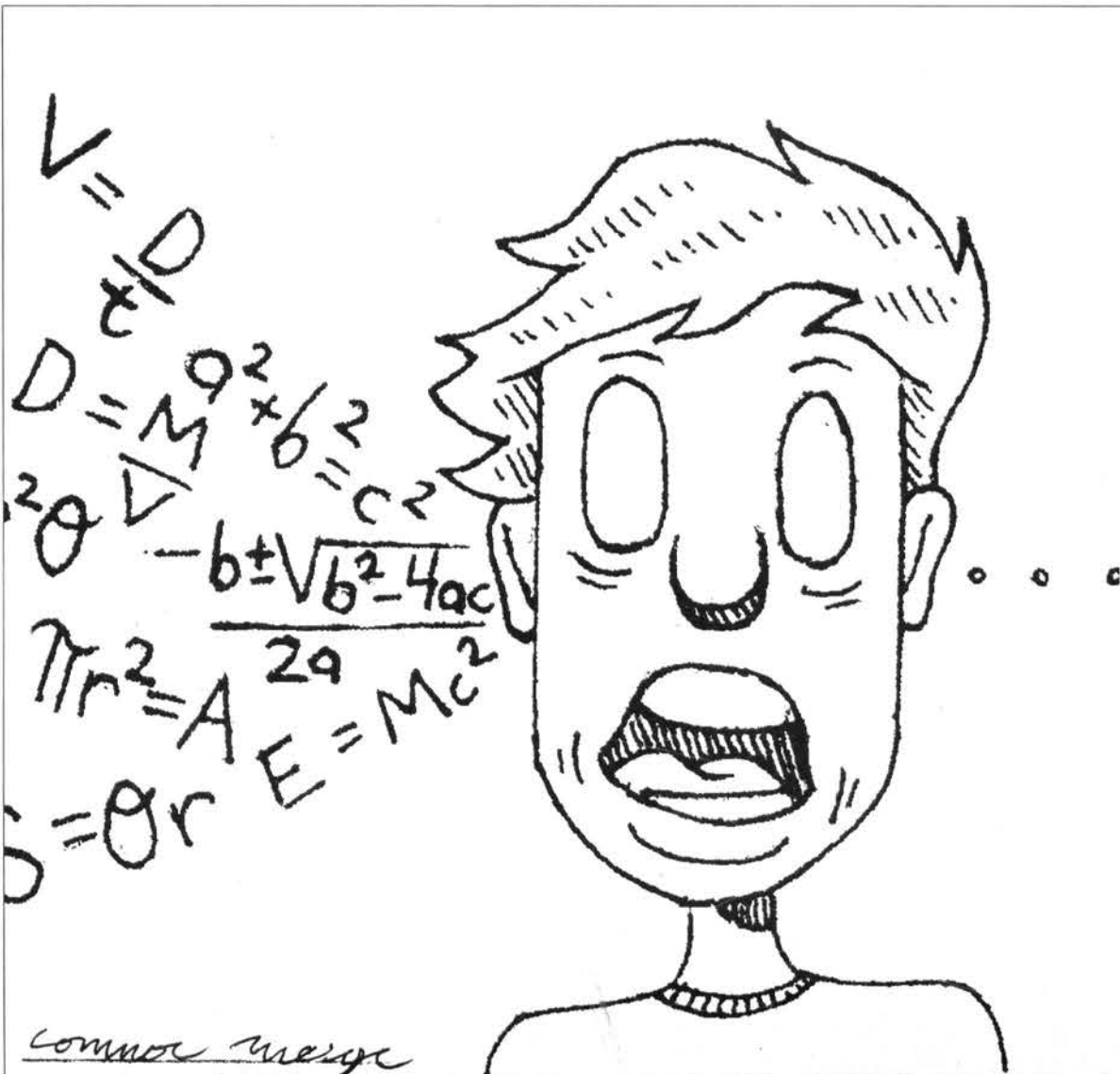
All too often, students enter a class they are not prepared to take because their previous teacher convinced them they were prepared.

This hurts everyone in the class, not just the students who are forced into the harder class.

Not only do the students who are behind have trouble catching up, they slow down the pace of the class and prevent the qualified students from learning, too.

Honors classes are in place to help students who want to learn at an accelerated pace. Because of this, the school should be extra careful with who it allows to enroll in these classes.

If the OPS math department



wants to push students through the ranks faster, some sort of placement test is in order.

Perhaps students coming out of junior high school should take a test in order to put them in the class best suited for them rather than have one teacher recommend them for a class the student isn't prepared to take.

In the current system, being in a higher math class is some kind of badge of honor and is not totally valued.

With the help of that test, students would be put in a course that they could succeed in rather than struggle through the wrong

class because they were too proud to take another one.

Starting students in such difficult classes can be especially harmful for this year's freshmen class.

With the new graduation requirements they have to meet, they have to pass three years of math classes to graduate from high school.

It's a likely scenario that one of these promoted students will be forced to take Calculus, a difficult AP course, his junior year so he can graduate, even if the class is beyond his math capabilities.

On the other hand, a student

taking an easier path may be able to finish his last year of math with Algebra I and never be truly challenged in a math class.

OPS needs to reconsider this policy and make sure that every student is in the class they should be.

As for now, it seems more and more students are going to be put into an extremely difficult situation.

But it's not all their fault. It's the fault of the school district and the people who wear the suits.

They should get a clue.

Cooler classrooms will lead to sweaty students

All anybody can talk about is how great it's going to be to finally have air conditioning at Central High School.

What all of these people don't realize is that air conditioning is overrated and "cooling" the school will lead to unexpected and disastrous results.

The system will cause disruptions to classes, hurt the health of the student body and cause more people to complain about the temperature of the school than they do now.

If you sit down and think about it, Central is only unbearable for about four weeks out of the year, two weeks in August and two weeks in May.

Really, August is the only really hot time for the school. We live in Nebraska, after all, and it does tend to get a little on the hot side in the summer.

Old stone buildings tend to heat up.

So, because of people complaining and having random disruptions for four weeks out of the whole school year, the school decided to waste a whole lot of

money and install air conditioning.

There aren't going to be many benefits.

I say this because I have a good friend who goes to Ralston High School, a school that has a fully functional air-conditioning system that causes more problems than it solves.

At Ralston the teachers and students are unable to open the windows and the air is humid, making it equally as disgusting as

being hot and sweaty. The worst problem is that this valuable air is circulated all over the building, causing mold and germs to pass through the school.

When I hear mold and germs, I immediately think of an asthma attack. We all want to be frigid and wear winter coats when it is 100 degrees outside, but I most certainly do not want to die of an asthma attack because cold air was blowing in my face.

And everyone knows that actually controlling the temperature is going to be a miracle in itself.

We go to a school in a very old

building. Temperature control and old buildings don't really go together.

Central's limited amount of current climate control that the school already has works less than magnificently. Maybe someone should take a clue from the school's heating system.

The new air-conditioning system is based on the same great design as the heaters. Water is chilled and then pushed through the building to heat all the different rooms.

But if you have been in Central for even a day you know that you have to be in the right seat at the right time, in a certain room, on a certain side of the building on the perfect floor to even come close to experiencing any sort of comfortable temperature.

Why would anyone want to put themselves through that more than they have to? Installing air conditioning would do just that.

Then we come to the issue of installation.

In order for the whole system to work, different sections of the school will have to be evacuated so that loud machines can drill holes in the walls and

disrupt classes, causing students to get lower grades and causing the problem of over crowding to be increased.

The school can't find enough classroom space now, how are they going to find enough seats for students with 30 less rooms? It will be physically impossible.

People will get so sick of running into each other that random riots will break out in the halls because of frustration. Personally, I have enough problems getting through the halls today without any construction.

The worst problem is, I will have to go through this incredible disruption for no reason. I will graduate before I feel the horrible air-conditioning system.

Yes, I am happy I do not have to experience it, but I will still have to go through many burdens.

If I liked the sound of drill tips breaking up walls, I would drop out of school and become a construction worker.

Top 10 reasons why air conditioning is bad

1. The new rock climbing club will practice rappelling in the shafts that supply the school with chilled water.
2. Students will need to wear winter clothing to school during August because of the drafty school.
3. In order to battle overpopulation and cut expenses, students will be used to help workers install the system.
4. The germs being circulated around school will force the rodents in the basement to leave.
5. Entire construction crews will be lost in the basement tunnels.
6. During the excavation of the basement, a worker might hit something and cause P.E. to be without lights, forever.
7. No more early releases because of excessive heat.
8. With year-round schooling sweeping across the nation, this might be the first step in implementing it in OPS high schools.
9. With climate control, students won't be able to wear inappropriate clothing and blame it on the heat.
10. One word: glaciology.



Sleazy escapades take over dances

Girls in sequined halter tops should not be allowed around members of the opposite sex.

Never.

Several weeks ago, I received a rather odd message on my answering machine from my friend Sam. She asked me to meet her and some of our friends at a Catholic school dance.

I jumped in my car and drove out to meet them.

Now if you know me, you should be stopping right now, because the idea of me at a dance is laughable.

I don't dance. It's wrong. In fact, it's illegal in 34 states. But every once in awhile, I feel the need to do something that's completely out of character. It's not all bad.

You always get at least one loser's phone number.

When I got to the dance, I began to look for the friend behind the cryptic voicemail. Before I could find her, an acquaintance found me and began begging for a ride home. He made the mistake of wearing a wool sweater and corduroy pants.

If you've never gone to one of these things, you have to realize that it's 12,000 degrees in there. So obviously, his choice of apparel was misguided.

Not wanting to leave after just paying three bucks to get in, I compromised with him. A bunch of us sat in front of the industrial-size fan and did a little people watching.

About ten feet away from us, we saw a horrible site.

Three girls in matching sequined halter tops and matching low-rise jeans were getting pretty friendly with the gymnasium floor.

They were all doing a synchronized dance routine that

consisted mostly of them doing all sorts of un-Catholic things to the floor.

This was meant to be sexy, I suppose, but it looked really, really sad and trashy. We're talking "special videos" made in the back of Joey's sleazy van.

The greatest thing about the entire debacle was that there were no guys within a ten-foot radius of the dance.

Even the hormone-crazed boys who don't get to go to school with girls were taken aback by this trio.

All I could think of when I saw them was, "Why?"

Why would they want to humiliate themselves like that?

Why would they want the kind of guy who would be attracted to that activity?

Why didn't they realize how bad they looked?

Most of all, why didn't they see the group of kids by the fan laughing at them?

I didn't get it and I still don't get it.

I may not be Dr. Ruth, but I know enough about the opposite sex to know that you don't have to go to those extremes to get a guy.

Even if you have a horrible personality or an incredible hygiene problem, there's always someone out there who's into that sort of stuff.

Getting intimate with a gym floor is not the modern day Love Potion #9.

I left early that night. The dance was extraordinarily lame, so I don't know if those girls ever got their dream guy.

I honestly don't really care.

I'm just begging all the girls out there, the next time you and your friends are out guy scouting, think again, please.

Please save yourself some dignity.

Get off the floor.

Attack brings valuable lessons for Americans

I tried to breathe, but the air was not there.

My heart stopped. For the first time in my life, I felt helpless.

My feelings were all mixed up. It was like a dark cloud settled over America.

On Sept. 11, silence fell over classrooms and students looked at each other for answers, but no one said a word.

Our country and freedom were under attack.

I remember the first images I saw of the World Trade Center. It was like a scene I read in a book or saw in a movie. However, this was real and was devastating. I could feel the blood rush to my head as my eyes filled up with tears.

I cried.

It was the worst day in America's history. Many questions were asked that day, but the one question I asked the most was "Who?"

Who could have so much contempt for humanity?

Who could be so heartless?

Who hates us that much?

I have never been a religious buff or have never attended church very much in my life, but I pray for my fellow Americans everyday.

I don't know if I will do this for the rest of my life or not, but for now, my heart aches for our country.

Retaliation is a must.

I keep hearing that some Americans believe war is not the answer.

But they are wrong. If America didn't retaliate, the

country would lose its dignity.

As an American citizen, I would be ashamed of my country and feel like a coward.

And Osama would laugh at our cowardly actions, too. That is the worst part.

He has been allowed to spit in our country's face once and we cannot allow him to get away with it again.

We need to catch this animal and make sure justice is served.

Once we get him, everyone should be allowed to throw stones at him while he is in a cage and watch him die.

I am a Democrat. I was not pleased when Bush was elected.

Of course I still think he cheated, but I believe in fate and maybe he was put there for a reason.

Bush's speech that day sent a tingle down my spine. It gave me goosebumps and made me cry.

Again.

I don't think there was any American who heard that speech who didn't have a fire lit inside their soul. It made the nation stand together as one.

While Bush was speaking, I looked out my window and I felt the American spirit in the air. I could see the candles burning in my neighbor's windows and the American flags waving in the breeze as if they had come to life under a starry moonlit sky.

So as America comes to terms with what happened, I pray that one day we may return to our "normal" lives.

But I know we will never be the same because we have learned a vital lesson.

God Bless America!



LONG STORY SHORT
Kaitlin Butz



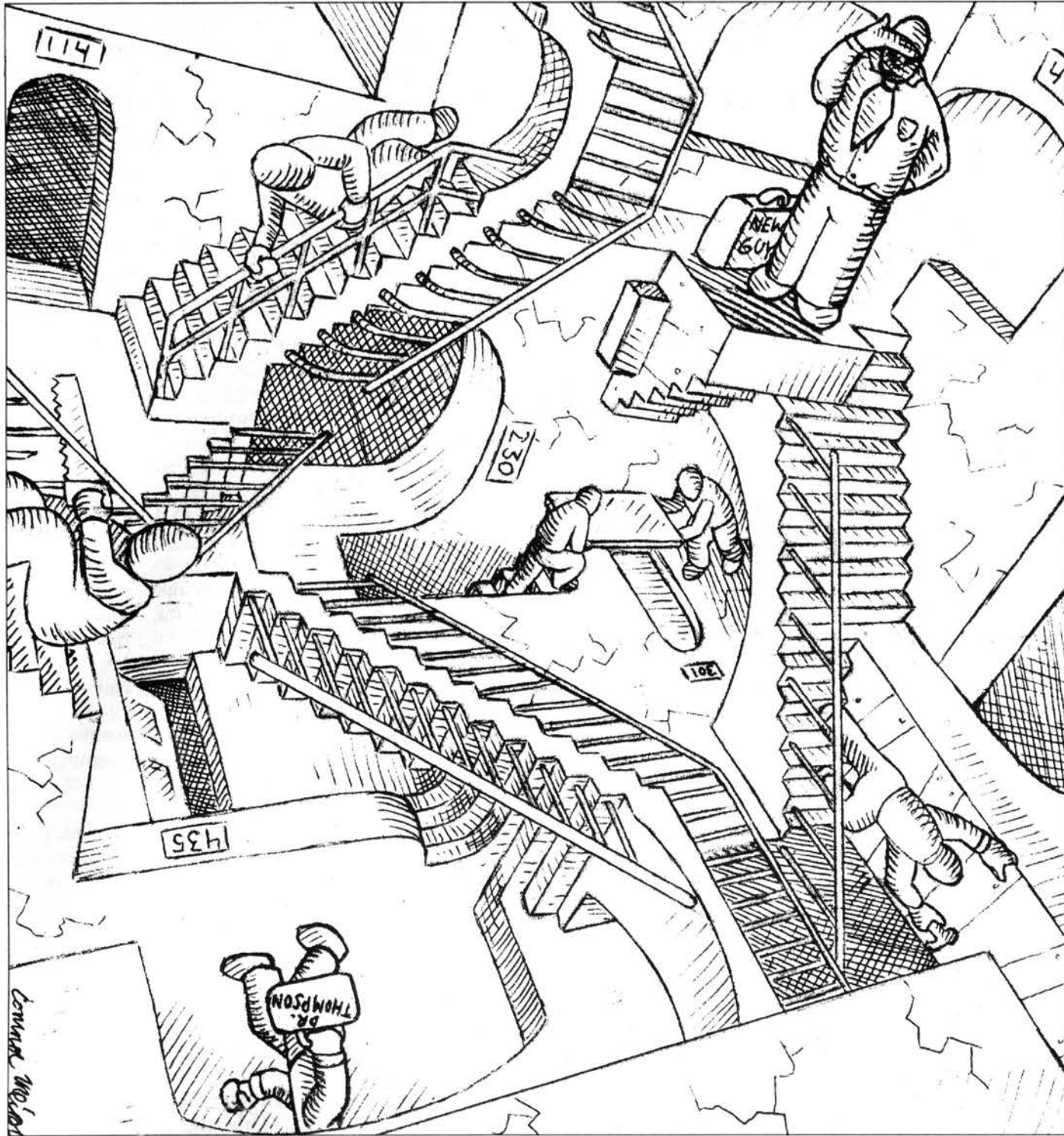
THROUGH MY EYES
Dominique Brown

Dec 20
18 #3

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 OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791



Dr. Gary Thompson
Principal
Matt Deabler
Adviser
Matt Wynn
Editor in chief
Joe Meyer
Insight section editor

Thrown into a mess

The district needs to promote a current administrator to the top position to make sure the renovations run smoothly

When the school district begins to look for Central's new principal, it should remember this old adage.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Besides the normal complications with switching personnel, filling this specific opening will be vital to the school.

The new principal, whoever it is, should be someone who is already working in the building and knows about the school and its students.

Finding a new principal for the state's most populated high school will not be an easy task. The new principal will take over the reigns in the middle of a huge renovation project that will displace students from classrooms for several weeks.

A principal who is new to the building will not be able to deal with a huge renovation project and run the school.

Dr. Gary Thompson came to Central after being the principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School.

Being a principal at a junior high is nothing like running one of the biggest high schools in the state. Central has four times as many students as any junior high school in the district.

Although Thompson may have picked it up sooner or later, it took him months to learn the new building and even longer for him to learn its staff and students.

Moving a principal from another high school would not work either. New principals need to establish a positive relationship with students and teachers, familiarize themselves with the school procedures and still make sure

the school runs smoothly.

Adding next year's renovations to the list would be disastrous.

The district cannot expect an administrator who is completely new to the school to handle the situation without hurting the educational environment.

The only answer is to give the position to a current administrator who has experience with the school, its students and teachers.

That way, the new principal would only have to learn the intricacies of a new position, not where to park everyday when they come to school.

If the district decides to do this, then the new principal would already have some knowledge about the renovation project.

This would be the easiest way to make the transition.

But the most experienced administrators in the school are very close to retirement. It might not make sense for the district to have a principal who can only occupy the position for three or four years.

But that is the only choice the district has.

Promoting one of these administrators to fill the spot while the district tries to find a permanent replacement would be the best answer.

The school needs a familiar face to fill the top position. Especially during the upcoming two years of renovations, the school needs a leader who already knows the students and teachers.

Throwing a new administrator in with construction workers would simply be asking for trouble.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

Meeting only identifies problem, long road ahead

Teachers should get their walking shoes and fountain pens ready.

While the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) is getting ready to prepare bills for the next legislative session in Lincoln, the odds that the Legislature will increase teacher pay are about the same as winning the lottery.

During the first special session in decades, the teacher association decided to submit four bills to the Unicameral that it will try to push through the Legislature next session.

From eliminating the spending and levee caps that the state imposes on local school districts to offering tuition waivers for teachers who return to graduate school, the group covered it all.

While it is a good try, the Legislature will never help schoolteachers out.

Similar bills have failed before, and unfortunately, these will be lucky if anyone votes for them this time around.

The only way the association will receive a statewide teacher pay raise is if the association petitions the public to place the issue on the ballot and campaigns for it to be passed.

Otherwise, the teacher pay problem will get worse.

For the past few years, teachers from across the state have insisted that the Unicameral give them a salary increase, but nothing has happened.

The teachers have rallied

at both the Teacher Administrative Center in Omaha and the state capital down in Lincoln but nothing has changed.

Teachers have even taken days off from teaching and lobbied for legislative bills to be passed, but nothing has happened.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

The teachers will have to collect about 125,000 signatures in order to place the issue on the ballot. If they succeed with that, they will have to campaign and convince voters that the half-cent tax increase is worth it.

Unfortunately, this will be the only way the association will succeed.

At its special session, NSEA postponed voting on whether or not to begin to petition the public until its next meeting in April. Because of the budget problems the state is experiencing and the recent terrorist attacks, officials thought this was not the right time to start the process.

The association has no choice but to accept this challenge. Nebraska citizens behind the sales tax increase and the issue will have to be settled outside the Legislature.

No matter what the measurements, Nebraska teachers need a raise. They will most likely have to take their cause to the streets.

Whatever happens, the state's citizens need to support the teachers during this extensive effort.

It would be good if the Legislature stepped up to the plate, too.

Legal prayer session builds unity, offers students support

For four years, "See You at the Pole" has been a staple at Central. This once-a-year, before-school prayer session allows students a chance to pray together.

This activity is a peaceful way for students of different religions to come together for one purpose.

This prayer session gained special importance this year.

Because of the tragedies in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, more students joined to pray for the victims of the terrorist attacks.

This allowed students to come together and deal with these special circumstances.

It helped with the healing process.

Opponents question the constitutionality of the project,

but this argument is ridiculous. Because it is run outside the building, before the school day, the activity is completely legal.

Also, because it is completely voluntary and nondenominational, the school is not violating the First Amendment.

Other schools in and outside the district have similar activities.

"See You at the Pole" is a great way to increase unity around campus. It is constitutional and the school should continue to hold the activity.

Hopefully, more students will realize this and come together for the annual spirit event.

During a time when many students are overwhelmed with questions and fear, this activity is a great way to increase unity around campus.

It would be good if the Legislature stepped up to the plate, too.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

HEROES & ZEROS

Famous group of alumni showcases school's great tradition of excellence

- FBLA, Tri-M and other school groups

After the terrorist attacks on the East Coast, many student groups decided to jump in and collect donations for the victim's families. Future Business Leaders of America collected medical supplies while Tri-M collected cash donations. Other students took time out of their weekends to volunteer at places like the Red Cross. Students should be proud of their actions. It showed they were able to cope with the tragedy and offer some much needed help.

- The 11 newest members of the Central High Hall of Fame

Eleven graduates, alumni and former teachers were distinguished on Oct. 11 at the third annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Now, there are 30 members in the elite group. This group of people help enhance the school's image and show that Central is really one of the best high schools around.

- Dr. Gary Thompson

After seven years of serving as Central's principal, Gary Thompson announced that this year will be his last. The school has really grown under his tenure. Central has increased its fabulous reputation and Thompson arranged for the school to finally receive an air-conditioning system. We can only hope that his replacement will continue with the Central tradition. Thank you very much, Dr. Thompson. Good luck in everything that you do during your retirement. You deserve it.

- Work completed on the fourth floor

During the last couple of months, art and physics students were removed from their classes so that the ceilings in the rooms could be repaired. Why wasn't this work completed over the summer? The school knew about the problem, but waited until school started to fix it. This caused students to move into the courtyard and closed the library for many weeks. The school district should have made sure that the classrooms were ready to handle classes on the first day of school. Hopefully, this sort of confusion will not happen again next year.

- Central's students and spirit week decorations

Like every other year, the pom squad and cheerleaders decorated the school with beautiful decorations in preparation for homecoming week. Too bad Central students did not appreciate them as much as they should have. Like every year, the decorations only lasted two days, at the most.

- The school's class reunion policy

Because of the Central craft sale, which was held in the courtyard, the class of 1951's fiftieth reunion was held in the West cafeteria in September. The school should have placed priority on honoring Central's alumni. Or at the very least, the school could have decorated the tables and removed the trash cans and made the eating area look more respectable for the ceremony.

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Dec 20
LA #3

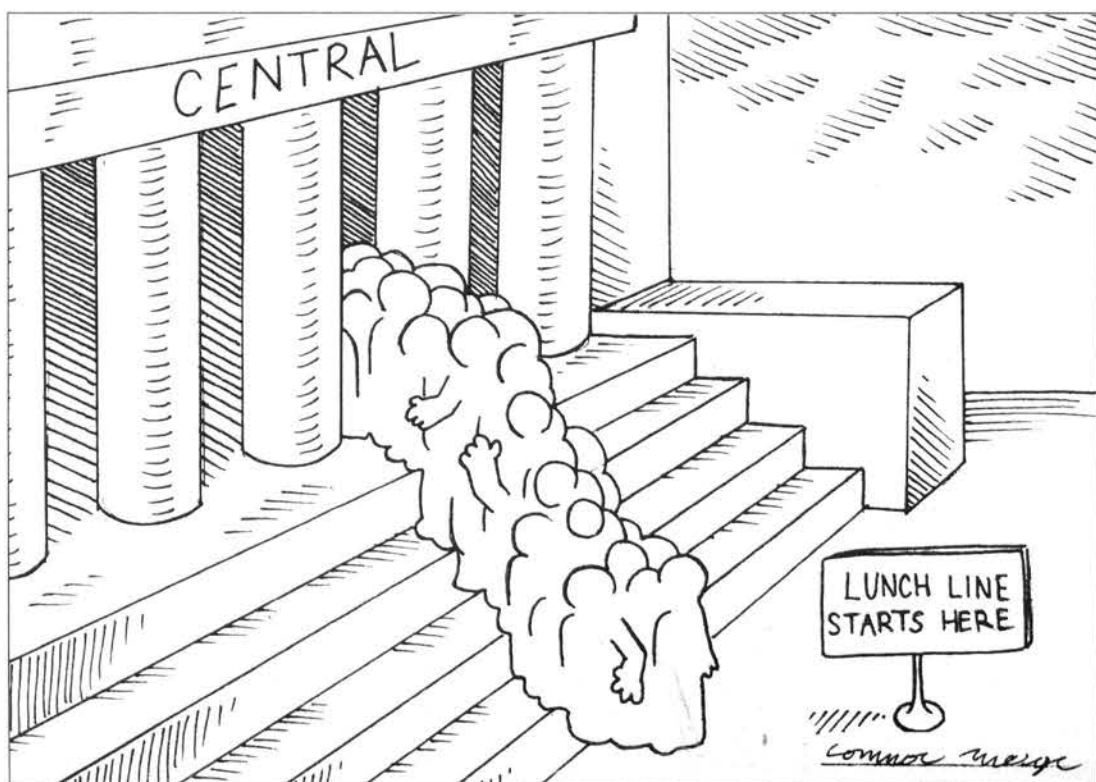
FORUM

Letters to the editor
Student polls
Register your opinion
Political cartoons

“How is it that a natural human function is disgusting, but to see a human being ending the life of another is heroic?”

Brian Cavaliere, 12

The big issue: Lunch rooms



Most people who stand in the lunch line are just going to buy water or a Fruitopia.

So why can't the school open the vending machines?

Alicia Jaime, 10

Chaos reigns during lunches

I believe that the lunchrooms are too crowded in the courtyard.

Sixth and seventh lunch periods are way too crowded. People are sitting 12 or more kids to a table. That is way too overcrowded.

The lunch lines are chaotic. So is the mad rush to get a seat in the courtyard. People having to wait in line takes them two-thirds of the period to get their lunch and be seated, leaving them ten good minutes to eat if they can find a seat that hasn't been taken.

I think that this problem can be solved reasonably easy if they let tables go up one at a time.

Robbie Garvin, 10

Courtyard lacks seating, students stand while eating

I don't like one thing about Central.

Trying to eat lunch in the courtyard is impossible. It is pretty bad when you have to stand up to eat, on the days you actually get to eat.

Once before, I was told to go eat upstairs because there was nothing left in the courtyard. Now, I know the logical thing to do is eat upstairs in the first place, but that is pretty dumb when your next class is on the first floor.

Brian Swotek, 10

the REGISTER Letters wanted

Letters to the editor can be dropped off in room 315 or the mailbox in the courtyard. All letters must be signed and include the author's grade. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES AND POLLS

Administrators need to plan how to cut lines down

One thing that Central High School needs to work out is how to cut the lunch line down.

If a teacher makes his or her class stay after a minute to explain the rest of the lesson, the teacher might as well keep the students who have lunch that hour because they won't get enough time to finish eating their lunch anyway.

A minute can mean a lot of time when it comes to the lunch line.

Kamryn Green, 11

Hardy policy wastes valuable study time

In my study hall, if you come in late, you must stand for ten minutes.

This policy makes little sense when applied to English class and the teacher is lecturing all period and no sense when applied to a study hall.

Most of the students in my study hall are in honors classes and just have one precious study hall every other day. We don't waste it.

Forcing a student who may come from the gym to have to not only go up four floors, but wade through the cookie line and go around half the building to throw away a quarter of their study hall because they weren't in their seat when the bell rang is ridiculous and counterproductive.

Rick Peters, 9

See You at the Pole

Is it appropriate for "See You at the Pole" to be held on school property?

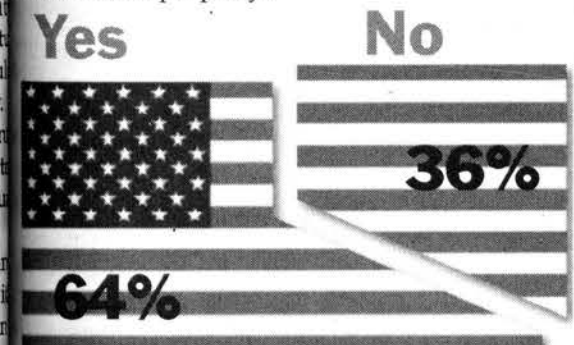


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
36 students polled

Sports needs to write about J.V., freshman

The newspaper that is put out by the staff of sports writers is great. However, I do have one thing bringing to your attention.

Why can't the writers of the Register follow junior varsity and freshman teams? Although varsity teams are of the highest competition and are the most, don't you think others deserve just as many photo opportunities?

We sometimes have junior varsity teams that are better than the actual varsity teams who don't receive exposure. Take for example the 2000 J.V. basketball team that lost only two games. The varsity team lost at least five games.

Do you see my point? Please take this into consideration.

Matt Kowalewski, 12

Photographs give paper impressive features

The photographs in this year's Register have greatly improved.

I feel like they went from pretty good to intriguing. The photos are arranged well and are incredibly artistic.

I'm very impressed.

What happened to the calendar of events? Oh well, most of the shows I go to weren't on there anyway.

Julia Henvey, 12

Team's talent level doesn't add up to wins

What's up with our football team this year?

This season, like many others, Central is loaded with the best athletes in the state and we can't win a game unless it is against Northwest. Get it together!

Our defense can't make a tackle. On every play that Bryan scored on us, the guy with the ball ran through about eight guys, breaking tackles left and right. We need a new defensive coordinator to organize our defense. We could also use some tackling practice!

Then, our offense needs to play as a team. Coach McMenamin only focuses on individual achievement over the benefits of the team. He needs to call plays that advance the ball down the field instead of trying to give David Home 400 yards of rushing a game.

If we get a new head coach, I think we could win some games.

Matt Bauer, 10

Entertainment section offers little to reader

First off, I would like to commend the Register staff on representing our diverse school, except for the entertainment section. It seems like only a small portion of the students are being represented.

Why can't this section be a little more mainstream, even though that may not be cool to do? Most of the time, I just skip through this section.

I mean, who really cares about the new Death Cab for Cutie album? Wait a minute. Who even knows who Death Cab for Cutie is?

I'm not saying base your section on N'SYNC and Britney Spears, but put in some variety. Variety is the spice of life.

Mike Livingston, 12

New principal

Should the district hire a current administrator or someone from outside the school to be the principal next year?

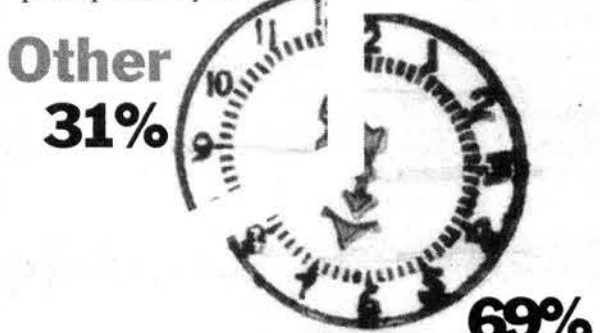


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
753 students polled

Sports game

After the attacks on America, should high school athletic contests have been cancelled, like collegiate and professional ones?

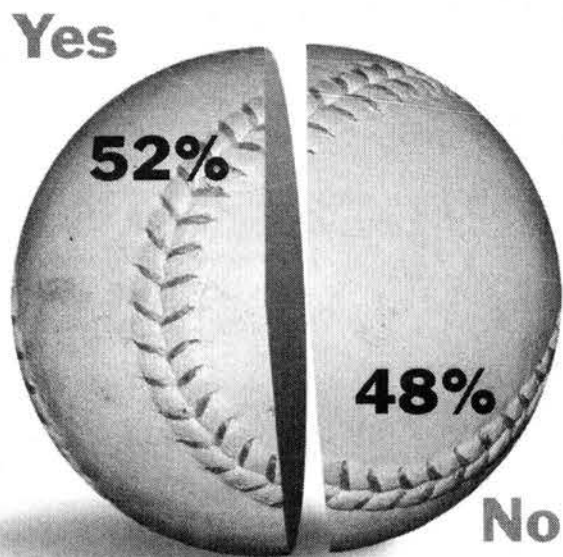


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
821 students polled

Society's view on sex leads to risky behavior

After the homecoming dance, after you've tested your limit of intoxication, there's that awkward moment where you and your date get a little close.

I'm not here to promote premarital sexual intercourse. However, it's inevitable and I think I can help. These feelings are very natural and shouldn't scare anybody.

Believe it or not, but when taking the proper precautions, sex can be a good thing.

The reason why our society is hurt by teen pregnancy and plagued by sexually transmitted diseases is because of how it's portrayed. Kids are taught that sex is wrong and ugly when it is vital to life.

How is it that a natural human function is disgusting, but to see a human being ending the life of another is heroic?

Don't get me wrong; if you're not ready, don't give in. Save yourself.

And if you are ready, be safe. You shouldn't feel immoral or dirty to go buy condoms. Trust me. They can save your life.

And for the parents, talk to your kids. Don't tell them that sex is wrong.

Brian Cavaliere, 12

Work should have been done over summer

All this work is so inconvenient. The two lanes on 20th Street, the mud that gets all over my shoes, walking around a barricade.

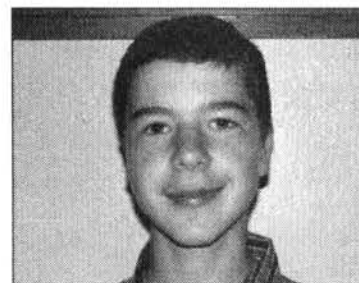
Central is a beautiful school, but all this construction takes away from the beauty. This is my last year here and this is not how I want to remember it.

Couldn't this have been done over the summer?

Meghan McLaughlin, 12

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

When Central athletes are charged with crimes, should the school declare them ineligible from participating in sports? If so, for how long should the punishment last?



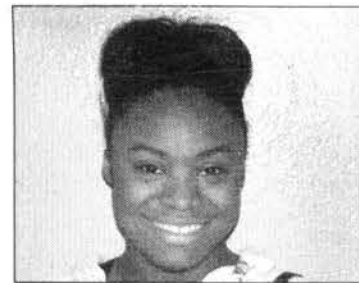
"I think nothing should happen to them because it's outside school."

Chris Kielion, 9



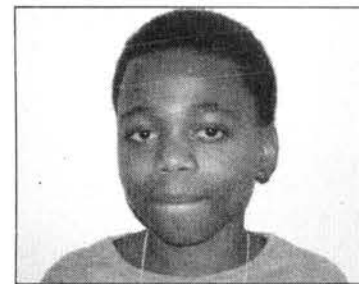
"If they're irresponsible enough to commit a crime, then they shouldn't be allowed on an athletic team, at least for the rest of the year."

Jamie Hills, 11



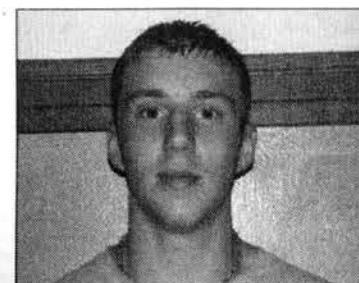
"If he was outside of school property and it had nothing to do with school, then he should not be penalized at school because he's already penalized by the law."

Coreya Lay, 12



"They should be suspended from the team for a game."

Kalton Likely, 9



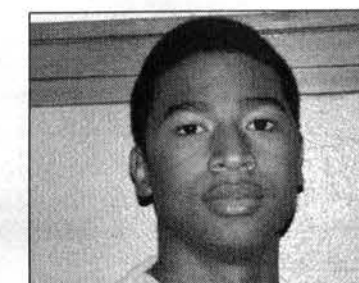
"I don't think they should take away the school activities. If it has nothing to do with what they did, then there's no problem."

Sam Okrina, 11



"Kick them off the team because it reflects on the other athletes."

Paul Gunter, 12



"If he is doing like drugs or stuff, they should take him off."

Derrick Brown, 10

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Roger Roll
Plaintiff in lawsuit filed against Omaha Public Schools

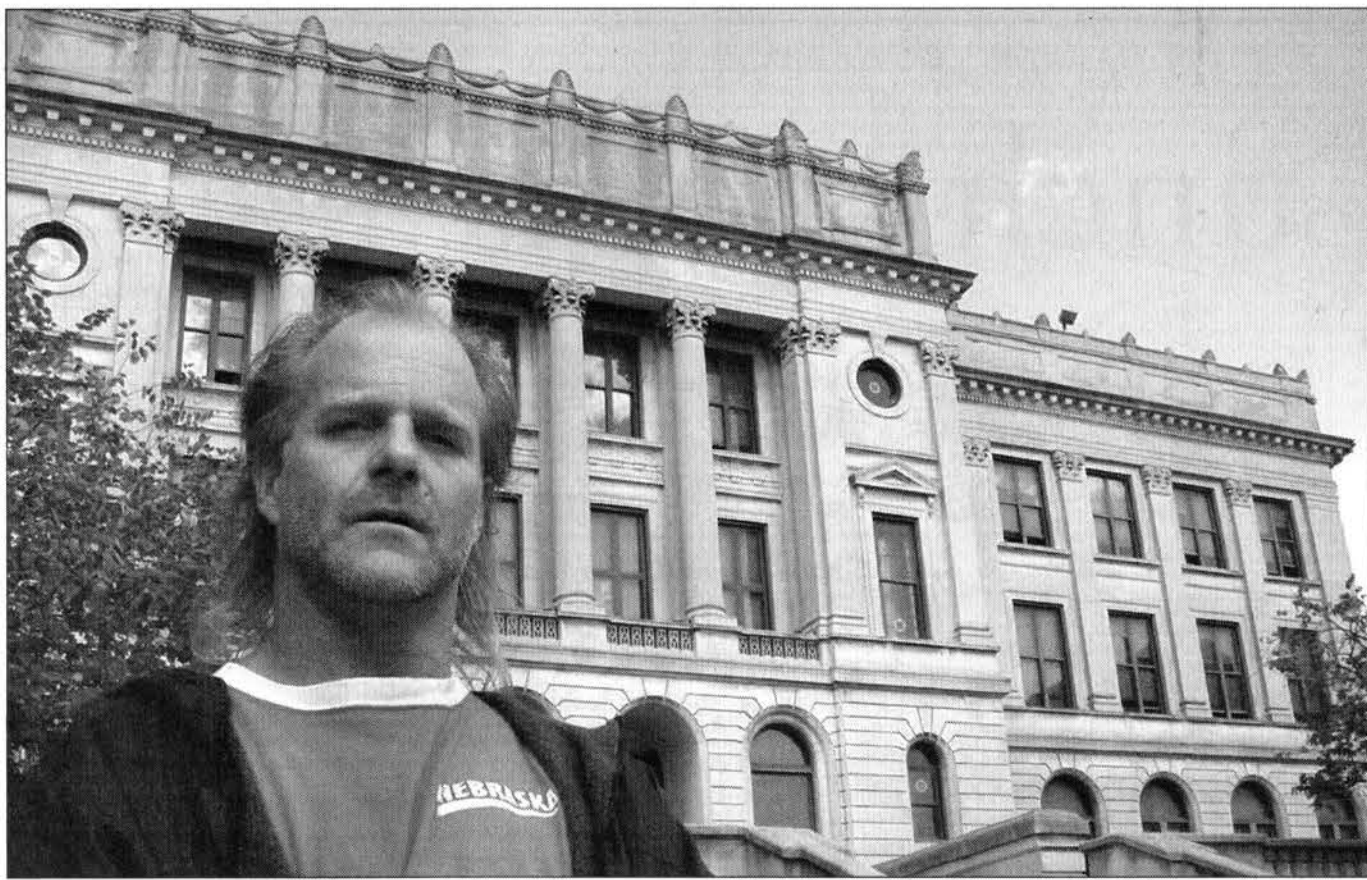


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

'I am taking on a giant'

This issue, the *Register* interviewed Roger Roll, a father of a Central student, about the lawsuit he filed against the school district. In his lawsuit, he calls student fees, like locker and gym suit expenses, an illegal tax.

Q: How did you first learn about the state of student fees in Nebraska and what does the state constitution say about them?

A: Doug Christenson (the state commissioner of education) sent an advisory to Nebraska superintendents. Every superintendent got this letter on July 25. Every one of them had it before school started, advising them to stop charging student fees. He essentially told them in that letter, "If it's part of the school day, then the school is required to pay."

Q: Why did you decide to sue the school district? Why is it that important to you?

A: It seems like a pretty pathetic amount to be suing the school district over, but what got me interested was the penalties associated with not paying any one of these fees. They can hold your report card. They can hold your transcripts. They can keep you from graduating. If you don't have a student planner as a freshman, they can give you a '5' for the day.

Q: How did you feel when you found out about these penalties for not paying these fees?

A: She would have failed a course if I wasn't on the ball because of that? I didn't know they had student planner checks. That sort of reminded me of when I was in the military. We had to go through certain checkpoints to make sure things were okay. I understand military checkpoints, but that's what this is and if you don't have an OPS student planner, they get a '5' for the day? That causes her to fail a course. I went through the roof.

Q: But you said you knew about the fees in the past when your daughter was in junior high. Why did you decide to sue the school district now?

A: It never hit me until last year, eighth grade at King Science Center. I was sent a letter about why she was not getting her report card. It was because she hadn't paid a required lab fee and they were holding her report card hostage until I paid this fee. I had questioned, in sixth grade, the hall locker fees, the gym locker fees and I just went along with it because I read the handbook and it was required. But when I didn't pay a fee and her report card was held up, that's when I started questioning it.

Q: What do you think is the worst thing about these student fees?

A: Each school can charge its own fees. Each principal can set his own rates on whatever he charges for these things. It's different at King Science Center than it is at Central High School.

Q: Since you've filed this lawsuit, I know there has been a lot of discussion about the different fees. What do you think is the difference between a legal student fee and one that is illegal?

A: When I looked at the lab fee and it was required. Six dollars and 50 cents. They're charging her for being in the class. She needs this class to move on to the next level because this is what the school curriculum requires her to do. And now they're holding her report card up because I did not pay the fee? Don't hold her report card. Don't make her feel like any less of a student because her dad did not pay the fee. I do not feel obligated to pay for something they are obligated to do.

Q: If you win during the legal process, how is the current system going to change?

A: It is holding the Omaha Public School district to the task of providing a free public education. It's going to require that the Omaha Public School district pay back what we think is an illegal tax for four years of collecting these fees. They're going to have to pay the Omaha taxpayers back. I filed this lawsuit on behalf of every taxpayer in OPS.

Q: What was your lawyer's response when you first approached him about this lawsuit?

A: When I first approached him about it, he said that I am taking on a giant here. I'm taking on not only the Omaha Public School system, the biggest district in the state, but I'm essentially taking on every school district in the state because every school district charges these fees. So he said, "Expect some very negative things," and he told me that I have a lot of guts to take on something like this.

Q: What do you want to gain from this?

A: I didn't take this on thinking I'm going to get any money out of it or notoriety. He (my lawyer) said, "You're suing these people because your taking on a principle," and the principle is a free education which they obviously have not been providing. He said "You have jumped into the ring with a 500 pound gorilla here." I said okay.

Q: What will happen next?

A: This is going to come to a head in 30 days and we'll see what direction they want to take. Even if all student fees are dropped, will the lawsuit continue? Yes.

Fake displays of affection show immaturity of guys

Guys have issues. I'm not being anti-guy. I'm not talking about all those sexist stereotypes I've mentioned before.

I'm talking about the "I'm straight, but I like to feel up other guys" crap. We have all seen guys who do it.

Slapping each other on their butts and other common acts are not something I like to watch. I'm not talking about the old football and baseball rituals.

I'm talking about the "I want to get attention in the hallways or get out my closeted homosexual feelings" rituals, either.

I could identify certain people, but I'm better than that and prefer to avoid lawsuits, so I'll just make a rough estimate. At least 50 percent of the male population here at Central takes part in at least one of these rituals a week.

Some guys do it just to be funny. They're secure enough with their own sexuality to get away with that kind of stuff, they claim.

Hello? Every guy knows as well as I do that whether you are positive about your sexuality or not, you are never secure. Teenagers are never secure. It goes against the natural order.

I don't really know what is going on in the male mind. I may be a guy, but I'll drop dead when I understand one. I'm also above this "I'm a sex god" mentality. I'm not accusing all guys of behaving

in these barbaric and chauvinistic ways. I am aware that only a portion of the population behaves this way, but getting on my very last nerve.

The guys who are jacking around need to stop. Otherwise, they will ruin the entire gender name.

When it comes down to it, it's not even touching part that bothers me. As long as it doesn't involve me, I'm fine with it. I mean, business is your business. Whatever floats your boat.

What bothers me is the principle behind the action. Whether they're horny, insecure about their sexuality, whether they are looking for satisfaction, there is no reason for this of activity.

Quite frankly, a lot of people here at school don't want to see it. So please, others the courtesy and stop grabbing each other.

Get a self-help book, listen to tapes or go to a support group. I have sound all corny here. You are not alone.

I want to be able to walk down the hallway and not have a guy hit me unless he's actually serious. I don't want to see two guys all over each other thinking it's funny. It isn't.

I would like guys to act civilized and stop acting perverted. Although a portion of guys commit such acts, something still needs to be said.

Enough is enough!



ALL A SETUP
Danny Whelan

Portables offer great place for school to hold moved classes

The inconveniences of next year's renovation projects are just starting to take shape, but the administrators are handling them very well.

The school has come up with a great way to handle the renovation projects.

The answer: portables. Lots and lots of portables. Up to about 30 or so, maybe.

It is still up in the air, but the more the merrier.

They will be located out on the astroturf and house classes for the entire year. While many people think this way of dealing with the project will decrease productivity and create a huge eyesore for the school, it is the easiest way for the school to deal with a tough situation.

And it is a lot better than it could be.

As evidenced by the last month or two, holding classes in the courtyard and the library doesn't work.

It doesn't work for two or three art classes.

And it won't work for five or six English classes, either.

Because of the open space that causes voices to echo, the inability for teachers and students to access school supplies and the fact that these areas are used for other things holding class in these areas is nearly impossible.

There are no other places the school can hold classes in the building.

So, administrators had to look outside the school.

They decided to use portables because it would not bring about an extremely negative impact for the school.

In the grand scheme of things, clearing the turf and track for a year will not be a very big deal.

In fact, it will hardly be missed. This area is only used for students who run around the track for some athletic teams to use the turf for practice.

But these problems can be fixed easily.

Students can run around the school and athletic practice can be moved around. It's a matter that much.

Also, since the school decided to use portables, work will be able to be completed faster.

Because the school will utilize more than two portables, it will be able to clear a floor at a time, which will increase the productivity of crews that will do the work.

Construction managers said having more rooms to work on will make their jobs easier and the work run more smoothly.

While some students may be that they will be housed in portables part of the next school year, the school has decided on the best course of action given the situation it has to deal with.

And as far as the track is concerned, it can easily be replaced.

It will probably be put to more use as a place to hold classes than it is now.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register



Administrators jumped in quickly to solve school's fighting problem

Seven fights in one day. It must have been a record. On Sept. 27, acts of violence swept through the school like a case of the plague.

It was pure chaos. Without warning, a fight would break out that would lead to another fight and so on.

Two fights even broke out during what should have been a routine fire drill that the school held on that day.

Extra police were called in to watch over the campus after school. The principal made an unusual announcement the next morning criticizing the student body's actions and saying the school could not afford another day like that.

What happened? Why did a somewhat normal school year suddenly take a turn for the worst? Why were some students taken out of school in handcuffs?

Was it because of gang disturbances?

Was the administration not prepared? Or is Central just a failing inner city school? No.

The answer: overpopulation. The preliminary count of Central's population is about 2500 students, the biggest in the school's history. The second largest school in the district is North with 2000 kids.

The fact is, when 2500 students are forced into a building that is over 100 years old, days like this are destined to happen.

With such a large student body, there will be problems like these. The fact that all these instances happened on the same day was a shame. This does not excuse the offenders for what they did.

Fighting in a school environment is ridiculous. While most of the students were trying to pursue an education, these few students were committed to giving the school a bad name.

But the school recovered immediately from the day's action.

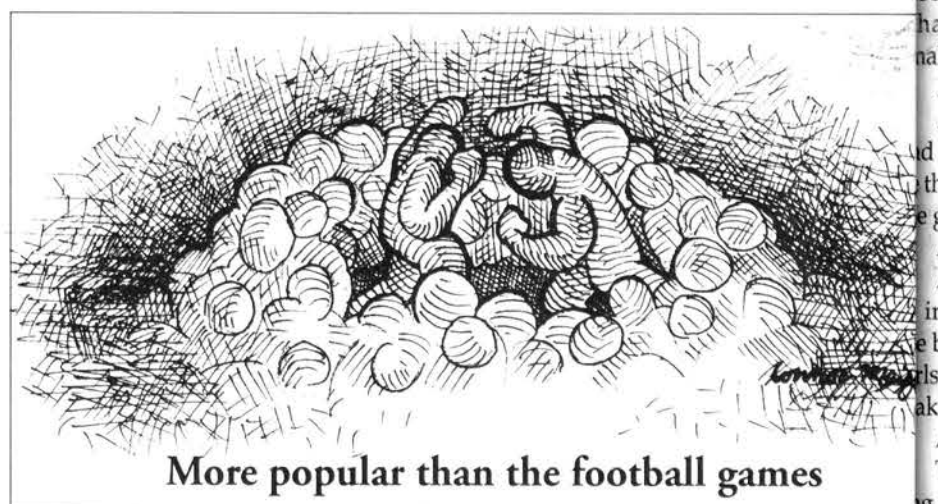
School officials jumped in early and often when the violence struck. Students involved in fights were immediately punished with long-term suspensions and expulsions.

Besides the extra police presence at the end of the school day, almost every teacher was stationed outside, ready to make sure the problem did not get any worse. Every administrator watched the campus as well.

The announcement the next day also set the tone for the rest of the year.

The principal made it clear that any future acts of violence would not be tolerated. Even the day after the record number of fights, extra police were still positioned around school and many possible fights were broken up within a matter of seconds.

The school stopped the problem before it permanently scarred the school's image and made sure it did not come up



More popular than the football games

again. Everyone who was involved in regaining order should be commended for their efforts.

The students involved were quickly dismissed from school, along with the memories of the day.

Hopefully, this type of violence will never happen again. But it is good to

know that school officials can maintain control under such adversity.

With this sort of leadership, the school can handle 2500 students.

Or maybe the district could take an initiative and limit the enrollment especially with construction in the school's future.

REGISTE
THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER
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serve basis.
Homecom
has always
been the school-sponsored formal
that is open to every Central student.
Until this year.
Although the school did not
totally exclude freshmen and
sophomores from the activity, the
fact that not everyone could attend
is a problem the school
should focus on fixing.
The new change in the way
the tickets were sold this year was
caused by the lack of space available
for the dance. Because the
school held the dance in the gym,
not as many people could be ad-

Dec 20
18 #3



School locks younger students out of dance

There were a lot fewer students at this year's Homecoming dance than in the past.

The difference was like night and day.

No, it was not because fewer students decided to attend the dance. This year's attendance was lower because the school placed a limit on how many tickets it sold, leaving many students "out of luck" when it came to the Saturday activity.

Also, the school gave juniors and seniors the first chance to purchase tickets for the dance. The other two classes were given the leftovers.

The school should rethink this practice and return to the way ticket sales have always been held—without a cap and on a first come, first serve basis.

Homecoming has always been the school-sponsored formal that is open to every Central student. Until this year.

Although the school did not totally exclude freshmen and sophomores from the activity, the fact that not everyone could attend is a problem the school should focus on fixing.

The new change in the way the tickets were sold this year was caused by the lack of space available for the dance. Because the school held the dance in the gym, not as many people could be ad-

mitted as before.

Holding the dance in the gymnasium is a bad idea. Besides not being able to hold as many students as demanded, it also presents other problems for the school.

Parking around school and the informality of the venue are just some of the problems of this year's dance.

Homecoming is supposed to be something special. It is supposed to be different from the rest of the school-sponsored dances at the beginning of the year, but holding it in the school's gym leaves a lot to be desired.

While other schools rent elaborate ballrooms for their dances, Central students were left to dance on the same floor that the basketball team uses for practice.

Although the dance was held on campus, students still paid the same price as they would have any other year. There is no reason why students should pay \$10 or more to go to a dance at their own school, whether it is Homecoming or not.

The school needs to allow all students who wish to go to the dance to attend and also needs to choose a new venue before the event can be successful.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register

Aerobics class deserves old weight room space

When the school decides what to do with the added space, the new additions will bring it, it seems to use common sense. It should not make things harder.

But if the upcoming renovations go as planned, that's exactly what will happen.

At the end of the project, a three-story gym wing will be added east of the building.

The classrooms get smaller and smaller as the floors get lower. And that classes get the smallest room?

Aerobics. And when all is said and done, what class will be the farthest away from the girls' locker room? Aerobics.

And finally, in a twist of irony, what class has the biggest percentage of girls who would have to take this long journey? Aerobics.

The aerobics classes are getting cheated. Some will say that this is just luck of the draw.

But letting luck determine the placement would be wrong. The truth is, there is only one boy enrolled in aerobics this year.

Officials know this and they knew it when they first started planning how the new gym space could be split up.

The worst part of this whole problem is that the answer is so easy to see.

Aerobics classes should be held in the current weight room.

When the classes are moved, the current weight room will be emptied. It is less than thirty feet from the girls' locker room, too.

Besides its location, the weight room has other amenities that would definitely be useful to the aerobics classes.

The room has a padded floor. Though it was originally put there to lessen the blow for weight lifters, it is perfect for a class that routinely has to remove pads from storage to hold class everyday.

There is already a sound system in the current weight room, too.

The weight room also has mirrors along one wall. These could be instrumental in making sure the class stays in unison during stretches and exercises.

The current plan for the current weight room is to split it: half would go to a trainer's room, the other half would be used as a video room for football.

Perhaps this mistake was just a simple oversight on the part of the administration for the project. Or maybe it's just dumb.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register



Unplugged

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Bellevue East administrators did not allow televisions and radios to be turned on during classes. This caused more damage than it prevented.

Bellevue East administrators made a huge mistake.

During the Sept. 11 attacks on New York, Washington D.C. and in Pennsylvania, Bellevue East administrators decided to shut down all televisions and radios in the school.

This action sounds like something that would not happen in twenty-first century America. And it shouldn't have happened.

Administrators justified their actions by saying they did this because the school is located by Offutt Air Force Base and many of the students knew people who were in the military and worked at the Pentagon.

This is ludicrous. It is not a principal's job to baby-sit students and make sure they don't hear any bad news while they are at school.

Schools are supposed to educate students, not limit the amount of information that they can receive.

Especially on that day, students needed to know as much information as they possibly could. They needed to know how much damage there was, when everything happened and what the country was doing to recuperate.

Of course, the students who knew people who worked at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon wanted to know if their relatives survived and were healthy.

The students could not learn that information at school, but they still needed to know what was going on around the country.

Not allowing students to listen to a radio or watch a television to learn about the events actually hurt the school's cause.

Granted, students were not able to hear about the terror that unfolded on that day, but this did not help the situation. Not giving students correct

and valid information could have led to rumors being spread that the students took for granted and scared them even more than watching the news.

This action would not have been insensitive to the students who knew people involved in the attack. If a student was too shaken up to remain in class, teachers should have allowed the student to leave the classroom and visit with the school's counselors.

The way Central's administrators handled the day's events was perfect. The administrators offered only minimal interference throughout the day.

Administrators allowed teachers to do what they wanted in the classroom.

Some teachers tried to make the day as normal as they could.

Others allowed students to talk about the issue. Televisions were tuned in to local news stations to catch the latest developments in many classrooms.

The best part about the day was that the administrators allowed the teachers to decide for themselves.

Especially in a time of great crisis, students need to be informed about important issues that affect them.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register

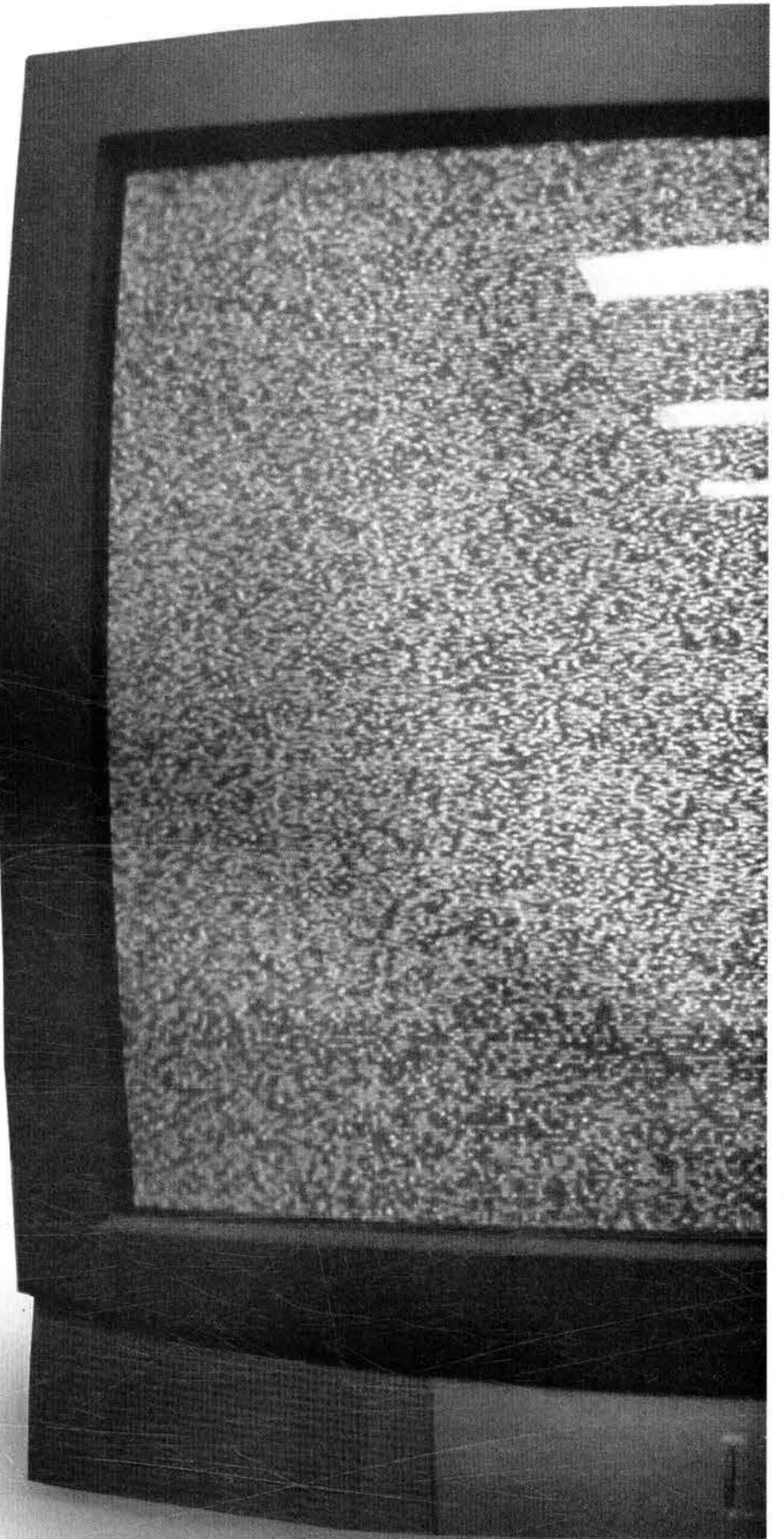


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Lawsuit will provide direction for schools

One thing is certain about the recent lawsuit that was filed against Omaha Public Schools.

It is too early to tell what the suit will bring, but it will certainly clarify which student fees are legal and which ones are not.

After years of paying numerous school fees for his children, a Central parent decided to sue the school district in September because he thought charging student fees violated the state constitution.

The Nebraska constitution requires school districts to provide a free education to all children ages 5 through 21.

Immediately, Central and other schools stopped charging fees, just to be safe.

No matter what happens in the courts, the school districts will never be the same, but if the district loses this lawsuit, many things will change.

Districts have always relied on student fees as a way to collect money for athletics and field trips, but it is unknown whether this will be allowed in the future.

Also, the plaintiff is calling for the school district to repay parents for all fees that were collected during the last four years. Obviously, this presents a financial threat to the school district.

Opponents of the lawsuit

have said the decision might hurt every taxpayer in the state. If school districts is unable to collect some student fees, property taxes may increase or certain activities may need to be cut.

This is ridiculous. The end does not justify the means. If school districts are not providing a free education to Nebraska students, then that is wrong and needs to be changed.

School districts need to be accountable for the money they spend and the services they provide, period.

Quickly after the lawsuit was filed, officials at the state level said one thing determines what is legal and what is not.

If it is required for school, the school pays.

This definition is correct. Requiring that a student complete a class in order to graduate and then making the student pay for some class expenses is wrong.

Locker fees, gym fees, lab fees and requiring students to pay for daily planners should all be eliminated when this matter is all said and done.

Basically, the school is requiring students to pay for their diploma. According to the constitution, every student should be able to complete high school without paying a single cent, something that is not happening right now.

Deciding whether other school fees violate the constitution will be a lot tougher, though.



For example, student-activity cards have caused a lot of debate since the lawsuit was filed.

While athletics are not a necessary part of schooling, should they still be offered for free because it's part of the high school experience?

What should the school pay for? How much should the students chip in?

The process may take years, depending on what happens in the appellate courts and during the appeals process. It is such a big issue that it will probably end up in the Nebraska Supreme Court.

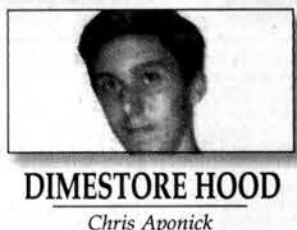
No one can guess how the court will rule, but one thing is for sure. The plaintiff has said he will continue with the lawsuit until the end. He is not looking to settle out of court.

And this is not necessarily a bad thing.

The state constitution was written over a hundred years ago, and sometimes it needs to be revised.

This will just help to provide some guidance for schools that charge student fees.

It's just evolution at work.



DIMESTORE HOOD
 Chris Aponick

Attacks bring America back to real world

Currently, the horrible attacks on the East Coast are dominating the news.

The somber national attitude has caused all Americans to rethink how they live. Even the media has momentarily given up on some stories.

However, if we look back to the beginning of September, it is easy to paint a ridiculous picture of America.

The story of California representative Gary Condit's involvement with a missing intern helped the networks get ratings.

Did they have sex? Did he kill her because she was leaving? Does he have other mistresses? Tabloids and Tom Brokaw both benefited from playing the sex angle associated with the story.

The late night talk show hosts loved this story, too. It was just like the Lewinsky story or Bob Packwood's secret diary.

This story proved my basic theory that most headlines develop into Jay Leno punch lines within 24 hours.

That is how it goes.

The latest political scandal only serves to provide David E. Kelley with a plot for the season premiere of *The Practice*, while sitcom writers also reap the windfall of sexy current events.

When current events help provide us with a prime time chuckle, it is certainly a sign of our failing moral character.

It's all part of our beloved national hypocrisy. To pretend to care for two minutes and satirize it for next eight is something we all do.

I often find myself throwing off one-liners concerning topics varying from felonious athletes, dead six-year-old beauty queens to various dead musicians and Ms. Lewinsky.

Not that I am a bad guy necessarily, but maybe somehow in this age where the attention span only lasts for the first four minutes of the network news, I get hooked on the scandalous topics like everyone else.

It's all good, though, because that is how we have been taught.

We go along without caring until a disaster comes along to make us think for a couple weeks that maybe life is not all that humorous.

But soon enough, the news cycle will reset itself. It will once again tell me about what Condit ate for breakfast and how that makes him guilty of making Levy disappear.

Soon enough, Washington Post reporters and everyone else will be fixed outside his Washington apartment to tell me this important news.

Soon enough, I will be able to sit down and watch network news without feeling mortal. Soon enough, I will be able to hear Brokaw and Leno say the phrase "pink, frilly lace panties" within four hours of each other every night.

Soon enough, I will be comfortable with the world. Soon enough, I will once again be able to look at a picture of sensationalized sex stories and political maneuvering.

Soon enough, I will know that America is not a masterpiece. But I wouldn't trade it for anything. I can't wait.

Running scared

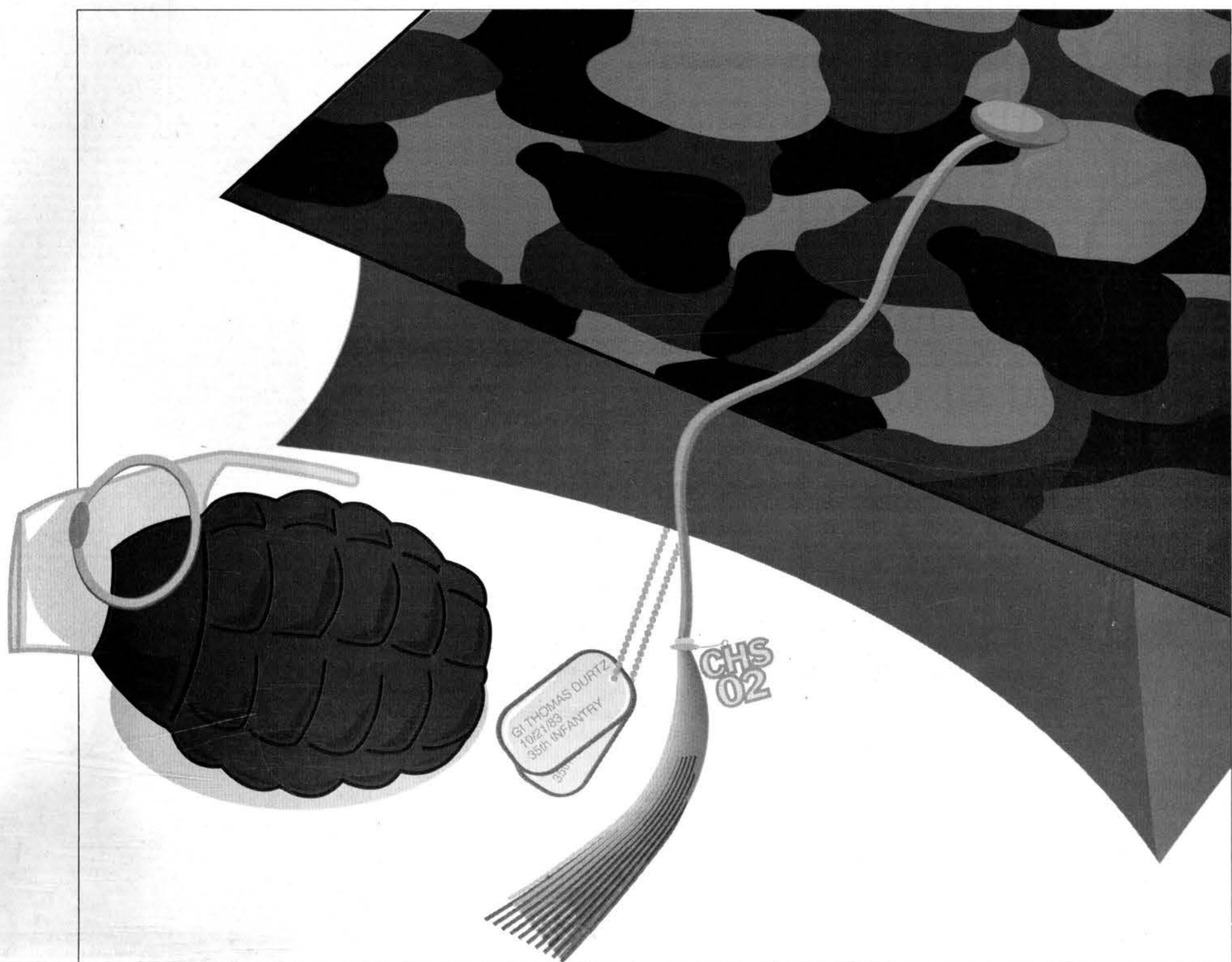


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

When terror struck, Central students complained about the possibility of being drafted and were terrified about the future. They had the wrong attitude.

There was an incredible fear.

Fear of war. Fear of dying. Fear of the draft. Fear that the entire American system was no longer real.

The uneasiness lasted a while, until an announcement was made: America was at war.

That's when the speculation began. People started to think about exactly what "war" meant. They started to think seriously and logically about all those fears they were having not too much earlier.

One fear that became a strong speculation was that America would reinstate the draft.

Looking at it from this vantage point, almost a month and a half after the initial attacks. It seems silly to think the draft was ever a possibility. But still, the fact remains: No one wanted to go to war.

This attitude leaves our generation with a pathetic epithet: "The ones that wouldn't."

It's sad to think this generation has been raised during one of the biggest economic booms in America's history.

We've been pampered. We've been coddled. Yet we still won't give anything back to this country without being forced.

In almost all OPS elementary schools, it was part of an established standard routine to stand up every morning and face the flag of the United States of America.

The 50 stars and 13 stripes were nothing, really. Simply a small decoration that we had to utter some words at for a couple seconds everyday in some strange tradition established long before we were even born.

Back then, no one really knew what they were saying. But now, those words ring with a stab of irony for a generation that would largely vote to stay at home during war.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Any high school student would gladly attest to the need for freedom and justice. In fact, most teens would agree that almost all United States laws are fair, unless a law directly applies to them, and even more if it would result in some punishment.

Yet the Republic is obviously not as indivisible as it once was, and that is too bad.

If ever the draft were to be reinstated, it would be the duty of this generation to take up arms and go fight for America's rights.

This country has given its citizens far too much for far too long. Students receive a free education and school districts even pay for students' meals if necessary.

If a person gets in trouble, the government will stand in again and get representation for that person if necessary.

Simply by making truancy illegal, the United States government is paying for thousands upon thousands of students to receive free food and shelter.

If everything the American flag stands for does not warrant students unwavering support, then what does?

Certainly, if a bunch of slightly off-kilter middle-eastern religious nuts can put together an army of thousands, the great republic of America can do the same.

And hopefully, if the time ever comes that the draft is needed, this generation would step up to the plate when given the chance.

Or, this generation could continue to be afraid and try to continue to have a superficial sense of pride for this country.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of the Register staff

Racial stereotypes ignore individual personalities, valuable qualities

Wigger, Oreo, Blonky, Uncle Tom. All of these words should not be a part of the English language.

The way people act should not be attributed to their race. It should be attributed to their personality.

Just because a person is black doesn't mean that he has to walk around with his pants sagging, drink OE malt liquor and have a mouth full of 6-year-old gold caps.

Likewise, just because you're white doesn't mean that you have to walk around and be like, "Jesus Christ, Bob."

It shouldn't work that way. I don't know the first thing about being "ghetto." I have never lived any-

where close to the ghetto. I lived on 34th and Ernst until I was 6, then moved out in the boonies to Lake Cunningham Hills where you hear a siren only if it is going down the interstate.

Then again, there are white kids who come from the true ghetto and are criticized for acting the only way they know how to live.

If you had to eat cereal every night for dinner, catch the bus everywhere you go and be the only white kid in your grade school, how would you act?

And if you are a black kid who's parents have good paying jobs and can afford to move out of the ghetto because they want you to live bet-

ter than they could ever have, you are instantly stereotyped.

I am not rich, if that's what you're thinking. Sure, my mom drives a 2001 Hyundai Santa Fe, my dad has his own '98 BMW Z3 convertible, my sister has a 2001 Focus and 2001 Kawasaki Eliminator and we live in a \$150,000 house, but we're not rich. We're comfortable.

I am black, but I am not a thug, gangster, hoodlum, OG or whatever else you want to call me. I know white kids that are more ghetto than me and I don't have a problem with that.

If I walk through my neighborhood at night, people turn on their bright lights and slow down. People at my church think my family sells drugs to get what we want. Black people even discriminate against other blacks.

So how does this relate to you?

Are you one of those black girls who sees a white girl with a black guy and gets upset at both of them?

Do you hate the black guy because he is not dating you, and do you despise the white girl because she's taking one of the last good black men that are left?

Or are you the white girl who dates a black guy so that you can spite your parents?

First, if your parents have a problem with that, tell them that this is Rosewood, and no one will get lynched. Then tell them to wake up and stop drinking the coffee.

As a matter of fact, no one person is one race.

We're all black, we're all white. No one can be called one race or the other. We're all somewhere in between.



ONE STRIKE AGAINST ME

Jon Lathan

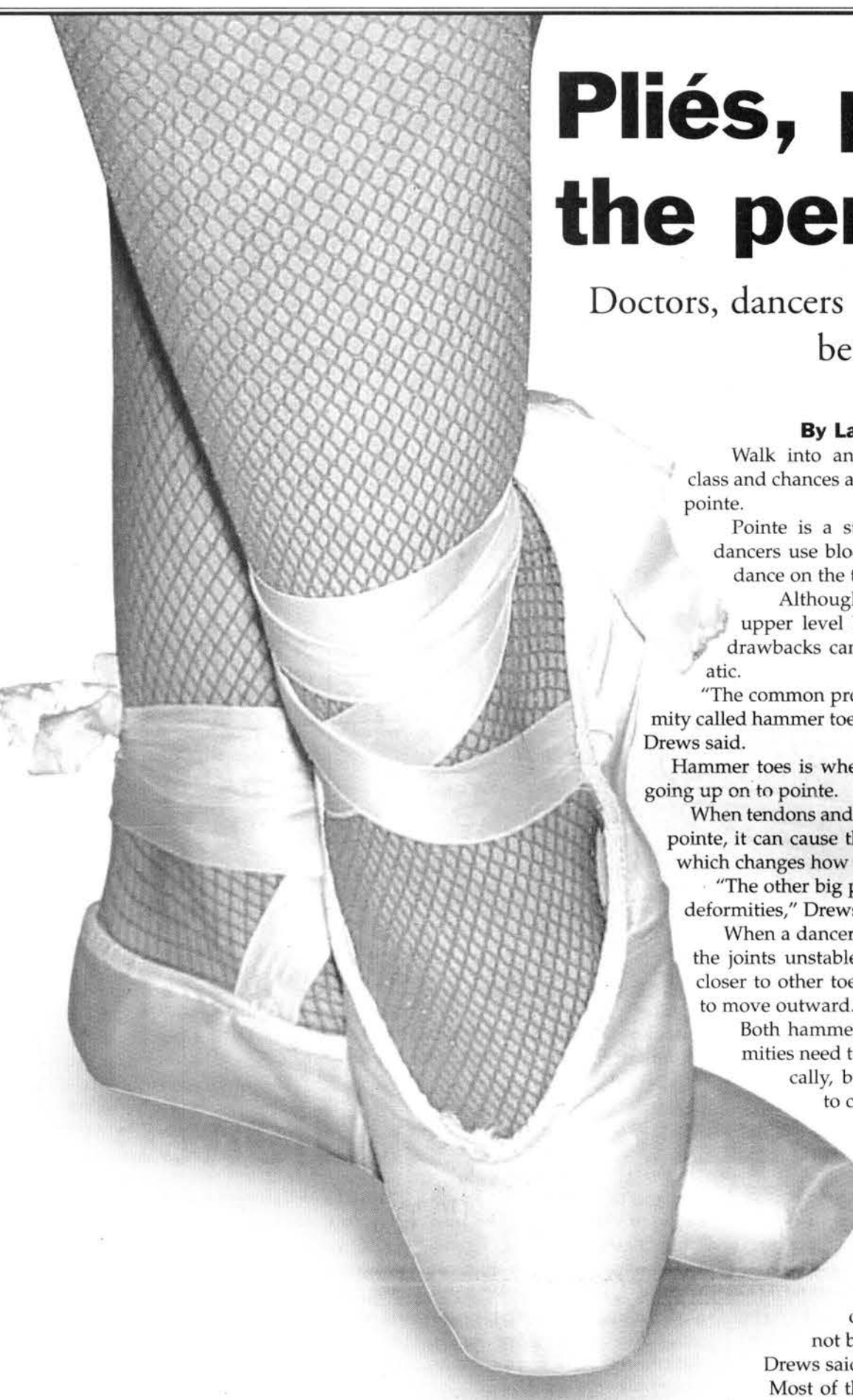


BEAUTY
Options for changing
appearance overwhelm
some teens
PAGE 24

**Band
ascends
upon city**

By Kaitlin Butz
Whether it is the addition of members, opening for other bands or reviews that describe the band's sound as "passive handwriting and chocolate cake," Lincoln band Flyaway Manner (HFM) stayed together and remained strong.
The group consists of Sean McGinn on guitar and vocals, Central alumnus Boz Hicks on drums, Adam Anderson, who goes professionally by Adam2000, on bass and Tom Chasek on guitar.
The original three members of HFM came together five years ago.
Hicks eventually came to McGinn and said he would be interested in starting a band.
Even after five years, the band members all remain good friends.
Chasek and Anderson live together in a house Hicks said serves as a place for any band to practice.
On April 17 of last year, the band fulfilled the dream of many other up-and-coming bands when they opened for Washington DC band Fugazi.
"I'd wanted to play that [the Fugazi concert] for a very long time," Anderson said.
HFM plays shows about once a week, usually in Lincoln.
Since McGinn and Hicks are students at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the members say they do not get to tour out of town as much as they would like.
The band's lack of funds is another factor that limits its touring.

In the past year, the band had two national tours.
The first one was a year ago, covering a 6,000-mile stretch to the East Coast and back over a two-week period.
The second tour was during the summer for two weeks in the south.
McGinn said HFM doesn't play in Omaha very often, about once every six months. McGinn said it was harder to get spots on local shows because of the dominance of Saddle Creek bands in Omaha.
HFM has no plans to relocate in the immediate future and the members all like the local music community.
"There's a lot of stuff going on in both cities," McGinn said.
The members said they think that Lincoln is a supportive network of groups.
"There's variety here and a sense of unity and helping each other," McGinn said.
Even though the band may not have achieved national fame, McGinn said the album has been played on stations as far away as Chile.
Still, the band appreciates starting off in a small city to help them build a fan-base.
"The smallness of Lincoln as a music scene can be an advantage too. There's not a lot of music being pumped out every day," Anderson said.
HFM has released an untitled full-length album, two split seven-inch records and an EP, "Rotation of Thoughts and Names." It has also been featured on several compilation albums.
The band recorded its debut at the basement of McGinn's house on an eight-track recorder.
HFM will be playing a show Nov. 10 at 7:30 at the UNL Culture Center.



Pliés, pirouettes and the perils of pointe

Doctors, dancers take a closer look at the drawbacks and benefits of one of the oldest forms of dance

By Layne Gabriel

Walk into any advanced level ballet class and chances are the students will be on pointe.
Pointe is a style of ballet where the dancers use blocked slippers in order to dance on the tips of their toes.
Although pointe is a staple of upper level ballet classes, the health drawbacks can be somewhat problematic.
"The common problem they get is a deformity called hammer toes," podiatrist Dr. Michael Drews said.
Hammer toes is when the toe contracts from going up on to pointe.
When tendons and ligaments tighten during pointe, it can cause the toe to curl downward which changes how the toe bears weight.
"The other big problem we see is bunion deformities," Drews said.
When a dancer is on pointe, it can make the joints unstable and the big toe moves closer to other toes, which causes the joint to move outward.
Both hammer toes and bunion deformities need to be repaired, most surgically, but many dancers choose to continue to dance, regardless of their injuries.
"Most of them [dancers] don't seek medical care because they're going to keep dancing," Drews said.
Many dancers begin at the age of five or six, but pointe should not begin before the age of 12, Drews said.
Most of the problems that dancers have are because the bones and joints

are becoming less pliable.
Pointe does have its benefits, though. For young girls who are pigeon-toed, the movements of ballet can redirect the foot outwardly without other treatment.
Pointe itself is good for strengthening the foot and keeps up lower body strength.
Before performances, many dancers use cotton and tape their toes to prevent injury and pain, but dance is a very painful experience.
Seeking the help of a podiatrist will allow dancers to continue performing as pain-free as possible.
Sophomore Brigid O'Malley has been dancing for about 12 years.
She has been taking pointe classes for over three years and currently takes about three hours a week of pointe.
"I've had tendonitis and that was about it," O'Malley said.
She also had shin splints from all of the pounding that her feet were taking from pointe shoes.
Her tendonitis forced her to be under the care of a physical therapist for about a month.
It caused her to slow down her dancing a little bit, but she did continue her work.
"The posture... [dancing] helps a lot. You usually have a lot stronger legs from dancing," she said.
Although dancing does have some medical downsides, she would like to continue dancing for a while.
"I want to be a dancer for a ballet company... preferably [in] New York," she said.
Pointe dance has helped O'Malley with her balance, posture and physical well-being, and barre work has also helped her maintain her strength, she said.
She has had very few problems with her feet in all the years of her dancing.
"I'll have blisters every so often, but that's about it," O'Malley said.

Photo by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Success leads Son, Ambulance to look to international stage



Photo by FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER
Jeff Koster taps a cymbal during a slower ballad at the Sept. 24 show held at Ted and Wally's in the Old Market. The band's sound is eclectic, ranging from the Latin-influenced "Maria" to more mellow tunes.

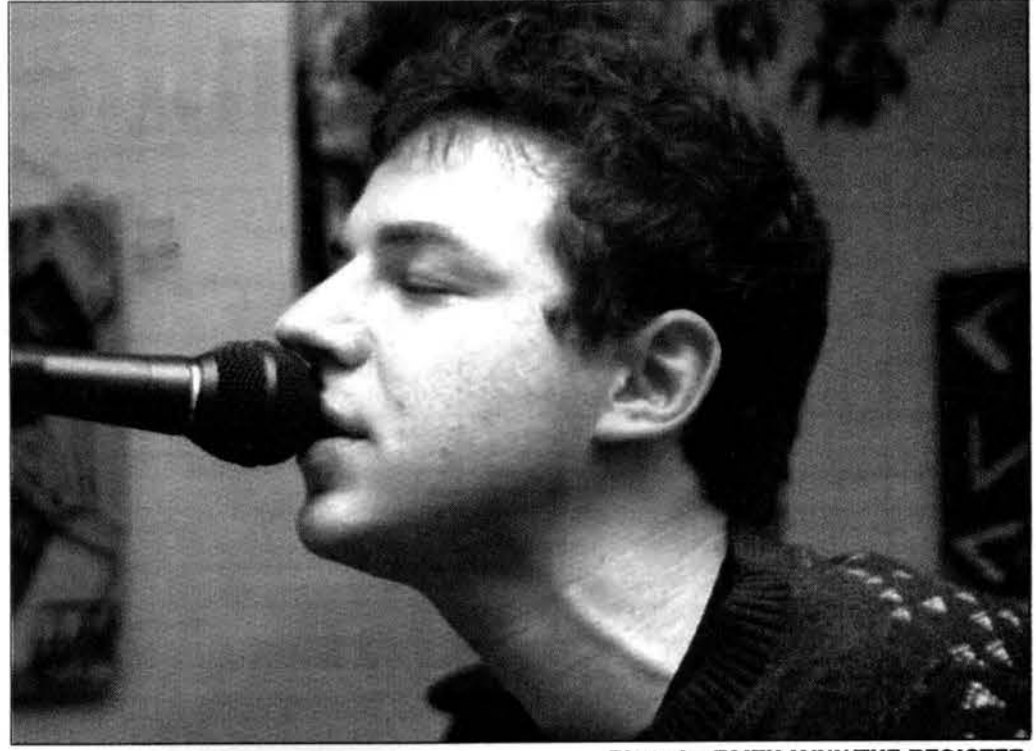


Photo by FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER
Lead singer Joe Knapp croons a love song, also during the Sept. 24 show. The singer/songwriter said he took a long time to get his songs out because he feels they are very close to him.

By Kaitlin Butz
Local record label Saddle Creek has just released the debut full length "Euphymistic" by Son, Ambulance, making the band one of the most talked about local bands of the year.
Son, Ambulance is composed of Joe Knapp, vocals and acoustic guitar, Jeff Koster, drums, Jeff Tafolla, keyboards, Robert Little, bass and Grant Brownyard on electric guitar.
The band has been together for several years, but first gained attention earlier this year when it released a split CD with Bright Eyes, "Oh, Holy Fools." Knapp

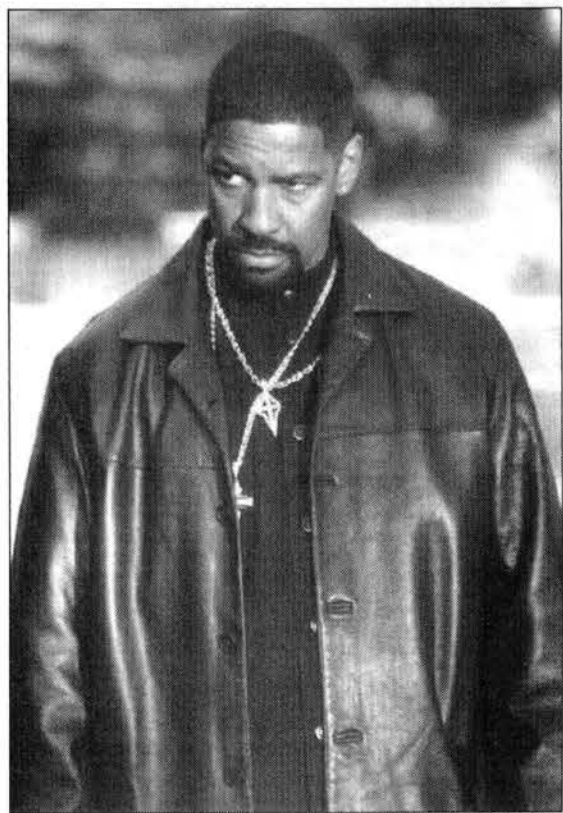
has been part of Bright Eyes' rotating cast of members in the past.
Knapp said many of the songs on "Euphymistic" are older and different sounding than the songs on "Oh, Holy Fools." He describes the band's style as folk-pop, influenced by artists like Elliott Smith.
Knapp said he considers "Sung Like a Friend" and "A New Dress for Maybel" to be stand out tracks.
Knapp has been writing songs for about five or six years, but said he was afraid for a long time to perform.

Eventually, Knapp was able to show others his songs, which was hard because he considered them a part of himself.
"At some point, I decided I wouldn't be OK with what I was," he said. "I would have to come forward and express myself with what's in my head."
The new album contains guest vocals by Conor Oberst of Bright Eyes and Ian McElroy of Despericidos. Both bands are also on Saddle Creek.
When it comes to fame, Knapp said he wouldn't mind it, as long as it's on his own terms. He said he would take a cue

from Michael Jackson and keep control of his fame.
"It would have to be on my terms, I wouldn't want to be made a pop star," he said.
Son, Ambulance started a fifteen date tour Sept. 8. Various bands, like Pedro the Lion and Azure Ray performed with them on this tour. They went to cities as near as Lawrence, KS to those as far away as Athens, Ga. and New York City.
Knapp said the band played a show on Sept. 24 at Ted and Wally's with Simon Joyner.
There will be no official CD release show, Knapp said. He

said he hopes people will hear enough about the band and its album to buy the record.
There will be no singles released from the 10-track album either, Knapp said, though he said people might request some of the songs.
"I didn't think any of the local radio stations would really play it," he said.
As for future plans, Knapp said it will develop as a band and release more albums as time goes by.
He said he would also like the band to tour more, especially in foreign countries.

Reviews & Previews



Courtesy of WARNER BROTHERS

Denzel Washington plays a convincing narcotics officer in the movie "Training Day."

Latest 'Denzel' flick has gore, little more

By Paula Salhany

Guns and drugs are at the heart of the movie "Training Day." Each and every scene has something to do with the drug-riddled streets of Los Angeles.

Denzel Washington plays a seasoned police officer in the narcotics unit who does not like to play by the rules of the book. Ethan Hawke stars next to Washington as his sidekick.

Hawke's character is a new cop straight from the academy who does not understand the ways of the street. Washington tries to teach him how to get by and make the "big busts."

Throughout the movie Hawke is stunned and ashamed of his colleague's actions.

As expected, both Washington and Hawke put on a good show. Washington convinces the audience that he is truly untouchable.

While the acting was exceptional, the plot of the movie left a lot to the imagination.

For most of the movie, the viewer was left to figure out what the movie was really about.

The problem with this movie is that it takes too much time to develop the characters and setting the scene for the end of the movie.

Because of the slow development, the movie drags on for what seems like forever. Just when one thought it would end, it continued for another hour.

If you wait long enough, the action finally begins about an hour and a half into the show. Someone unexpected is killed and bricks of money are found in his house. From then on, the movie simply becomes one shooting and bloody action scene after the other.

For someone who enjoys blood, guts, gore and lots and lots of money, this is the perfect movie.

But beware. This movie is not for boys and girls with weak stomachs who do not like seeing what happens when a bullet is shot through someone's head.

Cursive appeals to fans with new EP

By Kaitlin Butz

Cursive's new EP, "Burst and Bloom," showcases an entirely different style than its 2000 release, "Domestica." Though only five songs long, all of them are impressive and build upon the last record.

Cursive's sound has changed. The band has started to use cellos in many of its songs, which adds a new feel to the music.

While the songs on "Domestica" all focused on the breakup of a relationship, "Burst and Bloom" features songs on more mature subjects.

The title track is a blistering sound-off to all the critics who have preconceptions about Cursive because it has not signed with a major label. It is one of the best songs on the album and was a great choice for the opening track.

"The Great Decay" is another song that stands out. It has a desolate tone that is emotionally convincing. When Tim Kasher screams "We don't amount to anything," it is easy to believe him.

"Mothership, Mothership, Do You Read Me?" has a sound reminiscent of tracks off of "Domestica," but still has a fresher mood.

The final song, "Fairy Tales Tell Tales," starts off experimental, with the vocals distorted and in the background. The ending of it is amazing, with soft vocals layered over crashing guitars and drums to provide an incredible effect.

Overall, "Burst and Bloom" is a short, but promising release from a band that is sure to do great things in the future.

Calendar



Tool band members Justin Chancellor, Danny Carey, Adam Jones and Maynard James Keenan played a show full of excellent visuals in Cedar Rapids on Oct. 20.

Tool captivates audience

By Layne Gabriel

Although Tool will not be making its way to Omaha anytime soon, its recent show in Cedar Rapids, Ia. was outstanding.

The show began with "The Grudge" and the crowd went wild. It was followed by "Stinkfist" from the album "Enima."

Possibly the least expected song of the night was "Sober," which Tool rarely plays live. The crowd practically drowned out vocalist Maynard James Keenan as he sang.

Playing old material was not the purpose of the show, though.

The band pulled together an ensemble of songs from their new album "Lateralus".

Keenan, also front-man for the band A Perfect Circle, captivated the audience with his melancholy yet aggressive lyrics, while the rest of the band complemented his vocals perfectly.

Besides the music, the visuals were amazing. They set the mood perfectly. Behind Keenan were three large screens with projections of various footage shown throughout the concert.

During the instrumental "Triad," the band was joined by the drummer from opening act,

Tricky, as well as performers from the group Osseus Labyrinth.

Osseus Labyrinth was also amazing. Two performers hung from the ceiling by their ankles nude, swung around and performed various bodily contortions that complemented the song.

The lighting set the mood, and the visuals made for a captivating performance.

The opening act, Tricky, was fairly good, but the anticipation of Tool caused the audience to be frustrated and rude.

All in all, the show was excellent. The vocals and music pulled everything together flawlessly.

Album Releases

November

6 They Might Be Giants - "Holidayland"

Popular underground alternative band They Might Be Giants releases its first holiday album this month. This is the follow-up to the band's recently released "Mink Car."

13 Madonna - "GHV2"

Pop princess Madonna releases her greatest hits album, chock full of everything from "Erotica" to "Ray of Light." "GHV2" does not include any of her new material, and is also missing some of her best ballads. But do not fear. This is perfect for any Madonna collection.

13 Smash Mouth - "Smash Mouth"

Smash Mouth's third album and follow up to "Astro Lounge" is full of the group's rocking pop hits. The band, with such hits as "Walking On the Sun" and "All Star," now releases some greatly anticipated new material.

20 Pink - "Missundaztood"

Pink releases her second album, after her hit debut "Can't Take Me Home." Her new album is full of songs that are made to help people understand exactly what she is about.

20 Creed - "Weathered"

Rock band Creed returns with its newest release since the ten times platinum "Human Clay". The first single "My Sacrifice" debuted Creed's new heavier sound, and additional new material is available on the band's website through the exclusive and innovative on-line Creed pager.

20 Kid Rock - "Cocky"

After spending time with Snoop Dogg and Sheryl Crow, Kid Rock brings out some new material that's just a little different. Rock's been kept busy helping out his buddies with new material and wrapping up his own album, plus spending time with his new girlfriend, Pamela Anderson.

20 Britney Spears - "Britney"

Pop superstar Britney Spears releases her new tracks Nov. 20. The first single "I'm a Slave For U" debuted at the MTV Video Music Awards to strong accolades, and the rest of the material is going to be a little more than typical Britney. Spears includes her duet with boyfriend Justin Timberlake of N'Sync, as well as her cover of "I Love Rock and Roll."

Movie Releases

November

2 "Life as a House"
"Domestic Disturbance"
"Monsters, Inc."
"The One"

9 "Heist"
"Shallow Hal"

14 "The Wash"

16 "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"

21 "Black Knight"
"Spy Game"

30 "Super Troopers"
"Texas Rangers"

Concerts

November

1 Dishwalla, Five Story Fall
Ranch Bowl.

4 Short Round, Keratoids, V
Abby's Ego at Cog.

5 Nickelback at Royal Grove
Lincoln.

9 Justin Petosa, Chad Rex,
Jason Steady, Matt Foley at C

9 Ultimate Fakebook at Ran
Bowl.

9 Neil Diamond at Civic.

10 Squad 5-0, the Blamed a
Cog.

10 Neil Diamond at Civic.

13 Cold, Dope, Flaw at Ran
Bowl.

14 Good Charlotte at Rand
Bowl.

14 The GC5, Pirx the Pilot,
Isolated at Cog.

15 The Slackers at Cog.

16 Rune at Cog.

17 Fonzarellies, 8th Wave,
Cuterthans, Straight Outta
Junior High, Split Second at
Cog.

24 P.O.D., Fenix TX, Blinds
at Sokol.

24 Isolated Guilty, Fatty
Hazard, JV Allstars, FC12 at
Cog.

30 Coverage, American
Nightmare, Thrive, Thursda
Cog.

Drama

November

2 "You Should Be So Lucky"
Omaha Community Playho

3 "Rocky Horror Show" at
Millennium Theatre.

4 "Diary of Anne Frank" at
Omaha Community Playho

4 "Guys and Dolls" at Lied
Education Center, Creighton

15 "The Santaland Diaries"
Blue Barn Theater.

16 "A Christmas Carol" at
Omaha Community Playho

23 "Cabaret" at Orpheum.

29 "The Nutcracker" at
Orpheum.

30 "The Nutcracker" at T
Rose.

Belly dancing quick to learn, students say

By Kaitlin Butz

The art of belly dancing may be hundreds of years old, but it is practiced by many people, and its growing popularity in some Central students.

Movements through the midsection characteristic of this type of dance, said sophomore Ashley Campbell, started to belly dance last

month before she did her Roadshow act.

Both Campbell and Dutton said belly dancing is easy to learn once the basic moves are mastered.

Bynum said that most of the movements are natural to the body, making it easier to learn.

She said time, practice and strength are necessary to do the dance well, much like other arts.

One of the reasons belly dancing has been increasing in popularity is the aerobic and health benefits that it provides.

Bynum said many of the larger muscle groups are worked through the extended rhythmic workout the dance provides.

She said it helps develop stamina, flexibility and often brings the dancer into their target heart rate zone.

Campbell agreed that belly dancing could provide a workout.

"When you're dancing, you're working your entire body, not just staying in one place," she said.

The music the dance is set to is important as well.

Dutton said she choreographed her Roadshow dance specifically for the music she set the dance to.

"You really have to be in with the music, it has to flow," Dutton said.

Bynum said that a wide variety of music could be used. There are more traditional sounds, like the music of Egypt, Morocco, Greece or Turkey, but New Age music is popular as well.

Bynum said Omaha-based New Age group Mannheim Steamroller is one of her favorites to use.

There are many reasons more teens are learning to belly dance, Bynum said.

She said it was a good way to relieve stress and escape from daily activities.

It's something exotic and fun for teenagers to do as well.

"You have a freedom; it's a peace of mind. When you're listening to the music, you just feel free," she said.

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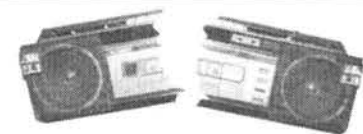
Campbell

Photo By PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Off the air



Courtesy of WIND UP RECORDS
Drowning Pool's "Bodies" was one of over 100 songs that Clear Channel pulled off the airways after the Sept. 11 attacks.



On Pause

The songs listed below were some of over 100 songs that Clear Channel stations pulled from their airways for about a week after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

- "Crash Into Me"
- Dave Matthews Band
- "Walk Like an Egyptian"
- The Bangles
- "Imagine"
- John Lennon
- "New York, New York"
- Frank Sinatra
- "Bad Day"
- Fuel
- "What a Wonderful World"
- Louis Armstrong
- "99 Red Balloons"
- Nina
- "American Pie"
- Don McLean

Stations rethink playlists after attacks

By Layne Gabriel

In the aftermath of the tragedy on Sept. 11, local radio stations decided to pull some songs from their playlists to be sensitive to victims of the attacks.

Jim Steel, director of operations of Clear Channel stations in Omaha and Lincoln, said that songs were pulled from playlists for only a short time.

"How appropriate would it have been to play [Metallica's] 'Seek and Destroy'?" Steel said.

The changes were made as a reaction to the pulse of the community.

There was a list circulating around the Internet of the songs that Clear Channel stations had allegedly banned, but no songs on this list were officially banned across the country, it was a list of suggested songs. The list included over 100 songs.

The decision came down to the program directors of the sta-

tions. "It's nothing more to do with other than being sensitive," Steel said.

By now, a majority of the songs are back on the radio.

"It's time to get back to some part of normalcy," he said.

Steel said for the most part, he believed the decision to remove songs from playlists was appropriate.

The two songs that were pulled from most stations were "Seek and Destroy" by Metallica and "Bodies" by Drowning Pool.

Bill Stewart, program manager for alternative rock station 89.7 The River, said the station only pulled two songs from its current playlist, "Bodies" and "Bleed American" by Jimmy Eat World.

"We did practically nothing different," Stewart said.

Both songs were losing popularity already, and the studio

managers determined that the content of the songs was not fitting to the situation at hand.

To make the selections, the staff looked at the playlist and determined that the two songs should have been pulled.

The songs returned to the air about three weeks later.

Although The River generally does not pull songs, this was an adverse circumstance that caused the changes, Stewart said.

Drowning Pool's publicist Steve Karas said "Bodies" was waning in popularity anyway and would have only continued playing on radio stations for about a month after the attack.

"A normal life of a single, when you work with the radio, is about five months," Karas said.

Karas said that the band has recently released its new single "Sinner" so that Drowning Pool can remain on the air, even if radio stations continue playing

"Bodies."

Sophomore Katie Peters said she thinks removing songs from airplay was a good idea.

But Peters also said she is disappointed in the message that removing some of these songs from the radio may have sent.

"I think that the Middle East's main thought is that our values don't match up [to theirs]. To ban [songs] is to say they're right and that the Americans have poor values," Peters said.

She said she thought songs should not have been banned for long, but she said she agreed with removing Drowning Pool's song.

The radio stations needed to be more careful about what songs they pulled off the airwaves, Peters said.

"I don't think any (songs) should've been banned, but I think they should've held back on some songs for sensitivity," she said.

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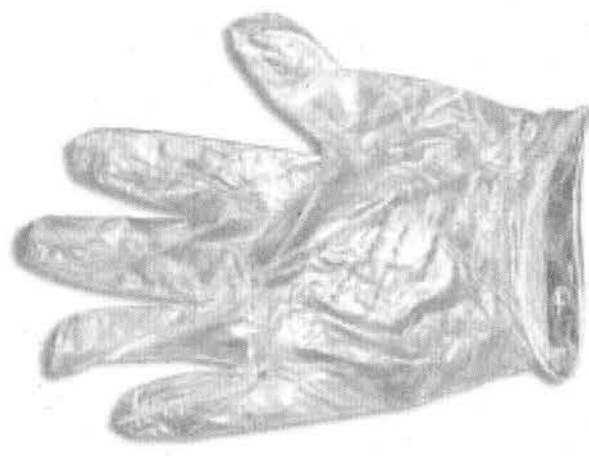
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The Art of BEAUTY



Pageants help image, junior says

By Danny Whelan

Beauty pageants are not just about parading around in shiny gowns and high heels, a Central junior who has participated in several competitions said. But many still said these contests exhibit a sexist attitude.

Junior Sarah White has competed in beauty pageants since she was nine years old and said she does not regret any of her experiences.

In the past six years, White competed in nine pageants and won the last one, the Miss Nebraska American Co-Ed Junior Teen pageant.

This past July, she passed on her crown to the new pageant winner.

White said the competition usually takes place every July at a hotel in downtown Omaha.

Winners receive a crown, sash and trophy.

Winners also receive a \$500 cash prize, a \$750 modeling scholarship to the International School of Modeling and a \$300 college scholarship good for any college the winner chooses.

White said she worked for five years for the title and encourages anyone interested to try it.

"I think people should go for it, but always be prepared for disappointment," White said. "And don't expect to win the first time because that rarely happens."

White competed in eight pageants before finally winning.

"I didn't really expect it," White said. "I mean, I wanted it and I could envision myself being crowned, but I didn't expect it."

White acknowledged that controversy over beauty pageants still exists, but said that the stereotypes have no truth to them.

"I think beauty pageants are seen as sexist because the winners used to wear bathing suits, so now everyone thinks pageants only exist to parade women around like pieces of meat," White said. "And it conveys a message of the ideal female image that doesn't exist."

Although there are biases, White said she believes that current pageants accomplish more than just showing women off.

Junior Renee Vieth had different thoughts about beauty pageants.

"They're stupid," Vieth said. "It's just a bunch of little itty bitty girls trying to flaunt all their stuff, which is barely anything at all."

Vieth said although the pageant contestants may not be airheads, they act like it by parading around in front of a camera or on stage. Vieth also thought it could hurt a young girl's self-esteem.

"I don't think it's a good idea to make girls self-conscious before they turn sixteen," Vieth said.

White said that participating in beauty pageants helps build self-esteem. White also said that contestants know that they all are winners because participants have to have confidence in order to succeed.

"Just because girls, or I should say women, take part in a beauty pageants doesn't mean they're not strong," White said. "These women are strong"

"These women go up there as individuals," she said. "They're not up there parading around for anybody because the judges aren't looking for girls who don't have a mind of their own."

She said women who participate in the pageants are not only individuals, but they always learn something.

"I wouldn't be who I am today if it weren't for these pageants," White said. "I've discovered almost every talent I have because of them."



Photo illustration by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

This photo illustration shows just some of the many things that go into to making someone look beautiful. Junior Alannah Keleyhers considers her many cosmetic options. In a poll, Central students said beauty is important in everyday life.

Student considers plastic surgery

By Layne Gabriel

Name changed to protect identity

Imagine going under the knife.

But instead of the knife taking care of a foot problem or knee problems, it would be fixing your nose or enlarging your bust.

For some teens, that's exactly what the case is.

Michelle*, a freshman, is thinking about getting plastic surgery after she graduates.

"I want to have liposuction and get a nose job," Michelle said. "I'm too fat and my nose is ugly."

Michelle said that she wants liposuction because she wants to be able to buy a larger variety of clothing.

"If I was skinnier, I'd be a lot more confident," Michelle said.

In Michelle's mind, skinnier people are more attractive and magazines cause her to feel overweight.

She said that she feels people glamorize being slender and dieting has not worked for her.

"It seems more and more unacceptable to be not pretty in that sense," Michelle said.

She also wants to get the bridge of her nose fixed because it sticks out.

Although Michelle has to wait a few years to get her surgery, she is not worried about the cost.

"I have money in my account that'll pay for most of it, but other than that, I'll have to work for it," she said.

She has not spoken to her parents about getting the procedure, but she plans to get it done when she is 18 since she doubts they will give their consent for the operation.

She also has yet to speak to her boyfriend about her intentions, but he is supportive of her body as it is right now.

"He thinks I'm perfect," Michelle

said. Imagine going under the knife.

Cosmetic surgery among teenagers is becoming more popular, but most teenagers that get it do so for reconstruction, Jennifer Thiele, marketing director at Aesthetic Surgical Images, said.

Many teenagers come in if they have broken their nose or have gotten a cut from an accident.

Thiele said the company rarely sees teenagers without their parents.

Sophomore April Gerlec had reconstructive surgery when she was younger. When she was five or six years old, she was attacked by a dog.

Gerlec had to have surgery three times to clear up her damaged face.

"My skin, I guess, was hanging off my face. You could see my bone," she said.

She now has to be careful around sharp objects because a little cut could cause major problems, she said.

"I was little so I don't really remember [getting the surgery], but I thought it was painful," she said.

Gerlec is incredibly pleased with the results of her surgery, but her father would like her to get another surgery to touch up the scar that she still has near her scalp, which is barely noticeable.

The most common surgeries for teenagers are breast reduction or nose reconstruction, Thiele said.

Thiele said that breast reductions are not exclusive to females.

There is a genetic disorder called gynecomastia that causes young men's chests to overdevelop during puberty.

Often young men will come in to get their chest reduced, but that is not done for anyone that is under the age of 16. Breast reduction in females is also fairly common.

Large breasts often cause back, neck and shoulder pain, Thiele said, and a re-

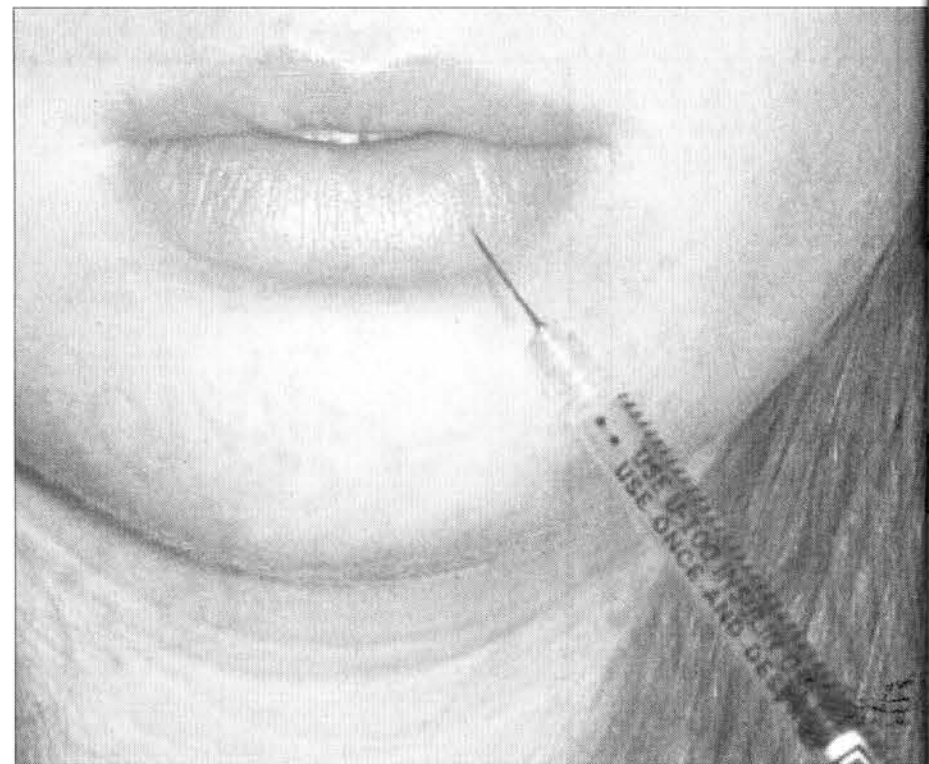


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Having fat tissue from other areas of the body injected into one's lip is one way that a person can enhance her image by having plastic surgery.

duction can help ease the pain and discomfort of being looked at during school.

Thiele said parents are usually very supportive when their children decide to get reductions or reconstructive surgery.

Breast augmentation is growing in popularity for teenagers.

Most women who choose to get it done go between their senior year in high school and their freshman year in college, Thiele said.

When people want to get cosmetic surgery, Thiele said they must make sure they are stable enough emotionally to make the right decision.

Getting it done to be accepted by a boyfriend or friends is not the right reason and many doctors will not operate

on anyone for those reasons.

Although it is not recommended to get surgery at such a young age, there are no major drawbacks, Thiele said.

Aesthetic Surgical Images uses breast implants, which were developed in 1991.

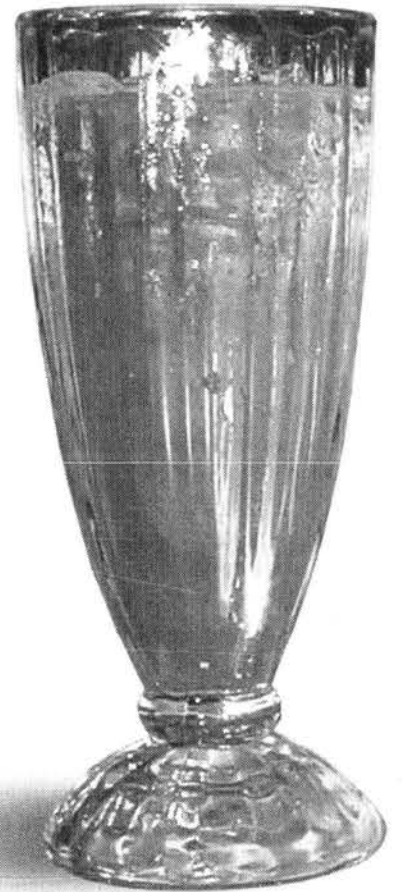
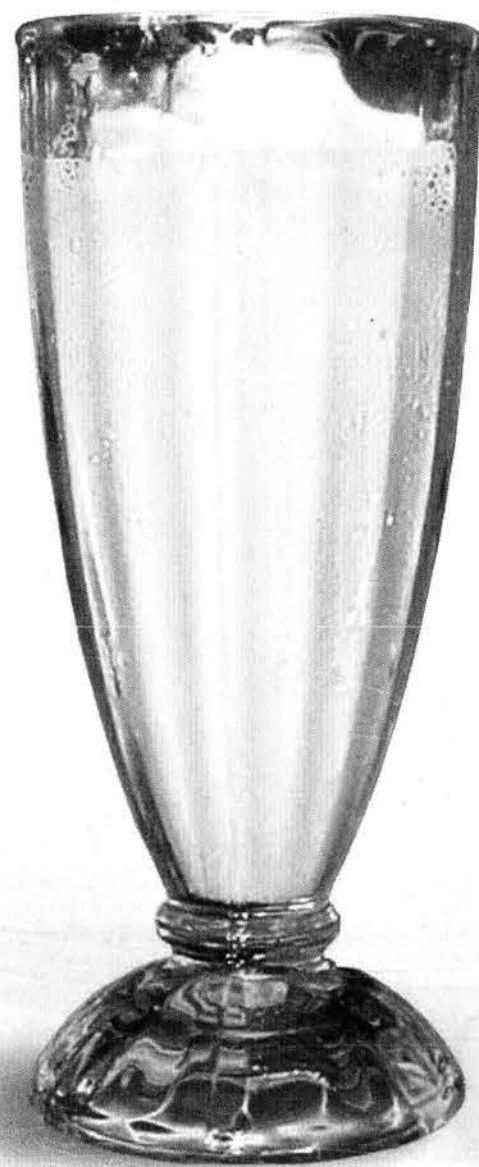
As of now, it's uncertain how long implants will last, but it is expected they will need to be replaced, because implants are not permanent.

Parents are occasionally supportive of their children getting breast implants at such a young age, but many people do not get the surgery so early.

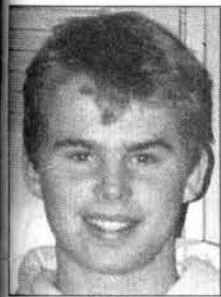


"There are some parents who are supportive of their daughters getting surgery," Thiele said.

The Diet Diaries

In search of the perfect diet, the *Register* set out to find what Central students are eating. Then, it sent the information to JoAnn Berggren, a dietician at Methodist Hospital, for her analysis. Here are the results.



Photos by CHRIS APONICK/THE REGISTER

	Breakfast	Lunch	Snacks	Dinner	Analysis
 Devon O'Connell, 11	NONE	Turkey sandwich on rye Lemonade (20 oz) Graham Crackers Orange Tomato	Cottage cheese 2 Oranges Turkey on Rye Tomato	Chicken wings Salad (no dressing) 2 Baked potatoes Rice with melted cheese Coca-Cola (24 oz) Orange	“What happened to breakfast? It is very important to start your day. You can take your breakfast to go if you are short on time. Cereal in a bag, string cheese, 100 percent fruit juice, a banana or even sandwiches are all things that you can take to school.”
 Malli Shepherd, 10	NONE	Granola Bar Mini bag of chips Subway sandwich Carton milk (8 oz.) Carton juice (8 oz.)	NONE	1/2 Burrito Chicken pot pie Bread with ranch Mountain Dew (12 oz.)	“Veggies are short in this food diary. Adding lettuce and tomato to your sandwiches, mixing veggies into your mac & cheese and packing prepared veggies as snacks are good ways to boost your veggie intake. More fruit is also needed.”
 Tyler Klusaw, 11	NONE	Milks (1 1/2 pint each) Potatoes Chicken sandwich (breaded on white bun) Orange juice (4 oz.)	Reese's Peanut Butter Cups Lemonade (20 oz) Oreo cookies	Bean soup (1 bowl)	“Your snacks are fairly high in both fat and calories. Try snacking on cereal, crackers, veggies and fruits. You are doing a great job meeting your calcium requirements each day.”

The results are in:

Central students sound off about latest beauty issues

How the girls responded

How often do you leave the house without makeup?

Sometimes 57.8 percent
Always 20.5 percent
Never 10.8 percent
Except special occasions 10.8 percent



Do you feel more beautiful when you are wearing makeup?

Yes 50.6 percent
No 49.4 percent

What do you look for in a man?

Eyes 83.3 percent
Personality 79.2 percent
Abs 56.3 percent
Butt 56.3 percent
Arms 45.8 percent
Other 39.6 percent
Back 16.7 percent



How the guys responded

Do men usually date women who are:

Medium Built 42.6 percent
Skinny 32.0 percent
Does not matter 27.7 percent
Larger 0 percent

How important is physical appearance in the people you date?

Not important 51 percent
Extremely important 25 percent
Moderately important 15 percent
Extremely unimportant 4.3 percent
Moderately unimportant 2.1 percent



What is the deciding factor in choosing somebody to date?

Personality and appearance 93.6 percent
Neither personality/appearance 4.3 percent
Personality alone 2.1 percent

COMMENTARY



THE ONLY TIME

Layne Gabriel

Local bands deserve fan support, cash

Teenagers are so oblivious. There are over 100 bands in Omaha and everyone wastes their time supporting some moronic national act. Every single local band desperately needs five bucks from anyone who goes to their shows.

Britney Spears doesn't need 15 more bucks of your hard-earned cash. She's not going to do anything for you. But a local band will.

A local band will talk to you, play the songs you ask for and even hook you up with free stuff sometimes.

There is local music to fit all different styles and tastes. What do you want, Punk? We got it. Hard rock? We got it. Emo? We got it. Pop music? We got that, too.

Back in the days of Nirvana, it was said that Omaha was the next big scene. I'd like to know why that isn't the truth anymore.

Just because our bands aren't pop stars doesn't mean that they suck. Most bands don't want to leave town.

Why is it that teenagers don't take advantage of the great local music that is offered in the area? Sure, you pay 40 bucks for an Everclear show, but for \$8 you can catch something just as good.

The most that you may know about local bands are their names. If you were listening to the radio, could you pick out Five Story Fall from the Goo Goo Dolls? Probably not.

Music is vital for many people and most forget that Omaha has so much to offer. When you expand to Lincoln, you have a wide variety of great music to choose from.

Almost every day, there is a great show going on somewhere: the Cog Factory, the Ranch Bowl, Howard St. (if you're old enough to get in), the Joyo...the possibilities are endless.

Local bands are popping up all over the place. There are a bunch of students here who are in bands that actually play shows. Did it ever occur to you to maybe check them out?

Or what about that band that you keep hearing on the radio? You know, the one that kind of sounds like the Deftones. Why don't you grab some cash and head out to a show?

Go fumble through the local music section at Homer's or Borders and see if anything catches your eye.

If you go to shows and like them, go to more. Buy the shirts. Some of these guys do this for a living.

I'm not telling you to give up on your favorites. I'll never turn away a new Nine Inch Nails album, but some of my favorite artists are local.

In a time where the music biz is being killed by the crappy economy, the best we can do is help out some of our local starving artists.

Love your local bands. Support them. Support Omaha.

Who knows, a member of a good local band could be sitting next to you right now.

A twist to an old favorite



Photo courtesy of BRYCEBRIDGES.COM

A special showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is winding down its run at the Millennium Theater.

By Kaitlin Butz

Over twenty years after its first theatrical release, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is still attracting huge crowds at the Millennium Theatre.

It is no wonder why. It is a classic that everyone should enjoy.

The musical is a campy tale of the misfortunes of an innocent young couple, Brad and Janet, who stumble upon a deserted mansion during a storm. The show is well-known for its wild costumes, insane characters and its cult-like following, but this offers a unique twist from the original.

The Rocky Horror musical opened on Oct. 4 and is scheduled to run through

Nov. 3 at the Millennium Theater, but the crowds have management considering extending the running time past this week.

It is the first time in 12 years that the theater has shown Rocky Horror and everyone should take the opportunity to see it live at least once. Otherwise, they would be missing out on a fabulous chance to see live theater in one of its funniest forms.

But if you decide to go, you should pack a lunch.

The audiences often come dressed in the outlandish costumes of the film's characters.

Also, a major part of the musical is participation from the audience.

Customers usually bring in props to use during specific parts of the show. For example, people bring in rice to throw during the wedding scene and squirt guns for rainstorm scenes.

The cast also invites the audience to sing along with them throughout the production.

But if you do not wish to actively participate in the mood, you can still have a good time.

The most important thing is that you go out and see the musical while you still have the chance.

Whether you have never seen the work or own it and watch it everyday, this production at the Millennium Theater should not be missed.

Video will show band's true style

By Layne Gabriel

Nine Inch Nails' new live video, which is expected to be released Jan 22, is sure to knock every fan, combat boots and fishnets off.

Frontman Trent Reznor spent the last few months since his national tour compiling video footage for the new release.

Loading information on his Macintosh and sorting, Reznor has finally compiled a new video release.

And recently, Reznor released his new project, "And All That Could Have Been."

The video footage was taken by members of Nine Inch Nails and the crew of the concerts and includes 18 songs.

The DVD will hold footage from various concerts on the 43-city Fragility 2.0 tour that Reznor and bandmates held in 2000 to support the critically acclaimed album, "The Fragile."

The tour was one of the best in 2000 and the video should be equally remarkable.

Reznor and company included many groundbreaking visuals, including light panels that raised, lowered and

tilted to accentuate the music.

The light panels also provided backdrops for a majority of the Fragility tour set.

The DVD/video is the first release from the band since spring's remix album, "Things Falling Apart," and fans highly anticipate its release.

Rumors were running rampant about the release date for the DVD/video, but in September, the date was finally set.

A live album will also be available for purchase, which contains versions of Nine Inch Nails classics, including "The Day the World Went Away," which is not available on the video format.

This is the first live album that Nine Inch Nails has released in its 12-year history. This footage might also include shots from the concert that the band played in Omaha, where many Central students were in attendance.

The information on what exact footage will be on the tape is not available, but there is a decent chance that songs or shots from the Omaha show will be included. Omaha is rumored to be Reznor's favorite concert venue.



Photo courtesy of NOTHING RECORDS

Nine Inch Nails frontman Trent Reznor includes live footage from the band's latest tour. The project is due to hit the shelves Jan 22.

Nine Inch Nails' last video set, "Closure," was a compilation of footage of the band and all of the videos from "Head Like a Hole" to "The Perfect Drug."

The new DVD and video will show a new side of Nine Inch Nails, instead of the commonly seen footage of the band.

Although the work won't be available until next month, the wait will be well worth it.

Duo follows up classic with darker sound

By Matt Wynn

Why do Euro-electronic bands tease us with albums to which we get down to, only to follow them with moody, dark albums to which we can't?

Massive Attack did it with "Mezzanine," the follow-up to "Protection."

Portishead did it with its titled follow-up to "Dummy."

And now, Air joins that long list. It's almost as if the bands of dealing with the nuisance comes with newfound success decided that a slight change in sound would shock fans and critics alike.

Air's new album, "10,000 Hz Legend," finds the French duo Nicolas Godin and Jean-Benoit Dunckel picking up where their original score for the Sofia Coppola film "The Virgin Suicides" left off.

The sound? Picture yourself in a Pink Floydish dream state where your eyes are heavy with sleep.

On Air's seductive debut album, "Moon Safari," the group's hip pair relied heavily on Moogs, Rhodes and sexy distortions.

On "10,000 Hz" the two refer to Kraftwerk and Cream, combining their trademark sound with acoustic guitars and orchestra.

Godin and Dunckel may have aside their infatuation with the retro feel, but they're still very sarcastic, suave French guys. If "Safari" was the album for the then "10,000 Hz" is the album to mind.

Air's new acoustic-electric fusion works well on tracks such as "Sex Born Poison," which features SuGar and Yumiko of Baby Driver.

The more rocking track, "Blurred," sounds a lot like a reject from Blur album. It is just cheesy and ridiculous.

But moments of delight are numerous: The ghostly "Rahours," features harps and sweeping strings while "People in the City" is pop.

On the Kraftwerkian "Electric Performers," the band pokes fun at the stiffness of the electronic genre. digital voice sings, "We are synchronizers.../Machines give some freedom."

Right. Air worked on its new bohemian sound of folk guitar and computer effects for six months in Paris studio.

The group put the finishing touches on the album in L.A., with Beck and two members of his band, bassist Justin Meldal-Johnson and keyboardist Roger Joseph Manning Jr., who played with them on their last tour.

On "The Vagabond," a quintessential loser contrived twangy vocals, singing, "I feel I feel haggard/Don't know what I'm looking for/Something new in Something lovely/That will make me feel alive."

His laughter fades out the same can be said about the darker turn.

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Petrow's
Homemade Ice Cream
Hot Dogs
Baseball
Apple Pie
BLA MODE

Location: 60 and Center.
Highlights: Old-time ice cream fountain, friendly family environment.
Drawback: Limited hours.
Rating: of 5

Location: 72 and Grover, 68 and Maple.
Highlights: Some locations open 24 hours, homemade muffins.
Drawback: Hashbrowns.
Rating: of 5

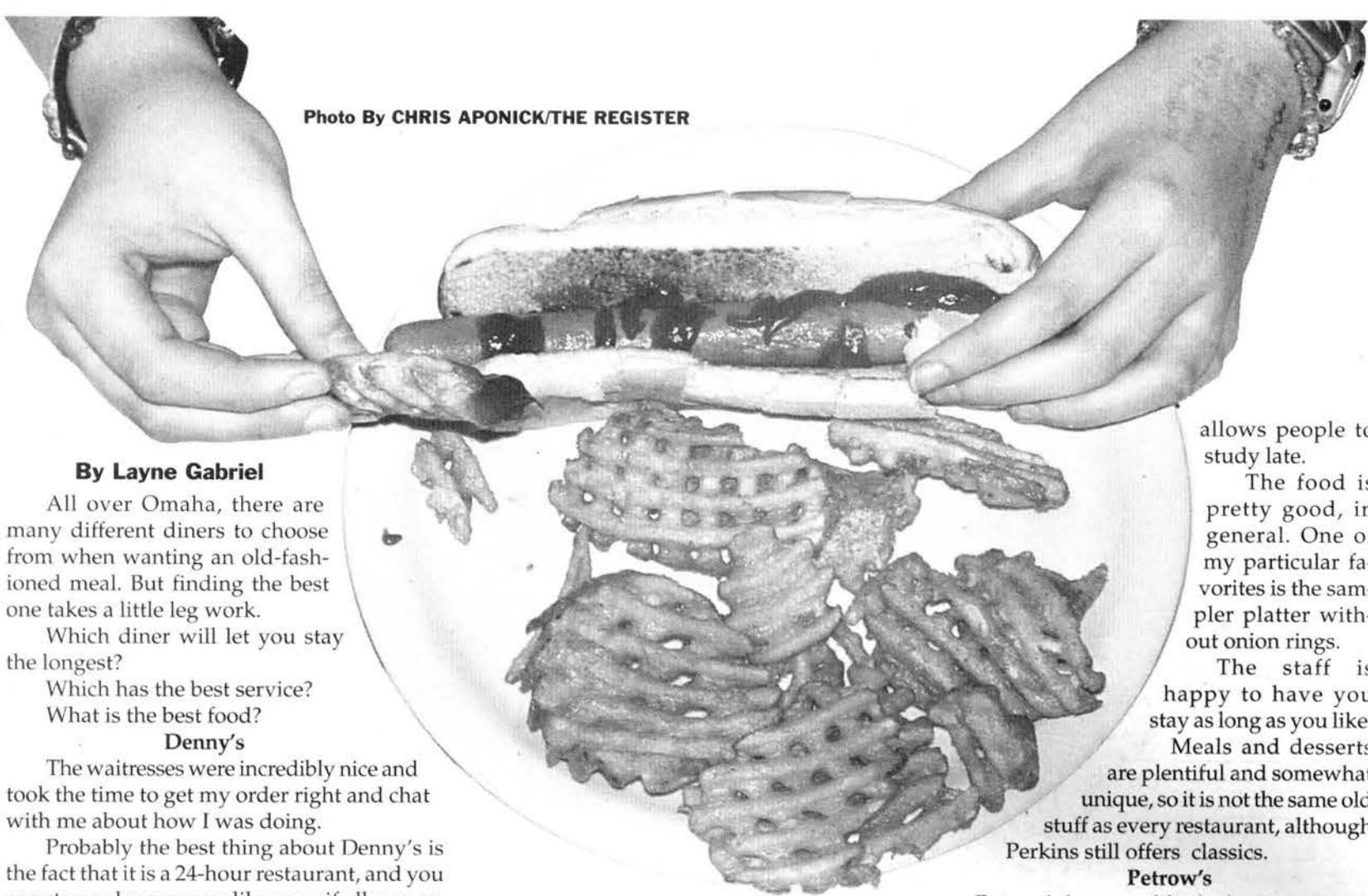


Photo By CHRIS APONICK/THE REGISTER

By Layne Gabriel

All over Omaha, there are many different diners to choose from when wanting an old-fashioned meal. But finding the best one takes a little leg work.

Which diner will let you stay the longest?

Which has the best service? What is the best food?

Denny's

The waitresses were incredibly nice and took the time to get my order right and chat with me about how I was doing.

Probably the best thing about Denny's is the fact that it is a 24-hour restaurant, and you can stay as long as you like even if all you order is a Coke or coffee.

If you actually take the time to pull together a few bucks to get food, it is worth the small cost.

The cooks do a great job with order accuracy and everything is ready quickly.

Denny's often has great specials. When I went there, the specials were breakfast meals for less than \$4.

Although a late-night menu with a smaller list of selections is available after about ten, the prices stay pretty close to the original menu.

Denny's is hands-down the best all-night diner in the area.

Village Inn

Village Inn has decent food, but quite a few downfalls.

Village Inn is often so full that waits could last an upwards of 30 minutes.

On weeknights, Village Inn is open until midnight, and on Friday and Saturday it is open until three, so staying insanely late is not going to become a reality.

After ten, the restaurant changes from normal menus to late-night menus that offer a smaller selection at higher prices.

The staff is usually fairly kind about letting people stay, so late-night studying is fairly easy if you just don't want to stay at home.

The food at Village Inn is comparable to Denny's, but don't think about getting a milk shake with your dinner if it's after ten. The waitresses won't make them.

Instead, try a slice of any of the pies that Village Inn is famous for, if you're up for it.

Perkins

Perkins has nicely isolated sections and the wait staff is incredibly friendly.

Some locations are open 24 hours, which

allows people to study late.

The food is pretty good, in general. One of my particular favorites is the sampler platter without onion rings.

The staff is happy to have you stay as long as you like.

Meals and desserts are plentiful and somewhat unique, so it is not the same old stuff as every restaurant, although Perkins still offers classics.

Petrow's

Petrow's has possibly the best service.

The wait staff seated my party quickly and remained friendly throughout the whole meal.

Although the hours are rather limited, the atmosphere of the restaurant makes the experience worthwhile.

The decor is retro and there are a few televisions in the back. There is a lot to look at, and the menu has a lot of varieties.

The food is mediocre, pretty much what you would expect from a fifties-style diner, but the speedy service made it tolerable.

Meals are a perfect size, but all the battered and fried food is hard on the stomach.

Onion rings at Petrow's are a bit below par. They are huge, but they are chewy and one bite makes all the onion fall out of the batter.

Although the food is not the best, Petrow's does make for a cute place to take a date and have a bite to eat.

Changes made dance better, officials say

By Jon Lathan

Security at the Homecoming dance was increased this year, resource officer Jerry Paul said.

Last year at the dance, there were only two Omaha police officers on duty. This year, that number was increased to five. Paul was one of the officers that was on duty.

"They wanted four officers this year and I pushed for five," Paul said. "To me, it's better to have more than what you need than to not have enough."

Like all years, underage drinking was not tolerated at the dance, he said.

If it was clear that a student was drinking, their parents were notified and the student was escorted out.

If parents was not available, police officers escorted them off the campus.

Paul said there were very few problems last year, only a minor fight and traffic congestion. This year, Davenport was blocked off at around 8 p.m.

"With all of the kids coming out of the building, and their parents trying to pick them up, it just becomes a mess," Paul said.

Aside from various doors being blocked off, some IDs were checked this year.

Administrators Nicole Regan and Julie Johnson were at the door to take tickets.

"We decided to check ID because in the past people were coming in from different schools and caused problems," Regan said. "Basically it was to maintain the safety of the school."

The administrators rarely checked identification, though.

It was only used if there were students that the administrators did not know well.

Identification was also checked if the name on the back of the ticket did not match the student's name.

Johnson said some students sold tickets to friends, that is why the names did not match.

She said she wanted to be at the door so that knew who was coming into the dance. Being there and taking tickets was a lot of work, but it was worth the peace of mind.

Regan said there were few problems at the door.

Some suspended students attempted to enter the gym, and others tried to pass counterfeit tickets to the administrators at the door, she said.

"The counterfeit tickets were pretty obvious, they were a different color than the original," Regan said.

Another thing that was new about this year was the cap on ticket sales.

Johnson said she liked the change because it decreased the crowds, although holding Homecoming off-campus would make her more comfortable.

Vice principal Dionne Kirksey said traffic was a lot better than last year because people had designated pickup spots.

Students that had counterfeit tickets were just escorted out of the building, she said.

Saddle Creek owner looks for local label to grow out of home

By Kaitlin Butz

At the time, the two were college students in Lincoln.

Nansel said they chose Saddle Creek because they always seemed to take Saddle Creek Road to and from practices for various bands.

At first, Nansel attempted to run the label out of his house while working as a graphic designer. But after about a year of doing both, Nansel realized he couldn't continue and would have to make a decision. He chose Saddle Creek.

"The logical person probably would've not done the label, but that didn't seem like an option," he said.

He has been managing the label full-time ever since.

Though the Saddle Creek bands may sound different, Nansel said there is a common thread running through them that many people might not recognize.

Though there is no set sound or characteristic that defines their bands, Nansel said the bands are similar in their taste of music.

While most of the groups on Saddle Creek are local bands, a few are from other parts of the country.

Austin-based band Spoon released a single on Saddle Creek. The single was a follow-up to Spoon's bad experience with Elektra Records and it was searching for a new label to sign with. Nansel said Spoon and Saddle Creek had become acquainted after years of touring and they offered to put it out.

Saddle Creek will release the debut album of Athens, Georgia-based band Now It's Overhead in the coming months.

Nansel said he thinks the band will be one of the label's next big hits.

Now It's Overhead recently

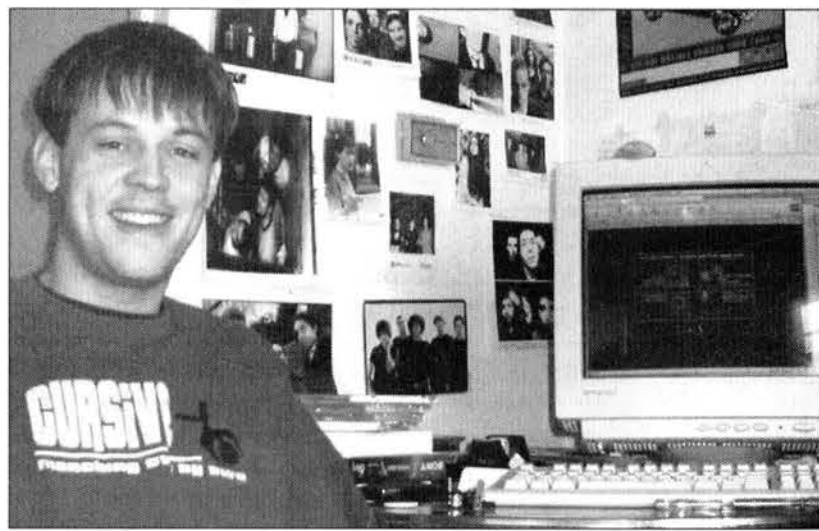


Photo courtesy of ROBB NANSEL
Robb Nansel, owner of Saddle Creek Records, sits in his living room. The popular record label is run out of Nansel's house.

toured with the Faint, a band who signed with Saddle Creek.

Nansel said he wants to build the label's roster and keep helping new bands get started. He said at

some point, he might even consider getting an actual office.

"We just want to be able to keep putting out records," he said.

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Shock for Shock Violence hits primetime

By Paula Salhany

Horror flicks, blood and gore are what people want to see.

Viewers would rather watch a violent show like "X-files" than a Disney show, Darlene Goldsberry, programming director at Fox 42, said.

But what people may not take into account is the effect a violent show may have on children and society.

From guns to rape, many of today's major shows contain some sort of violence.

Violence on television and in a child's life is more prevalent than it used to be, Dr. Louise Jeffrey, psychologist at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said.

"When children see violence in television, especially when a character is killed in one episode and comes back in another, they are not going to be able to decipher reality from a cartoon," Jeffrey said.

Children learn about society simply by watching other people, and what they see on TV is one of the easiest ways for them to learn, she said.

Because the television shows are violent, children and society are becoming more desensitized.

One incident, documented by the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, said a preschooler showed sudden fear and hostility towards African-Americans after watching "Roots" on television with her family.

She said the scene where a black slave was whipped was scary and the character must be a very bad person.

Even though there are documented incidents of children being affected by television, some students do not think certain shows such as cartoons would have that much of an effect.

"I think the reality shows like 'Dateline' and 'Primetime' are going to affect a kid more, mainly because it is real life," junior Dan Cavanaugh said. "Cartoons are just cartoons, kids aren't stupid."

Cavanaugh also said he does not think the violent content of television has necessarily gone up.

Goldsberry said violence in television has gone down.

"People do not want to see the shoot-'em-up shows that they used to in the past," she said. "Especially since the Sept. 11 event, people no longer want to see the graphic content they used to."

The issue of whether or not society has been desensitized by television has been hotly debated over the years.

TV plays a role in how children act, Heather Jue of the Mediascope group said.

"It has been shown that when children watch television shows that involve violence the symptoms of stress and aggression can be visible," she said.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), 10 to 20 percent of real violence can be attributed to violence seen on television.

While this does show that not every child who watches television will turn out to be a criminal, there is a percentage of the population that is affected by violence in the media.

Sophomore Angela Johnson said she remembers watching the Power Rangers.

She and her friends used to pretend they were Power Rangers and do the kick moves.

Johnson said she and her friends had a good time pretending to be Power Rangers and were not affected by the violence in the television show.

Junior Neal Bierman also said certain shows are inappropriate.

"I watch 'COPS' and there is a lot of real life violence in it," Bierman said. "I think that would affect a kid more than something seen on a cartoon," Bierman said.

Recently the AAP came out with a study saying nearly two-thirds of the programming on television has some violent content and that children's shows contain the most violence.

The television stations do take into account when children are most likely to watch television.

Goldsberry said before school is in session and just after school is out Fox puts shows on that are geared towards kids.

The local television stations are able to decide what shows they want to run in the 6 to 7 p.m. time period then at 7 to 8 p.m. the network takes over.

At Fox 42 the 6 to 7 p.m. slot is filled with "Friends" and "Everybody Loves Raymond," shows that are more family oriented.

But once 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. comes along, the stations believe that most children are going to bed so they can run shows with more adult content.

"Even then we have people complain that their children are staying up later and later and as a result are exposed to the violence," Goldsberry said. "But as a general rule, children

don't stay up that late, so we feel that it is okay to run the adult-oriented shows."

There are ways that parents can prevent children from seeing certain television shows.

Since Jan. 2000, all televisions 13 inches or bigger were required to have a V-chip inside.

"The V-chip is able to read the ratings the networks give to television shows," Ellen O'Brien, director of communications at the Center for Media Education, said.

When a child turns to a particular show on a television where the V-chip has been activated, the chip reads the specific rating that has been edited into a show and censors the ratings it has been programmed to block.

Out of seven different ratings, two of them, "TVY" and "TVY7," are specifically aimed at young children. "TVY" is for all children and most of the shows are designed for young children ages two to six.

"TVY7" is for shows that are geared towards children over seven.

The other four ratings are used for the entire television audience. These ratings range from "TVG," for general audiences, up to "TVMA," for mature audiences only. Mature audience only shows have been determined to be inappropriate for anyone under the age of 17.

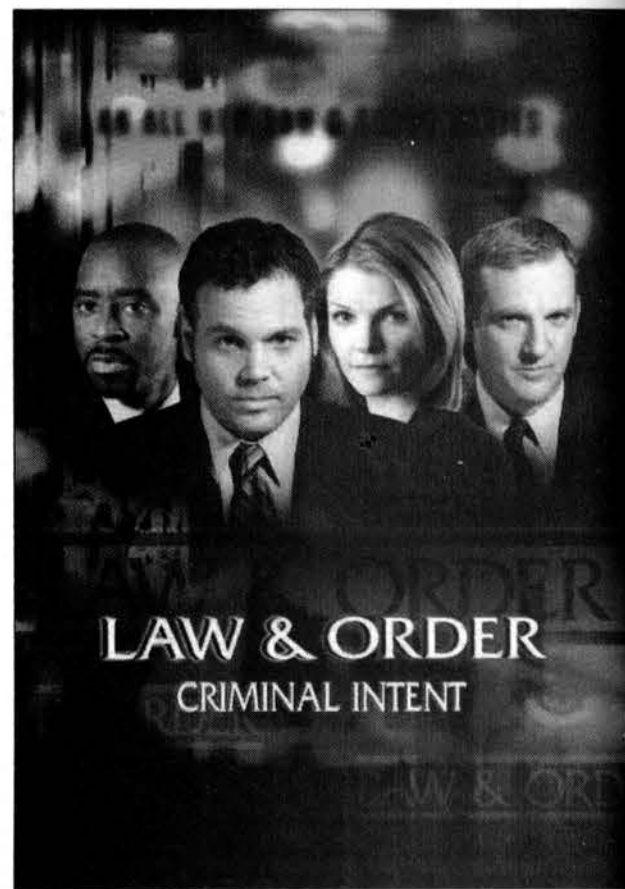
For the shows that are not geared toward children, the programs may come with other guidelines.

These guidelines rate the show's violent and sexual content.

"The additional guidelines were put in so that parents can not only block shows because of age but also because of content. Just because the

By the time the average person reaches age 70, he or she will have spent the equivalent of seven to ten years watching television.

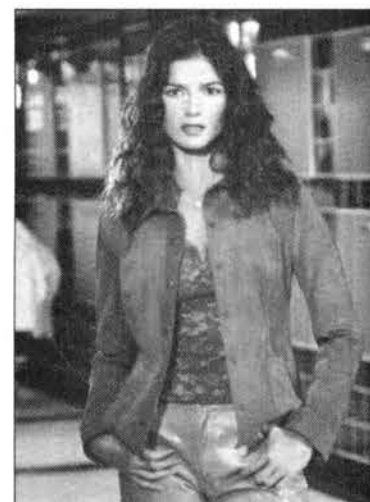
Courtesy AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRICS



The newest addition to the law and order family, Law and Order: Criminal Intent, explores the world of crime through the mind of criminals. The show airs on Sunday at nine o'clock. Critics say Criminal Intent will follow in the footsteps of the other two Law and Order shows but will take on a new and unique twist.



Law and Order: Special Victims Unit focuses on the hard-hitting life of a high ranking special victims unit and the crimes they encounter. Most of the crimes dealt with on the show are rape and or homicide. Law and Order: SVU is in its third season and airs Fridays at 10.



Jill Hennessy plays Dr. Jordan Cavanaugh, a Boston medical examiner with a tendency to rise above expectations when investigating crimes. Crossing Jordan, a new addition to NBC's schedule.

show is age-appropriate does not mean it is appropriate for every child," O'Brien said.

Education about television is something important, she said.

"It is important that parents know what their children are watching," she said. "There needs to be more education about what people are watching especially children."

The broadcast stations are not required to run information about the ratings, but most do anyway.

"Some of the stations run service announcements in order to create awareness about ratings and the V-chip," she said.

O'Brien said overall, the television stations are very cooperative when it comes to helping prevent children from watching violence.

All promotional photos courtesy of NBC
Knife by FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

Dec 20
LA #3

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TENNIS
A freshman star, Metro
and changes to the home
court heat up season
PAGE 33

ATHLETICS & PROFILES SPORTS

D

Page 29
The Central High Register
October 31, 2001

Greenamyre commits to Division II program

By Chris Aponick

Pressures from the University of Massachusetts had an adverse effect, causing senior Holly Greenamyre to commit to play volleyball at Northern Michigan next fall after visiting both schools on two consecutive weekends.

"UMass wanted a commitment 24 hours after I got back from Northern Michigan, but I told them I needed to wait a week," she said.

Over the following week, Greenamyre thought about whether she wanted to play at an established Division II school or at a Division I school that pays around \$500.

She said she had to make her decision in a very short time.

Both schools offered full-tuition scholarships. However, UMass seemed to go after her more aggressively.

"They wanted me, so they offered me a lot," she said. "They even held off scholarships for other players."

In the end, Greenamyre said she felt so pressured by UMass that it made her uncomfortable at the school. She said she started to feel overwhelmed.

"This has been the most stressful thing ever," she said. "This is the biggest decision I've ever made."

Northern Michigan's laid-back approach made her feel at ease when compared to UMass.

She ended up choosing to go there because of the school's strong volleyball program coupled with its good academic reputation.

Head coach Jodi Dierks said she liked the girls, the coaches and the facilities that they offered.

Greenamyre wanted to make sure they had a good business school.

When she would get playing and whether the team was rebuilding, an up-and-coming team or an established program were important factors, she said.

Greenamyre said she received a boost that helped her get more attention from playing volleyball with a club team over the summer.

"Playing club ball is where you get watched and recruited," she said. "To be successful, you have to play club."

A coach can go to a club ball tournament and see hundreds of players, but at a varsity game coaches only see 10-11 players at one time, she said.

Playing on a club team also allowed Greenamyre to make contact at Northern Michigan, which helped make her decision a little easier.

"I felt very comfortable there [Northern Michigan], especially since a girl I played club with went there already," she said.

However, Greenamyre is not alone in being recruited this fall. Wayne State has come to visit Natalie Lubbert and Western Illinois is set to come visit the both Natalie and her sister Michele.

The success of the Central volleyball team has obviously not gone unnoticed by major universities coast to coast.

Stopped short

Central's softball team reflects on what cut short a season that started off so well

By Chris Aponick

With a 9-7 loss to Millard West and 4-0 loss to Northwest, Central was once again stopped short of making it to the state softball tournament.

"We had a good season, but we did not follow up in districts," sophomore Emily Muskin said.

Assistant coach Scott Wilson said this season was much different than some of the years past. Central has improved its record over the past two years and is getting closer to qualifying for state.

The team played well and showed improvement throughout the year, Muskin said.

Junior Elizabeth Davis said the team's hitting improved and several younger players contributed to the team's success. With a few changes she is confident next year the team will get to state next season.

"We are definitely better on offense," Davis said. "Team speed was up this season."

Wilson said the team had three girls who were among the state's leaders in steals.

He said having Davis back was a big deal because she led the state in triples.

"We need one more clutch bat and we need to be able to get the two-out hit when we have runners in scoring position," Wilson said.

He also said the team needed to work on defense. The off-season will be very important to how the team performs next year. If it works hard over the summer months then the team will get a head start on next year, he said.

However, the main obstacle that is preventing Central from qualifying has been the district it competes in.

The past two years, the team has played in very tough districts, Wilson said. This year, Marian and Millard West qualified for the state tournament while

last year three teams came into the district ranked in the top five in the state.

"Our districts have been rougher than five grain sand paper," he said.

Muskin said districts this year would really help the team next year.

The team played in rainy conditions for over two hours against Millard West. It made the game close with a scoring rally towards the end, but ended up losing the game.

The team was hurt by losing starting pitcher Jenny Miller and by its own mistakes, Davis said.

"After having played this year, we should do better," Muskin said. "There was a lot of pressure on us."

Despite the tough district the team played in, Wilson said softball across the city is very competitive and all of the districts are hard to win.

There are a lot of talented players in the city; many are good enough to make it to major colleges.

He said with so much talent, the state tournament should be expanded from the current eight-team format, especially considering football playoffs have 16 teams despite having the same number of Class A teams as softball.

Wilson said with nine starters returning next year, Central's chances of finally making it to state are the highest that they have been in the last four years.

"I think it will help that we played well in districts," he said. "We draw positives from playing top competition."

Muskin said the team has some very strong players and two strong leaders in Davis and Miller.

Davis said she thinks the team will be able to compete with everybody. The players' attitudes are very important to the momentum of the team.

"A person's attitude can change the direction of a game," she said.

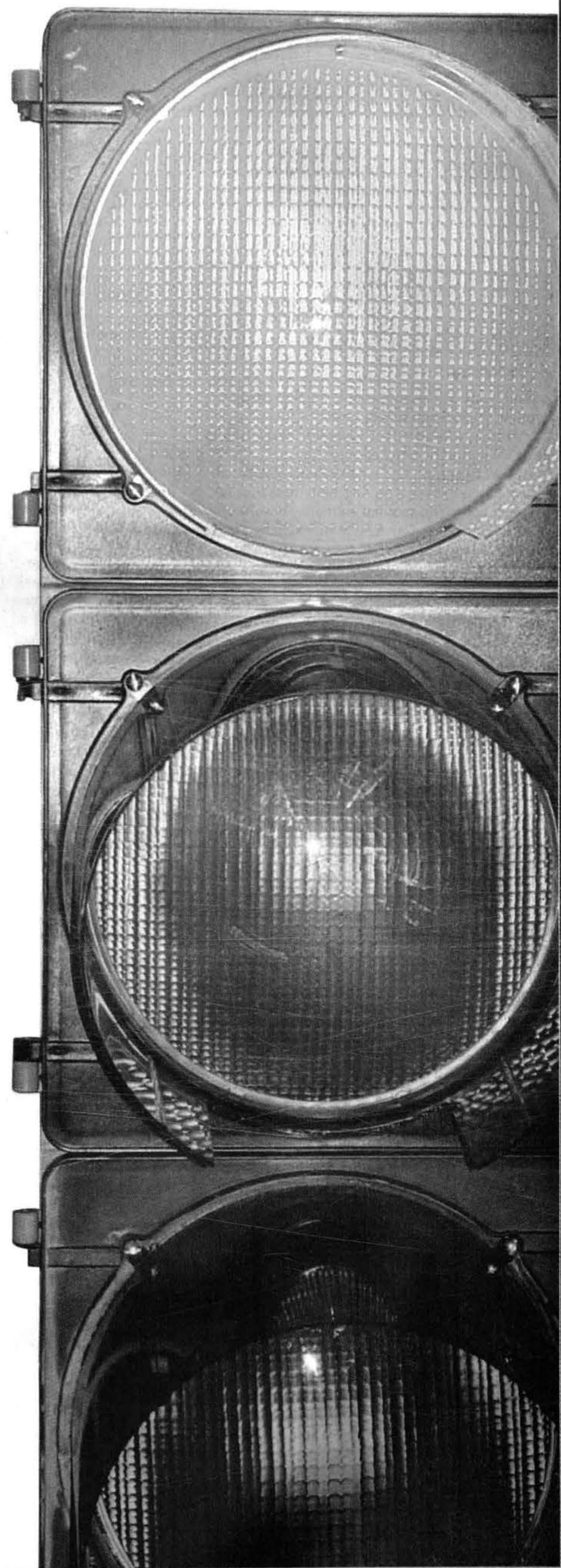


Photo by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Softball star recovers slowly from knee injury

The injury

When the ACL (red highlighted area) tears, the knee cannot function as it once did. The Posterior Cruciate Ligament (PCL) breaks through it, causing the knee to be almost useless. Some people who have had the injury liken it to walking on rollerskates; like the knee might give way at any time. For some people this looseness is predictable.

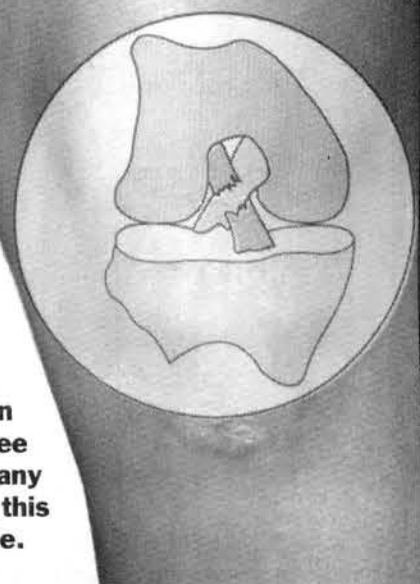


Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

By Troy Schulte

Almost 19 months after junior Liz Davis tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during a JV soccer game, she is just now getting enough strength back in her leg to return to the sport she prefers, softball.

During the 2000 softball season, Davis was one of the three freshmen to make the varsity team.

When soccer season rolled around the next spring she was one of only three freshmen on that team as well.

As the soccer season went on Davis continued to practice with the varsity, but she hadn't played in very many games.

So in mid-March she asked her coach to let her drop down to the JV team to play against

Millard North, just to gain some experience.

Heading into the final minutes of the game, the team wasn't doing very well. Davis herself hadn't played badly, but the Mustangs were shutting Central out.

During the last minutes of the game, Davis made a steal and was breaking towards the goal when she felt a pain in the back of her leg and she went down hard.

"I had a break away and someone hit the back of my leg and I just fell down," she said.

As soon as Davis went down, she knew she had injured her leg, she just didn't know how bad.

She sat out the rest of the game and went home that night

like nothing had happened, but by the next morning her leg was feeling worse.

"When I woke up the next morning I couldn't even walk," she said.

When she went to her doctor a few days later she got a magnetic resonance imaging on her knee which confirmed her torn ACL.

Davis was then told that on June 6 she needed to have surgery. Which meant no soccer for the rest of that season, no softball the next fall and no soccer in 2001, if ever.

"It was real rough sitting out," she said. "It's hard to feel like a part of the team when you aren't out there playing every-

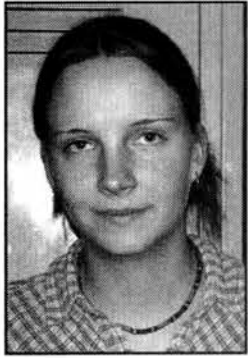
See DAVIS, page 38

Student from Germany plays Eagle softball

By Troy Schulte

After just one season of playing softball in the United States, German foreign exchange student Kirsten Knebel has found out the two countries play two totally different sports.

"In Germany it's not really serious. We just play it for fun," she said. "It's a much bigger deal here."



KNEBEL

Knebel said even though she did not have very much success this season, she enjoyed the level of competitiveness that Americans play softball at. But she almost didn't get to find that out.

When she first arrived in the United States in the beginning of August, she had not yet decided if she wanted to try out for the

softball team. She wasn't sure if she was ready to compete on the high school level.

"I thought I wanted to," she said. "But I didn't know if I would be good enough."

It was five years ago when Knebel's sister returned home to Potsdam, Germany and first introduced her to the game of softball.

Kirsten's sister, Carola was an exchange student at Central during the 1996-97 school year when she first saw some girls playing softball in a park and decided to join them. It was then that her interest in softball began. Carola didn't discover softball until later in the school year so she wasn't able to try out for Central's team. But she did continue to play sandlot softball in parks on a regular basis.

When Carola returned home she still wasn't very familiar with the sport. But she taught what she knew about it and they both started playing more and improving their skills more. And eventually they rounded up some friends interested and started the first club softball team in Potsdam called the Porcupines.

The Porcupines were the only team in the city and because of that it was tough to find other teams to compete against. So every time they would schedule a game they would have to drive all the way to Berlin, a trip that she said they eventually got tired of making.

Deflated hopes

A sluggish start slowed down the Eagles in their quest for the state title

Two returning All-State players, a number of returning starters on defense, along with a top-five preseason ranking sounds like the perfect ingredients to make a run at the state championship.

Way back in August before the season began, that's exactly what the Central football team expected to do.

After Central's 4-6 2000 season was ended by a 31-0 shutout loss to Bryan in the first round of the state playoffs, Bryan head coach Tim Bond predicted the Eagles would be a powerhouse in 2001. And so did everyone else.

With running back David Horne and wide receiver Mark LeFlore coming back to lead an explosive offense, they were once again rated high in the pre-season poll, starting the season fifth behind two teams that were on their schedule, Benson and Creighton Prep.

All the pieces were in place to compete for the school's first state title in almost two decades.

Those were the expectations before the season began. Looking back, the 2001 Central football

team can be described in two ways.

One of the best offensive teams ever assembled at Central powered by four players that could possibly play Division I football.

Or, one of the most underachieving Central teams in recent memory.

Heading into the season there was plenty of hype surrounding Central and its two star players, running back David Horne and wide receiver Mark LeFlore.

Those two players were expected to lead Central's explosive offense all the way to the state playoffs.

One of the few concerns was the schedule. On it were five of the teams that were playoff teams a year ago.

Measuring by just raw talent, most of which were players who had previous experience, they were one of the best teams in the state.

Until opening night against Creighton Prep, which was a 24-15 loss. At the time the Eagles seemed down, but not out.

They were beaten, but by one of the best teams in

the state.

After a 48-7 drubbing of Northwest, in which the Eagles looked more like the team they were supposed to be, they entered a stretch of three key games. Playing Benson, Bryan and Millard North. The latter two were district games, which they needed to win to reach the playoffs.

And they lost all three of them. Dropping its record to 1-4, Central's odds of making a trip to state seemed slim to none. If they wanted to make a run for state title they needed to beat both Millard South and Burke.

After their poor 1-4 start, the Eagles rebounded for three straight wins against Millard South, North and Burke. Two of those were district wins, which put them right back in the playoff picture. That's been the story of the 2001 season.

They played like the team they were supposed to be before the season started against teams that had no hope to reach the playoffs like Northwest, North and Burke.

And when they played teams with legitimate state title hopes, like Creighton Prep, Benson and Millard North, they crumbled.

By making a late season comeback against those sub-par teams, the Eagles qualified for the playoffs. But if the current trend continues, a repeat of the 2000 playoffs looks like a definite possibility.



CHARGIN' THE MOUND
Troy Schulte

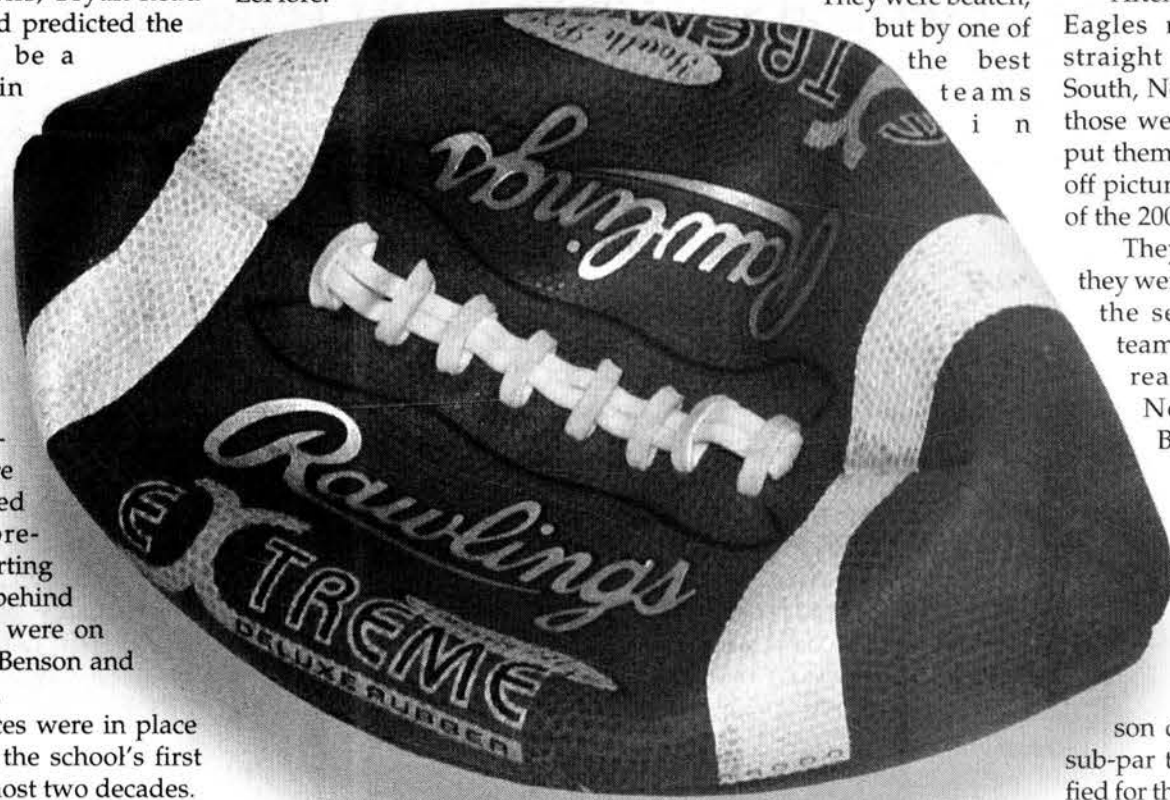


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A lesson you'll never forget



Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Senior Matt Bentley has started teaching children the ups and downs of kickboxing. After winning several championship belts and numerous tournaments, Bentley's coach said he has enough experience and knowledge to accurately teach the students on his team.

Kickboxer adds coaching to achievements

By Troy Schulte

After eight and a half years of winning numerous kick boxing tournaments and championship belts, senior Matt Bentley has decided not to concentrate as much on his own fighting, but rather coaching beginning fighters in the sport.

"It's one thing to be a champion," he said. "It's another thing to train champions."

Last summer Bentley started coaching the Emerald Mongoose Junior Competition team, the team he broke into the sport with when he was eight years old. He's one of the most experienced fighters on the team and because of that his coach, Mick Dowle, trusts him to coach the beginners.

"I was the first kid to come all the way up through juniors to fight adults," he said. "So I know what it's like."

Since Bentley has been coaching he hasn't entered many competitions, fighting in just four exhibition fights and one tournament in the last year.

Last September Bentley won the International Kick Boxing Federation (IKF) Muay Thai National Championship in the super-lightweight division at the IKF national tournament. He said this fight was one of the biggest of his career at that point. Bentley planned to defend that title at that same tournament this September and fought in those exhibitions to stay in shape. The first three exhibitions he had no problem with, winning all three of them in either a

split or unanimous decision.

But the last one, he said, was a little more difficult. That fight, held in August at the National Guard Armory, was against a 23-year-old fighter named Chris Brammer.

Bentley said Brammer wasn't necessarily a better fighter than him, but the match was an "above the waist" kickboxing fight which made it more difficult.

"I don't like it [that style of fighting] at all," Bentley said. "Muay thai is a lot easier because if I get tired I can just wrap up with them. But in above the waist, it's basically just like boxing except you can kick above the waist."

Like Brammer, each one of the other fighters Bentley faced were over the age of 20, a pattern that he said will continue. After fighting in the junior division for almost a decade Bentley said there is nothing more for him to accomplish.

"I just feel there's not much competition out there for me and I feel stronger than most of them [the other junior fighters]," Bentley said.

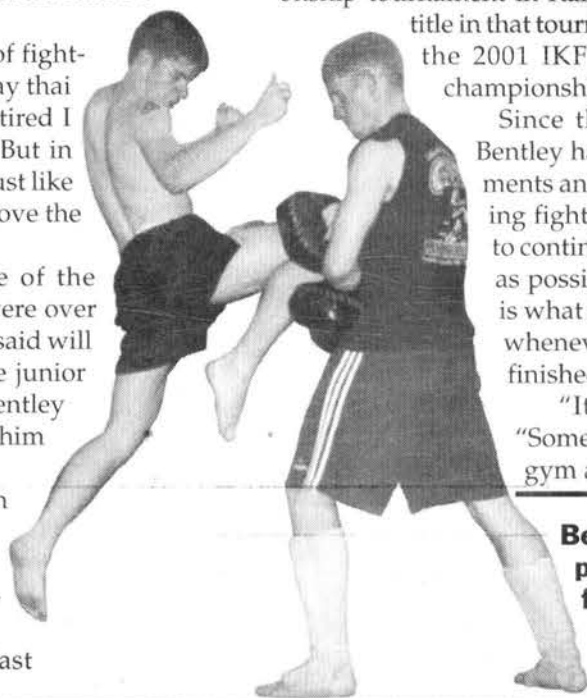
Over the course of the last

year, Bentley has gradually started to compete against older fighters. Now, he said, he is strictly fighting adults. In fact, in September, Bentley retired his junior boy's national championship belt so he could compete in more fights against adults.

Because he retired that belt Bentley was able to compete in the adult division at the national championship tournament in Kansas. Bentley defended his title in that tournament and currently holds the 2001 IKF bantamweight national championship belt.

Since that win two months ago Bentley hasn't fought in any tournaments and doesn't have any upcoming fights scheduled, but does plan to continue coaching as many fights as possible. Bentley said coaching is what he wants to do with his life whenever his kickboxing career is finished.

"It's a lot of fun," he said. "Someday I'd like to own my own gym and keep coaching."



Bentley takes on his sparring partner to fine-tune his form and stay in shape.

Photo By EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Player's attitude sets tone for volleyball team

By Chris Aponick

Senior Robyn Sorensen is one of the most balanced athletes at Central, volleyball coach Jodi Dierks said.

Dierks said Sorensen's skill levels are equal no matter what position she plays. Since starting the team her freshman year, Dierks said she has shown her willingness to work on all aspects of her game.

"I try to do my best to be the best all-around player I can be," Sorensen said.

Her skills are as equal as a passer, server and a blocker. Sorensen said she tries to work hard at all three. Her balance of skills helped her get recognized as an Honorable Mention All-Metro player last season, an award that she said surprised her.

Volleyball team member Angela Capellupo said Sorensen works well with the other players and helps the team create a balance between the different players' skill levels.

Sorensen also shows her balance through the calm demeanor she has during games, Dierks said.

"She puts on a poker face during games," she said. "She could make four errors in a row and be the same as if she made four kills."

Dierks said Sorensen's attitude is something that helps out the whole team.

The fact that Sorensen is always calm on the court has helped the team stay competitive in most games and even win some close games, she said.

"How the other players perceive a player's mood affects the team's momentum," Dierks said.

Capellupo said team members are able to look to Sorensen when they get into trouble in a game and she helps them remain focused.

"She has helped boost my confidence," she said.

While her coach praises her for her calm attitude, Sorensen said she does not think she is doing anything special.

"It is just part of my personality," she said.

While being a calm player, she is starting to become more of a leader this year. Capellupo said she is a really solid player and helps out the other players.

"When I was younger I was more quiet and afraid, but I talk a lot more now," Sorensen said.

As she has progressed as a player, she has also seen the team come together. She said the team works together more than before. Even since the beginning of the year, the team has grown together.

"This year, we are definitely more of a team," she said. "We were kind of rocky at the start."

She said her leadership role has helped add to the team's success.

While she has been helping the team try to get back to state, she is also focusing on picking a college.

Sorensen has been making highlight videos to send to schools that have sent her letters about volleyball, but she has not received any scholarship offers.

However, she said she is not worried about whether she gets a major university recruiting her.

"I will play anywhere that wants me," she said.

Monarchs dominate Eagles at Metro conference tourney

By Troy Schulte

After winning hard-fought battles against Bellevue and Millard North in the first two rounds of the Metro conference tournament, Central's girls volleyball team hit a road block in the form of the No. 1 team in the state.

The Papillion/La Vista Monarchs swept the Eagles in three games to none, 15-10, 15-9 in the semifinal round of the tournament on Oct. 24.

Despite the loss, which knocked the Eagles out of the tournament and put Papillion in its second consecutive tournament final, Central head coach Jodi Dierks said her team has nothing to be ashamed of.

"They [Papillion] are No. 1 for a reason," she said.

Led by three players who will go on to play volleyball at Division I colleges, the Monarchs held off Central comebacks in both matches to claim the victory. In the first match the Monarchs jumped out to an early 6-1 lead and the Eagles closed it to within one at 6-5.

After a 7-1 run which eventually gave them a 13-7 lead, it looked like they had the match won.

Led by four straight serves from senior Angela

Capellupo which turned into four straight Central points off three Papillion miscues, the Eagles came back to within four at 14-10. Then, just like its last comeback, Central was stopped short.

After they pulled within four, senior middle blocker Holly Greenamyre's return of a Monarch serve bounced off of her face, resulting in a double hit and change of possession. The next serve went out of bounds giving the Monarchs the 15-10 match win.

Papillion head coach Gwen Egbert said she was impressed with the way her team held off Central's comebacks.

"Teams always make runs on us towards the end," she said. "But we just hung in there and held them off."

The second match started off much like the first with Papillion jumping out to another 6-1 lead. The Eagles fought back again and closed the lead to 6-4. But once again Central couldn't find a way to keep the rally going.

Papillion then showed why they are the top-rated team in the state by taking control of the match and eventually winning 15-10, knocking the Eagles out of the tour-

nament.

Dierks was pleased that her team kept making comebacks in both matches, but she said if a team plays top-ranked team in the state, it can't make many mistakes.

"Against a team like that you almost have to play a perfect game to win," she said. "You can't let them score four to five points in a row and let them get on a run like they did."

The Eagles didn't win, but Dierks said she noticed a vast improvement over the last time the two teams met at the Papillion Invite which resulted in a 15-5, 15-2 Monarch thrashing.

"I think we did a lot better," Dierks said. "We scored more points in one match than in the two combined last time."

Now that Central has played Papillion twice this season, Dierks said she can safely say the team is in a good position to make a run at its second straight state championship.

"They have three girls who will play Div I volleyball, that's almost unheard of," Dierks said. "They are definitely the team to beat."

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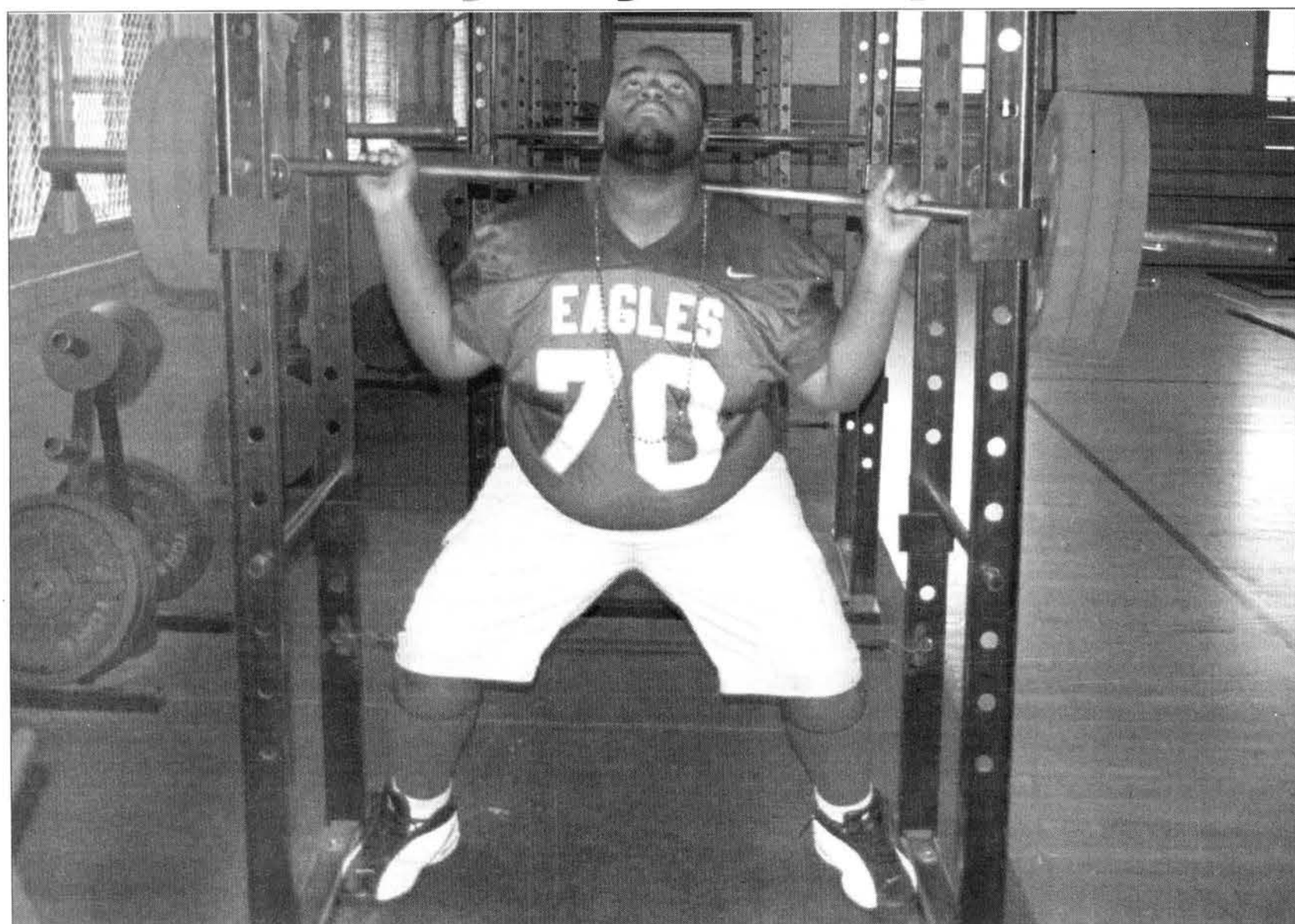
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Dorsey by the year



Photos by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Senior Jamar Dorsey has increased his strength immensely since his first year at Central. He has grown two inches taller and can now bench 350 and squat 590. "He is playing the best football since being here," coach Joe McMenamain said.

Senior's skills improved greatly since freshman year, coach says

By Chris Aponick

Ever since his freshman year, Jamar Dorsey has been the size of a professional offensive lineman, but now he is quickly developing the skills to match.

Dorsey said he has steadily improved year by year.

However, he is having a break-out year with 30 pancake blocks.

"He is playing the best football since being here," head coach Joe McMenamain said.

His experience has also helped him progress as a player.

He started varsity on the defensive line and quickly started playing both sides on the field. Now, he is now featured more on offense.

Running back David Horne said Dorsey has had the spotlight because he has been a dominant player since starting high school.

He said the play of Dorsey and the rest on the offensive line has helped him get attention from several universities.

"I give them all of the credit for my success," Horne said.

Dorsey's size made him a natural for the position. He started high school at 310. The next year his weight shot up to 375, but Dorsey was able to work it off.

Dorsey said he is now at a steady 320 pounds and is working on keeping his weight down, as well as focusing on

taking his game to the next level.

"I want to be faster and have more endurance," he said. "I want to go both ways for the whole game."

He has been focusing on the footwork to improve his speed in hopes of making All-State and attracting some attention from college coaches.

Still with how he has played this year, he said he is not nervous about playing in college.

"I do not have a scholarship offer yet, but I am more at ease," he said. "I am not cautious or uptight though I try to take it week by week."

University of Nebraska-Kearney and Northwest Missouri State have contacted Dorsey. Iowa has even attended a practice to look at Dorsey.

McMenamin said with his qualities, he is surprised Dorsey has not been offered a scholarship yet.

"It is hard to pinpoint who they will offer scholarships to," he said.

Dorsey said he is trying to set a good example for the other players and to work on being a leader on and off the field. Part of this is keeping a good grade point average in order to stay on the honor roll.

As a player, he has narrowed his season down to three goals.

"I want to be in the best shape that I can be in, make All-State and get a state championship," he said.



This year, Dorsey stands at six foot three and dropped another ten pounds to weigh in at 320 lbs. He can bench 350 and squat 590.

As a junior, Dorsey was still six foot two, but his talent had increased considerably. He weighed in at only 330 lbs., while still being able to bench 315 and squat 555.

In the tenth grade, Dorsey was six foot two and weighed in at 375 lbs. He could bench 255 and squat 505.

Even as a freshman, Dorsey stood out at six foot one and weighed in at 310 lbs. He could bench 220 and squat 405.

Golf coach's enthusiasm inspires player

By Troy Schulte

Head girls golf coach Wendy Brownson has decided to make a few changes after a debut 2000 season in which her team compiled a disappointing 3-5 record.



Brownson

But, in order for those changes to start producing match wins, her team needs some work.

Going to the driving range often the summer, as well as other drills ways Brownson is trying to make team better.

"Chipping and putting," she said two aspects of the game that if the girls work hard on, can make it much better.

Brownson said coaching is a way for her to continue her golf career, now she can no longer play. She used to play on a few golf leagues up until about five years ago, but her shoulder became painful. She eventually had to undergo five different surgeries over the following years to repair it, which meant she had to give up playing golf.

When former head coach Jo Dyer retired prior to last season, Brownson applied, thinking it would be an opportunity to stay in the sport.

"I've had golf in my family," she said. "My husband is a big golfer. I've just always been exposed to it."

Considering her previous playing and her coaching experience with Central's cheerleading, it seems the transition to head coach would not be difficult.

Senior golfer Libby Dyer said she had an easy time adapting to the head coaching role.

"She has coaching experience both with cheerleading," Dyer said. "So she didn't have a tough time at all."

Even though Dyer said Brownson is a good coach, the perception of her coaching style varies. Brownson said she is a real hands-off coach who lets her players play.

"It's [golf] kind of a different sport than the girls who come out for golf. They all played before and pretty much know what to do," she said.

While Dyer can sum up her coaching style in one word.

"Energetic," she said. "Just the way she explains things. She gets really excited all the time."

Using that energetic coaching and the fact that she has a year of coaching under her belt, Dyer said the team continues to improve.

"I think having a year behind her helps a lot," she said.

Brownson said there are many players on the team other than Dyer who help make her second season a more successful one.

One of her top players from last year, Ashley Krijian, is returning and getting a boost with the addition of freshman Brandi Smith.

All of those should help Brownson lead them to a more productive 2001 season.

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Heating up

Even though it might not have done as well as hoped, the tennis team is shaping up to be the next major sport at Central

By Chris Aponick

Central singles tennis players hit a hot streak at the beginning of the state tournament.

Senior Ed Yin and freshman Cameron Knowles both advanced to the quarterfinals where they were beaten by number one seeds in their bracket.

Both were seeded eighth with Knowles playing number one singles and Yin playing number two singles. Overall, Central finished ninth as a team.

Head coach Matt Shafer said the success of Knowles shows that a changing of the guard occurred at the state tournament.

Knowles has stepped up to play singles this year and to help fill in the gap that will develop when Yin graduates this year.

He said the team will miss Yin who played varsity tennis all through high school, but Knowles has lots of potential to be a team leader. He loves the game and works very hard at it.

"He raises the level of everybody on the team," Shafer said.

Yin said Knowles should get the chance to win state by his junior or senior year. "There are two good sophomores in the state as well, but he could upset any of the state's top players at any time," Yin said.

Both players experienced success for the simple reason that they were relaxed going into their first matches.

"I was just trying to have fun," Yin said.

He said felt good about how he played at the start of state and that helped him win his first two matches.

In the first games, Knowles said he was focusing on playing solid tennis.

"I was just trying not to get sidetracked," he said.

The experience has helped him get used to the state atmosphere. At first he said he was kind of nervous because of the big crowds. Overall he said the tournament was fun.

After the first two games, both players were stopped by the highest seeds in the tournament. Yin said his opponent was difficult.

"I tried mixing up my shots," he said, "but my tank was on empty."

Shafer said this season has been very good, even though the singles players have

received most of the attention this year. He said the doubles team of senior Dennis, Yin and sophomore Robbie Garvin played very well.

Although this season was very successful, he said his first team over four years ago was his best.

That team had two state runners-ups, Stuart Waters and Jeremiah Schultz, who carried most of the team's points. However, he ranks this year as second best.

Yin said he has enjoyed his season and feels it is one of the better teams.

"This is the best team I've been on since my freshman year," Yin said. "I'll miss it a lot."

With the season over, Shafer said he is now looking forward to building on this year's success.

The team will be able to build around skilled players like Knowles and Garvin who will probably be the singles players next year. He said Garvin could be very good if he works hard at it. Aside from those players, the team will have lots of new talent.

"Next year will be a rebuilding year," he said.

Only a few of the players on the team have any varsity experience. However there are several players to choose from because more people have played the past couple years.

Most of the doubles spots will be filled by underclassmen, Shafer said.

He said there was been a ton of beginners the past two years.

Schafer said the key will be what the strongest players do. While the talent is there, it depends how they work to improve.

Yin said Knowles is very athletic and one of the best players in the state. He said if he has the mental toughness, he could win some titles in the next few years.

"Cameron is a player to reckon with," Shafer said.

Knowles said he has had fun with the team and his goal for next year is to reach the finals at state.

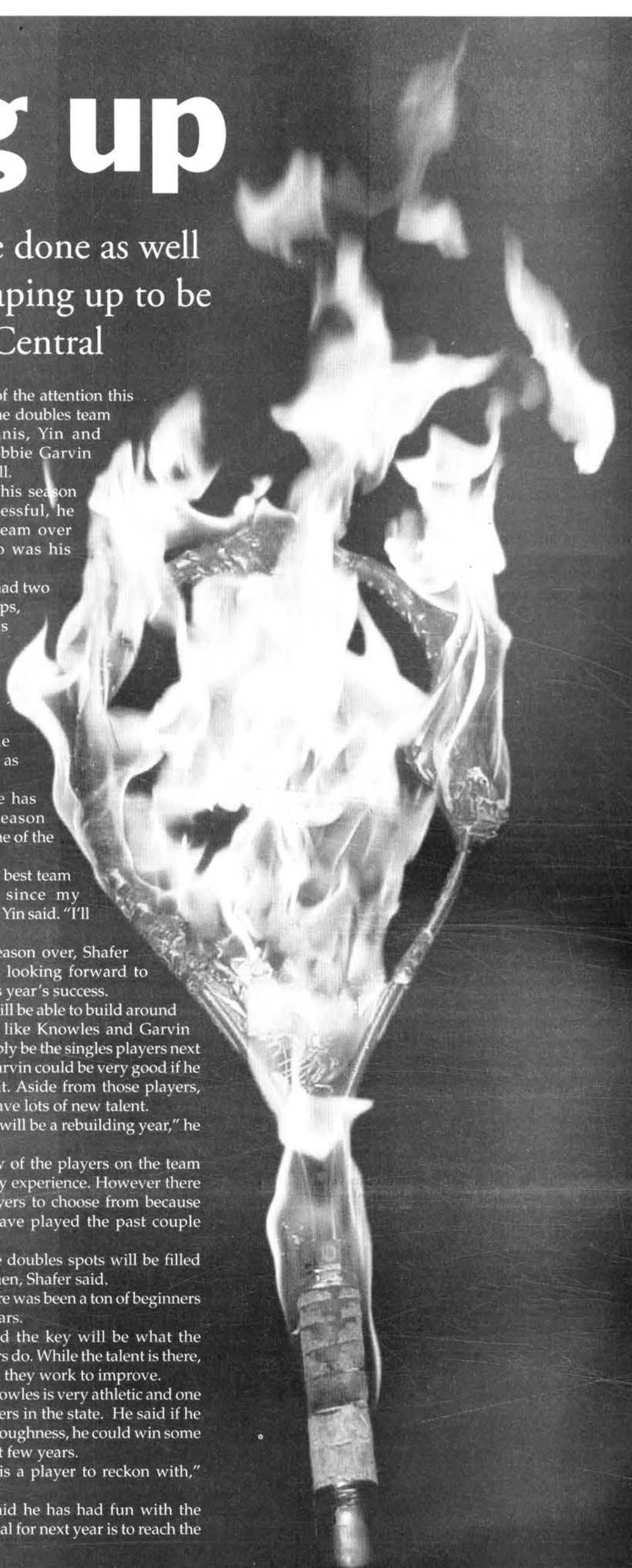


Photo illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Dewey rebuilds courts

By Troy Schulte

When Dewey Park Tennis Center was built over a half-century ago, it was known as the best tennis facility in the Midwest.

But after years of declining popularity and poor maintenance, Central's men's and women's tennis team's home court will undergo some downsizing, decreasing the number of courts from 15 to nine.

Construction will get underway at Dewey in the spring of 2002.

Project-planner Dennis Bryers and Omaha Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property tennis coordinator, Ed Hubbs, said the repairs are needed.

"Just from a tennis player standpoint, some of the courts are really bad," Hubbs said. "Two of them I would say aren't even playable."

Those two courts Hubbs is referring to were taken out last spring.

And this coming spring the four courts on the northeast side, the only courts that are currently in operation will also be renovated.

Three of the nine courts that still remain will be left as they are and the other six will be repaved with an asphalt overlay and repainted.

The acting director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Public Property, Larry Foster said one of the main reasons for reducing the number of courts was the utter lack of use.

"The outdoor use has sort of tapered off in the last five years," he said.

Bryers said the plans for what will be done with the rest of the park are still up in the air.

He is trying to plan a meeting with the neighborhood association which decide what to do with the backboard, used for handball and for tennis warm-ups, the horseshoe pits and the land where the former courts were.

"Some people want to keep the backboard. A lot of the people in the neighborhood use it for handball because there are not a lot of outdoor handball courts in the city," Bryers said.

The bidding started on Oct. 17 for the estimated \$166,000 project, more than the original cost of the park.

Another issue that is still to be addressed is what to do with the building that sits on the park property.

Ever since it was built the Omaha Department of Parks and Recreation tennis center was housed there.

Foster said just tearing down the building completely is not in consideration, but they still are trying to find something appropriate to use it for.

Also in the building was a concession stand for when the park held tournaments, a pro shop, both men's and women's locker rooms and a second floor apartment for the park caretaker.

In 1998 the tennis center was moved from Dewey to the newly built Koch Family Tennis Complex on 124th and West Maple streets.

Joe Salerno, who was the caretaker of the park from 1968-96, said the building of other tennis courts around the city has contributed to the diminishing popularity of Dewey.

"We used to get a lot of lawyers and doctors who work downtown who would just come and play after work," he said. "But now I guess they want to have more out west because that's where all the kids are."

Joe's son Joey, who won four No. 1 singles state championships while at Central between 1984-87 owes a lot of his success to Dewey.

While growing up Joey and his father lived in the second story apartment, so whenever he wanted he was able to just walk out his front door and use the courts.

"It's a real cool atmosphere because the entire park is sunken in," he said. "And also it's right downtown and all the character of Omaha is downtown."

Joey said he would love it if the park had 15 newly repaired courts like it did when he used to play there.

In the future, Joey said if the popularity continues to decline the park might close completely, something he would not want to see happen.

"If they shut it down completely," he said. "Nobody would understand the memories I and everyone else who played there had at the park."

Freshman beats senior for number one singles spot

By Troy Schulte

Freshman Cameron Knowles was just trying to be like his parents when he first picked up a tennis racket as a six year old living in Houston, Texas. Little did he know the sport would become his addiction.

Knowles' parents have been playing the sport competitively since before Cameron was born and never tried to push him into the sport. But when they saw he was interested, they encouraged him to go farther and taught him the basic fundamentals of the game. He moved from Houston to Omaha when he was seven and his interests in tennis continued to grow.

"I used to go to all-day camps in the summer to get better and I just played a lot," he said.

When Knowles first arrived at Central, head coach Matt Shafer, was impressed with his play, especially considering his freshmen status.

"I didn't know him at the time, but I could tell he was obviously a good player," Shafer said.

Prior to this season, Knowles knew he had a shot to be the No. 1 singles player. As preseason practice went on, the No. 1 singles spot was down to him or senior Ed Yin. And when it came down to making a decision between the two, Shafer had a tough time. Just prior

to the first tournament of the season (Lincoln Northeast Invite) Shafer decided to go with the freshman.

"By watching both of them I just thought Cameron was a little stronger, hit a little harder and was a little quicker," Shafer said.

Knowles showed his ability in one of the first matches of the season when he defeated Westside senior Chris Gerdes. Going into the match Knowles said he thought Gerdes was more experienced and a better player than himself. He thought a win was impossible. But he defeated him in a tie-breaker.

Since that win Knowles has continued to progress as a player and both him and Shafer said they think he has the ability to win a state championship by the time his four years at Central are over.

"There are some real good players around the state who are freshmen, but he has a shot to be better than them," Shafer said.

Even if Knowles manages to win a state championship, his career won't end there. He plans to continue playing the sport as long as possible.

"I hope to play through high school and possibly play Division I tennis," he said. "If I don't get injured or anything, I won't stop there. I'll try and keep playing."

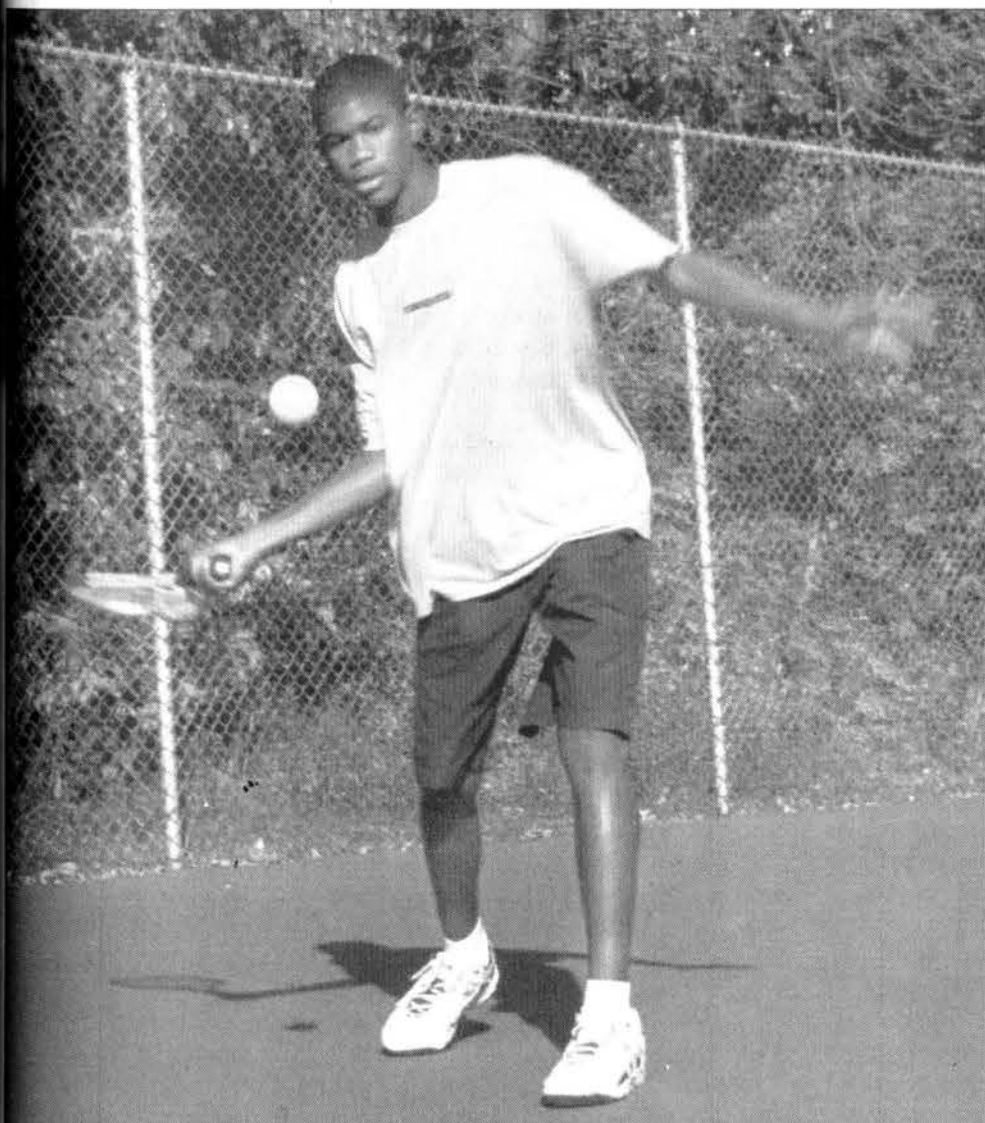
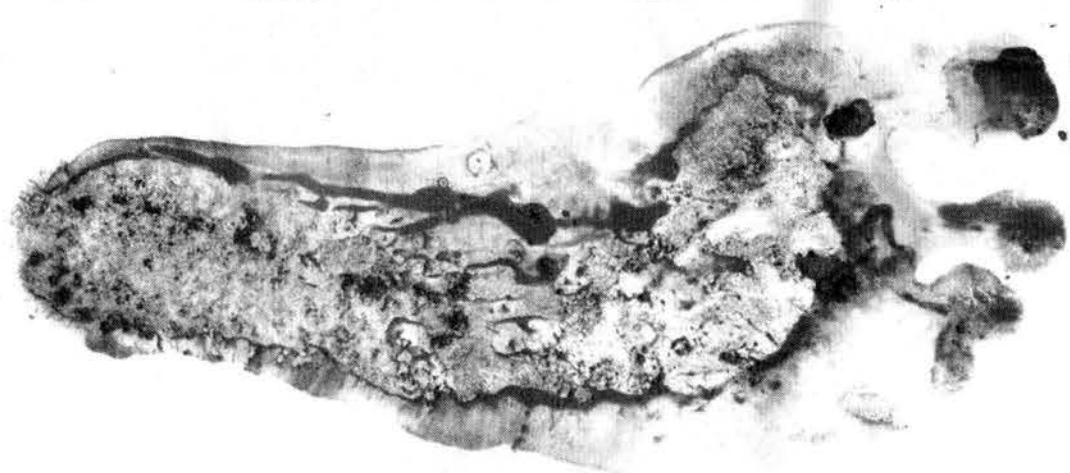


Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Freshman Cameron Knowles returns a serve in a practice at Dewey Park. He started playing the sport when he was about two years old living in Houston, Texas. Since his parents played competitively, Knowles said the sport just came naturally to him. Today he is the number one singles player on the tennis team.

Central



steps

Tradition 'draws in' players to team

By Chris Aponick

Every year several Central football players get scholarships to major Division I universities.

Central's tradition has been one of the biggest reasons many graduates go on to play college football.

The school's reputation as "I-Back High" is something that draws in aspiring running backs. David Horne said it was one of the main reasons he transferred from Creighton Prep.

"The running backs follow one another," he said, "and I wanted to follow in their footsteps."

Starting with Gale Sayers in the 60s, the I-back has always been one of the team's strongest

positions. Most of the Central players including Ahman Green, Calvin Jones, Keith Jones and Brandon Williams that have found success on the next level have been in the backfield.

However, the success has also helped bring attention to other players as well, head coach Joe McMenemy said. Players such as former quarterback George Davis, linebacker Larry Station and lineman Terrell Gardner have all made their mark at Central.

This season alone, Central graduates play at Nebraska, Iowa State, Colorado State and Michigan and Ahman Green plays for the NFL's Green Bay Packers.

The succession of talented players has helped carry on the I-

back tradition, he said. This year Horne, lineman Jamar Dorsey and wide receivers Mark LeFlore and Marlon Carter have shown the ability to play in college this year.

This crop of players won several awards last year. Horne and LeFlore won All-State honors, while Dorsey received Honorable Mention. McMenemy said these awards show that they have worked very hard over the last two years.

Athletic director Paul Pennington said these awards show another trend at Central. The team has players who step up every year and perform very well.

Every year the team will lose a few to college, especially the running back, who usually re-

ceives a full-ride scholarship to college.

However, he said, only Millard North comes close to Central in number of graduates they have playing in college. North's past few quarterbacks, including Eric Crouch at Nebraska, have gone on to high profile college careers.

Many colleges come to Central knowing that each year there will be good players. Horne said McMenemy has also helped get players into college through his work for the players.

"McMenemy promotes his players very well," Pennington said.

When McMenemy came to Central, getting players into col-

lege became a bigger priority, Pennington said. Since then, players like Green and Williams have become big-time players. It also seems that Lornell McPherson and DeAntae Grixby could end up having success in college.

The increased success of Central alumni in college has made universities more willing to offer scholarships to current players. LeFlore received an offer for a full-ride to Nebraska during his junior year, while many universities have offered Horne and other players scholarships. With the offensive talent that Central has been able to have on its teams, McMenemy said he tries to gear his offense towards those players.

Many players come here

knowing that the team will have a good running game.

"The running back knows he will get the ball about 20 times a game," he said.

Pennington said he has been surprised how long Central has been able to produce quality players. It is hard to see what players will end up being good.

"You can never know what physical tools the players have from year to year," he said.

Still, Central has been able to stay successful. McMenemy said he is very proud of being able to work with Central's talent and tradition. He said the program always has many players wanting to play and plenty of support from parents.

Football players sign first autographs for young fans

By Chris Aponick

For most successful athletes signing autographs is part of the routine, but Central's four football stars are just getting used to it.

Seniors Mark LeFlore, David Horne, Jamar Dorsey and Marlon Carter have only signed a handful of autographs, but Horne said it is something that he could get used to doing.

The four have been sent envelopes to sign and have attended several awards banquets and other events where they have given out autographs to various people, including some coaches. The first autographs they give out are the most memorable, head football coach Joe McMenemy said.

"It's flattering, especially the first couple of times," he said.

LeFlore said he could remember being asked to sign a football by a group of little kids at the Creighton Prep-Millard West game. He said it is

still a surprise to be asked.

"I can't believe it when someone wants my autograph," LeFlore said.

Even as Horne progresses through this year, he still finds it humorous that people ask for him to sign footballs and other items.

Many young kids ask the players to sign autographs, McMenemy said.

He said he has had other players give out autographs while still at Central.

He can specifically recall how people treated current professional player Ahman Green.

"When Green was a senior he had a group of his peers waiting in line wanting him to sign an autograph at the state track meet," he said.

McMenemy said Central's tradition plays a big role in people wanting players' autographs. Central is able to attract good talent and turn out good players that go on to big colleges.

This year's players are carrying on the Central tradition. He said they

have attracted attention because they are talented and very good competitors.

"They possess the ability to play on the next level," McMenemy said.

Despite the fact that only two have been offered college scholarships, he said they will have good college and possibly pro careers.

LeFlore said he likes being able to give autographs, but tries to focus on his game.

"I'm just trying to continue a good high school career," he said. "I'm just trying to get better and hopefully everything else will come."

Horne said he is honored that someone would ask for an autograph because they think he is a good player.

He is not troubled by having to sign autographs.

"It's not that big of a deal for me," he said.

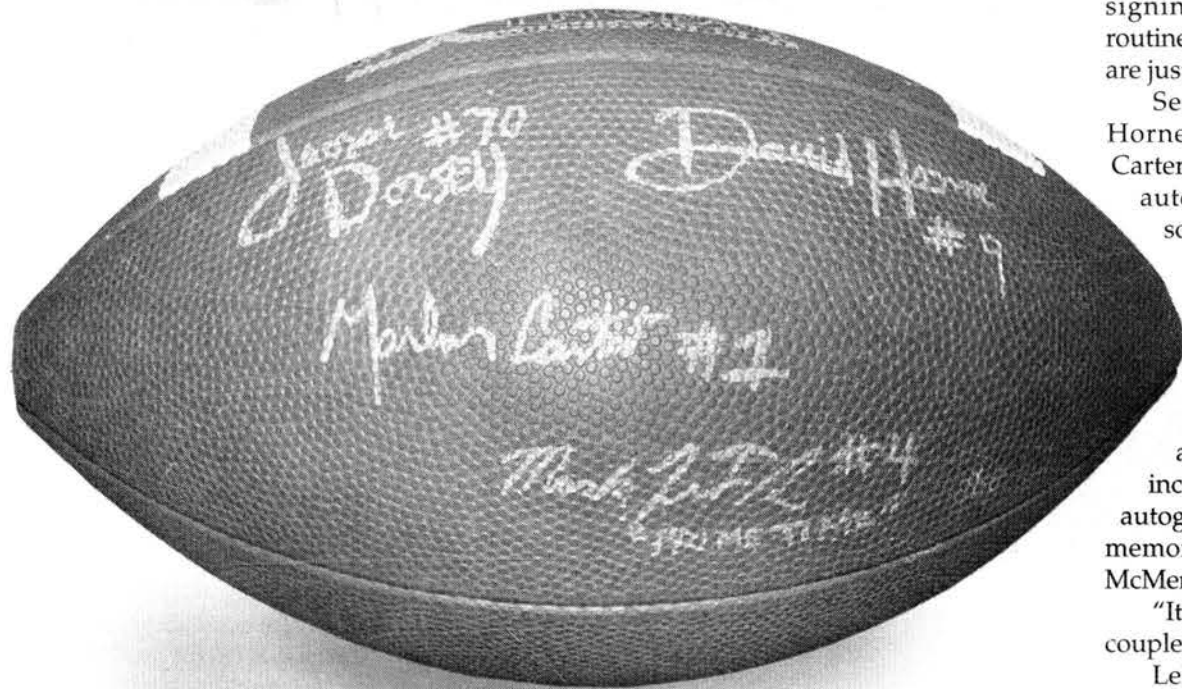


Photo By FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER

Alumnus finds post-high school success, earns NU blackshirt

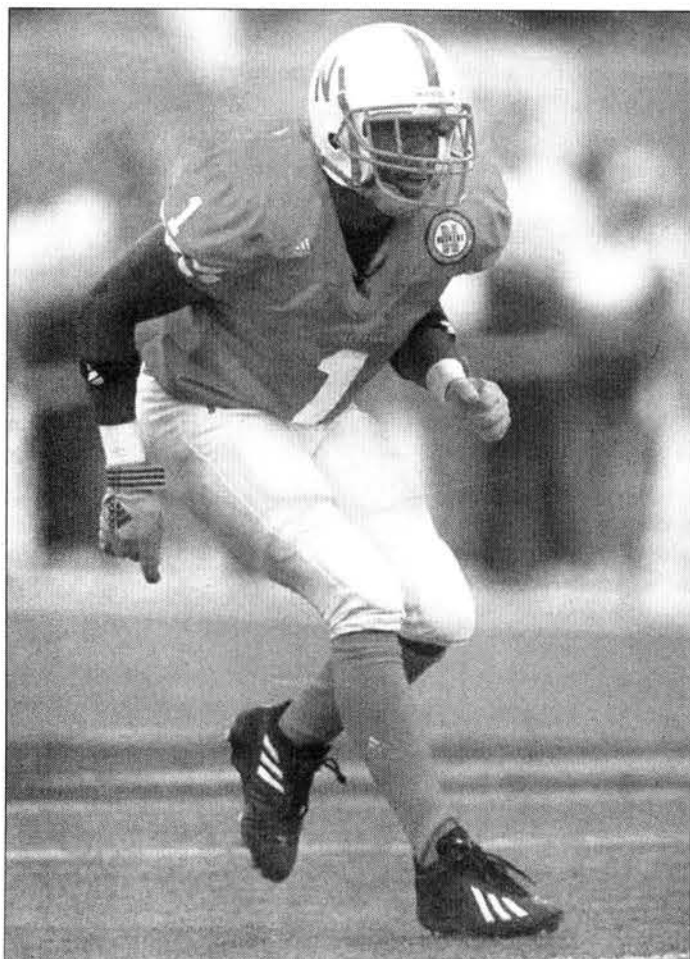


Photo courtesy UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
Central graduate Lornell McPherson drops back in coverage during a Nebraska game.

By Troy Schulte

The University of Nebraska football team, like most major university football teams, divides up its defensive units by wearing different colored jerseys. But, at Nebraska, getting that blackshirt is a sense of pride for the select few defensive players who are chosen to wear it.

It's an even bigger deal if a freshman gets one. But that's what 2000 Central graduate Lornell McPherson has done.

"It's real rare to get it early in your career like this," McPherson said.

To go along with the prestige of getting the blackshirt, the process the coaches take to promote a player to the starting role is almost like a ceremony.

Prior to practice on the day McPherson was awarded the blackshirt, defensive coordinator Craig Bohl and defensive back coach George Darlington called a team meeting, but

didn't tell anyone what was going to be discussed.

Once Darlington announced McPherson was becoming a member of the group, he had to admit it caught him off-guard.

"I was real surprised," McPherson said. "I thought maybe I would get it [the blackshirt] someday down the line, but I didn't expect it to come so soon."

One person who McPherson said had taken him under his wing and helped him along in the learning process was three-year blackshirt and 2000 All-Big XII cornerback Keyou Craver.

"Me and Keyou, we're like brothers, we do everything together," he said. "When I first got here he kind of taught me the ropes and told me to not let stuff bother me and that's helped a lot."

The guidance he has received from Craver and his coaches has really made

McPherson glad that during his senior year he stuck to his instincts and stayed in-state to go to Nebraska.

The same year McPherson signed with Nebraska, his teammate Ja'Maine Billups turned down a scholarship offer from Nebraska to go to Iowa State. And the year before, Brandon Williams opted to go to Michigan.

So McPherson had a tough decision to make. Either stay close to home and go to Nebraska or follow his teammates to an out-of-state school.

"I thought it would be good to stay close to home," he said. "Some of the coaches at other schools really didn't say when I would get to play. But the people here said I would get a chance to play early."

When his freshman season started, McPherson had another decision to make.

Whether to try and compete for playing time, or to redshirt and save a year of eli-

gibility while he learned Nebraska's defensive system. With a little help from Darlington, McPherson chose to redshirt.

"Coach D [Darlington] said it might be better if I redshirt," he said. "I played on the scout team for a year where I went up against the first team offense, so that was a good learning experience."

McPherson doesn't regret redshirting one bit. If he didn't, he said there is no way his game would be at the point it is now.

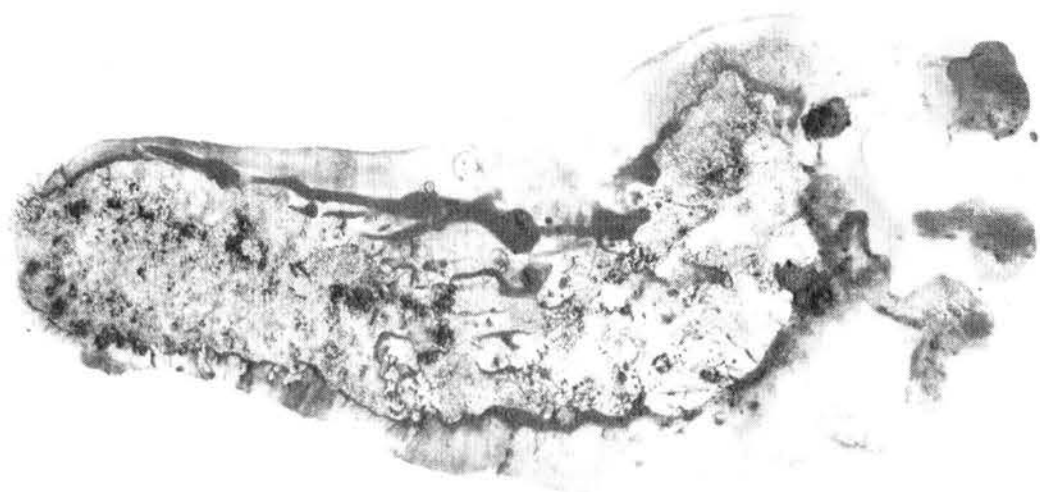
Over the course of the season's first five games, both Bohl and Darlington were pleased with McPherson's performance.

However, McPherson said there is still room for improvement and won't quit working hard and dedicating his time until he's perfect.

"I think I've done well," he said. "I will always try to improve in my all-around game."

Dec 20
W #3

into the



future

Two sides to Coach Mac

Joe McMenamín knows how to get his football players into good college programs

By Chris Aponick

On the field he is an average football coach, but the other side to Joe McMenamín shows why he is one of the most successful coaches in the nation when it comes to getting his players into big-time college programs.

Outside of planning for football games, McMenamín helps his players through the college selection process. His goal is find a place for any player who wants to play in college.

"I've always viewed my job as a 12-month commitment," McMenamín said.

With many talented players, McMenamín is always busy. For him a normal day is anything but normal.

One "normal day" may consist of making a highlight tape for one of his offensive linemen, fielding interview requests from the media about the star defensive back who just committed to Nebraska and calling Michigan coach Lloyd Carr about one of the nation's best high school running backs. Or maybe Carr will call him.

Either way, when McMenamín is off the field his job is not over. For him it is only the beginning of his work on trying to get as many of his players into college programs as possible.

He said he helps anyone who wants to go to college. He usually holds a meeting for the upcoming seniors at the end of the year to discuss this process. He gives them questionnaires asking them about their post high school plans. From there, he calls schools that might be interested in a player. He spends a couple of hours a day on the phone.

"I try to get all of them placed in college, regardless of the level," he said.

However, McMenamín has to help players make decisions between levels of competition. A player might want to go to a Division I school, but only has Division II schools recruiting him.

"If kid gets an education paid for, I think they should take it," he said. "I advise them to play at a school that wants you."

A low percentage of players make it to the Division I college level. For example, Nebraska only recruits six or seven players from in-state every year. It is important for a player to keep their options open, he said. Starting running back David Horne said he does not think he would be as heavily recruited as he is now if he would have stayed at Creighton Prep.

"He has been telling me what to expect," he said. "He has contacted schools that might have even some interest in me."

Defensive back/wide receiver Mark LeFlore said McMenamín would put together game film and make calls on behalf of any player. Other schools do not do what McMenamín does, he said.

McMenamin said the school's tradition has made it easier for him in recruiting because many of the schools already know the type of players that come from Central. For many universities, Central is one of the first places they stop.

McMenamin learned how to handle the recruiting season by helping out some star players in 1981 while he was just an assistant coach. One of the first talented players who he helped was Terry Evans, who graduated in 1981. After that, McMenamín improved his skills by working with Larry Station and Parnell Gatson. They both played at Division I colleges.

Now schools will contact him. He will tell them how the team is playing and who the standout players are.

"Coach Mac has lots of connections," Horne said. "He knows many coaches personally."

McMenamin said recruiting is also reliant on one player to attract attention. Once one player gets recognized, such as Horne, it leads to

other players getting notice.

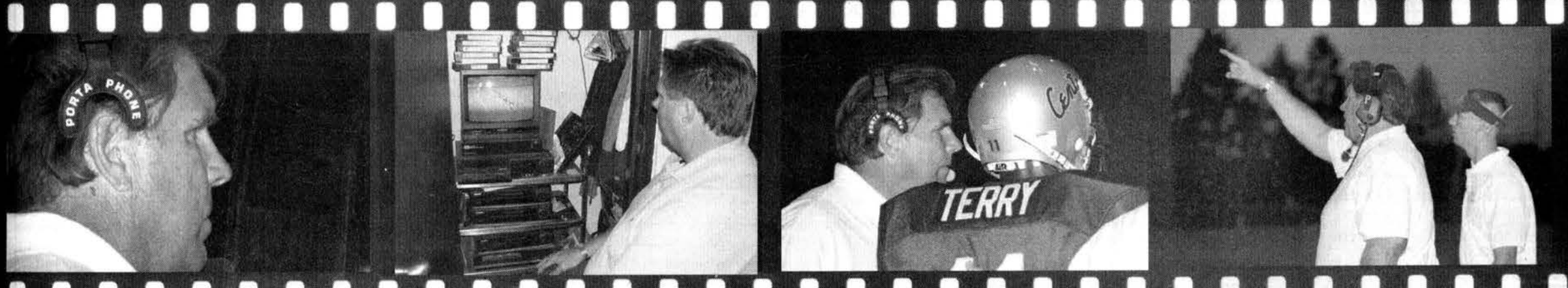
Lineman Jamar Dorsey said McMenamín's skills in recruiting help those players who give their best on the field every time they go out.

"Both sides of Coach Mac make people be the best they can be," he said.

Mac is constantly on the phone (right) trying to get recruiters to come see his players. (Below) He has to, along with his on-the-field responsibilities, watch many hours of video in order to critique his players.



All photos by FAITH LYNN and EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER



Fall league helps develop team leaders

By Troy Schulte

Rather than holding traditional pre-season conditioning and basketball drills, the Central girls basketball team is doing something different to prepare for the season.

The Eagles participated in the Bellevue East Sunday night fall league in which they compete against other class A teams, in order to prepare them for a return trip to the state basketball playoffs.

"I think it's a lot better way to get warmed up for the season than just going to the YMCA or something," head coach Michelle Roberts said.

When Roberts first took over the head-coaching job two years ago, the Bellevue East Sunday night fall league was an upstart team with not many teams.

The head coach prior to Roberts did not enter the team in the league, but once she heard about it she thought the league was a good idea and said it is a good idea to warm her team up for the upcoming season.

Nebraska Scholastic Activities Association (NSAA) rules don't allow entire teams and coaches to participate in organized practices before November.

So the league is the best way for her team to participate in an organized game prior to the start of the upcoming season.

Sophomore guard KeOnna Williams said the league allows the entire team to actually play in a game like atmosphere while they adapt to each other's style of play.

That can add a lot of edge to a season, she said.

"We get the opportunity to run up and down the court and actually play a game," Williams said.

While both Williams and Roberts agree that the league provides the team with a sense of structure and organization, there is a downfall to it.

Because of those NSAA rules, Roberts is not allowed to have any part in the league.

"The rules don't let me sit on the bench and coach the team," she said. "But I can still sit in the stands and watch them."

Roberts said she doesn't mind the team being entirely run by the players, but does wish she could be involved with the team a little bit.

On the other hand, Williams said her and the rest of the players like the fact that they have to coach themselves in the league.

"It's kind of good because it allows us to learn how to win and do stuff on our own," she said.

And winning games is exactly what they are doing.

Currently the team has played four games in the six-game schedule compiling a 3-1 record.

The only loss came to the hands of Millard West, a state tournament team from a year ago, which Williams said was lost by a single point.

One of the biggest advantages to the league, Williams said, was they were able to actually see their competition before the season started.

"We get to see which teams will be good and who we have to look out for this season," she said.

Since they have already played Millard West, as well as many other teams they will see this season, the players already knows how to prepare for the particular strengths that team may have exhibited.

The Bellevue East fall league, which ran all the way up to Oct. 28, ended a long off-season for the team.

After it made its first trip to the state tournament in 15 years last season, they took some time off until the summer.

They participated in a league at UNO as well as playing in many other tournaments over the course of the summer.

After all of the summer tournaments were over, Roberts let her players have August off.

After just a month off Williams and the rest of the players were ready to start playing again.

"We played a ton of tournaments over the summer," Roberts said. "Then we gave them August off and when September rolled around it was time to practice to start up [for the fall league]."

With a combination of the summer tournaments and the Bellevue East league, Roberts as well as her players said they are in a position to not only reach the state tournament, but to go farther as well.

On the fast track

Despite the prestige of starting as a freshman, Nate Prater must overcome obstacles to become a star

By Troy Schulte

When freshman Nate Prater used to think of his football career at Central, he would dream of running options and dropping back for passes.

Now, due to a variety of circumstances, he's plugging holes in opposing offensive lines and sacking quarterbacks.

Prater was seven years old when he first lined up under center during his peewee football days and just assumed he would continue at the position when he arrived at Central. But once Prater started working out with the team this past summer, things started to change.

He first started working out with the team in June, when the Eagles' summer weight-training program began. At that time he still intended on contending for the quarterback position.

"He was even throwing with some receivers during the summer," head coach Joe McMenemy said.

But McMenemy and the other coaches saw something in him. At 6 foot 4 inches, 222 pounds, Prater has the ideal size and build to become a premier defensive lineman.

Throw that in with the fact that three returning players were battling for the quarterback's job and McMenemy thought Prater had a better chance of playing sooner in his career on the defensive side of the ball.

"I told him that he might play more if he made the switch [to defensive end] and that was something that he sounded interested in," McMenemy said.

Even though his roots are at quarterback, Prater said he loves to play defense.

So before the school year even began, he moved up to the varsity team and started to learn a new position. It didn't take Prater long to catch on to the position under the tutelage of senior Nick Lemek, but McMenemy was still a bit skeptical.

"It's hard for a freshman to make the jump to varsity, especially in the Metro conference," he said.

When the season started,

Prater was feeling comfortable at defensive end, but still didn't get any playing time against Creighton Prep. The next week at Northwest, he got his chance.

In the beginning of the third quarter, Lemek went down with an injured back. Initially nobody knew what was wrong or how long he would be out.

All Prater knew was this was his shot and he needed to capitalize on it. He had one sack and two quarterback hurries in just one half of a game. McMenemy said was sort of a coming-out party for him.

"I was a little shaky at first," Prater said. "But all I was trying to do was give it my best shot and play up to my potential."

After the game Lemek was diagnosed with a hyperextended back and was out for the upcoming game against Benson.

That meant Prater, the freshman who originally didn't want to play defense would get his first start in just the third game of the season. During that week, Lemek kept teaching him the basics of the position.

"He [Lemek] just basically helped me out with the keys to the defensive end spot," Prater said.

As of right now, Lemek is supposed to be back before the end of the season. The coaches just don't know when. He was scheduled to practice the week of and play against Bryan on Sept. 21, but his back was still giving him trouble. When he does come back, McMenemy said there are many routes the team can take to get them both in the game.

"When Nick gets back, we'll just have to see," he said. "To play both of them would not be a bad rotation and since Nick plays offense too, it could keep him fresh."

Moving Prater back to the offensive side is not out of the question either, just not as a quarterback. He would play either on the line or tight end.

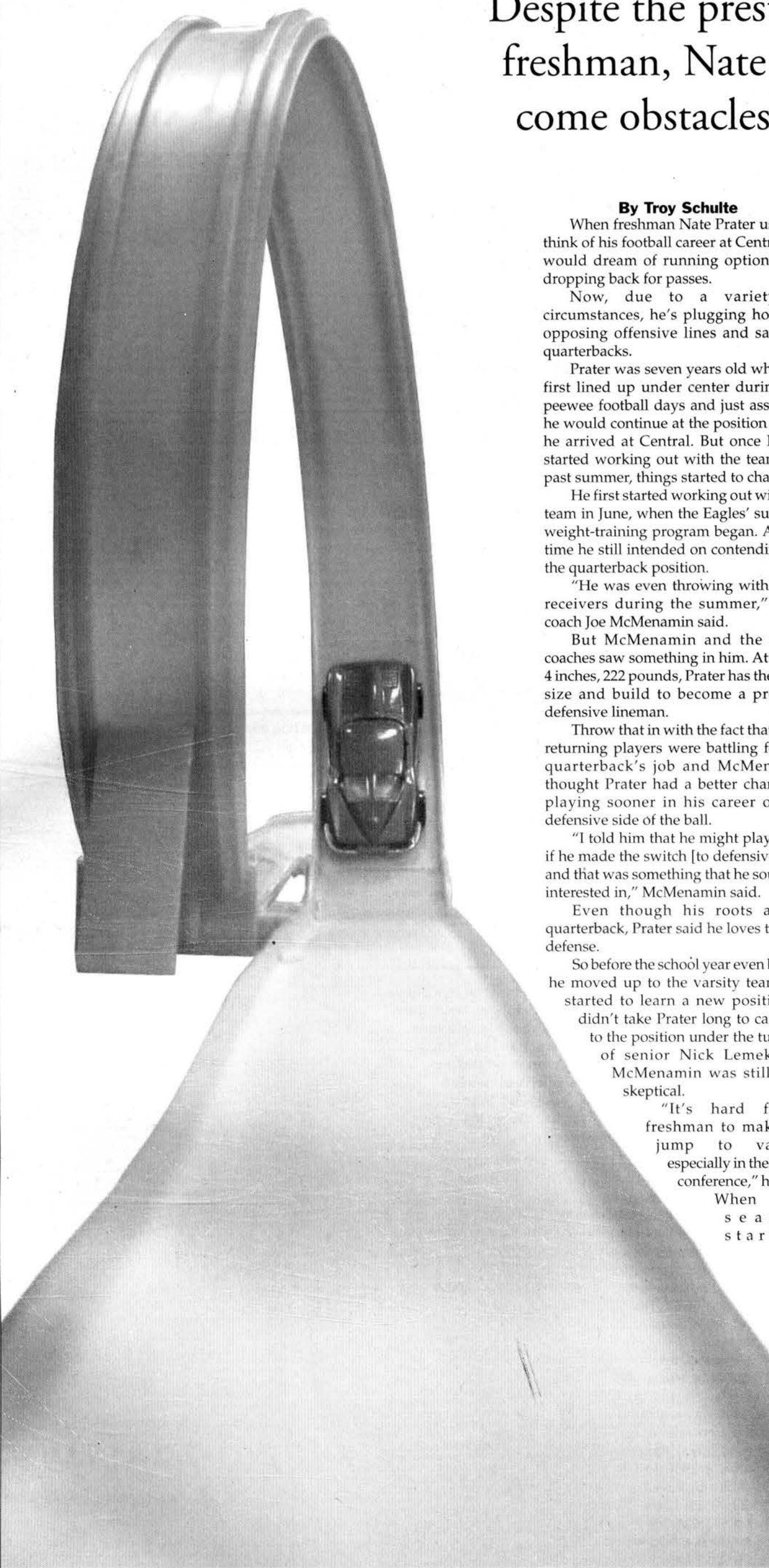
"I still might try offense next year maybe as a tight end or something," he said.

No matter what will happen when Lemek returns, McMenemy said in just three games at the varsity level, he has played above all expectations.

"He has really risen to the occasion," McMenemy said.

Nate Prater could be the next big Central star, but he will have a tough road ahead of him. Coaches and teachers are there to help him handle the challenging "curves."

Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER



Two boys return to state cross-country championship

By Troy Schulte

For the second consecutive season, Central's boys cross-country team sent only two runners to the state meet. And for the second consecutive season those runners were juniors Chris Gorga and Ryan Shaw.

On Oct. 19 at the state meet in Kearney, NE, Gorga ran in his third straight state meet while Shaw was competing in his second.

At the district meet in Norfolk, NE the week before, Gorga and Shaw finished better than any other teammate duo at the meet to qualify for state. Finishing second and third respectively with times of 17:27 and 17:30.

When Gorga first joined the team over two years ago, he didn't set out to make three trips to the state meet in as many seasons. He said he doesn't try to concentrate on his competition; he just goes out every day and runs because he enjoys it. And if he wins some races along the way, it's all the better.

"The competing is fun," Gorga said. "But that's not why I do it."

Despite not concentrating on the results of his races, Gorga has been very successful in his first three seasons. In his freshman year he surprised even himself when he finished ninth in the state meet. Last year, even though he wasn't trying to better his ninth place, he did. Finishing seventh in the 2000 state meet behind one sophomore and five seniors.

Out of the six runners who finished ahead of him last season, four were seniors and one of them is a senior this season, which made Gorga one of the favorites to contend for the state meet this season.

First-year head coach Trent Lodge said he realizes Gorga doesn't focus much on the results of his meets, but said he has what it takes to eventually win state in the next two years.

"I think he is definitely talented," Lodge said. "It's just going to come down to how hard he trains and how much he

prepares."

While the only thing Gorga has left to accomplish is winning a state championship; Shaw is not quite to that level yet. In his first state meet as a sophomore in 2000, Shaw finished a very disappointing 58th.

Heading into the district meet Shaw remembered his disappointing showing from last year and his goal was to just finish in the top ten, good enough to qualify for a return trip to state.

"I thought I had a good shot at making state," he said. "But I didn't think I would finish third."

Prior to the race Shaw said his goal was to finish in the top thirty, or at least better his placing from last season.

"Last year it was bad," he said. "I went out way too strong and I just burned myself out."

This year Shaw said his strategy going in was to find someone in the pack who he can keep pace with and just stay with them.

But after awhile his opponent pulled away from him.

One of Shaw's problems last year was his quick start, this year he tried to jump out to a quick start, but rather hold back so he would have some energy left at the end. But Shaw said that backfired and he had too much energy left at the end.

"At the very end I think I had much in me, maybe I didn't run my best," he said.

But when Shaw realized he had some energy left in him he turned it into a notch and passed six runners on way to finishing 35th.

"That last run made me feel a better about my run," he said.

Other than just him and Gorga participating in the state meet, Shaw said wishes the whole team could be there.

"I'm a little disappointed because I thought we could have probably had the whole team down there [at state meet]," Shaw said.

Photos By TR

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By Chris

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Eagles defeat Vikings for Homecoming

By Chris Aponick

It took up until the Homecoming game versus North for it all to come together for Central.

Head football coach Joe McMenemy said this was one of the few games this year that the team played strong defensively and put up points on the board. Central's offense and defense produced 31 points in the first half leading the team to a decisive 45-7 victory.

"Everything worked the way we wanted it to," he said.

North coach Larry Martin said he was very impressed with what Central did. The hard work of the players and coaches is apparent in how the team is playing.

"McMenemy has them playing both sides of the ball," he said. "The offense is clicking and the defense is playing better."

Central started the rout with its defensive play, McMenemy said. Defensive lineman Calvin Sherrod scored the first touchdown on a 15-yard fumble return.

"We recovered the free ball and got the quick score," he said.

This one play set the tone of the entire game. The defensive starters did not allow any points and the offense capitalized on the defense's play.

Soon after the fumble, the offense came alive. Wide receiver Mark LeFlore caught a six yard touchdown pass and then a few more on the next two drives to set up David Horne touchdown runs of four and seven yards. Late in the second quarter, Keenan Ford added a 37-yard field goal to put Central up 31-0 at the half.

Martin said his defense did not play poorly, but they were beat by several big plays. North's defense put Central in two critical third and long situations, but Central made pass completions for 25 and 13 yards to pull away in the game.

"Both times we thought we had them tackled, but they got loose," Martin said.

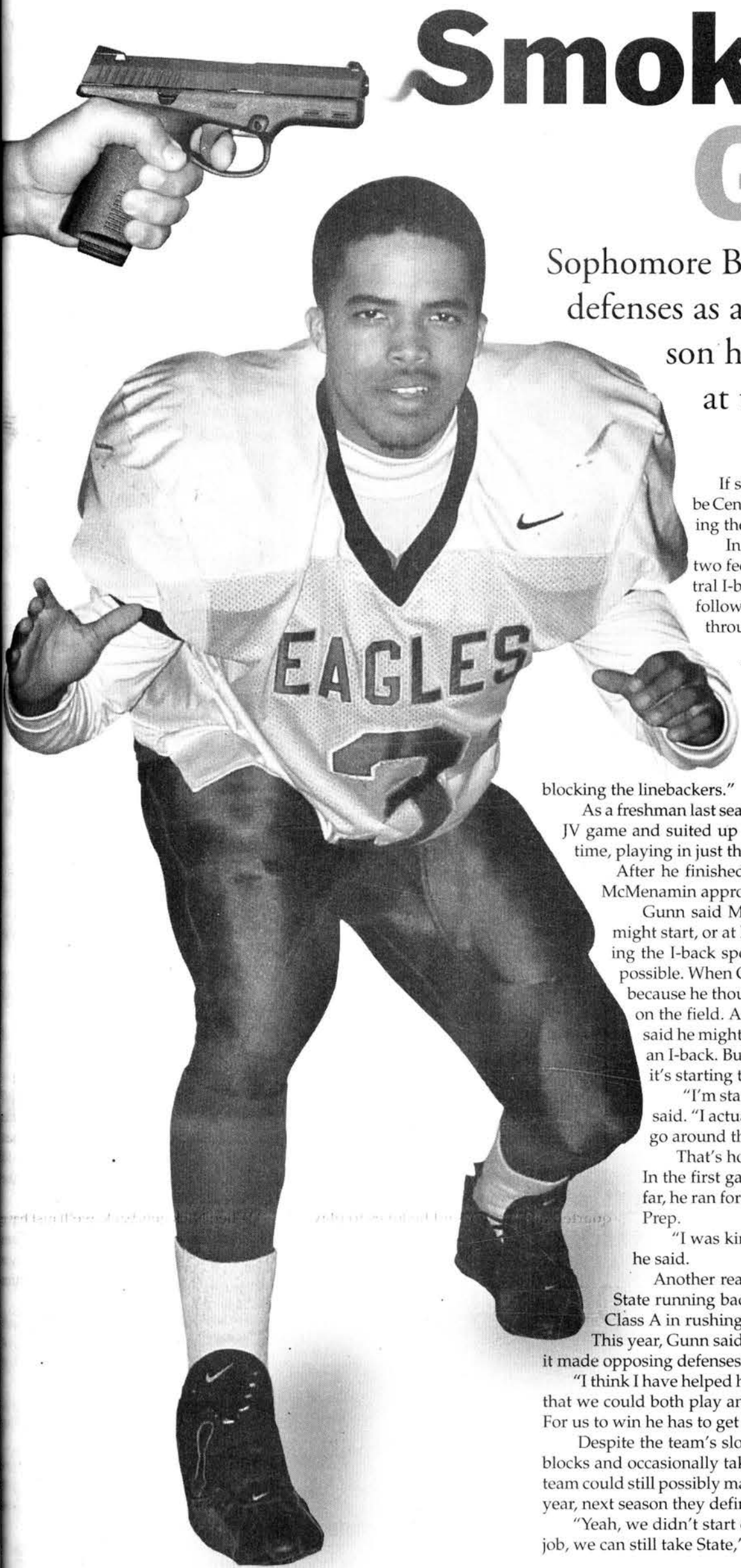
One of the biggest plays of the game came at the start of the second half. Nate Butler connected with LeFlore for a 69-yard touchdown pass. At the end of the third quarter, Central's starters were all done for the night. Still back-up quarterback Courtney Grixby scored on a 13-yard run.

In the fourth quarter, North finally got on the scoreboard with a 17-yard pass from Kyle Johnson to Antwain Woods.

At the end of the night, Central players had some impressive statistics. Butler completed 90 percent of his passes for 172 yards and two touchdown passes to LeFlore. LeFlore caught six balls for 100 yards. Sherrod had seven tackles and recovered two fumbles and Ford averages 49 yards for his two punts while not missing a place kick.

Martin said he was proud his team did not quit despite getting down by a huge deficit. Overall, he said his team was just too young and inexperienced to win the game.

"We couldn't match skills with their athletes," he said.



Smokin' Gunn

Sophomore Brandon Gunn shot through defenses as a fullback this year. Next season he will get the chance to start at the coveted I-back position

By Troy Schulte

If sophomore Brandon Gunn had his choice, he wouldn't be Central's starting fullback. In fact, he wouldn't even be playing the position.

In a perfect world Gunn said he would be lining up about two feet behind of where he does now, as the next great Central I-back. But Gunn understands that if one day he plans to follow in the footsteps of great running backs who have come through Central, he is going to have to pay his dues.

"I have been playing that position all my life," he said. "I'm just more used to it."

Every day in practice and every Friday night in games, Gunn, an undersized, inexperienced sophomore, would go up against defensive linemen and linebackers who were practically twice his size.

"Being so small," he said, "it's sometimes hard

blocking the linebackers."

As a freshman last season Gunn got to play the position of his choice in every JV game and suited up in some varsity games. He received minimal playing time, playing in just three of the team's 10 games.

After he finished up the spring track season, head football coach Joe McMenemy approached him about the upcoming football season.

Gunn said McMenemy told him that if he moved to fullback, he might start, or at least get some playing time. McMenemy wasn't offering the I-back spot, but Gunn just wanted to get on the field any way possible. When Gunn first started playing the position, he did it simply because he thought it would be a good way to show what he could do on the field. After All-State running back David Horne graduates he said he might get his chance to show his coaches what he could do as an I-back. But after just two months and four games at the position, it's starting to grow on him.

"I'm starting to get used to it [the position] more and more," he said. "I actually think it's more exciting to go up the middle than to go around the end."

That's how he has gained the majority of his yards this season. In the first game of the season, the game Gunn said was his best so far, he ran for a season-high 80 yards on 13 carries against Creighton Prep.

"I was kind of surprised that I did that good in my first game," he said.

Another reason Gunn said he was moved was to accompany All-State running back David Horne in the 0. Last season, Horne led all of Class A in rushing with over 1,000 yards, but did most of it on his own. This year, Gunn said that because the fullback was able to get more carries, it made opposing defenses focus on more than just Horne.

"I think I have helped him out," he said. "It showed them [the opposing team] that we could both play and play well. But my main job was to block for David. For us to win he has to get his yards and he needs blocks to get his yards."

Despite the team's slow start, Gunn said he thought if he could make good blocks and occasionally take a hand-off up the middle for six or seven yards, the team could still possibly make the state tournament. But, if they didn't make it this year, next season they definitely would.

"Yeah, we didn't start off so great, but I still think that if everyone does their job, we can still take State," he said.

Photos By TROY SCHULTE, PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Friday night college football telecasts compete with live high school games

By Chris Aponick

When the NCAA lifted its ban on televising college football games on Friday nights, Central High School football coach Joe McMenemy was alarmed.

He is concerned about the implications of having any college football games broadcasted on the high school level.

"Everybody's playing on Friday nights, and that's a problem," McMenemy said. "The teams are worth watching on Saturday."

He said that after the season, it probably won't happen again.

Senior David Newson who plays football said since big schools like Miami and Nebraska are not planning Friday games, the move will not have a widespread impact.

"I don't think they will attract huge crowds," he said.

Senior Nick Lemek said high schools could counteract colleges planning Friday games by playing on Thursday, such as Central has done several times this season.

However, he said most people probably will not watch the games, anyway.

"The teams worth watching play on Saturday," he said. "To be honest, I don't think anybody is going to watch Friday night games."

Paul Pennington, the ability to play on Friday was not at the heart of the decision. He said it had more to do with money from ESPN and other sports channels.

Pennington said. "Television is the part that would help them make money off of it and high schools don't have enough power to stop it, especially since we don't get much television airtime."

However, college football is a cruel world to teams like UNLV in the small, upstart Mountain West Conference (MWC), conference assistant director of communications Javan Hedlund said.

On rare occasions, ESPN 2 has televised MWC games, but even then it is not until nightfall. Even with several rapidly improving teams including UNLV and Colorado State, the conference often finds itself fighting for airtime, he said.

UNLV has improved from a 0-11 mark three years ago under the guidance of former USC coach, John Robinson.

Yet they continually find themselves in the shadow of the big West Coast schools in the Pac-10 Conference.

The NCAA's rule change has caused several MWC teams to play Friday games.

The MWC moved thinking they could get on a national stage. Instead they have been met with complaints from football organizations across the nation.

When ESPN brought up the possibility of UNLV playing two Friday primetime games, the Rebels jumped on board,

Hedlund said.

Part of the backlash against this move has come from the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and the Southeastern Conference (SEC), both have condemned Friday night television games as detrimental to college football and the SEC vowed not to play on this night. However, Hedlund said the successful football conferences, such as the SEC, came out against this because they did not need to have games on Friday.

"The big six conferences have always gotten exposure, so the decision was something that gave conferences like the Western Athletic Conference and Conference USA the opportunity to reach a national television audience," Hedlund said.

However, the most powerful deterrent to televised Friday night football could be in the damage it does to a college's talent pool. Having college teams play on Friday night hurts their recruiting ability, such as taking away time to observe prospects at games, Pennington said.

"High school players are the source for colleges," McMenemy said. "It seems to me that they wouldn't want to cut their own throat by doing this."

The main reason for the move was to increase the MWC's visibility as a conference, Hedlund said.

October against Colorado State. Friday has always been high schools' day, he said.

However, UNLV made the decision after considering the fact that Brigham Young plays a yearly Friday night game against Utah State every year.

Central High's mascot, The Eagle

Photo By EMILY NEUMANN/ THE REGISTER

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Photo By EMILY NEUMANN/ THE REGISTER

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Swiss cheese defense

Central's offense has always overshadowed other aspects of the team, leaving many people thinking the defense is less than talented. But the team has made a special effort to improve on the fundamentals of stopping the opposition.

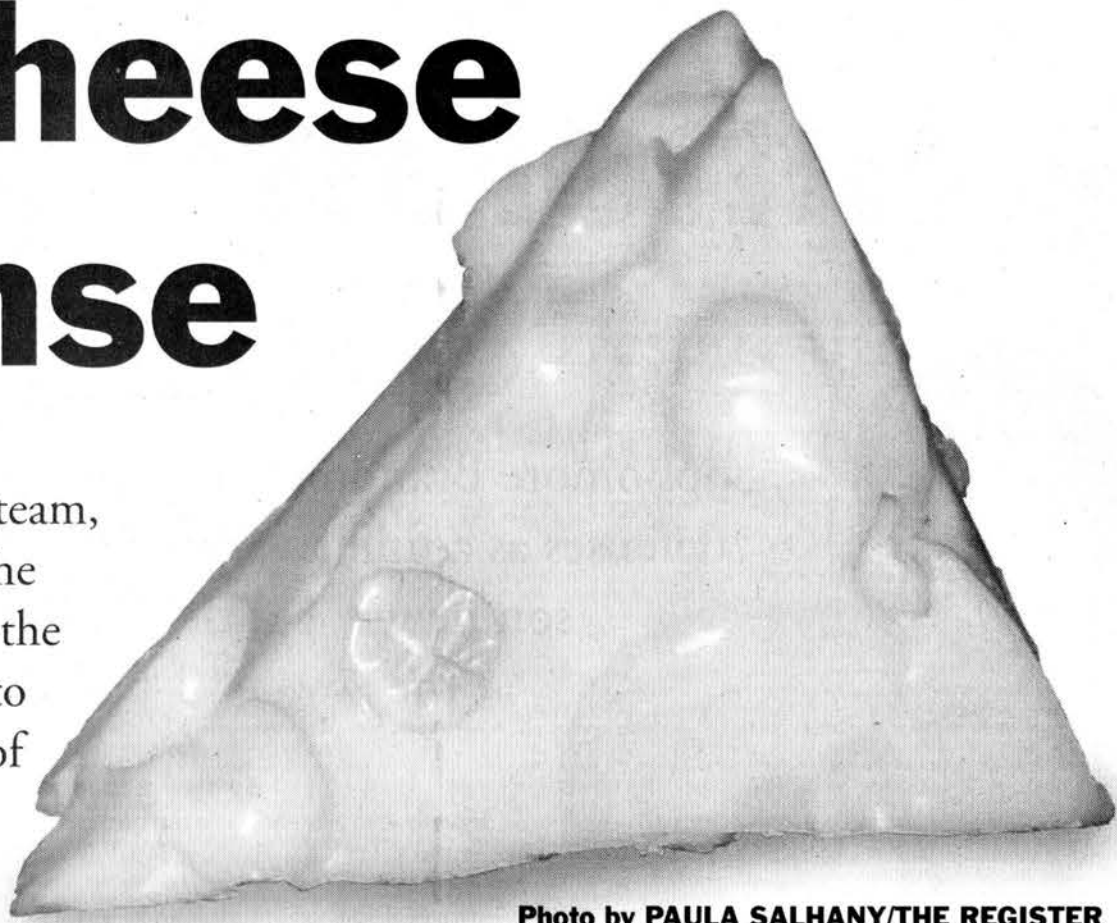


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

By Troy Schulte

After the season's first five games, Central head football coach Joe McMenamin wasn't happy with the way his defense was playing. The Eagles lost four of the season's first five games and continuing the string of five straight trips to the state playoffs looked to be in jeopardy. And most of the blame had to go to the defense. "At the beginning of the year we just had problems tackling," senior defensive end Nick Lemek said. Poor tackling along with injuries to key defensive players were two main causes of losses to Bryan and Millard North, two district opponents. If the Eagles wanted to play in the playoffs, they would have to win the rest of their district games. At the beginning of the season the Central defense set forth two main goals for each game: hold teams un-

der 24 points and hold them under 100 yards rushing. After those first five games they weren't accomplishing those goals and senior linebacker Keenan Ford set out to change that. "I looked at it like that was my defense and things weren't going right," Ford said. So prior to the Millard South game on Oct. 4, Ford decided if none of the other players were going to step up and lead them to the playoffs, he'd have to do it. During that week of practice, Ford said the coaches didn't have much to say about how the defense had been playing lately. They knew they weren't playing well and they knew what they had to work on if they wanted to turn their season around. "We made a real effort to work on basic tackling every day in practice," McMenamin said. "I think that has

helped." That Millard South game was a real wake-up call for the Eagles. They knew if they didn't win that game the season would be over without a trip to the playoffs. "We knew for sure that if we didn't win that one [the Millard South game] after the Papio game, it would be over," senior defensive linemen Calvin Sherrod said. Traditionally, the Central defense hasn't received much attention-all of that goes to the offense. But both Ford and Sherrod said that it was a lot easier turning their season around without all the hype and attention the offensive players get. "We're never noticed, but I prefer it that way," Ford said. "Nobody knows how good the defense will be and I think that plays to our advantage." Though the defense likes playing out of the spotlight, they sometimes find it hard to live up to the ability of the many

of the offensive players. "Our offense is just awesome, they always are," Lemek said. "Our defense hasn't traditionally been great, but that's what we're trying to change." If McMenamin and his players thought they needed to improve their defense in order to win a state championship, they have done a good job. In its last three games Central has given up just 10.6 points per game in wins over Millard South, North and Burke. Now that all the starters are back from injury and the inexperienced players aren't so inexperienced anymore, Sherrod said they have a good shot at winning a state championship. "The mistakes we made earlier in the year we worked on," Sherrod said. "And if we play any of those teams again, we'll stop them."

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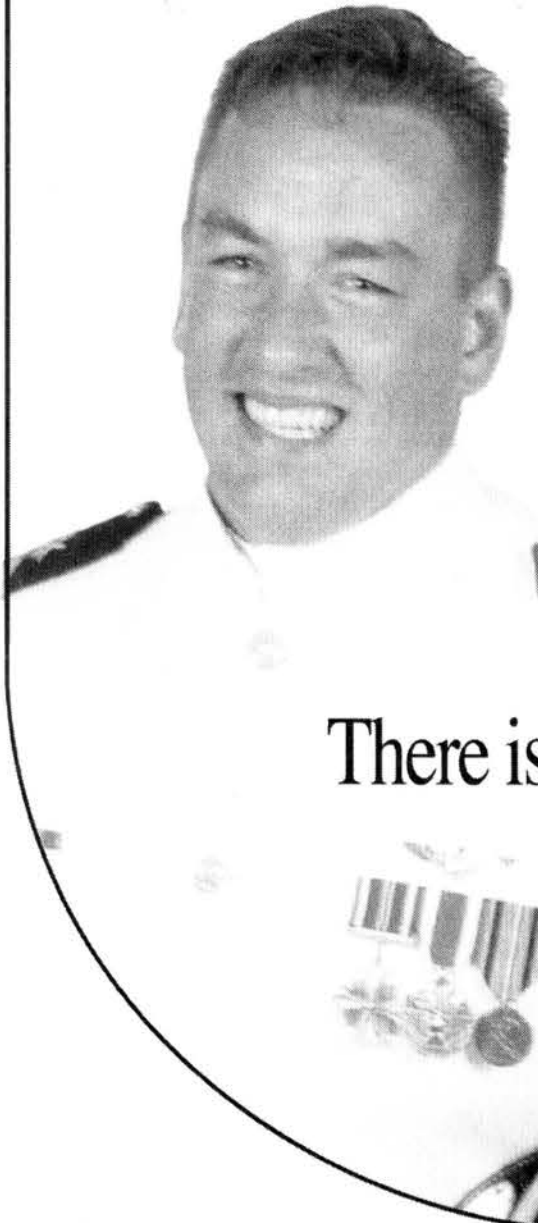
Leg injury causes Davis to quit soccer

From DAVIS, page 29

day." After surgery, Davis had to undergo many months of physical therapy, to get her knee to function again. Physical therapy was implemented to try to make sure her knee got back working as well as it could as quickly as possible. "I just basically had to learn to walk again and tried to build more muscle in it," she said. Davis was told by her doctors to stop off of the injured knee for an entire calendar year. But by Jan. 1, three months before her doctors set for her, Davis' leg was feeling so good she started to play soccer again, working out with the team on its winter conditioning drills. "I haven't begun playing soccer yet," she said. "I'm still considering it, but I keep thinking I might injure it [her knee] again." Because of this fear she has yet to turn to the soccer team and said she most likely won't. But this fall Davis returned to softball team for the first time in over a month, playing at her new position as catcher. She's grown accustomed to the sport and her knee doesn't get too agitated because of it. Even though it has been over a year since her surgery and she has undergone many months of rehabilitation, Davis' knee still gives her trouble every once in a while. "I just ice it down and it feels better," she said.

This Nebraska graduate is a proven problem solver

Lt. Shane Osborn faced a lot of challenging problems as a mathematics student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln but his ultimate came last April when he successfully landed a badly damaged EP-3E surveillance plane on China's Hainan Island after colliding with a Chinese F-8 fighter.



For saving his 24 Navy crew members under extreme circumstances, this Norfolk native has been hailed as a hero across the country. Commissioned in the U.S. Navy after completing the NROTC program and receiving a degree in math at Nebraska, Shane will continue to serve the Armed Forces as an EP-3E instructor pilot.

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Fingerprint of Success

Central's two most successful coaches have left a lasting impression on their teams

By Chris Aponick

The success of the girls' basketball and volleyball teams can be traced to the hard work and commitment of its coaches, athletic director Paul Pennington said.

Volleyball coach Jodi Dierks has gone through several coaching clinics, while basketball coach Michele Roberts has started a junior basketball program to help her team improve.

"Over the years I have put in time to be a better coach," Dierks said. "I'm always learning."

The fact that both coaches took teams to the state last year proves their efforts are paying off, Pennington said.

"Both teams have definitely turned a corner," he said.

Dierks said her experiences with her successful programs in Lincoln and here have helped her as a coach. She started coaching volleyball while a student-teacher at Lincoln Pius X. She was the junior varsity coach and an assistant for a state champion varsity team at Pius. She said she has been lucky to work with other successful coaches.

While there, she constantly looked to prove as a coach. She worked over the summers by coaching club teams and received tips and advice from other coaches. However, Pius' football coach who was retiring after thirty years gave her the best advice.

"He said that he realized in order for

your team to be successful, you have to make the kids believe they can be," she said.

She said she has picked up other advice and strategies from other coaches, as well. For example, she adapted her defense from one of her opponents so that Central to utilize its tall players and blocking ability.

Senior Angela Capellupo said Dierks has also helped teach the players. She has worked not just on improving skills, but on keeping a calm attitude.

"She has helped us to have a better understanding of the game," she said.

While Dierks puts in time trying to improve her coaching skills, Roberts has invested in finding future players for her team through the Junior Eagles basketball program, which is open to middle-school-aged girls.

"Before I came in, the team had no idea how many freshmen were interested in playing, but now I can tell who might play when they are in fifth grade," she said. "I can see six years down the road."

The program has helped her get to teach younger players the skills of the game. One of the main parts of the program is the select team that plays in the winter. The program picks the best players from the program to play in a league. She said the program's low cost helps it reach many area players.

Roberts said her team has improved because she is a more experienced coach.

In her first and second seasons, all of the players had started playing under the old coach's system, so she spent a large part of her time implementing her system to the younger players. Now in her fourth season, the team could make a run at the state title, especially since the whole team is under her system.

"We have higher expectations at all levels," Roberts said. "As a team we walk out on the court with the goal to win state."

Capellupo said Dierks has also stressed the importance of getting back to state.

"The practices this year are more intense because we want to keep the tradition going," she said.

Despite the coaches' work, Dierks said most of the credit should go to the players for their work and talent.

The athletes are more committed to the team.

"Central has always had good athletes but these girls put in extra time and play club ball to get more experience," she said. "They work at it

11 months out of the year."

They spent time over the summer and attended camps throughout the year, she said.

Pennington said the youth and enthusiasm of the coaches has been able to get the kids excited to play and to work hard on their games.

They have revived interest in the teams and surrounded themselves with good assistants.

A Simple Plan for Success

Michele Roberts, Basketball

Took team to state with three freshmen starters.



"We have higher expectations. As a team we walk out on the court with the goal to win state."

Jodi Dierks, Volleyball

Took team to state for the first time in Central history.



"[I learned] in order to be successful, you have to make the kids believe they can be successful."

Central rakes in \$2000 more from homecoming than OPS school average

By Chris Aponick

Based on the most current homecoming revenue numbers, Central's 2000 game made \$986.81 more than all of the other Omaha Public Schools.

Central's 2001 total is not yet available.

Athletics director Paul Pennington said the match up in the game makes all the difference.

"It is a good game then more people will show up, just like in any other game. Central has benefited from playing North for the last two homecoming games.

"North is one of our biggest rivals," he said. "It is always the second biggest game of the season."

The game makes enough

money to help pay for other activities, North athletics director David Patten said

However, the gate depends on the conditions on the night of the game.

Bad weather can cause the game to make less, he said.

Out of the seven schools, Northwest made the second most money, followed by Burke, Benson, South and Bryan. North was unable to give a number for the last two seasons.

Pennington said the Creighton Prep game is probably the biggest moneymaker of the year for Central but North is usually the second.

The Prep game makes so much because of the rivalry

between the schools.

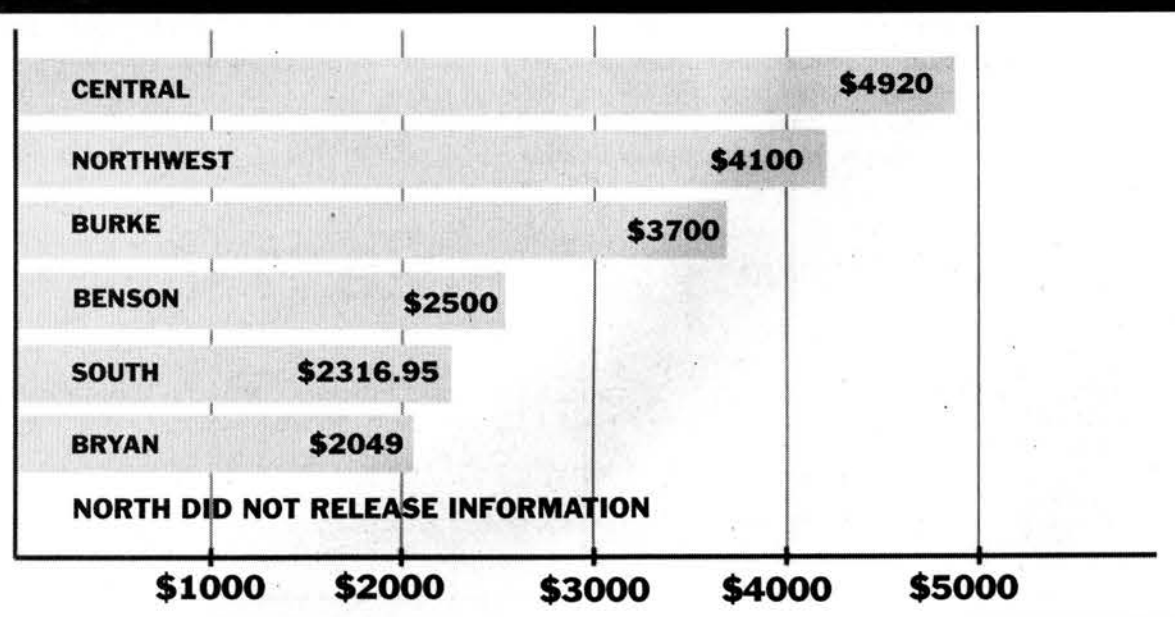
"The Prep game probably makes two and a half times more than all of the other home games combined," he said.

However, this year North may be the biggest game because Central traveled to Prep. Prep does not share revenue with its opponents for home games.

Pennington said the biggest total revenue is made from football, but basketball and volleyball games also make a profit.

Overall, McMenamin said the successful tradition of the football team has helped make the Central's game the biggest moneymaker of the OPS schools' homecomings.

2000 TOTAL HOMECOMING REVENUE



Pressure from future head coach persuades Kuhn's early commitment to Robert Morris

By Troy Schulte

In early October, senior Kris Kuhn was given an ultimatum by the head basketball coach at Robert Morris University.

Either commit to his school to play college basketball next season, or look for another school.

Since schools began recruiting Kuhn he said Robert Morris has always been high on his list of choices. And Kuhn has always been high on their list of recruits.

Because of that he was invited to the Five-Star basketball camp at the school this past August, his second trip to the camp in as many years.

After he left the camp he

didn't talk to head coach Mark Schmidt very much. Until Oct. 3, when Schmidt told him he had to make a decision.

"He called me on Wednesday [Oct. 3] and gave me until Sunday at 6:00," Kuhn said. "Or he'll have to start recruiting other players."

Other than Robert Morris, West Carolina, Hampton, Creighton and Dayton all offered him full-scholarships, so he had a lot of thinking to do.

He never had any interest in West Carolina, he didn't want to follow his older brother Mike to Hampton and he didn't want to stay home to go to Creighton. So his decision came down to either

Dayton or Robert Morris.

In the beginning of September Kuhn took his official visit to Dayton. While he was there, Kuhn was given the royal treatment.

They showed him the campus, the facilities and what he was most impressed with, the basketball arena.

When he walked on the court at the Dayton Arena he said it was like a scene straight out of the movie "Blue Chips."

His favorite rapper, Jay-Z, was playing on the loudspeakers while a public address announcer mocked a pre-game introduction of the team and said: "From Omaha, Nebraska, Kris Kuhn," as

his highlights were played on the huge replay screen.

Kuhn was impressed by the treatment he received at Dayton, but his mind was still not made up, because a month before, he attended the Five-Star camp at Robert Morris.

That camp at Robert Morris was the fourth camp he had been to in as many weeks. And because of that he was a little burned out and didn't play as well as he should have.

Until the last day, the day of the All-Star game. During the first half the trend continued, neither Kuhn nor his teammates played very well and found themselves

down 27 points at halftime.

In the third quarter, Kuhn scored 15 points including a string of three three-pointers to bring his team back. In the closing seconds Kuhn's team tied it up at 105, when he decided to show what he can do under pressure and nail a game winning jump shot which gave his team a two point lead with two seconds remaining.

Kuhn thought about where he wanted to play college basketball for about a month, when he received the call from Schmidt.

"He told me he'd call me at 6:00 on Sunday. And I wanted to beat him to the punch so I called him at 5:55," Kuhn said.

He called his cell phone but Schmidt didn't answer, so he left him a message that simply said who it was and that it was good news. Not even two minutes after Kuhn left his message Schmidt called him back.

Kuhn still has his senior season to play at Central, but the 2001-2002 season will be the easiest he has had to play. He doesn't have to impress recruiters; he doesn't have to worry about which college to choose, that part is over.

"I've already proved everything," he said. "All I have to worry about now is going undefeated."

Dec 20
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Crowded picture



Illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

A fairly unpredictable football season has all added up to one free-for-all in the state football playoffs

By Chris Aponick

Central started off with a surprisingly rocky 1-4 record that almost hurt the team's chances of qualifying for state, head coach Joe McMenemy said.

With Mark LeFlore and David Horne coming off of an All-State year, Central was looking to be one of the state's top teams.

However, not many things have gone according to plan.

"Central is in a group of teams that haven't played too well," McMenemy said. "It is a funny game. A team can get a break here or there and win a game."

At this point in the football season, there are usually about three or four teams that have become the teams to beat,

McMenemy said.

Central is in a group of teams that have hit road blocks during the season and struggled to qualify for the state playoffs.

However, this year has been a big exception.

Several teams have played better than expected, while others have struggled.

With about 10 teams playing about the same, a muddled playoff picture has developed, he said.

Benson coach Lonnie Tapp said Central's start to the season is one of many surprises.

Tapp expected Central to be a top five team.

Now with how well most of the Metro Conference football teams are playing, he said he thinks Central may not be

able to overcome its start to the season.

He said Central had experienced some bad breaks in some games. For example, in the Bryan game, Bryan completed four fourth-and-long touchdown passes.

If it did not complete one of those, Central would have won that game, he said.

Millard North has also surprised several teams this year by going undefeated throughout the regular season despite having a mostly junior-led team, Tapp said.

It is doing the best that it has done in years, despite losing some key players to graduation, McMenemy said.

"The team tends to play together really well," he said. "It has a solid defense and a

simple, aggressive offense."

The only thing that has carried over from last year has been the play of the state's defending champion, Lincoln Southeast. Southeast has started out undefeated and has a favorable schedule, Tapp said.

There is not too much to stop them from getting back to state.

Their best opponent will probably be North Platte.

The other Class A seems to be chasing down Southeast, McMenemy said.

They are probably the only team that is playing like everyone expected them.

However, he said Southeast can be beaten.

"They seem to be a cut above everybody else right now," he said.

The rest of the Class A teams are going to have to hope everything falls into place if they want to make a run at the state title, Tapp said. Easier schedules and good depth will be important to whether a team makes it back to state or not.

Teams that do not play their best in every game also stand a risk of being disappointed McMenemy said.

"Strange things happen," he said. "Anyone can beat you if you come to play without your 'A' game."

Tapp said the amount of talented players in the state have led to so many teams being on the same level this year.

"Lots of schools are loaded with talent now," he said.

The games that shaped the playoffs

THURSDAY 8-30
Millard North 42, Lincoln Northeast 7
FRIDAY 8-31
Millard West 35, Bryan 7
Lincoln Southeast 21, Papillion-La Vista 6
FRIDAY 9-7
Omaha Westside 7, Millard West 28

Papillion-LaVista 20, Omaha Burke 13
THURSDAY 9-13
Omaha Creighton Prep 7, Millard West 21
FRIDAY 9-14
Omaha Westside 23, Millard South 6
Papillion-LaVista 27, Millard North 31

FRIDAY 9-21
Millard West 7, Millard North 10
THURSDAY 10-4
Omaha Central 41, Millard South 16
FRIDAY 10-12
Millard South 7, Millard North 34
Omaha North 7, Omaha Central 45

FRIDAY 10-19
Millard West 28, Millard South 7
Papillion-LaVista 6, Omaha Westside 13
THURSDAY 10-25
Omaha Benson 0, Millard West 17
Papillion-LaVista 21, Omaha Central 28

Students help new trainer

By Troy Schulte

The fact that numerous student trainers are on hand to assist first-year trainer Matt Demilia has made the transition to the new job much easier.

When Demilia first arrived at Central at the beginning of the school year, he didn't expect to have students helping him with his duties.

But, without them, he said his job would be a lot more difficult.

"When I first got here [Jeanee] Weiss told me there were a few girls who did it [student train],” Demilia said. “I didn't expect for there to be nine of them.”

None of the students donating their time for more than even class credit, it is simply done voluntarily.

Whatever Demilia has to do in order to get ready for practice the student trainers are there to help him out.

One of them, junior Ashley Weaver, is in her second year as a student trainer and said her experiences have led her to possibly pursue a career in the athletic training field.

"I have always been interested in the medical field," Weaver said. "I always wanted to be a doctor, but I don't want to go to school that long. I think this will probably be the best thing."

Weaver first started as an assistant trainer, Weiss, at the beginning of last year because she enjoys helping people and thought training would be a good way to do it.

Weaver also said it's a good way to meet many new people and she's able to interact with what is going on around the school.

Weaver added to the knowledge she obtained in just one year of training by attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's student training camp this past summer.

Where she said they learn everything from taping ankles to human anatomy.

"We just learned the basics of being a good student trainer," she said.

Weaver is one of the trainers who can assist Demilia with taping before games.

"There are a few of us who can tape [ankles and wrists] and the other staff gets the water coolers together and other stuff that," Demilia said.

Demilia said most of the student trainers show up in the trainer's room right after school gets out, to start getting ready for practices.

Then, at 3:30, practices start. Most of them are out on the football field assisting Demilia with whatever help he needs. They do simple first-aid for sprains and muscle pulls, refilling the water coolers whatever needs to be done practice.

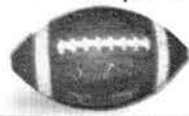
"Obviously, they know the one that's in charge, with over 700 athletes at school I can't be everywhere once," he said.

SCORECARD

REGISTER PICKS

The sports staff calls 'em like they see 'em

State football champion



Total All-State Central players



Best Central I-back ever



Nebraska vs. K-State score



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