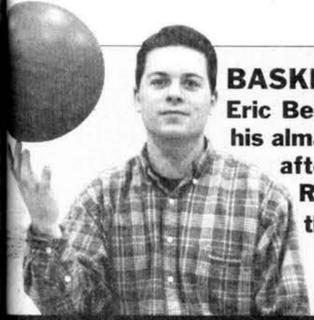
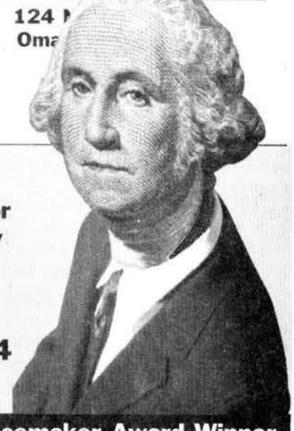


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**BASKETBALL**  
Eric Behrens returns to his alma mater to coach after his father, Rick, retires from the position.  
**PAGE 12**

**COMMUNICATION**  
Disorders creating communication barriers cause difficulties in learning for some students. New programs and products help.  
**PAGE 6-7**



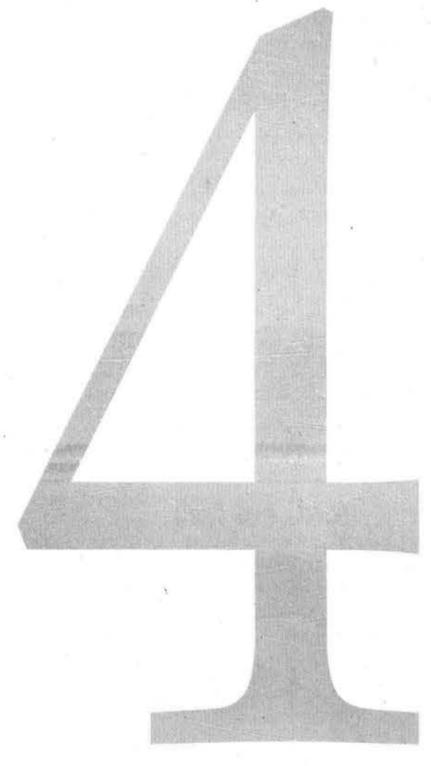
**FINANCIAL AID**  
A question on a form for federal financial aid may force some students to lie in order to receive money for college.  
**PAGE 4**

01 NSPA/JEA Best in Show      Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi      National Pacemaker Award Winner

## State cuts funding to colleges

**By Paula Salhany**  
The Nebraska University system will lose \$19 million in state funding over the next two years, according to several university sources. During the Nebraska Legislature's most recent session, one of the issues discussed was cutting funding for higher education. Originally, Gov. Mike Johanns proposed a \$39 million cut for the university system. Derek Hodgensen at UNO said with that plan students would have been far more affected than will be under the current plan. But like any budgeting cut, this will have negative effects, Hodgensen said.  
"We are going to have to put a freeze on hiring," he said. "No one will lose their job, but as positions become vacant we will look very closely whether or not we fill that position up again." John Christensen, dean of College Education at UNO, said that along with the hiring freeze, the school will not be able to buy equipment for some years and they will most likely have to cut some of the summer offerings. He said no one will get laid off and no one will be forced to retire. He did say, however, that the cuts will directly affect the level of teacher training the university will be able to afford. Training is very important, Christensen said, but under the new funding limitations, that is the most logical place to make cuts. Whether or not positions will be left vacant and whether or not the purchase of equipment will be affected is still not decided. One thing that will be affected is tuition next year.  
The tuition for the university was going to be raised before the Legislature made its decision. But when it was clear the university was going to lose money, the raise became more necessary.  
"It was decided long before the special session that tuition needed to go up. It was just what the writing on the wall said," Regent Drew Miller said. Miller was in favor of the first \$39 million proposal. He said this is because with the economy the way it is now, and with more and more money going to homeland defense, he felt the university should take its fair share of cuts.  
Hodgensen said if the \$39 million proposal had passed, it would have been much more serious. He did not seem to think so.  
Many people think the University is taking a big hit with these cuts, he said. But he said the money allocated to state colleges will only be cut by 10 percent.  
He said he thinks there are many ways the university system can compensate for the loss.  
"There have been some hefty raises given recently and overall there is a surplus of staff and money on the campuses," he said. "Right now only one-fourth of personnel is faculty. They could save money by cutting the staff."  
Miller expects the university to lose more money in the next session of the legislature. He said if the economy continues to operate as it is there will definitely be more cuts made, probably to public colleges.  
Hodgensen said UNO will continue to be a strong institute despite reductions.

# The final



## District interviews for principal position

**By Joe Meyer**  
The search for Central's next principal has been narrowed down to four main candidates. They are:  
— Jerry Bexten, principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School.  
— Lisa Dale, assistant principal at North High School.  
— Joseph Moylan, assistant principal at Littleton High School in Littleton, Colo.  
— Richard Redlinger, assistant principal at Burke High School.  
Superintendent John Mackiel interviewed the four at Central on Nov. 20. Some teachers and parents attended the interviews.  
The final decision on who will be hired will be left up to Mackiel, assistant superintendent Sandra Hodges said.  
The district posted the job opening across the district and also sent notices out to colleges and universities throughout the country, Hodges said. The response was normal for an administrative opening in the district.  
Moylan, an assistant principal at Littleton High School, said he discovered the opening while searching an Internet site.  
He decided to apply because he has family in Omaha and he wants to have the opportunity to work in the state.  
"There's something about Nebraska and its educational system," Moylan said. "It's

been doing it right for years."  
Moylan said this opening was especially appealing to him. He said he is not looking to leave Littleton, but being the principal at Central would be a great opportunity.  
"I'm not the kind of person who sends out a lot of resumes," he said. "I need the right high school and the right fit."  
The other three candidates currently work in the district. In fact, Jerry Bexten was considered for the job seven years ago.  
He was an assistant principal at South High School when he first applied for the job. He ended up at Lewis and Clark after the district chose Gary Thompson.  
Now, Bexten still has the same view of Central.  
"I see Central as a school that has a tremendous reputation, academically and all around," he said.  
Bexten said moving from a middle school to a high school would be a huge transition. There are more activities for a principal to attend, requiring a bigger time commitment to the job.  
Richard Redlinger, an assistant principal at Burke, said he was a business and physical education teacher at Central in the early 1970s. He also coached football, wrestling and track. Even though he left to seek administrative opportunities, he has stayed close to the

school.  
"I've always admired what has gone on at Central," Redlinger said. "I hope to continue that tradition."  
Redlinger has worked in education for 32 years. He has worked in public and private schools and has dealt with everything from student discipline to organizing fundraisers.  
Lisa Dale, an assistant principal at North, said she applied for the position at Central because she likes to face challenges.  
The new principal will have to deal with a rising enrollment and a very diverse student body, Dale said.  
Dale said her experience at North would help her manage a school that has a large enrollment.  
"I rode the ride from having no kids to 2400," she said. "So I know how to handle growing [in population]."  
All the candidates agreed that the renovation project, which will displace students from classrooms next year, might affect the next principal, whomever it is.  
"That's a big project," Redlinger said, "but there's a learning process involved in any position you take."  
"It's going to be a huge responsibility for whoever takes the job," Bexten said. "There are going to have to be some adjustments to get through the renovations."



**Jerry Bexten**  
Principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School  
800 students  
"I see Central as a school that has a tremendous reputation, academically and all around."



**Joseph Moylan**  
Assistant Principal at Littleton High School (Littleton, Colo.)  
1500 students  
"There's something about Nebraska and its educational system. It's been doing it right for years."



**Lisa Dale**  
Assistant Principal at North High School  
2000 students  
"I rode the ride from having no kids to 2400. So I know how to handle growing."



**Richard Redlinger**  
Assistant Principal at Burke High School  
1700 students  
"I've always admired what has gone on at Central. I hope to continue that tradition."

## State reading assessment results place Central above average

**By Paula Salhany**  
The scores are in. When the Nebraska State test card came out, it showed three out of every four Nebraska students were proficient for the state approved reading standards. Central scored 92.07 percent

whereas the district as a whole scored 84.23 percent. Each district in the state is required to test students for proficiency in the areas of English, math, science and social studies, said Ginny Brown, instructional administrator for OPS. Each year the districts send

in scores from the tests in one specific area, she said. "Last year it was English, this year it will be math. Even though a subject may not be sending their numbers to the state, they [the schools] are still required to administer tests and send the scores to the district," she said. Every district has its own test that has been approved by the state. For OPS, it is the Criterion Referenced Tests [CRT]. The reading scores from OPS were taken from the CRT. "There is really no way to compare the scores between dis-

tricts because each district has its own way of testing students," Brown said. The state takes the percentage of students proficient in reading from each test and then creates the scores for the state report card. Some people wonder whether or not having each district test differently is an accurate way to accurately and objectively measure each school's success, Tracy Wernsmann, English-Language Arts supervisor for OPS said. "It has been a very big con-

# DECA helps raise money for Salvation Army

DECA members rang bells to raise money for the Salvation Army, club member Chase Billotte said.

The club members worked on two separate days at two locations as a service project to benefit the Salvation Army. They rang bells and greeted customers at Hy-Vee and the Westroads mall.

"We also sang Christmas carols during our shift," Billotte said.

He said he felt that this attracted more people to give to the cause. Many people gave money to their children to put in the bucket.

"Need knows no season," he said.

The activity helped raise social awareness for the DECA students while improving relations with Omaha area business.

They did this by helping out the businesses and greeting customers and opening the doors.

# Mock Trial places fifth in state

The Mock Trial team won fifth place at the state meet in North Platte, marking the best performance it has ever had, team member John Demott said.

The team had won local competitions, allowing them to go to the state meet. This is the farthest any Central Mock Trial team has gone in recent years.

Mock Trial started practicing at the beginning of the school year in preparation for the competitions this fall. They started with two teams. Each team had to argue both sides of a court case, and then a winner was decided based on how well the team performed.

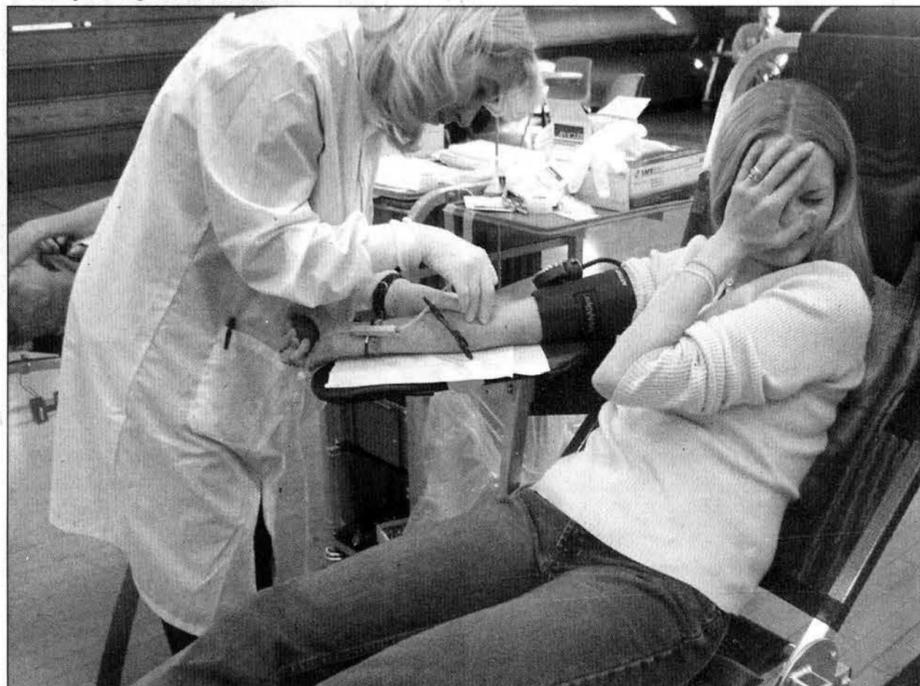
This year's case involved water rights. A town was dealing with a new business that moved into the region. The town faced a shortage of water if the business was allowed to stay. The case involved the town's actions against the company.

Both Mock Trial teams did very well this year. Demott attributes this to their hard work and dedication.

The team stands a very good chance of doing better next year because many team members will have more experience, Demott said.

# News Calendar

Compiled by Aaron Maurice



Senior Anna Nelson tries not to look as a nurse inserts a needle during the November blood drive. The blood drive was held on Nov. 21, and was sponsored by the Health Professions classes for the American Red Cross.

Photo by NITASHA DICKES/THE REGISTER

## December

### 24 Winter Break

After a week chock full of finals, winter break finally gets started. Then two weeks of fun, relaxation, sledding and celebration gets underway. Classes resume Jan. 7.

### 31 New Year's Eve

The year is over. The holiday season is done. New York kicks off the first party of 2002, and America wraps up its celebration a few hours later on the West Coast.

## January

### 03 College Football National Championship

Nebraska plays Miami in the National Championship game. This is the conclusion to a year of upsets, amazing moments, and one of the most argued BCS decisions of all time.

# Student Democrats collect coats

The third Annual Central School Coat Drive is off to a start, Vice President in charge of Special Events Scott O'Dell said.

The Student Democrats gather the drive each year as a service project to benefit the needy.



O'Dell

organization that will distribute coats to those who need them.

Student Democrats started the drive three years ago.

The drive was then called Warm Hearts Coat Drive.

The club changed the name to the Annual Central High School Coat Drive, a move that has contributed to the more successful drives in the number of coats collected every year, O'Dell said.

Student Democrats members have made posters and given announcements over the intercom to raise awareness among Central students.

Many students and teachers expected to make donations, O'Dell said.

He said collecting coats is a way for students to help the community.

So far the drive has collected sixty coats, and will continue through winter break.

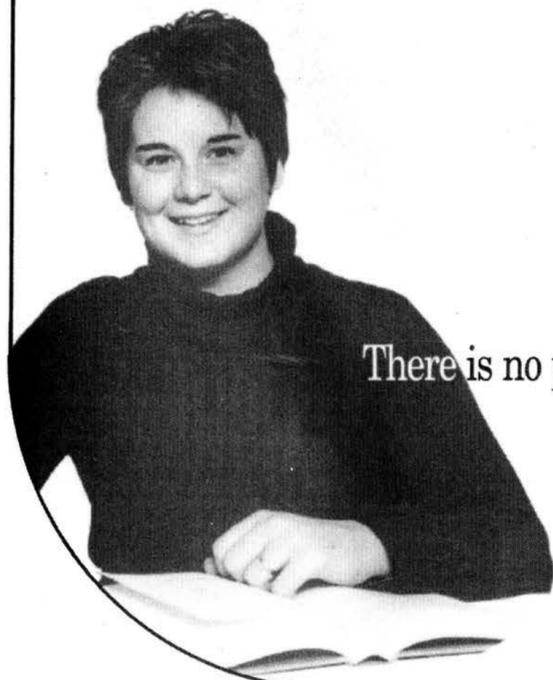
The coats will then be a gift to the ones who need them most, right before the long winter fully sets in, O'Dell said.

# This Nebraska student wants to make a difference.

## Angela Clements

is a senior political science and history major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She's also one of only 80 students nationwide to be awarded a Truman Scholarship. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding potential leaders in public service. "It's for idealistic, I-want-to-save-the-world types of people," says Angela, and she'll be taking that spirit from the campus to the nation in the years ahead.

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# Army sees rise in recruitment numbers since Sept. 11

By Paula Salhany

Recruiting has not changed, there are more people showing up at the doors. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, the army has noticed more people were in the service previously showing up at recruiting events to sign up, Staff Sgt. Steven Hage, U.S. Army Recruiter said. People have been open to the idea of the Army since the Sept. 11 attacks. People are less afraid to talk to recruiters, he said. Senior Aaron Graves is enlisting in the National Guard and Kerri Bahr will be in once she gets her paper work back. Even though they both made a decision to join the army before the attacks, they haven't changed their minds about the decision. Graves and Bahr plan on

making the Army their career and do not worry about being put on active duty after they graduate. The army recruiters work very closely with the school district to try and get students interested in the Army. Lange said he gets a list of students in OPS from the school in order to recruit. "We do everything from going to classes and speaking to standing in the courtyard handing out information. A lot of kids are very 'in the dark' about the army. Our recruiting puts some light onto the subject," he said. One major incentive of the Army is the fact that it will pay for a soldier to go through college while he is still on active duty. If a student enlists in the Army and is looking for the Army to pay his way through college, he is re-

quired to serve four years in the Army. "Basically, if you go to a four year college, you are only in the Army for the amount of time you are in school," Lange said. Both Graves and Bahr became interested in the Army through their involvement with ROTC. Even though many people have been open to the Army, there are those who are afraid of it. Junior Mary Michalak said there are a few reasons why she wouldn't go into the military. "I wouldn't go in while the military while the U.S. was at war, but if it were during a period of peace then I would consider it," she said. Michalak said her dad is another reason she wouldn't enlist. "He was in the Marines and he won't let me because of the

way the Marines work," she said. "He has told me stories about what sergeants would do to squadron leaders. If someone in their group would mess up the leaders would have to squat down and a metal locker would be put on their backs. They would have to stay there till the sergeants said it was okay to leave." The combination of war and stories has made Michalak wary of enlisting. "Some people do not understand that without the military the American people wouldn't have much of the freedom they do today," Lange said. But despite what some people think, Bahr and Graves will do all the training necessary to become active in the military. "I plan on making the military my career," Bahr said.



## College Corner

**University of Florida**  
**Location:** Gainesville, Florida  
**Admission:** 70 percent  
**Type:** Four-year public university, coed  
**Undergraduate enrollment:** 44,216 undergrad  
**Additional facts:** Top 10 museum of natural science located on campus, microkelvin facility, working test nuclear reactor  
**Freshman admissions:** 2.5 GPA or higher, 1000 or higher on SAT

**Ball State**  
**Location:** Muncie, Indiana  
**Admission:** open admission  
**Type:** Four-year public university, coed  
**Undergraduate enrollment:** unknown  
**Additional facts:** Many opportunities for extracurricular activities, diverse student body  
**Freshman admissions:** 3.0 GPA or higher, 24 on ACT

**UCLA**  
**Location:** Los Angeles, California  
**Admission:** unknown  
**Type:** Four-year public university, coed  
**Undergraduate enrollment:** 37,000 undergrad  
**Additional facts:** 100 different fields of study, international students from nearly 100 different countries  
**Freshman admissions:** 3.0 GPA or higher, 26 on ACT, early application encouraged

## READING

### Results of state test complimentary to school's English department

READING, page 1  
 Nebraska has always been a state that lets each district test in its own way. Junior Jill Ausgore said she thinks it is wrong for the state to have different test scores from different districts and put them into one report card. She said overall the CRTs are horrible, but she would rather do them. Wernsmann said a group of teachers were on a committee that set up the CRT. The teach-

ers were selected from both the high school and elementary school level. To come up with the reading selections and the test questions, the teachers used Prentice Hall materials. The Prentice Hall books are OPS's adopted textbook. She said the CRTs are a good indication of not only how students are doing in class, but how teachers are teaching. "The assessments are a very good way for teachers to see what they need to improve on," she

said. "It's like if someone were to go to a doctor. Before they give you medicine they have to know what is wrong. That's exactly what the CRTs do for teachers." Many students don't think the CRTs are a very good indicator of achievement for students or the schools. Senior Devon Anderson said the tests are just an added stress. "They should either have the tests count for something, like a grade, or not make us do them at all," he said. "I also think it would be much more effective for each

district to test with the same test. The report card would also be more accurate with a unified test." Wernsmann said the CRTs will improve over the years. With each of the tests the teachers and students become more familiar with them. One of the only things Wernsmann would like to do differently is to get more teachers involved in the process. But because teachers are so busy, this has been hard. Overall, for the first year, the tests have gone well, she said.

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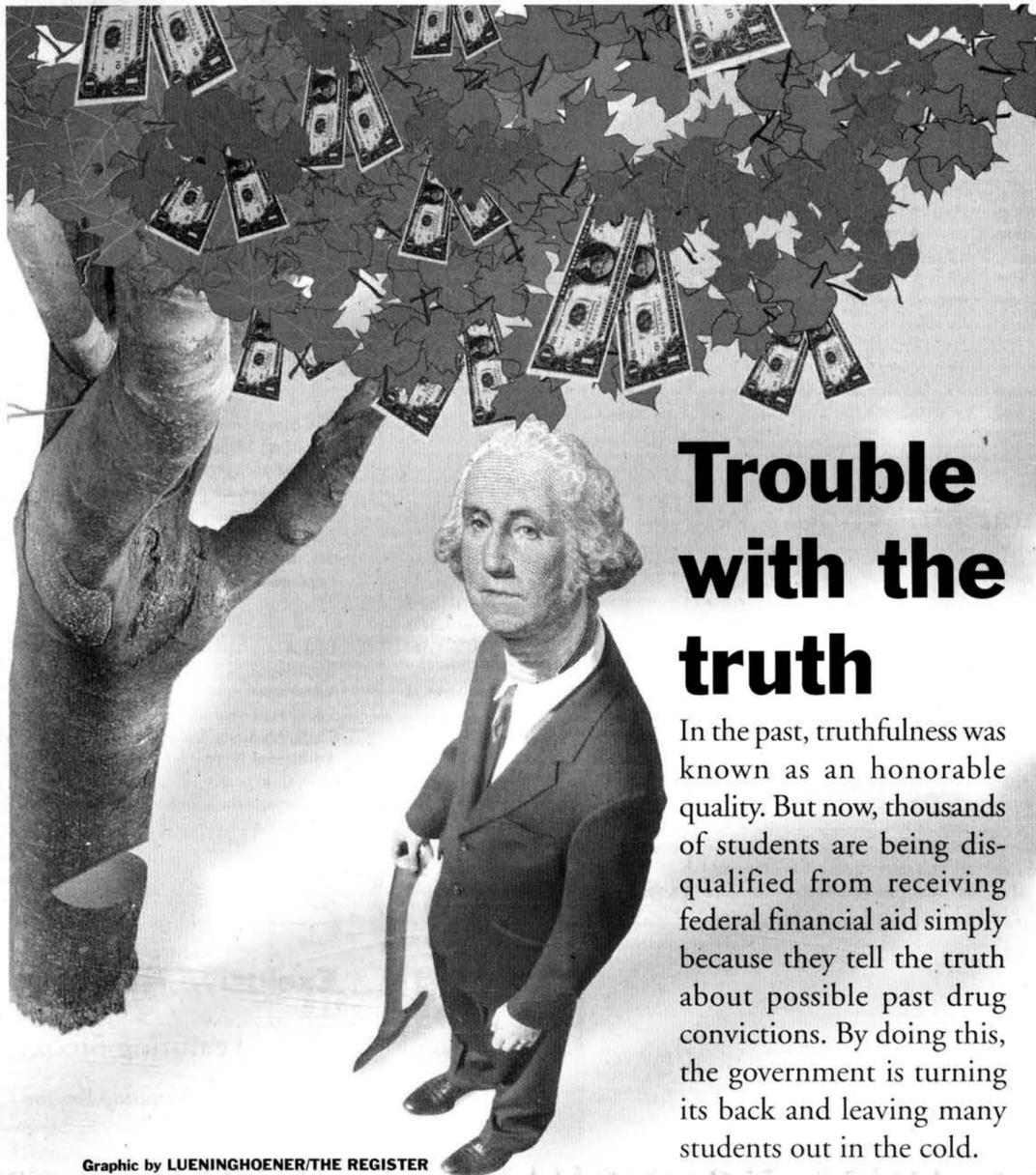
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# EDITORIALS

“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 people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

## Trouble with the truth

In the past, truthfulness was known as an honorable quality. But now, thousands of students are being disqualified from receiving federal financial aid simply because they tell the truth about possible past drug convictions. By doing this, the government is turning its back and leaving many students out in the cold.

Beware. If you have been convicted of a drug crime in the last year and are planning to apply for financial aid from the federal government, you may not be eligible to receive any money.

Answering question 35 of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid packet truthfully may disqualify some of the thousands of students who apply for financial assistance from the federal government each year.

The question asks, “Have you ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs?”

Because of federal legislation, students are now required to blow the whistle on themselves and face the possibility of being punished if they answer the question truthfully with a “yes” response.

Of course, the student could always lie and try to get away with it. But, if they do that, they take the risk of getting caught. They also do something many citizens are afraid of—lying to the federal government.

What should a student do?

The answer: students should not be required to answer this question in the first place.

While this action may seem like a great way to weed out students who do not deserve aid, the government’s actions fall short.

The government is relying on students to eliminate themselves from receiving financial aid only because they tell the truth.

This is wrong.

Especially in today’s society, young people need to be encouraged to be truthful. They should not be punished for telling the truth.

There is no question anywhere else in the packet about whether or not a student has been convicted of any other crime, felonies or otherwise.

If the government is so convinced that it should only give aid to students with outstanding moral char-

acter, why doesn’t it include a question concerning other, more serious crimes?

Hypothetically, the government is willing to give financial aid to rapists and murderers, but not to students who have been convicted of less serious drug crimes.

This is wrong.

Whether or not a student has been convicted of a drug crime does not affect their ability to perform well in the classroom. It also does not mean they do not deserve the opportunity to receive financial aid.

And since the money the federal government gives out can only be used for college expenses, the government can rest assured that the students won’t use the money to feed a drug habit.

Besides teaching students that being truthful will hurt them, this policy also contradicts the justice system’s current stance on dealing with juvenile drug cases.

Whereas the courts prefer to rehabilitate young drug offenders and offer them the chance to change their lives around, this action punishes students for mistakes they made when they were younger.

Some students may not receive aid that they need to attend school. This limits the opportunities that they may have.

The government should dedicate itself to opening up as many opportunities for its young people as possible. It should not shut students out because they made a mistake in their young lives.

Overall, making students answer this question is senseless.

The policy punishes students for doing something that has always been regarded as honorable—telling the truth.

After all, isn’t telling the truth supposed to fix a problem, not create a new one?

### EDITORIAL The opinion of the Register

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## HEROES

### - Added emphasis on airport security

Ever since the terrorist attacks, airport security has become a national priority. Immediately after the incident, the security measures still had bugs to work out. But recently, the security has been working. Even in Omaha, an individual with a loaded gun who was trying to pass a checkpoint was caught. Everyone who is working to make the industry safer for Central students to fly to national conferences and meetings should be thanked for their efforts.

### - Central intramural basketball

For the first time ever, Central students who do not compete on the school’s basketball team now have an opportunity to participate in an intramural basketball program. Thanks to grants the school received, this program allows students to become more involved in school activities while having fun and staying healthy. Hopefully students will take advantage of this valuable opportunity and it will continue next year.

### - Central’s Mock Trial team

For the first time in its existence, the Central Mock Trial team qualified for the state competition in North Platte. On its way to the state contest, the team beat defending champion Elkhorn, Roncalli and other squads. It is great to see the team do well and receive recognition for a job well done. Thank you for all the hard work you have done to represent the school well.

### - The State Board of Education

In the last month, the State Board of Education has taken giant steps forward in trying to solve the current controversy over student fees. Because there is not any precedent in Nebraska law, the issue will probably need to be solved in the Legislature. Meanwhile, it is a good thing for the school to postpone all fees, like it did for matinee ticket sales last month.

### - Central’s English Department

Central’s English Department scored extremely well on the latest state report card. Almost all of the students passed the reading requirements while the majority of the students were mastery in writing. This is a great testament to the quality of the Central English Department, which has produced many great writers throughout the years.

### - OPS Board of Education

Bravo to the Board for approving an open-door policy that would allow home-schooled students to attend public high schools for part of the day. This will allow these students to become involved in the educational system and interact with students their own age. Also, it will give these students superior instruction in upper-level classes, Calculus and computer courses.

## ZEROS

### - Student testing before conferences

Like every other year, the school decided to waste the other half day of school this year. With True Colors for freshmen, the PLAN test for sophomores and ASVAB testing for juniors, students did not learn anything useful. Instead of wasting every student’s time, the school should find another way to use the day to actually teach students.

### - District’s winter break schedule

How is it that students are dismissed for Christian religious holidays but not for others? Although the vacation is officially called winter break, the district always schedules the break to include Christmas, but leaves out other holidays. The same is true with spring break. Students who practice other religions often have to miss school in order to observe another holiday. The district needs to look at the schedule again to make sure it works.

### - Westside’s new drug dog

In a complete act of futility, Westside High School recently acquired a drug dog to patrol the halls and to crack down on drugs inside the school. Besides presenting a possible constitutional violation, the drug dog will make the students feel like the faculty does not trust them and create more problems than it will ever solve.

### - District’s rejection of portables for Central

After school administrators seemed to have solved the problems for next year’s renovations, the district threw the school a curveball. The portables the school was counting on to occupy the football field are not available. Now the school is going to have to adopt a new plan. Hopefully school administrators will be able to lead the school through the next couple of years.

### - Nebraska Legislature

A few years ago, the Legislature adopted a new way to evaluate how much tax revenue that school districts receive, but this is the first year it has been implemented. In the end, OPS will lose two million dollars it received from the state. The money the district will lose will cause more problems for other district officials. Hopefully, the district will be able to operate without this money and the state will find some way to compensate the districts statewide.

### - Millard sport booster’s request

A Millard booster requested that the Nebraska State Activities Association allow Millard schools the opportunity to have more than one varsity team, per sport. But in reality, competition would suffer because more teams would be competing against the better teams. If it were allowed, it would also provide conflicts when scheduling games and tournaments.

## the Central High School REGISTER

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform readers 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.

This year, the Register has won two consecutive Best-of-Show competitions, at JEA’s annual journalism conventions.

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.

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Central High School or the Register staff. Readers are encouraged to send letters to the editor to room 315.

Letters must include the author’s full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters are not printed. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy and taste. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact are not considered.

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Danielle Rollins	In-depth editor
Doug Meigs	Asst. in-depth editor
Steve Packard	Asst. in-depth editor
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Kaitlin Butz	Asst. A&E editor
Jon Lathan	Asst. A&E editor
Danny Whelan	Asst. A&E editor
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Faith Lynn	Photojournalist
Emily Neumann	Photojournalist
Connor Meigs	Cartoonist
Matt Deabler	Adviser

# OPINION

“Congrats *Register*. You wrote something worth reading. Shame to the administration for launching a campaign against the truth.”

Gavin Jensen, 11

Letters to the editor  
Columns  
Register your opinion

## Superficial tendencies distort truth

Do you know what you ate today? Chances are you don't.

In today's consumer-oriented society people seldom take the time to realize every stupid thing they eat.

Being a consumer is fine. I promote it. However, I would be concerned with what is actually being consumed.

I recently confirmed this suspicion at a local fast food joint.

As a less than enthusiastic burger flipper slapped a dripping grease patty of quasi-meat onto bun, his index finger was totally concealed in his left nostril.

Seeing the fast food attendant go nose plunking while I waited for my order made me wonder how much (or how little) I really know about the things I put in my mouth.

Why does the 'burger' share such similar qualities to the byproduct of the burgerflipper's nose? Why is rice

crawling off my plate? And what is rice doing on my plate if I am at a hamburger restaurant?

I didn't know, but I ate it anyways. That probably wasn't a great idea.

But then again, blind consumption isn't due to an abundance of thought (such as eating unsanitary foods).

This consumption often encompasses the edible as well as the mental.

The nice politician must be nice. He looks nice.

He speaks nice. What could there be that isn't nice about him besides the twelve million dollars he accepted from al-Qaida?

This faith in appearance is the basis of most individuals' "don't think, consume," mentality.

Everyone has different motivations. Everyone has different beliefs. Everyone has a different message.

Just like someone should not eat contaminated fast food meat, they should not put faith in everything he or she is

told. But what about my friends, the *Friends* hundreds of thousands of people across the world watch daily? Their perspectives are pure along with their hearts and pores.

MONICA: "I'm anorexic and I'm happy, at least my character is."

CHANDLER: "Yeah well I'm an addict. But hey, life is great, don't you guys think so?"

RACHEL: "Of course, but why are all our friends well off, pretty, white people?"

ROSS: "Well I'm pretty sure it's because we are fictional television characters on a show marketed to white suburbia."

JOEY: "And now a message from our sponsor. 'Steal your parents money and give it to NBC.'"

PHOEBE: "Wow that's great and so is life, let's have sex."

Hooray. I want to be like my friends on TV. I can't wait until I go to college and graduate so I can be out on my own.

Life will be just like whatever episode of whatever show I watched the night before.

But wait, college costs money. Mom won't do my laundry anymore. All of the sudden, rent will become real.

I am not trying to say that television is bad or that *Friends* isn't entertaining. However, if a person truly looks to television as a representation of the real world, he or she has problems.

Outside influences will always shape peoples' outlook.

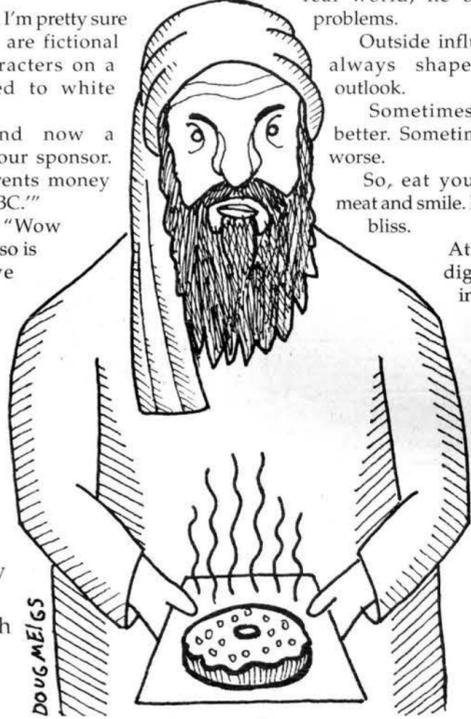
Sometimes for the better. Sometimes for the worse.

So, eat your mystery meat and smile. Ignorance is bliss.

At least until digestion sets in that is.



EXTRANEIOUS PHRASES  
Doug Meigs



DOUG MEIGS

### Top ten worst things to eat

1. Powdered anthrax doughnuts delivered directly to you from some strange address in Florida.
2. A glowing T-bone steak found next to a large bucket of antifreeze.
3. Leftover Egg Nog you found in between your couch cushions.
4. Mad cow infested English beef.
5. Skim milk...from rat.
6. Anything from Joe's House O' (insert here).
7. Those attractive brown sludge-cicles accumulating under your car every time you drive in the snow.
8. Vegetables in general. But especially those still coated in layers of fresh fertilizer straight from the field.
9. Something that looks like a candy bar floating in the pool.
10. Anything at the Donner Party picnic.

## Obsession to meet lousy standards kills image

You're not cool.

I'm sorry, you're a nice person, honestly, but you're probably not cool.

At least, not if you're trying to be cool. I've noticed something over the past year. People think they're "cool" and they try and act "cool," but something gets lost along the way and they just look stupid.

I can't stand the term "cool." It's vague and overused. My mom even uses it. But for some reason, people still use it and still aspire to be "cool."

I've never really seen the point in all of this. Then again I'm the world's biggest dork. Look at me sometime and I will probably trip and fall or snort when I laugh.

But if you truly are whatever you choose to classify as "cool," then you shouldn't have to try. If you're trying,

then you're acting like an idiot.

Remember every teen movie from the 80s? Remember how the underdog goes to the jock's party and makes a fool out of himself or gets totally smashed? That's what you look like.

You're dressed like an idiot because you buy clothes that you see in fashion magazines. You don't really like them, but you buy them anyway.

The cost of your winter wardrobe could cover three semesters' tuition at Harvard.

You need an instruction manual to get dressed, but boy do you look cool! You are the coolest, at least by your own silly standard.

Do you use slang you hear on popular MTV programs like TRL and Real World, too?

Do you understand this slang?  
Do you use it anyway?

If your answers are "yes, no, yes," then you have a problem. You're not cool and you're actually a bit of a poser.

Take a fictional, yet all-too-real case of our good friend Johnny. Johnny considers himself a cool guy, a hep cat, if you will.

But if you take a closer look at Johnny, you see a far different picture. He's slightly reminiscent of the guy from that "Pretty Fly for a White Guy" song. He gives "shout-outs" to his "homies" from his self-organized physics club. He considers them "old school."

I think you should be able to understand the scenario. He is just one of many poor, misguided fools who leads his life, constantly reaching for that certain something.

He's failing miserably, but at least he is trying.

If kids like poor Johnny keep up at this pace, I know what the future will hold. Kids who are always trying to act

cool in high school turn into the annoying people you see at local concerts.

You know, the ones who don't like the band, but go and have a miserable time and act snotty to all the kids who do like the band.

The reason they show up is... to look cool. And to be seen doing so by people they consider to be cool.

What a fabulous waste of six bucks. Why would you want to waste your precious time doing things you don't like just to impress people who probably don't like you because you act like a fool? It just doesn't make sense.

The people who I think are cool don't have to try. They just show up and act like their odd little selves and everybody loves them for it.

Maybe you should try it. Go to a show to see a band you actually enjoy. Buy clothing that you feel comfortable in.

It may sound crazy, but you might end up being... Do I even need to say it?



LONG STORY SHORT  
Kairlin Butz

## LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES

### 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 may be edited for clarity and length.

newspaper.

But I am deeply concerned by the numerous factual errors published in your paper's editorial. It is clear to me that the *Register* did not understand the purpose and goals of ABC 2001: Afterschool Basics for Omaha's Children. As a matter of fact, the entire editorial is based on several fundamental misconceptions of the program:

- The activity was not held for students.
- No public money was used to host the fair.
- The fair was never promoted as the solution but merely as a starting point.
- The fair did benefit Omaha by providing a platform for discussion and planning.

While there are many challenges facing after school programs, one of the larger issues is attracting junior high and high school youth. There is no doubt that student input will be useful as my administration moves forward with its after school work. I encourage you to continue your coverage.

Mayor Mike Fahey

#### Second issue displayed excellent reporting

I'm not normally a supporter of the *Register*, but issue two was a shining example of what a good paper should be.

My kudos to Matt Wynn who had the integrity to write a story about Central administrators allowing a particular student to play football despite pending charges of assault.

Of course, we are all versed in the student handbook and know that these circumstances would normally merit suspension from any sporting event until things were sorted out.

It's high time someone brought the double standard, which runs rampant at Central, to the attention of the public.

From the smallest infraction to something as grandiose as the scandal gracing the front page of last issue, faculty and administrators often turn a blind eye to the actions of star athletes.

I also think that the actions taken by the administration to muffle the *Register* are grossly unfair, and are obviously in retaliation to the story in the offending issue.

As I'm informed, the staff of the *Register* is being punished for having low grades and staying too late to work on the paper.

Am I the only one who finds this biased? Since when, in a place established for learning, does academics take a back seat to athletics?

Congrats *Register*. You wrote something worth reading. Shame to the administration for launching a campaign against the truth.

Gavin Jensen, 11

### REGISTER YOUR OPINION

When students apply for financial aid, should the federal government require them to answer a question about any drug convictions they might have? And if so, should students be disqualified if they answer "yes" to the question?



"I'd lie because if you need money and one question is going to screw it up, then I'd lie."

Catherine Peters, 10



"I think the drugs have nothing to do with the student's capabilities. I don't think drugs should be considered a part of the FAFSA."

Alicia Franklin, 12



"They [the kids] should be thrown out. They cannot be serious about financial aid if they answer 'yes' to using drugs."

David Fisher, 9



"I don't like it. You might have made a mistake, but you might be smart and able to do well in school but you cannot afford college."

Brian Curry, 11



"I think it should be asked because if you've been convicted of it in the past, then the federal government will think you'll do it again."

Blaine Stratton, 10



"I think it's the right thing to do because if they're a felon, that might make the college look bad."

Derrick Brown, 10



"You could have just did that once and changed. The question should be whether you want to do it again."

Vanna Harper, 9

#### Three pieces in last issue cast bad image

On Thursday, Nov. 1, I received my very own issue of the award-winning *Register*.

On the front page, the first article, I found name dragging and unneeded persecution. The article was titled, "Athlete plays despite assault charges." The article was in reference to assault and battery charges filed against a Central student and athlete.

The act should not be condoned. If the accused is found guilty, recourse should be taken. Innocent until proven guilty, right? Or does that not apply in the breeding grounds of the *Register*?

The person accused may have done something that is inherently wrong, but you have committed a far greater injustice.

The focus of the article may have been on the administrative view, yet that is not what the student body is reading. We're reading how one of our own is a horrible person.

While all the information you printed was public knowledge by law, it is not needed in a high school newspaper. Is this what award winning journalism amounts to?

Sam Comfort, 12

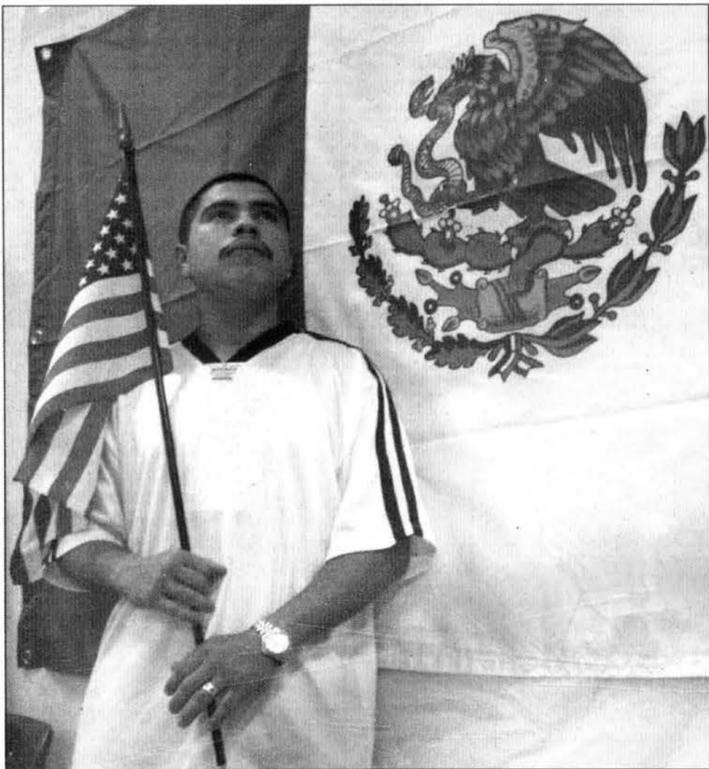
#### Fahey editorial disregards fair's purpose

I am writing in response to the editorial entitled "Fahey's after school fair fails to offer options to students, teachers." I was thrilled to see the Central High School *Register* tracking city events and activities. City government is not often a major focus for a high school

# Barriers in C

From the lessons at school to nondescript conversation, communication plays an essential role in every aspect of life. When communication is barred, conflict results. The following stories illustrate such dilemmas.

## ESL enables cultural transition



By Doug Meigs

Students of every nationality imaginable stream through the classroom's open doors.

Raul Aguilar, a Central freshman who emigrated from Mexico, is one.

The Central students enter and begin to take their seats. The course is English as a Second Language (ESL). Class begins.

Aguilar sits in the room's circle of desks.

The students have come to America for a better life, ESL teacher Linda Ganzel said, and Central's ESL program helps them to attain this better life.

You couldn't tell by looking at Aguilar, but this is his first semester of high school after coming to America a few years ago.

In the short time he has been at Central he has rapidly been acculturated, mostly because of ESL.

He wears Tommy, Nike and all the clothing today's high school students wear.

His grades are average and he said he participates in normal teenage activities.

He is the average American high school student in nearly every aspect. However, he isn't American and barely speaks English. That's where ESL comes in, Ganzel said.

Over the past few days Aguilar's class, Social Studies Prep, has been watching the film "Squanto."

Ganzel said the idea behind showing the film is to break down cultural barriers and educate the students about America's history.

Ganzel asks if the students have any questions.

One student raises his hand and asks, in halting English, "What is the difference between Native Americans and 'native' Americans?"

A number of other students express a similar confusion.

For them, a "native" American would be any person who is native to the country, something the students know they are not. But that's changing.

"When a student in the ESL program at Central graduates, they are bicultural, bilingual and fully able to function both practically and academically in their native language and English," Ganzel said. "Many American mainstream students who have taken four years of college or even completed a master's degree are not able to practically or academically function in their second language."

Aguilar sits attentively while "Squanto" plays. The class is silent. A character in the movie discusses the overcoming of differences between whites and Indians. He speaks of harmony.

Ganzel surveys her class. An American flag is suspended in the corner. The students are listening.

Aguilar was born the fifth son of a family of nine. He and his family came to America when his father received a job in the States.

Aguilar took his first job with Nebraska Beef, where he worked to help support his family.

He didn't enter school immediately, but through the encouragement of his friends and family eventually did.

Aguilar said the skills he is learning are helping his future.

The course's goals are listed on one of the room's walls. To teach students to "speak, read, write, listen and participate," the poster reads. But the class does so much more, Ganzel said. Aguilar agreed.

He said he wants to be a mechanic and believes the interaction and computer skills he is learning now will help him when he decides to enter that field.

There are many students in the class similar to Aguilar and they all have their own stories to tell, Ganzel said.

"Too many times we look at the 'plight' instead of the 'potential' of the international student," she said.

"Many of these determined and responsible young people are going to make a big positive impact in the families, our country and even the world," she said. "What a great opportunity to have them here in the midst."

Although he is not a citizen, Raul Aguilar has become part of America's youth.

An eagle soars across the television screen.

The movie ends. Class dismissed.

Photo by FAITH LYNN/THE REGISTER  
Raul Aguilar moved to America from Mexico three years ago. He said he feels more like a citizen every day through his education.

## Student succeeds despite learning disability

By Doug Meigs

Dyslexia is not a disease.

It is not a debilitating handicap.

In fact, the definition of dyslexia, as of the late seventies, has become archaic in a school environment.

Dyslexia is a term used to describe difficulty with language: reading, writing and spelling, according to The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD).

In the educational sense, dyslexia no longer exists. It hasn't for years.

Instead, it has been broken down into groups of learning disabilities.

The handicap most associated with dyslexia is a reading and language disability.

According to NCLD, there are 2.8 million students with learning disabilities in special education.

Eighty-five percent of all students suffering from a learning disability are handicapped in the area of reading.

Central alone has approximately one hundred and twenty-five such students, Central special education teacher Cindy Newberg said.

Senior Chris Morehouse is one Central student who has been diagnosed with a reading and language disability.

Morehouse has trouble in English. He also struggles with reading comprehension, spelling and sometimes pronunciation when he has to read aloud during school.

Despite his disability, Morehouse has been very successful in high school, mostly because of his involvement in Central's special education program during the first two years he has been enrolled at Central.

He is in mostly honors classes, is on the honor roll and is planning on going to college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha next year.

Like most learning handicaps, Morehouse's learning disability is invisible.

Paired with his success in school, Morehouse's unnoticeable handicap has resulted in some of his teachers never realizing he had the disability.

"My history teacher was shocked," Morehouse said. "She had no idea (of my disability)."

However, she eventually learned after she was invited to complete an evaluation of his progress in the class.

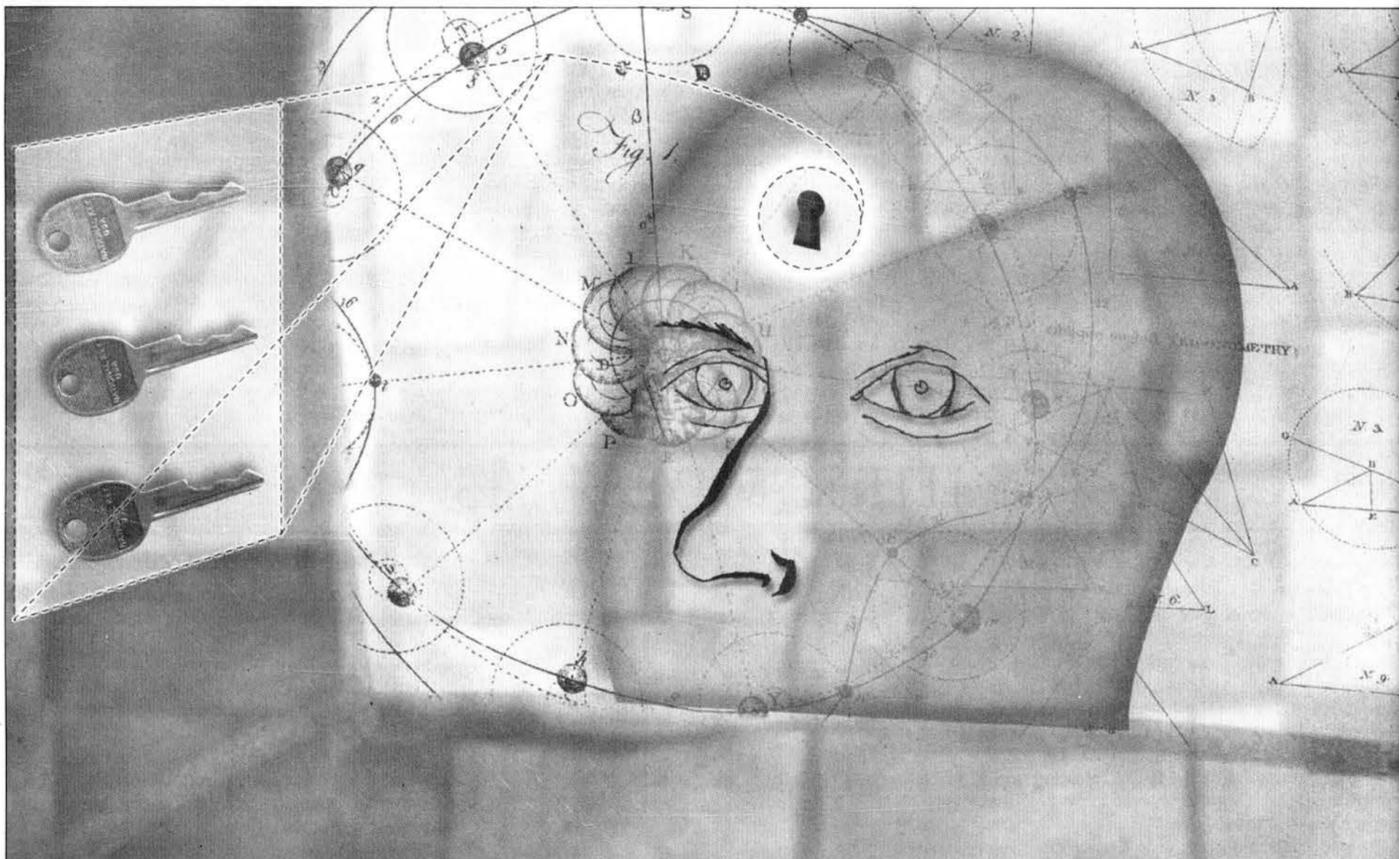


Photo illustration by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER  
Learning disabilities are like locked doors. It is impossible for family to know how the patient feels. Through treatment these doors may someday be opened.

Morehouse has overcome much adversity since he was diagnosed in the fourth grade.

His disability was discovered after he was caught cheating on a spelling test.

He was retested and the disability surfaced. Soon after, he was tested into his elementary school's special education program.

Since fourth grade, Morehouse was actively involved in OPS' special education program up until his sophomore year. Now however, he has overcome the handicap completely enough to no longer require the constant assistance of special education.

Newberg said Morehouse is one of the

programs' most successful students. She said he is an intelligent role model who sets a positive example for other students suffering from disabilities.

"He is a student who understands he has a weakness and accepts that weakness and doesn't get bogged down. It's just there and he moves on," Newberg said.

Morehouse said he isn't ashamed of having been part of the special education program. He isn't embarrassed because he has a learning disability. He even said he tells people.

Morehouse realizes special education has been instrumental in helping him. However, when Morehouse started his freshman year at Central, he was less en-

thusiastic.

"I did not want to be in special ed. I didn't want to be labeled as a resource. But then when I got to know Mrs. Newberg, I liked it and I wanted to stay," he said.

Much of Morehouse's reluctance to being in special education, he said, was due to negative experiences while he was in elementary school.

"Everybody made fun of me because I couldn't spell very simple words. Even now, I'll think, how do you spell 'every'? Just really simple words," he said.

While an elementary school student, he was required to read aloud in front of the class.

Because he had (and still does have)

trouble sounding out words, classmates laughed at him and called him stupid.

Today, Morehouse said he has some of the same troubles he had when he began school.

"I don't like reading in front of the class, sometimes I just say 'no' he said. "I read ahead hoping to figure out what words are. Sometimes at church I have to ask my girlfriend what words are."

Today, for the most part, Morehouse has overcome his disability.

Today, it is evident that he is successful.

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# Communication



Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

At Camp Munroe, Alex Vera, a child with autism, is able to interact with camp volunteers. In this case, one volunteer is offering to take Alex to the pool after he has a tantrum and sits on the ground, refusing to stand up. This was the counselors final attempt to get Alex off of the ground.

## Students assist autistic youth

By Danielle Rollins

In three different rooms, three little boys have one thing in common: autism, a developmental disorder which makes it difficult for them to interact or socialize with others.

Susan Wilczynski, the program director for a treatment center that caters to children with autistic tendencies, said there is no such thing as a standard autistic child and there are no medical tests that prove a child is autistic.

The only way to diagnose the disorder is through careful observation by a team of professionals. No one knows why autism develops, but some think genetics plays a part.

Brandon is small and thin with huge eyes, he attends Camp Munroe most Saturdays. When he reaches the pool he makes a mad dash for the stairs; it seems as though he can't wait to get in.

A volunteer calls his name, one...two...three...but he does not respond. She follows him to the side of the pool and leads him away, tells him what he needs to wait for the other children.

When they finally enter the pool, Brandon appears a little reserved. He sits on the stairs. He ignores the calls of the few children around him; they finally give up and swim away.

He takes a deep breath and steps off of the stairs, slowly moving toward the center of the pool. After about two feet he turns, retreating back to the stairs. He does this again and again.

He closes his eyes, stepping off the stairs slowly, hesitantly—he shakes his fist. He takes one step, then another, one...two...three...and then he turns and goes back to the stairs.

An onlooker might say he's scared of the water, but he is trying to overcome his fears. Someone who has worked with autistic children would say more likely he has just gotten used to the pattern.

Katie Slack, a Camp Munroe volunteer and central senior, said it was common for children diagnosed with autism to develop repetitive behavioral patterns. Flapping or waving arms, making fists or swinging objects, are just a few of the most common patterns.

She said many children with autism find the repetition soothing. Many use patterns as a way to comfort feelings of anxiety.

Adam is a teenager and a camper at Camp

Munroe. He is wearing a red bathing suit, faded from years of use. A volunteer says he never leaves the Camp Munroe pool, the water comforts him.

He stands at the far-left side of the pool; the water reaches his waist. Around him there are several children throwing an inflatable ball back and forth. Several others play with water floats and toys.

Adam watches the ball as it is being passed from one person to the next, one...two...three. Every time someone catches the ball he jumps up and down and flaps his arms against the water making a loud smacking sound.

At first glance it looks like Adam is a part of the game. Look closer.

He stands at least three feet away from everyone, he never speaks and, unlike the other children in the pool, he doesn't seem to notice the water around him.

As a volunteer, Slack said she was required to undergo a kind of training process before she was able to work with Camp Munroe.

She said the volunteers need to know how to handle the children professionally. She said it was uncommon for a child to get worked up or upset while at Camp Munroe.

Outside on a large playground, Alex watches as half a dozen kids toss a basketball back and forth. As they run and play and scream and laugh, Alex stands along the sidelines.

He doesn't move, except for occasionally flapping his hands up and down, and he doesn't speak.

Something happens. Maybe someone drops the basketball or trips, maybe someone yells. Alex loses his concentration and gets restless.

He attaches himself to the leg of the volunteer standing nearest to him. She tells him to let go and tries to step aside but to no avail.

Another volunteer comes over to help, then another, then another.

Alex sits on the ground and covers his head with his hands. He starts to sway. One volunteer gets on her knees, trying to reason with him. She tells him that he has three seconds to stand up, then she starts to count.

"One...two...three..." Alex ignores her. She counts again, "One...two...three..."

Slack tries to reason with him. She promises to take him to the pool, tells him that they can go

swimming.

He may have calmed down because of the promise.

He may have wanted everyone to leave him alone. He may just have been distracted by the sound of her voice.

As Slack leads Alex to a door at the far end of the playground, a door that leads to the indoor pool, the childrens voices and laughing slowly increase.

The kids don't realize that they may be a little different, the volunteers at Camp Munroe make sure of that.

## Eight indications a child may have autism

- Social detachment:** Tend not to attempt communication with others. They are often shy and withdrawn.
- Abnormal language:** Construe their communications. No matter whether autistics speak or sign their language, there are usually slurs or something else that makes the way they communicate unique to themselves.
- Insistence on sameness:** Usually hold a very strong interest in one particular thing. What it is varies: it can be anything from a train set to strings of numbers.
- Unusual movements:** Sudden, sporadic movements, much like sudden, short muscle spasms. Like many things about autism, it is yet unknown what exactly causes these spasms.
- Negativism:** Feeling that nothing can be accomplished and that nothing is worth the try is prevalent.
- Mechanical fascination:** Anything mechanical or metallic can be seen as something to be cherished, explored and experimented.
- Mental retardation:** Nearly 75 percent of all of those with autism have some kind of mental retardation.
- Special skills** Demonstrate some kinds of special skills. These skills range from Rainman-like numbers skills to great analytical abilities.

Information courtesy of neurology and brain pathology departments at the St. Joseph Hospital



Courtesy of EPIC RECORDS

Dominic Weir, Cory Kreig, Brandin Lea, Fletcher Lea and Rex Ewing make up VH1's "Bands on the Run" winning band Flickerstick. The guys won \$50,000 for their efforts selling merchandise and winning over audiences.

## Flickerstick revels in success

By Layne Gabriel

The stakes were high, the cameras were on and Flickerstick came out on top.

Flickerstick, the winner of VH1's series "Bands on the Run," has been living a nice life since the show, releasing a successful album, spending its \$50,000 prize, and recording two music videos.

Over a year ago, Flickerstick, a band composed of five young guys from Texas, began the audition process for the show.

The band began by filling out a questionnaire and answering questions on tape.

Then the band played an acoustic showcase in Austin, Texas and finally auditioned in Los Angeles, guitarist and keyboardist Cory Kreig said.

"Somehow, they were stupid enough to pick us," Kreig said.

Filming of the series began in Nov. of 2000, and the band was on camera perpetually for about two months.

"We put absolutely no work into winning... Anything else on top of this [being on the show] is gravy. We never thought we stood a chance," Kreig said.

The filming was condensed into 16 half-hour episodes, which made accurately portraying the bands a high priority for Flickerstick, he said.

The band definitely did everything that

was filmed, but getting the right message out about a member's personality sometimes was not a top priority, Kreig said.

The time together was not all completely filled with the arguments of five guys who were constantly around each other; there were some hilarious moments that were cut from the show.

"I know there was things that had us laughing for three or four days [that were not put in]," he said.

Although the cameras were irritating at times and the editing was not as flattering as the band wanted, Kreig has few regrets.

"There's a few things I think I might have done differently," he said. "It's almost like I wish I wouldn't have been so real."

After all the work and filming, the band made off with the cash.

The members saw the check for only a few moments - all the money went to pay off debts.

Aside from the cash, the band was provided with the opportunity to film a music video that would be given heavy rotation on VH1.

Flickerstick filmed the video for the track "Smile" as its debut, and recently filmed the video for "Beautiful."

Kreig said that filming was a lot of fun, but pretending to play the songs for a video

was a little tiring.

"You hear your song 100 times. It's like Chinese water torture... It ain't, like, glamorous. It's annoying," he said.

Now, Flickerstick is enjoying the success that came with the show. The band has been on tour and plays about six or seven shows a week.

"It's been phenomenal. We're playing in places we've never ever been before," Kreig said.

The band plans to continue touring to support the album "Welcoming Home the Astronauts," which was released in late October.

The band has spent a lot of cash on live shows to make the audience happy, which has only boosted album sales higher.

The live show is what really sells the band, he said.

"We're all about the huge spectacle rock show. We're energetic onstage," Kreig said.

The band wrapped up this leg of the tour on Dec. 15, and is taking a few weeks off.

After the tour, Flickerstick plans to return to the studio to follow up on its Epic Records debut.

"I'm just looking forward to getting back in the studio and recording a real record," Kreig said.

## Neva Dinova self-releases debut album

By Kaitlin Butz

The members of Neva Dinova have a relaxed attitude towards one another.

Gathered around a restaurant table, four members of the quintet crack jokes with an easy-going air.

They hold this same mellow attitude towards fame and many other aspects of the lives of musicians.

Despite this, the band has been gathering some major attention.

Over the past few months the band has opened for several national touring bands coming through Omaha.

These include Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks, Death Cab for Cutie and Modern Lovers frontman Jonathan Richmond, guitarist and vocalist Jake Bellows said.

Neva Dinova has also just released a self-titled album, which Bellows calls their first serious record.

The band released two albums prior to this, but Bellows said these were when the band had different members and it did not make as big of an effort.

The band members took a different route than most others when it came to releasing its album. Instead of going through a record label, they chose to release it themselves.

Drummer Bo Anderson said the band had to take out a loan to finance the effort. They spent about two weeks in the recording studio this past July, Bellows said.

After recording the record was mastered and 1,000 copies were produced. A friend of the band's, Dustin Hurt, painted an original work for the album's cover.

Bellows said putting out own record was not the most difficult process in the world, but made the band members much closer to the music.

"It made us feel like this thing, this is our band, we rely on anyone," he said.

Bellows said that relying on others could be dangerous because they do not care as much about the music as much as musicians do.

As for the future, the members all say they plan to stay together and keep playing music, whether they get famous or not.

Bellows said music is the future he can see for himself.

"I don't have another choice. I'm not going to college," he said. "I'm not going to get a good job. To me, that's just a waste to give up on your dream."

Anderson said he felt better about Neva Dinova was about more than just having a band to belong to.

"This is the first and last I'll ever be in," he said.

Kratky and guitarist Hoes both said they looked forward to touring in the future.

So far, the band has played venues in Omaha and Lincoln. Kratky said he wants to experience different cities, especially European ones.

Anderson said he was excited in touring, but would be happy with whatever the band does.

"I'm just along for the ride," he said.

Bellows said he is willing to make any sacrifice to keep making music, no matter what the future holds.

"I'm just gonna play music," he said. "Anything that happens after that is incidental."

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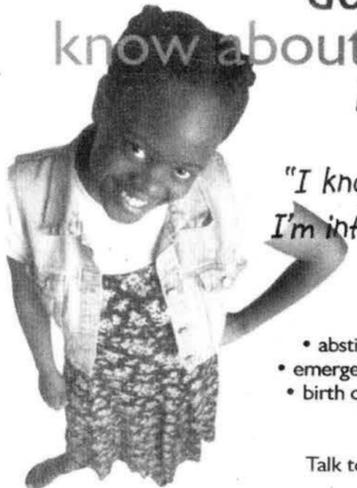


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## Local piercer shatters world record



Photo by LAYNE GABRIEL/THE REGISTER

**Big Brain piercer Joe "Smitty" Smith pierces Matt Brown on Nov. 13 in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record. Brown ended up with 171 piercings, breaking the world record of 101. The piercings took three hours and 20 minutes to complete.**

## Central students enjoy local jam bands

By Kaitlin Butz

Jam bands have been around since the time of groups like the Grateful Dead, but fans of this type of music said there has been an increase in listeners over the past few years.

Neil Duffy, Central graduate, hosts 89.7 The River's Jam Band Extravaganza, a weekly show dedicated entirely to jam band music. He said he has been a life-long fan of jam music.

"I grew up listening to this music," he said.

Part of the signature style of jam music is very long songs, Duffy said. Junior Colin Rinaker is a fan of jam music and said there was a noticeable difference in song length between jam songs and average songs. Rinaker said he has heard a jam song that was about three hours long.

Duffy said another distinguishing factor is the tendency of the performers to improvise during live shows.

"They don't know what will happen

next. That's what makes it really interesting," he said.

Duffy said he has noticed a rise in the popularity of jam bands over the last year.

Rinaker, who said he has been listening since junior high, agrees.

Rinaker said he believes the rise in popularity is due to people realizing there is more to music than what is played on the radio.

"It's more creative than all the music that's out there now," he said.

Over the summer, popular jam band String Cheese Incident played a two-day concert at Westfair Amphitheater. Rinaker, who attended the concert, said it was an example of the fun-loving, carnival-like atmosphere that goes along with jam music.

Duffy said that the String Cheese Incident concert was a big success and he had heard the band was planning to return sometime soon.

The concert was just an example of the relaxed atmosphere at most jam

shows. Duffy said that most fans do not go to jam shows to hear one hit song, but to experience the music. He said jam shows also provide a release for teens to have a good time and get away from real life for a while.

Omaha has a thriving jam band scene of its own. Duffy said he tries to get local jam bands like the Get to come into the studio during his show to play. Rinaker said he is a fan of local jam bands and thinks they are continually getting bigger and better.

Chris Klemmensen of local jam/funk group Groove Champion said that local jam shows are often shorter than concerts by national bands, because the venues often do not allot the bands extra time.

Klemmensen said he has noticed more people coming to local jam shows lately. He said that the jam sound has always been around, but the sound is getting rediscovered by many people.

"Everybody's always hungry for something new," he said.

## Happenings

### December

- 21 - Grasshopper Takeover at Ranch Bowl
- 23 - "Les Miserables" at the Orpheum Theater
- 25 - Movie release: "Ali"
- 26 - Mannheim Steamroller Christmas at Civic
- 27 - Throwdown, Bleeding Through at Cog Factory
- 30 - "Godspell" at Millennium Theatre
- 31 - "Holiday Lights Festival" fireworks at Gene Leahy Mall
- 31 - New Year's Eve Bash featuring Pomeroy at Ranch Bowl

### Movies, Album Releases, Productions and Concerts in the Omaha metro area

### January

- 6 - Jack Dempsey, Caught in the Fall at Cog Factory
- 8 - Album release: Hoobastank "Self"
- 10 - Olympic Torch passes through Omaha
- 11 - Movie releases: "Orange County," "The Shipping News"
- 12 - "Broadway Bound" at Omaha Symphony
- 13 - Harlem Globetrotters at Civic
- 15 - Album releases: B-52s "Nude on the Moon," Concrete Blonde "Group Therapy," Chemical Brothers "Star Guitar"
- 18 - Movie releases: "Black Hawk Down," "State Property"

### Now Playing: "Not Another Teen Movie"



Courtesy of COLUMBIA PICTURES

Principal Richard Gleason (played by Paul Gleason) chastises the leader of the "Desperate Virgins" Mitch Briggs (Cody McMains) in "Not Another Teen Movie," a spoof of popular teen flicks. This Columbia Pictures comedy shows no mercy as it skewers the conventions and cliches of the genre so many middle school girls love. Join Janey Briggs (Chyler Leigh), an aspiring artist who is cast out by her classmates for wearing glasses, overalls and a ponytail. "Not Another Teen Movie" is showing all over Omaha.

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Now Playing: 'Ocean's Eleven'



Courtesy of WARNER BROTHERS MOTION PICTURES

Andy Garcia plays casino owner Terry Benedict, George Clooney plays Danny Ocean and Julia Roberts plays Tess Ocean in "Ocean's Eleven." Danny interrupts a fine dinner when he spots his ex-wife Tess at Benedict's casino a few nights before he and his friends rob the casino of \$150 million. Danny attempts to win Tess back with his actions throughout the film.

By Layne Gabriel

"Ocean's Eleven's" all star cast pulled it off. And they did it well. Danny Ocean, played by George Clooney, is let out on parole from a New Jersey penitentiary. Within hours, he's rounded up a gang of 10 other seasoned criminals to help him heist \$150 million from three Vegas casinos. The guys steal plans, hide surveillance equipment and build a replica

of the hotel's vault to perfect their heist. Giving away the ending would be pointless, but it leaves the viewer wondering, "How did they do that?" The cinematography is fabulous. Director Steven Soderbergh tried some new techniques that makes the film fall together perfectly and keeps the viewer interested in what's going on onscreen. The cast includes Brad Pitt, Bernie Mac, Julia Roberts and Matt Damon.

Car troubles stall concert trip

If you ever go to an out-of-town concert, there are some things you need to know.

Make sure your car works. Bring a cell phone. If you get stuck anywhere, get stuck in Iowa.

The weekend began like any other.

Work on the paper Friday night, go home and get ready for Saturday.

Instead of going to work, though, I crawled out of bed about 10 a.m. and packed my bags.

About noon, my friend got dropped off and we packed up my mom's car, a 1992 Ford Taurus wagon, beige, license plate 1-Z7982. That was the last she'd see of it.

We were making excellent time, but sometime around 4 p.m. something went horribly wrong.

Just 14 miles outside of Iowa City, the car died. Seriously died. We stopped it around exit 230, right at the entry ramp, and got out only to discover it was leaking green stuff.

So the car overheated, no big deal, right? Wrong.

After a State Patrol officer hung out with us for a little while, we determined that we would try and start up and at least limp the car to Iowa City.

We couldn't make it past 25. After about 300 yards, we knew it was over. I sucked it up and called Mom.

Within 20 minutes, the car was hooked up to the tow and we made way to Cedar Rapids, about 30 miles away.

Tow-truck guy (I can't for the life remember his name) took the car to the Ford dealership there and dropped us off at a hotel.

I went to pay him, figure out how we were going to get to the show, but, lo and behold, my wallet was in the car.

Well, we got taken care of, and by the time I paid the tow-truck guy off, we had 45 minutes before the show started.

Tow-truck guy offered to take us there.

At least we arrived in style. He turned on his lights.

The show was great, of course, but that's irrelevant.

Now the problem was not only getting back to the hotel, but getting back to Omaha.

Thankfully, my uncle was only a few cities away, so he got us from Cedar Rapids to Des Moines, and Mom got us to the hotel.

Needless to say, prepare for the worst. I'm telling you, it can happen to the best of us. We were surprised.

As for the car: I did \$5,000 worth of damage to it, and it's still in Cedar Rapids.

As for us: hey, at least we got to the show.



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# Register sports star cards

During the winter sports season, a few players will lead their teams. The coaches of each team have picked their stars but whether those players step up is unknown.

WINTER 2001  
**Holly Greenamyre**  
She will attend Northern Michigan to play volleyball.  
**Girls Basketball**  
**CHS STUDENT ATHLETE**



**The Team**  
**Coach:** Michele Roberts  
**2000-2001 record:** 9-13  
**Returning starters:** Holly Greenamyre (12), Lauren Pauba (12), KeOnna Williams (10) Crystal Howard (10) and Katrina Washington (10)  
**Coach's Outlook:** The team is more experimental than a year ago, even though we are still young. The bench is deeper. We have chemistry at the start of the season, compared to last year when it took until January to find it, Roberts said.

WINTER 2001  
**Luke Keillon**  
He qualified for state for the first time last season.  
**Swimming**  
**CHS STUDENT ATHLETE**



**The Team**  
**Coach:** Lynne Braddock  
**2000-2001 record:** 3-4  
**Returning starters:** One diver and 27 swimmers: (12) Doug Eckberg, Luke Kielion, Tim Tompsett, Katie Decker, Jessica MacDonald, Moriah North and Courtney Stoffell  
**Coach's Outlook:** Due to the team's numbers being up and having more talent, they should improve this year. The number of possible state qualifiers is up from last season, Braddock said.

WINTER 2001  
**Kris Kuhn**  
He will attend Division I, Robert Morris University.  
**Boys Basketball**  
**CHS STUDENT ATHLETE**



**The Team**  
**Coach:** Eric Behrens  
**2000-2001 record:** 11-8  
**Returning starters:** Schyler Thomas (12), Mark LeFlore(12)  
**Coach's Outlook:** The kids are working very hard, so they could play well this season. Several new players will have to step up on the team, including Cortney Grixby (10), Javelle Kimmons (12) and Andrew Ford (12). The team will have to also meet the challenge of a new coach and a tough schedule, Behrens said.

WINTER 2001  
**Mike Barnett**  
He is a two-time state qualifier and could go again.  
**Wrestling**  
**CHS STUDENT ATHLETE**



**The Team**  
**Coach:** Jimmie Foster  
**2000-2001 record:** 4-4-1  
**Returning starters:** Devlon Webb (9), Nick Wright (10), Jose Cardenas (11), Mike Barnett (11), Shane Smith (12), Lonnie Long (12), Rafiq Kamaal (12) and Tom Bischof (12)  
**Coach's Outlook:** After losing two state qualifiers last year, one to graduation and one to North, they really need the seniors to step up. However, they should do better as a team, Foster said.

## Boys lose tough game to Burke

By Troy Schulte

First year head coach Eric Graner's career got off to a rocky start after a 55-43 opening night loss to the No. 1 team in the state, dropping the Eagles' record to 0-

Central led most of the first half, but outside shooting from Matt Vecchio and Jason Dourisseau and the inside play of Roy Enright helped the Bulldogs come back for the 12-point win.

Prior to his coaching debut Graner was debating whether to start the game in a zone defense or man to man. Once he saw Enright's starting lineup, which did consist of Enright, who was recovering from an ankle injury, Graner decided to play a zone.

"We were thinking it was the game of the year, there was a

big crowd and we wanted to make them shoot the ball," Behrens said.

His strategy worked. The Bulldogs missed their first 11 shots from the field while the Eagles jumped out to an early 8-0 lead. Despite the slow start Burke head coach Gary Graner didn't get too worried.

"We knew it was one of those games that was going to come down to the fourth quarter," Graner said. "We had some good looks, we just missed them."

Burke did not land its first shot until 1:18 left in the opening quarter when it got key three-point shots from Vecchio and Dourisseau.

"We've got some guys who can shoot," Graner said. "We have to establish more of an inside game and until we do that we'll have to go to the outside."

That outside shooting by

Vecchio helped Burke comeback from an 8-0 deficit to start the game when he hit two three-pointers, one of which was at the buzzer ending the first quarter on an 8-2 run.

Heading into the third quarter Central led Burke by two points, but that quickly changed. Vecchio hit another three-pointer giving Burke a 27-26 lead, its first lead since the middle of the second quarter. The Bulldogs didn't trail the rest of the game.

Behrens said that third quarter was devastating to the Eagles. A three-point shot from guard Schyler Thomas and two free throws from forward Kris Kuhn, who had a team high 11 points, were the only points Central could muster in the quarter.

"Against the No. 1 team you can't have a five point quarter and expect to win," Behrens said.

Burke ended the quarter on a 10-1 run, a run Graner said was the turning point of the game.

"That was huge for us," he said. "To get the lead and then to extend on it."

Central attempted a comeback in the fourth quarter but the free throw shooting from Vecchio, Dourisseau and Enright, who were a combined 12 of 16 from the line, wouldn't allow them to cut the Bulldog lead to less than eight points.

Despite his team's win, Graner isn't looking forward to the Metro conference tournament later this month, the state tournament in February, or any other tournament in which his team may meet the Eagles again.

"They are as athletic of a team as you are going to see," he said. "I'm glad we're done with them for awhile."

## Rewind

The past month in Eagle sports

Boys Basketball since 12/1		WIN	Burke	71-49
12/1	Junior Varsity	WIN	Burke	48-52 OT
12/1	Reserve	LOSS	Millard North	30-56
12/4	Reserve	LOSS	Millard North	56-50
12/6	Junior Varsity	WIN	Millard North	65-48
12/7	Varsity	WIN	South	53-39
12/7	Freshman A	WIN	South	36-19
12/7	Freshman B	WIN	South	60-51
12/8	Varsity	WIN	South	59-61
12/8	Junior Varsity	LOSS	South	58-43
12/8	Reserve	WIN	South	24-23
Girls Basketball since 12/1		WIN	Millard North	56-16
12/3	Reserve	WIN	Millard North	31-23
12/5	Freshman A	WIN	Burke	50-42
12/6	Junior Varsity	WIN	South	70-16
12/8	Reserve	WIN	Bellevue East	44-32
12/8	Junior Varsity	WIN	Bellevue East	42-34
12/15	Junior Varsity	WIN	Bellevue East	42-34
Wrestling		WIN	Bellevue East	42-34
12/4	Varsity	WIN	Bellevue East	42-34
12/6	Varsity	Ninth of 16	Boys Town Invitational	
Devlon Webb(10) won his weight class				
Boys Swimming		LOSS	Millard South	77-83
12/4	Varsity	Third	OPS Invitational at Bryan	
12/6	Varsity	Third	OPS Invitational at Bryan	
Girls Swimming		LOSS	Millard South	77-102
12/4	Varsity	LOSS	Millard South	77-102

Based on information received from coaches as of 12-17-01

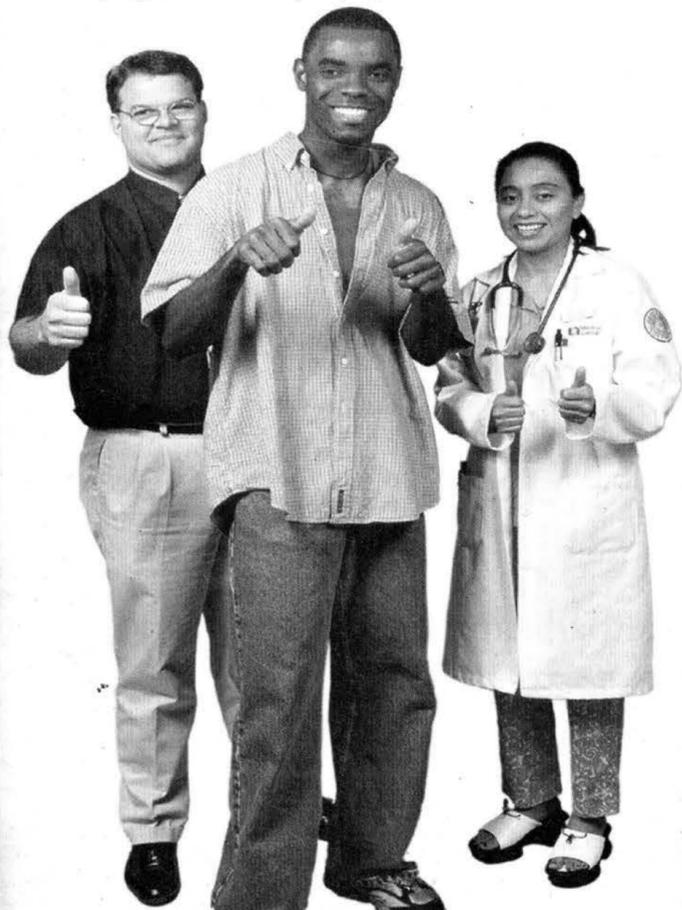
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**CHARGIN' THE MOUND**  
Troy Schulte

## Contraction good idea for baseball

Signing top of the line free agents, re-signing veteran players, finding a new manager. These are some of the worries an owner of a major league baseball team usually has during the off-season.

But this off-season is unlike any other. This year the owners of the Montreal Expos, Minnesota Twins, Tampa Bay Devil Rays and the Florida Marlins are wondering if they will even exist by next April, when the 2002 season begins.

A little over a month ago league commissioner Bud Selig and baseball owners voted to undergo contraction. Contraction is designed to decrease the number of teams from 30 to 28.

I'm all for it.

The Expos are a prime candidate for contraction. I have no problem with just throwing away the Expos and forgetting they ever existed. In just over 20 years of existence the Expos have never won a division title, never reached the playoffs and most of Montreal hasn't even noticed. Montreal is a hockey town; baseball just doesn't belong there.

If Selig decides to get rid of the Expos, I don't think there will be too many tears shed.

The Twins, on the other hand, are a different story. The Twins have been around for over 40 years, they have two World Series titles and just missed the playoffs this past season.

Sure, the Twins are a small-market team with one of the smallest payrolls in the league, but they were in contention this season. They were just six games away from a division title. You can't just take a team that has a shot at making the playoffs next season and throw them in the garbage.

The Devil Rays are another prime choice for contraction. Much like Montreal, baseball doesn't belong in Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay had been trying to get a professional baseball team since the early 90s. They tried to lure current teams there and even built a brand new dome stadium, Tropicana Field, which at the time was state-of-the-art.

But the city couldn't convince current teams to move there. When Major League Baseball snubbed them in 1992 by awarding an expansion team to Miami, Tampa Bay was left in the cold.

By the time the city was awarded with a franchise it was 1998 and Tropicana Field had changed from a state-of-the-art stadium to an ugly dome with a funny looking roof.

When they were founded in 1998 along with the Arizona Diamondbacks, the two teams had totally different strategies as to how they would go about reaching the playoffs. The Devil Rays decided to sign washed-up free agents such as Wade Boggs and Vinny Castilla.

Now four years later the Diamondbacks have a World Series championship while the Devil Rays are still trying to put together a winning season.

A winning season that should never come.

Bottom line is there are too many players in the league. There have been six teams to be added to Major League Baseball since the late 70s, which means roughly 240 more players. Which means there are 240 players in the league that wouldn't have been good enough to play 30 years ago.

Selig and the rest of the owners have already realized contraction is the right move.

And if they think of all the points I just made, they will also realize that the decision of which two teams to get rid of is an easy one, the two teams that should never have been there in the first place.

# All in the family

Eric Behrens takes the reins of the boys basketball team after his father, Rick, gave up the position last year.

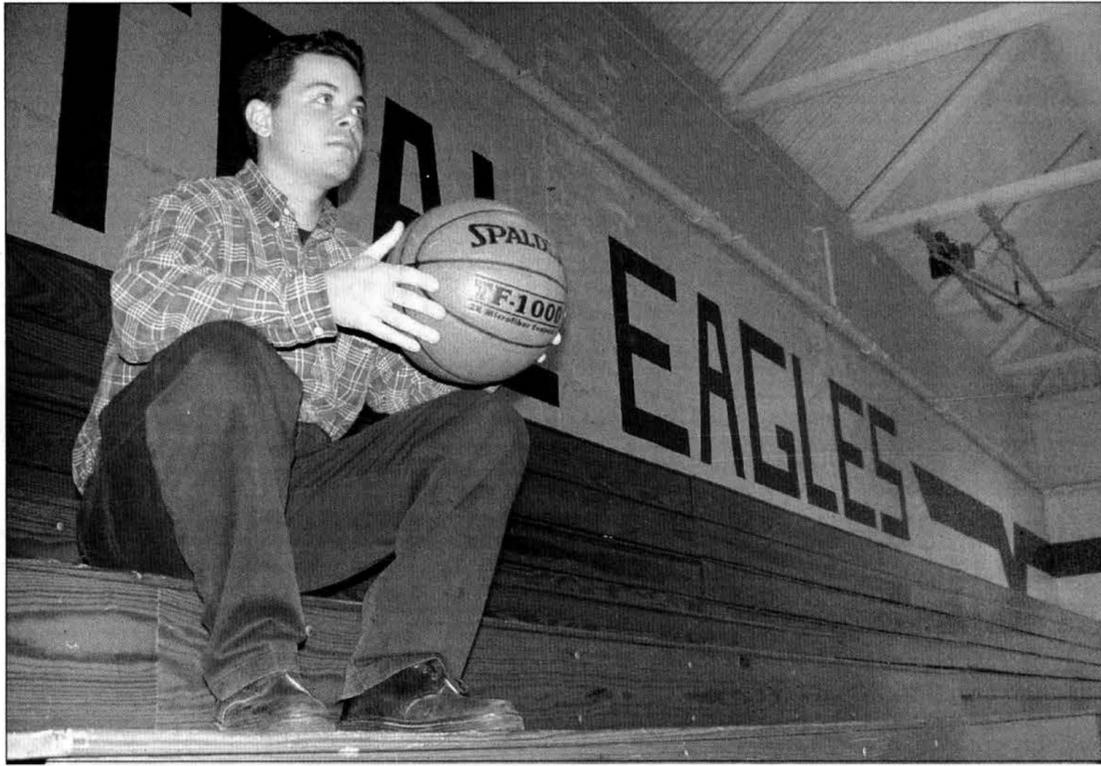


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

**New boys head basketball coach Eric Behrens sits in the bleachers after school. When he was younger, Eric never thought he would become a coach. The son of a coach, Rick, Eric was far more interested in playing the game himself. But after a year at a small college, he made a decision to focus on teaching. Eventually, his decision led to his current position.**

By Troy Schulte

Eric Behrens never intended to become a basketball coach.

Especially at his alma mater he surely didn't expect to follow in the footsteps of his father.

"It just kind of happened that way," Behrens said of taking over the head coaching job of Central's boys basketball team for his father Rick, who stepped down after his eleventh and final season in 2001.

As Eric grew up, he always was a player. The son of a coach, Eric dedicated himself to being a point guard.

While most four-year-olds were sitting at home on Saturday mornings watching cartoons, Eric was in the Tech High gym watching Rick coach the Trojan JV team and serving as the team's ball boy.

It was about that time that Eric started playing the sport himself. He always felt just a step ahead of all the other players because of those days he spent in the gym with his father.

"It was easier to understand what it takes to win. It allowed me to learn all aspects of the game," he said.

By the time Eric arrived at Central he was good enough to play varsity as a sophomore. He said it was a little weird going to the same high school where his father worked.

On one hand, it was a plus because he didn't have to spend any time getting used to a head coach he never met before.

But on the other hand, it wasn't hard for Rick to find out if he wasn't doing what he was supposed to do in his classes.

"If I would get in trouble in high school all they would have to do is just go across the hall and tell him," Eric said.

Once basketball season rolled around in 1989, Eric was a little concerned. He didn't want any special privileges, thinking it might cause conflict among his teammates.

Rick didn't treat Eric any differently and therefore they became a very unified team. And also one of the best in the state. In the 1990-91 season the team was in the

top 10 for most of the season and a playoff spot looked to be certain.

But in the district finals, the team lost to Bellevue West by two points, crushing its state tournament hopes and Eric's dream of winning state championship.

After graduating in 1992 Eric went to play basketball at a tiny junior college in Columbus, Nebr. For the first time in three years Eric was playing for a coach that he didn't live with. He said it wasn't hard for him to adjust.

"I got along with the coach real well there," Eric said. "I think it was easier because there wasn't that added pressure of playing for my dad."

After his senior season which consisted of a conference championship, him starting at point guard, leading the team in scoring and being voted the team's most valuable player, he received no offers to play anywhere else.

So he decided to move back home and walk on to the UNO basketball team. But after one season as a redshirt and a couple weeks into the next season, he realized it wasn't for him.

After almost two decades of playing the sport he loved, Eric the basketball player was dead, but Eric the coach was about to be born.

While he was at Central Community College Eric had been enrolled in business classes. He didn't really know what he wanted to do after playing basketball and had no idea what he could do with a business degree.

After talking to his father and some other teachers and coaches he knew Eric decided to change his major to secondary education, but still had no idea he was about to become a basketball coach.

Then, in the fall of 1996 Eric received a phone call from his father. Rick wanted to know if Eric was interested in joining him on the Central High bench. And he was very interested, but Eric declined for one reason: his little brother Ryan.

"At the time Ryan was a senior here. I didn't think he would want to have his dad and his older brother there at the same time," Eric said.

Eric waited until Ryan graduated and

became an assistant coach in 1997. When Eric first started coaching he found out he had an important lesson to learn if he wanted to be a successful coach.

"You've got to separate yourself a little bit from your players," he said. "You're not their peer, you're their coach."

During his first season on the Central bench Eric would observe his father, watch how he organizes practices and how he would run through certain drills. After that first season then JV coach Dan Archie took the varsity head coaching job at South, opening up the JV job for Eric.

In his three years at that position he put together one of the most successful JV records in Central history. He compiled a 39-19 record during his tenure including a record-setting 17-2 mark in the 1999-2000 season.

During Eric's JV years, Rick was pondering how long he was going to continue to coach at Central.

After Central lost to Benson in the first round of the district tournament last February, Rick decided to step down as head coach. Eric said his father's decision came as a big surprise.

"I had no idea he was planning on retiring," Eric said. "He called me up on Sunday night and told me he was going to submit his resignation the next day."

Eric soon entered his application and a couple weeks later was chosen as his father's successor.

Though Eric learned much of his coaching techniques from his father, he and Rick do have some coaching differences. But his players have had no problems adjusting from his father to him.

"We have some similarities, but we aren't the same across the board. There are some points I emphasize more than he does and some points he emphasized more than I do," he said.

Right now Eric said he is in a perfect situation. He has a job coaching at his alma mater, the biggest school in the state.

"I think this is a good job with a lot of good kids," Eric said. "It's a place that I feel I can have a team in the top 10 every year."

## Eagles reunite at UNO

By Troy Schulte

While Lawrence Butler and Thomas Hubbard were playing football at Central, they had a lot in common.

They both played in the defensive backfield and they both helped lead Central to the straight state tournament appearances.

But they hardly knew each other.

"I never really even talked to him in high school," Hubbard said.

When the deadline came Hubbard and Butler to sign their letters of intent, neither of them knew the other was going with the school. Hubbard decided to stay home and attend UNO purely for academic reasons, while Butler saw it as an opportunity to possibly win a national championship. That they didn't hang out with the same crowds in high school when they got to UNO they moved an apartment together.

Having each other on the team made the transition to high school football to college football so much easier.

"I'm glad he's on the team," Hubbard said. "Especially during my freshman year it was good to have someone I know on the team."

Hubbard and Butler remained good friends during their redshirt season in 1998 and the last two seasons in regular season. At the beginning of the season, they both got the chance to start.

After wins this season at Northwest Missouri St., South Dakota St. and other usual conference powers, Butler and Hubbard both said the Mavericks start to look ahead towards the playoffs.

And as a result UNO dropped the last two games of the regular season to North Dakota St. and Augustana and then its game against Pitt St.

On Nov. 2, the Mavericks were sitting at 8-0, the No. 1 team in the country. A spot in the NCAA Division II playoffs almost certain.

Two weeks later they were down 2, had fallen all the way to 15th in the polls and possibly out of the playoffs. And then that was Pitt St., ending a season that started so well.

"It seemed we played well at practice, but when we were in the game we just lacked," Butler said.

After those three losses the season, both of them said wasn't a lot of finger pointing or blaming of other players, one on the team knew that all spoiled the season.

Butler's and Hubbard's in n is to shake off the end of the prior season and look towards a future. Next season may be other 8-0 beginning, but they would finish what started.



Butler

## New coach, new challenges test boys basketball captain to step up and lead team

By Troy Schulte

Heading into his senior season Schyler Thomas knows he's the leader. He knows he is the one everyone looks for when things aren't going so well.

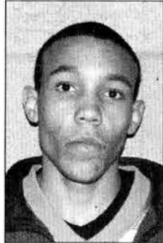
But he hasn't always been that way.

When Thomas first tried-out for Central's basketball team as a freshman, his goal was to make the JV team.

Little did he know he was about to become one of only two freshmen to make varsity.

Thomas found it tough

adjusting to high school basketball and as a result he struggled through his freshman season and started the next year the same way. During that disappointing sophomore season Thomas received guidance from an unlikely source, then senior forward, James Mills.



Thomas

Mills took it upon himself to show Thomas how to not only be a good player himself, but make those around him better as well.

Along with Mills, then JV

head coach Eric Behrens advised Thomas to step up and become one of the leaders on the team.

Thomas had never been a really vocal player, but if he wanted to help the team improve and reach state, he had to lead in some way. So he had to rely on other methods to motivate his team, by old-fashioned hard work.

"I would just come to everything we have scheduled, this year and last," he said.

Heading into his junior season Thomas' intentions were to take control of a problematic team and lead them to a quality season.

During his sophomore year, Thomas said there were many

problems inside the team involving various players and coaches. One player transferred mid-season, while other players complained about playing time.

"We just weren't a team that year," he said.

Prior to his junior season, Thomas said the team's goals were not to have the problems within the team like the year before and to go to state.

He said he had a pretty good year his first as a starter because he was scoring more points and helped lead the Eagles to a winning record of 11-8.

Then, just two days after a loss to Benson in the district tour-

namment ending its season, the tire team got a shock. Rick Butler was stepping down.

Once Rick announced retirement, Thomas and everyone else on the team knew what he wanted as the team's next coach, Rick's son and former coach Eric.

A couple weeks after he resigned, Eric was chosen as his successor.

And Thomas said this was the best he has been a part of he's been at Central.

"All my hopes are riding this year," Thomas said. "My sights set on playing at Lincoln in March."

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