

the Omaha Central High School REGISTER

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DRUG TESTS

An Oklahoma school district's attempt to regulate students has spun out of control. Hopefully, a recent lawsuit will resolve this ridiculous situation.

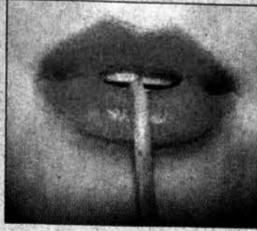
PAGE 12B



ITALIAN FOOD

Omaha has always had a wide variety of Italian restaurants. Three reviews of three of the best.

PAGE 20C



HOLE THINKING

The baseball team has already considerably improved upon last year's record. But coaches still think more can be done to solve some lingering problems.

PAGE 13C

Three-time JEA/NSPA Best in Show

Oldest High School Newspaper West of the Mississippi

National Pacemaker Award Winner

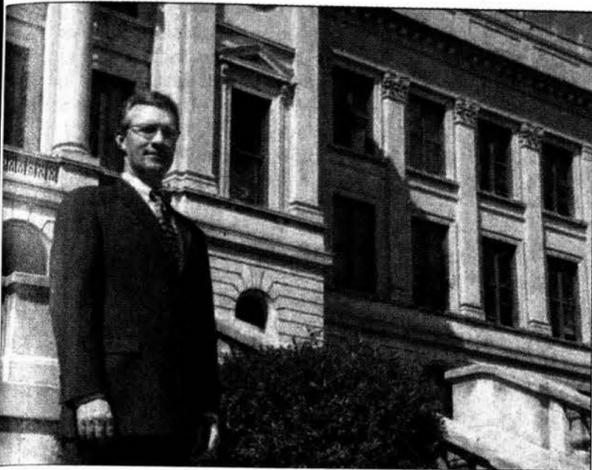


Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Jerry Bexten, currently the principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School, has no qualms about moving into Central on Aug. 1. He has already taken over for Thompson three times, including the position at Lewis and Clark.

Bexten ready for move to Central

By Joe Meyer

It's hardly noticeable that Jerry Bexten will become Central's next principal in 82 days.

When he talks about moving into the state's biggest high school, he is confident about the transition.

"Every time you do something new, there's always a bit of excitement but a little bit of apprehension," Bexten, who is currently the principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School, said. "I'm confident things will go well."

He has already started attending meetings and is trying to get used to the way Central operates before he assumes the principal position Aug. 1.

He tries to attend as many Friday morning construction meetings as he can with principal Gary Thompson and Jacob Facilities managers to learn more about the \$15 million project.

Moving into a position vacated by Thompson is nothing new for Bexten.

In fact, when he moves into Central this summer, it will mark the third time he has replaced Thompson during his career.

Bexten replaced Thompson at South High as an assistant

principal and then moved to Lewis and Clark when Thompson left seven years ago.

Bexten said moving into a position after Thompson has left makes his job easier because Thompson is very organized and everything is ready to go.

Bexten said a lot of qualified administrators and teachers are at Central to help him. They will handle scheduling classes and other administrative procedures, so he can focus on settling into the school.

Thompson said the school is currently trying to organize computer files and train deans and vice principals for leadership roles to get ready for the transition.

Thompson said he thinks Bexten will be able to make the transition smoothly.

"He's going to have a lot more time to make adjustments," he said. "I didn't know (I was hired) until August. He's known for seven or eight months."

But Thompson had something working for him that Bexten won't, the current principal said.

"I knew many of the teachers before coming," Thompson

See BEXTEN, page 7

Despite the attempts of Central staff, next year may be the last for the system of the weighted

GPA

By Matt Wynn

For Central students, it has always been a given: If you can work your schedule out so that you take only honors classes, you have a shot at getting a 5.0 Grade Point Average (GPA).

That makes you eligible for scholarships, a sure bet for the honor roll and quite the recruit for colleges.

But, according to six of the seven OPS high schools, the system has flaws and should be abolished.

A committee was formed last fall to look at a number of issues in OPS regarding AP courses, honors courses, the retaking of classes, auditing of courses, GPA formulas and weighted GPAs, ReNae Kehrberg, the head of secondary education for OPS said.

Each of the seven OPS high schools was allowed one vote, with the majority vote being turned into the committee's recommendation, she said.

The vote to end weighting honors courses was 6-1, with Central being the dissenting vote.

Currently, nothing has been done with the committee's work, but Kehrberg said she plans to submit the recommendations to the Board of Education in June or July. From there, she said, it's any-

one's guess what will happen.

Any changes that are adopted will be implemented in the 2003-04 school year, she said.

Carol Hipp, Central's social studies department chair, was one representative for Central at the meetings. She said dropping the honors point would be a huge blow to the Central tradition of academic excellence.

"I just think we're going to lose too many kids who say, 'Why bother?'" Hipp said.

Principal Dr. Gary Thompson, who was one of the few principals to attend the meetings, said he thinks the current system is working well, and getting rid of it would send the message that honors classes are not really that big of a deal.

He has always been able to tell people who are getting a two in honors English is just as respectable as getting a one in a regular English class, he said. And so far, the school's GPA has reflected that.

He said he would like to think students take classes because they are interested in the material, but he knows there is a large portion of honors students who would not take the classes if not for the extra point.

"If you're getting the same

See GPA, page 8



"If you're getting the same grade for much harder work, then we have to ask, is that fair?"

-Central principal Dr. Gary Thompson



"If we eliminate the honors weighting program, it will put all students on a level playing field"

-Northwest principal Mrs. Bernice Nared

Ralston district contemplates switching to year-round plan

By Paula Salhany

A nearby school district is looking into the option of using a year-round school calendar. And the process is farther along than many would think.

Appealing to parents is the next step towards year-round schooling for Ralston public schools, Shelly Hanson, director of communications at Ralston, said.

After looking at the alternative scheduling for the last two years, they are finally at the stage where things start happening. Recently they held a meeting where the calendar and details of the program were presented to parents. They were given a survey so committee members can assess the popularity of the program.

"We haven't gone through the surveys yet, but if the parent support isn't there, we won't do it," she said.

But she is optimistic about the meeting and said there was at least one school who's parents expressed interest. She said because there is only one high school and one junior high in the district, an elementary school would be used as a guinea-pig.

While Ralston is close to making a decision about the program, Omaha Public Schools is just now starting to consider it.

Luanne Nelson, director of public information for OPS, said a committee was formed after the issue was brought up by parents, teachers and administrators.

Nelson, also a member of the year-round schooling committee, said right now there is no plan for OPS to switch to year-round schooling, but much of the renovation seen in the schools is in preparation for what could be a switch to all-year schooling.

"It's a pretty hot topic for school districts," she said. "But the idea of year-round schooling is still in the infant stages, it hasn't quite taken off yet."

Hanson said Ralston has been looking at other districts

See RALSTON, page 3

Principal, three staffers make retirement plans for this year final

By Joe Meyer

English teacher Kathy Maloney's current students weren't born when she started teaching in 1982.

"When I stop and think about it...it hits me that time has been passing," Maloney said.

Her years at Central have

been the best time of her life, she said. She said she enjoys teaching, but it is time for her to say goodbye.

This year will be her last at Central. She is one of four staff members retiring this year.

The other retiring staff members are: principal Gary Thompson, English department chair Terrie Saunders and student support teacher Liz Rea.

Saunders, who has taught at Central for 34 years, said she will

miss working with students the most after she leaves.

Among other honors, Saunders was named a Walt Disney Teacher of the Year finalist two years ago and helped create Central's Minority Scholars program and PASS class for at-risk students.

But Saunders said the time is right for her to leave. Certain circumstances, like some family concerns, exist this year that make retirement the best option.

Saunders said retiring will allow her to do things she's wanted to do, like volunteer. She said she still wants to be involved in education, too.

Student support teacher Liz Rea started working at Central this year, but she said she appre-

Central's retirees



Kathy Maloney
-20 years
-English
-Buffett winner
-Minority Scholars



Liz Rea
-29 years
-Support staff
-Former OEA president



Terrie Saunders
-34 years
-English
-Disney honoree
-Kiewit winner

ciates the unique opportunity.

"It (working at Central) has been a good way to end my career," Rea said.

During her almost 30 year

career, she has taught at North High, Beveridge Middle and Tech High. She said she is retiring because of health reasons and she looks forward to vaca-

INSIDE

Copyright 2002
Central High Register
Vol. 115, No. 7
20 pages



New Principal

The Register offers ten tips for Jerry Bexten to consider as he prepares to move into the building this summer.

INSIGHT, 9B



Collecting

One Central grad shows off his impressive collection of National Lampoon magazines, including rare copies.

NEWS, 8A



Spring Sports

Sports columnist Troy Schulte writes about what he thinks is the most dismal of Central sports seasons.

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Students share fun, build unity at games

Seniors gathered at Memorial Park April 28 to play the Senior Games.

The games were mainly a Track and Field day for the seniors. The activity was one of many end-of-year activities senior officers planned to promote school spirit and celebrate graduation.



Kamal

Senior Brig George came up with the idea of having the games as a senior activity.

About 50 students attended the event. The seniors made teams of five and competed in each event with hopes of being the best team.

Seniors then played various mini-games, including a water balloon toss, egg race, bat relay and orange and cucumber pass. At the end of the day, the top two teams faced off in the finals with a tug of war.

The games turned out successful, with all the participants having fun, senior class president Rafiq Kamal said.

Kamal was unsure if the senior games would turn out well because the weather was unpredictable.

The day turned out overcast and cold, but it did not rain.

The senior class officers also organized other events for the seniors throughout the remainder of the school year, including a treasure hunt and a picnic.

The picnic is held at Elmwood park each year and allows the senior class to spend time with each other.

The treasure hunt allows students to attempt to find an assortment of items ranging from old newspapers to popular toys from past decades.

Students hit streets to help clean up area

The annual city-wide Spring Clean-Up began April 13 and will end June 8.

Central High School joined the effort with its annual Downtown Clean-Up May 4.

Students arrived at Central that morning and put on their work gloves and cleaned the areas surrounding the school.

The students' work helped make Central and the surrounding area more pleasing to be around. They cleaned up trash and picked up around the streets.

Another benefit of the cleanup was that many students involved earned their necessary volunteer hours for clubs like National Honor Society.

Students in NHS need to do volunteer work periodically to maintain their status in the prestigious organization.

Senior Luke Keilion attended the Downtown Clean-Up for volunteer hours for NHS. Keilion said that the Clean-Up was fun while doing a good thing for the community.

Students were treated to doughnuts and juice before the event started and then ate pizza and pop at the conclusion of the Clean-Up.

The Spring Clean-Up is successful in Omaha because it is sponsored by both the City of Omaha and Keep Omaha Beautiful.

Eighty-eight neighborhood and community associations are participating in the event this year.

All Omaha residents are encouraged to participate in the effort and clean up the city.

Drop-off sites are available on the weekends to dispose of items that cannot be thrown away with normal garbage.

Last year, the program disposed of 1000 tons of unwanted bulky items. Volunteers contributed more than 1000 hours of their time.

More information can be available by calling the Mayor's Information Line at 444-INFO.

French students attend convention

About 20 Central students attended the French Convention at Westside High School April 27.

The four-hour event took place in the morning and many French students attended.

Students from around the Omaha metro area competed and tested their French skills in a variety of competitions.

Most of the events were centered around French food and culture.

Some students performed a skit, sang songs or performed music—all in French.

Others competed in a knowledge bowl about the culture, or baked foods to be judged and then consumed by the participants in a French taste test.

The last competition was a poster event where participants made their own posters or name tags to be judged for the best artwork.

Each school submitted their own unique name tag for the competition.

Junior John Demott attended the French Convention.

He said the convention was fun and gave all students a chance to experience more about the French culture.

After the competitions ended, students were allowed to eat the various foods and even enter a mousse eating contest. Students buy a plate and then fill it with as much food as possible and then try the French-themed foods.

The Central knowledge bowl team of fifth-year French students won third place in its competition.

Other Central students won awards for their efforts.

The participants said that the French Convention was a success, and they look forward to attending next year.



Demott

News Calendar

Compiled by Aaron Maurice



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Freshman Cody Payne practices playing her violin during Chamber Orchestra ninth hour in the instrumental music room.

May

14 Seniors' last day

Seniors will spend their last day at Central on May 14. Seniors will then have some time off before their graduation ceremony on the 28th.

17 State track

Members of the girls and boys track teams will be competing in the state meet. The two-day meet marks the end of the track season.

21 Boys state golf

State qualifiers from the boys golf team will be competing in the two-day state meet. The meet will be played in Lincoln.

23 Seniors' cap and gown pickup

Caps and gowns will be available for seniors to pick up before their graduation ceremony. They will be available from 9-10:30 a.m.

23 Spring Sports Banquet

All spring sports participants can attend the spring sports banquet. The dinner to recognize the athletes is catered by Outback Steak House.

24 Final Exams

All students, except seniors, will begin taking their final exams on the 24. Students are encouraged to study and do well on their tests.

27 Memorial Day

Students have the day off for the celebration of Memorial Day. Memorial Day honors all those who have died serving the United States.

28 Graduation

Seniors will have their official graduation from Central May 28. Graduating students must attend the rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. and then the actual graduation at 7 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium.

30 Last day of school

Students will have their last day of school on May 30. This marks the end to the 2001-2002 school year.

June

01 SAT Exam

Students who registered to take the SAT Exam should report to school for their test. The test takes about three hours.

02 Boys and Girls State begins

Eight students will attend Boys and Girls State in Lincoln. The students will have a hands-on workshop to learn how the government works.

08 ACT Exam

Students who registered to take the ACT Exam should report to school for their test. The test takes about three hours.

10 Summer school begins

The four week summer school program will begin its first week on the 10th. The program allows students to make up credits to graduate on time.

ATHS inducts new members at breakfast

American Technology Honor Society (ATHS) held its annual introduction ceremony on Wed., April 24.

The ceremony lasted from 7:00 to 7:45 a.m. and featured speeches given

by both the club sponsor Kristel Mayberry and club president Henry Karpf.

ATHS inducted fourteen new members.

To be considered for membership, students must first have a teacher nomination and a willingness to learn about new technologies.

The society also promoted twelve members who had been in the club for over a year to the academic level.

Nine members who have been in the club for over two years were promoted to the scholar level.

Each level of membership means that the student has had both more experience in technology fields and more time spent as a member of the club.

The introduction started off with a small breakfast.

The members then listened to Mayberry and Karpf give speeches which were closely followed by the actual ceremony.

ATHS is involved with various activities throughout the school year. Besides the monthly meetings, the students made visits to the SAC Museum, the new *World-Herald* printing press and the Western Heritage Museum.

Each event was designed to further inform the students on more topics related to technology.

Most club members said they feel the best field trip was to the *World-Herald* printing press where they took a tour of the inside of the recently built \$110 million facility.

Career Center students win state awards

Many Career Center students won awards at the Skills USA-VICA Competition at Central Community College in Hastings, Nebr.

Among these 20 students were:

- Photography:
 - 1st Place Nancy Montag
 - 2nd Place Nancy Montag
 - 2nd Place Mickey Williams
 - 2nd Place David Walton
- Extemporaneous Speaking:
 - David Walton
- 3-D Visualization and Animation:
 - 3rd Place Mickey Williams
- Quiz Bowl:
 - 1st Place James Bostick
 - 1st Place Nancy Montag
 - 1st Place Mickey Williams
- Health Knowledge Bowl:
 - 1st Place Nancy Montag
 - 1st Place David Walton
- Academic Achievement:
 - Rafiq Kamal
 - Nancy Montag
 - Lawren Ripton
- Leader Degree:
 - Nancy Montag
 - Mickey Williams
- Distinguished Ambassador Award:
 - Catherine Peters
 - Mickey Williams

The competition was successful for the Career Center students.

The first place medalists have the option to attend the National Skills USA-VICA Conference and Skills Contest in Kansas City, Mo.

Fourteen thousand students, advisers and parents and over 50,000 spectators will be in attendance at the national competition.

The students hope to have a similar showing in next year's competition.

CORRECTION

In the March 29 issue of the Register, there was a factual error printed on page 36.

A story about the Student Assignment Plan stated that Howard Kennedy's attendance rate at Parent-Teacher conferences was 3 percent.

The actual attendance rate was 53 percent for the spring conferences.

Mothers look to raise money for rural district

By Kaitlin Butz

Fed up with threats to end programs or cut staff members back to part-time, Melanie Doyle knew that something had to be done about the financial situation in the Elwood school district.

And she knew if she wanted to get something done, she would have to do it herself.

So Doyle and two other mothers of Elwood students, Judy Nelson and Carla Hooper, decided to go out and try to get the money and supplies themselves.

All three have vested interests in the quality of education in Elwood schools.

Doyle has five children, two of whom are currently enrolled in the district. Hooper has seven, one of whom is in the district and Nelson has four, three of whom are in the district.

Doyle said she had to do something after coming home from a Parent-Teacher meeting, of which she is the president.

The topic of cutting four teaching positions, mainly in the counseling and home economics

departments, back to part-time had been raised.

Nelson had been babysitting Doyle's children that night and the two began to brainstorm ways to get money for the district. They saw a bottle of glue left over from a child's art project sitting in a table and figured it was worth a shot to call the glue company and ask for supplies.

Doyle said she got order forms from the school and wrote down everything the teachers needed. They used these forms as a guide to what companies to call and what to ask for.

"We probably make 20 phone calls between us each day," she said.

The three meet at least once a week to compare notes on what each has done for the week. Since they are all neighbors, they just gather around Doyle's kitchen table with their cordless phones so they can work on calling together.

Since they started making these calls, Doyle said they have contacted hundreds of companies. The responses have been mixed,

but a good number of them have been successful.

"Positive reactions outside of the community have been wonderful," she said.

Some people in the town have been skeptical of what the three women have been doing and the school board was upset that Doyle did not ask permission first.

It is actually better when supplies are donated, Doyle said, because if a company donates cash, it counts towards the school's income and reduces the amount of state aid it receives.

If cash is donated, but they do not want it to count against the school's aid, it must be donated through the Elwood Foundation instead of given directly to the school, Doyle said.

The district has been promised a variety of things, such as educational videos and discounted and free books, from the companies that Doyle, Nelson and Cooper have called.

"We get a little bit of everything," she said.

When state Sen. Edward

Schrock heard about how Doyle was looking for both American and Nebraska flags for the school, she said he went ahead and donated them himself and was going to come to the school and dedicate them. He also wrote a letter to the editor of Elwood's newspaper commending the women's work.

Things may be going well for the women now, but they only have a little longer to get what they need. Since Doyle already convinced the board not to cut teaching positions, if they do not get all of what the school needs, other cuts will have to be made.

"If we don't get either supplies or money by August, they'll have to go in and cut programs," she said.

They plan to continue fund raising until the first day of school in August. Their goal is \$80,000 in money and materials, but Doyle said any little bit will help.

"Even if we cut two or three thousand off what they would have had to pay, at least we can say we did that," she said.

RALSTON

Local district considers change to year-round school

From RALSTON, page 1
around the country that have successfully put the schedule into effect.

"We've looked at districts who have converted completely and districts who have only one or two schools on the year-round track," she said. "How it's set up really depends on the district."

She said if parents are interested, they hope to kick off a pilot program in one of the elementary schools for the 2003-04 school year.

Students would go to school for nine weeks, then have three weeks of vacation. The school year would start in July and end in June.

During the different three-week vacations, students would have the opportunity to make up remedial classes to get the credits they need to graduate, or take elective classes such as photography or home economics.

Even though the school year is spread out over a longer period of time, students would still be going to school for the same amount of days as the current schedule, Hanson said.

Central senior Angie Conry said year-round schooling has pros and cons, but the positive aspects seem to outweigh the negatives.

"I have had 33 absences already this year," she said. "If the

school year were broken up more I don't think I would have missed that many days."

She said she thinks it would be easier to keep up the motivation and stamina needed to do well in school.

Research shows, with the year-round schedule, attendance goes up, disciplinary problems go down and students seem to retain more of the information that is taught, Hanson said.

She said the program seems to have major advantages, but it isn't for everyone.

Because of scheduling complications or simply a person's dislike of the program, it might not work.

Central math teacher Jenne Gregor said she wouldn't have a problem with a year-round schedule. It might even help in some of her classes.

"It really depends on what is best for the students," she said.

Hanson said there is really no way to tell whether or not Ralston will go through with implementing the program.

But she is hopeful that they will at least be able to start a pilot program in one of the schools next year before making any permanent decisions.

If all goes well, she hopes to make a decision by this fall.

"Basically, it's all depends on what the parents think," she said.



College Corner

Dakota State University

Location: Madison, South Dakota

Admission: 91 percent of applicants admitted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 1,433

Additional Facts: Coed housing available, wheelchair accessible, most popular majors are Health Sciences and Business

Freshman admissions: 22-28 on ACT, recommended courses are four years of English, two of Math and two of Science

Northwestern University

Location: Evanston, Illinois

Admission: 33 percent of applicants admitted

Type: Four-year private university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 7,691

Additional Facts: 99 percent of freshman live in college housing available, most popular majors are Social Sciences and Engineering

Freshman admissions: 29-32 on ACT, recommended courses are four years of English, three of Math and two of Foreign Language

Seattle University

Location: Seattle, Washington

Admission: 80 percent of applicants admitted

Type: Four-year private university, coed

Undergraduate enrollment: 3,177

Additional Facts: Division III Athletics, workstations in dorms, most popular majors are Business and Health Sciences

Freshman admissions: 22-27 on ACT, recommended courses are four years of English, three of Math and two of Social Studies

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 March 2002



COUNTDOWN TO

when

Religious views shape ideas on end of world

From Hinduism to Judaism, religions have different perceptions of how the world will end. The amount of different scenarios is endless.

By Doug Meigs
and Danielle Rollins

It could happen at any time.

Between predictions of global warming and prophecies of the coming of a messiah, some people are starting to say that the end is near.

Now the only questions are how, why and when.

Many western religions still cling to the idea that a messiah will come from the heavens to save humanity. Several eastern religions are still questioning whether time will end at all.

Paul Williams, a religions professor at UNO, said theories on the end of time vary according to a particular culture's view of time.

He said Buddhists and Hindus believe that time travels in a sort of never-ending loop and they believe that when this world ends, another one begins.

Buddhists think human beings are reincarnated after their first life ends.

After they grow through several different lives, Buddhists think they will reach a state of peace called nirvana. They strive to reach this state their entire lives and when they reach it, they leave the reincarnation cycle.

Hindus believe in the cycle theory of life as well. But instead of yearning for an eternal state of peace, they continually strive to become part of the "universal soul."

Williams said some African religions believe that time does not move forward. They focus primarily on the present and the past, believing each day will soon become the past. They disregard the future, thinking it is irrelevant and time cannot end.

Professor Dr. Russell Palmer teaches religion at UNO. He said the apocalypse is a theory coined primarily by western religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

The primary teachings of these religions say that the world will end when a messiah comes to take his followers to a state of paradise. However, this is not the only prediction. Many divisions of Christianity base their theories on different translations of the Bible.

Such theories are the result of all the different ways individuals have translated the Bible.

In the theories, the war (Armageddon) will be followed by a period of peace lasting approximately 1,000 years in which Jesus will rule his people on earth.

Another idea is the concept of a final judgment in which God judges those who are faithful. This concept is accepted by a few other monotheistic religions that believe in the coming of a messiah.

Many Christians believe that there is a definite list of signs to occur before the Second Coming takes place. These signs were predicted as prophecies from

the book of Revelations in the Bible.

The apocalyptic signs are controversial. Many feel that at least some have already happened. Others think it will be years until they occur.

Palmer said that more liberal Christians are likely to believe in an eventual end, but have opposing views on the idea of a messiah coming to earth or the apocalyptic signs.

Williams said that the idea of an apocalypse, in any religion, is usually developed because the followers of that particular religion feel that there is some wrong that needs to be corrected.

For Christians, it is the idea that there is sin on Earth. Many believe that, with the Second Coming of Jesus, the Earth will be ruled in complete and universal peace for all of God's followers.

Although this is a commonly prophesized theory throughout Christian theology, some Christian-based religions have made very different predictions for the end.

Daniel Shaddox is a member of the religious foundation ZDK, a foundation founded to support the religious beliefs of the Shaddox family.

It is based primarily on the beliefs of Judaism, Christianity and the Muslim faith and has some basis in Masonic teachings.

Members of the ZDK foundation believe in interstellar movement, a theory that God has ordained for humanity to set up a civilization in space after the destruction of Earth.

They feel that, while the end of the world is eminent, humans have the technology to build a space ship and recreate their society in the stars.

"We have the power to build Star Trek-like ships," Shaddox said, "They would take us to other stars."

He said that Earth could be destroyed at any time, but will most likely occur sometime before the end of the year, 2004 or 2006.

Based on the sun cycle, scientists have predicted that solar tremors are to occur when this happens.

These tremors will bring about the end of the world and cause the human race to reach their next stage of evolution—interstellar travel, the ZDK foundation believes.

"Those [tremors] may occur and they may not," Shaddox said. "At this point the science isn't confirmed, but it may happen."

He said there are many other theories for how the Earth could be destroyed.

Some of the more "radical" ZDK members believe that Christ will return to Earth and take his followers to a predestined planet.

Others have predicted a nuclear holocaust in 2004 or 2006.

Some members believe the Earth will simply be stripped of all its natural resources and no longer be fit for human life.

Although members cannot agree on how the end will come, they do believe that migration to the stars corresponds with code in the Bible.

Many members have contacted government officials and voiced their concerns for the destruction of the Earth and insist that the government make plans for the eventual migration.

"It's like building the Panama Canal, it's not something one individual can do," he said.

Although there are currently no planets or stars found that are suitable for human life, Shaddox said humans could build a domelike structure to house the remaining civilization.

Although the space ships will not be able to take all of humanity into space after Earth's destruction, Shaddox said it is the government's responsibility to inform people of these plans.

"[We need to] make people aware of the need to migrate," Shaddox said.

In contrast to the more theological based theories, over the years science has also addressed the issue.

According to many members of the scientific community, in the beginning a single unstable particle exploded. The universe shot outward to all directions in a swirling path of space and matter. It was an enormous blast, and has since been defined 'the big bang.'

Although the big bang is only a theory, Central teacher Amanda Karpf said it has been generally accepted in the scientific community as the beginning of the universe. With the big bang as foundation, scientists have expanded certain theories explaining the eventual end of time.

Karpf said that school curriculum generally teaches three scientific origins of the universe. The steady state theory states that the universe has and will always remain constant. The expanding universe theory states that the universe began expanding at some point (the big bang) and will continue to do so infinitely. The third and most widely accepted concept in the scientific community is the Oscillating Universe theory, Karpf said.

She said that the Oscillating Universe Theory explains that at some point the universe will slowly turn its outward progression inward and contract. In the process, galaxies, solar systems, and planets will be rearranged and/or destroyed until it expands again.

Karpf said that Central science doesn't teach the end of the world primarily because the world will not be ending for such a long time in the natural way of things. By the time any apocalyptic visions become realized, she said mankind would most likely have been long dead.

The end of the world can be a sensitive classroom subject, Karpf said because many students become fervent on the issue.

"You have to be careful not to step on peoples' religious beliefs. We treat it as a theory, but since no one has been there, we can't really say for sure," she said. "Many think it's a crock because they translate the bible literally which is fine because we all have to believe in something."

Junior Rachael Ferber said she doesn't expect the end of the world to occur anytime soon. Unlike Palmer or Shaddox, Ferber said she believes it will be due to natural scientific progression.

"I don't think religion will have anything to do with it unless it's for some crazy fanatics," she said.

One popular theory explained by Karpf (the same held by Ferber) is the sun's progression towards

pernova.

Karpf said the sun is continually growing. Eventually it will be so massive that it will consume Earth.

By the time the sun's nuclear energy is all exhausted, it will be so massive that it will collapse on itself. In turn it would create an enormous explosion known as a supernova. However, she said that no one has to worry about such an occurrence for billions and billions of years.

Supposing the sun went out in a more peaceful means the Earth would be in an equally sad shape. Because the Earth obtains all of its energy from the sun, it would not be long before life would die off.

Without the sun, the Earth would be a meaningless hunk of rock and ice floating through space. It sun powers plant life via photosynthesis. It heats water to a state where it can be consumed by life forms. Without either of the two, humans don't even exist.

An endless rain of meteorites and space dust pummel the Earth daily. Most of such daily debris is burnt up in the atmosphere.

Earth's gravity sends matter down on the planet at a minimum velocity of 11.2 kilometers a second, about forty times the speed of sound. Even though the atmosphere serves as a shield vaporizing objects on their entry, many larger have reached the planet's surface. The most contemplated of which was the one that supposedly killed off dinosaur life.

Tons of sulfur, rock and dust were said to have rushed to the heavens, encircling the globe in a thick blanket of flame and darkness. Cut off from the sun, the Earth lay stagnant under an indefinite period of years in isolation. The blanket of debris served as a greenhouse effect sending temperatures soaring, while the impact sent shock waves across the globe igniting volcanoes and earthquakes.

By the time the catastrophe ended, 90 percent of the Earth's biomass had been depleted and two thirds of the world's species were said to have disappeared forever. Today however, astronomers don't foresee any significant meteors hitting the Earth in the near future.

Meteors and supernovas aside, Dr. Doug Armstrong said that even today, in the age of modern technology and medicine, simple problems like diseases plague humanity.

Armstrong, a veterinarian at the Henry Doody Zoo, said that in animal populations, such diseases tend to develop along with overpopulation. Chronic wasting disease for example is currently killing countless much of Western Nebraska's livestock, deer and elk populations.

Armstrong said that at one time similar diseases wreaked widespread devastation on human populations.

But he said the threat has drastically diminished with modern sanitation and medical practices. However, he said nature seems to find ways of restocking such problems. Where once influenza and the bubonic plague took major death tolls, viruses like AIDS and Ebola have taken their place.

More than any disease or weapon, Armstrong said that if human existence died out, it would be due to overpopulation.

"The human population is expanding rapidly. It is not just a function of more people though. Each individual is using more resources to sustain the 'life-style' they want. This is particularly apparent in the U.S. and Europe. The key question is when do we reach the point that we are depleting our resources to such a level that we cannot sustain the population," he said.

From whatever perspective one takes, Earth will eventually be done for. Maybe Earth will continue to persevere until the sun absorbs it or the universe comes crashing in.

Maybe God will interfere before that time. Or maybe humanity will have already killed itself off.

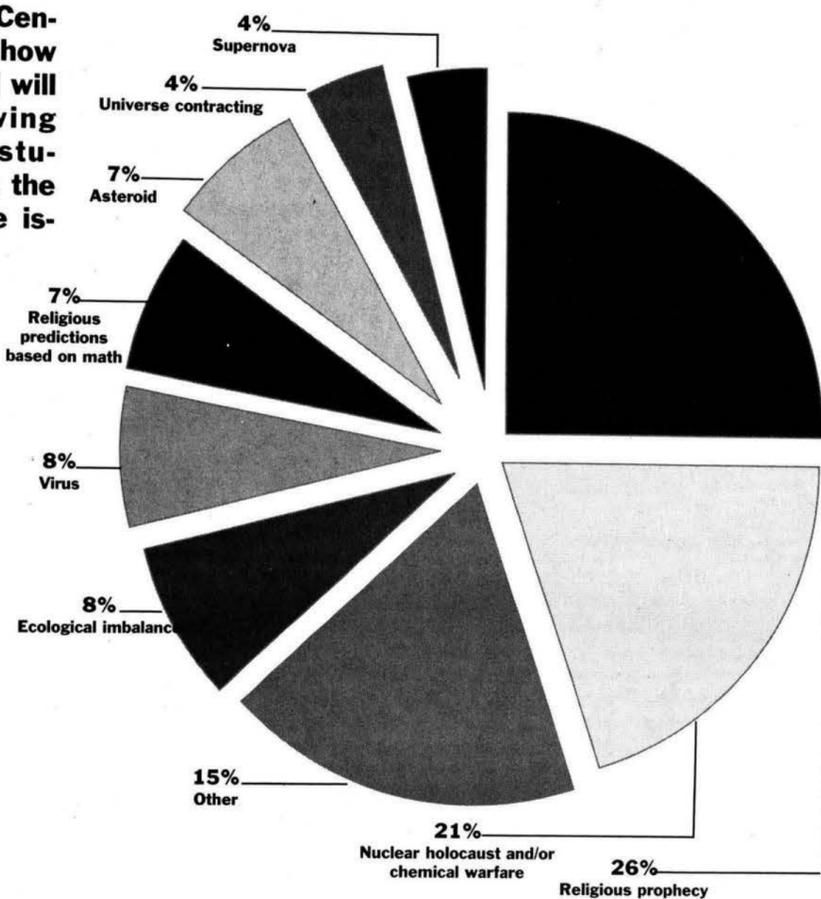
Whatever the end of the world means it depends on the individual.

Time stops

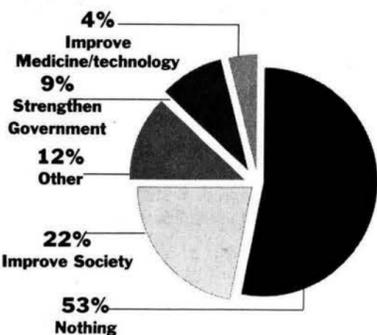
How will the world end?

The Register polled Central students to see how they believe the end will come. The following graphs illustrate students' responses to the various sides of the issue.

The largest percentage of students polled believe the world will end due to religious prophecy, showing religions major role in the student viewpoint. The second largest portion of students who believe in a nuclear or chemical warfare-related incident ending the world, such a large percentage is particularly relevant when taking into consideration recent U.S. security fears and the Sept. 11 tragedy. Combined with a belief in other possibilities, the three categories consisting of three-fifths of individuals polled show that Central's perspective is quite diverse.

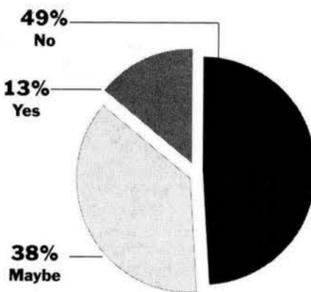


How can the end of the world be prevented?



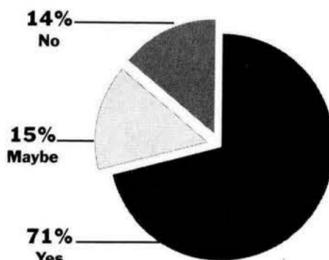
Most of Central takes a more nihilistic approach when considering possible ways to prevent the apocalypse. Despite all the various ways students feel the world could end, over half feel they have no role in the end of the world. Such a proportion runs contrary to what most of the world seems to making about the issue.

Will the world end during your lifetime?



Nearly half of the Central students polled believe they won't be around when the world ends. However, a close proportion are indecisive on the issue. The relatively small group that does believe the world will end in their lifetime shows that not many individuals are willing to form a definite "yes" response to the issue.

Will there be an afterlife?



An overwhelming majority of students believe there will be an afterlife. Much of this is most likely attributed to the students' religious orientation which can be seen in the large percent of individuals polled in response to "How do you think the world will end" (religious prophecy/religious predictions based on math).

Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

514 students polled



A quick look at how theories about the end of the world have developed:

1496: Scholars believed they had determined the date as the 1000 year anniversary of Jesus' birth. The date was supposed to signal his return to Earth and the ensuing apocalypse.

1524: Astrologers predicted the imminent end of the world due to a world wide flood. The predictions were somewhat similar to the flood represented in the Bible.

1555: Michel de Nostredame wrote the first volume of his quatrains prophecies for the future. The books contained over 900 such prophecies and predicted that the world will end in a series of climactic and geographic changes in conjunction with famine, disease and a third world war.

1669: Old Believers, individuals who split from the Russian Orthodox church, thought that the end of the world would occur in this year. Twenty thousand burned themselves to death from 1669 to 1690 for protection from the Antichrist.

1792: Followers of the Shaker movement calculated that the world would end on this date. The faith was an offshoot of New England Puritanism.

1891: Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church said that Jesus would return by this date at an 1835 meeting of church leaders.

1919: Meteorologist Albert Porta predicted that the conjunction of 6 planets would generate a magnetic current that would cause the sun to explode and engulf the earth on Dec. 17.

1945: Psychic Edgar Cayce predicted that the world would end due to a giant flood and the world would begin tilting off its axis from 1931-1998.

2001: Charles Spiegel preached that the ancient land of Atlantis would emerge from the Caribbean. The event would be followed by 1000 extraterrestrials from "Myton" arriving in 33 spaceships, in turn bringing new knowledge to humanity.

information courtesy of About Alternative Religions

Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Professor says sign of the Beast misinterpreted

By Steve Packard

Numerology and the "Number of the Beast", 666, are a critical part of many people's belief in the end of the world, but scientists and scholars think these mystic symbols have become misinterpreted. Over the years 666 has become a numeric representation of Satan and his followers. Although this has been the case for countless years, Creighton University Professor of Sociology Charlie Harper said he thinks the symbol has been misconstrued through its years of publicity. "The numbers 666 occur in the Book of Revelations and it's a symbol that's been taken out of the Bible and been imbedded with deep Satanic meanings," Harper said. Harper refutes the idea that the number actually had original Satanic intent. He said that people have taken Revelations to have

some sort of modern day meaning, when actually it was meant for times past. "Bible scholars think, for the most part, that it is a reflection of what was happening to the Roman Empire at the times of its writing," Harper said. "I think people have taken what was meant for the people of ancient times and derived some sort of modern meaning from it." The number 666 is not alone in its misinterpretation. The authenticity of other apocalyptic theories have also been doubted. "Numerology is the theory that secret meanings can be derived from the correct use of certain Biblical numbers," Harper said. For example, the date of the end of the world and the exact measurement of the diagonal of the double helix of DNA can be found. That is only if a person uses specific numbers in exact ways and that's where the theory of nu-

merology falls through, Harper said. "Numerology is not in itself considered a scientific basis," UNO professor of Psychology Carey Ryan said. "Two plus two equals five is based on numbers it is by itself not a basis for validity." Ryan said numerological theories must be submitted to peer review if they want to be accepted as even somewhat reputable. Nevertheless, individuals persist in creating such "misinterpretations" prophesying the apocalypse. "I think we're all trying to make sense of our world," Ryan said. "We all have beliefs in some sort of fate or end. I think we try to do it to make sense of things." Ryan said people have developed superstitious beliefs to explain the violence, malice and immorality of the world. Harper shares a very similar thought on the matter.

"Now, there's a lot of trouble in the world. I'm not person to deny it," Harper said. "But suppose you look around and you sell all sorts of confusing things: domestic abuse, war in the Middle East, terrorism. For those people, belief in an end is an answer." However, the answer can become an all-consuming phenomena. Ryan said some take this belief much too far, to such an extreme that it becomes unhealthy. "When it reaches a point that it interferes with adaptive or beneficial activities, then it really loses its validity," Ryan said. While Ryan knows how and when to deal with these beliefs, she still has no clue why someone would choose to believe in such a pessimistic or destructive testament to humanity. "It's a belief system, much like the religious systems we have," Ryan said. "There's just a lot we don't know about human behavior."

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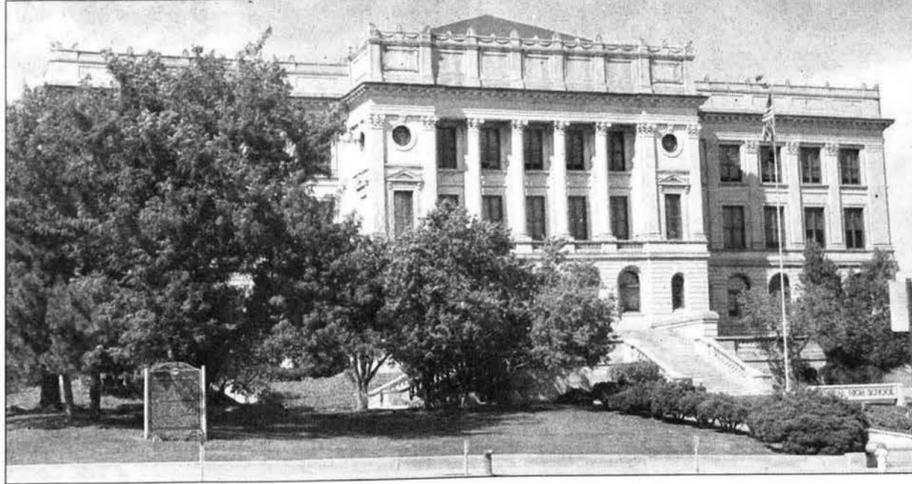
2000

Seniors 2002

Who they are and what they are doing after graduation

Abele, Christopher
 Abele, Lisa
 Ackley, Edward
 Ahlf, Stefanie
 Akin, Zachary
 Akyeampong, Audrick
 Allen, Jennifer
 Alonso, Jonathan
 Anderson, Devon
 Anderson, Julia
 Aponick, Christopher
 Atwood, Ian
 Avant, Shannon
 Baker, April
 Barrett, Sarah
 Bartee, Ramona
 Baskin, Nikita
 Bataillon, Kathryn
 Beals, Courtney
 Beber, Christopher
 Bell, J'Vawna
 Bender, James
 Bennett, Mark
 Berger, Dena
 Bernhards, Sarah
 Bhakta, Mira
 Billotte, Chase
 Bischof, Robert
 Bonacci, Ashley
 Brazile, Keanté
 Bretey, Adam
 Brewer, Markeeta
 Brittain, Ashley
 Brown, Ashlynn
 Brown, Ebony
 Brown, Marcus
 Browning, Allen
 Bush, Donika
 Caldwell, Deshayla
 Cannon, Patricia
 Cantrell, Caressa
 Capellupo, Angela
 Cardenas, Maria
 Carlson, Peggy
 Carlson, Stephanie
 Carter, Marlon
 Childers, Jeremiah
 Clark, Ashley
 Clark, Latoya
 Clifford, Lisa
 Colvin, Natasha
 Comfort, Samuel
 Conner, Michael
 Cornwell, Jennifer
 Costello, Jeffrey
 Cox, Patrick
 Croskey, Jacob
 Cummins, Justin
 Dahlke, Robin
 Danberg, Anne
 Daniels, Brandii
 Davis, Kaitlin
 Dawson, Sloan
 Deacon, Adam
 Deane, Robert
 Decker, Katie
 Dennis, Nathaniel
 Dicks, Chelsea
 Dillon, Alexandria
 Doluony, Kueth
 Donovan, Cheryl
 Dorsey, Jamar
 Dunn, Alicia
 Dyer, Libby
 Eaves, Brandy
 Ekberg, Douglas
 Engdahl, Marie
 Engler, Nicole
 Estrada, Ruby
 Fairchild, Janelle
 Faulkner, Andrea
 Fehrman, Jill
 Felix, Emily
 Fisher, Kelley
 Flournoy, Antwan
 Flowers, Stacey
 Ford, Andrew
 Foreman, Matthew
 Fowler, Karis
 Franklin, Alicia
 Frost, Cassandra
 Fuchs, Theresa
 Gabriel, Lanie

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 Greenamyre, Holly
 Guinn, Valerie
 Gunn, Jennifer
 Hall, Ashley
 Handlos, Adam
 Hansen, Jeffery
 Harkness, Lindsay
 Hart, Rachael
 Hatfield, David
 Haubrich, Philip
 Heller, Michael
 Henvey, Julia
 Hester, Daniel
 Hilscher, Travis
 Hofmann, Andrew
 Holzapfel, Damien
 Hoover, Megan
 Horne, David
 Hughes, Michael
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 Hutfless, Katherine
 Jackson, Chaunsietta
 Jacobs, Rebecca
 Johnson, Jonathan
 Johnson, Lequisha
 Johnson, Roger
 Jones, Deshaya
 Kaine, Heidi
 Kamal, Rafiq
 Kass, David
 Kelly, Tia
 Kielion, Lucas
 Kimball, Susan
 Kimble, Morgan
 Kimmons, Javelle
 King, Tiffany
 Klingforth, Paige
 Koder, Jonathan
 Kooser, Cara
 Kowalewski, Matthew
 Kraft, Richard
 Kruger, Kristen
 Kuek, Lol
 Kuhn, Kristopher
 Labenz, Kimberly
 Lacy, Melissa
 Lampkin, Eboni
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 Lassek, Rachel
 Lay, Corey
 Leahy, Kirsten
 Lee, Brandon



Gallardo, Lesly
 Galvan, Inocencio
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 George, Byron
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 Gonzalez, Danelle
 Gonzalez, Miguel
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 Miettinen, Justin
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 Mulherin, Tiffany
 Mulligan, Brianne
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 Neumayer, Matthew
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Thompson leaves feeling proud, relieved

By Doug Meigs

Principal Gary Thompson said he will leave Central with mixed feelings when he retires this summer.

"This is a life-consuming job," Thompson said. "It's an incredibly stressful job. I love it. But I've become tired in all honesty."

He said he will leave torn between exhaustion and attachment to the school.

Thompson said he is tired of working 80 hours every week and constantly fighting for desperately needed funds from the district.

It will be difficult to leave the job he has become so accustomed to, but Thompson said he believes it is time to move on.

He said he went into education seeking to make a difference, but the way in which he tries to do that has changed a little.

After teaching science at

Bancroft Elementary, Thompson came to Central and taught biology in the 1970s.

He eventually became the head of Central's science department, where he stayed for six years before attending UNL to receive his doctorate degree.

Then, his interest shifted to administration. But because the majority of the courses he had completed didn't apply to his new pursuit, he had to reenroll with 20 credit hours left.

However, he knew he wanted to do it.

"The only way to have a cultural effect on the school is to lead it," he said. "One of the nice things about being principal is that you can really make a difference."

After obtaining his degree, Thompson returned to OPS as an assistant principal at South High.

From there, he became principal at Lewis and Clark Middle

School and then moved to Central to assume his current position.

Today, Thompson said he feels he has accomplished all of his goals. When he started, he said he wanted to make Central a more student-oriented school, enhance the athletic program and renovate the building by increasing classroom space and installing air conditioning.

Over the years, Thompson said he has attended all of the school's events he has been able to fit in his schedule. That's what he will miss the most after he leaves, he said.

"I've hired most of the coaches," he said. "I've watched the programs grow. I feel very proud of what Central has become. We are here for the students. And when you do those things people notice. I think it's very meaningful."

Sophomore Patrick Venditte

said Thompson has done a great job becoming involved in the school. Venditte, who plays baseball and is a member of student council, said he has noticed Thompson's involvement throughout the years.

"He's a great guy. He does a lot of great things for Central," he said. "When he leaves, Central will lose a great administrator."

As his final days at Central wind down, Thompson said he has no idea what he will do after he retires.

He said he has been considering another administrative position in a different school district or he may teach again, possibly at a university if the opportunity arises.

He may not play a role in Central's future anymore, but he will remain an important aspect of its past.

■ BEXTEN

Renovations pose problem for new principal, Thompson says

From BEXTEN, page 1

said. "Bexten doesn't have that advantage. However, many of the teachers he worked with at Lewis and Clark have come up here."

Math teacher Christie Pfeifer is one of those teachers.

She remembers Bexten.

In fact, he helped her when she was a first-year teacher and was having trouble adapting to the classroom.

And she remembers when Bexten moved into Lewis and Clark after Thompson left. He had been an assistant principal there and she said the transition went smoothly.

That's what she expects this time around, too.

A new principal will move in, but the teachers and facilities will remain the same, Pfeifer said. She compares it to a ship getting a new captain, but keeping the same crew.

Freshman Cassie Barba, who attended Lewis and Clark last year, said she thinks Bexten will make an immediate difference when he takes over next year, especially in the area of student discipline.

She said he is stricter than Thompson is and might be able to decrease the number of student fights on campus because of his no-nonsense attitude.

"I don't know how to explain his strictness," Barba said. "He just doesn't joke around."

Pfeifer describes Bexten as business-like, which sometimes causes students to think of him as being strict. But it's not a bad thing, she said.

"He's always thinking about what will benefit students the most," she said.

Barba said Bexten worked well with middle school students and she thinks he will be able to relate to Central students, too.

Freshman Chelsey Peebles, who also attended Lewis and Clark, said Bexten runs a school like a military sergeant.

Bexten said he is not too concerned with the move to a high school. He cites his experience as an assistant principal at South High before moving to Lewis and Clark.

But Pfeifer said Bexten will have to deal with something he's never handled before—a huge renovation project that will displace students from classrooms.

"Dealing with the renovation will be the biggest problem (facing Bexten)," Thompson said. "Working around 2,500 students will be very difficult."

Bexten said he is reassured by the fact that construction crews won't move into the building next year. The work will not disrupt classroom areas until 2003-04.

That gives him a little bit of breathing room, Bexten said.

After school is dismissed this summer, Bexten said he hopes to be able to move into an office in the building until he takes over as principal.

He also said he has asked Thompson if he could be involved in interviewing applicants for staff positions that might open up for next year.

He said he knows he will manage the school differently than Thompson did, but he doesn't know how.

"Everybody has his or her own style and way to do things," he said.

Thompson said he will leave that up to Bexten.

"One thing I will not do is tell Mr. Bexten how to do this job," Thompson said. "If he doesn't want my help here, I won't be sticking my nose in his business."

Additional reporting by Doug Meigs

Discrimination bill to protect homosexuals defeated

By Paula Salhany

State Sen. Mike Foley said it should be an employer's prerogative whether or not he or she hires

an individual based on that person's sexual orientation.

State Sen. Ernie Chambers said that is discrimination, and said there should be a law against it.

Once again, Chambers tried to pass LB 19, which would prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Chambers said in order to live a comfortable and productive life, it is essential for people to have a job. He said he believes that it is the state's duty to protect the gay men and lesbian women in the population from being discriminated against in the work force.

"Unfortunately, the majority of our state Legislature is homophobic and does not agree with this," he said.

LB 19
Introduced by Sen. Ernie Chambers
Would have prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation
Indefinitely postponed on April 19

Foley took special issue with the bill and submitted 21 amendments to the bill and promised to filibuster it. Out of all the amendments, only one of them was a serious amendment.

Foley said even though every single Nebraskan has the right to employment, no individual group of people should be given extra rights when it comes to employment.

"This bill would give gays extra rights," he said.

Junior Cleo Stevenson said a person's personal life shouldn't affect their status in the workforce.

Foley also said according to statistics, the gay population is one of the most financially stable groups in the state. He argued that there is no evidence gays are being discriminated against when it comes to employment.

"No one is bold enough to put up signs saying 'gays can't work here,' but that doesn't mean discrimination doesn't exist," Chambers said.

Junior Bunny Bush said there always has been and always will be discrimination against homosexuals.

"People shouldn't discriminate against someone's sexuality," she said. "It's not like you can change them."

While the bill was in committee, Chambers said he had many people testify in favor of the bill because they had been discriminated against.

But, he said some people would not testify because they

were afraid they would be discriminated against even more.

"It's like if an unregistered immigrant came into the country and worked for a company for hours on end, but then didn't get paid. The employer tells the worker that he cannot complain to anyone because they will only be deported."

"These people are afraid to come forward and tell people they have been discriminated against because then more people will know they are gay and the assaults will only get worse," he said.

Consideration of LB 19 eventually ended after the Legislature voted to adjourn early. Because it was the last day for general file consideration, the bill will not be discussed for the rest of this year.

Regardless of this outcome, Chambers said he intends to pursue this bill in the future.

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Summer school cap raises issues for ESL pupils

By Paula Salhany

If Jose Morales doesn't go to summer school, he won't be able to graduate.

That's because he is an ESL student who is 17 years old. In order to meet graduation requirements before he is 21, he has to go to summer school.

But for a while, it looked like he might have a problem getting into the program.

Because OPS is not allowed to charge students for summer school, the number of students who could attend had to be limited.

Central is allowed to send 281 total students to summer school this year.

That's where a problem arises, Linda Ganzel, ESL department head said.

Central is forced to prioritize who goes to summer school and who doesn't. And potentially, an ESL student may not fall into a category that gets priority.

To try and remedy this problem, schools are supposed to reserve the same number of spots for ESL students as last year, Shari Koch, ESL secondary specialist for OPS said.

"Last year Central sent 35 ESL students to summer school, so they are required to save 35 spots in summer school this year," she said.

But Ganzel said she has more than 35 students who need to go.

"ESL students need to go to summer school," she said. "Because they are not able to substitute ESL classes for regular required classes, they need to go to summer school. But now they (OPS) are saying they can't follow that rule. What are they supposed to do?"

She said she was told to prioritize the students to see who needs to go the most. Seniors who will not graduate without this year's summer school are on the top of the list.

"How am I supposed to choose who gets to go and who doesn't?" she said. "I watch these kids work really hard every day and then I have to tell some of them they might not get to go to summer school."

Fortunately, Morales will get one of the 35 spots. He said he is relieved he will be able to go. His goal is to graduate and go to college. He wants to become a math teacher.

He said he was really worried, at first, when he might not be able to go.

But he said if he doesn't graduate before he's 21 he will have to go back to Mexico to finish.

Even though both Ganzel and Koch are not 100 percent positive everyone who needs to go to summer school will be able to, counselor Lynda Molyneaux is sure everyone will go.

"They are our number one priority," she said. "If there aren't enough slots for them we will find some funding to make more slots."

The funding, Koch said, would come from outside sponsorship. In the past a group called Migrant Education has been able to support summer school tuition.

"They have, once again, come through with funding," she said.

Now they have to make sure extra spots can be created. Freshman Fabian Ruiz is one student who is not sure whether he is going.

Right now he is 16 and if he stays on track he will graduate before he is 21, but he wants to pick up credits in summer school to make sure.

Ruiz, like Morales, plans to go to college after he graduates. He wants to speak English and wants to be successful.

If plans work out as Molyneaux foresees, both he and Morales will be able to reach their goals.



Photo by JOE MEYER/THE REGISTER

Officer Jess Randall is the second resource officer at Central. After the first officer was reassigned halfway through the year, he took the position. He said he hasn't had any trouble getting accustomed to the school or its faculty.

Keeping the peace

Central's newest resource officer makes himself at home

By Doug Meigs

Officer Jess Randall has been active at Central ever since he became the school's student resource officer (SRO) following the first officer's mid-year departure.

Usually he said SROs are expected to take around fifteen months to become integrated in a school.

Randall disagrees. He said it is dependent on the individual's approach.

Randall said the most essential part of a new officer's approach is to become immediately involved with the student body.

So far he has done so by becoming involved in ESL Pathways and Law and Justice classes.

Randall also makes an effort to lift weights and attend gym classes.

Becoming involved is extremely relevant to breaking down barriers between youths and the police, he said, and that is a major part of his job.

In fact, Randall said that breaking down such barriers is his number one goal as a SRO.

Although Randall is new to high school education, he does have teaching experience.

While enlisted in the Marine Corps he was a helicopter flight instructor in the academy at Pensacola.

He spent fifteen years involved in the military, having gone into the Marines after high school and later becoming a member of the National Guard.

While in the National Guard, Randall became acquainted with Central ROTC teacher Col. Mike Melvin.

At the time, Melvin was commander of the 167 cavalry and Randall was one of squad commanders beneath him.

"He (Randall) was a good soldier and a good commander," Melvin said. He is very dedicated to doing his job."

When he learned Randall was transferring to Central, Melvin said that he was pleasantly surprised.

He said that Randall is a quality officer.

After the National Guard, Randall returned to Omaha to work for the Omaha Police Department where he has been employed for the past six years.

He said that as a SRO, he is part of Central's administrative staff.

With that in mind he said he has a responsibility for the school's safety, both as police officer and administrator.

Randall said that in all of his occupational transitions, he has never had to undertake any problematic changes.

Each job has offered something different, but nothing that he couldn't handle jumping into.

"Everything is about attitude," he said. If you go into the military with a bad attitude, it's going to suck. If you go into the police department with a bad attitude it's going to suck. The same goes for here at Central."

So far Randall said his first year has been very hectic. Problems ranging from fighting to graffiti keep him constantly busy.

Due to his having to take the position halfway through the year, Randall said trust played a major issue with how he could interact with other administrators.

"Do they trust me? Do I trust them, and can we work together?" he said. "The other administrators have been awesome. They've made me feel part of the family. If I miss a

day of school I feel bad."

Since his own graduation from high school, he said the environment has changed.

Central is his first SRO job, and because he hadn't seen Central prior to this year he can't pass judgement on the school based on this year's problems.

"Back then (when he was in high school) there was more discipline and more teacher involvement," he said. "You were more worried about what your dad was going to do when you got home."

He suggests that schools everywhere, not Central in particular, are having problems with students because there is less hands on attention given to students.

Regardless of the current school years' problems, he said he truly enjoys working at Central.

Although he wants students to acknowledge him as a friend, Randall said students must understand he is still police officer.

"There is no tolerance in this school for drugs or any physical violence. If you are involved in any of these things you will be arrested," he said.

Committee recommends cease to extra honors point

From GPA, page 1

grade for much harder work then we have to ask, is that fair?" Thompson said.

Junior Vanessa Brusche said removing the honors point would cause a lot of students to decide against taking accelerated courses. But to her, that would be a good thing.

She knows that she would still be in the classes, and if people who were less interested in the material decided not to enroll, it would make her experience even better. She said she enrolls in the classes she does because she is interested in the material, not an inflated GPA.

"I think a lot of people aren't interested in the classes," Brusche said. "They are probably killing themselves over classes they don't really care about at all just for a chance to look better on their transcripts."

Bernice Nared is the principal at Northwest High School. She represented the school at the meetings and said the weighted honors point was one area where Central's representatives stood adamantly opposed.

But to her, the logic behind their decision is flawed. She said far too many classes are being deemed "honors," so anyone can pad their GPA.

She cited PE, music and some social studies classes as courses that shouldn't be considered honors.

"It's getting to the point that if the course number is above 2, then it's an honors course," Nared said.

But the biggest advantage, she said, would be getting some sense of cohesion between the OPS and university GPA system. Under the current system, a person who has a 4.3 GPA could apply for scholarships that require a 3.5 GPA or higher. But when universities scale back the GPA to a 4.0 scale, she said oftentimes they find that the applicant doesn't even qualify.

"If we eliminate the honors weighting program, it will put all students on a level playing field," Nared said.

She also doesn't think honors classes will lose too many participants.

She compared it to middle school, where students take honors classes simply because they are honors level.

"They (middle school students) knew that the smart students, those who were capable would be in the classes. And they took those classes for that reason. They wanted to be there," she said.

Central grad amasses comprehensive magazine collection

By Paula Salhany

Every so often National Lampoon magazine would come out with a specialty issue and Central graduate Steve Denenberg would run out and make sure he got his hands on it.

One time he got it so quickly, when the magazine was forced to pull the issue because of a lawsuit over an ad, he already had his hands on the original magazine with that ad in it.

But even if it weren't a specialty issue, he always had the most recent copy of the magazine.

Denenberg started collecting the humor magazine when it first started in 1970.

At that time it only cost 75 cents and came out monthly.

Though he recently stopped subscribing because he said it wasn't as funny anymore; he collected the magazine for over two decades.

"The magazine is full of teenage toilet-bowl humor," he said.

He said, just like any teenage boy, he was drawn to that type of humor with its crude wit and cleverness.

But his favorite part of the magazine were the stories.

National Lampoon's stories take popular culture and trendy issues and make

fun of them, he said.

Some of the stories do things like making fun of teenage relationships, events in the news and famous actors and actresses.

He said he doesn't quite remember how he got hooked on the magazine, but once he started reading, he just didn't stop.

He didn't throw them away either.

"If you're a normal person, after you finish reading a magazine you usually just toss it, but if you're a pack rat like me, you just keep things like that over the years," he said.

After a while he realized he had accumulated a fairly large number of the magazines.

But when he went through them he found some of the issues missing.

He decided to complete his collection and fill in the missing issues.

Now, when he sits down and reads his old magazines, they bring back memories and act almost as little pieces of nostalgia.

"Some people have scrapbooks or books that take them back in time, so to speak," he said. "For me, it's National Lampoon magazines."

Denenberg said he used to sit down and flip through back issues of the maga-

zines and he would find references to previous issues.

And when he would go to find the issue the previous article was in, he would oftentimes spend hours looking for that particular story or issue, sometimes to no avail.

So he decided to call National Lampoon headquarters to see if they had an index to make his job easier.

When he talked to the secretary she said that they did have an index, but he couldn't have it because there were only two in existence.

"So I asked her if she would stay after work one night and Xerox the 300 some page book if I sent her \$100," he said. "And sure enough, she said yes."

Soon he had a copy of the index in his



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Magazine collector Steve Denenberg often goes through old issues of the National Lampoon Magazine. He has been collecting the magazines since his sophomore year at Central.

hands, making it easier for him to locate the funny stories he read while in high school.

Denenberg said he still finds the magazines funny and doesn't plan on getting rid of them any time soon.



EXPIRED
Central should eliminate
Student Activity cards
and adopt a new policy
PAGE 10



LONG STORY SHORT
Kaitlin Butz

A fragile situation

'Junioritis' kills desire, tricks mind

Good Kaitlin and devil Kaitlin are fighting a little battle in my brain. I don't really know who will win.

It all started roughly eight days after the fourth quarter, when I just stopped caring about school.

I've worked several appendages off to get where I am today, but I don't care anymore.

I'm in the top 3 percent of my class and it honestly means nothing to me right now.

I don't give a flying leap about homework, tests or papers. I just can't focus on anything anymore.

The very idea of buckling down and being a devoted student gives me a headache and makes me sleepy right now.

If I can't even handle the idea of being a good student, you can imagine how hard it is for me to be one right about now.

I've been told these are the symptoms of "senioritis," but how exactly does a junior contract this senior disease?

I couldn't tell you why, but I know I've got it or something like it.

The only thing on my mind is getting out of school and enjoying a semi-relaxing summer.

During classes, all I think about is getting out of this brick oven and into the wonderful joyous sunshine.

So I put things off, pretend the word "homework" is not in my vernacular and just drift off into my own little world where I have nothing to worry about.

In my world, the day's toughest tasks involve getting out of bed around noon or so and putting on my shoes. And these aren't even the kind of shoes with laces either. I mean flip-flops here.

All of this is way too good to be true.

But then roughly 34 hours before the due date of anything academically important, I begin to flip. All the care that I used to put into things comes flooding back.

I'll stay up all night if necessary to get things done. I feel like it's going to kill me, but I get it done in some form or another.

It's a rather horrible system. That's the paradox of this end of the year malaise. You don't want to do anything.

But eventually you realize that you will have to do something if you don't want to ruin two and a half years of hard work.

After all, as every possible figure of authority will tell you, junior year is the one that really matters.

Colleges will look at your junior year to determine whether or not you get in and whether or not you will be a failure for the rest of your life and blah blah blah.

With pressure like that, can you blame me for not wanting to lift a single finger?

I may be lazy, but I am smart enough to realize that this sudden onslaught of sluggishness will only serve to hurt me, so I find ways to overcome it.

But I'm not happy about it. I like being lazy, I don't like having to put forth effort. I've been putting forth effort since the beginning of my freshman year.

For the sake of all that is holy and true in this universe, I just want a little break.

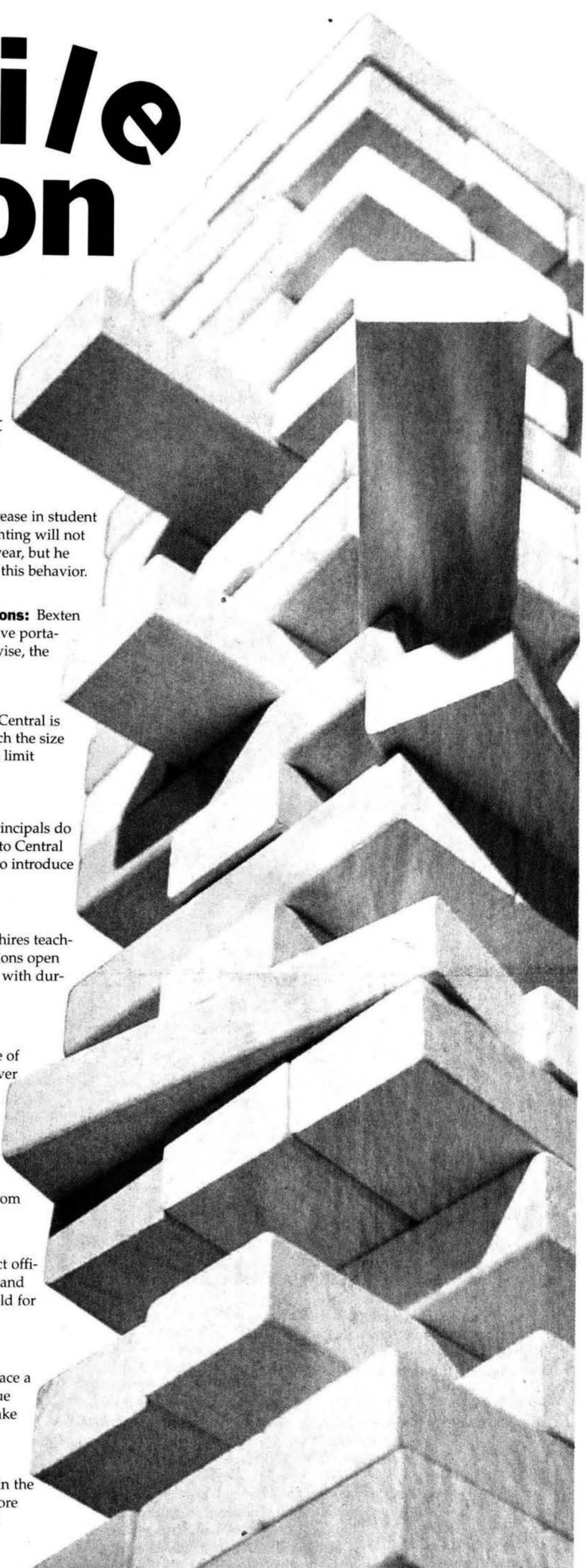
A sabbatical, a siesta, a rest. Call it what you like, I just need some time away from work, reading and doing stuff.

But it doesn't look like I'm going to get one, at least not until June 1.

Only my report card will tell. I'll keep you posted.

A growing population, new safety concerns and a huge renovation project will greet incoming principal Jerry Bexten next year. To help out, the *Register* offers tips on what he should do, from a student's perspective.

- 1 Crack down on student fighting:** After this year's increase in student fights, Bexten needs to make students understand that fighting will not be allowed. Police started writing tickets to students this year, but he needs to create a new way to discipline students and stop this behavior.
- 2 Ensure that Central receives portables for renovations:** Bexten needs to act quickly to guarantee that the school will receive portables when crews move into the building next year. Otherwise, the project will create a huge headache for him.
- 3 Keep a close eye on the school's population:** Since Central is already over-capacity by 700 students, Bexten should watch the size of the school and not be afraid to encourage the district to limit Central's enrollment when he thinks it is too big.
- 4 Introduce himself to students early:** Far too often, principals do not become involved with students. Since he is moving into Central when it is the most diverse, Bexten needs to invent ways to introduce himself to students early on.
- 5 Build his staff around him:** It is important that Bexten hires teachers who will help him while he will be here. As staff positions open up, Bexten should consider hiring teachers he has worked with during his career.
- 6 Strengthen Central's role in the community:** Because of open enrollment, Central competes for students from all over the city. Bexten should work on enhancing relationships not only downtown, but all over Omaha.
- 7 Crack down on drinking at school activities:** Central has always tried to discourage students from drinking at football games. Bexten should enforce the district's rules from the start.
- 8 Eliminate the weighted GPA system:** This year, district officials urged Central to stop using its weighted GPA system and Bexten should listen. It would finally set a level playing field for all Central students.
- 9 Continue to enforce the dress code:** Bexten should place a high importance on how students dress. He should continue doing what Thompson has done since he's been here to make sure students follow the district's rules.
- 10 Plan for the long-haul:** No matter how tough it may be in the beginning, Bexten should stay optimistic. Managing the more immediate concerns may overwhelm him, but it will all be worth it.



Opening basement to homeless brings responsibilities

It was a perfect case of networking. I have a basement. It's empty. He needed a place to stay.



WELCOME TO THE BAHAMAS
Joe Meyer

It wasn't like I planned this or anything. It just happened.

On a somewhat ordinary Monday morning, I heard that an acquaintance of mine (a really good guy) had been kicked out of his house.

In fact, he had been sleeping in a 1986 silver Chevy Caprice Classic.

Sure, it's a roomy vehicle and everything, but it's still a car.

I normally never act quickly about such things, but I had to help out. I can't let anyone, except for a select few of my worst enemies, live in a car. That's just wrong.

I had always joked that if a friend of mine needed a place to stay, he could use my basement.

It's equipped with all the essentials: a bathroom with a shower, a bed with blankets, a carpet and even a fireplace for the romantics.

So, I extended the privilege and asked him if he wanted to stay with me.

Actually, I didn't ask. I told him he was staying with me. It went something like this:

Me: "Hey Mickey. What's going on?"

Mickey: "Hey Joe, guess what. I'm homeless."

Me: "No you aren't Mickey. You're staying with me."

Mickey: "Cool Joe. Thanks a lot."

And that's how it happened. That's how my life changed.

I'm amazed at how quickly word spreads around this school. I mean, I always hear about the latest parties and who's dating whom, but I couldn't

believe this.

Less than half an hour or so after I invited him to live with me, several of my classmates told me that it was a good thing for me to do.

Some jokingly asked if they could use my basement, too. Others started a pool to see how long I could put up with him.

It was all just a little too surreal. Before I knew it, I was on the phone explaining to my mom that someone who she had only met once when he was wrestling in my front yard at my eighteenth birthday party was living with us.

It's not a big deal.

I mean, he sleeps in my basement, eats some of my food, plays with my brothers and babysits them once in a while.

But bringing in the homeless, no matter how cool they are, does have some disadvantages. It brings on some

new responsibilities that I have never had before.

I mean, I really just let him roam free. But to a certain extent, I'm responsible for him.

I promised my mom that he was a good guy and that letting him live with us would be all right. I have to make sure that he doesn't starve to death (that kind of thing ruins a reputation).

I have to make sure he gets to school everyday for the rest of the year. I have to make sure he wears his robe every time he gets out of the shower and stays respectable.

I stopped short of telling him the importance of not drinking and driving or about how he should practice safe sex. That's what public school is for.

I've always heard of philanthropists who give billions of dollars away to various charities.

I'll just stick to letting homeless teenagers live in my basement for free.

EDITORIALS

"Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."
FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RATIFIED DEC. 15, 1791



Dr. Gary Thompson
Principal
Matt Deabler
Adviser
Matt Wynn
Editor in chief
Joe Meyer
Insight Editor

Summer school policy ignores district mission

Omaha Public Schools' (OPS) mission statement specifically states that the district wants to hold students accountable for their actions.

But that goal is not reflected in the district's new summer school policy.

Due to the student fee lawsuit filed in September, no student will have to pay to enroll in summer school.

The lawsuit has had positive effects in almost every other area.

It has removed classroom fees, abolished the dreaded gym uniform and kept some sense of equality among students.

But removing the fee for summer school is ridiculous.

The purpose of the lawsuit was to ensure that students receive a chance to receive a free education as outlined in the state constitution.

It achieved that.

But summer school is not a necessary part of a free education, at least not in OPS.

Only remedial classes required for graduation are offered. That means that only students who have previously failed classes can enroll in the district's summer school.

Those students have already had a shot at a free education. They screwed up. And now they should have to pay.

Literally. A free education is a privilege. And, if students want that privilege, they need to take advantage of it.

Students who have to take summer school screwed up, plain and simple. They made a mistake, one way or another when they had their chance.

Either they didn't show up to class, chose not to do their work or didn't learn the material. But regardless, they failed a class.

It will cost OPS money to give them a second chance. And it's money that has already been spent, since the school district paid for the student to take the class the first time around, too.

The district shouldn't be held accountable for the irresponsibility of its students. The students should.

Granted, there are exceptions to the rule. Some students fail classes because it is simply impossible for them to attend school.

For example, students who get sick for an extended period of time, are involved in car accidents during the year, have deaths in the family or legal problems all have legitimate reasons why students might have failed a class.

Somehow, a system should be worked out so that these students don't have to pay.

But those who screwed around during class, blew off assignments and skipped school should have to pay.

The lawsuit did exactly what it was supposed to.

It made sure every student has the same chance as every other student to enroll in classes free of charge.

And students who pay attention, attend class and turn in their assignments will be able to take full advantage of that right to a free education.

Summer school is different. Students who want a second chance should pay.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

EXPIRED

It's time for Central administrators to eliminate Student Activity cards and develop a more accountable way to charge students for activities

You need one if you want to play football. You need one to receive a copy of the Register. And if you have one, you can receive free admission to all home athletic events, too.

But now, after a Central student's father sued the school district because of them, it's time for Student Activity cards to go.

The way the system works now, every student interested in playing a sport or participating in an extracurricular activity pays \$25 to receive a Student Activity card.

Although the Legislature has supported measures that would allow schools to charge students for things not included in the regular curriculum, like sports and extracurricular activities, Central's policy is flawed.

Instead of football players paying fees to cover the cost of shoulder pads, helmets and uniforms, they pay the same rate as the student who is interested in being on the debate team.

No matter how much the activity may cost, every student pays the same price. Even the three-sport superstar pays the same price as everyone else.

This does not make any sense.

Why should every student who is involved in extracurricular activities have to pool together to support each other? Shouldn't there be individual charges depending on what activities the student is involved in?

This policy may have worked in the past, but now it needs to change.

One parent has already filed a lawsuit because of the issue.

Some may claim that selling Student Activity cards is the best way to collect funds for the school's numerous sports and activities. Some may also say that it is hard to anticipate how much a sport may cost before the season. The team may compete in the state tournament, which would cost more money.

But Central's policy is littered with problems.

During the student fees debate, students, teachers, administrators and state senators have all stressed the importance of responsibility and accountability, things that are missing from Central's policy.

The money received from these purchases is used to cover all athletic accounts in the building.

Therefore, the money a debate student pays to be in debate is not necessarily spent on the debate team. It may pay for the basketball team's transportation down to the state tournament, or vice versa.

Some may claim that this system is needed because all sports and activities, except football, lose money. This system reduces the cost across the board.

But that shouldn't matter.

Instead of using this communal system, administrators should develop a way to charge students for the fees associated with the activities they are involved in.

A certain fee should be charged to participate in certain activities. That way, the students who benefit from the activity are paying for it and the school knows exactly where the money is going.

Some may claim that charging different fees for different activities is unfair, but that all comes with the territory.

Students who participate in these activities should be willing to pay for the opportunity. And students who participate in activities that cost more should be willing to pay more.

And the state is also pushing school districts to establish fee-waiver programs, which will help if a student has trouble paying the fees.

Administrators need to revise Central's student fee policy so that each student pays for what he or she is involved in. Nothing more and nothing less.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of
the Register

HEROES & ZEROS

- Dr. Gary Thompson

After only seven years of being Central's principal, Dr. Gary Thompson will call it quits. Throughout the time that he has been here, he has improved the Central tradition immensely. He started the Central High School Foundation. He put the senior final exam policy into place. He will also always be remembered as the principal who did what all the rest couldn't--convince the district to air-condition the school.

- Nebraska Unicameral

In one of its last moves of the short session, the Legislature decided to lift the spending cap that it imposed on local school districts. Now, individual school districts will be able to regulate themselves and control exactly how much money they spend without any arbitrary limits coming down from the state. Good job. It's about time the state realized that it needs to act to make sure that education in the state does not get any worse. The work is not complete, though. The state needs to look into increasing teacher salaries and giving emergency funding to some districts next year, too.

- Central's skateboarding club

Last month, Central's skateboarding club hosted its very own competition. It's good to see that the recently founded club is able to become involved so quickly. Hopefully, the club will continue to offer students this competitive way to have fun and interact with one another. Congratulations to the students who won. But more importantly, thanks to the organizers who decided to host the activity. It was very successful and recognized students who might not otherwise be recognized.

- Central's weighted GPA system

Recently, Central's weighted GPA system has come under fire from district officials who are convinced there is no place for it. And they are right. The weighted GPA system has grown out of control. It results in students taking honors classes for the wrong reasons. Instead of taking these classes to learn more material or to be challenged, students take them to pad their GPAs. Eliminating this archaic way of grading would level the playing field for all Central students and give students real reasons to enroll in classes.

- Messy students in the courtyard

It seems like principal Gary Thompson makes the same announcement about cleanliness around campus every year. It is ridiculous that students have to be reminded to clean up after themselves during lunch. Leaving garbage for custodians and teachers to clean up is disrespectful and embarrassing. So please, take the extra time and clean up after yourself. It's that simple.

- District's refusal to cap school's enrollment

Next year, the freshman class is projected to be the biggest in the school's history. Earlier this year, the district decided that capping the school's enrollment would be a bad idea. But with a huge renovation project that will shift students around in 2003, there is no way the school can continue to grow like this. Students already complain about the size of the enrollment. When will the administration catch on?

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OPINION

" ROTC teaches you things that you would use later in life like First Aid and map reading. Sure we get to shoot rifles, but that does not mean we are learning to kill people. "

Adam Mohlberg, 10

State's stupidity scares one more away

I hate Nebraska.

I absolutely despise Nebraska. It's backwards, fundamentalist, god-forsaken and stupid.

Forget the law of natural selection. It doesn't apply here.

In fact, this is the only state where evolution actually moves backwards. As time goes on, generations become more and more stupid, primitive and simple-minded.

This is the only state where the constitution, a document meant to ensure the freedoms of all people, is used to oppress homosexual minority because 70 percent of its citizens don't want them here.

This is the only state where one lone African American holds office in the Legislature and he is expected by the rest of the state to simply sit there, swallow his pride and shut up. Any time he does anything else, it's reason for everyone to start talking about how he should be voted



READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Matt Wynn

out of office as soon as possible.

Nebraska... where weekend plans have to be arranged around college football games and the number of local advertisers for college bowl games actually exceeds the number of local advertisers clamoring for time during the Super Bowl.

This is the only state where any attempt to check the Legislature was pushed to the wayside in favor of a streamlined, stupid plan to make all decisions in one room by a nonpartisan, inhuman motley crew.

The Unicameral... a brilliant idea. The most bustling metropolis in this veritable no-mans land is Omaha, which, if you've looked around lately, is reason enough to nuke the whole state to make way for Colorado Lake.

I will never know how this part of

the country got into such a predicament. I refuse to believe the ratio of morons to rational people is something like 50 to 1. But, from the experiences I've had with people living here, it certainly seems that way.

I've spent 18 years living in this redneck haven, and there is no way I'm going to spend any more unless I absolutely have to.

For a long time, politicians and so-called "businessmen" from across the state have been trying to understand the tendency of students to leave the state for college, and then stay as far away from Nebraska as possible during their professional careers.

They've even named this mass exodus "the brain drain."

Companies devote tons of man-hours trying to understand the phenomenon and the University of Nebraska

spends millions of dollars trying to convince high school students that staying in state is the best thing to do.

But it's all useless.

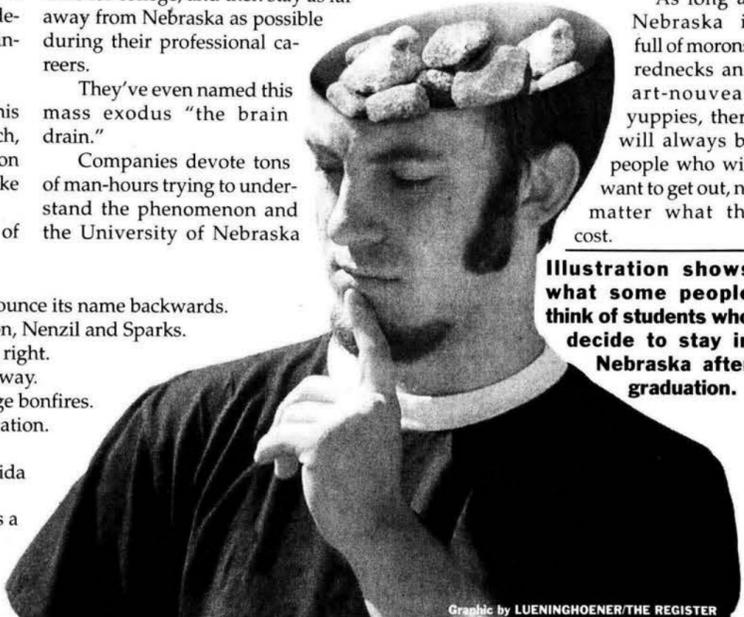
Sure, maybe some students who may have gone to UCLA or Washington University or some other specialized school will find that Nebraska offers just what they need.

They might just end up living rewarding lives in Nebraska.

But they'll probably do so as closed-minded bigots. That's just how Nebraska works.

As long as Nebraska is full of morons, rednecks and art-nouveau yuppies, there will always be people who will want to get out, no matter what the cost.

Illustration shows what some people think of students who decide to stay in Nebraska after graduation.



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Top ten reasons to leave Nebraska:

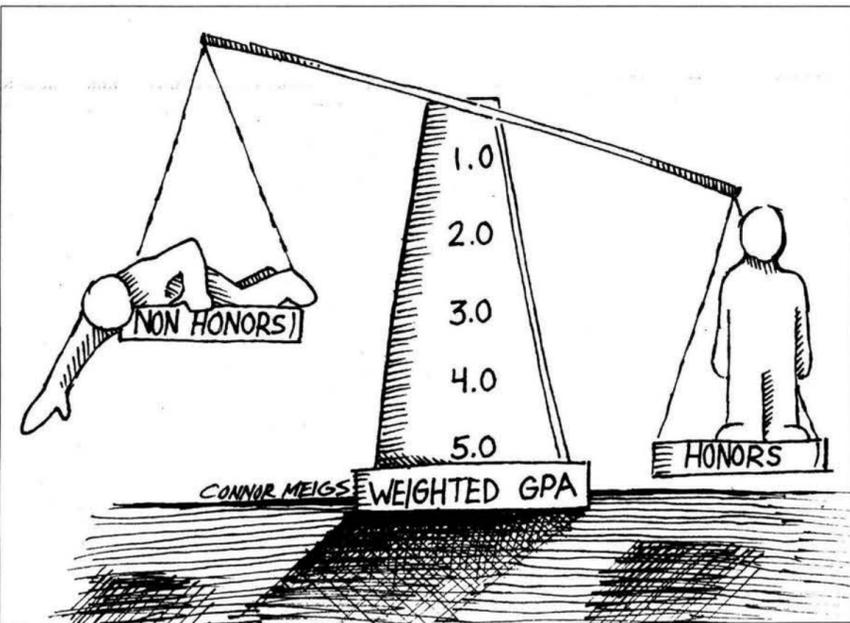
1. You're tired of living in the only state where people know how to pronounce its name backwards.
2. People in this state decide to give towns names like Wahoo, Funk, Colon, Nenzil and Sparks.
3. Even our Panhandle is weak. Oklahoma, now they're doing something right.
4. More prisoners left Death Row last year than visitors to Kearney's archway.
5. The Nebraska "nightlife": Sing-alongs, hay-rack rides and random, huge bonfires.
6. Even Bill Clinton didn't come her until the last 50 days of his administration.
7. Corn! Corn! Corn!
8. Every summer, Nebraska transforms into a Louisiana, Alabama or Florida colony, depending on what teams are in the College World Series.
9. Warren Buffet, the second richest man in the country, lives here and has a Buick.
10. Cornhusker I-backs aren't truly great unless they are charged with at least one assault while on the team.

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES AND CARTOONS

Drawn & Quartered

Ever since the district recommended that Central eliminate its weighted GPA system, parents, teachers and students have debated the issue thoroughly. The weighted GPA system, while having good intentions, benefits only some honors students and hurts the rest. It should be abandoned in order to create a level playing field for all students next year.

By Connor Meigs



School needs adaptions for some

I am 4 foot 4 inches and not growing anymore.

I have always been the shortest person in my class and I'm pretty sure I am the shortest person at Central.

Anyway, my point is that I think different things should be adjusted to my height and other people's height.

I do not think that anybody should have difficulties doing things, no matter if they are short or tall.

What I am basically talking about are cabinets, counters and etc.

I have walked around the school and found that I have had troubles reaching things because of my height.

I know that I've always had trouble getting things from high places for 15 years, but I think it would be a good idea to make the cabinets easier to reach.

I wrote this letter because I think that I can at least try to get someone to fix what I see as a major problem.

I know that, throughout the renovation of the school, they are probably just going to give the school air conditioning and put portables on the football field, but I just want to ask if they can do one teeny-tiny, itsy-bitsy, little thing.

I do not really know a lot about the renovation, but I just want them to either build cabinets good for vertically-challenged people or provide stepping stools for people who can't reach.

Maybe they can think of a way to make them better for people who are in wheelchairs to reach as well.

I just think that they should make the

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, length and accuracy.

cabinets accessible for any student to reach.

Angela Friedman, 9

Column about pledge misjudges

My letter is in response to the column titled, "Ignorance rules homerooms."

How dare you try to understand something you know nothing about.

Some people do sit down during the "Pledge" simply because they are just wanting attention, but the majority are doing it for a reason.

When have we ever actually listened to the words of the "Pledge of Allegiance"?

Well I, for one, do. First, I don't believe in God and that this country was founded for him.

Second, I don't believe there is justice for all in this country. So until you know what goes through the minds of

students, don't write about them.

Steve Salavec, 10

ROTC teaches discipline, skills

I am sick and tired of people saying that ROTC teaches kids how to kill people.

If anything, reading "A Tale of Two Cities" teaches you how to kill people. Yes, I am one of those ROTC cadets who took ROTC just to get out of the PE credit.

ROTC teaches you things that you things would use later in life like First Aid and map reading.

Sure we get to shoot rifles, but that does not mean we are learning to kill people.

So just leave the "Pickles" and "Green Beans" alone.

Adam Mohlberg, 10

Gym credits useless, waste time

I do not understand why we must complete two years of gym for graduation. Quite frankly, the concept escapes me.

What does the school board expect to get out of forcing high school students to take gym?

I can see maybe one year, but why two? It takes away from another elective students could take that would help them later in life.

How will gym for two years in high school help me later in life?

Abby Franklin, 10

the REGISTER

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its 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.

The Register has also won three consecutive Best-of-Show competitions at JEA/NSPA's national journalism conventions in the past two years.

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.

The Register (USPS 097-520) is published monthly during the school year from Central High School, 124 N. 20 St., Omaha, NE, 68102.

Periodicals postage paid at Omaha, NE. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Register, 124 N. 20 St., Omaha, NE, 68102.

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REGISTER YOUR OPINION

With a federal court scheduled to hear a case about drug testing in high schools, do you think administrators should be able to give drug tests to students involved in extracurricular activities?



"This isn't the school's job. It's the parents' job to watch out for their kids."

Charlotte Kepler, 9



"Drug testing is a violation of our rights."

Buddy Lewis, 10



"If students are academically able to do an extracurricular (activity) then the school shouldn't be worrying about students doing drugs."

Shaleene Matthae, 10



"It (drug testing) invades people's privacy. It makes them feel like criminals. The school would be sending a message that it doesn't trust its students."

Brandy Sherrod, 11



"The school needs to spend money on other things, like air conditioning."

Kaitlin Peterson, 9



"Drug tests aren't always accurate."

Becky Sullivan, 9



"It is up to the kids if they want to mess with their lives."

Tamar Williams, 11



DIMESTORE HOOD
 Chris Aponick

Racial tension still exists in jobs, schools

"Pure 1950s, pure Alabama." It's Omaha's new slogan. It shows the true spirit of the city and the people that make the decisions in it.

The slogan will let the rest of the nation know that the entire city has learned very little about tolerance throughout the years.

At times it seems so bad that the city appears to be in a time warp.

For some reason, Omaha still has ugly incidents that create the illusion that Jim Crow laws still exist and that George Wallace is still a prominent politician.

Omaha has been divided by race for decades and recent events only highlight how entrenched these divisions are.

Affirmative action, a program that has been around for almost 30 years, is being stripped away from the Omaha police and fire departments.

Sadly, Omaha does not value laws that ensure firefighters and police officers will work side by side with people of all races.

People complain about affirmative action because "more qualified white people" get passed over for jobs in order to reach racial equality.

Affirmative action is in place to help minorities catch up to white Americans. It took many years and the deaths of many great people to establish affirmative action and to overturn centuries of slavery and racist laws.

It recognized the extraordinary struggle many minorities have to go through to succeed.

Minorities are more likely to live in poor conditions. Absent fathers, teen parents and substandard housing are widespread problems. Peer pressure, family distractions and other forms of racism make succeeding in high school and college difficult.

Of course, a few qualified candidates may get passed over for jobs because of affirmative action, but only to correct past wrongs and to promote true equality.

Eventually it may be safe to ease up on affirmative action, but not now. Affirmative action cannot end until families and schools are equal no matter what their race and racism is a word without true meaning.

Some of the major difficulties facing minorities arise in the area of education. From colleges that favor admitting children of alumni to states that do not adequately fund their local school districts, most of these barriers are man-made.

Back in the sixties, one of the biggest roadblocks in education was segregated schools. Whether by choice or by the natural make-up of a city, schools were separated by race.

But then parents and students started suing school districts and courts started requiring forced integration in many districts.

Such was the case in Omaha when Omaha Public Schools (OPS) was sued. Now, 30 years later, much is the same. In 1998, OPS joined a list of districts that went back to a neighborhood schools program.

Just like before, OPS is divided. Inner-city schools like Howard Kennedy once again have large minority populations while schools like Boyd in West Omaha are predominantly white.

Although this segregation may be caused by the parents' will, the consequences are the same.

Schools are segregated and that's that. There's no excuse.

OPS and the city of Omaha have taken a huge step back.

The city expects minorities to continue to jump over the same racist barriers that they had 30 years ago.

What a shame.

Taking it too far

An Oklahoma school district's policy of drug testing students involved in after-school activities is an attempt to gain total control and should be changed through the courts

Welcome to the school of the future, where there are no secrets.

Your teachers, your administrators and even your principal know everything about you, and if they don't already, they can find out at the touch of a button.

They know everything about every activity you do, whether it is in school or not.

Your Social Security number, birthday, height, weight, eye color, what you were doing at 5 p.m. last Thursday and who you were doing it with are all there, on record, available for anyone with access to see.

It would be like something out of "1984," George Orwell's frightening novel about a society where no one is safe from governmental surveillance.

If school officials in the Tecumseh School District in Oklahoma have their way, this might be how schools will run in the future.

Recently, the district started a policy that required all students who wanted to be involved in after-school activities to submit to a drug test and test negative.

After all, the schools are only responsible for making sure each student receives a free education. After-school activities are extra.

And no respectable place of education wants a "druggie" representing the school.

So in their minds it is reasonable for districts to require students in extracurricular activities to submit a urine sample.

But some of those teams — academic team, marching band and choir — are linked to the academic curriculum, and a refusal to take the drug test means no credit for the course and no admission to other activities.

That means that students who refuse to take the test, for whom these classes make up a substantial part of the school day, will be shut out of the courses — courses that they would put on scholarship applications and resumes.

What's worse, some of these classes fulfill a fine arts credit—a credit necessary for any student to graduate. The only other options for the credit are ceramics classes or "music appreciation."

And if a student isn't interested in those, what then?

It seems to be part of slippery slope, with schools having complete knowledge and control over students as the final destination.

First, schools wanted urine tests done on student athletes. Then it was all students in extracurricular activities.

Now, the description of "extracurricular" has

been further bastardized to encompass students singing in choir and performing in quiz bowls.

Will it ever end?

The district's policy is sorely ill-informed. Studies in the past have shown that students who engage in extracurricular activities are less likely to do drugs than students who are not.

Central knows of this relationship, and has tried to capitalize on it by offering many diverse opportunities after school.

All students are strongly encouraged to get involved, and most students do, in one way or another.

But apparently, school officials are not so wise in Tecumseh.

Instead of recruiting students for extracurricular activities, the district is, perhaps unknowingly, turning them away with this archaic and simple-minded policy.

Instead of treating all students like potential criminals, the school should be encouraging them to get involved and make sure they are doing something positive under adult supervision.

But none of that is happening in Oklahoma.

Luckily, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) stepped in on behalf of two students in the district and filed a federal lawsuit against it.

Luckily, there is some precedence to the case.

In Colorado, a judge ruled that drug testing students involved in extracurricular activities was unconstitutional.

But that case did not get appealed to federal court, so the ACLU's case over the Tecumseh situation will be important.

Hopefully, the court will find that this method of weeding out "druggies" is unconstitutional.

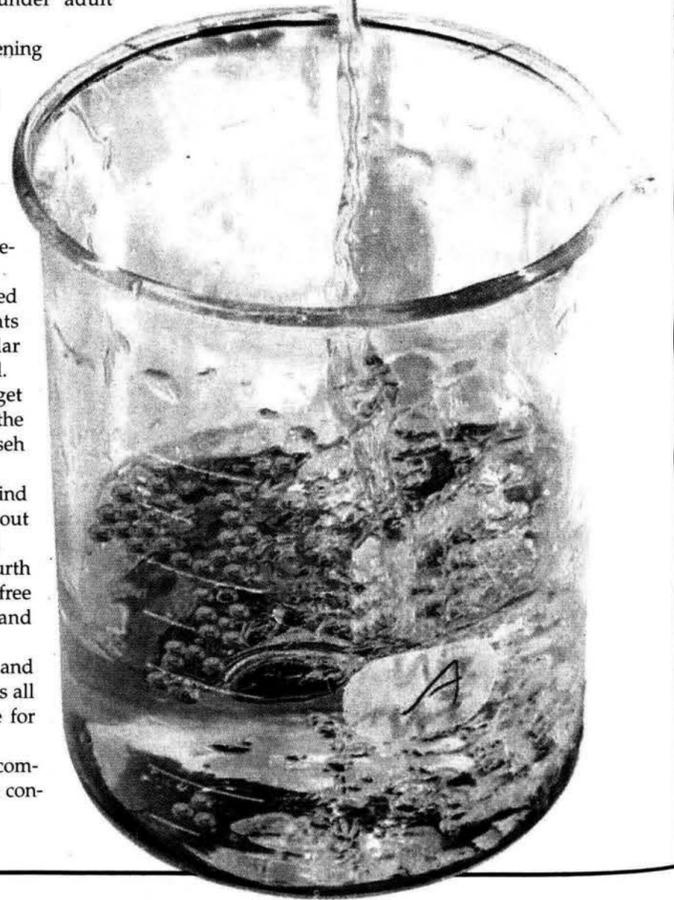
It clearly violates the Fourth Amendment, the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizures.

But if that is not the case, and the judges decide that policy is all right, then it may be too late for future generations.

Privacy will have been compromised for a greater goal: control.

EDITORIAL
 The opinion of the Register

Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER



Art class attracts out-of-touch women, yuppie wannabes

I walk into a mass of sagging skin stretched and covered by leotards, overalls, berets and denim jackets with rolled up sleeves.

Members of the class sit in a sponge-like stupor hoping to absorb some nugget of information.

Welcome to the world of the private art class.

Old women gather with their whipped husbands around the instructor in a huddle of adoration and envy of a nationally-renowned artist.

Each individual has an array of high-quality paint tubes and canvas ordered from New York. Hues with long foreign-sounding names practically overflow from carrying cases filled to the brim with every art utensil purchasable.



EXTRANEIOUS PHRASES
 Doug Meigs

nique that she must have connected to Jackson Pollock's highly-layered style and the recent motion picture that illustrated his life. Unfortunately, in her effort to impress her classmates, she named the wrong Ed (Ed Harris starred as Pollock in "Pollock," not Ed Norton).

After he finishes the demonstration, everyone begins to work on his or her own artwork. Self-absorbed orbs scan across the room, permeating the vicinity with a pretentious menopausal vibe.

Every so often they make congratulatory comments in feigned attempts to

receive returned praise, a cycle of comparison without actually comparing.

They seem to be looking to recapture something through their muddled canvases. Working off photographs of since-grown children, they exchange stories from the past.

Maybe if they can just capture the essence of that happy time in their lives, some of it will return.

Maybe they could even become a "real artist" after spending countless dollars on art supplies, buying the correct art clothing, even taking a class under a prominent artist. Maybe then some closure could be found.

Closure to what? Who knows? At least something to replace the forced cackle that rings out after any attempt at humor.

Whatever the reason, it seems to have motivated the class enough to expend so much energy "broadening"

themselves.

"Titian actually used a red underpainting," one woman says. Her neighbor smiles and nods with false understanding as she returns to painting upside down, a technique recommended to her at a previous class.

I scoff at their unoriginal approaches. However, after analyzing my classmates, I wonder what I am doing in the class.

Evidently, I am there to improve my painting ability. I am doing so by taking instruction under the guidance of a famous artist, just like everybody else.

The class safe-houses seemingly empty adults that surround me. They are old and not very skilled. But that's what the class should be helping. Entrenched in their expensive art persona, they are missing the point.

Reserved behind my own arrogance, maybe I am too.



Track star sets multiple records in breakout year

By Troy Schulte

Throughout his junior season, E.J. Falkner has had only one goal. "Every time I step on the track I want to break at least one record," he said.

And he has come close to meeting that goal.

In one of the first meets of the season, he set South Invite records in the 200 and 400-meter dashes as well as taking a hand in the record-breaking 400-meter relay team. He was also a part of the 800-meter relay team that broke the Kansas Invite record last month.

But the one record that sticks out in head coach Jeff McCune's mind was the one he set last month at the Dick Jones Invite.

"Definitely the school record," McCune said. "Some of Central's records are some of the best marks the state has ever had."

In that meet Falkner ran a 48.4 second 400-meter dash, breaking Michael Carter's record of 48.97 seconds set in '83.

Falkner's performance so far this season is no surprise to either him or McCune.

"We knew what E.J. was going to be coming in," McCune said.

Falkner and a few of his teammates worked hard over the summer and he also competed in an indoor event over the winter to get ready for his breakout season.

He said he hopes the season doesn't end on a sour note like last year.

As a sophomore, Falkner tore up the district track meet, taking first in the 200 and second behind teammate Reggie Terry in the 400, as well as winning the 1600-meter relay.

But at the state meet his inexperience caught up to him and, despite being a part of the gold medal winning relay team, he finished a disappointing sixth in his two best events.

The memory of those two sixth place finishes has driven him all season. Nobody expected him to jump into his first state meet and take gold in three different events, but that was his goal.

"It (the two sixth place finishes) was definitely a bigger deal to E.J. than it was to me and the rest of the team," McCune said.

Now that he's been there before and he knows what to expect at the state meet, he should have a much better showing.

McCune said the experience Falkner gained as a sophomore should pay huge dividends in the future.

"It won't be as much of a shock this time," Falkner said. "I know what it's like running in front of hundreds of people."

McCune said he thinks Falkner still has many things he can accomplish.

"He can definitely break the state record (in the 400)," he said.

Falkner's 48.4, the fastest 400 time of anybody in Class A this year, is just 15 seconds off of the state record of 1:03.25, set by P.J. Grosserode of Lincoln High in 1997.

He is also within reach of the school record for the 200-meter dash.

His 21.9 is just one second off of Perry Williams' 1962 mark.

One thing that has helped Falkner and has kept him on track to break those records is the abundance of talent surrounding him. Traditionally, Central has always had many star athletes in every sport.

"A lot of it (his success) has to do with the other guys," McCune said. "Our next five guys are probably the next five best in the state."

And if Falkner manages to lower his times enough to break those records, and either this year or next year he manages to win those three gold medals, McCune said he could be remembered as one of the best sprinters to come through Central.

"I think he could be," McCune said. "Even right now I think he's right with all the great sprinters."



Falkner

HOLD ON Thinking

Team's youth softens blow of early season batting woes

By Chris Aponick

Lackluster hitting has hampered the baseball team, head coach Scott Hodges said.

Despite having four players batting over .300, the team's overall batting average is sitting at just .264.

This team average is less than Hodges could have hoped for, especially after several current players contributed to one of Central's more successful summer seasons in recent years. However, Hodges said his team's inexperience has held back its offense. He said the whole year has been a learning experience and that the team has played well on several occasions, but the offense has done little to back up the defense when it has played poorly.

"The team is so young that sometimes we forget what we are trying to do," Hodges said.

While the team has had a hard time finding its offensive strength, sophomore John Friend said the team does have the ability to play very well. His average of .357 is second on the team.

He said they have not had consistent success because the pitching, hitting and fielding have all had troubles this year.

"We haven't put it together this season, but at times we have played with all three," he said.

Basically, the team has not capitalized on the skills they do have, he said.

Sophomore Brett Gilchrist said the team's play has allowed several pitchers to take advantage of playing Central. The team needs to limit

the number of strikeouts it gives up.

"We have faced a couple of pitchers who didn't have the ability to do what they did to us," he said.

Overall, Gilchrist said the team is not putting the ball in play enough, has trouble hitting outside pitches and does not connect often enough when there are runners on base.

Hodges said he recognizes the offensive potential of the team, so he is trying to spend more time at practice on hitting. For now he is trying to find out how the team will look in the future. He said developing a basic game plan for the team will help improve on this season's nine wins.

"There are some tendencies we are trying to instill," he said.

Hodges said he is trying to make adjustments to be successful. In the next couple of years, the team's youth will pay off. This year's team starts four sophomores and five juniors who have set playing times. The junior varsity team also has some outstanding players.

Friend said this is one of the most talented teams at Central, ever. The summer season will be one of the first looks at how the team will grow.

Hodges said the future looks good.

Once the team starts winning, he said he hopes it will be easier to stay on track.

Shaky record because of pitching, fielding inconsistencies, coach says

By Chris Aponick

Baseball coach Scott Hodges expected his team to be led by experienced pitching and its defense this season.

But plans quickly changed when holes developed in the pitching and fielding staffs relatively early in the season.

After starting 4-3, the team dropped the next seven of eight games. It slumped offensively, being outscored by 40 runs.

"Going into the year I thought they would carry us, but both have kind have faltered," he said.

Despite the team's struggles, Central has still managed to double its win total from last spring.

Hodges said the majority of the team's losses are because of mental mistakes.

He said at times the team has played shaky defense. Over one tournament, the team had 16 errors. But the team's natural ability pulled the team through the tournament, allowing them to go 2-3.

"We have to mix our desire and our athleticism," he said.

Sophomore Brett Gilchrist said the physical errors are something the team will just have to deal with.

The pitching has also had troubles with injuries and organization, Gilchrist said. Players like sophomore John Friend have been injured for most of the season.

He said the team needs to build some cohesiveness. In the past it has had trouble with some players and in the middle of the last summer season it even lost players. If the team can start winning more, Hodges said some of these attitude problems will go away.

"Winning has a way of mending egos," he said.

The team is planning on building on its success next year.

At the center of the success will be the five sophomores and one freshman that get varsity playing time this year.

Hodges said he is developing some younger kids that can pitch and he is trying to get the team more aggressive.

One of the first of the young players to break through on varsity was Gilchrist. He recorded his varsity win in the middle of April, despite being slowed by stress fracture in his vertebrae. Hodges said Gilchrist could help lead the pitching staff down the road to more wins.



.262

Team batting average

.125

Lowest individual batting average held by Matt Venditte*

.356

Highest individual batting average held by Chris Hallgren*

253

Total runs scored against the Eagles

142

Total runs scored by the Eagles

*For players with more than 12 at bats

information as of May 5

Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Football camps: Scrambling the



College-hosted training programs have become a major way to gain recruits, but the NCAA is just beginning to take notice

By Chris Aponick

One of the most important dates on Nebraska's recruiting calendar is not the first day senior recruits can come visit or when they can sign a letter of intent.

It's much earlier. During the summer, the university will host hundreds of athletes at its football camp. It is a chance for recruits to test themselves, to meet coaches and to visit the campuses of colleges they are considering. And Nebraska is not the only football program hosting these camps. They are all over the country and they are changing the way high

school players plan for college.

Sophomore Brandon Gunn knows he has to go to the camps in order to get noticed by some of the universities.

There are few opportunities for coaches to see a player up close, so camps are a chance for players to show their ability. He is planning to go to Nebraska's camp and maybe down to Oklahoma's.

"You have to go to as many as you can," he said.

Camps offer the chance for lesser-known players to get noticed by coaches and for any player to work on getting

a scholarship.

He said the camps are important because they are replacing the what used to take place at high school games.

"It is a huge advantage to a school to have a camp," he said.

Paul Pennington, Central's athletic director, said one of the main ways they look at the players at camps is to spend a day or so testing the players in the 40-yard dash, vertical leap and other areas.

Gunn said he does not mind being tested because he has done tests like the 40 before. They are looking for speed. Still, he said the camp is still about having fun and learning new skills.

Sophomore Courtney Grixby said the opportunity to compete against other recruits is another reason to attend the camps.

"You can go and see how you stack up," he said.

Nebraska's director of football operations, Pat Logsdon said the university is well aware of the recruiting draw that comes from these camps.

Every year it seems six to ten of the players who sign with the Huskers have attended a football camp in Lincoln before.

"We certainly find camps very valuable to us," she said.

At Colorado State, officials are not afraid to emphasize the effect the player-coach interaction has on recruiting, CSU multimedia coordinator John Kietzman said. There, testing is used as a tool to classify the players, even if everyone still works together during

See CAMPS, page 14

The Spring Unraveling



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Title hopes become slim during the spring sports season

This year has been an exceptional year for Central High athletics. The football team returned to the playoffs and the volleyball team made its first back-to-back trips to state in school history.

Then, the boys basketball team had possibly the best season since its back-to-back state championships in 1974-1975 and the girls team made the state semifinals. So far this year each season has had two teams with legitimate shots at winning a state championship.

But it doesn't look like that's going to continue with the spring sports.

Though the baseball team has enjoyed its best season under head coach Scott Hodges (its nine wins are three times as many as a year ago), it is still a long way from even contending for a state tournament spot.

Not to mention that to even get there it will have to beat either Creighton Prep (who is rated No. 1 in the state), or Millard West (who is rated No. 4 in the state), or maybe even both, so count that team out.

The boys golf team will most likely

send at least two golfers to compete individually, but aren't deep enough to send the entire team.

The girls tennis team is 3-3 on the season, but has padded its records against weak OPS teams. It won't be able to compete with the likes of Millard North or Burke, so forget about that team as well.

After starting off the season with six losses in its first seven games, the girls soccer team faced an uphill battle if it wanted to reach the postseason.

It did win three of its last six, where it beat South and Bellevue East twice.

However, those aren't exactly wins that intimidate other teams. To give them some credit, every team it has lost to, with the exception of Papillion/La Vista, are currently rated.

But if you can't beat quality teams in the regular season, chances are you won't be able to beat them come district tournament time.

The boys soccer season started off a lot like the girls. It got off to a horrific 1-8

start, but rebounded to win its next three. Then it lost to Burke (who was rated No. 4 at the time) in a shootout and then 3-0 to Bellevue East.

The team started playing better as the season went on, but like the baseball team, it will have to get past Prep and Millard West in its district tournament—count them out as well.

Much like the golf team, the girls track team will send plenty of individual talent, but most likely will not send the whole team.

The only team that is a lock to get to state is the boys track team. Behind junior E.J. Falkner's record-breaking season, the boys track team looks to be one of the toughest in the state.

How come every year the spring sports teams flop?

Maybe it's because Central just doesn't have the talent to compete with the private schools or the teams out west, or maybe they just got unlucky and drew tough schedules.

At least it can be said that despite the not-so-spectacular 2002 showing, it was much improved from 2001, so at least they are improving.



CHARGING THE MOUND

Troy Schulte

Sophomore transfer provides punch, swing to golf team

By Troy Schulte

Golf coach Jim Galus knew what he was getting when he first found out about a Roncalli golfer who wanted to transfer to Central.

He was getting sophomore John Pryor, who has turned out to be an important cog for the Central team. Before his arrival at Central, Galus had seen him play in tournaments and knew he had the talent to be a competitive golfer at a Class A school.

"John wants to become a pro," Galus said. "And he said he thought he'd have a better chance of doing so if he came to Central."

And it didn't take long for Pryor to prove Galus right. At the Central Invite on April 2, which was Pryor's first tournament as an Eagle, he narrowly beat teammate Steve Hogan by two strokes. That win came as a sur-

prise to everyone.

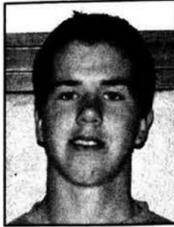
"I thought maybe he'd place in the top five," Galus said. "I certainly didn't expect him to win it."

Pryor hasn't won a tournament since then, but he isn't worried. The only tournament he wants to win is the district tournament. A good showing could land him a spot in the state tournament.

"He takes the game very serious," Galus said. "He's one of the many guys on the team where golf consumes them."

Pryor learned the game from his uncle, Dan Pryor, who is a head pro at a country club in Stillwater, Okla., and he wants to follow in his uncle's footsteps.

"My goal is to be like my uncle," he said. "I'm going to go to Arizona State and then be a head pro."



Pryor

■ CAMPS

NCAA tightens rules for college camps

From CAMPS, page 13

ing the week. No universities limit camps to top players, but the chance for talented athletes to shine is part of the experience.

The Colorado State camp brochure even offers high school players, "the chance to show your skills to the Ram coaches, as well as many other college coaches from all levels."

Kietzman said the tests are a good way to evaluate players and that the NCAA has just taken notice of the recruiting uses of these camps.

The organization has decided to count attendance at an elite camp as an official recruiting visit. All camps are supposed to offer some educational component.

While the NCAA has not taken any action against the testing, Kietzman said they are looking into it. They cannot just focus on testing, they have to work on improving a player's skills during the camp.

"If anything the NCAA has clamped down," he said.

Still, Grixby said the testing the camps do is acceptable and the NCAA should not do anything to change it.

There are enough restrictions to not give any college an unfair advantage, Kietzman said.

He said there is no more potential for abuse at camps than anywhere else. Logsdon said monitoring is important to ensure the camp is doing the right thing.

Kietzman said the only problem is if coaches try to gain an advantage.

"People will bend the rules," he said. "Ultimately the coaches are responsible."

He said he believes that legislation has not caught up with what's going on and the reality is that these camps are good recruiting tools.

"It's hard for a university to have a football camp and not recruit them (the camp participants)," Gunn said.

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Girl power: Youth causes revival of women's teams

By Troy Schulte

When the volleyball season starts next fall, head coach Jodi Dierks will begin her fourth season as head coach, and in her first three seasons she has established herself as one of the most successful volleyball coaches Central has had.

The volleyball team's transformation into a state tournament qualifier is just one example of the rejuvenation of girls athletic program.

Prior to Dierks' arrival in 1999, the Central volleyball team had experienced just one winning season. Since then she has rattled off three straight winning seasons and two straight state tournament appearances.

"It (the program) has obviously come a long way," Dierks said.

In 2000 she led the team to its first ever state tournament appearance and followed that up with a return in 2001. The fact that it was wiped out of the tournament in the first round both years doesn't matter because the program has still made incredible strides.

"Two years ago it was a big step because it was our first time," she said. "Then last year we were expecting to go farther so that was disappointing."

The girls basketball team draws many comparisons to the volleyball team. It too had little success through the 1990s until a new coach arrived. In 1998, head coach Michelle Roberts took over the girls basketball program and, like Dierks, it has not taken her long to turn the program around.

"We knew it wasn't going to happen overnight," Roberts said.

She said when she first got the job the coaches made a plan to combine existing talent with incoming freshman.

"We knew we had to work with what we had, but at the same time we wanted to look at some of the middle school tal-

ent and get them in here," Roberts said.

And it didn't take long to get quality middle school talent coming to Central.

In Roberts' third season, three talented freshmen (KeOnna Williams, Katrina Washington and Crystal Howard) anchored a team that reached the state tournament for the first time since 1987.

"That was pretty good for how young they were," Roberts said. "Their goal was to win state, they didn't reach it and that will be their goal next year."

Not only has the girls volleyball and basketball teams improved over the last few years, but the girls track team sent seven athletes to the state track team last season, four of which were freshman a year ago, and that number looks to rise again this year.

Roberts said that most of the credit has to go to the players. But new coaches in the volleyball and basketball programs, as well with the softball and track and field teams has had a lot to do with the turnaround.

"Anytime you get new blood into a program there's going to be new ideas and change," Roberts said.

Another aspect of the turnaround is the fact that many female athletes have started to focus their talents on more than one sport.

Though her basketball team has quite possibly some of the best young talent of any team in the school, Roberts said there's a bright future ahead for all female sports.

"The key is that a lot of them are not just one-sport athletes anymore. They'll play basketball and soccer or play basketball and run track," she said. "They are learning how to win with one sport and taking what they've learned over to another. The overall goal is to help Central girls athletics."

Outlook 2002



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Replacing All-State players could be complicated next year

By Troy Schulte

If the football team plans on making its seventh straight trip to the state playoffs next fall, head coach Joe McMenemy will first have to address two huge question marks.

First, can junior-to-be Brandon Gunn make the transition from fullback to I-back and take over for two-time All-State selection David Horne? And second, can Cortney Grixby take over the quarterback duties and build on the breakout season he enjoyed a year ago?

McMenemy said these two questions will not be answered by the first game of the season, but hopes after the young athletes play a couple of games, they'll gain some confidence in their new roles.

"We're going to have a lot of holes to fill, but I hope after a few games they'll be on track to make the playoffs," McMenemy said.

As a sophomore, Gunn could have

started for any other team in the state, but since Horne was in front of him, McMenemy moved him to fullback.

"With David there he didn't get a lot of playing time," McMenemy said. "Playing fullback for a year really toughened him up."

He made the most of the opportunity by becoming the team's second leading rusher. Next season though, McMenemy said he would get his shot at I-back. But he knows that considering he's following a player like Horne, he'll have some big shoes to fill.

"You're going to feel pressure no matter who you follow," Gunn said. "This is I-back High."

One thing that will drive the 2002 football team, Gunn said, is the disappointment in 2001. After a rough 1-4 start, the team rebounded to win its next three and land a spot in the playoff, but lost the first-round game to Westside 20-19.

He said he doesn't want next season to end up like last, having lots of talent, but not doing anything with it.

The other question mark is Grixby. His talent certainly isn't a concern to McMenemy, but more his lack of experience.

Last season he split time with then senior Nate Butler and missed some time because of an injury, but he gradually moved into the starting role.

The bottom line is that Central lost a lot of talent on offense and its season will depend on whether or not it can find worthy replacements.

The first game of the season is still more than three months away, but Gunn already has an idea of who has the potential to become play makers on offense.

"There are a lot of guys who are going to step up," he said. "Cortney will do his thing and I'll try to step it up. I see us going far."

SCORECARD

REGISTER PICKS

The sports staff calls 'em like they see 'em

	NHL Champion	State track gold medals	NBA Champion	Best title hope next year
Chris Aponick Sports Editor	Toronto Maple Leafs	Five	Los Angeles Lakers	Girls basketball
Quentin Lueninghoener Executive Editor	Colorado Avalanche	Three	Philadelphia '76ers	Boys basketball
Troy Schulte Assistant Sports Editor	Detroit Red Wings	Six	Sacramento Kings	Football

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A Whole New Gridiron



Popular around the world, rugby has the reputation of being a rough sport. For the last edition of Schulte at Large, members of the Griffin United rugby team allowed him to practice with them for a couple of days. After one practice of scrimmaging and another of getting his head kicked in, Schulte discovered that although tiring, he could make it as a rugby player. Then again, maybe not.



TOP: During a drill Schulte tries to get by Central junior Scott Graser. ABOVE: Schulte grimaces after being knocked down by another player while in "The Gauntlet." RIGHT: Schulte braces for a collision with Central junior Chris Tubrick.

All photos EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Rugby shouldn't be considered a sport. It should be in a class all by itself.

Everyone has seen Rugby games played on cable and the common stereotype is that it's a sport played by a bunch of European ogres. Well, that's partly true. But in the last few years Central has started to get its very own ogres.

After a couple months of nagging from a few Central students on the Griffin United rugby team (a team made up of Central and Creighton Prep students), I decided to spend a couple practices with them.

As I arrived to practice that first day I was greeted with a welcoming "who the f--- are you?" from one of the players. "I'm Troy," was all I said and I jumped on the field trying to look like I knew what I was doing, but the head coach, Ken Warshaw, told me that if I had never played the sport before to just sit back and watch. Within seconds after the scrimmage started I heard a, "Get on the line you sons a b---," come out of another player's mouth.

I was a little disappointed when I didn't see any teeth flying, eye gouging, or even any tackling. I thought this was supposed to be a rough sport. But I guess just because they played three games in one day only three days before, they were playing a little "touch rugby," the pansies. After awhile I started to figure out the game. The idea is to run with the ball, and if you get tackled (or touched in this

case), tap the ball with your foot and toss it to a teammate behind you. It looked easy enough, you just run, tap, toss.

When I thought I had it down, I jumped in. To start off with, I didn't really do much. It seemed nobody on my team wanted to give the new guy the ball, afraid that I would screw up. It turned out they were right. As soon as I was open and slowed behind Warshaw enough for him to toss it to me I caught it, got touched, tapped it with my foot and tossed it back to another player—or that's what I intended. It soared roughly four feet over his head and landed in no-man's land.

"We should get a journalism geek handicap," the angry player said. At first I was offended, but then I thought he was right, we did deserve a handicap, I was pretty bad.

That's all we did during practice and I actually enjoyed myself. Rugby is a pretty fun sport, or that's what I thought after just one practice in which we didn't even hit each other. I knew that the next practice I was in for a beating. After the first practice, Warshaw gave the team a pep talk and went on about how he was disappointed with the team's intensity and desire.

"We better come back Tuesday ready to go," he said. "I want you to be ready to hit."

That comment made me a little nervous, but excited at the same time. I was

going to experience what rugby was really like, but that could very well be a painful thing.

I came back for the next practice prepared to get whipped. We weren't going to scrimmage at all, but do a bunch of rugby drills, which when he described them to us sounded a lot like the drills I used to do in my old football days.

In one drill, four guys lined up and ran down the field and tossed a ball back and forth. If you drop it, you have to do pushups at the other end. I figured since I wasn't even on the team I didn't need to discipline myself with pushups, so I skipped out on those.

The next drill we got to hit each other. This drill also reminded me of when I used to play football. Two guys would lie on their backs, heads pointing towards each other. Then Warshaw tosses one of the guys the ball, he jumps up, the guy with the ball tries to plow through the other player and the other player tries to cream the guy with the ball.

My first few turns Warshaw tossed the ball to the other player and, to my credit I didn't get knocked over, but that's only because I was too slow getting up and by the time I was ready to hit somebody, they were already by me.

"Schulte, you suck." I'm not sure who said it, but I knew I couldn't come back with anything clever because, let's face it, I did suck.

One time I jumped up ready to hit

Central foreign exchange student Tomas L'huissier. I put my head down, which was my first mistake, and collided head-on with L'huissier's head.

"Troy, don't lead with your head, we don't wear helmets in this sport," the coach said.

I walked back to the line a little crooked and a little dizzy after that.

The last drill of practice was called, "The Gauntlet." The name itself is intimidating. This drill is sort of like a mini-scrimmage.

Five guys on defense, five on offense and I experienced both sides. I think of myself as more of a defense type-of-guy. It's a lot simpler.

On offense you have to be organized and know what is going on in order to score. On defense all you have to do is cream the guy with the ball.

The gauntlet was probably the most enjoyable drill of all.

While I was getting hit or hitting someone else I was getting stepped on punched and even kicked in the head. It allowed me for awhile to feel like an actual rugby player.

After practice some of the players on the team came up to me asked if I liked it and if I was going to come back. I just told them it was a one-time deal. I suppose it's better this way.

Now I can say that I survived rugby practice.

I can now call myself an ogre.

Baseball team schedules busy summer season

By Doug Meigs

After Central's three month spring season, the team will prepare for a more difficult stretch of games, coach Scott Hodges said.

The summer legion season will send the team to Illinois as it plays twice as many games over the summer than it did all spring. Central will play 58 games compared to 28 this spring. He said the team will play everyday and either practice or play in a tournament on the weekends. The team currently practices nearly everyday.

The team will also be able to compete against a greater number of teams. Nebraska has the third largest amount of legion teams in the nation. Schools or towns that do not have a baseball team have a legion team.

Currently, he said Central is attending a tournament in Rock Island, Ill. to compete against four Illinois teams, a Hastings tournament against some Kansas teams and is also in the process of arranging a tournament with an Arkansas team.

Hodges said the summer season's additional competition provides an excellent chance for players to hone their skills for the following season.

"The summer season builds skill and maturity," he said. "It lets you know who's dedicated to enhancing their skills and help the ball club to win."

Hodges said that baseball is truly a yearlong commitment. Even after the summer, conditioning continues in the fall with weight training and open gym that begins in November.

"It's like a full-time job," he said.

EAGLE REWIND

A look back at the past month in Central sports
All information as of May 1

Boys Golf	4/18 Varsity	LOSS	Millard South	
	4/23 Varsity	LOSS	Creighton Prep	
	4/25 Varsity	LOSS	Papillion	174-173
Baseball	4/18 Varsity	LOSS	Papillion	17-6
	4/19 Reserve	WIN	Millard North	9-2
	4/19 Varsity	LOSS	Hays, Kan.	14-3
	4/19 Varsity	WIN	Lincoln East	5-3
	4/20 Varsity	WIN	Lincoln Plus X	13-12
	4/22 Varsity	LOSS	Skutt	15-5
	4/23 JV	LOSS	Westside	11-0
	4/23 Reserve	LOSS	Millard West	12-11
	4/24 Varsity	LOSS	Northwest	9-0
	4/25 JV	LOSS	Northwest	11-0
	4/25 Reserve	WIN	South	10-7
	4/25 Varsity	WIN	Elkhorn	13-5
	4/30 Varsity	WIN	South	3-2
Girls Tennis	4/18 Varsity	LOSS	Millard North	9-0
	4/18 JV	LOSS	Millard North	9-0
	4/23 JV	LOSS	Bellevue West	8-1
	4/23 Varsity	LOSS	Bellevue West	8-1
	4/25 Varsity	LOSS	Burke	8-1
	4/25 JV	LOSS	Burke	7-2
	4/26 Varsity	LOSS	Millard South	8-1
	4/26 JV	LOSS	Millard South	9-0
	4/30 Varsity	WIN	North	8-1
Boys Soccer	4/22 Varsity	LOSS	Burke	4-3
	4/23 JV	TIE	Boystown	1-1
	4/26 Varsity	LOSS	Bellevue East	3-0
	4/30 Varsity	WIN	North	6-0
Girls Soccer	4/20 JV	LOSS	North	4-2
	4/20 Varsity	LOSS	Millard North	3-0
	4/22 Varsity	LOSS	Burke	6-0
	4/23 JV	LOSS	Boystown	2-1
	4/24 JV	LOSS	Millard South	11-0
	4/25 Varsity	WIN	Bellevue East	4-0

-compiled by Troy Schulte

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Phil Lesh & Friends "There And Back Again"

Pogues "Streams Of Whiskey"

Puffy Ami Yumi "An Illustrated History"

Something Corporate "Leaving Through The Window"

Specials "Specials"

Pete Townsend "Scooped"

22 Wilco "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot"

28 Ataris "Anywhere But Here"

May

14 Moby "18"

Van Morrison "Down the Road"

Weezer "Maladriot"

Cheap Trick "Greatest Hits"

Cranberries "Treasure Box Complete Sessions 1991"

Doves "There Goes The Fear"

Get Up Kids "On A Wire"

Iron Maiden "Rock At Rio"

Le Tigre "Remixes"

Sloan "It Feels Good Do It"

Jon Spencer Blues Explosion "She Said 2"

Destiny's Child "This Is The Remix"

Big Spoon "Paid My Dues"

Supervision "20/20"

21 3-2 Get Funky "Time Is Right"

Dayton Family "Dope House"

Flow Klick "Flow Klick"

Funkmaster Flex "60 Minutes Of Funk The Mixtape Vol V"

Biz Markie "Greatest Hits"

Marl Marley "Best Of Cold Chillin Volumes 1 & 2"

CONCERTS

May

11 Microphone Jones CD release show at the Junction

17 Cloaca, Analog, Suttercane and Paria at the Ranch Bowl

18 Shiner at Sokol Underground

23 John Vanderslice at the Junction

24 Gauge CD release show

26 Bright Eyes, May Day and the Good Life at Sokol Underground

27 Will Haven, Keepsake, Open Hand and System Failure at the Ranch Bowl

3 Okkervil River and the Movies at the Junction

4 Nux Vomica and Goblin Grenade at Ted and Wally's

4 Straphanger and

the Quiet Type at the Junction

16 INXS at the Anchor Inn

28 Jolie and the Wanted at Memorial Park

July

13 Kings X at the Ranch Bowl

14 The Eagles at the Civic Auditorium

August

14 BB King Music Festival featuring the Fabulous T-Birds and Thorogood at the Westfair Amphitheater

September

1 Joan Jett and the Blackhearts at the Anchor Inn

May

10 "Unfaithful"

"The New Guy"

17 "About a Boy"

"The Salton Sea"

"Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones"

24 "Enough"

"Insomnia"

"Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron"

31 "The Sum of All Fears"

"Undercover Brother"

June

7 "Slap Her, She's French"

"Bad Company"

"Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood"

"Like Mike"

14 "The Bourne Identity"

"Windtalkers"

"Scooby-Doo"

21 "Juwanna Mann"

"Lilo and Stitch"

"Minority Report"

28 "Hey Arnold! The Movie"

"Mr. Deeds"

July

3 "Men in Black II"

August

2 "XXX"

"Signs"

9 "Blood Work"

"Serving Sara"

"Simone"

21 "One Hour"

23 "Drumline"

"A Guy Thing"

"The

Power-

puff Girls"

12 "The Blue

Crush"

"The Crocodile

Hunter: Collision Course"

"Jackass: The Movie"

19 "Eight Legged Freaks"

"Halloween: Resurrection"

"Stuart Little 2"

26 "Austin Powers in Goldmember"

"The Country Road"



This graphic conveys the frustration many students are feeling at the end of the year. Most teens are anxiously awaiting a long, relaxing summer filled with music, movies and good times.

Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER



THE ONLY TIME

Layne Gabriel

Road trip leads to out-of-town hell on wheels

Pretty soon I'll be heading off on a trip to end all trips.

The infamous road trip.
I don't know who I'm going with.
I don't know where I'm going to go.
I don't care.
All I do know is that I'm getting the heck out of this piece.

I pitched this idea to my mother not too long ago. She didn't sound too thrilled when I first told her I was going south and then looping around the country.

I'd like to think I have this entire trip all planned out. I'd go to Abilene, Texas, for a friend's wedding, then wander around New Orleans and head up to New York and D.C.

After that, I'd go to Cleveland and check out the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for the eight millionth time and then enjoy a nice leisurely (boring) drive through North Dakota and Montana. Then I'd go to Seattle and check out Kurt Cobain's old house and go back to Frisco to try and find some guy I met once.

Granted, I'm pretty sure my folks wouldn't go for that.

You know what? Right now, I don't really care.

So I'm thinking to myself, "Exactly where should I go?" or, "What should and shouldn't I do while I'm gone?"

I don't have the destination planned out, but I've been researching a few interesting roadside attractions.

- Carhenge along Hwy. 87 near Alliance, Neb. There's something calming about looking at a lot of cars that could be a sundial back in the stone age. Ever seen "Omaha: The Movie?" 'Nuff said.

- The Lizzy Borden Bed and Breakfast in Fall River, Mass. I have to go there. How could I pass up the opportunity to celebrate one of the country's most famous ax murderers?

- The Museum of Questionable Medical Devices in Minneapolis. Maybe I can cure that chronic cold with a flash of light from the spectro-chrome. I don't think that invention lasted too long.

- The Buddy Jesus statue in Red Bank, N.J. I've always been a huge fan of Kevin Smith flicks, but seeing Buddy Christ full size has always been a dream of mine. I'll consider it a religious pilgrimage.

So now that I've got some ideas under my belt, the rest of the trip has to be decided.

I just had a thought... maybe I'll go to Canada.



Courtesy of INTERSCOPE RECORDS
Members of *And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead* are, from left to right: Jason Reece, Neil Busch, Kevin Allen and Conrad Keely.

Trail of Dead leaves quality album behind

By Layne Gabriel

And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead is like listening to the ocean. The music rises and falls wonderfully and creates a blissful mood.

Trail of Dead's new album, "Source Tags and Codes," is an absolutely beautiful collection of music. The album carries sounds similar to the Strokes with a bit more of a raw breakdown and a few different twists.

"Source Tags and Codes" is so wonderful because it is something completely different from the typical rock album. The music itself is put together smoothly and the entire album is appealing.

The album fades in with "It Was There That I Saw You," a song full of clean guitars and an excellent variety of vocals.

The first minute of the song swells to a loud and energetic beat, but then slows down to a rhythmic, soft interlude only to swell back up again.

It is full of the variety that any good band should have.

The music is full of good vibes and smile-inducing beats one moment, and the next mo-

ment it is slow and thought-provoking.

The pieces fit together perfectly, and it is obvious that the band put a lot of effort into "Source Tags and Codes."

The entire album ebbs and flows seamlessly and is a moving piece of music to listen to in general.

The lyrics are deep and creative, which is a lovely change from all of the pop that is flooding the music industry now.

The lyrics sound like they could have been written by a depressed teenager, but hold depth and meaning nevertheless.

"Monsoon" is filled with angst and bizarre metaphors. Although the lyrics are vague, the way the band builds the music behind them makes it become instantly more clear.

Vocalists Conrad Keely and Jason Reece pour out emotion with their smooth voices that throw in just a tinge of a sexy tone in particular songs.

The album is relaxing and the simple musical interludes create a tone that is difficult to achieve.

Trail of Dead has definitely been overlooked far too long.

ALBUM REVIEW

And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead - "Source Tags and Codes"
of 5

Band's music, images delight Pershing crowd

By Layne Gabriel

An image of a sun rose and fell on the screen at the back of the stage.

Incubus vocalist Brandon Boyd scampered on to Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium's stage and took his place toward the center of the gray carpeted platform.

The lights slowly rose up in a glowing turquoise and the audience shrieked. The music began and Boyd began dancing around the stage and working the crowd during the band's first song of the night, "Circles."

Incubus had captivated the crowd right from the beginning. The pits were swaying, bouncing and singing collectively and bodies rode their way up over the front barricades with the help of friendly hands.

The band led a high-energy show with Boyd thrashing and bouncing around and bassist Dirk Lance occasionally roaming the stage.

The crowd was full of hardcore fans and fans that just went because they heard songs on the radio. Either way, everyone was treated to one of the best concerts to roll through the area in a long time.

Incubus' DJ Kilmore carried

the band through a majority of the songs with his excellent scratching and mixing techniques that are unique to a band of its genre. Boyd seemed to thrive off of the audience's energy and he complimented the crowd many times, once even calling it "multi-organic."

The screen behind the band projected various images and during slower songs, focused on Boyd and guitarist Mike Einzinger.

The crowd was on its feet through the entire show, straining to catch a glimpse of Boyd cavorting around in his white dress shirt and tie that he shed after about an hour.

Boyd's sex appeal did not detract from the music and the way he moved created a comfortable vibe that everyone fed off of.

He crouched down near Einzinger during the acoustic songs, which provided a very intimate feeling to the show.

Boyd's emotional voice and gestures that were imposed on the screen made the slower songs a surreal experience. Incubus' lyrical talent was what really captivated the crowd. The lyrics are written poetically and are filled with hidden meaning and beautiful metaphors.

CONCERT REVIEW

Incubus at Pershing Auditorium with Hoobastank
April 25, 7:30 p.m.
of 5

The Rock stings box office

By Doug Meigs

"The Scorpion King" busts into the theaters with swords flashing and heads rolling.

Wrestling fans and bad script writers of the world rejoice because this movie is your god.

Take the combined 13 feet and 576 pounds of the Rock and Michael Clarke Duncan and sprinkle with a medieval mix of Gomorrah's harems and thieves. Bake for 88 minutes, and you have one box office hit missing one ingredient, a story.

The man who brought such turns of phrase as "Can you smell what the Rock is cooking?" is back in theaters with "The Scorpion King." After his appearance in the *Mummy II*, Dwayne Johnson (a.k.a. the Rock) has returned. He

is a man of little words and much destruction. Hardcore violence fans may be dismayed. Despite the film's constant fight scenes, there is an unrealistic lack of blood. Such an absence is particularly shocking when considering the movies fairly asinine plot line.

It has the bad guys. It has the good guys. It has a damsel in distress. Some of

the good guys die, but in the end they triumph.

The movie begins with a horde of barbarians back from their exploits.

Unfortunately for them, they captured Mathias' brother. The scene is the first of countless battles where he beats incredible odds.

Go see this when it comes to the dollar theater, but make sure you bring your sword.

MOVIE REVIEW

"The Scorpion King"
-Rated PG 13
of 5

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Directed: Chuck Russell

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Country album gives unique, classic sound

By Kaitlin Butz

Uncle Tupelo's "89/93: An Anthology" is the perfect beginner's primer to alt-country.

Many modern music historians credit Uncle Tupelo with birthing the alt-country music movement of the mid-90s.

This collection of singles, B-sides, unreleased tracks and live material comes eight years after the Jeff Tweed and Jay Farrar split. It ranges from old time country to punk-fueled country-tinged rock.

It traces the band's roots from its first beginnings to its breakup in the early nineties after the band signed with a major label.

The album starts out with "No Depression" a cover of a traditional Carter Family tune that Uncle Tupelo somehow still manages to breathe new life into.

The quality of the album only builds up from there, easily shifting from the country twanging to the grinding and back again.

It is easy to see why so many bands cite Uncle Tupelo as an influence and why Tweedy and Farrar have both achieved great success with their post-Uncle Tupelo projects, Wilco and Son Volt respectively.

The Southern fried edge in Farrar's voice gives all of the songs a country feel, even if they would otherwise sound like a regular rock song.

This quality only adds to the charm of the album.

Even a song like "Graveyard Shift" that has tons of punk influence, has a down-home feel to it.

It is easiest to see this same quality on the track "Still Be Around," which is a fairly stripped-down song.

It is made up of only Farrar and his acoustic guitar, with a little bit of organ in the background.

Though it is seemingly simple, the

song actually sounds quite complex when it hits the ear and has a beautiful yearning quality to it.

It is the sort of song that sticks in your head.

There is even something on this album for longtime Tupelo fans who may think they have heard everything.

Two previously un-released songs "Outdone," a demo from 1989, and "I Wanna Be Your Dog," a

Stooges cover.

The album closes on a high note with a live version of "We've Been Had," off of the 1994 promotional only release "The Long Cut + Five Live."

Among the many songs are also previously rare tracks.

This song is definitely in the running for best track on the album, which is no small feat on an album packed with 21 great songs.

"89/93: An Anthology" is the first release in a series of Uncle Tupelo re-issues that will be coming out soon. "No Depression," "Still Feel Gone" and "March 16-0, 1992" will be the next albums.

All of the re-released albums will be remastered with bonus tracks, new photos and updated liner notes.

Ironically, this album has received more attention than when the band was together, which just goes to show how good this album is.

Hopefully the success will continue with the re-releases.

Those who immediately identify country music with big hair and cowboy boots should give "89/93: An Anthology" a chance.

It is sure to change a few opinions with its eclectic mix of unique and classic styles.

ALBUM REVIEW

Uncle Tupelo-
"89/93 An Anthology"
★★★★ of 5

Lively humor propels play

By Layne Gabriel

The spring play was an excellent change of pace from regular high school drama.

"The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" was incredibly interesting and full of energy.

The show was a wonderful "whodunit" farce with an excellent cast of talented students.

Senior Tara Witty played Elsa Von Grossenkneten, a backer of theatrical productions. She had gathered a variety of people together for what was said to be an audition.

The audition was actually a trap to catch the Stage Door Slasher, a murderer who killed chorus girls.

The plot was filled with so many ridiculous twists that it tended to get convoluted after about an hour, but it all made sense in the end.

Helsa Wenzel, the maid played by senior Hallie Wunsch, was possibly the most humorous character.

Wunsch did an excellent job portraying a stereotypical German maid in a very rich household along with one other role that remained fairly secretive throughout the play.

Although Wunsch's character was entertaining, junior Aron Cobbs who played Roger, one of the playwrights, stole the show with his outlandish behavior and excellent characterization.

He turned Roger into a huge character for the play and his actions elicited a lot of laughter from the audience.

All of the actors complemented each other perfectly.

They seemingly became the characters they portrayed.

Although some characters got knocked off right away, it was surprising to see who made it to the end of the show.

The entire production is engaging and entertaining throughout the whole show.

Director John Gibson did an excellent job making the play come alive and helping the cast put together the best production they could.

Since Gibson chose not to mic the ac-



Photo by EMILY NEUMANN/THE REGISTER

Ken De La Maize (senior Michael Heller) delivers his theory about the real identity of the Stage Door Slasher. Heller was part of the ensemble cast of the murder farce.

tors, it was difficult to hear some of them at times.

This occasionally prevented the audience from picking up on some jokes.

But this was one of the only downfalls of the show.

The physical comedy more than made up for missing a few verbal gags and slipups.

The sets were all very well done and

added a lot to the show with their exquisite detail.

It mirrored an old house, secret passageways and hiding places included.

The cast did an excellent job with the production.

It should definitely be considered one of

Central's best drama productions this year.

PLAY REVIEW

Central's Spring Play;
April 25-27

★★★★ of 5

Hardcore band says sound has evolved, become more interesting over years



Courtesy of BRIGHT CALM BLUE

The members of Bright Calm Blue are (from left to right) Javid Debestani, Ian Whitmore, Austin Skiles, Dustin Wilbourn and Mike Bredehoft.

By Kaitlin Butz

Lincoln band Bright Calm Blue may have started as a generic hardcore band with a bit of inspiration, but has reached a turning point that the lead singer believes sets it apart from the rest.

When the band started in Jan. of 2000, lead singer Ian Whitmore said the members were looking to do something new in the Lincoln music scene.

"There hadn't been a whole lot of new music or new bands," he said.

Whitmore said he, guitarist Mike Bredehoft, bassist Austin Skiles, drummer Javid Dabestani and guitarist Dustin Wilbourn were looking to see what they could do differently from most

other average-sounding hardcore bands.

He said when the band first started, it had a very intense sound that hit the listener full on.

As time went by, the band's sound got more refined. The songwriting matured and the band began to do a little experimenting with the songs, Whitmore said.

Even the way the songs were written became more involved and intricate.

"We sort of decided that we weren't going to limit ourselves to writing one way," he said.

While he still described Bright Calm Blue as a hardcore band, Whitmore said there is a noticeable difference between its music

now and its music a year and a half ago.

"When we started we were just a hardcore band that was trying to do something different with hardcore," he said.

The turning point for the band, when it really changed from a regular hardcore band to a more creative experimental force, came at the end of 2000, Whitmore said. This is when the band began to work on a song, "A Tongue to Taste," which it really began to experiment on.

"We wanted to be open to any ideas that seemed worthwhile," he said.

Since that time, Whitmore said the group's music has grown more and more interesting.

This new evolution in the band's sound can be found on its upcoming full-length album "Asymmetry Set" which should be released sometime in July. Whitmore said the band hopes to get the copies far enough in advance to sell them at the band's CD release show.

There will be 1,000 copies each of the album on CD and vinyl, and it will be distributed around the country by Symbiotic Distribution.

The group will embark on a full national tour this summer for eight weeks, on which Whitmore said he hopes to go to about 40 states.

The tour includes a show at Knickerbockers on May 10.

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From Ozzie to Ozzy

Shows like "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" have given way to the recent success of MTV's "The Osbournes." Now, some experts believe the medium has hit rock bottom.

By Layne Gabriel

Ozzy Osbourne has always been known as the Prince of Darkness.

Now the Prince himself lets thousands of people into his home on a weekly basis with MTV's show "The Osbournes," which has turned into one of the most popular shows on television.

But not everyone is enjoying the idea of watching the former Black Sabbath frontman in his natural environment.

Bruce DuMont, president of the Museum of Broadcast Communication in Chicago, said that the show is popular because people can relate.

"We're in a time in not only TV history, but regular history that people are interested in real life stories," he said.

The real-life stories have evolved from the times of Ozzie and Harriet Nelson, the ideal family of the 50s, to Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, wild rockers from the present.

As society changed, the depiction of the typical American family matured, DuMont said. In the 50s and 60s, television programs reflected the typical apple-pie family. In the 70s, television began to show more single parents and introduced variations of family life, he said.

Freshman Amelia Gier said she dislikes the show.

"I think it's stupid," she said. "You can't understand what they're saying."

Steven Isaac, associate editor of the family-gear publication *Plugged In* magazine, said "The Osbournes" is "absurdly obscene."

Any rational family that would allow the type of disrespect that takes place in the Osbourne's house to go on would need counseling, Isaac said.

"It scares me that children are allowed to be so disrespectful," he said.

Most viewers can distinguish between reality and fiction, but to Isaac, "The Osbournes" blurs the lines too much.

Shows such as "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" were more acceptable to Isaac, but still precipi-

tated false ideals.

In older shows, everything turns out perfect and cheerful, but there is a sense of love and unity, which is a better goal for television programs.

"We've swung the pendulum all the way too far one way to too far the other way but we didn't stop in the middle," Isaac said.

DuMont likened "The Osbournes" phenomenon to those of "South Park," and "Beavis and Butthead."

The shows were clearly on the cutting edge because of the controversy they caused.

"People think that if you can talk a little rougher, there's still a titillation factor," he said.

Isaac does consider "The Osbournes" to be a reflection of the progression of society, though he thinks that it is not healthy that society feeds on programming like it.

Since more and more people are growing up in relaxed home environments like the Osbourne family, viewers can relate to the show easier than a majority of fictitious programs, DuMont said.

But to get this success, Greg Johnston, the executive producer of the show, had to go through a long process with the family.

Osbourne's kids, Jack and Kelly knew that they were able to let MTV know if they were uncomfortable with particular scenes being put in the show.

"It was always left in their control to a certain degree," Johnston said. "We're not somebody that's trying to stalk them."

After all was said and done, "The Osbournes" began filming, a process that took four months.

Initially, MTV was planning to be with the Osbournes for three weeks, but three weeks quickly turned into four months.

Aside from basic editing, MTV also had to tone down the family's language.

"When they swear, it sticks out," Johnston said. "That's one thing that was actually easy to pick out."

Occasionally, MTV had to edit out some of the family's entertaining moments because it did not go with the plotline. Still, Johnston tried to include every humorous moment in the show.

All the bits and pieces that did not fit in, will be included them in the final episode.

Freshman Sarah Stowell said that she enjoys watching "The Osbournes" and tries to tune in every week. She said that although she finds some of the family members annoying, the show is funny because it is a representation of society.

"They're being real, you just can't change the way they are," Stowell said.

All the humor has brought the show a lot of success in its run on MTV. Johnston said that the studio was very surprised that the show has done so well.

"It's just great," Johnston said.



Photo courtesy of MTV
The Osbournes, clockwise from left: Ozzy, Sharon, Kelly and Jack.



Graphic by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER

Former student wins national recognition with independent film

By Kaitlin Butz

Monteith McCollum may be one of tomorrow's best filmmakers, racking up awards for his full-length debut film, but he said he owes a big debt to the art education he received at Central.

McCollum's documentary, "Hybrid" has won about 12 or 13 awards since its premiere at the Mill Valley Festival.

These include the Grand Jury Prize at the Slamdance Festival, the Truer Than Fiction Award at the Independent Spirit Awards and the best documentary award at the Bermuda Film Festival.

The film is a documentary about McCollum's grandfather, who was a pioneer in seed-corn fertilization, a technique that revolutionized agriculture in America. He said it focuses both on his grandfather's passion for farming and technology, as well as how little his family knew about him.

"It's kind of a story about his connection to the land," he said.

The film follows McCollum's grandfather for six years, from his 94th to 100th birthdays.

McCollum lived on his grandfather's farm as a child, but said he still did not know his grandfather very well.

Through constant interviews, McCollum said he learned how to break through the silence that always enveloped his grandfather, who died since the completion of the movie.

The film employs various types of film technology, like time lapse photography and animation.

"It's called 'Hybrid' because there's all sorts of different technology [involved]," he said.

McCollum said he believes that documentaries can go beyond than what most people expect from them and be entertaining as well informative.

Besides making the film, McCollum also composed the soundtrack.

He said both music and the visual arts like painting are an asset to him as a filmmaker.

"I see the arts as being very connected," he said.

During the year and a half he went to Central, McCollum took art classes and said teacher Larry Andrews had a big impact on his artistic development.

After graduating, McCollum went to four colleges, starting at St. Olaf's and ending up at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he said he studied painting and installation.

McCollum made several short experimental films, in which he tried out various filmmaking techniques.

"It's kind of an exploratory process," he said.

When starting the film, McCollum said he did not have any expectations for how it would do commercially and it was more of a personal quest.

"Whatever happened with it was just a plus for me," he said.

It took grants from four arts societies to finance the film. McCollum also put up some of his money and charged some expenses to credit cards, debts he was only recently able to pay off.

"If you want to get something done, you've got to do it on a leap of faith," he said.

McCollum's wife, Ariana Gersteing, worked with him on "Hybrid" as the film editor. The two live in New York with their nine-month-old daughter Maya. They will team up again on an unnamed project dealing with the social issues involved with food and technology, McCollum said.

"Hybrid" will be aired on Jul. 9 on PBS, though McCollum said the 92-minute film would be cut down to 53 to fit in the time slot. A station in France will show the film in its entirety.

There are no plans for "Hybrid" to be shown at any theaters around Omaha. McCollum said he would like for that to happen, but he did not know of any theaters in the area that would be willing to take a chance on an independent documentary.

"There's no place to see alternative films if you want to," he said.

Local restaurants' food embarrasses big chains

By Layne Gabriel

It seems that Omaha is flooded with wonderful Italian restaurants. Instead of trying a chain, the best restaurant is often tucked away as a carefully kept local secret.

Lo Sole Mio

Lo Sole Mio, hidden away in a mainly suburban area of Omaha, has by far the best Italian food in the area.

Olive oil is served in old wine bottles and visitors have the option to drink fresh imported water with their meal if they prefer.

By far, the best part of Lo Sole Mio is the excellent Italian fare. The restaurant serves generous portions and fills guests up with soft bread. Typical pasta dishes like spaghetti and meatballs take on a whole new meaning at Lo Sole Mio.

The sauce is thick and rich and the pasta is plentiful. The chefs do a wonderful job seasoning the sauce and creating the perfect mixture of Italian tastes.

Save room for dessert at Lo Sole Mio. With classic Italian treats like canolis, it is worth passing up those last

few bites of dinner.

Trovatos

An old classic in the Dundee area, Trovato's serves great Italian cuisine in a quaint atmosphere. The servers at Trovato's deliver a nice meal for a good price.

It offers classic Italian meals and makes them well. Everything is served piping hot and in large portions.

The chefs know how to make baked dishes, and lasagna should be at the top of anyone's list.

Trovato's sticks to what the chefs know best, classic Italian food. There are few meals on the menu that deviate from dishes like spaghetti, fettuccine and ravioli. The restaurant is painted with dark reds and greens and classic Italian paintings like the Mona Lisa watch over the tables. The restaurant is a nice place for a date or dinner with friends.

The Olive Garden

Pitting local restaurants against a chain like the Olive Garden is unfair.

Although the Olive Garden is a good choice for an Italian meal, it pro-

vides sub-standard fare in comparison. The breadsticks get cold quickly and the pasta just does not taste right.

One of the benefits of the Olive Garden is that it serves an excellent variety of meals, including more bizarre Italian dishes like Chicken and Shrimp Limone which is grilled chicken, fettuccine and sauteed shrimp with asparagus and sundried in a white lemon sauce. The Olive Garden's specialty meals are often much better than standard Italian dishes.

This makes the Olive Garden worth dining at for adventurous guests.

The bland food is worth waiting through simply for dessert. The Olive Garden makes some of the best desserts around.

The Chocolate Lasagna is filled with



Photo by LUENINGHOENER/THE REGISTER
Italian food has a reputation for being "sexy," making it perfect for dates.

thick layers of chocolate and cream while the other desserts are just as delectable. The Olive Garden is good for guests on the go, but not for people looking for a truly excellent Italian meal.