

Basketball season starts
Both teams hope to improve their seasons after shaky first games.

Page 12

HO! HO! HO!

Take a look at what happens when holiday advertising goes too far.

Page 6



Analyze That

In the sequel to "Analyze This," talented stars are unable to make up for a poor script.

Page 7

Student has marriage in future plans

By Charlie Wence

Take the typical wedding. It usually is a ceremony for two adults who are becoming joined when the priest says "I do."

Enter junior Melanie Marek. She was proposed to on her 16th birthday by her boyfriend, who is 25 years old. She said yes. She wants to have the wedding two months after she graduates from high school.

The age difference doesn't seem to affect her relationship.

"My step-mom is 11 years younger than my dad is, so I guess it runs in the family," Marek said.

Joe Marek, Melanie's father, said he believes that her fiancée should seek relationships with men who are his own age.

"It is not a good thing," he said. "He is over-age and should be dating people his own age."

Dwight Williams, associate pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, said he believes high school engagements and marriages tend not to work out.

"Statistically speaking, young marriages don't have a high success rate," he said. "People are rushing into who they are and they make mistakes. Relationships take a lot of time, energy and perspective."

When one gets engaged at an early age, parents should be concerned while their child is still living in their home and attending high school.

"My parents were all right with it," Melanie said. "My mom encouraged it."

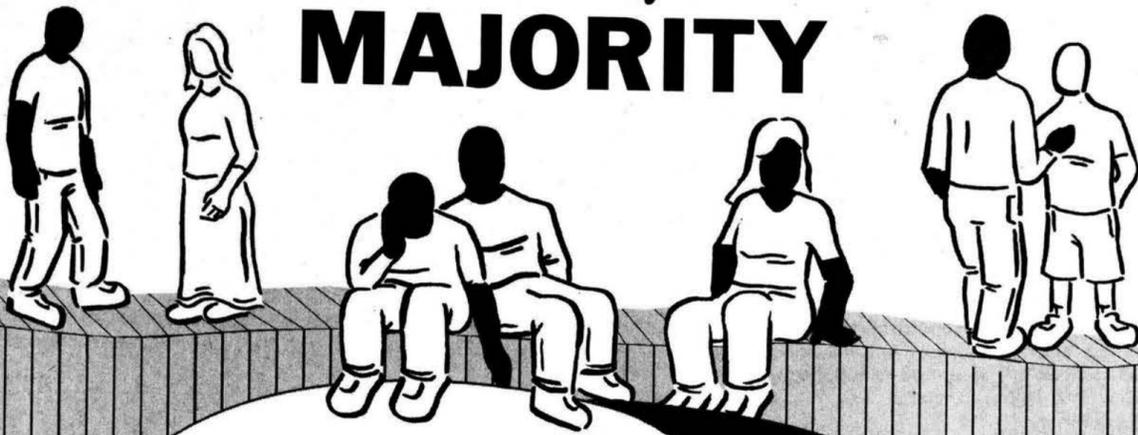
Melanie's father said he wished she would wait to get married. He said she should concentrate more on her education and not on a complicated relationship.

Melanie said she and her fiancée have been dating for two months, but she has known him for seven years.

"My best friend said that marriage (the marriage) won't work out," she said. "She's younger than me and is engaged, too."

Counselor Richard Servis is working with students for years. He said he believes in **MARRIAGE, page 3**

When Minority becomes MAJORITY



This year, OPS has more minority students than majority. But Central has always had nearly a 50/50 split.

By Paula Salhany

To English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Linda Ganzel, one of the greatest things about teaching at Central is its diversity.

She said after five years of teaching at the school, what she notices most is how accepting others are to students from different countries.

"We have students from Cuba, Japan, Mexico, Korea and many others," she said. "But they all seem to value their differences rather than reject them."

According to Omaha Public Schools (OPS) statistics, this year 50.9 percent of its students are minority students. At Central, 47.7 percent of the students are minority. But it is not an oddity to have such a high percentage, Ganzel said.

She said the school has had a long tradition of diversity and that one reason for the civility and kindness among students is because of this history.

Counselor Lynda Molyneaux said that there has been a long tradition of diversity at Central.

"You can go anywhere in the city and inevitably you will find someone who **see DIVERSITY, page 4**

Collection of school supplies to go to needy

By Nichole Tyrey

This holiday season, around 100 students in Kandahar, Afghanistan will receive a gift from sophomore Lauren Holm.

Last March, Holm started a drive to collect school supplies for disadvantaged students in Afghanistan.

Holm became interested in helping those people after reading about their struggle for education in an article in the newspaper.

"After I read the article, I knew I had to find a way to help out," Holm said.

She contacted the dean of International Studies program at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Thomas Goutierre. Goutierre is also the director of the Center of Afgan Studies.

Goutierre told Holm that the students needed school supplies to help further their education and that the city of Kandahar needed the most help.

To get the project started, Holm sent out letters to local schools and businesses to inform them of the drive and ask for their support.

The response was overwhelming.

"I was really impressed with how enthusiastic people were with helping," she said.

Over 30 area schools and businesses helped Holm's effort. They donated a total of 100 boxes of school and art supplies.

Altogether the supplies weigh in at 2,000 pounds.

Holm's effort in helping the people of Kandahar has not gone unnoticed.

She met with Sen. Chuck Hagel during his last visit to Omaha. He offered his gratitude and assistance in anything his office could help with.

The Massachusetts Center for Afghan Studies helped with the application process for the transport of the supplies to Kandahar.

The shipping for the supplies will be free because they are classified as humanitarian goods.

Offutt Airforce Base is in charge of transferring the school and art supplies from Nebraska to Afghanistan.

They decided to ship the supplies through the military because of the location.

Even though Holm gave her best effort in getting the supplies, she said she still wishes she could give more.

"No matter how many supplies I get, I could always get more," she said, "but I feel really good about what I did get."

Holm said she was anxious for the 100 boxes of supplies to get out of her garage and into the hands of the eagerly awaiting students.

"I have talked to a few of the students through letters and they have sent me pictures," Holm said. "For me, the reward will be the pictures and letters I get after the students get their supplies."

World AIDS Day forum draws celebrities to Lincoln

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Celebrities, athletes, doctors, students and activists gathered at UNL's Lied Center for the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues, marking World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

Speeches by U2 singer Bono and actress Ashley Judd constituted the majority of the event. Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong and AIDS activist Agnes Nyamayaro also spoke.

The forum was the first stop on the Debt AIDS Trade Africa (DATA) Foundation tour across the Midwest to raise support for AIDS treatment in Africa.

Junior Emily Greenberg was one of the students in the audience and was also able to meet the speakers after the presentation. She said the forum was interesting and the speakers taught her a lot about the African AIDS epidemic.

"They (the speakers) were really cool," she said. "They knew a lot about what they were talking about."

After opening remarks from Bobby Shriver, the Gateway Ambassadors, a youth choir from Ghana, started the night with some songs and dances.

Bono was the first speaker of the forum. Throughout the course of the evening, he stressed the fact that he was not there to solicit money. He said he really wanted people to fill out action cards to be sent to President George W. Bush. These cards requested that funds already earmarked for Africa be specially reserved for AIDS treatment.

"We want to ask people to give the president of the United States to spare the money that they have already given," he said.

Bono said he first became concerned with the **see AIDS, page 4**



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Bono, the singer for the band U2, speaks at World AIDS Day forum in Lincoln. He was one of many celebrities who spoke.

SIDE

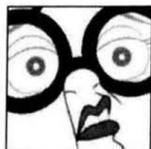
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Central High School
Vol. 116, No. 3
12 pages



Wrestling

Sophomore Blake Gayer hopes to improve his record as he returns to Central's team for a second year.

SPORTS, 11A



8 Crazy Nights

Adam Sandler releases yet another movie as he makes another attempt at making audiences laugh.

A&E, 8A



No Child Left Behind

Students will see more required standardized tests that are a waste of students' and teachers' time.

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Success of food drive shows students care

The senior class officers aimed to create and improve publicity and personal opinions of Central with the canned food drive Dec. 2-11.

Senior class president Alex Jochim said he decided a canned food drive would be something good to do for the school.



Jochim

Students collected 1,853 food items.

"We wanted to change people's minds," he said. "The average person remembers last year's senior pranks, all the fights and they are just very biased about it (Central)."

English teacher Diane Allen is one of the sponsors of the senior class officers and she said she was very pleased with the competition amongst the classes.

Allen said that within the first three days of the drive they received 250 items of food. She said this could be because many English teachers offered extra credit.

The officers worked with the Salvation Army and all of the proceeds were donated on Dec. 14.

The drop off was at the parking lot of Mutual of Omaha downtown.

"The kids wanted to do something good and let others know they are doing it," Allen said.

Allen said it warmed her heart to see students care about helping others.

She said it's the season where students tend to be more generous.

She offered extra credit for the first five cans, but her students brought more than the extra credit applied to.

This was the first year the senior class officers ran a food drive. Allen said the members were very pleased with the outcome and would encourage next year's officers do a can drive as well.

Semi-finalists hope to be National Merit finalists

Three Central students were given National Merit semifinalist recognition this year.

Seniors Melissa Hepburn, Megan Madison and Carolyn Schaeffer are now one step closer to becoming National Merit finalists.

Hepburn said she was confident she would be a semifinalist after she saw her PSAT test scores her junior year.

"The scores have a cutoff point and I knew I was above that," Hepburn said.

The judges, who look at PSAT scores, also look at the applicants' grades at school.

Madison said the semifinalist award would look great on a resumé and make scholarships for colleges easier to obtain. To become a finalist she needed to write an essay, send her school records and take the SAT test.

Schaeffer said she was shocked when she read the notification letter. She said almost half of the 16,000 people who make it to the semifinalist spot, will become finalists.

Hepburn said placing as a merit finalist would open the doors for financial aid for college. She said winning the award meant a lot to her.

The finalists won't be announced until the spring. The girls will be on edge for a few months waiting to see if they are one of the 8,000 students who are announced the winners.

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Calendar



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

A construction worker takes measurements for and works on the new kitchen of the school all year long and even through the winter. Construction is currently on schedule.

December

23 (Mon.) Winter Recess

After a long semester and three days of finals, students and teachers will have two weeks off for winter break. Happy Holidays. School resumes on Jan. 6.

January 2003

7 (Tues.) Road Show Try-

This is the first day of Central's annual talent show tryouts. They will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Anyone who wishes to show their talents to the school is welcome to tryout. Those who tryout will be judged by a panel of peers.

9 (Thurs.) First Semester Ends

Even though finals were taken before winter break, the first semester officially ends today. Final semester grades are in and are permanent.

10 (Fri.) Semester Break Day

Students do not have school today, but it is a work day for teachers. Teachers are able to get all the loose ends of the previous semester tied up and get prepared for the final semester of the year.

13 (Mon.) Second Semester Begins

Students are able start with a clean slate.

15 (Weds.) Graduation Announcement Orders

Seniors, don't forget to order your graduation announcements. Students will be able to place their orders for the next three days.

20 (Mon.) Martin Luther King Day

In honor of the great Martin Luther King Jr., who helped the United States in its battle against racism, there will be no school today. The building will be closed today as well.

24 (Fri.) UNO Honor Band

A group of local high school band students will gather at UNO to perform pieces selected by area teachers.

25 (Sat.) SAT Exam

This standardized test will be administered at 8 a.m. This is one of the last chances for some seniors to take the test, but for juniors, this is a prime opportunity.

Club provides students with cultural outlet

Dancing, interacting with other cultures, having fun and learning Latin Dance are some of the things that the Ritmo Latino Dance club does every Thursday.

Sophomore Eulalia Francisquez said Ritmo Latino is an opportunity to spend time with an opportunity after school, hang out and practice a new form of dance.

Freshman Mark Parchment said the club is fun and provides a chance to get to know new people.

"We get a chance to be around other cultures and we all get along," he said. "I wish we had more time to do this."

Ritmo Latino has its own dance instructor that teaches members how to dance.

One of the days when Ritmo Latino met, their instructor was not present.

The sponsor had no idea of the surprise a student had a collection of discs that they danced to that day, club sponsor Levetta Chamberlain said.

"Some students didn't even need help dancing," she said.

The club was started October and meets every Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

"The club will be around as long as there is student interest," Chamberlain said.

She said she became a sponsor of the club because a call was put out for one.

She also wanted to learn how to dance and thought the experience would benefit her.

Dash for cash raises money

Junior Julia Darrow got a chance to pick up as much money as she could during the "Dash for Cash" fundraiser held by the wrestling team.

The fundraiser started off as an idea from one of the wrestlers as how the team could raise some extra money needed for warm-ups and extra equipment.

The team usually sells t-shirts but not enough shirts were sold this year.

"When the team brainstormed some ideas, the dash was the only real idea that came up and we all agreed on it," head coach Jimmie Foster said.

Darrow was the winner.

She was able to get on her hands and knees, while blindfolded, and grab as much money as she could in an allotted amount of time. She was only able to get \$16 off the mat.

Foster said the fundraiser was successful and the team may do it again next year.

"Well, we got our warm-ups and everything, so I guess we worked pretty well," junior Mark Walsh said.

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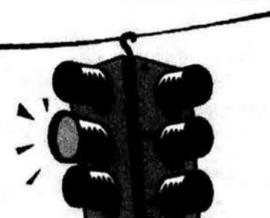
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Engagement becomes reality for junior



Photo by CHARLIE WENCE/THE REGISTER
Melanie Marek and her fiancé will be married two months after she graduates from high school.

from MARRIAGE, page 1

young people get married at this young age because of social pressures. He cited as his example, a girl getting pregnant and the father stepping up to take responsibility.

"It doesn't seem like there is as much social pressure to accept responsibility as there was years ago," Servis said.

Melanie said she believes she wants to have children sometime after high school.

Her fiancée has a daughter from a previous relationship; Melanie is helping him raise her.

The decision to get married remains an individual decision and therefore a mass solution to young people getting engaged would not be possible, Servis said.

Williams said he believes

young people get married because they want a sense of attachment and want to feel loved.

"People can be involved in age appropriate relationships that do not involve marriage," he said.

Getting married at such a young age may hinder future career paths and higher educational goals. Melanie said she believes that everything will work out fine.

"I plan on staying in Omaha for college. I'll go to either Creighton or UNO while living at his (fiancée's) home," Melanie said. Her fiancée did not attend college, but is currently working.

Williams said that being young is a privileged experience and young people need to wait and get to know themselves before getting married.



College Corner

Wake Forest University

Location: Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Admission: 46 percent admitted

Type: Four-year private university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,986

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are History and Business, 1230-1380 on SAT, recommended courses are 4 of English, 2 of Social Studies, and 3 of Math

Application Deadline: Jan. 15

University of St. Thomas

Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

Admission: 81 percent admitted

Type: Four-year private university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 5,226

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Communications, 22-27 on ACT, recommended courses are 4 of English, 2 of Science, and 3 of Math

Application Deadline: Rolling Admissions

Iowa State University

Location: Ames, Iowa

Admission: 90 percent admitted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 23,360

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Business and Engineering, 22-27 on ACT, recommended courses are 4 of English, 3 of Math, and 3 of Science

Application Deadline: Aug. 21

Colorado State University

Location: Fort Collins, Colorado

Admission: 78 percent admitted

Type: Four-year public university, coed

Undergraduate Enrollment: 19,899

Freshman Admissions: Most popular majors are Agriculture and Business, 22-26 on ACT, recommended courses are 4 of English, 2 of Science, and 3 of Math

Application Deadline: July 1

Students score well above national average

By Aaron Maurice

A few days a week after school, students gather to study or for extra help in their classes.

The after school sessions have become increasingly popular, creating an ideal place for many to finish homework or get help in their classes.

Junior Brandon Henley is one of these students. He usually attends the sessions three days a week because he said he works better at school where there are fewer distractions.

"I can do this here (at the tutoring sessions) so I don't have to do this at home," Henley said. "It's easier to get stuff done."

Many experts from across the state are citing programs like this as one of the reasons that Nebraska students score above average on national tests, especially math.

In 2000, 56 percent of Nebraska juniors scored better than the national average, according to an annual Department of Education report.

One of the difficulties in assessing the level of achievement is selecting specific tests to administer to students, OPS director of Special Projects Carla Noerlinger said.

Each state is responsible for their assessment, while national tests are being considered under the No Child Left Behind Act, which was passed a few years ago.

One measure of student achievement given to students across Nebraska is the National Assessment on Education Testing (NAET.) This test is given to a randomly selected group of students, she said.

Noerlinger said the test gives a good approximation of the level

of student achievement, although she cautioned that assessments should not be directly compared across the nation.

"It's hard to look at Nebraska and California...the issues are different," she said.

Jim Harrington, OPS's supervisor of mathematics, said students from OPS do better on these tests because the teachers have degrees in their respective subjects and the students really want to learn. They are able to teach what they learned in school.

"The main reason is that students want to take these classes," he said.

Harrington said the Banneker Program helped establish after school tutoring sessions that still continue in most schools.

The district is also instituting a new policy that increases the requirements from two to three

years of math which will, in turn help students raise the already high scores.

This change currently affects sophomores and freshmen, but the upperclassmen will be grandfathered under the old guidelines.

Central Math Department head Jenne Gregor said students are doing much better because they are taking more classes.

She said most students take four years of math, in many cases starting their core classes in middle school with Algebra 1-2 and Geometry, with some taking advanced classes such as Differential Equations.

Gregor said students also have the chance to improve on their abilities during after school study sessions.

"One on one interaction with the teacher is important," she said.

Graduate works as park ranger to protect national treasures, parks and events

By Aaron Maurice

It's like Boy Scout meets Secret Service. Graduate Michael Stansberry works with an elite squad of rangers protecting national treasures ranging from Mount Rushmore to the White House.

Stansberry is not part of some top secret CIA organization. He doesn't work for the military. He is part of the National Park Ranger Special Event Teams, the Special Forces of Park Rangers.

Stansberry joined the group of about 10 rangers about a year and a half ago. When he came Sept. 11.

"We were put into a position nobody predicted," he said.

The team was now faced with immediate threats to some of America's most prized possessions.

"We thought that if they target buildings, they might target national treasures so," he said.

They traveled six months out of the year, going where they were most needed.

Stansberry found himself at Mount

Rushmore while the president made a speech. He was one of the first lines on defense, part of the safety net for both the president and the historic monument.

"It was pretty neat to be watching both the president and the monument," he said.

The team was also present in Salt Lake City for the Olympics providing extra security in the vast mountain areas where many of the events were located.

Stansberry began his path for his park ranger career when he started volunteering while at Central. He went to Neale Woods as a freshman and eventually landed a job working there after he graduated.

"I found what I liked," he said.

After a year of service, he moved on to the University of Missouri where he studied Wildlife Management. He then worked for the Missouri State Police for a number of years.

Then his career changed. He landed a job working as a law enforcement ranger for the National Parks Service.

The job seemed like a perfect fit, Stansberry said. Then the opportunity came for the Special Event Teams.

The nature of his job is to be where the action is. The mind set is that if terrorists would attack buildings, they might also target national treasures.

The team is responsible for both natural as well as man-made monuments and structures.

This past year Stansberry has been on assignment watching dams in California after the CIA and NSA received threats to structures similar to this. They were looking for anything that didn't feel right. The job was pretty abstract. The coming year promises additional responsibilities for the team.

"We can be working in a lot of different scenarios."

In the downtime, Stansberry will assume his normal ranger job at Homestead National Park near Beatrice.

"I really enjoy working in a job that protects so much," he said. "It's the best thing I can do."



Photo courtesy of Michael Stansberry
Central graduate Michael Stansberry stands by his park ranger car. He is a part of a squad of park rangers that protects national treasures.

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From Michelle Marsh



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Diversity credited to students, traditions

from DIVERSITY page 1

She said when she thinks of the diversity at the school, she not only thinks of racial differences but also economic, geographic, sexual, cultural and national.

Senior Adam Jackson said when he walks through the hallway and sees all the different faces he notices not only the obvious differences in appearance but also the differences in personalities.

"Students don't seem to have a hard time getting to know others," he said. "You don't notice cliques so much. But there are a lot of different social groups and you can always find someone who likes the same things as you."

Jackson said he thinks one of the reasons for this is the strong academic tradition.

He said students are there to learn and therefore have something in common that they can base their friendships on.

Molyneaux said the most important thing is to note how well students get along and how the school is its own microcosm.

"If you look at the demographics of the city and the demographics of Central they mirror each other, give or take a few percentages," she said.

According to OPS' fall membership statistics, Central has 841 African American students, 37 Asian American students, 1,326 Caucasian American students, 301 Hispanic American students and 28 native American students. There are 1,207 total minority students with a total population of 2,533 students in the school.

Of the seven OPS high schools Central has the fourth highest percentage of minority students. South has the highest with 62.3 percent minority.

Molyneaux said she thinks many things contribute to the diversity such as family tradition, academic tradition, size and where students live.

"There are a lot of students who have had parents, aunts or uncles or grandparents who have gone here," she said. "Because of this parents want their kids to go here no matter what their ethnic or socioeconomic background is. It keeps the tradition alive. People just want to be a part of the oldest high school in the city."

Ganzel said she has mostly had positive experiences with students, but she said she does notice Caucasian students tend to get annoyed by students who speak in a language other than English.

"For some reason it seems that us white people have some sort of complex with people talking in another language," she said. "We think they are taking bad about us just because they are not speaking the same language as us."

She said since she teaches in the ESL room and hears multiple languages all around her, she is almost oblivious to the difference.

Jackson said he has noticed this problem in gym class where there are a few students who always speak Spanish.

"Some kids in the class get perturbed because they don't know what they are saying," he said. "They think they (the Spanish speakers) are talking trash about them when in reality they probably are talking about them at all."

Sophomore Daniel Camacho said he likes the school and he said it is easy for him to make friends even though English is his second language and he is still learning it. He said he likes the fact that there are a lot of students in ESL from a lot of different countries so he doesn't feel like he is the only one who doesn't understand English as well.

"It makes it (learning English) much easier," he said.

Jackson said he likes the diversity because it is a way to expand his horizons and learn about new cultures.

Ganzel said she thinks that is one of the reasons students at Central are so accepting.

"Rather than treat people like they are 'different' or rejecting them, students want to learn about the differences," she said.

She said she finds that ESL students really want to learn English.

Students want to be able to communicate with their peers and they want to be able to get jobs and earn money.

"Omaha is much more bilingual than it used to be," she said.

Ganzel said she has seen bilingual signs around town that are partially for safety reasons, but she said the big reason for the bilingual change is because of economics.

Because businesses want to sell merchandise to non-English speakers, they print ads in both Spanish and English.

On the flip side, the non-English speakers want to learn so they can be functional in society and because English has become the international language of commerce.

"It goes both ways," she said. "I remember my grandfather only spoke German, but eventually he learned English because he needed to function."

Ganzel said she finds it puzzling when she hears people say they think others should only speak English when not so long ago their relatives came from a different country and did not speak the common language.

"I don't see why people are so critical," she said. However, Ganzel said she hardly ever hears students at the school say things like that.

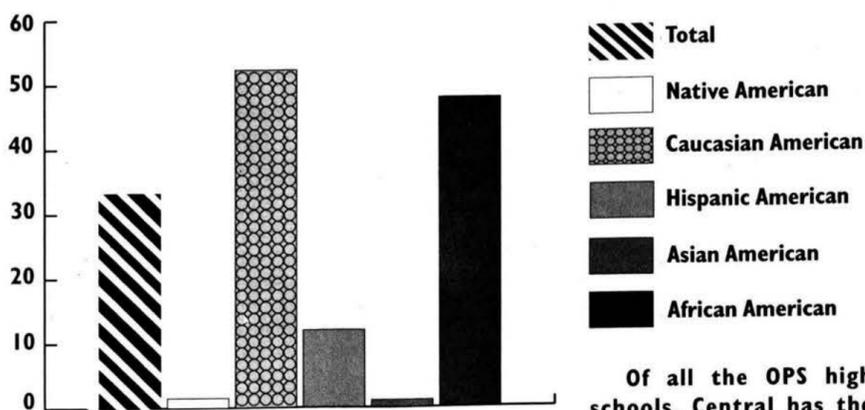
Jackson said the size and diversity of the school is one of the best things about it.

"Central is very lucky to be in the situation we are," Molyneaux said. "It just makes me smile."

Racial Composition of OPS

Numbers along side of graphs represent the percentages of students

Racial Composition of Central High School



Of all the OPS high schools, Central has the fourth highest number of minority students enrolled.

Central has 47.7 percent minority students.

Over the years, counselor Lynda Molyneaux said the racial composition of the school has basically evened out.

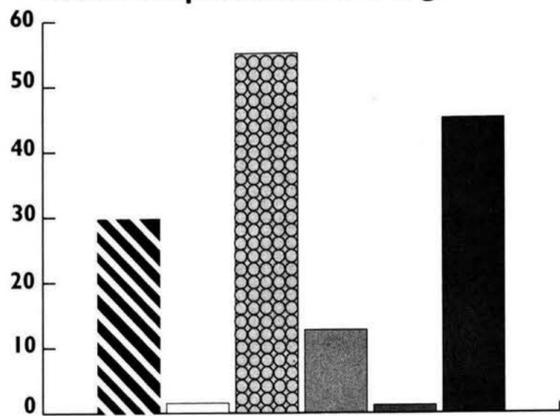
Currently Central has 33.2 percent African American students, 1.5 percent Asian Americans, 52.3 percent Caucasians, 11.9 percent Hispanics and 1.1 percent Native Americans.

South has the highest percent minority students with 62.3 percent. With a 41.2 percent Hispanic population they have the highest Hispanic population of the district high schools.

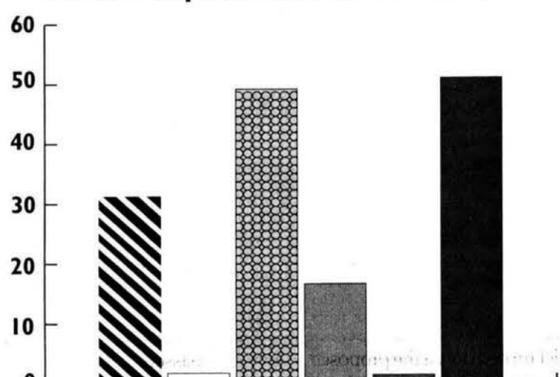
Burke has the highest percentage of Caucasian students with 79.7 percent and Benson has the highest percentage of African American students with 47 percent.

Much of the racial composition of the schools can be attributed to the location of the school, Molyneaux said.

Racial Composition of OPS High Schools



Racial Composition of all OPS schools



Graphs by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Chicano Awareness employee works to help Latino students

By Danielle Welty

Giovanna Zermeño, a Chicano Awareness Center employee, has been working at Central full time this year helping the Latino students with their schoolwork, futures and personal lives.

"I do basically all of what the counselors at Central do, except specifically for the Hispanic students," Zermeño said.

So far this year she said she has planned and taken the students on two field trips and around to several colleges.

Recently 35 Central students attended a Latino-Latina Youth Conference with Zermeño.

The students could participate in two of any of the workshops at the conference. Many of the sessions had motivational speakers while others were purely informational.

"I went to a workshop where the speakers talked about how they have been successful as Hispanics in this country," senior Diana Fernandez said. "I thought it was interesting."

Another field trip Zermeño was involved in was a trip to Lincoln where the students listened to the senate hearing about the Dream Act.

She said the Dream Act is mainly for students who don't have their immigration papers yet and can't get into college.

With the Dream Act, the students that graduate from Nebraska high schools can qualify for in-state tuition for Nebraska schools. Otherwise they would have to pay the full out of state price, and since the students can't qualify for a loan it makes it nearly impossible for them to go to college.

"Right now I am getting the juniors and seniors ready for college by sending in applications and helping them prepare for the SATs and ACTs," she said.

Many of the students have visited several colleges around the immediate area, and some specialized schools such

as cosmetology and an architectural firm.

"I've decided to either go to Bellevue University or join the Army," senior Joni Salinas said. "Ms. Zermeño is helping me decide that."

Zermeño said the Latino students of Central don't feel comfortable getting help from the schools counselors because of the language barrier.

"It has become easier for Latino students to get into colleges than the past few years because of the discrimination, but many still choose not to go because either they don't know how to get started or the mentality of their families," she said. "If their parents didn't go to college,

why should they?"

"Ms. Zermeño helps us become successful, go to college and do well because it doesn't matter if you're Latino you can get a career," junior Indira Gallardo said.

Zermeño is also planning for the underclass Latinos as well.

She said over the summer months a camp is held for Latino freshmen to experience the life of a college student.

She is only one of three Chicano Awareness Center Employees, including Juliana Garza at South and Dorothy Fuentes at Bryan, who are working at schools around Omaha.

Speakers say they hope to increase awareness of African AIDS epidemic

from AIDS, page 1

condition of countries in Africa when he went to Ethiopia for the fundraising Live Aid in 1984. He said he was shocked by what a terrible state the country was in.

He said when he woke up in the morning there, he would go outside and see over 10,000 people who had walked all night to come to beg.

Bono said one man came up and offered him his son because the man knew he could not give his son the life he deserved.

He said all of this affected him deeply.

"It's not about charity, it's about justice," he said.

Since then he said he has been involved with African issues, especially the AIDS epidemic, and trying to raise awareness. He said he has gathered support from many politicians and went on a fact-finding tour of Africa with former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill, which really opened his eyes.

"I saw people queuing (lining) up to die, three in a bed," he said.

But on this tour, Bono said he was more concerned with getting as many people from the Midwest

involved in the fight as possible, instead of just hitting people up in bigger cities.

"We're done with grandstanding in New York and Los Angeles," he said.

Bono said he believed the people of the Midwest have a lot of heart and could really make a difference in the AIDS epidemic.

"Politicians are not afraid of student activists and rock stars, but they are afraid of mothers and church people," he said.

The event was Judd's debut as an AIDS activist. She said she had been inspired by Bono's work to become involved in the tour.

In her remarks, she highlighted the importance of preventing mother-to-child transmission through birth or breastfeeding.

Drugs can prevent an HIV or AIDS infected mother from giving her child the virus in utero, but because of prices and distribution deals with other countries, these drugs are not readily available in Africa.

"A \$4 shot can prevent a mother from transmitting the HIV virus to her infant," she said.

All of the speakers made a special point of the statistics on the AIDS epidemic to drive their

message home to the crowd.

Judd said that every single day in Africa, 6,500 people die and 9,500 get infected with HIV/AIDS. For girls ages 15-24, the chance of getting infected is double that of boys in the same age group.

"It's pretty bad for young women," Judd said.

She said in the country of Malawi alone there are 300,000 orphans whose parents died of AIDS, while in Ethiopia there are 1,000,000. She said the conditions for these children are horrid.

"You've got these kids destitute and desperate and absolutely hopeless," she said.

Judd also said the Justice Department has identified 10 potential hotspots for terrorism in Africa that could become volatile if their governments are not kept stable.

She said that if AIDS hits a country hard, it could cause it to collapse.

All of the night's speakers agreed that Americans could help in some way to ease the AIDS epidemic half a world away.

Bono said after the Jubilee 2000 campaign that he was involved in, in which celebrities

convinced large countries to forgive debts that poor countries had towards them, the number of students enrolled in school in Uganda tripled because of all of the extra money the country had.

He said if the United States provided more medical aid to African countries, he would expect similar results.

After hearing the stories presented at the forum, especially that of Nyamayarwo who lost her husband and her youngest son to AIDS and is now an active volunteer, Greenberg said she was motivated to do something to help.

She said she plans on writing letters to her congressmen or senators sometime soon to encourage them to support aid efforts in Africa.

She said she thinks young people should be educated about AIDS and the crisis in Africa.

"They should try and learn about it even if they don't want to do anything about it," she said.

She said too many young people think that AIDS only affects certain groups of people or is something that only happens to people in other countries.

"They need to know that it affects everyone," Greenberg said.

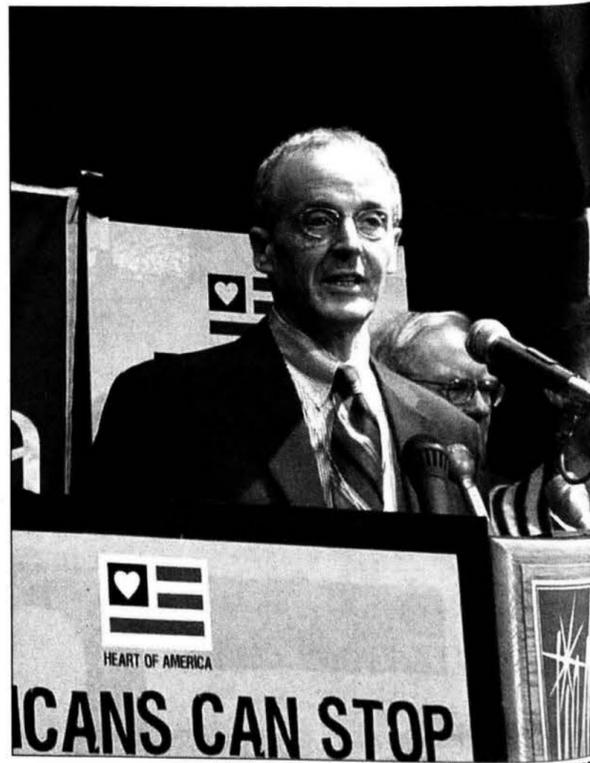


Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER
UNL chancellor Harvey Perlin speaks at a press conference before the forum introducing Bono, Ashley Judd, Lance Armstrong and Agnes Nyamayarwo.

EDITORIALS

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

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

Survey results are positive sign for immigrant students

The struggle of immigrants who were not prepared to live and work in the United States has been shattered.

The results of the Pew Center research will show that when new people come to live in this country, the vast majority of them go on to live good lives as productive citizens.

Things can only get better from here.

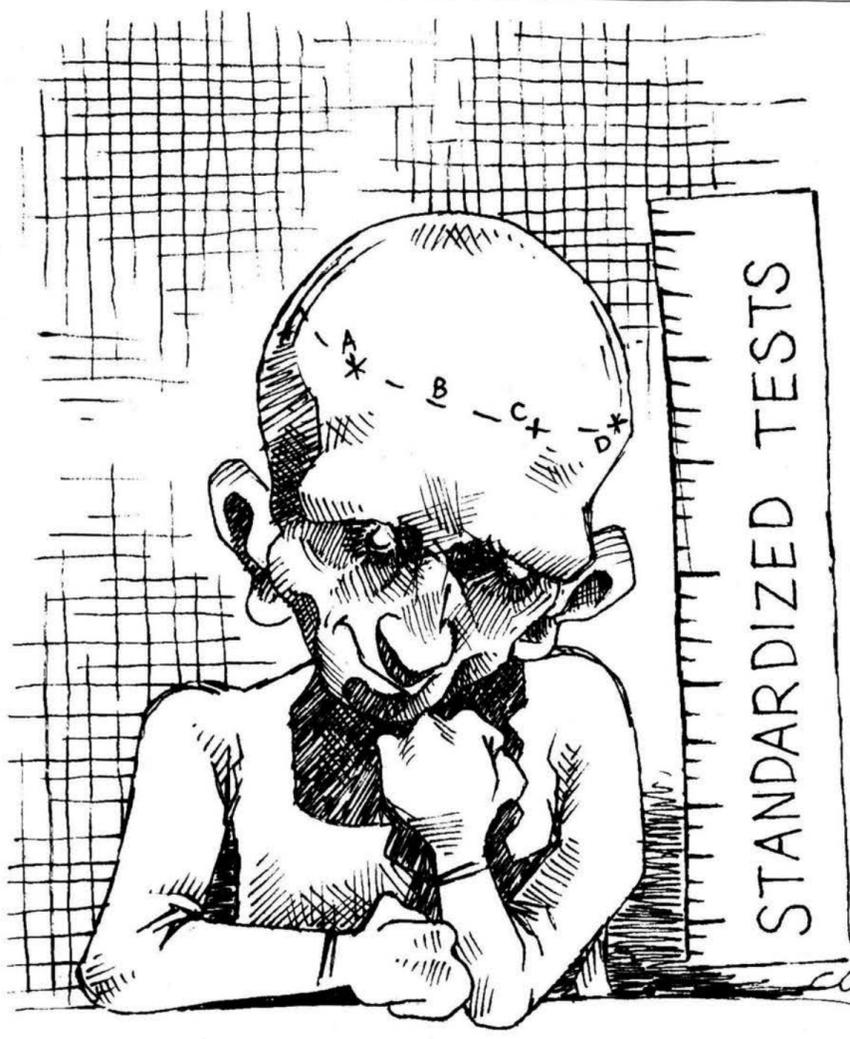
Hopefully, the numbers will continue to increase until the statistics for immigrant students and the statistics for natural born students will be the exact the same.

Education is not just something that should be prioritized for the rich or those who have it easy in life. It may be simpler not to worry about educating people who do not fall into those categories, but that is not ethical or right.

It may take a little more work to educate those who do not speak English as their first language or may not initially understand the way schools operate, but in the long run, it is worth it.

In the end of the stereotypical American dream, the underdog who fought the entire way to get what he deserved comes out on top. The results of this survey show that many more students are living up to that dream.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register staff



THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IS
A B C D E
A B C D E
A B C D E

Tests do not serve students

Sharpen some number two pencils and get a Scantron sheet ready, soon students all over Nebraska will be subject to even more extensive, time-consuming standardized tests.

The federal government and the Bush administration have once again made the decision that the measure of how much students learn should be long, arduous and unforgiving standardized tests.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, each state has to develop a yearly test for reading and writing, in addition to any other standardized tests that students currently have to take.

Standardized tests do not accurately measure how much students learn. They are ideally completely objective. However, no two students learn exactly the same way and many students do not respond well to standardized testing.

But still, federal bureaucracies insist on requiring these tests to compile statistics that supposedly determine how much and how well students are learning.

The only thing that standardized tests do is take away from valuable class time because they are usually administered during core classes or on special half days.

If education was focused more on making sure each student was learning rather than making sure the school as a whole scored in the right percentile, students would benefit more in the long run.

The more tests students are required to take, the less interested and enthused they will be about school.

No one likes taking those repetitive, long and boring tests. When students begin to associate school with mind-numbing tests, they will begin to resent school and get less and less involved in classes and extracurricular activities.

Teachers cannot be happy about taking time out of their

classes to administer tests that do not go along with their curriculum. They only get so much time to reach their students and surely do not want to waste it proctoring tests.

While standardized tests may be useful to government agencies that compile educational statistics, these statistics may not be completely accurate. Each student responds differently to testing, so the score one student receives may not be representative of how much he actually knows.

Some standardized tests are written in ways that make them more accessible or understandable to certain ethnic, class, gender or social groups. This is obviously not fair in the long run, especially when the results of the tests may be used to determine how funds are allocated to schools.

Since the No Child Left Behind Act has already passed, there is no way to eliminate the standardized tests.

But since the exact details of the plan have not yet been worked out, there is still time for officials to require the least amount of tests possible so that students do not have to waste as much of their class time.

Learning is based on inquiry and participation, not mindlessly preparing and memorizing facts to prepare for a standardized test that will not help students out in any way in the long run.

It's time for the government to realize this and adjust its policy accordingly.

Otherwise public school students will continue to become apathetic towards school.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register staff

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The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of interest and importance. The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all its proceedings.

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).

The Register is a four time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national convention.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Register staff and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Central High School or its faculty.

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central and the Register staff.

Letters must include the author's full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

Levy override decision leaves district with limited options

Election day passed and the voters in the Omaha Public School district turned down the proposed levy override that would have provided the district with much-needed funds.

Now that this alley for revenue has been closed, it is time to figure out how the district will survive with an increasing population and insufficient funds.

It is obvious that district taxpayers are not willing to give anymore of their money to the district. It is also obvious that the district has no extra money lying around that it can just throw at problems to fix them.

Because of last year's student fee lawsuit, the district cannot charge students for any sort of required class or activity.

So Omaha Public Schools (OPS) is truly stuck between a rock and a hard place.

This is a situation where there is no easy answer. There are solutions, but they make take a while to find and execute. For the time being, students and faculty will just have to grin and bear it and hope that things get better.

This may mean that more groups will have to do their own fundraising to buy needed supplies or to cover expenses.

This may mean students might not have as many opportunities as they would have if the levy had passed.

It is a sad, but true fact that when money is not available, the students are the ones to suffer the most, whether they realize it or not.

In this situation, the old saying "Prepare for the worst, hope for the best" is applicable. One never knows, the students of OPS may not notice any direct results from this.

On the other hand, they very well may feel the reverberations of this vote.

It is not clear at this time, but every student, teacher and parent in the district should prepare for some lean times in the future.

No one can say what will definitely happen in any situation, but in this one, it is best to be on the safe side and assume that OPS is in for a tough situation where some unfortunate sacrifices may have to be made.

It may be in the form of program cuts or increased reliance on grants or donations.

There is nothing students can do for now, but wait and see. In an ideal situation something would come along and save the district.

But real life is often far from ideal.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of the Register staff

HEROES & ZEROS

-Senior Class Officers

Congratulations to the Senior Class Officers for the Canned Food Drive they hosted that collected a record amount of cans. These will surely help people who really need it during the holiday season.

-Mock Trial

Both of Central's Mock Trial teams made an impressive showing at this year's State competition. The District 11 team received an honorable mention and the District 12 team took fourth. Congratulations to Central's Legal Eagles.

-Winter Break

After a long, hard semester of school, both students and faculty are in need of a little rest.

-Welding in the Basement

The welding in the basement caused a horrible stench to waft up through the vents and throughout the building.

Since it is the dead of winter, students and teachers had to choose between freezing and having to bear through the burning smell.

-SAT Revamp

The SAT now has a new essay section and more math material because of threats from colleges to stop the use of the test.

-Wrestling T-shirts

Usually, the team sells about 100 t-shirts. This year they only sold 30. As a result they had to think of other ways to raise more money.

OPINION

"I would like to know why this school does not have a Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Benson Northwest, North and South all have active FCAs. Why then does our school, known for having better academic programs and enriching after-school activities, not have one?"
Dede Hearity, 9

Holiday marketing causes sensory overload

I hate the holidays. No, scratch that, I love the holidays. Presents, good food, family, friends—all things I enjoy.

What I really, really hate is how the holidays are marketed.

You know what I mean. The displays in stores, the Muzak, the never-ending commercials on TV and radio—it's been there every year and every year it gets worse.

I swear there is some evil marketing team, locked away in a tower high above New York or Los Angeles, that is entirely devoted to plotting how to integrate Christmas into our lives earlier and earlier every year.

These vile fiends will not rest until Christmas in July becomes a reality and not just a saying furniture stores use when having a summer sale.

But even before all of that happens, it is still obvious how holiday marketing

has crept into our lives a little earlier every year.

Let's say you walk into a department store two weeks before Thanksgiving and you notice that the hints of Christmas are already starting to pop up.

Sure it starts out innocently enough, with a candy cane here and a bough of mistletoe there.

But before you know it, it's the first week of December and everywhere you turn light-up snowmen and reindeer surround you, all wrapped in enough twinkle lights to induce epileptic seizures.

It's enough to drive anyone absolutely crazy. Every year, the holiday Muzak gets piped over the intercom just a few days sooner and the winter wonderland decorations get brought out earlier and earlier in the fall.

Now I am a person who generally avoids malls at all costs. So for me to notice this entire commercial holiday crazi-

ness means that it truly has seeped into every possible aspect of society.

You can't turn on a TV without seeing commercials selling whatever the hot new holiday toys and gadgets are. You go to the drugstore to buy toothpaste and you run into huge displays of Santa-shaped chocolate bars and fake Christmas trees.

Everyday on my way to school, I drive past a house that has a six-foot light-up snowman on the front lawn, along with multicolored lights, lighted candy canes and a Santa and reindeer set. All of this has been set up since the middle of November.

I honestly just do not see the point. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa all have some sort of religious or cultural attachment. Even for people who are not religious, this time of year is good for reconnecting with family and friends to relax and have a good time.

So whether it is a time for reverence or a time for relaxation, the holiday season should not be burdened down with

all of the stress provided by endless commercials, cheesy songs and irritating store displays.

Wouldn't it be nice to go to store, do a little shopping, have some lunch and then come home, without having to hear "Jingle Bells" 5,000 times?

Or wouldn't it be pleasant to drive by a row of shops and not be blinded by holiday decorations that could fill in as stage lights for the Orpheum?

I am convinced that the holiday season would be a much more enjoyable time if we didn't have to deal with all of this.

But unfortunately, the evil marketing team is not likely to listen to me anytime soon.

So in the meantime, I'll just have to avoid the malls at all cost, invest in a set of earplugs for whenever I hear the opening strains of holiday Muzak and wait patiently until the holiday madness passes.

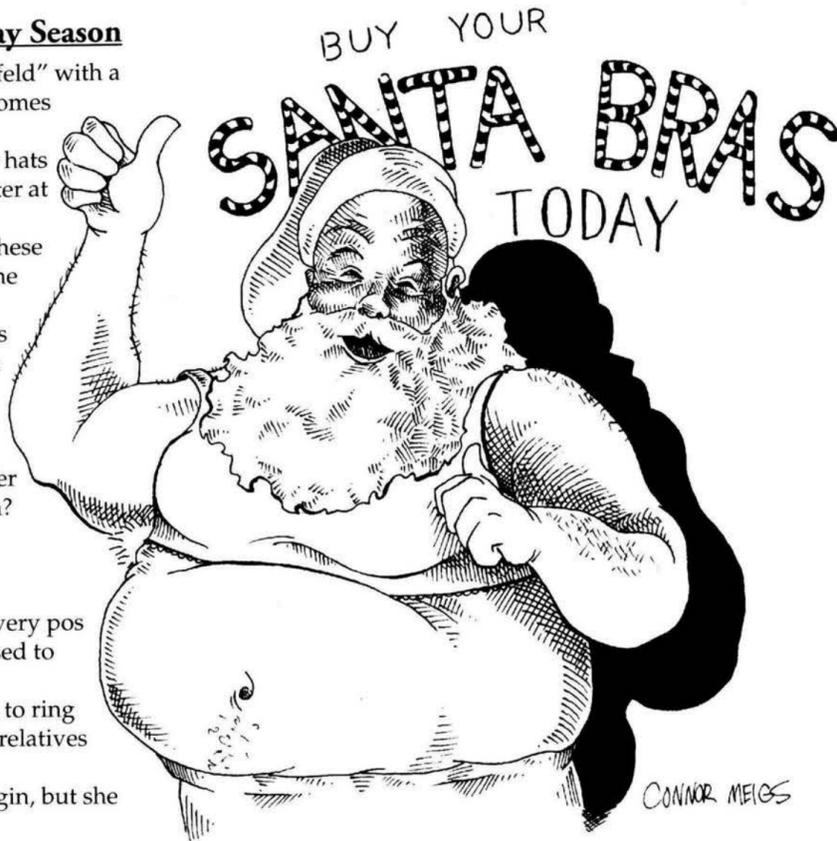
Besides, the Valentine's Day merchandise should be out soon anyway.



LONG STORY SHORT
Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Top 10 Worst Items Marketed for the Holiday Season

1. The Santa Bra (at right)- Think of the "Bro" from "Seinfeld" with a little bit of holiday flair thrown in for good measure. Comes in a wide variety of colors, styles and decorative trims.
2. Elf Nightlights- Glowing little demonic faces with pointy hats and ears—just the thing to make small children sleep better at night.
3. Dreidel earrings- Turn your head the wrong way and these stylish jewelry accessories can take out on eye or give the person next to you a concussion
4. Egg Nog Perfume- Now you can smell as nutmeg-gy as you please without any calories or fat. Also available in a cologne for the men who want to have that Santa aura.
5. Candy Cane Toothbrushes-Lets the kids rot their teeth away while they are brushing them.
6. Kwanzaa Claus Dolls-Why bother to celebrate two different holidays when you can mix the best of both of them? Comes with his own set of candles.
7. Mistletoe Pocket Protectors- Helping nerds get a little somethin' somethin' since 1962.
8. Discount Yule Log- All the scraps and leftovers from every possible manufacturing factory in the country all compressed together into a big mass of pure goodness.
9. Nine hour tape loop of "Jingle Bells"- the perfect thing to ring in the holiday spirit or drive all the unwanted visiting relatives far, far, away.
10. "The Osbournes" Nativity scenes- Mary may be a virgin, but she sure has got a foul mouth.



Mafia life holds idealic appeal, glamorous dangers for members

I have always fancied that life as a Mafioso would be exciting and glamorous. I have always wanted to be a member of the Mafia.

Despite the glory that would occur from being a member of the Mafia there are a few downsides, like the messy shootings, the "whacking," all the pairs of cement shoes.

But the rest of the parts of the Mafia lifestyle have always seemed appealing. I would just like to have a bevy of "associates" to do my bidding, loads of money that I didn't have to do any real work to earn and then have the ability to just sit back and relax.

Prior to the popular show "The Sopranos," I dreamed of having henchmen carry out my evil bidding, or even doing my homework.

Close your eyes and imagine the

wealth and power that emanated from the once powerful Mafia families. If anything, I always thought that living a scene from "The Godfather" would bring joy to my heart.

Of course losing a family member would be a fatal blow, but at least they died defending the great name of the Rips family. After watching a few seasons of "The Sopranos," I have

learned that life does go on. The Mafia, in the good old days, was a strong group that would stick together as it tried assimilating its way into American society.

The Mafiosos would go to jail for their brothers, but back then RICO laws were not around and jail sentences were only a few years.

But, unfortunately the government

frowns upon such acts as money laundering, drug dealing, embezzlement and extortion.

In order for my Mafia to be successful, I need to find friends who will be loyal to me, but fear me.

It would be impossible to run a successful organization without having fear. I need to be kind, but cutthroat at the same time.

If some schmuck tries to cut me out of my empire, he has to die. It's non-negotiable, sorry.

But I can't be the one to kill him. Killing is cruel and inhumane, I'll admit, but my empire is at stake. I wouldn't want to kill him, but knowing too much is dangerous.

In some cases, the scare tactic would work. You know, the old horse's head in his bed routine. The only problem with being a Mafioso is the constant attempts to end your life by rival families.

I would take some safety measures to protect myself and the family. First of all, I would have to invest money into an armored car equipped with bullet-proof windows. Cadillac is famous for customizing their cars, if it worked for the guys from days of yore, it will work for me.

My family also would want to be protected. What whiny little buggers. I'm trying to run an evil empire and all they want to do is have a safe life.

While being a member of the Mafia has its perks, I will never be able to kill people as my real job.

I would have to create some complex lie involving the garbage industry or the fish market, since that is what all great Dons seem to do.

But, despite all of these problems I still think that living as a member of the Mafia would be fun. Then again, maybe not.



LIKE A PARASITE
Sara Rips

Rudeness irritates student

Dear Editor,
People at this school are very rude. They bump into you and don't bother to say "excuse me" or "sorry." People are immature and don't take school seriously at all.

Amanda Scholting, 10

Club would draw athletes

Dear Editor,
I am a very concerned student.

I would like to know why this school does not have a Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Benson,

Northwest, North and South all have active FCAs.

Why then does our school, known for having better academic programs and enriching after-school activities not have one?

If we do have happen to have an active one, then why is it not well-publicized like the rest of our after school activities?

If it is a problem with student participation, I am sure there are other students that would be willing to help out.

Thank-you for your time.
In God's amazing love,
Dede Hearity, 9

Letters to the Editor Wanted

Letters to the editor are welcomed. They can be dropped off in room 315 or in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the office. They can also be e-mailed to register@ops.org. Letters must be signed with the authors name and grade.

Letters may be edited for taste, clarity or length. Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be printed.

Student body accepts all

Dear Editor,
There is something that I like about this school.

The students at Central like others, not for their culture or how they are, they like them for who

they are on the inside.

Kelly Rynkol, 10

Boxing deserves attention

Dear Editor,
Why doesn't the school paper write about boxing?

Boxers are not well-known in this school, like athletes of any other sport.

I don't want to be famous, but I want boxing to be famous, like football, soccer or volleyball.

I think this school would be more popular if the Register sports staff wrote about good fighters and also the champions, like me.

I also think someone at Central should consider starting up a boxing club.

Jose Hinojosa, 11

Regulations reconsidered

Dear Editor,

Earlier this year, I had my CD player taken away.

It was taken after I had taken approximately three steps inside of the school.

I was just removing my headphones when I was stopped by an authority figure. All of this happened before school started.

I have seen others during school with CD players who have not been stopped.

All of those who I noticed have been on teams representing our school.

Rules should be fair.
Sam Stanfield, 11

REGISTER YOUR OPINION

A recent census of Omaha Public Schools showed that its minority population is now over 50 percent. Do you think Central's diversity is an asset and why?



"Yeah, because I think people can experience things from other cultures. Everyone at Burke picked out certain ethnic backgrounds and made fun of them. Central is more open and accepting."

Cari Belt, 11



"Yeah, it does help you in the future in life with different types of people in school. You can work better if you can get along with people."

Nick Ferraguti, 10



"I think it is pretty diverse, mixed cultures makes Central. It's nice like Central is all white."

Raysheena Samuel, 11



"Yeah, in the future we need to be used to dealing with people of different cultures."

Julia Darrow, 11



"I personally think it's diverse. I went to a Catholic school for my whole life and I never got an experience. I made lots of friends (at Central) with different ethnic backgrounds. Everyone at Central fits in perfectly."

Tim Kanger, 9

Punk band lacks talent, originality

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Memo to all those who maintain that punk is dead: it is and Sugarcult's new album "Start Static" drove the final nail into its coffin. It only takes a listen to know that if Joe Strummer and Johnny Rotten were dead, they would be rolling over in their graves. Gone are any traces of originality or riskiness that made punk exciting in the first place in the '70s.

It is replaced with stereotypical lyrics about being a poor suburban kid on "Stuck in America" and the poppy and elementary melodies that are evident on every track. The band's first single "Bouncing Off the Walls" has been featured extensively on TV and radio so it should be familiar to most viewers. In no way makes it easier to stomach.

This is one of those songs that will send listeners bouncing off the walls as they tear out their fingernails and gouge out their eyes and curse whatever deity they chose to worship for giving them ears that can hear this horrid, horrid sound.

Sugarcult is exemplary of everything that is wrong with "rock" music today. It lacks any sort of definite character.

Instead of possessing a certain street cred or toughness or personality or soul or anything that would identify them as remotely human, they are polished and snotty, like a record exec bred them especially in the punk section of his musical garage.

This album is perfect for 13 year olds who want to be rebellious and cool, but for anyone who is old enough to realize that a revolution cannot be led by a bunch of MTV pseudo-skate punks, it is a complete waste of time.

In fact, it is more than a waste of time, it is a complete abomination of the concept of time consumption.

After listening to this album, any listener with a conscience will want his money back, not only the money that was paid for the album, but also the money that was wasted on all of those precious moments of youth that were wasted on this album.

Chances are, if a listener truly believes that bands like Blink 182 really rock, he will enjoy "Start Static."

But Sugarcult doesn't even attempt to be as rebellious as Blink 182, which was at least "old" enough to blatantly make fun of pop culture in its videos.

Anyone who can go to a mall, walk through the aisles and not be disgusted by all of the 12-year-old wannabe skate punks should be able to stomach this album.

Anyone who cannot should congratulate himself on his excellent taste.



Courtesy of Ultimatum Music

The members of Sugarcult are (from left) Ben Davis, Marko 72, Airin and Tim Agnotta

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Calendar



Courtesy of Warner Brothers

Laura Sobel (Lisa Kudrow) looks down at Jelly (Joe Vitelli) the buddy of her husband's mobster patient/house guest in the new comedy "Analyze That." The film stars Billy Crystal as Kudrow's husband and Robert DeNiro as the mobster.

Stars unable to save comedy

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

"Analyze That" is a movie that does not require a whole lot of analysis.

It's topically funny and has some truly witty moments, but is overall predictable.

The movie is a sequel to the 1999 hit "Analyze This." Any viewers who did not see the first one should not worry.

The only thing it is really necessary to know about the first installment is that Dr. Ben Sobel (Billy Crystal) treated New York mobster Paul Vitti (Robert DeNiro), wacky hijinks ensued and Vitti ended up going to jail.

This movie opens with Paul in prison, convinced that someone is trying to kill him. Then his behavior be-

gins to take a somewhat erratic turn. He begins to alternately belt out tunes from "West Side Story" and slip into catatonic states.

The confused staff of the prison puts him into Ben's custody so that he can whip Paul into psychological shape before his first parole hearing.

Of course this could not come at a worse time in Ben's life. His overbearing, cold father had just died and he is experiencing a mid-life crisis because of it.

Once Paul gets back into Ben's life chaos ensues. He obviously gets involved in tuggish activities again and drags Ben down with him.

DeNiro and Crystal are two very talented actors. They and some of the members of the talented supporting

cast, are the only things that make this movie rise above an extraordinarily average script.

Lisa Kudrow plays a fairly small role as Ben's wife Laura, but her acidic delivery often makes her verifiable scene-stealer.

Joe Vitelli, who plays Paul's right-hand man Jelly, also turns in a few golden moments.

But these actors are not enough to turn some cliched scenes and average writing into the razor-sharp comedy that some may expect.

For those who were big fans of "Analyze This" or really like Crystal or DeNiro, this movie is a must-see.

But for those who are not, this is the kind of movie that is worth the cost of a matinee ticket or video rental, but may leave viewers disappointed if they pay full price.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Analyze That"
 3 of 5
 Starring: Robert DeNiro, Billy Crystal
 Rated: R

CD Releases

All album releases are on Tuesdays



December

24 Frank Zappa "For Collectors Only"

Frank Zappa, the experimental musician/artist best known for "Valley Girl," his collaborative single with his daughter Moon Unit, returns with a new album. Check out this disk for what is certain to be an interesting musical experience.

January

7 New Order "Retro"

"Retro" is the six album box set from the late '80s electronica collective New Order. For those who are not familiar with the band, this could be the perfect introduction to the band, best known for its single "Blue Monday." For old fans, it should be an ideal compilation of all the group's hits.

14 Marvin Gaye "Let's Get It On" (Original Recording Remastered)

Marvin Gaye's legendary album "Let's Get It On" will be released after having the original recordings remastered to improve sound quality. The title track is known as one of the most seductive songs in modern music history. Gaye, who was shot to death by his father in the mid-'80s, is probably one of the most prolific R&B songwriters and performers that has ever lived.

Movie Releases

December

- 20 "Two Weeks Notice"
"Gangs of New York"
"The Wild Thornberrys Movie"
"Narc"
"Smokers Only"
- 25 "Catch Me If You Can"
"Pinocchio"
- 27 "Chicago"
"The Hours"
"Max"
"Nicholas Nickleby"
"The Pianist"
"Sonny"
"Max"

January

- 10 "Blue Collar Comedy Tour: the Movie"
"Just Married"
"P.S. Your Cat is Dead!"
- 17 "A Guy Thing"
"National Security"
"The Sin Eater"
"Big Shot's Funeral"
"City of God"
"Divine Intervention"
"Kira's Reason: a Love Story"
- 24 "Darkness Falls"
"A View From the Top"
"Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary"
"In the Mirror of Maya Deren"

Concerts

December

- 20 Facecage at Sokol Auditorium
- 21 Bombardment Society, the Maryannes, the Sound of Rails and Real Time Optimists at Sokol Underground
- 26 Mannheim Steamroller at Civic Auditorium
- 27 Mannheim Steamroller at Civic Auditorium
- 28 Mannheim Steamroller at Civic Auditorium

January

- 10 Three Dog Night at the Orpheum Theater
- 11 Three Dog Night at the Orpheum Theater
- 20 Big Head Todd and the Monsters at the Music Box

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Lopez, Fiennes make 'Maid' worth time

By Kaitlin Jessing-Butz

Imagine if Cinderella moved to the Bronx with a precocious 10-year-old son and got a job cleaning up a swank hotel.

Imagine Prince Charming as a young politician with a reputation for being a supermodel-dating playboy.

Imagine the evil stepmother as a whiny, rich auction house scout who loves to play mind games with men.

That's the basic setup for the Jennifer Lopez star vehicle "Maid in Manhattan."

The plot is predictable as all get-out, but winning performances by Lopez and her modern day Prince Charming, Ralph Fiennes make this movie a major guilty pleasure.

Lopez plays Marisa, a maid at the upper class Beresford Hotel in Manhattan.

She's a single mom whose son, Ty, is way too smart for his own good.

Marisa is a lowly maid at the hotel, but she dreams of holding some sort of management position where she won't be at the constant beck and call of the hotel's high-class clientele.

One day, while preparing to return a guest's unwanted Dolce and Gabbana clothes, Marisa is convinced by a co-worker to try the fancy threads on.

While still dressed in them, Ty comes and introduces her to Chris, a state assemblyman



Marisa (Jennifer Lopez) celebrates with some of her co-workers after deciding to apply for a promotion at her hotel in "Maid in Manhattan." Lopez is the star of the modern-day Cinderella story.

and senatorial candidate staying in the hotel while he is on the campaign trail.

Ty convinces the two to spend the afternoon together and everything goes great, except for the fact that Chris believes that Marisa is a guest at the hotel, not an employee.

The rest of the film is devoted to the inevitable problems that come from a relationship based on a lie like this.

Natasha Richardson plays Caroline, the snotty guest who competes with Marisa for Chris' attention.

Of course, the ending can be spotted from a mile away, but somewhere along the line, the movie charms the viewer just enough that no one will mind the obvious clichés in the story.

Fiennes is one of his generation's most talented actors and one could make an argument that he is wasted in a movie like this.

In many respects, that is probably true, but Fiennes does do a good job with what he given in this movie. Lopez does well in her role too, but there is not much for her to do.

None of the characters in this movie are particularly multi-dimensional, but Lopez's is particularly stereotypical.

"Maid in Manhattan" will not win any Oscars or drastically change any lives, but it will lift the spirits of anyone in a cruddy mood that goes to see it.

MOVIE REVIEW

"Maid in Manhattan"

of 5

Starring: Jennifer Lopez, Ralph Fiennes

Rated: PG-13

MOVIE REVIEW

"Eight Crazy Nights"

of 5

Voiced By: Adam Sandler, Jon Lovitz

Rated: PG-13

By John Owens-Ream

Eleanor, for a few days he begins to be lovable again.

Adam Sandler took many chances in his new animated film "Eight Crazy Nights." Unfortunately for him, most of them fell through.

"Eight Crazy Nights" attempts to be a sentimental, yet comical, musical about a young Jewish man who, due to childhood trauma, has become the least lovable character in town.

When a set of completely predictable and contrived plot twists force him to move in with and work for the referee of the youth basketball league, the movie hits rock bottom.

After living with the ref, Whitey, and his crazy sister,

Overall "Eight Crazy Nights," full of potty-mouthed jokes and predictable cliché plot lines, is a big waste of time.

However, on the plus side, it doesn't waste much.

Maroon5 album mixes musical genres, fails to master any particular one

By Nichole Tyrey

Finally, an answer to the age-old question of what would happen if the Backstreet Boys, Lenny Kravitz and Ray Charles had a baby.

The answer is Maroon5. The possibilities were positive, but it seems like someone must have peed in the gene pool.

Maroon5, formerly know as Kara's Flowers, has a new album entitled "Songs About Jane."

This album mixes pop, alternative rock, R&B and funk providing something for just about everyone.

However, someone should have informed the members that too many genres could spoil a band's

career. The opening cut, "Harder to Breathe," is the rockiest song on the album.

The band mixes its emo roots with its newly found funk style on this track.

This song features soulful lyrics, accompanied by a groovy bass line and a wailing guitar.

Another standout track is "She Will Be Loved." This song shows off the more sentimental, quieter, less bitter side of the band.

Maroon5's musical style may be varied, however the choice of lyrical topics isn't.

There are songs about love, songs about lust, songs about Jane and that's about it.

There are only so many ways a songwriter can

put, "Jane, we broke up and I miss you" without sounding pathetic.

Maroon5 used all of the ways and still had a few tracks left to sound desparate and whiney on.

The lyrics at times also seemed forced as though the lyricist waited until the band was sitting in the studio to write the lyrics.

The lyricist seems puts an emphasis on rhyming above making the song creative and meaningful.

This lack of lyrical variety, originality and writing talent made the album very repetitive and cliché.

Maroon5's album "Song About Jane" will never be a top 40 hit, a top 100 hit or a top 140 hit. This indie band will probably not get signed to a major label until it chooses a genre and gets over Jane.

ALBUM REVIEW

"Songs About Jane"

Maroon5

of 5



The members of Maroon5 are (from left) Jesse Carmichael, Ryan Dusick, Adam Levine, James Valentine and Mickey Madden.

'Harry Potter' fever takes hold of innocent viewer, relentlessly haunts dreams

I think I am coming down with something.

Do I have a fever? No.

No signs of sore throat or stomach problems.

It looks like I have a bad case of Harry Potteritus, and it does not look like I am getting any better.

Monday night, 8:30, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" has been on for roughly an hour and half.

I did not want to watch, but the cheesy levitation spells and the potion classes have bewitched me, I cannot pull my eyes away.

The movie gets over at 9:30, instead

of going to bed, I get on-line, and look up Harry Potter fan clubs.

I never thought I would be part of such a phenomenon, but I guess I thought wrong.

I am stuck. I can not get out of this parallel universe known as Harry Potter. It was time for me to go to bed.

So I turn off my lights and climb into my black metal frame futon.

I am asleep for quite sometime and I start to dream that I am living at Hogwarts School of Magic and I am trying to learn how to fly.

Now, I am being invited to be the seeker for the school's next game of quidditch.

Why am I dreaming about this?

I mean, Harry Potter is quite possibly one of the stupidest things that I have ever come across, but I think I just might like it.

As I weave in and out of sleep, I am still getting graphic images of me in big circle wire frame glasses with an invisibility cloak trying to get past Fluffy, the dog with three heads.

In my dream I finally get into the trap door, past Fluffy.

Some friends and I are stuck in a tangle of devils snare, but we are determined to get the sorcerer's stone.

Now that we are playing an intense game of wizard chess, the pieces are alive and they actually kill the opponents' pieces.

We have to sacrifice the knight to the queen so that we can win and my little school friend has fallen to the floor when the porcelain horse was slain by the porcelain king.

We win the chess game and now we have to go and get the stone. There is someone else there and he is trying to get the stone.

But little does he know that it is in my pocket and I am not about to let him go in there and get it. We fight.

I fall, he goes for the stone, and my hands burn him when I try to stop him.

I get cheered for winning the house cup at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and then my alarm goes off.

I go to school and feel like all I had known about Central had been turned

upside down.

All of the doors that I did not know where they led caught my attention. I wondered where it led, maybe to the secret chessboard or the collection of flying broomsticks.

At the end of the day I go to Borders to try and get the cure for the fever. But instead I find Harry Potter jellybeans.

At first these seem innocent enough but little did I know the "joke" flavors of the back of the box were real.

Unknowingly I ate some of the vomit and booger flavored ones.

But the grass-flavored one was my personal favorite.

When will this stop? When will I get better? I guess I should just see where this disease takes me.



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Nextweus jams way into music scene



Photo by KAITLIN JESSING-BUTZ/THE REGISTER

Senior Doug Hageman and junior Charles Serfass of Nextweus play a Christmas carol during recent performance at a lunch banquet at Serfass' church. The band usually plays original songs when it performs.

By Laura Diesing
String Cheese Incident and have given birth to a love child. That child's name is Nextweus. With less than a year of on-stage experience, the band is already filling coffeehouses to the brim with its loyal fans. Juniors Matt Schrad, Chuck Serfass, Adam Nebel and senior Doug Hageman have come a long way since their first performance. "It wasn't really a show," Hageman said. "It was us playing for a bunch of my friends in the backyard." The four friends had been playing with the idea of forming a band for months, but a mind-blowing concert made it official,

Schrad said. "We had talked about making a band but when we saw String Cheese Incident, we said 'Hey, we want to do that,'" he said. With a little help from one of their idols, Phish, the guys began to invent their band's name. Schrad said they were watching television and the phrase "the next us" from a Phish video sounded really good to them. Eventually, they put their own twist on the phrase. The band decided to incorporate the phrase "we us" from one of the members' favorite movies, "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure." Now, the band had a name and everything was falling into place. Nextweus' mix of original

and cover songs with an improvisational jam band sound has attracted a large number of fans. "We always involve the audience," Schrad said. "We are very spontaneous and we try to make up a song every show." One of the more popular parts of Nextweus' performances is the rhyming dictionary. Someone from the audience is chosen to pick a page out of the dictionary. Serfass then tries to make up a song using as many words on that page as possible. Another of the crowd's favorites is when the band sings Shel Silverstein poems. "We want it to be as fun as possible for the audience," Schrad said. The same impromptu style is used when Nextweus is writing

new songs. "We fool around until someone thinks it's cool," Serfass said. "We doodle." This formula of jamming and "doodling" has led to the birth of many crowd-pleasing songs like "Tool," "Sayeth" and "Knock, Knock." "It's a bass line and Chuck raps over it," Hageman said. "We were going to make a song that was all knock-knock jokes, but it was too hard." Underneath all the funny songs and jokes, the members have had serious thoughts about the future of Nextweus. Serfass said that the band wanted to put out a CD, but members are short on money and time. "We're all so busy, but if we got really serious it would be something great," Hageman said. Aside from the lack of money and time, there is yet another major obstacle for Nextweus to overcome.

Hageman will be graduating at the end of this school year and going away to college, but there is still hope. "My parents might make me go to UNO anyway, which would be very conducive to the greatness of our band," Hageman said. Graduation is months away and the band members said they are planning on making the most of their time. "Whatever happens, happens," Schrad said. Nextweus will be playing at Caffeine Dreams on Jan. 11. Schrad said that the audience should not expect the same show as the last time the band performed. "You could come to two of our shows and see two different things," Schrad said. Nextweus is making its way up in the high school music scene and plans on jamming and playing with its audience until the bitter end.

Former students find jobs, meet celebrities on film set

By Nichole Tyrey
It is not often that the people of Omaha get to rub elbows with the rich and famous. Former student Chris Terwilliger, however, got to do just that while helping out on the set of the movie "About Schmidt."

Terwilliger became involved in the movie after his friend and former student Michaela Terasinski, who was interested in film making, wondered down to the set. "I was sitting on the porch watching them film next door. The director said 'hi' and we started talking," Terasinski said. After meeting the crew Terasinski invited Terwilliger down to the set the next day to help. They helped the crew set up cameras and lighting. They also aided in editing the scenes to make them have an Omaha feel. "It was really bizarre how low key they all were," Terwilliger said about the cast and crew. "You'd think that when meeting people like this there would be security all over the place and they would be protective but it was not like this at all. Everyone was really friendly." Terasinski said that the friendly crew and cast were her favorite part of the experience. "It was very cool. You think of Hollywood as a big, untouchable thing, but all of the actors are really down to earth," she said.

"About Schmidt" Opened in Omaha on Dec. 13 Directed by: Alexander Payne Starring: Jack Nicholson, Kathy Bates Former students Chris Terwilliger and Michaela Terasinski worked on the set

Neither Terwilliger nor Terasinski worked on-screen. However, they both were asked advice on what locations were best for certain scenes and what takes they liked the best. After the filming of "About Schmidt" was over, they were invited to a charity event at the Blue Barn Theater to see a montage of some of the scenes of the movie. Terwilliger said he found it both exciting and strange to see the completed version of some of the scenes he had helped with on the screen. "I was weird to see the scene being done and then see it edited and in its complete form," He said "You could recite the lines

along with the character and also remember the ones they had edited out." He was also surprised that the director Alexander Payne remembered who he was. "The fact that everyone remembered who you are despite how famous they are was bizarre," he said. Terwilliger said he found this to be a very eye-opening experience. He has been very involved in drama through out his life and thought it was interesting to see the other side of making movies. "I have always been involved with and loved acting," Terwilliger said. "The behind the scenes work is some-

Pride Players hope to send message of tolerance to audience

By Bryan Swotek
Every year, the Rose Theater puts on a production about awareness and acceptance; the production is called Pride Players. This will be junior Shannon Kyler's third year in the play. In the production, Kyler said she has learned a lot about herself than she knew before. "My parents always taught me to accept everyone no matter what their differences are," Kyler said. "Pride Players" is about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens. The performers write the majority of the play's material

each year. Many of the students in the play are from Central and have been involved with the production since it started four years ago. Last year, many performers returned to the cast, but Kyler said some were new as well. The cast and crew always keep the variety of the show different, much like the cast itself, Kyler said. "Our goal is to help open our community's eyes to the struggles of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens and their allies in Omaha," Kyler said. "I think that there are more people who simply do not understand the community



Kyler

and those who blatantly hate gays." Instead of focusing on the gay culture through adults' eyes, the teen actors perform stories, skits and monologues. "Gay teenagers are really a new subculture to our society because they are growing up in a time where it is much more accepted than ever before," Kyler said. Kyler said she thinks this year looks like it will be a successful year for the play. "We have a lot of new and younger people and Central is well-represented as always," Kyler said. This year, the play will be performed at the end of January and the beginning of February.

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Going off the deep end

Budget cuts force Central to consider sinking the boys swimming program. The possibility may leave Eagles swimmers in the wake of similar cuts across the nation



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Sophomore Sean McCall swims in the purple-white meet. McCall said he likes swimming and intends to continue. He swims for both high school and club teams. McCall opposes any possibility of Central taking away its boys swimming team.

By Steve Packard

After four years of decline, Central's boys swimming is considering alternate methods of funding to prevent being cut, Athletic Director Paul Pennington said.

Budget cuts and lack of interest have already forced the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) to cut the state gymnastics program this past year, and further Omaha Public Schools (OPS) cuts are in the wind, Pennington said.

A recent memorandum distributed by a committee of OPS assistant superintendents on the subject of "budget and finance suggestions," has only made the need to conserve money more apparent, and has foreshadowed a definite change for the future of high school swimming, he said.

Swimming coach Lynne Braddock said the problem is not a new one.

She said she has seen a notable decline in participation in boys swimming since she transferred to Central from her former position as a junior high swimming coach nearly nine years ago.

Braddock said part of the lack of interest may be because so many other sports are active at the same time. Regardless, it comes down to a general lack of interest on the part of students, administration and coaches.

Pennington said he has witnessed such a

decline.

Eight names stand alone on a list meant for over ten times the number on the official roster for boys swimming. He said it is definitely a sign.

When NSAA dropped gymnastics, it waited until the organization felt there weren't enough schools to compete. Thirteen schools said they wanted gymnastics teams.

However, most of them had less than ten gymnasts to a team. The time and work involved simply outweighed the interest.

The issue of completely cutting or even changing the status of boys swimming to a co-op team hasn't been discussed by OPS and Pennington said it doesn't look like it will happen soon.

Soon, he also said he thinks it's only a matter of time.

"I do see it (boys swimming) as a co-op future. It's definitely not an either all or nothing situation by any means," he said. "It's still on as far as I'm concerned because nobody's told me it's not."

As a result many boys swimmers have voiced concern regarding the subject, but it hasn't seemed to phase their dedication to the sport.

Sophomore Sean McCall, who swims with both Central and a Westside swim club, said he

thinks some of the concern is caused by public perception.

"People think of swimming as a recreational activity, but people don't realize that it's actually very competitive," McCall said. "They don't realize that swimmers also go out to better themselves and for the fun of the competition."

McCall said that such a perception is reflected in college scholarships. The University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, which has a nationally acclaimed swimming team, is starting to lower its athletic scholarships to dollar sums equal to unranked collegiate teams.

Sophomore Chris Kielion said swimming goes beyond any dollar value. For him, it's not just a sport, it's a culture.

"It (boys swimming) is about more than Coach Braddock's payroll," McCall said. "It's about people who want to be involved with more than just the education."

Although boys swimming may be in the process of being changed, Pennington said that doesn't mean the sport should be belittled.

"It (swimming, as a sport) is the whole idea behind athletics, being competitive and trying your hardest," he said.

Whatever decision the administration makes, Kielion said he will be determined to continue swimming.

"I won't give it up," Kielion said. "I love it."



Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Sophomore Brittany McClure swims in the purple-white meet. McClure recently qualified for State.

Sophomore works toward second swim at state meet

By Charlie Wence

Before high school, sophomore Brittany McClure only swam for clubs and thought of it more as a hobby rather than something to take seriously. That all changed her freshman year.

McClure placed 12th in the State Meet and her expectations for this year's season is to do even better.

McClure is already preparing to try and beat her amazing freshman 12th place finish at State.

She began to think of swimming as a serious activity when her sister Melissa was going to swim one day in the summer, she said.

"My mom told me that I should go with her (Melissa) to swim," McClure said.

Head coach Lynne Braddock said Melissa and Brittany are a lot alike.

"Melissa and Brittany are both very quiet, hard workers and never seem to have any problems," Braddock said.

McClure's best stroke is the breaststroke, same as her sister Melissa.

Before that summer, she swam with a club team and thought of swimming as

something fun to do.

McClure said coaches from the club teams she swam for prepared her well for high school swimming.

"They (the coaches) really encouraged me to do my best," she said.

She said that the coaches were more into it than there was more practice cause a pool is always available for their use while Central swimmers have to commute to Norris to practice.

"There was more pressure (swimming for a club)," McClure said.

During McClure's freshman year, Braddock said she was worried about how times wouldn't go down, but the end of the year she was very satisfied, yet surprised, with her finish at State.

"I knew she had it in her," Braddock said.

In Braddock's three years coaching swimming at Central, Brittany and Melissa are the only two to finish being 12th place at State in the breaststroke.

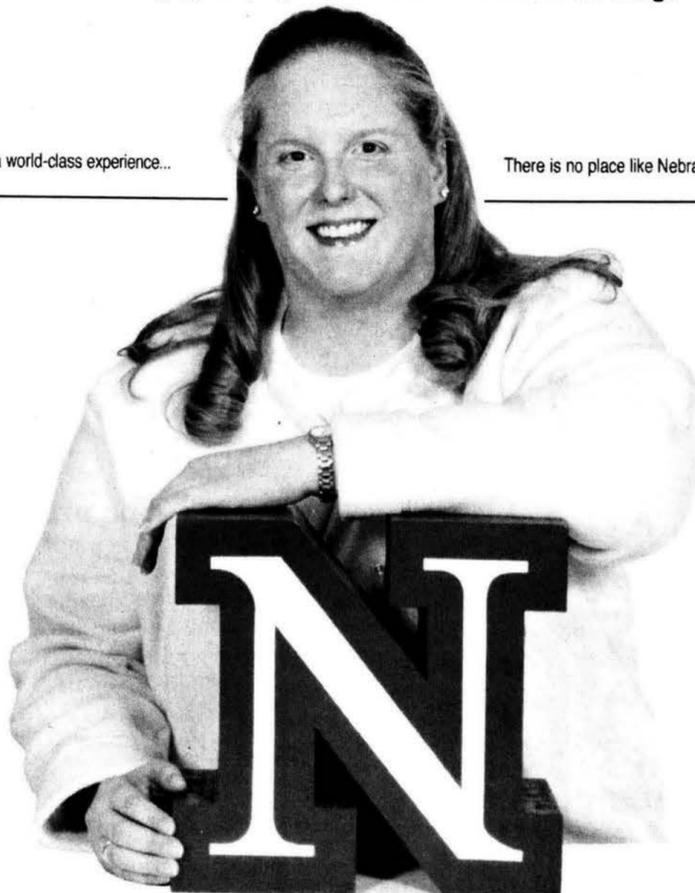
"She has gone further than other girls and really shows dedication," Braddock said.

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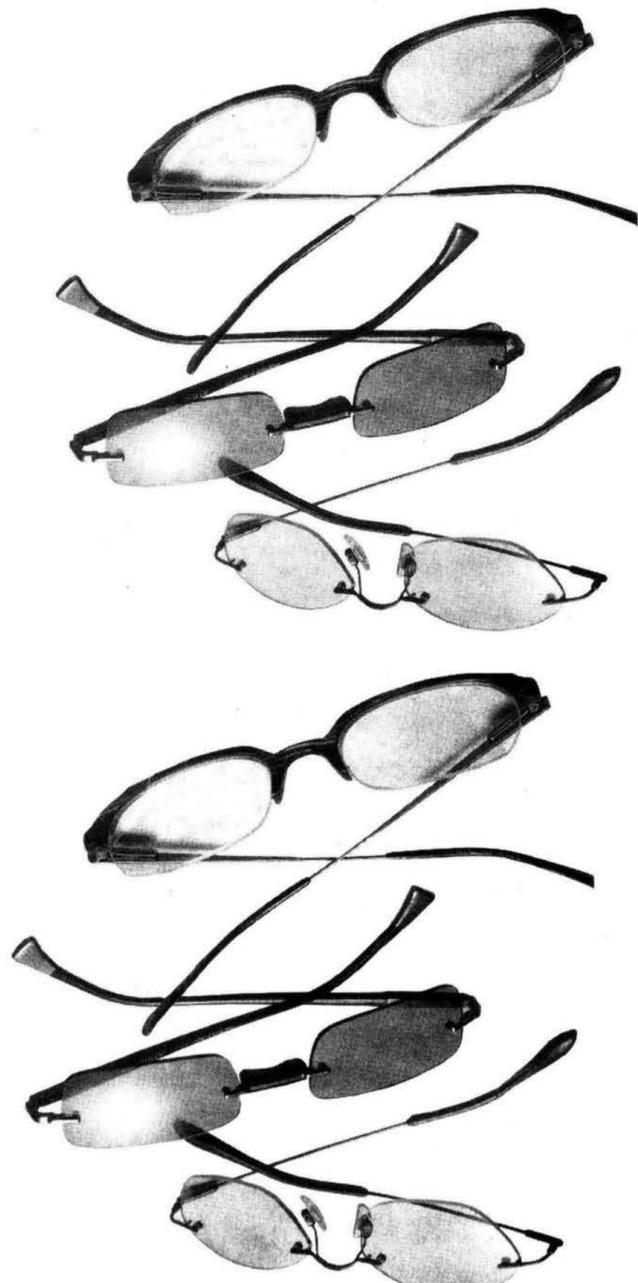
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Sophomore moves to new weight class, harbors hopes for State

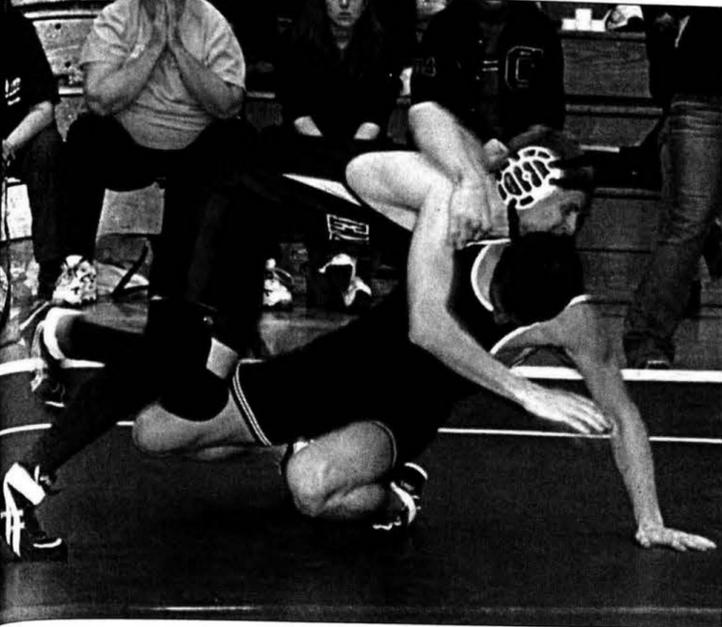


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER
 Sophomore Blake Gayer wrestles in his first match of the year at the purple-white match. Gayer is now in the 125 pound division.

By Doug Meigs

He began his second season wrestling at Central with a disappointment. But sophomore Blake Gayer isn't letting that extinguish his hope of placing at the State tournament for the first time.

Gayer pinned his first opponent in his first match, but lost his second and had a similar showing the following day at the Vern Ekfelt tournament that took place in early December.

"I was pretty disappointed, I wasn't ready, physically or mentally. I still plan on placing, I should," he said. "My goal is to place in the top three."

It was his first meet in the 125 pound weight class. Last year he had been in the 119 pound weight class.

"It (119) was pretty easy for me because I was right on the edge," he said. "Now I'm one of the small guys, I'm trying to beef up."

Even though it's only six pounds, Gayer said that the separation between weight classes is visually evident.

"It's a very big difference competitively," he said.

Gayer said he wanted to stay in his former weight class, but it just wasn't possible. His father had talked to coach

Jimmie Foster prior to the season, so Gayer said the coach understands the move.

"We are really close, he's like a second father," he said. "It's been fun because he knows I have the potential to be a State champ."

Gayer said he and Foster have worked a lot together over the past two years, especially over last summer.

He also went to a University of Nebraska- Omaha (UNO) wrestling camp.

Then closer to the school year, he went to another UNO camp and then to a camp at Dana College.

"He's one of the hardest workers we have on the team, a no-nonsense type of guy," Foster said.

Foster said Gayer will have a lot of opportunities to improve and grow as a wrestler since he is only a sophomore. By his senior year, Gayer said he should have a chance to win the State tournament.

"He's put in the time, so if he has some success this year, you can't say he's lucky," Foster said.

Although Gayer hasn't qualified for State in the regular wrestling sea-

son, he did so over the summer in "freestyle." Summer wrestling consists of "Greco-Roman" and "freestyle" wrestling, which are different than the "folk" style that is wrestled during the regular season.

The tournament took place in Kearney, but Central was unable to attend because the team was short on funds.

However, Gayer has had previous experience with other state tournaments outside of the high school level.

He even won City both years while attending Morton junior high.

Over the 12 seasons Gayer has wrestled, he said he had always been one of the top wrestlers. But as soon as he reached high school, the competition skyrocketed.

"I came in with a big head, then I realized it was high school," he said.

Gayer said that realization came abruptly in his first high school match. He said he was losing by a large margin, but his opponent slipped and he pinned him.

"After that it really hit me," he said, "this is high school, this is what it's all about."

Wrestling protocol illuminates dark side of sport's unhealthy competition

Junior Nick Wright is not a supermodel, but he still has to continually watch his weight and go through drastic measures to lose it or maintain it.

Wright is not the only wrestler who has had to cut weight during a season so he could wrestle.



THE LAST LAP
 Andrew Neal

Dr. Dale Landers found in his research at Columbia University that wrestling has the highest percentage of athletes who have eating disorders.

Everyday, wrestling practice leaves his body feeling fatigued, but still he cannot eat too much gain too much weight.

Conditioning can be as hard as practices, but then don't forget about the weight training involved.

The sport itself has been around forever. In every recorded piece of history, you see some guy wrestling on the ground in his cave with some other smelly, hairy mate. Now, the sport has become more detailed. Now, it is about conditioning, weight training and dangerously losing weight.

Landers' research involved looking at several sports and finding out the potential problems in each sport. He cited that eating disorders are only one problem that most wrestlers face. There is no need in having a sport that is more detrimental to one's health, instead of it actually benefiting any part of society.

The danger of cutting weight can sometimes lead past eating disorders, to death. In 1997, three wrestling died from the result of

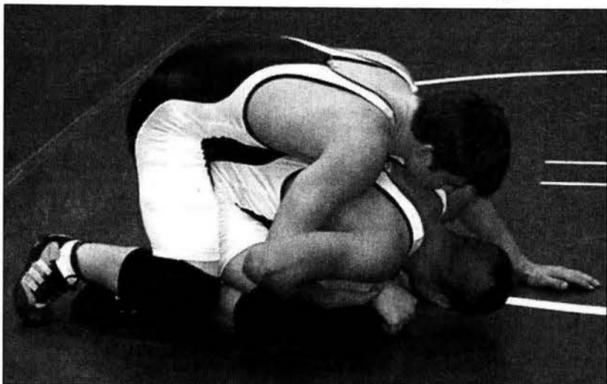


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/THE REGISTER

Junior Nick Wright wrestles in the purple-white match. Just like other wrestlers, Wright have to watch his weight.

"cutting weight."

Billy Jack Saylor, Jeff Reese, and Joseph LaRossa were those three athletes who died. All three deaths were due to substantial eating disorders that coincided with their wrestling activities.

Actually, you can't blame the athletes. They are just mindless robots doing what their insane coaches tell them to do. And they only do it because they want the opportunity to be a big-name around campus.

Coaches, on the other hand, have a different schedule to meet. It's not about teaching and coaching an athlete for the sport, and it is definitely not about teaching the athlete to mature and become a better person.

Central may be one of the few exceptions to the norm. We have continually had a coaching staff who carefully monitors athletes' weight loss and conditioning practices.

The only problem is that there are just too many coaches who don't care about their athletes. The problem is evident all over, even if it can't be seen here.

That is why the current state of wrestling requires drastic change. The bad far outweighs the little good that can be found.

For many coaches, it is all about themselves. That is why you have seen these ever-increasing problems in wrestling.

When the coaches push, most

wrestlers will respond. However, the problem is that coaches don't recognize achievement. They recognize the things that the athletes are doing wrong.

Go to any practice and you will hear the coach yelling for the kids to give more, but sometimes they can't

Saylor, Reese and LaRossa gave their hearts, but they didn't stop there. They gave their lives. They died so that their coaches could be noticed by a college and become an assistant coach.

Well, those three coaches got their fame. They had national attention and a cornucopia of lawsuits. When a sport has turned from an activity to an obsession, it is time to end it. It is time to give it the "death penalty" of high school sports.

Many will not agree with this, especially wrestlers and coaches. But I wonder, what would Saylor, Reese and LaRossa say?

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*home games played at McClean Ice Arena, Varsity begins at 7:30

Northside (Metro North) 2002-2003 O.M.A.H.A. January Schedule

- 1/1 To be announced
- 1/8 To be announced
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- 1/22 To be announced
- 1/29 To be announced

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THE DOGHOUSE

The girls and boys Varsity teams began their seasons in the doghouse with first game losses to Burke. The games were a disappointing start to a promising season.

Burke wins fourth quarter comeback

By Devon O'Connell

Central gave Burke one too many breaks during the team's first game.

Burke capitalized on turnovers in front of a packed home court to win the season's opening game 53-49. Central dominated the scoreboard the entire game, heading into the fourth quarter ahead by 14 points.

Head coach Eric Behrens said he was disappointed with the team's first game. He said the team was not disciplined, gave up and did not execute.

"We just didn't play well, we didn't shoot well," Behrens said. "We blew a huge lead."

Burke jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead in the first quarter before junior Brandon Gunn shot a jumper for the Eagles first score. Still in the first, junior Cortney Grixby had a reverse, was fouled, and then sunk the free throw to finish the three point play. Grixby led the team in scoring, he went 5 for 13 with 11 points.

Central led the entire second and third quarters, the closest Burke ever came to tying was within six points in the second. Juniors Karl White, Rico Washington, and Davon White all helped the lead. Washington had six points in the second, Davon scored four and Karl nailed two threes in the third.

The momentum shifted in the fourth when sophomore Nate Prater fouled out. Prater had seven points, and was the big man up front. After he fouled out, Burke scored six straight points.

The Bulldogs eventually tied it at 49 with 2:45 left in the fourth. Central turned the ball over again, and Burke took a three-point lead.

Grixby marched down the court, and shot for three and missed, but Gunn grabbed the rebound. He missed the three as well, but the Eagles again picked up the rebound. Grixby took the shot again, missed. This time the Eagles didn't get the ball back.

"They forgot what it takes to win a high school b-ball game," Behrens said. "It's a team sport, not your own personal highlight reel."

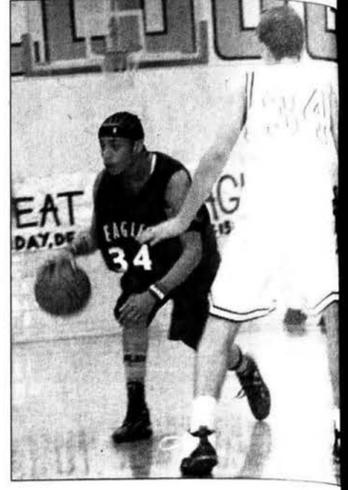
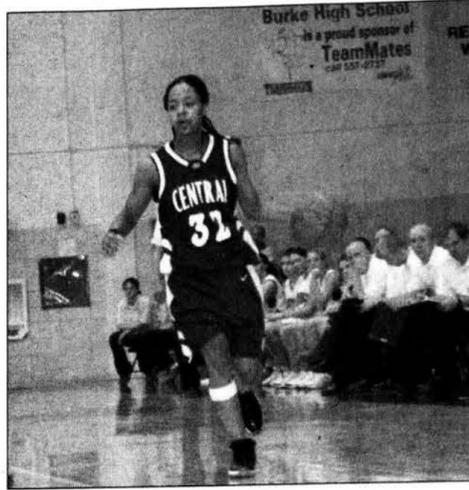


Photo by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Junior Karl White leaps past an opponent in the loss to Burke as one of the top-scorers.

Junior steps up to lead Eagles

By Doug Meigs

Age can be deceiving, especially for junior Karl White and the rest of the 2002-03 Eagles basketball team.

White will be one of the three juniors who coach Eric Behrens said will make up the team's core of leadership. Rico Washington and Cortney Grixby are the two other juniors.

"Last year we had guys like Schyler (Thomas) and Kris (Kuhn)," Behrens said. "They were good players and led the team. We only have two seniors so we'll look to juniors to provide a lot of leadership."

Regardless, Behrens said he is more than confident that White along with other junior players will be able to lead the team to success at State.

"If we do win State, then he (White) has done his job," Behrens said. "I think he's going to be a two-year starter and play hard. Hopefully, he'll help us win two state championships. That's the goal."

White said a State championship seemed to be a shoe-in last year, but he has faith that the junior core can keep the team within reach of the State championship for the next two years. At the very worst, this year will just be a stepping stone to further success next season, he said.

Both he and Behrens said last year's first round State loss was a huge disappointment.

"We let a lot of people down and a lot of seniors down," White said. "A lot of people were expecting us to go all the way."

Last year, the Eagles won the holiday tournament in Districts, White said they hope to do the same this year. But this time they should go all the way.

White said he stepped up as a team leader for the first time during the Districts last year. He was the leading scorer as a sophomore.

"I just stepped up and made points," he said. "I'm a scorer. I try and lead by example."

Behrens said White seems to be a genuine one player just like Kuhn and Thomas turned out to be. Kuhn currently plays for Robert Morris and Thomas plays at Kansas State.

In fact, White is seriously considering going to play for Kansas State following graduation. Although he is also looking at the Indiana and Nebraska, one of the major reasons he wishes to go to Kansas State is his friendship with Thomas.

He said he is looking to play shooting guard at college. That's the position he currently plays.

White said he doesn't know how much playing time he'll receive his freshman year, but wants to make an impact on whatever team he chooses to play for.

Behrens said he has a lot of faith in White's abilities. He said White is a good shooter, scorer, defensive player and an overall well-rounded player.

However, the team has to get back on track from the first game loss to Burke. Although White was one of the team's leaders during the game, he said the team didn't hold together long enough through the entire game.

The team had been winning in the beginning and lost it in the fourth quarter.

"It was a wake-up call," he said. "We have got to play defense for all 32 minutes. We kind of shut down. We just have to pick it up and win the rest of our games."

CHS girls teeter on early borderline loss

By Devon O'Connell

Terrible offense and poor defense by Central's girls basketball team, including a 3 for 17 performance by leading scorer junior Crystal Howard, helped Burke win the first game of the season, 57-43.

Howard and the rest of the team only made 18 percent of their shots from the field, after putting up 81.

The Eagles had a promising start, getting on the board before Burke. Burke was on the top for most of the rest of the game.

The lady Eagles went on a 6-0 run with left 1:15 in the second quarter. Senior Morgan Chatman scored to send the team into halftime down by four.

Central came out strong in the third, when junior Keonna Williams tied the score at 28.

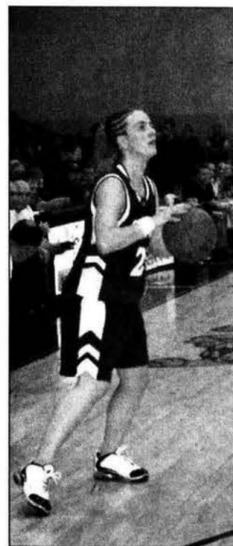
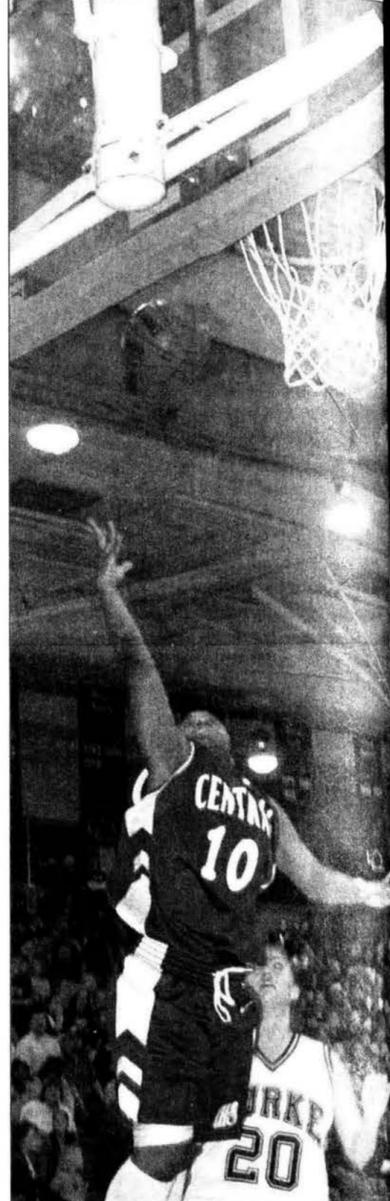
Kellyn Kramolisch followed by nailing a three-pointer to put Burke up by three. But Howard shot right back with a two-pointer to put Central down by one. After a steal by Williams, she scored on a fast break to put the Eagles up 32-31 with 3:42 left in the third.

Central was in good position, and topped off a 6-0 run with a layup by Howard. Burke fought back though and with 4:40 left in the fourth, found themselves up with three at 43-44. Howard scored seconds later, to put Central down by one.

It all fell apart after that. The team couldn't score and Burke kept going to the line. Burke went to the line 33 times in fact, and the Eagles only went 13.

Roberts said she wasn't too upset though. She said it just looked like the first game of the season, and the team has room for improvement.

"We are replacing three starters this year with players who are very young, experience-wise, on the Varsity level," she said. "It's natural to have problems."



(Top right) Junior Karl White dribbles.

(Top left) Junior Crystal Howard moves to the net.

(Above left) Junior Cortney Grixby moves through traffic.

(Above right) Junior Keonna Williams performs a layup.

(Far left) Senior Rebecca Pauba makes a play.

(Left) Coach Eric Behrens offers freshman Derrick Russell advice.

All Photos by PAULA SALHANY/ THE REGISTER

Basketball coach follows in father's footsteps on court, in classroom

By Devon O'Connell

For head basketball coach Eric Behrens, teaching, as well as coaching, runs in the family.

This is only the second year since Behrens has taken over the coaching job from his father, social studies teacher Rick Behrens.

After a 19-4 first season and a trip to State in which it lost in the first round to Lincoln High, Eric said he hopes to lead his young team to another successful year and a possible State championship.

Rick came to Central in 1984, and became the Varsity head coach in 1990. In the ten years he was coach, he led the team to State twice, once in 1994 and the other in 1997.

He coached the younger Behrens in high school,

and followed his son's basketball career in college.

"He had a real good coach in college," he said. "I think that's where he learned a lot about the game."

He said he was proud of his son's performance last year, and it was one of the best team's he had ever seen.

They were similar to the team that I had in '97," he said. "We won the Holiday Tournament that year, and lost in the first round of State to a tough Lincoln team."

Rick also said he had trouble with referees. He said every time he went to State, the referees were from out of state, and weren't used to the speed and quickness of Metro play.

Eric said he was happy with the team last year, but his goal was to win State, so it was disappointing.

"Overall, it was a pretty good year," Eric said. "I was very happy with the effort and the unity. I was fortunate enough to have some good players when I came in."

Eric said no two coaches are alike, and each has their own style, but he does have a similar style to his father. He has been around him his entire life, so he naturally picked up some of the same characteristics.

"I learned a lot from him, not only on how to coach, but on how to play the game," Eric said. "He's very organized, and good at putting things into per-

spective."

During his first year, he said the biggest difficulties he faced were with the injuries in the State game.

It was difficult changing everything on the court. He said two point guards were thrown out, and a player with little Varsity experience was put in.

Eric said he is optimistic this year, and said he is now he is still putting things into place, but is confident his team will do well.

He said Rick never told him how to coach, but he compliments him on the games.

"He (Eric) was just playing a few years ago, so he has a connection with the younger players," Eric said.