

REGISTER

Are rules made to be broken?
See Smoking, PAGE 7

Senior Pat Venditte plays for the love of the game.
See Baseball, PAGE 15



Why won't anybody listen?

Officials say some teens feel nobody cares about their problems and the only way to "fix" what's hurting them is by committing suicide. Talking with somebody is the first step in realizing that taking one's life is not the answer.

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

*Names changed to protect identity

The last thing Senior Jane Doe* remembered was falling asleep and then waking up with paramedics surrounding her. The paramedics soon discovered that she was put into a coma from an insulin overdose that was not accidental but intentional. Doe had tried to commit suicide.

Although Doe was not successful, she tried. According to the Suicide Reference Library, suicides have become the third leading cause of adolescent deaths.

It states for every 150 youths who attempt suicide, one will succeed and directly affect six other people.

Starting high school pushed Doe's life into a tailspin. She was accustomed to easy classes and an environment where everyone knew her.

Homework had become difficult and she found the fast pace at Central overwhelming.

"I started to wish I did not have to be here," Doe said.

It was not until after her near-fatal overdose that she was diagnosed with depression.

"My parents sent me to a therapist, but I don't believe in antidepressants so I had to learn to overcome it myself."

Doe blames her depression on being a teenager.

"I was not meeting my self expectations, plus I am a very emotional person," she said.

Jeanne Franklin, a registered nurse at Boys Town Pediatrics, said after a suicide attempt, or if a family member believes one to be suicidal, one can be put on a 48-hour hold.

This is an evaluation period for doctors and nurses to determine if the patient needs to be admitted to a psychiatric ward.

If the person is "actively suicidal" then all objects that could be dangerous are taken away.

These include the obvious such as razors, glass mirrors and the not-so-obvious, like bed sheets, belts and ties.

Parents Helping The Cause

Some teenagers are not fortunate enough to have parents who take time to notice their teenager's severe depression and suicidal tendencies.

Sophomore Paul Smith* has been flirting with the concept of suicide since grade school.

"In fourth grade I stopped caring about myself," Smith said.

Smith said his father is abusive and hardly participates in his life.

"He was in prison until I was five for raping a girl at a party when he was drunk," Smith said. "My mom told me that he was on 'a long trip.' When he finally came back, I was full of expectations and hopes that he would fulfill the role of a father."

Unfortunately, that was not the case. His father's history of abuse toward people would only continue. Smith's mother refuses to recognize the problem and lets it continue.

He blames his father for his low self-esteem.

"One night he woke me up and hit me with a baseball bat until my knee cap was gone," he said. "It shattered."

This, along with being alienated because of his Attention Deficit Disorder and Dyslexia, has led to a life of serious depression.

"I have attempted to kill myself seven times," Smith said.

The closest attempt was on Thanksgiving day during his freshman year.

"Nothing was going right," he said. "I was drinking and it just wasn't doing anything for me. I wanted everything to stop and to go away. So I started taking some Tylenol. At first it was just a few, and then I started taking aspirin, too. The next thing I knew I had taken the whole bottle because I wanted to die. I started to feel sort of groggy. Then I passed out."

Smith's grandfather found him and took him to the emergency room.

He had his stomach pumped and his liver filtered.

"I told my grandpa not to tell anybody, not even my par-

ents, so they didn't know until this year," he said.

Sophomore John Doe's* mother was raped when she was eight. A few years ago, the trauma started to come back to her, he said.

"It's been a downward slope from there," Doe said.

The whole situation has had his mother in and out of hospitals for over a year. After a while, the stress of his mother's problems started to wear on him.

"I started doing small suicidal things like cutting myself," he said.

It was his mother's doctor who pointed out that suicide can be hereditary.

"My dad got me to the doctor right away," he said.

Karen Cirulis, a counselor at Central, said depression starts when mad and sad are turned inward.

She said these thoughts lead to suicide when all sense of hope is lost.

Suicide is a touchy subject that Central counselors are required to notify a parent or guardian immediately if someone comes in claiming to be suicidal or claims another student is.

Finding Herself

"My parents sent me to a Christian school where everyone had been friends since kindergarten when I was in seventh grade," sophomore Sally Jones* said.

This was the beginning of a life with drugs, depression and two suicide attempts.

"I did drugs because I felt alienated," she said. "All of my older and 'cooler' friends were doing drugs so I thought they would help me fit in."

Through seventh and eighth grade, she used alcohol, various pills, ecstasy, marijuana and crack.

"I'm rebelling against my parents and my religion," she said. "I'm doing something they will never find out about."

Jones soon found that drugs were not helping her fit in and on top of it, her parents were attempting to force her into a religion she was not sure she wanted to belong to.

Depressed and feeling hopeless, she started cutting her wrists. She would lock herself in the bathroom with a razor blade.

"It felt good causing pain to myself and not to someone else," she said.

To avoid her parent's questions on why she kept wearing long sleeves, she was just tell them she was cold.

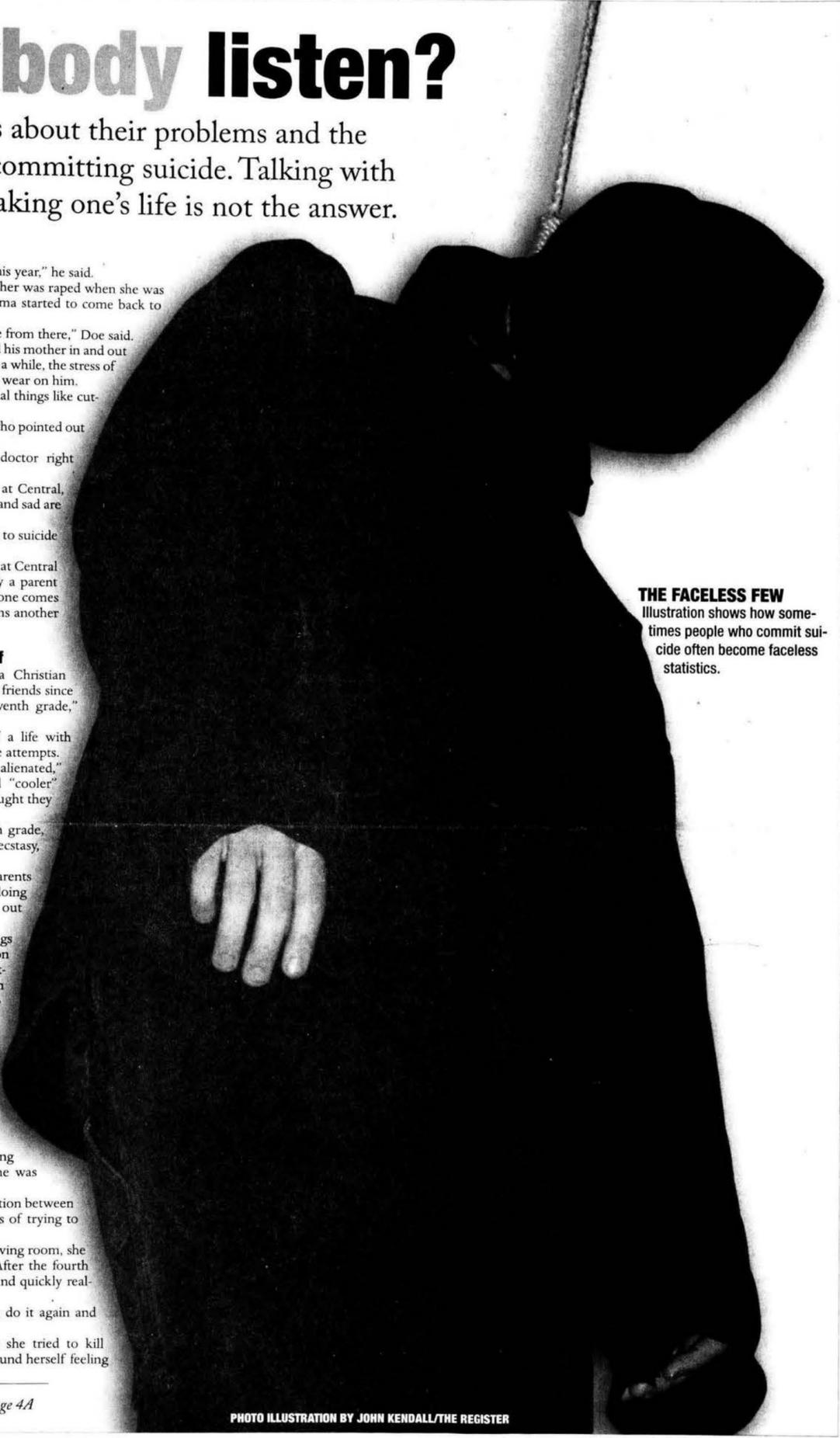
Soon the lack of communication between her and her parents and the stress of trying to fit in built up.

One day after school in her living room, she started taking pills with vodka. After the fourth pill, her sister's friend walked in and quickly realized what was going on.

The friend told her never to do it again and promised not to say anything.

That was not the last time she tried to kill herself. Three months later she found herself feeling

Continued to **HELP** on Page 4A



THE FACELESS FEW
Illustration shows how sometimes people who commit suicide often become faceless statistics.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE REGISTER

Administrator feels better after long battle with brain infection

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The inflammation and swelling of the center part of his brain to the same size as a golf ball kept assistant principal Paul Semrad away from his job for three months.

The sickness he had was a combination of meningitis and cephalitis. Meningitis is a viral or bacterial infection with the fluid surrounding the brain. Cephalitis is swelling in areas of the brain, which in his case had grown considerably.

After going to the doctors many times, doctors finally put him on steroids for 12 days. The first day he was on it, he said the change was remarkable.

"I couldn't believe my head didn't hurt," Semrad said. "Now I only have a few headaches, but not as severe as before."

In the beginning, he said he hoped for the day when all of his headaches would stop and the day is slowly coming as he begins to heal. It took him about three months to be put on medication to treat the

infection.

Sometimes he didn't think relief would ever come.

Semrad was put on medication other than the steroids to fight the pain and he said the swelling was going down and he was getting better on his own.

He said when infection is treated and gone it shouldn't return. One of the most frustrating things was he said the doctors don't know where the disease came from or what triggered it. He went through many tests that all came back negative. The only guess the doctors had was a flu shot irritated his system.

"I never had the flu shot before, but I thought I should this year," he said. "I don't want to scare other people away from it, but I am not going to take it again."

Initially he said he thought he had symptoms of the flu. When he wasn't getting better, his family doctor referred him to an infectious disease specialist. He had to get numerous types of blood tests to figure out exactly what he type of illness he had.

Since Dec. 8 through late February he had severe headaches. He had to have X-rays, MRIs and CAT scans to find out what was causing his pain.

"I had so much pain, sometimes I couldn't even put on my glasses," he said.

Semrad said he had indescribable headaches and to cope with his pain he said he had a neurologist who he liked to call his pain doctor. He gave him medication that he took every once in awhile. It didn't always work. The medications only helped the symptoms and not his disease. He didn't start fighting it until he was put on steroids.

Semrad went to five different doctors on regular basis. He said a positive thing from all of this was he had great medical care.

He said he heard from people around the community that he does have the best doctors working for him. During his next few doctor visits he said he will have more spinal taps to figure out where the infection

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PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE REGISTER

Paul Semrad talks with director of student support services Nita Merrigan-Potthoff about the many days he missed due to suffering Meningitis and Cephalitis.

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For the love of the music
CHS orchestra instructor Molly Moriarty lays down the phat beats.
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Catch Snoop Dog in this latest 70s TV show remake.
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Diversity Day's goal: education

BY CLAY LOMNETH

On April 2, Student Democrats along with other groups, plan on handing out gold ribbons and putting up posters promoting diversity. Sponsor Donna Noll said members handed out around 500 gold ribbons last year.

Other clubs getting involved in Diversity Day are the Gay Straight Alliance, African American Club, United Students Against Prejudice and Latino Leaders.

"We are celebrating our differences to all groups," Noll said.

Noll said she thinks Central is very lucky to have such diversity in the school, and Diversity Day is a good way to celebrate it.

"I imagine the purpose is to help people reflect on the diversity of our school, and realize how fortunate we are because we are such a diverse group," she said.

Nick Delman, president of Student Democrats, joined the club in his freshman year. He said he thought last year's Diversity Day was very successful and the reaction to it was very positive.

"It eased racial tension in the school," Delman said.

Delman said he thought the day was necessary last year because of gangs and vandalism of school property. The racial and interracial tension was higher, he said.

Delman said he thinks it helped students see the "big picture." He said he hopes it will bring the same reaction and ease tension at school.

It is senior Rachel Kennedy's first year on Student Democrats. She said she thinks Diversity Day is a good idea.

"We're the most diverse school in the state and it is good to get that out," Kennedy said.

Club on its way to top

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

A physical and mental challenge is what the Rock Climbing Club is all about.

The club will be traveling to a climbing site at least twice during April and once during May.

The club does not compete against any other rock climbing groups for prizes or recognition. Sponsor Jean Whitten said the members just climb for fun.

Junior Sean McCall and sophomore Eli Bloom are co-presidents of the club. They help Whitten by passing out and collecting permission slips from students who climb. McCall said he has been a part of the club for two years and said he enjoys climbing. He said one reason why he stays in the club is because he likes the opportunities to go to different places and climb.

Whitten said this year the club has been very successful in its events. When the club climbs the wall at the YMCA.

She said she thinks the club is a way for students to make goals and really push toward meeting them.

However, the techniques used to reach the top of the two to three story wall, approximately 30 to 40 feet, can be applied to everyday life.

Whitten said the students really enjoy rock climbing and most who try it for the first time continue to participate in the club. The goal of the club is to encourage the kids and give them an opportunity to do more than the normal and step out of the box.

"It was a chance for me to branch out and try something new," McCall said.



McCall

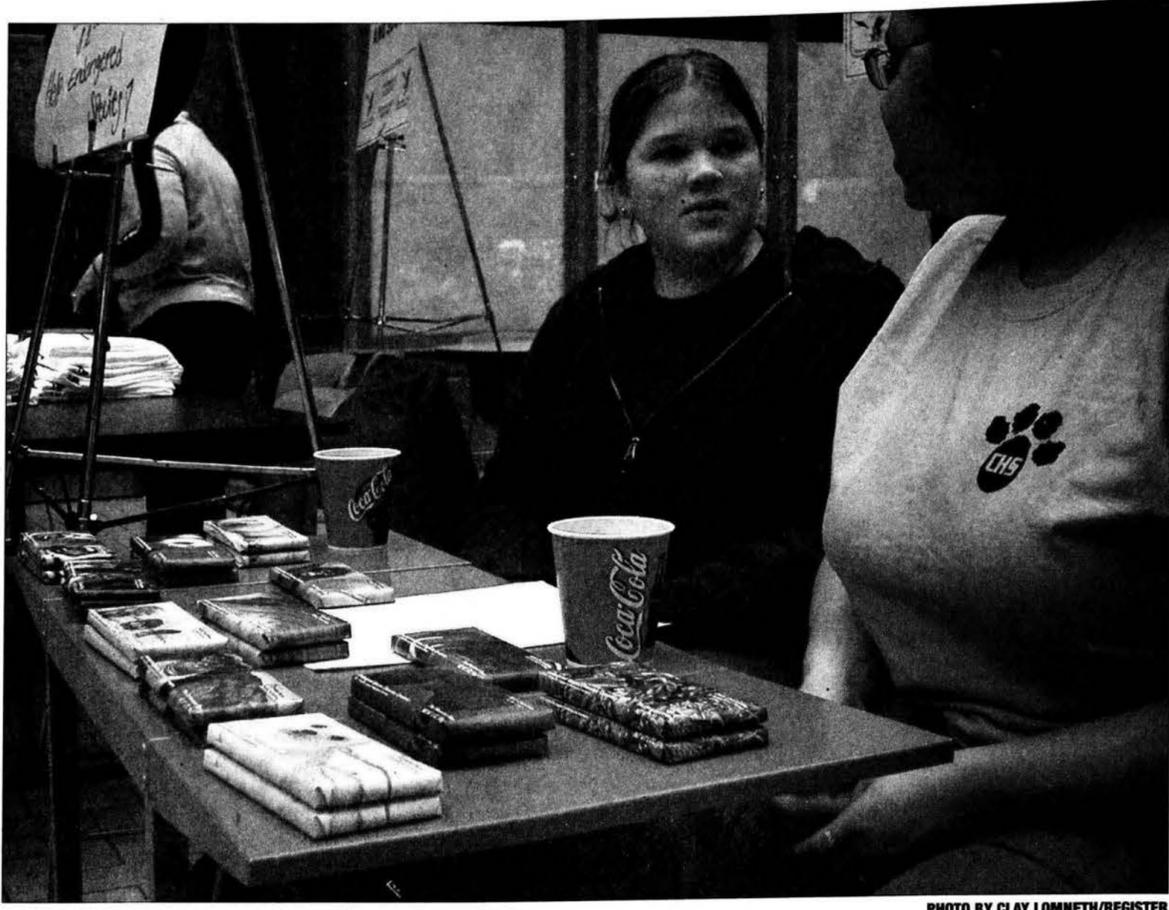


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Juniors Kathryn Earnhardt (LEFT) and Tayla Henderson, both members of CHEETA Club, sell candy bars to help raise money to save endangered species. CHEETA Club sold these candy bars during the normal school days and also at parent-teacher conferences.

Students fight for animal rights

BY CLAY LOMNETH

English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Catherine Kennedy decided that the school needed a club for students who cared about animals. So she did something about it.

She started the Central High Educating for Ethical Treatment of Animals (CHEETA) Club and it's still going strong.

"I've been an animal activist my whole life," Kennedy said.

She has volunteered with various animal groups including the Humane Society.

This year, the CHEETA Club is selling various chocolate bars for \$2 each.

Profits made will benefit the Humane Society and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which does more global work.

Junior Tayla Henderson joined the club the year it began. She said most students appreciate the selling of the chocolate.

President of CHEETA senior Kelsey Gotch joined the club last year.

When she is older, she said she hopes to work with animals and is considering becoming a wildlife photographer or park ranger.

Gotch joined the club because she wanted

to help raise awareness of how animals should be treated.

Gotch said she felt like the CHEETA Club would be the best way to do that.

"There's really not any group like this in Omaha and I thought it was a good opportunity," Gotch said.

She said she thinks animals should be treated with respect and CHEETA Club will help people realize it.

"Once people are educated about animals, they can develop feelings for animals," she said.

Kennedy said there is a link between abusing animals and people.

She said serial killers may have started their lives of hate by abusing animals.

Kennedy has a simple reason for acting on behalf of animals.

She said in addition to preventing abuse from humans, the animals need a good life.

"Animals are living things, too," she said.

"They deserve to be treated humanely."

Activities in the club include selling chocolates, collecting donations and having speakers come.

They have had a vegetarian cook teach them how to prepare a vegetarian meal, and a woman who works with Raptor Rescue brings in owls.

The CHEETA Club has collected food for

the Red Cross Animal Food Pantry and had presentations on animal first aid.

In the future, Kennedy hopes the CHEETA Club will work more with the Humane Society.

For students who have an interest and love of animals as much as the CHEETA Club members, there are many job and volunteer opportunities available.

Anybody over 16 years old is qualified to be a volunteer at the Humane Society.

Public Relations spokesperson Pam Wiese said the Humane Society is always looking for more volunteers, people who love to be with animals.

Some volunteer jobs include walking the dogs, feeding the cats, helping to prepare animals for surgery and help washing the laundry and dishes.

Volunteers must first go through training sessions and be toured around the building before starting.

Wiese said there are usually around 250 volunteers every month.

Kennedy agreed that volunteering for the Humane Society is a good idea, but she also said other animal treatment organizations would also be a good thing to try.

"In my mind, any organization dedicated to animal welfare is a good thing," Kennedy said.

Actors teach Shakespeare to AP classes

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

In order to increase understanding of Shakespeare, students are participating in a week-long workshop.

A group of professional actors specialize in Shakespearean acting and come to each class to teach students about the fundamentals of Shakespeare.

According to the program, Shakespeare Unbound focuses on understanding Shakespeare.

English department head Jodi Martinez said her classes are participating in the week-long workshop, which was partly paid for by the Nebraska Arts Council.

She said she heard about the workshop at curriculum day.

She attended a break-out session on Shakespeare's literature and the direction of outreach education program was there handing out pamphlets.

Martinez took one and called in November to schedule a March conference.

The group of actors will be working with three AP classes from March 22 - 26.

The classes will break into five six groups, each with one or two actors. The groups have to block the six-minute production, come up with props and costumes and memorize their scripts.

"I like the program so far," Martinez said.



Martinez

Students see book drive's importance

BY ASHLEY BROWN

It's a competition between grades to see who can help others the most and Key Club's book drive is only in its first phase.

To motivate the club to be more aggressive about service through competition is what senior and Key Club president Lauren Holin said was the goal.

"It's to make the club members more excited about services," Holin said.

The club divided itself up into grades and came up with its own organized service project.

The book drive, which will be accepting new and used books in the courtyard and library March 22 to 26, is the sophomore's project.

Members plan on not only donating the books to less fortunate children, but recording them onto tape and donating them to children who are blind or with other disabilities at Children's Hospital as well.

"That's a really good idea," freshman Kenny Fischer said. "It helps kids with disabilities enjoy the stories. It's a very creative idea."

After hearing the about Key Club's plan to record the books to tape, Fischer said he will now be donating books.

The freshmen plan on working with a homeless shelter.

The seniors are working with a habitat for humanity and the juniors are undecided in their service plan.

But it is said to be very helpful, too.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

27 (SAT.) MADRIGAL DINNER

Students from the music department perform for a fund-raiser and concert for college music scholarships. It starts at 7 p.m.

APRIL

3 (SAT.) ACT EXAM

Students should arrive between 8 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. They should bring calculators and pencils.

15-17 (THURS.-SAT.) BASEBALL METRO

All Omaha high school baseball teams compete. Keep your eyes and ears open to find out when Central plays.

17 (SAT.) PROM

The big dance begins at 7:30 p.m. Music from a disc jockey will be provided. Post prom is at 11:30 p.m. at the Ranch Bowl.

30 (FRI.) ROADSHOW

The drama department sponsors "Roadshow," the annual variety show in the auditorium at 7 p.m.

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PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/REGISTER

Laraine Getty registers to vote. She said she wants to vote in November and said more students should get involved with politics. As she registered to vote, she began to feel like she is growing older.

Teens beat apathy by registering to vote

BY JOHN KENDALL

Student apathy toward voting cuts out a lot of potential candidates for political candidates. Some candidates take notice. In the year of a presidential election, the issue stands even more as idle young people are going to be urged to become involved.

Senior Kelsey Gotch said more people should be involved with politics. She knows that many of her peers either don't care or are misinformed.

"People should not complain about the current state of the world if they're not going to do anything to change it," she said. "You must be an involved citizen."

Before she votes she plans on doing her research to determine which one she perceives to be the best, which she believes is something anyone who plans on voting should do.

"It's nice to feel like you're making a difference," she said.

Gotch said although she was raised by democratic parents in a liberal household, she was not pressured into choosing that party.

"My dad is involved with politics and would take me to events, but he let me figure things out on my own," she said.

She joined Student Democrats during her sophomore year.

Gotch had previously wanted to be involved with the group but was unable to join until her second year.

There are not many times when Student Democrats are busy, she said.

On occasion members will attend a rally, and are always

encouraging students to vote.

The main time they are active, however, is around elections.

Student Democrats sponsor Donna Noll said the group is always trying to find projects in which students around school can be a part of and learn something from at the same time.

She said every year members have their annual clothing drive, and have recently begun organizing Diversity Day.

She said it is never too early for a student to get involved with the world around them, and high school is a perfect time by voting.

"They will realize how important it is to be involved and to make a difference," she said.

Noll said it is critical for youth to become acquainted with the issues and exercise their right to vote.

"We know there is a lot of apathy towards elections," she said. "Only about 50 percent of eligible voters vote."

Voter Registration Coordinator at the Douglas County Election Commission Janice Hass said the numbers are not good when it comes to youth voters.

"There are some very responsible students who have grown up learning the importance of voting," she said, "but that is not the typical student."

She said it is quite possible there could be some miscommunication between students and their parents before one gets to the age of voting.

By telling a student they are not yet eligible to vote, a person may dissuade that student from taking any interest.

"In a presidential year we get the most students, also in mayor and city council elections," Hass said.

Senior Laraine Getty decided to be republican through her American Government classes and the fact her father is also a republican.

She said it is comparable to how children have a tendency to develop similar views as their parents.

She does not consider herself very involved as a republican, but will defend her political views if her friends or other people get into a discussion.

One thing she does stand for is that students and youth in general should be more involved in the political process and vote when they are of age.

"People whine about it, but if you don't put your voice in, nothing changes," Getty said.

When it comes time to vote, she said she will be looking at all sides in order to be fair, but by nature will likely side with a republican candidate.

"It's important to make sure to do enough research to know issues candidates stand for," she said.

Here at Central Getty said she would like it if there was a group for young republicans, like the Student Democrats, but even though she said there has been talk about it, no one has really done anything to get it started.

Hass is only supposed to go for those students who are eligible to vote when she sets up voter registration in Douglas County high schools.

She is unable to attract the interest of younger students to the voting process.

That's not her job.

Sophomore Adam White agrees there are not enough eligible students who take advantage of their right to vote.

He said when he finally turns 18, he definitely plans on registering to vote and exercise that right.

"I know a lot of people who are eighteen who I don't think vote," he said.

White said he plans on registering as a democrat.

"I like more social programs and a bigger government," he said, "and I want to keep Bush out of the way."

Sophomores push hard for high grades, bright future

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Sophomore Alvin Samuels said he gets good grades because he tries to find ways to prove teachers wrong.

"I used to go home after school and find ways to contradict them," Samuels said.

He said although he doesn't really have a goal for that anymore he is confident that he will get good grades.

He wants to be a doctor and study medical and pharmacy with a minor in math.

"Math is more like a double major, even if you call it a minor; it's just that hard," Samuels said.

Math and science are his best subjects, and he plans on remaining in the honors track for both subjects, plus the ones that he is struggling in.

"I can't stand not knowing something. A math teacher says 'I will teach it this way' but I'll tell you why later. I say that I want to know now," Samuels said.

Not only is Samuels excelling in studies because he is interested in them, he also does,

so because he thinks being smart is one of the most respectable aspects of a person.

When Samuels was in grade school he said he tried so hard to be in the honors math program, but he couldn't get in. After failing the entrance test, he went home and his mother studied with him until he understood.

"She dropped what she was doing and stayed up until I could add 4+5+6, and the next day I took the test again and got in," Samuels said.

He said it was all about trying his hardest and doing his best in every aspect of school.

Just the joy of learning something he didn't know before was enough to get him to study. Samuels said even his most difficult subjects are worth learning.

"If you gave me a math book to study on my own time, I'd do it," he said.

For sophomore Yvette Butler to get a 4.8 Grade Point Average (GPA) last semester, she had to alter her study habits from the rest of the school.

"If I know I'm going to have a test

I usually try to start studying a week in advance," Butler said.

The night before the test, Butler studies until around 2 a.m. She is unable (due to bible study, work, and choir rehearsal) to start studying until 9 p.m., she takes around five hours to feel comfortable with the information on a test.

"I feel like I'll do bad if I don't study that long," Butler said.

She said even though she might know all of the information by studying that hard, she can easily get stressed out and exhausted and do poorly anyway.

"It always seems to fall into place," Butler said.

She said although she doesn't think she will place sixth in the class like she did last semester. She will get an above average GPA and place in the top 15.

"Second semester is harder because of the tests and the curriculum," Butler said.

Her parents are also a reason she gets good grades. Her father is usually the one pushing her to get ones and twos.

"He said I had to quit my job because

I had a three in Honors English for awhile," Butler said. "It was a complete surprise to me because I had studied every snow day for my test."

Because she no longer has work obligations, she has a few more days a week clear when she can go directly home and study.

"It can get challenging being in seven honors classes," Butler said.

With the exception of lunch and study hall, all of Butler's classes are honors including E Math, Algebra 3-4, and Chemistry. Butler said she enjoys the classes she is not excelling in because they are challenging.

"E Math is my favorite class, even though I have a two in it," she said.

Spanish 5-6 is her least favorite subject because she said it is boring and she never needs to study to get a one.

"I may have studied for the mid-term, but not that much," Butler said.

She said because she no longer has a job she hopes to be involved in extra-curricular activities next year in addition to her difficult load of honors classes.



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

University of California, Berkeley

Location: Berkeley, California
Admission: 24% of applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year private university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 23,834
Freshman Admissions: Majors available in Agriculture, Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Conservation, Engineering, English, Foreign Languages, Health, History, Interdisciplinary, Legal Studies, Mathematics, Philosophy/Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Public Administration, Social Sciences & Visual/Performing Arts.
Application Deadlines: October 30

Texas A&M University

Location: College Station, Texas
Admission: 68% of applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 36,641
Freshman Admissions: Majors available in Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business, Communications, Computer Sciences, Conservation, Education, Engineering, Engineering Technology, English, Family Consumer Sciences, Foreign Languages, health, History, Philosophy/Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Performing/Visual Arts, Public Administration & Social Sciences.
Application Deadlines: N/A

University of Michigan

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan
Admission: 49% of applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 24,287
Freshman Admissions: Majors available in Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business, Communications, Computer Sciences, Conservation, Education, Engineering, English, Foreign Languages, Health, History, Interdisciplinary, Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Parks/Recreation, Philosophy/Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences & Visual/Performing Arts.
Application Deadlines: N/A

Florida International University

Location: Miami, Florida
Admission: 64% of all applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 24,843
Freshman Admissions: Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business, Communications, Computer Sciences, Conservation, Education, Engineering, Engineering Technology, English, Foreign Languages, Health, History, Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Parks/Recreation, Philosophy, Public Administration, Social Sciences & Visual/Performing Arts.
Application Deadlines: N/A

Harvard College

Location: Cambridge, Massachusetts
Admission: 11% of all applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year liberal arts private.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 6,649
Freshman Admissions: Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business, Communications, Computer Sciences, Conservation, Education, Engineering, Engineering Technology, English, Foreign Languages, Health, History, Interdisciplinary, Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Philosophy/Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences & Visual/Performing Arts.
Application Deadlines: January 1

University of Utah

Location: Salt Lake City, Utah
Admission: 90% of all applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 21,760
Freshman Admissions: Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business, Communications, Computer Sciences, Conservation, Education, Engineering, Family Consumer Sciences, English, Foreign Languages, Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences & Visual/Performing Arts.
Application Deadlines: N/A

University of Alabama

Location: Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Admission: 85% of all applicants admitted.
Type: Four-year public university.
Undergraduate Enrollment: 15,091
Freshman Admissions: Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business, Communications, Computer Sciences, Education, Engineering, Family Consumer Sciences, English, Foreign Languages, Health, History, Interdisciplinary, Mathematics, Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Social Sciences & Protective services.
Application Deadlines: N/A

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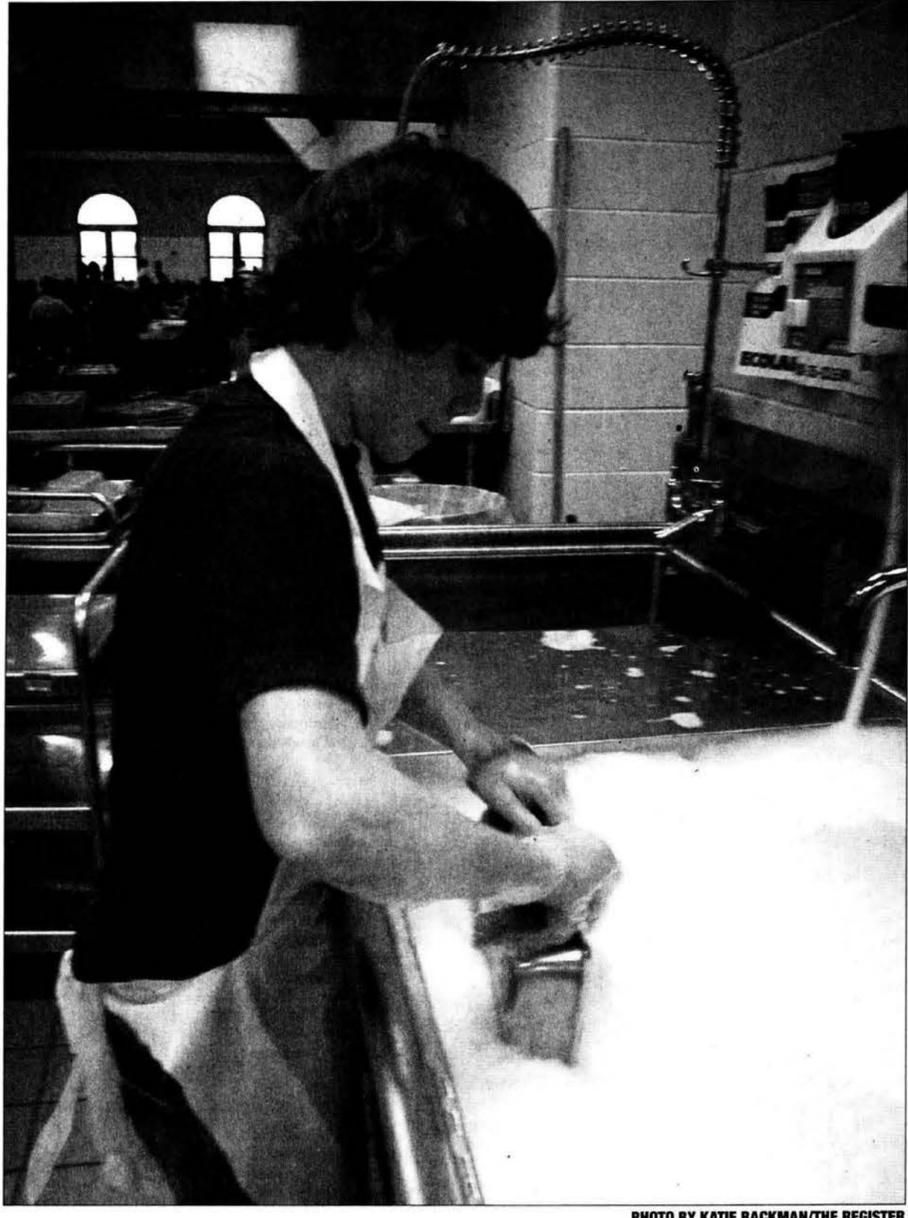
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Students earn extra cash by scrubbing pans



Freshman Morgan Shumaker washes dishes during sixth hour to earn a little extra money. Working in the cafeteria also gives students much-needed work experience to put on job applications later.

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

Freshman Maggie Baumann didn't set out to get paid to work in the cafeteria. She thought it would be a good way to earn service hours. Since the opening of the new cafeteria, workers needed some extra help so they turned to students and hired five.

In October, signs were posted in the courtyard, and there were announcements over the intercom.

"I heard about it in homeroom and thought it would be a good volunteer opportunity," Baumann said.

She went to the main office to get an application, and found out she would get paid around \$100 a month.

"They told me they didn't need anybody at that moment," she said. "I gave them my name just in case, and around a week later they called me down and said they needed somebody."

Freshman Joe Pollock had worked in his cafeteria washing tables in junior high so when he came to Central he called to see if he could work here, too.

After filling out his application, he was hired and now washes dishes.

Cafeteria worker Barbara Nazarenos said the students have been a good addition.

"Working with the students has been great; I love it," she said.

Baumann said she is responsible for dishes. The students work in an assembly line. One washes while one dries and another wipes down counters.

"It really makes a big difference if somebody is gone," she said. "We depend on each other and that is a big responsibility."

Nazarenos said the students are supposed to make sure everything is clean and that the servers are supplied with trays and silverware.

"The students I work with are very polite. They are nice to work with and I couldn't ask with anything different," Nazarenos said.

Baumann said this has been an overall very positive experience.

"A lot of people didn't think I could do something like this," Baumann said. "They didn't think I would work because I am a cheerleader."

Pollock is a football player and said that his friends tease him by calling him "lunch lady."

"I just avoid it," he said. "I mean it is seen as a woman's job and I'm not trying to hate on women, but it is mostly women back there."

She has realized how sloppy her peers really are.

"Sometimes I can't believe how disgusting people are with their food," Baumann said. "It's gross."

Pollock used to make fun of the staff before he worked with them and got to know them.

"I don't anymore though," he said. "Now I am working with them. They are my bosses and I feel bad for doing that."

Baumann thinks the staff puts up with a lot. She said she can see how the staff would have a bad impression of some students because a lot of the kids are very disrespectful.

She said that working in the cafeteria is fun. Pollock also enjoys the people he works with. He said it taught him how to work with people, and is preparing him for working in life.

"Even though I came later than everybody else, they are all really nice and make me feel welcome," Baumann said. "It was like I came back from a long vacation"

School official says eager to get back to doing CHS job

SEMRAID CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was coming from.

He said he had to have many spinal taps. A spinal tap is a procedure when fluid is taken away from the spine because it directly travels to the brain.

Doctors needed to find out what was going on. They needed to rule out what "it" was not.

The pain he had was so great and the medication simply didn't help. Since he was in so much pain, amount of sleep he had decreased.

"I slept sitting up because laying down hurt so much," he said. "If I had a few hours free of pain, I had to decide if I wanted to sleep or enjoy the day awake."

The disease still worries him because it is so serious. Since the doctors don't exactly know what came from there is a chance it could return.

He said his next doctor visits April 5 and April 19, which he will get another MRI done. After each doctor visit, all five of his doctors discuss any updates on the situation.

Before he started healing the doctors had a hard time figuring out what was going on. He said he remembers telling the neurologist the pain in his medicine wasn't working.

He also said he had to talk to this doctor because the medication wasn't enough. At least until he was put on steroids.

"I basically suffered," he said. "I paced around; I just couldn't describe the pain."

Principal Jerry Bexten said when Semrad was gone he wished he would get better soon so he could come back to school.

Not only because he was an assistant principal but because he was a friend as well.

Semrad said all the support and care was fantastic. His wife Jean was the most helpful because she took him to the hospital almost every other day.

Each of those times she left work early to be with him there. He said she has been his angel.

He said he missed the Central students and staff. He said many people at the school were surprised. The administrators, counselors and secretaries kept him updated with his work.

"I don't know how to repay them," he said. "They have given me so many cards, prayers, encouragements."

Bexten said Semrad did work at home and he appreciated everything he did for the school.

When Semrad was gone, Ted Carter stepped in to help out.

Administrator David Anderson handled most of the renovation planning while he was gone. Semrad said the Carter picked up some of Anderson's duties.

Database secretary Lois Koehn said it was a relief around the office when Semrad was gone. Semrad called her on a daily basis to keep him updated.

Now she won't have to. Semrad is back to work on a full-time basis.

Local officials offer help to decrease suicide attempts

'HELP' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hopeless.

"I was scared," she said. "I thought it would be over and that I would be better off."

This time she locked herself in the bathroom with a razor blade and started to slit her wrist, again.

"The first time I was saved, and it was by fate, but this time I didn't want it to be," Jones said.

The same friend came in and caught her.

"She bandaged me up and threatened to tell if I did it again," Jones said.

This was the beginning of the end of Jones' struggle with depression, self-mutilation and substance abuse.

Dr. Amy Badura of Creighton Medical School said drug abuse, misbehavior and changes in sleeping patterns that last every day for a two-week period are signs of depression.

She said these signs need to be taken seriously. She stressed that depression does not always mean suicide, but in some cases it obviously does.

Recovery

For Doe recovery meant finding an outlet for her frustration.

"I decided that when I needed to cry, instead of holding it in, I would go ahead and do it," she said. "Even if that means doing it every day, every week."

Doe realized that every teenager gets depressed.

"It's inevitable," she said.

Music has helped Doe get through bouts of depression and expend emotional energy that she used to keep bottled up inside.

"When I'm upset, I bang on the piano," she said.

Doe plays the guitar and writes folk music that she described as "Michelle Branch type stuff."

"It's kind of a waste though because I won't play for people," she said and laughed.

Time alone has also helped. She was able to think and put things in perspective.

"I am an entirely different person now," Doe said. "I have realized that I can function independently. With that in mind, my goals don't seem so far away."

While Doe found music, Jones found God.

"Most of junior high was spent with my parents forcing religion down my throat," she said.

Jones found God as soon as her parents stopped forcing her to go to church with them. They did not stop to let their daughter explore other religions.

"I think they stopped forcing me to because they got sick of me being a mean person," she said.

It was a friend's youth group where she really "felt" God for the first time.

"I suddenly realized that I didn't need drugs or cutting because God loved me," she said. "I had a purpose."

Jones was also allowed to switch to a public school. She soon fit in and made friends. She said that her success was the realization that all she had to do was be herself.

John Doe saw a therapist for a few years, but stopped last year.

"I just decided not to let my mom's problems bring me down," he said.

He uses writing, friends and sleep to divert his attention when he gets depressed. Not everybody recovers so easily.

Smith still struggles. Guilt plagues him day and night. He told a story about his childhood that has aided in his chronic depression.

"When I was 13 I had this girlfriend," he said. "We were making out one day and she wanted to take it a step further. I refused so we got into this huge fight. I ended up leaving. I felt pretty bad so later that day I went over to her house to see if we could work things out. I came back to find out that she had killed herself. Her parents had found her dead in her bedroom."

Smith said he still thinks it is his fault.

Guilt is commonly associated with those affected by suicide, according to the head of the Survivors of Suicide support group.

The Survivors of Suicide is not a group for those who have attempted to commit suicide, but a group for those who have lost someone close to them to suicide. Each month they meet for an hour and a half.

"Each person is required only to state their first name, the method of suicide, the date or suicide, and their relationship to the person," he said.

Looking Back

Jane Doe looks back on her depression and thinks that it was primarily due to immaturity and growing up.

She found a lot of the emotional distress was just confusion on her part to her new surroundings.

"Once I found music and a close group of friends, I felt comfortable again," she said. "I am a very emotional person and I was not ready for such a big adjustment."

Doe is now involved and has found a balance at school and with her emotions. Letting herself cry and turning to music has helped her a lot.

Jones tries to see the positive that came out of the experience. She is very grateful she was caught.

"I'm kind of glad it happened," she said. "All of that helped me find God."

She is now a nondenominational Christian. Her parents have grounded her from church because she spends too much time there.

She never thought that would happen.

"I am sad to think I was that depressed, though," she said. "It's hard. Even now I get moments where I still want to go smoke weed."

Neither Jones nor Parks opted to take antidepressants.

Badura said the medical field tends to administer antidepressant as a quick fix for immediate problems, though that is not always the case.

Clinical depression is a result of a chemical imbalance in the brain. Antidepressants are necessary for the patient to have normal amounts of the chemicals that naturally make most people happy. If clinical depression is the case, then it can start as a biochemical problem and be influenced by environment, or start out environmental and be influenced chemically.

She said it is also important to remember that everybody gets depressed sometimes. Though, if the depression is recurring, it is important to ask the patient straight out if they are having suicidal thoughts.

"There is a preconceived notion that asking someone will put the idea into their head and encourage them," she said. "Actually a suicidal person will be relieved to get it off of their chest."

Smith does not take kindly to the advice of therapist and counselors.

"I want to solve my own problems," he said. "Like with homework, I want to solve my own problems."

He wonders how counselors are supposed to relate to him when they have never contemplated suicide. Even though he said he feels hopeless at times, he is still willing to share some of his advice to those who are depressed.

NEBRASKA SUICIDES IN 2002

Teenagers from 15 to 19 years old committed suicide:

- 5 males and 1 female died by gun shot
- 5 males died by hanging/suffocating
- 1 male died by drug overdose
- 1 female died by jumping

Totaled to: 13 deaths

Source: Nebraska Health and Human Services System for 2002 self-harm (suicide)



INFO GRAPHIC BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE REGISTER

Students often get caught cheating, but don't even try to hide it. Officials say some even make it relatively obvious, almost like leaving a trail behind for administrators and teacher to follow. Students are becoming less ashamed when it comes to stealing other students' work.

Taking the easy way out

Students say they cheat because of laziness, refuse to feel guilty

BY KATIE BACKMAN

**Names changed to protect identity*
The final test has just been handed out to the class, junior Joe Doe* already has the actual test in his backpack. He passes the test and the teacher doesn't second-guess the grade.
His teacher thinks it is normal because he has a passing grade in the class. Doe said the only way he has it is because he cheats and copies everything. He said he just started doing this in high school because he was tired of doing homework.
"I choose not to study," Doe said. "It's not because I'm incapable to learn or work for my grade, I just don't want to."
Laziness is the only excuse senior Matt Zmijewski can think of when he sees students cheat. He said it takes a couple hours studying and doing the homework. If students spent this time they could get more out of school.
"When I see people cheat I don't say anything to them," Zmijewski said. "I just shake my head and continue doing my own work."
To make students stop cheating, math teacher Elizabeth Wessling said she would announce to the class to not cheat. Wessling doesn't take the papers away instead she walks by the students or stands behind them during the test.
With homework, Wessling said her students have to include all of the steps to the answer. One reason she thinks students cheat is because the pressure to have a good grade and impress their parents.
Pop quizzes are something that once scared senior Austin Reed. He said he would cheat by looking

at someone's paper. He doesn't think it was extremely bad, but doesn't do it any more.
Principal Jerry Bexten said he wouldn't blame cheating on pressure. He said he thinks students are just lazy. He said he thinks students want to do the bare minimum, but still avoid having a failing grade.
"I don't think cheating was that popular 12 years ago so students could just be getting lazy, too," Wessling said.
Doe said he just felt like slacking off during high school. He said he can admit to being lazy.
"I got caught once copying homework," he said. "I didn't even feel guilty."
While sitting in class students ask for freshman Marina Hardy's assignments. She said she gives them to the students because she doesn't care that she did all the work and they just copy.
She said she knows the lessons taught in class, working for her understanding is all she wants.
"I don't think people should give me their papers," Doe said. "But they just do. I don't swindle them or try to threaten them, I just ask."
Some students aren't so willing to give up their assignments. Junior Jarvis Toney said he has asked for papers, but students don't give them to him. He said he feels bad copying homework sometimes, but he doesn't get good grades on them anyway.
Now he said he just fails and doesn't even put the effort into copying someone's work.
In honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, social studies department head Charles Hinkle said it is obvious that students compare homework sometimes. This year Hinkle said he hasn't seen anyone cheating in his class.

In his past experiences at different schools, he said he has seen students in the regular classes cheating on homework assignments.
"Even though it has been said a lot, it is true, these students are cheating themselves," Hinkle said. "Eventually these students are going to see the impact of cheating, possibly in a profession."
When a student gets caught cheating, he said he thinks it will be at a level to where they will be ashamed.
Cheating goes on different levels than copying homework or looking at another test, Hinkle said. He said students won't know how to be independent.
"They need to learn they don't need to cheat," he said.
To prevent absent students from cheating on homework, he changes the assignment.
He said this usually shows if the student is even capable of doing his own work because no one will have one like his.
Science teacher Mark Smith said he has seen student's copy homework. He said the best way for students to know that it is a bad thing to cheat is to rip up the assignment, throw it away and give them a zero.
Students swap assignments all the time, Hardy said. She said she doesn't think the teachers notice it or even care to say that it is wrong.
"I think students could be blamed for being apathetic and lazy," Smith said.
During lunch hour when Bexten monitors the lunchrooms, he said he doesn't see students cheating. He said there are some students who do homework, but most of the kids are just talking.

Medicine fails to fix phobias, doctor says

BY BRIAN SWOTEK

Dr. Keith Livingston specializes in fear.
He has helped many people with fear of closed in and confined places.
"Claustrophobia has a lot of different forms," Livingston said. "Most people feel like they are trapped in a room and can't escape."
Most people are unaware if they are claustrophobic.
He said the reason for that was it has many forms and can be mistaken for other things.
Senior Michelle Peare is claustrophobic. She said she has been afraid to be inside of the school because of the crowds.
"I will usually start pushing people out of the way," Peare said. "The people that move the slowest are the ones that make it really hard."
Livingston said people usually have a past experience in their lives that has sparked this fear.
The way to cure the fear is by either trying to take the emotion out of that incident, or by mentally altering the images and the sound that spark the fear.

"If you slow down your thoughts and analyze the emotion that causes fear, it usually is not as scary as it seems," Livingston said.
When Peare was younger she said her older sister would lock her in the closet. This is something that she still fears.
"My sister would roll me up in a fold out bed while I was sleeping," she said.
Livingston said he has seen techniques work where the doctors put the patient in a closet and slowly close the door.
When the patient feels uncomfortable, the doctor re-opens the door and asks what was scary.
"Most people say that they feel like they are running out of air and that they are going to die," he said. "When in all honesty, they are just fine."
He said the brain builds a fear so that the person will stay away from that small room or tight space.
Peare has a problem talking to doctors about her problems. She said it just seems like a waste of time.
"I don't want to pay someone thousands of dollars to try and cure something psychological," she said.
Some of the symptoms that Peare feels are shaking, racing heart, and heavy breathing.
She said her mind goes into a "panic mode" and she tries to get out as fast as she can.
Livingston said the part of the brain, which protects people from being harmed, is fast which is a good thing, but he said that it is too fast for logic.
"It is kind of like when you put your hand on a hot stove and you

know to pull your hand away before you get hurt," Livingston said.
If that part of the brain, Livingston said, went any slower, that there would be a lot more people with injuries.
He said staying alive is a powerful motivation and people will do almost anything to overcome a fear and that does not work.
"One thing that I wish more people knew is that drugs do not cure phobias," Livingston said. "It is a common misconception people have."
Livingston said every year millions of dollars in prescriptions are written for anti-anxiety pills for phobias.
Livingston said there are some government Web sites that say pills and medications do not work for phobias.
Livingston said claustrophobia is one of those fears that most people think can be cured by medication.
"Phobias are caused by thoughts and most cures that work are through thought," Livingston said.
Peare said the scariest moment for her was when she went to a haunted house and had to crawl through a tunnel that she knew she was afraid of.
However, she ended up having to do it.
"I tried to take the chicken exit out," she said. "They made me crawl through it and towards the end the tunnel got smaller and I almost got stuck."
Just because the fear emotion stems from thoughts, does not mean all mental health professionals can help.
Livingston said psychoanalysis does not work and that it is just a waste of time for the patient.
"Psychoanalysis seeks out to find deep relations and tries to explore motivations about the fear," Livingston said.
However, Livingston said in his opinion, claustrophobia is a condition where people mentally feel fear and mentally think to stay away.
Just over a year ago, Livingston appeared on national television with a woman who was afraid of snakes.
He said the woman would not flip through channels are thumb through a magazine for fear of seeing a snake.
The woman was also afraid of eating pasta due to its snake-like image.
On the show, Livingston said he noticed that the woman was looking to her left when she heard the word snake.
"Her mental picture she had of snakes was on the left side of her body at her feet," he said.
Once he cured her and helped her overcome her fear, the woman said she was 98 percent cured of her fear.

Independent teen mother balances responsibilities to support her son

BY KATIE BACKMAN

School: 20 hours.
Work: 30 hours.
This single mother needs to work enough to make rent and money to support her child.
This is senior Kristina Smith's weekday schedule.
She said she is tired, but she loves her son so she will work hard to give him the life he deserves. Love of her family is a key thing in her that keeps her going.
She said her pregnancy during her freshman year made a drastic impact on her life. She was very shameful.
She had the option to raise her child or put up for adoption.
By the third month of her pregnancy, she decided she wanted to keep him. Her son, James, is now 2 years old.
She told her family she was pregnant five months into it.
She said her mother reacted well and supports her to this day. Since Smith has a baby

she said she can relate to her mom more because she realizes why family is so important.
"It would have been a lot harder for me if my mom didn't support and love me," she said.
This year she moved out on her own and lives in an apartment with her son.
"Family is so much more important to me now," she said.
She said her mom used to watch her son a lot and thinks he is adjusting to just living with her. She pays all the bills on her own and is completely independent.
Since she is independent and still attending school, she had to find a day care for him. The first time wasn't easy when she dropped her son off at a day care.
He was born in August and she had to take him somewhere so she could go to school.
She said she didn't like the first day care.
"It was hard to drop him off there," she said. "I thought about him all day at school and if he was getting taken care of."
She quickly took him out of that day care. Now she takes him to the Child Savings Institute,

because it provides free day care for her. She said she has to be in school full time and working to have the free day care.
"I don't get to spend that much time with him now," Smith said. "I only see him from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. so I do all of my homework once he is asleep."
Saturdays and Sundays she gets to spend the entire time with him because she doesn't work.
She said she couldn't afford childcare and called Child Savings Institute. A program called Head Start had money set aside and basically founded the program for her.
Director of childcare services with Child Savings Institute Kathleen Feller said the program is called Early Start.
The program offers childcare while the parent is working. Also the teenage mothers attend some seminars about having safe sex so they can avoid having another baby.
"We offer a place to go for pregnant teens who don't know what to do," Feller said.
Early Start started in 2001 and there are kids from birth through 3. About eight to 10 kids stay

there.
When the student passes age three the services aren't offered because that is the age when they should start pre-school.
The program offers the children to participate in reading, identifying facial expressions and conflict resolution.
"Our program is safe, we concentrate on each child," Feller said.
Smith said she hopes to use Child Savings Institute next year, too. She said she plans to go to Creighton University or College of Saint Mary's. When she is in school, she will do the same thing with day care arrangements this year.
"I love him more than anything," she said. "I wouldn't change it if I had the chance. I would keep everything the way it is."
She said during the past two years she has lost a lot of friends, but the real ones stayed by her side.
All of the friends she would go out and party with are the ones who left her. She said she was fine with that because she doesn't have time or really want to party anymore anyway.

Now she likes to go out with her friends to the mall and take James.
"I am 100 percent different now," she said. "I am so much more mature."
She said she is not ashamed of having a baby at her age. She thinks it is better for who she is turning out to be.
"I think it's kind nice we are so close in age," she said. "We can grow up together."
If one of her friends were pregnant and didn't know what to do, she said she would tell her all of the great things she has with James. She said now since she has a baby she couldn't tell friends to do anything different.
She said she would want to make clear to her friends that it is possible to have a baby and not drop out of school. It takes a lot of hard work but there is a purpose for it.
She said she knows it will pay off for her in the end.
"I am definitely drained, but I am getting used to it now," Smith said. "I am willing to give him my everything because I know he deserves it."

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Bexten says portables safe so doors will remain unlocked

BY KATIE BACKMAN



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

Senior Tia Bowles walks into the girls' rest room during a passing period. Even the bathroom doors in the portables used to be locked, but now are not.

The doors to the portables are unlocked, but freshman Erica Scott said she would like them locked because it makes her feel safer in class.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the doors were locked earlier this semester because there was a threat, a criminal running around. The building is entirely locked up except for the C side and he said he wanted to keep the portables as safe, too.

Scott said she thinks it is a scary thought to know someone can just walk in the portables without having to walk past a security guard.

Bexten said there wasn't much of a problem for students getting in and out of the classrooms because they would just have to knock on the door or the teacher would prop it open.

Now he said the doors are unlocked because it isn't necessary for the extra security. The school also has a security camera recording activity outside of the building mainly on the west side.

"If it makes the teachers feel safer they can continue to lock the doors," Bexten said.

Project administrator for school safety Roddie Miller said the district always recommends the schools to be safe

and usually relies on the principal's best judgment. She said Bexten made a good move by giving the teachers the choice if they wanted the doors locked after the possible threat level has gone down.

She said personal safety is a must at school and she hopes students and teachers will report it if they are not.

Social studies Rick Behrens said he wouldn't want the doors locked all year because it can be an annoyance to let people in during class. He said he thinks it works well with the doors unlocked.

International language teacher Melissa Kuskie said she said is fine with the doors locked, but it bothers her when she stops teaching to let someone in. She said she feels pretty safe at Central.

With the classroom and bathroom portables locked, freshman Michaela Bradley said she thinks it was an inconvenience to lock the bathrooms because she saw no point of having the facilities if they couldn't be freely used. Sometimes she said there might not be anyone inside to unlock it for her if she knocked.

Freshman Jessica McAfee said she thinks all of the buildings should remain locked except for the bathrooms. Since there are two security guards stationed to patrol outside, they should be positioned by the rest rooms to make sure no trespassers enter.

The amount of portables with the two different entrances can't be monitored as much as the building, security guard Adele Wise said. She said she didn't mind the doors being locked when she was escorting students. Safety is more important than taking the time to knock or unlock the door, she said.

"I would prefer the building and portables locked up," Wise said. "There are too many choices someone has to enter the building; it should be locked after a certain hour."

If kids were screaming in the portables, she said the other portables may not hear them. Compared to the students in classrooms in the building, where she said there are so many people near each classroom.

Social studies teacher Carol Krejci said she doesn't need the doors locked to her class.

"During my 17 years at Central, I have always felt safe here," Krejci said. "The security staff does a great job."

Sophomore William Smith said he didn't think it matters if the doors were locked or not because the criminal could have found a way in if he wanted to. It could be through the doors or the windows.

"If anyone walked in I would be out of there," Smith said. "I will try to sit next to a

window or the other door."

Considering the amount of students traveling to and from the building in portables, sophomore Lindsay Myers doesn't think the doors need to be locked all.

Since the school is located downtown, sophomore Kylie Harwan said she thinks she would be smart to lock the doors. She thinks there are some parts of downtown and some people who travel around that can make it unsafe and uncomfortable.

"The doors should be locked around, not just when there is a potential threat," Harwan said.

School resource officer J.V. Stokes said the doors were locked because of a threat with a criminal near the school. The portables were locked because of less supervision around the area.

There is a security guard assigned to monitor around the portables during time and a Stokes said he goes on patrols during passing periods.

"I rather be on the safe side and not sorry side," Stokes said.

The main reason why the doors were locked year round is because teachers complained letting students or students in during the lessons. He said he thought it disrupted students' focus on learning.

Volunteers enjoy Camp Munroe

BY TESS MANDELL

There's a place where grades, looks or money don't matter. This place is Camp Munroe.

Camp Munroe is a place for children with developmental disabilities. School buses of children travel to the Munroe-Meyer Institute weekdays after school to cook, play with clay, or hang with friends.

The camp does not consist only of children with disabilities. It has many volunteers there as well.

Many Central students are some of the camp's volunteers. Students like sophomores Hiba Ahmad, Ally Gorga, Katie Gorga and Abbey Prest assist the children during the summer sessions.

Ahmad said it is six five-day weeks out of the summer to help the kids with their recreational activities. The children are split up into different age groups, and the volunteers are "buddied" up with one of the children.

"You just take them through the day," Ahmad said.

This includes anywhere from playing with them in the pool to singing karaoke.

However, there definitely is a harder side to working with the children.

Katie said most of the kids have a speech disability, which means most of them mumble when they talk. She said she has to chase after the kids since some of them don't like to listen or sit down.

"Not every kid is going to listen and do what you want them to do," Ahmad said.

Ally said the hardest part was getting to know each child because each one is so different. There are still those rewarding parts to volunteering with this group.

Ahmad said she loves the Friday talent shows and the field trips to the zoo, museums and bowling alleys.

Prest said a memorable moment one time at the zoo when a kid got homesick and climbed into her arms.

Katie told about her "favorite camper," Abi. She said how he loves the Backstreet Boys, and during karaoke he dances. She said she doesn't think she will forget him.

It doesn't take too much to become a volunteer either.

Special projects coordinator Nicole Giron said the volunteer just has to be 12 to 22 years old, have a sense of leadership and responsibility. Then the volunteers go through an orientation.

There are a variety of programs. In May the kids go paint their nails in the girls-only program or watch a puppet show in the Kids On The Block program.

During the spring and fall, there are after school programs Monday through Thursday for a couple hours.

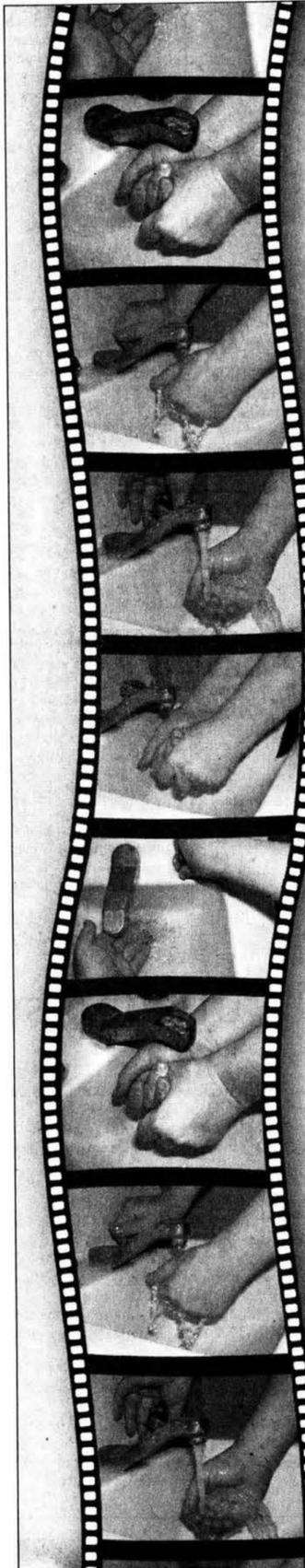
For so many programs and so many outings, there must be a lot of kids. There are about 400 participants, but when the camp started there wasn't as many.

The camp was launched in 1982 after Omaha Public Schools lost its funding for summer programs. The Hattie B. Munroe Foundation funded Camp Munroe. The first year there were a total of 12 participants.

"A lot of people who need a job, should think about camp Munroe," Ahmad said.

Ahmad said if people have never been around disabled kids, they just have to make the easy adjustment.

She said it is worth it.



CAN'T STOP

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder takes over way of life by repeating actions.

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Everything she does is repeated seven times.

She reads sentences seven times, washes her hands and imagine that if the actions are not taken, there will be no relief from the thoughts.

That is how junior Angela Friedman felt the summer before her freshman year. She was diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) at 14 years of age.

Licensed mental health practitioner at Therapy Resource Associates Mark Ziegenbein has treated hundreds of OCD cases.

Ziegenbein said there are two components to OCD. The first component is the obsessive thoughts that do not go away that cause the patient great anxiety. The second component is the compulsive actions the person may do to relieve this anxiety.

Chemicals in the brain not functioning correctly cause Obsessive Compulsive Disorders. The difference between one with OCD and one without OCD, is certain thoughts in the brain not disappearing when they should.

For one without OCD, a thought goes through her mind telling her to perform an action such as reading a sentence once. When the sentence is read, the thought disappears and the person can move on to the next thought.

For one with OCD, when a thought such as reading a sentence goes through her mind, she performs the action, but the thought does not disappear, rather it is "recycled" over and over again. This thought repeating in the mind is what causes the anxiety. Medication can help the thoughts disappear once an action is performed.

"There are 'doors' in the brain that are supposed to close when a thought goes through," Ziegenbein said. "The doors closing would be the chemicals that stop the thought from repeating."

There are certain criteria for being diagnosed with OCD. They include a preoccupation with rules, order, lists, details, organization and obsessive actions that actually interfere with daily life.

"One of the components of OCD is that they (people with OCD) know the thought process is absurd," Ziegenbein said.

Ziegenbein gave an example of someone obsessive with germs. That person may think that touching doorknobs or water faucets will contaminate their hands and the compulsive action would be excessive washing of hands, excessive showering or carrying around and using hand sanitizer constantly.

Sometimes there is a period of relief after a compulsive action is taken. Ziegenbein gave the example of someone with OCD. She may get the urge to wash her hands in the middle of class, and after washing hands, feel clean

for a while. Later on, she may feel as though she is contaminated again, and must therefore wash again.

The intensity of OCD can vary. The higher the intensity, the more one feels they must perform the action. With a lower intensity OCD case, the person may be able to wait longer and not experience as much stress.

There are many other components to Obsessive Compulsive Disorders besides fear of contamination. All have the same obsessive feeling and compulsive behavior, but they may have different actions.

One may feel the need to count items to make sure they are not missing, have a need for order, such as sorting clothes by color and panicking if anything was misplaced. Routine OCDs are disorders when the person must follow a certain routine constantly. Grouping OCDs may include habits like grouping items in threes, such as silverware.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorders are not always necessarily brought on by events and experiences in the past, but Ziegenbein said that they sometimes can be.

Friedman said her habits, or "rituals" as she called them, usually had to do with germs and the number seven. When Friedman touched something she considered contaminated, she would have to wash her hands seven times in order to feel clean again.

"I had rituals I had to do, and I had a feeling if I didn't do it, I would get sick," Friedman said.

Friedman also said she still carries around hand sanitizer. Whenever around someone who is sick, she feels really anxious and worries about getting sick herself. Friedman said she feels as though she must decontaminate herself after being around someone who is sick.

Ziegenbein said the treatment for OCD is relatively easy. Psychiatric medication is taken. A psychologist would work with a person with OCD, trying to use rational thoughts rather than irrational thoughts. Ziegenbein gave another example of the therapy using rational and irrational thoughts.

Ziegenbein said he once had a patient who was afraid to drive through a certain intersection for fear of contamination.

The patient believed that if she passed through the intersection she would be contaminated with germs and would later have to shower multiple times and throw away the clothes she was wearing at the time.

Therapy for a case such as that would start off by finding the problem, which in this case was a contaminated intersection, then showing the irrational of thinking that an intersection could be harmful.

Eventually the patient would realize that many people pass through the intersection every day, and no one ever gets contaminated.

Ziegenbein said most of the milder OCDs can be cured completely within six months to a year. For the more extreme OCD cases, the person may have to live with the disorder for the rest of their lives.

"Sometimes you can treat the obsessive part, and other times you can manage it," he said. Medications that can sometimes be used for OCD include Paxil Controlled Relief and Prozac.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE REGISTER

Mentally disabled dogs find a home with caring seniors

BY TESS MANDELL

Mentally disabled dogs are not a hassle said case to senior Ashley Irwin.

She has three dogs. Two dogs are mentally disabled. Irwin got her first dog, Oscar, 10 years ago.

"He didn't know how to bark or play," Irwin said.

Four years ago, Irwin got her second dog, Mitter.

"If we hadn't adopted them, they probably would have been put to sleep because we didn't want them," Irwin said.

Then, just last year, Irwin got her third dog, Charlie, who does not have any disabilities. Irwin said she can't simply play with these dogs on each of them normally because a lot of attention is needed for them.

Not only attention, but she said money is a problem, too.

"They take lots more work and lots more time," she said.

For instance, Mitter has special food. He has trouble chewing, so Irwin has to add stuff to his food so that he can eat it.

"His tongue is really long," she said. "It's kind of cute."

Irwin said she needs to feed Mitter special food even though he is a full-grown dog. In addition, she has to separate him from the other dogs while he eats and feed him only certain times each day.

"He needs the attention," she said. "They need the attention."

The dogs can't go outside because smaller breeds need to be kept indoors.

"It's a lot of work," Irwin said. "They need more attention than a regular dog."

Although the dogs take lots of work, Irwin still has a job and needs to focus on school. Luckily, there has only been one incident. One of her dogs had seizures and she had to rush her to the veterinarian.

But with dogs that have mental disabilities you need to give that much attention.

"It's like taking care of a handicapped person," Irwin said. "Even though they need more care, you get closer to them."

Irwin said she limits the number of dogs in her house to three. Nevertheless, she has cared for other mentally disabled dogs for a short period of time. Yet in the end, she still had to give them up.

"It's like a foster home," she said.

In one such event, she cared for a dog of her grandmother ended up owning.

Whether it is a temporary dog or one of her own, Irwin said she still has a sense of responsibility and will be leaving for college.

She said while she is away, the dogs will stay with her parents in the home she lives in now.

Here or away, she will always have those memorable moments with her dogs. She said she doesn't see them as difficult, just different. She said she is glad she takes care of the dogs.

She said she remembers when one of the dogs barked when it wasn't able to.

She said it is a rewarding process. She loves to see the dogs improve.

"It's rewarding to see that they have a better life."

Latin teacher still has passion for teaching even after three decades

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

When the word "Latin" is said most students and faculty think of teacher Rita Ryan.

For 32 years, Ryan has been the legendary Latin teacher.

Whether it is due to her passion for the language or her ability to entertain her classes and faculty, they like her.

Freshman Carolyn Croskey had heard of Ryan before even starting Central.

"I had heard all types of stories about Ms. Ryan," Croskey said.

These stories are only a part of what makes Ryan so loved by her students and co-workers.

When she was 18, Ryan said she made a decision that changed her life. Her plans on becoming an Egyptologist were stopped

short when she went on an archeological tour and saw how rough the conditions were. Ryan said sleeping on the ground in tents was not for her. She said she never planned on being at Central for so long. She has a theory that may help explain what has kept her at Central for so long.

"I entertain myself first," Ryan said. "And teach second."

Ryan ended up majoring in Greek and Latin. She even remembers how her first day at Central went in 1972.

"News crews with cameras came to see how everyone was doing on the first day of school," Ryan said. "Of course they ended up coming in to my class."

Ryan never once questioned her decision to teach. She has not stopped since she first walked through the doors 32 years ago. However, a lot has changed in the past

three decades.

"Students are bolder and not nearly as courteous," Ryan said. "It is just a sign of the times."

Ryan's curriculum keeps the students interested in Latin. Unlike other teachers, who concentrate on one topic the whole class period, Ryan said she tries to at least have three different activities, since it keeps the students interested. Sophomore Carly Vincentini did not know what language to take when she started Central and is happy she chose Latin.

"The class is relaxed," Vincentini said. "Ms. Ryan just goes with the flow and has a good time."

Ryan's class stays with students long after they graduate. She said she considers this one of the most fulfilling parts of teaching.

"Students come back from college and tell me that my class helped them so much," Ryan said. "They say they thought they were just having fun in Latin class."

Ryan is known around the school by students and faculty alike. Director of student services Nita Merrigan-Potthoff said Ryan is a very vivacious teacher.

"She is just the best," Merrigan-Potthoff said. "She has never lost her enthusiasm."

Ryan's knowledge of Latin stretches far beyond the basics. Her passion and love of the language is evident in the classroom every day. She has traveled the globe, visiting Italy and many other countries in the region 25 times.

"Number one, Ms. Ryan knows her material," Merrigan-Potthoff said. "She brings in interesting elements not in the curriculum."



PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE REGISTER
Latin teacher Rita Ryan checks students grades. She said she has been working for 32 years, but still loves every part of it.

OPINION

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

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BREAKING THE RULES: SMOKING

Students have been leaving school to light up, but they are not leaving school grounds. The school rules and laws about minors smoking on campus must be enforced.

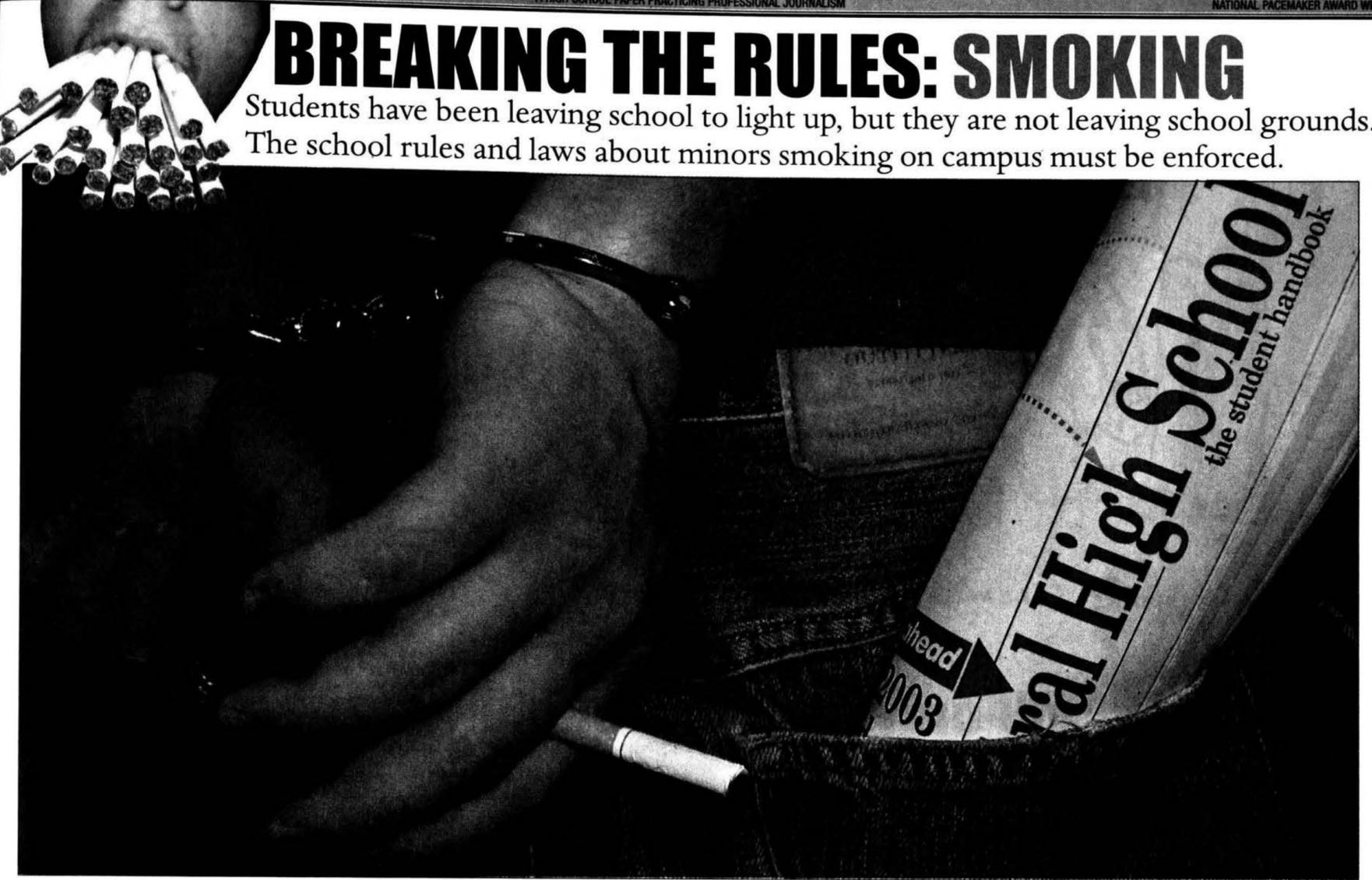


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE REGISTER

Students carelessly break school rules as well as state laws because most are minors smoking on school grounds. Some students think they are getting away with it. This illustration shows the student is aware of the rules, but continues to break them.

It's sixth hour lunch, instead of being in the cafeteria eating some food, the students go across the street to smoke.

These students think they are getting away with something and showing the administrators at this school they have no control.

These students couldn't be more wrong.

The administration is fully aware this happens, at least it used to three years ago. When the old senior parking lot was open on 22nd and Davenport Streets, security guards heavily patrolled the area.

Renovations have caused the staff to be short-handed. The security guards have to monitor 28 portables and an entire building.

There simply aren't enough staff members to patrol around the school for smokers.

During this year, the renovations seemed to cause security guards and admin-

istrators to make priorities and put off the "small stuff," such as smoking. But this problem should be considered as seriously as safety inside the school.

Sometimes students smoke on the Dodge Street side, right in front of the Central High School sign. Business officials and parents can see students smoking and get a bad impression of the school.

The administrators and security guards should be concerned with what the public thinks, especially parents of students who attend school here.

Being a school in the downtown community will always have stereotypes and ignoring students who break the rules will make people believe their perceptions of

the school.

The punishment of smoking on school grounds is weak.

According to the Student Handbook, a student should not have possession of or use tobacco products on or adjacent to school grounds. This is hardly enforced.

School officials used to make it very clear to students where the school grounds were and what location security would watch for code breaking activities.

Now students just cross the street to Chicago Street. They don't go under the interstate bridge or to Farnam Street, but just cross one street.

Not only is supervision lacking, but the Student Handbook offenses are very outdated.

First offense results in a phone call home and one After-School Suspension. The

second offense results in a two-day suspension and a parent conference. Lastly, a five-day suspension and a parent conference for the offense after that.

Most of these students can't be 18 years old. This means law enforcement officials should step in the situation.

A minor who is caught smoking is a Class V Misdemeanor. This violation should be considered a serious problem.

If the schools do not comply with the law and take action for the students breaking the law, they could have actions taken by State Department of Education.

Which means State of Nebraska School Laws will step in and make sure the different school meets requirements of state laws and codes.

School is the real world. Rules shouldn't be bent at a school setting.

Students should know these rules and they should be very similar to Nebraska's laws. Students should be charged with a

Class V Misdemeanor.

This makes for a serious issue because high school is a time to learn morals and rules.

Students smoking on school grounds should be considered a big deal and a violation.

These violations shouldn't take a back seat to anything.

This way of thinking should be what is best for the school and make sure the students give off a good impression.

Extra security is needed. Students are breaking the law and the Code of Conduct.

It's a simple solution, but would cost the district money to hire more staff members.

It is a price that should be paid.

School officials always say they want the school to look good, and for the students to represent the school well. Is that what's happening here?

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

Times were simpler when sophomore was 'daddy's little girl'

When I was 12, I became daddy's little girl. At this age, I received a sense of happiness that I did not want to lose.

It was the age that I felt like I was not alone because I had a dad.

Although I'm an only child and my parents are divorced, I do not feel the need to tell on the negative things I experienced with the situation anymore.

Instead, I always like to remember the little girl I used to be. A girl who loved to be with her dad. I was happy then.

I loved to be around him because it was fun. When I was little, I did what the average 12 year old did, like

play sports, go to school and have some type of a hobby.

I remember going to my friends sleep-overs and even throwing my own.

Those were the best times.

But what I loved the most was seeing my dad for the weekend. Whenever I was with him, I had no responsibilities. I had no priorities. It was just him and me.

Sometimes I felt like it was unfair that I had to go to a different house to see my dad. I just didn't like it. My parents didn't live together. I thought it

was unfair for me to have just one parent involved in my life more.

But there were also the times I didn't want to go home because I loved spending time with my dad. I liked having the choices and sense of freedom when I was over there. I did not have to do the dishes or clean up anything.

All I had to do when I was with my dad was tell him what I wanted to do. He would always give me a choice. All I would have to do was answer yes or no, please and thank you.

Unlike with my mom who seems to want an explanation for everything and then give me no choice at all.

At the age of 12 was when I really started to enjoy spending time with my dad. Might I add though, I was not the average 12 year old. I was very mature. I was also a very serious person

who did not like to do things that I did not have to. I did not like to be bossed around by my mother. So when I would escape to my dad's house, I was grateful for every choice I got to make.

I admit that whatever my dad wanted from me, he got it. I believe he got the obedience, understanding and cooperation from me because I felt like I had a choice. I could either do it or not.

Of course there would be consequences for each choice I made. But I did not feel like I had to do anything. I always felt like this with my mother.

I initially thought my selfish attitude, which only existed when my dad was around, was a quality that reversed itself when I had to go back home. I did not like feeling like my other life

should have to be so unwanted.

This feeling of unselfishness, which soon turned into self-pity, honestly made me wish my constant parent should be my dad instead of my mom. But the arrangement was not my choice.

The law has affected how I feel about having free will in a big way. When I am away from my dad I miss having that. I wish I could just have a two-parent home so I could play tattletale on my mother. Every time she would not give me a choice, I would just go tell my dad.

However, my learned ability to deal with my current situation has turned me away from being sympathetic towards myself. Instead of feeling bad for myself now, I just learn to reminisce on when I had a choice.

I try to remember what it was like to be 12 again. I try to remember the happiness I had with going to the movies with my dad or when he supported me at track meets or when he saw me win the African-American History Challenge in eighth grade.

Whenever I feel hopeless, I do my best to remember. I do not dwell on the past. I just remember it so that I can't say to myself that I have never been happy.

My father may make me upset at times. He may even make me glad to just have a dad around at all.

But regardless of my situation of divorce and solitude, I can always think of how having him around was my greatest joy. I can always remember being 12 and going to the movies with my dad.

'Fight Club' inspires teen to mimic idea leading to Sharpie-marker battles

"Fight Club" is one of my favorite movies. I and my friends and I have read the book and have a questionable obsession with the story. It wasn't until a few weeks ago I found out how questionable my obsession was.

After watching the movie so many times, a group of private high school students and myself thought to start our own fight club. I thought we were so original.

When parents say teenagers pick up violent habits from movies, I might be the only one who believes them. I am the poster-girl for a media-influenced teen.

Now just talking of this I am breaking the first two rules of the club, which are you do not talk about Fight Club.

One evening, after sitting through an excruciatingly bad movie, "Radio" at the dollar theater, we all felt like we needed to get something out of our system.

My friends and I walked into my basement, trying to think of something productive that we

could do.

It started out with a relatively innocent Sharpie permanent marker fight. We got so caught up in it to the point each other. It wasn't too long before the game graduated into an actual fist fight. It was all captured on my video camera.

Sharpies were thrown to the ground before shoes and sweatshirts were removed. Two people from the group fought in the middle of the basement until one either said "stop" or hit the concrete floor.

It seemed like something right out of the movie, with the scarce lighting and six teenagers circled around a fight, laughing and cheering people on.

I'm not really sure how the idea to go

from Sharpie fights to fights came about. All I remember happening was me saying, "Hey, you wanna fist fight?"

"Sure," the Creighton Prep student said.

And that was it, no questioning as to why someone would want to do it, no backing out; at the first mention of beating each other up for pleasure, the entire group was on board.

So it was me and a Prep boy in "the ring" as one would say. As far as I know no one of us have ever fought before so we weren't skilled on how to punch or block or anything like that. We just threw our fists in front of us assuming they would connect.

It didn't even seem painful at the time, just interesting, or even exciting. After I started to get winded, in about two minutes, I called

myself out and sat down.

Fights didn't generally last longer than two minutes because the arms got too bruised to continue. When the arms wore out, we just started kicking. It felt so invigorating to be a part of something so out of the mainstream. I thought I was the only one with this idea, the only one exercising my bottled-up emotions.

It was basic animal instinct that was working. Nobody was thinking about hurting his best friend, or vice versa. Our bodies were running on pure adrenaline, taking punches and fighting back until one of us ran out of energy and had to sit out.

It was the fact that there were no rules, or any rule that was established was broken and forgotten. I felt very proud of that evening. I felt like I had accomplished something. Even though there were no winners or losers of the "game," I felt like I had helped create some emotion or feeling that wasn't there before both the group and individually. Though there was a

movie about the entire experience, I felt like I had discovered something.

About a week after our first meeting, I saw The author of "Fight Club," Chuck Palahniuk, appeared on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." He said his book sparked a number of fight clubs, mainly in Utah.

I decided to keep that fact to myself at our next meeting, fearing that everyone had the same idea I had.

It seems that the entire reason for Fight Club is ruined in real life. In the movie, Fight Club is something real in a fictitious society. It is not something the characters do because they were told to do it or saw it on television. It is real.



FLEXIBLE WINGS
A COLUMN BY JOANNA LEFLORE



YOU NEED TO BELIEVE
A COLUMN BY MOLLY MULLEN

"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 to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

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

EDITORIALS

Driving law pushes outdated stereotype

A 16-year-old driver can only have one person under 21 years old with him in the car.

If he is driving to school, however, all of his siblings can ride with him.

This is the graduated license, which seven other states have adopted. Nebraska shouldn't adopt this law because it takes away from the driving and learning experience.

The graduated license limits the number of minor passengers to a vehicle in efforts to decrease the number of teen deaths caused by car accidents.

These seven states with the graduated license program are: California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin.

There have been records showing a decrease in deaths of teenage car accidents in these states.

For siblings to ride in the car to school, the driver needs the intermediate license and he has to be 16 years old.

The driver cannot be on the roads from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m.

Luckily Nebraska has a curfew, but it is from 12:30 a.m. until 5 a.m.

This later curfew will actually allow time for students to go out and have a life.

This is what the seven states don't want teenagers to do because it heightens the risk of car accidents.

If teenagers had such strict curfews and were restricted on the amount of passengers they could have in the car, they would rebel against the law and get into car accidents.

These drivers will have adrenaline running and probably end up crashing the car.

The seven states need to loosen up the law and Nebraska Health and Safety Department should never think this could help young drivers.

Nebraska's program is much better. The curfews and restrictions only last to 17 year olds. At 17, the driver can get a license that allows him to drive anytime without breaking the laws.

The only catch is he can't get speeding tickets or be involved in an accident.

This is an incentive to drive well and behave on the roads.

Unlike in Tennessee where some teenagers will drive recklessly because they can only look forward to an hour knocked off their curfew as they get older.

A car packed with students doesn't always cause car accidents.

Drunk drivers or weather conditions do cause some accidents in all states.

Having friends in the car shouldn't

be the problem.

Nebraska isn't seeing much of a decrease in traffic deaths, but the number hasn't increased very much either.

The graduated license program will not teach drivers how to cope with a real car situation.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

block out all distractions

There would also be problems with the enforcement of this law. Cops would have to be on the streets monitoring drivers.

If the officers take the law seriously they will have to pull over any car that appears to violate this law.

Judging a driver's age is nearly impossible, but trying to judge the age of passengers is just as difficult.

The fatal car accidents that teenagers had to have decreased because half the drivers would be on the side of the road with an officer checking IDs.

Nebraska Health and Safety officials need to stay away from the curfew makes enough of an impact on the student driver.

To drastically decrease the numbers of teenage deaths, the state officials should want to prove the driver's education program is advancing and successful.

Limiting the amount of passengers in a car shows the opposite because during driver's education course, some instructors insist on having conversations.

Driving with people who are talking to one another is one obstacle of passing the test.

The ability to listen and block things out while at the wheel is a key Driver instructors ask the student testing to try to talk so he knows the car can focus their attention at the right times.

Not being able to drive with a group of people would also affect parking at carpools for students going to school. Many students pick up friends and take them all to school.

Having groups of people in a car isn't always for fun. It to save time and money. There aren't that many parking spaces at Central. Carpooling is a must.

Driving prepares teens for what they may have a family or be an older driver.

Students will begin to know the limits if they start driving at a young age with all the different types of problems and obstacles at once.

Officials can't protect teens from every thing. It's a nice gesture, but not reality.



"BOMB THREAT?! GANG WARS?! ARSON?! ...firecracker?"

Pranks will only lead to trouble

Over 200 bodies hit the floor because it sounded like gunfire, but it was just another prank. This time it was fireworks.

Setting off a form of explosions will not make the school feel safe. The firecracker seems to go off during passing periods. Which means lighting the firecracker is easier to get away with.

Administrators and security try to find the students who do this, but all they find is a "Black Cat" wrapper. The student is gone and he will probably do it somewhere else tomorrow.

In early March, one went off near the courtyard. When it sounded, many students rushed back in the courtyard in case the "shots" were coming for the west doors.

This should never be the case. Students should never be running away from a threat at school.

In the Student Handbook under the Buff section, violations against property and arson are listed. The first and only offense for something like this is expulsion.

Most likely a crime like setting off fireworks in a school building will carry over to other punishments, too. It could be

bullying, harassment violation against public decency and good morals or reckless damage to property.

When the students are caught doing this, they should be charged with all the offenses that apply. These students are threatening other students and faculty.

Expulsion is the best way to get the administrators' point across. Any student who threatens the lives of students through idiotic antics should have drastic measures taken against him. Not only should he be expelled from the school, he should have to meet with a fire marshal as well.

When the fire marshal gets involved, it can result in the student having to pay a fine and a fee for damages caused for the first offense. This amount can be up to \$1,000.

This is exactly what students need to hear. A student who is buying \$3.50 pack of Black Cats probably means he doesn't have a couple thousand bucks lying around.

Punishments should be very serious. Some students think these pranks are random shootings. Others think it is related to gangs or don't know what to think when they hear

loud pops.

This problem can go beyond a small fire or light show. It can result in students physically fighting each other.

The second students start running or hitting the ground is when guardians or parents call the office to complain about security.

Security shouldn't be to blame. Unless the school gets a metal detector or the security guards pat down the students before they enter the building, there is nothing officials can do until the student lights the match.

If these antics keep happening, the district will probably have to fork over more money for safety at school and hire another officer or a fire marshal.

Another problem is a firework could backfire and injure someone. The packages say light the firework outside and act responsibly. Leave it up to high school students to do just the opposite.

It is a hazard because it clearly states it on the label.

Students should have never thought to bring this hazard into a school building. It is pathetic how the generation is spiraling out of control and bringing these "toys" to school.

There is a police officer and officials in the school. They will eventually get caught.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

Abuse of e-mail procedures shows lack of maturity

Every half-minute, students sent e-mails to each other in class. Not only did they send e-mails to each other, but they sent them to the entire faculty as well.

This should be a warning sign to the officials that students aren't capable of sitting in a classroom with access to this technology.

It was brought to the administration's attention because a teacher received copies of all these e-mails. Something may be wrong with the system or the students couldn't even pay attention to what they were doing. Officials say it is the teacher's responsibility to teach the class and limit access of the Internet.

Students should be smart enough to know they should doing class work instead.

The teacher is busy teaching new lessons and shouldn't have to try to watch all computer activity, such as e-mails, every second. Students were acting as if they were 5 years old, in fact 5 year olds may have larger attention spans than these kids. There is need for a change.

The e-mailing program for students should be taken out of the

school. This means all the students would suffer because of a few kids messing around in class.

When the technology class begins, the teacher describes what it means to abuse the e-mailing system. These students simply don't follow the instructions. It violates the class rules.

Not only do they violate these rules, but also if they used vulgarities or discriminative words, they break the rules of the code of conduct.

The computer labs are so large that students can easily hide the e-mails if a teacher walks around. The need for student e-mail accounts isn't clear. Most of the users are irresponsible and abuse it. Take it away.

Students think they are getting away with too much, this will affect their habits in the future. It needs to end now. The first place is to start with the e-mails and how they abuse the privilege in class.

Officials just need to focus on what will help the school, which is getting rid of the student e-mail accounts.

It is a distraction that needs to be eliminated. E-mail accounts are not mandatory in the school setting.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

03-04 REGISTER STAFF BOX

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 seven time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas and Washington D.C.

The staff hopes to repeat this at the spring 2004 JEA/NSPA convention in San Diego.

The Register staff is also responsible for the publication of the Edge feature magazine, which has won first place Best-in-Show award for specialty publications.

The Register has won multiple Pacemakers, which is considered the

Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA.

It has been awarded Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work as well.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Register staff and do not necessarily represent 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 High School or the Register staff.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. They can be sent to the Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via e-mail to Central.Journalism@ops.org.

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.

Advertising information available by calling (402) 557-3357. If there is no one available, please leave a message.

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A few bad people in society help erode away trust for all

Everybody is a rapist.

At least, that's what the media and society today seems to think. Unless you've seen where somebody has slept, you can't trust to even talk to anybody under 30 without a fear of being attacked.

It's sad these few crazy people overshadow the good ones. While there are obviously a lot of good people out there, these people who aren't risk-takers or suicidal will never know.

I'm not saying people who would rather be safe than sorry are being too cautious or little girls should accept more rides from strangers with a bag of salt water taffy.

I'm just saying it's sad that people can't be trusted because of a few who have a screw or two loose. Just 15 years ago, I don't think that was the case.

Just the other night I was walking in my neighborhood. It was cold, raining and dark outside. It wasn't exactly prime walking weather, but I was just going home from a few blocks away so it wasn't that big of a deal.

As I was just about to the half-way point, a man in a white truck slowed down beside me and asked me if I was going far. I told him I was not and declined his offer for a ride.

Just to be safe, I picked up my pace. As I got home I told my dad what happened. He didn't seem too surprised. He said when he was a kid he would accept rides from people if they offered, but 1986 was a different time.

While the guy who offered me a ride could have tried to be a nice person and give me a break from the bad weather.

But this "nice" accepting ride could have backfired and most likely would have. It could have been a kidnapper.

A few people have ruined thousands of free rides for people in situations like I was in.

If a bad situation arises and someone needs to get out of there quickly, a ride would help.

The only bad thing about my situation was it was raining and my socks were wet. I would prefer to be riding in a vehicle and in a perfect world I could have accepted a ride from the stranger.

But it wasn't a big deal that I was walking.

In a perfect world, I would have been able to accept a ride from the man in the white truck.

He would have said his name was John, where he

lived and had a son about my age. Because of a few people who would have raped and stabbed me instead of being friendly, I will never find out.

Walking in the rain shouldn't be a bad, but I am just whiney and wanted free-ride home.

The world is so incredibly far from perfect.

It's just unfortunate that these few good people have the rapist stigma due to actual rapists' psycho decisions.

Not everybody is a Hannibal Lecter but nobody can tell by the way we treat each other and teach our children.

There are a lot of bad people out there, and now not even our parents can't be trusted with a child under alone for more than five minutes at a time.

It is unfair that nobody can't be trusted, but that's the way it is today. That's too bad.

Children should be taught not accept rides, candy or casual conversation from a stranger, but they should also be taught that not everybody is going to attack them in a dark alley.

What should a parent do?

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OPINION

"...we could help stop things like teen pregnancy, racism, drug and alcohol use and shootings."
KATIE BYRNE (10)

THE BIG ISSUE: FIRE ALARMS

Student sick of disruptions

Editor,
These fire drills are crazy. At least once a week we are forced to stand outside for no real reason. That's not the worst part, though.
When we're sitting in class and the alarm goes off, the teachers and students just keep working. If a fire were to happen, this could be a problem. I hope something is done about this soon.

Herman (9)

Fire drills practice evacuations

Editor,
Fire drills are wonderful things, or at least their original purpose is good. Practicing for an emergency situation is a good idea, it helps save lives. However, when you have these drills at least five times a month, it's just annoying.
Anymore, if we have a fire drill it is just a juvenile high-jinx or construction excuse. Even though fire drills are safe, it gets tiring and pointless. We have to do this continuously.
There should be some way to differentiate between a possible life-and-death situation and a joke by someone trying to get out of class.

Mesa Crnkovich (11)

Weather angers student

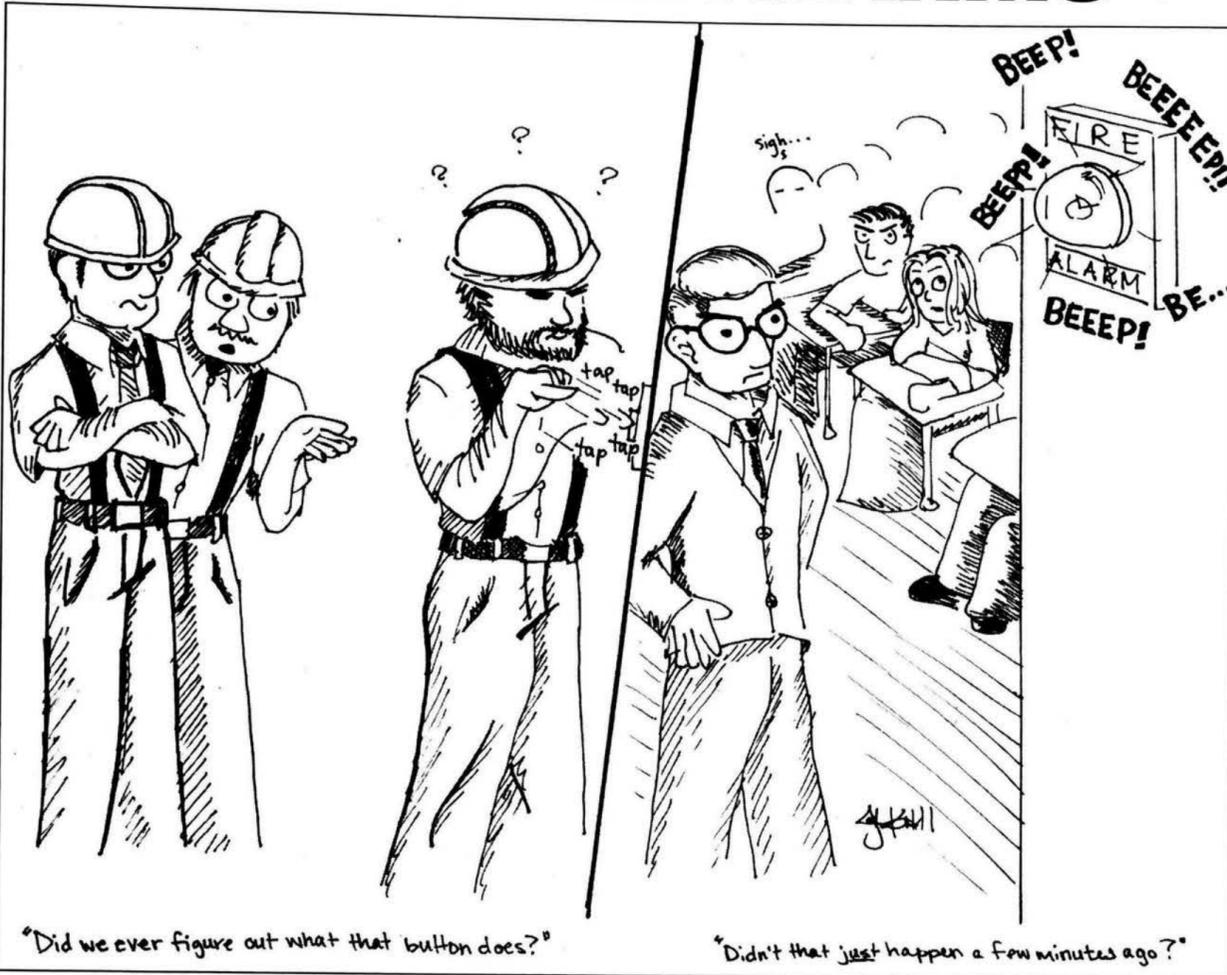
Editor,
I think the fire drills that happened in early March were inconvenient, because they interrupted class.
Even worse, it interrupted the ones that were in a lunch hour. Each false alarm will cost the school money.
Being out in the cold and rain and having to make a person sick, especially when gym is that same hour that happened.

Walton (10)

Fire drills should be serious

Editor,
I was wondering about why exactly there were two fire drills on March 17? The alarms sounded within an hour of each other.
Did it have to do with the renovations in room 311?
The amount of fire drills Central has had this year is a problem. If we have a real emergency everyone will think it is fake.

Walton (10)



They won't move out of their seats.
This could lead to a disaster.

Anna McMahon (10)

Student blames renovations

Dear Editor,
I think that they (school officials) should stop the renovations until the school year is over.
The construction should be saved until the summer. Or the construction workers should just work on the weekends.
Because during the week, some type of electrical problem happens that affects the fire alarms.
So if people waited until school was over during the summer, people

would not have to evacuate. The entire school has to evacuate for some stupid thing that usually isn't a real fire.
The students would get a lot more learning done if they spend that time in class.

Jason Hofmann (9)

Alarms need more control

Dear Editor,
Central High School needs to get the fire drill situation under control. The whole school is forced out of the building only to be able to come back in two minutes later.
Because it was a false fire alarm.
Most of the time we are in classes without our coats on and are not allowed to go to our lockers to get them.

It is too cold to sit outside for no reason.
People could get sick. Especially when they are in a gym class wearing next-to-nothing shorts and shirts. It is not right to make us go outside with all the false fire alarms.

Camille Ehlers (10)

Alerts confuse student

Dear Editor,
Fire! What will happen if it's real? I think people who pull the fire bell do it because they think it is funny. I don't think it's an accident.
It happens two to three times a day and sometimes we don't know if the fires are real or if there is one at all. When will they find the student who

purposely pulls the fire alarms.
It is necessary to practice evacuating, but this is annoying.
I understand that construction is sometimes the problem, but usually administrations can figure out where it's coming from. When will security find the person who pulls the alarms?

Michele Inzauro (11)

Students need to grow up

Dear Editor,
Students that pull the fire alarms are wasting not only their time. It is wrong to bring firefighters here. This is not a thing high school students should do.

Ken Sunata (11)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the Editor are gladly accepted in room 315, via e-mail at Central.Journalism@ops.org or in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office.
Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.

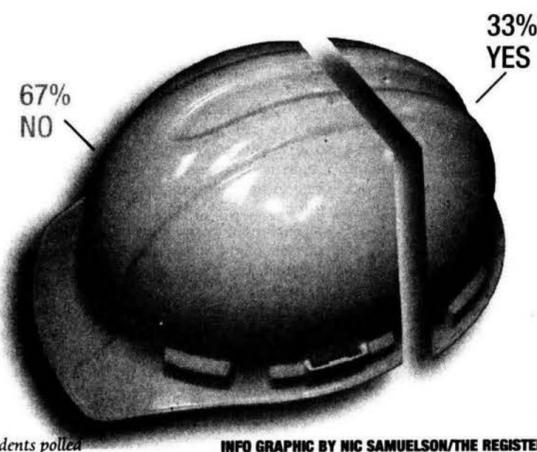
Writing needs to be more objective, in-depth coverage

To the Editor,
What can I say really? The Register is by far the best school newspaper known to man. I realize it has been a while since the article came out, but I'd like to voice what I have to say about the article dealing with weed.
In all honesty, I felt it was just an article for the person "in disguise" to put himself out there and make more business for himself. While it was a good article, it did nothing but let the student population know just how many people are into this drug.
I think that the article could have done a little more for everyone if the reporter maybe talked about the dangers of doing the drug.
Thanks for your time.

Katie Willis (11)

STUDENT POLL

SHOULD THE STADIUM CONSTRUCTION BE POSTPONED?



Central needs to have open-campus lunches

Dear Editor,
Why doesn't Nebraska's largest school have open-campus lunches? The cafeterias are always packed, noisy and unenjoyable to spend lunch in.
It's not like everyone stays her for lunch anyway. Why not just give us open campus then people wouldn't get in trouble for something as stupid as skipping lunch.

Paige Kendrick (10)

Register needs to stop being real

Dear Editor,
I think we should focus on school-related issues. I know we do sometimes, but I think we're trying too hard to be like a real newspaper.
We have to start focusing on issues like abortion and gay marriage discussion in human growth instead of whether or not President Bush is an idiot. No more personal experience stories please.
We don't want to hear people's personal problems. It's their lives, have them keep it to themselves.

Phillip Garcia (11)

Officials should discuss important topics

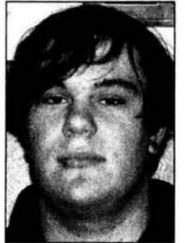
Dear Editor,
I think this school needs to stop with all the raising of prices on all things (vending machines and lunch).
I believe that people should have a say in whether the machines should be on in the morning and during lunch.
I believe we should have a monthly assembly in the auditorium about gun control, pregnancy, and everything else because we keep doing these things even though they we about them.
If we can get talking about these topics then we could help stop things like teen pregnancy, racism, drug and alcohol use, and shootings.
I know we all don't want anything like Columbine.

Katie Byrne (10)



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SENIOR PARKING LOT BEING CLOSED FOR STADIUM CONSTRUCTION?



"It's already horrible. I don't even drive to school because of the parking."
Josh Koterba (12)



"I don't park here, but it is horrible to have to wait for a shuttle. The new lot is out of everyone's way, but I also understand it is for a good reason."
Sarah Alston (12)



"It is very inconvenient that there is no where to park. I love Central football, but right now it is not worth it."
Nicholle Leedom (12)



"All the seniors take all the other spots and there's no parking for everyone else."
Mindy Sotello (11)



"I think it is a good idea for the stadium and the blocked off areas. It is not affecting me and it is not going to affect seniors who graduate."
Andy Reagan (12)



"I think it's unfair. Now we have to leave even earlier to get a spot."
Jason Nehrig (12)

Bird droppings on sidewalk sickens junior

Dear Editor,
I hate walking through that big pile of bird poop. I can't tell the difference between it and gravel. It's all over the sidewalks, sidewalks and just every where. It is on the one side of the building with those trees.
I know we can't do anything about it really, but I would rather step in mud than bird poop. Everyday the piles get bigger and bigger. It smells disgusting.
We should put bird seeds somewhere else downtown and see what happens. See if they leave the school's area.

Andre Marshall (11)

Newspaper needs to cover right players

Dear Editor,
Put Derrick Russell on the front page of the school newspaper and make him the star he is. He made 30 points and 10 rebounds in his last game.
And put Karl White on there, too.

Shad Hill (10)

Some school rules perpetuate stereotypes

Dear Editor,
I think it is wrong that we can't have letters or numbers on a shirt, but the other kids can have pens, needles and safety pins in their clothes. What if they take that out and stab somebody with it. You can't stab anybody with numbers on your shirt or with a hat. They wear those dog chains and they like that. Those are weapons. I say if they can wear those safety pins in their clothes, we should be able to wear hats and wear numbers on our shirts. I think the teachers just like the stereotype.

Monique Brown (9)

Register should tackle better topics

Dear Editor,
It would be nice to have other things in the newspaper other than what's in there already. Be creative about it and make it interesting.

Cole Hulvey (12)

OPINION

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD

124 N 20TH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE

Stadium construction causes parking to be even more of a problem. It is a small price to pay for the new athletic facilities.



The point of the senior parking lot was its closeness to school. Now seniors take a shuttle from the new lot.

This started for the construction of the stadium. Which in the end will be worth the move. Yet, the new parking lot has its downsides.

This close to downtown, none of the students should park this far away and be expected to walk or a wait for a shuttle bus.

It is still dark outside. Students could get mugged. Yes, there is security patrolling the area, but it is only one set of eyes at a time.

The new lot is at 20th and Chicago Streets. School is on 20th and Dodge Streets. That is a large distance to walk.

The shuttle bus also stops transporting students too early. This lot has enough spots for the seniors, so most of them arrive to school just before first hour begins. They have to drag their half asleep bodies up to the school and cross 20th Street.

It sounds like an accident waiting to happen.

The problem is obviously parking around Central. Now there's the added problem of parking blocks away from Central in a designated lot.

What are the benefits? It is simple: a stadium. Renovations at school are progressing. The senior lot, west of the portables was closed for machinery storage.

Soon after this move happened, construction began.

Seniors and any other students need to realize there is a greater good to this parking mess. Since teenagers are very selfish, they are only concerned about walking up a hill to school.

This graduating class can't see the bigger picture. Central High School having its own home football stadium is a big deal.

It has never happened before.

Most of the seniors will return to school to see the new facility when it is done.

There will be a place where the Eagles can score touchdowns and see their school in the background. This should make someone think that it is

better for the school.

It will bring money to the school as well.

Students really have no room to complain. Parking is a minor problem, especially when looking at the big picture.

When the stadium is finished, then this school will have some parking problems. At this time there probably won't be hardly enough parking spots. School officials have made deals and agreements to have a new lot for the kids.

Matters could be worse. There could have been nothing except for a careless shrug and "sorry" from a school official.

Walking a few blocks is not bad at all. There will be a stadium here. Not much more can be said, besides "stadium."

At the beginning of the year, it was rumored that there was not going to be a senior parking lot at all.

Everyone who drives to school thought they were just going to get to school early and park on the streets.

Apparently the seniors were babied too much with the closer lot.

Here is how everyone can make the best out of this situation and make a positive out of a negative.

Carpool with a few friends and if the car has to park at a meter, those who are involved in the carpool can bring some spare change and plug it into the meter.

There is also a bus that will go from the new lot to the school approximately every ten minutes. There will also be security guards patrolling the area while the students are in school.

It shows the school officials do see downtown as a concern. There is nothing to complain about.

It is not only seniors who are losing parking in the lot either. Some teachers are going to be looking for parking as well.

The idea of carpooling would work for them also.

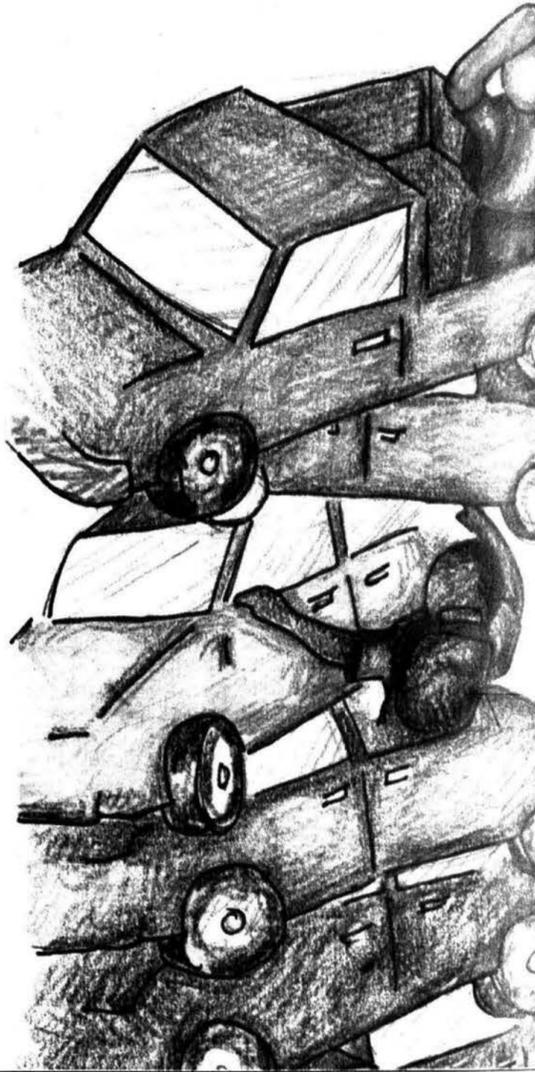
Obviously, the seniors who lost the senior parking lot need to realize the future students and the well-being of the school is going to be better with a new stadium.

Everyone will still have a parking spot, so it is not like everyone has to battle for parking.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

NEW SENIOR LOT (8 miles to Central High School)



Busy schedule means little time to spend with parents, friends

I miss my parents. They still live with and support me, I just don't know them.

There are some many things now I don't tell them. Mainly because I am just not comfortable enough to open up or I am too tired to try and hold a conversation. It makes me want to cry.

These two people have been there for me since birth. They are always offering help and guidance and now I am not giving back. I can honestly say these past two years I have not been a decent daughter. It pains me to think that I can be so frustrated with them and I don't know how to make them understand it is just a phase.

Because this loved I have for my parents is different. I can never walk away from them, but that is all I feel like I have been doing. I just remember as a child how I would always open up to them and loved to spend time with them. It doesn't make any sense why a teenager has to go through a phase of not liking her

family. Imagining how my parents feel breaks me up inside. They have four children, all four of us went through this phase.

I listened to one of my friends talking about how he fights with his parents. Mainly because

he has grown up and lives with his stepfather and birth mother. They aren't that close. He tells his stories about how they don't communicate and what it is doing to him now.

When I step out of this conversation for a minute I think at least I am not in his situation, but in actuality I

am.

My parents and I simply don't talk anymore.

I walk out of a room at 1 a.m. on a school night irritated. I try to carry on a conversation with my mom, but it usually ends up in a verbal fight. My attitude or apathy gets in the way so I can't explain my life to her without going through the background details.

This is all my fault because I never kept her updated so she missed the background. It is to the point now when I know I am hurting the relationship. Hopefully things will be OK in the near future.

I can't help but to think of a song. The lyrics say something about getting to know my parents because I will miss them when they are gone. Despite how I don't show it, I know it is the truth.

One weekend I was listening to a conversation about my grandmother between my mom and my aunt.

They were talking about her illness I was unaware of.

She is going in and out of the hospitals almost as much as she can fall asleep during daytime television. I didn't know this.

My grandmother could be dying, I didn't know nor can I even help her. My mom told me she doesn't think she will make it. A daughter would never lose hope for her mother's survival. She would always chose denial instead of reality.

When she told me this news she chuckled at

the fact that her child doesn't know what is going on. It was a depressed laugh. She responded to my confusion with a joke.

She said she thinks she should start e-mailing a newsletter to her children so they know what's going on in their lives.

She continued to smile, but I was on the verge of crying.

My mom and dad put so much effort in trying to talk to me at the dinner table on a Sunday night and all I give back to them is a snappy attitude.

Even when they ask me about college and how my experience was when I visited I yell back.

Something they will be paying thousands of dollars for, I didn't even open up and say what I thought.

I wish I knew them. I wish I could show as much care for them as they do for me. Even if I want it this much, for some reason I simply can't do it.

I really don't think there is any way I can prevent it just because the state of mind I get in when I am with them. I just hope after or during

college I can grow back into the way I once like I have to keep a stern look on my face. I do miss the relationship we had. I do miss the stories of my youth.

I miss laughing with them without feeling like I have to keep a stern look on my face. I know how I grew to think like this. I just want when it will go back to when it was good.

When I try to explain my state of mind to my friends, I basically say I am 18-year-old teenager who strives to be on her own. Of course, this is one of the main things I want my life right now, and I know it will be one that I won't be able to handle as well.

It is my only want right now. I want to get away from the things I had in the past and start a new life. For some reason I just want to forget happy memories and try to act like an adult on my own, which won't happen.

I know when I am given the chance to go to the day my parents drive off leaving me at the doorstep of my dorm, it will be hard.

As soon as I see their car fade away from the street, I don't think I will know what to think I will just collapse.



BITTER BY CHOICE

A COLUMN BY KATIE BACKMAN

Senior refuses to allow himself to be dragged into 'American Idol' madness

I am not now, nor will I ever be, the American Idol.

I sat down one night with my parents while they were watching television. The show is coincidentally idolized by so many millions of people and students at school.

The only saving grace I have to keep me entertained while viewing that show is Simon's throw-some-salt-on-that-wound advice he gives contestants.

During that time, I jokingly said I should go and try out next season. Of course, like any supportive parental figure, my mother jumped at the chance to say, "Yeah, do it!" She knew I was joking, but I knew she was more or less serious about her statement.

I am confident in my vocal abilities. They are not the best ever, but I can carry a pretty mean tune. However,

anyone who can take at least one look at me could tell I am far from the American Idol.

To begin with, I typically wear all black, plain-label clothing. I do not care much for trends, massive amounts of bright colors, body building or just what people might call "looking good."

Secondly, my hair is too long compared to your typical American male, and with my slim body figure, I could probably pull off being a rather convincing woman aside from my deep voice and massive Adam's Apple.

Then again, Clay Aiken comes off rather feminine, so who knows what America really likes.

A final note lies within the fact that American Idol is for the pop culture. A culture I do not indulge myself in. During the episode I watched, Simon nearly say "no" to a guy because he had more of a Bob Seager, rock and roll, vibe going about him, and that, according to Simon, is not what typifies the American Idol.

A few days after that night my mom overheard me singing along to Poison in my room, and decided to reiterate the joke I should try out for American Idol. Poison would be an

example of an American Idol? Four guys with long, messy hair and clothing that can only be described as rags? I think not.

I could very well go ahead and sing Poison with more of a pop-star voice. It is not like they distort their voices too much, but they still are the '80s hair metal music. It will be a cold day in Hell before I ever lower myself to singing a new-age pop song without intent of making fun of it.

I suppose there is the possibility I could do something along the lines of David Bowie, but then I might get picked on because it is too "classic." I apologize for being a little cultured.

How about Michael Jackson? Too controversial? That is a bit more my style. I would do it just to shake things up among people who have some spite towards him for his alleged actions.

Chances are I would pick a song more like the Misfits' "Last Caress." What would be better than to go in front of millions of people on a conservative pop-culture show and sing a song about killing babies and raping mothers?

Even if I did do that, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson, being notably easier to please, would be likely to still give me their approval based on vocal talent alone. I imagine a decline would come from Simon, the bitter-tongued English man, and not because I cannot sing well, but because I do not define the American Idol.

That is fine with me. I still would be on to the second round. I imagine that is as far as I would make it, but I did not really care either way to begin with. I would not be like all those other contestants who walk off crying like a

little baby who just got his rattle taken from him, or one of those angst-ridden people who drop the "f-word" left and right.

On the contrary, I would secretly rejoice that I lost. I would give everything I could find a great big bear hug. It would throw people off, they would be confused.

Frankly, many television shows lately could use a little spice that goes against what people would expect would keep things interesting, at least very least.

Who knows? Maybe one of the contestants in waiting will have my positive reaction to being rejected and realize if it happens to them, it is not the end of the world. They will just pick up their life where they left even if they are just working for minimum labor wages at a fast food restaurant.

ARTS

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

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A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER



TABLE FOR ONE
A COLUMN BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Dance club rates 'R' for sexuality, revealing clothes

My 17th birthday party was nothing to brag about. In fact, I swore I would never bring it up again, I mean, it was not something I would like to remember. A few days before I turned 17, a friend and I decided we were going to do something we had never done before. We decided we would put on some nice clothes and go dancing.

On the night before my birthday we went to Club Embassy. It was teen night and we figured it was the place to go. We went to one club and that was enough. First of all we were under the misconception that "Teen Night" was for teens only. We were also under the impression the teens who were there were going to be well behaved. We were wrong.

I thought kids in the Midwest were a little more conservative and laid back, but what I saw proved me wrong. I have never seen so many trashy girls and horny guys in the same room at the same time. The club was hot that night, I mean actually hot. There were a lot of people and the heat was unbearable.

We walked in to the club at about 8 p.m. We took a lap around the floor, made our presence known, and took a seat at one of the bistro tables. Out of the corner of my eye I saw some leather furniture and thought that may be more comfortable, apparently it was. However, I never got to sit on the couches. For most of the evening, a group of teenage boys sat there making out. I did not think that was too much out of the ordinary, but I did not want to sit over in the sleazy corner anymore. I mean, I could only imagine what kind of diseases lingered in the area.

We took another lap and I saw a cage. No it was not a measly birdcage or even a pet carrier, it was a stripper cage. It had a lot of use that evening, not by strippers, but by the many teen girls. These young girls decided to go in the cage and shake what they had for the perverted audience.

Confidence issues? No, never. It was an eye-opener to see what teenage girls do to grab male attention. These girls looked forward to some guy grabbing their waste and "bump and grind."

After letting out a chuckle, I moved to the other side of the room. I saw a girl on a pedestal, with a pole, and a couple pieces of fabric acting as some type of clothing. Though she did keep her "clothes" on, she added a little extra into the mix.

She was standing below a shower which was turned on at some random point in time. As she did her almost extremely revolting dance, I decided that my friend and I should go play pool. That area of the room seemed like a safe one.

We went over there and started a game. Minding our own business, we played the game of pool. At the table, we had the most fun of the evening. There was nobody around to talk to us and nobody to interrupt us, I thought.

Just then, a man who could have been Omaha's not-famous equivalent to Eminem, came up to me and asked me if I had a cigarette he could bum.

I said no, and once again I was plagued with the idea that all of this debauchery was going in the teen club. I mean, I thought this was going to be something where people went to dance and have fun.

We finished our game of pool and just as we were getting ready to relocate ourselves, a boy, who could not have been older than 15 plugged \$4 worth of quarters in a cigarette vending machine. I assumed it would not work and that the machine was turned off for "Teen Night," just then, he got his pack of Marlboro Lights and walked away.

We put in a request to the disc jockey and headed over to a couch in hopes that we would hear our song. As we made our way over to another seating area, there was another kind of dancing going on.

We sat on a couch next to a chair that was being occupied by a teenage boy and his new date for the evening. She was giving him a lap dance and he was enjoying every minute of it, clearly.

It was then we decided that we needed to go. So we looked around before we left so it did not look like we were trying to leave in a hurry, and headed to the exit.

As we hurriedly made our way to my car, we realized that we had only been there a couple of hours and we had already had enough. We had seen dry-teen-sex, stripping, and more dry-teen-sex on the dance floor.

It was unbelievable that this was entertainment for these kids. Also how the security guards and disc jockey just let it happen was crazy. This could be a reason for high pregnancy rates and teenager sexual activity. Something needs to be done to stop this.

I don't think playing the song "Let me ride that donkey," or "Freak me baby" will stop it.

We made our way to the coffee shop where we were able to reflect on what had happened that night. There at the coffee shop, we felt a little more comfortable.

It was a little more in our element and we told people who wanted to listen about what had happened in the previous two hours.

I decided that the night would forever be remembered as the day I turned 17, but it would also be the day I went to a club and got a taste of what the kids were like in Omaha.

It was not a pretty sight, and I would not wish any of that experience on anyone else.

Since that day I have not returned to the club. I have actually told people not to go and those who I have told have listened. If our parents only knew what was going on beyond in those places. It is amazing that the kids in this town can be so bad.

In a recent poll, Nebraska has the highest Gonorrhea and Chlamydia rates, now I know why.



Orchestra teacher dedicates self to music

BY MOLLY MULLEN

She taps the baton twice on the podium. This is all she needs to get the classes' attention.

Instrumental music instructor Molly Moriarty has her teaching down to a science. She has been working at Central for 10 years, but also she has also been a violinist in the Omaha Symphony since 1974.

Music and teaching are two of her passions in life.

She said after teaching at Norris Middle School for a number of years, she came to Central because she wanted to teach on a high school level.

Senior Pat Venditte said Moriarty has the respect of all of her students and she can maintain an eight person orchestra.

"Miss Mo is one of the best teachers we have at this school," Venditte said.

He said Orchestra is a great class to be in because everybody generally gets along and Moriarty is a great person to have to lead the class.

"Any student has a problem they know they can go to Miss Mo," he said.

She said when she moved from

Norris that it was a huge change because of the opportunities for the kids like the "Roadshow" and the musicals.

"Central has a reputation for the arts and its rare that there is ever a spot open in the arts department," Moriarty said.

The bigger classes were also something she had to get used to. Moriarty said the class sizes at Central are bigger than most high schools and most high school class sizes are bigger than middle schools'.

She was comfortable because the system itself was not terribly different. Many students go from Norris to Central, so she got to see familiar faces from the students who graduated from Norris.

Moriarty said at one point she wanted to move to college level, but she is happy at Central. She said when she retires, it will be from this school.

Although she could have early retirement in six years, she said she would keep active with teaching or for the Omaha Symphony.

She dedicates her time to teaching and music. Not only does she help with lessons at school, she takes art classes and plays violin for the Omaha Symphony.

Senior Kira O'Bradovich said what separates Moriarty from other teachers is that she treats her students like adults.

"She talks to us on a one-on-one level," O'Bradovich said. "She knows what each of us (in orchestra) can do and what we can't do, but she still challenges us."

Moriarty is currently helping each of her students prepare for District Music Contest, a solo competition for band, choir and orchestra in the Omaha district, by choosing music with them that fits each individual best.

O'Bradovich said at the beginning of the year, Moriarty said students who did not have lunch could eat during the first ten minutes of class then join the rest of the group for rehearsal.

Moriarty's high school education at Benson High School is what determined her career choice.

She liked to do more still-life works, but her teacher pushed her to do other forms. Being at odds with her art teacher made her decide to major in music rather than art in college.

She continued on to college where she perused a degree in music education at

University of Nebraska at Omaha because the art classes had conflicts with the music classes. She attended University of Nebraska at Omaha on a music scholarship she received from an audition with her violin.

She became a substitute violinist for the Omaha Symphony in 1972, getting a full contract in 1974.

She now plays all concerts with the symphony if it is not in direct conflict with conducting Central's orchestra.

"I've seen her play," O'Bradovich said. "I saw her at the symphony. I think it's really neat that we have a conductor who actually plays on a regular basis and knows what she's talking about."

She expects and believes the CHS orchestra to be the best in the state, which is a compliment and a lot to live up to. She said she has encouraged her many times.

Senior Clare McGuire said Moriarty really cares about her students.

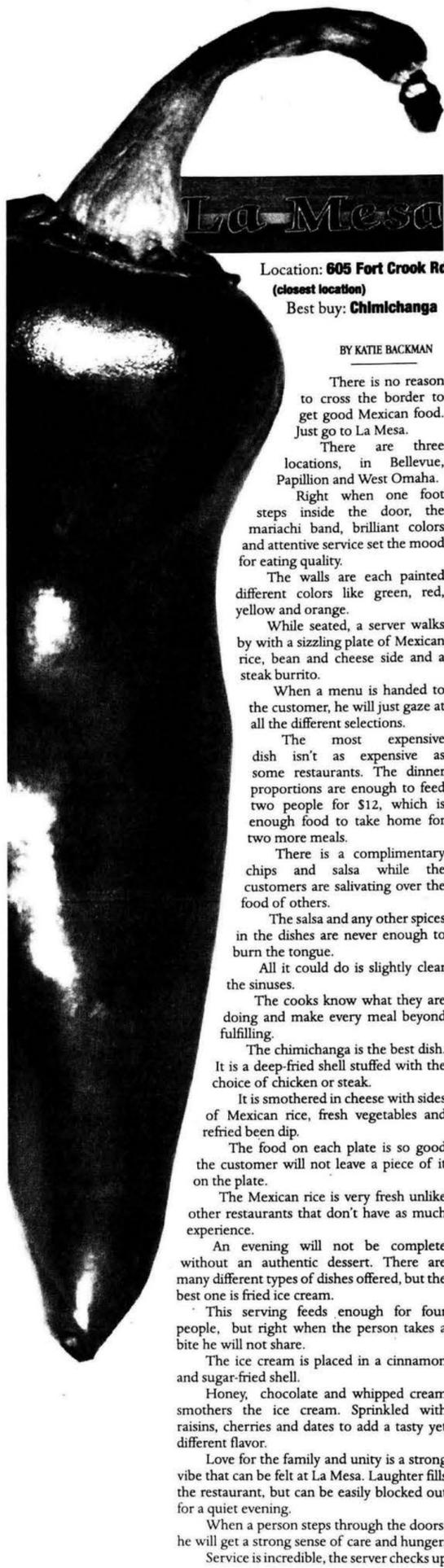
"She really tries to motivate us," McGuire said. "She'll work with us for an hour if we don't get something."

McGuire said she makes it the students responsibility to learn the music, and does not treat them like children.

ALL PHOTOS BY KAYE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

TOO HOT TO HANDLE

Feel like Mexican food tonight? These are some of the top picks of local and national chain Mexican restaurants. Food varied from chips and dip to large authentic meals.



La Mesa

Location: **605 Fort Crook Rd.**
(closest location)
Best buy: **Chimichanga**

BY KATIE BACKMAN

There is no reason to cross the border to get good Mexican food. Just go to La Mesa.

There are three locations, in Bellevue, Papillion and West Omaha.

Right when one foot steps inside the door, the mariachi band, brilliant colors and attentive service set the mood for eating quality.

The walls are each painted different colors like green, red, yellow and orange.

While seated, a server walks by with a sizzling plate of Mexican rice, bean and cheese side and a steak burrito.

When a menu is handed to the customer, he will just gaze at all the different selections.

The most expensive dish isn't as expensive as some restaurants. The dinner proportions are enough to feed two people for \$12, which is enough food to take home for two more meals.

There is a complimentary chips and salsa while the customers are salivating over the food of others.

The salsa and any other spices in the dishes are never enough to burn the tongue.

All it could do is slightly clear the sinuses.

The cooks know what they are doing and make every meal beyond fulfilling.

The chimichanga is the best dish. It is a deep-fried shell stuffed with the choice of chicken or steak.

It is smothered in cheese with sides of Mexican rice, fresh vegetables and refried bean dip.

The food on each plate is so good the customer will not leave a piece of it on the plate.

The Mexican rice is very fresh unlike other restaurants that don't have as much experience.

An evening will not be complete without an authentic dessert. There are many different types of dishes offered, but the best one is fried ice cream.

This serving feeds enough for four people, but right when the person takes a bite he will not share.

The ice cream is placed in a cinnamon and sugar-fried shell.

Honey, chocolate and whipped cream smother the ice cream. Sprinkled with raisins, cherries and dates to add a tasty yet different flavor.

Love for the family and unity is a strong vibe that can be felt at La Mesa. Laughter fills the restaurant, but can be easily blocked out for a quiet evening.

When a person steps through the doors, he will get a strong sense of care and hunger. Service is incredible, the server checks up

on the table frequently and refills drinks and replaces baskets of chips.

The constant attention isn't annoying. It's just exactly what one looks for while dining out.

La Mesa is the best authentic Mexican restaurant to go to for quality food and excellent service.

It is the only restaurant that feels as if it is actually in the heart of Mexico.



Location: **7630 Burlington St.**
(Ralston)
Best buy: **Enchiladas**

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

Nobody will leave Maria's unsatisfied.

The Mexican restaurant that touts itself as serving "the best Mexican food" is certainly not lying.

Though the food is by no means authentic, it takes Americanized Mexican food to a new level.

Even upon entering the restaurant, people standing in line for a table had good things to say. One patron said it was the best around and his wife agreed. They suggested ordering the soft-shell tacos and enchiladas.

By 5:30 p.m. the restaurant will already have a line. There was a brief wait of about 10 minutes for a table. After being seated, the water glasses were filled and the menus were put on the table by an attentive waitress.

The atmosphere of the restaurant was typical. Sombreros and dried chili peppers decorated the walls.

The lights were lanterns mounted to the walls giving the restaurant a dim yellow cast. For intimate conversation, Maria's is not the place.

With a party of eight, it was hard to hear the conversation at the other end of the table. This was a wise choice for a family with children or a group of rowdier friends.

The restaurant has a full bar and in two locations and has big-screen televisions. Both were tuned to sports on mute for dinners as not to interrupt conversation.

Smoking and non-smoking sections exist, but it was not as noticeable.

The menu was very limited. Appetizers were chips with various dips or a large selection of nachos. Most restaurants offer complimentary chips, but here they cost \$1.25.

It was money well spent. The chips were homemade and came out warm. The homemade bean dip was also delicious. It was hot and cheesy and full of flavor.

Though Maria's doesn't serve fajitas or chimichangas, two things usually taken for granted at a Mexican restaurant, its menu offered more traditional items such as tacos, burritos and enchiladas.

The taco plate included two beef tacos rice and beans for \$7.50. To get any of the entrees with chicken, there was a substitution fee of \$0.50.

The tacos were OK, but not as spicy. The tacos were filled with beef, cheese

and lettuce with few tomatoes. The spices were not exemplary.

The enchiladas were outstanding, but incredibly rich. They were made with all chicken breast meat and covered in dark brown gravy. The flavor was almost overwhelming it was so good. In order to finish one, they would have to suffer some stomach pains and would definitely have the sensation of over eating.

The burrito was the best offer. It was rich and flavorful, but not as heavy as the enchiladas.

They were made with flour tortillas and stuffed with beans and chicken. The sauce was as good as that on the enchiladas, just not as thick.

A meal ranged between \$5.50 and \$10. This included an entrée and sides of rice beans or salad depending on which you ordered. A la carte items ranged between \$1.50 and \$3.50.

Some other perks of the restaurant were the warm plates and fast service. All of the food was served hot and was homemade.

Maria's is not the place for authentic Mexican food, but for a filling meal with lots of flavor, it is well worth the drive to downtown Ralston. At least going to Ralston is an experience.

The quick and efficient service paired with tasty rich food makes for a fun evening with family or friends.



Location: **510 S. 13 St.**
(closest location)
Best buy: **Large Nachos**

BY ASHLEY BROWN

If the saying, "a restaurant's kitchen is only as clean as its bathroom," the kitchen in Julio's Tex Mex is a biohazard.

Not only is the bathroom something out of a horror movie, the stomach ache from consuming unusually large amounts of grease will cause problems a mere few hours after eating anything on the menu.

Ones who is after a good, quality meal with a pleasant atmosphere and clean rest room, probably is not the target audience Julio's is trying to draw in.

With the loud decorations and extremely laid back atmosphere, it's hard to imagine anybody but frat boys and cheap dates could ever enjoy themselves.

The cramped seating is not enough to protect young ones' ears (who do not have high chairs available) from the wildly inappropriate language and conversation taking place at the bar.

Even the food is offensive. The food is so greasy, taking a bite of almost anything is like taking a drink.

That is ironic because there is a kids section in the menu.

But if a party of five is in the mood for low-quality chicken wings, quesadillas or tex-mex chili, Julio's is affordable enough so everybody can go home well fed under a \$20 budget.

A large order of nachos alone can easily feed four people and still have leftovers.

The menu also includes some more unique items such as the Texas toothpicks, shredded and fried onions

and jalapeño peppers, as well as desserts that include a fudge sandwich, amaretto cheesecake and a tortilla Sunday.

The majority of the items are mild as far as spice goes, so the menu is relatively kid friendly.

It's unfortunate the service and atmosphere as a whole really kills any dreams of having a nice family meal without a situation ensuing.

The staff just isn't attentive and doesn't have any social skills to save their life.

The only tasteful thing about the entire place is the old building, furniture and the blown-up jazz-themed photos. Although, a six foot photo of Dizzy Gillespie's mug may induce fright in younger children.

Everybody knows no matter how much confetti you throw at a funeral, somebody still died. Looking at cool photos does not outweigh a potentially food poisoning and gagging experience.



Location: **2929 Farnam St.**
(closest location)
Best buy: **Chimi Grande**

BY COURTNEY THOMAS

Romeo's is a great date restaurant and a great family restaurant. It is even great for takeout.

The lively and colorful yet laid-back enough for a first date or still fun for a Friday night get together. The four locations in Omaha make for a quick and easy dining experience.

Known to all Omahans as their "Nacho typical restaurant," Romeo's serves up the typical Tex-Mex cuisine as well as a variety of pizzas. They also host a "North of the Border" menu with the usual burgers and fries.

Romeo's Tex-Mex portion of the menu offers individual tacos or enchiladas, as well as rice or beans to name a few. They also have around 10 combos that come with rice and beans.

Romeo's has a large menu of appetizers. The "Nacho Typical Nachos" are layered with beef, cheese, tomatoes and jalapenos. They are very filling and could be dinner all in themselves. Crispy chips and fresh tomatoes make these nachos the perfect starter. Chips and salsa or guacamole are just a few of their other appetizers.

On Romeo's dinner menu is the Chimi Grande, which is the basic Tex-Mex favorite, a Chimichanga. A fried shell filled with beef, onions and peppers it is covered with their special "chimi sauce" and smothered in cheese. Although there is nothing out of this world about it, the food easily satisfies anyone who is craving the typical Tex-Mex flavor.

The rice and beans however were much better in comparison. Unlike many other restaurants, Romeo's rice was not too dry. Its flavor was even near perfect. There is nothing too spicy, everything is mild enough for any stomach.

If you end up at Romeo's with an appetite for something other than "Tex-Mex", trying one of their pizzas is the next best choice. There are personalized pizzas, as well as 16-inch pizzas that can feed a whole table. If you want to try their pizza, "Romeo's Special" is the way to go. True to Romeo's claim, it is a "real treat", topped with cheese, tomatoes, hamburger, mushrooms, pepperoni, onions, sausage and black

olives. Loaded with toppings, this heavy filling pizza is one of the best choices on Romeo's entire menu.

Its menu definitely has something for every appetite. Low prices and a atmosphere make this the perfect hangout for teenagers. An appetizer, dinner and dessert can run anywhere from around \$10-\$20.

Although Romeo's has a cheery atmosphere you may be waiting a while for your order. If you visit Romeo's on a Friday or Saturday night you are bound to wait a lengthy time for your food.

Despite their slogan, "Nacho typical restaurant" if you are looking for typical Tex-Mex food, Romeo's is the spot. The cuisine may not be that original or all that Mexican but it is well cooked, and the outgoing servers make Romeo's worth visiting.



Location: **1837 Vinton St.**
(closest location)
Best buy: **Burrito**

BY BRYAN SWOTEC

The first impression El Aguila got was incorrect. It deserved a second chance to prove itself, and if it were not for that second chance it would not have made the cut.

Considering the first the experience, El Aguila gave everyone at a five-person table explosive diarrhea and excessive vomiting, was highly likely that it had to be better.

Since the day of bodily infamy the restaurant has gone under new management and has had a face lift. The entire place is seems brighter and it just has a more uplifting mood.

The food is better also. Much better. It is like the management fired everybody who previously worked there and only allowed people with experience in Mexican food to work there.

And not throwing up after the meal is plus.

The portions are large and the prices are small. It is easy for a single person to eat under \$6.

El Aguila does not charge a lot of money to have a good Mexican dining experience that also scores the restaurant points.

El Aguila is located in South Omaha at 20th and Vinton Streets.

The location of the restaurant makes the authenticity come out.

El Aguila is not a chain and has a little bit of a "mom and pop" feel. The environment of the restaurant makes the customers feel like they are welcome.

The environment is something that is very important when it comes to being comfortable in a restaurant, and El Aguila is a place where people can eat comfortably.

The walls are decorated with painting and other eye-catching pieces. The brightly colored sombreros, flowers and decorative spice the place up.

But this is not the average, run-of-the-mill place. The food there is exceptional compared to other places in Omaha, and the service is excellent.

The restaurant offers many traditional items like beans, rice and burritos, but has many other items.

Obviously, the little work that was done to the restaurant was enough to make it better. A huge round of applause goes to the person who decided to make the restaurant into a better place.

This restaurant is good for everybody and despite past stomach explosions, it has a gotten better.

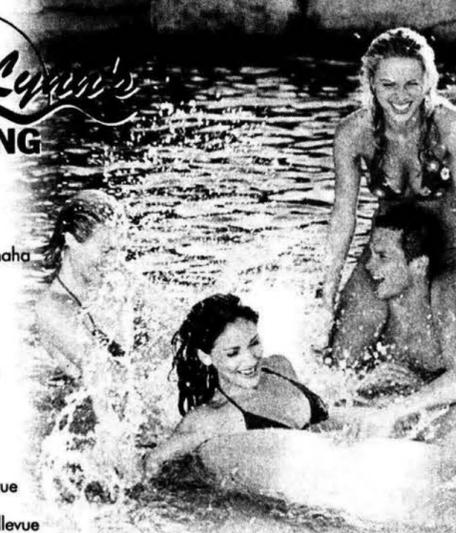
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COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

Dogg plays Huggy Bear in this latest make.

MOVIE REVIEW



"STARSKY AND HUTCH"

Starring: Ben Stiller & Owen Wilson

Starsky' brings entertainment to new crowd

BY JEFF HART

The comedic duo of Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson revives another classic Aaron Spelling television show from the 1970s and brings it into an audience of the new millennium.

The old scenes are put into a new perspective which brings out the unusual and comedic plot of the film.

Wilson and Stiller have put out their best performances to bring the lives of Dave Starsky and "Hutch" Hutchinson, who are LAPD officers, who drive around in 1974 Gran Torino called "Double Striped Tomato."

Both men have very different views on how they should do their jobs.

The movie wasn't thought to be a successful one, but will stun audiences young and old. Starsky is a cop, just like his very famous father, who takes his job very seriously, but in a lot of trouble because of his efforts. Hutch doesn't take his job seriously at all and is popular with the other cops. He breaks a lot.

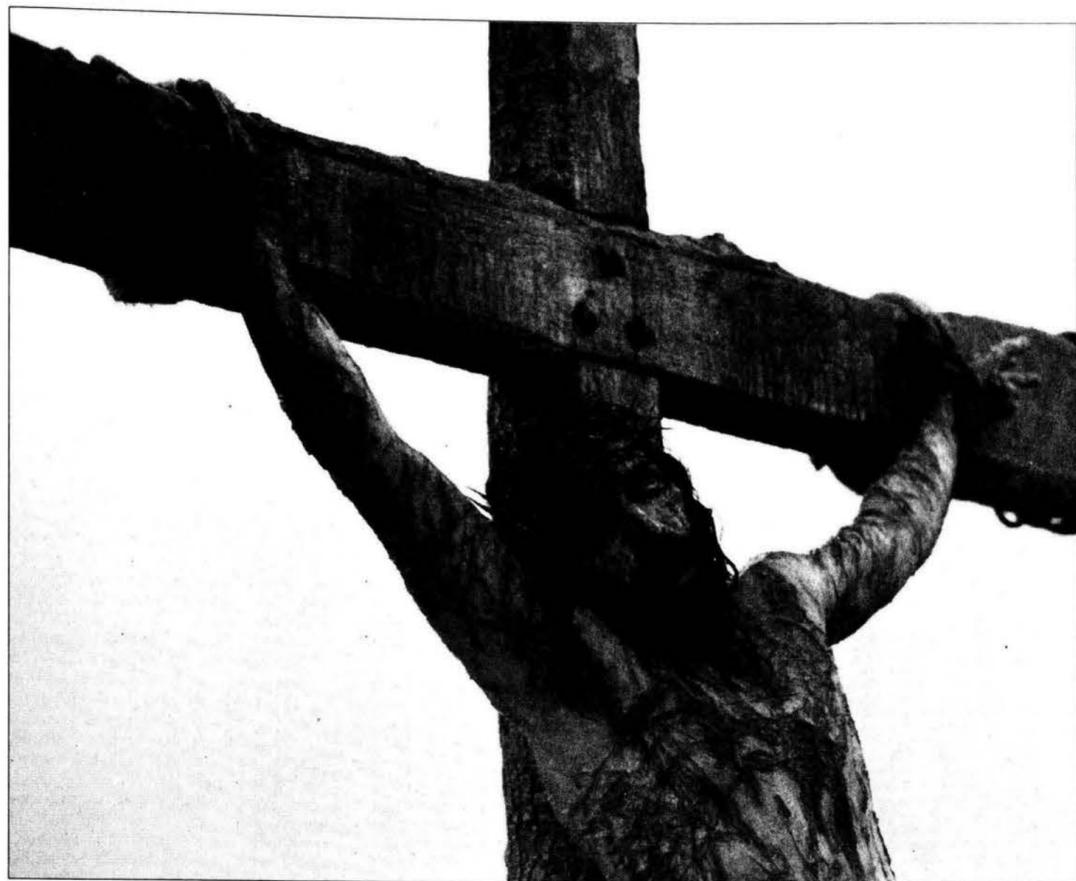
These two men are paired together as partners after both cause too much trouble. The chief thinks putting them together will be less trouble.

The cast doesn't fail to impress the audiences with its many popular comedians and models.

Some of the performers are Vince Vaughn, who plays Reese the drug dealer, Will Ferrell, who plays Big Earl a biker with a fetish for women, and Carmel Electra and Amy Smart, who play two cheerleaders.

The classic comedy comes to life through the eyes of Todd Phillips an experienced comic director.

Phillips really captures the show by imitating many classic scenes. Like cars flying off city blocks. Some may think it is "cheesy," but it just adds to the charm of a movie.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEWMARKET FILM GROUP

Jesus Christ, portrayed by James Caviezel, is crucified on the cross in what some would say is a very visually-graphic scene.

'Passion' opens audiences' eyes

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Mel Gibson's controversial film "The Passion of the Christ" was, if nothing else, true to its title.

Although not completely biblically correct, it showed the sadness and horror in which Jesus Christ lived his last 12 hours, according to the four gospels.

A viewer doesn't have to be religiously informed to stay enticed by the movie. He doesn't even have to read the subtitles.

Watching "The Passion of the Christ" is all he will have to do. It is an emotional film. The actor's performance is incredible, the audience begins to feel exactly the same as the character.

While watching the movie, a dark and depressed atmosphere coats the audience like a blanket.

The only thing to do is sit and watch Gibson's movie.

The anti-Semitic label this film got before release was a complete fallacy.

Yes, it showed the Jewish high priest call for Jesus' crucifixion, but that was what had been written in the bible.

They also showed Simon of Cyrene, the man who helped Jesus carry the cross, as a converted hero-like character that was pointed out as being Jewish by Roman soldiers.

Anyone else had a connection to the character, seeing his sorrow and physical struggle not only by the cuts and scars on his body, but his facial expressions.

James Caviezel, who plays Jesus, did an

amazing job. The role is a hard one to fill, but he did it with ease.

The way he reacted to pain and hate made the audience quit. He made the audience gaze at the screen.

Caviezel's performance made the viewer think he was actually Jesus.

He filled the shoes of the biblical description.

Some believe Satan was walking with Jesus to the cross, but Gibson decided not only to show this figure, played by Rosalinda Celentano, but had him portrayed in full demonic state with a demon midget growing out of his chest, obviously not biblically accurate.

Before entering into the theater many people didn't think anything about the film. They had heard it was violent and bloody, but they thought they could handle gore.

At the first sight of Jesus, one was completely overwhelmed with foreboding of the evil that was going to occur to the character.

The audience did show that it was alive when Jesus was whipped. People flinched and their hands smacked against their faces to cover their eyes.

Pieces of glass, metal and other sharp objects embedded in leather strings.

The scene may have only been a minute, but the cinematography made it feel like hours.

When struck with the whip, the glass dug

into the skin and pulled it up. If struck on the side of the back the strings would wrap around to the front, and when the whip was brought back it tore huge gashes in the skin. This scene sent chills through the viewers and was graphic enough for hands to fly over faces or wave in front of the screen in hopes not to see more.

The brutality did not end there. It was only half way through the movie and the much talked about crucifixion scene was yet to occur.

Jesus collapsed at the place where he was to die. Soldiers sprawled him out over his cross revealing a metal spike.

The palm was computer generated, and the fingers were doubles, but seeing the nail drive into a man's hand, letting it drip blood was horrific.

It was as if they turned over, letting Jesus' character hang in the air, the nails being the only thin to keep him from falling the reality of crucifixion clo

The end of the movie place from a betrayed by his death or cross, followed 30 seconds of resurrection days later.



MOVIE REVIEW



"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Starring: James Caviezel

Remarkable costumes, stage designs were seen in long-awaited production



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

King, senior Sam Smith-Shull (RIGHT) tries to make the queen, senior Ashley Campbell happy during the performance.

BY JOHN KENDALL

Central's long-awaited debut of Rogers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" was carried by its amazing technical quality, but acting talent seemed to be lacking where it should not have been.

Even though the set, blocking, props and costumes were all breathtaking, it did little to help bring out the performers within them.

The sets have always been a plus when in the hands of director and set designer John Gibson, who was assisted by Steve Nehrig (father of senior Jason Nehrig who worked with technical crew).

Vibrant colors and intricate original designs brought the viewer's

mind into an entirely different world. Backdrops intermixed with the three-dimensional set pieces seemed to stand out the most in the overall quality of the set design.

The most impressive setup had to have been Cinderella's house, which followed the aforementioned design.

A backdrop of town was at the rear of the stage, while the door, a wall and the fireplace to Cinderella's house placed in the

foreground. Of that set, the fireplace stood out the most. It was seemingly made of cobblestone, and actually had some depth to it to where the "fire" was actually inside the fireplace.

The choreography, provided

by Jean Nelson, and blocking were absolutely wonderful, especially in the opening town scene.

With quite the number of people moving about individually, it is often difficult to make it so the stage does not become chaos. However, in this instance, it was pulled off beautifully and the live dog was an excellent touch to the scene.

The individual props scattered about each set were all fitting to the musical as well. Nothing seemed too dated or too modern for the given setting - a quality that was also found in the costumes.

Each actor and actress was dressed fittingly according to his or her role. It was easily apparent to the audience whether or not a certain character was of a high class, or were merely peasants of the kingdom.

The amount of meticulous detail put in to each and every one was more

than impressive. It seemed as though everything was complete as it was, and if anything had missing then it would not have worked at all.

The Prince, played by senior Anthony Allee, and Cinderella, senior Kaley Eledge, both had decent vocal ability, but their gestures and dialogue seemed rather static. They might as well have been speaking and acting directly out of the script.

Cinderella did not come off as plain as she could have. If the musical was devoid of any talk of Cinderella being this subservient, common and everyday person, then her actions alone would have hardly displayed that image to the audience. On a positive note, her singing was notably some of the best in the show.

The Prince overall seemed very stiff, only limited to so many movements, which may or may not have been due to costume constraints.

MOVIE REVIEW



"CINDERELLA"

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College athletic programs split up the 'Dynamic Duo'

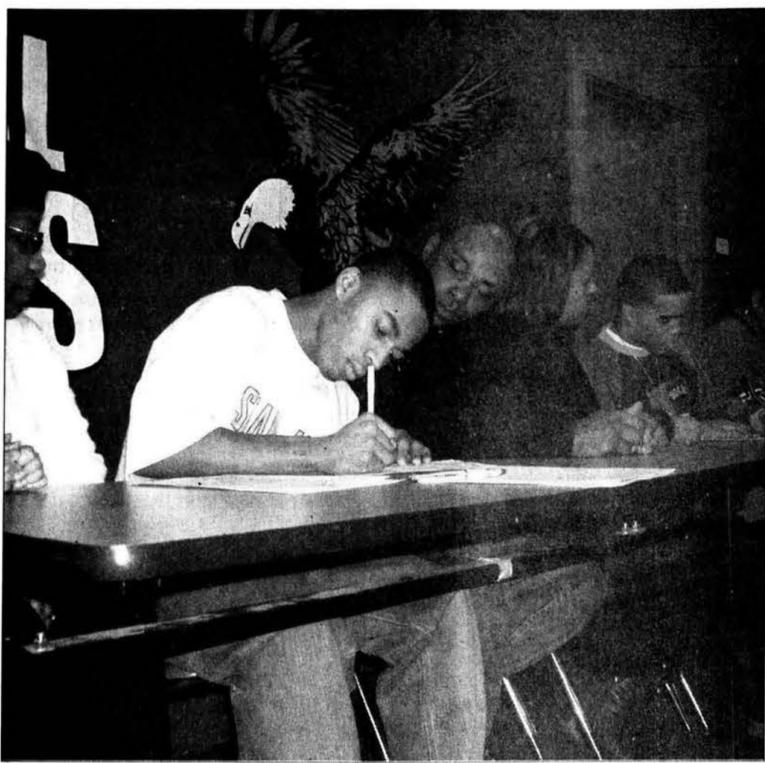


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE REGISTER

Senior Cortney Grixby, (RIGHT) his father Ron Grixby and Monique Gunn mother of senior Brandon Gunn are all on hand as Cortney and Brandon sign their letters of intent to different schools. They said the friendship will remain even though they are going to be in different states.

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The dynamic duo is splitting up after nine years. Seniors Brandon Gunn and Cortney Grixby will go their separate ways to college.

Gunn signed his letter of intent to Iowa State in Ames and Grixby to University of Nebraska at Lincoln. When the two signed their names to the letters, there wasn't any sadness, instead they were happy for each other, Grixby said.

"I think we will talk almost every day next year and keep up our friendship," Grixby said.

The two began playing basketball together for the Omaha Rebels. Omaha Rebels is a basketball team that plays during the summer and open for any basketball player to try out. Grixby said they are both going to college on football scholarships, he will be a walk-on in basketball, but Gunn plans to focus on football more throughout the year.

Head varsity basketball coach Eric Behrens said both of the boys have a great opportunity to be successful at their separate schools. He said he hopes they both do their best next year.

Gunn said it felt good to sign to Iowa State because now he definitely knows where he is going and doesn't have to worry about it anymore. He said he will get a full-ride scholarship for all four years if he maintains good grades and continues to play football.

He said he thinks it will be weird not playing on the same team as his close friend. "I like Iowa State, it is a good school," Gunn said. "I feel it will actually give me a chance to play football."

When Gunn has games, Grixby said he will try to attend them if he isn't playing or practicing. Also Gunn's father, Wendell Gunn, said he will be at every one of his games so he

can show his support. He said he thinks it is a good school and he is confident with his son's decision.

"Every night we would weigh out the pros and cons of each school," Wendell said. "The decision was entirely up to him."

Gunn's mother Monique Gunn said she is very proud of his decision and doesn't think Iowa State is too far from home. Grixby said Ames to Lincoln is about three hours away and he thinks it is close to visit each other frequently.

"We will stay close, but I am going to miss him," he said. "We both kind of knew we might go to different programs."

When the two teams compete against each other, Grixby said it will be an unusual feeling. He said he is used to playing on the same side with his friend, now they will be competing against each other. But he said he doesn't think competing will ruin the friendship.

"When we compete I know he will do good, but he should be able to take a loss," Gunn said jokingly.

Head varsity football coach Joe McMenemy said he thinks the two will remain friends and be spirited rivals. He said he thinks they will play hard against each other when their college teams compete.

"About 40 minutes will be competitive," he said. "I think after the game is over they will still be friends."

Some of the programs couldn't appeal to him, he said Lincoln wouldn't make him as happy as Iowa State. Grixby said when he signed he felt relieved because he has been getting recruiting offers since his sophomore year.

"I am excited to play college football for my home state," Grixby said.

Gunn and Grixby signed to their separate

schools on the same day in the same room. Friends, coaches, faculty and family crowded into one room to watch the two make a commitment to their futures.

Head varsity football coach Joe McMenemy said he was happy the two signed to the colleges they both wanted to attend. He said he will miss seeing the two play together on a team, but will try to go to each of their games when he is free.

Before Grixby signed he said he had a lot of stress at home and talked many nights about college with his parents. Grixby's mother Evelyn Grixby said she was glad he signed because it was a relief for him and the family.

"There is no place like Nebraska," Evelyn said. "The football program is great."

She said she looks at it as a family tradition of going to Nebraska, even though he was not forced to go. She said she just thinks the school will give him the most opportunity to play football.

Grixby was born and raised in Nebraska and now he is going to be a Husker, Evelyn said something Nebraska is all about. Gunn said he thinks Grixby will do well at Lincoln with the new program and lineup.

His father Ron Grixby said his son didn't really know where he wanted to go up until recently. The family visited other colleges, which slowly narrowed down his options.

When Grixby met with the new coach, he finally knew where he was going.

Gunn said he is happy his friend chose the school he wanted and thinks he can make the best out of the program.

Ron said he couldn't be any more proud of his son.

McMenemy said he will always remember Gunn and Grixby as the two talented athletes and close friends from 2004.

Stadium construction adds noise to campus, officials look at benefits

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The construction of Central High's home stadium began March 1. The \$12 million project is scheduled to end August 2005. Which means it will be able to hold games then.

The only students who will witness the entire construction of the stadium are the sophomores. They have been at Central from the beginning to the end.

The first stage of the construction tore up the parking lots and streets. Dump trucks came and took broken up cement off site. After the cement is entirely gone, then the "digging" stage begins. The final stage in summer will be installing utilities.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the construction will not be disruptive to students because most of the work will take place in the summer.

"There may be a little bit of noise, but not too much," Bexten said.

The stadium seats are to be built on a hill and will seat 5,000 people. A four-lane track will go around the field. The field will be covered with artificial turf, which will last longer than natural grass.

The reaction to the stadium has been very positive so far, athletic director Paul Pennington said. He said he thinks there will be many benefits to the stadium.

"We're extremely excited about it coming in," Pennington said.

One of the greatest benefits are the teams will not have to ride busses to Norris. The equipment and decorations will be right across the street.

Many sports teams and other school groups will use the stadium. He said the football and soccer teams can use the field for home games and practices.

The track teams will use the lanes around the stadium. The marching band may also use the field for practice. Physical education classes will use the field instead of taking place inside the building. Also, the public may be allowed to use the field when no practices or games are planned, he said.

Bexten said in addition to the benefit of

the stadium being convenient, it will be a great addition to the campus.

Football coach Joe McMenemy is also looking forward to the stadium because it is near and convenient.

Sophomore and football player Tim Bertino said he is eager for the stadium to be built. He said he thinks the stadium will greatly benefit the school. As a football player he said he is excited to practice there and hold games. He said he thinks it will bring a lot to the school and the games.

Central is not the only school of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) that does not have a home stadium. North and South High School also use other football fields. Pennington said this is the

reason the stadium is going in, so teams will not have to use Norris' anymore.

"I'm sure that when this is built, other schools will want to use it," Pennington said.

Sophomore Craig Ecabert is another football player looking forward to the stadium being put in. He said he doesn't think parking will be much of a problem for him.

"If everything goes as planned, I won't have to worry about it," Ecabert said.

Bexten doesn't think parking will be much of a problem.

He said the students and staff that park the lot where the stadium will be can find new parking places on the northeast corner of 24th and Chicago Streets.

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PITCHER'S ZONE

Senior aims for college career

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Senior Pat Venditte's main goal is to one day play for the Chicago Cubs.



Since he was 3 years old he had a baseball cap, cleats and a glove on. Senior Pat Venditte was ready for his career. Now 15 years later, Venditte is not sick of baseball. In fact, he loves it even more.

When he first started playing baseball, he said his dad just taught him the basics of catching, hitting and throwing. When he was about 5 years old, he started playing on organized teams.

"My dad wanted to start me in baseball," Venditte said. "I am glad he did because it is one thing I love."

Venditte has played baseball for Central all four years. He has a scholarship offer of \$500.

He said he isn't getting many full-ride offers because not many Division II schools dedicate money to baseball.

He said he would like to have more money offered because he thinks baseball should be popular at any level. He said if it was it could bring in more money to support the athletes.

For next year he is trying to decide where he wants to go and it is a tough decision.

He said he is choosing between University of Nebraska at Kearney and Missouri Western.

Those two schools offer the best opportunities for his future plans with baseball.

He said if he could play on any professional baseball team, he would choose the Chicago Cubs. As a kid he always watched the athletes play at Wrigley field.

He wants to play there because it is one of the older baseball fields still functioning.

"I don't think I would make it, but I have wanted to play for that team since I was young," he said.

A place to start is his high school career.

Playing baseball all four years

of high school may not be as rewarding if the team wasn't there, he said. Venditte said how players acts with each other is important because it helps win a game.

He said this season is very special to him because he is playing with athletes he has known since the beginning of high school. He sees a lot of team unity.

"We have a solid relationship this year," he said.

He said he doesn't think friendships take away from the team, they add to it. Being friends actually adds more competition while playing.

"I've always pitched and this year I am a starter right now," Venditte said.

He said he has mainly been a pitcher for the Eagles.

When he graduates he wants to go to school and pitch there, too. The past few years he said he didn't condition or lift weights as frequently because he didn't want to.

This year he did condition. He said he wanted to because he said he thought it could improve his game.

He and the team attended work-out sessions during November. He said the sessions were three days a week for two hours. The Eagles baseball season started off well. The first game the team had a shut-out.

Working with the team that much on the off-season is a main reason why the players are so close now.

They all have the same goal to qualify and win State.

Head baseball coach Scott Hodges is one of his favorite coaches he's had.

He said Hodges knows how to work with the players to get the most out of their abilities.

Since Hodges is younger, he said he thinks it makes it easier for the athletes to talk to him if they had to. When he graduates, Venditte said he will miss how he works with the team.

"I think the last time baseball qualified was in 1983 and the last time they won was in 1939," Venditte said. "There are 11 seniors on team, I think we have a chance."

Since it is his last year playing for the Eagles, he said he is going to try his hardest to win this year.

He thinks the team will do it with how it is set up of mainly seniors who start.

Winning streak stops at boys' State playoffs

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Practice daily, win many games, earn number one ranked team title and lose State.

The boys varsity basketball team lost the State Championship game against Lincoln High School, again. The boys had an impressive season, having a 12-game winning streak at one point.

The team lost the District Tournament against Lincoln Northeast, but the team had the wild card to take it to State.

After losing the District game, head varsity coach Eric Behrens said the team still has a chance at State.

He told the team to use the loss as motivation to work harder for State.

Then it began. The team's preparation for State. Behrens played the Districts video to the team to look for its weaknesses. Then came the game.

STATE TOURNAMENT

The game started out with Lincoln High School in the lead, 3-4. The Eagles pushed for a lead, after senior Karl White, junior B.J. Valentine and sophomore Derrick Russell scored. The Eagles went into the second quarter with 10-7 lead.

Lincoln High and Central deserved to compete against each other because the score only varied by a few points.

The starters rotated with different players on the court so they could maintain energy throughout the game.

Behrens said after the game, he thought the athletes played very well. Russell rebounded and scored points. He was one of the teammates to keep the score close.

The second half started off with a 20-21 score. The teams tied again, 28-28, during this quarter.

The final quarter started with a tie of 32-32. Central kept its cool and tried not to foul as much. White said he knows that was one of the problems in the past and he tried to avoid it. White scored two points to put the score back at a tie of 34-34. With five minutes and 37 seconds left in the game, Lincoln High began to take the game in its own hands.

As minutes ticked away, Behrens called many time outs. Lincoln was in the lead, 50-44. There was 33 seconds left, Behrens

called a time out. The players got back on the floor and sophomore Aaron Dorsey scored the last point of the Eagle's season, he tipped it in.

Within 17.3 seconds Lincoln scored another three pointer.

It was over, 46-54.

The Eagles lost another heartbreaker at State.

Lincoln High's head varsity basketball coach Russ Uhing said he thought the team did a good job. He said he thought both teams had a good tempo. There were a lot of turnovers and both teams did its job.

THE AFTERMATH

After the game ended, many of the players were seen crying.

Sophomore Avery Tyler said he and the other teammates felt very hurt. They worked so hard all season to maintain a good streak and lost it all at one bad game.

"Sometimes the ball just won't go in, that happened to us," Tyler said.

The main reason why Behrens said he thinks the team lost is because it didn't play that well on offense.

The second reason is the players tried to score, but just couldn't get it in the fourth quarter.

"The players are still good athletes," he said. "I am proud of them all still."

Dorsey said he it was really hard for him to comprehend the fact that the entire season didn't really matter.

He said he couldn't really comprehend not walking home with a trophy and the nets.

Valentine said his shots didn't go in the basket. He said this whole game and season made him realize he needs to work harder for next year.

"I need to get better," Valentine said. "I want to win it next year."

White couldn't believe it.

"I thought we were going to sweep," White said. "I wish we worked harder or done something different to win."

The season ended. White said it was a weird feeling knowing there isn't another game or practice scheduled. He said he adjusted to it and now begins to prepare for college.

"I will miss the kids leaving," Behrens said. "They are confident and good players."

Physical education teacher fills in mid-year, becomes assistant baseball coach

BY KATIE BACKMAN

After working at school a little more than a semester, weight training teacher Joe Shimerdla found his niche as assistant baseball coach.

Assistant football coach Bob Fuller mid-year to work at a car dealership, leaving a space open for weight training teacher Shimerdla.

"I want to coach football and basketball," he said.

He got his baseball wish and is still waiting for football.

He said he couldn't wait until the football season started because he knew there were talented players coming back to the team.

This is Shimerdla first year of being a full-time teacher. Before this job he substituted in a variety of classes, but liked gym class the most.

He said he realized he enjoys teaching high school students more than any other grade and in the athletic department.

Not only is teaching a passion, but so is coaching. Shimerdla said he can't pick a favorite sport, he loves them all.

Head varsity football coach Joe McMenamain said only a day after Fuller left, he had Shimerdla in line for his position.

He said he is doing a very good job with the students and the athletes.

Shimerdla said he did go to school

to be a full-time teacher not a substitute, so he said he was very excited he finally began his true aspiration.

"We hire teachers first," McMenamain said. "We only look for coaches through the teachers we have."

Senior Duaine Johnson said he thinks Shimerdla is more strict than Fuller. He makes the class workout more.

"He's a cool teacher," Johnson said.

He said he wasn't nervous on his first day because he has taught before.

Now school is very routine to him, but he still loves it.

Teaching is what he said he always wanted to do.

But teaching at Central was a key place he wanted to work at because the football and baseball teams.

The main reason why senior Matt Spielman signed up for weight training is to exercise.

He said he likes Shimerdla because he interacts with the class. He said he thinks Shimerdla does a good job to let the students take advantage of the new weight room.



Shimerdla

Johnson said Shimerdla knows a lot about both weight rooms. He said he thinks this makes him a better teacher.

Junior Brittany Arvin said he is good because he pays attention to the student working out and making sure they don't hurt themselves while working out.

"I think we work out more with him than we did before," she said.

For the remainder of the year Shimerdla said he plans to keep the students and athletes in a positive state of mind.

The football season is also an anticipation because he paid attention to this year's season.

He has talked to a couple of the

players and they seem to be fine with him coaching, too.

"I get positive feedback from all the students and athletes," he said.

The new weight room the school has also adds fun to his teaching career. He said he likes to show the students how to use the equipment.

He said it is at least the second best high school facility in the state.

One of his favorite things to see is his students succeed in life because he said he would want to be a part of the reasons why they had accomplishments.

"I would like to look back when I am 80 and have a student tell me I had a positive influence on his life," he said.

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SPECIALTY ISSUE

THE EDGE

The Omaha Central High School Register's Feature Magazine

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 22, 2004



Pity



Indignation



Contempt



Anger



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Confidence



Benevolence



Shame



Enmity



Love



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ARISTOTLE'S 14 EMOTIONS

Teens at times can be emotional creatures. Why do they make the decisions they do? Why do they lie and cheat? Why do they love?

What better way to analyze the emotional levels of today's typical teenager than to look back to one of the greatest thinkers of all time, Aristotle, for answers.

What would this ancient philosopher think of today's emotional youth?

Aristotle was born in 384 B.C. and died in 322 B.C. in Greece. During his lifetime he wrote on many different topics.

One area was human emotions.

According to one of his books, "Rhetoric," he compared emotions to wild beasts" because emotions had the "capacity to warp a man's human virtues."

How have teens changed since the time of this philosopher?

Aristotle wrote that an emotional series usually begins with anger, love, humility and fear. Then it moves on to the middle stage, which is shame, namelessness, confidence and benevolence. The third and final stage is pity, indignation, emulation, mildness, contempt and envy.

Aristotle thought it would be a tragedy without suffering human emotions; it was simply unthinkable.

He felt emotions could change people's judgments. According to "Rhetoric," emotions are just temporary. He wrote older people are less likely to experience strong emotions compared to younger people.

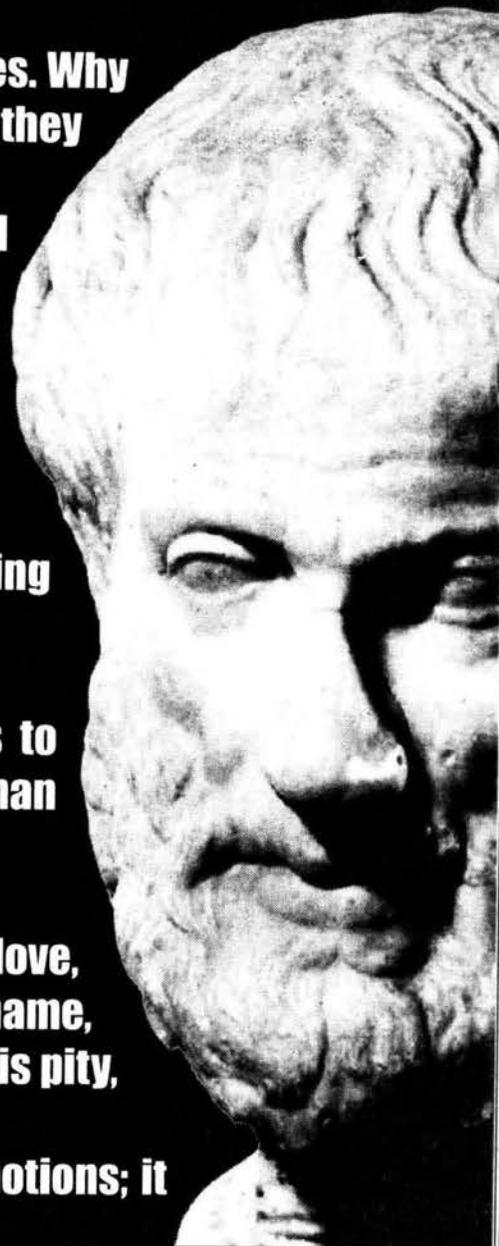
Is this still true today? How much have people changed?

Teens today have more responsibilities and problems than ever before. The teenage pregnancy rate is alarmingly high. Kids are having kids. Unfortunately, more kids are also turning to suicide as a solution to their problems.

If Aristotle could sit down with these kids, what advice would he give them? What would he tell their parents?

The EDGE staff decided to use Aristotle's 14 Emotions as its topic because teenagers do experience emotions that change their judgments and state of mind. Teenagers are able to relate to his 14 emotions because they will experience many during their lifetimes. Check out Aristotle's definitions for his 14 EMOTIONS, one at the start of each story.

We hope this topic will be enlightening, educational and a different way to look at why people act the way they do.



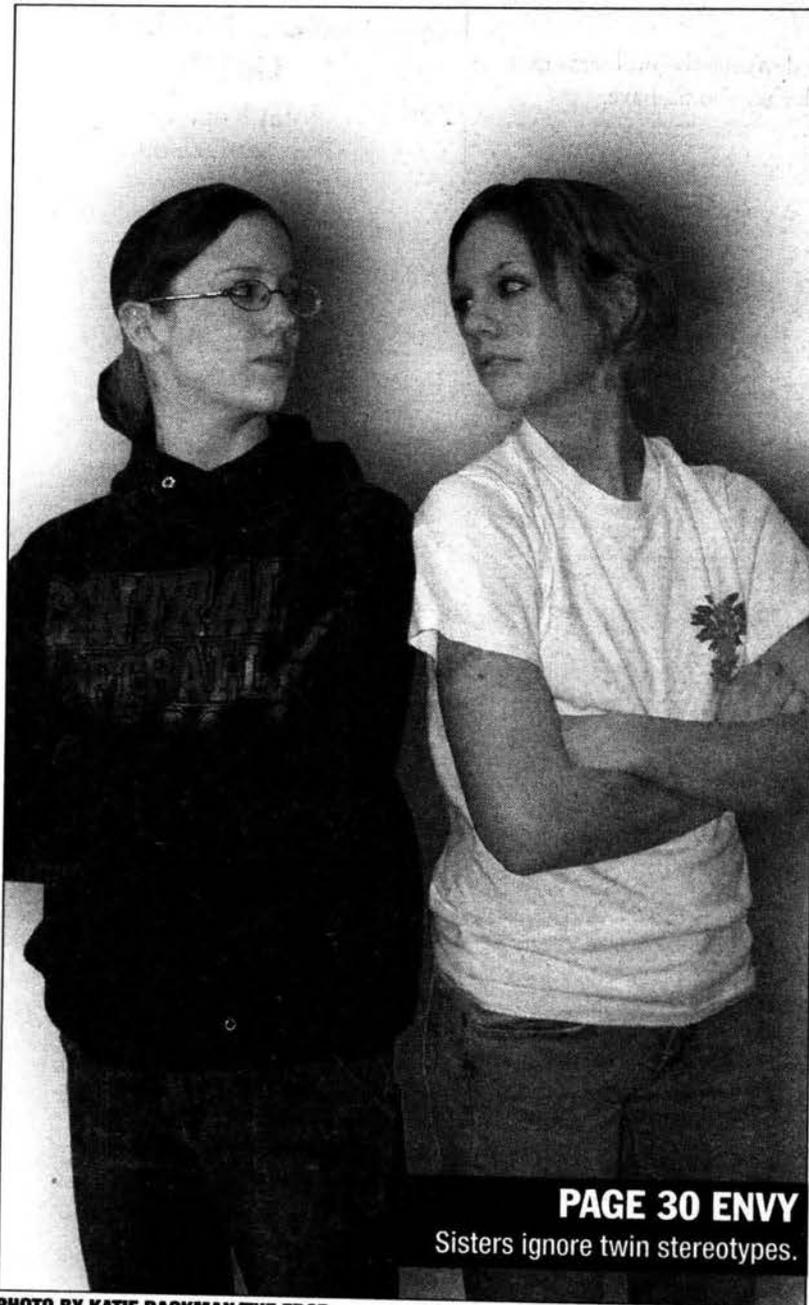
THE EDGE

The Omaha Central High School Register's Feature Magazine

MARCH 22, 2004

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SPECIALTY ISSUE



PAGE 30 ENVY

Sisters ignore twin stereotypes.

PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE EDGE

COVER

Aristotle, one of the world's greatest thinkers, believed that every human possessed 14 emotions. See how Central students and teachers fit into his ancient philosophical definitions. Do they even still apply to the modern human?

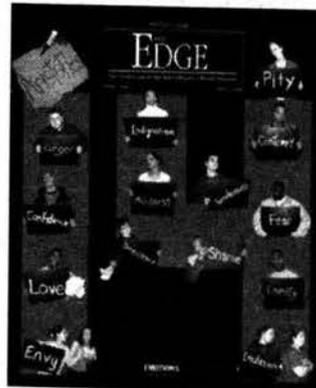


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE EDGE

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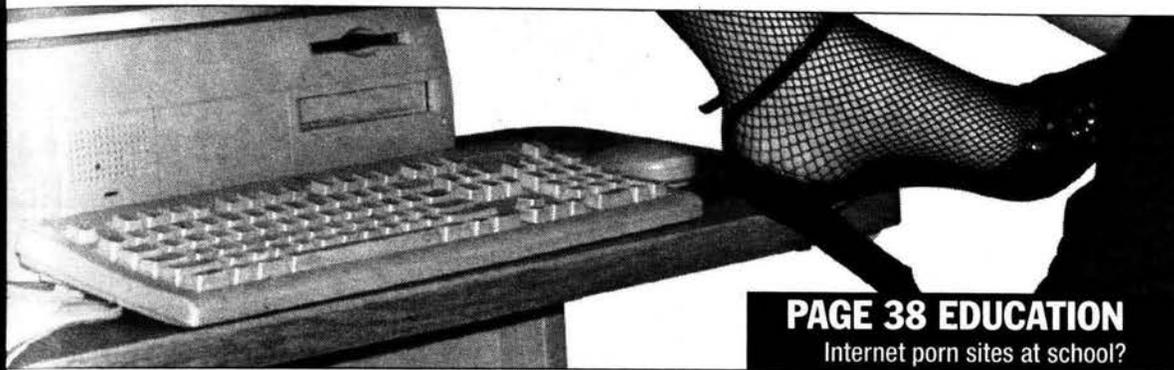
Officials say students sometimes confuse racism with stereotypes and perceptions.

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A student is embarrassed of his dad, but finds forgiveness after his dad dies.

By KATIE BACKMAN



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Internet porn sites at school?

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE

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Senior Matt Storm does not find his weight to be an issue.

By CLAY LOMNETH

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English teacher Kami Boje discusses her struggle with depression.

By KATIE BACKMAN

CONFIDENCE

"Cinderella" lead Kaley Eledge knows she has abilities to be high-achieving.

By JOANNA LEFLORE

BENEVOLENCE

Teacher Pat Wallington helps students overcome academic problems.

By KATIE BACKMAN

INDIGNATION

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members reflect on a friend's death.

By KAITLIN HARTNETT

EMULATION

Members want to beat previous CHS chess team members.

By GRANT ANDERSON

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A COLUMN BY KATIE BACKMAN

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EMOTIONAL QUICK HITS



— What's on your mind, right now? —

Students can do more

SADD is a great organization and I'm glad to be a part of it, but sometimes we should try to do more. We could be more involved with things and we could try to raise more money for drunk driving prevention programs.

Ashley Mora (11)

Portables offer break

I like having the portables because it gives me a chance to go outside during the day. I love not being stuck inside all day. I get to enjoy the weather a bit.

Alex Maca (11)

Keep moving, please

It really makes me mad when people stop in the middle of the stairs and talk when I have to get to class.

It irritates me that the people who schedule classes make it nearly impossible for some students to get to class on time while others never leave a floor except for lunch. I really like all the class options that Central offers, but it is so hard to decide what to take.

Autumn Drickey (10)

Get to class on time

I hate how people stand around in the middle of the hall during passing period. Usually, people run around

or walk really slow, like they want to make those of us who are trying to get to class on time mad.

Anna McMahon (10)

Fights solve nothing

People at Central are so belligerent. Everyone is quick to fight instead of finding a more productive way of solving their problems. There is no good reason to fight.

Nothing good comes out of it. You get hurt, you get suspended and you get a reputation. To add on to the stupidity of fighting, the immaturity of all the students getting up to watch is very disappointing. Students need to learn to come up with better solutions to their problems and others need to learn how to ignore the dumb people who decide to use their brawn over their brain.

Ben Bilyeu (10)

Hall traffic congested

I don't like the crowded hallways or the lunch food. Some days the food is OK. During passing periods the 'C' is too crowded.

Beth Albrecht (9)

School design wrong

I do not like the fact that some lockers are nowhere near any of my own classes.

None of my classes are on the second floor, but yet my locker was put there.

Tim Gaskin (10)

PDA out of control

Hate is a strong word, but I really can't stand public displays of affection (PDA) in the halls (RIGHT).

I don't understand how people can be so turned on at school. I don't mind a hug or a simple peck, but hardcore making out in the middle of the hall is absolutely disgusting.

Cydney Coppock (10)

Emotions mixed

One thing I really like about Central is how most of the students are non-judgemental.

I think Central is a really diverse place that has no titles or groups.

I hate how people turn around or stop on the stairs.

They have no concern or regard for other people on the stairs.

I get really angry when people make out in the middle of the halls or when people stop to make out in front of your locker. I hate when people

stop and talk in the middle of the doorway so you can't get through.

Denise Hearity (10)



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE

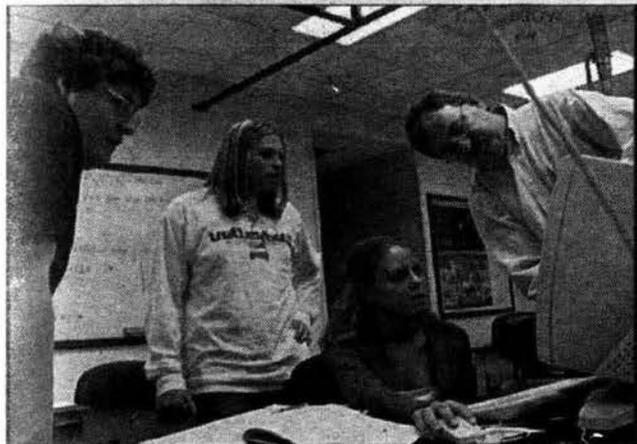
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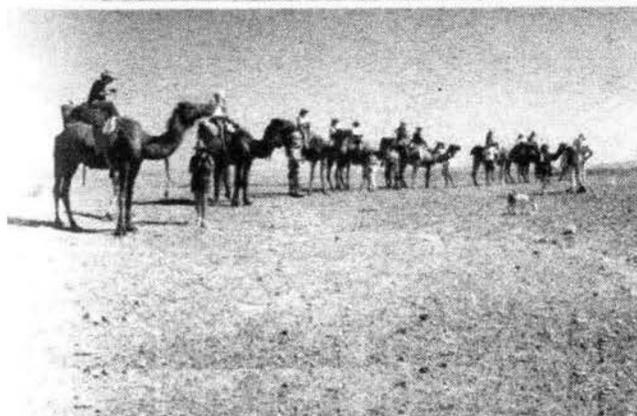


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ANGER

An impulse to revenge that shall be evident, and caused by an obvious unjustified slight with respect to the individual or his friends. Slightings have three species: contempt, spite, and insolence.

Players will use emotions to fuel next year's run

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The last seconds ticked away, as the State Basketball Tournament ended, and the Eagles lost 46-54.

To make matters worse, they lost to the same team as last year, Lincoln High.

Junior Willie McCarty said anger wasn't a strong enough word for what he and the other athletes felt. He said the team did everything it could to try to win the game. But sometimes the shots just weren't working out and the ball simply wouldn't go through the basketball hoop.

A definition of anger is the result of something bad happening with the need to get revenge. But next year he said the team plans to take the State Champion's title home to CHS. It will avenge the loss this year.

He said he wants to win State because it is something that needs to be done. He said it felt almost like a waste of time when the Eagles lost this year. He plans on working hard in the off-season by lifting weights and practicing his shooting techniques.

Winning State is what McCarty said he wants more than anything in his life right now. It is something he said he will think about while he is conditioning.

Assistant varsity coach Chad Burns said he thinks the loss this year will always be in the back of the returning athletes' minds.

Burns said he expects the team will always be thinking about it, which will make them try harder to play well next year.

"I think the loss will motivate us next year," he said.

When the game ended, Burns said it was a hard thing to accept. He said he was pretty upset because he had been working with the team since day one and only wanted to see it win. He said the team played all right, but it was a tough game to lose because he knew how hard the players trained.

At the game against North High School earlier in the year, the team had an 11 point lead in the first three minutes. At the end of the first period at State, the team had a less impressive score of 10-7 against Lincoln High.

Lincoln High may have been tougher competition, but Burns said he knows the players did their best. For next year, Burns said he sees tough athletes coming back and Central making another run for the brass ring.

McCarty said he is going to get his revenge at State next year.

"All I am going to do is work on getting there again," he said.

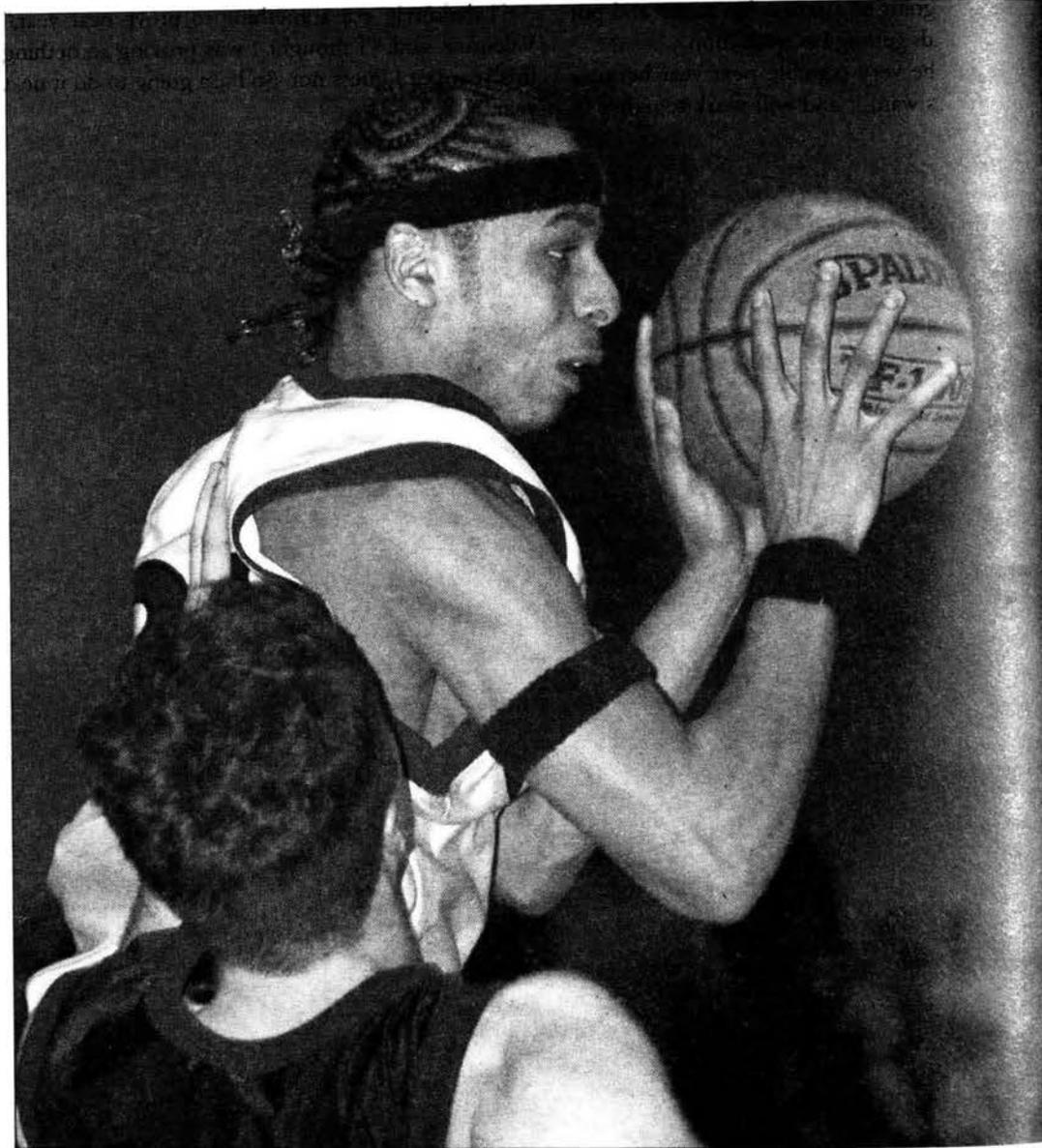


PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE

Senior Karl White prepares to shoot the ball at the game against North High School earlier this season. White said he wishes all the hard work and previous wins would have paid off at State. He thinks next year the returning players do have a chance at winning it all.

Sophomore Derrick Russell said he thought the team should have won the game. The team was ranked number one in the state and had a strong winning streak.

He said he's happy he's a sophomore because he has a couple more years to win State. However, he said the way the season ended this year did make him mad.

Instead of running out on the court and making a scene, sophomore Avery Tyler took a deep breath and looked at the bigger picture. He said he pictured

the next two years he could be playing on the team.

Since he is only a sophomore, he said he didn't want to jeopardize his chances to be on the team.

Each of the returning players plans to work out doing conditioning in the spring, summer and fall.

Tyler said he plans on being a leader on the team next year, and hopes he will earn a position as one of the starters.

He said he thinks he will get all of this by staying in shape until the winter season. A sense of anger is a key that drives him. The rest of the spring he

working out.
Then, in the summer, he and most of the other athletes will sign up to play for the Omaha Rebels.
The Omaha Rebels is a basketball team for any basketball player in the metro area.
"I am going to try my hardest to make a good, long effort," Tyler said.
Russell said he thinks the team deserved to win this year.
He said next year his goals are to fight just as much as they did this year, but hopes the team will win it.
"I am going to work hard all summer and play on different teams to keep in shape," he said.
He said he is going to harness his anger and put his energy towards getting his retaliation.
He sees it to be very possible next year because most of the athletes want it and will work together to win it.
Avery said he wants the practices next year to be very competitive.
He said if the team can keep pushing and stay focused, it should make it to the finals at state.
After putting so much time into something only to lose was a hard thing for sophomore Rodney Grace to take.
He said he didn't know what to think and how to deal with the loss. He said he just knows he has a lot to work on for next season.
Junior B.J. Valentine said at a game there is always a winner and loser, and the Eagles just happened to be the loser that night.
He said the game was very disappointing and he felt like he let everyone down.
He said the reason why he didn't make a scene after the team lost was because he wanted to cope with his anger the "right" way.
"It just felt weird," Valentine said. "Usually the weekend we play again after a loss, but this was different. We didn't have another chance to win a game."
He started most of the games and played with most of the seniors all year.
Some of the seniors were crying when the Eagles lost at State this year.
He said he knows they put so much effort into it and it didn't pay off like they planned.
He said he also felt disappointed because it was the seniors' last chance to win at State. Most of the seniors have been strong players on the team since their sophomore year.
He said the seniors should encourage the returning players to work hard about next year.
Senior Karl White said after losing State, this is something to be proud of because he is used to coming back next year and trying "it" again.
He has been on the varsity

team since his sophomore year and he said he can't really comprehend not coming back.

He said he was upset with the result of the State tournament because it was his last chance.

"I think they have a good chance next year at winning (State)," he said. "Since I've known them I think they are the most talented and youngest group returning."

For next year, Valentine said he thinks it is possible for the team to get its revenge.

One reason is because the athletes are taller. But height isn't a necessity because Valentine is 5 feet 7 inches tall and had the highest shot percentage on the team.

"I definitely got something to prove next year," Valentine said. "I thought I was proving something this year but I guess not. So I am going to do it next year."

Another aspect that should help the team win is there isn't just one key athlete or person who will always get passed the ball, Valentine said.

Junior Aaron Dorsey said he thinks the team will be a strong and unified team.

Initially he thought of quitting the team next year, which could have been his way of coping with anger. But after some time passed, he wanted stick with it.

"Instead of going out on the court and depending on one guy, there will be four other dependable guys out there," Dorsey said.

When the team lost, at that instant, Grace said he was thinking about what the team will do differently to improve for next year.

He said he was angry, but was

more concerned with how the team could win in the future.

"We are definitely going to take it next year," Grace said.

Head basketball coach Eric Behrens said he thinks the athletes returning next year are going to be a very dedicated group of boys.

He said he knows they will work hard during the spring, summer and fall for a good season.

"I think the players returning have something to prove," Behrens said with a grin. "They want to show they belong on a varsity team."

Avery said he thinks the returning athletes do have something to prove to the graduating athletes and fans.

As for the athletes next year, Avery said he doesn't think they have something to prove against each other because they have been playing on a team for the past two years.

Valentine said he doesn't expect there to be much "ball hogging" but more team unity.

He said he didn't think this year was a one-man-show, but he has seen it on other teams.

He said he thinks next year will be a strong team on the court and then strong people to come on after the starting line up.

A lot of it is due to the coaching techniques, team unity and desire to play hard, Valentine said.

Behrens said he thinks disappointment is a good motivator for next year. He knows how much his players want to win it all.

"I want to prove everyone wrong next year who thinks we can't win State," Avery said. **E**



IT'S OVER, AGAIN

A SEASON-ENDING RIP IN THE FABRIC OF THE BOYS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM LEFT THE EAGLE PLAYERS FEELING ANGRY. THE EAGLES LOST TO LINCOLN HIGH FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE EDGE



MILDNESS

The settling down and quieting of anger.

Faculty, students overcome initial anger to standardized test

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

Nine days taken out of the schedule for testing. Many days taken just to review.

It was all for a good cause, or at least that's what school officials wanted people to believe.

Math teachers try to keep up with the curriculum requirements, but the Criterion Reference Test (CRT) is disrupting and taking away from the normal day-to-day teaching process.

Frustration became a reality for all involved, but the CRT "process" was necessary for Central to be deemed a "passing" school.

Teachers and students had to get by their frustration and apathy and they did just that.

There were many different levels of abilities that teachers had to work with.

Not every student was good in all areas of math. They had to work especially hard in those areas.

Now, at the beginning of the year, math teacher Paul Nielson said he hoped he wouldn't have to give the same test more than once.

Now as the end of the school year draws near, he still has to wait and see if he has to give the test again.

Nielson said he has administered the test nine times.

Some students took the test once and others have tested all nine times.

Because of the CRTs, he said he lost a lot of class time to teach new sections.

He said some people are still not passing the tests and don't really take it seriously enough, yet.

"Right now the school is very close to passing. We are still waiting on results from the last test," Nielson said. "So we are not sure what or how we are doing."

The CRT is given to make sure students are at the required level.

The test measures the level of understanding students have.

Nielson said it is aggravating to continuously prepare for the tests.

He said that it has started cutting into his schedule and his new assignments are behind.

It all boils down to whether or not Central will receive federal funding.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he understands the frustration students and faculty have when they have to re-administer or retake the test.

He said it is an inconvenience, but both teachers and students are handling it well.

He said he wishes all students could pass the test quickly and move on to the daily curriculum.

"Some students have not taken all of the math that

is needed in order to do well on the test. For some people, math is not their strongest field," he said. "I can understand that it is very frustrating to retake something you are not very knowledgeable on."

Junior Lamar Triplet took the test twice.

He said he did not know what the test was going to be like or how important the test really was.

"I did not take the test seriously at all the first time," Triplet said.

He did not study for the test at all and he did not take notes when his teacher discussed it in class.

Nielson said he went over what the students needed to know to pass the test.

Triplet said none of his friends in his class took the tests seriously when they took it the first time.

"My algebra 3-4 classes lost a lot," Nielson said. "I gave the test six times in there, and did three pull-out sessions with smaller groups."

Bexten said he appreciates the attitudes students have when retaking the test and if they take it seriously it will make it a lot easier for the teachers and students.

"Everyone has been really cooperative when it comes to the test," Bexten said.

The process is not over.

Triplet said he does not think a lot of class time was lost due to reviewing and taking the CRT. He said the test was something that every math class had to do.

Triplet said in order to increase awareness of how important this test was, teachers needed to explain the test and the consequences a little more clearly.

He said if students knew they had to take the test until they passed, they would try to do it the first time.

"When we took the test for the first time, we were not told what it all meant," he said.

Triplet said he did not know how serious the test was until his teacher told him about it after taking it. He said after that he knew he should study more for the CRT.

In order to remain a credited school and receive federal funding, Nielson said a certain percent of the students have to pass.

It simply wasn't happening at first.

Nielson said the teachers always hoped it would not be given again. After the last test, Nielson said he is more confident about passing, but the results aren't known yet.

He said at least now he gets to do the "normal" curriculum.

"There is one more time to administer the test in April," he said.

Nielson said the test is not difficult and that all it takes is a little bit of studying.

Triplet said the second time he took the test he was in a pull-out group, which was in a separate room.

He said he thinks some of the other students realized how important it was to pass the test.

He said lots of those students did pass it that time.

"There were a lot of people in that room taking that test," he said. "It was weird to see so many people that did not think the test mattered."

Triplet said once he did the test in the pull-out group, there were people in the room who still did not care and were playing around.

After a little bit of studying, he said he understood the problems that would be on the test.

So far, Nielson said he does not know where Central is ranked among other high schools because the scores are compared in the school, and not compared to other schools.

Nielson said there are parts of the test that do not need to be taught based on the number of students that passed it the first time.

The students who passed the first time did not have to take the test again and were able to work on other assignments during the test.

Bexten said in the future, the test will be given throughout the year and scores will be stored in a computer.

That way, he said, the students will not have to take a long test every time.

They will only have to take what they need until they do not have to take the tests anymore.

"Right now, the way we did the test was the only way to do the test," Bexten said. "It was such a sudden thing that we had no choice but to do it during class time with little warning."

He said the school was told about the CRT so late that they had to make last minute changes in order to plan the time needed for the test.

Planning for the test was not easy to do since the teachers had no idea how many students would have to retake it.

"We are hoping next year's tests will be a little bit easier on everyone in terms of inconvenience," Bexten said.

But for right now, everyone is going to have to get through the tests and get them done before it will be any easier.

Triplet said people should know that the test is a big deal and that they should take it seriously.

He said that he thinks that is why so many people did not do so well the first time.

"The tests really are not that hard," he said. "You just have to study a little bit and do our homework. It does not take much more to pass."

School officials know that their goals to reach a level of passing status is just around the corner.

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memorated for his life-long championship in 1961 and



LOVE

Wishing for a person those things which you consider to be good—wishing them for his sake and not your own—and tending so far as you can affect them.

Wiccan changes to Christian faith

BY MARIAH BIANCHINI

From Christianity to Wiccan, many students use religion as a lifestyle rather than an obligation every Sunday morning.

Senior Liz Atwater practiced Wiccan until she was a freshman. Then she started attending church with her mother.

"My mother likes to say I have a Christian soul, but a pagan heart so I incorporate aspects of both into my faith," she said.

She started practicing Wiccan when she was in junior high because she was in love with the celtic culture.

Wiccan stresses free will, and Atwater thinks that suits her.

"Wiccan is very nature oriented. Instead of worshipping in a church or some other building, many rites ceremonies are held outdoors, in a field or under a tree," she said.

Her faith didn't really change her day-to-day life. She said she lived by the three-fold rule which means everything you do will come back to you, only three times as much.

"I had a solitary practice, so I didn't interact with many wiccans, although some form covens," she said.

A coven is a group of wiccans that worship together.

Senior Johanna Murphy, a Christian, attends daily mass.

"I miss (church) once in a while, but I go very regularly," she said.

She goes primarily to take communion, or what she calls the Eucharist. She said her religion makes her a better person.

"Religion helps me bear my daily sufferings," she said. "It makes me happy."

Murphy said teens need to realize that Jesus loves them.

"So many teenage girls look to the wrong place for love," she said. "Then they start doing things for their boyfriends that they shouldn't be doing."

Murphy considers her church, "a mother on Earth." She agrees with all aspects of religion.

"I was raised that way," Murphy said.

There are many misconceptions about religion Murphy said.

"A lot of people think that people hide what is wrong behind the church. In reality they don't," she said.

Sophomore Hiba Ahmad is a Muslim and also

deals with religious misconceptions.

"People think all Muslims are terrorists and that all Muslims oppress their women," she said. "That is not true at all. Those (ones) are the extremes. My mother and I don't wear head coverings."

She said Muslims stress modesty among women, but only a few take it as far as to have women cover themselves entirely.

"In reality, Muslim is based on kindness, peace, equality, kindness and complete submission to Allah," she said.

In her youth group she was involved in Tri-Faith, a group where Jewish, Christian and Muslim youth got together to discuss aspects of religion. They attended a war protest together.

Senior Jill Boston attends church every Sunday. She also serves on its governing board.

"My religion is a lifestyle for me," she said. "It's an awareness that I'm saved."

She said God is Truth, but religion is often misperceived.

"Take homosexuality," she said. "Many people think we hate homosexuals. God doesn't hate homosexuals, he hates their sin. We all sin so we can't judge them."

Boston said she woke up one day and her faith was evident.

"I just realized I wasn't alone and that God was there," she said.

Religion helped Boston to overcome depression in junior high. She said it gave her an opportunity to get closer to her family and friends and also to reach out to others.

"It also keeps me from temptation," she said. "God say what is right and what is wrong."

Ahmad said her religion shapes who she is.

"When I was younger I wanted to be more like my friends," she said. "Now I use it to make me an individual."

Religion also reinforces her decision to not drink.

"I have already made a personal decision not to drink," she said. "But my religion reinforces it."

She has to fit her worship around her school day. Muslims typically pray five times a day at certain times, but Ahmad settles for two or three, depending on when she wakes up in the morning.

Ahmad likes the fact her religion helps her not to judge people.





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The Edge

PHOTO BY KAITLIN HARTNETT/THE B
GRAPHIC (OPPOSITE PAGE) BY JOHN KENDALL/THE B

erated for his life-long championship in 1961



A sense of pain at what we take to be an evil of a destructive or painful kind, which befalls one who does not deserve it, which we think we ourselves or some one allied to us might likewise suffer, and when this possibility seems near at hand.

Senior copes with father's death by writing music

BY KATIE BACKMAN

There wasn't enough time for senior Sam Stanfield to tell his father how much he truly meant to him. Stanfield's father died June 29, 2003. Not only has he struggled with grief about his father's death, he is also struggling with the fact that his two friends and his business partner have died in the past three years.

"I feel like I had something to do with it," Stanfield said. "Like I am bad luck."

There are some days he just doesn't want to go to school. Sometimes the loss of his father and other people his friends hurt him so much.

In 1996 is when his father began fighting a battle against the imbalance of white and red blood cells. Stanfield said in 1998 his father had treatment and was expected to be all right, but that wasn't the case.

Stanfield said he remembers not getting along with his father even when his life was threatened.

He said sometimes he thought of it as his way of working through his thoughts and pain.

My parents didn't really tell my sister and I about this because they didn't want to put a burden on me," he said. "Once I got in high school, I was going through lots of resentment and anger."

His father stayed in the hospital for many nights in and out and 27 other times he went for his treatments. One of those times Stanfield said he couldn't bring himself to see him often in the hospital. He said he didn't really want to be put through the pain of seeing his father die.

He was only a junior in high school at the time and didn't want to imagine his life without a parent. A sad thing is he said he and his family were expecting his father to die because he was in the hospital so much.

The hospital called his house at 10:30 p.m. on June 29 and he knew what the call meant. He knew that his father wouldn't make it much longer.

His mother left to the hospital and then she called him to say his father died.

"I do feel a little guilty not getting to know him much. I wish I got to say more what I wanted to," he said. "I wanted to tell him how grateful I am for having him as a father, how he always looked out for my best interests, and that I understood why we fight."

Guidance counselor Karen Cirulis said the loss of loved ones is a part of life.

He said for teenagers it is more difficult because the changes and emotions they are all ready going through.

She said she wants students to feel comfortable to talk about their pain because it will help them. She

said the guidance department is always willing to help the students.

She said a main thing people have to learn how to do is adjust to the "new normal." Meaning life without a person and when the days start going back to some sort of a routine.

Before Stanfield's father died, he was glad he tried to get to know him more, even if it was just a little.

He said he is glad he tried to look past their differences and arguments they had.

He said he and his father had some difficulties bonding, but thinks his father helped him make intelligent choices and stay out of trouble.

Now Stanfield doesn't have the fatherly guidance. He said during his grieving period, he did resort to drinking.

When he looked in the basement of his house one day, he was shocked by the amount of alcohol he consumed.

"I could have drank myself to death," he said. "I had at least three gallons worth of empty vodka bottles. I think there are better ways to deal with things now."

He said since his father died his perspective on life has changed a bit. He admitted to not being happy, lately.

There are days when he acts and looks happy at school, but those days are easily shattered by the smallest thing.

He said the deaths happening around him are beginning to take a toll on how he looks at life and he has given up hope on many things.

He said there are many times he feels he is to blame for each of the deaths that happened around him.

For a while he was getting himself into situations he never thought he would be in a few years ago.

Kevin McKenzie, a therapist at Great Plains Counseling Center, said for people to get through grief the person should know the different stages and grief is normal.

One thing he tells his patients is that they are not to blame.

McKenzie gave an example of grief being like a balloon.

He said if a person keeps all of his emotions inside, it will eventually blow all the air out and spin out of control.

Stanfield has done this in a couple different ways, some not as extreme as others.

Sometimes his behavior in school is influenced by his emotions.

McKenzie said if the person battling grief would talk about it, he would slowly let the "air" or stress

out so it doesn't happen all at once.

He said he has had many patients who use drugs or alcohol to cope with grief and stress. Usually these substances only make problems worse.

"I never thought I wouldn't have a straight mind and stay strict and controlled," Stanfield said. "I've had lots of changes because he (the father) is not here."

McKenzie said there are five different stages of grief: shock, denial, anger, depression and acceptance.

Waking up in the morning and going to school can be a hard task for Stanfield.

He said sometimes he just wants to stay in the confines of his own room and listen to music.

"Sometimes I wake up for school because I don't want to stay at home," he said. "Or it's stupid things like seeing a girl in the hallway I have a crush on."

Stanfield did go to a therapist when he was 6 through 13 years old. But he doesn't really talk to anyone else now. He just keeps everything inside.

He said he does not want to burden other people with his thoughts. When he does tell people, they just don't know how to respond.

McKenzie said he has heard from patients the hardest thing about taking therapy is acknowledging the fact that they need help.

The second biggest step is walking through the doors of a counseling center.

Actually building up enough confidence to talk to strangers about their problems is a drastic move in the right direction.

"Once people get in the doors, they should be comfortable to talk to people," McKenzie said.

Another way to feel comfortable enough to seek guidance again is to call a therapist and talk



March 22, 2004

to him briefly, McKenzie said. He said from a phone call the person should be able to tell if he can relate and open up to him.

He said there are a lot of bad therapist out there. Therapy is a profession that should be taken seriously and the patient should feel comfortable enough to open up to one.

There have been times, McKenzie said, the patient and therapist just don't mesh well together. If this happens the patient should move on.

Cirulis said there are grief and loss discussion groups.

She said recently she finished eight sessions with three different groups of students. Sometimes if it is needed, students can be referred to therapist and counselors outside of school.

She said one of the counseling office's main goal is for the students to be comfortable and relaxed.

Instead of one-on-one therapy, the department tries to get the group meetings known through different school announcements.

She said the counselors try to be visible in the hallways in order to make their faces known. If they do this, a students may be more comfortable to talk with them.

Stanfield said he just doesn't really feel like talking about it any more to new people.

He said he doesn't really want to talk to the guidance department because they could just tell him what he has heard before.

He just wants to move on and be happy some how.

Stanfield has been keeping grief and pain inside since his sophomore year when a friend who lived in St. Louis, Mo. died.

He said he keeps "things" inside because he doesn't think anyone else cares or doesn't want to dwell on it

too much.

Even though he lived farther away from this friend, he said it didn't really stop or hurt his friendship. The only thing it did was made it harder to maintain and keep in close contact with.

"He was shot (and killed) over a bike," he said.

He said his friend in St. Louis was involved with a fight over a bike and who it properly belonged to.

The other friend of his who died was in a car accident in San Diego, Calif.

Dealing with all of his losses, he said his life can get very dark. Stanfield said he enjoys listening to death metal, hard core and emo bands a lot lately to cope with his pain.

He also writes many poems of his own. He doesn't really share his poems to anyone because they are more of personal releases than something he would read or perform.

Music does help him forget how bad things are or can get and just takes him out of his life for a little bit. Whether he is writing or listening to the music, both do the same.

"It does suck, but I guess it is a learning experience," he said.

Keeping himself busy is always a good way to block things out, he said.

He said the two main things that keep him happy and focused are his bike and listening to aggressive music.

He said he can't wait until the summer comes to ride his bike around town and get out of the normal daily activities.

Music and riding his bike are activities to conceal his tears of grief, loss and the feeling that he needs to talk to someone about it.

Cirulis said if a student is moving through the stages of grief and going into acceptance phase is a

good sign of being stable, but he should still talk to counselors about his problems.

"Adjusting to grief is accepting the new normal," she said.

During the times of death he did cry.

He said he couldn't see himself not crying when important people in his life passed.

He said he especially cried after carrying his cousin's dead body.

About two months ago he was having fun eating pizza with his cousin, but that was the last time.

He said they had a fight with "frat boys" and then left the pizza restaurant to get some tacos.

Apparently the guy followed the two to the restaurant and shot his cousin because it was related to gang activity.

"They actually intended to shoot me," he said. "I saw my friend and my cousin get shot and fall over."

When this took place he said he didn't know how to respond.

His cousin didn't appear to have a chance because he was shot in the neck.

When he saw this event, he said he never wanted to see anything like it again. As his cousin died in his arms, he tried to keep him calm.

"We were talking about when we were little and playing baseball together," he said. "I didn't cry then because I wanted to keep him calm."

He took his cousin to the hospital and many people kept looking at him.

He said he would expect them to when he was covered in blood and had a dead body with him.

After he realized entirely what happened and his cousin died, he lost it. He cried.

"This year is pretty crappy," he said. "There is a whole lot to be happy about."

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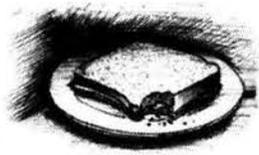


TABLE FOR ONE

A Column By Bryan Swotek

Senior copes with grandfather's illness

Perhaps the worst feeling is having someone close to you being plagued by sickness. If there is anyone out there who does not know how that feels, I do not wish the pain on you,

My grandfather spent almost five months in a hospital bed weaving in and out of intensive care, critical care and a regular hospital room. Most of the time he was not sure who he was talking to and sometimes he was completely aware of what was going on.

It was amazing how one small stomach ache can turn into something so large and such a problem. The stomach ache did not go away. It got progressively worse.

One time he even pulled every tube out of his body and made an attempt to leave the hospital and was convinced the hospital staff was trying to kill him.

I can't recall how many times I went to visit him and he was being fed through a tube or there was a nurse drawing blood from his cold pale fingers.

Though it was hard to find, there was some sort of ray of sunshine about the whole thing because he does not remember most of the time he was in the hospital. He would have mental flashbacks to his trip to Thailand and he would talk about riding elephants and getting bit by mosquitoes.

He was not awake or aware he was saying these things or what he was saying, but when the doctor told us to expect it would happen, we took it as a good point in his day.

At his worst point, our family had a corner of the hospital where we sat everyday. Sometimes there were a couple of people there and other times there were more.

At that time, I got an image in my head that I wish I could erase.

As my grandfather was in his hospital bed, asleep and with a tube hanging out of his throat, the doctors had to find a way to keep his blood pressure up and his heart going at a safe rate.

When I entered the room, his bed was shaking and he had his head back with his mouth wide open. Every once in a while it looked like he was gasping for air and we would all get worried. Then the nurse would reassure us that he had the hiccups and they would go away in a short amount of time.

For almost five months, our family searched for what was going wrong. We wanted to know why he was not getting better or why nothing helped him, and most importantly, why he was getting worse.

Basically, what happened is his body turned against him. He had surgeries, pills, doctor after doctor, and nothing seemed to help. He just kept getting worse.

Every night for about three weeks, my mom would be at the hospital late into the evening and my

grandmother would go there after work everyday until she had to go home.

It was the first time I ever saw my grandma cry and it was a sight I hope I never see again.

My aunt flew in from Florida and stayed for five weeks. The only reason she left was because she had to. The greatest thing about her was she sat at the hospital every day and made sure everything was fine.

She was only supposed to be here for three weeks, but ended up staying longer. My grandpa's sister also came in from her home in Iowa to sit by his side and help out while by grandma was at work. She was here until mid February.

During this whole ordeal, I tried to imagine what it would be like to lose someone that I hold so close. It was something that I could not imagine and I did not want to think about it, but sometimes, I could not help it. It is hard to imagine how much you are going to miss someone until they are almost gone.

Finally, one day, it seemed like things got better. My grandpa had taken a slight turn in the right direction and it was a small weight lifted off of everyone's shoulders.

Though he was not able to leave the hospital, he was in better spirits. He had gained some color back into his pale skin and he was making an attempt to eat things on his own. He did have some troubles with eating, but the doctors said that since he was trying to eat, it was a good thing.

Then, when he was finally allowed to go home, it was like a ray of light shining down and we all knew that things would be better. He still had to be hooked up to a tube so that he could get the vitamins and nutrients he needed. It was just good to have him home.

The tube was in for a few weeks until he could eat. Seeing him with a smile on his face once he got the tube out was great. It was like he was finally free from the hospital and that was the best thing for him.

Today he is closer to being up to par. He is able to go out, eat solid food and walk on his own. He mostly stays at home all day and plays with his dog, but sometimes ventures out and goes to the store.

He has gone out to bars and been seen in a public setting.

He looks better and he has been able to do the things he likes to do.

Since he got better, I have been doing a lot of reflecting on the time he was in the hospital. Whenever I hear a song that I heard in the hospital, I get sad and when I see how happy everyone in our family, I get a little choked up.

I mean, it is not everyday you almost lose a loved one. I never knew how many people my grandpa knew and how many people were able and willing to come up and visit him while he was in his bed in the hospital. In and out of rooms and swerving in and out of conditions, more and more people were bringing flowers and cards in attempts to console the family.

Now I am able to thank all of the people who supported me and offered me comfort when he was sick. People asked me how he was and when he went home people were excited to see that he was better, and that meant a lot to me.

My family is really thankful to all of the people who offered their support and their help in the time of grief. Now he is going to places that he does not even necessarily need to go. He goes to the store just to go out and drive. He takes pain medication

and has been lowering his dosage on a regular basis.

Grandmother, who was hit hard by his hospital stay, is also in much higher spirits. Things are looking better. **E**





ENMITY (HATRED)

Whereas anger is excited by offences that concern the individual, enmity may arise without regard to the individual as such. Anger is directed against the individual, hatred is directed against the class as well.

RAGE against the HATE

Students, teachers and officials discuss how far society has come in dealing with racism. Where do stereotypes and perceptions fit in? Where does one stop and the other one start?

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The Ku Klux Klan still exists.

Roy Armstrong has attended Ku Klux Klan (KKK) meetings. He is the general secretary for European-American Unity and Rights Organization (EURO).

He said he thinks people are usually drawn to others who look like them because that is how civilization began. He said he thinks this is an internal instinct to not want to get to know people of different races.

Regional director with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Bob Wolfson said the KKK still functions because people bully, say racist comments and act violently toward other people.

He gets many reports of these actions from high schools. He said he thinks it needs to stop because students may confuse these hurtful things as being just stereotypes or perceptions and not racism.

For example, junior Marisa Parker was at lunch, and there was a group of "white preppy" girls at another table who caught her attention. One girl said something to her to make Parker think they were racists.

She said she didn't like the girls at the table because

of what they said. Parker said she wonders if this means she is a racist, too, or she's just stereotyping that group of kids. She said she thinks she has experienced racism, but doesn't know if she confused it with stereotyping and perceptions.

Wolfson said it is a hard thing for the people in a group who remain silent to break out of the mold and say something against what their "friend" said.

"If people don't stand up for what they think, then other people will paint them with the wrong brush," Wolfson said. "If someone did this, it would show the other person that the entire group doesn't have the same mind set."

To fight these problems he said there have been speakers and other presenters who have come to Omaha Public Schools to inform the students.

Peter Brewer, a licensed mental health practitioner with the Christian Counseling Center, said how people act as adults is usually directly linked to how they were raised. This depends on how their parents handled different situations dealing with racism and stereotypes.

Any type of social anxiety, like racism can be linked to self-esteem problems, but it isn't always the case,

Brewer said. He said a way to prevent people from being racist is to have the a parent's unconditional love.

He said if everyone had good self-esteem and healthy childhood, things wouldn't be so sinful and dysfunctional in the world. Different types of abuse also result in others feeling uncomfortable in the presence of someone who is different than him.

"Of course it (the community) would be a better place if people weren't so cruel and offensive," Brewer said.

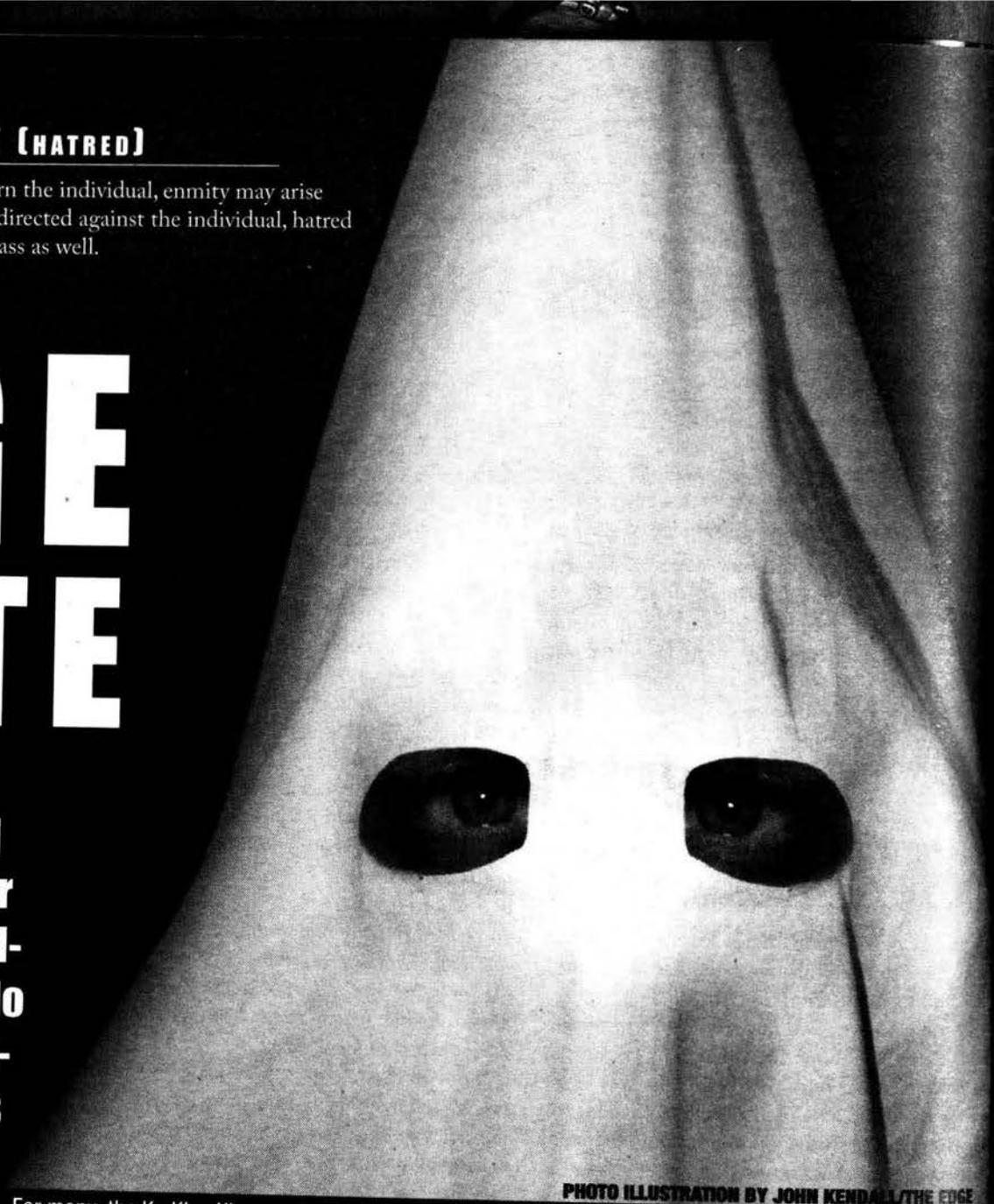
Armstrong said he has done scientific research. He doesn't think it is due to the upbringing. He said he thinks it is better for humans if each race stay separated.

"I don't like the term racist," Armstrong said. "I like to think of it as separatism."

Parker said she would like it if her "apprehensions" didn't exist. She said she remembers a store owner following her around when she was in his store one time. She said he wanted her out of his store as soon as possible.

She said she thinks it was because she is a teen, but she didn't know. At school she said she thinks some

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE



ople confuse racism with stereotypes.

Senior Alex Olson said he thinks there is a huge misconception about white people.

He said there were many bad things that happened in history, but he doesn't think he should be blamed for the KKK.

Armstrong said he is friends with the National President of EURO, David Duke. He said Duke signed from the KKK 20 years ago.

Armstrong said he doesn't find it racist when people automatically relate white people to the KKK. He said he thinks it is just someone who doesn't know enough about it.

Senior Nick Goding said he thinks racism exists in a stereotypical sense, meaning most of it is based on stereotypes and not on a mind set.

"I am dating a black girl and I don't see people as different races; they are just people," he said.

Narrow minds and other forms of racism don't affect senior Leon Lewis. He said he doesn't let racism get to him because it uses up too much energy.

He said one time his whole family experienced a form of racism because his cousin was killed by police officers.

"I was just thinking crazy when it happened," Lewis said. "My whole family was shut down."

When Lewis was in fifth grade he said he focused on racism, meaning he didn't try to ignore it or move on if he had a bad experience.

He said he just stopped caring about what other people said or did. He didn't think it was worth it.

One time during the summer, he said he remembered some kids playing basketball and other kids playing hacky sack.

One guy took the other kids hacky sack and wouldn't give it back.

"One of the kids reacted and screamed he hated 'you people' (referring to black people)" Lewis said.

Also during the summer, he said he and his friends would be walking outside and could pinpoint the exact time a police officer would drive by and question what they were up to.

He said he was more annoyed than offended, because they were just outside and having fun.

One stereotype that happens more frequently than should, is when someone who is Asian is described "Chinese," senior Sherry Wang said.

She said she doesn't really think this is always racism, but some just can't tell the difference.

"It could be like someone who is French or British and someone just calls them white," Wang said.

She said both of her parents speak English, but they just have stronger accents. Sometimes her moms ask a question a few times to understand someone.

When she does this, Wang said the other persons start talking really slow like she is stupid.

Another stereotype that can be considered racist is the intelligence level of Asian children.

Wang said she doesn't find this offensive either because most of the time it is true.

"I just think Asians' morals and values are different from Americans'," Wang said.

She said she doesn't find any of this hurtful. Executive Director of American Civil Liberties

2001 NEBRASKA HATE CRIMES



From 2000-2001, there was a 183% increase in hate crimes reported in Nebraska.

Incidents reported in 2000: 18
Incidents reported in 2001: 51

The reported racial hate crime incidents (51%) break down as follows:

White-reported hate crimes: 4
Black-reported hate crimes: 20
Asian-reported hate crimes: 2

Source: Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Union (ACLU) Tim Butz said the ACLU is committed to the constitution and the laws that deal with racism and human rights.

He said it is hard to change people's minds about what they think, but the ACLU will provide everyone with the same benefits, hoping they will change how some people function.

After Sept. 11, many Americans' minds were changed. Senior Tahreem Aziz said. Some people started looking at her or her family differently because she is of Pakistani descent. She said her mosque was getting threatening phone calls telling the members to go back to where they came from.

"I came from America," Aziz said. "I don't know how I am supposed to go back when I am all ready here."

When her family travels, airport security stops her father for random checks, but it doesn't really bother her. If that is what security has to do to ensure safety than she said she is fine with it.

Senior Farhana Husain said her brother wears the stereotypical clothes of a Muslim, so there are times when people call him "Osama."

The ACLU receives 800 complaints a year about civil injustice, Butz said.

Out of that, 10 percent deal with racism. When someone thinks they are being discriminated against, Butz said the person should report it to the equal opportunity office.

"Sometimes people can identify experiences as racism, but not every time is it because of race," Brewer said.

Husain said she thinks people only think of racism being between black and white people, when there are other nationalities and religions as well.

"Some people blame all Muslims for the terrorist attacks, but when the Oklahoma bombing happened they just blamed one guy," Husain said. "He was Christian. You didn't see everyone blaming Christians, just him. But still everyone blames all Muslims instead for 9/11."

Brewer said if people could go back to before there

were perceptions of groups of people, they wouldn't be so quick to judge.

With dysfunctional families they are more likely to see betrayal, anger, lowered confidence levels and other undeserved emotional abuses.

This is what causes some people to only think one way. This causes racism.

"People try too hard to fit the same groups of people into a mold one person made for them," Brewer said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said any time there is an allegation of a teacher being racist he has to do a follow-up investigation.

He talks to the student, teacher and any other student who may have witnessed the event. He said he has to take these types of things very seriously and investigate each report.

Junior Maria Torres said she doesn't think teachers are racists, but the students are to other students.

If the faculty would do something, she said she doesn't think it would happen as much.

She said she thinks everyone of ethnic descent experiences racism.

"I think, in general, people here are pretty well diverse and open-minded," Bexten said. "But it depends on the individual. And of course, there are people who are just racists."

Senior Josh Fernandez recently transferred to Central and said he could tell students hung out with people who looked liked each other. He has been to three different schools since his junior year and doesn't think Central is diverse.

Butz said there have been reports from schools that have made their way to the ACLU.

There have been issues discussed like students being suspended when they think it was only due to their race.

Senior Anthony Tolbert said he hasn't had any racial problems, but thinks some teachers here could be have racist tendencies.

When boys walk around school with their pants sagging, he said if he sees a teacher comment on it, they do it to every race, not just one.

Wolfson said there have been reports of racism at school, work, neighborhoods, and other public places like malls.

He said racism can happen anywhere. It just depends how it is handled.

Mainly racist events happen at the smaller schools because the people there don't see a diverse group of people.

Fernandez said he thinks people just need to be themselves and they will be able to get along with each other.

He said he thinks students need to know more about racism and the school should offer a variety of classes focusing on prejudice, genocide, racism and other classes.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said teachers should handle problems professionally. She said she thinks racism is a certain mind set and perceptions are a thought on a group of people.

People start being racist when they follow their way of thinking and act on the problem.

"I have been here four years and never seen racism," Kirksey said.





SHAME

A pain or disturbance regarding that class of evils, in the present, past, or future, which we thin will tend to our discredit.

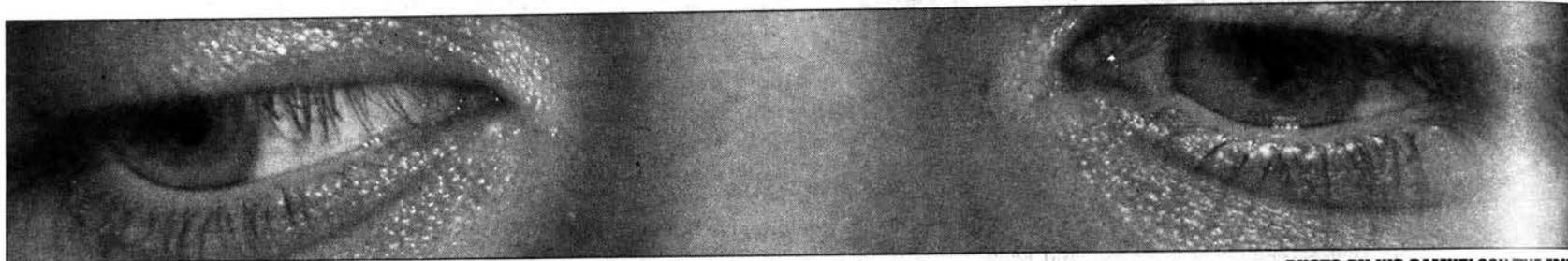


PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE EDGE

Junior travels hard path after father's death

BY KATIE BACKMAN

**Name changed to protect identity*

Junior John Doe* said he felt like his father wasn't doing anything to support him or make him feel like he was important to him.

After a while he believed his father started avoiding his phone calls.

"That was how I felt about him before he died," Doe said. "But now I feel guilty."

His father left his mother without paying child support.

He almost left without even giving a reason.

The struggles with money didn't really affect him, but the one thing that hurt him the most was the fact that his father left him.

Doe was the last child his father ever had.

He said his father had many kids with many different women. He said he remembered his father working all the time, at least it was the excuse for him not being at home.

But he couldn't understand since he was working that much how he couldn't provide the basic needs for his child.

His father had other needs. Doe said his father did drugs.

He only found out about marijuana, but he doesn't know for sure if he used anything else.

This was one thing that made him mad.

His father lived with a different woman once he moved out. He married her and she never tried to make him stop using drugs.

"Through sickness and in health," Doe said. "It didn't mean anything to this girl. She left him when he started to die."

A local therapist Kevin McKenzie with Great Plains Counseling Center said he thinks shame of other family members is something that happens a lot.

One main reason is because family members won't communicate their problems they have with each other.

"I just remember all of the days he was gone," Doe said.

When Doe tried to see his father, he would stop at his house, but they would never answer the door. He said he thinks they were dodging him.

He said it doesn't bother him that he was raised by a single-parent.

There were just sometimes he wished his father would have been there.

He said they didn't have a father-son type bond. They just tried to talk to each other.

McKenzie said there are usually father-son relationships that have shame with them. But teenagers need to try to practice different methods of communication.

The most important part of fixing a problem with someone is to listen to the other person's concerns.

"Shame is when someone cuts off their emotions and never discusses it," McKenzie said.

If it ever grows to shame of a family member, it can be much more heated. McKenzie said all of a person's emotions would build up more because the problem is never mentioned.

When it is a situation where a father leaves the mother with children at home, it can be hard for the children to talk to him.

Doe said his stepmother left his father because she knew it was going to get bad. He said she left because he wouldn't be "fun" anymore.

"I just always wanted to ask him 'what kind of a wife is that?'" Doe said.

He wanted to speak his mind to his father, but he never did. If he did he said he forgot about all the things he wanted to say when he was at his father's deathbed.

When he watched his father slowly die, all the shame and anger disappeared. He said he knew he was going to miss him.

This man wasn't in his life growing up and now there was no chance of it.

"Watching my father die took a toll on my life; he won't ever be there," Doe said.

He remembers going to the hospital initially for an appointment of his own, but this appointment wasn't in the records.

So he decided to since he was at the hospital he

would see his father. He went to see his father and remembered what he told him to do.

"My dad said 'I don't know if I am going to make this. John* I don't want you to see me suffer. If this gets really bad, pull the plug.' I thought that was crazy," Doe said.

In a hostile-emotional family situation, McKenzie said kids pick up on these feelings and begin to feel them, too.

To keep problems and fights from happening, there are organizations around the metro. Someone could go for free counseling. One problem with therapy is it costs money. McKenzie said he thinks people use this as an excuse. There are counselors at school, teachers, friends and family who can also act as therapists.

He said people don't always have to go to a professional therapist because they could talk about their problems instead of holding them inside.

McKenzie said there is always a relationship that has problems. He said the people will fight and it will leave an impression on the child.

He said the child could then grow to not like the person just because he was raised that way.

Being ashamed of a family member has problems all its own. This person could start smoking, drinking and doing poorly in school. Anything is possible.

The only thing Doe started doing was smoking cigarettes. He said he didn't want to follow too closely in his father's footsteps. He said when people are ashamed, they are nervous about saying anything to resolve the problem.

Doe has recently gotten into fights with students at school, which led to certain disciplinary actions. This made him miss school for a large part of the year.

McKenzie said a student who has a problem with his family life could show it through his actions at the outside of school.

Doe said he really misses school and staying home is eating him up inside.

"I want to go back to school," Doe said. "If I am not in school there is nothing for me, but to be on the streets, in jail or dead."



SHAMELESSNESS

A certain contempt or indifference regarding the said evils.

Student ignores comments about weight

BY CLAY LOMNETH

He weighs 305 pounds, but he said he is supposed because he plays football. Senior Matt Storm said he has not been ashamed his weight at all during high school. He said he doesn't think that people look at him differently because of his weight. Storm said he doesn't let his weight bother him because he doesn't find it to be a problem. He is comfortable with his weight because it helps him play football. Storm is on a diet to stay in shape for college football, not just to lose weight. In elementary school, Storm was teased about his weight. He said at that time he would beat the kids up who teased him. Storm said they stopped teasing him after that. Now, no one talks about his weight. He said no one at Central looks down on him. Storm is very comfortable about his weight and would not change it if he had the chance. "God made everyone different, he chose me to be this way," Storm said. Diet Center franchisee Cathy Kuhlman has owned the diet center for over 25 years. She said eating disorders are among the most common threats to teens. She said she thinks teens eat too much because healthy food is glamorized in today's society.

Kuhlman said when teens go out with their friends they usually eat fatty foods and do not exercise.

Kuhlman said she believes that guardians are more at fault than the teens for their weight problems.

She said if the family would supply healthy meals and keep less fatty foods around the house, there would be fewer problems with overweight teens.

Some people may feel that they are alone with a weight problem, but they are not. Judy, who did not want to give her last name, is a member of Overeaters Anonymous (OA).

OA has an anonymity policy and the members only go by their first names.

Judy thinks it is a good way to talk about problems with overeating. She said it was based on Alcoholics Anonymous with a 12-step program. Part of the purpose of the 12-step program is to help the members with their problems.

Judy said the people in OA are very welcoming and helpful because everyone in OA has the same problem.

Rick, another member of OA, is in charge of a high school student version of OA. Meetings are held at South High School during school hours, and only allow South High School students to participate. However, if there was an interest, high school OA could be started at other schools.

Rick's job in OA is to make sure that the students are showing up for the meetings.

He said a typical meeting starts off with an opening, then a daily reading, followed by a discussion about

the reading. Sometimes, a local speaker comes in and talks to the students. The students then discuss what the speaker said.

Anyone who wants to become a member can do so, Rick said. He said the only requirement is showing up.

"The universal component is the desire to stop eating compulsively, then it is up to the person," he said.

Rick even said some anorexic kids show up at meetings because they believe they are overweight. They are accepted in the group and Rick sometimes invites anorexic adults to the meetings as speakers.

"It's all about their perceptions," Rick said.

Rick said he believes success does not depend on whether or not the OA member loses weight.

He said most adult OA members lose weight after they join, but the teens usually do not.

"Sometimes if they just walk away feeling better about themselves it is a success," Rick said.

Not everyone who is concerned about their weight is an overeater.

Freshman Mariana Lopez said she was concerned about her weight. She said she feels that people sometimes judge her negatively because of her weight, which sometimes bothers her.

Lopez has taken diet pills in the past and lost weight with them. She is happy with her weight now and doesn't feel overly concerned about it.

When out with friends, Lopez said she doesn't eat junk food. She usually tries to eat healthier foods. **E**

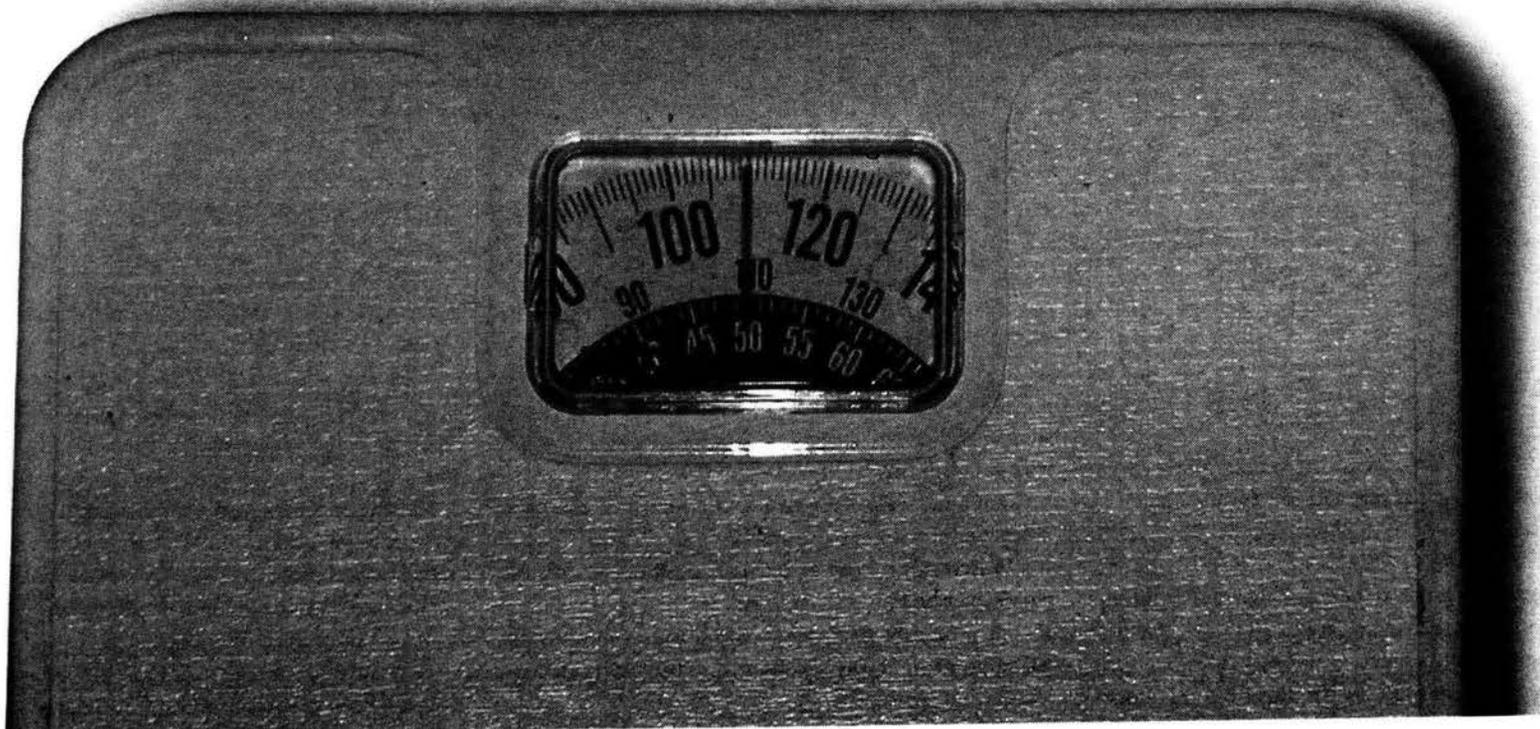


PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE EDGE

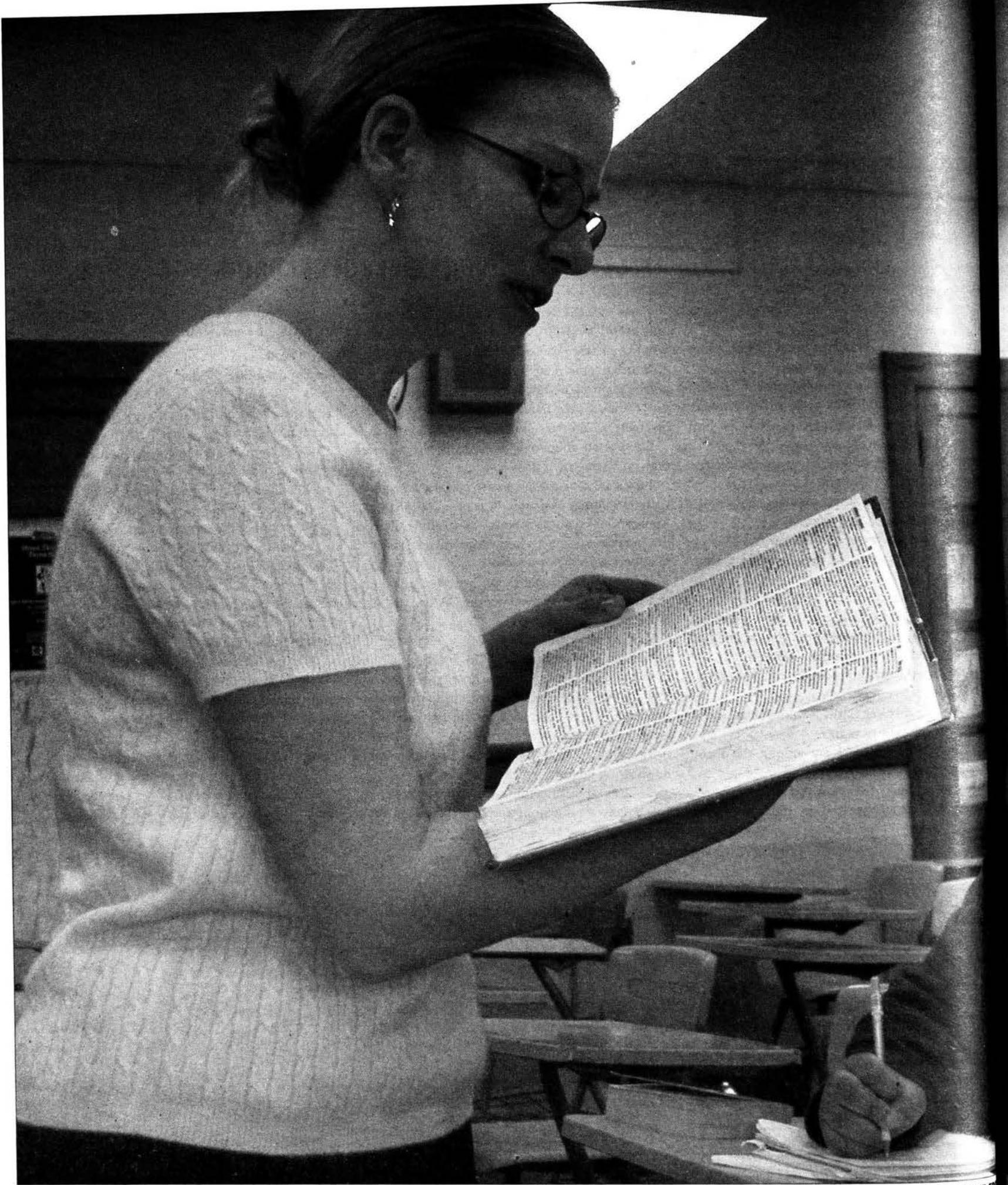


PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE EDGE

English teacher Kami Boje defines a word for sophomore Charmadine Parchment in her fourth hour English 3-4 class after the release bell rang. Boje suffers from depression and is bipolar, but while she is working, she thinks about her students before herself. She has never had a breakdown in class or in front of students or other faculty members.



FEAR

A pain or disturbance arising from a mental image of impending evil of a painful and destructive sort.

Finding a way back

Teacher shares story of her battle with depression

BY KATIE BACKMAN

She was in her mid 20s, weighed 97 pounds and was 5 feet and 3 inches tall. She knew she needed help.

English teacher Kami Boje admitted to having an eating disorder because she was clinically depressed. She said she was depressed from her junior high school years to present day. But not until recently did she get this illness treated.

"I was a stick," Boje said. "Some depressed people go to extremes with their diets and eat so much, but I was anorexic. I felt so ugly I wanted to make myself better. I thought I would start with my body."

Her depression was so serious, each night she said she would cry herself to sleep. There wasn't any true meaning to her tears, but it was something to do.

Then in the morning, she wouldn't be able to open her eyes because they were swollen. Looking in the mirror was out of the question because it would only make her want to cry more.

Boje did go to a doctor. She was diagnosed as being clinically depressed and suffering from Bipolar Disorder.

Depression is when there is an imbalance of brain chemicals. Bipolar is when the person experiences extreme lows and highs at a rapid pace. Meaning one moment she could be skipping, then the next she could be curled up in a ball crying.

She continues to take medication and to see a therapist.

"Before I had the pills, I hit a downward spiral," Boje said. "It was so bad sometimes I would cry at Hallmark commercials."

When she was in high school she nearly failed because she had low self-esteem.

She said fear is what forced her to graduate. She didn't want to disappoint her parents and or have an empty future.

To fill up the holes in her life she would work full-time. Boje said her family was very supportive for all of the career and schooling choices she made, even if she over-worked herself.

Sometimes she said she would date or hang

out with the wrong type of people. The "wrong" type of person was someone who needed her extra care and attention.

She said when in actuality she needed to focus all of her energy on herself.

Thinking about herself and not focusing on these types of bad relationships is something she is doing today. She said she doesn't want to be with anyone now because they will take her focus off of herself.

When she was in college she lived with six other girls. She said it was hard to adjust to all the people because a lot of the time she would want to be home alone.

Most of the time she would stay at home rather than go out with them. She didn't start seeking help, yet.

Once she graduated from college she didn't know what to do with herself.

"I felt like my purpose was gone," Boje said. "I started drinking way too much wine at that time, too."

A local therapist with Great Plains Counseling Center Kevin McKenzie said some of the most common ways people deal with depression is by drinking, gambling, sex, workload and poor sleeping habits.

He said a person's life is only what they try to make of it. A person can make it very positive if she wants to.

"If a person keeps thinking life stinks then it probably will," he said. "I have never met a person who said their life is terrible, but they are happy."

After college she moved into her own apartment and would have loved it if she could stay in her pajamas all day.

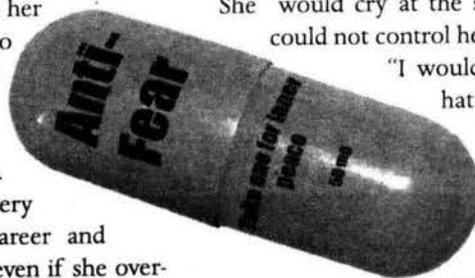
This was before she knew she was clinically depressed.

Boje said one of her symptoms was crying. She would cry at the smallest thing and just could not control her emotions.

"I would cry at the drop of a hat," she said.

Other signs of depression revealed themselves because she wasn't sleeping, didn't eat as much and felt worthless.

During a week she would sleep for a total of



15 hours. But during the weekends she would stay in bed the entire time. She wouldn't eat, she would just try to sleep her pain away.

All of these negative feelings wore her down. She started to lose interest in some hobbies, like painting, reading, going outside and going out with friends.

She said she just didn't want to have negative feelings any more and began to think she was depressed.

Now after she has been on the medicine for a while, she wants to start painting and reading for fun again.

But something still holds her back. She said it could be energy or the lack of time.

She said she decided to cope with the illness. Suicide never crossed her mind because she said she couldn't be that selfish.

"I just had reoccurring thoughts of death," she said. "I am Catholic so I am afraid where my soul would go."

McKenzie said a lack of energy because of a lack of sleeping can lead to the person doing unplanned actions like suicide.

When her life wasn't getting better, she said she didn't really know what the point of life was. Sometimes at her work she said she felt like she wasn't doing a good enough job.

The workload would keep piling up and she would rather just run away and go to bed.

McKenzie said depression is one of the main topics his patients talk about.

Boje didn't run away from her problems. She got help. She went to a therapist and psychiatrist. The

doctor prescribed her anti-depressants and sleeping pills. The medication wasn't consistent until the right dosage and types were set. Boje said she was taking many different pills, but still felt the pain of all the lows.

"I feel like I am 80," she said. "I take a handful of pills every day."

She said some people wouldn't want to be put on medication because they think it would alter who they truly are. She said she didn't feel like depression was a way to live and adjusting to it was out of the question.

McKenzie said some medication doesn't work on the patients and they do have to change their dosages. He said he thinks if a person can get to use about 20 percent of their brain they will be in good shape. He thinks the brain is the most powerful thing in the body.

"I believe in working through problems before suggesting medication," he said. "When someone breaks a leg they somehow are able to run five miles, it's brain power. Someone should be able to get over depression."

"I am grateful for the pills," she said. "One of those things makes me feel better."

She said she couldn't interact with large groups of people. Some of her friends find it weird that she teaches because of her fear. Boje said it isn't a problem anymore, but sometimes she can be uncomfortable while talking with other people.

A year and a half ago is when she started teaching at Central.

She said everything was so new. It was a good

change for her because before she would leave her job and cry at home.

Working at Central was a full-time job for her.

"I didn't want other people to know what was wrong with me because people could start talking," she said.

When she is teaching she doesn't think about all of her problems. She said she focuses all of her energy and thoughts on the students.

She said she doesn't have time for herself at school and she doesn't think she really should.

She has friends who are very supportive and have helped her through her difficult times.

Boje wanted a psychiatrist because he could prescribe medicine. She wanted someone who she could feel comfortable talking to and could go straight to the source of medicine.

Boje said since she is bipolar she can spot the disorder very quickly within students. She said she knows the kids won't listen to her and parents may not respond to her either.

She said she wants to tell some of her students in class that "it" isn't a phase. Sometimes being in a rut and feeling worthless isn't a part of adolescence, it is depression.

Now she is trying to work on herself. She only has friends not a boyfriend. She said she loves focusing on her job knowing she is helping students.

She said she is taking this time to allow herself to get better.

She doesn't mind not going out every night but enjoys staying at home and adjusting to what she is now, a happier person.

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CONFIDENCE

The opposite of fear. Confidence is the hope (anticipation), accompanied by a mental image, of things to be conducive to safety as being near at hand, while causes of fear seem to be either non-existent or far away.

Senior uses strong personality to achieve things in school, life

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Performing for a large group of people now comes easily to senior Kaley Eledge who played the lead role in Central's production of "Cinderella."

For the play, Eledge said she dedicated herself to the shoes of her character.

She said she wants to act in the future and she will gladly dedicate her time to do it.

Acting is more than just memorizing lines, Eledge said.

She said she thinks a person has to be able to relate to the characters' feelings. For the role of "Cinderella" she had to carry out her duties as an actress.

Speaking confidently is something Eledge said she knew she had to do while acting.

She said after the performances, drama teacher Ron Gibson did compliment her abilities.

"She has a long lasting memory and she is a leader," Gibson said.

Senior Katie Erickson said she was very impressed with her acting ability.

Erickson was in the play also and understands the lead role can be a hard thing to do, but Eledge did it flawlessly.

"She was very dedicated to her part," Erickson said. "It became her top priority."

Eledge related dedicating all of her time to the play with her confidence and wanting to do well in "Cinderella."

She said she allowed time to rehearse for the play from early in the morning to 5:30 or 6 p.m.

"I know my role was an important one," she said. "I played Cinderella so I had to be good and dedicated."

Practices did not always go smoothly because acting is a hard job.

There were times the rehearsals were cut short and she had to leave early. Sometimes she would go home and cry because the pressure was so great.

Just because she did this didn't mean she was going to quit.

Despite her sporadic low self-esteem, she said she was driven to do well.

She said it was important to her because it is her senior year playing a lead role.

Eledge also had to be focused while rehearsing her role.

When she acted on stage with the stepmother, played by Erickson, it was hard to concentrate because they are close friends.

Erickson said she played the role of a mean and demanding stepmother.

She would have to make herself stare at her chin

or neck to keep their laughter under control.

There were times when Eledge said her mind went blank and she forgot her lines.

When this happened she said she was very nervous, but then she remembered and the play went on.

Playing a lead role in high school increases her ability and strength as an actress later.

She said forgetting her lines or getting critiqued will make her stronger when she pursues an acting career.

Each year, Eledge said she tries to challenge herself.

"Every year I got a bigger part," she said.

During her freshman year she played a roll in the chorus.

She was a dancer for her sophomore year and a supporting actress her junior year.

This year she played a major role.

Other experiences Eledge has to help her perform well was during the summer she worked with River City Roundup.

She started acting in her elementary school. In the past she also watched movies like "Annie," "Peter Pan" and "The Sound of Music."

She studied the actors' techniques with lines, dance steps and song lyrics so she could learn the right way to do it.

When she watched these movies, she took it seriously unlike other people.

Now she knows her strengths and weaknesses.

"You have to know what you're good at and take it to the max," Eledge said.

Some of Eledge's friends and family members helped her to do well in "Cinderella." She said her mother encouraged and helped her remember her lines.

She said her mom pushed her to continue on with her part at times when she was stressed. Whenever she was stressed Eledge said she mostly cried to relieve frustration.

She has spent many nights up late doing homework.

Then if she didn't get the assignments she would come in early for help.

She said working with the play challenged her ability to balance school work and acting.

Eledge said her efforts outside of the play were spent on just trying to keep her grades up, work outside of school and get enough sleep.

She said she was fortunate, however, because she knew about her part since October.

So she was mostly prepared for her part.

She said sometimes she had fears of messing up while on stage.

She said her biggest fear was forgetting her lines,

even at the practices.

She said she would find a way to pull herself together and still have a strong performance.

Playing the lead role in a play is still something difficult for her to understand.

She said she didn't think her talent would get that good during her high school career.

After "Cinderella," she said she was glad she did it because now she feels more prepared for college. It taught her how to be a better leader.

"To be a leader you have to put forth your best at all times," Eledge said. "People pick up your energy."

Eledge said to play a lead role, the person has to know what it means to be a leader.

She thinks a leader is someone who is encouraging, yet not bossy and is grateful for what she has.

She said a lot of times she would thank her peers for their hard work.

Gibson was given much of the credit for helping build the cast's confidence.

Gibson was able to return encouragement to the cast members which helped their confidence a lot.

When students had the opportunity to support the cast, Eledge said they intimidated her by knocking her confidence down.

But that didn't last long.

Eledge said students at the matinee had a lack of appreciation for the time put into the play.

She knew they didn't understand.

This lack of respect from the audience sometimes made cast members feel as if they had to prove themselves in their act, which put their true confidence to the test.

"I did the best I could," Eledge said.

"It was important for the cast to show it could overcome the obstacles that putting on a major musical entailed.

"The best experiences happened with the cast," Eledge said.

"Cinderella" was also the best opportunity and experience that Eledge was offered this year.

There is a chance that Eledge's opportunity to have such a strong role could help her do well in college.

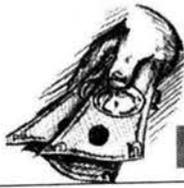
For her future, she plans to travel to Corona, California and attend the California Pacific College of the Performing Arts.

She plans to study acting and possibly theater arts there.

In case her acting career does not follow through, Eledge plans to get her teaching degree to fall back on.

The talent was there. The confidence enabled her to overcome any obstacles in her way. **E**

March 22, 2004



BENEVOLENCE

The emotion toward disinterested kindness in doing or returning good to another or to all others, the same term represents the kind action as an action; or the kind thing done considered as a result.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE EDGE

Pathways adviser Pat Wallington helps freshman John Black with his quarterly credit check. Wallington makes sure students know where they stand at each quarter.

Teacher dedicates day to helping freshmen achieve

BY KATIE BACKMAN

After 31 years of teaching at Central in different science and business classrooms, Pathways 21 adviser Pat Wallington still loves waking up for her job because she is helping students learn.

She said some of the things she teaches them they may never have another chance to learn about because it is an involved process.

In the Pathways 21 classes she teaches the freshman how to calculate their grades and different skills they need to maintain them.

She said she teaches students to know how to figure their GPA and credits they get.

She has taught four years of biology and various

forms of other science classes.

Teaching students new things is what she likes most about her job. She said it is her true first love.

A few years ago, she said she went to college to get her counseling degree.

When she got it she tried to get a job here, but realized it just wasn't for her, yet. She thought she would miss teaching.

Former Principal Dr. Gary Thompson asked her if she could work in the Pathways 21 classes with the "at risk" students at the time.

Recently she doesn't just work with the "at risk" students, but all of the students in the Pathways 21 classes.

"Students do slip through the cracks; I can't always

help them all," Wallington said.

She can also help them with homework a little. However, before she used to be able to do that more.

As she teaches students how to figure out their credits, she said she recognizes some who don't care. There are some students with a very short attention span or just don't care about their school career.

She said there are always some students she can't ever help.

There are also some students who just want to be left behind.

One of her main goals she said is to teach the students to be independent.

She said she wants them to have the ability to be

more responsible for the things they want to learn and do.

If they can achieve this she said they will be independent students.

She said she wants to teach the students to be good citizens. She said she tries to work with students at least four times a year.

Four times a year is a lot of because she works with most everyone in the Pathways 21 classes.

She said she works with the Pathways 21 teachers to know if she can pull them out of class. Seventh hour every day there isn't a Pathways class and some other days she has a couple class-hour breaks.

Even though her day is full of talking to students all day, she can't get enough of it.

Some of the students she works with simply don't care, she said. They are just going through the motions, but not really paying attention to what she is telling them.

In cases like that she tries to move fast so she can work with students who do care.

"I want students to keep up with their credits through their high school career," she said. "Like I want sports-oriented students to be able to find out they can compete."

She said what she does no other teacher or counselor does. If they did they just don't have enough time to get as involved with the students as she does.

She said if she weren't here she would hope the school officials would put someone else in her place.

Next year will be her last in the teaching profession.

After teaching for 32 years, she is going to retire.

She said she hopes somebody will be hired to take over her job when she retires.

Business teacher Matt Shafer said she helps a lot of students figure out their grades and make proper decisions.

"Personally no one can replace her; it is impossible," Shafer said.

He said she knows how to talk to students to make them listen and take in her advice.

He said he thinks she has a certain tone of voice students will pay attention to and actually trust.

He said the Pathways 21 teachers don't have enough time to do this.

Working with all the Pathways 21 classes, Shafer said she is able to talk with the entire freshman class, which not many teachers or counselors are capable of doing.

Freshman Kenny Fischer said she has helped him with selecting his classes and giving him tips for getting good grades.

He said the first time he met with her was progress reports first quarter, from then on he has met with her numerous times.

"My primary satisfaction is for the students to have capabilities to support themselves," Wallington said.

Since she is working with all the students she doesn't have time tutor them during Pathways 21. She said she comes to school early and stays after a little to tutor students.

Except she said not many students take her up on this offer.

Fischer said he has not had Wallington help him with his homework, yet. He said if he gets lower grades in some of his classes he knows where to start

looking for help.

When mid-terms and finals come up, she said she gets to tutor students in their science classes. She will help students study when it is near mid-terms or finals.

This means she usually pulls more students out in the hallway to help them prepare for their science tests.

She said she loves doing this part now with the students because she sees her tutoring actually help.

"I love the atmosphere of a classroom and teaching," Wallington said. "One thing I don't miss is all the paperwork teachers have to do and especially with the No Child Left Behind."

Freshman Rachel Dryver said she is a good teacher, adviser and has become a friend which makes it easier for her to talk about her problems or concerns. She said she is very motivating and helps her with her classes.

Wallington helped Dryver pick out her classes for next year's schedule.

"If it wasn't for her this year I would have failed," Dryver said. "She helps me a lot."

Dryver said she thinks Wallington knows how to handle students. Since she has been working here for 31 years she said she has seen some changes with the discipline problems.

Some students don't take it seriously and she said she thinks teachers have to waste too much time trying to maintain a class than to teach it.

She said she still feels like a teacher because she is still teaching, working with kids and showing them new things.

"I want to help students and I think I am helping them in every way I can," she said. **E**

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A pain at the sight of undeserved good fortune.

Drunk driving accident influences goals of club

BY KAITLIN HARTNETT

Imagine being at a wedding, where everyone is happy for the new bride and groom, and it's just a momentous, joyous occasion.

Then it all changed. Someone you know comes up to you and tells you that one of your friends won't be there because she has been killed in a car accident.

That is what happened to junior Teresa Larson two years ago on March 15, 2001.

When she found out her close friend RoseAnn Incontro, who had been a freshman at the time, was killed.

She said she thought it was a sick joke.

"When the person told me, I shook my head and started to back away," she said. "I just thought, 'Who would do something so horrible?'"

Then she started to believe it.

She broke into sobs and was hysterical because she said she just couldn't believe what was happening.

She said her mother told her not to get so worked-up over something that might not be true.

So they called the local newspaper because they had heard someone died in an accident that night.

Larson said she remembers seeing her mother's face and hearing, "Oh my God," when they found out who it was. And then the tears really came.

"I was just so overwhelmed," Larson said.

Struggling to overcome the grief was one thing, but overcoming her rage for the man who had killed Incontro was a completely different ordeal.

"I just get so furious every time I think about it," Larson said. "I'm so mad that it was some other person's mistake that killed her."

Senior Eleanor Hoeger said though some people would say it was just an accident, it "wouldn't have happened if he hadn't been drinking."

Junior Katie Krance said she is still upset about her death, and would never forget it.

"I still get teary-eyed just thinking about it because you never really get over something like that," she said. "You just have to move on and keep it with you. You direct all the hurt and pain into energy to try to change people's minds."

In order to try to help protect innocent people like Incontro and warn young adults and teenagers about the dangers of driving drunk, people like Larson and Katherine Krance became part of a new club in Incontro's memory.

It was called Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

"It's just so unfair that someone else's mistake cost her life," Krance said. "You never want to be that someone else."

Larson said since someone like Incontro touched so many people,

the room, where they had the first meeting, was absolutely full.

"I think everyone just needed an excuse to be together," she said.

Hoeger said it took awhile to get really angry.

"At the time you don't think about how she died," she said. "But you get more and more angry over time."

English teacher Ginger Riffel, who became the sponsor of the club because she knew Incontro personally, said many people joined the club to look for like-minded individuals who shared their opinions.

"It's like any teenage group," she said. "They also join because they know someone else in the club."

Now, almost exactly two years after her death, SADD is still going strong.

To join up with the national program, the name was changed to Students Against Destructive Decisions.

The recent name also implies a broader range of topics, not just driving drunk. The national club is what Riffel described as "an offshoot" of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), which she said originated nationally about eight to 10 years ago.

They are also doing other things to support their ideas. From anti-drug walks to guest speakers to car washes, Krance said they are definitely working hard to get their point across.

"We're even making posters to put up around the night of prom to remind people of what could happen because of bad decisions," she said.

She said she was eventually going to start speaking at middle schools and warning students about decisions that could eventually ruin their lives and others.

Students need to rethink their acts, Riffel said. She hopes they do. She said the consequences can and usually are very traumatizing.

Riffel said they were going to send letters about prom to parents, asking them to tell their kids about the dangers of their actions. She said that when they started speaking at middle schools next year, she said she hoped it would exert a positive influence.

"I think that seeing older teenagers say it's OK to be safe and sober is a good bit of

role-modeling," she said. "But any awareness is good. We're even planning a surprise at prom because it's our biggest project of the year and another piece of awareness."

Larson said even if the talks and posters don't help, the people in the club are really dedicated to their cause.

"It really hits home with everyone in the club," she said. "If all the other stuff doesn't work, we can definitely stick up for what we think."

Hoeger said although organizations like SADD and MADD have good intentions, they are going about it the wrong way.

"It's almost impossible to physically stop people from drinking and driving," she said. "But there needs to be more action to speak out against it."

As for remembering Incontro, Krance said she visits her grave every year and just talks to her or cries. Larson said she just thinks it was completely wrong that an innocent person was killed because of someone else's choice.

"We're trying to make sure something like that doesn't happen again."

Hoeger said the main people who knew Incontro (about a dozen) have a CD with songs that remind them of her. But like Krance, she also just goes to her grave.

After pleading guilty to charges of motor vehicle homicide and driving under the influence causing bodily harm, Kevin Tadlock, the man who rammed head-on into the car Incontro was riding in, was sentenced to only one to three years on each charge on Jan. 7, 2003. Since the charges ran concurrently, that totaled up to three to five years in prison. Riffel said she thought his sentence was "rather light." Larson said she was more than upset about his sentence.

"They're letting him off way too easy," Larson said. "He'd been charged with drunk driving before and it's sad to know they waited until someone died to put him in there. Three to five years do not make up for her life. It's just dumb. He's not going to learn his lesson." **E**

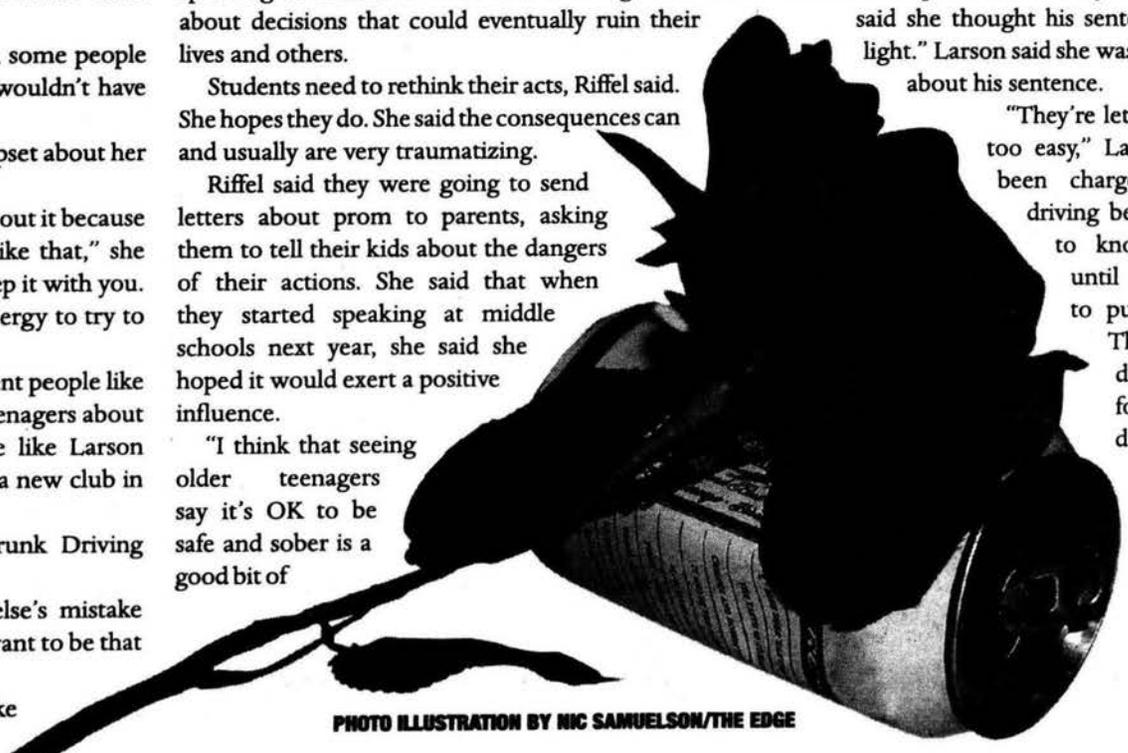


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE EDGE

March 22, 2004



EMULATION

A pain at what we take to be the presence, in the case of persons who are by nature like us, of goods that are desirable and are possible for us to attain--a pain felt, not because the other persons have these goods, but because we do not have them as well.



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE EDGE

Senior Jay Harmon practices chess for his national tournament in Dallas. He said he hopes he and the other teammates win all their competitions they have lined up so they can finish the chess season off strong.

Chess club plans for win at national competition

BY GRANT ANDERSON

All they want is to win Nationals and things are looking promising.

Chess team sponsor Drew Thyden said the team has not lost a match yet and doesn't expect to.

The chess team consists of seniors Jay Harmon, Nate Horrell, junior Erik Servellon, sophomores George Blazek and Bill Chaney.

At a championship in February, Harmon took first and Blazek took second place.

Harmon also won second place at the Omaha City Adult competition.

Now the next meet is Nationals on April 18 in Dallas, Texas.

Thyden said the chess team allegedly hasn't won Nationals since the '70s.

Thyden said he hopes the team will dominate at nationals, especially with the talented seniors.

Awards are given to the individuals as well as to

the entire group by adding the top four scores of a team. There are many trophies given, however since this is the national high school tournament, there is no cash prize.

The winning individual wins a full-ride scholarship to the University of Dallas Texas, which has the leading college chess program in the nation.

The chess team last went to nationals three years ago.

Harmon said going to nationals was a very eye-opening experience.

He said Keaton Kiewra is his greatest challenge.

"He's a year younger than me, and not only the high school state champion, but the overall state champion as well," Harmon said.

This year he held a lead until making a positional error when there was less than seven minutes on the clocks, which led to his loss.

Harmon has taken second place at this tournament for the last two years.

Though Harmon may be one of the best in the state, he is still humble about his victories.

"I've never really considered myself to have any real talent for the game," Harmon said. "I just enjoy it a lot and practice whenever I get the time."

Harmon started learning the game from his father when he was 3 years old.

When he got to high school Thyden started training him. Now he is going to Nationals, along with the rest of the chess team.

Although there is no entry competition, they have defeated every metro competitor.

There is great stress put upon professionalism and winning like a mature adult.

The other teammates are always there to remind them they can win and to just support them.

"It is really inspiring to know that we are the best in the state at what we do," Horrell said. "I think that winning really pulls us together to try to keep the alive."



CONTEMPT

The antithesis of emulation (persons who are in a position to emulate or to be emulated must tend to feel contempt for those who are subject to any evils (defects and disadvantages) that are opposite to the good arousing, emulation, and to feel it with respect to these evils).



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE

Many teens who drop out of high school say they feel contempt for the school system because it does not care them.

Student finds dropping out of high school an option

BY KATIE BACKMAN

The alarm sounds at 6 a.m. There is no response to the noise until 6:45 a.m. Pearl Boyd dreads going to school because some days it feels like a waste of time. "I hate school because I feel like I am stuck," Boyd said. "I just don't see the point in some of my classes. I won't use many of them in my future." Boyd said the routine of waking up every morning and going through the motions of a school day, seems endless. She said she wants to go to Europe to take photos and pursue art. Gym class doesn't fit in her plans. She said gym class is a waste of time because she could be taking a class she may actually learn something from. Principal Jerry Bexten said if he found out a student wanted to drop out, he would try to talk to her. First he would want to find out why she wanted to quit. Secondly he would tell her reasons why she should

stay in school.

"I would tell students this is what you could do with a diploma, and this is what you could do without one," Bexten said.

He said there is a process he goes through, if student hasn't attended school in a few weeks.

Eventually a phone call home is made and in some cases the parents simply say their son or daughter quit.

She said she can understand some aspects of gym and learning teamwork abilities.

But in her class she doesn't see the point of walking around the gym in circles.

Unlike other students, Boyd said she doesn't want to sound like a "deadbeat" with no ambitions, because she has plans and will not drop out of school now.

"I've thought about dropping out a lot almost since the seventh grade," she said. "I stay in school to please my parents and I could make more money with a diploma."

During this school year she said she has taken many "personal health" days because she has not

been driven to get up and go to school again.

Administrator John Hammil said he thinks the school gives students the choice of wanting to be involved and stay in school.

Out of all the dropouts he sees, most of them quit to get their GED instead of just quitting school.

"I think teachers play a huge role with keeping kids in school," Hammil said. "I think the teachers do a great job doing that here."

He said what the school offers can only do so much to make students want to stay in school.

But he doesn't really find dropouts as a problem, he said.

Bexten said Central has many things to offer all students with all types of interests.

Boyd said she finds it hard to motivate herself to do school work because she doesn't see the point.

"I have to do all this work that won't really pay off later for a stupid piece of paper," she said.

Bexten said a diploma would be more than just a piece of paper when the student is accepted to college or gets a job.

March 22, 2004



ENVY

A disturbing pain directed at the good fortune of an equal. The pain is felt not because one desires something, but because the other persons have it.

DUELING SISTERS?

Juniors Allison (LEFT) and Darcy Rutherford



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PHOTO BY ROB HUNTER/THE EDGE

Junior Darcy Rutherford kneels down to catch the ball at the Metro Conference Tournament earlier this school year. Head varsity coach Scott Wilson said both the girls are very talented in both softball and basketball.

Twins refuse to accept societal stereotypes of teens

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Juniors Darcy and Allison Rutherford are twins who hardly fight.

Even though they are twins, they have never been complete opposites of each other. In fact, Darcy said the two get along pretty well, and have never fallen into the stereotype of "fighting twins."

She said she is glad they have a close relationship because, unlike other friendships, they will always have a bond that brings them together. She said they plan to stay just as close throughout the rest of high school and later down the road.

With a friendship that is this strong, there is hardly room for envy.

Allison said if anything, she would envy Darcy for her talents in softball. They argued about who was better at playing infield or at outfield. The "argument" never escalated to anything more than comments followed by laughs.

Head varsity softball coach Scott Wilson said he has never seen the two have any sort of argument about softball. He said they just fight like normal sisters do. He said the fact that they are twins is irrelevant for them when dealing with sports.

At this age, Wilson said he is actually impressed that they get along.

He said he doesn't see any reason for the two to fight because they are both talented in softball and basketball. With sports, Darcy said she is jealous of

Allison's basketball ability. She said she also thinks Allison gets more time on the court, which is fine since she is good. But she said she wishes she could play more, too.

"I think she deserves a chance to play basketball more," Allison said.

Darcy said she thinks she will in time. As of right now, she is more of a star in softball. With both of them playing on the same team, there is a stronger sense of competition.

When they are not playing sports, they turn into more "normal" friends.

When other friends or teachers tell the two they are impressed with how well they get along, Darcy said they usually just smile. She said they couldn't really comprehend not getting along or ever having serious fights.

Darcy said one annoying thing they share is that many people at school usually call one girl by the wrong name. Even if some people think it is a minor thing and shouldn't matter. She said it bothers her a lot.

There are times when Allison borrows Darcy's clothes and she said it makes her really mad. She said she finds it to be a good thing that they only fight about pathetic things such as clothing.

"I don't think either one of us is spoiled," Allison said.

While they were growing up and going through awkward stages, Darcy said she remembers eighth

grade teachers who couldn't tell them apart. A couple years before eighth grade, she said they were opposites.

Patty Rutherford, their mom, said she couldn't believe Darcy wanted to play sports because she always tried to be more "girlish." Even though she didn't expect her daughter to play, she still encouraged her to go for what she wanted to do.

Darcy said Allison was more "tomboyish." When Allison was in grade school, she had a bowl-cut hairstyle and would play in the mud instead of with Barbies. Allison said she isn't embarrassed of that because she likes what she has become now.

Patty said they have never fought or gone through a phase of continuous fighting. For the most part, they get along well.

"I don't think they could live without each other," Patty said.

Misconceptions about twins wanting to be exact opposites and people who hate each other simply isn't the case with the Rutherfords.

Allison said they have fights just like any other siblings, but never to the extent that some people think twins do.

If anything, Darcy said she is more jealous of her older sister, not her twin.

She said she thinks their parents treat them equally and she doesn't see any favoritism. Instead, their parents treat them like individuals.

"We will always be friends," Allison said.

E



PHOTO BY KATIE BACKMAN/THE EDGE

Family consumer science teacher Kelli Priebe works at her desk grading papers. It keeps her mind off her cancer. She recently found another lump in her neck and is waiting to find out if it is cancerous or not. She said her job is one thing that keeps her going each day because she loves it so much.

Teacher struggles with fear after finding lump

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Her heart skipped a beat when she felt her neck. There was a lump, again. It wasn't suppose to come back; she didn't want it to come back ever.

Family consumer science teacher Kelli Priebe's plans to retire, travel the world with her husband, see her future grandchildren and simply live to old age were things all put on hold because of melanoma, a serious skin cancer.

She first had surgery two years ago. It was designed to remove all traces of cancer. It had an 80 percent chance that it wouldn't come back within five years. But the cancer came back within six months in her lymph nodes.

After being treated again she was supposed to wait seven years to see if the surgery and radiation therapy paid off.

"It has only been one year," Priebe said. "But I have just found a lump in my neck again. I could have cancer again."

She said it is depressing that there is a chance she could have it again. The tests are being processed. She said she hopes she just has a cold.

The cancer is in her lymph nodes and when she gets a cold it irritates them.

Right now she has only told her husband about the chance of the cancer coming back. She hasn't told her children or her parents. She said she wants to wait and see if it is worth worrying the rest of her family.

"There is always a chance it could come back," she said. "I won't breathe easy for the rest of my life."

During the first weeks and even months of initial diagnosis of cancer, she thought all of her life plans were shattered and she would die young.

"I was the happiest person on my 50th birthday," Priebe said. "Not too many people want to turn 50 but I was because I didn't know if I would make it."

One thing that worries her more than dying is the fear she won't see her daughter graduate college. Her graduation is this May, Priebe said she is pretty confident that she will see it.

To help work through all the mixed emotions and thoughts about death, Priebe said her family, friends and her job have been the best medicine.

Human Growth and Development teacher Mike DeMilia said he thinks she is very strong and is impressed with how she can wake up and go to work everyday.

"I wouldn't be as strong and together if I weren't in her position," he said.

She said teaching keeps her going. She doesn't always think about the cancer and doesn't have

because she loves her job.
 But with the chance of it returning, she said she can admit to being very afraid of dying.
 Dying of cancer isn't what she wants.
 She would rather die of old age.
 Her husband has been one of the most supportive people in her life. He is always there when she needs him and is a strong, supportive man.
 DeMilia said he knows her husband and family have been very supportive.
 He said he knows she has been spending more time with her children who take this very well.
 Lately, Priebe has been traveling around the Des Moines-Iowa area to see her family.
 She said it is nice to see her parents on a regular basis.
 These two people have helped her with her struggle through cancer.
 She said her parents continue to offer guidance and help if she ever needs or asks for it.
 "We try to spend so much time together now," she said.
 This past summer she did go on a family vacation. She said she loved every minute she spent with them and she didn't expect her grown children to take time out of work to go.
 She said she also didn't think they would want to because they would be spending the whole time with their parents.
 Life is full of surprises.
 While she and her family were on their trip, she did something she said she always wanted to do.
 They went to see the Chicago Cubs play.

Not only did she get to see them play, but she was able to spend time with her family as well.
 "I am surprised to see how much he cares about me," she said. "I don't know what I would have done in the beginning if he wasn't here."
 She said she doesn't like the possibility that she may need to do it all again. She doesn't like the fact it could have come back, again.
 "It has only been one year now and I may have a problem again," Priebe said.
 She said she doesn't really know how to handle the news that she could have cancer again. She hopes it is anything except cancer in her lymph nodes.
 She said there are days when she won't really think twice about it, while some days it is all that is on her mind.
 Most days when she wakes up she doesn't think cancer initially or that she could have a cancer relapse.
 Priebe hasn't seen any counselors or therapists. There were support groups and individual sessions available, but it just wasn't meant for her.
 Priebe talks to her husband about her problems and she also made a new friend who has the same type of cancer.
 Priebe keeps in touch with him and they talk about each other's problems.
 DeMilia said he doesn't think she dwells on the cancer that much anymore.
 "I am not as afraid of dying," she said, "but not being able to see my grandchildren, or my children happily married."
 Therapist Kevin McKenzie said the fear of dying

is a strong fear many people battle with, especially people diagnosed with cancer.
 He said talking about their problems or fears with other people will always help the person work through their thoughts.
 It can only help.
 Priebe said she actually talks to a friend who is experiencing the exact type of cancer.
 They have the same symptoms and had the same treatments. She said it does help talking to him.
 Each of their cancer was noticed on their scalp. She said she can relate to this man because they are both involved with education and have the same mental struggles with cancer.
 It is nice to talk about her fears with someone who is going through the same problems, she said.
 They help each other stay positive about the future.
 "Usually people feel like they have goals that haven't been met," McKenzie said.
 Priebe said she tries not to think of her future like that. Now she tries to live each day to the fullest and always have a positive attitude.
 Family and consumer science teacher Jeanne Staroski said Priebe shows a lot of courage.
 She said she finds it very impressive and motivating to see her wake up and come to work every day.
 Staroski said it was difficult to accept initially when she found out about her cancer.
 But as Priebe has learned to accept it, she said she has, too.
 Now she visits her doctor every three months to make sure the cancer isn't coming back. **E**



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Teen sees clothes as part of self-expression

BY BRYAN SWOTEK

It is definitely hard to miss sophomore Ben Walden walking down the hallway.

From all black clothes, pink fishnet stockings on his arms, stacked bracelets and an explosion of color on his head, nothing can stop the tall and vibrant Walden from wearing what he wants to wear.

"It is not like I wake up every morning and spend a lot of time on myself getting ready," Walden said.

He just simply does not care what people think about him, and is not afraid to prove that the hair on his head is real.

He does not care if people stare or even if they laugh, Walden expresses himself no matter what people have to say.



Walden

To strangers, he may seem intimidating.

But that just proves that it is impossible to judge a book by its cover.

Walden is not afraid to talk to people or wear things that would not normally be worn.

Self-expression is something he is passionate about, and does not care what anyone has to say.

"I just like to scare people and turn heads when I am walking down the street or when I am walking down the hallway," he said.

Walden has been dyeing his hair a lot different colors ranging from red, orange, blue and green.

For as long as he can remember, he puts any and every color in his hair at any given time.

In fact, Walden does not remember what color he used the first time he dyed his hair.

It was the summer in between Walden's seventh and eighth grade when he first put a bottle of brightly colored paste to his head.

He said that he was attending Lewis and Clark Middle School at the time and that was the first time he was ever given any trouble about his hair.

"The first time I had ever dyed my hair, the principal, administrators, and teachers told me I could not dye my hair because it was a distraction to the other students and teachers at the school, so I stopped," Walden said.

When Walden started high school, he started dyeing his hair again.

He said it was not out of spite or that he was trying to make people mad, but it was something that he liked to do so he did it.

He said he does not know exactly how many colors are in his hair right now, but he said he does get a lot of interesting questions when people first meet him.

"Sometimes I get asked if it is a wig and sometimes people want to touch it and pull on it to make sure

it is real, and if they want to, I will let them. I don't have a problem with it, is kind of cool when people ask" he said.

He said he just puts some in when he feels like it and changes it.

Though he has been put into categories, he said he does not label himself.

He said he does not even know what to call his style. He said it is something that he does not put much thought into and so he has not spent the time to name it what he is.

Walden said he does what he wants and does not care what people have to say. Walden said he has been called "punk," and "Gothic," but he does not let the names get to him.

Walden said he does not get a lot of hassle from students or teachers in the building. He said most people like his hair and think it is cool.

"Nothing has happened to me in school, some people have comments and some people have compliments, but teachers have not said anything," Walden said.

However, he said some of his distant family members make fun of him sometimes.

"My uncles poke fun at me sometimes, but I just laugh it off with them and don't think much of it," Walden said.

He said holidays are fun for him because his style is always evolving and he likes hearing what everyone has to say.

He is not starving for attention, but he said he likes when people look at him.

Central High has been a place where he can be different and accepted at the same time.

He said that unlike his middle school, classes in high school have not been halted or interrupted by his brightly-colored hair.

Though school officials have not given him grief, he still hears about it from family members.

Walden said his mom is really cool with allowing him to express himself.

Doing what makes him happy and that individuality is something that everyone should have.

He said he would still dress the way he does even if his mom didn't agree.

He said she is not embarrassed by what people say or when they look.

"When people stare, I just think that they need to get out of their own little worlds and notice what is going on around them, notice what is changing and what other people look like," Walden said.

Walden said he thinks it says a lot about people when they stare; it just proves they are shallow people.

He said people are just too worried about what others think and they shouldn't have to worry about it.

He said he likes it when people stare. That is what he wants, people noticing different people.

Walden said a lot of people only see what they want to and think what they want to.

Some people do not want to look at what they think is weird or different.

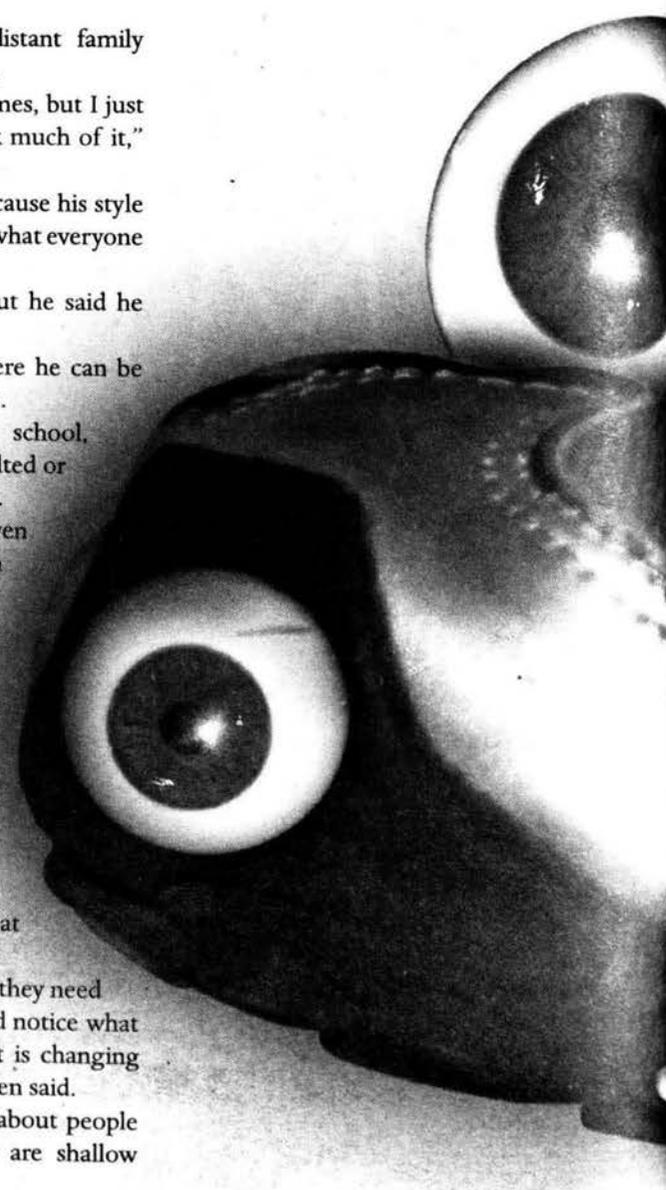
He wants to bring attention to the unusual. He wants to shake things up.

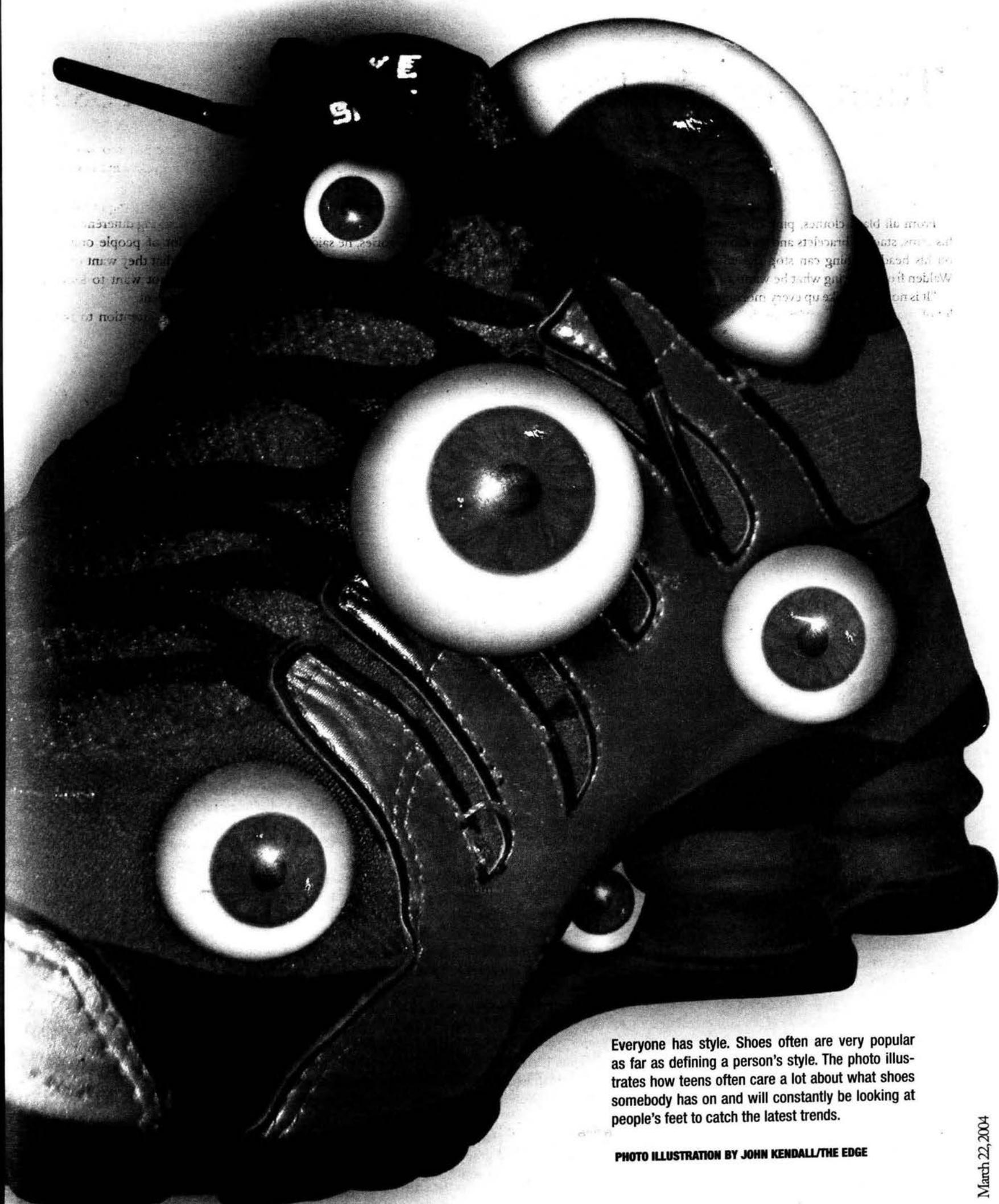
Most recently, Walden hair was predominately green, along with many other colors.

Right before St. Patrick's Day, he added the color so he could have green on.

He said that he thinks more people should be themselves a little more and stop being such conformists.

"People put too much into what they look like, should not be that important," he said.





Everyone has style. Shoes often are very popular as far as defining a person's style. The photo illustrates how teens often care a lot about what shoes somebody has on and will constantly be looking at people's feet to catch the latest trends.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE



PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/THE EDGE

Students are spending more and more time playing video games. Some teens take it too far by making the games an almost emotional attachment.

Teens use video games as way to relieve stress

BY ANNE KLINE

The first thing junior William Denton does when he goes home is sits in front of the television and starts playing video games.

Denton said playing video games are a way for him not only to relieve stress from school and friends, but to just do something he enjoys.

"I mainly play games just so I can have some time to relax and have some fun for myself," he said. "It's a good way to have some fun with your friends."

Denton and his friends sometimes gather at his house and play video games after school for hours.

He doesn't think the violence of video games affects him at all.

"I do it just for fun. I don't think it is going to tempt me to go outside and shoot somebody or go steal a car," he said.

Many children start playing these games at a young age.

Denton said he and his friends started playing games such as "Grand Theft Auto" when he was in the fourth grade.

He said his parents never thought twice about violent video games and only allow him a limited amount of time a day to play.

"They know that it is just a game and I'm not going to go out in the streets and kill somebody, but they won't let me play too much," Denton said.

Nebraska Health System psychologist Randy LaGrone said he thinks parents of adolescents don't know enough about the content or the violent scenarios of the games.

"Some know how violent they are, but only when they talk to their teens," LaGrone said. "Their kids are so persuasive that they believe their kids and let them play them."

Denton said the video games don't make him angry and he doesn't see it happening in the future.

He said he and his friends play the video games for the same reasons that people go to violent movies, for the excitement.

Senior Jeff O'Brien also plays violent video games on a regular basis.

"I play them because it is the natural male nature in me, to be involved in something with violence," he said.

Not only does he play because of instincts, he said the games have good graphics. He said he gets into violent games, but he would never act like that in real life.

"I play the games, but I don't really think they

affect me too much. If I do get upset because I'm losing, I just turn the game off," O'Brien said. "I don't allow it to make me mad."

LaGrone said the violent games have many factors that interest teenagers.

"The games provide stimulation and immediate feedback through all of the movement and excitement the child is going through," LaGrone said. "That is why they get so into the game and become addicted."

He said the teens enjoy feeling like they have immediate control of the game and that makes them feel superior and want to do it more. He said most teenagers aren't socially affected by the games but are harmfully affected by them.

He said there isn't enough information on whether teens are negatively affected by the games, but there are some factors.

"Many of the kids who really enjoy the violent games are already violent people who are drawn to violent games, movies and music, and those are the kids to worry about," LaGrone said.

Denton said he is going to keep playing the video games no matter how violent they are because he enjoys them.

That's the point.



YOU NEED TO BELIEVE

A Column By Molly Mullen

Stealing forces teen to feel ashamed about past

Most of my friends and including myself, have stolen before. However, in retrospect, I feel like I can't undo something that I've already done.

Whether it was me taking things or letting my friends steal, I now understand the several reasons I could have never been a part of that criminal activity.

I thought stealing was not wrong if it was from a large chain store or the mall because they had so much money.

Now that I realize I was not only taking money from the businesses, but from the people who have to buy overpriced goods as well, it makes me mad that other people are still out there stealing.

Taking candy from the drugstore made the price of my Snickers go from \$.60 to \$.65.

At times, I used to steal, and I seriously thought there was nothing wrong with it.

When a store owner made a bigoted comment, I didn't see any problem with ripping him off with my friends.

My flat-out stole.

I went to church on Sunday feeling as righteous as any other member of the congregation, knowing full well I had broken one of the Ten Commandments.

I let my friends steal Christmas presents for me and others. I did it, too.

The mall was like a huge pantry where we could take whatever we wanted using the excuse, "Well, it's \$12, but that was too much." Then we snickered and smiled as if we had just gotten a bargain deal at a sale or something.

After a while, we graduated to the king of petty moralities, taking things from privately owned businesses.

I have returned several of the things that I stole from the stores, hoping that it would make me feel better about what I had done, but it doesn't.

Obviously I didn't steal as much from small businesses as I did from corporations, a charm here, a wind-up doll there, but nothing expensive.

Looking back, I can't believe I did it. I have a dollar in my pocket, and everyone knows it's mine.

Nothing changed my beliefs on the subject. I was walking in the Old Market on Saturday night, and I began talking to a homeless man after giving him some money. I asked him if he stole to get by. He told me he hardly ever stole.

"I never steal from small businesses, they're like my brothers and sisters," he said. Even that didn't change me.

It makes me think about how income has nothing to do with someone's decision to steal.

It is more of a personality trait, an idea in the thief's head that makes him feel so selfish that he thinks he can take whatever he wants.

I felt like the entire market was mine.

I could take anything I wanted from anywhere and it would be OK, I thought.

I didn't steal very often, but when I did I never thought twice about it.

One day, a friend of mine and I walked into a shop downtown, planning on getting a charm for her bracelet. We were walking around the store waiting for the owner to turn around when she walked out of the store.

My friend and I didn't know what was going on, but we were happy to see an empty store. She picked up the charm and we continued to walk around. We heard yelling outside.

"I was planning on paying for them," a teenage girl yelled in the owner's face. The owner obviously didn't believe her, and made the girl come back into the shop and wait while she called the police.

When we witnessed this we put the charm back on the table and walked out.

We always knew we could get caught for stealing things, we just assumed we never would.

When the reality hit us that people get prosecuted for stealing all the time, I quit stealing.

How I wasn't caught, I don't know. It was so amateur and stupid.

I walked into a store and literally picked something up and put it in my pocket and walked out.

The business owner or sales clerk usually was standing just a few feet away, but it didn't matter to me. I never thought I would get caught, and if it ever crossed my mind, I assumed I could get out of it.

Only after seeing someone else get arrested was I sure there was nothing I could do to sweet-talk my way out of trouble.

I would have deserved a punishment, although I would have never seen it at the time.

The situation seems so much worse now that I know how bad it was. I knew I was doing something wrong and that my parents would be angry had they known, yet I still continued to do it.

I stole from multi-million dollar corporations, and from humble downtown businesses. And now every time I walk into Borders and have to pay

\$15 for a paperback.

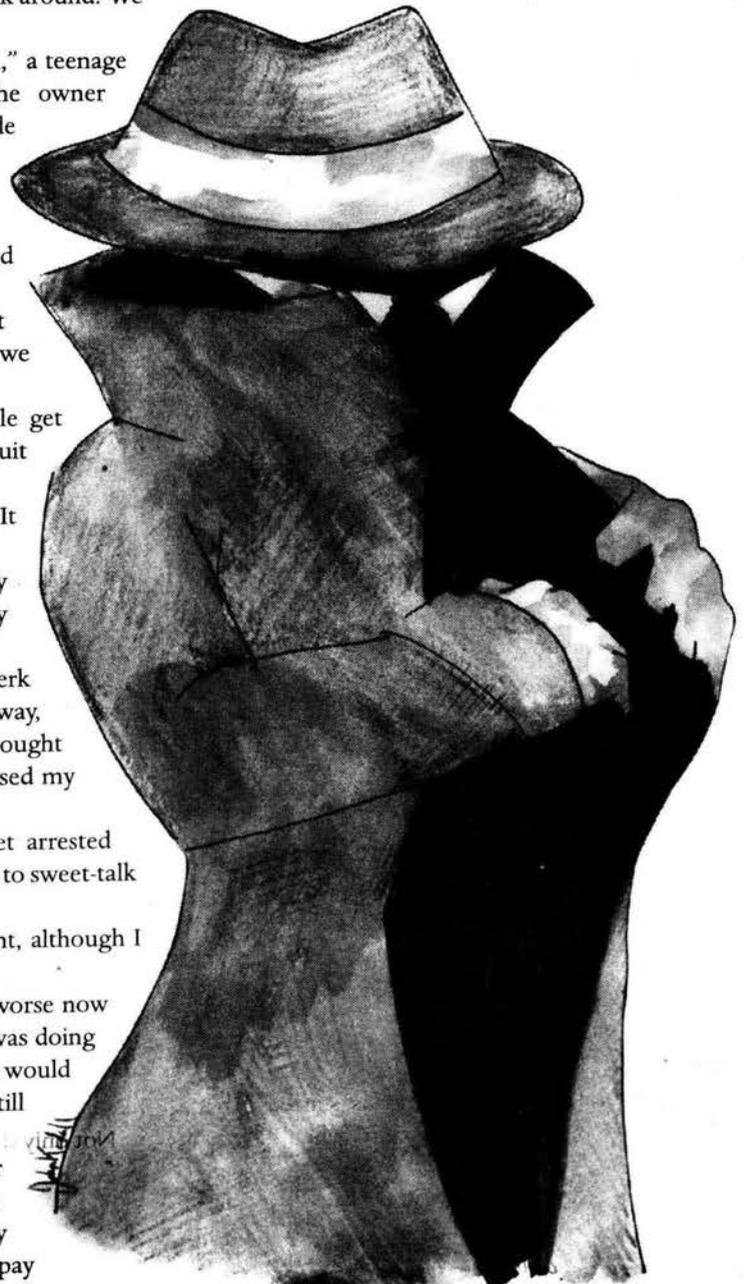
I get angry with everyone who causes the prices to rise, and I am ashamed of being one of them in the past.

I'd like to say it was a phase, but I doubt I would have stopped had I not seen someone get arrested for doing the same things I was doing.

I'd like to be able to say my perceptions of stealing were clouded due to peer pressure, but it was all me.

I made the decision to take a bracelet or a ring and put it in my purse.

My friends didn't ask me to do it, or tell me to, I made the decision. **E**



POORN



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE

Thumbnail images bypass district's filters

BY KATIE BACKMAN

Sit down in class, sign on to the Internet, go to Google, click images, type anything that could relate to sex.

Bingo.

The student just broken through the district's security because he can view a thumbnail without it being blocked. When he clicks on the image, the filter starts doing its job.

Computer Aided Design (CAD) teacher Trent Lodge said he has reported obscene Web sites to district officials each year. Once he makes the reports, the changes are made. The district officials modify the filters by blocking the Web sites he reports. Now, these sites should be blocked.

Controlling students' Internet access depends on the teachers' participation with monitoring the class. Lodge also said the maturity level of the students is a factor. But even if they did behave, he said he would still watch the students the same as he does in his other classes.

"We don't use the Internet a lot in CAD," Lodge

said. "Unless they are doing a research paper, we are usually doing just CAD."

He said when a student goes to a search engine such as Google, inappropriate things can slip through the filters.

Tom McClung, executive director of Information Management Services (IMS) with Omaha Public Schools, said Google is a good search engine and it is more of a challenge to secure a search engine as large and well-known as it is.

There are some districts that ban the site completely because the offensive material can slip through the filters more often than not. McClung said he doesn't think Omaha Public Schools will ever ban the entire site. He said the security IMS uses is good, it just needs to be updated.

Sophomore Kay Dowson said she doesn't think Google should be blocked because the search engine helps students do research papers. During school she said the teacher should watch the students because they could be looking at something not suitable for school.

If Google is a source of inappropriate Web sites,

senior Clinton Skanes said it should be blocked.

"I say block any Web sites that allow pornographic material," Skanes said. "People are in school. They shouldn't be seen on the computers at school."

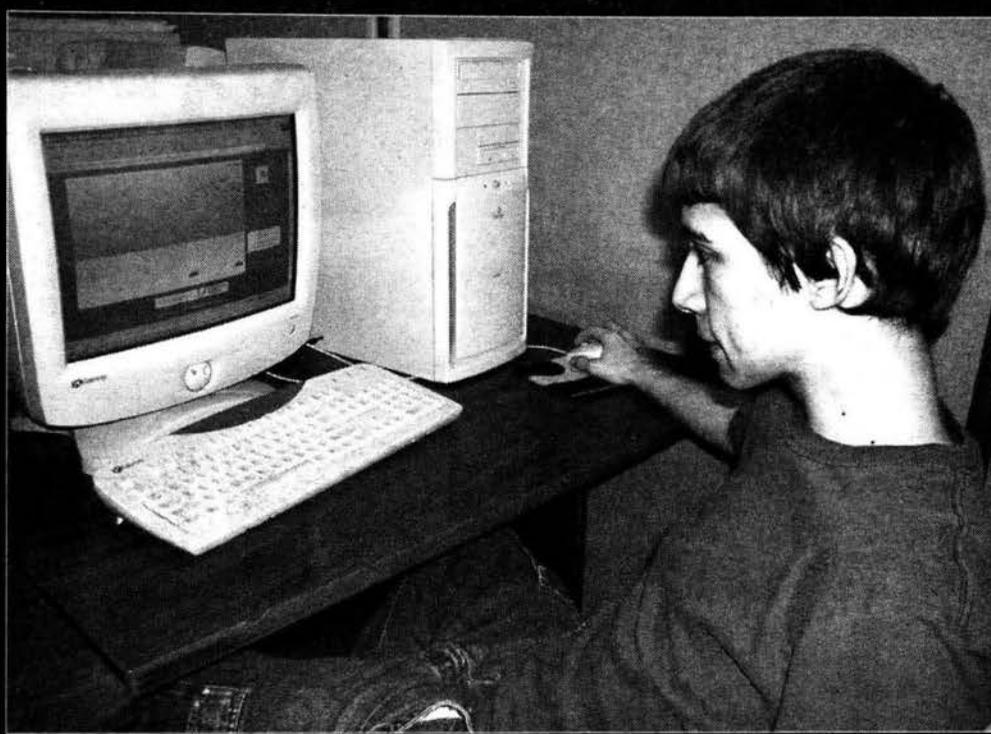
As for research papers, he said he thinks teachers usually assign topics that can be done with the Internet at school. He said the teachers usually understand the topics that can be blocked. So they don't assign things dealing with topics of homosexuality that may not be accessible.

Skanes said he has never seen a huge problem with the Internet and students looking up offensive material since he has been going to school here.

When computers with Internet access were installed in classrooms, the Child Information Protection Act (CIPA) was enforced in 1999. The importance of CIPA is to protect students from obscene and pornographic material not suitable for minors' viewing.

"We want to eliminate access to this kind of material," McClung said. "A board makes sure the system stays updated."

Department head of business and technology



PHOTOS BY JOHN KENDALL/THE EDGE

Senior Scott Schultz (**LEFT**) writes down notes for his assignment in his Multimedia class, while junior Aaron Gonzales (**RIGHT**) plays a game in between doing his class work. Different technology teachers said students are supposed to focus on class assignments rather than surf the Internet.

Malhiwsky said she tells her Pathways 21 class to report any obscene Web sites to the teacher so they can be blocked. She said there are obvious reasons these sites shouldn't be in school because they are offensive and distracting.

Malhiwsky said she has been here two years and doesn't remember a lot of problems with students viewing Web sites. She said the Google search engine is a research tool, but while in class the students are supposed to be working on that specific class.

"The filters aren't perfect," Malhiwsky said. "I know unsuitable things can get past them."

Malhiwsky said she likes to establish a procedure in class where the Internet is not used. There are times available at school or in the library a student can use it.

Junior Brian Hickman said he doesn't think viewing pornographic or other inappropriate Web sites is that big of a deal. He said students should be more mature, which means they should be able to look beyond it.

Malhiwsky said one time in a class another student had a rash on his arm. His friends started to tease him because it looked like another disease. His friend went on to Google, typed in a name of the rash he thought it could be. The search results were photos of male's genitalia with different types of "rashes" on

them. Even though Hickman saw this he said it didn't really offend him, instead he thought it was funny because the filters couldn't catch it.

"I don't think Google or the pictures are such a big deal," Hickman said. "Lots of people see this type of material sometime in their life."

Senior Nate Horrell said last year he used the Internet at school a lot to do research papers.

Malhiwsky said there are a many different ways to get past security precautions set up by the district.

Malhiwsky said some students should be ashamed with what they get away with at the school. He said he thinks some of the teachers need to be more

observant in class if they want to prevent this type of access.

Instead of blocking Google he said he thinks the filter should be more strict.

The equipment with IMS has multiple ways of updating and blocking Web sites.

When inappropriate material is found through a search engine like Google, McClung said they try to just block the inappropriate links.

"When someone tries to look up breast cancer he should get breast cancer results," he said. "But when he types in breast they would get different results that would be blocked."

Senior Jack Aschinger said the district should just tighten up security. He said many students need the schools Internet access to do homework and research reports. He said he doesn't know where the IMS officials would stop blocking search engines if they started with Google.

Aschinger said even though Google allows thumbnails to be viewed, other search tools might have the ability too.

Business teacher DeLayne Havlovic said when his students use the computers they don't usually use the Internet.

Some teachers allow students to use the Internet or check their e-mail during class. Havlovic said the Internet is banned in class so there won't be as many misbehaving students.

If he finds students who stumble on to something obscene, he reports it to the officials. He said he was told by his department head to file reports.

"I haven't reported anything yet this year," Havlovic said. "Last year I probably made two reports during the entire year."

He said he thinks school disruptions like this need to stay out of class.

The district tries to ban it and students shouldn't try to go around the filters. He said overall he thinks the district and IMS does a good job filtering.

Havlovic said the teachers are responsible and do a good job making sure the Internet remains school appropriate. He said he watches his students if they use the Internet.

Since he pays so much attention, he said he thinks that is why his reports could be down.

Sophomore Hollie Thompson said her teacher does pay a lot of attention to the students' activity in class. But she said she thinks the district and teachers focus too much time on it.

Google isn't that big of a problem if students use it properly, Thompson said.

"Students shouldn't look at those types of things in school," Thompson said. "I find it annoying that everyone has to pay for the stupid students."

Not only can teachers report Web sites, but McClung said parents, students and other sources tell IMS. McClung said the complaint goes through him and his technical team.

Then he said IMS will block the site after someone who works in his team researches it to make sure the context is not school appropriate. If it is obscene then he blocks all the sites that link to it.

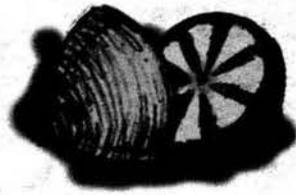
He said there are cases when the access is elevated for special positions like counselors or administrators. The security is altered so they could look up things possibly blocked by the filters. Maybe something dealing with music and profanities to homosexuality.

But he said they will never have access to pornographic material.

"Chat rooms and pornographic material is always blocked," McClung said. "The people students could talk to can lead to inappropriate conversations."

McClung said all the procedures the district does are there to prevent students from misbehaving on the Internet.

He said Internet usage is a serious thing and students shouldn't try to push what the district has set up.



Dream interpretations lead to emotional distress

BY KATIE BACKMAN

It's 4 a.m. Slowly I start dozing off to sleep, but for some reason I am not allowing myself to go to sleep, yet.

I am alone, the TV and radio are off and everyone in the house is fast asleep. Then it happens. I hear voices. It isn't any secret message or the one answer I needed to rule the world.

No, it is gibberish sounding like a crowded room where all people are trying to talk at once. As my head begins to fall to the pillow, I start to hear voices. It is like the wind blowing past my ears. My body is telling me I need to get some sleep, now.

The brain will always baffle me and sometimes it even scares me.

It's not hallucinations. I think it's my body trying to go in its deep sleep as soon as it can. Just hearing voices of other people as I dose in and out of consciousness can sometimes be really disturbing.

Not only do I hear voices, but if I am almost asleep, I feel like I am falling. I am in my bed and my eyes are closed, but I see myself falling.

Normally what I see is a cliff like the Grand Canyon, then I lose my balance and begin to fall down. When I was younger I actually fell out of bed.

Now my whole body just jolts when I hit the ground.

There's an old wives' tales suggesting this is a sign of death. Well I am still here so, I don't think that's true.

When I fall in my sleep it feel so realistic. Once I wake up and realize I am alive then I try to fall back to sleep. But I hope not to actually "fall" again.

Finally, I fall back to sleep. Then it happens. Here comes the dreams.

There was a time when I was getting my butt kicked in a dream. I could actually feel the punch hitting my jaw.

How could it be so real?

I woke myself up because I was throwing a punch in my sleep. I think it is pretty odd how the human body responds to a threat, even in a dream.

I have a dream where I am being chased by a killer. In this dream I could never get away from him. He was always one step behind me. I could never see his face.

Whether this means I had a bad burrito for dinner, major mental illness or I was just tired, I don't know.

When I woke up, I thought it was real. Because I was actually about ready to puke in my bed.

Now I am even more paranoid of being out on the streets alone. I know this isn't a rational thought, but what can I do?

Maybe I am just really tired.

Dreams are something I simply don't understand. I hope dreams aren't premonitions because another

one I vividly remember is when my entire family died. Maybe I need some help?

It started with car accidents killing my sisters, then a rock climbing accident for my brother, to my parents dying in a plane crash.

Oddly enough I witnessed each of these events in my dreams whether it was on television or I was at the scene. The thing was I couldn't do anything about it, I was frozen and almost chained to the ground.

I just had to watch them all die.

My brother doesn't even rock climb but I remember how I hit the ground in my dream when the rope whipped down the mountain side. I was crying in my dream and I actually woke myself up when a tear rolled down my cheek.

I just don't get why my mind considered this to be entertainment for the night.

Sometimes I tell people dreams are one of my favorite things in life because they are so fascinating. But when I have dreams like that one, I don't want to go back to sleep, ever.

My body is shaking and my mind is usually racing, I wake up in such a panic.

It was so realistic I felt the need to call out to my siblings and parents to see if they were still alive.

They were. It was OK.

What does all this mean?

Why do I dream of so much death? It better not be a sign of what's to come.

Some philosophers say dreams revisit memories. They are wrong in my case because this wasn't a memory.

Some of these philosophers said when the dreamer watches people die in his sleep, it can be related to what will happen in his real life.

This means my dream of death will happen in my life, but I doubt it.

Another example is when a person would hold his breath because he had a dream he was scuba diving. They said this could kill him because he would never wake up or start breathing again.

If I held my breath, I am pretty sure it would wake me up.

I just don't see it. Research like this doesn't scare me because I don't see it as a possibility.

I want someone to analyze my dream of my family dying. I want to find out if it was a premonition of how they will all die.

Either that or I need to stop eating Mexican food.

The whole purpose of dreaming is odd. There have been different theories on its importance.

A philosopher said dreams are to spark more creativity. I don't need to watch "creative" deaths play out. I would rather watch life.

A different idea another philosopher had was

dreaming that makes the brain more adaptive and prepared for the next day. Dreams are supposed to prepare the brain for new knowledge and the ability to continuously think and work.

It is just unsettling that there isn't a philosopher/scientist who has a true reason for why we dream and what they symbolize.

Even though there is no way to have all the answers, I want to know them anyway.

I would just appreciate the official answers to something I have going on in my mind.

When someone dreams about realistic events it is a way of trying to process the information into problems.

That is just odd. Sometimes I know when I'm stressed about something, my brain works hard to put things into perspective.

So philosophers have ideas on dreams that are based in the present and past.

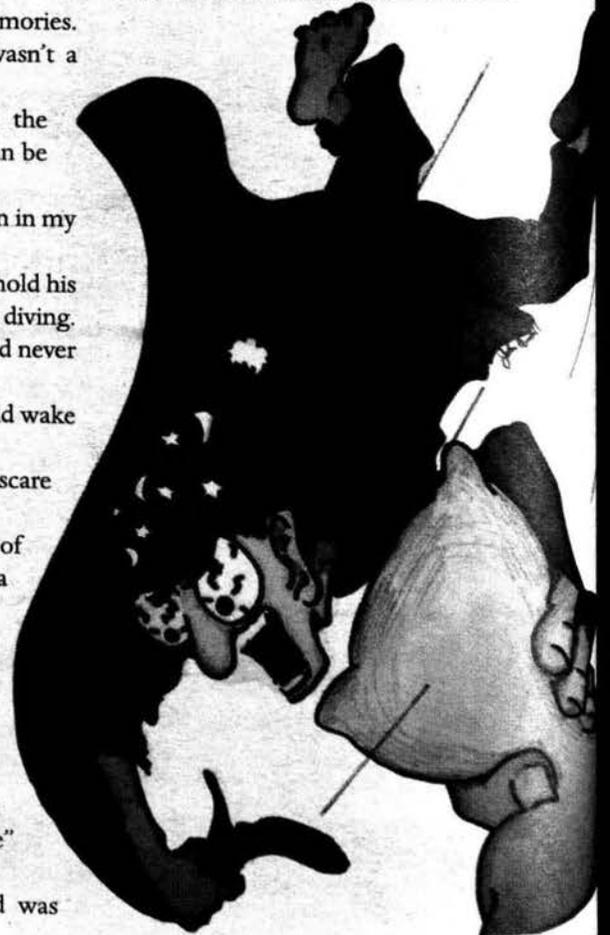
But there aren't many philosophers to write about the future.

I think they avoid the future because it can be so touchy when people have dreams like me.

When people dream of death.

I saw my entire family die within a few minutes during a dream. I didn't think I would see them again. At least it was just a dream.

I want to know why dreams are so realistic and what it means when I dream of death.



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