

Are you ready for the 'Resident Evil' sequel?
See review on page 8

THURSDAY
September 30, 2004

the Central High School
REGISTER

**A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISM**

EIGHT TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

FOUR TIME NHSPA CLASS A1 SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Teen driving causes profiling

Official says immaturity may cause police to take second look

BY CLAY LOMNETH

He said he has been pulled over three times by the police. Once for allegedly not using a turn signal, another time for allegedly not turning on his headlights and the third time because a car matching a description of his was involved in a shooting.

Sophomore Karnell Burton said he feels the police have a bias towards him. He said they follow him around when he is driving and have pulled him over just to see who he was driving with and he thinks the police often run his license plates.

"They pulled me over for the worst reasons," Burton said.

Fred Zwonecheck from the Nebraska Department of Highway Safety said most teens make themselves a target.

He said it was a combination of teens' immaturity and inexperience that causes teen accidents. It also causes the police to watch that age group more closely.

"Just by the nature of their driving habits they make themselves a target to be pulled over," Zwonecheck said.

To reverse the problem of inexperience, Zwonecheck said, all a teen can do is practice driving.

The less inexperience teens have driving, the better chance of an accident.

"The worst possible period is the first six months of getting your driver's license," he said.

As for immaturity, Zwonecheck said he thinks there isn't much a teen can do, except for realizing that driving is a privilege.

"Some teens are going to be more mature than others," he said.

But, Zwonecheck said, not only are the teen drivers the dangerous ones.

"Teens, like other drivers, begin to take driving for granted," he said.

He said teen drivers make up 8 percent of the licensed population, but make up 27 percent of crashes, 32 percent of them between 9 p.m. and

Continued to **DRIVE** on Page 5



THE FINAL PHASE

Construction on the building is scheduled to be completed in December. This leaves the stadium as the only major project left to modernize Nebraska's largest high school.



PHOTO BY LINDY MYERS/ REGISTER

Greg Smith, of Waldinger Construction, looks out over the progress of the new stadium. The scheduled completion date is August 2005, but school officials said they are hoping for a completing date of June of that same year.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

A completely air-conditioned school, \$13 million and 27 portables are the result of the renovation project taking place over the last two years that will be completed Dec. 24.

Principal Jerry Bexten said other than the air conditioning, by the end of the year each classroom should have at least one computer and the Internet.

"Hopefully every classroom will have the wiring (for Internet access)," Bexten said.

Vice President of Hawkins Construction Dudley Rinakar said over the summer all phases were completed on time or ahead of schedule.

"The main office was completed a phase before schedule," Rinakar said. "If there were any conflicts we handled them."

FIRE SPRINKLERS

Bexten said another portion of the \$13 million goes to fire alarms and sprinklers.

Total Fire Protection, a subcontractor of Hawkins Construction, is installing the new fire sprinklers.

Engineer Darin Syverson said an entirely new sprinkler system is being installed, and there has to be a sprinkler every 15 square feet in the classrooms to fit regulation.

"There are codes telling us how close the (sprinkler) heads have to be together," he said. "If it's in a storage room, there obviously have to be more sprinklers."

He said the process of installing the sprinkler heads and pipelines to them has taken about three years, with as many as six men working at one time.

Rinakar said now that school has started putting in the fire sprinklers has to be done after school hours because they only have authorization to work during the day on the third floor.

"There is always someone at school until 10 (p.m.)," he said.

Rinakar said because many of the sprinklers need to be put in on landings, construction workers and engineers have stayed late to finish the job.

Syverson said even though they have to work around the school's hours since the semester began, they are on schedule with the renovation phases with no extra time allotted for phase 7.

He said Total Fire Protection doesn't necessarily test the sprinklers in the school.

"They (the sprinklers) are tested in the factory," he said. "We can't test them in schools because if one is activated, it has

Continued to **BUILD** on Page 4



PHOTO BY ANNE KLINE/ REGISTER

Nancy Thompson, who is running for Congress, says Criterion Reference Tests only give partial data and do not come close to doing what state officials want them to do.

Candidate pushes platform

State senator denounces 'No Child Left Behind'

BY MOLLY MULLEN

The No Child Left Behind law is taking the creativity and individuality from the teachers and putting all weight on testing, State Senator Nancy Thompson said Sept. 1, on the steps of Central to OPS faculty and officials.

Thompson is running for Congress and has taken to expressing her views on the act openly to show the split of opinion between her and her opponent, Lee Terry, who is in support of the law.

"Testing is not the most important thing," Thompson said.

She said it forces schools all over the country to teach the same way.

"Less innovation, less excitement and less time on things that make education personal," she said. "It takes away from U.S. education known for its ability to research and change and update and be creative."

Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson said her problems with this law start with the name.

"No one will admit to wanting to leave children behind at school," Anderson said.

Anderson said the students have to take tests that don't necessarily define what kind of students they are.

"Students should be aware of the federal policy to push testing and not do things that help students, teachers and your schools," Thompson said.

She said she wants to let Nebraska monitor its schools rather than the federal government telling the teachers what to do.

"I want to take the government out of the testing process," she said. "Knowledge should come from the communities instead (of the federal government)."

She said the money spent on Criterion Reference Tests (CRTs) and testing should be used more wisely.

"Let the federal government take money from testing to help schools," she said.

She said with No Child Left Behind teachers will have to start teaching to the tests and make them a priority above curriculum.

Junior Frank Marescalco said it's not the teachers' fault they have to teach to a CRT.

"Sometimes the teachers don't have a choice but to teach to the test because of time constraints," he said.

Marescalco said he only works hard on the tests if it is for an actual grade.

"I don't understand what they are trying to accomplish with the CRTs," he said.

Freshman Derrick Hurd said although the tests aren't helping, he thinks the teachers still have their old curriculum

Continued to **THOMPSON** on Page 3

Supreme Court decision makes religious controversy over 'Pledge'

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Whether or not a student wants to hear or say the phrase "under God" in the "Pledge of Allegiance," it will remain indefinitely due to the United States Supreme Court ruling this June.

English teacher Susan Oles said she has always asked her students to stand every morning regardless of if they choose to say the "Pledge" or not.

"In my classroom I have always had that expectation," she said.

She said standing every morning is showing respect for America's past.

Oles said she personally likes acknowledging God when saying the "Pledge."

"I hate removing God from every aspect of my life," she said. "I hate division over these kind of issues."

She said she believes in God and is fine with leaving the phrase in, but she understands why students choose not to.

"Students are thinking things through and questioning things, and that's what I did when I was that age," Oles said.

Freshman Kim Buckley said everyone should stand and say the "Pledge of Allegiance."

"I have no problem saying it because I believe in God," Buckley said.

She said the phrase should be taken out because it is part of some people's religion not to say it.

Principal Jerry Bexten said any student can choose not to say the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Bexten said if a student had any real objections against saying the "Pledge" he would still expect the student to be respectful and quiet.

"It is an expression of emotional attachment to the country and the flag that represents the country," he said.



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

Junior Mariana Lopez recites the "Pledge" every day.

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CHS Hall of Fame
The latest inductees are chosen to be honored.
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Grixby
The youngest in this football dynasty struts his stuff.
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Group plans for November political races

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Student Democrats sponsor Donna Noll said she has her fingers crossed for the upcoming election.

She said she and other teachers are getting involved by handing out leaflets, and she hopes students will participate as well.

Noll said last election the students were highly involved.

"Kids did a 'get out the vote effort' and took a day off of school," she said.

She said the students have an option of campaigning as a group or finding things to do by themselves, such as calling or leafletting.

"They (Student Democrats) might be the people you see standing on the street corners holding signs," Noll said.

She said a lot of candidates want student support and are asking for the Student Democrats to get involved with the election.

In an effort to get students registered to vote, Noll received mail in registrations for students.

"I have some mail in registration forms," she said.

She said if any student wants a registration form they need to be postmarked by Oct. 15.

"More students need to get registered," Noll said.



NOLL

CALENDAR

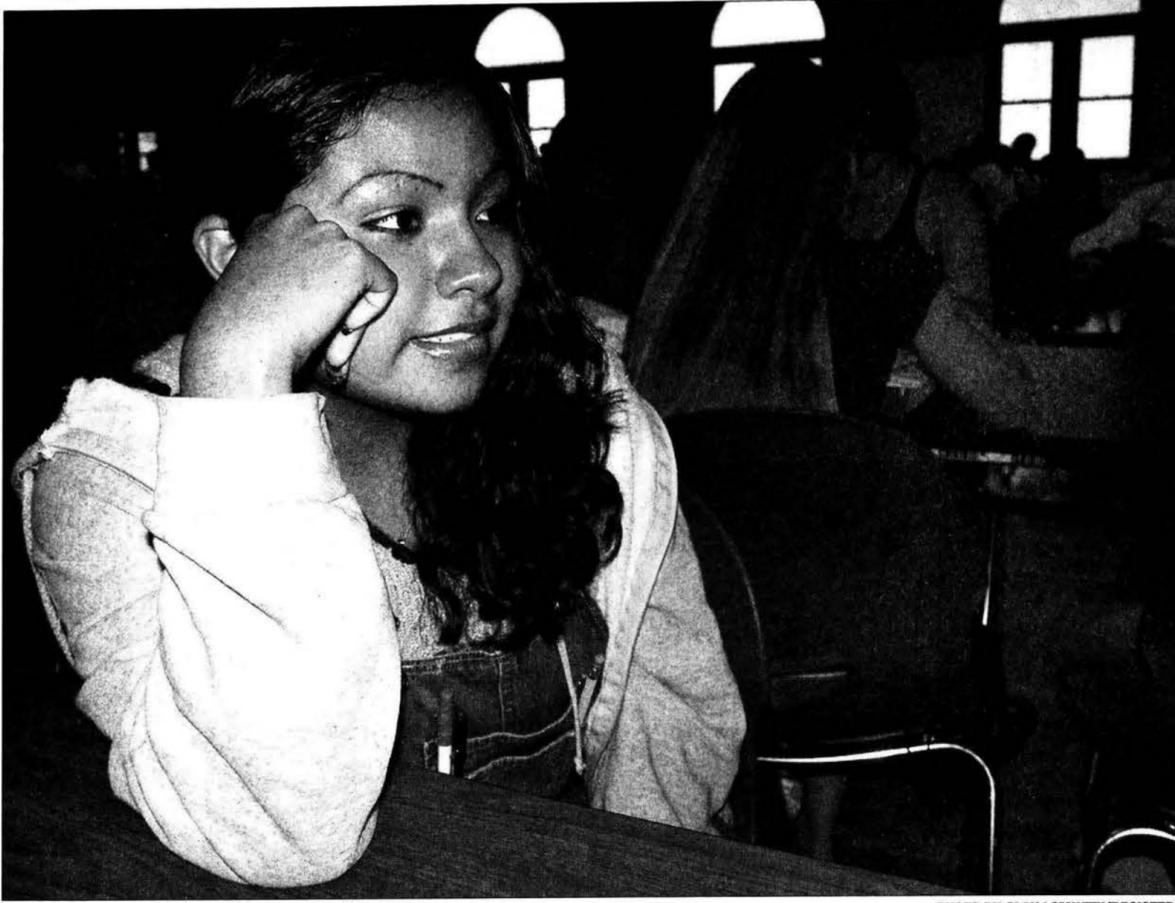


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

ESL student Norma Giron experiences the cafeteria of Nebraska's largest high school and says she likes most things about CHS.

Freshman adjusts to new school's atmosphere

BY MOLLY MULLEN

As Norma Giron concluded her first day as a high school student she realized most of her teachers don't speak her first language.

She soon found out that being in 9th grade will be a lot more difficult than junior high for an English as a Second Language (ESL) student.

She said she has six regular classes and only three ESL classes.

"I think it (ESL) is easier (than other classes) because ESL teachers explain things more slowly and if you don't understand a word they give you time to look it up," Giron said.

Giron was born in Atlixco, Mexico before moving to Manhattan, New York when she was 12.

"It was a whole lot easier in New York because all of my teachers spoke Spanish," she said. "It is a challenge living here."

She said not only was the change between cities a difficult part of her life, but moving up from Norris Middle School to CHS was a challenge as well.

"They give me a lot more homework, like two hours a night," Giron said. "I think that is too much."

She said Central is different because there are so many people and her classes were hard to find.

"You get to know so many people like the staff and security," she said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the staff did a few different things this year to make each freshman start off on the right foot.

"I think we have 700 freshmen this year," he said.

He said the number is significantly higher than the other grades, but some of the class is made up of freshmen who are repeating the grade.

"Part of it is because some kids are not keeping up credit wise, another part of it is students having a difficult transition from middle school to high school," Bexten said.

He said this year there was a different kind of freshmen orientation where it was an evening event.

"Hopefully this year it was more successful," Bexten said. "We got a chance to address the students and the parents so they both hear the same message."

He said almost the entire auditorium was full and there were well over a thousand people in attendance.

The staff also did something different to help freshmen on their first day.

"At the middle of the day, they went back to their homerooms to talk about goals for the year," Bexten said.

He said it will help when progress reports come along so they can see not only how well they are doing on grades, but in other areas as well.

"The teachers thought it was positive," he said.

He said he thinks the ESL teachers do a fine job helping the students get used to Central.

"I think we do a good job and I think there are things we can improve on," Bexten said.

He said the progress of the school fluctuates from individual to individual.

ESL teacher Catherine Kennedy said a big part of ESL is to not only help with language, but to help integrate the students into Central's culture.

She said it is a difficult task to accomplish being an ESL student.

"It is very tough for an ESL student to graduate," Kennedy said. "They have to get all 49 credits. No one drops the bar for them."

She said little things like not writing in cursive on the chalkboard can make all the difference for an ESL student.

"Most teachers in regular classes understand what attention ESL students need and try to help them," Kennedy said.

She said one thing that definitely has an impact on the ESL department is the sense of community between the students and teachers.

"We assist them in activities and counseling (such as ESL club)," Kennedy said. "We tend to be highly involved with our students."

She said they try to help the students by teaching them English and by not speaking their language.

"Even though many of the students are Spanish speaking, not all of the ESL teachers speak Spanish," Kennedy said.

If ESL students need any additional help learning the language Central provides a bilingual liaison.

Kennedy said even the students who come to Central speaking little or no English have a chance at graduation.

Pit Orchestra starts year off with 'Wizard'

BY DEDE HEARTY

Start of the year means the long-held tradition of the school musical and the Pit Orchestra.

The Pit has been around for over 11 years when music teacher Molly Moriarty started conducting at Central.

Pit is starting out practices before joining the rest of the cast in the musical.

Including clarinets, baritone, trombones, and trumpets, Pit is large in comparison to other years, freshman Will Robbins said.

"We have already played through the first act, the Pit seems to be working hard and learning quickly," Robbins said.

Sophomore Brittany Krijan said the music is more challenging than previous years and takes motivation along with dedication and focus.

The orchestra will be playing for the fall musical, "The Wizard of Oz."

Club shows how to swing into new year

BY MALISA MILITZER

The Swing Dance Club is back jumping and jiving to the best 50's dance music in Omaha.

Science teacher Andrea Russo is the sponsor for this year's Swing Dance Club.

"There were a lot of people interested," Russo said.

At this point in the year the club is just beginning to set up and has only begun to be organized.

For three Fridays out of the month, the members take dance lessons at the Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 38 (FOE).

The lessons are not private and are open to everyone.

After the group is taught a number of steps, there is a dance that takes place until midnight. Even if one doesn't want to dance all night, there is a simple thrill out of merely watching the experienced dancers show off their moves.

Russo said all in all the gatherings at the FOE are a good way to learn simple dance moves and possibly even meet new people.

Other practices take place after school in the courtyard on Thursday afternoons.

Girls golf wins OPS tournament

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Regardless of low numbers and a rocky opening to the season, the Girls Golf team had an incredible win in the OPS Invitational Golf Tournament Sept. 15 with three out of five girls ranking in the top 10.

Coach Wendy Brownson said one reason they did so well at the tournament is because of what course they use for practice.

Senior Brandi Smith placed first for third year in a row, junior Deborah Rennard placed third and senior Naomi Rennard placed fourth.

"Well, that (Miller golf course) is where Brandi practices," Brownson said. "We practice at Elmwood with around a par four course, and Miller is only a par three."

She said even though they did well at the invitation, the season has flip-flopped from last year.

This year, other than the OPS tournament, Girls Golf has won one match.



BROWNSON

Fund-raiser raises money to find cure

BY MALISA MILITZER

Special Education teacher Tim Herbert conducted Jeans for Genes, a Cystic Fibrosis fund-raiser (CFF) Friday, Sept. 17.

Herbert described Cystic Fibrosis as a congenital disease usually found in children.

To have the disease both of the child's parents have to be carriers of the virus.

He has been involved in the CFF since his nephew was diagnosed with the disease in 1983 and has become more involved since 1999 when his eldest son was diagnosed.

"There are a lot of genetic disorders," Herbert said. "This is just one of them."

Herbert's fund-raiser consisted of the simple idea of wearing jeans. All teachers had to do was pay \$5 to the CFF and they would be allowed to slack off on the Omaha Public Schools faculty dress code and wear jeans.



HERBERT

Bus routes around CHS newly changed

BY MOLLY MULLEN

The Metro Area Transit (MAT) bus routes are in the process of being changed or eliminated, and some students using public transportation to get home, might have to find a different stop, MAT marketing director Linda Barritt said.

She said MAT does as much as possible for outreach so people know of the changes, such as information cards, the Internet and newsletters.

"It is an inconvenience to the public and we (MAT) regret having to do it," Barritt said.

Because of gas prices and few riders, it makes sense to discontinue some lines and change the MAT bus route system all together.

The blue, red and green lines downtown are being affected.

So are the bus lines that travel to Offut Air Force base.

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Upcoming Events

October

1 (FRI.) Homecoming Football Game

Central plays Bellevue West at 7 p.m. at Bergquist Stadium. A senior tailgate party took place before the game.

2 (SAT.) Homecoming Dance

The dance takes place at Norris Middle School and runs from 7:30-11:30pm. A dress code is enforced.

5-7 (TUES.-THURS.) Underclass Photos

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will have their yearbook photos taken in the dramatorium.

7 (THURS.) Hall of Fame Banquet

8 (FRI.) Faculty and Senior Photos

11-12 (MON.-TUES.) Girls State Golf

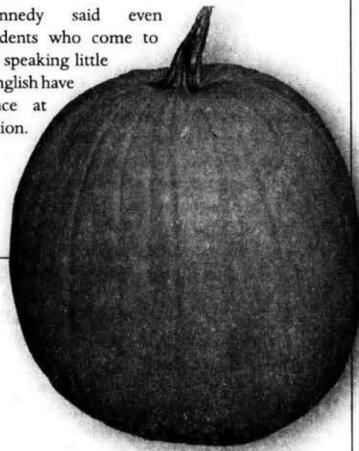
13-15 (WED.-THURS.) State Softball

18 (MON.) Instrumental Music Concert

The concert starts at 7 p.m. on the stage.

22 (FRI.) State Cross Country

27 (WED.) First Quarter Ends



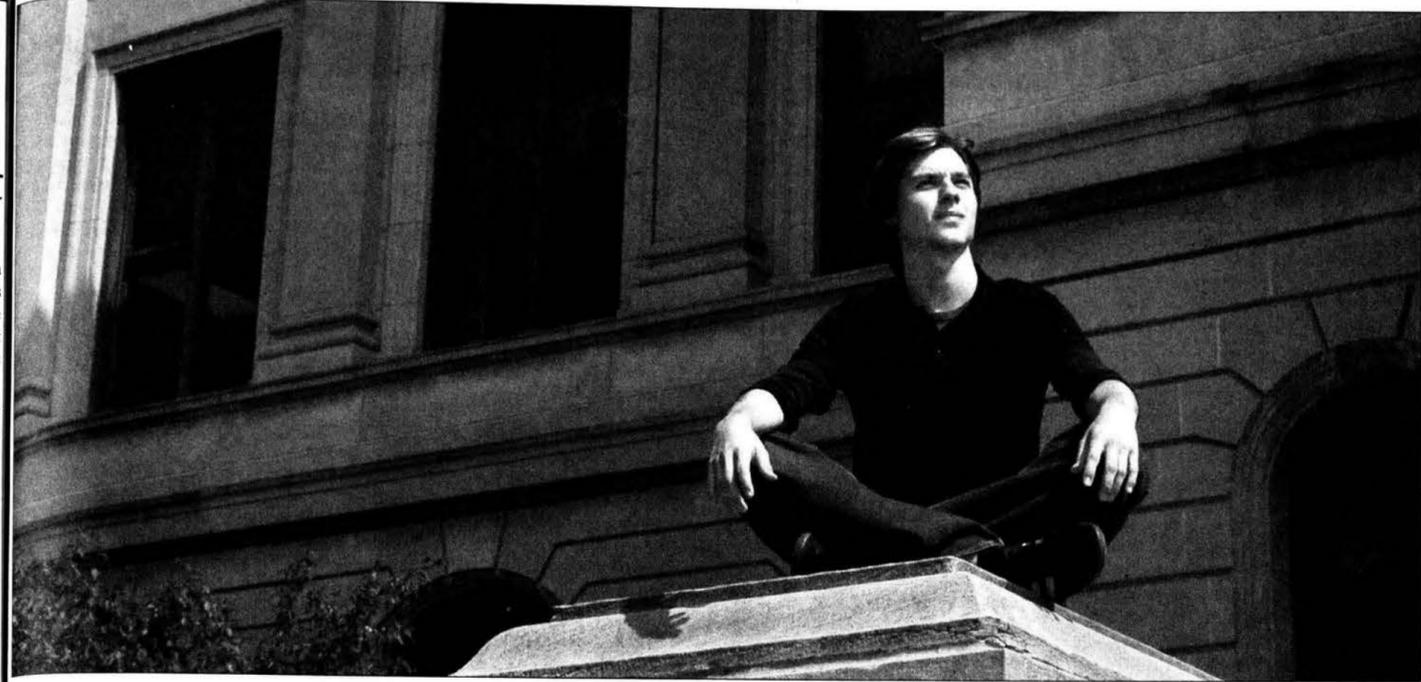


PHOTO BY DEDE HEARITY/REGISTER

Alex Wanitschke said the biggest difference between America and Germany is the educational standards. He said education was more important in the United States.

Exchange student grabs spotlight in fall musical

BY DEDE HEARITY

Smart, funny and talented German boy seeks fun and enjoyable American high school for one year.

Senior Alex Wanitschke was placed in Omaha through his exchange program Youth For Understanding.

He said he also has friends placed through the same organization in England, Honduras and France.

The program allows each student to go abroad for a year.

Drama teacher John Gibson said he is undertaking the role of the great and powerful Oz in this fall's musical "The Wizard of Oz."

"He has a wonderful voice and he just sold himself so well," Gibson said.

He said he did not realize Wanitschke was a foreign exchange student during his audition.

He said when the musical was chosen he had ideas of who would be in the cast, but new

and up coming talent is always around.

"That's really one of the very big surprises I had here. I am really happy about that and will do the best I can," Wanitschke said.

With Wanitschke playing the part, Gibson said he modified a few things to make him a more frightening character.

"(I) augmented some lines to German," Gibson said.

Gibson said Wanitschke's addition to the musical was opening up another opportunity to give someone new to theater an option and to add creative levels with the stereotypes of Oz.

Gibson said he is becoming more American very quickly.

"(His) lines (are) already memorized," Gibson said.

Wanitschke said in addition to his full extra-curricular schedule he is also taking many honors classes.

"I have a very busy schedule, but that's actually my own fault, because I want to catch

as many activities as possible," Wanitschke said.

He said with all these commitments he never gets bored and it is a healthy busy schedule, but enjoys not having to be home until later.

He said America is different from Germany where not as many extra-curricular activities are available, but Germany offers more class choices than American school system.

Wanitschke said when arriving in the United States, he did not suffer any real culture shock.

He said the lack of difference between nations was surprising.

He thought Americans would be a lot different than they are.

He said he thought the boys would have shorter hair and girls would be fully covered, much like in the '50s.

"It's a very big school," Wanitschke said. "It's more than four times bigger than my old

school in Germany."

He said the biggest difference between the United States and Germany are the educational standards.

He said he believed in Germany, school and education is not as important as it is here.

"I think the relationship between the teachers and students are better," Wanitschke said.

He said he enjoys the fact that the grocery stores and malls in this country contain twice the variety as in Germany and he likes American fast food.

"I speak to my family about once a month," Wanitschke said.

He said he chose not to talk to his parents more often than once a month because for the time being he is living here not back in Germany.

When returning home, Wanitschke said he has two more years of school and then must spend time doing a social duty or being in the German military.

Public schools should be state government's top priority, teacher says

'THOMPSON' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and teaching to federal government tests is not an issue.

"I really don't like them," he said. "They mean nothing and they're boring."

He said he doesn't know anyone who tries really hard on CRTs and he doesn't take them seriously.

Thompson also doesn't see the significance.

"No Child Left Behind was passed because the president and Congress wanted to say they did something (about public education)," Thompson said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said the students who do not take the tests to the best of their ability have an effect on the overall score, but there are enough students who take them seriously to make Central's scores stand out.

"We met adequate yearly progress," he said.

Because of the CRT scores, Central won't face any repercussions from the federal government.

"The standard is going up again this year so hopefully we can meet and exceed the expectation," he said.

Bexten said most students choose to do well on the tests because of personal pride and want to see themselves succeed.

"Many students have a positive attitude on the CRTs," he said.

Thompson said the federal government's intentions were not good and they weren't thinking of the benefit of public school students and teachers.

"(No Child Left Behind) Makes a certain group of people look like they're doing something," she said.

Thompson said there is no common sense in this law.

Anderson said it isn't helping OPS in any way because if Central is considered a failing school, it can lose its federal funding, but if it is a passing school it won't receive any additional money.

"We are losing money over No Child Left Behind," Anderson said.

If a school does not do well as a whole on the CRTs, ultimately the faculty can be fired and the school can lose its federal funding.

"(No Child Left Behind) takes away resources from the schools that need help," Thompson said.

She said the law is unfair because it only focuses on part of a student's schedule.

"Math and reading take away from the wide variety of things in schools," Thompson said. "What they're doing is putting a higher value on some subjects."

Anderson said English and math are important, but other classes help shape the student's character.

She said Spanish is a class just as important as math.

"Reading, writing and math are important for functioning in the community, but there are other things that make a person an individual," she said.

Thompson said before the CRTs the state had to complete standardized tests it had for years such as School-Based Teacher-

Lead Assessment Reporting System (STARS).

"We have another pile of tests like STARS to make sure students are at the level they should be," Thompson said. "We already have accountability in testing."

Thompson said the funding for schools in Nebraska and across the country is lower than it should be, and doesn't think we will soon get the money our school needs.

She said the country's school systems are down around \$500 million.

"Out of all the years I have been teaching here they (schools) haven't been funded like they should," Anderson said.

Anderson has been using the same Spanish book in her class for 10 years, and the new books she should receive are four years overdo.

She said the governor and Legislature are putting all of Nebraska's money in the areas that are less important than public schools like building more roads.

"To me, the number one priority should be public schools and it's not," she said. "When you have 'x' amount of dollars you spend it on what you need most. Just look around the building, we don't have computers in the classroom. We are darkening in circles to do our grades instead of using the computer."

She said there are two things the government needs to do, fix and fund, and with No Child Left Behind, the funding is going to tests rather than textbooks and computers.

"It's a big change that's being implemented," Thompson said, "and a gigantic shift comes at a cost."

COLLEGE CORNER



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

Dakota State University

Where: Madison, South Dakota
Admission: 91% of applicants admitted
Type: Public four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,433
Popular Majors: Computer Sciences, Business, and Health Sciences
Application Deadlines: N/A

Xavier University

Where: Cincinnati, Ohio
Admission: 88% of applicants admitted
Type: Private four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 3,819
Popular Majors: Communications, Education, and Social Sciences
Application Deadlines: N/A

University of Minnesota: Twin Cities

Where: Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
Admission: 75% of applicants admitted
Type: Public four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 26,972
Popular Majors: Engineering Technologies, Biology, and Business
Application Deadlines: Priority Date December 15

Oglethorpe University

Where: Atlanta, Georgia
Admission: 70% of applicants admitted
Type: Private four year university and liberal arts college
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,070
Popular Majors: Psychology, History, and Communications
Application Deadlines: Priority Date December 30

University of Texas at San Antonio

Where: San Antonio, Texas
Admission: 99% of applicants admitted
Type: Public four year university
Undergraduate Enrollment: 15,643
Popular Admissions: Public Administration, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Business
Application Deadlines: Priority Date April 1

Hawaii Pacific University

Where: Honolulu, Hawaii
Admission: 84% of applicants admitted
Type: Private four year university and liberal arts college
Undergraduate Enrollment: 6,313
Popular Majors: Liberal Arts, Psychology, English
Application Deadlines: Priority Date April 1



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Lack of funds, other priorities cause officials to pass on laptops

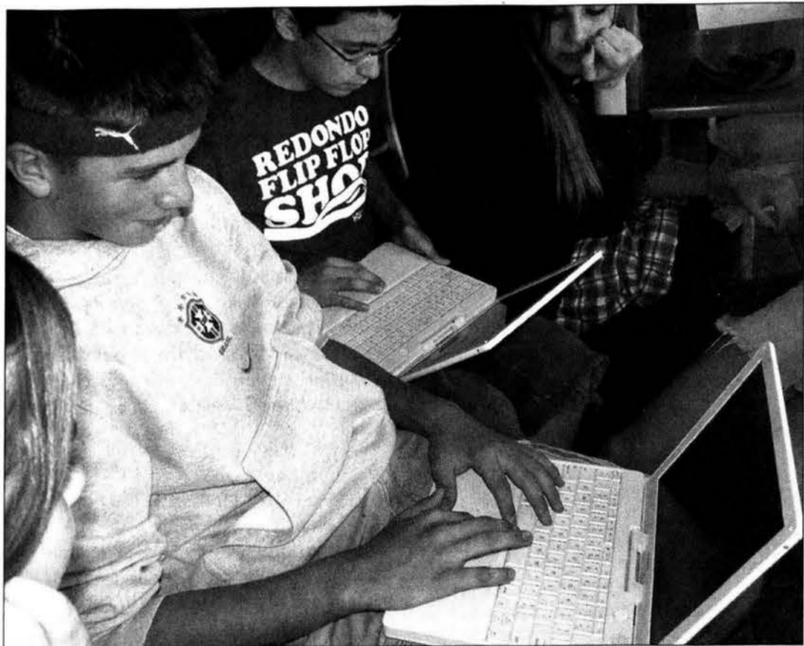


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Westside freshmen Zach Sitherd (left) and Kyle Ladd use wireless Internet across the street from their school at a coffee house using their free laptops from the district.

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Central will not be receiving laptops any time soon due to a lack of money.

On Sept. 15, Westside High School gave out laptops to students. The laptops, which will be used for school purposes only, were given to every student for free.

The laptops are G4 iBooks, and are usually priced around \$1,300, but because of a bulk order of 1,900, the laptops cost around \$900 instead. For Central to receive laptops for the same price, it would cost around \$2,160,000.

Freshman Adam Hankins has a laptop at home he uses for school assignments. He said his computer does help, but said he wishes there were laptops at school he could use.

Freshman Zach Sipherd of Westside High School received his laptop on Sept. 15. He said the laptop has been helpful so far in his classes, though not all classes are on the Internet yet.

So far, Sipherd said, only his civics and science classes are on the Internet. He said the biggest advantage of the computers was the fact that working with them is faster.

Kent Kingston director of technology from Westside, said there was extra money in the budget to pay for the laptops for all the students.

Just like most materials such as books, the laptops will be checked out and handed back in at the end of the year. Kingston said perhaps the laptops will be able to be checked out during the summer.

Kingston said so far, not only has the feedback from students been positive, but the whole community welcomed the laptops. There has been no negative feedback, Kingston said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said laptops for Central have not been considered.

"It requires a pretty extensive outlay of dollars," he said.

Bexten said there would be advantages and disadvantages of using laptops if Central had the budget for it.

One advantage would be doing projects and communications between students and teachers. He also said there would be more flexibility.

"Basically any room you walk into becomes a computer lab," Bexten said.

Sophomore Perrin Adams said she would have a use for a laptop if Central ever offered them. She said a computer would be especially useful when writing take-home themes in her English class. Also, with a laptop, she said she could do her homework during her free time.

"If they equipped it with all the resources, I could do it in my study hall,"

Adams said.

Freshman Seanna Clemmons said she doesn't think laptops would be a good idea, but more computer labs at Central would be. She said most students would not be mature enough to use laptops, and may lose them.

"If they can't take care of books, how are they going to take care of laptops?" Clemmons said.

The laptops at Westside High School were able to be purchased because the technology budget was rearranged, Kingston said.

Eventually the students will get e-mail addresses and teachers will set up electronic drop-boxes.

Other programs will be downloaded to the computers if a student has a use for them.

"We would like to see less money spent for textbooks and paper," Kingston said.

Principal of Westside High School John Crook said he agrees the laptops will help the students' success.

Bexten said there is not a possibility for Central to receive laptops.

Bexten said laptops were not in the foreseeable future at Central. But added one had asked someone if there would be a stadium outside Central 10 or 15 years ago they would have said 'not in the foreseeable future.'

Portable classrooms may still be needed after renovations, official says

■ 'BUILD' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be replaced."

There are other tests that are done on the sprinklers and fire alarms.

"We can test the flow of the water to see if it is getting to each head," he said.

AIR CONDITIONING

Bexten said all the money for the air conditioning and heating system is coming from a bond issue.

He said although the money for the stadium was donated, the \$13 million for renovations is tax payer money.

Adam Nabar, Project Manager of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., said the cost per month for the heating and air conditioning is figured by the hot and cold water pumped to Central.

"Chilled water is pumped underground by Energy Systems," he said. "The cost comes from tapping into their water."

He said Energy Systems is a company that pumps cold and hot water underground throughout the city so homes, businesses and schools can tap into the water for heating and cooling purposes.

Nabar said as much as half of the renovations money could have gone to the air conditioning including the air socks, the pipes that tap into Energy System's water and electrical wiring.

Bob Mumm, Project Manager of Pitlor and Sons Air Conditioning, said the duct socks that travel through many classrooms and the courtyard are an easy choice of material.

"When there is no air going through them they lie flat (against the courtyard walls)," Mumm said. "It's just like blowing up a balloon."

He said a lot of time and money went into tearing out walls for the duct socks and setting them up.

"There is a big piping loop in the center of the building that all of the individual socks start," Nabar said.

Terry Page, program manager of Jacob's, said installing the air conditioning has been going on since April 2002 and

will be completed by Dec 24.

Page said Central's old heating system is not being taken out, but it will no longer be used.

"The duct socks will be used in the winter as well (as heaters)," Page said.

ROOM MOVES

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said even if the rooms are done by Sept. 24 no one can move into them for up to two weeks.

"We have to do additional painting and cleaning after the rooms are done," Semrad said.

He said by the end of December almost all the portables should be unoccupied.

"I'd be surprised if they actually moved them out before spring," he said.

Semrad said that might be a positive if something happens where after first semester there is a need for an extra portable.

Semrad said on the fourth floor where the kitchen used

to be will be made into classrooms this summer.

"Most likely there will be math classes (on the fourth floor)," he said.

Semrad said another big move will be Special Education from 029 up to the third floor.

"Special Education will get rooms 332 and 334 and will also remain in 233," he said. "In the middle there is offices for the teachers, which is fantastic."

He said his plans for each room is still tentative.

"The final room decision is based on enrollment," Semrad said. "I think after doing this for 15 years I know what can happen this way."

Freshman Chelsea Conn said she was glad the renovations were ending her first year.

"It's a hassle, but it is kind of worth it because everything will be okay after Christmas," Conn said.

She said she is excited for her portable classes to be moved in the building.

She said freshmen just need to get used to the renovation because the school will be changing so much.



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Class of 1939



Charles J. Marr
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John Jones
Class of 1952



Kenneth Stephan
Class of 1964



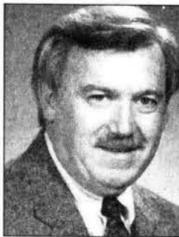
Ray D. Gaines
Class of 1950



William Marshall Roark
Class of 1956



John L. Holland
Class of 1938



Max Kennedy
Class of 1953



Tracy Benning
Class of 1982



Josephine Frisbie
CHS Teacher

Police say teens emulate parents' reckless driving

■ 'DRIVE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Zwonecheck said targeting teen drivers to a point was fair because the police are there to keep people safe.

"The last thing they want to do is go to a crash scene then have to tell the parents," he said.

Pat Venditte teaches Driver's Education at Cornhusker Driving School.

Every year he tells his students statistics about teen drivers and also drivers in general, but he doesn't know if there is any proof that police target teens.

Along with telling his students driving statistics, he also reminds them how important driving is.

"Driving is a privilege, it has to be treated like a privilege," Venditte said.

Sophomore Chiara Viececi said she doesn't believe the police have a bias towards teens.

Viececi said she believes that police pull people over if the car has tinted windows, loud music, if too many people were in the car or if the car was swerving.

Viececi said police do target teen drivers more than other drivers, but in some ways it's fair.

The downtown teen program director Orentheian Everett spends a lot of time with teens.

He said teens are good drivers, until they get involved in things such as drugs, alcohol and not paying attention.

"Teens become reckless drivers when they make bad decisions," Everett said.

He said most teens' poor driving is a direct reflection on the parents.

As far as fairness when it comes to police targeting teen drivers, Everett said it would only be fair if the area where the driver was had a history of teens' bad driving.

Anywhere outside that, Everett said, would not be fair.

Inductees remember traditions, prestige

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Alumna Lois Durham said students have it easier now that they can cut through the courtyard to get to classes.

"The snow was so deep we had to go around," Durham said.

She said most of her memories were of her classmates. "I knew a lot of people from other schools, but Central was like home," Durham said.

Durham is being awarded this year in the Central High School Hall of Fame for her work in WWII as a pilot.

The dinner begins at 6 p.m. on Thurs. Oct. 7, and the awards are presented at 7:30.

She said she still talks to people from high school after graduating in 1939 or reads about them in the newspaper.

She said a lot has changed since she attended.

"I used to get a quarter a week from my father to ride the bus," she said. "I walked home from school and saved up for a pair of earrings I still have."

She said traditions like Roadshow and Central's academic excellence never change.

She said Central helped her prepare for college.

After attending Doane College, she enlisted as part of the Women's Air Force Surface Pilots (WASP).

"I had been flying since sophomore year," she said.

Durham said she had always wanted to fly planes.

"My father took me out to Fort Cook to see the planes come in when I was a baby, and I would go to sleep right after that," she said.

She flew 38 types of airplanes from 1943-44.

Durham has come back to Central for the past four years as part of Women's Overseas League.

She said she loves returning to what used to be her second home.

Kay Corell, chairperson of the CHS Hall of Fame dinner and Awards Ceremony, said there are over 80 nominations a year of alumni hoping to be honorees.

"The committee votes on half, and selects 10," Corell said.

"Anyone can go to see the honorees speeches for free," Corell said.

She said for the fact that the event is relatively new (six years) it has a lot of support.

"We usually have around 250 people show up," she said.

She said all the honorees spoke for a few minutes and also had the opportunity to speak in classes the next morning.

Nebraska Supreme Court Justice and 2004 honoree, Kenneth Stephan said some things at Central will never change.

"It still has the excellent academic reputation it had when I graduated in the sixties and my mother in the thirties," Stephan said.

He said CHS prepared him for life after school.

"I think that having a challenging academic experience in high school and the fact that I was around people who were hard workers and high achievers made it easier to prepare me for college and law school," Stephan said.

He said he is glad to be part of the Hall of Fame.

I keep asking myself the question, "Why are they honoring me?" he said.

Stephan said he remembers getting to school and trying to find a parking spot, playing trumpet in marching band and managing the Roadshow, but there are a lot of changes.

"I went there when they still had the boys and girls staircases and the courtyard was open," he said. "Recently was the first time I've ever been in an air conditioned room at Central High School," Stephan said.

He said he likes the fact that the hallways look exactly the same, and the physical building is unchanged.

"It's comfortable to know it's (Central) just the way it was when I left, and even when my mother graduated," Stephan said.

Stephan said he still remains a part of Central and goes to the state basketball tournaments when the Eagles play.

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EDITORIALS

CENTRAL'S CROWDED HALLS?!



Congested hallways can be easily fixed

The crowding at the 'C' is not an excuse to be late to class, but it can still take minutes to get through Central's main lobby because of all the congestion. The first week of school principal Jerry Bexten offered alternate routes to and from the portables, other than the three side.

A very few amount of students actually use these routes, the majority still uses doors by the 'C'.

It is ridiculous how crammed it is. People are pushing each other and yelling. It's just a matter of time before something happens and a fight breaks out.

How long will it take just for security to push their way through students crowding around to watch? In that few extra seconds it would take security to get

to the fight, something bad could happen. People push and shove everyday, but the security can't do anything about it. They can't chase someone through a slow moving current going to opposite direction.

It's chaos. When people push, no one knows who did it, people are just trying to get out as quickly as possible. No courtesy is given, and by now, none is expected.

The only thing security can do is yell from their desk in the corner, telling people to move quickly and not to just stand by the 'C' and wait for friends. Yet there are still those few students who have their hearts set on making the busiest area of school their meeting place.

Administration post security at other exits and suggest their usage. Maybe going in the 4 side doors is a little bit out of the

way, but students who use them end up getting to their classes faster by avoiding the 'C'.

It doesn't seem like there isn't anything more anyone can do, other than working around the 'C'. With the building the way it is, and renovations making things difficult to get to, the struggle at the 'C' seems to be something students and teachers have to live with. Last year the renovations only left two exits to the portables, but even now with a few more the situation has not improved.

When visitors come to school and are caught on the three side are in an unfortunate situation with

The only way to avoid it is to add more doors and have fewer students, but neither is a possibility.

People need to move faster, be more patient and find another way out of the building or all of the tension at the 'C' will eventually explode.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

Grandmother's death forces teen to look at life

When my mom came upstairs to tell me my grandmother died, I didn't cry. I stared blankly ahead, regretting what I hadn't done in the time I knew her.

After a year of living with my grandma, I thought I would have gotten a chance to know her better.

It seemed a bit awkward when she first moved in, but it didn't really affect my life. I talked to her when I walked by her room, and helped her do little things she had lost the ability to do herself.

Then, my life became busy, and I grew irritated when she asked for help. I stopped spending as much time with her and instead went out with friends, or did my homework. I grew disgusted by the ever-lingering smell of coffee in the house, which she drank constantly.

I began to feel guilty that I was doing so many other things, but at the time, it seemed natural to keep busy. I figured I would always have more time later. Perhaps when Winter Break finally came, I could find time to sit and talk with her like I used to.

She suddenly became sick, but I didn't worry. I had no doubt she would get better and life would resume as normal. I was certain she would somehow make a miraculous recovery and the bustling Medicaid personnel would leave.

It was too hard to accept the concept of death, and the surreal atmosphere only baffled me more. I felt nothing but disbelief, which I couldn't really acknowledge at the time.

Some societies seem to deal with death rather frankly. Yet ours seems to be one that avoids it all together, or laughs it off.

People often become silent and concerned, and just stare blankly or sympathetically when the subject is brought up.

I too tried to ignore it all together. I stopped by her room occasionally, trying to think of something meaningful to say, even if she could no longer hear it.

"She's stopped drinking liquids now; she probably won't live more than a few days." The words were said in a stony, emotionless voice. I glared at the Doctor, wondering if I had sounded so cold when I had irritably brought my grandmother coffee in the early morning.

We counted down the days until Christmas. Two days before, my mother woke me up, her eyes welling up with tears. All I felt was a hollow emptiness.

It was surreal having someone die in my home. As I walked down the stairs, I saw her bed. Hesitantly, I walked in. Her flowered nightgown fluttered slightly in the fan breeze, yet no longer rose in the rhythm of her breathing.

Aside from the chalky look in her pallid cheeks, she looked like she was simply sleeping.

I stood there silently, wishing I could have gone back and spent more time talking with her or cheering her up in the gloomy threat of her death. But I knew I couldn't, and in the numb silence of disbelief, I left the room.

Three days later, as I stared at her casket sinking into the ground, I realized I could no longer avoid reality.

She was dead, and for the first time since she became sick, I bit back bitter tears.



NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY

A Column by Lauren Crist

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Junior finds way through depression, dark images

Visiting hours at the Mercy Psychiatric ward are from 6 to 8 p.m.

Visiting hour is the only ray of light during the drab and colorless day.

All day you sit there and have group therapy.

By the end of your crappy airline breakfast you pray for the day to end, for your parents to come and take you home.

But until the nurses who have never known any of the things that have happened to you and who only think of you as some punk kid who needs a dose of reality says

you need a medication adjustment and a few more days in the ward, can you go home.

As I sat in my room, waiting for my parents, wearing one of those hospital gowns they give to you to wear while they're checking your clothes for razor blades or narcotics, I sat there with my head in my hands and wondering, "Jesus, how did it come to this?"

I sat there on the floor, cold and vulnerable, looking at the scars that crisscrossed my arm and thought, these scars will be here forever, these scars which in moments of absolute anguish I etched into my arm just to feel something besides indifference or hatred of myself.

Suddenly my parents walked into my room interrupting my thoughts, their shoes squeaking on the cold linoleum.

Their fake smiles were already plastered on their faces, smiles that said it's all okay, nothing's the matter, but in their hearts my parents knew they could have lost their son, their child who from the seventh grade had a shadow cast over his entire consciousness, everyday gray and barren, hating himself for no reason, everything good was tarnished to him by this sickness he could not get rid of.

"How's it going?" my dad asked. Great, real great, I muttered, I mean here I am having the time of my life in a freaking psychiatric ward. "Well," my dad continued, "Mary called for you today and she's really worried about you, when I talked to her she was crying."

Then my mom told me how Alex, Ricky and Andrew Niemann had worried

about me since they heard I was in the ward. Tears began to roll down my face just hearing my friend's names.

My mom sat down on the bed, the bed that was bolted to the floor so you couldn't push it against the door to keep the nurses away, and she looked me in the eye and told me, "Andrew you are going to beat this."

As I looked at her tired, bloodshot eyes, from many nights of crying, it dawned on me that my life, and actually all of our lives, is transitory, and that inevitably this whole ordeal would end.

And for the first time in a long time I was thinking clearly, and in of all places, this place of cold linoleum floors and baggy hospital gowns, I thought of Mary, Ricky and Alex and Niemann and how this all affected them.

How many times had I seen Mary sitting by herself, silently worrying, until she couldn't take it anymore and broke into tears?

She cried for me and the least I could do is start over back at square one and just try to go back to the way it was.

After my parents left and visiting hour was over, I got my clothes back and I put them on in a hurry because I was sick of those hospital gowns.

Those terribly thin outfits with the faded flower imprints that hang off your body like an old Halloween costume.

Wearing those things automatically make you feel vulnerable and weak. They remind me of the old bed sheets you use to make a ghost costume.

Everything about the ward reminds me vaguely of Halloween. Everything is fake. Everyone is wearing a mask.

I knew soon after that I would never have to come back to the ward. No matter what happened I would never lose sight of how much my friends cared, and I would never let something like that cripple me again.

I stood up and walked out into the hallway where one of the nurses, a short pretentious lady, told me that group therapy was in a few minutes.

I told her proudly how I thought I was ready to go home. She responded only by pointing to the therapy room.



SURPRISING EVERYONE

A Column by Andrew Reinwald

Special relationships bring out best in young people

I will never meet another person like him in my life.

He is the only person who I have ever loved so much and the only man who will ever love me as much in return.

When I first moved in with my father in the summer of 2003, I wasn't sure what our relationship might turn out to be.

I was scared it would be another unhealthy situation I was put in, but I gave him a chance.

My skepticism played a number on the way I thought about him.

I don't remember when I began to realize the rumors I heard were nothing but lies, but I do remember that it was a relief.

It is a rare occurrence when I extend any trust to anyone, so it was even more rare that I would give all of my to one person.

There are many excuses I could use to explain why it took me so long to realize that one day I would value my dad's opinion over anyone else's.

Over the past year my dad was there to comfort me when I needed someone more than ever.

Both my home life and my school life had gone into a swirl of changes that even now seem to be overwhelming.

Whenever I thought I couldn't talk to anyone about my problems, I turned to him for support; when I was going through a big break in family ties on my mother's side. As I spent more time with my dad I realized what I have with him can replace all the other dysfunctional relationships in my life.

While my mother's side of the family was falling apart, he taught me how to control my feelings and put them into something that was healthy for me as well as the people around me.

He helped me rearrange my social life to fit the lifestyle I wanted.

Before last year, it had been three years since I could remember a report card without failing grades and suddenly I was making honor roll.

Everything was effected by my realization that my father was the only person in my life to put me before themselves.

He didn't make me feel as if he was obligated to care about me. It has been so much easier to make it through each day with him continuously pulling me.

There is absolutely no reason for us to get along so well. We are completely different and identical at the same time.

My dad has everything that I want in life: a stable family, a social life that is never faulty and a number of interesting talents. He plays soccer and I couldn't play a sport to save my life.

He has a sense of humor that can make my heart extremely light, even in times when I feel as if I have no heart at all; whereas I failed to have any sense of humor before him.

The confidence that my dad has given me, and the respect that he taught me to feel both for myself and others around me has revived my spirit.

Most people are never going to have one person with whom they can spend every day with and can base their life on the love of that one person.

It's an entirely normal thing to have multiple best friends because one friend may be able to offer a part of themselves to you that no other can.

I can count on one hand how many true friends I've had and although each friend had at one time given something to me that I could not acquire by myself.

No one can stand a chance against my father, who I have found to be the most inspirational part of my life.



WALK THIS WAY

A Column by Malisa Miltzer

04-05 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).

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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.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged.

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OPINION

"Our freshmen football team is off to a good start, but nobody seems to come cheer us on. It seems like freshmen are the pests of the school and it's bothering me."

Richard Harrison (9)

More to Halloween than Trick-or-Treat

Going to the pumpkin patch just manifests all of the fears I have near round by making the belief in ghosts and evil spirits the norm.

I remember when I was little reading the different limericks and rhymes on the tombstones describing funny ways people could die. Epitaphs described how Sam Brown slipped in her pool and drowned.

I was walking along the little path with my mom having a good time reading the clever poems before I got to the last one that simply read "You are



NOT GONNA TO LIE TO YOU

A Column by Molly Mullen

next." I was so creeped out I couldn't stop thinking about it.

That moment perfectly describes what the feeling of Halloween should be, scared and caught off guard at the same time. It's perfect because it rarely happens. I go to horror movies expecting to be frightened, so having a truly scary moment is exactly what I hope for on my way to the pumpkin patch, but I never expect it.

The pumpkin patch is one of the very few places on earth where I can feel like I belong outdoors. My hayfever doesn't bother me and neither does sitting on sticky picnic benches eating caramel apples until my teeth hurt.

Even though I eventually grew out of trick-or-treating, I am never going to grow out of going through the corn maze or on hayrack rides.

It's the one place that keeps Halloween the same every year because visiting the pumpkin patch is the closest thing to a tradition in my family. It is so important to us and so special my sister wants to open her own.

The smell of burning wood is one of the biggest sense memory triggers for me. No matter what season it is, when I smell fire I think of Fall and the pumpkin patch.

Most of my friends have accompanied me on my early migration out to Nowhere, Nebraska, so that means a lot of memories go along with it. I have photos of myself as young as a toddler trying to lift a giant pumpkin, or sticking my tiny head through a wooden cut out of a

witch or astronaut.

Returning to the pumpkin patch doesn't make me feel like a child again when I remember a lot of old memories, instead it makes me realize I have never grown up.

I still go and watch the pig races, I reach into the cauldron and pull out a bunch of plastic spider rings and wear one on each finger. I still walk through that fairy tale

barn built for the height of five year old, and I'm still too young to try the haunted house. I'm 16 years old and have never gone inside the haunted

house.

I just wait while my parents and sister and friends take their turns.

The closet I've ever been is the haunted hay rack ride.

The only reason I can handle that is because the cart is moving, and I couldn't get off even if I wanted to. Who would want to get off in the middle of a cornfield surrounded by twists and turns and goblins and chain saw murderers?

It's good to have a place like the pumpkin patch where I have only good memories. I eat until I am sick, buy gourds and giant pumpkins and take them home to decorate for the trick or treaters.

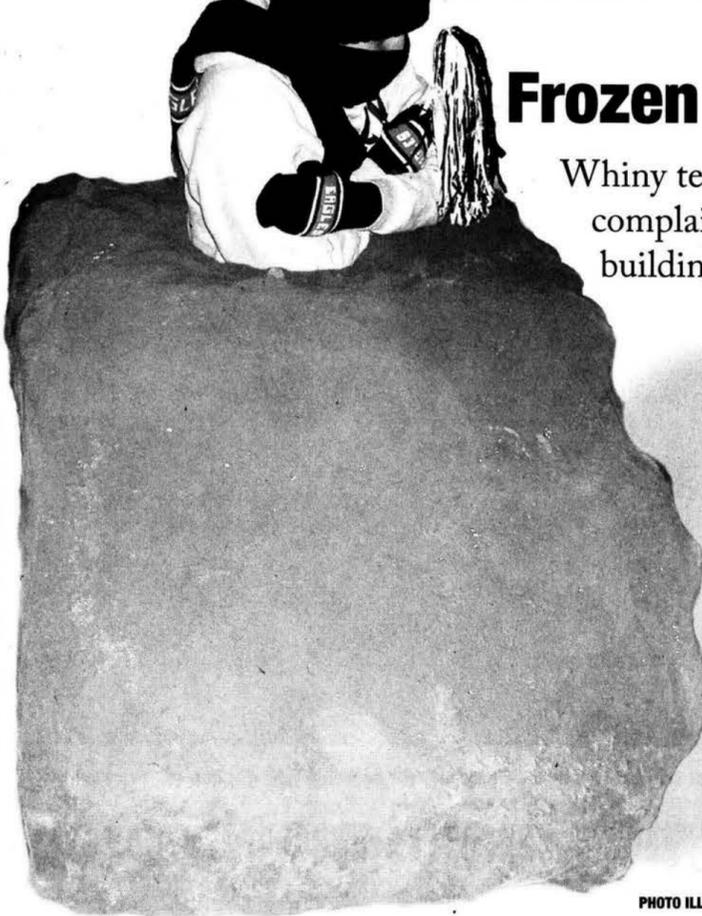
Not going to a pumpkin patch to get pumpkins defeats the season.

You have to go miles away to get a few misshapen pumpkins even if you go to Hy-Vee the next day to get more generic ones.

Not going is like getting a plastic Christmas tree instead of going out to a tree farm in the cold of winter to find one yourself.

Halloween is hands down my favorite holiday. It's the only time of year I get to see the movie "Hocus Pocus" for the 30th time and eat candy that I'm supposed to hand out. I get to watch "Haunted Mansions" or the "Top 20 Most Haunted Places in the World" on the travel channel for hours.

But Oct. 31, the actual celebration day doesn't hold a candle to all the preparation it takes from buying the pumpkins, carving them, decorating the yard, and visiting the pumpkin patch and other various haunted places.



Frozen students

Whiny teens should stop complaining that the building is too cold.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

Never thought you'd hear someone say it's too cold inside Central High School, did you?

People in all classes are talking about how cold it is.

Now that the heat problem has been taken care of, students are actually complaining about the cold air circulating in the courtyard.

Get over it, and do what a lot of others are doing. Bring a sweatshirt to drape over the miniskirt in class, or just wear pants. Be grateful that Central finally has an air-conditioning system.

The air-conditioning system is a step forward for this school and even though Central won't see anymore heat-days at the end of August, the courtyard won't smell like sweat and old garbage.

Heat days were miserable any way anybody looks at it. Students got out at noon, but had to suffer through the heat starting at 9:00 a.m. Teachers would have to blot the perspiration off their faces with neckties and sweat through their suit shirts all day, and for that they only got to leave three hours early. It was not only ridiculously hot, but incredibly humid too.

When students went to class they could see sweat marks and puddles from the kid sitting at that desk the period before.

They couldn't learn. Students would just watch the oscillating fan all hour waiting for the cool air to hit them again. Freshmen couldn't wait for Pathways class so they could sit in a cold computer lab for 40 minutes.

The week after school started it was just cool enough to get out at 2:50, but still miserable and humid.

The humidity was the worst. Sweat would drip off everyone and students changed outfits midday just to keep up with the weather.

Wearing a sweatshirt in class is heavenly compared to the heat days.

So put away the short shorts and tank top for the weekends and welcome the cold air because Central has finally stepped into this century.

The winters weren't any better either. The new air-conditioning system is also taking over the old heater.

Some days in late winter when the weather started to get nice again the heat would still be on.

Teachers had to open windows

to balance out the temperature. No matter what season, Central was always uncomfortable.

Hopefully now classes will be balanced.

Central has always been known for a school that had hot temperatures in the building. When the roof was put over the courtyard it got really bad because all the heat was trapped inside. Now air ducts crawl across the walls of the courtyard evenly dispersing cool air to the otherwise hot and sweaty students.

Every other Omaha Public High School had it first and Westside High school had been air conditioned for years. Dec. 24, Central should be the last high school in the Omaha Public Schools district to be fully air conditioned.

Every time students or teachers walked from the building to a portable and noticed the difference, they should be grateful that within the \$13 million renovation plan a new air-conditioning system was included.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff



LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

School lunch could be better

Dear Editor,
I think that the school food should be different. It should be something different everyday. I also think the lunch lines need to go faster or have more food. It's so slow. I also think lunch should be free for everyone and one should be allowed to drink pop and eat candy during lunch. I also think lunch needs better tasting food. I also think lunch doesn't need to be 40 minutes. That's a long time. I think 20 minutes is long enough. Food and trash shouldn't get thrown on the floor so everyone walks on it. People need to make the floor clean since I'm sure they don't make such a mess at their homes. Food belongs in your mouth and wrappers belong in the trash. It's that simple!

Timothy Robertson (9)

Classroom way too cold

Dear Editor,
The administration seems to be happy about having air conditioning this year, but it is extra cold in some of the classrooms and it's hard to concentrate when you're freezing. Another thing are the hallways. There are too many people in one area at one time, which makes it crowded. A lot of people are complaining about somebody pushing them or stepping on their shoes.

Ny'Elia Vaughn (9)

JROTC deserves much respect

Dear Editor,
I'm currently in my fourth year of JROTC, and thankfully, I've risen through the ranks to become the Eagle Battalion Commander. My bone to pick is with the people who think it's funny to degrade our program. I've heard everything from "Pickles" to "Toilet Cleaners". This just sickens me. JROTC promotes citizenship, patriotism, and military skills. It's much more fun than everyone thinks, and joining up does not mean that you have to join the army.

Erik Sorvellon (12)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the Editor are gladly accepted in room 030, 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.

Overcrowding has easy solution

Dear Editor,
The school needs more lockers and less people who don't deserve to be in our school. Our school should only have bright-minded and intelligent people, who deserve to be in Central.

Jon Lopez (11)

Air conditioning in courtyard overpowers

Dear Editor,
I like the air conditioning in the school, but it is way too cold in the courtyard. I also like the long passing periods. It lets you take your time getting to class.

Andrew Taylor (10)

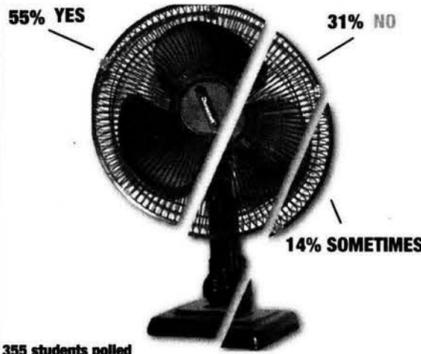
Hoodies needed even during hot months

Dear Editor,
Sometimes the air conditioning is freezing. So much that I need to bring a hoodie in the summer. Also, I think that 7th period lunch never receives the good snacks.

Corey Lynch (10)

STUDENT POLL

Do you think it is too cold in the building?



Team wants a first look

Dear Editor,
Our freshman football team is going off to a great start but nobody wants to come and cheer us on. It seems like freshmen are the pests of high school and it's bothering me. We practice hard for fun and because we want people to see us when we do superstar plays, make interceptions, sacks and all other things.

Richard Harrison (9)

Band should practice elsewhere

Dear Editor,
I think that the band should choose a different place to practice during first hour. It is way too loud so there is no way to concentrate when we are writing themes. I can't think of what to write because it is so loud. I can't imagine what it must be like for the people in the portables because I am on the 2nd floor and it is that loud.

Karl Szczepanowski (11)



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think the new air-conditioning system makes the building too cold?



"It's way too cold. There's air conditioning and then there's too cold. I'd rather have it be too hot."

Carla Schneider (11)



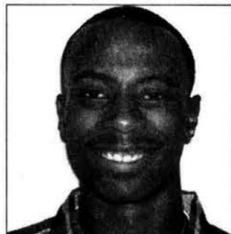
"No. It's nice now that we don't have to sweat all day."

Amber Moses (9)



"I think it is better than being hot. I can just put on a jacket if it gets too cold."

Briana Fuller (10)



"No, it just needs to be organized so every room feels the same way."

Lamar Davis (12)



"I'm glad we have it so we don't have to get dehydrated."

Luis Knotek (9)



"It is completely opposite of last year and that's a good thing."

Kerri Forrester (10)

STUDENT POLL

Who would you vote for?

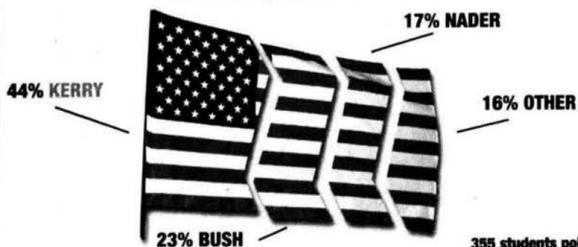




PHOTO COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES
Reese Witherspoon hides her identity and past in 'Vanity Fair.'

MOVIE REVIEW



'Vanity Fair'

Starring: Reese Witherspoon

Actress wows audience with performance

BY MALISA MILITZER

Red velvet laces, cobblestone streets and long, elegantly flowing dresses are just some of the things that pop into one's mind thinking of the newest novel turned movie "Vanity Fair."

The movie is a not-so-classical heart-wrenching tale of a beggar-woman's rise and fall in England through the 1800s.

Although the movie is displayed by some advertisements in a way that make one think one would be going to see a musical and is compared to such a movie as "Moulin Rouge," it is nothing of the sort.

The background sets and colorful costumes give the movie a musical feeling, but once the plot gets moving, one will realize this movie is a long way from a happy-go-lucky film.

This soap-opera-like effort, although pleasing to watch, doesn't show beauty.

The casting is a brilliant handful of semi-famous actors and actresses. The lead roles include Witherspoon, Romola Garai and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers.

Keeping the audience's attention for director Mira Nair was crucial. He succeeded in making every dramatic scene go to the limit of every character's acting ability.

Witherspoon's character was extremely cunning compared to her more famous roles in "Legally Blonde."

Her character's need to be the best and not settle showed through with her performance.

Her wicked love was displayed in such a way that one can't help but love every lie and scheme that she conjures up.

Rhys-Meyers is better known for his Irish soccer coach role in "Bend it like Beckham."

In "Vanity Fair" he goes completely the other way, portraying a character no one can help but hate.

He can be portrayed as a subtle villain with a cover of intentions. In a role that makes one wish the worst for his character he does a magnificent job of acting as the tyrant of the movie.

He does a great job of bringing to life the animosity and sorrow felt by his character and the audience during his on-screen appearances.

Altogether there is no other romance/drama that can surpass "Vanity Fair."

One can't help but fall in love with this true life parade of artsy talent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCREEN GEMS
Milla Jovovich's character has little dialogue in this "Resident Evil" sequel. Maybe it is because she can't act.

Stereotypes make movie predictable

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Expectations for a sequel to a blockbuster based on a video game shouldn't be high. This genre doesn't seem to have the tendency to pump out classics, but even so "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" was below any movie fanatic's standards.

This movie did, however, follow suit with another video game thriller. "Resident Evil" tried to go for that "I am woman, hear me roar" feeling, but just like Angelina Jolie in "Tomb Raider," the movie was geared towards teenage boys who couldn't get passed Milla Jovovich's tight clothes and cleavage to see the strong female character.

Too many side plots that weren't strongly tied together left the audience confused. Its fast pace left no time for any movie movie-goer to realize

that the obviously illogical lost all believability with bad actors and a script anyone who played the game could have thought up.

The plot was doomed from the start. Some problem with a viral arms plant made dead people come back to life looking for live flesh to feed on. Sound familiar? This idea has been done and redone since "Night of the Living Dead" first came out in 1968.

Surprisingly, "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" was lacking in something even a movie made in 1968 had, making a worthy black character rather than have them take the back seat to a strong white man or die all together.

The only other black person in the film, played by Mike Epps, was a stereotype. He used slang and played a loud, annoying, frightened character who used more expletives than any

other person in the film.

There was hardly any dialogue at all, just flashy technology used in most other action movies. The computer animated mutants had little to do with the story and weren't even that creative. There were so many different types of monsters, eventually their relevancy dropped to zero.

There were only two surprises in the whole film. One involving a priest feeding body parts to his undead sister, and the other involving bloodthirsty school children and mutant dogs. It was ridiculous.

Most of the people sitting in the theater were young boys, sitting alone, waiting for the last few minutes of the movie when Jovovich was naked.

Unfortunately, if the film was not bad enough, it may get worse. The last few seconds that left the audience on a cliffhanger that may lead "Resident Evil" into a trilogy. Let's just hope it doesn't come to that.

MOVIE REVIEW



'RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE'

Starring: Milla Jovovich



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIMENSION FILMS
British actor Paul Bettany (left) is an interesting choice to play opposite teen movie star Kirsten Dunst in this romantic comedy.

Love in 'Wimbledon' is more than just a tennis term

BY MOLLY MULLEN

As far as romantic comedies go, the writers found something new and hung onto it. Set at the world tennis tournament, "Wimbledon" had a no-surprise script that was fortunately saved by great actors and edgy cinematography.

Kirsten Dunst strayed from her damsel in distress role to play the role of Lizzie Bradbury, a strong female character with her sights set more on winning than anything or anyone else. If there is one thing constant in Dunst's roles it is her ability to play a love idol.

An interesting selection to play opposite Dunst was actor Paul Bettany, playing the unfavorable tennis hero Peter Colt. Unlike his female co-star, he is not accustomed to romantic roles. His cinematic past makes no difference because "Wimbledon" was an easy, light

movie that he did very well.

He made his character deep, which is more than Dunst strived to do. His body language went beyond tears, but his facial expressions and the way he moved made up for the fact that he isn't exactly Hollywood's idea of sexy, but an actually good actor.

The predictable story line amazingly didn't distract from the basic mood of the film. It was the basic underdog story where the only thing that could save the athlete's career was his love for a woman.

The cinematography was interesting in the fact that the camera would actually beat and pulse with Bettany's heart or bounce like the tennis ball.

The beginning, middle and end were exactly as any stock film of its genre, but the fact that it was based around tennis made it unique and luckily since the writers made the tournament almost equally important as the relationship, "Wimbledon" interesting and fun to watch.

MOVIE REVIEW



'WIMBLEDON'

Starring: Kirsten Dunst

'Wicker Park' leaves audience bored, confused with choppy story line, bad plot

BY LAUREN CRIST

From the first odd camera angles awkwardly inserted, "Wicker Park" seemed to be striving for nonexistent depth. The dragging attempts continued not only through camera shots and confusing flashbacks, but lingered in the story line as well.

"Wicker Park" appeared to be an exciting thriller with unique camera angles and an underlying theme hinting of Shakespeare. However, Director Paul McGuigan's "Wicker Park" is far from the promised excitement.

The film follows Matthew (Josh Hartnett) a dreary advertising agent struggling through his unhappy engagement to his classmate Rebecca (Jessica Pare).

His dismal situation suddenly shifts when he overhears a voice in a restaurant phone booth that sounds similar to Lisa, (Diane Kruger) a dancer with whom he had an affair with before she disappeared two years earlier.

Hartnett excitedly shifts his life around and follows Kruger in a stalker-like manner. He abandons his trip to Shanghai and completely alters his self-pitying, depressed attitude to find her.

Unsure how to find Kruger or even find her name, Hartnett eagerly addresses his best friend, stumbling over his simple lines and hopping in place, acting more like a hyper third grader than a prestigious advertising agent.

More is revealed about the mysterious Kruger through flashbacks. However, rather than showing the intimacy between the two (unless it is physical) the flashbacks flaunt Kruger in repeated and flirtatious dancing. These flashbacks finally draw the fragmented pieces of the story line together. However, rather than adding to the plot, they seem only to split the all ready inconsistent theme.

The movie continually leads up to what is expected to be a twist that will lead to a suspense-filled climax and unexpected. However, after a worthy spin halfway through the movie, the story continues sluggishly until eventually leading to a typical final scene.

Weak character development leaves Kruger with little more than smiling prettily at the camera or flirty dancing, while Hartnett dominates the story with his mumbling and monotone voice.

The only character that has any fiber is Luke (Matthew Lillard,) Hartnett's friend whom he consults about Kruger. The humorous shoes salesman helps to relieve some of the dreary atmosphere.

Yet, overall, the typical, mind-numbing "Wicker Park" was lengthy and unsatisfying.

MOVIE REVIEW



'WICKER PARK'

Starring: Josh Hartnett



PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM
Josh Hartnett and Jessica Pare's lack of acting skills and bad script writing make 'Wicker Park' a weak story.



COURTESY OF NEW LINE PRODUCTIONS

William H. Macy portrays the good cop-rolle well in "Cellular," the only passionate actor in the film.

MOVIE REVIEW



'CELLULAR'

Starring: Kim Basinger

'Cellular' fails to dial-up audience

BY MOLLY MULLEN

A unique plot and a few good actors made "Cellular" a movie worth seeing only once. Its poorly written script and cliché ending bored the audience into not wanting to see it a second time.

The movie is written in a way that almost seems like the directors were trying to get the movie-goer to feel disconnected from the characters and story line.

From the trailer one would assume "Cellular" is a drama.

A woman is kidnapped and a man she had never met is on the other end of the call and he's her only hope. As dramatic as it sounds the writers styled it so there was a joke sequenced every few minutes and no one could get too involved.

The movie opened with Jessica Martin, played by Kim Basinger, getting kidnapped and thrown into an attic. Directly after that was a comedy scene.

Basinger also hurt the film with shallow acting. She had an incredibly dramatic role to fill, but didn't accomplish much.

William H. Macy did well in the role of Officer Mooney, not straying from his dopey good guy character. In nearly every movie, save the 1996 murder comedy "Fargo" he always plays the nice husband who got stuck in a bad situation.

The hero of this film, Ryan, played by Chris Evans, did a good job with the script given. Even his corny lines were delivered in a voice inflection that seems real instead of cinematic.

The plot was unique. It represented technology in a good way. Phones and video cameras save lives was the basic idea. Hollywood lately hasn't had any fresh ideas, so "Cellular" was change of pace.

It was a fun movie to watch. The audience kept guessing what was going to happen until nearly the end.

It was a surprise to the bad guys ending up as cops rather than the usual mobster characters.

That's not to say this film was not without its stereotypes. Dat Phan, from "Last Comic Standing" played off his stand up comedy, making fun of his Asian background. He only had a bit part, but it was large enough for anyone to question where they had seen him before.

Unfortunately the ending of "Cellular" couldn't make up for bad writing throughout and it stayed constant until the very end. A "Scooby Doo" type of resolution made the final scene worthless.

Something happened where Evans was able to solve the mystery, but because the audience couldn't see that part it couldn't figure it out on its own.

It is a movie worth seeing for a few laughs. The movie twists and turns through highly illogical scenes that really stretch the believability of events and close calls.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGIN RECORDS

ALBUM REVIEW



'LET'S BOTTLE BOHEMIA'

By: The Thrills

Album will sour music for listeners

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Take out the vocals and just leave the instruments in "Let's Bottle Bohemia," it might be worth listening to. Any music lover who can listen to a single song all the way through must have fallen for The Thrill's gimmick.

The band tried to play it off as some mixture between rock and roll and emo Connor Oberst sound. It wasn't a new style of music, it was stolen from singers who weren't good in the first place.

Conor Deasy sings vocals in an eardrum piercing pitch. His voice cracks in a whiney sort of way that makes the listener offended, not by the lyrics but the sounds.

It flip-flops between styles, but never actually hits one. The listener might think that means The Thrills are creative, and thinking outside the box. It is really just stealing everything from vocals to basic guitar sounds.

The lyrics aren't great either. The band obviously was going for some satirical ironic type of music. Songs like "You Can't Fool Old Friends with Limousines" that start with lyrics on prostitutes are poorly written and not funny.

The Thrills do a great marketing job on the cover, but it ends there. Inside are artsy photos that explain nothing about the band or the music.

The only single redeeming quality for this album was the piano. The first song starts with loud guitar riff that gives off a rock impression. It only continues for a few seconds before piano takes over the rest of the album.

The piano player's ability is much better than the lead singer's, and almost saved the songs.

"Let's Bottle Bohemia" was and failed shot at something artsy and new. Instead it's just a bunch of whiny 30-year-old men trying to sound smart. It was not worth listening to the three minutes of each song.



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Junior Yvette Butler instructs the marching band. She prepares to lead them on the football field as a junior, along with William Chaney. Sophomore Lonzale Ramsey will also be a drum major. The band has no senior drum majors this year.

Three students grab drum major positions

BY MOLLY MULLEN

They stand alone, conducting over 120 people, and they're not even seniors in high school yet.

The position of drum major in marching band was given to junior Yvette Butler and junior William Chaney and sophomore Lonzale Ramsey.

Marching band director Pete Wilger said he chose the people most qualified.

"I had a set of judges that chose the top three," Wilger said.

He said he also had a hand in who got picked.

Butler said there are usually only two drum majors.

"He (Wilger) wanted to have a drum major from each grade, but it just didn't work out that way," Butler said.

She said there were seniors who auditioned for the position, but it just worked out that she and Chaney were the most qualified.

"There were a lot of people that tried out," she said. "I just did my best."

She said the audition process was short, but covered everything a drum major needs.

"He brought in the stand we use on the (football) field and we had to conduct," Butler said. "He had to make sure we could yell out commands loudly and clearly."

She said aside from the audition, she had to do a written essay on why she wanted to be a drum major.

Butler said having a drum major who is not a senior is not unheard of, just uncommon. Butler said she like being a drum major, even if it takes extra work.

She said she likes just being a part of the band, and being a drum major is exciting.

"I was just a flutist for two years, and now hopefully I'll be a drum major for two years as well," she said.

She said she likes doing all the extra work it takes.

"We have to get all the kinks out of the songs before we perform, then we conduct them on the field," Butler said.

She practices two pieces with the marching band and conducts each on the field.

"Before band camp this summer Lonzale and I cut out the music and chose which songs we wanted," she said.

Butler conducts "My Sharona" and "Jump in the Line."

"I really like my pieces, and I like performing the others," she said.

Junior William Chaney said he wanted to be a drum major because he wanted to see more of what marching band had to offer.

He said he was surprised when he found out he was chosen to lead the group.

"There were a couple of seniors who auditioned that were better than me," he said.

He said he likes his position and thinks the pieces he conducts are doing well.

"I would say they (his pieces) are something I'm proud of, but there's always room for improvement," Chaney said.

He said a lot of the stress came at the beginning of the year when he had to rehearse over 120 band members.

Sophomore Lonzale Ramsey said he was not surprised when he was picked for drum major.

"I felt like I had tried my hardest and fate awarded me," Ramsey said.

He said being the youngest drum major doesn't affect his work because he had experience in the band the year before.

"Since I was in their position last year, I know how I liked rehearsal to go," Ramsey said. "If they get a little hyper, I stop for a second and do something fun."

He said sometimes doing that doesn't work and that is when rehearsals get stressful.

He said even if he gets stressed at some

practices, he doesn't worry when he conducts at football games.

Ramsey said although he never plays his trumpet in parades or for football games like he did last year, he still picks it up every once in awhile to help someone.

Wilger said it is very important that the most experienced students are drum majors.

"It is their responsibility to prepare the band and rehearse the pieces," Wilger said.

He said most of the class time is for the drum majors to rehearse, and he only steps in if he finds a problem that they don't catch.

"I give them the freedom to do what they need to do as long as they can get it done," he said.

Freshman Andrew Kroeger said he likes having a student conducting the band on and off the field.

"It's cool because it's a change in environment," Kroeger said.

He said he doesn't think practices would be any different if Wilger taught rather than the threedrums majors.

"I think they know just as much about the music as Mr. Wilger," Kroeger said.

Sophomore Matt Waszak said he likes Wilger's choice for leaders for drum majors, and find it easier to connect with them.

"They know where we're coming from and Wilger sometimes doesn't," Waszak said.

He said their age has nothing to do with how well the marching band performs in parades or at games.

"I think seniors might have a little more experience, but the juniors and sophomore will have more experience at being a drum major if they do it next year," he said.

He said the marching band is doing well so far this season, but a few sections are having difficulties.

"It's our problem to learn our parts, not theirs (the drum majors)," he said.



ALBUM REVIEW



'GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER'

By: Papa Roach

Offensive cover hides meaningful music, lyrics

BY TESS MANDELL

A bloody heart with wings. Blood stains all over. And this is only the cover.

Just picking up the "Getting Away with Murder" album off the rack, any listener could tell they had no idea what was to come.

Papa Roach has a reputation for making a gory hit or two, but this album is crazy.

"I tear my heart open. I sew myself shut." With lyrics such as these, even die hard Papa Roach fans cringe.

The whole album gave an uncomfortable atmosphere of what most people shouldn't think about. It isn't until the listener pulls out the CD jacket and reads the lyrics that most of the songs started to make some sense, they just made sense in an extreme fashion.

For example, the song "Scars" has to do with the person in the song struggling to help a friend: "I tried to help you once/ So I offered you my hand/ But at least I can say I tried."

The song has a point to it, but the lyrics can really make a listener grimace.

The instruments are also some things to grimace about. Could they not challenge their bassist any more?

In many of the songs, it gave the impression that the bassist could only play a single note. And he only changed that note every other measure.

However, there are times to truly appreciate this type of music.

Probably the best time to pop this album into the stereo would be in the middle of a fight with a parent, before a big competition or in the locker room prior to an important game.

It definitely gets one's adrenaline running and heart pumping, similar to the effect of a can of Red Bull.

Bjork's new a capella album offers interesting tones with Icelandic choir

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Whether one enjoys the music of a capella or not, one thing is true, only Bjork could pull off an album with no instruments, however, even Bjork couldn't make every song sound authentic.

Her latest release, "Medulla" is good only for an a capella album. But compared to any album at all with even one instrument, the album is boring and obviously lacking something. Making an all vocal album after being with instruments for an entire career may be a mistake.

Fans may be lost or at least lose a little faith in their favorite artist. Bjork may want to go back to using instruments, her pulling it off an all vocal is creative the first time, but may be tiring the next.

Not listening hard enough, one hardly notices the lack of

instruments, Bjork and her vocal companions hit every low and high note on this album, and everything in between. It almost sounds as though an entire orchestra, with instruments such as violas and cellos, backing her up on each song.

ALBUM REVIEW



'MEDULLA'

By: Bjork

But when one does listen hard enough, all the album sounds like is a singer full of herself trying to draw even more attention to herself by getting rid of her band.

Music with no instruments is refreshing, but that same quality is also its fault. Listening to the first two songs on the album is like stepping into a room with new people speaking another language.

Unfortunately, this feeling does not last very long. After around the third song, the album gets tiring. Voices still flow beautifully through the songs in the album, but after a while, it seems redundant. It is almost as though Bjork

cannot stop showing off the fact that she can sing with no instrument. There are only so many sounds that can be made with vocals only.

Only a few songs after the first few spice up the album. "Oceania" is one of them, where Bjork really shows off her vocal talent. Starting off practically whispering, she really stretches her voice, hitting really high and long notes.

Another key track is "Triumph of a Heart", a song apparently dedicated to a heart. Bjork sings about a heart's use, as what sounds like a heart beats in the background. The voices really kick in on this song. It is a shame it has to be the last song though. If the whole album sounded like that, it would be much more exciting and different.

Overall, the album is new and definitely daring, but it is an incredible disappointment. While Bjork tries to set a new trend and tries this album just for the sake of being different, she is better off being like everyone else.

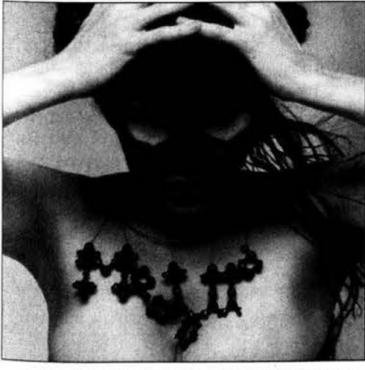


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'Cookout' fails to amuse audience with poor plot



Quran Pender's movie debut blows Eve out of the water. She has grown little in her acting ability since her rookie days in "Barbershop." Her bit part in "Cookout" is too much.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"The Cookout's" cheap humor and predictable plot is what saved the movie. The writers know their audience are African-American teenagers and they play off that, making white stereotypes.

The one word title pretty much sums up the film. Quran Pender plays a young man who just got drafted for the NBA and throws a cookout at his new mansion the same day he is making a huge business deal.

This was Pender's first movie, and his pretty face along with decent acting

ability make the movie worthwhile for him and the audience

An overbearing mother, hillbilly cousins, a gold-digging girlfriend and conservative neighbors set the scene for shallow laughs.

MOVIE REVIEW



'THE COOKOUT'
Starring: Quran Pender

That's not to say the entire movie was not without a few well thought-out

scenes. As the family moved into the new home, there was a montage of all the neighbor's reactions to a black family in the neighborhood; mothers covering their children's eyes, people

running in their house and screaming made the entire audience chuckle.

The all-star cast including Eve, Farrah Fawcett, Tim Meadows, Queen Latifah and Ja Rule unfortunately couldn't improve the bad story line. Danny Glover's career gained some comic respectability in 2002 when he was opposite Gene Hackman in "The Royal Tenenbaums," but it has taken a turn for the worst with 'Cookout'.

Queen Latifah had a not so surprising role in this movie, playing the mentally unstable security guard. Her physical comedy added to the side plot, but didn't end up serving much purpose to the story.

She may be one of the only credible

female actresses in the film. Although Eve first became famous on the silver screen in "Barbershop," her acting ability has grown little since then. Her only purpose was to add another famous name to the credits, and to wear a tight dress for the big kiss at the end.

"The Cookout" was a movie worth seeing because the writers don't promise anything. They didn't say it would be deep or well put together. In fact, there was very little publicity for the film whatsoever.

It was a movie full of light humor, mostly at the expense of white people and stereotypes. It was a fun movie to see with friends, although it wasn't worth the \$8 it cost to get in.

Dancer trains cast member fall musical

BY DEDE HEARITY

"We're off to see the Wizard." When people hear this song, sung they usually think of Dorothy Gail, and the cast of individuals dancing around trying to get to see the great and powerful Wizard of Oz. This year's musical, "The Wizard of Oz," has a returning veteran dancing around the stage.

Junior Natalie Lynch is joining the rest of the cast for her second year as dance captain.

"I was a dancer in the musical "The Mikado" and "Cinderella" under (alumna) Emily McTate and when "Cinderella" was postponed, Emily wasn't able to continue doing the show," Lynch said. "Since I worked well with Mrs. Nelson (the choreographer) and the other dancers they asked me to fill the position."

Choreographer Jean Nelson said Lynch filled McTate's shoes right away and kept the optimism going.

"The dances were a lot happier," Nelson said.

This year Lynch said she is starting out as captain and will not have to pick up with a team that is not hers from the beginning. Even though this is early into the musical Lynch is very excited to be working with the group of girls she has.

Nelson said she is very excited as well and the girls are catching all of the steps. One of the differences this year, besides Lynch being the dance captain are the girls that are dancing under her. The new dancers, under Lynch's lead, are going to be great.

"I'm having fun this year with them," he said. "They are willing to work."

Lynch started out with over 50 girls in auditions and ended up with approximately 10 girls after auditions. With the new girls she is feeling good about the choice of dancers.



PHOTO BY DEDE HEARITY/ REGISTER
Junior Natalie Lynch prepares fellow dancers for the choreography.



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

The enormous, juicy ribs from the Smoke Pit have tangy, sweet sauce and the aroma alone makes the diner think of a good, old-fashioned barbecue. The Pit serves from the heart of downtown Omaha and draws in carnivores from across the city.

'Pigsicles' tantalize soul with terrific taste

BY MOLLY MULLEN

The ribs are ready and waiting on a grill next to the register at The Smoke Pit, so although they might need a little extra sauce, it's worth the speedy service and inexpensive food.

The Smoke Pit is so close to Central any student could walk over after school and be out the door within five minutes carrying with them a whole rib dinner.

The cheap prices are about \$11 for eight piece large ribs with two sides like a potato or salad.

The food has probably been sitting out since noon, and the top side can taste a little rubbery. The great thing about these giant ribs, though, is the fact that if they sit in some barbecue sauce for a minute the rubber taste almost disappears and all that is left is tender juicy meat.

When the ribs are picked up they could nearly slide clean off the bone. That's what good ribs do, and these are certainly some of the best.

Ribs get that good Texas barbecue feeling in anyone so the fact that The Smoke Pit is a homegrown restaurant makes it an even more delightful place to eat or get takeout.

The only problem with the food itself was

the bone. The bones were some of the biggest actual ribs sold at any restaurant.

There were some small chips of the bone inside the meaty parts, and any unlucky customer could break a tooth in one crunch. Just avoid the chipped bone and spit it out. It's the meat that counts.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



The Smoke Pit

Best order: 8-piece rib dinner

An excellent, dark and thick meat covered the bleach white rib bones. It was chewy but not hard, almost perfect.

Another extra is the side dishes. With some coleslaw or baked beans on the side it makes the meal filling, cheap and quick.

It's everything a fast food restaurant promises, only with unique food and a nice atmosphere.

The dark interior of the building with red brick floors and wood paneling gave the feeling of good old Texas home cooking.

The outward appearance only sets the stage and the cooking has to do the rest because the ribs speak for themselves. Large messy slabs of dark meat drenched in a sweet barbecue sauce are just waiting to be eaten.

The Smoke Pit hits Omaha's high standards for ribs, beating out any chain restaurant that serves them, but doesn't really take the time to cook them right.

Above all else it was the quick service that draws people back. Going to a steak house one would expect to wait 20 minutes for a table and even longer for the food. Not the case at The Smoke Pit. They know people are going in hungry and want to be served right away.

After ordering, one couldn't get to a table before the food.

The waiters take orders and serve like they have met the diner a hundred times, offering advise on what to order and what tastes best that day. It definitely adds to the "good home cooked meal" feeling The Smoke Pit presents.

From personality to flavor, The Smoke Pit is absolutely worth the chump change and very little footwork it takes to get a meal big enough for two, and would make for a very interesting first date.



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Cuts Colors & Styling

Player offered scholarship one year early

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior David Jones's lifetime ambition may be fulfilled as he leaves for University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) under a football scholarship next year.

Jones was recently offered the scholarship after attending a camp at the University in June. He said he spoke with the coaches at the camp, and they mentioned they were interested in his abilities and would be attending a few games to see his performance. He said he was surprised when he received the letter offering the scholarship.

"At the football camp, he played very well and impressed the coaches," football coach Joe McMenam said. "When he played, he really dominated others."

Jones said the coaches never told him about the offer specifically before he received it.

"The coaches told me to keep my grades good and keep my head up," Jones said. "They also said to continue being a good citizen."

McMenamin said Jones was also physically adept enough to perform in college level sports.

"He's a great size at six feet five inches tall and 300 pounds. He moves really well and has good quickness. He's also a very good blocker," McMenam said.

He said Jones has worked really hard over the summer to build muscle on the bench press.

"He's really worked hard to develop his strength. He now has a good combination of size, speed and strength," McMenam said.

Jones said he anticipates the challenge of college level sports and the chance to continually develop.

"I can't wait to experience the competition. It will help me get where I want to be in life and farther in my career," Jones said.

Jones said he looks forward to the teaching at UNL as well as the football program.

"I really look forward to college. The education (at UNL) is really good, and I'm really comfortable with the coaches," Jones said.

"When I first received the letter I was really shocked and surprised, I couldn't believe my eyes," Jones said. "My mom cried and my dad just kept reading the letter over and over again. We couldn't believe it."

"I've seen him progress from last year, and he plays at a very high level," said McMenam.

McMenamin said Jones has also received letters from the University of Iowa and Notre Dame, yet UNL was his first scholarship offer. The last person to have a scholarship offer in football was senior Robert Wesley, who received an offer with Kansas and Iowa.

For the past eight years, Jones has played football. In that time period, he has been on several different teams, including the Omaha Bears, Falcons, and the Boy's and Girl's Club Jaguars. He typically is an offensive tackler, but occasionally plays on defense as well.

"My ultimate dream is to play pro-football. I'll compete with players all across the nation. It will give me a chance to see what I'm going up against so I can do better in the future," Jones said.

Jones said he has always wanted to play for the UNL football team.

"I've watched the Huskers ever since I was a little kid," he said. "I thought about what it would be like to run cross the field wearing red and white. Ever since then, I've wanted to be a Husker and now is my chance."



PHOTO BY TESS MANDELL/REGISTER

Senior Darcy Rutherford practices fielding grounders from second base. The team is off to another successful start.

Team hits winning streak with new pitcher

BY MOLLY MULLEN

The varsity softball team's almost spotless record so far is hopefully going to be a replica of last year, taking the team to state and maybe even victory.

Coach Scott Wilson said as far as the season goes it has had the same amount of wins as the previous season.

"We're off to a really great start," Wilson said.

With only one loss the team hopes to make it all the way to state like last year.

"The only team we've lost to was Milliard North, in the last play of the game," he said.

Wilson said the loss was because of skill, but he is confident they could have won, and could win if placed up against Milliard North again.

Junior Jacquelin Darrow, who pitches on varsity, said Central should have won against Milliard.

"I was upset," Darrow said. "We lost because of an error, not ability."

She said the team is really good this year in comparison to many teams they have played and they will be even better next year.

"We all played on varsity or JV last year," she said.

Wilson said a number of the players are sophomores this year and will be playing for the next two years, and with improvement the following seasons could be better than the last.

That's what the players said they hope for.

Seven of the positions are played by people who were not on varsity last year.

"It's not an advantage for this year, but it certainly is for next year," Wilson said.

He said inexperience is another part of the sport that improves with time.

"Darcy and Ally (Rutherford) have experienced many

times what many of the sophomores are experiencing for the first time," he said.

He said because so many of the girls are coming back next year the team unity will be stronger from the start.

Another positive for next year is Darrow who may pitch next season.

"I'm only pitching because there was no one else to do it," Darrow said.

She said it is a very difficult position to play, but she'd be willing to pitch next year.

"All the pressure is on you if you're the pitcher," she said.

"Bellevue West was a real team bonding game because it was a very close game that we won," Wilson said. "It showed them a lot about themselves."

He said the largest factor in their winning streak is their unity.

"The team is worth more than the sum of our parts,"

Senior Darcy Rutherford said it definitely helps make things run more smoothly during a game.

"We have come together a lot as a team," Rutherford said.

She said the practices are also helping the younger girls improve more because Wilson, although this is his first year as head coach, he does a lot of the same drills.

"I think the practices have been helpful," Rutherford said.

She said they are mainly oriented to the sophomores because she hasn't improved much over the season.

"I still get on a base two out of three times I hit," she said.

Wilson said he tries to make each practice beneficial to every person on the team. He knows that each of them

has things to work on.

"I think all the players get something out of each practice," he said.

He said all the drills plus the frequency of the practices, makes the girls' game better.

"We practice everyday we're not playing," he said. "We play three to four games a week."

He said another reason they need to practice so hard is because every team wants to beat Central, and will play harder than against most other teams.

"We know that a lot of teams are gunning for us," Wilson said. "Every team is going to give us their best shot."

He said the fact that every team is running the girls as hard as they can gives them experience.

"The girls accept the challenge," Wilson said. "It's a healthy challenge."

He said Central has a reputation of having a great varsity softball team, and he wants to fulfill the expectation set up for him and the team.

They (varsity teams) are kind of the representative team of the program," he said.

Much of the responsibility lies on Wilson to make the team great. As his first year as head coach, he lies on his past experience to help.

"I have been coaching softball for six years," he said.

He said the change between assistant coach and head coach is a big one. He is the one who has to talk to parents and make sure all the players have good grades.

"There's a lot of little things that add up, it (coaching) is a responsibility and a challenge," he said.

He said although the team is really together, there are improvements need to be made before the end of the season.

"Hitting is something we can always work on," Wilson said. "Every coach wants their hitting better."

New cross-country coach's main goal is simply to improve times

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Out of all the staff members in the building, only one could have been chosen to be the new boys cross-country coach, athletic director Paul Pennington said.

Shannon Stenger, an assistant coach of the boys track team and Social Studies teacher is the new boys coach.

"If you're going to (coach) one, you might as well do both," Stenger said.

Stenger said he ran in high school, college and still runs some marathons, so he has running experience. Often times he runs with the rest of the team to train for his marathons, he said.

In college, Stenger ran track and cross country, plus he still runs marathons often. More recently Stenger placed 8th in the Corporate Cup run.

Stenger said he talked to the girls coach and former boys coach, Trent Lodge, last year during track season, discussing the job. Stenger said Lodge was more interested in helping the girls cross-country team because he is the girls track

coach.

So far, Stenger said he has already seen improvement with the team. He said he would like to see the boys improve their times. Stenger said starting off the year, not everyone was in the best shape, but now they have improved.

"I've seen a lot of progress," he said.

Pennington said he is pleased with Stenger's work with the team so far. He said Lodge wanted to work more with the girls cross-country team, and needed an assistant.

"We just felt that of the people we knew on our staff, Mr. Stenger was the obvious choice," Pennington said.

Lodge, the girls cross country coach, said he thinks Stenger is doing an outstanding job coaching, and said he also noticed the boys race times improving.

"He has the experience and background," Lodge said.

Lodge said the number of students joining cross-country goes up every year. With two different coaches, he said, the boys and girls can be separated.

"There are better quality workouts when we separate the boys and girls," Lodge said.



STENGER

Lodge said he chose to only work with the cross-country girls because he is already the coach for the girl's track team.

"I thought it was natural to stick with the girls," he said.

So far, Stenger said coaching has been hard work. As with running, he said, it is a big mental game. But, he said, the boys make coaching easy for him by improving their times from last year.

Out of 266 runners at a recent Prep invitational meet included placements from boys varsity runners at 18, 30, 45, and 57. Stenger said most of the boys have improved their times from last year by almost a minute.

Junior varsity runner Robert Stoffel said he has noticed a difference between the workouts Lodge used to give him and Stenger's workouts.

Stoffel said the workouts were longer distances, and he said that he feels he is improving.

"I feel his workouts are helping me be better," Stoffel said.

Stoffel said an added benefit of coach Stenger's workouts is that Stenger runs with the boys.

"It's a lot better having a coach that knows what it's like to be out there running," Stoffel said.

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Grixby dynasty continues with latest effort from freshman defensive back



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Players say freshman Ronnell Grixby takes the best qualities from his older brothers, which make him a strong starting defensive back.

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Starting at 5 feet 9 inches and weighing 188 pounds, Ronnell Grixby is the second freshman to start for varsity football under the coaching of Joe McMenemy since 1978.

Yet it does not surprise his two brothers, Deante and Courtney, because they have already given him high expectations to live up to.

Now the third Grixby to play for the Eagles, McMenemy said he has become a key player on the team.

"Grixby is playing very well for his age," McMenemy said. "It was a big surprise that he is starting. It was something I didn't expect."

He said the team was in need of a new safety position before Grixby came.

So far, he has saved the team a couple of times during their first

game versus North High School, McMenemy said. He made a lot of tackles and had the only interception in the game helping the team beat the Vikings.

Senior Aaron Dorsey said there are some similarities between Grixby and his older brothers.

"Ronnell is built like Deante and fast like Courtney," Dorsey said. "It makes him better at defense like his brothers."

Grixby plays the same position as his older brother Deante, who is now an assistant coach at Mankato State University, in Minnesota.

Senior Nate Prater said Ronnell is the best Grixby to play for CHS.

"At this age, his brothers were not as mature and athletic as Ronnell," Prater said.

McMenemy said there are many reasons why Grixby is starting for the

team. "He is better than anybody else in his position," McMenemy said. "He's our top player for free safety."

Some of the players on Grixby's team say he is a better player than both of his brothers are.

Already big for his age, Grixby is also a lot stronger than some of the senior players on the team, McMenemy said.

"He has been in training all summer and now he is the strongest freshman in the school," McMenemy said. "Physically and in character, Ronnell is way beyond his years."

Although only in his freshman year, Grixby still has a promising future McMenemy said.

"If Grixby wants to get better each year, he has to continue to work harder and condition in the weight room as well as on the field," McMenemy

said. Grixby said he doesn't promise anything, but he will keep focusing on improving.

He said he plans to be a key football player all four years. "I present myself as a leader," Grixby said. "I have faith as a leader in myself on and off the field."

Grixby learned most of his skills from his two brothers. He said he has learned everything he knows from them. He chose Central because of how the team plays.

"It's family tradition," Grixby said. "Plus, I was kind of threatened by my brothers (jokingly) if I chose to go to another school like North or Prep."

For now, Grixby will try to maintain straight A's and B's while focusing on his future in football. He said he hopes to succeed in football and help the team win state in November.



ILLEGAL SLAPSHOT

A Column by Tess Mandell

Words to live by: Only real hockey stars wear dresses

I wish I wasn't the girl when I play hockey.

It's not that I don't like being a girl, and it's not as if I don't like playing hockey. I just wish I wasn't the girl when I play hockey.

Last year, I was the only girl in the High School Hockey League.

Well, that's not true. There was another girl in the league at one time.

But it didn't last long.

I saw her friend this past summer during a class. She told me the girl quit because the hitting was too rough.

Of course the hitting is too rough. When you're the only girl, and all the other players are teenage guys, it's going to be too rough.

There are times (all the time) where guys plan a hit.

It's awful, especially when it's hard for you to take a hit in the first place.

I remember last year after one game. I was feeling this huge pain from my chest around to my back.

I couldn't tell my coach, or I would be benched, and I couldn't tell my parents, or I would be the next person in the ER. So I played through the pain.

But after playing for another couple weeks, it just got worse. I went in to get it checked, and the doctor told me I had dislocated some ribs.

But the hitting is hard because it's a bunch of guys with an incredible amount of testosterone. There's even more testosterone when a hockey stick is in their hands.

I realize that it's a male-dominated sport. It always has been, but why can't I play with them?

If there's somebody on the ice who is not a guy, all eyes follow that person.

All eyes lock on me on and off the ice. When I'm leaving the locker room, people have to look, and when I'm walking into the arena with a hockey bag and stick, people have to look.

They also keep in mind what locker room I'm in, and sometimes other players will just walk in. It's as if they "didn't realize" I was in there.

One time I walked into my locker room, and another player was there. In a towel.

However, I'll confess, out of all the troubles I have with hockey, naked guys in my locker room are most definitely not what I complain about.

I'll also admit that most times, I don't mind all the stuff that goes on. Especially when I'm on a good day, I kind of like it when everybody has to see if the girl can actually play. What kind of a girl wouldn't mind for those hot hockey hunks to be staring at you?

But there are also times when I just want to play to release anger or blow off some steam.

Sometimes those days aren't as good for the guys to be staring or show up in your locker room with a towel around the waist.

There are these events called drop-ins where you go to the rink with your gear and play a scrimmage with anybody else who's there. If I'm playing with people that don't know me, they judge every little thing I do. They watch every shot I take and every turn I make.

Then there are those players who will only pass the puck to the guys.

Now I know that I'm not the best out there. But I can accept a pass. And I can skate. And I can score.

So why don't they pass the puck?

But I don't mind. I love hockey.

It's the hitting. It's the ice and the sweat. It's even the naked guys in my locker room.

I love doing what I do. I love being a girl, and I love playing hockey.

I just wish I wasn't the girl when I play hockey.

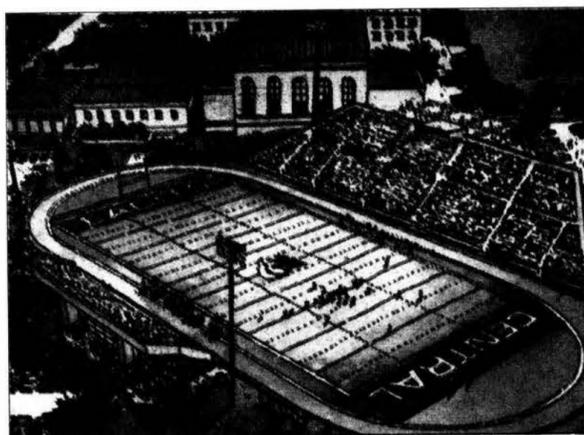
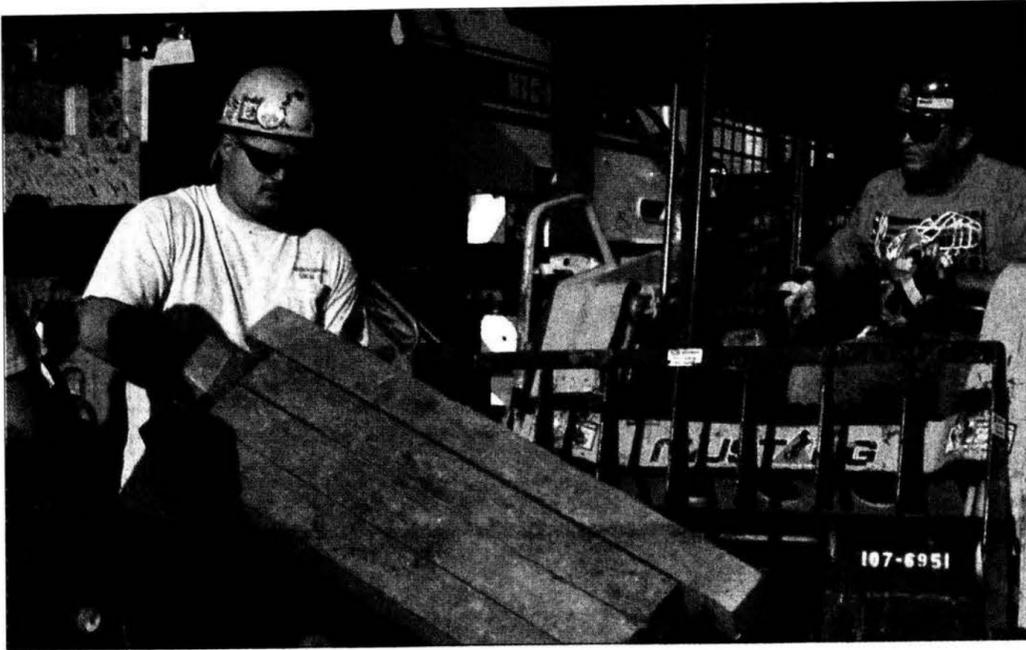


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PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) Tim Lincoln loads a skidloader that Stu Steffens from Davis Erection is operating. Tim Lincoln stands on top of the crane used to raise the lights of the stadium. A drawing of what the stadium will look like when completed.

Anticipation for stadium intensifies

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The \$12 million stadium project has gone very well, athletic director Paul Pennington said. So well, that instead of the original Aug. 1 date of completion, if construction continues as well as it has been, there is a slight possibility it will be completed June 1.

"It's interesting to look out the cafeteria to see how far it's progressed," Pennington said.

The stadium's ticket booth and concession stand walls are already up to the normal height. Support columns for bleachers are also up. Before the 2005-2006 school year, Pennington said, he hopes to see the lobby and stadium completed.

Principal Jerry Bexten said there will be many benefits from the stadium. Track and field will use the track for practices, both varsity and junior varsity football will use the field for games and practices, marching band will use the field to practice on, and Physical Education (P.E.) classes will also use the field.

In addition to the benefits for different groups of students, Bexten said the stadium would make the campus look much better. "I think it's going to look very attractive and add to the campus," Bexten said.

Kewitt official Morgan Hankins said the stadium project was right on schedule. The official date for completion is still Aug. 15, 2005.

"Everything's gone as smooth as expected," Hankins said.

The first major milestone in the stadium construction was the teacher parking lots being completed, Hankins said.

Before the end of the school year, he said he hopes to have the home side building completed. This includes concessions and rest rooms.

Also, Hankins said, he hopes to see the support for the bleachers done by the end of the year.

Penny McWilliams who is the Project Engineer of Baxter Kenworthy Electric said the lights being set up has gone well so far.

Three of the four stadium lights have been set up. The last one will be put up Oct. 4. McWilliams said.

After the stadium lights are completed, workers from Baxter Kenworthy still have the job of installing all the internal lighting and power in the stadium. So far, McWilliams said, everything is on schedule.

"I think any alumni that come down and watch a game will be very please at how the stadium is laid out and lit," McWilliams said.

Freshman John Hill said he would rather have his P.E. class outside than inside the gym.

"I can't wait for it to be done," Hill said.

Head football coach Joe McMenemy said he is looking forward to not having to drive to games or practices. In addition, he said the stadium would be a good recruiting tool for freshmen.

"It'll be a huge help," he said.

Freshman Ronnell Grixby said he is looking forward to playing on Central's own home field instead of travelling somewhere else. Grixby said it will give Central a good reputation downtown.

Though he said he thinks the stadium will help with travelling, he said he doesn't think it will actually change the team's ability.

"We'll just be ourselves," Grixby said.

P.E. teacher Joe Shimerdla said he is looking forward to the field. His gym class will use the field for sports such as flag football.

Sophomore Sonya Rhine said getting used to having marching band on the field will take some getting used to.

"We'll get to do a lot more stuff, probably go to more competitions," she said.

Senior player awarded golf scholarship

BY MOLLY MULLEN

When she's done practicing with the team she goes home and does extra work for two more hours on her home course at Miller Park.

Senior Brandi Smith's dedication to the sport of golf has paid off not only by winning her the OPS Invitational three years in a row, but by making her the first person awarded the KPTM Runza Student Athlete of the Week scholarship for \$500.

Her coach Wendy Brownson said she nominated her last year but the award only goes to seniors.

"She has good grades and is a great athlete," Brownson said.

Brownson said the team is lucky to have Smith playing with them.

"She is one of the most dedicated athletes I have ever met," she said.

Smith said she practices so often because she wants to help other players at practices so the team can lower their overall score.

"Instead of working with the number two or three girl at practice, I'll work with the four or five girl," Smith said.

Because of all the personal attention each player can get from either Brownson or Smith, she said the team is improving quickly.

Smith's positive attitude is what Brownson hopes will carry the five golfers to state, just as they did last year.

Smith tied for 9th place at state competitions last season.

She said it is unfortunate that more girls don't play golf.

"A lot of people don't know how golf is," Smith said. "They think it's boring."

She said golf takes just as much concentration and ability as any other sport, but people don't give it a chance.

Smith said playing golf helped shape her personality.

"It teaches you things in life," Smith said. "You have to focus to get your goal."

Smith said she has learned other things from golf as well, such as how to act on a golf course or at a tournament.

"You learn to keep your cool and your anger down," she said.

Senior Naomi Rennard said Smith's dedication makes golf more than a sport for her.

"Some people play the sport and get lucky, but Brandi knows what she's doing," Rennard said.

She said little things in golf can make a huge difference like posture and weather, but Smith always takes those things into account.

Brownson said girl's golf wouldn't have a shot at state without Smith.

"I have never met a player of higher caliber," Brownson said.



SMITH