

Students jam during Band Aid.  
See stories and photos on page 10.

WEDNESDAY  
November 24, 2004

the Central High School  
**REGISTER**  
SPECIAL ISSUE

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER  
PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNALISM

EIGHT TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

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NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

# WHO CARES?

Exit polls proved that apathy amongst teenagers still plays a big part in the political process. Many analysts said young people did not care enough to vote and make a difference.

**INSIDE**

- Editorial on politics. PG. 7
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## School Board president will resign in Dec.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

John Langan, president of the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) School Board, will resign on Dec. 31, 2004. He has been on the board for 14 years and has been the president for seven.

Langan, who is also a Dean of Students in the College of Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said he has been publicly planning his resignation since 2001.

"I'd be happy to serve in a community role," he said.

He said he doesn't have a definite plan on how he will be staying active in OPS, but he does plan on being involved.

Superintendent of schools John Mackiel said he looks forward to continuing to work with Langan when he is off the school board.

"As a child advocate, in any capacity he can serve, he will do it," Mackiel said.

He said he has a very close relationship with Langan and they work together on a day-to-day basis.

"It is not a secret that he (Mackiel) looks to the school board for our opinion," Langan said.

He said as a parent of a former Central student and his work with the alumni board, he is very concerned with what happens in OPS.

He also plans on staying a large part of the Omaha Public School's lawsuit. OPS is suing the state for more money per student and Langan's name is on it as a plaintiff.

He said he was one of the main people to make the decision and file the lawsuit along the Mackiel. He said in 2001 the Omaha area was redistricted and another board member, Mona McGreggor, was pushed into his district.

"If I didn't resign she would have been forced out," Langan said. "There can't be two in one district."

He said it didn't make sense to push someone off the board because of new districts.

"That was my rational for resigning," he said.

Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson said Langan has been a dynamic president.

"It was a personal decision, but I'm very disappointed," Anderson said. "He kept it (the school board) together as a cohesive unit and he's one of the best we've ever had."



LANGAN



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Democratic Sen. and Vice Presidential candidate John Edwards tries to motivate the crowd during his visit to the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, IA. Many young voters attended the rally, but this youth push was not enough to put the Kerry/Edwards ticket in the White House.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

On Tuesday, Nov. 2, senior Stevie Blair drove with her grandma to Martin Luther King Middle School where she voted for the first time.

Blair is just one of about 28 million eligible voters between 18-25, according to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). Out of those 28 million people, less than 17 percent voted this year.

Apathy. Some would say they simply did not care enough to make a difference.

Blair said she is one of the only people she knows who is old enough to vote.

"I think it's dumb not to vote," she said.

Blair said she had just turned 18 on Sept. 17, and she was glad to have the opportunity.

She said there is no reason not to vote because it only took her five minutes to fill out her ballot.

"It was something new to do," Blair said.

Although there was something she didn't understand on the ballot, she said she was clear on one issue.

"John Kerry. There is no way I want Bush back in office for four more years," she said.

She said although she doesn't consider herself political, she thinks Kerry would help the lower class more.

### YOUTH VOTE

Dr. Graham Ramsden, professor of political science at Creighton University, said many more young voters exercised their right this year than in the year 2000.

"The numbers are larger, but the proportions are the same," Ramsden said.

He said one large reason such a low percentage of the young people vote is registration.

"They (young people) are pretty transient, especially in college," he said.

He said another reason is because they don't have a real stake in their community, yet.

"Until you get a house and a family you don't really feel a part of it, yet," he said.

Ramsden said there is just a small group of young people who are very vocal about politics, but there aren't usually enough to motivate the apathetic majority.

Because the numbers are so low, things are beginning to go into a downward spiral.

"Politicians know young people don't vote so politicians don't do things for young people," Ramsden said. "And because they don't do things for young people, young people

Continued to **Apathy** on Page 16



## Study shows suicide more likely with antidepressants

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"I don't think I'd be alive without them," she said. "I probably would have killed myself."

Junior Chaeli McDonald said there is nothing harmful about antidepressants. She said although the medication isn't for everyone, she doesn't think there is any problem with taking what the doctor prescribes.

"I think it depends on the personality of someone and how they deal with things," she said.

She said medication can be very helpful if it's the right one and the right dosage, as in her situation.

According to a recent study by Columbia University,

approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), teenagers who take antidepressant medication are twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts and behavior than teens who do not. Two percent of teens not on the medication had suicidal behavior as opposed to the four percent on one of ten different antidepressant medications.

Dr. Nazar Alsharif teaches in the school of pharmacy at Creighton University. He said for the first four to eight weeks after putting patients on an antidepressants, they need to be monitored because the fact that people's moods change quickly isn't part of the new study.

"In those four to eight weeks they can plan a suicide because that is when they start thinking clearly," Alsharif

said.

He said it takes time to show the complete effect of the antidepressant so it is critical to watch the patient carefully when first introduced to the drug.

"Doctors and family need to be very observant of behavior and attitude (during the first few weeks)," he said.

"Rather than being withdrawn are they interactive with their environment?"

He said the FDA has begun adding information to antidepressant medications due to this study.

The FDA has added black box warnings to medications as

Continued to **Suicide** on Page 5

## Flu Shot Proper hygiene seen as best way to prevent illness

BY MALISA MILITZER

Junior Lindsey Anderson and members of her family received a flu shot this year.

It was the first time she ever had received the shot.

Unfortunately, it did not work because she still got the flu.

Junior Erik Frey said his flu shot didn't work either.

Sue Weston, a student health nurse at Creighton Medical Center, said the more people in one place, such as at Central, the more opportunity those people have to be exposed to the flu.

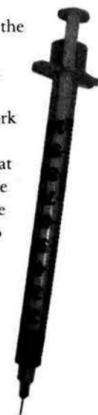
She said sometimes the shots may not work because there are more than three strands of flu and the vaccine given to people only covers about three strands.

She said everyone should get flu shots anyway because it can make a big difference.

However, there are other ways to help teens fight against getting sick.

One way is by students just having proper hygiene.

Another way is just for the student to stay home when



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### Injuries

CHS emergency crew is made up of all volunteers.

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'The Wizard of Oz'  
The drama department follows the yellow brick road.

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## Uniformity key to team, member says

BY ANDREW REINWALD

The drill team plans to have its first performance either in December or after winter break. Members practice twice a week, on Monday and Wednesday from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Senior Michelle Inzauro said they spend most of practice making up dance routines, practicing them and then critiquing their performances afterwards.

"We know we are getting better when we look like one, instead of 13," Inzauro said.

Drill team administrator Andrea Russo said she enjoys working with the girls and is looking forward to the upcoming year.

"I like doing this because I get to see and work with other students outside my classroom," Russo said.

The drill team was originally started by seniors Jessica Womack and Brandi Clanton.

Womack is captain of the drill team and said practicing with the girls opens up many creative possibilities.

"My favorite thing about this is being with the girls and being able to dance," Womack said. "We have fun being creative with the girls."

## Students have zoo overnight to have fun

BY MALISA MILITZER

Cheetah Club once again found a way to explore new territories in animal appreciation.

The club spent the night at the Henry Doorly Zoo on Nov. 19. The only requirements to attend were \$7.50 for food, a pillow and a flashlight.

Sponsor and founder Catherine Kennedy said it was a great time and everyone had fun.



KENNEDY

The students who attended went on a tour of the zoo at night, watched a video and went on a second tour in the morning.

Twelve students and three chaperones attended.

The club, which is currently in its third year, has always been involved in fund-raising and animal safety awareness volunteer work.

"A few caring people can do a lot," Kennedy said.

The trip to the zoo is being provided by the extra money for charity fund-raising the club has done in the past.

They have raised money for wild life habitats and leafleted for farm sanctuaries as well as many other contributions to the coalition for animal protection.

Kennedy said although the club has done a lot it could always do better. She wishes there were more people involved.

"We just want people to be aware of animal issues and how we (people) treat them," Kennedy said.

In the Midwest particularly, Kennedy said dog fighting is a problem.

"Be considerate of animals as you would any life form," Kennedy said.

# CALENDAR



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

First year Physics teacher Matt Hamill teaches new concepts to his Physics 1-2 class on the overhead. Hamill was approached by junior Kyle Gawryluk to be the sponsor for the Archery Club.

## New teacher sponsors Archery Club

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Coming from Iowa City to Omaha for his first teaching job, physics teacher Matt Hamill said he likes Central so far and that Omaha is growing on him.

"I like the students most of all," he said.

Hamill said being a physics teacher was a change for him, but he still enjoys it.

The difference between Omaha and Iowa City, he said, was that Iowa City was a much smaller college town.

"From concerts to sporting events, you had a lot to do in Iowa City," he said. "Omaha has all that and more."

Even as a first-year teacher, Hamill already is the sponsor of the Archery Club at Central.

"It's been a challenge getting us up and running," he said.

With about 15 students in the club, Hamill said there was a mix of experience. Some students have

never shot a bow and arrow, and others have been shooting for a while.

Hamill said he is looking forward to the first time the club goes to a range.

"It's a very student-driven organization," Hamill said. "In part because I have never shot an arrow."

Hamill said he was also looking forward to learning how to shoot an arrow along with the inexperienced students in the club.

Hamill said he likes the club because it is a new organization. Also, he said, the club helps teach students about communication, planning and organization skills.

"I think some students are learning new lessons about leadership," Hamill said. "They're starting to see events don't happen by themselves."

Principal Jerry Bexten said the board of education made the decision to require three years of science classes. Bexten said he and science

department head Jean Whitten both interviewed Hamill and were impressed by his interviewing skills.

Bexten said sometimes it was both a good and bad idea for first year teachers to get involved in extra curricular activities. It was bad, he said, if the teacher was over-committed to the activities. Being the sponsor of a club was good, Bexten said, because it helps the teachers get to know other students than those in their classes. Also, he said, it helped them get to know other staff members.

"It helps them fit in," Bexten said.

Freshman Amanda Jensen joined Archery Club and is the vice president of education in the club. She has been shooting bows and arrows for around six years. Jensen said she was very glad to have Hamill as a sponsor and said he has been a big help in getting the club organized.

"He's very good; he's an awesome teacher," Jensen said.

## Upcoming Events

### November

#### 24 (WED.) Teacher Work Day

No school for students. Teachers will attend break-out sessions on topics such as building safety, bullying, discipline and reading strategies.

#### 25-26 (THURS. - FRI.) Thanksgiving Recess

### December

#### 4 (SAT.) SAT Exam

The exam begins at 7:45. Students should arrive early and bring all the necessary supplies.

#### 11 (SAT.) ACT Exam

The exam begins at 7:45 p.m. Students should bring calculators and pencils.

#### 13 (MON.) Instrumental Music Concert

The concert begins at 7 p.m. and will take place on the stage.

#### 14 (TUES.) Vocal Music Concert

The winter concert begins at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. This is the only concert of the year where all six choirs perform.

## Club members walk for justice to raise money

BY MALISA MILITZER

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) participated in a fund-raiser for National Conference of Community Justice (NCCJ), on Oct. 10.

The fund-raiser, Walk as One, was a walk open to anyone and took place downtown.

GSA sponsor Rick Richards said he thought the experience was enjoyable.

He said GSA learned about the walk through an NCCJ organizational meeting over the summer.

"They kind of zeroed in on organizations in the building that they knew do a lot of volunteer work or are involved in special jobs," Richards said.

The walk participants met at Heartland Park and then walked up around Quest and Ricks Boat Yard and then back for the after-events.

The walk didn't have a set price, but participants donated as much money as they could and wanted to.

"Anybody could walk if they wanted to, but (technically) you had to donate some funds," Richards said.

There were gifts handed out to those who made donations of certain levels. All the money raised went to NCCJ to enable the organization to create needed programs for young people.

## Sponsor gets club involved with area high schools

BY YASMINE NUWWARAH

Retired English teacher David Martin's departure from Central last year and the graduation of many Fine Lines Club members left this year's sponsor, English teacher Deron Larson, questioning how many people would be participating.

However, the underclassmen had good response to the club, he said.

Larson said Fine Lines will be taking a step towards expansion this year. The club may be combining with other schools this year, due to the fact that Martin inspired Fine Lines Club at other high schools in the city, Larson said.

North High School has established a Fine Lines Club and there is potential for another club at Elkhorn High School.

Larson also said Central's Fine Lines will be getting together with North's chapter of the club.

"This will be the first time we've ever gotten together with another school," Larson said.

The development of Fine Lines clubs in other schools and the correlation with those schools will help the keep Central's Fine Lines up and kicking this year.

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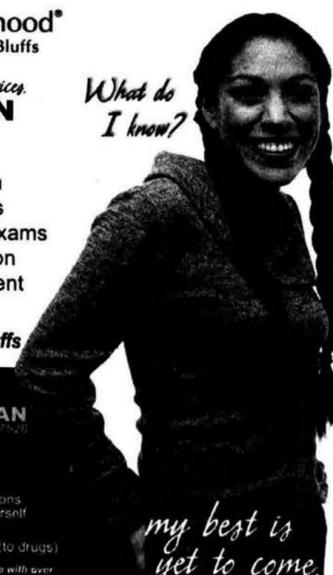
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## Big Brain productions

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# Student group continues effort to improve society

BY MALISA MILITZER

It's been three years since Rosanne Incantro died in a car crash caused by a drunk driver. It's also been three years since students formed Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

The club was created by Incantro's grieving friends. This is the club's last year of having emotional attachments to the initial reason for the creation of the club.

The founding members are in their senior year and will be graduating in May.

Together Incantro's friends found a way to grieve by taking the energy and creating a positive outcome, in the making of the club. It served as a way to grieve.

Club president senior Teresa Larson has high hopes for raising awareness this year. She said she hopes to touch base on a variety of topics.

Larson said so far this year there were about 20 to 25 students involved in SADD. She has no worries about what status the club will be left in next year.

"It's bringing people together who wouldn't normally be together," Larson said. They're working together for a greater cause."

She said that it is especially good that freshmen are getting involved, especially because they have no emotional attachment to the original reason for starting the club, and they are involved purely because they want to help.

"It's really nice to see it (SADD) grow," she said.

English teacher and club sponsor Ginger Barfield said that she sponsored the club not

only because the students asked her, but also because Incantro was a student of hers.

Already this year the club has dealt with the issue of wearing seatbelts.

The club members stood at the entrance of the OEA parking lot on Tues., Nov. 9 to see if people were driving with their seatbelts on. Nothing was done to punish the people who weren't wearing seat belts, but they were stopped and encouraged to buckle-up.

"I don't think we're changing peoples' lives; that's not realistic," Larson said.

She said that the few people who they stopped looked genuinely sorry that they weren't wearing seatbelts.

However, not a large amount showed that what SADD was doing made some sort of difference. Since the start of the club, Larson said both of her parents have been really supportive.

She said though they are helpful at times, they tend to try and stay away from helping her with decisions about the club because, Larson said, the club should be more about what the students within the club feel they need to do.

"I think they try to help out, but not be too involved," Larson said.

Now the decision she stresses in the club are the rules she lives by. She not only practices what she preaches, but encourages other students, even friends to do so as well.

"I would never ever in my life do that (drink and drive)," Larson said.

She said she doesn't care if she looks stupid telling her friends to make good decisions about drinking.

"It's definitely for the good of the community," Larson said.

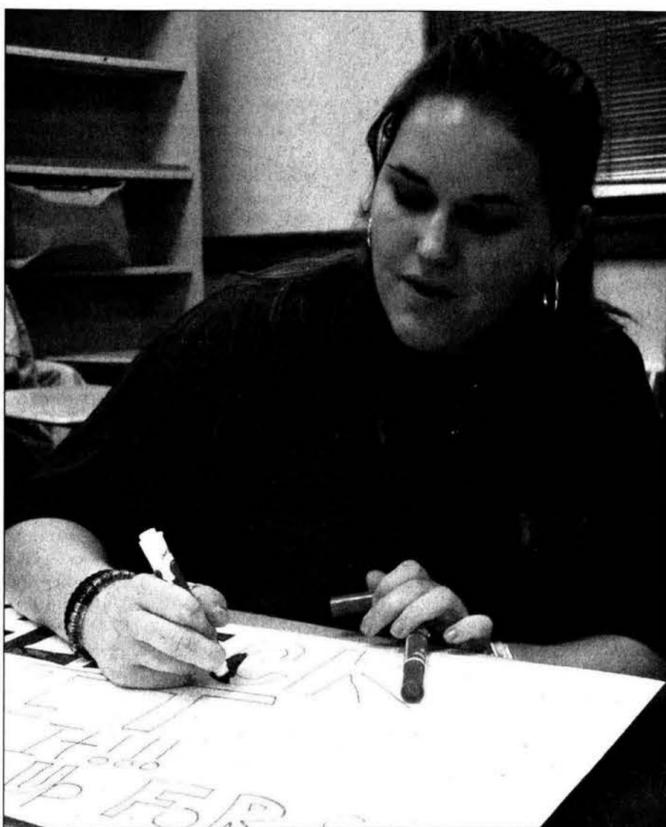


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMMETH/REGISTER

Junior Ashley Lidgett draws up a poster for SADD. SADD promoted wearing seatbelts for safety in November.

# Junior finds roots to family tribe in traditional Pow Wows

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

She is a direct descendant of Ponca Chief Standing Bear, one of America's first civil rights activists to take a stance for his people.

Junior Prenisha Barfield is a member of the Ponca Tribe. She is half Native American and half African American.

Her Native American blood comes from her father's side, Prentice Barfield.

Barfield said she believes traditional Pow Wows are the best part of her culture as a Native American.

Her father introduced her to her Ponca culture and the Pow Wows.

But she would barely know a thing about the culture if her family did not tell her about it. Chief Standing Bear is Barfield's great-great-grandfather.

By law, in order to be enrolled as a true Native American and receive benefits from the government, one has to know exactly how much Native American blood is in them.

They also have to be able to prove it.

Barfield can. According to the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Community Environmental Profile, there are approximately 3,000 enrolled members of the Ponca Tribe.

As a member, the government grants Barfield and her family free health and dental care. Through scholarships, they can also go to college for free. Barfield benefits from the Pow Wows more.

"The most I learn from being Native American comes from the Pow Wows," Barfield said. "You get to learn the

traditional dances and appreciate the family."

Every third Thursday in August of every year, a traditional Ponca Tribe Pow Wow is held. Some are held at Nebraska's Macy reservation about an hour away.

The Pow Wows are Barfield's chance to see more of what her culture is about.

During a Pow Wow, one can visit different food booths, buy jewelry and dance. Barfield said she participates in the dances put on by the girls her age.



BARFIELD

"Every dance means something," Barfield said. "We do it to honor our past ancestors."

Barfield said the girls do one of two dances, the jingle and the fancy dance.

The jingle dance gives the dancers a chance to wear dresses with bells attached to them while the fancy dance has a more decorative look with shawls and jewels.

Barfield said the custom of their tribe is one has to allow four years of mourning after a death before he or she is allowed to dance.

Barfield says Pow Wows are a traditional North American Native American celebration. But to her it means more.

"To me, a Pow Wow is a time to celebrate," she said. "We dance, we sing, we eat. It's the (best) party of the year!"

A Pow wow is nonetheless a family party and a chance for Barfield to learn more about her ancestry.

Barfield learned from the Pow Wows how Chief Standing Bear challenged the government to recognize Native Americans as a people and not just objects.

"A lot of people do not give enough credit to Chief Standing Bear," Barfield said. "He stood up for his people. He

came before Martin Luther King, Jr. was ever on the scene."

Today, the rights and protection her family have as Native Americans makes a big difference.

However, the Barfield family does think the laws are slowly changing to take away land from some of her family in the Ponca Tribe.

"The government is taking away money from Native Americans for unknown reasons," Barfield said. "I want to put an end to it."

Prentice Barfield, father of Prenisha Barfield, said the government chooses who it wants to give money to.

"The government is going to be limited," Barfield said. "Things would be better if they gave for education or housing. But it is up to the young people in our tribe to be a voice to the council."

Barfield also said he thinks the young people of the Ponca tribe should do as much as they can to get the government board's attention.

He said they are ignoring some pleas. They need new councils and people who really care about the tribe, Barfield said.

History teacher Rod Mullen said he has some Native American students who have a positive reaction to how society looks at them.

"During the 1970s in South Dakota, the government tried to get away with not giving Native Americans their land," Mullen said. "They destroyed the receipts so the people wouldn't know how to get their land back."

The Ponca Tribe was eliminated from Nebraska as an official tribe in 1962. There was no land for them to claim. It was not until the Ponca Restoration Act of 1990 when the tribe became federally recognized.

# Keeping hands clean good way to help prevent flu, health officials say

'SICK' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

is able to get a flu vaccine to get one. As a mother of two she has always gotten her children vaccinated.

Everyday between 15-25 students go home sick, but whether they are truly sick or pretending is always an issue as well.

School nurse Jenny Conahan said an option for students if they want to attend school when they are sick is to make sure to pick up any messes and wash their hands regularly, as should everyone, whether they are sick or not.

"If you look at how many days I've called in sick it's almost zero," Conahan said. "You can take care of yourself."

Weston said she advises everyone who is able to get a flu vaccine to get one. As a mother of two she has always gotten her children vaccinated.

Anderson says that although she does think that cold and flu hygiene needs to be improved within Central she believes that she probably contracte the flu from somewhere other than school.

She said she thinks people need to wash their hands, sleep enough and eat correctly and admits that the size of the school does contribute to the likeness of people transferring germs.

"Germes are so highly picked up because it is such a huge school," Anderson said.

Conahan agreed saying students need to realize it is not acceptable to spit in the classroom trash cans.

She said it would help the contain the spread of germs if students exused themselves to the restroom to spit in the toilet and then washed their hands before they returned to class.

"I don't think Central is as in anyway worse or better than the next," Anderson said. "First, because Central has such a large population and theirs not a lot of way to prevent germs from getting around."

Yet she and Fry believe the flu season has already proved itself worse than last year because of the number of people already being absent from sickness and because of the number of people who got sick over homecoming weekend.

## COLLEGE CORNER



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

### St. John's University

**Where:** Jamaica, New York  
**Admission:** 83% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Private four year university affiliated with the Roman Catholic church  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 3,984  
**Popular Majors:** Psychology, Health Sciences and Protective Services  
**Application Deadlines:** N/A

### University of Oregon

**Where:** Eugene, Oregon  
**Admission:** 90% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Public four year university  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 3,120  
**Popular Majors:** Foreign Language, Environmental Science and Performing Arts  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date February 2

### Carthage College

**Where:** Kenosha, Wisconsin  
**Admission:** 91% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Private four year liberal arts college  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 1,888  
**Popular Majors:** Biology, Business and History  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date December 1

### Georgia Southern University

**Where:** Statesboro, Georgia  
**Admission:** 88% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Public four year university  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 12,539  
**Popular Majors:** Education, Engineering Technologies and Health Sciences  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date July 1

### Colorado College

**Where:** Colorado Springs, Colorado  
**Admission:** 55% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Private four year liberal arts college  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 1,929  
**Popular Majors:** Physical Sciences, Performing Arts and English  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date January 15

### San Jose State University

**Where:** San Jose, California  
**Admission:** 72% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Public four year university and liberal arts college  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 20,732  
**Popular Majors:** Anthropology, Computer Sciences and Business  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date November 1

### Drake University

**Where:** Des Moines, Iowa  
**Admission:** 90% of applicants admitted  
**Type:** Private four year university  
**Undergraduate Enrollment:** 3,099  
**Popular Majors:** Biology, Social Sciences and Communications  
**Application Deadlines:** Priority Date March 1

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# Principal plaques show appreciation, changing times

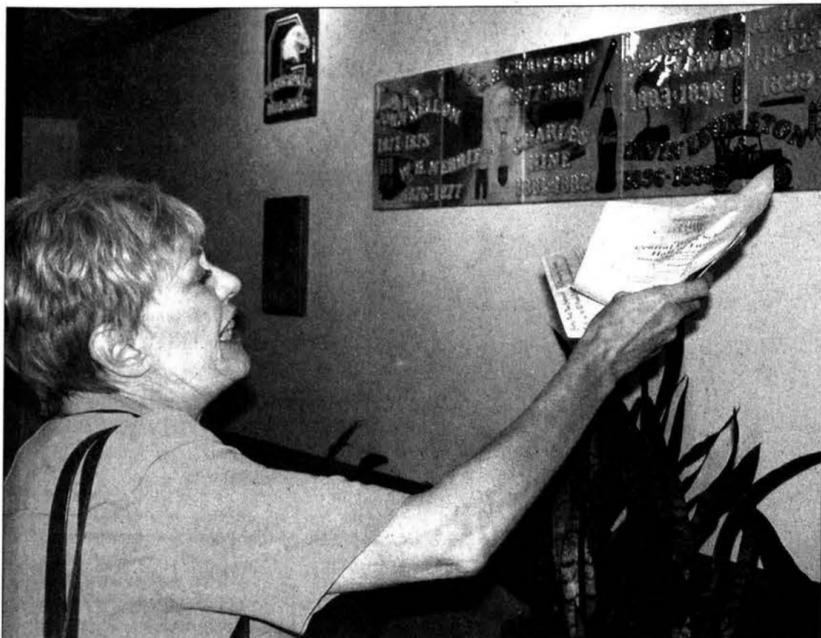


PHOTO BY ANNIE KLINE/REGISTER

Spanish teacher Vickie Anderson admires the new principal plaques displayed in the dramatorium.

BY YASMINE NUWWARAH

"History doesn't have to be dry and boring," Eunie Denenberg, chairman of the Reunion Committee at Central, said.

Denenberg said the history displayed in Central High School's Principals Gallery is fun and interesting.

The gallery is a series of plaques designed to commemorate the history of Central's principals. It was a gift donated last year by the graduating class of 1946.

However, due to the renovations, the plaques were not put up until this year.

During the 55th reunion of the class of 1946, the reunion committee found they had excess money and decided to use it to donate something to benefit the school.

Denenberg said the committee consulted former principal Gary Thompson for ideas on how they could use the money.

Thompson presented the idea of creating a gallery to honor the principals.

"I thought it was nice to have those people (principals) commemorated," Denenberg said. "I grabbed onto the idea right away."

To set the plan in motion, Denenberg spoke to an artist friend of hers, Patty O'Connor-Seeger about designing and

making the tiles for the display.

"I knew what we wanted was a piece of art, not just plaques with pictures of the principals," Denenberg said.

O'Connor-Seeger designed and made each tile out of clay, then hand painted each one.

The Principal's gallery tiles were finished last year, and then stored until they could be put on display.

Arranged in a time line, the series of eleven plaques name the school since 1871 to the years they were here.

The list goes as far back as John Kellom who was principal from 1871 to 1875 and ends with the current principal, Jerry Bexten. The plan is to continue the gallery in the future after Bexten retires.

Each ceramic tile contains images of prominent icons or things that were invented according to its place on the time line.

In addition, there is a separate plaque listing each of the items in the pictures and what year they were invented.

The list includes such things as blue jeans, Coca Cola, the Model T Ford, computers and even chocolate chip cookies.

It was originally planned that the gallery would be set up in the courtyard just above

one of the doorways.

The reunion committee discarded the idea because of the construction.

At the assembly for the Hall of Fame inductees, Denenberg said she spoke to drama instructor John Gibson who suggested they put the gallery in the auditorium, where they are now on display.

Bexten said he thought the gallery looked very nice once it was put up.

"I like the colors," Bexten said, "and liked the idea as well."

The idea was established in 1859, a history spanning decades of significance.

The gallery is a display honoring those who served as principals and headmasters here.

It is also a display to inform current students of how life was at Central in the past.

"I think part of what makes Central important to the city of Omaha is its history," Bexten said.

Denenberg agreed with Bexten about the history of Central and she said the school's history is something students will find important at some point in their lives.

"I think Central is a school that has a very strong tradition and that helps give the foundation for the school," she said.

# Custodians spend hundreds of dollars daily to clean graffiti

BY LAUREN CRIST

\* Names changed to protect identity

Security guard Frank Zavorka said graffiti this year is worse than before.

"We've had graffiti almost every day," Zavorka said. "We'd cleaned off the graffiti in the bathroom a couple of times and when we've come back 40 minutes later, somebody's all ready spray painted it again."

Custodian Curt Kent said graffiti has been primarily sprayed in bathrooms, hallways, on doors and around the outside of the building as well.

"It's a shame," Kent said.

Sometimes cleaning up the graffiti can take as long as an hour to an hour and a half, Kent said. Clean up can be difficult, and products sometimes damage doors and walls.

Zavorka said on average, the clean up costs between \$100 and \$200 inside the building. When someone sprays graffiti on the outside of the building, a special crew has to be called in with graffiti power sprays to clean it off.

"There's been a lot of stuff being put up this year," Zavorka said.

He said janitors have to do twice the amount of work and often have to sand off the paint, which is very time-consuming. Junior Autumn Drickey said she thought graffiti showed a lack of respect for the school.

"It shows that a person doesn't have any respect for the standards we're supposed to live up to," Drickey said.

Bexten said graffiti would not be regarded as art.

"Not at Central," he said. "It will always be considered vandalism."

Zavorka said both students and gangs have sprayed the Graffiti. Common tags that have been sprayed around Central are those of the South Omaha Disciples, Lomas, SGD and SUR13.

"Someone is choosing to be really destructive," he said. "There's a lot of stuff being put up."

\*Sophomore John Doe said he does stenciling, and has been paid for designs he has done for people. He said he typically designs the shirts and splits the profit with a friend. Drickey said she thinks painting is only acceptable with permission.

"I've seen murals downtown where someone has spray

painted with the owner's permission," Drickey said. "I think it's an OK way of expressing yourself as long as it's not vandalism."

Drickey said she has seen graffiti on the outside building wall and in bathrooms.

"We should have a punishment that fits the crime that sets an example," she said.

Doe said he has never done graffiti at Central before. He said he usually does it where many people can see it and sometimes at skate parks.

"If I get something new, I want people to see it," he said. "I draw whatever I feel like."

He said he's done graffiti for about a year.

He said he has never been caught and usually does graffiti where he knows he won't get caught.

Principal Jerry Bexten said anyone who is caught will have to pay for the damage done.

"It costs money to remove it, and it takes time and materials," Bexten said. "It sometimes damages property as well, and takes off paint

and varnishes."

Kent said graffiti is insolent as well as destructive.

"It defaces school property, and kids aren't showing respect like they should be," said Kent.

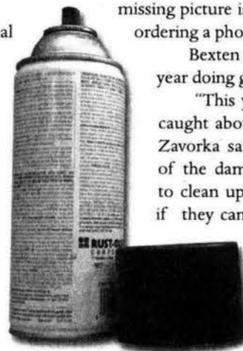
Recently the photo of William Roark was taken from the Vietnam memorial. Bexten said there is a chance Roark's missing picture is vandalism as well. He said they are now ordering a photo to replace the old one.

Bexten said some students have been caught this year doing graffiti.

"This year, since school started, we've probably caught about five, maybe seven kids," Zavorka said.

Zavorka said consequences include paying the cost of the damage done, are suspended and may have to clean up the mess. Students can also be expelled if they cannot pay for the damage.

"Consequences are very severe," Bexten said. "Students who are caught doing graffiti will have to pay for damage which can cost up to hundreds of dollars."



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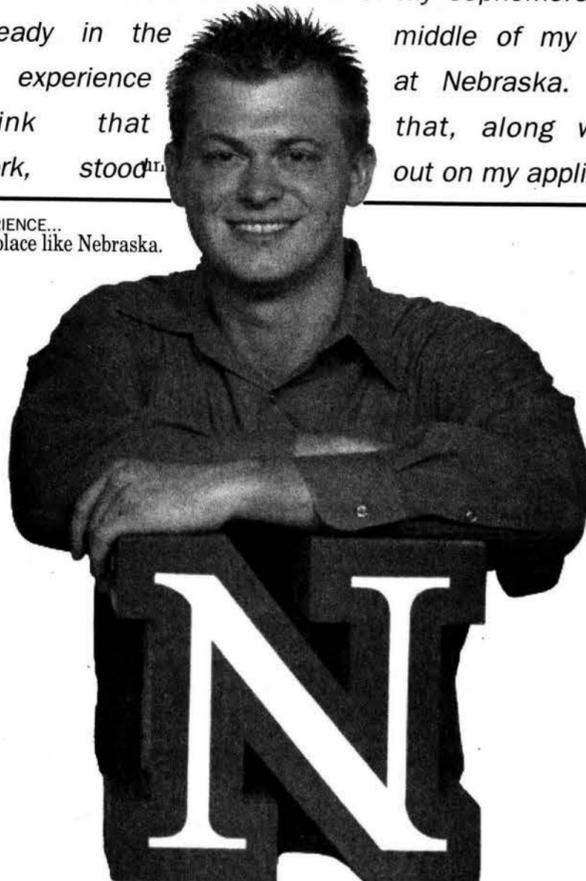
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## This Nebraska Student's Homework is Homeland Security

**Preston Mesick**, a junior engineering major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Millard North graduate, earned a prestigious Homeland Security Scholarship early this fall. The scholarship supports the development and mentoring of the next generation of scientists as they seek to reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism. Mesick credits his early access to research work at UNL. "At the end of my sophomore year, I was already in the middle of my second research experience at Nebraska. I have to think that that, along with my coursework, stood out on my application."

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Dean of Students David Andersen watches the security camera monitor in his office. He is the only faculty member who can control camera movement. PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

## Administrator hopes new cameras end fake fire alarms

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Principal Jerry Bexten said he hopes the new cameras will help cut down on the amount of false fire alarms.

Although the locations of the cameras that will be installed are going to be kept secret, Bexten said they will be in areas where there is less security than the rest of the building.

In addition to watching the fire alarms, Bexten said the main reason for the cameras is to further add security around the building.

"There are some areas in the building that are difficult to have adequate supervision," Bexten said.

The other cameras do not have any designated place for them as of right now, but will be put in around Dec. 24, when renovations end.

The program administrator for school safety in Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Roddie Miller said the cameras were not installed because of anything that happened at school, rather they are pre-planning.

"I find that OPS is always pre-planning," Miller said.

He said the advantage of the cameras were that they can monitor activities in areas that could impose security threats. The advantages, she said, were that the cameras could capture theft and intruders on video. The cameras act as another seeing eye, Miller said.

Miller said the cameras can help change students' behavior. For example, she said, the students may not pull the fire alarms if they know cameras are around. But, she said, the cameras shouldn't interfere with classes.

"It's just a silent piece of equipment that's there,"

Miller said.

Dean of Students David Andersen has the controls for the security cameras in his office. Although all administrators and Bexten have access to what the cameras are viewing, only Andersen can analyze the footage and adjust the cameras.

Andersen said the cameras that are installed now are put in places where almost no security staff members are present, but have many students.

"We're trying to find areas of the building that have high student traffic," he said.

One camera is installed watching the portables, and another was installed in the basement. The money for them came from a grant given to the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) district for security cameras.

Out of all the schools in OPS, Andersen said, Central will have the least amount of cameras around its campus.

The reasons the cameras have gone in, Andersen said, are for school safety.

He said privacy had never been an issue.

"Most public places nowadays have security cameras," Andersen said.

Andersen also said there have been no security issues for Central causing officials to put in cameras. It was just a matter of school safety.

Freshman Cody Beber said he thinks the cameras are good for the school and will help catch students pulling fire alarms.

"I don't think they invade privacy at all," Beber said. Beber said the places that should have cameras are

the courtyard and around the portables outside.

Sophomore Leslie Leach came from Westside High School where there were lots of cameras. Leach said at Westside she felt the cameras were an invasion of privacy.

"Maybe at Central they need them (cameras)," she said.

Leach said the cameras would be needed in the hallways the most.

The cameras would be helpful when trying to catch who is pulling the fire alarms.

Bexten said he hopes to accomplish two things with the new cameras.

One, he said, was that students would think twice before committing a crime. The second was that students would feel safe in all areas of the building.

Jon Driscoll, president of Advanced Imaging Solutions, the company that installed the cameras at Central, said the recording equipment for the cameras was more advanced than other older cameras.

The cameras are recorded digitally on the computer, as opposed to recorded on videotape, so the right footage can be viewed easier.

Driscoll said his company installed most of the cameras around all of the OPS schools, with the exceptions of the cameras that were already present.

The advantages of the cameras, he said, were that cameras could catch people in an action.

"It holds people accountable (for their actions)," Driscoll said. "Cameras don't lie."

## FDA to put warnings on antidepression meds

'SUICIDE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well as giving out patient medication guides with each prescription.

"It is a very good procedure by the FDA," Alsharif said. "It is basically a warning to pay attention. It is warning the factors of taking this medication, in this case the higher risk of suicide."

He said the patient information guide offers more knowledge for the person using the medication.

McDonald said it is during withdrawals she has had problems with bad depression.

She ran out of Zoloft and hadn't used any for four days.

"It's like I'm looking through someone else's eyes," she said.

She said when she is off medication she is very irritable and can't handle being at school.

Alsharif said if the medication isn't taken regularly or as prescribed the goal may not be achieved.

"The patient needs to be in compliance with these medications," he said.

McDonald said she doesn't believe the study because the only time she ever considered suicide was during withdrawals. She said maybe people in the study confused suicidal thoughts with plain depression.

"You still get depressed (when you take antidepressants) because if you don't then you are totally numb to your emotions," McDonald said. "You just don't hit rock bottom."

She said the only time she ever hits rock bottom is when she is not on the drug. She said when she was out of medication she had to have people around her constantly because she didn't know what she would do to herself if she was alone.

"The doctors said to make sure not to run out and if I had a two-day supply left to get it refilled," she said.

She said she has been on Zoloft 14 months and is trying to slowly use less because she doesn't want to need them the rest of her life. Dr. James Madison, assistant professor in the department of psychiatry, said the main alternative to psychotherapy is a kind of treatment called behavioral therapy.

"It is an approach to change their beliefs about themselves," Madison said.

He said the therapy is challenging the beliefs that everybody looks at that person unfavorably.

"In terms of the way the treatment has been studied, there are usually around 18 to 20 sessions, initially going once a week and by the end maybe only one a month," he said.

Madison said interpersonal therapy (IPT) was specifically developed for the treatment of depression for teenagers.

"It deals with the assumption that people develop depression through problems in relationships," he said.

He said it works to see if the person has interpersonal skills or if they are missing any particular set of skills. He said in the therapy the psychologist helps the patient negotiate transitions in life such as the transition from middle school to high school or family issues.

He said because of the study showing suicide risks, patients might be monitored more closely.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

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# OPINION

"I'm so glad George W. Bush was re-elected for president."  
Joe Albright (10)

## Junior finds eating hot peppers stupid

Just for one minute imagine Satan in the deepest pits of Hell forcing you to eat burning coals. And for the next half-hour you truly believe that you're truly dying and you just still can't believe how dumb enough you were to eat a Habañero pepper.

So the next best thing was yogurt. Old yogurt. Old lemon yogurt that had already been opened, but by now I was willing to do anything to extinguish the raging forest fire in my mouth.

So I'm in the middle of the room running in place trying to



**SURPRISING EVERYONE**  
A Column by Andrew Reinwald

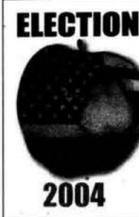
down a container of yogurt. To be honest after that I looked like a raving lunatic, I was ranting, constantly twitching and crying out for more dairy products. Yogurt didn't do squat. So I was hunched over a trash can trying to get rid of the pain the way God and all supermodels intended. If that's not bad enough had two other people standing right behind me cracking jokes. Many of these jokes crossed the lines of decency, not that I'm Johnny McDoGood, but when you're being burned from the inside out you can't really laugh and vomit at the same time. After I gave up trying to throw up some of the pain from my mouth had been relieved. At that point I was lying on the floor clutching my stomach because when you break it all down one Habañero pepper equals five Chernobyl meltdowns in your gut. And that's an actual mathematical equation, it's been proven. Everyone in the room has had a good laugh and while I'm still lying there moaning in pain everyone takes their turn coming up to me cracking jokes. After feeling at my worst jokes were not appreciated at this time. You cannot truly understand how painful eating a Habañero pepper really is until you do it. In fact, I encourage you to eat one. I admit that after this whole ordeal I didn't learn one lesson. There wasn't a single moral to this story, but I now know that if you feed a Habañero pepper to some dumb kid who thinks he's tough enough to eat Satan's gift to the world the end result is comic gold. Pepper anybody?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NIC SAMUELSON/REGISTER

## Teens would rather sleep than vote

With one of the closest presidential elections in history it is a surprise the lack of talk about it beforehand. It seems like no one cares. Everyone has an excuse for not wanting to watch the debates or campaign for a candidate. Some students say they hate George W. Bush and John Kerry so they just won't pay any attention to politics. Neither Bush nor Kerry is anyone's ideal candidate. They have virtually the same views on a lot of topics, but that doesn't mean one can just separate themselves from all candidates. Thinking that way is ridiculous and selfish because people want change without working with the system. Politics go beyond the presidential candidates and if teenagers are planning on staying this apathetic to the issues the future does not look good. Not only that, but it seems like some Orwellian age is coming and it takes people with knowledge and heart to realize how to change it, to make the world better. If no one cares then taxes will be raised, social security and Medicare will be cut and the United States might get into more wars because the general population will not protest it. It is really scary not to hear talk about it anywhere. In one class a teacher offered extra credit to anyone who watched the debates and only four people took her up on it. The next day she made it an assignment and less than half completed it. Students won't even care if their grades depend on it. Politics is the dirtiest business in the world, but also one of the most necessary. It is going to take the majority of this generation to change things so our children won't be paying for our mistakes. No one wants to know about what is going on around him or her or across the country. It is all about that person. They don't vote or listen to the debates, but when they think their minimum wage from Burger King isn't high enough they have room to complain. It is pathetic. This is not to say that all students are lazy and apathetic. There are some who are determined to change things, but not nearly enough. Central is the biggest school in Nebraska and the enrollment in student Democrats and Republicans totals to less than 30. It is hard to believe that not even 30 students at this school care about their community and the world around them. How is that possible? It is not that every student at Central is too busy to do some community work and get active. It is just plain laziness.



### REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think people as young as 16 should be put on death row?



"No not at all. They're only 16. They're not even considered an adult, yet."  
Shannon Prince (12)



"It's right to a certain extent. It's fair to allow it, but know when to use it."  
Robert Wesley (12)



"No because they're young. They can't even send you to war when you're 16."  
Steven Watkins (10)



"No because they're not as mature as the older ones."  
Reshaad Toney (12)



"No, because they could be a lot younger. They don't need to die."  
Melinda Matthies (10)



"If they kill someone they should."  
Sha'Vaughn Davis (10)

## LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

### Central needs Pep rallies

Dear Editor,  
Every high school student at Central is missing out on an important part of their high school career. Pep rallies! Where'd they go? I don't know why we don't have them, but we should. It's ridiculous!  
Kelsey Kroeger (11)

### Election causes confusion

Dear Editor,  
Of course there was a lot of dispute of the election this year. I mean it was a political ordeal where different sides are fighting and striving for a common goal: President of the United States. Who was I backing? I hate to admit that I flipped. I would have liked to have seen John Kerry win because I am a very patriotic person and I would have liked to have seen what a new mind could do about the war. On the other hand, Bush has had four years of experience with conflict and I can now believe he is the right man for the job.  
Tim Bertino (11)

### Mid-term tests wrong

Dear Editor,  
I don't think we should have to take mid-terms. We are one of, if not the only school to have to take them.  
Emily Waldo (10)

### Pajamas should be allowed

Dear Editor,  
Banning pajama pants is counter productive. The administration claims that pajama pants are inappropriate dress. The student handbook states that "Clothing which draws undue attention to the student for which is disruptive to the school environment is not acceptable." Pajama pants do neither. They are not even mentioned in the handbook. Instead the administration should concern itself with enforcing the rules that are mentioned and broken. If pajama pants are being sold in the school store, the administration is being hypocritical.  
Anna Wiksell (11)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via email to 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.

### Hockey needs more attention

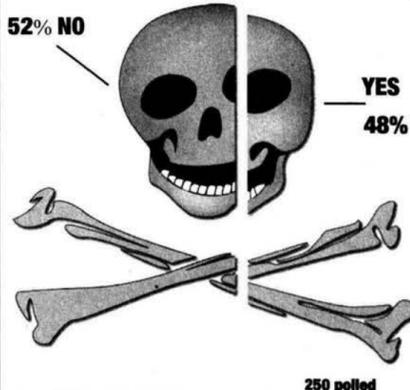
Dear Editor,  
I think there needs to be more involvement in high school hockey. They all play just as hard as any other high school athlete of another sport. It is also a sport you can letter in and therefore deserves just as much attention.  
Kenneth Sunata (11)

### Music taken away from seniors

Dear Editor,  
Throughout high school students have always enjoyed the idea of music in the classroom. Music is a key element to a fundamentally sound academic year. Our high school career is coming to a close for us seniors and the music department is apparently trying to turn around the classic music program. We did not accept this class to be a study hall, yet the availability of free time and enjoyment has been deprived. Our love for orchestra has begun to deteriorate. We miss our breaks after hard work from concerts. We miss the fun that orchestra used to offer. We've worked hard for this orchestra, committed strenuous hours of practice and faithfully attended concerts and contests. For what? To be treated like children. The joy has been taken from music.  
Robert Piskac (12), Mary Hakanson (12), Brenda Reed (12)

### STUDENT POLL

Are teens mature enough to be convicted of the Death Penalty?



### Student proud of Bush

Dear Editor,  
I am so glad that George W. Bush was re-elected for president. I would have been extremely disappointed if Kerry would have won. I believe that Bush is a much better president and has better policies than Kerry could ever have.  
Joe Albright (10)

### Too many CRTs

Dear Editor,  
Why do we have to take CRT's? I understand we (as a whole school) must attain a certain level of achievement, but most of my friends don't care about them, so they don't try. If we didn't take so many so often people might actually attempt to do well on them. As for the teachers who use CRT's in a student's grade, I think it is useless because they are only retesting us on the material we have been taught.  
Bailey Jensen (10)

### STUDENT POLL

Are you political?



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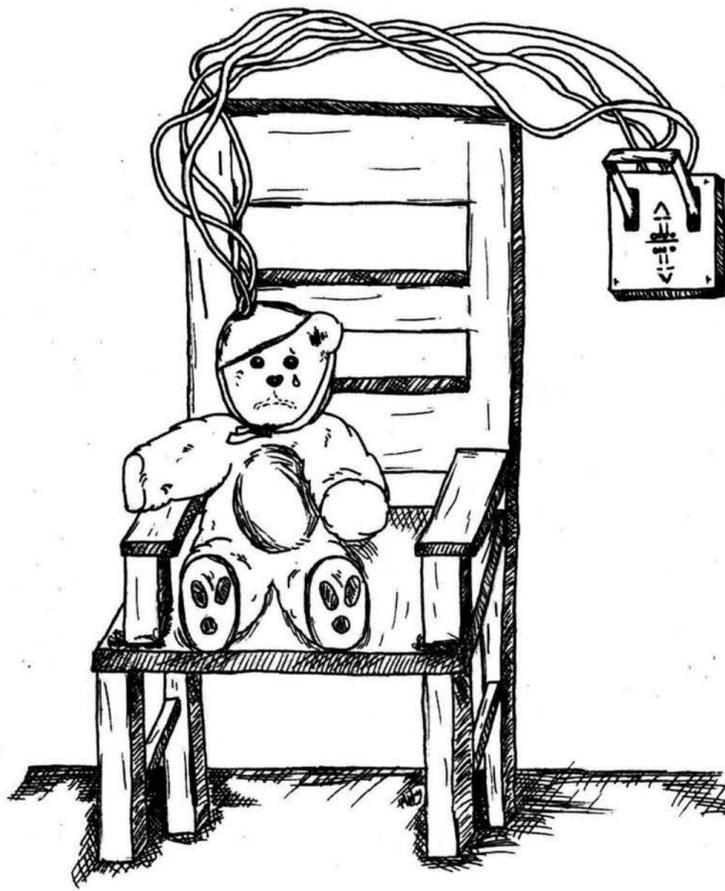
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# EDITORIALS

**OLD SPARKY**  
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Mr. Jerry Bexten  
 PRINCIPAL  
 Mart Deabler  
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 Molly Mullen  
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## Death penalty for teens wrong

Sixteen to 18-year-old students are too young to be executed. Yet, according to the United States policy in some states, the majority of high school students could be executed if convicted of murder.

Seventy people between 16 and 18 years old now await execution across the country. The split over the issue has caused controversy nationwide.

Only seven states have restricted the death penalty to those over eighteen years of age, Nebraska being one of them.

The Supreme Court has ruled the execution of anyone 15 and younger unconstitutional under the eighth amendment.

However, the Supreme Court met last month to decide whether or not the death penalty to those 16 to 18 years old should be restricted as well.

Recognition of this controversy arose when 17-year-old Christopher Simmons was sentenced to death after murdering his neighbor 11 years ago.

Simmons and a 15-year-old friend, who later received life in prison, broke into a neighboring trailer to steal money for drugs.

By the end of the night, they had duck-taped her face, and threw her off a bridge to drown while she was still conscious.

The briefs in the case argued that the frontal lobes control behaviors present and crucial in a murder or other criminal situations.

These behaviors include impulse control, emotions and morals. Because of this research, it is debated whether or not teenage killers

can be held accountable for murders to the same degree adults are. In stressful situations, an adolescent's instinctual reaction will most likely differ from that of an adult's.

Of course, they will still be held accountable for their reactions to nearly the same degree.

The only differing factor would be whether or not they will receive the death penalty.

The majority of students in high school can be executed in different states.

In Montana and Washington, an 18 year old could be hanged. In Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Virginia, a 16 year old could be electrocuted.

Scientific research verifies that the brain is not yet developed at this age. International groups have protested and even some third world countries have restricted the death penalty age. Yet the United States still hasn't.

### EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

## Experience inspires teen to look deeper

When I volunteered with the home for children who had been abused or neglected, I wasn't sure what to expect. Many people talk about life-changing experiences that made them realize how much they take for granted.

I had always thought this was kind of clichéd in the past, but that was before I met someone who said she was simply grateful to be in a home where she didn't have to fear her parents anymore.

However, I still had a strong undercurrent of apprehension.

I was surprised when for the first night, we were allowed to stay up talking with the children at the home while playing poker until midnight.

I was exhausted by the time I finally got to bed, and groggily ignored the persistent requests to wake up in the morning.

They had conveniently "forgotten" to mention that the last one up in the morning did dishes and I was the last to wake up.

Of course, these weren't an ordinary pile of dishes. It was a mountain of syrupy spoons and spongy waffles leftover from 12 people.

After breakfast, we left to help repaint an older house nearby.

However, the dawn out hours of painting transformed into paint war.

One of the volunteers with us accidentally spilled a whole can of paint on the cement porch, and soon, we took advantage of the opportunity and completely repainted the porch with colorful designs since there was all ready a huge paint blotch on it.

When we weren't helping paint or do other household and farm chores, we played football and capture the flag in the fields or stood on the roof of the house eating gooey fruit roll ups and talking as we made up constellations of our own in the stars make friends, but in the end, I did.



**NO APOLOGIES NECESSARY**

A Column by Lauren Crist

## Family dinners serve as lessons, bridge between generation gaps

In my family, making sure everyone is fed has become the definition what a holiday is in my family. The catch is to make sure the family is grateful for the food.

When our family gets together for Christmas, somebody has to cook. When we celebrate a birthday, the party giver has to cook.

Now that I am older, it has become a part of my lifestyle to make sure that the guests in the house are fed. Giving the company food is so imbedded in me that it's a part of my personality.

I'm almost convinced that every holiday of the year, someone in my family is going to cook. Our family cooks on Memorial Day, Labor Day, anniversaries, you name it.

But the dinner never gets started without the family knowing how lucky they are to get these free meals.

Whenever I have company, the first thing I say is "Are you hungry, hun?" And believe it or not, I sometimes get offended if they say no. In some cultures, refusing food is an insult. Hospitality is a key part of my life and I would feel unappreciated if my guest did not want to be fed.

Of course some do have the state of mind where they just don't eat other people's cooking. But a guest of mine would know whether or not if I could cook. But the skill is not what I am trying to show them. I'm trying to show them I trust them enough to let them step a foot into my house.

If I couldn't trust them, they wouldn't get fed.

Even though I know that everybody couldn't be trusted, giving food is apart of my culture. I'm sure my grandmother would say that I should not try to be so giving to people I don't know. But inviting people into my home is not the only way to give a free meal.

I've visited a shelter with an old friend who has served food to the poor for most of her life. Her family organized the free meals that were given to the homeless and less fortunate on a weekly basis. There is always a way to give back.

For my family, with every holiday we celebrate, there will be a plate for my Uncle Curtis to take home. And with every plate that is made, the cooks will feel appreciated for the time they put into the meal.

Beyond saving a plate for your favorite uncle and making sure everyone is fed there are so many lessons to learn when a plate is served with a prayer or a toast. Every family has their own meals they choose to make, but the message is all the same. My family's first message to each other is to honor our cooks. The cooks are usually the elders. The second message is to do everything we can to stay alive until the next family dinner. This means we have to learn how to make the right decisions in life.

Once we reach the dinner table, we begin to understand that a free meal tells my family members they need to be glad they even get a meal to eat. There were plenty of families that came before us who had to pay for every meal they ate.

If their generation of families stole the food, they paid for it with their backs by getting whipped.

A free meal today is supposed to make my family remember that. A holiday gives us something to look forward to. So the next time my grandmother decides she wants to cook a family dinner, I will make sure everyone is getting their piece of sweet potato pie.

And while they're stuffing themselves with macaroni and cheese, they will not leave without knowing the true meaning of a free meal. A free meal one must be thankful for.



**FLEXIBLE WINGS**

A Column by JoAnna LeFlora

## Car accident forces teen to deal with loss of friend, memories

A car crosses over an interstate median and collides with an eighteen-wheeler truck.

Nothing can prepare you for that statement, especially if the driver of that car was your friend. Less than a two months ago I sat in a classroom working on homework like normal when I learned that a friend of mine, Nate Kerzman, had died in a car crash.

When my mother called to tell me of the situation, I thought she was joking. It didn't seem real until long pauses started to occur between her sentences, and I could tell she was holding back tears.

I paced back and forth telling myself that somehow this was a big mistake. That possibly names and faces were mixed up and that when I would call to speak to him that night he would answer the phone, eager to tell me about his day.

But as I hung up the phone a surge of emotion ran through me. The power if this tremendous sadness pulled me to my knees. It didn't matter that I was standing outside the west entrance of Central, or that people were looking strangely at me as they passed where I was crumbled into a ball. I let it go. I screamed as I cried as if I needed Nate to hear me.

I gathered myself and returned to my homework. The shock had full effect and I pleaded to stay at school for fear that if I went home the thoughts would make me sick.

When I finally did go home, I didn't talk about it. My dad, always trying to be caring about sensitive situations, met me at the door

to comfort me and talk about how I was feeling. For he had learned of the situation through my mother.

But, being in an I-hate-the-world mood, I pushed him away, simply saying that I didn't want to talk about it. I wanted to block out the feeling, forget it and possibly with it's absence I might receive my friend back.

Of course I soon realized that I needed to cope with his death and not shove it away.

Within the next few days I found his death to be the topics of many of my conversations. I found myself mentioning it to people without even realizing it.

I talked about my feelings and about the feelings of people around me that knew him and together, some of his other friends and I dealt with the fact that he wasn't going to be around anymore.

Over the short period of time between his death and his funeral, I had been bombarded with unanswered questions and guilt that I never realized I held inside.

I was guilty because over the year or so that I knew him I never told him how much he contributed to my life. He never knew that I looked up to him and looked forward to seeing him everyday.

So there I stood, in front of my closet, two days after this phone call, with tears on my face. He said at his funeral he would not want anyone to wear black. It was too depressing. The sudden impact of his death had left me dizzy inside and all of his friends and family could do at such a time was hold each other.



**WALK THIS WAY**

A Column by Malisa Militzer

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The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all its proceedings.

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# Teacher hits puck instead of textbooks

BY TESS MANDELL

Some students may think the only thing math teacher Brent Larson does on Sundays is grade tests. When in reality, he's at the ice rink playing hockey.

Larson started playing the sport last November for the Metro Classic Hockey League (MCHL).

He and his friend, Jon Eden, decided to try playing hockey after a couple other friends asked them to join.

Eden said he and Larson met each other through their wives. They go biking and attend Maverick games together as well.

Larson said he and Eden first joined MCHL's beginner program, which included once-a-week practices for eight weeks. He said there were no games at the beginner level because of the lack of players. Instead, the players worked on drills.

Before long, Larson and Eden had worked their way up to the novice level. Larson said that they joined the Flames and ended the season undefeated. Larson finished with seven goals and three assists according to MCHL statistics.

Larson also played for the Grey Ghosts this past summer in MCHL's summer league.

"Brent is a great member of the team," Grey Ghosts captain Bill Norton said. "He really makes things happen."

Statistics show that Larson ended the season with three goals and two assists.

"He's one of the best guys on the team," Norton said.

Larson said he really enjoys playing in a league that's so diverse.

"It's from players just out of high school to guys who have kids in college," Larson said.

He said it is not just the ages that makes the team special. Unlike most sports it is co-ed.

"It's also fun how there are guys and girls in the same league," Larson said.

Even though Larson hasn't been playing hockey for more than a year, he said he has been skating since he was a kid.

"Skating has never been a problem," Larson said.

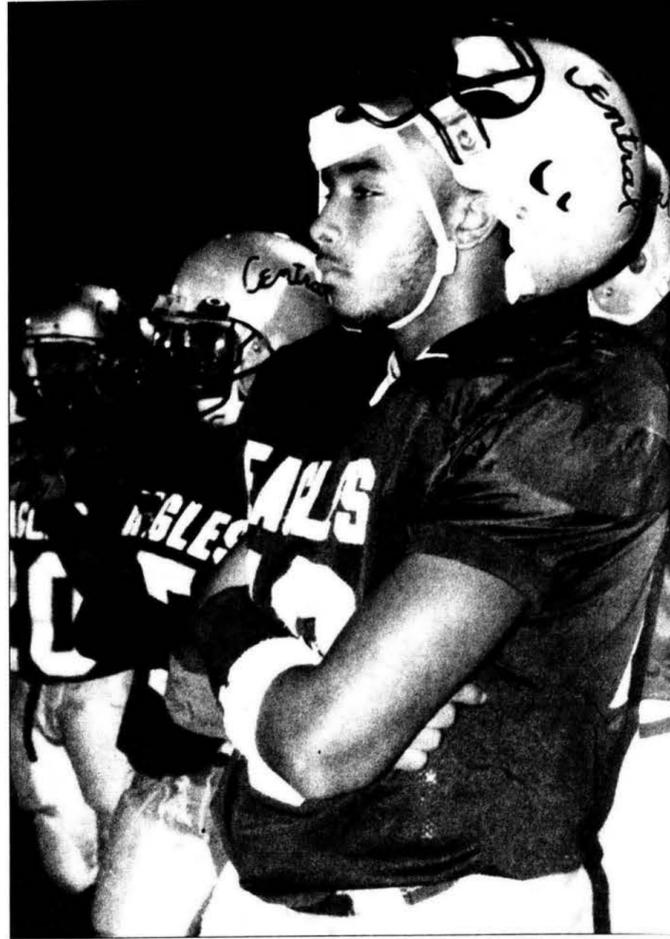
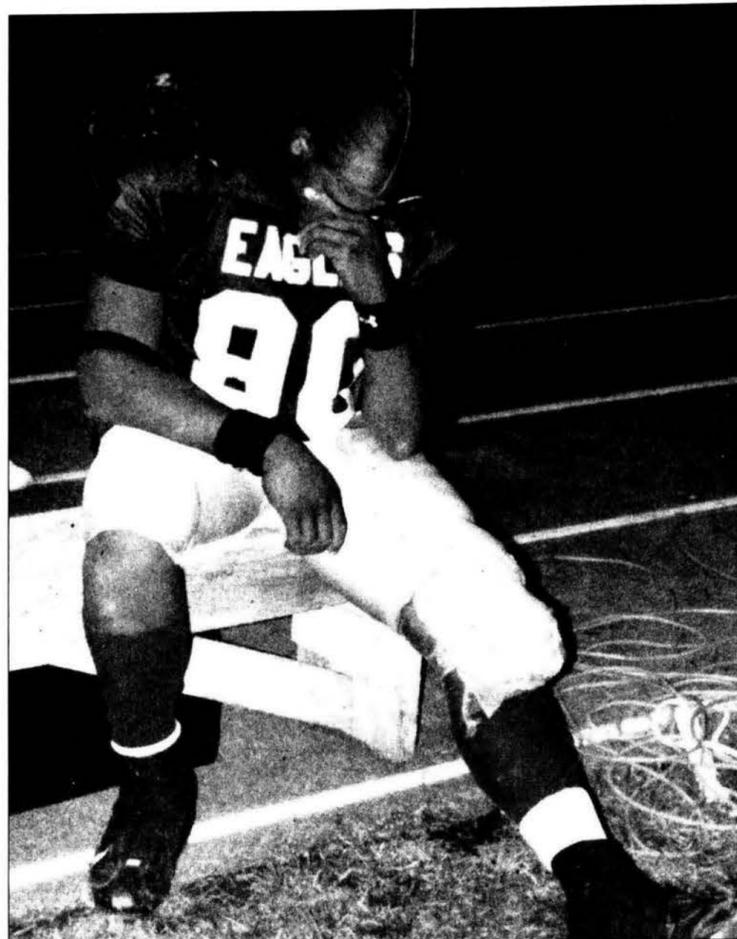
He said when he grew up in North Dakota, he and his friends played neighborhood hockey in an iced-over lot, but his mother refused to sign him up on a team.

But now that Larson can make his own decisions, he decided to sign up for another season of hockey with Eden.

Larson has been working hard over the summer. He said that he has been cycling and attending hockey drop-ins. However, now that school has started, he has not been playing as much.

"It's a time issue," Larson said. "If it's been a week, I'll try to get out on the ice."

This is Larson's sixth year of teaching at Central. He teaches Calculus BC and Algebra 1-2. He is also the reserve volleyball coach and has helped with boys' golf.



Junior Gransen Falkner (left) sits out with an injured knee while senior Aaron Dorsey (right) watches the Creighton Prep game.

PHOTOS BY ANNIE KLING/REGISTER

# Football team pushes through another year

BY TESS MANDELL

The varsity football team played four of the top five teams in the state this season, something Head Coach Joe McMenamini considered a "brutal schedule."

McMenamin said Millard West, Creighton Prep, Westside and Bellevue West posed the biggest problem within the schedule. However, these difficult games didn't prevent the Eagles from trying their hardest at every game.

"We always had an opportunity to win every ball game," McMenamini said.

Senior Robert Wesley said he liked the way they played the top teams.

"I like how we came together," Wesley said. "We looked at it as if we were better than any team. We can dominate and beat any team in the state."

McMenamin said by the third or fourth quarter, most games could have gone either way.

He specified that at the end of the game against Millard West, there were some fumbles, which prevented the Eagles from taking the close lead.

"We started out strong as far as our win/loss record," McMenamini said. "We did well early and not at the end."

Wesley said he thought the team played better in the beginning because everybody was healthy and playing. He said in the second half of the season, disciplinary actions were taken and injuries occurred.

"It messed up our attitude during the game," Wesley said. "We weren't as prepared."

Wesley said they even lost teammates during games due to injuries and were forced to send out other players.

Junior David Jones said as a team, they could have done better.

"We played hard every game, but it didn't go how we wanted it to," Jones said.

However, McMenamini thought the team played well throughout the year, despite the final record of four wins and five losses.

"The kids played really hard and gave it their all," McMenamini said. "It was not a lack of effort."

Wesley said that his favorite win was against their rival North, mostly because the Eagles haven't beaten the school in two years.

He also said he enjoyed the game against Burke.

"We really came back in the second half of the game," Wesley said. "And I got a couple touchdowns to help get the win."

Wesley added that even though the team lost against top-ranked Millard West and Bellevue West, he liked the way Central came together and played hard.

McMenamin found a lot of key players on both offense and defense.

He said offensively, Wesley "carried the load." Wesley was second in the state in rushing with 232 carries and 1276 total

yards. "Wesley was a key player in every game," McMenamini said.

He said senior Aaron Dorsey was another offensive leader and a couple young quarterbacks are being looked to replace him. He said Jones and senior Jeremy Longwell also contributed offensively whereas on defense, senior Shay Thomas and Longwell were key players.

Although McMenamini considered Longwell to have a successful season, knee and rib injuries resulted in Longwell sitting out for the Benson and Westside games.

Wesley said he thought junior Derrick Russell and freshman Ronnell Grixby were also keys throughout the entire season.

McMenamin said he's excited about next year's season. He said there are nine returning starters on defense and six on offense and they are nice to build on while the younger talent has time to improve.

Along with a couple quarterbacks to replace Dorsey, McMenamini is looking toward some running backs to replace Wesley.

"There are two or three [running backs] that have potential to be as good as Robert," McMenamini said. "The Outback Football Camp in May is important for the younger kids."

McMenamin is also looking forward to the new field. "It will be nice to not have to worry about bussing 130 kids to practice everyday," McMenamini said.



PHOTO BY TESS MANDELL/REGISTER

Junior Jacqueline Darrow works on her pitching during a practice.

# Varsity softball fails to reach state

BY TESS MANDELL

The varsity softball season ended at districts, and, despite no trip to state, head coach Scott Wilson was quick to boast over some of the team's accomplishments this year.

He said shutting out the number one team in the state (Elkhorn), winning the South and North Invationals and tying for third at Metro were just a few.

Districts ended the team's season, but Wilson said he isn't put down.

"We had a chance," Wilson said. "We just played some very good teams."

The team won its first game at districts against Lincoln Southwest 6-2, but then lost the next two.

The girls first lost to Lincoln Northeast 8-4. Lincoln Northeast was one of the eight teams that went to state. Then the Eagles played Lincoln Southwest again but lost 4-3.

Junior Jacquelin Darrow said they ended the season well.

"We probably could have made it to state," Darrow said.

Now that districts are over, the Eagles have produced a final record of 16 wins and 11 losses. Last year the team finished 24-11, and finished fourth at state.

Last year's team consisted of All-State pitcher Ashley Wilds.

Wilson said this year Darrow struck out more batters in less innings than Wilds did and this is only Darrow's first year pitching.

"Coach Wilson asked if anyone was willing to be a pitcher," Darrow said. "And I said I would."

Darrow said she has been playing softball for Central since freshman year. She said the transition from being shortstop, her original position, to pitcher wasn't difficult.

"The hardest part is that as a pitcher, there's more pressure put on you," Darrow said.

Wilson said seniors Allison and Darcy Rutherford were also strong players this season. "The twins will get post season recognition,"

he said. "This was their best season of their high school careers."

Allison Rutherford made Super State, which consists of the best players of Classes A, B and C. She is the first Central softball player to make Super State since 1998 when Kari Shank, now varsity softball's assistant coach, made the team.

Darrow and senior Kelsey Ratigan received All-Division, and Darrow and sophomore Amber Hamilton received Class-A Honorable Mentions.

Ratigan and the Rutherford twins are the only three seniors on the varsity team this year.

"Replacing the seniors will be a tall order," Wilson said. "All but three [seniors] are coming back [next year]. All girls coming back should be big contributors."

Darrow was also optimistic about next year.

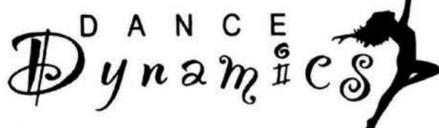
"I think we'll have a decent team," Darrow said. "It probably won't be as good as this year, but we'll make it through."

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# Freshman earns spot on varsity

BY LAUREN CRIST

Freshman Kate Humphreys is the only freshman on varsity volleyball. Varsity coach Jodi Brown said she felt Humphreys contributed to the team through her athletic abilities.

Humphreys played on both JV and varsity volleyball teams.

"Varsity was more competitive, while JV had more fun with volleyball," Humphreys said.

She said she enjoyed the challenge of varsity volleyball.

"Kate is a naturally gifted athlete," Brown said. "She's really smart and picks up on things quickly."

Humphreys said she enjoyed practicing with and getting to know members of the varsity team.

She said she wasn't sure what to expect when she first joined the team.

"It wasn't that bad," she said. "Everyone on the team was really nice. We bonded on the team."

Brown said Humphreys's skill benefited the team as well.

Humphreys said she played best on the row left side, and was good at spiking.

Brown also said she was a good outside hitter.

"She can jump very well and is very quick, which are good traits in a volleyball player," Brown said.

Sophomore Laney Rosenbalm-Penry also commented on Humphreys's athletic skill.

"She's a really good hitter," she said.

She said Humphreys has an advantage as a younger player on varsity.

"She'll have a chance to improve a lot through sophomore, junior and senior year," Rosenbalm-Penry said. "By her senior year, she'll be really good."

She said Humphreys has developed her skill this year.

"She's improved throughout this year," Rosenbalm-Penry said. "At first, she was kind of shy, but by the end of the year, she went for almost every ball."

Humphreys has played volleyball since seventh grade.

She played on school teams for three years.

She says she will probably not pursue it professionally, but may play volleyball in college.

Humphreys said the coaches helped her through the season.

"The coaches help ease you through things," Humphreys said.

Brown said Humphreys's humor also contributed to the team.

"She's really funny and made the other teammates laugh," Brown said. "She's smart as well, which helped her fit in really well with the team."

Humphreys also played in districts for the first time on varsity this year.

"It was really cool. Everyone got really pumped-up for the districts game," Humphreys said.

Brown also talked about her athletic abilities at districts.

"I don't think a lot of people would have known she was a freshman," she said. "She has a lot of natural talent that she's developed this year."

Rosenbalm-Penry said she met people who were impressed with Humphreys's abilities as well.

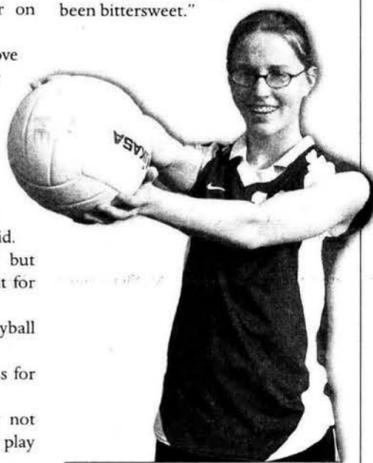
"I've heard people say that she's really good and complimented her," she said. "They were really impressed when I told them she was a freshman."

Humphreys said she thinks the volleyball season ended well at districts.

"I think we ended on a solid note," Humphreys said. "We played well even though we lost."

Humphreys said she misses volleyball now that the season is over.

"It's kind of fun to have practice over, but it's sad, too because I don't get to see all the people I was with on the volleyball team. It's been bittersweet."



HUMPHREYS



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

Senior David Cleveland signs with Creighton's baseball team in the conference room on Nov. 18. He is the first baseball player to sign with a Div. I college in a few years.

## Baseball leader signs with Creighton

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Senior David Cleveland has a pitching speed of 90 miles per hour. He is six feet four inches and 240 pounds and now has a place on Creighton University's baseball team next fall.

Cleveland signed an early agreement to Creighton over other colleges such as the University of South Dakota and Wayne State.

He said there were a number of reasons he chose Creighton.

"I thought academically it was the right choice," he said.

Also, he said he wanted to play baseball somewhere his parents and friends could watch. Alumnus and past Eagle pitcher Pat Venditte also attends Creighton and Cleveland said he'd like to play with someone familiar.

Although he was the first to sign to a college, Cleveland said he isn't the best on the team.

"I wouldn't say I'm the strongest player," he said. "It's not just one person that makes this team good."

Varsity baseball coach Scott Hodges said Cleveland is an ideal

baseball player and his weight and size give him an obvious edge.

"He worked himself into the position that he's in," Hodges said, "starting eighth grade when he went to (Central baseball) camps."

He said Cleveland made a good choice to pick Creighton, even if its baseball team isn't the most famous.

"It's not about a more glamorous program," he said. "Creighton is rebuilding the program."

Hodges said Cleveland would have received more offers down the road had he waited until the season had begun.

Junior Matt Martin said Creighton is a great school for Cleveland both academically and athletically.

"They are division I and their program is moving up," Martin said.

Cleveland said the recruiters asked if he would make an early decision and after he toured the campus he knew he wanted to attend Creighton.

"I didn't want to have to worry about it my entire senior year," he said.

Hodges said Cleveland was a good choice for recruiters to look out for.

"David is ranked with the city's premier athletes," he said, "but he gets by more on work ethic and dedication."

Senior Nicholas Hoy said Cleveland is the leader of the team.

"We all respect him," Hoy said. "He's always nice to everybody and is yelling at games from the dugout."

Hoy said he and Cleveland are always in competition to be the number one player on the team, and that motivates him to work harder.

Junior Brian Benes said the team counts on him to do well every game and he never disappoints.

"When we need him to get a hit, he gets a hit," Benes said.

He said what makes Cleveland a good leader and person to work with is his personality.

"His best quality is his modesty," he said. "You would never think Dave is as good as he is just by talking to him."

He said just by Cleveland doing well he motivates the rest of the team.

"He starts off the domino effect. If he does something and does it well, everyone else follows suit," he said.



**ILLEGAL SLAPSHOT**  
A Column by Tess Mandell

## Tomboy trades tutu for hockey puck and stick

Long ago there was a prima ballerina named Tess.

Thirteen years ago my family moved here, and my mom decided to get me started in dance. She asked around and found that the most beneficial studio was Beth Gaynes Dance Studio.

Ms. Gaynes always spoke of her little ballerinas who are now famous Rockettes and Juilliard performers. So it's no wonder she trains her students to be talented enough to dance in New York City.

Throughout grade school and middle school I came to realize that I wasn't just attending regular dance classes at a regular dance studio. Fellow dancer friends at other studios would try to teach me steps using English: "Pointe your foot and bend your legs."

"You mean tendue and plié?" They would say silly things like, "And then turn around on one foot." I was always consistent on correcting them: pirouette.

When I went to my friends' dance recitals, I would drive myself crazy wanting to make the dances fit with actual classical ballet steps.

Beth Gaynes never focused on any jazz or punk dancing. She was strictly ballet. I made myself believe that if Ms. Gaynes didn't teach it, nobody could teach it. Even if the dances were well done, I got irritated when the performers didn't know any ballet.

Now that I've seen my share of dance recitals, I've come to realize that there are two different kinds of studios: ones that dance for fun and ones that dance for career preparation. I attended the second type.

That's fine with me, though. I feel like I got a bit of both types, because I had so much fun while I was forced to perfection.

However, once I hit high school I realized another thing about dance. If you're going to dance as a career, you're going to be dancing a lot.

I was at the studio five days a week. I would even have to bring my homework with me—and sometimes my sports equipment if I had to go straight to practices.

It was really awful before I could drive. I had to place my dance and gym bag in the van before I left for school so that I could go straight to dance and then right to practice. Many times, I wouldn't get home until eleven at night. Then I would have to finish homework as fast as I could before I fell asleep.

I wasn't getting enough sleep. I wasn't having time for friends. I wasn't finishing homework. And soon I realized it: I wasn't having fun anymore.

That's when I quit. I decided that I would rather be playing other sports than dancing. I wasn't enjoying being the prima ballerina anymore.

So that was it. I was expecting Ms. Gaynes to call us everyday trying to get me to stay with the studio. She did that with everybody else who got overwhelmed and quit.

But I never got a single phone call. Not a single one. Maybe it shows that I'm not supposed to dance anymore.

Nevertheless, I am still and always will be a ballerina.

But there's no more dancing. No more pink tights and no more tutus.

However, I will never forget that long, ago, there was a prima ballerina named Tess.

## Central only school to have agreement with rescue squad

BY TESS MANDELL

Since the start of the season, two high school football players in Nebraska have received a serious head injury during a game. How safe are Central's players?

Athletic director Paul Pennington said that there is a fire squad on duty for every home game unless there is an emergency.

In that situation, the crew would leave and then come back as soon as possible.

Pennington said this agreement with the fire squad is at no cost to Central. Rather, it is all paid by the city.

He also said Central is the only school in OPS that has this agreement with the fire squad.

Central also has a team doctor, Jack Lewis, and trainers from Creighton University, Pennington said.

Similar to the fire squad, Lewis' service is also not paid for by Central.

Pennington said that Lewis is a volunteer doctor and is the same doctor who gives the free physicals at the beginning of the school year.

"Other teams have trainers also," Pennington said. "Most schools have volunteer doctors."

Lewis said he has been the doctor for Central for 40 years.

He said this year an ambulance was needed three times. A Benson player had a possible broken neck, junior Alvin

Samuels had an asthma attack and a drunk student fell in the stands.

Although Lewis said he would like to have a fire truck at every game without them getting called out, he added, "There are a lot of things that we do on the sidelines that don't need an ambulance."

Samuels said the asthma attack he underwent occurred during warm-ups when the team was running its hitting drills.

"I was having a harder time breathing," he said, "and it kept getting worse and worse."

Samuels said he didn't think he had an attack until he sat down. He said he thought he didn't need an ambulance, but his parents had one come and take him to the hospital. He was back on the field by the third quarter.

"They did their job," Samuels said. "They explained what was happening, kept me informed and gave me my options."

Pennington said earlier this season, Lincoln East's Brady Beran and North Platte's David Huebner suffered serious head injuries. Luckily, Pennington and McMenamin have not seen any serious injuries during a football game.

"I have been going to Central's football games for 34 years," Pennington said. "There has never been an incident."

Even after the head injuries at the beginning of the season, Pennington said things are mostly still the same.

"I think things could always improve," he said. "There are changes coming, but you have to weigh the costs."



PHOTO BY TESS MANDELL/ REGISTER

Football player senior Brandon Anderson injured his ankle during the North game. Creighton trainers were on the field with aid.

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# BAND AID 2004



Metro student played guitar for Death in Arms. Junior Nate Hall (far left) played guitar for Collect All Four. He and his band dressed in caution tape and got the crowd to the foot of the stage to dance in it. Jack Gould (top) was lead guitarist for Scarlet Skies. Benson senior Ryan Lang (middle left) and sophomore Justin Valentine played for Shatter Proof.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

## Caution tape, mosh pit make record profit for fall musical

BY MOLLY MULLEN

By the end of the night, everyone was dancing in the mosh pit at the front of the stage and screaming for an encore from the band Shatter Proof. Over \$1,100 was collected for the fall musical at Band Aid this year, the benefit concert that features school bands, music teacher Sharon Smith said.

"We have made as little as \$500 and as much as \$600," Smith said. "It was a success."

She said this year's audience was much bigger because there were more parents in attendance. She said there were also more people who came from other schools to support the bands.

"We had less presale tickets and more at the door," Smith said.

She said Band Aid is one of the only ways to fund the fall musical because now that there is no student matinee performance students can't pay to see during the school day.

"We also can't solicit ads in the program anymore," she said.

She said Band Aid only provides a fraction of what it takes to put on a musical. The costs for royalties, printing, costumes and sets can cost over \$10,000.

"Costumes can cost up to a hundred dollars a piece," she said, "and some students have three to five costume changes."

Musical director John Gibson said the overall performance went very well.

The evening seemed to get more heated by the third performance when Collect All Four got nearly the entire auditorium to the foot of the stage, throwing around caution tape that made up the band's costumes. The mosh pit lasted throughout the evening and every band had a positive response from the audience.

"It was wonderful, absolutely wonderful," Gibson said. "The bands donated their time and did a fabulous job."

He said the fact that the date was scheduled when there wasn't a football game helped draw a larger audience to the show. He said the show benefits the musical by providing money for the programs and posters. He plans on having a Band Aid concert every year to support the musical.

"It was originally thought up by Nick Goding three years ago," Gibson said. "It just keeps growing."

He said putting on a fall musical is important no matter what the cost.

"It is a tremendous learning experience for all involved from teaching a problem solving process to revolving their schedule around rehearsal," he said. "It really trains them."

Junior Jeremy Gipe said he would have gone to Band Aid even if there was a football game.

"This is the kind of music I enjoy," he said.

He said he liked seeing his friends play in front of a crowd but wasn't there to see any particular band. He said he was glad to support Band Aid because he is part of the music

department and wants to help with funding the musical.

Senior Jamel McNair said Band aid is a good solution to the funding problems.

"It (the music department) gives people other opportunities than sports," McNair said.

He said music is very important in his life. He liked participating in Band Aid this year, even though he was unexpectedly solo on the keyboard when the person who raps with him couldn't make it. He said he liked playing alone and wants to continue on the keyboard and with other types of music.

"I want to be the first big rapper to come out of Omaha," he said.

Cay Combs of The Shooting Star Chronicles said even though he doesn't attend high school anymore he loved playing at Band Aid.

"It's cool for people to come to Band Aid and see new bands," Combs said.

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# Heros give realistic feel to family film

BY MALISA MILITZER

The newest Pixar animation film to hit theaters smashed through the box office to end its first week at number one.

"The Incredibles" joined the top of the charts and the hope of the viewers should be for it to reach the awards with the same amount of perfection as fellow movies "Toy Story" and "Monsters Inc."

Director Brad Bird portrayed the superheroes in the film as normal humans with hidden extraordinary abilities while giving them a realistic flavor in their sense of humor.

The Incredibles family is forced to relocate itself into a small suburb town.

The eldest of the male heroes, Mr. Incredible played by Craig Nelson, and Lucius Best-Frozone played by Samuel L. Jackson kept all of their plans a secret.

The men, like all superheroes from the city had been banned from using their super powers for the good of mankind but because old habits die hard they continued their fight for the right underneath the darkness.

Elastigirl and the mother of the Incredible family, Helen Parr, were played by Holly Hunter.

The two kids, excluding the baby Jack Jack, were Dashiel (Dash) Parr a smart exceptionally vibrant little boy with the potential to be the greatest and have the running speed of a small jet.

And Violet Parr, a shy middle school student with popularity problems, no self-esteem and the ability to be as see-through as her self-esteem makes her feel.

Overall the voices were realistic enough to give the characters identity and funny enough to realize just how much of a cartoon the movie really was.

Though the plot is a bit foggy and the movie remains a tad longer than one might expect, it does gain a few giggles from the subtle yet intelligent jokes.

Like in any action movie and superhero chronicle, there was an evil arch nemesis who without doubt held a grudge against the hero after some even in the far past.

The relationships between heros and villains was like out of a comic book.

If you really get into computer-animated films, this is something that is a must see. If not, it will be on cable soon enough.

## MOVIE REVIEW



**'The Incredibles'**

Starring: Craig T. Nelson



Clea DuVal (Jennifer Williams) doesn't notice the ghosts chasing after her in the latest horror thriller, "The Grudge."

PHOTO COURTESY OF COLUMBIA TRISTAR

# 'Grudge' scares even hard-core horror fans

BY MALISA MILITZER

A dark cloud rises over the audience. A shriek rings out, followed by a slash and a hard thump.

The newest Japanese turned American flick, "The Grudge," won't have members of the audience on the edge of their seats or even sitting in their seats at all. It will have each one clinging to the nearest person from beneath the theater chairs.

The story unveils itself in the over-popu-

lated, yet truly historical metropolis, Tokyo, Japan. The older style houses and exagger-

ated population of the city gave the illusion that the viewer was always alone with no one around to care enough to pay attention.

While the movie is an American remake, one can see the original work with-

in the film. The setting, actors and occasional

## MOVIE REVIEW



**'The Grudge'**

Starring: Sarah Michelle Gellar

Though the movie is rated a subtle PG-13, it wastes no time letting one understand that the only way to continue to enjoy the film is through ones fingers.

As like most horror films from Tokyo, it doesn't take away from

the suspense of the plot with unnecessary blood and gore.

Leaving those characteristics to the kung-fu fighters, it remained a good old-fashioned scare-your-pants-off ghost story.

The writers, Stephen Susco and Takashi Shimizu, who also directed both versions on the screenplay, took part in the making of "The Ring," which was the latest Japanese made horror film to rock the box office chart.

# Movie offers ray of insight into musician's life, music

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Combining the best aspects of a movie (music, acting skills, drama and humor) makes "Ray" definitely one of the best movies released this year.

"Ray" follows the life of blind musician Ray Charles Robinson (Jamie Foxx), better known as Ray Charles. The movie starts in 1948 and follows him for a while, trying to make a name for himself and at the same time not be swindled by the many dishonest people in the world. Flashbacks of Ray's childhood in the movie give some needed background in the story.

The movie follows his career from the beginning all the way through his drug addictions and various women. In the beginning, it seems as though the movie portrays Ray as a

womanizing cad, but after a while it shows he is more than that, his emotions for his wife (Della Bea Robinson played by Kerry Washington) are deeper than the feelings for his one-night stands.

There is no doubt this movie should get an Oscar nomination for acting. After a while, Jamie Foxx ceases to exist, and all that is left is Ray Charles, brought back to life on the screen.

Besides the acting, the secret to this movie is the music. With the music, there is never time to get bored. The movie shows the audience some background to Charles's greatest hits, such as "What'd I Say", and "Hit the Road Jack". For longtime Ray Charles fans, this is a treat. But it also interests those who

do not know so much about Ray, and gives them the urge to go out and buy an album.

The refreshing thing about this movie is the story line follows Charles as he tries to make a name for himself. Fans may not have been aware of his humble beginnings, riding in a van with a dozen or so other members of the band.

The look into Ray Charles's life is completely unsheltered and uncensored. The audience isn't lied to. They see all that Charles experienced.

His drug addiction and mistresses on the road are just a few things that may make some of the audience members squirm.

## MOVIE REVIEW



**'Ray'**

Starring: Jamie Foxx

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## Cowardly Lion finds courage through talent

BY MALISA MILITZER

Junior Kerri Forrester had been absolutely superb, right on since the beginning of production of "Wizard of Oz," drama department head John Gibson said.

Forrester, who played the supporting role of the Cowardly Lion, said she couldn't have asked for a better role and believed that though there was always room for improvement, her performances went well.

Gibson said Forrester could sell the role because she is outgoing and flamboyant.

"She was perfect for the role," Gibson said.

He said for auditions the students trying out were asked to perform a monologue, a short song and dance piece. Forrester wrote her own monologue which she performed while shadow boxing with a jersey accent.

After being chosen for the part, Gibson and she were able to take time to change around a few lines which enabled her to introduce her personality through the character.

"I love musicals and the (especially) the 'Wizard of Oz,'" Forrester said.

Forrester said from the beginning, she always wanted to be the Cowardly Lion. She said a lot of people get angry when they don't get the lead role, but the supporting roles can be even more important than the main character.

"If you don't get the main part, great," she said. "Not only do you have to make yourself look good, but you have to make her (the lead role) look good."

She said there are several reasons she didn't want the role of Dorothy Gail. She wanted to save her talent for her senior year, when she hopes to be able to get the lead role.

"Hopefully I'm the next in line and I want a good finish," Forrester said.

She said she is always in whatever she does. She said she wants people to see her on stage and turn to the person beside them to say how wonderful she is. She strives to be the best each time.

"I have to be the one remembered," Forrester said.

Throughout the whole experience, she said that with all the positives there were many challenges.

"This is something I love to do," Forrester said. "But it's not always fun, it's hard work (too)."

During the production she said people became very close and it didn't matter whether you were best friends or complete strangers before it all started, everyone became close.

She said in a situation like that everyone has to be each others' friends. It's a great situation to be in too because everyone has something in common with each other she said.

"We (the cast) have to be our (each others only) friends," Forrester said.

Being able to work on a play with so many people was great though at times things got hectic because of all the different jobs needing to be done.

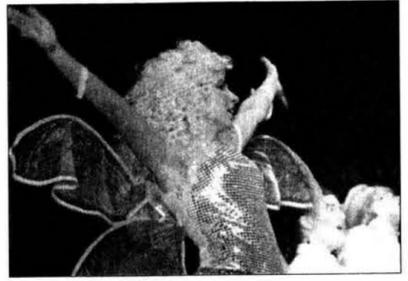
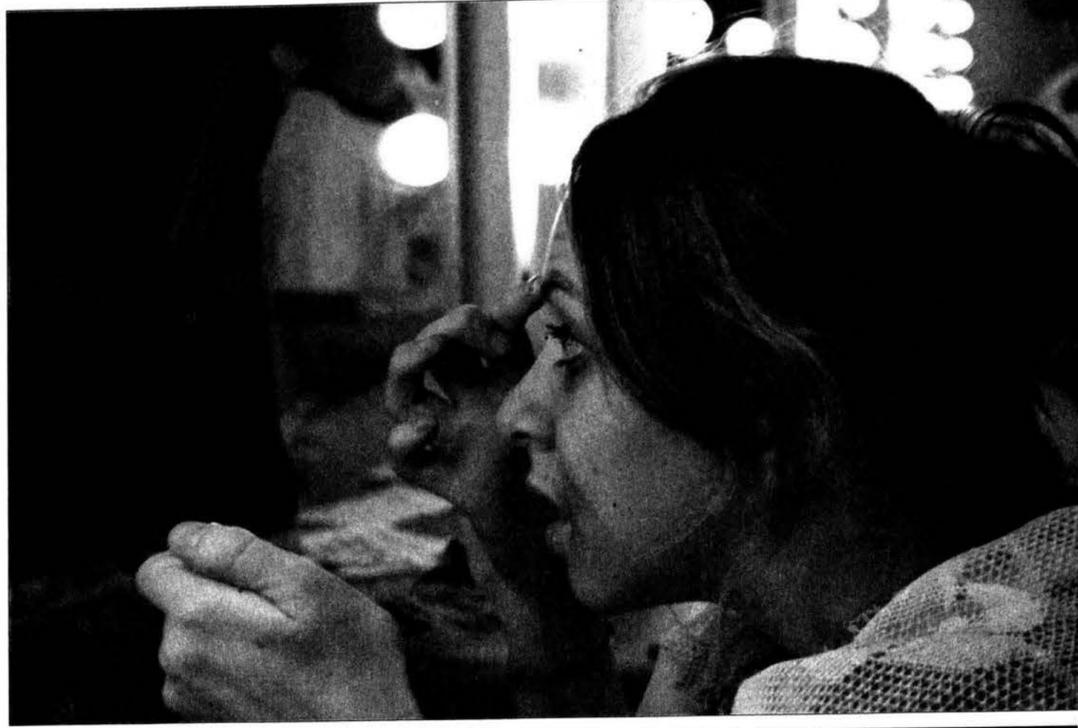
"When you get involved (in a play) of course you are going to meet someone," Forrester said.

Forrester said even though she feels that everyone did a great job she wishes that there were more minorities involved. This year there were only two African Americans, including Forrester, involved with the musical.

"Not only would it be better play, we'd have the best musical production because we'd be so diverse," she said.

She also wanted boys to understand that it's OK to try out for the play because they need more boys. Even if they don't want an acting part there's always orchestra and stage crew to help out with.

"You can't be afraid, you have to just do it," Forrester said.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST / REGISTER

Senior Anna Vacha applies makeup before the opening night of "The Wizard of Oz." From bottom left, junior Kerry Forrester, junior Stephanie Christensen and sophomore Corey Lynch.

## 'Wizard' brings fantasy to life

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Even though the fire alarms went off twice during performances, a piece of scenery fell and broke before the show and the director was hospitalized for the matinee, music teacher Sharon Smith said "The Wizard of Oz" was an exceptional fall musical.

"This year was the first year we couldn't solicit ads," Smith said.

She said last year cast and crew could sell advertisements in the program, but regulations have been put in since then restricting solicitation.

She said after ticket sales, Band Aid and donations, the drama department only has half the money they spent on the musical.

Musical director John Gibson said costume rentals cost \$2,077 and royalties just so Central was allowed to perform "The Wizard of Oz" were \$2,528.

"It is not as expensive as many of them," Gibson said.

He said had he wanted to do a different play such as "Les Miserables" it would have cost double, and he is content with the budget.

"If we're going to do a musical we are going to do a good job," Gibson said. "When they go out in the real world and see productions of professional companies they can think our school did their best job on this level."

Smith said the production went very well as far as audience attendance.

"We had about 80 percent capacity Saturday night," Smith said.

She said whatever problems there were the cast and crew took care of them.

"Bottom line is we had good crowds and a good production," she said.

She said this year there were a few problems, but they didn't affect the show negatively.

"An hour before the production the Oz mask crashed to the floor," she said. "However it was fastened came down."

She said the cast did a great job of repairing it and nobody noticed during the performance.

Also for the Saturday matinee performance Gibson was in the hospital with a kidney infection.

"Gene and Mrs. Bouma did a great job of taking over while I was gone," Gibson said.

He said this musical was a huge undertaking and it was very different than any production central has done. Twenty-two children were added to the cast as munchkins, but Gibson said it was not a problem.

He said next year he will be more concerned with the programs because names were left out this year. He will also be more concerned with the sound quality.

He said the play sent a good message.

"There is no place like home and we should appreciate our home situation and home should always be a safe environment," he said.

Sophomore Amanda Fisher said her favorite part of the play was the flying monkeys and the scenery.

"I didn't expect everyone to now their lines and everything to go so smoothly," Fisher said.

She said she didn't attend the show last year so she didn't know what to expect.

"The orchestra was really good, especially the piano," she said.

Sophomore Andrew Shirley said his favorite character was Dorothy Gail played by junior Jennifer Costello.

"They all did a really good job of showing their character's personality," Shirley said.

He said he was surprised by the entire cast's singing abilities.

Costello said the teamwork of the entire cast was amazing.

"If you had told me we could have pulled this off I would have laughed," Costello said.

She said the acting this year was really strong.

"There was a chemistry this year between everyone in the cast," she said.

She said "The Wizard of Oz" was a great choice to do for the fall musical because it is familiar to so many people.

"No matter how old you are you grew up with it," she said. "I think it really hit home."

She said the budget problems aren't a surprise because the drama department is always short on funds, but she said they are still going to work to get it all paid for.

Follow the yellow brick road.

## Pit Orchestra gives its best at school play

BY TESS MANDELL

The Pit Orchestra found that this year's music isn't as easy as clicking your heels three times.

The fall musical, "The Wizard of Oz" was held Nov. 5 and 6, and the Pit was preparing since September, music teacher Molly Moriarty said.

Music teacher Lyn Bouma said the music for the orchestra this year was very different.

"It's written for a professional orchestra," Bouma said. "It poses somewhat of a challenge."

Bouma has been the director of the Pit for 11 years and said parts in the show like the tornado scene and the melting of the witch were different than a typical show.

"There are a lot of key changes, and the kids aren't used to that," Moriarty said.

Bouma said her and Moriarty split up the work with the Pit.

Moriarty took the group for the first month to teach the music, and Bouma directed the Pit for the final rehearsals and actual performances.

"The group has some rehearsals, and then I direct them for the show," Bouma said.

Moriarty said she has been teaching the Pit's music for 10 years and has always been in charge of the rehearsals.

This year, the group went through a much of the book of music as they could.

"We went through the book almost twice," Moriarty said. "Some tunes we had to spend more time on."

Moriarty said the 15 rehearsals, which were held two to three times a week, usually lasted 45 minutes each.

Moriarty said director John Gibson got the music three or four weeks into September, and the Pit started rehearsing at the end of the month.

"Sometimes we just sight-read," Moriarty said. "We didn't have to work on all of the book."

Two weeks before the musical's debut the Pit started rehearsing in the auditorium with Bouma and the rest of the cast.

When the Pit joined the rest of the cast, the rehearsals changed from getting out before 4 p.m. to getting out as late as 7 p.m.

Junior William Cheney said the Pit spent more time with Bouma so the players could get used to the actors.

"It's a lot more difficult," Cheney said, "especially when we're playing without the singing."

Cheney said he has participated in the Pit as a trombonist since his freshman year.

He said the music is a much bigger challenge this year than it has been in previous years.

"In past years, the music hasn't been that hard. People just need to put in some extra time [this year]," Cheney said. "It's made for pros, and there's nothing wrong with that. We just have to adapt."

Junior Jane Yo doesn't think the players took the show as seriously as Bouma and Moriarty did.

She said not everybody went to all of the rehearsals.

Yo said even she only went to four of about 10 rehearsals to practice her flute parts.

Cheney said people who wanted to play in the Pit just signed up, and if there were excess people, Moriarty would have held auditions.

## Lightsabers, Jabba the Hutt still entertain all ages even after 30 years

It started with just three movies, but with the release of the DVD editions of the trilogy comes a new form of fanfare to appease those inflicted with the epidemic that began back in 1977.

The "Star Wars" movies, "A New Hope," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi" were all released in three-year intervals from 1977 to 1983. Then the movies were sold as a special edition boxed set in 1997 and have only recently been released as a DVD boxed set.

I find the DVD set to be an unnecessary addition to the film collection. While I don't hate the DVDs, some of the changes made to the films take away from the classical mood of the original movies.

Still, this addition serves its purpose in reminding people of the fantasy world that first swept up so many followers in the '70s.

Fanatic or not, the epic battles and tales of "Star Wars" are worth the months it takes

to read all the books, visit all the fan sites and watch all the movies enough times to memorize every line.

The world of "Star Wars" is a creation admirable beyond what many people can imagine. Think of all the work it took to create such a complex universe, so detailed and full of life.

Consider how far the creator went in order to make "Star Wars."

It amazes me the passion involved in that sort of work.

I have read a number of books based upon the movies and know there are at least 20 written works specifically about the world created by George Lucas. When something seemingly so simple as a movie trilogy can provoke the type

of inspiration that would compel people to write over 20 books on them, I think that is true mastery of ones movie making talents.

George Lucas managed to sell just the first three movies to some people three times. Now he's in the process of finishing off a second trilogy.

There's no doubt that people will buy these new films as many times as they're released.

If that's not an accurate measure of the of how spectacular "Star Wars" is then I don't know what is.

Of course, it seems I'm not the only one who noticed the wonders of the movies. Since the release of the new "Star Wars" prequels (and now the DVDs), it seems everyone's become an expert on the life and times of the galaxy as

presented by George Lucas.

I have reveled in the "Star Wars" world since I was nearly six. I remember watching the first trilogy of movies thinking when I was older I would become a Jedi Master and fight evil across the galaxy side by side with Luke Skywalker.

I dream I'm a member of the Rebellion, who has just invaded an Imperial Victory-class Star Destroyer.

I have my blaster in hand and I'm spraying the corridor with laser fire taking down the Imperial storm troopers left and right.

On the far end of the hall, I see more troopers appear and I take cover in a doorway just behind me. I strafe across the hall, index finger burned to the trigger of my blaster.

Suddenly, I hear the release of pressurized air as the door I had been using as cover sweeps open.

Distracted, I turn from the battle for but a second. As I spin back around to the fight to

return fire, a gloved hand belonging to what looks like a galactic bounty hunter emerges from the door, blaster curled menacingly in its fingers.

I had no time to react before it fired and the last thing I remember is thinking, I really hope that weapon is set on stun.

The trilogy has taken fanaticism to some shocking limits, even excluding my extreme admiration. I recall when the new "Attack of the Clones" movie came out and tickets had to be purchased in advance to actually get into some theaters.

The universe in the eyes of George Lucas was constructed remarkably well, instigating what is now an incredibly extensive empire. The amount of passion "Star Wars" evokes from its fans makes a person not only question the sanity of those fans, but also admire the fantastic care and work put into the renowned world of "Star Wars."



MUSIC FOR THE MIND

A Column by Yasmine Nuwarah

# POLITICS

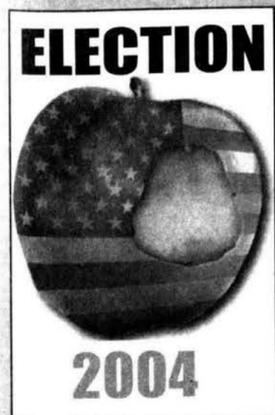
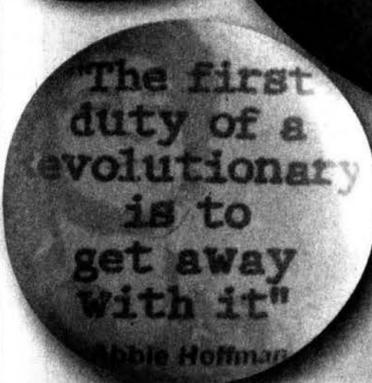
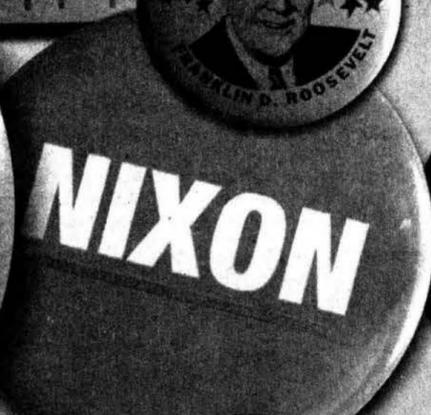
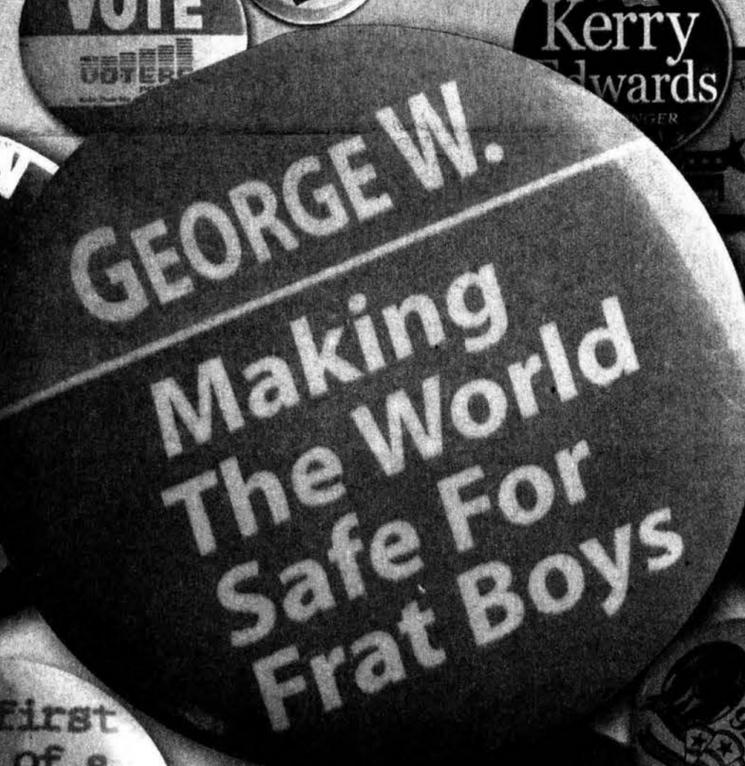
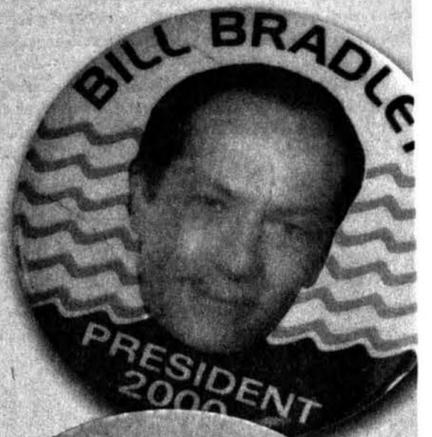
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2004

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

SECTION  
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## SPECIALTY SECTION

INSIDE: Teenage political apathy, John Kerry, John Edwards, Lee Terry, Nancy Thompson, George W. Bush, Mike Johanns, Chuck Hagel, Student Dem., Rep Clubs

# Teacher loses bid for Congress on Green ticket

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Running as a member of the Green Party in the second congressional district of Nebraska, Dante Salvatierra received 2,054 votes.

"My thinking is that I am pretty satisfied with the election," he said.

Salvatierra said he did not run thinking he would win the election, and was happy about the votes he did receive. Those people, he said, were tired of the system and agree with his values.

Though he did not win the election, Salvatierra said he plans to continue his job as an elementary teacher, teaching third and fourth grade at Pinewood Elementary. But, he said, if the Green Party needed him in 2006, he would run again.

"I'd love to do it again," he said.

Salvatierra said he was not pleased with the outcome of the presidential election.

"He (President George W. Bush) is not my president, basically," Salvatierra said.

Salvatierra said Bush was the last person he wanted to win and he is very opposed to Bush. Salvatierra said he was not accusing Bush of cheating, but said he did not believe Bush should be president.

Salvatierra said all the votes should be counted, including the votes in Ohio.

"I don't think he won the first time, and I don't think he might have won the second time," Salvatierra said.

Salvatierra said one of the things wrong with Bush and Sen. Lee Terry was the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law.

"If elected I would completely eliminate it," he said. "It's done nothing for schools at all."

Salvatierra said he knows what NCLB does for schools because he is a school teacher himself, teaching third grade.

He said the law hurts schools because it increases expectations for students and gives no tools to help with those expectations.

Salvatierra said he believes the states should decide how to test students as opposed to the government, because 90 percent of funding for education comes from the states.

Also for education funding he would make sure Special Education classes were fully funded. He said the government was not fully funding the classes, forcing the states to pay for most of it.

He said the advantages of state testing were that the people who pay taxes for the education would decide if it is working well or not.

This way, the people could decide whether or not to fund it and they could choose to change the tests.

Extra money, he said, could be used to help keep old teachers or hire new teachers, which is what is needed in most schools, Salvatierra said.

# Libertarian candidate denounces drug war

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Libertarian candidate for the second congressional district Jack Graziano said he is very opposed to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law.

"Nothing in the constitution gives the government the authority to get involved in the educational process," he said.

He said students should be thinking about their future and not vote Republican or Democratic.

Graziano said there was too much war going on in the world, such as war on drugs and the war in Iraq.

Graziano said he was opposed the war on drugs and it should be ended immediately.

"Do you want to live in a world of constant warfare?" he said.

He said if someone is stupid enough to take drugs, it should be their own personal decision.

"The war on drugs has done nothing but destroy your civil liberties," he said.

Graziano also said he is opposed to the constitutional ban on gay marriage.

He said gay marriage in no way affects other marriages.

"What does it take from your pocket," Graziano said. "Does it take away your relationship with your wife?"

Graziano said he often appeals to retired military and entrepreneurs, and only sometimes to young people.

Graziano also said he was opposed to the Patriot Act passed after Sept. 11.

He said it was one of the worst pieces of legislation to be passed in the last three years.

As opposed to other candidates he was running against, such as Lee Terry and Nancy Thompson, Graziano said he is closer to a normal man.

"Am I a professional politician?" Graziano said. "No, I have to work for a living."

Graziano said there was more differences between being a Libertarian candidate and Republicans and Democrats.

Because he was in the Libertarian party, he said it was harder and more expensive for him to start a campaign.

"If Lee Terry spends a million dollars on his campaign, a Libertarian would have to spend two to three million dollars," Graziano said.

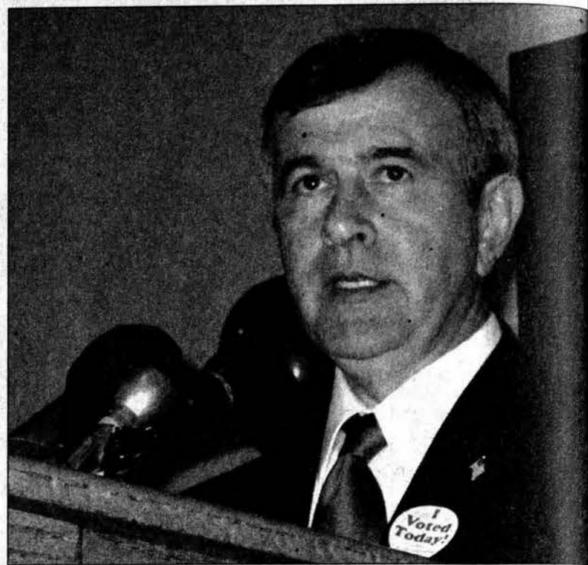
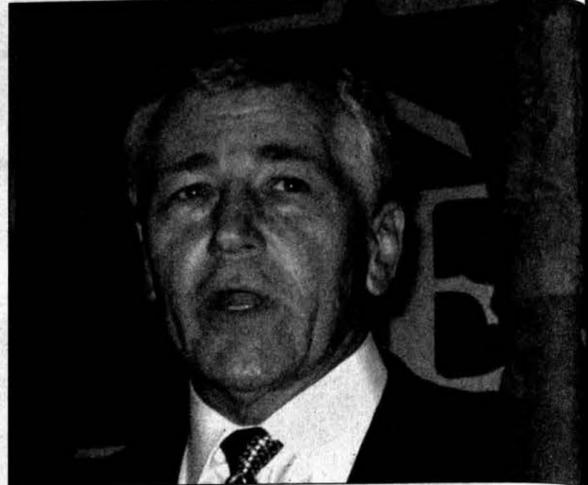
He spoke to an American Government class at Westside High School before the election.

He said he likes talking to high school classes so teenagers can know about politics that aren't moderate.

He said speaking from the point of a Libertarian gives students another opportunity than Democrat or Republican

Senior Kirstin Danton was in the class and opposed most of Graziano's views, especially the drug war.

"We're pretty liberal," Danton said. "We're more like the minority not the majority."



PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Clockwise: Sen. Lee Terry waves to cars on 72nd and Dodge. Sen. Chuck Hagel and Gov. Mike Johanns give support at Terry's campaign party.

# Terry wins with reputation, funding

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is not a "cookie-cutter" testing law, despite what his opponent says, said Rep. Congressman Lee Terry. Terry said he believes that the federal government is not taking over education, but rather funding it.

"The philosophy (of No Child Left Behind) is that we switch requirements to receive federal funding," he said.

NCLB, which tests in reading and math skills, tests to see if students are where they should be in education, Terry said. Testing, he said, is the way to determine this.

"All we want to know is that at the end of third grade, is a third grader reading at a third grade level," Terry said.

The truth about NCLB, Terry said, is that the schools set the goals and know who is meeting them. He said the law also helped parents because the school district is required to inform parents.

"It helps identify the groups of students who are not learning by the cookie-cutter approach," Terry said.

Terry said his opponent Dem. Nancy Thompson was wrong when she said NCLB was cookie-cutter. He said NCLB in fact got rid of the cookie-cutter approach to education.

"That's what we eliminated with NCLB," he said.

Terry said he also feels strongly about funding teacher development.

He said he would do this by "cutting strings" and letting the teacher be more creative in the classroom. Terry said he wanted to have special training programs for teachers.

"The teacher in the classroom is everything," he said.

To see if NCLB is working to its full potential, especially in poorer schools, Terry said would take another year.

Terry said he is an effective voice in education because he sits down with leaders at the capitol and he understands how the district feels. Also, Terry said, his experience of Congressman before will help him.

"The most ineffective person is going to be a freshman," he said.

Terry said students should trust him in Congress because he trusts them.

"(Students need to) make their own decisions in life as opposed to the government," Terry said.

Senior Ehrich Weis voted for Lee Terry in the recent elections. He said the he looked at Nancy Thompson's views and disagreed with most of them. He also said he thought Terry was doing fine in office.

"So far, Lee Terry has done a pretty good job," Weis said.

Weis said he didn't know if the two candidates did not differ on education much. He said in his government class they talked about the candidates' views on different things, and he did see a difference in all their views except for education.

"I don't know if his ideas on education were any better than hers," he said.

Weis said if Terry was in any other upcoming elections, he would probably vote for him.

The only reason he wouldn't, he said, is if there was a better candidate. Weis said that matter what he would look up the issues.



PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Sen. Lee Terry and State Sen. Nancy Thompson debate such issues as education, oil and farming at their last debate.

# Candidates clash over war, federal testing

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Sen. Lee Terry and State Sen. Nancy Thomson debated education heavily at Omaha Press Club Oct. 25.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was a hot topic because Republican Congressman Lee Terry voted in support of the bill.

Democratic candidate Nancy Thompson said NCLB was unnecessary because Nebraska already had its own set of standardized tests to measure academic advancement.

"That (NCLB) needs to be amended," she said. "We need to bring public education back to the people."

Republican Sen. Lee Terry said the act is helping raise national standards as well as helping fund on local levels.

"It answers the question at the end of third grade, is the student reading at a third grade level?" he said. "We've (congress) taken her steps to improving education."

He said it is not only helping schools in America, but helping pave the way for other nations as well.

"No Child Left Behind takes a huge step in making the United States number one in education in the world," he said.

Thompson said this is one of the biggest issues that separate her and Terry. She said the act looks good on paper,

but is disproportionate to minorities.

"We need to focus on having every classroom having a teacher, not putting cookie-cutter testing processes in place," Thompson said.

After the debate Thompson said when NCLB comes up for reauthorization in 2006, she wants to be the one to eliminate it.

She said she wants to improve the testing requirements, but her opponent wants to keep the standard set by the federal government.

"I think he's been listening to his party leadership in Washington and he needs to listen to the community," she said. "A congressman needs to work with the education community."

An interesting question brought up was about the television commercials. Thompson said it was just another promise Terry didn't keep because he said he would not talk about her in his commercials.

"After being called out for weeks by my opponent, I decided to show the truth," Terry said.

Thompson said he is breaking a promise just by running. He said he would only be a three-term congressman, and he has been in congress six years so far.

"I chose to run because I am concerned with direction

our country is heading in," Thompson said. "We have a record deficit and a cookie-cutter approach to education."

With everyone worried about the rising gas prices Thompson said Terry has been going about energy the wrong way, and congress needs to focus on alternate forms.

"The price of oil has exceeded \$50 a barrel," she said. "We don't need to drill in the Arctic refuge like my opponent supported."

Terry's rebuttal turned into the topic of war in Iraq after him saying Thompson was not telling the truth about interviews with the farm bureau.

"To withdraw from Iraq would send a terrible message," Terry said. "We have made a commitment to the 70 percent of Iraq that wants a democratic government."

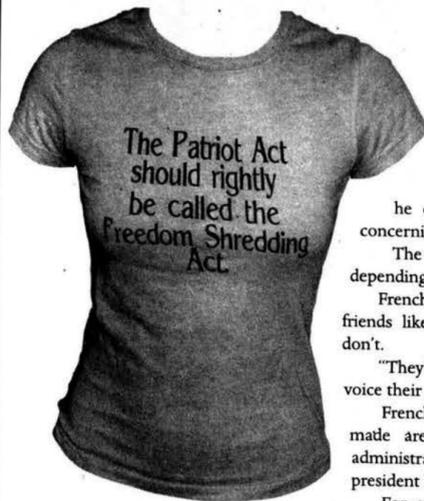
The candidates said they are fundamentally different on nearly every issue and voters need to recognize all the differences.

Junior Tucker George said after watching the debate looked like Lee Terry was a stronger speaker.

"He had the confidence and wasn't struggling for answers," George said. "He seemed to have Thompson on the offensive."

He said although Thompson struggled on some key points she seemed like a better candidate for congress.

# Students voice opinions through political T-shirts



BY CLAY LOMNETH

"Bush-Cheney 2004. FOUR MORE WARS". The slogan was printed on his shirt on Election Day, along with a few pro-Kerry buttons. Sophomore Aaron French said he often gets a reaction from people concerning his political T-shirts. The reaction is either good or bad, depending on that person's political views. French said most of his liberal democratic friends like his shirts, while the Republicans don't. "They're never vulgar," he said. "They just voice their disagreement." French said most of his shirts that he made are against the current presidential administration, though some focus on the president himself. For example, he said, one of his shirts

stated that George Bush's priorities were only about oil. French said he got the idea for making T-shirts when one of his friends wore an anti-Kerry T-shirt. He said his friend's shirt inspired him to make his own T-shirt. Now, French said, he has about five political T-shirts and plans to make more. Principal Jerry Bexten said he has no problems with students wearing political T-shirts as long as they are appropriate. But, Bexten said, if there were controversy over a shirt, he would make the student change it. Still, he thought the shirts are harmless, like a campaign sign. "I can't imagine it would cause any distraction or controversy," he said. French said he thinks the shirts were a minor distraction, but not something that would interrupt a class. "They're just a minor distraction, we can

talk about before class," French said. Junior Sarah Beck said she has not bought any political T-shirts, but would buy one if the profits went directly to a candidate she supported. Otherwise, she said, it was not worth it. "Why would I waste money?" Beck said. Beck, the co-president of the Teenage Republicans Club, said the club may get shirts, and she would wear her own. Beck said she had no problem with people wearing political T-shirts because it is a good use of First Amendment rights. "It's cool people make it so obvious they feel strongly about it (their political beliefs)," Beck said. But, Beck said, people who wear political T-shirts should know what they are supporting or against in case they are confronted about it. "You should definitely have some information to back you up," Beck said. Sophomore Luke Ohlrich said he would not wear political T-shirts, but only because it is

not his style. He said he is not very involved in politics and doesn't think that other students wearing them is a distraction. Ohlrich said wearing the shirts was a good way to get one's political views across. "It's a pretty decent way," he said. On the day of the election, sophomore Tyler Magnuson wore an anti-Kerry T-shirt. He said he was teased a bit by some of his Democrat friends, but he didn't mind it. "It's all joking around and in good fun," Magnuson said. Magnuson said the T-shirts were a good way to express how one feels without saying anything. He said the T-shirts he wears often get him in discussions with other students. He said he thought that was a good thing, because discussions are a good way of learning what other people think.

## Student Democrats show support for Thompson

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

Central High's Student Democrats were given a chance to meet local politicians on election day, at a party for former congressional candidate Nancy Thompson. Sophomore Aaron French, one of six club members who attended the event, said that he was happy to be surrounded by so many knowledgeable Democrats and people who shared the same beliefs he did. "It was a good atmosphere," French said. The campaign party, located at the Holiday Inn on 72nd and Grover, was held for individuals who assisted in local Democratic Party in campaigns along with anyone in support of the candidates. French had helped out by calling homes in Nebraska, as well as canvassing neighborhoods in Iowa. Freshman Ben Brich said he heard about the party from a fellow student, and had quickly become interested. "I like speaking out for what I think," Brich said. The first half of the party was an informal gathering, which gave everyone a chance to meet and talk, as well as watch the polls on multiple televisions that were scattered throughout the room. Almost immediately following the arrival of the Democrats, cheers were heard from a corner of the room. Amendment 3, a proposed change which would have legalized gambling in Nebraska, was behind in the polls. The Student Democrats showed a mixture of reactions. Freshman Anne Newman was disappointed by the results and argued that gambling addiction would still be a problem with or without casinos in Nebraska. "The money will just go to another state," Newman said. Sophomore Emily Brich agreed with Newman that gambling would bring more money into the state, but was more concerned about the effect it could have on society. She said she didn't like the idea of having gamblers in Nebraska and it was fine with her for people to cross the state lines to gamble rather than do it here. The Student Democrats began to leave shortly after the decision was made, but continued to watch the polls from home and at school. "I kind of expected Bush to win," Ben Brich said. Brich said he saw it coming especially after Kerry was behind in Ohio. He said he was upset by the president's victory, and expressed his concern over the economy and rising unemployment.

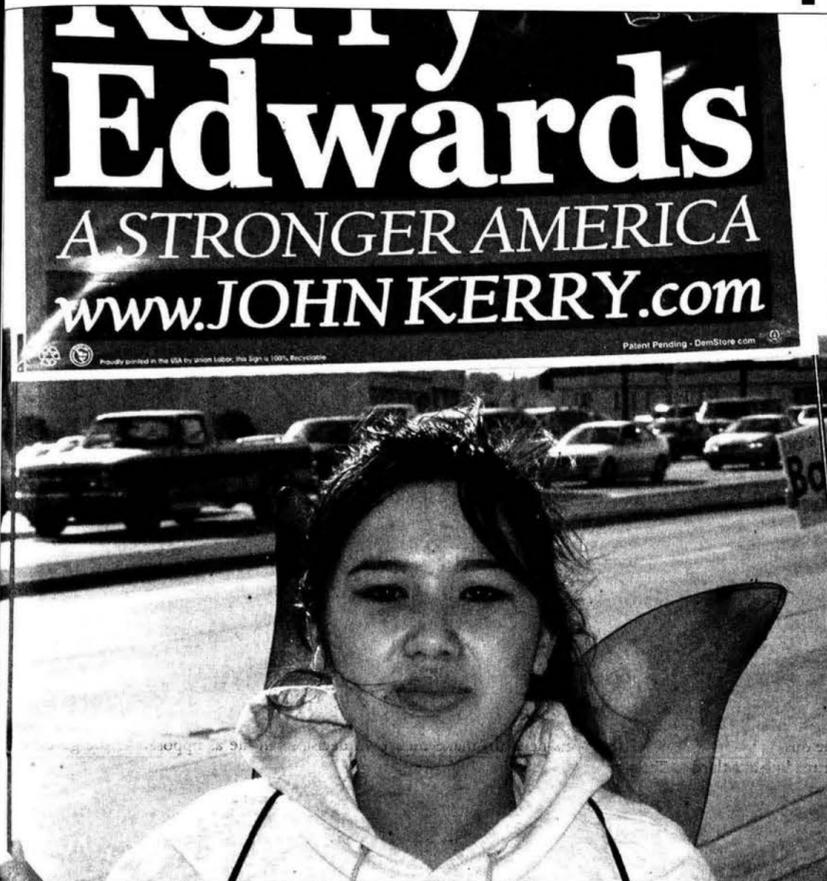


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

Senior An Vu hold signs for John Kerry on 72nd and Dodge only three days before the election. She said she was doing it to get credit for her AP Government class. "We have to do two hours, but I plan on doing a lot more," Vu said.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Sutter assists a student in ROTC class.

## Republican Club starts up after several attempts

BY LAUREN CRIST

Junior Sarah Beck said she began Teenage Republicans in response to a slight bias and in hopes of getting more Republicans involved in conservative politics. She first acknowledged this when she participated in debate and found that the team in general was liberal. She said she later found that Central had a Democrat Club, yet not a Republican one. She then decided to start the club with sophomore Erin Bottger, who had similar opinions. Beck and Bottger began the Teenage Republicans at the beginning of this year after attempting to start it last year. "It seemed unfair they had a club for Democrats, yet didn't have one for Republicans," she said. Beck and Bottger have been trying to start the club since last year. However, they weren't able to until the beginning of this year. "We had some trouble finding a sponsor. We talked to some teachers and when we asked them if they wanted to sponsor a club, they seemed interested," Bottger said. "When we told them it was a Republican Club, they changed their minds." Beck said after struggling to find a sponsor last year, Sgt. Dwaine Sutter responded to an announcement he heard before volunteering to become the club sponsor. "I've been here for four years and have watched the Student Democrats club," Sutter said. "I've always wondered why there wasn't a Republican club as well." Beck said she felt there was some pressure at Central to be liberal. She said when there was an announcement for the first meeting, some people booted in their classes. She also said she has experienced some remarks from students against her opinions. "People should be able to have a place where they can go where other have the same interests without that pressure," Beck said.

Sutter said he looks forward to seeing how the club will progress throughout the year. "I hope this works out for the benefit of all for a long time to come," he said. David Bywater, a Republican field representative has helped the club with organizations and structure for the year as well as fulfilling obligations that should be done as a Republican club in the nation. "Hopefully this will allow us to get a good, solid grasp on what we want to do this year," Sutter said. Sutter said he hoped Teenage Republicans would encourage students to vote more and take an interest in politics as well. "Voting is low in the state. We wanted to get kids more involved in political affiliations as well as encourage them to do community service," Sutter said. Sutter said students haven't been voting as much as they should. He said student apathy was present in Central. Sutter said he realized through his own classes there was a lack of concern for politics. "I hope through this, we can put voting on some type of platform and bring forth the importance of voting, not only for students, but for the community as well," Sutter said. Sutter and Beck both said they hoped that the influence of the Republican club would extend beyond just Central and benefit the community as well. Within Central, Bottger said she hoped to encourage students to express their opinions and support people whose political opinions may differ from the majority.

## Thompson plans to make change from Legislature

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Former congressional candidate Nancy Thompson said even though she lost the election, she plans on making changes in Nebraska through the Legislature where she has served for seven years. She has no regrets. She said at her campaign party even though she did not win the seat in Congress, her campaign brought a lot of important issues out in the open. "I look forward to working in Congress to reach those goals," Thompson said. "(I will) continue to work on children's issues, education, health and criminal justice." Her concession speech was short, but offered hope to the Democrats saying she still plans on fighting for what she believes in. As a former teacher Thompson made education a priority in her campaign. AP Government teacher Carol Krecji said many CHS teachers worked hard on Thompson's campaign. "Education is my big issue and Terry's record on education is abysmal," Krecji said. She said at one point the National Education Association scored every congressman and Terry's score was zero. She said he deserves a zero because he supports things she believes are wrong for Nebraska's education. "He voted for school vouchers in the District of Columbia," she said.

Krecji said if a school is deemed failing through No Child Left Behind (NCLB) the parent can take the equivalent of their tax money out of the school and put it toward a private school education. "Those (private) schools don't have any of the same standards public schools do," she said. She said when she and other teachers interviewed him last spring she was surprised. "His ignorance was appalling," she said. Krecji said Thompson's background makes her a good candidate. "She's a former teacher and understands these issues from the school's perspective," she said. She said Thompson is right fighting against NCLB. "You don't fatten a cow by weighing it, and I don't teach a student by testing it," she said. Thompson said Lee Terry is not the person to improve the nation. "I believe the country is heading in the wrong direction in education and with the deficit," Thompson said. She said students need to understand and be concerned about what's going on because the young people will have to make up for the deficit nearly the rest of their lives. Freshman Emma Phillips said even though she can't vote she wanted to help Douglas County Democrats in any ways she could. She decided to hold signs for Thompson and Kerry after hearing about it through Student Democrats.

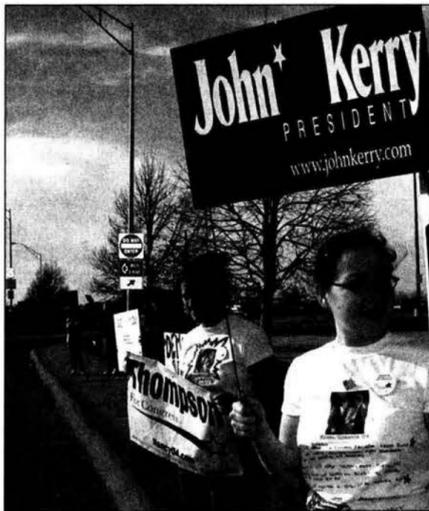


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

Freshmen Emma Phillips (right) and Anne Newman (left) show support for Democrats before the election on 72nd and Dodge.

## Democrats sponsor campaigns door-to-door

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Student Democrats Club sponsor Donna Noll helped promote the presidential election this year by leading the club in door-to-door campaign advertisements for Kerry and other political offices in Iowa. Noll has sponsored the club for six years. Through the club, Noll said she helps the students learn more about politics and voting. The club was not able to promote the election as a group, but Noll said they worked together to meet up with each other two or three members at a time. This way they could organize times to go door to door. Going door to door was called pamphleting. For pamphleting, the members went to people's homes and stuck pamphlets and leaflets about the election in people's doors. Club members made phone calls and put up signs for the local Nebraska and Iowa campaigns, Noll said. They promoted for legislative, school board and congressional candidates. They called to also promote battling states to help win votes as well.

Noll said she chose to sponsor Student Democrats because she was into politics. She said there were a lot of freshmen in the club, similar to this year. "They just wanted to learn more about politics," Noll said. "Sometimes they join the club because they want to learn more about what they see from their parents involvement in the elections." She said during the campaign, students did as much as they could to help get out the vote. The school year, Noll said, Student Democrats have a chance to hold coat drives, participate in community projects and promote the local campaigns which will be held in the spring. Student Democrat is the club that holds Diversity Day for the school every year. They also participate in the All-City Student Democrat events. Activity coordinator Emily Harrison is a sophomore and said she has a lot planned for the club this year. "This year we want to organize the coat drive and look

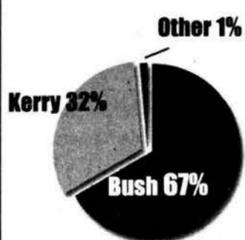


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Cast Your Vote



NEBRASKA VOTES



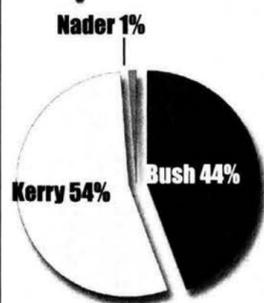
NEBRASKA MALE VOTERS



NEBRASKA FEMALE VOTERS



YOUTH VOTE 18-29



AMERICAN VOTES BY AGE



Source: Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement

# TEENAGE POLITICAL APATHY

Many political analysts said this election was going to be decided by the young voters ages 18-24. Although the numbers went up, it was not enough to put a new president in the White House.



PHOTO BY ANDREW RIENWALD/REGISTER

Supporters rally at the Iowa State Fairgrounds holding signs saying "Three for Three" describing the three debates Kerry won. According to school sources no Central students drove the three hours to see one of the presidential candidates. Although some students attended his other rallies, no Central attendance broke 10 for any recent political event.

## Indifferent students fail to sway vote

APATHY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

don't vote."

He said if 80 percent of young people got out to vote, politicians would start listening.

"They would have to," he said. "Unfortunately, things just aren't that way."

According to CIRCLE, voter registration and turnout has been declining since 1960. In 1960, 868,000 people in Nebraska could vote and 70.3 percent did.

This election 729,392 people voted out of 1,205,000 people eligible.

Ramsden said the United States has very low turnout compared to other European countries.

"In Australia, it is illegal not to vote," he said. "In Europe it is a lot easier to get registered to vote. You don't have to physically register like you do here."

He said to ballots are different and less complex as well, but the way Americans do it reflects the country because Americans vote on things like judges and initiatives.

"We ask our voters to work really really hard," he said. "They have to be registered, well educated and informed."

He said people might dislike the fact they have things on the ballot that they don't necessarily know what it is.

He said that is when people decide to leave politics to someone else.

"If you're rally smart you'll realize voting is a waste of time," he said.

He said it is especially hard to get people to vote in Nebraska because everyone knows the votes are going to go to Bush and even in Florida in 2000 not just one vote made a difference.

Ramsden said in Nebraska many people go out and vote because it gives them a feeling of patriotism because they did their American duty.

He said voter registration and turnout are probably going to get worse and keep declining.

### EVENTS

With a swing state right next door, Nebraskans had many prominent politicians at their fingertips, many in Council Bluffs only a few minutes drive away.

All rallies were free but most students didn't take opportunity to see President Bush, Senator John Kerry or his running mate, Senator John Edwards.

No Central students saw the John Kerry rally in Iowa.

Aaron Eckhoush, freshman at Roosevelt High School, said he was there to support Kerry with his family.

"It was a long wait but it's nice to see Kerry," Eckhoush said.

Valley High School Mike McIntosh senior said he's not old enough to vote yet.

"I haven't seen Kerry speak yet and I wanted to show support"

When President Bush came to speak in Council Bluffs many high school students were both inside watching the president and outside protesting him.

Junior at Heartland Christian High School Jade Adkins was volunteering at the rally.

"It's pretty exciting," she said.

She said it's a good experience and it is important for young people to get involved because they need more information about politics.

She said classes need to teach more about politics throughout high school.

"If it weren't for that class (Government class) I probably wouldn't be here," she said.

Creighton Prep junior Alex Lenosky was outside the Mid-America Center protesting the president the same day.

"It's something I really believe in," Lenosky said. "I did my little part to try and make sure he didn't get any more votes."

He said even though he can't vote he wants to be a part of society.

Student Democrats sponsor Donna Noll said many people got involved holding signs, leafleting and working on campaigns.

"It was a big election for the country," Noll said.

She said a lot of her students and people in her club were passionate because it was such an important election.

### INVOLVEMENT

Freshman Emma Phillips said she got involved because the last election angered her. She was standing on the corner of 72<sup>nd</sup> and Dodge holding a sign for John Kerry.

"The teacher (Noll) told us about it, but only two of us were there," she said. "We've also made calls for John Kerry."

She said holding signs probably wouldn't help Kerry get any more votes but it could help the smaller offices like Nancy Thompson for Congress and Diane Battiatto for Register of Deeds.

Student Democrats have been offering different forms of volunteer work since the beginning of the school year, but nothing was actually considered a club effort.

Teenage Republicans was formed this year after several attempts in the past. They have been holding meetings since the year and have plans to get involved the community.

President of Teenage Republicans Sarah Beck said they wanted to get involved in the election but it was hard to get the club off the ground and stay involved at the same time.

"David Bywater (field representative for the Republican party) said he was going to help us get involved but we haven't done it yet," she said.

Beck said she wanted to get the club to do something for the election night such as watch the polls together or go to Lee Terry's campaign party but it was never organized.

Sponsor of Teenage Republicans Sergeant Major Dwaine Sutter said they need to get the numbers in the club up for next year.

"We just need to get recognized as a viable club," Sutter said.

He said politicians didn't give students a reason to get involved.

"I don't think there was an issue discussed in any debate that focused on that age group," Sutter said.

He said regardless of what the politicians say or do students need to start getting involved and aware sooner than later.

"When these issues become their issues they are going to wonder how it happened," he said. "I think there's an apathy towards it (politics) but no more so than the adult population."

AP Government teacher Carol Krecji said most textbooks indicate that teenagers are more likely not to vote or get involved because they are more concerned with their own lives rather than the outside world.

"The youth vote has never met its potential," Krecji said. She said in her class more people are involved than not.

"I have consistently been impressed," she said.

### POST ELECTION

Sutter said he was elated that Bush won, but he has a lot of work to do.

"I actually hope he fulfills his promise in what he said in his acceptance speech to unite this divided country in the next four years," Sutter said.

Noll said it was very disappointing for her and the Student Democrats. She said it was hard to understand how he got that many votes, but she tries to keep in mind that nearly half the votes went against him.

"We held an emergency meeting so people could talk about it and voice their feelings," Noll said.

She said she is worried about what is going to happen over the next four years but hopes Bush will focus less on the religious right now that he doesn't have to worry about reelection.

"How can you send people to kill when you shouldn't be in that war in the first place and be considered a moral man?" she said.

She said Student Democrats will continue to work volunteering over the city.

Junior Angelo Clements said he's worried things aren't going to improve in this country.

"Seeing as how I'm a Democrat I was upset Bush was back in office," he said.

He said he was angry when he found out but was expecting it from the night before.

Junior Kaitlin Waterman said she knew election night Bush was going to win because he was ahead in Ohio.

"I was happy because I want him in office again," Waterman said.

She said he is a good president to finish fighting the war, even though she doesn't agree with everything he stands for.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

President George Bush gave a speech in swing state of Iowa. It was a routine stop on the campaign's agenda.

# Bush visits Bluffs

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"Four more years! Four more years!" was the sound resounding over and over again when President George W. Bush visited the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs on Oct. 25.

The crowds responded loudly to Bush's speech about Homeland Security and fighting terrorism.

National polls stated that the one topic on most of Americans' minds before the election was security so that was what both candidates talked about, almost completely leaving out other topics such as education.

The crowd didn't seem to mind.

People were waving signs saying veterans, sportsmen, firemen and doctors for Bush. Children wore T-shirts saying "Bush's Boys" or "Bush's Girls" and everyone was wearing political buttons or stickers.

Although there were many different people there from nuns to war veterans to students, they all had something in common.

Each one was a registered Republican and pledged their support to George W. Bush.

A common theme was showing Sen. John Kerry's separation from Bush.

Iowan Congressman Steve King spoke early in the day, the first to mention Kerry.

The crowd booed and yelled at the sound of his name.

"Kerry promises tax cuts to the middle class," King said. "Bush has delivered tax cuts to all tax paying Americans."

He asked if every registered voter would go out and vote for Bush.

"The next president needs to be the current president," he said.

Before the break, it was announced a special guest would be arriving with Bush.

Former mayor of New York City Rudy Giuliani

arrived with Bush and the First Lady.

The crowd started chanting his name over and over again when Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley announced him. He spoke about his experiences after Sept. 11, and how Bush was the right man to finish fighting in Iraq.

"He didn't circle the wagons and wait for terrorists to strike again," Giuliani said. "Thanks to George W. Bush we found comfort in the pain and embraced freedom over fear."

Bush said the rallies were lifting his and Laura Bush's spirits, and he is the only candidate who can successfully win a war.

"You cannot win a war you don't believe in fighting," Bush said.

He said he has a plan for America on all subjects from Medicare to the economy to education.

"We have to have to make sure the strong economy stays in America so no child is left behind," Bush said. "We need to strengthen the system for our children and grandchildren."

He said he planned on winning Nov. 2 and had confidence in the Hawkeye state.

"As long as I am commander in chief, America will never hide in the face of danger," he said.

Freshman at Abraham Lincoln High School Jordan Thompson was volunteering at the event. He said it is important for high school students to watch the news and follow the political race.

"It is important to get involved whether or not you can vote," he said.

He said Bush's No Child Left Behind plan is very helpful and is working all over the country.

"It (No Child Left Behind) makes teacher work together with students," Thompson said.

He said he is surprised by the lack of teenagers in attendance.

"I think there is a big problem with people not caring," he said.



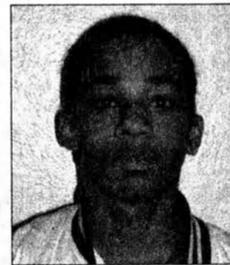
## REGISTER YOUR OPINION

**What do you think about the outcome of the election?**



"I liked the outcome. I didn't like Kerry at all. Kerry was morally corrupt."

Astrika Wilhelm (9)



"I think that John Kerry should have won. He paid more attention to African Americans."

Darius Harris (9)



"I don't like how they did the whole thing (election). I don't think Bush is a good fit."

Mia Edwards (11)



"I'm glad Kerry lost. I think Kerry was really spineless and didn't stick up for himself."

Ally Nazeck (9)



"I don't care. There's no reason for me to care about it because I can't vote yet."

Rebecca Mallenby (11)

# Kerry inspires students to get involved

BY LAUREN CRIST

"On Tuesday, the American people face a choice, the choice of a lifetime, a choice about the future of our country," Sen. John Kerry said in a speech in Sioux City on Oct. 27.

Four students attended the speech on behalf of the Student Democrats Club: Lauren Debo, Laurence Deboer, Keramie Colvin and Emily Hollison went to the speech, leaving at 5:30 that morning on a bus with other citizens.

Debo said she didn't find out about the speech until the day before when Latin teacher Rita Ryan told her about it.

"It was really last minute," Hollison said. "We went to an impromptu meeting the day before and left the next morning."

Debo said she was an avid Kerry supporter and was eager about going.

"Most politicians just talk," Debo said. "Kerry seemed to really mean what he said and will follow through with it."

Hollison said she wanted to hear what Kerry had to say.

"I thought he was a good public speaker and wanted to hear him," she said. "I hope he wins the election."

Debo said she learned a lot from Kerry's speech about Bush's Presidency.

"Bush does everything for money, like Kerry said, 'we can't afford four more years of a Bush economy,'" she said. "It's like he doesn't care."

In his speech, Kerry promised to provide tax cuts to help pay for college, health care, and child care." He pledged to fight for a stronger America for every

American" rather than the "privileged few."

Deboer said he thought he thought the 380 tons of missing explosives could possibly sway someone's opinion who was originally voting for Bush as well.

Hollister also mentioned she was reluctant about the way Bush "handled the war in Iraq."

Debo discussed her concern about the way the president dealt with the missing ammunition.

"There are lots of things Bush has done wrong," she said. "He didn't even worry about the ammunition."

Kerry emphasized the President's reaction and handling of the ammunition often throughout the speech.

"And what do we hear from this President on this important matter of National Security?" he asked the crowd. "Silence, not a word, not a single explanation of how this could have happened and or what the U.S. government is doing to address it. That's not leadership."

Deboer agreed the president could have handled the situation better.

"Bush messed up a lot, and he's made decisions that are not right," said Deboer. "Bush is complaining."

His comment about the complaining was made in reference to something Kerry had said during his speech.

"He says the presidency is 'hard work, hard work, hard work.'" Kerry said. "Well, Mr. President, I'm ready, and impatient, to relieve you of that hard work."

Hollison said she was surprised by

the number of times Kerry mentioned Bush.

"Kerry actually seemed to slam Bush a lot, which is not necessarily a good thing, but I thought it was rather interesting," Hollison said.

Debo also commented on the number of times Kerry mentioned Bush.

"He made a lot of jokes about Bush," she said.

Among these comments were calling Vice President Cheney the "Chief Minister of Disinformation" and commenting that Bush was asking for "four more years so he can keep up the bad work" in the economy.

Despite the remarks, Debo said she felt Kerry was a better candidate than Bush.

She said he would be a better president

"Kerry is a good speaker, his voice shows that he's serious about something and he means what he's talking about," she said.

Hollison said she felt Kerry discussed the middle class a lot throughout his speech.

"I wasn't fully aware of all the policies Bush had supporting wealthier classes," she said. "Kerry emphasized the working class man."

Deboer said he wasn't able to vote this year, but hoped Kerry would win the presidential election.

"I'm not a big fan of Bush's, I hope Kerry will end Bush's term," he said.

Kerry also emphasized the importance of each person's vote

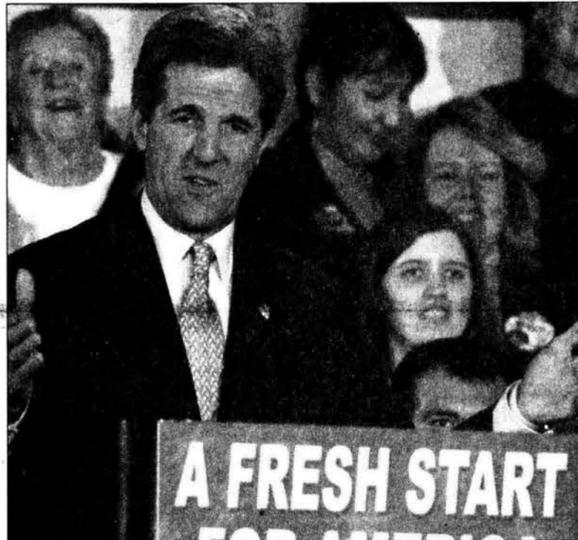


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Sen. and Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry stopped in Des Moines, IA to rally support from democrats and undecided voters.

throughout the address.

"When you make your choice who will lead this country over the next four years, you're not just choosing a president," he said. "You're choosing a future for America."

The crowd seemed to like the message.

Many seemed eager to do so as they cheered him throughout the speech that morning.

"Just seeing everyone who

supported Kerry was amazing," Debo said. "The gym was just overflowing."

Among concluding remarks to the crowd, Kerry included comments about the future he claimed to offer America.

The crowd ate it up.

"My opponent wants you to vote your fears. I ask you to vote your hopes," Kerry said. "I see a nation of rising opportunity. I believe hope, not fear is our future."

# Edwards charms young audience in final weeks

BY MALISA MILITZER

Bustling lines and riled-up people said it all. Democratic Senator from North Carolina and vice presidential candidate John Edwards was in the Midwest to campaign.

As everyone piled into the Mid-America Convention Center in Council Bluffs on Oct. 14 and waited impatiently for Edwards to arrive, it seemed strange that Edwards' time of arrival kept changing.

Edwards began his speech with the subject of the war in Iraq.

"He (President George W. Bush) made this mess and he can't clean it up," Edwards said.

He revealed what his and John Kerry's three main points would have been for dealing with the war.

They planned on beginning with speeding up the training of the Iraqi troops so they could defend themselves, then speeding up reconstruction and making sure that elections were done as scheduled.

"You know the old saying you can't fix a problem unless you see the problem?" Edwards said. "Well George Bush doesn't see the problem and he can't fix it. John Kerry can."

He promised to keep the American people safe and reduce the threat of nuclear weapons coming into the hands of anyone the United States would consider to be a threat.

He assured the crowd he and Kerry knew what they were doing, specifically emphasizing that people of America completely trusted the Kerry administration.

"The truth is that John Kerry defended this country as a young man and he's going to defend this country now," Edwards said.

The main focus of his speech, after his introduction, was health care.

Edwards focused on the over-pricing of prescription

drugs, gearing the conversation toward the people by loading them up with facts about the economy's downturns during Bush's presidency.

Edwards said during Bush's four years five million people lost their health coverage and 45 million people don't have health coverage currently.

He said there had been a 35 percent increase in health care premium, which was the largest increase in history.

Edwards stressed that even though Bush said he was laying out a plan for making health care better during his next term, it still would not work.

"He's promised to do something about health care, he's done something about health care," Edwards said. "He's made it worse."

Edwards and Kerry's plan is to make health care equally available to everyone. They strive to get health care cost down and reduce premiums.

"We're (going to) do something they haven't done," Edwards said. "We're going to bring down the cost of prescription drugs in this country, which are completely out of control."

Edwards said that the United States needed a president and a vice president who did not stand for big drug companies.

He told the crowd of supporters that they (Kerry and Edwards) were tough enough to make the tough decisions.

"This is the most important election of our lifetime," Edwards said.

He said to the members of the audience they were the best things in America because they had a say in what happened in the country.

"Your country needs you," he said.

Edwards said whatever help the people could do would make a difference in what would happen when the final count came in.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Sen. John Edwards made a stop at the Mid-America Center. After his speech he met with a small portion of the people attending and posed for family pictures.

# POLITICS

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## Republican club writes constitution

BY LAUREN CRIST

Sophomore Erin Bottger said she felt it was important to start Teenage Republicans for political equality.

"Central usually seems to have a lot of diversity. Yet, there was a (Student) Democrat Club, but not a Republican one," Bottger said. "We thought there should be equal opportunity and people should be able to choose."

Sgt. Dwaine Sutter said Bottger and junior Sarah Beck did a great deal in getting the club started.

"I couldn't have done it without them," he said. "Bottger was one of the two key organizers for the club."

Sutter said she possessed some qualities that were beneficial to the club.

"She is organized, has some good leadership qualities, and has great communication skills," Sutter said.

He said Bottger helped the club by arranging the agenda and posters and by writing and making sure the constitution was ratified with Beck.

"So far we have passed a constitution for what we need to have in the club," Bottger said. "We voted on everything."

The constitution was written by Beck and Bottger and then voted on by the group.

She said all aspects in the constitution had to be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote.

The majority of the constitution was basically abiding by a national set of standards for the Republican Club.

Republican representative David Bywater is also assisting them this year within the club to make sure they abide by these national standards.

"He said he would help us with pretty much anything," Bottger said.

She said he might arrange meetings with other Republican Clubs from nearby schools in the district.

Bottger said they also hoped to interact with Student Democrats and may do a debate.

"We hope to get both Democrat and Republican views. Overall, we want get people more involved in politics and the voting," Bottger said.

She said the club hopes to help educate people and help to support them in their individual political beliefs despite whether they are more liberal or conservative.

Bottger said she felt there was some pressure to be liberal at Central. She said there were often snide comments or remarks against more conservative views, yet she mostly decided to disregard them.

"At Central, people can accept other people's beliefs pretty well, but when it comes to politics, they seem to have some difficulty," she said.

She said there are other clubs supporting a variety of beliefs and opinions in Central and felt it was fair to provide Republicans with an option to support their political beliefs as well.

"We wanted to give them (Republicans) an equal opportunity to represent their beliefs," Bottger said. "It's important to have personal values."

Bottger said they hope to do a lot through Teenage Republicans this year.

Beck said they hope to do some volunteering soon with other Republicans in the area.

She mentioned she wanted to help encourage others at Central to vote.

"If people don't vote, then the government won't know what they think," she said. "People needed to vote so that their voices can be heard and will remain being heard in our government."

In meetings, Bottger said they occasionally discussed current political issues.

She has mainly conservative views on many topics, including the War in Iraq. Bottger said many students involved in other school activities.

"Many students are very involved with other things and are at school because of activities as late as 9 p.m. some nights," Bottger said.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Junior Mary Croskey (right) talks with other demonstrators at the Backwards Walk, which was held to protest President George W. Bush's environmental policies.

## Student voices anger towards president

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Phone banking in the morning, leafleting in the afternoon, followed by protesting President George W. Bush's environmental policies.

On Oct. 23, junior Mary Croskey participated in her first political experiences, phone calling, leafleting, and a Backwards Walk, a protest against President George W. Bush. Croskey is in Student Democrats. She said she enjoyed what she did that day, and hopes she can do more.

"I'm sure I'll be doing more stuff when I can," Croskey said.

She said she started the day calling different people in Omaha asking them for support and telling them about different Democratic

candidates running in Nebraska.

"We're pretty much just here to promote local Democrats," she said.

Sophomores Aaron French and Emily Harrison both were with Croskey in the phone banking, leafleting and protesting.

"Some people agree with you and praise you," French said. "Others are the exact opposite."

Croskey said most people who answered the phones were nice but there were some who didn't take the calls very well.

"Right in the middle of your spiel, they'd hang up on you," Croskey said.

The Conservation Organizer for the Sierra

Club, Cammy Watkins, helped organize the walk and said the walk was to symbolize the Bush Administration reversing 30 years of environmental progress. Watkins said it was a good time for the walk because it was so close to the elections.

"(They are the) first administration not enforcing the polluter tax policy," Watkins said.

The polluter tax policy, she said, was established to make polluting companies form a trust fund to pay for cleaning up.

Because that has not been enforced, she said, the taxpayers have to pay for the cleanup.

She said the Sierra Club usually has a stereotype of "tree huggers" that would do

nearly anything for the environment. Watkins said this wasn't necessarily true, but said that environment is very important.

"The issues of the environment affect your health," Watkins said.

Croskey joined the Student Democrats to learn more about politics.

Though she cannot vote yet, she said she would like to find out how the candidates affect her when she is old enough.

Student Democrat sponsor Donna Noll said many of the Student Democrats either leaflet or held signs at street corners.

"They did a lot of work before the elections," she said.

## Local official helps start Teenage Republicans on right foot

BY CLAY LOMNETH

A prominent member of the Republican Party visited the Student Republicans Club three times already, and they hope for more.

David Bywater is a field representative for the Republican Party of Nebraska.

The first time he visited the Teenage Republicans, he brought in some brochures for volunteer opportunities. Bywater said clubs such as the Teenage Republicans are "breeding grounds" for future volunteers and campaign staffers.

"My goals are to help them to build the strongest organization they can," he said.

Bywater said he was called in by the Teenage Republican adviser Dwaine Sutter to help start the club up from scratch.

Bywater said he brought some literature to Sutter about the basics of a Republican Club. As a field representative, Bywater said his job is to gain volunteers, go to rallies and parades and organize phone banks.

"I'm a field general in the battlefield of politics," he said.

Another job Bywater held was teaching Social Studies for summer school at Westside High School.

There, he said, he used his knowledge of politics to help them become informed about the political process.

"Politics is an aspect of almost everything in your life," Bywater said.

To help the Republican Party, Bywater said the students can go door to door, participate in phone banking and putting signs in yards supporting candidates. Often, Bywater said, he tries to get students to help with the lesser-known lower ballot candidates.

"We need everyone we can to help win the election," Bywater said.

Bywater said the students are active in the political process by helping with the candidates even if the students are too young to vote.

"They're learning about what the political process is about," he said.

Bywater said he also helped Republican Clubs at Westside and Creighton Prep High Schools.

"(Our goals are) getting the message spread to young people that the political process is important to you even though you can't vote," he said.

Bywater said young people getting involved in politics helped them and the rest of the community because they feel that they own the government and have a part in it.

Sutter said the group isn't just about politics.

"We want community involvement from young people," Sutter said.

Sutter said the group helps out with Republican candidates any way they can, and Bywater can help them do that.

But, Sutter said, he doesn't want the group to be limited to only Republican issues and points of view.

Adviser of the Student Democrats Club Donna Noll said the club has not had any speakers this year, but has had them past year. The speakers included candidates, the mayor and various campaign managers.

She said no speakers have come in this year so far because most were too busy with preparing for elections.

Noll said she has not talked with the students to see whom they want to speak with them.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Republican field representative David Bywater speaks with the Teenage Republicans Club during a meeting. Bywater helped the club get started by giving them flyers with ideas for helping with campaigning.