

WEDNESDAY

May 11, 2005

the Central High School REGISTER

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Education law said to be unfair

BY CLAY LOMNETH

President George W. Bush's education law No Child Left Behind (NCLB), responsible for standardized testing throughout schools, has raised questions on how fair it is to hold special education students and English as a Second Language (ESL) students to the same standards as other students.

The state chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party Steve Achelpohl said he disagreed with the NCLB law.

"I think it's unfair to subject special education students and special students learning English as a second language to the testing procedures with NCLB," Achelpohl said.

He said the ultimate outcome of the unfair testing would be that the students and the school suffer. He said the negative effect of the law would especially harm inner city schools.

Achelpohl said the local school officials should have more control over the testing material because they are the ones paying for it. Also, he said, learning conditions vary widely across the country, so one standard could not fit every school.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he did not think NCLB was fair because the students had to learn a new language and the history of country at the same time.

"To truly understand the language in an academic setting requires several years," Bexten said. "I think it's unfair, but it's the law."

There are some exemptions for students who have been in the country for less than a year. Safe Harbor Provisions is an example of one of those exemptions.

Students who are not in ESL or special education have to score at least 75 percent all together, but ESL students need to perform better than ESL students the year before. This is called Adequate Yearly Progress and Bexten said the same policy applied to special education.

"Students in special education are not incapable of learning by any means," he said.

The director of the research division of Omaha Public Schools Carla Noerlinger said the NCLB scores are grouped into nine different sections, including special education and ESL groups.

She said the groups do not effect the scoring of the tests, and that was unfair.

"I think it's absolutely appropriate to hold students to high expectations, (but) to hold students in special programs to those same expectations is unfair," she said.

Noerlinger said it was unfair for the schools with a greater diversity of students to meet standards.

At Central last year, only five of the nine groups were scored out of juniors, white (non-Hispanic), students overall, African-American, Hispanic, those with free and reduced lunches and special education. ESL, she said, was one of the groups that did not have enough students to be scored.

"We are required to report scores for every group when the number (of students) is over 29," she said.

When there aren't enough students in a group to be scored, it does not count against the school.

Algebra teacher Carrie Laughlin said she did not support everything about the NCLB law, but there were parts she did like.

"I like that we have to report to people (higher up)," Laughlin said.

She said she thought when people have to report to people in higher control, some people take it more seriously.

One of the things she didn't like was having to teach by the government standards.

"That's very hard, I just want to teach," she said.

Laughlin said the NCLB tests were fair in some ways and in others they were not.

For ESL and special education students, she said, it was usually not fair.

ESL teacher Catherine Kennedy said NCLB makes

Continued to ESL on Page 5



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Senior Jessica Sheridan completed her last chemotherapy treatment in January and is now recovering from Hodgkin's disease, a type of lymphoma she has been fighting since she was diagnosed in August. She said she is glad to have her focus back on school instead of cancer.

Senior finishes chemotherapy

BY MOLLY MULLEN

She said when she heard the news she couldn't stop crying. Everyone in her family cried that day.

"I don't think anyone could ever be ready for that kind of news," she said. "I thought it could never happened to me, cancer is just something you hear about."

Senior Jessica Sheridan said even when the doctors at Children's Hospital told her she had Hodgkin's disease, a type of lymphoma, she didn't believe them. She said she never felt sick and had always been healthy, so it was unexpected.

"It wasn't until my hair started falling out and I got sick from the chemo did I really understand it," she said.

She said she felt a hard spot on her neck last summer, but it just felt like a pulled muscle. Her parents took her to a doctor who said it was probably a swollen gland and sent her home.

When she went back before her

Computerized Tomography Scan she was told she could either have lymphoma or a virus. She read about it on the Internet so she could know more about it.

She was diagnosed with type 2A lymphoma, meaning the cancer had spread around her neck and was spreading to her chest, but had not reached any organs.

She completed six months of chemotherapy in January and will return at least every month for a follow-up.

Sheridan said chemotherapy was hard to get through. She said she would go into the clinic at Children's Hospital and get hooked up to an IV full of different drugs.

"Part of the reason why chemotherapy is so bad is because of all the side effects," she said. "The side effects I experienced were hair loss, nausea, bone pain and water retention."

She said there was no way around the side effects. The steroids she was on affected her water retention and when they took her off the steroids the bone pain increased.

She said it was helpful having so much

support around her.

"The nurses at Children's Hospital were unbelievable," she said.

Sheridan was paired with one specific nurse, but said everyone knew her.

"They would ask me about play practice or how my last treatment went," she said. "It really felt like a family there and I wasn't going through it alone."

She said the students and teachers were supportive as well, even when her grades started to slip.

She missed 25 days out of first semester because for two days after every treatment she could hardly get out of bed.

"I just had no energy," she said. "I am not a person who likes to miss school so I went whenever I could."

Sheridan said she participated in a number of activities outside of school, even when she was going through chemotherapy. She participated in the spring play, National Honors Society (NHS), Spanish NHS and was named this year's prom queen.

Coordinator of lymphnodic studies at University of Nebraska Medical Center Martin Bost said chemotherapy can usually treat the disease.

"It's a very dangerous disease," Bost said. "Some can be very progressive."

He said the white blood cells, which help with the ability to fight disease, start to grow abnormally in different places in the body. The body could start to swell just like the nose and throat swell during a cold.

"Lymphoma is not like lung cancer where it's caused from nicotine or smoking," he said. "There are studies right now looking into genetics or environmental factors."

He said there are no direct links as to what causes lymphoma.

After the three to six months of chemotherapy, he said the treatment could be complete, but there are follow-ups for years after.

He said usually there are checkups every few weeks and if doctors don't see signs of the disease returning, they will follow up less.

Alumnus raises money for life-saving transplant

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Alumnus Jason Woods has been struggling with cystic fibrosis since he was born, and this 1995 graduate is in need of two new lungs and a \$100 thousand transplant.

People all around Omaha have begun to get involved, including Saddle Creek Records, Saint Margaret Mary's Grade School and the class of 1995 from Central.

"A lot of people (with cystic fibrosis) don't fund-raise because we look healthy," Woods said. "I didn't want to think about it until it was necessary."

He said every day he has to do inhalation treatments and chest percussion to break up mucus in his lungs. Also, he has to take specific medicine and use oxygen all day.

He said he used to not need any treatment, but the disease has been progressing since birth. The treatments take three hours out of his everyday life, but could potentially take more. Without his treatments he said his lungs would eventually develop cysts and scar.

"Without it I guess I would only have around 3-5 years (to live)," he said.

He said there aren't many outward signs of his illness. His chest gets tight sometimes and he coughs, and for nearly a year he has been using oxygen.

"Even with the lung transplant I will still need to take medication with enzymes for my digestive system," he said.

He said he eventually came up with the plan to find ways to raise money and contacted the executive coordinator of the fund-raisers Ann Mossberg.

Mossberg said she knew him through her son who assisted him at a YMCA summer camp. He will be turning his birthday into an event for Woods because he plans on donating all his money to the transplant.

"Children's Organ Transplant Organization helps people all through their lives, because it is childhood based," she said. "They helped supply the wristbands."

She said it has already supplied Central and Burke with green wristbands that say "Donate life" for the fund-raiser and have planned a pancake breakfast at the Papillion fire-house. Central secretary Jean Enger said 30 wristbands sold in the first week.

"I think the information (about Woods) is just starting to get around," Enger said.

She said the bands sold for \$2 and went directly towards Woods' transplant. To date, Benson High School has sold 100 bands.

She and Woods chose Benson because he was employed as a

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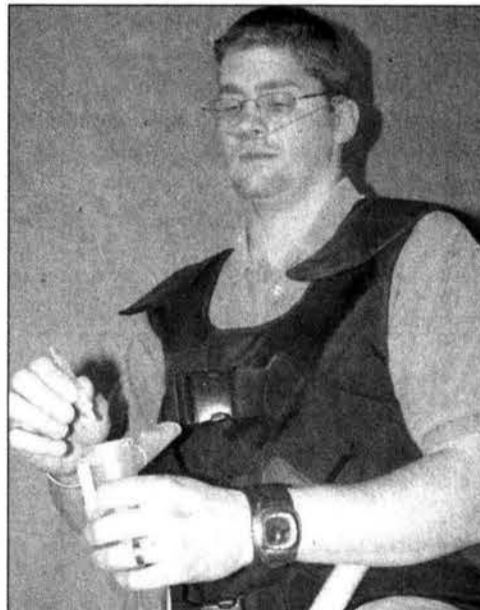


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Alumnus Jason Woods prepares his inhalation treatments for cystic fibrosis. He is trying to raise money for lung transplants.

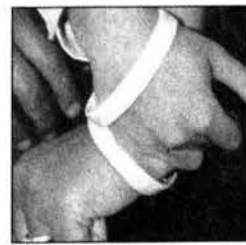
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Top honors go to junior track runner

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

Junior Allison Hartnett got first place at the 800-meter dash at the Millard South Invite, but Hartnett has been training for a long time to get this award.

"I run every day, and during practice, we're always moving, always active," she said.

She also said training was the hardest part of it all.

"It's so hard to get started, but once you do start, you can't stop," she said.

Hartnett said she had to be extremely disciplined when training and running in competitions. Girls track coach Trent Lodge said Hartnett worked very hard.

"She has a natural talent, and she's been running for a long time," Lodge said.

She's been running since she was in third grade.

"My dad thought it would be a good idea to make my sister and I run the Corporate Cup one year," she said. "It was a killer."

Junior Allison Gorga has been running with Hartnett since their freshmen year on cross country.

"She's probably the most valuable player. Mentally she's the best," Gorga said. "She's so disciplined, and she's also very self-contained."

Hartnett said she does have some motivation. She wants to make it to a division I college for track.

"I would be so honored to be recruited," she said. Hartnett said there is a lot of nervousness that goes on before competitions.

"Sometimes I think I can't do it, or that I don't even want to run, but then once I start, I know I'll do well," she said. "But you can't get cocky. You go in saying 'I got this,' and you have to know that you'll win."

Classes visit writer's home to study book

BY TESS MANDELL

English teacher Ellen Plath took her junior honors English classes to Red Cloud, Neb. to learn more about "My Antonia," a book her classes read.

The author, Willa Cather, grew up in Red Cloud and wrote "My Antonia" with Red Cloud as the setting. Plath said the students who participated in the trip were able to connect the events in the book to the places they visited.



PLATH

She also said this year was the 50th anniversary of the Willa Cather Foundation, and each state is given a book that Cather wrote. By coincidence, Nebraska was given the book the junior students are reading.

Plath said the trip consisted of a tour of the town and Willa Cather museum. Junior Sarah Beck, one of the students participating in the trip, recently moved to Omaha from Glenville, a town near Red Cloud. Beck said the students who went should have benefited from the trip.

"I think most of the kids are just going to get out of school. They'll say, 'Oh this is neat.' And then that will be it," Beck said. "But I think they'll see what natural life is like by a real river. They'll appreciate it more and understand what Cather is talking about."

CALENDAR

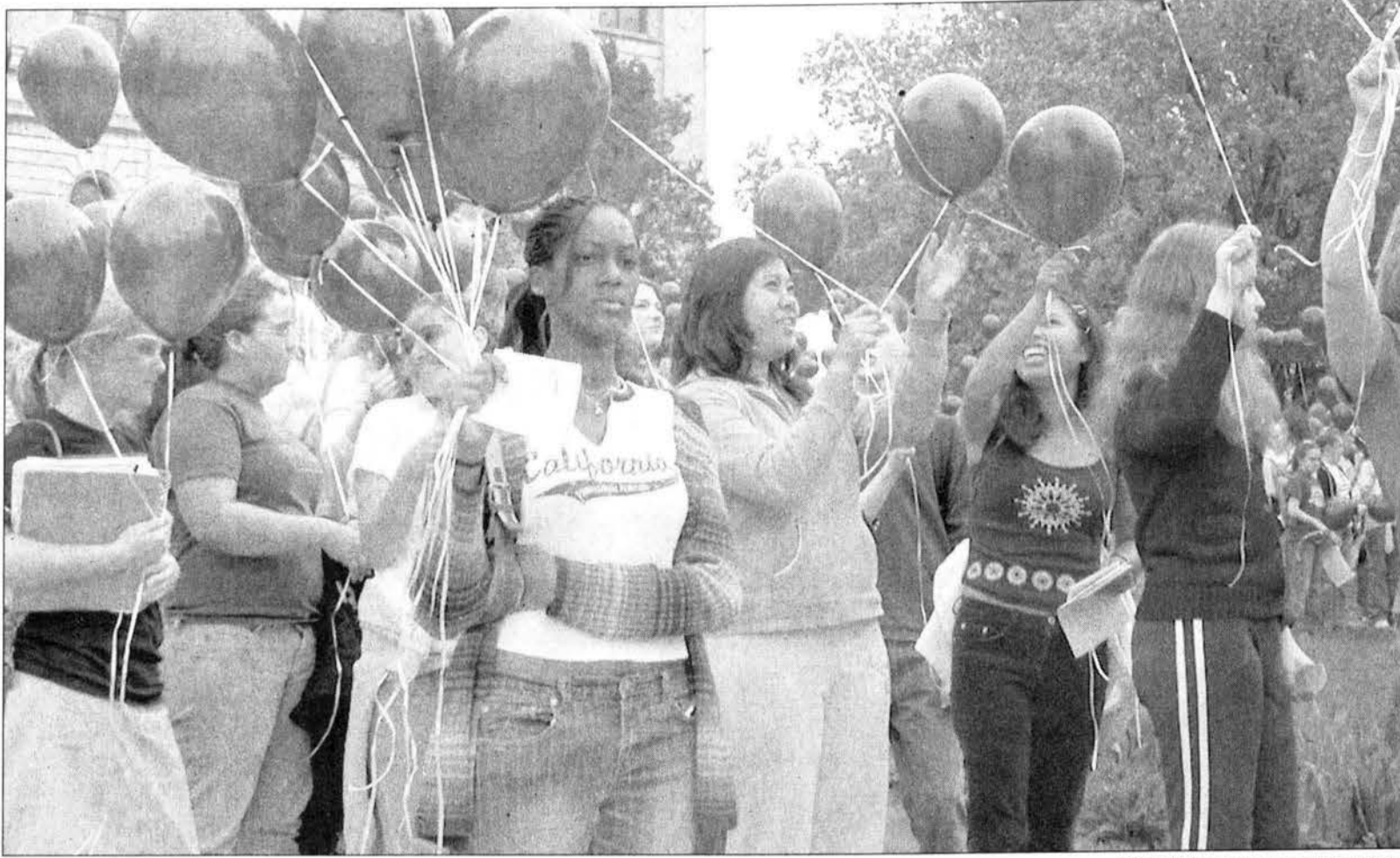


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Students hold balloons at the 3rd annual Purple Feather Day. Some seniors were specially recognized for having a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for seven semesters.

Tradition honors excelling students

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Nearly 500 students celebrated having a high grade point average (GPA) for the 38th annual Purple Feather Day, Principal Jerry Bexten said.

One hundred seniors were specifically awarded for having an accumulative GPA of 3.5 or better for seven straight semesters of high school.

Freshman Alek Erickson was also put in the spotlight, offering a family jazz quartet for entertainment where

he played the bass. He plays with his mom, dad and little brother in the Burt Street Boys jazz quartet.

"I thought they sounded great," Bexten said.

Erickson used to play the flute, but his father was always looking for a bass player to fit with his piano. Two years ago his dad bought a bass and Erickson started playing.

He said he felt well prepared for the Purple Feather Day.

He knew about the gig two weeks in advance and the whole family practiced until the concert.

He said everyone got to choose his or her favorite song to play and he chose "Maiden Voyage."

Erickson liked playing in front of his schoolmates and said he thought it was fun for playing for so many people.

Every weekend his family travels down to the Lied Center in Nebraska City to play together, he said, and this summer they are practicing for four other concerts.

"When we first got the gig I was wondering what everyone was going to think," he said.

He said he got mixed comments from the audience. A lot of people, he said, didn't want to listen and just wanted to play the game show from past Purple Feather Days.

He didn't know anything about the event before he played it, but said he was proud to be a part of the tradition.

Junior Jessica Hollenbeck said she took the Purple Feather Day ceremony seriously.

"For me it's an accomplishment," Hollenbeck said. "It shows me how much I've worked for."

Culinary arts takes third at competition

BY PATRICK O'MALLEY

The culinary skills class took third place at the State cooking competition and second place in the Mead County competition.

Each culinary class selects four cooks who had good grades and attendance, were responsible and had a strong will to sacrifice their time for the competition.



STAROSKI

Each culinary class selects four cooks who had good grades and attendance, were responsible and had a strong will to sacrifice their time for the competition.

They did awesome; they put a lot of hours and learned a lot," culinary skills teacher Jeanne Staroski said.

She said the weekend before the competition they spent roughly four hours practicing the dishes for the competition.

Sophomore Anthony Byers said they thought they did a good job, but the Career Center 5-6 class beat them in the State.

"They did so good on the entrepreneur part and paperwork part that if they were to walk into a business they would get a loan right away," he said.

At State all the classes also had to render a case study and knowledge bowl over all of the curriculum and knife skills.

JROTC cadets receive plaque to mark history

BY CLAY LOMNETH

In an effort to recognize the Cadet Commanders from Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), an alumnus Max Kennedy revealed he dedicated three new plaques on May 10.

"(I wanted) to document history of something that's been around for over 100 years," Kennedy said.

To raise money for the plaques, Kennedy sent letters and e-mails to soldiers who would have their names on the plaques, asking them to donate money. About half responded, some of which he heard from personally. Those who did respond will have their names inscribed on the bottom of the plaques.

The research took Kennedy around 40 or 60 hours, he said, but he didn't mind.

"It was a fun thing to do," he said. Kennedy wanted to especially honor cadet commander William Roark. Roark was on his second tour of Vietnam when his plane was shot down over North Vietnam.

Roark was the only JROTC commander killed in action.

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Upcoming Events

May

11 District Track Meet

The District track meet will take place today at Millard West High School. The field events start at 12 p.m. and the track events start at 1:30 p.m. Track events include relays, boys and girls hurdles and the 100-meter dash.

13 French Club Pique-nique

The French Club is saying goodbye to their seniors with a picnic at Elmwood Park from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. French Club sponsor and international language department head Bev Fellman said she plans for there to be grilling among other things. "We just relax and have fun," Fellman said.

13-15 Botanical Gardens Extravaganza

National Honor Society (NHS) will be helping the Botanical Gardens when it has a sale of greenhouse items for the general public. Some members will carry customers' purchases, watch children or weed and garden. On Friday, it will go from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday it will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. English teacher Jennifer Stastny said as many as 40 students will be at the gardens, taking three hour shifts. Stastny said many of the volunteers will be the new junior inductees, who need one group activity and five individual activities.

15 Bob Orsi Benefit

The National Honor Society (NHS) will be helping raise money for Bob Orsi, from Orsi's Bakery. He has been diagnosed with lymphoma and has no medical insurance. The NHS will be serving food at the benefit. Tickets are a \$10 donation, with the profit going to the Bob Orsi Foundation. The benefit will take place from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Saint Francis Cabrini Hall, at 10th and William Street.

25-27 Finals

Finals for students will be taken on these days. Principal Jerry Bexten said students should behave like a normal day, and should prepare by listening to what their teachers say will be on the final.

June

2 Senior Graduation rehearsal and Senior Graduation

Both will take place at the Civic Auditorium. The rehearsal begins at 9:30 a.m. and will last until about 11 a.m., and graduation starts at 7 p.m. and should go until 8:20 p.m. Assistant principal Paul Semrad said he did not know how many students will be graduating, but he expected many spectators. "It wouldn't surprise me if there were several thousand," he said.

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National Honors Society celebrates Earth Day at Botanical Gardens

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Two seniors clocked in three more volunteer hours Apr. 23, for the National Honors Society (NHS) Botanical Gardens Earth Day cleanup.

Senior David Ramirez, with almost 100 hours, and senior Mariela Muñoz, with 60 volunteer hours, both helped pull weeds and rake mulch.

NHS sponsor Jean Whitten said the NHS students usually did work for the gardens about twice a year, but any volunteers were welcome on Saturdays.

Whitten has been going to the Botanical Gardens since the fall of 1996, when she started working at Central.

She said it used to be for her honors biology students.

"It became an Honor Society project when I started helping out with the honors society," she said.

Whitten said she was glad Ramirez and Muñoz still came to the gardens, even with all their volunteer hours.

To become a distinguished NHS member, the students must have 50 hours and have participated in seven group projects.

"They come to everything, even though they have all the hours they need," she said.

Ramirez has been in NHS since his junior year. Volunteer hours, he said, also came from his work with Latino Leaders Club.

Ramirez said he enjoyed helping out, and that motivated him. The Botanical Garden work was especially enjoyable, he said.

"We can get in touch with nature," he said.

Muñoz has volunteer hours from Liberty Elementary, translating for the students there. She also teaches a dance class for second and third grade girls.

Munoz said she enjoyed the helping out by weeding, and it was her second time at the gardens volunteering.

"I just love gardening; I love being out in nature," she said. "(It's) kind of relaxing."

Rosarian at the Botanical Gardens Fred Strohl directed the volunteers.

He has been working at the Botanical Gardens for 10 years.

"I've seen a lot of kids come through the gate," Strohl said.

He said all the kids that have come through have been a big help.

With the size of the crew that worked for three hours, he said his job was much easier.

"It would take me two or three weeks by myself," Strohl said.

Strohl said he thought helping out was good exposure for the students, and years from now they would come back and remember what they had planted.

Senior Courtney Ziesel has been in NHS for a year, and she has helped with Botanical Gardens about four times.

"They have different stuff to do every time," she said.

Some of the activities NHS has participated in, Ziesel said, included an Easter egg coloring and hunt with elementary school children.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Senior Mariela Muñoz weeds at the Botanical Gardens during a National Honors Society cleanup. Muñoz has about 60 hours volunteering, including helping teach dance class to young girls.

Students help organize fund-raisers to get second kidney transplant for little sister

BY EMILY HARRISON



PHOTOS BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER

Keanne Laffinette (front) and her sister junior Amber Cade sit at Studio G Hair Design for a benefit Cut-a-thon. (Photo right) Laffinette and Cade and display wristbands sold for a fund-raiser.

Keanne Laffinette had health problems since she was born. Her sister sophomore Kamita Laffinette said now that she is 9 years old she has already had a stroke and a kidney transplant and is need of another.

Her sisters, three who attend Central, have been helping plan benefits in the community to raise funds for her family.

Keanne had her first donated kidney taken out after it failed and had a stroke the following day.

Keanne could not speak or walk after her stroke on Dec. 10.

Kamita said doctor's predicted it would be at least a month before Keanne would be able to walk, and 6 months to a year before she could speak. However, Keanne is already walking and talking.

Keanne had already undergone one kidney transplant when she was 2 years old.

She received the first kidney from her mother, Stephanie Jackson, and her stepfather hopes to donate the next.

At that time Keanne was the youngest successful African-American living related transplant in Nebraska.

"It is harder on the donor," Jackson said of transplants.

The patient's body is used to working without that organ, but the donor's body is not.

However Jackson said technology is much better now

than the first time Keanne had a transplant.

After the second transplant, the family will need financial support because both parents will be unable to work.

Keanne's mother will need to take her to therapy and help her recover, and her step-father will need to recover from his surgery as well.

Jackson said her husband has already been out of work taking Keanne to therapy and dialysis appointments.

Parents, students and staff from Keanne's school, Holy Cross Elementary, and members of her Church have organized fund-raisers and benefits to aid Keanne's family.

These included a spaghetti benefit dinner, a cut-a-thon at a local hair salon, a play, selling wristbands and many donations.

Cathy Kessler, an organizer of the event said the benefit dinner was full of diversity; it was diverse both ethnically and religiously.

"Coming together like this is what community is all about," Kessler said.

Sean Barrett another organizer of the benefit said he did not know Keanne, but wanted to do something for her. Both Barrett's and Kessler's children attend Holy Cross Elementary.

Barrett said Holy Cross was a small school where every one knows each other.

Barrett said talking began about the benefits in January.



Another benefit, a cut-a-thon, was held on Apr. 24, at Studio G Hair Design. Free hair cuts were given with donations for Keanne.

There were also raffle tickets sold for a set of jewelry from Premir Designs Jewelry.

Theresa DesRosiers, the owner of Premir Designs Jewelry, also sold jewelry at the salon, and donated all the profits to Keanne.

The benefits from a performance of the "Wizard of Oz on Apr. 14" at Holy Cross by Keanne's school mates, were donated too.

Also, bracelets in various colors have been sold to raise money for Keanne. On the bracelets "Keep Loving" is imprinted. Many children also raised money for Keanne through bake sales, lemonade stands and even at their own birthday parties.

With all of the benefits about \$22,000 was raised, \$2,000 above the original goal.

Jackson said she would use the money to take time off of work while Keanne recovered.

Senior Amber Cade, an adopted sister of Keanne's, said that while it was scary at first she believed Keanne would be all right.

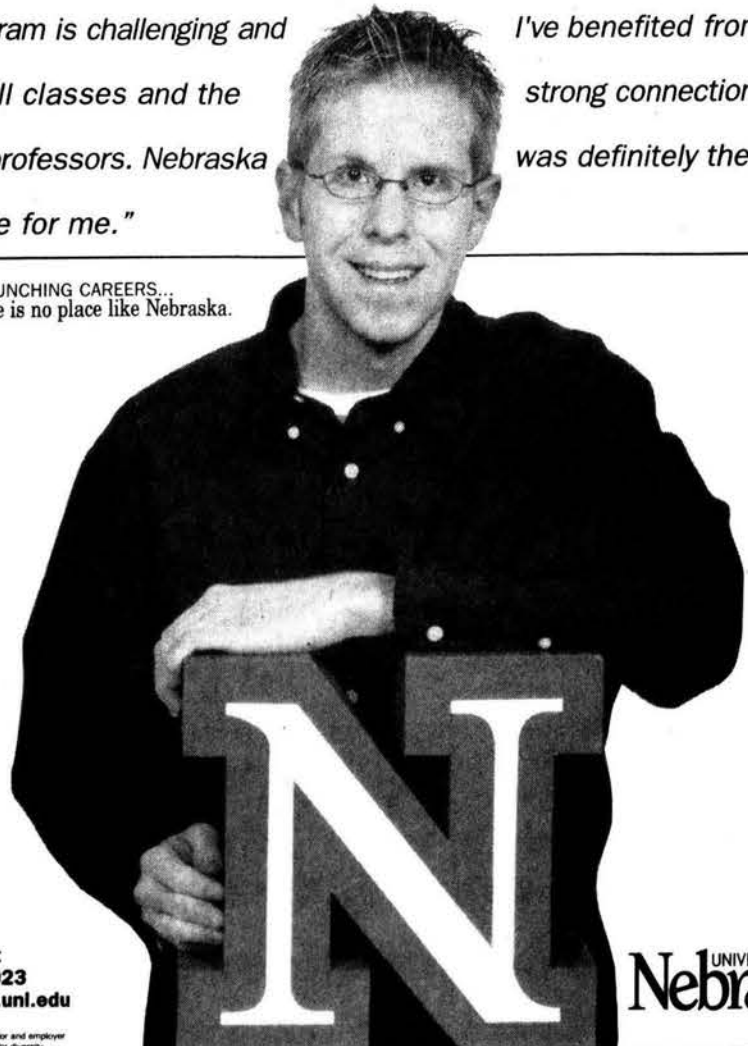
"In the beginning everyone was shook up," Cade said. "I just pray, go on with life and know it will be OK."

Jackson said the family would like to thank Central for allowing the posters to be put up and thank all the students who bought wristbands.

This Millard South grad reaches for the stars at Nebraska.

TROY ANDERSON, an honors student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was chosen for an internship at the NASA Glenn Research Center. Anderson, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, said Nebraska is helping him launch a career in the aerospace industry. "I'm glad I chose Nebraska because it offers so many opportunities to help me reach my goals. The Honors Program is challenging and I've benefited from the small classes and the strong connection with my professors. Nebraska was definitely the right place for me."

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Juniors chosen to be delegates for annual State

BY LAUREN CRIST

Six students and four alternates were chosen for this year's Girls and Boys State.

Juniors Stephen Wilhelm, George Blazek and Kyle Samuelson were selected for Boys State and juniors Jennifer Castello, Yasmine Mabrouk and Deborah Rennard were selected for Girls State.

In order to be accepted, students had to be in the top 20th percentile of their class and submit an application with an essay. Social studies teacher Charles Hinkle was a member of the selection committee.

"We look for people who are interested in how government works and want to serve in it in the future," he said. "We also look for people who are good citizens and responsible."

He said students have to submit an essay and a committee interviews applicants individually.

"The questions can show how they (the students) handle themselves," he said.

Girls and Boys State is set up similar to the Nebraska governmental system, except it is run by students.

Students run for and elect others for positions in city, county and state government officials. The Girls and Boys State Legislatures introduce and debate the bills before enacting them into "laws."

Blazek said he learned about the program because his sister, Mary Blazek, was a part of Girls State. Mary was elected governor of Nebraska.

George said he's not sure whether or not he will run for governor at State.

"I definitely want to run for something," he said.

George said he was interested in possibly running for a governmental position in the future.

"I'm really open to it," he said. "I enjoy government politics."

Those chosen for State are eligible for Nation. Nation is similar to State, except it is set up similarly to the federal rather than state government.

The last Central student for Nation was senior Naomi Rennard. Deborah Rennard is her younger sister.

Deborah said she wanted to participate because both of her siblings went to State and Nation and really enjoyed themselves.

She said she had some experience with politics indirectly through her mom.

Her mom worked with the League of Women Voters and Rennard helped her and wrote about the experience in her essay. She said she wanted to know more about government and thought State would be a good opportunity to do so.

"I want to know more about how it works so when I vote for a candidate I have the knowledge to make a wiser decision," she said.

She said she wants to continue on with Nation later like her siblings did. She said she would also like to be interested in a position in the historical society.

"When my siblings did it, they knew a lot about government afterwards and had a great time," she said. "I'd like to do the same."

Wilhelm said he applied for State because he thought it would be a good experience and would be a good thing to have on his transcript.

"I'm keeping my options open," he said.

He said he wasn't sure if he would be interested in pursuing a government position in the future, but State would help teach him how to be a good, effective leader and get along well with other people.

"It will help me to do what I want to accomplish and get things done that I want to get done," he said.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Don Skadeland, a representative from the Gideons International, hands out pocket bibles to freshman Monica Herrera and sophomore Darius Bell. He said he wasn't trying to cause trouble, but give students an opportunity to read about religion. A week before another religious organization was handing out pamphlets against homosexuality.

Students, protestors voice opinion on campus

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

They stood in front of Central holding signs that read, "Homosexuality is a sin."

A group of protestors handed out pamphlets to students addressing what they believed to be the religious ramifications of homosexual behavior.

The next day, hundreds of students participated in another protest, this time on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teens.

The protest these students were involved in, known as the Day of Silence, was part of a national effort to secure safety in schools.

"It's a day to show the silence that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students have to go through," Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) sponsor Rick Richards said.

Richards said there were over 200 participants.

Freshman Amy Wall showed cards to several students explaining her silence. She said one person told her it was against her religion, but Wall said the reaction to the protest seemed positive.

"It made me understand more," she said.

Richards said the Day of Silence was started in 1996.

Mark Morin, one of the protestors, said students in recent years were being told that homosexuality was perfectly acceptable, an implication he said was incorrect. That, he said, was his reason for coming to Central.

"Because of this Day of Silence, we decided that maybe we should go out and spread some truth about homosexuality," Morin said.

Morin said.

The group of people who organized the protest, composed of Morin and his friends, had been to other schools in Omaha as well as some Millard and Elkhorn for the same purpose.

Administrator Dionne Kirksey said the school couldn't do anything to stop the protestors because they were on a public sidewalk.

She said although the administration considers this area to be school grounds it is not legally school property.

"Our handbook applies only to students," she said. "It doesn't apply to people who aren't."

When Kirksey first found out about the protestors from a student, she said she asked where they were and what they were doing.

Richards said the effect the protest had on the Day of Silence was almost a positive one because it got more people actively involved.

He said he was still concerned with the impact it could have on less secure students and students who were not open about their sexuality.

"It makes me feel sad because I know how hard it is to be an adolescent and be different from everyone else," he said.

When people tell him he speaks hate, Morin says "Jesus can set you free." The pamphlets handed out by the protestors, published by the Wisconsin Christians United, contained arguments against homosexuality that used religion as their primary backing.

"Our law in this country has its roots in the scriptures," Morin said.

He said many laws in the past have had a religious basis and the fact that the church and state are separate doesn't mean they don't influence one another.

Colin Mangrum, a professor of law at Creighton University, said despite the lack of legality in religious arguments, most laws are subjective towards religion to some extent.

"The question is on what basis can people pass laws," he said. "The issue of marriage is a public policy issue."

In a way, he said, the protest in front of the school was more legal than the Day of Silence.

"The establishment clause keeps public forums (such as Central) from communicating a religious message," he said.

Richards said he felt the use of religious arguments in political issues such as homosexuality was common.

Don Skadeland, a representative from the Gideons International, stood outside the school on Apr. 26. The afternoon he gave away over 400 copies of the New Testament.

Skadeland said his reason for being outside that day was not to target any particular political issue or to "cause any problems," but simply to give students an opportunity to read about the religion.

Despite the reaction to the protest a few days earlier, Skadeland said his presence on the Dodge Street sidewalk met little opposition. Richards said the difference between Skadeland's actions and those of the protestors earlier that week was not only the message but the approach.

"I don't think religion is the culprit here," he said. "It's people who think they have the market cornered on God."

Geography teacher applies to become member of Peace Corps

BY KRISTINA ALAS

Many people love to travel around the world and get involved with different cultures. Most people who like to travel never get the time or money to go and do what they love.

Sociology and geography teacher Michelle Pleiss has been to many places around the world and would like to visit more.

Pleiss has been thinking about joining the Peace Corps, a global humanitarian organization. Members travel to different places to help people out.

She has not joined yet, but has started her application. She said she still has some reservations before making a final decision.

She said her favorite place to visit was Jerusalem because its culture was unique.

It has the top three world religions Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

"I would have to stop teaching and my father is sick," Pleiss said.

She said she wanted to stay near her father. If she joins the Peace Corps she would either go to Africa or South America.

She said these two places have the most diversity.

She has taught at Central for three and a half years and said she enjoyed teaching high school because she liked the subject matter and the age group.

"I teach sociology because I like learning about how people interact; it's a part of society," Pleiss said.

During her high school and college years she saw a lot of the world. Some of the places she visited were Jerusalem, Italy, Greece, Amsterdam, England and Mexico.

She said she not only liked to travel, but liked to do service work and learn about different cultures.

She started doing service work in high school because it was required, and said it of grew on her since she did it so often.

There are many different fields she could work in including agriculture, health care, business and education.

She said she would like to teach education to students because it would be interesting

to fill some of the needs of underdeveloped countries in the classroom.

In 1999, she traveled to Israel. She traveled there to do archaeology and anthropology. She spent three weeks by the Sea of Galilee where she dug up the old city of Bethsaida. Bethsaida was one of three cities in the Christian Bible that collapsed.

It was prophesied by Jesus to fall because the people were not doing God's will.

"I liked to learn about the past and the people," Pleiss said.

She found pottery and tombs that dated back to 1000 B. C.

She is signed up for a program in Japan for three weeks in the summer.

She said she wanted to learn about their culture.



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JROTC reaches out through Red Cross

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Tinette Williams, coordinator of the JROTC sponsored blood drive, said it was overlooked with more than 80 people signed up to give blood from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. She said some people who came in were turned away because of restrictions.

"They can't weigh less than 110 pounds because it affects the volume," Williams said.

She said donors also could not be younger than 17 because of state law.

When donors came in someone would have to test their blood, pulse and temperature. Then they would be asked a series of questions about medication, tattoos and piercings. Students would be turned away if an answer led them to believe their blood could be contaminated, like an infection from a piercing or tattoo or having alcohol or medication in the bloodstream.

She said after the pint was collected the students had to sit for 15 minutes to make sure the blood loss didn't have an effect.

"We have to make sure they don't have a light reaction," she said. "We get them hydrated and make sure they aren't woozy. Even after they leave they might have a reaction."

Red Cross employee Lynn McQueen said the Red Cross sends out trucks and buses everyday to schools, businesses and churches. He said overall the churches were likely to have the most donors.

He said after the blood was collected it would be sent to a station on 38th and Dewey to be held while a sample was tested for diseases at national facilities in St. Paul, Minn. The blood is held for three days before it can be used.

"Most blood donated in Omaha is used in the Midwest," Lynn said. "Sometimes we get calls from other areas, though."

He said there have been emergency blood drives for events that happen all over the world. When an elderly man crashed into the Fisherman's Wharf two years ago, the Omaha Red Cross was called to collect donations.

Williams said Midwesterners are more apt to donate for an emergency. She said after the tsunami, people were lined up to donate.

"There weren't as many as 9/11," she said. "We had to extend our hours for that. People were lined up for three hours at a time giving blood after 9/11; it was an overwhelming response."

Junior Brianna Brei said she was glad to give blood twice this year.

"My dad has donated over 120 pints of blood," she said, "so I have to catch up."

She said this time she was much less nervous than she was the first time, and she was planning on donating senior year as well.

Senior Kyle Kenkel worked the blood drive all day. He said they have been doing a blood drive for three years as a part of their service learning, or hands-on volunteer work.

He said during the project they had to keep a journal and afterwards they would have After Action Review (AAR).

"In AAR we have to talk about what we did or what we can improve on," Kenkel said.

He said a lot JROTC students gave blood along with the rest of the student body. Overall he considered it a success, he said, and thought there was a great student response.

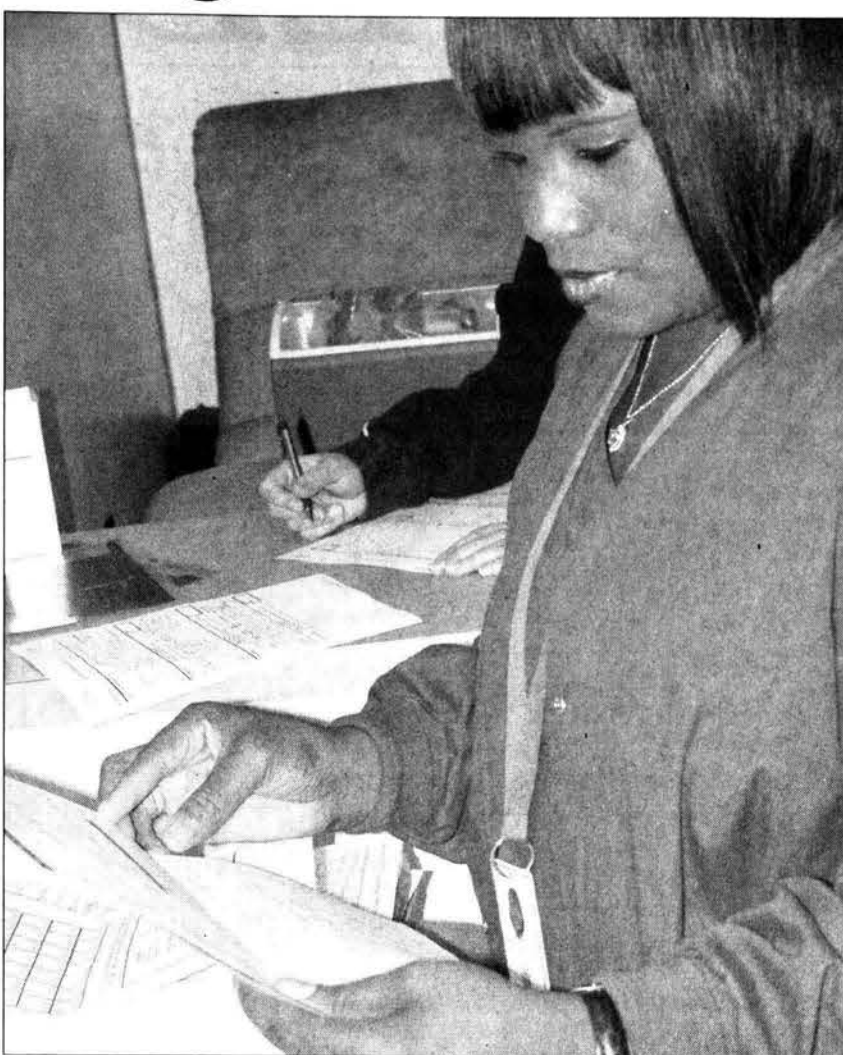


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER
Coordinator Tinette Williams prepares the list of students donating blood. It was the second blood drive this year, but was organized by JROTC.

Saddle Creek donates goods for fund-raiser

WOODS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

secretary there before his condition worsened to the point where he could no longer work. After that he started using oxygen all day.

"The Omaha fire fighters and Papillion fire fighters have gotten together to support his cause," Mossberg said.

She said there will also be a silent auction and raffle and CHS Singers might get involved as well.

So far she said \$8 thousand has been raised through Yonkers and other fund-raisers.

She said although Woods seems healthy enough to attend all events now, eventually his condition will worsen to the point where he cannot play such an active roll.

Music teacher Lyn Bouma said CHS Singers plans on performing its Roadshow act as well as other music it has been singing all year at his pancake feed on May 15.

She said he was in CHS Singers his senior year, but she didn't know he has cystic fibrosis until he was out of school for a month.

"We were really worried about him," she said. "But he's a real fighter and really pleasant."

She said when Woods called her he said he was in good health, but his lungs just weren't working right. She said the singers were glad to take their Saturday morning to sing for the benefit.

Alumnus Roslyn Fraiser said the class of 1995 plans on having a fund-raiser at their 10-year reunion Sept. 2.

"After hearing about his illness I decided to call Clark (Laurton, 1995 class president) and said as a class we should probably do something," Fraiser said.

She said she and Woods sat together in a few classes at school and when he decided to fund-raise for a transplant, he started calling up old friends.

"He Googled me and we've been e-mailing and talking ever since," she said.

Fraiser and her husband, an employee of Saddle Creek Records, have put together an Ebay auction for Woods.

Items sold will include a guitar signed by Connor Oberst of Bright Eyes and another guitar signed by members of The Faint. She said she plans on getting more of the class involved.

If anyone would like to volunteer time or money they could get in contact with Mossberg through the school store.



WOODS

Officials say NCLB looks good on paper, gives disadvantages in practice

'ESL' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

some accommodations for ESL students, but those are very small.

Kennedy said the law was not only unfair for ESL and special education students, but for all students in general, because of the idea of one size fits all testing.

"It sounds just wonderful for political campaigning, but the reality is much more complex," she said.

Special education department head Judy Storm said she thought NCLB as a whole was not a very clear issue. She said it sounded good on paper, but put into action it was not quite the same.

Exemptions for special education students or ESL students, Storm said, were not clearly defined.

"When you're talking about special education students, you're talking about

students with a diagnosed educational deficiency," she said. "It (NCLB) affects all students, not just special education students."

That goal, she said, to improve the students' scores every year, wasn't bad to try and strive for, but it still posed some problems.

"Will we always be able to meet that (goal)? I don't know," Storm said. "That's because students are different every year."

Spokesman for the National Education Association (NEA) Daniel Kaufman said in part, the NEA supported what the NCLB law was trying to do.

Some of the goals he agreed with were the data from tests and separating the students into different groups.

"These kids (ESL and special education) have special needs, they aren't learning at the same speed," Kaufman said.

ESL students took the English Language

Development Assessment (ELDA) test on Apr. 21. The test measured how much the ESL students have learned.

ESL department head Linda Ganzel said the testing of not only the ESL students but of every student was unfair. The ELDA tests, she said, were taken the majority of the day and included reading, writing, listening and one-on-one speaking tests.

"The reason for the ELDA tests is to show progress," she said. "ELDA was developed to make it fair."

Ganzel said she could see why the tests were given, but didn't think they did their job.

"I'm not sure that the tests will accurately show the students," she said. "I'm not sure any test is going to accurately reflect schools."

Kennedy said although the ELDA tests were not a result of NCLB, the Criterion Referenced Tests (CRTs) were.

"Students are being over tested, and ESL

kids even more so," Kennedy said.

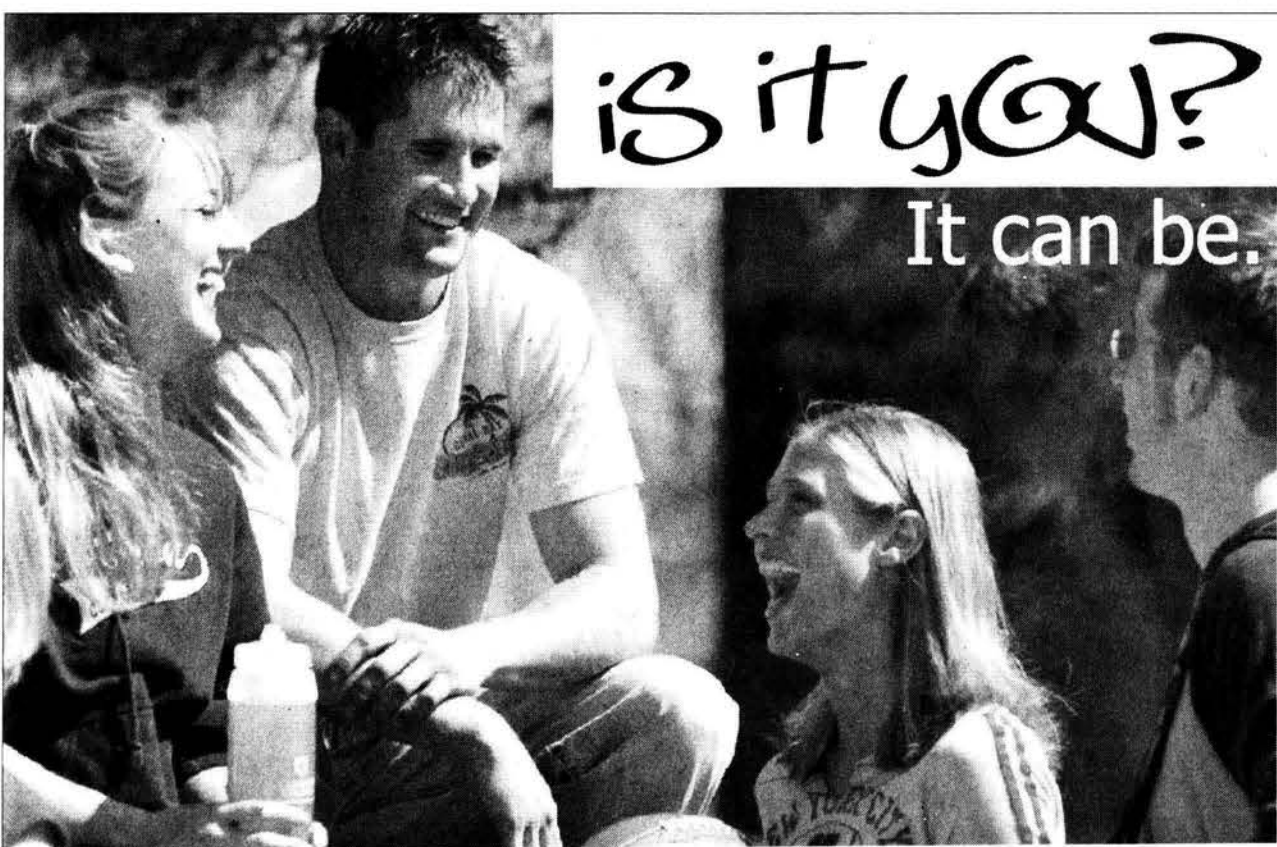
ESL student senior Edgar Gonzalez took the ELDA test. He said the speaking parts were too easy, and they were at a freshmen or sophomore level.

Gonzalez said he also takes CRTs in his English class, and finds those easy, too. He said he thought the CRTs were fair in some ways.

"Eleventh and 12th (graders) should be at a higher level (of testing)," he said.

Kaufman said ESL students who recently moved to the United States are sometimes allowed to not take English CRTs, but must still take math ones. For special education students, there was a 1 percent exception of students with more significant disabilities who got tests centered around their disability.

More recently, however, that percentage has been changed to three percent, to include students with less serious learning disabilities, such as dyslexia.



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NO APOLOGIES
A Column by Lauren Crist

Junior remembers bravery of friend

One of the first times I met Scotty, we were bobbing for apples on Halloween.

My brothers, Scotty and I went off to trick-or-treat, and came back with pillow cases full of candy, and spent the night swapping for our favorites. I didn't even know Scotty had leukemia.

Nor did I know that in a few years, I would never see Scotty again. To us he was just a normal kid.

He always fought for the rope swing and flipped upside down on it like everyone else, he fell out of trees when branches cracked just like everyone else did, only he whined a good deal less when he was injured while playing.

He always had a game of some sort to play on rainy days, and he laughed more than anyone I knew.

Only vaguely did I remember the party in my neighbor's yard, complete with costumes and cakes for a surgery he successfully had.

Scotty always played harder than everyone else seemed to, he would use every bit of his energy and overcome kids twice his size.

It was hard to believe he was a foster child suffering from a deadly disease who had been recently adopted by his foster parents.

His parents were always willing to take in a variety of people suffering from critical conditions.

Even though many of the children they took died within a few months, they still took care of them and gave them the best life they could provide.

When the doctors told Scotty he only had six months left to live, he was given a variety of opportunities many don't encounter in their life.

Even when he lost control of one side of his body because of the growing brain tumor, he was still up to going to a series of events or having a friend over.

I didn't go to see him very much, and now I regret it, but I thought his friends and family would want to spend as much of his remaining time with him possible.

But Scotty continually impressed me, he lived each day to the fullest.

He spent every second I saw him laughing and having a great time.

He didn't seem to see the six remaining months as most people might, he took his time and had a party.

It was awesome how someone who knew they probably wouldn't live for much longer could continue to enjoy their time so much.

Despite his growing tumor, he still always tried to help people who were in worse condition.

But his family impressed me as well.

Even though many of the kids they took in didn't live longer than a year, they continued to take in children and helped them to have the best life they could provide.

Now, looking back, the thing I remember most was how brave Scotty was.

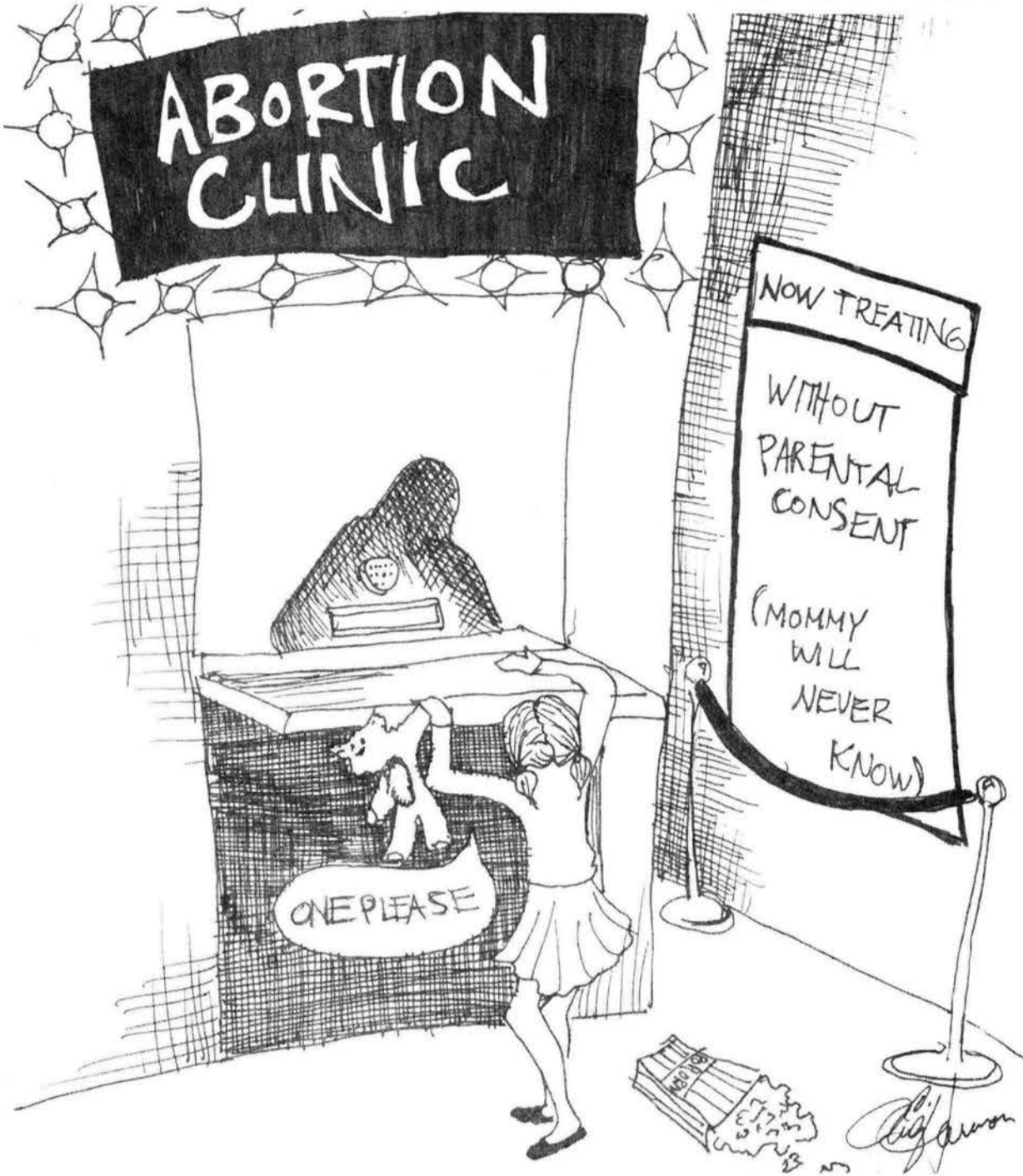
It was incredible how someone barely 8 years old could be more courageous than someone who lived for one hundred years.

It seems like when someone is confronted with something like that, it brings out the best, or the worst in them.

This had brought out the best for Scotty. He encouraged people four times his age who were undergoing similar struggles.

His example has helped me to see how someone should handle that kind of situation.

If something like that ever happens to me, I only hope I would be able to handle it with the same dignity, bravery and encouragement that Scotty did.



Minors need parental consent

Instead of condoms or pills, abortions can almost be used as another form of everyday birth control.

Recently in Idaho, an appeal was made to a law allowing minors to get abortions without parental permission or notification. Nebraska's law, requiring only parental notification, not necessarily consent, is not much better.

In some cases, even parental notification is not needed. These cases, such as a girl living in an abusive home or the child being the result of incest are more understandable.

With these instances, the girl may be in danger if the parent was notified.

That is the only way the Idaho law would make any sense at all. Otherwise, parents should be involved in the decision making process with their children, no matter what the outcome.

Nebraska's law is just a mask. It is trying to make it appear that state lawmakers care about the issue, but in reality, the law does not solve anything.

As with most things, the decision for an abortion cannot be made by a minor alone. If anything, the parents could perhaps help take care of the child or find therapy after the abortion, if that is the decision made by the adult.

Teens don't start voting until 18 and aren't allowed to live on their own before that either.

How can a minor make a decision like an abortion on her own either?

With abortions being given out to any minor who think she needs one, it will become the new form of birth control.

Parents need to be a part of their children's lives in these ways. They need to stop avoiding the topic.

An abortion isn't as easy and carefree as swallowing a birth control pill, it requires time to talk and think about expenses, different doctors and perhaps different options.

Regardless of the laws, teens should be having protected sex.

Just because they have a way against sexually transmitted diseases.

No age limit on abortions tells society that 12 and 13 year olds can start having sex with no consequences. A step closer in the right direction would be starting to require parental permission before abortions.

If those same 12 and 13 year olds could be taught not to have sex at all, that would be even closer to the right idea.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Security could be tighter

Dear Editor,
I did not care for the lockdown this morning. It is sad that we live in a world where people have no consideration for the lives of children.

There's no stopping the people really unless we plan for better security. A while back I saw a security guard run out of the school screaming that there was a shooting when all it was just a fire-cracker. Quite frankly these guards aren't professional.

Crystal Runlons (11)

Sports should count as credit

Dear Editor,
I'm writing because I think that sports need to be counted as a credit for gym. You work three times as hard in a sport than in any gym class and learn just as much, too. Also, you wouldn't waste the energy you used in gym to take away from your athletic performance in a sport.

Mattie George (09)

Rude people degrade school

Dear Editor,
I love this school, but the students attending are rude. The students change my outlook on the school. If people would quit lighting fires, stink bombs and firecrackers, and if people would respect other students, it would be a very nice school.

A couple of hallways get so crowded and for people who have a spread out schedule from the first floor to the top floor, we need as much passing time as possible. Then the people who like "hanging" by the "C" are disrespectful and they smack their lips at you when you try squeezing through the tough crowd. The people trying to get to class should be mad at the people making it difficult.

It's horrible. The school is over crowded as it is. We don't need to make room for disrespectful individuals.

Jill Swotek (10)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via e-mail to Central.Journalism@OPS.org or can be placed 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.

Unnecessary admits a hassle

Dear Editor,
I don't think that we should have admits, they are too much of a hassle to keep track of and get. Also, most teachers don't even ask for them. What's the point?

Jamar Bass (10)

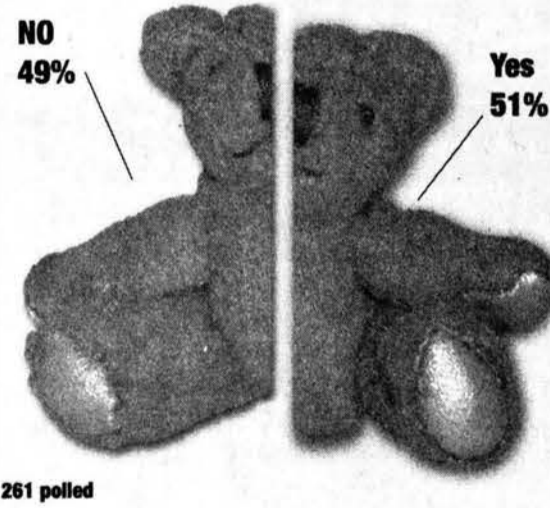
Vending machines would save time

Dear Editor,
I think the vending machines should be open during lunch. Kids should be able to buy food from where ever they want. The vending machines also have a wider variety and if kids who simply wanted a snack and not a full lunch went to the vending machines, the lunch line would be shorter and go much faster.

Rachael Farhat (9)

STUDENT POLL

Do you think parents should be notified of a teen's abortion or abortion counseling?



"Yeah, because if you're good with mechanics the military might need your help."

Tyler Jenkins (9)

Change of lunches will help

Dear Editor,
Students should be able to have pop and candy when they want. If you are trying to help us on our weight problem get better tasting and healthier lunches (maybe a salad bar).

Trever Tomes (10)

Parents should be aware

Dear Editor,
This is in response to a poll on teen abortion. A parent should be notified of whatever goes on at school with their child because the child is probably scared to talk to the parent about the situation or trying to hide it. But parents should be notified of everything that goes on with their child so the child could receive help at home as well as school.

Keyronda Killingsworth (11)

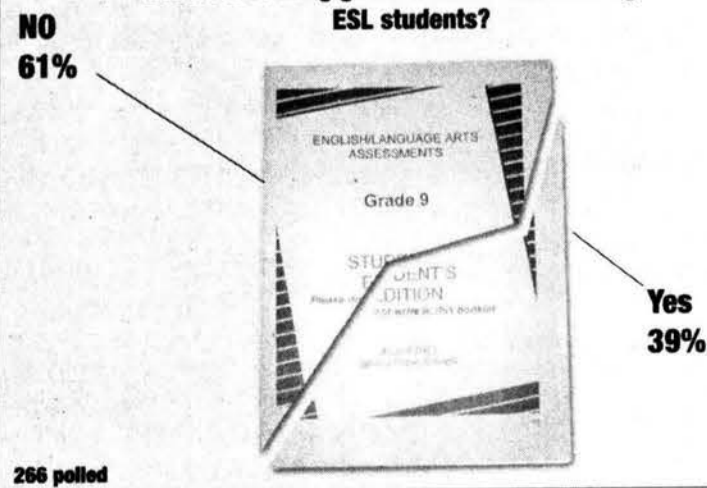


"It depends on whether the student wants them to or not."

Sophie Wang (10)

STUDENT POLL

Does CRT testing give an unfair disadvantage to ESL students?



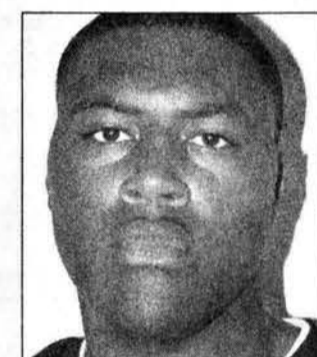
REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think ASVAB test scores should be released to military recruiters?



"I don't think so because that would give them (recruiters) reasons to call (students)."

Alex Ingram (12)



"No, because if they see something that they like (with the scores) they might recruit us. We might want to do other things with our lives."

DJ Jones (11)



"No, because I think the tests are pointless in the first place. They should be optional."

Krystal Griffin (11)

COFFEE BEANS

The Drama Dept. took a different turn this year offering students the chance to write, direct and star in the spring plays giving it the title of "Coffee Beans and One Act Scenes"



(Left) Drama Department head John Gibson hands programs for the spring play "Coffee Beans and One Act Scenes." Sophomore Kerri Forrester applies makeup to sophomore Derek Nelson, preparing for the play "The Jewels of the Shrine."

PHOTOS BY ASTRIKA WILHELM/REGISTER

Department gives new style to spring play

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Using three different directors with three different acts, this year's spring play took a different turn.

Instead of one big production with expensive sets and costumes, Drama Department head John Gibson said he chose to make the play cheaper, yet still give a theatrical experience to those who were not interested in musicals or Roadshow performances.

"The spring play doesn't sell like a musical," Gibson said.

When he first proposed the idea, Gibson said his advanced drama students were not that excited.

"Slowly but surely they started warming up to the idea," he said.

He said they started to feel more comfortable because the one-act plays were shorter and easier to memorize.

Seniors Sharra Stapleton and Amanda Rozmiarek and junior Jennifer Castello directed each of the one-act plays.

Gibson said he did not prefer any certain director's act as the best, but said they each did very well.

"Each act was very successful," he said. "Each one was terribly different. I was enamored by all three plays."

Gibson said the name, "Coffee Beans and One Act Scenes" was chosen because he wanted something simple to call it that told what the drama department was trying to do, which was to make people a part of the play.

Gibson said the people who went to the "Coffee Beans" play were very pleased with how social they could be.

He said the main hit was the whole idea of coffee beans.

One of the acts, directed by Stapleton, was the first all African-American cast and director to perform at Central.

Stapleton said she chose "The Jewels of the Shrine" by James E. Henshaw because it was different from the others in that it had a lesson at the end, instead of just being a comedy or a regular play with no moral.

"Shrine," she said, was about learning that people can

be fake when they want something.

The play follows an old grandmother and her two grandchildren, who do not respect her until she tells them she has money hidden away.

Senior Dominique Davis played the grandmother. She said to prepare for the part, she watched other people's grandmothers and read up on her character. Davis said she was pleased with how it went, except for the scene setup, which she said she would have changed a bit.

Rozmiarek, who directed the play "The Visitor from Forest Hills," said she was very pleased with her play, and besides a few technical difficulties which were beyond her control, it went well. She said the people she directed did what she wanted.

Rozmiarek said she chose the play because it was a small cast, even after she added two characters herself. She said the smaller cast gave the play a more personal and family-like feeling. Also, she said she liked the fact that it was a comedy.

DIRECTORS

Three different directors were in charge of the three acts in this year's spring play.

AMANDA ROZMIAREK (12)

DIRECTED: "The Visitor from Forest Hills"

STARRING: Hannah Wunsch (12), Aaron Smith-Shull (10)

QUOTE: "Mine was unique because it was a breath of fresh air, a comedy between the two dramas."



ROZMIAREK

SHARRA STAPLETON (12)

DIRECTED: "The Jewels of the Shrine"

STARRING: Dominique Davis (12)

QUOTE: "It was the first African American play here at Central, and it wasn't just a comedy or a basic play about anything. It actually had a moral lesson."



STAPLETON

JENNIFER CASTELLO (11)

DIRECTED: "The World According to Jack"

STARRING: Zach Pluhacek (11), Tess Mandell (11), Jeremy Colvin (9)

QUOTE: "I used a lot of stage techniques that aren't done, like the use of an imaginary character."



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Specifically Molly Mullen and Annie Kline, editors in chief of the newspaper and yearbook.

Also, Lauren Crist for a superior in newspaper sports photography, Dede Hearity for an honorable mention in editorial writing and Annie Kline for a honorable mention in yearbook layout.

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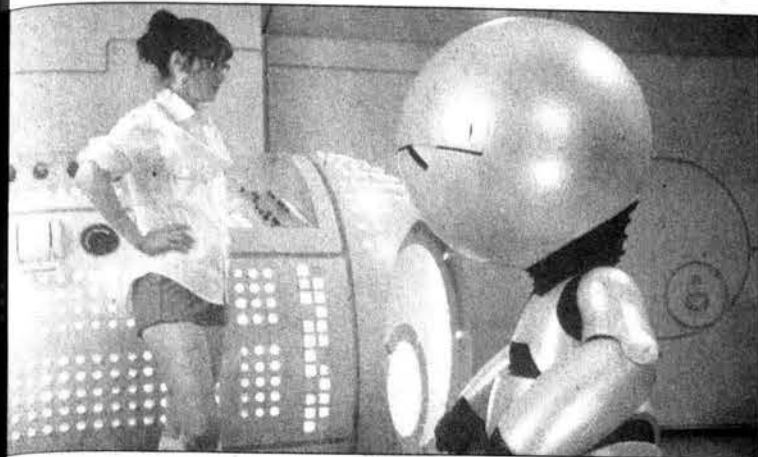


PHOTO COURTESY OF BUENA VISTA PICTURES
The cast in "A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" was made up of a depressed robot, mellow alien and a president with a personality somewhere between Elvis and George W. Bush.

Sci-fi film offers humor mimicking 'Space Balls'

MOVIE REVIEW



'HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY'
Starring: Warwick Davis

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Sci-fi fanatics and comedy lovers watch "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" and laugh. It was the best of since "Space Balls."

The opening scene seals the deal. Dolphins sing showtunes and swim in outer space because the world is being destroyed. And that is the first seconds.

There is no other way to describe the entire movie was just as weird.

The plot was twisted and funny. The maniacally-depressed robot president of the galaxy who dies after Elvis Presley and George W. Bush, one has to wonder who came up with this stuff. "The Dark Crystal" and "The Abyss" were the great animatronic movies of the '80s, and the great puppet styles were brought back for this film.

The great, big alien monsters assembled a character straight out of Hensen's imagination from his patched back and raggedy clothes to a name personality.

A good surprise was seeing Malcolm McDowell in the role of the

president's opposition for office. He always plays a slightly bizarre man in his movies, but when he changed from an angry politician to someone not even human, his weird persona went to a new level.

"Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" was more than just a spoof, it was the basic love story of a man who lost the girl he loved and tried to get her back. Only in this story he pursued her on a stolen spaceship.

It's a story about best friends trying to help each other and stick together.

There are too many creative parts of the movie to write down. A man custom builds planets and monsters read poetry.

It's exactly the same as the book, except for the few parts that have to be cut in every adaptation for time sake. Douglas Adams, the writer of the book and screenplay, even kept the same tagline, "Don't panic."

The audience laughed out loud at every line a reader would have.

This movie had something for everyone and guarantees bizarre and new humor that probably won't be around again any time soon.

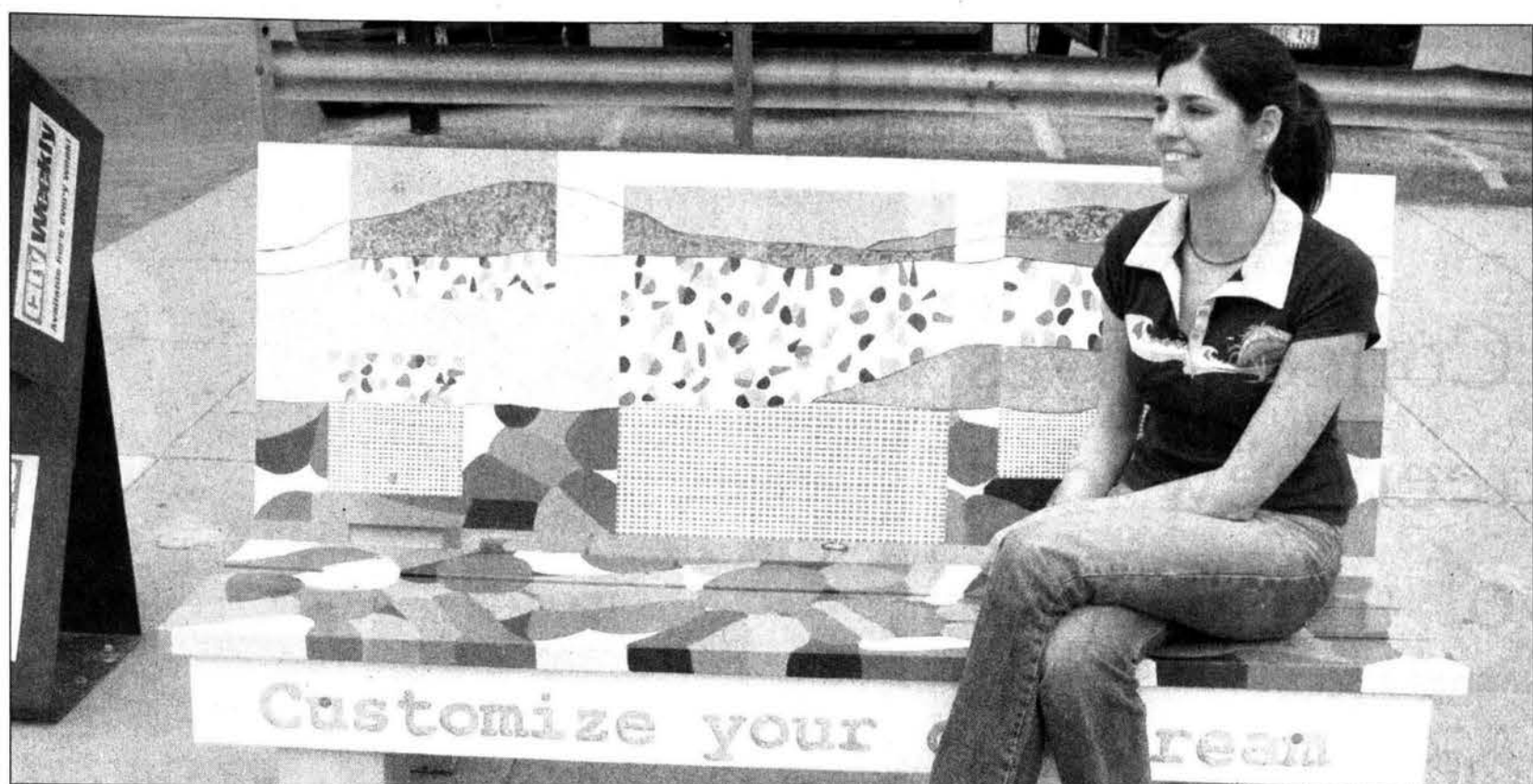


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Spanish teacher Farouz Bishara designed and painted a street bench for a city-wide art project. Benches were selected and placed around Omaha much like the J. Doe Project. She teaches classes at Joslyn Art Museum in her spare time and said she liked her clean, colorful design.

Teacher's art displayed on park benches

BY LAUREN CRIST

Spanish teacher Farouz Bishara painted and designed two benches for Bench Mark, a program through the Bemis Art Center where park benches were painted and placed throughout the city.

She said Edith Buis, the program director called after the Joslyn Art Museum recommended her.

Bishara started with the quote "customize your own dream," which she painted along the bottom of the bench. She designed a landscape which transformed into a pattern of colorful squares and grids.

"It was a neat and clean idea," she said. "The technique was complicated, but the forms were simple."

She said when she first designed each bench, she drew out the design and then experimented with the colors on the computer.

Of her three entered designs, her blue and purple ones were chosen and made into two separate benches placed throughout the city.

"I was the only person I know who did two benches with a variation of one design," she said.

She said the artists painted the benches at the Bemis Art Center.

"I was so excited, and I was confident with the design. It was neat, colorful and kind of abstract," Bishara said. "I just wanted to do what I liked."

Bishara said after her design was chosen, people were skeptical about whether or not she could paint it

because she had done the design on the computer. She said they were impressed when she finished.

She said she usually does a rough sketch or paints a design before working with it on the computer.

"I never touch the computer until I know what I'm going to do," Bishara said.

She said she uses the computer more to experiment with a variety of colors rather than to help her create something. She said the bright colors helped her design stand out among others entered.

After the designs were chosen, Bishara had two weeks to paint the maquettes and then displayed them for the sponsors to buy. She said after all of the work she had put into the design, she had a hard time having the sponsors buy the maquettes.

"I always have a hard time selling my art afterwards," she said.

She said the benches took about 70 hours to paint, and had as many as five coats in some areas. She said she had to use multiple coats to obtain the intensity of color she wanted.

After she finished the benches and saw photos of them mounted, she said she was relieved and excited about having her bench downtown for people to see.

"You do art for people," she said. "And when they liked it, it made me really happy."

Bishara taught art classes in Spain before coming to Central and had a masters degree in fine arts and art history. She said though she is a graphic designer, she can do a variety of other arts.

She said she usually works twice a week at the Joslyn.

She first filled out a resume as a volunteer for the summer program, but the Joslyn called her back for a job interview.

"I just wanted to be doing art," she said. "Even if I hadn't been hired as a teacher, I would have done it anyway as a volunteer."

Molly Mangimelli, the director of the education department at the Joslyn, said Bishara has done a lot of work with programs.

She said they decided to give Bishara a job opportunity when she applied as a volunteer because of her past experience with art.

"We had spots open and we thought she would be a perfect fit," Mangimelli said.

Bishara had experience with art before coming to Omaha as well. She designed catalogues for museums, and worked with graphic design and layout.

Magimelli said her experience and bilingual abilities made her a good candidate for the position.

"She's done an excellent job," she said. "There are a lot of kids who don't speak a lot of English, and she can relate to them on a whole different level."

She said they would have her teach more often, but she was very involved with teaching and doing clubs at Central.

"She's capable of a lot more than we've given her," she said. "We'd love to have her here for other opportunities in the future."

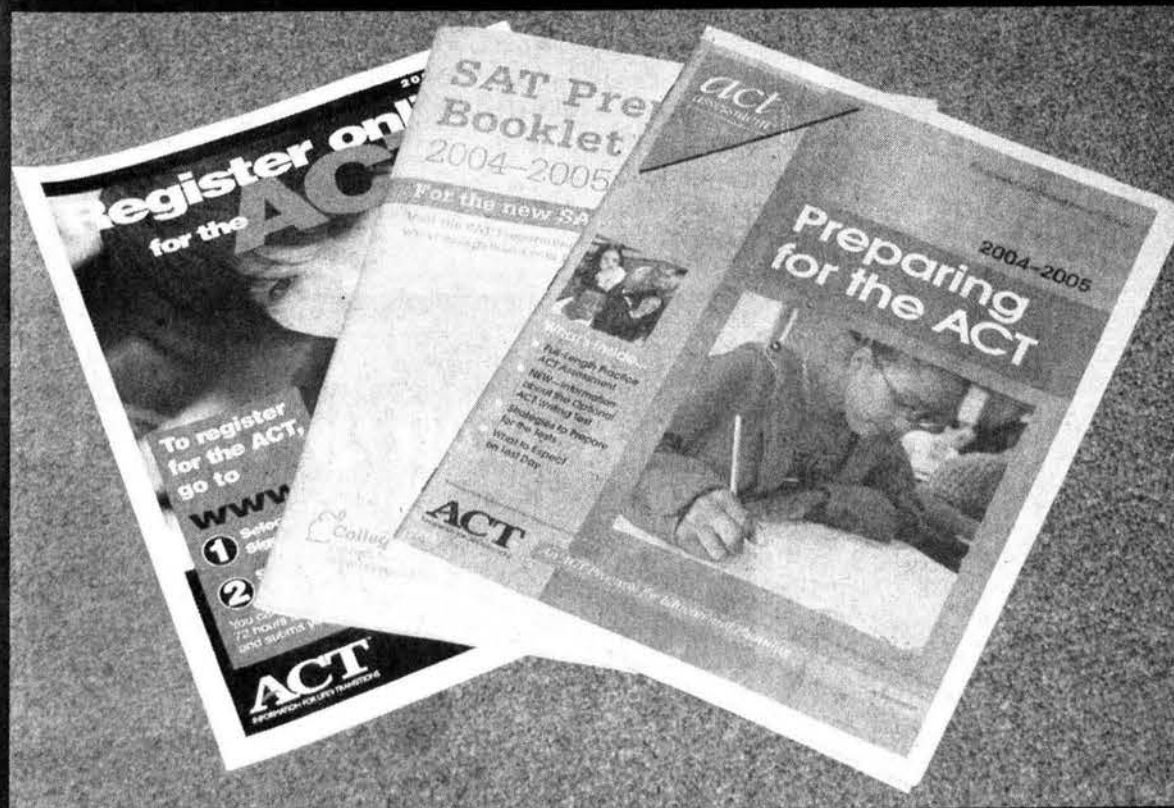
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NEVER AWAKE

A Column by Pascale Roussel

Concert gives teen new idea of music style

Smells like teen spirit. I never actually knew what teen spirit smelled like until my first concert called the "Taste of Chaos Tour."

It was freezing outside. We had to stand in line with a bunch of anxious teens that all looked the same. The line was insanely long, after all, it was a sold out show.

Sokol was about half-full, and I knew it would be full soon. I could see people setting up the stage. It was filling up fast. We were being pushed forward every second. The lights dimmed and the temperature rose rapidly.

It didn't take long for them to set up. As soon as the first band started to play, people were throwing themselves around like there was no tomorrow. It looked painful, but I was ready.

I got thrown in at one point. I fell down then my glasses got knocked off, but I didn't let that bring me down.

In no time kids started to get dehydrated, including me. I was soaked in sweat and half of it wasn't even mine. We had to get out, so we went to the back.

Intermission went fast. We got a lot of water to cool us down. We went to the side to avoid getting trampled by these insane kids.

My Chemical Romance, one of my favorite bands, was to play second to last.

We went to the front middle so we could get closer. It was so packed that you could pick your feet up and you were still standing.

It didn't take long before I got dizzy from heat, a nasty smell and lack of water. When Killswitch Engage got done, everyone was just standing there because we all knew who was next. It took so long for them to set up. The crowd was getting antsy. Finally, My Chemical Romance came on stage and the crowd went wild.

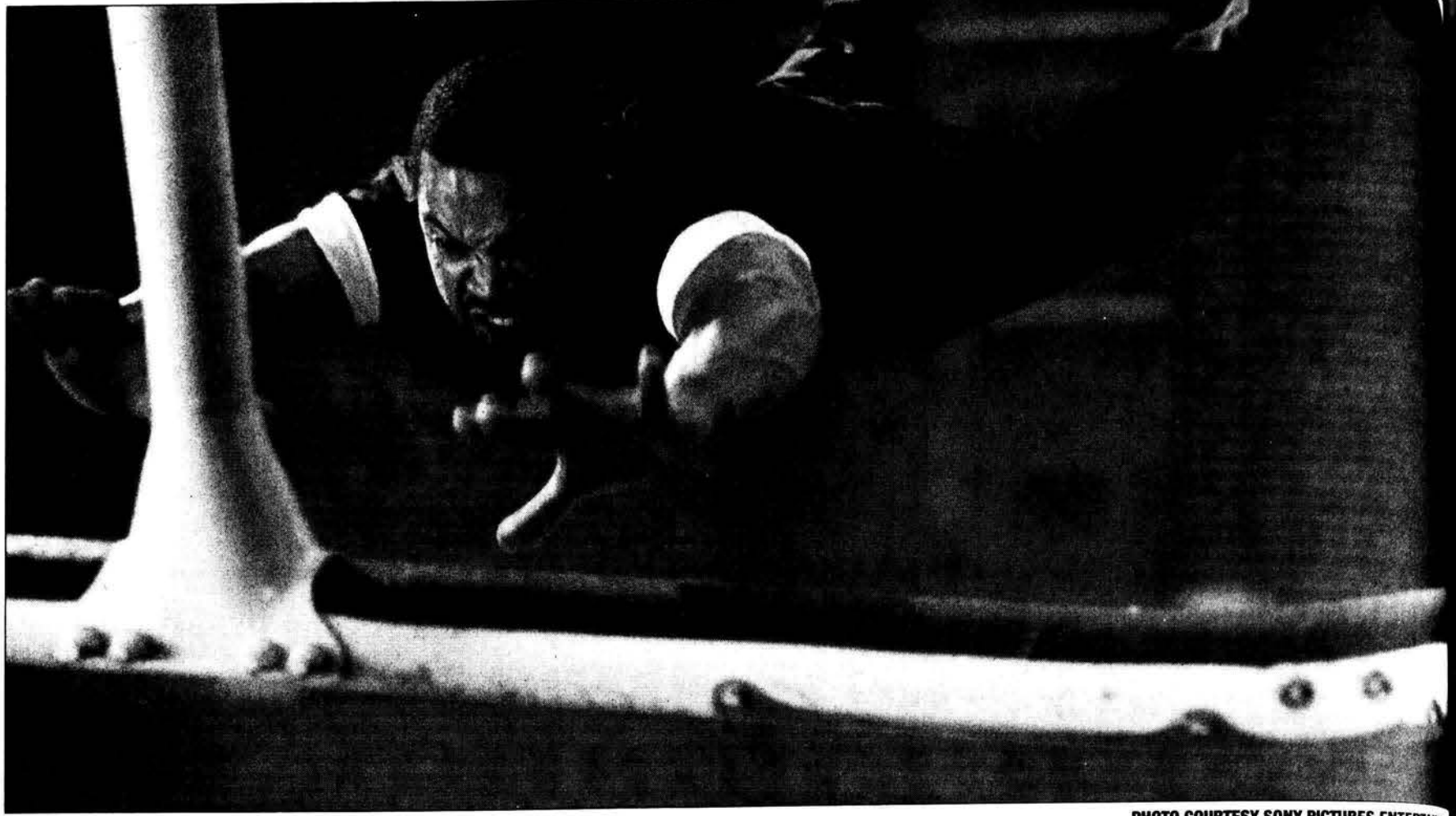
I started to notice there was a smell starting to form. It was not a good smell. It smelled of old cigarettes, vomit, and blood.

I had enough. So, I went up and out. I went back over to the side to watch the rest of the show. But I was still 10 feet away from my favorite band. That's not even the best part.

The Used were the last to play. I thought My Chemical Romance was good live, but The Used blew them out of the water. Little did I know, the surprises weren't over.

To my surprise The Used and My Chemical Romance came back on stage to perform one last song together. They played "Under Pressure" by Queen. Then, sadly, it was over.

Everyone started pouring out of the auditorium as soon as the lights came back on. Slowly but surely, everyone got out. And now, I will never forget that horrid, but fabulous, smell of teen spirit.



Ice Cube plays Darius Stone, the next agent in the XXX branch of the National Security Agency. Ice Cube does not show as much wit in this movie as he has in other XXX movies and the majority of actors dissapoint.

Big stars fail to save sequel

BY MARK AREHART

The sequel to the 2002 film "XXX" delivered big explosions, but bored the audience with a feeble plot, stereotypical dialogue and insipid acting.

The first film, which starred Vin Diesel, was fun, but "State of the Union" was extremely flawed, and no fun at all. Unlike the second film, the first film at least had dialogue that sounded like it was written by adults.

The dialogue used in the second film pushed racial stereotypes to a new level. XXX was portrayed as someone from the hood, but sounded like he was straight out of an after-school special geared toward inner-city kids.

The sequel had a new leading man in former rap-star Ice Cube, who has been doing movies for a while. He did not bring any of the style and wit he showed in many of his previous movies.

In this film, he just seemed like he was putting forth more effort to look cool than in he is into his acting. He often would strut into a scene and try to add comic relief, all the while sounding like a depressed third-grader trying to get the teacher's attention.

In the original, Vin Diesel at least showed some shred of acting talent.

Although his voice was often monotone, you could at least tell what he was feeling. Unlike Cube, who uses the same facial expressions in every scene of the movie.

Ice Cube played Darius Stone, a former Navy Seal who was court-martialed by the attorney general George

Deckert, played by Willem Dafoe.

After nine years as inmate number 3655, Darius, escaped from jail with the aid of Augustus Gibbens, played by Samuel L. Jackson, his former squad mate who ran the elite XXX branch of the National Security Agency.

Darius was then recruited to replace Vin Diesel's character in the last movie and become the new XXX. Diesel's character Xander Cage is said to have died.

Darius and his new "team" of thugs and car jackers tried to thwart Deckert's plan of assassination.

The leader of his new "team" was played by rapper X-Zibit. His character was an old friend of XXX who runs a chop shop in the hood.

He didn't even sound like he has a pulse. He got the part based on the success of his car customization show on MTV, "Pimp My Ride."

The plot of the movie was not only weak, was so far-fetched it just left one puzzled. Why would the Attorney General even think it was possible to walk into the Capitol Building, guns blazing and think he could actually take over the country?

This movie didn't do anything right. The acting was bland, except for Dafoe, who was as creepy as ever. His eyes really penetrated as he delivered his lines. Dafoe was great in movies like "Boondock Saints" and "Spider Man."

Samuel L. Jackson was also pretty good. His attitude really shone through. His best role by far, however, was in "Pulp Fiction."

His acting was aided in that film by Quentin Tarantino's

superb writing. Nothing of that caliber is even so much hinted in this movie.

There was really no character development. The audience knew about the leading man was he came from poverty and was a top Navy Seal.

The audience didn't know anything about his childhood. There were little glimpses of past relationships, and the tension between Gibbens and XXX in the beginning of the movie never explored.

The computer-generated (C.G.) special effects were mediocre at best. Many of the C.G. images seemed choppy and rushed. And the explosions, although huge, seem way too over-the-top.

The only two redeeming qualities about this film were the cool cars featured and the soundtrack. Nice cars as the Ford GT, Mustang and Shelby Cobra concept cars featured throughout the film.

One could really get into the movie when the car chase ripped out of the garage, with its silver paint job gleaming in the sun, shift into second and fly.

The soundtrack, although at times could be kind of generic, really gets the audience pumped up.

Its mix of both rock and rap really got people into the movie, only to be disappointed by the many flaws that crippled the film.

Just as a high-charged beats got people revved, something completely ridiculous happened, like a car driving onto railroad tracks and catching up to a speed train. That just ruins the mood.

All in all, this movie was not worth the 1 hour and 45 minutes it took to see it. Go pick up a book, or rent the first version.

MOVIE REVIEW



'XXX STATE OF THE UNION'
Starring: Ice Cube

Audience decides comedy or tragedy in new Woody Allen film



A neurotic loser of a man (Will Ferrell) falls in love with his neighbor Melinda (Radha Mitchell) in this strange Woody Allen comedy-tragedy.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Will Ferrell could play the psycho-neurotic loser almost better than Woody Allen.

"Melinda and Melinda" was definitely not a stretch for Allen, who wrote and directed it, but it definitely was for Hollywood.

This movie was not the regular action movie because it was so bizarre.

It was a story of a messed up girl looking for a new boyfriend through old friends. It was told two different ways, as a comedy and tragedy. Two men set up the story and through the whole movie portray Melinda (Radha Mitchell) as either a drug addict with no hope or a girl swallowed by bad luck and trying to overcome it.

It was a brilliant idea, but not out of the realm of Allen's mind. In a lot of movies he had talked about

situations like this. In almost all his movies he tried to sit someone like Annie Hall down and explain to them the tragedy of the world, just like the narrators of the story.

He and these characters acted like experts on things that are impossible to study, like the meaning of life.

After awhile it gets so ridiculous it becomes funny.

Will Ferrell was definitely perfect for Allen's role. In this he played an out-of-work actor trying to get a job from his wife who was directing

a feminist independent film. He fell in love with his neighbor, Melinda and tried to find a peaceful way to end with her.

His role seemed like a Manhattan born "Elf." He still had that sparkle of innocence and naivete from "Elf" and that hope in the world was still there.

Steve Carell took a break from "The Daily Show

with Jon Stewart" and his new show "The City" to play the same spoof character he played in his shows. Although not a strong character, he manages to add laughs to an awkward situation.

The tie-ins and overlaps in the plots are interesting and fun to catch. It could only be compared with films like "Sliding Doors" and "Serendipity" besides the fact that those movies had nothing to offer other than the nifty plot twists and "Melinda and Melinda" only used it as spice.

For example, both the tragic and comedy Melinda would end up at the jazzy candle-lit restaurant to discuss the future of her love life.

The only downfall to the whole film was Chloe Sevigny. People seem to think she's a bad actor because she's played beside Nicole Kidman in "Dogville" and starred in "Little Women." She can act, no matter what movies she's been in.

When the camera is on her and she's not speaking she looks like she's reading the other people's minds from her head.

MOVIE REVIEW



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Starring: Will Ferrell

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Senior signs to Iowa college for basketball

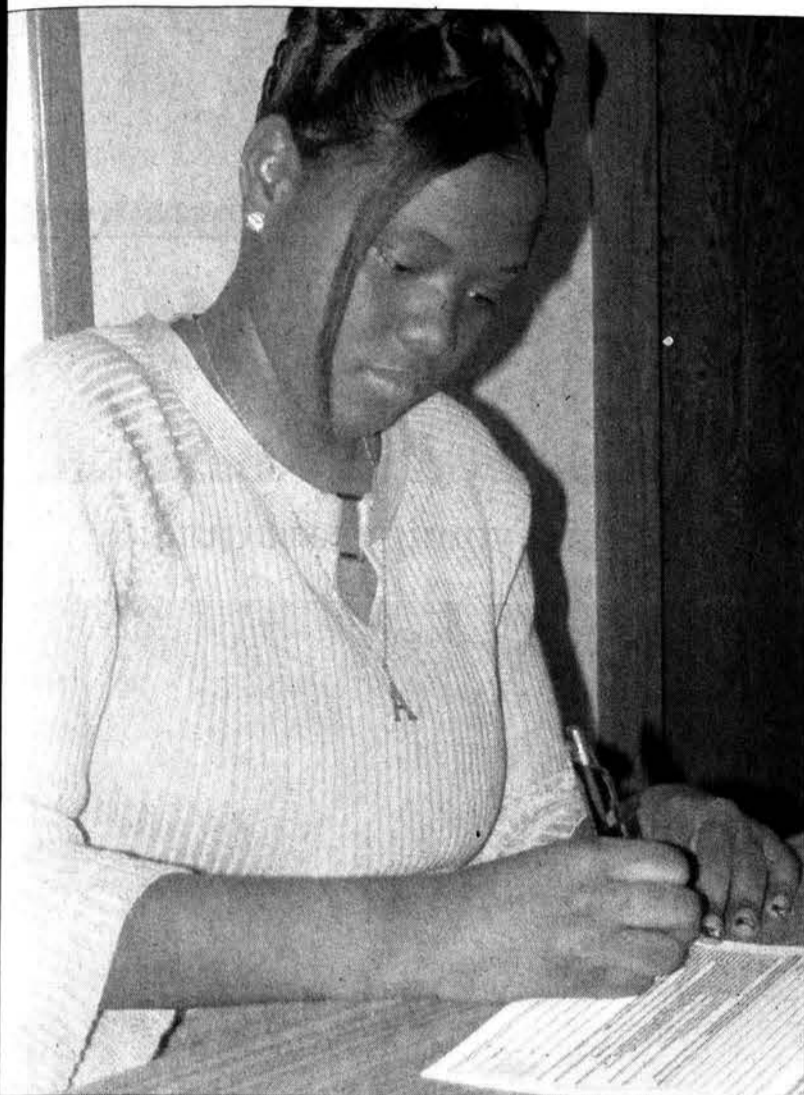


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Senior Anadrian Booker signs a letter of intent for a full-ride scholarship to Iowa Western. Booker said she chose the college for its business management classes and how close it was to Omaha.

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Since she was a freshman on varsity, colleges were looking to get her attention. Now one has her name on the dotted line.

Senior Anadrian Booker signed a letter of intent with Iowa Western, a two-year junior college.

At Iowa Western, Booker plans to study business management in addition to playing basketball.

The head women basketball coach for Iowa Western Brett Meckley said Booker was first brought to his attention when she started playing basketball.

Usually, he said, freshmen on the varsity teams get noticed more than other players.

"She was one of the players we knew we'd want to follow up with as a senior," Meckley said.

He said her shooting and rebounding skills along with her good attitude and hard work ethic made her stand out from the rest of the players.

Alumna Crystal Howard from the class of 2004 will be transferring to Iowa Western, Meckley said.

"We're always interested in recruiting from the area Metro schools," he said.

Meckley said he plans to have Booker play often as a freshman because it is only a two-year college.

The Iowa Western basketball program, he said, had a 26 and 5 record for the season. Meckley said Booker will get plenty playing

time and get along with the other players. Anadrian's mother, Shawn Booker, said she was very glad Iowa Western offered a full-ride scholarship.

"It was a relief to know you don't have to come up with that expense," Shawn said.

Other colleges were also interested in Anadrian, but Shawn said she was glad Anadrian chose Iowa Western because it was close to home.

When Anadrian was a child, Shawn said she did not know she would go this far with basketball, but Anadrian's father, Lucious, did.

"Dad knew ever since she started playing with the ball (that she was talented)," she said.

Anadrian said she was not sure what college she would go to until recently, when Iowa Western started to appeal to her.

She said she was excited to leave, but would miss playing basketball and seeing friends at Central.

Girls varsity basketball coach Chad Townsend said he knew Anadrian would play in college.

"There was no doubt," he said. "We weren't quite sure where she was going to college, but we knew she was going to play somewhere."

Townsend said playing at Iowa Western would be a good opportunity for Anadrian to develop her skills before she goes off to another college.

"I think it's an unbelievable chance," Townsend said.

SEE OTHER COLLEGE SIGNINGS
Back page
pg. 12



ILLEGAL SLAPSHOT

A Column by Tess Mandell

Soccer game memories act as reminder of past

With the soccer season coming to a close, so are my memories of when I first started playing.

It was nothing great, just another sport kids try out when they're in grade school. However, for some reason that's hard to depict, soccer meant more to me than the other sports.

I remember my dad signed me up for a team when I was in first grade. Our team was called the Aliens.

I remember I was so excited, and I hadn't even started playing yet.

I had these visions of how good I would be on the field: scoring all the goals and dodging everybody.

In fact, I was so excited, that at lunch one day I challenged a friend to a game of soccer.

I was boasting of how I was going to be joining a team.

And little to say, Derek could care less, but he accepted my offer nevertheless.

So it was set: boys against girls, at recess that day.

I remember how superior I felt going into the game.

The victorious visions kept replaying in my head, and I kept picturing myself dodging my way past all the guys.

By the end of lunch, all the girls were ready for the game. Even the somewhat-preppy girls were including themselves.

Recess eventually came. And to say the least, the girls lost. By a lot.

However, that didn't mean we stopped playing.

It became a tradition to meet outside at the sandy lot beside the playground equipment.

It was another part of the daily routines to select captains, pick teams and play a good half hour of soccer.

I guess I eventually realized that I wasn't the best, and that's

probably why I admired the guys. Jake Maines, Derek Hamilton, Ryan Herrick...I don't even know half of them anymore, but I sure looked up to them back then.

Despite the fact that I ultimately played soccer every day after lunch, it didn't change the fact that I couldn't seem to find the net on the girls team. To tell the truth, the Aliens as a whole couldn't get a goal whatsoever.

The team didn't win a single game all season. Actually, I played on the team for three years, and we never won a single game.

However, it wasn't as frustrating as it may seem. If anything, I always enjoyed going out with my dad and sister to Pipal Park to play every week.

I played for a couple more years before the team split.

The last season I played with the Aliens was the year my dad coached.

Then that was it.

I still enjoyed playing at recess, but slowly all the guys transferred from soccer to football, and I never enjoyed throwing as much as kicking.

I played my seventh-grade year on the team at Lewis and Clark, but it wasn't the same.

It wasn't as much fun when you actually had to do drills more than games.

I guess I've always been more of a scrimmage person than a drill person.

Soccer came and went faster now than it seemed back then.

I have completely forgotten how to recognize offense.

I have forgotten the last time I scored a goal, and more so, I've forgotten the last time I played on a team that won anything.

But I will never forget what it felt like to score a goal. I will never forget what it felt like to win.

And I will never forget the love of the game.

Student beats best runner in state, prepares for Districts

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Even though he is not ranked number one in the state, senior Virgil Mitchell said he is the fastest, at least at the 200-meter sprint.

He said his time this year was 22.3 seconds, and he has already beat the State champion from last year.

"It is the easiest (race) for me to do," Mitchell said. "I don't have a really good start so I can make it up by pure speed (in the 200)."

He said he is also good at the 400-meter sprint and 4 x 100 meter and 4 x 400 meter relays.

This season, he is also tried out 100-meter hurdles at the North Invitational. He placed fourth, but said he should have done better.

He said he tried hurdles at practice, and he decided it was something he wanted to do before he graduated.

He has done nearly every track event,

including the high jump last year.

He has been running track since freshman year, but this year, he said he was more of a leader.

He and senior Robert Wesley help prepare everyone for practice and meets.

"Some of them (the underclassmen) ask me about different ways to run and how to improve," Mitchell said.

He said he will be running in college, but not participating in football like he did in high school.

Boys track coach Jeff McCune said Mitchell will be attending Johnson County Community College in Kansas.

"They have a new sprints coach this year," McCune said. "They are noted for having good distance runners."

Mitchell isn't ranked in the charts because of the type of timers they use, McCune said. All the races where officials

took time, handheld timer were used.

"There's no human error (in automatic timers)," he said.

McCune said since freshman year Mitchell has improved on more qualities than just speed.

"His overall strength has improved and his starts have definitely improved," McCune said.

Mitchell said this year he wants to do better at State, but it all depends on Districts. At Districts whatever events he plans on entering are the ones he will take to State.

He said this year, Kearney is definitely the team to beat.

"They have won it for the past 11 years," he said. "I don't think our team will win overall, but we will definitely be a factor in them (Kearney) losing."

Mitchell said he started track

freshman year just because he needed something to do.

He found out he was good at it and kept going.

"My parents are really good (at track)," he said. "They tell me what I can do better or what they did in high school."

Wesley said he and Mitchell lead the team because there are only three seniors on the team this year and they have been running track since freshman year.

He said he assumes they will go to State together for the 4 x 100 meter relay. Wesley said he expected him to qualify in the top four for 100-meter hurdles.

"I think he can do anything if he sticks with it," Wesley said.

He said Mitchell was definitely the best runner on the team and probably in the state.

"He kills everyone he races," he said. "He already beat last year's (State) champ."



MITCHELL

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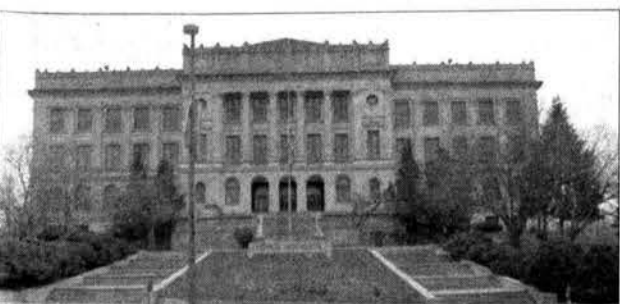
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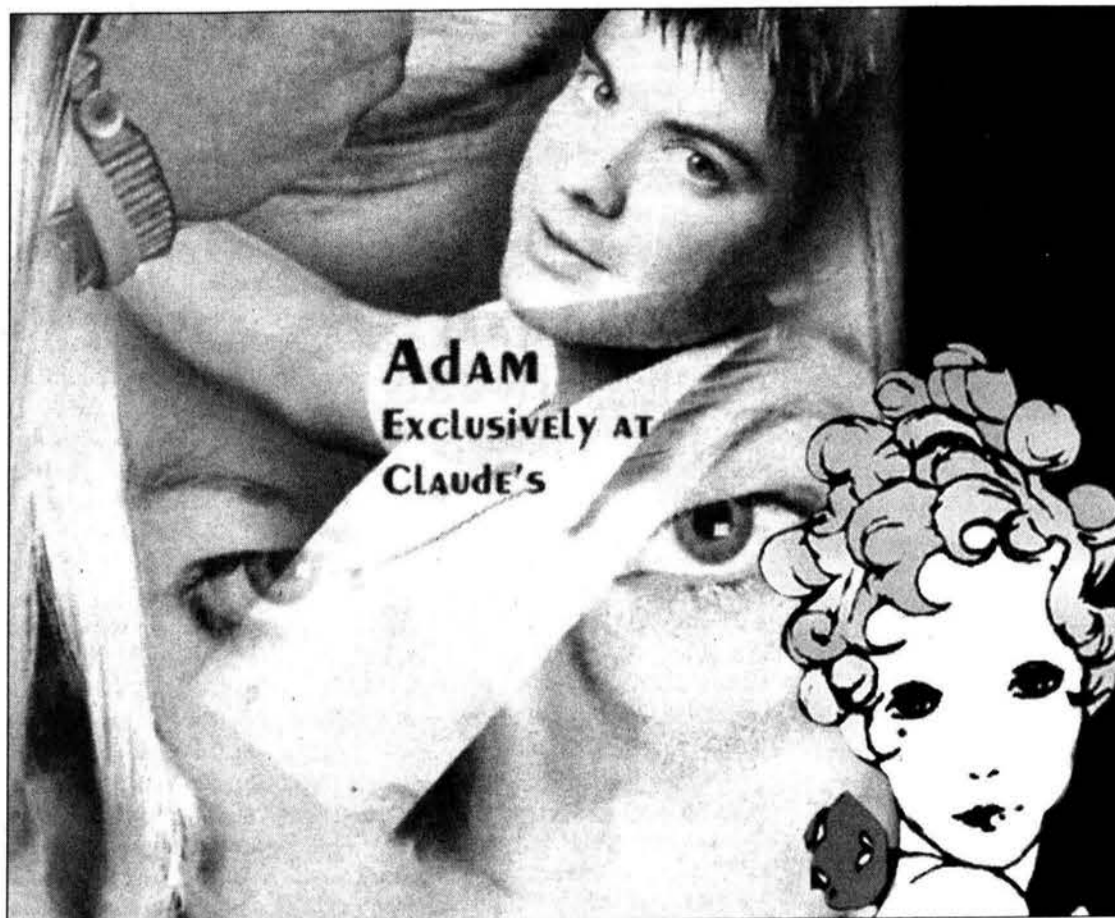
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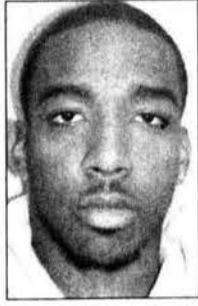
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COLLEGE SIGNINGS

Seven seniors have signed with colleges across the United States in soccer, football, softball, basketball and baseball. One junior gave a verbal commitment to play football at the UNL.



WESLEY

ROBERT WESLEY
FOOTBALL
SIGNED WITH: UNO
REASON: "I know the facility and program, they have an excellent program. They dish out some NFL players every now and then so maybe I could have a chance, too."

NATE PRATER
FOOTBALL

SIGNED WITH: KANSAS ST.
REASON: "They provide a good education program for student athletes. They have a record of 69-6 in the last ten years."

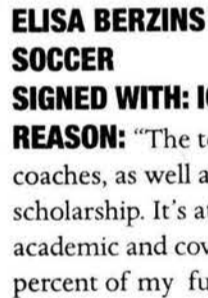


PRATER



BIGSBY

CASEY BIGSBY
SOCCER
SIGNED WITH: UNO
REASON: "Basically it was the overall atmosphere- the coaching, players and style of ball matches the way I like to play."



BERZINS

ELISA BERZINS
SOCCER
SIGNED WITH: IOWA STATE
REASON: "The team and the coaches, as well as the scholarship. It's athletic and academic and covers 85 percent of my full tuition."

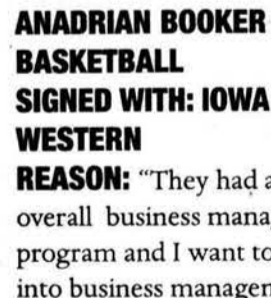


BERZINS



HESS

ALISON HESS
SOFTBALL
SIGNED WITH: TOLEDO
REASON: "I went there during the fall and liked the coaching stuff a lot. The school had a really good environment as well."



BOOKER

ANADRIAN BOOKER
BASKETBALL
SIGNED WITH: IOWA WESTERN
REASON: "They had a good overall business management program and I want to go into business management."



BOOKER

DAVID CLEVELAND
BASEBALL
SIGNED WITH: CREIGHTON
REASON: "The academic excellence, the proximity and just to play baseball."



CLEVELAND

DAVID JONES
FOOTBALL (verb. comm.)
WILL SIGN WITH: UNL
REASON: "I watched them growing up and after talking to the coaches I decided I wanted to be a part of the program."



JONES

MAKING THE BREAKAWAY

The boys soccer team made it to the second round of districts with a freshman starter and a junior captain, breaking the perceptions of what a young team can do

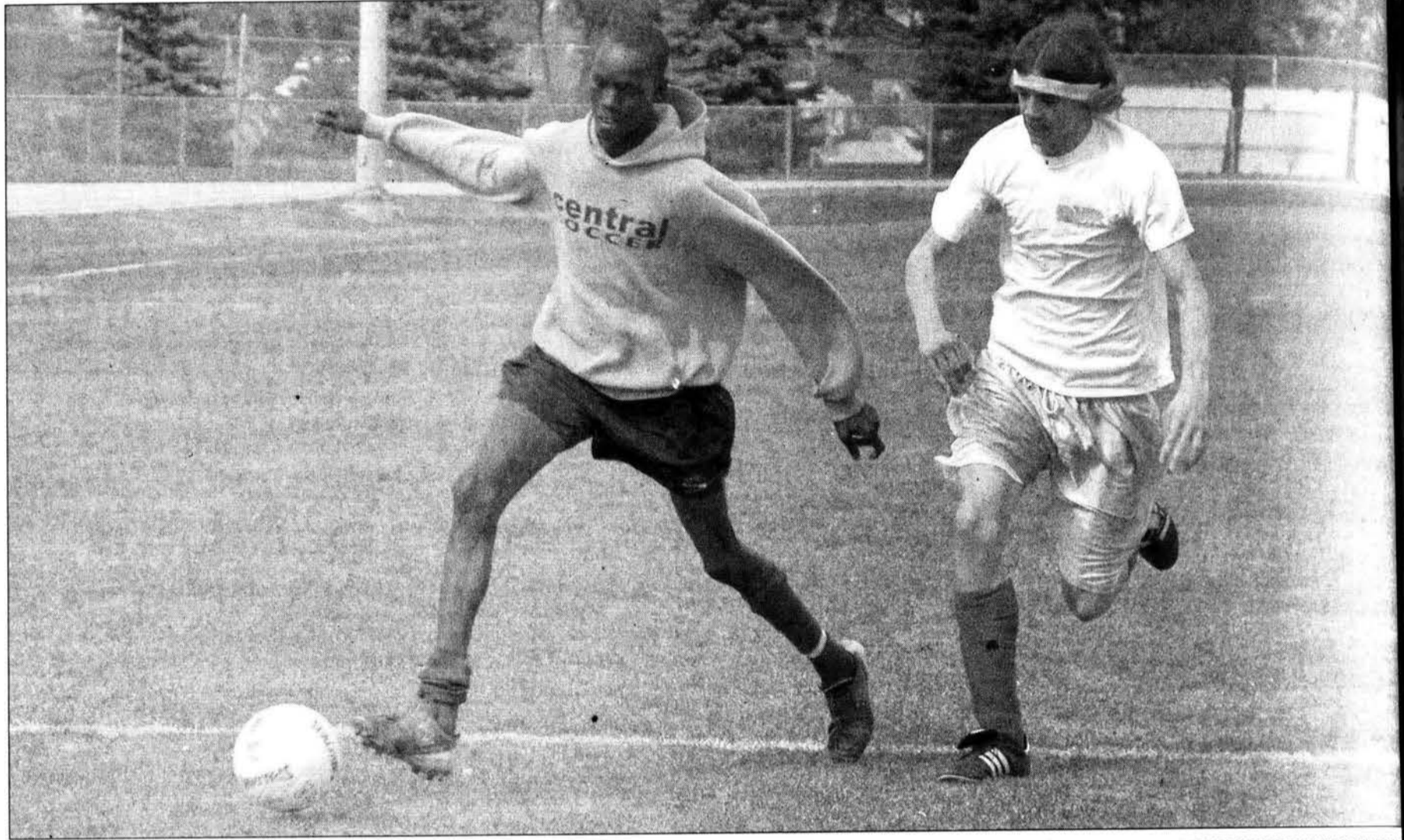


PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/ REGISTER

Freshman Nate Whittle (right) runs after senior Duoth Kuon for the ball during a varsity practice at Norris. Despite the fact that Whittle is the only freshman on the team, he has still started in games in his first year playing high school soccer.

Freshman plans on being key next year

BY TESS MANDELL

He has a Grade Point Average over of 4.0, he's a starter on the varsity soccer team and he's a freshman. Not only that, but Nate Whittle is the one and only freshman who made the team.

However, Whittle said playing on a team made of upperclassmen doesn't bother him.

"It did feel weird at first, but I got more comfortable with it," he said. "It was just an adjustment thing."

Whittle said he was not treated any differently, but he did have to put away the balls and set up the net like most rookies.

Teammate junior Sajmir Gasa said Whittle fit in with the older team really well.

"Nate is a big guy. He's tall, so he's not much different than the other guys," Gasa said.

Head coach Tim Herbert said he usually has two or three freshmen on the team.

"A freshman's biggest adjustment is speed and physical play, and that will be Nate's biggest test this year," Herbert said. "The question is always 'Who's fastest, and who's strongest?'"

Another factor in Whittle's spot on the varsity team was his height.

"He's a tall kid, and you can't teach size," Herbert said. "So you have to hope for big, tall kids."

Whittle said his height has helped him in the past and it should be a plus this year, too.

"It helps when playing defense because you can push people," Whittle said. "You can definitely use it to your advantage."

Gasa said he also was on the varsity soccer team his freshman year, but it was hard to make the team because there were seven or eight seniors trying out.

"Nate's doing very well," Gasa said. "He's just a freshman, but I know he can handle it."

Captain junior Kyle Samuelson said he didn't think Whittle played at all like a freshman.

"He adjusted well. It took him a while to bloom, but now he's a starter consistently," Samuelson said. "He can shut down a player single-handedly."

Samuelson said he can see Whittle in the next three years leading the defensive line.

"He'll probably be a captain figure because of his playing experience," Samuelson said.

Whittle said for the past three years he has been playing on the West Omaha Gladiators club team. He said he noticed many differences between club soccer and high school soccer.

"The defense is set up differently," he said. "And high school will be more intense. I'll be playing against players who are juniors and seniors, unlike on club when they were my age."

With the season coming to a close, Herbert said Whittle adjusted to high school soccer very well.

"It was just a matter of him getting more confident and being a defender has a lot to do with confidence," Herbert said. "Eventually, he will turn out to be a very good player."

Herbert said Whittle started for the first time this season in the game against North on Apr. 18.

"There have been some injuries, and he has stepped in and played very well," he said.

Herbert said although Whittle has no points on his varsity team, he did score two goals for the junior varsity team in the game against Benson on Apr. 27.

Whittle is not only superior in soccer. He also has a heavy honors class load and the first trumpet in the band.

Junior captain plays year-round for state team

BY TESS MANDELL



PHOTO BY NIC SAMUELSON/ REGISTER

Junior Kyle Samuelson is the team captain along with junior Dan Susman. He leads the team in statistics with 11 goals.

Junior Kyle Samuelson has been a starter on the varsity soccer team since the second game of his freshman year. He was chosen as a member of the All-Metro second team his sophomore year, and is still going strong.

Soccer head coach Tim Herbert said Samuelson was one of the best offensive players on the team, keeping in mind he lead the team with 11 goals.

"Kyle finds a way to beat people and get goals, which can't always be taught by a coach," Herbert said.

Samuelson not only lead the team in statistics, but he also lead the team as captain along with goalie Daniel Susman.

"He leads by example," Susman said. "He has a lot of skill, and he is very encouraging."

Samuelson said he has enjoyed being captain this year.

"Everyone treated me with more respect than I thought I would get," he said.

Samuelson said besides his experience he was probably picked as captain because there were not a lot of seniors on the team this year compared to the eight seniors the team graduated last year.

"They (last year's seniors) did all the talking and leading," Samuelson said. "This year, there was not a lot of seniors. It's us (the juniors) running everything."

With a strong junior representation this year, there is a lot of potential for an even stronger senior team next year.

"We're the best guys on the team, and we'll continue to be the best," Samuelson said.

Individually, Samuelson is expected to be at his peak his senior year.

"He'll hopefully continue to improve and score more goals than this year," Susman said.

Herbert said next year as a senior, people will find Samuelson to be a scoring threat, but he will still need to raise his game even more.

"Kyle has the ability to succeed," Herbert said. "He needs to do what he can to get stronger, and since he plays year-round, that shouldn't be a problem."

Along with improving as player next year, Samuelson said he also hopes he improves as captain.

"This year, me and Dan kind of paved the way for the next year," he said. "And I think next year I'll have more say in what we can do."

Samuelson said this season went a lot better than he thought.

"We lost a lot of players last year so we kind of had a brand new team," he said. "We started off kind of segregated, but now we're one team, and that's what you've got to have. We play for each other."

Susman said Samuelson was the best field player because of his foot skills, ability, speed and dribbling.

"If there were more people to help him, he could be better, but him by himself, he's good enough," Susman said.

This is probably the reason Herbert decided to designate Samuelson as a starter since his second game of his freshman year.

"I thought that the earlier I get him exposed, the better he'll be in the long run," he said. "You have to get in there and do it."

Of course, Samuelson had his advantages

over the rest of the teammates wanting to be a starter. Samuelson has been playing soccer since he was 4, including on the Olympic Development Program (ODP) since 2001. Samuelson said the program is made of the best soccer players in the state, and each competes against each other.

"I knew he had played ODP," Herbert said, "and I could tell that for a freshman, he had skill."

Another reason for Samuelson's skill, his biggest role model, his brother. Samuelson said his brother Ryan was the one who got him started with soccer.

"He needed somebody to play with, so I dragged me outside, and then my mom signed me up for a club team," Samuelson said. "Ryan started playing with me when I was 4, and he has always been there since then."

Samuelson said he would sometimes play with Ryan's team, which meant he was playing with guys four years older than he was.

However, Kyle's older brother was not any soccer player. Kyle said Ryan was a part of the first-ever ODP team to win regionals and go onto nationals.

He went on to be named the player of the year. However, Ryan's major talent made Kyle compete even harder.

"I've always been playing in his shadow," Kyle said. "I have to live up to him."

However, Herbert said Ryan's success was one of Kyle's best advantages.

"Kyle is internally driven. He has his own personal goals," he said. "And I think Kyle is always trying to either compete or beat his brother."