



THURSDAY

May 26, 2005

the Central High School REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
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JOURNALISM

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FIVE TIME NHSPA CLASS A1 SWEEPSTAKES CHAMPION

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Bomb threat makes good use of drills

BY LAUREN CRIST

Principal Jerry Bexten said someone made a call to the 911 Emergency Response Center and said he overheard some people talking about a bomb in a locker on the second floor.

"When you get a call like that, you never know whether it is legitimate or not, and so we decided to check it out," he said.

On May 4, during first hour, a lockdown was announced over the intercom. The school then followed a procedure according to the Crisis Plan, which states the school goes into lockdown until the legitimacy of the threat is known.

He said the police department searched the second floor lockers where the bomb was said to be. The police also brought in a dog specially trained to detect a bomb, but the dog didn't find anything.

"In other words, the call was a hoax," Bexten said.

He said they haven't found the person who made the call. According to the police report, a male called in and said he overheard some students talking about the bomb. He then hung up the phone.

Bexten said there were a couple of reasons why the school decided to lock down rather than evacuate the building. One was to ensure the threat was real first.

"Primarily," he said, "if indeed there was an explosive device in the building, through evacuation we could be sending students right into the path of the bomb."

He said if a threat was made about a particular classroom, however, the students in the class and nearby might evacuate.

Junior Crystal Runions said she disagreed with the way the bomb threat was dealt with.

"I think the way they handled it was a bit too extreme," she said.

She thought the school should have evacuated the building rather than going into lockdown.

"That would have been rather nice to evacuate instead of just burrowing in deeper," she said.

Freshman Patrick Skanes said he thought school officials handled the bomb threat well and the lockdown was a good way to respond.

"They had control of the people in the classrooms," he said.

He said it was handled well because it prevented students from interfering with the threat.

"If everyone was evacuating, it would have been chaotic, and some kids would have tried to sneak off or not obeyed the teachers," he said.

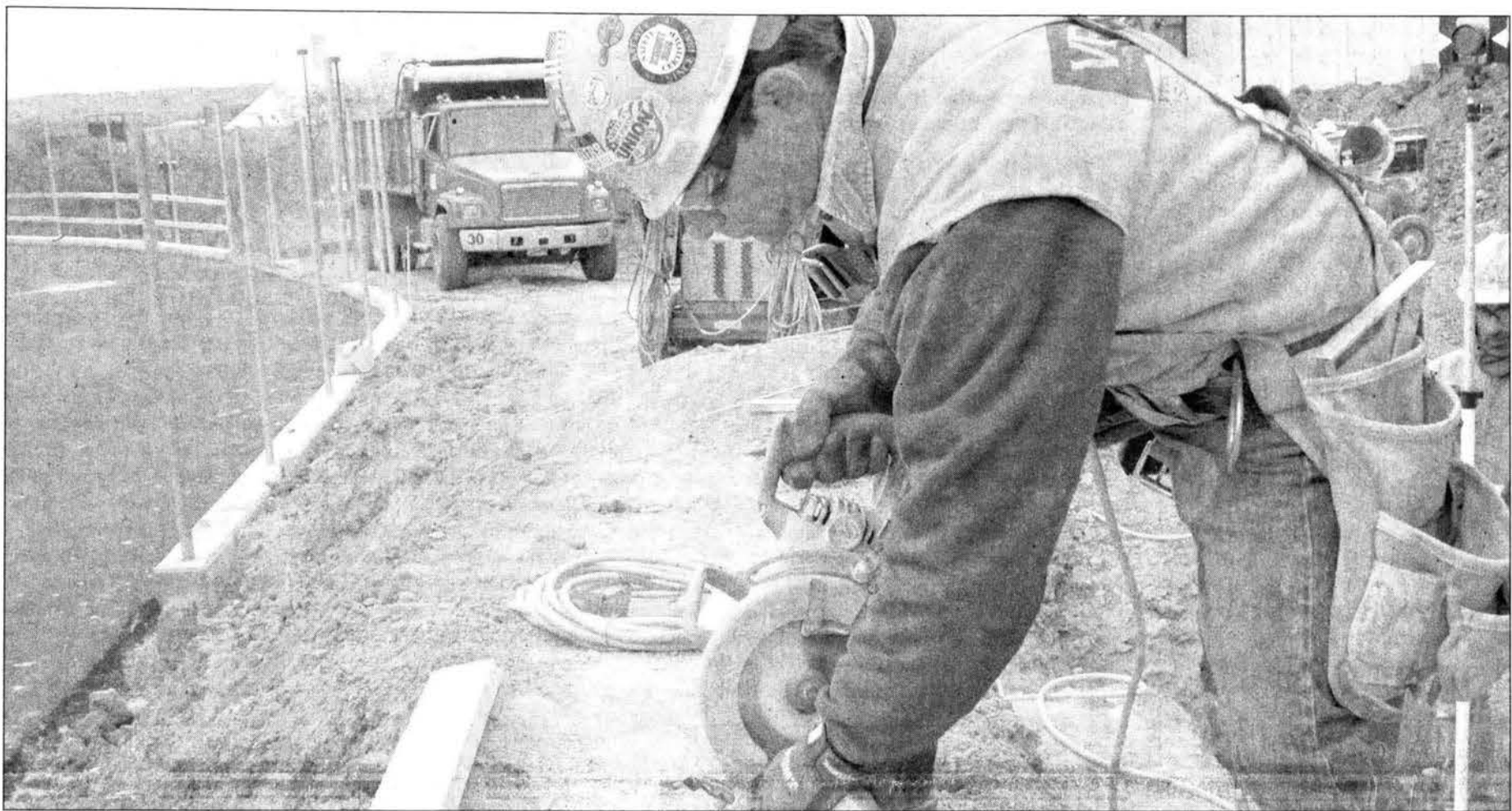
He said he thought evacuation for the threat would have caused too many problems, and only if they discovered the bomb, they should evacuate the building.

Bexten said though there have been a couple of threats at Central, there has never actually been a bomb in the building.

"I hope and pray that never happens at Central," Bexten said.

HOME-FIELD ADVANTAGE

Kiewit Construction works hard to finish the field and stadium before the first real home game Central has ever seen



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST AND MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

Kiewit carpenter Tony Travato saws a piece of wood which will be used in the structure of the stairway down the side of the stadium. Workers were double checking everything to make sure things were done correctly. Levels were used to ensure accuracy.

Construction company puts on finishing touches

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Seemann Stadium will be open to 5,000 students and visitors at the Eagles' first real home game Sep. 2, athletic director Paul Pennington said.

The first game will be against North, after the purple and white scrimmage on Aug. 26.

He said there was still a lot of work to be done, and after it rained for a few days straight, workers had to play catch-up.

He said the plaza still needs to be built outside the box office and seats are yet to be put in. The press box, which will be put in place Jun. 1, will be pre-built and a crane will set it on top of the bleachers.

The 47 by 10 foot press box is being built at the CBC Construction factory in Hastings, Neb. It will be shipped out in one piece and Kiewit Construction will attach it.

Other than the press box, a great addition to the stadium will be the eagle sculpture.

"It's a great looking sculpture," Pennington said. "It is around 15 feet high."

Kiewit Construction foreman Morgan Hankins said even with

the week of thunderstorms, the stadium will still be completed on time.

Starting in February 2004, with the hiring around 30 subcontractors to finish the job, it only took a little over two years to complete the 5,000 seat stadium.

The majority of the subcontractors have finished and the only major additions they need to make are the pressbox and the home-side seating. Both should be completed before graduation.

"After that," he said, "we only have some landscaping and painting left."

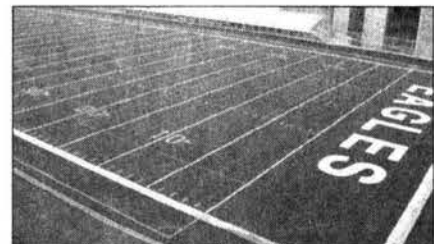
Hankins said Kiewit, along with subcontractors like Sprintuf, have been working on other high school stadiums, including Westside's.

Now they are moving out to Milliard and starting on Millard South. This is Hankins' first time working on a stadium, but he did work on the Qwest Convention Center and Arena.

Football coach Joe McMenamin said although the team won't be on the field for practice until Aug. 1, he isn't worried.

"Between then and our first game we'll have around 40

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Here is a view of the field from a cafeteria window (middle). Travato places a blue chalk line for the stair structure (bottom right).

Alumnus returns to full-time business owner after city council election

BY CLAY LOMNETH

City council elections for Omaha took place on Tues., May 10. There were seven districts and 13 people were running. District 2, which encompasses Central, was a race between Frank Brown and Cheryl Weston.

District 1, which includes parts of Florence, Dundee and Benson, had alumnus (1966) Marc Kraft running against Jim Suttle.

Suttle won. Kraft said although the city council members cannot affect education directly, some decisions that they make could.

Kraft said he did not feel bad

about the loss, and he was sure people would remember him as a politician who took action.

He said one of the things he stood up for was speaking out against the closing of Woolworth Ave. He thought keeping it open would be better for the neighborhood.

"Politically, if I wanted to be there (on City Council) forever, I would have voted to close Woolworth Ave.," he said.

Specifically affecting Central, Kraft said he was involved in talks about parking before the start of construction on the stadium. He said he spoke at public forums to try and get Central, Joslyn Art Museum and

Creighton to work out the parking problem.

Kraft said in his district, there was the lowest voter turnout ever, about 20 percent.

He said he did not know how this happened because he had tried to appeal to the younger voter population.

Senior Amanda Lawson voted for Kraft in District 1 and Mike Fahey for mayor.

She said she liked how Kraft opposed the building of a strip club near her home in Benson.

She heard there was a low turnout for the voting population in Omaha.

"I think it's terrible," she said.

"It's not even representing half of Omaha."

To stop the apathy she thought teens should talk with their friends about the election.

"Most of my friends aren't even old enough (to vote)," she said.

Lawson said parents should talk with their children about the election. They should not talk about who to vote for, but just that the elections were going on and what the child's feelings on the election were.

Lawson said she thought there wasn't much more the politicians could do, but they could fight the apathy

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PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Alumnus Marc Kraft (class of 1966) stands in front of his furniture store, Kraft DC. Kraft ran for city council in District 1, but lost to opponent Jim Suttle.

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Camp helps teach about prejudices

BY LAUREN CRIST

Central has opened up an opportunity for students to apply for Anytown another year.

Anytown is a program that started 50 years ago, and was set up to help eliminate the "isms" of society, including racism, sexism, heterosexism and classism.

Counselor Ron Moore said Anytown has been at Central since he began working here four years ago.

He said 11 students participated in Unitown, a subgroup of Anytown, earlier this year.

He said the program's goal is to eliminate any type of bias.

"It's very simple, we're looking for people who are willing to do what they can for social justice," he said.

He said some Central students have come back later and talked about the program.

"Kids that have gone are still talking about awareness of equality and trying to eliminate the 'isms,'" he said.

Anytown is sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice.

Students who attend workshops and assemblies with guest speakers lead in cultural, religious and educational groups.

"It doesn't have to be earth shattering, even the simple start helps," he said.

New adviser for drill team holds tryouts

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

Kami Boje is the new drill team adviser. She would have done it sooner if she knew she could have.

"I had no idea I could do it," she said.

Some of her students asked her to run it this year, so she decided to try it.

"Tryouts were a lot of fun," Boje said. "I was looking for attitude, clean movements and if they attended practice regularly."

Sophomore Latoyce Henry tried out for drill team last year and said it wasn't that hard.

"You don't have to try out again for this year," she said. "If you're on it, you have to stay."

She said she's very excited to be in charge of it.

The girls will be fitted for costumes in the end of May, and she said she is looking forward to doing drill team next year.

"It is a lot of fun," she said.

CALENDAR

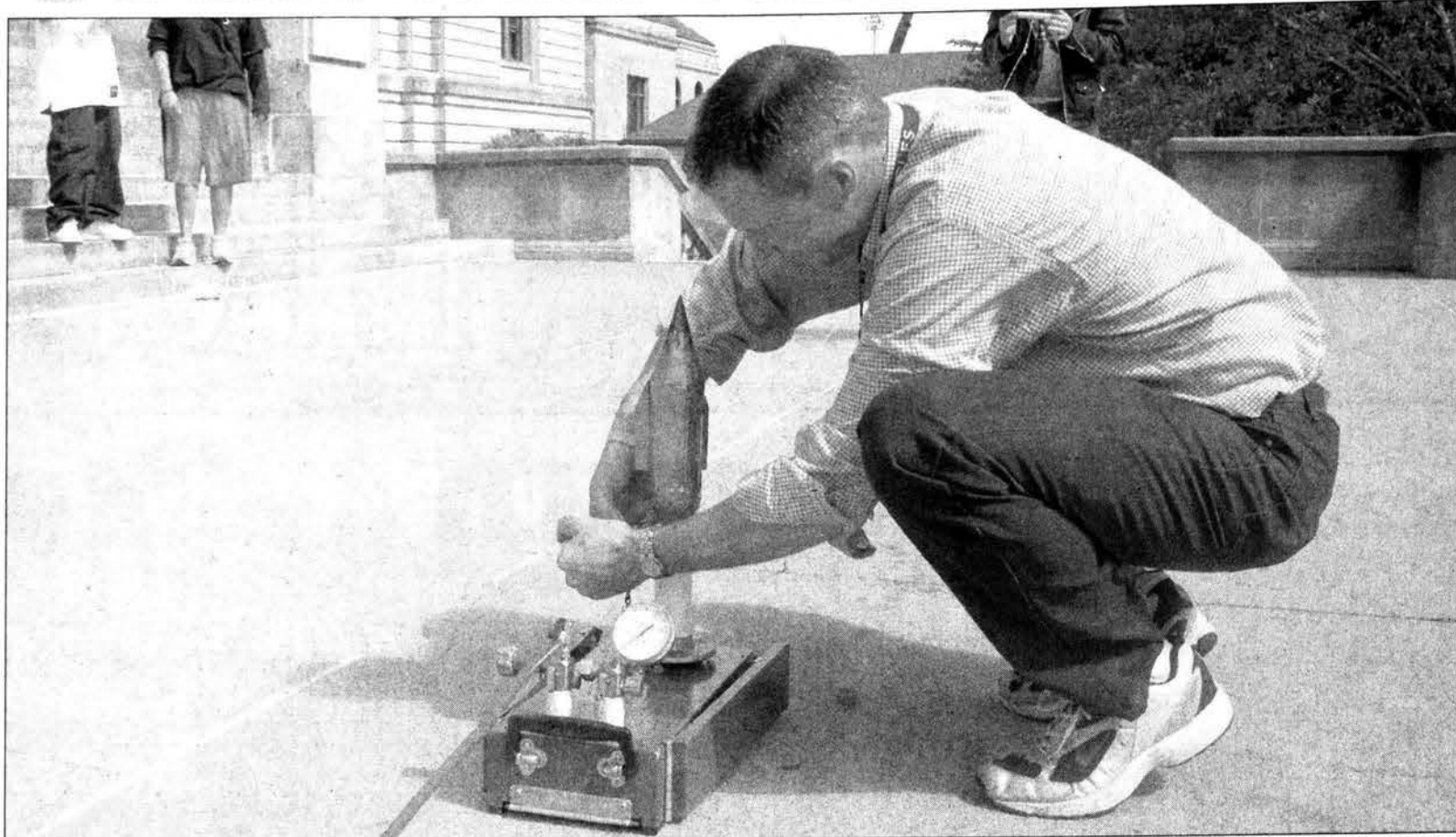


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Physics teacher Matt Hamill prepares junior Rodger Flemming's rocket for launch. Students constructed rockets out of bottles and tape and calculated their height using trigonometry.

Rocket launching teaches basic physics

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

One ended up on the other end of the school. Another had working propellers that deployed when it began to fall.

Starting on May 16, and going on for almost a week, physics students launched over 100 2-liter-bottle rockets from the east balcony.

Physics teacher Joe White said one rocket in his class, built by juniors Tanika Cooper and Keaira Goodwin, stayed in the air almost nine seconds.

White said some students took the experiment more seriously than others.

Some of the rockets had special features, while others had a much more basic construction. Some students brought their own materials.

"We did have one go completely over the

building," he said.

White said physics teacher Matt Hamill came up with the idea to launch rockets two weeks before the experiment took place. It appealed to the department because of its combination of fun and scientific merit.

He said it was a basic engineering experiment. It was easy to do and also fun for the students.

In previous years, students built bridges and tested them with special equipment.

They used computer programs and various materials to make the strongest bridge they could. This year's project took much less time and used less technology than the bridges.

Students used cardboard, paper, duct tape, poster board and balsa wood to construct simple rocket designs.

The rockets were launched using air pressure systems similar to a basketball pump.

In one class, students were unable to launch their rockets on the scheduled day due to a pump malfunction.

White said students were allowed to pull the triggers to their own rockets, which were filled about halfway with water to generate the pressure.

One of the rockets almost hit a student in the face, White said. Aside from that, the experiment was fairly safe.

The teachers each chose to use different sets of rules for the project. The rockets in White's class were required to follow Science Olympiad guidelines.

Other teachers, he said, were less strict with their students.

Upcoming Events

May

25-27 Final Exams

Finals start on Wednesday, and continue until the last day of school on Friday. On the 25th, exams are taken third, fourth and sixth hours. The 26th has exams in first, seventh and eighth hours, and the 27th has finals in zero, second, fifth and ninth hours. Principal Jerry Bexten said students should pay attention to what their teachers say will be on the finals.

June

6 Central High Golf Tournament

The tournament, a benefit for the athletic department, begins checking in players and teams at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. It takes place at Ironwood Country Club at 128th and Pacific Street. The cost is \$125 per golfer and \$500 per team. Athletic director Paul Pennington said teams and players are usually made up of alumni and other adults. "Basically anyone who has \$125 can (join)," he said. Lunch is served and prizes are given away. The money earned goes to buying equipment for the stadium, including concession stand and press box equipment. "It's pretty hard to mention everything," Pennington said. "There's just so many things."

6 NHS To Help Raise Money

The National Honors Society (NHS) members are helping serve shrimp for lunch (starting at 12 p.m.) and dinner (starting at 5 p.m.) that will benefit research for diabetes. All money raised goes to the Diabetes Foundation. It takes place at Anchor Inn. NHS sponsor Jennifer Stastny said though the majority of the kids helping will be on NHS, any student can come. "Since it's about helping the community, I don't want to limit it to NHS kids," she said.

6 Summer School Starts

Summer school starts today. It is for any student who has failed core classes (English, mathematics, science and social studies) and needs to make up a credit. Students who sign up are divided into three priorities, depending on who needs the credit more. The first division is seniors graduating in June, the second is juniors and seniors and the third is everyone else needing a credit.

Drama night for awards, recognition

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The Speech, Debate and Drama Celebration took place this year in the auditorium on May 9.

Drama teacher John Gibson said he and speech and debate coach Brent Bartels gave out over 100 awards that night.

Gibson said seniors Amanda Rozmarek and Jason Witty received dedication awards, and sophomore Seth Rich received a speech and debate award.

He said the awards were in part a motivation tool for the students because they have something for the younger students to work for.

"It's a good way for us to say thank you for your hard work and dedication," Gibson said.

Gibson said students were not required to come to the award ceremony because they would eventually get their award.

Still, Gibson said, many students showed up for the event.

"They were invited, and if they wanted to come, they came," he said.

New parking spaces raffled off for seniors

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Only 100 names could have been chosen for the parking spaces under the interstate, assistant principal Paul Pennington said.

Thirty-six students applied for a parking spot, and they all received one.

Those that were paying attention in the circular will be rewarded with a parking permit in August," Pennington said.

The senior parking spaces for next year will be under the interstate near 12th and 13th street, between Cass and Chicago.

There were 144 spaces available but 44 had to be reserved for faculty.

Pennington said during the beginning of next year, there will be another lottery for the remaining 68 spaces available for students. He said he thinks more students will apply for the spaces then. He said many students may have simply not heard their teacher read the announcement.

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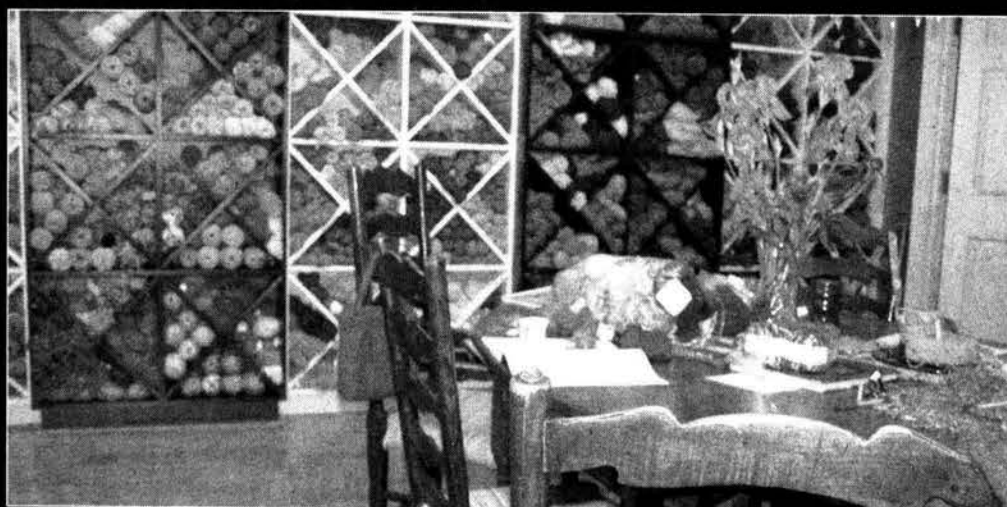
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Marching tests replace other JROTC spring finals

BY STEPHEN WILHELM

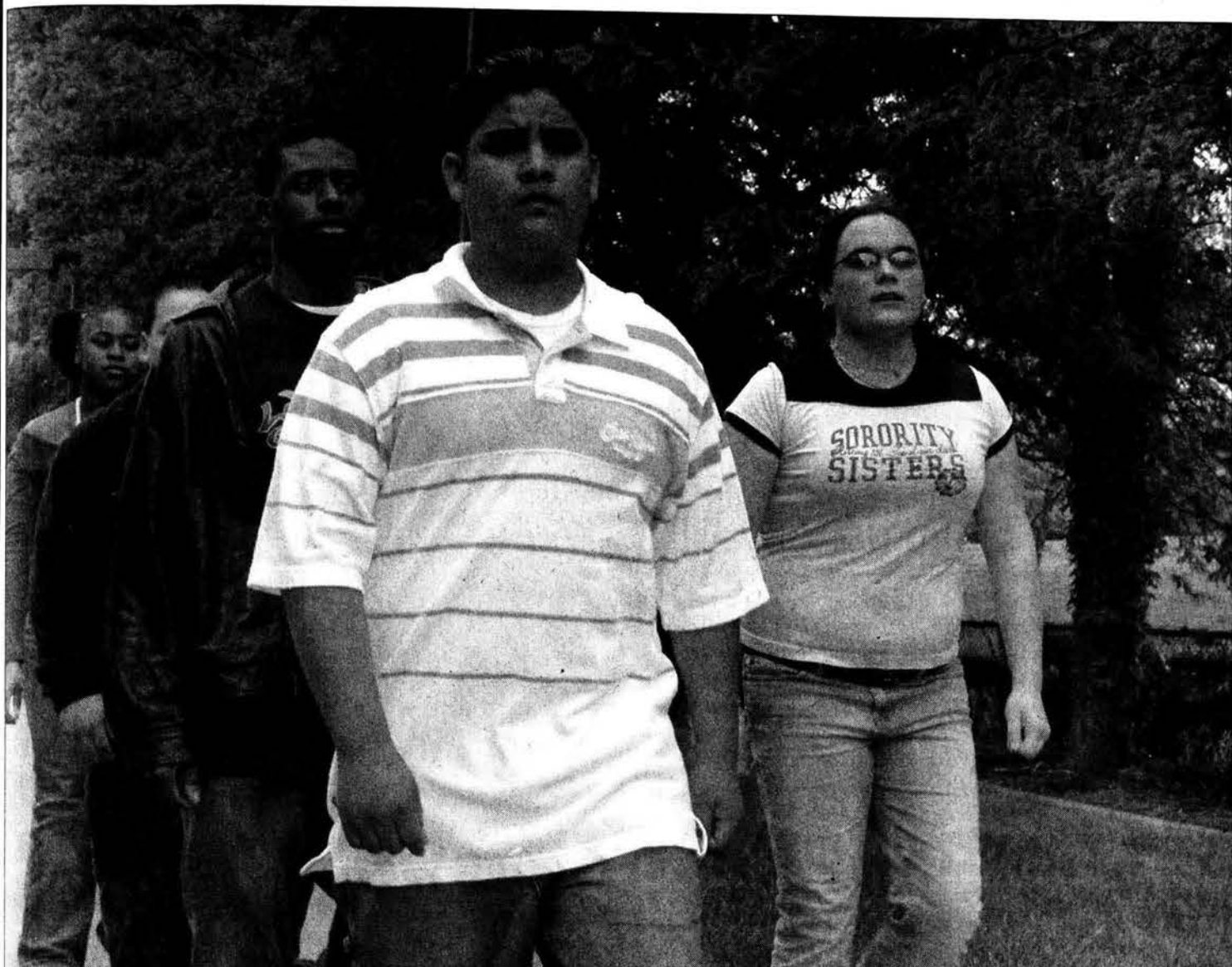


PHOTO BY STEPHEN WILHELM/REGISTER

Junior Julian Jackson, freshman Hector Martinez and junior Ashley Minshall practice for the marching part of the JROTC final exam, which Sgt. Maj. Sutter has decided will replace the 200 questions formerly on the final.

JROTC cadets in Sgt. Maj. Dwaine Sutter's class will be taking a hands-on approach to their final. Sutter is the teacher of several JROTC courses and has taught at Central for five years.

While past finals consisted of tedious essays and a long list of multiple choice questions, Sutter's final for his 63 students will consist of a research paper on a president of their choice and a march.

This is the first year Sutter has made marching part of the final exam, which will be approximately 10 minutes long and consists of 19 commands.

The research paper and the marching part of the final will be worth 300 points.

However, this final came as no surprise to the cadets because they were told at the beginning of the semester exactly what this final would consist and actually chose to do the marching.

Either a 200 question multiple choice final or a marching test were the two choices, and every student opted for marching.

Sutter said the marching part of the exam is a representation of how students become better citizens through JROTC because it teaches leadership, loyalty, integrity, maturity, teamwork, and interpersonal skills.

They also had to accurately follow the commands while remaining in unison. He said his students take the marching part of the exam very seriously because each squad strives to be and remain the best.

Sophomore Andrew Shirley said the marching exam was a welcomed challenge which he believed he would succeed at.

"I think I will do really well as long as I

know the techniques, and I'm glad we are taking a marching exam," Shirley said.

Freshman Alex Prue said he liked the marching exam because it was more enjoyable and believed he would do exceptionally well.

JROTC students said the marching exam is much easier, more enjoyable and less stressful than the written exam because now they don't have to worry about completing a 200 question exam when most everyone had trouble finishing the 50 question exam last semester.

They said the marching exam was a chance to have fun and prove how good they truly were. Sophomore Andrew Jones' who is in Lt. Col. Mike Melvin's class said the other JROTC classes will be taking traditional multiple choice exams.

Sutter said squads will even practice repeatedly to adapt to every situation and carry out every command with an exact precision, such as remaining in complete harmony while marching up steps, which is not very easy to do.

"The marching is a competition because squads want to see who can do better," Sutter said.

He said marching gives him an opportunity to see the cadets' teamwork, morale, motivation, and leadership in those who have earned the right to be a leader with a position such as a squad leader. Sutter said marching shows their ability in the area or leadership, which is ongoing in JROTC.

He said the marching is very easy to practice at home and should be practiced at home if they want to be truly excellent at it.

"They spend only 18 hours of practice on marching during the semester, but they are as good as soldiers who have spent at least quadruple that time on marching in boot camp," Sutter said.

Former city councilman says students need to learn more about candidates

■ 'KRAFT' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

from the students.

Lawson said she received phone calls from the politicians' offices, but this did not affect her decision one way or the other.

When an issue of skateboarders arose in downtown Omaha, Kraft said he supported the construction of a skate park, which many people were opposed to. He said he felt the young people of Omaha were glad because he actually did something for them.

His opponent, Suttle, said the impact of the city council on education depended on the city.

If an issue came up with the library system, he said, the city council may decide on it.

"I think we impact education also by the partnership that is possible there," he said.

Suttle said he helped try to get students' interest by offering internships. The root of the apathy from the voters, he said, must be examined carefully.

"I think apathy is the disease of the success story of our country," he said.

To get rid of this apathy, Suttle said, he wanted to have better political leaders to step forward in a field full of backstabbing.

"We certainly need to take politics to a

higher plateau," Suttle said. "Apathy is going to be a real challenge, a tremendous challenge."

Between him and Kraft, Suttle said there was a major personality difference. Kraft, he said, was a logical thinker, while he was more creative, which led him to his success.

Kraft owns Kraft DC furniture downtown, which his father began in 1947, and he took over in 1977.

His son, Chris, started to run the store in 1997.

His father and mother were very respected people in the community. Kraft was given a memorial award for his father.

"It's nice to have the respect of much of the community," Kraft said.

He said he thought some of his voter population was made up of people who come to his store and get the chance to talk to him.

"I like to think I have an advantage over most politicians because I'm right here (at his store) where the public can access me without an appointment," Kraft said.

Kraft's father ran for city council when Kraft was younger, and he said he had no aspirations at the time to do anything political.

"Watching how hard city council was on him and the family, I thought it was a thankless

job, I didn't want to do it," he said.

Kraft said he was finally convinced to run when former mayors, department heads and friends urged him to.

"I also got tired of people voting on the issues they had no knowledge of," Kraft said.

He said he could tell if the people did not know about the issues at hand if they asked the wrong questions, or didn't even ask any.

One of the issues he felt strongly about was the issue of police response time.

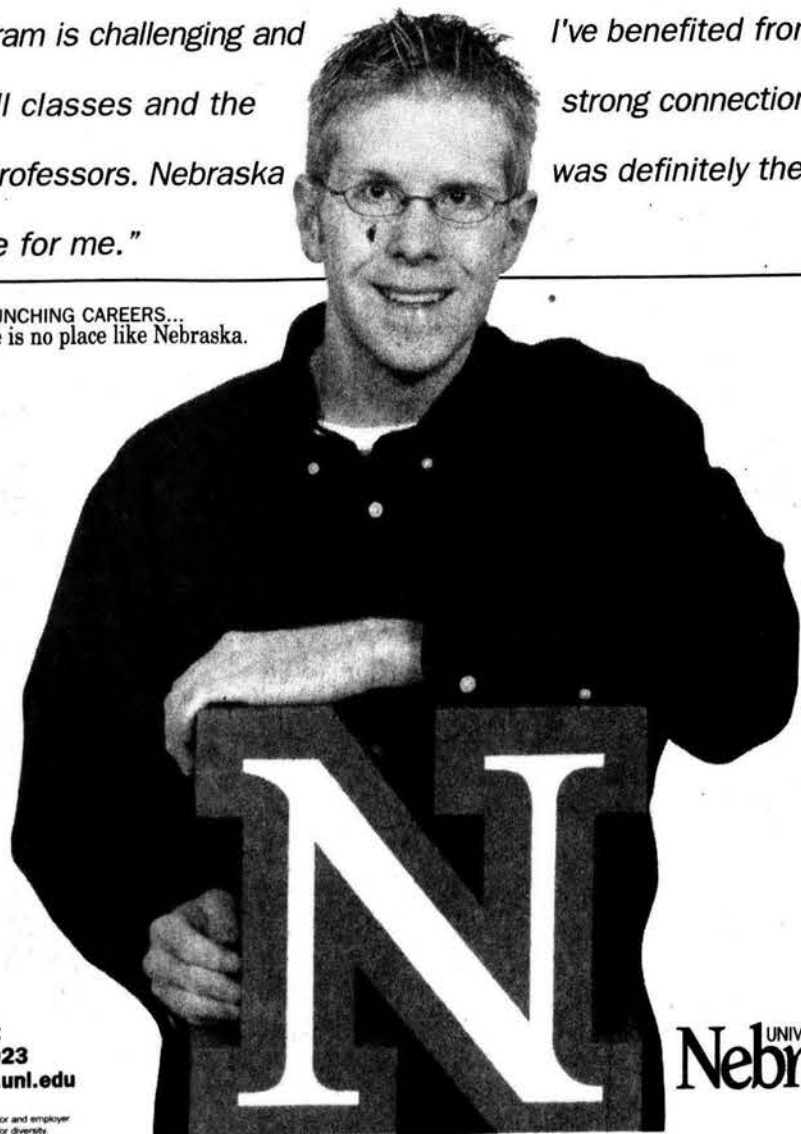
He said if each household gave an extra \$10 every year, police response time would improve.

He said the money would be well spent.

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 small classes and the my professors. Nebraska place for me."*

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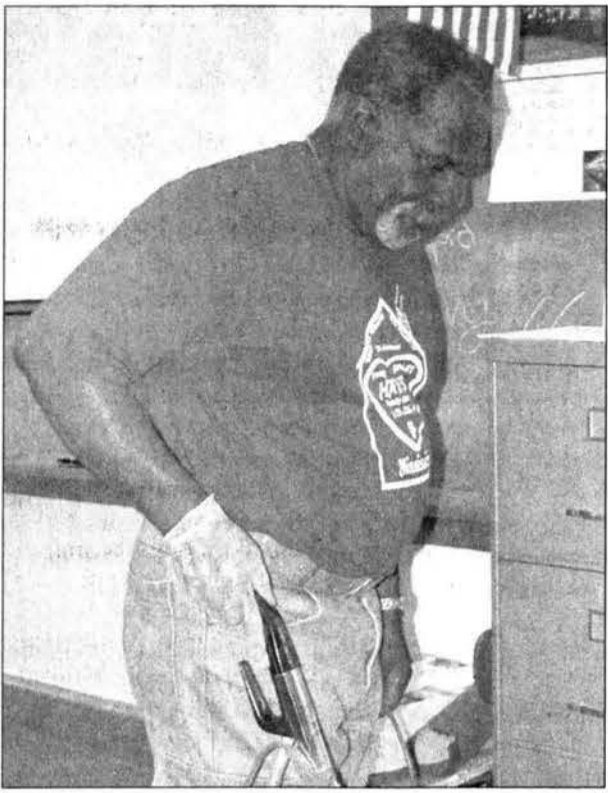


PHOTO BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER

Custodian Rufus Haynes is retiring at the end of the school year. He said after his 18 years, he would miss Central High School.

Custodian retires after two decades

BY EMILY HARRISON

Rufus Haynes, one of Central's senior custodians and a friend to many students and staff, will be retiring at the end of this school year after over 18 years.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he congratulated Haynes on his retirement, but was sad to see him go.

He said everyone liked Haynes. "He's just a very gregarious person," Bexten said. "He makes everybody feel good."

Night custodial supervisor Frank DeGeorge said Haynes kept things lively and active and was always joking around.

DeGeorge has worked with Haynes for 12 years and said he was a good friend.

"I can count on him 100 percent," he said.

Haynes said he has had nothing but good times and would miss working at Central.

"If I had to do it all over again I'd come to Central to work," he said.

DeGeorge said Haynes would be missed and would be hard to replace once he was gone.

Haynes is one of the longest employed members of the custodial staff.

Haynes said he has had all kinds of interesting experiences and has seen a lot of changes in his time as a custodian, one being that there are more students now than in past years.

Many kids and staff members know Haynes, DeGeorge said.

Haynes said he would miss the whole crew, the staff, fellow workers and the kids, but would come back after his retirement to visit the school.

He would go to the basketball and football games after he retired.

Since he started working at Central, he has only seen one football game and six basketball games.

Haynes said he had already picked out his seat in the new stadium to watch the games from.

Haynes' last day of work is scheduled for Aug. 12.

He sarcastically said he would really miss shoveling snow at 5:30 in the morning after snowstorms.

Volunteer work eases transition from Nepal

BY STEPHEN WILHELM

Over five years ago, Sopil Bhattarai's family won Nepal's equivalent of the lottery.

However, this lottery in Nepal is not worth millions of dollars.

It is instead the opportunity for a single family to become permanent United States residents.

For 11 years, he lived in Katmandu, Nepal with his two parents.

Bhattarai said he tries his best to give back as much as he can for everything that the Nepalese people have done for him while living in Nepal such as instilling in him a desire to accomplish great things.

He said he would do this by volunteering through the Nebraska Nepalese Society where he will teach the Nepalese language and culture to children who were born in Nepal or had lived there for a long time and now live in the United States.

Bhattarai said this will help Nepalese children in America to have the same opportunities which he was given before and during his life in America.

He said he wanted to see other Nepalese children succeed and achieve their full potential as he has done due to the generosity of the Nepalese in Nepal and in America.

While living in Nepal, Bhattarai would have witnessed severe thunderstorms, flooding, landslides, drought, and famine caused by summer monsoons. After becoming a resident in the United States, Bhattarai lived in New York City for one and a half years.

"At first, it was a huge cultural shock to come to America, but I adjusted rather quickly," Bhattarai said.

He said the biggest source of cultural shock was from Woodside Middle School in New York City because in Nepalese schools the teacher were reasonably strict about politeness, respect

and proper etiquette.

Bhattarai said there was no language barrier when he came to the United States because he had already learned English as a second language in Nepal through the school system.

However, he saw how American schools had teachers who didn't force students to do anything and who were very lax with rules and proper behavior.

Both of Bhattarai's parents speak English with a mixture of English and Nepalese spoken at home.

Bhattarai then moved to Omaha because his parents received new career opportunities and lived here ever since.

Even though Bhattarai has left behind his home in Nepal, he has made America his new home.

From that place, he took one very important thing with him, Nepal's spirit of competitiveness and hard work.

Science teacher Jeff Fredrickson is Bhattarai's team adviser for Science Olympiad.

"He's a very mature and incredibly intelligent young man who has a good time with everything he does and does everything well," Fredrickson said.

Bhattarai has great ambitions, including going to Stanford, attending a medical school and becoming either a cardiovascular or neurosurgeon.

Jesse Busse has been Bhattarai's teacher and team adviser for Chemistry Field Day and Science Bowl for two years.

"He probably can do whatever he wants to do," Busse said.

However, Bhattarai has not forgotten who he was in Nepal and has therefore stayed true to his faith by going to the Hindu Temple almost every week and has lived by Hindu's teachings.

"Neil is a respectful, kind and studious person who has a good time with what he is doing," Busse said.

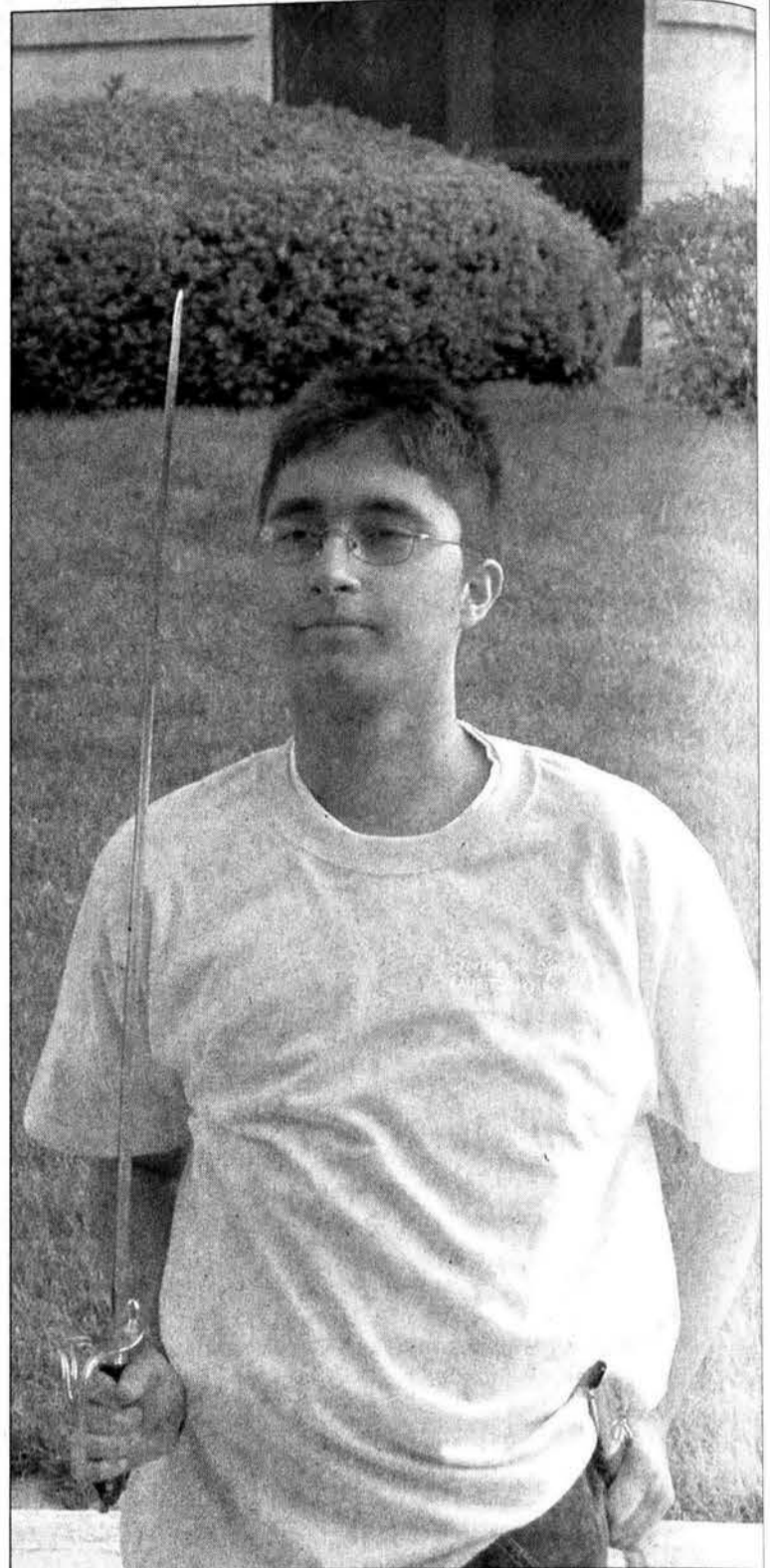


PHOTO BY STEPHEN WILHELM/REGISTER

Junior Sopil Bhattarai practices with the rest of his JROTC unit. He has been in JROTC since he came to Omaha last year.

Son's disease prompts teacher to fund-raise

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

They suspected it could happen, but never wanted it to.

Special education teacher Tim Herbert and his wife knew their son Dane might be born with cystic fibrosis (CF).

Fifteen years later, Dane was born and almost immediately appeared to be suffering from malnutrition and other symptoms connected with CF. Herbert had him tested. Dane was diagnosed with CF.

"Obviously, we were very sad," Herbert said.

Dane's disorder has had the most profound effect on his pancreas and lungs.

"He has had pneumonia a few times and when he gets sick he gets a real hacking cough," Herbert said.

He and his wife weren't overly surprised

by their newborn son's condition. Both had known it was a possibility due to Herbert's carrying the gene. A child can only get CF if both parents have the gene, and even then there is only a 25 percent chance of having full-fledged CF.

"At this point, it hasn't been a major strain on our family," he said, "but as they get older, it tends to intensify."

Despite recent efforts to cure the genetic disease, cystic fibrosis remains a terminal illness.

Lori Krubsack with the Nebraska Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (NCFB) said the average life expectancy for people with CF is 33, a big difference from 10 years ago when it was much lower. Still, she said, doctors are trying to work for even more change.

"There are currently about 24 drugs that are in the pipelines," she said. "The medications that we have now really help."

Treatments for CF can take around two hours a day and can be physically demanding on patients, causing them to cough up mucus, Krubsack said.

Herbert said the amount of therapy Dane does depends on the situation. The weather, the time of year and other factors can all change the amount of assistance his son needs. Because of the risk of death and other maladies related to the disorder, the NCFB has been trying to raise money for a cure.

In another recent effort to support the drive for CF research, Herbert held a Jeans for Genes fund-raiser with teachers at Central.

Those who chose to participate dressed casually at school for a day in exchange for a donation of \$5 or more.

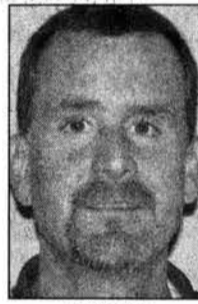
Jeans for Genes had been held earlier this year, in the fall. In that fund-raiser some 90 teachers donated money, raising around \$500 for the NCFB.

Herbert said he hoped to at least match this amount on the second Jeans for Genes. He said this wouldn't be too difficult with the amount of support he's received thus far.

"I've gotten nothing but positive feedback from all the staff," Herbert said.

While only 84 staff members participated in this most recent fund-raiser more money was raised.

Herbert said in the future he would like to involve students in the fund-raiser possibly having a similar reward for students willing to donate.



HERBERT

New kind of turf on field gives advantages over older stadiums, coach says

■ 'BUILD' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

practices," McMenamin said.

There will be minicamps starting Aug. 8 for incoming freshmen and returning players on the new field.

"It'll feel like we've been playing on it or years," McMenamin said.

He said there was no doubt the Eagles would win the first game.

He said North didn't have too many returning players, not to mention the Eagles would be revved up.

"We'll definitely be pumped," McMenamin said. "We take a lot of pride in the new stadium and this is not a game we want to lose. We'll make sure we win."

He said all summer the team would be practicing at Benson and North, but the field would be different. He said the field at Central's new stadium is the same type of field that's used at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

It is field turf rather than astroturf. That means the grass is three times longer with a cushion of rubber underneath.

"It's excellent for practice and good on the

legs," McMenamin said.

He said it was much nicer because the team could play in any weather.

Junior Maurice Kimsey said he was excited to play his senior year of varsity football on a new field.

"Our first game is against the North Vikings, and our win will make history," Kimsey said.

He said there might be a little pressure on the team to play to a higher standard next season because of the new stadium, but he said it would be able to handle the pressure.

"It'll definitely be a change for the good,"

Kimsey said.

He said he didn't know why the stadium wasn't built a long time ago, and it was definitely worth the money was spent on it.

"Everybody else has one," Kimsey said.

Freshman Nate Whittle plays trumpet for the marching band. He said the band will be performing at the dedication ceremony in August. All summer there will be band camps to help prepare for the ceremony.

He said now the marching band will have an opportunity to go to more competitions during the school year.

"We can get more involved," Whittle said. Principal Jerry Bexten said the renovations inside the building have not been as punctual as those on the stadium.

"There is still a little cleanup for them to do," he said. "They mostly come after school on weekends to finish up."

Bexten said the completion date was December and he has stopped making deadlines but he said hopefully by mid-May all in-building renovations will be done.

"There is a light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

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Debater qualifies for national competition

BY DEDE HEARITY

Sophomore Seth Rich is going to the National Forensic League (NFL) for speech and debate next month.

He will compete in the student congress event. Speech and debate teacher Brian Bartels said this event is modeled after congressional and senate debates.

Rich is the only student from Omaha Public Schools competing.

In the debate forum, each person will present his speech a specified amount of times, depending on the category.

For typical speeches, the time limit is one to three minutes. Any time left is for questions and answers.

"Authorship is three minutes, with a two minute questioning," Rich said.

Authorship is a speech given only if the person speaking is from the school that made the bill.

This speech has to be affirmative and help support the bill.

Central submitted an amendment in relation to the United States funding of the Israel Palestine bill.

Rich did not speak on this bill because he felt he would have been biased.

"I wouldn't speak on the Israel bill because I am Jewish and used to live in Israel," Rich said, "and I have a lot of friends that live there."

The trip will be from June 11

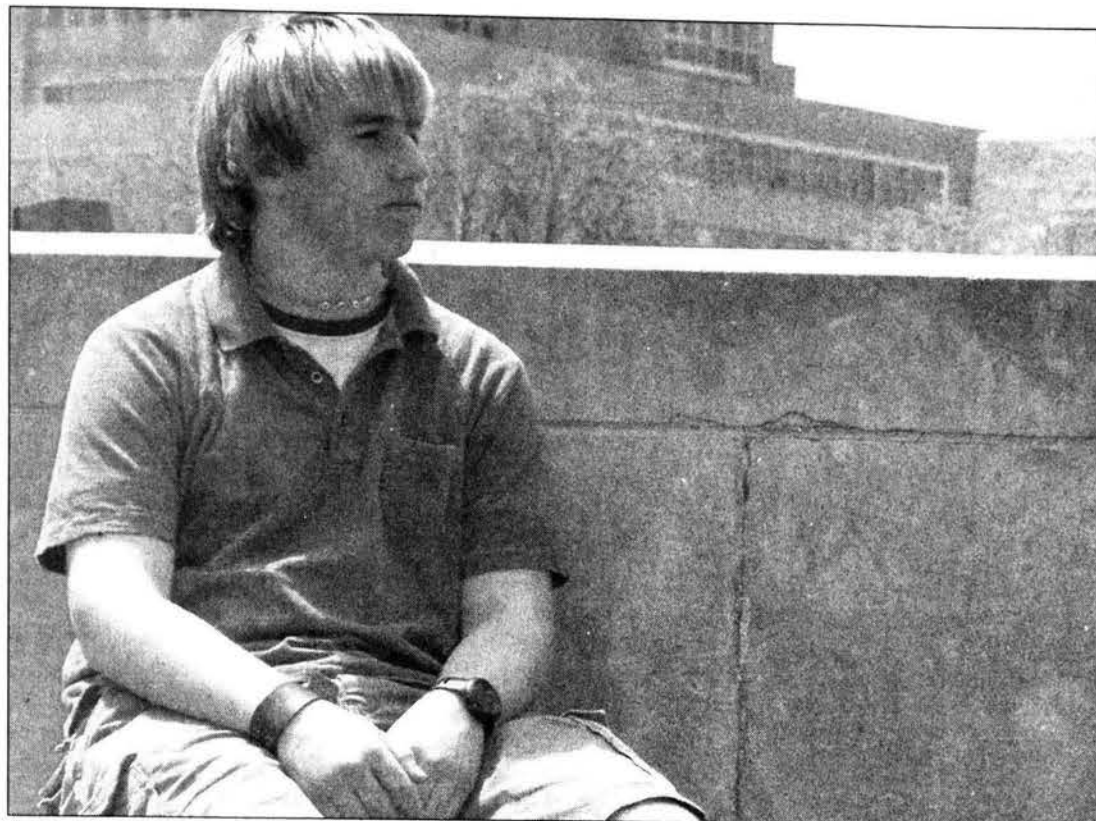


PHOTO BY DEDE HEARITY/ REGISTER

Sophomore Seth Rich will attend the National Forensic League for speech and debate and will be competing in the student congress event.

to the 18. The first three days will be preliminaries.

Following the preliminaries are the quarterfinals.

After quarterfinals and semifinals, contestants will go to Nationals.

Nationals will be held in Philadelphia this year.

The debaters are rated on a point scale, one being the worst and six the best.

After the contestant receives an allotted amount of points, they are then inducted into the NFL.

On May 10, Rich received a list of bills.

He will be required to know information about each one of them and write speeches on most of them.

Anything on the list can be used as a debate speech and this means he has to know enough information to question any of them.

"First I start in the preliminary house team with people from our district," Rich said. "This house is for the first three days."

The top eight qualify for the next round and no one is in the same house as they were for preliminaries.

Rich said while in the district, house debaters may share information, but he will keep his best information to help him keep his edge.

The debate class will most likely help out with the research, but Rich will have to shift through all of the information by himself.

Rich said the research and writing of the speeches is expected

to take quite a bit of time.

"Thirty to 40 minutes (dedicated to) each bill, then an hour preparing arguments," Rich said.

He started in debate because many people told him he would be good at it and his mother was also in debate during high school.

Rich's family is also joining in to help him out with his debate.

He will also be receiving some guidance by previous students who have gone to NFL.

Rich said though debate was a strength of his, it was not his only one.

Rich said he was nervous, but he realized there were people better than him and there always would be.

"All I can do is my best," Rich said.

Bartels said he will do well, and has a good chance of progressing to semi-finals or finals.

"I'm not going to make a fool of myself. I have a chance of making it into the second round," Rich said, "It depends on the bill. All I can do is hope for the best."

He said he is unsure if he will be pursuing speech and debate in the future, but if he gets a speech scholarship he will.

He said speech in college is much different then speech in high school.

There are many types, unlike in high school.

Rich said for now he plans to go into law or business negotiations.

COLLEGE CORNER



INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

University of Pennsylvania

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Admission: 26% of applicants admitted

Type: Private four-year university

Undergraduate Enrollment: 9,827

Freshman Admissions: Majors available in Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, Business Management, Communications, Computer/Information Sciences, Education, Engineering, Engineering Technologies, English, Foreign Languages, Health, Interdisciplinary Studies, Liberal Arts, Marketing/Distribution, Mathematics, Philosophy/Religion, Psychology, Public Services, Social Sciences, Visual/Performing Arts

Application Deadlines: n/a

Asbury College

Location: Wilmore, Kentucky

Admission: 41% of applicants admitted

Type: Private four-year liberal arts college

Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,287

Freshman Admissions: Biology, Business Management, Communications, Computer/Information Sciences, Education, English, Foreign languages, Health, Mathematics, Parks/recreation, Philosophy/Religion, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Public Services, Social sciences, Theology, Visual/Performing Arts.

Application Deadlines: n/a

Naropa University

Location: Boulder, Colorado

Admission: 73% of applicants admitted

Type: Private four-year liberal arts college

Undergraduate Enrollment: 397

Freshman Admissions: Agricultural Business/Production, Biology, Conservation, Education, English, Health, Interdisciplinary Studies, Philosophy/Religion, Psychology, Visual/Performing Arts.

Application Deadlines: Priority date is March 1.

Concordia University

Location: Irvine, California

Admission: 79% of applicants admitted

Type: Private four-year Lutheran university

Undergraduate Enrollment: 723

Freshman Admissions: Biology, Business Management, Communications, Education, English, Health, Law, Liberal arts, Mathematics, Parks/Recreation, Philosophy/Religion, Psychology, Social Sciences, Theology, Visual/performing Arts.

Application Deadlines: Priority date is March 2.

University of Michigan

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Admission: 64% of applicants admitted

Type: Public four-year university

Undergraduate Enrollment: 24,493

Freshman Admissions: Architecture, Area/Ethnic Studies, Business Management, Communications, Computer/Information Sciences, Conservation, Education, Engineering, English, Foreign languages, Health, Interdisciplinary Studies, Liberal Arts, Mathematics, Parks/Recreation, Philosophy/Religion, Physical sciences, Psychology, Science Technologies, Social Sciences, Theology, Visual/Performing Arts.

Application Deadlines: n/a

Department head returns as new assistant principal

BY LAUREN CRIST

After the retirement of two assistant principals, the administration needed someone with experience who would be willing to fill the positions.

They chose Keith Bigsby for one of them.

Principal Jerry Bexten said Bigsby was a good candidate for the job.

"He's very capable and experienced," he said. "He's also a strong supporter of Central High School."

Bigsby said he is looking forward to beginning his job at Central.

He taught at Central in the mid-90s in business, marketing and technology classes.

Classes included ones in stock marketing, economics and accounting.

He said he also pushed for the Pathways class, so students could be better educated about skills that would be necessary later in life.

He said he based his decision to return to Central on several factors.

"Partly because of the tradition of academic excellence and the students," he said. "They want to be there and have a lot of self-motivation."

He said one of the main reasons he wanted to return to Central was because of the staff.

"There's an opportunity to work with outstanding staff, the teachers and faculty there are amazing," he said. "They even have great custodians."

He said he has been waiting for a chance to return.

He said he was excited when he heard about the job opening at Central because administrative openings didn't come along very often.

"It's the chance of a lifetime in many ways," he said.

He has also coached in the past at Central.

He was an assistant coach for girls varsity basketball for three years, and of boys for four.

He was also an assistant coach when the team went to State in 1997.

He said there were many reasons he was looking forward to working at Central High.

He said he appreciated the diversity and the quality of kids, but what he liked most was the demand for excellence.

"I hope to help maintain the excellence Central demonstrates on a daily basis," he said. "I'm looking forward to being a part of Eagle territory."

Assistant principal Paul Semrad said he worked with Bigsby in the past when he was the head of the business

department.

He said he thought Bigsby would do well at the job because of his experience in the past at Bryan Middle school.

Semrad also said the work he did at Bryan helped him to develop skills that would be a necessity in his job at Central, such as scheduling.

Bexten said Bigsby's past experience both at Central and through his other jobs have given him valuable experience that he would need in the administrative position as assistant principal.

Semrad said Bigsby was very capable for the position, particularly in the area of public relations.

"He's always been a strong Central supporter," he said. "It's good to see him come 'back to the nest.'"

Semrad said he was looking forward to working with Bigsby over the summer and preparing for next year.

"I don't think he'll miss a beat," he said. "I think he'll move right in and do well."

Bexten said Bigsby's independence was a quality the administration was looking for and one that Bigsby had.

"We looked for someone who could assume the responsibility of the job and do it with minimal oversight," he said. "Mr. Bigsby was a good candidate for that position."

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

EDITORIALS



Jerry Bexten
Principal
Matt Deabler
Assistant
Molly Mullen
Editor in Chief

Parents need self-control

Graduation is supposed to be a tribute to the seniors who made it through all four years of high school and a final goodbye to Central.

Somewhere between freshman and senior year around 450 students leave, so those who are left deserve the respect at the ceremony. Parents and spectators who actually show that respect deserve some applause.

Every year there seems to be another disturbance. Either drunk students or even parents who won't be quiet until their child's name is read and then they get mad if someone else is talking.

The fact that teachers have to patrol every square inch of the auditorium shows how pathetic the situation has become. Even that can't stop most of the problems. What are the teachers supposed to do with a drunk parent who weighs twice as much they do? They don't have any way to call security. Are they just supposed to ask them nicely to sit down?

That just won't work. People who want to disrupt will. The teachers have no control over parents.

Some parents get dressed up, sit up straight, cross their legs and clap for every student to walk across the stage.

Others, however, arrive in jeans and sneakers, talking across the aisle, trying to talk over "Pomp and Circumstance."

It is supposed to be an afternoon to congratulate seniors on completing high school.

People need to stop being selfish, that is the bottom line. Cheering for no good reason and drowning out other students' names isn't funny. It's rude. There might be a few chuckles from close friends, but graduation is not a popularity contest, that ended the last day of school.

Sure, it may be boring listening to 450 names if only a few sound familiar, but those names mean something to at least one person in the crowd.

So throwing beach balls and walking around during the ceremony are definitely signs of disrespect towards the people who deserve it the most.

The people who actually make an attempt to be civil, from parents, to students, to faculty, can see the importance of the day. It is an event planned months in advance.

There seems to be nothing anyone can do to keep people quite and attentive during the whole ceremony. Principal Jerry Bexten can

decide not to hand diplomas to disruptive seniors, but no one has any power beyond that.

What can the faculty threaten drunk parents with? Taking their child's diploma away? That seems a little out of line.

So thanks to all the parents who do what they should during graduation.

Thank you for understanding what it is supposed to be, remembering your high school graduation and making the day special for those who it is really for.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

04-05 REGISTER

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of interest and importance.

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

The Register is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), Quill and Scroll and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

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

The staff hopes to repeat this at the fall 2006 JEA/NSPA convention in Chicago.

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

The Register has won multiple Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has won many Cornhusker awards

from NHSPA.

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

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

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

Letters to the editor are encouraged.

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

Letters must include the author's full name and grade.

The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy.

Letters containing substantial misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

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Drug use of friends ruins perceptions for student

A few weeks ago I attended a party, and it seemed like everyone was enjoying themselves. However, I found myself depressed and somewhat disgusted by the whole event.

Seeing friends who I respect and look up to, stumbling and intoxicated, receiving advances from strangers I have never met and constantly refusing alcoholic beverages, all left me with a uncomfortable feeling.

Lately it seems as though I can't go through an entire day without being confronted in one way or another with some sort of illegal substance.

Whether it is one friend asking another for Ritalin or casually remarking how they had taken an excess of NyQuil or Robitussin, even casual acquaintances going out for a smoke, I feel like everyone is caught up in one drug or another, minor or serious.

Each time that confrontation comes along, I get a hollow feeling in the pit of my stomach, my eyes turn down, and my voice gets meek and hollow.

I don't believe all drugs are terrible, but I seem to have a negative physical reaction to their presence.

Just the word "drugs" tightens my stomach and weighs on my shoulders.

Whenever they notice my negative responses, friends ask me what's wrong.

I always tell them nothing, I don't want to say I feel like rocking back and forth in the fetal position, just because they got high last weekend.

Whether this feeling is a result of careful parental programming, or some sort of gag reflex, I don't know.

But wherever it comes from, this feeling keeps interfering whenever I'm out on weekends or spending time with close friends.

Just a friend getting drunk can ruin my entire evening.

However, I don't want to make them feel

guilty for trying to have fun, so I don't tell anyone about it.

Knowing friends who are involved in these types of activities often causes problems with my family as well.

I don't want them to look down on my friends, so I often lie to them about what is going on.

It's hard finding people to talk to about the subject with because every time I find someone to talk to they end up being involved with drugs.

Because drugs in some way seem almost the norm, I feel almost abnormal disliking these contraband substances.



YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW

A Column by Emily Harrison

It seems as though many people feel as though they need these things to have a decent evening.

What ever happened to spending an afternoon in the park flying a kite or playing a game of cards?

It seems as though standards of entertainment

have been heightened.

You're not having a good time unless you have an out of body experience.

Even when I'm with friends and having fun they don't seem sufficiently entertained. They will say things like, "I wish I was high."

How should I respond to that. Aside from "me too," there is no proper reply.

Saying "please don't" seems taboo.

As a kid I thought I would never be involved with drugs in any aspect, but as I grow older find that trying to avoid it would be extremely difficult and require the breaking of many friendships.

I just can't turn away from people I care about just because they smoke or drink and can't tell them all to stop.

Somehow I think, "Hi, do you do drugs? Because if I can't be your friend," would be a friendly introduction.

So all I can do is sit and cross my fingers hoping they will grow out of it before something goes horribly wrong.

Teen appreciates time teaching religion to elementary children

"Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, FREEZE!"

We crazily danced through our favorite song (which the kids lovingly and suitably refer to as "The Wiggle Song") until we reached the best part.

So there I was, surrounded by 20 or more 5 year olds who have all abruptly switched from dancing around like monkeys to teetering on one foot, their favorite freezing position.

As much as they tried to maintain their balance, hardly any of them succeeded and quickly toppled to the ground.

Then, we unfroze and began the entire process again.

This routine has become one I love so much I can hardly wait to get up to church in the morning.

I absolutely love playing with my little friends every Sunday. It gives me something to look forward to each week.

And don't forget the Bible story.

Every week, I also strive to teach these little people a thing or two about the Bible.

At 11:30 a.m., I go to our classroom to begin preparation for the fun activities planned out so carefully for us.

At noon, I eagerly await to hear the pitter-patter of little feet running down the hall.

Even after nearly five months, my heart skips a beat and I am filled with joy when I hear the quiet thunder drawing ever closer.

Then we wiggle like crazy.

Around 12:30 p.m., a person can usually find me dressed up in a costume reading from a script to reenact the different miracles of Jesus.

One of the reasons I have come to love these kids so much is the fact they watch me read from a piece of paper every week and it doesn't matter if I butcher the lines or anything, it just matters that I'm there and I'm involved.

In my life, it's hard to find someone who is able to deal with my imperfections, and the things I do without ridiculing me or thinking differently of me.

I really wish someone had the same influence in my life when I was younger.

To me, the funny part is I used to hate going to Trinity every Sunday.

I had grown up in a small, Lutheran Church where everybody knew everybody and if a person had problems at home, everyone knew.

So, in fifth grade when my mom started looking for a new church, I was understandably devastated.

My mom had decided to try a new church called Trinity Interdenominational.

In my 9-year-old eyes, this new church was enormous, and it still is.

I got lost on several occasions and hated my mom for bringing us here.

Along with the size change, the atmosphere was completely different. People seemed happy to be there instead of being there out of obligation.

To me, this was a huge difference because I had never really wanted to go to church.

It had always been something that my mom had to drag me out of bed for.

Sunday school was different, too.

My friends and I had practically grown up together and always got in trouble for talking.

It was always just us girls, with the occasional guy visiting for a week.

And we took tremendous pride in being able to scare guys away.

Now, hardly anyone even looked at me.

I viewed them all as rich little brats with expensive clothes and perfect hair who wanted nothing to do with me.

They didn't bother talking to me, so I gave them the same courtesy.

My mom struggled to get me out of bed and to Sunday school.

I was rude to all the leaders there and most of them tried to help me.

Around my junior high years, I began to meet new people and make friends.

I became more involved with my youth group by joining the junior high band and singing on Saturday nights.

Now that I'm a freshman in high school, so much has changed. I still have just a handful of friends who I hang out with a lot.

Now I'm playing a positive role in children's lives.

I only wish I had somebody like this for me when I was younger.



THIS IS ME

A Column by Courtney DeWitt

"The fire alarms being pulled is ridiculous. If students know who's pulling them then the teachers should know. They should push harder."

Sarah Velez (9)

Freshman realizes failing grades not teacher's fault

Every student always thinks one teacher or another hates you and is purposely giving you bad grades.

If anyone denies it than obviously they're either perfect or in denial.

When I was in eighth grade, I had the most feared teacher in the school. Mr. Johan was my Algebra teacher and a huge pain in the butt.

I always thought I was the best at everything and so I was the best in math.

So, when I started to fail my quizzes and tests from the very first week of school, I blamed it on my teacher. Of

course, I continued to fail my tests and I was getting almost no points for my homework.

Naturally, I didn't tell my parents what was happening. I just let the problem continue.

So, when parent-teacher conferences came, I was scared. I tried to get my parents not to go; I even didn't tell them conferences were finally there, but somehow they found out.

So they went, and I was counting the minutes before they would come home, hoping for a miracle that somehow, for some reason my parents weren't able to talk to my math teacher.

Unfortunately, I was out of luck.

My parents came home, and they seemed too calm. I just pretended that I was already asleep, but my parents knew better than that and they woke me up.

My parents started to say what a horrible teacher Johan was and I was just completely baffled.

My parents told me that they looked at my tests and homework, and it seemed as if I was doing everything right, and my teacher was taking points off for no reason.

I knew the real reason why I was failing, but I didn't tell my parents because I did not want to get on their bad side.

So, I just started to agree and I ranted on how Johan was a terrible teacher who didn't explain anything.

I told them how a lot of his students fail his classes. Deep down I knew I was wrong, but I just ignored my conscience.

The only bad thing was now my parents made me work with my mother for my math homework.

Before, Johan said I did way too little work.

I told him it's called mental math,

but he told me I had to show my work.

However, once I started to do my homework with my mother, he started to say I needed to do less work and make my homework less like a novel.

Seriously, for one simple problem, it took a whole page for me to show all the steps.

After a while, my parents started to get off of my case because they thought I was doing better in class.

Sure, I turned in my homework and received pretty good grades, but I was still failing those tests.

And, just like before, I didn't tell my parents. They soon found out my grade in math was a "C." They immediately went to the principal and started to complain about my teacher. Of course, my parents won, and it was decided that my teacher would tutor me every Wednesday.

But, seriously, if I'm not learning anything in his class I took everyday, how was it possible I would learn something after an hour each week. It didn't work, and my grade stayed at a "C."

My parents were completely furious, and they pulled me out of his class blaming him fully. I felt bad because I knew it was largely my fault I had a C, but I didn't want to get lectured.

So, for the rest of the year, I was enrolled at Seton for my math class.

I could never look my former teacher in the eye because of what I did.

I basically made him look bad in front of his boss.

Last summer I told my parents the whole situation was my fault and I also told them that Johan was actually one of the best teachers I had ever had.

My father said I was being reasonable by admitting my fault, but my mother to this very day still blames Johan.

If I ever saw him, I would apologize for what I did and I owe my present day grade in Algebra, 99 percent, to him, completely.

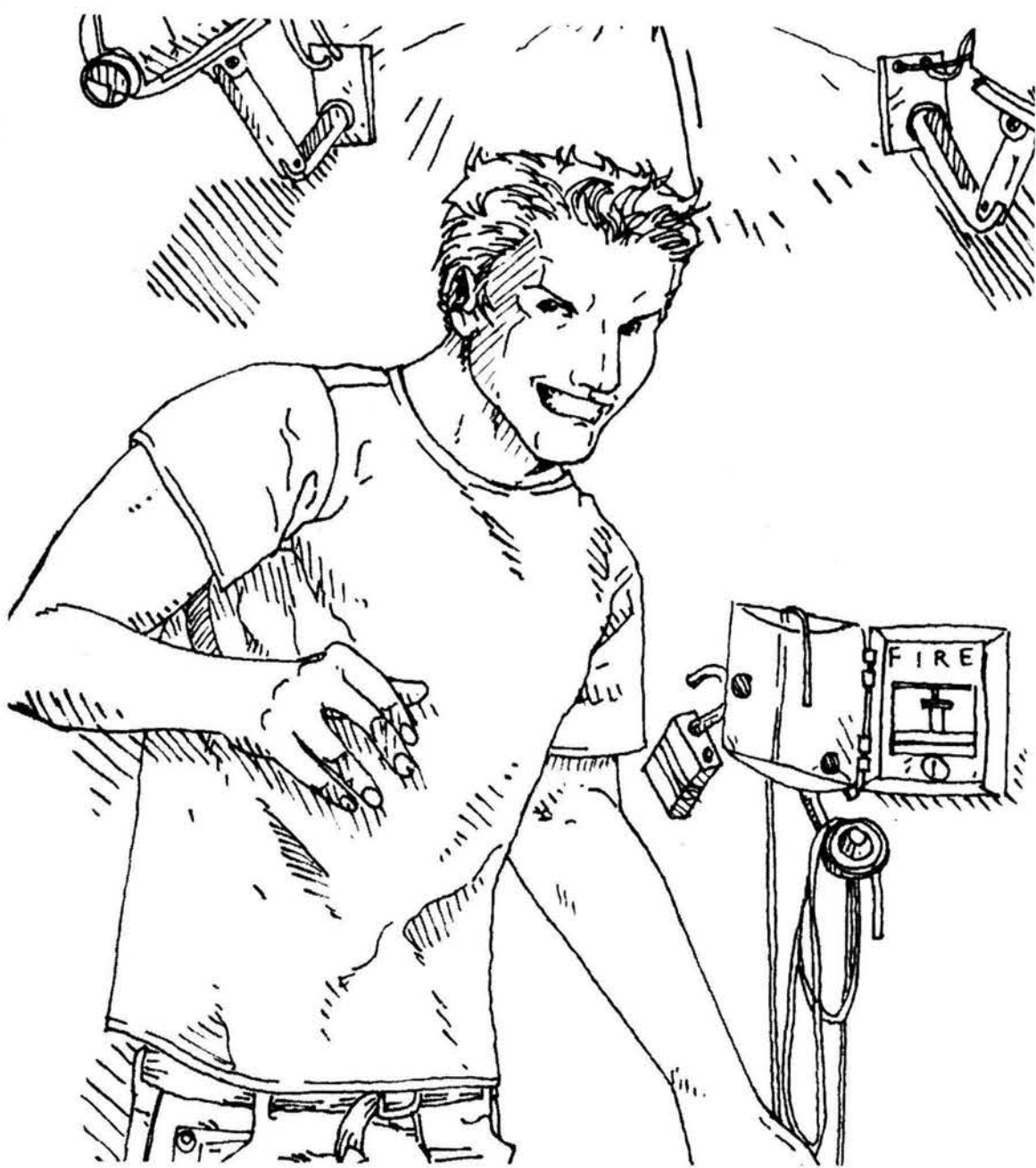
Every time I earn an 'A' on a quiz or a test or anything I always thank my former Algebra teacher because if I didn't have him I wouldn't be good at math.

My parents always told me I should thank myself because they think I worked completely by myself this year, but I know that Johans was always there with me whenever I was in my math class and he always will be.



HEAR NO EVIL

A Column by Astrika Wilhelm



Fire drill problem never solved

Twenty-one. There were 21 fire drills this year. The state only requires we have 10 in a school year. The year isn't over yet and we've already had 21.

How can a student justify pulling a fire alarm? Boredom?

The fact that some students start to cheer when the lights start flashing and that monotone voice sounds throughout the school, "May I have your attention please, may I have your attention please."

This might be a sign of what students think of fire alarms at Central.

No one is doing anybody any favors by pulling the alarm. It gets the teachers' schedules messed up for all their classes because everyday between eighth and ninth hours they have to plan for a fire drill.

Those students are left behind in the classes just because some immature student felt like getting out of a test.

How does the threat of criminal prosecution and expulsion for a semester sound better than failing a test? It almost doesn't sound like punishment enough.

School officials had to get on the intercom way too many times and say the drill was a result of this or

that and had to remind the entire building that it was a criminal offense and students would be rewarded for offering tips on those who were doing it.

Yes, sometimes it was a result of an actual fire. Someone pulled the alarm because there was a fire in the building.

But it was a trash can fire started by a student in the a bathroom.

How pathetic can the student body get?

There have only been maybe two fire drills with no student behind them all year. That means 19 are illegitimate.

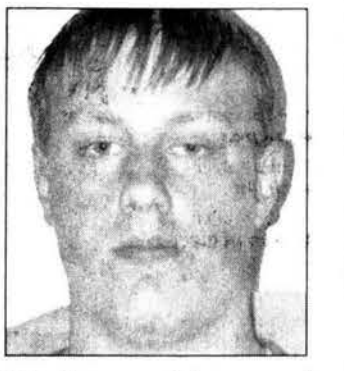
Fire fighters have had to drive down to the building, with students cheering in the background.

And even after 19 drills, students still don't realize they have to move out of the driveway before the fire trucks arrive. They smile and sometimes wave, but does anyone really think they want to be walking around Central for 20 minutes in the middle of the day?

They probably have better things to do, like fight real fires. Tax dollars are being wasted. Time of the students, administration and fire fighters is being wasted just for some kid who has nothing better to do.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION
Do you think students who pull the fire alarms should be punished criminally?



"No, because it happened at Central. What happens at Central should be in Central."

Tyler Ruppecht (9)



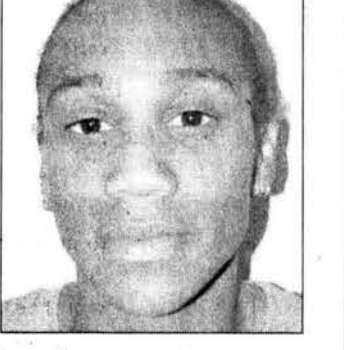
"Yes, because the fire fighters, when it's a false alarm, it's a waste of their time."

Laura Browden (9)



"No, it's not that serious."

Demitrius Alston (10)



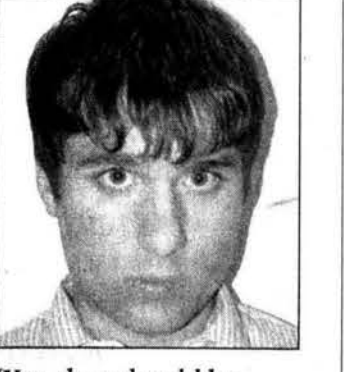
"No, because it's something big, but nothing to be put in jail for."

Jasmine Johnson (10)



"Not really, it's not that big of a deal. It's just a fire alarm."

Paul Romero (10)



"Yes, they should be punished because as the firemen are responding to a fake one (alarm), someone could be dying."

Aaron Ball (12)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Lockdown's purpose unclear

Dear Editor,
Why was there a lockdown when there was a bomb threat? If a bomb had exploded then we would have all been killed.

Jonathan Soevers (9)

Turn in alarm pullers

Dear Editor,
The fire alarms being pulled is ridiculous. If students know who's pulling them, then the teachers should know. They should push harder. And plus, even though fire alarms are sometimes fun, fun isn't what is going to help you graduate. I don't like how it takes out of my learning.

Sarah Velez (9)

Drill handled well by students

Dear Editor,
I think it (the lockdown) was handled as responsibly as it could have been. The teachers knew what to do, and none of the students totally freaked. Something like that will always be a little scary anyway.

Alex Daniels (12)

Building should be evacuated

Dear Editor,
I believe that the lockdown on May 4 was ineffective. If there was really a bomb in the school, all the students should have been evacuated. The teachers do not do enough to make sure the students are safe because in my class most students stayed in their seats. I hope that nothing that disastrous really does happen because it might not be handled in the safest way.

Becka Herman (10)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

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.

Fire drills offer nice break, good practice

Dear Editor,
I love fires drills. Anyone who says they don't like fire drills is lying. Even when it's pouring rain, that five minutes of freedom is totally worth it. It's a break from the chaotic high school. Plus, it's good practice.

Marie Brown (10)

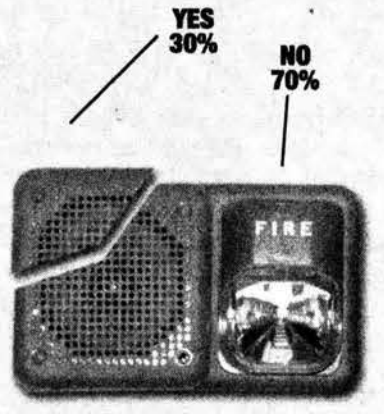
Lockdown good way to handle threat

Dear Editor,
I believe the lockdown was a good idea for the bomb threat because evacuating everyone would have been chaotic. There are too many people to evacuate without having a problem. For one example, one of the students might have found a bomb and started messing with it.

Patrick Skaner (9)

STUDENT POLL

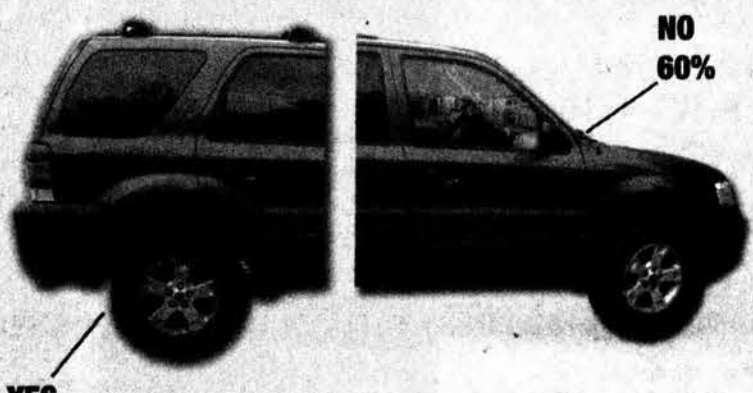
Do you think enough is being done to prevent false fire alarms?



213 polled

STUDENT POLL

Have you ever been in a street race?



302 polled

Minors need rights to abortions

Dear Editor,
The editorial in the last issue, "Minors need parental consent," was sickening.
No woman will ever use abortion as a form of birth control, and to insinuate that is insane.
When an abortion is performed, something inside dies. No one takes it lightly or desires to repeat the experience. Many times an abortion is the right choice, and no one knows what is right for the woman except for her. If a minor has made the decision to have sex, then she is ready to decide whether or not to have an abortion.
Nebraska's law isn't being maliciously apathetic by giving minors a choice. An abortion does not mean sex without consequences. It is sex plus the decision as to whether or not to have a child. Don't take that decision away.

Elaine Arrington (10)

Faint outshines Bright Eyes in mediocre show

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

The ocean of bodies rose in waves, arms high, screaming and singing out loud. The blinding lights flashed in and out of eyes, temporarily blocking from view what is quite possibly the greatest concert band of all time.

The Faint was amazing. Starting with its first song, "Southern Belles in London Sing," the entire floor of the Mid-America Center was sent into a dancing frenzy.

After a somewhat awkward, out-of-place performance by Omaha rapper Mars Black, the Council Bluffs auditorium was instantly sprung to life by the infamous dance band.

CONCERT REVIEW



BRIGHT EYES and THE FAINT
Playing at: Mid-America Center

The concert, held on May 12, was somewhat of a "Faint sandwich," enclosed on both sides by worse performance bands: opening with Black and

ending with the headliner, Bright Eyes.

The Faint's music is perfect for dancing, combining the indie/emo sound of the band's Omaha contemporaries, with a more electronic, rhythmic style.

They also know how to put on a good show. Each member of the group was dancing, gliding around the stage with comfort and ease without harming their concentration.

The film projected on the two screens behind them, a combination of music videos and imagery made specifically for the concert, heightened the already insane mood of the night.

The Faint played a number of songs from its latest album, "Wet From Birth," as well as some older hits.

The music was well-mixed, well-played and well-performed.

The same cannot be said, however, for the act to follow: Bright Eyes, the ever-changing team of musicians led by Omaha native Conor Oberst, failed to meet the level of show put on by The Faint.

After an intermission, the lights went out and Oberst along with The Faint walked on stage to immense, yet preemptive, applause.

The clapping and screaming grew louder as the countdown being displayed on the twin screens grew faster and faster, eventually speeding to a blur of numbers.

At zero, Oberst's famous voice rolled out to the audience.

With all that anticipation, one would've expected an explosive beginning, but the singer's intoxicated-sounding lyrics were exactly the opposite.

The crowd's reaction fit: no dancing, no singing, nothing.

Oberst appeared drunk on stage, at one point leaning a bit too hard on an amplifier and stumbling to the floor, taking the amp with him.

Fans and listeners of Bright Eyes would understand that the lead singer's apparent drunken condition didn't really affect his sound one way or another, nor was it an unusual situation at an Oberst concert.

The majority of the songs he played were from the less popular of his two most recent, simultaneously released CDs "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn." This concert won't boost sales much either.

That isn't to say Oberst's music isn't good. He has a talent for lyrics and an excellent ear, but his sound just doesn't work in auditoriums filled with hundreds of people.

The audience reverted back to the standstill silence they had started the night with when Black played.

Black's performance was much the same, lacking only Oberst's drunken stumble, which had managed to provide some entertainment.

Rather than dancing, moving around the stage or even projecting well to heighten the energy, Black had simply thrown T-shirts into the audience.

The crowd may have been part of the problem. The concert had been advertised, for the most part, as including only The Faint and Bright Eyes.

None of the people there were exactly prepared to listen to rap music.

Despite two slightly moldy pieces of bread, The Faint, the meat of the sandwich, made the \$20 tickets totally worth the money.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT KEMPE

Junior Stefanie Tapio (left) and sophomore Matt Cronin both received roles in the upcoming movie "At Bat," directed by 1999 alumns Andrew Nelson (back). It is Cronin's first acting experience, and Nelson said it was in part because of Cronin's baseball experience.

Teen's first audition lands him starring role

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

Playing the lead role in a short film was the beginning of an acting career for sophomore Matt Cronin. He said he had never acted before, but his stardom began out of spontaneity.

"I came to the open auditions with a friend," Cronin said. "I didn't think I would get the part. I was shocked when I did."

Written, directed and produced by alumns Andrew Nelson (class of 1999), the short film "At Bat" is 15 minutes long and takes place on a baseball field in the Omaha area. Nelson said he had the idea for the movie to develop his craft of filmmaking.

Nelson said he was looking for a lead character with experience in baseball, which was the main theme in the film. "Cronin had experience in baseball," Nelson said. "That was a good reason why I picked him."

However, Nelson said he did not expect Cronin to have as much skill in acting as he did when he saw his audition

tape.

"Normally, an actor with no acting experience is not wanted for most roles," Nelson said. "But his audition on camera was really good. I decided to go out on a limb this time."

Nelson said Cronin was very helpful during the rehearsals. He said he brought his own ideas to the table and seemed to understand what he was looking for in the part.

The auditions were held during the last week of March. Nelson said they focused mainly on acting ability and skill in the sport of baseball.

"At Bat" is based on the peer pressures of being popular and accepted as a teenager, Cronin said. He said the main character he plays ends up depressed because he strikes out at the end of the game.

Nelson said Drama teacher John Gibson helped with most of the recruiting.

"I have kept in touch with Gibson over the past couple of years," Nelson said. "He told me that if I ever needed

anything to just give him a call. When people offer you the kind of help you have to take advantage of it."

Cronin's lead role is played with junior Stephanie Tapio. Nelson said he was also looking for two leads who were able to work together.

Nelson said he hoped to have the film complete by the end of the summer and showcase it in upcoming film festivals. The first chance to unveil his film may come up some time at a December film festival.

Nelson did some work with the 2005 film "The Longest Yard" with Burt Reynolds and Adam Sandler, a movie about football.

He said he learned a lot about sports scenes, including camera placement, actors and special effects making the sports audience seem larger.

He said the experience working on "The Longest Yard" was part of his inspiration for writing and producing "At Bat."

Clay Lomneth contributed to this story

Talented students hold art sale for department funds

BY EMILY HARRISON

The annual art sale was held May 5, in the courtyard after school. It featured art from all levels of art students including live caricatures and origami paper folding.

The sale raises funds for the art department. Andrews said the funds helped a lot with things in the art department.

"The students are the ones that benefit from it," he said.

Students created and sold their own pieces at the sale. They were given time in class to think of and create their own work.

Andrews said there were many ideas that were constant over the years.

Students were good about helping and responsible about getting work done.

There were also some new attractions to the art sale. Alex Daniels did caricatures on the spot for a suggested donation of \$4-6.

Daniels said Andrews noticed his talent for drawing faces and figures and suggested he draw caricatures.

"He does incredible figure drawings in Studio (Art)," Andrews said.

Andrews said he was much more excited about drawing than painting. Daniels practiced in class on his classmates ahead of time to prepare.

Daniels said he eventually plans on attending Savannah College of Art and Design and working for Disney after four years of being in the airforce.

"I know it's something I'd love to do, and I don't

want to spend my life doing something boring," Daniels said.

Also James Nielson took requests for different origami items.

Nielson said he had been making origami since he was in kindergarten. He taught himself from various books.

Nielson also taught his Art 1-2 class how to make origami eagles. They made them out of purple paper and attached them to perches.

These were also sold.

Some of the other various items for sale were tie-dyed and silk-screen shirts with a print by senior Dan Crane.

The print was a self portrait with "I don't know what to do with the negative space" written in a speech bubble. Art students of various levels sold items. First year students created simple bead jewelry and pencil cans, while upper level students created paintings and prints.

There were also painted chairs, a lamp, various paintings and prints, jewelry and pottery.

Parents, teachers and students all bought merchandise from the art sale.

At around 10 minutes to 5 p.m., everything in the sale was offered for half price.

After the sale there were still many items left, but they will be kept and sold at next year's sale.

"Each year is a little smoother," Andrews said.

This year the sale was set up well before 3 p.m., earlier than previous years, Andrews said.

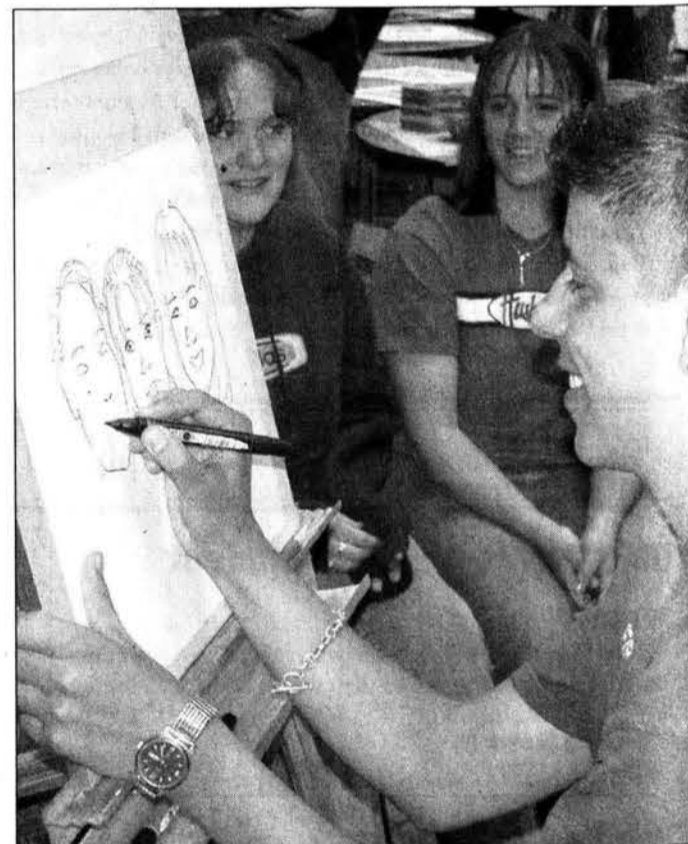



PHOTO BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER

Senior Alex Daniels draws caricatures for the art sale. The donations went to the art department for new supplies. Art department head Larry Andrews said he noticed Daniels was talented at drawing faces, and suggested he do caricatures.

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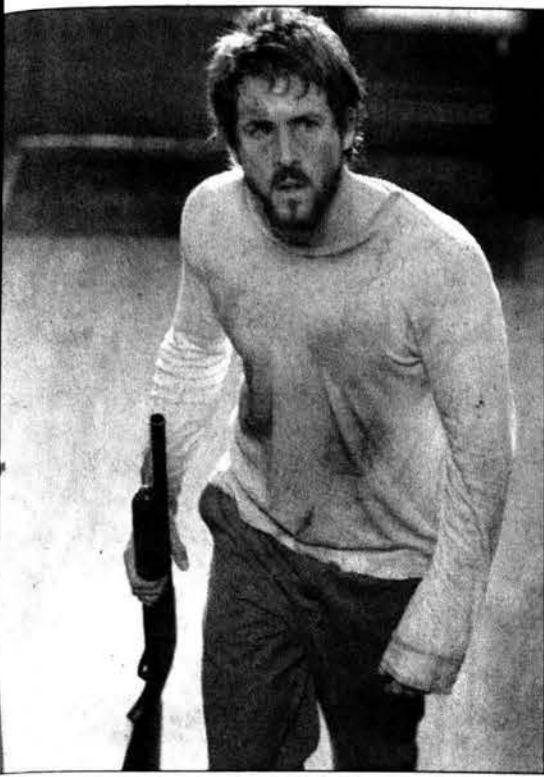


PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM PICTURES

Donald Defeo (Brendan Donaldson) plays the fanatic father better than the original, and made it even scarier than the true story.

MOVIE REVIEW



'AMITYVILLE HORROR'
Starring: Isabel Conner

Remake scarier than true story, original movie

BY LAUREN DEBO

You could almost feel the baby sitter's finger entering the bullet hole on her forehead. Everyone in the audience hid under their seats when the finger in Jodie Defeo's (Isabel Conner) forehead shot her in place of where the gun had previously. The gore was disgusting but it looked so real it made you want to watch.

"The Amityville Horror," a remake directed by Andrew Douglas, based on a true story, was definitely creepier than the original. It had more blood and moved much faster. The suspense was built up well and made audience members hide their eyes, scared to see what comes next.

In the movie, the Lutz family moved into a house only to moved themselves back out 28 days later due to demonic forces they believed lives inside.

Up-and-coming actress Isabel Conner was perfectly cast for her role as Jodie Defeo. Her complete innocence and total freakishness left the audience wanting more. In the movie, Jodi's long black hair and pale skin could be compared to "The Ring's" Samara Morgan.

In the opening scenes the audience was jarred when Ronald Defeo, played by Brendan Donaldson, is shown shooting his own family.

When he comes face to face with young Jodi, your heart cries out for the little girl as she quivers in the closet as Ronnie tells her he loves her.

The blood splattering looked real and the special effects were better than in the first. Everyone on screen seemed to jump out at you. In that sense the movie can be compared to "Thirteen Ghosts." People jumped out and made you grasp the person's arm sitting next to you.

Ryan Reynolds, last seen in "Blade Trinity" in 2004, plays George Lutz, stepfather, husband and the second man the house has possessed. His acting was adequate but needed a little work.

Reynolds plays the comic relief in Blade Trinity and does it well. He should probably stay away from the serious roles. His transition from the nice guy to evil really didn't have enough contrast.

Reynolds's co-star Melissa George, who played his wife, needed serious character work though. The star, who you might remember from 2001 chick flick, "Sugar and Spice," was very watered-down. She lacked emotion when she spoke and interacted with her family in the same way even when they were in grave danger.

Although this horror film's plot was better than other horror movies recently put out, such as the "Boogeyman" and "Cursed," it still had its weaknesses. Some of the things that were meant to scare the audience instead made them giggle.

Almost as soon as you left the theater, the instant gratification and fear the audience got from the film was no longer there.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Although this movie took the idea from a classic horror film "Wax Museum," it didn't have any of the same punch. The old movie was scary because of the twists and eerie plot, "House of Wax" only used blood. (Below) Paris Hilton plays Paige Edwards, one of the college students who ends up in the House of Wax.

Gore makes film bland

BY MARK AREHART

"House of Wax" burns bright in the beginning, but melts by the end due to mind-numbing acting, a predictable story and unnecessary gore.

The film is based upon the 1953 original of a similar name, but that movie starred Vincent Price. This one: Paris Hilton.

Nothing could satisfy a seventh grader more than seeing Paris Hilton strutting around in skimpy red underwear. The only problem is, they aren't old enough to get into the flick.

And frankly, that's a good thing. The only reason Hilton was cast as the idiotic Paige was because she could fill that skimpy red number.

It always seemed as if she was reading her lines from cue cards. Her voice is completely monotone, she sounds like she's ordering a low-fat latte when she screams and runs from danger.

The plot in the film, although a tad bit predictable, was pretty imaginative, but it didn't all come together in the end.

The ending was kind of dry. It seemed like the writers were rushed for time or something. It just didn't make too much sense and tried to shock people with something they saw coming from a mile away.

The film took place in present day and surrounded a group of friends traveling to the biggest college football game of the year.

When they encountered car troubles they had to go to the nearest town to find help, but they found a lot more than that.

They encountered a pair of twins who converted an abandoned town into a wax community of murdered travelers.

They eventually found their way into a vicious pool of horror, death and wax.

The main characters were fraternal twins, Carly and Nick, who were played by two newer actors, Elisha Cuthbert and Chad Michael Murray.

Cuthbert played in the sexually charged, "The Girl Next Door." In that film, she was as believable as she was beautiful.

Her performance was no different in this film. Her screams made the hair on the back of your neck stand at attention and her eyes make your heart melt like wax, pun intended.

Murray, who came to fame in movies like "A Cinderella Story" and "Freaky Friday," not to mention his starring role in the television show "One Tree Hill," put forth a solid performance.

His character Nick tried to be a tough guy, which was hard to believe when his facial hair was about as thick as an eighth grader's. His acting made up for it and he was somewhat believable, more so than most of the other actors.

He really draws the audience in digging through a melting building of wax to save both him and his sister. Although he's relatively young, Murray walked and talked like a seasoned veteran.

The other actors put forth mediocre performances. Their names were lost in the credits almost as quickly as the characters they played met their deaths.

The horror in this movie was entirely geared to make your stomach turn. You squirm in your chair when you see Wade, Carly's boyfriend played by Jared Padalecki, get his Achilles tendon snipped by a pair of long razor sharp scissors.

Although the gore in this film did scare, a lot of it was just dumb and useless. Boredom set in when you see a limp body get hit with baseball bat for what seems like a minute in succession.

Some scenes are just totally unbelievable. It just seems silly that a man can get up and practically function normally when he's been shot through his arm and chest with a crossbow doesn't it?

If you desire to see an all right film with a pretty solid sound track and good leading actors, but is crippled by unseasoned supporting actors and unneeded gore, then by all means go ahead.

MOVIE REVIEW



'HOUSE OF WAX'
Starring: Chad Michael Murray

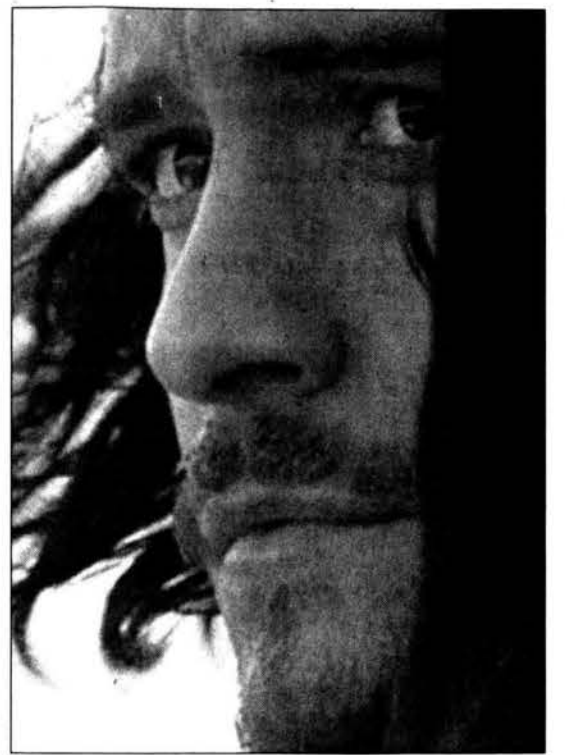


PHOTO COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Orlando Bloom plays Balian, a Christian soldier who wants peace with the Muslims, but still must fight a war.

MOVIE REVIEW



'KINGDOM OF HEAVEN'
Starring: Orlando Bloom

'Heaven' loses audience with poor plot flow

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Any movie that needs a review of a history lesson before watching it is one to be avoided. "Kingdom of Heaven" portrayed the Christian struggle against the Muslims for control of Jerusalem, and for the most part assumes the audience knows who the characters are in the first place.

The violence in the movie started off within the first five minutes, with a burning priest murdered by the main character Balian, played by Orlando Bloom.

The movie was directed by Ridley Scott, the same man who directed "Gladiator." The violence is expected, but is portrayed a bit differently. It was obvious he was trying to use the same formula that made "Gladiator" successful, but failed because it should have been taken on differently.

Another similarity to "Gladiator" was that the main character is all alone, but "Kingdom" should not have been about the one man and somewhat about those around him. In "Gladiator" this formula works because the gladiator fought alone. In "Kingdom," there were thousands of people fighting.

With his freedom, he met Sibylla (Eva Green), the wife of the antagonist. Their love is shown in one or two scenes, and it was hardly anything worth putting in the movie. If the romance was meant to balance out the violence, it failed horribly and only served as a distraction from more violence.

Overall, none of the characters are developed at all, not even the protagonist. Every new knight that appeared in the movie was a background character, soon to be lost in the midst of another battle.

Even Bloom appeared lost in the movie, as if there was so little character development the main character did not exactly know who he was.

His character is noble, yet doesn't seem he wants to speak his mind. He wants peace, yet he fights a long battle he could have stopped in the beginning.

Balian developed a relationship with one Muslim in the movie, a friendship was referred to once or twice then forgotten. No relationship with any character was satisfactory. If they didn't die in battle, they disappeared inexplicably for a while, only to come back and act like nothing had happened.

The battles were fairly impressive in the beginning, but towards the middle it began to seem totally worthless. At the final battle, there was nothing the audience hadn't seen before, burning bodies, arrows in necks and decapitated heads.

The movie doesn't really expand on why anyone is fighting for Jerusalem. Some characters appeared fairly late in the movie, and the audience was expected to know who they are.

Portraying the Crusades is no easy task, and cannot be done with a few people, but those who did appear could have at the very least had names.

Explosive opening scene gives insight to unbelievable wartime situation in Africa

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

"The Interpreter" was one of the greatest movies of the year, that is, until the last scene.

At the very opening of the movie, I was asking myself if I was in the right room because it was supposed to be based in the United States, but the opening was in Africa.

Despite this, from the very beginning there were tons of unexpected plot twists and turns.

First, you think two men are just going to find some great government scandal, but then they are shot to death.

Even better, you would never suspect who shot them.

But, one of the greatest plots was who was planning to shoot the president of a small African country while he was in

Washington D.C. It was completely shocking.

The plot was great until the end of the movie.

I was so furious at the writers and directors for having such a horrible ending. But, beside the last scene, the movie was great.

In all of the scenes, the graphics were just average, and, in some cases horrible.

Like in one of the first scenes, you could hardly see the dead people because the lighting was horrible.

What was truly great were the actors. Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn

as Silvia Broome and Tobin Keller, respectively, act with so much emotion that they are able to switch from anger to happiness to indifference that was amazing.

Kidman plays the part of a white African born citizen, who works at the United Nations for the United States.

MOVIE REVIEW



'THE INTERPRETER'
Starring: Nicole Kidman



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Sean Penn and Nicole Kidman made "The Interpreter" unique and surprising, but the intensity was ruined by the last scene.



I'LL BE QUIET

A Column by Zach Pluhacek

Teen hurt by musical distraction

In my world, homework and iTunes are synonymous.

At around 7 every night, I make my way up the stairs and into the office, dragging my bookbag alongside me. I grudgingly toss the bag onto my dad's desk and begin shuffling through the next three hours of my life.

But wait. What is that I hear? Could it be...nothing? Where is the music? No Against Me!? No Flaming Lips? Ah, of course. I almost forgot.

I quickly log on to the computer, typing the password as fast as I can. Before the screen is done loading, an icon appears on the top left side. The little CD and music note are like a cross to me.

Double-click. It's a vision. I almost expect to hear some choir of angels singing from the roof of my house. But now comes the hard part: what music should I play? Oooo, Cursive, that looks fun. Perfect.

Generally, the music blaring from the tiny computer speakers just inches from my face blocks everything. For the first song, it's just me in my little air-drumming, lip-synching world.

I love music. I can't stop listening to music. But recently I've begun to realize that it's taking over my life. Every minute of silence I have is constantly being filled with the sound of wailing guitars. It steals my attention from more important things, things I tend to ignore.

My problem with distractions isn't limited to just music. Some days, most days, teachers will call on me and I'll just be staring off into space.

I would play it off like nothing was wrong, like I could control it, but after at least 10 years of the same problem, I'm beginning to think I could use some help. What seemed like a joke to me before has finally become reality. I have begun to feel like I have some sort of attention deficit disorder.

It all started a few months ago when, in one of the routine e-mails to my parents telling them how I was going to fail, a teacher suggested to my parents that I try medication.

This time was different.

My mom gave me the e-mail, just like she did with every other one. As always, I blew it off.

A few weeks later my mom brought up the e-mail again. She told me that maybe the teacher was right. It was something that I had to consider.

I still don't think I'll ever take medication. It's just not something my parents and I are all too thrilled about. But I've begun to realize there is something about me that could use a little changing, and I'm willing to work harder to make that adjustment.

As far as iTunes go, well, it's not going anywhere. I need to be able to have it on and do homework at the same time. I'm not quite sure how I'm going to deal with my problem yet, but I have a feeling it's going to take all the restraint and focus I've got, which isn't very much.



Senior Dan Crane works on his last painting at Central for the year. He received a scholarship to the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, which covers much of the yearly tuition.

PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Artist displays talent to colleges

BY LAUREN CRIST

Senior Dan Crane has done a variety of artwork in his time.

Now, his hard work has paid off.

Crane has been offered a scholarship with the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

Crane said he applied for the scholarship and submitted a variety of his artwork on slides.

"I just submitted basic stuff you need to get into an art school," he said.

Crane has also won awards for his art. A self-portrait he did in pencil graphite was a Gold Key Winner in the Scholastics competition.

He was also awarded two honorable mentions in etching and a silk screen piece.

The photo he won an honorable mention for was taken of Chicago using a fish eye lens.

"It was a nightscape that I took from a hotel

room in Chicago," he said.

Art teacher Larry Andrews said Crane's talent has taken him far.

Andrews has been Crane's art teacher since he was a sophomore. He said Crane has shown a lot of talent and improvement.

"He's very versatile, creative and ambitious," he said. "He has a lot of integrity."

Crane's work ethic also helped him in his artistic abilities.

"He's smart and he likes challenges," Andrews said.

This year, he was in four different art classes. He was enrolled in Art 5-6, Honors Studio Art, photography and Art 7-8.

He said he made three different silk screen T-shirts in Art 7-8, and all of them sold at the art sale quickly.

He said students were originally doing silk

screens in the class, and he decided to work with them and put them on T-shirts.

Andrews said the shirts were a popular item at the art sale.

"They sold right away," he said.

He said Crane worked on designing the silk screens, then cut the shirts and placed the silk screen on them, and lastly sewed the shirts back up again with a zigzag pattern for the seam.

Crane's largest piece displayed at the art sale was an oil painted self-portrait. He said he usually doesn't do many self-portraits, but the ones displayed were pieces he had done in art class.

The art case in the courtyard also displayed two self-portraits, including the one he won the Gold-Key for.

He said throughout the years his artwork has been displayed on through different programs he has entered into and won awards for.

"They're not exactly galleries," he said.

I have had art displayed in local exhibitions."

He said he does a variety of artwork, but likes painting the best.

"I like to paint a lot," he said. "I've done painting the most, and had some contracts through it. It just kind of happened naturally."

He said though he painted the displayed pieces after looking at photos he had taken, typically prefers painting without observation.

"Other than that, I usually like to paint from imagination," he said. "I don't really like to paint from observation as much."

He said what he enjoys most about painting is finishing his work.

"I like the feeling when you're done with something," he said. "I like having the satisfaction of finishing something that you've worked through."

Film portrays controversial topics in powerful way

BY EMILY HARRISON

The movie "Palindromes" dealt with issues that most movies try their hardest to sidestep.

While these movies try to avoid getting their feet dirty, "Palindromes" rolls in the mud then walks on your white carpet and shakes the dirt in your face.

Abortion, pedophilia and pre-teen sexual activity are all confronted and displayed in this film.

Although all these things are present, there is no stance taken. The film is purely unbiased.

This isn't because each stance as equally correct, but because they are shown to be equally wrong.

For example, the protagonist, who got pregnant at the age of 12, encountered both pro-choice and pro-life opinions on abortion. However, they both seemed to be lacking.

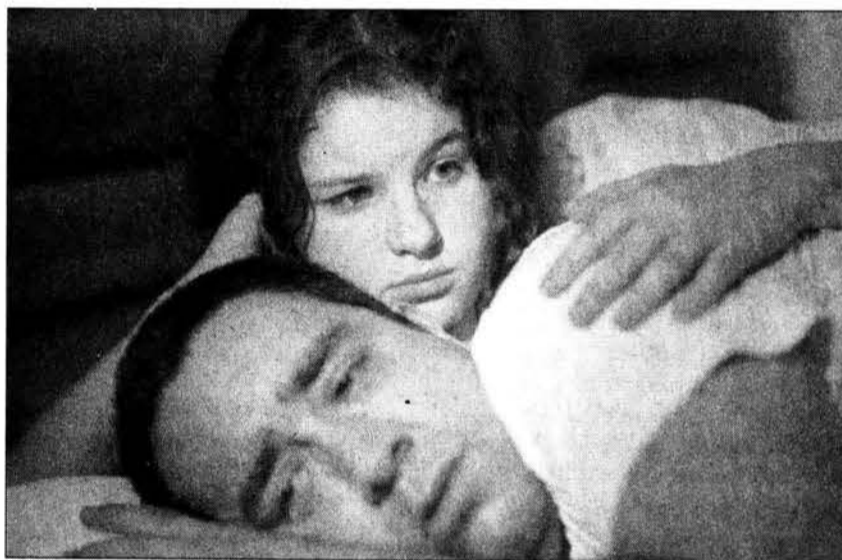
Her mother, who was pro-choice, forces her to have an abortion, giving her no choice in the matter.

Also, the family she stayed with later in the movie after she ran away, was very religious and pro-life.

They decided to kill a doctor who performed abortions.

The irony that pro-choice gave no choice and pro-life killed makes itself comically evident.

The writer/director gave a question and answer session after the film. From his



"Palindromes" deals with hard topics, such as abortion and pedophilia. The film uses eight different actresses to play one character.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WELLSRING MEDIA

responses it was evident he was of the liberal persuasion, despite his unbiased film.

His experimentation with different views that were obviously not his own was extremely admirable.

This film was unlike some movies that claim to present all the facts, but have an obvious slant.

From merely watching the movie it was impossible to guess the writer and director's stance.

In the film there was one primary heroine. This character, Aviva, was played by eight different performers.

The performers ranged from a timid red-

head to an overweight African-American.

It took a while to understand that each girl was the same character, but the audience seemed to catch on eventually.

Their united identity was hinted at by the characters wearing the same clothes and sharing situations.

The fact that so many different types of people could be in this same situation was eye-opening.

This allowed the audience to see the universality of the problems discussed.

It even persuaded the viewer to believe they could find themselves in or involved in a similar situation.

From the director

The director of "Palindromes" brought the film to the Dundee for one evening and answered questions

Director Todd Solondz brought his controversial film to Omaha to see the response from a conservative state.

He said liberal and conservative groups seem to be in parallel universes because they seldom meet.

He said the film was the saddest of all his comedies.

Solondz said abortion was one of the things in the world it was hard not to be responsive to.

"We all have our prejudices," he said.

Solondz said he was amazed something so terribly intimate as abortion could be exploited so much.

He said the characters in his movies are palindromes themselves. They are the same at the beginning as they are at the end, they resist change.

"They are trapped by their own identities," he said.

Solondz said the reason he included more than one actor was the cumulative effect of including several actors was more affecting than it would have been with one performer.

"There were eight performers," he said, "but there could have been 80."

Matthew Brown, the Dundee manager, said the film would be back in the theater sometime over the summer.

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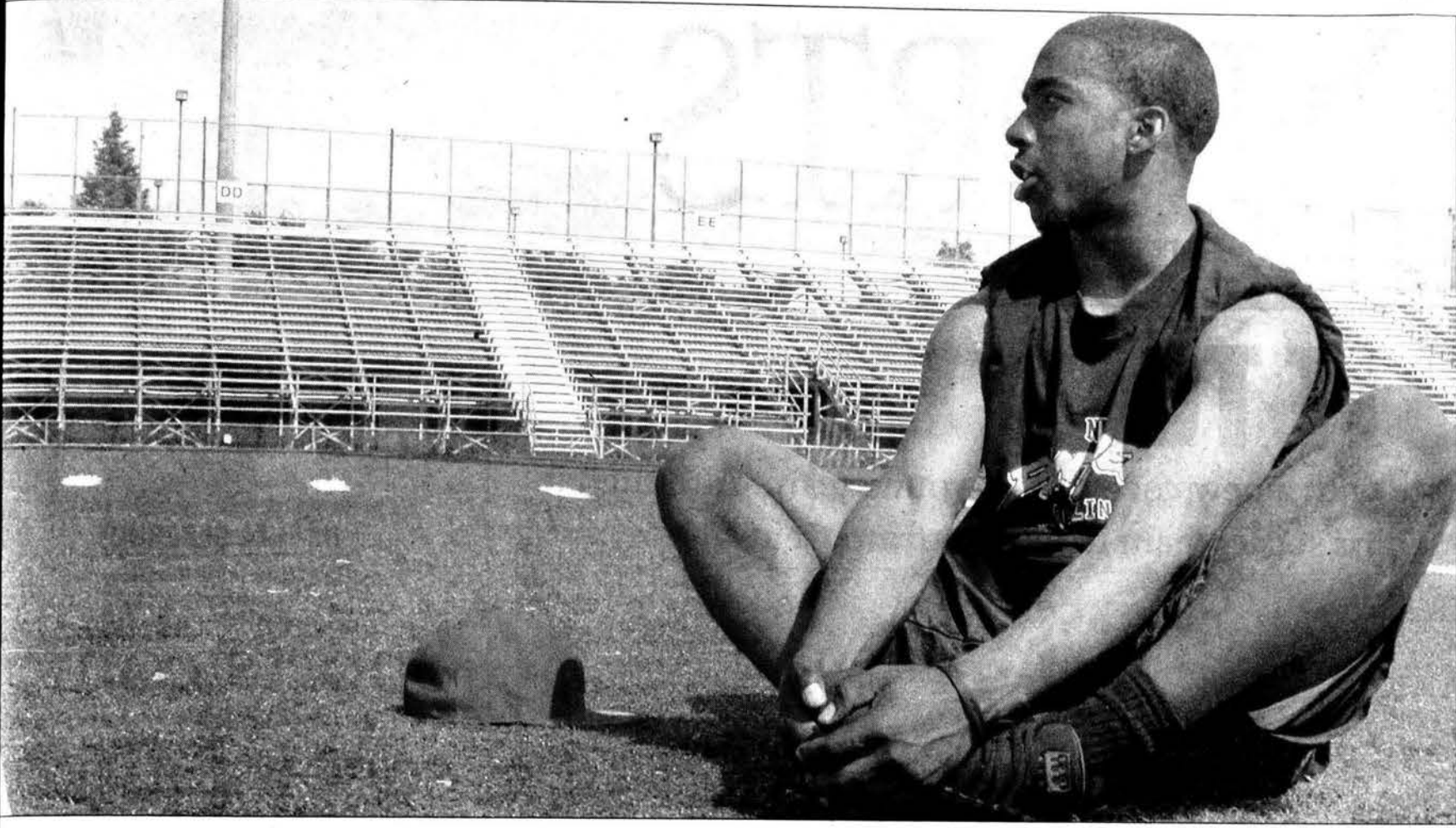


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Senior Robert Wesley stretches during track practice at the UNO Maverick field. Not only does he participate in track, he was also second in the state for rushing football. UNO offered him a full-ride to play football after Iowa State noticed he was considering other offers and dropped him.

Sophomore on varsity leads team in doubles

BY JOANNA LEFLORE

One of the strongest players on the team, sophomore Aimee Koenig has been playing varsity tennis for two years, and has experience in playing doubles and singles matches.

Head coach Larry Andrews said she is as focused on grades as she is on the courts.

"As a coach, I look for good work ethic," Andrews said. "Aimee is a very hard worker. She is mentally strong and a tough competitor."

He said she was one of the best players on his team because of her competition. She usually played doubles with lead player senior Shay Hampton.

"Aimee is one of the most improved players I've seen," Hampton said. "I also like how she always seems happy to be there."

Hampton said she liked playing doubles with Koenig because they were able to communicate with each other on the court.

If there was ever a time when they made mistakes, Hampton said they were not afraid to point out what they needed to work on individually.

"I like a team that can show good sportsmanship," Andrews said. "Tennis is a game of etiquette."

Andrews said he liked working with students who were more willing to be committed to the team. He said Koenig was always focused on improvement.

"At every practice, I want them to improve," Andrews said. "I usually have them focus on one thing during practices."

To see the players' progress from the practices, Andrews said he asked them what they learned and what they could improve in.

"Aimee is on the team because she's good," Andrews said. "She looks at each game as an opportunity to play strong."

However, Koenig said she knew there were things to work on and would continue to play hard.

When she was not practicing or at a game, she was studying to keep up her high grade point average.

Koenig has a lot of discipline also in band and music. She plays the bassoon in band and has played piano since the second grade, but her other hobbies do not affect her enthusiasm when she is on the court.

"My favorite part is seeing who wins the next point," she said. "It's fun when you become apprehensive as to who will win."

Koenig said she was given her first tennis racket when she was in third grade, but up until her freshman year, she was only taught how to play by her parents.

So far this season, Koenig said she has played five singles matches and four doubles matches. Andrews said she took the doubles team to the Metro Competition last year.

Koenig said she would continue to play until she graduated. Along with her determination to keep up with grades and tennis, Koenig's character is noticeable as well from fellow players.

Junior Jenny Rosas plays on the varsity team with Koenig and said she added a lot of character to the team.

"Once coach Andrews had me play with Aimee in a doubles match," Rosas said. "She is very competitive and I like the way she plays. She always seems really comfortable with playing."

Senior signs to UNO after offer falls through

BY CLAY LOMNETH

After Iowa State (ISU) and Kansas State (KSU) left him with their offers of scholarships, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) stepped in and offered him a full-ride scholarship for football.

First, senior Robert Wesley said, both the colleges offered him scholarships, but he had only visited ISU. He said after KSU recruiters found out, they wanted him to visit their campus, but eventually wouldn't allow him to commit because he had visited ISU.

When he called KSU saying he wanted more information, he said they told him they already found a running back, and weren't interested anymore.

Wesley looked back to Iowa, but they had dropped their offer when the recruiters found out he was interested in KSU.

"They gave me the boot," he said. He said UNO then made a last-ditch effort and called him asking if he still had plans for college.

He said this saved his plans for college. Wesley decided to attend UNO in February.

"I was actually planning on calling them," Wesley said.

He said he was looking forward to a good education that was close to home and playing the sport he loved, even if the college wasn't his top choice.

He said his family was also relieved he was going to get an education close to home.

"(We're) just glad to play the card we were dealt," he said.

Wesley said he plans on staying at UNO for all the four years, to major in business and play football.

"They have nice facilities and everything," he said. Teammate senior Nate Prater found out Wesley signed with UNO when he decided in February.

He said he felt a bit disappointed Wesley wouldn't be going to any bigger colleges, but it didn't really matter.

"Robert has amazing talent no matter where he's at," Prater said. "No matter where he's at you'll be hearing his name. I rank him as one of the best running backs to come out of Central."

Football coach Joe McMenemy said Wesley led the metro area this year in rushing and was second in the state.

He also said Wesley began to make sacrifices for his personal goals, playing on defense instead of offense, sometimes tiring him out.

"In some respects playing on defense might have hurt his offense," he said.

Wesley said he agreed he would have had more energy for offense had he not played defense and special teams as well.

Although, he said he has been playing both defense and offense since he was a kid.

"I never leave the field," he said. "Never, no breathers, except halftime."

In track, Wesley was a long jumper and lead runner

in the 4 x 100 meter relay along side junior Virgil Mitchell. Both placed at Districts in the relay.

This made him the second fastest runner in the state.

"He's done a really good job for us there (in track)," McMenemy said.

McMenemy said when he found out Wesley was not going to KSU or ISU he was a bit disappointed, but knew Wesley would have a great career at UNO with his level of skill.

"I had never seen that happen to one of our athletes," he said. "I was disappointed they didn't stick with Rob. Maybe it'll be a better place for him."

Wesley said though he was good at track, he preferred his favorite sport, football.

He said he needed more practice with long jumping, but was more talented at the relay.

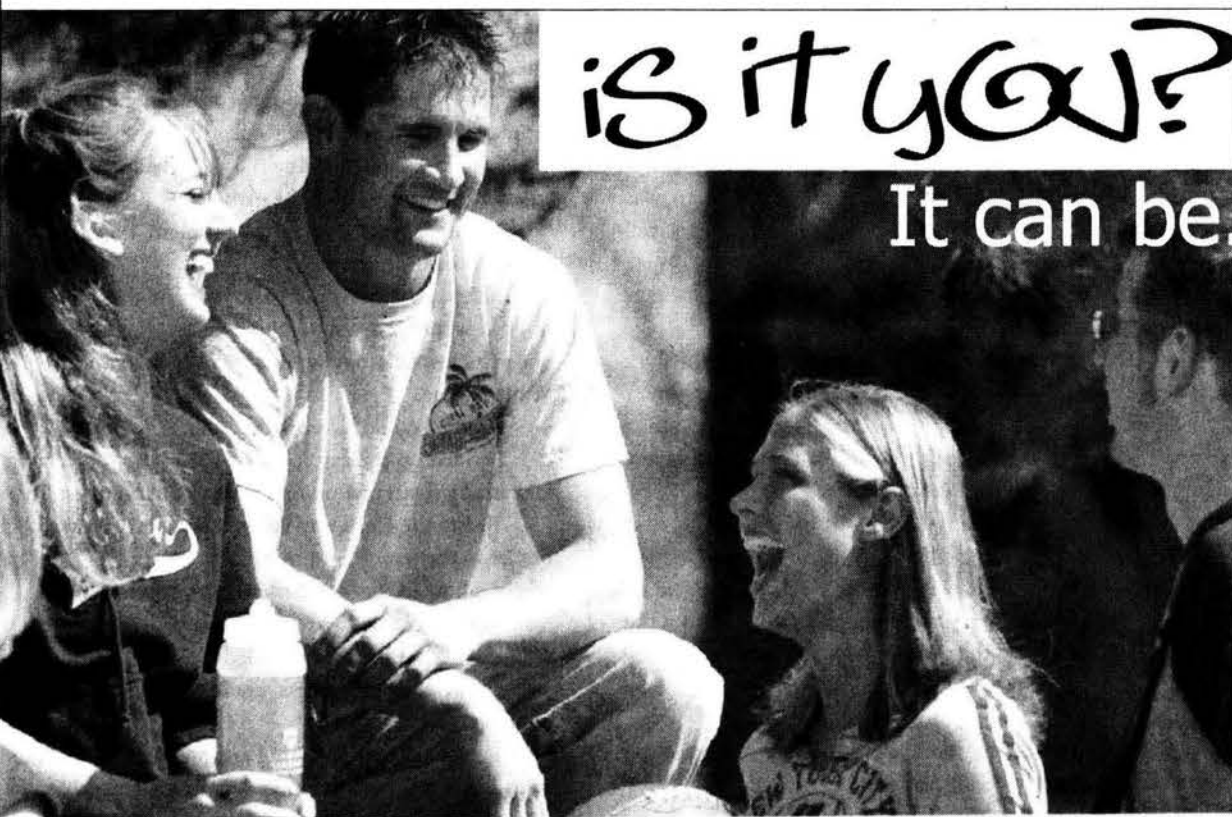
"Long jumping is a science," he said. "It's not hard to do, but to master it takes a lot of practice."

Wesley said because there was no boys track at UNO, he would join summer track teams to stay in shape for football.

Being one of the best in two different sports, Wesley said it was a major accomplishment to do for his senior year.

"I felt like I actually accomplished something, because for the last four years I had been sitting in the shadows," he said.

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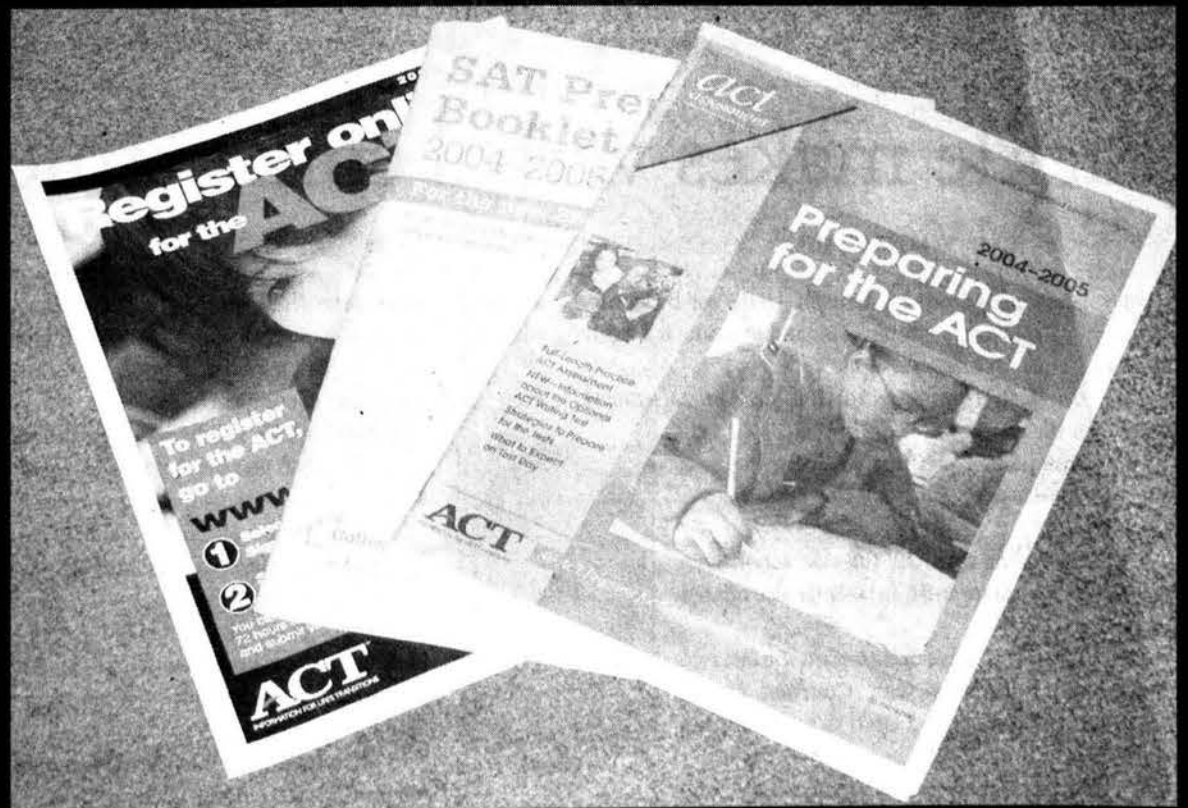
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SECTION



NATIONAL PACEMAKER

TAKING IT TO STATE

The girls soccer team made it to State with a new coach and a young team. Although it failed to win, it was the first girls soccer team to ever go from Central.

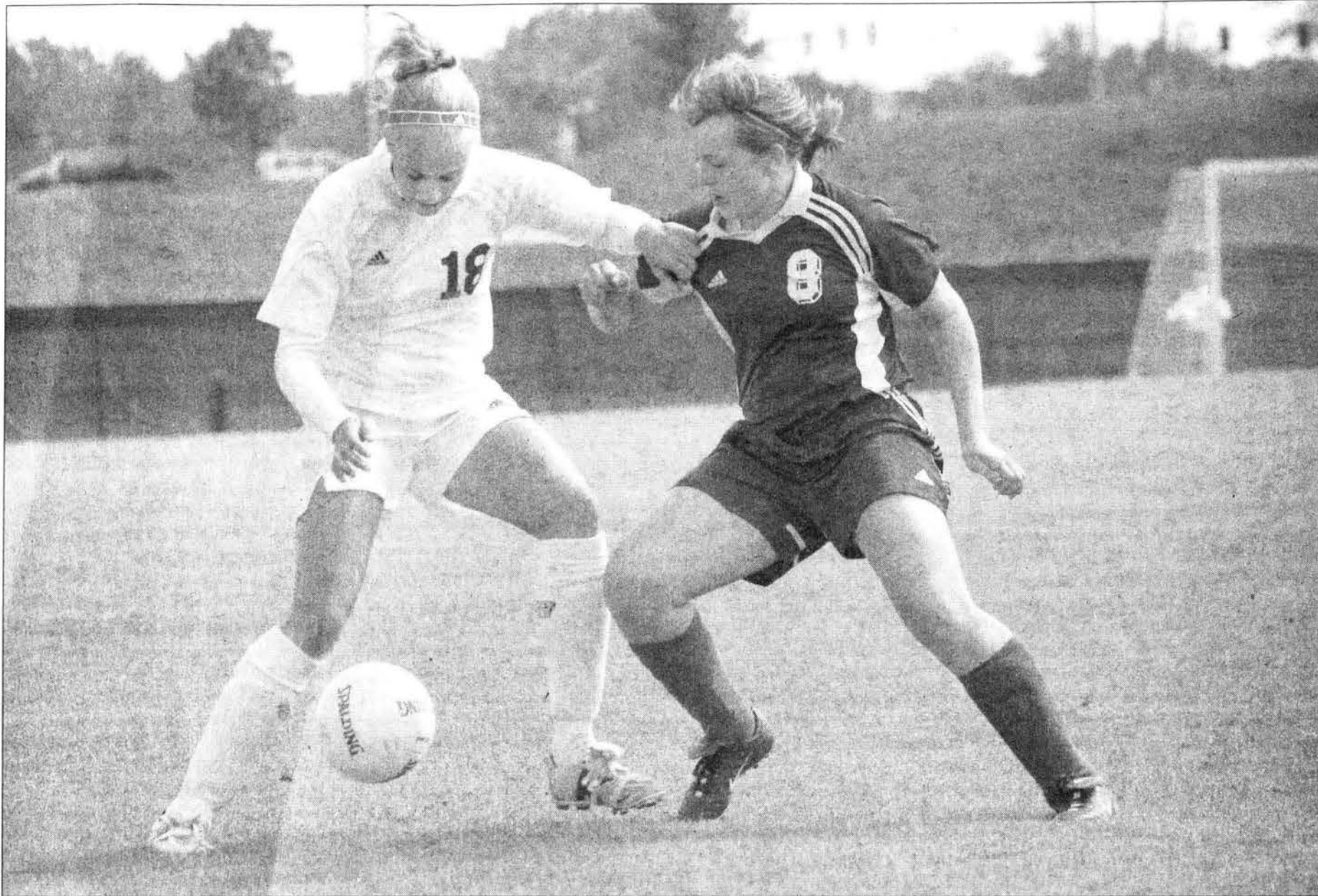


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

Junior Lindsay Meyer (right) tries to gain control of the ball from sophomore Jordan Hedgecock of North Platte. The Lady Eagles lost this May 14 first-round game 6-0. "Everyone just got so tired, we were just worn out," sophomore Lisa Shirk said.

Girls lose in first round to North Platte

BY CLAY LOMNETH

It was the first girls soccer team from Central ever to make it to State. On May 14, the girls soccer team took on North Platte, but lost in the first round 6-0.

Varsity girls head coach Michelle Pleiss said she thought the Lady Eagles could have beaten North Platte.

"It didn't go the way we liked, but we'll keep our heads up," she said.

During the first half, North Platte scored a goal 17 minutes into the game. The extra players guarding senior Casey Bigsby resulted in a tripping call.

"She was working very hard, but she didn't score," Pleiss said.

She said one of the factors in the loss was the wind. "Wind was definitely a factor, energy wise," she said. "So it took a lot out of people."

She said she thought the best half was the first half, even though the Eagles did not challenge the other team enough.

In the second half, the team did challenge North Platte and dominated the middle of the field, but started to fall apart in the last few minutes of the game.

In the second half, North Platte scored two more goals with 28 then 21 minutes left, and then in the final six minutes, scored four more goals.

Senior soccer player Elisa Berzins said another factor was the girls did not know what to expect, especially the younger

ones.

"They really had no idea what was coming to them," she said.

Pleiss said she agreed the younger players did not quite know what to expect, but even then, the atmosphere of the place was different.

Despite the surprises for the younger players, Berzins said she thought the team did very well overall, and the loss was no one's fault.

She said during the last 10 minutes of the game was when the team realized State could not be won.

She said when a goal was scored after a deflection off their own teammate, the team started to break down.

Berzins said even though the Eagles lost, she still felt proud about the game.

She said during the District games, there were huge crowds, as big as the crowd at the boys basketball State game.

Berzins said she also noticed some alumni who attended the game.

"I'm still excited about the fact we went to State," she said.

Bigsby also said the wind was a factor in the game.

She said because it was a crosswind, they had difficulty clearing the ball away from an area because the wind would only blow it back.

"I was expecting the ball to go to the middle, and all of a

sudden it went to the sidelines," Bigsby said.

North Platte head coach Jenie McCartney said her team was guarding Bigsby extra hard during the game. Bigsby said it made her frustrated to know that.

"It's irritating during the game, but it's nice to know they respect you," she said.

Sophomore Lisa Shirk said she thought the team was ready to play the game mentally, but did not perform well physically.

She said around the beginning of the second half, things began to fall apart.

After North Platte's second goal in the second half, Shirk said it was harder for the team to keep up their motivation.

Shirk said because she played on varsity her freshman year, she had more experience and knew better what to expect than the girls on varsity for the first time.

She said she was glad they made it to State, no matter what happened.

"We were all just able to keep our heads up," she said.

Next year, because they are losing eight seniors from the varsity team, Shirk said they would have to try the returning people at new positions and hope for new talent from freshmen.

Also, Shirk said, the team would have to improve on other skills, such as handling the ball.

Pleiss said she was very pleased with the results of this season, and hopes next season will be just as successful.

Tackle makes verbal commitment to Cornhuskers

BY MOLLY MULLEN

University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) will be turning yet another Eagle into a Cornhusker, and this time it's junior DJ Jones.

Jones verbally committed to UNL on Apr. 23, after he spoke with the coaches over the phone.

"By that point I was just weighing the pros and cons," Jones said. "I had a lot of options, over 50 schools."

He said other than the full-ride scholarship from UNL, Iowa State and Kansas State also offered scholarships.

A partial factor in his decision was the fact two alumni whom he played with, Courtney Grixby and Brandon Gunn, attend UNL as freshmen and play football.

"Courtney was always telling me what a good program it was," he said. "He wasn't trying to recruit me or anything, everyone told me to make my own decisions."

Another factor was the education possibilities offered. He said at UNL the coaches would give him a tutor to help with his studies during the season. He plans on studying broadcasting.

"If I don't play professionally or I get hurt on the field, I

can be a sports caster," he said.

He said he knew a lot about sports both from studying and playing them. Aside from football, he does track and field. Also, he has refereed basketball and was a softball umpire.

He played basketball in middle school, but fouled out of every game and didn't continue in high school.

Although he will be studying broadcasting, he said football was his main priority. He said he wanted to play professionally after college.

Jones started playing football 10 years ago with people he played with in high school, Grixby and senior Robert Wesley.

Senior Nate Prater worked with Jones his freshman and sophomore years. He said when Jones started, his mentality was not ready to play football.

"We toughened him up," Prater said. "That means lifting weights, playing basketball and coordination."

When Jones started playing, Prater said he wasn't coordinated.

"After a while he realized that a person his size could do a lot of damage," he said.

He said since his freshman year Jones has changed a lot. He said now he could even see the National Football League

in Jones' future.

"To tell you the truth, we didn't think he had it in him (his sophomore year)," he said. "He has really turned it around and showcased his talent this year."

Coach Joe McMennamin said Jones' progress over the summer was incredible. He said he finally got into his body and was able to push himself more. In the off season after his sophomore year, he worked in the weight room and got stronger for this year. He said he would lead the team next year both offensively and defensively. After that, he said UNL would be a great choice for Jones.

"They've (UNL) had a tough year, but I think they're getting ready to turn it around," he said.

He said even after he verbally committed, schools have called Jones trying to recruit him.

"He gets like 10 letters a day," McMennamin said. "He could go to virtually any school he wanted."

He said even though he could legally choose another school, he always tells his athletes to stick to their word. He said if UNL was going to save the scholarship for him, he should stay with it.

"This is very unusual," he said. "Only a few people in the country get recruited this heavily as a junior. He is a very special player."

He will formally sign in February 2006.



ILLEGAL SLAPSHOT

A Column by Tess Mandell

Sports come second after everyday life

I wish I could say my life revolves around sports—like those people who know anything and everything about every single sport.

I thought I knew a lot about sports. Laugh at me all you want, but going into this school year as the new sports editor, I really believed I knew my stuff.

I thought this sports editor thing would be a cinch. But little did I know...

The first time it hit me was earlier this school year during the football season.

I went down to the boys locker room to talk with coach Joe McMennamin.

When I walked through the door, he was talking with a couple guys about football.

I decided to be a patient, professional sports editor. So I stood to the side and waited for them to finish talking.

I wish I could have somehow contributed to the conversation the guys were having—just to make myself look knowledgeable.

However, what they were talking about was something I couldn't relate to whatsoever.

I could barely comprehend some of the terms and scenarios they were talking about, let alone share my input with them.

The same goes for coach Eric Behrens during the basketball season.

I was in his office for an interview, and (as usual) he was talking with Peter Pham, Chad Burns and Herb Welling. I tried to act like I knew what they were talking about, but I'm pretty sure they saw right through me.

Not to be sexist, but I truly felt like a girl in there. They would be telling these sports jokes, and all I could do was stand there and pretend I was laughing.

But the truth is, I can't even begin to understand what they were talking about. I was laughing at myself more than at any joke they told.

I also remember during the volleyball season, I made an effort to cover one of the games.

Maybe that was part of the problem. I only made the effort to cover one game.

Although I knew the basic rules of the game, I had no idea where to even begin when trying to write about one. The terminology and statistics were completely out of my league.

Maybe I could have tried harder. I ended up pulling some of the varsity players aside and asking them one-on-one about a billion questions.

To say the least, any volleyball coverage I wrote did not go in the paper. And then there's wrestling. All I have to say is how in the world do you cover wrestling?

These scenarios simply reinforced my perceptions about my lack of sports knowledge.

Other staff members could do it, but I guess I couldn't.

Even hockey, the sport I am probably most familiar with, I still am not that incredibly knowledgeable in—at least not like coach Behrens is knowledgeable in basketball and coach McMennamin is in football.

Maybe that's just because they are the head coaches or maybe I'm just too hard on myself. I really don't know.

However, is it really important to know absolutely everything and anything about every single sport? Sure, it's a good means of striking up a conversation, and for some people, their business is in sports.

Are sports the things that are really important in the world?

What about world hunger? What about the situation in Iraq?

Maybe these circumstances are a lot more extreme than I was intending, but my point being is when it comes down to it, sports should not be a person's entire life.

If anything, sports is merely something to turn to in order to take a break from the more extreme circumstances—such as world hunger and Iraq.

However, I'm not trying to say sports aren't important.

When it comes down to it, without sports, many people would be out of jobs—and not just the athletes.

The people who are in charge of coordinating schedules, recruiting players, selling merchandise... there are a lot more people behind the Super Bowl and March Madness than many people realize.

However, in reality, we could get by without sports. I know it's hard to accept, all you sports fanatics out there but the world can still go on without sports. It may not be as fun, but it will still turn.

Maybe it's just me.