

WEDNESDAY
September 28, 2005

the Central High School
REGISTER
52 PAGES

**A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISM**

FINE TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

FIVE TIME NHSPA CLASS A1 SWEEPSTAKES C

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

**Central
opens doors
to evacuees**

**Omaha, surrounding
areas house survivors of
Hurricane Katrina**

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"With all those people getting killed and robbed, it was like God was getting fed up," junior Obadiah Davis said.

Davis moved to his aunt's house in North Omaha after spending five long days in the New Orleans' Superdome when Hurricane Katrina tore through his home town.

His brother worked in the Superdome, so he was able to stay on the top floor, which was reserved for family of employees.

"We were lucky," Davis said. "We got to eat food we'd have at home. Everyone else had to eat MRI food."

He said the storm hit Sunday night, but he wasn't told to evacuate until that morning.

"I really underestimated it," Davis said.

September is hurricane season and he said he knew what to expect.

When the weather started to get really bad, he went to the Superdome with his brother.

His younger sister and mother took the car to Baton Rouge to avoid the hurricane.

"It took them eight hours to get from New Orleans to Baton Rouge," he said. "That's like eight hours from here to Lincoln."

When the evacuees started leaving the Superdome, he said there were two buses, one going to Baton Rouge and another to Houston's Astrodome.

In the midst of all the chaos, his brother was pushed on the bus going to Houston and he went to Baton Rouge to meet up with his family.

He said his brother drove back to city after he arrived in Houston to check things out.

"The house was destroyed," he said.

His school was also completely ruined.

Davis said his school was located in the 9th ward.

Out of 14 wards, each are about the size of Omaha. The 9th ward was closest to the levy and was hit the hardest.

Both his home and school were reduced to a piles of rubble.

When he got to Omaha, he literally only had the clothes on his back. He had to buy everything again.

"Everything is gone," he said.

Davis was born and raised in New Orleans and said Omaha was much different.

He said it was interesting how different races worked together and cooperated at school.

"All the black people go to public schools," he said. "My school (Frederick Douglass High School) is like 99 percent black."

He said most other races were enrolled in private academies.

He said the student did attend his school, he said many of the black students

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THE EAGLE HAS LANDED



Davis Erection construction worker Patrick Kill welds beams to hold up the second floor of the new gym lobby. This addition will allow Central to finally hold home games and tournaments for the first time. Also, a brand new multi-million dollar Seemann Stadium was built to advance the school's athletics and other extra-curricular activities. The Eagles finally have a home stadium.

PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

After 146 years without one, the oldest high school in the state finally has a brand new stadium. Five years of work and planning and \$12.1 million got the job done.



BY MOLLY MULLEN

After over almost five years of planning, Seemann Stadium was finally ready for its grand unveiling, with literally only hours to spare.

Even a thunderstorm couldn't keep thousands of students, teachers, alumni and guests from filing in and out of the stadium all evening.

Eighteen years after graduation, John Dineen's career lead him back to his old high school.

Dineen, the main architect for the stadium project from HDR Architecture Inc., said it was fun to see all the changes

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**ID tags
opposed by
students**

**Teens wear Star
of David to protest
new badges**

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"It was symbolizing that the Jews had to do something they didn't want to," senior Sam Zaccone said.

He was one of the many students who put the Star of David on their ID tags in protest.

He said it was meant as symbolism, not anything anti-Semitic.

He said the IDs took away individualism.

Students received a new back-to-school gift: Identification (ID) tags to be worn at all times.

These tags are to be used as a bar code for library books and to identify Central students from intruders.

"I'm sorry if we offended anyone," he said. "When we found out we were offending people we stopped."

He said he got a positive response to the protest at first.

"We got a big reaction, everyone agreed and people wanted one, too," he said.

He said he appreciated what the administration was trying to do with keeping out intruders, but doesn't like how they're handling the situation.

He said wearing IDs wasn't being enforced and would probably flop, even if other schools did the same thing.

"I'm sure it has something to do with the fact that there are more people here," he said. "It also has something to do with how they (administrators) handled it; they didn't even try to phase it in."

Administrators Lynne Slobodnik and Mark Smith were in charge of getting every student a tag as well as implementing the punishment for not wearing them.

"I believe everyone by this point has a tag," Slobodnik said.

She said she received a few referrals from teachers who had students who continuously were without them.

She even had to call some parents at home because of the policy. It stated if a student didn't wear an ID for five days, his administrator would call home and further action could be taken.

"With starting something new like this, there will always be some kids who don't wear them," she said.

Some students would wear them first hour and take them off after class.

She said the policy was set up keeping in mind the students who were forgetful.

She said five chances to not forget should be enough.

She said she expected most of the problems to occur with seniors.

"Ninth graders have time to make it become a habit," she said.

North and South have had IDs for a few years.

One of the biggest problems, Slobodnik said, was students losing the tags.

She said people had been flooding in to the office getting replacements.

Senior Tommi-Lee Ripton has

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Horror films and their remakes
Classic scary movies are judged against the newest, goriest versions.
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FEA plans on tutoring at Jefferson

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

The Future Educators of America (FEA) have started the year off strong, sophomore Debra Ramirez said. She said the club had received more members since last year, and most of them would be active.

This is Ramirez's second year in the club and she said the set-up is mostly the same.

She said the club was trying to arrange a way to tutor elementary school students.

"We're in the process of seeing if we can tutor kids at Jefferson Elementary," she said.

FEA tutored elementary school students last year and Ramirez said she enjoyed the opportunity to work one-on-one with the children.

Ramirez said the club would also be doing some fund-raisers this year, most of which were repeated from last year.

She said candy would be sold because of the good results the club had last year.

FEA sold candy for \$1 a piece. The sale made \$200 in profit from the candy sale last year.

Ramirez said the objective of the club was to help prepare students for a career in education. She said she thought the club achieved its goal and members came away with an idea of what being a teacher would be like.

She said it was good for people to join the club who were interested in teaching because it gave hands-on experience.

Ramirez said she would like to pursue a career in education and FEA has helped her to appreciate the difficulty of being a teacher.

History teacher spends week at Hawaiian base

BY JOE DELICH

History teacher Scott Wilson spent eight days in Honolulu to study Pearl Harbor first hand, listen to survivors of the attack and communicate with other history teachers from America as well as some teachers from Japan.

Wilson said he stayed at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, which is right next to Pearl Harbor naval base.

He said he received a pamphlet in his mailbox from an organization called the East-West center. He

said there were certain requirements he had to meet in order to be accepted into the program.

"I had to write a five page essay," Wilson said.

He said history teacher Victoria Deniston-Reed and Principal Jerry Bexten also wrote him recommendation letters.

Wilson said there were 35 teachers from all over the country and ten teachers from Japan, including some professors.

"The chance to talk to the teachers from Japan was one of those rare learning events you never forget," he said.

The Japanese teachers shared their textbooks and they taught about Pearl Harbor in their history classes with the American teachers, Wilson said.

"It was very fair and open," he said of the Japanese curriculum.

He said he still talks to Ryo Nakamura, a teacher from Osaka in Japan.

Wilson said Nakamura was an exchange student in Cleveland in the 1970s. He said Nakamura was also a baseball fan, so they got along great.

Wilson said he had been talking to Nakamura about doing a project on American and Japanese perceptions of the war and what high school students in each country knew about it. He said this was a project that could potentially involve students in his history classes.

Despite all the differences between Japanese and American culture and education, Wilson said many of their experiences with students and classes were similar.

"There's so much more in common than there is different," he said.

He said that on a typical day there would be visits to a site, and then all the teachers would go back to the University and listen to guest lecturers.

One of the guest lecturers was Daniel Martinez, a historian from the USS Arizona.

CALENDAR

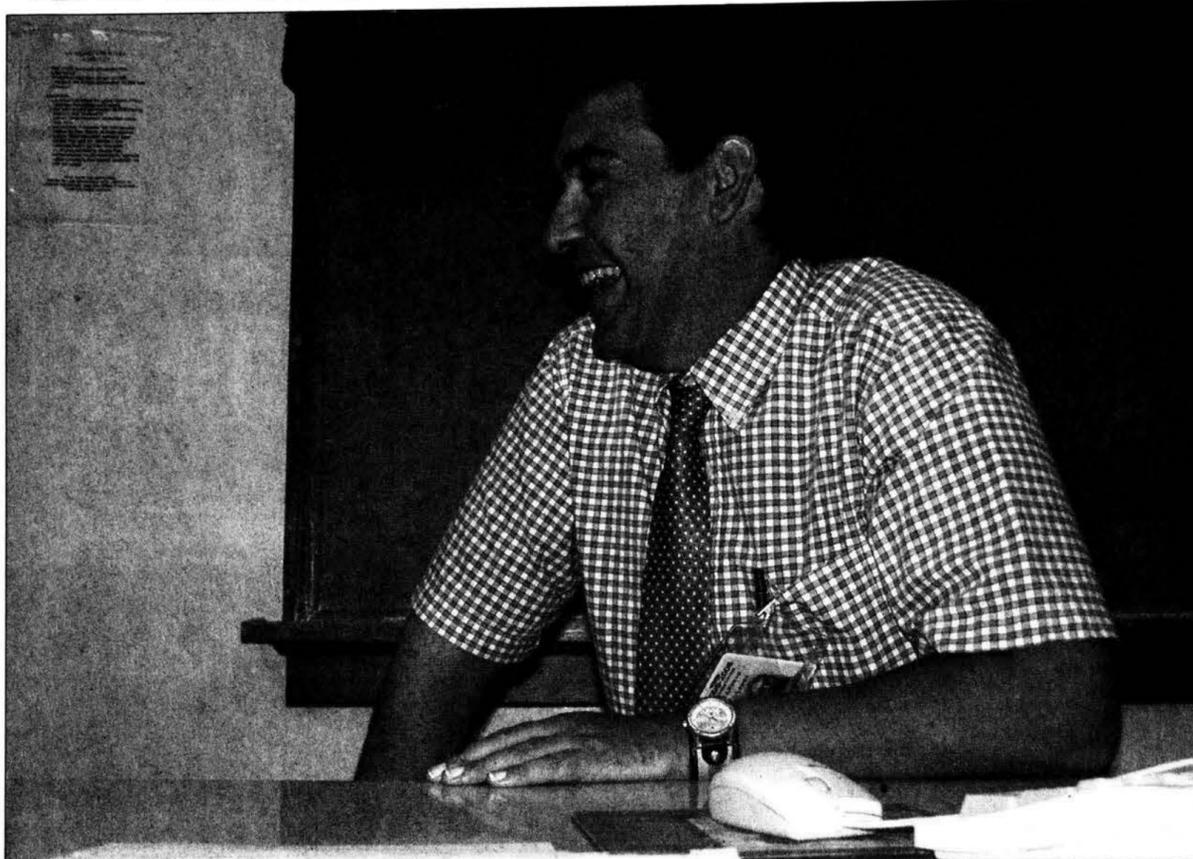


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Spanish teacher Alfonso Lopez talks at his desk during one of the first days of school. Before coming to Central, Lopez taught at a small school in Sidney, Neb. and at a school in Madrid, Spain.

Teacher brings culture, language

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Coming from a school that had 420 students to a school with over 2,500, took a little while for Alfonso Lopez to adjust.

Lopez teaches first and second year Spanish this year. He came from a small town in Spain called Albecete, about a two-hour ride from Madrid.

Lopez said he and his wife were fairly well established in Spain, with teaching jobs and a house. However, they just weren't satisfied. He said they moved to the United States to make things more exciting.

"Is this what we want to do when we're 60?" he said. "We wanted to do something new."

Lopez and his wife both received a J-1 visa, which is like an exchange program visa, valid for only three years. Fairouz Bishara, a Spanish teacher at Central, was in the same program as the Lopezes.

Bishara and the Lopezes kept in contact when Alfonso Lopez taught at a school in Wyoming and again in Sidney, Neb. In Sidney, he taught Spanish at a small school with less than 500 students.

But, he said, he wasn't too surprised at the size of Central because of the school he taught at in Spain. A lot of the goals and paperwork are the same, too, he said.

"Pretty much you see that everything is going to be the same," he said.

Of all the teachers in the exchange program in Nebraska, Bishara said she only kept in contact with the Lopezes.

"He's just one of the few teachers I've been talking to (in the exchange program)," she said.

Bishara was the one who first told him about the open position for a Spanish teacher.

As his visa length was coming to an end, he said the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) offered him a chance to sponsor the renewal of his visa, this time a J-2 visa.

"He's very serious about teaching," Bishara said. She said she thought the language department needed more male teachers, so Lopez was a good addition to the department.

International Language Department head Bev Fellman said she specifically requested Lopez would

be the one to take the job. She said the one time she saw him teach, she liked the way he handled the classroom and the way the students reacted to him.

"His understanding and knowledge of the classroom (is) outstanding," she said.

Fellman said she hopes the education field would attract more male teachers in the future, and if it doesn't, someone should find out why.

Lopez said first he had to teach summer school to get experience with OPS. He said no matter where he went, people always said good things about Central and its students.

Also, the summer school teaching got him acquainted with teacher and administrators from the school.

"Summer school was a real experience," he said. Freshman Emma Bell is in Lopez's 9th hour Spanish 3-4 class.

She said she thought he was a good teacher, and liked the fact his class was organized.

She said having a male language teacher was not that unusual for her, but it was interesting that he was from Spain.

Club paints pumpkins for hospital

BY EMILY HARRISON

Falling leaves, pumpkins and cool weather all signify the coming autumn, but for children bed-ridden in the hospital, the surroundings are the same white walls.

That is why the French Club is decorating festive pumpkins for Children's Hospital to decorate the hospital.

The French Club will be painting the pumpkins in room 122, Oct. 19 and 20. The pumpkins will be decorated with an autumn theme, making sure to add particular references to Halloween.

request of the hospital.

French Club will decorate the tray-size pumpkins with materials brought by students such as paint, feathers, sequins and other supplies.

The supplies are to be brought by club members on the day of the pumpkin painting.

Around 30 pumpkins will be painted and donated. Club members will prime the pumpkins on Wednesday and decorate them on Thursday.

Each member will have his or her own pumpkin to design, paint and decorate.

Because the pumpkins are carved, they will last longer. After the pumpkins are painted the French Club officers will take them to the hospital where they will be used to decorate the season.

Bev Fellman, the International Language department head, is sponsoring the pumpkin painting. She said she thought it would be a good idea for students to be creative.

"Kids at Central are so creative," she said. "I think that comes from diversity."

The sponsor for the National Honor Society Jennifer Stastny (NHS) is offering all members a wonderful opportunity. During the months of November and December, all members of the NHS are being offered a chance to volunteer for the Salvation Army.

"It's an optional activity that basically involves ringing a bell," Stastny said.

Anyone can volunteer, but Stastny is getting volunteers from the National Honor Society since she is the sponsor of it. Everyone can sign up at the Salvation Army's website. She said she hopes everyone in the National Honor Society would volunteer for such a charitable cause.

"It's pretty hard getting volunteers during the week, but on the weekend it just fills up real quickly," Stastny said.

Students can volunteer at different shifts that last for two hours. This counts as one group activity for members.

All students need to do is ring a bell and say repeatedly "Merry Christmas." Stastny doesn't think it's too much trouble for students to just ring a bell over and over again and say Merry Christmas repeatedly.

Also, they can be the ones who smile across children's faces make a lot of people very happy.

Salvation Army has numerous sites across the city and nation for volunteering by ringing the bell and asking for donations for a good cause.

The only bad thing about volunteering is the cold weather. Students will have to wear warm clothing in order to not freeze to death. All students must show up to their assigned shift whether or not it is snowing, raining or anything else that is possible. Hopefully all members and non-members will sign up on the website because they want to help the less fortunate.

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Upcoming Events

October

8 Latino Leaders Street Clean-Up

In an effort to beautify Omaha, Latino Leader Club members will be taking time out of their busy schedules to clean up portions of south 24th street. Those interested in helping out should contact Susana Lara or a club member. Members of Latino Leaders often do volunteer work in the Latino community, including helping with Cinco De Mayo parades and other such volunteer service.

14 Internet Math Competition

Starting at 4 p.m., students in teams of six will log onto computers around the building for an online math competition. There will be 25 questions, and teams can use any resource available in 90 minutes. There will be different questions for all levels of math students. As many teams of six as possible can compete. See Greg Sand for more details.

14 UNL Language Fair

The University of Nebraska at Lincoln will be holding an event for all modern languages. Students must compete in two events, ranging from poster making, folk dance, poetry, drama and music competitions. Students need \$6 for the registration fee and \$5 for the bus. The bus for Lincoln will depart at 7:30 a.m. See Fairouz Bishara, Jeff Sill, Kristin Lawton or Bev Fellman for more information.

18, 20, 25 A Cappella Sings for Celebrate Creativity Concert

A Cappella will celebrate Mozart's 250 birthday by singing with the Omaha Symphony in the Celebrate Creativity Concert. A Cappella will sing three movements of Mozart's requiem at Joselyn in the Witherspoon concert hall. It sang for middle school and high school students. The Celebrate Creativity Concert is part of the All Mozart Concert.

22 Madrigal Dinner

The Madrigal Dinner will feature the CHS Singers, Bel Canto, and Mens Chorus. The theme of the Faire will be Fall Festival of Song and will be from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the courtyard. Tickets cost \$15 and CHS Volunteer Organization Investing in Choral Excellence will prepare a four-course dinner. Students will also do scenes from the musical. See Lyn Bouma to purchase a ticket.

27 International Banquet

The students who are learning a language will have the chance to taste food from Germany, Italy, France and Spanish-speaking countries. The banquet will take place in the courtyard from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Students are required to bring a dish from the language they are learning from. Students are not required to attend.

29 Tri-M Hay-Rack Ride

Tri-M members will go to Bellevue Berry Farm from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. for their annual hay rack ride. There will also be a bonfire.



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

(LEFT) This is one of the several dishes used in the "Fear Factor" part of Latin Club's annual picnic. It included eyeballs, fake rats, gummy worms and mini hot dogs. (BOTTOM) Senior Carty Vincentini tests a slice of pie for the dessert contest. Only the officers got to judge. (TOP RIGHT) Senior Jeremy Gipe finishes his turn at the game. He dipped his hands into dishes, digging out different objects to be counted for points.

Fear Factor' turns picnic bizarre

BY TANIKA COOPER

Latin Club held a club picnic full of games, a dessert contest and an eating contest.

Rita Ryan, Latin teacher and club sponsor, said members had gathered at Elmwood Park every year for close to 20 years. This year, she added a new event this year.

"They usually played games such as football and Frisbee, but this year was different," she said. "They hosted a version of 'Fear Factor' called 'Ryan's Factor of Fear.'"

"I love 'Fear Factor' (the TV show)," Ryan said. "It's my favorite show."

Ryan's version only included eating something you wouldn't normally eat. Her version of "Fear Factor" included five eating contests. She said her sister helped her come up with five dishes: Brutus Brain, Cicero's Entrails, Cleopatra's Asp, Medusa Locks and Rodents.

None of the dishes looked like they could please anyone's palate, but the Brutus Brain dish, which contained cottage cheese and gummy worms looked the worst.

The Medusa Locks and Cleopatra's Asp consisted mostly of spaghetti and meat sauce. Rita's Rodents was made of Jell-O and gummy worms.

worms.

"She (Ryan) warned us that it (the eating contest) wasn't going to be really pleasant," Francesca Hannah, a sophomore and member of Latin Club said.

Hannah was one of the participants who placed third in the contest.

"I didn't even expect to place in the top three," she said. "But I'm glad about those who won the two places; they're really nice people."

Ryan said those who chose to participate in the game would have to pull numbered cards. She said these cards would determine what two dishes they would have to scramble through using their mouths. Each dish contained rubber critters such as thick night crawlers, black mice and spiders.

Jeremy Gipe said he liked how the picnic and the eating contest went.

He was also a participant in the eating contest. "It wasn't easy to breathe, I was trying my best to get the worms," he said.

Some dishes contained gummy worms and big plastic eyeballs. The large rubber worms were worth the most points.

"Fear Factor" food was disgusting as it should have been," Gipe said.

No one was allowed to use their hands so they had to place them behind their backs. The object of the game was to see who could gather the most critters and place them into a separate dish while under a time limit of 45 seconds the first time and 30 seconds the second time.

"Time went by fast," Gipe said. "I really wanted to win."

The participants had to choose two cards, which indicated the station they had to search through. Out of 13 participants, Ryan said the top two winners would win two tickets each to Oakview theater.

Senior Sterling Fox won first place and freshman Tyler Payne won second. Even though there was pizza and refreshments, most of the participants came for "Ryan's Factor of Fear" for the dessert contest.

"I just tried all the desserts, I didn't care for the pizza," sophomore Ellen Danford said.

Ryan said the point of the picnic was for everyone to socialize and enjoy themselves. "The picnic was a huge success," Ryan said. "Close to 55 to 65 people came."

She said everyone seemed to have a good time and everyone survived. As for next year, Ryan said she won't do "Ryan's Factor of Fear" again.

Experiment done on math classes, computers used in lessons

BY MATT WILEY

Three Pre-Calculus Trigonometry classes have been chosen to participate in a study tracing ways students learn math.

Technology will be introduced, to a different extent than usual, into these math classrooms.

Brent Larson, a math teacher of seven years at Central, has organized this study as part of his efforts to earn a graduate degree.

It is his own and will not change Central's math curriculum.

"There will be a different method of classroom instruction (in his study) and the way the material will be changed," Larson said.

One class will use paper, pencils and graphing calculators. His second class will use Microsoft Excel along with the book.

"It's like exchanging a pencil for a keyboard," Larson said.

The final class will use the Internet resources and a computer to accompany the workbook.

This shows the adaptation to different learning styles.

Larson has had experience with these different methods of teaching.

"In college I was taught in every single method," he said. "I opened my mind to (each

adaptively."

But instead of having just one method, he preferred all three in a mixture.

He said he begins this new program in two weeks with optimism and believes this study could change the way math is taught.

Larson is not the only math teacher at Central who has done a study involving students and technology.

Elizabeth Wessling also conducted a study herself with her 8th grade class of Algebra 1-2 students at St. Mary's in Bellevue.

"Technology didn't have a positive impact on the math scores, but it didn't hurt either," she said.

In her study, the computers and the Microsoft programs gave the same math result as a traditional class.

The only impact on the class Wessling saw was the attitude towards the class.

"Our studies will probably not be the same, and neither will the procedure or maybe even the outcome," she said.

She said for her technology only made the class more enjoyable.

She said technology had no direct correlation with higher math scores.

Wessling's study seven years ago, just as

Larson's present one, had the same objective.

"My goal was to try to improve every student's test scores and their understanding of math by any means necessary," she said.

These two studies may have used technology, but by no means does that give the impression that the outcome will be the same.

"Math is usually traditional, one way, but the adaptation of technology can create a twist," Larson said.

The planning took time, especially since this program was his special study.

And once his study is complete, he will enter the information into a math journal.

"My class will study, some will do research, but all will apply this knowledge," he said.

Information is random and useless until it is applied to people's lives and Larson said he was a firm believer in that.

He also said he hoped this study would be a push to put technology in the classroom more.

"Technology is another tool," he said. "You will still put two and two together, but the way the content is given is a way that can excite a student."

The only difference between this experimental class and every other one was the use of technology.

He said his students needed to be ready and willing to take this challenge.

But it's not all easy for Larson because some things may frustrate him.

"Saying no to math is like shutting the doors of opportunity," he said.

He said he was doing this study to enable more students to accept math.

"You can live life without math, but it won't be easy," he said.

He doubts the program would have major problems. To insure that, he'll make sure everyone was comfortable in his or her transition from pen to computer.

His students seemed excited about the new program, and so is their teacher. He said he hoped this type of college preparatory study would enable students to adapt.

The planning is done, the tools are available and the participants are ready.

"Now it's time to put it all together," he said. Hopefully this study can be given to more high school students to show them traditional learning was not the only way towards success.

Larson's whole family was in education and had been introduced to the world of math.

He said he wanted to make sure his students would be prepared for their future.

School calls "Amnesty Day" for drivers

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

The Cornhusker School of Driving is sponsoring an amnesty-driving day when students across the United States will not drive for at least one day.

Several students from the Cornhusker School of Driving started this idea when an instructor, Pat Venditte, asked his students what they thought of the idea of not driving for a good cause.

Venditte was a Westside teacher who retired in 1966.

If this plan works out, Venditte said it should help the environment by cutting down on pollution and help gas prices down.

"If this does occur, astronomical amounts of oil will be saved," he said.

However, not everyone agreed with this plan. Junior Fabiola Nomenyo said the plan was not worth the problems it would cause.

"Well, first of all, teenagers aren't the only ones spending money on gas, so it won't have an effect on gas prices," she said. "Only if the entire population banned gas would it work."

Gas prices reached an all-time high of over \$4 in the United States, and an all-time high of over \$3 in Omaha.

Presently, gas prices have gone down to an average of \$2.50 in the Metro area, but people still think gas prices should be lower.

Therefore the Cornhusker Driving School sees this as a wonderful opportunity to try to get prices to what they should be.

"It can spread through word of mouth, so everyone is telling everyone they know," Venditte said.

He said this process was working.

"We have contacted Burke High School, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Creighton University and a number of other schools so far," he said.

Creighton agreed with the idea along with 47 other Jesuit universities around the entire nation.

"I think that they realized how important this is for everyone," Venditte said.

Officials from the universities are willing to spread the message to everyone they know to participate in this program. Several teachers have been talked to at different schools, and all of them care a great deal about the idea.

Everyone involved said they hoped that after the planned day, the environment would be better, at least a little.

Venditte said he hoped there would be a national campaign where the Cornhusker Driving School could make 15 or 20 stops around the country for news conferences.

Right now, Venditte was still trying to get sponsors for this day.

Also, he said he was trying to get media coverage from the newspapers and radio stations.

"All of them have had a major interest in this plan," he said.

Venditte said what high school students were doing would set an example for the whole nation, which could have a huge impact. The plan was mainly being discussed in driver education classes.

However, the program would not only include high school students, but college students as well.

"Right now, we just want the media to know that we are from Omaha, Nebraska, and we want to get gas prices down and clean the environment," he said.

Venditte said he felt strongly about this opportunity students had to make a difference.

"These days, some people can't even afford to fill up their tank with cash, and they have to use their credit cards," he said. "Hopefully, they won't have to use them any longer."

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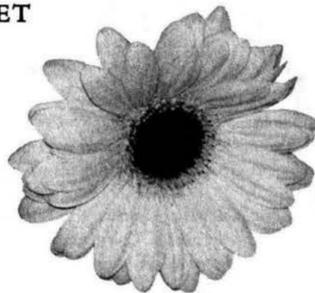


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After Hurricane Katrina hit, clubs and classes got involved in an effort to help. From a penny war to mission trips, the community mobilized to help make Omaha welcoming to survivors of one of the worst hurricanes in history.

Penny wars raise funds for survivors

BY LAUREN CRIST

Students have made efforts to help the hurricane victims of Katrina throughout the school.

Jennifer Stastny, sponsor of National Honors Society (NHS), helped students to get involved with the effort.

Stastny said she heard about the information through an e-mail former NHS sponsor Jean Whitten received.

"She passed the information onto me," she said. "And we said, 'OK, let's try this.'"

Students began collecting money during lunch in different areas including the courtyard and cafeteria for the relief effort.

She said they gave envelopes to the junior and senior English teachers because many of the students in these classes didn't have lunches, but still wanted to give to the relief effort.

They collected from these students throughout the day as well.

Stastny said the effort went well over all, but she didn't have much time to prepare.

"We had to use my mom's coffee cans to take collections," she said.

Teachers and faculty gave to the effort as well.

The money went directly to the Salvation Army General Hurricane Relief Fund.

Stastny said she was surprised by the amount of money given.

"I feel really positive," she said.

She said she was also surprised by the attitude people had.

"I'm impressed by the optimism and kindness of people in this school," she said.

However, she said one of the things she was most impressed with were the students who donated even though they didn't have much to give.

"People who don't have a lot to give financially are generously giving to the hurricane victims monetarily," she said.

She said she had at first set in her head a goal of raising \$500.

On the first day of collecting, NHS members had all ready received almost \$500 from both the students and the staff.

"I had no idea what to expect," she said. "I was just shocked."

Not only did NHS make an effort to help the hurricane victims, but many other students did as well.

She said there were many who tried to start their own efforts to help the hurricane victims as well.

A couple of students approached her about starting to help the victims.

"There were a lot of people interested in doing projects," she said.

She said though she would have loved to help, she had a very busy schedule and didn't have enough time to help with so many efforts.

"I felt bad because I had to say no to people because I didn't have time, but I want to help," she said.

One student found a way to help through a competing penny war amongst the grades in school.

Junior Jeramie Colvin started a collection effort with the help of counselor Karen Cirulis.

The penny war was set up in the guidance office, where each grade had a jar where students contributed pennies.

The money collected in the decorated jars was counted up at the end.

Colvin said he got the idea from his junior high school, when the school did a similar penny war.

The school raised money for someone who had a tumor on his left arm and needed an operation to remove it.

However, the family could not afford to pay for the operation, so the school began a penny war. All the money that had been raised was donated to the family for the operation.

Colvin said after watching the tragedy of the victims on the news, he decided to make an effort to help.

"I was watching the news and saw people crying with wrecked homes," he said. "I felt like I could do something to help."

He said this was the first time he ever tried to do something like this before.

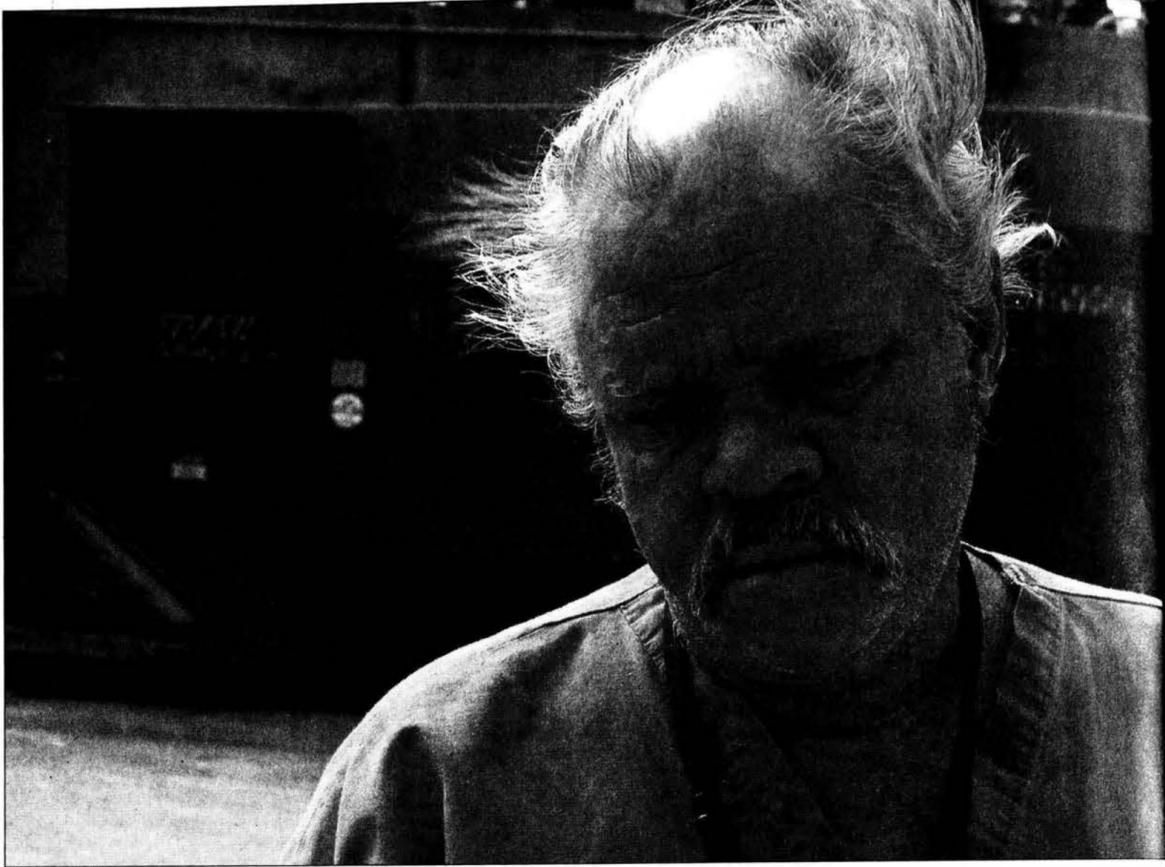
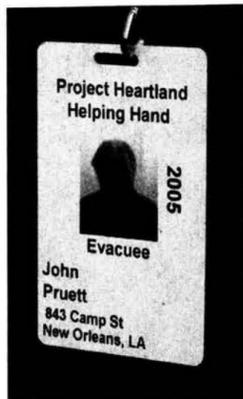
The money raised combined with that of NHS, was given to the Salvation Army Relief fund.

"I felt good having the chance to help other people who really need it," Colvin said.

He said he would be interested in helping with similar causes in the future.

"I hope to," he said. "There's always need for stuff like that."

With a combined effort of the student-council, class officers and NHS, the students collected \$2792.46.



PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

(ABOVE RIGHT) John Pruett stands outside the Civic Auditorium, preparing to move to a motel paid for by the Red Cross. He said he was picked up off the streets by the police in New Orleans after a mandatory evacuation was issued. He was then taken in a plane and was not told where he was until the it landed. (TOP LEFT) An identification was issued to every one of the 166 original evacuees. (BOTTOM LEFT) Wrist bands with bar codes were worn to decide where the evacuees would be going.

Evacuees decide to never go back

■ 'EVACUEES' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

would treat that student differently because of his race.

"Up here (Omaha) you treat people with respect," he said. "I like it."

Central was a lot different than Frederick Douglass because there were many electives. He said to take computer courses at his school would cost over \$300. He plans on living in Omaha until he moves somewhere to college, but has no plans on ever returning to New Orleans.

"There's too much chaos, it's a party city... Too much killing," he said.

Just days after the hurricane's winds tore apart the Superdome, evacuees were transported all across the country. The Civic Center, right across the street from Central, was home to some evacuees picked up by the police and taken out of New Orleans. Central also became a new place for evacuees to come while schools in New Orleans were being repaired, or in Davis' case of his school in the 9th ward, completely rebuilt.

Rosanne Bachman, director of communications for the American Red Cross Heartland chapter, said it mobilized volunteers right when it got the call.

She said there wasn't an exact count on how many people it had working at the Civic Center when evacuees were flown in.

There were, however, 166 evacuees at the Civic.

Since then, more have come in to live with

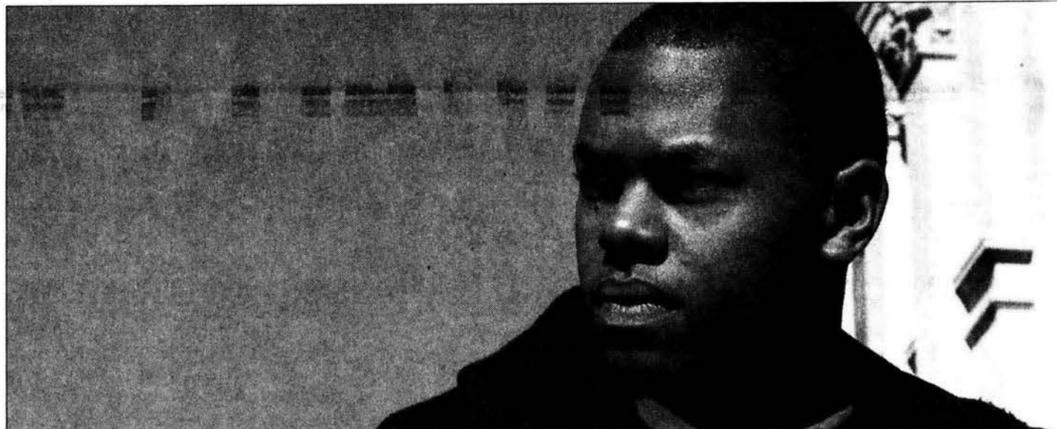


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Junior Obadiah Davis came to Central after evacuating the Superdome in New Orleans. He said even though the schools in Nebraska were much different, he liked them better and never planned on returning to Louisiana.

family and friends and the Red Cross has assisted over 1,000 evacuees.

She said it assisted with emergency funds and housing.

"I expect that they (the evacuees) will be moved to permanent housing within the next month," she said.

There are 60 evacuees still living in hotels.

To prepare for such incidents, the Red Cross holds drills year round.

There are several committees to take care of

all aspects.

The mass-care committee, for example, was in charge of getting cots and linens to the Civic Center.

John Pruett stood outside the Civic Center, the last evacuee to be moved to a hotel or apartment before more definite plans were made. He was smoking by the door, waiting for a van from the Red Cross to pick him up. He pulled a cigarette from his front pocket, his thumb browned from rolling tobacco.

Sophomore plans mission trip to New Orleans to help with relief

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

When sophomore Amy Wall saw the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina on television, she was overwhelmed by pity for those who had lost everything and disgust for the government's slow response.

"I was disappointed in the lack of planning and organization because we all knew it was coming," she said.

That was hard part to handle because things could have been avoided.

Wall said she thought blame for the slow response to the disaster should fall mainly on state and local governments and to a lesser extent, the federal government.

"I was utterly disgusted by our government's reaction to everything," Wall said.

Members of Wall's church, Central Presbyterian, mobilized and came to the decision that they had to help.

Wall said she wanted to do something.

She said plans for a mission trip to New Orleans began taking shape soon after Hurricane Katrina hit.

Wall said she wanted to help the situation in to the best of her ability, but was also nervous about going to the devastated city because of the previous problems with lawlessness.

Mary Ann Beckman is the volunteer coordinator for Catholic Charities, who said

going to New Orleans in its time of need could help shape a person for the rest of her life.

"Being exposed to things as a young person is good because it leaves a lasting impression," she said.

Beckman said she knew of several adults who had already gone to New Orleans.

She also said she was aware of several youth groups, similar to Central Presbyterian, that are trying to make the trip to the Gulf Coast.

People were starting to get involved.

"Groups of people or individuals have gone," she said. "I know people who have taken off work to go help with the rebuilding."

Beckman also said if teenagers were going to spend time in the midst of the devastation, they should be prepared to be shocked by the extent of it.

"I would definitely suggest going in a group and with preparation," she said.

Beckman said if a young person went to New Orleans while the city was being rebuilt, it would be a good idea to go with a friend or someone the teen trusted.

She said people who volunteered to help in disaster relief often underestimated how bad things were, and had a very hard time adjusting to their new surroundings.

Beckman said having someone to talk to about everything a volunteer would see in New Orleans would be very helpful in maintaining a

healthy mind set.

Wall said she wasn't sure how she was going to deal with seeing the destruction first hand.

"I think it's going to be really hard to face," she said.

Beckman said volunteers such as youth groups would probably be needed later in the clean-up effort.

She said right now what the Gulf Coast needed was volunteers with specific skills, such as construction, health care or experience in child care. Wall said she had been on two previous mission trips, one to Kentucky and one to San Francisco; both to help the homeless.

She said New Orleans would be similar to her past mission trips because most of the people she would be working with would not have homes. However, it would also be different because just a few months ago those same people were living in their homes that are now destroyed.

Wall said people of all ages are going to be welcomed with her church's mission trip because she thinks the more people there are the more people there will be to help with the relief effort.

"They (people of New Orleans) need a lot of help and they will take anything they can get," she said.

Wall said she hoped the trip would be a significant event in her life, something she would remember for the rest of her life.

His weathered face, long thinning hair and various scars made it obvious he had a hard life. He was homeless in New Orleans, living on Rampart St., which bordered the French Quarter.

He doesn't know how he ended up in Omaha, or where he's going from there.

All he knows is he never plans on going back to New Orleans.

Clay Lomneth contributed to this story.

She also said she was concerned the effects of Katrina would be given a great deal of attention for only a short span of time, and then fall from the headlines, similar to observances Sept. 11.

Beckman said with the pace of American media, she was also worried about the quickly Katrina would fade from the national consciousness.

"One of the beautiful things about America is with all the access we have to what's going on in the world, we can show that we really care," Beckman said. "One of the not so beautiful things is that we tend to move on too quickly."

She said she had faith Americans would be able to help each other through this difficult time by simply being kind.

She said teenagers volunteering at such a young age would help to pass a sense of generosity in the United States on to a new generation.

"Americans are really generous," she said. "There is a real great generosity."

Wall said she was confident that New Orleans as a structure would be able to be rebuilt, but she had doubts whether or not the city would be able to recapture its previous personality.

"I don't think it'll ever be the same because the people will be different and people make the culture," she said.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Central is becoming more technologically advanced, according to school officials. The advances made included a new way to take attendance and to keep grades. Assistant principal Dr. Keith Bigsby said in the future, he hopes that students can do more things with computers, from real-time conversation across the globe to buying their lunches with debit, credit and identification cards.



TOTALLY WIRED

Schools across the country are replacing what some officials call old-fashioned learning for high-tech education. Students are going global. Central is becoming one of those schools.

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Junior John Doe sits down in his business law class every day to a computer screen. After the teacher discusses what they will be doing for the day, Doe takes notes and does schoolwork on the computer. He then can later e-mail his assignment to his teacher.

Is this the future of Central High School? It is already the reality for North High and others both in Omaha and across the country.

THE FUTURE

Technology facilitator Kelly Means said as of now, Central has about 350 computers for student use, and she said she guessed about 100 more for teachers. This meets the district standard.

In the last five years, Means said the most advances made in technology were with the renovations, when the backbone of the network was updated. With the update, she said students could use more computers than before.

"That's going to allow teachers and students to have better communication," Means said.

Sophomore Nathan Queen takes a keyboarding class. He said he thought Central was becoming more advanced with its technology because of the new and different things this year. He said he thought the new attendance and grading systems put Central on the same level as other schools. A paperless class in the future, Queen said, would be nice.

"It'd be a lot easier," he said.

Assistant principal Dr. Keith Bigsby said all the technology has the ability to connect internationally. But, he said, all the questions and issues regarding the

technology have not been answered or addressed, yet.

"Some of these questions are things like cyber security," he said.

Cyber security addressed issues such as the elimination of online predators, right to privacy and copyright issues. For example, Bigsby said if a student put an original piece of work online, that work should be protected so nobody else could use it.

Bigsby said the ability to communicate in real time would be a huge tool that could be used by students. He said the first thing that needed to be addressed was all of the security issues before students could use it.

An example of problems, Bigsby said, was when the identification cards will be used for lunch. He said some students may steal other students' cards and use them to their advantage. Bigsby also said there were issues like if Central ever decided to take

Continued to **Technology** on Page 6A

New assistant principal schedules 2,500 students

BY JUSTIN VALENTINE

Central has just started to come into the 21st century, technology wise. Looking to help with this coming of age is the new data administrator, Dr. Keith Bigsby.

"I'm proud to be following in his (Semrad) footsteps," Bigsby said. Paul Semrad was an administrator at Central before his retirement last year.

Coming back to Central after eight years, Bigsby has taken the position of one of the assistant principals, the position he held at Bryan Middle School for the last three years.

"Taking this position was a great opportunity and I'm lucky to have it," Bigsby said.

Office aid, senior Nick Pelman, said Bigsby was a nice guy, positive, and a good replacement for Semrad.

From 1993 to 1997, Bigsby worked as the Business/Marketing department head which gave him experience working in this school.

Bigsby also said when he worked at the Career Center, handpicking students from Central, it showed him how great the students were.

Bigsby said with the new technology, Central should be catching up to all the other schools and there would be fewer lecture-type classes. Bigsby said Central was special because it worked as a downtown school facility.

He also said he hadn't seen another downtown school do as well as Central.

Bigsby emphasized it was a great piece of downtown and it was a great school for students, teachers and parents.

Before actually setting a foot back into Central during the school year, Bigsby had to wait four years until his daughter, Casey, graduated.

She told him he had to wait until she graduated to start working back at her school.

Bigsby had made a comment sarcastically stating he would probably have to leave soon because he had children coming to Central in a few years.

One of Bigsby's jobs this year was to help bring in technology to the classroom.

Bigsby said with the new enrollment in each class on the computers would help with tardiness and skipping.

He also said this would give teachers the power to look up which students were gone and give them access to information they never had before.

There also is a development being installed, where there would be a way to let parents check grades from home in the near future.

Bigsby also said the new social skills that have been applied would help bring an understanding or a common language between students and teachers.

Bigsby said he believed this would help with confrontations.

He said most problems have occurred only because of miscommunications.

Old computer class takes new direction

BY STEPHEN WILHELM

"Pathways was a severe waste of my time and served no purpose whatsoever except to give me an easy A," junior Tyler Magnuson said.

He also said the school should get rid of Pathways if it was not going to be made more challenging.

This however was the general feeling about Pathways among many students, who have only complaints about it.

A group of male students including sophomore Brian Flowers and junior James Bowles said they see Pathways as a place to learn a little, socialize a lot and meet girls.

There was however a small amount of students, who actually believe Pathways was acceptable or actually quite good.

Dr. Keith Bigsby is the former department head of the Business/Marketing department and is currently an administrator and assistant principal.

The students at this school for a long time lacked the necessary technology skills needed to survive in a computer driven world, Bigsby said.

Pathways was a course meant to be the starting point of six technology pathways, which included business marketing, computer-aided design, programming, journalism, multimedia and information system management.

This was all possible due to a grant from the AIM institute over a decade ago with the Omaha business community backing a plan to get high school students the necessary skill for entering a high level technology career.

The grant for approximately \$600,000 was spread over three years and called WINGS 21, which stands for Workforce Initiative for the Next Generation of Students 21st century.

This was a great improvement for Central because before the six pathway sequences, Central had no programming courses and

only one CAD class with four students during a time, when Central had 10 periods with an optional 11th period for technology classes, Bigsby said.

It was even required all students take a computer course at a university, but they could opt out of it.

The goals were to create a sequence of more courses and to reinforce the old courses with technology, Bigsby said.

"Pathways helped me with visual basic, but they need to try to make it more fun and to stop treating freshman like kids in kindergarten," sophomore Elvis Servellon said.

He said Pathways wasted a lot of his time talking about friendship and other subject matter he already knew about.

Bigsby said the key to Pathways was getting everyone experience with technology with the plan to get students internships and jobs with technology companies.

However, technology internships have decreased for the most part, but the idea to create an entry level course where every student would be expected to gain a minimum level of technology skills and to expose students to a variety of career opportunities in technology still is thriving, Bigsby said.

He said students even used to manage the school's computer systems.

"No one told me about the Honors Biology opt out option, but pathways was still great for me because it caught me up with high school technology because in junior high, we didn't use computers all that much," junior Princeton O'Neal said.

He said not knowing what the class was about, he would have opted out of Pathways, but knowing what he knows now, he would have decided to take the course.

The class had other focuses as well.

Pathways was also meant to bring a sense of shared experience on the soft side where academic and social issues were the focus and not

Continued to **Pathways** on Page 8A

CENTRAL HIGH

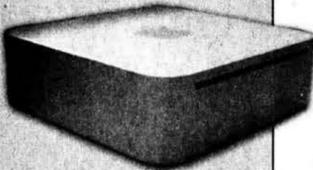
Students have been exposed to a lot of new technology this year. The paper trail made the school more worldly, others argue for

HOTTEST TECHNOLOGY AROUND THE GLOBE



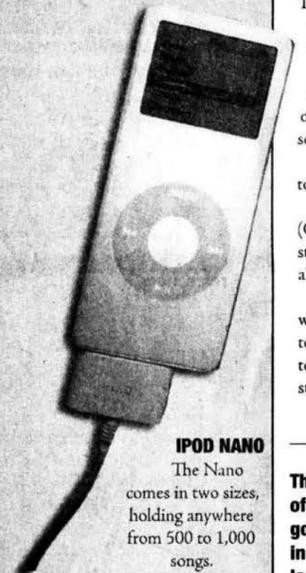
MOTOROLA RAZR

It is equipped with Bluetooth technology, allowing it to communicate with other computers that have it as well.



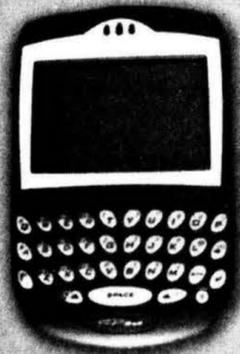
MINI MAC

The Mini Mac is designed for those who do not want large desktop computers.



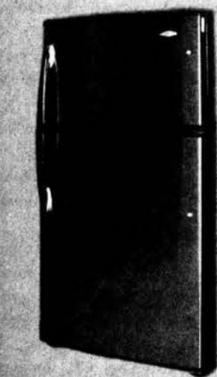
IPOD NANO

The Nano comes in two sizes, holding anywhere from 500 to 1,000 songs.



BLACKBERRY

Acts as a phone, pocket organizer and can connect to the Internet.



HIGH-TECH REFRIGERATORS

LG's model LRSC 26980 has a 17-inch television screen built into the freezer door. Unlike most refrigerators (above), it can be hooked up to a cable service, and comes with an AM/FM radio.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF BEST BUY AND THE COMPANY, LG

■ 'TECHNOLOGY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

credit cards for lunch.

"McDonald's will take a credit card, why can't Central?" Bigsby said. "If I can see your grades, why can't your parents?"

MAGNET SCHOOLS

North High principal Gene Haynes said his school became a magnet school for technology in the early 1980s. He said North and South were the chosen magnet schools to help enhance the racial composition of the school district.

South was chosen to be a magnet for performing arts and computer technology, while North was chosen for science, English, mathematics and engineering, with a tie in to technology.

The math classes Haynes said, prepared the students for what they would later use in technology classes. The majority of the math classes are honors. "We want to attract the best and the brightest," Haynes said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said as far as he knew, there were no plans for Central becoming a magnet school.

Central has made advances in technology this year, he said, with close to every classroom getting wired for the Internet. The only exceptions were the gym and weight room.

In addition to the computers with Internet connection, Bexten said some classrooms had LCD projectors.

"We were basically able to modernize and update what we had," Bexten said.

The purchase of the additional technology, he said, was bought with a donation from Susan T. Buffett. Other technology was purchased with a donation from the Central High School Foundation.

Omaha Public School (OPS) Magnet School Administrator Sandy Day said there were a total of 15 magnet schools, eight elementary, five middle schools and the two high schools.

Day said the magnet schools were a good way to offer students something they were interested in.

North started with auto-computer aided design (CAD) in the 1980s. Eventually, other schools started programs like CAD and North had to stay ahead of the other OPS schools, Day said.

She said during Renewal 2000 (R2K) North went through some changes. R2K was the plan to get North back ahead of other OPS schools technology-wise. This was when North began to start its focus on engineering programs.

Right now, Day said, North also was

ahead of OPS schools in biotechnology. In one freshman required class, students are able to change an amoeba's deoxyribonucleic acid to make it glow in the dark.

"What's cool about it is that it's not just a biology class that only the really, really smart kids can take," Day said.

Haynes said North functioning without computers would be difficult. Just in case anything extreme happened, Haynes said some of the staff had palm pilots with student information such as locker numbers, schedules and contact information.

"It could be difficult to do the things we need to get done in the 21st century (without computers)," he said.

Tim Garton is the Director of Technology for Charter Management Organization (CMO), a group of schools that includes High Tech High, a public charter school in San Diego, California.

High Tech High was the idea of two men, he said, and it opened in 1999.

He said the purpose of the school was to offer a personal connection with students and teachers.

There is a two-to-one student to computer ratio, with around 450 students at High Tech High and 225 computers for student use. There are 40 extra computers for faculty and staff to use.

The computers are used to enhance education, Garton said. Students were able to use the computers for online research, web development and video editing.

"Basically every single class has computers," he said.

Garton said out of 26 classes offered, he would guess half of them were paperless. Classes like Spanish, humanities, history and English use paper, but still may use a computer. Multimedia classes, the engineering lab and some science classes don't use paper.

The transition between paper to paperless, he said, happened about four years ago. Garton said if he had a choice between using paper and not, he said he'd prefer not using paper.

"It seems like there's a little less room for error," he said.

Attendance and grading are done online, Garton said, through a program called Powerschool. Paper, Garton said, still played a big role at the school. He said he guessed in five years paper use could be close to completely eliminated.

Students are chosen to go to High Tech High by a lottery. Garton said they do some recruiting at schools, but mostly it was a random selection of students who signed up from different areas in town. This way, he said, the school population is as diverse as possible.

NEW THIS YEAR

InterGrade (IG) Pro and Student Administrator System of Information (SASI) are new programs being used by Central this year.

IG Pro is a program used to keep grades on the computers. Bigsby said it made the teacher's jobs easier because it eliminated the need for the grade book.

"The ultimate goal," he said, "is to put them (grades) online for parents to access them."

Central and Burke, Bigsby said, were the last two OPS high schools to use this technology. Bigsby said Central was behind other OPS schools, but it was partly because of the renovations.

"We didn't have the infrastructure, we still have some rooms that don't have the infrastructure," he said.

Bigsby said the biggest problem with technology was the risk that the district would not use the technology to its advantage. There also are some security issues, he said, such as hacking into computers and changing grades.

There are security risks with the technology, Bigsby said, and that is why the district is taking the technology advances so slow.

"Our district has taken a very, very common sense approach," he said. "We'd rather get it right than be first."

Bigsby said the district needs to take its time and make sure everything is secure and safe.

Bigsby said so far the teachers have responded well to the grading on computers. He said this could be because of the workshops at the beginning of the year, taken to help get students more comfortable with the technology.

Haynes said North began IG Pro three or four years ago. He said the teachers felt better about the new attendance and grading programs.

"He (a student) couldn't dot in and dot out," he said.

Means said with SASI, students are given a safer learning environment, because teachers would know where

the students were.

The IG Pro, she said, was meant to come from parents to the teachers' grade books. Parents do not have e-mail will be called or mailed grades. Means said the e-mailing of the grades is going to be a way for the school to keep up with increasing technology-savvy parents.

Junior Lara Curry said she thought Central was fairly advanced compared to last year, but not as advanced as it could be. She said she still thought Central was doing well for not being a magnet school.

To make Central better, Curry said she would add more computers for students to use. She said class projects would be easier if students didn't have to share computers.

THE USE OF PAPER

Haynes said they have been using programs similar to IG Pro for about six or seven years. Despite this, he said paper still plays an important role at his school.

"There's still paper to be used," he said. From the paper they do save and don't use, Haynes said North can start new programs or fund other ones.

North's technology coordinator Robert Molettiere said there were about 1,000 computers in the building, after they recently got rid of old ones. He said in a school of around 1,700 students, this easily exceeds the district standard of a 4-to-1 ratio of students to computers.

He said it would be hard to estimate the cost of all the computers, but to replace all the computers with new ones with the minimum district requirements would cost \$850 per computer.

With the technology, Molettiere said he has seen a decrease of paper use over the years. He said e-mailing grades has saved them a lot of paper. They have used less paper in some areas, he said, but they still use printers and copiers, and the use of the differs.

"Paper use is a direct use to student population," Molettiere said.

When any computers do go down, Molettiere said it is hard for them to get anything done. He said any problems, however, were minimal and not a deal, considering how often they are used.

Lori Shea is a marketing and business teacher at North, who teaches a completely paperless class. She said with computers for every student, it keeps the kids more involved and allows them to take notes on the computer. Everything they type is saved on the computer.

"The kids are a lot more organized," she said. "They can't lose things."

Means said for some school subjects, students are always going to need paper and pencil. She said computers had an educational value, but they needed to worry about security and safety first.

This shows Central's ability to be on top of the world of technology. Students are going global. The building is headed in the right direction, but has a long way to go.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER



GOES GLOBAL

Mail is disappearing and more computers have been introduced. While some say this has should have been done a long time ago.

New technology brings cheating to higher level

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Ninety-five percent of high school students admitted to cheating, according to the Omaha Public Schools.

This is the reality of high school. Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said she didn't have any major trouble with cheating. But she said she didn't really know how students cheat these days, so she can't catch them as easily as it was in the past.

"I would definitely cheat in AP classes because how hard they are," senior Mike Greenberg said. Cheating is becoming more and more common because of different kinds of technology. Students have been cheating for a long time, they have become more inventive in how to get away with it.

Before cheating with technology was possible, students would make cheat sheets in the smallest font and stick it to the bottom of their desks with gum so teachers would not find it.

However, now cheating is easier so the evidence is not as concrete.

Today, students can use cell phones, palm devices, the Internet, calculators, iPods, hearing aids, beepers and probably several other new ways to cheat.

Cheating occurs more in college than in high school because it is more stressful in college. There are as many assignments but they are difficult and are worth more of the grade.

"Also, it's more stressful because you have to be more responsible. It just makes college students want to cheat," Kirksey said.

Greenberg said a lot of students text message each other to get the answers for tests.

Students can text message each other with cell phones, put all of the answers on their palm pilot, download papers from certain websites, download answers into calculators, use hearing aids so they can hear what their friends are saying from across the room and so many other ways that are just as creative or even more so.

"Cheating is still cheating whether or not you caught, everyone is getting away with it because new ways are easier," Greenberg said.

History teacher Victoria Deniston-Reed has



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Teachers now have to tell students not to have cell phones out during tests. They can take photos of the answers and sell them to friends, or receive text messages. Students are not supposed to have cell phones out anyway. Phones and graphing calculators among other technology are becoming a problem.

been catching her students cheat using technology for almost a decade.

"They've plagiarized papers from the Internet and that's the only way I've caught them so far," Deniston-Reed said.

The biggest tool for cheating is websites where papers can be downloaded. Students can plagiarize and go to websites that have the tests for their classes.

A rumor is being spread that one history class has its very own website created by a few students with all of the tests and answers for that specific

class. And so far, no one has been caught.

Greenberg said he does not cheat, but it is so easy to do and many people he knows do it. It is doubtful even one student can truthfully say they have never cheated.

Students have so much to do including sports, clubs, volunteer hours, jobs and of course school, they do not have any time so they take the easy way out by cheating, and technology just makes it even more convenient.

It is suspected in the next few years at least 25

percent of cell phones will be camera phones.

Students can just take a quick picture of the test, send it to other students and even put it on the Internet for the whole world to see.

"Picture phones have made us aware of the major possibility of cheating," Kirksey said.

One of the most popular websites is Schoolsucks.com.

More than 50,000 term papers, book reports, dissertations and college essays are available. They have papers for over one hundred topics from accounting to zoology.

Parents take concern with teen blogging web sites, safety

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

Freshman Jessica Smolinski said when she couldn't talk to her friends who were out of state or went to a different school, she simply posted messages for them on the Internet.

"It's a way to keep in touch with my friends and see what everybody's up to," she said.

Smolinski had an account with the popular Internet blogging service, Xanga for eight months.

The Xanga home page explained the service it provides was a community of web diaries connected through a central server.

It went on to explain that any user could read any other user's blog.

There were also no rules or regulations.

People from all over the country use the service and Smolinski said she made friends over the Internet with people in different states.

Sophomore Maya Doghman had

been using her Xanga account for about a year.

Doghman said she posted on her site once a week and used it to keep in contact with her friends.

"I don't put any personal things out there, it helps me keep in touch with friends who have moved away," she said.

Some users, like Smolinski and Doghman have been updating their accounts for long periods of time, and others like Freshman Joe Kammerer have just begun to keep a virtual journal.

Kammerer said he had been using his Xanga for one month and updated it every night.

As opposed to the conventional journal style, Kammerer said he mainly used his site to promote his political beliefs.

"I use it to spread communism," Kammerer said.

Kammerer said he thought Xanga was a good thing, but there were aspects of the service that he didn't agree with.

He said he has found sites through

online journals that promoted racist sentiments, or were overall very negative and hurtful.

He said he did not like those types of sites and did not read them.

Kammerer said he had also made friends with people who do not live in Nebraska, and that would not have been possible without his Xanga account.

Although most users are very pleased with Xanga, there are also negative things that are accommodated through the service, such as the racist blog rings.

Doghman said she had never experienced anything negative through using Xanga, and only her friends left messages for her to read.

Kammerer said even though he knew the danger of posting personal information on the Internet he didn't care who read his entries, mainly because he did not usually post personal matters that could be traced back to him.

Smolinski said she was affected by the negative attributes of Xanga. She

said that people she didn't know had posted harassing comments on her page.

This person had also left threatening messages in her chatterbox, a type of chat room located to the side of the page and could be used by any visitor.

Administrator Dionne Kirksey said if a student was caught accessing Xanga through the school's computers they could be punished for it.

She said the possible infractions would include misuse of school property for accessing the site, which would result in the loss of computer privileges.

She said revocation of computer privileges would not be altered even if the student was enrolled in a class that required a computer, such as Pathways or Computer Aided Drafting.

Kirksey said she hoped such strict consequences would help discourage students from misusing the school's property.

Kirksey said Central never had an issue with a student being harassed through online journals, but if someone

was caught leaving intimidating or threatening messages on a classmate's site, it would fall under harassment in the student hand book and would result in suspension.

Doghman said she had only been exposed to positive things through Xanga and she thought the overall attitude of the community was friendly.

Kammerer said he thought Xanga, in general had some negative overtones, but he had not been personally victimized by any other user.

Smolinski said even though she had been harassed through the service, she would continue to use it.

She said the good aspects of the service outweighed the bad and she liked the freedom of blogging.

She also said she thought a virtual journal was better than one kept in a bound book like a spiral notebook because of ease with which it could be used.

"It's easier to write in and it's a way to share things with people," she said.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Is Central more technologically advanced than other schools?



"Yeah, because it's a smarter school."
Tyler Raiti (9)



"Yeah, because (Pathways) helps you with your future references."
Sonya Harbour (10)



"No, because we don't have all the high tech laptops that other schools get."
Karisha Pablonis (10)



"Yes, (because) of the technology I've seen in my foreign language class last year."
Jared Spence (10)



"Not compared to King (Science Center). King's got a lot of stuff."
Joe Martinez (9)

Students say identification tag regulations are not enforced

'TAGS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

already had a replacement. She said she didn't even lose the first one, she just never wore it.

She said it was unorganized because she never lost her ID, she just chose not to wear it.

The office sent her a replacement even though she didn't ask for one.

Last year, Ripton was on the principal advisory board when the idea was brought up by Principal Jerry Sexton.

She said last year he said it wasn't likely this policy would be implemented, but the board liked the idea.

Ripton said she was one of the only people who didn't like it.

She said there were other issues dealing with education that demanded more attention than IDs.

Although she did not like the ID tags, she said making a big deal out of wearing them wasn't worth it.

"Yeah, they're inconvenient, but they're not hurting anyone," she said.

People who opposed the IDs, she said, just wanted to get a rise out of people and get them talking.

She thought it was unfortunate people gave attention to those who were wearing the Star of David.

"If they actually cared about problems, they would focus their energy on something more constructive," she said.

Security guard Mike McWhorter said the IDs definitely help.

He said he was much better with faces then with names so this made his job a lot easier.

"Kids like to be called by their first name," he said. "We're here to help the kids, even if they don't think so."

He said the IDs are like the security vest he wears.

He said people felt at ease knowing he worked at the school because of his vest, and he felt the same way about the students.

"IDs for everyone are a positive," he said.

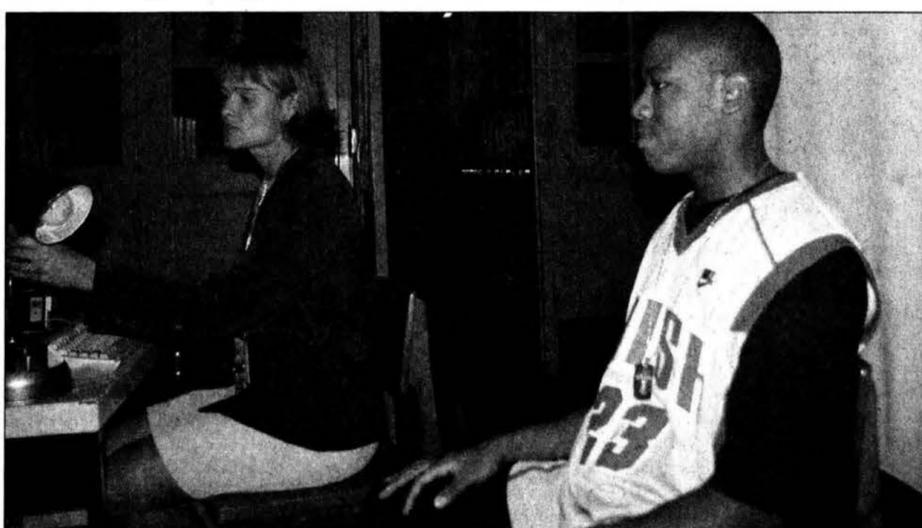


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Administrator Lynne Slobodnik starts taking student identification photos. They were then passed out to every student to be worn at all times. She said many students so far have lost them.

EVOLUTION OF MUSIC

From 8-tracks to iPods, everyone has their preferences of how to play their favorite tunes. Here's a look at the real differences.



CASSETTE TAPES

Three main lengths of tapes are sold, 30 minutes, 60 minutes and 90 minutes. Sometimes 120 minute tapes can be found in certain stores.

There are also different types of recording tapes. Low noise tapes decrease the background sounds, extended range tapes are used for long-range recording, such as conferences or speeches and high clarity tapes are used for recording music because it has a better quality sound when played back.

The price for a cassette tape player has gone down considerably, and they are now also less than \$29.

Interference is the main problem with cassette tapes, leading to scratchy-sounding music.

They were introduced in 1963 and mass produced in 1965.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF RADIO SHACK MANAGER JOHN GAYNES AND WIKIPEDIA

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST / REGISTER



VINYL RECORD

The two main types of records come in 90 minute and 45 minute lengths.

Record players are typically \$100.

Sometimes revolutions per minute (rpm) differs. There can be 45, 33 and sometimes 30 rpm.

Older turntables usually do not come with a built-in amplifier. Newer ones sometimes do.

The type of needle for the record player can vary. "There's like 50 different needles," Radio Shack manager John Gaynes said.

Needles can break however, and vinyl records can be scratched by them, or by other sources.

In 1973 a record was created for a Monty Python album that has three sides. It had two parallel grooves on one side, so depending on where the needle was dropped it would play a different side.

Disk records were invented in 1888.



8-TRACK

Like a cassette tape, the 8-track's main component is a thin, plastic, magnetic film. It is coated with plastic vinyl in different colors.

Also like cassettes, their biggest problems can stem from the film getting caught in the machine and breaking the tape.

8-tracks came into use originally in the 1960s and 1970s, even though they were created in the 1940s.

Like all mediums of music playing, 8-tracks have a lot of interference in the music.

8-track players are, in keeping with similarities to cassette tapes, less than \$29.

Although 8-tracks were widely replaced by CDs in the 1980s, radio stations used them until the 1990s for jingles and commercials until they were replaced with computers.

The tape is coated with graphite.



COMPACT DISC (CD)

There are 70 megabytes of data on an average CD, just about 80 minutes.

MP3s can also be recorded onto some CDs.

There are also re-writeable CDs, called CD-RWs. They can be recorded over as many times as possible.

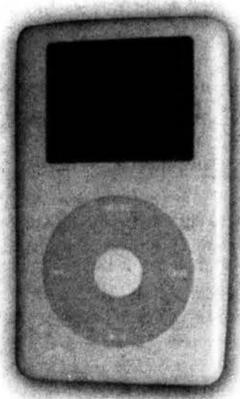
The cost for a portable CD player can easily run anywhere from \$15 to \$80.

CDs are easily scratched, but another problem might arise from the breaking of the laser that reads the disc.

In 2002, there were attempts at creating market copy protected CDs. They would be deliberately made with error patterns in the tracks.

They are 1 mm thick with a thin layer of Super Purity Aluminum, and sometimes gold.

They were developed in the early 1970s, but the CD-ROM didn't come out until 1985.



IPOD

There are three different kinds of iPods, a 20 gigabyte (holds 1,000 songs), 40 gigabyte (10,000 songs) and 60 gigabyte (20,000 songs).

An iPod is basically only a hard drive. Because of this fact, it is prone to crashes or overloading.

The songs can be saved in two different formats, wma or MP3.

While wma format has less quality sound and a lower frequency, it takes up less room than an MP3 format. More wma songs can be put on the iPod than MP3s.

It was released October 23, 2001. There have been many other versions of the iPod released since the original, including one that can view television shows.

The name iPod developed from the iMac computer. The "i" stood for Internet, saying the computer was hooked up. The name stuck and gave birth to a series of iTechnology such as iBook and iTunes.

Pathways trains new students in computers, life skills

'PATHWAYS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5A

technology, Bigsby said.

"No one got left out," he said.

Pathways is a place where everyone does the exact same thing with everyone being given the exact same opportunities, he said.

Bigsby said Pathways was one of the main places for the social skills program initiative because Pathways was already a place where students are taught many of the skills expected of high school students.

Pathways is a course used to help freshmen become well adjusted to high school life, he said.

Bigsby said his daughter graduated from Central last year and she liked Pathways because it was a place where she could meet students she would not have otherwise met.

The school wanted a hands-on program, which meant a whole new curriculum had to be created and teachers had to be extensively trained, he said.

Nonetheless, the program according to Bigsby has been very effective, which has been recognized nationally and even been named by the Department of Commerce as one of the top 20 high school initiatives in the country.

To be effective, the school has to constantly update the classes because technology moves so fast, he said.

Pat Wallington is one of the Pathways teachers, who was heavily involved in counseling students about Pathways related topics.

"Probably, the only Pathways teacher in the original group was Cheri Barg," Wallington said.

She said the design of Pathways was to teach proficiency

in keyboarding skills and to give the Pathways students a time to meet with counselors.

Wallington said as time passed, key boarding became less of a need with the soft side being created because counselors were needed a lot, but under the original conditions were not able to spend enough time with students.

"The project has undergone some major evolution," Wallington said.

She said the school during the time of former principal Gary Thompson decided to build someone into the program permanently. Wallington said the money for upgrading the technology has come from different sources.

"Technology has become really important because many teachers require students to know the things taught in Pathways," Wallington said.

Easily half of all entering freshmen think high school is like middle school, she said.

"In all likelihood, Pathways has saved students (from wasting) a year," Wallington said.

She said the soft side of Pathways was just as important as the hard side.

Wallington said the design of that part of Pathways was to teach students to be comfortable enough with technology to be able to jump in and use it efficiently and effectively.

"An obstacle to overcome was the perception of the staff because the initial staff believed Pathways was just a filler course, but the staff has come to realize that the class teaches pertinent information," she said.

Wallington said the overall purpose of Pathways was to help build incoming freshmen into students who can deal with a high school curriculum no matter where they end up.

Wallington said everything about the program has changed as the general purpose continues to change and move forward in this technology driven world.

She said the Pathways program started with four teachers, but now has nine.

"Students who are willing to come in and follow directions can earn an easy A, but those students who don't earn a good grade didn't follow directions," she said.

Pathways teacher Cindy Thomsen said the class helped students transition into high school.

In Pathways, students are given the opportunity to try

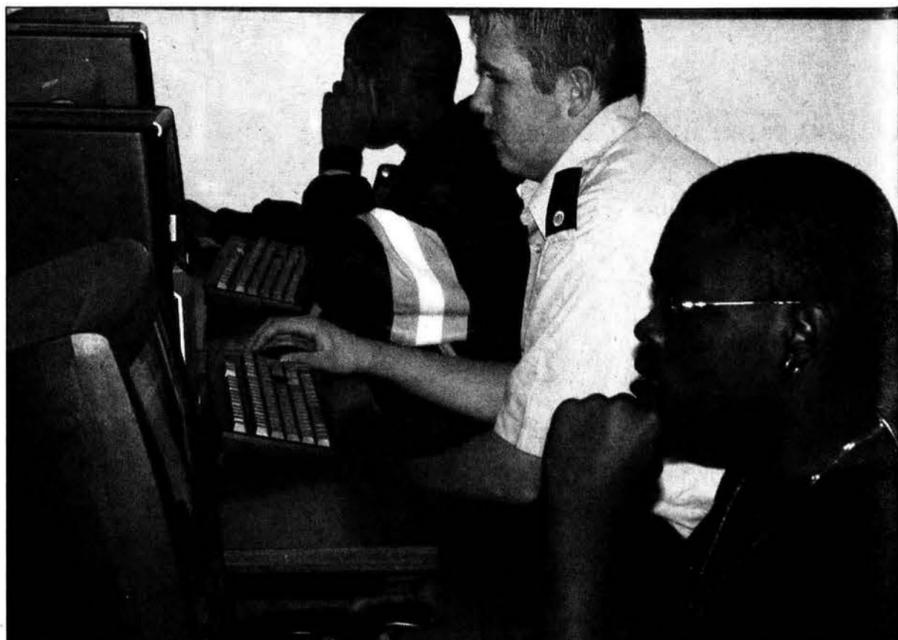


PHOTO BY STEPHEN WILHELM/REGISTER
Pathways students sophomore Raymond Snell, senior Jeremy Smith and freshman Termaine Williams work on their assignment on the hard side.

various things, which students have never seen, Thomsen said. She said students who are highly motivated are given the opportunity to be challenged in high-level technology courses.

Thomsen also said in Pathways, students are able to hear from school and city officials about various topics such as Officer James Stokes who speaks about the consequences of drugs and alcohol.

He also brings in a huge case of various drugs for students to look at and alcohol goggles for students to get a sense of how it is to be drunk.

Thomsen said the information taught in each class is the same, but the teaching style may differ.

"I've had a lot of students who have told me that Pathways is great and helped get their organizational skills together," Thomsen said.

She said students who opt out of Pathways by taking Honors Biology and a proficiency test miss out on learning essential organizational skills.

Thomsen said most students don't realize the full reality of high school and can't use the excuse that they did not know if the opt out of Pathways.

"Computers are going to be everywhere in our world and are already used to mix paint and to help at restaurants," Thomsen said.

OVERCOMING VIOLENCE

When early September was declared Bully Awareness Week, many factions of the community banded together to voice their opinions on nonviolence



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

This depicts the pride many people have in bullying, or violence more on the high school level. Bullying is huge problem for teens, not just with stealing lunch money and name calling, but activities like spreading rumors in the halls and excluding certain people from the many cliques and groups that make up the state's largest high school.

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

The other kids at school called him "Dumbo." They made fun of him for having big ears and looking different from the rest of classmates.

"I always used to wear a hearing aid and people used to make fun of me because of that," he said.

Junior Matt Waszak was bullied in elementary school. It caused him to be left out of school activities, feeling depressed and rejected because of the way he was treated. He also stopped wearing the hearing aid, and still doesn't.

State legislators are trying to stop things like this from happening, working with the legal system to increase regulations on schools in regards to bullying.

State Sen. Gwen Howard has proposed a bill that would set the policy for anti-bullying action. It would show teachers how to prevent bullying, as well as how to act when a student is being harassed.

"My vision is that schools should be safe places for students to learn," Howard said.

Personal counselor Ron Moore said while he supported the bill, he thought bullying should be handled on a case-by-case basis.

"There is no one size fits all," he said. "It totally depends on the type of bullying at the level. Sometimes a simple confrontation with the bully can solve the problem. There's a lot of difference between legislature trying to be written and passed, than the everyday behavior in the halls and classrooms."

Howard said students are not getting the most out of their education when they are not comfortable in their school atmosphere. By getting repeatedly picked on, the necessary comfort is taken away from them. In some situations, particular groups of children were not being protected from bullying like others.

"Originally, in the bill there was a listing of students that could not be excluded," Howard said.

That list, which noted gay and lesbian students as one of the groups protected, has been removed from the bill in order to get more support from the community.

"Why do we have to list or single anyone out? I don't think we should have to use a particular portion of society to achieve any type of anti-bullying legislature," Moore said. "You're going to irritate somebody no matter which way you go."

He said if this bill is going to be passed, it needed to protect every student equally, not just a small group of students.

Howard said she and her staff were looking for an effective way to reinstate the list, as well as suppress some arguments made against the bill for other reasons.

"There's been some concern that it would open the educational system to the possibility of more legal action," she said. "The research has shown us that the opposite is true."

After looking at other states that have made similar bills into law, Howard's staff was able to determine that the severity of these suits actually decreased.

The legislation, she said, gave teachers a basis on which to operate.

Many of the rural districts have opposed the bill because they feel it is not as much of a problem in their schools.

Moore said the idea bullying isn't going on is ridiculous.

"I don't think it's (bullying) inevitable but I don't believe that it isn't happening," he said.

Moore said even if a student isn't being harassed at the present time, the effects of it can last a lifetime.

"Whether you are the victim or the bully, if left unchecked, it effects every aspect of your life," he said. "A person who has been victimized, they need to work through those issues and to work through those conflicts. You decide whether they're going to shape you positively or negatively."

Waszak said he found his own ways to combat bullying when he was younger.

"Mostly, when it got out of hand, I probably fought back but I don't remember a certain time," he said.

He also found comfort in his friends. Waszak looks on his experiences with bullying as a way for him to empathize with students who have more serious issues with it.

"It would show me what it felt like and I wouldn't really, as much, treat people

that way," he said.

The concept of empathy was one stressed by another piece of legal action made against bullying.

Nebraska School Bullying Awareness Week was created earlier this year to spread the word about harassment of students.

Scheduled for Sept. 12 through 16, the week was designated through a resolution passed by State Sen. David Byers.

Janet Anderson, an assistant to the senator, said Bullying Awareness Week was specifically targeted towards school administrations and teachers.

"I think the senator was just concerned that the schools start taking the issue more seriously," she said.

Although over 1,100 school principals were made aware of the resolution and its message, it cannot be reinforced by the state because it isn't actually a law.

Anderson said the effects of Bullying Awareness Week will become apparent through a decrease in the number of incidences of harassment.

"When anti-bullying works, you don't know it's there," she said.

The most important part of preventing bullying was opening the door for students to talk about it and be more willing to report it to teachers. Sometimes, Anderson said, this meant teachers being more active in the environment.

"I think the resolution is important because it continuously tells the schools they need to be vigilant regarding bullying," she said. "If you don't have the kids feeling comfortable in order to talk to you, preventing bullying just won't happen. We need to start from the time they're in kindergarten. We need to start at the very beginning."

Moore said teachers were working to help students all the time.

"Things are being done in the building and I do believe they're making a difference. There's not one thing we can do to cover everything," he said.

While Bullying Awareness Week has already been put into effect, the Anti-Bullying law is still in committee amongst members of the Legislature.

Howard, who is on the education committee, said if the bill is not passed in the next session of the legislature, which starts on Jan. 4, it will not become law and will die in the committee.

Grandson of Mohandas Gandhi teaches how to live nonviolently

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Mohandas Gandhi's seven causes for all violence in human society

- Pleasure without conscience
- Commerce without morality
- Science without humanity
- Knowledge without character
- Worship without sacrifice
- Politics without principals
- Rights without responsibility

"If we can change these seven blunders of society into seven wonders, we will live in a much happier society," Arun Gandhi said.

Arun Gandhi, founder of the MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, spoke at the Civic Auditorium during Bully Awareness Week.

He told young people stories and lessons his grandfather, Mohandes (Mahatma) Gandhi taught him about how to live a peaceful life.

"He (Mohandas) has a way of explaining his philosophy to a child, simple but profound," Arun said.

He said today's society preaches nonviolence, but only lives it when convenient for them. People think as long as they don't commit physical violence then they are not hurting anyone.

The most extensive form of violence is passive violence, rather than active. It is also the easiest to commit and the hardest to stop.

"The violence we face in our everyday lives is so extensive," Arun said, "because we are controlled by a culture of violence."

He grew up in South Africa where, he said, one day he would get beat up for being too light skinned, and the next day get beat up for being too dark skinned.

"I was made very conscious of my skin color every step of every day," he said.

He started working out so he could hurt the people who didn't accept him in society. He said he wanted "eye for an eye justice." When his parents found out they sent him to live with his grandfather in India.

He said anger is a very important thing. Almost 80 percent of violence is generated by anger.

"We have to cut off the fuel supply to violence," Arun said.

One root of violence and anger is poverty. He said the United States is much different than the rest of the

world, and when he took American students to places like Bombay, India, they were very surprised.

"For a loaf of bread in the United States a person has to work for six minutes," he said. "In India it is 20 hours."

He said a cotton dress here could take four hours of labor to buy and there it would take 4,500 hours. A suit would be 38 hours versus 11,600.

"This is the state we live in today," he said. "We can shut out eyes and enjoy our life here. Our government even tells us to do this."

He said in America people can close the window to the rest of the world, but in India people have to see suffering and poverty every day, which gives responsibility to the people.

He said here people label everyone to make others seem different than themselves, so they don't feel responsible for helping them.

"We have so many labels we forget that behind those labels is a human being," he said.

Arun said only when we remove the labels of society can we all feel connected.

Nonviolence is not only a philosophy taught by Mahatma Gandhi, but a way of life, he said.

He said when people look at the word non-violence it is a negative because it is looked at as the opposite of violence. He said people need to look at it as something completely separate.

He told a story of a king who was given a seed and kept it in a box so no one could harm it. Nothing grew, and king couldn't understand why. The same can be said for peace, he said.

"If we have found peace and lock it up it is no good," Arun said. "Let it interact with all the elements and do not let it perish."

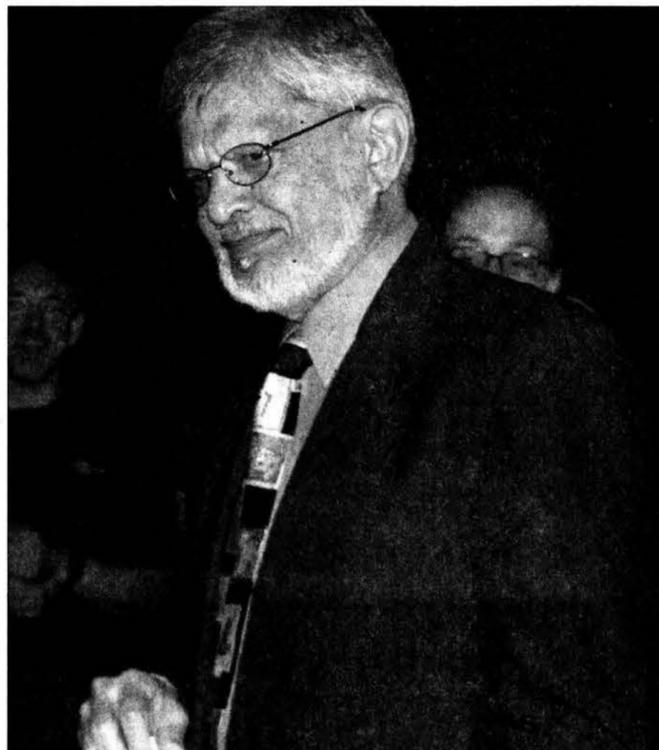


PHOTO BY TANIKA COOPER/REGISTER

Arun Gandhi spoke at the Omaha Civic Auditorium to students about how to live non-violent lives, and what he learned from his family to overcome adversity.

PSYCHE BYTES

Psychologist reworks Boys Town Model

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The social skills model being implemented this year had a way to go before getting to Central.

Tom Dowd is a private psychologist now, but he used to work at Boys Town. He went to college for social psychology and then started working for Boys Town in 1971. Before, he had worked in two prisons.

"I was interested in working with aggression and difficult kids," he said.

Right when he went to Boys Town, he was put with 20 children in a group home. He stayed with them for about two years, and then spent three years supervising group homes. Dowd was eventually put in charge of around 130 children in 13 group homes.

After doing that for about ten years, Dowd became the Director of National Training and Resource Center.

The original social skills model, he said, was brought to Boys Town from some people from the University of Kansas who had come up with it. The model, called Achievement Place, had never really been used in schools, however.

Dowd was one of the people to help reshape the model to be used for school environments. This, he said, included mental hospitals, residential programs and all schools.

"Any type of setting where kids are living or going to school in," Dowd said.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he had heard about Dowd through someone who worked at Blackburn High School. He said she suggested he talk to Dowd about implementing his social skills model.

"We were impressed by his knowledge," he said.

Bexten said so far the reaction to the program has been positive. He said the challenge for the future would be to keep it going.

Dowd said he based the model off of his past experiences with the other social skills model. Right away, he said, he got a contract with a mental hospital in New York to help teach the social skills. Soon, Dowd said, he had over 1,000 contracts with schools.

"It's well known," he said. "And the manual for the schools probably sold over a million (copies)."

In addition to teaching the schools' social skills, Dowd has also written many books, including "Teaching Social Skills to Youth," "Boundaries" and "Pro-Active and Reactive Aggression."

Boys and Girls Town was a good place to practice social skills, Dowd said. Social skills were usually modeled by students from their parents, he said.

Dowd said the numbers of these students have risen, because since 1989, more parents have been working away from home. This resulted in less time for the parents to teach their students how to act.

"The best approach would be to try to impact them in their homes," he said.

Dowd started to do parent training, called Common Sense Parenting, an eight week session on how to parent their children. The parents were taught on how to teach adolescents basic social skills.

Some of those skills parents should teach their children, Dowd said, include things such as smiling, joking, laughing at oneself, appropriate touching, apologizing and conversation skills.

The social skills Dowd taught, he said, were designed to be used in mainstream America. This means the students will have the ability to do well in most situations, or adapt to ones that are similar.

Certain cultures, he said, do not have mainstream ways of handling situations. For example, Dowd said he once had to teach some Native Americans on a reservation in Montana.

He said their children were taught to not look elders in the eyes out of respect.

Dowd asked them how they wanted them to teach their children, whether to teach them to perform in today's society or not.

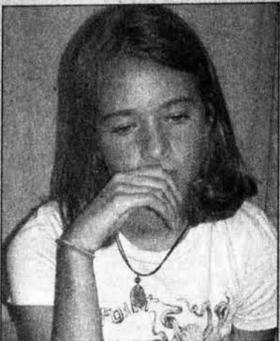
Dowd said he was told to teach them how to act in mainstream society, showing that culture has a lot to do with social skills.

LEANING BACK



Leaning back in a chair may signify either tiredness or boredom.

COVERING MOUTH



Anything covering any part of the face is usually negative, a sign of not paying attention.

COVERING EYES



Covering the eyes is especially negative, eye contact is one of the most important parts of listening.

LEANING FORWARD



Leaning forward on an arm is not the same as covering the face. It usually sends the message of paying attention.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF TOM DOWD

READ MY BOD

BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, MUCH OF WHAT IS COMMUNICATED IS NEVER SPOKEN



From learning how to take "no" for an answer to greeting a staff member, students were introduced to social skills this year. On the left, postures can tell a lot about what a person is thinking. At the right, handshakes can be a sign of either aggressiveness or weakness.

BY CLAY LOMNETH

A student acts up in class. Before, teachers would kick him or her out. Now, they have another option.

This year the school implemented the Boys Town Model for social skills. This model was put in every classroom for students and teachers to refer to.

English as a Second Language (ESL) and math teacher Marnie Best said the new social skills model being implemented this year is a good idea overall. She said now, when students are disruptive, she can take them out in the hall to talk to them.

Sometimes she still has to call the home of the students or give them a detention or referral, but she said oftentimes she just has to speak with the student.

"Some students are still going to disregard it (the model)," she said.

Overall, she said, the model was a very good idea because it puts everybody on the same page. When discussing how to act, teachers have a set guideline.

Freshmen Samuel Core is in one of Best's classes. He said they have been doing social skills throughout the year, but there have been no problems in the classes. Core said he sees the social skills in action during school in the halls and inside the classrooms.

Whether the social skills have worked, Best said she had nothing to compare it to. But, she said, some teachers have mentioned this year started smoothly.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he heard about Tom Dowd, the man who improved the social skills model the school is using, through someone who used to work with Dowd.

Bexten said he got a chance to speak with Dowd beforehand, and he was impressed with his knowledge.

"We decided this is the route we wanted to go," Bexten said.

The administrators in the building had a three-day training session in August for learning the social skills, as did some teachers.

"I thought it went fine," Bexten said. So far, he said, the reaction to the social skills has been positive. He said there are some places that still need work, such as teachers not teaching the skills in the classroom.

"The challenge now is to keep it going," Bexten said.

Dowd, who now works as a private psychologist, improved a social skills model when he was working at Boys Town. The model was designed to work in places where students lived or went to school, including residential programs and mental hospitals.

Students' social skills have lowered, Dowd said, since around 1989. He said at this point, more parents than ever were working outside of the home.

"Social skills are usually taught or modeled by parents at home," he said.

With parents home less, Dowd said the "skill deficient" children were likely to have early sexual behavior, drug use and delinquency.

Dowd said it is usually students who have parents and teachers who don't teach them social skills early on who have problems with them. He said there are sometimes exceptions to the rule, but this was the average student.

He said they were designed to fit what students need to know in mainstream America, but students could adapt to have them fit other cultures.

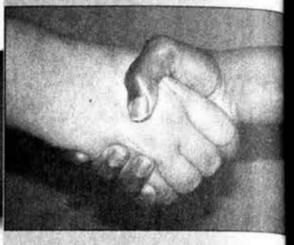
"Does culture impact social skills? Absolutely," he said.

NORMAL



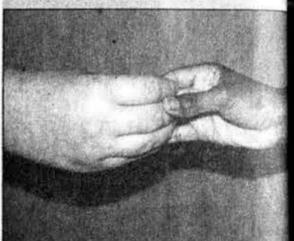
The perfect handshake should be firm, but not squeezing. It shows the person has confidence.

AGGRESSIVE



The aggressive is a squeezing vice. It shows the person wants to dominate the other.

THE "FISH"



The "fish" is a weaker handshake, the opposite of the aggressive handshake. It is a sign of weakness and uncertainty.

FAMILIAR



Some warmth is involved in this handshake, as if the people have met more than once.

VARIOUS



There are different handshakes that can be used around friends, but not in a professional environment.

PHOTOS BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER



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PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Color guard prepares to march on the field for the North game, the varsity Eagles' first true home game in Central's 146 year history. From left: junior Cpl. Derek Schuler, senior Maj. Bhattacharai, sophomore Cpl. Everett Welch and junior Sergeant First Class Princeton O'Neal.

Changes in ACT/SAT bring worry

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

"I have concerns for the writing piece because the score will be subjective because that's how humans are," assistant principal Dr. Keith Bigsby said.

He said he thought all of the other changes were good, but he still thought in some ways the writing section was bad.

However, Bigsby also thought the new section was good.

"It's interesting what this (writing section) brings," he said. "The SAT and ACT are tests to predict one's success in college."

The scores don't mean whether or not you will do well in college, he said.

According to the College Board, the new ACT and SAT are different, but not harder.

According to the College Board, the Board changed the SAT to better reflect what students are learning in high school, and to include writing, which is an important skill for success, both in college and beyond.

It said the writing section will encourage teaching at every grade level.

A few colleges will scale the new tests as if they were the old ones based on the same 36 point scale for the ACT and 1600 point scale for the SAT.

The new tests are still being talked about, and the next few years will determine whether or not colleges will scale the tests on the new format or the old format.

For the SAT, an essay, paragraph-length critical reading passages and more challenging math were introduced.

Furthermore, all analogies and objective comparisons were taken out of the test.

The new structure of the SAT has ten sections, including three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing and one Experimental Section.

In addition, the SAT has included Geometry and Algebra II to make the Math Section more difficult.

In the English sections, more questions test grammar, usage and word choice.

Junior Erin Lee did not like the fact that the SAT made the math section more difficult.

"Well, they should have left it as it is because we're not good at math, but we're better at English because we speak it every day," Lee said.

The only change to the ACT was an optional essay.

However, both stress grammar in the English sections.

The scoring has stayed the same for the ACT.

Students, according to the College Board, can prepare in almost the same way as they did for the old test with classes and books.

Take practice tests, take demanding courses within a strong curriculum. Students should write as often as possible and read challenging books and articles on a variety of subjects, according to the College Board.

New stadium gives opportunity outside athletics

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

There are a lot of advantages to having a new stadium other than playing football games. All of the gym classes are using it for other activities, and so is the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).

Gym teacher Jodi Reeder said using the stadium for gym classes was better than using the actual gym.

"The space gives the students a variety of activities to do," Reeder said. "With the gym, the units were limited, the space was smaller."

Units were the activities the students did in their classes.

She also said the participation has improved because of the space.

"Just the fact of being outside helps them in wanting to participate in everyday gym activities," Reeder said.

Pride was also a big factor in student participation. "We are very proud of the new stadium, and they show it in their classes."

Sophomore Claire Hansen said she really liked being outside for her second hour gym class. She also said she didn't think it was an inconvenience at all.

"It might take a little longer to get out there, but I don't mind," she said. "I like being outside; it's better than being cooped up in the gym all the time."

Sgt. Maj. Dwayne Sutter was very happy they could use the stadium for JROTC.

They use it to practice, and he said it was much easier than what they had before.

"Last year we had to practice on the south side of the school, and we couldn't go on the grass, so there was limited space," Sutter said.

"The stadium gives us more flexibility."

Also having a big stadium like this, multiple classes can use it at the same time.

"It allows the teachers to work with their schedules, so when they need to use the stadium, they can," Sutter said.

The JROTC classes will also use the field for uniform inspections.

He was counting on the teams to compete better as well.

Sutter said he only has freshmen in his class, so the pride isn't really apparent, yet. He said he hoped the upperclassmen have pride in it.

"It should be important to them because it's their stadium," Sutter said.

Junior Princeton O'Neal is in JROTC, and he loved using the stadium for practices.

"We have more space, and it's nice to have actual measurements when we run the 50 yard dash," he said.

He also said it was nice they actually recognized JROTC as something that might give good use to it.

"I don't think they really thought of us until now, and that's a good thing," O'Neal said.

Senior Neil Bhattacharai is the battalion commander for JROTC, and said using the stadium was a good idea.

"It's more open space which allows us to do more," he said.

Bhattacharai also said when they used the rifles in the gym, the floor and also the guns are at more danger.

"When students drop them on the gym floor, it could damage both the guns, and the floor itself," said Bhattacharai. "It's better that we use the stadium to do things like this because they will just bounce right back up and doesn't do any damage to anything."

He also said it was good because they use the track for different things, too.

Athletic director Darin Williams said using the stadium for classes was a good idea.

"It's one of the reasons why it's here. We want all of the students to use it," Williams said.

He said it created a college atmosphere, and alumni and students were very proud of it.

"It will be winterized for the cold seasons, but will be used in the spring for soccer," Williams said.

The gym classes and JROTC will use them as long as the weather permits. After that, it's back inside they go.

STADIUM 2005



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GUZZLERS AND SIPPERS

With gas prices soaring after the hurricane, students have been trying to find alternative methods of transportation. Different cars boast better gas mileage, but how much money will students still be spending on gas in a year with such high gas prices?



2006 Dodge Ram 1500

City: 14 mpg Highway: 18 mpg

\$2,559

on gas per year



2006 Jeep Liberty

City: 22 mpg Highway: 26 mpg

\$2,005

on gas per year



2006 Volkswagen Beetle

City: 23 mpg Highway: 32 mpg

\$1,577

on gas per year



2006 Mini Cooper

City: 26 mpg Highway: 34 mpg

\$1,527

on gas per year



2006 Honda Civic

City: 30 mpg Highway: 40 mpg

\$1,024

on gas per year



Katrina not only factor in high prices

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Filling up her Honda Civic, her total bill was close to \$100 a month. Junior Nema Philip said because the places she had to drive to were so far, her gas was used up fairly quickly.

"I have to go from my work to my church school," she said.

When gas prices first began to rise, Philip said she didn't really know how she would pay for it.

"I started freaking out," she said.

Economics Associate Professor of Creighton University Dr. Ed Fitzsimmons said there were two main reasons for the rise in prices, the short-term factors and the long-term factors.

"The highest price I saw was about \$3.20," Fitzsimmons said.

Within the last month he has seen the real short-term rise in gas prices. He said Hurricane Katrina was the reason for the curtailment of the supply of gasoline and the supply of crude oil.

In the long run, Fitzsimmons said the cause of the rise in prices happened even before Hurricane Katrina. He said this was caused by more of a demand worldwide for gasoline.

For example, Fitzsimmons said in China, the demand for the average person has been on the rise. There are not many cars in China now, he said, and with the rise in income, people usually buy cars. This caused extra demand for gasoline.

"Twenty years ago, the only goods that were imported to the United States were just trinkets," he said.

Fitzsimmons said now, China exports clothing and electronics, increasing foreign investments and causing an increase in incomes.

Public Affairs Director at Automobile Association of America (AAA) Nebraska Rose White said AAA has been obtaining gas prices since 1973. She said with the recent upsurge of gas prices, the highest recorded in Nebraska was \$3.20.

White said she had expected the price rise again with Hurricane Rita, but they didn't rise noticeably. She said that could have been because of the price-gouging investigations, or because of a message President Bush and local senators sent to the petroleum industry about price gouging.

Hurricane Katrina had damaged nine oil refineries on the coast. Rita hit eight but avoided one of the refineries for oil refineries, she said.

"Unfortunately, there are still three that are damaged," she said.

Also, some European countries supplied the United States with fuel to help with the prices.

Among other things, White said, sales of utility vehicles have dropped, while the sales of bikes have risen 30 percent.

When looking at predictions for gas in the long run, Fitzsimmons said, people often forget about incidents like Hurricane Katrina. He also said that China's economy was expanding, but other income was slowing the developing world.

Philip said she looked around for the lowest gas price in Omaha, and had found one nearby. She said other than going to the place with the lowest price, she also tried to ride with someone else if she could. Carpooling was often not an option.

"No one that lives around me drives to school or works anywhere by (my school or work)," she said.

Other than that, Philip said, the money she received from her job helped pay for gas, and sometimes her dad helped pay, too.

Social studies teacher Tim Shipman started riding his bike when he turned 40. He said it had nothing to do with gas prices, but was because he used to ride bikes more, and wanted to start doing that again.

Shipman said he did not notice how much money he saved because of riding his bike because his commute was only about five miles from school and back.

He also said trips to the store and back were easier to be reached on his bicycle. Shipman said he was fortunate where he lived because he was close to the places he needed to go.

He said he usually only drove cars when he had to take his children somewhere. When the weather was bad, Shipman said he rode his bike to and from school. He said about 80 percent of the time.

Shipman said learning bike sales have risen a good thing. He said he didn't know for sure, but he thought he had seen more people riding their bikes. If he had more people riding their bikes, he would be a fan of it.

This, he said, was a very good thing. He said there are more people riding bikes, other cars are being driven more aware of the riders, making it safe for them.

More people riding bikes, Shipman said, also could be a reason for an increase in bike paths.

OPINION

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER



Intelligent Design, PAGE 19B

FIT FOR ROYALTY

The largest high school in the state now has the stadium it deserves. This crowning achievement means for the first time ever, Eagles can truly say they have home-field advantage for sports and activities.

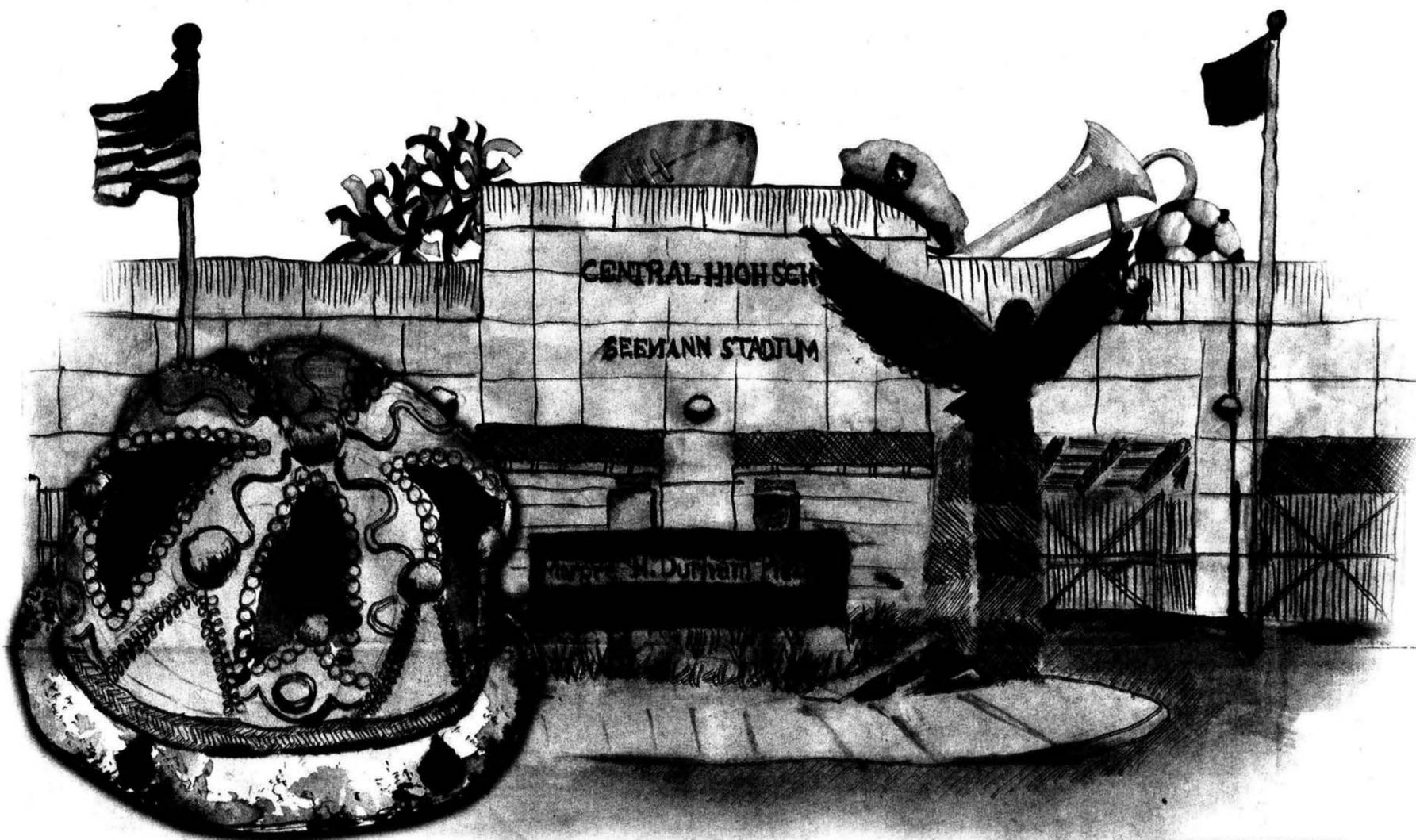


ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER

Central now has the facilities to be the king of high school athletics in the state, and rightly so. The new stadium makes it possible for many aspects of the school to be improved. Along with football, JROTC now has a better place to practice, band can march and prepare for competitions, track can hold duels, soccer can hold home games and cheerleaders and pom squad members can now show school spirit at an actual home stadium. The benefits are endless.

The dream of having a stadium finally came true after a long, anticipated wait.

The elegant stadium, with the downtown skyline as its backdrop, is a perfect fit for Eagle territory.

The idea started with the huge parking problem between Creighton, Joslyn and Central. The preparations and discussions started five years ago, although construction only began in 2002.

All the money for this project was made up of donations from alumni and other contributors.

Lee and Willa Seemann were honored with having the stadium named for them. What a better face to put on the new stadium as well as the entire school?

Lee is the most decorated World War II veteran in the Midwest. He flew over Omaha Beach on D-Day and flew 33 missions in all.

Susan Thompson Buffett was the one who really got the ball rolling on the project, and her original gift five years ago, allowed serious discussions to begin.

With all of the donors' money combined, Central was able to build an amazing \$12.1 million stadium with over 5,000 seats, an artificial turf field and a four-lane, 350-meter track. This stadium is one of, if not the best, high school

stadium in Nebraska.

Donors and alumni spoke to each other at a special dinner on dedication night about how jealous they were of the new stadium and how much it offered.

Even Green Bay Packers' running back Ahman Green, class of '95, said he wished he could have played on the new turf.

Students need to realize this great privilege. The class of '06 is the first class to have a stadium in Central's 146 year history.

The win against North on Sept. 2 was history in the making. The first varsity game was an important one, with thousands of fans watching the relatively young team get its first home-field victory.

The dedication of Seemann Stadium was only a few days before school started for students. It was as packed as the game was. Even the mid-evening thunderstorm couldn't keep supporters away.

At the dedication, Willa and Lee Seemann were applauded by thankful students, parents and teachers.

One face not seen at the dedication was that of Susan Thompson Buffett. After her death last year, her daughter, Susie Buffett, was left to accept a gift from

Heritage Services on behalf of her mother. She said her mother would have loved to see the new stadium. She worked to make Central a better school for all students.

Once again, students should be grateful that these donors gave so much. They paid for both the stadium construction and dedication.

Other important guests on the field were Sen. Ben Nelson, Congressman Tom Osborne, Heritage Services vice president Michael Yanney, Principal Jerry Bexten and senior Alvin Samuels, president of his class.

Samuels represented the seniors well, accepting the stadium on behalf of all the students.

Moreover, Principal Jerry Bexten was correct when he said the stadium was one of the most dramatic changes the school has ever seen. Over the past few years, students have been giving many donations of new computers, air conditioning and a new gym, among other gifts.

The stadium is by far the greatest gift any student has seen, yet.

The building of Seemann Stadium was a generous and fantastic idea that became reality with the help of generous people. It truly showed the essence of students and faculty coming together to support each other.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

STADIUM 2005



Home-Field Advantage

Student finds interest in civil rights, activism despite opposition

The Black Panthers have always fascinated me. Ever since I started looking into American history and social change I was enthralled by what they accomplished for people as a whole.

Last year my dad and I started talking and I brought them

He told me about the big Rice and Poindexter case where the Omaha Black Panthers were sentenced to life in prison for allegedly killing a cop.

This is still a controversial case, and I have been salivating over it all summer.

I even wrote a letter to Rice, but got too nervous to send it. What I have learned from my interest in the group is some people think less of me for it. I just didn't want anyone thinking I had a hidden agenda by mailing a letter to him, telling him he needs my support if he ever gets a retrial.

If there has been one phrase that has literally been a bug under my skin, it is the phrase "Molly, you know you're not black."

I have heard this phrase over the past year more times than I can remember, and yes my answer, if I chose to dignify this ridiculous statement with an answer, would be "I know

I'm not black." The statement itself is pathetic. People think by me learning about the Civil Rights Movement and taking an interest in Nebraska's political prisoners I am trying to be something I'm not.

People get angry that I am learning about history and culture that is "not my own." This has led me to believe we are still just as segregated as when Rice and Poindexter were sentenced.

Parents are teaching children these subtleties about race differences I see every day.

The Civil Rights Movement was a time period when blacks, whites, Latinos, Asian-Americans, Native Americans and others all banded together to demand equality for all humans.

Not one culture or group owns the history, but students as well as adults act as if I was crossing some barrier just by being interested in it.

"You know the Black Panthers wouldn't even like you, they'd probably try and shoot you," a classmate said to me last year, when I brought up my respect for them.

She thought the Black Panthers hated all white people. What's worse, she thought she had the right to keep me from learning about black history.

She thought, as many do, the Civil Rights Movement belonged to only one race.

The misinformation about the history has gone on far enough, and I'm sick of it.

Native Americans and Latin Americans were also making strides in society, all along with white people fighting with them.

What are adults so afraid of? Why are they concerned about what I study? Are they afraid I might say something controversial in the wrong setting? Good! People need to get angry with race issues again.

At least people will be talking instead of pretending everything has changed for the better since the '60s.

One person told me she was afraid I'd start "acting black." What does that mean? I'm so confused. Without sounding pompous, I think it is safe to say I don't act like anyone but



NOT GONNA LIE TO YOU

A Column by Molly Mullen



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER

Many students think the new ID badges steal their identity and reduce them to no more than ID numbers and tags. They feel they are simply just faceless barcodes in a sea of students. This, however, was not the intention of the administration. With students from other schools and unwelcome adults walking into Central, this new security system will be better able to identify people who are not supposed to be in the school.

IDs protect against intruders, theft

Seventeen year-old John Doe walks into Central after dropping out two years earlier. He has one thing on his mind. He finds who he is looking for, student James Smith. Doe pulls a gun from his backpack and shoots him. Fortunately, this hasn't happened yet, but it could. Central is a safe school, but these are dangerous times. A person sometimes never knows what will happen from one moment to the next. Every little bit of precaution is merited. In order to help protect students, school officials made it mandatory for all students wear specific identification (ID) tags at all times when they are in the building. This is a good thing. Of course, like with a lot of good things at this school, some students found a way to complain. The students who are rebelling against the tags claim they are a violation of their privacy.

They say it's another way for the administration to monitor them. These are the same students who have carried around drivers licenses and student activity cards for years. The only difference is, the students have to wear the ID tags. Principal Jerry Bexten said the badges have to be visible on the students at all times. This means around the neck, clipped on a shirt or tied to a belt. It is not that much of a hassle to keep them visible. The protest against the tags is senseless. Just because the school wants identification to protect the students from outside intruders, students assume the worst. They will not be monitored constantly; there is not a camera in every hallway. The protests got way out of hand. Some decorated their tags with stickers, others with the Star of David. Relating wearing name tags to the most horrific genocide in history is not only outlandish, to say the least, but offensive. If people feel like they need to protest by making fun of the Holocaust, they

need to think about what they're really saying. Security guards will be able to tell who belongs to this school and who doesn't much more easily. Some students let strangers in the building if they just knock on the door. Students from other schools have sneaked into Central, whether to entice a fight or just trying to get students to skip class. Wearing the tags will help prevent that. No one is putting a brand on their foreheads. Refusing to wear them is childish. The teachers also wear identification, and no students complained or tried to defend their right to privacy. Students should be appreciative the administration is helping protect them. A lot of the equipment needed for the ID tags were already used for students' activity cards. There are other benefits for the ID tags, too. Library books can be checked out by scanning the cards, and eventually, lunch will be able to be purchased using the cards. Almost all the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) have used ID tags for years. If other OPS schools have done it, Central can too.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Social Skills valuable enough to be taught, learned throughout life

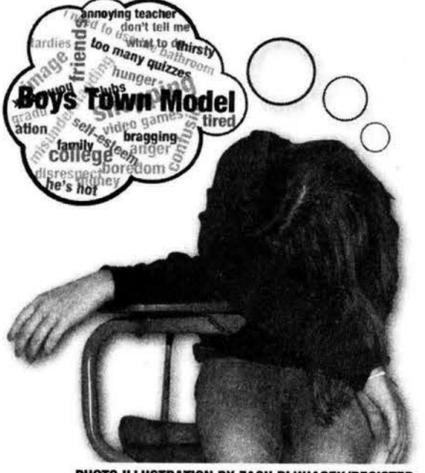


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER
Students have many different things on their minds other than the social skills they should have learned in middle school.

Some students struggle with social skills in high school and the administration hopes by teaching these skills in every classroom, students will be better able to succeed in the real world when they graduate. They are right. The list of skills, also known as the Boys Town Model, includes how to apologize, make a request, accept no for an answer, follow instructions and how to greet someone. While some may argue these are more elementary principles, an introduction at the high school level is not as redundant as it may appear. It certainly couldn't hurt. Some students have missed out on proper social skills learning at a younger age, making it necessary for them to get as much attention in the area as any other student. The fact that a large portion of a given class may be familiar with the skills already doesn't mean they can't be of great importance to others. When not taught seriously, these skills won't be accepted seriously. Teachers should be sincere when presenting these topics. Many have instead snubbed them, and the result of this is seen in their students.

The students' behavior reflects this attitude, and whenever they are brought up, students laugh before they even consider the rules. Some teachers have mocked the rules. They explained their views on how pointless the system was and they halfheartedly tried to teach it. How can anyone be expected to take the guidelines seriously when they are presented this way? If math was taught like that, everyone would think it was an elementary and ridiculous principle as well. The key is how these rules are presented. Teachers should have students role-play or actually work on these skills in class. They could point out examples of what not to do and give examples when someone doesn't follow them. Many students claim they know these skills and then walk through the halls blatantly disobeying what they learned less than 30 minutes ago. This is not how it's supposed to be. When teachers confront them about it, these same students claim they were not aware of the rule. Hence, the introduction of these new rules. Now no student can use the all-too-common excuse of, "I didn't know that."

Teachers can point out they should know these common courtesies because they are taught in class. Obviously, in a perfect world these skills should have been taught and modeled at home a long time prior to a student reaching the high school level. It is not a perfect world. Not all students will follow these guidelines, but if more people obeyed them, teachers would not have to spend as much time trying to teach them. Obviously, not all students need these regulations. Most students by the time they are in high school know many of these skills. If someone needs evidence of the lack of these skills, all they need to do is walk through the halls. Instead of following rules, being courteous to others, or listening to teachers, many students ignore them or respond with rude and inappropriate remarks. This disrupts the learning environment. The changes sought by the Boys Town Model will take time and effort and, in many cases, patience on everyone's part. Through presentation, implication and exemplification, teachers can encourage students to take social skills more seriously. Perhaps students will also take the initiative to behave better and improve the overall school atmosphere.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of the Register staff

05-06 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, Washington D.C. and Seattle. The staff hopes to repeat this at the spring 2004 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. Advertising information available by calling (402) 557-3357. If there is no one available, please leave a message.

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Missing the deadly point

Until education can prevent teenagers from using drugs in the first place, safety must be taken into consideration. Addiction is a disease, and young people shouldn't be at risk to others as well.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

When first hearing of it, it might sound a little disturbing or even wrong. People might think, "What! My kid can go to the corner store and pick up syringes to shoot up?" But after thinking of it, it is the best way to not make a terrible situation worse. These people have an addiction, an addiction that won't go away if they can't buy fresh, clean needles. If addicts can't get the syringes from the store they might go to such measures as stealing them from hospitals and doctors offices or just using unclean, used hypodermic needles. Instead of taking away their chances of survival, they should provide clean supplies while educating them on the dangers of drug use and where to get help. Education is the most important way to stop drug use, not just simply removing the tools. Parents as well as the schools need to take a more active role in keeping teens and younger children away from drugs. At high schools like Duchesne Academy and Creighton Prep there are mandatory meetings for both students and parents to explain what the narcotic trends are, the effects of the drugs, how to tell if someone is using and where to get help. People need to know how to stop the addiction before they have to resort to walking into the drug store, taking their \$5 lunch money and buying a pack of 20 needles. Education can help people quit as well as get teens to never start in the first place. Even Nebraska AIDS Projects hands out an informational kit on how to clean old needles because they know people are going to use the syringes, even if they are dirty. Make them clean and stop the spread of disease such as AIDS. It's like the same argument people use for handing out condoms for whoever wants one, "They're going to do it anyway, why not promote doing it as safe as possible?" Oxycontin is a huge trend among teenagers today. Teens will take multiple doses of this painkiller at one time, chew the tablets, snort them or inject them intravenously, according to the National Drug International Center. This drug is only slightly less addictive and less dangerous than heroin if not used as prescribed. Students all over the country are shooting this stuff up, do they really need to deal with AIDS on top of a drug addiction? An addiction you can break, as hard as it may seem, AIDS will kill inevitably. Oxycontin is a booming industry in the United States. Over \$1.2 billion have been spent on this drug since 1996, and that was the prescribed value. The street value of it has been skyrocketing. Two and half years ago the street value of Oxycontin \$30 for 80 mgs and now it is over \$50 for the same dose. The use of illegal painkillers in the United States has also skyrocketed. The Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse reported 19.9 million people in the United States admitting to using painkillers illegally. Intervenes drug use is the quickest and deadliest way to get a high. Complications with poisoning the bloodstream or getting oxygen in it cause instantaneous death. Clean needles are the only option for people already in a bad situation. Some may think it is bad people are taking advantage of others' diabetes or various diseases requiring daily injections, just to feed their problems. An addiction is a disease and until they can get help, they need to focus on not getting other diseases as a result. Don't take away people's chances of surviving their addiction by making them susceptible to diseases from dirty needles. Although many drugstores do require a prescription for the sale of hypodermic needles, Nebraska is progressive in making it legal to sell them over the counter.

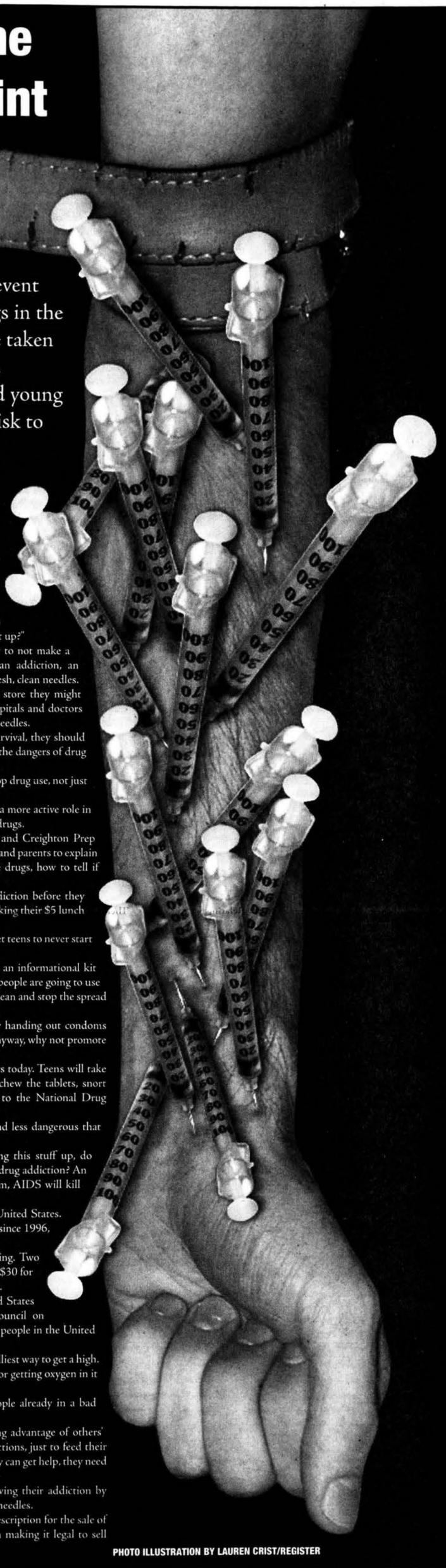


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Recluse uncle teaches teen to look at life's big picture

I got a card from my uncle Curly in the mail today. I could barely read his handwriting and it took me a while to figure out who Arland Mapes was, but once I deciphered "Uncle Curly" at the bottom I felt my heart leap.

I hadn't dared to expect him to actually write. I figured it would be just another pen-pal relationship killed by neglect at the bud.

When I met Curly the first thing I noticed was his tattoos. When you are at the reunion of a Kansas farming family the last thing you expect to see is a man with tattoos halfway up his arms.

The tattoos were somewhat faded and distorted by his aged and wrinkled skin, but they still magnetically drew in attention.

In a room full of trucker hats and overalls meeting someone who doesn't have "y'all" in their vocabulary is refreshing.

The first thing Curly said to me was, "Let's sit down and lie to each other," but the way he said it told me that would be the only lie he would tell me all night.

Ironically, the first piece of advice Curly gave me was never to get a tattoo, the first of many lessons Curly managed to impart to me during the three-hour reunion.

On nearly every other occasion getting advice leaves me feeling resentful and lowers my opinion of the person giving it. With uncle Curly it was different.

I felt like Curly did know everything, or at least close to it. He was old enough to have perspective (he is actually my great uncle), but he somehow seemed to remember what being young meant (maybe the tattoos reminded him). I could tell Curly did not have a tame adolescence because of the rumor no one wanted him to marry into the family, but he also had an interesting and productive life.

Curly was an army man. Usually I do not picture someone in the military as a person I would greatly admire, but again Curly was different. He was in the service because he had to be in the service, but it turned out he was really a good man for the job.

For a while Curly inspected missiles, a top-secret operation. They would not tell him where he was going, only if he should bring a coat.

He was also in Vietnam. He was even asked to come back by the local government.

He said he did well in the army because he was professional, a trait which I admire.

Talking to my uncle was a welcome relief to the monotony of a family reunion. His stories kept me entertained as well as engendering a strong sense of understanding between us.

I didn't say much because I felt my knowledge and experience paled in comparison to his.

One of the few things I told him was my parents did not approve of the boy I was dating. Afterwards he went up to them and told them to give my boyfriend a chance, that he could turn out to be a really great guy.

Uncle Curly's wife is an artist like I would like to be, and ever since I met him I've been hoping I end up with a man like him. He seems to really take care for her and love her dearly. They have traveled together to many different countries, but now she is ill they stay in Kansas so he can take care of her.

Curly got along with every one at the reunion. He made every one laugh. He circled the room constantly from one eager relative to the next. They all wanted to talk to Curly, but he still made time to sit down and talk to me.

Curly made me think about the way to live life. His life was truly fascinating. It was obvious he had acquired a large amount of experience and knowledge in his lifetime. He had taken risks and hadn't followed other people's rules. He may have made mistakes, but they only made him a better person.

Most of my other relatives lived quiet lives farming or other humble professions, but Curly really lived to the fullest. He traveled to many places, had a wife he truly loved and cared for, and a job that showed him situations more extreme than most of us will ever see.

That is how I want to live my life, doing what I think is right despite what other's think. I am going to write Curly and I don't know exactly what to write, because all I want is to listen to him and learn from what he has to say. I know anything I write he will enjoy reading, but nothing could communicate how much I admire Arland Mapes.

I guess there is only one way to start, "Dear Uncle Curly..."



YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW
A Column by Emily Harrison

Tight security at new stadium proves effective for all involved

Security at the Seemann stadium has been handled well, as shown in the first home game for the Eagles.

There were enough officers at the game to prevent any fights or disputes between fans. People got out of the stadium fairly quickly, considering how many people were there.

For the stadium dedication, the security officers were told to treat it like a game.

They ushered people to parking spots coming in and directed them on the way out. Everything went as smoothly as could be expected.

Student Resource Officer Jesse Stokes and the Omaha gang unit appeared at the first game, and have an open invitation to any other Central home game.

It is not that Central needs gang protection, but the gang unit adds extra protection and assistance to the fans who have come to enjoy the game.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he did not expect problems with the fans, but the security was there just in case. This pro-active stance taken by security is a good move. Nobody knows what will happen or when it will happen, but it is a good idea to stay prepared.

Police presence is sometimes enough to discourage fights or confrontations. When people see police cars and officers around, they are less likely to attempt something that will get them in trouble.

A new security camera was placed on top of the college dorms on the east side of the stadium.

This camera encompasses part of the field and much of the home-side stands.

The camera was also a wise step towards a safer stadium. It discourages vandalism and catches any misbehaving fans during the game. The more people know about the camera, the less behavior problems will occur during and after games.

When a game is not going on, security watches the stadium anyway. A security guard patrols the campus and checks up on the stadium every once in a while. This is also a security aspect to discourage vandalism and other crimes.

The stadium should be respected and protected for not only the use of the students and athletics, but also the whole community. All of Omaha has the opportunity to use the field, whether for an early morning jog around the track, or a day with the kids on the field. The community will undoubtedly use this stadium for their benefit. It is better than many college stadiums and should be used with respect.

Alumni can also appreciate the stadium and the measures being taken to protect it. They never had anything like it in their years in high school. It is a new chapter in Central's history, and should be treated that way.

Some very prominent people in Omaha helped to pay for the stadium. Their money should not be put to waste. As long as the security protects the stadium both when there are fans in the bleachers or not, it can be preserved for years to come.

The children and grandchildren of seniors graduating this year may be able to use the stadium in the future, and hopefully it will be in as excellent of shape and as exciting as it is now.

Students should continue their good behavior during the games, and not turn a positive thing like a new stadium into a negative. Students should know how to behave in public and in front of their peers from other high schools.

Not only are their peers present at the games, but so are other students and teachers from the schools. Central students should be mature enough to handle themselves in front of strangers.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Sixteenth birthday traps teenage between adult behavior and childhood fantasies

The story "Peter Pan" is much like how I want my life to be. If you don't want to become an adult, you just go to this far away place where you don't have to grow up.

Turning 16 is in between becoming an adult and still being a child. There are many things you can still get away with when you're 16, but there are also a lot of responsibilities that come with it.

Becoming 16 is something that is never forgotten. I guarantee you can ask anyone if they remember their 16th, but most all of them will say yes. No matter if it was good or bad, they remember.

Some people my age want to be older for different reasons. On the other hand, do not want to get any older than I am. I serve the adults around me, and everything they go through, and I don't want to go through any of that.

One thing I'm afraid of is paying for everything. I have always relied on my mom to support me financially. She will pay for anything I need, and I buy anything that I want. What

I'm really scared of is I will fail to pay bills, and won't be able to handle all of the expenses of being an adult.

Being 16 is huge step. Not only for me, but I think for everyone else too. I mean, what's the first thing that comes to mind when someone mentions turning 16? Driving right? Well not in my case because I don't even have my permit, yet. And even if I did have my license, I wouldn't have a car to drive.

My mom thinks since she had to pay for her own car and everything that comes along with it, she's going to make me go through the same thing. I guess that's good and bad, mostly bad, though. All of my friends drive, and that's all right, but after a while I get sick of asking for rides.

Personally, I don't really want to drive. My friends tell me how fun it is, and that they think I should try it. It's almost as though they're peer pressuring me into driving. But I really

don't want to. I don't know if I'm scared or lazy, but I know that I don't really want to drive.

One good thing about not having my own car is that I don't have to pay for gas. With gas prices so high, I wouldn't want to pay for gas anyway. It's bad enough paying my friends for gas.

But driving isn't everything. You don't have to drive when you're 16. Other huge things can happen too.

One big step for me is now I can go on dates. I remember when I was 10 or 11, talking to my mom about dating and she said, "Not until you're 16, honey." I remember thinking "Holy crap! 16? That's way too long!" Well, look at me now.

I have a little sister who just turned 11. She's one of the smartest 11-year-old girls I know (mind you I don't know that



A CONTAGIOUS SMILE

A Column by Pascale Roussel

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

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

EDITORIALS

"JOHNNY, TAKE A BREAK FROM YOUR GEOMETRY, NOW!"



Jerry Bexten
PRINCIPAL
Matt Deabler
ADVISER
Molly Mullen
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Drug Use

Home tests extreme

Gretna parents were given a special welcome-back gift the first week of school. Home drug tests were passed out to an audience of 150 parents, guardians and students.

Yes, the threat of drugs, especially methamphetamine, is a huge problem in Omaha and surrounding areas. Do parents and teachers have to resort to home drug tests?

Shouldn't parents talk to their kids and know what they are doing, rather than have the administration randomly pass out drug tests?

It seems like the administration knows the students better than the parents do. Parents need to talk with their children and find them help if there is a problem, rather than surprising them with tests. It seems to really cut the trust and ability to talk about issues between parents and children.

Just think if they tried that at this school. Imagine 2,400 parents testing their children for drug use over the weekend. Not only would Central be broke from buying the tests, parents wouldn't know what to do with the results. What are they supposed to do if they test positive, call the principal? Call the police?

The parents were educated about methamphetamine, along with other drugs, by law officials and doctors.

At Creighton Prep it is mandatory every year for both parents and students to attend a discussion and lecture about teenage drug use and the consequences. It is good that parents and students are being informed, side-by-side. It would open up the lines of communication between them hearing the same facts from the same people.

Education is always the first step. It is not, however, positive to hand out drug tests. It seems testing a teen for drugs should be the last resort, after discussion has proven useless.

Testing is not something to be taken lightly or something to just try out after a school assembly.

Drug testing a student is the last resort because it breaks apart almost any trust built up in the relationship. Parents can no longer just take their child's word.

If the student tested positive to a home drug test it seems like there would be a lot of animosity and they would be reluctant to get help.

If the situation was handled in a different way, through discussion or intervention, maybe then the person would be more likely to seek out help. This is not to say methamphetamine isn't a problem in Omaha.

Public Service Announcements run daily on the television asking people to turn in neighbors they suspect of cooking it. Parents who make meth are urged to quit for the sake of their family. Unfortunately, families are still being torn apart because of this drug.

According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services Survey on National Drug Use and Health, more than 12 million people, aged 12 and older admitted to trying methamphetamine at least once. Most of the people using it are new users, trying it as a party drug.

According to the University of Michigan Monitoring the Future national survey, 4.6 percent of tenth graders, and 4.7 percent of twelfth graders have used it.

Overall, 11.4 percent high school students have used it. It is obviously a serious problem, not one to be taken lightly at a school assembly or by curious parents.

Finding out a teen is addicted to or using meth should be treated very delicately. Students should not be afraid to talk with adults like counselors or parents about the problem. Most of the time, they just want to help, not to punish.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of
the Register staff

New fire code fails to leave room for recycling program

If students want to keep recycling bins in every classroom, they are going to have to work to keep them.

Last year one fire was set in a classroom recycling bin, two in trash cans and now this year they are being taken away, not because of the fires though.

A new fire code was sent to all the districts and it applied to all the schools in Omaha Public Schools (OPS). It stated that if there was to be a bin in every room it would have to be emptied everyday and also be equipped with a lid.

That's a job far too large to impose on the custodial staff.

There are several groups or clubs at Central that concern themselves with the upkeep of the planet and the environment such as such as Key Club. If they want recycling to be continued at Central they are going to have to assume some of the responsibility of helping to collect the bins.

The administration has explored every option to try and keep the recycling bins in the classrooms, but the vice principals can't walk around and do it all personally.

If no clubs volunteer to empty all the recycling bins, or organize a way that the job can be dispersed among several clubs, recycling will simply stop.

Although the new technological advances this year, such as taking attendance on the computer, will reduce the amount of paper produced, there is still a lot floating around.

All of the paper that was once in the recycling

bins will be in the trash cans and that will invite more fires to be lit. This will cause more evacuations and more lost class time.

If the administration ignores the mandate allows recycling bins to remain in the classroom

they were last year, now will they be in violation of fire codes, but will also be hefty fines.

Maybe this will be a case of not missing something until it is gone.

Instead of seeing a pile of papers in a green box, maybe students see all the recycling potential that is going to be wasted.

Imagine all the paper that students teachers generate during the day, or the week, or the month. Now if all that paper got recycled, it would actually make a difference.

If the bins don't return this year, all the paper once recycled will just be thrown away, which puts more of a strain on the environment.

It looks like the responsibility of keeping the bins is going to rest squarely on the student shoulders.

The custodians already do a lot to keep the school clean and emptying the recycling bins is not in their job descriptions and they shouldn't be expected to do it. The teachers shouldn't have to clean up after the kids on a daily basis. So who's that leave?

Even the teachers have had the bins in their offices removed, so even they aren't able to keep all the papers that they go through in a day.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of
the Register staff

Teens should take better advantage of night classes

NovaNet and night classes are great opportunities for students to try and fix their mistakes.

This year, enrollment in both is going down. Unfortunately, this doesn't mean students are passing their classes. Many students lost the urge to graduate, and won't take their last chance to pass.

Students need to understand what a great opportunity both NovaNet and night school are.

Every year there are some students who do not receive credits because they received a failing grade. The reasons for this vary, and many are legitimate, personal reasons. For example, some students may be dealing with difficult family issues, which could distract him from schoolwork.

Students such as these deserve every opportunity to earn back those credits and graduate on time.

There is also the possibility a student was very irresponsible freshman or sophomore year. Immature behavior culminating in failing grades freshman year means the student could fail to graduate senior year.

The unfortunate consequence of this is that a student who has grown and matured over the course of four years could still fail to graduate on time due to mistakes made years earlier.

Students come to high school as children and mature towards adulthood. A reformed slacker working to become an adult should have the opportunity to remedy earlier mistakes and graduate with his class.

NovaNet and night classes are also beneficial to students who function better in an independent environment. NovaNet and night classes enable some students to work as fast as desired, which

for some students makes a significant difference in performance.

NovaNet and night classes also help Central to graduate more students. Central's primary mission should be to send kids on their way to a high school diploma.

In addition to an increase in graduation rates, NovaNet and night classes help reduce drop-out rates. By presenting students with a more accessible method of recovering credits, NovaNet and night classes mean students are less likely to become discouraged and drop out.

By decreasing drop-out rates more students leave school with a diploma. This does a great service to students by increasing the number of post graduation opportunities.

Central also needs to keep pace with other schools in the country.

NovaNet and night classes are not isolated programs. NovaNet alone is present in over 20 schools throughout the country. Some people might say that NovaNet and night classes are an easy way out for lazy students. It is true that some students might not do any work for a semester, then get the same credit in a matter of weeks.

However, NovaNet and night classes are not simply an easy way out for slacking students. While the classes may only last a few weeks, they are considerably more intense than a semester course, since the same amount of work must be accomplished in a smaller amount of time.

Critics of NovaNet and night classes should examine their reasons for criticizing. While there are certainly some apathetic students trying to find an easy way out, many participants are simply taking advantage of their last chance to recover credits and graduate on time.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of
the Register staff

HEROES & ZEROS

Assistance to Katrina victims

Central has opened its doors to students from Louisiana and other areas hit by Hurricane Katrina. There have also been numerous fund-raising efforts to help with the disaster including National Honor Society and the class penny drive in the guidance office.

This not only helps the people in need, but also shows the character of those willing to give assistance. Students have been eager to support efforts at school and throughout the city. The amount of participation has been commendable.

Seemann Stadium honors school

The new stadium has been given the honor of taking the name of a decorated war veteran, showing the immense support Central receives from the community and the high regard in which the school is held.

Students should live up to this standard by being mature and responsible, especially at sporting events and other times when the school is open to the public.

The stadium also provides a new source of pride for all students, and gives sports teams a true home-field advantage.

New grade system decreases student number theft

Instead of showing student ID numbers, a student access code will be used when teachers post student grades. This will prevent students from learning others' student ID numbers, which can be used to buy lunches, check out library books and figure out other information about the students.

The student ID numbers are like Social Security Numbers at school, and should be protected by all means.

Gym lobby nearly complete

After the lobby is complete, varsity basketball and volleyball games will finally be able to take place in a home gym. This will be much more convenient for everyone. Like having the Seemann Stadium, teams and fans will not have to travel to other schools to play their games.

Future of recycling bins unknown

With the new fire codes, recycling bins had to be eliminated. Students in the past have lit fires in the bins, and taking them away is not the solution.

Paper will now be thrown into trash cans, which will not help at all. All the paper that was lit on fire in the recycling bins will be just as available in the trash cans.

Some clubs have offered to empty them every day, and this should solve the problem. But no action has been taken, yet.

Stadium parking causing problems

Fans going to games have parked blocks away and walked to the stadium. For those who get into the stadium lot, getting out of it is a hassle after the game.

People must arrive to the game hours before it starts. Even parking spots on Davenport and Cass streets are long gone before kickoff.

Sex in the bathrooms

From public displays of affection in the hallways to sexual acts in the bathrooms or basement after school, desperate students have taken it too far. It is amazing how low the self-esteem of these students must be to have sex in the bathrooms. The sexual acts in the bathroom must stop. It is absolutely pathetic that some students must resort to these acts to feel better about themselves.

Student complaints about security cameras

Students need to stop worrying about the security cameras, because it is not violating their rights at all. There are no security cameras in bathrooms or locker rooms.

Also, one of the cameras protects our new stadium. It is not an issue of privacy.

Students need to be informed about where the cameras are before they begin to complain. They are not being watched at all times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
COLUMNS
REGISTER YOUR OPINION
POLITICAL CARTOONS

OPINION

"The school IDs that we have to wear are awesome... besides, it's kind of nice to know that the school is caring for us."
Princeton O-Neil (11)

THE BIG ISSUE: STUDENTS ID BADGES

For the first time, students must wear identification. Some students feel it has stripped them of their identities, while others see it as a step toward a safer school.

Badges need to be enforced by teachers

Dear Editor,
I have negative and positive opinions about the IDs. A positive about having an ID is that you know students belong here and students from Westside aren't coming around. Also, the IDs are a way for teachers identifying a student, and they are both naughty and nice.

However, there are some negatives, both on the teachers' part and the students' part. Students aren't wearing them, myself included sometimes, and teachers aren't enforcing students to wear the IDs. So basically, I really do like the idea of the IDs. But if we, the students, have to wear them, then the teachers should enforce them. I won't "truly" wear mine until I get a warning!

Jackie Whelan (10)

School should use money in other ways

Dear Editor,
I understand why they want students to wear them. Personally, I don't really like wearing them. But we are not using them for anything. Basically, it's just a security card. The school should put their money somewhere else. Now if the school got some scanner device and actually put good use to these ID cards, then the cards would have more value.

Elsa Richards (10)

Students should not complain about IDs

Dear Editor,
Even though the student IDs are an inconvenience, they are meant for our safety. I personally don't want some psycho off of 24th street to be able to just walk into my school. He or she could have a gun or a bomb and kill us all. The IDs are a good idea and if safety means having these, so be it. I don't get why anyone is so bothered by the IDs. If you don't want to wear them, fine. Don't be in trouble but then when you have forgotten or misplaced it so many times you're suspended, don't cry to me about it. I wear mine. The IDs are a good idea.

Lauren Alston (10)

Badges joke at school among students

Dear Editor,
I am a junior who has some opinions about new student IDs. Most of my friends are negative about them. I think they're a joke. Nobody takes the IDs seriously. I know I don't. The IDs have been issued for about a week so far and I haven't even worn mine.

It is sitting at home on my drawer. The reason I don't wear it is because somebody has told me to. Another reason is I do not think they are important. Why do students need IDs? Nobody is going to mistake a student for a stranger. Kidnappers, and murderers do not look like students. If safety and security are the issues, the school should just implement more guards at each door. The ID badges are irrelevant to the students. I protest!

Mai Zhang, (11)

IDs should not be a coolness factor

Dear Editor,
The ID badges this year at Central High School are good to have; yet, for some people they aren't good to have socially. A lot (most) of students at Central don't want to match, and if they don't then they don't look good. I don't agree with all the complaining, but that's me. Students feel that they are being pressured into wearing them. Or friends may not see the badges as "cool" and they aren't worn because of a fashion statement. They're here to keep us safe from people outside, and teachers to know their students.

Olivia Griffin (10)



Badges have absolutely no point

Dear Editor,

At Central High School, we are forced to wear ID badges. I disagree with the new rule, that we must have these on our person above our waist. First of all, the quality of these images is low. I, as well as several of my peers have experienced either the card or lanyard breaking. Also, as many people cover up their cards with symbols of oppressed people or stickers, it is nearly impossible to identify a student from an imposter. This one does not matter because of my final point. As many people do not wear these

identification badges, it would be difficult to realistically use. If we do not stop this now, we will soon have security cameras and locked doors that open with the bar code on the card. We must fight this overprotection now.

Patrick Kilcoyne (11)

ID Tags are too complicating

Dear Editor,

I do not like the ID badges. It's not just that my picture is bad, it's that I can't always remember to wear the ID or where I put it. The whole ID badge is just too complicated for me.

Meghan Wetterstrom (10)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Lunch table rule proves illogical

Dear Editor,
This year they are enforcing a rule that you are only allowed as many as eight chairs per table, but say nothing about how many people there have to be. I have lunch 6th hour and between eight and eleven people usually sit at our table and we only have eight chairs. Some teachers count the chairs just to make sure, and some just make a few people move. Last week we had 14 or 15 people at our lunch table, and one teacher said it was alright because we only had eight chairs, and another teacher came and made them leave. he said he was overruling the other teacher. That isn't right at all! Personally, I think the eight chair rule is stupid. It's just another thing for kids to fight with teachers about.

Misty Fritz (11)

Students should stand in middle

Dear Editor,
Why is it that in the new stadium students have to stand in the center? At any other high school students get to stand in the middle. Central should not give in to obnoxious students who yell and throw things to make people sit down. Is this the kind of attitude Central wants to reinforce? I think not. Therefore, the student section should be moved back in the middle and they should be allowed to stand.

Josh Wilson (11)

High gas prices waste money

Dear Editor,
It is no surprise that gas prices are reaching astronomical figures, but why can't a bigger effort to be made to switch over to a more efficient and more readily available fuel? I live on 24th and Fort and do not ride a school bus in the morning or afternoon. Because I drive to school, I spend a lot of money on

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via e-mail to Central.Journalism@OPS.org or can be placed in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office. Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.

gas. That's a lot of money that in my opinion could be a better use!

Will Robbins (10)

More student concerts could raise money

Dear Editor,

I think our school needs more events like Band Aid. Teens these days are very much into music. Maybe doing more of these events would boost the attitude of students.

These kinds of events would also give young bands a chance to be recognized. It gives them a taste of what concerts are like. If Central gave more concerts, with the price of tickets sold, they could actually gain money. Concerts would be a great way to boost Central's overall reputation.

Chester Lovegren (10)

STUDENT POLL

Should Intelligent Design be taught in public high schools?

YES 61%

NO 39%

STUDENT POLL

Do you think students should be forced to wear IDs?

NO 84%

YES 16%

272 polled

Sprinturf field is inconvenient

Dear Editor,

I think they did a good job on the stadium, considering how little time they had to work on it.

It seems a little small to what I consider a football stadium to be, but hey, it's only high school.

One thing that I must bring up is what are those tiny black pellets that hit and stick to your legs and shoes when you walk across the field?

They should get rid of them if there is no important use for them.

They're really annoying, and kind of painful.

Crystal Huynhcao (10)



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think ID badges are an invasion of privacy?



"It's not a privacy violation at all. They don't want some random psycho walking in here."
Lauren Alston (10)



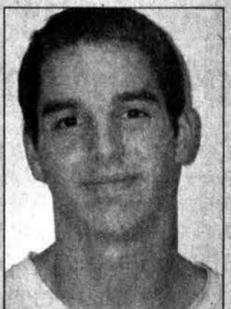
"It's not a violation because I don't mind getting my picture taken, but I don't like having it around my neck at all times."
Buoth Bleud (10)



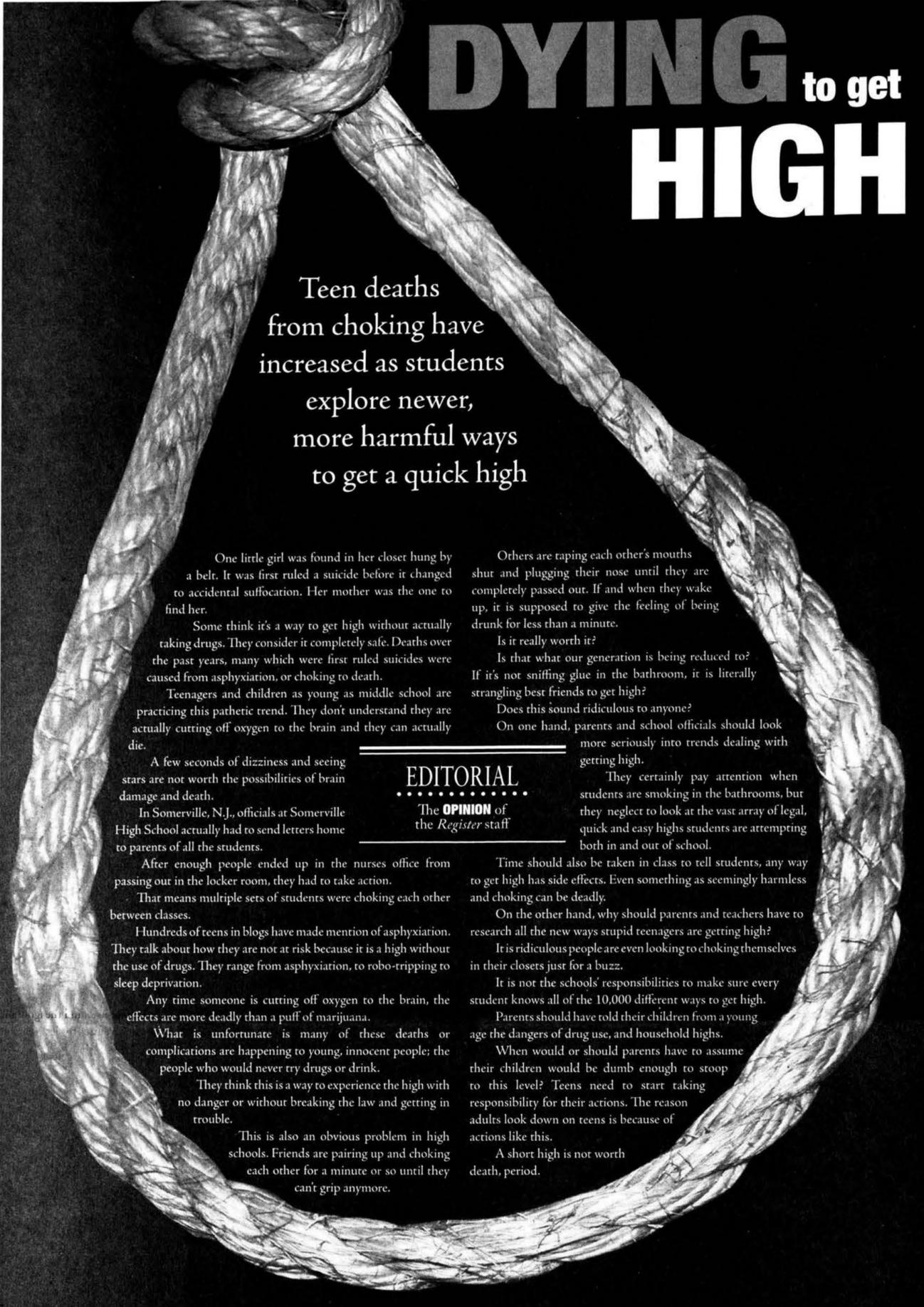
"I think it's mainly for security. It's just a tag with your picture and name on it."
Chrissy Trout (10)



"Yes, because it makes you identifiable by a tag."
Jeremy Lingle (9)



"Not at all. The security and staff need to know that the people who are here should be here."
Derek Dinoff (12)



DYING to get HIGH

Teen deaths from choking have increased as students explore newer, more harmful ways to get a quick high

One little girl was found in her closet hung by a belt. It was first ruled a suicide before it changed to accidental suffocation. Her mother was the one to find her.

Some think it's a way to get high without actually taking drugs. They consider it completely safe. Deaths over the past years, many which were first ruled suicides were caused from asphyxiation, or choking to death.

Teenagers and children as young as middle school are practicing this pathetic trend. They don't understand they are actually cutting off oxygen to the brain and they can actually die.

A few seconds of dizziness and seeing stars are not worth the possibilities of brain damage and death.

In Somerville, N.J., officials at Somerville High School actually had to send letters home to parents of all the students.

After enough people ended up in the nurses office from passing out in the locker room, they had to take action.

That means multiple sets of students were choking each other between classes.

Hundreds of teens in blogs have made mention of asphyxiation. They talk about how they are not at risk because it is a high without the use of drugs. They range from asphyxiation, to robo-tripping to sleep deprivation.

Any time someone is cutting off oxygen to the brain, the effects are more deadly than a puff of marijuana.

What is unfortunate is many of these deaths or complications are happening to young, innocent people; the people who would never try drugs or drink.

They think this is a way to experience the high with no danger or without breaking the law and getting in trouble.

This is also an obvious problem in high schools. Friends are pairing up and choking each other for a minute or so until they can't grip anymore.

Others are taping each other's mouths shut and plugging their nose until they are completely passed out. If and when they wake up, it is supposed to give the feeling of being drunk for less than a minute.

Is it really worth it?

Is that what our generation is being reduced to?

If it's not sniffing glue in the bathroom, it is literally strangling best friends to get high?

Does this sound ridiculous to anyone?

On one hand, parents and school officials should look more seriously into trends dealing with getting high.

They certainly pay attention when students are smoking in the bathrooms, but they neglect to look at the vast array of legal, quick and easy highs students are attempting both in and out of school.

Time should also be taken in class to tell students, any way to get high has side effects. Even something as seemingly harmless and choking can be deadly.

On the other hand, why should parents and teachers have to research all the new ways stupid teenagers are getting high?

It is ridiculous people are even looking to choking themselves in their closets just for a buzz.

It is not the schools' responsibilities to make sure every student knows all of the 10,000 different ways to get high.

Parents should have told their children from a young age the dangers of drug use, and household highs.

When would or should parents have to assume their children would be dumb enough to stoop to this level? Teens need to start taking responsibility for their actions. The reason adults look down on teens is because of actions like this.

A short high is not worth death, period.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff



I'LL BE QUIET

A Column by Zach Pluhacek

Parents decide to disown grandpa

When my mom asked my dad if "we should tell him," I immediately noticed the look on their faces I had failed to recognize earlier.

Both my parents, my father in particular, seemed to be caught in limbo between complete depression and denial. I wasn't sure what it was all about, but I knew it had to be something bad.

They decided to wait since my brother was in the kitchen too, working on his homework next to me while my parents were talking.

By the time Leo left I had overheard just enough of what my parents were talking about to become even more confused than I had been already. Immediately I demanded my dad tell me what was wrong. For some odd reason my mom told me to just keep working, and my dad would tell me when he was ready.

I walked out, trying to come across as understanding, yet obviously upset at the same time. I set up some things on the dining room table, worked a little on my homework and continued to stew over what was going on. A few minutes later, my dad walked past me into the living room. I immediately picked up on this sign and plopped down next to him on the couch. Whatever he had to say to me, now was the time.

As it turned out, my crazy grandpa (I do not use this term loosely), who has never really got along with my parents, called my house earlier that day and said some really inappropriate things to my mom.

I almost wanted to say, "and?" to my dad in that joking way, well-knowing Grandpa constantly made racist, sexist and homophobic statements. It was almost a fact of life for our family.

Somehow I knew better, though. I could tell there was more, and that whatever else there was to say was going to be more difficult for my dad to talk about

than I think anything ever been.

Earlier that day my dad told my grandpa that he was not to speak to anyone in my family again, ever.

Hearing this, about a million things raced through my head at once. I wanted to ask my dad so many questions: about the conversation, about my brother and about my grandpa.

I think all these things seemed overwhelmed me. For once, I sat there as my dad walked up, dumbfounded and unable to speak or even end the conversation all merely hung there, stuck in my mind like a bag of crap locked in an iron vault.

A few minutes later, I decided to write my essay for English class. The topic, "write about an informal education experience" immediately molded into a long paragraph on what had happened and what I should do about it. I got stuck half through it. I couldn't come up with any sort of conclusion, so I went to my mom for help.

She told me something I'll never forget: "sometimes you need to stop trying to find an answer to everything so just listen to what's going on around you."

I went back to my notebook trying to come up with a response to what she had to say. Well, this didn't work out, I repeated my dad's words over in my head trying this whole "listening" thing my mom told me about.

Then, my dad's face popped back into my head. He seemed so genuinely upset, so incredibly dumbstruck by this whole thing, took me aback completely.

Knowing exactly what I was supposed to do, I finished my essay.

Then I went upstairs to talk to my dad, because just then I think I felt something I've never felt before: empathy.

High gas prices make conservation a must

While high gas prices were a burden, people need to realize recent high prices were caused primarily by Katrina and need to stop complaining because while we may have to pay more at the pump, that's a small price to pay compared to the hundreds of people who lost their lives.

Most students do not realize how much power they have and how this affects them as much as any other group, especially with tens of millions of students in the world owning cars and paying to fill up their gas tanks.

People need to demand better energy efficiency and other options to using gasoline, if they don't want to be paying over \$50 or even \$100 to fill up their tank, which could happen again any time because of this nation's dependence on oil.

One possible alternative to crude oil is hydrogen fuel cells, which produces no carbon dioxide and no greenhouse gas emissions and replace most if not all of our energy needs.

Not only could hydrogen be produced domestically, cleanly and cost-effectively, but also Americans would then never have to worry about frequent fuel shortages because there would be a practically limitless supply of hydrogen.

This is a proven technology, which people need to demand to be used now.

In fact, BMW and Germany are already in the lead with the public and robotically operated hydrogen-fueling station in Munich with some of the first hydrogen-powered cars.

Ethanol and biodiesel from inedible oils can be used much like gasoline, but they are much cleaner.

For people who travel around downtown areas, the new Segway is available, which consists of a small platform to stand on, two medium-sized wheels connected to the platform, and a steering device that extends about three and a half to four and a half feet above the platform.

This device is self-balancing, goes up to 12 miles per hour, and costs \$3,000. There are photovoltaic devices, which directly convert absorbed sunlight into electrical currents.

Geobacters, which are microorganisms, are capable of transforming organic matter commonly found at the bottom of the ocean into electrical energy, which people could use to store the energy in specialized batteries.

People can buy cars with a diesel engines, which are already popular in Europe because of their increased efficiency over gasoline engines and because they last much longer than gasoline engines.

This trend has not caught on in the United States because most people think of loud trucks that produce black smoke, but this is not the case for cars with diesel engines and in fact it is the exact opposite. If people don't create a public outcry for more efficient cars as alternatives to gasoline, then they are just as much to blame as the elected politicians.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register staff

Protest of GAP provides illegal entertainment for senior

Threats of incarceration. Expulsion. Permanent exile. I underwent all of these tools of persecution one fun-filled Sunday. Am I a dangerous leader of some radical political faction? Is it some country run by a totalitarian government that I'm banned from? Fortunately this is not the case. I am just a lame high school student who will be arrested should I ever return to any property surrounding the Oakview mall area.

The fateful day began with five friends and myself sitting around. No one had anything exciting planned, so we were just killing time conversing about various topics. We began discussing possible sources of entertainment.

Eventually we decided on protesting some random corporation. The GAP was our chosen foe, targeted not because the fashionable clothing store has frequently been implemented in using sweatshops and child labor to manufacture their clothing, but because it seemed as good as any other company. The only preparation was the purchasing of poster boards and a bold, black Sharpie marker. We then commenced our journey to the mall with signs bearing slogans such as, "Has your child ever sewn their hands together?"; "Don't fall into the GAP"; and a few others that may or may not have contained various expletives.

We pulled into the parking lot, and the adrenaline was

beginning to flow. Everyone was having second thoughts, but no one even considered voicing them. Nausea was beginning to creep into the pit of my stomach.

Despite the fact that the temperature was near freezing, I began to perspire. But we were determined to follow through on our lofty convictions. All forms of identification were emptied into a pile and we marched through the cold into the food court. People saw the signs, but few gave us a second thought at this point.

The target was in sight. We strolled up to it and stationed ourselves in front of the entrance, signs hoisted above our heads. Loud chants weren't even necessary because our silence was deafening.

People instantly began to gather and stare. We had been standing mute for at most a minute when three mall security guards appeared. They stared at us, looked baffled for another minute before demanding to know what we were doing.

I informed them we were protesting the use of sweatshops. They responded by saying we had to leave or be arrested for criminal trespassing. We politely declined to remove ourselves, so the frighteningly powerful security guard called in a real police officer. The officer proceeded to remind us that we had to leave or be arrested. I replied with the suggestion that she arrest the employees inside, as representatives of the GAP Corporation. For some unknown reason she was not very receptive to this idea.

All the time we were being harassed, I continued to display my sign to the now substantial crowd of gawking observers. This also seemed to irritate the officer and she commanded me to put my sign down. I didn't listen, so she then attempted to take my sign by force ensued, with me emerging victorious.

Finally after a sharp exchange of words over the first amendment, we agreed to disperse. She forbade us to leave and pulled out a pad of paper. She took our names, which we quickly invented, and then were banished, never to return.

Although we were pretending to be political and moralistic, in reality we were just a bunch of bored kids searching for entertainment.

We got it.



Top ten activities to do at the mall

1. Play hide and go seek in the food court. Home base is the police desk and hiding in dressing rooms is illegal.
2. Print out fake coupons on cards and hand them to people walking by.
3. Wear a grass skirt and loudly proclaim your devotion to voodoo.
4. Giant water balloon bombardment on any and all pedestrians (right).
5. Pretend to be an employee at Victoria's Secret, but avoid felonies.
6. Buy clothes at Goodwill and stock shelves with real vintage clothes in expensive department stores.
7. During the summer, dress as Santa Claus and then wish everyone a merry Christmas.
8. Run up the down escalator and down the up escalator consecutively as many times as possible.
9. Put on makeup and be a mime. Try to get spare change from passing people.
10. Call customer service every five minutes and tell them a different car's lights are on.

BOMBS AWAY

A Column by Joe Delich





IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Darin Williams
NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

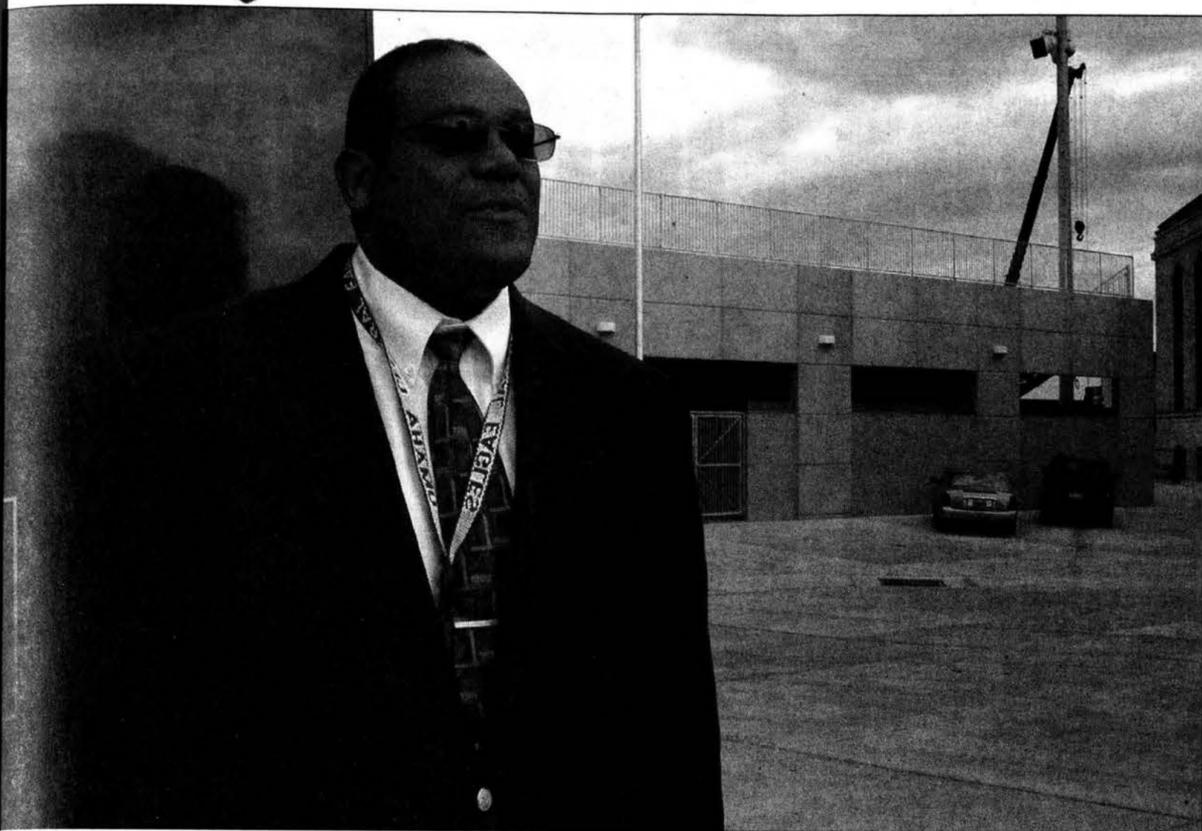


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Athletic Director Darin Williams stands in front of the new Seemann Stadium. He took over for Paul Pennington at the beginning of the year. Williams worked at Nathan Hale Middle School and Benson High School before that.

New athletic director discusses his responsibilities and the importance of Seemann Stadium to the state's largest high school

Q: How does it feel being the new athletic director with the new stadium?

A: It feels real good. It's something new. We're kind of learning (what it's like with a stadium).

Q: What responsibilities do you have to take on as the new athletic director?

A: All athletics. Name badges and student activity cards. It's a lot.

Q: How important is the stadium to Central?

A: I think it's real important. It changes the atmosphere. The students have ownership of the stadium.

Q: How important are athletics to Central?

A: I think they're important, but grades are more important. Athletics come second to school.

Q: What makes Central students different from where you've been before?

A: They're the same. There really isn't that much of a difference. Benson had good students and so does Central.

Q: What makes Central athletics different than where you've been before?

A: We got more people trying out at Central. Bigger school, more students.

Q: Did you play sports in high school?

A: Yeah. I played football, basketball and baseball. I had good coaches. I was real fortunate. I played with the same guys (players) from 7th grade all the way to high school.

Q: What made you want to be the athletic director?

A: I know what sports have done for me. You learn teamwork. You learn how to handle diversity, from wins to losses.

STADIUM 2005



Home-Field Advantage



INITIATE PLAN 9

A Column by Bob Al-Greene

Religion pushes way into society

Someone sneezes and to be polite, I say, "Bless you." Another person corrects me. "God bless you." He says with a superior smirk.

What? This is by no means an isolated event. It takes two hands to count the times it's happened to me.

Maybe it shouldn't bother me much (after all, "God bless you" is a perfectly acceptable phrase), but for some reason, I find it does.

Why is that? Is it just the way it was said, or is their something more, is the offense in the context or in the delivery?

I'm starting to think the context because, while snide, the "correction" was meant to be just that: a replacement of my gracious statement with a better one. One with God in it, making it that much more meaningful, supposedly.

I should be ashamed because I didn't say it first, right?

I can practically feel religion filtering in all around me these days; sliding into places it shouldn't be, blatantly affecting the choices of people it shouldn't be affecting.

As far as I can tell, it's causing some sort of inversion, giving rise to the "family values" crowd and their Puritan-like mind set. It can be read in the debate over Intelligent Design.

I'm more offended by a President calling the war in Iraq a "crusade" or titling it Operation Infinite Justice, something only God is supposed to dispense.

I'm more offended when a "cleric" like Reverend Jerry Falwell can get on national television and blame the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 on "the ACLU... the feminists and the gays and the lesbians."

I'm more offended when Reverend Pat Robertson, Falwell's associate, can call for the assassination of Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela, also on national television.

Chavez, by the way, is a duly-elected official who has instated numerous beneficial and internationally-applauded programs in his country, including a free health care system for poor and underserved areas, a mission to improve literacy rates, and land grants for small farmers.

Our country is fighting an international war on terrorist states headed by Islamic zealots and extremists.

It's obvious their religious tendencies instigate and fuel their bigotry and hatred.

People like this are supposed to be our sworn enemies, but at the same

time they walk the streets of our cities. Worse, they apparently get their own television programs, the twenty-first century's soapbox to stand on to spout insanity.

Osama bin Laden makes his own videos, after all.

Pat Robertson just goes the extra step, and it's offensive and embarrassing to me.

Both of my parents attended Catholic high schools. My father attended a Catholic university. At this point in their lives, however, and further back than I'm even sure of, neither of them attend church.

The last time I can even remember seeing one of them in a church was at my Grandfather's funeral.

So it's no wonder I haven't been raised with a vast knowledge of Christianity.

For a long time I assumed this wouldn't be a problem; this is America, a land where anyone is free to practice or not practice religion.

I shouldn't have to attend Sunday school to function in the society I was lucky enough to be born into.

In my mind, religion comes second to politics, or matters of state in general.

But again and again I see and hear events similar to the Robertson and Falwell issues, and I wonder: How many people in this country can really agree with them anymore?

How many sane Americans can take them seriously?

Hopefully few enough, but then I remember that sneeze, and I wonder how deeply and thoroughly that mentality is penetrating the youth, in this school and across the nation.

To everyone else, am I the ignorant one because I refuse to let religion dominate my feelings and actions? Am I the one who is out of place?

I feel very uneasy with that concept. I picture the image of a religious state, akin to the ones that proclaim themselves our enemies today, of zealots like Robertson commanding our fates. It's something to worry about.

If we're the future, how are we going to shape it? How are we going to make the big decisions when our time comes?

Are we going to balance the world's fate on holy texts and ancient commandments to heavily influence our actions?

Hugo Chavez and the like better pray we don't.

Sorry, better pray to God we don't. Then again, maybe we shouldn't.

Intelligent Design fails to fit into science curriculum

Imagine instead of opening up a textbook in biology, class was told to open up a Bible. This may be how some students feel when taught Intelligent Design in the classroom.

Intelligent Design is the theory that life was created by a higher being. Some people want to offer this as a possibility when teach it next to science in the classroom.

Some schools in other states have already decided to allow the production of Intelligent Design in their science classes. This is a big mistake.

Though it doesn't say it outright, the "higher being" meant to be God, the idea of separation of church and state was made for purposes like this. Teaching students something that is so obviously religious wearing the mask

of science is wrong.

Last year it was an issue of whether or not to place a sticker in some biology textbooks. Now those in support of Intelligent Design want more. They want the teachers to talk about and explain this theory.

There is nothing wrong with offering students different theories in science, but those theories must actually be scientific. Evolution, the most widely accepted theory of creation, is sometimes disputed, but is much more logical than Intelligent Design.

Hopefully, Central will never go as far as to teach the religion in disguise. The thoughts of the student body at Central are far too diverse to present anything like Intelligent Design, even if the words "supreme being" replace "God."

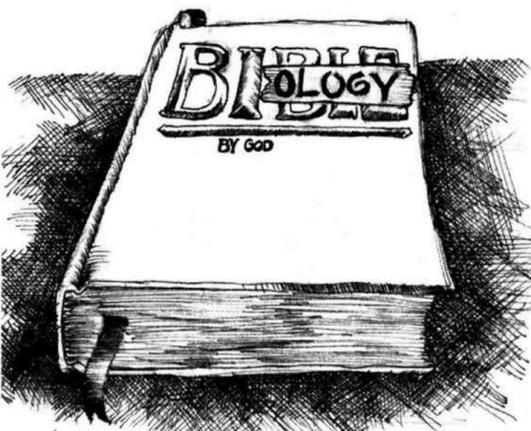
The teachers should teach what is in the textbooks and what is accepted in the majority of scientific society. The teacher may encourage students to look up other lesser known theories, but not waste class time discussing them.

As many people may either not care about Intelligent Design being taught or are in support of it, there would be many who would object to being taught this in a science class.

The biology class should be kept a biology class, and not turned into a theology class.

Public schools, being a part of the government, should be kept away from all things remotely religious. Teaching Intelligent Design would draw complaints from students and parents, causing more hassle than it would do good.

Central administration must remember all students have their own set of morals and beliefs, and offering something this close to a religious belief is dangerous.



Latest technology improvements benefit students, faculty



Cell phones show the negative side to technology. Students use them to cheat or chat

Though Central is not a technology magnet school, this year school officials are implementing new forms of technology in many ways, especially in the areas of grading and attendance.

Intergrade Pro (IG Pro) is one of these new aspects. IG Pro is used for putting students' grades on the Internet for easy access and viewing.

Though students or parents cannot actually view the grades online yet, the ability to would help improve students' grades.

Most people, whether at home or at a library, have access to the Internet. Parents would be able to see how their sons and daughters are doing in all of their classes. Parents will then put pressure on their kids, motivating them to do better.

Students, with the extra pressure put on grades, will remember to perform better in school. Grades

would improve at an ever-increasing rate.

The process of taking attendance has also changed. Student Administration System of Information (SASI) XP is the new program being used to keep track of what students are present at each of their classes.

This system gives the students more accountability for their whereabouts and actions. If they weren't present for one period, the student would be the one to explain where he was at that time. It should dramatically cut down on skipping, and is more convenient for teachers when figuring out pre-arranged absences.

The only problem with this system is the time lost at the beginning of class. Still, the few extra

minutes it takes to figure out attendance, should be well worth it.

Principal Jerry Bexten said there are plans to put computers in the classrooms that do not have them at this time, the gym and weight rooms.

With all of Central on this system, students will not miss their classes, and grades will improve because of this.

Identification (ID) badges are also another new addition to the state's largest high school. These badges, which right now can be used to check out library books, may in the future be used to buy lunches. Lines in the cafeteria and courtyard would be virtually eliminated, with students only swiping a card instead of punching in a number.

Also, new security cameras have been put up around the school. These cameras can be viewed in select administrator offices only.

The cameras put in are not an attempt to take away the students' privacy. It is an attempt to discourage any behavior problems and along with the ID badges, help protect students from intruders.

While becoming more dependent on technology, however, the downside is the loss of a paper trail. If computers fail for any reason, Central needs a backup plan.

On one hand, it is good the school is becoming a modern school. On the other, the more dependent it is on technology, the more it will hurt if it ever fails.

North has had ID badges for several years, and students have the ability to check e-mail accounts during lunch at terminals set up in the cafeterias.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

OPINION

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD

124 N 20TH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

PUTTING YOUR FOOT DOWN

State lawmakers voted to make Sept. 12-16 Bully Awareness Week. Although there was an effort from teachers and administration, much was left undone to prevent assault, both physical and mental.

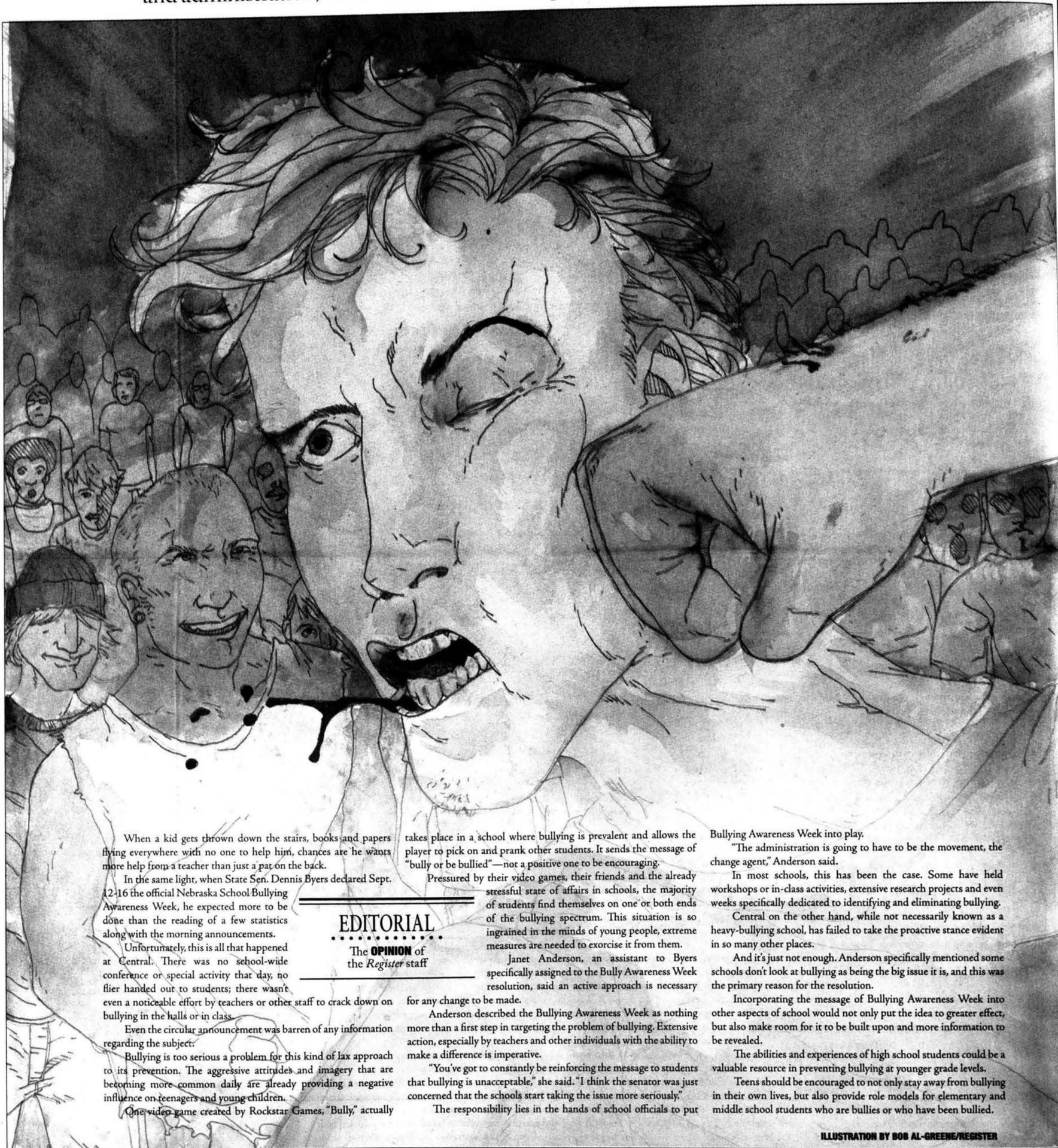


ILLUSTRATION BY BOB AL-GREENE/REGISTER

When a kid gets thrown down the stairs, books and papers flying everywhere with no one to help him, chances are he wants more help from a teacher than just a pat on the back.

In the same light, when State Sen. Dennis Byers declared Sept. 12-16 the official Nebraska School Bullying Awareness Week, he expected more to be done than the reading of a few statistics along with the morning announcements.

Unfortunately, this is all that happened at Central. There was no school-wide conference or special activity that day, no flier handed out to students; there wasn't even a noticeable effort by teachers or other staff to crack down on bullying in the halls or in class.

Even the circular announcement was barren of any information regarding the subject.

Bullying is too serious a problem for this kind of lax approach to its prevention. The aggressive attitudes and imagery that are becoming more common daily are already providing a negative influence on teenagers and young children.

One video game created by Rockstar Games, "Bully," actually

takes place in a school where bullying is prevalent and allows the player to pick on and prank other students. It sends the message of "bully or be bullied"—not a positive one to be encouraging.

Pressured by their video games, their friends and the already stressful state of affairs in schools, the majority of students find themselves on one or both ends of the bullying spectrum. This situation is so ingrained in the minds of young people, extreme measures are needed to exorcise it from them.

Janet Anderson, an assistant to Byers specifically assigned to the Bully Awareness Week resolution, said an active approach is necessary

for any change to be made. Anderson described the Bullying Awareness Week as nothing more than a first step in targeting the problem of bullying. Extensive action, especially by teachers and other individuals with the ability to make a difference is imperative.

"You've got to constantly be reinforcing the message to students that bullying is unacceptable," she said. "I think the senator was just concerned that the schools start taking the issue more seriously."

The responsibility lies in the hands of school officials to put

Bullying Awareness Week into play.

"The administration is going to have to be the movement, the change agent," Anderson said.

In most schools, this has been the case. Some have held workshops or in-class activities, extensive research projects and even weeks specifically dedicated to identifying and eliminating bullying.

Central on the other hand, while not necessarily known as a heavy-bullying school, has failed to take the proactive stance evident in so many other places.

And it's just not enough. Anderson specifically mentioned some schools don't look at bullying as being the big issue it is, and this was the primary reason for the resolution.

Incorporating the message of Bullying Awareness Week into other aspects of school would not only put the idea to greater effect, but also make room for it to be built upon and more information to be revealed.

The abilities and experiences of high school students could be a valuable resource in preventing bullying at younger grade levels.

Teens should be encouraged to not only stay away from bullying in their own lives, but also provide role models for elementary and middle school students who are bullies or who have been bullied.

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of
the *Register* staff

South Korean adoptee thanks biological mother for giving her up 15 years ago

I'm writing this to my biological mother for making the hard decision to put me up for adoption.

I cannot imagine what you had to go through emotionally to make that painful decision.

I want you to know it was worth it, the entire thing.

My mom had told me you were really young when I was born, so you probably weren't married.

If I tried to search for you, the adoption agency probably wouldn't let me, out of respect for you. That means I probably won't be able to ask you questions I want answered.

I want to know the answers to questions most people can't ask.

For instance, "Do you still think about me even though it's been more than 15 years since you

put me up for adoption?" or "When you put me up for adoption, did you realize how significantly you changed my life?"

But the question I want to know the most is why. Why did you put me up for adoption?

Sometimes I think about the reason, and I always think that you had a good one.

If I ever found out it was just because you didn't want me, my world will fall apart. I can't think of anything worse than knowing that you didn't want me.

One of the hardest questions about being adopted is when someone asks me a question I

don't have the answer for.

When a doctor wants to know my family's medical history, I feel different and frustrated.

I feel different because I have to explain to them that I don't know anything about my family's medical history at all.

I feel frustrated because knowing my family's medical history could save my life one day.

Last year in biology, when we did the genetics unit, I felt different from the rest of my classmates.

They could easily find out where they got their eye color, or hair color, but I couldn't.

They could find out their family history, and



NOT A STEREOTYPE

A Column by Kim Buckley

I couldn't. Luckily my biology teacher understood that. Those are the times when I get jealous. It's funny how I can feel jealous about an insignificant thing.

It's probably because to me those are things kids take for granted. If anyone asks me if I have any memories of Korea, I feel like I'm letting them down when I can't give them a more interesting answer than, "No, I don't."

I feel like I'm letting those people down because I can't give them an answer they're probably hoping for because I arrived in the United States when I was only a baby.

And there's the question about whether or not I'll go to Korea. Right now I'm scared stiff about going back to a place I don't even remember.

My brother wants to go to Korea when he graduates, and there are times when I think that

he doesn't understand my feelings.

Every adopted person has different feelings and those are my feelings on the matter of going back to Korea.

Those are my problems, and I'll deal with them. I don't want you to think you ruined my life by putting me up for adoption because I haven't.

I wouldn't exchange being adopted for anything in the world. Being adopted has made me stronger, and there are some things you wouldn't change for all of the money in the world.

Being adopted is one of those things for which I'm grateful. The best part about being adopted is my parents.

They really care about me and love me. They support me in everything I do.

ARE YOU AFRAID, YET



When October rolls around, people scramble to the video store to pick up their favorite fright flick. Some of these horror movies are still being remade, some as recently as this year.

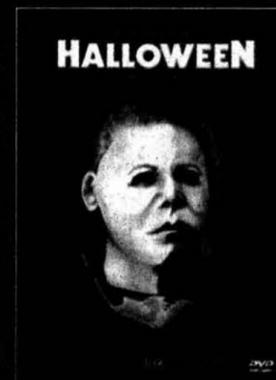
Should classic movies be remade? Should perfection be tampered with? Which version is scarier? Check out pages 26 and 27 to find out what Central students think, as well as reviews on the classics and the remakes.

Whatever you do, don't turn off the light, somebody is behind you.

1978 George Romero
VS.
2004 Zack Snyder



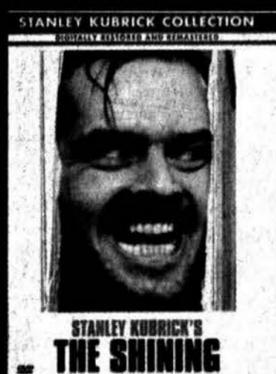
1978 John Carpenter
VS.
2002 Rick Rosenthal



1973 William Friedkin
VS.
2005 Renny Harlin



1980 Stanley Kubrick
VS.
1997 Nick Garris



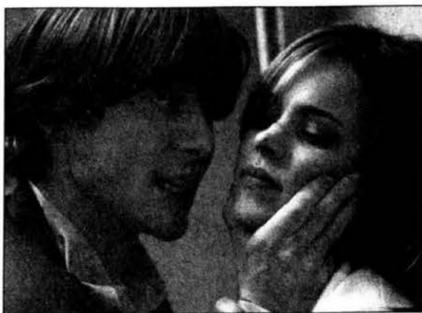


PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS PICTURES

The two lead characters fight in one of the many battles in this thriller, new to director Wes Craven.

MOVIE REVIEW



'RED EYE'

Starring: Brian Cox

'Red Eye' defies average thrillers

BY BOB AL-GREENE

"Red Eye" admirably does its best to break free of the mold established by years of poorly-made thriller films.

The film opened as Lisa Reisert, played by Rachel McAdams, arrives at the airport for her flight home, but she was too late. Luckily, she can catch a red eye flight.

Lisa, a hotel manager, was kind, competent, understanding, self-sufficient and independent. She defended airport officials against unruly passengers, aided by new acquaintance Jackson Rippner (Cillian Murphy), a thin, sharp and oddly-named man. Jackson joked that he hopes Lisa isn't stalking him, and the two had an innocent laugh. It wasn't long, however, before he revealed that his own motives were more sinister.

Terrorists wanted to assassinate prominent politician William Keefe, a frequent visitor to Lisa's hotel, during his upcoming visit. To do this, however, he would have to be moved to a different, more convenient room, and only Lisa could authorize it. If she fails to authorize the move, her father would die. If she succeeded, Keefe, his wife and children would die.

The rest of the plane ride was some of the tensest and most relentless psychological terror ever committed to film, followed by the all-important final fight.

One element that stays the same in "Hero vs. Villain" flicks: the hero suffers throughout the movie, especially in the final, climactic battle scene. To revitalize the genre, the movie had to actually be scary. Who else to lead the renaissance than the master of horror, director Wes Craven?

With that in mind, and the finale of "Red Eye" under consideration, it just fell a little short. Make no mistake, the ending was incredibly tense, but it was also anticlimactic. Frankly, it was a painful experience for Jackson Rippner.

It's a shame "Red Eye" had to finish on such a stiff note, since the rest was so masterful, but the sin is easily forgiven.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Tessa Quayle, Rachael Weisz, accepts a gift from Kenyan children. Her moving performance added to the dramatic aspect of an intriguing action flick.

MOVIE REVIEW



'CONSTANT GARDENER'

Starring: Rachael Weisz

'Gardener' opens eyes to epidemic

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Although never highly publicized before opening in Omaha, "Constant Gardener" was one of the best films to end the summer.

It showed some Kenyan communities where poverty almost makes AIDS an inevitable cause of death, after rape, murder and starvation leave pregnant mothers to pass the disease to children.

After three months of remakes, this was a fictitious movie that shed real light on international problems.

The movie's premise revolved around a huge pharmaceutical corporation testing on poor Africans. The woman who tried to expose the situation ended up dead, leaving the mystery up to her husband to solve.

Setting the movie in Kenya gave real-life drama to a basic action/thriller film. There were scenes that could have never been shot in the United States, like 10-year-old boys carrying machine guns.

It was a good, understated message in a movie that was already packed with emotion.

Rachael Weisz played Tessa Quayle, who died in the first scene. The rest of the film was told through flashbacks and through her husband.

She was perfect for the role. Her quiet, quaint style made her seem like nearly the same character as in "The Mummy" a few years ago.

"Constant Gardener" was a film that could restore faith in Hollywood after only seeing "War of the Worlds" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" all summer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Victor, Johnny Depp's character, meets his new bride for the first time. Although it couldn't compare to Burton's first claymation, "A Nightmare Before Christmas," it was a fun movie that saved audiences from the "summer of remakes."

New Burton hits with older audience

BY JOE DELICH

Tim Burton's "Corpse Bride" displayed masterful claymation and combined it with an extremely entertaining storyline.

Johnny Depp lended his voice to the main character named Victor. Victor presented an interesting contrast with most of Depp's recent roles. Audiences used to the portrayal of bold, audacious characters like Captain Jack Sparrow by Depp should be pleasantly surprised by the shy and confused nature of young Victor.

The film opened with preparations for Victor's impending marriage to lovely young woman named Victoria. Unfortunately Victor bungled his vows repeatedly at the wedding rehearsal and after a few hours the priest called for a short break. Victor decided to take a walk in the woods to gather his thoughts.

While he was moping among the trees he decided to practice his vows on a stick that looked suspiciously like a hand.

He got the vows right, placed the ring on the stick, and a very animated corpse named Emily (Helena Bonham-Carter) in a tattered wedding dress burst forth and dragged Victor back down to the thriving underworld.

Even though Emily's skin was literally rotting off in certain places, Burton managed to keep it tasteful and prevent it from becoming too grotesque. In fact, Emily was enough to make someone think twice about necrophilia.

The rest of the movie revealed Emily's tragic history and depicted Victor's unique dilemma of possessing a live fiancée and a dead wife.

Emily, despite the fact she was dead, came across as the liveliest character in the film. This posed some interesting questions regarding what really qualifies as life. She was a stark contrast with Victoria who was simply quiet and boring. The audience found itself identifying more

with Emily simply because she seemed the most alive.

The film was rated PG, but an older audience might appreciate Burton's art and humor more than a younger audience. This does not mean the film is too much for children. Despite the rather macabre concept, Burton created a film that is offbeat, but hardly inappropriate for children.

People of all ages can certainly appreciate characters like the "head waiter" of the underworld who, true to his name, consisted only of a head. The image of a decapitated head being carried across a counter on a colony of beetles was one that will stick with me for quite some time.

The film as a work of art was also an enormous success. Every aspect of the film, from the major characters to the most inconsequential detail was carefully crafted. The motion of the clay figurines was incredibly fluid and realistic.

The characters call to mind Burton's previous success, "A Nightmare before Christmas." Fans of "A Nightmare before Christmas" will undoubtedly enjoy "Corpse Bride." Similar to "A Nightmare before Christmas," Burton managed to take the whole spectrum of human emotion and combine them in a successful film.

The clay figures of "Corpse Bride" were done in the same style as the characters in "A Nightmare before Christmas." The contrast between the world of the living and the dead is also similar to the contrast between Halloween town and Christmas town.

Burton also created a number of ironic contrasts that helped captivate the viewer.

The world of the living was dull, grey and almost lifeless while the afterlife most closely resembled a 1920s speakeasy. In addition all of the living characters were very upright and lifeless.

On the other hand, all the dead characters had no aspirations but to party for the rest of eternity.

MOVIE REVIEW



'CORPSE BRIDE'

Starring: Johnny Depp

Upcoming Albums

October

4 Franz Ferdinand, "You Could Have It So Much Better"

Following up their first album and its single, "Take Me Out," which Rolling Stone called "a thrilling fireworks show of a single," the boys from the United Kingdom will start off "You Could Have It So Much Better" with "Do You Want To," the album's first single, which draws influence from the British Invasion, disco, punk and an ending strongly reminiscent of The Knack.

18 Dr. Dre, "Detox"

The long-delayed follow-up to 1999's "The Chronic 2001" is set with some reservations to drop soon. Dre reportedly produced over 50 beats for "Detox," and has constantly been tweaking it over the last two years, while taking on other collaborations on the side, as with Mary J. Blige on her latest release.

November

1 P.O.D., "Testify"

The hardest of hard rockers are back with their first album since 2004's "Maximum P.O.D." This time around they'll be combining their own sound with collaborators of Slipknot and Alanis Morissette, creating a truly satisfying sound. "Testify" will hit stores ten days before P.O.D. begins its fall tour with Staind and Taproot.

15 Madonna, "Confessions on a Dancefloor"

The queen of pop returns with a new 12-track dance album via Warner Brothers. She has just finalized the final track on the album, "Like It or Not." Basically it's Madonna saying, "This is who I am. This is what I do. Take it or leave it," her producer, Stuart Price, said.

22 Reba McEntire, "Reba #1s"

The country diva is ready for her 30th release through MCA Nashville, a two-disc set which will include over 30 of her greatest hits from many years at the front of the industry. Included will be the current billboard success, "You're Gonna Be (Always Loved by Me)", and a new cut, "Love Needs a Holiday."

Movie Releases October

- 7 "Return of the Living Dead 5: Rave to the Grave"
- "In Her Shoes"
- 14 "Innocent Voices"
- "Elizabethtown"
- "Domino"
- 17 "Summer Storm"
- 19 "Ushpizin"
- 21 "Shopgirl"
- "Doom"
- "Dreamer"
- "Derailed"

November

- 11 "Zathura"
- 18 "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"

Concerts/Events October

- 5 Coheed and Cambria, Val Air Ballroom
- 7 Al Di Meola Project, Val Air Ballroom
- Larry the Cable
- 9 Twiztid, Knickerbockers
- Thousand Foot Krutch, Val Air Ballroom
- 14 Mindless Self Indulgence, Knickerbockers
- The Dresden Dolls, Englert Civic
- 15 Celtic Woman, Des Moines Civic
- 16 Motley Crüe, Tyson Events Center
- Wurlitzer Organ Concert, Orpheum
- 25 Simple Plan, Sokol Auditorium
- 29 The Full Monty, Stephens

November

- 2 Moody Blues, Orpheum Theatre Omaha
- 4 Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, Des Moines Civic
- 5 Dolly Parton, Tyson Events Center
- O.A.R., Stephens
- 7 Bonnie Raitt, Orpheum Theatre Omaha





PHOTO BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER

Illustration shows the proper technique for pointe, which if not done correctly, can damage the feet. Junior Lindsay Schulz said she practices dance six hours a week and has been doing it so long it has become who she said she would like to someday be a teacher.

Junior expresses herself through ballet

BY EMILY HARRISON

Lindsay Schulz took her place at the bar, and with the rest of the class, rose up on her toes gracefully extended her arm. Schulz and the other girls in her class were wearing pointe shoes. These shoes have boxes in the toes to protect their feet while dancing. While standing on the tips of their toes is physically awkward and unnatural, visually ballet is associated with beauty and grace. Outside Schulz's dance class, students are coming from elementary school to full-grown women, stretch and prepare for their classes. Schulz attends Nebraska Dance in West Omaha every Tuesday night. She comes every Wednesday for tap, and Thursday for ballet and jazz.

Schulz spends six hours a week in the studio dancing. She has been dancing since she was 4 and it has become an important part of her life. "I just feel like I've been dancing so long it's just a part of who I am," she said. Tracy Lovejoy has been instructing Schulz in ballet and pointe for four years. Ballet and pointe are very unnatural, especially in the turned-out position, Lovejoy said. Schulz said flexibility and the turned-out position are the most difficult aspects of ballet. To dance, a person needs to strengthen muscles, bones and ligaments so she is able to lift her legs and jump high. Lovejoy said Schulz was a very diligent and consistent dancer.

She said her strengths are visible. "She works very hard and she works consistently," Lovejoy said. One of the challenges she has to face is the type of body required for a ballerina. "She does not have the perfect ballerina body," Lovejoy said. The perfect ballerina body is very unnatural; long legs, high arched feet and a small head, which is not an easy mold to fit into. Schulz said she had to work especially hard to improve in ballet. "Nothing comes easily for me," she said. Lovejoy said Schulz works very well with the body she has. Schulz said sometimes the girls with more ballerina-like attributes are physically weaker. She said either a dancer is weak with a

perfect figure or really strong, but imperfect by the standards. "If you do not have the perfect body, you have to work harder to look beautiful," she said. Dance is very competitive, and if she wants to make money she'll have to be the best, she said. Her goal was not to become a professional ballerina and she did not want to major in dance in college. In fact, competition was one of the reasons Schulz did not want to pursue dance as a career. However, she did see dance in her future. She said she hoped to teach at a studio. She wants to be a school teacher and working at a studio would be a way of pursuing the educational field and continuing dance. Before Schulz transferred to Nebraska Dance, where she dances now, she helped teach some of the children's classes. She

said she enjoyed working with younger people. Amy Hulstein has been dancing with Schulz since she was 5. "I think she would be good at teaching," Hulstein said. "She likes to dance a lot, and she's a good dancer." Schulz analyzed and assimilated corrections very well, which would make her a good teacher, Lovejoy said. Schulz said she thought the trait that will help her most as teacher was her patience. But for now she will continue dancing out of a pure love of the art form. "It's just like art; it's a way to express yourself," she said. Schulz said dancing had taught her people skills and made her realize she was not perfect, and that's OK.

Alumni develop family band, play for 'Jazz on the Green'

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

Mary O'Keefe's life is music. She started playing the drums when she was in 4th grade, along with her sister. "We thought the drums were the cheapest instrument to buy," Mary said. "We figured all we had to buy were sticks, but we got the snares, and eventually the whole set, so it wasn't as easy as I thought." When she was 11 or 12, there was a woman who was starting a band, and wanted children in it. She chose Mary as a drummer. The band was called Gracie Lee and the Happy Lights. "We played at various bars and clubs, with parental consent of course," she said, "and everyone thought that we were older; especially me since I was the youngest." She did receive pay for playing in Gracie Lee. She said she also played in another band before that, which was not a paying band called Blue Tempest. "There were all these cute boys in it, and then me with my shaggy hair and tube tops," she said. "We would practice in

our living room, with big speakers everywhere. I thought my mom wouldn't like it, but she ended up buying a few things for the band." As O'Keefe got older, and into high school, the music she participated in got more competitive. As well as being taught privately, she played in the Stage Band for the three years she spent at Central. "The Stage Band introduced me to a lot of jazz, which is so much fun to play," she said. So much fun in fact, her and her husband Steve Thornburg, started a band in 2002 called Soldiers of Soul. "We would play little gigs when we first started, and our kids would come with us," she said. "Sometimes my daughter, Noel, would even sing with us." Mary said she came up with tones that featured a lot of vocals because Noel was so good. As soon as she was old enough, Noel came to the gigs in clubs. And not too long after that, the band was being asked to play more and more shows. Since then, it has played in many venues in Omaha. The interesting thing about Soldiers of Soul is it rotates

players. The only core players are in the family: Mary, Steve, Noel, and their son, Chase. The other instruments that make up Soldiers of Soul are keyboard and bass. "It's hard to find good keyboardists and bassists in Omaha," she said. "In fact, we kept the same ones for over a year." The players they kept for over a year were in the military, and eventually had to leave. Now that Noel and Chase have moved away from home, they are constantly looking for replacements. But Mary said it's hard to replace someone as talented as Noel. Steve, who plays the saxophone in Soldiers of Soul, arranges all of the music they play. That way, no matter who is in the band, anyone can play it. The problem is finding the musicians because they have to depend on them to know what to play and how to play it. The reason she started Soldiers of Soul was to have something the whole family liked to do, and were good at. O'Keefe also has a recording studio in her basement. She has wanted one for almost 15 years. "I not only wanted one for the music, but because I used to be in the radio business and I needed it for voiceovers," she

said. Steve met Mary at Central and they were high school sweethearts. They were both in jazz band together. They still share a love and passion for music. Steve said he loves the fact the whole family was in the band. He said he misses having the kids there all of the time. They're still looking for a studio/record label name. They have a few ideas in mind, but none stood out. Mary said she wants something unique, but that has to do with the studio itself. One person who is helping Mary and her family with the studio is musician Buck Bowen. They're currently doing a collaboration, and he is now the assistant engineer. "With out him, we would be nowhere near where we are now," Mary said. "It is a brilliant collaboration, and his work is amazing." Although it has never actually produced an album, it is rather well-known in Omaha. It has a website that has some of their live music on it, but for the most part it is an underground band.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES
Bill Murray presents the general mood of the movie, quiet and depressing, after seeing the grave of an old girlfriend. His ability added to "Broken Flowers."

MOVIE REVIEW



'BROKEN FLOWERS'

Starring: Bill Murray

Simplicity goes a long way in film

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Bill Murray has played every kind of comedic character.

From his lazy, sarcastic portrayal of an army officer in "Stripes," to his darker characters in Wes Anderson's "Life Aquatic," "Rushmore" and "Royal Tennenbaums," he has shown his depth as an actor.

This was no different in Jim Jarmush's most recent film, "Broken Flowers."

The entire movie is not based on plot development, but character development.

It's helpful to know this before seeing the ending, if it can even be called an ending.

The entire premise was Murray looking up all his old girlfriends to see which one gave birth to his son 20 years ago. His son, who he never met, was supposedly looking for him.

This film was the epitome of "the journey is more important than the destination," both literally and figuratively. The entire movie is about his journey from town to town, trying to figure out who the mother of his child is.

The essence of indie films shines through clearly, with that "don't tell us what to do" attitude.

One woman named her daughter Lolita. Murray sat in their living room while teenage Lolita stripped naked and walked around as if he weren't there.

It was definitely nothing someone would see in Hollywood.

The script was probably only 40 pages long because of the lack of dialogue.

That left a lot of making this film work to Murray.

His portrayal, along with long, unbroken camera shots made the movie seem less lengthy.

He had a very nonchalant air to him. He seemed to have this style recently in his films by Wes Anderson as well as his appearances on Jay Lenno and David Letterman.

He just let everything work itself out. This was definitely the case for "Broken Flowers." Even in the most dramatic parts, he simply meandered across the screen. He was badly beaten and just stood there and took it.

The only other significant role in the film was of his next door neighbor, Winston, played by Jeffrey Wright. He was the one who convinced Murray to seek out his old partners in the first place.

He was obsessed with crime and forensics and studied the letter from the "mystery mother." He portrayed the role of small-town neighbor very well. Walking across the street in his night clothes, talking on his cell phone until he reached the front door, explains who he was very well.

The only real chances the director took was the cinematography. At the end he finished with a montage of everyone Murray had contacted and the evidence pointing to each one as the mother. This was to throw off any suspicion as to who it could have been.

Although this was a fun movie to watch, it would most likely only be truly accepted in Minneapolis, Jarmush's home town, where his movies are widely publicized.

When seeing this film, do not be expecting any big bangs or passionate love scenes.

It was true to real life.



PHOTO COURTESY SONY PICTURES

Jennifer Carpenter plays Emily in "The Exorcism of Emily Rose." When she screamed, the audience could really tell she was in pain. This is important in any horror movie to captivate the audience.

'Rose' gives Hollywood terror to real story

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

Within the first 20 minutes of "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," everyone in the theater had screamed at least once.

The movie tells the story of a young girl, played by Jennifer Carpenter, who becomes possessed while at college, and later dies due in part to a failed exorcism. In the beginning, the heroine is portrayed as a sweet, wholesome girl who took care of stray cats. This introduction made the scenes of her contorted on the floor even more disturbing.

Her priest, played by Tom Wilkinson, was accused of negligence that led to her death. The majority of the movie is set in a courtroom with various participants of the exorcism testifying, which transitions into the scenes of the actual exorcism, or the events leading up to it.

Laura Linney played Wilkinson's career-minded, overconfident attorney, Erin Bruner. Linney's acting was so convincing and she delivered her lines with such authority one wouldn't be surprised if she had actually attended law school.

Most of the scenes involving Carpenter were very hard to watch. In one scene a young man's eyes turn black and melt down his face, but most of the frightening scenes were not gruesome, but simply unsettling.

For instance, in one episode of possession Carpenter's character ran into a church and stood in front of the altar. As her terrified friend watched on she bent backwards almost 90 degrees before collapsing in a heap on the floor.

Due to her possession Carpenter's character often had to writhe in uncomfortable positions on the floor and scream at the top of her lungs. Some of her contortions were so extreme people in the theater had to look away.

During her actual exorcism Emily screamed and snarled in Biblical languages with a deep, distorted voice. Her eyes dilated to the point where they appeared black and she stated that she was Satan in the flesh. The movie was so enrapturing anyone who was in the theater would believe the story with his entire being.

Every member of the cast did a wonderful job portraying his or her character and the acting did not have the typical cheesiness of other horror movies. The story was very compelling and the viewer couldn't help but pay close attention.

Carpenter did a spectacular job of portraying her character; her facial expressions were so vivid that her emotion was shown very clearly. When she looked into the camera and screamed in pain, everyone in the theater winced in sympathy.

Wilkinson was perfect to play the priest who acted as the martyr of the film, refusing a plea bargain so he could testify. In the movie he stated the most important thing to him, above his own freedom, was telling Emily's story.

The movie also included elements of allegory, with Linney's character experiencing some of the same things Carpenter's character did before she became possessed, such as waking up in the middle of the night and smelling smoke.

This sub plot helped to illustrate the attorney's internal struggle with her ethics and doing what was right, as opposed to doing what would help her achieve partner status in her law firm.

Wilkinson's character was not the only person involved in the trail who had something to lose. Linney's character had recently won a lawsuit for a man accused of murder, and in order for her to maintain her reputation she needed to win the case.

The lack of gore in the film helped to emphasize the other

chilling, although not outright scary aspects of the story. Such as once the trial began, Linney's character began to continuously wake at 3 in the morning, which was said to be the witching hour because it mocked the holy trinity.

Other emotions were also felt throughout the film, such as grief expressed by Emily's family after her death. Once again the cast did a great job of portraying their characters' feelings.

After Emily's death was confirmed there was a scene of family gathered around the kitchen table, tears streaming down their faces.

The looks of grief on her parents' faces were so intense the audience's hearts broke for them.

Another layer of the plot was closely focused on Catholic doctrine regarding possession and exorcism, with testimony from witnesses with facts that actually hold true in the real world.

During the dialogue of the trial other explanations for possession such as mental illness and being "hyper-sensitive" were explored. The arguments presented by Linney's character were fascinating and held the viewers attention effortlessly.

Although the prospect of a movie set mainly in a drab courtroom may see boring to some, the bland setting added to the need to get to the story, forcing the audience to be involved in the plot as opposed to simply watching the actors move around on screen.

What anyone who goes to see this movie needs to realize is that it is immensely frightening, but also has elements of a legitimate drama intertwined with the horror plot.

If one is looking for a quick, brainless jolt of fear, this movie is the right thing to see. But if pure terror is the objective, then this is the perfect way to spend an evening.

"The Exorcism of Emily Rose" is a great movie and would be perfect to see with friends, preferably with someone who would mind having their hand squeezed.

MOVIE REVIEW



'THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE'

Starring: Jennifer Carpenter

Jessica Alba gives 'no duh' performance in most recent film

BY MARK AREHART

"Into the Blue" delivers capable thrills, with a scantily clad cast and stunning underwater scenes.

The film relies on the proven acting and undeniable sexuality of its actors, mainly Paul Walker and Jessica Alba.

The girls strut around in skimpy bathing suits, but cheeks nearly escaping bikinis, with their abdominal muscles glistening in the water. It almost seems like a Victoria Secret commercial with explosions and scuba gear.

Walker and Alba play Jared and Sam, two resident Bohemian lovers who live modest and uncomplicated lives, until their friend Bryce and his new girlfriend Amanda come into the picture. Bryce is played by Scott Caan, who was hilarious in "Oceans 11" as well as "Oceans 12." He brings some of that idiotic humor to this film. Amanda is played by Ashley Scott.

The story doesn't take a twist until the four of them are off scanning the ocean floor for sunken ships and buried treasure. The audience knows what's going to happen next. They find more than they bargained for.

On top of discovering a shipwreck laden with treasure, recently drugged up from the ocean depths by a hurricane, they also find a sunken plane full of millions of dollars worth of cocaine.

Trouble starts when part of the group recovers the cocaine from the plane wreckage and tries to sell it back to the people trying to smuggle the drugs in the first place. Needless to say, they are not too happy. They come after the group, guns blazing. That's when the action really starts to kick in.

The tension really rises when the characters are not only swimming through the depths from ticked off cocaine dealers, but when you through rather large, and rather mean looking tiger sharks into the mix, you've got yourself a pretty sweet action scene.

Action in this movie is served up full force, but the real

beauty shines through in the underwater scenes. They add to the overall polish of the film.

It's amazing to see the characters move with such grace through the water. It's like they're almost fish.

Even though they are underwater, their acting is compromised. Although they can't speak in the water, they make up for it in facial expressions and body language.

You can almost feel the fear when they are feeding sharks and bad guys next to an algae covered ship wreck.

It's amazing how something so violent like shooting guys with harpoon guns can look so beautiful next to a reef.

The affection between Walker and Alba displayed on screen adds a subtle touch of romance to the otherwise fast-paced action packed thriller.

Your heart warms as they hold hands when Walker is driving his beat up old car up.

Alba was just as sexy and just as strong of an actress in "Into the Blue" as she was in "The Fantastic Four." Walker brings a solid performance, much better than his anemic one in "2 Fast 2 Furious."

In that movie he sounded like he was reading his lines from cue cards, but in this film it seems he actually took time to memorize his lines.

This film is surprisingly gory for a PG-13 rated film. The audience sees shark bites, harpoons going through stomachs and plenty of blood. But by no means is the gore on par with other horror movies. Although the water scenes are beautiful and acting for the most part is solid, the story line can get a bit confusing, and it is hard to tell who is who is scuba gear.

The sound track gets the viewer into the film and adds to the overall fast-paced feel of the movie. The scenes get predictable after awhile, but the underwater action and well placed comic relief really save the film.

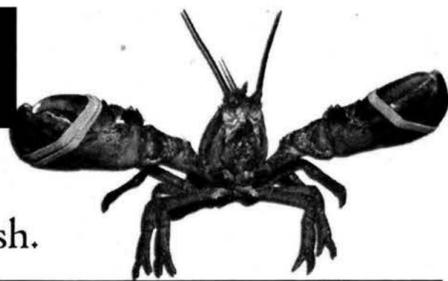
It won't win any Academy Awards, but "Into the Blue" is worth the price of admission, but popcorn is a different story.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM PRODUCTIONS

Stars Jessica Alba and Paul Walker act in one of the many love scenes in "Into the Blue." The role is no surprise for Alba, playing a young lover who constantly finds herself in tight clothes and bikinis.

REELING IT IN



The traditional homecoming meal does not have to be a high-end downtown restaurant. Here are some places around town to consider when looking for great fish.

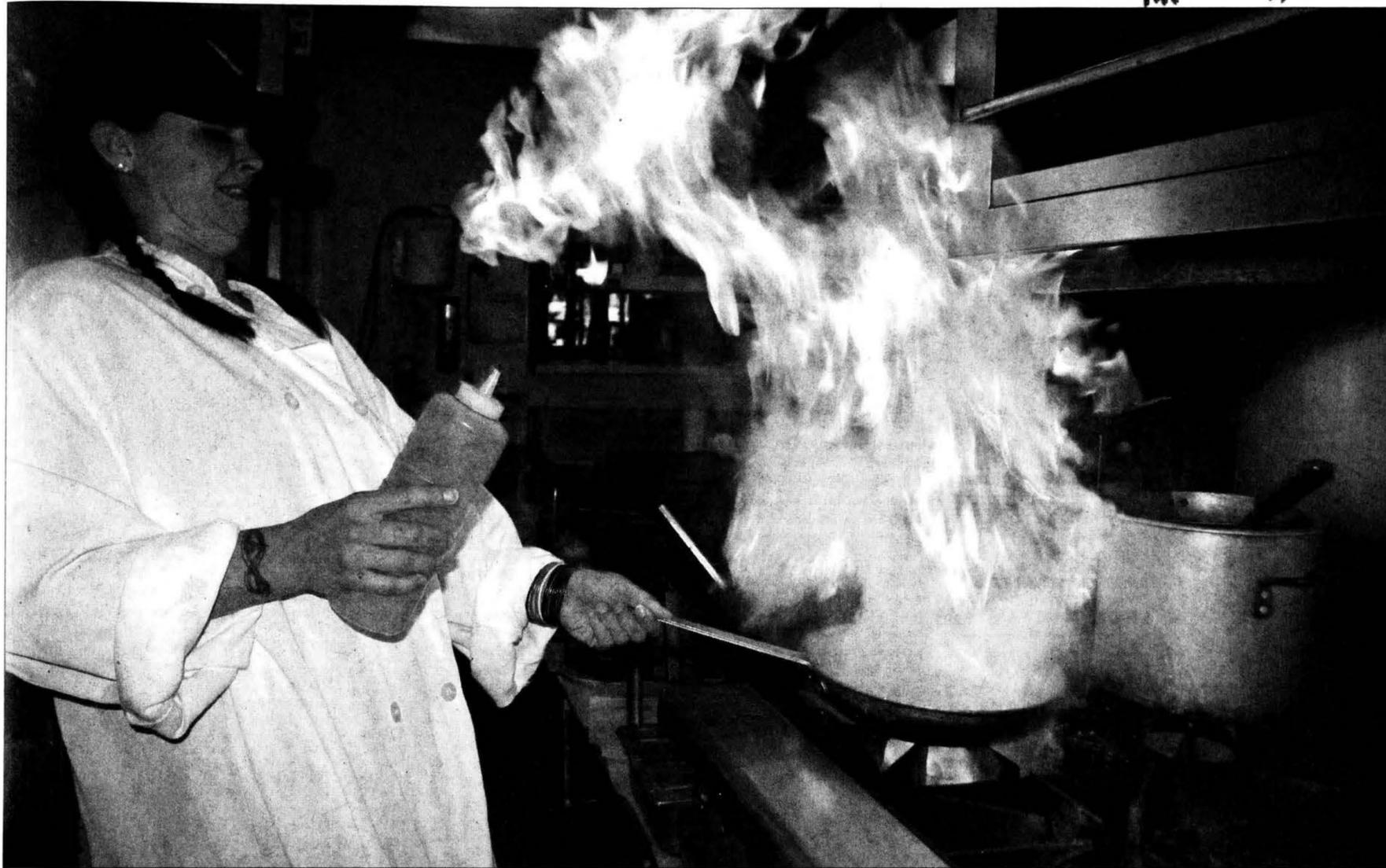
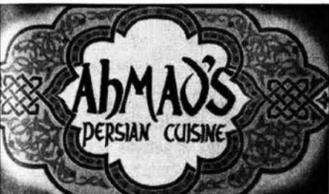


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Mary Hink, who works at the Dundee Dell, heats up garlic and butter for a piquante sauce. Although the Dundee Dell offers a wide range of grilled food and seafood, the best meal is good old fashioned fish and chips. Topped with vinegar and salt, a basket of fish is perfect for a cheap and quick homecoming dinner.



Location: 1006 Howard St.
(only location)
Best buy: Tilapia
Rated:

BY BOB AL-GREENE

McDonald's rules the world. Steamed meat selected with artificial flavoring dominates the market.

Good local restaurants can fight the McDonald's machine, though, and save us from tortuure.

Ahmad's is one such restaurant. Located in The Old Market, distanced from the world of fast food, Ahmad's Persian Cuisine consists of a patio, small inside dining area and kitchen.

Wonderfully strong smells fill the room, which is painted a strong blue, with large Middle-Eastern paintings and decorations along the walls.

The environment is pleasant and thickly aromatic.

The restaurant's namesake, Ahmad, comes from the kitchen with the dish ready, proudly presenting his mixture of flavors, of rice and tomato and fish, all contained in one bite.

He's not just bragging. It's true.

The tilapia is excellent. Two filets of white fish are tender and easily cut but not flaky, and covered with a dark, scarlet seasoning that makes it a real fish dinner.

The fish lies on a full bed of saffron rice, absorbing its moisture and zest.

Though spicy, the tilapia is far from unpleasant; the hot feelings induced hover around the sides of the mouth instead of biting the tongue and lips.

This prolonged taste gives the spice much greater and more meaningful effect than the sting of, say, buffalo wings.

Other tastes are mixed in as well. As Ahmad promised, the essence of tomato from the cooked fruit served beside the rice, and even the slight bitterness of the lettuce from the side salad.

It's a sophisticated meal, something to be enjoyed, experienced and appreciated, not just allowed and forgotten.

Too often we lose the sense of interest, even when that should be engendered in every meal we eat.

Ahmad's brings back that sense.

This intricacy and complexity is to be savored in the world of the Big Mac.

If you want to be where meat-eaters can savor delights of Persian cuisine, then Ahmad's is for you.

Don't miss out.



Location: 5424 S. 24th St.
(only location)
Best buy: Fried oyster
Rated:

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Located south of Dodge on 24 Street, Joe Tess' Place is a good place to pick up quality fish, whether to take out, cook fresh or sit down and enjoy.

Joe Tess' is divided up into those three sections. It's a restaurant, takeout place and a fresh-fish store all in one. Takeout is incredibly convenient. Depending on what is ordered, it could take as little as five minutes for them to cook it.

The fried oyster is a gem. A crusted outside hides the delicious oyster meat inside, which is so tender it almost melts in the diner's mouth.

The meat itself is a bit tasteless, however, so be sure to ask for the hot sauce. The sauce really spices up the oyster, making it a good appetizer before a real fish dinner.

It is cooked well, not burned or undercooked at all. The inside is soft and juicy, which is balanced out by the crispy golden outside.

Despite how good the oyster is, the price is a bit too steep for the portion. It costs \$9.15 for something that can fit into a small Styrofoam box. It is big enough to be shared, but not enough to be almost \$10.

Prices on other meals are around the same, but sometimes go into the \$11 to \$14 range for things like catfish.

The menu offers a variety of fish seafood dishes, but also includes things like a chicken meal. The people who cook the food smile and are really friendly. They seem ready to cook the food in accordance to whatever the customer wants.



Location: 5070 Underwood Ave.
(only location)
Best buy: Fish and chips
Rated:

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Fish and chips may be the cheapest and easiest meal for homecoming that doesn't require a drive-through.

The great thing about the Dundee Dell is the atmosphere. Old Guinness advertisements are hung up on the wall and the whole place smells of beer and vinegar. Walking in, the sharp smell of vinegar hits like a brick wall, making the customer crave fish and chips from the start.

The food is served in one of those red plastic baskets synonymous with '50s diners. The breaded triangular fish is perfect finger food to impress a first date. Plus, the smell of vinegar breath is enough for anyone to ask for a second kiss. Luckily, it costs less than \$5 a meal, so homecoming will be a breeze.

One great thing about the Dell is it has always had great tasting fish, even after it moved locations a few years ago. It still has managed to keep its pizzazz. It is an obvious pub and

grill, perfect for a quick bite before the dance. It has good, hot food without the loud and obnoxious atmosphere of a sports bar.

There is, however a great game room. Make sure to save time for a quick round of pool.



Location: 2414 Patrick Ave.
(only location)
Best buy: Catfish
Rated:

BY EMILY HARRISON

As you drive up to Lee's Sweets and More, the first thing you see is the mural painted on the side of the building showing an old-time car and people enjoying themselves eating and dancing.

The mural sets the tone for the mom-and-pop restaurant, an excellent meeting place for family or friends.

If you are looking for a place to talk, eat and spend time with your friends on your way to homecoming, Lee's Sweets is the place to go.

As you walk in the door, the smell of hot oil leads you to the register where you order your food.

Lee's has a limited but classic array of down-home cooking. It contains all the staples of a big Sunday after-church dinner. Most of the entrees are between \$5-10. The fried catfish meal that comes with bread, onions, hot-sauce, fries and a pickle

costs around \$7.

The fried catfish is flawless. It is not over cooked or too raw, but falls gracefully apart as you take each bite.

The fries may be a little greasy, but it only allows them to slip down your throat at a greater speed.

After you eat and your stomach has been thoroughly satisfied, sit back, talk to your friends and take in the old photos, magazine clippings and the calendar courtesy of the local funeral home.



Location: 345 Riverfront Dr.
(only location)
Best buy: Mahi-mahi
Rated:

BY PAT O'MALLEY

Whether it's a delightful daily jazz concert or just a high-class meal, Rick's Boatyard Café is sure to provide what one is looking for.

Every night at 7:30, a house jazz artist provided free live entertainment for a soothing dinner ambiance.

Along with daily jazz at the restaurant, the city has held riverside concerts the past few years. A stage was set up along side the river for the concerts.

Some concerts were free due to private donations, but some shows have cover charges. A number of performances were held for multiple days in a row.

Rick's Boatyard receives a lot of customers, due to people going to eat dinner while they listen to the performers. An extra fee was charged for customers who stay to listen to the music after they have eaten.

Rick's Boatyard has an extensive menu one might enjoy while on a date or just when looking for fancy dining. If one is not looking to spend very much money, a salad is about the only thing to purchase.

The most expensive item on the menu is a lobster of the customer's choice. One can pick form a whole tank of live lobsters starting from \$29.95 for a 1-pound lobster and ranging up to 4 pounds.

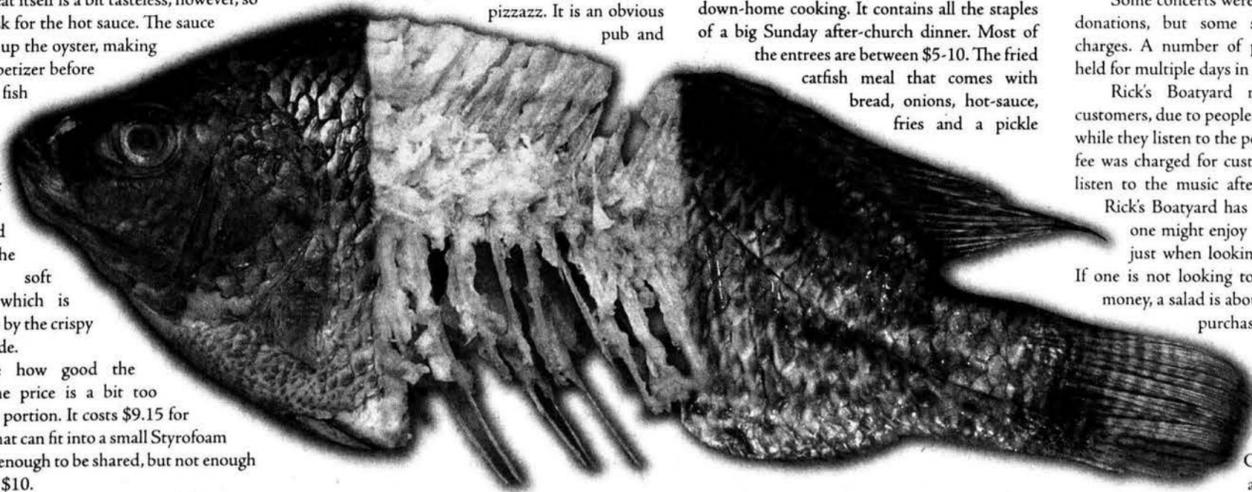


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

The tilapia is an expensive choice of seafood, sold at usually high-end restaurants such as Ahmad's.

Students volunteer as Halloween makeup artists

BY EMILY HARRISON

Junior Nicole Roberts and sophomore Beth Crnkovich normal human beings and turn them into the undead, ghouls and other gruesome creatures.

They volunteer applying makeup at Shadow's Edge, a haunted house in Mangleson's parking lot.

Crnkovich and Roberts started working with makeup September when the house opened.

Most of the makeup Crnkovich has done is the "dead pale" look.

More advanced makeup artists do famous Halloween characters from movies.

"The senior makeup artists do a lot of cool stuff," she said. "They get very creative. I don't know how they come up with it so fast," she said.

The makeup artists at Shadow's Edge get a lot of creative freedom.

The main requirement, Crnkovich said, was it must fit the room the actor is going to be in, otherwise they get whatever they want.

"We don't want the same thing every night," Crnkovich said.

Roberts said at the haunted house the makeup artists mostly stage makeup, FX blood and gel blood.

Roberts said she liked working with fake blood more than the other makeup.

The most simple makeup they do, Roberts said, consisted of blacking out the eyes and painting definition around the mouth and cheeks.

Crnkovich said she applied three to four actors' makeup a night.

Whenever Crnkovich or Roberts finish doing an actor's makeup, somebody reads a name off the list and the actor comes in.

This is the third season Shadow's Edge has been in

existence. Crnkovich has worked there two of those years. One night last year, Crnkovich's step-sister asked her to come with her to volunteer at Shadow's Edge.

Last year Crnkovich was only an actor playing various characters in the house. This year when they started setting up Shadow's Edge, she asked if she could help paint.

She painted there for three weeks until the house opened and then started working with makeup.

Roberts found out about the opportunity through Crnkovich who asked Roberts to come volunteer with her.

Roberts volunteered every night from 6-9:30p.m., painting walls for three weeks, and then began working with makeup.

Roberts and Crnkovich were not allowed to tell anyone what they were painting in the house.

For the purpose of surprise, Crnkovich said, they could not talk about what they were painting.

"You're not scared if you know what you are going to find," she said.

Roberts said she was asked to work with makeup because she had experience painting. Painting and makeup were based on the same ideas. They didn't have enough makeup people so they asked us if we would do makeup, Crnkovich said.

"Last year I would sit and watch the makeup people work," she said.

Roberts said there was a lot of precautions they were required to take while doing makeup for the volunteers.

"The big thing is to sterilize everything," she said.

Crnkovich and Roberts work alongside experienced makeup artists, but there was still a lot they needed to learn.

"I'm still in the stage where I'm afraid to touch people's faces," Robert's said.

Crnkovich and Roberts have gained real-world experience that relates to their career paths.



PHOTO BY EMILY HARRISON/REGISTER
Junior Nicole Roberts practices painting faces for Shadow's Edge Haunted House. Before she began painting faces, she painted the walls of the house.

With the problem of zombies invading all the time, the audience knows the surviving four could not last long. Something was bound to happen, and it did.

The plot was very easy to follow during the majority of the movie, despite the fact it was a sequel. The audience never got bored when the characters settled down into the shopping mall. There wasn't any time to get bored, when nothing was happening.

Ken Force and Scott Reiniger were the key actors in the movie. Force played the tough guy on the surface going through emotional problems. He was tired of the killing that was happening, yet at the same time realized it wouldn't stop anytime soon.

Reiniger played Force's friend in the tough times, who later cannot handle the killing and loses his mind. He played this convincingly, and the audience did not know what he would do next.

The zombies in this movie were much slower moving than the 2004 adaptation. This did not cause any problems for suspense.

For one, the heroes not only had to outrun the zombies, but outsmart them, too. Also, there were so many zombies, it would be hard to run through a large group of them.

Surprisingly, this 1978 version of "Dawn of the Dead" had more blood than the newer one.

The blood, however, looked too light colored and watery to be believable, but there quite was a lot of it.

The only way to kill a zombie, according to the movie, was to destroy the brain. This led to many gunshots to the head and decapitations.

Overall, the 1978 "Dawn of the Dead" was a suspenseful, well-made movie, much, much better than its 2004 remake. But it may be a good idea to see "Night of the Living Dead" first.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

HORROR REVIEW

★★★★
'DAWN OF THE DEAD' 2004
Starring: Ving Rhames

BY CLAY LOMNETH

It claims on the back of the box that it had more gore and jaw-dropping chills than the 2004 "Dawn of the Dead" shown in theaters. It did not, however, match up to the original 1978 version of "Dawn."

The newer version opened up in a hospital with main character Ana (Sarah Polley) trying to figure out why a patient who had a bite on his hand was given

a head x-ray. This foreshadowing was about the only semi-suspenseful part in the movie.

Less than ten minutes into the movie, the first zombie attacked. The first thing members of the audience noticed about the new zombies, if they had seen the original, is they are much faster.

The second zombie seen had the ability to crash through a door and break a window. Later on in the movie, zombies tap on the glass, unable to penetrate it.

Fake news clips were shown of police beating up faceless shapes. It appeared the living were winning against the undead, but later on in the movie, it was shown this was not true.

Ana eventually wound up inside a mall, with a cop played by Ving Rhames, television salesman Jake Weber and a mean security guard, among others.

The mall was incredibly empty of the living dead. But even with their speed they were fairly easy to defeat. One zombie, however, bit a survivor, which caused problems later in the movie.

The first thing the group of survivors did was get to the roof and tried to get rescued. Here, they saw another survivor named Andy on another rooftop fighting off zombies. Andy offered an interesting subplot. Can the survivors in the mall get Andy food in time? Predictably, the man on the roof owned an ammunition shop.

An exciting part of the movie was when those on the roof saw other survivors in a truck. Those on the roof made a quick decision to help them, though it was not exactly shown how they got into the building.

The zombies gathered in the parking lot. The computer graphic zombies gathered around the mall entrances. It looked impressive, but not scary enough.

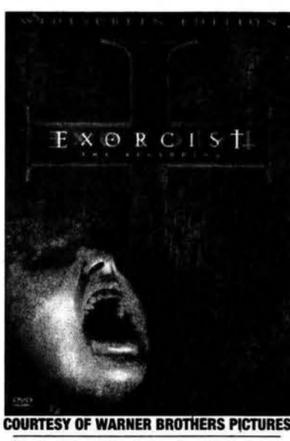
The movie then went into a fairly large part of showing how each survivor was adapting to their surroundings. This movie focused a lot on character development, which was a plus, but the development was about as deep as the small talk in this movie.

Eventually, for apparently no reason at all, the people locked up in the mall decided to make a run for it. They were completely safe inside the mall, but running out of ammunition. That was the only logical explanation for leaving, going across the street to Andy's. The survivors had enough food to last in the mall for years. The zombies were not going to break in anytime soon.

Running away was the only real way to end the movie. Using modified mall buses, which were all too convenient, they drove through the mass of zombies in hopes of getting to the marina.

Although the blood shown was more realistic than the original, there was actually less of it. More than once, the camera panned away before a zombie was shot in the head. The makeup on the living dead was much more gruesome, but not necessarily more believable. They had less of the vacant look in their eyes that made the original so scary. The undead in this movie looked determined.

Stick with the original "Dawn of the Dead" if looking for a good zombie thriller. It was much spookier and will leave the audience members looking over their shoulders at night, as opposed to the newer one, which will only leave them confused from the onslaught of the intense zombies.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

★★★★
'EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING' 2005
Starring: Jack Nicholson

BY MOLLY MULLEN

"Exorcist: The beginning" couldn't hold a candle to the film it was supposed to be a prequel to.

The movie was interesting as "The Da Vinci Code" was to read.

There were some interesting bits about the bloody history of the Catholic Church and how art played a role in religion.

It was set in Kenya where an ancient Byzantine Church was being slowly unearthed by a British archaeology team.

Hearing about church in the 1500s was very interesting.

What was unfortunate, however, was the lead role of Father Merrin, played by Stellan Skargard.

This movie never claimed to be an exact prequel to the 1970s version, bearing a close title. But, naming a film "The Exorcist: The Beginning" leads the audience to believe there would be some tie to the family tormented in the original version.

This was not the case. The priest was the main and only focus of this film.

The only similarity between the two Merrins was their wavering faith in God and the Catholic Church.

In this version, he was an alcoholic who lost all hope in religion, even sharing a kiss with a woman who was later possessed.

The story seemed like the writers watched "The Exorcist" a few times and then wrote a story trying desperately to link the stories together.

A prequel is supposed to seem like this script was written for years before the original.

Perhaps if "Exorcist: The Beginning" didn't try to revolve around the original, it would have been a good fright flick.

There was blood, murder and demons, everything a good horror movie needs.

However, it simply couldn't stand next to "The Exorcist," the scariest movie of all time.

Graphics and blood seemed to be the high point, just like every other recent horror flick.

The high point of the movie was the possessed girl.

She was climbing the walls in the underbelly of an ancient church; it was

something straight out of a nightmare. Her bright blue skin made her look like a monster, crawling up the walls like a spider. Although very disturbing, no effects outweighed the total package of the original masterpiece.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

★★★★
'THE EXORCIST' 1993
Starring: Ellen Burstyn

BY MOLLY MULLEN

What other movie is there a 12-year-old girl vomiting on priests, cutting herself with a crucifix and using language that would make a sailor blush?

"The Exorcist" is the scariest movie of all time, period.

There is no debating how disturbing this movie actually is, still today, over 30 years after its original premier.

Just the idea behind it was terrifying, before adding special effects and great actors like Ellen Burstyn.

Her blood-curdling cries when she saw her daughter vomiting blood made her the most realistic character in the film.

She tried to keep herself composed in front of doctors and priests, but her breakdowns were some of the best parts in the movie.

Most of the scary stuff wasn't even the obvious. The devil possessing the young girl was interesting, but the subtleties were what kept the viewers up at night.

Throughout the film when certain characters would close their eyes, a bright white demon would flash on the screen, just long enough for a moviegoer to say, "Did I really just see that, or am I going crazy?"

Every leading man and woman added just what they needed to make this film frightfully realistic. The priest who was losing his faith, the broken-down mother, the good child turned devil, all turned the plot into something believable.

Anyone who hasn't seen "The Exorcist" would think the pop-overs and demon possession were the entire movie. What made the movie a good film, rather than just a good horror flick, was the slow progression from the daughter being a nice, 12-year-old girl to a helpless child possessed by Satan.

First she's sick, then hospitalized, then vomiting bright green liquid on priests.

A horror buff can't ask for more.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Which is better, classic scary movies or remakes?



"Remakes. It looks real and the graphics are better."
Amber Ostergaard (9)



"Classics. They're the originals. You can't remake them and make them good."
Joe Albright (11)



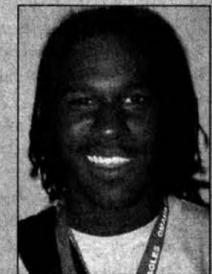
"Classics. The new ones are more gruesome, but the old ones feel real."
Alex Elliott (11)



"The classics, because the black-and-white is scary."
Perrin Adams (11)



"Remakes. The older ones look fake. The new ones are scarier."
Brittani Faulkner (9)



"Classics. They actually have the sentimental value, and real actors from that time."
Justin Allen (11)

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

Omaha has a new jazz district complete with a museum dedicated to Preston Love, the famous musician who got his start in the city. Located on 24th Street, it is within walking distance for Central students.

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

He strolled up and down the sunny streets of the neighborhood. Passersby hollered from their cars and waved to him, stopping their cars and crossing traffic to converse with old friends and fellow musicians.

While pointing out numerous old clubs and hot spots, remnants of the jazz fever that defined North Omaha decades ago, Richie Love seemed right at home.

"Twenty-fourth Street used to be the ultimate place for music," he said. "If you were anything, you came through Omaha."

A former Central student and son of jazz great Preston Love, Richie has been ingrained with the culture his entire life.

He now plays in his own band and is doing his part to revive the strip of road that was once the center of jazz in the Midwest.

Richie, along with many other area musicians, is hoping to bring back the legacy of 24th and Lake Streets.

Ritche said there was beginning to be a lot of musicians wanting to play there.

"I'm praying for it to come back strong," he said.

In the past few years, construction on the intersection has taken some great leaps forward.

Special street signs and brick-paved walkways promoting the historic neighborhood have been placed, lightening the atmosphere throughout the area.

Two new outdoor seating areas, one with a fountain and an area for small concerts, have been constructed along on the corners. Small businesses and clubs have once again begun to take precedence.

But the shining glory of the neighborhood is the Love Jazz and Arts Center, a combination gallery, club, museum and meeting place for local artists, built in honor of Preston Love.

The famed saxophonist was in Omaha when construction on the center began, but never lived to see it finished. Preston died on Feb. 12, just three months before its completion.

Richie described his father's impact on local music as immense, and said this impact was finally being recognized by the majority of the community only in the later years of his life.

"Before he passed he began to get more and more continued respect," he said. "I think it influenced a lot of people to see that, from Omaha, you can go a lot of places and make a name for yourself."

Preston's life was the typical Cinderella story. Growing up in a poor family and raised by a single mother along with eight brothers and sisters, Preston developed his knack for music while hearing his brothers play in bands around town, Richie said.

Then, one of his brothers bought him a saxophone.

"He became so proficient at it that the bands began to hear about it, not only in Omaha, but also all over the Midwest," he said.

Now Preston is regarded as one of the greatest jazz musicians to come from the city. It was this that spurred the construction of the Jazz and Arts Center.

Gyamfuaa Nimo, the assistant director



Central alumna Carol Rogers, known as "Mama O," sings at the festival to commemorate jazz legend Preston Love and celebrate North 24th Street as Omaha's Jazz District.

and marketing supervisor of the center, said the functions the building was constructed for have yet to be completely fulfilled.

"In terms of people just wandering in to see the exhibits, it's not really that big," she said.

Nimo is trying to change that, however. She is on loan from First National Bank, one of the center's many sponsors, with the primary goal of spreading the word.

Despite her desire to increase the center's popularity, she wants to make sure that its integrity is kept in tact.

"We want to maintain a certain image of this place," she said.

In order to keep the museum known throughout the community, and retain its reputation as a positive one, Nimo is looking to schedule large events to draw controlled crowds

that are willing to show respect for the museum and its goals. While Richie said he never had problems respecting his father as a musician, he said Preston was somewhat removed from his musical education. The two played the same instrument, saxophone, but Richie never took lessons from and rarely played with his famous dad as a young man.

Finally, after Richie returned to Omaha after

living in Los Angeles for about 16 years, he had to prove himself as a worthy saxophonist.

"When I was out there (in L.A.) I got a lot of recognition from the musicians there," he said.

This had a large impact on his relationship with his dad.

The two grew closer than they had before, at least on a musical level, and both were more comfortable performing with each other.

Richie's sister, alumna Portia Love, class of '72, also joined in on playing with the family band as a singer in her father's band for a number of years.

Portia recently sang with the old band at Creighton University Skutt Student Center, a benefit honoring Preston and a scholarship in his name.

The benefit, held on Sept. 22, included numerous performances, workshops and discussions with notable area jazz musicians including Richie.

In one of the panel discussions, he addressed his father's love for music and the amazing impact it had on Omaha jazz.

"My dad loved music," Richie said. "He wanted to teach music. He loved to play music."

Jorge Nila, another musician present that night, was glad to participate in the event, play his saxophone and assist with some of the other work involved. He agreed with Richie on his father's effect on local music.

"Preston Love was a great man. He was one of my teachers," he said.

While Preston was the focus of the event, it also addressed the impact of Omaha on jazz music nationwide.

Dr. Ngwarsungu Chiwengo is a professor at Creighton who came up with the idea for the benefit and played a large part in organizing it.

"Since I am new to the Omaha area, I was surprised to hear that Omaha was at the crossroads of American music," Chiwengo said. "Preston Love played with almost every musician in this country."

Richie said his dad's influence isn't the most important factor in the city's musical history.

"It's just something about Omaha," he said. "It's something I would say, in a way (is) spirit. It's got its own special atmosphere."

Victor Lewis, another musician present at the benefit, supported Richie's spiritual take on music. He said music, to him, was a lot like religion, more pure and less shackled.

"Music enables people to feel and connect about things on a higher level of humanity," Lewis said. "There's a lot of intangibles to being an artist."

He said Omaha's history was more than just the superficial thing most people saw. It has deeper roots than just a couple of talented musicians and a few small clubs.

"A lot of cars died to leave this legacy," Lewis said.

That legacy is exactly what these musicians are set out to protect.

"The legacy of jazz belongs to the kids," Lewis said. "It's our job to make sure they know it."

By starting up new clubs and finding ways to increase the popularity of old ones, people like Richie, Lewis and Nila feel jazz can continue to be a dominant part of Omaha's music culture.

Sophomore takes active role in living jazz music, playing trumpet

BY BOB AL-GREENE

For Nathan Whittle, it's all about the jazz.

This year the sophomore trumpet player, who became first in his section in concert band as a freshman, is also lead trumpet in the jazz band.

Whittle said he has been playing trumpet since fifth grade. At his grade school, like most others in the district, students were only able to play in the orchestra with stringed instruments until fifth grade, when they qualified to join the woodwinds band. Whittle said he tried out numerous instruments and when he started to play the trumpet, he liked it the best.

Now, as a tenth grader, he said he's working as a player mostly to improve upon his tone quality and range.

"This summer I was pretty laid back," Whittle said. "But it's not too bad to practice about a half hour to an hour a day, especially during weekends when there's more time to catch up."

This year Whittle is taking four honors classes, and his classmates are taken aback by his resilience.

"He manages to keep perfect grades, be the best trumpet (player), and be on varsity soccer," junior Tyler Magnuson said. "It's amazing."

Magnuson, a fellow trumpeter, sits beside Whittle in band, as he did last year.

He said Whittle was an impressive player and a model student.

When Whittle wasn't doing homework or practicing trumpet or soccer, he said he liked to listen to professionals play, and was especially partial to jazz.

"Any kind," he said. "I have a lot of jazz mixes. Miles Davis is more of a mellow jazz, where Dizzy Gillespie is really intense."

He said if he ever had to choose between marching, concert, pep and jazz band, he preferred jazz.

"Jazz band is creative, it's about improvising," Whittle said. "It has moods, as opposed to concert band, where you usually only get one feeling from the music. There are multiple reactions, maybe things from your past."

He said he did not consider jazz band too much work.

"The kids who are playing in jazz band are there because they like to play jazz," he said. "For that reason, it's not ever really hard to ask them to practice or play. It's fun."

He said playing in concert band isn't quite as smooth.

"The second and third trumpets a lot of time, they slack the most, as opposed to the firsts," Whittle said. "Band would sound a lot better if they tried, but they don't care."

He said last year the slacking and the apathy was the same.

"You have to find that mentality," he said. "You don't have to be great, but you do have to just simply know the pieces. It really helps fill out the sound of the whole band."

Whittle said even though it's important, he's not sure if he'll be playing trumpet for the rest of his life.

"I'm not even sure if I'll want to do it in college," he said. "First I have to figure out what school I'm going to go to, and if it has a good music department."

Whittle also said he looks for a good engineering program. "Architectural, technological, or electrical," he said.

With his first year as first chair already behind him, he has three more years of concerts and jazz to look forward to.



Sophomore Nate Whittle practices for the CHS Orchestra. He also plays in the jazz band and said jazz was his favorite type of music, so he doesn't consider it work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UMG RECORDS

legendary John Coltrane is often the face of jazz music. His piano as well as vocals are the epitome of 1950s and 1960s music. Although he came late to the era, he still goes down in musical history as one of the greatest musicians of all time.

at a glance: Jazz music from birth to present

It has had a huge impact on American culture throughout the 20th century and even now. Everyone has their own idea of what good jazz really is. Here are a few examples.



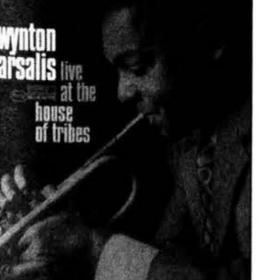
COURTESY OF THERAPY RECORDINGS

MUSIC REVIEW

'PYRAMID IN YOUR BACKYARD'
Key track: "Moonglide"

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

The songs on "Pyramid in Your Backyard" are what one would expect to hear in a smoky nightclub after hours. Wynton Marsalis' album, *Pyramid in Your Backyard*, uses a variety of woodwinds that create a Middle Eastern or Caribbean sound. In the opening track, "Moonglide," a strong bass back beat is showcased along with great saxophone solos. Throughout the album, there are several tracks that are purely instrumental, but still seem to paint a picture using only rhythm and brass instruments. The songs that include vocals mix the singer's voice masterfully with the music itself, so it produces one cohesive sound. Both male and female voices are heard through the course of the album. When lyrics are included in the songs, they are very clear and precise. The songs are not wordy and manage to convey the intended emotion very clearly. They are a pleasure to listen to.



COURTESY OF BLUE NOTE

MUSIC REVIEW

'LIVE AT THE HOUSE OF TRIBES'
Key track: "2nd Line"

BY BOB AL-GREENE

Wynton Marsalis' style on "Live at the House of Tribes" (a club in New York's Lower East Side, where jazz has thrived safely and kept a secure foothold for years) is entirely at the other end of the jazz spectrum from Benny Goodman. Marsalis' jazz isn't the smooth, swinging Goodman type of old jazz. In fact it's barely melodic. It is slow, subtle, with soft, but consistent percussion and bass, overlaid with mainly trumpet and alto saxophone solos.

Marsalis' trumpet is soft-spoken but brilliant nonetheless, and Wessel "Warmdaddy" Anderson's sax never loses its tone or becomes fuzzy. The group could have undoubtedly held its own in any of Goodman's groups, but Marsalis, a son of New Orleans, not Chicago, opts for a much different kind of jazz, a modern kind, in which he continues to blaze his own trail. The musicality of the songs is just as much on the notes as it is in-between them.

Waiting for the next note, the next unpredictable step in a winding staircase of jazz, is thought-provoking, but requires patience and interest. It is an experience, but is not an experience many would accept. Go take the journey.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

MUSIC REVIEW

'WHEN I FALL IN LOVE'
Key track: "What I'll Do"

BY JOE DELICH

Chris Botti's album, "When I Fall in Love," was a soft, mellow record, that couldn't really manage to keep the attention of its audience. According to the CD jacket, the goal was to create "a recording of romantic music allowing an escape from life's everyday anxieties." This was a rather lofty goal the album never really manages to accomplish.

The trumpet-fueled soft jazz was indeed a pleasant contrast to the hectic trials of everyday life. Unfortunately it was almost impossible to listen to this album without falling asleep.

Each track lazily wanders through the speakers and most of them appear to be lost.

The title track was a dull instrumental that lulled the listener into an inattentive catatonic state. The trumpet sporadically made uninspired attempts to capture the imagination, but failed miserably. It put forth a weak effort to improvise a relaxed jazz sound, but was just a disappointment.

The song "What I'll Do" features Paula Cole on vocals, which was the only redeeming quality. Cole has a captivating voice, which tried to overcome the dull drums and wandering trumpet.

Her honey sweet vocals could only accomplish so much and the result was a song that's only about par.

There were a number of instrumentals that were dominated by Botti's trumpet and never really seemed to go anywhere.



COURTESY OF RECORDS

MUSIC REVIEW

'LADY SINGS THE BLUES'
Key track: "Strange Fruit"

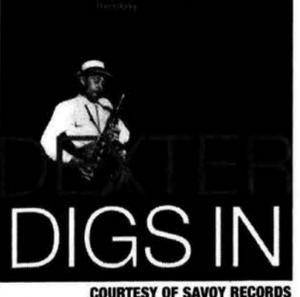
BY CLAY LOMNETH

A collection of Billie Holiday's songs have been compiled on a collection of albums, showing the best of her work over her career. "Lady Sings the Blues" is one of these albums, and it is a strong show of her work. No song is under three minutes long. Holiday's voice is soothing, yet sometimes hoarse. Most of the time she hits the notes, but sometimes cracks out of tune. Regardless, Holiday has confidence in her voice and trusts her abilities.

Most of the songs are covers of other songs, and Holiday's versions sound extremely different. She has taken the songs and put her own spin on them, without worrying about the original sound.

The title track, "Lady Sings the Blues" is one of the strongest on the album. Holiday seems calm and sure of herself, taking the lyrics slowly and focusing on each word.

On the other hand, the song "Ain't Misbehavin'" starts off with explosions of sounds, yet calms down and doesn't match with the intro.



COURTESY OF SAVOY RECORDS

MUSIC REVIEW

'PYRAMID IN YOUR BACKYARD'
Key track: "Dexter Digs In"

BY CLAY LOMNETH

A saxophone blows in the beginning, a perfect clear note. After that, everything is chaos.

Dexter Gordon's re-mastered "Dexter Digs In: The Young Dexter Gordon" is a collection of some of the best studio work Dexter Gordon ever recorded.

He was one of the most talented saxophonists of his time.

His speed is amazing, yet the notes aren't a mess.

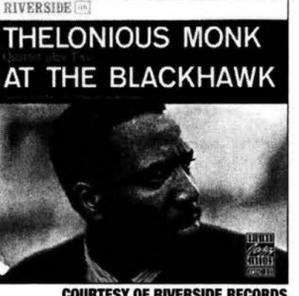
They resound as a single note, yet flow together perfectly.

Gordon doesn't hesitate while playing at all, and this is even more amazing considering he improvises everything.

Gordon dominates each of his songs, which may be why most of them have either the name "Dexter" in them, or another version of his name.

For example, the song "Dexter Digs In" is a perfect song to sum up Gordon's talent.

It's a short song, like most of them, but it makes the listener want to get up and dance during those three minutes.



COURTESY OF RIVERSIDE RECORDS

MUSIC REVIEW

'AT THE BLACKHAWK'
Key track: "Four in One"

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Considered one of the geniuses of jazz, Thelonious Monk Quartet definitely proves it in the album, "At the Blackhawk."

These live recordings are what all jazz fans look for when going to a concert or a bar.

The foot tapping beats from the upright bass ebb from the speakers.

The tenor sax, played by Charlie Rouse, is usually the dominant instrument heard in the songs.

One can hear Monk in the background, however, creating a beautiful sound by which everything else is based around.

Sometimes the piano gets lost amid the sounds of other instruments. But every single time it comes back as smooth and as wonderful as ever.

Monk is all over the piano keys. The complexity of his parts are rarely found in today's artists.

Each song starts with a different piano solo. Yes, Monk's talent is evident in the solos, but also continuing the songs at the same quality is proof.

The continuous melody coming from the piano is certainly something to behold.

Monk's flexibility is also proved by this album.

He can play the songs that make people close their eyes and tap out the beat, or slower songs where the listener looks around for a slow dance partner.

"At the Blackhawk" is definitely an album to own for any fans of Monk or great jazz in general.



COURTESY OF LEGACY RECORDS

MUSIC REVIEW

'A LOVE SUPREME'
Key track: "Resolution"

BY PATRICK O'MALLEY

Beautiful, melodic compositions construct John Coltrane's 32 minute, four-part album entitled, "A Love Supreme."

"A Love Supreme" has every enjoyable aspect of a great jazz album from the late 1950s to the early 1960s, and can't help, but make a person lose himself in the music.

The album is divided into four masterful pieces, starting off with a big bang of a gong leading into Coltrane sliding in on the tenor saxophone. The whole album is mostly instrumental except "Acknowledgement," the first part which contains the only lyrics of the album.

"Resolution," the second part, draws the listener in with a slow bass riff from Jimmy Garrison and leads to Coltrane blowing his heart out on the sax.



COURTESY OF VERVE RECORDS

MUSIC REVIEW

'MACK THE KNIFE'
Key track: "The Lady is a Tramp"

BY MOLLY MULLEN

This was a classic live album recently transferred to CD with bonus tracks like "That Old Black Magic." It was obviously recorded in the early '60s. Ella Fitzgerald's voice is the epitome of what a person thinks of when he thinks of jazz.

Soft piano, behind a solid alto voice and light drums kept the audience on beat. This CD makes the listener feel like he is right there, with her little side comments before and after songs, acknowledging applause.

She is one of those singers who stood for an era. Just say Ella, and everyone knows it is Ella Fitzgerald singing jazzy blues.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think jazz has an influence on the music you listen to?



"I think jazz influenced all kinds of music. If you take elements from any kind of music, you can date it back to jazz."
Adrian Monge (10)



"A little. It gives it the tone."
Jeremy Roxberg (11)



"Definitely, because if we didn't have jazz, we wouldn't have funk. And if we didn't have funk, we wouldn't have hip-hop."
John Lechnor (9)



"It does because jazz is like that calm music, it relaxes me."
Elisabeth Garvin (11)



"Probably, I think music, with little unique pieces, is really interesting."
Kara Lambrecht (11)

Group's chemistry attracts large student crowd

EMMA PHILLIPS

It's all about the music, the fun music to be more specific.

At least that's how the members of Elysium, juniors Ben Hinchik and Wade Kotschwar, and sophomore Jonathan SeEVERS feel.

Hinchik said prior to forming Elysium, he had been in a band he did not enjoy, and did not want to repeat the experience.

With songs devoted to Taco Bell, Bob Barker and covers of early Green Day, one might think all Elysium cares about is the silly aspect of their genre, indie-punk, but Kotschwar said that is not the case.

"We are 110 percent serious about our music," he said.

Hinchik and Kotschwar write all of Elysium's songs, and Hinchik said songwriting was a very relaxed process. He said usually he and Kotschwar wrote a bass line followed by lyrics.

Hinchik said the band practiced five times a week, but it didn't get tedious because the members were some of his closest friends, and it was just like hanging out.

The band played at Ted and Wally's, along with another band comprised of mostly Central students, VirginiaJoyce. Kotschwar said he has already heard people singing snippets of Elysium's songs in the hallways.

"It's cool to have the kids who went to our shows sing our choruses," Kotschwar said.

Hinchik said it was nice to have his friends come and support him at gigs, but it could also be nerve racking.

"It's harder to play in front of people we do know because we'll see them again," he said.

Elysium is not only a time commitment, but also a financial one. Kotschwar said at times he spent his entire paycheck on things for the band.

Hinchik and Kotschwar also painted addresses on curbs at \$10 a house to raise money for the band.

Kotschwar also uses his pay check to buy new equipment. He said he buys the best equipment he can within his price range.

All the members of Elysium are dedicated musicians and Hinchik said they are also very devoted to the music itself.

"All three of us love music to death," he said.

Each member of Elysium is an experienced musician and has been playing an instrument for years.

SeEVERS said he had been playing the drums for five or

six years and enjoyed the simplicity.

"It's easier to play the music and it's more fun," he said. Hinchik plays bass and said he switched to that instrument from the guitar for the band.

He also said the two instruments are very similar so it wasn't a big adjustment.

SeEVERS has been in bands previously, but this was the first one with long-term potential.

He played in Band Aid last year with a band that had been put together specifically for the event.

"Bands for Band Aid, they weren't really long term," he said.

Hinchik said he would like to see Elysium last for a long time, and would also like to record soon.

He said the band has been trying to set up a meeting with Saddle Creek Records through family connections, and more conventional ways such as e-mails and phone calls.

Kotschwar said Elysium stood out among other bands because of its carefree style.

"We don't do it like everyone else; we have fun with it," he said.

Hinchik said Elysium's sound was refreshing because it didn't dwell on sad or unpleasant topics.

"We don't scream and we write songs about things that people want to hear about, not things that people don't want to hear about," he said.

Elysium also does a lot of self-promotion.

He said members mainly use word of mouth to get people come to see them play. They also sometimes promote the band with fliers.

To help draw people in for Elysium's show at Ted and Wally's, small squares of printer paper were circulated around the school with all of the members' names on it.

The show at Ted and Wally's was also a free show, a fact that also helped draw students from Central to come out at 11 p.m. and stay until after 1 in the morning.

That has to be a good sign.

Kotschwar said he didn't think another member would ever be added to Elysium because with the type of fast-paced music it plays.

The sound would become too busy and that's not what the members want.

Hinchik said he hopes Elysium would be able to play Sokol Underground around Halloween, and also wanted to have a way for people to be able to hear its music more readily.

"We're trying very hard to get a demo out," he said.



Lead singers of the band VirginiaJoyce perform at Ted and Wally's Ice Cream Parlor. The crowd was so big to see the free show, the police had to come and disperse the crowd waiting to get in.

PHOTO BY PASCALE ROUSSEL/REGISTER

Creativity brings concert to life using dance steps, pompoms to grab audience

BY EMILY HARRISON

After Sufjan Stevens and his band left the stage, the audience full of Nebraskans started chanting, "Ill-in-ois, Ill-in-ois," the subject of his newest album.

Stevens and his group returned to the stage in their T-shirts with the letter "I" printed large and bold across their chests to sing a final song.

With such pride and patriotism for Illinois one might assume Stevens hails from the state, but he is in fact a native of Michigan (the title of another of his albums).

There are rumors of his albums "Michigan"

and "Come on feel the Illinois" turning into a series of all 50 states, but he is reluctant to commit himself to such an endeavor.

Most of the songs Stevens performed at his September concert came from the "Illinois" album.

These songs were evidence of his training in creative writing.

Many of them told stories of that state, some experiences of his friends, others of historical characters such as serial killers and Native American chiefs.

Some songs were centered on certain cities,

such as Chicago.

Each of the separate pieces combined to paint a restless, but uplifting portrait of the state.

Stevens' vocals were emotional, interestingly paced and bordered on the edge of depressing, while being extremely empowering and hopeful at the same time.

The lyrics and vocals were not Stevens' only strengths. He was also an extremely talented and knowledgeable musician.

Stevens had around a dozen instruments in his repertoire, from piano to more bizarre

instruments such as the sitar and oboe.

His knowledge of so many instruments and his technical prowess were euphorically evident during the concert.

The instrumentals seemed carefully arranged and the back-up singers added a certain haunting power to Stevens' vocals.

Aside from the technical superiority of the music, the concert showed Stevens as an entertaining performer.

He played on the idea of cheerleading for the show.

Members had pompoms on stage and used coordinating hand movements and cheers as well

as the state flag and matching shirts.

The idea of taking cheerleading, some of the many negative stereotypes are associated with it, and portraying it in a wholesome, playful, and still irresistibly cool way to an audience who would not normally accept it, was incredibly brave.

It was as if the entire state of Illinois had its own cheerleading squad, a musically talented, unique cheerleading squad.

Stevens' music brings together an interesting listeners. He is a Christian and a Christian following, but his music does not focus on that and also appeals to the indie crowd, if they may be Atheist.

CONCERT REVIEW



Featuring: Sufjan Stevens

New rehearsal style prepares leads in 'Music Man' for more difficult choreography

BY EMILY HARRISON



Seniors Tim Battafarano (right) and Lindsey Goding rehearse dance numbers on stage. They practiced before the rest of the cast so not everyone had to practice together. Director John Gibson said he felt more prepared rehearsing this way.

PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

"The Music Man," this year's musical, contains large partnered dance numbers with props, rapid paced songs and a new rehearsal technique.

The leads for "The Music Man" are seniors Lindsey Goding and Tim Battafarano. He is Harold the salesman and Goding is Marian the librarian.

Both leads worked together previously in a production at Dundee Presbyterian Church.

Director John Gibson said leads were chosen because they could handle both the music and the acting very well.

This will be Goding's first leading role at Central. Battafarano, however, was the scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz."

The rehearsals for the musical began Sept. 13 and the performances will be Nov. 4 and 5.

Gibson said he was piloting a new rehearsal technique for this production. Instead of blocking scenes with the entire cast on stage, he will work with the leads first.

The purpose of the new technique is to save time and allow better attention to be paid to individual aspects of the performance. Goding said she liked the new rehearsal technique because it doesn't waste as much time.

Along with the new rehearsal technique, the dancers

are being required to know their material earlier. The dances are scheduled to be finished two weeks before the production.

Junior Maggie Baumann said there would be things saved to the last minute this way.

Overall the new rehearsal technique seems to be liked by the cast and the teachers.

"I feel a lot more prepared," Gibson said.

The dance numbers in "The Music Man" are especially difficult. Most of the dances are partnered dances that have to cooperate, especially when it comes to lifts, where girls must rely on the boys to keep them from falling.

"It's all about trust," Baumann said.

Another complication in the dance numbers is the use of props. In dance numbers that take place in the library, they have books and chairs to deal with in combination with their dance moves.

More boys than in years past are participating. Many of them were recruited from Men's Chorus and Cappella.

Baumann said it looks better and is not as easy to see mistakes because there are more people to fill up the stage.

There are other challenges specific to this production as well. One of these is the barbershop quartet requires three boys singing in unison.

Annual Band Aid called off; fall musical left with no means to produce show

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

The music department didn't know.

The drama department didn't know.

Not even the principal knew when the school would hold Band Aid, the annual fund-raiser that was able to raise over \$1,100 for the fall musical last year.

The administration and student musicians have been having difficulties getting Band Aid up and running.

Many students think the school needs to try a little harder.

"They haven't done anything about it. They just want to put it off," junior Trevor Moore said. "You can just tell that certain teachers might not want it to happen."

Moore's former band Scarlet Skies was one of many small student groups to play at Band Aid

last fall.

Moore's new band VirginiaJoyce may not have that same chance this October if a schedule can't be set.

Whether or not students bands can perform this year is, as of now, largely up to them.

Senior Michael Greenberg is working alongside Moore to get Band Aid back on track. He said the few efforts made to resurrect the concert have been student driven, not from the teachers.

"I think they're probably not as interested in doing it this year, but we're gonna make them interested," he said.

Music teacher Sharon Smith, one of the staff members who has overseen Band Aid in past years, said she would be more than happy to help out if Moore and Greenberg could find a time to have the show.

"I think it's worthwhile for the kids to have a forum to play (in)," she said.

Smith was one of the teachers who made the original decision to cancel Band Aid after another concert was scheduled for the same time period.

The Parents, Educators and Pupils (PEP) organization planned to throw this alternative concert in the stadium in early October as a fundraiser for the CHS Foundation.

"The idea was to hold an event in the stadium for the students," Don Erikson said.

Erikson is the president of PEP and played a lead role in arranging the concert.

He said students from all over the district would be invited to purchase tickets for the concert, but those attending Central would have priority over other schools.

This would allow for a maximum attendance.

The performance itself, Erikson said, would contain three basic acts: one from Central, one from the Omaha area as well as a national act.

After fund-raising and planning for the event took longer than expected, PEP officials were forced to put the date off until May 2006, opening the time slot it had originally, inadvertently claimed from Band Aid.

Erikson said he had no idea this concert would have any effect on Band Aid and had assumed the two would be able to be successful even if they were held around the same time.

"I don't think it should be one or the other," Greenberg said, agreeing with Erikson. "I think there should be both."

Greenberg and Moore are now leading the effort to get Band Aid back on track.

"We were really looking forward to it this year because we were gonna try to do it our way,"

Moore said.

He said many of the performers are planning on bringing their own sound and lighting equipment to make the show better and more student-oriented.

The show would also feature more talented acts that play longer.

"I think last year there were a lot of misunderstandings as far as time went," Greenberg said. "Each band only had 15 minutes and included setup time, which is ridiculous, and totally honest."

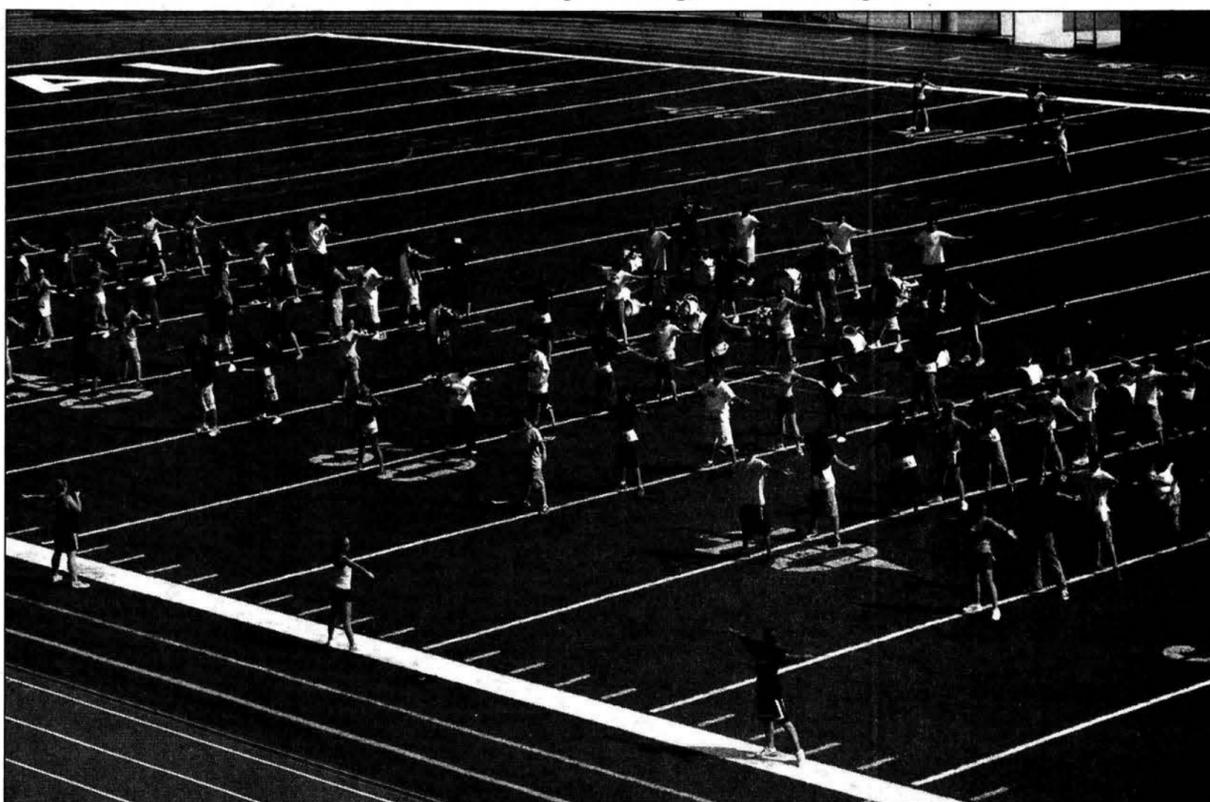
Greenberg said if they can reduce the amount of bands that play by holding auditions, the time allotted for each would increase.

Ideally, each band would be given 30 minutes in addition to extra setup time.

Moore and Greenberg are looking forward to having Band Aid sometime in November.

PROUDLY MARCHING

The benefits of the new stadium are not just restricted to athletics. Now that it has a field to march on, the band can play in exhibitions and contests, and show its first season back can be one where the Eagles bring home more gold.



PHOTOS BY MOLLY MULLEN AND ASTRIKA WILHELM/REGISTER

(T) Senior William Chaney practices with the marching band its first day on the field. The practices were in the morning and evening five days a week for two weeks in August to prepare for the stadium dedication. (HT) The band warms up to music while stretching. Some students learned the warm-up at Bands Of America (BOA), a summer marching band camp, and taught the rest of the band when they came back.

BY LAUREN CRIST

In the two weeks preceding the stadium opening, the band and color guard led the marching show for the opening of Seemann Stadium. Band director Pete Wilger said the band did a good job of learning the show and preparing for the opening.

"They really stepped up," he said.

Wilger said he has been preparing for the stadium opening since last year. He chose several pieces for the show, including "Hymn to the Fallen," "Silverado," "Fanfare for the Common Man" and "Get Ready." The band performed with University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) marching band for the stadium opening. Wilger said the bands did well together on the field.

"It was neat to see how the two bands worked together," he said.

He said it was also a good experience for the UNO students. He said the UNO drum major called back later and thanked him for the experience. He said others who were majoring in music or music education probably had the experience valuable as well.

The UNO band framed the Central band in the forms, surrounding it in the back and around the sides. Wilger said he got the idea from the Bands of America, when students who attended the camp encircled the cavalier. He said the UNO band was a good model for marching.

"It was easy to feed off their energy," he said. "The Central band had a lot of energy and it was on our field."

He said the opening went smoothly and the only trouble it had was with the weather. Shortly before the opening, it started raining. The band was practicing in the stadium and remained there for a while before heading down to the band room. The stadium opening was slightly delayed due to a thunder storm. Wilger said he

thought the students handled it extremely well and remained focused.

"It was a huge undertaking, but it was worth it," he said.

Jennifer Stober helped the guard prepare for the marching show. Stober, class of 2001, said she was excited about having the chance to work with students again. She said she was proud of the guard's performance.

"The guard did phenomenally, especially since several had never twirled before," she said.

She said the guard did an excellent job getting the show done quickly as well, and it prepared in the same two weeks the band did.

She said members did well with the flag features "Flight" and "Hymn to the Fallen," which she choreographed to be more difficult. She said for "Hymn," she used slow, big movements.

"I wanted it to stand out," she said. "For 'Flight,' I used quick, flowing movements similar to something soaring or flying."

She said even with the limited time, the guard was very flexible and understanding.

"I really had to push people, but they're there because they want to do well," she said. "I was impressed with their discipline and dedication. At the opening, I actually started crying I was so proud of them."

She said she particularly enjoyed seeing how the guard improved and worked together.

"When it just clicked and made sense musically, it was the coolest moment to see," she said.

Matt Ronan designed the show. Ronan had known Tom Cosby, assistant band director at Central, beforehand. He taught him as a student when he played bass drum at Shawnee Mission North in Kansas.

Ronan has since done show designs for over 20 different schools in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

He saw the performance the Saturday night before the opening, and said he thought the band worked well together.

"They came together really fast, especially since they just started marching," he said. "If someone didn't know beforehand the band had never marched a show before, they wouldn't have been able to tell."

He said when he designed the show, he focused on making a visually appealing show, but he said it was also important the instruments were placed so they would sound good.

"It had to look good, but the music was the most important," he said. "It was staged so the music sounded good and featured both bands."

Senior Abigail Prest has been in the marching band since her freshman year. She went to Bands of America, which was a camp several people attended over the summer where they worked with bands all over the United States.

She said this year was very different from previous years in the band, but she liked it more.

"I feel like we're doing something," she said. "This year, we're performing instead of being on hold."

She said she thought the stadium opening went well, even with the delay due to the rainy weather.

She said some people were worried for a while the opening would be cancelled, but they waited and everything worked out fine. She said she thought the band's performance at the football games created more excitement this year than in the past.

"This year we perform a show, while last year we just played on the field," she said.

She said she thought attending Omaha Marching Exhibition and Omaha Marching Invitational were good ways to get the band back into marching.

"We've been gone for a long time and exhibition is a good way to ease ourselves into it," she said. "It's a different atmosphere; we've never done anything like this before."

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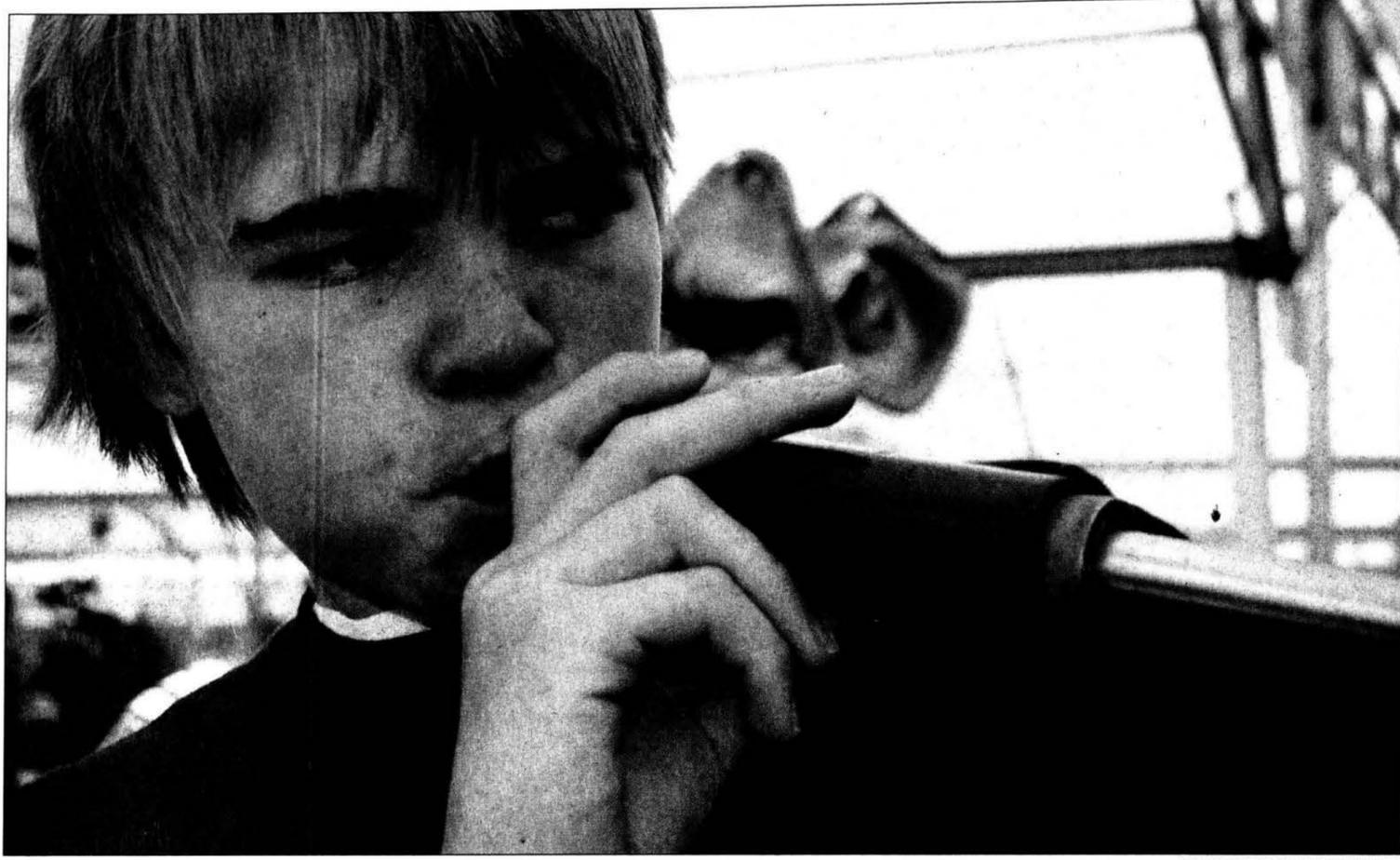


PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

Freshman Tyler Barry demonstrates how to use a blow pipe, which is a hollow metal pole. After blowing the first bubble, Barry seals off the opening so the air will expand inside the glass. He started experimenting with glass blowing when he was 6. Now he sells his pieces at coffee shops and galleries around Omaha.

PLAYING WITH FIRE

His hobby is shaping molten glass. Freshman Tyler Barry takes a different approach to art than most of his classmates and looks to a future in the field.

BY EMILY HARRISON

Tyler Barry put his foot on a lever and raised the door of the forge revealing a glowing vat of molten glass. He then took his blow pipe, a five foot hollow metal pole, and wrapped the glass around the end.

Then Barry put his lips to the pipe and blew, sealing the hole with his finger causing a bubble to be formed in the glass at the other end of the pipe.

Then he added more glass and dipped the large glowing mass into a bowl of crushed, colored glass. To fuse the color into the glass, he heated it in the "glory hole."

This device warms the glass to 2,300 degrees and the forge that holds the molten glass is 2,200, degrees. When working with the glass, a person is sometimes only a foot away from the heat.

Barry removed the glass from the volcanic furnace and blew again to expand the piece.

He was making a bowl with raised sides.

Barry said he decided what he was going to make by how the glass was flowing while he was in the process of forming it. If it stretched, it might become a vase. If it was short, it would be a bowl. He also said he was starting to plan out his pieces more from the beginning.

The largest piece he ever attempted was four gathers. A gather is when one scoops

molten glass out of the forge on the pipe. The first time Barry attempted to do glass blowing, he was 6 years old. Around the time most children are learning to read and how to do simple addition, Barry was working with molten glass.

His first exposure to glass blowing was when his father was working with Ed Fennell on a project. Barry said he would wet the newspapers Fennell used to cool the glass. Then Fennell gave him his first taste of glass blowing by letting him make a paperweight.

"We're all kind of jealous," Tim said of Barry's early start, "there's a lot of adults who don't know what they're good at."

Barry has been around art since he was born.

"I like knowing I can create something not many other people can do," he said.

He started working with glass more seriously when he was 8 or 9.

It took him about two and a half years to be able to finish pieces alone that were good enough to sell.

His pieces are for sale at the Hot Shops, and in other businesses such as coffee houses and galleries.

He sells his work through Fennell who owns the forge Barry uses. Fennell takes 30 percent commission on Barry's sales in exchange for the use of his facilities. His most expensive piece sold for \$300. He said he still gets a lot of attention from it. He has been on the news twice and has been interviewed for

the "Omaha Experience" book.

Tim Barry, Tyler's father, said even though he is proud of Tyler's work he is really careful not to push him too hard to pursue a career in glass blowing.

"To find something you can be good at and get a taste of confidence, the earlier you can gain that, the farther you can go," he said.

Everything the younger Barry has learned from blowing glass is transferable to any other career, his father said. Being able to see something through from the idea to the finish is an important skill to him.

"I think he'll do more than just glass," Fennell said. "I expect him to do a lot of different art; glass will be a big part of what he does, at least at the start."

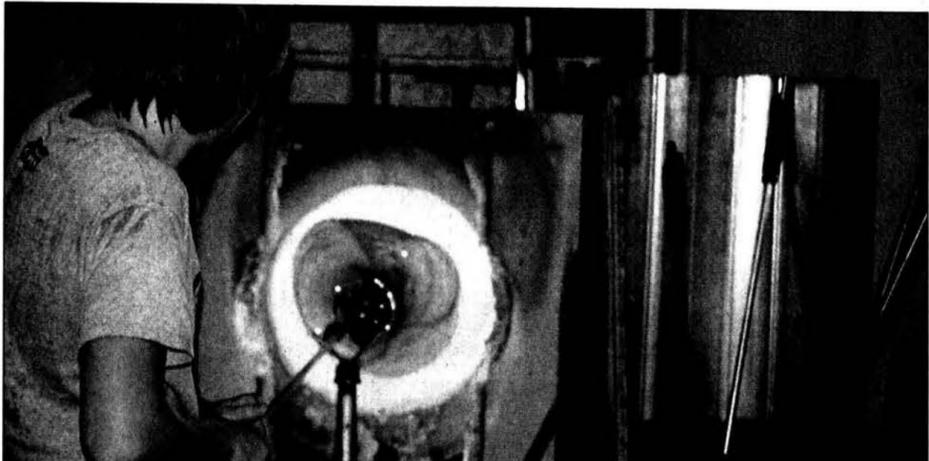
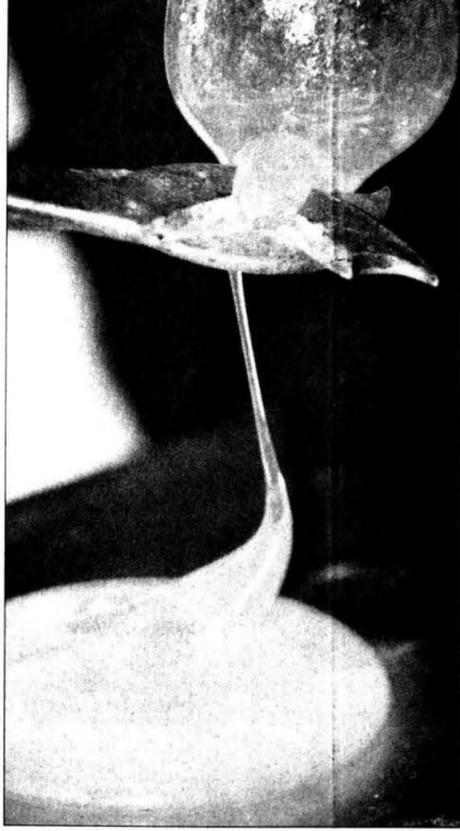
The younger Barry, however, seemed to be interested in continuing to blow glass. He has visited forges in many states.

"When we're going somewhere and there's a glass blowing studio, I'll just stop and check it out," he said.

Barry said it depends on what type of glasswork he wants to do in the future whether he will stay in Omaha for his career. If he does smaller pieces, he would go some place where there is a better market, but if he does larger work and gets bigger commissions, he might stay here.

Tyler has learned from a few different people and knows some different techniques.

Fennell said Tyler sees other people working and takes a bit of it as his own.



PHOTOS BY EMILY HARRISON AND LAUREN CRIST/REGISTER

(TOP) Molten glass is dripped onto a metal counter to form the foot of a vase. Next Barry will set the already blown glass onto it and the two will fuse. (BOTTOM LEFT) A piece of glass is heated in a kiln. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Barry flashes the glass in the "glory hole" to heat the rim of the piece so he can work with the lip of the vase.



OPAQUE RAINBOW

A Column by Emma Phillips

Vinyl offers closer view at true sound

I love the sound the needle makes it lands on the record.

The gentle hiss of the point falling a groove as it tracks across the surface revolving disc of black plastic is, as far as I'm concerned, the most wonderful sound in the world.

No matter what kind of a day I'm having that sound always soothes my nerves, closes my eyes and images start to bloom in my mind. Colors and shapes flicker in and out of my vision, sometimes keeping me from the music, but most of the time they disappear spontaneously.

As I lie on my bed with my arms tucked across my eyes, I always listen for the series of pops that signal it is almost time to flip the album.

When I hold the record, it's clear how fragile it actually is. If left in the case, this precious piece of nostalgia will warp and be unplayable. If it ever gets stepped on, it's shattered.

I think the knowledge that I can harm my records is why I am so careful with them.

When it's time to flip the record, I turn the table and make sure that the needle is safely out of the way. Then I lift the record up and gently twirl it in my hands, taking extra time to ensure I touch the surface as little as possible.

The music starts and I shuffle back to my bed, glancing briefly at the stacks of cases resting on my shelves.

Even though I own more CDs than vinyl, I still prefer the latter. The slight breaks in between tracks of a vinyl record is music in its purest form, the way it was meant to be heard.

Even the actual pieces of vinyl are beautiful. I own two varieties: the standard black one, which is so dark I can sometimes see my reflection and the marbled vinyl, which also has a pink marble record which is exactly like the Joslyn and a white vinyl which I think resembles the pattern of a Siberian tiger.

There is no interaction with a CD. You just shove it in your player and forget about it. I stop hearing the music after awhile because I have no reason to pay attention. There's no variation. They all look alike and every time the CD will always play the same sterile way it always does.

Always perfect, always boring.

If one of my records gets a piece of dust in the grooves, it will produce a completely new sound, and will help me create a new mental image, maybe blue swirls in my mind.

If I've had a particularly difficult day, I can light some incense, put on a Bob Dylan record and sit in my favorite spot by the window and wistfully watch the stars drift into the nighttime sky.

Of all my records, Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited" is my favorite. I've compared my vinyl version with the CD and the differences are like night and day.

On the record I can hear the desperation or elation cutting through the lyrics and into my ears. Every time I inhale I can hear the brief intake of breath before he launches into another wrenching ballad. There is nothing to hear on the CD.

The music sounds deflated and so much so I often skip through the album because I can't stand to hear them sound dead.

Sometimes while I'm playing a record I'll stand by the turn table and watch the album spin. I lock my eyes onto one piece of dust and follow it until I feel it or lose it in the shine of the plastic.

In a perfect world all music would be released on vinyl. I know time has passed and will never come back, but I don't regret acknowledging it.

I may be enveloped in wishful thinking or living in an illusion, but there is no other way I'd rather be than lying on my bed, inhaling the sweet smell of my jasmine incense, my arm lazily resting on my face and peacefully spinning in the background.

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005



THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

Next in the pipeline, **PAGE 40D**

20TH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

SACRIFICE FLY BALL

Getting an out to advance others on the field is the essence of team unity. Coach Rich Bernstein said the reason such a young team did so well this season was the girls' ability to work together and get along.



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

(ABOVE) Junior Kelly Wieczorek pitches the ball in the game against the Papillion La-Vista South Titans. The Eagles tied the game, and ended up going into extra innings, where they lost by one point. (LEFT) Junior Ashley Rose is up at bat during the game. Papillion's pitcher was sophomore Alexa Makevicius.

BY MATT WILEY

New coach and young players are usually an equation that equals disaster. The team often uses the new year to rebuild both the defense and offense for the following season. That was not the case for Lady Eagle varsity softball.

"I want to send a message that Central High is a contender, both in softball and in academics," varsity softball coach Rich Bernstein said. The team returned from a 15-11 regular season record last year to now having no seniors, but the juniors have stepped up to fill the void.

The team's chemistry made up for its young lineup and with its experienced coach, it was an interesting year.

New softball coach Rich Bernstein came from an all baseball background. From an All-State and All-Metro ranking at Benson for baseball to the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) where he pitched his whole college career, he's now working with young people

Special Softball Focus
INSIDE
pgs. 36-37

Continued to **Softball** on Page 36



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Senior leads boys tennis team to Metro Tourney

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Senior Antonio Lopez has been playing tennis since he was a freshman. He said his brother first introduced him into the sport, and he has enjoyed playing ever since.

Lopez said he liked playing tennis because it cleared his mind and made him forget about his worries in other classes and he did not really think about anything else when playing. "It's just fun, it relaxes a lot of stress," he said.

Some important matches in the future for him include the Metro tournament and the Lincoln East invitation.

After the season ends, he said, he and some of his teammates planned to play in a summer circuit practice at the Dewey tennis courts.

"We all play a lot," he said. Those courts were the ones where the tennis was usually practiced, and the ones he went to outside of school.

He said he also planned on helping tennis coach Larry Andrews when the girls tennis season

came around. He got the chance to do it in years before.

Lopez said he helped out because it helped the coach out and at the same time got him some extra practice time so he could improve.

He said he usually got about 10 or 15 minutes of actually playing time, and the rest was teaching.

"You teach what you know and you learn it better," he said.

Andrews said Lopez helped out with the varsity girls practices last year, and members gave him the label of unofficial team manager.

Andrews said with Lopez helping him, practice was much easier because he organized the players and basically was his assistant.

"He kind of likes to be around it all the time," Andrews said.

He said he and all of the other players played two hours a day during practice to get better, while some played even more outside of the school-related practices. Andrews said Lopez was a team player

Continued to **Lopez** on Page 39

Former NBA player speaks to students

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Motivational speaker and former National Basketball Association (NBA) player Walter Bond came to Central to speak about goals for the students.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said the Union Pacific Black Employees Network sends a different speaker every year to speak to students.

"It's their normal conference," she said.

So far, she said she had seen two speakers. The year before last was a prominent executive who spoke to students.

Kirksey said the speakers usually spoke about the same thing every year.

"Just different approaches," she said.

Reactions to the speakers, Kirksey said, were usually the same, and were all positive.

Alumni Aron Cobbs from the class of 2003 got to introduce Bond and speak a little before the former

NBA player.

Cobbs is now an intern at Union Pacific.

Kirksey knew Cobbs from school, and said it was good to see him again.

She said students present at this speech were either involved in athletics, Minority Scholars or Latino Leaders.

Students from all Omaha Public Schools (OPS) except Northwest were in attendance.

Bond spoke at places such as prisons, churches and in front of chambers of commerce.

He said he liked to speak to high school students.

"I enjoy it," Bond said. "It's a different message than what I would share with an adult audience."

Bond said he felt he had a special connection with the high school students because he remembered his high school career vividly.

For the audience at Central, he said, he chose stories he remembered

Continued to **NBA** on Page 39

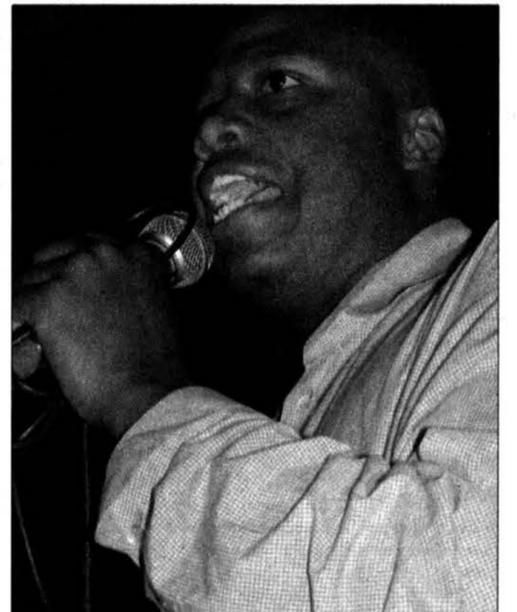


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Former NBA player Walter Bond spoke in the auditorium to students who were interested in future life goals.

Basketball trains for new season

BY MATT WILEY

Basketball conditioning has started and about 50 kids participated in a practice four days a week. Head coach Eric Behrens said two of the days are weight training and the others are two open-gym days.

"Good chemistry plus good players, equal a good record," Behrens said.



BEHRENS

The obvious goal for the varsity team is to win the State championship. The leadership will play a deciding role in the success of the team, he said.

"Tim Kanger and Rodney Grace are my leaders," he said. "They make sure everyone is on time and ready."

Behrens said he was excited about this year because for the first time the team would play a real home game because of the new lobby.

There has not been a varsity game at Central for almost 25 years.

There have been adjustments to the gym and to the school in order to accommodate a large crowd.

"As a coach, selfishness frustrates me because the team comes first and your stats come second," Behrens said.

He said so far from what he had seen, there was not a player who was not focused on the team.

Behrens said the change of gyms would create a good atmosphere. And if the home crowd could boost the game play it could cause wins.

This will be an up-tempo team and its speed can be used as an advantage.

As of now, Behrens said he is focused on getting the players in shape and teaching them the team concept. Also the fundamentals and the chemistry will be important, he said.

"If all the pieces fall together we can be better than last year," Behrens said.

Senior gets scholarship from UNL

BY PASCALE ROUSSEL

Senior DJ Jones has been playing football since he was seven.

He was on a team, and said he enjoyed it, but had no idea where it was going.

"I loved it, but I didn't think I would be doing it for the rest of my life," he said.

Hegothis first letter for a scholarship the Wednesday before the first football game of last year.

He said he was really shocked when he got it.

He has received four full-ride scholarship offers for football from Iowa State, Kansas State, Houston University and

the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL).

"When I got them, I didn't really tell many people about them, people just started talking about it," Jones said.

Jones played offensive guard on the team this season, but he said that's not what he played for the past three years he was on the team.

Next year, when he goes to UNL, he will be playing offensive tackle, just like he did before high school.

Coach Joe McMenemy said he was very pleased with the whole thing.

He has been working with Jones for four years now, and he said he had no idea this type of thing was going to happen to him.

"So few kids in the country get offered a full-ride scholarship during their junior year. I'm sure it was very flattering for him," he said.

The letters for one of the scholarships came to McMenemy, and he immediately told Jones, and then Jones called his mom.

"When he called him mom and told him about it, he had tears in his eyes," he said. "He was very humbled by it."

CALENDAR



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Sophomore Misty Fritz arm wrestles at a competition in Council Bluffs. Her coach, Mary McConnaughey, said she would place Fritz as one of the top three girls in her age and weight class in the nation.

Sophomore competes in arm wrestling

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The two competitors grip each others hands, and the free hand holds a metal bar off to the side. The referee shouts "go", and seconds later there is a victor.

Sophomore Misty Fritz has been arm wrestling since she was 11 years old. She said she met her coach through her mother and was interested in the sport right away. Her first competition was at the Nebraska State Fair.

"I tried it my first time and I got second place," she said.

Fritz competes in both youth and adult classes. The youth classes are organized by age, and the adult by weight. She said they are usually over 35 competitors at a competition.

"People can get pretty rowdy," Fritz said, "it's a fun thing to do."

Since then, Fritz has collected 39 trophies and 10 medals in arm wrestling. She said she can only pull with or use, her right hand in youth tournaments, but in adult classes, she can use either.

"I'm stronger with my left, but I usually pull right," she said.

Her first tournament, Fritz said, she injured her right wrist slightly, and since then has always been better with her left hand. Other than that, she has not had any injuries because of arm wrestling.

"I think I've seen two broken arms since I've been doing it," she said.

Another competition she went to in St. Joseph, Missouri had 205 competitors, with 79 of those in the youth classes. The tournament started at 3 p.m. and didn't get over until 1 a.m.

Fritz said a lot of the time she wears an arm wrestling shirt to school, and other students comment on it and say arm wrestling is not a sport. She said that was one of the biggest insults she could get. Other times she said people wanted to challenge her to an arm wrestling match. So far, Fritz said no one has beat her.

"Usually it's guys," she said.

Mary McConnaughey is Fritz's arm wrestling coach. She said she is usually teaching anywhere from 20 to 30 people, ages ranging from two to people in their early 50s.

Practices take place at McConnaughey's house, with four arm wrestling tables set up. Wrestlers work on things such as speed exercises and strengthening

activities. At times the exercises are scaled down for younger or less experienced wrestlers.

"We try to make it fun," McConnaughey said.

She said it was pretty unusual for someone to get second place in their first tournament, as Fritz did. She said Fritz was built well for the sport. McConnaughey said Fritz had a good sized hand and a good grip which was important in arm wrestling.

"She got tall and strong quick in life," McConnaughey said.

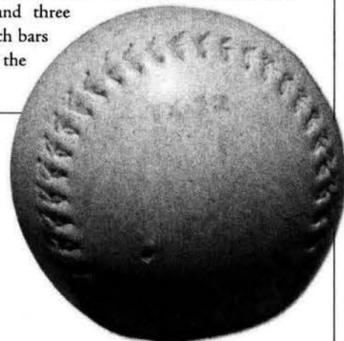
On a national level, McConnaughey said she estimated Fritz was within the top three girls in her age and weight class.

"She hauls home several (awards) at each event," she said.

At a recent competition, Fritz placed 4th in the left-handed class and 5th in right handed.

Fritz also does well with weight lifting, McConnaughey said.

She competes in events with bars that are two and a half inches thick, which is harder to grip than the one and three fourths inch bars used in the Olympics.



Upcoming Events

October

4 Varsity Softball Game

Central plays Papillion La-Vista South. The game will begin at 6:30 p.m. This game will be the last varsity softball game of the regular season.

6 Varsity Cross Country (Boys/Girls)

Central's varsity Cross Country team competes in Metro. It will begin at 4 p.m. and will be held at Chalco Hills. Coaches Trent Lodge and Shannon Stenger expect to see impressive performances from runners including junior Jared Dittman and senior Ally Gorga.

11 Varsity Volleyball Game

Central plays Omaha South. The game will begin at 7:30 p.m.

18 Freshmen Volleyball Game

Bellevue East will take on Central at home. The game begins at 4 p.m. and is the last game for the freshmen volleyball team.

21 Varsity Football Game

Central plays at Creighton Prep High School starting at 7 p.m.

25 Freshmen Football Game

Central's freshmen football team plays its last game of the regular season. They will play against Millard North on Millard's home field. The game begins at 5p.m.

November

2 First Round of State Playoffs for Varsity Football

So far, Central has had two wins and two losses. It will be a race to see if Central can qualify for the State playoffs. Last year, Creighton Prep, Westside and Millard West were some of the major rivals.

3,4 Girls Golf Districts

After its season started with just three players, the team, including senior Dena Rennard and coach Linda Brock, recruited and brought the number up to eight. It is now ready to take on other schools in matches, including the district competition.

11 First Day of State Championship for Varsity Volleyball

The State Championship game is held at the Pershing Auditorium. It is the session 4-finals of the Class A tournament. The game will start at 9:30 a.m. Right now, the varsity volleyball team, headed by coach Jodi Reeder, has a 4-9 record.

Lefall plans to play at Nebraska

BY TODD HEALY

When boys are growing up in Nebraska they dream of playing for a Nebraska team. Now the dream of playing in the state of Nebraska is not football though, but volleyball.

Senior Cherylle Lefall leads Class-A in blocks.

Her goals this year were to make it to the State volleyball championship or end up with a team record of over .500.

Sophomore Stephanie Hines also plays middle blocker for the team said Lefall taught her a lot.

"She taught me how to approach the net better and to be more aggressive and also showed me how to block," Hines said.

The best thing Lefall said about volleyball was the pre-game banter between her and her teammates.

The worst thing she said about volleyball this year was all the conditioning she would go through.

Hines said Lefall would always encourage her when she was in a negative mind she had to stay positive.

That was one of the moments lived by.

"She also has great leadership on and off the court," Hines said. "She makes sure everybody is set and she keeps her teammates on track."

One of Lefall's mentors on the team in the past was coach Saltzman.

She said Saltzman taught her most about volleyball and helped her start.

Lefall thought she was tough and it was really hard for her to get in her head.

One of the things she had this year, which she said was the toughest thing she went through because she was honored as one of the captains.

"I really would like to go to the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) or Texas Southern University. I would be nice," Lefall said. "I wouldn't mind playing at the University of Kearney."

Linebacker adjusts after school switch

BY TODD HEALY

He may not have many big colleges knocking on his door, but senior Phillip Morrissey is the starting linebackers on the team.

Defensive coordinator Montzingo said Morrissey fit with the team's defensive scheme and was a very good adjustment.

"He has natural instinct as a linebacker and he can see the field well," Montzingo said.

Morrissey has been playing since he was 9 years old and played on the select team known as the Gladiators.

Teammate junior Justin Morrissey said Morrissey had the mentality of a professional linebacker. He said he especially liked Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens.

His freshman and sophomore years in high school he played at Omaha Central which competes at the Class A level.

"If you're going up against Morrissey you better be going 100 percent because when Morrissey is playing he always wins 110 percent," Allen said.

Morrissey said the switch from Class B to Class A was not much of a difference.

"The only difference between Class A and Class B is the pace of the game," he said. "In Class A, the game goes by a lot quicker than it does in Class B."

Montzingo said Morrissey was helpful on the field.

Morrissey said he planned on playing ball next year in college, though he had only been approached by Wayne State, he would like to go to San Diego State.

FALL

SPORTS CARDS

At the beginning of the fall sports season, the *Register* asked each coach to select a player who was expected to play the most vital role on the team.

The coaches chose the following athletes based on their expected role of leading their teams to successful years.

As the season continues, the coaches expect to see these players stepping up to the front and helping each respective team on to victory.



SPRING 2005

Antonio Lopez

"Consistent hard worker, productive during practice, a good team player," coach Larry Andrews

BOYS TENNIS
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior

POSITION: number 1 singles

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: Nominee for the Nebraska Tennis Association Sportsmanship Award

HEAD COACH: Larry Andrews

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Ben Bilyeu (12), Kent Drickey (11)

KEY MATCHES: Placed second in the Lincoln, Nebraska Invitational



SPRING 2005

DJ Jones

"He can physically dominate the game with his size and quickness," coach Joe McMenamain

FOOTBALL
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior

POSITION: tackle

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: Ranked 17th in the pre-season in the nation at his position. Full-ride scholarship offers from schools including University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Iowa State.

HEAD COACH: Joe McMenamain

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Tom Daffer (12), Gransen Falkner (12), Benford Hill (12), Phillip Morrissey (12), Harland Gunn (11)

KEY GAMES: North (35/13)



SPRING 2005

Brianne Tapley

"Brianne is the emotional and physical leader of our team. If Brianne is on, then the whole team is on," coach Jodi Brown

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior

POSITION: outside hitter

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: kills per game 2.9 total kills 25, blocks 88, 1.5 blocks per game

HEAD COACH: Jodi Brown

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Cherylle Leffall (12), Jessie Carl (12), Jocelin Ford (12), Kelsey Kroeger (12)

KEY GAMES: Omaha North, Millard South, Lincoln High, Millard South Invite



SPRING 2005

Deborah Rennard

"Her ability, consistency, leadership and encouragement. She's the only returning member to the team," coach Linda Brock

GIRLS GOLF
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior

POSITION: captain

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: Third Place in the OPS Invite

HEAD COACH: Linda Brock

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Rosey Price (9), Michelle Vu (10), Jaimie Lewis (10), Sarah Ferguson (10), Ashley Bryant (10)

KEY MATCHES: Team ranks third among the OPS schools



SPRING 2005

Jared Dittman

"He is an excellent role model in cross country that others should follow in his work ethic," coach Shannon Stenger

CROSS COUNTRY
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: junior

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: 13th Class of Metro Invite, 2nd Bryant Invite, 23rd Metro Conference, 16th Millard West Invite

HEAD COACH: Shannon Stenger

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Bobby Stoffel (12), Mark Wilder (11), Morgan Shumaker (11), Dylan McMahon (10), Philip Lomneth (10)

KEY MEETS: Bryan Invite, Metro Conference, Millard West Invite, Class of Metro Invite



SPRING 2005

Allison Gorga

"She worked hard all summer, dedicated herself and was a leader of the team," coach Trent Lodge

CROSS COUNTRY
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: senior

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: Academic All Metro, 5th place districts, state qualifier

HEAD COACH: Trent Lodge

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Rachel Glissmann (12), Maceal Jespersen (12), Allison Hartnett (12), Leah Meyer (12), Annaturi Maher (12), Jackie Pirtle (11), Adrian Monge (10)

KEY MEETS: Metros, Two Qualifiers in State



SPRING 2005

Amber Hamilton

"She is more of a leader on the team. She gets everybody ready to play," coach Rich Bernstein.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
CHS STUDENT ATHLETE

GRADE: junior

POSITION: short stop

AWARDS/RECOGNITION: honorable mention for state, Quakes Black Select-team

HEAD COACH: Rich Bernstein

OTHER KEY PLAYERS: Kelly Wiczorek (11), Carli Culjat (10), Ashley Rose (11)

KEY GAMES: Millard South, Bellevue East, Bellevue West, Papillon, La Vista South

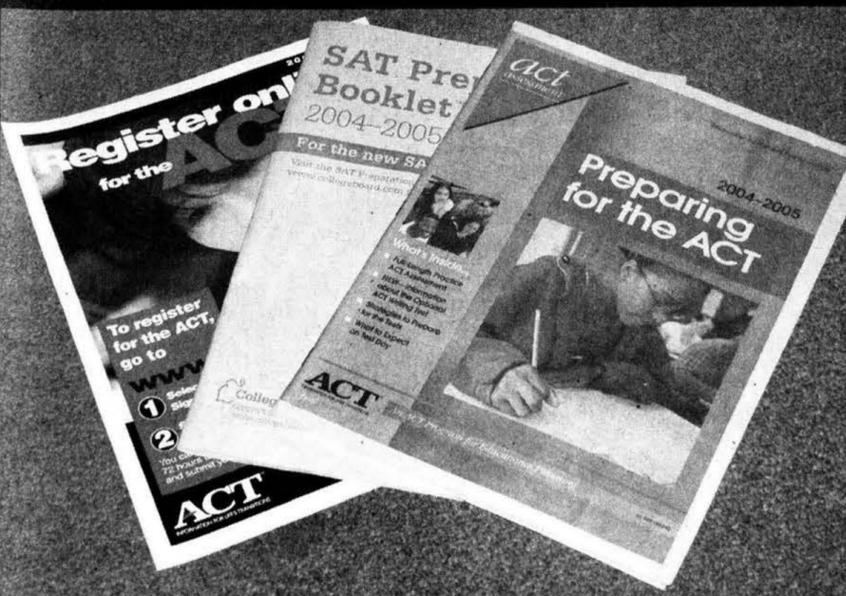
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CURVEBALL



The classic curveball is used to confuse the batter, having no idea where the ball will end up. "I use that pretty much to throw off the batter. Goes outside on a right-handed batter and inside on a left-handed batter."

RISE



This is used to mess up the batter, making the ball go up, not where they expected. "I use it when they chase them up high. It (the ball) breaks up on them (the batter)."

FASTBALL



This pitch flies by the batter, leaving them wondering what just passed by. It is used when the pitcher is down in the count, with no strikes. "I use it pretty much any time I need a strike."



PHOTO CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Junior Amanda Logan (left) tries to make it to home base past sophomore Jackie Whelan. The team practiced many drills involving improving the girls' speed from one base to the other.

Young players triumph in season with multiple wins

'SOFTBALL' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33D

to improve their game. Last year he was an assistant coach at Marian High School.

"It's good working around kids," he said. "It's really helped my coaching and temperament."

Bernstein said coaching at Marian prepared him for a head-coaching job at Central.

Eagle junior starting first baseman Ashley Rose said the team has something to prove.

"We are going to show people how we play, that we have heart, that's better than the all-out record," she said.

She said she loved the competition and her predictions show that.

"We are building up for next year, but by districts I feel as though we can be a competitor."

Her predictions are very strong and she said she believed every team the Eagles play would be another step to being a team clicking on all cylinders.

Starting shortstop Amber Hamilton said she was excited about this season.

"This year our team chemistry is better, but we have to work harder for what we want," she said.

Bernstein also had his own expectations for his team.

"I want to teach this team of girls how to play at a higher level," he said. "I want them to understand the signals and know the fundamentals."

He also said the Eagles were a sleeping team. He said he hoped to finish above .500, win a couple of district games and go on to State. Along with the softball team, come its supporters.

Athletic director Darin Williams went to a few of the games.

"I admire this young group sticking together," he said. "They understand the

coach's philosophy and they play together."

He said he liked the team's chemistry. He wanted it to be successful. He and others they would like to see more support from the team.

"The sports people don't follow as much as we are just as important," Williams said. "We balance out high school athletics."

Even though softball may not be the most widely known sport, Williams said it should be supported.

Williams' support spans past the game. He said he wanted to do as much as possible to see them win. The same goes for the head coach.

"I am willing to watch them do anything in order to make them successful," Bernstein said.

He also said players learning how to win, along with having fun as student athletes, was the most important thing. The team's record as of Sept. 9 is 1-1.

"The record only motivates me because I know what they can do and I want more," Bernstein said.

He said with a few more wins the team should be ready to face any challenge.

"We are the middle point, but we are working towards a higher level," he said.

He also said he has faith in his team that it will execute the game in a way that will compete on any level.

Bernstein said the team needs to mold and shape, but should do so for the future.

Lifetime Sports teacher Jodi Reiter is the assistant coach and also helps with the fundamentals.

The varsity team is up to prove itself as a contender, and every team it faces will be the heart of Eagle softball.

New coach, third in three years, plans to continue next season

BY BOB AL-GREENE

There's been a lot of commotion lately involving brand-new Seemann Stadium and the first real home football game in a long history.

But coach Rich Bernstein didn't think about football behind dark sunglasses on sunny days at the ballpark. He thinks about softball.

Bernstein is the new head coach of the Lady Eagles varsity softball team and that's his focus.

The Lady Eagles play their home games at Dill Fields, a part of Benson Park.

The back row of the bleachers there are more of a home than Seemann Stadium to the softball team and

Bernstein.

After initial losses early in the season, the Lady Eagles crushed the Benson Bunnies 16-1, and the North Invite yielded a 6-3 morning victory over the Bryan Bears. Each team, including Central, played three games at the North Invite.

"That's a two-game winning streak, and we have a record of 3-4," Bernstein said.

That made him optimistic as he continued the season.

"We're building fundamentals," he said, "and understanding the game, two factors that lead to success."

He said the team was already playing at a higher level because of those principles.

Athletic director Darin Williams said he thought the girls were coming together well as a team.

"Each week, the Lady Eagles are getting better and better," Williams said, "They're learning to work together."

Williams said he expected big things out of the new coach.

He also said he trusted this season and this team, which was composed entirely of sophomores and juniors.

Coach Bernstein by no means saw the lack of seniors as a disadvantage.

In fact, he said it could not only be beneficial, but he said it also ranked high on his list of the team's strengths.

"The girls returning from last year's team know how to play," he said, "and the new recruits are not afraid to learn

something new. That's just as important to me."

A team of younger individuals can only get better, he said.

The team's inexperience this year was not the only unusual factor. Bernstein himself does not actually teach at Central or even inside Omaha Public Schools at all.

"Currently, I also work at First National Bank of Omaha," he said. "On the side, I also provide private fundamental baseball lessons. I help kids to learn and improve their swinging or fielding or things like that."

Bernstein said he had spent the last six years coaching. He worked with both girls and boys, and coached softball and baseball.

Bernstein said he first got in contact with Central's athletic department from a website he saw.

"I saw an ad under Athletic CareerLinks.com," he said. "It gave me an opportunity to build a powerful program."

Bernstein got his recommendation from Marian High School administrator where he had worked for the last three years as an assistant coach.

Now that Bernstein is at Central, he plans on building that program during not only this season, but also future seasons.

"I hope it allows the girls to have fun, learn on the team, and be treated fairly and with respect," he said. "I hope it's a winning season to me."

A LOOK AT THE LINEUP THIS YEAR'S VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM



Jackie Whelan (10) #3 IF



Kelsie Maslo (11) #2 IF-OF



Hannah Spielman (10) #8 IF



Kelly Wieczorek (11) #16 P



Amanda Logan (11) #4 C-OF



Ashley Rose (11) #13 IF-OF



Rachel Newberry (11) #17 IF



Courtney Griffith (11) #12 IF-OF



Rochelle Finnigan (11) #5 IF



Samantha Sheridan (10) #7 IF-OF



Carli Culjat (10) #9 OF

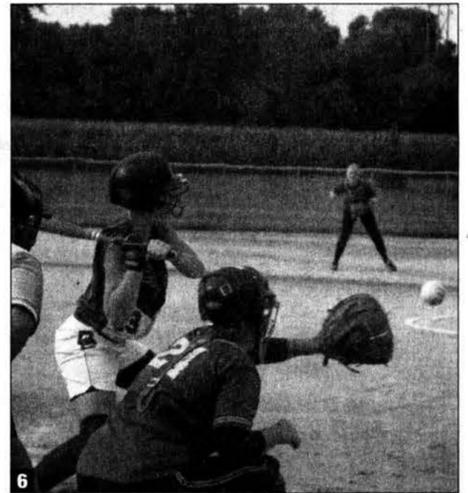
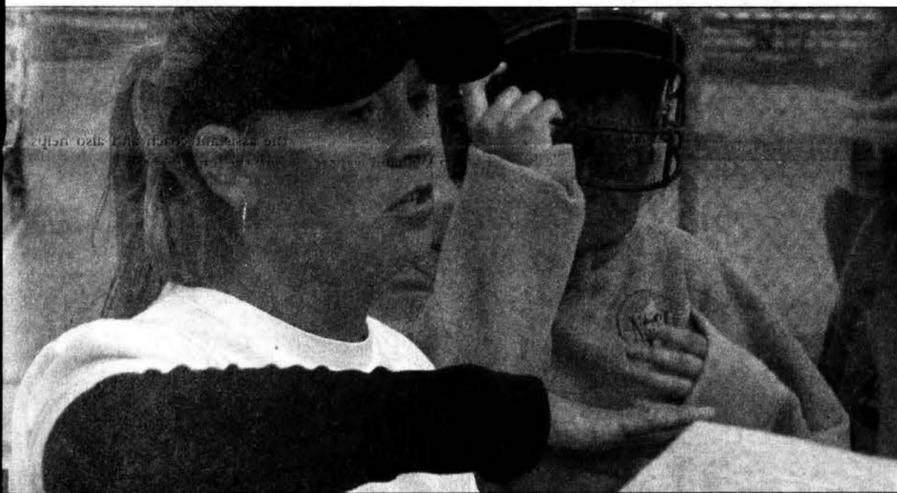
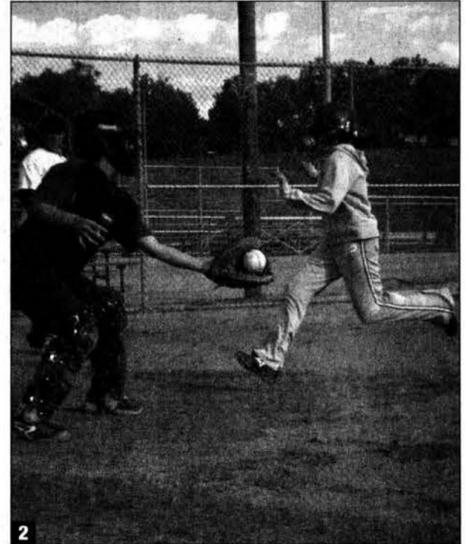
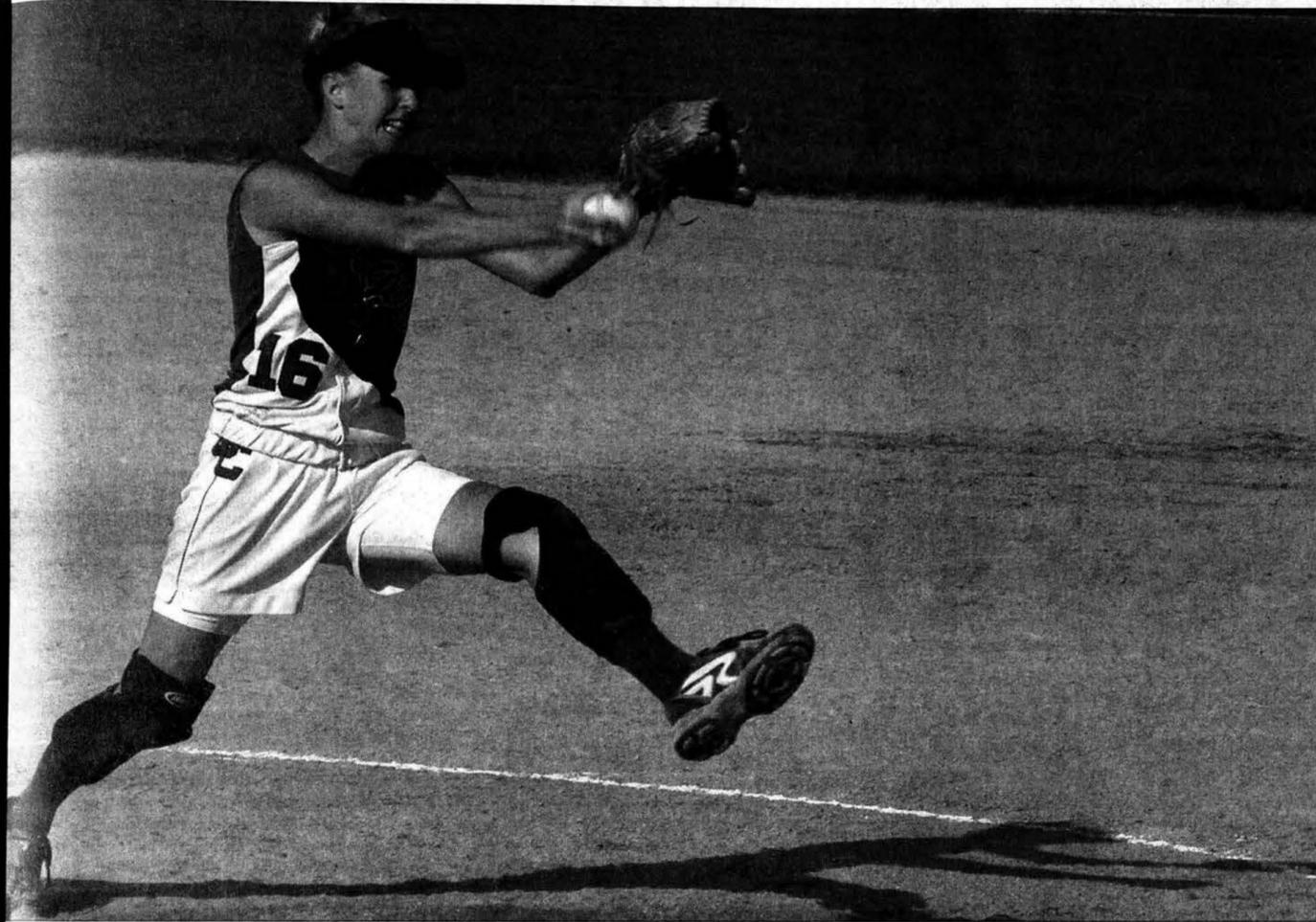


Amber Hamilton (11) #10 C-IF

ILLUSTRATION BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

STRIKE OUT

... what the softball team was facing this season. With this was a good year to gain experience.



PHOTOS BY TANIKA COOPER AND CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Junior Amanda Logan catches the ball while practicing grounders at a practice. 2. Logan (left) prepares to tag out teammate during practice. 3. Junior Kelly Wieczorek pitches during a game against Papillion La-Vista South. The Eagles lost the game 3-4, after going into extra innings. 4. Assistant coach Jodi Reeder speaks with the team after a practice. 5. Sophomore Carli Culjat prepares to hit the ball during a practice. 6. Junior Ashley Rose bats the Papillion La-Vista game. Rose also played first base on defense. 7. Culjat bunts the ball toward the infield. This bunting drill offered both a chance for the batter to get better at hitting, and the defensive players to know how to react to a bunt. 8. Junior Courtney Griffith tags out sophomore Hannah Spielman during a base drill. These drills tested the speed of the running players and the reaction time of the girls playing infield positions.

Team pushes through season with hard work, strong players

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The Lady Eagles softball team in an overtime game against Papillion La-Vista South resulted in a 3-4 loss on Sept. 17, despite some amazing plays by the Eagles on both sides of the game. Wieczorek seemed a bit rusty, throwing a few balls before getting into the zone. A strikeout followed. Wieczorek said she knew a little bit about the skills and hitting patterns of the Papillion batters, and had taken some time to warm up and adjust to them in the beginning. "They have some good hitters," she said. The Eagles were up at bat fairly quickly, after two great outs at first base by junior Ashley Rose, and a catch of a popup. The time at the bat was used well by the Eagles, managing to load the bases and get one runner in for the first score of the game. With the Titans back up at bat, the Eagles acted quickly, catching two hits by

batters and beating the third one to first base. But the girls were back in the outfield just as quickly, after striking out three times. Almost every time the Titans were up at bat, Rose made even more spectacular plays on first base. Her ability to cover first base and the area around it was quite impressive. Toward the middle of the game, the wind started to pick up. Dust would gather up and fly across the field for minutes at a time, but the players from both teams seemed unaffected. This is where the scoring really started. By the top of the 8th inning, the score was already 3-2, Eagles. The Titans started to show signs of wanting to steal bases. A runner would make an obvious attempt at a base steal, but make it back before Wieczorek could throw her out. Finally, the Titans made a bold move and eventually put runs across the plate. The Titans were suddenly ahead by one, but the Eagles stopped the bleeding by shutting down the Titan onslaught. The Eagles came back up to bat and managed to get a runner to second base. People in the crowd on both sides clenched their fists and leaned forward in the

bleachers. Sophomore Carli Culjat was up to bat. She sacrificed an out to move the runner to third. The next two batters didn't get the ball out of the infield. Their hits resulted in outs at first. Exhausted from such a close game, the Eagles went back to the dugout with their heads up. Wieczorek said she thought the reason for their loss was because at the end, the team was tired. She said the whole team went into the game confident it would get a win. Rose said she had been playing first base in softball since she was just 6 years old. She said she enjoyed her position on base because it was an important one for the game. "I get a lot of plays," she said. Rose said she thought the reason they lost the game was because the team lost its intensity that it had in the beginning. She said she thought players had a mental lapse in their attitudes toward the end. "We were really close," she said.

HITTING THE EAGLE

Most people dream of making par, much less hitting a birdie or a hole in two. For senior Dena Rennard this dream came true in just the second match under the direction of new coach Linda Brock.

Lack of players proves no problem

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Only two of the five starters knew how to play golf and just one of them had ever competed before.

Girls coach Linda Brock said because most of the team was comprised of seniors last year, the only returning player was senior Dena Rennard.

Starting off the season, the girls team only had three players. After recruiting Brock said it had gained five more players, two of which became starters.

Brock said she had to work with Rennard during the season, and they both helped each other out because Brock was a new coach.

"She helped me as much as I helped her with her game," Brock said.

Some of the things Rennard helped with, Brock said, included past traditions she had no idea about.

The newer players, Brock said, had little to no experience.

She said she would have to teach them the basics of the game, including how to grip the club correctly, how to act while on the course, how to address the ball and overall golf etiquette.

"Golf etiquette is very big in a match," Brock said.

Working with Rennard, Brock said she would have to get her into a competitive mode.

Brock said she wanted Rennard to focus on golf more, to get into a "bubble," and lock everything else out. Concentration, Brock said, was what Rennard and the entire team needed to work on this year.

Also, she said, Rennard and the whole team needed to remember it had a new chance at every hole.

She said players should forget about what happened at the previous hole and play for that one.

"Every hole is a new game," Brock said. As a new coach, Brock said she had some challenges ahead of her.

She said she thought there would be more girls on the team in a school as big as Central.

With less than anticipated, Brock said a challenge became recruiting.

Brock said another challenge for the year was starting with the basics for most of the players.

"They could start to play, and if they liked it they went out and bought clubs," she said.

Next season, Brock said she expected six out of the eight players to come back.

Three of the leaders will be

juniors and one will be a sophomore, she said.

A key player this year, Brock said, was sophomore Vu. Vu, Brock said, was one of the players who improved throughout the season.

Next year, Brock said Vu would be one of the players who would look to for a good season.

"I hope she'll step up to the plate, so to speak," Brock said. "I guess she'll step up to the tee, in this sport."

Brock said she also used to play a lot, but never competed. The high school she went to, she said, never had a girls golf team when she was there.

Brock said she stopped playing often when she had a bad attitude and this was a good chance to start again.

Despite the lack of playing throughout the years, Brock said she didn't ever get tired of the game.

"It's a game you can play your entire life," Brock said. "It's a game you can never really win."

She said often in golf, there were both good and bad days, and that was the challenge in the game.

Rennard got a birdie on her second match, one against Central High School.

It took place at the second hole of the Elmwood Park course. She said she almost got a hole in one with the drive.

"It ended literally two inches from the pin," Rennard said. "I was happy with the birdie, but I would have been ecstatic with a hole in one."

Rennard said the team next year would have a chance to improve its game.

After gaining experience this year, she said members would be ready for next year.

"They won't all be brand new to the game," Rennard said. She said she thought they would do well next year.

Once they practiced, Rennard said, improvement would come for them throughout the year.

"They've got a lot of spirit for it (the game)," she said. Rennard has played golf every year since freshmen year.

She said she liked the game because it was kind of a meditative sort of for her.

Stress from school or life left when she was playing golf. "You can enter the day with bad attitude about the day," she said. "If you keep an open mind (you will) leave with a good attitude about the day."

This year was different for her, Rennard said, because she was always a younger player.

Now, all the other players were looking up to her, and her team played depended on her now.

Rennard said she was the captain of the team this year. She worked with Brock because she was a new coach.

"She's a great coach," she said.

She said because Brock played with them during practice, she helped out the whole team.

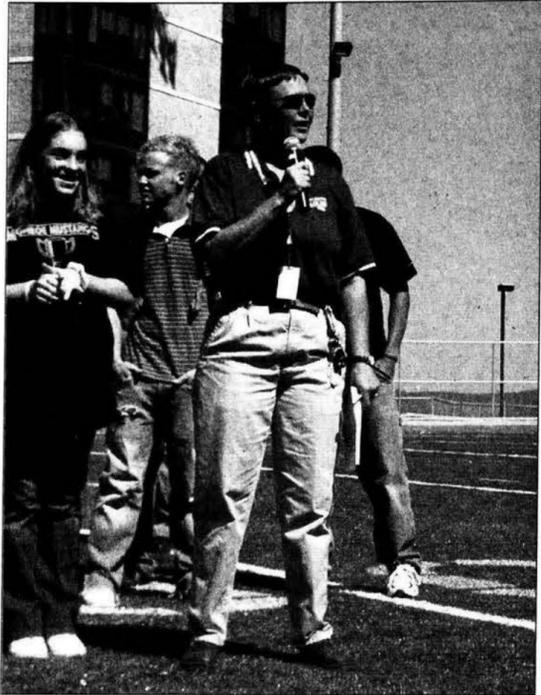


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Girls golf coach Linda Brock speaks to students in the stands at the pep rally. When it started, the team was made up of only three players, which soon rose to eight.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

GOING THE DISTANCE

Different balls have different results. These are some of the most common golf balls used.



TITLEIST DT Usually used for newer players. The core is softer than most balls, so it compresses easier and then expands quickly for longer distances.



PINNACLE TITANIUM Similar to the regular Pinnacle balls, except for the little bit of titanium put into the cover of the ball.



PINNACLE Pinnacle balls are known as distance balls in the air. The only problem is they don't really have much of a spin to them, so they won't roll when hit on the fairway.



NIKE Nike balls are the in-between balls, both in price and quality.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF TOM TZARDIK OF GOLF USA

NINE IRON Used for a shorter distance than woods, getting towards the green from the fairway.

ONE WOOD Used for starting off on the hole on larger pars, such as four or five par. Hits the ball the greatest distance. It can hit the ball anywhere between 200 and 300 yards.

THREE WOOD Along with the one wood, this club is used for long distances. Can usually drive the ball anywhere from 190 to 200 yards.

PUTTER The putter comes in various styles and feels. It is used only on the green, and is often the most personal club.

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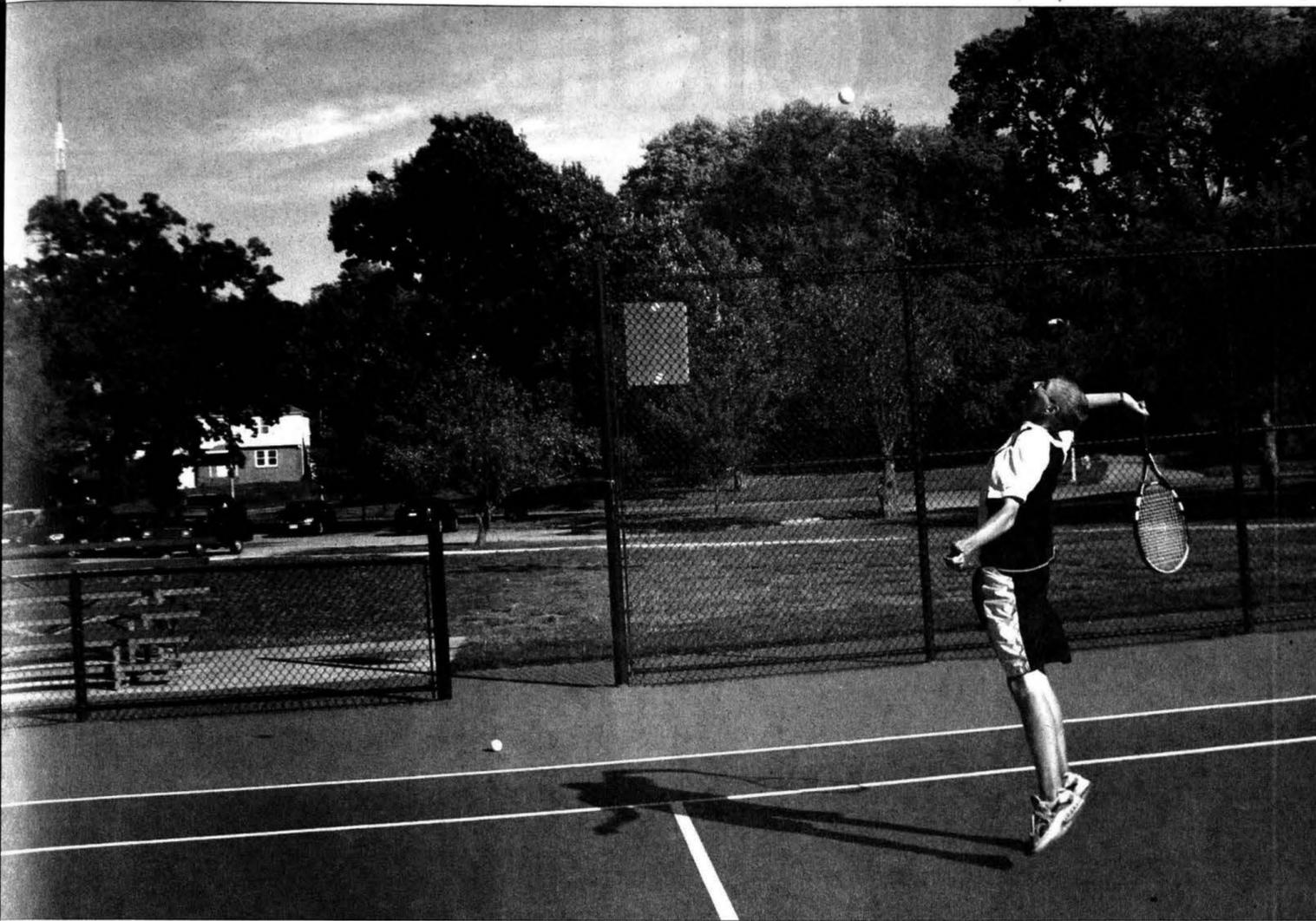


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Athlete motivates students

■ 'NBA' CONTINUED FROM 33D

about high school. "I make sure the stories are relative to my audience," he said.

Director of cost and profit for Union Pacific and the chairwoman of Community Outreach Chandra Henley said scheduling Bond to speak was part of a continuous community outreach.

Henley said the Union Pacific had a lot of speakers before, ranging in career choice. One of those was someone from Famous Amos.

When Bond spoke at Central, Henley said she observed how the students were very engaging and involved in the speech.

Before he spoke with the students he had a speech with a different type of audience.

"I know that morning he gave an outstanding speech to an older crowd," Henley said.

She said Bond tailored his message to fit what the students would be interested in and listen to the most.

Henley said she wished more students could have been present at the speech because she said Bond had a good message.

She said part of what he spoke about was students in high school should continue their educations.

"We're hoping for a few hundred kids (showing up)," Henley said.

Each student who showed up received a bag of Union Pacific things, some information about Bond's career and personal life and the Black Employees Network.

Henley is also a member of the Black Employees Network.

Part of the way to help the community, Henley said, included giving scholarships to black graduating seniors.

"We also do a lot of community outreach," Henley said.

She said part of it was Union Pacific who wanted to make sure graduating seniors knew they had a choice to work with the Union Pacific.

"It's not cliché that you all are the future," Henley said.

Other programs she worked with included workshops at the Doubletree Hotels.

Junior Rachael Dryver attended the speech.

She thought Bond spoke well about how teens needed to reach their goals.

"It was what people need to hear," she said.

Dryver said she thought Bond left an impact on the students present.

She said he wasn't like a normal speaker, and he was funny and had a current message.

Dryver said Bond was goofy, but had a serious topic to speak about.

Dryver said she thought all the students should have been able to hear what he had to say.

Kirksey said she thought the message Bond had to say was a good one, and his approach through humor was a good way to reach students.

"I'm hoping," she said. "I never can tell."

Senior J.R. Powell jumps up to hit a tennis ball during practice. The team often worked on aim, hitting the ball and working on getting it in bounds on the other side of the court. The tennis balls were thrown from multiple directions and heights at the player, to help improve consistency.

JV boys tennis expected to build for better season

BY CLAY LOMNETH

Most of the players returned for another year on the court, for hand swings and squeaky sneakers.

The boys tennis team had four seniors this year on a team of 15. All the seniors were returning players, three of them were on varsity last year.

Coach Larry Andrews said he hoped next year would bring the junior varsity (JV) players up to varsity positions.

"We might get some other good freshmen like we did this year," Andrews said.

He said he would probably put seven players on the varsity team, but he'd prefer eight. No matter what grade they are in, Andrews said, they qualified for a spot on varsity.

"I keep the best players on varsity," he said.

The small team was because only 15 students showed up to play tennis, and he had to drop one. Andrews also said he'd like seven or eight players on JV also, so there was a dilemma.

One of the JV players he was watching was sophomore Ben Thomas.

Seniors couldn't play on JV, Andrews said. He said this meant the players needed to start working on their tennis game, and the boys



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Tennis coach Larry Andrews speaks with his players during a break at practice. During the hot weather, players were told to stay hydrated during practice.

tennis players had an advantage because they could work on their game over the summer. Andrews said people on varsity this year would be moved onto varsity next year. He said he usually never dropped them back down after they were on varsity.

Senior Mark Pokorny is a returning senior who has been playing

tennis for one and a half years. He did not play varsity last year because he couldn't qualify for it after transferring from Roncalli High School.

"We got a lot of good guys on our team this year," he said. Pokorny made varsity this year, and he said next year it would be up to the JV and freshmen playing tennis.

"The JV will get some opportunity to move up," Pokorny said.

Next year, he said, he expected the players to step it up. He said they needed to work on the same things he worked on, such as consistency.

Also, Pokorny said, they needed to work on playing people they knew they should beat, players worse than them.

Pokorny said at the beginning of the year, he planned to play singles and doubles, and to improve his own consistency during his game.

"I just wanted to have fun," he said.

Pokorny said he had faith in the freshmen and JV team, that they will have a successful season next year. The other players on the team are two freshmen and one junior.

"They'll just have to get used to each other," he said. "They'll have to bond."

Senior leads team, plans on playing in Division I in college

■ 'LOPEZ' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33D

who tried hard for the team.

Throughout the year, Andrews said he expected Lopez to work on and improve his footwork, mobility, shot selection and consistency with hitting.

Also, he said he expected Lopez to become tougher mentally when competing in matches and tournaments.

Without the seniors next year, Andrews said the junior varsity team needed to start stepping it up because he didn't play seniors on junior varsity. This, he said, forced them to play better, by practicing more including, at times, during the summer.

The boys tennis team had more of an advantage that way, Andrews said, because the whole summer was a chance to improve. The girls, on the other hand, just had during the school year.

"We'll kind of have to reload for next year," Lopez said, helped him out skill-wise when starting the tennis season.

Andrews said. Because there were three of the top players graduating, Lopez said the players who were left would have to get better for next year.

"I think some of the newer guys will step up," he said.

The team needs to remember to believe they can win, Lopez said.

Lopez said he was the one with the most experience on the team overall.

"I played a lot during the summer," he said.

Last year, some of his important matches were Metro and State, and he said he expected those to be important ones this year, too.

His playing during the summer and free time,



LOPEZ

Andrews said Lopez right now was a good leader and an example for the other players. Andrews said Lopez showed them how to act on the court and how to improve during each practice.

Andrews said if he had to choose a team captain, Lopez would probably be his choice because of his leadership skills.

"He really loves tennis and he's really motivated," Andrews said.

He said Lopez knew how to make every practice worthwhile, and often talked to him about his goals for the day before practice started. Andrews said he would tell Lopez to complete certain goals by the end of the day and he would.

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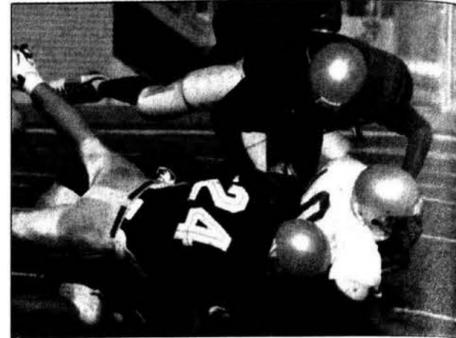
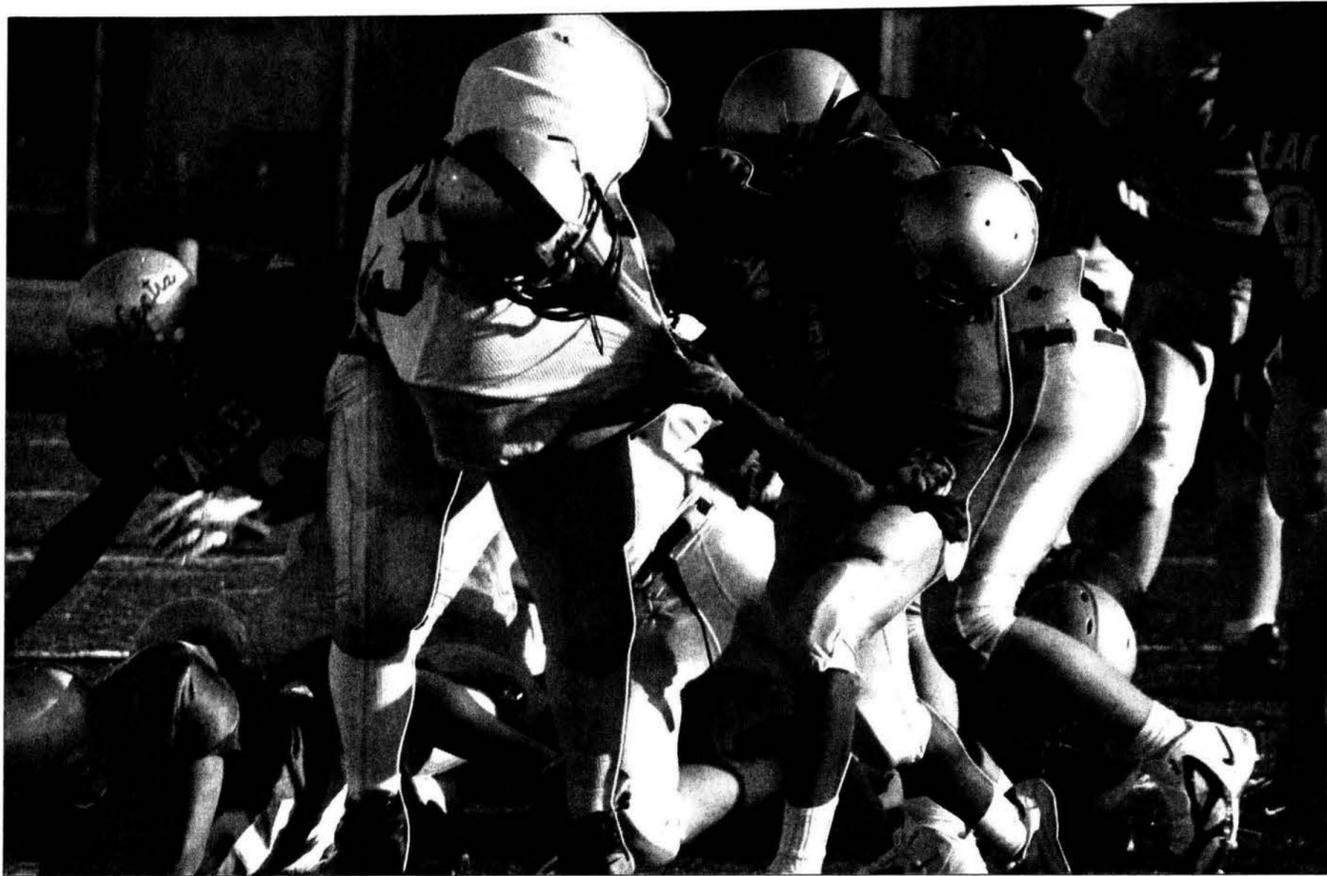
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STRIVING FOR GREATNESS

The junior varsity football team builds players for their future. It prepares them to be the next in the pipeline of the machine called I-Back High.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST/REG

(FROM TOP LEFT) Sophomore Shane Prater (right) prevents Bellevue East's #53 from catching a pass. Sophomore Shaun Prater and freshman Brian Flowers both dive to tackle a Bellevue player on the 30 yard line. Sophomore Terrell Mayhue listens to Coach Joe Shimerdla after the game ended. Shimerdla discussed what happened during the game and what players should expect in future games.

Eagles suffer loss to Bellevue East first time on field

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The junior varsity (JV) Eagles played their first football game in Seemann Stadium. In a game against Bellevue East, the Eagle defense held its own for most of the game, but ended up losing 14-6.

In the first quarter, Central showed promise of a good running game. Even a run from their quarterback, freshman Vondrae Tostenson, proved successful in gaining first downs, but no touchdowns.

The Chieftains, both in the first and second quarters, often ran similar offensive running plays. Every once in a while it proved successful to gain over five yards, otherwise, junior Eagle defense held.

Chieftain defense kept the quarterback on his toes. He was often forced to run to avoid the pressure, which at times gained yards and other times lost a few.

The Eagles came close to scoring with 10 seconds left in

the quarter, only to lose in near the end zone with a fumble. Overall, there were four turnovers for the Eagles in the game.

The Eagle defense seemed to break apart at this point, as if it was too eager to get the ball back, which continued into the beginning of the third quarter. Blitzes were sent often, sometimes allowing the ball to sneak by on the other side for yardage.

Coming into the fourth, Bellevue East took it in for another touchdown with about three minutes off the clock.

Most of the rest of the quarter was a battle for position. A team would get close, lose it on a little mistake and the opponent would take it down the field only to do the same.

At 1:38 left, the Eagles took the ball into the end zone. They missed the extra point, and the score stayed this way until the end.

Bellevue East head coach Aaron Taylor said he thought

his team had room for improvement, even after the 14-6 win. He said his JV team often practiced with the varsity team, and he didn't get a chance to focus on just his JV team.

But, he said he had high hopes for the rest of the season.

"We'll get better as the year goes along," he said.

Taylor said there was no additional pressure going into this game even on Central's new stadium, because the team had practiced like it was any other game.

"A win's a win," Taylor said.

Though they were ahead, Taylor said he did not get too ahead of himself.

"Until that whistle sounds, we never count our chickens before they hatch," he said.

Central JV coach Joe Shimerdla said Tostenson's running was a last minute decision.

He said they needed to practice better blocking down but had decent protection up front from the line.

"I thought we played really well on defense," he said. Shimerdla said the team also needed work on the offensive line, and that was the key to winning games.

"If they play well, we'll do all right," he said. Shimerdla said the team needed to improve its three-point game a bit, but the running game was doing well.

"Obviously we're a running school," Shimerdla said. He said the main reason the junior Eagles lost the game was because of the domino effect, if one person didn't do his job, it fell apart. Also, he said towards the end the Eagle defense got tired.

Shimerdla said the turnovers in the game were a result of players looking ahead before they had the ball.

Tostenson said the JV Eagles needed to work on execution plays and hanging onto the ball. He said both sides of the field were partly responsible for why they lost the game.

STADIUM 2005



Home-Field Advantage

Junior varsity football coach pushes players for more lucrative season

BY TODD HEALY

Junior varsity (JV) football coach Joe Shimerdla said he came to Central with the focus of teaching. Shimerdla has been teaching at Central for two years.

In addition to teaching, Shimerdla is an assistant coach on the varsity football team, the head coach for the JV football team and an assistant coach and hitting coach for the varsity baseball team.

Junior Daniel Smith who played on the varsity baseball team said Shimerdla was very

helpful.

"He helps people out with batting. He is a really friendly guy to be around," Smith said. "He compliments you a lot which is nice."

On the JV team he was not only the head coach, but he was also the offensive coordinator.

"I first came to Central to teach," he said. "Teaching always comes first before coaching. My pride is teaching."

Coach Scott Hodges, special teams coach for the freshmen team and the varsity head coach for the baseball, said Shimerdla had a great report with students.

Even though the summer league batted a .279 batting average, Hodges said Shimerdla was able to keep everything in all sports he played and coached in perspective.

Shimerdla went to high school at Omaha Benson where he was known as an all-around type of player.

He played on the football, baseball and basketball teams. One of his college roommates is now the starting first baseman for the Oakland Athletics, Dan Johnson.

Shimerdla said he adds a lot of different aspects to the team.

"I bring a laid-back atmosphere," he said. "The players call me sometimes heart-burn relief."

Smith on the other hand said he had never seen Shimerdla laid-back before on the field.

"I like how he can be humorous. He is fun to mess with and I like to tease him," Smith said.

"I would sometimes throw whiffle balls at him to tease and mess around with him. I can think of him as one of the guys on the team."

Shimerdla said he would love to become a head coach someday.

He wouldn't care if it was for football or baseball because he loved both sports.

"He has a lot of knowledge about both parts of the game," Hodges said.

Shimerdla said he would rather teach high school students over middle and elementary school students any time.

He said the students in high school are more mature than the children you see in middle school and elementary school.

"High school students I can relate to more than I can to kids in middle school or elementary school," Shimerdla said. "I would like to be known as more of a mentor than I would as a coach or a teacher."

Recent cheating craze may trickle down to high school athletic departments

Imagine if you could improve your golf game by 13 strokes, or if you could hit 40 home runs in a single-season. All you had to do was take a certain pill called steroids.

It may destroy your liver, heart and kidneys over time, but in the short run of your life you could become Superman. You'll be making millions of dollars for the Yankees, later you will lie under oath and fans of baseball would soon forgive you.

Why? Baseball and its fans love cheating. Just ask Rafael Palmeiro. It doesn't mean football and basketball don't have their share of cheating, but baseball always ends up on the short end of the stick.

The professional athletes are the role models to the high school and college students.

The two most common ways of cheating are the old corking of the bat and the nasty spitball. It seems like everyday someone in the Major Leagues is caught cheating.

It could be taking steroids or flashing the pitcher signs to the batter using the center field lights. You don't hear much about colleges or high school kids getting caught taking muscle-

enhancers or other banned substances. Do some of these athletes try to get this edge? Probably, but will we ever know to what extent? Probably not, at least not for awhile.

Steroid testing is very expensive and high schools and colleges don't have the money to make sure their student athletes are not taking illegal or banned substances.

You could ask any ball player if they ever took steroids and the majority answer would be "No." Obviously, one can't include Jose Conseco because he won't just tell you he took steroids, he'd give you an autograph copy of his hit book, "Juiced."

Central baseball is probably a steroid-free team, but who would know? Should it be important to test high school athletes? High school is one of the toughest periods for sporting steroid use because boys are maturing into men.

Central is mostly known for its pitching then its hitting,

which isn't a bad thing. The team shouldn't have to take steroids to be successful anyway. I've been playing baseball for 11 years and coaches had always told me pitching was what won games.

Coach Scott Hodges has turned the Eagle baseball program around. He has produced many caliber players like David Cleveland, who will play at Creighton University this season.

Also upcoming Central stars are senior Bryan Cotton and junior Daniel Smith, who both are pitchers. If Major League Baseball keeps having problems with cheating, then you might see it effect future generations of college and high school baseball players.

Athletes are way better today, even without steroids than they were a few decades ago. They simply don't need the juice to win. If you compare the National Basketball Association now to what it was 30 years ago, there is a major difference in the athletic performance.

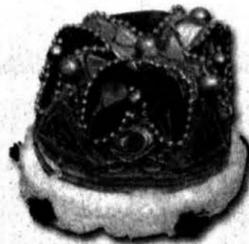


OFF THE WALL

A Column by Todd Healy

STADIUM

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER



Crowned king of their home turf, PAGE 44E

24 N 20TH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST, CLAY LOMNETH, ZACH PLUHACEK AND STEPHEN WILHELM/REGISTER

1. Seniors Jim Hubbard and Nick Pierce-Cramer cheer at the home football game against Burke. 2. Patrick Kill from Davis Erection prepares to weld a beam on the unfinished gym lobby. 3. Senior DJ Jones takes a water break after the second quarter of the North game. 4. The color guard prepares to march on the field for the dedication ceremony. (From left) Junior Cpl. Derek Schuler, senior Maj. Neil Bhattarai, sophomore Cpl. Everett Welch and junior Sgt. 1st Class Princeton O'Neil practiced multiple times before the actual ceremony.

ALL HAIL THE KING

After five years, \$12.1 million and several different renderings and designs, contractors and architects managed to fit a state-of-the-art stadium in downtown Omaha's confined space.

The following pages document Central High School's new Lee and Willa Seemann Stadium from beginning to end.

STADIUM 2005



Home-Field Advantage



PHOTO BY PATRICK O'MALLEY/REGISTER

Sophomore Donnie McPherson, along with other varsity players, signal the number four in the fourth quarter of the game against North, when Central was ahead 35-13. The football program benefited greatly from the new stadium. Teams did not have to travel to a middle school to practice and play games.

AWARDS RECEIVED BY LEE SEEMANN DURING AND AFTER WWII

Lee Seemann is the most decorated World War II hero in the Midwest. He served his country for three years in the United States Air Force.



Silver Star



2 Distinguished Flying Crosses



5 Air Medals



Purple Heart



Combat Victory Medal



2 Group presidential medals

T H E C E N T R A L H I G H L E E A N D W I L L A S E E M A N N S T A D I U M

'THE NAME GAME'

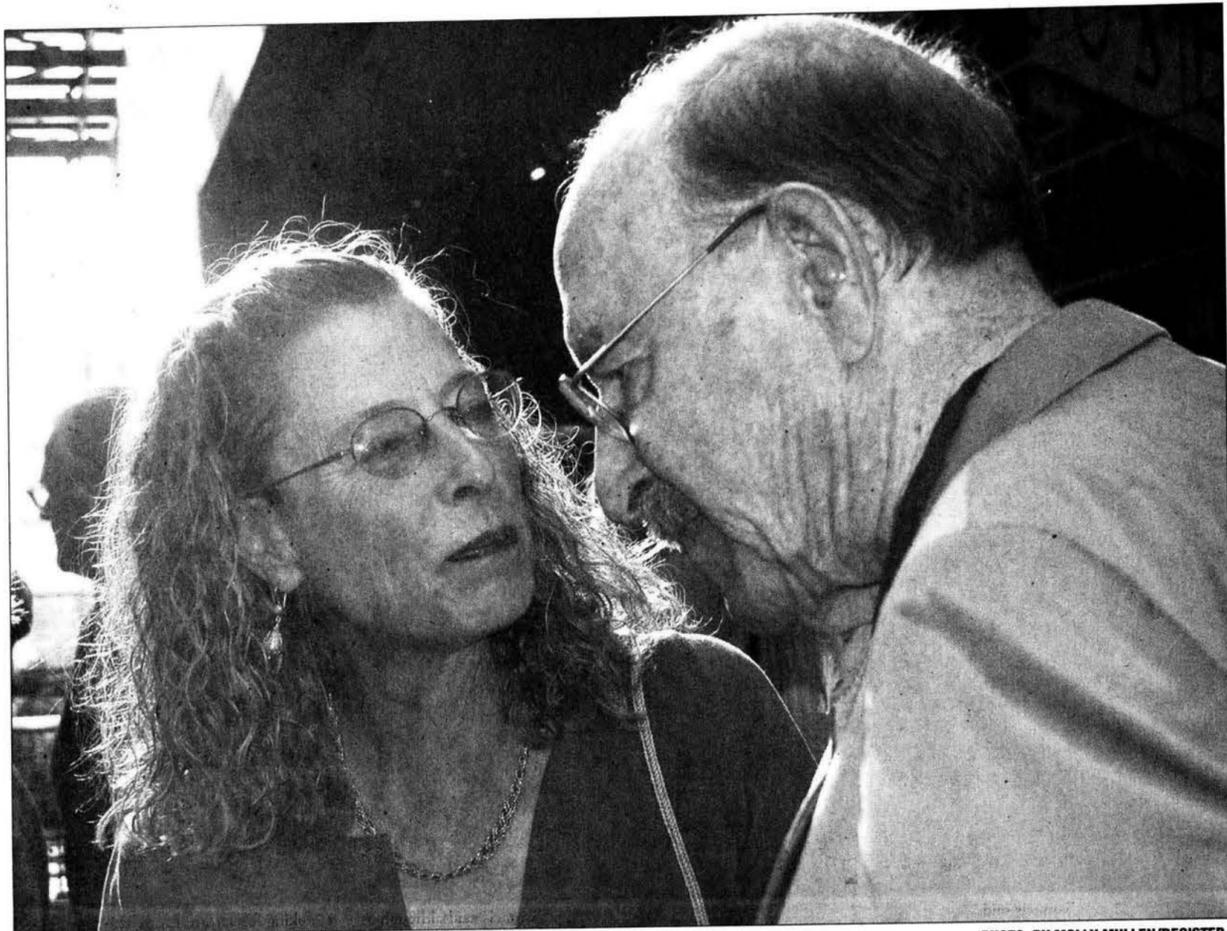


PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

(ABOVE) Lee Seemann speaks with his daughter at the donor's dinner before the dedication ceremony. The stadium was named for him and his wife after Susan T. Buffett declined. 'I felt a little uncomfortable with it at first,' Lee said. 'But it needed to be named for someone.' (LEFT) Willa Seemann her senior year. She was voted prettiest girl in her class. (BOTTOM LEFT) Lee on the day he received his wings in 1943 and was a United States Air Force pilot in World War II.



BY MOLLY MULLEN

She was voted prettiest in her class on 1942. He flew 33 missions during World War II, three on D-Day over Omaha Beach.

After lives of philanthropy, they are giving back to Central. Lee and Willa made a donation to the stadium project that got them the honor of having it be named for them.

Susan T. Buffett made the first \$ 5 million donation to the project, but didn't want the stadium to be named for her. She had donated a great deal of money over the past decades, much of it anonymously.

'Susie and her mother have done more for Central than anyone,' Lee said.

When Calvin Sisson, vice president of Heritage Services, and the rest of the company decided to name it for the Seemanns, Lee said he wasn't thrilled about the idea.

'It bothered me for awhile,' he said. 'But, someone's name had to be on it.'

He said it might as well be named for him because he is the most decorated World War II hero in the Midwest.

In 1999, Gen. Lee Butler of Offutt Air Force Base

Although the stadium has been in the planning and construction stages for over five years, it was only given a name last winter. Alumni Lee and Willa Seemann bear the name of the multi-million dollar project and represent the numerous other donors who made this addition to the campus a reality.

told Lee of his accomplishment. Up until then he said he had no idea.

Lee is very proud of his duties in the war. 'We almost lost World War II, it was so close,' he said. 'Many, many people have said if it wasn't for the Air Force to help the British, the Germans would have won.'

He said he was very lucky not to be one of the 30,000 Air Force pilots to die. He said he bombed all night and all day.

He flew three missions on D-Day, although it was only counted as one on his record. Everyone had to do 25 missions, at first, in order to go home, but when they knew they were going to invade on D-Day, they upped the requirements.

'It was the greatest sight in history,' he said. Lee saw 6,000 ships appear on the shores, as he flew overhead, bombing the Germans at a dangerous 11,000 ft.

'The first day was brutal,' he said. 'I wished we could have done better, but they were so protected. It had to be an exact hit.'

He returned home in 1944, after flying 33 recorded missions. He also came home with 12 medals, including the Purple Heart and Silver Star.

After returning to the United States, he said he was selected to attend the armed services' most prestigious school, the Command and General Staff School in Leavenworth, Ken.

He was one of the very few Combat Air Force pilots to be honored at the young age of 24.

In high school, he was involved in many activities. He said he can remember practicing football on a cinder field where the portable classrooms used to be. He was also a basketball player and in JROTC.

The rest of his life was spent in philanthropy, both in Omaha and Okaboji.

He said he was very impressed with the stadium, and only saw it once before the formal dedication.

'You have no idea what this will do for your school,' he said. 'It will help recruiting for Central and is very impressive to the players.'

He said he enjoyed the dedication dinner and entire ceremony.

Willa said she thought the music was very fitting. 'The patriotic theme was wonderfully timely and just right for Lee,' Willa said.

Both Lee and Willa said they plan to attend football games at the new stadium, as well as basketball games when the lobby is finished this winter.

First colors presented on new field

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Senior Sopnil Bhattarai was chosen at the end of last year to be the Battalion Commander of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), to replace Erik Servelle.

He said he had to apply for the position by writing a resume, making a formal statement and having an interview with Lt. Col. Mike Melby and Sgt. Maj. Dwaine Sutter.

He said he had aspired to be the top position in JROTC.

'ROTC is my passion,' Bhattarai said. 'I love the structure and organization and the program itself.'

It is satisfactory watching cadets learn the drills and seeing what JROTC is all about.

'I've seen cadets who didn't know their left from right end of winning competitions,' he said.

Last year the JV drill team placed first place in Tri-City Drill Competition and the color guard placed third.

Now, JROTC is now preparing for the Battalion Formal Inspection on Dec. 1.

Bhattarai presented the colors at the first football game as well as at the stadium dedication.

He said they were both excited because they were the first color guard of the new stadium, and he was the first battalion commander.

It was unusual to hear everyone singing the National Anthem at the dedication when he presented the colors, he said, because it was usually just the band who played it.



BHATTARAI

Student helps prepare band for dedication

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Senior Sarah Beck went to Bands of America this summer with some of the other CHS band members.

She used what she learned to help the band better prepare for the upcoming marching season. The dedication ceremony of the stadium was one such event where her knowledge paid off.

'It (the camp) was awesome,' she said. 'It was very intense and extreme at the same time.'

She said it was challenging because none of the people at Central had marched before. She said at first it was a little like being fish out of water.

Beck said they learned fundamentals at Bands of America and stretch routines. Stretch routines were made up of ballroom moves. Beck also said she thought she really helped.

She said the staff of Carmel, Ind., came and did the marching part of Band of America. Beck also said the staff members at Carmel were former champions and the kids at Central got to march with them.

Beck said the people who didn't go to Bands of America were very supportive and attentive when people who went showed them how to do something.

She also said the stretch routines they do at the games was something they had learned from the camp. She said different parts of the show are some of the other things they did at the show they learned from Bands of America.

IMPORTANT NAMES IN THE PROJECT



The plaza outside the stadium is named for Marge, after husband, Chuck donated to the project.

Marge Durham Class of 1935



Kent Ullburg designed, created, and helped attach the eagle statue. There is only one other like it in the world.

Kent Ullburg Eagle sculptor



Mackiel has been one of the key players from the OPS side to help with the planning of the stadium.

John Makiel Superintendent of OPS



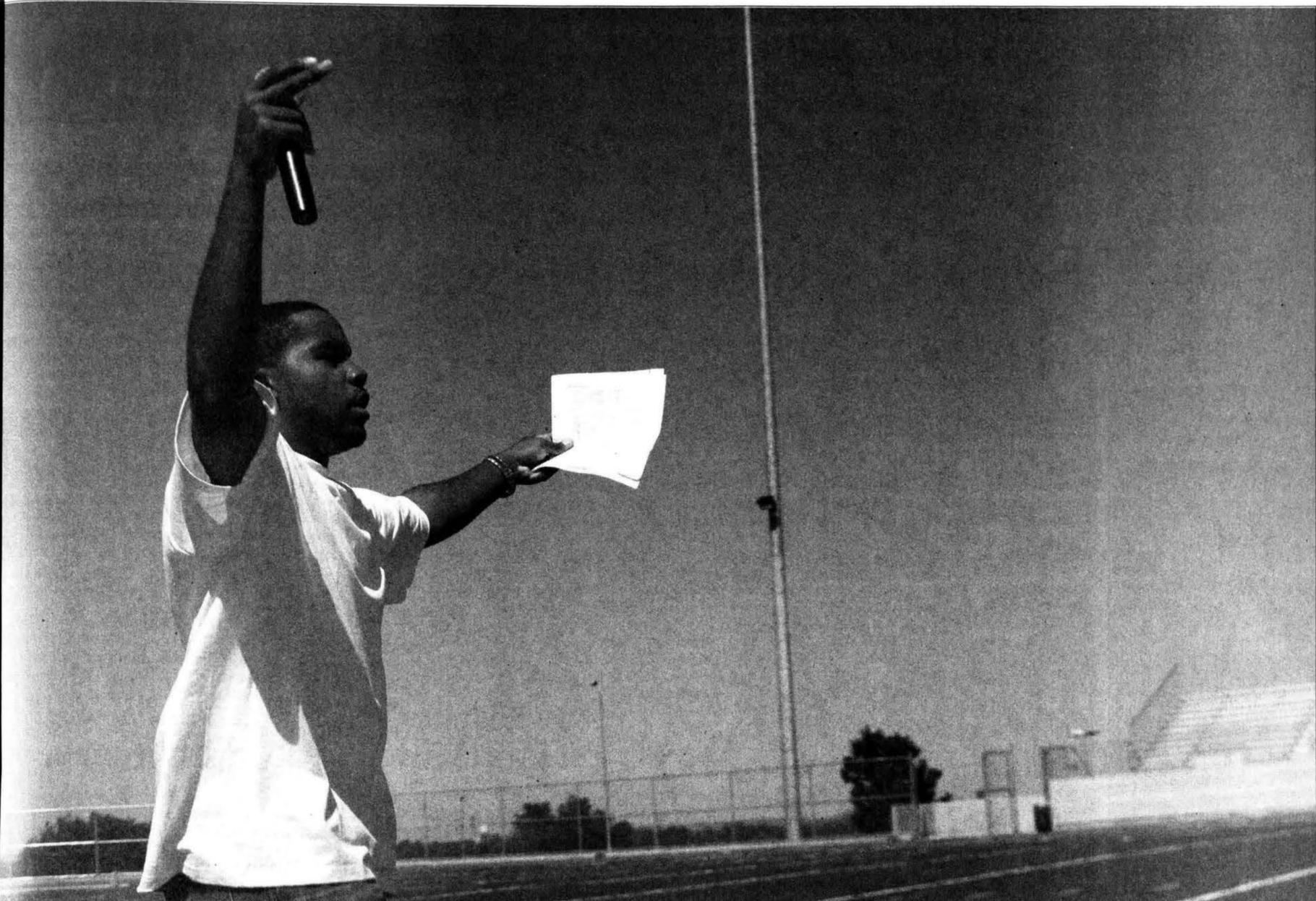
He was the dean from Creighton who was involved in the land swap between Creighton, Joslyn and CHS.

John Schlegel Dean of Creighton University



Buffett donated millions of dollars to CHS alone in many projects. After her death last year her daughter, Susie carries on her legacy.

Susan Thompson Buffett Class of 1950



(Left) Senior class president Alvin Samuels revs up the crowd at the first pep rally in years. This was a mandatory pep rally held ninth hour in the new stadium. (Right) The band performed at the pep rally to help get the crowd riled up. Junior Brittny Ruffin looks at the crowd as she dances the latest pom routine.

Pep rally proves to be a positive step for athletics

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The students finally got a chance to see it. Students flooded into the new stadium during 9th hour for a mandatory pep rally, to be led by senior class president Alvin Samuels.

The pep rally included an introduction of the football team and performances by the pom squad.

"I thought it was a successful pep rally," Samuels said. Not only was the football team introduced to the school, but were all the other fall sports, including softball and boys tennis. Samuels said he thought the students enjoyed the pep rally and had a very positive reaction.

"A lot of them didn't know what to expect," he said. The idea behind introducing all of the fall sports, Samuels said, was to get the students used to them. He said everybody knows about the football team, but not enough people know about other sports.

"I had more fun at volleyball games than some football games,"

Samuels said.

He said the pep rally helped to raise school spirit. The stadium itself, he said, helped to raise school spirit, instead of having to travel to another field to play sports.

"Now it's just Central," he said. "I can look out the window and see the stadium."

Samuels said planning the pep rally was pretty intense. He planned with the senior class and administration. He said planning it was a big responsibility but a challenge.

Athletic director Darin Williams said he was pleased with both the pep rally itself and how the students behaved.

Williams said it was important because it set the tone for the rest of the year, the first football home game and all fall sports.

He said he thought it was a good way to improve the school spirit, and he saw a lot of positive reactions.

In the future, Williams said he hopes there will be more pep rallies at the stadium in years to come, and perhaps one in spring. He said it was a good tradition to start for Central.

"We'll probably have a winter one, too," he said.

Samuels said although he was looking forward to future pep rallies, the big issue was whether or not they could fit enough students in the gym. He said they needed to get bleachers before that happened.

Williams said Samuels did a really good job planning and leading the events.

He said Samuels was the student they went to when they wanted to communicate with the rest of the senior class.

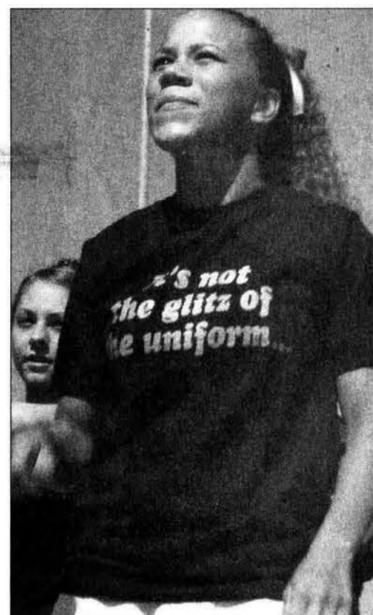
"He was like the middleman," Williams said.

Williams said the pep rally offered students a chance to be the first ones in the stadium.

Senior Johnathan Taylor attended the pep rally. He said he liked seeing the fall sports teams introduced, especially the football team.

Taylor said he thought the students weren't really cheering as loud as they should have been.

Overall, Taylor said seeing the new stadium got the students really hyped up, and it didn't matter what music was playing or who appeared on the field.



PHOTOS BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Musician composes piece specifically for marching band, dedication ceremony

BY CLAY LOMNETH



PHOTO BY MOLLY MULLEN/REGISTER

Composer Roland Barrett talks about the song he composed, entitled "Flight." It was a song played by the Central Marching Band at the dedication of the new Mann Stadium.

A two-minute song entitled "Flight" was composed specifically for the opening of the stadium. Roland Barrett was the composer.

Barrett teaches at the University of Oklahoma. He said he knew music instructor Pete Wilger, who contacted him about an opportunity to compose a song.

Over the next few years, Barrett said Wilger kept in contact with him, sending him information and newspaper stories about the stadium.

Barrett said the name "Flight" came to him because the song gave him the feeling of soaring and flying. Also, he said, he was inspired by the fact that Lee Seemann was a war pilot.

"Music to open a stadium by was the idea," he said.

During the middle of the composition, the music subdues, but doesn't slow down. There are solos of different instruments and the song takes a different tone.

This part, Barrett said, was meant to be a tribute to war heroes. Instead of the sounds of flight in the beginning, he said the music changes to a tone to remember heroism.

Overall, he said his composition was a fairly simple one.

"There's basically a three note motive," Barrett said, "and that note ascends."

Barrett got the chance to see his piece performed by the Central High Marching Band, but was not the conductor.

He said it was for the best and the students would be better off playing with whom they practiced with instead of introducing someone new.

Barrett grew up just south of Omaha, and said being in Omaha was almost like being at home.

He said he enjoyed visiting and seeing how the city has changed.

Band director and music department head Pete Wilger had met Barrett when the band went to Chicago for a band clinic. There he had the chance to meet composers of the music his band plays. One of them was Barrett.

"I liked his compositions," he said.

Wilger said he had played some of Barrett's compositions before, and knew he was from Nebraska. Wilger said he thought Barrett would be perfect to compose a song for the stadium.

Over the next eight months, Wilger kept in contact with Barrett through e-mail. He received the music from Barrett in May, and then the band started practicing.

Wilger said he did not know how long the band spent practicing "Flight," but he said he would guess the marching band practiced about 50 or 60 hours for the

dedication.

Wilger said he enjoyed the sound of Barrett's composition, and he did a really good job of creating feelings of flight in the songs.

"I thought he used pretty neat compositional techniques," Wilger said.

Senior Abbey Prest is the Central band president.

She first heard the song on an electronic machine. The band started practicing the song in the 2nd week of June.

Along with Central's band, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) also had their band playing on the field. Prest said UNO's band was there to add sound to the piece "Flight," which was arranged originally for two marching bands to play.

The UNO band, Prest said, helped with a lot of the complicated parts in the beginning of the song. Central's band and UNO's band, Prest said, worked out well together.

"It sounded all right from where I was," she said.

Prest said she thought the band was struggling a bit when it first started to play "Flight," but did well for the presentation.

"We basically got it right at the end," Prest said.

Junior Martin Kaplan played alto saxophone at the dedication. He said he thought it was well-composed.

He said his part was a fairly important of the song because the sax could jazz up the song.

He said he didn't really feel any pressure on him because of the importance of his part.

Kaplan said he thought the crowd liked the song and had a positive reaction to it, especially played by both marching bands.

"I think they enjoyed the entire show as a whole," he said.

Kaplan said he thought the band did well with the song, but it could always do better in performances. He said there was always room for improvement.

The amount of time the marching band practiced the song, he said, was a reason it did well. It practiced basically every day until the opening of the stadium.

Usually, it played from 6 to 8:30, but when the dedication neared, it began to practice even more.

"As it got closer to the stadium opener, we went from 8 to 10:30 in the morning, then we took a break and started at 6 o'clock and went to 8:30," Kaplan said.

This practicing, Kaplan said, really helped the band when it played at the dedication. After a while, he said he almost got tired of the song, but it was all worth it in the end.

VIKING LINEUP

North High School coach Larry Martin explains why these players are starters on the varsity team.



Chris Shelly (11)
#33 RB-LB 6'0" 185 lbs

"He has a great nose for the football and hits extremely hard."



Damian Gomez (11)
#26 RB-LB 5'10" 165 lbs

"Good vision, and he doesn't fumble the football."



Luke Rikke (12)
#88 TE-DL 6'3" 190 lbs

"(He has) good size and executes his assignments."



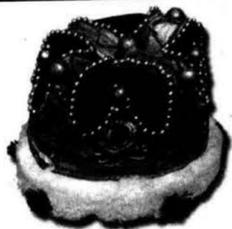
Aaron Terry (12)
#54 OL-DL 6'0" 260 lbs

"Very good football player, uses leverage very well, very strong and explosive."



Phillip Bates (11)
#7 QB 6'1" 190 lbs

"Works extremely hard to be good. Great athletic ability."



HOME-FIELD

The first win against North High was just one gem in Central's crown at the new stadium with a win, and show it to the world.

Eagles crowned king of their own turf

BY CLAY LOMNETH

"Great win, baby!" Senior DJ Jones shouted with 20 seconds left in the fourth quarter. Central ended up with the first real home game win against North High School Vikings, 35-13.

The evening started out with complete silence, a tribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The crowd resumed its cheering afterward for a Viking kickoff to the Eagles.

After a fumble by each team during the first few minutes, North got a hold of the ball and made a drive to the endzone. At about the 7 minute, 40 second mark, North scored a touchdown, followed by an extra point. The crowd didn't seem too upset at this point, but the visitor's side was going wild.

North held the Eagles in check. Their players wouldn't let Central by the line of scrimmage. About 4 minutes into the second quarter, North put another 6 points on the board. However, the Vikings missed the try for extra point. The score was 13-0, North.

This started to get more of a reaction from Central's fans.

It seemed like North wouldn't let Central by. Blocking worked well, but fell apart toward the end of the quarter. Finally, with 4:33 left, sophomore Ronnell Grixby put it in the end zone, followed by the extra point. The Eagles were still behind by 6, but they weren't done yet.

The Eagles pushed ahead again the next time they got their hands on the ball.

With less than 8 seconds left in the half, 7 more points were put up by the Eagles.

Going into a 14-13 second half, the Eagles seemed optimistic and confident, but so did their opponent. North was down a player, however, junior Chris Shelly had an injury toward the end of the second quarter.

Both teams seemed a bit over confident, resulting in an offside call on North and a holding call on Central. Minor penalties resulted in the battle for ground for most of the rest of the quarter, but that mediocrity was broken at the 3:31 mark.

Junior tight end Justin Allen put in 58 yards for an impressive touchdown. The extra point resulted in a penalty and re-kick, but kicker Beauchamp Alejandro still put the extra point on the board.

Central was up by 8. It just had to hang on to the lead for the fourth quarter. The Eagle defense kicked it in. Senior Laron Parker intercepted the ball in at 9:42, letting the Eagle offense finish up the job. Overall, Central gained 130 yards rushing, which surprisingly, was about 20 less than North. In passing, Central completed over 83 percent of its passes.

At 5:35, Grixby scored again. It seemed at this point, the Eagles

had nothing to worry about.

Not long afterwards, junior Taylor Cook got his hands on the ball for a 32-yard touchdown with just under 2 minutes left. Fans at Central had the game won.

The crowd chanting "Go DJ!" could be heard coming from the stands.

Central had a good lead without any time for North to come back. Players seemed confident enough to start celebrating on the sidelines early. The clock ran out without any further scoring. Central won its first real home game, 35-13.

Shelly (North player) said he thought the reason for his loss was a mental breakdown and players missing their assignments. Other than that, both teams played equally physically. He said his team needed to work more on passing, and keeping its cool while playing. He said he thinks his team will improve by next year.

"We should be pretty solid," he said. "It would be nice to win a championship this year."

Central football coach Joe McMenamain said reviewing tape of the game, he realized the Eagles really put themselves in a hold.

"You wonder if sometimes it's not your night," McMenamain said.

He said the cause for the fumbles in the game were caused by the players trying to gain extra yards, so they let the ball be vulnerable.

Gang unit called to patrol first game, invited to all home events

BY CLAY LOMNETH

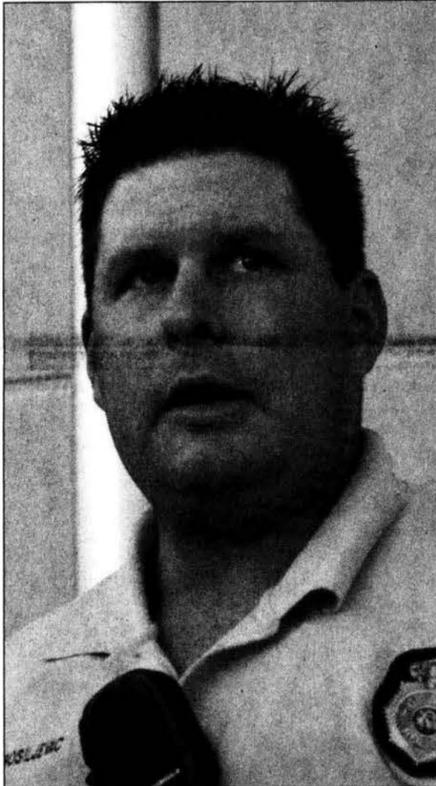


PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER
Officer Jason Bosiljevac from the Omaha Police Department stands outside the stadium before the North game.

Three extra police officers, a gang unit and Central's own security officers were used for the first the school's home game against North High School. This same amount of security will be used for Central's game against Burke, athletic director Darin Williams said.

"We're expecting larger crowds," he said.

There are four home games scheduled for Central this year at Seemann Stadium. The last two, Williams said, would require only regular security.

Williams said he did not expect any problems at any of the games, and the security was more to handle the large crowd.

"Most people are going to come and they want to see a really good high school game," Williams said.

Days when there were no activities at the stadium, it would still be watched. The regular security officers and school resource officer (SRO) would take rotations watching over the stadium in the parking lot.

In addition, a security camera was positioned to watch over the plaza area and part of the stands. Williams said there may be more cameras put up over time, but for now one was enough.

"I hope we don't have to, it's a good safety precaution, but any vandalism would be on video," Williams said.

The camera was also there to help prevent crime, Williams said. He said if people knew the stadium was being watched, people would not try anything illegal.

"If you do that (vandalism or other illegal activity), we'll follow up with it," he said.

The college dorm next to the stadium, Williams said, may help by reporting crimes they see. He also said the students, staff and the public may help protect the stadium.

"It really takes the whole community to chip in," he said.

Officer Jason Bosiljevac of the Omaha Police Department (OPD) said he expected no problems at the game. He said there were rarely problems at games.

"Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people are here to have a good time," he said.

Bosiljevac said the gang unit from OPD was undercover during the game.

Central SRO Jesse Stokes said the dedication and first game went well security-wise. He said there were no problems, but he didn't know if the police presence was a factor.

He said at the first game they had some extra SROs and all the security personnel from Central present. The gang unit also came.

"The gang unit pretty much has an open invitation to show up anytime," he said. "They will show up at basketball games."

He said with the security officers watching the stadium during the day, too, there wasn't really any extra work because they had to watch over the portables when they were still around. In addition, Stokes said the new security cameras helped.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he thought the behavior of fans and security for the events has all been handled well so far.

Bexten said after every game, he and

the security staff reviewed what needed changed or added to what they did. He said

were usually only minor tweaks to improve the gates. Administrators supervise the

pride in the stadium," he said.

In the future, Bexten said a new side and stairs between the stadium and Central would help.

Before each game, Bexten said he had to figure out who would have to get what Teachers man ticket booths and take tickets

the gates. Administrators supervise the stadium with security guards.

"We generally hire our entire security staff," Bexten said.

Bexten said overall there are about security guards, four off-duty police officers, the administrators and teachers.

"I'd rather have more people than I need and not need them, than not enough people do need them," he said.

Bexten said the north side entrance to be guarded, and the gate kept open for emergency vehicles in case of major injuries.

Freshman Kolbey Wallington said he thought there was not enough security inside the stadium. Outside the gates, though, he thought there was enough.

Despite that, Wallington said he felt safe at the game. He said he could see security officers track, and they had it well-guarded.

To improve security, Wallington said he would do is add a few more police officers to the stadium.

Other than that, he said he thought the school was doing well.

TACKLING ALL ODDS: 2005 LINEUP

Coach Joe McMenamain explains why each player is a key to the team

Justin Allen (11)
#94 TE-DE 6'2" 230 lbs

"He has good quickness and speed."

Harlan Gun (11)
#66 OL-DL 6'3" 311 lbs

"Is our best drive blocker, and the strongest guy on the line. He bench presses 400 lbs."

DJ Jones (12)
#73 OT-DT 6'6" 300 lbs

"(DJ) is our best pass blocker."

Tom Daffer (12)
#50 OC-LB 6'2" 215 lbs

"He's our best motor. When I say motor, I mean he gets after things."

Chris Griffin (10)
#15 QB-DB 5'9" 160 lbs

"Has great plays and is a good leader."

Patrick Olson (12)
#61 OG-LB 5'9" 195 lbs

"He's got a low center of gravity. (Olson) is our smartest player on the team as far as rules."

Chuck Thompson (11)
#74 OT-DL 6'1" 225 lbs

"Is a real savvy player. (Thompson) understands the techniques."

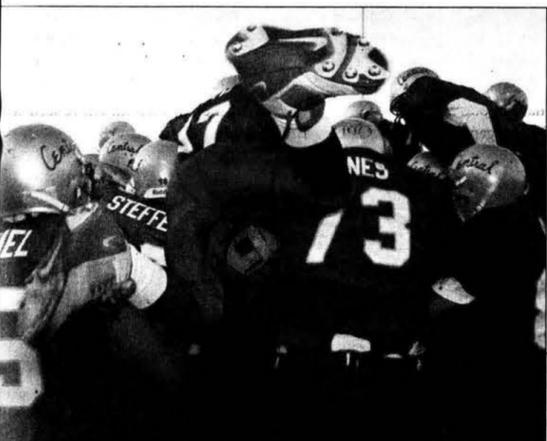
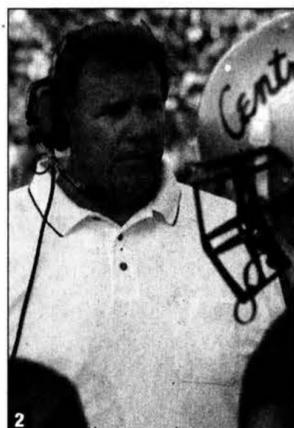
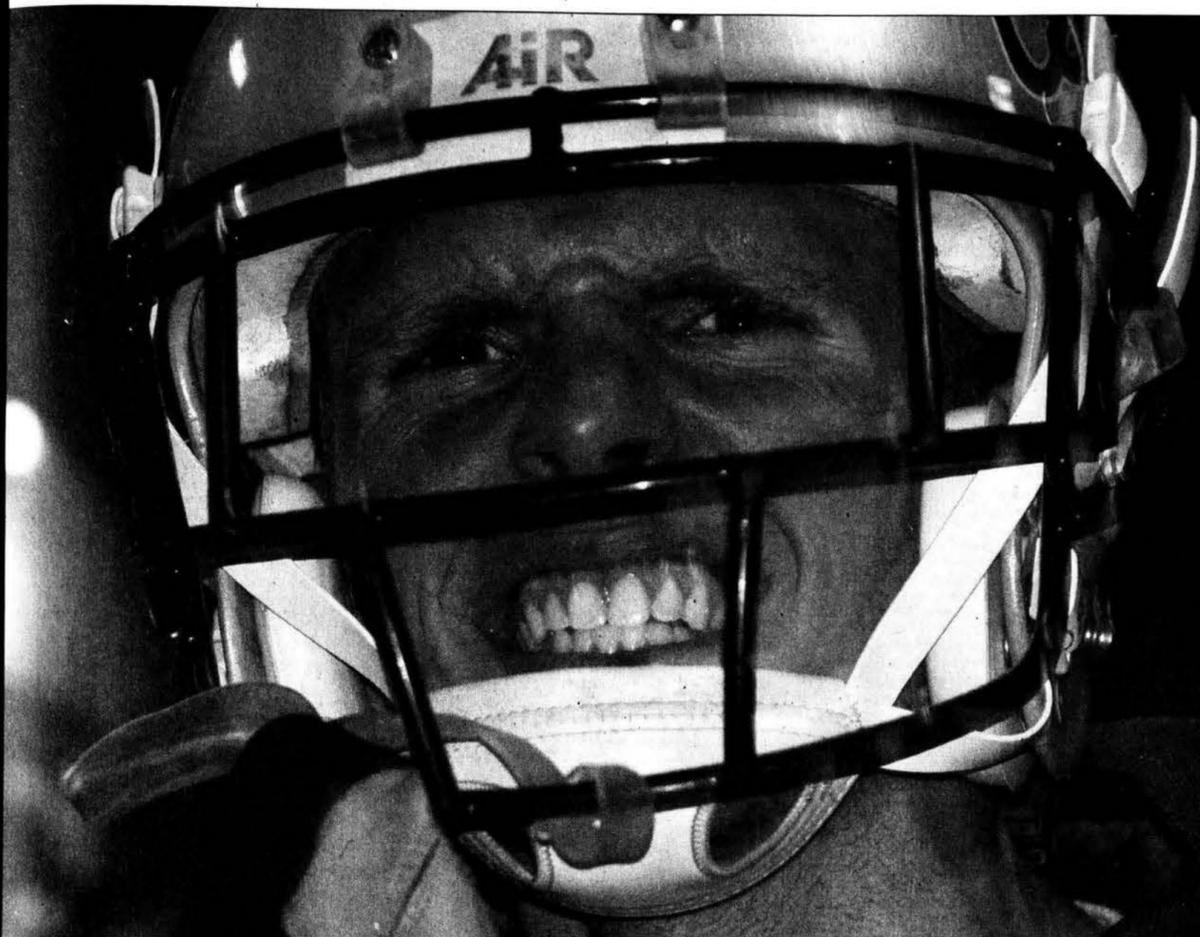
Granson Falkner (11)
#90 TE-DE 6'2" 230 lbs

"Got good hands and speed. Runs good routes."



ADVANTAGE

own. Winning the game against North was a way to christen all the former alumni and donors present.



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST, ZACH PLUHACEK, ASTRIKA WILHELM AND CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Senior Ben Oldertz cheers for a Central touchdown in the third quarter. Junior Justin Allen scored the touchdown. 2. Coach Joe McMenamain speaks with his players during a timeout. Junior Brittney Ruffin runs by the stands holding a Central flag to get the fans riled up during the fourth quarter. 4. Before the game started, the players got pumped up in the pre-game huddle. 5. The referee speaks with senior Granson Falkner after the game's coin toss. 6. The crowd files into the stadium for the game.

Defense transfers from Prep for last year on varsity

BY TODD HEALY

Going from a Catholic high school to a public school is not an easy transition. Just ask senior equis Spencer. He would know, he is the newest transfer to the varsity football team.

"I didn't feel uncomfortable at Prep, things were just not going my way," he said. "I just wanted to try it out at Central because of certain athletic opportunities at Prep."

Coach Joe McMenamain said he might see more transfers coming because of the new home field.

"Kids will come here and see our stadium," McMenamain said. "They will tell that it is one of the newest stadiums in the city just by the looks of it. They'll want to come and play their high school football here."

Spencer started as kick and punt returner at Creighton Prep. One of Spencer's teammates, junior Jason Wright, has known Spencer since they've been playing little league football together.

"Spencer had more options here at Central than he did at Prep," Wright said.

In the off-season, Spencer played basketball,

ran track and lifted weights to stay in shape. This helped him with the things that make him stand out on the playing field.

"He has great confidence, quickness, speed and hands that help him develop as a player," McMenamain said.

Wright said his quickness and energy are what made him stand out on the field.

Spencer said the difference between playing at Prep and playing at Central were very different.

"The atmosphere here is much more rowdy," he said. "Everybody is hyped-up all of the time,

especially DJ Jones who will want to get you fired-up and ready to play."

"You could see him on offense during the passing plays or in on defense when there set up in the nickel defense," McMenamain said.

Spencer also said assistant coach Joe Shimerdla was a great mentor.

Shimerdla helped him on the offensive side of the ball.

He said he was looking forward to playing football in college. He has not made a final choice on where he is going, yet.

Green Bay Packer returns for reunion, first home game

BY MOLLY MULLEN

It was the first home game. Tensions were high. It seemed like a tournament to both teams and news cameras sprinkled the sidelines and the stands were full an hour before kick off.

If this doesn't sound stressful enough for the Packers, they were also made aware that Ahman Green, class of '95, was sitting on the bench. Green played at Central for his last two years of high school, before moving on to the NFL, and playing for the Seattle Seahawks and the Green Bay Packers.

Green was one of the key people who gave Central the "I-Back High," name after playing running back for University of Nebraska at Lincoln ten years ago.

His class reunion was scheduled specifically for the North game. He said he loved playing for Central after being a North Viking for two years.

"I love coming back and seeing all the people I graduated," Green said.

His experiences at Central, not only on the football field, are something he's grateful for.

"It is something I'll remember for the rest of my life," Green said.

He said he wished he had a stadium like this in his school to prepare him for playing at Lincoln.

"Hopefully the kids take advantage of what they've got," he said.

Green was present at the game. He was awarded his retired number 34 jersey at the 14-13 halftime. He said when he played football, the team had to go to the Norris field.

"Most college stadiums are not like this," he said.

Green said the stadium was going to become the heart of the city.

Lauritzen Clark, president of the 1995 senior class, arranged the event.

"We've been planning this for about a year," Clark said.

He said the response to the game and all the events was incredible.

"It (the game) is a great event to host another great event," he said.

There were over 170 grads in attendance.

Some people, he said, came as far as Europe to see the first game.

He said Eagle pride was something important and special to most alumni, and no one would want to miss the game.

Sian Bashkiroff said the reunion was made possible by the CHS Alumni Association. Tickets for the dinner and game were \$15.



PHOTO BY TODD HEALY/REGISTER

Amahn Green, class of 1995, walks past former and current athletic directors, Paul Pennington and Darin Williams, holding his retired CHS football number 34 that was presented to him the night of the North game. This was the first football game in the stadium as well as his ten-year reunion.



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

How important is this game to your school?

NORTH



"I think it is definitely (important). It's kind of a big rivalry."

Carley Mattern (12)



"Yeah (it's important), because it's the first game of the season."

Kim Colman (12)



"Very important. It's been a rivalry between us forever."

Alyssa Kelly (12)

CENTRAL



"Yes, you should support your team, no matter what."

Faith Everhart (10)



"Yes, (it was) the first game of the year."

Allen Bentley (9)



"Yes (it was important). I went because it was the first game."

Ryan David (12)

COMPLETING

Five years, \$12.1 million and ambition finally... Kiewit Construction made sure the job...



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Do you think students appreciate the work that went into the stadium and lobby?



"I'm sure they like it, but I don't think they understand how much money and time went into them."
Matt Cronin (11)



"I think a lot of people focus on the name and what street it is."
Briana Armendariz (10)



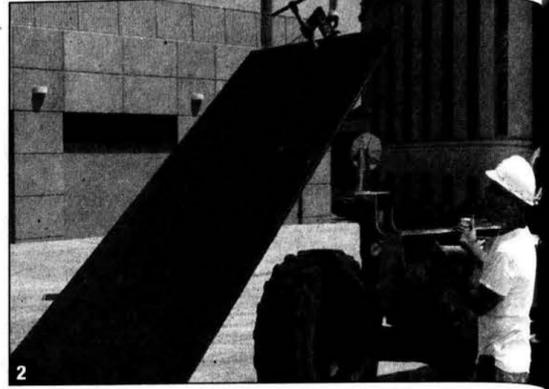
"It depends on what student you ask, but I think the majority of them, yes."
Samantha Sheriden (10)



"Especially our football players, cheerleaders and band people should appreciate it because they worked hard enough to open it."
Jade Franklin (9)



"They don't understand the work that was put into it, but were complaining about the length of time it took to finish."
Kaitlin Waterman (12)



PHOTOS BY LAUREN CRIST, ZACH PLUHACEK, CLAY LOMNETH AND STEPHEN WILHELM/REGISTER

1. A construction worker forms the sidewalk for the parking outside the stadium. 2. One of the sides of the platform for the eagle statue is raised. 3. The middle part of the scoreboard lowered by John Sprinkel of American Lift and Sign Service. The workers spent time lowering the pieces with a crane, and then welding it together. 4. A welder from Davis Erection welds the beam for the new lobby. 5. Irrigation systems are being finished. Instead of wasting water and spending extra money with conventional sprinklers, drip irrigation feeds water directly to the roots. 6. American Lift and Sign Service owner Mike Gordener hooks up the electrical wires in the scoreboard lights. 7. A worker sprays the newly laid sod on the field that used to be a parking lot. The plan is to use the field as a sculpture garden for Central and Creighton students. 8. A construction worker pours concrete to form the sidewalk. 9. Jeff McKnight of American Lift and Sign Service cuts extra pieces off the stadium scoreboard.

Finishing touches put on newest addition to campus

STADIUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

the school underwent since he attended.

During Dineen's sophomore year, the football team won State for the last time, and he said he's excited to see it happen again.

Dineen joined a drafting class his senior year he got involved with it.

He was able to leave school in the afternoons for a work-study at Wilsam and Birge architecture firm.

Building Seemann Stadium was extremely difficult, he said, because of the definite boundaries.

In an urban setting there was no allowance for wiggle room, so he had to be exact in his plans.

He said they had to change from their original plans to make it fit, and there were several renderings before the final blueprints were drawn up.

Some constants throughout was the seating. They wanted 5,200 seats to comfortably fit home and visitors sides.

He wanted to replicate the practice track that was taken out three years ago and replaced with portable classrooms.

He said even though the track was built to be 350 meters, rather than the standard 400, they can still hold meets, just not tournaments.

Rendering was an easy job in comparison to finding a way to make a flat surface to build a stadium.

"Every time a project is done, there needs to be a survey of the land," Dineen said. "From the top to the bottom, there was a difference

of 72 feet."

Some of the biggest problems to overcome weren't even visible to those watching the progress of the project.

The gas and water pipelines for the entire downtown area ran under the construction site.

It was HDR's job to reroute the lines so as not to cut off gas and water to any part of the city.

After the original work like the survey, he said it was just a matter of connecting the dots.

When he made the original design for the stadium, there were many factors to take into account.

"We needed a design that was suitable to the site," he said. "Any building project has a huge effect on the environment and as architects we try and be sensitive to that."

From that concept they maximized all their building materials, not just to save money but to be practical.

"There was no cladding of window dressing, it (the architecture) all has a purpose," he said. "It is aesthetic as well as functional."

Vice President of Heritage Services Calvin Sisson said the \$12.1 million was used for both land development and construction.

Heritage Services purchased the property involved, including property of Joslyn and Creighton.

That is why the night of the dedication, the stadium officially was handed over the senior class president Alvin Samuels.

Heritage Services owned the land until that night.

"We (Heritage Services) were the managers of construction. Our

job was to raise the money," Sisson said.

He said it was involved in development, management and raising.

Director of Heritage Services' Board of Directors Mike Jones said he was one of the first people to start discussions about the stadium.

He said it all started when the three parts wanted to solve the parking problem.

In the end, not only did they solve the problem by building a garage for Creighton, but now all the parking on the streets was available to Central students.

"We talked about how we can make this area better and how we can help one another," he said.

He said although they succeeded they are still pushing to make the area better for students. Beginning during the night of the ceremony, Omaha Public Schools students started being admitted to the stadium free of charge.

"The stadium is just the start," he said.

Senior DJ Jones said playing on the new field has been amazing.

He said the Sprinturf field is exactly the kind that is at University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he plans to attend next fall.

"The grass is a lot different (than the old home field)," Jones said.

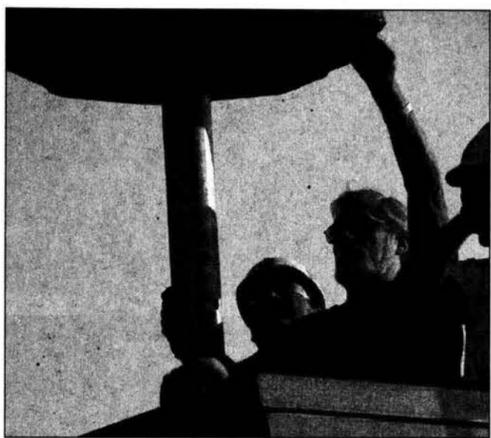
He said now players don't have to worry about spraining their ankles or tripping in holes in the field.

He said playing the North game on the field was exciting.

"We knew we had to come out of there with a win to show the fans," he said.

THE PROJECT

...nished the stadium project. Subcontractors from
...as finished on time and on budget.



PHOTOS BY MOLLY MULLEN AND ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

Ullberg helps harness the eagle so it can be lifted by a crane on top of its pedestal. (BOTTOM LEFT) Ullberg pulls into the new parking lot. Next to his eagle, which is now in front of the stadium, he brought with a buffalo all the way from Colorado to be placed downtown. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Ullberg pulls the statue to where it is to be placed.

Swedish artist helps mount eagle sculpture for new plaza

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

He was overjoyed his sculpture had become the very symbol of what he called "the most magnificent high school ever."

Sculptor Kent Ullberg crafted the 14-foot wide bald eagle that now stands in front of Seemann Stadium.

From its characteristic white head and sharp talons to the burning look in its eyes, Ullberg said, the eagle was a powerful symbol on many levels, aside from just being a school mascot.

"Of all the eagles I think the bald eagle is the most magnificent," he said.

In addition to having a strong physical presence, Ullberg said the eagle inspired certain emotions in him on a personal level.

As an immigrant from Sweden, he feels his sense of being in America is perfectly portrayed by this sculpture in particular.

"I really approach that symbolism with great reverence," Ullberg said. "I try to put that great feeling I have for America into symbolism."

The symbol for victory is yet another theme with Ullberg's eagle.

The sculptor said he incorporated numerous forms of the letter "V" with his vision of the mascot: in the wings, the tail and carved in the rocks on which the bird stands.

Ullberg said he wished for the school to be victorious in its athletic competitions, and that he modeled the eagle to encourage this outcome.

He said he sees the Eagle as not only a powerful symbol for Americans and people here, but also as the perfect subject for naturalistic art he does.

"I want to talk about the incredible beauty I see in nature," Ullberg said, "and I want to celebrate nature in my work."

Before moving to the United States around thirty years ago, Ullberg acted as the curator for a museum in Botswana.

For these seven years in Africa, he said, he was able to separate himself from the popular opinion of art and become inspired in nature.

It was there that his sculptures took on their current form, more realistic instead of the abstract expressionist style that was popular at that time.

Ullberg decided to be a sculptor when he was in college at the Stockholm School of Art.

At first, he said, he took sculpture classes to fill up his schedule, but that soon changed.

"When I got my hands in clay, I knew that was it," he said.

Ullberg had always known he wanted to be an artist,

often times accompanying his father on painting trips to Scandinavia. Despite this close relationship with his dad, he credits his mother with the spiritual and emotional core of his artwork.

Her influence has been especially prevalent since she passed away 30 years ago. Ullberg still remembers the details of what happened.

"I was working late one night in my studio and my brother called," he said.

Shortly after his mother died, Ullberg found her diary and began reading it.

She had written about sculpture and her experiences with the art form.

Up until this point, he had no idea she had ever used clay to the extent she did.

Even though both his parents were artists, meaning they already had a lot in common with him, the fact that he was now even closer to his mother than he once thought blew him away.

With his mom's things Ullberg also found a right hand she had made, an object he said still holds great significance with him.

The effects of his findings confirmed his love for clay and sculpture.

"All of a sudden it all came together," he said. Since then, he has become a very prolific sculptor and gained national recognition for his work.

Ullberg's nationwide success also prompted one local business to incorporate his sculptures with the downtown area.

Over a dozen figures, eight buffalo and a larger number of geese, have been commissioned by First National Bank for its outdoor courtyard area on 16th and Dodge streets.

Of the commissioned sculptures, the geese have been completed and installed as part of a fountain.

Many of the buffalo are finished but the entire collection has yet to be installed.

When completed, the courtyard will illustrate a scene in which the geese are taking off in flight as the buffalo run through.

However visible the First National sculptures may be, Ullberg considers the eagle to be his crowning achievement on a local level.

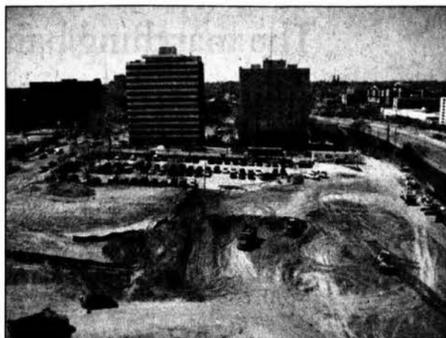
"I get to have a sculpture not only in front of a beautiful stadium, but also as a part of a world-famous museum as well," he said.

The eagle, which is actually owned by Joslyn Art Museum and considered part of its collection, was placed on permanent loan to Central as part of a deal put together by the Heritage Services.

OVER OUR HEADS

Throughout the process of building the stadium, many of the phases were unrecognized by the students and staff after the construction became part of daily life.

Chronological aerial photos from the past two years go in order down the page, starting from the top left.



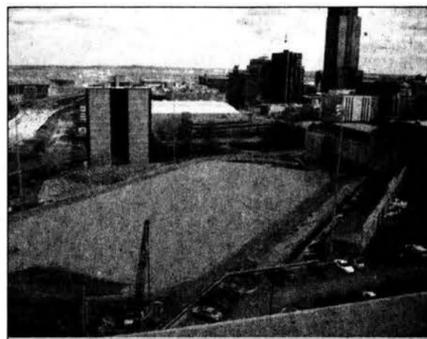
April 14, 2004
Kiewit begins leveling the ground. Between the highest and lowest point there was a 72 ft.



January 18, 2005
The workers took a break after a snow storm. They were back to work right when it melted.



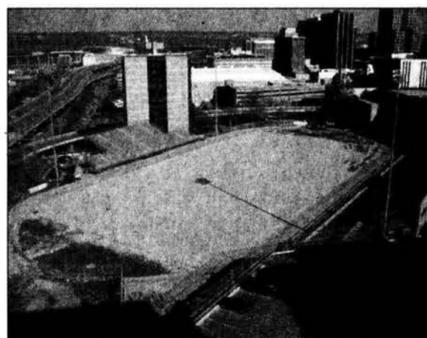
May 5, 2004
The workers dig where the visitor's side seating will go. That is the lowest point in the stadium.



February 16, 2005
The surface is level. They are putting in the home seating and turf. The visitor's side is yet to be done.



July 8, 2004
The different levels were all part of how to make a hill turn into a flat surface. Notice there is no parking lot.



March 31, 2005
The bleachers are complete and they are ready to place the Sprinturf on the field.



July 16, 2004
Kiewit had to dig 20 feet under the parking lot to build the site. The bleachers are being assembled.



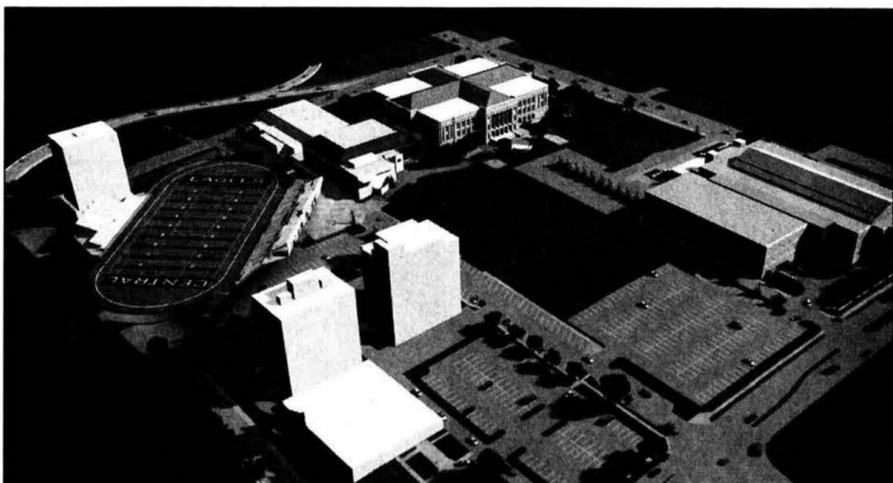
April 27, 2005
The field is complete and the Central lettering is being placed. The track still needs to be finished.



August 16, 2004
Kiewit prepares the visitor's side for the erection of the visitor's bleachers.



July 14, 2005
The new track is placed around the field. Next to come are the lines and goal posts.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIEWIT CONSTRUCTION, GRAPHIC COURTESY OF DLR GROUP

This is a rendition of how the campus should look this December including the field, new parking spaces and completed lobby. All projects should be done in time for home basketball games later in the season.

CREDIT WHERE

The marching band filed in. Behind them followed dozens of donors along the parade route. It was an all-day event to celebrate one of the biggest steps in the stadium's history.

START TO FINISH

The series of events lasted from morning until after dark. The dedication ceremony was an all-day event where supporters flooded in and out.



4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Events. Athletic departments that would be using the field met with young children and others to show how they would use it throughout the seasons.



4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tailgate. Outback Steak House grilled in front of the stadium. Students and others grabbed a bite from the CHS sponsor.



6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Donor's Dinner. Alumni, donors and other invited guests gathered at Joslyn Fountain for dinner and speeches before the ceremony began.



7:30 p.m.

Parade to Seemann Stadium. After a brief thunder shower the donors and cheerleaders at Joslyn finally got behind the band to make the grand entrance.



8 p.m.

Dedication ceremony. The marching band, color guard and various speakers entertained the crowd on the new turf.

PHOTOS BY ZACH PLUHACEK AND MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER



PHOTOS BY ZACH PLUHACEK AND MOLLY MULLEN/ REGISTER

(TOP) Marching band performs at opening ceremony. One of its pieces, "Flight," was written specifically for the event. The event had a patriotic theme in honor of Lee Seemann, who the stadium was named for. He is the most decorated WWII hero in the Midwest. (BELOW LEFT) students hold flags out before the show. When the marching band played the National Anthem, everyone stood, sang and waved their flags. (BELOW MIDDLE) Susie Buffett accepts a gift from Mike Yanney on behalf of her mother, Susan Thompson Buffett. Susan donated the original \$5 million to the stadium project. (BELOW RIGHT) Cheerleaders, athletes and coaches throw out special footballs commemorating the event to the crowd. This was the end to the evening.

Ceremony acknowledges donors

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Fireworks, hundreds of footballs, students storming the field and fiery speeches of gratitude all marked the Seemann Stadium dedication ceremony.

The event was monumental. It was a celebration starting at noon, with events at Joslyn Art Museum. Later in the day, there was a dinner in Joslyn's fountain rotunda. Surrounded by classic art and modern Dale Chihuly glass sculptures, the alumni were thanked for their support of CHS. Even the mid-evening thunderstorm could keep people away. Four less than an hour people in attendance were transported to the auditorium while a thunderstorm drenched the bleachers. Lee Seemann said he enjoyed the students' enthusiasm during the storm.

"Everyone just loved the girls cheering," he said. They then got to march behind the band into a full stadium of fans. It was a night to remember. From morning until evening, there were events for family, students and alumni so, all could share in the event.

Congressman and former University of Neb. at Lincoln Cornhuskers coach Tom Osborne said the term I-Back High still applies to Central today.

"If I needed a I-Back I went to Central," Osborne said. "Calvin Jones, Kieth Jones, Curtis Cotton, Gale Sayers and DeAnte Grixby, to name a few."

He said this stadium is important because of what athletics bring to a school. He said athletics unify a school and bring a sense of pride.

"The football team should be glad to not have any more road games," he said.

Director of Heritage Services' Board of Directors Mike Yanney described the event as a very proud day, not just for Central, but the community.

"When we started this process over five years ago, we were confident that we would be able to develop a project that would meet the needs of Central High School, Joslyn Art Museum and Creighton University," Yanney said. "I stand before you tonight and see the color, pageantry and electricity that is being generated by the

students on the field and that fans in the bleachers. He asked if anyone had thought a stadium was to be built on that site. A site that had a level difference around 70 ft. and built in between a school building and an interstate.

"Susan Thompson Buffett was such a person who had that dream) and she was interested in making it move forward," he said. "Sadly, she is not here to see our appreciation."

Yanney said, after the dedication, the ceremony was beautiful. He said it was overwhelming to see members of the marching band in their new uniforms side up with University of Nebraska at Omaha's marching band to put on a great and patriotic show.

"Before (the ceremony) you never know how people are going to react," he said. "I think it turned out better than we hoped. Sue Morris, director of Heritage Services, it was amazing to finish the stadium on time and on budget. Her team put their heart and sole in raising money for the project, she said."

Parking problem increases with new addition

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Good luck to anyone arriving at school 15 minutes before the big game. They won't see the kickoff.

By 6 p.m. most parking spots in the staff lot and along Davenport, Chicago and 22nd Streets are full. The Capitol Hill Apartments lot is most likely full as well.

Principal Jerry Bexten said no one should be left out of an event at the stadium or the gymnasium due to parking.

"We started using the senior lot for football games," Bexten said.

With the addition to the parking lot, there should be around 140 spaces to park, along with street parking on Davenport, Chicago and Dodge street.

"People are going to be on their own for parking," he said.

Right next door at Joslyn Art Museum, the curators hold Jazz on the Green every summer. Bands play to crowds that reach over 5,000 and they find parking.

Architect John Dineen said HDR Architecture Inc. did a survey of the local parking before they built the stadium. He said it looked at the lots available under the interstate, on the street and payable lots.

"It can easily accommodate who the people who want to use it," he said.

Director of the Board of Directors of Joslyn Mike Yanney said parking was the original reason the stadium was built. Creighton, Central and Creighton met to discuss the problem.

In the end, Creighton got a parking garage in the process of being built, Joslyn is hoping to build one if they can get state money to help with the project, and the Eagles got the stadium.

Even if the parking for students does not directly get better, having two parking garages within walking distance can't be bad. Even if students can't park in the lots, street parking will be much more available after Creighton students and Joslyn employees start using their parking.



PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/ REGISTER
Students and spectators surround a car in the staff lot after the football game against North. People who parked closer to the stadium had a harder time getting out.

CREDIT IS DUE

honor alumni to commemorate the dedication of Seemann Stadium. Steps forward in Central's 146 year history.

Capital Hill Big Band members play in front of former high school

BY EMMA PHILLIPS

The heat was a very prominent feature at the dedication of Seemann Stadium.

However, there was something to take the patrons' mind off the heat, and that was the music of the Capital Hill Big Band.

Instead of concentrating on how hot they were, students and visitors tapped their toes to big band classics.

It was a fun time for all involved.

The band was situated in front of the stadium near the seating docks.

The dedication was especially meaningful to the members of the big band because everyone involved had a connection to Central.

Some members were recent graduates, or alumni from a century ago.

Regardless of the connection, everyone who attended said they were excited and it showed.

"Whenever I get my horn out of the case I'm excited," said Steve Epstein.

Epstein plays lead alto sax in the Big Band and is a 1953 Central graduate.

He said his time at Central was one of the best times of his life, but it has changed a lot since he was in attendance.

Epstein said it was nice to be able to come back and see his old high school, both for sentimental reasons and so he could see how much the school has changed through the years. He said construction projects and updates.

Some would say the school has changed, the people have changed.

Epstein said he was very excited about playing at the stadium dedication, but didn't think his high school career would have been much different if his class had been able to play at a stadium.

"We had the Creighton stadium at that time, so we used to play there," he said.

Creighton University's stadium functioned perfectly for the marching band, and he said the marching band wasn't much to look at then so they didn't really need a stadium.

Steve Waszak is a band parent.

Two of his children have ties to Central and have benefited from it, one has already graduated and the other is a junior.

He started the big band three years ago and said it played mostly at Central functions.

He said that he had been a part of all the functions that the band played at from the beginning.

"I started it, I've been in it from the beginning," he said.

Epstein said the most common reason for playing in the band was a love for Central.

"This is a labor of love," he said, "We all still love Central."

Epstein said the band members liked to play big jazz and funk music, and a member of the band contributed to the sound.

There are 17 musicians in the band; five saxophones, four trumpets, four trombones, four trumpets and four rhythm instruments. A drum set was anything used to keep time, like a snare drum or tambourine, he said.

Epstein also said the rhythm instrument used could



PHOTO BY CLAY LOMNETH/REGISTER

Warren Ferrel plays the saxophone in a big band outside the stadium for the dedication. Ferrel was the band's student leader when he attended in the late 1970s. He now works at Buffett Middle School.

depend on the sound of the song, or the arrangement.

Waszak played the trumpet and said the Big Band played music from the early to middle 1900s.

He also said no original music was played.

Waszak said he started the band not only as a way to raise

money for the band department, but also as a way for families to interact.

"It was a way to get the parents and kids to do things together," he said.

The big band plays at the annual swing dance, which is

held to try to raise money for the band department.

Students who still attend the school, who are members of the jazz band, also typically play at the swing dance.

He also said whenever an outdoor function was held, the Big Band was happy to play at it.

The Big Band played for an hour and a half at the stadium dedication, taking only short breaks in between sets.

Although the dedication didn't start until the early evening, the big band began to play an hour before the main events were scheduled to occur.

Currently the band already had 17 members and Epstein said the group would always be happy to have more musicians.

The music of the band wasn't the only sound being piped into the plaza where everyone was waiting.

More contemporary music was played from the speakers in short intervals, but was of no comparison to the old classics.

Students who attended the event gathered near the band and seemed to enjoy the music.

Some students even began to dance to the lively music.

Undoubtedly the music the big band played was different from the music that most students are accustomed to.

Waszak said he thought introducing teenagers to a new form of music was also a good function that the big band performs.

He said that the big band was a good fit for the spring swing dance because the music it plays comes mainly from the same era as swing dancing.

Some said the music just seemed to fit into the stadium dedication.

Waszak said that although the songs that the band played were from the 1930s and '40s, he still thought teenagers would be able to connect with them.

Many who attended the dedication said they agreed.

He said the fast tempo and quick beat of the music was similar to current music on the radio.

Epstein said another unique aspect of the group was not all of the members make their living through playing music.

"We're not all professional musicians, but about one half or three fourths of us are," he said.

He said the members of the band who were not professional musicians held regular jobs. They just all enjoyed playing big band music and had a passion for music in general.

The members of the band were not paid to play their various instruments at the ceremony, their attendance was totally voluntary.

Epstein said the reason the members of the band are willing to sacrifice their free time to perform at Central functions is because they want to help keep the band department funded so young people can learn to play music.

He said something else people would appreciate about the band was the impressive sound.

"We are a big band associated with big music," he said.

Epstein said he was unsure of when the group would play again, but he said he would be happy to play at Central whenever the band was needed.

Senior class president accepts new turf on behalf of students

BY CLAY LOMNETH

He has the key to Central's very own stadium.

Senior Alvin Samuels has been busy lately, but the dedication of the new stadium, the first pep rally and the first home game.

"That (receiving the key) was the biggest honor after being named after my dad," Samuels said.

Samuels received the key to the stadium, in the form of a football, signed by prominent members of the school at the stadium dedication. Samuels said he was very nervous before his speech.

He said he didn't think he would be able to hold up next to people like congressman Tom Osborne.

He said the feeling and energy of the stadium dedication didn't quite set in until he was on the field in front of the crowd.

In the end, however, Samuels said he felt great and his speech went well.

Vice President of Heritage Services Calvin Sisson got the chance to work with Samuels during the preparation for the dedication.

"Our office was in charge of making that celebration happen," he said.

Sisson said Samuels was an important part of the dedication because students need to know they had a part in the stadium.

Sisson said after meeting Samuels, he was not surprised he got the position of senior class president because of his personality.

He said Samuels impressed many of the donors because he had just become an Eagle Scout, and that was a big deal to some of the people present.

"That was kind of an added bonus," Sisson said.

Samuels said he thought the stadium was very important because it gave the school a sense of completion. He said with the Norris Middle School stadium, it wasn't the same as having an actual stadium right outside the building.

"First of all," he said, "it gives us a place to call home."

Samuels said the pep rally was a big part of Central's history. Being in charge of planning was a big responsibility that was challenging.

"I thought it was a successful pep rally," he said.

In addition to organizing the pep rally, Samuels also helps with all senior class events, future class reunions, other stadium events, and senior T-shirts.

Senior class sponsor Cheri Barg said she thought Samuels felt he was very fortunate to be the senior class president at such an important time in the school's history, especially with the new stadium.

"I think he's enjoying every second of it," Barg said.

She said she didn't really know of any other plans that the senior class will do involving the stadium.

She said it depended on those above her.

Though there were no definite plans, Barg said the students wanted to start traditions with the stadium.

She said they needed to be creative and think of things to do, which she said they have been doing a good job of doing so far.

Barg said the decisions were not only left to Samuels, but all the senior class officers got a chance to speak their minds and make decisions about what to do.

"Everything filters in through the officers," she said.

She said so far all the officers and Samuels have been doing a great job.

They do have some upcoming plans, Barg said.

They include a final senior T-shirt, announcing events, planning a senior dance, a scavenger hunt and picnic.

"I'm sure they'll come up with others," Barg said.

Overall, she said the senior class officers were supposed to get people excited about being a senior.

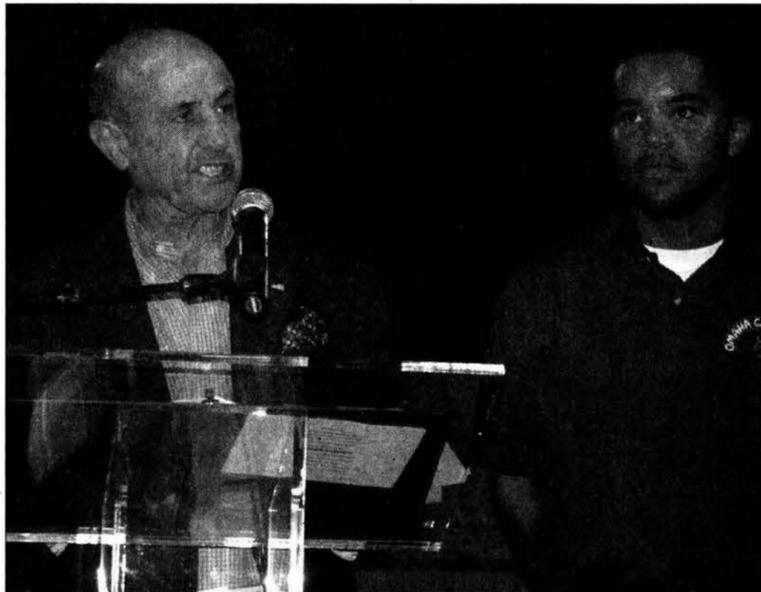


PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/ REGISTER

Director of Heritage Services' Board of Directors Mike Yanney officially hands the stadium over from Heritage Services to the students of CHS, past, present and future. Alvin Samuels, senior class president, accepted the award on behalf of the students. The stadium key was handed to him in the form of a football, signed by some of the significant members present.

The VIP list

The key speakers for the dedication ceremony made it clear to the audience how important a state-of-the-art stadium was.



Mike Yanney
Director of Joslyn's Board of Directors

"As you look around this stadium, did you really think a stadium could be built on this site?"



Alvin Samuels
Senior class president

"This is the biggest honor in my life next to being named for my father."



Tom Osborne
Congressman

"Extra curricular activities are unifying activities. I predict this will be one of the best (stadiums) in the state."



Susie Buffett

"Her (Susan T. Buffett) love for Central carried on through the years. It came to define my mom's life."



Ben Nelson
Senator

"A stadium really gives the students something to rally around as a community."



Jerry Bexton
Principal

"Central's alumni possess an intense loyalty to their high school. This stadium is a testament to their devotion."

TAILGATING

For some, it means playing poker in the parking lot before the game. Others take this pre-game activity far more seriously and can go too far by mixing in alcohol or drugs.

BY ZACH PLUHACEK

These are the fans who show up four hours early covered in purple and white, radios blaring and smoke rising from their portable grills.

After lugging coolers full of ice and soda and setting them next to their reclining lawn chairs, these are the fans who are ready to spend the rest of the night eating, cheering and having a good time.

These are tailgaters, and junior Wesley Kendall is one of them.

He and his group of friends, who call themselves the "Dream Team," arrive at school hours before the start of home football games to park, play catch, eat snacks and, most of all, play poker.

"Most people are waiting for the time to go, but we're in my truck playing poker and having a whole bunch of fun," Kendall said.

ILLEGAL

Some students chose to take a different approach to pre-game celebrations. By mixing in drugs or alcohol, these fans' tailgating experiences can have an even greater effect on the game.

Last year, principal Jerry Bexten said a student was reported drunk at an athletic event.

The student was so intoxicated he nearly died of alcohol poisoning, but the school was alerted in time to help and notify police.

Senior John Smith* said he gets drunk or high with his friends before coming to most football, soccer and basketball games, and has been since the first basketball game of his sophomore year.

"Driving was what made it possible," he said.

With their newly found freedom, Smith and his friends would meet and smoke marijuana, since at that time it was too difficult to get alcohol and none of them felt comfortable going to upperclassmen's parties.

More recently Smith replaced smoking with drinking, since he said he felt marijuana brought him down.

"I don't like smoking before the game," he said. "I'm fired up when I'm drinking."

Now his friends all meet at one person's house to play soccer, drink and have fun.

He said this has a huge effect on the rest of the night.

It gets his friends involved and excited about the game and causes them to be more energetic in the stands.

"We talk about the game," he said. "It's all about just having cheap fun."

Even though they come to these events intoxicated, Smith said, they would never bring things like marijuana or beer to the school or stadium out of respect for the grounds. He also thinks there is an unspoken agreement between students and staff about drinking.

"It's all about the spirit. Nobody brings it into the stadium," he said. "I think the school recognizes that everyone's responsible."

Even if the illegal substances weren't brought on school grounds, students who use them and then came to games were breaking school rules and the law, according to the 2005-2006 Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Student Code of Conduct.

Any student who does either of these things is subjected to the same penalty: a 19-day suspension and completion of a chemical dependency program on the first offense. Law enforcement may be contacted as well.

"The same consequence you get at school, you get with an extracurricular activity," athletic director Darin Williams said.

Williams said he doesn't see the good side of illegal tailgating.

He said not only is it against the law, it also endangers lives when students drive to games under the influence.

"I think that people act not in a positive manner when they have alcohol," he said.

He wasn't sure if the school would ever go to the extent of using Breathalyzers on students before they could enter the stadium, and didn't know how much access the school has to that equipment in the first place.

Resource officer Jesse Stokes said both he and OPS could

use Breathalyzers on students if they had to, but he didn't think the drinking problem was serious enough to test everyone.

"I don't think it's ever been a bad enough ordeal, yet," he said. "If they find a kid that's under the influence, then they could give a breath test."

With the new stadium students were more likely to get caught if they went to games drunk or high because of the increased security.

Also, Stokes said there were fewer entrances to Seemann Stadium than there were to Norris, which made it easier for school officials to keep an eye on things.

People taking tickets are supposed to watch for students under the influence and report them.

Smith said he took his behavior into consideration whenever he went to games.

He knew if he acted up too much not only would he get caught, but he'd also ruin the game for himself and his friends.

"There has been a day where I drink a little too much and then I just didn't go to the game," he said.

Smith also said drinking increased when the team was likely to win its game because students were looking forward to it more.

"If a game is not fun, we will not go to it," he said. "The quality of the team definitely influences tailgating."

ATMOSPHERE

Smith and his friends also tailgated with food and non-alcoholic drinks before athletic events.

He said he believed this gave them a chance to get excited about the game and the group of people he was hanging out with.

Usually these parties included about six people, depending on the game and who was interested.

"It's our territory. This is our high school. It's not just our team, it's our school," he said. "Senior year we definitely want to hype it up."

Williams and Bexten agreed.

As long as tailgating is done with the right guidelines, it can have many advantages.

"I think it's something that can be a real positive experience for students...it's part of being a fan," he said. "I think it helps build community and it helps build student relationships."

Bexten said as long as tailgating was done in its most appropriate forms, he thought it could help school spirit and get people more involved.

Kendall said his tailgating parties were perfect places to meet new people and have fun outside.

There was something about playing poker in the back of a truck that just stood out.

"People we don't even know will come up and talk to us," he said.

He said he enjoyed the festivities before games, and said sometimes the tailgating was more fun than the event itself, especially if the team was probably going to lose.

He and his friends thought tailgating can have an effect on the way the team plays.

"The crowd's all hyped-up and we get them (the players) into the game," junior Jeremy Roxburgh said. "I think the team wants to do good because it's our new stadium and all the fans are hyped. If we all get together then we're all telling jokes and talking about the game and more people go."

Roxburgh said the new stadium increased the number of students who tailgated because of the amount of pride and because the students were more comfortable at their own school.

"There's not enough space to do it at Norris," he said.

Even though Kendall and Roxburgh now tailgate because of athletic events, the idea originated as a way to play poker.

"Usually when we play poker we have to leave all early to get a parking spot and all that stuff," he said.

Kendall's party has since grown to include more fans and more varied activities.

Recently, they did things like playing catch before the games as well.

Most students who tailgated set up in the Capitol Hills Apartments parking lot or along Davenport and Chicago Streets.

Bexten said students were allowed to tailgate in the areas

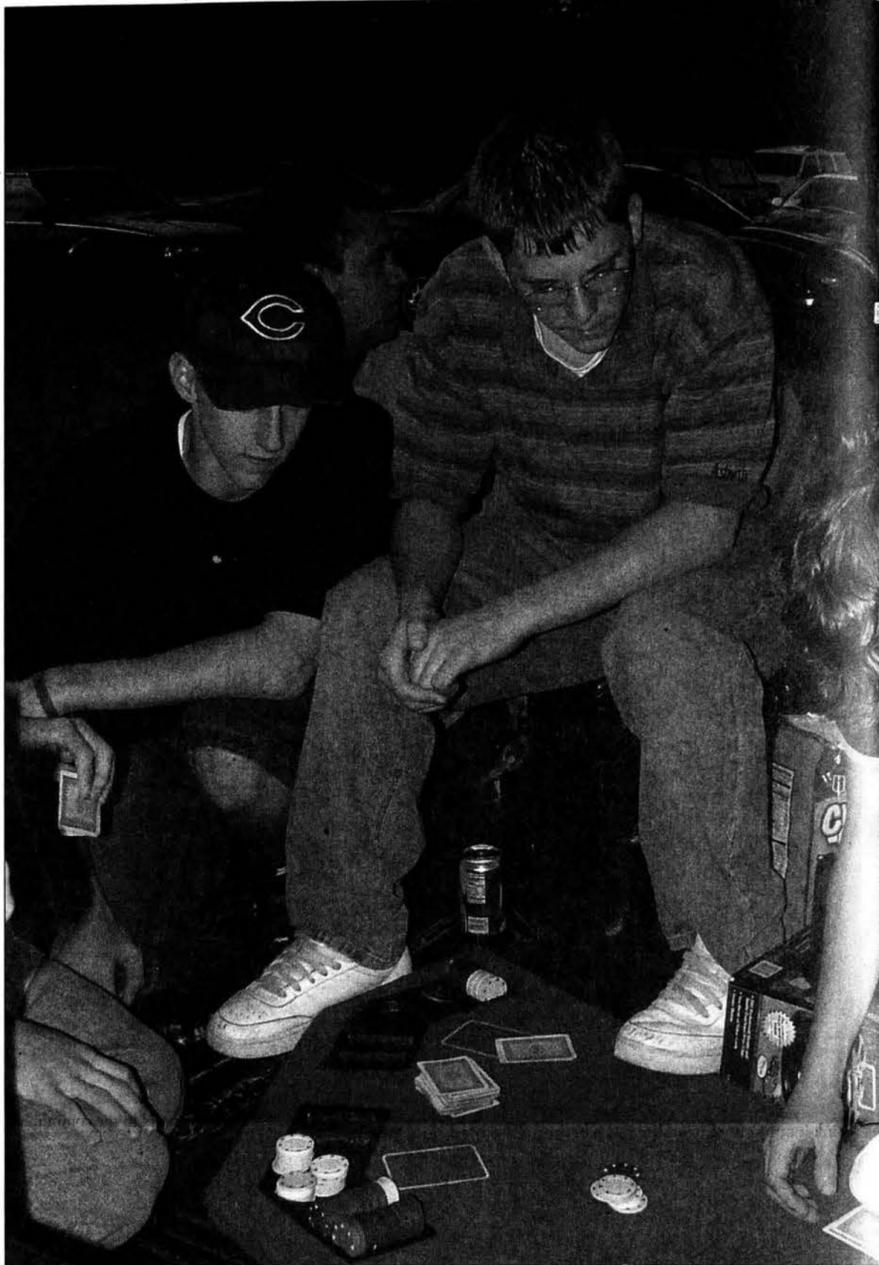


PHOTO BY ZACH PLUHACEK/REGISTER

Junior Jeremy Roxburgh and his friends play poker on Davenport Street before the home game against Burrhead. They participated in legal tailgating, but it was not a school sponsored activity.

surrounding school property all they wanted, as long as no one complained and nothing illegal was happening.

The school parking lots and areas were a different matter, as the limited number of parking spaces could easily be taken up by parties.

"The only time we would say OK to that is if it was an organized tailgate," he said. "As far as on school property is concerned, we don't allow tailgating unless it is a school-sponsored activity."

It's all about the atmosphere.

SCHOOL-SPONSORED

Scott and Kathy Silvey, the managers of two Outback Steakhouse locations on Dodge Street and West Center Road, have been sponsoring an official tailgate at school for ten years.

First organized by Paul Pennington, the former athletic director, the tailgates generally were thrown at two home football games every year.

This year, Outback threw them at the stadium dedication and the first home game against North.

Kathy said the tailgates made money so Outback could support the athletic department.

Throughout the year, the company threw a total of dinners for athletes free of charge.

"I think it's a great atmosphere," she said. "I think there's a lot of school spirit. It's an awesome way for kids to get involved in their school."

Each tailgate meal costs \$5 and consisted of a hamburger or chicken sandwich, French fries and a soda.

"It's a meal for the kids and a time to get together before the game," Scott said, who has sponsored tailgates at Burrhead North and Millard West as well.

Kathy said tailgating was affected by the game quite a bit. She and her husband consider heavily the visiting team order to choose the best game for them.

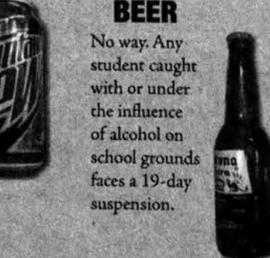
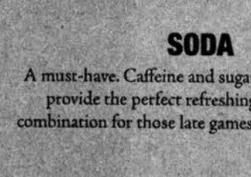
"The larger draw, I think, the visiting team brings to the game is an element in the excitement in the football game," she said. "I think a lot more people are showing interest in the football program, and hopefully it's not just a one year thing."

The majority of those who attend the baseball tailgates are parents, faculty members and people involved in the baseball team.

With the competition from student tailgates, the school's involvement in this opportunity hasn't been great.

Parts of a CHS tailgate: what things some students bring along for Friday nights.

Some legal and some illegal, many of these can cause serious trouble at games. Students should use caution in planning tailgates.



PREPARED FOODS
Bad. Tell mom to keep her famous potato salad at home. High school tailgates are too difficult to set up when adding complex and messy prepared dishes.

MEAT
Wow. No tailgate is complete without meat, so get your grill and cook up those burgers and brats.



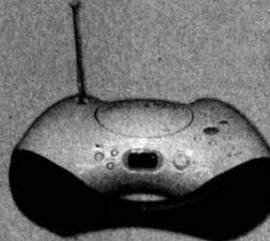
CARDS
Good. Poker is a calm way to have fun with friends and sit around before a game. Try something different on windy days or the cards might disappear.



A FOOTBALL
Fun. Catch is a great way to get energized about sports, as long as students are avoiding cars and staying out of the street.



CANDY
Good. Sweet-tooths will be looking for a quick hit of sugar. For the best results, make sure to bring something bite-sized or individually wrapped.



MUSIC
Crazy. Unplanned dance parties and bass-boosting competitions are a great way to have fun before games, as long as nobody calls the police.



WATER
Pointless. There's no reason to waste money on expensive bottled water when all people have to do is look for a fountain at the stadium.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Mike Yanney

DIRECTOR OF HERITAGE SERVICES' BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PHOTO BY TANIKA COOPER/REGISTER

Director of Heritage Services' Board of Directors Mike Yanney sits in his office at the top floor of the Woodman Tower. Yanney played a major role in the land swap between Creighton, Joslyn Art Museum and CHS. He was also a key factor in getting the stadium built.

Key player in stadium construction and opening ceremony explains the process in making Seemann Stadium happen

Q: Who brought up the idea of Central building a stadium?
A: I think it came out of joint discussion between John Mackiel, Father Schlegel and myself.

Q: How big of a difference do you think the stadium will make for the students at Central?
A: We think everything we're doing there should add value to the students and to the community.

Q: Do you think the stadium added much to the community?
A: As time goes along, the stadium will bring many activities, both culturally and in athletics.

Q: What was the biggest obstacle after deciding to build Central's stadium?
A: There were three obstacles. Number one, fitting the football field in the small area. Number two, acquiring all the land used for the stadium and buying the land from various land owners. Number three, making sure we could raise money for the building of the stadium, which was a little over \$12 million.

Q: What are some other plans for the community?
A: We may add a gallery to Joslyn Art Museum. And we're brainstorming about adding a sculpture garden. We think we should integrate the three campuses.

Q: Who were some of the top people on the decision-making committee?
A: (There were) four people. Walter Scott, Sue Morris, Susie Buffett and Brooks Joyner.

Q: What was it like working with John Mackiel?
A: I think he's an outstanding leader and an outstanding human being in all aspects.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRIST/ REGISTER

Eighth grader John Abts watches his teammates during the semi-finals from the sidelines. The Saint Margaret Mary's Athletic Committee hosted the championship in Seemann Stadium.

Stadium rented to middle schools

BY LAUREN CRIST

The Catholic middle school football semi-final games were held at Seemann Stadium. The St. Margaret Mary Catholic School hosted the 7th and 8th grade football tournament for the semi-finalists. The second game was between St. Margaret Mary's and St. Alberts.

The semi-finals for the parochial athletics are usually held at University of Nebraska at Omaha's (UNO) field, but this year, the committee decided to host the event in Central's stadium. Craig Kelley is a member of St. Margaret Athletic committee hosting the event. He said the game offered a unique opportunity for the student.

"It was exciting for the kids to play in the new stadium in its first year," he said. "They had the opportunity to play on cool field new turf downtown."

He said finals would be at UNO.

Mike McGlade is the football coach for St. Margaret Mary's football team. He said the students were excited for the opportunity to play at the new stadium.

"It was a terrific game with a spectacular view," he said. "It was a perfect night, warm with a full moon in the middle of downtown."

He said one aspect that was different was the chance to play on the Sprinturf. He said the students had only played on real grass practice fields in surrounding schools and their own practice field.

McGlade said although all the students enjoyed the experience, the two students who would be attending Central next year felt especially honored.

"They had huge smiles on their faces the whole time," he said. "They were grinning from ear to ear."

He said there were more fans at this game than there usually were at UNO.

"I think people were intrigued by something different and the downtown atmosphere, so they came to watch," he said.

He said they chose to host the event at Central after one of the coaches, who graduated from Central, made the suggestion. McGlade arranged for the semi-finals to be hosted here.

"It was a terrific high school stadium," he said. "It was large enough to hold our fans, but small enough to fill up most of the stadium as well. It was a terrific atmosphere."

He said the fans enjoyed it as well. He said he saw several fans tailgating in the parking lot.

Basketball, volleyball teams ready to start real home games off right

BY CLAY LOMNETH

The new gym lobby will be completed soon, and that means many of Central's sports, including volleyball and basketball. Sophomore Stephanie Hines plays varsity volleyball. The new lobby will give the team extra space to wait the game, instead of waiting in a crowded space near the bleachers. "It would give the volleyball team an area to warm up that we can't wait," Hines said. "In general he said the lobby would provide more space for the players and the fans. Before games, people always need someplace to go," she said. "I think it's really a good choice for sports." Athletic director Darin Williams said there is a committee together that will decide what to do with the history of the lobby. There will be certain dedications and tributes to each era, focusing on some more recent ones.

He said the lobby would be used for both athletic and academic purposes.

The committee as of now is composed of principal Jerry Bexten and Williams, among others. There may even be some alumni on it as well.

"We're in the beginning stages of forming a committee," he said.

Williams said the first few basketball games will be played at Norris Middle School.

But after that, home games will actually be played at home. Volleyball games have already been played on the court.

Williams said the lobby would affect basketball the most because it would draw more of a crowd.

Head volleyball coach Jodi Brown said she was looking forward to the lobby being finished.

The main reason the lobby would help was because it would offer another route through the gym to either outside or the weight and aerobics rooms, she said.

Practices and games were interrupted because people walking through the gym walked where teams played.

Brown said the lobby also makes it possible for more fans

to come to games.

She said the Nebraska State Activities Association (NSAA) limited the number of games the Eagles played and moved them to weekdays to try and increase the audience size. Brown said with the possibility of a concession stand, more fans may come in. She said it would give the gym a more fan-friendly feel.

She said the lobby was similar to the stadium. It would be an upgrade in the school's facilities, and would draw more attention to Central because of the sports that will be played at the gym.

More sports would be played on campus, as opposed to going somewhere else.

Before only wrestling and volleyball would play in the gym, but when the lobby is complete, basketball can, too, Brown said.

Williams said there would be concession stands in the lobby. The money from the stand would be used for more concessions, and to pay the workers at the stand.

"Concessions kind of pays for itself," he said.

Williams said with the history aspect of the lobby, more

people would show up at games, especially alumni.

Senior Drew Meier on the varsity boys basketball team, said he was looking forward to the completion of the lobby.

He said it was going to be a good thing for basketball, because all of the home games would move to the gym.

He said after the bleachers are put into the gym, basketball games would see a lot bigger crowd.

Meier said when the team played at Norris, games were usually sold out.

But, he said some students still probably didn't go to the games because Norris was too far away. He said there will be those students who will go to the basketball games now that they take place at Central.

"It's (Central) probably closer to a lot of them, too," Meier said.

Meier said the lobby was important because Central was known to be a basketball school, and it will be a chance to have even more-fans come to the games than ever before.

Also, he said, the lobby fits really well with Central, and the extra parking would help out during games and events.

"From what I've seen it looks really nice," he said.

USES OF THE GYM LOBBY



"It will just create an atmosphere that's sure suitable for Class A competition."

Jodi Brown
Head Volleyball Coach



"It's going to allow us to play home games here. We've always had to travel over to Norris."

Eric Bohrens
Boys Basketball Coach



"It's going to cut down a lot of traffic in the gym. A lot less distracting for the teachers who have classes in the gym."

John Moran
Physical Education Teacher



"The only way it will affect us is an easier ingress (entry) and egress (exit) to the football field. And we use the football field quite a bit."

Mike Melvin
JROTC Instructor



"It's going to be huge for basketball. This will be the first time in 20 plus years that we will have home games on our own home court."

Chad Townsend
Girls Basketball Coach

STADIUM

THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

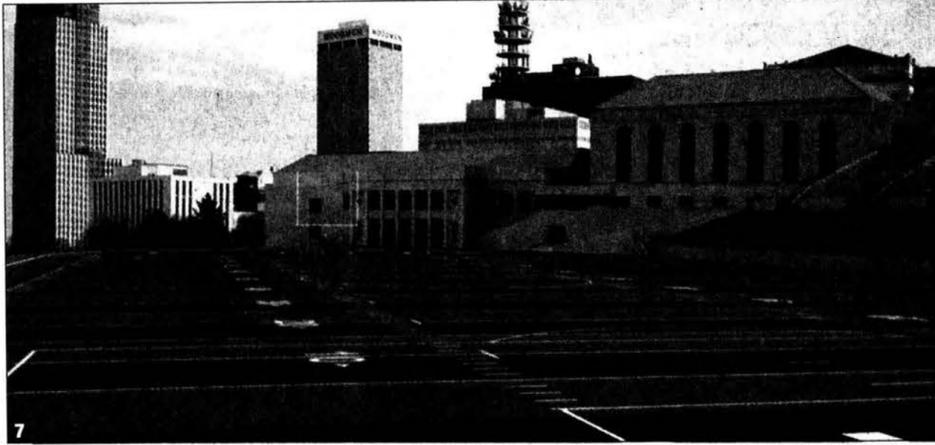
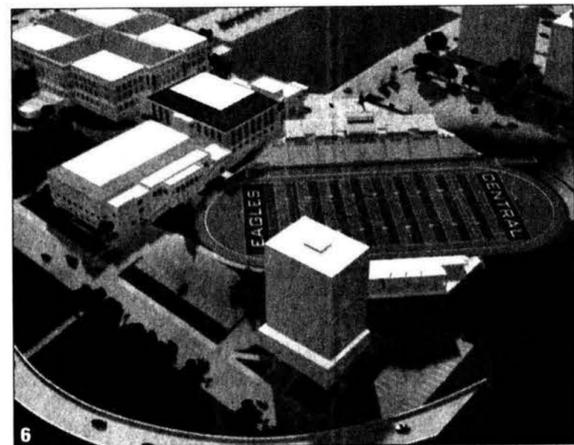
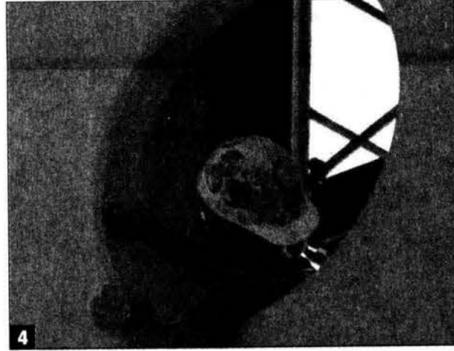
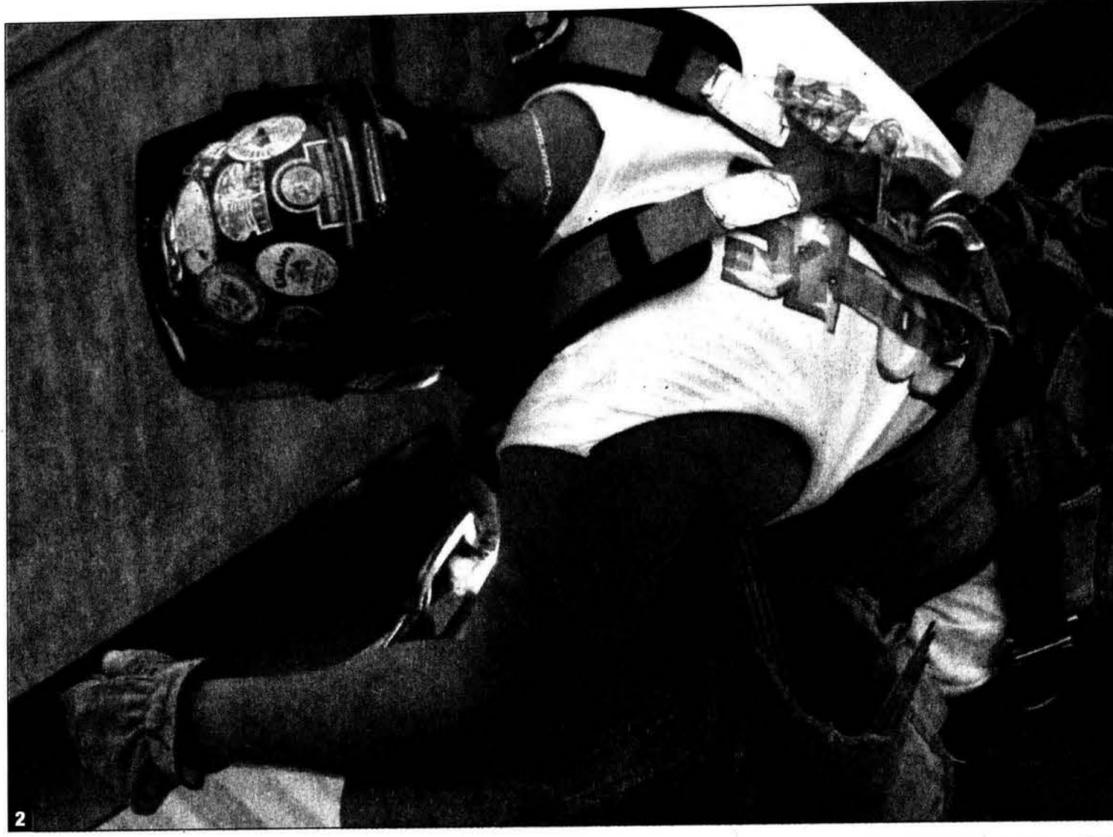
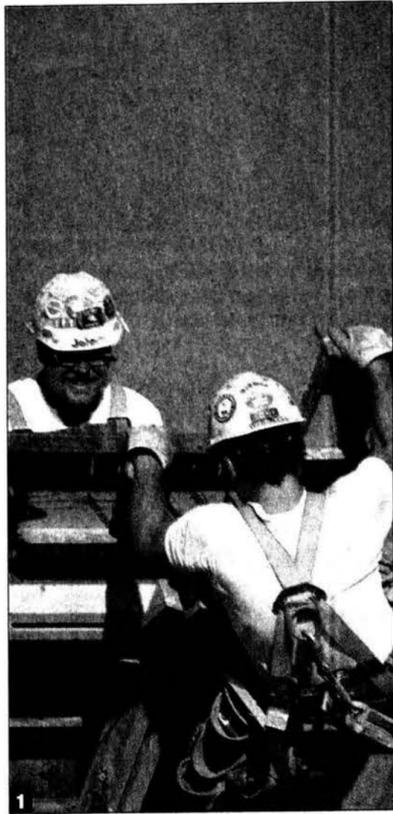
A HIGH SCHOOL PAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

124 N 20TH STREET OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

Come December of this year, the lobby of the new gym will be complete, making CHS a perfect place to hold basketball and volleyball games and even tournaments.



1. Two Keiwit construction workers climb up the newly raised wall for the gym lobby. 2. A worker welds a beam in the gym lobby, in preparation for a December completion date. 3. A construction worker balances on the beams in the lobby. 4. A worker fits the cement wall on the north side of the gym lobby into place. 5. Cement is poured as a foundation for the beginning of the lobby before school had even started. 6. An overhead view of what Central will look like with the lobby finished. The lobby will be three floors and is located east of the new cafeteria. 7. A projected view from the north end zone to the new addition behind the goal posts. The windows allow fans to see both the gym and stadium at once.

Lobby construction set to be finished in early Dec.

BY MOLLY MULLEN

Athletic director Darin Williams said the first two varsity basketball home games will be played at Norris Middle School, which has been Central's home court for quite awhile.

However, things will change in December.

The new lobby for the new gym will be completed at the beginning of that month, which means home games for basketball and volleyball will finally be played at Central.

Principal Jerry Bexten said he was involved in the initial planning quite a bit.

He called in certain coaches and physical education teachers to get their input.

"Initially it was supposed to be finished in November," Bexten said. "We ran into some problems with concrete panels and that slowed it down some."

He said since the lobby construction was being done by DLR Group instead of HDR Architecture Inc. so the architecture would be different.

"It reflects the building more than it reflects the stadium," he said.

He said just like the stadium, the lobby had problems with constraints.

Architect Mark Brim with DLR Group said there were several renderings in the beginning, and his team started eliminating the ones that would obviously not work.

"We had to be very sensitive to the different structures and the new stadium," he said. "We had to be careful with different designs."

It was definitely a challenge, he said, but also provided an opportunity to work with a very interesting space.

Along with the lobby construction, DLR has been involved with Central's renovations for years.

It was the architecture firm that put the skylight on the courtyard in 1982, added the air conditioning and made the old gym into a cafeteria, among other projects.

Brim said he used the existing building to make his plans for the lobby.

Mimicking the main entrance at the south side of the building, Brim decided to use pillars to hold up the second floor.

He said when originating the plans, he had to think of the people using it.

There had to be enough space to hold fans in the stands at the game, as well as half-time and afterwards.

"You can look from the gym to the stadium," Brim said.

On the ground floor there will be concession stands and a door for players to get from the locker room to the stadium.

The basement has a locker room leading into a training room, Bexten said.

"Trainers can meet and tape ankles," he said.

"There will be a couple of whirlpools, everything they need for a training room."

Bexten said the current training room is just a

closet outside the girls locker room.

It is completely inadequate, totally inadequate," he said.

Brim said after all the original planning was done, there were aspects they were able to add onto the original plans, instead of being confined or having to cut things down.

"The lobby can be used for a number of things," Brim said. "It can host quite a few people."

Senior Bryant Cotton will play point guard for the varsity basketball team.

"We finally get to play at Central," Cotton said.

He said he's excited for the first home game.

"I think it'll be like football with all the stands full," he said.

He said the team would be used to the gym because it always practiced there, but played at Norris Middle School.

Not only was he confident the team would play better at home than at Norris, he was sure the it would go to State again this season.



NO APOLOGIES

A Column by Lauren Criss

Playing for large crowd relates senior

I held the clarinet to my mouth and looked at the music I've been practicing for two weeks. This was my first performance of the year and it was performed in front of more than 3,000 people.

Playing in front of more than 3,000 people at the dedication for the Seemann Stadium was something I had never thought I would do.

After two weeks of practicing in the heat of mid-August on a new stadium field, the band had the chance to perform its first half-time show in the stadium.

Not only would it perform in front of a first time ever at a huge event, but we also have to perform with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) marching band, where members would be playing with novices with people who were past music majors.

It was a good opportunity, but it was also a slightly nerve-racking one.

Luckily, we had the support of numerous teachers, directors, choreographers and show directors, band parents and, of course, the school were marching for UNO. We had a short time to prepare for the opening, but we were ready in time.

Several other schools have built up stadiums, but few have performed the opening like the Central band.

The stadium will be used for many other beneficial things as well.

The stadium also provides a great atmosphere for students to practice in.

The field is pristine, making it much easier for playing or even practicing than other fields.

No one has to worry about a hole in the middle of the field when the it is as good as the Seemann Stadium.

The stadium is huge, allowing for larger crowds to attend events at their own school rather than at another school.

I'm not saying Norris wasn't a great atmosphere for home football games because it worked fine.

It's just not the same.

It's been great to have home games and other events at the stadium where the team actually attends every day.

Through the dedication, the school had the opportunity to open up more to the community.

When walking through the stadium at night, there is usually a great atmosphere of activities happening.

More fans have been seen cheering on the teams when they practice because it seemed to increase as well.

Even people in surrounding buildings can be seen peeking through their windows at night to see what's going on.

People from the city have been walking around the stadium at night. Students practicing for future events have also taken time to practice on the hang out for team unity.

But residents and athletes are not the only ones who will use the stadium. It has allowed Central to be a focus in the way of events. Before school, students would split up and practice in various places to practice and prepare.

Now, many people can see the area more, allowing students to interact. The stadium also provides a school with an atmosphere that other high schools have enjoyed.

Students can have the opportunity to actually having a home-field advantage where they can practice, perform and even walk for gym classes.

Having a home stadium has provided the school many opportunities in different areas.