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### RENEWING THE DRAFT

As the military prepares to inject more soldiers into Iraq, are today's students tomorrow's warriors?

**OPINION, PAGE 6** 



A dance movie that is superficial on the surface, but has lots of heart and emotions underneath.

**ARTS, PAGE 8** 

### WRESTLING

A team of mostly freshmen and sophomores battle through a season full of obstacles

**SPORTS, PAGE 12** 



11 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEW PAPER PRACTICING PROFE

RNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

### Transsexual UNO professor speaks to GSA

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Changing a person's sex is one of most controversial topics not only America, but also in the entire world. t, the encouragement for diversity by ome Central students and faculty led an informative presentation about anssexuality by one transsexual.

Professor Meredith Bacon came to entral in January to talk to the Gay/ raight Alliance (GSA) organization to scuss transsexuals, transgenders and her related issues.

One important goal of her sentation was to make people aware ranssexual and transgender people.

Bacon herself is a transsexual, one he registered 50 in Nebraska.

The University of Nebraska at aha (UNO) political science professor t discussed the difference between a sgender and a transsexual.

"Transgender has many variants," said. "Some cross-dress or dress ntatiously."

Bacon explained that transsexual is en people actually change their sex or have an intense urge to become the osite sex.

For example, a man would become man, as in Bacon's case.

"I knew I was different when I was Bacon said. "I liked to play with girls nd I went to ballet school and then to the ew York High School for Performing

She stressed that transsexuals, ansgenders and homosexuals do not ecome what they are because they had bad childhood. Bacon herself had a rivileged life. She went to prep schools nd her parents introduced her into olite society in New York. However, she did admit her father was a cross-dresser, hough she did not find this out until fter his death.

One major issue Bacon discussed as the right for homosexual and ranssexual marriages.

Bacon has been married for 34 years, uring most of which she was male. Her ame then was Walter.

She said her wife was startled when was first told. But, she got used to the ea that her husband was transgender. It asn't until a few years ago that Bacon hade the full jump to becoming a

They are technically still married, now that Bacon is the same sex ysically as her wife, their marriage ald be considered illegal.

She is a man, according to her DNA, ut she has woman body parts.

The transition from one sex to nother takes at the very least several onths. Bacon herself had to go to six onths of therapy before getting a sexange operation.

transgenders However, ranssexuals suffer from a unique set of motional health issues.

According to transgender therapist legan Smith, transgender individuals feel they are living in a body that feels unnatural to them. That alone experts say very challenging.

When transgenders start the process becoming transsexual, they need to go through many processes. They must ndergo therapy for several months. hen the transgendered individual needs <sup>0</sup> get recommendations from their therapist, allowing them to obtain crosssex hormones.

To make sure the transgendered individual does want to be the other ex, transgenders must do a real-life experience, where they must live as the

Continued to **Bacon** on Page 3



**GRAPHIC BY BOB AL-GREENE/REGISTER** 

Is the line between teens and machines blurring? With the absorption of electronic devices like iPods into popular culture and the lives of Americans, especially teenagers, it sometimes seems a person can't be seen in public without the trademark white earbuds in or a cell phone glued to the side of his head. So the question is: are such gadgets and devices really necessary... or do we just like to think so?

# 

### Advances in technology bring student, machine closer

BY ALI HODGE

Sony, Vaio, Apple, Dell, Gateway, eMachine, Microsoft, Sprint, Alltell, Cingular, Verison Wireless, T-Mobile. In a generation defined by its technological advances, the widespread phenomenon has found a way of creeping in through the walls of Central.

Only a few years ago, a cell phone was a privilege. Now they're as common as a calculator. Laptops were only used by businessmen. Now some colleges require students have them.

Walking through the halls of Central, one can see the effects a technologically-advanced world has on the teenage population.

THE NEED FOR ELECTRONICS

Sophomore Luke Hawbaker, like other students. spends his free time playing video games on the computer and texting friends. He represents thousands of teens all over the world that are influenced by the evolution of technology.

"It's fun," Hawbaker said. "It's probably a waste of time in the long

Hawbaker said he is one of the many who spend a few hours on the problem. He said it's when students start using them in class is when it

computer if he has free time.

friends in other classes.

"I would consider myself a Myspace junkie," he said... Sophomore Zach Nutt said he normally spends 10 hours a

week on his Xbox 360. He said he certainly isn't the only one who spends this much time with their electronics.

"It eats your soul," Nutt said. "No. As long as you do it in moderation and you put school and homework first, it's not a

Hawbaker said he sees many students throughout the school day listening to their iPods or texting other students in class. He said it is a distraction and it presents students with the

He said he has listened to his iPod in school, but only during study

Hawbaker said the advances in technology have made it easier for

opportunity to cheat, but usually its just teens communicating with their

students to contact their friends as well as their parents.

He said it is a lot easier to set up a ride if he can simply text his parents than try and quietly call them in the bathroom.

He said for an individual to use an iPod or a cell phone, it is no

Continued to Technology on Page 4

### Judge discusses legal system with classes

BY ALI HODGE

After 24 years as a lawyer and many more as a judge in the Nebraska Supreme Court, Kenneth Stephan was more than qualified to discuss the judicial system with Central's law and criminal justice classes.

"It's fun," Judge Stephan said. "I enjoy the questions they have."

Stephan said he was asked to present to the class many years ago by teachers, Lisa Donahoe and Scott Wilson, his Stephan said he talks to the classes

about the Nebraska state court system and how it fits into the structure of state government He said he loves getting into conversations with the students and

answering their questions. He said he enjoys seeing high school students interested in law.

Stephan said he himself remembers being interested in law in high school. He said he remembers being very interested in history and English as well.

He also said he managed the annual Road Show his senior year and was in the orchestra and jazz band.

Stephan graduated law school in 1964 after he had graduated University of Nebraska with an undergraduate degree in law.

He became a judge in March of 1997 after 24 years as a lawyer in Lincoln. He said he was one of seven judges in Lancaster County.

His road to success was very long, he said he certainly appreciated it

"I've enjoyed working with three chief justices," he said. "I have a great deal of admiration and respect for my colleagues on the court."

Senior Aaron French said Judge Stephan's presentation was interesting and beneficial.

"He's a really nice guy," French said. "He was really engaging. He seemed like he really wanted to be there." French said even though others

in his class were nodding off, he found Judge Stephan enjoyable.

He said he spoke about the modern Nebraska judicial system and discussed a variety of issues with the class.

French said Judge Stephan tried hard to include everyone in the class to make sure he had full class participation. He said he used a metaphor to catch the class' attention.

He started out by asking everyone to imagine they were on an imaginary island and they had to create their own government.

"It (the presentation) was good. I really liked it," senior Jackie Pirtle said. "It was cool to have a guest speaker from the Nebraska Supreme Court."

Pirtle said she is not sure what she is interested in as a career, and that is why

she took the law class. "I was just interested in learning

about law," she said. French said he is thinking about a

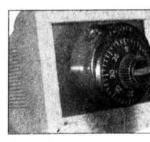
career in the government when he gets "Teenagers don't know much about how the judicial system works," he said.

"It's just interesting to see how it works." Judge Stephan said he encourages anyone interested to go into law as a profession. He said it may be a hard road,

but it's very rewarding. "Read widely, work on developing writing skills," he said. "Get as broad an education as you possibly can and stick

with it." Pirtle said she enjoyed the lesson.

She said for the most part, it was entertaining. "It gave me a different perspective,"



### **Computer Safety**

Even at school, you aren't as safe as you might think. How can you protect yourself on the computer?

**Basketball** 

The boys team team heads towards the end of what could be its shortest season in recent memory.

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BY ALI HODGE

Some people may say Central is just like all the other public schools in Omaha.

On the contrary, what sets Central apart is its wide variety of elective classes, Assistant Principal Ed Bennett said.

As students sit with their counselors to map their schedule, they are met with a vast variety of new electives.

Bennett said Central has no control over what they may offer as far as core classes are concerned, but they do have control over what they offer to students as electives.

He said the goal is to make Central as unique as possible, and as a result create an educational system full of opportunities for all students.

Some of the new courses offered next year will be anthropology, a psychological study of ancient civilizations,



BENNETT

Placement (AP) English Language and Composition, the first AP English class offered to juniors.

Art Appreciation, the study of art

history, Holocaust

Literature, the study

of the genocide

in World War II

Advanced

Bennett said

the planning for the 2007-2008 school year begun during the fall of last year.

He said in order to brainstorm about what new classes would be offered, the department heads had meetings to discuss their ideas.

He said certain things had to be taken into account such as textbooks, extra supplies and teachers.

Then everything had to be approved individuals at the Teachers and Administrators Center (TAC) building before the courses could be introduced to the students.

Bennett said in order to add electives, it costs the district money, not the school. In that way it is an inexpensive addition to the school.

"The costs are only involved in buying new materials," he said.

New materials the classes may need may involve textbooks and software. Otherwise the rest of the cost goes to the district.

Bennett said the classes planned are good additions to any student's schedule. He said the AP English Language and Composition class was a very good class for those interested and ready for a challenge.

"I think it's an exciting and challenging opportunity for juniors to begin preparing for college work," he said. "It's more rigorous than honors English 5-6, but those who put forth the effort will reap tremendous

Bennett also encouraged future seniors to consider Holocaust Literature for a semester.

"I think it'll be very engaging for students who are interested in that time period," he said.

## **FET** members sell candy for school parties

BY BAILEY DILOCKER

"I influence' students' lives everyday, and I want everyone to have a chance to be a part of that," sponsor of the Future Educators Training Club (FET) Robin Hanus said.

FET's purpose is to promote education

"My goal for students is to encourage students to consider education as a career choice because it is fulfilling," Hanus said.

She said she didn't want students to miss a chance at being a teacher because it has many possibilities.

There are also workshops that librarians and ESL teachers put together. Librarians and ESL teachers are coming in short supply and they want students to consider these particular careers.

Students in the club also get to attend national conferences that allow them to get hands-on training as a teacher. There they get to obtain information about new software and techniques for the future. This way students can make a decision as to what they want to take on as a career in education.

"You never stop learning," Hanus said. Students are able to keep their skills up with conferences that allow them to see different types of teachers, which range from

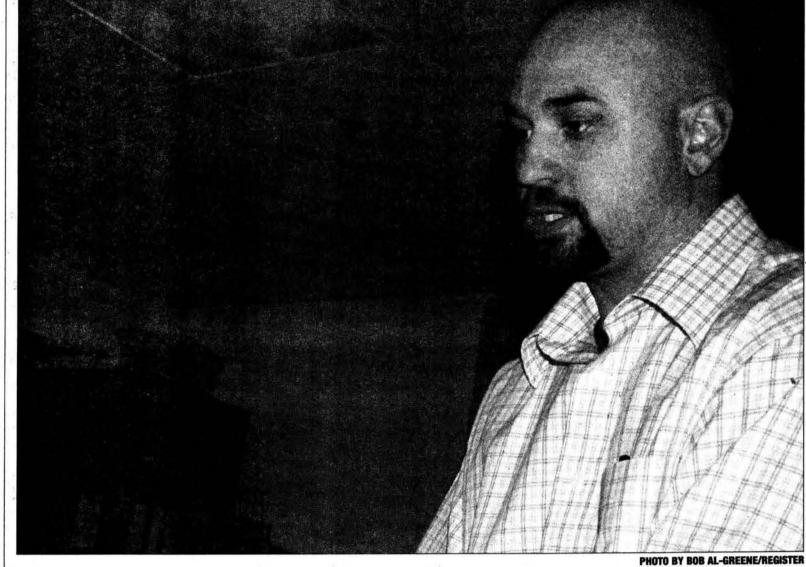
hearing impaired to a speech teacher. Recently FET members sold candy bars to raise money to buy decorations for Valentine's Day parties at elementary

Students in FET have also given their time to tutor children in schools, which gives them a feel at being a teacher.

The 20 members of FET will attend a conference on March 6 at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) called Showcase on Teaching.

Students will have a chance at getting a taste of teaching and the skills involved.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007



Student teacher Drew Shradar helps a student during a health class. Shradar was in the Navy at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was injured before deciding to become a teacher.

# Alumnus veteran returns as teacher

BY ALI HODGE

"I don't know any better adrenaline rush than things exploding and things being shot at," student teacher Drew Shradar said.

The Central alumnus is working to get his teaching degree in health and history. As a student teacher at Central, Shradar works with family consumer science teacher Jeanee Weiss and social studies teacher Eric Behrens, two teachers who attended high school in the same years as he did.

Shradar, before he decided to be a teacher, was in the Navy at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but retired due to an injury in his arm he received when he fell six feet training near Massachusetts before going to Iraq. "Because I was there at the beginning of the war, so much has changed,"

Shradar said. "To describe it, I don't think I could do it justice. It's a pretty diverse country. It's not the desert everyone thinks it is." Shradar said he and his unit were on medical evacuation in Kuwait. They

were planning to go to Turkey, he said, when they were called for 15 months, Feb. 2003 to May 2004, to Iraq. Shradar said his unit stayed 60 miles south of Baghdad within days of the

beginning of the war. He said during his 15 months in Iraq, he spent some of his time in medical hold in rehab for the torn ligaments in his arm.

Shradar said he was in the Navy for a couple of years and in the National Guard for two and a half before he went to Iraq

He said he was a Masters student studying first-degree criminal justice when he was deployed. He had hoped to become an intelligence officer in the government when he discovered his injury might stop him from doing that. Shradar said the government felt he could not handle the duties in criminal

justice due to his torn ligaments.

"They had me take a bunch of silly tests," Schradar said. After settling on becoming a teacher, he returned to his own high school,

Central to begin his student teaching. "It's a much better learning environment for me," he said. It's been interesting because I'm with two different teachers. I think that both of them

have two different learning styles." Shradar said in the health classes, his students are more attentive because

they want to be there more than the students in his history class. He said at first, his history students were closed and standoffish. Shradar said he allowed his students to ask questions about him in order for them to

realize he was more than a history teacher. He said since then, his students have been a little more relaxed and more

'You know what?" he said. "Being in the classroom is a good time."

Shradar said if he does decide to become a teacher, one of the main influences on his decision would be the students and the attachment to his own high school.

# Upcoming Events

February

# **2-3** Road Show Performances

The theme of this year's Road Show is "O! What a Road Show!" The theme was decided on by teacher John Gibson's Advanced Drama class. The performances are on Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m..

# **6** Chess Team Competition

The Eagle's chess team will be in its second match of the year. It won its first and is hoping to continue its dominance against Nebraska and Iowa teams. The team uses these matches to prepare for Nationals later on in the year.

# **10** District Wrestling

The boys varsity team will compete against other Omaha teams in its districts. Players that place fourth or higher will be competing at State. Last year, graduated senior Guy Smith took home a State Gold. The team is hoping to rekindle the magic with young players.

# 17-18 State AcaDeca Tournament

The Academic Decathlon team will compete at Creighton for a trip to Nationals in Hawaii. In earlier competitions, the team has steadily improved and is preparing to try to take home the first AcaDeca State Title in Central's history. The team will have to upset favorites Creighton Prep and Burke for the title and trip.

# **24** Singing Youth Festival

Freshmen A Capella and choir singers will be singing with other seventh through ninth graders in a choir festival. Central hosts the event.

# dog tags fund-raiser

BY ELIZABETH ALFARO

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is once again selling do tags, an idea that was started last year

JROTC will be selling dog tags from Feb. 5 through Feb. 16 outside room 020 and in the courtyard during lund

This will be the program's second year doing this kind of fund-raiser. Last year the department sole around 350 dog tags.

Last year Lt. Col. Mike Melvi limited the options for designs, b this year JROTC will be offering 50-6 designs, which will include clubs an

"It fits pretty well with us," Melvin said. "The kids are getting good running it."

IROTC also wanted to be different from the other clubs and organizations

Melvin said he didn't really like the idea of having students carry around money and having to be responsible for it, which occurs when students sell cand for a fund-raiser. In the past, JROTC held car washes

but Melvin said he felt selling dog tag was a better way to earn money for the organization. He said this way the sai wouldn't cut in on the students' weekend because they were already there before and after school.

The money that is raised during the sale will go directly back to JROTC. will help buy new color guard equipment ranks, cords, new flags, covers for fla and many other things that are needed.

### German club teaches basics at Dundee

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

German Club members are going to an after-school program to teac elementary kids

German. "The main goal is to get kids interested language earlier," senior Bailey Jensen

the basics of

said. Jensen has taken German for five years

and been involved in the club for four.

The activity will go on for six week and the eight to 10 members of the ch will partner up to teach the children.

Jensen said Dundee Elementa School was chosen for the German Clu and members will attend the Kids Cl after school to teach the kids who there who want to participate. The children will vary in age, h

they will all learn the basics of Germa such as how to say their name, how introduce themselves and colors. Jensen said they would use creati

methods and activities such as drawing or painting to make the learning mo fun for children. "So many people from oth

countries already know English. We nee to start kids earlier and get them excite to learn a different language," she said. By introducing foreign languages

younger children in a fun, exciting w the members of the club hope that mo kids will take a language class when the get to high school. "Learning a different language w

allow kids to realize what else is o there and it will help them in the futur Jensen said. The French and Latin clubs also participating in this activity, by

are teaching at different schools will different kids Jensen said by having a variety clubs participate, the children get mo

of a variety and it will help them decide which language they like the best. "Learning another language really beneficial for anyone, especial

children," Jenseh said. "I hope that the kids learn a lot from the activity and that it goes well."

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# ranssexuals no different from other people, UNO professor says

CONTINUED FROM 'BACON' ON PAGE 1

er sex for a specified amount of time.

Many more transsexuals have surgeries, reconstructing rhody to look like their preferred sex. Males to females (MTF) breast augmentations and feminine facial reconstructions, Bacon had. It takes a minimum of two years, according to with, not to mention the tremendous cost it takes to undergo of the procedures. Bacon spent over \$120,000.

Despite the multiple surgeries transsexual people have degone, there are some characteristics that cannot be need. For example, Bacon is still over six feet tall, with large ders and a deep voice that, although it has been raised an we or so, still sounds male.

Relief and happiness usually are aftereffects of the sex However, Smith said she believes transsexuals struggle stafter becoming the other sex.

They (transgenders) focus on the sex change," Smith said. her think it will give them peace, but sometimes they still see piems and struggle in life."

However, some transsexuals and transgenders do enence severe depression. The pre-transition suicide upt rate is 20 percent, most of whom are MTFs. Bacon also enced severe depression, which she solved by talking to rapist. Bacon now takes anti-depressants, but talking to a al health professional helped a lot, she said.

In therapy I was free to talk," she said. "It was liberating." When transgenders take the final jump, they experience

their employers or colleagues can become hostile, violent the employer can even go to such extremes as to fire the exual. Also, friends and family members may not accept These situations contribute to the depression many

They (usually) face isolation and ostracism from their "Smith said. "But, I would say they are no different than other person although many have family issues of how to

they also experience substance abuse and extreme

One serious problem that occurs is genital mutilation. This happens in 9 percent of transgender males and 2 percent of transgender females

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

GSA sponsor Rick Richards said he has known Bacon for several years.

"I knew some of her story and talked to the GSA sponsor at South (High School)," Richards said. "I was part of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network chapter in Nebraska."

It was at an event sponsored by the organization that Richards met Bacon. Richards said he felt it was important that students be informed about the transgender community.

The president of Central's GSA, Adam Hankins, said he felt Bacon was a wonderful woman, very professional and nice. "She said two things that I've been thinking about ever

The first thing was how Bacon felt about same-sex

"At that point I thought she was changing the world," he

Hankins said he also thought it was important that Bacon talked about depression. Hankins, a religious Baptist, said he thought God made him gay for a reason.

"I can't change myself," he said. "I didn't ask to be this

The Catholic Church has become one of the biggest opponents of transsexuality. Several years ago, the Vatican published a document stating its view on transsexuality, defining it as a disorder.

Vatican officials said they believe a sex-change operation did not change a person's gender at all; it just changed what they looked like. Pope John Paul II instructed all bishops to never alter the sex listed in parish baptismal records, and the document also stated that Catholics who undergo the surgery cannot be married or ordained into the priesthood or religious

Central junior Rachel Woolard is an opponent of transsexuality.

"I think they are human beings like me, perhaps unaware



PHOTO BY ASTRIKA WILHELM/REGISTER

Professor Meredith Bacon speaks to the Gay/Straight Alliance about her decision to become a transsexual. The process involves months of therapy, recommendations from a therapist, reconstructive surgery and augmentation and takes a minimum of two years.

of how immeasurably the God who created them loves them, just the way they are," Woolard said.

Although Woolard has not met any transsexuals, she said she believes transgenders and transsexuals can be helped to overcome their beliefs in transsexuality.

Such support groups as Love Won Out: Testifying to God's Grace exist in trying to encourage individuals to turn their back on homosexuality and transsexuality.

Richards said he thinks everyone will come into contact with a transgender at some point in their lives, so that's why he said it was important that Bacon came to Central to speak. He said people are distrustful of things they don't understand, so meeting and speaking to Bacon helped everyone become more understanding and trusting of transgender and transsexual

Transsexuality does not just affect adults, though.

Smith said she knows a lot of teenaged transgenders, and many of them go to Smith's support group.

The students in the audience were able to ask Bacon questions after she was done describing her life and what other transgendered people deal with.

It was a type of support group that transformed. One freshman asked how Bacon dealt with her friends, acquaintances

He wanted to know because he was gay and he said hefelt different from the rest of his classmates. Question after question, it seemed as if the audience was asking for help in

"It's important for kids to have as much information about this as is possible," Richards said. "I thought it went really well."

# oreign exchange student's perceptions change after living in America

One meal, a few sodas, a couple of magazines and one very long flight from South a to America and finally junior Ah Young Oh was introduced to her new life in

Oh is a foreign exchange student through the organization Nacel Open Door. She she is living in America for a year as many exchange students at Central are. "The first time I felt this culture it was totally different," Oh said. "I didn't like this

In Korea, Oh attended a public school and then later went on to attend an English lemy where she worked to master the English language.

She said all her classes were taught in English, an aspect which became very to her when she decided to become a foreign exchange student. Oh said two years ago she visited ESA Travel and was shocked to see people of ent races and cultures. She said she became fascinated by the different cultures

wanted to explore them. Through Nacel Open Door, she was approved to travel

was assigned to a family in Omaha. Oh said at the airport she finally met her host family, whose children attend

"I was nervous before I met them," Oh said. "They seemed really nice. They made me feel comfortable."

She said her host mom hugged her at their first meeting, something that was

unusual in her culture. She said it surprised her, but she didn't mind. Because she lost her bag, the first night she had to borrow her host sister's clothes. She remembers talking all night with her host sister about her favorite movies and

music. As strange as the whole experience was, Oh said she enjoyed it. Sophomore Briana Kosmicki, Oh's host sister, said it was enjoyable the first night getting to know her new housemate.

She said having a foreign exchange student living in their house was like an extension of the family.

Oh said American education at Central turned out to be very different from what she expected

"This school is so big," she said. "The American students seem.. free." She said American students are lucky considering their school hours. She said an average school day in South Korea is 14 hours long, five days a week for underclassmen. 16 hours long every day if the student is a senior.

She said in Korea, grades are everything to a student. A social life is important too, but given the time restraint of school, it's almost impossible to have one.

Oh said on occasion, she and her friends would skip school in order to just hang

She said as much as she missed her friends in South Korea, she has enjoyed the friends she has made here, including friends from school and her host family.

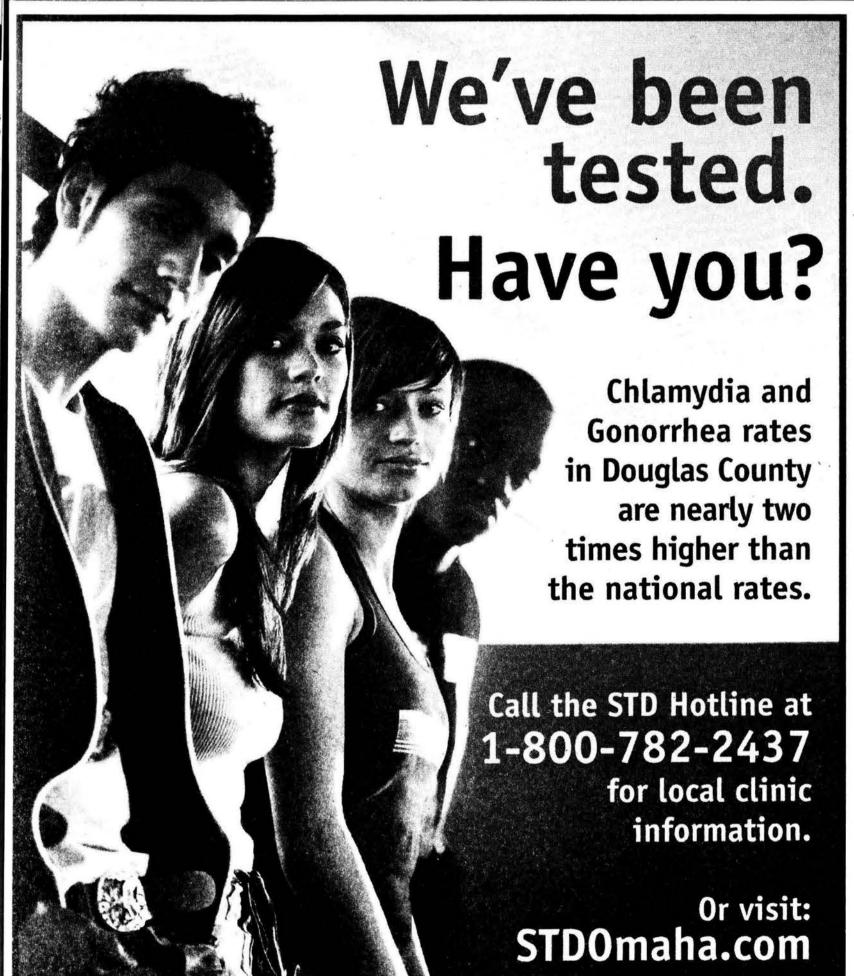
Oh said she is constantly asking her host family to give her tips on how to make She said she didn't understand all that much about how American students acted,

and she thought tips of what to talk about and how to say certain things would be helpful. She said Kosmicki introduced her to all of her friends and made sure she had a place to sit at lunch. She said it was just one of the ways they made her feel

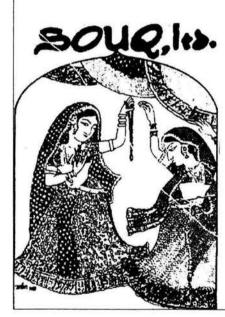
Oh said her experience in America so far has been very rewarding. She said she

is very glad she decided to come. "I think it's a good experience understanding another culture," she said. "This is a

new experience. I'd want anyone to come here."



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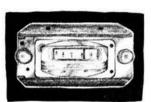
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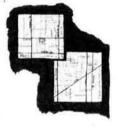
1947

AT&T comes out with the first radio car phones, used

on the highways between New York City and Boston. These phones were doomed by the massive interference encountered on the road. AT&T declares the experiment a failure.

### 1971

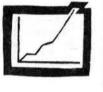
AT&T proposes mordernday mobile phone systems which would divide cities into "cells."



The Cellular Technology Industry Association is created and helps create TDMA phone technology, the most advanced cell phone

### 2000

The number of cellular telephone subscribers finally hits 100 million (up from only 25,000 in 1984).



INFORMATION COURTESY OF

INFOGRAPHIC BY PATRICK BREEN





# OPEN THE PO

The world is changing at a rapid and increasing rate. And t t are tools and devices built specifically to appeal to the young generation wh Perhaps the digital world is expanding too quickly for us to control it - many lev when a chip can be put in our brains for the Internet, music of

# Electronics integrated into teen life

### ■ CONTINUED FROM 'TECHNOLOGY ' ON PAGE 1

becomes a distraction.

Another way technology is making its way into the hands of teens is the laptops students are allowed to use at some schools.

Hawbaker said he wishes Central would adopt this tool because he believes it would be better for the students.

"Computers facilitate learning," Hawbaker said. "Computers would make note taking,

Sophomore Joie Venditte disagrees. She said she believes laptops in the hands of students would create more problems for the school. However, she said she thinks students respond to and learn from technology in the classroom. "I think it's a lot easier," she said. "I think because we were raised on it, we identify it

Venditte said she sees students use their electronics in school everyday and she said she couldn't say she has never done it. In fact, she said she texts friends quite often, but has never

Venditte said she doesn't think cell phones should be allowed in school because it would cause too much chaos.

"I think things are getting a little too convenient. A little too distracting," she said. "Things are getting explicit. There's not as many boundaries anymore."

Hawbaker said technology has improved the world significantly. He said that in case of an emergency at Central such as a shooting or a lock down, cell phones and other ways of communication are not only convenient, they are a necessity He said technology such as iPods, cell phones and laptops are also very useful if used in the right situations and in the

"I think technology has made society safer and schools, too," he said. "I'm content with

Nutt is enrolled in CAD class hoping to become an architect when gets older.

Nutt said he realizes from being involved in CAD class, that computers are very important. He said in CAD, they use two different types of programs. They use the most recent Auto CAD program and a design program called Revit 8.

Nutt said CAD has become a hobby rather than just a class. He said he appreciates the electronics he has learned to use. He said he enjoys them and he

### **EDUCATION VS. ENTERTAINMENT**

With Myspace and Facebook, international phenomenons and iPods, complete with music, television and movies, teenagers should never be bored

Nutt said electronics have a lot to do with his social life. He said he has

had "Halo" parties with his friends where they sit around, talk and play video games. "Halo" is the name of a video game.

Nutt said electronics have become a part of his life. He said he also plays his Nintendo DS every now and then, but not as much as his Xbox. He said he also plays games on the computer and surfs the Internet.

Junior Jesse Tye said he spends a lot of his time playing Internet video games, especially "World of Warcraft."

Tye said he tries to keep his gaming from interfering with his work, so during the week he only spends about an hour on the computer if that.

However, on the weekend, Tye said he spends about 10 hours gaming over a period of two days. "I think five to 10 hours is healthy," Tye said.

He said the dangers of technology obviously depend on the person. He said he can see where some would consider it bad, but usually, it's just kids finding ways to fill their time. Tye said another form of entertainment technology makes possible for him is his music.

Tye said he spends a lot of time as a disk jockey using electronics such as surround sound speakers, turn tables and CDJ's to mix his music.

"Music is life," Tye said. He said although it may not be entirely useful, technology has become an

important part in his life because he is able to do what he loves to do.

### CENTRAL'S CLASSROOM ELECTRONICS

"If you don't get a full ride, you can enter the work force working for the National Enquirer putting the hands of Ben and JLo back together again," said technology and multimedia teacher, Barry Branson. "Where this technology is going; it's incredible."

Central is rapidly becoming more and more high tech, which enables teachers to be more successful when teaching.

Branson said some of the equipment the staff is supplied with is much more than the students realize. He said the security staff is given a palm pilot on which they may pull up any

student's information and photograph. He said this helps security when they are trying to catch students skipping. Branson said Central also has state-of-the-art grading systems, attendance

programs and LCD projectors.

He said the way Central is going, he expects the school to be so advanced a student would not be able to skip undetected, grades would be electronically kept on a main database for years and electronic portfolios will be kept on ID badges.

Branson said in his own class, he is supplied with technology he is proud of. He said he uses SASI, LCD projectors, flatbed scanners and a program called Netops in which he broadcasts his lessons to the 24 computers in his classroom.

He said his students respond well to the way he conducts his class with technology. They appreciate the hands-on experience.

"At first it's a little unnerving," he said. "It's kind of like big brother's watching." Branson said if he wanted to, he could pull up another student's desktop and observe what he is doing. He could also take over their computer, rendering their mouse useless and show them how to do something. If Branson sees a student not doing what he should be, he sends them an e-mail telling them to get to work.

He said the students in his classes are taught how to build web pages, create fliers, work photoshop and conduct web campaigns. These are all skills they will need outside of high school.

Branson said he believes in order to become successful in the real world, kids have to be fluent in the language of technology. He said the fact that Central has evolved into a more modern school and is continuing to do so is good for the students who will walk out into a modern world. Assistant principal Ed Bennett said Central puts a lot of time into bettering the

school. This includes installing SASI, new registration systems and LCD projectors.

Bennett said money that was given to the school each year was allotted into different areas where it was needed most. Teacher submitted their suggestions last year as to what to get for the classrooms and the school decided LCD projectors would get the most use.

Bennett said he liked the idea and thought it would tremendously benefit the students and teachers.

# Bill proposed to ban teen driver cell phone use

### BY BOB AL-GREENE

"The whole issue is to save people's lives," State Sen. John N. Harms said. Harms, from District 48 (Scottsbluff), introduced Legislative Bill (LB) 415 at the beginning of this year's Nebraska Legislative Session. LB 415 would, among other

"There's a lot of accidents that occur," Harms said. "Adult or teens." In fact, motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for drivers 15-20 years old. Already 10 percent of drivers 16 to 24 admit to using cell phones while driving, according to a study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,

> In an apparent step to help prevent the death of these young drivers, 11 states have already enacted laws prohibiting young drivers from using cell phones. Localities in more than a dozen more states have outlawed the use of a cell phone by drivers of any age.

> > President of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) senior Jordan Wagner said the ban on teen cell phone use while driving sounded like a good idea.

She said while SADD mainly deals with alcohol consumption and drug use and focuses on prom and homecoming, this was an issue which would fall under the category of a destructive decision.

"You're under the influence of something else,"

Wagner said her parents have already told her she isn't allowed to talk on the phone while

Harms said he's had an interest in the idea for a long time and said he feels it suits the general interest of public safety.

He said when looking at the data, it's obvious more and more teens are being killed in car crashes, and something has to be done about that increasing number.

A study conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, located in Virginia, found drivers who talk on their cell phones while driving, are four time more likely to get in a crash than drivers not on their phones.

The Institute also discovered by polling drivers who use hands-free phones that talking on the phone is the real cause of distraction, much more so than the act of holding the phone. Harms said the biggest issue was inexperience at the wheel amongst younger

drivers. He said new and and especially teen drivers make the poor decisions to dec things like talk on the phone, go driving during an open lunch hour or pack a number of friends into the car with them.

"It's just poor judgment sometimes," he said. "None of this is necessarily pitched towards the cell." He said he thinks it is just a priority to deal with the problem if any drivers an

going to grow up to be adults. He said while adults are generally more mature and have less of a tendency to do irresponsible things such as pack their cars with people, both adults and teens car

be immature. 'They're not immune to any of those things," he said. "It's (cell phones are) jus very distracting.

Harms said since introducing the bill, he has gotten a lot of correspondence from the public, mainly in the form of e-mails. He said he has been contacted by the families of victims of accidents that LB 415 could have help prevent. He said the families we both excited and pleased by the development of the bill.

LB 415 was introduced late to the Legislature and has only just gone to committee, Harms said. He said a vote hasn't been scheduled yet, but it likely won't come up until mid-February.

"A hearing is the next step," he said, "There are a lot of variables."



**REGISTER YOUR OPINION** 

Do you think students' communication and social skills are being harmed because of technology being allowed in school?



"No. Because technology is changing and it's getting better."



actually improves the way we communicate with peers."



"I guess it's hurting kids. They're not acting as intellectually. There's a lot of smart kids though."



people it's harder for me to have a conversation than when we text."



people, it's their life."



"No, I think it's a good thing for us to have them so we can talk to our friends. I guess that's communication."

Bryshawn Nelson (9

Isabel Benjamin-**Judy Rosas (10)** Alex Brown (9) Alvarado (10) Jordan Nauden (11) Andy De Leon (12)

# BAY DOORS, HA

It the forefront of the movement, the "Digital Revolution,"

which has taken so kindly to iPods, cell phones and personal computers.

levices can cause harm or be used to inflict it. When will the day finally come ommunication? You might say the future... but the future is now.

lunior Tim Seffron text messages during class

"If someone texts me in class, I'll text them "he said. "I don't think it's a big deal because I cheat on my exams with text messaging."

He said text messaging with his friends was like ision of passing notes.

He said multiple teachers have taken away his phone, but he has gotten the cell phone back e end of class. He said getting caught hasn't ped him from text messaging. He said he hasn't sent to his administrator for having a cell me in class.

social studies teacher Rod Mullen said he don't even count the number of cell phones he taken away. However, Mullen said he gives the

He said he has only had four or five phones to administrators. He said that was because the mis were sent to their administrators because were uncooperative.

He said most students do what teachers ask 10 do, but some of the students make it difficult.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said the distration tries to prevent students from having items out in school by telling students they're supposed to have items like iPods and cell s before school starts. As soon as they walk in filding, electronic devices should be put away.

she said she sees students in the morning with ronic devices and she tells them to put the es away, but doesn't know about cell phones Pods in the classrooms. She said this is an live method because the students don't want

Kirksey said cell phones and iPods aren't really

a problem because she really hasn't gotten a lot of referrals concerning electronic items. She said the teachers were doing a good job of enforcing the rules because she really hasn't gotten a lot of cell phones that were taken away from students.

Mullen said cell phones and other electronic devices were pretty easy to spot, no matter how hard students try to hide them. He said even though electronic devices are getting smaller it isn't a problem in catching students with cell phones or

Seffron said he believed some of the teachers are apathetic about cell phones in class. He said there have been times when he has gotten caught with his cell phone and the teacher didn't do anything about it. He said that doesn't happen very often, though.

Mullen said teacher apathy was more over cell phones than electronics in general.

"I can understand the apathy," he said. "Students really believe that they have a birthright to have cell phones, at school, on their waist and on at all times during the day. When teachers ask them to turn off their cell phones and put them away, out of sight, pants, purse, pockets, lockers, whatever, a lot of students refuse to do so.

Mullen said students will claim that they need their cell phones on because of an emergency or their parents need to reach them, but that doesn't make it okay.

According to the student handbook, a student can have his or her cell phone or electronic device confiscated by a teacher and given to the student's administrator if they are seen.

Students can get their cell phones back at the end of the day by the administrator if it is the first

Kirksey said she didn't think making the punishment for having cell phones or iPods out during class any harsher would much of a difference.

"I think we're in this situation because of advancements in technology," she said. "I think society feels that those items are necessary and needed to function."

She said the number of students bringing electronics to school has been the same for the past couple of years.

"I don't think there has been an increase in usage or people having them since cell phones have

been a big deal," Kirksey said. However, Mullen said it was a huge problem.

"Number one, it's a distraction to teachers, the class and the students," he said. "They're supposed to concentrate on their classroom lessons and not on their cell phone."

Mullen said having cell phones out was against the school rules anyway. He said another problem with cell phones is the text-messaging function.

He said students could text message other students and get answers to a quiz or test in an upcoming classes.

Junior Shelly McLaughlin said students need to take more responsibility. She said it's distracting to others and students should be more respectful

"I see a lot of people who have them (cell phones) out anyway," McLoughlin said.

McLoughlin said it was mostly that teachers can't see students on their cell phones in the back of the room. However, she said some teachers don't take them away when they go off. .

She said some of the problem was that teachers may not hear cell phones vibrating.

"It's more the students not obeying the rules because they're not being enforced," McLoughlin

She said administration imposed the rule at the beginning of the year, but is not following through

### of the software. To protect from viruses, there are numerous programs, but with new viruses developing every day, it is hard to protect from everything. **INFORMATION COURTESY OF ENCARTA.MSN.ORG**

they can come onto a computer.

someone's system.

onto the next server.

### SIX EASY STEPS **TO PROTECT** YOUR COMPUTER

INFOGRAPHIC BY PATRICK BREEN

### **Step 1: Implement a firewall**

A firewall keeps away destructive forces from networks you may have. A firewall intercepts all information and only allows those authorized through.

**INFECTED: HOW A VIRUS WORKS** 

In every dark corner of the infinite Internet, they lurk. The people who use

their skills with computers to make life harder for others, sometimes just

for the fun of it, and our limited understanding makes us vulnerable.

This is how you get infected.

A virus is either downloaded from the Internet, received through an e-mail or

transferred through a floppy disk or flash drive. Viruses must be accessed before

Sinister technology often disguises itself in programs that look useful. They are

called "Trojan Horses" because they disguise their meanings for easier access onto

Once a virus is on a computer, it will travel through its server searching to infect

individual programs and eventually a complete network. It will affect programs

without locks or security, first and then try to disrupt the operating system (OS).

The virus disrupts the system causing errors and then searches and finds the other

operating systems on the network. It will then continue to gradually infect and go

Viruses can be removed through system searches and removal and re-installation

### Step 2: Develop a Security Policy

Developing a policy will protect computers from hackers. When establishing a policy, it is important to choose a unique password so that it is not easily accessible.

### **Step 3: Install antivirus software**

Antivirus software protects against network invasions. Some well-known programs are Norton and McAfee.

### Step 4: Don't run unnecessary network devises When installing systems, especially servers, it's not good to run nonessential

devises. The server can be thought of as security in its self.

### **Step 5: Keep operating systems up to date** Update your operating systems frequently. Updating can be inexpensive

especially if you connect through the Internet. Doing this protects against hackers.

### **Step 6: Conduct a vulnerability test**

Conducting a venerability test is a cost efficient way to check your security program. Contact a computer consultant and allow access to your computer for one or two days.

**INFORMATION COURTESY OF MONEY.CNN.COM** 

INFOGRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE

# Administration battles with in-class texting

st every period. He has gotten caught multiple but still text messages anyway.

thones back at the end of the class.

aid it depended on the student.

o take away the device.

oular and also notorious Myspace.com.

"It's for student protection," he said.

\* Name changed to protect identity

BY BOB AL-GREENE

"If you know what you're doing," junior John Doe\* said, "you can do almost

Doe is a student who has learned how to beat the system. By "pinging"

rnate IP addresses (sending out a pulse of information and waiting for

response), he can bypass one of the major limits put on students on the

nputer network. He can access websites which OPS finds to contain illegal, ecent, defamatory, inaccurate or offensive material. This includes the hugely

He said the administration would of course prefer to only have school

puters open for scholastic purposes, so students did not become distracted

heir classes. He said it is also true if popular websites were allowed, more lents would be likely to be on the computers. And if more people in the

ding were logged on to the computer network at one time, the network

and run slower and less efficiently. That knowledge doesn't stop him from

Doe said he took computer classes at his grade school, where he was taught

to use programs like MS-DOS and learned "hot keys." He said he also

med from his uncle, a computer programmer, and after learning the basics,

He said tinkering is what he spends a majority of his time on the computers

ust started tinkering around with everything he could.

ng. Most of the time, he said, he doesn't just

the web uninhibited. His horizons are

By accessing alternate IP addresses, sifting

ough lines of MS-DOS code and getting

words he should not have, he can view the

unts of other students and even faculty

Suppose I want to see upcoming

ignments," he said, "I can. Student records,

Hackers" at Central might not have

he ability to steal students' money as

this graphic; but the digital thieving

apabilities and identity theft present a

major problem in the real world.

**CAMERAS** 

Doe said he understands why blocks are put on sites such as Myspace.

Student exploits holes in computer network teacher records... I can do that."

> Doe's power is limited, however, by how much he can change. Though he ould theoretically get a jump on a year's worth of work and possibly answers ahead of time, he cannot alter any of the records he views.

towards one another.

He cannot change his own grades or delete student parental contacts and the like. Only the network administrator has that privilege, and his account is too hard to crack, according to Doe. So for now, even if he wanted to change any information, he couldn't. For now.

Doe said he recently completed working on a program known as a key logger. Key loggers are programs or devices that, when loaded on to a computer, begin monitoring and recording every key stroke the user makes.

This would include the user name and password of the selected faculty member, and upon retrieval Doe would be able to see their user name and password and theoretically sign on to their account. For instance, suppose Doe wanted to make major changes to the Central High School website homepage. He knew one teacher at Central was the designer of the page, and therefore his or her account would allow him or her to make any changes to it. If Doe was able to put his key logger into this teacher's computer, it would load and be absolutely invisible to the user. It would save everything the teacher typed and then could simply be removed on a flash drive, disappearing completely. Untraceable.

The problem with such a plan, obviously, is the near-impossible task of loading and withdrawing the key logger program manually without anyone, especially the teacher, noticing. A long-term key logger on a computer used by a number of different people throughout the day, however, would be an easy way of getting other students' user names and passwords.

And some key loggers are advanced enough to be sent and used by e-mail the FBI has used them before to access accounts of suspected criminals.

Whether or not Doe will be able to access a teacher's account with the help of a key logger, the activities he is taking part in presently and their punishments are outlined in the Central High School Student Handbook. A first offense would get Doe kicked off the computer systems for 15 school days. A second offense runs 90 school days and a third offense 180, a total of roughly 36 weeks (or until the end of the school year, whichever comes first). Doe said he was aware of the punishment, and listed the consequences from memory.

"Yeah," he said. "I know what it is. That's why I don't cross any lines."

### GRAPHIC BY MASON BUSBOOM-PIERCY/REGISTER OF THE LINE: A look at the hippest technology outside of cell phones, computers or iPods



The age of film is over as cameras grow smaller and cheaper all the time. With the advent of cameraphones, however, the need for even digital cameras in the future is in doubt.

### THE CONSOLE WARS

Every few years a revolution in videogaming technology comes along and so-called "Next-Gen" consoles such as the Xbox 360 or Nintendo Wii (right) cause an explosion in sales and renew the competition.

### **PORTABLES**

Beyond the consoles and television sets, video games have expanded into small hand-held devices. Where once teens played primitive GameBoys, the screen of a PlayStation Portable (below) is almost as high quality as a



### **ONLINE VIDEOS**



Named the Invention of the Year by Time magazine, YouTube saw a lot of press in 2006 due to its soaring popularity. Videos ranging from recorded concerts to entire TV shows to at-home experiments and pranks are displayed.

### **BLACKBERRY**

The iPhone's predecessor, the

Blackberry (below) combines a telephone, the Internet and e-mail capabilities into one 'device. It can

> also function as a personal organizer and a status symbol, especially in the field of business.

### VINYL

Even as music devices shrink and CDs become almost obsolete, the LPs of yesterday's generation still retain their popularity as more than a novelty or retro fashion symbol. In an age when songs are



than files, vinyl lives on.

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

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# Draft will not fix troubling war

**EDITORIAL** 

The **OPINION** of

the Register staff

Every day it rises. The death toll is at 3,088. It will go higher.

We allegedly won the "war" in Iraq in less than two months. The mission was accomplished, right?

Four years later our soldiers still fight and die. Over 3,000 dead and 22,500 wounded. The numbers speak for themselves. And now, adding insult to injury, the government is considering reinstating the draft. Remember, this is the very same war that was going to be a quick win and out. A cakewalk, right? Wrong.

President George W. Bush has now announced the government will be upping the number of troops by 21,500. There is an old expression that fits this perfectly: "There's no sense in beating a dead horse." Adding troops through extra tours or drafts would just exacerbate the situation.

This is an unjustified war that this country desperately needs to end. "Operation Iraqi Freedom," as the government likes to call it, is filled with holes, which lives are now bleeding through.

Promises from allies fell through. No exit plan was ever calculated. And now both the president and his advisers think they can alleviate the problem by throwing kids in uniform and placing an M-60 in their cold and frightened fingers.

Open your eyes: there is a war at home, too.

Instead of looking at the problems abroad, the official representatives of the United States must be looking to the problems within. The problems that are crippling this great nation.

Spending on the war has already exceeded \$100 billion and the proposed plan of sending more to the war will expand the already exceeded budget.

High school drop-out rates in America continue to go up.

As it does, the quality of education in our country continues to

Gang warfare continues to hold siege on communities. Drug dealers make profits on the street corners students have to walk

by. The unemployment rate is still on a steady climb, and more Americans are losing their jobs to outsourcing.

Tax cuts upon tax cuts continue to help the deficit grow to over \$250 billion. The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming larger and

A draft wouldn't fix any of that.

A draft hasn't been imposed since the United States became involved in Vietnam. A draft that split and divided our nation.

People protested by burning their draft cards and being hauled off to jail. Americans jumped the border to Canada so they weren't forced to put a bullet through a fellow human

Some people detested the "draft dodgers," calling them cowards. Others mocked the people heading off to the war. A war broke the nation, but the draft divided it.

The perceptions of the war in Iraq were never pretty. Poll ratings showed that from the beginning people questioned the validity of having to go to war. The perceptions are getting worse. Less than 20 percent still

view the war in Iraq as being the "right plan." And the perception of a draft is even worse. After Vietnam, legislation was passed to not allow the government to pull thousands upon thousands of people out of their daily lives into the hell of war. Whispers of a draft were met with deaf ears. No one wanted to utter the word. It became the

The country is pinned between different social and political groups who find the American occupation to be the reason for their problems.

This war can't be solved with weapons or money. It can't be solved with death. It just can't be fixed.

But Bush and his supporters feel they can fix the problem with overwhelming strength. The draft isn't the way to go. The withdraw is. Plain and simple.

Every day the death toll rises.

voodoo of senators and legislation writers.



A Column by Max Larson

## Junior considers life choices after friend's near-pregnancy

you're on a playground hunting for a one-in-a-million pill in a rock pile.

It happened to me one night when two of my friends and I went to a playground, hoping to enjoy a midnight picnic, but it ended up becoming a lifechanging experience.

My friend Sarah (well, Sarah is what I will call her for the sake of anonymity) was sitting on a piece of playground equipment, like a jungle gym, when she became very emotional in the space of a

"Oh no," she said. "Oh my God. The one thing that I needed, the only important thing about tonight, and I ruined it."Feeling very confused, I looked to my other friend, and I asked why Sarah had become so upset. This other friend, I'll call her Ali, tried to console Sarah, but with little effect.

Sarah sat herself on the jungle gym, a look on her face of utter defeat. She insulted herself, and she explained her stupidity to Ali and me with so much hopelessness in her words.

I guess it should have made sense to me at the time, but that's easy to say now.

All night, she had been repeating, "I have to take this pill at midnight. I only have so many hours. At midnight, I have to take this pill. I can't do it after that."

Apparently it went wrong somewhere. Sarah was about to take this pill when it slipped out of her fingers. It dropped onto the base of the jungle gym, fell through one of the rubber holes, and landed on the floor of the playground.

It was a quarter inch, perfectly round, white pill amidst a million rocks of the same size, color, and shape. Ali and I crawled underneath the jungle gym, scanning over the rocks and straining our eyes. But it was dark outside. Sarah sat above us, moping over dropping this one precious pill, the ultimate mistake.

Each rock that our eyes sifted over looked just like the next. We used our cell phones as light sources, but the aid was minimal. As we searched, Sarah began to calm down, possibly as a result of denial.

Ali and I left the playground and started walking to my car because I kept a flashlight in my glove compartment.

The walk was four or five blocks, so we had a little time, and I decided to confront Sarah on what exactly was happening. After a little pressing, she reluctantly explained to me that around a week earlier, she had had unprotected sex twice in one day. She went to Planned Parenthood afterwards and received

One minute you're fine and the next pills to help terminate any possile pregnancy.

The last of those vital pills was lying somewhere on that playground.

We returned to it, this time with: efficient light source, and hunted over nine square foot area of gravel.

We gave up looking around h in the morning. We left the playgrous behind us; that pill sitting tucked awa from our sight somewhere.

The idea of Sarah become pregnant took a violent swing fro fantasy to reality. By giving up on finding the pill, we had accepted the fact that h life could be changed forever.

Sarah was noticeably concerned this time, talking to herself and cryin But she was unsure whether or not was actually pregnant. She was so hesitar about being tested, and was using the pills as a precaution.

She didn't even want to be sure the test came up negative, she would overjoyed, but if it was positive, she w convinced that her parents would sen her away for good. It would end her life

Despite her worries, Ali and convinced her to find out.

At this point it was 2:30, and all drove to Hy-Vee to buy an early response pregnancy test. The lady at the register was old, and there was definite an awkward tension in the air as she too us to unlock the screen holding the test

The ride back to Sarah's house w quiet. We went into her basement at waited for the results. The few minute that it took for the test to show a reading sort of felt heavy on me. I thought all about what it meant to make your ow choices, and how careful you have to be

The test came out negative, and w were enormously relieved as a weig came off the room. We congratulate Sarah, or gave her whatever form congratulation is appropriate for the

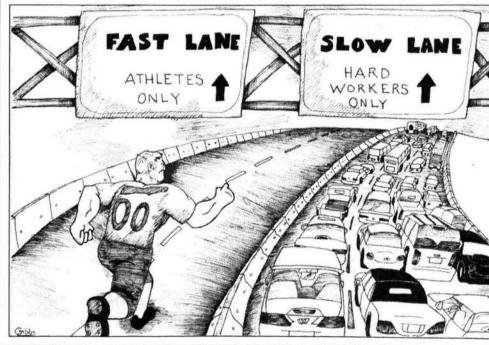
I guess you don't go up to someon and say, "Hey! So, uh, great job on being pregnant."

The atmosphere took a sudden shift All night, Sarah had been saying, "K me. Just kill me. Just end my life, me an the life inside me."

But it was okay. Life didn't end was a very real experience, but it was like a dream at the same time. It came out right when it could have been the exa

Everything would continue on li before, unmentioned, unheard of. though nothing had ever happened, the whole memory existing like a fantasy.

# Some school athletes gain unfair advantages over harder-working students



An admission officer for the University of Michigan sits at his desk, examining the final two transcripts. One, a female with pretty good grades wants to major in English. argument. Another, an athlete with less-thanimpressive grades wants to be a

football player. Which one should he accept and which one should he turn

The answer would seem simple, but more than likely, the

athlete would be considered over the student with academic merit. Sure, everyone has heard of the war of equal rights between blacks and whites, but what about equal rights between "regular"

students and athletes? It is widely argued that athletes who have obtained a higher status than average students are treated with a significantly different level of respect and that they receive more privileges

How do you argue that though? Can you prove it? Maybe not, but there certainly is plenty of material that creates a good

> At the University of Michigan, an athlete with average, or even below-average grades has a higher chance of being accepted than a middle-class student with adequate grades just because the one applicant is an athlete.

Notre Dame varsity athletes have been on national television, visited the White House and have different levels of expectations academically just because they are varsity athletes.

Years ago, over-privileged high school athletes were thought to be a factor in the cause of the violence at Columbine High School.

The teachers and administration overlooked their bad behavior such as bullying and bad grades. The athlete yearbook pages were printed in color while the awardwinning debate team and other clubs when printed in black and white.

Another example was when two hi school star football players, who we responsible for a car crash that killed or student and badly injured another, we dismissed from their case during footba season so they could play. The case v reopened a few months later after the seaso had ended.

Students as well as officials are guilty over-prioritizing athletics.

Students know if they are in a cla sitting by a varsity basketball player, but th probably wouldn't even realize the star of the musical was sitting right next to them.

Athletes work hard, no doubt, but so academic students. School work is a student responsibility.

Athletes ignoring that responsibility at replacing it with an extra-curricular activity no matter how glorious it is, should not recent special treatment from anyone.

### 06-07 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 10-time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix,

Dallas, Washington D.C., Seattle and Chicago. The Register staff is also responsible for the

publication of the EDGE feature magazine, which has also won a first place Best-in-Show award for specialty publications.

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers.

The Pacemaker is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.

It has also won many Cornhusker awards from It has been awarded Gold and Silver Crowns from

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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.

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**Bob Al-Greene** Editor in chief/Ads mgr

**EDITORIAL** 

The OPINION of

the Register staff

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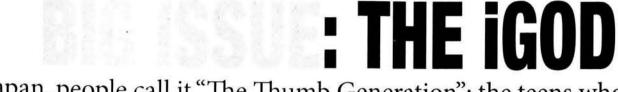
**TECHNOLOGY** 

2007

# OPINI()

"If Central students didn't technology including texting, computers, etc., we would not be able to function."

**Ebonie Epinger (10)** 



In Japan, people call it "The Thumb Generation"; the teens who are so focused on their text messages or PDAs they begin to develop legitimate health concerns. With teens rushing to worship at the altar of this new deity, it seems the evolution has only just begun.



# Teens should be wary of side effects of techno-obsession

**EDITORIAL** 

The **OPINION** of

the Register staff

texting has become one of the biggest trends in hnology. However, texting has become a problem society and teenagers.

It is not just text messaging that is causing problem, but other electronic devices that keep tting smaller and smaller.

With the introduction of Apple's iPhone ith multiple features, students are depending electronics such as this more and more, us detaching themselves from actual human teraction.

It's almost like some type of religion.

Before and after school, students can be seen in hallways entering and leaving the school talking their cell phones, sending a friend a text message listening to music on their iPods. For some of students, it's no problem to turn the devices off d keep them out of sight when the bell rings and hool starts.

However, some of these students do not have simple courtesy to turn their electronic devices ff during class and actually learn. Cell phones ring uring class and students are busy hiding their

One thing cannot be denied, text messaging phones under the desks and tables so they can text electronics in the building, but instead they are message their friends.

They listen to music in class by hiding small iPods in their pockets and wearing ear buds up their sleeves so teachers can't catch them.

The length some teens go to so they can text message each other in class or listen to some music is pathetic.

Some students even have the guts to do these things blatantly and pretend not to care about getting caught.

Then if they are caught, they whine about getting punished for having those devices that shouldn't have been out in the first

Not only is this kind of behavior disrespectful to the teachers and staff in the school, and not only is it a waste of time, but according to the student handbook, it's also against the rules to have

electronics out during school anyway. According to last year's student handbook, it was against the rules to have any electronic devices in the building at all. Students should be grateful that the school administration has finally allowed

taking advantage of that fact and sometimes abusing

With the sheer number of text messages getting sent by teens and the vast amount of time students

spend focused on those tiny buttons and screen, it's no wonder teens have come to be known as the Thumb Generation in other countries. Apple has reported that 1.5 billion purchases have been made since the iPod came

What does that say about this generation? That they would rather text message a friend in class then actually pay attention in school

Psychologist David Meyer said all of the electronic devices people use induce stress as well as make tasks longer by 50 percent. Students cannot afford to be all stressed out because of an electronic

The social skills of teenagers are going down as well. In the future, will there be no need for humans to talk with one another?

If the Thumb Generation is an indication, the

answer may be yes. People are even breaking up and being fired through text messaging. What kind of message does

that send to future generations? That's it's OK to be lazy and take the easy way

Text messaging has gone to the extreme that schools in Australia are allowing students write in

text speech on exams. What's next? Job applications and business

reports written in text speech as well? It's no wonder some people are afraid text messaging is hurting the writing skills of teenagers.

Text messaging and listening to music every once in a while is OK, but the Thumb Generation needs to learn some moderation when it comes to their cell phones and iPods.

The Thumb Generation needs to stop being lazy and start actually talking with their friends face-to-face once in a while instead of sending them text messages all of the time.

They need to put their iPods away and pay attention during class.



**REGISTER YOUR OPINION** 

**Should students** bring cell phones and iPods to school?



"No, because they are a distraction. And other kids are likely to steal them." Faith Everhart (11)



"Yes, because music helps students concentrate." Michelle Negrete (11)



"Yes, because students do need cell phones to call in case of emergency. You have to be responsible." Teresa Reed (10)



"They should be allowed to bring cell phones if it's for an emergency. And iPods for study halls." Carlos Carroll (10)

"I think at certain times. Music can help people do better."

Caitlyn Tapio (10)



"No, I think they shouldn't use them during school, unless approved by teacher."

Will Robbins (11)

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

### Internet is easy way out for teens

I think that students are too dependent on technology. ids can go online to find answers on almost anything. It's like ey don't even have to think about the work.

aylor Furgison (10)

### fechnology not always needed

believe that the students of today, as a whole, are not completely eliant on modern technology. For most of my projects and search, I generally use encyclopedias, as opposed to such nternet sites as Wikipedia. However, I do believe that quite a w of today's students do use modern technology quite a lot, if ot in school, then in other parts of their daily life.

<sup>J</sup>esse **Reno** (9)

### **Fechnology essential for students**

If Central students didn't have technology, including xting, computers, etc., we would not be able to function. laving certain technology like computers can help us learn bout the world today. Texting is a good way for students to eep in touch with each other as long as it's not during class.

Ebonie Epinger (10)

### New world calls for new tech

It's not that we will die without technology, it's just that it a new time and the world as we know it is changing. Without echnology, I would have already failed school.

Jose Cardenas (10)

### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED**

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 030, via e-mail to Central.Journalism@ops.org or can be placed in Mr. Deabler's mailbox in the main office. Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.

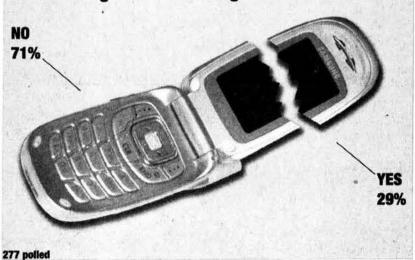
### **Devices should be limited to work use**

I think students are becoming too dependent on technology to solve things and spend their free time. Though technology helps with a lot of things, recreational time is the time set aside for television, computers and MP3 players.

Kayla Troxclair (9)

### Is it wrong to text message a friend in class?

STUDENT POLL



### Technology can help students

Dear Editor,

Sometimes I think I am too dependent on technology. I use the Internet to look up vocabulary word definitions to get information about essay subjects. I've used Sparknotes once or twice, but is that not why we have the Internet and television? Television and the Internet give us the information needed to excel in our classes, but I do not think it would hurt if students used a few more books and fewer devices.

Clarissa Lovegren (10)

### Electronics not always negative

I think the students of Central depend on electronics too much. By electronics, I mean cell phones, iPods, CD players, etc. But just because we are dependent on these electronics too much, that doesn't make it a negative thing. For example, cell phones are used so you can contact your guardian as well as your peers.

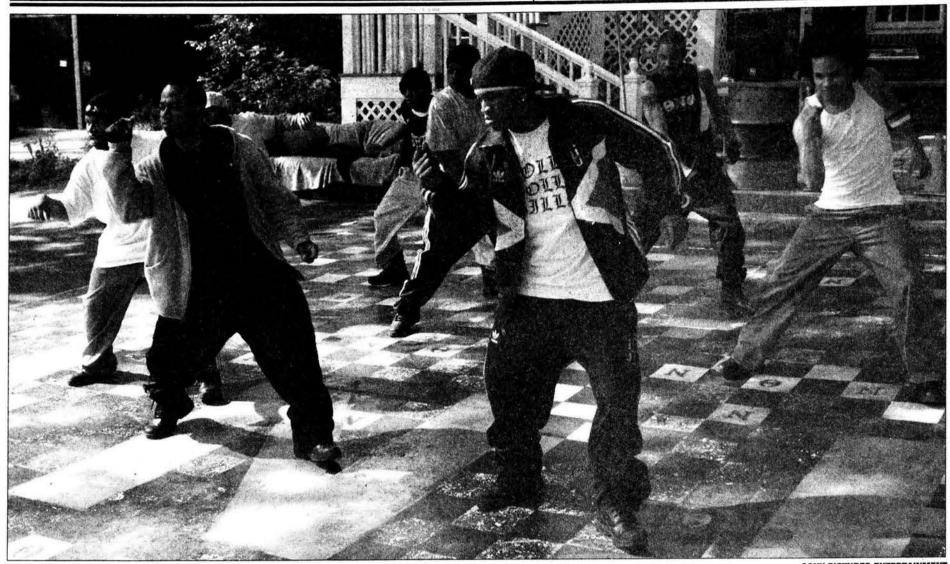
Zalika King (10)

### Rules on technology not enforced

Currently, the school bans any use of cell phones, iPods, etc. during school hours. But occasionally, actually quite often, students do get away with the use of these devices without

If the rules were so strict that using a cell phone or MP3 player would not be an option at all, students would either be extremely focused at school, or they would go crazy.

Ashley Pruitt (10)



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

DJ (center), played by Columbus Short, teaches a new style of stepping to the new members of the Theta fraternity house, involving more hip-hop steps. DJ found the old style of stepping boring and wanted to give the dance more enthusiasm. The movie involved more than just dancing. The storyline gave the movie heart.

# Good story gives dance movie new style

"Stomp the Yard"

Starring: Columbus Short

BY WYNTER DAVIS

"Stomp the Yard" had all of the moves of a great movie.

The movie was not just a dance film. It had a lot of meaning behind it to back up the

It had comedy, romance, judgment and tolerance, along with the theme of coming into your own after getting hit with life-changing events.

The movie took the audience on a rollercoaster ride through the trials and tribulations of a teen being the big man on campus.

This would be incomplete without vivid dance moves, a line-up of cast members and a great hook.

The movie followed DJ, played by Columbus Short, a hot-headed dance battler who demanded respect on the dance floor and would knock down any barrier to get it. DJ got too confident, though, and that led to the death of his younger brother Duron, played by Chris Brown. After his brother's death, DJ packed up from L.A. and went to go stay with his

had a forbidden lover, April, played by Meagan Good. Dave Scott did most of the choreography for the film, as he did for "You Got Served." The choreography in this movie was better, though. It allowed more movement and variety in the dancing than "You Got Served."

uncle and aunt in Atlanta and attend Truth College. He took on new challenges, frat houses and

Even though Short portrayed a predictable character, he managed to bring more life and

action to it. The tension in his face every time he danced was believable, like he had been dancing all his life.

Short had several supporting actors that helped make the movie great.

Laz Alonso played Zeke, the head of the fraternity, who was really cocky and only cared about one thing: winning. He didn't care about the most important thing, brotherhood of his frat members.

Real life choreographer Darrin Dewitt Henson played Grant, a big-headed step member of a rival house, who only lived in the shadow of Zeke. He was April's boyfriend and the rival of DJ not only for her affections, but on the dance floor as well.

> While at Truth College, DJ picked up some friends on his road to fame. One of them was his roommate Rich, played by Ne-Yo, who had a comical style in the movie. When DJ first got into Truth College, Rich only cared about joining a fraternity and wearing the right outfit. He took DJ under his wing and looked out for him. Things got bad for DJ when the dean of the college, April's father, threatened to kick him out if he didn't stop seeing his daughter. The cinematography helped heighten the dance performances by having

the camera slow down and almost freeze on the high points. Whenever Duron froze in the air it seemed like he was never going to come down. But once he was, he was impacting the dance

Having the audience inch off their seats to see rawer dance moves gave the movie more appeal and kept the audience continually guessing as to which dance move was going to come

# Singing, music dominate 93rd av Road Show

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Excellent percussion and drums are probably what 93rd Road Show is going to be remembered for.

Overall, the Road Show kept up the standard excellence that has come to be expected.

The Road Show started off slowly in Act 1 in the middle of the act there were several stand

For the most part the singing in Act 1 was weak because it was soft, and at times hard to hear. It was probably on the only flaws in the entire show.

There wasn't a lot of dancing in the Road Show, and the numerous singing acts overshadowed dancing that was there. Act 1 had humor

PERFORMANCE REVI

classes had the audience laughing throughout the entire It was by far the funniest act in the show. The exagger movements by the actors added to the feel of watch silent comedy. Act 1 ended strongly with an original arrange

alongside the musical pieces. The skit by one of the di

from the movie "Drumline." Six students entertained audience with strong drumbeats that had the andie applauding on more than one occasion. The performance kept the audience guessing by performing tricks with

The percussion arrangement began with some ray and ended with an old woman velling at them. It was of the best acts of the Road Show and the hardest or beat. The audience easily got into the street perform feel, which was also helped by the brick background.

Act 2 was stronger than the first. There was stronger singing and several instrumental pieces impressed audience. There wasn't really a lot of humor as in Act

there was a mix of light music numbers along with a performance pieces. Senior Brenton Donaldson had the most inter-

performance. He beatboxed and left the audience and The jazz piece "Cold Duck Time," performer

juniors Andrew Kroeger, Alek Erickson and Connor I and sophomore Kolbey Wallington was a hit. They had energy of a driving rock band and brought the jazz num to an end by jumping up and down and landing on crashing drums.

The CHS. Percussion Ensemble ended the show the energetic piece "Pico de Paco," which seemed a too short. The show could've ended stronger with a lo piece, but "Pico de Paco" still left the audience pleased the 93rd Road Show.

> Special Road Show In-Depth **NEXT ISSUE**

# Scrapbooking Day allows students an opportunity to preserve memories

Students, staff and other members of the community were able to attend Scrapbooking Day on Jan. 20 from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

Deb Albright said students attending the event were able to work on their own

scrapbook. Albright said the price of admissions was \$25 and the event took place in the cafeteria.

This was the second year the school has held a Scrapbooking Day. She said this year was more successful than last year because more people came.

Tammy Champion was one of the many adults who attended the event. She said she heard about it through gym teacher, Lisa Studer.

Champion said she has accumulated things over the years and with four children she really didn't have time for scrapbooking.

"This was a really good opportunity to have a lot of uninterrupted time to get it (scrapbooking) done," she said.

Champion said this was her first time scrapbooking. She said scrapbooking was not really challenging, but it took a lot of time.

"When you have a lot of supplies and things you want to do the best you can,"

Albright said the scrapbooking day was to raise money for the vocal music

department. She said most of the money would be used for music scholarships for

Albright said some of the music students sang over the lunch hour. She said it was important to give good scholarships to the seniors because it encouraged students to do well in music.

Senior Emily Waldo said she hoped to get one of the scholarships. Waldo was one of the students who volunteered at the event, but didn't sing.

She said scrapbooking day needed volunteers and she needed the National

Honor Society hours. Waldo said she helped set up for the event, brought up materials to the cafeteria

and directed where it went.

She said several vendors were there from Creative Memories, Yesterday's Scrapbooking and Michael's to show different techniques in scrapbooking. Pam Towey was one of the venders from Yesterday's Scrapbooking. She said the

store liked to help all those who are doing fund-raisers and it was great for publicity for the store.

She said this was the second year Yesterday's Scrapbooking was at the event. She said the store representatives came back because they had a good time last year.

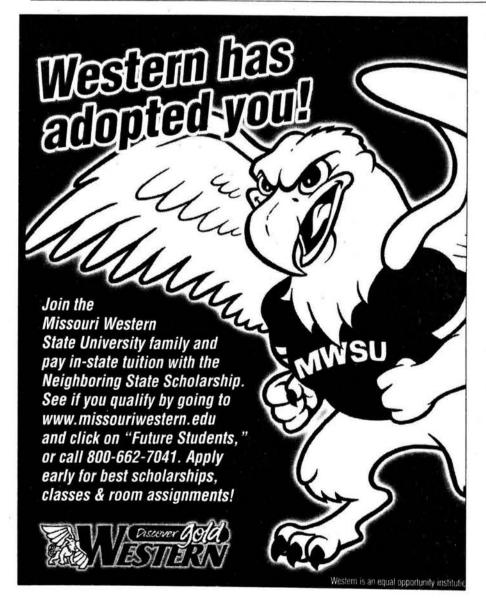
"It's a really nice atmosphere and we like to help out the cause," Towey said. Albright said door prizes were awarded every hour. She also said donuts and juice were provided in the morning and lunch and snacks in the afternoon.

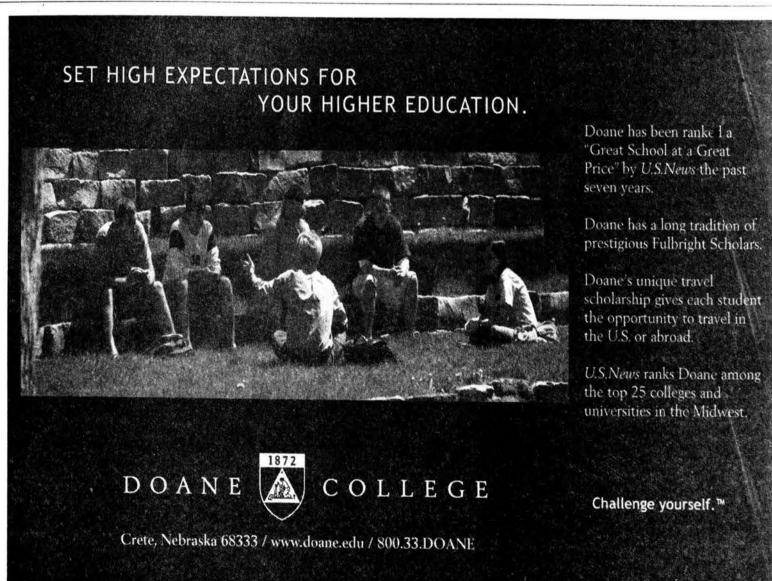
"We just provide some of the goodies for the day," she said. Waldo said scrapbooking was a good way to share memories. She said she didn't do any scrapbooking, but it was something that could appeal to her.



PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY/REGIST

Junior Adrienne Anderson cuts wire for a creative project. She was one the music students who sang during the noon hour at the event.





## Acting fails to ave movie about real kidnapping

BY FRANI JAMROZY

"Alpha Dog" managed to show some promise, but it have the bite needed to make it a spectacular

The people who wrote and directed this film at have found the story irresistible.

Gang member Johnny Truelove, played by Emile sch, kidnapped 15-year-old Zack Mazersky,

ed by Anoton Yelchin. Mazersky was kidnapped so the gang could settle a debt with his MOVIE REVIEW older brother, one of

"Alpha Dog"

the gang members. Starring: Emile Hirsch the gang participated

The hardest part to deal with was the unsettling some of this stuff really happened.

During that time

in drugs, sex and other

There were witnesses to the crime, and lots of n. Throughout the movie, new characters were oduced as "Witness 1" or "Witness 2," with the mber all the way up to the high forties.

While the audience was being force-fed gusting spoonfuls of violence and sex with plenty oad language, there was that compounding dread something really bad was going to happen. And it did.

Bruce Willis gave a strong performance as Sonny elove, the father and dope connection of his apping gang member son.

Harry Dean Stanton also had a strong part as ny's drunken father and Johnny's mentor. Sharon Stone played the mother. She was the only parent in the whole movie who

Justin Timberlake did a good job portraying a ner with a heart of gold.

ned to actually care about the wellbeing of her

He genuinely befriended the kidnapped victim. The girls in the film were supposed to glamorize drug dealing gang lifestyle. Their role was not as h characters but compliments to the fast cars and y jewelry in possession of the lead male roles.

Their attempt to portray a few light characters unsuccessful and their performance left the ience feeling more empty and horrified at the icted lifestyle.

The standout creep of the story wasn't the ected Johnny Truelove, but Elvis Schmidt, played Shawn Hatosy, who did his best to emulate Schmidt played the punching bag of the group

the peak of tragedy when he showed loyalty to idolized "friend" and caused more destruction oughout the group than anyone else in the movie. His portrayal really painted a picture of what it

like to be this guy. Despite a well-documented crime, good acting at times beautiful scenery, there was no reason to

Maybe a person would want to see this movie if was a huge Justin Timberlake fan or liked lots of

Then again, maybe some people went just cause they wanted to make fun of the singer. ough there was substance, the audience left the eater feeling depressed and frustrated, and not just ause they thought they would get a good laugh at

The movie was too dark and too real to be oyed by most people.

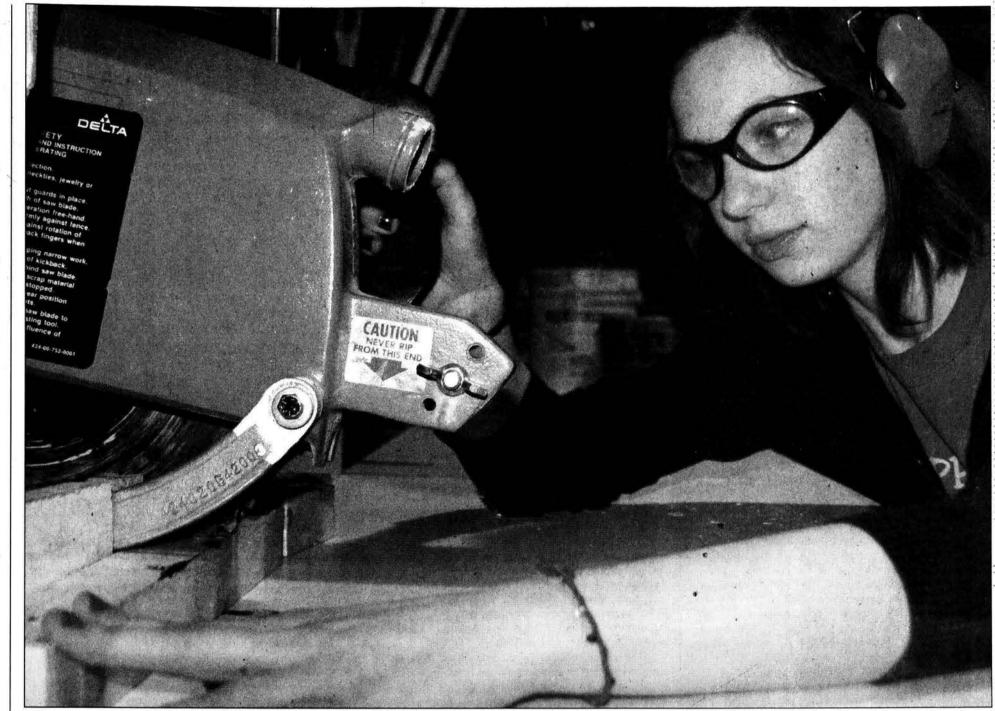


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Junior Grace Krause cuts up some wood to make a prop for a play. She helps create sets and props at the Community Playhouse. Krause said right now she is working with props, but later in the year she will work with lighting, sound and costuming.

# Junior commits efforts to stage craft

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Most people come to the theater to see a play or perform. Junior Grace Krause goes to the theater to create the actors' world.

Krause is an apprentice at the Community Playhouse in a program run by Metro Community

She said she took acting classes at the Rose Theater from age 11 until she was 14. She said she ran the light and sound board during the summer at the Rose. Krause said that was how she got into the backstage part of the theater.

"I definitely like the whole behind-the-scenes better," she said. "Backstage has always appealed

Krause said she found out about the program on the Internet. Program director Steve Bross said Grace was terrific and a hard worker. He said Grace is very good at anything she puts her mind

"She's just a pleasant person to talk to," he said.

Krause said last semester the apprentices built sets for the plays. She said this semester they picked three different departments to work in. She said she's currently working with props, but will work with electrics (lighting and sound) and costuming as the other two departments.

Krause said all three of the departments were equally interesting to her. She said working with props was interesting because she got to paint a lot and she was able to go to thrift stores to find clothes and furniture.

Krause said she really liked electrics because of the mood and atmosphere a person can create

She said she was sewing and teaching herself the basics so she wasn't so overwhelmed when she got into costuming.

Bross said when Grace applied for the program over the summer he saw her and guessed that she wanted to go into costuming. She asked him how he knew that and he told her he guessed by her outfit. Krause said she has met many people working at the Playhouse and has gotten a lot of opportunities by being an apprentice.

She said she really enjoyed the creative side of working behind the scenes. She said she knew people who were interested in general technicians and managing tools, but she said she was interested in the design part of it.

"I think you can be creative and in control of how a production comes about," Krause said. "It's a little bit more relaxed, too."

She said her goal was to be a scene painter or set designer as a profession. Bross said when the apprentices had to build and paint demonstration flats, Krause had one of the best ones because of her artistic ability.

"She has a terrific depth in art," he said.

Krause goes in every day from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and registers the time on the clock. She said when apprentices have put in 600 hours they become senior apprentices, and they get their certificate when they put in 1,500 hours. She said right now she has about 150 hours as an

"It's definitely a major time commitment," Krause said.

Bross said the first thing they try to instill in the apprentices is the work ethic of the theater. He said Krause figured that out already.

Krause said when there were shows she was always there from after school until she had to go home to sleep. She said the biggest struggle this year for her was balancing her apprenticeship with her schoolwork and maintaining good grades. She said it was hard because she wanted to relax when she got home because she was tired.

Krause said this year her grades haven't been as good as last year's. She said she wasn't really disappointed because she's working hard every day. She said she feels like she's spending her time working for her goal instead of just slacking off.

"It kind of makes it hard to have a social life. We (the apprentices) practically live there," Krause

She said she has worked behind the scenes for a couple of productions already. She has worked on "My Fair Lady" at the school and at the Playhouse she has worked on "A Christmas Carol."

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A Column by Kim Buckley

## Loss of mother's violin brings regret for ex-musician

Nothing sounds as bittersweet to me as the sound of a violin. It marked the end of an era for me when my mother sold her violin she had since she was a little girl.

All of my life, I just expected the violin to stay in the family to the end of time

It was the same violin she had given me to play when I was

in elementary school. When I saw she had put the violin out with the other stuff in the garage sale, I could feel my heart beating wildly.

I just wanted to protest to my mother that she could not, absolutely could not, sell that violin. My mouth opened, but no words came out.

I wanted nothing more than to tell my mom, "You can't sell it, it's been with you since forever!'

I felt the nauseous feeling of guilt creep into my stomach

because I know I was the reason she was selling the violing I remember being so excited about finally playing an instrument. I felt as if I was following in the footsteps of my mom, who played the violin when she was in school.

There were a couple of reasons why I quit. I had enjoyed playing the violin, but I was getting bored and lost interest." Practicing the violin at home had begun to seem more like a chore I had to do instead of something fun.

I wasn't willing to put in the time or the commitment to

And as bad as it sounds, it was just me being lazy.

I wish I could say that I learned the value of hard work along with other things by playing the violin for those three years, but I can honestly say I didn't.

I didn't learn any important life lessons or the meaning of dedication because there were times when I practiced only 15 minutes a day and sometimes not at all.

Every now and then when an orchestra played at a concert, my dad would always comment by saying it could have been me in a few years if I had kept up with playing the violin.

He didn't mean it, but every time he said that, guilt crept up on me and ruined that experience for me.

It always made me feel as if he was disappointed in me because I quit. My little cousin started playing the violin at her school just a few years ago.

I am proud of her, but I can't help but be jealous. I feel like she will succeed where I failed.

It is like a constant reminder that I was a quitter when it came to playing the violin. I also feel as if I let down my parents whenever my family talks about my cousin playing in

It is as if they have this special pride in her because she is playing the violin and to be honest, it hurts a lot.

It reminds me of the pride in my dad's voice when he talked about the first concert I played in. I remember him saying to some relatives that some of the students didn't play during all of the songs, but I played during all of them. I could just hear all of the pride in his voice.

It is as if I have this voice stuck in my head repeating 'quitter" over and over again. If there is one thing I associate with the word violin, it is the word guilt.

The last time I touched a violin and played it, a lot of the notes sounded sour and out of tune. I couldn't help but internally wince.

It sounded horrible and I couldn't deny it.

I found it to be symbolic.

The notes were sour just like the end of my short-lived

# New twists help create touching comedy

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

"Catch and Release" mixed characteristics from every kind of movie to produce a true masterpiece.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

With such moving actions between the characters, the movie was able to produce such drastic emotions as crying in one moment and laughing hysterically the next with tears still running down the face.

The movie revolved around Gray Wheeler, played by Jennifer Garner, after her fiancé died on a bachelor party

With nowhere else to go, Gray moved in with her dead fiance's three friends. Tossed in a small house full of complications, Gray experienced the classic love story.

MOVIE REVIEW

Starring: Jennifer Garner

twists to the story, the movie was worth seeing.

But because of the new

Every type of personality was introduced in the movie.

There was Sam, played

by Kevin Smith, the guy all the girls liked because he was hilarious and light-hearted, but whom all the boys harassed because he constantly had food in his mouth, even going to the extreme of waking up in the middle of the night and cooking waffles.

Next there was Dennis, played by Sam Jaeger, the nice boy whose whole life for the past six years revolved on his secret love for his best friend's girlfriend, Gray.

Finally, there was Fritz, played by Timothy Olyphant, the playboy who felt it necessary to have sex in a bathroom during his friend's funeral while a horrified Gray sat right next to them in the bathtub.

do crazy stuff and blurt out long-kept secrets. In an effort to persuade her housemates and her dead

fiance's mistress that she was not a tight-laced girl, Gray started shouting about things she had done in college like stealing because she was crazed for the feeling. The tension-heightened when Gray ran into major secrets

about her supposedly perfect fiancé. With the revealing of the bombshells, one after another,

emotions ran loose. However, what made the plot excellent were the actors

Garner skillfully played the naïve fiancée who was appalled by what her dead fiancé did, finding more and more incriminating evidence about his second life by the minute.



COLUMBIA PICTURE

The mix of reckless and responsible housemates caused Gray Wheeler, played by Jennifer Garner, looks over important paperwork that reveals a secret about her dea friction between all of them, leading them, especially Gray, to fiancé with along with her friends, Dick and Sam, played by Sam Jaeger and Kevin Smith. Smith provide comedy throughout the movie, but Jaeger's character didn't seem to have a purpose.

Smith constantly showed his humorous and oblivious personality in most scenes, especially after serious scenes where great truths were revealed.

In one scene, after manipulating Gray to give him all of her kitchen appliances that were wedding gifts, Sam attempted to make breakfast for Gray to cheer her up, only creating a mess in the kitchen when he unwittingly blended random materials with the cover off, all the while holding a bottle of wine.

Surprised at first at the mess he made, he quickly shrugged it off and decided pancake mix all over the ceiling and walls

However, Jaeger offered nothing to the movie, just made the movie real and wonderful.

leeching off of other characters' abilities, once in a while case vindictive looks at Gray.

Fritz was the most memorable character.

Sensual and mysterious, he steamed the movie up w his powerful emotions for Gray, almost going to the extent As Gray walked away from Fritz, he shapped photos

her, compiling a portfolio of photos of her. The acting and the plot was the reason why the m

better than the average chick flick.

Heartbreaking scenes, directly followed by laughable of

# Eastwood war film succeeds at showing horror of war

BY MAX LARSON

"Letters from Iwo Jima" was meant to be a serious film concerning the absurdity and desperation of warfare, with success that is at times limited, and others blazing.

It took a Japanese perspective of World War II on the island of Iwo Jima, the only landmass preventing the Americans from reaching the Japanese mainland.

The main character, Saigo, played by Kazunari Ninomiya, tried as hard as he could to stay alive throughout the Americans' unstoppable assault.

Director Clint Eastwood tried to fit too many ideas in, but couldn't pull it off.

The viewer was supposed to feel the Japaneses tension, with a impending doom, but never did.

One aspect of the film came in the form of letters, a majority of which were never mailed, and flashbacks.

As the letters were discovered, or backgrounds of the movie's characters were revealed, a point was made that every

An effort was made to establish a connection, but little intimacy was developed between the viewer and any of the

characters beyond Saigo, so these letters added little to the film's texture. It was a main theme and a dud.

Even with all the loss and demise, Eastwood's failure to endear many of the characters to the viewer lessened the horror of their deaths.

The background development of a character should not be an awkward intrusion or make the film drag. The idea was interesting, but needed to be expanded on, and the film felt long enough as it was.

The film's main triumph came in demonstrating the pointlessness of war.

It explained that in war there is no good and evil, but that each side bears varying amounts of each and it is up to the individual.

Saigo constantly questioned his comrades' beliefs regarding loyalty and respect. He found a new meaning of "do the right thing," and that

no one in war wants to die "Letters from Iwo Jima" showed, in a style that might have been exaggerated, how submissive the Japanese could be to

pride and honor.

In one of the most effective scenes, Saigo waited in a cave while several other men in his group committed suicide by hugging live grenades close to their chests.

The film, performed mostly in Japanese, took a st against the Americans, which is not seen every day in Ame cinema. This point of view was eye-opening, showing the no glory in killing another man. The framework of the movie reflected sophistics

filmmaking, but it didn't change any standards. The special effects were nothing unusual, the ac-

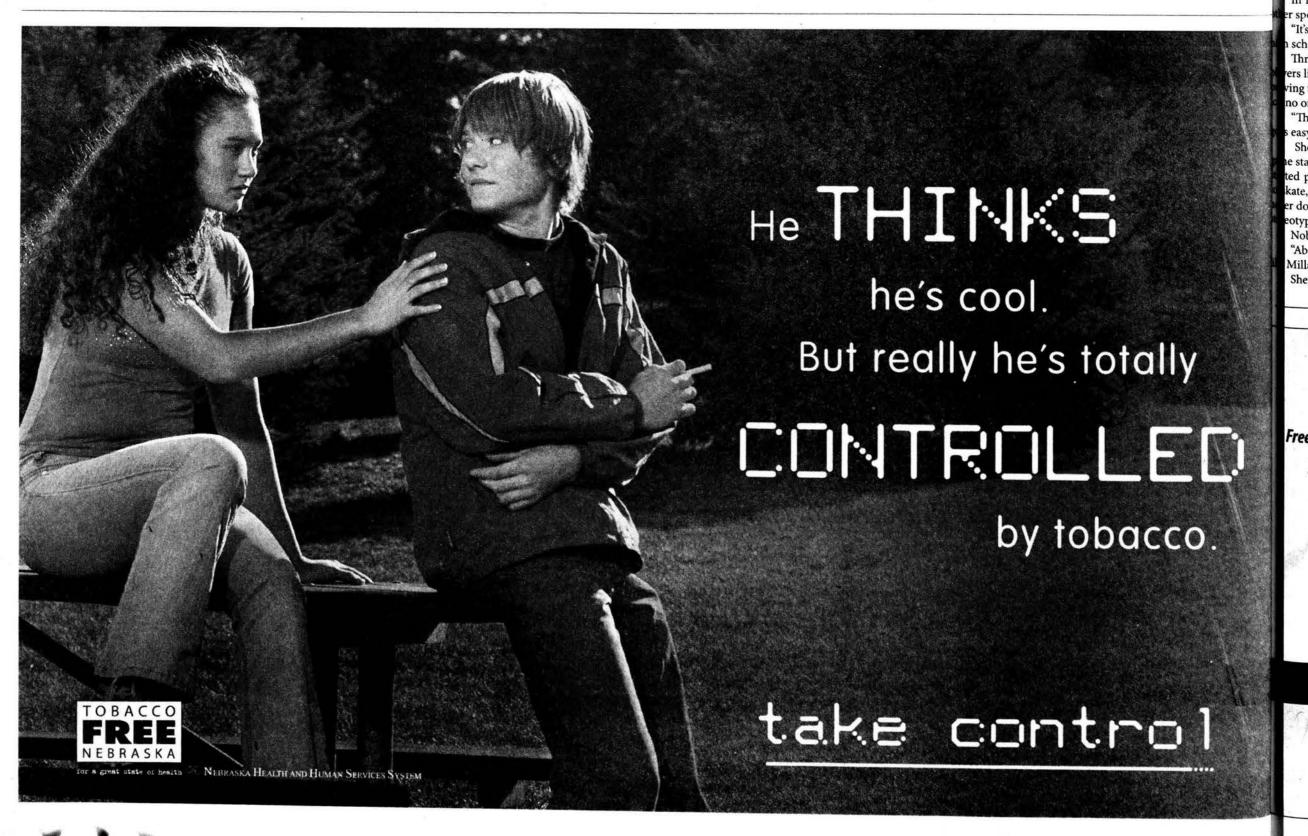
scenes mirroring a less-intense opening scene to "Sa Private Ryan." It was dark and grim with people falling dead and everything blowing up. The colors Eastwood used gave the appearance of a blad

and white film. Everything came in neutral tones, and it well to emphasize the hopelessness. Ninomiya's acting was surprisingly earnest, and he did

effective job of transcending subtitles. The rest of the acfollowed suit, never taking flight nor leaving much desir The entertainment value of "Letters from Iwo Jima

a whole was not what might be expected. The action, it had its moments, was sprinkled over recurring con limiting the excitement. It was in a constant state of peak

The focus rested on the extreme Japanese customs name of honor and Japan, and that in war there is no good evil, only those who choose to live their lives that way.



MOVIE REVIEW

"Letters From Iwo Jima"

Starring: Kazunari

Ninomiya

# Lady Eagles push to tate one game at a time

"We can't be happy with one win," varsity girls basketball head coach Chad

Usually those words wouldn't be positive. But after an 8-3 start and an upset over the Thunderbirds, the team has every reason to be upbeat.

'We proved we can beat anybody," Townsend said.

Coming into a road game with number one ranked Bellevue West, the ninth ked Eagles were major underdogs. Bellevue West's team plays eight seniors and senior center, Brooke Delano. The Eagles played hard and hit major shots, free ows and rebounded down the stretch to secure the win, 62-59.

"Rebounding has been something we improved on," sophomore Kailah Bailey "We've gotten much better."

The win launched the Eagles to sixth in the Class A standings and provided the second loss to the 14-2, Thunderbirds.

"It really frustrated them (Bellevue West)," Bailey said. "People usually don't

nk we can beat them. We proved them wrong." The early losses in the season were spurred by the lack of rebounding, both nsive and defensive, Townsend said.

"Rebounding really cost us some games," he said. "We rebounded the ball ch better at Bellevue West."

The Eagles hope to use the win to catapult them to the best season record in nt history.

Two years ago the team posted a 13-7 record and this years team is on pace to it. Townsend said players always look to improve each year.

"It's tough to compare teams," he said. "Each year is a different experience." The team is more experienced this year, playing six seniors. Three of which

been playing significant minutes since their sophomore year. "If we keep it together," he said, "we can definitely make a run at State."

A close win propels the Eagles to sixth in the rankings, but the team is staying sed on the next game.

"I'd say we're on track," Townsend said. "We're getting better each week."

He said the only three losses this season were because of the difficulties rebounding. The team lost twice to Westside and the season opener to the Millard West Wildcats.

'We've come out and played hard," Townsend said. "We rebounded much better against the T-birds."

The team finishes out the season with mostly away games. To prepare for the road stretch, the team practices every day after school. Bailey has been playing varsity since her freshman year, and she says she has seen a major improvement in team play.

> "This year, we play more as a team," she said. "We are boxing out and getting rebounds and playing defense. There is a lot more team unity." The ultimate goal

> > of the team isn't to set the best Eagles girl record. It's to win State. It's that simple. "State is our one goal," sophomore Isabel Benjamin-Alvarado said. "We

need to nail some plays and keep working. If we play hard we can beat anybody." The team will have to replay the

Thunderbirds for the district title. The team will either have to win Districts or earn enough wild card points to qualify.

Senior leader Jasmine Johnson drives the lane for a lay-up in a win over Omaha North. **PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER** 



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Surrounded by senior Alex DeLeon (left), assistant coach Herb Welling and junior Joshua Jones, varsity head coach Eric Behrens yells at his team in hopes of motivating them after losing control of the lead in the fourth quarter. Turnovers and fouls led to the Eagles loss, 60-52.

# Turnovers doom boys in State rematch

BY BOB AL-GREENE

The last time Central and Bellevue West met on the basketball court, the gym was different, the stakes were higher and the Eagles came out the victors, snatching what would have been the Thunderbirds' third straight Class A State Championship from them in a nail-biting overtime game. At the rematch bout Jan. 19 on West's home court, however, the outcome was decidedly different. After holding a precarious but sizeable lead for a majority of the game, the Eagles slipped in the fourth quarter and wound up losing 60-52.

Head coach Eric Behrens said the Eagles were not focused on West as a team beforehand.

"We know their personnel," he said. "We know what we needed to take away from

The game started ominously, with junior Ronnell Grixby in street clothes on the bench alongside fellow starters Chris Griffin and Alex DeLeon. Behrens said the decision not to include three of the usual five starters was disciplinary, but ironically the team was doing better while the sophomores were in.

"I probably should've just left them in there," Behrens said.

West head coach Doug Woodard said the loss of Grixby and the ball-handling of the sophomores who replaced the starters led to multiple turnovers, which he identified as one of the keys to the victory. He said coming into the game, West expected tremendous athletes on the opposing team.

"We expect every game against Central to be a battle," he said.

West got the tip-off and was first on the board with two points, but sophomores Josh Bruning and Paul Simms, along with a quick three from senior Ben Kline, put Central in the lead with 11 points. West's returning starter, junior Antoine Young, attempted numerous threes, but as the quarter ended, the Thunderbirds were stopped repeatedly at the hoop and the point total of the Eagles rose steadily.

Central's junior Lorenzo Wilson fouled three times in the first minute of the second quarter and despite senior DeLeon's prominence at both ends of the court, the Eagle's score remained stagnant. Young's persistence paid off as he was able to put his team within two, but Central's Josh Jones stopped the five-point run at 5:01 with a three pointer of his own. Outside shots would become a rarity for Central, and for Jones especially later in the game.

West's full-court press smashed Central repeatedly and started breaking them down midway through the quarter. The Eagles began to lose their ability to push it to the hoop. DeLeon started to look like a child getting his hand slapped out of the cookie jar.

On the possession after his third turnover, DeLeon had the ball knocked out of his hands again. In a furious exchange painfully close to the hoop, he lost it, recovered it and got it to Jones, who sank it as a three. The half ended with Central ahead 29-21, but the team was beginning to look worn down. The lead was there, but its future was in serious doubt. West powered through the third quarter with Young leading the charge. He only needed to touch the ball to get past the Eagle defense, it seemed, which was a stark contrast with the severe lack of penetration the Eagles could muster. The Thunderbirds were fighting for their chance, that much seemed obvious, and all the while the Eagles' power players like Kline and Jones seemed unable to put points up.

Wilson did much of the work in the first part of the second period, but heading into the final quarter it was obvious he could not hold off West's Young and Jeff Allgood, the only other returning starter from last year. By putting the Eagles under constant pressure, the Thunderbirds were within one.

And soon they had the lead for the first time since the first quarter, thanks to Allgood's twin three-pointers (one at the end of the third quarter and a repeat at the beginning of the fourth). The Eagles couldn't hold on to the ball, much less catch up, and soon every shot the Thunderbirds took made their lead the largest of the game. When Young wasn't sinking from inside the paint, he was nailing free throws, and as it started to become clear Central might not recover, chants of "You need Grixby" boomed from West's fan section.

Matters weren't helped as fouls put both Michael Partee and Jones out of the game. Jones himself hadn't scored in the second period, and Central began employing such desperate tactics as rolling the ball at the start of each possession to preserve the clock, something a fan might have expected out of the Eagles' opposition in years past. The tactics failed nonetheless, and the one minute marker came all too fast. The game ended with a final score of 60-52. Behrens blamed turnovers for the loss.

## reshman plays for hockey team, breaks barriers in male-dominated sport

"I guess the best part is hitting people," freshman Alycia Noble said. A unifying factor of hockey has always been the violence. But the one thing

separates Noble from the other hockey players is the fact that she's a girl. ckey has always been a sport dominated by men. In fact, every other player on the team is a male. She said it was not like

"It's different," Noble said, "because there are only like four other girls in school hockey."

Throughout the years, many sports have been divided by sex. Individual ers like Billy Jean King broke the sex barrier when beating a male in tennis, ving that women can do just as well as men. Noble said that once she's on the

no one on her team thinks about her being a girl. "They treat me like anyone else," Noble said, "but the other team sometimes

She said at first, the opposing team might lay off a big hit, but once the e starts going the players are skating and hitting at full speed. When Noble ted playing, there were very few girls involved in hockey. If girls wanted kate, people would push them towards figure skating. She said she had er done figure skating and the girls who are playing hockey are breaking the

Noble plays in the Omaha League for the Metro team.

"About half the players are from Central," she said. "We play other schools Millard North and South, Creighton Prep and Benson."

She said Central doesn't have enough hockey players to have a school team,

but she likes playing with the metro team. Other schools have competitive try-outs and compete in Districts and State. The Metro team plays other OPS and Millard Schools that have enough players and money to create their own teams and rent ice rinks. Noble said this created neither an advantage nor a disadvantage. On one hand the team has a wider talent pool, getting players from around the city instead of one specific school. On the other hand, schools like Millard North and Creighton Prep get to practice more often on ice.

"It doesn't affect us too much," she said.

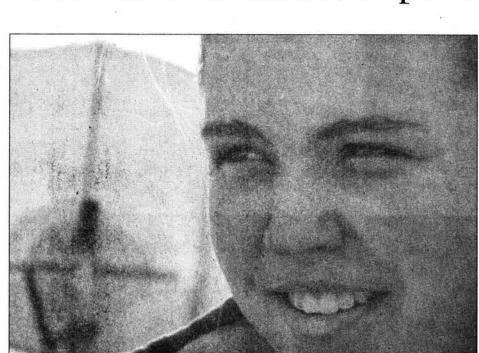
Noble said she had to pay \$500 to be on the team. The payment covers rink fees and competitions. They are also a part of the Omaha Hockey League. The price may be large, but she said the price was worth paying since they get

"If I didn't have hockey or other sports," she said. "I would be really lazy." The team practices whenever it can. Since there isn't an ice rink for every team, the Metro team is forced to play when it is scheduled or when other teams

"We (the team) play as much as we can," Noble said. "If the rink opens up, then we call each other up and get together to practice."

The team practices only a few types of plays. Plays after penalties are the most practiced. And she said they practice "kills." A kill is when the team is on an advantage and wants to advance the puck so it can score. Family is a major factor of why Noble plays hockey. She started when her brother started. And then her father also started playing.

"My brother got me into the sports," Noble said. "And now we all skate." Since then she has been skating for eight years. She said she has seen major improvements in her game.



**PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER** 

Freshman Alycia Noble plays on the Omaha Metro team, where she is one of only a few girls who competes in all of the leagues' high schools teams.

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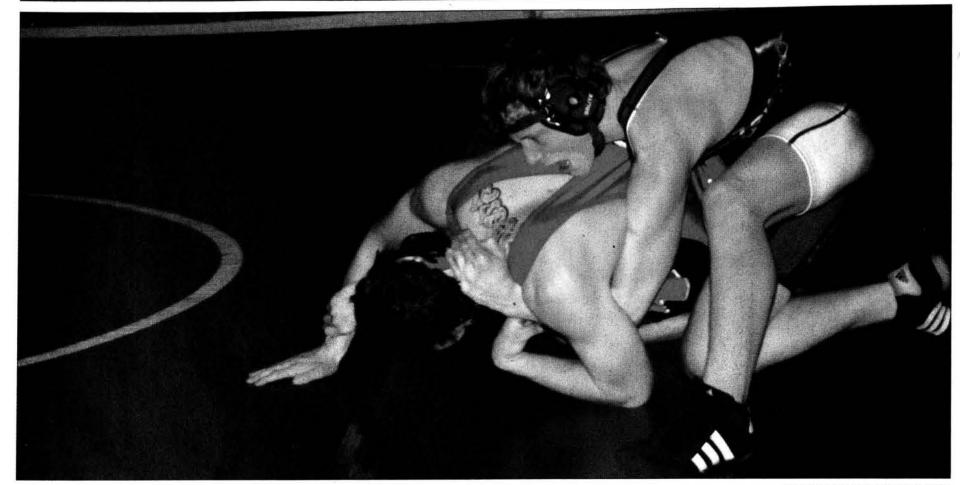


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THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL REGISTER

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**PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER** 

Freshman Geoffrey Miles tries to take down South's senior leader at the Eagles' last home dual. The Eagles won the dual, dominating the Packers with several pins in

# Eagles look to rebuild, overcome odds

BY PATRICK BREEN

"You have to feel like you can whoop anybody in the court," varsity wrestling coach Jimmie Foster said

The Eagle wrestlers have to overcome some major obstacles this season. A new hydration test, loss of key seniors to graduation last year and a team consisting mostly of freshmen and

Despite the problems, the team looks positively at an upcoming season of hard work. "We have to work that much harder," senior Nick Almazan said. "That's the way it goes."

A season after graduated seniors Guy Smith, who took home gold in State, and Chuck Mulligan, who is fifth on the all-time pin list, graduated, the Eagles prepare young wrestlers under senior leaders.

"We definitely lost some really experienced guys," Nick said. "We have to wrestle even

Members of the team said even with the losses they are playing well.

"We're coming back pretty strong," senior Lonzale Ramsey said. "The senior leaders are still teaching the youngsters what they need to know."

The year began with a dual win at Lincoln Northstar, but followed up with a loss at Westside. Rebounding sophomore wrestlers, Sam Almazan, Zack Andre and Anthony Fielding have placed

"It started off pretty much as we expected," Foster said. "We have a lot of young wrestlers." Foster said the team is confident and ready to play. With new young players filling most of the bracket, the team has undergone a change from the form it was in last year.

"Leadership is very important to the team," Nick said. "We (seniors) try to help in any way we can. Younger people need a strong example."

Nick Almazan's younger brother is one of the other young wrestlers trying to make an

impact. As a freshman Sam competed in State, and Nick thinks he will continue to improve,

"We have the potential of being better (than last year)," Sam said. "We play hard." The team is made up of three seniors and few juniors, but has plenty of sophomores and

freshman ready to play. Despite the youth Nick said the team, including the younger players, is always prepared to wrestle.

"I don't see that many negatives," he said. "Some aren't used to the protocol of practices, but learn quickly. They have a lot of potential. They're the future."

The team's three seniors; Mike Cold, Nick and Ramsey practice towards becoming State contenders. Foster said the whole team has been improving throughout the year, and expects great things from the younger wrestlers. "They're listening a lot more," Foster said. "They are giving more effort."

The team only returns one state qualifier from last year, Nick's sophomore brother Sam. Still, confidence emanates from the team.

"I think we can get four or five, maybe even six wrestlers into State," Nick said. To be eligible for the State competition, one must place fourth or higher at Districts. The

team practices every day after school for two hours hoping to improve and be ready for the next tournament or dual. The wrestlers practice several different positions in two types of stances. "There are several dimensions," Nick said. "On your feet' is one where you practice motion,"

setting and attacks. 'Top and bottom' is when your opponent is laying either on top of you or on bottom."

Team members said a key component to the success of recent wrestlers was Foster, who Nick said teaches the team discipline, self-respect and determination.

"Coach does a lot for our team. He's a very experienced wrestler himself," Nick said. "(He's) very passionate about wrestling. He is always willing to help and make a difference."

Wrestlers have to watch their weight now more than ever. This is the first year the wrestlers will undergo hydration and weight tests.

The tests are another obstacle for the Eagles. They place Ramsey in the same weight class as Nick Almazan. The test won't allow Ramsey to go below 7 percent body fat. Ramsey can't drop that extra one pound to 152 so he could enter the lower weight class. This causes the two to compete for the position on varsity, not allowing the two strong seniors to compete in different

"Basically, it (the rule) is hurting us," Ramsey said. "It has good intentions, but is costing our team points."

In the past, the students would only have to make their specific weight. Now players will have tests done to make sure they don't lose beyond what is healthy for them, and to make sure the wrestlers are hydrated. The new test makes it harder for wrestlers to lose drastic amounts of weight before a dual or tournament. Through urine samples, the officials can tell the hydration level of the wrestler. Players feel that even with strict regulations, they can abide by the rules. "You have to make weight," Nick said. "Eat smart and know when and what to eat."

Foster said a mind-set of a wrestler is about confidence, and despite the problems caused by the new system, wrestlers seem confident for the upcoming districts and State.



## Sophomore finds inspiration for future in volleybal

As we were led to the court, my mind was racing w thoughts of how the players would look in person.

Would they be bigger or did television just make the look that way?

I tried to keep focused, just walked and kept my me shut, but I was hoping for the best. I knew it was going to something I would remember. We got into the arena and was enormous, with lights flashing everywhere and over-sia monitors showing all the players' movements. I stopped, tile my head back and just stared.

I had come to see the college volleyball teams from ac the country on their day of practice before the finals, w Nebraska would beat UCLA and then Stanford, I was the with my team for an activity. We had decorated Washingt (another team in the tournament) lockers and ate pizza at watching the practice, but this was the big show.

As we were all bunched up trying to get to our s I spotted the red uniforms. At first I didn't recognize Nebraska team, and asked a friend if it was Stanford (they are red and black). But no, that was Nebraska.

We all went to our seats and watched in amazement person, those girls are so huge, impossibly tall with long ar and legs. Giants.

Their game was even more intense than I expected. Ex at practice, they were driving the ball down and penetral the net with ferocity.

They were going so fast I could hardly keep up w them. On television it doesn't look as quick, but when yo sitting right there, it's a different story. Each ball hit the with massive force and loud cracks filled the air.

One particular player stuck out to me. Nana Meriwet from UCLA.

She was amazing. I was drawn to her from the time first ran out onto the court.

She had a special flare all her own and could ju ridiculously high in the air, adding to her already incred 6-foot-1-inch height.

She would dangle in the air for what seemed like minu and right before the ball was up, her hand was there to slan right back down.

Talk about han

And another thing, there aren't a lot of black play in volleyball. It is predominately a white sport, so to someone like Meriwether is special and gives me hope know someone like me could do it, could actually play col volleyball... It would be such an honor and a thrill.

So needless to say, I was excited, glued to my seat look at a future I could have, knowing all the girls behind me the same dréam.

I know it sounds selfish, but I think I want it more that anybody. I know I have the passion and the drive. When I out there on the court, I feel free, like I belong.

I know no one can stop me.

Seeing these girls playing gives me motivation to g it all and take it all the way to the top.

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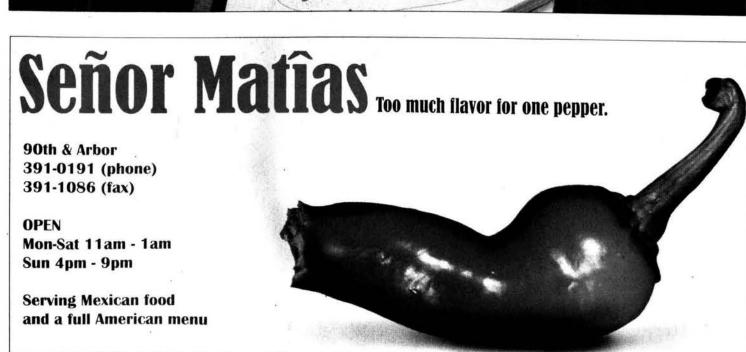
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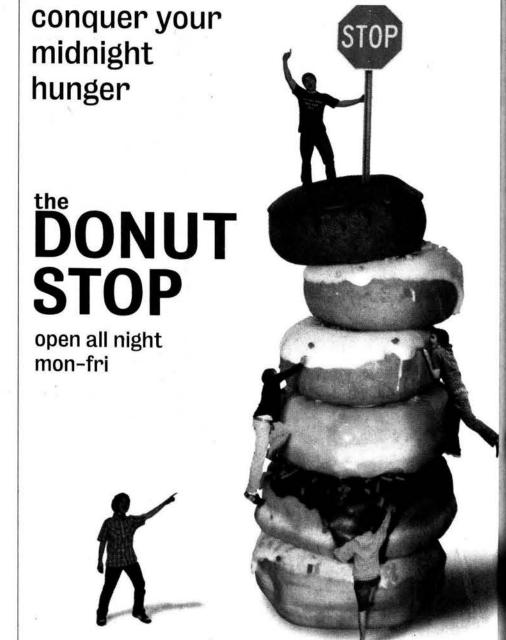
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