

Are You Afraid?

Take a look back at some of your favorite monsters then and now. REGISTRATION, PAGE 21

Prater Brothers

There are more than one way for the English SPORTS, PAGE 18

HALO 3

Teens make huge deal over popular game. HALO 3. OPINION, PAGE 18



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the register

Central High School

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On the go...

news



PHOTO BY LAUREN GREVE/ REGISTER

Students express opinions on possible change of World Series

With Omaha considering changing the location of the NCAA College World Series, and thus changing tradition, some students feel a little sentimental about it. The NCAA is likewise struggling to keep the beloved stadium and the world-viewed competition in Omaha. For more see 12A.

Student's love for Africa earns her MVP placing with Invisible Children

"I can't imagine not ever seeing that movie," said Junior Christina Chesters. Chesters' life changing experience with Invisible Children has earned her a high position with the San Diego based help organization. For more see 12A

opinion

The Register's opinion of teen drinking

Drinking is one of the most dangerous things teens can do. It is one of the leading killers of kids today. And much to adults' horror, the statistics show that the rates are rising. For more see 13B.

registration

Documentary earns five stars for amazing story



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROSCAPE ENTERTAINMENT

With unsanitary and animal-like living conditions, and cruel working conditions, "The Price of Sugar" shows a new side of the sugar industry. For more see 22C.

Honors English students enjoy rendition of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"

The Nebraska Shakespeare Festival on Tour returned to Central to perform the famous play "Romeo and Juliet." The play benefited both drama and English students in more ways than just entertainment. For more see 26 C.

sports

Basketball star gets heart surgery

Senior Josh Jones has won two state titles. But bacteria in his blood slowed him down. Now, after a heart surgery, Jones said he is looking forward to bringing home another state title. For more see 33 D.

Girls basketball team join together to walk against suicide

The Lady Eagles join the third Out of the Darkness community walk to raise awareness, raise money and help prevent suicide. For more see 37D.

THE ROAD HOME

Staff Sgt. Lillian Clamens was on her way home from serving in the war in Iraq when she was killed in a motor attack at Camp Victory, making her the first Central alumni to die in the war. Now, her family mourns the loss of Clamens as a friend, wife, mother and a brave soldier.



Lillian Clamens visits Louisiana years before her death at Camp Victory. Clamens, along with most of her family, graduated from Central High School. Now, after years of being away, her family plans to reunite at the school Clamens knew so well, to honor the memory of a beloved soldier.

BY ALI HODGE

They say it is her smile which they will remember the most. The way she would bare her white teeth and tilt her head to the side, lighting up the room and the hearts of everyone around her.

That smile, and Staff Sgt. Lillian Clamens' way of touching every one she ever met is what attracted hundreds of people to her funeral in Miami Florida on October 19.

She was on her way home to her family. Sitting in what was presumably a safe zone at Camp Victory waiting for the plane that would carry her from the war zone in Iraq back to her home in Homestead, Florida.

It was here where the motor attack happened and where Staff Sgt. Lillian Clamens died. It was later when her husband, Raymond Clamens, got word of his wife's death and it was even later when her family in Omaha received the news that their family member - daughter, cousin, niece, best friend - had died in the war in Iraq, like so many others had.

Clamens graduated Central High School in 1990 in which right after she enlisted in the service.

Her mother, Dorothy Cobbin, a long-time resident of Omaha said her daughter always had the spirit to be in the army. She remembers as a little girl when Clamens would wake her up at four in the morning and

ask to go jogging. "She always liked to be challenged," laughed Cobbin. "She was always positive. She always had encouraging words."

Clamens was born the youngest of two girls, but her family remembers that she acted like the oldest. It was her leadership spirit that allowed her to act more mature for her age and was also the first clue to those around her that she would be in the military.

Clamens liked to travel, said her cousin Terry Tompson. It was one of the reasons she liked the army so much. As a part of the U.S. military, she was stationed overseas in places such as Germany and Korea and also places closer to home such as Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas. It was in Germany where she met her Tibetan husband, Raymond Clamens.

"There was definitely chemistry there," laughed Tompson.

Later on the two had three children, the oldest, a son named Ayinde who is fourteen-years-old. Their middle-aged daughter is named Lana, who is eight-years-old and their youngest is Victoria who is seven-years-old.

Cobbin said her daughter was very close to her family, her husband and kids, but also with her cousins and especially her niece.

"She was everything a black woman should be," said Sierra Cobbin.

See "Clamens": page 3A

Teen drinking, dangerous pastime

*Names changed to protect identity

BY PATRICK BREEN

"It's not every weekend," senior John Doe* said, "but every once in awhile I'll go out and get smashed."

Doe is one of the many students in high school that participates in underage drinking. He said it was just a part of high school life.

"So many people do it," he said. "Sometimes you'll be out and be like, 'man I didn't know so-and-so drank (and) they're sitting there knocking some back.'"

Doe estimated that about half of the students at Central have had more than a few sips of alcohol. And national statistics would agree with him. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources states that over 74 percent of teens have had more than one drink of alcohol by the time they reach college.

"That's just the way it is," Doe said.

Doe said he wasn't an alcoholic, but would drink to kill time or for recreation. He said he would probably drink alone maybe once or twice a week.

"My father was an alcoholic," he said. "I'm not that way. I drink cause I want to. Not because (of an) addiction."

Doe said that he would go to a party and drink 3-5 beers and would

also have shots of hard liquor. "You don't really think how much you drink until the next morning," he said.

Doe said that the hangover the following day could be real bad. "Sometimes," he said, "you wake up and think, 'what the f*** did I do last night?'"

More and more research is coming out about what some thought was a minor issue kept to a minority of students. Underage Drinking, though, has become a common topic among the national press and health organizations across the United States.

Teen drinking statistics range for different organizations, but all seem to find common ground that it is over half of the population.

Getting the Alcohol

"It isn't as hard as movies make it look," Doe said. Getting alcohol has always been a comic way for writers to show folly and goose-chases in teen scenarios.

The whole premise of the movie 'Superbad' is that the two main characters retrieve alcohol for a party. Doe saw it and said that most teens don't have to do anything that advanced to get alcohol.

See "Drinking": page 4A

Central '05 graduate killed in car accident

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

Speeding eastbound on Underwood Avenue in the westbound lane around 12:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24, Lisa Conway swerved to avoid collision with an oncoming vehicle.

She lost complete control of her 1998 Ford Taurus, resulting in hitting a curb, rolling, hitting a light pole, and finally stopping when her vehicle hit a utility box at J.E. George Boulevard and Underwood Avenue.

One of the car's three passengers was 20-year-old Ned Sariscsany, a 2005 graduate of Central High School.

Sariscsany was a front seat passenger in Conway's vehicle. Immediately after the crash, he was rushed to Nebraska Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

Allegedly, the source of alcohol was from O'Brien's Lounge where the two underage drinkers had not been carded.

Bartender, Victoria Dyer, 46, was present that night and has been cited by police on three counts of allegedly serving alcohol to minors.

Because of this evaluation, the bar may face a special hearing at the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission over the alleged violation and could have their liquor license revoked or suspended.

This has not been the only incident where O'Brien's has come face to face with a liquor suspension. Previous suspensions have included selling alcohol to a minor, serving alcohol to an intoxicated person, allowing patrons to leave the premises with open containers and selling alcohol after hours.

The owner of the bar, Kyron O'Brien, has been contacted and returns no comment on the current charges that are present.

A white cross marked the scene of the accident a few hours after it had taken place. It was a source of memorial for the death that the Sariscsany family had just encountered.

The funeral was held on Saturday October 27 at First Baptist Church and was a tragic event for not only family, but also the friends and neighbors of the young man.

One particular neighbor, Bridget Monson, a sophomore at Central, attended the funeral and joined in the sorrow that was felt by all.

"I have known Ned all my life," said Monson, "and even though we weren't particularly close, I still felt the sadness of the accident."

The funeral was nothing like any Monson had ever attended. Most are used to funerals where those passed had lived and enjoyed a full life filled with accomplishments and happiness, not one where a boy of only 20 years old had his life stolen from him in an accident he couldn't prevent. It was extremely hard for the siblings and friends that got up and spoke words of encouragement or stories of past times.

"One particular friend, Christian, came up to the front with a guitar and sang a song that Ned had taught him. It was extremely special and fit the theme and mood of the tragedy," said Monson.

People see accidents and deaths resulting from drunk driving everyday on the news, most of which are on an impersonal note, which makes it almost unbelievable to actually experience a death and funeral that is an actual result of drunk driving.

Central student earns perfect score on SAT

BY ALI HODGE

Senior Sarah Ferguson has received a lot of attention in the last few days for her outstanding academic achievements, one of which being that she received a 2400 on the S.A.T.

A perfect score.

"It's been really nice," said Ferguson. "I found out in marketing. I was amazed at how fast the school found out."

Ferguson said that people she didn't even know, old friends, and teachers she was sure didn't remember her stopped her in the hallway to hug and congratulate her.

"It was just really nice," she said. "People didn't seem jealous, I mean, they seemed genuinely happy for me."

Ferguson said her study habits were not something you

See "Ferguson": page 9A



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OPS Screening
Students wonder how thorough OPS's teacher screenings are.

OPINION, PAGE 18B



College Corner

University of New England

Location: Biddeford, Maine

Type: Private four year

Undergrad enrollment: 1,723 of the student population are undergrads.

Majors offered in: Agriculture, Biology, Conservation, Math, History, English, Education, Physical Science, and Liberal Arts.

Application dates: No deadline

Kaplan University

Location: Davenport, Iowa

Type: Four year university

Undergrad enrollment: 22,527 of the student population are undergrads.

Majors offered in: Business, Computer Services, Protective Services, and Legal Studies.

Application dates: No deadline

Paier College of Art

Location: Hamden, Connecticut

Type: Four year visual arts college

Admissions: 71% of applicants are admitted.

Undergrad enrollment: 232 of the student population are undergrads.

Majors offered in: Photography, Advertising, Design, Studio Arts, and Illustration

Application dates: No deadline

Arizona State University

Location: Tempe, Arizona

Type: Public four year university

Admissions: 92% of applicants are admitted.

Undergrad enrollment: 38,948 of the student population are undergrads.

Majors offered in: Architecture, Biology, Communications, Engineering, Math, Philosophy, Legal Studies, and Psychology

Application dates: No deadline, priority date: February 1

CALENDAR

November

1, 3 Fall Musical

The fall musical, Carousel, will be held in the auditorium on Thursday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The admission fee is \$8.

6 Fall Sports Banquet

The Fall sports banquet will be held in the courtyard.

9 Teacher Work Day

There will be no school for students.

21-23 Thanksgiving Recess

There will be no school for students or faculty.

29 Fall Blood Drive

The fall blood drive gives eligible students an opportunity to donate blood.

December

1 S.A.T.

Interested students may take the S.A.T. at several Omaha locations.

8 A.C.T.

Students interested in applying to colleges are able to take the A.C.T. at several metro schools.

13 Vocal Concert

The vocal concert includes all vocal music ensembles. It will be held in the CHS auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

20 Honors Recital

Students taking music classes for small group honors credit perform in a recital at the end of the semester.

20 Roadshow Audition forms due

It's one of the biggest shows of the year, and students should consider being apart of it. To audition for the Roadshow, fill out the application due this day. Talk to Drama department head, John Gibson.

24-28 Winter Recess

No school for students or faculty.

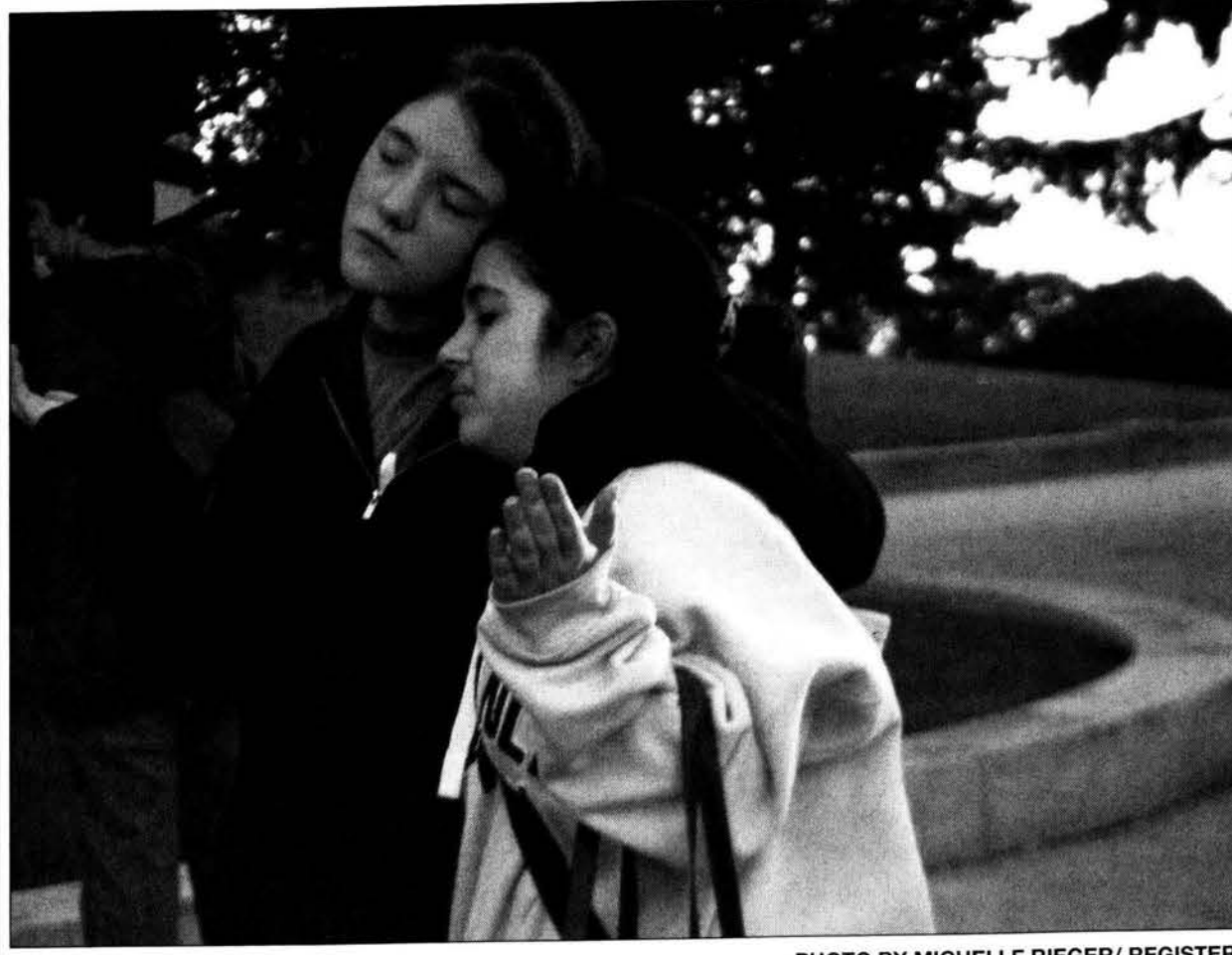


PHOTO BY MICHELLE RIEGER/ REGISTER

Sophomore Sara Wilgus and junior Sarah Berger worship outside the school building early on the morning of a long tradition, "See You At the Pole." The purpose of this event is to unite all Christian teens to pray for their school and country, and worship God.

Teens gather to pray for school

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Students have a chance to make an impact and break out of stereotypes.

"See You at the Pole" is an event that happens every year at every high school in America. It happens on the fourth Wednesday of every September. Students who want to defy groups and stereotypes gather around the flagpole before school and pray for their student body, their staff, their country and their government.

This event is not about race, gender, groups, stereotypes or churches. It's about students coming together as a school and as classmates. Sometimes there are as many as fifty or as little as five students gathered at the pole.

This was all started in 1990 with a group of Christian teens in Burleson, TX, after a weekend of DiscipleNow.

This is an event where student evangelists gather at a church group leader's home within the same congregation. Over the weekend, leaders within the various homes teach Bible studies and often have a worship band.

Churches all around Omaha are encouraging their students to participate in this nationwide event.

Senior Nick Galdeano led "See You at the Pole" at Central this year. He is also leader of The Light club at Central. This is his first year attending "See You at the Pole" and The Light.

"I've always heard about it (See You at the Pole), I just never knew when it was," said Galdeano.

This year he arrived to school at 6:30 a.m. with Krispy Kreme donuts in hand.

He was expecting roughly 60 people to show that morning. It turned out that 82 plus students showed up. There were some that came to see what it was about. There were some that already knew what it was about.

Most of them stayed around the flagpole and prayed. He thought so many people showed up because God was there.

Overall he thought it went pretty well, but he wasn't able to tell who was and wasn't comfortable praying. He would have like to figure out who wasn't comfortable and help them.

He hopes to have a future in ministries and become a youth pastor in Omaha. He believes that God is calling him to stay here.

Galdeano said the feedback from students throughout

that day was very positive. He added that they said it was really fun and exciting.

One of the students who attended thought it was a great experience. It was senior Raja Philip's first time attending "See You at the Pole."

"It was something great to experience in the high school because you would never expect to have that type of religious event in a school environment," said Philip.

Her dad is a pastor at First Covenant Church. She has always been involved in church.

She did want it to be more of a worship type of event.

"I think Nick is a great leader. It's great to have people like him that aren't ashamed about their faith," commented Philip.

Most of the students who attended are involved in church, but some of them came to see what was going on.

She thought it was a great turnout and wants to see more of these kinds of events happen throughout the school year. She found out about it through the posters put up on the walls at school.

Philip also thought the music was a good touch. She was able to get more into the feel of worship.

Brandon Kerr was playing worship songs at the event. He is a former student of Central. He is a graduate of 2003.

"See You at the Pole" was sponsored by The Light club. The Light is a club held at Central every Thursday after school. It is run by Galdeano and overlooked by chemistry teacher, Jesse Busse.

Busse has been sponsoring The Light club for about two and a half years at Central. He said some students came up to him and brought up the idea for the club.

He thought "See You at the Pole" this year turned out really well. Busse did hear feedback from the students and teachers; none of it negative.

There were a lot of posters for "See You at the Pole" around the school.

Flyers were also handed out. Busse thought these two things were major contributors to the outcome of the students' attendance that morning.

He thought the radio, youth groups and word of mouth were also contributors to the outstanding attendance to this event.

"It was an opportunity to see other kids who believed in prayer," said Busse. "It helps people feel not so alone."

Drama department experiences support issues

BY ALI HODGE

"We've had problems before, but it's slowly getting worse. It's not only the drama department, but the school is lacking in dedication," said senior Alyssa Rathbun, Assistant director for the upcoming musical, "Carousel."

Rathbun and fellow members of the musical all agree that student apathy is rather high for all areas of the school with the exception of the athletic department.

With the musical, one of the biggest events in the drama department coming up, the crew and students are worried about funding and attendance.

"This is the school and the drama department is a big part of it and I don't want to see it die," said junior Stacie Vancleve, a singer and dancer for the production.

"This show is what's going to determine the rest of the year."

Vancleve said if the department doesn't raise enough money in this production, they will not have enough money to fund the Roadshow or any other production.

Senior Allen Bently complains that the school as a whole lacks in dedication for departments other than sports.

"We understand that it (sports) is a big thing, but this is big too. We have fun, just not like in football," said Bently. "It's scary because this is what we want to do when get older."

Bently, Vancleve and Rathbun have been working to get word out about the musical.

So far their forms of advertising have been promoting the production with posters, talking to English classes

and talking to businesses.

They have made arrangements with all English classes and even Journalism I in that if the students in those classes go to see the play - English students bringing in their ticket stubbs and Journalism students writing a review - they receive extra credit.

They have talked to businesses to see if there is anyone who would be willing to help support the program, and they've passed out flyers at other schools and in the Old Market.

They also intend to act out small skits in classes as a promotional tactic and get someone to announce the play in lunch hours.

"It's a big musical and we're not getting response," said Vancleve. Therefore, they are taking all precautions in order to get the word out.

DECA spends day in Kearney at convention

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

DECA members took a trip to Kearney for the Fall Leadership Conference where they were able to meet their chapter leaders, participate in workshops, listen to a keynote speaker and become more involved with DECA.

Going to the conference not only was a four-hour bus ride, but also something that people will remember and gain knowledge from.

"It's going to help us know what to expect and how things work when we actually go to competitions," said junior Bailey Dilocker.

Bill Cordes, the main speaker and attraction of this event, took an hour and half to explain to the students how to get what one wants out of life.

Beginning with his idea of YOGOWYPI, which stands for "you only get out what you put in," he got the entire audience involved.

"I really enjoyed how engaging the speaker was," said Dilocker, "he was not only informative and impacting but entertaining, which made it easier to listen to."

Unlike a normal speaker, Cordes made the audiences participate through claps, snaps and dances, something normal motivational speakers don't think of.

Four workshops were also previewed throughout the day

to help participants gain knowledge about DECA and about how to improve their leadership skills.

The workshops introduced DECA to new members and allowed students from different schools in the state to meet one another and become friends.

The workshops also explained what kind of motivation and ability it takes to be a part of DECA.

"It takes a lot of hard work and determination to participate in DECA," said Dilocker. "That was something I didn't quite realize."

With leadership being the main goal of this particular conference, the idea of getting involved was extremely stressed.

It was hoped that the teenagers present at the conference would improve their social skills and become more experienced when placed into new situations.

The workshops were places where those certain skills were taught and elaborated on.

A childish game of musical chairs with a twist helped people to introduce themselves in public and about connections.

Other games, such as Jeopardy, quizzed teams on DECA knowledge.

All in all, students said being engaged in this conference was a way to open your mind to the possibilities of DECA.

Club brings understanding of hearing impaired

BY ALI HODGE

Inspiration for the sign language club came from English teacher Jane Statsney's hearing impaired niece.

"She said, 'If you start a club, then more hearing kids will be able to understand deaf kids,'" said Statsney, the sponsor for the club.

Before her niece said this, Statsney said she was only contemplating starting up the organization.

English teacher Jane Luecke came to her with the idea after hearing a student talk of how much she wished there was a club.

After she talked with the student and her niece and thought about it for a little while, she decided it would be a great idea.

The club asks that all advanced signers come before school while beginners come after.

In beginning classes, Statsney said she is teaching them the alphabet and numbers.

In advanced classes, she had them take a test to prove they knew the alphabet and numbers.

After, Statsney said she wanted to work with them on the differences between exact English signing and American signing.

She wants to work with them on fluidity in signing, expressive signing and vocabulary enrichment.

Many of the people who attend knew sign language from family members or friends they knew from Washington Middle school, Statsney said.

The more she can create awareness of hearing impaired students the better, said Statsney, and her creating the sign language club is the first step in achieving that goal.

Philosophy club teaches art of thinking

BY ALI HODGE

"I think, therefore I am."

French philosopher Rene Descartes penned the quote that Central's philosophy club will now be exploring this year in addition to the basics of philosophy.

The quote, which is from Descartes' first meditations, explores all the possibilities thought that came before modern philosophy.

"I think it will build opinion and logic and it will make students think before they speak," said Spanish teacher Stephen Gunvalson who is a co-sponsor for the organization.

Gunvalson, a new teacher to Central, became involved in the Philosophy club when Latin teacher Rita Ryan insisted he become more involved in the school.

"I wanted to do something that was passionate about," he said.

Gunvalson, who studied philosophy in college, also traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark visiting the home of his famous philosopher.

He felt the club was something he should become involved with considering his love for it, and the fact that Ryan is the organization's other sponsor.

Latin teacher, Rita Ryan said the club began fifteen years ago and has done the past done things with the club that she hopes to do this year.

In previous years, members of the club, which is affiliated with Creighton philosophy club, has gone to listen to renowned philosophers from the University of Hawaii.

Previously, the club has explored famous philosophers from both modern and ancient eras and also certain parts of philosophy such as stoicism and episcopanism.

Stoicism is a Roman theory of taking the middle road in everything.

Epicurism is another Roman motto, "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may die."

Ryan says the main goal for the club is to get students involved if philosophy is something they will want to do in the future or in college.

She says that it's not an in-depth organization, but the more she and Gunvalson can educate the students, the better.

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D.C. trip teaches students about Holocaust of WWII

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Millions of deaths, and millions more stories and their tellers, and the history of the holocaust lives on.

English and holocaust literature teacher Jennifer Statsny said she thinks author Simon Vizontali is one of the greatest people she respects.

"He's an amazing human being," she said.

His greatest fear was that people would forget the holocaust.

Statsny said she thinks the study of the holocaust not only teaches history lessons but also life and humanity lessons, which can give people ideas to apply to everyday life.

Other teachers from Lincoln high schools have taken their students to the National Holocaust Museum, and those teachers gave Statsny the idea to give her students the same opportunity. She received a grant to fund the trip.

"It (the grant) made us get on the ball to do it," she said.

Midwestern Airlines reduced the cost of the round-trip flights to only \$85. The trip to the museum, located in Washington D.C., was divided into three groups over a period of a few months. The first trip was on October 1, and about 30 students went on the trip, along with two other chaperones, English teacher Marcy Mahoney and Geography teacher Michelle Pleiss.

"It went really smoothly, but the museum was really crowded," she said. "It was encouraging though to see so many people."

This was the second time Statsny had been to the museum. The first time was two years ago, the day after Vizontali had died.

Students taking Statsny's class do not start to read the holocaust literature until second semester.

"Some things were shocking to them," Statsny said. "If we went after they had started reading, then there probably would have been a different impact."

One of the most moving things in the museum was a model of a crematoria; it showed how many people could have fit into it at one time. Statsny did not spend as much time as her students did in the museum. She stood downstairs, and waited for the students if they were too overwhelmed with emotion.

Senior Jennifer Barratta, who had gone on the first trip, said she had always been interested to learn more about the holocaust.

"I wasn't expecting parts (of the museum's displays)," Barratta said. "I wasn't able to handle the leather shoes. Just seeing the actual shoes they wore."

She also was shocked by a picture of all the hair that was shaved from the prisoners' heads.

"It made me feel horrible," she said.

The students spent about three hours walking around the museum. Learning even more about Judaism and its culture, the students went to a café within the museum, where all of the food was kosher.

"The students were a little confused," Statsny said.

But, she also said that her students were able to learn even more about Judaism traditions at the small café.

After spending much of the day there, the students toured other tourist spots in the capitol. They went to the National Mall, explored various monuments and war memorials, finally ending back at the airport, heading back to Omaha after barely spending a day in D.C..

An increase in the study of the holocaust exists in this country, and people are learning more and more about the many stories of the many survivors and stories about the ones who did not survive.

Barratta said, "It's part of our own history, and we should learn it."

Junior volunteers with devastated New Orleans

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

The devastating blow of Hurricane Katrina left the small town of Waveland, MS in absolute destruction.

Over a period of eight days this past July the Christ Community Church high school team consisting of freshmen, sophomores and juniors went to Waveland to help rebuild the small city of roughly 8,000 thousand residents.

Eighty-five students and ten leaders went on the 23-hour trip down there. They rode in two Greyhound charter buses.

The students were separated into 12 groups, each group consisting of six students. There was at least one leader for each group. Each group was assigned one house they worked with the whole time.

The students had to raise 500 dollars for the entire trip. They did this by individually writing letters to family members, friends and other church members asking for donations.

Junior Alyssa Bell said this was one of the easier tasks of the trip.

"People are willing to pay for stuff like that because they knew how much help they (victims of Katrina) needed," said Bell.

Bell's particular group built Quonsets, which are storage units, for the church they partnered with for the trip. Christian Life Center was the name of the church that Christ Community Church partnered with.

Everyone worked at least 10 hours each day.

The high school team stayed in a high school in a nearby city called Bay St. Louis. They came with sleeping bags and slept on the floor of the school.

Bell mentioned, "We could have stayed in a hotel, but we didn't. We gave the extra money to the church down there."

For lunch, everyone, including the students at the high school ate in the cafeteria.

The students already at the school were there for a summer club and ranged in age from six to twelve.

The high school students and children ate lunch together. The children shared their life changing stories with the high school students.

The majority of the residents were still living in FEMA trailers, nearly two years after the devastating storm.

Christ Community Church high school director, Traci Davies, says that the high school team wasn't the first from Christ Community to travel down to help rebuild the aftermath of Katrina.

The college ministries and men's ministries have been down as well.

Davies was the leader of Bell's group.

In the end four homes were restored.

The structure was still there so they didn't have to start from scratch. The foundation was there; they just had to dry wall and paint.

"You would think that more would have been accomplished by now. But it takes money and man-power which will continue to take time", expressed Davies.

The conditions of Waveland were not as bad as anticipated.

"It was very muggy and rained a couple of times", stated Davies.

Bell mentioned that there were a lot of bugs everywhere due to the humidity. She said that when someone got a bug bite it was the size of a quarter. Someone could easily become infected because of all the diseases the bugs were carrying.

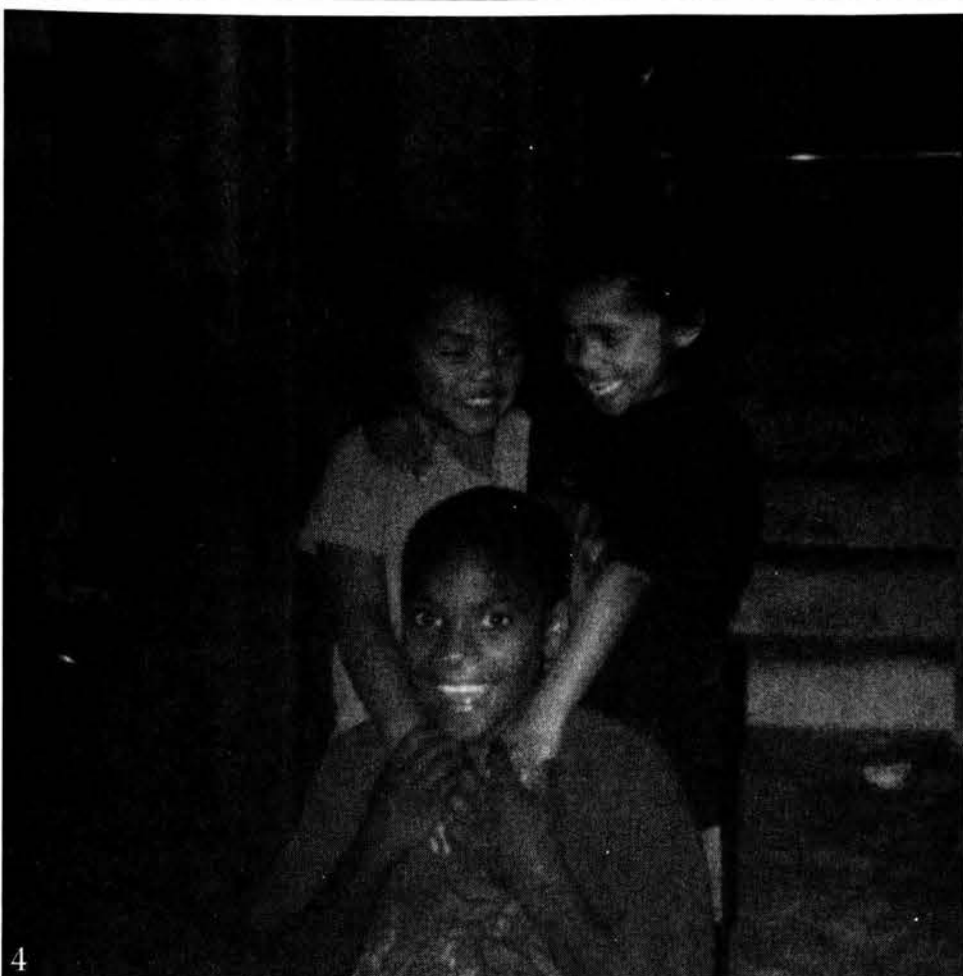
"The bugs were huge down there. Everyone (leaders) had a bug safety kit", said Bell.

The first day they were down there the residents cooked them a southern meal. The dinner consisted of shrimp, dirty rice and jambalaya.

"The shrimp was so fresh that you had to peel off the eyeballs. And the dirty rice was liver mixed with rice", said Davies.

Bell said that this was an experience not to forget. She was able to experience a different culture along with helping people and doing a lot of good along the way.

Bell has also been down to Mexico in the summer of 2006 for a project with Christ Community Church to build houses for the residents down there.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COBBIN FAMILY

1. Clamens smiling in the kitchen years before the incident at Camp Victory. Clamens' family said she was known for her smile. 2. Lillian standing on the staircase displaying her dress before she departed to her high school prom. 3. Clamens standing with her niece, Sierra Cobbin and Sierra's mother, Terry Thompson said Clamens and Cobbin were like sisters. 4. Lillian Clamens' three children. 14-year-old Ayinde (bottom), 8-year-old Lana (right) and 7-year-old Victoria (left).

Central alumna dies serving country

Clamens' niece. "She was my inspiration."
Sierra Cobbin grew up as close to Clamens as a sister. Thompson said Clamens was for a long time the youngest, so when Sierra was born, naturally, they became close. She said where normally, the youngest is threatened when they are no longer the center of attention, Clamens embraced her niece.

Toward the end of her stay in Iraq, Dorothy Cobbin said her daughter was more than ready to come home and voiced her feelings in her newsletters that she put together for the families of the soldiers.

"One more newsletter and that will be it for me, but I really enjoyed working on it and I am actually very proud of the newsletters and more so that you all back home could see and read about your soldiers," Clamens wrote in her last newsletter to the soldiers and their families. "I tried to be fair and get everyone in but that didn't always work. Enjoy this issue. It has been a long month. Now all we have to do is complete the cycle and we will once again be back home to you! One last thing: I want to thank all the supporters that have been there from the beginning. You know who you are. You have done so much for us and there is no way we could have done this without you all - take care and see you soon! SSG Clamens."

"She said, 'Mom, I've served my country and I'm ready to go home,'" said Cobbin.

Cobbin said she had put in for vacation time from her job for the first time in eleven years so that she could fly to Florida to see her daughter once she came home. Little did she know, Clamens was planning on surprising her by coming to Omaha.

With a relationship so close, the news came as a blow.
Raymond Clamens was at a game in Homestead, Florida when he got the call telling him his wife had been killed. He then called her mother to tell her before the soldiers showed up to her doorstep.

He then prepared himself for the long drive home to his children, and what awaited him once he got there.

Dorothy Cobbin said in her daughter's last newsletter she quoted a bible verse from 2nd Corinthians and something inside her told her that something was going to happen.

"Mother's intuition," said Terry Thompson. "That thing where mothers just know."

Clamens' body was flown in from Iraq to New Jersey, then to Miami where her husband and mother waited on the tarmac of the airport to receive it.

"I demanded to see her body," said Cobbin.

The soldiers who were carrying Clamens were reluctant to allow Cobbin to see, but she demanded to see her body before it was cleaned for the service. They had told her before that they were not sure if they would be able to have an open casket at the funeral, due to the state the body was in, but Cobbin wanted to see her daughter.

After Raymond Clamens had taken a look ahead of her to see if it was fitting for his mother-in-law's eyes, Cobbin was able to take a look.

"There was a hole on her left temple," said Cobbin motioning to her own head. "But her face was still in tact and that was what I was concerned with."

Clamens' funeral was held in a Catholic church in Miami. Cobbin said her daughter was Baptist, but was attending a Catholic church in Iraq. Hundreds of people showed for the service, which was in full military honor, said Sierra Cobbin, who, despite living in Omaha, also attended her aunt's funeral.

"The funeral did her justice," she said. "She would have loved it."

Cobbin said the funeral was particularly hard for her.
"I kept saying, 'I can't do this, I can't do this,'" she said. "He said, 'I got you, Granny. He held my hand so tight.'"

At the end of the service, one of Clamens' friends, Sgt. McMann gave Ayinde his retirement flag as a gift. Cobbin said she didn't realize what an honor this was until everyone around her started gasping and crying.

Thompson said her family is trying to get through, but she didn't think any of them would ever get over what has happened.

"We won't," said Sierra Thompson. "We'll just go on day by day."
"She'd want us to move on," said Thompson. "She would want us to have a full life."

Her family wishes that no family ever has to go through what they have had to deal with, yet they know the deaths will continue for both countries until the war ends.

"We are all in agreement," said Thompson, "when we say we think they should bring our troops home."

Central's principal, Gregory Emmel said Thompson e-mailed him on the 16th of November to inform the school that one of their alumni had died.

He said every time he walked out of the building and by the memorials, he was reminded that sooner or later the day would come when the deaths would start for the war in Iraq.

"I was saddened of course," said Emmel. "I thought, 'oh no. It's finally happened.'"

Emmel said in the spring of last year a reporter called him to ask him to give a statement of an alumni who had died in the war in the Middle East. He said he was shocked and interested to find out who it was only to discover the reporter had made a mistake and the student was from another school.

When he received the e-mail on the 16th, he said he knew this would unfortunately happen, but this time he wasn't shocked.

"I wasn't shocked because I'd had the thought previously," he said. "But it saddened me. The worst part to me was when I heard that she had three kids. I thought, 'oh that's just horrible.'"

Plans have been made by Emmel and Thompson in accordance with Max Kennedy, who works with the memorials, to create a plaque for Clamens to honor her and another student of Central who did not graduate for their sacrifice to their country in the Iraq war.

"I think it's something that will always be there," said Dorothy Cobbin. "Her children will be able to go and see it. Her grandchildren will be able to see it."

A memorial service will also be held at Central, a place they said she knew so well and loved, on November 21 to honor Clamens.

"We're all Central alumni," said Thompson. "We just thought it was fitting. What really feels good is the support we got from Central."

Thompson said after the announcement at Central to the students and staff, she received lots of e-mails from concerned people telling her that they were sorry for her family's loss. She said she truly appreciated the caring people at the school her family including Clamens knew so well.

"I think if there is one thing we want her to be remembered by," said Thompson, "it was that she loved her family. And the soldiers were her family too."

"I think we are all in agreement when we say we think they should bring our troops home."

Terry Thompson

AP US History focuses on Civil War

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Bloody battlefields come naturally with thoughts of the Civil War. Brothers fighting brothers. A land divided.

AP American History focuses significantly on the war between the states. Furthermore, the Civil War is also this year's Academic Decathlon subject matter.

In an effort to learn more about the Civil War era and its impact on America, AP American teacher Scott Wilson and Academic Decathlon coach Deniston Reed are taking their students to Virginia and its major Civil War sights. It is the first time the two classes have ever combined.

Wilson said that the two classes will probably combine lessons and hear lectures from both teachers and outside speakers as well.

The trip is during the beginning of November, and the students will go to various places, such as Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, Monte Cello and the courthouse where the Civil War ended with General Robert E. Lee's surrender. None of the students as far as Wilson knows, has been to these places. He is most looking forward to Fredericksburg.

"It's awesome," he said. "The geography of the battle is still very evident."

He also said he is looking forward to going to the Appomattox Court House, where he said a significant moment in American history occurred. The 'war between the states' ended and the confederacy surrendered.

They are hitting every major battle scene, with the exception of Gettysburg. Wilson and Reed worked on the trip plans over the summer.

"Mrs. Reed always looks for good trip possibilities," Wilson said.

Wilson said he thinks standing where a huge part of America's history was shaped is an enormous experience for anyone.

Wilson said the Civil War was one of the most defining moments and the effects are still felt today, whether good or bad.

Like Wilson, the students of the Academic Decathlon and AP American History crave to satisfy a natural curiosity about the history of America.

Deniston Reed is the Academic Decathlon coach. Just like the AP American students, the Academic Decathlon students spend hours studying the civil war. Acadeca students spend the entire year studying the civil war.

They study art, economics, language, literature, music, math, and science that relate to the civil war.

For first semester, they compete against other schools in the metro and then finally state. Reed picks her best students to be on the team.

There are three teams, Honors, Scholastic and Varsity. Each team is based upon the grade point average, Honors being the highest and Varsity being the lowest.

If Central's Acadeca team wins state, then they will compete against schools from all of the other states.

In order to prepare for the competition, besides reading heaps and heaps of packets, students also read a book called "The Red Badge of Courage", which is based during the Civil War.

Reed said that reading a fictional literary works gives the students a better sense of the war and the customs and cultural attitudes during that period of time.

No matter what though, Wilson said his students, and he assumes Reed's students, enjoy learning about the Civil War.

A DEADLY PASTTIME



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Teen drinking has become one of the number one killers of teens and the statistics are rapidly rising. Central students are among the statistics of teens taking up this deadly pasttime.

Teen drinking has become a serious problem among Central students and all teenagers as well. The statistics are scary. The consequences are painful. The outcome is heartbreaking. You've all seen the slogans. You've all watched the videos. Maybe now it's time to start thinking about how drinking can harm you.

Drinking statistics at Central High School

Percentage of students who have consumed a substantial amount of alcohol

Freshmen	Ages 13-14	25%
Sophomores	Ages 15-16	57%
Juniors	Ages 16-17	64%
Seniors	Ages 17-18	41%

230 Students Polled

Continued from "Drinking" on page 1

I.D.'s."

He bought the fake I.D. from a friend he had known since childhood. Doe also said that he has never been caught using it because most cashiers don't check.

It is a required law that any business that sells spirits, must also check I.D.'s. If caught providing alcohol to minors, the business would risk losing their liquor license. Doe said that the easiest place to buy alcohol from was straight liquor stores. He said he knows students who do their shopping at grocery stores, but they have a greater risk.

"Usually, the people there (liquor stores) don't check because they don't care," he said. "But some grocery stores are very strict and will have the cops come to pick you up."

Doe did say he knew friends who had gotten caught, but that still didn't deter him. He said that it was their mistake for getting caught.

The Drug Free Alliance Organization reports that around 17% of kids had alcohol supplied by their parents.

Doe said that he didn't know of any parents, but even he thought the idea was kind of bizarre.

"I didn't know that," he said. "All the adults that I know are pretty reluctant to provide alcohol."

He said his parents provide alcohol without even knowing it. Sometimes, he said, he would take just a few beers, and sometimes he might take a whole pack.

Getting the alcohol was only half the battle of teen drinking though, he said.

"Whats trickier is getting it home around my parents or to a friends house," Doe said.

He goes through several steps and procedures getting it home including using his bookbag. He said that he has even taken some to school, in transferring it to a party.

"Yeah, I was worried I'd get caught," he said, "but I wanted to get it (the alcohol) to the party."

Doe said he wasn't stopped for the simple fact that he didn't tell anybody, something he said might have caused him trouble.

At that party, he said, there was around 20 students of which he thought were all consuming alcohol.

Dangers

"The first time I drank a lot," he said, "I puked for an hour."

As time went on though, he said that his stomach was able to handle more and more alcohol.

Under the guidelines, Doe would be considered a binge drinker, which is defined as someone who drinks to be drunk. Their goal is to lose control. And the National Survey on Drug and Health (SAMSHA) reports that nearly 19 percent of teens from the age 13-20 are binge drinkers, nearly eight million teens in the United States alone.

And those binge drinkers are in danger of multiple things. The first and most commonly reported danger is driving drunk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in 2005, 16,885 people in the U.S. died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, representing 39% of all traffic-related deaths. The largest percentage of those drivers were under the legal age.

And Central just hosted a sponsored event by the State Patrol to show the effects of drinking. Down in the senior

parking lot, students were taken from their Human Growth and Development class to watch presentations.

One presentation they were allowed to drive a go-cart to show what driving drunk would be like.

State Trooper Keith Bell said the students should be aware of the dangers of drinking, especially with dances coming up.

"We hope the kids will learn from it (their presentations)," Bell said. "We want everyone to be safe."

Bell also said that he has seen less teen drinking and driving in the past years. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) also reported similar, reporting only 9 percent of students polled had driven under the influence of alcohol.

"Most don't worry about it," Doe said. "Driving drunk just takes practice."

Doe said that on numerous occasions he has driven while being inintoxicated. He said that he has always gotten home fine and thought the statistics were blown out of proportion.

But the fact still stands at the CDC that an estimated 24,560 lives have been saved by minimum drinking age laws since 1975.

Other dangers aren't reported as much, but can do equal damage. The CDC stated that dangers ranged from overdose on alcohol to chronic depression.

The dangers don't scare off teens, Doe said.

"If anything it makes it more exciting," he said. "It gives you a rush."

And if caught consequences range as much as the dangers. Some receive probation while others, Doe said, can

get much steeper penalties.

"Some of my friends have been sent to prison (Juvenile Detention Centers), but that won't change anything when they get out," Doe said.

And that's another danger that affects any teen. Becoming an alcoholic keeps people from functioning in normal society.

And the early one starts to drink, the better chance they have to become an alcoholic.

Recovery

Doe said that he doesn't have a problem. Although he drinks nearly every weekend, by himself or with a friend it doesn't matter, he still doesn't believe he is an alcoholic like his father.

Doe said his father has been to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) but it never worked.

The CDC reports that nearly 40 percent of people will recover from their addiction to alcohol. He said students that drink, will do so for different reasons.

Doe said though, that he and his friends would never go.

"Its a waste of time," he said. "Alcohol is just a way of life. That's what people don't get."

The recovery for many alcoholics can change their life. It can clean them up and get ready for the world.

He said that students who drank were in no more danger.

"At 18," Doe said, "you can die from smoking, you can die for your country, but you can't have a drink."



Facts On: Binge Drinking

Binge drinking often begins at the young age of 13-years-old. Its effect decreases during adolescence, and increases during the ages of 18-22.

A national survey reveals that 42% of college students reported that they have at least once drunk.

Half of students who binge drink do one more than one occasion a week.

58% of students surveyed by www.intheknowl.com don't think alcohol is more important than a party.

24.5% of those who start drinking around the age of 17 or younger develop an alcohol addiction.

10% of those who start drinking around the age of 21 develop an alcohol addiction.

70% of students on an average college campus binge drinks. 80% of all students have reported being sexually assaulted, harassed, and interrupted study and sleep time because of their peers' drinking habits.

Half of frequent binge drinkers have confessed to having five or more alcohol-related problems during the school year.

Only one or five college students are frequent binge drinkers.

Two thirds of the alcohol consumed by college students is consumed in a group.

INFOGRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER
INFORMATION FROM WWW.INTHEKNOWZONE.COM

Alcohol consumption linked with sexual irresponsibility

When alcohol becomes involved, there can be serious lapses in judgment.

Alcohol has proven to affect the reasoning of the brain, and can lead to serious, and sometimes tragic, consequences for teenagers. One of those consequences is engaging in sexual activity.

According to Outproud.org, about half of the students in high school have had sex in 1997.

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University reported in 1999 teenagers who have had at least one drink are seven times more likely to have engaged in sexual activity. The report also stated that binge drinkers are three times more likely to contract a Sexually transmitted disease, one of the unfortunate side effects of those sexual diseases.

According to Outproud.org, there could be several reasons for this.

One of those reasons is because they do not think to use adequate protection, even though studies trying to show a link between drinking and using protection contradict each other. Another reason could be because heavy drinking is linked to multiple partners.

One of the most deadly of those STDs is Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which is caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

Planned Parenthood will be trying to increase awareness as well as inform people if they are infected with HIV.

Planned Parenthood of Nebraska and Council Bluffs (PPNCB) will be offering free HIV testing at its Omaha and Council Bluffs Health Centers on Wed., Nov. 7 and 14, and Dec. 5, from 4-7 p.m.

The tests are being funded by an anonymous donor through a work-place grant program. A limited number of free tests are available. No appointment is necessary.

Anyone who has had a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) in the last six months should be tested for HIV. According to "Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States," STDs increase a person's susceptibility to HIV.

The report reads, "People with an active syphilis, genital herpes, or chancroid infection, or who have Chlamydia, gonorrhea, or trichomoniasis are three to five times more likely to contract HIV than other people (1997)."

Early intervention and detection is crucial to the spread of AIDS.

In Omaha PPNCB health centers and phone numbers are: 4610 Dodge St, 554-1040; 5310 S. 139th Plz., 894-9006; and 3341 N. 107th St., 496-0088. The Council Bluffs health center is located at: 1604 Second Ave., 712-322-6650.

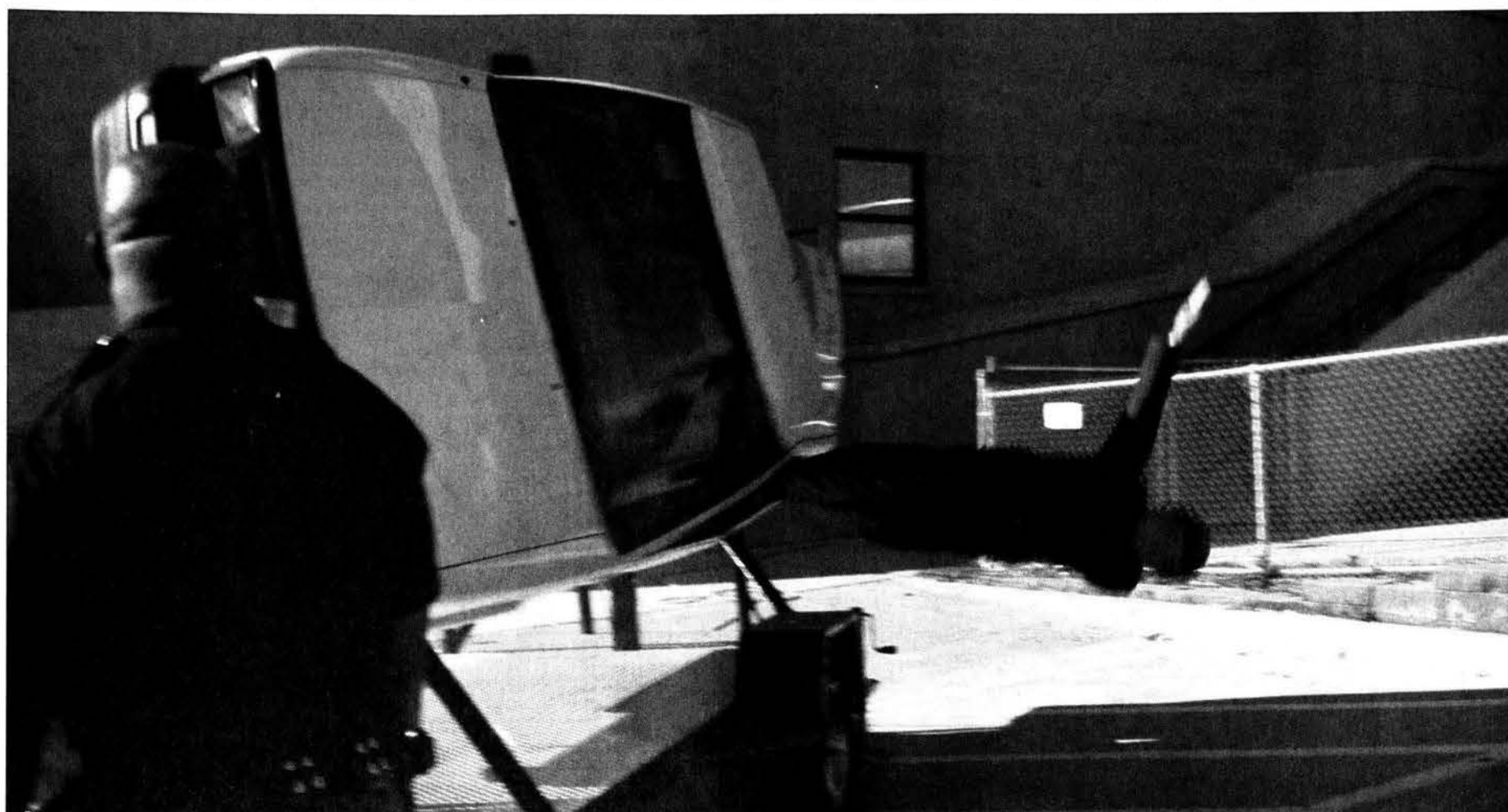


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

State Trooper Keith Bell demonstrates what happens in a car accident to the students of human growth and development classes. The purpose of the demonstration was to educate students on the dangers of drinking and driving.

Presentation shows dangers of drunk driving

BY PATRICK BREEN

"Those who don't wear seatbelts or drive drunk can injure and kill," trooper Keith Bell said.

On Sept. 27, the State Troopers came to Central. Not to arrest anyone, but instead to show students what safety precautions they should take. Their main goal was to help students take care of themselves and others by encouraging them to make appropriate decisions.

This visit by the State Troopers has become an annual event for the Human Growth and Development classes at Central being that it fits the curriculum and is positive for the students.

In the senior parking lot, the troopers held a go-cart driving center, where students got in a go cart and wore glasses to simulate what it would be like to drink and drive.

One by one, the students took their turns trying to drive around the course, many failing, thus realizing the dangers, not to mention the difficulties of drinking and driving.

"I thought it was a good idea to show students what happens," sophomore Daniel Ellis said.

Ellis said that he thought the presentation did well at informing the students what dangers there are in simply loose items.

Bell did the demonstration of rollover crashes. A child and adult dummy were inside the car, and Bell began to spin it.

The loose items would hit the child and adult several times in the spin, making the demonstration extremely real.

"We (state troopers) just want everyone to put away loose items," Bell said.

Then after opening the windows the adult dummy would proceed to fly out, again making the demonstration sickeningly real for the Human Growth and development students.

"Most people talk about being thrown from the accident as safer," Bell said, "but the fact is, you're in 50% more danger if you're not wearing a seatbelt."

Ellis was surprised by some of the facts.

"I didn't know seatbelts could increase your chance of survival by 50%," he said.

He, as well as his other classmates were also shocked by the demonstrations and the go carts. He said they fully realize the dangers of drinking and driving.

Safety

People don't realize the danger they're in everyday. Loose items can injure or even kill in an accident.



Keith Bell, State Trooper

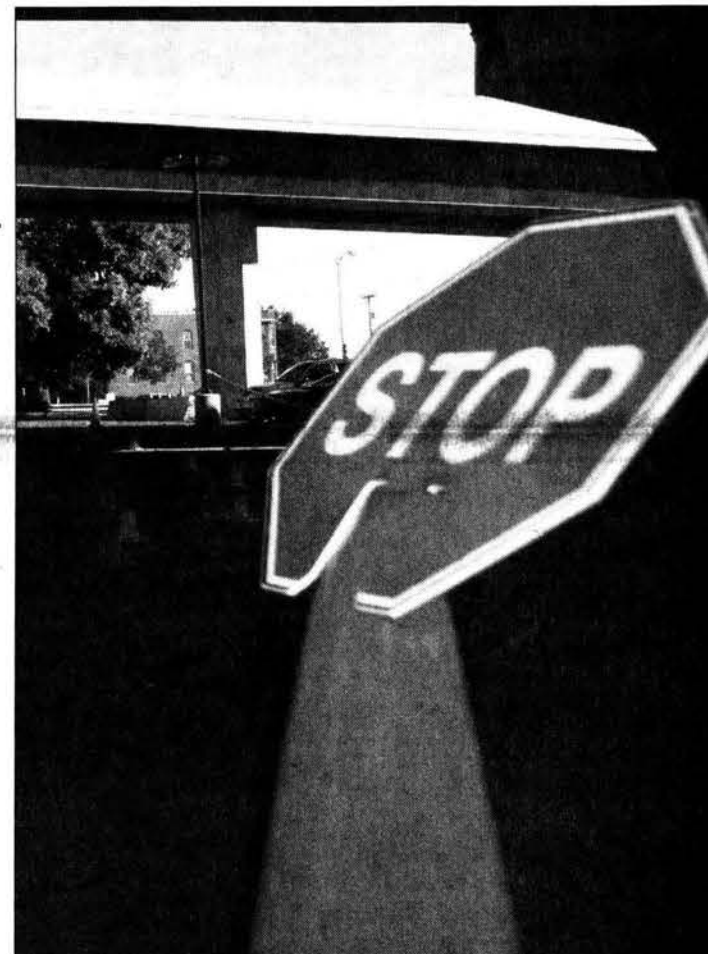


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

How alcohol effects a body

The Gastrointestinal System:

Every person has an enzyme in their stomach designed to process what enters into it into a safer substance. The enzyme is called alcohol dehydrogenase. When alcohol is consumed, 20% is absorbed into the stomach and 80% continues on to the small intestine.

The Liver:

The liver is the main organ that gets rid of alcohol in a system by breaking it down. A healthy man's liver usually takes around an hour to break down alcohol and a healthy woman's usually takes longer. When alcohol is consumed faster then the body can break it down, then the person usually begins to feel drunk.

The Brain:

While the consumed alcohol waits to be broken down by the liver, it travels through the heart and thus through the bloodstream all over the body, including the brain. While it may make one feel energized, it also is known as the depressant drug because it calms the body by closing circuits of the brain.

Depression:

Drinking while depressed can be dangerous due to the fact that a serious drinking problem is more likely to develop.

Hangovers:

The symptoms of hangovers include a pounding headache, feeling sick, grouchiness, and feeling depressed. The headache is caused by dehydration and alcohol that accumulates in the stomach causes nausea.

INFOGRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER
INFORMATION FROM WWW.ALCOHOL.ORG.NZ

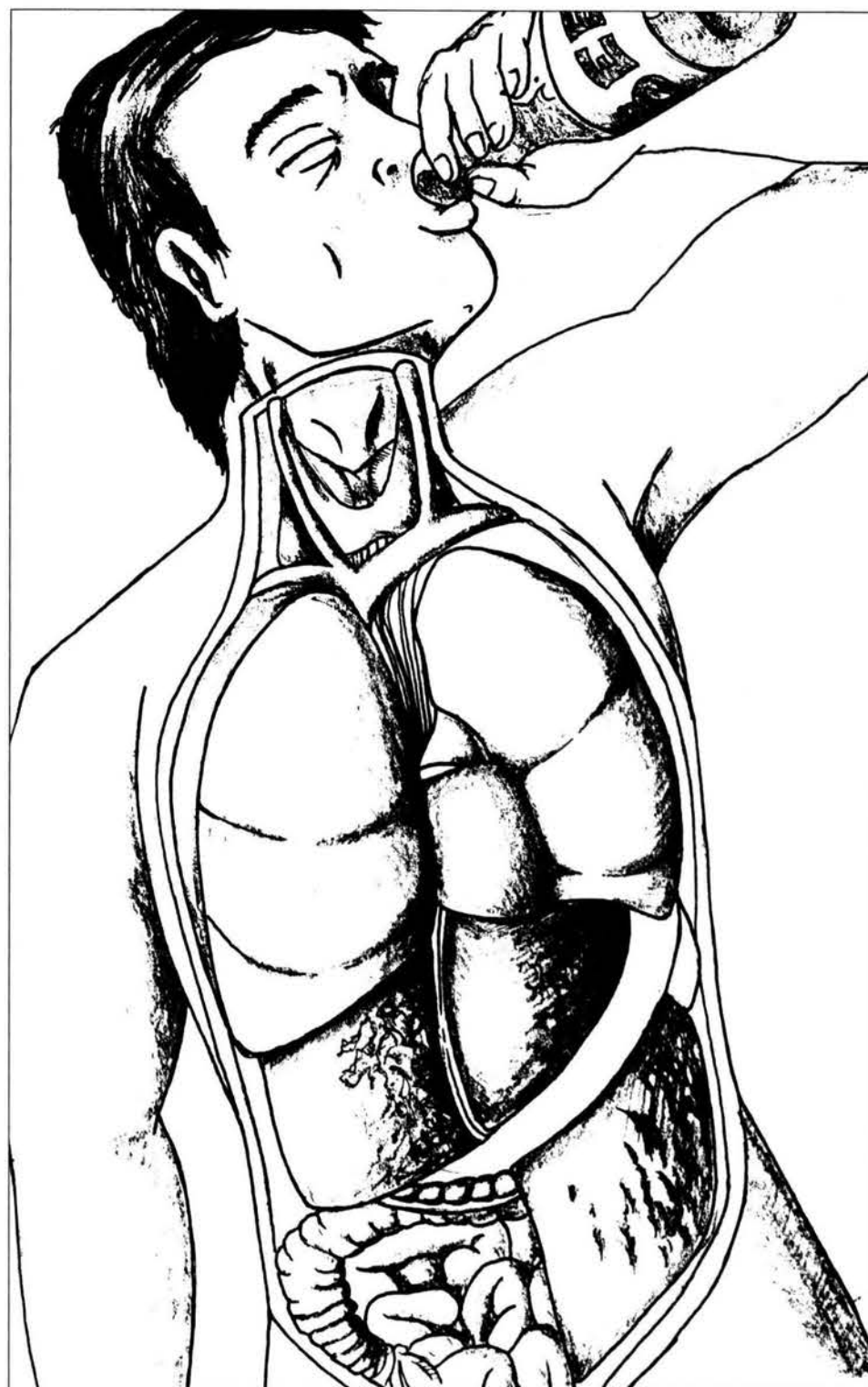


ILLUSTRATION BY KEVIN GIBBS/ REGISTER

Omaha Public ~~Schools~~ Correctional Facilities



GRAPHIC BY KEVIN GIBBS/ REGISTER

OPS hiring process raises concerns

BY KEVIN GIBBS

Driving Under the Influence.

Both are serious offenses.

Both often warrant termination from any reputable career.

Public school teachers are no exception.

Both Central volleyball coach Jodi Reeder and Florence Elementary third grade teacher Krista Crosby were fired after being arrested for DUI (Driving Under the Influence) and drug possession charges, respectively.

Neither were detected before either police or other teachers found them first.

Conventional methods didn't come into place to stop them.

The third grade teacher was caught by a vigilant fellow staff member, not by the administration.

Reeder was caught by the Omaha Police.

These problems in the system cause many to wonder, what is in place to keep students out of the reach of substance abusers?

OPS does have a screening process to become a teacher.

There are requirements including having a teaching degree from the state and going through a series of interviews, one with OPS and likely one with the school they intend to hire you at. According to the OPS employment website, there is also a written evaluation.

They also require a medical exam.

A drug test is not included.

This drug test may have detected Crosby's problem with marijuana and it isn't part of the process.

This doesn't mean OPS isn't doing a good job, but as always there is room for improvement.

"It was a very good experience for me," said Anne Haas, special education teacher at Central, "very professionally done."

Haas is a new hire this year for OPS.

Before working in OPS, Haas worked in inner-city Chicago, then moved to a teaching job in Rochester, Minn. with Independent School District #535.

She was hired in Chicago in 1977, and stayed there until 1980.

Then she worked in Rochester Minn. from 1980 until 1984 at which point she became a work at home mom for over 20 years before applying to OPS in November 2006.

After all those teaching jobs she claims she has never been asked to perform a drug test.

"I would expect to be held to the same standards as others who serve children and adults in professions that meet the needs of others," Haas said. She said that she would be willing to do what was necessary to do the job, but only if it were common practice.

In all her previous teaching jobs, she was never asked to take a drug test, however, it was years ago that she was hired in either Chicago or Rochester.

Haas has six children. Her son works at the Mayo clinic in Minnesota.

According to Haas, he was not required to take a drug test during his residency at Creighton, or after being hired at the Mayo clinic, but he did have one during medical school.

Her daughter who was in charge of the Honorable Chuck Hagel's scheduling for a few years was not required to have drug testing, but in order to volunteer in a Washington D.C. hospital she was required to have fingerprints taken.

Haas' daughter-in-law who is a Deputy County Attorney, however, was required to have a drug test taken for her job.

Haas said that standards in hiring may have shifted over time.

"That process appears to be in flux of change," Haas said, "From the time of my interview as an educator in the 70's to now."

Principal Greg Emmel seems to think that if drug tests were deemed necessary by the district, he would be in favor of them.

"I will support district policy," Emmel said, "Whatever the district policy is, I will support it."

Emmel came to the district's defence by citing other steps they have taken to curb criminals in classrooms.

"I feel the district does a good job of screening right now," Emmel said, "I feel the district does a good job in its screening process."

"Whether you're going to be a secretary or a teacher," Emmel said, "All volunteers and potential employees have a background check."

Background checks along with interviews do help the district distinguish good candidates from bad.

"It's a very common practice nowadays that background checks are done," Emmel said.

Haas claimed that when her son was in medical school

While these are good steps to take, they don't solve the problem.

According to www.wowt.com, Jodi Reeder was arrested three times prior to the charge which got her fired.

So why wasn't she fired before on one of the previous charges? And why was she hired in the first place?

"If you have been convicted of a felony, it would exclude you from receiving a Nebraska Teaching Certificate," said Ed Virant, Human Resources Administrator for OPS. Without a Nebraska Teaching Certificate, you cannot be employed as a teacher at OPS.

Some other minor crimes are also grounds for termination including sexual and child abuse along with assault charges.

That doesn't mean that other lesser criminals can be in front of chalkboards across the city.

"It isn't automatic termination if you're under the influence," Virant said, "It may lead to a requirement, but it is not automatic."

When it comes to bringing drug testing as an extra precaution Virant said, "That's a board decision."

But that's not to say that the district hasn't thought about it in the past.

"We do have drug testing that can be done upon suspicion," Virant said. He also said the issue has gone before the board in the past, but has not yet been approved.

"I cannot interview any potential employee until they are cleared by human resources," Reeder said.

So Emmel stepped through HR without setting off any red flags?

Hard to believe, but it was even harder to believe that after she had put people on the road in danger she was still intrusted with a group of high school students, but then again, that must not have been a felony.

According to Kim Brand, an Administrative Secretary with OPS, applicants go through an interview with OPS.

After that, they have one with the school they are to be hired at.

Once hired, they go through a medical exam which includes a TB test.

Drug tests are done randomly, but are not a requirement.

In the end, OPS obviously is not new to the idea of checking on their own employees, but as their teachers say when a student is failing or doing poorly, OPS is simply not working to the best of their ability.

"I will support district policy... Whatever the district policy is, I will support it."

-Principal Greg Emmel

Tutoring kids becomes a hobby, job for Central junior

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Making \$11 an hour is a dream for any high school student. Junior Nicholas Banks is able to live that dream.

The federal minimum wage is \$5.85 an hour, however, Banks is making about twice the minimum wage.

He tutors elementary school children as a part time job.

Banks heard about the job through Athletic Director Darren Williams, who was Banks' administrator at Nathan Hale Middle School.

Banks tutors at Howard-Kennedy Elementary. It is a kindergarten through sixth grade school. This is Banks' first job.

The director of the after-school program, Community Learning Center, came to Williams seeking a responsible student to tutor the elementary children.

Community Learning Center is a grant funded program that was started by the U.S. Department of Education for low-performing and high-poverty level schools. It is part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Some of the projects that the funds go to are mathematics and science activities, tutoring services (just like the one Banks is involved in) and drug and violence prevention programs.

Williams thought of Banks because he is a good student and has a real good sense of humor.

"Ever since I've known him (Banks), he's had a real good demeanor," said Williams.

Williams said he believes that Banks was able to get the job because he carries himself well and because of his personality.

"He can relate to adults as well as students," said Williams.

"Anyone who needs help that goes to that school is able to come and I tutor them," explained Banks.

Banks tutors every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The sessions are two hours long, from 3:45p.m. to 5:45p.m.

"I like the service that I can help with the youth," said Banks.

His twin sister, junior Nichole Banks does not have a job. She said that she is looking for one and that a job similar to her brother's would be an ideal one.

"I like working with kids," says Nichole Banks.

She also said she would like to work at a daycare.

"I feel that I should have it and he shouldn't," she half jokingly added.

Despite the sibling rivalry Nichole thinks that he is a perfect fit for this job.

"Because he's smart and has all A's," said Banks

Nicholas doesn't see his job now as a future career for himself. Instead he would like a career in law.

"I like to argue my point," said Banks.

"Besides the pay, I'm able to connect with my community," adds Banks about why he likes his job. He adds that there is nothing he doesn't like about his job.

Banks also said he would like to be able to keep the job for awhile since he enjoys it so much and it is a good job to get him started.

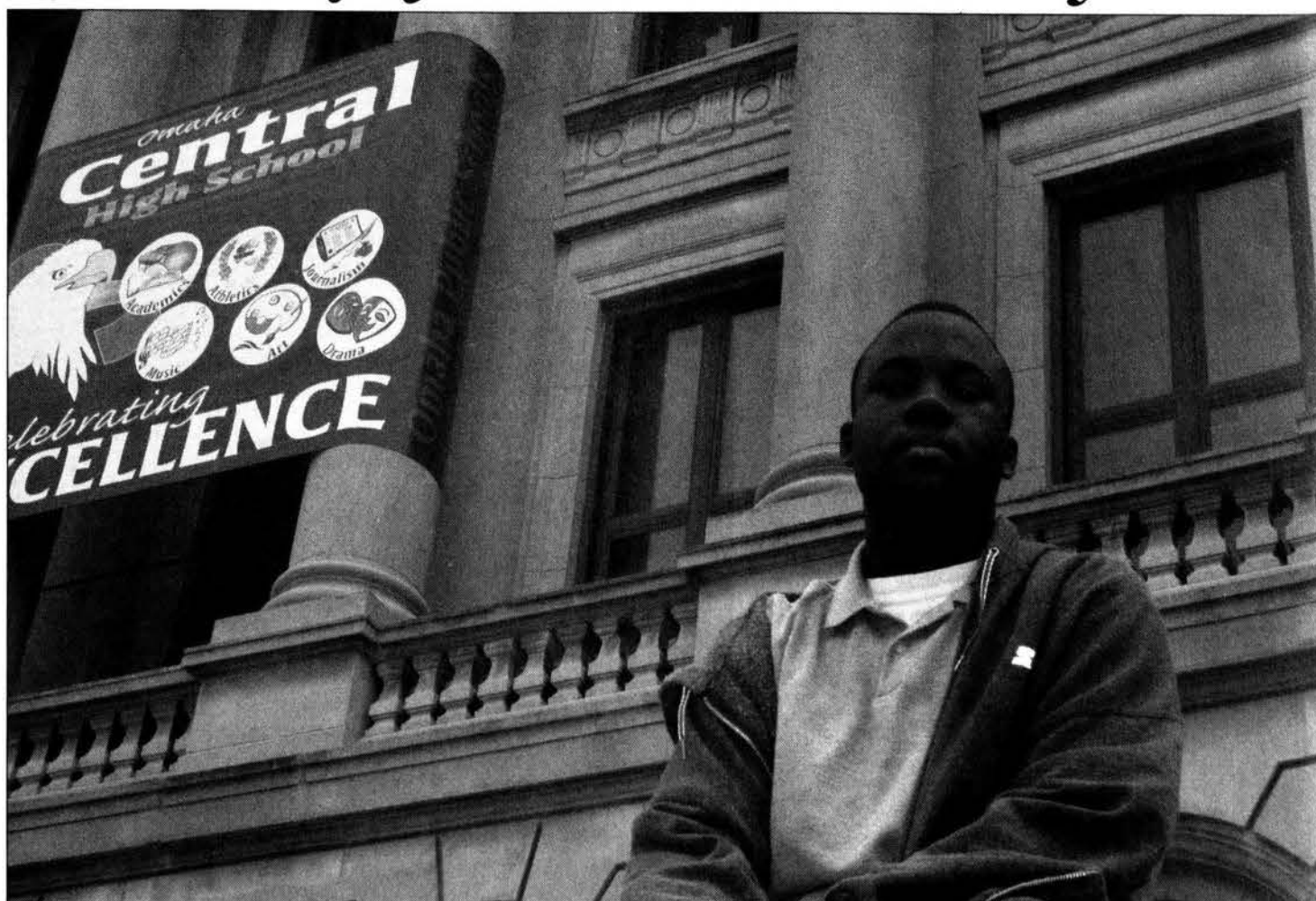
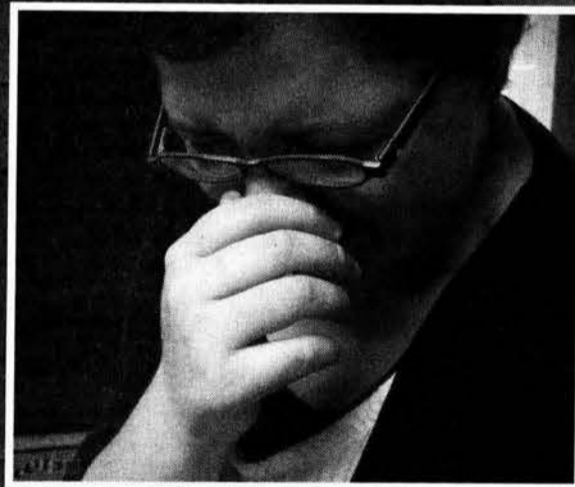


PHOTO BY MICHELLE RIEGER/ REGISTER

Junior Nicholas Banks tutors elementary school children as a part time job with the Community Learning Center Program, which is part of the No Child Left Behind Act. As a bonus, Banks makes about eleven dollars an hour, which is about twice as much as minimum wage. However, tutoring is hardly work for Banks, who thoroughly enjoys tutoring middle school students.



STAPH INFECTION



GRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Disease pervades Omaha schools

Perhaps it's time to start listening to the nurses when they say "wash your hands" and "cover your mouth." With a potentially deadly infection sweeping the country, adults and teens alike are on edge; especially since it's just recently hit Omaha. So what exactly is Staphylococcus?

BYASTRIKA WILHELM

Staph (Staphylococcus aureus) has been taking the country by storm in the past few weeks.

Two weeks ago, 22 schools in southern Virginia closed after a 17-year-old student died of a drug-resistant staph infection known as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

This disease has swept the nation with concern, causing many to fear public places. Staph is a certain kind of bacteria that cause infections that may lead to serious health problems.

Usually, serious Staph infections are caught in hospitals by patients who have weak immune systems; medical staffs are blamed as the carriers, who sometimes lack the proper hygienical procedures like washing hands and cleaning hospital equipment.

Unhygienical individuals and hospitals lead the disease to quickly move from hospitals to communities and people who were not in a hospital recently.

Last month four Millard North football players contracted Staph, and a few weeks later three other Millard North football players contracted the disease, sending the Omaha metro into a frenzy when Staph infections were constantly on the news and death reports climbed from this seldom-heard of disease.

Also, 13 Papillion La Vista High School students contracted the disease, four of whom contracted MRSA, the most serious form of the infection.

Furthermore, recently, a Thomas Jefferson High School student in Council Bluffs was infected with Staph as well.

Individuals with Staph are immediately isolated since Staph

is extremely contagious, and these people are usually hospitalized for one or two weeks if the Staph infection is not serious.

Nurse Jennifer Conahan said, "I can't sit here stressing the importance of hygiene and washing your hands."

To prevent staph infections, students need to shower frequently. Schools also need to ensure that the equipment is clean.

So many of these staph infections are contracted because students, especially athletes, don't take showers after they have been playing basketball or wrestling and rubbing and coming into contact with other people's sweaty bodies, which could be hosts to staph.

"It all comes down to hygiene", Conahan said. "I think it's a wake up call for places with people in close contact."

She said that there has been so much media coverage about staph recently because she thinks the public needs to be aware of the contagious and deadly infection.

If a student at Central contracted the serious infection, the parents of all Central students would be immediately notified and the Douglas Health Department would become involved in the hygienical security of the school.

"I hope Central is on top of things and doesn't get Staph", Conahan said. "But, we're only as good as the kids' hygiene."

Senior Rachel Woolard said she is disgusted at the lack of good hygiene, especially in school.

Woolard often picks up tissues and wrappers from the ground, in an effort to clean up the school.

Latin teacher Rita Ryan also said that she is disgusted by the uncleanness that exists.

Many organizations make the effort to clean up not only

Central but also the community and city. One of these organizations is the Central National Honor Society. For years, it and its members have cleaned up Central and the community every chance they get.

NHS members are given volunteer hours for picking up trash in Central. Last year, NHS members went around Omaha picking up trash. NHS sponsor Jennifer Statsny advised all of them to wear clothes they didn't mind getting dirty.

The Spanish National Honor Society also helped cleaning up the city.

So much of a school's hygenity is based upon the students. Countless students can be seen coughing and sneezing and not covering their mouths. People type on school computers with dirty tissues in their hands. Some students even cough on other students and staff members, unintentionally maybe, but still very dangerous health-wise.

After students go home from school, the cleaning staff is left with the large multitudes of mess that the students have left. The custodians can be seen with mops and brooms, sweeping the whole school, every classroom, every nook, with the hope of keeping Central clean.

Staph infections are easily contagious. They can spread through simple hand contact or even by air. The bacteria can exist anywhere, whether in hot or cold temperatures. The only way to prevent from getting staph is having a good hygiene, and even that isn't a sure way of staying healthy.

Doctors urge all students to wash their hands, take regular showers and just clean up after themselves, especially in school. Many staff members emphasize that students' mothers are not in school to clean up after their messes.

What You Should Know About Staph Infection

Staph Infection is short for Staphylococcus Aureus

Staphylococcus is a group of bacteria that can cause multiple diseases that can affect anywhere from the skin to the heart.

Staph can be caused by a number of different things. The infection can enter skin by an unclean cut, thus causing a skin infection which can spread through one's whole body.

The bacteria thrives in unprepared, ill-handled food, thus making its consumer sick. At first it may appear to be food poisoning, when in actuality the staph bacteria has infected the person's body.

Symptoms of staph infection include vomiting, nausea, and headaches.

It has been found that the bacteria was causing toxic shock syndrome, which was previously linked with tampons. New studies have shown that staph can reside on things such as tampons, thus entering the blood stream once inside a woman's body.

Staph can be prevented by simple things such as washing hands, covering wounds and covering one's mouth as they cough. Also, change tampons often to avoid toxic shock syndrom, do not eat food that seems poorly prepared, keep personal items such as drinks and lip gloss personal and get tested.

Staph has been reported most often among schools where hygiene is less cared for.

Schools across the country, both elementary and high school, have been shut down because of staph infection fears.

A middle school student in New York died on Oct. 25 due to an untreated staph infection.

Both Millard North and Papillion LaVista South have taken precautions after receiving reports of eleven cases of staph infection.

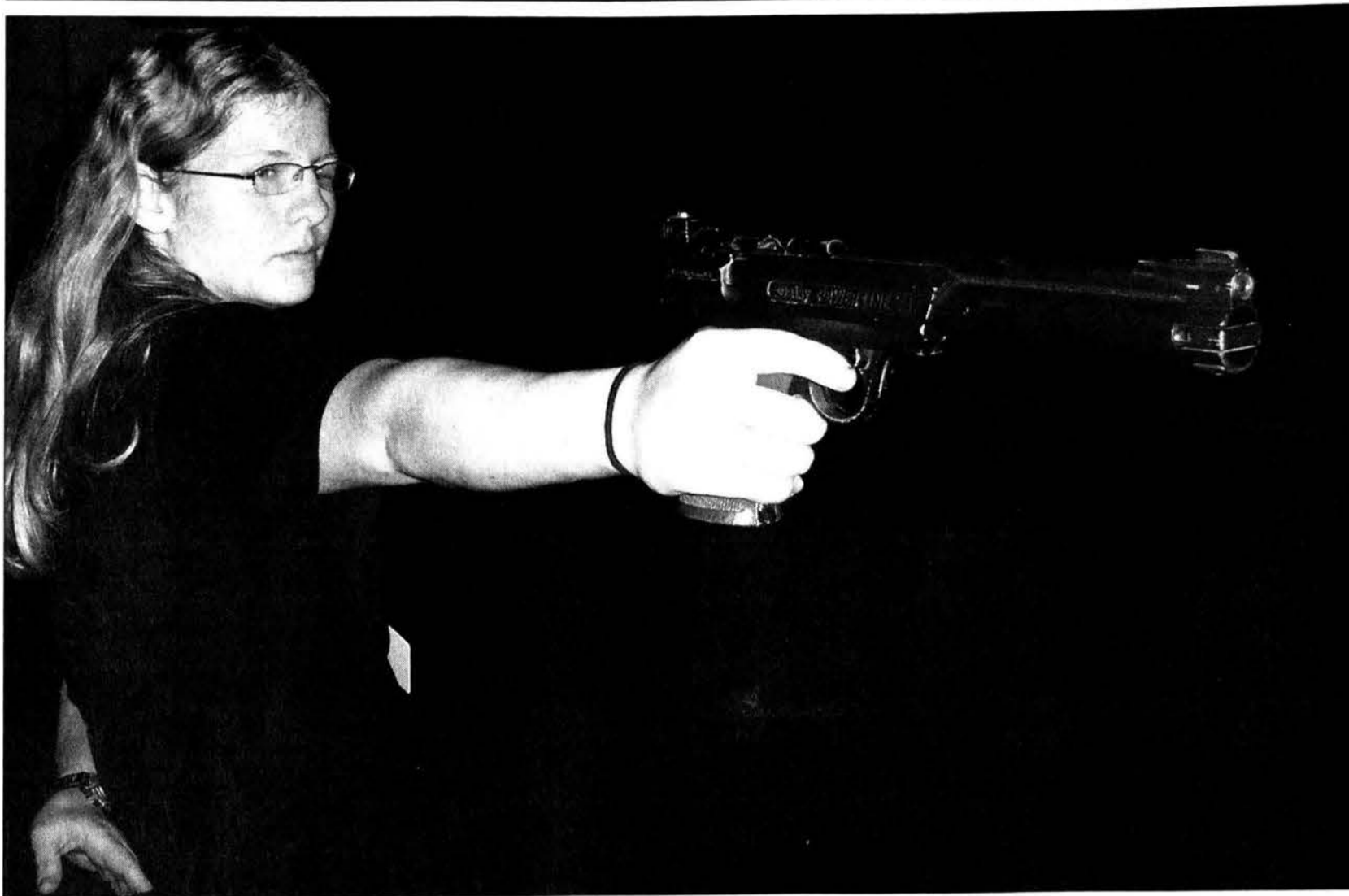


PHOTO BY KEVIN GIBBS/ REGISTER

Senior Renee Wilder points to aim during rifle team practice for Central's JROTC. The rifle team concerns themselves with improving their shooting techniques as well as learning about real life experiences.

Rifle team teaches life skills

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Precision. Accuracy. Diligence. The Rifle Team concerns themselves with all of these things every day, focusing on improving their shooting skills and techniques, waiting for that day when they can hit the bull's eye every time while blindfolded.

Students who want to join the team must have been in the Junior Reserves Officer Training Corp (JROTC) for at least one year and Sergeant Major Sutter must approve their entrance into the Rifle Team.

Everyday during ninth hour when other students are learning the Pythagorean theorem or about the start of the Civil War, members of the Rifle Team are standing, aiming and firing rifles and pistols down in the basement. Nine shots fired simultaneously, all hit the mark. Precise and accurate.

Each year, the members of the Rifle Team practice with air pistols until the end of September when they begin to hold matches. Practice is held everyday ninth hour.

From the pool of students participating in the Rifle Team, five of the best students are chosen to represent Central High School on the Varsity Rifle Team; five others are chosen to be on the Junior Varsity Rifle Team.

Every week there is a match at Central between the Rifle Team members, and occasionally there are competitions among the Omaha Public School (OPS) schools.

Junior Aelea Armendariz was chosen by Sergeant Major Sutter as this year's Rifle Team Commander.

She said she enjoyed being on the team a lot. "It's not hard, but you have to focus," Armendariz said. "If you're not doing well, Sergeant Major Sutter will send you back to study hall."

She said as long as a person tries, he will stay on the Rifle Team.

Senior Renee Wilder said being on the Rifle Team is not hard. "Everyone has their own slightly unique technique," she said. "Learning (how to shoot) is not hard, but perfecting your skills is."

Armendariz was on the Rifle Team last year, and she received the "Most Improved Marksmanship".

She said she thought this was partly the reason why she was chosen as this year's commander. She also learned a lot from her sister, Senior Brianna Armendariz, who was last year's Rifle Team Commander.

As commander, Armendariz critiques the targets from the day's shooting practices.

The two sisters first got their sparks of interest of JROTC from their neighbor who was involved in ROTC. Brianna questioned their neighbor about the program.

"I thought it sounded really interesting," Armendariz said.

Wilder is also on the Rifle Team. Although it is her first year, she scored in the top five for pistols.

"I wanted to join ever since sophomore year because it seemed fun," Wilder said. "You get to compete with other schools."

Armendariz said being on the Rifle Team and JROTC gives her a sense of pride. "I feel accomplished", she said. "I have more responsibilities, and I feel proud I have the abilities to do that."

She doesn't want to continue with ROTC in college. Her boyfriend, alumnus Zachary Pope, is a marine training in San Diego. She said that in the future she thinks that she can still experience military life when she lives on the various bases with him.

But, she said JROTC has taught her so many skills that she can use later in life.

"Leadership has taught me a great number of skills", she said. "Sergeant Major Sutter has taught us about being confident. I can hold a conversation with an adult about any topic now."

She said Colonel Melvin always encourages her and the other members to have good grammar.

"When you have a conversation with him, he always makes you think", she said.

"Sergeant Major Sutter has taught us about being confident."

Aelea Armendariz



PHOTO BY KEVIN GIBBS/ REGISTER

Senior James Palmer participates with Central's JROTC rifle team.

National Honor Society helps Red Cross by contributing canned food

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Halloween is known as a time for collecting candy, but for high school students volunteering at the Red Cross, it is a time to collect cans.

This was the sixth year Trick or Treat For Cans has been organized by the American Red Cross.

Youth Volunteer Specialist Rita Dantzler said the sponsor of National Honor Society, Jennifer Statsny, contacted her up and informed her that some members of National Honor Society wanted to volunteer for the event.

She came to the school and spoke to the national honor society, which she said was enthusiastic. She said she believed that there was going to be a good group of high school students participating this year.

Statsny said the group has participated in the event for the past three years. The school has done Trick or Treat For Cans, with the Youth Volunteer Core participating in the event.

She said the event helped show the members of National Honor Society that volunteerism doesn't have to be dreary all the time.

Dantzler said the Red Cross likes for the volunteers to come in groups for safety reasons. She said a large number of people in the groups involved want to make a difference in the community.

The Red Cross collects anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000 cans from Trick or Treat For Cans that go in the food pantry, said Dantzler. She said there were around 14 volunteers and staff that participate in the event. Collecting donated cans cuts down on the costs of buying food from the food bank.

According to Dantzler, the Red Cross has a very serious need for donated canned food because they do so much for the community. Dantzler said the Red Cross serves 10,000 individuals a year off of the food pantry.

She said 4,000 cans were collected last year, and the Red Cross hoped to bump the number up to at least 4,200 or 4,300. The Red Cross counting the cans between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. until around 10:00 p.m., which Dantzler said made for a long night.

Statsny said Trick or Treat For Cans was a good activity for National Honor Society because many people like the idea of donating canned goods, and having students pick the cans up makes it easier to do it. She said it was also an event she could count on happening year, which was helpful for her because it is hard to find activities that National Honor Society to do as a group.

Dantzler said the Creighton Red Cross club, which pulled things together and has run Trick or Treat For Cans for numerous years, organized the event. This year, Dantzler said, Creighton has had their biggest turnout of Creighton students volunteering.

Organizing the event hasn't been hard this year, except making sure there was enough food for the volunteers because of the growing numbers, Dantzler said. The Red Cross, Dantzler said, tried to think ahead in planning to avoid any problems.

Statsny said the event appealed to members of the group because it was fun, and they were able to dress up for Halloween, which reminded them of their childhood.

Dantzler, who attended the school for a little while, said having National Honor Society volunteers worked out great because the school was close to Creighton.

Students went out to the neighborhoods to pass out fliers to let people know about the event, let the residents know when volunteers would be back to pick up the cans, checked in on Halloween day and brought the cans back.

Statsny said members of the National Honor Society have passed out fliers for the past two years. The event, Dantzler said, started around 5:30 p.m. and ended around 8:30 p.m.

After the cans were collected, the volunteers were able to relax. Dantzler said prizes were given at the end of the party. For instance, students were able to win prizes for best costume, most interesting canned food given, most cans collected as well as door prizes, which are given out between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m.

Some of the more interesting canned food that has been donated has been fennel, which Dantzler said had to be looked up; it was duck duck patte. The can had words written in French, so a student who spoke French had to translate it.

She said the students enjoyed the party in a safe environment and were able to enjoy each other's company.

Dantzler said the Red Cross receives great help from high school students who volunteer. She said the students could benefit from volunteering at Trick or Treat For Cans because they are helping the community and working with other students as well. Dantzler said the students can also sense they're making a difference for someone.

Students also got the benefit of seeing things within the Red Cross, said Dantzler. For instance, the Disaster Action Team (DAT), which came to sort the cans. Dantzler said they could ask the members of the DAT questions. She said it was good service learning.

One of her goals this, Statsny said, was to show the members of National Honor Society that volunteering can happen in many ways, and not just during Thanksgiving and the Winter holidays. She said she wanted to teach that volunteerism can happen any day.

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Conference attracts, educates teen parents

BY KEVIN GIBBS

Pregnancy and parenting can be a scary time for teens, but thanks to many charities in cooperation with Metropolitan Community College, it will be a little easier to bear this year.

The Annual Teen Parenting Conference is back for its seventh run.

"I was a teen mom, so I know how tough it is," said Debbie LaHoda, coordinator for the Teen Parenting Conference. "It's a sad thing when you don't even know where to get diapers."

According to LaHoda that is exactly what they intend to point out for teens.

"It's a conference for all OPS pregnant and teen parents," said Karen Stecker, family consumer science teacher at Central. "They have different educational sessions that they encourage all the teen parents to attend."

The conference is free and takes place on Nov. 16 at 8 a.m. and goes to 2:30 p.m. at Metro Community College's South Omaha campus, Industrial Training Center, located at 27th and Q Streets.

"They also have a resource fair with all the vendors that offer programs and support for teen parents," Stecker said. "It's a great place to find resources for help."

The event includes sessions on health, nutrition, child guidance, discipline, reading, early education foundations, finance and budgeting.

The conference also supplies a continental breakfast and lunch as well as door prizes.

Among the groups attending are Department of Health, One World Community Center and University of Nebraska at Lincoln Extension School, the same vendors that participated the year previous.

"It started with a few of us that worked together," LaHoda said.

She said that the initial agencies where the Douglas County Department of Health, the Teen Parent Program, Access Medicaid and the Child

Saving Institute. Last year it had grown to 27 agencies, and this year she expects 25 to 30 agencies as well.

"Every year it seems to change a little bit, but the core group stays the same," LaHoda said. "The services are pretty much volunteer."

LaHoda said that the largest percentage of attendees come from Central, Blackburn and South high schools.



ILLUSTRATION BY ANITA HODGE

Senior deals with attention after earning perfect score on SAT

From "Ferguson": page 1A

would see on television where the student is locked away in their room for months, their head buried in books. She went to Borders book store only a week before the test and bought the official S.A.T. study guide book that the college board recommends.

After sitting in the book store for a few hours studying, she took it home to read. She didn't take any of the practice tests, she said, but read over the

study tips and the essay prompts.

Ferguson had already taken the test once and she knew where her weaknesses lay: in the essay.

Therefore, she studied particularly hard on this, practiced, and eventually became confident in her ability to write under pressure.

She said she also had her high school education to thank for such a great score. Her classes, which were all AP and Honors, have helped her significantly and some of her teachers, including Viki Deniston-Reed have encouraged and prepared her.

It was a little while later before she could see on the internet that she had received a perfect score, but she said the news traveled like wild fire. Besides personal congratulations, she was interviewed for the Omaha World-Herald as well.

Ferguson said before receiving the perfect score, she had formed a list of colleges she would have liked to apply to.

She hoped that by seeing her score, she could narrow down the list with colleges she wouldn't have a chance at.

But now, she said, her list has only gotten longer. Especially when it will be hard to choose between a college she wants to go to across country when colleges here are offering her such generous scholarships.

On her list of colleges is Harvard, the school she visited in the summer and fell in love with. She said she loved it's people and also it's location, Boston.

Another school she is considering, based more on the fact that it is in Boston rather than it's academic appeal, is MIT. However she intends to apply to schools such as Princeton, Yale, the rest of the Ivy Leagues, University of Chicago and Vanderbilt since it is the school her mother attended.

Before she said Ivy Leagues were only on her wish lists, however things have changed.

She said she feels more confident than ever that she will be able to get into one of these schools based on her score and that feels better than ever.

As far as what she wants to major in, Ferguson said she is quite positive it will be in the math and science field, however, she has not come up with a definite decision past that.

Ferguson said she took the A.C.T. test last Saturday at Central, however she was still antsy from her S.A.T. score and was in no mood to take it. Her only motivation was that she had already registered and she didn't have much of a choice.

Principal Emmel said he first found out about Ferguson's achievements when a teacher came running in to tell him. Emmel said he was thoroughly surprised and pleased.

"I think it shows that we are a school that has a lot of really bright kids and when it comes to academics, we are one of the top in the state," he said. "It says a lot about Sarah. It also says a lot about her family. They obviously value learning and education. Lastly, she made Central proud."

Emmel said he couldn't imagine the doors that would be open to her because of this incredible achievement.

What school would not want her, he asked. Colleges, especially Ivy League colleges, love to have students with impressive qualities and what college would not want a student who achieved a perfect score on a difficult test such as the S.A.T.?

Emmel said the most amazing part of the situation which he had not thought of until a reporter mentioned it was that Ferguson was a girl.

Looking at the trends, he said, the high scores such as this tends to come mostly from males, so it says something else that Ferguson beats another trend.

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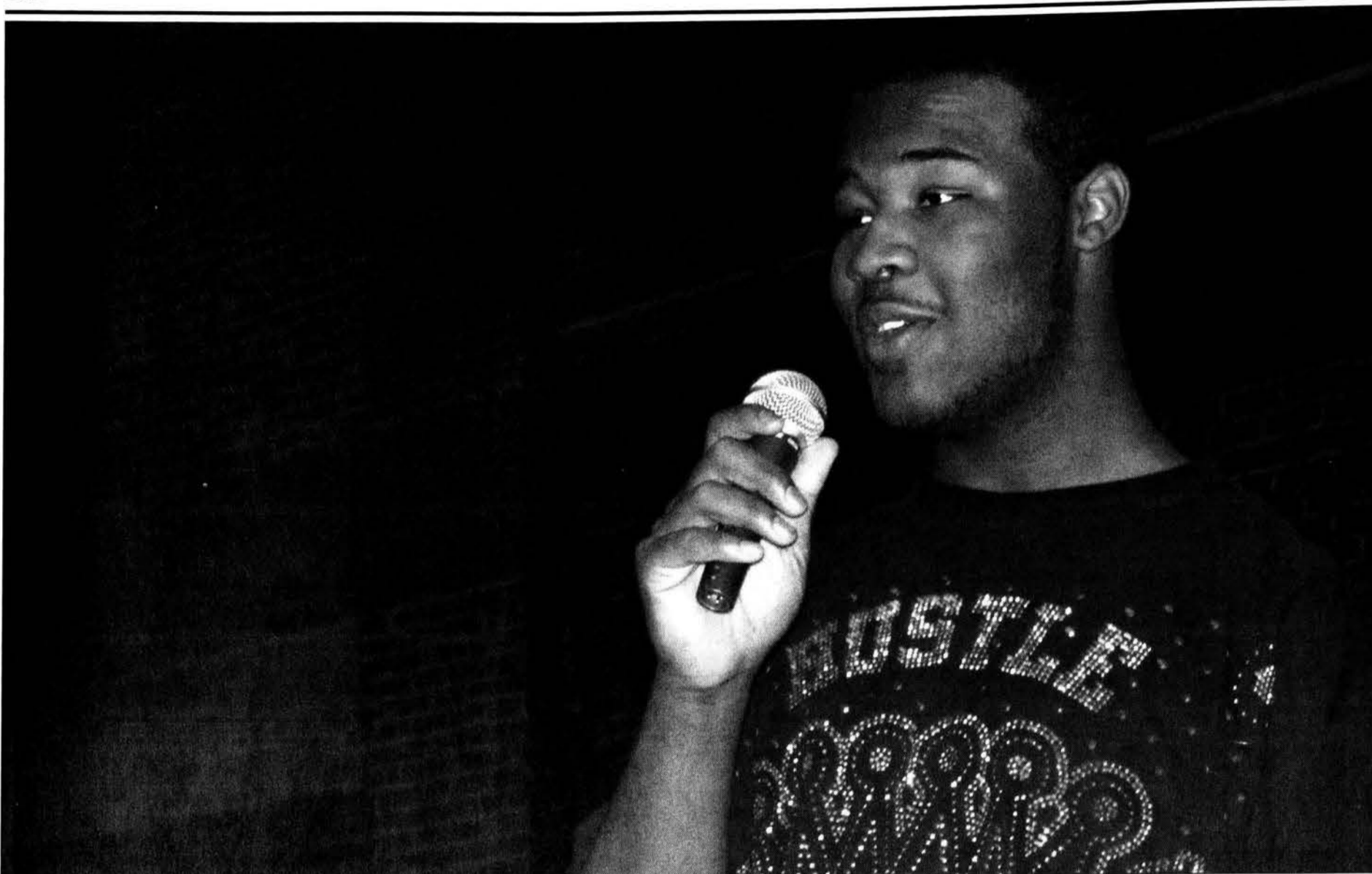


PHOTO BY ASTIRKA WILHELM/ REGISTER

Senior Justin Hubbard auditions for the award-winning television show, American Idol. He just made it past the door, but was asked to continue on to audition for the judges.

Idol audition stirs emotions

BY ASTIRKA WILHELM

Senior Justin Hubbard auditioned for American Idol in Omaha at the Qwest Center a few months ago. He made it to stage four.

Over 10,030 people, ranging from 16 to 24, auditioned in Omaha to be the next American Idol. Seven of those made it to stage three. Two of those made it to stage four.

For the very first stage, Hubbard arrived at the Qwest Center at 6:45 in the morning and he was in the middle of a long, curving line that swallowed the Qwest Center.

"The crowd was wild," he said. "There were a lot of Central students and alums who graduated last year."

One person showed up in a cow suit.

Randy, Paula, and Simon came to the first stage. Hubbard said the worst part happened when they were instructed to say hi to Simon. He said everyone started to scream except him because he didn't want to lose his voice.

Also, one of the 12 finalists from the last season of American Idol came to Omaha to audition for a spot on this year's Idol. Hubbard spoke to the former finalist, who Hubbard said was very excited to try out for the show again.

"He had a bodyguard with him," Hubbard said. "He was very scared."

Hubbard sang for the preliminary judges, but he said it was difficult because he was singing simultaneously while six other contestants were auditioning. The stage was divided into seven sections, each section separated by a curtain.

Forty-six people were chosen from Omaha. Hubbard was one of them.

"I smiled and I couldn't stop crying," he said. "I called my family and they were jumping up and yelling. I had to hold the phone away because they were screaming so loud."

Hubbard said stage one was fun because he was able to meet so many people with so many different perspectives. One of the unique people he met was Rosa Smith. He said she was shining and breathtaking.

"She sang her heart out," he said. "She got a standing ovation."

"The judges knew that Omaha had something special," he said. "The people not from Omaha really tried to impress, but the judges wanted people who wanted to be the next American Idol."

"Stage two was horrible," he said. "There was one black guy and he said 'Simon isn't here' but he was the biggest Simon of all."

Hubbard said the Simon-wannabe would only let people move on to the next stage if they embarrassed themselves. After waiting four or five hours, Hubbard went to the judging room and told the Simon-wannabe that he was not going to embarrass himself.

"I gave him a piece of my mind," he said. "Fantasia and Ruben never embarrassed themselves."

Stage three confused all of the contestants. All of the people were told they must memorize the song that was being played. It was played for one and a half hours.

"It was a country song," Hubbard said. "It was really vulgar."

Hubbard said it was all very confusing because they not only were told to memorize the song that was being played, but they were also given lyrics to a completely different song. They were told they must have those lyrics memorized.

"No one really knew what to do," he said.

When Hubbard walked into the judging room, he said the judges told him to sing his song.

"They tried to confuse us," he said.

All of the three producers, the people who were judging, gave him a 'yes' to move onto stage four. The third producer told Hubbard that he would say yes if 25 people told him he was a good singer.

He and the third judge went outside. Hubbard sang for 45 people and all of them said he was a good singer. Thus, Hubbard moved onto stage four of the competition.

He said every time he was moved on in the competition, he felt content and he felt he was doing a good job.

Stage four occurred in the middle of October. Hubbard did not go to his audition because he needed to help his church and parish.

For the three stages that Hubbard did attend, he did not practice a lot because he said he didn't want his singing to sound rehearsed. Rather, he did the practice of his time crying and praying and focusing on his family. He practiced only once or twice.

Everything Hubbard did, the producers said, could be put into the television series.

"It was a really great experience meeting people who came from Texas, Las Vegas, South Dakota," he said. "I would encourage anybody who wants to sing to try out next year."

Hubbard said auditioning was really challenging because he had to meet the standards of the judges.

"They did pass up a lot of good talent in Omaha," he said. "I think this season of American Idol will not be about singing, but about publicity."

Hubbard met with other former Idol contestants as well, including Sanjaya. Hubbard met Sanjaya before he was a contestant on American Idol. He was in the singing group "Total Praise" and they came to Omaha to worship with him and his church after Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans. Hubbard's interest in music was not discovered with American Idol. He is in the Central High School Men's Accapella and he has released three albums in Kentucky, Minnesota, and Missouri.

Teacher spends summer expanding education in China

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

AP World History teacher, Vicki Denison Reed, got her very first chance to experience China this summer as part of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia's (NCTA) educator's study tour.

Being that one of the topics in AP World History, and also Academic Decathlon last year was China, the trip did not go completely without educational benefit. It was good for Reed as a teacher and also as a person.

The trip was a three week long vacation that required a semester long seminar about East Asia and its application.

"It was a very well organized event and a great opportunity," Reed said.

In total, 15 classroom teachers, four seminar leaders, three group leaders, one translator and one Chinese citizen went along on the trip.

"The translator was quite amazing," Reed said, "she was excellent in both Chinese and English and was getting her PHD in literature from Harvard."

Although there was a translator present, the Chinese spoke English as almost a second language, so it was simple for the tourists to communicate between cultures.

Four cities were visited throughout the weeks, including Beijing, Chang Chun, Xi'an and Shang Hoi.

Since they went as a group, they had a multitude of connections in different forms and were able to experience some things that everyday tourists do not have the chance to even see.

"There were many guest speakers that came and discussed different topics," Reed said, "one included Yu Hua, a popular novelist not only in China, but worldwide. He was a calligrapher and one of the most interesting of the speakers."

Tour guides in each city led the sight seeing and different events throughout the stay.

One of the most unusual and unique things that tourists place was a Chinese home stay.

This isn't typical in China and the tourists were extremely lucky to have gotten the chance to experience true Chinese culture at its finest.

"It was unlike anything I had ever done before, we stayed in middle to upper class homes and also got a chance to visit and tour the schools that the children went to," Reed said.

The schools operate in a different way than here in the United States because they are based upon ability. Each child is tested and placed into the school that best benefits their educational needs.

"There are close to 70 children in some classes," Reed said, "but they are extremely well behaved and polite."

The schools operate in a monository style and they got the chance to visit grades beginning with kindergarten all the way through high school.

The actual culture of China is much like that of America. "The one thing that surprised me the most about city life was that I never once felt particularly crowded," said Reed.

She also said that the big cities, including the ones she visited, do a lot more entertaining "out on the town."

This is because there isn't much room indoors and the sidewalks are perfect for entertainment.

"One particular thing that caught my attention was the men and women dancing on the street corners," Reed said. "It was almost like the folk dancing where the women danced with large fans and the men played the drums. It was quite unique."

Reed also said that people often sat outdoors and played mahjong, which is Chinese for checkers.

There are a lot of tourists in the heartland of China, and being one herself, Reed was excited to see such an immense amount of history.

She said everything was quite extreme.

"The opportunity we received on this trip was something you don't normally get the chance to be a part of," Reed said. "It was really a once in a lifetime opportunity and because China is changing so quickly, it would be different if I went again."

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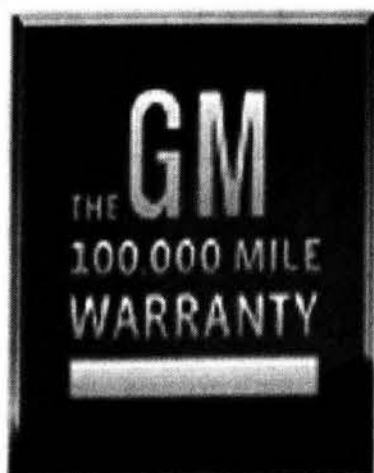
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The Road to Omaha...



PHOTO BY LAUREN GREVE/ REGISTER

...Ends at Rosenblatt

As Rosenblatt Stadium's contract with the NCAA, which keeps the College World Series in Omaha, comes to an end, the NCAA suggests that the city explore various other options for the Series in order to keep this local tradition alive. Now, Mayor Mike Fahey and an appointed committee are researching the different options that will benefit the city as well as its ramifications. Talk of renovating or relocating the ballpark has sparked some community members and Central students to feel a little sentimental.

BY LAUREN GREVE

For 57 years, eight baseball teams, followed by thousands of their fans, have flocked to Rosenblatt Stadium, located at 1202 Bert Murphy Avenue, to be a part of the legendary College World Series.

Now, the NCAA is asking Mayor Mike Fahey to explore various options to keep the College World Series in Omaha, or else it's for the taking in 2011.

Rosenblatt's age, restricted seating of only 25,000, and parking limitations have raised concern by the NCAA as its contract with Omaha is nearing an end. Fahey is now warning that other cities such as Indianapolis, Oklahoma City, and Orlando are waiting to see if the College World Series will be up for grabs.

He stresses that Omaha should not take the Series for granted and that appropriate measures need to be taken to keep this well-known Omaha tradition alive.

The initial solution proposed by Fahey was to rebuild Rosenblatt for an estimated 100 million dollars on what is currently Lot D of the Quest Center Omaha.

Immediately, many members of the community opposed his idea and demanded that another approach be taken.

One of these community members was David Sokol, chairman of the Metropolitan Entertainment Convention Authority, the lead operator of the Quest Center.

Sokol wrote a letter to Fahey suggesting that the two collaborate to explore all of the options that Omaha has to offer to reduce the risk of losing the College World Series to another city.

Fahey's reaction was to put together a committee, appointing Sokol as chairman, to study all of the various options and ramifications of three major options.

These choices include a through renovation of Rosenblatt at its current location, a substantially rebuilt stadium on Lot D of the Quest Center, or a new stadium built elsewhere in our community.

Total, there are eight different options, three at Rosenblatt and five other locations north of downtown.

Sokol stated at an October 11 press conference that the city has no legal right to build a baseball stadium on Lot D of the Quest Center and that it would result in numerous traffic problems for the convention center and surrounding area.

He also noted that the NCAA has never pressured Omaha to build a new stadium, that they have merely asked the city to fully explore its options for the College World Series.

"The NCAA is not the enemy here, they have never been the enemy. They do not force you to do anything, they ask you to respond to them," said Sokol.

Although emotions are varied on what the most beneficial solution might be, many have applauded Mayor Fahey's effort to involve the community and the committee in the exploration of the various options and the evaluation of each as necessary.

"The dialogue is good, it's not a bad thing," said Fahey at a town hall meeting on October 23.

All of this talk about moving or renovating Rosenblatt has gotten some metro citizens and Central students worried.

Members of the Deer Park Neighborhood Association (DPNA) and the South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (SONA) have recently formed the Save Rosenblatt Committee.

The group's web site, www.saverosenblatt.com states that their purpose is to "research and act upon any or all possible methods to save Rosenblatt Stadium from demise and to retain the facility as the future "home" of the College World Series."

The web site also boasts a poll taken by the Omaha World Herald showing that a stunning 81 percent of people polled believe that the College World Series should not leave Rosenblatt, while a meek 19% feel that it should take place elsewhere.

Pete Festersen, Fahey's Deputy Chief of Staff exclaimed his love for Rosenblatt by saying, "It is the heart of baseball in the community."

These sentimental feelings are just as prevalent in the Central hallways.

Students have shared their feelings about the recent controversy surrounding Rosenblatt.

"I would be really depressed and angry if they moved the College World Series to another city because Omaha has a great atmosphere for the Series," said sophomore Nate Chonis, "That is what makes summer fun."

A devote fan no matter what the circumstances, Chonis recalls having attended every game for the past ten years.

"If they moved it to another city I would still plan on going but it would be more difficult to attend," said Chonis.

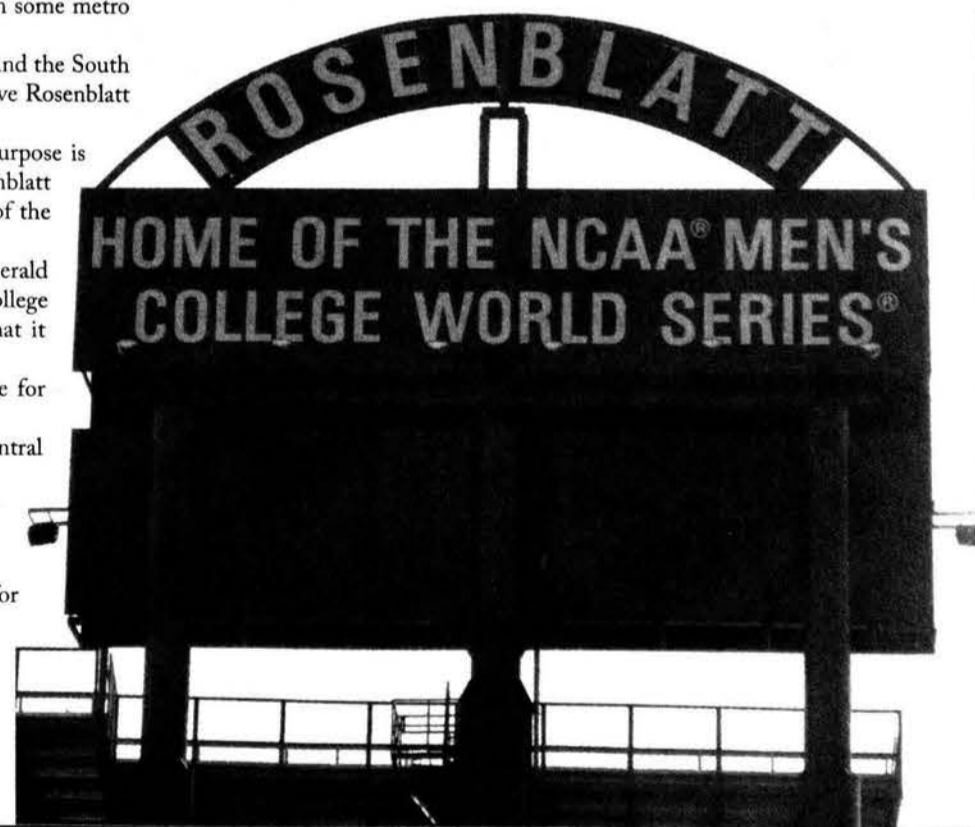
And Chonis isn't the only devote fan in Omaha either.

Currently, every measure possible is being taken and examined from every point of view to see how it would effect the Omaha community.

Mayor Fahey and his newly appointed committee will approach the issue as cautiously as possible in order to benefit the city to the best of their ability, while still fighting to hold on to the beloved tradition of a 12 day baseball tournament event summer in Omaha.

Which ever side one believes in, one fact is true.

The Mayor and his committee will continue to meet until the issue is solved.



Passion for Africa earns junior MVP position with Invisible Children

BY ALI HODGE

"It's something that's become so close to my heart," said junior Christina Chesters, who was asked to travel to San Diego after being named one of Invisible Children's most valuable members. "I can't imagine not ever seeing that movie."

Since seeing a documentary in her geography class her sophomore year, Chesters has devoted her time to making the students of Central High School aware of the horrors going on to the children in underdeveloped parts of Africa. It was something she never imagined doing, but she's glad she stumbled across it.

Chesters talked to her geography teacher, Michelle Pleiss, at the end of last year and devised a plan with the principal to show the documentary to the school.

After some planning and contemplating, students were given the opportunity to be excused from their classes to see the film of three teenagers fresh out our high school who traveled to Africa looking for something to film.

Little did they know that they'd stumble across a subject that would launch an entire organization that would draw in hundreds of supporters.

Representatives of Invisible Children who showed the film at Central said that

Chesters work brought in one of the largest audiences they had seen at a school.

Now, working further and starting an Invisible Children club, Chesters has become an MVP for the company. She said she received a letter in the mail and also an e-mail delivering to her the good news that she had been chosen.

She said she intends on attending the leadership conference that will be held in San Diego.

She also hopes on discovering new ways to get the word out around her school other than showing the film and hosting the club. Others helping her agree that they need new ways to get the students interested in the club since it is for such a good cause.

Chesters is also excited because the three who started the organization, who created the document and started the projects in Gulu, Uganda are hosting the event and she said she is excited to meet them.

Closer to home, Invisible Children has been working hard to raise money for the children in Gulu.

The Invisible Children club at Central is working with 75 other midwestern schools to raise money and of those schools, Central is ranked number three in

fundraising.

Senior Matt Bower, who assists Chesters in the Invisible Children Club said the organization is good for the students here.

"It gets them out of their comfort zone and it opens them up to the rest of the world," he said.

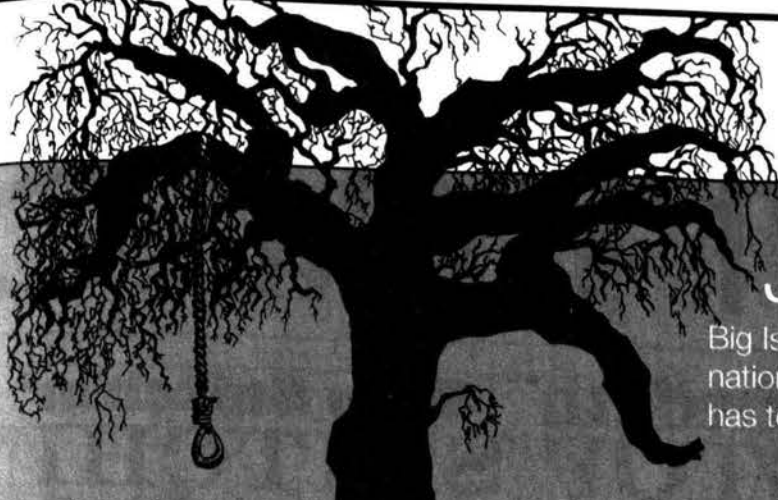
The first meeting of Individual Children attracted a very good number of members, he said. And judging by the people who have talked with him, they are expecting a lot more. He said it is always good to see the students care about something that is so important to their world.

Bower helped out a few others last year with the Change the World fundraiser and this year, they have combined to work with Invisible Children.

For future projects, they intend to continue to do the water jug coin collection which raised a good amount last year.

They also hope to do other fundraisers that have not been decided, but they want to see all classes participate in the fundraising.

So far in the first semester of this year, they have raised \$530.00 and hope to increase that number dramatically.



Letters to the Editor
What the student body has
to say about teen drinking.
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Salvia
Dangerous drug legal for teens to use.
PAGE 20

Jena 6

Big Issue: racism issue grows into national news. See what the Register has to say about their reactions.
PAGE 16

Opinion

The Register | Monday 11.5.2007 | central.journalism@ops.org

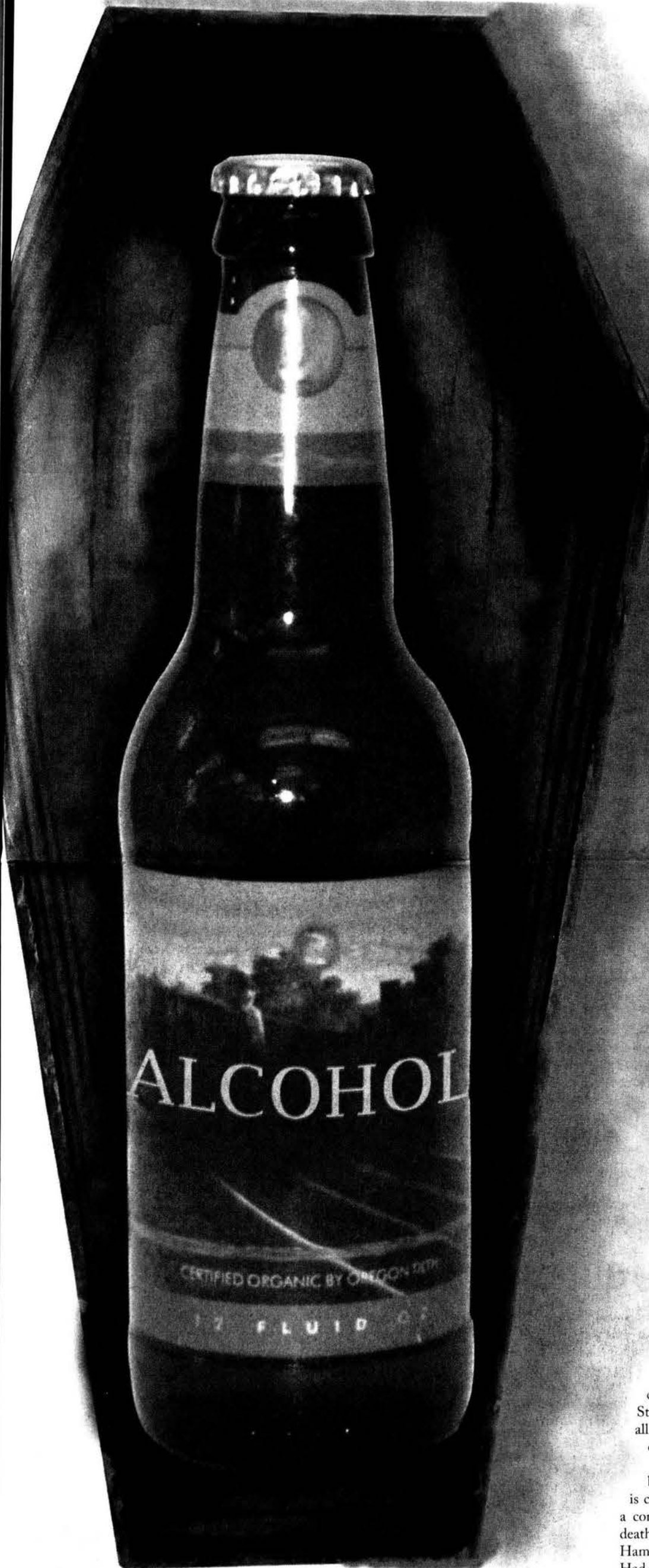
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A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

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DEADLY SPIRITS

With the rates of deaths due to teenage drinking rapidly rising, it leaves the world wondering if all of the efforts for awareness have been wasted.



74.3
The percentage of high school students who have had alcohol at least once in their lifetime.

25.6
The percentage of teens who had their first drink before they turned thirteen.

23.3
The percentage of sexually active teens who have reported having one or more drinks before engaging in sexual intercourse.

28.5
The percentage of teens who, within 30 days prior to a survey held by Familyguide.com, admitted to riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking.

9.9
The percentage of high school teens nationwide who have admitted to drinking and driving.

We've all heard the horror stories. We've all heard the lectures. Almost every teen has been linked to some drinking-related incident.

We can't say we're not informed. So what's our excuse?

Over 3,500 teens are killed and some 100,000 are injured every year in incidences where alcohol played a large role.

I'm willing to bet that those teens were well aware of the risks they faced when they got behind the wheel of that car that smashed.

They knew to wear their seat belts. They knew they had other lives in the car beside them. They knew that they were too

young to drink.

So what were their excuses?

Alcohol in whatever form is the oldest known drug made from fermented grain, fruit juice and honey, and it is a nervous system depressant.

It affects parts of the brain and nervous system such as the reticular formation, spinal cord, cerebellum and cerebral cortex. So naturally, little things such as speaking, walking and thinking become difficult once the drug takes its course.

Can't one understand then that driving would be a little difficult let alone dangerous?

Lawmakers aren't trying to punish teens for no reason. They are trying to protect teens.

A person's brain is still developing at the age of 20. Consumption of alcohol, especially large amounts, can damage the brain. Mental retardation can arise.

EDITORIAL The OPINION of the Register staff

Teenagers, no matter what they may think, are not the smartest people in the world. They lack the experience that the lawmakers have.

Let us not forget one of the most obvious reasons why adults try to restrict alcohol consumption in minors. Alcohol negatively affects

a person's judgement. The drunk individuals cannot walk straight, let alone drive straight.

Grow up. Don't drink, and especially don't drink and drive. Not only are you risking your life, but you are also risking everyone else's lives, the ones in your car and the ones in the other cars.

Be responsible.

Teenagers will not gain credibility by breaking the laws. All they will gain is a manslaughter conviction.

Words of congressman viewed as harsh

When Congressman Pete Stark made his wild speech on the floor of the House of Representatives, saying troops in Iraq were dying for the President's 'amusement,' I was blissfully unaware in the classroom. But by the time I had arrived home, every news station was blaring a headline about the speech, and every pundit had latched onto the harangue.

All night and for days afterward, the attack was the subject of angry public debate, leading to a single general conclusion: Stark had overstepped his boundaries, had gone too far and the floor of the House of Representatives was no place for such anger and vitriol. Finally, Nancy Pelosi publicly rebuked Stark, and the Bay Area congressman apologized to the House, the troops and the President for his actions.

Through the entire debacle, I was confused. Every talking head on the air was calling Stark's words unacceptable and inappropriate, but all I saw was a congressman expressing a strong opinion.

Since when did strong, divisive opinions become inappropriate? United States history is chock-full of far worse political wrangling than a congressman saying the President is amused by death. What about Preston Brooks' cane, the duel between Burr and Hamilton and the editorial insults of John Adams and Abraham Lincoln? Had American tradition of harsh political discourse simply disappear? The other day, Rep. John Boehner, Stark's most vocal critic in office, said publicly that the lives lost so far in Iraq will mean nothing in the long run

when compared to freedom in Iraq.

Did he apologize for devaluing American military lives as expendable collateral in the war on terror? Of course not. Stark had the temerity to attack the office of the imperial president, and for that, he was crushed. Does the presidency now hold more weight than freedom of speech, and can we as a nation accept that it is now unacceptable, immoral and un-American to criticize the president?

When Karl Rove, just to name a recent and memorable example, compared Max Cleland, a Vietnam War triple amputee, to Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein for a campaign commercial about Cleland's votes on national security issues, he never apologized, and was never asked to by the greater community.

American politics are traditionally brutal and rough, and the winners usually do so by aiming below the belt. Call it immoral or wrong as much as you want, but it works to win elections. It is nothing to be ashamed of that our political discourse is open and honest, but we should never find ourselves in the position of giving carte blanche to the party that holds the executive branch.

People should not have to apologize for their actions in political contests, because we as citizens have a responsibility to push through the vitriol and mudslinging to find the truth for ourselves.

The Presidency is an institution, but the President is just a man, as biased and often wrong as any other person. We as students and citizens must make our political decisions not based on the pandering and campaigning of any party or person, but our own experience and judgment.



GO READ A BOOK
A column by Ben McGuire

Torture methods of Guantanamo Bay cruel, unrealistic

Washboarding, sensory deprivation and solitary confinement that can last up to weeks.

And its overlooked everyday.

A place where laws of any kind aren't supported. Where national governing officials abandon their own laws that they have supported. "This place," you may ask, "Where is it?"

Is it behind some secret organization? Is it hidden in Iraq or some other middle eastern country?

No. It's in a much closer destination. It's on our own turf.

Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is a place where the United States violates some of the key rules that govern our "free" country called America.

Its a place where hundreds of Middle-Easterners "deemed" a risk to the United States are held.

The government and others will protect it. They'll use fear and hate to make it alright with the American public. They'll justify their actions with four simple words.

Remember Sept. 11, 2001.

And of course everyone does. We all remember the day 3,000 Americans died in terrorist attacks.

"Well, if you don't want that to happen again, this is the way to keep them from doing it."

Don't be scared into submission. Understand the travesties that are going

on inside our own political system. Look past your confusion of another culture thousands of miles away. It's time to realize that what the government is doing is wrong.

Everything that America stands for is being revoked in this detention center. The seventh amendment is violated, allowing everyone held for a crime to a fair trial. The government says they'll give these detainees a right to a fair trial on their own time, long past the 90 days to file suit. The government won't release the number of prisoners held, but the estimates are around 400 as of the beginning of 2007.

EDITORIAL The OPINION of the Register staff

These prisoners are never told why they have been taken away, or why their children won't see them again. They just are taken. Then tortured. Then interrogated. And tortured again and again if "deemed" necessary.

And if that wasn't the end-all-be-all, our government uses sensory deprivation, a torture which is keeping out light or sound to produce anxiety, stress and depression. The government does not call it a torture method, but the United Nations (UN) recognizes it as a form of torture not allowed by the Geneva Convention.

The recent movie "Rendition" brings to light the topic of concealed government torture. It portrays an event in which a US citizen is taken to an outside country for torture.

The brutality of torture is something that cannot be concealed. It shows the inhumanity that can exist in even the allegedly greatest, most democratic country in the world.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."
 First Amendment of the United States, ratified Dec. 15, 1791

EDITORIALS



GRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Crime stoppers viewed as 'snitches'

Greg Emmel
 PRINCIPAL
 LaTrina Parker
 ADVISER
 Ali Hodge
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

'Stop snitchin'. You've seen it on the t-shirts, in the music videos and you've heard it in songs. Once people were called heroes for helping solve a crime. Now they are referred to as 'snitches'.

In the hip-hop culture 'snitching' is very much frowned upon. Basically they are telling the community not to talk to the police.

The message to criminals is that it means they can come into a community and do anything they want. They can vandalize, abuse, rape and kill.

When people take the 'no snitching' rule seriously these criminals will get away and be free to vandalize, abuse, rape and kill again.

Many lives could have been put to justice if a 'snitch' had come forward and talked to the police. Many lives could have been spared if a 'snitch' had come forward in the first place and stopped the criminal before they could have done any harm to anyone else.

It was once an unspoken code among criminals. Now it's a marketing campaign. Sure some might say that it's just a shirt or it's just fashion. It's so much more than that. It's sending a message, a powerful one.

The Boston Police Department recently launched a new text messaging tip line. Text messaging has become an everyday way of communicating. Now Boston residents can text message the Boston Police with any crime tips anonymously.

The Baltimore based record company, Skinny Suge Records released a DVD called 'Stop Snitchin' in late 2004.

There are now shirts in retail that say "Ditches are for Snitches", implying that if one tells the police what they know they will be thrown into a ditch. Some shirts even

incorporate bullet holes, obviously implying that the 'snitch' will be shot.

The whole idea and 'campaign' is completely ludicrous. This is about justice, life and death. It shouldn't be a race to see who can be the biggest thug or most credible rapper.

Some say it's a lifestyle. It shouldn't be a lifestyle. If this lifestyle keeps going on for generations we will have no more generations.

Crimes will go unsolved. Families and friends will feel the loss of a loved one forever. It's so sad to see families that do lose a family member not be able to see justice for them.

We think that things like this couldn't happen to our family. It's just something that happens to other people. But in fact it's happening right here in our community. People have the chance to make a difference and help families reunite and recover. Maybe they won't fully recover from the loss, but it will help fill the void in their hearts that has been there for so long.

With the new technology and crime solving methods you would think that crime would have gone down. The fact is that it hasn't. Since 1990 the number of murders a year has gone up from 43 in 2006 according to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Agency Uniform Crime Reports. The amount of robberies also went up from 807 in 1990 to 1,129 in 2006. These are just the reported crimes in Nebraska, there are much more that aren't reported because of the loyalty on the streets.

The crime rates should be going down; way down. We have the technology, but the citizens don't want to cooperate. They see the police as an enemy instead of a guardian of their city.

Citizens are there but we aren't making full use of them. Citizens should stand up for their right to bring justice to their community.

EDITORIAL
 The **OPINION** of
 the Register staff

Underreported crimes in schools a danger to students

Ever since the shootings at Virginia Tech, colleges, and even some high schools have been on alert and have tried to make the schools safer for both the students and the faculty members.

According to the city comptroller, William C. Thompson Jr., during the 2004-2005 school year some high schools in New York did not report every incident of violence that went on in the hallways of those buildings. Parents were given an unclear view on what is really happening in those schools because of this.

This reporting obviously helps the schools become safer for the students and the staff. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg reported that schools that received extra police schools with high numbers of incidences saw the number of felonies drop 22 percent.

An audit performed by Thompson showed that incidents that are as serious as rape and gang violence weren't reported. This audit shows that there are some problems with the whole system of reporting that need to be fixed.

Not reporting those incidents is disrespectful to the victims, possible victims and other victims. When the law, just school rules, is broken on school grounds, it should be reported immediately, no excuses.

Even if the schools report those kinds of incidents in school records, it doesn't do any good if they're not reported to the state. Yes, it is difficult to fully report every incident but it becomes a problem when more than twenty percent don't get reported. There is no doubt that there are some administrators who selfishly want to make the school look good, so they don't report every act of violence.

The administrations of those schools should be responsible for the safety of those students. In a time when there are attempts to make schools even safer, those schools in New York are taking steps back and are possibly endangering the lives of those children.

Reporting any violence is one of the first steps to making sure that it won't happen again. If officials can get an accurate idea of where and when these events occur, it would help prevent them. Not accurately reporting incidents of violence encourages the people who misbehave.

This also shows that the way of reporting behavior problems needs to be changed.

EDITORIAL
 The **OPINION** of
 the Register staff

Junior questions character of best friends

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Conceited. Vain. Arrogant. Narcissistic. What comes to mind when you hear these words? Is it Paris Hilton? Your best friend? Your worst enemy? Maybe even you?

As I'm sitting on the bed in my best friend's room and watching her try to perfect her already perfect just-walked-out-of-the-salon-hair, I look in the mirror and wonder, "What is she trying to fix?"

I look in the mirror then look at her and compare my semi-straight, limp, jet-black hair to her honey brown, blonde highlighted, voluminous, glamorous, perfectly straight hair.

"My hair is so retarded!" "Umm your hair looks good all the time, what are you talking about?" I respond. Telling her the truth and what I thought she wanted to hear.

"Whatever. I can't go anywhere with my hair looking

like this," she says.

I plead with her to be satisfied with her salon perfect hair, but she doesn't seem to give in. Her younger sister, also my best friend, walks in to find out what all the bickering was about.

For the sake of this story and their privacy we'll call the younger sister Jane and the older one June. I tell Jane that her sister is overreacting about her hair. Out of nowhere June remarks, "Jane your hair is really flat."

I reacted with, "What are you talking about? No it's not." April strikes back with "Whatever Michelle, your hair is flat too."

Wow, way to be uplifting. I wonder why she complains all the time. And why she would put others down when she already knows she looks good. All three of us pile into Jane's car and head off to Westroad's mall. The instant we walk in June spots a victim of her criticism.

"Oh my gosh. What in the world is she wearing? That's the ugliest outfit I've ever seen."



WAKE UP
 A column by Michelle Rieger

07-08 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 a 11-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 NHSPA.

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

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

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represent the opinion of Central High School or the Register staff.

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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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
COLUMNS
REGISTER YOUR OPINION
POLITICAL CARTOONS

OPINION

"I think Ms. Reeder had the right to do what she wanted on her own time. A suspension or something would have been appropriate. In conclusion, Ms. Reeder should not have gotten fired."
Brynn Washington (9)

Backpacks provide health problems for students

Every day, hundreds of students vaguely resembling pack mules roam the halls of Omaha's oldest high school. They travel blindly in large herds transporting massive loads of cardboard bound text in what is more modernly known as the backpack. These mules, ahem, students, loathe the task of carrying their own weight in schoolwork from class to class, day after day. The question is though, are they taking for granted the "privilege" they have been given to lug around their backpacks? Many schools throughout the United States, including Omaha's very own Creighton Prep High School, have banned the usage of backpacks amongst students as a "safety measure." Without the convenience of a backpack, the amount of books a student is able to carry around at one time is drastically reduced. This would lead to an increase in the amount of trips a student would need to take to his or her locker, which, in turn, would affect the length of time needed in passing periods. Consequently, by extending the amount of time in passing periods, administrators would be taking away valuable class time. As ideal as the proposal of shorter class periods appears to students, the vast majority would assume that teachers would be less than thrilled.

The reasoning behind prohibiting backpacks in high schools is as illogical as saying that if backpacks are not allowed, demented and infuriated students with a hit list as long as their list of personal psychological problems will think it is "too much of a hassle" to come up with another way to bring loads of ammunition into the school. Instead, this once crazed student would convert to spending his or her time to something more productive such as reading the Bible, volunteering at an orphanage, or watching reruns of "The Wonder Years." It is both understandable and admirable that school administrators care about their students and are taking measures to ensure their safety. Though, perhaps there would be a less inconvenient way to prevent violence in the schools. Steps taken could be as small as encouraging troubled students to talk with their counselors or as drastic as the use of metal detectors. This way, the school can take measures to prevent violence and yet students are not forced to carry their schoolwork by hand. As for students at Central High School, who all still maintain the "privilege" to carry around a backpack, think twice next time before complaining.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of
the Register staff



GRAPHIC BY ASTRIKA WILHELM/ REGISTER

Over 7000 injuries caused by backpacks in 2006 were reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Most of these injuries are sprains and back pains. The average backpack weighs 27 pounds, while a person's backpack is not supposed to weigh more than 15 percent of a person's body weight.

Teaching Arabic does little for students

The land of the free. The land of opportunity. America is, not to sound overenthusiastically patriotic, one of the greatest countries in the world. It is here where we have so many freedoms and liberties. So, yes, everyone, whether immigrant or natural born citizen should have the same rights. Nowhere in the constitution does it say that the citizens of the United States must speak English. But, our rights can only go so far. There must be a limit somewhere. Much protest has arisen out of a newly opened public school in Brooklyn, New York. The Khalil Gibran International Academy opened for the first time this school year. So, what's the problem? It teaches in Arabic. That's right. The language that no majority speaks unless you are in the Middle East. Critics believe it will be a breeding ground for terrorists, since most terrorists are from the Middle East. Although this is an exaggeration, there are some fundamental problems with this type of school. Whether people want to admit it or not, the majority of Americans speak English, not Spanish, not German, not Arabic. Teaching these children Arabic will not help them in the future unless they plan to move to Iraq or Iran. Ten years from now, how will these children function if they do not know how to speak English fluently? They will not be able to function in society as well as the other children who were taught in English. Furthermore, the government never should have supported such a school, especially at a time when Islamic tensions are running high. Of course Arabs are not the devils in disguise, but the government,

it seems like to many, is pacifying a small minority of the individuals in Brooklyn. If the government really believes that it is right to support this school, then they should also open schools that are taught in Chinese, German, Spanish, and other languages. And, if this does happen, then America will be a divided nation. United we stand, divided we fall. We do not want to fall and crumble like dust a country only found in the history books. This in no way an anti-Middle East opinion. It is a realistic opinion. Many may disagree with this opinion, but, then again, that is their right. We all have the right to our own opinions. This is what makes America so great. We do not want to lose this basic right, which so many cherish. And it is this common language spoken at school or at work, which protects this right, no matter what is happening in

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of
the Register staff

Senior, friends learn truth of karma through past time

For a brief time in the winter of my junior year, a few of my friends developed an addiction, and it has been through this addiction I have learned karma exists. They weren't spending every last dime on alcohol or going to the park to get high. They were pursuing original endeavors, a pastime they named "adventuring." It could be gotten out of anything. Maybe one person would climb something. Someone would get jealous, and climb something taller. One person would burn something. Someone would get jealous, and burn something bigger. Until my friends had decided they liked adventuring, I had never felt the fearful rush of a search light pointing on my back. For a few months, I was under one as if it were a regular habit. My friends slowly came to a consensus that the world being a place where death may be found in any corner, meeting death in that corner, looking it in the face, and living to tell about it is the only real extra-curricular accomplishment. It probably started with grain silos. Climbing grain silos was a tame, easily conceived task. Then, after becoming complacent with simply reaching the top, my

friends started venturing into the inside, exploring, and reveling in what they found. Grain silos turned to water towers. Water towers turned to abandoned bridges. Another night, another surface climbed, and another accomplishment. I remember one very cold instance at two in the morning, sitting outside of a building the size of Central and watching someone scale a pipe on the outside, all the way to the top. But climbing wasn't all. They would light fires, very large, and very public. They would make dry ice bombs. They would fill up rafts and paddle along the keystone trail every time it flooded. Most of these acts seem trivial when taken out of context. What's so exciting about the inside of a grain silo? Who cares if you have been on top of an abandoned bridge? I never completely understood their attraction, but I assume it was because everything they did was illegal. It wasn't outlawed because someone innocent might be hurt, just the people involved. They were never caught and never had to face any consequences; it was just one adrenaline rush after another. I didn't participate in a majority of these activities, but I was there to watch

them. On one certain occasion I tagged along to an abandoned bridge on the other end of the Missouri River. We parked our cars right off of the interstate and trekked a few miles down the stony base of the river at around midnight. When we found the bridge, I realized that my friends had come full circle in their pursuit of "adventuring." This bridge was massive and uninviting, obviously not built for a common man to climb on. A few others and myself watched some of our closest friends hang hundreds of feet in the air by their bare hands and a few inches of steel. It was dark and cold, they were so high I couldn't see or hear them, and I was sure they were going to die. They found their way off of the bridge, onto the ground, and they had brought with them the means to create a few explosions against the side of the bridge. Once they had gotten their fill of adventure for that night, we headed back to our cars. We were unpleasantly surprised and immeasurably confused to find that they had been towed. This experience has since been referred to as "car towed night" and "bridge night." It was ugly, and has since effectively ended most of our experiences in adventuring, all of us learning from this tragic lifestyle.



I CAN RELATE
A column by Max Larson

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Reeder role model for kids, drinking unwise

Dear Editor,
I think that it was unwise to drink and drive, especially if your supposed to be a role model for kids. And now she can never get her job back because of her alcaholic decision.
Kiara Young (9)

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 Ms. Parker'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.

Freshman sees Reeder as a good teacher

Dear Editor,
I had Ms. Reeder. She was strict. I never thought she would be a drinker and I think it's bad because even though she was strict, she was a really good teacher.
Amber Yates (9)

Reeder had right to drink when she wanted

Dear Editor,
I think Ms. Reeder had the right to do what she wanted on her own time. A suspension or something would have been apporiate. In conclusion, Ms. Reeder should not have gotten fired.
Brynn Washington (9)

Freshman views teen drinking as childish

Dear Editor,
I personally think teen drinking is kind of dumb and childish. I don't see why they can't just wait till they are older or at least to drink it responsibility. I wouldn't and don't do it.
Grace Farrell (9)

Freshman thinks students should be aware

Dear Editor,
I think teen drinking is very bad. It is messing up our young people. They are serious about drinking, but not serious about school? If we just talk and explain more to kids that drink then they might just change. That's what I think about it.
Breanna Roswell (9)

Teacher good example of what not to do

Dear Editor,
I think that Ms. Reeder sets a great example of what students should not do, and the consequences they have if they choose not to obey the law. I don't think she should have gotten fired from her job because it had nothing to do with school, and it wasn't on school property.
Tamika Nauden (9)

Junior questions OPS's knowledge of Reeder

Dear Editor,
Why didn't Central find out about Ms. Reeder before?
Jamie Tapia (11)

Sophomore sees arrest of teacher as funny

Dear Editor,
The DUI arrest for Ms. Reeder was pretty funny because she didn't seem like a drunk. And she's a bad example for students and everyone around her.
Olivia Palmer (10)

Teacher's DUI gave Central a bad reputation

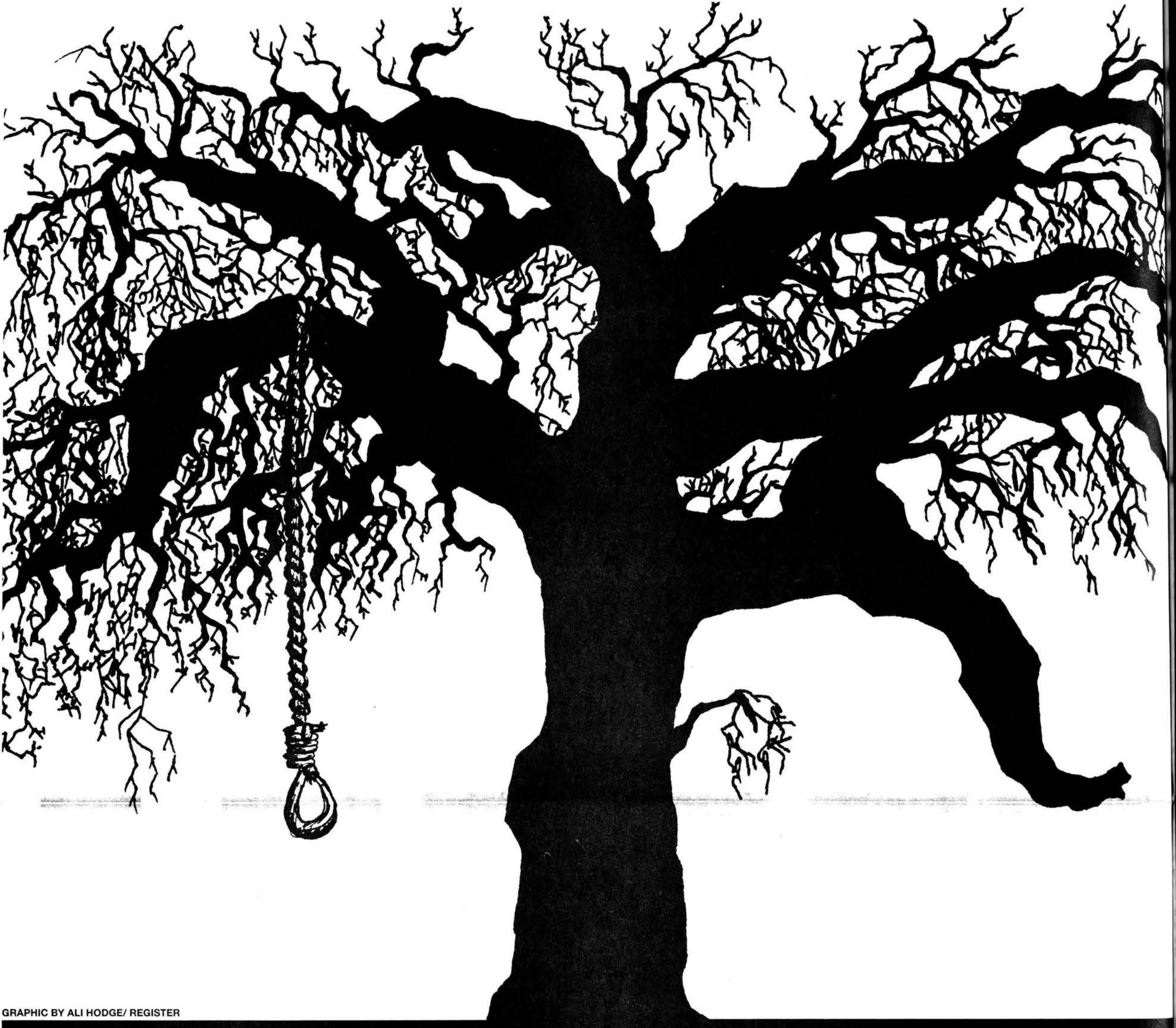
Dear Editor,
Well, the incident on Jodi Reeder made Central look bad. Because everyone expects great things from Central High. How should teachers tell us what to do and expect us to do it right when they can't even do right. Their supposed to be role modles for us to strive for excellence so I am very disappointed.
Jessica Williams (12)

STUDENT POLL
Does a teacher breaking the law have a negative effect on students?
YES 78%
NO 22%
203 polled

Student thinks drinking should be less restricted

Dear Editor,
Teen drinking should, in my opinion, be less watched. If you restrict it, it will only make teens want to drink more. Yeah it is dangerous, but so is driving.
Carlyn Wright (9)

BIG ISSUE: JENA 6



GRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Racism overlooked for students in Louisiana

The recent coverage given to the incident in Jena, Louisiana has brought to head and can be paralleled to many of the racial tensions felt in Omaha after the commotion stirred up by the LB 1024 scare, and it has all been clearly rooted in racial tension.

The incident in Jena involved a group of black high school students who sat underneath a tree during their lunch hour at Jena High School. Allegedly, this was a tree that, through no formal but only a social code, was reserved for the use of white students, as it was called the "white tree"

The next day, the tree was decorated with nooses.

For several months after this occasion, Jena was marked with fights among blacks and whites, each on his own side. Along with this fighting, there were gun scares. The black students were denied the ability of speaking with the school board about the nooses because the issue was considered by the board to have been dealt with at the school, and thus "solved."

Gun scares. Nooses. Fighting in schools.

And it's suddenly labeled as solved?

The issue was not addressed right away, and tensions compiled. This led to the severe beating of a white youth and the trial of six black teenagers in an adult criminal system for attempted murder.

Although the fights, which occurred between the hanging of the nooses and the severe beating, ended mostly with the oppression of black students by white students, the beating of a white student was what brought this case to the forefront of the

media, and in the highest ranks of criminal court.

Also, after all of the obvious signs, this act is being labeled in many places as a typical offense, and in no ways a hate crime.

The nooses were deemed a harmless prank, and the beating of the white teen along with the elevated punishment of the black teens are both claimed to be issues of a racially innocent nature.

It is evident, however, in these crimes, regardless of whether the black students or the white students are at fault, there is a strong element of racism. These acts are not divided by race on chance of coincidence.

It would be idealistic and wishful thinking to assume that the United States as a whole has ended its epic struggle with racial separation and, in many cases, like this in Jena, enmity.

And it doesn't teach the youths from Jena anything to ignore their pleas with the school board to talk about, merely address, the

issue.

It is no secret that a noose is a racist symbol. It refers to the hangings and lynching of countless blacks. These lynchings have taken place as far back as the founding of the country, and stretch, in civilly racial cases, to the climax of the civil rights movement only 40 years ago, the last recorded one being in 1968.

Omaha is no stranger to these types of activities. They include the infamous lynching in 1919 up to the infamous school board threat of open and unashamed segregation of the public schools.

Perhaps it is becoming widely apparent to the up-and-coming youth that there

is not as much acceptance awaiting them in the adult world as might have been thought, and that race is still a dividing issue among the people.

The subject of race has certainly gained a large amount of national support for the pressing issue, on both the African American and Caucasian sides of the argument.

The six black teens, which are referred to as the "Jena Six," have seen this support both locally and nationally for the issue, major sources being the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and famous singer David Bowie.

This does show a certain amount of respect and sensitivity for the issue, and also a very passionate sense of urgency from the supporters. This is because, no matter who was right or wrong, the black teens did give the white teen a monumental beating.

That's why this problem needs to be handled with so much delicacy, especially when it comes to ascertaining to who is right and who is wrong.

Violence is not the answer, but also it could easily be argued that these teens are being over-punished for what they did, especially with all of the provoking that went on beforehand.

It is early to judge and understand all of the implications this issue brings to the country's social awareness and identification.

This is still very much a current event, with many of the court cases still pending.

The final decisions and consequences will not be seen for quite a amount of time.

Whatever the outcome, it will certainly have a lot to say about the state of the country's social awareness and identification.

Justice should be served with an absence of preference, no matter what the source of this preference may be.

Cheese heroin shows teen's immaturity with big drug problem

Let's count the ways teens have invented in the past couple of years to get high. There's dusting, the choking game, robo-trippin' and now there's cheese heroin, the latest drug craze to hit the country.

Cheese heroin is a mixture of heroin and over the counter cold pills and has become a big problem down in Dallas, Texas.

It's adeptly named because the drug mixture supposedly looks like Parmesan cheese.

Clever.

In the past two years it has been responsible for the death of 21 teenagers. The drug is particularly dangerous because it mixes two depressants, which lowers the heart rate, and can even stop the heart beating. Once again teenagers are putting their health and wellbeing at risk by finding new ways to get high.

It's pathetic and immature, not to mention illegal.

Can't teenagers spend their time doing better stuff than finding out how to be high? One would certainly think so.

Side effects from using the drug include sleepiness, hunger and disorientation.

Why would anybody want to feel those kinds of things?

Parents are right to worry about this new drug trend because it could easily spread to other states. Parents should be aware of the dangers that come with cheese heroin. Teenagers from Nebraska might get the idea of cheese heroin from friends they might have in Texas.

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, over 19 million Americans, from ages 12 and over were drug users in 2004, before cheese heroin was invented. Around eight percent of those millions were ages 12 to 17. America doesn't need another drug to raise those statistics.

"Cheese" is considered a starter drug, which means 13 year olds are more likely to try it and get hooked to other drugs. There are even ten-year olds that have tried cheese heroin. It's a bad sign when just as many teenagers are being treated for cheese heroin addiction as there are for marijuana addiction in Dallas.

Like any other drug, cheese heroin is highly addictive, but it's fairly cheap. It costs about \$2 for a hit, which means even middle-school students are able to buy

it. It also attracts more customers because of the cheapness of the product. When a police officer came to talk to a middle school, most students raised their hands when asked if they knew anybody who used cheese heroin.

What's worse is that teenagers don't seem to understand the seriousness of the situation. All it takes for a person to die is one shot of cheese heroin. The middle school students cheered when they were told by the police officer that America has the highest rate of drug user in the world.

How pathetic can this generation get when children who are only 12 or 13 think it's cool that America has more drug users than any other nation?

It obviously says something about the maturity of today's pre-teens and the attitude shaping America.

These teenagers and pre-teens are giving a bad name to those peers that don't do any form of drugs. They are the reason why adults believe that teenagers don't have good morals.

These "cheese" users need to stop doing drugs and get treatment for the addiction.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION
of
the Register staff



PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Junior learns of strength from Nazi rally

I bit my tongue so hard to where I could feel the sting of it piercing through my entire mouth. I held my breath so long and so forcefully that my stomach felt a thousand miles deep and I could practically hear my lungs screaming for mercy.

I would not admit I was frightened.

I tried to regulate every aspect of my stoic expressions to hide my anxiety. I was standing there representing high school journalists. I could not look weak.

Yet given the circumstances, deep down I was.

I walked along Farnam street, my camera bag hanging at my waist, press badge laying against my chest, reporter's notebook in hand. But walking along this street I knew so well, I didn't recognize where I was.

Not with all the ambulances, fire trucks, news vans and SWAT vehicles I didn't. Not with the yards upon yards of barricades and orange tape, not with the police officers watching my every step, not with a freakin' Mass Casualty Triage Module stationed at the ready on one of the street curbs.

I was horrified.

"I have Goosebumps," came my fellow staff member's voice beside me. I looked down at her arm, and sure enough, small hills protruded her white skin. Apparently I wasn't the only one afraid. But she had fooled me regarding her fear as I hoped I was fooling her.

The two of us, after being admitted by a variety of police officers proceeded down to the designated press area where we would wait for the arrival of the neo Nazis.

News of the event had littered the media for a while. The Minneapolis-Based National Socialist Movement, also referred to as the neo Nazis were going to protest illegal immigration in front of the Mexican Consulate on Dodge Street.

And we were the only high school journalists there.

The weight of the event came crashing into my reality when I was walking by myself, trying to get back to my fellow staffer who was waiting for me in the press parking lot.

I was trying to maneuver my way around another large group of policemen, afraid that if I disturbed them, they would get angry and

kick me out. They didn't seem to be very happy people, mind you.

"Can I help you?" one rather tall and bulky man clad in black asked. His voice was deep, and yes I will admit, I was intimidated. Yet I looked at him with a calm face.

My fingers flickered over my press badge.

"Not in particular, to be honest with you, officer," I smiled. I sure my eyes didn't reflect the gesture. "I'm just on my way to the press area."

"What publication are you with?" he asked immediately.

"The Register at Central High School," I replied, my voice level. Even a high school press badge was valid. He couldn't stop me from entering the protest area. But even still, I was nervous.

The man rolled his eyes.

"Do your parents know where you are?" he asked, his voice annoyed.

I raised an eyebrow. So now he was going to talk down to me?

"Of course," I replied.

"Minors shouldn't be at a riot," he retorted. "And that area is reserved for professionals only."

I had to catch myself briefly. Did he just use the word riot? Crap! And worse than that, did he just question my professionalism? I grit my teeth.

"High school journalists are professionals," I said simply in a surprisingly level voice. "And that's funny, because I was under the impression that this was a protest. Not a riot."

His face went slightly rigid.

I smirked.

If there was one thing policemen didn't like, it was to admit that a public event was more pressing than it actually is, thus making it more dangerous than it actually may be. Especially to a 'kid.'

He rolled his eyes and brushed me onward. I overlooked this incredibly rude gesture and continued on to the press area. I was sure any more arguing and I would never get my story, and the thought

made me ill. What made my insides turn more than that however, was the word riot.

As I walked down the shaded street toward my fellow staff member, I looked around me. It was a riot.

How could I have not seen it before?

I breathed deeply, yet silently.

For what seemed like forever, my friend and I sat waiting for the moment when the long-awaited Nazis were going to grace us with their presence. We chatted lightly, mostly talking about the crazy things we were seeing.

People walking in to protest. Cameras. Guns. More guns.

In a journalistic sense, it was all pretty perfect. In a human sense, it was completely sick.

The moment we let our attention fall away from the riot from nothing less than boredom, we heard a sound that made us each look into each other's wide eyes with shock and slight - yet carefully hidden - horror.

"Hail Hitler!"

We jumped to our feet.

My pen hit my notebook immediately.

My friend jumped from her perch in the press area, her camera up to her eyes.

Every now and then as I was writing, I would look up at them in their barricaded area. They made me want to look away, but, of course, I didn't. Now I was the one with Goosebumps. Down my spine at least.

There were tears from the protesters feet away. There were screams. Curses.

I wanted to curse, but then, what kind of journalist would I be?

Looking back on it, it was one of the craziest things I have ever been to. And I'm sure it would have been a different experience if I had been one of the ones crammed and pressed against the barricades.

REBIRTH

A column by Ali Hodge



REGISTER YOUR OPINION

After racial issues in the media, do you feel differently about races?



"No, not really. I feel everyone should be treated the same and respected."
Hannah Howell (11)



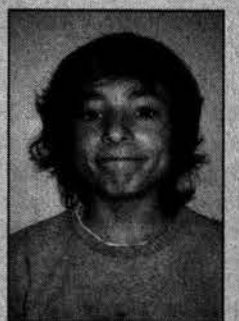
"I think the people who are making racist issues and are being segregated, are the ones who should not be. They should be the ones being segregated against."
Hallie Henderson (10)



"I'm pissed off. I'm mad! It's not right the white people in Jena Six need attempted murder for the nooses."
Jessica Taylor (9)



"It makes me sad. It's heartbreaking to see the country tearing themselves apart."
Monica Herrera (12)



"No, because we're all the same in the inside, just a different color outside."
Jerry Mell (9)



"I'm pretty accepting toward all races."
Laurence Deboer (12)

Local television news employs poor priorities

As violence increases in North Omaha, and the city grows in size and concerns, one would think that if the televised news was to cover a story live outside their normal broadcasting hours, it would be one of great importance to the residents' safety or well being.

In past months there have been countless stories of immediate importance, but recently local news outlets broke into normal programming to bring an enormous breaking story.

The story wasn't a triple murder-suicide.

It wasn't a blaze downtown that was feared to spread to another building.

It wasn't a situation of national security.

It was something of much, much more importance.

Nebraska's Athletic Director had been fired.

The man who was not fully responsible for the state football team's recent decline in quality was fired.

Thank god it was reported quickly.

We wouldn't have been able to hold out until the five o'clock news, we needed it now, an hour before then.

No promotions for the news coming in an hour.

No originally scheduled Judge Judy reruns.

We want this sad excuse for the news, and we want it now.

Because for some odd reason, we can't hold on a few minutes for a football story taking place over 50 miles away, but we

can for a serious criminal offence within city limits.

Newsflash!

The need to break into normal programming to tell us something that is likely to affect us very little, if at all, is ridiculous.

Real problems, believe it or not, occur in Nebraska.

The lack of focus on these real problems can lead one to believe that local news organizations have poor priorities on what breaking news really is.

Omaha faced one of its most brutal summers in years in terms of homicides, and was nothing short of newsworthy days.

Yet the only story that broke into your home to inform you immediately was one involving football, and nothing else.

Now don't get me wrong, football is plenty important.

They don't call us the cornhusker state for nothing.

But it should not be more important than lives lost, or a situation that could turn hazardous for nearby areas to the crime.

According to KETV's Cathy Beeler, the last time before the Pederson story that they broke normal broadcasting hours for a news topic was a week previous with an announcement from Mike Johanns about his run for the United States Senate.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

THE LAST ONE

A column by Astrika Wilhelm



Death permeated the air. It was all I thought about. I could smell it, hear it, and sense it. And I hate it.

I was never close to my grandmother. She was always so far away in New Jersey.

I would visit her every couple of years, but that's it. She would send me cards and money for my birthday and the various holidays.

My only thought of her was the next time I would get money from her, which I would spend recklessly.

Or else, it would be about the next time I would be forced to visit her.

It would be a lie to say that I love her because I don't. I barely like her.

Most of the time all I feel towards her is such a strong emotion of indifference. My grandmother, note that it is my paternal grandmother, had lived in New Jersey for most of her life, living for a few years in Manhattan. But, she moved to Omaha two or three years ago because my father was the only one who could take care of her.

Despite that she lived barely two blocks away from me, I rarely

ever saw her. If I did, it was with my father's encouragement. But, even though I didn't like her, death is not a pleasant thing to experience.

My parents and I had walked into her apartment when we found her on the ground, mumbling about who know what. I cornered myself into the entrance hall to escape it. I watched while the rescue squad carried her into their ambulance.

The whole thing played out before my eyes and the only thing I thought was that now I would have to go to church tomorrow instead of today.

Weeks have passed since that day and she is still in that same bad shape. She did have a massive stroke. I visited her just once since she was in the hospital.

My grandmother was receiving her last rites in the Catholic Church. The priest poured the holy water onto her, forgiving her of all her sins. And, for some strange reason I cried. I cried. I felt so embarrassed. Why was I crying? I didn't even like her.

But, I knew why I was crying, days later. My father had been crying, and, although I don't always show it or say it, I do love him.



CARTOON BY KEVIN GIBBS/ REGISTER

Heart condition yields apathy for grandparent

OPS screening...ailing

Your choice is a new department store, looking for a new high definition television and you don't know quite what you want.

You want a professionally trained employee who knows what they're talking about to show you the way.

You don't want a person who is more interested in how groovy their hands look while on some kind of super drug than the picture quality on the Sony you're considering purchasing.

Depending on the drug, the salesperson might just see you for some kind of multi-colored backpack.

You expect better for a salesperson you met by chance, so would you expect any less of a public school teacher you have to visit daily?

While applying for a job as a cashier at Target or Best Buy, you have to take a drug test before they allow you to simply ring up merchandise.

This prevents the frightening situation described earlier from occurring in the workplace.

While applying for a job as a teacher at Omaha Public Schools, before you are allowed to stand in front of a group of minors and teach them what's what in the world, a drug test is also mandatory.

...should have lost her job on that teacher as long as she had a drug test.

Children are the most vulnerable members in the building.

They are often the most curious, a street and empty.

Who wants a teacher who is a drug addict?

Recently, I was in a store that was a drug addict.

...transferred to Florence El...

...when she came into...

...in any instance could have...

...the embarrassment the dis...

...one day the students had to lie...

...drug induced teacher try to explain...

...was obviously obvious to...

...checking...

...students would probably be in...

...department store than in...

...class a place for these...

...serves them just fine.

Knowledge helps health as much as career

Students who drop out of high school are convinced the actions only effect what kind of job they get, correct?

Wrong.

Who needs algebra, right?

Nope.

And what on earth does someone need to know the life and extensive emotional journey of Hester Prynne for as ways?

Well, according to a medical study done by doctors in Finland, the more a person is educated, they lessen the chance of developing a mental illness.

The study, which was published in the medical journal Neurology, followed three classes of random people for years.

The first class of people had five or less years of education which was fashioned after elementary grades in Finland.

The second class had six to eight years of education. The group was reflected middle school grades in Finland.

Finally, having the educational equivalent of high school and college students, the final group had nine or more years of schooling.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff

What they found out is that people with minimum medium education have 40 percent less chance of developing mental illnesses such as Alzheimers disease and dementia while individuals with high education have an 80 percent less chance.

The study said that those who have had education are less likely to live unhealthy. Also, they have a better cognitive reserve, so their brain, due to the fact that they will be able to retain information, is likely to withstand against mental illnesses.

On average, 17 percent of all youth drop out of high school every year.

Perhaps if students knew more of the situation and had more motivation than just "Be Cool, Stay In School," then they would think twice about putting their futures and health in danger.

Popular game does little for teens, gamers

With hundreds of thousands of pre-ordered copies of the ever popular video game sold before the official release date and over 75 million sold the opening day, one has to wonder what exactly the big hype is over "Halo 3?"

Yes, the cost of its production was just over \$30 million dollars. Yes, it was put together by an elite group of 300 time artists and graphic designers working for over three years to create a game that lived up to the world's standards.

And sure, Microsoft spent up to \$20 million in television promotion of the game, not to mention the money they spent keeping up their partnerships with three major companies who wanted in on the Halo hype, Pontiac, Burger King and Pepsi.

But, at the end of the day, after all the statistics are looked over and duly forgotten, after the die-hard gamers' caffeine high wears off and they finally trade in the controllers for sleep when it's all stripped down to the bare necessities, isn't it just a video game?

"Halo 3," rated M and priced at around seventy dollars a game, was the third and final installment in a trilogy that drew the attention of video gaming fans all around the world.

Even though the game appealed to a very narrow audience of young teenage males - it still managed to build a strong reputation in the first few years and developed into an international phenomenon. The game follows the well-known story line of Master Chief, the armor-clad warrior/superhero. The final installment of the game answered many questions the previous ones did not, bringing it to a much beloved close. But as satisfying as the game was storyline wise, was it visually?

Did it crack up to everything it was made out to be? The answer, according to reviewers for Fox News was not at all.

Although the game introduces new weaponry, vehicles, and other effects, as a whole, it was, according to the reviewers, not greater than other videogames by comparison at all.

As well as the game did, it was hard to miss little things such as faces that were far from what advanced graphics could make them out to be.

So, when it comes down to it, "Halo 3" was the equivalent to a book fan's "Harry Potter." Just a lazy way to engage the story line.

What is the intellectual gain teenagers get from spending hours upon hours in front of a television, a controller just shoved of glued to their hand?

It's hard to argue that they could be spending their time a lot more wisely.

Imagine the other things teenagers could be doing. They're highly capable if you asked spending and me

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff



Junior enjoys time spent with family at movies

The car ride to the movies was very tasty. I was in the back sit of my cousin's moms car and she had the music cranked full force and only thing I could hear was the beat thumping in my ear.

I couldn't even hear myself think. And I loved every moment of it. So it was a group of us going to the movies to go see the new Resident Evil Extinction movie.

So we pull up to my friend's house and my cousin runs up to go put her sleeping bag into the house.

I am humming aloud to myself thinking about who is going to be at the movies. My cousin D'Necia and Shafon comes back into the car laughing and playing around like usual. Once everyone is in the car she speeds off into the night. At first it was all quiet thinking about what awaits us at the movies.

And then Sharon leans over and ask me where is my clothes. Which by the way I had on clothes my shorts were not even that short.

I tell her on me like always. I look over at D'Necia and I pulled her hair and she hit my hand. We all started to play around Shafon hitting D'Necia. D'Necia moving out the way therefore leaving open space for Shafon to hit her hand on the seat.

After ten minutes we start to see the movie theater come into view. So everyone is fixing their hair and applying lip-gloss.

Once we were in front of the building we all got out and walked into the movie house. The line was clear down to the other end of the building. So were waiting and going through all of our minds are we able to get into the movie when it's rated R.

Everyone's thinking to their selves hoping and praying that we can get in. And we all thought aloud well what if D'Necia's mom comes back and buys the tickets while we all stay outside and wait for her to give us them.

Technically a parent purchases them allowing us to see the movie. So she calls her mom back and tells her the ordeal. So her mom gets irritated but manages to come back and get us

the tickets.

So the plan was that Shafon goes with her mom making it seem like she has actually getting 3 tickets. The only one left off would seem like her boyfriend or husband is parking the car.

Plus she is an adult with ID no one should say anything anyway. The plan went down smoothly no one said anything to her and she brevity gave us the tickets and walked back to her car.

We all looked at each other in gratitude and kept messing with the other guys we came with. Who got their tickets with ease and couldn't help us out. Even though one of them was eighteen but didn't have a state ID or license, typical.

So we saw how packed the theater was getting and that some people stormed out because none of them were seventeen or older.

And once it hit nine thirty we went back the movie theater to get our seats. We past the guy that checks your tickets and has he tore the tickets he asked, "I hope you guys are over seventeen." Everyone looked at each other and kept walking. Laughing to us.

We step past the line of being unable to be accepted and boy was it funny.

Going into the bathrooms left a bittersweet taste in my mouth. Knowing you past that limit and you can't be stopped now.

Everyone was done and went into the theater and it was a nice crowd counting half of the people couldn't get in. There was a row half full. So we rushed up to the top to seat ourselves down. Everyone popping gum talking to one another, and it never fails when you're comfortable and ready for the movie, someone or a group of you have to go to the bathroom. We all looked at each other and headed for the exit.

Trying not to step on anyone's foot.



GOING FOR IT
A column by Wynter Davis

Weekend at Kansas City offers stress relief

How often do you get to see hundreds of grown men in skirts? Well I was lucky enough to experience this.

Two of them happened to be Jonathan SeEVERS, my boyfriend, (senior) and his brother Andrew SeEVERS. ('05 graduate) While on a family vacation in Kansas City, Missouri, we all attended The Renaissance Fair, the Kansas City Art Fair, and toured the city.

This was my first time in Kansas City. The trip was a wonderful way to take a break from a stressful school year.

The Renaissance Fair is a celebration of mid-eval times. After admission, there are activities within the fair that are very entertaining.

There are comedians, stores, food, rides, and actors playing the role of pirates, wenches, slaves, royalty etcetera.

I attempted a ride with Jon's cousin, Amanda that consisted of being strapped into a harness and flung into the air like a rag doll by multiple bungee cords. We both shared a goal of wanting to flip once we were released into the air. She succeeded while I was unable to flip due to the fact that I was too busy screaming my head off. Though the ride was thrilling, I was unable to throw in any tricks because of my growing fear of heights.

Later we rented fake swords and daggers and went into a designated area where you try to "kill" one another. Amanda and

I died several times because there was a small child following the fight. He would sneak up from behind and kill us while we least expected it. Though it was a bit of an annoyance, the little boy was adorable.

After a day of watching people kill one another and dressing up, we left the fair exhausted.

Later that night, after getting some rest, Jonathan, Andy, Amanda and I went and toured the Plaza.

The Plaza is basically an outdoor mall or a more modern version of downtown, Omaha.

There are many high fashion designer stores, dance clubs, a McDonald's, of course, and much more.

Winstead's, a local ice cream shop drew us off the street and we all shared a giant strawberry shake. The shake was about a foot tall and six inches wide. The man who served us the treat was mildly frightening and hilarious to listen to.

If one were to visit Kansas City, I would recommend visiting Winstead's just to try this oversized desert. The pictures from that night are nothing short of extremely entertaining.

Kansas City is full of beautiful architecture and art work. In the Plaza, there are classy bronze dancing penguin

sculptures. These works of art made for some amusing Myspace pictures.

The following day, we attended the Kansas City Art Fair.

The artists were absolutely amazing! There were more surreal works of art than I have ever seen in Omaha's art fair.

One of the artists made moving marionettes. The dark works of art were cleverly constructed. One of the puppets was placed under a stage and the strings attached to that puppet's hands were controlling another puppet, causing it to dance on the stage. I was amazed.

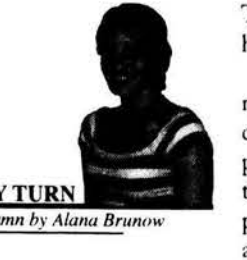
I purchased a photograph of a plate. It is not recognizable as a plate, but nonetheless it is a gorgeous arrangement of color and design.

I hope to attend again next year.

The entire weekend I spent in K.C. with Jonathan and his family was refreshing and relieving.

Though the year has just begun, it is still school and still stressful. Taking a break away for a weekend was a great idea and not too expensive.

I can't decide whether I enjoyed the fairs or just the city more.



IT'S MY TURN
A column by Alana Brunow



CARTOON BY ANITA HODGES

BIG ISSUE: TEEN DRINKING



CARTOON BY KEVIN GIBBS/ REGISTER

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

Current drinking age just fine as it is

Dear Editor,
I think that the drinking age should be 21 because if it is any lower than that, many high schoolers could be tempted to drink and could buy alcohol for younger students. This could lead to more car accidents and possible liver damage, since livers cannot handle alcohol until it is fully developed at the age of 21.
Tiffany Gonzales (12)

Recruiter contact with minors problematic

Dear Editor,
I think the OPS Marine recruiter being arrested for child porn charges is horrible because that his job is working with teens.
Rachel Saferstein (9)

Teen drinking one of many immoral acts

Dear Editor,
I think teen drinking is not only immature, but irresponsible. I am straight edge, and have certain beliefs, but if my friends choose to drink, I don't want anything to do with it. Being straight edge means: No drugs, no alcohol, no sex (unless you're in a commitment.)
Mariah Faust (10)

Teens killed daily by dangers of alcohol

Dear Editor,
Teen drinking is a serious issue. More teens die everyday from alcohol than from natural causes. We should really address this issue so that the teens of our generation can live their whole lives through!
Noelle Keely (9)

Alcoholism a waste of time for teens

Dear Editor,
Teen drinking is pointless in my opinion. Where does alcohol ever get you? Except for six feet under in the long-run.) You can't get a good living from being an adolescent drunk. So why drink when you can do something productive? Sure, it'll be boring at first, but in the long-run, you can get a good job. Stick to the studies not the bottle!
Mia Matlock (9)

Restricting teens leads to rebellion

Dear Editor,
Teen drinking will get worse the more people try to stop it. Most teens drink just because they are told not to. People like me haven't been repeatedly told by parents to drink because we are smart enough to not do it. But the parents that constantly tell their kids not to drink have to worry because the kids just want to say they make their own choices.
Alexander Minor (11)

Jena Six is big media topic for a reason

Dear Editor,
Jena Six is a very big topic in the media. I feel as though the six african american boys were wrong for what they did, but they did not get equal punishments to the white kids that were also involved. It's also wrong that they had an all white jury. They could have made it more diverse.
Shafon Jones (11)

Television can cause dieting extremes

Dear Editor,
At one point, every teen girl is going to doubt herself and the way she looks, and that's normal, but dieting can be really unhealthy. All teens think that what they see on TV is how they are supposed to look, and dieting is the only way (to achieve it). I guess it's alright until you take it to extremes, but I wouldn't call it dieting, I'd call it eating better.
Samantha Lang (11)

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 Ms. Parker'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.

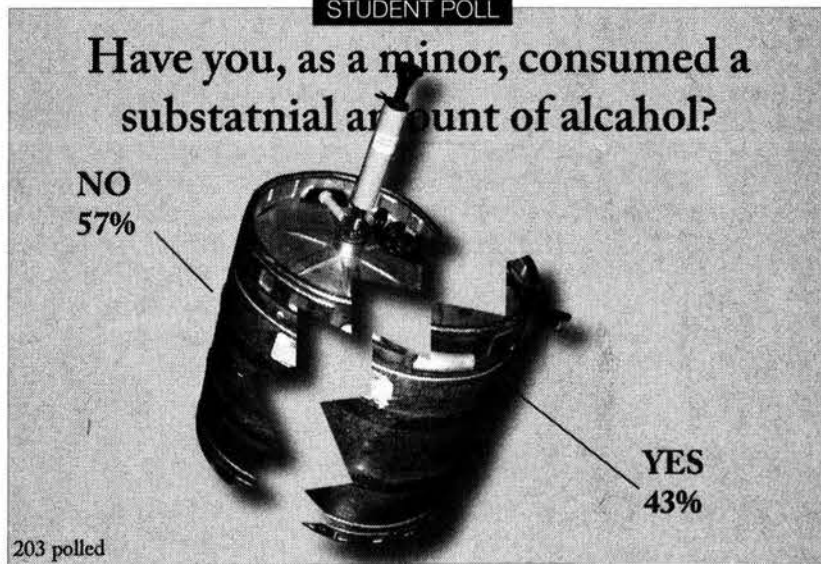
DUI charge a disgrace by modern standards

Dear Editor,
I think that the DUI of Jodi Reeder was unacceptable, especially because she was a teacher. Not only is it discouraging to see a teacher arrested, but it hurts me deeply to see that it was on a DUI (charge). In a day when we keep teens away from alcohol, it is not a good idea to be caught drinking and driving.
Enrique Perdomo (9)

STUDENT POLL

Have you, as a minor, consumed a substantial amount of alcohol?

NO
57%



YES
43%

Marine recruiter made bad decision

Dear Editor,
In my opinion, the OPS Marine recruiter made bad judgement. He should not be allowed around children or teenagers unsupervised, and he should be fired from his job.
Alex Willits (10)

Alcohol only causes problems before 21

Dear Editor,
When it comes to teen drinking, almost everyone can say they have at least had the chance. I personally don't approve of it. Alcoholism is in a large portion of my family and that sets an example for what I don't want to do. The legal age is 21 for a reason because some teens aren't mature enough to handle it. People I know have been effected by drunk drivers. Besides, I don't even think beer tastes good. So I'll just stay away from it.
Brad Simms (10)

Drinking laws useless against determined teens

Dear Editor,
The way I see teen drinking is that, yes, it is a bad choice and it is not good for you. However, I believe that teens are going to drink if they want to drink, no matter how harsh the laws and how much trouble they can get in. Therefore, I think we should all just let people make their own choices, and if it ends up hurting them, that's their problem.
Sam Almanzan (11)

People need to help curb teen drinking

Dear Editor,
The teen drinking problem is really huge. So many of my friends drink. It seems kind of pointless to drink alcohol illegally. Shouldn't parents be able to control their child's behavior? If teachers can't step up to the challenge, or parents, who will? Friends that are sober (should).
Elizabeth Adams (10)

Vegetarian options too few for Junior

Dear Editor,
I think school lunches should offer more vegetarian options. It is too often that I walk up to the line and find a shortage of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Plus the salads need to have no "mystery meat". That is my main concern for now.
Kevin Thomas (11)

Teen drinking only a problem when prevented

Dear Editor,
I think (Teen Drinking) is made a bigger deal than it actually is. Teenagers are more responsible than parents and authorities may think. When not allowed, they will sneak around with it, which can lead to more dangerous situations.
Nikki Stanford (11)

Driving, voting and drinking have age limits

Dear Editor,
I believe teen drinking is a bad thing to do. You need to be 21, but most teens don't want to wait. If we can wait 16 years to drive, and 18 years to vote, we can wait 21 years to drink.
Emily Nolan (9)

Self esteem problem leads to illnesses

Dear Editor,
I don't think teen dieting is a huge issue. I think the bigger problem is an extreme level of low self esteem which is causing illnesses like anorexia and bulimia or unhealthy eating habits.
Max Druliner (11)

Lowering drinking age may lead to safety

Dear Editor,
No matter what the legal age, underage drinking will always take place. If the age was lowered to 18, then at least those in that age group could drink publically and safely. Instead of in dormrooms with no supervision.
Claire Hansen (12)

Jena Six students all were at fault

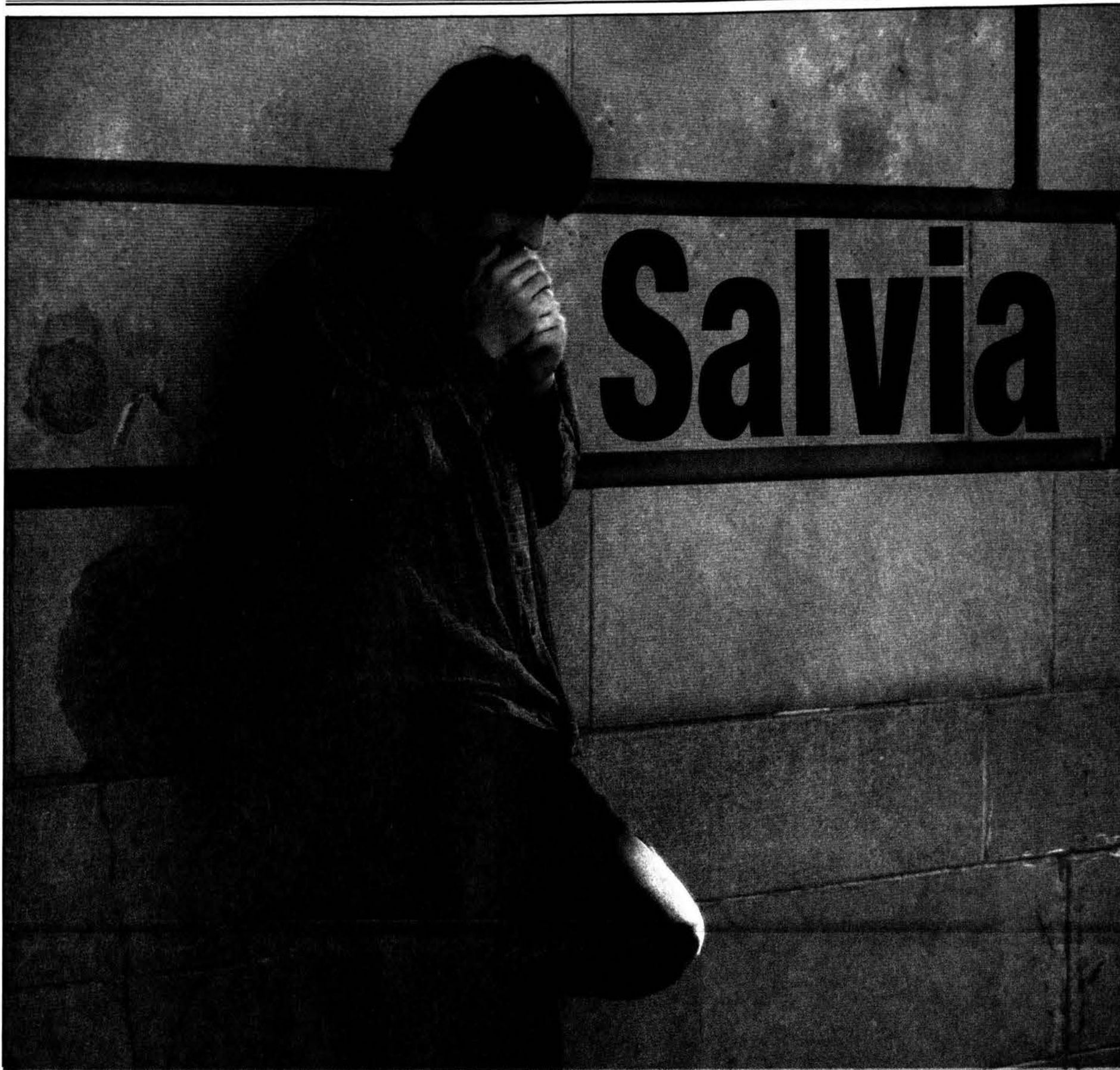
Dear Editor,
Well personally, I feel that they all messed up. When the six guys got arrested for jumping the one white guy, it was wrong. It could have been a one on one fight, but the white guy was messed up too.
Fantasia Robinson (9)

Marine recruiter not the only one to blame

Dear Editor,
The Marine recruiter needs to be sent to jail no matter what. Looking at child porn is like wanting a child. Now that's disgusting, but what about the people who are presenting the child pornography? Shouldn't we be arresting them too? Arresting the people who looked at the child pornography is just not going to work when it comes to saving children from sexual predators. They need to look way deeper into the case. It's common sense. Also, if they didn't allow any porn on the internet, that could help.
Michelle Hines (9)

Looks mean way too much to teenagers

Dear Editor,
In the pre-teen, and teenage years, looks count. They make you feel good and make you think that people will like you for the way you look. Half of that is true. But way too many young women and men base the way they look off the way they see other people. "She is so skinny, she must have so many boyfriends," a girl might say, while all along she has a beautiful body herself. Teen dieting is often mislead to the point of making yourself ill. Safety is key.
Katie Graves (9)



Drug more powerful than marijuana, yet legal

We hear about students delving into the illegal drug world on an almost daily basis.

But what about those lesser known drugs that are legal and just as psychologically stimulating, if not more?

Some of you might be asking, "What drug is this and where the heck can I find it?"

Salvia divinorum, often described as a "super-pot," comes in leaf form and can be chewed or, more commonly, smoked in a water pipe to produce psychedelic effects.

The effects of salvia are most similar to those of marijuana and psychedelic mushrooms such as a loss of physical coordination, visual alterations, a sense of profound understanding and a dream-like veneer over the world.

The duration of salvia trips generally fluctuate depending on the method of ingestion.

When smoking salvia, peaking usually lasts for up to 25 minutes and a decreasing "glowing" effect lasts up to several hours.

Also, effects can be directly related to the potency and strength of the salvia.

Daniel Siebert, a famous researcher of salvia, developed a scale showing six stages of the drug, consisting of subtle,

altered, light, vivid, immaterial and amnesic effects.

The history of salvia dates back to 1939, but the drug has become increasingly popular in modern culture and is currently receiving attention by the media and some lawmakers.

The controversy surrounding salvia is most often due to its legal status.

Salvia currently remains legal in the United States to purchasers over the age of 18.

Some have called for prohibition of the drug, but the majority of the bills have not made it into law or are still at the premature phases of proposal.

The question at hand here is how can a drug often referred to as marijuana's more potent and yet less notorious older brother, be legal, when marijuana is not?

The answer needs to be that marijuana and salvia are either both legal or both illegal, not one or the other.

As a society we are contradicting ourselves by what we determine as socially and legally acceptable and what we do not.

This is a black and white issue and we are wading around

in the gray area in between.

Point out one time in history when either doing nothing or being indecisive worked in someone's favor. You can't? Well this isn't going to be one of those moments where that changes.

People on both sides of this issue are never going to stop complaining until a definite legal stance is taken.

In the position that we have put ourself in right now, no one wins. Either people in favor of legalizing marijuana are going to be grossly displeased or those hoping for both drugs to be deemed illegal are going to be upset.

There is no way that both groups could be pleased by any official decision, one of them will be upset no matter what.

We can't go on pretending that if we ignore this, issue it will go away and everyone will be giddy again, because that is not going to happen.

Whatever anyone's stance on this issue might be, I think we could all agree that whether both marijuana and salvia are legalized or prohibited, a decision that you might not agree on is better than no decision at all.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register staff

GRAPHIC BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

OCD proves large annoyance in daily life

I am possessed by the devil.

Or so it would have been thought throughout the 14th-16th centuries. Not to worry though, 2.2 million Americans would also have been thought to be possessed, due to the fact that they, like me, have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD.)

For anyone who isn't exactly familiar with OCD, it's an anxiety disorder that results in feeling obligated to giving in to an irrational force, often unwillingly.

Taking a shower, driving, writing something down, and washing your hands are all typical daily activities. For me, these kinds of tasks can be exasperating and extremely stressful due to certain routines that I compulsively follow.

Whoever said that cleanliness is next to godliness would have a shrine devoted to me in their home. Hand washing is more of a pastime for me than a cleansing routine. For instance, when making a sandwich, I must completely wash my hands after touching each and every ingredient. Needless to say I don't make many club sandwiches.

Don't even get me started on showers either. They can take anywhere from 40 minutes to a full hour and my mornings are often planned around them. Even while showering, I make myself follow a strict routine of shampoo, conditioner, shaving, soaping, and face washing. My psychologist has tried to make me gradually decrease the amount of time it takes me to shower but anything less than 30 minutes seems absolutely

impossible.

Also she has reassured me that life as I know it will not come to a screeching halt if I drive in the lane of traffic that I will not eventually need to be in.

There were times when I've had full blown panic attacks while driving because I feared that eventually, 64 blocks later, I might not be able to merge over into the lane that I was going to need to be in.

Luckily though, only a few months of psychology relieved me of this skewed perception of driving and today it's not really a problem.

The two aspects of my OCD that have proved hardest to try to overcome are the way that my handwriting needs to be flawless and the way that I overanalyze conversations in my mind.

I remember the very first time someone complimented me on my handwriting in second grade. Ever since, I've gotten a flattering remark every day about how my good my handwriting looks.

What people don't necessarily realize though is that if one single letter looks muddled, the whole paper is rewritten. The same rule applies for cross outs, I have to completely start over. One unnecessary marking on a piece of paper makes it impossible for me to concentrate on anything else.

Although these compulsions can be frustrating and stressful at to deal with at times, only one of them has ever really had negative effects on my day-to-day life.

Everyday, all day, my mind is occupied by analyzations of past, present, and potential conversations. It's a sick and endless

hole that I continuously dig myself into, resulting in my own self-loathing. I try to talk my mind out of its self-made madness but something neurologically overpowers my common sense.

Every week I drive in whichever lane is most convenient, down to 27th and Saint Mary's Boulevard for psychology appointments to help me overcome OCD.

I am given weekly assignments such as decreasing the amount of time I spend in the shower, messing up the books on my bookshelf so they are not symmetrical, and taking my records out of the order of which I listen to them the most.

I've even had to wear a rubber band around my wrist and snap it every time I over apologize or say "Thank-you," too many times. By the end of the week, my wrist was vaguely the same tint as my auburn hair.

These weekly assignments of messing things up and taking them out of order can give me the same kind of feeling as most people experience when they hear nails on a chalkboard but I try not to complain too much. I am grateful for them because I can often see the obvious differences they are making in my daily habits and routines.

Many Americans have it much worse than I though. On a scale of 1 to 10, personally I would only rate the effects of my OCD somewhere around a 5 or 6.

Others cannot even leave a room without tapping a doorway three times, or turning the light switch a certain amount of times.

There are even retreats that cost thousands and thousands of dollars to help cure people of their OCD.

Luckily though, I'm nowhere near that.

As for me, I'll just stick around here and maybe wash my hands a few more times.

Senior relives magic of childhood



FAKING A SMILE

A column by Patrick Breen

Sometimes people see places where magic happens. They are wrong. It's not about those thin walls of wood, but instead about something much grander.

The car would be bundled up. My dad in the front seat and me in the back. My feet would swing. At the ripe young age of 5, they yet to reach the floor. So instead they swung heavy in the air-conditioned air. They weren't swinging as some idle pastime of my youth, instead swinging from the built up excitement.

We all had a place as a child that made us feel special and grand.

For some it was a Skateland, others a giant rat serving greasy pizza with a dirty fury paw was our favorite place.

But for me it wasn't something built on commercial advertising or thin crust. For me it was my grandmother's house.

Oh believe me, I have heard the horror of others visits to their grandparents. How they wouldn't be allowed to rough house or even worse, be forced to watch (hold your breathe) the news.

But I don't have that story. I have a recollection of a heavenly house, however skewed by my simplistic mind, it was and still is the best house ever.

On a scale of houses, it goes from the cardboard box to an apartment to a mansion. Then my grandma's house at the top. Just chilling peaceful in its blue october hair.

I'm no geographical expert, but the location of the house was exquisite. It was as far away from my parents house as possible. Good for everyone.

My father feared the "Everyone loves Raymond" situation where his parents would come everyday and annoy the bejesus out of my dad. Who is nothing like Raymond, by the way.

My grandma loved the house for its two giant trees, which were aptly named Benjamin and Iron giant. Yes, I did name the second one.

Creativity was peaking at the age.

But most importantly I loved it because the time it would take for my father to drive back to pick me up from my daily excursions would take an extra 35 minutes. Every minute was precious.

My day would begin when I arrived and my grandma would greet me with a big hug and two kisses. Jaunita, my grandma, couldn't have been an inch taller than 5 foot, but that didn't matter, cause when she talked her sweet southern accent would make people listen.

I would proceed to wipe the kisses off and say things like "disgusting" and "icky wicky grandma sicky."

We would go inside and a my eyes would gleam at the perfect furry brown carpet. Perfect for jumping and rolling around pretending you're a power ranger. A plate would always be sitting at the table.

Yum. Scramble sandwiches were what she would call them. I would eat the triangles while watching the first few episodes of "The Smurfs" and "Scooby-Doo Kids."

By then my grandma would be back down with another plate of sandwiches.

No wonder I was such a plump little kid. The second half of the day would be filled with wonder.

Grandma would let me explore her old clothes, the garage and the scariest room ever. The room contained all my fears. I would run in and run out just to see what happen. What rebel.

The "dark room of no return", which I also named, was a room with no lights, no windows, but plenty of mystery. My grandma and I would take expeditions through it, always narrowly escaping from the monsters it held.

I slowly grew out of those days of wonderment and amazement with the "dark room of no return." But I'd still go there. No longer playing with action figures or watching the Smurfs, I would just sit and talk with my grandma.

Until she died after a heartvalve replacement. I couldn't believe it. No more kisses. No more hugs or sandwiches or our trees or our scary adventures.

Her words to my father before the surgery were, "tell the kids I love them."

My sisters were to young too understand anything, but I knew. I knew I'd never see her or that house again.

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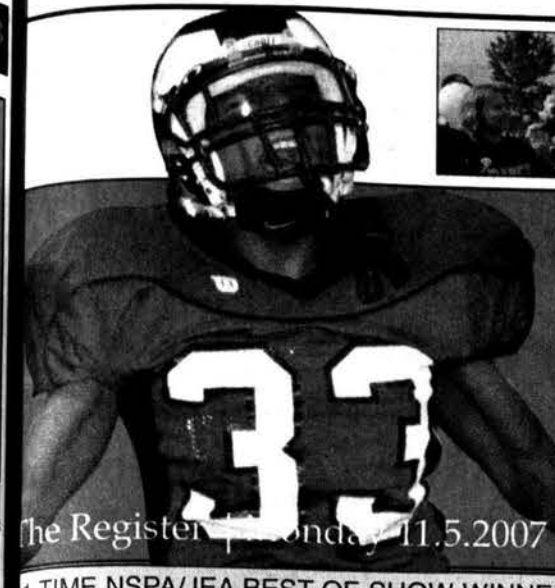
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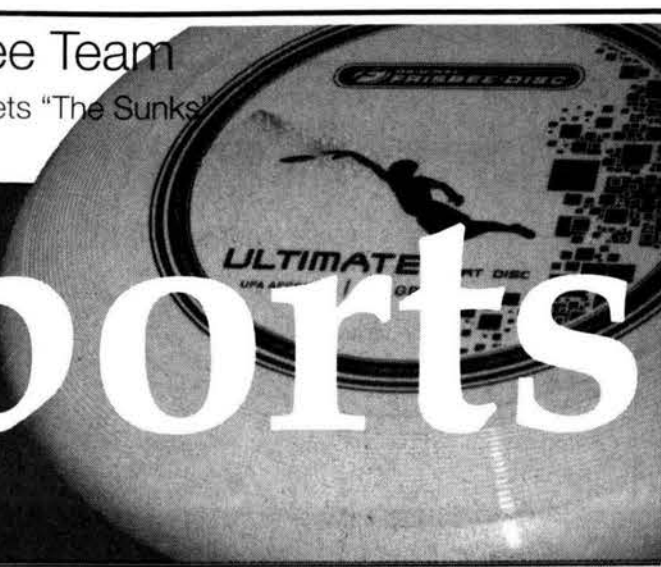
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A Walk in the Dark
The Lady Eagles fight suicide by participating in the Out of the Darkness community walk.
SPORTS, PAGE 37

Central's Frisbee Team
Central's frisbee team meets "The Sunks" for some fun competition.



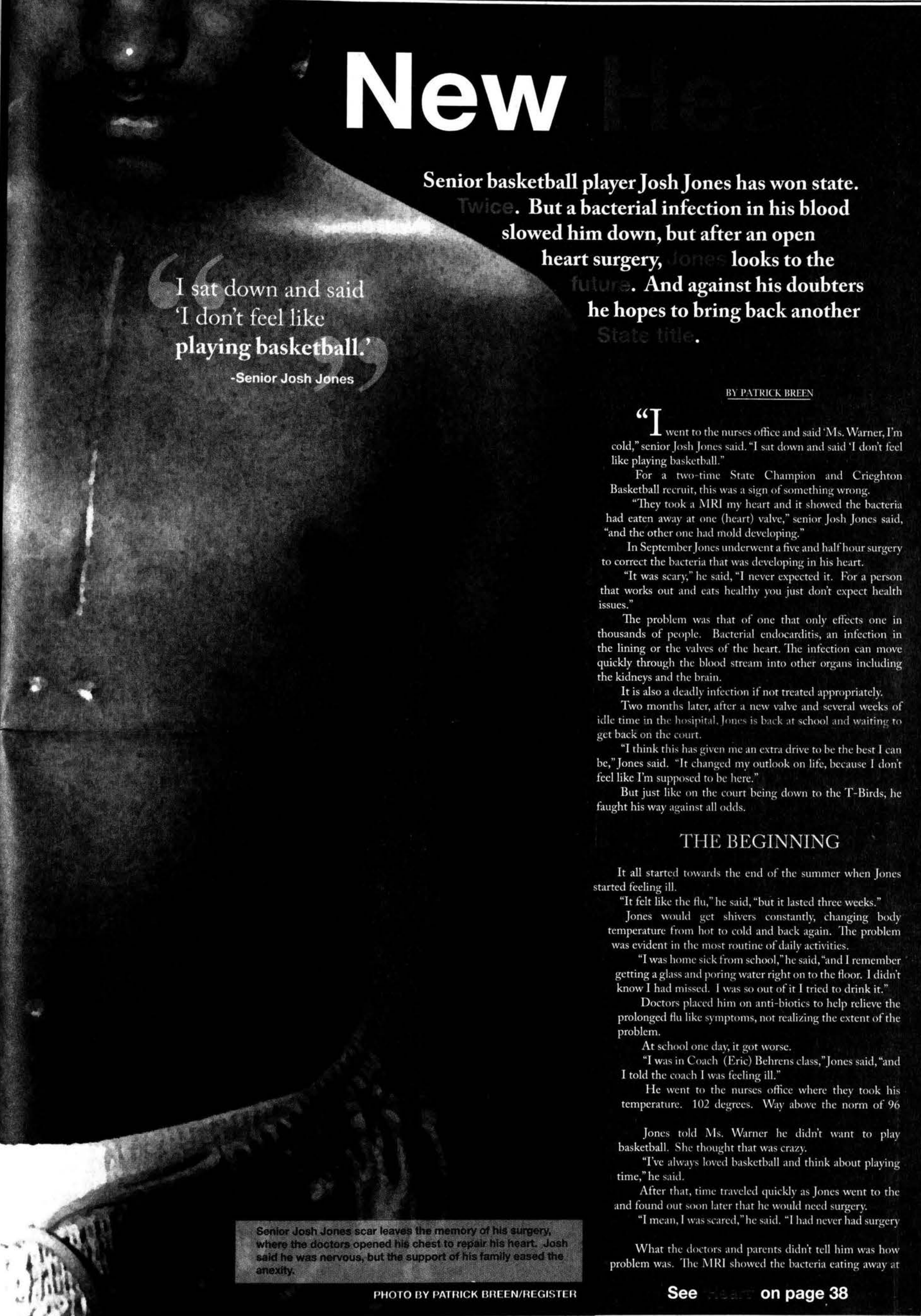
Eagles look to State

The 5th ranked Eagles look forward in hopes of their first State Title since 1984.

SPORTS, PAGE 34

sports

The Register | Monday, 11.5.2007 | centraljournalism@ops.org
TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER | A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM | NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER



New

Senior basketball player Josh Jones has won state. Twice. But a bacterial infection in his blood slowed him down, but after an open heart surgery, Jones looks to the future. And against his doubters he hopes to bring back another State title.

"I sat down and said 'I don't feel like playing basketball.'"

-Senior Josh Jones

BY PATRICK BREEN

"I went to the nurses office and said 'Ms. Warner, I'm cold,'" senior Josh Jones said. "I sat down and said 'I don't feel like playing basketball.'"

For a two-time State Champion and Crieghton Basketball recruit, this was a sign of something wrong.

"They took a MRI my heart and it showed the bacteria had eaten away at one (heart) valve," senior Josh Jones said, "and the other one had mold developing."

In September Jones underwent a five and half hour surgery to correct the bacteria that was developing in his heart.

"It was scary," he said, "I never expected it. For a person that works out and eats healthy you just don't expect health issues."

The problem was that of one that only effects one in thousands of people. Bacterial endocarditis, an infection in the lining or the valves of the heart. The infection can move quickly through the blood stream into other organs including the kidneys and the brain.

It is also a deadly infection if not treated appropriately.

Two months later, after a new valve and several weeks of idle time in the hospital, Jones is back at school and waiting to get back on the court.

"I think this has given me an extra drive to be the best I can be," Jones said. "It changed my outlook on life, because I don't feel like I'm supposed to be here."

But just like on the court being down to the T-Birds, he fought his way against all odds.

THE BEGINNING

It all started towards the end of the summer when Jones started feeling ill.

"It felt like the flu," he said, "but it lasted three weeks."

Jones would get shivers constantly, changing body temperature from hot to cold and back again. The problem was evident in the most routine of daily activities.

"I was home sick from school," he said, "and I remember getting a glass and pouring water right on to the floor. I didn't know I had missed. I was so out of it I tried to drink it."

Doctors placed him on anti-biotics to help relieve the prolonged flu like symptoms, not realizing the extent of the problem.

At school one day, it got worse.

"I was in Coach (Eric) Behrens class," Jones said, "and I told the coach I was feeling ill."

He went to the nurses office where they took his temperature. 102 degrees. Way above the norm of 96

Jones told Ms. Warner he didn't want to play basketball. She thought that was crazy.

"I've always loved basketball and think about playing time," he said.

After that, time traveled quickly as Jones went to the and found out soon later that he would need surgery.

"I mean, I was scared," he said. "I had never had surgery

What the doctors and parents didn't tell him was how problem was. The MRI showed the bacteria eating away at

Senior Josh Jones scar leaves the memory of his surgery, where the doctors opened his chest to repair his heart. Josh said he was nervous, but the support of his family eased the anxiety.

PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

See **Prater** on page 38

Loss of sponsor pulls team together

BY ALI HODGE

"After losing someone that's supposed to bind us together, we found out that it's really the team that pulls us together," said Junior Bailey Buller as she runs her fingers through her hair.

Buller, who is one of the captains of Central's pom squad said the loss of their sponsor, Jane Lugthe has put stress on the entire team, especially since her reasoning for it is completely unknown to them.

Buller said there may have been some incidences that could have influenced the sudden retirement, but they would never say for sure.

Buller said the girls had a practice one night in which their sponsor at the time didn't attend, but instead the athletic director, Darren Williams.

She said he allowed them to practice, then he told them the news and announced that the team would be inactive until he had found another sponsor.

"It was a complete shock," said Buller.

Buller said the other girls, who are very dedicated to the pom squad took it pretty hard as well.

"It (pom squad) is up in the air, but we're still a team and we choose to learn from this," she said. "It's amazing how something like this can bring a team together."

Despite the stress, Buller said she and the other captain, senior Erin Schultz still holds pom meetings in the morning. They have decided that for the next game, they are still wearing their uniforms, sitting together, and cheering, even though they are not allowed to participate on the field.

"We've opened the position and we're trying to fill it," said athletic director Darren Williams.

Williams said at the moment they have not had anyone fill the position, yet their still looking.

A teacher from within the building would be ideal, he said, yet he understands that if no one is interested, he will have to hire from outside the school.

A teacher the girls are familiar with would be the best. He said they would more than likely relate better to that person and that would influence the team positively.

Even though the position has not been filled yet, Williams said they are trying their hardest.

He said the pom squad is extremely important to the spirit of the football and basketball games. After all, they are the half-time entertainment.

"They are athletes performing just like any other athlete would perform," Williams said.

Williams said when he informed the squad of the sudden change, he was sad to see that the girls were truly upset.

Buller said the team went through a phase of not knowing what to do before they were able to pull themselves together.

Williams observed that the girls, as well as many other students have close relationships with Lugthe.

"She's a popular teacher," he said.

"That is why it was so difficult on the girls."

"She still coaches the cheerleaders," said Buller. "So that's going to be... awkward."

Williams said anyone interested in the position will have to go through human resources with OPS, then would apply, go through an interview process, and then selection just as every other coach has and just as a new teacher would have to.

He said he is taking all who are interested into consideration, but he is also taking into consideration the well being of the girls.

He's working very hard to match the perfect sponsor with the team since he believes the sponsor should do nothing but influence them in a positive way.

Buller said despite the hard times, she is very proud of her team.

Even though they have not been able to participate with state football since they are not allowed to be in uniform or on the field, they still find it extremely important to match and stay together as a team.

Buller still believes that despite the difficulties, the pom squad is still an important part of Central's spirit and they intend to make a full recovery soon.

Prater twins play both sides of the ball, lead team

BY PATRICK BREEN

It's tough telling them apart. Both are seniors, close to 6 feet tall, both play offense and defense and they both are drawing attention from football prospects.

But the difference. Well, ones number is four and the others is seven.

Oh, and they both think they're better.

"He's (Shaun) 20 seconds older," Shane Prater said, "but I'm better."

Shaun doesn't agree.

Either way, everytime these two twins step on the field, opponents know there is something in-store for them.

The similarities are striking, but what's better than playing along side a twin. How bout leading the Eagles to 6-1 start?

After a quick start to the season, the two players are drawing attention for leadership and stats.

After both scored an amazing touchdown in the game-the-week against Millard West, they got to address the media.

"I scored three receiving touchdowns," said Shane said. "Shaun had a rushing (touchdown)."

Either Prater one watched, they were impressive. They

ran through and around players for some major plays.

So much so that both have received scholarship offers from Div. I schools.

Shaun received letters from several schools including Iowa State, Ohio and Iowa, but decided on Iowa because it presented the best offer.

With family from Iowa and a solid conference, the Big Ten, the Hawkeyes will fit Praters interest.

Shane said that he still hasn't decided on a college yet, receiving an offer from Navy.

Both are thinking of college, but are more focused on the present. And the most present thought in their mind is the loss to Millard South.

"We both hate to lose," Shaun said. "That loss really hurt. Our goal this season was to go undefeated, but this (the loss) will give us more drive."

The extra drive will continue to impact the players, even besides themselves.

The Praters along with fellow seniors Ronnell Grixby and Chris Griffin are leading the team, hoping for State.

"The teams really playing well," Shane said. "We're working harder for every game."

The two prepare at Seemann Stadium everyday.

Shaun said they both bring two styles of play to the

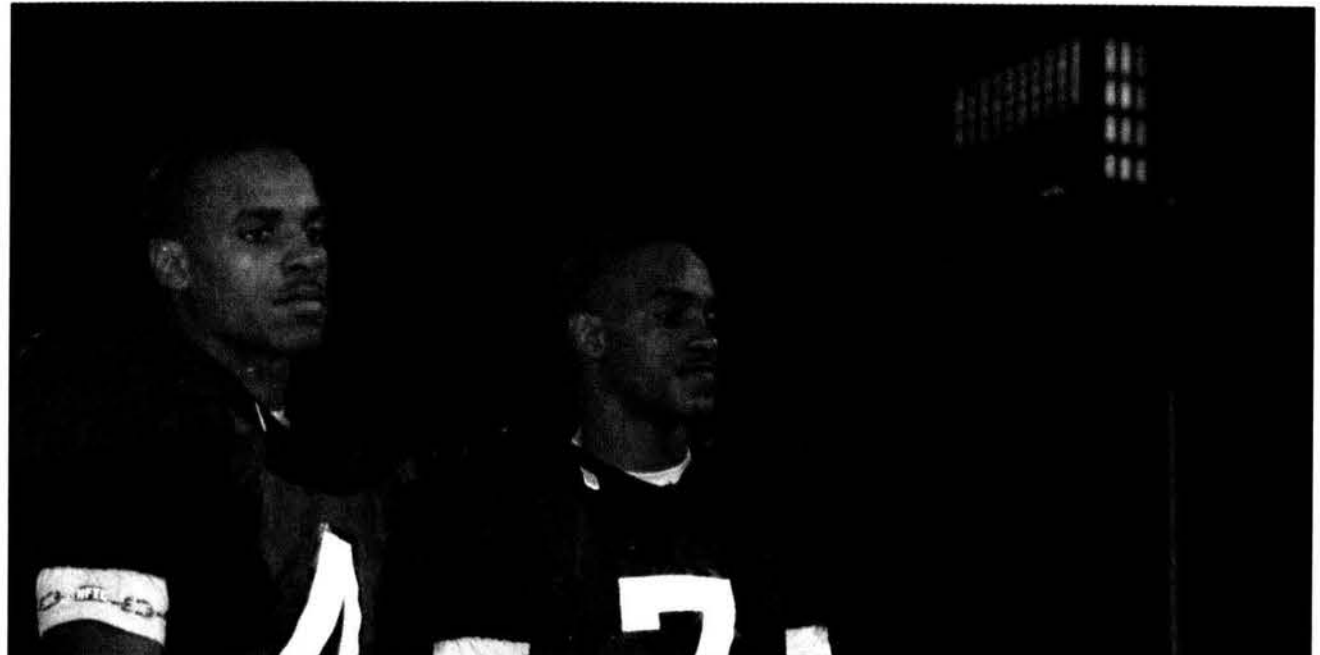


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Seniors Shaun (left) and Shane Prater (right) wait for an interview after beating the Benson Bunnies. Both players make an impact on both sides of the ball. The seniors have helped lead the team to a 6-1 record.

See "Prater": page 35D

Eagles Flying

The Eagles Football team went 5-5 last year. A tough year by anyone's standards. But this year they were victorious over top teams. Although they ranked at three, the team doesn't seem to win a championship.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Sophomore Stephon Washington gets pumped after the defense comes up with a key turnover near the end of the upset of No. 1 Millard West Wildcats. The Eagles won a decisive game 42-30. The score didn't show how close the game was. Going into half-time the Eagles were up two, but at the beginning of the third they were down two points. Late defense and offense changed the game for the Eagles.

Dramatic upsets leaves Eagles looking to State

BY PATRICK BREEN

No. 1 Wildcats vs. No. 6 Eagles.
 The rankings don't describe how close the game would be.
 The Millard West Wildcat's offense looked smooth. They ran play-action after play-action. But all the fancy calls and reverses didn't stop what the Eagles' had up their sleeves. Hard-nosed work ethic and determination as the team pulled to 5-0 with a 42-30 victory.
 Don't let the score fool you, the game was close.
 The Eagles jumped out to a lead, but the gap was closed quickly at half time. The game was a high scoring one, but defense would be key.
 Forget the fumble the referees called back as an incomplete pass. Forget the numerous yellow flags that littered the field. And even forget the fact that the refs gave Millard West five downs on one drive in the second half. All that didn't matter. A never-give up defense and big play offense gave the Eagles the win.
 The Eagles jumped back into contention in the third and in the fourth put up an emotional touchdown pass to senior wide-out Shane Prater put the Eagles up 35-30.
 But the score left several minutes for the fluid Millard West offense to run their fancy routes. And they did. But only for awhile. A few plays into their drive, with plenty on the clock for them to score, the team made a costly mistake.
 Senior linemen Colin Robertson and Louis House hit the offensive line hard and forced the runner to squeak inbetween the tackles, losing his handle on the ball. From there, there was a scramble on the field.
 A pile.
 Millard West and Central dug hard for the ball, but it was solidly in the hands of the Eagles. The great field position and extremely hyped offense let the Eagles put a final rushing touchdown in the endzone.

Senior Ronnell Grixby went twice up the middle hitting a wall of defenders before rolling outside and finding the endzone giving the Eagles the score that would be untouched for the rest of the game.

The upset left the Eagles with one thought in mind. Undefeated. At 5-0, the team seemed poised for the best season in recent history. But something stood in their way.
 The Millard South Patriots came into their homecoming game underdogs. And for the first time in a half century, it seemed like the rankings had each team pegged.
 But the Eagles confidence betrayed them.
 After leading 28-3 at half time, the Eagles offense wouldn't post up any more points. And the defense couldn't seem to stop the reinvigorated offense.
 The Eagles defense gave up big plays through the air and on the ground.
 Down in the fourth quarter on the Patriots goal-line, the Eagles sought a touchdown run to secure a 6-0 start. But a fumble with little time on the clock gave Millard South the ball and the win.
 The Patriots came back to win the game 29-28. A 25 point swing cost the Eagles an undefeated season.
 How would the team respond?
 Well, the grape crush defense shut-down the next opponent on the road, Omaha South and went onto their own homecoming game against Bellevue West Thunderbirds.
 With a win, the Eagles would clinch a spot in the State Playoffs, with a loss they would allow the T-birds to clinch a spot.
 High stakes bred aggression and passion that would lead to the third close game in the last four.
 The Eagles capitalized on mistakes and turnovers to win their seventh and clinching win.
 Looking to the playoffs, the team could see the very teams they beat in their district.
 Bellevue West, Millard West, North and others could face them early.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Senior Terrell Mayhue gets strapped up to head onto the field at the Millard West game.

The Big Offense

The starting offense for the 07-08 Eagles

Breakdown
 Seniors- 9
 Juniors- 2
 Sophomores- 0
 Freshmen- 0



WR
 Shaun Prater
 Senior

TE
 Ryan Steffen
 Senior

RB
 Ronnell Grixby
 Senior

QB
 Chris Griffin
 Senior

FB
 Jabari Tillman
 Junior

WR
 Shane Prater
 Senior

RT
 Julius Sanders
 Junior

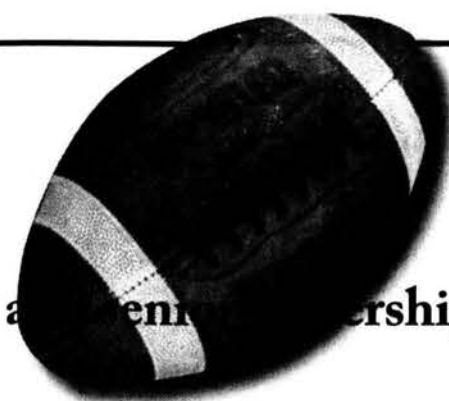
RG
 Jordan Nauden
 Senior

C
 Matt Woster
 Senior

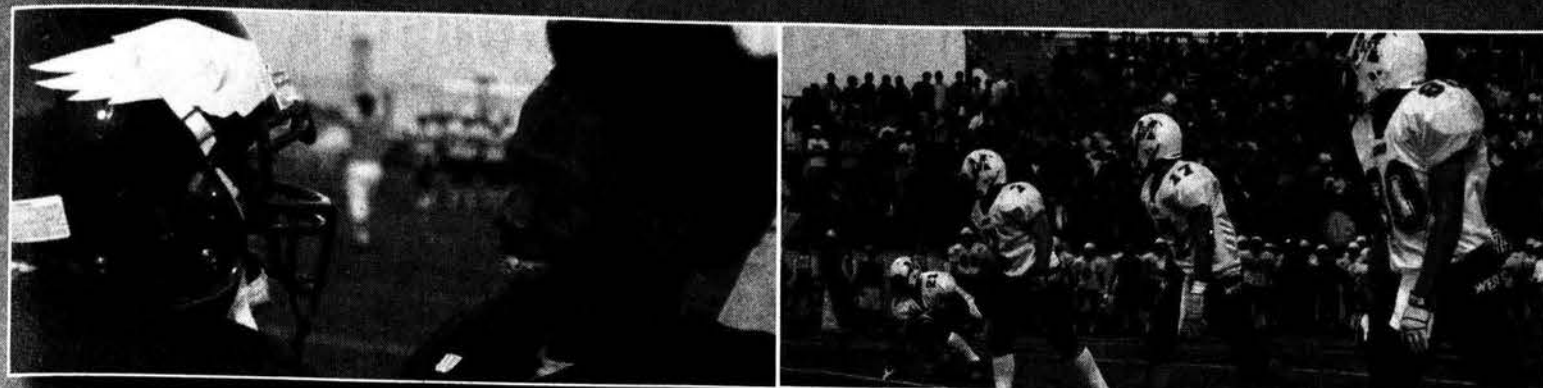
LG
 Sam Kincaid
 Senior

LT
 Jonathon Butler
 Senior

High to 7-2



But this year. Well this year the team is pushing team chemistry and leadership to big focus on ratings. They just have one common goal. Enough said.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Previously No. 1 ranked Millard West lines up with 'trips left' before a screen-pass that didn't net a single yard. The following play though, the team ran a play-action pass to the tight-end that scored a touchdown that gave them a third quarter lead. Responding late, the Eagles took the lead and pushed in a run to put the nail in the coffin of the Wildcats winning 42-30.

Football

Scorecard

Date	Opponent	Result
8/24/07	@ Omaha North	W21-19
8/31/07	Crieghton Prep	W28-14
9/7/07	Omaha Benson	W34-16
9/14/07	@ Omaha Bryan	W36-22
9/21/07	Millard West	W42-30
9/28/07	@ Millard South	L29-28
10/05/07	@ Omaha South	W41-6
10/12/07	Bellevue West	W28-20
10/19/07	Papio LaVista South	L44-21
Late Oct.-Early Nov.	State Playoffs	

Season Record- 7-2

Home games played at Seemann Stadium

Football Twins Leading together

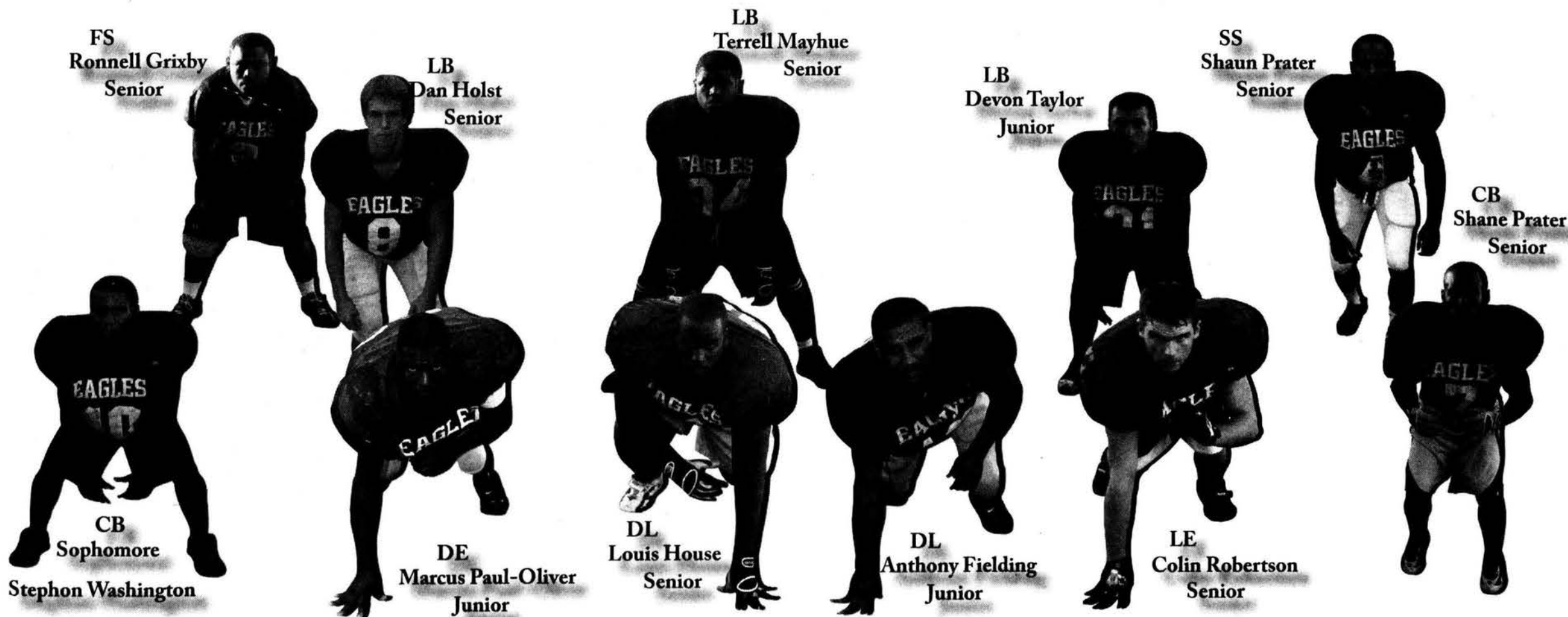
Continued from 'Prater' on page 33D

game. He said that Shane wasn't as physical as he was. "He (Shane) brings speed, agility and offense," Shaun said. Shane agreed saying that Shaun played tough defense as a safety. The twins aren't the only Praters to play for the Eagles. Their older brother Nate Prater played defensive end and tight-end for the Eagles their freshman year. Having an older brother has prepared the Praters for the rigorous test of the season. "We all were very competitive," Shaun said. The Praters all would play football in their backyard. And the practice in the dirt and mud allowed for improvements to be made throughout their young careers. Ever since they were young they've heard the talk about the similarities. They've been compared in the class room and on the field. And the conversations usually talk about their talent. Coach Jay Ball runs the hold team hard and feels that each are their own individuals. "They're some of the best athletes on the field," he said. And two of the best athletes on the field look forward to the playoffs, college and the rest of their football careers. Both are excited for the future, and are ready for any of the challenges, on and off the field. "I think," Shaun said, "we're ready for anything and everything."

The starting offense for the 07-08 Eagles

Grape Crush

Breakdown
Seniors- 7
Juniors- 3
Sophomores- 1
Freshmen- 0



SCOREBOARD

With the fall sports season nearing its end, here's a look back at some teams and what they recieved throughout the season.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Volleyball

Scorecard

Date	Opponent	Result
9/01/07	Millard South Tourney	2-1
9/10/07	Mercy	L 3-1
9/18/07	@ Marian	L 3-0
9/21/07	Papio-LaVist Invite	1-4
9/25/07	Omaha Benson	W 3-0
9/27/07	Lincoln	W 3-0
9/28/07	Omaha Skutt Invite	4-0
10/03/07	Omaha South	W 3-0
10/04/07	Omaha Burke	W 2-0
10/09/07	Bellevue West	W 3-0

Scores as of October 10, 2007

Girls Golf

Scorecard

Date	Opponent	Result
8/23/07	Bryan High	W208-231
8/28/07	Millard West	W113-130
8/30/07	Millard South	L159-176
9/04/07	Omaha North	W189-247
9/06/07	Omaha Northwest	W196-231
9/11/07	Omaha Benson	W138-200
9/13/07	Lincoln NE Tournament	First Place
9/17/07	Omaha South	W209-220
9/26/07	Metro Tournament	8th Place
10/1-10/2	Districts	4rth Place

Football

Scorecard

Date	Opponent	Result
8/24/07	@ Omaha North	W21-19
8/31/07	Crieghton Prep	W28-14
9/7/07	Omaha Benson	W34-16
9/14/07	@ Omaha Bryan	W36-22
9/21/07	Millard West	W42-30
9/28/07	@ Millard South	L29-28
10/05/07	@ Omaha South	W41-6
10/12/07	Bellevue West	W28-20
10/19/07	Papio LaVista South	L44-21
Late Oct.-Early Nov.		State Playoffs

A walk in the dark



PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY/ REGISTER

Senior Katie McCloskey hands out balloons for the balloon release before the walk to people attending the event. The Lady Eagles had to walk five miles around Miller's Landing. McCloskey was the one who presented the idea of the walk to the team. Varsity basketball coach Chad Townsend said the walk was just one of the events the Lady Eagles will do in the community.

Lady Eagles walk against suicide

BY KIM BUCKLEY

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), 1 million people attempt to commit suicide a year. Thirty thousand of those attempts are successful.

According to the AFSP website, suicide is also the third leading cause of death among 15 to 24 year olds. It is something some of those parents who have lost their child to suicide wish to prevent from happening to other families.

Not only were parents at the third annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk, but so was the Girls Basketball team.

Coach Chad Townsend said the walk was a team building project as well as a chance for the girls to volunteer for the community.

"It's a good feeling, helping others," he said. Townsend said it was senior Katie McCloskey's idea to do the walk and the team talked about it over the summer.

McCloskey said one of her co-workers at her job asked her if she could walk with his team and she said she had a basketball team that would love to do it.

She said the team held a fundraiser for the event during the lunch periods in the courtyard on Sept. 13 and Sept. 14.

Besides raising the money, the team was at the park early to blow up balloons.

She said they blew up 2,500 of them and handed them out for those family members and friends who lost a loved one to suicide. Different colors on the balloons represented the relationship with the loved one.

Townsend said when the girls heard about the walk he thought there were very positive reactions. He said the girls were very receptive to the idea and worked hard to participate.

Senior Nakya Clark said she attended the walk to help out and volunteer because she likes doing that kind of stuff.

She said she thought the team needed to do something together.

She said she didn't know about the walk until McCloskey told the team about the event.

Townsend said the walk was more of a pre-season activity for the team.

The group involved all the women basketball players, not just the one's on varsity.

McCloskey said the walk was also a way to build team chemistry and to be with one another off the court.

Clark said that having the team participating in the walk helped them come together more and they used teamwork to help each other out.

She said it also helped some of the new members of the team get to know the people on

the team more.

Townsend said the team talked about doing volunteer work for the school year during the summer and that the walk was only one of the activities the team planned to do to help out in the community.

Six hundred people came to walk last year and it was expected that around 800 to 1200 people came this year. There were around 54 teams that participated. Other schools that participated in the walk were Westside, Papillion and Bellevue East.

Public relations for the AFSP Cherie Johnson said this walk was a little different from other others because this year was the one with the first chapter of the ASFP in Omaha, which means more money will stay locally to help educate and bring awareness about depression. According to the AFSP website, over 60 percent of people who commit suicide suffer from major depression.

She said she thought it was a good idea for people who have been affected by suicide to come to the walk.

"It's kind of a healing process to be with other people who have had suicide in their life," Johnson said.

She said at the walk there were counselors to help the grieving.

She said it helps bring all the people together.

"A lot of people suffer from it (suicide), and it gives me goosebumps to watch everybody be here today," McCloskey said.

She said it feels good to know that she's helped in some way.

The walk went for five miles around Miller's Landing. Nationwide there are over 100 similar walks taking place from September to December.

Johnson said before the walk there was a balloon release and several people spoke, including John Erickson, the president of the chapter.

There was also a singer as well, who sang the national anthem as well as another song during the balloon release.

She said before the walk \$13,000 was raised, and by the end of the walk they hoped that they would raise \$40,000.

Johnson said the walk helps bring awareness to the issue of suicide and bring it out of the darkness to give some people the help they need.

She said there will be another walk next year and information could be found from the AFSP website next spring.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is an organization that is nationwide and non-profit. The money raised by the Walk Against Darkness will go to research as well as going to local suicide prevention programs.



PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY/ REGISTER

Central Lady's basketball team lines up in front of the balloons given to walkers at the park. The benefit raised \$13,000 before the walk, but hoped to raise \$40,000 total.

Senior uses strength to earn praise

BY WYNTER DAVIS

"The whole objective for arm wrestling is to push your opponents hand to the pinning pad. The hand you are not using stays on the peg. If your elbow comes off the elbow pad you get a foul. Two fouls and you lose the match," said senior Misty Fritz.

Misty Fritz is a professional arm wrestler. And has been for a long time now.

"This year so far I have been in five to seven tournaments and plan or many more this year," said Fritz.

She says the first time she started to really get off in arm wrestling was September first 2001.

"I was in Lincoln Nebraska for the State Fair. That was my very first time arm wrestling without practice. Surprisingly I got second out of four in my class."

She said in the beginning it was hard her very first practice she thought her arm was going to fall off. After a while it got easier and it's something she knows.

Fritz coach Mary McConaughy said she has been training with Fritz for seven years now, since she was nine.

The team goes out to McConaughy house in Ralston who has four tables plus kids tables. Fritz practice every Tuesday from four thirty to seven thirty.

"My training program is we work on technique, endurance, speed, and then strength. The wrestlers determine what they practice. How were going to run. Some people need more help. Working or attendance and ligaments, making it pacific for the wrestler," said McConaughy.

McConaughy said that she is very strict when it comes down to coaching. The best coaches are the strict ones. When she takes the wrestlers to the gym there is no messing around, no talking and paying full attention, like boot camp. A good coach should be consistent.

"You run programs like you design them. And you always have to be flexible. A six-year-old attention span is different from someone who is thirty. Your as good as your staff."

McConaughy started coaching in 1983. If you know the game anyone can help coach. Some are twelve and get put into coaching situations.

"Misty started first to practice with adult men. She knows enough to teach those guys. When they are starting out I have them work with Misty she's a good teacher. She refers for some of the matches it makes you a better wrestler.

Learning the tricks and technique.

Fritz said she can't keep count on how many she won she has all her medals and trophies in her basement.

"She competed at Nationals her first adult competition. She got first in her team and scored very high in adult. She is well on her way," said McConaughy.

Fritz takes arm wrestling for seriously. She has tournaments where she leaves town and she doesn't get back in time for school and it she misses out.

"It does effect school because people ask me about why I missed school and I tell them for arm wrestling.

They want me to tell them about while I'm doing my work. But haft the time it doesn't brother me," said Fritz.

There is a whole different style and technique arm wrestling at school than arm wrestling professional.

"Arm wrestling for fun at school is completely different. You use lunch tables or desktop. In a real competition, you use padding for your elbows and grips for your hands.

A guy ask me at school to arm wrestle they usually beat me, but it's different between professional and having fun.

"It mainly the table," said Fritz.

In a tournament they start out with the kids first, from four and under.

"It's the cutest thing. Once the kids are nine it carries on.

The whole crowd is screaming for you to win. It's insane," said Fritz.

Her pre game warm up she usually gets someone she practice with on Tuesday. Put their hands together in the arm wrestling stands and work rock back and fourth, not even haft way down.

In the tournaments you get the wrestlers are at a table and place there free elbow in a peg. So the only intensity is from your main elbow and hand.

The tables can range from twenty to thirty inches tall, and for the adults forty. The main part about being a capable arm wrestling you have to be a good sport.

"When I lose I know what I did wrong.

I don't get mad I smile. I don't like people who get mad and yell over a bad call. It makes them look bad," said Fritz.

She said a lot of her friends know that she deals with arm wrestling.

They all ask the same question "How do you practice for that?"

Fritz biggest pet peeve is when someone doesn't think arm wrestling is a real sport.

For Fritz arm wrestling is not just a hobby or something that consumes her life right now. She plans on pursuing this has long as this takes her.

Eagles tennis team earns award for sportmanship

BY PATRICK BREEN

The team may not have won state. They didn't have any top place finishers. But overall, head coach Bob Tucker said, the season was a good one.

"We ended up with a winning record and it was a good season," Tucker said.

The team was never called the best in the State, but they were called the best sports.

Winning the sportmanship award, the Eagles tennis team ended the season on a positive note.

The Phil Gradoville Memorial Award was awarded to a Metro conference team that exhibited the best positive attitude and sportmanship.

"I was very proud of the team," Tucker said.

The Gradoville award added something special to the boys tennis team this season. It showed that it wasn't only the coach who thought they played well.

"They improved throughout the season," Tucker said. "They came together as a team."

The teamwork paid off for the players and made the season more enjoyable.

Some of the other improvements he saw took place in the fundamentals and abilities.

He believed that the solid steps of progress helped the

team be so positive and kind to the other teams as well as themselves.

In a sports world dominated by winning and winning only, the team demonstrates some of the good old-fashioned positive attitude and sportmanship not found in today's sports.

And the Gradoville award shows that. Its the first one the team's recieved since Tucker has been coached.

"Its a big honor," he said, "the team deserved it."

And the sportmanship should continue through to the following seasons.

Coach Tucker said he is positive about the future of the team.

"Next year we should be pretty good too," he said. "We have a lot of young talent."

Young talent is right, the team only had one senior and two juniors on varsity.

The team will only be losing one senior. Ben Thomas has been playing since his freshman year and will be the only player leaving the Eagles tennis team.

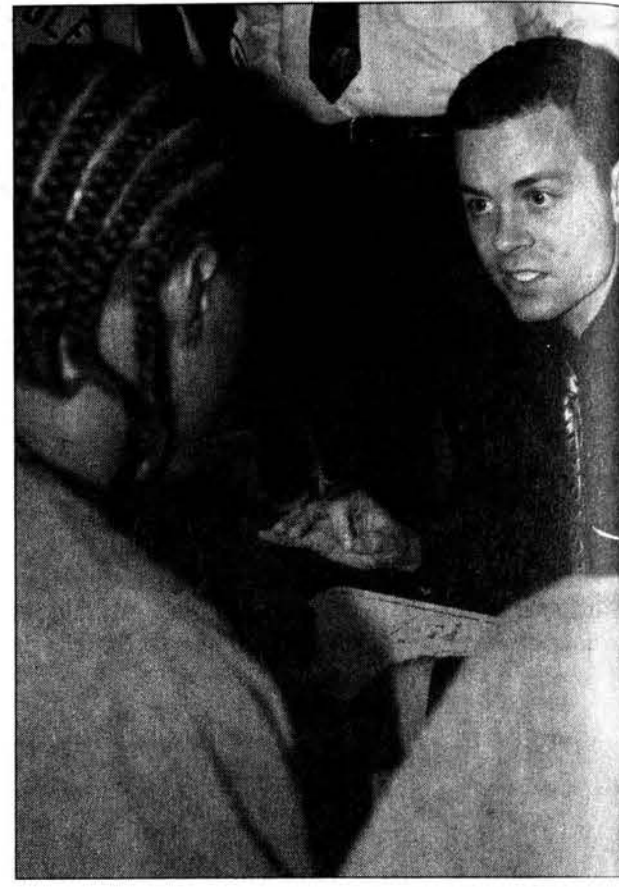
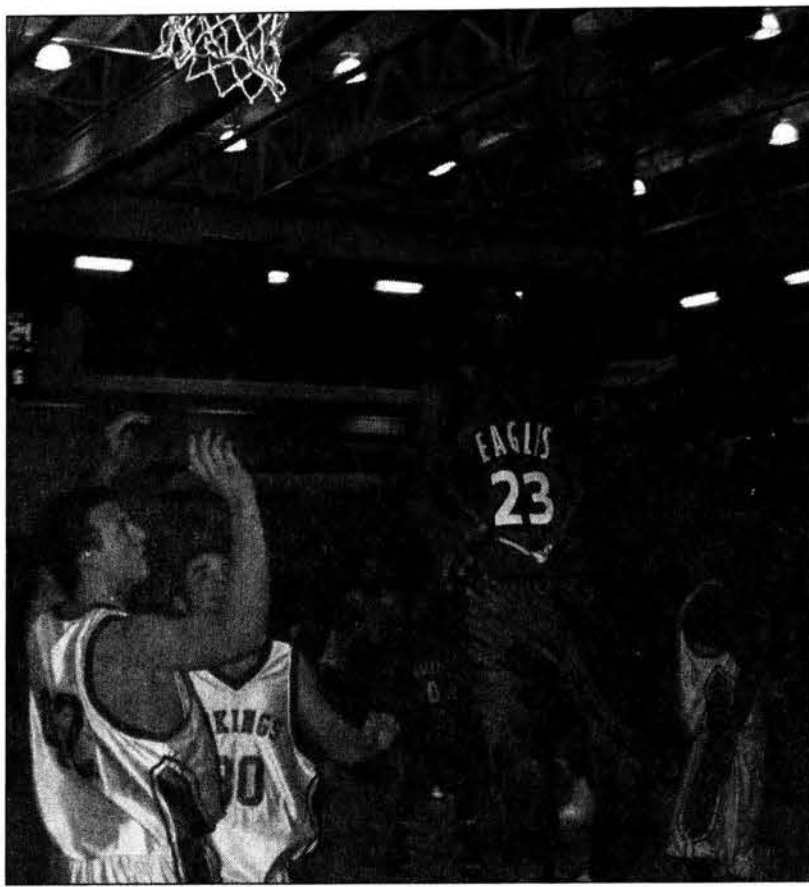
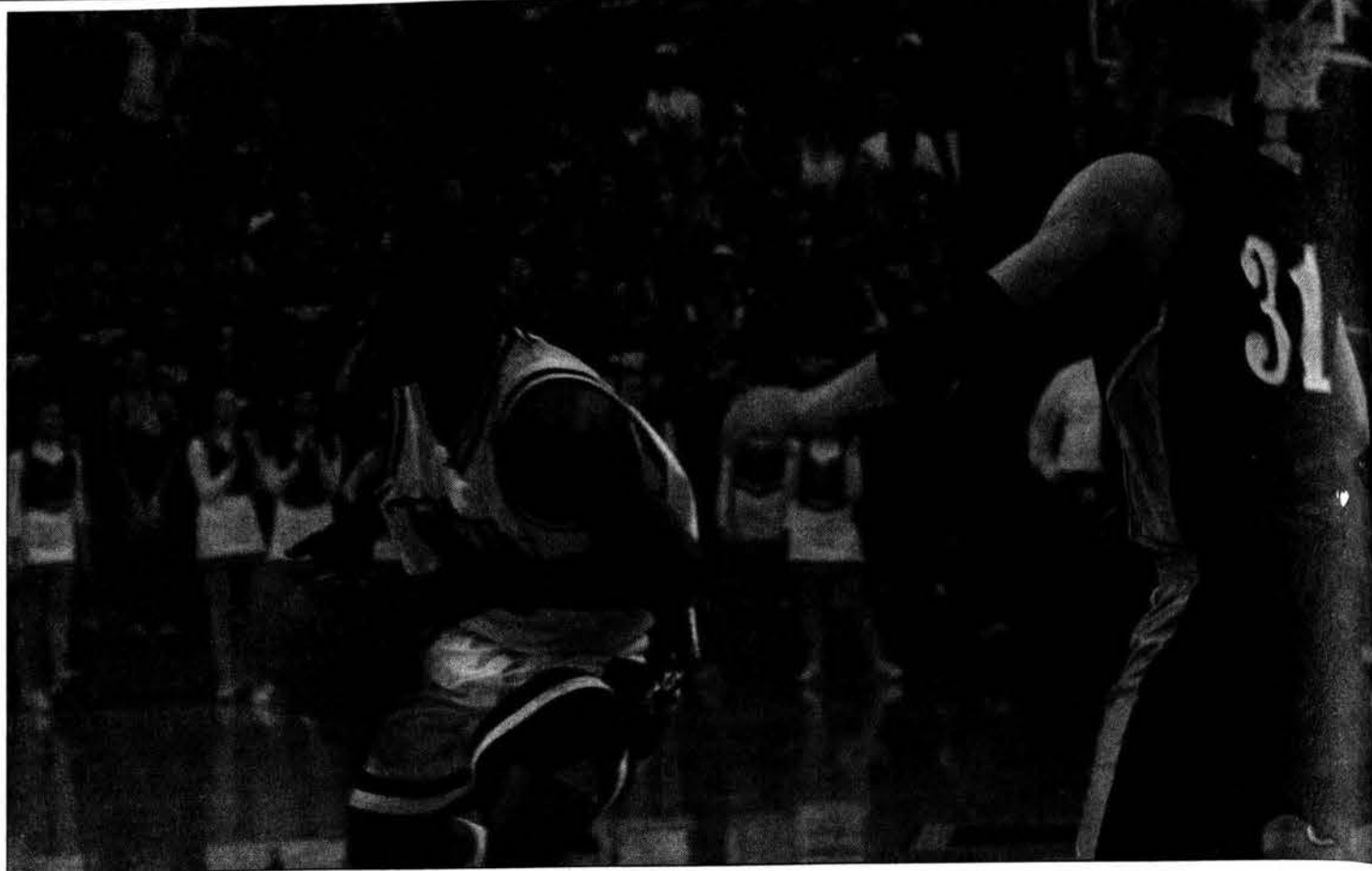
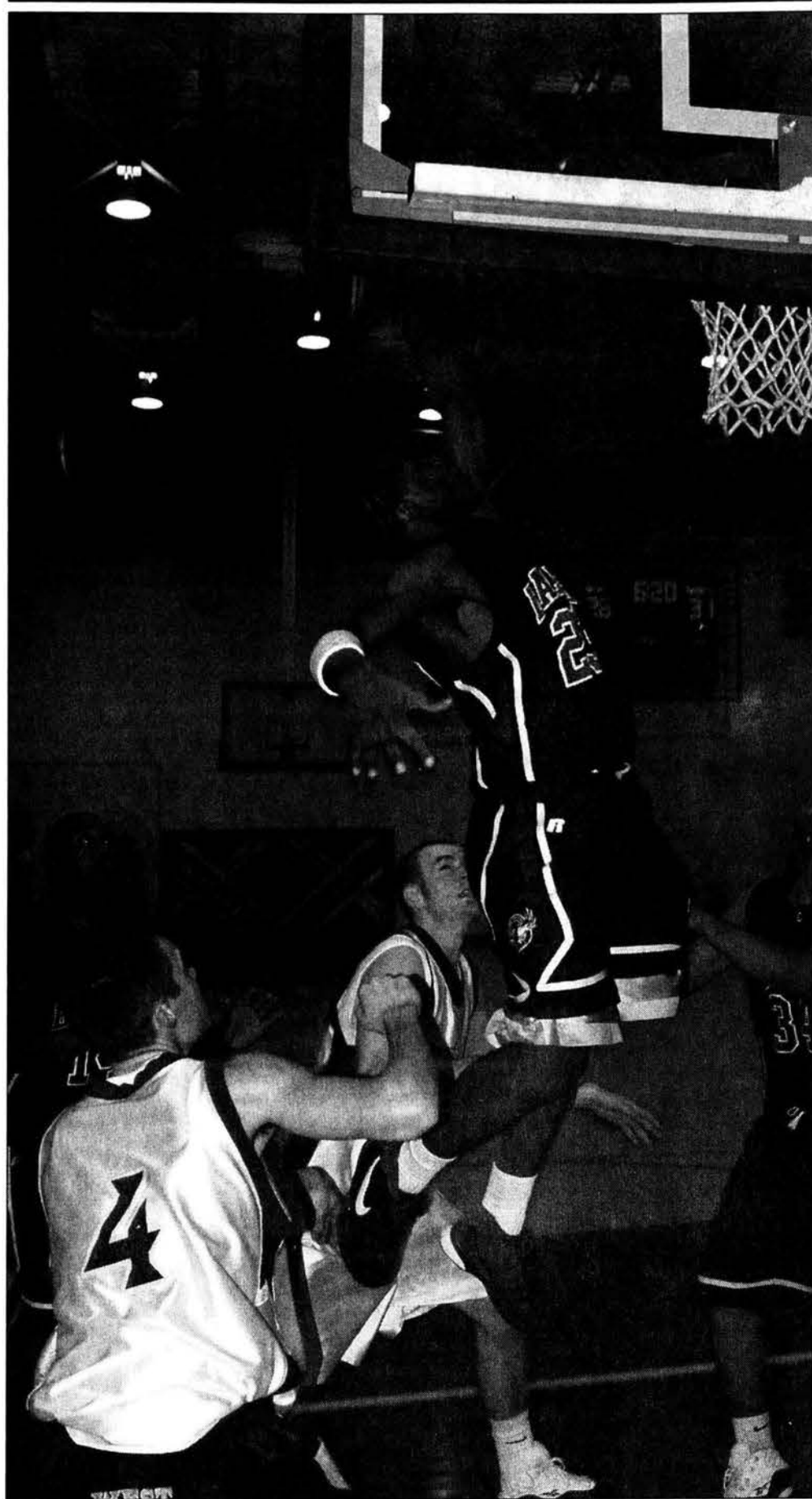
Thomas was one of the three team members to make it past the first round. The other two, freshman Ike Thomas and junior Zach Clark also made it.

The fact the team will be returning so many leaves the team ready for the next season.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Senior Ben Thomas listens to the instruction of head coach Bob Tucker. The team's loose attitude and positive attitude earned them the coveted Phil Gradoville Award for the first time in about 18 years. Combine that with a winning season, and the Eagles tennis team had a good year.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Senior Josh Jones provided needed points throughout the State Tournament last year, leading the Eagles to a second straight title. Above are photos of Josh during games throughout the season. Although the heart problems may have slowed him down through the beginning of this school year, he hopes that his hard work will put him back on the court.

Heart problems won't slow down Creighton recruit

Continued from 'New Heart' on page 33D

his heart. And the bacteria could spread through his blood to other organs. They had to operate quickly.

"Eight hours later," Jones said, "I was being rolled down the hall to surgery."

Surgery

"I was scared," Jones said, "I had never had surgery before."

Scared was a feeling he was too familiar with. With the game on the line, and a shot needing to be made, his hand would be steady as stone. But surgery is different. Jones wasn't the one in control.

"I was super nervous," he said. "The nurses were walking me down the hall, joking with me. (They were) trying to keep me relaxed."

The surgery took five hours. Jones didn't remember the surgery at all. He remembers being rolled down the hallway, and then waking up with a pain in his chest afterwards.

It was a good thing he was asleep, as the doctors had to open his chest up to get to the surgery on his heart.

The cut extends from a few inches below his chin down almost a foot. That's where the doctors then, tried to repair the heart from its bacterial damage.

After the surgery, Josh doesn't remember that exact amount of time, but he does remember his family and friends being there.

The support given by his family and close friends made the struggle of surgery and recovery much better for the basketball star.

For the recovery, the hospital gave Jones a heart pillow. It allowed him to put it to his chest that way he could provide pressure to his heart giving it support.

"I probably wouldn't use it now," he said.

Another notable visit let the tension of the surgery drift away, too.

The full-ride scholarship from Creighton University in Omaha had been given and accepted at the end of last year, where he'd join Bellevue West senior Antione Young with the Bluejays.

But with the heart problem and quick surgery, many doubted him playing basketball and Creighton not revoking their scholarship offer.

During his recovery period, though, the head coach of the Bluejays came to tell Jones that he needn't worry about Basketball.

Bluejay coach Dana Altman told Jones to focus on getting better. And that's just what Jones is trying to do.

The Future

With doubters on every side, Jones looks to shore up the end of his career as an Eagle with another State Championship.

Jones looks forward to getting back on the court he has spent so much time away from. He hopes to make an immediate impact back with the team, but does expect his body to have to get back in shape for the game.

"It might take a bit," he said, "but I'll be ready, don't need to worry about that."

He believes he'll be ready to play by the start of the season. A hope that is reverberated throughout the school. An amazingly quick recovery time for someone who just had open-heart surgery.

But then, Jones has always been fast.

Frisbee team meets at "The Sunks"

BY PATRICK BREEN

Flying discs have been seen flying around Dundee.

The cause, not extra-terrestrial beings making first contact. Instead it's something more amazing.

A popular college sport is gaining speed in the high school levels as well.

Ultimate Frisbee is a game that involves one disc and two teams. A fast-paced sport, that is bringing in more and more Central students.

"It's a fun sport," senior member Micheal Lynch said, "a lot more people have joined."

The team has taken on about ten members more than last year. And Lynch thought it was good.

"The more members, the better," he said.

The team practices by playing the game. The game is not too hard to understand.

The players are divided up into two teams and then game begins with a throw-off to the other team. This is similar to a kickoff in football.

The whole objective is to advance the frisbee to the other teams goal. At the sunks, where the Central practices are played, the endzones consist of the far trees and basically the street.

To advance the frisbee one must throw it forward, and the player who catches it must stop moving immediately before he then too, throws it.

If the frisbee is knocked down, the possession changes from offense to defense. The game can go to 5, 10 or 20 depending on what the teams decide.

The frisbees themselves are usually a 175 grams (official weight). Originally, toy company Wham-O manufactured the most, but Discraft has taken over the majority of the market and it is the most common frisbee in today's sports.

The sport has grown to a height in recent years, not only in the United States, but internationally.

In Europe, the UFA (Ultimate Frisbee Association) organizes tournaments and competitions for teams.

The UFA formed in Europe, but in 1979, America received its first organized lead. The UPA (Ultimate Players Association) formed in America after a surge of discs found their ways into the Santa Barbara air.

"Everyone can play," Lynch said.

The team practices and plays every Tuesday and Thursday at "the Sunks." The sunks, or more commonly known as "the sunken gardens" are located at 52nd and Underwood in Dundee.

It is called this because of its distinct sunken grass more than 10 feet below the streets that run along side it.

Something that makes the choice of field quite interesting.

On Tuesdays the team plays from 4pm till whenever the light-up and its players are no longer distinguishable in the dark.

A light-up frisbee was bought so they could play when the light became scarce later on in the day. It has red lights that are on and can be seen in even the darkest of settings.

On Thursdays, the team practices at the sunks, but usually starts around 6pm instead of 4pm.

The later start means that less daylight is seen, especially with the winter approaching.

The games are mostly for fun, and the joking is constant in many of the games. That is why the sport is gaining so much popularity.

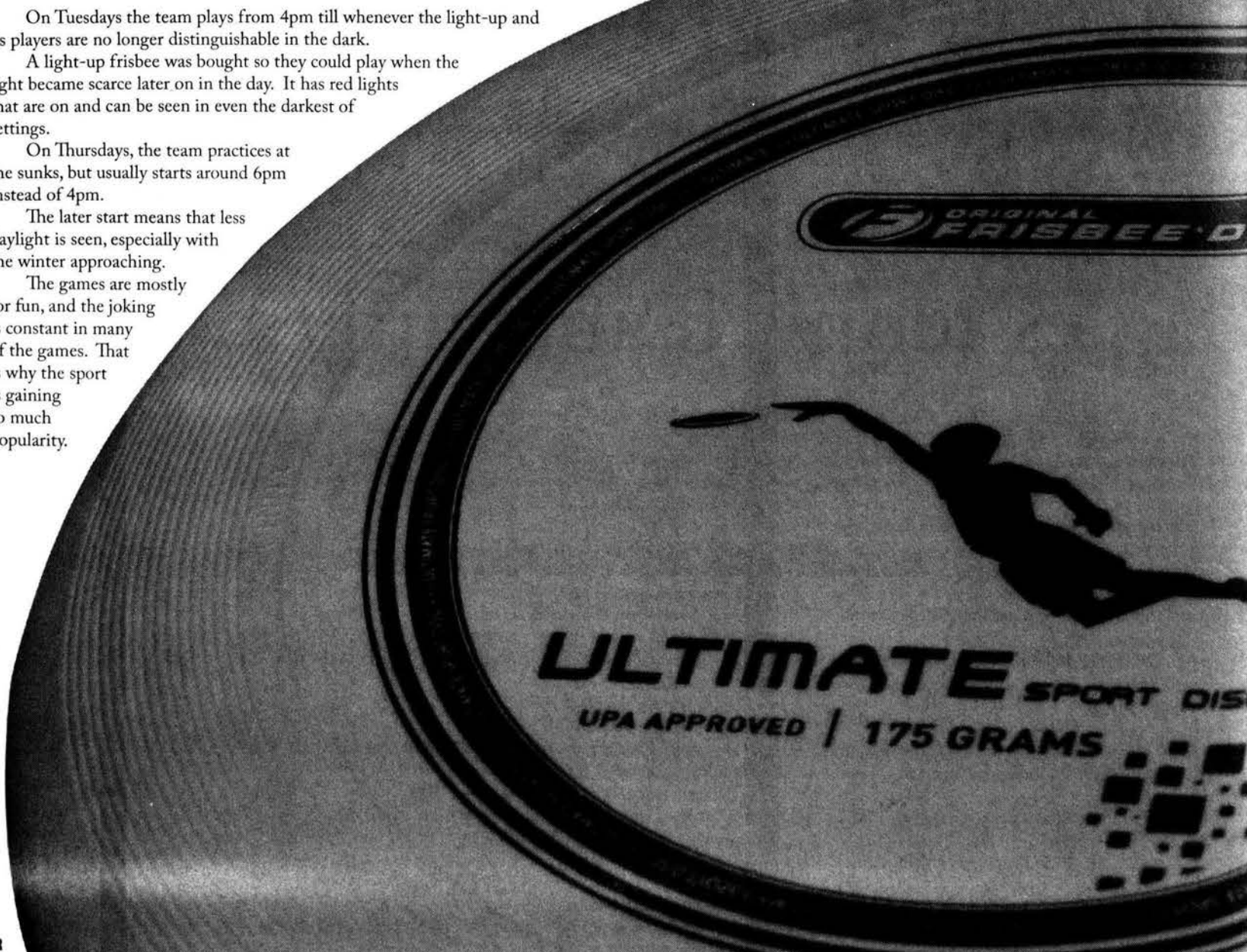


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Volleyball team thrives at end of year

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

The Central High football team isn't the only one having one of their best seasons so far. The lady eagles volleyball team has been ranked 10th in the state throughout the season.

Jodi Brown is the head coach of the varsity volleyball team. She has been coaching for eleven years total. This is her eighth year coaching at Central.

"This season is the best since 2001 where they had 20 wins.

"To win twenty games is not an easy thing to do in Nebraska, especially the Metro Conference", explains Brown.

Co-captains and seniors, Jeni Grant and Maya Doghman showed great leadership to the team and were a big part of the successful season.

The high points of the season were winning the Skutt and South Invites. They had a 2-0 win against Crete, Omaha Northwest, and Omaha Skutt. It was a 2-1 win against Nebraska City.

The lady eagles worked hard and practiced throughout the summer resulting in a successful season.

"We have summer conditioning, team camps, play club, and summer league", adds Brown, explaining how they prepare for the season.

Brown is confident for next year because the team will have many returning players. One of the returning players is sophomore, Kimberly Leuders. She is a middle blocker. Brown adds that Leuders has improved from last year.

Senior Kate Humphreys broke all of the kill records in a season, game, and per-game and career. Humphreys is one of five seniors who will be leaving after this year. The other seniors are Stephanie Hines, Jeni Grant, Maya Doghman, and Monica Brown.

Brown explains how to have a successful season, "You have to come out focused every night and always ready to compete".

"This is obviously what the lady eagles did this season, seeing that they are holding a school record.

Running for State



PHOTO BY ALANA BRUNOW/ REGISTER

Senior Christopher Vacanti was the only member of the boys cross country team to qualify for State. Hard work and practice got this runner to the top of his game.

BY ALANA BRUNOW

Only one member of the Boys Cross Country team this year made it on to state.

As a senior that has been active in track since the seventh grade, Christopher Vacanti is proud to be the only representative from Central to earn a place in the State competition. This year there were seven guys on each boys Cross Country team. There were seven teams competing to go to state.

Though Chris was the only one to earn a spot at State, his team mates were more proud than jealous. They were happy to at least have someone go to state and supported him. "Everyone is like family and no one cares if one person makes it and one doesn't," said Vacanti.

Christopher believes that if his teammate, Dylan McMahon had competed with him that Chris would have had a friend by his side at State. But unfortunately, McMahon came down with strep throat, making him too ill to compete.

Though no one was "cut" from the Cross Country team, everyone on the team was fairly exceptional.

Vacanti did not make it past state, but he tried his best and his team was still proud of him for making it there.

Chris says, "Next year is going to be great."

He hopes more people will join the boys cross country team so that Central will have more people competing at State. There are no specific standards to be on the team, though it is hard work.

Cross country holds many opportunities as well as close friendships. "I have a lot of friends on the team," said Chris. They all help one another out as well as build friendships.

Christopher had a successful year with many great experiences. He hopes there will be more males that do Cross Country next year. The team had a successful district meet and ended up having Chris represent them at State.

Chris is content with this past year and wishes the best to next year's team.

Twins look to start a new sport

BY BRITNEY MILLER

This year Shaun and Shane Prater are going to be apart of the basketball team this November.

They are well known on the football field, but they have never played varsity basketball through out their high school career.

"I want to play this year because it is fun, and I really want to help my team win the championship for a third time in a row," says Shaun.

The basketball team is really motivated to win again this year and want to make winning state an ongoing tradition.

Winning state three times would look great.

Shane thinks of playing this year as having fun and keeping the central students and fans entertained. He played freshman year, but then stopped to pursue football fully.

"I'm getting back to basketball, but football always comes first," says Shane.

Shaun says, "The years I didn't play was for me to gain weight and definition for this very moment."

Also during the summer, Shaun kept a job and went to football camps. He attended a Nike Camp and Iowa University's football camps.

The very first team that the Prater's played for were the Trailblazers at the Butler- Gast YMCA.

The Butler-Gast is where many people learned and developed their skills in various sports.

"I would wake up every morning, without brushing my teeth and would just go play basketball in my backyard," Shaun says.

The very first basketball hoop that Shaun and Shane had was in the backyard in cement and with a basketball court.

Playing backyard basketball was a big part of their childhood.

Looking back on the history of Shane playing basketball, his favorite moment was winning the city championship at Monroe Middle School.

This year Shane will focus on gaining weight and jumping higher to get better dunks. Shane has been dunking since his freshman year.

Shaun will focus on better defense and better shooting.

"My strengths, I'm well at everything, my weaknesses are excepting the fact that I am not perfect and I always can have room to improve," Shaun explains. Shaun is a very humble person.

On the other hand, "My strengths, I am a strong kid, I'm smart and very aggressive. Weaknesses, I have none," Shane says confidently.

"They bring something new to the team because I haven't seen them play since the fourth grade. I just hope they contribute to the team with us working hard to get a three-peat," Josh Jones explained.

Lorenzo Wilson says "It will be a good experience playing with them because they are two energetic guys and they will bring lots of energy to the team and to the court when we play games."

The brothers were asked if they could compare themselves to anyone in the NBA who would they play like most. Shane said "I don't compare myself with anyone. I'm just me." Shaun said if anyone can say he plays like anyone it would be Mark LeFlora.

So this basketball season look forward to seeing both Shaun and Shane on the basketball court throughout the season. "Pretty much, basketball was my very first love."

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November
- 2 Football playoffs
Quarter Final
 - 6 Fall Sports Banquet
6:00 PM
 - 10 Football playoffs
Semi-final round
 - 10 State Volleyball Tourney
 - 12 Winter Sports Practice
Start
 - 16 Football Finals
Class A
 - 19 Football Banquet
6:00 PM
 - Winter Sports
Parent Meeting in gym
- December
- 15 Metro Basketball
Tournament
 - 20 Metro Basketball
Tournament
 - 28 Metro Basketball
Tournament
 - 29 Metro Basketball
Tournament
 - 31 Metro Basketball
Tournament

Basketball conditioning begins

BY BRITNEY MILLER

Dynasty. That's what the Eagles are looking to build. With a chance at a third State title, what are the Eagles doing to prepare? Well, just running their hearts out.

Boys basketball season is coming up soon so the team has been working hard at conditioning to get in shape for the season and tryouts.

There are a few football players who are on the football team who will be playing basketball such as Chris Griffin and Ronnell Grixby who are already in shape.

"The conditioning has been going good. Everyone has been showing up like they should be," says head coach Eric Berens, "Everything has been going really good."

Everyone is so focused on being the greatest this year. And we have all heard it over and over, but Central is looking forward for that three-peat.

The determination on the faces of all the basketball players were definatly fierce. Everyone had there game faces on.

What exactly is basketball condition? It consist of running up and down stairs for a long period of time.

Basketball conditioning consists of lifting weights and pumping iron after school.

It is when you need your inhaler about every 30 minutes if you out of shape and have been a lazy couch potatoe.

Basketball conditioning is when you go to sleep pumped to win the basketball games, but you wake up sore and you're muscle ache.

Are the player honestly ready for this?

Basketball takes a lot of determination and self disipline and our players can totally handle all of this.

The first official practice will be Nov. 12. So hopefully the team will be ready in time for a winning season.

We've been tested.
Have you?

Did you know that roughly 70% of individuals diagnosed with Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in Douglas County are between the ages of 15 to 24? Don't you think it's time to be tested?

Call the STD Hotline at
1-800-782-2437
for local clinic information.

Or visit:
STD0maha.com

Junior will miss the water, swim



CHANGING THE FUTURE

A column by Angelica Genovesi

My family used to always relate me to a fish when I was younger. This was because I seemed to be always swimming. I just loved being in the crisp, clean water of the pool during those hot summer afternoons when I had nothing better to do.

When I was five I joined the swim team for Field Club. I know I was young, but all that was required to be on the team was to be able to swim the 32-meter length of the pool without stopping. I obviously found myself capable and have been swimming on some sort of team ever since.

When I came to Central my freshman year I was looking forward to joining the swim team at school. I was also nervous because I didn't know what to expect and I didn't really know anyone on the team that well.

The first practice wasn't exactly what I would call easy and it really separated those who actually wanted to be there from those who thought they wanted to be there.

After a couple weeks the bonding began. Practices became more relaxed, people became more comfortable with one another, and we kind of formed a family.

Of course I swam again sophomore year and some things had changed but for the most part, it was more fun than it had been.

Practices naturally got harder and more intense but the team had formed more of well, a team.

The people connected better and it became almost like an after school party combined with an extensive workout.

We always had fun at metro in February and were very supportive of everyone who competed.

It seemed like the four months took forever to end, but when it got over, everyone missed it.

The practices, the team dinners, the meets, metro, state, and even the hour and half of sitting in the hallways of Norris just listening to our iPods was missed.

It basically became the most important part of all of our schedules from November until February.

We would go to school, go to swimming, come home and do it all again the next day.

Well, swimming season for this year is beginning in a little over two weeks and it saddens me to realize that I won't be a part of the team any longer.

It took a lot of thought, consideration and hours of discussion with my mom on whether I could handle the 3 hours of practices and blocked time every single day after school.

When adding up, trying to balance school, work, an internship, swimming and just getting any sleep at all, the routine didn't seem very realistic.

So in the end, the final answer was no.

It didn't actually hit me that I wasn't going to swim until the next day. I simply felt like I had just talked it over in my mind for the thousandth time and hadn't really come up with an answer.

But when asked if I was going to the meeting regarding swimming, I found myself murmuring a faint "no" and almost regretting my decision.

I was already missing it when I saw everyone, including my freshman sister, stay after school to go the meeting and come together again.

Even Kinman, the coach, who also happens to be my aerobics teacher, was discussing swim suit designs and plans for this year with me during a class period.

She was extremely excited and even though swimming hasn't actually started yet, I am feeling the burn of my decision.

In the long run, it will be good for me. But as of right now, it is something I wish I could be involved with again.

This will be the first time I have never done a sport at school and the first time in two years that I won't spend the mornings of my Christmas vacation getting up at seven to spend two hours in the steamy pool at Norris.

Although I probably will have to take my sister to practices and sit through almost every meet, it won't be the same as actually being in the water.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Senior Sarah Ferguson was one of the returning veterans trying to lead a young team to some State wins. The girls golf team played well, and as the season progressed the youth became one of the strong points for the Eagles. Two golfers missed the state cut by only a few strokes.

Young talent leads lady Eagles

BY MAX LARSON

The girl's golf team's successful season beyond high hopes, and although these hopes were unrealized, the team still has young talent to capitalize upon.

The team's success came to a climax when the members pulled together a win in the Lincoln Northeast Invite, and it boasted a final match record of 7-2.

The team leadership came from seniors An Vu, Sarah Ferguson and Jaimie Lewis, varsity coach Linda Brock said.

Ferguson said she thought most of the team was disappointed with its showing in the district tournament. She said she didn't get to play because she was sick, and someone else took her place.

"It was just a set back because, I mean, one girl got 11th place and one girl got 12th," she said. Tenth place was the cut-off for the golfers to move on to state.

She said her individual scores probably wouldn't have gotten her to state, but she could have helped the team.

"If we would have played like we did in the Lincoln tournament, then we probably could have placed as a team," she said.

She said she has been playing golf with Central for three years, and she thinks some of the players who haven't been with the team as long "psyched themselves out." She said not many of the players were having a good day.

"Some of them don't have the mental game completely down," she said.

She said the team has certainly improved since her first year, which was also Brock's first year as the coach. In her first season, there were five golfers, and three of them had never played before, including Ferguson. Reviewing the match record was not a cause for celebration.

"This is probably the best seasons we've had since Ms. Brock has been there," she said. "Lincoln Northeast was the first tournament we ever played in, and we won it."

She said the seniors have developed a special bond with Brock, because they all began with the team in the same year.

Despite their leaving, Ferguson said there is plenty to look forward to in the next season, especially the number of girls on the team.

Coach Brock said she is looking forward to the development of one of her juniors, Bianca Smith. Smith took second place in this year's OPS Classic.

"Bianca has the edge, desire and mental stamina," Brock said. "She definitely will be my leader next year."

She said Smith focuses on the game, a statement Smith agreed with.

Smith said she focused this year on being able to relax, an issue she believes to have overcome thus far.

"I settled down and started having fun. I did better," she said.

Smith said, aside from focusing, she is good at driving, but needs to work on her chipping and putting.

She doesn't take it as seriously, and uses golf as an outlet.

"If you're stressed out, you can take it out on the course," she said.

Coach Brock said Smith had the highest scores in the season's match and tournament play, along with freshman Arianah Koch.

Koch took third place in the both the OPS Classic and the Lincoln Northeast Invite, tournaments which she said both had over thirty girls competing.

She said her competitive relationship with Smith is healthy for their success.

"I'm always fighting for the number one spot," she said.

She has shown early success in her golfing career, and she has bigger plans for her future in Central's program.

"Next year instead of taking 3rd place in all these tournaments, I want to be 1st or 2nd," she said.

She said her talents, and the success of the team, are a result of practice. She said it was great to see the team win the Lincoln Northeast Invite, since taking first in a tournament isn't something the girl's golf team does every day.

She said she has been playing golf since she could hold a club, and has since developed a hard, accurate shot.

"It's just going out there and hitting golf ball after golf ball, trying to get my swing down," she said. "I think I'm good at hitting my driver, which is supposed to be the hardest club for women."

Eagles advance to second round of State Tourney

BY PATRICK BREEN

Last year, the Rockets won 21-20, to knock Central out of the State Playoffs. But the no. 5 ranked Eagles didn't want to suffer the same fate to the same team.

The Eagles, a dominating defense forced turnovers and short possessions for the Rockets leading to the Eagles first round win, 36-12.

A squib kick began the game. The Eagles almost recovered, instead leaving the Lincoln Northeast Rockets with good field position. North-East took the field position and ran with it.

Literally.

The Rockets ran for 29 yards on the first play, and on the second, running back Tyler Collier busted a long gain.

But behind him, running full speed was senior safety Shaun Prater who balled his hand to a fist and knocked out what would be his first of two forced fumbles in the game.

The ball jumped high in the air before being snatched down by Prater who took it back into prime territory for the Eagles.

Wasting no time, the Eagles gave the ball to senior Ronnell Grixby who ran it in for a touchdown.

The early lead would never be made up for.

Defense was the name of the game for the Eagles, not allowing a touchdown till the fourth quarter.

And the offense, led by senior quarterback Chris Griffin provided a

lift and lead for the 7-2 Eagles.

Passing seemed to open the running lanes for Grixby. Passes to seniors Shaun and Shane Prater allowed the Eagles to advance up the field, and an amazing catch by junior Darryl Hawkins in the corner of the endzone lengthened the strong lead.

But the play of the game came with the lead in the third quarter. On a roll-out pass, Griffin threw outside to friend and teammate Grixby.

Grixby ran hard and outstretched one hand, in which he brought the ball back in before spinning off a tackle and stiff-arming another to make a big touchdown pass.

In the fourth, head coach Jay Ball placed in his back-ups as the starters received a standing ovation from the crowd.

The Eagles, the week before suffered a hard loss at the hands of Papillion La-Vista South.

The tough end of the regular season game seemed to motivate the team for the next, and playoff, week.

The Eagles now prepare for Grand Island. A hard road to the championship runs through Grand Island and Kearney, last years champion.

The championships hope bring back to memory the last time the Eagles won.

Twenty-three years ago.

What will the Eagles need to get them back there? Some more crushing defense and explosive offense.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Junior defensive-end Marcus Paul-Oliver, who had two sacks, and senior Shaun Prater celebrate after Prater forced a fumble and returned it 50 yards back to Eagle territory.



Across the Universe
 Concept of musical with a score written completely by the Beatles a brilliant concept. PAGE 28

Kanye vs. 50 Cent
 The Register checks out the music rivalry that plastered front pages PAGE 27



Film Club

Students discover a hobby and express their creative side by joining Central's film club.
 PAGE 23

registration

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1 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Are You Afraid of The Boogey man?

page 31C

In the 1920s and 30s Universal Pictures released a series of horror films, now called the Universal Monsters collection. These movies made stars out of the actors who played the creatures. Several of these movies were scary enough to make people faint. So we must ask, did audiences scare more easily back then? What about now? Either way, here's some advice: Don't look behind you.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES
 VAN HELSING



page 30C

COURTESY OF DIMENSION FILMS
 DRACULA 2000



page 30C

COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX
 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN



page 30C

COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD PICTURES
 AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON



page 30C

COURTESY OF 21ST CENTURY FILM CORPORATION
 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Boris Karloff made Frankenstein one of the most recognizable figures in the country when he starred in Universal Picture's "Frankenstein" in 1931. Frankenstein has been one of many monsters who have been updated on the big screen in recent years.

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

UPCOMING MOVIES

November

2 American Gangster
Starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe, the film follows the story of the famous American gangster, Frank Lucas.

Bee Movie

Jerry Seinfeld is the voice of Barry B. Benson, a bee who is set on suing the human race for stealing the bee's honey.

The Kite Runner

An Afghanistan boy makes a decision to betray friends and changes lives forever. Based on a bestselling novel.

Darfur Now

The documentary about six individuals making a difference in the war-torn land of Darfur.

Joe Strummer: The Future is Unwritten

The life and story of musician Joe Strummer, exploring the troubles and joys of his life and his hopes for being heard.

Martain Child

John Cusack plays a novelist who becomes convinced that his six-year-old daughter is an alien from Mars.

UPCOMING ALBUMS

November

13 Boyz II Men

Midtown: A Journey Through Hitsville USA

The Goo Goo Dolls

The Greatest Hits: Vol. 1

Celine Dion

Taking Chances

Led Zepplin

Mothership, The Best Of

Alicia Keys

As I Am

Amy Winehouse

Frank

20 The Killers

Stardust

Nine Inch Nails

Y34RZ3R0R3MIX3D

27 Mary J. Blige

Growing Pains

December

4 B.G.

Too Hood To Be Hollywood

Wyclef Jean

The Carnival II: Memoirs of an Immigrant

Libertines

Time for Heroes - The Best of the Libertines

Ashlee Simpson

Color Outside The Lines

11 The-Dream

Love Me All Summer, Hate Me All Winter

18 Lil' Wayne

Tha Carter III

Natasha Bedingfield

N.B.



Michael Clayton steps out of his car, moments before it blows up. He was targeted because he found crucial evidence that could bring down the company U-North. George Clooney, who played Clayton, had charisma that had the audience rooting for his character.

Clooney shines in film

BY KIM BUCKLEY

An impatient worker for the company of U-North asks Michael Clayton who the best person on the force is for finding people with mental disorders.

Clooney smirks and tells the worker almost gleefully, "That would be Arthur."

The ironic, and clever, part of this exchange is that Arthur has a mental disorder himself.

Oh, and he's also the person that U-North is looking for in the first place.

"Michael Clayton" was a film that had subtle humor and intricate characters.

The movie was about Michael Clayton and his involvement with the company U-North, which takes place during four days.

Four days that would lead to Clayton discovering if his loyalties lay with the corrupt company or to the people, who could die from the water the company produces.

During those four days there were fights, confrontations, attempted murder and actual murder, all leading up to the climax.

For those who were expecting an action movie packed with car chases, gun fire and a lot of explosions, forget it.

The pacing was slow, allowing the plot to unravel and characters to be introduced.

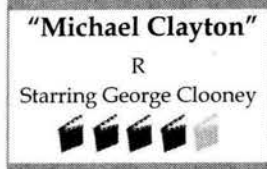
The pacing allowed the audience to think about the message of the movie and to get inside the mind of Clayton, while hoping he would do the right thing.

Tilda Swinton played Karen Crowder, a high executive of U-North who was willing to do anything to keep the company from being ruined.

Consider her the Kenneth Lay of the movie.

Swinton was able to play her character as someone calm and under control. Crowder did her job and she did it well. However, Swinton wasn't able to show off her acting skills because Crowder was a character who really didn't show a lot of emotion.

Tom Wilkinson, who played Arthur Edens, was spectacular in the film. He perfectly played a character whose, well, for lack of a better word, crazy.



Wilkinson also added a touch of brilliance to the character, making him one of the wisest people in the movie, despite his mental disorder.

It was those scenes with George Clooney and Wilkinson where the film got most of its life. The confrontation between the two held tension, and both actors performed at their best interacting with each other.

This was evident when Clayton first visited Edens in some kind of confinement center. The anger and frustration was clearly seen on both of the actors' faces and leapt off of the movie screen.

Clooney, who played the crucial character of Clayton, outshone all of the other actors.

When his car blew up in the beginning of the movie, his face had confusion and worry on it. When we go back to that moment later in the movie his face is the same, yet one could see the weariness and the toll that the last four days had on him.

It is a striking change, and Clooney was able to subtly portray those differences to great effect. He managed to make his character more dimensional and brought something more than just a conflicted antihero to the screen.

The only problem with the movie was Clayton had too many problems to deal with.

As if having to deal with Crowder and Edens wasn't hard enough, he had a brother who was a drug addict, was in serious need of money and had a son to take care of. On top of it, he's questioning whether the job he is doing is morally right.

It distracted from the main plot and most of it wasn't needed at all. The thing the audience wanted to see the most was the inner struggle of Clayton.

I don't want to spoil the movie, but the ending alone was worth the entire admission to the movie.

At the end of the movie the audience laughing and cheering for Clooney.

There is even a shot of Nebraska highway that makes it into the movie for a few seconds at the beginning of the movie that a couple of people in a preview screening cheered for.

"Michael Clayton" was a movie that was like a good piece of dark chocolate. It was a film that the audience would want to savor slowly.

Film shows horror of sugar fields

BY ALI HODGE

If audiences are looking for a film that will literally take their hearts right out of their chests and squeeze out every single last ounce of pity they possess, yet inspire them to chase after their dreams and fight for what they believe in, then the documentary "The Price of Sugar" is without a doubt the one that will do so.

Even though the entire film was mostly in Spanish except for the parts that were narrated by Paul Newman, the words of the poor, tortured, malnourished workers spoke louder than any of the horrid photos could.

And they were all saying one thing: there are some places in our world which are still stuck in the medieval times what with following the ancient tradition of slavery.

And there was no denying that that is what this is: slavery.

The film was an in-depth look at what goes on in one of the world's largest sugar plantations. In the Dominican Republic, located in the Carribians, 25,000 acres of sugarcane waited to be harvested, and all of the work is done by slaves; men, women, and young children work long days to harvest the sugar cane by hand.

The plantation is owned by one family, one of the richest in the Dominican Republic. In a country where the government has little influence, the family is the government in that their hand rules wherever their money is.

Next door to the Dominican Republic is Haiti, one of the most dysfunctional and war-torn countries in the world. Thousands of people cross the border every day where some are trafficked through into the Vichi's hold.

Once taken by this family, their papers and identification is taken from them and they are kept in the jungle for a few weeks where they await transportation. Once transported to the fields, they can never leave.

Father Christopher Hartley, a British priest has devoted his life to promoting the horrid living conditions of these workers. The film, which has won five Film Festival awards including the Seattle In'tl Film Festival and the Nantucket Film Festival, certainly deserves its decorated title.

It follows the struggles of Father Hartley as he tries to radically change the world's lack of awareness about the inhumane living conditions of the sugar fields.



Father Christopher Hartley interacts with the workers of the sugar cane fields in the Dominican Republic, the people he has devoted his life to. The conditions of the workers in the sugar cane plantations are the worst in the world and resemble middle-aged slavery.

It's heartbreaking, yet inspiring to watch the residents of the villages - villages that are surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by armed guards - as they take sides with father Hartley and fight for their freedom.

While some take his side, others don't. In fact, much of the country has made it their own business to eliminate him.

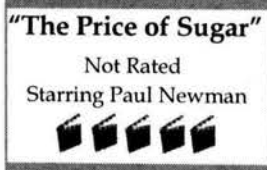
The film was very artistically put together, as is what to be expected in a documentary. Rather than a regular sequential movie, it was more of a series of interviews, which were rather one sided.

The creators of the film did their best getting interviews of the people who were against father Hartley, but the real story lies in the life and times of the people who are trapped in the harsh fields of the Dominican Republic who, besides being trapped by the guards, are also trapped in the fact that their citizenship has been taken away.

Apart from presenting the voices of the people of the Dominican Republic, the movie displayed a great amount of heartbreaking photos from some well known photographers.

Creative filmwork and pure soul, passion and admiration help make this film what could be considered one of the most enlightening documentaries ever.

It's not the O-Zone layer, global warming or Chernobyl. But it's something people don't know about that actually need attention to be brought to it. It's a modern form of slavery and cruelty.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

November

8 Jeff Dunham will be coming to Omaha performing at the Civic Auditorium Music Hall.

9 The Thermals will be touring the mid-west, playing at the Sokol Underground.

11 John Mellencamp, an artist who specializes in rock music with a little country will be playing at the Qwest Center.

12 Boys Like Girls will be performing at the Sokol Auditorium.

12 The Trans Siberian Orchestra will be playing at the Qwest Center. They are known for their light show and their diverse sound.

15 Country music star Brad Pasley, promoting his newest album, will be playing at the Qwest Center.

19 Straylight Run with The Color Fred, Dear and the Headlights, & Cassino will be playing at the Sokol Underground at 8:00. Tickets are \$15.00.

20 Circa Survive will perform for audiences at the Sokol Underground.

Spektor performs for Sokol crowd

BY LAUREN GREVE

A dozen single light bulbs dangle from the rafters of Sokol Auditorium on October 5, illuminating an otherwise dark stage.

The sold out crowd, consisting mostly of females between the ages of 16 and 25 years old, wait anxiously in almost complete silence, like the calm before a storm. It's not hard to argue that this famous singer appeals to mostly women judging from the lyrics of her music.

Suddenly, a curly haired, wide-eyed, Russian girl by the name of Regina Spektor makes her way to the front of the stage.

She curtsies and gives a kittenish greeting as the crowd explodes.

Grasping the microphone in her left hand, she uses her right to tap the side of the microphone to a slow beat. Right on cue, her throaty voice bellows in acapella, the lyrics to her song "It Ain't No Cover."

The Ant No Cover is enamored and is already begging for more. Spektor then makes her way over to the only instrument on stage, a gleaming black baby grand piano, and takes a seat in front of it.

Instantly, her fingers take on a life of their own, pounding the keys at the speed of light as she continues through her set.

Her enthused fans echo the lyrics to some of Spektor's more popular songs such as, "Better," "That Time," "Poor Little Rich Boy," and "The Ghost of Corporate Future."

The crowd becomes so involved in singing along that eventually, Regina's voice becomes barely audible and she is forced to stop in the middle of a song to request, ever politely, for the crowd to quiet down.

"I'm not lip syncing," Spektor meekly, "I need to be able to hear myself, sorry."

She then continues on, pounding away at the keys in rapid succession, drawing the crowd in more and more with every stroke of a key.

At the end of every song, her fans plead for another as soon as the next song begins, one can hear countless gasps, as if silently screaming, "I can't believe she is actually playing this song!"

This routine continues throughout her entire set, lasting about an hour long, until Spektor rises, curtsies again, and walks off of the stage.

This time there are no screams and no pleads; the crowd once again silent, practically shivering with anticipation.

After several minutes, Spektor reappears for a 4-song encore.

She begins again with her heartfelt ballad, "Statue of Liberty" and continues on singing "Samson," a song about the epic tale of Samson and Delilah, told from Delilah's perspective.

To wrap up the evening, Spektor gleefully belts out her radio hit, "Fidelity" and then is surprisingly joined for a duet by Only Son, who opened the show earlier.

Only Son beat boxes as Spektor chants the lyrics to her piece, "Hotel Song."

The pair duet and smiles along with the audience as Regina pauses mid-song and requests to start over so she can get the song just right.

As the duet ends, Spektor and Only Son wander off the stage and the crowd eventually trickles out of the auditorium and onto the corner of 13th and Martha Street, leaving the dark stage, light bulbs still dangling from above, buzzing like flies.

One of the things the audience is left with is the impact of her memorable and unique song lyrics. Even when listening to her album in the comfort of your own home, it is hard not to gasp, laugh, and even feel sad at the depth of her words. Without realizing it, a smile might creep across your face.

It is clear that she is not just an amazing musician - she plays all of her music - but she is a talented writer as well.

Also a notable characteristic of Spektor is her throaty lounge-esque voice. Although currently residing in New York, Spektor has a distinct hint of a Russian accent, especially during a full verse of Russian heartache in her song, "Apres Moi."

Stereo-typically, Spektor appeals more to a young indie-alternative crowd but with her wide variety and range influenced by the most obscure things, there is something everyone in her unique sound.

Regina Spektor

Place: Sokol Auditorium



Club flourishes under drama department

BY KIM BUCKLEY

A story put on film can be enjoyed by millions of people around the world. Film Club is for those students who love analyzing and watching films.

Tania Kasperovich, along with Avida Oberst-Marshall, took over the club from last year.

Oberst-Marshall said the hardest part was getting everything together and making sure that everyone was on the same page. She said there was a lot of talking, but not doing anything for a while.

She said her and Kasperovich have been talking about organizing film club since early 2007, but they both had a lot of conflicts last year, so they thought this would be a good year to have it started.

Oberst-Marshall said her goal for film club this year is getting a bunch of people who love movies and love watching them, and just having a good time. She said it

also helped having an extra-curricular activity as well.

Kasperovich said one thing that was different about film club this year was it had a purpose and an agenda, unlike last year's club, which really didn't have one.

"The purpose is to find meaning in film that we can apply to our lives," she said.

Oberst-Marshall said she wasn't really nervous about having to lead the meeting and she was fairly confident. She said the only thing she was nervous about was not having people show up.

To let people know about the club, an announcement was placed in the circular announcements. She said both her and Kasperovich told various friends who they thought would want to join the club.

Kasperovich said the club will watch a movie during the meeting and during the next meeting the members will discuss it using the different views everybody had about the movie. She said the club also plans on taking field trips to movie theatres, possible Film Streams and

the Dundee Theatre. She said the club is also planning on making a film later this year with short, funny clips.

Audra Novak, a member of Film Club, said she hoped to watch good movies and meet some cool people. She said she wanted to join the club because she knows Kasperovich and Oberst-Marshall and wanted to see what movies they were going to show.

Kasperovich, who is in advanced drama, said film club will help her see the different techniques people use and to be able to compare them to other people's acting and get a better feel for it.

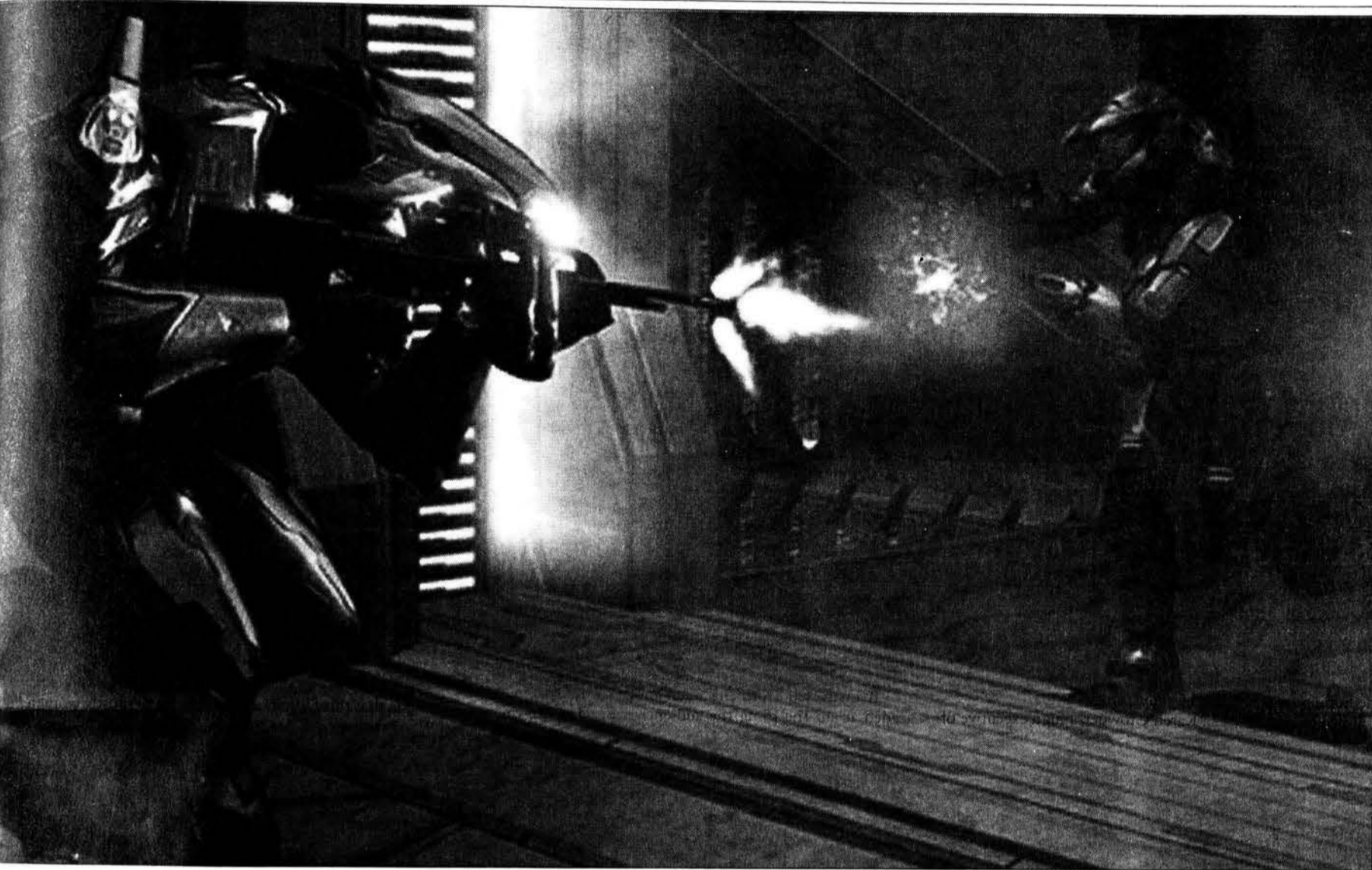
She said her and Oberst-Marshall both love good movies and really wanted to get a little more knowledge about film.

Novak said she hoped to contribute a little bit of craziness because there are a bunch of interesting people in the club. She said at the meeting she got the impression that it was going to be fun, not a hassle and easy to fit into her schedule.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KIM BUCKLEY/ REGISTER

GRAPHIC BY KIM BUCKLEY/ REGISTER



COURTESY OF MICROSOFT GAME STUDIOS

A Spartan player charges the building against an Elite. On line players can choose between different battle modes, including Rumble Pit, Capture the Flag and Assault. Many Halo players arrived at stores at midnight on Sept. 25 to buy the \$60 game.

Gamers skip to play "Halo 3"

BY BEN MCGUIRE

The hype began building back in November 2004, and has been gaining momentum ever since. Now, in what will probably be the biggest entertainment event of the year, Halo 3 has arrived in grand style.

Promotions from brands like Mountain Dew, Burger King, and Pontiac headlined the wild celebration of the last few months as Microsoft cheered on one of its most successful franchises, and by far its most popular and important console game series.

Videogames, for better or worse, have officially entered the mainstream of American culture as a major force for story-telling and entertainment.

Jason, who is an assistant manager at Gamers, said he thought the Halo game series has been so popular because it has an excellent storyline, has excellent gameplay and graphics and has a great multi-player platform.

"It's definitely going to be the biggest game of the year," said senior Will Robbins. "We've all been looking forward to this for years, man."

Robbins went to the midnight release party for Halo 3 at Gamestop with a fellow senior, who did not wish for his name to be released.

"By midnight, there were probably at least eighty people lined up," he said.

Unlike similar events in larger cities like New York and L.A., where thousands lined up and camped out in costume, the event at Gamestop in Omaha was relatively low-key, the gamers in line discussing videogames and what they hoped to see in Halo 3.

"I went right home and started playing" after the release party, said Robbins, and only stopped for a quick nap.

The next day, he stayed at school until third hour, after which his mom excused him to go home and play for the rest of the day. "I never missed school for being sick or everything, so I didn't think it was a big deal."

Will's anonymous friend is a serious gamer. He was ranked third in the world in sniping in the shooting game Battlefield Modern Combat.

"I'll be playing Halo 3 at least two nights during the week, and up to six on a weekend," he said. "The graphics have improved markedly over Halo 2," he said, mostly due

to the new game platform. "They did a great job marketing the game, and really delivered on their promises."

He also said that the epic ending of Halo 3 is a satisfying finish to the legacy of Halo and Halo 2.

Halo 2 broke the \$125 million dollar mark in the first 24 hours, making it the fastest selling videogame in history, and putting it ahead of opening weekend gross for any movie in box office history. Halo 3 broke \$170 million dollars on the first day, and was also the first videogame co-branded with a beverage, Mountain Dew's Game Fuel.

Halo is the main title for the X-Box. Jason said the game series is an excellent franchise. He said in his opinion it is one of the best first-person shooter games.

"Anyone who hasn't played it should give it a shot," he said.

Jason said that about fifty people lined up at Gamerz before Halo 3 was released.

Halo is a juggernaut of the gaming world- no game created by Microsoft comes close to generating the excitement of a new Halo, and few games on competing consoles by Nintendo and Sony come close.

The release of Halo 3 is a milestone in the history of videogames. Throughout the past twenty-odd years, the industry has moved from the fringes of the tech world to the mainstream.

Technology has moved forward at an almost exponential rate, allowing videogames to tell compelling stories in ways never before thought possible, and uniting gamers around the world around a common cause.

Now, as violent games like Halo 3 gobble up the market share of entertainment technology, there will be a reckoning concerning their place in modern society.

Are they films, to be regulated as such?

Or are videogames a more powerful and persuasive form of entertainment?

Adding to the debate of videogames is the violence seen in games such as Halo. Jason said he really didn't believe that the violence in videogames was harming the teenagers who play them. He said he's played games such as Halo when he was a teenager and if parents raise their children well then it doesn't make a difference in the lives of teenagers.

Kim Buckley contributed to this story

Senior receives opportunity to sing in Europe

BY MAX LARSON

Senior Liz Erikson was graced with the opportunity last summer to tour Europe, singing in the Nebraska Choral Arts Societies' Bel Canto Choir.

"It was cool to see how music can affect people," she said.

The tour took her through the countries of France, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany, where her listeners were pleased to receive the choir.

"They told us how it's so good to hear young people singing and going to other countries," she said.

The trip's goal was to spread the choir's name to new places, an attempt to raise awareness.

"It's good to have domestic stuff here, but we want to share our music with other people," she said.

The trip lasted for two weeks in the middle of June, giving Erikson time to visit popular sights in the countries she toured. She was able to see the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower and Mozart's house, and she said Switzerland was particularly gorgeous. Her hotel was only a short distance from the Alps and Lake Geneva.

The group sang at a vineyard and castles, and every day they sang in cathedrals, including the world-famous Notre Dame. When they traveled, she said they had to wear matching outfits so on one was lost.

She said all of the songs in the cathedrals had to be sacred, and they were allowed the opportunity to sing during mass. Their songs were in a variety of languages.

"It was different in the fact that we were singing for thousands of people at a time," she said. "It was different from here, singing in front of your parents."

The group sang songs in many different languages. The members prepared for the trip all year, building up to it.

Towards the end of their preparation, just before the trip, they rehearsed several days from nine until five, a period Erikson called "crunch week."

She said, of the 35 members in her group, six are seniors, and some are much younger. The choir is very selective, and is viewed as prestigious. She has put a lot of time, work and effort into it.

"Overall it's really serious," she said. "It's not like strict or anything, we all have fun. We just set an example as the top."

She said the members of the choir are like a family, and that they all become really close with each other.

Her relationship with music has been very important to her for most of her life.

"Ever since I was in kindergarten, I've been singing in school stuff," she said. "I've been in chorus since I was in second grade. I love it."

At Central she is involved in CHS Singers and A Capella. She is in her second year of Bel Canto, and she plans to continue pursuing music beyond high school, incorporating it into her college career.

"Music is my outlet," she said. It is her main hobby, the one she dedicates most of her time toward.

Her choir has planned on visiting other places in the future, including a convention in Milwaukee and a trip to Mexico in the summer. She is looking forward to seeing these places, but she still enjoyed Europe.

"My favorite performance was in Germany in Saint Michael's," she said. "It was overall our best performance. The building had phenomenal acoustics."

They sang during mass, and for a large crowd.

"You're under a lot of pressure, and since you're from a choir from out of town people have high hopes," she said. "Since we did so well, our hard work paid off."

Humorous musical teaches life lessons through spelling bee competition

BY KIM BUCKLEY

When a musical opens up to an adult walking up on stage and telling the audience they don't have to be quiet because it wasn't church, you know it has to be a good show.

Of course "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" was so funny that the audience was more than happy to be quiet so they could catch all of the jokes.

The musical was about six pre-teens competing in a spelling bee and discovering that, surprise, life isn't all about winning or losing. A simple plot, yes, but the show happened to be surprising in the fact that the show was much cleverer than the title would imply.

Why "The 25th Annual" worked was the humor. The audience was kept laughing through almost the entire show. The cleverest part of the musical is the fact that the actors have chances to ab-lib. For instance, Ernie Chamber's lawsuit against God was mentioned early on, much to the amusement of the audience.

Four members of the audience were able to participate in part of the show, allowing the commentator to make hilarious comments about their appearance or

their interests. The audience cheered wildly for each of the audience members chosen to participate.

The funniest part of the show was when the last audience member correctly spelled a word that was probably meant to be misspelled, much to the belief of the actor who played the judge, Mr. Panch. It was those impromptu moments that had the audience cheering and laughing the hardest.

The acting from all of the actors was good. People found themselves rooting on the children in hopes that the person that was most deserving won. Of course the entire show had an ending that ensured that everybody was happy in the end. That didn't stop the audience from hanging onto every word that was spelled though.

Everybody in the audience could relate to the pre-teens. Who hasn't dealt with raging hormones, family problems, the pressure of being perfect or the pressure of winning? If a person couldn't see a part of him or herself in one character, he or she was sure to be relate to another. One felt proud of these characters as each learned a lesson they would remember.

The singing was good. The actor who played Mitch, the comfort counselor, blew the audience away when he sang "The Counselor's Prayer," which took place halfway through the show. The singing from the six main characters in particularly weren't

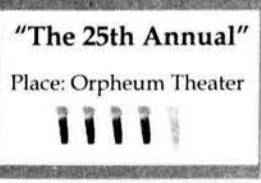
perfect, emphasizing that these characters are still just kids. Still, the six actors had great singing that held emotion. This was a show that even adults would enjoy. Adults in the audience were laughing just as hard as the younger members.

The inside of the lobby of the Orpheum was decorated with a big poster board with notices and words of positive words of encouragement, exactly the type of thing found in a middle school. The scenery was very simple, basically some bleachers, a table and a microphone. Somehow it was enough to make one feel as if he or she was actually at a spelling bee, watching in anticipation as the competitors tried their hardest to spell their words correctly.

At times the audience may have felt confused as the actors and actresses had multiple parts to play, as some of the story was told in flashbacks with the families of the spellers. For the most part the audience was able to separate those flashbacks from what was happening to the spelling bee.

The musical was filled with charming moments, from Mitch handing out juice boxes to the unfortunate losers to Leaf Coneybear, who was in the competition by default, making his exit by swinging on a rope and landing on a platform, striking a superhero pose.

Just as everyone of those characters ended up feeling as if they are a winner, so did everybody in the audience.



The Generation of Rock

The genre of rock started in the 50s, and has become one of the most popular genres of music. In the midst of all of the bands, several artists and groups have stood out. What was it about these bands that have redefined the way people think of rock? One's thing's for sure, rock is here to stay.



COURTESY OF EXPERIENCE HENDRIX

"Experience Hendrix"

Artist: Jimi Hendrix
Key Track: "My Gun Go"



BY BRITTNEY MILLER

Many people get the name of Jimi Hendrix confused. But Jimi was known to be one of the pioneers of rock music.

He used soul, pop, funk, jazz and also jazz music to blend his rock with to make it one of a kind.

People in London were in love with the new sound of rock music from this curly haired black man who had a different vibe than other person they have ever seen.

So in 1960, Jimi Hendrix released his first single "Hey Joe" in London, England. "Hey Joe" was about a man going to shoot his lady for cheating.

"Hey Joe, I said where you goin' with that gun in your hand? Alright. I'm goin down to shoot my old lady, you know I caught her messin' round with another man"

The song was very controversial, but everyone loved it and it made everyone in London go crazy.

The next song that made Jimi legendary was "Purple Haze." It was released March 17th 1967 in London. "Scuse me while I kiss the sky," is one of the most favorite parts of the song.

The idea of the song came to Jimi through a dream. "I dream a lot and I put my dreams down as songs," said

Hendrix in a interview in 1969.

The original name of the song was called "Purple Haze, Jesus Saves." Many say the song is about his love for marijuana even though he spoke of never using the drug at all.

According to the Hendrix, in his dream, we was waling on the ocean surrounded with purple haze all around him.

The lyrics say "What ever it is, the girl put a spell on me."

There were many influences upon Jimi as a beginning artist. He looked up to BB King and Muddy Waters. He also played behind Ike and Tina Turner, Jackie Wilson, Little Richard and the Isley Brothers. So the first band name that Jimi had was Jimmy James and the Blue Flames. He used what he learned from his influences, and put his own psychedelic twist on it.

Jimi was a workaholic when it came to working on his music. He had a great dedication to working in the studio and releasing albums.



COURTESY OF MCA RECORDS

"The Who"

Artist: The Who
Key Track: "My Generation"



BY MAX LARSON

When most people think of The Who, they picture rebellious youths screaming "My Generation" and destroying their instruments.

If these people ventured to purchase an album by The Who encompassing

the bands greatest hits, they would discover a brand of music far more tame, harmonically complex, and structured.

It wasn't raucous. It wasn't revolutionary.

It was just 60's pop music, and a lot of it wasn't as catchy, driving, or accessible as most people would assume.

Fans tend to shy away from any album with "ultimate" or "collection" in the title, but this wasn't for the fans.

"The Ultimate Collection" was an ideal purchase for someone who is not quite a Who fanatic, but enjoys their popular songs.

People could skip the filler, the experimental songs, and delve right into the heart of mainstream Who.

It didn't only include the best-known tracks.

It reached beyond, taking songs from "Quadrophenia" and "The Who Sell Out," albums with a few listenable tracks, but most that only fans enjoy.

The Who are, in a sense, a super-group.

Pete Townshend, Keith Moon and John Entwistle were all considered the top musicians of the era, in their own respects. This album helped to showcase their talent, encompassing all of the emotion and feeling expected of the Woodstock heroes.

Entwistle's bass playing was revolutionary, and its effect on future music can be seen through its progression on this album. Moon was erratic, and the live recording of "Summertime Blues" helped show his loose style. Pete Townshend was, in short, amazing.

It also showed each style of the Who: melodic, driving, rebellious, and meaningful.

With 35 songs, it spanned their entire career, and not a single key song is absent.

This was a band that was a major force behind the cultural revolution of the 1960's, and every second of this album pulses with a free spirit.

However, as is true with most "Greatest Hits" compilations, the true force and message behind this band could not be felt simply with one album.

The depth behind The Who is much greater, and this album should just be viewed as a stepping stone, an iceberg tip into the real heart and soul of the music.

So, "The Ultimate Collection" wasn't perfect. It had great songs, but not everything needed for a fan of The Who.

It was, at it's core, a good start.



COURTESY OF CAPITAL RECORDS

"White Album"

Artist: The Beatles
Key Track: "Piggies"



BY PATRICK BREEN

Sick of today's contemporary music? Is your arm weary from turning off the radio so often? Tired of pointless versus like "Soulja Boy up in them OHH!!" or "Shut up and drive?"

Well, the cure for you was invented long before you were conceived.

"The Beatles." From across the pond, "The Beatles" took America by storm. Their combination of amazingly clear vocals and pure guitar solos brought the Northern Hemisphere to its knees, begging for more.

The singers bridged war stricken countries, the Atlantic Ocean and now even the time gap between when they wrote the songs and when they are played in today's iPods. "The Beatles" are simply the greatest band ever.

"The White Album" was their best album. Therefore, "the White Album" is the greatest album ever. Yes, this is what Algebra and "The Beatles" have taught us.

Inside the "White Album", "the Beatles" left the listener with their best variety of songs. Such great songs like "Happiness is a Warm Gun" and "Blackbird," which never made their "Number One" CD was found in this one. Songs that are upbeat were put back-to-back with those that will mellow the viewer out.

One of my favorites that gets no play on the radio is "Piggies." "Have you seen the little piggies crawling in the dirt, and for all the little piggies life is getting worse." The song intially sounds like a song about swine, but one will see the reference to the true meaning quite early. The song told the story of the "biggot" piggies. How they walk around in their starch white shirts, carrying nothing for the little piggies rolling in the dirt. An easy reference to the uppercrust rich members of society that give nothing back.

"What they needs a damn good wicking."

Overall, how could you not love the music of "the Beatles". They create a common thread among everyone who listens to them. If you haven't listened to them, like if you've been stuck on Pluto for the last 50 years, you should.



COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD RECORDS

"Queen Greatest Hits"

Artist: Queen
Key Track: "Bicycle Race"



BY KIM BUCKLEY

With defined guitar chords and that familiar three-count beat, "Queen Greatest Hits" started off with a clear message: We will rock you.

The band undoubtedly deserves their place in the history of rock music. The band managed to have a surprising variety of songs, from the softer love songs to the harder sounds of the music they have become known for.

One of the best songs on the entire was "Bicycle Race," which was basically about the band wanting to only ride their bicycles. Peter Pan, Frankenstein and "Star Wars" were all mentioned along with other items in pop culture, which helped bridged the gap between generations.

How can a person not love a song that mentions these things and more?

Wind chimes were even used to imitate the sounds of the horns, sure to elicit a smile to the listener's face.

Probably the best aspect of the song was it blended both the mellow sound of the band with the harsher sound of rock. The song showed the vocal range of the lead singer, and when he hit the high notes, not one of them sounded strained. The song had a catchy beat, and one didn't mind going back and listening to the song again. It was easy on the ears, but made a point about politics in the late 70s and early 80s.

The instrumentalists were definitely amazing, from the guitars to the drums, they all enhanced the song without overpowering the amazing vocals. They added to the energy of the faster songs, and helped harmonize on the slower ones. Whenever the singing grew powerful, so did the drums and guitar, so both singer and instrumentalists worked together.

The singing was powerful, from the energy of "We Will Rock You" to the emotion behind the slower song "Someone to Love." The singing was able to switch from rough to a much softer tone throughout the album, depending on what was needed.

Queen showed through the album why their band will never bit the dust.

A Timeline of Classic rock

1964

In term rock and roll, the word was introduced to US audience in the lyrics of many rythem and blues records starting in 1947. The origins of rock and roll lie in the late 1940s and early 1950s, as a putting together of various popular musical genres of the time. These included the blues - particularly the electric forms being developed in Chicago, New Orleans, Texas, California.

1947

In July 1954, Elvis Presley recorded the regional hit "That's All Right (Mama)" at Sam Phillips' Sun studios in Memphis. The trad jazz movement brought blues artists to Britain, and in 1955 Lonnie Donegan's version of "Rock Island Line." The Yardbirds in London, The Animals in Newcastle, and Them in Belfast, in the USA, such groups became part of the "British Invasion".

1955

Popular artists as Fats Domino, Chuck Berry and Little Richard, came out of the black rhythm and blues tradition, making the music attractive to white audiences, and are not usually classed as "rockabilly".

1964

The British Invasion takes place in America, Canada and Australia. British music groups such as The Beatles, The Who and The Rolling Stones came to America and found huge success.

1969

The year 1969 was the year of the rock festival. The largest was the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, held on the weekend of August 15-17 in the tiny town of Bethel, in upstate New York. An estimated crowd of 450,000 attended the event, which featured everyone from Jimi Hendrix and Joe Cocker, to Arlo Guthrie, the Jefferson Airplane, the Who, Janis Joplin, Sly and the Family Stone, Ravi Shankar and Country Joe McDonald.

1973

In 1973, "Rock and Roll" was played by Led Zeppelin. It went to the top of the charts, and it is one of the best songs Led Zeppelin is known for. The lead guitarist, John Bonham, said the song was created in a jam session and it was completely spontaneous.

1983

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland was chosen because it was the city widely credited with promoting the new genre of "rock and roll", and Cleveland was the location of the first rock and roll concert.

1994

Bob Marley was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He embraced music genres from modern Jamaican music to ska to rock to steady reggae. He put social issues into all of his songs while still maintaining a universal appel for his songs.

INFOGRAPHICS BY

ASTRIKA WILHELM

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COURTESY OF RHINE ENTERTAINMENT

"The Four Seasons"
Artist: The Four Seasons
Key Track: "Walk Like A Man"

BY KIM BUCKLEY

The Four Seasons became known for their singing, but also for the trouble they got into when they were off-stage.

"The Very Best of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons" showed why the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame seven years ago and inspired a Tony Award winning Broadway musical based on their songs and story.

A good reason why the four singers from New Jersey managed to be so popular was the tenor voice of Frankie Valli and the rich baritone voice of . . . Together, along with the bass range of the other two, the group had some of the best singing voices heard in not just in the 60s, but even today.

The songs in the album managed to draw inspiration from various places, from music from Latin America, R&B and yes, rock. All of the songs in the album had a great beat to it, making it easy to listen to.

The lyrics of several of the song, written by bandmember Bob Gaudio were rich, and even teenagers today could relate to the songs. For instance, one of the songs talked about a boy being unfairly dumped by a girl, and the boy still being in love with her.

The best song of the entire album was "Walk Like A Man," which had a great beat and even better singing. The song started off with a rolling drum solo, which lead into a Latin-American inspired beat. The song was about a boy being dumped by a girl and his father telling him to be a man.

There was no doubt that the singing through the entire album was stupendous. The lead singer, Valli, had a voice that made the group what it was. The album branched out to show some of the solo work that Valli has done, including "Can't Take My Eyes Off You."

One of the only problems with the song was it relied on the singing for the album to work. The instruments were left in the background and overshadowed by the voices. The only instrument that managed to stand out was the drums.

The only time that the instruments perfectly complimented the singing was in the song "Let's Hang On (To What We've Got)," which had a guitar solo that lifted the song and gave it even more energy.

The group, while popular in the 60s, really doesn't fit in with all of the

rappers and the hard rock bands that are popular today. The content of the songs and the sound of The Four Seasons and Frankie Valli would be considered somewhat soft compared to the lyrics of today's music.

The Four Seasons are an amazing band with a lot of talent, but would not be popular with the average teenager of today due to the changing styles of music. The Four Seasons may have been big before, but they wouldn't be big today.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

"U2 18 Singles"
Artist: U2
Key Track: "Beautiful Day"

MICHELLE RIEGER

The graceful melodies are quite different from what you would hear on the radio these days.

Anytime anyone hears the term 'classic alternative rock', U2 should come be the first to come to mind.

Their classic hits like "Beautiful Day" and "Vertigo" are on their latest album, U2 18 Singles. The lyrics chosen make you feel relaxed and peaceful. It's unlike very many popular songs.

Instead of negativity, violence, and hate the songs are about enjoying every moment of life and making the most of it.

There is a positive side that can come out of any situation and they make you realize that. They sing about passion, love, courage, and real things in life.

It's very emotion based. They compare inanimate objects to your heart, mind, emotions, and soul. It brings a realization of how we are all so alike to each other.

The lyrics are very unique, but so true at the same time.

"You're on the road/but you've got no destination/You're in the mud/In the maze of her imagination."

These lyrics describe one being on the road to something but not knowing what it is. They are stuck in a maze and don't know where to go.

Some of the song lyrics are very easy to interpret, but others require more insight.

Their smash single "The Saints Are Coming" was collaborated along with punk rock band, Green Day.

This is a re-recording of "The Saints Are Coming" by The Skids, a 1980's punk band.

It was an amazing remake. A lot of the remakes these days are just plain horrible and sound like a totally different song. This one still sounds like the original, but with a little more

rock and beat to it.

The generations before ours enjoyed U2's music and now we get to listen to the blissful harmony and melodies.

The song "Sunday Bloody Sunday", gives us a realization of how other people are living in poverty and how citizens of the U.S. can help and make a difference.

In the song "With or Without You", they sing about waiting for their love and how it's complete torture.

"Sleight of hand and twist of fate/ On a bed of nails she makes me wait".

It gives such a vivid imagery to the senses. It makes the listener really remember and live in the moment with the artist.

U2 makes music what it actually is supposed to be.



COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

"The Best of Aerosmith"
Artist: Aerosmith
Key Track: "Walk This Way"

BY KIM BUCKLEY

"The Very Best of Aerosmith" is filled with songs that still manage to make one listen to them.

The album started off with soft, haunting guitar licks, which entranced the listener and drew him or her into the first song, "Dream On."

The guitarist was able to show off his incredible talent, from the slower guitar licks in the first album to the faster ones in the rest of the album.

Either way, the guitar player was the real star of the album. Each guitar lick brought something new to each song, and set the tone for each of them.

The only problem was the introductions to the songs had guitar solos that were a little too long. One wanted the singing to come a little earlier than it did.

The singing in the album was really good, but the instruments overshadowed any of the vocals.

The lead singer, Steven Tyler, had a roughness in his voice that gave the album the rock sound the band has become known for. The band had range, as they were able to hit the high notes without any trouble.

The songs had catchy lyrics and one didn't mind listening to the album again and again.

The songs had messages that spoke to a generation and

The best song on the album was "Sweet Emotion."

The introduction of the song had some techno influences, which enhanced the guitar licks in the beginning of the song. It also had some great singing as well as

a catchy beat and lyrics.

Another great song was "Walk This Way" which was performed by Run-D.M.C. with Steven Tyler and Joe Perry.

It combined the rock sound of Aerosmith as well as some modern rap, bridging the gap between the two genres.

It featured Steven Tyler at his best singing and some fantastic beats. All three of the artists made the song catchy and easy to sing along to.

The songs had a lot of songs about love. For instance the song "Jaded" talked about a woman who continually cheats on a guy. It was easy to see that love inspired Tyler in his songwriting.

However, the songs also covered some serious topics. "Janie's Got A Gun" was about a girl who shoots her father to death because he sexually abused her.

The clever part about the song was it didn't pass a judgement on Janie, but lets the listener decide whether it was justified or not.

Most teenagers today can relate to the messages of the songs.

It was undoubtedly because of the guitarist and the lyrics of the songs that Aerosmith has become a part of America's rock culture.

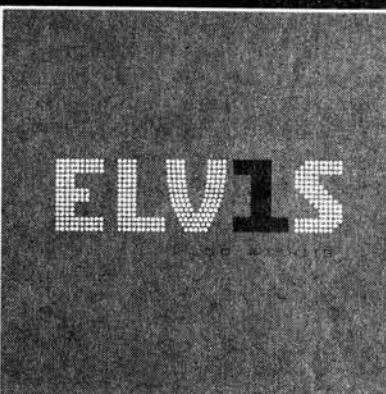
The band has won numerous awards including Grammys and several Billboard chart hits.

It is easy to see why Aerosmith still continues to tour across the country to enthusiastic fans.

"The Very Best Of Aerosmith" was filled with a lot of the favorite songs of the band.

For some, it may not contain enough songs.

It showed why Aerosmith remains one of the best bands in rock.



COURTESY OF RCA RECORDS

"Elvis 30 #1 Hits"
Artist: Elvis
Key Track: "Burnin' Love"

ALANA BRUNOW

After a few decades and over millions of albums sold, Elvis has not yet left the building.

Over the years, Elvis Presley has always been known as "The King of Rock n' Roll."

Known for his hip thrusting as well as the memorable outfit worn on stage, Elvis has amassed many fans, and quite a few impersonators.

Back in his day, he was a considered a rebel and his tunes were new and much harder and heavier than other music, whereas today, we have grunge and metal bands. Today, even the King would find it hard to separate himself from all of the bands out there.

Even though this 40's legend is no longer alive, his music is still fairly popular.

Elvis' songs have been so popular that they have been remade several times, never to the success of the original, however.

Almost all of the songs on the album were recognizable, a sign of how Elvis' songs have been played over and over again.

Many of his songs such as "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog" and "Burning Love" would make a person want to slap on a flapper dress and dance.

COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD RECORDS, FROM THE QUEEN ALBUM

Queen released their first album in 1973. Since then they have become an international phenomom and an example of classic American rock. This art is from their greatest hits album, "Queen, Greatest Hits."

Most of Presley's songs were upbeat and happy, but he did do a sad song or two, but because of that voice of his, the sad songs sounded more like slow blues. Those songs felt out of place among all of those faster ones.

Being famous for his upbeat hard rock n' roll, these songs did not become as popular.

The best song in the album is "Burning Love." The song is upbeat and happy. It is also one of his more popular songs that is still well known today.

Against his voice, all of the instruments used in the album were left in the background. But we're talking about The King and does he really need instruments to sound good? The answer to that is no.

Elvis lived from 1935 until 1977, and in those years he sung many, many, many songs that attracted fans to cherish him.

Elvis has become memorable for several reasons besides his singing. He has become more worth more dead than he ever was alive.

And who can forget those Elvis sightings after he died? Yes, the continuing popularity of Elvis is something any celebrity today would want.

Elvis will always be known as The King of Rock n' Roll.



COURTESY OF GEFEN RECORDS

"Guns N' Roses"
Artist: Guns N' Roses
Key Track: "Live and Let Die"

ALANA BRUNOW

As one of the most popular 80's hair bands, Guns N' Roses has created many worthwhile albums in their time.

"Greatest Hits of Guns N' Roses," is an amazing compilation of all of their best songs from 1985 until now.

The best song off the album is "Live and Let Die."

The song just made the listener want to get up and dance. The whole album gave a feeling of empowerment while being listened to.

There are also many other classic songs by Guns N' Roses such as "Welcome to the Jungle," "Paradise City," "Don't Cry," "Sympathy for the Devil," and many more.

Each person has a favorite type of music that they listen to when they are in a bad mood or even if they just feel like blasting music while they clean their house.

Guns N' Roses would definitely be a good choice for such activities.

It is perfect for jogging, road trips, or just jamming in the car on the way to or from work or school.

Once in a while if I go into a music store, Guns N' Roses is playing and I will find myself singing the lyrics to myself in my head.

Even if you are not a fan, they are very well known and almost everyone could recognize at least one of their songs.

Guns N' Roses has been used for commercials, other advertisements, movies, etc. and is a commonly known stepping stone for music popularity in the 80's.

If you have not heard this album yet, I would strongly advise picking it up.

The music is fun to listen to and it is guaranteed to give you an amazing feeling.

Especially for fans who love rock music and are not into old rock, they should definitely consider listening to Guns N' Roses.

Other bands are jewels as well, however this album is a solid place to start.

All of their classic hits make me want to throw my hair up in a sideways

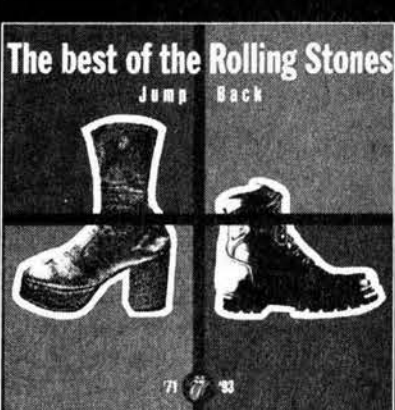
ponytail and slap on a pair of skinny jeans

Guns N' Roses will always be one of the most popular rock bands from their era and there is a reason for that.

Since so many different diversities of people can relate to their music, their greatest hits will live on and keep people satisfied for years to come.

Overall, "Guns N' Roses" have become known all over the country and have been heard from other bands and in films such as "Selena."

Because of their rich sound, their masterful musician skills, their not unusual, yet catchy lyrics, and their widespread fame, the Guns N' Roses will forever continue to be one of America's classic heavy rock bands.



COURTESY OF VIRGIN RECORDS

"The Rolling Stones"
Artist: The Rolling Stones
Key Track: "Start Me Up"

BY ALI HODGE

There is nothing better then classic rock.

No, there is nothing better then classic rock with a jazzy twist.

And The Rolling Stones is one of the best examples of this.

So, supposedly, there is nothing better than the Rolling Stones.

Starting with an upbeat, in-your-face songs and soft melodies, it certainly doesn't bore it's audience.

With songs such as "Start Me Up," "Brown Sugar" and "Harlam Shuffle," hits that audience members of the era will remember well. The Rolling Stones showcase the talent that made them worldwide superstars.

Their sound is what you would be looking for in any classic rock band.

Yet it has a distinct uniqueness to it that distinguishes it from other band and made it stand out.

Like the Beatles, The Rolling Stones used instruments that would not normally be found at a rock concert to create a sound that was bold and cultured, something fans of the era had very little heard.

Throughout the album, audineces can hear every now and then a blow of a trumpet, the rich sound of a saxophone, or the faint melody of a flute.

However, staying close to their roots, of course, there is still a bass pulsing through the music like a heartbeat, drum solos from the incredibly talented percussion player, and the chilling sound of the electric guitar.

All of these combined together makes for a sound that is unique to listen to and was also unique for that time era.

One good thing about the mixture of instruments is that audience can find at least something they like in the music, even if they dislike rock music.

Their lyrics are clever, yet perhaps not ingenious.

"I've been running hot/You got me ticking gonna blow my top/If you start me up, If you start me up I'll never stop."

Ah, what is a hit song without some good sexual metaphors?

As said, they're okay.

Certainly enough to draw fans in, but it most definitely isn't Elanor-Rigby-masterful. But it's definitely not Elvis-Presely-terrible.

The album has appealing visuals, pretty cool cover art, a great sound, of course, and a popular reputation.

Overall, there are not many complaints as to these legends' work.

The Many Forms of Rock: From being influenced from R&B to the hard rock teens hear today, rock has changed. With those changes come new genres of rock. Here are some of the different genres that have evolved from when rock first began.

Alternative

Alternative rock started in the 80s but didn't grow popular until the 90s. This genre of rock was developed to describe bands with labels that didn't fit into the mainstream of music during the time. Reggae, folk and jazz music has been incorporated into rock to give alternative rock bands their sound. Popular alternative rock bands include R.E.M., Nirvana and The Cure.

Heavy Metal

Heavy metal is known as one of the most dramatic forms of rock music. The style of heavy metal relies on guitar solos as well as the drums, not just the vocals. Heavy metal started in the 60s and 70s with the influence of blues-rock. Fans of the genre are known as metalheads or head bangers. Led Zepelin, Black Sabbath and Deep Purple are all heavy metal bands.

Punk rock

Punk rock was first seen in the 70s. It started in New York and started as an underground movement. Punk rock songs normally have political meanings and express rebellion. Clothing and short songs are characteristics of this genre. It also helped inspire the genre of emo, which is increasing in popularity. Famous punk rock bands include the Sex Pistols, The Clash and the Ramones.

British rock

British rock has its origin from rock and roll and R&B in America. This genre was formed in the 50s from British bands. This type of music was brought to the United States in the 60s, in what became known as the British Invasion. The British invasion is said to have come in two waves. The Rolling Stones, and The Beatles were two such bands that found success in America.

Hard rock

Hard rock started in the 60s, taking influence from the Blues genre as well as British Blues. Hard rock music can consist of a leader guitarist as well as a guitarist for rhythm. There are many hard rock bands that would fit into the genre of heavy metal. The Rolling Stones, The Beatles and The Kinks helped inspire hard rock bands. Guns N' Roses, The Who and Aerosmith are all considered hard rock bands.



Juliet, played by Anna Kurtz, is comforted by the priest, played by Cork Ramier in Shakespeare's play, "Romeo and Juliet" performed for the honors English students. The play was put on by the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival on Tour.

PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Shakespeare entertains students

BY ALI HODGE

"Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?"
"I do bite my thumb, sir."
"Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?"
For an average high school student, the usual reaction when Shakespeare is read is something derogatory as they realize that they don't understand it.

And all students have pretty much gone through this being that they will read at least one Shakespeare masterpiece in their high school careers.

However, for honors English students watching Romeo and Juliet performed by the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival on Tour, their moods were far from frustrated.

In fact, judging from the laughter coming from the large audience, they enjoyed it very much.

The Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour travels around Nebraska and Iowa performing for approximately 40 schools (middle and a few community projects.)

The play started out with all six of the actors reciting the introduction to the famous play.

"Two households, both alike in dignity, in fair Verona, where we lay our scene, from ancient grudge break to new mutiny, where civil blood makes civil hands unclean."

"From forth the fatal loins of these two foes..."

Then the audience was thrown into the actor's fast moving pace as they performed the production word-for-word as William Shakespeare had intended it.

However, Shakespeare probably intended his production to have more extensive costumes and scenery.

Being as there were only six actors, each played multiple parts which required many quick costume changes and multiple changes of personality; even cross gendering.

However, Vincent Carlson, an actor told the audience, in Shakespeare's time, women were not allowed to perform on stage.

Therefore, the first to play Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet" performed at the Globe Theatre was probably a man.

But for this occasion, cross gendering was strictly due to lack of actors.

As for the performers, from the audience's position, watching them run around and recite the old English script word for word seemed like a daunting task, yet the actors don't see it that way.

"It's fun because it's our job," said Eric Parks who played Romeo.

Parks said he has always been in love with acting and that he considers himself blessed to be able to do what he loves and earn a living.

He had been to be involved with Nebraska Shakespeare Festival years ago, and once he had been with them for a while, he then was given the position to go on tour, as did the other five actors involved with the performance.

"The part of Mercutio was really fun," said actor Vincent Carlson, who visited Central last year performing "The Taming of the Shrew." "It's been on my list for a while, so it was a lot of fun."

Parks said since they all have been acting for a long period of time and they have become so accustomed to learning lines that even a script as difficult as Shakespeare becomes easy.

The rehearsal scheduled the actors went through was about a month, he said. Most of them had their lines memorized before rehearsal, set changes, and stage placement, and the rest of the time they worked on perfecting the choreographed fights.

There were many scenes in which the characters sword fight with real swords, therefore they had to time and synch their movements down to a tee.

After the performance there was a small question and answer session in which students from the audience could ask things regarding the acting, the play, Shakespeare, or the Nebraska Shakespeare Festival.

Jodie Martinez, head of the English department and coordinator of the event said the production was only open to honors English students to benefit them in their studies of understanding literature on a higher level.

"(The play) introduces them to a language and a literature that is forever," said Drama department head, John Gibson.

He said the production also would interest his drama students.

They were benefited in that they got to see a play that had a limited amount of set design, costumes, and actors.

Therefore, Gibson said he hoped they would realize that by doing this, they brought specific attention to the beautiful words and the talented acting.

Sophomore honors English student Ayomide Adekunle said he thought the entire production was great for the students, not so that they discover what they're talking about, but how they say it.

He said the entire play is a thousand times better when you understand how things are said from practice.

It changes the entire feel of the text.

"I thought it was cool," said Adekunle. "Sometimes when you read Shakespeare, you don't understand it, but seeing it visually helps a lot."

He said as far as drama kids went, he thought they all should have seen the play because the actors did very well.

It would have helped them learn how to interpret the words and work with a limited staff.

Adekunle said his fellow classmates for the most part enjoyed the play, but didn't take it as seriously as he would have liked.

As far as everything went, he thought the students could have been a lot more attentive and less disturbing, but most everyone took advantage of the production.

Martinez said she would love for Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour to return next year.

However, whether or not they do so is up to the company and the company's budget.

If they would like to return, she said she will receive something in the mail in which she can work with the school to pick the dates for the students to skip classes.

Senior prefers low tech electronic despite iPod craze



NOT A STEREOTYPE

A column by Kim Buckley

I may be one of the few people I know that does not have an iPod. Some of my best friends have one. My brother has one. My mother has one. I could probably name more than ten other people that I know that have one. In this day and age it is practically impossible to not know at least one person who has an iPod.

Even though people who have one surround me, for some reason I don't really have the need to buy my own iPod.

I'm not dissing people who have one; after all I can see why people would want to have one. It's easy to carry around, you can watch episodes of your favorite television show on the bus and in some cases it's probably cheaper to download the songs rather than buy the whole CD.

One of those devices definitely kept me entertained when one of my best friends and I were in a van going to the airport. We watched an episode of Hannah Montana and then listened to some music, making the drive less boring.

Listening to other people's iPod has made me realize just how far technology has changed in only a few years.

Seven years ago people had to rely on CD players and CDs to listen to music without a boombox. Now people just pull out a small, thin, multi-colored device with a screen for videos to listen to their favorite artists or bands.

Not only that, but it can play movies, television shows and has games, almost anything a teenager could want in just one device.

It is easy to see why people have gone crazy for this electronic device.

Call me old-fashioned, but I prefer my Walkman to any of the coolest looking iPods out there. Even though it's pretty big and doesn't fit in my pocket it still goes with me to various places.

When my first CD player broke seven or eight years ago, I insisted that my father buy me a new one.

Keep in mind that I was in New York visiting my grandmother and the two of us were driving back to Omaha.

Which would have meant two or three days cooped up in the car, bored to tears, without something to play my CDs. Playing any of them in the car player was out of the question since my dad and I have very different tastes in music.

I would have gone crazy.

Getting that Walkman figuratively saved my life during those two drives.

I have no idea how I would have managed if the only entertainment I got was watching the scenery go by, waiting until we stopped at the next rest stop.

It saved my life, figuratively, again when I went to London last summer. Returning home, my dad and I had to suffer through almost eight hours of delayed flights with one of the only forms of entertainment being my CD player.

Over the years I have learned how much I rely on that electronic device. During my junior year, almost every morning, while sitting in the passenger seat of my mom's car driving to school, I would listen to my CD player instead of the radio.

Pretty soon it became a habit for me to slip the headphones over my ears and press the play button. I would also mouth the words of the songs, relishing the different sound each one had.

As silly as it seems, it would take me to another world. I would listen to my Broadway CDs and get lost in the time I would mouth through music.

I cannot tell you the number of times I would mouth the lyrics to "Light My Candle," from "Rent" in the car, but it's definitely more than a dozen.

That one little electronic has given me hours of amusement in the morning and something to look forward to in the morning.

Using that electronic device, I was able to escape my troubles and boredom. I love listening to my music more than almost anything, and using the CD player allows me to listen to that music almost anywhere I want.

It was with me when I went to camp in California this summer. It was with me when my mom and I drove to Colorado a few years ago. Heck, it was with me when my family and I spent the weekend in Des Moines with my relatives a few weeks ago.

Yes, I couldn't bear to part with the device for two whole days.

It has been with me through hours of just sitting in the car, listening to my favorite music. I can't imagine going on a trip without putting my CD case and that gray device into my backpack. I have gotten so used to having that device that it would be hard for me to get used to an iPod.

In fact, I didn't know how to use an iPod until my brother let me use his while we were on a family trip.

Sure, it would be nice to be able to watch television or to play games anywhere I went, but for now I can handle watching television episodes I have missed on YouTube.

Right now I believe that the Walkman is slowly wearing down. In about a few years it will probably be the time to say goodbye to it. I am dreading that because I've gotten so attached to it.

Eventually I will probably break down and buy an iPod when it stops working, but for right now I am content to listen to my CD player.

Drumline uses day for extra practice, team bonding

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Practice makes perfect and the drumline was able to practice for about five straight hours during Drumline in the Park.

The drumline was in Memorial Park on Sept. 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. practicing the material they were going to play during the season.

Other schools that participated in Drumline in the Park were South, North, Burke, Westside and Benson.

Instrumental department head Josh Austin organized the event. He said it wasn't the first time that this type of event happened.

He said there have been days that were organized that were similar to this event, where students got know other students who played the same instruments and form a friendship with them.

He said this was the first year it was officially planned, though it went about four or five years ago, but it wasn't as organized. He said two years ago schools went to Village Point and was drumming for Hurricane Katrina relief, which was the same activity in a different way.

Austin said having the same activity in a different way gave him and others a bunch of ideas for Drumline in the Park. It showed him what groups to invite and how to do it.

He said from previous events, they took the idea of having the schools rehearse individually and having a big group performance at the end of the event. He also said they kept the same venue because it worked out in the past.

Austin said one thing that was different from those other events was they mixed in fun activities, such as soccer and volleyball games in-between the drumming. He also said having a solo aspect, having the drumlines learn and play something new was something different. He said they mixed and matched from previous experiences.

All of the schools in the Omaha Metro School district were invited to the event. The event was used to create unity between the schools.

"As music people, it's one of the best team activities you can do," Austin said.

He said Drumline in the Park was a day where the competition between schools was gotten rid of.

Drumline instructor, Cosby said it helped the Drumline because individual players need to work on individual things, and this day helped those students improve those things.

He said the goal of Drumline this year is year is to support and to help the band out as much as they can.

Cosby said Drumline in the Park was a good way to bring the Drumline members

closer together, and to meet other Drumline students in a relaxed atmosphere.

He said the best part of the day was being able to practice for five hours, because it would take an entire week to practice for those five hours. He said it was a big stride toward playing the instruments better.

He also said it was a great chance to meet other students interested in the same stuff, and to talk to and get to know them.

Music department head Pete Wilger said Drumline in the Park helped because the band practiced for five hours. He said a former drumline instructor from Central also worked with the students some of the time. Wilger said having the instructor there was like having another expert opinion.

Sophomore Rio Longoria, who attended the event and is in her second year with Drumline, said Drumline in the Park helped the drumline in top shape and showed what other schools do to prepare for competitions.

"I think it's a very good opportunity for us," she said.

Longoria said it got the Drumline prepared and it helped motivate them.

After practicing the entire show, the drumlines got into a semi-circle and played together.

Austin said the Omaha City Parks was encouraging of the idea and let the schools use the park for the day.

To let school know about the event fliers were created and sent via email to the different band directors.

Austin said there were four band directors who showed up to see how it would take place next year. He said it was very educational seeing other schools as well as assessing yourself and how you practiced. He also said watching other Drumlines as well as the extra practice allowed students to think or say what they liked or disliked about the performances.

Wilger said the drumline worked hard to perform their best even though it wasn't a judged competition.

He said it was a day that people could socialize and watch and talk with other drumlines.

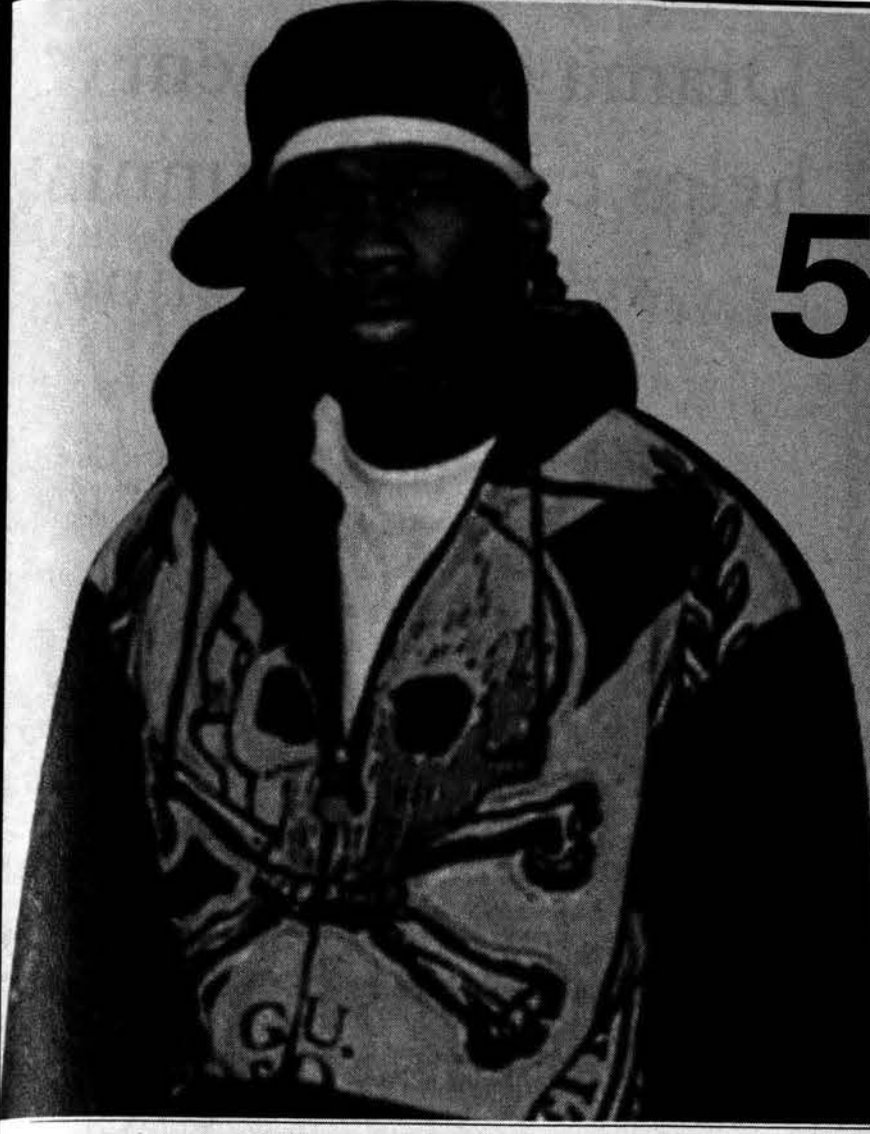
The Drumline practices every school day from 7:15 a.m. through first period. They also practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 during the school year.

In the summer Drumline practiced percussion for a two day camp, which was eight hours long. They also attended a band camp with the entire band that was a week long, also for eight hours a day. Starting in July Drumline had rehearsal once a week until the beginning of the school.



PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY/ REGISTER

Junior Justin Gipe plays the bass drum during Drumline in the Park. It was a day where drumline students could interact and perform with other schools.



50 CENT VS. KANYE



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

COURTESY OF ROC-A-FELLA RECORDS

When Kanye West and 50 Cent had their albums released on the same day, it sparked a rivalry between the two rappers. To heighten the tension, 50 Cent announced that if West's CD outsold his, he would retire. Even though these albums fit in the genre of rap, they have two very different sounds. Which CD is truly better? The Register staff compared both, and came up with an answer.

BY WYNTER DAVIS

50 Cent is literally a man of few words. 50 Cents newest CD "Curtis" was a car wreck built up into seventeen tracks.

To keep it short and simple the whole CD was nothing but the typical gangsta' material. Which means shootings and bling.

There was no depth or perception in his album and it stayed at a stand still for six songs.

His beginning intro was an old mob scene of two men. One sold the other a gun and the seller was telling the buyer he is suppose to be a man. He would do all these things to the someone if they crossed him before he would shoot him, including stabbing and beating a person.

The intro was getting the listener ready for the album to come. It was pointless and waste of a track. It didn't even have a beat to it.

Just as the intro died down, the second track "My Gun Go Off" came on the speaker with loud hard rock riff. The whole mood of the song was what it stated. In the background you actually here guns and clips being loaded which gave the song an extra something but that's when it stopped. He rambled on still playing off everything.

The rest of the song was either him stating he was going to shoot you, he'll chase you or you're being shot. After, the first verse the song got useless. Even in the past 50 Cent was not a master at words or a lyrical genius. Which is not hard to believe.

50 Cent had a need to keep up with his featured artist

on Curtis. On his "Ayo Technology" it featured Justin Timberlake and was produced by Timberland. The melody was kind of mixed with techno and pop, something unheard of in his other albums.

Justin Timberlake balanced out the tone of the song. If it was just 50 Cent on the track then it would be ridiculous no one would get the whole feel of the song. Timberlake put the right touch on the song.

50 Cent had a need to think he is a sex symbol and show his sensitive thug side. Some of his songs clearly indicated that.

The lyrics of some of the songs were raunchy and was something you know 50 Cent would pull out his sleeve to show his sex appeal just for the ladies. The only thing that made some of those songs different was the beat behind it.

Amusement park beats made some of the songs a lot more better than what it was. It took a feel of being at an amusement park, very slow and brisk in melody but is danceable.

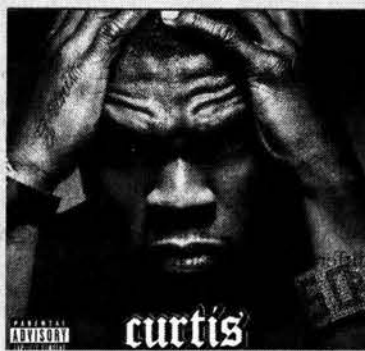
But after a couple of listens it could grow on you.

Last but not least unfortunately "All Of Me." This was assisted by May J. Bilge putting her own touch on the song. It actually showed off 50 Cent and his style. He came off as a thug but still humble also.

A feminine and sultry voice accompanied by loud and aggressive beats played off each other.

The song left you feeling satisfied without questioning his motive.

The songs on this album will not match up to some of his previous work. He has not progressed, but still at the same point he was in the past, still playing off his street smarts.



"Curtis" Artist: 50 Cent Key Track: "I Get Money"

BY BRITTNEY MILLER

From start to finish the album Graduation was worth listening and worth your money.

Kanye West released his third album the same day as 50 Cent.

There was a face off about the whole release situation about who would sell more albums and get better reviews.

And who won?

Kanye's Graduation hands down. From is style of dress to the cocky attitude, Kanye is an individual who clearly is not to jump outside the box and grab someone's attention.

Kanye is not an average rapper who spends his money on gold grills and platinum chains.

He is known as the "Louis Vuitton Don" and wears pink polos, loafers and fitted jeans that do not sag.

The beats in the album were different, but still as enjoyable. He used many samples from Michael Jackson, Elton John, and also Laura Nyro.

The featured guest artists on the album included Coldplay, Chris Martin, T-Pain, Eminem, Lil' Wayne, and Mos Def, which meant a lot of the songs had different vibes and styles.

"Big Brother" was basically about Jay-Z being Kanye's mentor and bringing him into his fame. The story was that Kanye began as just a producer, making beats. He wanted badly to be a rapper, but everyone took Kanye as a joke, because he was just a producer. He referred to Jay-Z or Jigga as his big brother.

Listening to all of the lyrics carefully and the listener

could understand the point Kanye was trying to get across. Everything he said made the listener think.

The song "Champion" was about Kanye surviving his struggles and being the champion he is today.

"Money got me smellin better than potpourri," rapped Kanye as he spoke about his money and how he came from nothing above average to skyrocketing.

Graduation was not an typical rap album. Which rapping about cars, sex, clothes money and women dressed half naked. There are good messages on every track.

"I Wonder" is a song that is easy listening and one of the most favorites.

A sample from Elton John is used in the song to give it a differnt vibe than any other track on his album. Who colaborates with Elton John in the hip hop community?

So what does Graduation mean? Is this album a new level? When you graduate, you have completed long hard hours of determination to complete schooling.

This album stands for Kanye West finally getting in his safety zone. He has made it to the top where no one can touch him.

He is a very talented and intellectual lyricist. He is an entertainer. Can you imagine what it would be like if Kanye West directed a movie?

It was be choas! Nothing the theaters have ever seen yet. He is brilliant and Gradution is a work of art. Listening to the tracks, the pain in his voice, the motivation, his thirstiness can be heard clearly.



COURTESY OF ROC-A-FELLA RECORDS

"Graduation" Artist: Kanye West Key Track: "Homecoming"

Strong beats are unable to save typical freshman album

BY KIM BUCKLEY

The title of Keke Palmer's album can be misleading. The album wasn't uncool, but the singer can do better than what was presented in it.

Palmer's first CD, "So Uncool" didn't have anything that distinguished it from any other album out there. There were some very good parts of the CD, but unfortunately not a lot stood out.

The album had the standard sound that can be found in albums like Beyonce's or Rhianna's.

There were some good beats in the songs and Palmer has a good voice that smoothly belted out the R&B songs in the album. An oriental-like beat even started out one of the songs, making the album more interesting.

There were a variety of beats used in the CD from the faster ones to slower ones, depending on the tempo of the song.

This made the album perfect to dance to.

There were a lot of fast-paced songs, which kept the

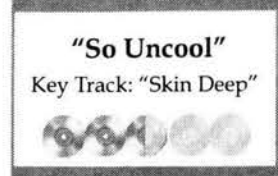
attention of the listener for the entire album. The CD had a lot of energy to it, which in turn would give the listener more energy.

The best song of the album was "Friend Me Up," a song about how a girl who became famous and now has people who want to be her friend. The song had a beat that made people want to dance and girls in particular would enjoy listening to the song. Most people wouldn't be able to relate to the lyrics, but it was a song that was catchy.

It also brought some attitude and some life into "So Uncool." Palmer's voice was strong and confident in the song, unlike some of the other ones. It immediately got the attention of the listener through the drums in the beginning.

Palmer obviously has a great voice and it shone in the album. She expertly went through the beats with ease and confidence.

The lyrics and messages of the songs were pretty simplistic. The songs talked about first crushes and finding a summer



"So Uncool" Artist: Keke Palmer Key Track: "Skin Deep"

romance. There were a few songs that had good messages, for instance "Skin Deep" talked about how all women are beautiful no matter what they look like on the outside.

However, for every song with a good message there were three of them that

The album could have been a lot better.

While some teenagers could relate to some of the songs, most of them were fillers. The songs seemed to be geared towards pre-teens, not the teenage audience the CD was probably intended for.

The lyrics in the songs were not memorable. There weren't any rhymes that were impressive, or cleverly thrown together.

Not a lot of vocal range was shown in the album, with Palmer mostly sticking to the same notes. Her talent couldn't be fully seen through the synthesizer in the songs, and at times her voice seemed manufactured.

There were not a lot of instrumentals, with the CD mostly relying on beats for it to work, almost to the point where the voice was overpowered. One easily got tired of the beats and after a while the listener started to tune out the music.



COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS

New "Aesop Rock" album offers rap, beats and insight

BY PATRICK BREEN



COURTESY OF WORLD'S FAIR

"Aesop Rock." Haven't heard of him? Well, then you're in for a sweet surprise. Cool CD cover. Some type of skull, with organs falling out and hands that look like wings.

Nice, a perfect cover that tells you nothing about the album except "Aesop Rock" and "None Shall Pass."

But thats all you need. "Aesop Rock" has nothing to do with rock. In fact, he's a white rapper, born in Long Island. Don't associate this white rapper with Eminem. Two different styles, two different people.

Eminem, angry at the world for no apparent reason other than to sell albums. "Aesop Rock" or legal name, Ian Bavitz, not real angry at the world, but much more would rather better it through his clever verses.

The new and fifth album from Ian Bavitz, "None Shall Pass," isn't his best. Six years ago, he put out "Labor Days." His best album that brought him into some of the main-stream spotlight.

But that doesn't dis this album at bit. Still better than 95% of the rap albums out there, "None Shall Pass" combines actual lyrics (hard to find in main-stream rap) and beats (that aren't straight repetitive throughout the songs.)

And unlike rappers who will sell millions of CDs for just a few good songs, "Aesop Rock" offers fantastic tracks from front to back.

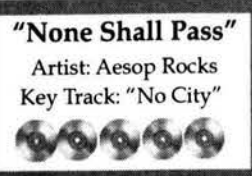
The album is like a giant donut. At first your just amazed by its size. After all it does have 14 songs, a rarity in today's society exemplified by "Plain White Tee's" which only had nine on their last album.

Only one of which made it big. And then the cater, or in this case listener is amazed by its filling.

"Aesop Rock" provides the listener with lyrics not common to todays rap. They have political undertones, they make points about society.

The CD offers everything a convential album should, but is commonly left out.

Some of the best tracks come with accompaniments. "Coffee" the last song on the album offers John Danielle, with a soulful voice, and don't be fouled by the prolonged pause.



"None Shall Pass" Artist: Aesop Rocks Key Track: "No City"

It actually is the beginning to a hidden track that makes the album more of a surprise for the dollar.

When looking for a rap album, one cannot pass up this masterpiece. For the same price someone can buy a "50 cent" or "Kanye" album, one can buy this CD. Which reverts back to pure raps with interesting beats.

A must have for any rap lover.



COURTESY OF REVOLUTION STUDIOS

Characters of "Across the Universe" watch an animated circus to music by the Beatles. The young adults in the film soaked up the last bit of artistically portrayed sunshine before going off to war, work, and facing the real world. The movie, as artistic as it was focused on heavy issues such as family going off to serve their country, emotions of deep sorrow and love, America during the times of the Vietnam war, and finding your place in a world that seems to be falling apart.

Artistic flair makes film worthwhile for audience

BY ALI HODGE

From the trailers, audiences may get the impression "Across the Universe" is just another boring musical cut on the big screen.

And oh how they would be wrong.

It is a musical, yes, but how terrible can a musical be if the rhetorical question or not, I'm going to answer for you: it's not bad at all.

How terrible can a musical be when the main message is peace and the entire emotion of the film is plagued by fear of death in the Vietnam War?

That's right.

It's not terrible at all.

The movie opens with a beautiful view of a young man sitting on a deserted shore in Ireland.

It is one of the only peaceful and calm scenes the movie will ever show, because after the solemn number he sings, his voice echoing, the fast paced story slings the audience into a re-actuation of America during the Vietnam war.

The story is about two characters, "Lucy-in-the-sky-with-diamonds" Lucy and "hey-Jude" Jude, who fall in love while Jude is in America to find his father.

Lucy, played by Evan Rachael Wood, is a sweet, innocent high school aged girl with a crush when the movie starts out, yet as it progresses, she turns into a passionate, emotional, intelligent woman.

Jude, played by Jim Sturgess, is a slum of a boy

living in America after deciding not to return to Ireland.

Naturally the two connect and fall into a blissful love before being ripped apart by the emotional turmoil that goes along with America in the Vietnam War.

Needless to say, the music was amazing.

Julie Tamor, the director did a great job of creating an entire story line full of emotion and important lessons all around music created by the Beatles.

Because let's face it, the entire movie was obviously created solely for the brilliant music.

For example, one character sat on the bleachers of her high school singing "I Want to Hold Your Hand" as she watched a cheerleader she had a crush on.

So even though the music was dated, the time era was different, and issues were slightly different, the movie still focused on some modern troubles such as homosexuality.

Another example, when a character named Prudence locked herself in a closet, her friends surrounded the door singing "Dear Prudence" trying to get her to come out. Clever.

Lucy's song was "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds."

When Jude was going through the climax hard time, the song sung by his best friend was of course, "Hey Jude."

And finally at the end, tying brilliantly into the entire theme of the film, the entire cast sang "All You

Need is Love."

Audiences were singing along, and who can blame them?

Directors and producers worked hours and hours to reinterpret the brilliant music of the Beatles to create a movie that will undoubtedly top the charts.

The artwork in the movie, which was a major part of the storyline being that Jude was an artist, was absolutely amazing and contributed to the theme and look of the film perfectly.

Much of the artwork was multimedia and had deep emotion and layers upon layers of meaning.

When putting together the movie, producers changed the color intensity of a lot of the scenes, bring more attention to them.

There were parts of the movie that were obviously made strictly for artistic reasons, giving the movie a hippie feel and unfortunately making it a little confusing at times.

Other than actually putting in artwork in the scenes, the dialogue, the music, the cast, the clothing, the dancing, the set, everything was artsy.

Some of the scenes were even particularly artsy in how they were shot, such as the scene where Jude and Lucy were kissing naked underwater.

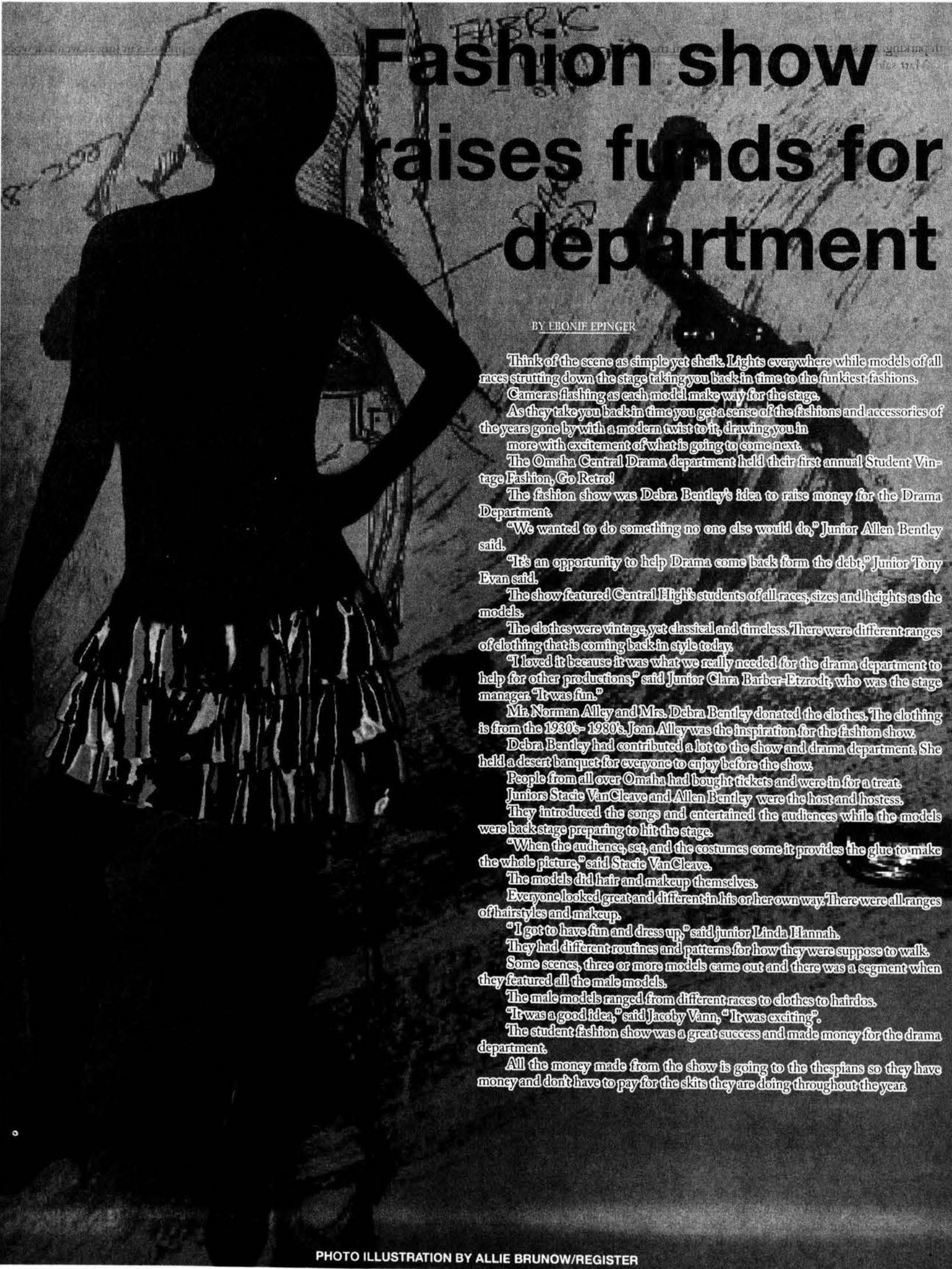
Overall, the movie was more like a journey.

Sit back, relax, no thinking involved whatsoever.

Feel the happiness.

Feel the music.

In true hippie fashion.



Fashion show raises funds for department

BY EBONIE EPINGER

Think of the scene as simple yet sheit. Lights everywhere while models of all races strutting down the stage taking you back in time to the funkicst fashions. Cameras flashing as each model make way for the stage.

As they take you back in time you get a sense of the fashions and accessories of the years gone by with a modern twist to it, drawing you in more with excitement of what is going to come next.

The Omaha Central Drama department held their first annual Student Vintage Fashion, Go Retro!

The fashion show was Debra Bentley's idea to raise money for the Drama Department.

"We wanted to do something no one else would do," Junior Allen Bentley said.

"It's an opportunity to help Drama come back from the debt," Junior Tony Exan said.

The show featured Central High's students of all races, sizes and heights as the models.

The clothes were vintage, yet classical and timeless. There were different ranges of clothing that is coming back in style today.

"I loved it because it was what we really needed for the drama department to help for other productions," said Junior Clara Barber-Etzrodt, who was the stage manager. "It was fun."

Ms. Norman Alley and Mrs. Debra Bentley donated the clothes. The clothing is from the 1930's-1980's. Joan Alley was the inspiration for the fashion show.

Debra Bentley had contributed a lot to the show and drama department. She held a desert banquet for everyone to enjoy before the show.

People from all over Omaha had bought tickets and were in for a treat. Juniors Stacie VanCleave and Allen Bentley were the host and hostess.

They introduced the songs and entertained the audiences while the models were back stage preparing to hit the stage.

"When the audience, set, and the costumes come it provides the glue to make the whole picture," said Stacie VanCleave.

The models did their hair and makeup themselves.

Everyone looked great and different in his or her own way. There were all ranges of hairstyles and makeup.

"I got to have fun and dress up," said Junior Linda Hannah.

They had different routines and patterns for how they were suppose to walk. Some scenes, three or more models came out and there was a segment when they featured all the male models.

The male models ranged from different races to clothing to hairdos.

"It was a good idea," said Jacoby Vann. "It was exciting."

The student fashion show was a great success and made money for the drama department.

All the money made from the show is going to the thespians so they have money and don't have to pay for the skits they are doing throughout the year.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALLIE BRUNOW/REGISTER

Drama department helps cause by running city-wide talent show

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Drama teacher John Gibson said the students were able to see talent outside of the school building. He also said they were able to work with professional people and show how well a high school student can work and give them a positive picture of what high school students are.

The school donated their time and facility as well as contribute their talent and facility as well as creative talent and running the show.

One thing the show brought were similarities to the Roadshow, that will take place after the fall musical.

Gibson said the students were able to work with adults who don't really know what theater is about. He said running Omaha's Got Talent got the drama department geared up for running the Roadshow this year.

Junior Alyssa Rathbun and Junior Allen Bentley were stage managers for Omaha's Got Talent. Rathbun said that she wanted to help with Omaha's Got Talent because she likes anything to do with the stage and Drama.

She said the best part of Omaha's Got Talent was when the show ended and came together as a success.

Rathbun was in charge of stage left and Bentley was in charge of stage right.

She said she and Bentley had to make sure that everything on the stage was on there at the right time and direct the other stagecrew members. There were a lot of new stage crew members this year.

"It was a good opportunity to get to know the new members," Rathbun said.

This was Rathbun's first time as stage manager, though it isn't her first time as a stagecrew member. She said being a manager entails a lot more responsibility.

Rathbun said running the production was a good opportunity for the drama department.

"It prepares us because there are a variety of acts similar to the Roadshow she said.

The show was the idea of Teresa Anderson, who is an alumna of the class of '90.

She said she decided to involve the school because Omaha's Got Talent was similar to the Roadshow and she was familiar with the auditorium and the format of the show. She said she discussed it with Gibson, who thought the idea was fantastic.

Differences between the Roadshow and Omaha's Got Talent were there were judges as well as cash and prizes for the winners. The money raised by the show went to the Leukemia and Lymphemic Society, which is a nation-wide organization that deals with cancer in the blood.

There were twelve judges, which consisted of six cancer survivors and six celebrity judges.

Anderson said the Leukemia and Lymphemic Society was chosen as the charity because several of her family members have dealt with cancer. Anderson said her father had stage four Hodgkins Lymphoma. Anderson said her father was not expected to survive, but against the odds her father survived. She also said her brother-in-law's nephew, Jacob, died two years ago from Leukemia at the age of four.

She said she wanted people to be aware of the increase in the number of people who are diagnosed with those two diseases, and the need for a lot more research to be done, despite the medical advancements.

Anderson said she got the idea of Omaha's Got Talent because she was in Drama and Stage classes when she attended the school, and did sound and lighting for various Roadshows. She said if she was not familiar with the Roadshow the idea may not have come to her. She also said the television show "America's Got Talent" also helped.

She said the only things the students in her class needed to do was organize for auditions and provide ticket sales. She said integrating Gibson and the students in the show was an important aspect.

"We couldn't have done it with Central students and Mr. Gibson. They were fantastic," Anderson said.

She said when she first presented it to her class everybody thought it was interesting, but after an hour-long discussion a lot of people thought it was too much work. After a month there was still opposition, but she put together a for people committee, and integrated Gibson with the decision making. She said the Dean of the college got involved and when they presented the idea to the dean it was agreed the show would happen. She said she hoped Omaha's Got Talent would continue because it was worth the hard work.

Instruments, vocals make up for lackluster lyrics

BY KIM BUCKLEY

The New Rivals have a song called "Nonsense," which is the word that would least describe the group's self-titled album.

Their music and songs are entertaining as well as great for a debut album.

The first song of the album, "Sell Your Soul," was promising, and set the tone for the rest of the songs. It started off with guitars and drums, which provided a lot of energy to the song. The song had a strong beat as well as catchy lyrics. It was probably the best track on the album.

The rest of the songs didn't disappoint the listener. The rest of the album had the same level of energy as the first track as well as good beats.

The vocals in the album were good. The lead singer, Tony Bevis, had a rich baritone voice that had an edge of roughness to it. Some of the singing was basically screaming into a microphone, but it worked for the songs. It gave the album some energy and went along with the messages of the song.

Bevis was able to transition from the faster songs to the slower ones. For the slower songs, the roughness in his voice wasn't as noticeable, where in the faster ones it gave an edge to the songs. While Bevis really didn't show a lot of vocal range, he still managed to impress the listener. The singing was probably the best part of the album.

The instruments were amazing. For instance, the song "Hell is for Heroes" opened up to electric guitar riffs, which grabbed the listener's attention. Like any instrument should, the guitar and drums didn't overpower the singing, but rather enhanced it.

The album even ended on the sound of crashing drums, a great way to wrap up the songs. The guitarists and drummer served a lot of credit for making the album as good as it is. Little guitar solos were able to effectively show off the talent of the musicians.

The messages of the songs were a little hard to get, if the listener wasn't paying close attention. For instance, the track "Lexican Munch" didn't seem to have a point at all.

Some of the songs were repetitive, because the chorus was repeated a lot. Some of the rhymes were pretty weak as well. That was probably the biggest weakness of the album.

The other problem with the album was the sound of the songs, despite the fact the listener had a hard time telling when one song began and one song ended. A person could easily confuse one song for another. This was due to poor transitions between songs as well.

While the level of energy stayed the same for every song, it would have been nice to slow down the pacing and lower the energy for the slow songs. It seemed as if the slow songs were just at a slightly slower pace than the other tracks.

It is not a spectacular album, but it is one that the listener can enjoy listening to. While it really didn't anything new, it was listenable and definitely something the majority of people would probably like.

Some rock bands might form a rivalry with this group because the album would definitely appeal to people.



"New Rivals"
Artist: New Rivals
Key Track: "Sell Your Soul"



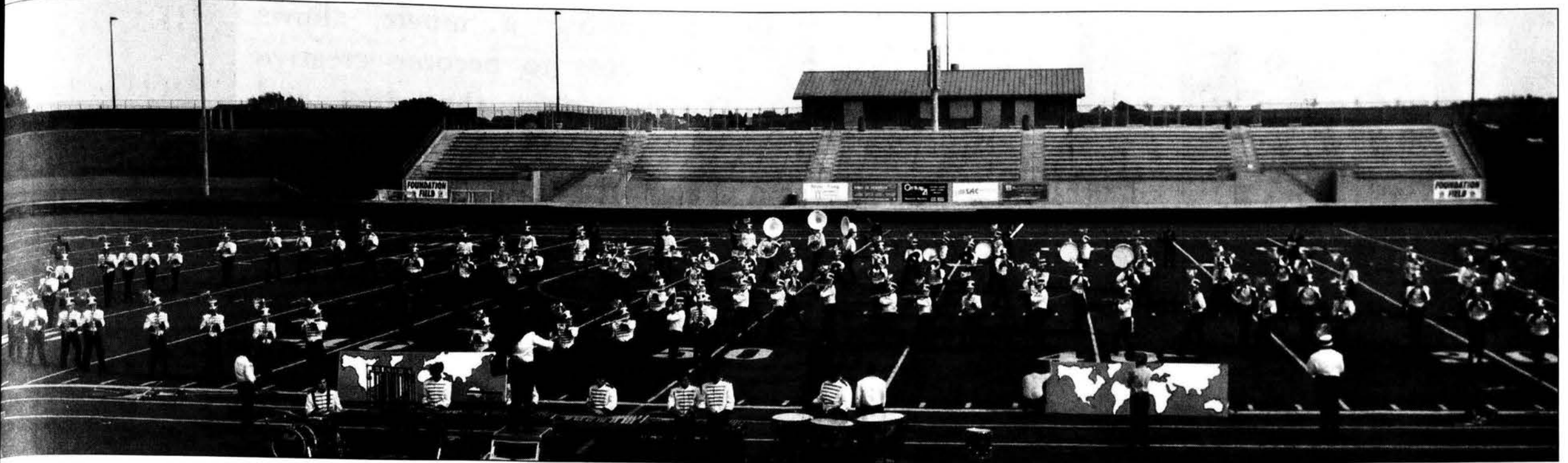


PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY / REGISTER

The marching band performs one of the songs during the Papillion LaVista Tournament of Bands. The theme of their show was Music Around the World, which included the songs "Phapsody in Blue," "Tiger of San Pedro," "Culloden," "African Rumble," "Variations on a Korean Folk Song" and "Variations Finale." The competition part of the marching season ended on Oct. 13. s

Band places first in pre-season competition

BY KIM BUCKLEY

The band started the marching season on a high note, by winning a pre-season competition in Papillion LaVista on Sept. 29.

The band competed in the first Annual Papillion LaVista Tournament of Bands, which was hosted by Papillion LaVista North and Papillion LaVista South. Schools that participated in the competition included Westside, Palmyra, Plattsmouth, Gretna and Plattview. The bands competed separately, but were paired up with two other schools. The final depended on the number of points each of the three bands received. The judges gave feedback to the bands about what was good and what could be improved.

This meant a large school would be paired up with two smaller ones. Central was paired up with Gretna and Plattview.

Mike Anderson, the president of the Titan Band Booster, said the event went smoothly and there were no problems organizing the event. He said one thing that could be improved was having a little more coordination between volunteers.

"We probably had too many volunteers," he said.

Laud Matt, the president of the Papillion LaVista North band booster, said it was good for other schools to compete and made the bands better. He said having judges with feedback really helped.

He said the bands were able to learn about things they can improve and things they already did well.

Band director Pete Wilger said the band had a good day during the competition. He said the students prepared a lot for the competition.

He also said since their score would be combined with Gretna and Plattview's, the outcome depended on all three schools.

"Everyone had to do well to get that kind of recognition," Wilger said.

He said the judges commented that for being early in the season the band performed very well. He said it was to the students' credit that they were able to get these positive comments.

The theme of the Central band for the competition was Around the World. Wilger said to decide the theme he sits down in the summer and decides what the strengths and weaknesses of the band are. He said he wanted to capitalize on the strengths of this year's band.

He said they wanted to involve a bagpiper as well as feature some of the upper-classmen. Wilger said they wanted to involve Senior Adrienne Anderson with the flags. He said they also wanted to highlight the percussive part on the African part of the songs.

Wilger said he looked at all of those elements and thought that music around the world would be a good theme.

Sophomore Brianna Rhoten said she wasn't surprised when Central, Gretna and Plattview won the competition.

Rhoten was one of the flag twirlers in the competition.

She said she wasn't nervous about performing for the crowd because she's used to it.

Wilger said to help improve, the marching band will do more memorization and work more on the little details, such as posture and footwork.

He said the marching band is a kinesthetic, which means it requires a lot of repetition. He said the marching band focuses on moving, but also making music at the same time.

Wilger said the competition part of the season was finished with the Omaha Marching Invitation on Oct. 13.

To prepare for the competition, Rhoten said she practiced on her own, has had private lessons and did a couple of individual competitions with flags over the summer.

She said the best part of the competition was when the winners were announced.

"That's always exciting," Rhoten said.

Wilger said the students were really excited about winning the competition. He said however, the goal of the band isn't to win, but to do the best they can do. He said he doesn't look at things as beating people, but lets the results speak for themselves.

Wilger said they also had a special practice on Sept. 29 because the school hosted the Omaha Marching Exhibition on Sept. 30, which he said was the only time all seven of the schools could see each other's shows.

He said there were no problems hosting the event and the administration helped with parking. He said there was great support from the parents.

Matt said he hoped that people would come to the event and had a good time and come back next year. He said he wanted the event to go well and to have gotten

all of the bases covered.

He said he thought it was great to have parents participate and it was a good thing to do it with Papillion LaVista South. He said he thought the event went extremely well.

"It seems the crowd has cheered for all of the bands, which is good to see," Matt said.

He said both the bands and the parents were courteous.

Anderson said the only things they were worried about was the weather, getting enough bands to compete and having enough concessions.

Matt said it was due to the band directors of both Papillion LaVista schools that the event took place. He said the directors had talked about doing this event for a few years and they were able to do it this year.

"I think a lot of credit needs to go to both band directors," he said.

Matt said it was their idea, and they involved the band boosters, got the right people to organize it and worked on the event from early on.

He said this year's experience will help the band boosters look at the areas of opportunities and help make adjustments for next year.

Anderson said the band boosters wanted the tournament to be a warm-up for the official competition season.

"We also wanted it to be a community event," he said.

He said since the two schools are in semi-competition, they wanted the schools to be one for the tournament.

Anderson said the number of people who showed up to watch the tournament met and exceeded his expectations. He said he hopes to double the number for next year.

He said having the competition at Papillion LaVista South was ideal because of the field. He also said because the bands mingled with each other, it created a comradeship.

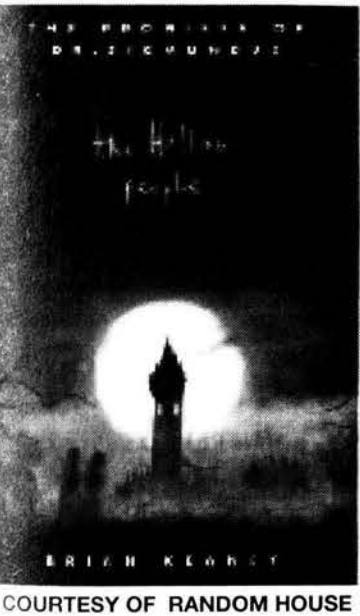
Anderson said the event helped with funding and future events helped at the two schools. It also brought parents together from the different schools while introducing them to the venue.

Wilger said over the summer band holds some practices in July, as well as a week practice in band camp, which is eight hours a day.

There is a tentative date of Sept. 27 as the date for next years competition.

Author's poor writing ruins novel's storyline

BY ALI HODGE



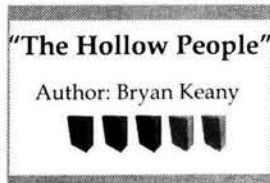
"The Hollow People." Sounds intriguing enough, right?

It has a haunting cover, a freaking awesome title, and just from glancing in at the pages, fairly good diction and room for an amazing story. So did Bryan Keany deliver? Well.... he tried.

True, from first glances - which, let's face it, is what most readers buy books based on - it looks like a book you would want to read, what with the faded images of a demolished city in front of a full moon and text that would remind you of the Blair Witch Project.

Most authors don't even get this right, so he gets points for that. However, once audiences buy the book and actually sit down to read it, then they find the little illustrations strung through the text. Then they find that it is simply written. Then they notice that the story - which was perceptibly indulging - still has it's potential, but is poorly portrayed. Looking past all of this, however, it's an okay book.

The novel follows the story of a poor, abused asylum kitchen knave named Dante and a proper, well-bred school girl, Bea who live and work on an island that's main purpose is to house the mentally ill. Dante, whom



was born into the asylum, became a knitchen worker once his mother threw herself off the clock tower. Fourteen years later, when life seemed to get as normal as it ever would, Ezeikiel Semiramis, new mental patient who was believed to be the most dangerous patient the asylum has ever had, told the boy his mother was murdered after being found in the lost city.

Now Dante must do what he can to find out the truth about his long lost mother, the mystery of the eerie Dr. Sigmungus and the mysterious lost city. And to do so, he needs the help of Bea.

Keany obviously has an ace imagination, yet certainly not a talent for intricate storytelling. It may have been smarter for him to hire someone to write it, honestly.

It's almost a good storyline gone to waste all because of oversimplistic writing. Nevertheless, with a little too much imagination from the readers, you can imagine a dark shadowy asylum, screams echoing through the cold stone corridors. One can also imagine the angry workers and sorrowful students all forced to live their cookie-cutter lives by the book of the rogue Dr. Sigmungus. Not a pretty picture. Shallow characters don't help either.

Therefore, in conclusion, the only thing that could possibly hold the reader's attention is the commendable storyline unless they fancy a sixth grade reading level.

Vampire novel continues to scare readers

BY KIM BUCKLEY

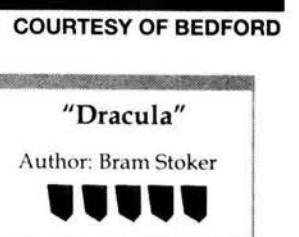
It was the book that reinvented the way people thought of vampires and started making Dracula a name that was recognized around the country.

Bram Stoker's novel, "Dracula," has long been considered a classic, not only in the horror genre, but a classic, period.

It set the standard for any stories about vampires and spawned countless movie versions starring various people in the role of the famous count. It made Dracula into one of the most recognizable faces on Halloween and one of the most famous villains, not only in the country, but in the world.

The book itself was even scarier than anything movie directors can produce on screen. Bella Legosi, the most famous Dracula to grace the big screen, has nothing compared to how the title character was in the book.

The book started off with a lawyer, Jonathon Harker, coming to the castle of Dracula and finding out about the count.



Harker managed to escape the castle and meet up with allies who would help him battle the evil vampire.

The rest of the story was about Dracula unleashed on the world and Harker and his friends trying to kill him.

Readers shivered as Stoker described the dead body of one of the characters, Lucy, came back to life as a vampire. The description of Lucy was deliciously creepy and vivid. It made an impact as one remembered how loving and kind Lucy was before Dracula bit her.

All of those Dracula movies can try and surpass the descriptions of the vampires, but it will take some amazing makeup for it to even compare to the novel.

The book was written in forms of letters and diaries, which made the characters relatable and sympathetic. By contrast, Dracula's thoughts and feelings were hidden, which made Dracula even more frightening.

The novel perfectly balanced the emotions of fear and human heart. Those emotions worked together, which is the reason why "Dracula" is so revered and will be for centuries.

Homecoming prompts girls to lose some weight

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Thriving off of the win against Bellevue West the previous night, both students and staff were able to relax and have fun during the homecoming dance, which took place during Oct. 13.

The dance started at 7:00 p.m. and ended at 11:30 p.m. English teacher and cheerleader sponsor Jane Luethge said the Pom Squad and Cheerleading squads had to put together the dance as well as decorate the cafeteria, gym and lobby. The squads decorated for the dance the morning of, from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

The theme for this year's homecoming was "A Night in City Lights." According to Luethge, a couple of captains on both squads had a chance to pick themes and the whole group voted on it.

"I think everybody looks forward to it (the dance)," Luethge said.

The company Complete Music has been used every year, and Luethge said the DJ who was at the dance was the first one available. This year tickets were sold out, so some of the students weren't able to purchase them. Luethge said she believed that 1,500 was a large number of students and seemed enough that most students were able to attend the dance and bring a date they wanted to.

Helping out Luethge and the cheerleading and pom squad was administrator Kirksey, who was in charge of the voting for candidates. Luethge said all of the candidates on the floor was a good choice.

This year's Homecoming King and Queen were seniors Will Robbins and Mattie George. According to Luethge, when she attended the school all of the students voted for king and queen. She said there are so many students at the school and it was hard for all of the students to be that involved with the voting. Different locations, including Aksarban, the University of Nebraska Omaha, and finally the school itself, has been another way homecoming has changed.

Senior Antea Gatilica, the president of Student Counsel, said that during the homecoming game Student Counsel sold spirit items, such as foam fingers, shakers and pins, to contribute to spirit week and to add to the excitement of the game. She said the items sold really varied.

The money raised by the sold items were for a fundraiser by Student Counsel, which goes towards a student council convention, which the council attends every year. The funds also go towards lessening the costs of some of the activities the council does this year.

Luethge said she believes that in the past the homecoming game and the homecoming dance was considered an important pair. Now, Luethge said she believes that the game and dance are considered different events, with both of them being fun and exciting.

According to Luethge, the dance is a good opportunity for students to hangout with friends, get dressed up and do something different on the weekend. With the homecoming dance comes the perfect dress.

"I think everyone wants to look nice and feel pretty," Luethge said.

Some girls go on a short diet to lose a few pounds so they can fit into the dress. One of those diets is the grapefruit diet, where a person only eats, well, grapefruit.

Registered nurse Kathi Bratberg said at Alternatives, where she works, said going on a diet such as the grapefruit diet could have some serious side effects.

She said that a quick diet may or may not cause a person to lose pounds. She said doing a quick diet was okay once or twice was okay but said there were people who lose a bunch of weight, but keep on eating and gaining it back. This is called yo-yo dieting.

Bratberg said yo-yo dieting can mess up the metabolism over a period of time. She said the standard diet that teenagers have is very unhealthy, and could use a lot of changes. She said to have the optimal weight, teenagers need to eat the right stuff.

She said even though Alternatives has younger clients, most of them are thirty or forty years old and willing to make lifestyle changes. She said high school students can benefit from major changes. For instance, she said, eliminating pop itself would be huge.

One of the major concerns about these type of diets is the lack of some healthy nutrients. She said going on a diet for only a couple of days was not going to hurt anything, but any longterm diet should be under the supervision of a nutritionist. Bratberg said being on a diet such as the grape-fruit diet for a week or longer should be avoided.

She said high school girls felt pressure, period, because of the movie stars shown in magazines, clothing in small sizes, and people wanting to look like stars and models. Bratberg said this pressure helps lead to eating disorders, and those movie star looks are hard to follow because of all of the different body types.

"I think you guys have a tough time," she said.

Bratberg said there was not much nutritional information coming from medical doctors because not all doctors have nutrition training. She said that could pose a problem for teenagers in the future. She said to lose weight to fit into the dress, girls should just eliminate food with white sugar. She said doing that would eliminate stuff that makes a person fat, such as doughnuts.

"Anything you're going to lose is water weight anyway," Bratberg said.

She said most girls who lose a few pounds to fit into the dress gain the weight back because the diet isn't a lifestyle change.

Gatalica said there was definitely pressure for girls to lose some weight so they could fit into their homecoming dress. She said there are some girls who purchased the dress months before the dance and they might not be able to fit into it because their weight fluctuates.

The dance, no matter the dress, provided an opportunity for fun.

Don't Look Under the Bed.

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

Evil is such a relative term, depending on how it affects someone in particular.

Many of the classic horror films, including *The Mummy*, which happens to be an action-adventure, depict this discretion throughout the plot in attempt to scare you, when instead, entertain your imagination and creativity.

The story begins in Cairo in 1923 where British librarian Evelyn Carnarvon (Rachel Weisz) and her brother, Jonathan (John Hannah) join the American adventurer Rick O'Connell (Brendan Fraser) on a trip to the lost city where they hope to discover innumerable amounts of treasure buried in tombs.

To their surprise they discover something much more interesting: the Book of the Living, which awakens

the high priest, Imhotep, more commonly referred to as "the mummy"

After being buried alive and suffocating to death, the mummy is released with three goals in mind: unleash the ten Biblical plagues on Egypt, reincarnate himself, and return to life his long-lost lover, which meant the three adventurers had their work cut out for them, to say the least.

Acknowledging his mission to "rescue the damsel in distress, kill the bad guy, and save the world," Rick begins the chase, which makes this movie worth watching.

Mind blowing special effects capture your attention while the characters fight for their lives. It really does make the plot more entertaining and addicting.

The mummy comes to life through mesmerizing motion-capture effects that truly go beyond the normal

imagination of something as simple as a mummy. Gone are the days of using white bandages to portray a mummy.

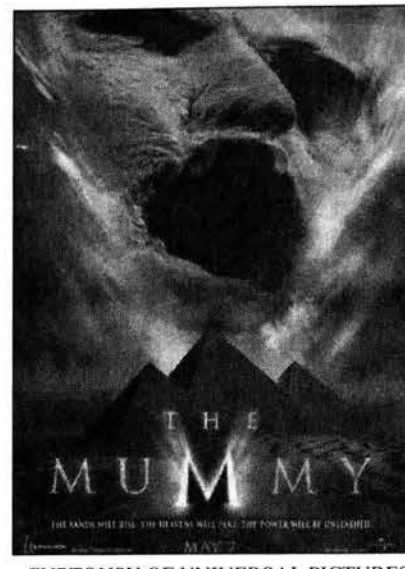
Literally stealing the life away from others to renew his own, he travels through keyholes and flies through the night in a basic attempt to capture as many human lives as he possibly can.

Typical horror movie plot, right?

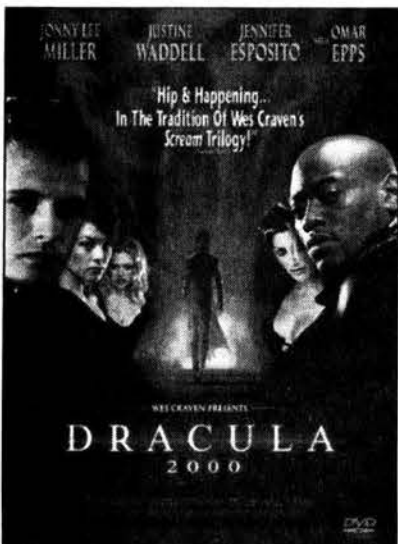
But with clues from the beginning and a tension that builds up throughout each scene, it was hard to view "The Mummy" as just another horror movie.

It was something that most everyone could enjoy or at least be entertained by for the short 124 minutes that the movie runs.

Besides the fact that it beams with tidbits taken from "Indiana Jones," "The Mummy" does a wonderful job of keeping spirits high and attentions crisp throughout the entire action-adventure, which will forever be a part of Halloween movie history.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



COURTESY OF DIMENSION FILMS

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Without a doubt *Dracula* is the biggest, baddest vampire, ever.

And according to the movie "Dracula 2000" he is also that famous traitor Judas Iscariot, the apostle that betrayed Christ, doomed to walk the earth for all eternity. Which completely explains why Dracula hates crosses, holy water, the Bible and silver.

The movie started out with some thieves breaking into a highly secure vault holding a black tomb inside.

Of course the tomb holds the blood-sucking vampire, and of course the thieves accidentally release him from the coffin. And yes, those thieves were the first to become his victims.

While this was happening in London, in New Orleans Mary Heller, played by Justine Waddell, kept

getting dreams involving the vampire. Dracula came to New Orleans to find her, but not without a guy named Simon, played by Jonny Lee Miller, following him. The team up to defeat the big, bad vampire.

The movie was directed by Wes Craven, who directed the "Scream" movies. Like "Scream," the movie relied on blood to scare. Humor was also injected into the story. "Sorry, I'm an atheist," one of the zombie vampires told Simon when confronted with a cross.

One of the things that contributed to the scariness of the movie was the fact that Heller kept seeing visions early on in the movie, which made the audience wondering what was real and what was not.

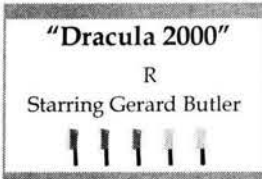
The special effects in the movies were excellent. When Dracula turned into wolf, and then into a group of bats, the effect was stunning. However, the effects

really didn't enhance the scariness of the movie. While the effects were dazzling, one wasn't really afraid of a man transforming into a gray wolf.

Gerard Butler, while he was no Bela Legosi, had great acting. He made Dracula into a particularly seductive vampire who used his charms to make a couple of women into his brides. Butler was able to humanize the monster by plainly showing that he just wanted someone who could love him, and could relate to. The anguish on his face was visible when he told Mary he had been looking for someone who was just like him.

"Dracula 2000" was able to put an interesting twist to the legend started by Bram Stoker's novel. The only part that the movie didn't succeed in is the fear factor. This movie wasn't that scary compared to movies such as "Saw," "Friday the 13th" and the original *Dracula*.

Unfortunately that was the thing that mattered the most to the movie viewers.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

BY KEVIN GIBBS

Ah, "Frankenstein."

You can't improve on that piece of horror history, or can you?

Well, maybe "Young Frankenstein" can. If it's anything like the original, people in the thirties must have been rolling around laughing.

The many puns, one liners and running gags make it quite the comedic adventure, and each time Igor was with his bulging eyes and the hump on one side of his back that continually switches sides in each scene, put a huge smile on faces in the audience.

However, while the humor is there, it tends to be a bit minimal with many visual gags that are too predictable to be actually funny. Gene Wilder played Dr. Frankenstein, and with a solid performance. For "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" fan, they were not likely to be able to see anything besides a candy maker bringing a corpse to life in this film.

Peter Boyle, played the monster made famous by Boris Karloff in this film which

was made in 1974, over thirty years ago. Even back then, his acting was top notch, for an actor who didn't have one line that wasn't a grunt until the end scene, he definitely gave comedic appeal with a believable acting performance.

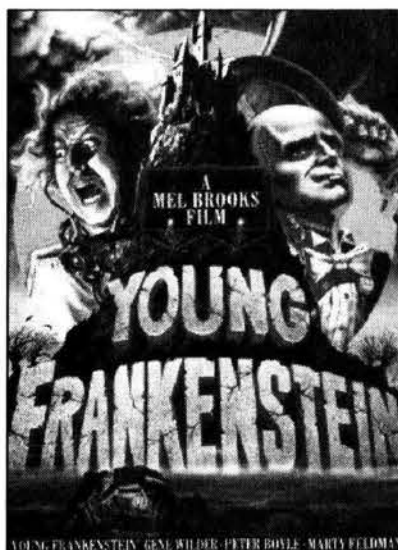
Dr. Frankenstein's assistant, played by the late Madeline Kahn, provided almost completely comedic relief, and never forwarded the story-line.

She and Igor played charades with Dr. Frankenstein in one scene, in which he was trying to get them to use the tranquilizer on the monster which was strangling the doctor at the time.

This was hilarious, and proved her value to the story, even if she completely unnecessary character.

The movie shown with flairs of the director, Mel Brooke.

The movie was able to make Halloween funny and not just scary.



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

BY WYNTER DAVIS

The remake "An American Werewolf in Paris" is different than other horror films. Actually, the movie has no horror in it at all. It's not your usual werewolf coming from the shadows and scaring the living daylight out of the audience kind of movie.

It also doesn't have a lot of people screaming their heads off and falling down in the first scene.

In the opening scene, a man being attacked manages to escape the Parisian sewers before an unseen creature pulls him back. Meanwhile,

Andy McDermott, played by Tom Everett Scott, a hor-

mone-driven bachelor visiting France

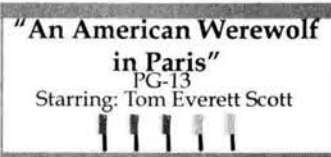
decides to bungee jump off the Eiffel Tower.

Once he is prepared and ready to go take the leap of faith he meets a local woman named Serafine played by Julie Delpy, standing at the top of the Eiffel Tower contemplating suicide. Before she leaps off the tower Andy executes a mid-air rescue. She vanishes into the night without as a so much as a thank you. He manages to get a date, but gets more than he bargained.

The difference between this movie and the original is no doubt the computer graphics. The graphics were so processed you see every hair on the back of the werewolves.

The only thing with having technology is that you know it's not real and takes some of the feel from the movie. The intense and hideous fight scenes were not realistic but still looked good in the process.

Overall, if you are looking for a good date movie that might result in a few jumps and screams, give this one a try.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



Remaking a movie allows directors to become creative with iconic characters and imaginetheminawholenewway. In remakes they have different characters and are perceived in a different way. How have these beloved monster changed from the first time they appeared on screen? One thing is for sure, even after half a century, they still have the power to scare.

From the Universal Collection ...

Here's a look at some of the original movies that scared audiences.



Movie: The Phantom of the Opera
Starring: Lon Chaney
Release Date: 1925



Movie: Dracula
Starring: Bela Legosi
Release Date: 1931



Movie: Frankenstein
Starring: Boris Karloff
Release Date: 1931



Movie: The Mummy
Starring: Boris Karloff
Release Date: 1932



Movie: The Invisible Man
Starring: Claude Rains
Release Date: 1933



Movie: Werewolf of London
Starring: Henry Hull
Release Date: 1935



Movie: The Wolf Man
Starring: Lon Chaney Jr.
Release Date: 1941

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COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD PICTURES

BY MAX LARSON

Gathering around to see "The Ring" for the first time, it would be easy to expect another Hollywood standard horror movie: predictable, bland and uninventive.

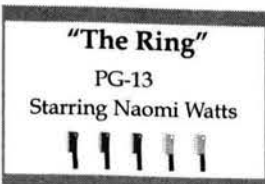
Well, there's some good news and some bad news. The good news is, it does a good job of standing out from most horror movies of the past decade or so. The bad news is, in terms of a film, genre ignored, it doesn't quite stand out at all.

It employs, to its discredit, cheap scares. Images flash upon the screen and screams accompany them. Yes, it is scary. No, it is not original.

The original part is the story, which is revealed at a good pace.

This film gets down to business. It is practically invented for teens in the sense that it doesn't waste time in getting to the action.

Naomi Watts plays the conspicuously young mother of a haunting child, who is played by David Dorfman.



"The Ring" PG-13 Starring Naomi Watts

Watts' role is played surprisingly well. Dorfman's innocent child role suits him well, and he gives off a highly intellectual vibe. Unfortunately, he may be doomed to association with this role for the rest of his acting career.

"The Ring" takes the concept of the frightening little girl to a new level. It takes it to a high-definition, surround sound level by putting her into a television.

It follows the destruction caused by a

mysterious tape that leaves the viewer dead after seven days of having seen it. Watts' character sees it and uses the seven days she has left to save her life, uncovering a dark story behind the tape's creation.

There is gore, but there is a lot more suspense. Most films leave the viewer scoffing, predicting the ending after a few simple character introductions. And as the story unfolds, the viewer wants to know what is going to happen next, joining Watts' character in her quest.

Director Gore Verbinski painted a bleak image using images like dead horses and rotting corpses. Limiting the lights in the film, and being selective with colors creates an eerie effect.

If searching for a scary movie to see, one with an interesting, cohesive story, pass on "The Grudge" and "Halloween." Pick "The Ring," and prepare to be interested.

MICHELLE RIEGER

Remember those cheesy, foreign language movies with very obvious English voiceovers? Well, Godzilla 2000 was another one of those movies.

The three main characters, all of whom are Japanese, are trying to figure out how to study the famous Godzilla. Rounding off the cast are a dad, his 8-year-old daughter and a middle aged female photographer.

Godzilla comes out of nowhere and starts destroying the city of Tokyo, stomping and trampling through everything in sight.

But, somehow the movie was able to keep the audience's attention span. Not because of the so-interesting story line or very obviously fake animation.

Well, maybe it was.

Comparing the audience now to the audience back then there would be a much different reaction and opinion of this particular movie.

It was almost like a trip back in time to the 1970s: unconvincing graphics and animation, and obvious voiceovers. Oh and let's not forget the alien spaceship that wakes up from its 6,000 year sleep in the ocean.

As it awakes from its sleep it looked like a huge rock. So basically there was a 25-foot wide rock hovering around Tokyo trying to collect all of the data from the computers.

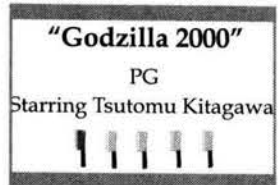
Godzilla does eventually fire-breathe the rock surface off of the UFO to reveal a shiny, silver spacecraft.

It's also very confusing that Godzilla is destroying the whole city so the audience would assume that Godzilla is the villain, when in fact the spaceship rock is the villain.

It was specifically entertaining that the animation was terribly put together, in today's terms at least. Also Godzilla looked like he must have had cosmetic surgery that went horribly

wrong because he was hardly recognizable in this movie.

The acting overall was surprisingly well done. It would seem like it would be extremely hard to keep a straight face while filming the movie. It's almost a miracle that the movie got finished. The horribly dubbed voiceovers didn't help the movie much though.



"Godzilla 2000" PG Starring Tsutomu Kitagawa

The one hour and 39 minute movie did seem to drag on for what seemed to be five hours. When it did end, it surprisingly seemed to end too soon, but now without a happy, victorious ending. Of course.

It was definitely a much different movie experience than what one would see nowadays.

But if you're looking for a cheesy, but also entertaining film, in a more than slightly cheesy way then this would be the movie to see in all its cheesiness.



COURTESY OF CENTROPOLIS FILM PRODUCTIONS



COURTESY OF LITTLE, BROWN

Novel takes unique spin on horror

"Betwixt"

Author: Tara Bray Smith

BY ALI HODGE

Moth. Flying painted butterflies. Deadly beauty.

A rave.

A whole bunch of random things, yes?

And for about 200 pages of Tara Bray Smith's novel "Betwixt" that's about all they are: just a bunch of random things with just the right doze of mysteriousness.

The story follows the main characters Ondine, Morgan, Nix and Moth as they all discover a large secret of their existence at a rave in the woods near the solstice.

It's an event that happens often in teen novels, discovering a secret, immortal existence. Yet what sets this book apart from its predecessors is that it's unique.

And slightly scary.

And a perfect depiction of teen street life.

The book jumps around as it follows all of the main characters and their love problems, drug problems, years for independence, and impulsives to fight.

The unfortunate part of Bray's style to do this is that the reader doesn't get to know the characters as well as they would like to.

She also expected her readers to infer as to her meaning of things a little too much. Luckily, she didn't do this in access so much that it ruined the feel of the book.

Once the characters begin to know one another, then the story falls in place and the reader is finally thrown into a fast moving story involving deep emotions, family problems, and self image issues as well as things much deeper on a supernatural level.

Although it's easy reading, and the type is huge and doublespaced, making the readers feel less than intelligent, what makes it enjoyable is the use of intrigue and the way Tara Bray Smith portrays the story line.

It's not a complicated storyline, and it is perfect for readers who want a little bit of teen smut to consume themselves in.

However, for readers who want more fantasy and mystery, "Betwixt" can offer that as well.

Tara Bray Smith writes with a good balance of intelligence and diction for younger audiences, thus portraying to both audiences.

Nevertheless, Bray's writing is thin. Unlike some books with rich writing and a poor storyline, Bray has the opposite problem.

Her writing certainly is not something to give praise to, but her imagination and storyline is quite unique.

The book is planned out to be the first of a series, following ever further the faithful and strange characters of Moth, Morgan, Ondine, and Nix.

Where writing and little things could be improved, certainly Tara Bray Smith has a good solid base in her storyline to take her all the way to being a bestselling



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS

BY EVELYN TAYLOR

"Little Shop of Horrors", starring Rick Moranis as the quirky Seymour Krelborn and Ellen Greene as his vibrant co-worker and love interest Audrey, is a comedic musical that follows an orphan, turned florist, through his trials and eventual success.

Seymour is taken under the wing of Mr. Mushnik, the owner of a low rent florist shop in the slums and later, his employer.

It is at the florist shop where Seymour meets and falls for Audrey, whom is already in a relationship with a man who mistreats her.

One day, Seymour stumbles upon an exotic plant unlike any he has ever seen.

The bizarre plant, as he soon finds out,

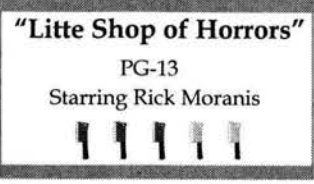
feeds on blood and has the ability to move freely and sing drawing attention to the once nearly abandoned flower shop.

Pretty sweet, huh?

This element of the film appeals to sci-fi fans as well as those interested in musicals. After all, who wouldn't be entertained by a singing, man-eating plant?

This slightly tacky, multi-genre film is known for its absurd concepts and a story line unlike many films of its time. While it may not have gained as much recognition as famous classics from the 1980's like "E.T." and "Back to the Future", I would consider it to have a certainly original plot line.

Rick Moranis does an excellent job playing geeky, sheltered man. The film was well cast in general with Ellen Greene as the bubbly Audrey and Vincent Gardenia as the self centered



"Little Shop of Horrors" PG-13 Starring Rick Moranis

BY BRITNEY MILLER

If you are looking for a crazy horror movie to make you have nightmares for months, "Night of the Living Dead" is not the movie to watch!

The movie was shot in 1968 and directed by Tom Savini. "Night of the Living Dead" was clearly his directorial debut because it was horrible.

From the very beginning, suspense and thrill is a key factor. The name itself is scary to being scared is expected.

Even the trailer makes the movie out to be the best horror movie of the year, but it was'n't.

In a small town in Western Pennsylvania, zombies roam day and night with a never ending hunger.

They chase around the citizens of the little town, impatiently trying to find someone to

eat. Tip of they day: don't go to the little towns where things seem wierd. Listen to the voice in the back of your mind.

One by one, people begin to dissappear and are bitten. The victim puts up a huge fight for their life, and after they turn into a zombie, they don't mind fighting the fight as a killer.

For the next 30 minutes, all you are watching is the new zombie to join chase around a screaming woman, who once she's bitten once, now becomes a zombie.

This is the whole movie. No surprises, no secrets. Nothing but a cycle of crazy, ugly zombies who have a never ending hunger.

But if the zombies are so hungry, why do they only want a few bites from the victim and just move on? Is the point of the movie for the

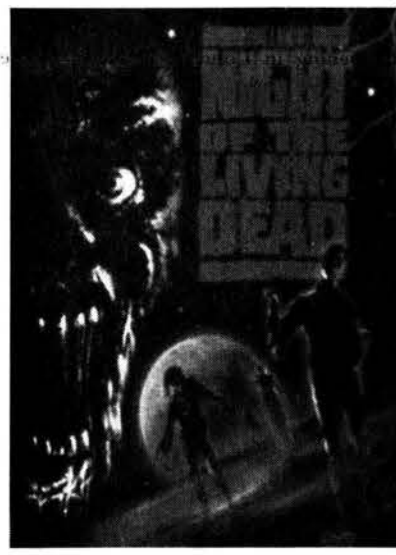
zombies to get a quick bite to eat, or to infect other people to become one great zombie nation?

The movie becomes boring and predictable. Before the movie, you can make a list, and predict what will happen. Then watch the movie and write down what it's really is about. I guarantee if you compare the lists they will look identical, which is not a good thing!

This movie is just another dumb monster movie. The monsters are not all that scary. The zombies look goofy, unrealistic and nasty. All they do is moan, walk around and wear fake blood resembling monsters from Michael Jackson's video, Thriller.

Maybe when "Night of the Living Dead" was done filming, the zombies just went to the music video set and learned how to dance like zombies.

What was going on with the whole "zombie thing" in the early 90's?



COURTESY OF 21ST CENTURY FILM CORPORATION

BY ASTRIKA WILHELM

Nothing can come close to Wishbone telling the story of a phantom obsessing over a young opera singer, but the 1988 version of "Phantom of the Opera" does come close to Wishbone's unique telling of the famous play.

Unfortunately, the majority of the acting was not what made the movie such a great success. Christine, the damsel in distress, along with most of the other actors and actresses, was anything but heavenly.

Melodramatic actions and expressions filled the entire movie. Certainly, the style is comparable to those silent movies from several decades ago; comical, but nothing else, maybe even annoying, but certainly not good when it is employed to recreate a classic, especially The Phantom of the Opera.

There are, thankfully, some actors who truly do know how to act.

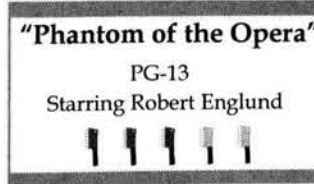
The person who plays the phantom,....., does so beautifully. He impersonated the phantom from the book, giving the scared man a realistic, empathetic feel for the audience.

When he takes Christine to his underground dwelling and proclaims his obsessive love to her, he makes the audience feel as if he is talking to them, and the audience shows their emotions.

All of them believe that he is a slightly demented man, with an unhealthy obsession with the soprano opera singer. One of the best aspects about this version of the movie absolutely must be the opera singing.

To those who hate opera music and ballads, unless you want to sit through hours of agony, absolutely, in no way, see this movie, or any of the other versions of the Phantom of the Opera.

But, to all of those opera lovers, this version of the Phantom of the Opera has especially beautiful-sounding songs and



"Phantom of the Opera" PG-13 Starring Robert Englund

melodies. The characters' mouths open and their songs take wing, achieving a sense of perfection, raising strong emotions within all of the movie's watchers.

The viewers cannot forget the costumes and decoration created to enhance the quality of the movie. Set over a hundred years ago, the women's clothing personifies the era perfectly, with the dresses large bussels and elaborate ribbons and fragility.

Then, the audience cannot forget the eerie background of the opera house and the dudgeon.

The candles illuminated the phantom's lair, creating a suspenseful atmosphere. casting shadows of mysterie upon the phantom's face as he slowly walks away backwards from Christine.

This version though is just another version, a better one, yes, but still it has the same plot line. It still has the same tear-jerking scene at the end.

The phantom still lives alone, losing his true love forever, and having to watch another man marry her and have a family with her.

Different actors, same story.

Remake still stays close to classic roots

BY ALI HODGE

A man - not an unattractive man - running around in a dark trench coat uncoding the secrets of a world filled with rogue creatures, killing off deadly beautiful vampires and creatures with the most obscure weapons.

What more could an audience want from a classic Halloween remake?

And if there is more an audience could want, "Van Helsing" is littered with monsters everywhere from Count Dracula to rogue dogs to Frankenstein.

But also sinful clergymen, beautiful women, funerals and evil births. You know, just for those who are looking for more than just a whole bunch of supernatural creatures and

green guts. The movie follows the story of led-astroy Gabriel Van Helsing, played by the lovely and talented Hugh Jackman, and his involvement with a holy group devoted to finishing off evil creatures.

Along the way, he finds himself coming closer to the truth about his family and where he came from.

In the meanwhile, the last princess of Transylvania, Anna Valerious, played by Kate Beckenheim, is in her quest to track down Count Dracula and thus redeem her long lost family from the firey pits of hell.

And of course, what kind of a Hollywood film would it be if the two main characters didn't meet in their efforts to strive toward a

common goal and eventually fall in love?

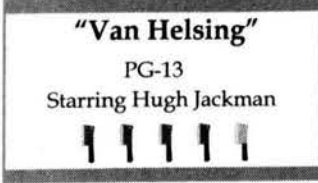
The story, which was intriguing enough, didn't outshine the special effects, setting and acting however.

In fact, where it not for these, probably audience members wouldn't have paid attention.

The cast was star studded, all stepping out of their elements to create a movie that was relatively good in comparison with other movies of their like such as "Hellboy."

The set was really beautiful with it's dark forests and rainy overcast clouds casting a shodowy atmosphere on the whole stone built villages.

It was fantasy, but not in a "Goldgen Compass" or "Bridget to Tarabithia" sense. There were profanities and blood and sex, mixed with magic and blood lust and holy murder.



"Van Helsing" PG-13 Starring Hugh Jackman



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11 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER



ILLUSTRATION BY ANITA HODGE

Haunted Houses in Nebraska

From haunted mansions to haunted carnivals, there are many haunted houses that attract attention. Here's some information to help make the decision of which one to visit.

Name: Screamer's Haunted House
Location: 4905 South 72th
Omaha, 68127
Dates: Sept. 27 through Oct. 31
Facts: Screamer's uses fog machines, strobe lights and loud music as part of their props.

Name: Scary Acres
Location: 17272 Giles Road
Nebraska
Dates: Oct. 21 through Oct. 31
Fact: Scary Acres has had its history connected to the Train of Terror, started in 1993.

Name: Mystery Manor Haunted Theater
Location: 716 N 18th Street, Omaha, 68102
Dates: Sept. 28 through Oct. 31
Facts: Mystery Manor celebrates 24 years of being open, and has expanded its house with a new, alternative ending which takes place in a new level of the house.

Name: Nebraska Carnival of Fear
Location: 1800 State Fair Park Drive
Lincoln, 68521
Dates: Oct. 12 through Oct. 31
Fact: The legend surrounding the Carnival of Fear, centers around a man called Dr. Elias Blood.

Name: The Ranch of Terror
Location: Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch, off 48th between Cornhusker & HWY 370.
Dates: Sept. 28 through Oct. 28
Facts: It takes people about an hour to get through the entire house.

Name: The Shadow's Edge
Location: 3457 S. 84th St.
Dates: Sept. 21 through Oct. 31
Fact: Every Saturday, live music is played in the graveyard of the house.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF WWW.HORRORFIND.COM
INFOGRAPHIC BY KIM BUCKLEY/REGISTER

Haunted houses provide fun, terror for students

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Haunted houses have been the settings of many movies and books, and yes, even real life.

They have intrigued people and have a part of the Halloween tradition. They start up in late September and keep on until Halloween night. These haunted houses in Omaha include Mystery Manor Haunted Theater, Screamer's Haunted House and Scary Acres, just to name a few.

To add to the spookiness of the entire thing, some of the haunted houses have a legend surrounding the place. For example, Mystery Manor has the story of a man going insane and killing his wife. He was then later killed by his wife's brother, and is said to have returned from the dead to kill his brother-in-law.

Tyshel McCluskey went to Mystery Manor this year with her family. She said she thought it was okay, and she kind of enjoyed the experience. Wakefield said the entire trip through the house took ten or fifteen minutes.

Sophomore Bridget Monson has attended two haunted houses this year, the Shadow's Edge and Mystery Manor. She said she believed Mystery Manor was scarier than Shadow's Edge because the actors did a better job at instilling fear. She said part of that was because she recognized more people she knew more people who worked at Shadow's Edge.

The actors at Mystery Manor, Monson said, were meaner and pushier. They were

also more aggressive.

Monson said haunted houses appealed to teenagers because it got them into the spirit of Halloween and it's something fun they can do with their friends. Monson went to the haunted houses with a group of friends.

Sophomore Angel Wakefield worked in the haunted house Shadow's Edge for two days.

She had to be at the haunted house a couple of hours early and have her make-up done. After her make-up was finished she had to sit around until dusk.

Wakefield was part of the medical room and said her favorite part of working in the haunted house was getting scared reactions from people. She said it was fun as well as a kind of anger reliever.

She said the hardest part of working at Shadow's Edge was towards the end of the night because it was doing the same thing over and over again, and she was tired by that point.

Monson said the haunted houses were a lot of fun and it was a good form of entertainment.

She said it was fun to see friends working in the houses as well as the parts with the strobe lights, which both houses had. Another thing Monson liked were the slides at Mystery Manor.

McCluskey said she didn't have any plans to visit another haunted house because she's not into that kind of thing. She said she went to Mystery Manor because that

was her family choose.

Wakefield did not have to audition because she just showed up to get the point. She said she found out about the job from a friend. She said because she worked the weekend she got off at work around 12:30 a.m.

Her costume consisted of a medical gown and her throat slit up with gore make-up. She jumped out at people, and said the actors had to be quick because they couldn't let the people in the house know where they were or what they were going to do.

Monson said going through Mystery Manor took about half the time it took to go through Shadow's Edge. The locations of both was more convenient for Monson because they were the closest to her house. Monson also had plans to attend Scary Acres on Oct. 28.

This was the first time Wakefield has worked at a haunted house. She said she didn't know if she would work in another haunted, but said she wouldn't work at another haunted house this year.

She said she worked with about 25 students who also attend Central. Wakefield said it was fun to wear all of the make-up that went along with the costume. She said it took 25 to 35 minutes to apply it on her and it came off when she showered.

McCluskey said the best part about Mystery Manor were the costumes. She said the actors jumping out and scaring people could have been improved because they didn't jump out as quickly as they could have.