

NCAA in Omaha

Men's NCAA basketball tournament makes its way to Omaha at the Qwest. See page 15B

CHEETA club hosts guest speaker

CHEETA hosts Angel Holland to talk about non-vegan meal alternatives. See page 3A

Youth in Politics

It's the first year in many years that teens are tipping the scales in the elections. See page 8A

Thursday 5.1.2008

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the register

Central High School

On the go...

news



PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY/REGISTER

New Junior Statesmen of America club at Central

New club offers a chance for students to voice their opinions about politics. For more see 3A.

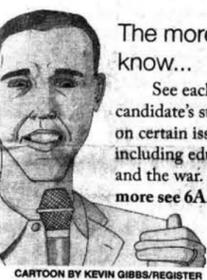
Chess Team continues to make Central proud

The Chess Team takes second at the state competition behind Westside and Creighton Prep. For more see 2A.

Local, music students perform for Spring Swing

The vocal and music students performed in Central's cafeteria under the direction of Pete Wilger and Lyn Duma. For more see 3A.

opinion



Students skeptical of public school uniforms

Students find the idea of school uniforms in their public schools appalling and worry after the district's meeting. For more see 8A.

registration

Book reviews of the Classics

Some of the classics get reviewed by the Register. But sorry, none of what we have written could help you on your English tests. For more see 12B.

Prom remains memorable night for juniors, seniors

Prom. The glam. The glitz. Prom will give students that wonderful end-of-the-year feeling now as it did years ago. For more see 11B.

Student expresses herself through dance

Senior Lauren Trummer has been dancing since she was a young girl, and sees dancing in her future. For more see 11B.

sports

Golf team is lead to success under new coach

The golf team blossoms under the leadership of Chad Townsend. For more see 16B.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

New windows, lighting for Central

BY ALI HODGE

Walking into the courtyard after walking in from outside, students at Central noticed a huge difference. At six o'clock in the morning, it wasn't as dark as it normally had been.

The Central High Foundation, as part of their lighting project, had been fundraising for quite some time to provide the school with new lighting for the grounds and the courtyard. The lights still have an archaic look to them. Principal Gregory Emmel and the members of the foundation agreed to keep them old fashioned looking.

But they give off significantly more light, as many have noticed.

New light posts were placed on the outside of the building as well, and spot lights are being put in for night lighting to show off the architecture of the building after hours. The lighting is not being used yet, but they are scheduled to come on within the next month, said Principal Emmel.

Spot lights were also put in small windows in the courtyard for additional lighting.

And as a new change to Central this year, shatter proof glass has replaced all the windows on the stairwell.

Emmel said the school has been looking to do this for a while, but after an incident where two boys were playing around and ac-

cidentally sent one window into pieces down on the courtyard, they acted a bit quicker.

It has taken a while, said Emmel, but finally after having ply wood up for a few months and countless hours of working, the project is complete and the windows are replaced with safety glass.

Emmel describes it as a type of glass that is normally placed in windshields of cars; the type that won't shatter into pieces, but crack within its self.

He said he made certain that the new glass was put directly into the old frames of the windows to maintain the old fashioned look Central is known for.

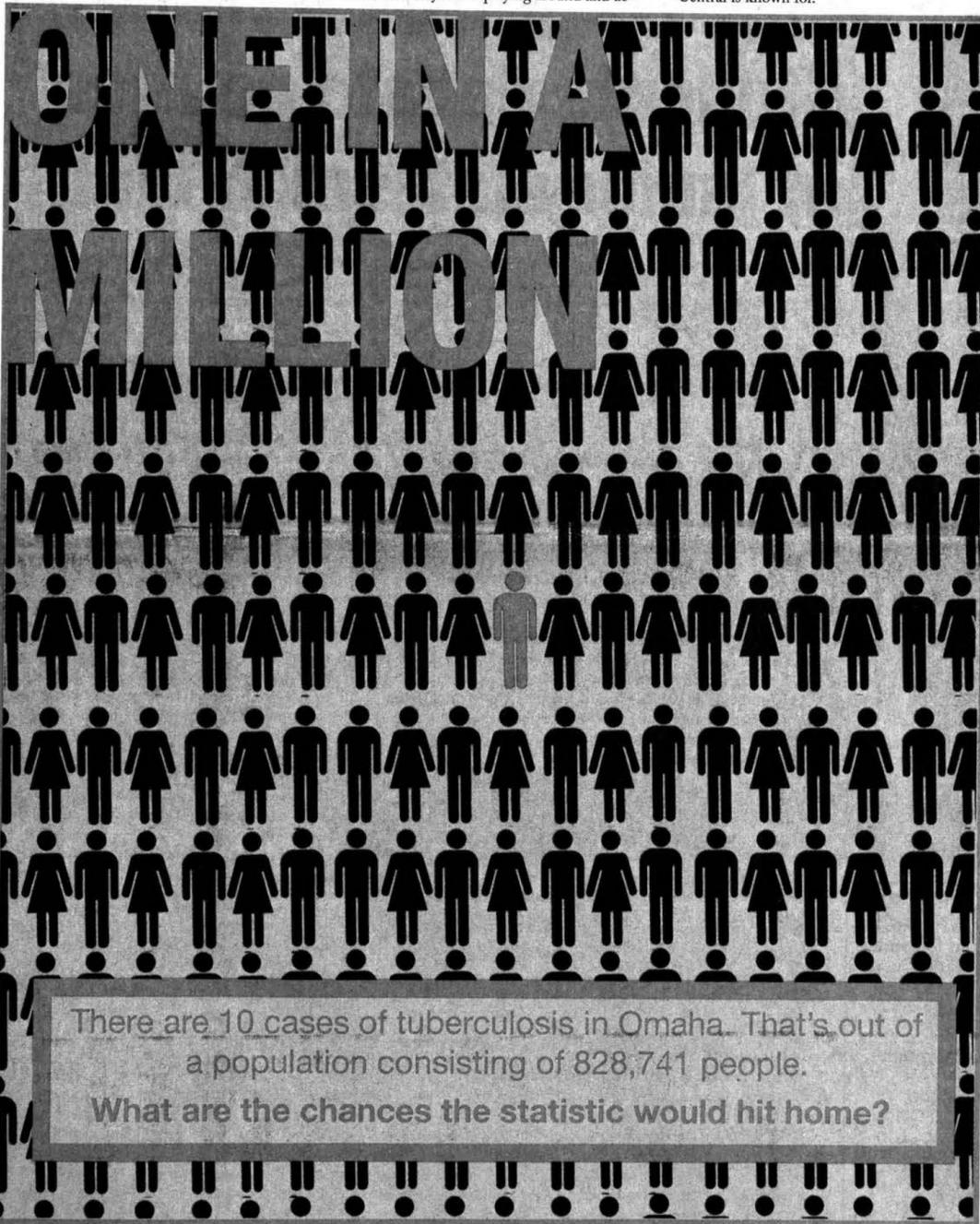


ILLUSTRATION BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

BY ALI HODGE

Further cases of tuberculosis at Central is highly unlikely, said Principal Greg Emmel. In order for the disease to be passed on, one would have to be in contact with the infected student for a great deal of time and constantly be breathing in the germs.

With the tuberculosis (TB) scare, many students are wondering if they could have the illness.

"They tested the students and teachers just as a precaution," said Emmel.

Emmel said the Douglas County Health Department via the Nursing Supervisor of OPS, Sharron Moran, informed him that one of his students had the illness on April 2.

In a meeting held between the Omaha Public School District and the Douglas County Health Department on April 3, they stated that the student's family was being tested and protected against the disease and that the students and teachers in contact with the student - between 140 and 150 people - were only tested only to make sure the germs had not spread.

Other goals of the meeting were to strategize on how they were going to inform the media as well as the students and staff of Central of the illness.

"They (Douglas County Health Dept.) helped us compose a letter to get to the families since it's such a technical situation," said Emmel.

The official test results of the students and staff will be in within the next week, but Emmel said the District and the Health Department does not expect further cases.

Tuberculosis is a disease that attacks the lungs usually, but can also

infect almost any part of the body, according to the American Lung Association. It is passed through the air and only the air.

For example, if someone with an active case of tuberculosis sneezes, coughs, talks, sings, or anything else involving their mouth that would transfer germs through the air. It can only be caught by breathing it in, said Emmel. However, if someone with an active case touched a desk top, for example, and then a healthy student touched the same spot, the student is in no danger of contracting the illness.

A letter was sent home to students over spring break which the Douglas County Health Department helped Principal Emmel write. For students who did not need testing, it was just a letter informing them of the situation at the school.

For students who needed to be tested, it included the details of the incident, what they would be asked to do and where, a consent form, and information regarding what the illness was.

A press conference was also held April 7 at which Principal Emmel spoke as well as representatives of the Douglas County Health Department, Dr. Adi Pour and Dr. Romero.

By law, the Omaha School District was not allowed to release any information about the student including his name and grade.

"He has not been in school for some time," assured Emmel. He said he knew the student was on the road to recovery - TB can be treated - and he knew the Douglas County Health Department was doing everything within their power to make sure the student was taking his medication. For his safety and the safety of those around him, they are making sure he will recover fully.

Emmel said the student may qualify for schooling at home if he is recovering.

Student council hosts Relay for Life

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Cancer is something that affects many people's lives every year.

There are very many events and functions to help raise money for a cure for cancer.

One of the big events that occurs annually is Relay for Life. This is an activity sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is a fundraiser to help support cancer patients. It also raises awareness of cancer and informs people on how to prevent cancer.

In order to participate in the relay, participants must raise at least \$100 or more before the actual event.

Some got creative and raised money by doing a car wash, asking businesses to donate and just walking door to door asking for donations.

Participants divide up into teams, each with a representative with the team at all times.

The actual relay is an event at a local high school or local fairground. The event can last overnight and even up to 24 hours.

Contributors could participate in various activities such as scavenger hunts, walking on the track, and other projects.

At the beginning of the relay there is a special ceremony held for the cancer survivors. The survivors could either walk or run one lap around the track as the rest of the participants cheered them on.

The Student Council sponsored Relay for Life held on April 4. It lasted for about 12 hours. It was held at the College of Saint Mary campus.

They were able to raise \$27,000. They raised \$7,000 more than expected.

Senior Nonnie George is a member of the Student Council and was a participant of Relay for Life. This is her second year participating in the relay.

"It's so much fun, it's such a blast!" described George.

The entire night is a symbol of a cancer patient's life. George explained the process of the entire event.

The beginning of the night symbolizes the diagnosis. It has just started and the patient cannot yet feel the pain. As the night progresses, participants become more tired, symbolizing the progression of the cancer. The end of the night, or more beginning of the morning symbolizes a new day and a new life after beating cancer.

Brent Larson and Matt Hamill were sponsors at Relay for Life.

Staff member remembers death of niece

BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN

"I was at home getting ready for bed, and my brother called me and told me the situation at KFC was Brittany", Mr. Paul Gunter, assistant custodian, was the uncle of 20 year-old Brittany Williams, junior at UNO.

Brittany Williams was on her way to pick up dinner for her father and was shoot to death by Kyle Bormann at the drive through of Kentucky Fried Chicken / Long John Silvers at 7601 N. 30th street. It was later announced that it was a racially motivated crime.

"I was numb at first until it finally sunk in. I didn't want to believe it at first," said Gunter about the crime being racially motivated.

Gunter spoke very highly of Brittany.

"She was a child that every parent would want to have. She was respectful, upbeat, not boy crazy at all, but had a lot of goals set for herself." Said Gunter. "She had a smile to lighten a darkened room."

He remembered back to that awful day, he said when he heard about it he didn't believe it until his brother (Brittany's dad) began to weep on the phone and he said he just felt sick until it finally settled into reality.

Even through all the pain Bormann has brought to Brittany's family, they remain forgiving.

"I was forgiving to him," said Gunter, "I thought in order to keep going day after day, I couldn't hold a grudge against him."

Gunter had nothing but sweet memories of Williams. "What I remember the most about her is how much she liked to eat," Gunter said. "She was as big as a beanpole and we used to tease her and asked where she put it all"

"When we would have family dinners she would always come in late, all prim and proper, and would make her plate and eat, then leave early," remembered Gunter. "She will always be remembered."

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Building the Swing
Central's baseball team see early loss as stepping stone. See page 13A



College Corner

Colorado Technical University

Location: Colorado Springs, Denver
Type: 4-year public
Majors offered in: Digital Media Design, Business, Advertising, Information Technology, Computer Science
Application dates: TBA for 2008-2009 school year

California State University

Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Type: 4-year public
Majors offered in: Business, Education and Behavioral Sciences, Physical Therapy, Journalism, English, Foreign Languages, Nursing and health professions, visual arts, Agriculture and applied sciences, and Science
Application dates: TBA for 2008-2009 school year

Ithaca College

Location: Ithaca, New York
Type: 4-year private college
Majors offered in: Cinema and photography, Journalism, Television-Radio, Administration, Accounting, Health Science, Legal Studies, Writing, English, Foreign languages, Literature
Application dates: TBA for 2008-2009 school year

Kansas State University

Location: Manhattan, Kansas
Type: 4-year public
Majors offered in: Business, Education Agricultural, Physical Therapy, Journalism, English, Foreign Languages, Nursing and Health professions, Visual Arts, Agriculture
Application dates: TBA for 2008-2009 school year

University of Washington

Location: Seattle, Washington
Type: 4-year public
Majors offered in: Business, Education Agricultural, Physical Therapy, Journalism, English, Foreign Languages, Nursing and Health professions, Visual Arts
Application dates: TBA for 2008-2009 school year

CALENDAR

- May**
- 14 Seniors' Last Day**
Last day for seniors. Some seniors may need to come back to take final exams.
- 18 Senior Recognition**
Seniors are recognized with awards earned throughout the year.
- Spring Sports Banquet**
- 20** Students who participated in Spring sports can attend a banquet honoring their teammates and coaches.
- 21 Graduation**
A graduation ceremony will be held at the Civic Auditorium for graduating seniors.
- 23 Last Day of School**
Last day of school for freshmen, sophomores and juniors.
- June**
- Summer School Begins**
- 4** Students who need to earn extra credits in order to graduate may register for summer school classes.
- 14 ACT**
The June 4 ACT deadline is May 9. Examinations are held at several area locations.
- August**
- 4-8 Marching Band Camp**
Students will review marching techniques and prepare for upcoming season.
- 18 School Begins for Freshmen**
First day of school for incoming freshmen.
- 19 First Day for Upperclassmen**
Incoming sophomores', juniors' and seniors' first day.



PHOTO BY KIM BUCKLEY/ REGISTER

Junior Michael Walsh raises his hand to contribute to the discussions in the new Junior Statesmen Association club. The club is aimed to provide a place for students to talk about politics.

Students debate politics at junior statesmen club

BY KIM BUCKLEY

Passion rung out in the voices of the students as they gathered in a classroom to discuss issues that normally politicians would argue about.

There were people on both sides of the issue and both sides were defending their position.

The Junior Statesmen Association, which is funded by the Junior Statesmen of America, is an organization for high school students to educate them on current political events and to create a better democracy.

The president of the Junior Statesmen Association club at Central, junior Luke Hawbaker, said he got the idea of starting the club when he was talking with his friends, who wanted a place to debate and share ideas as well as take advantage of the diversity the school has.

He said they basically wanted a forum to discuss their ideas, thus the Junior Statesmen Association club was formed. "I think it creates better informed citizens," Hawbaker said.

He said he thought it was a citizen's responsibility to be knowledgeable about the topics that are controversial.

"I love politics, it's my passion," Hawbaker said.

One of the issues debated was the topic of gun control, which has recently captured national attention due to the Supreme Court hearing a case involving a law restricting private ownership of handguns.

Hawbaker said he found gun control to be an interesting topic because of the recent events in Nebraska, including the Von Maur shooting.

"It's an issue, especially after December, that touches home," he said.

With the topic of gun control, the club was able to learn and debate about the issues of whether it should be controlled locally or federally, as well as whether how much control there

should be at all.

At the end of the meeting, the club looked at some statistics about violence and crimes in Washington D.C. before and after the gun ban to see whether the ban had an effect.

While the debates can sometimes become heated, Hawbaker said the moderator, senior Ben McGuire, does a good of making sure it doesn't get too out of hand.

He said McGuire and himself help to ensure that everybody at the meeting are involved in the debate.

Hawbaker said he didn't mind the arguing that can take place during the debates and said he encourages it.

"We love to see the passion," he said. "We love to see the heat."

McGuire said he believed that even students who are unable to vote attend the meetings because they will be able to vote in four years or less time, and broadening their knowledge of political issues can help them make an informed decision when the time comes when they will be able to cast their vote.

Other topics that the Junior Statesmen Association club has debated have involved illegal drugs and if they should be made legal and torture.

Hawbaker said they have a big list of topics that they feel they could have a good discussion about and have the club as a whole decide which topic they would debate at the next meeting.

One of the things that surprised him, McGuire said, were students didn't know a lot about torture.

He said a lot of kids come to debate uninformed, but getting people to do research on the topics and learn on their own gave them more knowledge.

While he doesn't feel like not having this type of club before this year has hurt him, McGuire said it would have been nice to have had this type of club during his first three years in high school.

Students await Greece and Italy trip

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

Ever since International Language teacher Rita Ryan began her first trip to Italy and Spain, students have been thriving to join in on the excitement.

"There is no greater experience in the world than seeing other countries and meeting new people," Ryan said.

This will be her 14th trip with students and she and Mr. Wilson have volunteered to chaperone the 44 students, four from Chicago, who have decided to join in on the fun.

The very first trip was to Israel, Italy and Greece, and ever since then Ryan has had students who show a desire to be a part of the trip.

"It was one of the greatest things I had ever seen and I simply wanted to share it," Ryan said.

The trip is set to begin on Monday, June 2 and end on June 17, which leaves 14 days to explore the two cities in Europe and two days for flying to and from the countries.

Each trip Ryan has taken her students on is slightly different than the previous, and she designs the schedule in conjunction with EF Customized Tours, which is the largest tour company in the world.

An Italian tour director will accompany the group to each of their pre-planned destinations and the group will get to experience special demonstrations and get access into very unique and unusual places across Italy and Greece.

Ryan said one of her goals in designing the schedule for the trip was to try and take the students to a place that she has never been. On this trip they will be making a stop at the trullo houses, which is an area of cone-shaped homes that house people who demonstrate great hospitality. Mr. Wilson also chose an area of interest which was the Abbey of Montecassino which sits high atop a mountain and was destroyed and rebuilt four times because it was used as a defense fortress for Nazi Germany during World War II.

This year students will get the opportunity to visit the most popular places of tourist attraction such as St. Peter's Basilica, the Colosseum, the ruins of Pompeii, the Temple of Athena, the Parthenon and other historical sites.

Besides all of those exciting and beautiful places the students will also get to visit other not-so-apparent foreign wonders, such as Italian leather factories where they will learn how to make purses and jackets and will attend a glassblowing demonstration in Venice.

"By engaging in other small activities like

visiting the leather factory helps to promote local industries of Europe while still entertaining the students and teaching them something new," Ryan said.

Ryan also said that her favorite part about this entire trip is the three days the group gets to spend in Rome.

"One can never in a lifetime see all that Rome has to offer and there is nothing like it in the world," she said.

Junior Doug Knickrehm agrees with Ryan when it comes to what he most looking forward to see on not only his first trip to Italy and Greece but also his first trip out of the country.

"I'm really excited to go to Rome because that's where we will get to visit the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica," he said. "I'm also really excited to see the Mediterranean Sea and the beautiful coastline."

Knickrehm, like many of the other students who are going decided to go because it was such a once-in-a-lifetime experience and because of his interest in Roman history.

Junior Greg Meyer joined in on the trip for many of the same reasons and said he was also looking forward to seeing Rome and the Colosseum the most.

Neither one of them is really worried about a language difference while on the trip.

"Latin is the root of Italian and so I will be able to recognize some words and even reply back in some instances," Meyer said. "Also, a lot of the people in Europe speak English in addition to their original language so it should be pretty simple to communicate."

But no matter what the language, this trip is sure to be packed full of new and thrilling places, people and adventures that will be something none of the students or teachers will ever forget.

Chess team takes second

BY PETER BOCK

Although chess may not seem to be the most exciting athletic event, Central can list it among one of its best sports teams.

The Central Chess Team came in second place at the State Tournament. The Eagles finished behind Westside and in front of Creighton Prep.

The second place finish marks the first time Central did not come in first in State since 2003, which breaks a streak of five consecutive state titles. However, the team finished just three points behind the winners from Westside.

"We expected to do better," says junior Ben Susman, the fourth board on the team and a key component with three victories in the Eagle's run. "We tried our hardest. It's kind of sad when all the other team's are winning athletics championships, but we still really well."

At the State competition, each team plays five games, and the four best scores are taken and added into a final score, Susman said. The Eagles posted 12 wins and two draws, finishing with a grand point total of 12.

Senior Alek Erickson, the first board, won three matches, as did junior Ben Polk and sophomore Caleb Koch. Susman also recorded three wins, defeating players from Millard North, Westside, and Prep.

Before State, Erickson finished first in the Metro Individual Chess tournament. The tournament included some of the top players in the state.

"Alek is probably our best player," Susman mentions, "he won that tournament, and he plays first board, and he's our most experienced player."

Koch played five matches, winning three against opponents from Westside and Creighton Prep.

"We had a good start as a team, but we faltered towards the end, and Westside kept pulling ahead slowly, one-upping us until it was over," Koch said.

The team practiced every Tuesday and Koch mentioned he didn't practice excessively before the tournament.

"We play against Mr. (Drew) Thyden (the club's supervisor), which makes a lot better, and he gives us hints and helps us look for certain things when we're playing but I didn't practice especially hard in preparation for State," the sophomore mentions.

As for the second place finish...

"Well, it sucks because we ruined the tradition, but I still have a couple of years left, so I can get it back. Our team wasn't as good as in the past, because we only had two seniors (Erickson and Elvis Servellon)," Koch adds.

Ben Susman admits he doesn't like it, but is confident about next year.

"It just makes you want to make it happen. I've been practicing a lot, hopefully we can pull it off next year."

Susman, Koch, and the rest of the team look forward to the experience and talent that the team will bring back.

"We should be a pretty strong team, we'll still have Ben (Polk), Caleb, and probably (sophomore) Josh DeWitt. I am sure some of the other people will step up for next year."

LGBT Prom event

Proud Horizons, PFLAG Omaha and the Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance announce the 2008 Tom Mahony Prom for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and their straight allies ages 13-23. The Pride Prom will be held May 17 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Cary Hall at First United Methodist Church. The location is at 7020 Cass street, Omaha, Nebraska.

There will be a DJ, refreshments and photographers. Admissions is \$6.00 at the door and \$5.00 if you bring a can of food to donated to the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Proud Horizons is a youth support group for LGBT youth and their allies and provides a safe space for youth to discuss life's issues with their peers and to create a social network.

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Students perform for Spring Swing

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Some vocal ensembles were able to perform a lighter, jazzier performance in the cafeteria of Central High.

The event took place on Sat. March 29.

The ensembles included singers from CHS singers, Bel Canto and Vocal Jazz.

Jazz band accompanied the vocal ensembles in the performance. Peter Wilger, music department head, conducted the jazz band. Tom Cosby assisted in conducting the jazz band.

This was a less formal setting compared to other performances. The music was less intense and more relaxing.

Lyn Bouma, vocal music director, came up with the title "Spring Swing Thing" because she thought it fit well with the event and contents of the event.

This was a change of pace for the performers, but they were able to experience a different style of music.

Conducting the vocal jazz performers was Colin Brown, vocal director.

To perform this type of music though, was no easy task. It required practice for much of the third quarter.

They had to adjust to different tunes, harmony and chording with the jazz genre.

"It's a challenge for them, but it makes them more versatile singers," said Bouma.

This was their first year to put on a performance such as this. Junior Todd Alba was a part of the calming performance.

"It was a relaxing way to end the day," said Alba.

He also said he thought it was really cool to perform jazz.

Earlier that day Jazz Band performers were at the Millard South Jazz Festival performing.

They had been preparing for both performances for approximately four months.

At the Spring Swing the Jazz Band put on about five songs.

Their entire performance lasted 15 minutes.

Both the choirs and the jazz band were able to perform a new genre of music and had fun.

Kim Buckley contributed to this story

CHEETA club hosts guest speaker to present non-vegan meal alternatives

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

The life of a vegetarian seems like a hard one to someone who isn't a vegetarian.

Angel Holland, former owner of Dazy Maze, a restaurant in the Old Market, was a guest speaker at Central High Education for Ethical Treatment of Animals (CHEETA) club.

CHEETA club discusses and raises awareness about animal endangerment. When the club meets, they have guest speakers to inform members more in depth about animal awareness.

Holland came to Central prepared with several vegetarian dishes. She was assisted by ESL para, Sara Wehby. They both prepared dishes containing, what would otherwise be considered disgusting to meat and potato lovers.

The first dish distributed to members was a tofu taco. It consisted of sausage flavored tofu crumble. Tofu is a curd made from soybeans. This item is high in protein making it a perfect replacement for meat. Holland also mentioned it is a good source of natural estrogen.

Tofu usually comes packaged in a block shape. It is then cut up in

pieces and served to the liking.

But for this particular dish, it came packaged looking like crumbled meat.

Most grocery stores carry tofu and it is inexpensive.

A vegan alternative for dessert was the tofu chocolate mousse. This dish composed of soy milk, cocoa powder, chocolate syrup and of course, tofu.

Holland said all of these dishes are naturally lighter and healthier than non-vegetarian dishes.

This diet may seem difficult to maintain for people who are just starting out.

An issue that often comes up concerning a vegetarian diet is the cost. Some items may be a bit more pricey than others.

But overall, with some smart shopping one can find less expensive vegetarian groceries.

Another matter in question is whether or not other members of ones' family will enjoy the cuisine of a vegetarian meal.

Many of the dishes presented at the meeting were examples of something that could be served to a non-vegetarian family.

Most everyone at the meeting who sampled the food enjoyed it.

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Marketing students honor employers

BY MICAH WILLIAMS

Marketing is one of the tall standing pillars of society. It has been around since the dawn of bartering through the evolution of currency. It is no surprise that it's a popular class taught at Central. The class has some branch programs like DECA and an internship program.

The internship program has to do with trying to let kids ready for the business world and pick future occupations. The program started in 1921 and came around to central in 1972.

The program consists of a choice out of three main sub programs. There is the program where you get to pick out something to do a long project on, or the program where you do what is called a lab. In which the student is in an unpaid job like controlled situation. Take for example anything from selling cookies to a college grade job with no pay but a good chance to test a field that students might want to go into.

"Kids usually go for the job," said Mr. Gaylor. Since the job you actually get paid.

In that program the students are first taught how to get a job with skills like writing a resume. Then the students take a job of their choice from literally hundreds of options.

The program differs from just regularly getting a job because you're monitored by Mr. Gaylor and Mrs. Wiles who tell students if and how they should try for a raise or tell employers that the student is not getting anything out of their position and are better suited in another field.

At the end of the internships a banquet is held like the previous in March. Which was the 40th Annual Employer- Employee Appreciation Banquet, in an OPS wide elegant dinner with the students and their employees.

The dinner was an extravagant affair at The Hilton linked to the quest center. That was 20 dollars a plate, that included a meal since it was "business dining" by Mr. Gaylor's words, as he explained how it was related to the students getting used to and knowing what to do in a refined environment.

At the banquet the numerous businesses were thanked and there was a special awards given to a few establishments. The annually awarded Special recognition award, for businesses that had special contributions, was given to Target, HyVee, and Farmhouse for 2008. And there were a few speakers at the event as well like Mike Denning that was a coach and told how important what the kids were doing.

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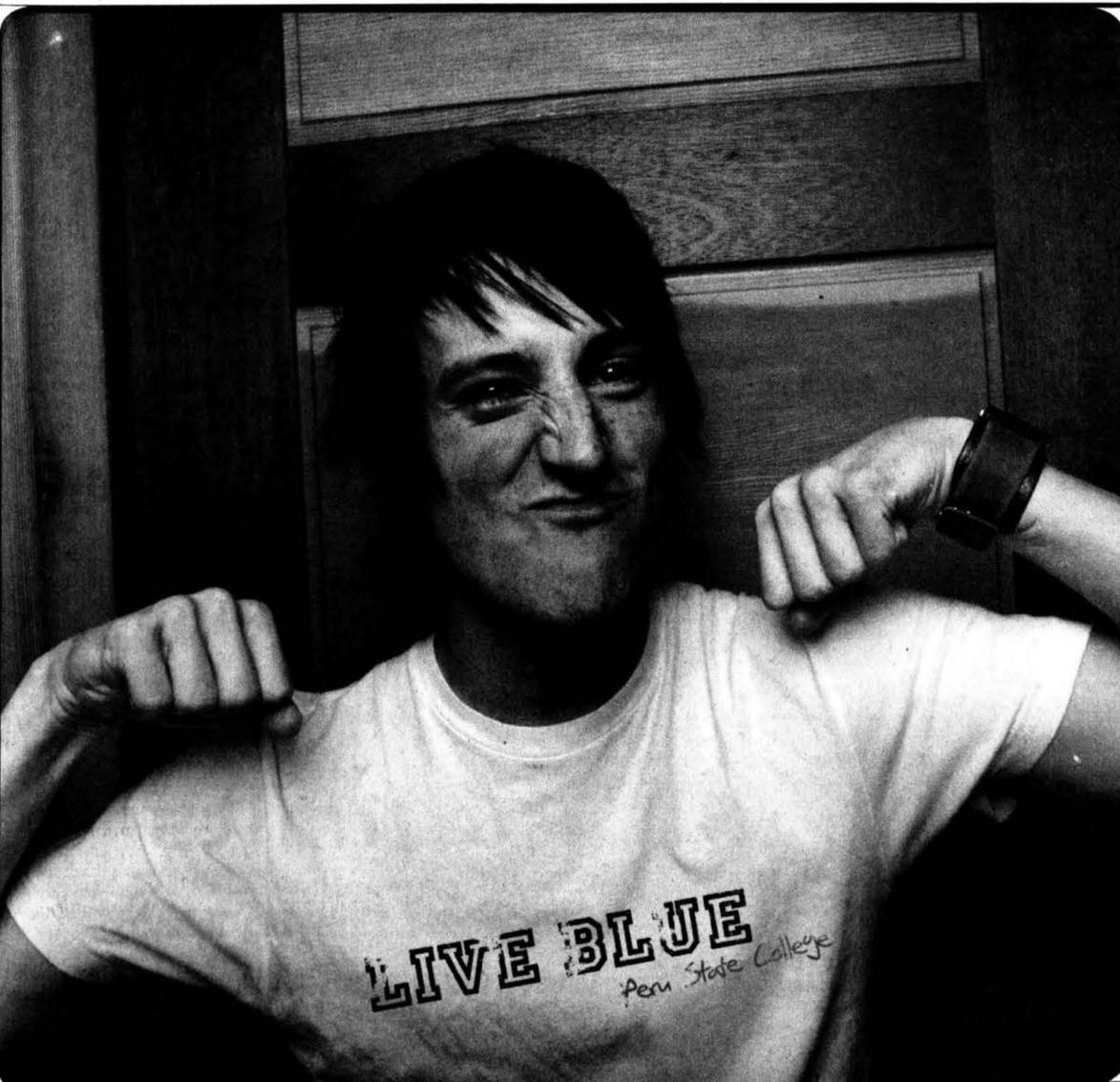


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Central JROTC hosts Red Cross blood drive



PHOTO BY ALANA BRUNOW/ REGISTER

Freshman Friday gives blood at the Red Cross blood drive hosted this year by Central's JROTC.

BY KEVIN GIBBS

Every year the JROTC in partnership with the American Red Cross coordinates a blood-drive in the spring.

A few weeks ago on a Friday, two busses pulled up in front of Central's Seemann Stadium, on board each was a team of skilled medical personnel ready to take blood.

One by one students were called out of class, screened in the school and sent out to the busses.

Once out at the busses, the students were asked several questions in private and if they passed the questioning round, they were moved to the beds to have their blood drawn.

It took some people anywhere from five to twenty minutes to fill their bag, and move to the canteen to relax.

If it takes any longer than twenty minutes, the blood taken cannot be used.

Several light-headed students feared passing out and were told to lie down, and raise their arm while acting like they were peddling a bicycle.

It looked incredibly strange, but the purpose was to get the blood flowing

again. Several students had an exact opposite reaction, feeling ready to return to class without any recuperation.

For safety's sake, all students were required to stay in the bus an extra five to ten minutes after having blood drawn.

While they waited they were offered free snacks and juice to help raise their energy levels.

"It was exciting to see the student body take an interest in this worthy cause," said Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Brianna Armendariz, a senior.

Armendariz is the Battalion Commander for the JROTC at Central and spearheaded the effort with senior and Battalion Executive Officer, Cadet Major Renee Wilder.

Both Armendariz and Wilder were pleased with the outcome.

"We exceeded our goal, and look forward to educating next year's class on how to make a successful blood drive," Armendariz said. "We also appreciate the support that was given to the JROTC program to in turn help the American Red Cross."

The quota of people signing up for the blood-drive was well surpassed Armendariz said.

Armendariz and Wilder are both

graduating this year and will leave the battalion in new hands next year, it is important they understand the basics on how to handle special events such as the blood drive.

The members of the American Red Cross taking blood weren't facing any kind of special event, they travel the region on a daily basis collecting blood for area hospitals.

Omaha houses the region's American Red Cross Headquarters, so every time they go to Kansas City or Lincoln, Omaha is where the haul is processed and where the bus parks after a tour of duty.

The staff on board told stories of the people they met over the course of their travels.

When you give blood you get a pin for your efforts.

If you give four times you get a pin with a golden 1 on it, signifying that you've given a gallon of blood collected to the American Red Cross.

One of the staff claimed he once handed out a pin with a golden "30" on it.

The recipient had given blood 120 times.

People are healthier when they give

Central guidance department helps students through group counseling

BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN

The Guidance department at Central High has introduced numerous group counseling sessions in improving different conditions that high school students go through.

One of the groups is Grief and Loss, which is helpful with dealing with issues due to grievance.

When a loved one dies it may be a challenge to get over. It may affect the students grades and whole attitude about school. Being involved in a group may help some students get over a fear or depression from death.

"I think it assists in helping younger people realize that they aren't alone and that other people in their age group are overcoming similar problems," said junior Michaela Favara.

Another group offered is Changing Families. This subject is helpful because there are a lot of changes in families that have single parents, going through loss of a parent, divorce, an addition to the family, or loss of other family members.

Many high school youth have difficulty adjusting to a change in the household, especially if they were used to one way for so long.

"I know that there are many teens out there with similar situations due to issues in the home and I feel that they all need a place to let go of their issues and a place to relate to others that are going through the same thing. We need a supporter that can help us with advise and guidance and it is wonderful that the counselors are offering it to us," said junior Danyelle Coleman.

There are teens now that have stress related to these topics in which there is a session for this also. There is Stress Management to help put the problems out on the table about what is stressing students out.

Statistics show that about one third of teens are stressed on a daily basis. Thirty nine percent of the teens feel pressured to accomplish more than they can handle, and 64 percent cut back on sleep to get things like homework done. These two things are major factors that lead to stress.

According to lifespan.com other stress factors in teens are pressure to wear certain clothes and or hairstyles, pressure to try drugs, alcohol, and sex, and adaptation to bodily changes are on top of the list.

Participating in the group activity can deal with all these pressures that normal teens have to face each day.

"It's a good idea to have the group sessions to let us have the chance to talk about what's going on in our lives and what problems we are

facing" said junior Eden Chapman.

Some forms of stress can lead to anger problems. Studies say that 72 percent of all psychiatric referrals among teenagers are related to anger.

Anger is very common in high school because there are many things that can provoke a person to get upset.

As a teenager it can be challenging to control emotions, everything is let out in the form of anger like stress, irritation, and being sleep deprived.

Can helping teens in teaching a way to control their anger be a good solution? Anger Management is another group that teaches a way to manage anger.

"I think teens that are angry have some issues in the home life or school life and if they need help they should get it," said Jevé Thompson.

Ninth Grade Transition is a topic that could be effective with many of freshmen that are having trouble adjusting to the high school scene. Which may be difficult for some of those who do not adapt as well to their environment than others.

According to betterhighschools.org twenty-nine of 51 states see their greatest "leakage" in the "education pipeline" occur during the ninth grade.

Some students have a hard time with keeping up with school work and let certain issues socially and emotionally effect their concentration on school.

Other groups include Freshman Group, Senior Group, Health Challenges, Female empowerment, and Tolerance Issues.

There is another group, Male Issues that is offered.

The Guidance Department said that there were males that were a bit insecure about opening up in a group session.

"As a male I think that going to tell others my issues is a bad idea because I feel that men should be able to handle their own issues as a man. I don't like it because people talk and someone might spread your business if you go in and open up to everyone." Said Clifford Foxworth, grade 11.

It could be helpful for those that feel comfortable enough to express themselves in a group.

The guidance department was confident in the program in helping teens overcome their problems.

The groups sessions are offered in the guidance center at various times, to participate ask your counselor about the group talks.

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A letter from the Editor

REBIRTH
A column by Ali Hodge

Considering this is the last issue of the year, I just kind of want to say some things.

There were a lot of people who thought I and my staff couldn't do what we've done this year considering the massive changes the department has undergone. And comparing the success of last year to the success of this year, we might have fallen.

But comparing our failures last year to this year, we've done incredibly well.

Forgive me, I'm probably not making much sense.

The year started out, for me at least, as a nightmare.

I was disheartened, which is a poisoned emotion, affecting everything around me.

I didn't know how I was going to run a paper, which I didn't know how to do, with a staff that was practically entirely new and get used to a new adviser all at the same time. And most of all, I didn't want to be the Editor-in-chief the year the paper died.

Little did I realize at the time that with me there it wouldn't die.

I wouldn't let it. But the thought still made me ill.

But things happened that I didn't think would.

The first issue came out within fourteen days of the first day of school.

Poorly edited, I must say, but it said a lot about my staff.

Their drive diminished the poisoned emotion in me.

We started out the year with a name.

The Register room I knew, beloved "thirty," would never have hosted a huge staff sitting in a circle in the middle of the room with the lights off passing around a flashlight and whispering what made them scared about the upcoming year.

But that was the room I used to know and I was now getting to know it as something different.

I heard the fears of my fellow journalists.

"I'm afraid we'll lose."

"I'm afraid of censorship."

"I'm afraid we won't be as good."

"I'm afraid I won't be as good as the other Editor-in-chiefs," I said. "Editor-in-chiefs who had been unnecessarily held up on this pedestal of glory. I'm afraid I won't compare."

Then I passed the flashlight to our new advisor, she smiled and held it up to her face.

"I'm afraid I'll diminish what you guys have established here with your previous teacher," she said.

We were all afraid of change. The stupid game helped us realize we were all on the same boat.

It took me a long time to get used to the change.

To tell you the truth, I don't even think I'm fully used to it yet.

I had to become accustomed to the new staff, my new position, even a new teaching style.

The paper suffered in its own way. We hit snags in the smooth silky plan and every now and then spirits were crushed and quarrels broke out.

But looking at the year as a whole, it shines with success.

Success that can't necessarily be added to the intimidating walls that make up room 030 if you know what I mean.

What I'm trying to say is that success this year is measured on heart, on passion, determination, rebuilding and family.

Not on how many contests we win or how many people we touch or anger with our journalism.

It's measured on how much we learned and how we dealt with a year that was by far one of the hardest this department has seen.

We smiled a lot and we were brought to breaking point a few times. Or at least I was, but it didn't diminish what we had accomplished.

So in conclusion, my whole hearted pride and congratulations goes out to the staff of the Register.

You've overcome a lot this year and it was because of you that the spirit of the best high school newspaper in the country didn't die.

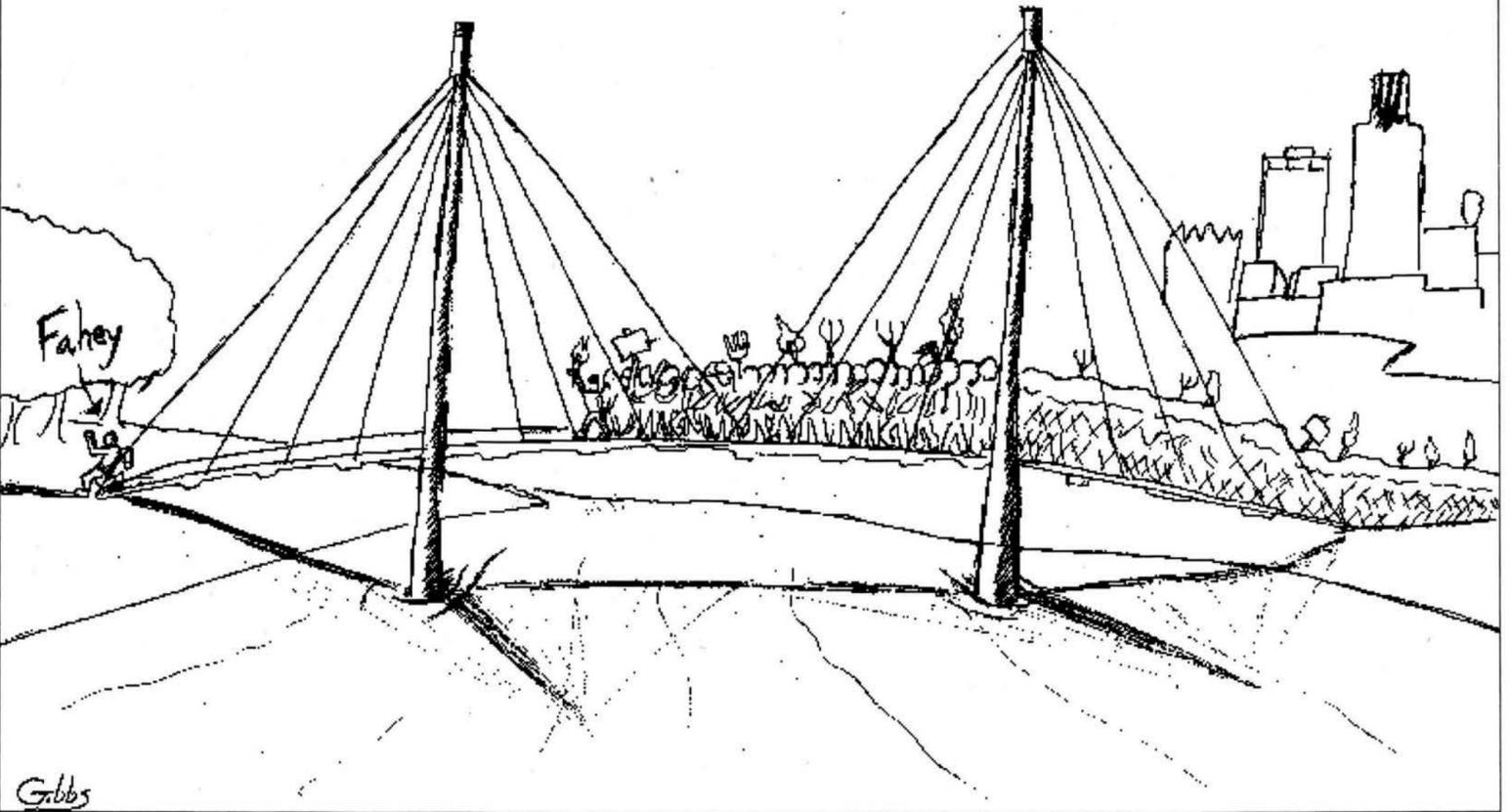
From this I've learned to move on and learned how exactly to deal with a situation that is foreign to me.

I hope others learn to do the same with whatever challenge they face.

Don't cling to the past because it will never come back to help you in the present.

And above all, don't be afraid to try new things and don't quit if you fail... whatever failing means to you.

Opening Day at the mayor's new Pedestrian Bridge.



CARTOON BY KEVIN GIBBS/REGISTER

Recall Fahey effort controversial to students

On March 24 the 30-day countdown to gather enough signatures to recall Mayor Mike Fahey was begun.

A little over 21,000 signatures are needed to be collected from registered voters in the city of Omaha and of Elkhorn.

Fahey has made decisions involving the well being of Omaha and its citizens without consulting anyone but himself first.

The group of petitioners is supposedly upset with Fahey's decision to annex Elkhorn and his want and effort to rebuild the downtown stadium, which will supposedly ruin the history of Rosenblatt.

But, by beginning this recall now, if the correct amount of signatures is collected, the actual vote to end Fahey's term would most likely coincide with the College World Series.

The vote would be theoretically placed on either the third game of the tournament or the second game of the championship series.

According to Councilman Chuck Sigerson the recall during the World Series would be bad news

for Omaha and would not only cause bad publicity on the national level but also could create a bad relationship between Omaha and the NCAA.

But when it comes down to it, the people who petitioned to sign the recall, although allegedly angered with the decision to rebuild the stadium, are really upset simply with Fahey and his lack of involvement with other council people and are not for or against the proposition to build a new stadium.

According to a story published by KETV, Greg Lyons, a supporter of the recall, said that he has become really upset because he doesn't want the city to commit to that kind of investment without the people's input.

He believes that the most important thing is the openness of government, which isn't being given to the public.

The argument rests on Fahey's inability to keep his promises such as not raising property tax when in reality the taxes went up because the actual values of property increased, lack of upkeep in parks and the fire and police pensions.

Fahey's defense toward the recall positions was that not everyone will agree and he is proud of his record of building stronger neighborhoods, holding the line on taxes and creating a better Omaha for all citizens.

His main decision to rebuild the ballpark in downtown is to insure a new ten-year contract with the NCAA for the series to stay in Omaha after the current one ends in 2010.

The estimated cost of the ballpark is around \$140 million with a 2% entertainment tax that will go towards the funds used to build the stadium.

Petitioners are attempting mainly to get Fahey out of office in order to save Rosenblatt before the rebuild plans are ultimately finalized.

But there are those who are against the recall for reasons that support Fahey with or without his decision to rebuild a ballpark.

KPTM Fox 42 News quoted someone against the recall who stated that recalling the mayor is irrational because they're not thinking about the big picture.

When relating back to the argument about a new stadium, it is apparent that plans are already in

progress and there is not much that public input and voting will do to change what is set in stone.

As for the extra taxing, it will mainly affect out-of-towners who stay in hotels and rent cars.

And in the concern of money, the petitioners are wasting their own funds in the attempt to recall.

If the recall is successful, Fahey will leave office with less than six months, which hardly seems sensible.

But to those who dislike Fahey and the way he relates his business with the public, this petition is much more than about a stadium or him simply leaving office.

The petition is about recalling the mayor because he has not listened to the public, lied to taxpayers, conducted closed-door secret meetings and making financially irresponsible decisions.

When added together, to some, it makes perfect sense to sign a petition, and to others it is completely unnecessary.

The decision is up to the citizens of Omaha. If they are seriously disgruntled, they will let their voices be heard.

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff

EDITORIAL
The OPINION of the Register staff

Nebraska considers apologizing for slavery

When one thinks of slavery, one imagines people in chains, toiling under the hot sun, having to do painstakingly hard work without any thought of a reward.

Along with that picture one imagines cruel plantation owners whipping their slaves if they were too exhausted to do any more of the work.

Slaves were thought of as less than human and as a piece of property that could be sold.

It is a very painful part of America's history, and instead of trying to pretend it never happened, it should be acknowledged.

Without acknowledged, how can we, as a society, ever hope to move past it?

Both presidential candidate Barack Obama and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice have recently made speeches concerning the issue that is prevalent in today's society.

Even in an era where slavery is unlawful and tremendous strides have been made due to the Civil Rights movement in the 50's and 60's, discrimination and prejudice are still alive.

The number of stereotypes in today's society is countless, not only with race, but with sexuality and gender.

If people believe that racism and discrimination is gone in Nebraska, they are sadly mistaken.

Even at Central, the most diverse school in the state, the "N-word" was sprayed in blue on a satellite dish outside the 3 side last year.

It would be foolish and naive to think that race is not a prevalent topic to talk about, especially at a school that takes pride in all of the different kinds of people that walk the schools of the building.

With all of the of the attention on the issue of race this election season, this was good timing for Nebraska to start considering issuing an apology for slavery.

The Unicameral considered putting a resolution in the legislature that would formally apologize for slavery.

Unfortunately, this did not pass.

The state legislature made the wrong decision in not putting in that resolution.

This resolution should have been passed because it would help bridge the racial divide that is still prevalent in this country.

While it is true that Nebraska is not considered one of the huge slave states like a south, there were still slaves that resided in Nebraska.

Slavery also affected every country in the United States, whether they were thought of as a slave state or not.

One of the lasting effects slavery has had on this society was the breeding of ignorance. After slavery was banned it was clear that society in the South still thought the former slaves were less than human.

Thus the Ku Klux Klan was formed and the passage of Jim Crow laws were able to create the idea of "Separate but Equal," a notion only overturned by Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

It took nearly a century after the Civil War for legislation to be introduced to ensure that African-Americans would be treated fairly.

Even today there are many stereotypes that still exist.

Because of these, America cannot say honestly that it has not

truly moved on from its dark history of slavery. Slavery has been a big reason why there is such a big divide between races today.

Some people might wonder why this would be such an important thing, especially since the time of slavery in this country has passed. Other would have probably wanted something like this, but felt it was the responsibility of the southern states.

All of these are valid arguments.

However, one of the most important things the resolution would do if passed is to acknowledge that such a tragic thing such as slavery existed, even in the mid-western state of Nebraska, and set an example for the entire country.

It would urge other states to do the same thing and start bridging the gap between the racial divide in the country. While it would not have magically erased this divide, it was a start.

It would also apologize to the descendents of slaves for affecting their lives as well.

The resolution stood for progress.

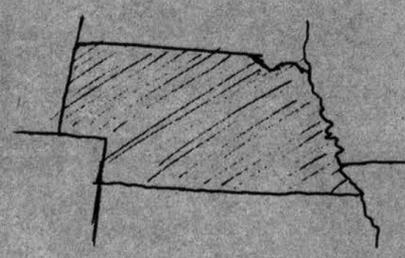
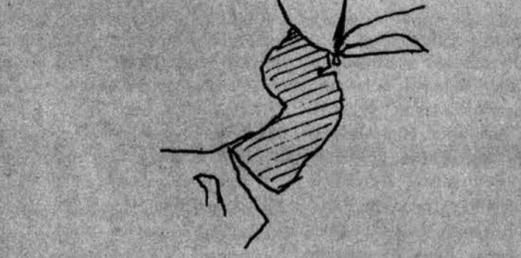
In the 21st Century, shouldn't that be what the country should be striving for? And not just technologically, but morally.

Maybe with this resolution we can start coming together without any thought to race, or the color of a person's skin, in the future.

Progress could have been made by the state legislature and they let it slip away. Perhaps the next time something like this is put in the Unicameral, the state senators will take notice and pass it.

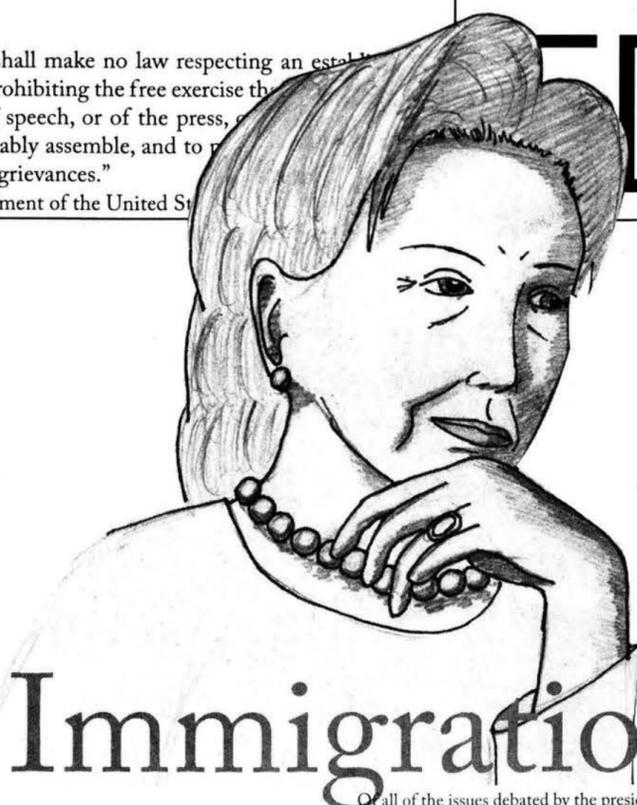
This resolution should have been passed to help heal the wounds that slavery has caused the entire nation.

Who knows when the next a chance like this will come along for Nebraska?

 <p>Nebraska</p> <p>Is was considering apologizing for Slavery which existed in the state prior to it's Northern "Union" affiliation.</p>	 <p>Louisiana</p> <p>Is one of several southern, "Confederate" states that has yet to formally apologize for practicing slavery prior to the civil war.</p>	 <p>New Jersey</p> <p>Was the first, and is the only Northern, "Union" state to have apologized for slavery.</p>
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"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition for a redress of grievances."
 First Amendment of the United States

EDITORIALS



Immigration

Of all the issues debated by the presidential candidates, the topic of illegal immigration is very important. It is also an issue with many proposed solutions, but still seems virtually impossible to solve. Undocumented immigrants have become a "problem" for the United States lately. The number of illegal immigrants in the United States has grown significantly in the past decades. Because the undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes, they pose a risk to the economy. Illegal immigration has some positives, though. So far, no terrorists have entered illegally through the U.S.-Mexico border. Some people also argue that the jobs that undocumented workers hold actually help the economy. The cheap labor provided by the immigrants contributes to lower product and service costs. There is a variety of solutions for the variety of problems associated with illegal immigration. Some solutions are focused on just the problems, while other solutions promote the



positives of illegal immigration. The three main presidential candidates all agree that the immigration plan of the current administration needs reform. The Bush immigration plan focused on strengthened borders but not the social aspects of immigration. Even though each candidate has many proposed solutions, each candidate's plans for immigration reform are surprisingly similar. As a governor from Arizona, a border state, John McCain has much experience with the issue of illegal immigration. It doesn't seem that with the experience there are better solutions. McCain's immigration proposals seem very ignorant for being a governor of a border state. McCain's solutions aren't horrible. He just only sees the negatives of illegal immigration. He believes that strengthened borders are the main solution to immigration. He is against allowing citizenship for productive workers. McCain also doesn't focus on the social aspects of the

problem. He believes illegal immigration can be prevented with economic solutions rather than social solutions. Instead of focusing on individuals, he focuses on the economy. To handle the situation of immigration, a candidate should focus on both the economic and social aspects of the problem. Both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama focus on both aspects. Their policies on immigration seem similar, with most of the same theories expressed. Between the two, Clinton seems to have the best proposed policies. She, like the others, believes in strengthened borders. Her social policies toward immigration seem more elaborate than the others. She believes that families of immigrants should stay together and that illegal immigrants should have a right to become legal citizens if they meet requirements and pay a fine. Although Obama's policies are equally as effective, Clinton is the candidate who would be more capable of enacting and enforcing true reform in America's broken immigration system.

EDITORIAL
 The OPINION of the Register staff

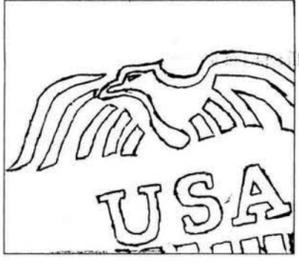
EDITORIAL
 The OPINION of the Register staff

Social Security

Social Security has been the nation's most successful domestic program, protecting millions of Americans from poverty due to old age, death and disability. The task at hand now is to vote a candidate into the white house who will ensure the stability of this program for all Americans. For the democratic candidates, Obama and Clinton, each one has a very different view of how to deal with the social security issue. Clinton has, for the most part, refused to discuss her stand on Social Security publicly, but in the long run it mainly focuses on fiscal responsibility, which she plans to deal with first. She told press that she didn't want to put an additional tax burden on the middle class but would consider what she called a "gap" with no Social Security taxes on income from \$97,500 to \$200,000 and everything above that would be taxed. This is very similar to what Obama said. When it comes down to it, Clinton is putting absolutely nothing on the table until a move toward fiscal responsibility

is attempted, because she thinks it would be a mistake to do that. Obama, on the other hand, wants to put everything on the table for consideration except for any type of privatization. Obama's specific proposal includes taxing the wealthy to close Social Security's long-term funding gap. Currently, annual incomes over \$97,500 are not subject to Social Security payroll taxes. He would impose the tax on all incomes over \$200,000, which he believes could significantly improve Social Security's financial picture. He believes in commitment by honoring the lifetime of work seniors have put in, protecting Social Security by stopping any efforts to privatize it and working in a bipartisan way to preserve it for future generations, secure hard-earned pensions by fighting to ensure companies do not forget their pension obligations and help Americans save more by making retirement savings automatic. On the complete end of the spectrum, there is the

Republican nominee. Republican John McCain wants to completely reform Medicare and Social Security because he is convinced that something that must be taken care of. He favors privatized Social Security, which is where Social Security money is put in private accounts giving individuals control of their retirement money. This belief is unlike that of Clinton or Obama and the question remains not if the Social Security program will fail, but when. McCain explained that he thinks promoting investment in America by every American worker would give lower-income Americans the ownership they deserve in the country we share, as well as get their Social Security more rapidly. Each candidate's view on Social Security is simply a small portion of their vote on this issue. There are many other issues to consider and once a candidate is chosen is the only time when the real solutions will arise.



Education

Education is an important issue, especially for students who are approaching the voting age. Well, and especially for students that are approaching the voting age and are planning to go to college as this in particular issue deals directly with you. The candidates in the 2008 election have very different goals according to education. Barack Obama, a candidate for the democratic party, aims at improving the opportunity for attending college for all students eligible to attend according to www.issues2000.org. Obama has made his opinions of education clear and in a nut-shell, he wants to make the superior education provided by our country affordable to everyone. He, if elected, wants to instate a policy where in prospective students can earn up to \$4,000 dollars to help pay for their college education in exchange for 100 hours of public service a year. For students with steady volunteering jobs, this is not only possible and extremely helpful, but also almost easy.

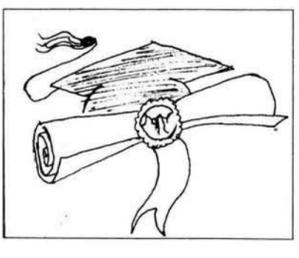
Senator Obama also has said that he would like to put billions of dollars into early education, add around 25,000 new teachers to schools in in-need locations, guarantee affordable, life-long, top of the line education, edit No Child Left Behind, and - this one may interest many high schoolers - shoot to eliminate college education for any student who has a B-average. All of which would take time, money, and serious planning, but Obama is confident he can make changes. Republic candidate hopeful, John McCain believes in evolution, but sees a hand of God in nature. He has said he wants all students to make their own decisions as to whether or not they believe in creationism and believes the issue should be left up to individual school districts. That is, if evolution should be in the curriculum at all. He has also said that he believes good teachers should be paid more than bad lawyers, so he wants to work on getting better salaries for teachers who have shown talent in their field.

He voted to have internet access, with filters, installed every school library and voted for merit pay and competency testing for all teachers. McCain voted no on national education standards, but voted yes for all, voted yes in allowing students to have individual prayer in school, and voted yes on a \$75 million dollar plan for abstinence education. Finally, democratic candidate hopeful Hillary Clinton expressed her views that parents are a child's first teachers. She also wants to work at getting more teachers in at-risk areas, but as to how many, she didn't say. She expressed that school safety needs to be focused on more and that students should be allowed to pray by themselves. She doesn't believe, however, that religious education should be considered for public schools. She also wishes to insert character instruction in schools that would teach empathy and self discipline. It is clear Senator Clinton is more focused on building up students as good people, which is certainly something that needs to be done.

EDITORIAL
 The OPINION of the Register staff

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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

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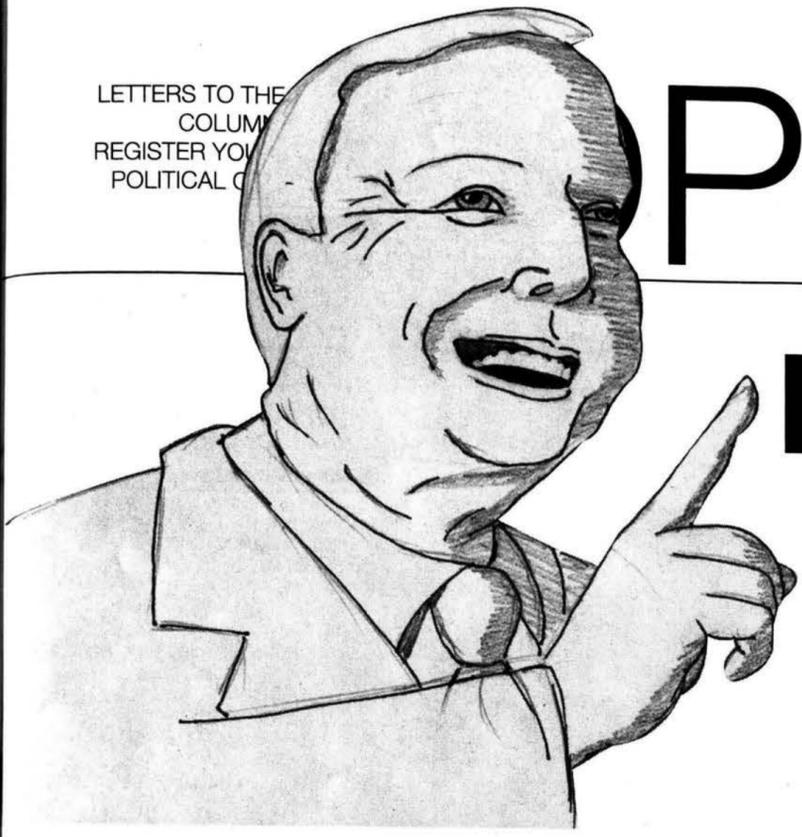
- Ali Hodge**
Editor in chief / Ads mgr.
- Peter Bock**
Sports editor
- Michelle Rieger**
News editor
- Kim Buckley**
Arts editor
- Kevin Gibbs**
Opinion editor
- Alana Brunow**
Visuals editor
- Wynter Davis**
Asst. sports editor
- Angelica Genovesi**
Asst. ads manager
- Brittney Miller**
Asst. opinion editor
- Mark Vondrasek**
Staffer
- Patrick Breen**
Sports editor
- Christian Chapman**
Staffer
- Will Langan**
Staffer
- Micah Williams**
Staffer
- Chelsea Williams**
Staffer
- LaTrina Parker**
Adviser
- Anita Hodge**
Contributing cartoonist

LETTERS TO THE
COLUMN
REGISTER YOUR
POLITICAL C

OPINION

Students need to take education more seriously. It's a privilege.

Crystal Huynhcao (12)



ELECTION '08

Barack Obama
John McCain
Hillary Clinton

Iraq War Policy

On March 20th of 2003, an invasion was made in Iraq. The so-called Operation Iraqi Freedom was started under the allegation that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction almost a decade ago. Reasoning behind the timing of this attack has not been confirmed, given to this day.

The duration of this war has caused millions of deaths including men, women, elderly citizens, children, soldiers, civilians and Saddam Hussien. The hanging of a wretched leader helped remedy some unfair customs and rules for Iraq's people and especially for their women but the scarred culture still has plenty of issues to deal with.

Over 845 billion dollars has been spent on this war by the government. When this war was first begun George W. Bush's estimate

for how much this bloodbath would cost, it was nowhere near even one billion dollars. That number grows every day the war lasts.

"Where is Osama Bin Laden during all of this," you may ask. Well Bush's administration claims there is no chance he is still alive.

Well, only time will tell and in the mean time, innocent lives will suffer in Iraq.

President Bush claimed we would be in Iraq for a short period of time that has now extended to an approximate guess of at least 8 more years than it has already gone on.

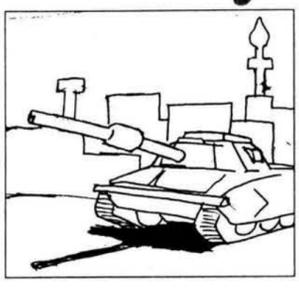
The candidates for the approaching elections of 2008 are mostly democratic. They all are headed in a similar direction, but they have different ideas about how to get America moving in

those directions. A majority all have their own ideas about cleaning up this disaster we have created in Iraq as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Hillary Clinton wants to withdraw from Iraq as quickly as possible, but the way she wants to do things might be too quickly. The mess we have made would not be cleaned up and the Iraqi people would be left to deal with it.

Barack Obama's idea would probably work the best because he wants to gradually withdraw troops while cleaning up at the same time.

Iraq needs our help and killing too many of them does not help their situation and most likely will not free them. The next elections will impact this war incredibly and the outcome will be unpredictable.



EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the Register staff

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the Register staff

Over the years our country has been plagued by a battle over what humans truly are. We have asked ourselves, are they born at conception? Is it wrong to kill their embryos off for their stem-cells? If they marry someone with a matching gender should it be honored?

Abortion makes Christian's sick to their stomachs and provides a way out of a mistake for those who disagree with that mentality.

Stem-cell research is looked upon as evil, because in order to gain them, you must rob an embryo of life.

And because gay relationships are expressly forbidden in the bible, and are generally unconventional, often people feel marriages between these people shouldn't be honored.

When it comes to our presidential candidates, They each have a

unique opinion on the issues. All are Christians. Only John McCain is pro-life on the Abortion issue, while both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama feel that the government can't know when it is appropriate one hundred percent of the time.

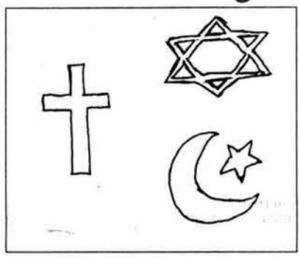
The same basic ideals apply when it comes to stem-cell research, with McCain believing that it is appropriate if the stem-cells in question would be discarded or frozen.

On gay marriage all candidates seem to agree. They are against same-sex marriages, but also oppose any constitutional amendments to legalize them. Both Clinton and Obama are for civil unions. John McCain is firm in his definition of marriage as between a man

and a woman.

It is difficult to place one candidate as handling these issues better. Hillary is not likely to fit the bill simply because the Clinton's are set in their ways, and it would take a lot of work to change the senator's mind. Obama and McCain both share relatively understandable views on the issues and seem more open to change, although McCain is about as far left at this point as the Republican's will let him hang. Obama on the other hand is eloquent and understanding, but there are no guarantees with the Illinois Senator.

For each person the choice is different, but for most people, Obama is likely to fit the bill.



EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the Register staff

Health care is a growing problem in America. Over 47 million people in the United States in 2005 were without health insurance according to the National Coalition on Health Care, and that number has steadily risen over the last few years.

Clearly, change is needed. According to www.cnn.com, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton would mandate individual health insurance for all Americans, and would pay for her plan by eliminating tax cuts under the Bush administration, as well as cleaning up costs under the current system. She would also help low income individuals pay for the new mandated coverage. John McCain, while he is concerned with lowering some costs of health care in small businesses, otherwise is against

any type of universal health care. He also wants to improve the quality of the medical service already being received, but otherwise isn't actively pursuing a method to get those 47 million citizens back on track.

Barack Obama does not mandate health coverage, but makes it more affordable, by using similar means as Clinton's plan.

He wants to eliminate the upper-class tax cuts given during the current administration's term. Obama would allow citizens to either buy into the government health care program, or into private programs that meet certain coverage standards.

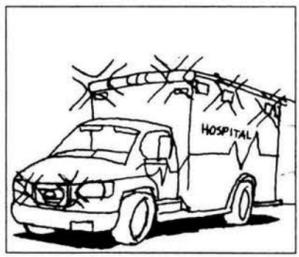
Obama's plan is likely to cost less than Clinton's plan, mainly because it isn't mandated, and solve the Health care crisis better than

McCain's plan, because it actually attacks the problem.

Clinton's plan may solve the problem, and prevents anyone from slipping through the cracks, but it is sure to cost well more than either of the other plans, and forces some cost onto people regardless of how much they can afford.

McCain wants to develop medical technologies and educate people about medical care, but it doesn't plan to help very many people actually afford quality coverage. In the long run, only Obama's plan solves the problem at a reasonable cost.

This should appeal to conservative democrats and liberal republicans alike, allowing Obama to unite the parties, making the task of passing such a plan through Congress easier than the polarized ideas of Clinton and McCain.



Negative advertisements only make positive impact for candidates

One of the most influential campaign tools in the arsenal of every candidate may not be what the public would like to hear.

"Who do you want answering the phone?" Negative advertisements. Smell the irony. All three main candidates; Rep. John McCain, Dem. Hillary Clinton and Dem. Barack Obama, have begun what they have all condemned.

Smear campaigns. It all starts with some negative words about your opponents.

Follow-up with some advertisements asking who would the public like at the reigns of America.

Then you are the set-up for a politic run for the presidency of the United States.

As much as Americans gripe and groan about politics and the smear campaigns that encompass them, they are a vital tool in winning a nomination and campaign.

Although they may be skewed and sometimes, just straight out lies, the advertisements offer Americans information on an opponent.

And although these ads can neither be truthful or just, the public listens. One might be saying, "now wait, how can we allow untruthful advertisements?"

The answer is simple and was answer nearly 80 years ago.

In 1934, Congress passed the Communication Act which made an important distinction between product advertisements and political ones.

In short, the bill provides the basis for candidates to slander their opponents.

With as many rules as there are in politics, this one seems by far the oddest.

Or wait... Does it? Passed 42 years later, the Federal Election Campaign Act allowed private individuals and political action committees (PACs) to spend an unlimited amount of money on these negative advertisements.

Yes, this bill almost acts as an amendment to the other to bring an endless amount of those ads.

Usually, a group can only donate a maximum of \$5,000 to keep from candidates providing personal favors and privileges. All-in-all the negative ads look to raise eye-brows and spending limits of private donors.

As much as we all gripe and grown about negative advertisements and smear campaigns, the government and its people, these ads do get attention, and often get the only attention. People are much more likely to believe a campaign ad than they are to check CNN for the factual information.

That laziness on the part of the American voter increases the popularity of these ads, because they tend to work, and anyone that attempts to run a clean campaign, looks like they have something to hide if they don't pull punches of their own.

Try as some might, McCain's Straight Talk Express, and Barack Obama's idea of getting back to the issues have both joined Clinton's smear-fest 2008 in the gutter.

It's an unfortunate, and unavoidable facet in politics, and it doesn't look like it will end any time soon.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the Register staff

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS

OPS board member doesn't have say

Dear Editor,
I think the argument on school uniforms is completely dumb. The lady that is all for uniforms is like 70. What does she have to deal with the here and now? ...Why does her opinion matter?...

Rachelle Limley (9)

Obama's plan works best with taxes

Dear Editor,
I think Obama should become the president because he has a plan to fix our tax systems.

Mike Pfeiffer (9)

Mayor, police talks become annoying

Dear Editor,
The negotiations between the police and the mayor's office about their pension have been ongoing. What I think is stupid is that the mayor told about negotiations that were supposed to be private and he offered a 3% pay decrease, which is stupid.

Matthew Vondrasek (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.

STUDENT POLL

Who would you vote for in the 2008 presidential election?

Democrats:	Republicans:
Barack Obama 65%	John McCain 9%
Hillary Clinton 10%	Ron Paul 7%

255 polled

Fahey pays for stadium with his job

Dear Editor,
I think they should recall Fahey because Rosenblatt could just be fixed up and put back to use. Fahey is just going to raise taxes to pay for some stadium we don't need. He needs to pay attention to the voters or get the hell out of office.

Tabitha Hemptill (10)

Diversity apparent in presidential race.

Dear Editor,
The presidential candidates are very divers this year. You have your African-American, a woman, and your average candidate. This year will be an interesting race.

Taylor Greene (9)

Uniforms are the right thing to wear

Dear Editor,
School uniforms seem like the right idea. School is your job, and you should look like you're going to work. It's good to look presentable.

Robin Fey (9)

Uniforms met with skepticism by students

Well it's that time again where caution is thrown to the wind and the debate starts once again on the topic of uniforms. Only, nothing has changed the several times the issue has been brought up and shot down, again and again for public schools. But none the less it appears the reasons need to be gone over again.

The central argument for uniforms is that teens continue to wear distracting and revealing clothing. So instead of trying to actually enforce the rules, some have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to take away any option of individuality and make uniforms mandatory.

In public school renovation, it would be ridiculous to force all parents pay to have their kids outfitted in uniforms. Even though the prices for uniforms aren't that steep it's still a matter of how public schools are a reflection of real life and actual getting kids ready for becoming adults in an average society, amidst diversity and lifelike situations. And it would be even more ridiculous if OPS used tax dollars to pay for it, instead of using it on books, much needed or for pay faculty, or after school programs.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the *Register* staff

The money would be just thrown into on one of Americans biggest money pits clothes.

Not to forget uniforms might not necessarily solve the problem with students anyway. Since one of the main complaints for males is the participation in the fad of sagging. But what's to stop boys from sagging in their uniforms or to stop women from making modification to the uniform.

The answer would be to have punishments for students breaking the dress code. What is what could be done regales of the uniforms. And raises the question, then what would be the purpose of having uniforms at all?

The fact is uniforms are a bad and pretty useless solution to a mediocre problem.

That would only serve as to waste tax dollars, stifle creativity, and ruin the idea that everyone is different. But other than that the idea of students wearing uniforms is great and whole-heartedly supported by all students.

Heart, soul not enough to satisfy students



FAKING A SMILE

A column by Patrick Breen

To all readers it may concern:

This is "Faking a smile," no longer trying to feign feelings. I'm about to come clean with how I feel about this school.

So be prepared.

Go ahead. Take out that red pen. Grab your highlighters. Yes, I am encouraging you to rummage through my column and through the paper. Look for mistakes. Go ahead.

But just remember when you're judging our work, and my sweat and tears, that you have never done anything half as hard. For four years I have had to put up with people tearing this program down. Tearing this paper down. I have poured my heart and soul into this program.

When I leave school I think about journalism. When I eat dinner, I'm thinking about journalism. When I sleep, I dream about journalism.

Have any of you stayed at school for more than 12 hours in one day? Have any of you tried to meet a deadline? Have any of you interviewed a man in prison? I'm assuming the answer is no. No matter how much you highlight, you're not even worthy of holding my notebook. My pen. My trash. Calm down, I know those weren't sentences. And go ahead and highlight this phrase too.

Because whatever I write, or whatever we write, it isn't graded on a normal scale. Its scrutinized and ripped to shreds. In no way am I calling us the best paper in the country.

In fact I have never called us even the best paper in the state.

But to see people rip and rip with no regard for our feelings. You are, despite what all you believe, lucky to have a high school paper of this caliber.

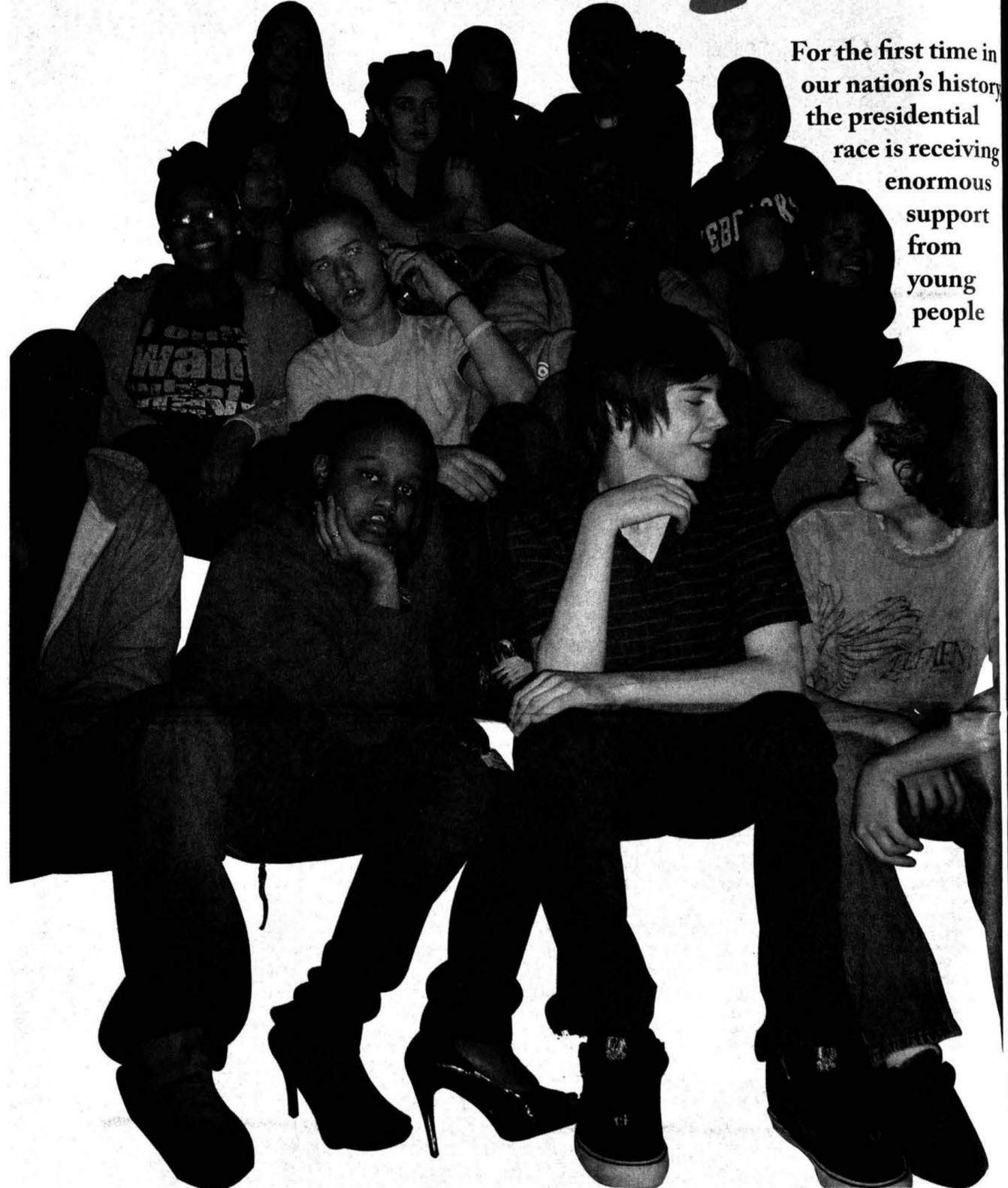
This year we placed 9th in the nation for papers above 17 pages. Do you know where any of the other schools in our state placed? I will give you a bone.

They didn't. I won JEA Journalist of Year Runner-up. Our staff pulled seven individual awards. I'm guessing you didn't know that either.

But then again, you (the reader) are too busy circling and laughing to listen to what we do. So now that you are done skimming for mistakes in my column, move on to the next.

This is "Faking a smile," signing off.

POLITICAL youth



For the first time in our nation's history the presidential race is receiving enormous support from young people

According to Time Magazine, it's the first election since the year eighteen-year-olds were permitted to vote that this many teenagers and young adults have taken an interest in the choosing of the next President of the United States. And although the statement has been made many times, it still needs to be reiterated; it's about time the generation that will one day come to power is taking an initiative.

Even in our own school the issue of Barack Obama vs. Hillary Clinton vs. John McCain and maybe even a little bit of reminiscing of Huckabee and Ron Paul have become as common as talking about teachers or celebrities.

For the first time in forever students have opinions on the politics of our nation; students apart from those who are always actively involved in Student Republicans or Student Democrats.

Information taken for Tim Magazine's article "Why Young Voters Care Again," which ran in the February 11,

2008 issue said that if college students could vote right now, 29% said they would choose Barack Obama, 20% said they would choose Hillary, and only 9% would choose John McCain.

The remaining students would have chosen candidates that have since dropped out of the race. Information taken from 2000 and 2004 Kennedy School of Government's Vanishing Voter polls said that in 2000 only 13% of teens and young adults showed interest in politics (ages 18-25). In 2004 the numbers rose to 42% of all young adults. Finally, in 2008 the numbers jumped drastically to 74%.

The numbers are astonishing. But, you must admit, a sense of pride kind of wells up; finally we are taking our place and voicing our concerns.

In the same article in Time Magazine, young adults under the age of thirty were asked if they thought the country was on the right track. 72% vehemently disagreed and said

they thought the country was headed the wrong way. 23% said they believed the country was on the right track and 5% said they were undecided.

When asked what issues young adults cared the most about, it is clear to see that the minds of generations are changing. 62% of people polled said that they worry about how they will be able to afford health care.

59% said they were concerned with the way the Iraq war was being conducted, 58% said they worry about finding a stable, well paying job, 45% said terrorist attacks, 40% worried about the legality of abortion, and 35% were concerned with issues involving illegal immigrants.

The voices of young adults are ringing out. They realize that the future of their world depends on them. Even if the world is centered around their home or their job, they realize that the next president of the United States could have a great impact on them and finally they are standing up and casting their vote.

EDITORIAL
The **OPINION** of
the *Register* staff

Celebrities let down fans with poor choices



MY SIDE OF THE STORY

A column by Brittney Miller

We all know those ten stars that we watched on the Disney Channel that are now going nuts. But that I mean that they are either in rehab, they cut their head bald and have 3 kids with three different baby's daddies. Did we ever imagine they would grow up this way? I know I didn't!

I used to wish I could be like some of these people. I looked up to them. I remember I thought Hillary Duff dressed so cute. I wanted to dress just like her.

And back in the day when Britney Spears was a good girl, I had her CD and a poster of her hanging up on my wall faith-

fully. What is going on with the media? Have they gone crazy? I believe so! What they do not understand that whether they are playing a character on television or just being seen in the public eye, there are tons of people that look up to them. A lot of kids and teenager idolize them and want to make every single move like them. It's what they breathe.

What about the people who are actually working hard and make a difference in our community and even the world. People like business owners, authors of books, activists, entrepreneurs and people who start organizations to help out our community. What about the people who plant trees!

Those are the people who stand behind the big celebrity alcoholics who get the most attention. They are the one's working long hard hours and they're good efforts are never noticed. What makes people want to look up to the media? It's the good life.

But what exactly does the good life consist of? Does it consist of driving a Mercedes? Does it mean having a huge

house with a tennis and basketball court with a pool in the backyard?

There are plenty of people who are successful doctors and lawyers who can afford all of these things and even more.

Or do we want to look like the people we see on TV. Young people buy what they wear on TV. We fix our hair like they do on TV and sometimes even go to the extent of getting plastic surgery like the celebs. If Pink has pink hair, we have pink hair. If Allen Iverson has these new cool braids in his hair so does your cousin. And if New York just got a new boob job so will we when we get old enough. Now that is crazy!

It is perfectly fine to look up to people as a young adult. That person can give you very significant guidance through high school. It is just important to make sure that you are looking up the right people for the right kind of guidance. Because if you don't you will end up something you are not.

Be yourself. You do not have to try to be like the celebrities. How cool is that?

The Classics

The Register reviews some of
 the classics. **See page 12B**

The Register | Thursday 5.1.2008 | central.journalism@ops.org

11 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

registration

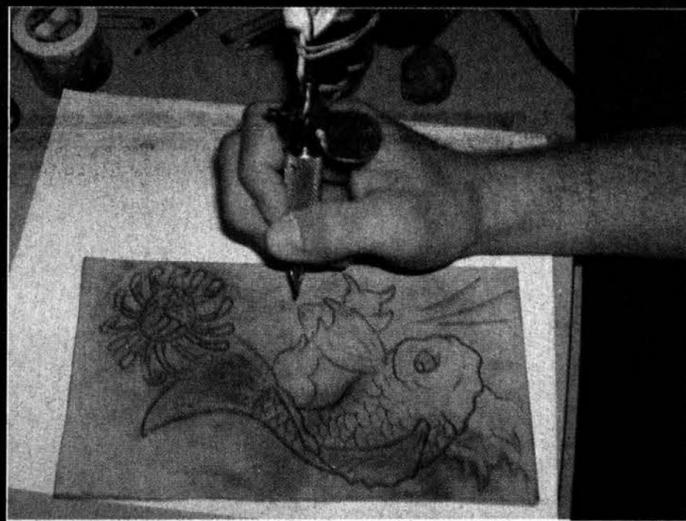
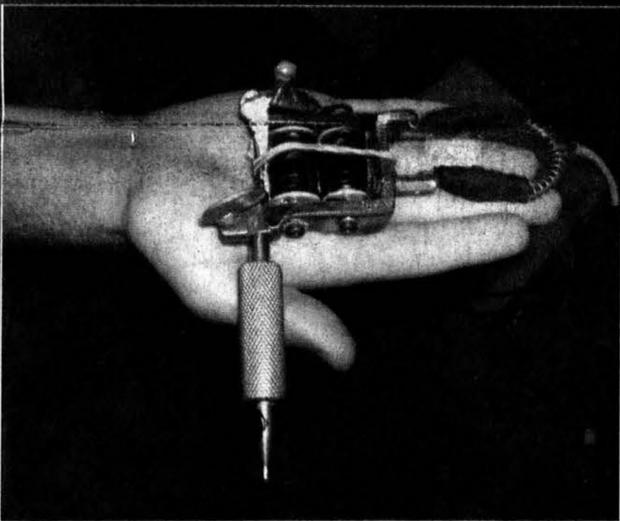
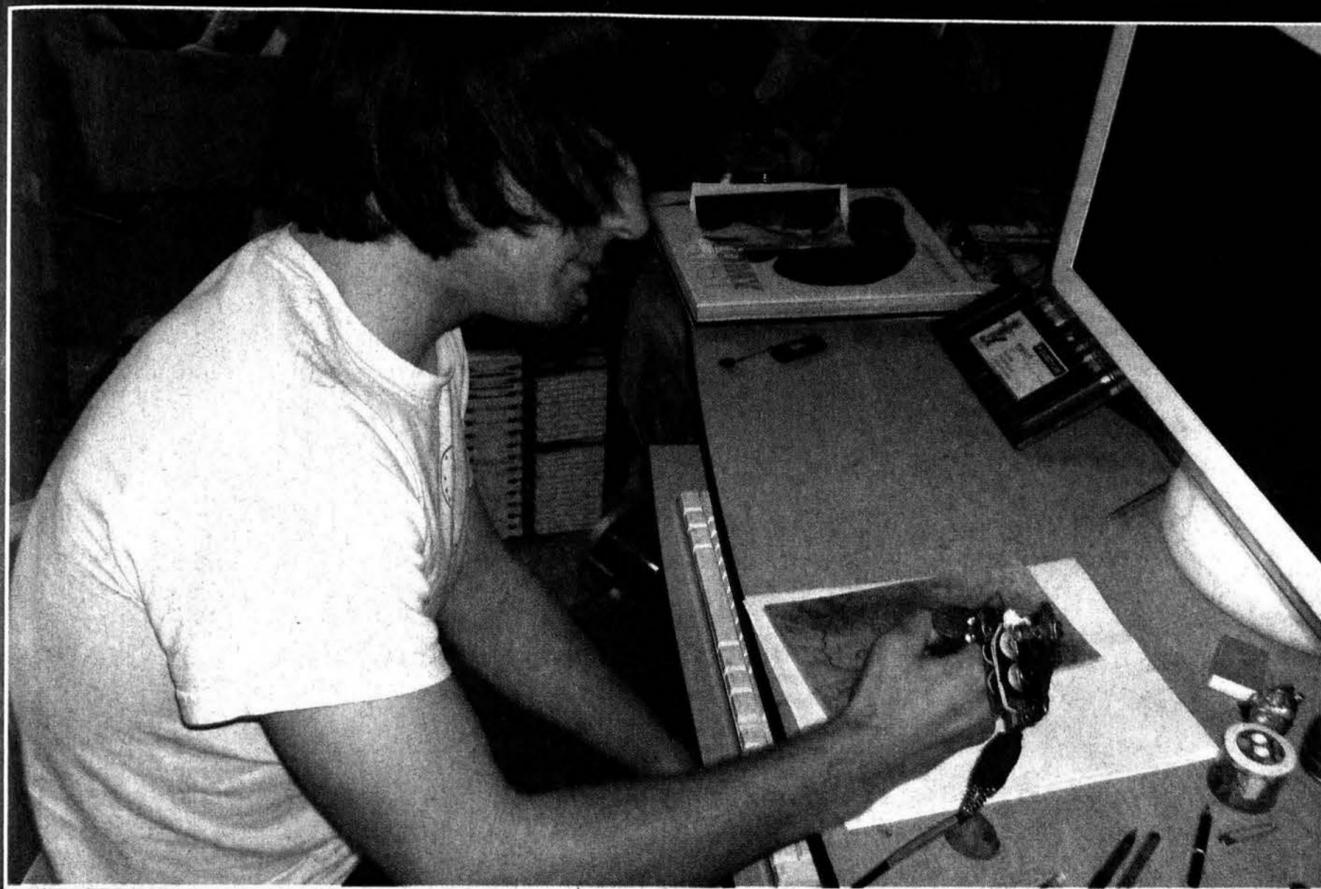


PHOTO BY ALANA BRUNOW/ REGISTER

Top and bottom right: Senior Kurt West practices a design of a tattoo on a slab of rubber. West is an intern at the Revolution Studios tattoo parlor and said he is leaning toward tattooing as a professional career. Bottom left: West holds in his hand a tattoo machine, which he made from scratch.

Internship Benefits Young Artist

BY ALANA BRUNOW

The end of the 2007-2008 school year is rapidly approaching. Most seniors will either take a year off or attend college in the Fall.

There is one senior that has other plans. Kurt West, Senior, has a current internship at Revolution Studios, which is a tattoo parlor in Omaha.

This rare opportunity presented itself when Kurt's father met Rob Pace, owner of Revolution Studios.

Kurt's dad was making business cards for Rob and the parlor.

"While they were talking, my dad said, 'My son is interested in tattooing and he's pretty good at drawing,'" said West. Pace told his dad to have Kurt bring in some of his work.

Kurt brought Rob some examples of his drawings and sketches. After viewing them, he was impressed and offered Kurt an internship.

As an intern, West helps clean up around the shop including all of the tubing and machines used for tattooing.

He is unsure for now what he wants his main profession to be when he is older, but he is leaning toward tattooing.

West built a tattoo machine by himself from scratch. As he bought small pieces of the machine, it rapidly became complete. The machine is fully functional now and Kurt practices designs on slabs of rubber before he is fully equipped to give someone a real tattoo.

Having already acquired one professional full-colored tattoo from Felipe, who works at Revolution with Rob, West knows how it feels to get inked.

His tattoo is a drawing by one of his favorite artists, which is a tiger wrapped around an Asian woman that is surrounded by cherry blossoms. This tattoo is located on the right side of his ribcage. Soon, West plans to get another tattoo on the back of his calf.

Since West has made friends with the artists in the shop, he was lucky enough to obtain his tattoo free of charge.

Hopefully Kurt will eventually be giving other people tattoos. In the mean time, he will complete his internship and become more experienced until he is ready to make a decision about going pro.

Instrument provides connection to deceased grandfather



NOT A STEREOTYPE

A column by Kim Buckley

If, for some inexplicable reason, my house caught on fire, I wouldn't hesitate to run to my room and quickly grab the only musical instrument in there.

One of my most prized possessions would be the electric keyboard my grandmother had given my family when my grandfather died.

I was shocked and hurt when I found out my grandfather was dead.

I remember being really freaked out when I went to the wake and saw his dead body.

It had felt as if a door had been violently slammed shut in my life and I was upset and somewhat confused because I didn't want to forget him.

The first time I wasn't sad about the death was when we took home the keyboard because it had felt as if we were taking a part of my grandfather with us.

That thought had been immediately comforting to me and made me feel like my grandfather's death was okay and that life would go on as normal.

I had found a way to remember him and I was grateful for that.

It also made me feel like I was carrying on my grandfather's memory. It was a way for me to remember him not only as my grandfather, but as a person who showed me the importance of music and how much it comes into my life.

I was never really close to my grandfather, especially since he lived so far away from me.

Having to fly to a little known city in New York was not very fun for me, though I endured the hours waiting in an airport and in the plane to see .

However, just touching those keys made me feel like I was closer to him spiritually.

I don't know if my grandfather played an instrument, but the keyboard was my grandfather's and I felt connected to him in a way that I wasn't able to when he was alive.

The first time I saw the keyboard was in the attic of my grandfather's house when I was around seven years old. I thought it was one of the coolest things I have ever seen and I immediately feel in love with it.

I would spend a lot of time up in the attic setting it to play an automatic song and pretending to play on it, while all the while wanting to play the instrument for real.

Every time I pressed down on the keys, I would feel a thrill run through my soul even though I wasn't actually playing anything.

I believe I have spent more time in the attic pounding away at the keys on the piano than on the first floor of the house.

It was also a way for me to entertain myself when my brother and father were in the basement playing pool.

Most of my memories of my grandfather are connected to the keyboard. Whenever I think about my grandfather, I cannot help but to think of being the hot, stuffy, cramped attic pounding away at the keyboard, having a great time before coming down to be with him.

I first learned how to play the keyboard in an unconventional way. I learned by playing the violin and taking what I know musically and transferring it to the keyboard.

The ironic thing is I now probably la the piano better than I do the violin.

Even today I can still recall the first song I ever played on the keyboard: "Twinkle twinkle little star." I felt a surge of pride when I was able to play that one simple song.

I felt as though I had stumbled across the answer to the entire universe and I couldn't contain the excitement I had felt at the moment.

Every time I played the electric keyboard, it made me think of my grandfather.

I know where he was at the moment, he was probably looking down on me and smiling because I was playing his keyboard and treasuring it more than any other member of my family.

I admit I was impressed by how big my cousin's piano was when she got it, but I know I will always prefer my small electronic keyboard.

I know no matter what I will never sell the keyboard because it fits me perfectly and has sentimental value. No price would even tempt me to sell the keyboard.

The keyboard is the closest thing I have to my grandfather. It was the only thing that my family got at his funeral that reminded me of my grandfather.

I like to think that my grandfather knew something when he bought the keyboard, like he just knew that he would learn how to play the keyboard.

Even though I know that probably didn't happen, I like to think it was destiny that my grandfather bought the keyboard to pass along to me.

One thing I do know is that my grandfather already knew how important the keyboard was to me because he chose to give it to my family. Even with all of the Christmas and birthday presents, the electronic Keyboard was the best thing he could have given me.

I play the keyboard every day, even if it is just one note. Every time I play it, I feel as though all of my troubles have vanished in a puff of air.

I know I will never become a famous pianist or even be remotely talented at playing the piano, but I'm making music my own way and that's all that matters to me.

My grandfather would probably agree with that statement.

Art students paint desk for Rock the Nest

BY ALI HODGE

"It's a way to get students involved in extra curricular activities at Central and create an item for that special event," said art teacher Margaret Quinn.

The Silent Auction Committee, which is in charge of the silent auction at the Rock the Nest event coming up asked the Central Art Department to paint an old desk. The theme: Central.

As a way for students to become involved and become excited about the Rock the Nest event, students were asked to help.

"I like the idea overall," said senior Fatima Flores, also the president of the art club. "I want to make it beautiful and everything but I want it to raise the money it's supposed to."

The plan for the desk includes recreating in an artistic way, the things that alumni would remember about Central such as the banners in the courtyard, the doorstops that they probably have tripped over, the mascot, yearbook quotes, The Register, the athletics, the memorials, and the academics.

Some things that will also be covered on the desk include defining moments in the school's history such as state athletics, and fashion.

The theme of the desk, said Sarah Barazi, a member of the art department, comes from a quote from the 1984 O-Book, "If These Halls Could Talk..."

"I think it's cute," she said. "The theme is nice and the team is working well to bring it all together."

The desk will be showcased and auctioned off at the Rock the Nest event that will celebrate the school's 150th anniversary.

The Silent Auction Committee gave Quinn the desk and asked the students to follow the theme for the event.

Quite a few meetings went into designing the art for the desk, but overall, the team finds it fun and appropriate.

"It's a way to bring back the fond memories of Central," said Quinn.

The team is working hard this week to finish the project before their deadline fast approaching on Thursday, April 24.



PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Senior Fatima Flores draws a sketch of an eagle on the back of the desk the Art Department is decorating for Rock the Nest.

The Sound of Musicals

What works for theater doesn't always work in the movies, but ever since the release of "Chicago" and "Moulin Rouge," musicals have hit the movie world. How well do musicals transition from stage to the silver screen and can they make audiences interested in musicals again?



Photo by Alana Brunow /Register

KIM BUCKLEY

In the latest musical to have hit the big screen, bigger is better.

Everything in "Hairspray" is big, from the people to the hopes and dreams they had to the hair and the number of cans used to keep it in place.

It was the time of the sixties and the hairdos were as big as the racial divide in the city of Baltimore.

The movie was based on the Broadway show, which was based on the movie "Hairspray," which starred Rikki Lake and Divine.

The story of "Hairspray" was about Tracy Turnblad, a teenager whose fight for racial equality led her to help lead the fight against segregation and inequality, despite the fact that it could jeopardize her career as a dancer on the Corny Collins Show and cost her the title of "Miss Teenage Hairspray."

A lot of the songs that have become beloved by the fans of the Broadway musical were kept in the movie, such as "Good Morning Baltimore" and "You Can't Stop The Beat."

While some of the songs didn't make the final cut into the movie, most of the changes were due to chronological order in the movie. They wouldn't have made sense in the movie, and the director and producers made wise decisions in song choice.

Both the singing and the acting in the movie were superb.

Newcomers Nikki Blonsky and Elijah Kelley shine in the movie. As Tracy and her friend Seaweed, they outshone

their counterparts Amanda Bynes and Zac Efron. Kelley also showed off some incredible dance moves, sure to make him a triple threat in the movie industry.

Blonsky managed to hold her own and then some in a role that Marissa Jaret Winokur (who won a Tony for her performance as Tracy) and Rikki Lake had perfected. She was the right choice to play Tracy as she showed a sweet nature and was able to portray Tracy's naivety in a way that didn't make a person want to smack her for being clueless.

Queen Latifah, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Christopher Walken all had beautiful voices and hammed it up with great success.

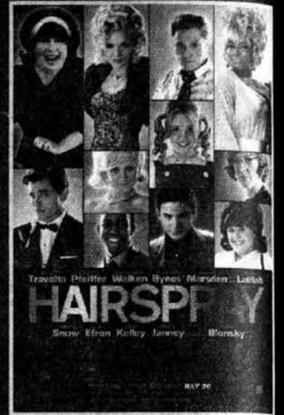
Walken and Latifah happen to make every scene they are in brighter and more energetic while Pfeiffer was a hoot as the villain, Velma Von Tussle.

John Travolta probably had the biggest shoes, and dress size, to fill as Tracy's mother, Edna. With Harvey Fierstein and Divine making Edna the most beloved character in both the movie and musical, there were high expectations for his performance.

Travolta's acting paralleled their considerable talent. However, his voice could not match up to Fierstein's. While his singing was great in "Grease," at times it was pitchy.

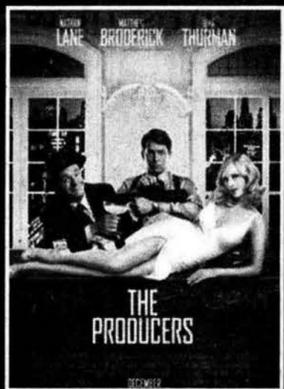
Despite Travolta's singing, the movie brought back the fun in musicals.

Hairspray holds hair firmly in place, and the talented cast, good script-writing and the catchy songs from the Broadway show held the movie firmly in place.



COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

"Hairspray"
PG
Starring: Nikki Blonsky



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

"The Producers"
PG-13
Starring: Nathan Lane

BY PETER BOCK

When a musical's most memorable hit is entitled "Springtime for Hitler," you wouldn't expect it to be a very high quality movie.

You might expect a vulgar satire with a fair amount of offensive material and a good helping of bad taste. Well, that's exactly what "The Producers" is.

The film was an adaptation of the musical that took Broadway by storm in 2001, which was based on a 1968 movie, and both were produced by the legendary Mel Brooks.

The movie starred the two biggest names from the musical, and they didn't disappoint. Nathan Lane, back as the cleverly deceptive play producer Max Bialystock, and Matthew Broderick, returning as the anxious accountant Leo Bloom.

"The Producers" began with Bialystock attending his latest production, which is an arduous flop. When Bloom came to prepare the producer's taxes, Bialystock realized he could actually make more money with a failed play than a hit. Bialystock convinced Bloom to quit his job, and the two began searching for "The Worst Play Ever Written."

Along the way come Will Ferrell (as a hilarious Nazi) and Uma Thurman (as a sultry love interest auditioning for the play) in smaller parts. They played their roles excellently, and didn't have bad singing (although Ferrell's parts mostly consist of ridiculous shouting).

Overall, the movie is meant to be slightly offensive. When the original film came out in the 1960's, it was meant to really shock people.

BY MICHELLE RIEGER



COURTESY OF MIRAMAX

The lights. The dancing. The costumes. The singing. All of these were absolutely phenomenal in "Chicago."

This Broadway musical turned movie was thoroughly entertaining from beginning to end. Roxie, a cheating wife/fame-hungry woman, was played by Renée Zellweger.

Her mischievous, confident character played well with other characters such as Big Momma (Queen Latifah) and Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones).

Big Mama was the voluptuous, sensual matron of the Murderers' Death Row. She provided her girls with lawyer contacts, cigarettes and gossip.

Richard Gere played Billy Flint, a manipulating, scheming lawyer. He was the lawyer every woman in the prison of Chicago wanted to represent her because he had never lost a case.

Velma Kelly was the provocative club singer and dancer who Roxie looked up to very much. Velma Kelly was arrested for the murder of her sister and husband after discovering their affair. Roxie

cheated on her husband Amos (John C. Reilly) with a man named Fred Casely.

He claimed he had connections with the people already in show business. After discovering he couldn't help her become famous, out of anger she shot and murdered him.

The characters were ones to fall in love with, despite their rebellious behavior.

The musical did require the audience to follow along closely. Many messages and stories were hidden in the songs. All of the songs were stories in themselves.

Some were stories of the character's dreams or aspirations. Others were stories of the past and how the character got to where they are now. Some were just plain diaries sung out loud.

The ingenious part of the whole movie is that most of the songs took place in the imagination of Roxie.

The audience would never get bored. Every single part was either lights, legs, or guns.

A winning combination.

All of the amazing singing was just a bonus.

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Broadway Cast soundtrack, where it sounded raw and on the stage. It was clearer in the movie and more polished.

At times this worked, at others one just wanted the raw power and emotion that came with the original soundtrack.

Rosario Dawson and Tracie Thoms, the only two who were not in the original Broadway cast, more than hold their own with the other principal cast as the reckless Mimi and Joanne.

Thoms managed to hold her own against Menzel both in acting and in singing, an impressive feat considering the fact Menzel was a scene stealer in the movie and has garnered the most success on Broadway with "Wicked."

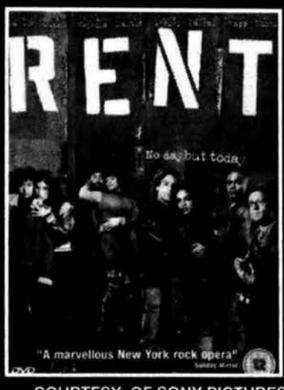
However, all of the hope and emotion that was abundant in the stage production was lacking in the movie. This was clearly seen in the shortened version of the song "Goodbye Love," where there is a fight between Mark and Roger.

The musical seemed outdated for the 21st Century, where AIDS and HIV are not as prevalent as it was in the 80s.

It seemed as if the cast members were restrained, which hurt the film and hurt the motto of living each day to the fullest.

Most of the singing occurred at random times and it was hard to believe that the people in the subway or the park didn't have the characters arrested for disturbing the peace.

No matter how good the singing and acting was, the film could not find the magic that was present when Rent first debuted on Broadway in 1996.



COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

"Rent"
PG-13
Starring: Anthony Rapp

BY KIM BUCKLEY

One of the things "Rent" did for the musical industry was make teenagers interested in Broadway and musicals.

These teenagers who flocked to the Neanderthal Theater and formed humongous lines called themselves "Rentheads," and have remained fans of the musical.

Around a decade after Jonathan Larson's musical exploded onto the Broadway scene, director Chris Columbus brought back six of the eight principal parts to bring the musical to life in the big screen.

The story on the musical took place in New York in the late 80s and was about eight friends who had to deal with the tragedy of HIV, AIDS and drugs.

One of the best decisions Columbus made was to cast as many of the original Broadway cast to reprise their role in the film.

Idina Menzel and Anthony Rapp, who played ex-lovers Maureen and Mark, were even better singers and actors than they were ten years ago. Adam Pascal, who played the angst-driven Roger, stood out among the cast with several solos and duets.

At times, the singing was better than the original Broadway cast recording.

For instance, the number "Tango: Maureen," is turned into a beautiful dance number with dozens of dancers instead of just Mark and the studious Joanne, who happened to be a lawyer.

The quality of the sound was also better than the Original



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS

BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN

The lights dimmed and the curtains drew back. Then the most beautiful chandelier I've ever seen in my life dropped down from the ceiling of the theatre.

The audience literally felt like they were in the play instead of an onlooker.

So many different special effects made the play so vivid and alive.

Of course, the most excitement came when the chandelier fell to close the first act.

It was the effect of the sparks and the vibration of it actually falling that made it so real.

It still had the timeless features of the actors.

Their costumes looked authentic as if they were taken right off the back of the people of that time period.

The love affair between the Phantom and Christine and the chemistry between the two actors made it a heartfelt performance.

It was amazing that Christine could fall in love with the phantom through his voice and she could get past his appearance, which was hard for many people to do.

During the play the theatre was sold to two young men and that's when the phantom started making his appearance.

The young men would not comply with the phantom's orders, so the phantom started to do things to show that he wasn't kidding with them.

It was doomed from that point on. The Phantom wasn't a person to mess with.

While the audience no doubt enjoyed every minute of the play, it was a little on the long side.

The play took its background from the novel by Gaston Leroux and turned into a movie in the 1920s, which made Lon Chaney a star.

In 2004 Warner Brothers released the movie for the play also entitled "Phantom of the Opera." The movie was starring Gerard Butler, the Phantom, and Emmy Rossum. Christine. It was directed by Joel Schumacher a very well known director.

Overall both the movie and the play garnered an amazing amount of success.

This was due to the Phantom stealing the heart of many people due to his dangerous charm and enchanting voice.

"The Phantom of the Opera" continue to be beloved for good reasons and the musical showed why.

"The Phantom of the Opera"
Place: Orpheum Theater

Students audition for comedy about quirky detective

BY MICAH WILLIAMS

"Three Murders and It's Only Monday." The title alone is enough to raise eyebrows. What it really gives people is an insight into this offbeat comedy slash murder mystery.

Auditions were held in early March with a turnout of about forty-five people for the parts of fourteen different roles. It was held over a series of two days.

"Sometimes it drains you," said senior Patrick Kilkoyne, who was the lead in this year's Fall Musical "Carousel."

However, Kilkoyne said, "It's totally worth it and a lot of fun."

The auditions consisted of the students reading out loud sections of the play in groups, with some students trying for multiple roles.

Since the director let students try for any part but mentioned that if he felt they were better suited for another role he would have them try it.

Though there was a majority of upper classmen a few freshmen were there also trying for parts.

Freshmen Colleen Kilkoyne said the auditions were not too difficult. Everyone here is really nice.

The play was chosen out of three by the drama class to be the most interesting out of a series of plays.

The play itself is something to be pondered.

Its opening scene alone sets the tone, with four murders resulting in three deaths, an enticing conundrum that is debated in the play.

The story takes place in Shady Pines, which is filled with a collection of hilarious odd characters that are trumped by the ingenious detective who mysteriously comes on the scene with an odd name to match his rustic speech and explain the title, Monday.

He goes throughout the play trying to solve the mystery as the bodies keep piling up.

Amongst many a twist and turn in the plot "the audience will have to be on their toes," said director John Gibson.

Since Monday isn't alone in the investigation, the audience is also allowed in to try and figure out who the culprit is.

"The audience is like kids listening to the show, like those old time radio dramas," described Mr. Gibson.

During the play characters will periodically stop and break the fourth wall and speak to the audience.

The audience will also be allowed at intermission to look at the evidence and question the actors (while in character).

With the auditions done and the parts decided there is a month of rehearsal until the plays showing in April on the 4th and 25th.

The leads for the play were senior Phil Lomneth and junior Alyssa Rathbun.



PHOTO BY ALANA BRUNOW/ REGISTER

Senior Lauren Trummer has been involved with dancing for a long time and plans on majoring in dance in college. "Dancing is my passion," she said.

Genres gives dancer freedom of expression

BY ALANA BRUNOW

For hundreds of years, dance has been a form of entertainment and self-expression.

There a variety of dance styles, making the art very diverse and multicultural. Many dancers know how to do more than just one genre.

Depending on the location or scenario, dancing has many different intentions in societies.

It is most commonly used for entertainment, but sometimes ceremonies including religion or other celebratory occasions.

There is no limit to how many varieties of dances there are. People can let their creativity shine by making up their own types of movement or dances.

Many people just dance for themselves as a form of self-expression.

Although anyone can dance, technique is the key when it comes to performing. Talented dancers have grace, patience, devotion, and commitment.

One dancer displaying all of these qualities and more is senior Lauren Trummer, who will graduate this spring. She has been dancing since she was young girl.

Trummer has been dancing on Pom Squad for the past three years. Trummer has danced tap, ballet, hip-hop as well as other genres.

When she was younger, she took ice skating lessons as well as lessons in gymnastics. She has taken more ice skating lessons than gymnastics.

"Dancing is my passion," she said.

Trummer is planning on minoring in dancing, but will not major in it.

She is an honors student as well as involved in National Honor Society.

Poetry slams encourage writing

BY CHELSEA WILLIAMS

Every third on a Tuesday of each month the W. Clarke Swanson Branch Omaha Public Library, located on 90th and W. Dodge Road (on the lower level) give students with passion for writing poems, a moment and a life time a chance to shine.

Students from grade 9-12 that sign up for the SLAM will be given a three-minute limit and two round time limits to respite their poem.

The poets that perform MUST read only their own material (workshops will be available with accomplished poets).

It was due to the efforts of a student that SLAM was created by the library.

"A young lady who attends North High, who attended my Healing Arts Program had asked a young woman behind her desk if she knew any information about poems being spoken aloud here at our library, and before I knew it we had the program rolling" says sponsor and co-worker at Swanson Branch Library, Ms. Berry.

Many parents and guardians think that the library program is a good activity for teens to relieve their own work and to help build progress in their poems. Alyshia Carter, who attends North High and also attends the poetry SLAM at the Swanson Branch Library - thinks that it is a great way to help teens stay out of the street.

"I have been attending the SLAM since my friend James

told me about the program towards the end of November" says Carter. "The program is a good way to help all teens at all ages experience themselves and opinions with their own artwork," states Carter.

The library opens new doors for talented teens with a passion for creative writing.

Anyone from grades 9-12 that enjoys writing music may not have known that music can be turned into following rhyming poems.

"Some of my friends that like to write poems and music didn't know about the program until I introduced them to it" says Alyshia. My best friend Veronica loves writing love songs, I told her that if she really enjoyed what she was doing many inspiring rappers and artist wrote some of their music by starting off where and what she is doing."

For a thrill many people who come and attend the poetry SLAM enjoy hearing the poets recite their work.

"As you may know there are certain stages in life teens may have to go through, sometimes they never know how to let their inter-feelings out; in which may deal with stress, home problems, or just public problems such as school - teens come to the SLAM to express those built of feelings they are having" states Berry. "I encourage many teens out there in the Omaha district or Council Bluffs - if you have the joy of heart of writing, then please come and join us here at the Swanson Branch Library" says Berry.

Prom remains memorable night

BY KIM BUCKLEY

It is one of the biggest events at the school. It is a night that many start planning far in advance for so it can be perfect.

A lot of money is shelled out for the dress and tux as well as for the dinner and the limo. Hair and nails must be perfect for the girls.

Prom Night.

The Student Counsel has been planning Prom for about a month. Plans about the theme and everything else are kept secret until the night of Prom.

Recently the order for decorations have been placed.

While the theme of Prom has been kept a secret, Gatalicia said she thinks the students will like it.

"I think it's something people have been wanting to see," she said.

To decide the theme of Prom, it only took an extra long meeting. The members voted on several different ideas for the theme and Gatalicia said the one they decided on was something most people were okay with.

Student Counsel sponsor Judy Storm said Student Counsel divided into groups and talked about possible themes and their ideas. They then voted and determined the theme of this year's Prom.

While some disappointment about the theme is possible because students get excited about it, Storm said there is always team work and the students always cooperate in making Prom happen successfully.

One of the ways teachers participate at Prom

is Student Counsel choosing a Master of Ceremonies, who announces the candidates for Prom Queen and King and crowns the Queen and King. Storm said Student Counsel members nominate staff members. Usually it is a member who is a favorite teacher or one that has done something for the school.

She said the hardest part for her is making sure that everything gets done in the short amount of time that Student Counsel has to set up the event. On May 2 Student Counsel will set up Prom from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. as well as the morning of the Prom.

Gatalicia said the hardest part of planning Prom is making it all work and fit together.

"I think that this year we're going to bring in a lot of energy and because prom is a special memory for a lot of people. Hopefully we can get it to stick out in their minds," she said.

For the juniors that go, Gatalicia said it's memorable because it's their first time experiencing Prom. For seniors, Gatalicia said it was a way for them to go out with a bang.

"We kind of think of it (Prom) as possibly the most memorable event of the year," Storm said.

For some of the seniors, it is even more memorable because they have a chance to be the Prom King or Prom Queen.

Senior Briana Armendariz is one of the nominees for Prom Queen. To qualify, she had to meet a criteria of nine items as well as fill out a form with signatures and various items and have turned it in by April 18 by noon.

Armendariz said she is looking forward to for Prom is seeing what happens with the nomination.

Ball recognizes JROTC seniors, brigade staff

BY ANGELICA GENOVESI

Attending the junior-senior prom in May is very similar to what attending the JROTC ball felt like to those members who were a part of the event.

The ball is partly an awards ceremony recognizing seniors for their commitment to JROTC and congratulating the battalion commanders who went through interviews to increase their rank. This all takes place before the dance and is taken very seriously.

"There are seven different battalions in the OPS school district and each one takes a part in the ball," senior Briana Armendariz said, "therefore, it is not only Central JROTC involved, but JROTC of the entire district."

Armendariz is the battalion commander and third highest in charge besides Sgt. Sutter and Sgt. Melvin.

The ceremony and ball took place at the Milo Bail Student Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) on March 26. Seniors are required to attend the ball or else it affects their grade but for anyone else in JROTC attendance at the ball is optional. While it is optional, many of the students in JROTC attended the ball because it is a chance to hang out with friends.

Armendariz said that as a group before the event they all attend Applebees for dinner.

"It is just something fun to do as a group and it gives those who didn't get a chance to buy a ticket to enjoy a part of the night also," she said.

The events of the evening officially begin however, when they arrive at the awards ceremony. First, the staff, officers and brigade commanders are announced, along with the seniors and the battalion commanders. Then, a saber team of nine students work with the swords to form an archway in which the seniors and battalion commanders who are recognized walk through in order to prepare for the first dance.

"The first dance is usually music from a jazz band or something more elegant than the DJ who comes on after," Armendariz said.

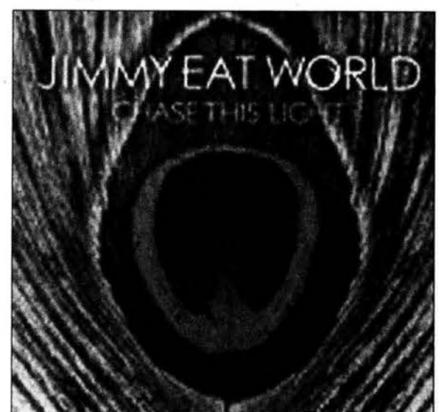
Anyone is welcome to come to the event as long as they have a ticket which was bought by a JROTC member. In some cases, like this year, alumni who had been through the program before decided to join in on the festivities. The students who attend treat the ball as a form of prom and celebrate with after parties and other types of entertainment.

"I had people over at my house for a couple of days afterwards," Armendariz said, "most were the college alumni who my sister had invited back, but it was still ongoing fun."

Each year the members of JROTC look forward to the ceremony and dance and tickets sell out within a couple of days.

"It is simply something both special and fun to be a part of," Armendariz said.

Band creates new original sound



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

BY PATRICK BREEN

To call oneself a Jimmy Eat World fan is to call oneself a fan of music.

Simply put, Jimmy Eat World's new album is top of the line quality. For those new to the music scene, Jimmy Eat World came together in 1993, and since then, this band from Mesa, Arizona has taken its quality to the next level.

Singer/guitarist Jim Adkins was friends with drummer Zach Lind since childhood.

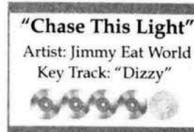
The friendship built seems to add to the chemistry and the raw sound. Unlike some other bands, this has kept its original form from the times they were at Arizona's local Wooden Blue Records.

Now with Interscope records, the team of superb artists have lasted the test of time, nearly 16 years.

The album is filled with classic Jimmy Eat World style. Good lyrics, great guitar solos and some easy to listen to sound. The key tracks to the album revolve mostly around the end.

"Chase this light," although being the cover song and title to the album is not even the best track. That title easily belongs to "Dizzy."

The last track of the album is by far superior with an amazing sound.



Tri-M volunteers time at operas

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Every year Tri-M gets the opportunity to greet the patrons of operas before each performance. So far this year there have been three operas that Central High Tri-M students have been able to greet the patrons.

Vocal music director Lyn Bouma said at the upcoming opera, Aida, Tri-M members will again have the chance to greet the sponsors and watch the opera free of charge. Aida will be held at the Orpheum Theater located downtown.



COURTESY OF ATLANTIC / WEA

BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN

It can honestly be said that Lupe Fiasco is the truth! Lupe is a true MC from deep inside. He has a way with his words and messages.

The intro was a poem read with much feeling by Lesha. She brought so much emotion to it like she felt the poem and its entirety.

"They thought it was cool to..." is how all the sentences start and it's a high statement to make. The poem ends with "Check your ingredients before you overdose on the cool." that just set the whole CD off right.

Artist that were featured on the album include Sarah Green and the GemStones, Matt Santos, Snoop Dogg and Pooh Bear, Nikki Jean, Bishop G, and Unkle.

That's what sets this album from the rest. It didn't feed off of other celebrities to make it likable.

"Hip Hop Saved My Life" is one of the best songs. It was not the typical "woe is me," song; it just told what hip hop did for his life and it gave a sense of hope that he was saying "find something positive to do with your life and it can save you too".

Lupe had a way with his words that hasn't been heard since the early hip-hop stages. He had a way of phrasing metaphors that you may not catch right away, which stimulated the mind.

One of the other songs that really caught my attention was "Intruder Alert." It was basically telling a story of

things that may have already or may happen to young men and women at any given time.

It gave rape victims, immigrants, and drug addicts a voice. And that's powerful! Sarah Green's amazing voice topped the song with a mellow feeling, the type of voice that makes you melt.

"Go Go Gadget Flow" was the livest song on the whole CD. Only thing is, the listener had to keep up with what he was saying because he is talking so fast. The upbeat of the song kept my head banging throughout the whole song.

The beat to "Dumb It Down" is hot, but the lyrics have a positive message too. It said a person shouldn't dumb him or herself down for anything. That's a key thing that Americas youth today should understand.

Many people don't really listen to Lupe, but he is the best kept secret of the Hip Hop world. Lupe is the definition of true Hip Hop, and he is bringing back what all the Hip Hop legends have paved the way for.

It had mild language, but nothing to be too concerned about. There were maybe one or two curse words in each song, which is not bad at all. There was mild sexual innuendo throughout the album, but again, nothing to be too concerned about.

"The Cool" is just that: cool.

The Classics

Yeah. We're suggesting that you read them outside of English class.



COURTESY OF J.B. LIPPENCOTT & CO

BY WYNTER DAVIS

"Well it'd be sort of like shootin' a mockingbird, wouldn't it?"

"To Kill A Mockingbird" written by Harper Lee, showed the timeframe of the 1930s with the view of the young girl named Scout.

The novel dealt with topics such as racism. The narrator's father, Atticus Finch has served as a moral hero for many readers, and a model of integrity for lawyers.

The setting took place in 1930's Maycomb, Alabama with summer days that lasted forever. Well to Scout, Jem and Dill they did.

Harper Lee gave each character their own identity rather than just a name, she put faces on them in her story.

Within each person's psyche, there is an uninterrupted struggle between good and evil. Everyone having to deal with their daily adversity.

The readers were able to relate to the charactes in the book.

When readers read the book you could see Scout fighting Walter Cunningham on the school grounds with the fury in her voice and the dispute in their eyes.

The reader felt the hatred and pain in the courtroom with Tom Robinson when he was on trial for the rape of Mayella.

Like all classics, this book made readers think and question the world. The idea sometimes courage is shown by

not giving into the persuasion to fight, the best way to understand a person is to "stand in his or her shoes" or the unforgettable it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.

Through the use of a first person narrative style and in depth character development, Lee portrays the theme in a way she feels will remind both sympathetic feelings within the reader.

She uses great delivery to capture and hold the reader's attention. Using these different points, Lee has taken story and brought to life.

"To Kill a Mockingbird"
Author: Harper Lee



COURTESY OF CROWN PUBLISHERS

BY ALI HODGE

It's been called one of Shakespeare's best love stories, which, to tell you the truth, I don't see why. Keeping in mind all of his other plays, this one is by far the worst -- for Shakespeare. However, it is still very good and very much worth reading.

It might not be the greatest love story, but it certainly is funny. And it's not a funny that takes a lot of thinking as well. Think of it as a Shakespearean sitcom.

Most of the humor that comes of it comes from the two main characters, Benedick and Beatrice, two characters who at the thought of each other and relationships with the opposite sex, are met with gag reflexes. So naturally, they are the least likely two to fall in love, which of course they do by trickery. But I won't give too much away.

The story resembles "Romeo and Juliet" in ways along the lines as death and tragic love. But as far as wit

is concerned, it is pleasantly original. The story follows a set of princes as they come to stay in the homes of an Italian King and his daughter, Hero, and her cousin, Beatrice. Prince Claudio falls imediently in passionate love with Hero, as is not unusual in Shakespeare's plays. However, on the opposite end, Benedick and Beatrice butt heads as they are both arrogant and clever. So naturally, their love affair took the entire play to develop.

Yes, develop. You must admit, that doesn't happen alot with Shakespeare. Especially when it comes to romance.

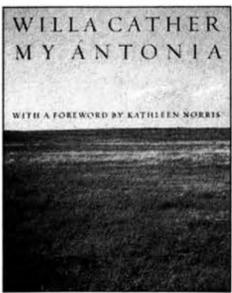
But with every happy love story, there also must be a jealous villan. Don Jon, a man who also fell madly in love with Hero the first moment he laid eyes on her, was fiercely jealous of the wedding arrangements and plotted an evil scheme to shame poor Hero's reputation to the point where Claudio leaves her

at the alter. Distressed, Hero faints and the friar and her father to get revenge, proclaim she is dead (sound familiar?) to guilt Claudio into doing something drastic.

Meanwhile, the friends of Benedick and Beatrice trick them into falling madly in love with one another despite their extreme sexism and utter revolt at the thought of marriage. And it's amazing the kind of trickery that can go on just by wearing a mask. But either way, you can be certain that there, if nothing else, is a plethora of sexual slurs and deict.

The story ends on a wierd note where Claudio takes Hero as his wife, but foolishly on the pretenses that she is another woman; an identical cousin of Hero. And as for the real love story of the book Benedick and Beatrice, well, you'll just have to read and find out.

"Much Ado About Nothing"
Author: William Shakespeare



COURTESY OF KINDLE BOOKS

BY ALI HODGE

You're sitting in English class and your teacher strolls up to the front with a pile of thin paperback books in her hand.

You're distraught because you see when you look at the little books nothing but frivolous reading, meaningless tests, and monstrous lists of vocabulary to memorize. But when she looks at the books, she sees the story for what it really is; a great tale of love and life. She's thinking of "My Antonia."

Anyway, you can't understand what she sees in a book written years ago and is set in the underdeveloped midwest prarie.

Well, take my word for it, it is much more than just a tool to pro-

voke sleep. And, I know this is shocking, but you can enjoy a book that is required for class if only you gave it the chance.

My motto when I start to tackle a classic is "well, it has to be a classic for some reason, right?" Now, put yourself in a positive mindset and prepare yourself for stunning writing, a great story of simple life, and true love.

"My Antonia"
Author: Willa Cather

"My Antonia" is the story of a man, Jim Burden and his childhood friend, Antonia.

The story begins with a small introduction by the author, which we assume is Willa Cather, but nothing says for sure. She recounts the notes a friend of hers gave about a woman named Antonia.

The woman and him met when they were young children both on their way to their new homes on the prarie of Nebraska. The families imediently became friends although their languages

were different; Antonia and her family was from Bohemia. Jim's grandmother teaches English to Antonia and this helps in strengthening their friendship.

Through the book, the two grow up together and their friendship clearly turns to love.

However, just like real life, not everything works out. This is another intresting concept that makes the book good. Not everything always works out and there are many things that are left undiscovered.

The writing of the book is easier compared to other writing of this time.

It's simply but beautifully composed, which goes hand-in-hand with the beautifully simple story. Willa Cather has certainly created a masterpiece within this novel, but I must be the one thousandth one to say so.



COURTESY OF LITTLE, BROWN

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Just one page into this book and the reader feels like he or she is the narrator's best friend.

Holden Caulfield, a seventeen-year-old that has just got kicked out of his fourth school, tells the story of his two-day journey by himself in New York City.

With his sarcastic commentary, 1950's slang and blunt observations, the reader is thoroughly entertained during the whole book.

Holden is a teen that believes he is the only genuine person in the world besides his deceased brother and younger sister. He is also very judgmental towards other people.

He often refers to others as 'phonies'. His two-day journey includes meeting many new girls and even hiring a prostitute one night at a hotel.

The reader may get confused about all of the strangers Holden encounters, but Holden is ultimately the most interesting, entertaining character. He narrates the classic novel just as if he was speaking to his best friend.

Holden spills every detail and every thought on this mind at all times. Although he does use slang from the 1950's, the reader should have little to no trouble figuring out what he means by the terms he uses. The language and dialect he uses makes the book one not to forget.

His humorous way of explaining events keep the reader laughing and turning the page.

Despite the fact that Holden complains about almost everyone and everything he encounters, the way he tells about it and explains it is so comical the reader is much more amused than annoyed. Holden seems to exaggerate many events in his daily life.

But he exaggerates them in such a hilarious way the reader really doesn't really care he complains about everything. The reader will often times find themselves ten pages further ahead than they were three minutes ago without even realizing it. The catchy dialect and way of storytelling is what keeps the reader turning the pages. The detail in J.D. Salinger's writing makes the reader feel like they are watching a movie, not reading a book.

"The Catcher and the Rye"
Author: J.D. Salinger

In the past, many people have said the book was too explicit to be taught in schools. Holden does use extremely vulgar language in his daily conversations and observations. The topics he discusses are also a little questionable.

Many times he refers to physical relationships he has had with certain girls and compares them to his peers' relationships. His relationships with girls tend not to last very long. Holden reminisces about a girl he used to be very close with. He mentioned his kissed her all over her face, everywhere but her lips and that was the closest he ever got to 'necking'.

Holden does seem to have trouble building and keeping relationships. He is very closed off to the rest of the world. Often times Holden complains about the 'fake' people in the world.

The reader might find themselves feeling sorry for Holden. He is truly a lonely character looking for love. It doesn't have to be romantic love, just a connection with other people.

This is a novel everyone should definitely have on their bookshelf.

Building a swing

Update: Central alum Benjamin Kline, who signed a full-ride scholarship to University of Nebraska-Lincoln last fall, has been tearing up the college game. At shortstop, the freshman has a .250 batting average, with a .314 on-base percentage and 13 RBIs. In the field, he has a .950 fielding percentage and had a walk-off home run to cap a big win. He has helped the Huskers to a 28-7-1 overall record, a 13-4-1 record in Big 12 play, and a number nine ranking in the Associated Press Poll as of April 22nd.

Reserve Eagles see early losses as stepping stones

BY KAITY WALGRAVE

Central's reserve baseball team isn't starting their '07-'08 season too well.

"Our team is pretty good. We've had two losses, but we'll get better," said the sophomore catcher for the team, Max Kazmierczak.

The team hasn't had many opportunities to show themselves due to the March and April showers, although they do have an upcoming game on April 10 against Bellevue East.

"We've played good teams with good players so far, and also our team is not very experienced," said the head coach, Mr. Potter. "But the more games we play the better we'll get."

So far, three out of five games have been either postponed or cancelled, which has obviously not made it any easier for the team. "Hopefully we'll win the game this Friday for a 1-2 record," said Kazmierczak.

He also has an opposing view of the team's work effort.

"I think the team is getting better, and we also have a lot of talent."

The reserve players also feel that they have some pretty good coaches. Some of them mentioned that Coach Potter is excellent for building the mechanics for the team and that Assistant Coach Pagan is really good for the team and knows the game well.

Stephen Glow, a sophomore who plays center field, thinks that the team has good practices and is really confident that they can win more games.

Nine of the 17 games that are in the reserve team's season are going to be at home, which could give the team the extra boost they need to come out on top this year. "Overall, I think our team will finish off pretty good," said Glow.



The STANCE
Keep the feet close, slowly lifting fingers on and off the bat
Keep spine straight, weight shifted back slightly
Eyes and mind focused, ready for the ball
Left knee is up, bat held straight and leaning slightly
Coke-up on the bat slightly

The SWING
Hands through the strike zone, kept in close to the body
Front leg rigid, left foot planted
Weight on back foot, bat moves over the right and

Teacher back at school after climbing incident

BY PETER BOCK

Describing Mrs. Whitten as tough might be an understatement.

On February 28, the Central biology teacher fell about 10 feet from a rock-climbing wall at the South / Southwest YMCA on a rock-climbing club outing and suffered multiple injuries. She ended up shattering her ankle, breaking the tibia and fibula bones in her ankle, and ended up with smaller breaks in her leg.

As of April 14th, two surgeries, one walker, and one "boot" later, the fearless educator is back on her feet and teaching once again.

"Well, it happened at about eight in the evening, right as we were beginning to leave. It was my mistake, and I don't know exactly what happened, but I didn't tie myself in correctly, so the knot came undone and I fell," Whitten explains.

Whitten's fall was broken by club assistant and biology teacher Mr. Albertine. Without him, the Whitten said, she probably wouldn't be back teaching already.

The blame, Whitten mentions over and over, is all on her. "I was not responsible, and I didn't tie myself in correctly. What can I say...it is almost always the case in these types of accidents."

The accident came on the night before the teacher was planning to fly to Texas to see her newly born grandson. A long, strenuous recovery was delayed even further by a postponed surgery.

"It took a week before they could do the surgery, and a week after that I had to have another," Whitten mentions.

On top of all that, after arriving at the hospital after the accident, Whitten was left waiting in a hallway without painkillers for treatment.

"I wasn't in a lot of pain, but the nurse asked me if I was on anything (medication), and I said 'No' and she was very surprised," Whitten says.

Her month-long recovery was typical by most standards, she says, and the only problem with coming back was the concern for her safety.

"Being at a public school, the doctors were worried about being able to get around and be safe, especially with all the kids."

Whitten started the rock-climbing club in 1999, when a student approached her after learning of the teacher's climbing experience in Wyoming.

A federal grant existed that allowed the club to go climb the indoor rock wall at the South / Southwest YMCA, located on 13010 Atwood Ave.

"Along the way, more teachers like (chemistry teacher) Mr. Fredrickson and Mr. Albertine, started to help, along with more students," Whitten adds.

Although not a "hard-core" climber, Whitten says she has been climbing for around 13 years and is a big fan. "I don't go on out of state trips to go rock-climbing like real climbers, but I enjoy it whenever I am in Wyoming," she adds.

Whitten says the possibility of filing a lawsuit against the YMCA is completely out of the question. She repeatedly addresses the issue as a personal error and that the YMCA had absolutely nothing to do with it.

"It's just another individual sport, and you have to take responsibility when you are doing one, and I didn't do that. It's a very safe sport," she says.

Researchers from a study done by a committee from the 2005 World Championships in rock-climbing would agree with Whitten. At the event, there were 500 climbers from 55 countries who participated in three separate climbing disciplines.

Only four of 18 medical problems were treated as significant injuries. Most of the problems were skin bruises. Overall, the competition had an injury rate of 3.1 per 1,000 hours.

Whitten definitely says that this will not be the end of her rock-climbing career.

"Absolutely not. I probably won't be able to do it at least for another six months, because it will be that long before I can put any weight on it, but I am not afraid to climb again."

Mrs. Whitten could be described as someone who never gives up. Even after terrible personal injury, she is up and ready to continue living life.

SPORTS CALENDAR

April

5 Benson Track Invite

The Eagles look to have a good season on the varsity level after winning the state championship a year ago.

14 Reserve Baseball

The boys play Millard South down at Boyd Field at 4:30.

15 Boys Soccer vs. Millard North

The varsity boys take on last year's defending champions, who won state last year with an undefeated season.

24-26 Central Invite

The varsity girls soccer team hosts a tournament here at Seeman Stadium. Come out and support your Lady Eagles.

24 Soccer Districts

Come support your Central soccer team at districts which will be held at Central at 7 p.m.

May

3-6 Baseball Districts

The Eagles shoot for a return to state, where they made their first appearance since 1984 last year.

7 Track and Field Districts

The defending champs try and reclaim supremacy at Burke High School. Support the members of track and field by attending districts.

7-8 Girls Tennis Metro Tournament

Going to state is the goal as the Lady Eagles shoot for a strong showing in the Metro Tournament.

8 Boys Golf at Elmwood

The team faces off against Omaha Benson in a show down between two Omaha down town area schools.

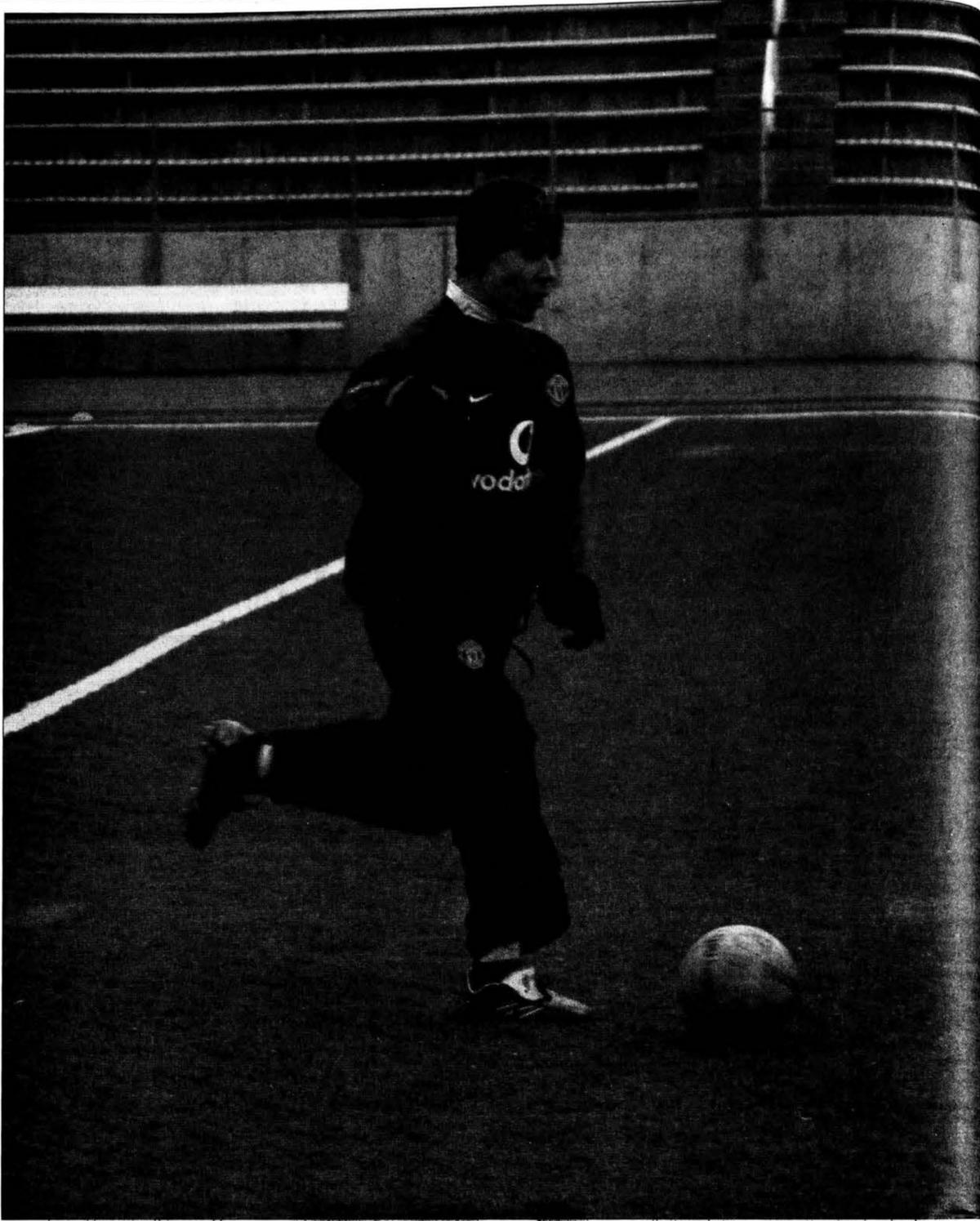


PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/ REGISTER

Decked out in warm gear wasn't an uncommon beginning for the soccer team. The team used early season practice to ready for the upcoming season.

Early practice helps Soccer team

BY MARK VANDROSEK

Early this past summer, the Boys Varsity Soccer team began practicing in Central's fairly new stadium, Seeman Stadium.

Sharing the stadium with the band and different football teams, the varsity team had to take advantage of every possible moment of practice time available. They conditioned, trained, ran, and some even went on a special diet to better serve the team.

Head Coach Tim Herbert has been coaching the soccer team for several years and he believes that, although a young and inexperienced team, the team is extremely athletic and has a very bright future. Coach Herbert led the Eagles to a State Championship in 1992.

When practice began, the weather was still in a somewhat cold climate, but this didn't deter the soccer team. They practiced for the upcoming season rain or shine, snow or sleet.

The soccer season began in mid-March on the 14th with a game against Lincoln Pius High School.

The game was lost, but the team came back from the loss with a 3-2 victory over Lincoln Northeast High School the next week.

Since then, the soccer team has molded a record of three wins to five losses.

The team has played other Omaha Public Schools such as Omaha Benson, and Omaha Burke. The team has also played several non-OPS schools, including Papillion-La Vista High School, Bellevue West, and Creighton Prep High School.

Future opponents include Omaha South, Omaha Northwest, Millard North, and Millard South.

Upcoming events or special games are Nebraska State Soccer District on April 28th through the first of May, and State Soccer will be held on May 7th through the 13th in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Stadium that State Soccer will be held in is called Michael Morrison Stadium of Creighton University. The stadium is located just the other side of interstate 80 and is directly visible from the north side of Central's Seeman Stadium.

It has a maximum seating capacity of around six thousand people and specifically designed for soccer.

The Stadium is owned and used by the men and women of the Creighton Bluejays. The facility opened in the fall of 2003 as the Creighton Soccer Field.

During this season, the facility was limited to the artificial playing surface and berm seating located on the east side of the field.

The grandstand, reserved seating, upper-level suites, press box, and video board were completed in the fall of 2004 when the facility was renamed Michael G. Morrison Stadium, after the university's former president.

Central's soccer team thinks that it would be an incredible experience to play on Morrison Field.

They look forward to Districts and the opportunity for them to play soccer there.

The Nebraska School Activities Association will be hosting both Nebraska State Districts and also the State Finals.

Lady Eagles try new swing

BY GRACE ANDERSON

The game of tennis first originated in the United Kingdom during the 19th century. In this game, two players or two teams of players separate on each side of a net.

Each player takes turns hitting a small yellow hollow ball back and forth across the net.

Tennis is a sport that is well known all over the world and all ages can participate in this sport.

The court is about 78 feet long and 27 feet wide. It can be made of clay, grass, or hard court.

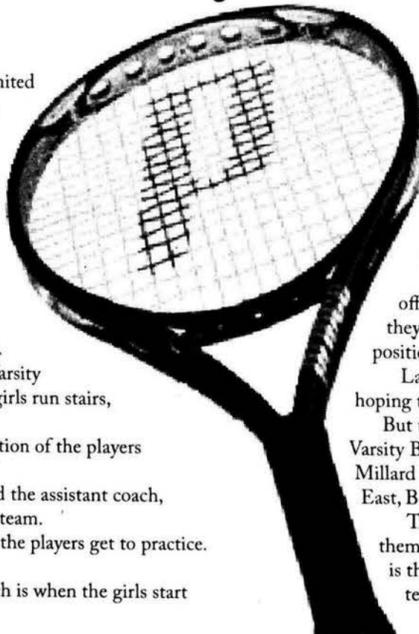
Christine Pfeifer has been coaching Girl's Varsity Tennis for the past two years. To try out, all the girls run stairs, do tennis drills, and play tennis.

The skills, ability, endurance, and determination of the players determines which team the player will make.

Chelsea Laursen, a new English teacher and the assistant coach, takes care of warm-ups and drills for the Varsity team.

The girls warm up by scrimmaging until all the players get to practice. Then the girls run around three courts twice.

After this, the girls play "baby tennis". Which is when the girls start by volleying at the net back and forth.



After a few minutes, they walk back to the service line (halfway between the baseline and net) and hit backhands and overhands. Then, the girls walk back to the baseline, with one girl serving, and the other returning it, and vice versa.

Coach Christine Pfeifer is in charge of putting the players in their ranking based off of skill, who plays the best, and who wins in practice games.

Once real matches begin ranking will be based off of who wins, and the ranking of the player that they beat. The number one position is the prized position.

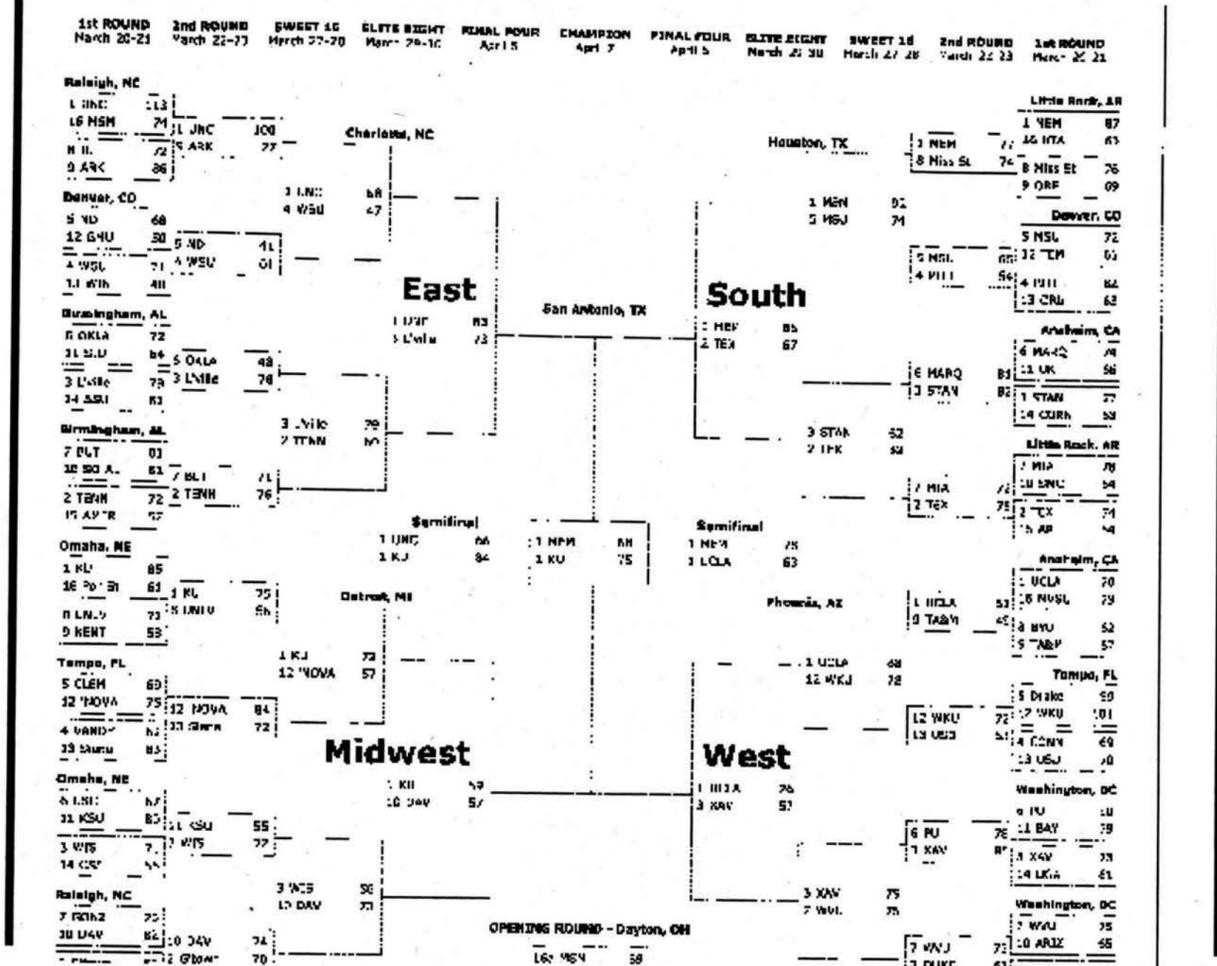
Last year the girls went to state tennis, and are hoping to make it that far once again.

But to get that far the girls must compete with the Varsity Bryan, Burke, Papillion-La Vista, Northwest, Millard South, Marian, Omaha South, Benson, Bellevue East, Bellevue West, and Millard West high schools.

They hope not only to compete with them but beat them in every single match. "Practice practice, practice" is the old saying that will get the girls varsity tennis team to state.

March Madness

The month of March means one thing for college basketball fans: The NCAA tournament. Many students get involved in the frenzy, including filling out brackets, watching games on television, and even attending the games in person.



NCAA tournament comes to Omaha

BY PETER BOCK

"The experience was great, and it was cool to see some of the top teams in the nation play, and it was everything that I anticipated it to be."

This is how Jack Kmiecik, a sophomore at Central, described his experience at the men's NCAA Tournament games at the Qwest Center. Kmiecik, who played on the junior varsity basketball team this past winter, is a huge fan Creighton and college basketball fan and said he would have not missed it for the world.

"My family has Creighton (basketball) season tickets, and who ever had those got first dibs, and we bought some for the whole weekend," Kmiecik explains.

Omaha hosted two first and second round games for the first time since 1988, when eventual national champion Kansas played here on their way to a tournament victory.

Kansas passed through the Big O once again, this time as a number one seed, facing off against Portland State in the first round and the University of Las Vegas in the next.

"Seeing Kansas play was really exciting, especially since they were a number one seed," Kmiecik adds.

Among the other teams that passed through Omaha were Kent State, Cal-State Fullerton, Wisconsin, Kansas State, and the University of Southern California.

The USC and Kansas State match-up in the first round included a tantalizing subplot.

Kansas State was lead by freshman phenom Michael Beasley, who will most likely be the top player selected in next year's National

Basketball Association draft. Beasley averaged over 25 points per game, lead the nation in rebounds per game, and was a first team All-America selection.

But USC had a fabulous frosh of their own. O.J. Mayo, a highly touted recruit and Beasley's rival in high school, lead the Trojans to a 21-12 record and a victory over number two UCLA earlier in the season.

Mayo and Beasley had been playing against each other since before high school, and were the two top recruits coming out of high school. Their battle in the NCAA tournament, and in Omaha, was a treat.

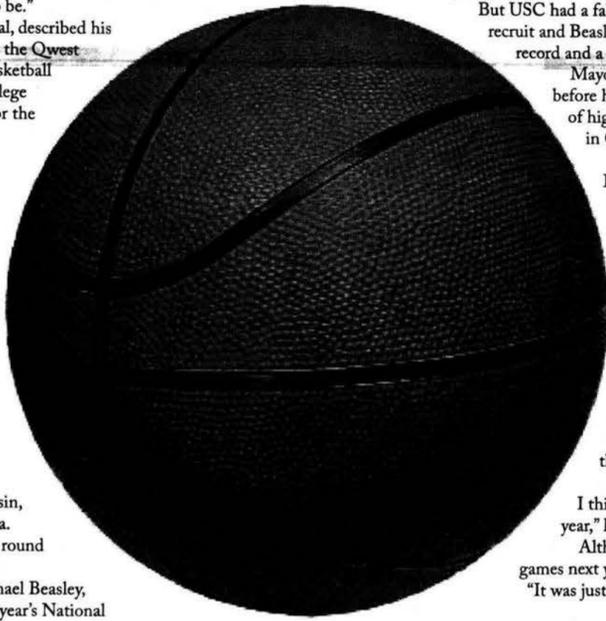
"It was really exciting seeing those two play, because I go to see two future NBA players in action. Getting to see two stars in action was great, even though the outcome wasn't that close," Kmiecik said.

Kansas State pulled the upset, and went on to face Wisconsin in the second round after the Badgers easily dispatched Cal-State Fullerton. Wisconsin defeated the Wildcats, and Omaha sent the Kansas Jayhawks and the Wisconsin Badgers to the Sweet 16.

Overall, the NCAA tournament was a positive for Omaha. It definitely helped out the local economy, with the amount of tourism dollars spent, and also helped improve Omaha's image in the eyes of the rest of the country.

"I felt really proud of Omaha for hosting this, and I think we should try and get more games like this next year," Kmiecik says.

Although it's doubtful Omaha will get March Madness games next year, Jack Kmiecik enjoyed the games immensely. "It was just an awesome experience."



Bracketology leaves teen with reoccurring woes

The bead of sweat that has traced down my nose leaves it before speeding to its splash upon my paper. I pencil in one name. Then I scratch it out with a half-chewed eraser.

Davidson...No. Kansas State...Yes...no...yes. My mind waivers before writing down what will become my inevitable doom.

I like to consider myself a sports expert. Most of my life revolves around the sports in it. No, I do not play them. I laugh at your jest.

I just imagine and love them. No time is wasted. Mornings consist of a shower and a sportscenter. Nights consist of the top 10 plays and a dose of internet sports updates. And even time spent on the toilet adheres itself to some Sports Illustrated.

So being a sports fanatic would lend well to picking teams. Especially for money.

But not in my case. In fact, I'm about as good as picking NCAA teams as President Bush is with foreign policy.

Wow, this is great. You now understand my sports savvy and foreign policy thoughts. But, back to the point.

Annually, a few million people engage in this almost religious festival. The beginning of late February is the beginning of the college sports analysis of what seems to be deemed, the best March Madness ever.

And annually I am set up for failure. But this year, it just felt different. I knew I could win it. I knew.

Like many families, mine engages in a bracket tournament too. And every year I take my time in preparing. You may be asking, "Is the cash prize that great?"

No. But it is not about the five dollar entry or the \$25 pot. It is about the pride. The way you can step up to the table and feel the crumbled 25 in between your finger tips, and the family watching with envy.

Ecstasy. So the selection process is very vital to success. But one also has to know his or her surroundings.

First of all I watch ESPN. I gather as much expert commentary as I can. Then phase two begins.

I research as much as I can. No, not about the teams. My mind gathers as much information as I can receive on the family's picks. Now I won't disclose my methods, but some of this information received is through an informant.

Some of the brackets are also stolen, copied and quietly returned without the holder

noticing.

Sometimes hitmen are hired for family members with too good a start. But for the most part, information is mustered together and put to perfect use.

So, in realizing what everyone else has picked, I pick the upsets that they couldn't imagine.

Long mob-related story-short. My preparations would be complete. But that hadn't worked in the past.

In fact, my pitiful actions fell short every year and my teams would eliminated early on.

Poor Creighton. Poor Duke. My teams had been on the wrong-side of early tough battles.

It was almost as if the teams that were fortunate enough to not be chosen by me would win.

So I disregarded my former method of choice and tried something new. Picking from the heart. This year was going to be different.

This year they would envy me.

I chose with my heart. University of North-Carolina. UCLA. Texas. Kansas State.

My final four had the everything it needed to win. A Cinderella story in Kansas State, lead by a freshman Michael Beasley.

The two number one seeds lead by big men freshman Kevin Love and junior Player of the Year Tyler Hansborough.

And the number two pick, Texas.

The taste of victory was finally in my grasp.

But those who watched the games and read this column will already know of my youthful folly.

For those of you who don't, I'll relinquish my downfall to your open ears.

The first round is almost worthless. A few games here, a few games there. Losses and wins. They play no truly vital role.

The second round is more or less the same.

Unless your final four are upset in those two rounds, you are fine. But the thing is, one of my final four teams WAS knocked out. K-state, and in my opinion, the best freshman in the nation, were beaten by Wisconsin.

Not all was over though.

Three out of four would work.

But as the tournament proceeded, the losses would rack-up. First K-State and Texas. Then my UNC and UCLA.

By the time the NCAA Championship rolled around, the only reason to watch was for enjoyment.

How boring.



FAKING A SMILE

A column by Patrick Breen



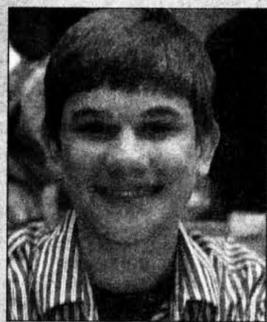
REGISTER YOUR OPINION

Freshman Edition

How was your bracket this year?



"I went with Connecticut." **Theaye Austin**



"I did really bad this year." **Robin Fey**



"I got the final four right." **Jack Stiles**



"I had Memphis and Kansas." **Dylan Heese**



"Tennessee and Memphis." **Jack MacLennan**

Teen grows weary of sport as season ends



POLITICALLY INCORRECT

A column by Peter Bock

Ever since I was five years old, I have been playing baseball. Every spring and summer, my life is consumed by America's pastime.

It is the one sport that I have continued to play throughout my high school career, outlasting basketball, soccer, and flag football.

It was the one sport that I considered myself good at. It was built for a guy like me. You don't have to be super athletic to be great at baseball. All you need is a desire to win, good hustle, pretty good athletic skills, and a love for the game.

But recently, one of those key essentials that is needed to be a great baseball player is missing. One that has been missing for a long time, and that I continue to play without up to this very day.

A love for the game.

Ever since I started playing select baseball in sixth grade for the Omaha Royals, the joy of playing seemed to disappear. It was something I couldn't explain, and I still can't today.

We had a game or a practice almost every day from March until early July, and soon I found myself dreading coming to the ball field.

Before that year I had loved baseball, and was almost in tears when we went on vacation during the playoffs. I don't know if something changed inside of me over the fall and winter of the next year, but my feelings toward baseball had changed.

But there were still times where I really enjoyed it. After some of my games, I would be excited for our upcoming games. However, the detest returned shortly before I began to play again. I still feel this way now sometimes, but it happens less and less as time goes on.

After a season as the Royals our team transferred over and became the Omaha Cats. My loathing increased as I tired of the kids I played with. I decided not to return to the team and went back to the Suburban Recreational League.

I went back to in-house, hoping less games and less practice would help rekindle the love I previously had for the sport. Although some of that love did return, at the end of the season I still contemplated if I wanted to play high school baseball.

I came to Central, still planning on playing for the Eagles. I went through the weight training and conditioning in the fall, and the 6 A.M. workouts in the winter. All this extra work didn't seem logical if I didn't enjoy the sport, right?

But when the spring season began, I started becoming friends with most of the other freshman that I was playing with. Even though I didn't like baseball, I liked the guys on the team and played out the spring and even the summer.

The end of the summer came, and I could not wait for baseball to end once again. We qualified for the C State Tournament, and played the maximum number of games before losing to Burke in the championship game.

But all I could think about that whole time was going to San Diego, which our family had planned to go on right after the season ended.

This spring, after making the Junior Varsity team, I came home after a practice around 7:45. I sat down, looked at the massive pile of homework I had and thought, "This isn't worth it."

And here I am now. Finally, I have a sense of clarity on what to do.

I will finish out the spring baseball season, and I will not come back for summer season.

Baseball at Central is an enormous commitment.

The coaches do a great job of pushing us to become better and are trying to change the attitude associated with Central baseball. Improvement is the number one goal.

But improvement takes a lot of work off the baseball field.

There are simply too many games and there is too much time to be spent doing something I simply do not enjoy anymore, especially when I can be working and doing other things that I like.

Now don't get me wrong; it's not like I won't try and give it my all for the remaining games I play. I respect Central, the coaches and my fellow players too much to do that. I give my best effort in everything I do, and baseball is no exception, even though I have become tired of playing it.

A good number of my friends are baseball players, and will still be playing this summer.

I will be supporting them by going down to Boyd Park and watching their games.

So after all these years of battling my love hate relationship with baseball, I finally am making a decision.

There isn't a guarantee that I am done with baseball though. I might miss it severely, and there is the chance that I might want to return with a renewed sense of dedication and need.

But for now, I am standing firm on my decision to end my baseball career a few years early.



PHOTO BY PATRICK BREEN/REGISTER

Senior Ben Thomas is one of the key components to the boys team this year. New Coach Chad Townsend 'brings a new attitude to the program'.

New coach leads golf team to new heights

BY PATRICK BREEN

A new coach brings new found glory to a returning golf team that is looking to make a solid run at the State Golf Tournament.

"The new coach is really motivated, he really wants us to do well and he is bringing a new level of intensity to the golf program," said golfer Benjamin Thomas.

Most will recognize the name of the first-year golf coach. Chad Townsend is familiar with a lot of Central students.

The new golf coach can also be seen on the sidelines in the Winter Sports season. Townsend, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach and Varsity Boys Golf Coach, leads both teams with intensity and discipline.

Golf team members said they liked the new coach and competitiveness.

The new coach brings a new philosophy to the golf team. Unlike last year, the team is under constant pressure to play well.

"The idea," Thomas said, "is the best shooter plays. So every score counts, even practices."

The team returns four players to varsity from the season before; seniors Tony Distefano and Andrew Patterson, sophomores Cole Peterson and Caleb Koch.

The new varsity member is Evan Qualheim. Senior Thomas also battle for the fourth and

fifth spot on varsity.

This competitiveness has paid off.

At Dodge Park, the team secured a second overall place. Coach Townsend brings the intensity and competitive spirit to the team from the basketball team he coached early.

"I like him," Thomas said, "The best part brought is the atmosphere."

The coaching experience has helped. "He understands the aspects of the sports," he said. The team practices at Shoreline in Carter Lake

Iowa.

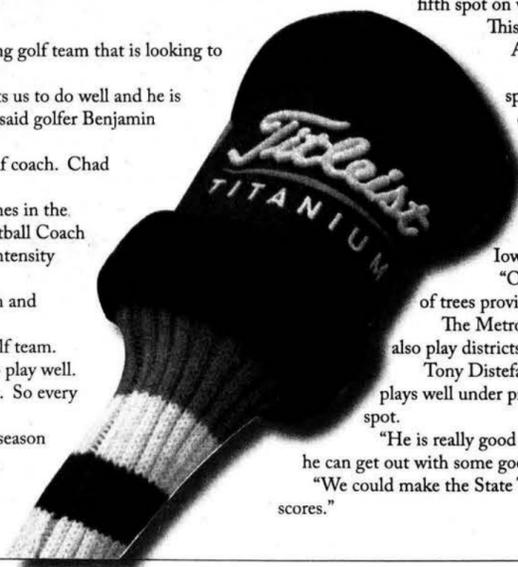
"On the front nine (of Shoreline)," Thomas said, "bunches of trees provide difficult par fours."

The Metro Tournament begins on May 5th, and the teams will also play districts.

Tony Distefano has been playing on varsity since freshman year. He plays well under pressure and leads the team at the starting number one spot.

"He is really good at recovery," Thomas said. "When he gets in trouble, he can get out with some good shots."

"We could make the State Tournament," Thomas said, "we just have to have low scores."



Track opens the season looking for a repeat title

BY MARK VANDROSEK

When Central High School opened a new stadium and gym in 2005, the students and administration had no idea that Central would soon become a high school with a championship reputation for excellence in athletics.

At the opening of the new stadium, Central wasn't doing so well in football, but Central's basketball program was making everyone very excited.

Then Central went on to win State Basketball Championship for Class A that year.

The next year brought new expectations. Central was a shoe-in for State Basketball, but new things were now expected from other sports. Central's Football program seemed to be doing very well. Central made it into State Finals but lost in the first round.

Even so, Central was quickly being recognized as an athletic center.

Then came 2007.

Central wins State Football and basketball, then came track.

Central's Track Program had long been admired by many, but never quite made it to win State Track or any major titles in the past few years. But with Central's new Seaman Stadium the track team now had a 'home court,' so to speak, on which to practice.

This seems to be the main reason that Central's track and field program has become so successful recently.

Girls Varsity Track Coach Trent Lodge, also one of Central's CAD teachers, had several comments on the track team's outlook on the new season.

"I'm very excited to be working with the team again. I think we're all hopeful for another state title, but we have to be realistic at the same time."

Coach Lodge has been coaching track at Central for over five years, and has been

teaching at Central for over ten. He also taught at an Omaha Public Schools middle school for around five years.

Ever since Central's track team won State Track last year, there has been talk of a 'two-peat', or a repeat of last year's championship title.

The new track season began on March 15th with a match against Omaha Burke, which was cancelled due to the cold weather that dominated the local weather at the time. The meet was not rescheduled.

Since then, Central has had Track and Field meets against such schools as Millard North and South, Omaha South, and Omaha Benson.

Coach Trent Lodge also commented on some rivalries that Central's team has:

"Millard North is pretty big to us, but I think we might have to look out for Omaha North too."

When asked whether or not Central's Track Team has any really good runners, or 'secret weapons', he modestly replied, "I think most of the girls are pretty evenly matched, but maybe one or two could potentially be really good and help us take state."

Central has competed in seven track meets so far this year, not including the cancelled match

against Burke, with results ranging from second place to sixth place.

Central's Track team will finish out the season around the end of April and will compete in State Districts on May 7th.

State Districts will be held in Fremont, Nebraska, just forty miles northwest of Omaha.

State Track and Field Finals will be held at Omaha Burke High School on May 16th and will 'run' through May 17th.

The Nebraska School Activities Association will be hosting and regulating the entire event.

