

Central High School
124 N. 20th St.
Omaha, NE 68102

Central High School REGISTER

Volume 103, February 16, 1990



New minimum wage laws "dictated by market"

—Tim Pierce—

"Men have attempted to manipulate the laws of economics for years," said Social Studies teacher, Mr. Brian Watson, reflecting his views on a new federal law that will increase minimum wage.

On November 17, 1989, an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act was signed into law. According to this law, the minimum wage will be increased from \$3.35 to \$4.25 by 1991.

The first plateau will

occur April 1, 1990, at which time the minimum wage will be \$3.80. The second will occur April 1, 1991, and will increase

the minimum wage to \$4.25. This law will create a ninety day, on-the-job training wage

at 85 per cent of the minimum wage. The training wage will apply only to teenagers between the ages of fourteen and nineteen.

According to Mr. Dave Schinzel, a representative at Peter Hoagland's Congressional Office, there has

been no change in the minimum wage since it was increased from \$3.25 to \$3.35 in 1981. The increase in minimum wage due to inflation is estimated at

\$4.60.

"The market actually dictates wages," said Mr. Watson. He said that wages are determined

by the supply of employees and the demand for jobs. To determine this, Mr. Watson

pointed out that the shortage in skilled workers in the telemarketing field results in high wages (near \$9.00 per hour).

"I don't think [the increased minimum wage] will

effect marketing students in the Omaha job market," said marketing teacher, Mr. Harry Gaylor. "In our case, the workers are already being paid above minimum wage based on their productivity and value," he added.

"I don't think we have one person working at minimum wage," said marketing teacher, Mr. Darrell Lahmann.

"Nobody will work for \$3.25 any way," said DECA President, Chad Rains.

"I don't think we have one person working at minimum wage."

- Mr. Darrell Lahmann

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shortage in skilled workers in the telemarketing field results in high wages (near \$9.00 per hour).

"I don't think [the increased minimum wage] will



Many students had success in the Scholastic Art Contest this year. Some students who sent entire portfolios to the competition work on a new design. Pictured, from left to right are Chrystal Benskin, Jim Leonard, Amy Rodgers, Tim Pierce, Sarah Straub, Molly Krussel, John Perry, Chris Jones. Photo by Andre Gilmore

Contest serves as learning experience for all involved

—Tina Ray—

Central High School art students showed their true colors as they entered their pieces of work for the 1990 Nebraska Scholastic Art Contest. Out of the one hundred entries sent from Central High School, there were two Blue Ribbon winners, twenty-four Gold Key winners, and forty-two Honorable Mentions.

"I was very happy with the results this year," said Margaret Quinn, art instructor at Central. "Central always does well," she said.

"We are always proud of our success at Scholastics," agreed Mr. Larry Andrews, Art Department head at Central.

The process to choose entries for the Scholastics Contest at Central is very complex.

"We never prepare for the Scholastic Art Contest," said Mrs. Quinn. "We choose entries a couple of weeks before the deadline."

The contest was not open to everyone in the school. "Only students who participate in art can enter their works, and each one of the four art teachers at Central can only enter twenty-five works into the contest," said Mrs. Quinn. "We have to go through all those drawings, and we, the teachers, make the final decisions."

"I don't think my best drawing was sent, but I'm not complaining," said Vanessa Strazdas, freshman, who won a Gold Key in the contest.

The judging of pictures was questioned by some art students, but supported by the

art teachers. "I sent in a great abstract drawing and it should have won," said Tracy Nowicki, junior.

"A lot of people were disappointed by the judging,

"I saw a lot of great drawings and ideas . . ."

-Vanessa Strazdas

but that is nothing unusual," said Mrs. Quinn. "It was not a question of if the judging was fair, because the judges were impartial and considered each work carefully. It was just that the judges wanted realism while

a lot of work we sent in was abstract."

"Last year the judges wanted expressionism, but we just give them what we think are the best pieces," said Mr. Andrews.

All prize winners receive recognition at the local or national level. Gold Key winners and Honorable Mentions will have their work exhibited at the Hillmer Art Gallery at the College of St. Mary, February 17 through March 4, 1990. Blue Ribbon winners will have their work exhibited in New York.

Chris Jones and Jim Leonard, seniors, won Blue Ribbon awards for their portfolios. "Blue Ribbons usually help students who are serious about obtaining scholarships to art schools," said Mrs. Quinn.

The contest was a

learning experience for many people who were involved. "I saw a lot of great drawings and ideas that were entered," said Vanessa.

Mrs. Quinn said, "Kids are pushed to try."

Gold Key winners in the competition were: Ann Archer, 11; Matt Auslander, 10; Chris Becerra, 9; Chrystal Benskin, 12; Mike Boyd, 10; Matt Buckingham, 11; Joel Davies, 11; Jesse DiLorenzo, 9; Libby Duckworth, 11; Alison Fuchs, 10; Jeff Heldt, 12; Lallaya Hicks, 12; Molly Jarboe, 10; David Johnson, 11; Chris Jones, 12; Jim Leonard, 12; Stephanie Moore, 9; John Perry, 12; Amy Rodgers, 12; Julie Sommer, 12; Sarah Straub, 12; Vanessa Strazdas, 9; Allison Tikke; Julie Torpy, 11.

Do you think it's the government's or the parents' responsibility to regulate a minors actions outside the home?

Gov't 15(8.6%) Parent 135(77.1%) Neither 25(14.3%)
Total: 175



Eric Fife, freshman: Government, because it's the government who runs the country, so it's the government who should keep it up.



Shannon Jensen, sophomore: Parents, because it's the parents responsibility because they are the ones who had the kids in the first place.



Violet Tyler, junior: Parents, because they're living in the parent's home. If the parents do their job, there's no need for government intervention.



Sarah Bruns, senior: A parent's and a child's relationship is too personal [for government interference]. There are different degrees of a child's maturity. It should be left to the parent to decide.



Mr. Don Knauss, Social Studies Teacher: I think it's the parent's, but in some instances, the parents don't take the responsibility, so the government has to step in.

Photos by Sean Chapman

Legislatures and city councils propose youth-restricting laws

Recently, there has been an influx of bills, acts, and laws that constrict the lives of minors under the age of nineteen. The sudden urge to restrict the lives of youth has become an utter fascination with lawmakers. Is it because the kids of today are worse than those of yesteryear? Or is it because parents are finding it harder and harder to regulate their own children and are turning to the state legislatures in desperate hope? Or is it because the adults are so frustrated with their own problems that they feel the need to invent problems and make laws that are not very enforceable in the first place?

Yes, there are some unlawful people in society that need to be dealt with, but this group consists of both minors and adults. However, since lawmakers have had such a hard time making the grown-ups behave, they figure they can always regulate the actions of children.

One example of an unfair proposal is one the Nebraska Legislature is considering right

now. Some people would like to see girls under the age of 19 having to consult their parents in order to get an abortion.

This proposal coincides with another one which has less support, but, nevertheless, is going through the legislation process in some states. It requires those teens under 18 to abstain from intercourse. First, this would be an excruciatingly difficult law to enforce. Second, if a girl under 18 ever did get pregnant, she would be in a no-win situation. Because she wasn't supposed to be having sex in the first place, she couldn't tell her parents. Therefore, if she abided by the parental consent law, she couldn't have an abortion.

Furthermore, no girl under 18 could get birth control because it's illegal for her to have sex, therefore forcing her to take a chance on getting pregnant.

It's a vicious catch-22 that minors will have no control over.

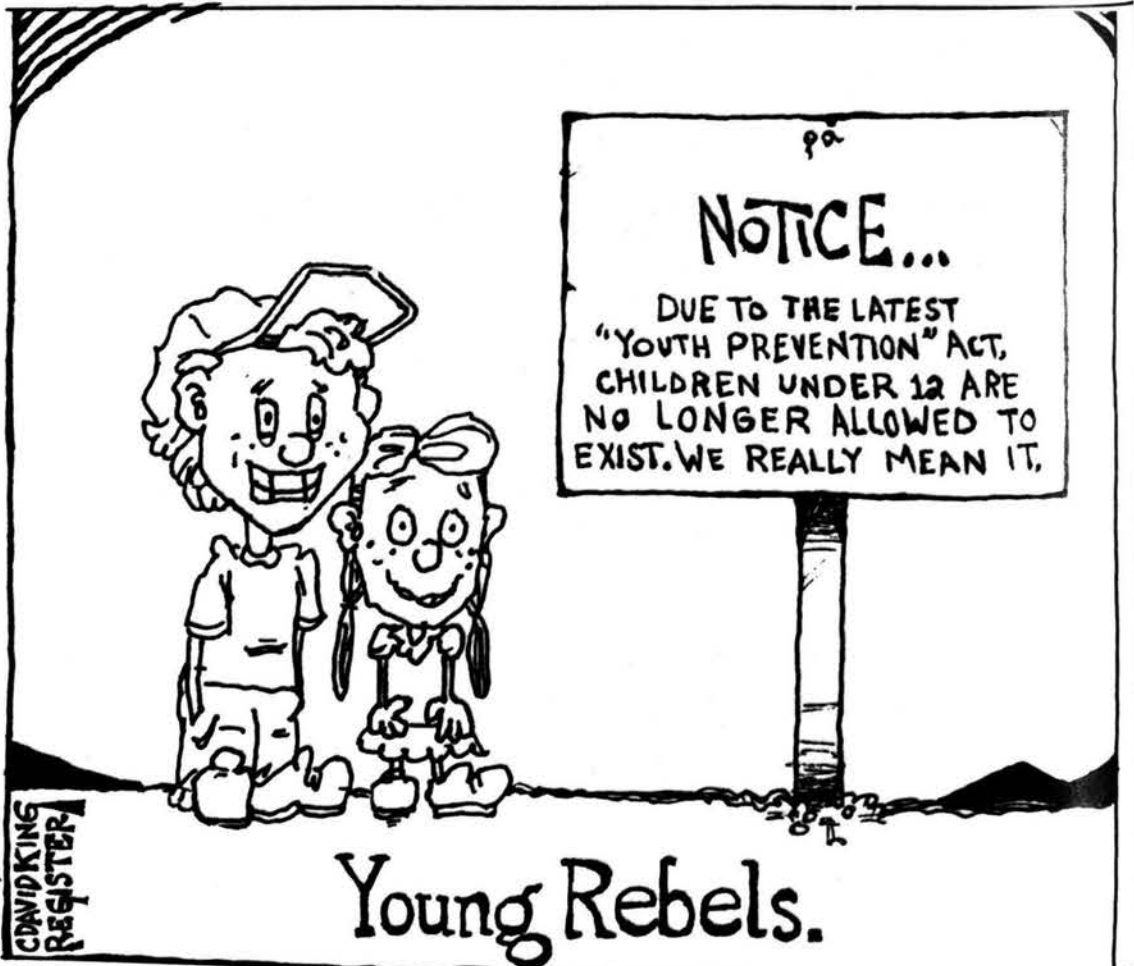
Another example of an unfair and discriminating law that

Governor Kay Orr proposed would require all out-of-state college students to take an oath to never use drugs or be kicked out of school.

Some city councils have placed curfews on their youth. Papillion-La Vista, for example, has a curfew, which is probably why you see so many of the kids from that town hanging out on Dodge Street, where there is no curfew.

Also, some states are starting to penalize students who drop out of school. West Virginia, for instance, takes away an ex-student's driving privileges when he drops out. Oklahoma fines an ex-student's parents \$25 every day the child is out of school.

The point is that the government really has no business in these kinds of domestic affairs. If a child robs a bank, then yes, the law can intervene. If he drives drunk, sure, book him. But if he doesn't go to school? There is a line being crossed here and it's time minors said something about it.



New tardy plan works in nearly all aspects

In an effort to cut down on students' absences and tardies, Central has instituted a new attendance policy. The Register applauds this attempt to increase overall attendance and to make parents more aware of their students' actions. The plan works in nearly every aspect.

The first part of this policy deals with tardies to school in the mornings. If a student arrives at school before 7:56, he or she goes directly to homeroom, and the teacher will note the tardy. This is certainly better than waiting at the attendance office in a line that stretches across the courtyard.

Upon arrival to school during first hour, the student reports to the attendance office for an admit to class. The flaw in this

plan occurs if a student comes to school after first hour.

Then he goes to his administrator, who will call a parent to notify him of the tardy. Of course it is necessary for parents to know if their children are late, but is it necessary to force the student to wait until the parent is reached before he can return to class? If a student comes to school at 9:00, but his parent can only return phone calls at noon, why must the student wait those extra three hours, thereby missing more class? It is very simple to deal with that later in the day.

The nurse's office also has some changes regarding a return to school. Students who have notes from doctor still go to the nurse rather than their counselors. However, if the student

goes to the nurse after the 7:45 bell, he is tardy. The unfair aspect is that even those students who enter the office before that time are tardy if they are still there when the bell rings. With so many students absent due to the flu, the nurse often does not get to every student right away, so why should the school punish students who have been kept waiting for ten minutes because of a backup in the nurse's office?

The new policy has been reported to be effective, and parents probably appreciate knowing when their students are skipping. However, it is unfortunate that Central had to revise its policy and include administrators, because they most likely have better things to do than to call up the parents of delinquents.

Central High School REGISTER

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Spontaneous Combustion with Stacy Gottschalk

Just when you thought it was safe to play ping-pong

Note: A dreamy bright haze would be appropriate here.

"Ha! I win!!!" shouted my barbarous opponent. "So what," I retorted. "I let you win." (Oh sure I did. Just like I would let a two-inch-long cockroach crawl across my dinner plate.)

"You're just a bad loser. You lost fair and square and you know it!!!" he squealed.

"Well, I put up a good fight. So there!!!" And with that I gave him a cold stare and a quick peek at my tongue, which I waved venomously in his direction. (I felt better after doing this, I might add.)

And then I awoke. Of course, I forgot the dream for a while, but in tenth hour study hall, when homework seemed most appropriate for home, I remembered the dream somewhat clearly and tried to analyze it, which I shall attempt to do for you, too. But first I will recount the entire dream, or at least as much as I remember.

The dream began with my walking down the street and being whistled at from a passing car. (I will flatter myself as I please, thank you.) I kept walking, but the driver rolled down his tinted window, pushed his sunglasses up from his eyes, and informed me that we were going to play ping-pong whether I liked it or not.

This was perfectly reasonable since my family recently purchased a ping-pong table as well as the proper accessories. As it often goes in dreams, I did not know who this person was, but no matter, we were off to play ping-pong. We played for a time and

were soon joined by Captain Ahab, the stormy character from Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*. He was on my team, and though he only had one good leg, he had a wicked backhand.

The match took forever. It was a hellish nightmare from which I could not escape. It was close, too. We played and played until I could not stand it a minute longer. We began to scream at each other, ejaculating differing opinions and angry retorts. Every point I made was a triumph because I got to keep a certain idea of mine. If our anonymous opponent won a point, he laughed diabolically at my ideas and threw them into the hot swirling wind which devoured them angrily. All in all, it was an intense struggle. Sweating and concentrating on that plastic, man-made object, I tried my best to win, win, win. Victory was all that mattered, and boy did it matter. It mattered too much, and we lost, even though the odds were for us.

Confused and exhausted, I listened to my first opponent reveal himself as Protagoras, an ancient Greek philosopher who said that "man is the measure of all things." Angrily I told Captain Ahab that if he would have fought our opponent rather than himself, we could have worked as a team and won. He told me the exact same thing and then left. I stood there rooted to the spot and listened to my enemy insist that "man is the measure of all things."

Then he said, "Ha! I win!!!" (You know the rest, of course.)

As I sat in study hall 215, I contemplated this dream. I thought long and hard about my teammate and my opponent.

Ahab was fighting against himself (for reasons explained in *Moby-Dick*), and he informed me that I was doing the same thing. Protagoras was fighting against me and my environmentalist idea that man is not the most important thing in the world.

Yes, man is destroying the environment, and this is terrible. But my dream showed me that what Protagoras said so many centuries ago is true. It should not be this way, but man's power to reason, invent, and adapt has made him "the measure of all things." Man has made himself the most important thing in the world, and nothing can change that except man himself.

Man learned how to make fire to keep warm, to scare off predators, and to cook meat. Man built dwellings to live in. Man is the only creature that can live anywhere he wants to because he has made use of almost everything on the earth.

Yes, we will probably destroy the planet, and only we can do it. But from a look at our past history, we will most likely adapt to the changes that we are making. We will survive somehow, unless we destroy ourselves (and we certainly have the nuclear power to do that).

The next time I play ping-pong I will think of my dream and of the synthetic world that I and my opponent keep hitting back and forth. I will feel the power I contain. My paddle will be my man-made strength and weapon. I will fight against the person on the opposite end of the table, and victory will be sweet, as it always has been and always will be. Sadly enough, we are all in this together.

Some Central sports' attendance suffers from lack of student interest

Central has always been famous for its academic program and its football team, but what about the other sports like volleyball, track, cross-country, swimming, golf, wrestling, tennis and basketball? Yes, what about these other sports? They don't get nearly as much attention or administrative and fan support.

Another View
by Michelle Hickle
Michelle is a feature writer for the Register staff

Since this is the basketball season and since I am one of the student managers, I shall address basketball

specifically. Our basketball teams have had a rather small number of cheering fans at their games, both home and away. Maybe our teams aren't having the greatest season ever, but they still deserve the support of the student body.

The following observations may dwell on trivialities, but as a whole, they could enhance the program.

First, we should have had a pep rally at the BEGINNING of the season to alert students to its beginning. I realize that cheerleaders did ask to have a pep rally toward the end of January, but why at the end of the season. What kind of support

is that? Yes, sometimes people are too harsh on the cheerleaders. They really are very pleasant individuals, but they should do their job and cheer at games, not socialize. Most of the cheerleaders who go to the basketball games, spend half of their time conversing instead of attempting to spark school spirit by leading cheers. And then when they do cheer, they aren't very loud or enthusiastic.

The band, the pom-squad and the students could do more to spark school spirit, too.

The band could play at ALL of the home games - Boys and Girls Varsity.

An entire section is "reserved" for the band, but they take forever to fill it up. Band members come straggling in during the girls' game. Why can't they be there at the beginning of the game and play for both games?

And why can't pom squad perform at the half time of the girls' game as well as the boys' game? Granted, they spend their practice time learning the dances that they do, but they could perform one set at the girls' game and the other at the boys' game. The next game perform the dance that they did at the boys' game at the girls' game and likewise for the next game.

As long as I'm picking and quibbling, have you seen these "programs" that they hand out at the door? They are blank on one side and list the Varsity team members on the other. Boring! Why can't we put some decoration on the roster sheets? Other schools do. An eagle or the date would sure look nice.

Many of these suggestions would enhance the other sports, too and encourage attendance of others in any sport.

As for those who do attend and support the various in-season sports mentioned earlier, I encourage you to continue supporting our athletics.

Letters to the editor . . .

Library exists to help students learn

Dear editor,

I was pleased to see it confirmed in the editorial in the January 26th issue that the Library is indeed a useful facility at Central. We are more than that, however; as a school library, we have a dual function: service and education, to every one of our students. All libraries practice this dual role to a certain extent, even the Omaha Public Library will teach library skills when requested, but a school library must give extra measure to the education of its student users. They are, after all, in school to learn the skills to help them in the "real" world, and if they enter Central deficient in library skills, it is our function to teach them. Period. Not to fault them for not knowing or to say "They should have . . ." One of the most efficient ways to do this is for the teacher to bring the class to the library for a skills lesson and a review of our research facilities.

Other libraries may have the space and staff to absorb entire classes while still providing research facilities to their other users. We, alas, do not have those advantages; a class of thirty-plus students dominates our one main room and we have only one certified librarian

to teach skills. If we open the Library to admit one "Johnny" whose needs are desperate, we usually have another two dozen behind him who feel their needs, too, are desperate. Where does one draw the line? Especially when we are open before school, after school and during 5th and/or 7th lunch periods. I realize that "Johnny" is a good student; but he needs to understand that the Library belongs to all students, and there is a wide range of student needs to fill. We all must share and occasionally compromise, rather than insist I-want-what-I-want-when-I-want-it.

I don't want to close without addressing another teaching responsibility of the staff here at Central, that of getting our students to accept responsibility for their actions. Your scenario says, "Because of [the Library being closed], Johnny makes up a date, . . ." Johnny had other options; if he chose to falsify a date in his paper, he must accept the consequences for his choice, without placing the blame elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Betty Majeski
Librarian

Computers can be useful to students

Dear Editor:

The January 26th Register article on personal technology by Tim Pierce was very informative but gave little detail about the extensive computer capability of Central's Business/Marketing Department. The department offers two IBM computer labs in rooms 332 and 334 which has forty-four (44) computers plus additional units in the Accounting room (329).

Word processing skills, computer concepts and applications, and data base management are all taught by the Business Department. Currently, students are enrolled in these labs and many use the computers to write term papers and aid them in other endeavors.

Michele Huston
Senior

Correction

The article in the last issue entitled, "CHS Posse stomps out violence," was written by Keri Babe, not Stephanie Kurtzuba. We apologize to Keri for not crediting her writing to her.

The Register Staff

SPOTLIGHTS

Michelle Hickle

Taco salad dinner on March 30

This year Central will have its scholarship Auction and Dinner on March 30, 1990. The taco salad dinner will be held at 6 p.m. The silent auction will also be held during that time. Dinner prices are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children under 12. At 7:45 p.m. the oral auction will take place. The scholarship auction is held to raise money for scholarships for graduating seniors.

"The Show Goes on"

Central's 1990 Road Show, entitled "The Show Goes On," will be performed on February 22, 23, and 24, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the performance cost \$4 for adults and \$3 for children. For the February 22 performance, students with student activity tickets will only be charged \$3. Tickets are on sale now.

Before the last performance on Saturday, February 24, the CHS Band will hold a Chili Supper in the

courtyard from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This supper is to raise money for the band fund which helps to pay for contests, instrumental repairs and sheet music. The prices to attend the Chili Supper are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 years of age.

Ex-Centralite donates books

Dr. Julie Simon, vice president of Human Kinetics Publishers of Champaign, Illinois, and a 1967 Central graduate, has donated some books to the Central library. The donated books are: *Encyclopedia of American Wrestling*, *Nancy Clark's Sports Nutrition Guide*, *Sportspeed*, *The Pursuit of Psyching for Sport*, *American Indian Sport Heritage*, *Serious Training for Serious Athletes*, *Conquering Athletic Injuries*, *Skills and Strategies for Winning Raquetball*, and the new sport activity series developed by Human Kinetics Publishers, *Steps to Success: Activity Series*. This series has an instructors book and participant book for each of the seven sports now available.

Students chosen for State Orchestra

Senior Duane Ludwig and junior Brad Gibson were accepted into the "1990 Nebraska Honor Chamber Orchestra" in Hastings, Nebraska. After auditioning against others from all across the state, they were chosen for their musicality, technique and stage presence. Both Brad and Duane are first violinists and members of the Omaha Area Youth Symphony.

Dana Morley honored

Senior Dana Morley was recently honored by the Nebraska Federation of Music Clubs for receiving superior ratings in piano competition for twelve consecutive years. Of the 80,000 students who were involved in last year's nationwide Federation auditions, only fourteen students had received twelve consecutive superiors in various instrumental or vocal categories.

13 Students to Close-Up program

This year Central will be sending 13 students on the Close-Up program to

Washington, D.C. in April. These students are Rebecca Beerling, Terrance Bourlier, Tracy Flynn, William Germer, and Victoria Warden, juniors, and Shane Berman, Else Feterson, Sean Foster, Diana Konyek, Chad McCarthy, Chet Palmer, Rachel Tomlinson, and Jennifer Watzke, sophomores.

Speech team still undefeated

Central's speech and debate team participated in the Kearney State College tournament before the winter break. The team of juniors Dan Fellman and Clyde Bronson were undefeated and won first place in varsity debate. Dan Fellman won a speaker's award and Clyde Bronson was chosen as the best overall debater at the varsity level.

Students of the month

February's "Students of the Month" are freshman Brian Jans, sophomore Pamela Nippert, junior Joanne Strauss, and senior Brad Costanzo. These students are chosen by the officers of the National Honor Society from teacher nominations.

New attendance procedures change student habits, parent contact

—Alyssa McIntyre—

Central's administration is working on a series of changes that may shape students' attendance habits. Changes which alter tardiness and absence procedures were put in effect near the end of the first semester, and the remaining changes were started second semester.

Last semester, changes were made in policies for early release from school. Under the original policy for early release, students took doctor and dentist appointment excuses to the nurse to have them checked and signed. The administrators approved and stamped other personal, non-health concerning notes.

According to Dr. Gary Thompson, assistant principal, the changes that are in effect right now stem from the fact that the nurse's office was flooded in the mornings when people were bringing her doctors' excuses to sign and trying to get approval to leave early for a doctor or dental appointment.

Dr. Thompson said that the nurse's office was "overwhelmed" with this number of students. To ease the problem, the administrators now sign all notes that allow students to be excused early from school. He said that all early excuse notes will continue to be signed by the administrators, and since the policy seems to serve its purpose to calm the nurse's office down, students will not return to the nurse to have early excuse notes

approved for health appointments.

On Wednesday, January 31, the new tardiness and absence procedure started. This semester, students who come in tardy during homeroom, from 7:45 - 7:54, go to homeroom, where they will be marked tardy on the attendance folder by their own homeroom teacher. Students arriving after homeroom, but before second hour, from 7:54 to 8:45, report to the attendance office for a tardy admit. If a student arrives after 8:45, he or she reports directly to his or her administrator. The administrator contacts the student's parent or guardian to verify their knowledge of the tardiness. After this is cleared, the administrator will authorize the attendance office to issue a tardy admit. If a student continually comes in tardy, it will be considered skipping and dealt with according to "skipping" procedures.

The administration is also attempting to encourage parents to call school when their student will be absent. A computerized telephoning machine and the Parents - Educators - Pupils Newsletter will be utilized to inform parents of the importance of calling about students' absences. When a parent does not call, attendance secretaries will use both home and work numbers to try to verify student absence.

Dr. Thompson said

that these are only the first of some major changes that will be made.

Dr. G.E. Moller, principal, said that next year holds more changes for the attendance and tardiness procedures. He described the changes as "adjustments" which he said the staff is working on to try to reduce tardiness and absence, and to make record keeping easier. He said the changes are not being made all at once because there are too many things that too many people would have to "unlearn."

When asked how he believes the new policy is working, Dr. Moller said, "It's still early, but I believe it's working exceedingly well."

Mrs. Esther Wageman, attendance secretary, said, "We feel that, given an opportunity, [the new procedures] will cut down on truancies." She also said she believes the policy will allow for more and better communication with parents because anytime a parent calls to inform the attendance office of absences or tardies, or the like, the office will give an excused admit to that student whose parents called.

Many students expressed concern with the new policy. Melissa Roberts, senior,

said she missed classtime because she came to school after

first hour and had to wait until her administrator reached her parent before she was admitted to class.

Matt Niksick, junior, said he does not like the new policy because, "I used to be able to come in later." He expressed concern that he could not come to school late because the administrators would call his parents.

Some students say with the old policy, the administrators, the attendance secretaries, and the nurse seldom called parents. Dr. Thompson explained that the administrators now call home to verify every note to excuse students early.

Mrs. Wageman said the attendance secretaries have always made an attempt to call every parent about irregular

attendance, but they believe the new policy will allow more time to reach parents.

Mike Gonzales, junior, admits that calls home will keep him from coming to school late or writing notes for himself to get out early.

Other students share junior Shawnda Langerak's view. She said, "My mom knows when I am not at school. She gets annoyed when the office calls. She wonders why they can't trust me."

Most students, however, are apathetic about the new policy. Amy Edgren, senior, said, "It was probably better the way it was." Senior Maia Murray also captured many students' opinions when she said, "It really doesn't matter."

An anonymous substitute teacher at Central said, "Attendance policies are made to keep students at school. I don't believe that every student needs the red tape of a strict attendance policy, but some students do, and these things must be equal for all students."

Wanted!

Pre-1975 British and Pre-1970 Japanese
Motorcycles
Standard-stock Machines

Contact Mr. Watson
Finders Fee!

People frequent marketing department for refreshment

Water cooler provides meeting place

Ingo Socha

Every crowd has its very special meeting place.

For some it's a coffee house or a market place; for Central High teachers it's at the bottled water cooler, a device that takes up one square foot of room and is 55 inches tall.

Marketing teacher Mrs. Alice Bunz set it up after she learned about the results of an experiment that Mr. David James, a former science teacher at Central, conducted last year.

Cultivating fountain germs

To give his class some "hands-on experience," he set up a task similar to a scavenger hunt. He picked a couple of Central's drinking fountains and disinfected them.

The next day his students were sent out during lab time to find the clean fountains.

When his students had no trouble telling the dirty from the clean fountains, he and his class started to take samples from three areas of a soiled fountain and cultivated them in a petri dish.

The result showed that there was "a fairly good growth of bacteria in the opening," said Mr. James.

Examinations under a microscope showed similarities to germs causing infections.

Unfortunately, Mr. James had "no expertise for

health hazards."

When he showed his sample to marketing teacher Mrs. Alice Bunz, she did not like what she saw.

She said that she remembered a commercial on the radio and ordered a water cooler.

What she did not know at the time is that she was creating a new communication center for the school.

To her, the cooler brought the advantage of having "cool and pure water without having to leave the phone."

Soon, the marketing teachers started to congregate around the new device to exchange the news of the day with each other.

The news spread around school and other people started frequenting the marketing office "in need of refreshment."

Mr. Sultan Kerakes, director of water quality at Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) did not see any need to prefer bottled water to the fountains.

He denies the possibility that the water is soiled when it enters the building's pipes.

"There can't be any hazard," he said.

"Omaha water, supplied by MUD, is treated according to the standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act," said Mr. Kerakes.

Source of germs

The water is cleaned, settled, and chemicals are added. According to Mr. Kerekes, chlorine is added at several points to keep the level between 0.5 and 1 milligram per liter.

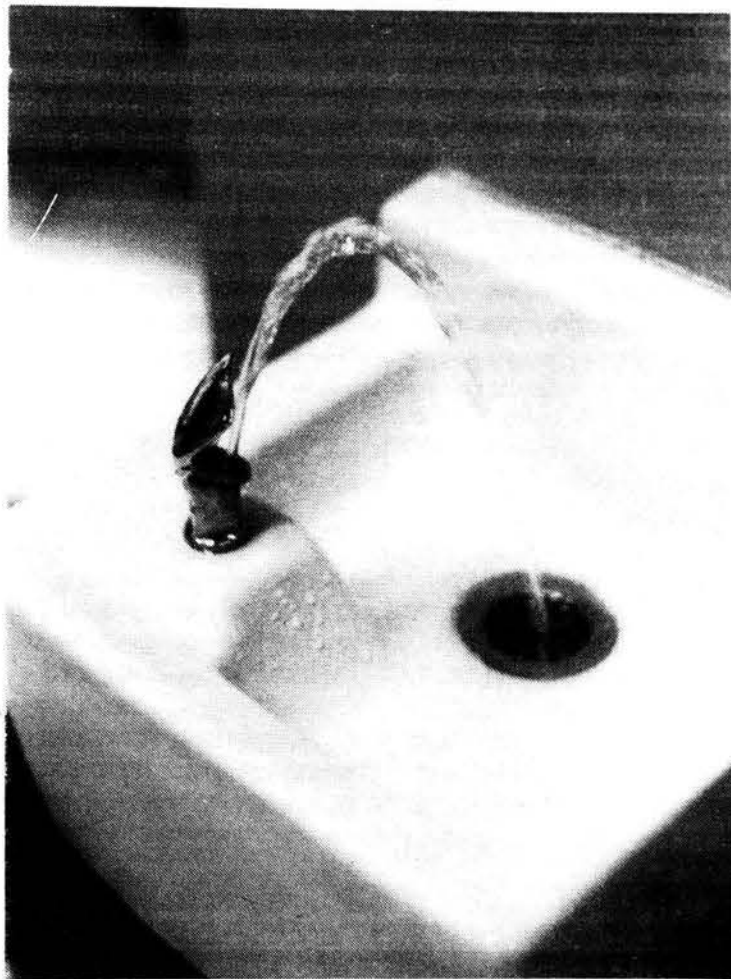
Mr. James also thinks that it is unlikely that the germs are coming from MUD supplied water. "The source is most likely human use," he said.

In addition to Mr. Harry Gaylor and Mr. Darrell Lahmann, other marketing teachers, the cooler is now used and paid for by a group of teachers.

Hanging around cooler

Miss Levetta Chamberlain, Mrs. Eileen Conway, Miss Carolyn Orr, Mr. Michael Gaherty, Mr. Larry Andrews and Mrs. Margaret Quinn all enjoy the water.

"When we sit in the office and talk, we call it 'hanging around the water cooler.'"



Faculty water club shuns regular water fountains for bottled water. Photo by Sean Chapman

More calendar changes

Stephanie Kurtzuba

The Omaha School Board has reached yet another final decision regarding the 1990-1991 Omaha Public School's academic calendar.

At a meeting in the new Teacher Administration Center on February 5, the School Board faced a crowded room of approximately 200 people. Most in attendance were there to fight the calendar changes decided on by the board on January 24. Once again, the "power in numbers" philosophy proved successful for the protesters of the new OPS school calendar.

New changes have been made in the plan for the 1990-1991 school year to coincide with some of the decisions that have already been passed by the board.

The revised calendar calls for all OPS students to begin school on August 27 with teachers beginning work the traditional week of August 20. The new revisions call for a two day teachers' convention and break over Thanksgiving. A winter break will occur December 21 through January 2 (shortening the original decision by one day).

Spring break has been restored to the

traditional length of one week and both Martin Luther King Day and Presidents' Day will be observed. The school day will still be extended by 10 minutes, allowing for students to finish school on May 31.

Mr. Norman Custard, Central mathematics teacher, attended the Board meeting and said, "We won two out of our three arguments, an early out, a full week in the spring, but we didn't get the two weeks in winter. It was a compromise."

Dr. G. E. Moller, principal, said that he was aware of a concerned effort on the part of the Omaha Education Association (OEA) to get many teachers from OPS to attend the Monday night meeting. "Only one teacher approached me about his disapproval for the new calendar, but I got the impression that many of the teachers weren't pleased."

According to Mrs. Vickie Anderson, Spanish teacher, the number of people, the large amount of letters, and many phone calls received by the Board of Education, prompted the board to change its decision.

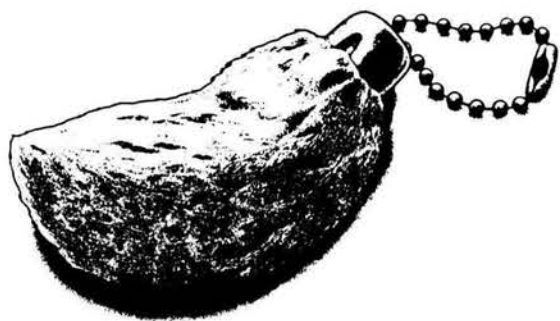
The original plan decided upon in January was arrived at through parent, student, and administrator surveys. However, both Mr.

Custard and Mrs. Anderson agreed that they felt the survey was disregarded when it came to the final decision. As a member of OEA, Mrs. Anderson holds the position of Political Action Chair and expressed her feelings about the calendar.

Mrs. Anderson said, "I feel better that they changed the calendar because it shows that they were listening. Last time they didn't listen, and I felt that my vote didn't count."

Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, social studies teacher, said that the "process through which the original decision was arrived at concerned me."

Although the Board of Education said that this was a final decision on the 1990-1991 school calendar, Mr. Custard advises, "pencil this one in!"



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Snow days: Student joy, executive decisions

—Jennifer E. Murphy—

"...Ralston Schools and Omaha Creighton Prep will start one hour late. All classes are cancelled for the District 66 schools, Papillion schools, and Omaha Public Schools as well...."

In the early morning hours following a particularly snowy evening and/or night, students of all ages listen to their radio or T.V. to see if school might be cancelled.

"MOM!!! There's no school today!!!!!"

"I am so happy!" said Christie Klein, sophomore. "I jump up and down [when I find out]."

Students—while happy school is canceled—are sometimes puzzled as to why school is cancelled on a certain day, and not another. Many are uncertain of the Omaha Public Schools "snow days" policies and criteria.

"There is a combination of factors upon which the decision is based," said Mrs. Winnie Callahan, Coordinator of Public Information Services for OPS.

According to Mrs. Callahan, the administration at TAC gets information from the National Weather Service as well as the city and the county. They also receive reports of the conditions of the roads.

"We have about 50 people who go and drive the streets where buses would be traveling and report back with us what they think," she said.

All the information is "fed to Dr. Norbert Schuerman," the Superintendent of OPS, Mrs. Callahan went on to say.

"By 4 a.m. we are close

to a decision." They then call "the 3 major T.V. stations" in addition to 14 radio stations and the World Herald, she went on to say. To reach teachers, principals and staff who work at the schools, they activate the "emergency calling tree." Every employee in the school district is reached," she said.

"But MOM!!!! It's too cold to go today!!!!"

"A lot of kids get themselves off to school in the morning," she said. She said that because of that fact, the kids might not be "bundled up enough."

"Vehicles also have trouble starting [in cold weather], and there could be a wait for a [school] bus," she added.

Dr. Peter Cardiello said, "When blood stops circulating, you get frostbite." He added that "safety patrols" can be in danger in extreme cold because of the "standing still." Young children are more susceptible because they have "thinner skin" and when they are outside, they are "not looking for effects of the cold" where as older kids and adults are, Dr. Cardiello went on to say.

"We look seriously at closing [school] with 40 or 60 degrees below zero windchills," said Mrs. Callahan.

"There is no set policy. There can't be," she said. According to Mrs. Callahan, one cannot say that if there are "4 inches of snow there won't be school," because the snow could be dry and not hazardous. On the flipside of that, she said that there could be only 2 or 3 inches of snow, but along with it could be wind and ice which "could do it—especially with windchill."

"When will the

windchill be at its peak? We look at these factors as well. That's why there is no set policy," said Mrs. Callahan. "We look at the total picture." She added that they keep in touch with the road crews and see when streets will be cleared.

"Hey look!!! It's snowing!! I am going to call my parents and have them call the Superintendent and we'll get out early!!!!"

"The Superintendent appreciates the calls, [he gets from parents] knowing parents care and are concerned, but they do not influence his decisions," said Mrs. Callahan. "After 9:30 a.m., it's too late." She went on to say that for early dismissal, the people at TAC have to be in communication with the bus drivers to get them to the buses and to the schools by 12 or 1 p.m. "Dr. Schuerman has to have all the information by 9:30 a.m. and make a decision. Early closing is a substitute for a late starting time."

According to Mrs. Callahan, starting classes late is "not an option."

"We 'piggy-back' our buses in order to save money on transportation. Starting times for elementary and high school are in accordance with each other so when buses are done with high school students, they can go pick up elementary students." She said.

"We only have 3 snow days! After another one, we will have to make up time during spring break and the summer!!!"

"There is not a set number [of snow days allowed]," said Mrs. Callahan. "We have extra time already in the calendar. If there was severe weather and we did have an excessive amount

of days off, we might have to work with the state to see if we would need to make up days."

"Who has to go to school when kids don't, anyway?? Who are the 'designated personnel' I hear about on the radio"?

According to Mrs. Callahan, the term "designated personnel" is referring to an appointed teacher or administrator that comes to school because usually one or two students will show up for school.

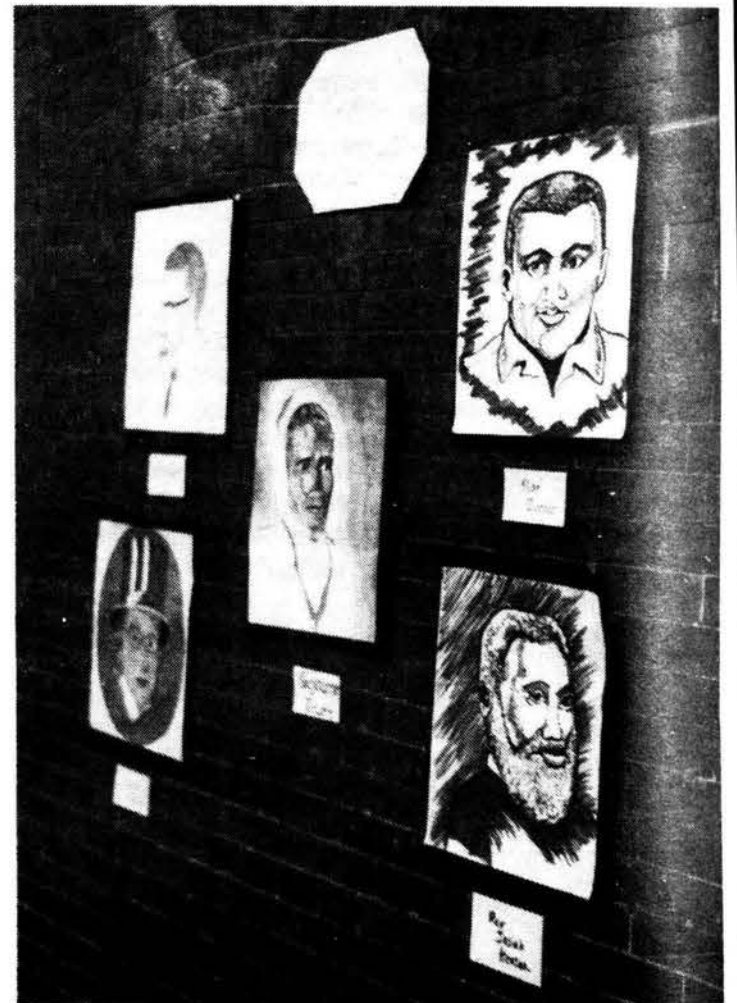
"We want to have someone there so that the student will have a contact to get home," she said. She said a designated custodian is also at a school to

make sure the pipes do not freeze up.

Mrs. Callahan also said that all of the teachers "usually go to school" because teachers "are looking for time to get school work done," but if it is "extreme," it is "not productive" for them to come in.

"I am always glad [for a "snow day"]. I can catch up with school work," said Mrs. Kathleen Maloney, English teacher.

"I just wait for the phone call my dad gets and run and wake my sister up," said Kevin Custard, sophomore, whose father, Norm Custard, is a teacher at Central. "Then, I go back to bed!"



Pictures by Central art students are hanging in the courtyard commemorating Black History Month, Photo by Andre Gilmore

Central will add ethnic history to curriculum

—Keri Babe—

"School days, school days, good ole golden rule days. Reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic, taught to the tune of a hickory stick."

Many years ago, people held this perception of school. Today, that old philosophy of education has been replaced with an abundance of new and highly diversified courses.

**"It's important for all people to understand all races."
Jade Rogers**

Central is currently promoting the idea of implementing an ethnic studies course in the curriculum for the 1990-1991 school year.

According to Mrs. Bernice Nared, a group of black Central students proposed the

idea for a black history class.

She said that the students felt they didn't learn enough about the black heritage in regular social studies classes and wanted to learn more.

After much discussion, the administration decided that an ethnic history course would be more beneficial to all students.

Dr. G. E. Moller, Central principal, said he feels that an ethnic history course, as opposed to a black history course, would be a contribution to all significant minorities, not any one particular race.

Along with the advantages of a course like this come many obstacles.

"We had a black history class about fifteen years ago, but after about three or four years, nobody showed any interest in it. Hopefully, with an ethnic history class we'll get a larger pool of students and have a much greater chance of success," said Dr. Moller.

Books are the major

problem for having an ethnic history course. Dr. Moller said that two other schools in OPS are currently running a similar course and made their own books through mimeographed material.

**"[It] will help a lot of minorities to learn about their heritage."
Chris Gray**

Senior Jade Rogers said, "Yes, I think it's a good idea to have a class like this. You don't get ethnic history from the classroom. It's important for all people to understand all races."

"I think it will be a good educational class. A lot of things aren't taught in elementary school and junior high. An ethnic studies class will help a lot of minorities to learn about their heritage and culture," said senior Chris Gray.

According to Mrs. Nared, there must be a minimum of fifteen students enrolled in the semester course, and that minimum must be maintained in order for the class to remain in

the curriculum.

Mrs. Susan Roberts has volunteered to teach the ethnic studies class, but the official teacher has not yet been established.

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College drop-out becomes member of home-grown terrorist organization

Teacher's past prom date turns kidnapper

Keith Klanderud

Have you ever wondered if one of your classmates or friends might someday be a movie star or the president or a multi-millionaire?

Or how about a mass-murderer or even a national terrorist?

Central English teacher Mr. Timothy Larsen had an unusual past acquaintance: his date to the senior prom.

"I never suspected she would turn out the way she did," said Mr. Larsen.

The "she" that Mr. Larsen referred to was a good high school friend/prom date.

She turned out to be a member of one of America's most notorious terrorist groups, an organization that is called

the Symbianese Liberation Organization.

The SLA, as it was called, was an organization of home-grown American terrorists, woman-created and woman-operated.

Members of the organization were responsible for the 1974 kidnapping of heiress Patricia Hearst.

The money the outlaws demanded for Patty Hearst's return was not even for the enrichment of the kidnapers, but to help the poor.

The group was responsible for many crimes in the early 1970's.

According to Mr. Larsen, the kidnapper-to-be was different from the girl he

friend in high school.

"She was very popular. I still remember her as she was in high school. I never met the 'other side' of her; she was very friendly."

As for his senior prom with her, Mr. Larsen said, "Prom was fine; there was nothing unusual about it at all." Mr. Larsen also said that he only saw

flushed on the national news.

"I was shocked when I found out about the big shoot out in L.A., and she was involved in it."

The girl Mr. Larsen once went to prom with was found dead under the floor of a house that had been surrounded by police. She was found burnt and holding a dead cat.

Events involving the kidnapping of Patty Hearst have been made into movies and written about in books.

However, although Mr. Larsen said that he dated a notorious person (who was in the news), he said he has never read any of the books or seen any of the movies written about the ordeal.

Mr. Larsen also said that he still thinks about his old prom date whenever Patty Hearst's name comes up.

She was very popular. I never met the 'other side' of her; she was very friendly.

The kidnapers were seven young white university dropouts, five of them women, one of whom was Mr. Larsen's close friend in high school.

The whole kidnapping was different in that the criminals acted from new compulsions and unmellow motives.

went to prom with in high school." I never remember her being involved in social causes," he said.

Many people get conceptions of very cruel and dangerous people when they think of terrorists and criminals; according to Mr. Larsen, she was a nice person and a good

her once after graduation (from high school).

"She didn't seem to have changed when I saw her last; it was two years after high school and that was the last I actually heard of her," Mr. Larsen said.

The next time he saw her was when her picture was

Placemats, bookmarks encourage vocational enrollment

Cindy Garner

The Home Economics and Business/Marketing departments celebrated Vocational Educational Week during the week of February 12-16.

The departments used this time to get more students interested in the vocational education classes offered at Central.

According to Mrs. Wanda Utecht, business department head, they handed out brochures to all freshmen students about the importance of a business education.

"Business is for everyone, not just the college-bound person," said Mrs. Utecht.

Students found placemats in the cafeteria and bookmarks in the library encouraging them to enroll in



vocational education classes next year.

Mrs. Utecht said that she feels that students don't understand what vocational education is.

She said, "Too many people think of vocational education as a shop class."

Other activities this week included a drawing for a Central T-shirt by the home economics department and a

speech, in an auditorium homeroom, about the vocational courses offered to freshmen.

The business department sponsored an informal luncheon for Central's administrators, counselors, secretaries, the home economics

department staff, and supervisors from TAC.

The Breakfast Flakes, the morning disk jockeys on Sweet 98 radio station, were special guests at the luncheon.

Mrs. Utecht said that she hoped they would have some media attention of the event from them.

The Home Economics Department offers courses in home economics, nutrition and food science, clothing and textiles, child development and housing and home interiors.

The business department has courses in

accounting, marketing, personal finance, business economics, and typing.

Mrs. Utecht said that she is quite proud of the business department's computer education.

"We have computer labs where we are able to teach word processing, spreadsheets, and other business related activities which can be done on a computer," Mrs. Utecht said.

Vocational education week was celebrated this week because registration for next year begins next week.

The home economics and business departments wanted the idea of vocational classes in the

minds of students as they decide on their courses for next year. Sophomore Eve Broekmeier, a student of Mrs.



Diane Mosher's personal finance class, said that she would have a better background from which to take Marketing I-II next year.

Sophomore Mike Ferro, a student of Mrs. Joann Roehl's foods and nutrition class, said, "It's great! You get to make chili and soups and things." Mike said students also learn to grocery shop.

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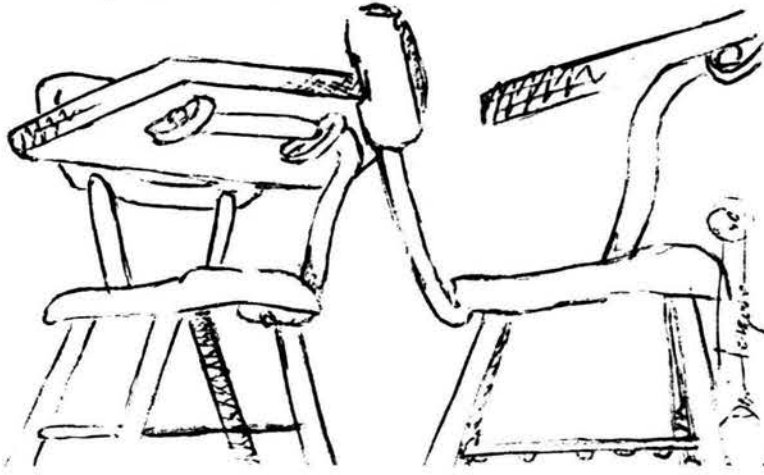
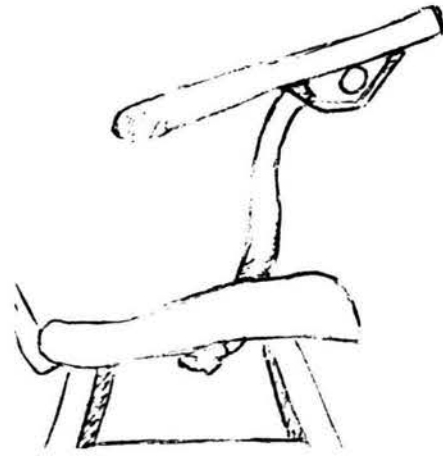
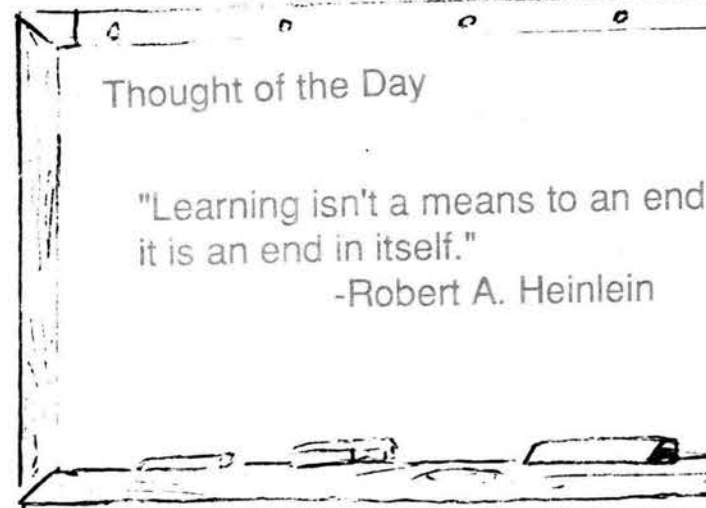
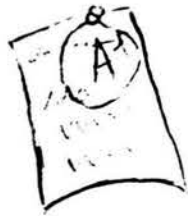
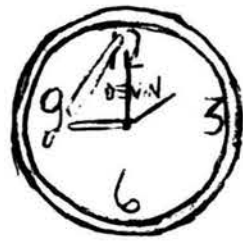
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Public education support, finance



Spending limit districts can raise

Hilary Foster

Funding for school districts, cities, counties and other government subdivisions may be placed under a lid, depending on legislation in the state legislature.

A spending lid limits the rate at which a government subdivision, such as a school district, may increase its budget from year to year.

"The lid has the same benefits as having a budget in a household," said Janet Anderson, a member of the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education. She added that the problem with the lid is that it cannot be changed like a household budget can. Lids are a device used to control the economy by restricting the budget for the government, according to Mr. Stephen Regan, President of the OPS board of education.

"The concept [of lids] is relatively new," said Mr. Regan. "Every year the local subdivisions of government have a new budget." While a budget outlines spending for the year, Mr. Regan said that the lid controls how much the budget can increase.

Currently, three different types of lids face the legislature and the citizens of Nebraska. According to Neal Krause, director of accounting for the Omaha School District, Nebraska has not been affected by a lid since the 1984-85 fiscal year. Mr. Krause said that during that year, the entire state was under a seven per cent lid. That lid was on revenue, as opposed to current lids that control expenditure.

"On lids on revenue," Mr. Krause said, "the lid controls the amount of taxes that a district can collect. If you can raise revenue from some other source than taxes, you can raise the level of your budget to meet your needs." Lids on expenditures, he explained, restrict the level of spending regardless of other income. The lid that was on the state in 1984-85 was a time limit lid, Mr. Krause said; the time ran out and it expired. The proposed Constitutional Amendment lid and the lids being proposed in the legislature have no time limit, he said.

From 1979 to 1981, the voters of Omaha put the school district under a zero per cent lid while the state was under a seven per cent lid. Mr. Regan said that the lid in the 79-81 years was bad because so many programs had to be cut drastically. "Inflation was running in the double digits while the lid was at zero . . . it was a disaster." Mr. Regan added that the

legislature

"The reliance on property tax [for school districts] is not sustainable," said Ron Witt, executive director of the Millard Public Schools. "The lid ensures that you get a fair share of the tax base."

They are divided about how to proceed, according to Frank Boyer, a school board member. "Whenever there is a change in the economy, people are looking for money to spend on their schools."

"The greater sense of control over spending bodies is what we need," Anderson said. "Because taxpayers are not in control of the government, they vote for

Many apathetic about education costs

Alyson Adams

"We don't need no education."

According to senior Kristin Long, this is not only the opinion of the music group Pink Floyd but is also a common belief held by Omahans.

"The reason no one cares about public education is because there are a lot of people who are out of school and don't have kids, so they don't care to put anything into the system. They don't have any ties to it," she said.

Legislative Bill 1059 offers a possible solution to the education problem, Kristin said.

The bill would boost state support for school districts, particularly poor districts, and it would affect all Omahans. LB 1059 would increase state income taxes by 17.5% and raise state sales tax from four to five cents on the dollar.

The bill indicates that some federal income taxes would increase while others would decrease. The bill would increase the taxes of businesses and those who have middle to high incomes. Omaha renters' taxes would also rise.

However, property owners with lower incomes would pay less under LB1059.

Mrs. Valorie Johnson, 1972 Central graduate and mother of two, approved of the bill.

"I'd like to see farmers get a cut, and I think [LB 1059] would encourage people to buy houses instead of renting. It's got a lot of valid points," she said.

Mrs. Johnson added that she felt she was ready to make an effort to improve education, even if that meant paying higher taxes.

"I think it's time to do something about education," she

said. "Having children in school, I am especially concerned. No one wants taxes raised, but for what better reason than education? I'd vote for it."

Junior Erin Hovorka has a mixed opinion of LB 1059.

"I think it's both good and bad. It's good that they are helping the poorer people, but there are also the middle class people who can barely make ends meet themselves. I think the focus should be spread out evenly and help as many as possible," she said.

Mr. Jerry Gillogly, American History teacher, welcomes the bill.

He said, "I think it's long overdue. Why should only property owners pay for education? Everybody uses it and benefits from it."

**"I don't mind paying higher taxes for something as important as education."
- Mr. Randy Smith**

Mr. Gillogly added, "It's sad to see the governor trying to shoot [the bill] down. She wanted property tax reduction, and the bill does that and helps education at the same time. Not passing it would be a disservice to the people."

Mr. Randy Smith, college senior and former Central student, also supports LB 1059.

"I don't mind paying higher taxes for something as important as education—that's fine. If it were for a low-level

nuclear waste site, that would be different, but it's for a good cause," he said.

Mr. Smith added that although he thinks the bill is a good idea, he is not sure if it will be successful.

"It could backfire. If the situation doesn't improve once the funds are available, the actual processing of the money might have to be dealt with," he said.

Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, World History teacher, said she is always in favor of lower property taxes and higher income taxes.

"Income taxes are much more progressive. But, tax reform under Reagan is not very progressive, and because Nebraska's income tax is tied to national income tax, it may not be as progressive as it should be," she said.

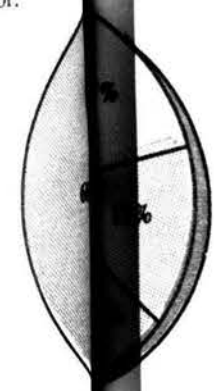
According to senior Melissa Garner, teachers' salaries are not high enough, and consequently, many of the really good teachers are not teaching anymore.

Melissa said that she thinks there is not enough emphasis on the positive aspects of young people.

"Everybody concentrates on the drug issues when they should be concerned with education. They're teaching what's wrong, not what's right," she said.

Freshman Rene Johnson agreed with Melissa. She said, "If people weren't always emphasizing the bad side, kids wouldn't be so negative and they'd see the good side of themselves."

Melissa added, "The government wants to put all the money into stopping drugs. What they don't realize is that people wouldn't be selling drugs if they had an education."



The graph shows the percentage of public and private institutions in Nebraska.

GRAPH KEY

- 60% Public institution in Nebraska
- 17% Public institution outside Nebraska
- 10% Private institution outside Nebraska
- 13% Private institution in Nebraska

finance, vital for its continuance

Lid hit rate school and ease budgets

and a half per cent on selected expenditures.

Mr. Regan feels that any lid is detrimental because eighty-five per cent of the school district expenditures is in labor costs. "The cost of living is beyond four per cent. If we have a four per cent lid, the purchasing power of our teachers is less. In effect, their salaries get cut."

The lid within LB 1059 would be a law and could be repealed. People are currently debating a different potential lid; this lid is in the form of a constitutional amendment. Omahan Ed Jaksha is circulating a petition to put a two per cent lid on all state subdivisions. Once Mr. Jaksha attains 57,600 signatures, the lid would go to a vote of the people on the November, 1990, ballot and then, if approved by the voters, would become an amendment to the constitution. When this is a part of the state constitution, it would take a four-fifths majority to remove it. This is higher than the usual two-thirds majority required to amend the state constitution.

To raise a lid, Mrs. Anderson said that the school board must have a three-fourths majority to raise the lid one per cent. To lift the lid, there must be a special election. "It costs \$150,000 to have that kind of an election," Mr. Gary Bennett, assistant superintendent, said. "Why pay that money when you can keep it in education?"

"We are quite concerned about the lids being proposed in the Nebraska state legislature and the petition that would put a two per cent lid on all government subdivisions," said Dr. Witt. "President Bush [in his state of the union address] set out his goals for education during the nineties. If we're going to do that and operate on little money, it will be very difficult. The lid would only make it more restrictive."

The third type of lid is the lid that Governor Kay Orr is proposing as part of her effort to give property tax relief and provide property tax refunds. She has proposed a four per cent lid that would be retroactive to the 1989-90 year, according to Dr. Bennett. He said that if that passes, the schools will have to cut the budget "almost a year from now."

Dr. Bennett said that the lid is "an advantage if you want to lower property tax but you cannot maintain services to students, you cannot respond to needs that emerge immediately... and you cannot maintain the present programs."

"Front door" to education remains open

— Jodi Chruma —

343 years ago, the state of Massachusetts opened the first public school, according to Mrs. Madeline Williams, librarian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The first public schools were based on the idea that to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures was to fulfill one of Satan's desires.

The movement away from the idea that education's prime responsibility was for Bible study came in the 18th century.

According to Dr. G.E. Moller, Central High School principal, the public education system links the United States.

"The world is smaller, with jet planes, television, microwaves and radio. To a greater extent, we are citizens of the state or the country rather than of a small community," Dr. Moller said.

He said, "In urban districts, many cores have deteriorated. A lot of people who live there have little or no money for school. They still have to be educated. It's logical that the federal government has to provide the money."

Mr. John Keenan, Central High School English teacher, also said that public education links the country.

"Because people in the United States have many different religions or codes of conduct, public education is one of the few things that provide a certain unity to the country," Mr. Keenan said.

"Public education has been an instrument in helping immigrants to understand the language and its uses, and in increasing their awareness of the laws by which they are ruled," he said.

Mr. Keenan also said that public education is "a means by which people can further their economic status."

Because of the idea that education is meant as a privilege, Mr. Keenan said, "It has become [stylish] to say that education is important. What would society do with people growing up ignorant? Society would pay one way or another."

Values inherent in the public schools are espoused in the Constitution of the United States, according to Mr. Stephen Regan, President of the Board of Education.

"Other kinds of values, teachers bring with them. Typical values reflect on teachers," Mr. Regan said.

**"You can't stick a list of the Ten Commandments on the wall and expect everyone to learn from them."
- Mrs. Jeanette Anderson**

According to Mr. Regan, teachers should promote good work and study habits, self-discipline, the importance of honesty and the importance of concern for others who may not necessarily have the same background as themselves.

"The principal reason that [the United States] is in a leadership position is that in the 1840's we started to believe that it was necessary to educate everyone in order to have a Democratic Republic," Mr. Regan said.

"In my mind, [public education] is the greatest invention of the American way of life," said Mr. Regan.

One concept of public education, according to Mr. Regan, is that "the front door is open to anybody, regardless of color, religion, handicaps, or talents. There really isn't anything like that anywhere else. We serve

all," he said.

Ms. Karen Shepard, member of the Omaha School Board, said that in public schools, students can meet all kinds of people, not just those people who can afford to pay for education. Everybody's entitled to free education in the levels of [kindergarten] through twelfth grade," she said.

According to Board of Education member Mrs. Jeanette Anderson, all values embodied in the Scriptures should be transmitted to students through education. "If students understand the rules of no lying, no cheating, no stealing—all those things—life's going to be a lot easier," she said.

To teach values, according to Mrs. Anderson, they must be transmitted through examples. "You can't stick a list of the Ten Commandments on the wall and expect everyone to learn from them," she said.

Mrs. Anderson said that teachers, parents, and other students are factors in a student's ability to understand values but that such factors are "hard to control."

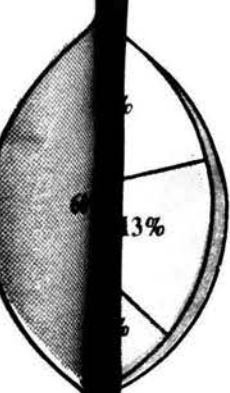
Mrs. Anderson said that she had a public education from kindergarten to the twelfth grade and was a 1980 graduate of Central. "To be exposed to people with different beliefs and ability levels really enriched [the education]," she said.

Senior Siv-Line Olsen, exchange student from Norway, said that she would compare American public high schools to junior high schools in Norway. "[Students] are more immature after 9th grade than they are in Norway."

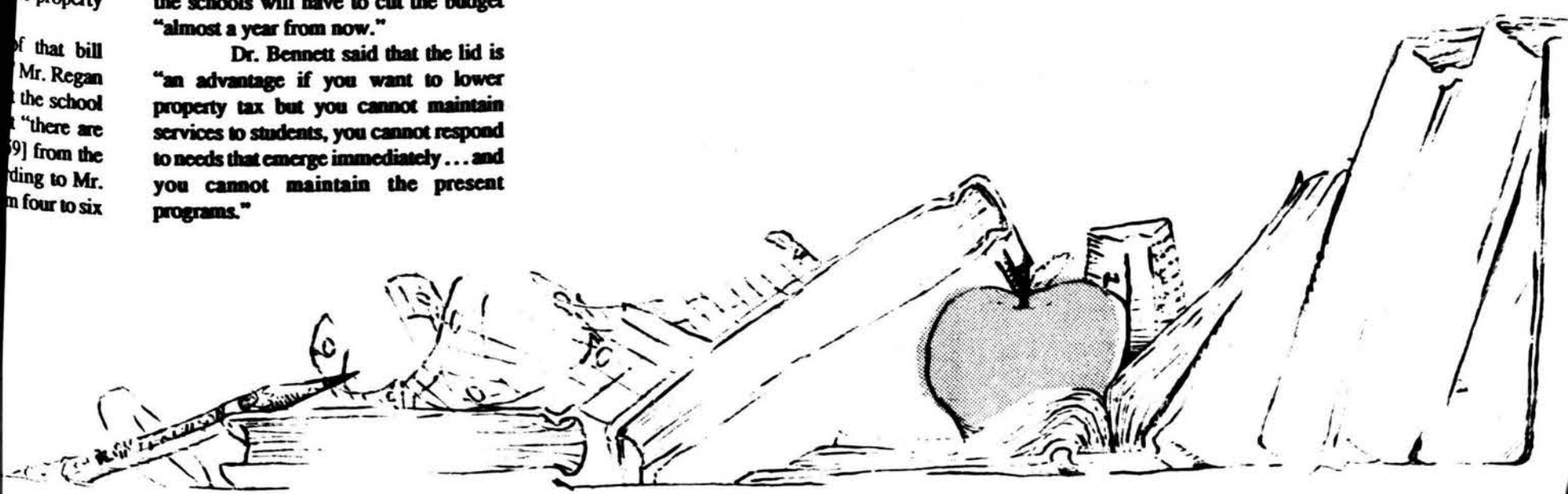
According to Siv-Line, students in Norway high schools have "total responsibilities, like in college." She said, "We have to do a lot more homework. On a test, it's not just 'a' or 'b,' but real questions."

Siv-Line said that one thing she likes most about Central are all of the "gym opportunities."

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Lied Center brings culture to Midwest

—Josh Cooper—

According to Mr. Larry Hausman, Central High School art and stagecraft teacher, "It will attract all sorts of major productions. It is state-of-the-art, ritzy inside, and has great acoustics. It's an excellent performing arts building and will enhance Lincoln and neighboring counties."

According to Mr. Terry Theis, Central High music teacher, "It's got everything. It's something Omaha should have. It's a showpiece."

Mr. Barrett, Central High student teacher, believes the best part is "the approximately two-story high atrium you see when you enter."

The Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln, Nebraska, celebrated the birth of its premier season February 9.

"Madama Butterfly," an opera put on by Opera Omaha, kicked off the Lied Center's premier season. Upcoming attractions at the Lied include

"Les Miserables," a Broadway blockbuster, the Joffrey Ballet, a famous American ballet company, and France's Lyon Ballet which will perform "Cinderella".

Musical performances scheduled to play at the Lied Center include the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra, and the Omaha Symphony. Famous musicians and singers, including Isaac Stern, Steve Allen, Marie Osmond, and Doc Severinsen of the Tonight Show Band will also perform at the Lied.

Approximately twenty million dollars have been poured into the construction of the Lied Center which is located on campus at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

The performing arts center was made possible by a ten million dollar challenge grant from the estate of Ernst Lied, a 1927 University of Nebraska alumnus. The Legislature,

friends, alumni, corporations, and foundations met the challenge grant. The construction began in October of 1986 and is just now being completed.

The main hall of the Lied seats 2,278 people, 1323 on the main floor and 955 in the balcony. The stage is state-of-the-art, including an approximately seven story high stage house used to store scenery and backdrops. The stage floor is made of six layers of wood that overlap in a grid pattern and the top layer is made of battleship linoleum. An orchestra pit which can accommodate eighty-five musicians is also located in the main hall.

Located at the rear of the main hall are two late arrival areas. These rooms have glass fronts and are reserved for those who arrive late to a performance. People in these areas can see and hear the performance and are seated by an usher at an appropriate time during the show. The latecomer rooms are

also a place that crying babies can be taken to.

A specialist on color design was contracted to decorate the interior of the Lied. The result was an interior comprised of terra-cotta, wine, and brass. In addition to the luxuriously decorated theater, dressing rooms are also high caliber. The four "star" dressing rooms contain tub/showers and are carpeted as well.

A nationally recognized acoustical consultant designed the accordion shaped walls in the main hall. The main hall contains no parallel walls and the seats were specially designed to absorb the same amount of sound whether people occupy them or not. The building structure contains noise and vibration dampening systems. Because of all these provisions, the acoustics are perfect.

In addition to the main hall, a smaller theatre, named the Johnny Carson Theatre, is located in the Lied Center. It is

used for small public performances and dance and music rehearsals. This rehearsal room was especially made to imitate the exact acoustics of the main auditorium.

Meeting rooms are available for any type of gathering, and the Lied is accessible for those in wheelchairs.

Many shows at the Lied Center have already been sold out. According to Cheryl Clark, marketing director for the Lied Center, "Ticket sales have exceeded all expectations." Tickets are half price for all University of Nebraska at Lincoln students, and most shows are half price for youths under eighteen.

Ms. Clark said, "The Lied Center is a place where everyone in the state can come see local, regional, and international performances." She also encourages people to call the Lied box office to find out about the many tickets that are still available.

Spending too much on movies?

Super theater reduces movie costs

—Ingo Socha—

When you are welcomed by aluminum walls with inlaid bulbs and blinking lights on the ceiling at the Super

Center Road, shows movies right after they are taken out of the regular theaters. Every Friday, movies and times are changed. Also, the setup is different from the normal neighborhood movie

their parents line up for popcorn.

In the back of the entrance hall, a "Star Wars tunnel" leads to the eight matchbox-size cinemas that each seat about 200 people. "You can

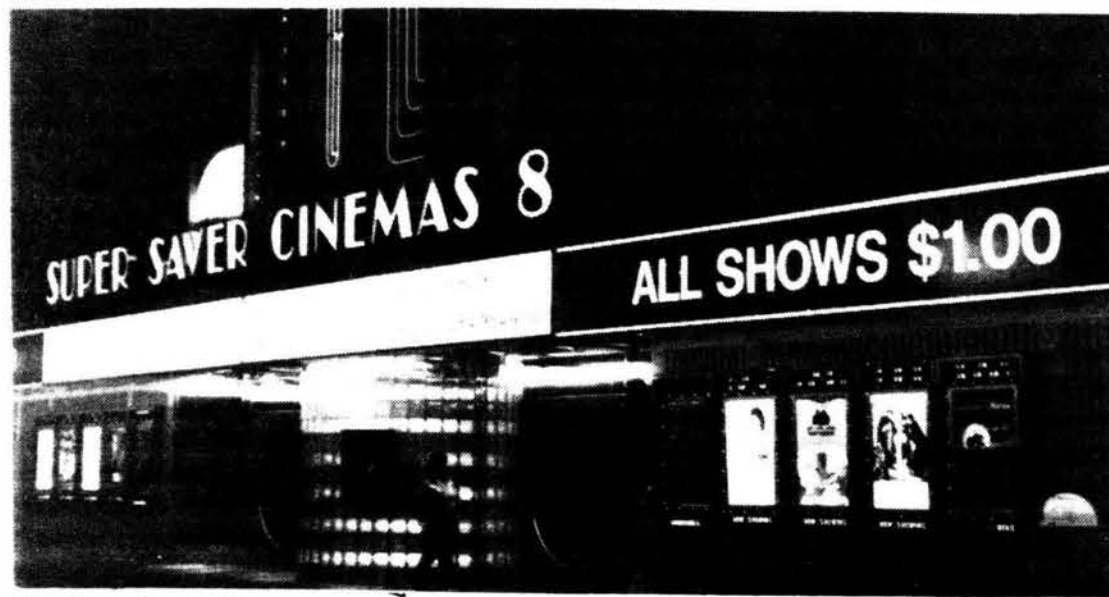
see any movie at any time," said assistant manager Dave Rich. Right after the end credits the rooms are cleaned and "movie trivia" questions pop on the screen welcoming the next guests.

After fast-food, is it now fast-movie entertainment? "So far there are nine theaters in this chain following the same idea and they have done excellent business," said Mr. Rich. He, too, has lines in front of his door. According to him the Omaha Super Saver is "number two in revenues in the company (Tri-State) at the moment." His philosophy is that "good shows for a good prize draw good crowds" into his movie theater.

Playing with the computerized switchboard for all the light gimmicks, Rich said that a sudden power outage had

momentarily taken away parts of the program that operates the lights. "I don't really know how to operate this machine, and I don't have to except for the power outage," said Rich. Probably the biggest problem is a quake-like shock that hits the building once in awhile. An office supply warehouse has its stock directly behind the screens. "They use heavy machinery to move freight in their stock," said Rich and while he speaks a rumbling goes through the building.

"We talked to Seldin, the company that runs the Plaza, and hopefully we'll find a solution of some sort." The Super Saver is a good alternative for people to see last month's movie on a big screen instead of waiting up to six months for a video release.



The Super Saver Cinema on West Center and 125th ave. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

Saver Cinema, you might get the impression you hit the wrong door. A second look reveals the true identity of the place.

For one dollar, this new theater, located in the Westwood Plaza at 125th Avenue and West

theater. The entrance is dominated by a round bar built from glass bricks where the usual movie snacks are sold. On one side, the walls reflect the pale light of video screens. The little arcade keeps the kids busy, while



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Tear-jerkers rule after school television

—Melissa Roberts—

Everyone is wondering

Did poor pregnant Kayla really kill Marina? While her family and husband are going through heartache, Victor is smirking in the background knowing his vengeful plan to ruin Kayla and Steve's love is working.

Meanwhile...

Nick and April's marriage is on the rocks because of the love April has for the brilliant doctor Mike Horton. She is torn between her love for Mike and her loyalty to Nick, who is going through a life-threatening operation. What will she decide? How will love-struck Nick take the news?

As the plot thickens...

Kim is hoping that her husband, Shane, will recover from the amnesia he recently acquired when he was almost

killed in the line of duty (he is a federal agent). But Cal, Kim's ex-lover, has a dastardly plan to halt Shane's memory and to ruin Kim's chance of ever winning his love back because Cal wants her for himself. He even called to tell the unknowing Shane that

"Since I get out [of school] after eighth hour, I hustle home so I can watch my soaps."

Kim used to be a prostitute.

Confused?

Some people would be, but many Centralites follow right along every day after school as they watch daytime dramas such as this one, known as "The Days of our Lives."

Becky Beerling, junior, says she loves to watch her

favorite six soap operas: "Young and the Restless," "All My Children," "One Life to Live," "General Hospital," "Santa Barbara," and "Days of our Lives."

"It's addictive. I fall into the story and I have to watch what happens to the people," said Becky.

She said that although "General Hospital" and "Santa Barbara" are on at the same time, she can still keep up with both shows by turning the channel during commercials; however, she said she has more loyalty to "General Hospital" because she has watched it longer.

Jake Torrens, senior, goes out of his way to be home in time for his soaps. "Since I get out [of school] after eighth hour, I hustle home so I can watch my soaps."

Most people watch "Days of our Lives," since they cannot get home in time to see

any other shows. Also, Central students who do not get out early

"Everyone thinks they are stupid, but I think they are comedy. It takes you into a fantasyland."

but love other soaps that they watch during vacations tape them while they are in school.

Jeanine Mott, senior, said that she watches "Days of our Lives" from three to four p.m. and then watches "Another World," which she tapes during the day, from four to five p.m.

"I've been watching them since seventh grade, so I know all about the characters."

Other people also feel the need to tape their shows. Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, social studies teacher, admits to taping "As the World Turns" at least

twice a week.

Robbie Hudson, senior, said, "Everyone thinks they are stupid, but I think they are comedy. It takes you into a fantasyland."

He also mentioned the fact that there is a lot of sex in the daytime drama. "I think it's because sex sells."

Jeanine sees not the sex, but the love on soaps. "I find myself talking to the T.V. rooting for a certain couple to get

"I used to watch them, but something tragic would always happen, so if you took them seriously, you'd constantly be in mourning."

together."

However, some people are not as positively enthusiastic about daytime drama.

Heather Larimer, senior, said, "I used to watch them, but something tragic would always happen, so if you took them seriously, you'd constantly be in mourning."

Megan Horton, sophomore, said she watches them because there's nothing else on. Other people take a firmer stand against soaps and

"I think they are really unrealistic and extremely superficial scenarios."

refuse to be caught dead watching them. Jeremy Kershaw, senior, said, "I think they are really unrealistic and extremely superficial scenarios."

Senior Bill Verzani agreed. "They're stupid and all the same. They carry the glamour in them way too far."

Whether Centralites like daytime drama or not, many seem to have their own personal feelings about them.

But, Jake sums up the fans' feelings when asked if he always watched his shows. "Of course, it wouldn't be fair to my characters if I missed."

V. Mertz caters to yuppie crowd

—Benjamin Rouch—

I don't know what to tell you about V. Mertz. I liked the establishment, yet I didn't like the establishment. I'm sort of wishy-washy about the place, I guess.

I loved the food. The food is exquisite. They have everything a connoisseur of fine viands would enjoy, from Hungarian Mushroom Soup to Filet Mignon. They even serve my prized favorite Lithuanian Napoleon Torte; the only place I know which offers the delicacy, besides the Lithuanian Bakery of course.

V. Mertz has an excellent Sunday brunch menu, too. All items are served buffet style and include smoked

salmon, fresh fruit, and raspberry crepes. Sunday brunch is served from 11:00 to 2:00.

V. Mertz' prices are

painful, however. Dinner entrees start at \$12.95 and rise to \$14.95 for the pasta, and \$23.95 for the lamb. Don't get me wrong, the

food is worth it, just expensive.

The only problem with Mertz, besides the prices, is the atmosphere. Mertz is located in the Old Market Passageway among the darkness and the bricks. The place reminds me of an old English castle. The only light comes from candles, or if you're lucky and get to sit in one of Mertz' four terrace seats, a skylight which illuminates the entire courtyard. In other words, it wasn't the most comfortable place to eat in.

The other problem I have with V. Mertz is the feeling I got when I went there; that this is a generic yuppie haven for the unknowing. Besides the atmosphere, I like the place.

V. Mertz is located at 1022 Howard Street in the lower level of the Old Market Passageway. Mertz is open for lunch from 11:30 to 2:00 from Monday thru Saturday, and for dinner from 6:00 till 10:00 Tuesday through Saturday.

I enjoyed V. Mertz, yet I hated it, too. I don't recommend the restaurant (I'd guide you to M's Pub instead), but I don't condemn it, either. You'll have to decide for yourself if it's the place for you.



V. Mertz restaurant in the Old Market Passageway. Photo by Geri Therkildsen.

Don't kid yourselves

Rick - Sally called - she needs to see you right away

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Pranking makes for annoying fun

—Keith Klanderud—

Riiiiing.....Riiiiing.....Riiiiing
Victim : "Hello!?"
Caller : "Hi, Is your refrigerator running?"
Victim : "Yes !?!, it is."

Caller : "Well you better go catch it, haaaaaaa ha ha ha!" Click

Does this situation ring a bell? This is a typical mellow "prank" phone call, something you can receive in the middle of the night, before school in the morning, or even Sunday afternoon after church.

Many Central students even use the prank phone call as a form of entertainment. Some students admitted that when they don't go out on the weekends, they break out on the week end, or the student directory and dial until their heart's content.

One Central sophomore, who asked that his name not be mentioned, said, "I think pranking is a blast; I prank people who make me mad at school, or people I don't know just to see what they do."

"I think pranking is a blast; I prank people who make me mad at school or people I don't know just to see what they do."

Most people questioned thought that girls receive more prank phone calls than guys. According to senior Jeremy Kershaw, girls were not the only ones who received a lot of prank calls. "I get a whole bunch of calls from girls on teen lines," said Jeremy. Jeremy also said that the

girls who call him don't give him their names but when they ask him what he's doing, "I just carry on."

Jeremy said, "It's a lot more fun when you carry on a conversation with them [the prankers]." Jeremy said that he thought the people who call him looked through the phone book for teen-line numbers.

Other students, such as Kirstine Terry, think that the issuance of the student directory is the reason for the prank calls

"It wasn't bad before the directory came out because it was my friends calling."

she has been getting. Kirstine said, "It wasn't as bad before the directory came out because it was

my friends calling."

Senior Jennifer Collins said the prank phone calls she receives are also "because of that dumb directory."

The student directory was organized by PEP and sold to the student body in homeroom for \$.25. Students had an opportunity to keep their names and numbers out of the directory,

but students were still upset over the calls they have received since the issuance of the directory. Junior Heather Dunbar said prank phone calls are "funny" and didn't upset her terribly, but she just gets annoyed when they start to get "perverted."

Whether from a phone book or student directory, prank calls serve as cheap entertainment.

Local classes and gallery

Bemis displays talent

—Keith Klanderud—

Omaha may not be the place for artists trying to pursue a career, but it does offer a handful of unique galleries and studios. The Bemis Gallery, located in the Old Market, offers a wide variety of interesting courses for people interested in art or just interested in taking classes in their spare time.

The gallery is located on 614 south 11th street, and at first glance, it does not look like an art gallery. It could easily be mistaken for an old abandoned warehouse.

The Bemis offers a variety of classes for adults and children and is a resource for Central artists.

Senior Jen Baum has taken classes at the Bemis and said, "I enjoy taking classes there; the life drawing class is especially interesting." In the life drawing classes, nude models pose while artists express the images of them on paper.

Other classes offered include ceramic, drawing, and painting classes. These classes meet on week nights and people interested in registering are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible because they only accept the first 15 people who sign up into each class.

Classes are also offered for younger children at the Bemis. These classes meet on Saturdays and on days when school is not in session.

The art gallery at the Bemis displays the work of the teachers and the students at the studio. The gallery is primarily for work created in the classes by the students, but occasionally there are additional shows to help

inspire the students.

The Bemis offers extra exposure for adults and students interested in art outside of school.

Classes at the Bemis are in session now, but new classes, that will begin in mid-April, are open for registration.



The Bemis Foundation, located in the Old Market, offers a variety of art classes. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

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Bowling makes for fun pastime

—Allie Green—

A typical Saturday night of the 1950's would have found most American teenagers at the local bowling alley. In the nineties, while not everyone is out bowling on the weekends, it is making a comeback with Central students.

What's the appeal of bowling? "Bowling is relatively safe, and it's cheap," said Michelle Hanson, senior. "Trying to knock down those ten pins without having a gutter could be called a challenge."

"Bowling is different, not the same as going to a basketball game," said Penny Blankman, junior.

Brad Costanzo, senior, agreed, saying that "movies get old, you need a change of pace."

According to LaRon Bass, sophomore, bowling is fun and challenging. Rob Barta, senior, who is on Central's bowling team, said that bowling offers you the chance to do something new. "My friends all think that bowling is easy, that it doesn't take talent to throw the

ball," added Rob.

Sean Kraemer, senior, who is also on the bowling team, said that bowling offers you competition without being as physical as other sports. "My friends and I like to go to the Rock and Bowl on Fridays and Saturdays," added Sean.

Rock and Bowl is every Friday and Saturday night from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the Ranch Bowl at 1600 S. 72nd Street. "Rock and Bowl lets you have fun, safely," said Bill Hughes, bowling manager at the Ranch Bowl. Z-92 dj's Rock and Bowl. "Everyone seems to like Rock and Bowl," said Hughes. "The music makes bowling here a little different."

Senior Mary Moeller said that she likes bowling because it's so relaxing. "Everytime you have to throw the ball down the lane it's a challenge," said Mary.

"I also like bowling because there is less physical contact than other sports," added Mary.

"Bowling starts out with everyone equal," said Rob. "It takes a lot of practice to get good; it doesn't just take talent."

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"All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and entrances."

-Shakespeare

"Chill out, man," Mortimor said angrily. "You're liable to screw up the whole act if you keep on that way."

"I'm going to screw up the act?" I answered, more than a little perturbed. "If you think I'm going to ruin your precious little act, why don't you dress up in this pink tu-tu and march yourself out on to that stage and in front of all those people!"

"Easy now, Benjamin," Mortimor tried to soothe. "I don't think you're going to screw up the act. I just wish you'd stop acting so psycho. You're making me nervous."

"I'm making you nervous. I'm the only one around here who has a right to be nervous, and it's this blasted pink tu-tu I have to wear that's making me so patty. Why can't someone play the part of Buffy?"

Mortimor poured on the slop.

"Because, my dear Benjamin," he began, "an actor, whoops, an actress of your caliber is hard to find these days. You're one in a million, doll. If we're going to have any chance of winning this talent show and that grand prize, you're the one that's going to do it."

"Ha ha very funny," I said.

"Wait, shut-up already," Mortimor said excitedly. "The first act is about to perform."

It was Fitzgerald Horseradish, the juggler. He juggled all kinds of things: rubber balls, bowling pins, stuffed animals. He was really good in his own demented way, just boring.

"We'll have no problem with ole Fitz," Mortimor declared triumphantly. "He'll put the judges to sleep if their lucky. He'll put them into a coma if they're not."

"I will now attempt to juggle three razor sharp sabres!" the great Fitzgerald proclaimed.

Mortimor and I looked at each other in disbelief as boring ole Fitz hurled stainless steel swords into the

Dude, it's Showtime

air. The judges were on their feet and so was I.

"I'm going out into the hall to get some fresh air," I said. "I can't bear to watch."

What had I got myself into? Why did I always fall for Mortimor's hair-brained schemes? I mean, to humiliate myself in front of a crowd of people to win was one thing, but to lose was quite another. I was wearing lipstick and hose for crying out loud!

But hark! Off in the distance there was a sound: "AAAAAAAHAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!" came a scream of pain.

Mortimor strutted out into the hallway with a large smile plastered across his face. I knew what had happened.

"See, I told you Fitz wouldn't be a problem," he said. "Now all you have to do is go out there, perform, and come back alive. We'll be in like Flynn after that."

The door opened and in moped three guys with long hair, leather, and a horrible smell.

"Dude, like we're the band," one of them spoke in fluent English. I expected him to say, "My name's Larry and this is my brother Darryl, and this is my other brother Darryl," but he didn't. All he did was grunt.

"Check it out man," one of the Darryls said, "that dude's in drag."

"Cool, man," the other Darryl said. "He's as weird as the guy with the knife in his head. He's alright, man."

"Dig you guys later," Larry said, "Like we got to go jam."

Mortimor looked at me and smiled.

"They said I was dressed in drag, Mortimor," I sneered.

"They're just trying to get you rattled, that's all," Mortimor said. "Don't worry about it."

That's easy for Mortimor to say, he's not the one who's going to be the laughing stock of the school. I'd had enough.

"I'm not going to do it, Mort," I said defiantly. "I will have no part of this madness."

"What! Are you crazy?" he began, shocked. "Do you understand what you're saying?"

"My dignity is not worth risking," I said in my defense.

"Come here," Mortimor yelled as he grabbed me by my earlobe and led me to the stage. Larry, Darryl, and Darryl were about to perform.

"Like dudes, this song goes out to all those rad women out there who cared enough about us to suggest we needed a shower. It's called 'I Love You with a Chainsaw,' and I hope you dig it. We do."

The band raged into a thirty second deafening blurb of noise in which the only lyrics I could distinguish were "uh" and "dude." They then smashed up all their equipment wonderfully, said "thank you," and left the stage.

"There!" Mortimor yelled. "If those freaks are willing to put what little self-esteem on the line to try and win that prize, then you can, too."

I took a look around me. Eugene Eugene was dressed in a light blue tuxedo and exercising his fingers before his grand piano solo. Some kid I didn't know was singing scales way, way, off key. Another kid had his hair slicked back and painted green—I have no idea what he was going to do.

For the first time in my life I thought Mortimor had something halfway meaningful to say to me. Granted,

"Like dudes, this song goes out to all those rad women out there who cared enough about us to suggest we needed a shower. It's called 'I Love You with a Chainsaw,' and I hope you dig it."

he was trying to talk me into performing and would benefit if I did so, but nonetheless, his advice was worthy.

I would grace the stage with my pink tu-tu. I would try and win that prize, no matter how stupid Mortimor's act was. If I failed, big deal, at least I had tried. Trying, I guess Mortimor was trying to say, was better than not trying at all.

Look out Broadway! Benjamin's coming through with his pink tu-tu and his song and dance. The show must go on.

Cowboy shows reality of addiction

Benjamin Rouch

Matt Dillon has been labeled a one-dimensional actor because all of his successful roles have been rough and tough bad boys (Dallas Winston in *The Outsiders* and Rusty-James in *Rumble Fish*). Dillon has played the rebel so many times he's got the part mastered. It was as though he were born to play the part.

In *Drugstore Cowboy*, based upon an unpublished novel by James Fogle, Dillon once again plays a character living on the edge, and once again he does it brilliantly.

As Bob, Dillon narrates his adventures as a junkie who travels around the Pacific Northwest knocking off pharmacies for drugs and survival.

Dillon's supporting cast is excellent, and is probably the best group he's worked with.

Keily Lynch plays his nymphomaniac wife who would rather die than give up morphine. James Le Gros plays his very "lost" sidekick, and Heather Graham does a very able job as his girlfriend.

The best performance, however, is turned in by James Remar (48 hrs.). Remar plays a hard-nosed detective who hounds Dillon during his junk days, but who also helps him later on in his struggle to come clean. Bob and his cohorts

have no direction; they wander aimlessly in search of drugs. They're comical, romantic and mysterious. They're normal human beings living alternative lifestyles which we, the viewer, find captivating. We are drawn to these characters and their story, yet we don't care an inkling about them.

Director Gus Van Sant brings the viewer into the addicts' world: their culture, their lifestyle, their existence. However, Van Sant doesn't preach about the good and the bad sides of popping pills, but rather he presents an objective

picture in which the viewer may draw conclusions.

For example, Van Sant shows a junk "high" as being shadowed shapes which float about the screen effortlessly, peacefully. He even has Bob and company celebrate after they unwittingly come across a vial of "pure."

Van Sant also shows an overdose and a murder which was "just a joke." He shows poverty, pain, and "loss," too. He doesn't take a stand. He just presents the story.

Van Sant creates a dark, but lighthearted mood in the film, too. He depicts the characters as modern day Peter Pans who never want to grow old, who never want to take on responsibility. They simply want to enjoy life, yet they're playing a very serious and life-threatening game.

Drugstore Cowboy, I think, is one of the year's ten best films, and I strongly recommend it. *Cowboy* is showing at the Dundee Theatre, but should you miss it, check it out on videocassette. *Cowboy* should be available soon. It is simply a great movie.

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Basketball team has to overcome adversity Injury, illness, tough schedule hurt j.v. team



Junior, Tracey Finley, attempts a shot while a Westside player tries to block his shot. Tracey is one of the players who plays for both the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

—Erika Gaylor—

Most teams have obstacles to overcome as the season progresses. With a 5-8 record, it is no different for Central's J.V. team.

Mr. Rick Behrens, coach, felt that some players that would have made a difference did not come out this year. He feels another disadvantage that affected their game was "playing a lot of away games."

Scott Fullerton, junior, agreed that they "definitely play better at home, since they don't have to waste time and energy on the bus."

Coach Behrens felt that injuries and illness of key players was another setback at the beginning of the year.

The season's schedule included teams such as Papillion, Benson, Prep, and Lincoln East. Coach Behrens said, "The Lincoln game was probably the 'worst' in terms of score."

Besides that game, most of the games have been pretty close, said Brett Wolfe, junior. According to him, the difference in score was sometimes "due to small breakdowns in defense or bad calls."

One of the team's victories was over Benson, whose record was 9-3. Coach Behrens thought this win helped

pull the team back on track. With only two weeks left in the season, the team has one last game against Prep. Scott said that he feels that the team is "basically psyched for the game."

Scott also said that the team has a lot going for them. Two of the most valuable players, in their contributions to the team, are Brett Wolfe and junior Rodney Johnson, according to Coach Behrens.

Brett, who had a knee injury over the summer, is responsible for most of the rebounds.

Rodney has earned the title of "high scorer." Eric Behrens, sophomore, is also considered an important asset to the team because of his ability to score.

These three underclassmen also play varsity. Coach Behrens also hopes they will have a chance to play in districts.

As far as preparing for next year, the J.V. team already practices with Varsity as well as runs some of their play, according to Scott.

Most of the players plan to attend the basketball camps offered throughout the city or join some of the summer basketball leagues.

Brett said, "We will probably play a lot of pick-up games."

Seniors to play football next year

—Renee Grush—

As the 1989 football season slowly fades in the minds of Central students, many senior players look ahead to their future football careers. This means looking for a college.

According to receiver Steve Manhart, the process of choosing a school is "very stressful".

Center Rick Heller agreed. According to Rick, the game of college searching began his sophomore year.

"Letters from all different schools started coming right after football season began," Rick said. "I got calls from coaches and recruiters, who often went to the football games."

"After a while, the list dwindles," Rick said, "and you can start to narrow things down."

Runningback Calvin Jones said that after receiving visits from recruiters both at home and at school, he decided to sign with the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

"My decision was based on a lot of things," Calvin said, "what kind of program [the school] has, their records, the earliest I would get to play, and

if they could use a good runningback."

"It was also important what kind of people are at the college and how I liked it when I visited," Calvin said. "Since all of my family is here, the location made it easy."

**"I was basing everything on Iowa State."
- Rick Heller**

According to Calvin, he received a full-ride scholarship which includes room and board, tuition and books.

Donnell Griffin, offensive and defensive guard, is still in the process of choosing a school.

"I'm looking at three different colleges; Northwest Missouri State, UNO, and Wayne State," Donnell said. "Both Northwest Missouri State and UNO offered me a full-ride scholarship, so I just have to narrow it down."

According to Donnell, the requirements for eligibility of the scholarships are to have a

grade point average of 2.0 or above, and to pass the ACT or SAT. This can be an obstacle for players, at times.

Rick Heller agreed that the process can be disappointing for both players and recruiters.

"I was basing everything on Iowa State," Rick said, "but they just put me on hold and didn't offer me anything."

"It works both ways," Rick said. "Schools can seem interested for a long time, and you think they'll offer you something, but don't, or [the players] can show an interest and then sign somewhere else."

According to Rick, he decided to sign with the University of South Dakota, where they offered him a scholarship which pays for everything but books and dorm. This decision left a handful of schools disappointed.

"At times, you have to be kind of rude," Rick said. "It was tough."

Calvin agreed. "I really didn't get stressed until the final two weeks," he said. "It's hard when you have to tell people who have been looking at you for the last three or four months that you're not coming."

According to Calvin, Coach William Reed doesn't interfere with the players' college decisions in any way; however, he is very helpful in contacting the schools where players show an interest.

"[Coach Reed] doesn't comment until after you've made a decision," Calvin said. "Then he supports you and lets you know you've made a good choice."

According to Steve, Coach Reed has contacted some schools in Arizona and Colorado for him, but for the most part Steve has more rough times ahead in decision making.

"As an athlete, I won't know till the last minute where I'm going," Steve said.

"I have to look at not only the football program, but how hard [the school] is

academically," Steve said.

Steve said that he is focusing on schools that have a passing football program (as opposed to running), and a business program.

All four seniors agree that education is the top priority in attending college, not football. Calvin, Donnell, and Steve all plan to pursue a business career, while Rick plans to major in Secondary Education.

Steve said that a football career will not happen without the "trade off" as a student.

"I couldn't play last season because I didn't make the grades, and it's affecting me a lot," Steve said. "If I would've known sophomore year what I know now, I'd have a lot fewer regrets. Always do the work to your full potential."



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Offsides with Justin McWhorter

Mike Tyson hits the canvas for the first time and loses in a wave of controversy

"Kid Dynamite" Mike Tyson has had his hot, burning fuse snuffed out by the likes of James "Buster" Douglas, a contender that the critics and public never expected to last past the fourth round.

At 1:23 in the tenth round, Tyson was hit by a right uppercut followed by a combination thrown by Douglas. Tyson hit the canvas and was counted out by the referee. Douglas stole the championships from Tyson, and is the first man to knock Tyson down in a professional fight.

I feel that this was the biggest upset in boxing history. Until now, no one could imagine there was a fighter alive that could beat this stocky boxer from Catskill, New York.

Of course, there is a bit of controversy tied into this unsuccessful title defense. Tyson argues that the referee did not start his count on time after Tyson had knocked Douglas to the floor on the eighth round.

The Tyson loss falls into the arena that, in recent months, has been occupied by many new and interesting Tyson tidbits that are always exciting to hear about.

Before the fight took place, there was much skepticism as to how many rounds this match would last and if there was any chance of the champ being knocked to the canvas. While training for the fight with Douglas, Tyson was knocked down in a sparring match. This incident was highly covered by the press and gave the

Tyson champ a plethora of questions to answer about this unlikely event.

The press often tried to link the Champ, being knocked down, to his recent divorce of his wife Robin Givens and the emotional and mental stress thrown upon Tyson after the separation. Of course, this assumption was denied by Tyson and his advisors.

I'm not sure if that's not such a bad assumption. I have come up with a few reasons of my own for Tyson's loss.

The first of my reasons is that Tyson could be feeling the ever present sense of not having enough money.

Even though Tyson gets paid in excess of several million dollars, it seems that as of late he has been paid the same amount for the last few fights. By losing this fight, Tyson will be able to ask for more money in his upcoming rematch, and the fact that he was knocked out will make the public believe that he isn't invincible anymore. This ploy not only brings the fallen champion sympathy and money, but opens him up for fights with less competent opponents allowing him to beat the life out of them while restoring his ego.

Another possibility is that Tyson was actually not emotionally and mentally fit to defend his titles again. The man has been under a lot of stress over the last couple of months.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate by a major university, and Tyson has been a major celebrity on Japanese advertising and promotional events. All of this dumped on top of trying to deal with his divorce with Robin Givens could have easily had an adverse affect on the performance displayed on fight night.

The last and most likely reason for Tyson's loss on Saturday night is the fact that James "Buster" Douglas is a better fighter.

Douglas said himself that he was a mediocre fighter and that his win against Tyson was because of a performance that was over his head. Somehow this doesn't matter because he is the one who was the first to knock Tyson to the mat, and he was the first to beat "Iron" Mike Tyson in a professional fight.

The Tyson loss falls into an arena that...has been occupied by many new and interesting Tyson tidbits that are always exciting to hear about.

I take my hat off to James Douglas and hope that this shows other fighters in the world that no boxer is unbeatable no matter how long he holds the title.

The Hacky Sack wave hits Central



Junior, Jon Warden, hits his footbag into the air. Many students play Hacky Sack during the lunch hours. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

—Renee Grush—

Hack: to whack at;
Sack: a bag -Webster's Dictionary

Hacky Sack, a game whose popularity is growing rapidly, remains undefined in the dictionary; however, broken down, the words combine to describe the game.

According to Junior Mike Gonzales, the object of the game is to whack the footbag in order to keep it off the ground as long as possible.

"Actually, the official name of the game is Footbag," senior Dave Propp said. "Hacky Sack is the name of a company that makes them."

Mike said that there are

several different types of footbags.

"The two most common are the Sipa and the Juice," Mike said. "I have a Sipa which is made of saitered cloth, and sells for about fifteen dollars. The juice is made of 32 panels of hand-stitched leather and sells for forty dollars."

Sophomore Jeremy Coleman, avid hacky sack player, said that hacky sacks can be purchased through magazine order in *Footbag World*.

According to Mike, he started playing about a year ago after seeing other players at Memorial Park.

"We switched from playing frisbee to hacky sack," Dave said.

According to Dave, the game takes practice to play it well.

"In hacky sack, you can use everything but your hands to keep [the footbag] off the ground," Dave said.

"After you get down the basics, you can start complying it with tricks and different kicks," Mike said. "It only took me about one full night of practice to get good enough to play."

Dave said that as you improve variations can be added to the game.

"One option is to play over a net, like volleyball," Dave said.

"Alphabet kicking is another variation," Mike said. "You kick the hacky sac from foot to foot, saying a letter each time."

Jeremy added that it is common to make up your own games, or to time yourself.

"My record is about

250 hits in three minutes," Jeremy said. "Once you get going though, its easy to lose count."

According to Jeremy, the amount of exercise a player gets depends upon the individual's style.

"Some people kick fast, while others go at a slow pace," Jeremy said. "If you're a fast kicker, it's easy to get worn out very quickly."

According to Mike, hacky sack is unique from most activities since it can be played in groups or by one player.

"The maximum number of players is about four, or else it gets too crowded," Mike said.

"Hacky sack isn't a wide-spread activity yet, so it's ok to be an individual," Jeremy said. "No certain methods have been designated as the correct way."

According to Mike, footbag originated as a coordination exercise in China.

"The game started out using a rubber object that looks like a birdie in badminton, only bigger and with feathers," said senior Quan Vu.

Jeremy witnessed another version of footbag through his neighbors, from the country of Laos.

"They would make wooden bamboo balls and cook them in the oven," Jeremy said. "When they finished, [my neighbors] would use them like a hacky sack."

According to Jeremy, occasional contests take place, like the Hacky Sack/Frisbee Festival that is usually at Elmwood Park.

You see we've got this sweet little seamstress who's a bit, well...unconventional in the way she sews a rugby jersey together. She takes a sleeve from here, a back from there, a cuff from somewhere deep in the stack and before you know it, that shirt is just plain ugly! But we love Doris, and it turns out that all our mates here in New Zealand love her shirts - not just because they're tough enough for rugby practice, sailing and dirty work, but because each one is absolutely unique.

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"The Ugly's"

Soccer: the 'trend' of America's youth

—Mara Taylor—

Soccer, the most popular sport in the world, is a rapidly growing sport in the United States, according to Mr. David Martin, Central soccer coach, but does it have what it takes to compete with the popularity of American football?

"I think that soccer can become just as popular as football in time," said Mr. Martin. "The world's population is getting smaller and when the younger soccer playing generation grows older, they are going to demand more soccer."

Bill Vobejda, President of the West Omaha Soccer Club, agreed, reasoning that practically anyone can play soccer.

"It doesn't matter how big or small you are; size is not a factor," he said. "I would guess that it is going to take 20 years or an entire generation before soccer can compete with football, though."

According to Mr. Martin, soccer is definitely growing at a steady pace in Nebraska. In 1975, there were 500 soccer players in the state. In 1990, there will be close to 13,000 players in all brackets.

"Soccer is Nebraska's number one participatory sport," he said.

Greg Barrios, kicker for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, has played football for

"Soccer is Nebraska's number one participatory sport."
- Mr. David Martin

12 years and soccer for at least 10 years. He said that a big benefit to the popularity of soccer is the

sanctioning of the sport in the high schools. "On the youth level I think that it will grow, but it isn't solid enough for the professional leagues yet," Greg said. "The fans just aren't ready."

Senior Chris Harz was the kicker for Central's football team and also played soccer for more than 10 years.

landing their position as the place kicker for their football teams. "Obviously, the kicking and the foot-eye coordination that soccer teaches helped me in football," Greg said.

Chris said, "I kick the football exactly like I would a soccer ball; it's the same style and motion."

play soccer will grow up and find other interests."

According to senior Jeremy Kershaw, soccer will never be extremely popular in the United States. "People are too hooked on the other sports," he said.

Sophomore Melissa Hoialmen said that soccer can still

but maybe by moving the games to Fridays it can be."

Soccer and rugby were the basis of football when it was invented in the U.S. in the mid-1800's, according to Mr. Martin.

"I think that Americans adopted football instead of soccer simply because it originated in

"People are too hooked on other sports."
-Jeremy Kershaw



Senior Jenny Conn attempts to clear the ball, during last year's soccer season. Photo by Andre Gilmore.

this country. It's the same reason different countries learn different languages," he said.

Bill Vobejda said that the reason soccer is the world's most popular sport but not America's is because we wanted to distinguish ourselves from the Europeans.

"Americans also like violence and roughness," Melissa said. "They expect to see more than just plain competition, and they get it from sports like football."

According to Melissa, there was an incident of violence at a major soccer match in England last year. This isn't the type of violence that she is referring to, however, she said.

Chris said, "When it comes down to it, I would still prefer to play football rather than soccer. More people come to watch."

According to Greg, however, both sports are intriguing to him. "I can relax and have a good time with soccer," he said. "Football is more challenging and rewarding, though. The bigger crowds are definitely more exciting!"

"Soccer is the trend of things to come," Mr. Martin said.

"I really don't think that there is any room for soccer to compete nationally in America, not with basketball, football, and baseball," he said. "Soccer isn't that developed."

Both Greg and Chris agreed that soccer aided them in

Steve Manhart, who played football for Central but has never played soccer, does not think that soccer can match the popularity of football. "It will never be professional. How many recruiters do you see at Central for soccer?" he said. "Kids that

be popular and not be one of the top sports in the nation. "I've played soccer for six years and I think that it is a lot more exciting to watch than the other sports," she said.

"It isn't a social event like Friday night football games,

SPORT SPOTS

Michelle Hickle

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Central's men's volleyball team placed second at "Directions" Volleyball Tournament for men at Central on January 13, 1990. The Central team consisted of Andre Gilmore, Scott Thompson, Brian Armstrong, Tony Williams, Garrett Wilwerding, and Kimera Barte, the team captain.

WRESTLING

The Central wrestlers have recently participated in five invitationals.

At the Creighton Prep Invitational, senior Larry Littlejohn placed first at 145 pounds, Tyrone Turner, a 140 pound senior, placed second; Brad Costanzo, a 152 pound senior, and Steve Kolvek, a 103 pound sophomore, placed third.

Senior Keith Tooley won the 275 pound championship at the South

High Invitational and at the Council Bluffs Invitational.

Keith Tooley was considered the most valuable wrestler at the South High Invitational.

Steve Kolvek (103 lbs.) and Larry Littlejohn (145 lbs.) placed first at the Tri-Center Invitational and Tyrone Turner (140 lbs.) placed third.

At the North High School Vern Eckfelt Invitational, Keith Tooley (275 lbs.) won the championship, Steve Kolvek (103 lbs.) and Larry Littlejohn (145 lbs.) placed second, and Brad Costanzo (152 lbs.) placed fourth.

At Metro, Tyrone Turner placed third and Steve Kolvek placed sixth.

Larry Littlejohn (145 lbs.) and Tyrone Turner (140 lbs.) won the championship at Districts. Keith Tooley (275 lbs.) placed third, Brad Costanzo (152 lbs.) and John Kolvek (112 lbs.) placed fourth.

All five wrestlers qualified to participate in the State Wrestling Meet which begins on Thursday, February 15.

BASKETBALL

Walter Outlaw, senior, has been honored as one of the best athletes in the country as a candidate for the 1990 McDonald's All American Basketball Team.

A committee made up of high school basketball coaches and sports writers select 1,500 outstanding high school senior basketball players. This committee, headed by Morgan Wooten, the coach of DeMatha High in Hyattsville, Maryland, will narrow the candidates to a team of 20 McDonald's All Americans—the "Dream Team."

This team will then play in the 13th annual McDonald's All American Game at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis on April 15. The game will be broadcast live on KETV channel 7 at 3:00 p.m.

Last weekend, the Varsity basketball teams played their last home games of the regular season. The girl's varsity beat Westside 47 to 43 on Friday

and suffered a 59 to 68 loss to Gross on Saturday.

Friday the boys varsity lost to Westside in overtime with a score of 59 to 61. They returned on Saturday night for a win against Gross 66 to 39.

This is the last week for the regular basketball season. On Thursday, February 15, the girls played Marian at Marian and tonight the boys will play Prep at Prep.

SWIMMING

In the 200 yard Medley Relay and the 100 yard Backstroke, Central boy's swim team finished in the top six at Districts, breaking previous school records.

The 200 Medley Relay team consisted of Todd Reiser, Rob Schrader, Matt Stonehouse, and Mike Thylin. Todd Reiser also placed in the 100 yard Backstroke.

These four members will be among the Central swimmers going to the State Meet at Lincoln's Bob DeVaney Sports Center on February 23 and 24.