



The Central High REGISTER

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The oldest
school paper
west of the
Mississippi

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In your eyes... Homecoming king, Eric Behrens, and queen, Heather Holland, dance to the tunes of Peter Gabriel at Central's 1991 Homecoming Dance held at UNO October 12.

Homecoming king candidates included: Rob Anderson, Josh Bahr, Matt Scanlan, Mark Thylin. Queen candidates included: Eve Broekemeier, Natasha Gromak, Jenny Hathoot, Michelle Ludwig.



Kristen Steenberg



Kristen Steenberg

Eagles cage the Huskies!... Members of Central's FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) club ride upon their first place homecoming float. The Eagles later dominated Northwest's Huskies 40-7, Friday night, October 11, at Bergquist stadium.

Centralites feel effects of violence

By LaVonya Watson

Total chaos can be a rightful description of the violent events that have swept across Omaha in recent months. Startling attention has been given to Omaha's black neighborhoods and the community as a whole due to the recent outbursts of violence.

Currently, 29 people have been victims of homicides in Omaha this year. That figure has more than doubled compared to the 12 homicides reported last year. "It's all catching up to us" said Steve Ashford, an officer for the Omaha Police Division. According to officer Ashford, the recent rate of homicides in Omaha has been going on for 40 years in major cities. Pastor William D. Barlowe said, "What makes Omaha different is that the violence is happening in a smaller area."

Although the black community is not the only area affected by violence, the North Omaha area has been hit hard. Some Central students have felt the effects of watching the evening news only to be informed of a peer's death or injury due to violence. Leiloni Brewer, a senior at Central, was a close friend to Baron S. Smith. He was a victim of an Omaha homicide in late August. In late September, Senior John Semans was attacked and stabbed seven times while coming from a party.

"It hits real hard," explained Leiloni. "You don't know who's crazy anymore."

The question always arises are gangs the cause of the influx of violence in Omaha? According to officer Ashford, gangs are not new to Omaha. In the early 80's gangs came to Omaha and started in local neighborhoods. The O.G. Boys and the Redman Boys were such local groups. "They had guns but did not use them often," recalls Officer Ashford. However, according to Officer Ashford, in this day and age gangs, drugs and violence are closely affiliated. Yet, officer Ashford made it quite clear that drugs do not start gangs. "Most gang members start off as gang bangers (shooters) and

graduate to selling drugs," he said. Gangs have been linked to a few of the recent homicides, but many of the murders have yet to be solved.

"Drugs strongly affect violence. It's not a gang thing. It's a drug and violence thing," said senior Lacy Ruffin. Mrs. James A. Harris, mother of senior Coral Harris and a North Omaha resident, said, "Eliminate the drug problem and a lot of crime will be eliminated." According to Officer Ashford, most criminals caught for a crime, theft or violence are trying to support a habit, whether it be drugs or alcohol.

In contrast, many feel that the result of violence in the black community stems from a deeper problem than just drugs and gangs. Residents feel the social structure of the community is the true issue of the matter. "With no mothers in the home, kids are left to raise themselves," says Mrs. Harris. According to Mrs. Harris, because most black house holds are led by a single parent, usually the mother is left to raise her children as well as work. According to Damon Watts, a senior at Central, these mothers fear for their children's safety.

"My mother predicted that I would not live to see 18," stated Damon. Although her prediction was inaccurate, it was not irrelevant. "Young black men are becoming extinct," said Pastor Barlowe.

Mr. Willey Bob Johnson, the director of the North Omaha Boys Club, claims that violence has a rippling effect. "Young boys become directly involved," he said. Mr. Johnson often deals directly with children who may be related to the victim or the person convicted for the crime. "When it comes to the death of a loved one

you don't know what to say," he commented. According to Anton Douglas, senior, young males are left with few role models. "When young males are killed, who can others turn to?" he questioned.

According to Mrs. Harris, she does not fear for her own personal safety on a daily basis. "It's something you get used to," she said. However, Mr. Johnson has witnessed a different attitude. "I hear children say let's get home before dark; and at six o'clock, parents call asking about their children."

Students who live outside of the North Omaha area say that their views of the black community have not been altered by the current publicity to the area. "It brings

the problem to your attention," says Monica Brasile, junior. Mr. Johnson stressed that the black community is not a bad place just because a few people have tainted its image.

"My mother predicted that I would not live to see 18."

Most when considering a solution to this madness see a change in the attitude a must for all. "The media is no help", said Chris Becerra, junior. "They tend to minimize black on black crime," he continued.

Most insist that changing the environment in the black community has to begin with its residents. "We don't need others to make our neighborhood a better place," said Officer Ashford. "We tend to get mad when a white officer harasses a black yet do little or nothing when a black is killed. It's then that we should be mad," he continued. Residents in the black community feel that unity in the community is a must. "We're facing an identity crisis," said Anton; "blacks need to realize that we're all in this together."

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION



MAKING AN IMPACT ON A LOT OF BUSINESSES.. Central's business and marketing internship program is largest in Midwest. Marketing students also help with West View Mall opening. p. 10.



CLASS OF 1992... Six new Senior Class officers elected. Tom Rose, president, looks forward to "hard work and a lot of fun too." p. 5.



FOOLS AND SABERS... Sophomore engages in fencing competition. The sport takes much time and dedication. p. 16.

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REGISTER STANCE... Editorials: Education 2000 plan and violence. p.2.

VIOLENCE... Centralite stabbed seven times returns. p. 5.

CLUBS... One of Central's 25+ clubs might interest you. p. 6.

FREEDOM... Russian teacher is reunited with family in U.S. p.7.

DO! Horror lingers in Omaha's haunted houses. p.12.

Unsigned articles are the opinion of the Register

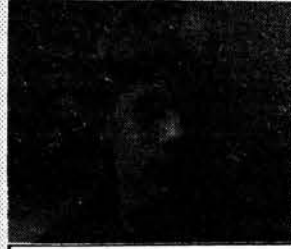
Centralite VOICES

Will Education 2000, the education improvement program proposed by the Bush administration, help improve education in the United States?

YES: 68% NO: 32%
161 students were polled



"We're not going to change everybody just by changing the school society."
—Cindy Pitts
Freshman



"If they do it in all the other cities, it will."
—Jeremy Hansen
Sophomore



"No. Students can't improve if they don't even know about it."
—Heidi Hausman
Senior



"Yes, but I think that more money is needed for education."
—Ryan Saville
Senior



"It's a nice thing to hope for, and in theory it will work but I have my doubts."
—Jon McDonald
Junior



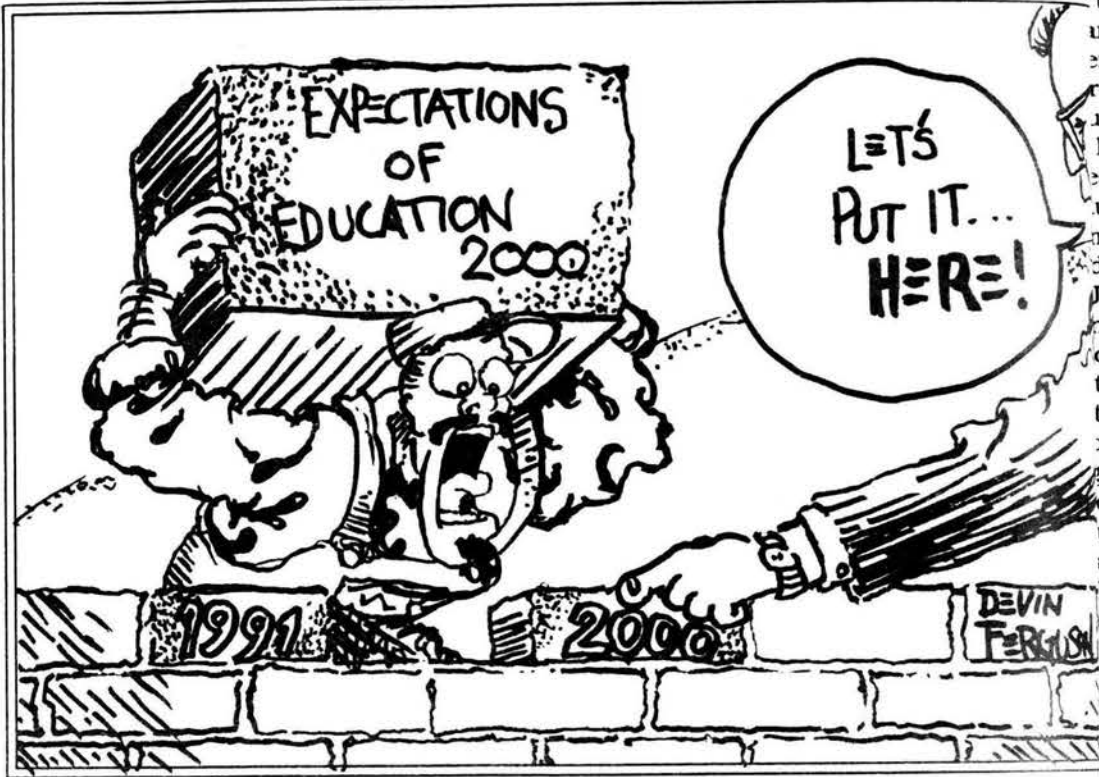
"By itself, no, but in conjunction with other supporting programs, yes."
—Harry Forehand
Counselor

Rob Rouch

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Education plan too idealistic

In today's society, education is a universal concern. With all of the demands that people put on their young men and women, the educational role has expanded immensely. As of late, however, the educational standards of America have decreased, and in an attempt to revamp the scholarly curriculum, President Bush has proposed a plan entitled Education 2000. Under this plan, the educational levels of the United States school systems should improve drastically, even revolutionize.

The Central High Register staff feels that these plans are idealistic and, in some cases, unrealistic. While the goal is admirable, the reality is that with the level of education in the U.S. as low as it is today, the year 2000 is a little presumptuous.

Students need time to adjust to a new system of study. True, the current system is inadequate, but can Bush really expect students to simply adopt a new method of learning overnight?

The first goal proposed is to improve preschool achievement, but it is not possible to improve something that is not a requirement. In fact, among three-year-olds to

five-year-olds from families with incomes of less than \$30,000, only four in ten were enrolled in preschool in 1991.

The proposal should try to boost enrollment before it tries to improve achievement.

This is true at the high school level as well; Bush's second proposal will attempt to increase the graduation rate of high school students, which is also admirable, but not realistic.

Since the current system of education has not improved since about 1970, schools have not fully prepared students for the educational demands of society on today's adults. Nine years is not enough time to bring the level of education up to date, let alone take it into the twenty-first century, as the proposal is designed to do.

Bush also proposes to improve scholastic achievement in English, history, and geography as well as boost America to number one in math and science. This could prove difficult within the proposed time frame since the United States was recently ranked significantly lower than other countries in two international tests of math and science.

Besides that, the National Assessment of Educational Progress reported that less than

20 percent of students in grades four, eight and twelve were proficient in grade-level math; they are about 20 years behind in their learning. Is it obvious that the system needs more than nine years to improve?

The Bush administration is idealistic in trying to force a type of a change into such a small amount of time.

The most idealistic of the proposed goals, however, is the plan to try to free schools of all types of violence and related activity by the start of the new century.

The Register is certainly promoting or condoning a type of activity, but to eradicate it completely in such a short amount of time seems unrealistic. Steps can, and should, be taken to control the drug violence in schools, but freedom is not going to be close at hand.

The Register staff feels these goals are definitely necessary, but the reality is that they are not likely to be followed, to rush the outcome could result in further retarding the progress of Education 2000 promotion.

Violence puts students at risk

It seems, as of late, that it is dangerous to go anywhere in Omaha. Violence is on the rise in our city.

Incidents of violence occur nearly every day that involve teenagers. These acts of senseless rampage put Omaha youth at risk of becoming injured or in some cases even killed. Those groups of people that engage in violent acts are endangering the whole population.

Because of the increasing number of violent crimes being committed, the people of Omaha often do not feel safe in their own city. It is not right for citizens to be afraid to leave their homes.

Students are also subject to this violence at school. Although minimal, occasionally violent incidents occur at school which in some cases, cause danger for students.

School is supposed to be a safe environment for students to learn. Fights and other outbreaks of violence deprive youths of their safety in schools.

In addition to creating an unsafe atmosphere for citizens, the rising rate of violence makes a strong argument for issuing a curfew as proposed by the Omaha City Council. The Register is opposed to the proposed curfew which is designed to decrease the amount of violence because it

is unenforceable.

The Register staff is more strongly against the outbreaks of violence. During the actions of those who participate in the fights, the whole population of youth should be restricted under a curfew. There is a direct relationship between the outbreaks of violence and the reasons behind the proposal of a curfew for youth.

These incidents of violence do not accomplish anything. Most of all, they endanger the welfare of innocent citizens. There must be a stop to these senseless actions. Until the people of Omaha are safe in their own city.

Counselors performing well

by Karina Swanson

The four years of high school students go through are some of the toughest years of their lives. They are faced with peer pressure, academic pressure and parental pressure. The school's counselors are available for the purpose of helping students cope with these pressures and to help them plan their future. Fortunately for Central, we have some of the best qualified and most dedicated counselors at our school.

Just by walking into the counseling center we see how much information and help there is available. Students do not even need to talk to a counselor to obtain vast sources of information. Even though most of the displayed information regards college or job planning, the center does offer pamphlets on substance abuse, handling stress and other related issues. The college and career information is more than any one person could need. The center has information in every college easily accessible to every student. The collection of many handbooks includes a vocational handbook and a financial aid handbook.

And the computer in the counseling center, available to every student, can help a student from taking the ACT to choosing a life-long career to preparing a resume. Students do not even need to see a counselor to gather any of this.

But I would not suggest or even

imply that it was unnecessary to talk to your counselor. Students and counselors should have a cooperative relationship.

The counselors are there for the students. They try to do everything possible for the student, but they cannot do everything. That is where the cooperative part of the relationship comes in; the counselors cannot always be in their offices at all times. The counselors have obligations to supervise the courtyard and the halls during lunch and before school. They have to run the auditorium homerooms, and address students in the classrooms as a group.

All these activities take the counselors away from their offices. The students cannot expect the counselors to be there when they drop in unexpectedly.

Mr. Harry Forehand, head guidance counselor, remarked that "students need to schedule an appointment with their counselors if they really need time to talk with their counselor." The counselors are there to help, but the students have to do their part also.

The Central High counseling staff is very effective and helpful. The student can receive help if he/she takes the responsibility of setting up an appointment.

The counselors are human; they are not perfect. It is in my opinion that they are doing a good job.



Simply Polyester

Todd Djureen

Truth often very hard to recognize

virtually impossible for the entire chorus to use that much air.

On a recent trip to the Bermuda Triangle, the entire staff of the history department disappeared. I guess "geography is destiny." Who's going to teach history—the dead principal?

The math team has locked themselves in a room and is determined to find the termination of pl . Who do these people think they are? Everybody knows that pl is 3.14. And they say you need to be smart to be on the team.

By now you're wondering what has the world come to? I just can't figure it out. Whose fault is it that the truth has been buried under a mountain of manure? Who knows, this may just be the truth. However, through very little observation,

“ Though the knowledge of the world is a simple truth, some things are not. ”

one may conclude that it is very unlikely that any of these things happened. Okay, okay, I know that there are a couple of you out there that do believe that the principal is dead or that there is only one calorie in diet cola. It's not a problem, well maybe it is, but there is hope.

Let me try and help. First become well-read. This is important. It's funny, when I was young I used to think that the world was flat. Well, it always appeared that way. I never thought that I was riding my big wheel on a huge sphere. The reason I now believe that the world is round is because I have matured and I have read several articles that have proven that the Earth is a sphere (I've also seen pictures.) Even though the knowledge of the world is a simple truth, some things are not.

With a wide knowledge base an individual can then digest the information in the text. Eat it up, yum. By doing so, you can soon decide for yourself what you believe to be the truth. Just because it is written word does not mean that it is a holy scripture. Please, please don't believe everything that you read.

It is important that you realize that you can't believe everything you read. Do you believe that the chemistry club is building a nuclear bomb? Even though it is a tad extreme, it is a prime example of how literature can be misleading.

You can believe me or not.

OPPOSING Points of View

Are Central's counselors doing all they can to effectively help the students?

The articles that appear in Opposing Points of View do not necessarily represent the views of the Central High Register. These articles are the opinions of Diana Konyek and Karina Swanson, staff members.

Guidance center understaffed

by Diana Konyek

Saying that the Central counselors are understaffed is definitely an understatement.

There are only seven counselors and 884 students. Each counselor is responsible for about 270 students.

How many times have you been down to the counseling center only to find that your counselor was not there? And, if your counselor was there how long did it take before you got in to see him or her, if you saw him or her at all?

Since more counselors are out of the question because of the financial situation, what is being done to better service the counselees?

Mr. Robert McMeen, counselor, said more auditorium homerooms are being used to contact students to announce job opportunities and college information. Counselors are also going to classrooms trying to work with larger groups of students instead of individuals. Yes, this is a possible alternative but is a real solution? No, I do not think so. It's a good effort which needs to be kept up, but more needs to be done.

For example, how many times do you hear it announced in the circular that counselors are not going to be in their office? I personally can't remember, but I always know when the library is going to be closed.

How does it make you feel when your counselor spends 35 minutes with another student and only five minutes with you? When you do see your counselor, is he or she as helpful to you as he or she should be?

Counselors need to work with students on more of an individual basis instead of a large scale thing.

Many students have the initiative to go on their own but don't know what to do without guidance. That is what the counselors are there for, so use them.

True you can't expect people to do everything for you, but you should be able to expect your counselors full undivided 100% attention and devotion to you.

You can't expect your counselor to call you down once a week and tell you everything that is going on, but when you go down to 129 for their help you should be able to expect their full help; after all they're there to guide you, aren't they?

By no means am I saying to rely on your counselor to do what you should be doing.

I'm just saying go down there, find out what's going on and be persistent about getting their help.

They are busy people and they can't be of any help to you if they don't know you need it.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Please deliver this message to the custodial staff of Central High School: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

My daughter left her purse in one of her early classes and one of your staff members turned it in to the lost and found. I do not know who this individual is, but they certainly deserve some sort of recognition.

The good work the custodians do is often overlooked in the rush of the busy school day. Please thank them for me and my daughter.

Ron Wagner
CHS Class of '64

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NEWS briefs

Proposed curfew defeated

The Omaha City Council defeated the proposed curfew ordinance sponsored by councilman Steve Exon in a recent four to three vote. Councilman Exon hopes to bring the issue to a vote of the people in the near future.

PSAT scores win student honors

Senior Maurice Clark was inducted into the Negro Achievement Program for receiving commendable scores on the PSAT/NMSQT as a junior. Maurice was ranked in the top 6% out of 90,000 students who applied for the program.



According to Mr. Harry Forehand, guidance director at Central, to be eligible for the Negro Achievement program, students must request entry to the Achievement program by marking a space provided on the PSAT/NMSQT answer sheet, identifying himself or herself as a Black American, enrolling full time in a secondary school and being a citizen of the United States.

Maurice said, "At first I was disappointed that I did not make it as a National Merit Scholar, but I realized that this is an honor in itself."

Militant newspaper reaches youth

Members of the Socialist Workers Party(S.W.P.) and the Young Socialist Alliance(Y.S.A.) have recently been selling The *Militant* Newspaper outside of Central in the mornings before school. The *Militant* is a newspaper put out by socialist workers that "covers the fight going on by working people around the world against social and economic problems," said L. Palterneri, member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Students score high on PSAT

Seniors, Cynthia Garner, Mike Hansen, Jeff Pospisil, Kimberley Scofield and Kristen Steenberg were commended by the Scholarship Board and the National Merit Foundation for their high scores on the PSAT taken their junior year. The students scored high on the test, but did not qualify as semifinalists.

Alternative math class offered at Central

The 1991-92 school year offers a new alternative for students who wish to relieve some of their "math anxiety." The course, Applied Business Math, teaches students important math skills that are needed in the work force.

The class, taught by Mrs. Hansen, is for juniors and seniors only, and it requires that each student has at least taken Algebra I. To practice what the students learn, labs are given during class. Some of the labs include: making orange juice, shooting free-throws with mini basketballs and calculating the cost of a family vacation.

By Andrea Davis, Joanna Edwards, Rob Harshbarger and LaVonya Watson

Student wants peace class at Central

By Andrea Davis

Surgeon general statistics show that the leading cause of injury to women is being beaten by the men that they live with.

There are 22,000 homicides every year in the United States. Eight percent of homicides occur between spouses. Teenage suicide in the U.S. has increased 500 percent in the last twenty years. 95 percent of all Children's television has violent themes.

Since 1900, 78 million people have been killed in wars. More than 40 wars are being fought in the world today.

Central senior Ann Carroll is trying to change this by introducing a peace studies class at Central. "It would be a student run class, and it's extra-curricular, so the students won't get credits," said Ann Carroll.

The peace studies class would be held after school, one day a week, second semester. Each week, a different teacher will volunteer to teach on an essay by pacifists such as Gandhi, Leo Tolstoy, Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day, or the students of the class would volunteer at a homeless shelter.

Teachers from Central have volunteered to teach, and Ann is contacting other teachers of non-violence classes. "We hope to have a group of about 15 people," said Ann.

This class will take some of its ideas from the syllabus of the peace studies class at Bethesda High School in Washington, D.C. It is taught by Washington Post columnist Coleman McCarthy.

"My goal is to get at least one non-

violence class at each of the 25,000 high schools in the United States," said McCarthy, "to give people a choice whether they want to solve conflicts violently or non-violently. There is no third choice."

Eventually, Ann would like to have

" Why should there not be a class that teaches peaceful conflict resolution? "

-Ann Carroll

the peace studies class be an actual credit course at Central. "It's a part of equal access. R.O.T.C. has a class to teach violent conflict resolving, why should there not be a class that teaches peaceful conflict resolution?" said Ann Coleman McCarthy has the same opinion about the average school courses. "Schools won't graduate you if you don't learn English. You start in first grade. All you do is resolve conflicts like math problems. Then you have problems later on with not being able to solve conflicts dealing with other human beings."

The peace studies class is not just a

class about stopping war. "Empire is not necessarily on stopping violence overseas but on solving the local violence problems. Violence starts with relationship with your family friends. We want to learn to solve conflicts in a way that isn't going to hurt people," said Ann. She says students will be able to relate to class because "to the average teenager, violence is not a war with it's going home and being afraid to in your neighborhood or hearing neighbor beating her children."

Both Carroll and McCarthy feel it is an "obvious need" for this class. "When students have their twenty high school reunion, they will find many of the women who were their friends in high school will be beaten and the men they were friends with be doing the beating," said McCarthy.

Central Principal Dr. Moller has different feelings on the class. "I don't really see the need for a peace studies class," said Moller. "We do teach courses one could claim to be peace any Business or vocational classes peace studies classes in a way." If students do decide to try to get an actual peace studies class with credit they will have to work with the Board of Education. "The students will have to make an appeal with the Instruction Department, or I certainly would like to see anyone who made an appeal here would consider it with the Board of Education, but we would have to be convinced that there is a need," said Moller.

Students rise early to get headstart on essays

By Josh Cooper

The first meeting of Central's National Honor Society featured Dr. Rosalie Saltzman, head of UNO's honors program. The meeting, held on Tuesday, October 1, at 7 a.m. in room 235, centered around college application essays.

Approximately 60 members of NHS listened to Dr. Saltzman's advice on filling out college application essays. She stressed the importance of college essays in the admissions process.

She said that essays must make an impact, and they have to "sell you as a person." She said that admissions officers read the essays in order to understand "what makes you [the applicant] tick."

She commented that brevity is essential in writing the essays and that they should read "like a page out of a diary."

Dr. Saltzman said that the more selective the college or university is, the more important the essays are. She said that Northwestern University ranks the essays second only to performance in academic courses.

" Brevity is essential in writing essays...they should read like a page in a diary. "

-Dr. Saltzman

She said that the purpose of the essay is to let the college know who you are as a human being. She said to pick one event or incident that typifies what you are like as a person.

" Essay writers should be imaginative. "

-Dr. Saltzman

Through the essay the college admissions officers should be able to learn about preferences, values, how you process information, your sense of humor, your depth of knowledge, creativeness, how persuasive you are and the quality of your writing skills, according to Dr. Saltzman.

She stressed that essays "should be focused," and they must answer the question asked. She said that a good introduction must be included in the essay and present tense and active voice must be utilized.

He said not to use "I" in every line, not write in third person, and not to write in second person and say "you" in your essay.

Dr. Saltzman said that contractions should be avoided because they make it look as though the essay was written in a hurried manner.

She said that the writer, after writing an essay, must have someone proofread it and make suggestions to improve the essay. "Show it to someone who will be honest with you," she suggested. Parents and friends are not the best sources to go to, Dr. Saltzman added.

Most importantly, Dr. Saltzman said that essay writers should be imaginative, write well and be sure to make a personal copy of all essays sent to prospective colleges.

Centralites say elections unfair to black student body

By Andrea Davis

Some students at Central decided to hold African-American homecoming elections this year. "We were fed up that no blacks were on the registration and homecoming ballot, so we wanted to start our own," said Jerome Moore.

" I don't like separate and equal activities "

-Mrs. Nared

"We are recognizing popular people, but not only for being popular but for sports, academics, being positive and pro-black," said Jerome Moore and Heron Hammons.

This activity is not school sponsored and does not have the support of the Central Staff. "I don't like separate and equal activities. Those activities are supposed to represent the school as a whole. This would cause a division of our clientele. I don't necessarily want this division," said Mrs. Nared.

The candidates were: King, Jerome Moore, Donnie Frazier, Victor Johnson, Dooley Jackson and Burrell Williams. Prince Anton Douglas, Rodney Evans, Jerome Moore and Heron Hammons were also candidates. Jackie Washington, Warren, Kim White and Tamara Warren were also candidates. Princess Leiloni Brewer, Kim White, Randy Carey and Joeanna Johnson were also candidates.

Kim White was nominated as queen, Jessie Value as king, Jerome Moore as prince and Joeanna Johnson as princess.

Ethnic Studies class fairing well

By Diana Konyek

Ethnic Studies/Afro-American History is one of the many new additions to Central this fall.

Ms. Kirstin Nelson, new to high school teaching, teaches the class three periods of the day, with a total of 77 students. She comes to Central from Morton Jr. High. Ms. Nelson, who also teaches World Geography, is the only person teaching this class.

Ethnic Studies does not currently have a text book, so Ms. Nelson uses a combination of the materials that OPS used before, in addition to materials and outlines from Benson and Burke which have similar classes.

According to Mr. Jack Blanke, social studies chairman, the first Afro-American history course in the OPS district started at Central. The class lasted for about six or seven years until a decline in enrollment led to the class eventually being dropped. Also, a minority cultures class was tried. In the beginning it was strong, but after five years it too ended.

Lacey Ruffin, senior, explained it's

not just a "black" or "white" thing. Lacey said, "I want to educate myself more about other cultures." Rachel Petit, senior, feels that regular history classes don't have enough information to educate fairly. "Everybody should take the class to help them get over their biases toward other cultures," she added.

Rob Nelson, senior, believes that this

“ Everybody should take the class to help them get over their biases toward other cultures. ”

class should be introduced at the 9th or 10th grade level when students are more easily influenced. Seniors Justin Jones, Rachel, Rob, and Lacey, all class members, agree that this class should be required.

Mr. Paul Semrad, assistant principal,

said, "I see a real problem in making ethnic studies a required class. 45 credits are now required to graduate and by making ethnic studies a required class that would decrease the number of electives that a student could take." Ms. Nelson commented, "I don't foresee this class becoming a requirement, but I think everyone should take it."

So far nothing is definite about whether the class will be offered next year or not. Ms. Nelson would like to see it be a permanent addition but said, "We can't have everything we want."

Mr. Blanke said, "The only way this course will be a success is if the demand stays up, and I hope the interest continues because it's real expensive to start up a new course."

Ms. Nelson commented, "Most teachers are positive about the class, but some are a little bit cautious. They don't know what to expect."

According to Mr. Blanke, to have this class become a success and last longer than the other attempts, it needs an enthusiastic teacher and high student interest.

Senior elections draw to close

■ 'It's going to be hard work, but a lot of fun, too!'

By Diana Konyek

The '91-'92 senior class officers this year are president Tom Rose, vice-president Josh Bahr, secretary Heather Holland, treasurer Maggie Boyle and sergeants-at-arms Liz Leiben and Mark Rosenquist.

This year senior class officer elections were held a little bit earlier than usual. Normally the elections are arranged to fall in November around election day, but counselors felt that this was too late for the officers to begin planning activities for the year.

To qualify to run for a senior office students must have a grade average of 3.0 or better, computed from all grades earned for both semesters of the students' junior year.

Candidates were required to pattern their campaign on a set of rules. According to campaign rules no candidate may post more than 15 posters, and they may not exceed 2 1/2 by 3 feet in size. Of course the posters may only be taped to wood, metal, or glass surfaces (no self-sticking signs), and all campaign posters must be removed the day following elections.

Candidates not following the above regulations may be disqualified. Mrs. Gerry Zerse, counselor, can't remember anyone being disqualified from the race in the past.

"There are more good candidates this year than I can remember," said Mrs. Zerse. "It has been an excellent race with healthy competition and cooperation," she added.

The president's primary duties are to preside over all class and class officer meetings and to act as the master of ceremonies and speak at commencement, to organize and coordinate all class activities and to represent the senior class. "It's going to be hard work, but a lot of fun, too!" president Tom Rose said.

All officers are responsible for attending all meetings and assisting the president.

The vice-president's main duty is to assume the duties of the president in case of an absence or resignation.

The responsibilities of the secretary are to record all minutes of class, class officer, and committee meetings. The secretary must keep the minutes in order, carry on all correspondence (including

class reunions).

The duties of the treasurer are to handle and be responsible for all the monies of the senior class, have the knowledge and ability to maintain a set of books and keep the books in order.

The sergeant-at-arms (boys and girls) responsibility is to maintain order at all class officer meetings.



Cheryl Kulas

Tom Rose

Tom Rose, senior class president, held a senior class officer meeting last Saturday. "The class officers simply got together in order to establish a brief agenda for the school year," said Tom.

He also commented that the session allowed the officers to get acquainted.

Central includes Family Room program

■ Parents get involved in their child's education

By LaVonya Watson

Central High is among thirteen OPS schools chosen for the new pilot program called Family Room. This program is a district wide K-12 approach to encourage parents to become more involved with their students' education.

According to Mrs. Mary Tessin of the Department of Human/Community Relations, the Family Room program is designed to "make parents feel more comfortable [about coming to school]."

Dr. G. E. Moller, principal of Central High, said, "It has been proven that students who have parents active in their education result in higher achievement in school."

According to Mr. Paul Pennington, Central's Student Support Teacher, the program is set up to have a liaison or "go-between" to talk with students and parents. The liaison's job will include talking with parents of "at risk" students and bring them together with their child

to determine the problem and to work out a solution.

Dr. Moller said that the liaison must be "approachable and encouraging." The liaison has to be a person who can get help for people," he said.

“ We want parents to know that somebody at Central High School cares. ”

October first was Mr. Harold Henry's first official day as Central High's liaison. As liaison, Mr. Henry plans to initiate the Family Room program by talking with parents of students who have excessive absences and tardies and to encourage parents to come to

Open House. Mr. Henry considers working with parents "a challenge." "The underlined goal of the program is to get as many parents involved as possible. We want parents to know that somebody at Central High School cares," he said.

According to Mrs. Tessin, the liaison's job will also include showing films to parents on parenting and "how-to" classes that will show parents how to motivate their students. "It's not that parents do not know how to parent. We hope to give emphasis on certain skills," she said.

Mrs. Tessin said, "The atmosphere of the Family Room should be comfortable. We hope to have a setting with couches, soft lights and refreshments to make parents feel at home." Because of limited space at Central, Mr. Henry's office is currently located in 22a. He is scheduled to work in the building twenty-five hours a week.

NEWS briefs

Central student stabbed

Senior John Semans was stabbed seven times on September 21, 1991. Returning from a house party in his neighborhood, John said that he was attacked from behind by a local gang member and stabbed by another. He received two wounds to his back, three on his arms and two in the stomach which required a total of 183 stitches.

John spent seven days in intensive care at St. Joseph's Hospital. According to John, he recovered quickly because he started "walking around and drinking plenty of fluids." John is now back at school in fair condition. "I've got to graduate," he said. He plans to focus more on school because of the days he missed while in the hospital.

"C" walked on no longer

The Central High School "C" will be walked on no more! The 1990-1991 student council (last year's student council) gave Central High School a present which will keep students from walking on the purple "C" found on the first floor on the third side.

The \$1000 gift has not been exhibited yet as a result of decision-making trouble in 1989. It will be posts with purple ropes through them. But, the posts will be securely fastened in the ground. This will keep delinquents from making off with the posts and the purple ropes.

The student council thinks this will bring back respect for the "sacred 'C' Mrs. Bender, Student Council sponsor, said, "I don't think the students understand the old tradition of the Central 'C' and this should help bring the tradition back."

School committee includes students

There is a School Improvement Committee, made up of faculty, parents, students. They meet about once a month to discuss what is important to Central and to agree on goals set for this year.

Examples of last year's goals are to increase staff involvement with "at risk" students and to increase student accessibility to computers in all departments.

The next meeting of the School Improvement Committee is scheduled for October 22, at three o'clock, in Room 111. Students are welcome.

Busy October for band

October is one of the most hectic months for the Central Marching Band. This month, the band has several exhibitions and competitions along with the half-time shows during the home football games.



The band members performed September 28 in the River City Round-Up Parade, and October 1 in the OPS Marching Exhibition. They performed October 11 for the Homecoming game and competed in the Omaha Marching Invitational the following day. This competition involves all high school marching bands in the metro area. October 19 will be the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association.

By Laura Dunham, Joanna Edwards, Tom Rose and LaVonya Watson

Bible Study

A Bible Study group has been formed at Central headed by junior, Ann Pelan. The group will meet every Tuesday morning at 7:15 a.m. It was formed to help students become more aware of God, and to give a friendly, comfortable atmosphere for a student with problems. The Bible Study group will have no official sponsor.

Activities planned include guest speakers from local temples, praying around the flagpole for 'Pray for School Day,' and other activities depending on the membership size. Currently, 15 people are committed to the group. More information will be sent through the bulletin, after an organizational meeting.

Chemistry Club

The Chemistry Club is for students who enjoy working with chemistry.

"We will be making slime for Halloween, tie-dyed t-shirts, and next spring we will make snowballs," said senior Peter Thorson, president of the chemistry club. "We want to prove chemistry is cool and have fun with it too."

The club meets about once a month, and is sponsored by science teacher Miss Lisa Hug.

Debate/Speech

Central's Debate/Speech team, sponsored by Ms. Kristine Bertch, is a 48 member team that takes one day out of every weekend to travel to Debate tournaments throughout the nation. They are the largest O.P.S. member of the National Forensic League.

The Debate/Speech team travels to approximately 20 tournaments a year and sponsors two of their own. Although most members take debate class, it is not a requirement for the team.

DECA

DECA, Central's own marketing club is electing officers October 18. Sponsored by Mrs. Alice Bunz, Mr. Harry Gaylor, and Mrs. Vicki Wiles, Marketing teachers, DECA now includes 111 members. 81 members will represent Central at the Fall Leadership Conference, an all day seminar at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Other DECA events include the assistance in opening the new RAVE store at the Crossroads and the Everything's a Dollar store at the new Oak View Mall, the Central Region Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The Omaha Racers Marketing Director spoke on Sports Marketing to marketing classes on October 10.

Drama Club

For people who have interest in the theatre or want to break out and be themselves, this is their club.

They do not perform plays, but they are involved in the plays that Central performs.

"We attend plays and shows in the Omaha area. We

usually go to Kansas City in April or May, and while we are there we see a show at Tiffany's Attic," said senior Shawn Lanz.

The sponsor of the Drama Club is English teacher Mrs. Pegi Georgeson.

FBLA

FBLA is open to students who have attended a business or economics class. The club is for students interested in improving their leadership, competitive, training, and social qualities.

"We attend conferences, seminars, district and state competitions. We have pizza parties, picnics, Honey Sunday, and last year we helped the Francis House," said FBLA sponsor Mr. Jack Harkey.

FNHS

The French National Honor Society at Central "tries to do activities of a cultural, educational and community

service nature," said Mrs. Daryl Bayer, the head of the foreign language department and French teacher.

The French Honor Society is sponsoring a play in Lincoln by Moliere, watching French movies, taking a trip to Joselyn to see the French poster exhibit, and fund raising this year.

To be eligible for FNHS, one must have a 90% average in French courses for three semesters, a 3.5 overall grade point average, and have participated in 20 points worth of French club activities.

French Club

"We try to touch on all the French holidays and celebrate them the way the French would, club," said Beverly Fellman, sponsor of French club.

Over 100 students are involved in French club in which over half are on a committee dealing with a certain activity. "This lets the members of the club become more involved and give more input on the way they would like to have the activity done." Mike Langan, president, said. French Club activities are apple picking, progressive dinner, hayrack ride, ice skating, christmas carolling, picnics, bowling, skiing, volleyball, and the soccer tournament.

German Club

"It's fun! I have a good time sponsoring. I really enjoy it!" This was Mrs. Esther Brabec's comment about this year's German Club.

German Club is a club for any and all students who take German here at Central. It meets on the second Thursday of every month after school and on the fourth Thursday of every month before school.

The students in German Club are involved in several activities. They go on a hay rackride, roller skating, ice skating and Christmas carolling. They also participate in the soccer, volleyball and bowling

tournaments, and they are in charge of the annual ski trip. Students receive points for every activity that is attended and it's possible to letter if the necessary amount of points are obtained.

GNHS

The two leading themes in German National Honor Society are "we care" and "building bridges across the Atlantic."

The first demonstrates the students' involvement in society.

The second theme exists to promote understanding between all countries.

Clubs at Central



Rob Rouch

Kick the ball!!!

Foreign language students participate in the annual soccer tournament. This year the tournament was held Sunday, October 6, at Lewis and Clark.

The club picnics, goes ice skating, will attend the Anne Frank exhibit at the Joslyn and will be involved in the foreign language and art fair in February.

To qualify for membership, a student must be a junior, must have a 3.6 German class grade point average, a 3.0 overall grade point average, be a third year or fifth semester student, and have one year of German at Central.

Green Eagles

The Green Eagles is the Central High Ecology club.

"Our main purpose is to educate the people and become more aware of the environment, and to have worlds of fun," said senior Todd Djureen. "We have car washes, help recycle in the area, a lock-in in December, and a Ragged Recycle Race" said Djureen.

The sponsor is science teacher Al Roeder.

J.C.L.

Sponsored by Miss Ryan, Central's Latin club (Junior Classical League), has just won the Foreign Language soccer tournament for the third straight year. Containing over 100 members, Central's Latin club is the largest in the state.

Current activities include: Hay Rack ride, All City Certamen competition, state convention, dinner at Piccolo's with other high school Latin clubs throughout the state, and a Central sponsored All City Roman banquet.

To join J.C.L., you must be a current or former Latin member.

Military Drill and Rifle Team

The Central High Drill and Rifle Team, sponsored by Sgt. William Middleton, is a cost-free club in which a member can compete and win medals and trophies. Anyone is allowed to join the successful team. The team practices 10th hour every

Math Club

The Central Math Club is for students who are interested in algebra, geometry, calculus, the new NeXT computer or want to learn about Mike Stiefel.

"We are going to Chicago in May, a junior high and senior high contests in November," said math club sponsor Mr. John Waterman.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is a collection of students of outstanding academic ability, leadership, and character.

Members must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5, must exhibit leadership and character and must document their service to the community.

The only activities planned so far for the National Honor Society are Honey Sunday and a potluck dinner for all honor societies citywide. Mr. Harry Forehand, sponsor for the Honor Society, said that the officers have

thought about an adopt-a-park idea, where students would pick up litter left in the park.

Physics Club

Physics club was new last year, and, according to Dr. Robert Wolff, physics club sponsor, has just barely gotten off the ground. It was formed for students interested in engineering as a career, or in physics outside of the classroom and more in-depth work than that in a classroom.

The club has not met yet, but Dr. Wolff anticipates a field trip or two, possibly to the UNO planetarium and a turkey shoot using an air canon.

Powerlifting

"The Weightlifting Club is a group of students and athletes who want to improve their strength," said physical education teacher, Mr. Joe Mc Menamin.

The weightlifting club is for students that are interested in powerlifting. Students do not need to be registered in any gym classes to join. The club meets from the first of December to mid-March.

Mr. Mc Menamin is the sponsor.

Progressive Student Alliance

The Progressive Student Alliance joined Amnesty International and the Central League of Animal Rights this year. They work with and identify many issues relating to all interests; anti-dissection, better food choices for vegetarians, boycott of GE because of their involvement in producing hydrogen bombs, and petitions.

"It is mostly a politically active club. We are not a school affiliation, but do have fundraisers," said English teacher and sponsor Mrs. Peggy Wheeler.

Spanish Club

Spanish club has a variety of activities throughout the year

including competing with other foreign language clubs, elementary level programs, city wide competitions and other academic events. "Spanish club is a unique opportunity that expands one's cultural and social knowledge in a foreign subject," said Kristina Torres, Spanish club president.

SNHS

Spanish National Honor Society is one of four clubs for students who excel in a foreign language.

To be accepted into Spanish NHS a student must have completed two semesters of high school Spanish in which they received a 1.0 recommendation from academic teachers and \$5.00 for dues.

For fun, Spanish NHS together with National Honor Societies from other schools in Omaha and Fremont, Nebraska. Rosetta Schmitt, president, said, "I really enjoyed getting together with NHS from other schools." They will have a dinner and watch movie fundraiser where most of the money goes toward scholarships for students who will go to Spanish at a university.

U.S. Academic Decathlon

"Our goal is to make learning fun and encourage academic achievement," said Mrs. Kovarik, Central math teacher and sponsor of Decathlon. "Decathlon is for people who enjoy jeopardy, trivia and other intellectual games," she said.

Recently, the Decathlon team went on a field trip to the zoo and a private tour of the rain forest. They will compete in the competition February 21-22.

Young Democrats

The Young Democrats club was sponsored by Social Studies teacher Ms. Carol Krejci. It held its first organizational meeting October 15. The purpose is to elect officers and to get prepared for the coming campaign elections.

Young Republicans

Sponsored by Mr. Clyde Lind, the Young Republicans club has a twelve to fifteen member political group.

An organizational meeting will be October 16 in which plans for a Constitution will be drawn up. The key goal for the group is to work with the Young Democrats club and experience in party crossing.

Youth-to-Youth

"The Youth-to-Youth Club is for students that want to have fun and be drug-free," said Youth-to-Youth sponsor Mr. Herbert. "We have lock-ins to state-wide Youth-to-Youth conferences, and organized a Halloween dance."

Youth-to-Youth is an organization created to show students what they can do without drugs.

The club is open to everyone but participants must sign a pledge to stay drug-free while they are a member. There are dues, but they are undetermined, because of the number of members in the club.

Central student overcomes life-long handicap

By Mark Rosenquist

"I do just about everything anyone else can do except a different way," said Matt Ave-Lallemant, Central junior, about his handicap.

Matt was born with cerebral palsy, a birth defect which affects different parts of the brain that control the body's physical functions. Some people with the disease have their "speech, hearing or sight" affected. Others have other physical disabilities. For Matt, cerebral palsy affected his natural sense of balance. Matt said that part of the reason he has cerebral palsy was because he wasn't getting enough oxygen at birth.

Matt was in a wheelchair last year. Now he uses a walker to get around. Matt said that he achieved this improvement through physical therapy. "The reason he made this improvement was 'because I want people to gain respect for me.'"

"I've had five surgeries in the last five years," Matt said. "I've had orthopedic reconstructive surgery on my hips, knees and ankles," he added. When he was little, he was able to walk correctly but slowly. "In order to hurry, I would walk fast [with] my feet turned in and my knees bent and together," Matt said. "I was walking 'pigeon-toed,' he

added. Eventually this incorrect walking was detrimental.

He said in seventh grade, his "right hip joint came out of the socket." A similar problem occurred with the left hip joint but the "joint didn't come all the way out [of the socket]." Matt said, "The muscles pulled the bone" part way out of the socket. This happened because Matt sat incorrectly when he was younger. "When I was little, I sat on my knees with my feet apart and my rear end touching the ground," he said. The doctor cut open the legs and pushed the hip joints back into the sockets.

Matt is able to do almost everything other people do. "I just kind of wish I had enough time to prove to others what I could do," Matt said. He drives his own car. "I shower myself, I dress myself, and I feed myself," Matt said. "Running is about all I can't do, however, I will be able to run someday," he added.

Matt plays wheelchair basketball. He said he "can play ping-pong real well." Matt also lifts weights and swims. "It is possible to train yourself to do just about anything," he admits, though, that he "will never be able to have the full physical ability as anyone else." Matt said he will "never be able to mountain climb. One thing

he wishes he could do is to "be able to run and play football."

Matt partially dislikes the way most people treat handicapped people. "Most people feel sorry I'm handicapped," he said. "That shouldn't be." He dislikes it when people treat him with "more sympathy than respect." "I want to be treated like anyone else is treated," Matt said that he rarely gets insulting comments from people. One person once told him, "Look at you, you can't even walk."

Matt is in extra-curricular activities. He is in drama club and works at West Telemarketing. He is interested in becoming a psychotherapist. "I plan to major in psychology and minor in business," Matt said.

Matt is optimistic about his handicap. "Someday I hope to be without my walker and wheelchair," he said. "There is no way of telling when that is going to happen." He added, "I know someday I will walk again." Matt said, "It is very hard to predict how much progress a certain person will make."

"I never thought I'd make it this far. I still don't know when it's going to end," Matt said. When he was younger there were times when he felt very sorry for himself. "I felt it just wasn't fair for it to happen to



Kristen Steenberg

On the way to lunch... Matt Ave-Lallemant travels through the courtyard on his way to lunch

me."

There are certain things that Matt appreciates more than most people since he is handicapped. "I really appreciate my family. They've all been there for me." He added "I really appreciate my friends more."

"The fact that I am handicapped makes my faith stronger in the Lord."

Matt said that there are disadvantages for him.

"Because of my handicap there's been things I've been left out of," he said. "It's hard to get a date," he added.

Matt said one of his goals is to "not need the walker at all." It is very difficult for him to achieve this goal. In his difficult turmolls he had "the will to survive."

"I have the will to survive and the will to make something of myself and I will do it."

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EOE

Central teacher finds freedom

By Sean Chapman

"Freedom to say and think what you want, this is the most important feeling," stated Mrs. Marina Sadolfsky, Central High Russian teacher.

Mrs. Sadolfsky is originally from Russia. She was born and raised in Leningrad. She decided to come to the United States when she met her uncle who lives in Omaha, Nebraska. "We decided that it would be safer for my daughter and myself to live in America. You cannot feel safe in Russia. You do not know what will happen tomorrow or the next day. Everything there is very flexible."

However, there were more important reasons for leaving her country than her fears. "The most important, even more so than your safety, is your future. You can handle something that has already passed, you can handle something that is going on right now, but you cannot handle or understand the idea that you have no future."

"The people of Russia have no motivation or desire to improve themselves. We are all among equal status. There is no difference between work, whether it is good or bad," said Mrs. Sadolfsky.

It was difficult, according to Mrs. Sadolfsky, to understand the meaning of freedom in Russia. "You are free, but you are not," said Mrs. Sadolfsky. "You are allowed to travel anywhere you want to throughout Russia, but you must stay permanently in the place that you were born."

According to Mrs. Sadolfsky,

people had the freedom to choose their own profession; however, "how they went about doing it was not up to them. As a student in Russia, you did not have the choices that you do here. You could not decide which classes to take or which teacher you wanted to have."

"It was our family's dream to be reunited in the United States because all of my family emigrated to America at the beginning of the century. In order to emigrate to America, Mrs. Sadolfsky had to apply for political asylum while visiting the United States. She encountered many problems while in the process. It took her about one year to gain political asylum which she did in the United States. Before she came to America, she had to obtain a foreign passport to travel out of the country "which takes about one year to do."

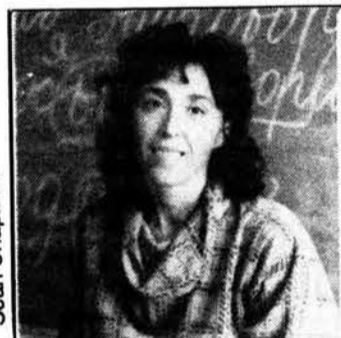
The living conditions in Russia were not very comfortable, she said. "Comfort in America is much more developed. In Russia you are lucky if you have an apartment with very small rooms that people share with their family and relatives."

Another problem commonly shared by the Russian people is food shortage. Russian people "can only get simple food, and the selection is limited. The stores often run out of food. This is a problem because many of the older people have to wait in line a long time to obtain food, and there is no guarantee that they will get any."

Mrs. Sadolfsky has been in the United States for over a

year now and she said, "I miss my homeland and I want to see the places that I love but only like a tourist. With Russia you can't say that all the problems will be solved. I can only hope that some day things will change."

Mrs. Sadolfsky was a teacher of the Russian language in the Soviet Union. For the last sixteen years in Russia she was a principal of a preschool for



Sean Chapman

Mrs. Marina Sadolfsky

special children. "We taught Russian children the Russian language because some of the students had problems with pronunciation." The Russian language is a new option for students at Central High. "I like teaching American kids', they are very open-minded," said Mrs. Sadolfsky.

It is her first year teaching Russian at Central. Mrs. Sadolfsky teaches half of the day at Burke High School and spends the afternoon teaching at Central.

According to Mrs. Sadolfsky "the students have some problems with pronunciation because it is very different, but it is amazing how quickly they can catch onto things."

Athletics challenge Centralites

By Sean Chapman

"There's much more pressure on students today in athletics than ever before," said Mr. Gary Kubik, wrestling coach. "The really harmful part of athletics is that if you want to be successful you have to give up a lot of time, time that could go towards a student's studies and work."

According to Mr. Kubik wrestling is one sport that is so competitive that you have to be in it all year long. "If you want to be good at anything, you have to stay in shape for it all year," said Mr. Kubik.

Mr. Kubik spends several hours after school with his athletes to prepare them for the wrestling season. "It's very difficult for a student-athlete to learn how to balance activities. The real student-athlete is a hard-working, dedicated person," said Mr. Kubik.

"I'm just a competitive person whether it's on or off the court. I would go mad if I didn't participate in sports, it's just a part of my life," said Melissa Hoialman, senior. Melissa participates in soccer, volleyball, swimming and pom squad.

According to Melissa all of her activities keep her very busy. She spends, at times, up to three hours a night working on drills to improve her skills.

I can't work a normal job and that's a definite sacrifice, but in my opinion it's a worthwhile sacrifice," said Melissa.

"I think a lot of pressure is self-imposed; it's the individual that pushes to do better. You learn how to push yourself and you can tell when you're not working up to your potential," said Melissa.

"Overall I think that competition is a good thing. It has helped me to grow and has made me stronger physically as well as mentally. My activities have taught me to work with people, to think before I speak and to be patient with other people," said Melissa.

"All people compete for different reasons; I compete for the fun of it," said Todd Reiser, junior. Todd competes in swimming for Central High. He works at it all year to keep in shape for the swimming season.

"Not everybody can do what I do; it's an individual

event which you have only yourself to count on to win or lose. During the swimming season I feel a lot of pressure because everyone expects me to win, and when I don't win I feel as though I let them down," said Todd.

"There is always pressure in sports but more importantly it's how much pressure students place upon themselves," said Mr. John Georgeson, football and track coach.

According to Mr. Georgeson it's difficult to find an athlete that has a job and is still able to concentrate on their studies and sporting event. "Central High School is very tough academically and a lot of time is needed," said Mr. Georgeson.

"I have always liked sports and I find that you get better with competition. I think the amount of competition all depends on the individual," said Mr. Georgeson.

"There is a lot of competition in any athletic event. It's the American way of life. I think it's a health thing, it just takes up time which teaches students how to budget their time," said Mr. Richard Jones, administrator.

"It's a chance to let out all of my frustrations, so people can see

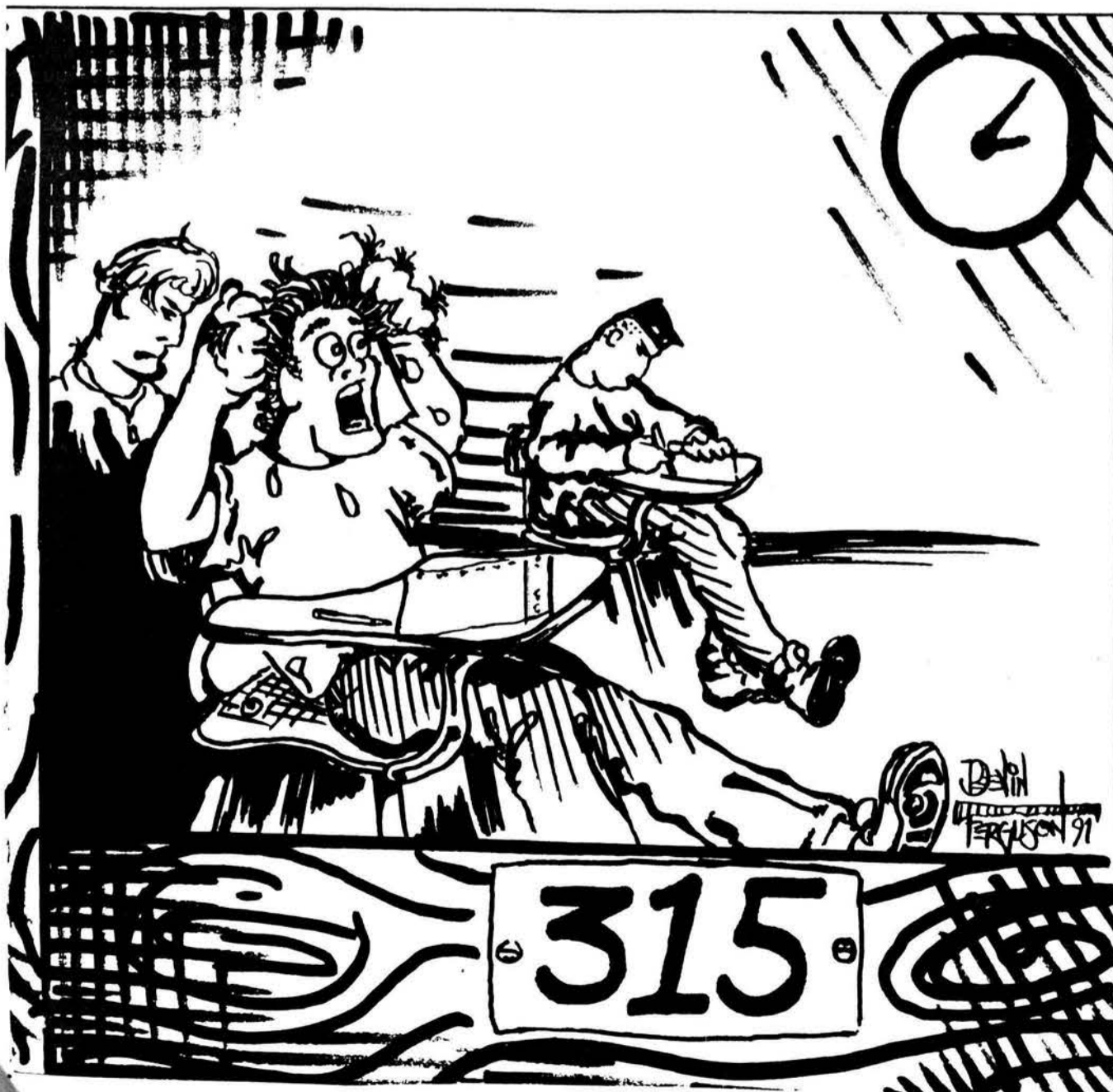
what I'm really good at," said Jessie Value, senior. Jessie competes in track and football. He has been involved in both for four years at central. "People underestimate me because of my size. I do it to show others that I can get the job done," said Jessie.

"To compete I have to give up a lot of time and money that I could be making if I had a job. My involvement takes up a lot of study time and at times my grades suffer. I have to plan and organize my time as much as possible to stay on top of everything," said Jessie.

According to Jessie there is a lot of pressure that goes along with sports. "I feel pressure from the coaches, from colleges and from my teachers who pressure me to complete my assignments."

"I think that competition is a good thing. After all it's a competitive world we live in. We have to learn how to accept success and how to deal with defeat," said Mr. Kubik.

“ There is a lot of competition in any athletic event. It's the American way of life. ”



COMMIT
ARE YOU
COME

Students | to with acad p

By Robert Harshbarger

Mrs. Carol Valdrighi, Central High School teacher, notes, "Everybody in the world has 24 hours in a day." Within those 24 hours students face an overwhelming amount of pressure with deadlines, parental expectations, homework and college all contributing.

Jeff Pospisil, Central High School senior, says these pressures "are very much part of life." Sean Foster, Central High School senior, notes new pressures as a senior which he did not have to deal with. He noted choosing colleges and filling out applications by the deadlines as two of the major ones.

Sean also attributes a lot of stress to the difficulty of both advanced placement and college achievement tests. He stated, "The stress this year is just the general bull and living up to everyone's expectations. I'm doing an ok job."

Sean commented, "Some of the pressure is avoided just by taking easy classes, but you pretty much have to hit head on."

Sean deals with the added pressure by staying late and going out with women on the weekends. "This eases a lot of my pain."

Mike Buckley, Central junior, also feels the pressure as a junior. "The teachers give me homework and I should be getting better as a junior."

Mike is simply trying to do his homework as possible and sacrificing parts of his life to deal with the added pressures.

Angela McAcy, Central High senior, notes pressures coming from the expectations of her teachers. She stated, "Every teacher thinks their students are the best, so they load us up with tons of homework."



COMPETITION: WILLING TO COMPETE?

How to cope with pressure

ask why we didn't finish our homework. Like have nothing better to do."

An anonymous source commented, "I saw a commercial during the international news depicting a young man stepping off a school bus; the announcer says, 'It's never too early to start thinking about college.' Now that's academic pressure. They don't let you think just about this year, but ever since we were in high school, they've been preparing us for college."

This anonymous short person also stated, "Teachers don't always answer your questions. Sometimes they dodge them. I often wonder if it's because the teachers don't know."

Valdrighi said that the student today has the pressure of placing out through the advance placement program, and it seems as though the same student who will do one advance placement class ends up doing all of them. Then you have that same group of students involved in many of the extracurricular activities; they're our school leaders. The pressure is tremendous on these kids."

Valdrighi also notes, "I know students stay up nights just to get the work done. The irony is that there are some kids who spend no time on homework; these kids are often not involved in extracurricular activities. There is no pressure on these kids."

When asked if she made exceptions for students who seem to be overly stressed, she replied, "I don't believe in pain, no gain." I think pain is something that should be avoided. I don't think you should allow yourself to be unbalanced or ill. You should keep your mind sharp."

Valdrighi does not keep very strict deadlines, she said. Ryan, Central High Latin teacher, however, said, "I makes no exceptions for students no matter what ensures they may face."



What will happen after high school?

By Josh Cooper

Seven Central High graduates, all of whom have embarked on different avenues after high school, have each experienced unique forms of competition. Their occupations range from a physician to a student at UNO; from a student at MIT to a custodian at Methodist Hospital.

"Competition gets worse as you go on outside of high school. You become geared into worrying about getting a better job and making money," said Brad Sortino, a 1986 Central High graduate who attends UNO.

Sortino said, "From kindergarten until college, pressure is put on kids in order to gear them towards competition because it's like that in the real world."

He said that he loves competition and plays soccer for UNO. Sortino said that extracurricular activities are important to relieve the pressures of competition.

Competition in work force

Lewis Prince Jr., on the other hand, felt that college was not for him. Prince, a 1989 graduate, is a custodian at Methodist Hospital.

He feels that it is very competitive in the work force for a young black male with no college background. Prince said that jobs are hard to find for blacks but "don't give up on your goals in life. Everyone gets frustrated."

Prince played basketball for Central and said that you had to work hard to start for the team. He felt competition to graduate and write themes.

Lawler programs satellite

Some people enjoy competing and engage in competition in school, on the job, and in sports. Mike Lawler fits this category.

"I live for the competition and am naturally very competitive," said Mike Lawler, a 1989 Central High graduate. Today Lawler attends MIT.

"In high school I had to push myself really hard. The competition was internal. At MIT everyone is as smart as you are, and the standards are higher in college," said Lawler.

During Lawler's years at Central he won many math competitions and participated on the Decathlon team his senior year. He "aced" his calculus class and added that "it was a snap."

Today he is helping program a satellite for NASA to be launched in 1995. The name of the satellite is the X-ray Timing Explorer. In laymen's terms it is an ultra powerful telescope that looks for x-rays emitted from the galaxy. It is being used to further the knowledge of astronomy.

Lawler has many deadlines, and things "must be turned in on time." He works with people who have ten years of experience in the field and many who have Ph.Ds. There is some pressure on me, said

Lawler, "because if I screw up they get in trouble."

He recently published his first paper in a scientific magazine. Mike found some pressure here as well, in order to compete among people of the scientific community.

Lawler is also the captain of the MIT Ultimate Frisbee team. He practices one to two hours a day, and it is like a varsity sport in which people must try out and make the cuts.

Mike plans to go to graduate school.

"College is much more competitive than high school academically and skill wise," said Alyssa McIntyre, a sophomore at Northwestern University. "In high school I was in the top two percent of my class; today I am not even close to that," she said. Alyssa graduated from Central in 1990.

She stressed that extracurricular activities are also extremely competitive. "To be in a music group you almost have to be a music major, to be in plays you must be really, really, really good or major in theatre."

Her advice concerning competition for high school students is that it "should be a good stress that motivates you towards goals. It is not something to get ulcers over. Don't worry about who is better or worse than you are."

Competition exists even after college for many professionals.

"In medical school you are in with a limited pool no matter where you go. The 80-100 students in your medical school class are all, by definition, good students. You're talking about high competitiveness in any graduate or professional school," said Dr. John Goldner, a neurologist who graduated from Central in 1956.

When asked about the advantages to competition, he said, "Competition as a stimulus to learning is very minimal. If you become too competitive, all you are concerned with is getting good grades which may not be conducive to learning. Competition is within yourself to learn, but there was always the reality of having a good GPA to get into medical school."

He said that competition can at times be negative because "students sometimes get taken with competition and though they may compete, they may be limiting their educational experience."

As far as competition in the medical field affecting Goldner today, he said, "It depends on how much ego you have. I've never been in the position where I wanted to see every patient there is, and I don't feel that if some patients don't see me they will be hurt by other physicians." He commented that there are many good physicians in Omaha.

"The competition is really against myself to be a professional, to do the best possible job," said Goldner. "You have to constantly learn about not just medical

knowledge, but other fields of interest as well, such as what's going on in the world."

"Life long learning is a necessity—not just a euphemism—for a professional," said Goldner. His advice to students is "learn how to enjoy learning and don't take yourself too seriously."

Stiff competition at Stern's

Sarah Bruns, a 1989 Central High graduate, attempts not to take competition too seriously. "I tend to do the best I can do and not worry about others," said Bruns.

Brun is a sophomore at New York University. She attends the college of arts and sciences and Stern's School of Business, which, according to Bruns, has a reputation for being one of the toughest business colleges in the nation. She said that everyone wants to be at the top of the class in the business school.

She said that NYU has a grading scale that must be met by all colleges. The university prefers to see an equal distribution of grades. Certain percentage will get A's, B's, C's, D's and F's. This makes the competition very stiff in Stern's.

"I try to avoid competition with other students though I consider my standing in class important," said Bruns. She does feel some pressure to keep up her GPA in order to get a good job because she knows that her employer will look at it, and "in order to retain my academic scholarships I must not let my GPA drop below a certain point."

Brun said that students need to concentrate on other activities besides competition. "Everyone needs to succeed for themselves in order to be happy. I feel I am developing personally farther than the classroom. It's important to take a broad spectrum of courses." Bruns is also involved in several extracurricular activities.

It's tough in the real world

Some Central High graduates have established successful businesses in Omaha. "It's tough in the real world. You have to work harder in college and every day life is a constant competition," said Mrs. Elaine Wesley, a 1971 Central graduate.

Wesley went to beauty college and attended Metro Tech Community college.

Today she co-owns a cosmetologist business. She is also a physical therapist technician at Immanuel Hospital. Today she feels no competition in the business because of the large clientele she developed over the years.

In order to deal with the competition outside of high school Wesley encourages all students to "take advantage of their education and stay off drugs. You can make it if you put yourself forth."

She commented that life is a lot harder in the real world outside of high school. "There are so many great opportunities in high school today that we didn't have 20 years ago. If I had to do high school all over again they would literally have to pull me out of school by my hair."

Central marketing offers internship and DECA

By Rob Harshbarger

Central High School's marketing program, complete with marketing class, internship opportunities, and DECA, the association of marketing students, is one of the oldest and best established programs in Omaha.

The Class

The classroom activities touch on several business concepts. It touches on management and its functions, economics, personal selling, advertising, human relations, entrepreneurship, product planning and development, public relations, purchasing and financing. Students can enter the program at the beginning of their junior year and carry it on throughout their senior year of high school.

Internship

As a second-year student in the marketing program students are eligible to take part in an internship program in correlation with area businesses.

At least 85% of the current seniors enrolled in the program take part in the internship portion of the program. The Central High School business and marketing internship program is the largest in the Midwest. Annually over 100 Omaha businesses cooperate in the educational development of Central's student

DECA

As a marketing student, students also have the



Introducing the new store, Rauve... Matt Lavia and Brandi Talich helped open the new store in the Crossroads mall.

opportunity to become members of DECA, organized for the advancement of leadership, civic consciousness, social intelligence and vocational understandings of marketing students through several activities.

DECA also gives students recognition with awards and scholarships through state and national competitions. Like any club, DECA has planned social events. Mr. Gaylor commented, "The goal of DECA is to develop leadership, give an avenue for competition and do social and civic things for

profession development."

Central is taking part in a leadership conference in Lexington, Kentucky which will be attended by approximately

"The main thing we do in Deca is actually competition."

-Mike Langan

thirty Central students. Competition Mike Langan, Central

High School senior and DECA member, said, "The main thing we do in DECA is actually the competitions."

There are a variety of competitions in DECA each touching on all or one specific area of the program. The competitions start out on a local level, and the winner advance to the next level of competition until nationals where a national champion is crowned in each area. Last year 48 students from Central received state awards, while at least that many, if not more, received district awards. The rest of the district, the other six Omaha high schools, only received an

average of ten awards each.

Central also had a national champion last year. The one person is Emily Hool, Central High School senior. Emily commented, "It was a big surprise at nationals." Emily advanced to the national competition after placing first at the state competition. Central's marketing program through DECA and with the cooperation of the business community, has participated in the opening of two new stores here in the Omaha area. The stores were located at the Crossroads Mall and the recently opened Oakview Mall. DECA was also invited as a chapter to attend and take part in the grand opening ribbon cutting at the Oakview mall.

Mr. Gaylor, marketing teacher, noted that this was part of "learning about an aspect of marketing in the business community, specifically retailing across the Omaha metro area."

Student views

Mike Langan said, "Mr. Gaylor is my next door neighbor and I was pressured into it [joining DECA], but I'm glad I was. I have a great time at everything we do."

Emily Hool, when asked why she joined the program, stated that when the "recruitment" explained what DECA was about in her sophomore English class, it sounded "interesting." She noted, "I learned a lot and met a lot of neat people."

Six Central students National Merit Semifinalists

Approximately one million students take the PSAT

By Mark Rosenquist

Sweaty palms, filling in ovals and feeling your pounding heart. Many students are overwhelmed by the PSAT.

Approximately one million students take the PSAT. 50,000 of the one million are eligible for recognition of their high score and 35,000 attain the status of this recognition as commended students.

In order to be considered to be a national merit finalist, a semifinalist must write a personal essay, be planning on attending college, complete a semifinalist application, have a high school transcript sent in (high grades preferable), have a teacher recommendation, and take the SAT (earning scores that reflect the PSAT semifinal standing).

Scholarships available are National Merit \$2000 scholarships supported by business organizations and National Merit Scholarship corporation funds (for which all finalists are considered), 1,300 corporate sponsored Merit scholarships that are for finalists who meet a company's preferential criteria, and more than 3,000 college and university merit scholarships which are for

finalists who will attend their respective sponsor institution.

About 90% of semifinalists gain finalist status. Finalists will learn whether or not they have achieved finalist status on February 10, 1992.

Bryan Campbell, senior, said he "was in the 99th percentile." He said, "Some people got in [semifinalist status] from the 97th or 96th percentile."

"I didn't take any practice tests," Bryan said. "The best thing I did was get a good

"Being able to make an educated guess is very important."

-Bryan Campbell

night's sleep beforehand." He "wasn't worried about it [the test] at all."

"Any junior debating on whether to take the PSAT or not should by all means take it." is "really good practice for the SAT and the ACT."

On test-taking strategy, Bryan said that "being able

to make an educated guess is very important."

The hardest part of the test was "probably the synonyms on the English part," he said.

Bryan wants to attend "either University of Chicago, M.I.T. or Northwestern." He hopes to get a degree in engineering and is considering "becoming a nuclear engineer."

Angel Henning, senior, said, she "couldn't believe it" after hearing the news of her semifinalist status. She said at first she felt "shock."

Angel "never took any [PSAT] courses." She "just took the practice test."

She didn't take the PSAT as a sophomore. Angel said she handles test stress well. "I just go in and take the test," she said.

Angel plans on becoming an actuary (one who calculates insurance rates).

Emily Hool, senior, scored "in the 99th percentile." She "actually got a better score as a sophomore than as a junior." Emily said that learning of her semifinalist status "was kind of a surprise."

Emily would "like to get into Duke or Michigan." Emily is considering pursuing a career in international law.

Matt Hovde, senior, "had to write a 500 word personal essay." He said,

"I didn't think my scores would make it this far."

-Matt Hovde

"Everyone is able to win corporate scholarships, but I didn't think my scores would make it this far."

He is planning to go into the communications field to pursue a career in broadcasting.

"I'm going to college but I'm undecided where," Matt said.

Peter Thorson, senior, said, "Almost everyone [national merit semifinalists] who fill out an application become finalists."

The application "involves writing an essay, sending in a high school transcript, giving a listing of extra-curricular activities" and is "a lot like a college application."

"I took the practice test and looked over what I did wrong," Peter said in regard to what he did to prepare.

"I just took it. Doing well on the PSAT is "a lot of test-taking skills and knowledge

that you've picked up over the years," he added.

Peter isn't quite sure of his future plans but thinks he'll "major in Math and then get a master's degree in something."

He might want to be a researcher. He hopes to get into Princeton, M.I.T., or Harvey Mudd College in California.

Jessica Wenke, Central senior, said she did not take a practice test before taking the PSAT.

Jessica is a natural at taking tests. "I just take tests well. Tests don't bother me," she said. "I was just thinking about the test."

Jessica agreed that test taking "is both knowledge and test taking ability." She added that "honors classes helped" in doing well on the test. Jessica said. Her selection as a finalist came "pretty much" as a surprise. She "was hoping" to become a semifinalist. "My sister was a finalist."

Jessica "hasn't really decided" about where to go to college but is considering "Northpark in Chicago or Drake."

She is interested in pursuing a career in either "psychology, counseling, or music."

by Sean Rourke

One thing I asked myself when I got out of this movie (other than why Liz ate half of my licorice) was this simple question: "What was that?" Comedy? Drama? Fantasy? Romance? It was all of those wrapped up into two-and-a-half hours. Terry Gilliam has certainly done it again.

If you didn't like some of his earlier films, like *Brazil* or *Time Bandits*, don't despair. This is not your average Gilliam movie. It's not a complete off-the-wall fantasy, and the plot is not hard to follow in the slightest.

Evidently, however, this is not what the producers wanted. As the producers watched the movie being filmed, they told Gilliam that it was too normal and that they wanted something really weird. Because of this, Gilliam decided to throw in a scene where the entire Grand Central Station pairs up and does a gigantic waltz. Well, anything to please the producers, I guess.

This is also the first movie Gilliam has directed that has not had a former member of Monty Python making a cameo appearance. Although I was looking forward to seeing some of the old guys in another movie, I guess we don't all get what we want. It's all right, I'll recover.

Anyhow, as I was saying, this film



Rourke and Lieben
Movie Reviews

The Fisher King



By Liz Lieben

"So...when exactly did you lose your mind?"

Everyone is just a little insane at some time or another. What appears to be insane to some people is not that crazy of an idea to other people.

In the movie, *The Fisher King*, Robin Williams portrays what seems to be a lunatic bum, Perry, who claims himself to be the janitor of God. Perry is the white knight of Central Park. He helps those who are in need whether they be rich or poor. He is constantly running away from his configuration of death, the red knight.

Perry, dressed in his knight's decor, rescues Jack (Jeff Bridges) from several kids with gasoline and matches. Perry and Jack become close friends. Jack is a radio DJ who became a little too self-centered and caused a certain listener to go to a local bar and shoot several people

takes place in New York City, and is the story of a down-on-his-luck DJ (Jeff Bridges) and an insane homeless man who thinks he's a knight (Robin Williams).

Jeff Bridges does an excellent job in his portrayal of Jack, not to mention the fact that he has incredibly cool hair. Robin Williams, I don't think I even have to comment on. The overlord of improvisation gives the movie that special sort of witty humor you only find with Robin Williams.

The story is also laced with the dreadful apparition of the Red Knight. This wraith-like being is only seen once in a while, but the vision of him galloping down the streets of Manhattan gives the movie just a sliver of that old Gilliam-esque directing style.

The Fisher King, overall is a wonderful movie about both the complex and simple problems of life in general. I loved it, at least when I wasn't fighting valiantly for my licorice. I give it Elvis' seal of approval.

including Perry's girlfriend. Jack feels that he indirectly killed her and wants to help out this bum.

The story line of *The Fisher King* is of Jack trying to help Perry be happy and strong and maybe even sane. He does this by setting up a date between Perry and his vision of beauty, Lydia (Amanda Plummer).

“ There is a man on a bunch of filing cabinets wearing a dress and singing a song. ”

The movie is set in New York City which is the best place to see a variety of characters. When watching this movie, I asked myself, what exactly is sane?

There is a man up on a bunch of file cabinets wearing a dress and singing a song. He said that he went insane when he asked himself "What does it all mean?"

The Fisher King is a movie about the quest for the Holy Grail. This movie has everything, adventure, romance, drama, comedy and insanity. I give it Elvis' seal of approval.

Music Man director says show has 'lot of firsts'

By Sean Rourke

Central High School's Drama department will perform *The Music Man* for its fall production.

"It's about a con-artist," said René Johnson, junior, "who comes to rural Iowa to con the town out of their money." René plays the part of the small-town girl, Amaryllis.

"It's set in a time of innocence and nostalgia," said Mrs. Pegi Georgeson, director. According to Mrs. Georgeson, the "guilt-edged" con artist, Harold Hill (played by Matt Hovde) tries to swindle the town of River City into believing that he can start up a boys' band.

Hill promises instruments, uniforms and lessons, all the while intending to skip town with the money before they ever arrive. All goes according to plan, except for one minor problem; Harold falls in love with the town librarian (played by Hiedi Hausman).

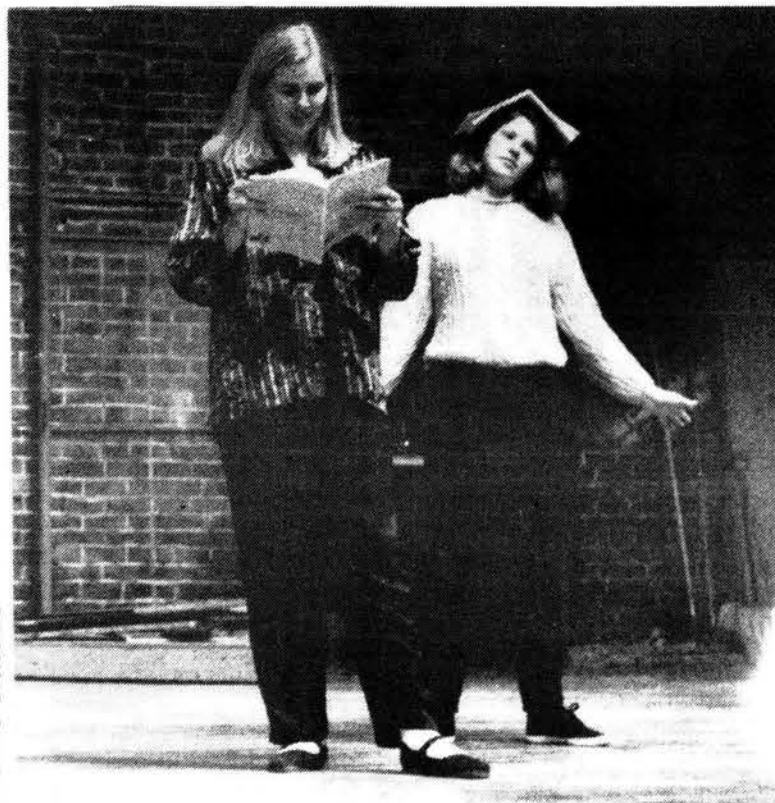
When asked to comment on this year's production, Mrs. Georgeson said, "The show has a lot of firsts. For one thing, we have a completely new music department."

The Music Man will be the first Central musical that both Mr. Finch, vocal instructor, or Mr. Wilger, band instructor, have worked on.

It will also be the first year for Upstairs Dinner Theater choreographer Michael Simpson to work with Central students.

Dan O'Dell, senior, a member of the show's barber shop quartet, commented that "Michael Simpson is very talented and deserves to be choreographer."

"He just wants you to have fun," said Amanda Ondrik, freshman dancer.



The dance of the Grecian Urns...Kristen Steenberg and Jessi Haubrich practice for *The Music Man*.

Mrs. Georgeson said that another first was the fact that there were no call-backs held this year. "We knew who we wanted," she said "Everyone just fell into place." Some cast members, however, feel that doing away with the call-backs was not fair.

One cast member, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that "not everyone got a fair shot." Another cast member said that "a lot of people were counting on the call-backs to read for the part they wanted."

"It didn't bother me," said René, "but I can see where it would've bothered other people who wanted a second shot."

Mr. Finch commented that "I think there's a lot of quality in the cast." He said that "Mrs.

Georgeson basically knew what she wanted."

The cast is composed of over 60 people, ranging in age from freshmen to seniors. "It's a very wide, diversified group of individuals," stated Wendy Revers, a junior, and one of the chorus members.

"I'm more and more convinced every day that I have the right people in the right roles," Mrs. Georgeson said.

According to Wendy, "It's gonna be a good show."

The Music Man will be performed on Nov. 7, 8, and 9, at 7:30 p.m. and reserved seating will be \$4.00 per person. The student matinee will be performed on the 7th, and the tickets will be sold for \$2.00 to SA ticket holders.

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Students enjoy *Impending Doom*

By Karna Swanson

The hottest new TV show this season cannot be found on the networks, or on HBO, but on Cox Cable channel 23.

All right, maybe not the hottest show, but *Impending Doom*, starring and produced by Central High students, is definitely a show worth seeing.

Matt Hovde, Central senior, is one of the main producers of the show, "but the credit really goes to Josh Perilo, a Benson student."

Josh Perilo, and several Central students, talked about the idea of writing and producing their own show on the public access channel during the summer. At the time, the idea seemed a little far-fetched for some of the students.

However, "Josh got it into his head that we were going to do it, he got the spot on the public access channel, and it just happened," said Matt.

The show is a variety show with mostly comedy skits. The show has so far done all comedy, but that might change.

Two weeks before the actual shoot, an executive meeting occurs and the writers brainstorm ideas and develop

the theme. Then they assign time slots to writers who then go home and write up their three to five minute skits.

Then the night before the actual taping begins, all the members of the cast get together to perfect the script and present the skits to the rest of the group. This is when the actors are supposed to start memorizing their lines.

The shows are taped every other Saturday morning at the public access studio on 42nd and K. The taping lasts about one to two hours, "and it is usually mass hysteria," said Northwest senior Darius Makaitis. Darius is the TV Technical director of *Impending Doom*, and he also writes.

"Each show is a learning process," said Darius. According to Darius, the technical quality is not that good because of the equipment they have to use.

The show has been mentioned on the air by Sweet 98 disc jockey "Hot" Scott. Scott saw the show by chance when one of his co-workers was watching it. He then proceeded to make fun of the quality of the show on the air, but he apologized later to a few

of the members of the cast when they paid him a visit at the station.

Matt was one of the members who paid him a visit. "He couldn't believe we came down, but he was supportive of our ideas and said we just needed to fine-tune some things, mainly the sound."

Scott said that he would mention the show on the air again and maybe promote it in a bigger way, but plans are not solid yet. However, Scott did say he would "mention the show on the air as long as I worked there."

Many of the members of the group are seniors this year. Matt, Bryan Campbell, Shawn Lanz, Dan O'Dell and Sean Rourke are the Central Seniors who make up most of the executive group. The two other executive members are Central freshman Shannon Rourke and Josh Perilo.

Other Central students involved include seniors Tristain Walker, Alexis Richards, Christi Klein, Jessi Haubrich, sophomores Alli McClarnery, Sara Gleason and Lindsey Lundholm.

With the majority of the cast being seniors, *Impending Doom* may be discontinued



Kristen Steenberg

Groping for power... *Impending Doom* cast members rehearse for their next show.

during the summer "unless Josh decides to gather another group of people," remarked Matt. And Matt also added that for now "each show is an accomplishment" and that

future plans are uncertain. The reasons for doing the show differ with each member but the main reason is said by Jessi Haubrich, "I just think it's fun."

Cottages of Carnage

By Liz Lieben

Since this issue comes out around Halloween, I was sent on a mission to review all the haunted houses around Omaha. I was chosen because I am a woman of steel and not easily scared.

I did not get around to all the haunted houses, but I was able to review four of the major ones. All haunted houses are open on weekdays from 7 to 10 pm and on weekends from 7 pm to 12am. The houses will be open until October 31.

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This was not a haunted house. This was more of a haunted tour. A tour guide leads you through the house and points, with a flashlight, to things that he thinks might frighten you. I walked through the house and only screamed once when some werewolf type guy grabbed my face. Another thing I did not like was that they were playing top-forty

music in the background. This was definitely not a scary house. On the sheer terror scale of 1 to 25, I give it a -3.

Academy of Terror

11700 N. 72nd Street
Sponsored by 93.3 FM
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This is one of the best haunted houses in Omaha. First of all, the music in the background is great and it is what you should hear in a haunted house. When it is dark in this house, it is really dark. It is not the type of dark your eyes can get accustomed to.

This is a house you can really get scared in. You fear your life at every corner. You should definitely not go through this house alone. On the sheer terror scale of 1 to 25, I give this house a 23.

Stone Castle : Haunted House Part VII

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The Stone Castle is a huge warehouse divided into two haunted houses. The Haunted House Part VII was great. It was scary and fun, too. There were tunnels and mazes and people actually scare you. A security guard goes through with you, but he follows you and doesn't try to prepare you to be frightened.

There is this huge maze made of these huge swinging cones that is just great. On the sheer terror scale of 1 to 25, I give this house a 20. It was very scary, but not totally life-threatening.

Haunted House the New Beginning

The Haunted House: The New Beginning is not as great as the other one. Of course, I was at the end of the line so I heard all the people screaming and yelling ahead of me. There are tunnels in this one, too. There is also a swampland and a maze. There is great music and the strobe lights and then total darkness.

I was not totally scared, but I did scream several times. If I had been in the front of the line, I might've been scared more. I give this house a 17 on the sheer terror scale.

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TV nightmare with Bradys

Your Piece of Chalk

Duncan Joyner

"Imagine what it would be like if TV were actually good. It would be the end of everything we know."

—Marvin Minsky

When interrogated as to the subject matter of this column by my weight-training class, I came up with few ideas. So, I then questioned them as to what I should write about. The answers I received were short of enlightening.

My weight-training partner, Nylon Strong, suggested I write on one specific topic.

"Write on puke, man. Can you do that? If I had that column, I would write every story on puke!"

"Uh' thanks Nylon. Good idea."

Realizing that it was futile to hope for ideas from my weight-training inmates, I proceeded to ask Sebastian for ideas.

"Do one on whatever's happening in your life right now. That way, you can save all of your creative ideas for later in the year, when you're hard-pressed."

So Nylon, for some reason this column is dedicated to you, even though I didn't use your idea.

Days later (after the preceding incident), I accosted Sebastian in the privacy (or lack of) of his home, watching TV. I questioned him as to why he was wasting his time doing something so openly brain-stunting and undeniably lacking mental stimulus as watching TV.

His reply was that it made him laugh.

Being the cynic that I am, I questioned him further.

"What do you mean, it makes you laugh? What is humorous about watching contrived people in contrived situations behaving like contrived people in contrived situations with a contrived audience laughing hysterically when a light flashes LAUGH! It's all pseudo-reality, Sebastian, who needs it?"

"That's the point, Duncan," Sebastian began. "A little relief from reality. Things don't have to necessarily be so strenuous all the time. Look at the television; do you remember watching that show?"

I looked at the TV and saw a milky haze of characters that I could almost distinguish, like seeing your six-year-old best friend for the first time in ten years at the local Quick Mart playing pinball with a wad of Big League Chew stuffed in his jaw and a pack of candy cigarettes in his back pocket.

Then the milky haze blurred together and a face formed on the screen in front of me. Richie Cunningham. Slowly all of the characters from *Happy Days* materialized—the Fonz, Potzi, Al, Mr. and Mrs. C., the whole cast.

I was in an intense stupor. I slow-motioned my body, throwing Sebastian from his Laz-Y-Boy recliner and immediately taking over his carton of Whoppers. Never taking my eyes from the romantic eyesore while drinking from his half-drunken two-liter of Dr. Pepper and systematically popping Whoppers into my mouth, I leveled myself into the chair that would, unknowingly harbor my jaded rear for the days to come.

All of my childhood favorites were there: *C.H.I.P.S.* (I always loved Ponch), *The Dukes of Hazard*, *The Laverne and Shirley Show*, *The Facts of Life*, *Diff'rent Strokes*, *Silver Spoons*, they were all there! It was the shining moment of my youth. Never would I have been allowed to watch 30 (29 and one-half) consistent hours of television in my younger days.

Nobody could move me. Sebastian sat with me awhile, but soon gave up when syndicated re-runs of *Alice* came on. I was a slimy ball of mass confusion with blood-shot focused eyes, and a crick in my leg. My right, half-asleep arm held the remote like an awakened man struggling to keep that exciting dream alive in his memory. Sebastian just hustled food and drink in periodically, to keep me nutritioned, while his cat, happy to have a catatonic human resting place, slept on my head.

I no longer was discriminatory in my viewing practices. Besides watching my childhood favorites, I watched cartoons about little matchbox cars, some teenage soap opera set in someone's zip code, and some show about some renegade high school student deceiving the school faculty.

Then an odd thing happened bringing me out of my catatonic stupor. Just as the Brady family was trying to convince baby Cindy to hang-glide off a cliff in the Ural Mountains, the screen started fizzing and the TV started spinning wildly around, flying off of the table it had once sat on, and spewing green juice all over my sweat-soaked body. It was then that I realized that TV is the Devil, or at least the immediate embodiment, of the Devil.

AAAAGGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

I screamed for two days. After that I was sick for another two. It was not good. However, I did get to suck chicken noodle soup through a straw because my mouth was sore with the many open slices made by my Dorito crunching throughout my TV stupor.

At least I have semi-convincing Sebastian of the evils of TV. He still doesn't believe that TV itself is bad, despite the three exorcisms we've had to do on it, but he does agree that, after watching all of our childhood shows, we were extremely disillusioned.

Now, I'm back at school and swamped with make-up work, and all I can think about is whether baby Cindy gathered the courage to hang-glide off the cliff or not.

In the words of a metamorphosized Lenin quote, TV is the opiate of the masses.

Mahoney State Park provides enjoyment

By Karna Swanson

What is more pleasant than a picnic in the park on a lovely fall afternoon? How about a picnic in a great big park with horses and a 70-foot tower?

Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, which opened last May, is just that kind of place. And the park has various activities to provide a fun time for everyone.

For those who would rather not part with their hard-earned cash, there are many activities that are free to the public, with the standard state park admission fee. There are hiking trails, fishing lakes, a sand volleyball court, tennis courts, horseshoe pits, picnic areas, a multi-purpose sports field, and biking trails.

And if these activities do not catch your fancy, how about climbing the 70-foot observation tower and looking out over the scenic Platte River? The view is incredible, so is the climb, and it is a perfect opportunity to finish off that roll of film.

However, for those of you who do not mind spending a few dollars here and there, I suggest checking out the other various activities that charge fees.

The Mahoney Park horse rides are not anything too exciting, but they are definitely worth the six dollar charge if

you have no horse riding experience. The horses are gentle and slow, and the trails are worth seeing.

Other activities are paddleboating on the Owen Marina Lake, miniature golf, hitting golf balls on the driving range, swimming, and riding the waterslide.

After all that exercise you may want to relax and enjoy a meal at the Owen Marina or the Peter Kiewit Lodge.

If souvenirs are what you are after, then you may want to visit the crafts center. The craft instructors help you make leathercrafts, paint ceramics, work with wood, and build birdhouses. All you pay for are the materials.

And if you don't have time this fall to visit the park, visit it this winter. The park is open year-round, and in the winter it offers cross-country skiing and ice-skating on an outdoor lake.

The park is easily accessible from I-80, just 30 minutes west of Omaha.

So if you have a spare day this fall or winter, I suggest Mahoney State Park as a perfectly affordable get-away.

For more information call or write:

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Nebraska and the "Big Game"

Locker Room Talk

Al Bakhit

Nebraska has done it again! The big game this year rolled around early and they blew it again. Why does this always happen to NU? Are we destined to live a life of being second-best? Tom Osborne always comes into the season with a team that looks unstoppable. During the duration of the season they always seem to lose that look. Usually it comes down to the Oklahoma or the Colorado game. But this year they have already faced two ranked teams before they have even begun conference play and they suffered a defeat against Washington.

This year's offense seems destined towards greatness.

The defense, however, lacks the maturity of a seasoned squad. It showed in the Washington game. The first three quarters the defense held up, but when the final quarter rolled around, Washington found the holes. In that final period of play they exploded for 27 points. Sound familiar? In last year's Colorado game NU's defense gave up 27 points in a fourth quarter run by the Buffalo's.

The Cornhuskers' offensive line-up is loaded with stars. They can come at you with both the pass and the run. The offense is highlighted by such names as Derek Brown,

Johnny Mitchell, Jon Bostic, Keithen McCant and former Central star Calvin Jones. This year's squad can throw the ball with great success, and as usual they can run the ball almost anywhere.

With this kind of offense, a defense slightly above average would be more than enough to hold off the opponents. The defense has been showing improvement every game and are nearing that point. If that keeps up this could be the year that Nebraska could win the big game.

If they do make it to the national championship game, will they have enough to maybe win the big one? Some of you may remember a couple of years back when Nebraska was an extra point away from the title. They were facing Miami in the Orange Bowl. The score was 31-24 in favor of Miami. Nebraska scored to pull within one.

Coach Tom called for time out; he knew that they were almost guaranteed of the title if they tied. He decided to be greedy and go for the win and the title. Time was called in they lined up for the play and Nebraska blew their hopes for a national title.

We can only hope that if they get the chance this year they take it.

Nebraska is lucky to be one of the few schools that is consistently near the top. They always have the talent, but they just can't put it together when it counts.

If Nebraska can find some consistency in the way they play, they may be able to finally win the title they've been waiting for.

Sports Calendar

Cross Country

Oct. 18 NSAA Dist.

Oct. 25 State

Tennis

Oct. 17 State

Golf

Oct. 17 State

Gymnastics

Oct. 19 Metro

Oct. 22 at Northwest

Nov. 7 State

Volleyball

Oct. 17 Gross

Oct. 22 North

Oct. 29 at Marian

Nov. 4-9 Districts

Football

Oct. 18 Gross

Oct. 25 at North

Oct. 31 Prep

Softball

Oct. 16 Benson at Dill

Oct. 18-19 State at Kelly

Sports Briefs

Cross Country

The cross country team has been without any victories so far this season due to the small size of the team. Despite this, they have had numerous individual medal winners.

Football

The football team has started to come around. They have won two consecutive games including last week's homecoming victory over Northwest. Central's offense exploded for 22 points in the opening quarter and they never looked back. Some highlights included a 65-yard draw play by Matt Scanlan. This set up a 1 yard touchdown play for Central's Harambee Jackson led the Eagles with two TD's and Jesse Value added another.

They gained their first victory 12-0 over Ralston the previous week. If Central can come up with decisive victories in their final 3 games they may still have a slim chance at the play-offs. The team is currently 2-4.

Golf

Girl's golf is looking at the possibility of a state competition. The state play-offs will begin October 17. The team's chances at qualifying for state were determined by the results of the October 10 Districts round. The team's record stands at 4-3.

Gymnastics

The team made a strong showing at the Hallstrom Invite on Oct. 1 taking the team title and several individual events.

Softball

Tickets for the October 18-19 state softball finals are on sale. Varsity softball players and Mr. Custard are in charge of the ticket sales. All day passes are \$5, single game tickets are \$3. The varsity record stands at 3-6.

Tennis

The team finished the season undefeated and made a strong showing in Metro taking 6th place overall. State tournament starts tomorrow and runs through Friday.

If Central gets a few breaks they could make a run at State.

Volleyball

The Central girls' volleyball team has been hard on luck this season. According to Coach Vicki Wiles, several of the team's losses could have been a toss-up for either side. The young team's record stands at 2-8.

Melissa Hoialmen, three sport college recruit

By Rachel Kozol

To Central senior Melissa Hoialmen, sports are a big business.

Melissa has recently received applications for four sports scholarships that could pay up to half of her full college tuition.

Melissa has been offered a soccer scholarship from Creighton and Northeast Missouri and a volleyball scholarship from Drake and UNL.

Melissa remarked that she was particularly interested in UNL. "Since UNL is rated eighth in the nation, it would

be a big deal to be accepted by them," she said.

In order to be considered for a sports scholarship, Melissa must send videotapes of her best games to the colleges. "They will look at aggressiveness, consistency and style," she commented.

Melissa has played both varsity volleyball and soccer since her freshman year and has attended athletic camps for these sports during her summer vacations. "Both volleyball and soccer are equally important to me," she noted.

Melissa is also a member of the Central swim team and pom

squad.

"When I play, it's to win," she remarked; "the competition is very important to me." Melissa said this attitude does not include athletics with friends. "That's strictly for fun," she added.

Also for enjoyment, Melissa teaches gymnastics at Morton Junior High School.

"Playing sports takes out a lot of frustration," Melissa noted. "When I'm mad I can just take it out on the ball."

According to Melissa, sports do interfere with her social and academic life. "But I always make time for my social and academic life," she

commented. "Being a well-balanced person is important to me."

Melissa has ruled out sports as a future career. "By the time you get up there, your career's over before it started," she explained.

"I sometimes feel stressed out because so much is expected," Melissa remarked. "Knowing I've gotten this far on my own helps."

She also mentioned that her accomplishments were achieved independently from her coaches.

Melissa also remarked that if a sports scholarship didn't work out, she would always

consider an academic one. "I'd be more proud of a sports scholarship though since it's something I wanted to do, not something I had to do," she stated.

Melissa says she is optimistic about college. "It's a big deal to move out and do it on your own. I'm looking forward to it."

Next Issue

SWIM TEAM;

Coach Mark Allner has high hopes for this year's team.

Wintertime baseball

By Al Bakhit

Scott Sheehan, senior, will be spending his Christmas break in Australia this year. Scott, a member of Central's varsity baseball team, has been selected to play in a program called World Sports in winter.

Selection for this team was based on academics and achievements both on and off the field. The team is made up of 18 players from around the country.

Nebraska has two players in its elite field of 18. The other player from Nebraska is Matt Janski from Creighton University.

The team will play over Christmas break throughout Australia. The players will tour the country stopping in places such as Brisbane and Sidney. The team will spend about two weeks playing baseball on their own.

Scott has been working out all the time since the summer season ended to keep himself in playing form. He said he is taking this trip to help prepare himself for spring ball. Getting a chance to play during

the winter is a must for serious players. Scott hopes that it will give him an edge over the competition in the upcoming season.

Another big part of the trip, according to Scott, is college scouts. Scott hopes to get some attention during this tour. At this time he is considering going to school at Creighton University, Arizona University or Valparaiso University. He is hoping to receive a baseball scholarship to one of these schools so he can continue his baseball career at the college level.

Central's varsity coach, Mr. Elvis Dominguez, commented that it is a great honor for him to be recognized as one of the top 17 or 18 players in the country. He added that "he's a professional at everything he does. He never gets too high strung, he just does his job."

All in all Scott feels that this trip will be very beneficial to both his high school season and his college future. "It's been my longtime dream to play at the highest level that I am capable of playing," stated Scott.

Tennis team finishes 11-0

By Tom Rose

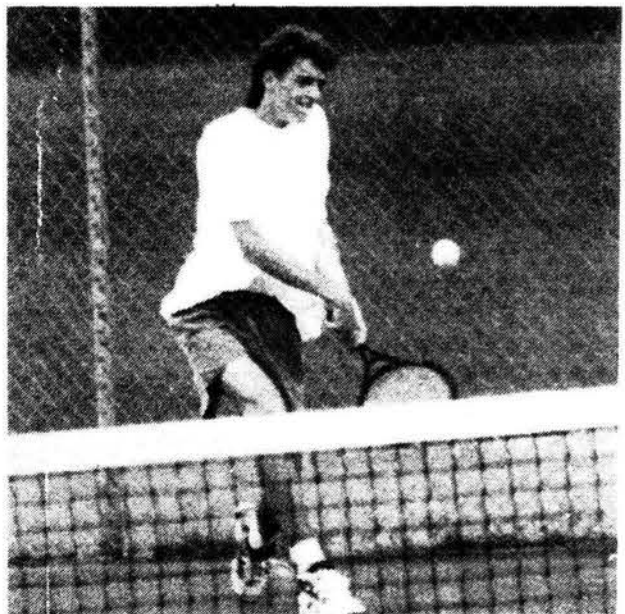
Central High School's tennis team will be going into state competition with a different view than they had for metro. The team is undefeated in duals with 11 wins, but invitational competitions have taken a different path.

The Central tennis players take their sport very seriously when they are on the court. They practice every day after school for about two hours.

The tennis team has eight returning players from last year including Andy Urias, senior, who is ranked #1 and Adam Yale, junior, who is ranked #2. Matt Hoffman, senior, and Jason Hui, junior, are also returning players.

At the Papillion Invitational earlier in the year Urias, Yale, Clark Lauritzen, freshman, and Alex Yale, freshman, won their singles matches. Matt Hoffman and Jason Hui won their doubles match, but that was all for Central's team. They finished in 5th place.

This was unexpected by the players. Urias said, "A lot of people went out of town when they were supposed to play."



Chris Meyer

Slam ...Andy Urias, senior, prepares to unleash a powerful return at the Metro Tennis Tournament.

In Metro competition Central ended up doing worse than expected again. Urias and Yale both lost their singles matches in the semifinals. Rob Anderson, senior, and Grant Rozmarin, freshman, made it to the semifinals before losing to Ralston's doubles team. Josh Cooper, senior, and Jeff Darst, sophomore, lost their doubles match in the quarter finals.

Central finished 6th overall in Metro. Adam Yale later stated, "More players contribute to winning this year than any other year that I've been here. I had higher expectations for metro, but I feel we will improve at state." John Waterman, the tennis teams coach, said, "We'll try to play to our full potential, and be as competitive as we can."

Girls' golf team gets into the swing of things

By Rachel Kozol

The improvement of the girls' golf team has not been due to those lucky strokes of the game. According to Mrs. Jo Dusatko, coach of the team for the past seven years, the team's success has resulted from hard work and good attitudes.

Their standing record is 4-3. The team also placed 5th in the Metro competition. Other accomplishments were achieved by Senior Dana Souser, who placed first in the Abraham Lincoln tournament.

The state competition begins October 17. The chances at qualifying for state depended on the results of the October 10 Districts round. In the Districts, top schools faced would have included Lake and Westside.

At the state level, Lincoln Southeast will be faced. Dana was the only member of Centrals' team to qualify for this year's state tourney.

Coach Dusatko stressed the fun the team had throughout the season. "The whole idea is to learn, compete, and have fun at the same time. It's a great introduction into the real world."

Dana remarked that golf has allowed her to compete against athletes from various states, such as California and Arizona. She also believes there is a good mix of players of the Central girls' golf team.

Sophomore player Jennifer Berg agreed. "The upperclassmen have been real friendly and supportive in helping us learn the game."

Jennifer also believes that Coach Dusatko has contributed to the winning season. "She's a lot of fun and can always be counted on to help."

This feeling is mutual to Coach Dusatko. "The girls have been both cooperative and enthusiastic."

Dana, though, expressed annoyance when regarding Central's opinion of the golf team. "We are kind of in the background. It took the school a week to announce the results of the A.L. Tournament."

Coach Dusatko noted that this is partially due to the fact that golf is an

girls' golf team are first year player Mandy Olorigin and second year players Meghan Stanek, Nicole Goldenstein, and Leah Musselman.



Chris Meyer

Back to the beach... Dana Souser pitches her way out of the sandtrap and back onto the fairway.

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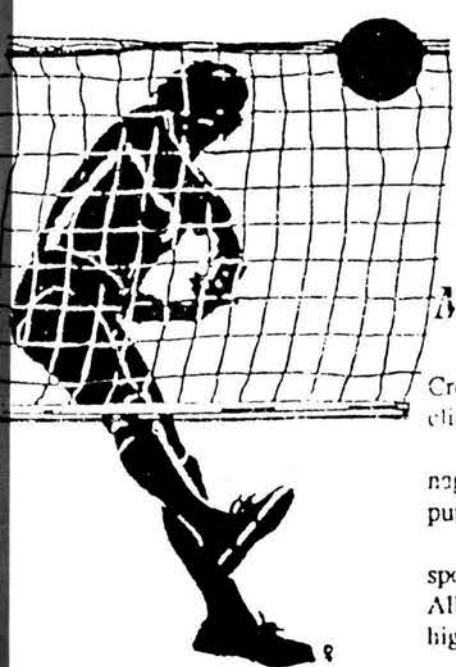
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Central student engages in fierce battle

By Sean Chapman

"En guard!" is exclaimed by the judge in order to prepare the fierce warriors for the battle about to come.

Ryan Atkinson, sophomore, participates in fencing at the A.V. Sorensen community center every Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Ryan began his training about two years ago. "I had seen it done before and had always wanted to try it," said Ryan. "But more importantly my mom just wanted to get me out of the house."

Ryan competes in the Nebraska South Dakota division. He competes with people that come from clubs throughout Nebraska, South Dakota and Sioux City.

The fencers compete in tournaments that take place once a month. In the tournaments the participants compete against one another according to age and ranking.

Ryan is fifteen; however that does not stop him from competing against the older and sometimes more experienced competitors. "I fence in both the youth and adult category. However most of my competitors are adults, which is good because I get more practice and

experience that way," said Ryan.

The sport takes a lot of time and dedication, according to Ryan. "You're constantly thinking what you'll have to do next. It involves thinking and at the same time following through with the actions," said Ryan.

"A lot of what fencing requires is footwork, but at the same time you need to concentrate on blocking attacks and planning your next move. You are constantly facing new things, like different speeds of fighting, different attacks and styles that you have to learn to adjust to."

According to Ryan, fencing is not always an easy sport. Ryan has never been seriously injured from this activity "nothing more than a few cuts, scrapes and bruises. But fencing is very tough on your knees; just about everyone involved has bad knees." While Ryan fences he wears two braces on his right knee, one brace on his left knee and an ankle brace on his left leg for extra support and protection. "Earlier in the year my knee gave out on me in one of the tournaments and since then I have always worn the brace," said Ryan.

While engaged in combat the competitors stand in a crouch

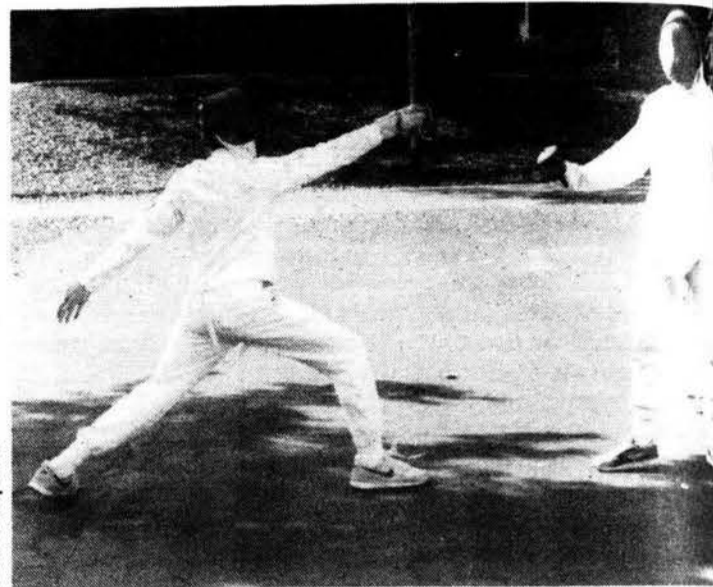
position, which enables them to lunge and attack their opponent. In this position the knees are bent in a 90 degree angle which, according to Ryan, puts a lot of pressure on the knees.

Ryan has fenced in several competitions and tournaments in the past two years and in the process has acquired many awards. He has won two gold metals, two bronze metals and a fourth place for his overall performance at the tournaments.

Ryan does not just compete to win, "but more for the practice so that I can improve my skills."

There are two types of fencing that Ryan participates in, dry fencing and electric fencing. Both types require special clothing consisting of a canvas or a heavily padded jacket, knickers, padded gloves and a special helmet. In dry fencing, the round is overseen by four judges and a director. "The judges make all the calls in the round; however the director has the power to overrule the judges' decisions," said Ryan.

"Dry fencing is used more for practice, whereas electric is used most of the time for tournaments and major competitions because it is easier



Sean Chapman

En guard... Ryan Atkinson battles against his opponent looking only for victory.

to keep score and only one person is required to direct the round." In electric fencing, wires are hooked up to the tip of the sword and run down the arm of the competitor to a scoring box that records the hits. When the sword strikes the opponent in the designated areas a current is produced that sets off the box that scores the hits.

There are three different types of swords used in the sport. There is the Foil, the Saber and

the Epee. Ryan usually uses the foil, "which has a blade that is more flexible than the other two. I like the foil sword because it is less painful," said Ryan.

"I want to strive to improve myself and my skills," said Ryan. His main goal for this year is to make the Junior Olympics for his fencing. Ryan would have to rank at the top of his age group to make it to national competition, which will be held in Kansas City.

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